

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

KEEPER'S WAY, CHURCHTOWN, BELTON, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: PA/2010/0714

NGR: SE 7828 0617

AAL Site Code: BELT 13

North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: BFAN

OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-154984



Report prepared for Mr Steven Moore

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2013085

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Allenarchaeology



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Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Robert Evershed BSc (Hons)	11/07/2013
Illustrations prepared by:	Robert Evershed BSc (Hons)	11/07/2013
Report edited by:	Mark Allen MIfA BSc (Hons)	11/07/2013
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Steven Moore to carry out a programme of monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land off Keeper's Way, Churchtown, Belton, North Lincolnshire.
- The site is situated in an area of archaeological interest, in the historic core of the hamlet of Churchtown. Evidence for later prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity has also been recorded nearby.
- The groundworks failed to identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest, exposing only a sequence of topsoil/garden soil horizons, levelling layers and a modern pit, drain and soakaway.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Steven Moore to carry out a programme of monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land off Keeper's Way, Churchtown, Belton, North Lincolnshire
- 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 2013). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed.
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the project and stored under the Museum Site Code BFAN.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development area is situated within the administrative district of North Lincolnshire, in the historic core of the hamlet of Churchtown, in Belton parish, approximately 11km west-southwest of central Scunthorpe. The site is situated to the west of Keeper's Way and centres on NGR SE 7828 0617 and lies at a height of approximately 49m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises bedrock deposits of Mercia Mudstone, with no superficial geology recorded (British Geological Survey 1982).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the construction of a single detached dwelling on land off Keeper's Way in Churchtown, Belton (Application Reference PA/2010/0714). The application was granted subject to conditions, one of which is for the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief.
- 3.2 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the former Planning Policy Statement 5, which was in force at the time of the decision (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), which superseded PPS5 in March 2012.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A number of scattered finds in the vicinity of the site attest to some form of prehistoric activity nearby. Fieldwalking to the north of the village has recovered a number of Mesolithic flint flakes (North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter NLHER) 932), and the cutting edge of a Neolithic axe was found in a garden in Churchtown in 1967, just under 100m east of the current site (NLHER Reference 941). Recent fieldwalking of land to the east of the village by an amateur archaeologist has recovered several sherds of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and a scatter of worked flint of late Mesolithic to early Bronze Age date (NLHER References 21512 and 21513).
- 4.2 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for two new dwellings on land off the High Street in Belton, approximately 200m to the east of the current site. Two pits were recorded during the groundworks, one of which produced sherds of Iron Age pottery (NLHER Reference 21987).
- 4.3 Recent fieldwalking has recorded evidence for Roman activity to the southeast of the village, where over 200 pottery sherds and some vessel glass has been found (NLHER Reference 21514). A single sherd of greyware is also recorded from an uncertain location within the village (NLHER Reference 17351) and several pottery scatters are recorded to the east of the village, over 1km from the current site (Loughlin and Miller 1979).
- 4.4 Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence has recently been identified in the parish, during the excavation of a gas pipeline. Approximately 400m to the south-southeast, the pipeline excavations exposed two possible grubenhaus (sunken floor buildings), another possible sub-rectangular structure, and a number of pits. Pottery of Middle Saxon date was found in association with these features, as well as two bone pins, an antler spindle whorl, a copper alloy pin and a number of iron knife blades (NLHER Reference 19755). Fieldwalking in the parish has also identified a number of scatters of pottery and Early Anglo-Saxon metalwork (Leahy 2007, NLHER References 21515 and 21519).
- 4.5 Belton is a place name that derives from Old English elements *bel-*, meaning 'a piece of dry ground in a fen' and *-tun*, 'farmstead or village' (Cameron 1998). By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 AD, Belton parish was owned by Geoffrey of La Guerche. The estate included eleven fisheries, and had a population of 43 villagers of differing status, along with their dependents (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.6 Belton is a parish made up of a group of small dispersed hamlets. The current site is in the historic core of the area known as Churchtown. The church of All Saints is located c.150m to the north of the current site. It contains both Decorated and Perpendicular elements, suggesting a 14th century date, but also incorporates reused Early English arches internally. The chancel was restored in 1851 (Pevsner and Harris 2002).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Groundworks were monitored by Iain Pringle of AAL over a single day; Thursday 20th June 2013. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.

- 5.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded in plan and section and also 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.
- 5.3 Standard AAL context recording sheets were used to record all context information (for example deposits, archaeological features and stratigraphic relationships).

