

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS:
LAND AT ALBERT STREET, HORNCastle, LINCOLNSHIRE**

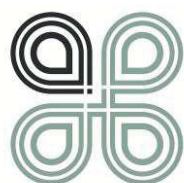
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Report prepared for Mr Andrew Smith

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: General view of the site during excavation, looking northeast

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Andrew Smith to undertake an archaeological scheme of works during groundworks for a residential development on land off Albert Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in an area of archaeological potential within the known extent of the extra mural suburb associated with the former Roman walled town. Roman cemeteries are known nearby and a number of previous archaeological interventions have identified later Iron Age and Roman activity close to the site. Enclosure maps from the early 19th century show the development site as lying in a large open field.
- Two undated quarry pits were revealed in the southern half of the development site cut by a Victorian dated brick structure that is depicted on 19th century maps. Brick rubble associated with the building was also revealed along with a subsoil deposit sealed by a modern topsoil.
- The watching brief proved that the development had a limited impact upon the local archaeological resource.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Andrew Smith to undertake an archaeological scheme of works during groundworks for a residential development on land off Albert Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting was carried out in a manner consistent with current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (ClfA 2014), and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006). All English Heritage guidelines on best archaeological practice were also followed along with a method statement set out by this company (AAL 2015a) and the local guidelines in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2012).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Horncastle is situated in the administrative district of East Lindsey District Council, approximately 28km east of central Lincoln. Albert Street is to the southeast of the town centre, east of Foundry Street. The development area occupies a small rectangular plot of land on the south side of the street, centred on NGR TF 2643 6937 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The local geology comprises Kimmeridge Clay Mudstone Formation, overlain by mid Pleistocene glacial till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted for the '*Erection of a detached house with associated parking and construction of a vehicular access.*' (Reference S/086/01341/14). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks 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 and Historical Background

- 4.1 The Roman walled town of Horncastle and extra-mural settlement appears to have developed from a late Iron Age precursor, and became a small town and probable market centre (Whitwell 1992). In the later 3rd century AD a strongly fortified walled enclosure was built to the northwest of the site at the confluence of the two rivers, the Bain and Waring. This may have had a military rather than urban function, forming part of a chain of coastal defences and very closely echoes a similar enclosure built at Caistor around the same time, although an extra mural settlement appears to have continued in use (Whitwell 1992).
- 4.2 The development site lies to the southeast of the defended enclosure in this extra-mural zone, with Roman cemeteries also known nearby. Just to the west of the site, a number of previous

archaeological interventions have identified extensive evidence of later Iron Age and Roman activity including: building rubble in a ditch at the Black Swan public house; two possible building foundations at the junction of Mareham Lane and Boston Road and a crushed chalk floor at Rosecroft on Bargate Lane. Recent work at Bargate Lane has also revealed evidence for early Roman field systems and the stone foundations of at least one late Roman building (Francis 2012, AAL in prep), which may have extended into a neighbouring garden (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Reference 43747)

- 4.3 It is uncertain how much of Roman Horncastle survived into the early Saxon period; however, the settlement is recorded in the Domesday Book as a royal manor in the centre of a wapentake, with 2 mills, 100 acres of meadow and jurisdiction over a number of associated 'sokeland' settlements (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.4 Enclosure maps from the early 19th century show the development site as lying in a large open field, suggesting the site may have been left undeveloped for some time.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Groundworks were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist from AAL on Wednesday 8th July 2015. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (Plate 1). All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.



Plate 1: Machine excavation being undertaken during groundworks, looking southeast

- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Each deposit, layer and cut was allocated a unique three digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Numbers in square brackets represent cut features, e.g. pit [005].
- 5.3 Deposits were drawn in section at an appropriate scale. All archaeological deposits and features were recorded photographically. General site shots were also taken to show the landscape context of the groundworks, a selection of these have been included in the report.

6.0 Results (Figures 2 and 3)

- 6.1 The earliest deposit recorded within the footings was a light orange brown sand with frequent flint and gravel that represented the underlying natural geology 002. Cutting 002 were two large quarry pits [005] and [007]. Pit [005] (Plate 2) extended across the central and southern half of the development area and measured at least 9m long by 6m wide and was recorded to a depth of approximately 1m. No finds were recovered from the mid brown sandy silt fill 003, either suggesting that the quarry pit had silted up naturally over a period of time or that it was backfilled with material previously undisturbed and therefore devoid of any refuse. Pit [007] was similar to [005] and was recorded in the southern footing extending beyond the limit of excavation.



