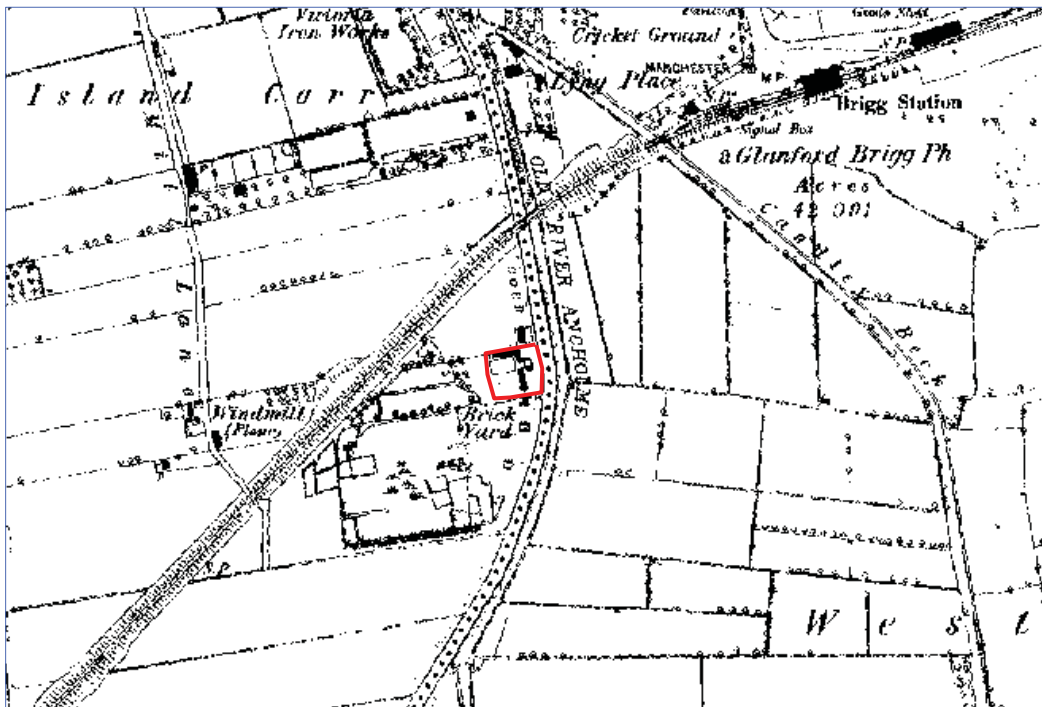


ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
ORCHARD HOUSE FARM, MILL LANE, SCAWBY,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Application: PA/2007/0862
NGR: SE 9982 0645
AAA Site Code: SCOH 08
North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: SWAU
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-61238



Report prepared for Design and Materials Limited
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Simmet

by

Allen Archaeological Associates
Report Number 2009029

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land at Orchard House Farm, Mill Lane, Scawby, North Lincolnshire. The works were undertaken as a condition of planning permission for a residential development.
- The site is situated within the flood plain of the Old River Ancholme, where later prehistoric waterlogged remains have been recorded in the vicinity, including a causeway or trackway of national importance with associated pottery, animal bone and bronze objects.
- The watching brief exposed a sequence of redeposited layers associated with the former brickyard that occupied the site in the 19th and 20th centuries. Two small undated linear features were recorded within the new house plot, while two drainage runs exposed structural elements of former outbuildings that occupied the site. Dating evidence from the site comprised three fragments of 19th/20th century roof tile and a small group of clay tobacco pipe fragments dating to c.1830 – 1850.

