

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:

GAINSTHORPE ROAD DRAINAGE SCHEME, GAINSTHORPE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: SE 95510 01423 – SE 95621 01167
AAL Site Code: GARD 14
North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: HBBU
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-176662



Report prepared for North Lincolnshire Council

By
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by North Lincolnshire Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a drainage pipe at Gainsthorpe, North Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, with evidence for later prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. The remains of Gainsthorpe deserted medieval village, a scheduled monument (English Heritage list entry 1007509), survive as earthworks in a field immediately to the west and southwest of the pipe route.
- An undated feature, possibly a large pit, was the only feature of possible archaeological significance encountered during the watching brief but this feature may be of natural or recent origin. Undated alluvial deposits were recorded at the southernmost end of the pipe route and are likely to be the result of flooding from an adjacent ditch.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by North Lincolnshire Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during drainage works at Gainsthorpe, North Lincolnshire (hereafter 'the site').
- 1.2 The works were undertaken in line with a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2014a) and followed the national guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also adhered to (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-science>).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within twelve months of the completion of the final report, where it will be stored under the site code HBBU. A copy of the archive listing will be submitted to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (NLHER).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Gainsthorpe is situated in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire Council, immediately to the west of Ermine Street (now the A15). It lies approximately 11.6km southeast of the centre of Scunthorpe and 2.8km southwest of the traditional core of Hibaldstow (Figure 1). The site comprises the route of a drainage pipe which runs for approximately 380m in a north to south and northwest to southeast direction to the south of Gainsthorpe Road East, from NGR SE 95510 01423 to SE 95621 01067 (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area is Kirton Limestone Cementstone Beds comprising limestones and mudstones, with no superficial deposits recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The works lie beyond the scope of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), and Policy HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan is not applicable in this instance. The archaeological work was undertaken following consultation with the NLHER.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The route of the drain lies within an archaeological landscape which includes numerous prehistoric and Roman remains. These include, but are not limited to, the line of Ermine Street Roman road less than 500m to the east and the scheduled Roman settlement at Staniwells Farm identified c.1.5km to the northeast.
- 4.2 The route also crosses land adjacent to the scheduled monument of Gainsthorpe Village (Scheduled Monument No: SM 23313, HA 1007509). The settlement is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Gamelstorp*, from the Old Danish and meaning 'a second

settlement' perhaps of Hibaldstow (Cameron 1998). At the time of the survey, the land was held by Ivo Tallboys (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

- 4.3 The earthwork remains of Gainsthorpe village are noted as being some of the best preserved examples in England (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/gainsthorpe-medieval-village/>), with between six and ten properties visible, including a probable manorial complex.
- 4.4 A watching brief was carried out in 2000 during the laying of cables at Gainsthorpe Farm adjacent to the drainage route (NLHER reference ELS3148). The works did not identify any archaeological deposits of significance. A watching brief was undertaken during recent groundworks for a drainage pipe through the scheduled area of Gainsthorpe village, but followed the line of an existing trench. Most of the new pipe route was entirely within the disturbed area of the earlier pipe trench and possible archaeological remains encountered during the watching brief were limited to a low bank which may have been related to one of the house platforms (AAL 2014b).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The watching brief involved the monitoring of all groundworks associated with the digging of the drainage trench, which extended from Gainsthorpe Road East in the north to an area to the east of Gainsthorpe Farm in the south, a distance of approximately 380m. All mechanical excavation was carried out using an excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, and monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique three digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch [015]).
- 5.3 Archaeologically significant features and deposits were drawn in both plan and section at an appropriate scale. In addition a series of representative sections showing the general stratigraphic sequence were drawn at intervals along the route of the trench. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced.
- 5.4 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded photographically, in both monochrome and colour slide formats. General site shots were also taken to show the landscape context of the groundworks.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 A limestone brash, 004, 007, 013 and 016, over solid limestone, 010, with occasional patches of sand, 012, formed the natural geological deposits across much of the trench at a depth of 0.40m-0.60m below the existing ground surface.
- 6.2 A substantial feature, [015], which measured approximately 8m wide and 1m deep, was encountered approximately 135m from the south end of the trench. Due to the narrow width of the trench the orientation of the feature was unclear and it may have been a pit or hollow

rather than a linear ditch. It contained a single undated fill, 014 of light to mid brown clayey silt.



