

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

HOE CHURCH HALL, HOE, NORFOLK

Planning Reference: 3PL/2012/1346/F

NGR: TF 9969 1644

Site Code: HOCH 13

OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-164235



Report prepared for Hoe PCC

By

Allen Archaeology Limited

Report Number AAL2013135

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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Hoe PCC during the groundworks for an extension to the existing church hall in the village of Hoe, Norfolk.
- The site is located in an area of some archaeological potential, particularly for the medieval period. Earthworks survive to the north and west of the site and represent the former extent of medieval settlement in the area. The site also lies close to the medieval church of St Andrew and a prehistoric round barrow.
- The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the foundations of a new extension, a septic tank and associated pipe trenches.
- A single, undated ditch was recorded in the foundations for the church hall extension, as well as the fragmentary remains of an undated path. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the works.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Hoe PCC to carry out an archaeological watching brief, as a condition of planning consent for an extension to an existing church hall.
- 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), a generic brief for the works (Hamilton 2012), and a specification prepared by Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL 2013). Regional guidance and research frameworks were also followed (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Norfolk Museum within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Hoe is located in the administrative district of Breckland District Council, approximately 25km west-northwest of central Norfolk. The existing church hall is located to the east of Hall Road and to the west of the parish church, and centres on NGR TF 9969 1644.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises undifferentiated deposits of Cretaceous Chalk, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted by Breckland District Council for extensions to the existing church hall (Planning Application Reference 3PL/2012/1346/F). The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme by a suitably competent archaeologist, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly for the medieval period, although a circular cropmark interpreted as a Bronze Age round barrow has been identified c.400m to the northwest (Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) Reference 28281).
- 4.2 Substantial earthworks survive around Hoe, reflecting the former extent of the medieval settlement, and comprise a range of domestic and agricultural ditched enclosures, house platforms and hollow ways, centred in an area c.500m north of the site (NHER Reference

2810), with further cropmarks of enclosures, field boundaries and roads a similar distance to the west (NHER Reference 50696).

- 4.3 Immediately to the north of the site is Hoe Hall, a late 16th or early 17th century house, believed to be on the site of a medieval moated manor (NHER Reference 2832). An L-shaped section of the moated enclosure survived until recent years but has since been filled in, and a swimming pool built over part of the moat. Hoe Hall is thought to have been surrounded by a landscaped park, the boundaries of which can be followed in the landscape and on historic maps (NHER Reference 44026).
- 4.4 The site is less than 100m west of the parish church of St. Andrew, the earliest elements of which are 11th or 12th century date, with later rebuilding episodes in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (NHER Reference 2833).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by an experienced field archaeologist on 17th June and 10th–11th July 2013. The watching brief comprised monitoring of the groundworks for the building extension, the insertion of a septic tank and associated pipe trenches.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at 1:20 or 1:50). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included below.
- 5.3 Each layer, cut and fill was allocated a unique two-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Two digit numbers within square brackets represent cut features (e.g. ditch [02]).



Plate 1: General working shot, showing the excavation of the foundation footings for the church hall extension. Looking southwest

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The excavations for the footings of the church hall extension were undertaken using a tracked 360° mini excavator. The footings were 0.80m wide and 1.60m deep.
- 6.2 In general, 0.40m of topsoil, 03, overlay the natural geology of grey silty sand, 08, and yellow orange sand, 09.
- 6.3 In the eastern length of the footings, the topsoil overlay the remnants of a path which consisted of dark orange brown sandy gravel and fragments of brick, 05 and 07, with an underlying levelling layer of light grey brown clay, 06.



Plate 2: East facing representative section of ditch [02]. Scales are 1m and 2m



Plate 3: View of the stripped area for the septic tank, looking north

- 6.4 This sealed the only cut feature recorded on the site, a ditch [02], which was 0.30m deep, and had silted up with an undated greyish brown silty sand 01.
- 6.5 An area measuring 3.60m by 4.30m was excavated for the insertion of a septic tank. Here, 0.4m of topsoil was removed and this overlay a 0.10m thick layer of re-deposited natural, 10. This in turn sealed a 0.3m thick layer of buried topsoil, 11, which overlay the natural geology, 09. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recovered.
- 6.6 Excavations for the associated pipe trenches were between 0.40m and 0.50m deep and only revealed topsoil 03.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The watching brief revealed a single undated ditch which ran in a roughly east – west direction. Although the feature is undated, is likely that it relates to the medieval and post-medieval activity that has previously been identified to the north and west of the site. It is also possible that the ditch may relate to features associated with Hoe Hall and its surrounding landscaped park.
- 7.2 The remainder of the watching brief revealed no further archaeologically significant features, suggesting that this area was not extensively occupied in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has indicated 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 Hoe PCC for this commission. Thanks also go to the groundworkers for their co-operation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

