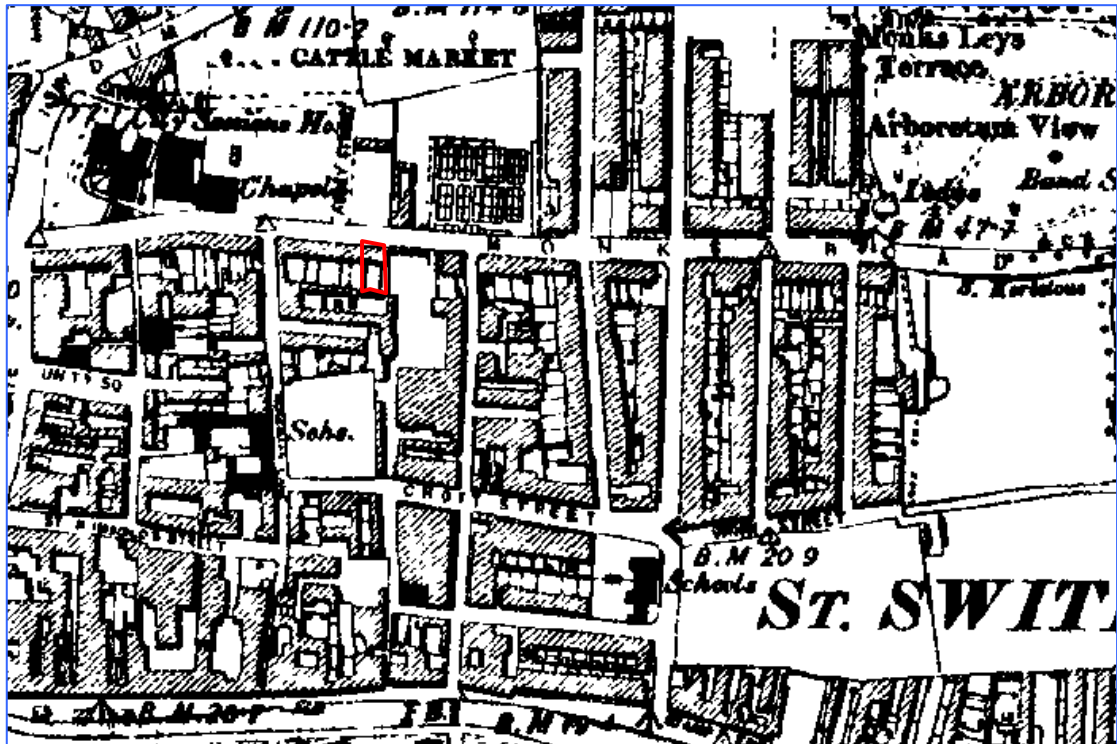


# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

## 51 MONKS ROAD, LINCOLN

Planning Reference: 2009/0032/F  
NGR: SK 9802 7139  
AAL Site Code: LIMR 09  
LCCM Accession Number: 2009.103  
OASIS Reference: allenarc1-64076



Report prepared for Red Maple Limited

by

Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2009044

September 2009

Allen Archaeology Limited  
Unit 1C, Branston Business Park  
Lincoln Road  
Branston  
Lincolnshire  
LN4 1NT  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 794400  
E-mail: [info@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@allenarchaeology.co.uk)  
Website: [www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)



## Contents

Summary	1
<b>1.0</b> Introduction	2
<b>2.0</b> Site location and description	2
<b>3.0</b> Planning background	2
<b>4.0</b> Archaeological and historical background	2
<b>5.0</b> Methodology	4
<b>6.0</b> Results	4
<b>7.0</b> Discussion and conclusion	5
<b>8.0</b> Effectiveness of methodology	5
<b>9.0</b> Acknowledgements	5
<b>10.0</b> References	6
<b>11.0</b> Site archive	6
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1: Colour plates	8
Appendix 2: Context Summary List	9

### List of Figures

- Figure 1:** Site location map at scale 1:25000, with the site highlighted in red  
**Figure 2:** Site location plan at scale 1:2000, with the development area outlined in red  
**Figure 3:** Site plan at scale 1:100. Sections shown on Figure 4  
**Figure 4:** Sections at scale 1:20, located on Figure 3