Plate 1: Northwest facing section of trench showing feature [015]. 1m and 2m scales

- 6.3 A compact clayey silt, 006 and 011, which measured an average of 0.15m thick, intermittently sealed the geological deposits and also sealed cut feature [015], and may have been the remains of a buried soil layer or former ground surface. No finds were recovered from the deposit however and as such its date and origin is unclear.
- 6.4 At the southern end of the trench two clay-rich layers, 008 and 009, with a combined thickness of 0.70m overlay the buried soil 006/011, adjacent to an extant ditch. The deposits are almost certainly alluvial in origin and probably relate to flooding episodes related to the adjacent ditch. Both of the layers were undated.
- 6.5 The uppermost deposit encountered in the trench was a 0.25m thick layer of ploughsoil 002 which formed the modern ground surface.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief encountered very few archaeologically significant deposits or features along the length of the pipe trench. The only feature of potential archaeological interest was a large pit or hollow located 135m from the southern end of the trench. The feature was undated and whilst it could conceivably be of archaeological significance, the possibility that the feature was either of natural origin or of relatively recent date remains. At the southern end of the trench, two layers of alluvial material are likely to have originated from overbank flooding from an adjacent ditch, which is present at the southern end of the pipe trench. It is possible that the deposits are of modern origin but again it is conceivable that they are of an earlier date, especially if the present ditch follows, or runs close to, the line of an earlier feature or palaeochannel.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and impact of works at the site. It established that groundworks associated with the drainage trench have had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank North Lincolnshire Council for this commission and for the cooperation of the groundworkers during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	Firm mid to dark brown clayey silt, frequent limestone fragments, 0.15m thick	Hardstanding
002	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Ploughsoil
003	Layer	Compact yellowish brown clayey silt, frequent small flat limestone fragments, 0.20m thick	Buried soil
004	Layer	Compact light yellow clayey silt and limestone fragments	Natural limestone brash
005	Layer	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.20m thick	Ploughsoil
006	Layer	Compact yellowish brown clayey silt, frequent limestone fragments	Buried soil layer
007	Layer	Firm mottles yellow and grey clayey silt and limestone fragments	Limestone brash
008	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt, occasional limestone fragments	Alluvial deposit
009	Layer	Firm mottled grey and light brown clayey sit, occasional limestone fragments	Alluvial deposit
010	Natural	Hard limestone	Natural limestone
011	Layer	Firm mid brown clayey silt, frequent limestone fragments	Buried soil layer
012	Natural	Friable yellowish brown clayey sand	Natural sand
013	Natural	Firm mottled yellow and mid grey limestone fragments	Natural limestone brash
014	Fill	Friable light to mid brown clayey silt, frequent limestone fragments	Fill of feature [015]
015	Cut	Moderately steep sides, flat base, 8m wide x 1m deep	Possible pit or worn hollow
016	Natural	Firm mottled yellow, white and grey, clayey silt, occasional small limestone fragments	Natural deposit