- AAL 2013, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: The Church Hall, Hoe, Norfolk*, Allen Archaeology Limited, unpublished planning document
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook J., 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the eastern counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper no.8
- Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government
- Glazebrook 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
- Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 14*. Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Hamilton, K., 2012, *Generic brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control*, Norfolk County Council, unpublished planning document
- IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologist

Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small flints and flecks of charcoal. Sealed by 06	Natural silting of ditch 02
02	Cut	Probable linear running east-west, shallow bowl shaped cut. Cuts 08	Cut of ditch
03	Layer	Dark brownish grey silty sand with moderate flint gravel, heavily rooted. Seals 05	Topsoil
04	Fill	Modern pipe trench containing plastic pipe	Pipe
05	Layer	Dark orange brown sand and gravel with frequent mortar and red brick fragments. Sealed by 03, seals 06	Path surface
06	Layer	Light grey brown clay with frequent chalk. Sealed by 05, 07, seals 01	Levelling layer for path
07	Layer	Dark orange brown sand and gravel with occasional brick fragments and moderate flint nodules. Sealed by 03, seals 06	Path surface
08	Layer	Compacted silvery grey fine sand with occasional patches of medium flints. Cut by 02, seals 09	Natural geology
09	Layer	Orangey yellow sand with occasional small flint gravel and large flint nodules, sealed by 08	Natural geology
10	Layer	Orangey yellow clayey sand with occasional flint fragments. Sealed by 03, seals 11	Redeposited natural
11	Layer	Dark brownish grey silty sand with moderate flint gravel. Sealed by 10, seals 08	Buried topsoil

Appendix 2: Figures

To insert automatic caption for TOC, write figure captions in here using automatic cross reference option and placing each caption on the same page number as it will be in the final document. You can then print this report as is and replace the figures pages with those printed out from the relevant graphic programme but the TOC will be correct.

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

Figure 2: Plan showing the location of the site in red and the areas monitored in blue. Sections shown on Figure 3

Figure 3: Section drawings

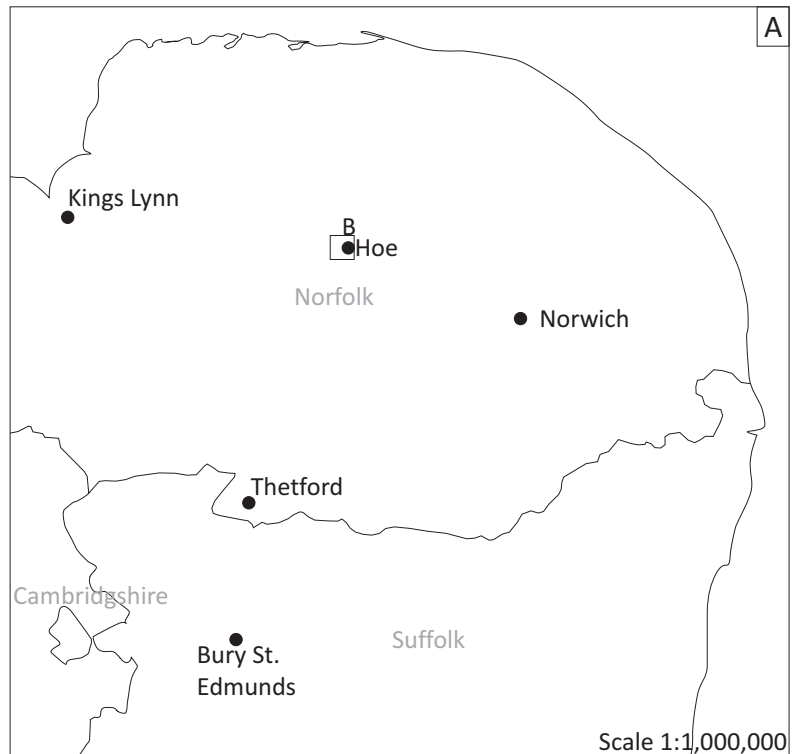
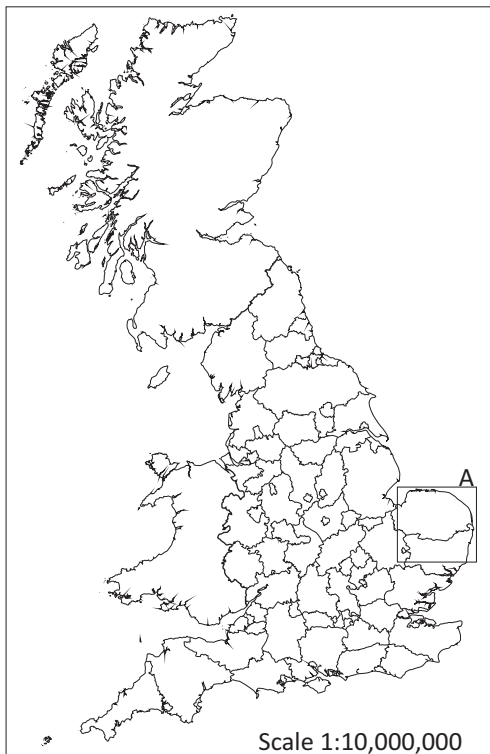