### List of Plates

- Plate 1:** Pre excavation site shot, looking north  
**Plate 2:** General view of the foundation trenches, looking south from the north end of the site  
**Plate 3:** West facing section of soakaway, showing layers 05 and 06, looking east-south-east

### Document control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Maria Piirainen	03/09/2009
Report edited by:	Chris Clay	04/09/2009
Report produced by:	AAL 2009/044	05/09/2009

In line with AAL environmental policies, this document is printed double sided on 100% recycled paper to reduce wastage, and help protect the environment.

## **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for an outbuilding on land to the rear of 51 Monks Road, Lincoln.

The site lies in an area of potential archaeological significance, and may have formed part of the medieval graveyard of the former church of St. Peter ad Fontem.

No archaeological features or deposits of significance were observed during the watching brief. Only modern deposits and a small modern pit were recorded, and there was no evidence for the postulated medieval graveyard.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Red Maple Limited to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a single storey outbuilding on land to the rear of 51 Monks Road, Lincoln.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IfA 1999), the LCC document 'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice' (1998) and a specification prepared by AAL (Chris 2009).
- 1.3 The paper archive will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the accession number 2009.103.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site lies approximately 0.5km east of the centre of Lincoln, on the south side of Monks Road. The central National Grid Reference is SK 9802 7139. The proposed development is situated to the rear of the existing property, in an area currently used as garden with a central flagstone path.
- 2.2 The geology of the area is drift undifferentiated river terrace sand and gravel, overlying solid Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone (British Geological Survey 1973), and the site lies at a height of approximately 17m OD.

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a single storey outbuilding to the rear of the existing property at 51 Monks Road, Lincoln (Planning Application Reference 2009/0032/F). The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a watching brief during all associated groundworks.

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Recent discoveries of worked lithic material during commercial developments at St Catherine's Road, some 2.5km to the south-south-west of the development, and at the Brayford Pool (c.1km to the west-south-west), indicates that there was early prehistoric activity in the area of Lincoln however (LAS forthcoming). Excavations in 1972 at 181-183 High Street, approximately 750m to the south-west of the site exposed the remains of a possible late Iron Age structure, attesting to pre-Roman activity in the Lincoln area (Jones and Stocker 2003).
- 4.2 Romano-British activity in the region began with the imposition of a possible fort in the area of South Common, pre-dating the legionary fortress on the north side of the Witham Valley. The possibility of an early fort has been postulated due to the presence of a number of legionary tombstones of an early date found in this part of the city, largely around Monson Street, c.1.1km south-west of the site (Jones 2002).
- 4.3 Following the abandonment of the legionary fortress in Lincoln in the latter part of the first century AD, the site was developed as a *colonia*, a settlement of retired legionary soldiers and their dependents, and an administrative centre. The city expanded rapidly beyond the confines

of the former legionary fortress, and the area along the High Street, which follows the line of the Roman Ermine Street developed as an industrial and residential suburb (*ibid.*).