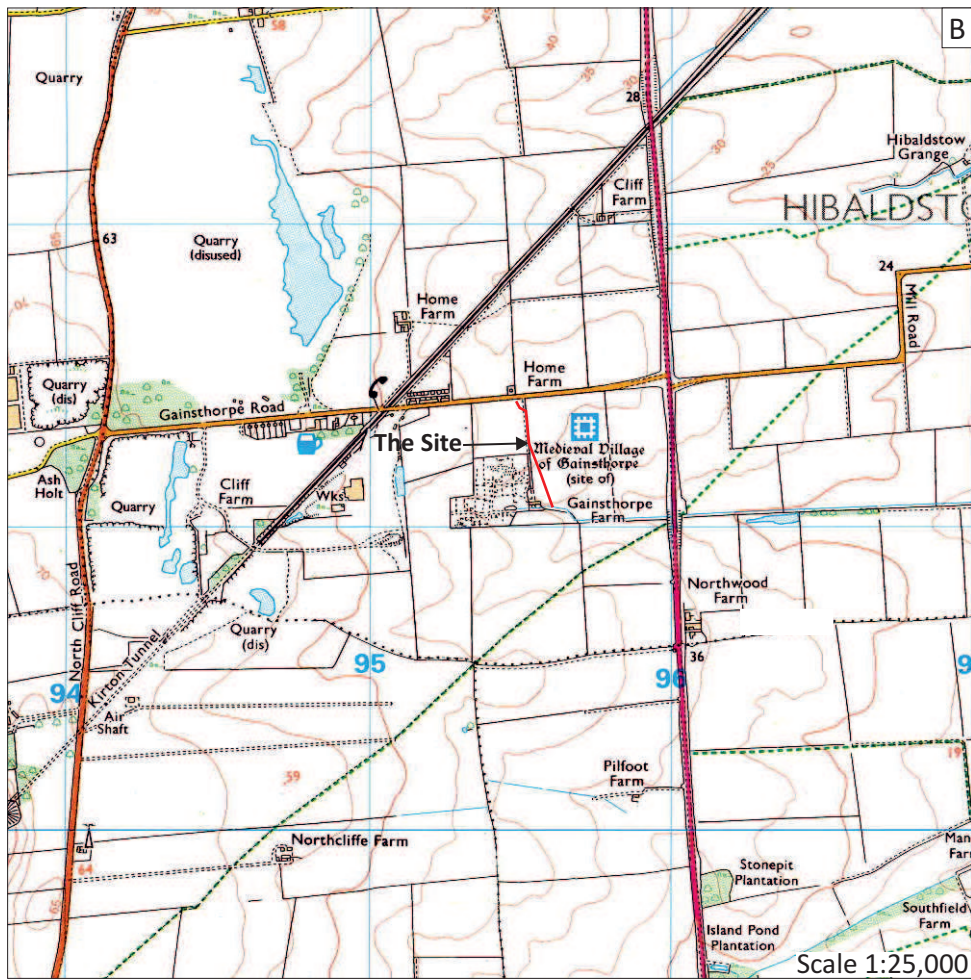
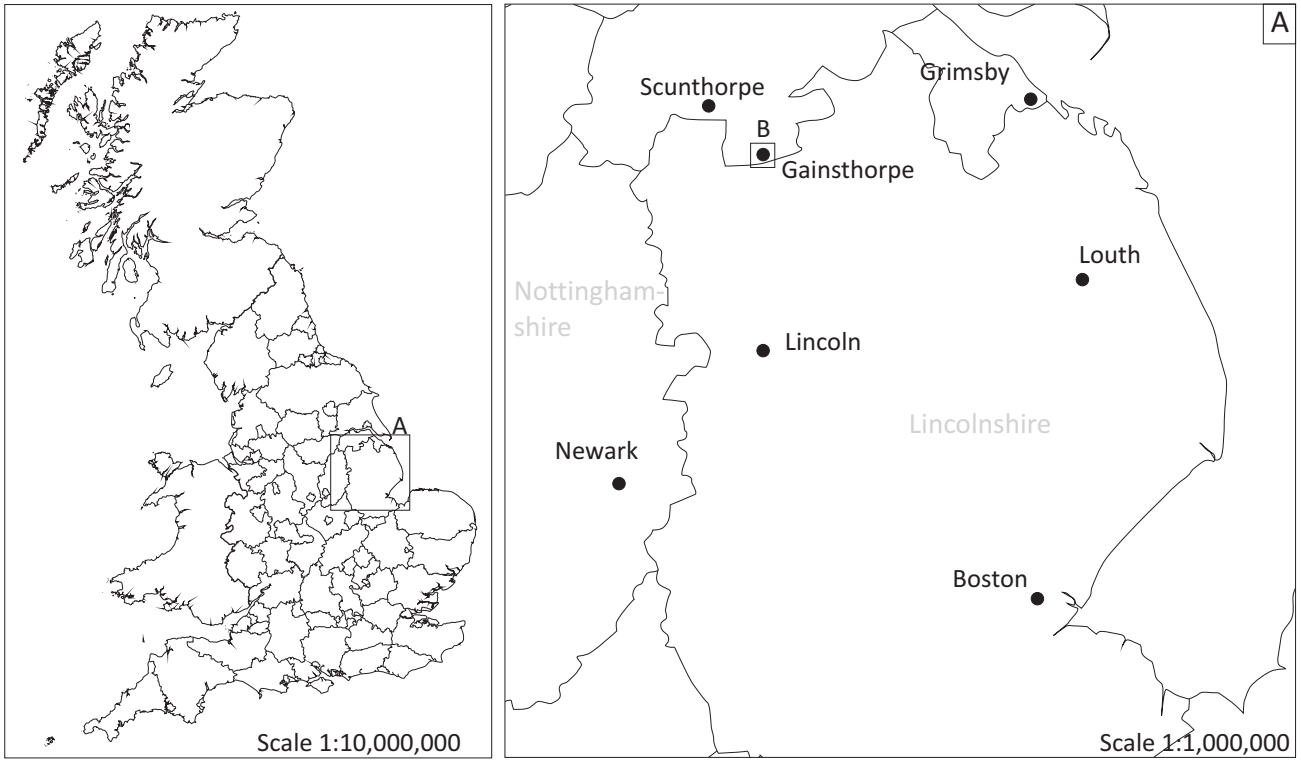


