

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS:  
LAND AT 2 CHURCH STREET, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 142476 and 142477  
NGR: TA 1172 0136  
AAL Site Code: CACS 21  
Scheduled Monument Consent: S00242029  
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2022.32  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-504698



Report prepared for Lincs Loos

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Report Number AAL2022025

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Allenarchaeology



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*Cover image: Excavation of Trench 5, looking north*

## Executive Summary

- Lincs Loos commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake an archaeological scheme of works for drainage works at 2 Church Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire, which was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent associated with a planning application for conversion of an outbuilding for residential use.
- The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Monument of Caistor Roman Town. Caistor developed as a defended settlement in the late Roman period, with several sections of the defences still extant. It remained an important regional centre in the post-Roman period, and was also recorded as a prosperous settlement and centre of a large royal estate in the Domesday Book.
- Archaeological monitoring revealed no features or deposits of archaeological interest, exposing only modern yard surfaces, modern made ground layers and the cut for the former drain that was replaced during these works.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lincs Loos commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) to undertake an archaeological scheme of works during drainage works at 2 Church Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire, which was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent associated with a planning application for conversion of an outbuilding for residential use.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2020a), '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation*' (CIfA 2020b), and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015) and a specification by this company (AAL 2021). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed ([www.historicengland.org.uk/advice](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice)). Local guidance in the '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2019) was also followed.
- 1.3 The documentation and records generated during the project will be converted into an appropriate format in accordance with guidelines set out in the LCC document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' (LCC 2019). The archive will be deposited with The Collection Museum in Lincoln under the museum accession code LCNCC: 2022.32. The agreed date of deposition is October 2022.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Caistor is located in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire, c.32.5km north-northeast of the centre of Lincoln. 2 Church Street is in the centre of the town, on the north side of Church Street, centred on NGR TA 1172 0136 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Hunstanton Formation Chalk, with no overlying superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning consent and Listed Building consent has been granted by West Lindsey District Council for '*conversion of outbuilding to residential annex*' (Planning References 142476 and 142477). Planning consent was granted without archaeological conditions, but the site lies within the area of a Scheduled Monument, and as such Scheduled Monument Consent was required for the works. This consent was granted with a condition for a programme of archaeological investigation during groundworks for the scheme (Reference S00242029).
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works.

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Monument of Caistor Roman Town (List Entry 1004995). The Roman town of Caistor developed as a defended settlement in the late Roman period, with the walled town enclosing an area of approximately 160m by 255m (LHER Reference MLI54186), although scatters of finds suggest some activity, potentially of a military nature, from at least the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Whitwell 1992).
- 4.2 Little is known of the internal layout of the defended area, but the line of the defences have been traced and survive in several areas. One of the best preserved sections is at Caistor Grammar School, c.170m to the west-southwest of the site, measuring c.5m long and 1.7m thick, and potentially representing the internal face of a bastion. Another possible bastion has been recorded c.30m to the north of the site.
- 4.3 Outside the city walls, was a further defensive perimeter of two large ditches. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at the rear of the Red Lion Hotel, c.70m northeast of the site, exposing these ditches. The southern ditch was approximately 4m wide and 2m deep, and the northern ditch, rather larger, at approximately 9m wide and 3.9m deep. Large chalk and limestone fragments, some neatly dressed, were recorded in the base of the southern ditch, likely fallen from the adjacent wall. The upper fills contained medieval and later pottery, and stone structures and a stone lined well of a probable medieval date were observed cutting the upper fills of the northern ditch (Munford 2004).
- 4.4 It is suspected that Caistor remained an important regional centre in the post-Roman period. A dedication stone of 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century date has been found in the churchyard, and the town is believed to have had a mint in the 10<sup>th</sup> century (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) reference MLI52690). Archaeological works in the area have produced small amounts of Anglo-Saxon finds (LHER reference MLI53908).
- 4.5 Caistor appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as a large settlement of 52 households, and was the centre of a large royal estate with lands in surrounding villages, in total including 253 further households. A church and a priest are also listed in Caistor (Morgan and Thorn 1986). It remained an important market centre into the medieval period, and medieval settlement evidence has been recorded in several areas of the town (LHER reference MLI52691).
- 4.6 The town continued to prosper into the post-medieval period, its population rising steadily from 63 households in 1583 to 193 at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then nearly doubling in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The current site, 2 Church Street, is a Grade II Listed Building, dating to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (List Entry 1063383).