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	HOCH 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	13/11/13

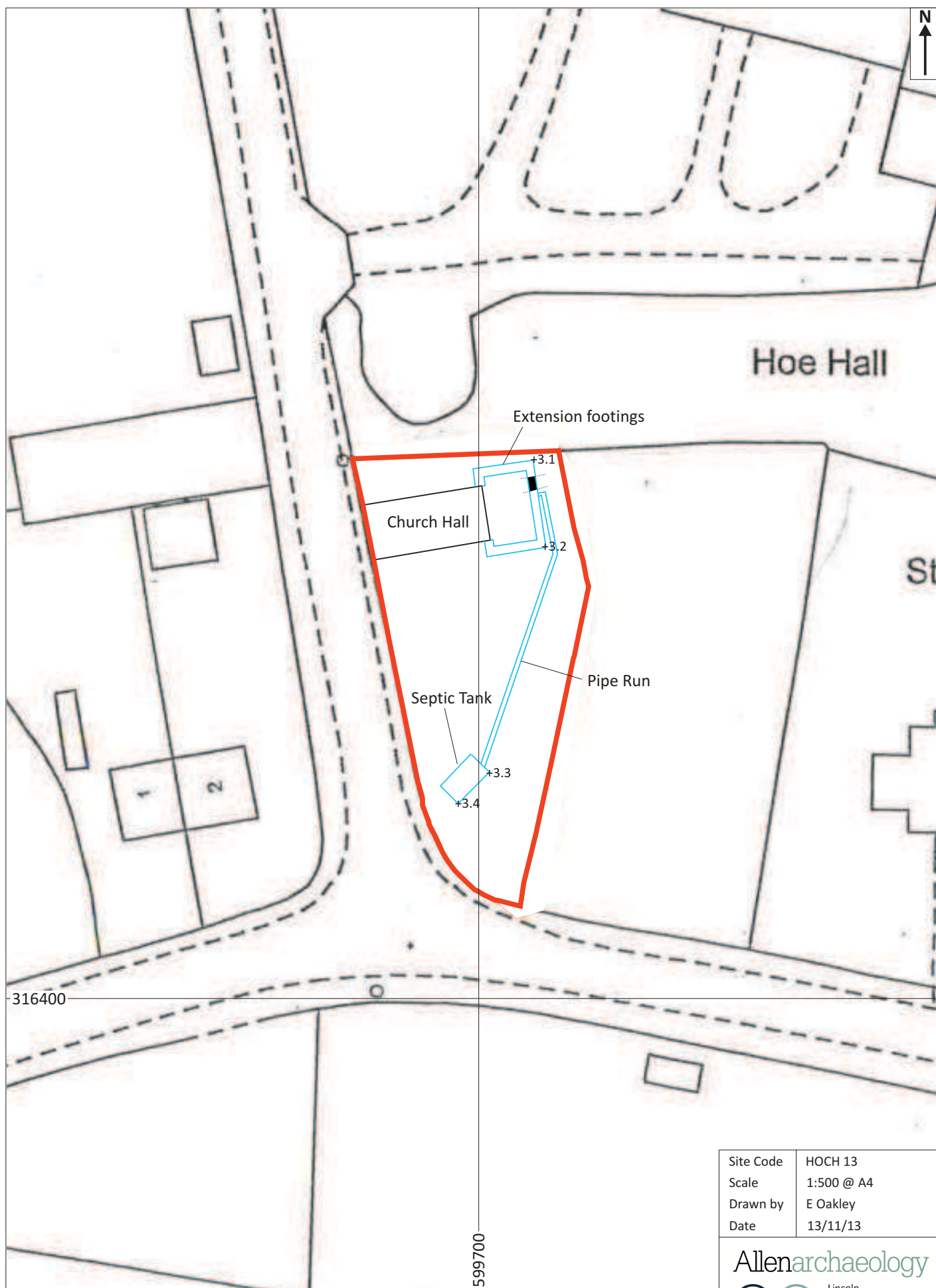


Figure 2: Plan showing the location of the site outlined in red and the areas monitored in blue. Sections shown on Figure 3

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Drawn by	E Oakley
Date	13/11/13

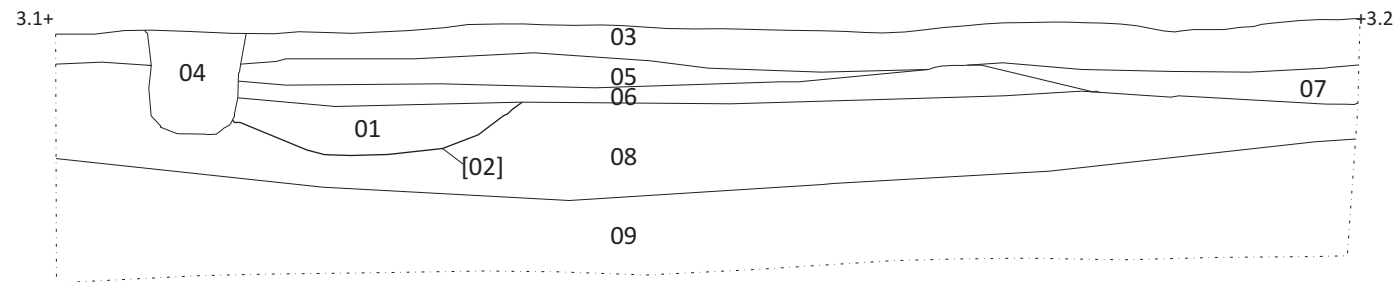