- 4.4 The current site lies to the east of the Lower City, the eastern defences of which broadly follow the line of properties along the west side of Broadgate, c.250m to the west. Monk's Road is believed to broadly follow the line of a Roman road running east from the east gate of the city (Jones 2003). There is significant evidence of extra-mural activity from the area of Monks Road College, immediately north of the proposed development area, where high status burials, pottery kilns, and counterfeit coin moulds have been recovered (*ibid.*). Approximately 250m to the south-east, on the east side of Broadgate, several phases of activity have been identified, comprising a 1<sup>st</sup> century AD timber structure, which was replaced by a stone building with an iron furnace, and a bath house had been added by the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (*ibid.*).
- 4.5 Stone building remains of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date have also been identified on the north side of Monks Road, c.100m west-north-west of the site, sealed by the foundations of the medieval Blackfriars Priory (Historic Environment Record Reference 70380).
- 4.6 Lincoln as a whole appears to have suffered a gradual decline in population and prosperity towards the end of the Roman period, leading to widespread abandonment and decay of much of the Roman city by the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. There is little evidence of revival across the city until the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century (Vince 2003a, b). Possible Late Saxon kilns have been identified at Monks Road College and the Sessions House, operating in the 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (HER Reference 70217), and there is further evidence of a suburb developing outside the city in this area during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (Vince 2003b), later known as the Butwerk.
- 4.7 The current site is believed to be situated in or very close to the presumed location of the medieval St. Peter ad Fontem church. Numerous burials have been discovered in the vicinity, as well as stone building remains. The date of foundation of the church is not certain, but it is likely to be one of two churches recorded in the Domesday Book in the ownership of Colsuien (Vince 2003b). By 1461 however, the church was in a poor state of repair and was appropriated by the monks of St. Mary's Abbey in York, who had a cell further to the east off Monks Road, and controlled a substantial estate (HER Reference 70530).
- 4.8 The site is also situated close to the former Blackfriars Priory, the stone building remains of which have been excavated c.100m to the west-north-west of the site. It was established in 1238, and dissolved in 1539. Some of the walls survived above ground at least until 1724, when drawn by Samuel Buck (HER Reference 70005).
- 4.9 Lincoln suffered widespread population decline and a downturn in commercial activity from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, due to the effects of the loss of the cloth trade, followed by the Black Death in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. Documentary sources suggest that in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Butwerk suburb was almost totally abandoned, with settlement being concentrated to the south of the site around Waterside North and St. Rumbold Street (Vince 2003c).
- 4.10 Revival of the fortunes of the city did not begin until the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the city developed an extensive heavy manufacturing industry, much of which developed along the Witham to the south of Monks Road. Rapid expansion of the urban area took place during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as rows of terraced houses were built to provide accommodation for the workers, with Monk's Road rapidly changing from a country lane to an important urban thoroughfare (Stocker 2003).
- 4.11 Historic map evidence suggests that the site was unoccupied by buildings until the map of 1868, when terraced housing was built fronting onto Monks Road, with new streets, St. Hugh's Street, John Street and Thomas Street laid out to the east of the site (Mills and Wheeler 2004).

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The watching brief was carried out on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 and monitored at all times by the author. The groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for the new outbuilding and an additional 5m long drainage run to a small soakaway pit (see Figure 3).
- 5.2 The area was first cleared and levelled, requiring the removal of approximately 0.15m of the topsoil, using a tracked mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation of the foundation trenches was subsequently carried out using a 0.60m wide toothed bucket, to a depth of approximately 0.40m. A 5m long drainage run was excavated with a 0.3m wide toothed bucket, terminating in a 1m by 1m soakaway pit excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.3 All exposed plan and section surfaces were examined for archaeological features and to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Each context was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:50 and 1:20). A full colour photographic record was maintained, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix 1).

## 6.0 Results (Figures 3 and 4)

- 6.1 The excavations for the footings of the new building exposed a modern disturbed topsoil 01, consisting of a moderately loose dark grey brown and mid grey brown sandy silt containing frequent modern building material. This sealed a very similar layer of dark brown silty sand, 04, which extended below the limit of the foundation trenches.
- 6.2 A single modern refuse pit [02] was recorded, sealed below topsoil 01 and cutting layer 04. The feature was broadly subcircular in plan and had very diffuse edges, measuring approximately 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained an undated backfill of loose very dark brown grey silty sand, 03.
- 6.3 A single course wide brick wall was revealed running north – south along the east side of the site, 07, interpreted as a brick boundary wall predating the existing boundary wall c.0.25m to the east. No construction cut was visible for this feature. A modern drainage pipe was also noticed in the north-west corner of the excavated footings, aligned north-east to south-west.
- 6.4 The excavation of the new soakaway revealed a modern demolition layer, 05 comprising dark greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent tile, brick and limestone fragments, sealed below a modern gravel surface. This deposit was 0.5m thick and sealed layer 06, a loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments, possibly representing the same deposit as layer 04 exposed in the foundation trenches. This deposit extended below the limit of excavation.