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The works entailed excavations to remove and replace an existing section of drainage, and to install a new section of drainage. Liliana Serrano of AAL was present during all groundworks for the scheme, on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. She acted strictly in accordance with the contents of this document, and adhered to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects.
- 5.2 The scheme of archaeological works involved monitoring of all ground disturbances, with the ability to stop and fully record archaeological features.

- 5.3 All groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 5.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits were made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Sections to be excavated were marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All excavated sections will then be drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing.
- 5.5 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

## **6.0 Results**

- 6.1 The drainage trenches were split into six sections for ease of recording (Figure 2).

### ***Trench 1***

- 6.2 The uppermost layer was a mid-grey gravel yard surface 100 approximately 0.45m thick. This layer was visible across the entire site and also recorded as 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600. This sealed a greyish brown silty sand 101, which was also visible in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6; 201, 301, 502 and 601. 101 etc likely represented a former made ground/levelling layer associated with the surrounding buildings.
- 6.3 Approximately 1m from the eastern end of Trench 1 was a cut [102], which represented the cut for the existing drain that was being replaced. This cut had near vertical sides with a concave base. It was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty sand 103 with occasional CBM (ceramic building material) flecks, and the former drainage pipe.
- 6.4 At the eastern end of Trench 1 below the gravel yard surface 100, was a single course of brick paving 104, 0.06m thick, which lay above a light brown sandy hardcore bedding layer 105, 0.10m thick.





*Plate 1: South-facing section of Trench 1, scales are 1m and 0.5m*

### **Trench 2**

- 6.5 The gravel surface 200, 0.05m thick, sealed layer 201. The modern brick paving and bedding layers seen in Trench 1 were also visible within Trench 2, 202 and 203 respectively.



*Plate 2: North-facing section of Trench 2, scales are 1m and 0.5m*

### **Trench 3**

- 6.6 The gravel surface 300, 0.20m thick, sealed made ground layer 301.





*Plate 3: Northeast-facing section of Trench 3, scales are 1m and 0.5m*

#### **Trench 4**

- 6.7 The uppermost deposit in Trench 4 was the gravel yard surface 400, 0.20m thick. This section of the works was entirely within the limits of the previous modern service trench, [401], filled with a mid-grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of CBM and charcoal flecks 402.



*Plate 4: West-facing section of Trench 4, scales are 2 x 1m*

#### **Trench 5**

- 6.8 In Trench 5 the gravel yard surface 500, was 0.10m thick. It sealed a 0.13m thick mid brown silty sand 501, a possible former surface. This sealed a mid-greyish brown silty sand 502



with occasional inclusions of ceramic building material (e.g., brick, tile) (CBM) flecks, 0.40m representing a made ground layer corresponding with 101, 201 and 301. Below this was a light yellow silty sand levelling layer 503. Within Trench 5 was the cut of the former inspection chamber [504], 1.50m by 0.80m, which was filled by a dark grey silty sand 505.



*Plate 5: East-facing section of Trench 5, scales are 2m and 0.5m*

### **Trench 6**

6.9 The gravel surface 600, 0.10m thick, sealed the former occupation layer 601. At the northwestern end of Trench 6 the cut for the modern service trench [401] was identified.



*Plate 6: Southeast-facing section of Trench 6, scales are 1m and 0.5m*

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

7.1 Archaeological monitoring revealed no features or deposits of archaeological interest. The only features revealed comprised modern surfaces and made ground layers, as well as the cut for the former drain that was replaced during these works. A small amount of finds were recovered during the works but these were all modern and were as a result discarded on site.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

8.1 The scheme of works methodology employed was suited to the scale and nature of the project in determining the nature of the archaeology present and the potential impacts of the development.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Lincs Loos for this commission, as well as the co-operation of the groundworkers during the works.

## **10.0 References**

- AAL, 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Scheme of Works: Land at 2 Church Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire*. Allen Archaeology Ltd, unpublished planning document
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## Appendix 1: Context Summary List

### Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.15	Modern yard surface
101	Layer	Soft greyish brown silty sand	-	-	-	Made ground layer
102	Cut	Linear, northwest to southeast, shallow vertical sides and concave base	-	0.40	0.32	Cut of former service trench
103	Fill	Loose, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional CBM flecks	-	-	0.32	Backfill of [102]
104	Masonry	Single brick course	-	-	0.06	Modern brick paving
105	Layer	Compact, light brown sandy hardcore	-	-	0.10	Bedding layer for brick paving 104

### Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.05	Modern yard surface
201	Layer	Soft greyish brown silty sand	-	-	-	Made ground layer
202	Masonry	Single course of bricks	-	-	0.06	Modern brick paving
203	Layer	Compact, light brown sandy hardcore	-	-	0.10	Bedding layer for brick paving 104

### Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
300	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.20	Modern yard surface
301	Layer	Soft greyish brown silty sand	-	-	-	Made ground layer

### Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
400	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.20	Modern yard surface
401	Cut	Linear, north to south, vertical sides and concave base	-	-	-	Cut of modern service trench

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
402	Fill	Mid grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of CBM and charcoal flecks	-	-	-	Backfill of service trench [401]

#### Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
500	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.10	Modern yard surface
501	Layer	Compact, mid brown silty sand with occasional CBM flecks	-	-	0.13	Possible former surface
502	Layer	Moderate compaction, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional CBM flecks	-	-	0.40	Made ground layer
503	Layer	Moderate compaction, light yellow silty sand	-	-	-	Levelling layer
504	Cut	Linear, north to south, vertical sides and flat base	-	1.50	0.80	Cut of inspection chamber
505	Fill	Soft, dark grey silty sand with moderate inclusions of CBM, charcoal and small stones	-	1.50	0.80	Backfill of inspection chamber

#### Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
600	Layer	Loose, mid grey gravel	-	-	0.10	Modern yard surface
601	Layer	Soft greyish brown silty sand	-	-	-	Made ground layer



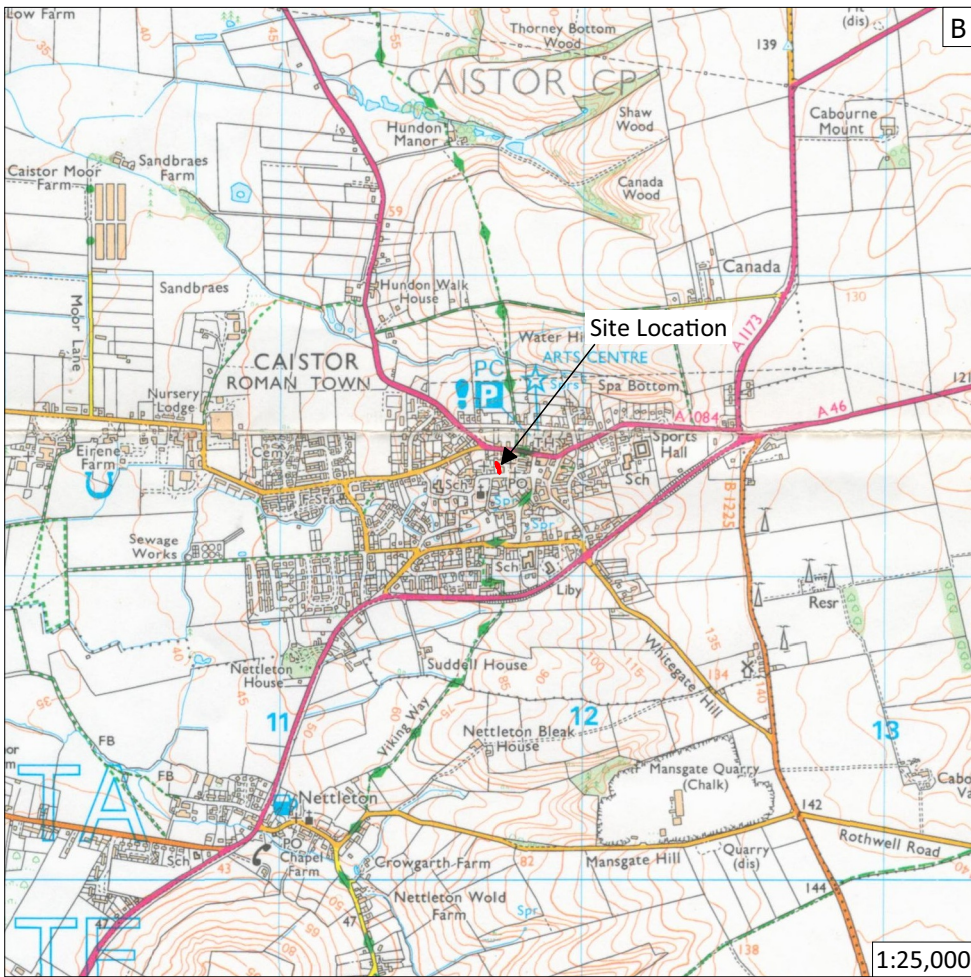
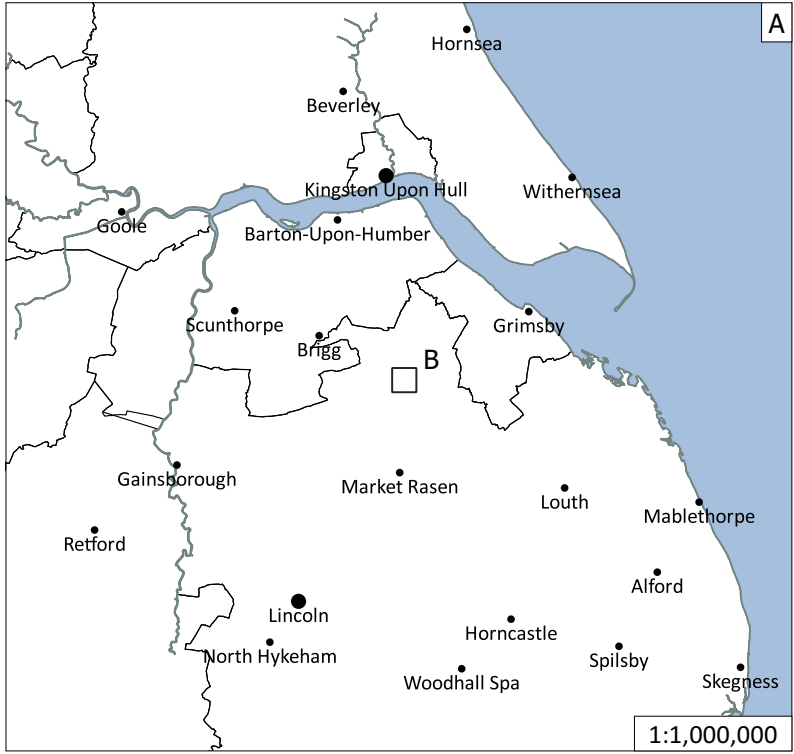
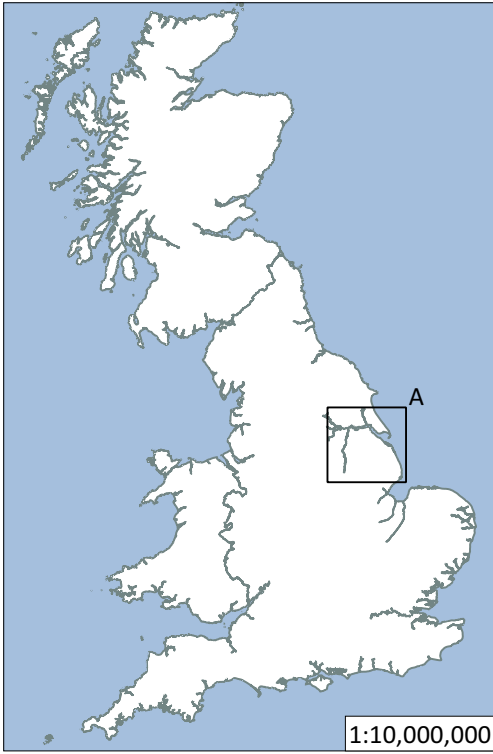


