

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
LAND ADJACENT TO 27 EDENHAM ROAD, HANTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: S08/0223/58
NGR: TF 08468 23846
AAA Site Code: HAER 08
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Report prepared for Jason Murray Homes Ltd

by

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Summary

- Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Jason Murray Homes Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 27 Edenham Road, Hanthorpe, Lincolnshire.
- The village of Hanthorpe is documented as an outlying settlement of Morton to the east, and was probably founded in the late Anglo-Saxon period.
- Aerial survey of the area has demonstrated that the medieval pre-cursor to the modern village was much larger, having shrunk in size probably as a consequence of the Black Death and changes in agricultural practices during the later Middle Ages.
- The current scheme of archaeological monitoring recorded a drainage ditch that contained a small assemblage of animal bone and 13th/14th century pottery. An adjacent undated pit was also recorded.



Figure 1: Site location in red at scale 1:25000
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Jason Murray Homes Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 27 Edenham Road in Hanthorpe, 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) and *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice*. (Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Department 1998).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln and archived under the LCCM Accession Number 2008.106

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Hanthorpe is a small hamlet in the parish of Morton, and the administrative district of South Kesteven. It is situated on the western edge of Morton and approximately 4km north-north-west of Bourne. The site lies within the medieval core of the settlement, upon a level plot of land that was previously part of a garden to the south of an existing bungalow (27 Edenham Road). The site is accessed via a new entrance running from Edenham Road to the west. Timber fencing delineates the site from existing properties to the south, with the remaining garden area of number 27 forming the eastern boundary. The site centres upon NGR TF 08468 23846.
- 2.2 The local solid geology comprises Jurassic deposits of Cornbrash and Oxford Clay, with no drift deposits identified (British Geological Survey 1972).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted by South Kesteven District Council for the erection of a single dwelling on land adjacent to number 27 Edenham Road, Hanthorpe, Lincolnshire (Planning Application Reference S08/0223/58). Planning consent was subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief to monitor intrusive groundworks associated with the development.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric settlement within the Hanthorpe area, although two Neolithic polished axes and a Bronze Age loom weight fragment have been recovered from the Morton Fen edge, to the east of the village (Hayes and Lane 1992).
- 4.2 The Roman course of Mareham Lane (the modern A15 trunk road) bisects Morton and Hanthorpe villages and would have provided a focus for linear settlement within the landscape. The Roman built Car Dyke runs along the edge of the fens, passing to the east of Morton, its original course linking the River Nene at Peterborough with the River Witham near Lincoln, while the Bourne-Morton canal, also a Roman waterway, runs for 6.5km south-west from Morton Fen to Bourne (Lane et. al. 1992).
- 4.3 There is extensive evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the wider landscape, including both settlement evidence and salt making activity. Excavation of a section of the Bourne-Morton canal near Cross Morton Drove revealed that the silted up watercourse was cut by a later annular gully and a ditch aligned parallel to the course of the former canal. The fill of

the gully contained briquetage of Roman type, probably sourced from nearby salterns recorded during the Fenland Survey (Crowson et al 2000).

- 4.4 Hanthorpe was known as *Hermodesthorp* at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. This was a Scandinavian name meaning the "outlying farmstead or hamlet of a man called Hermod or Hermothr" (Cameron 1998). This probably relates to its geographical relationship with Morton.
- 4.5 The Domesday Book lists three landowners in Morton and Hanthorpe parish; Gilbert of Ghent, Odger the Breton and Heppo the Crossbowman (Morgan & Thorne 1986).
- 4.6 The village was classified by the 1992-7 National Mapping Programme as a shrunken medieval village, its former more extensive plan recorded by cropmarks extending from the village core. Developer-led archaeological schemes within the village have identified archaeological features confirming the aerial photographic evidence for an extensive medieval settlement (Snee 2001, Hockley 1994, Walker 2001).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The foundation trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX excavator using a 650mm wide toothed bucket to a maximum depth of 1.05m below the existing ground surface. The groundworks were monitored by the author on June 10th 2008.
- 5.2 During excavation, all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. A full written record of the work was maintained with plans and sections drawn at appropriate scales (1:20 and 1:50) and pro-forma context recording sheets used to record each individual context.
- 5.3 A colour photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow. A selection of these shots has been included as an appendix (Appendix 1).