Plate 2: View of southern end of quarry pit [005], looking west. Scale 2x1m

- 6.2 Brick foundations 009 (Plate 3) comprising two north-south aligned walls and three east-west foundations were recorded in the southern half of the footings. A loose, light to mid brown sandy silt with frequent brick rubble 008 was recorded within the footings and represents associated building rubble.



Plate 3: General view of structure 009 with north-south footings centre right of photograph, looking northeast

- 6.3 A layer of mid brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, flint and brick 004 was recorded partially sealing quarry pit [005] and in turn was sealed by a modern 0.3m thick dark brown silt topsoil 001 that was recorded across the whole site.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The monitoring recorded an archaeological resource of limited significance within the development area. Two large quarry pits were exposed, which although undated by finds, predated the foundations of a brick structure. This is likely to be of a later 19th century date as a small block of outbuildings are shown in this location on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map of the site, and were still present on the 1988 map.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the size and type of project. It has proved that the development has had a limited impact upon the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Andrew Smith for this commission and the cooperation of the ground workers.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	Friable, dark brown silt with frequent modern building debris and natural flint, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Layer	Loose, light orange brown sand with frequent flint and gravel	Natural geology
003	Fill	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flint, 0.6m thick. Fills [005], cut by 009 sealed by 004	Backfill of quarry pit
004	Layer	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, flint and brick,	Levelling layer
005	Cut	Sub-rectangular? feature with concave sides and flat base, 9m x 6m x 1m, cuts 002, filled by 003	Quarry pit
006	Fill	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flint, 0.6m thick. Fills [007], cut by 009 sealed by 004	Backfill of quarry pit
007	Cut	Seen in section only, u-shaped profile	Probable quarry pit
008	Fill	Loose, light to mid brown sandy silt with frequent brick rubble	Building rubble
009	Structure	Brick built foundations comprising two north-south aligned walls and three east-west foundations	Victorian brick building foundations

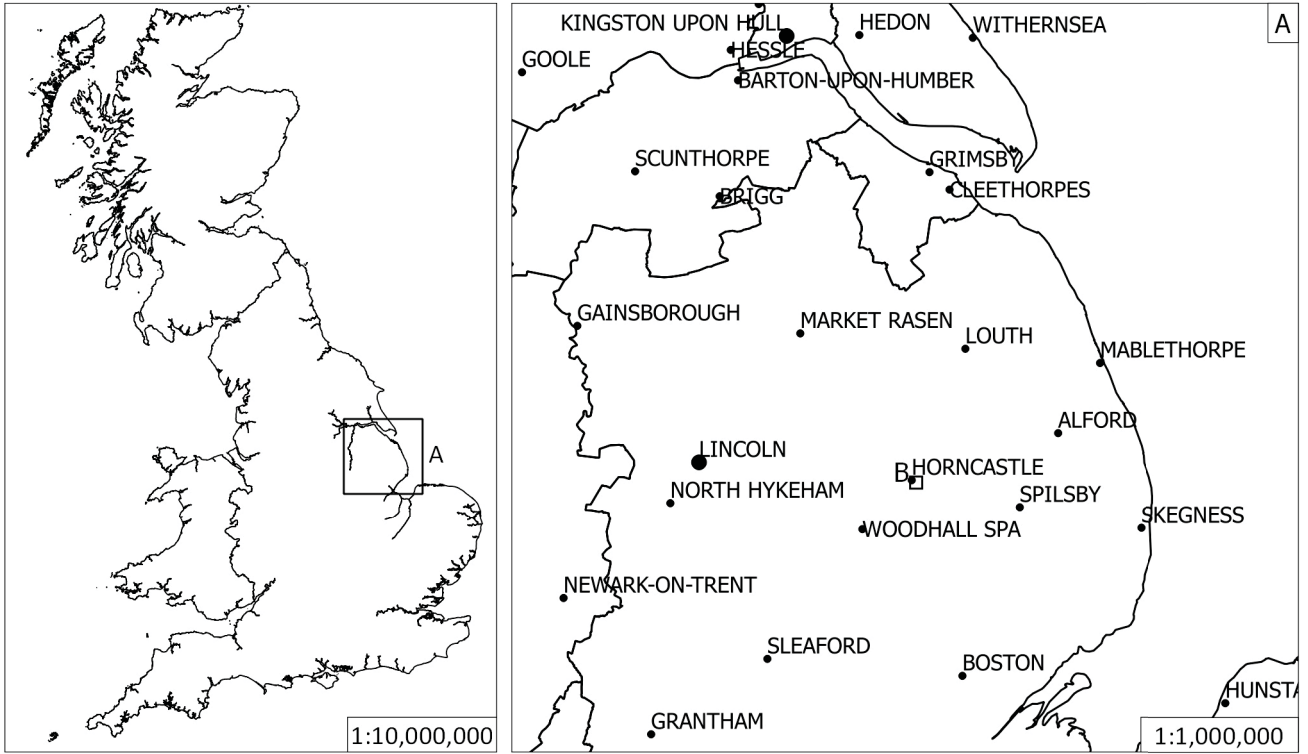


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

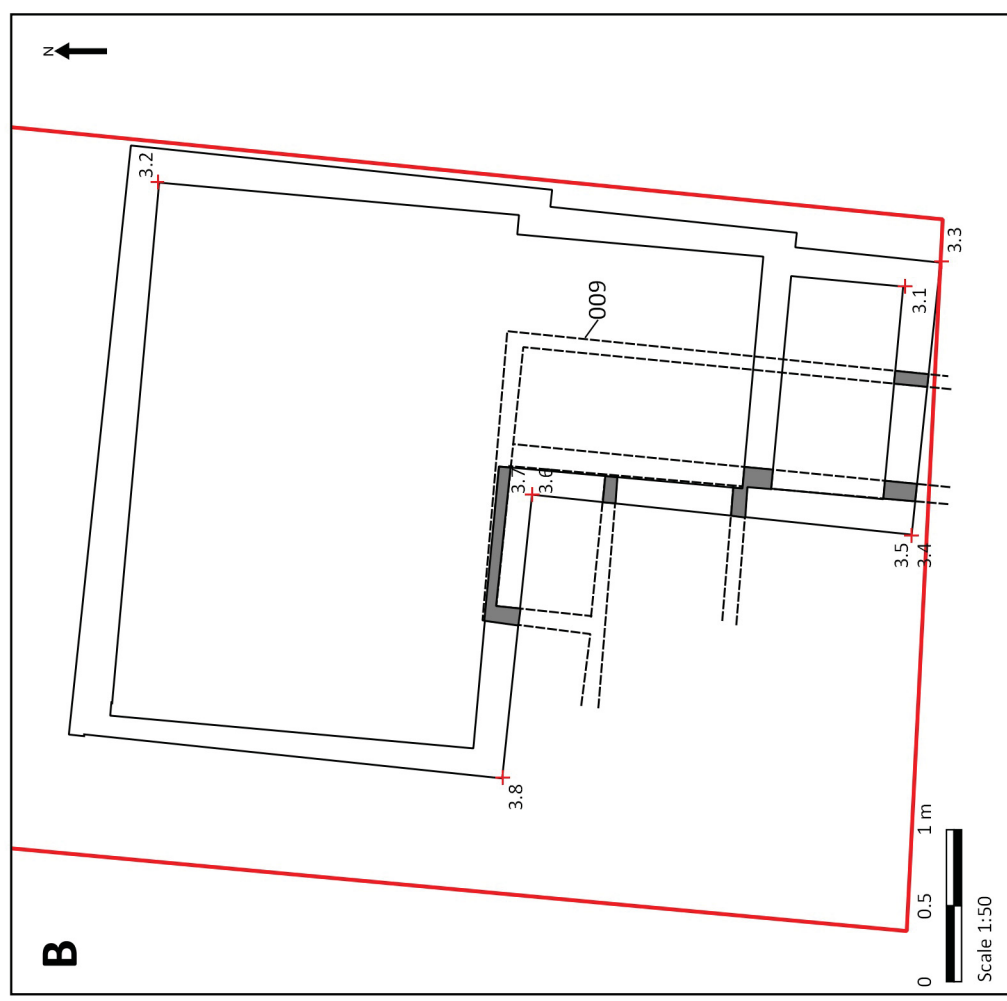
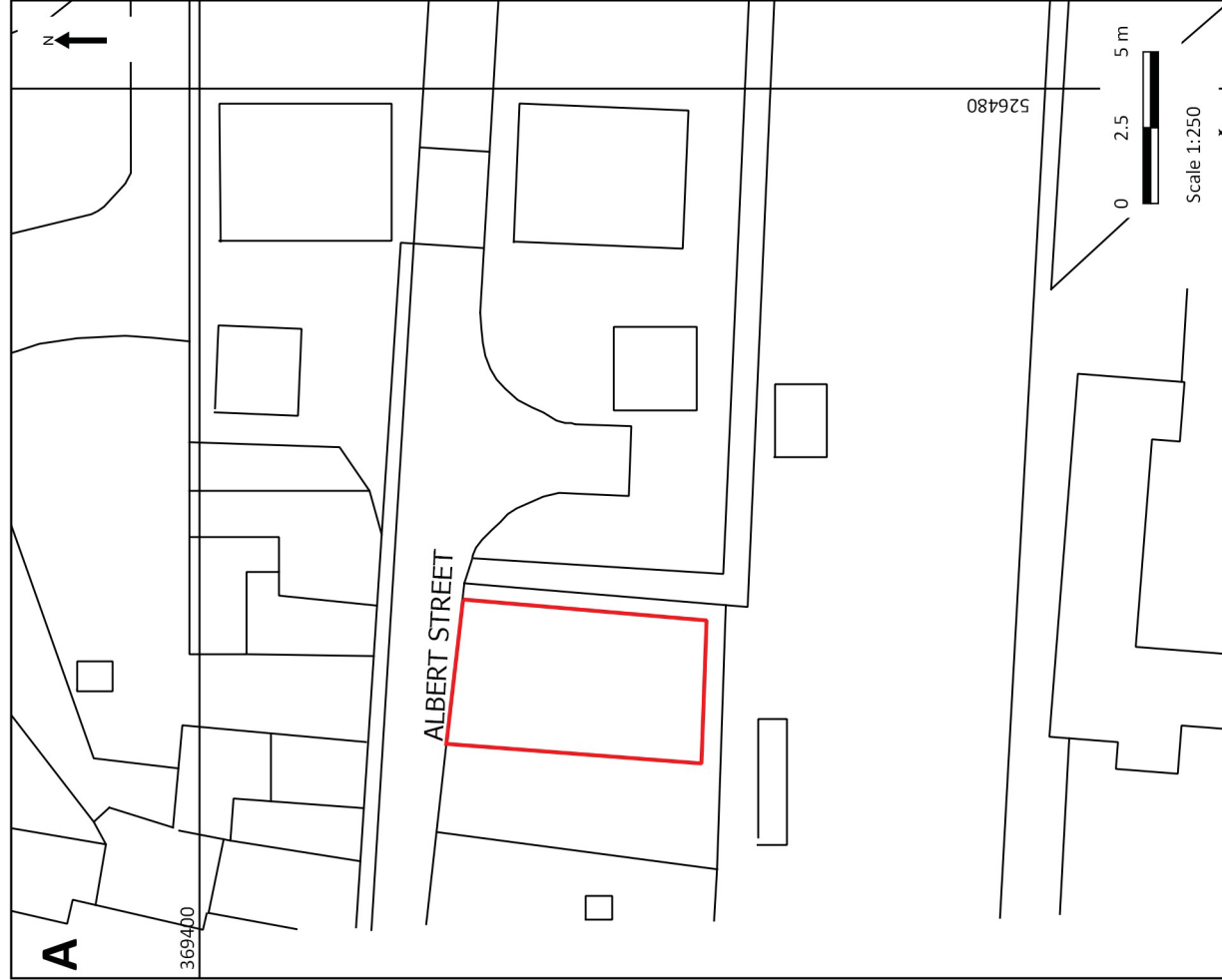
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Site Code	HOAS 15
Scale	1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	T Rayner
Date	16/09/15