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit throughout the site was a dark greyish brown sandy silt, 001, c. 0.2m thick. Below this was a mid/dark brownish grey slightly silty sand, 002, c. 0.3m thick which represented made ground, possibly a levelling layer. Below this was the natural geology, which varied across the site from mid orangey brown sand to dark greyish brown silty sand.
- 6.2 Cutting across the site on a north-northwest to south-south-east alignment was a modern drain cut, [012], feeding into a soakaway [010], towards the south side of the site.
- 6.3 A steep sided pit, [004], was exposed towards the east side of the site. It contained two backfill deposits, and had been recut by another steep sided cut [006] with a single backfill, again containing assorted modern detritus.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The groundworks failed to identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest, exposing only a sequence of topsoil/garden soil horizons, levelling layers, a modern pit and modern drain and soakaway.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the groundworks have had a negligible impact on the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Steven Moore for this commission and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of site, looking southeast



Plate 2: Modern pit [004] and recut [006], looking south. Scales are 1m and 0.5m



Plate 3: North-northwest facing section of soakaway [010]. Scales are 1m and 0.5m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare brick fragments and CBM flecks. Seals 002	Topsoil
002	Layer	Compact, mid/dark brownish grey slightly silty sand with brick and charcoal pieces and flecks. Sealed by 001, seals 003	Made ground/levelling
003	Layer	Compact, mid orangey brown with patches of mid yellow brown sand. Sealed by 002	Natural geology
004	Cut	Irregular, steeply sloping western side, shallower eastern side. Contains 005, 008	Modern rubbish pit
005	Fill	Firm, mid/dark orangey brown sand with frequent CBM, stone and modern detritus. Cut by [006], sealed by 008	Backfill of [004]
006	Cut	Irregular, concave sides and base. Contains 007, cuts 005, 008	Re-cut of pit [004], modern
007	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent CBM, stone and modern detritus. Sealed by 001	Backfill of [006]
008	Fill	Firm, light orangey yellow sand. Cut by [006], seals 005	Redeposited natural backfill of [004]
009	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent brick, stone and modern rubbish. Sealed by 001	Backfill of [010]
010	Cut	Linear, very steep, near vertical sides, flat base. Contains 009	Cut for modern soakaway
011	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with charcoal flecks	Natural
012	Cut	NNW – SSE linear, very steep, near vertical sides, flat base. Contains 013	Cut for modern drain, running into soakaway [010]
013	Fill	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone fragments. Sealed by 001	Backfill of [012]

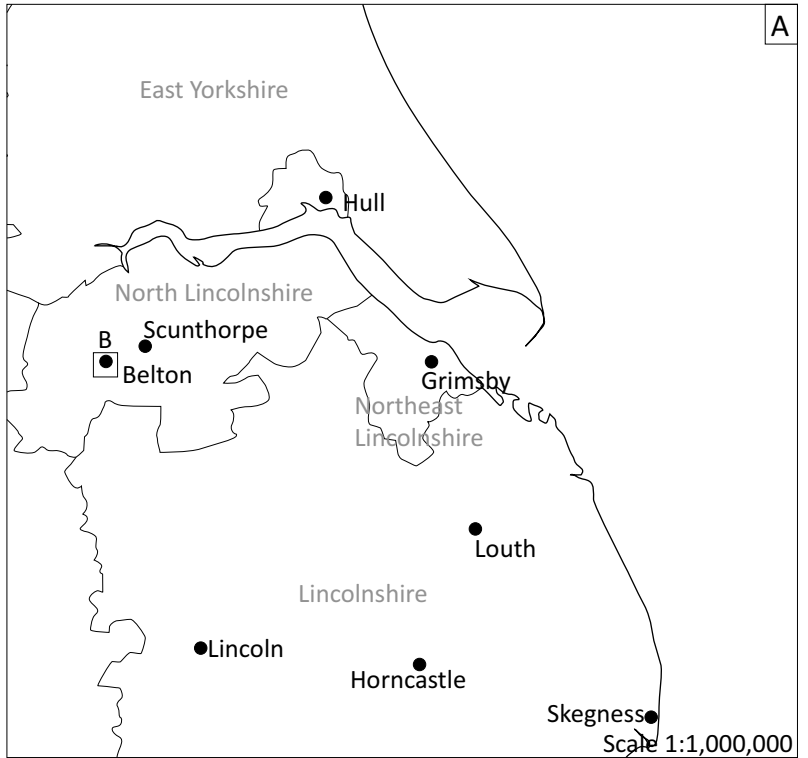
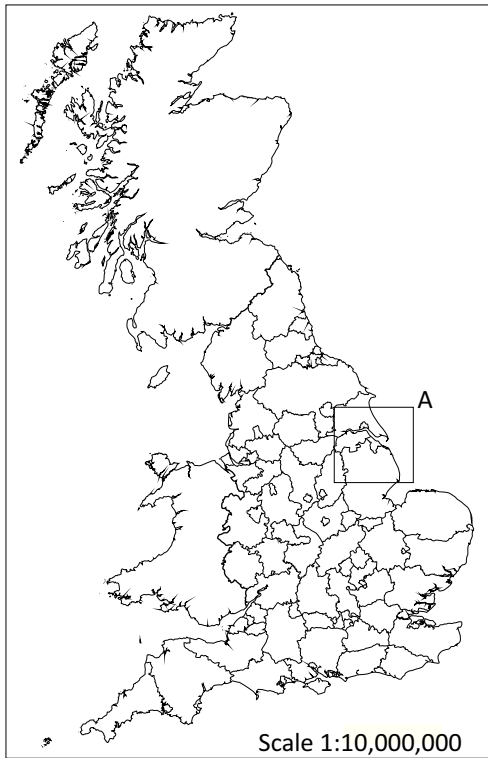