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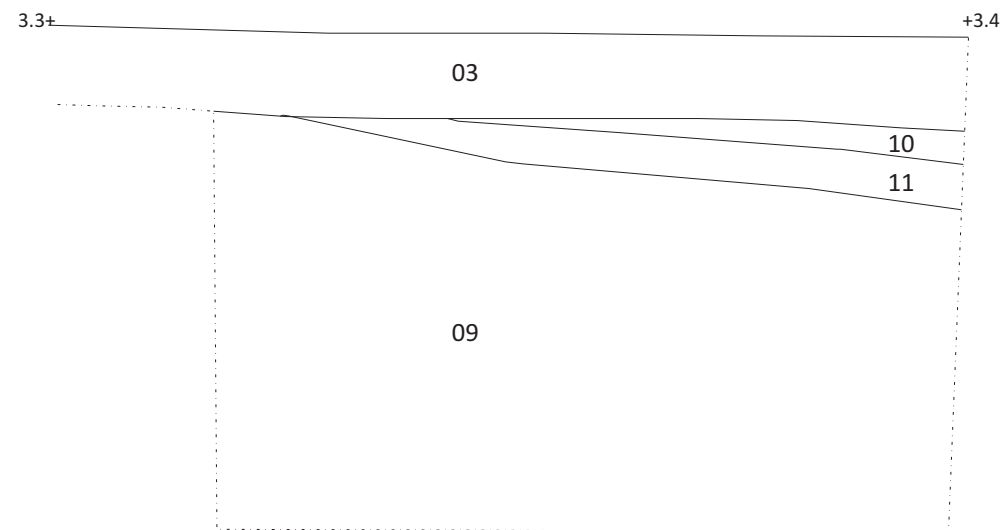
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Extension West Facing Section



Septic Tank Northwest Facing Section



Site Code	HOCH 13
Scale	1:50 @ A4
Drawn by	E Oakley
Date	13/11/13

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Figure 3: Section drawings



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