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

- 7.1 Few features and deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. The stratigraphically earliest layer exposed, represented by contexts 04 and 06, is likely to represent a typical urban build up deposit which has formed gradually over a long period of time, although no evidence was recovered to date this process. The only features recorded were a small pit of probable early modern date, and a former brick boundary wall, which indicated that the property boundary had been moved slightly further to the east. Both the pit and the boundary wall were sealed by a modern topsoil layer.
- 7.2 The watching brief failed to identify any evidence for the site forming part of the graveyard of the medieval St. Peter ad Fontem church. It therefore seems likely that the graveyard was situated elsewhere in the vicinity.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the current phase of works. It demonstrated that the construction of the new building has had a negligible impact on the limited archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Red Maple Limited for this commission.



## 10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology.1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Clay, C., 2009, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land to the rear of 51 Monks Road, Lincoln*. Allen Archaeology Limited

I.f.A., 1999, *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. Reading, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Jones, M J, 2002, *Roman Lincoln. Conquest, Colony & Capital*, Tempus Publishing Ltd., Stroud

Jones, M J, 2003, 'The Colonia Era. The archaeological account', in *The City by the Pool*, pp. 56 – 138, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Jones, M J, Stocker, D. & Vince, A. (Stocker, D., ed), 2003, *The City by the Pool*. Assessing the Archaeology of the City of Lincoln, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 10, Oxbow Books, Oxford

L.C.C., 2009, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice*. Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Dept.

Stocker, D (ed.), 2003, *The City by the Pool*, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Stocker, D., 2003, 'Lincoln's Industrial Era (c.1750 – c.1945). Archaeological account', in *The City by the Pool*, pp. 338 - 362, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Vince, A., 2003a, 'Lincoln in the Early Medieval Era, between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. The archaeological account', in *The City by the Pool*, pp. 141 - 156, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Vince, A., 2003b, 'The New Town: Lincoln in the High Medieval Era (c.900 to c.1350). The archaeological account', in *The City by the Pool*, pp. 159 - 296, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Vince, A., 2003c, 'Lincoln in the Early Modern Era (c.1350 – 1750). The archaeological account', in *The City by the Pool*, pp. 303 – 337, Oxbow Books, Oxford

## 11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to the Collection in Lincoln within an estimated time of six to twelve months after completion of the project.



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** Pre excavation site shot, looking north