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	BELT 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	11/07/13

Allenarchaeology
 Lincoln
 Birmingham
 Cambridge
 Southampton
 www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

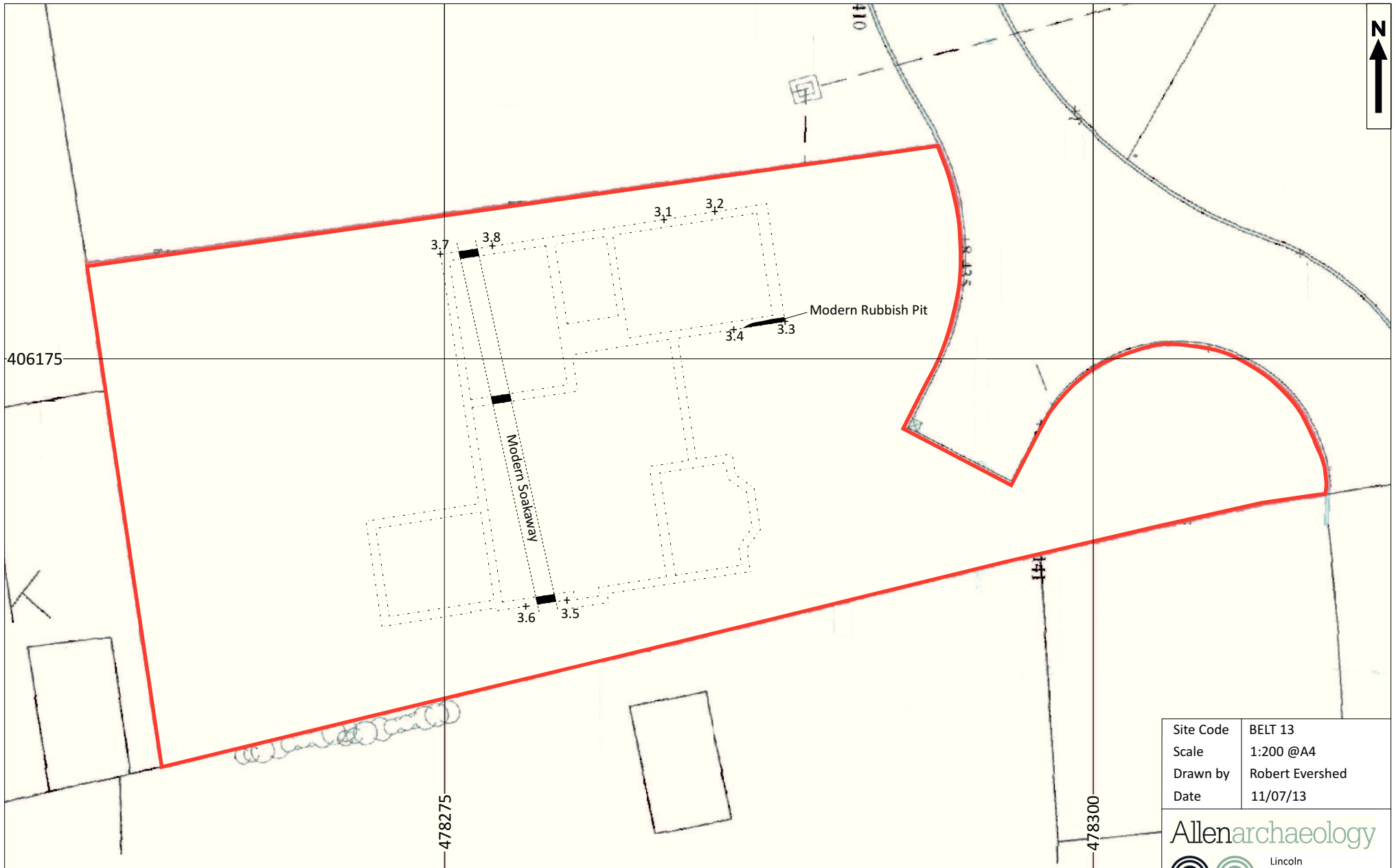


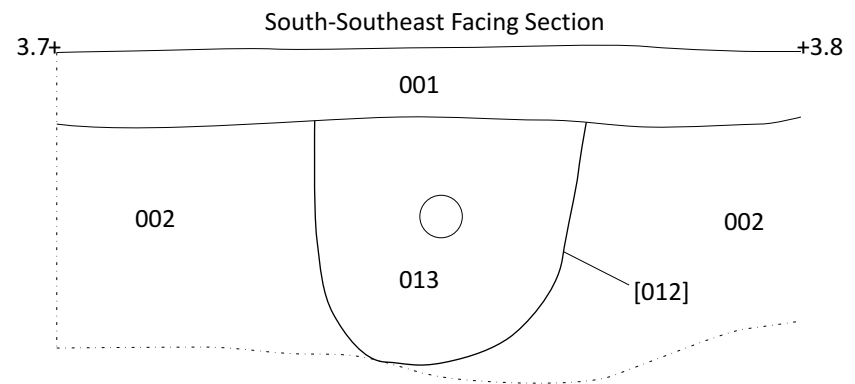
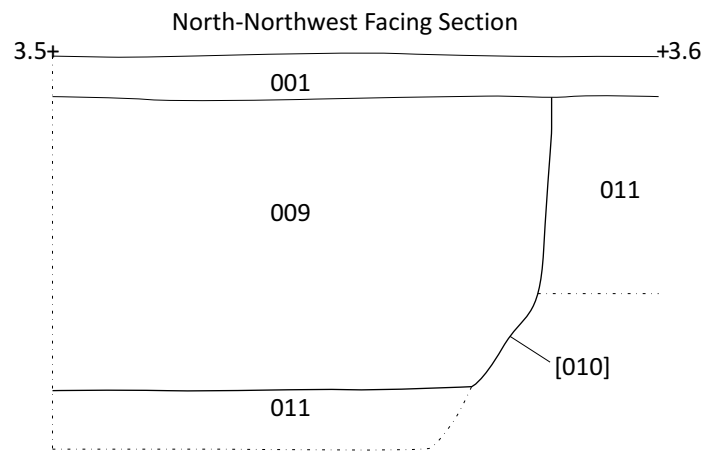
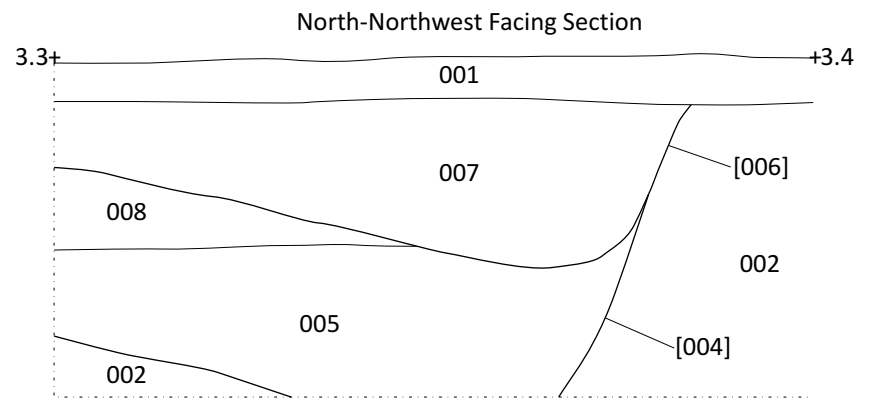
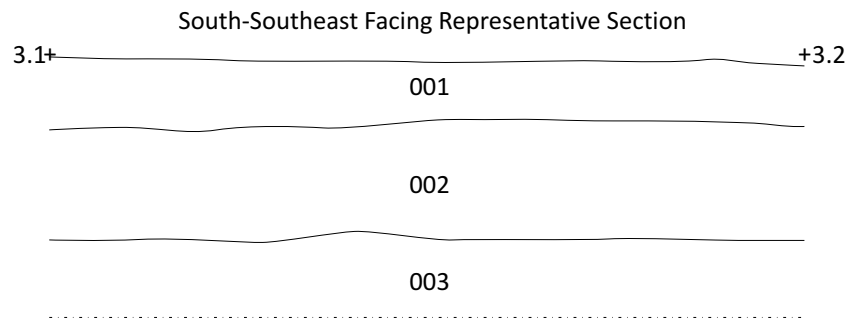
Figure 2: Site outlined in red, with archaeological features shown in black. Sections shown on Figure 3

Site Code	BELT 13
Scale	1:200 @A4
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Figure 3: Sections, located on Figure 2



Allen Archaeology Limited
Website: www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln
Unit 1C
Branston Business Park
Lincoln Road
Branston
Lincolnshire LN4 1NT

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 794400
Email: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Birmingham
Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
Email: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Cambridge
Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
CB1 1BH

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
Email: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Southampton
International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
Email: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk