

**REPORT ON A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING:  
LAND AT MIDDLE STREET, CORRINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 142098  
NGR: SK 8710 9160  
AAL Site Code: COMS21  
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC:2021.209  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-513145



Report prepared for Jane Riddle

By  
Allen Archaeology Ltd  
Report Number AAL2023017

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Allenarchaeology



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*Cover image: General shot of the site, looking south*

## Executive Summary

- Jane Riddle commissioned Archaeology Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Middle Street, Corringham, Lincolnshire, to satisfy a planning condition issued by West Lindsey District Council for the conversion and extension of a former agricultural building.
- No prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded in the vicinity of the site. A hoard of 100 Saxon and Norman coins have been found to the south-southwest of the site. The site lies within the medieval village of Corringham, south of the parish church. The Domesday Book of 1086 records the village as having 34 households, a church and a priest. The church of St Laurence is believed to date from the late Saxon period, based on a mid-10<sup>th</sup> to early 11<sup>th</sup> century grave slab in the base of the 13<sup>th</sup> century tower. The Old Hall at Corringham is a 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval moated manor house.
- The monitoring of two test pits, two boreholes and extension footings produced no finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest.



## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Jane Riddle to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Middle Street, Corringham, Lincolnshire, to satisfy a planning condition issued by West Lindsey District Council for the conversion and extension of a former agricultural building.
- 1.2 All site work and reporting has been undertaken in accordance with current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2020a), the Historic England document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2015), the local guidance in the '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2019) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2021).
- 1.3 The documentary archive generated by the project will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b), and local guidance in the '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2019). The archive was to be submitted to The Collection by December 2021 but work on the project was delayed due to Covid 19. The archive will now be submitted within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the accession number LCNCC:2021.209.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Corringham is located in the administrative district of West Lindsey, and in the parish of Corringham, approximately 6km east of Gainsborough and 22.5km north-northwest of central Lincoln. The development area is occupied by an agricultural building with a grassed area to the west. The site lies immediately adjacent to the medieval church, in the core of the village (Figure 1). The development is centred on NGR SK 8710 9160.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Scunthorpe Mudstone overlain by deposits of Pleistocene glacial tills with localised superficial glaciofluvial deposits of a similar date (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for '*conversion and extension of former agricultural building to 1no. dwelling*' (Planning Application Reference 142098). The extension was to the west of the existing building. The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government 2021), as well as section 4.8.1 of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2019).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 A historical background was researched by Austin Heritage Consultants (2020) for the current project, a summary of which is included below.
- 4.2 The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) has several pertinent entries of archaeological interest around Corringham But there is no evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity within 1km of the development.
- 4.3 The settlement is located in the historic wapentake of Corringham. It takes its name from the personal name Cora and the elements -ingas (old English for people or family of) and -hām (OE, village, settlement, manor). The Domesday Book records 34 households, a church and a priest (Cameron 1998).
- 4.4 The site lies within the medieval core of the village. Earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval settlement are also recorded north of the present village (LHER reference MLI51347). The church of St Laurence is believed to date from the late Saxon period, on the basis of a mid-10<sup>th</sup> to early 11<sup>th</sup> century grave slab in the base of the 13<sup>th</sup> century tower. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction of the lych gate exposed the fabric of the building which could date from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century (LHER references MLI51343 and MLI96711).
- 4.5 In 1996 a detectorist found a hoard of 100 Saxon and Norman coins c.500m south-southwest of the site (LHER reference ML151477).
- 4.6 The Old Hall, a 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval moated manor house, is sited northeast of the site This timber-framed structure has undergone remodelling, particularly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (LHER reference MLI96710).
- 4.7 Monitoring of work within the graveyard in 2010 exposed the remains of an articulated skeleton and disarticulated human remains (Francis and Savage 2011). Further disarticulated bone was found during work in 2012 (Field 2012).

#### **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to allow the preservation by record of the archaeological resource within the development area, where exposed by the groundworks.
- 5.2 Evidence was also gathered to establish the presence or absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the significance of the archaeological remains.

