

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING
THE HOPPER BUILDING, BRIGG ROAD, BARTON UPON HUMBER,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TA 0313 2183
NLSMR Site Code: BNCO



Report prepared for
Copperfield Developments

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January 2007

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Summary

- A programme of archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken during redevelopment of The Hopper Building, Brigg Road, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in the historic core of Barton upon Humber, an area rich in archaeological activity of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The Hopper Building itself is of early 20th century date, and was built on the site of an 18th century bell foundry.
- Two areas were investigated inside the building, and a third area was subject to archaeological monitoring on the east side of the building. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified during the fieldwork.



Fig. 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Copperfield Developments to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation and recording during the redevelopment of the Hopper Building, Brigg Road, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IFA 2001).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum, and archived under the site code BNCO.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Barton upon Humber is situated on the south bank of the Humber Estuary, approximately 18km north-east of Scunthorpe. The Hopper Building is in the historic core of the town, on the east side of Brigg Road, at its junction with Holydyke. Castledyke South runs to the south of the building, with existing residential and retail properties to the east.
- 2.2 The site centres on NGR TA 0313 2183, and lies at a height of approximately 11m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.3 The local geology consists of drift deposits of Glacial sand and gravel, over the solid geology of Welton Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1983).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of an existing warehouse and the conversion of the Hopper Building into 13 apartments (Planning Reference: 2005/1216). As a condition of planning, a programme of archaeological works was requested by the North Lincolnshire Council Sites and Monuments Record comprising a trial excavation that was undertaken in 2005 (Wood 2005), and a watching brief to take place during the groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the region of Barton is limited to a small number of finds of worked lithic material, including a Neolithic stone axe from the town, to the east of the site (Archaeology Data Service ref. NMR_NATINV-79040) The Romano-British period is also represented, however the evidence is limited and dispersed. Recorded findspots include a road surface, coins and pottery found in the north-east part of the town (ADS ref. NMR_NATINV-79051), as well as pottery scatters to the east of the site (ADS ref. NMR_NATINV-79040), and a coin of the emperor Constans (AD333 – 350) found in the south of the town (ADS ref. NMR_NATINV-79045).
- 4.2 Archaeological evidence has shown that the town developed as a major settlement in the Anglo-Saxon period. Numerous excavations have been carried out in the town, exposing the remains of a substantial settlement that was enclosed by a defensive ditch and palisade. An inhumation cemetery of 209 individuals, dating to the 6th and 7th centuries, has been excavated on Castledyke South, to the east of the site (Sawyer 1998).

- 4.3 By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, the town was a prosperous community with a ferry across the Humber and a weekly market. The landowners at this time were Earl Hugh and Gilbert of Ghent. Gilbert's estate controlled the ferry and the market, and also included two mills and a church with a priest (Morgan & Thorne 1986). The church is likely to be St. Peter's, much of the surviving fabric of which is of 10th century date (Sawyer 1998).
- 4.4 The town developed further throughout the medieval period, based on a grid plan of streets and properties. Castledyke South, which defines the southern limits of the development area, is thought to follow the line of the 12th century defences of the town (A. Williams *pers. comm.*).
- 4.5 In the 18th century, the development site is believed to have been occupied by a bell foundry. Debris from this industry was found when the Hopper Building was built in 1906. It housed the main offices and a packing and export plant for Hopper Cycle Works, which also had factory premises on Marsh Lane. In 1982, production ceased in Barton and was moved to Brigg, and the existing building was occupied by an antique furniture shop (www.geocities.com/dazxtn/hoppers.htm).
- 4.6 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site in 2005 (Wood 2005). Three trenches were excavated, exposing a sequence of modern levelling deposits associated with the construction of the Hopper Building, and a wall fragment of a former toilet block. Following the archaeological evaluation, the warehouse attached to the south of the Hopper Building was demolished and redevelopment of the site into flats started.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Archaeological works were undertaken on the site in two phases. The first phase of work involved the examination of two areas, Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 1 was excavated in the kitchen/living area of Flat 5. The Trench had maximum dimensions of 3.8m long by 1.5m wide, and was excavated using a tracked mini digger fitted with a 1m wide smooth bucket. Further excavation was precluded by live services running across the room.
- 5.2 Trench 2 was located east of Trench 1, in a proposed car parking area. It had been stripped by the contractors prior to archaeological investigation. The area measured 12.5m by 4.5m. Baulks were retained along the east side of the trench, in order to support the east wall of the existing building. This phase of works was undertaken by the author and one experienced field archaeologist on Tuesday June 20th 2006.
- 5.3 A final phase of archaeological monitoring was undertaken in the yard area immediately to the east of the building, during excavations to allow access to the underground car parking area. This was carried out by the author on Wednesday January 3rd 2007.
- 5.4 All exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and cleaned using hand tools, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Sample sections of the stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and located and located on a base plan. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on watching brief record sheets.
- 5.5 A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits, including appropriate scales, north arrow and identification board.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 Machine excavation removed a layer of modern hardcore, 101, and a levelling deposit of grey/brown sandy silt, 102. This sealed another probable levelling deposit, 103, comprising a layer of orange/brown sandy gravel that may have been associated with the construction of the original Hopper Building. These deposits had a total depth of 0.8m, and sealed the natural geology, a light brown sand and gravel, 104. No dating evidence was recovered from these deposits.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 The majority of the area had been machine stripped down to the natural geology, a layer of brown slightly clayey sand and chalk gravel, 202. However, the two large baulks preserved part of the overlying stratigraphic sequence.

