

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS REPORT:

LAND AT PENGETHLEY FARM, PETERSTOW, ROSS-ON-WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE

Planning Reference: S121357/N
NGR: SO 54088 25240
AAL Site Code: LIPE13
Event Number: EHE 2074
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-154883



Report prepared for RW Agricultural Consultancy Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by RW Agricultural Consultancy Limited to carry out an archaeological scheme of works during the groundworks for an anaerobic digestion unit at Little Pengethley Farm in Peterstow, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.
- There are known cultural heritage assets near the development site including an Iron Age hillfort less than 250m to the west. Medieval remains relating to Pengethley Manor lie to the northeast of the site.
- The scheme of works revealed a number of undated shallow pits or tree boles, and three shallow truncated ditches. Some of these features were sealed by a spread of colluvium, whilst others were shown to cut this layer.
- A small collection of post-medieval to modern metal objects was collected during metal detecting of the site.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by RW Agricultural Consultancy Limited to carry out an archaeological scheme of works during the groundworks for an anaerobic digestion unit at Little Pengethley Farm near Peterstow, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (IfA 1994, revised 2008) as well as a specification prepared by Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed.
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum and Art Gallery within twelve months of the submission of this report for long term curation, where it will be stored under the event number EHE 2074. A copy of the archive listing will also be submitted to Herefordshire HER.

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figures 1 and 2)

- 2.1 Little Pengethley Farm is situated in the administrative district of Herefordshire Council, approximately 5.7km west-northwest of central Ross-on-Wye and 2.1km west-northwest of Peterstow (Figure 1). The proposed development area is located immediately to the south of the farm complex, c.0.4km south of the A49 on agricultural land, and centres on NGR SO 54088 25240 (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area comprises the Brownstones Formation, a Micaceous Sandstone, with no superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted for '*the construction of a 499kw agricultural anaerobic digestion and ancillary development to produce renewable energy from on-site generated wastes and energy crops*' at Little Pengethley Farm, Peterstow, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 6NB. Planning permission was granted in January 2013 subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, to fully characterise the nature and extent of the surviving archaeological resource during the development. The original application was for a plant with four tanks, although prior to commencement of site works, the client opted to reduce the size of the site to two tanks.
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), which superseded PPS 5 in March 2012.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A search of the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter HHER) for an area of 500m from the centre of the site was undertaken prior to production of this report. A summary of this information and data derived from other published and online sources follows.
- 4.2 The site is located c.250m to the east of Gaer Cop hilltop enclosure, a large sub-oval enclosure that has been largely removed by ploughing (HHER Reference 6422). The site has not seen any intrusive investigations; however it is believed to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date based on coins recovered nearby.
- 4.3 At the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 AD, Pengethley would have been one of a number of small hamlets, which lay within the small kingdom of Archenfield, a border territory between the Welsh kingdoms to the west and the Saxon lands to the east of the Wye (Williams and Martin 1992, 493). Archenfield maintained a form of independence in return for providing men to fight the Welsh until the formal conquest of Wales in the 13th century. In the Lay Subsidy of 1334, a settlement known as Penketli is recorded in the parish of Sellack (Pengethley Manor, no date).
- 4.4 A 13th century building in Hentland was excavated by the Archenfield Excavation Group and may be related to an associated cemetery (HHER References 6423 and 6439). Also within Hentland lies the remains of Gillow Manor, a once moated manor that may date from the 11th or 12th century (HHER Reference 6428). The manor was altered in the 15th to 16th century and has subsequently been converted to a farmhouse, with the remaining section of moat now a garden feature. A purpose built rabbit warren is believed to have existed on the former manorial land, probably built in the post-medieval period to supply animals for coursing (HHER Reference 19209).
- 4.5 A Tudor Manor is known to have existed to the northeast of the development site within Pengethley Park (HHER Reference 24495). The Manor survived through the Civil War, when it was pillaged by Royalists; until a fire in 1820 necessitated a substantial rebuild (Robinson 1872). At this time the former Tudor deer park was also replanted as a landscaped park (Parks and Gardens Record ID 5493).
- 4.6 The Manor once held many large oak and elm trees; however, in an attempt to curry favour with parliament, Sir Thomas Symonds sold off many of the best trees in the late 1700s and early 1800s for constructing or refitting British warships. Approximately half of Nelson's fleet were constructed from aged oaks from the nearby Royal Forest of Dean (Pengethley Manor, no date).
- 4.7 Closer to the site, a tanner's cottage and gardens are noted in the study area, depicted on the Tithe Award of 1842 (HHER Reference 19195).
- 4.8 Little Pengethley Farm itself was first depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1893 and has been included in the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project (HHER Reference 47389). Historic mapping indicates the area of works lay in an orchard at this point.
- 4.9 A number of other post-medieval farms in the study area have also been included in the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project, including Newton Farm (HHER

Reference 47390), Upper Pengethley Farm (HHER Reference 47405) and Little Peterstow (HHER Reference 48462).

- 4.10 Other post-medieval heritage assets in the vicinity include two road toll houses (HER References 11010 and 37764), several quarries (HHER References 40791, 40792 and 19211), brickworks (HHER References 32325 and 32382) and a saw pit (HHER Reference 41358).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Groundworks were monitored by Aaron Chapman of AAL between the 19th and 28th March 2013. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundworks entailed removal of overburden down to the archaeological horizon or natural deposits. All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.2 Accurate scale drawings (plan and section) were produced (at 1:20 or 1:50) to illustrate the site stratigraphy. A base plan was also produced, using a survey grade Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS.
- 5.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded photographically, with an identification number board, appropriate scales and a directional arrow. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks.
- 5.4 Standard AAL context recording sheets were used to record all context information (e.g. deposits, archaeological features, stratigraphic relationships). Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. pit [103]).

6.0 Results (Figures 3 and 4)

- 6.1 Throughout the site, a 0.12m thick orangey brown sandy clay ploughsoil 100, and subsoil 101 of similar composition, approximately 0.11m thick was removed by machine. A small collection of post-medieval and modern objects were collected during metal detecting undertaken prior to and during the topsoil removal (Appendix 2).
- 6.2 Below subsoil 101, a spread of colluvium 107, was recorded in the central area of the site, measuring 0.1m – 0.25m thick (Figures 2 and 3).
- 6.3 Cutting through the colluvium, sub-circular pit [110] had steep edges and an irregular base and measured 1.54m diameter by 0.1m deep with a sterile infill.
- 6.4 Also cutting the colluvium was an irregular shaped feature [112] with moderately steep sides and an irregular base lay approximately 10m northeast of pit [110] and may represent a tree bole rather than an anthropogenic feature.
- 6.5 Colluvium 107 was subsequently removed by machine and found to have sealed several archaeological features.
- 6.6 The colluvium sealed a sub-circular pit [108], with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.36m diameter by 0.22m deep and contained an undated grey sandy silt fill, 109.

- 6.7 Also below the colluvium, elongated pit or truncated gully [114/120] was a cigar shaped feature aligned north-northeast to south-southwest and measured 2.48m long by 0.72m wide and 0.18m deep. This ditch was perpendicular to another truncated linear feature [116/118], which measured 5.22m long by 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep. Both contained similar yellow brown sandy silt fills.
- 6.8 A northeast by southwest aligned ditch [103/105] was located against the southern margin of the site and measured 7.6m long, 0.74m wide and 0.08m deep. This truncated ditch lay outside of the area of colluvium and it is not known whether it was created before or after the formation of that layer.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Excavation revealed several undated features, comprising three truncated segments of ditch and three pits, the irregular form of which suggests they are likely to be natural features. While none of the features contain any artefactual dating, the features can be phased by virtue of those that pre-date the colluvium and those that post-date it.
- 7.2 Historic mapping indicates that in the later 19th century the site was split into two fields by a northeast to southwest aligned boundary. There was no physical trace of this recorded during the groundworks, suggesting it may have been a hedged rather than ditched boundary. In the following years a number of tree plantations developed in the surrounding area, and by the time of the 1974 map, the boundary dividing the site had been removed and a plantation has encroached into the southern half of the site. This had again been removed by 1986. It is possible that some of the features exposed represent tree boles associated with this 20th century plantation.
- 7.3 A small group of post-medieval to early modern metal finds were recovered during metal detecting of the ploughsoil. This group included two lead bag seals, a lead sheet and a horse brass, and represents a typical agricultural group of finds representing accidental loss within the fields.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological scheme of works methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has revealed a small number of undated features, and indicates that the development has had a negligible impact on the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank RW Agricultural Consultancy Ltd for this commission and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking west



Plate 2: Ditch [103] looking south. Scale is 1m



Plate 3: Tree throw or pit [112] looking east. Scale is 1m

Appendix 2: Metal Finds Report

By Mike Wood

Introduction

A collection of seven metal objects weighing 118g was recovered during archaeological work at Little Pengethley Farm in Peterstow. The find dates to the post-medieval period or later.

Methodology

The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. A summary of the material is recorded in Table 1.

Assemblage

Context	Material	Object	Measurements (mm)	Date	Wt (g)	Comments
100	Lead	Folded sheet	64 by 18 by 12	undated	63	Sf. 13
100	Cu alloy	Pin	15 by 16 by 2	Post-med	1	Sf 1. Dome headed pin with traces of gilt remaining. No decoration visible.
100	Brass	Handle	48 by 6 by 1	Post-med	3	Sf 11. Part of a clockwork mechanism.
101	Lead	seal	23 by 25 by 13	Post-med	29	Sf 6. Thick lead bag seal, no design.
101	Brass	Horse brass	32 by 22 by 7	Post-med to modern	7	Sf 14 broken decorative horse brass with a hoop for attachment.
U/S	lead	Seal?	24 by 11 by 11	Post-med?	10	Sf 3. possibly a folded lead seal
NA	Iron	Back plate?	31 by 30 by 1	Post-med to modern	5	Sf 5. Back plate from a mechanism.

Table 1: Metal

Discussion

The assemblage contained a mix of metal objects all dating from the post-medieval or modern period. Included are two probable bag seals, a horse brass, a gilt pin and two elements from possible mechanisms.

None of the material warrants any further research.

Recommendations for further work

No further work is recommended. The artefacts could be returned to the landowner or discarded as they are of limited research value.

Appendix 3: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Soft orangey brown sandy clay; seals 101	Ploughsoil
101	Layer	Firm orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone; sealed by 100; seals 102	Subsoil
102	Layer	Firm orange brown silty clay; sealed by 101	Natural
103	Cut	Northeast by southwest aligned linear ditch with a concave profile. Filled by 104	Undated ditch
104	Fill	Firm orange brown sandy silt occasional charcoal. Fills [103]	Undated silting of ditch [103]
105	Cut	Same as [103], filled by 106	Undated ditch
106	Fill	Same as 104, fills [105]	Undated silting of ditch [105]
107	Layer	Mid to light yellow silty clay with frequent manganese stains; seals features [108], [114], [116], [118] and [120]	Colluvium
108	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and flat base; filled by 109	Undated pit
109	Fill	Firm mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal; fills [108], sealed by 107	Undated silting of pit 108
110	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep edges and an irregular base. Filled by 111, cuts 107	Undated pit
111	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt. Fills [110]; sealed by 101	Undated silting of pit 110
112	Cut	Irregular sub-rounded feature with moderately steep sides and an irregular base. Filled by 113; cuts 107	Undated pit or tree bole
113	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional patches of heated natural clay and frequent charcoal. Fills [112]; sealed by 101	Undated silting of pit or tree bole
114	Cut	Northeast by southwest aligned cigar-shaped feature with rounded terminals, steep sides and flattish base; filled by 115; cuts 102; same as [120]	Undated feature
115	Fill	Yellow brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles. Fills [114]; sealed by 107	Undated silting of [114]
116	Cut	Northwest by southeast aligned cigar-shaped feature with rounded terminals, concave sides and base; filled by 117; cuts 102; same as [118]	Undated feature
117	Fill	Light yellow brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of 116; sealed by 107	Undated silting of feature [116]
118	Cut	Same as [116]; filled by 119; cuts 102	Undated feature
119	Fill	Same as 117; fills 118; sealed by 107	Undated silting of feature [118]
120	Cut	Same as [114]; filled by 121; cuts 102	Undated feature
121	Fill	Same as 115. Fills 120; sealed by 120	Undated silting of feature [120]

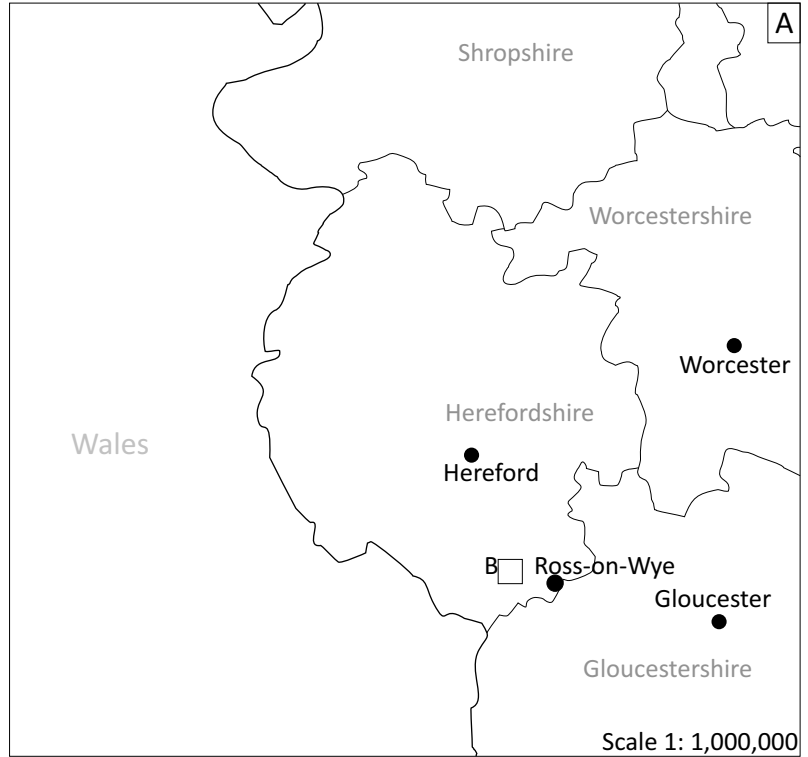
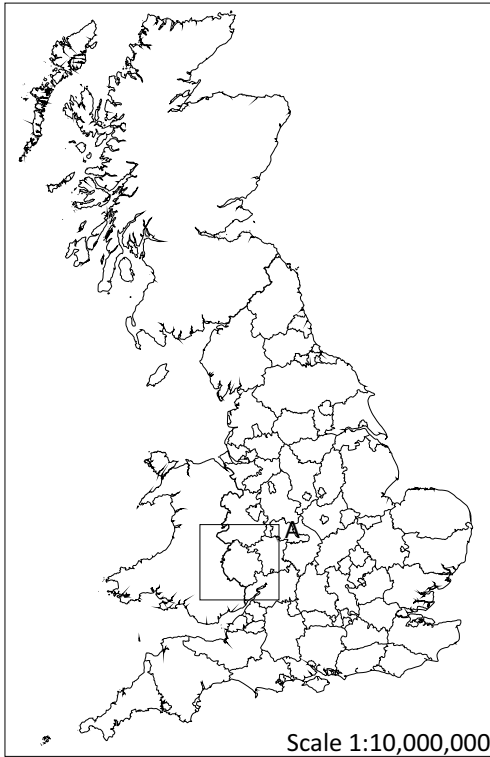


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	LIPE 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	09/08/13

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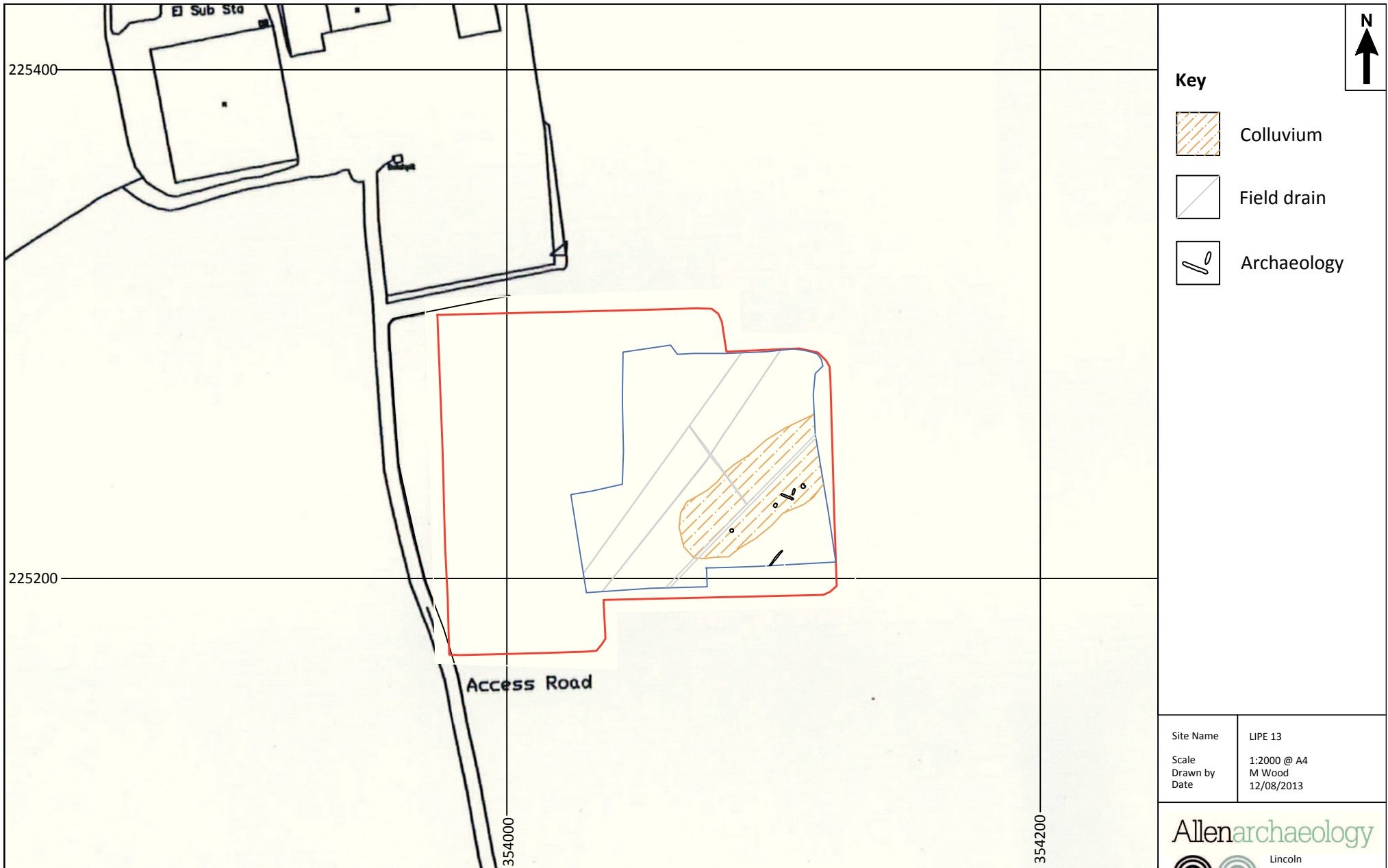





Figure 2: Site location with development in red and extent of monitored site strip in blue

Key

-  Colluvium
-  Field drain
-  Archaeology

Site Name	LIPE 13
Scale	1:2000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	12/08/2013

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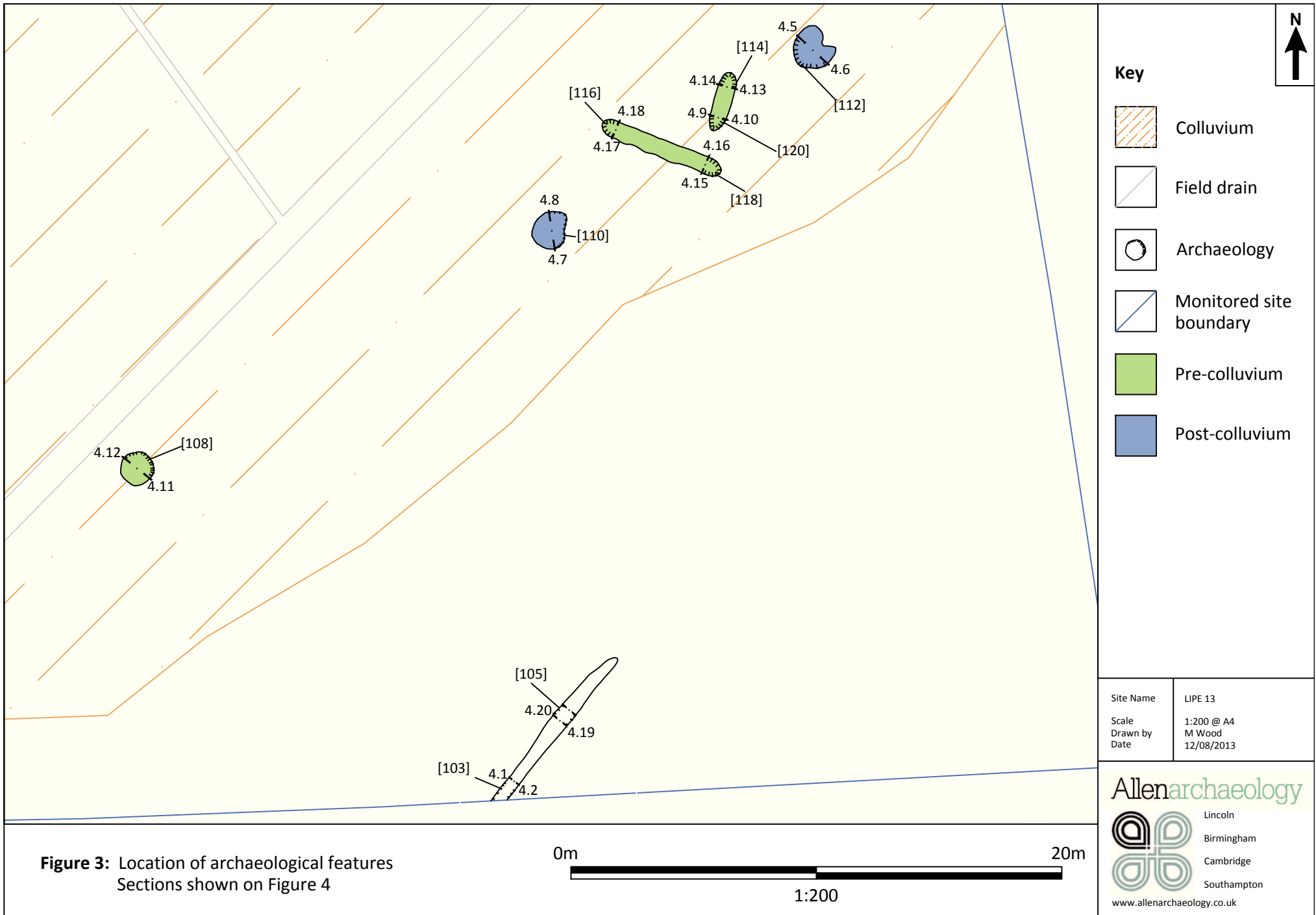
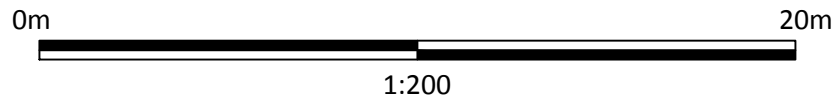
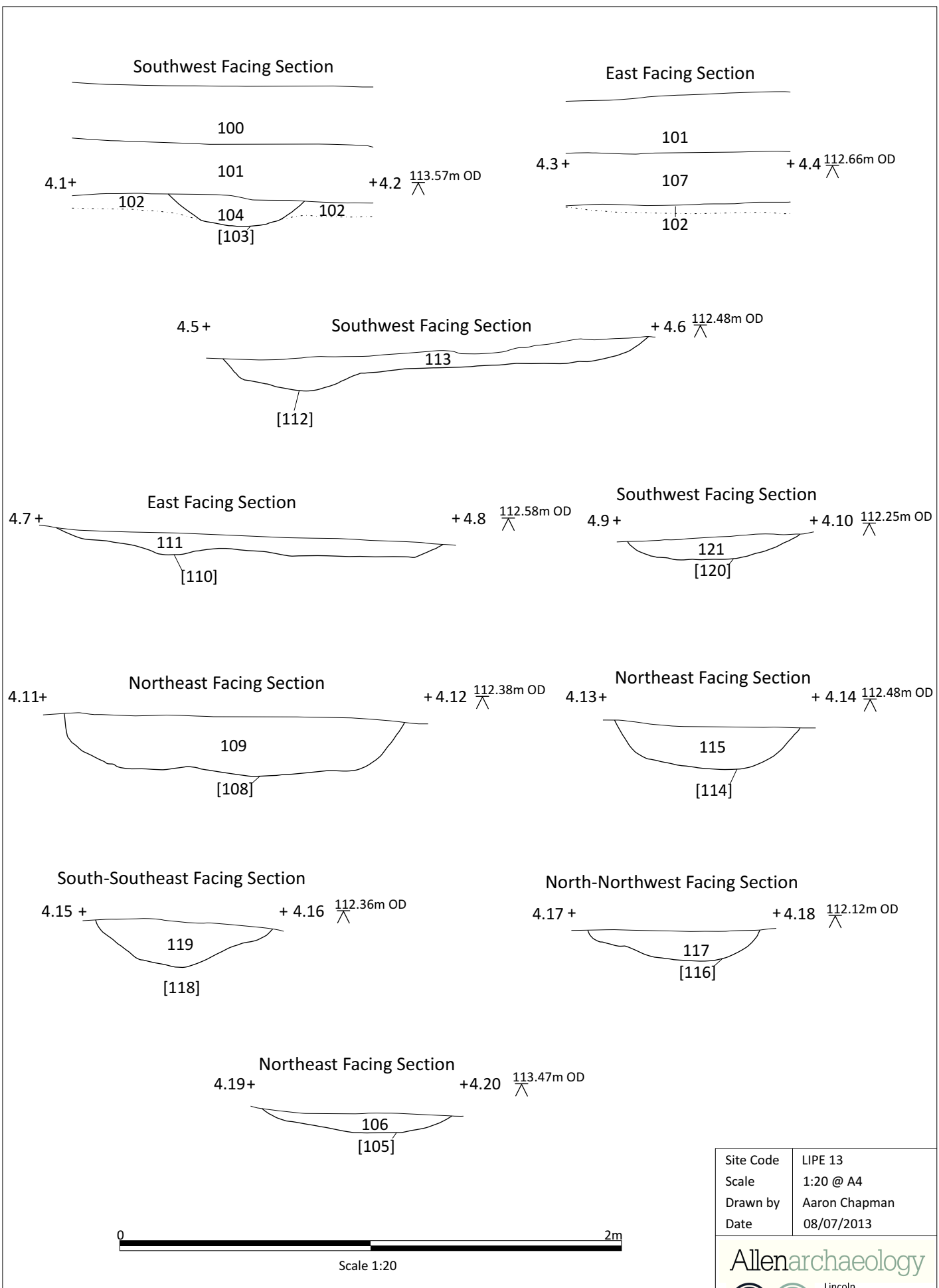


Figure 3: Location of archaeological features
Sections shown on Figure 4





Site Code	LIPE 13
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	Aaron Chapman
Date	08/07/2013

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Figure 4: Sections, located on Figure 3



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