Figure 1: Site location in red

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Site Code	GARD 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	G Glover
Date	25/04/2014

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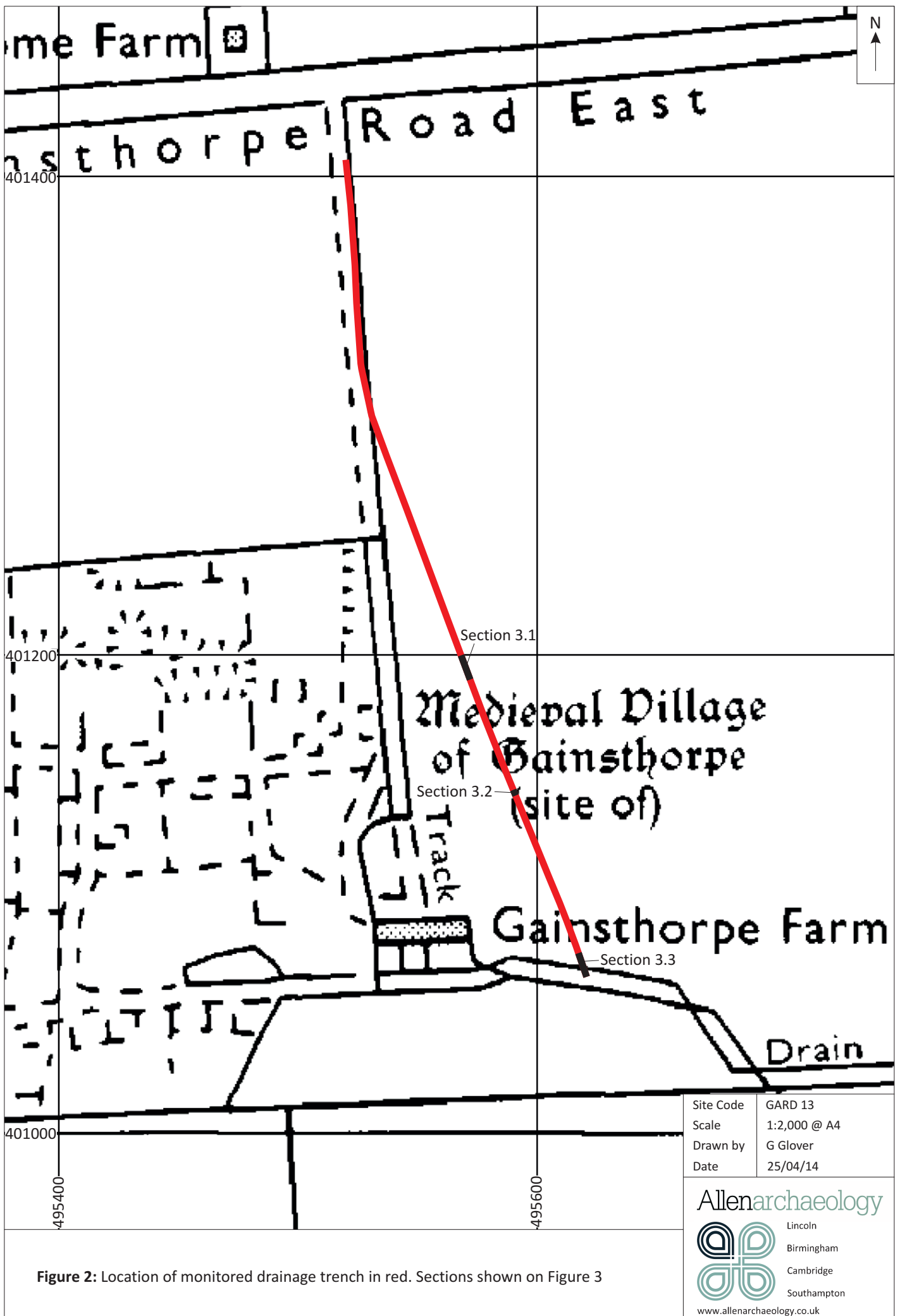
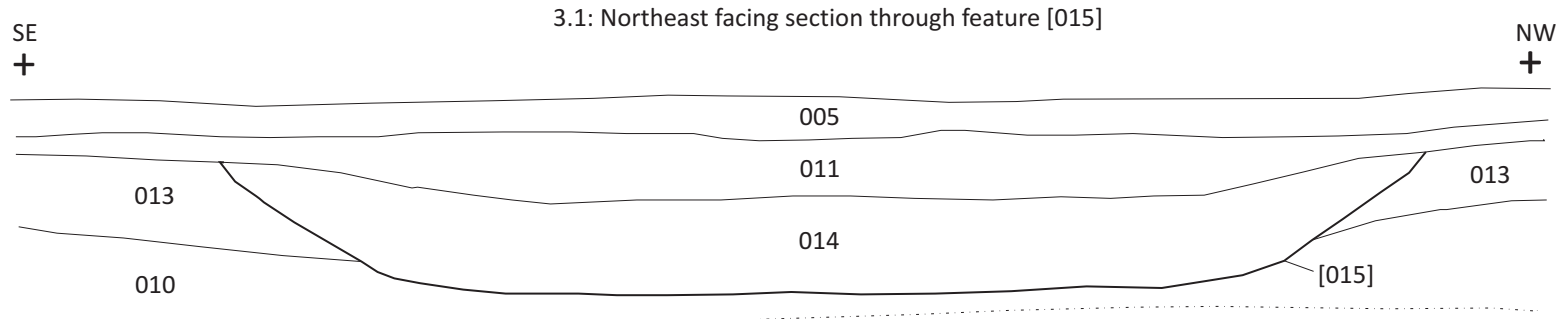
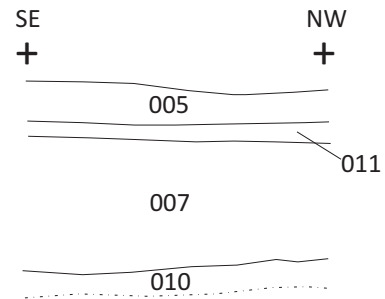