#### **6.0 Methodology**

- 6.1 The monitoring and recording took place over two days. On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Alice Beasley watched the excavation of two test pits, both measuring c.2m in length and 0.50m in width, and two boreholes. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 Mike Jarvis monitored the foundation trenches (Figure 2).

- 6.2 The scheme of archaeological works involved monitoring all ground disturbances. All groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 6.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a 3-digit unique identifier (context number) and given a written description, e.g. layer 100. A summary of these is included in Appendix 1.
- 6.4 Sections were photographed, and drawn at a 1:20 scale, and allocated an individual drawing number. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, with the location of every section plotted onto the digital site plan using a survey grade GPS.

## 7.0 Results

### ***Test Pit 1***

- 7.1 Test Pit 1 was located at the western side of the development area, c.14m from the existing building (Figure 2). The topsoil, 100, was a friable dark grey silt sand 0.35m thick. Beneath was a soft orange-brown sand and gravel, 102, the natural geology (Figure 3, Plate 1).



*Plate 1: Test Pit 1, north facing section. Scales 2 x 1m*

### ***Test Pit 2***

- 7.2 Test Pit 2 was located c.4m west of the northwest corner of the existing building (Figure 2). The topsoil, 100, in this test pit was also 0.35m thick and sealed a 0.10m thick made ground layer of compact red brown sand silt, 101, sealing the natural geology, 102 (Figure 3, Plate 2).



*Plate 2: Test Pit 2, north facing section. Scales 1m*

### ***Boreholes***

- 7.3 The boreholes (BH 1 and BH 2) were excavated to a depth of c.3.00m-3.50m. Both boreholes were to the west of the existing building (Figure 2). The diameter of the boreholes, 0.50m, prevented the site's stratigraphy from being observed clearly, but suggested a similar sequence to the test pits, and no finds were noted in the arisings.

### ***Foundation Trenches***

- 7.4 The foundation trenches for the extension were 0.30m wide and 1.30m deep. The eastern end exposed an identical sequence to that seen in Test Pit 2, comprising topsoil 101, over made ground 101 and natural geology 102 (Figure 3, Plate 4). However, at the western end there was no made ground as it petered out between Test Pits 1 and 2.



*Plate 3: Extension foundations. Looking southwest. Scale 1m*



*Plate 4: South facing section of extension showing deposits. Scales 0.50m and 1m*

## **8.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

- 8.1 The archaeological monitoring did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest. The exposed deposits comprised topsoil, made ground and natural geology. The evidence suggests that despite its location in the centre of the village and close to the church this plot has remained undeveloped.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 9.1 The monitoring and recording methodology for this site was appropriate to the scale and nature of the project. It has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits of significance

were impacted by the development, and any other investigations would have been disproportionate.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Jane Riddle for the commission, and for the cooperation of the groundworkers during the fieldwork.

## 11.0 References

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**Appendix 1: Context Summary List**

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable dark grey silt sand			0.35	Topsoil
101	Layer	Compact red brown sand silt			0.10	Made ground
102	Layer	Soft orange-brown sand and gravel			1.2>	Natural geology



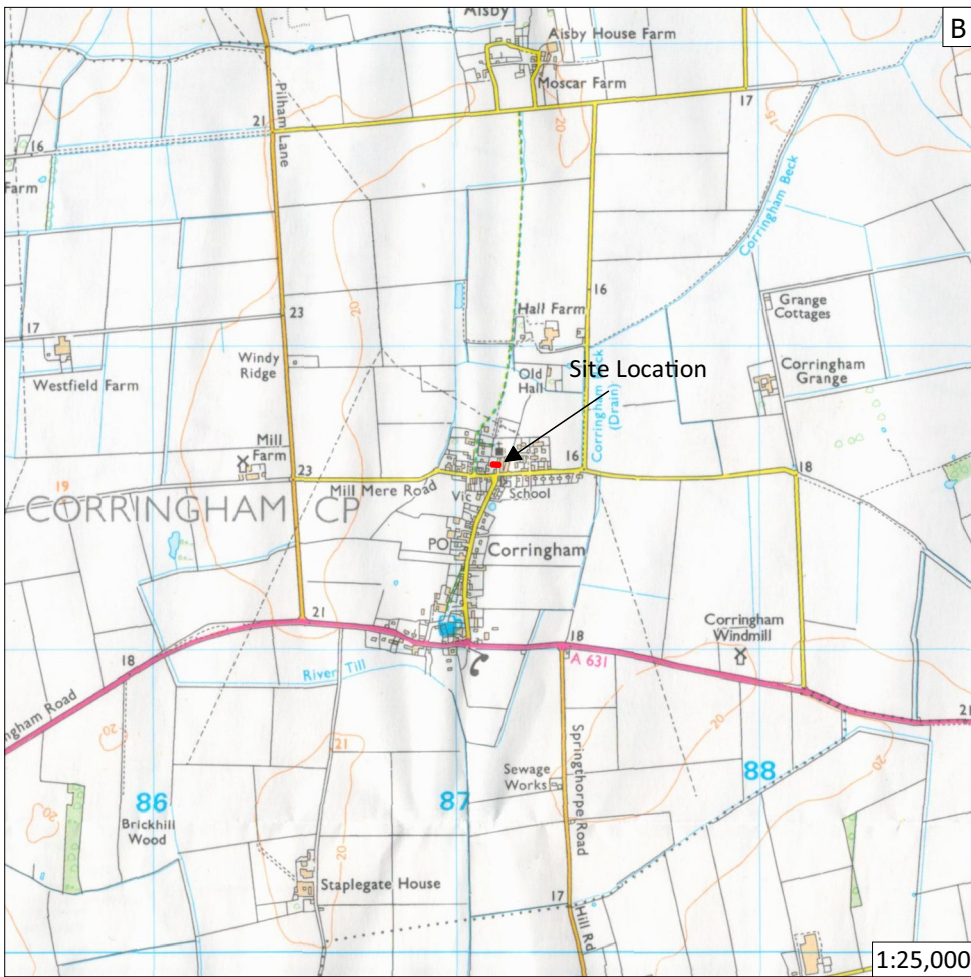
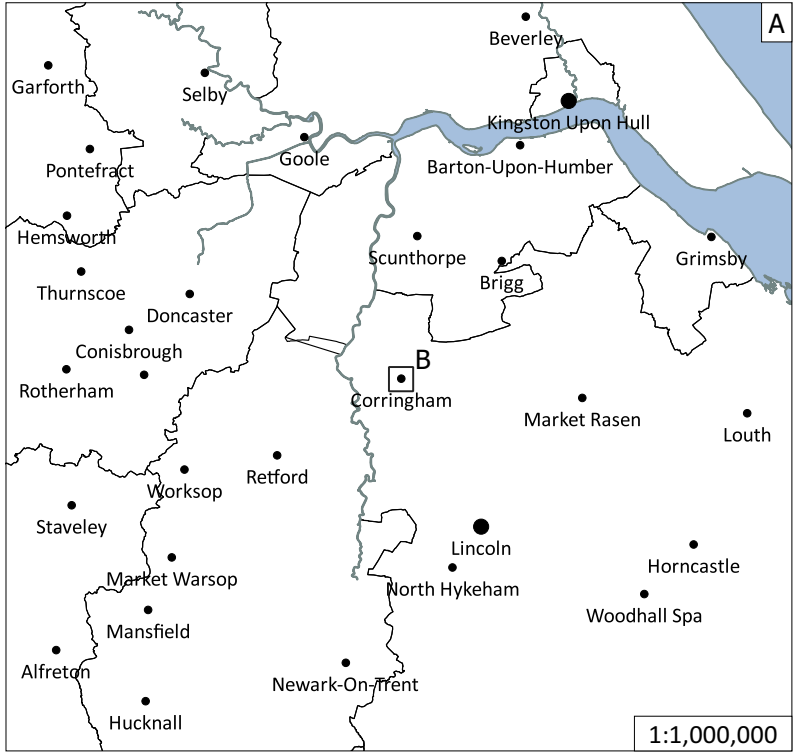


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	COMS 21
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	07/02/2023

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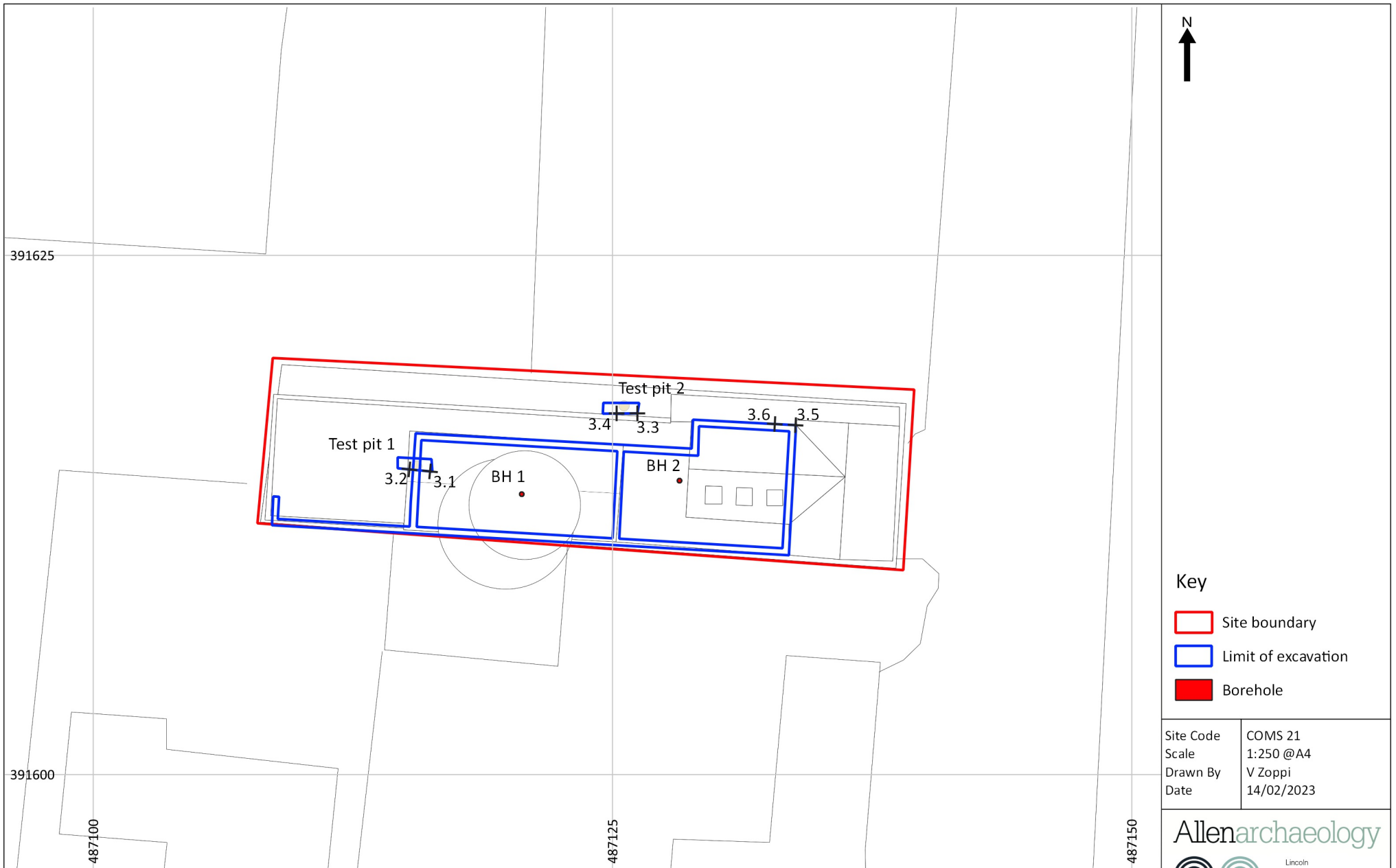
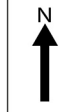