6.0 Results (Figures 3, 4)

- 6.1 The modern ground surface consisted of a grey/brown silty clay topsoil layer 100 that had an average thickness of 0.20m across the development area. Sealed below the topsoil was an intermittent layer of orange/brown clay 101 that appeared to be a natural geological deposit of uncertain origin. Below deposit 101 was 0.40m of orange/yellow silty clay 102 that contained frequent inclusions of finely crushed limestone. This layer represented a degraded component of the underlying limestone brash 103 that was encountered at an average of 0.85m below the modern ground surface.
- 6.2 In the north-east corner of the foundation trench a ditch or elongated pit, [107], aligned north-east to south-west was cut into deposit 102 and sealed by the modern topsoil. The feature was not encountered in any of the other foundation trenches and must have terminated within the central area of the plot. It conformed to a regular bowl shaped profile, measuring 1.95m wide by 0.82m deep, and was filled by a homogenous deposit of dark brown silty clay 106 that contained a few limestone fragments, some of which had clearly been burnt. A small animal bone assemblage recovered from this fill that included both cattle and sheep remains was interpreted as probable butchery waste (Appendix 3). Environmental analysis of samples taken from this fill indicated that burnt waste materials had been deposited, probably from nearby habitation. The samples included cereal grains, predominantly comprising oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) with fragments of animal bone and fish bone, mineralised faecal residues and a piece of charred organic concretion (possibly burnt dung).

(Appendix 4). The feature was dated by seven sherds of 13th-14th century Bourne Area Handmade Shell-tempered Ware (Appendix 2).

- 6.3 Adjacent to and south-east of the ditch, the profile of a pit [104] was revealed in the south-west facing section of the foundation trench. The pit displayed a slightly irregular bowl shaped profile measuring 1.20m wide by 0.40m deep and was filled by red/brown silty clay 105. No dating evidence was recovered from the pit which may represent a silted up tree throw, as a considerable degree of root disturbance was noted in several areas of the foundations.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The results of this scheme of works have identified the alignment of a 13th-14th century drainage/boundary ditch or pit containing a small assemblage of cultural material, indicative of the dumping of domestic waste. This material although limited in its scope has provided an example of the range of resources procured and exploited by the settlement at this time.
- 7.2 This work has also recorded additional evidence to support both the location and dating of the deserted medieval village known to extend beyond the current village core. When added to the growing body of evidence from developer-led archaeological investigations, the spatial distribution of sites and finds may eventually provide a more cohesive understanding of the settlement as a whole.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The application of an archaeological watching brief was an appropriate level of mitigation for the scale of these works. This allowed for the rapid appraisal, excavation and recording of archaeological deposits whilst causing no disruption to the development process.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Jason Murray Homes Limited for this commission.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1972, *Bourne. England and Wales Sheet 143. Drift Edition. One Inch Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

,Crowson, A., Lane, T., Reeve, T., 2000, *Fenland Management Project, Excavations 1991-1995*. Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Report Series No. 3, Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, Heckington

Hayes, P. and Lane, T., 1992, *'The Fenland Project Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-West Fens'*, East Anglian Archaeology, Report no. 55, Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, Sleaford

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1992-7, *Results of the Royal Commission for the Historic Monuments of England National mapping Programme*. National Monuments Record Reference NATINV_348473

Snee, J., 2001, *An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Edenham Road Hanthorpe*. Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Vol 36, p51

Walker, F., 2001, *Land at Hanthorpe Road, Morton Watching Brief Report*. Archaeological Project Services unpublished client report.

11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months, where it will be stored under the unique archive Accession Number 2008.106

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site looking south from the site entrance on Edenham Road.

Plate 2: Oblique shot (looking north) of the south-west facing section of ditch/pit [107]. A fragment of burnt limestone may just be seen on the northern edge of the ditch fill.



Plate 3: South-west facing section of pit/tree throw [104]. Looking north-east.

Appendix 2: Post Roman pottery assessment

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* 2001 and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* 2005. Seven sherds from a single vessel, weighing 212 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in table 1. The pottery dates to the medieval period.

Condition

The sherds are in fairly fresh condition although they have spalled due to heating; this was probably during use as indicated by the presence of soot residues.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
106	BAHST	Bourne Area Handmade Shell-tempered ware	Jar	7	1	212	Finger pressed rim edge	Rim + BS	Hollow everted rim; spalled lower body; soot; wheel finished	13th to 14th?

Provenance

The vessel came from (106), fill of Ditch [107].

Range

Bourne Area Handmade Shell-tempered ware has recently been defined as part of the Kesteven Ceramic Type Series Project (archive maintained by the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire). This ware typically has a dark red or brown outer surface and rims tend to be finger pressed; traits evident on this example from HAER08. The chronology of this type is not yet fully established, but it is currently believed to be medieval (possibly 13th to 14th century) in date.

Potential

This vessel is suitable for inclusion into a programme of ICPS and thin section to define this ware type. The pottery poses no problems for long term storage and should be retained. The pottery should be reassessed in light of further work at the site, as this could provide confirmation of the date BAHST is manufactured.

Summary

A single vessel of Bourne Area Handmade Shell-tempered ware was recovered from (106). The presence of this vessel indicated domestic activity occurring in the vicinity of the site, although the assemblage is too small to draw further conclusions.

SPOT DATING

The dating in table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

	Date	Comments
	13 th to 14 th	Date on a single vessel

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3: Animal bone assessment

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 3 (212g) fragments of animal bone were recovered during watching brief works undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates. The remains were recovered from a possible early medieval ditch [107].

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

Possible carnivore gnawing was noted on the cattle metatarsal, indicating the remains were left open to scavengers as part of/after the disposal process.

No evidence of butchery, pathology or burning was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Cut	Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
107	106	Cattle	Metatarsal	L	1	132	Possible carnivore gnawing on the distal end Bp=45mm
		Cattle	Innominate	L	1	58	Acetabulum, In three pieces, some mineral concretion
		Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	22	Midshaft

As can be seen from table 1, the majority of the remains are identified as cattle, closely followed by sheep/goat.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals on site. The skeletal elements represented suggest the remains were probably from butchery waste.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 4: Environmental assessment

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Hanthorpe, undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates, recorded a small number of features of possible Saxon or medieval date. A sample for the evaluation of the preservation and content of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from a fill within ditch [107].

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover, and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. Preservation of the grains was generally quite poor, with a large number being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Chaff was exceedingly rare, but two bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were recorded. A single possible pea (*Pisum sativum*) seed was also noted, although positive identification was not possible, as both hilum and testa were absent.

With the exception of charcoal fragments, other plant remains were scarce. A single small legume (Fabaceae) was noted along with a fragment of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) siliqua, a piece of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and occasional saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) fruits.

Fragments of black porous material were moderately common, with most probably being residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Other remains were scarce, but did include fragments of bone and fish bone, mineralised faecal residues and a piece of charred organic concretion (possibly burnt dung). Minute coal fragments were moderately common, but most were possibly intrusive within the context.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, it would appear most likely that this assemblage is derived from a small deposit of mixed refuse, which was deposited within the fill of the ditch. The grains and pulses are, perhaps, most likely to be derived from domestic hearth waste, and were possibly accidentally spilled during culinary preparation. Their poor condition may be indicative of repeated episodes of burning, as may be expected within a hearth context. It is unclear whether the faecal residues are human or animal in origin, but their presence does indicate that other types of waste were also dumped into the ditch.

Although the condition of the current material is somewhat poor, the assemblage clearly shows that plant remains are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Hanthorpe. Therefore, if further work is proposed within this area, it is essential that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well sealed contexts. The samples should ideally be stored in cool, dark conditions prior to processing and should be processed with a minimum of delay. All relevant paperwork must accompany the samples at all times.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997

New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens cf = compare
 coty = cotyledon fg = fragment

<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.)Pohl	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x
Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal <2mm	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx
Indet.buds	x
Other remains	
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx
Bone	x
Burnt/fired clay	x
Burnt organic concretions	x
Fish bone	x
Mineralised faecal concretions	x
Mineralised soil concretions	xx
Mineral replaced root channels	x
Small coal frags.	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x
Sample volume (litres)	10
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1
% flot sorted	100%
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.)Pohl	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils	

Appendix 5: Context summary list

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Grey brown silty clay topsoil layer
101	Layer	Orange brown clay, geological deposit
102	Layer	Orange/yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of finely crushed limestone. Degraded limestone brash
103	Layer	Limestone brash, natural geology
104	Cut	Pit with a slightly irregular bowl shaped profile
105	Fill	Red/brown silty clay
106	Fill	Dark brown silty clay fill of ditch/elongated pit [107]
107	Cut	Cut of medieval ditch/pit