6.2.2 In the northern baulk, the uppermost deposit was a 0.15m deep layer of grey/brown clay, incorporating occasional chalk fragments, 200, interpreted as a levelling deposit placed during the original construction of the Hopper Building. This sealed a layer of brown slightly clayey sand, 201, that was up to 0.2m deep and may have been a former ground surface or truncation horizon, also associated with the construction of the Hopper Building. This deposit sealed the natural geology, 202.

6.2.3 The stratigraphic sequence was slightly different in the southern baulk. The uppermost surviving deposit was a layer of brown slightly clayey sand, which was 0.35m deep and may have represented the same episode of ground raising evidenced by deposit 200. It sealed a layer of brown sandy clay, 204, interpreted as a lens of clay within the predominantly sandy gravel natural. The lack of natural light in this trench made it impossible to distinguish this deposit in plan from natural layer 202.

6.3 Trench 3

6.3.1 This area was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below the existing ground surface. The uppermost deposit, 300, was a 0.3m deep layer of very dark brown/grey clayey sand, containing large amounts of modern building rubble. This material comprised the remains of a former yard surface and building rubble from the current phase of works. It lay directly upon the natural geology, 301, a brown clayey sand, identical to that exposed in Trench 2.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

7.1 The deposits exposed were of limited archaeological significance. Archaeological investigation served to expose natural deposits, as well as episodes of levelling likely to be associated with the preparation of the site prior to the construction of the Hopper Building in 1906. The results of the previous evaluation, and the current phase of work suggest that any earlier archaeological structures or deposits that may have existed on the site have been truncated by these episodes of levelling of the site in the early 20th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

8.1 The methodology employed for this phase of work was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It showed the archaeological resource in the area to be limited, and that the development will have a negligible impact on the archaeological resource. The archaeological methodology employed also served to limit the disturbance to the ongoing development programme.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Copperfield Developments for this commission, and for the co-operation of the contractors during the fieldwork. Thanks also go to the site assistant, Kath Stone.

10.0 References

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Wood M., 2005, *Archaeological evaluation at The Warehouse, Brigg Road, Barton upon Humber, Lincolnshire*, Archaeological Project Services report no. 75/05.

11.0 Site archive

11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be deposited at North Lincolnshire Museum within six months.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-west.

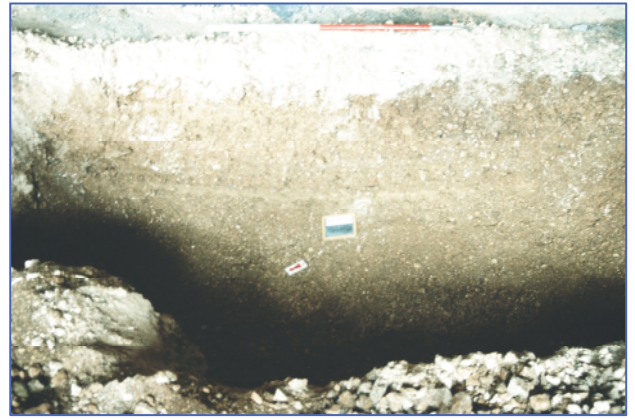


Plate 2: Trench 1 section, looking south-east.



Plate 3: Trench 2, after cleaning, looking south-west.



Plate 4: Southern baulk in Trench 2, looking south-east.