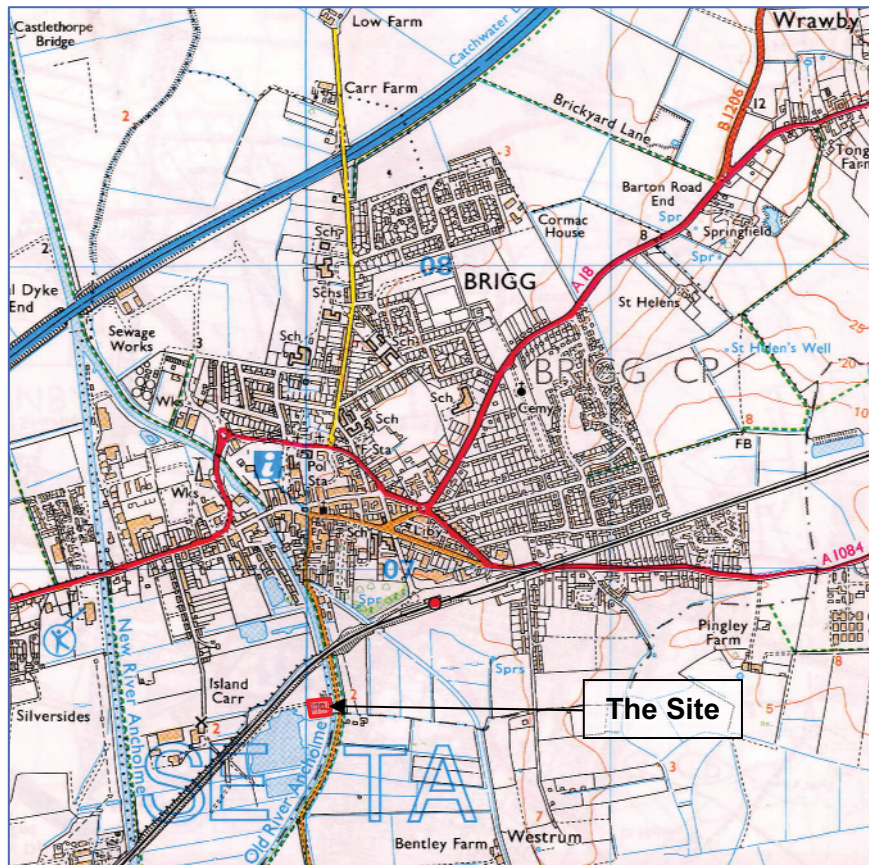


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red at scale 1:25,000
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates (hereafter AAA) was commissioned by Design and Materials Limited, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Simnet, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling at Orchard House Farm, Mill Lane, Scawby, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national and regional guidelines, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, (Department of the Environment 1990), the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IfA 2001) and English Heritage guidance on archaeological practice (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to the North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the site code SWAU.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 The proposed development area is situated within the administrative district of North Lincolnshire, at the north-eastern extremity of the parish of Scawby, approximately 1km south-west of central Brigg. The site is an irregular block of land of c.0.41 hectares, bounded by the Old River Ancholme to the east and a railway line along its north-west side. It centres on NGR SE 9982 0645.
- 2.2 The site lies on a geological boundary, with drift deposits of marine and estuarine alluvium sealing a solid geology that is characterised by bands of Kellaways Formation rock on the west side of the site, with Ancholme Clay to the east (British Geological Survey 1982).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a replacement dwelling on the site (Planning Application Number PA/2007/0862, a resubmission of PA/2006/1059). Permission was granted subject to conditions, one of which was for the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, 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 *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 The site is situated in the floodplain of the Old River Ancholme in an area of significant prehistoric archaeological potential that is centred on the town of Brigg. Waterlogged remains of Bronze and Iron Age date were discovered in the 19th and 20th centuries; with several of these find spots being of national importance, including a causeway or trackway that was discovered in 1884. The monument ran east – west approximately 1km to the north-north-west of the site (North Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Reference 1783 (hereafter NLSMR)). The timber structure was found to be sealed by approximately six feet (1.8m) of deposits, and a radiocarbon date obtained from a piece of wood adjacent to the causeway indicates that it was probably late Bronze Age to early Iron Age in date. A number of artefacts were associated with the trackway, including pottery, animal bone, a late Bronze Age spearhead, and a disc headed bronze pin. The latter two bronze objects were recovered when the structure was re-exposed in 1933.

- 4.2 A large dugout boat was exposed in 1886 during the construction of a gasometer c.1km to the north-north-west of the site (NLSMR Reference 1789). The boat was nearly 15m in length, and was unfortunately destroyed by a German incendiary bomb during an air raid over Hull in 1943 (May 1976). A radiocarbon date obtained from the vessel suggested a late Bronze Age date for its manufacture and use. Two years later a series of planks that were thought to represent a raft were discovered close to the dugout site, (NLSMR Reference 1790). Assessment of the timbers following re-excavation in the early 1970's has suggested that the timbers were probably sewn planks from the bottom of a boat however, and not the remains of a raft (Chapman et al 1998). Radiocarbon sampling dated the vessel to 823 – 789 cal BC.
- 4.3 Evidence for Romano-British activity around Brigg is more limited; and is restricted to a small number of dispersed finds spots, such as a denarius of Caracalla that was found 1.2km to the north-north-east of the site (NLSMR Reference 1787) and a Roman copper alloy fibula brooch recovered from near to the location of the Brigg trackway (NLSMR Reference 1808).
- 4.4 There is no evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site, and Brigg does not receive a mention in the Domesday Book. It is first documented as Glanford in the Pipe Rolls of 1183, with the addition of Brigg to the placename by 1318 (Cameron 1998). The name derives from the Old English *glēam* and *ford*, meaning 'the ford where sports are held' (*ibid.*). The Brigg addition refers to a bridge over the River Ancholme. Scawby does appear in the Domesday Book however, at which time the parish was divided between seven estates owned by Ivo Tallboys, Kolsveinn, Jocelyn son of Lambert, Ralph Pagnell, Osbern of Arques, Durand Malet and Odo the Crossbowman (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 The Ancholme wetlands around the site were the subject of drainage works in 1288, and in 1294 parts of the river were straightened to aid the passage of cargo boats to and from the Humber (Neumann 1998). Further attempts at drainage were undertaken, with little success, until in 1637 a new cut for the River Ancholme was begun upstream of Brigg. The area remained prone to flooding into the late 19th century however, with historical documents indicating the valley bottom was seasonally submerged and unfit for tillage (*ibid.*). In 1825 a programme of straightening, widening and deepening of the river was initiated, opening up previously unusable wet ground to agriculture and industry. Much of the proposed development area has been subject to quarrying for clay since the 19th century, resulting in several large ponds on and around the site.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks for the development were monitored in a series of visits between June 24th 2008 and April 20th 2009. Stripping of the house footprint was carried out using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, and the drainage trenches were excavated with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. Groundworks were monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 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 (1:50 and 1:20) and pro-forma AAA context recording sheets used to record each individual context.
- 5.3 A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, in both monochrome and colour slide formats, and a selection of shots has been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix 1).

6.0 Results (Figures 3 and 4)

- 6.1 The initial phase of groundworks entailed the stripping of the building footprint to a depth of 0.3m to 0.4m below the existing ground level, to allow for a concrete raft supported by driven piles. This removed a topsoil, 100, which was up to 0.22m thick. It comprised mid grey brown silty clay with modern ceramic building material (hereafter CBM), glass, and other demolition material.
- 6.2 Sealed below the topsoil in the south-west portion of the stripped area was layer 105, a dark grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks, from which three fragments of 19th/20th century ceramic pantile were recovered. Two further undated layers were also exposed; 106, a brown silty clay and 107, a bluish grey clay. These layers are all likely to reflect redeposited material associated with the former use of the area as a brickyard.
- 6.3 Layers 106 and 107 were cut by a north-north-west to south-south-east aligned drain and manhole. Towards the east side of the stripped area this was sealed by another layer of redeposited material, 108, a dark brown clayey silt that was devoid of finds.
- 6.4 Two linear features, [101] and [103], were recorded towards the east side of the building footprint. These were parallel ditches aligned north-north-west to south-south-east approximately 4m apart. [101] was c.0.2m deep with steep sides and a flat base and terminated at the north end with a rounded terminus. It contained 102, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. [103] was only 0.06m deep and contained dark grey brown silty clay, 104. Both features were devoid of finds, although their position in the stratigraphic sequence suggests a modern date.
- 6.5 The next phase of groundworks entailed the excavation of two new drainage trenches running broadly north and north-eastwards from the dwelling to a new soakaway. AAA were however not informed of the excavation of the drainage runs, and they were only observed when the drain pipe and gravel bedding layer had been inserted. The drainage runs exposed a similar sequence of redeposited layers of grey and brown silty clays 111, 112, 113, 116 and 117, again likely to represent dumps and spreads of material associated with the former use of the area as a brickyard. A possible construction cut, [121], was identified towards the north end of the western drainage run. This contained a primary foundation deposit of mottled light grey brown coarse silty sand flecked with CBM, 109, sealed by a probable demolition horizon of crushed brick fragments and brick dust, 110.
- 6.6 A fragmentary brick structure was also recorded in the eastern drainage run. Two courses of handmade bricks were exposed, 114, bedded on a coarse clayey sand, 115, over a layer of crushed brick and brick dust, 120. A small group of 42 clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered during machining from a small recess in this brick structure. The assemblage included three bowl fragments, as well as a number of glazed stem fragments. All the fragments were dated to the period 1830 – 1850, and are likely to have formed a single dumped deposit (Appendix 3).
- 6.7 At the north end of the drainage run a large pit was excavated for a new soakaway, to a depth of 2.5m below the modern ground surface. The stratigraphy exposed comprised topsoil 100, sealing 111, a redeposited layer of grey-brown clayey silt, over two archaeologically sterile natural alluvial deposits, 118 and 119.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