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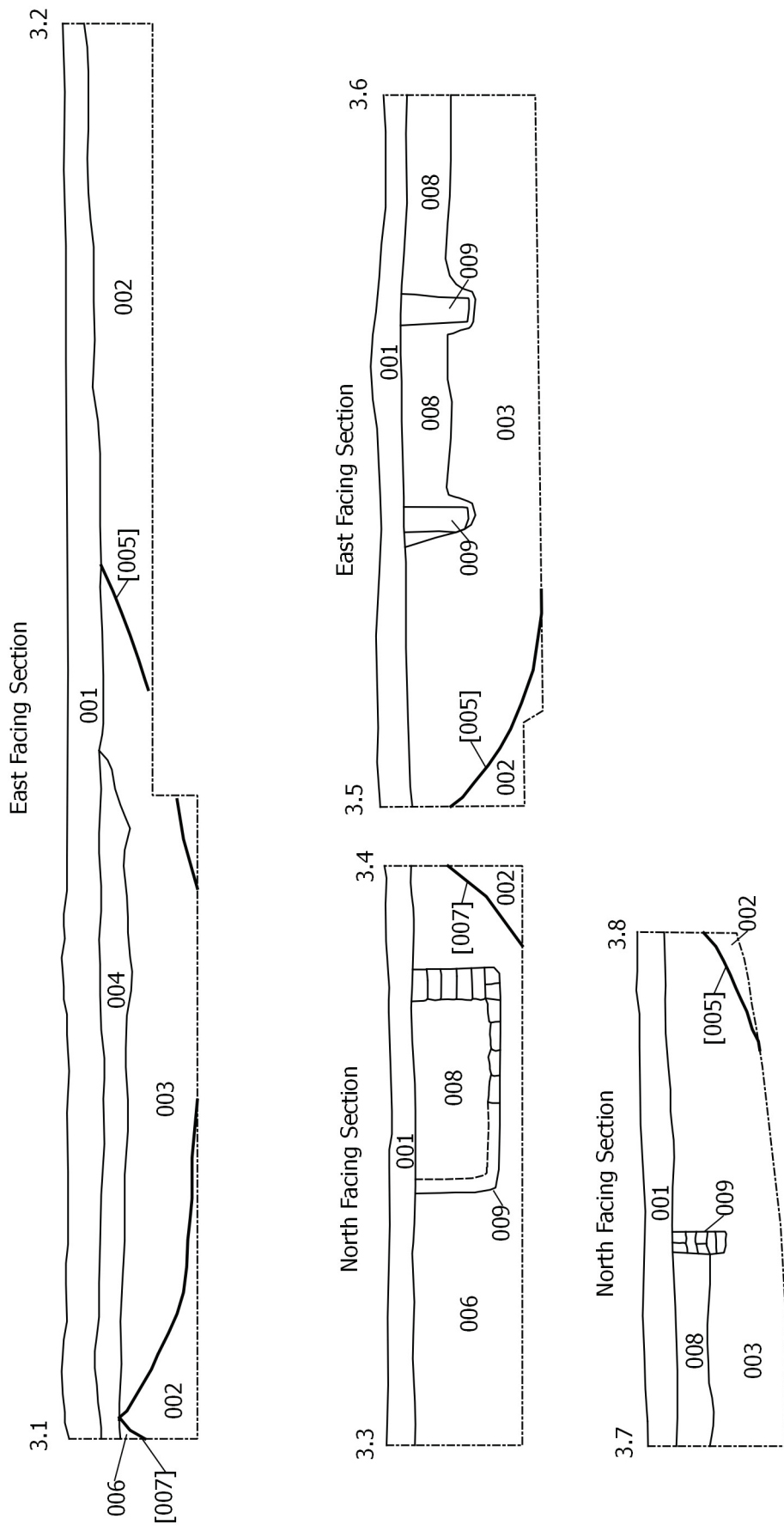


Site Code
Scale
Drawn By
Date

HOAS 15
1:50/1:250 @ A4
T Rayner
14/09/15

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Figure 2: A: Site location (in red) B: Detailed plan of footings



Site Code
Scale
Drawn By
Date

HOAS 15
1:20 @ A4
T Rayner
14/09/15

Figure 3: Sections within the footings showing quarry pits [005] and [007] and structure 009



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