Plate 5: Northern baulk in Trench 2, looking south-east.



Plate 6: Trench 3, immediately to the east of the Hopper Building. Looking south-east.

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Trench 1		
100	Layer	Modern chalk hardcore. Recent levelling deposit laid down during redevelopment of site.
101	Layer	Grey/brown sandy silt. Modern levelling deposit
102	Layer	Orange/brown sandy gravel. Levelling deposit
103	Layer	Light brown sand and gravel. Natural geology
Trench 2		
200	Layer	Grey/brown clay, occasional chalk fragments. Levelling deposit for original Hopper building. Same as 203?
201	Layer	Brown slightly clayey sand. Possible former ground surface
202	Layer	Brown slightly clayey sand and chalk gravel. Natural geology
203	Layer	Brown slightly clayey sand. Levelling deposit for original Hopper Building. Same as 200?
204	Layer	Brown sandy clay. Lens of natural clay
Trench 3		
300	Layer	V. dark brown/grey clayey sand, frequent modern building rubble. Largely associated with current phase of works.
301	Layer	Brown slightly clayey sand and chalk gravel. Natural geology



Fig. 2: Site location plan with Hopper Building outlined in red and car park to rear outlined in blue (scale 1:500)

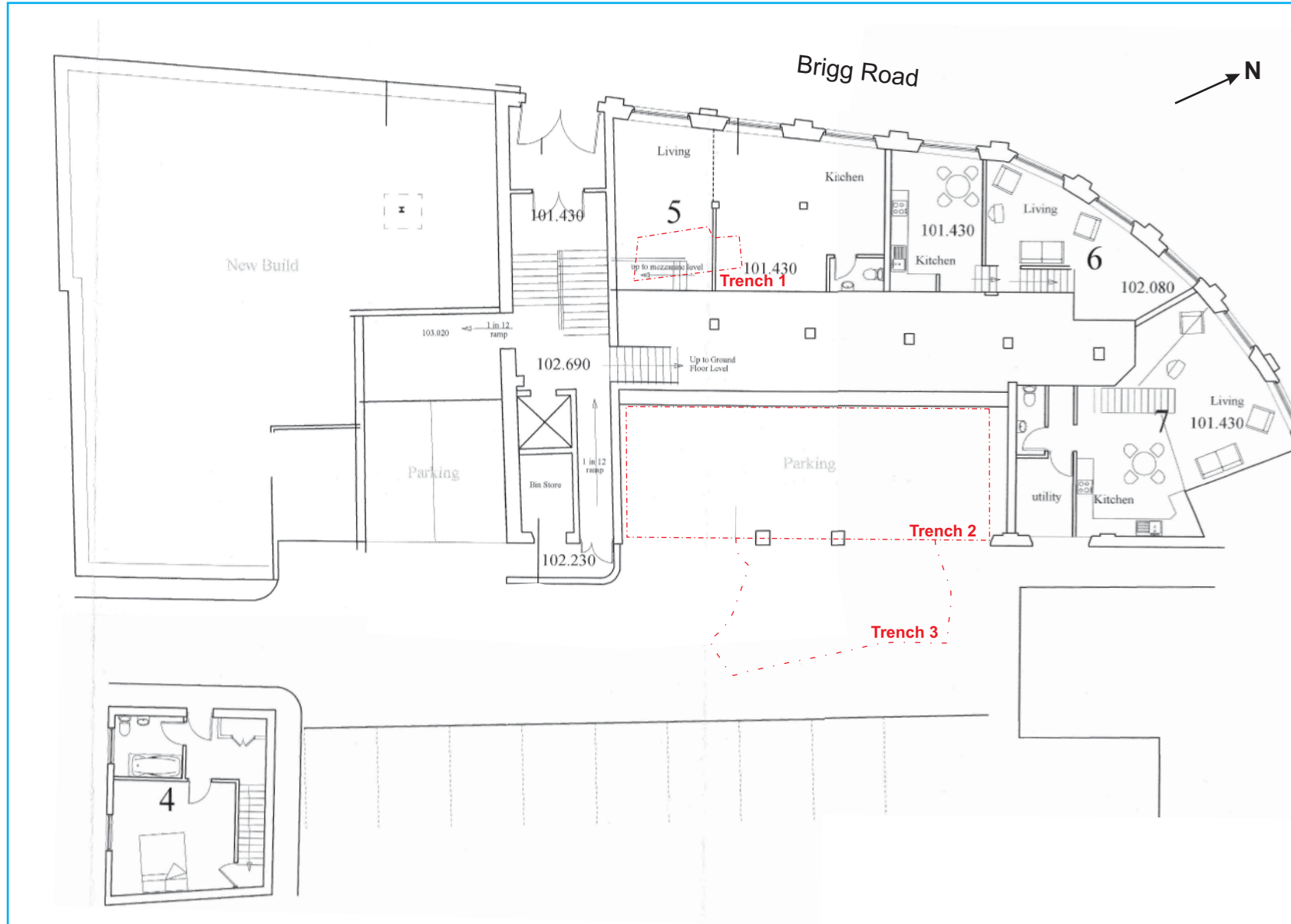


Fig. 3: Plan of the lower ground floor of the development, showing the areas investigated in red (scale 1:200)

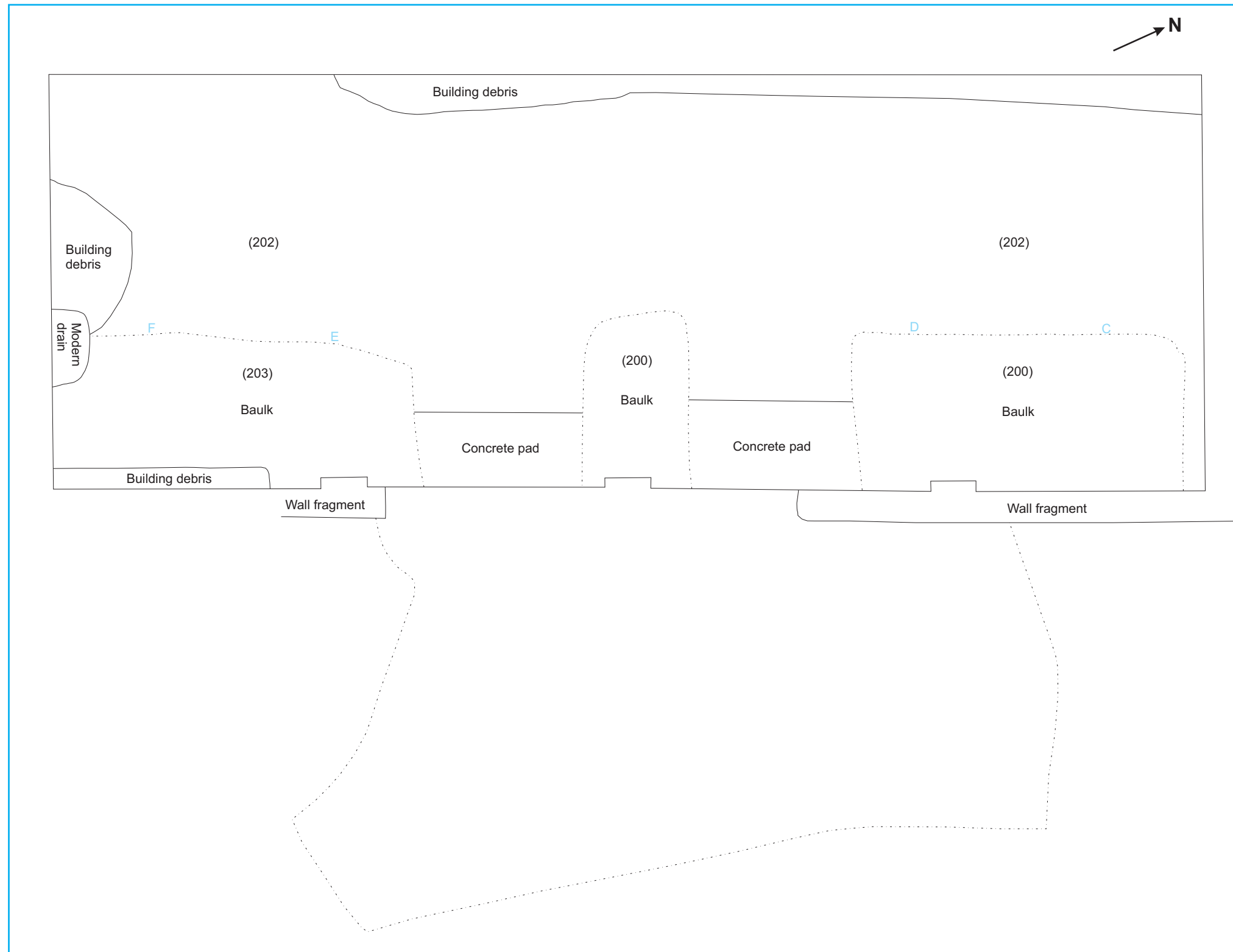


Fig. 4: Plan of Trenches 2 and 3, showing the location of drawn sections C-D and E-F (fig. 6) (scale 1:50)