- 7.1 Few features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. Most deposits exposed were interpreted as layers of redeposited material associated with the former use of the site as a brickyard during the 19th and earlier 20th centuries. These layers may reflect either the backfilling of former clay extraction pits or spreads of upcast from the excavation of these pits.
- 7.2 The house footprint excavations also exposed two small ditches, which were devoid of finds but were stratigraphically recent. Elements of former structures were also identified in the drainage runs relating to former outbuildings and other structures that occupied the site prior to the current programme of works. A group of clay pipe fragments associated with structure 114 suggested a date of 1830 – 1850 for this feature.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The application of an archaeological watching brief was an appropriate level of mitigation for the scale of the development. It has allowed for intensive monitoring of the ground works to determine the presence, extent and character of any archaeological deposits encountered, whilst not interfering with the progress of the development. It has shown that the proposed development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Design and Materials Limited for this commission.

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11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months, where it will be stored under the museum site code SWAU.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: The house footprint after machine stripping, looking north.



Plate 2: North-east facing section through shallow ditch [101] within building footprint, looking south-east. Scale is 0.5m



Plate 3: View along eastern arm of drainage trench, looking north. Structure 114 is visible in the bottom right corner of the shot. Scales are both 1m



Plate 4: Section showing possible robber cut [121] in drainage run. Looking north-north-west. Scales are both 1m



Plate 5: Structure 114 exposed in drainage run. The group of clay pipes was recovered from the central recess. Looking east. Scales are both 1m



Plate 6: South-east facing section within septic tank pit, looking north-west. Scales are both 1m

Appendix 2: Ceramic Building Material Archive

By Jane Young

Context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	date
105	PANT	Pantile	fine orange fabric	1	135	19th to 20th
105	PANT	Pantile	fine orange fabric	1	76	19th to 20th
105	PANT	Pantile	orange fine sandy fabric	1	61	19th to 20th

Appendix 3: Clay Tobacco Pipe Assessment

By Peter Hammond

Introduction

This is a small assemblage, comprising thirty-nine stem fragments and three bowl fragments, found in association with wall 114.

Discussion

All the fragments are likely to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. This is based on the following criteria:

- The fragments are all of the pure white typical of the purer Devon pipe clay that was being used by this period, and not the duller yellower clay typical of earlier pipes.
- The stem bores are narrower, again typical of pipes of the mid 18th century onwards as opposed to pipes from the 17th century.
- The stem fragments all appear to be from the longer stemmed ‘straw’ type pipes typical of the period.
- The surviving mouthpieces are very narrow, again of the long stemmed pipes, and three of them bear the light green or brown glazing which is again typical of pipes from this period. None are of the shorter later 19th century types with the ‘button’ mouthpieces, which would be expected if the pipes dated from the 1860s or 70s onwards.
- The three surviving bowl fragments are decorated with designs that again typify pipes of the mid 19th century.
- As such the pipes easily form one datable context.

Based on the three decorated bowl fragments, which can be dated more precisely than the stems, the most likely date range of the pipe fragments is c.1830 – 50.

It is unfortunate that the bowl fragments are so small as it is difficult to discern the full bowl designs. Two appear to have possibly depicted a Coat of Arms as there is a ribbon at the base of one of the fragments and another shows the edge of a stag’s head. As such they could well be from a Forester type of pipe.

The third bowl fragment shows a ridged seam and part of some side decoration – which is part of a staff held by a standing slave – a type common in Lincolnshire during the early to mid 19th century. Fortunately around the rim of this fragment is also some lettering in relief, a form of marking that is again typical of pipes made in eastern England in this period, being known in fact as the ‘Lincolnshire style.’ These letters faintly read ‘GA...’ – part of ‘GAINSBORO’ (often abbreviated in this form on pipes rather than its full name due to the limited space available upon the side of the bowl), and as such can be identified as an example of a pipe made by the Gainsborough pipe maker Thomas Cuthbert. He was working in Gainsborough from at least 1834 to the 1870s. At the time of the 1851 census he was living in Ship Inn Yard, Silver Street and employing three men. There are identical bowls in the Hammond Collection that match up perfectly with the fragment from Orchard House Farm, proving without doubt the identity of this pipe.

Conclusion

The pipes date comfortably to just prior to the mid 19th century, the marked bowl by Thomas Cuthbert most probably dating from the 1830s or 1840s. The remaining bowl and stem fragments are also comfortably from pipes of the same period, and as such, even though their precise context is uncertain, could easily have originated from a single context.

The relative long length of some of the stems also suggests that this group had been little disturbed if at all since being deposited, and a more thorough hand excavation where they were found would no doubt have revealed further fragments of similar date.

Appendix 4: Context summary list

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay with modern CBM and glass. Seals 108	Modern topsoil
101	Cut	Steep sides, flat base, rounded terminus, contains 102, cuts 106	Cut of shallow linear feature
102	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Sealed by 100	Probable natural silting of [101]
103	Cut	Very shallow sides, flat base, contains 104, cuts 108	Cut of very truncated modern ditch
104	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	Probable natural silting of [103]
105	Layer	Dark grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal inclusions	Possible redeposited material
106	Layer	Mid brown silty clay, sealed by 100	Possible redeposited material
107	Layer	Plastic, mid blue-grey silty clay, sealed by 100	Redeposited natural alluvium
108	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, seals 104	Buried topsoil
109	Layer	Crushed brick rubble and brick dust in coarse sand matrix	Crushed brick demolition layer in cut [121]
110	Layer	Mottled light grey and light brown coarse silty sand with small gravels and CBM fragments, sealed by 109	Possible demolition material or foundation deposit in cut [121]
111	Layer	Grey brown clayey silt, occasional coal and CBM fragments, seals 112, 118	Possible redeposited material
112	Layer	Light brown sandy clay, occasional CBM fragments, seals 113, 116	Possible redeposited material
113	Layer	Dark brown grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by 112	Possible redeposited material
114	Structure	Two courses of hard orange-red hand made bricks. Sealed by 100	Brick foundations or wall courses directly below topsoil
115	Layer	Soft, light yellow brown clayey sand seals 109	Bedding layer for 114
116	Layer	Black silty sand, frequent coal fragments, seals 117, sealed by 112	Lens of redeposited burnt material
117	Layer	Mid brown grey silty clay, occasional CBM fragments	Possible redeposited material
118	Layer	Mid brown silty clay, seals 119	Natural alluvium
119	Layer	Mid bluish grey, silty clay	Natural alluvium
120	Layer	Crushed brick rubble and brick dust in coarse sand matrix. Sealed by 115	Foundation deposit for structure 114
121	Cut	Vertical cut containing 109 and 110. Cuts 111.	Possible construction cut or robber cut for former wall

CBM: Ceramic Building Material

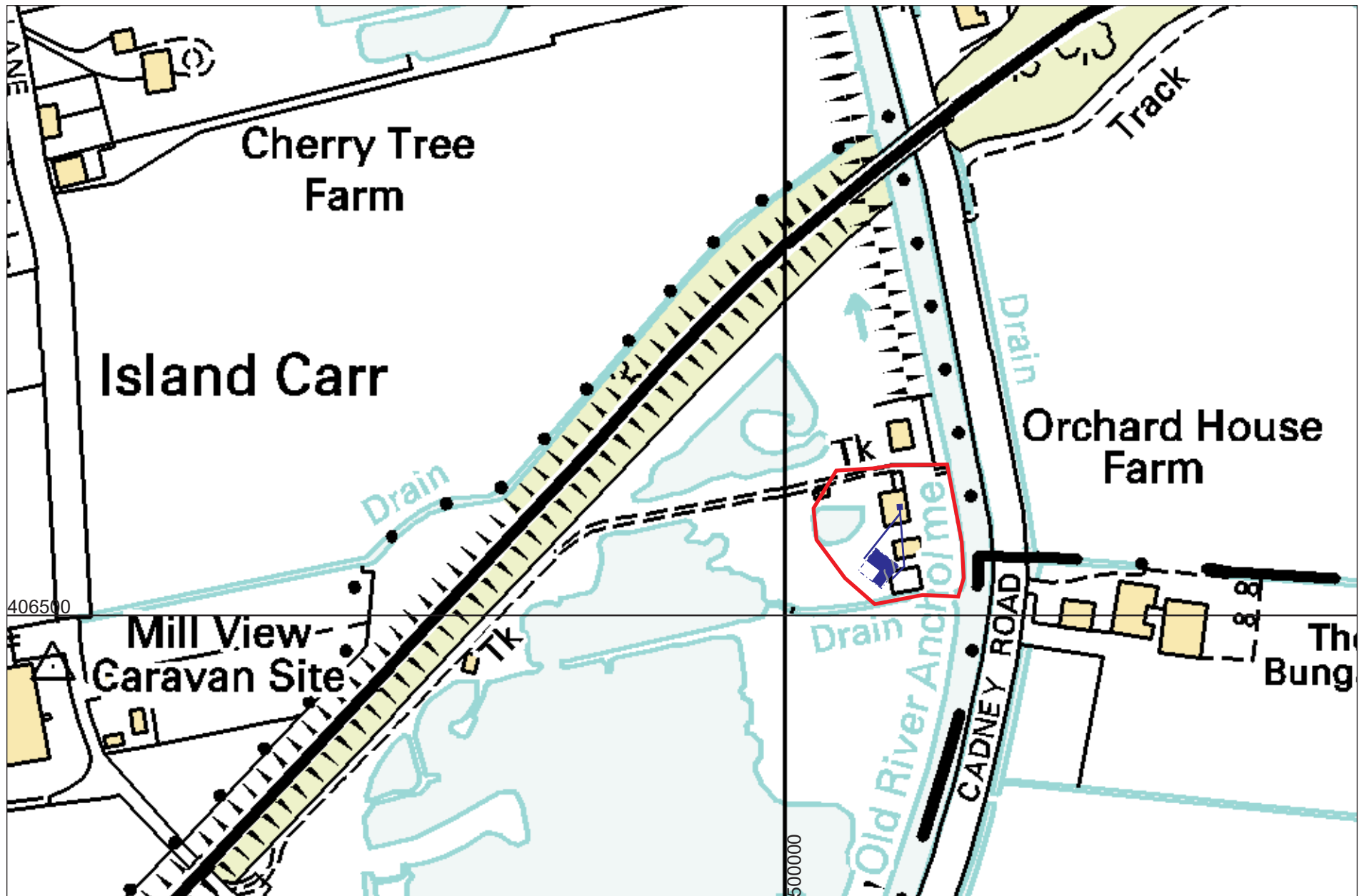


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:2500, with the site outlined in red and new house and drainage works in blue. Archaeological features shaded grey (OS Copyright Licence 100047330)

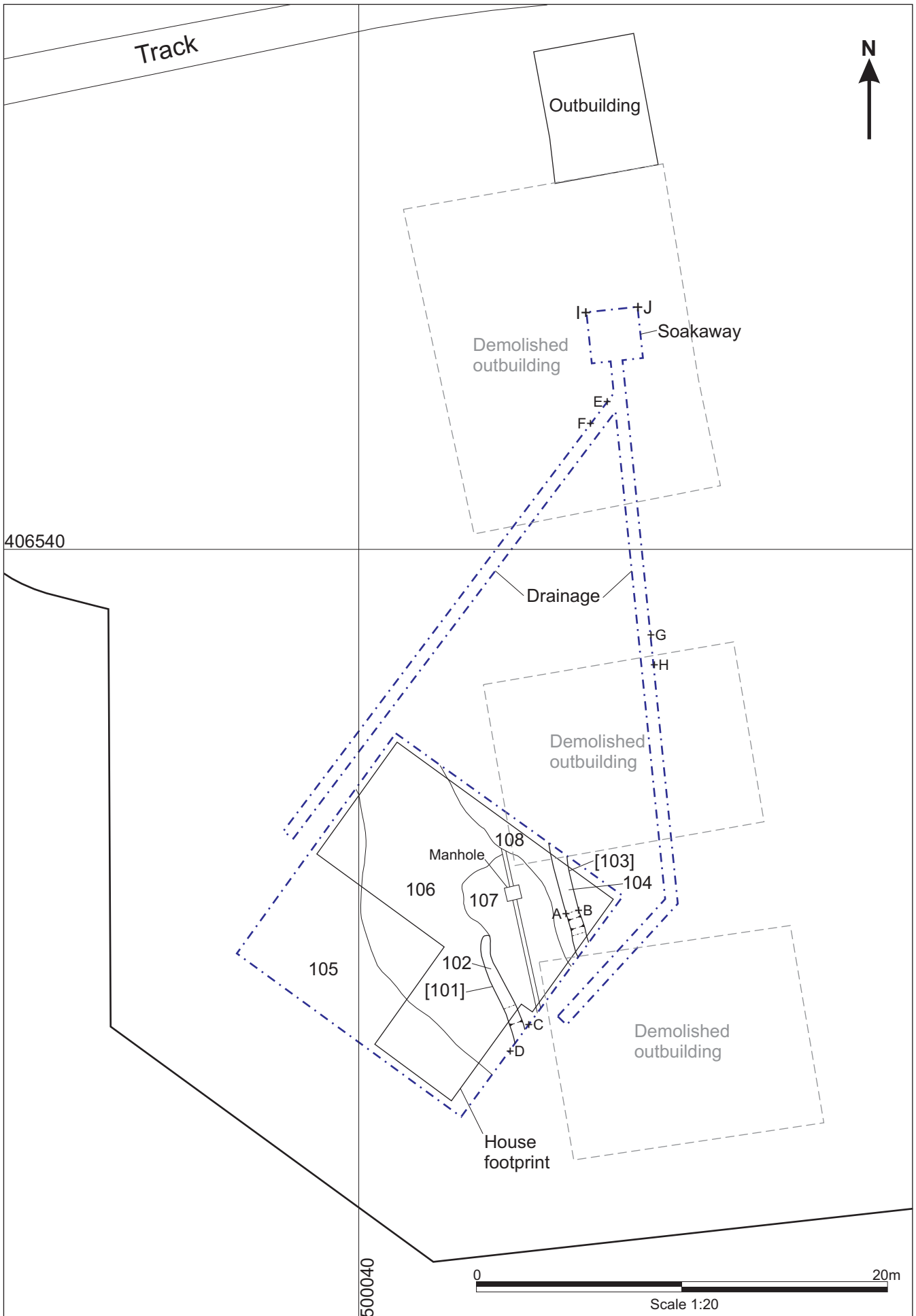


Figure 3: Site plan at scale 1:250, with area of groundworks shown in blue. Sections shown on Figure 4

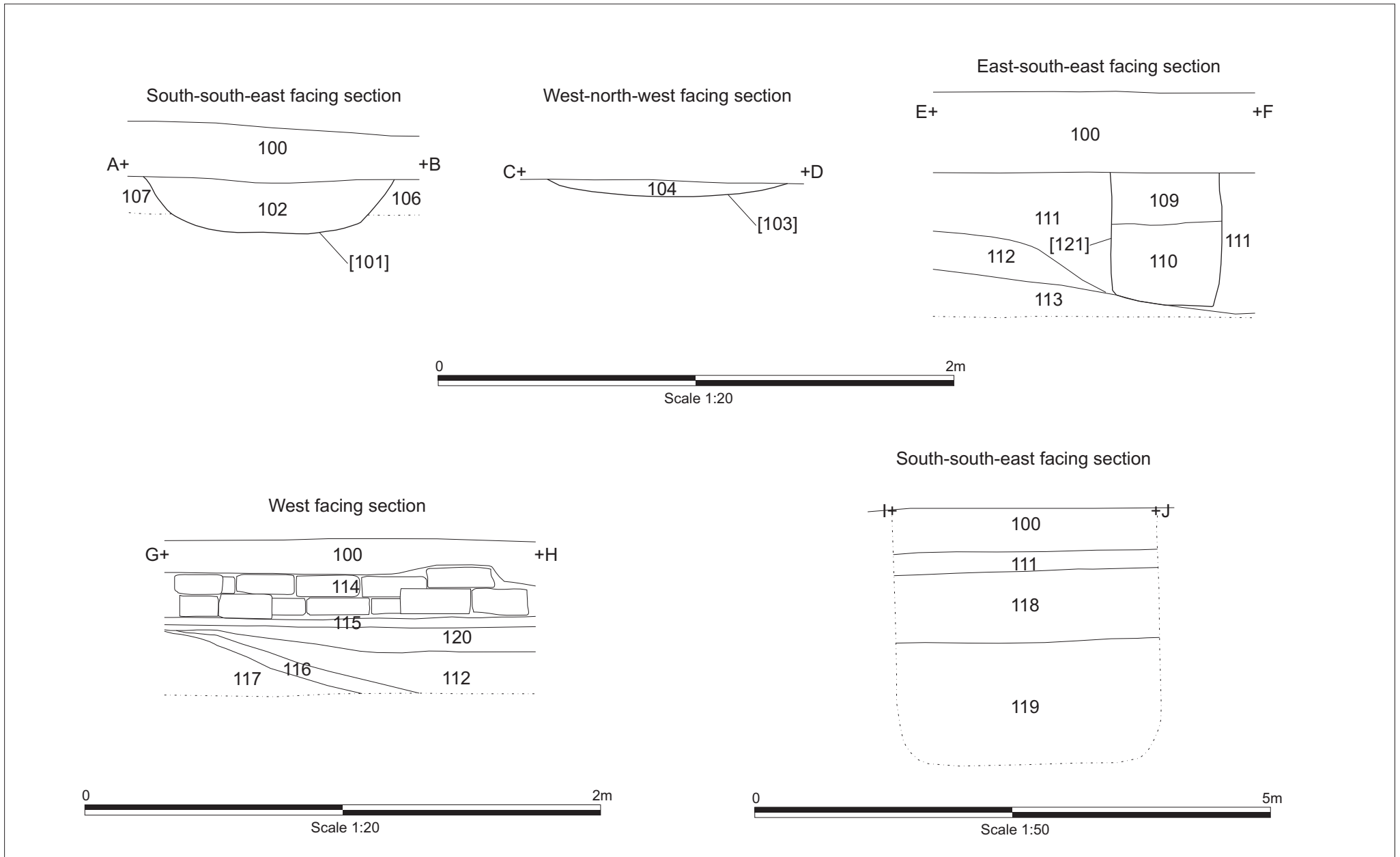


Figure 4: Section drawings in house plot and drainage excavations. Sections A-B, C-D, E-F and G-H at scale 1:20, and section I-J at scale 1:50. Location of sections shown on Figure 3