Figure 2: Site location plan at scale 1:500, with the site outlined in red. Archaeological features are shaded grey

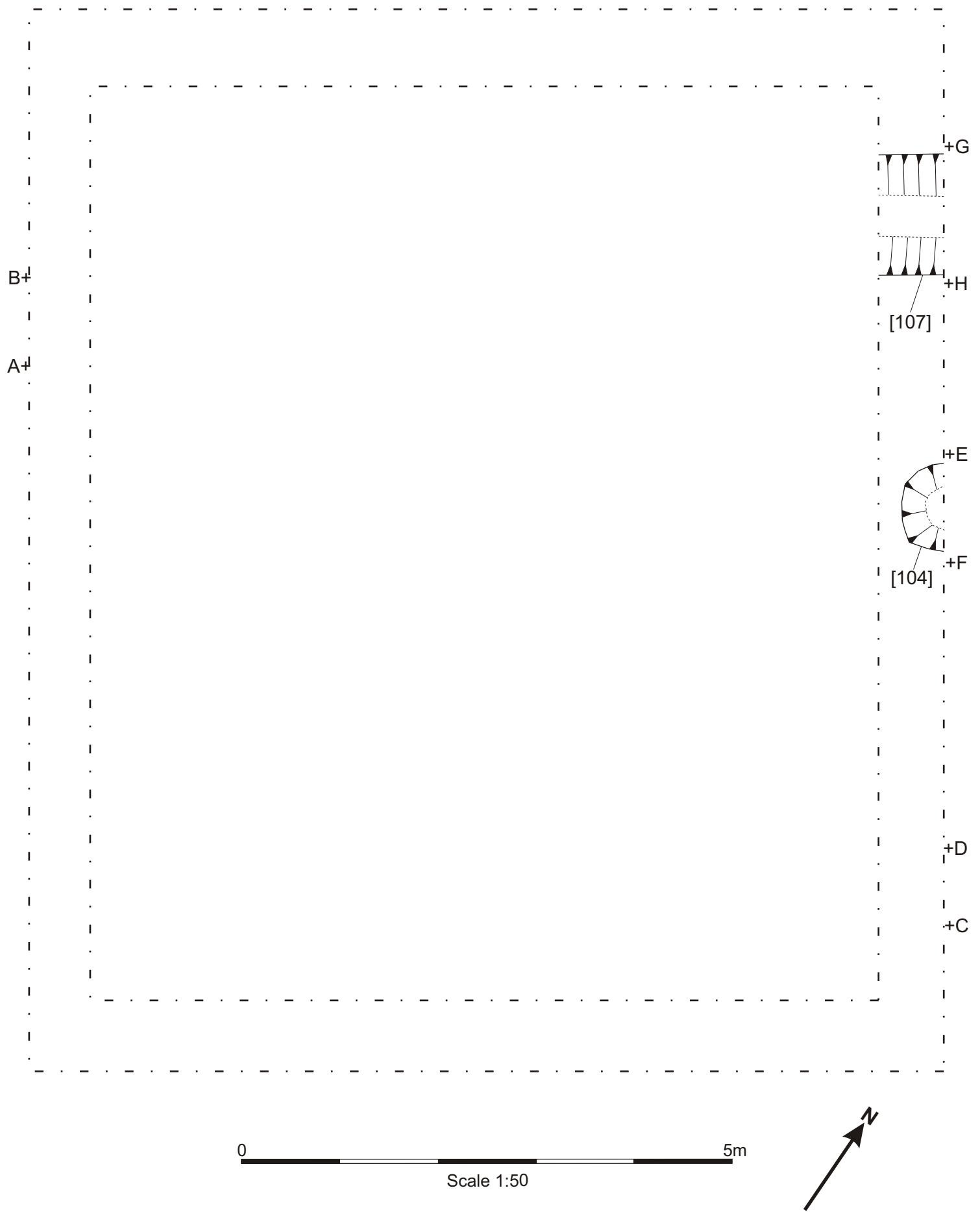


Figure 3: Plan of foundations at scale 1:50. Drawn sections A-B, C-D, E-F and G-H are shown on Figure 4