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	CACS 21
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	09/02/2022

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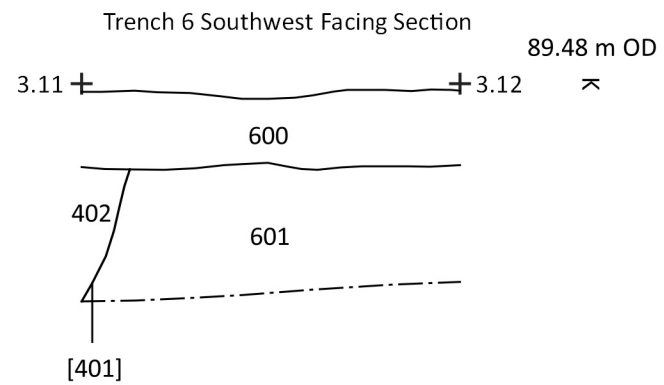
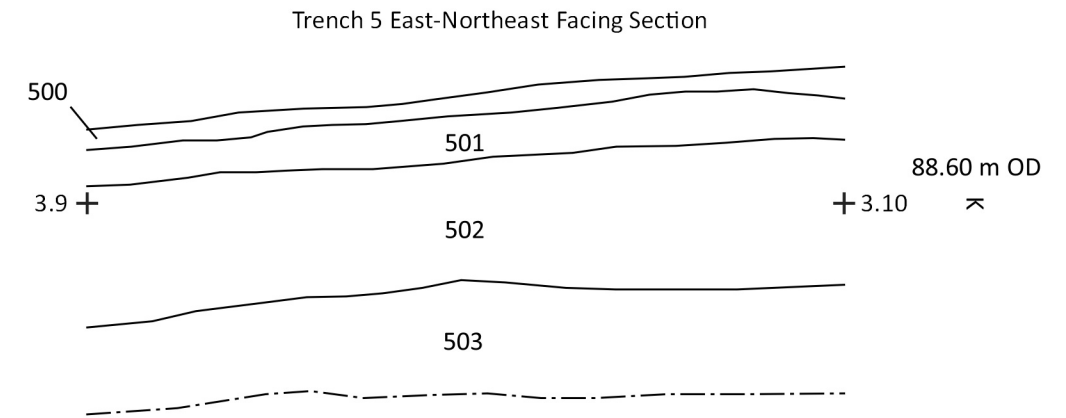
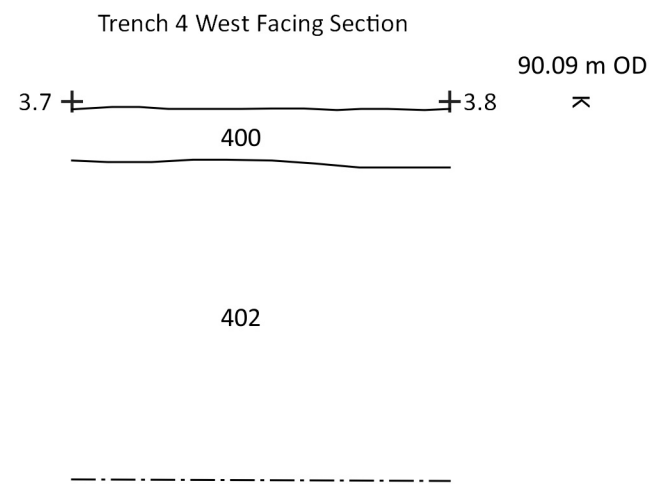
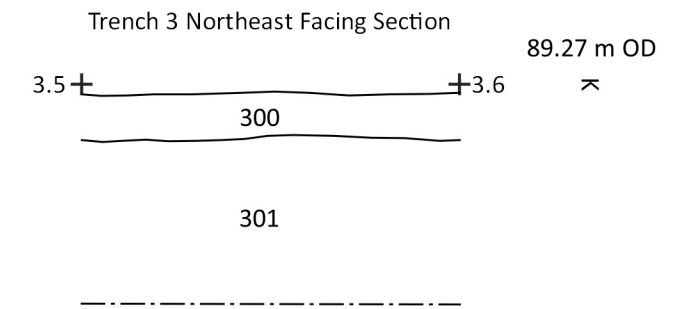
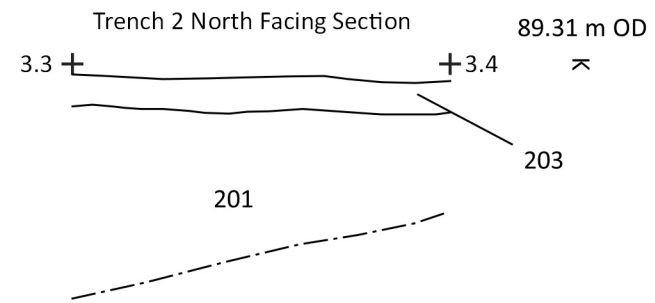
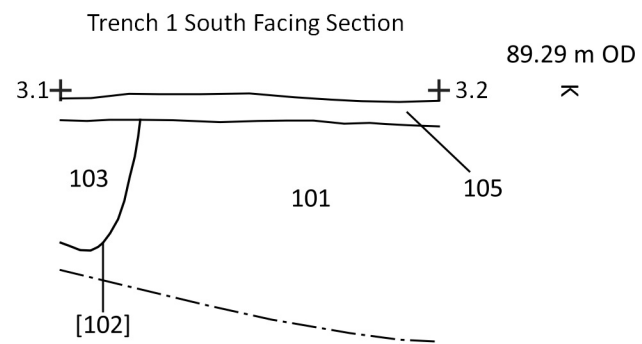
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Figure 2: Site plan, trench location outlined in blue

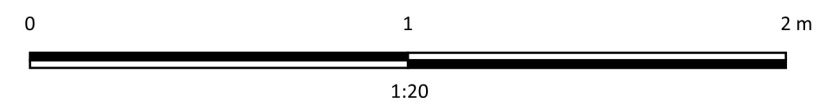
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Site Code	CACS 21
Scale	1:20 @A3
Drawn By	R Evershed
Date	15/02/2022

Figure 3: Representative sections, located on Figure 2





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