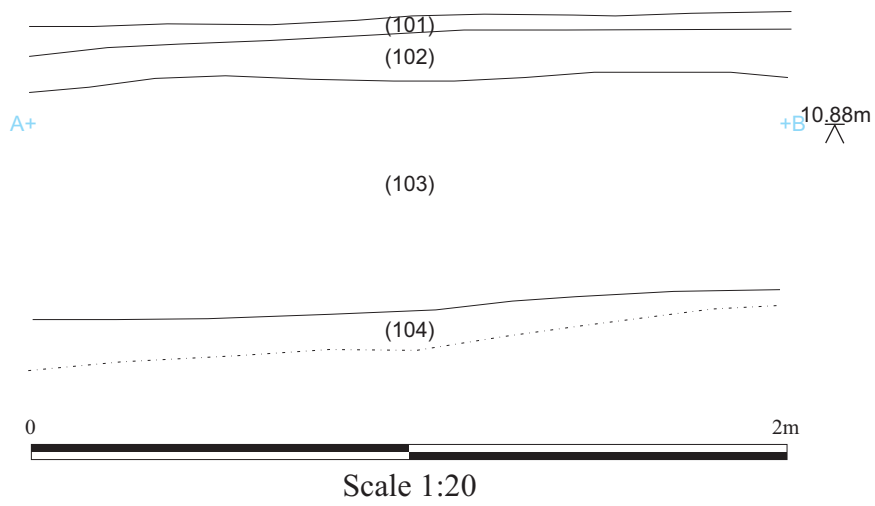


Fig. 5: Trench 1 sample section (scale 1:20)

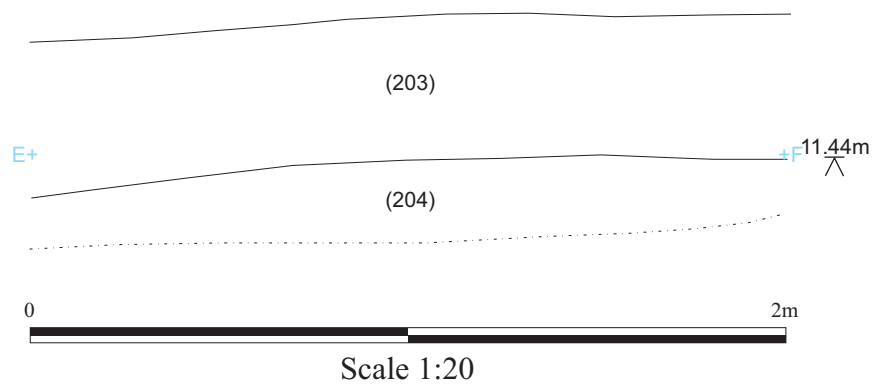
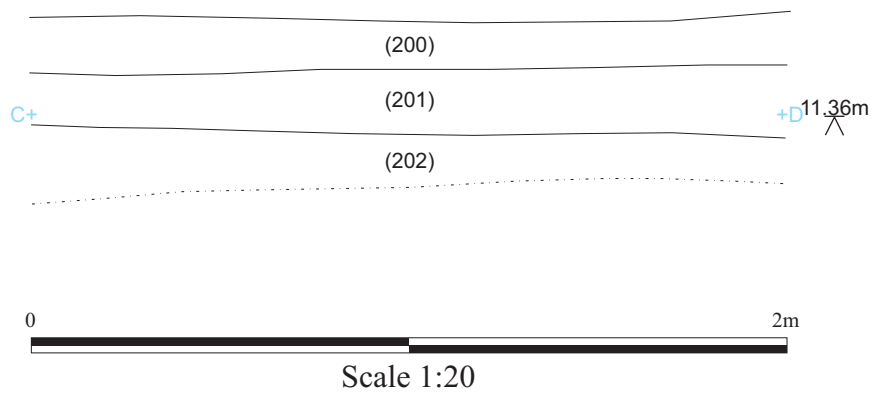


Fig. 6: Trench 2 sample sections (scale 1:20)