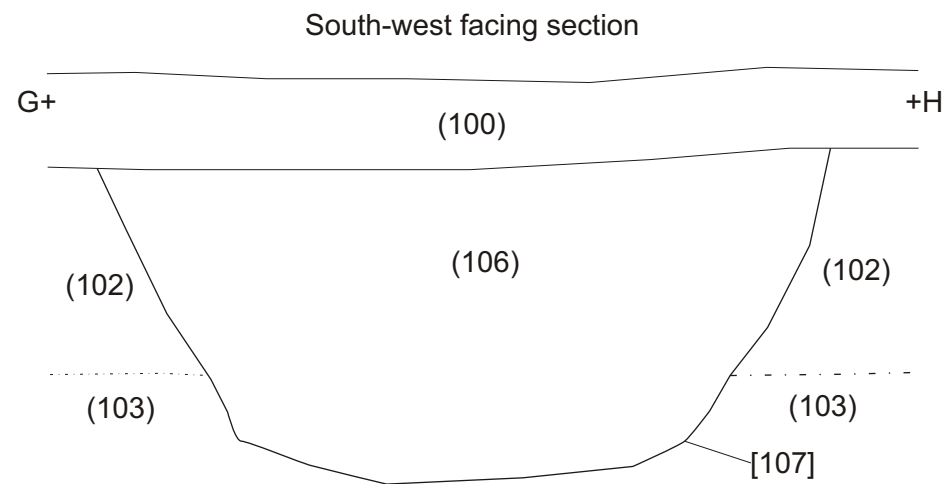
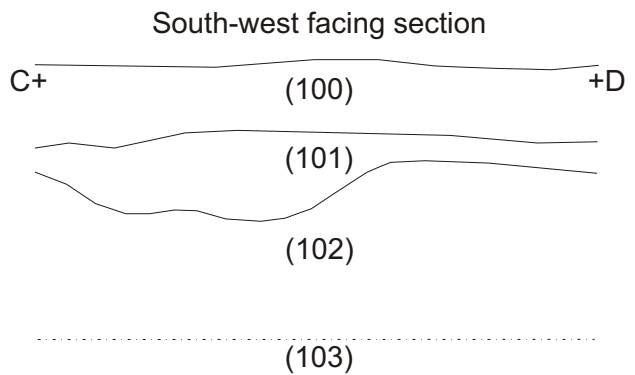
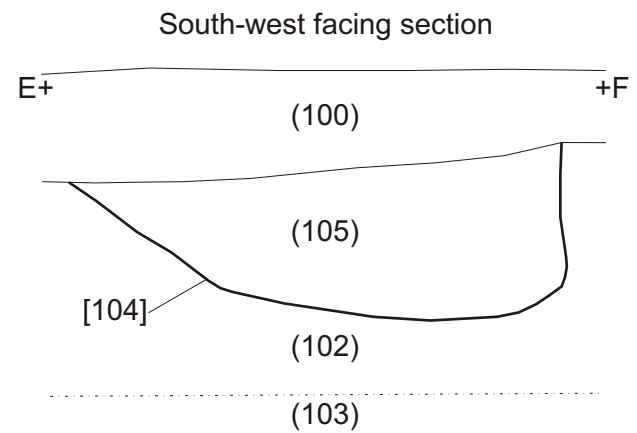
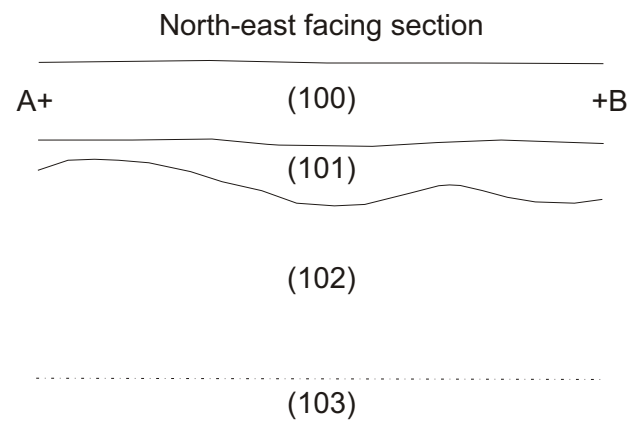


Figure 4: Section drawings at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 3