Figure 2: Site location, excavated areas outlined in blue



- Key**
- Site boundary
  - Limit of excavation
  - Borehole

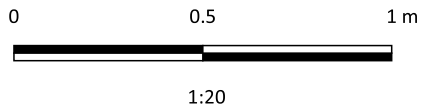
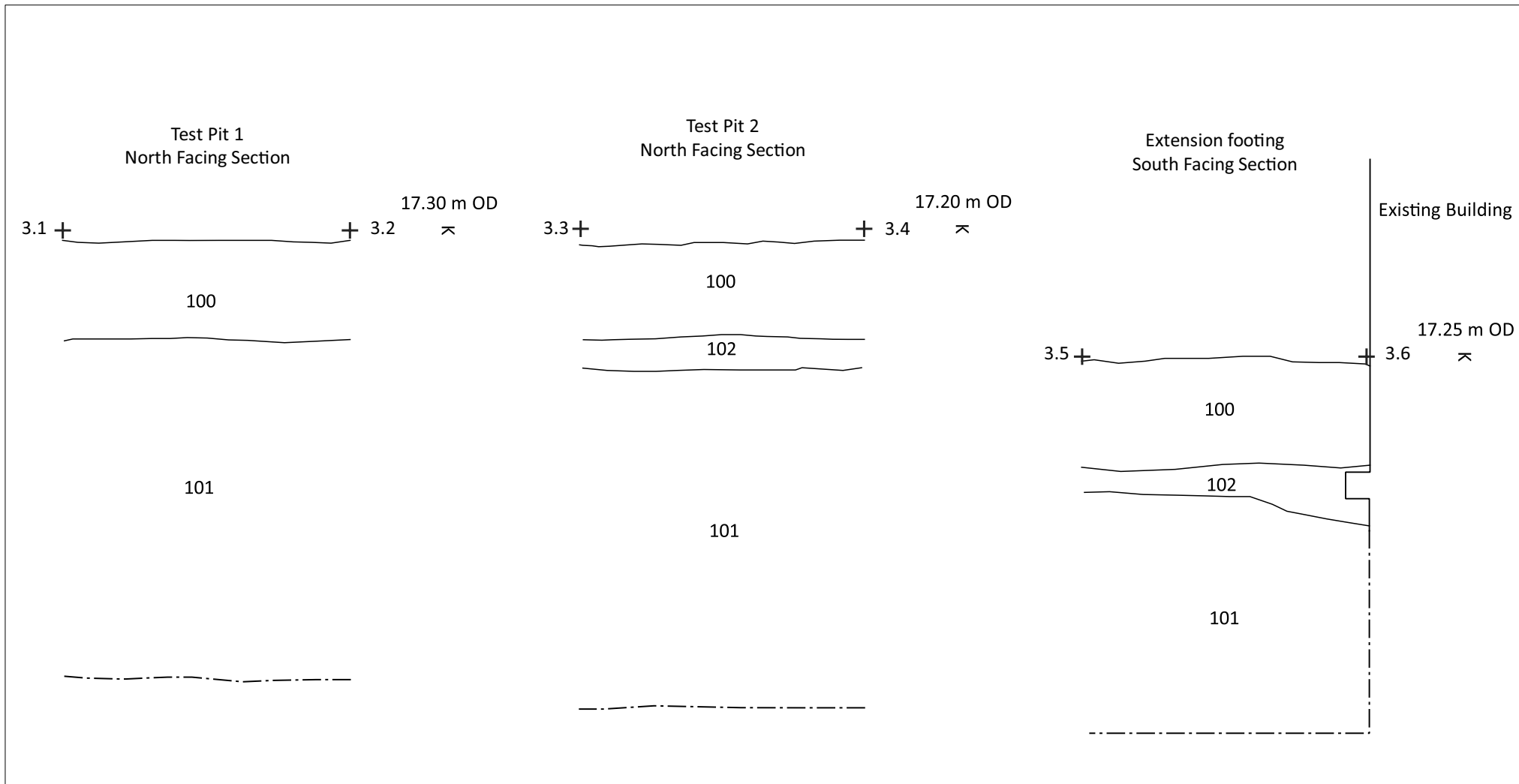
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Figure 3: Sections



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