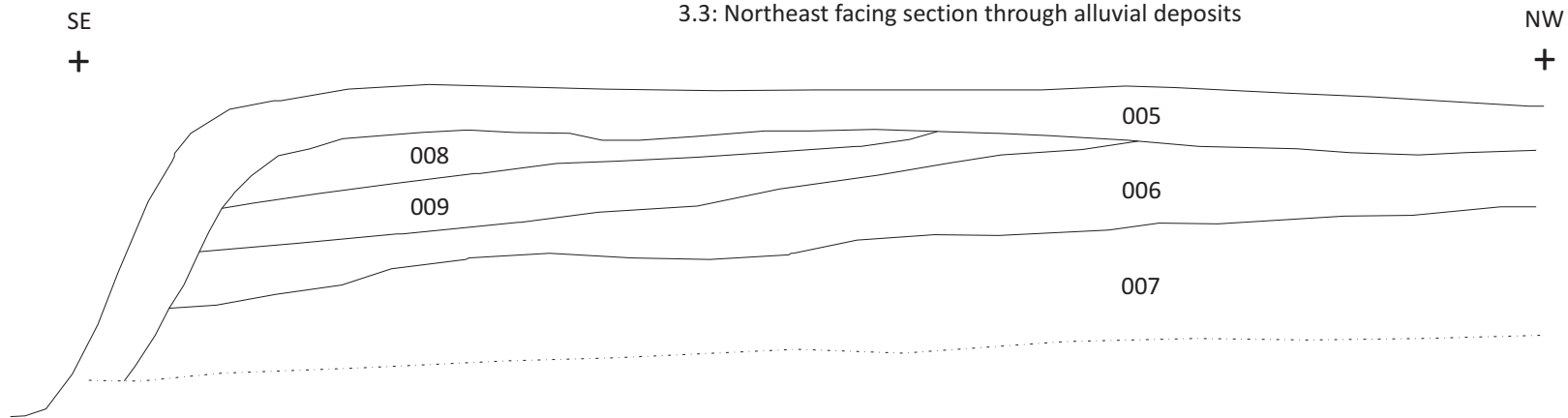
Figure 2: Location of monitored drainage trench in red. Sections shown on Figure 3



3.2: Northeast facing representative section of pipe trench



3.3: Northeast facing section through alluvial deposits



Site Code	GARD 13
Scale	1:50 @ A4
Drawn by	G Glover
Date	25/04/14

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Figure 3: Selected sections, located on Figure 2





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