**Plate 2:** General view of the foundation trenches, looking south from the north end of the site.

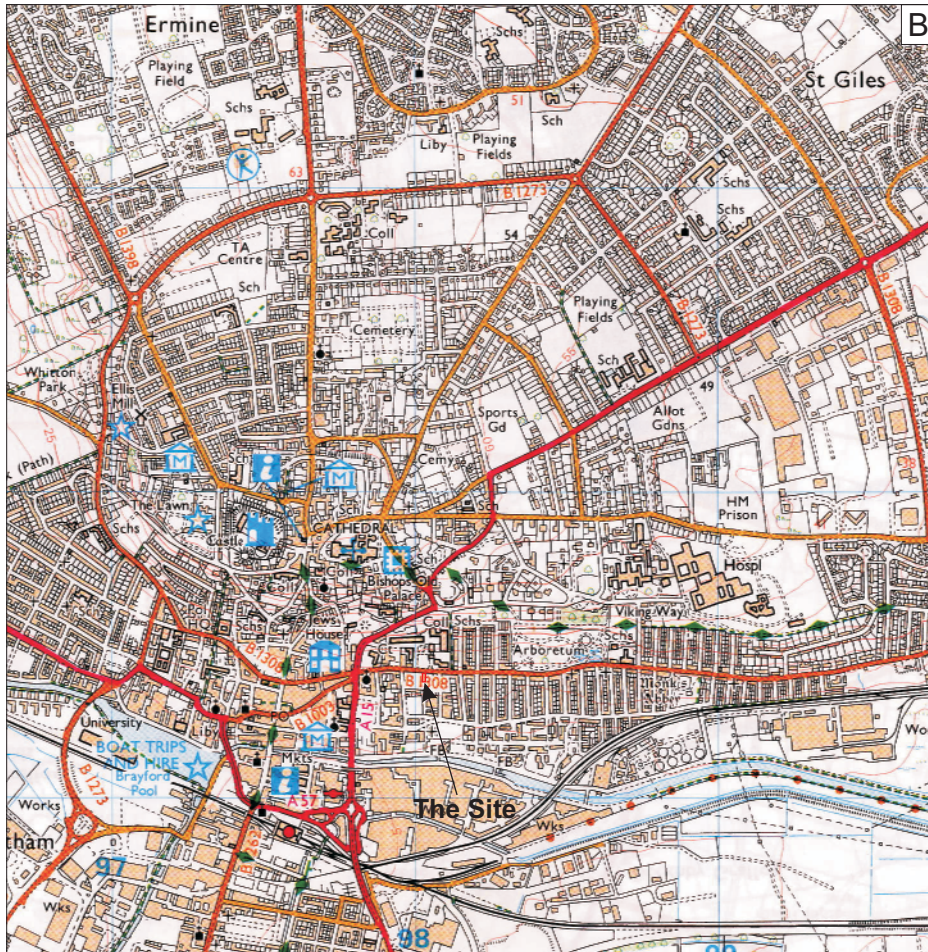
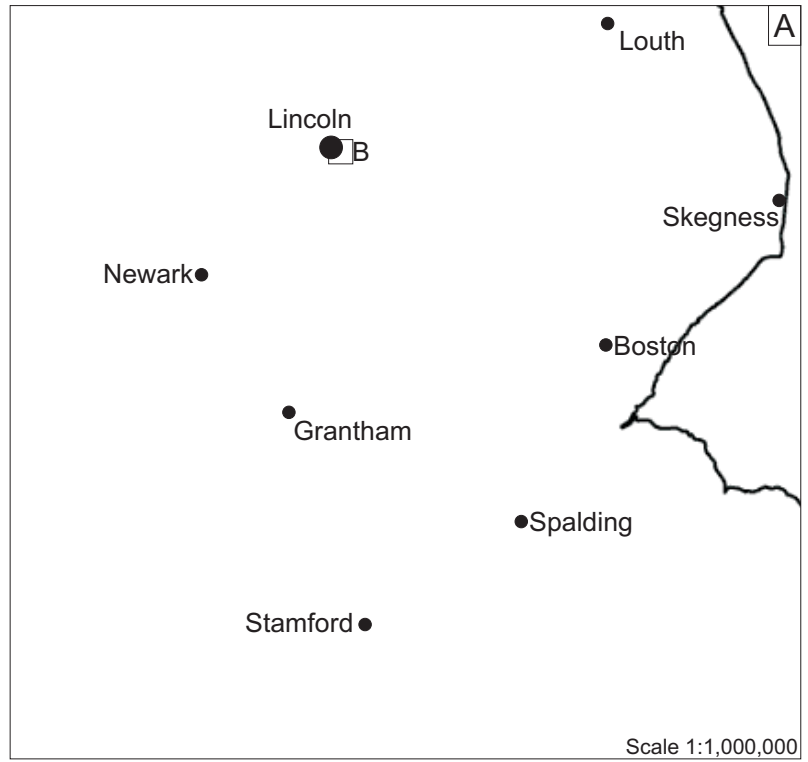


**Plate 3:** West facing section of soakaway, showing layers 05 and 06, looking east-south-east

**Appendix 2: Context Summary List**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
01	Layer	Fairly loose, mottled dark greyish brown to mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of glass, brick and tile fragments, cement slabs, limestone fragments and moderate sub-rounded stone gravel.	Disturbed modern topsoil
02	Cut	Diffuse, probably sub-circular, not bottomed. Contains 03	Truncated modern refuse pit
03	Fill	Loose dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent oyster shells, modern pot fragments and occasional bones.	Backfill of domestic refuse pit [02].
04	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, frequent modern building material.	Undated soil build up, same as 06?
05	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent modern demolition material of bricks, tile and limestone fragments. Sealed by modern gravel surface, seals 06	Modern demolition layer
06	Layer	Loose, dark brown sandy silt with occasional roots and limestone fragments. Sealed by 05	Undated soil build up, same as 04?
07	Structure	Single course wide brick wall, aligned north - south	Former boundary wall

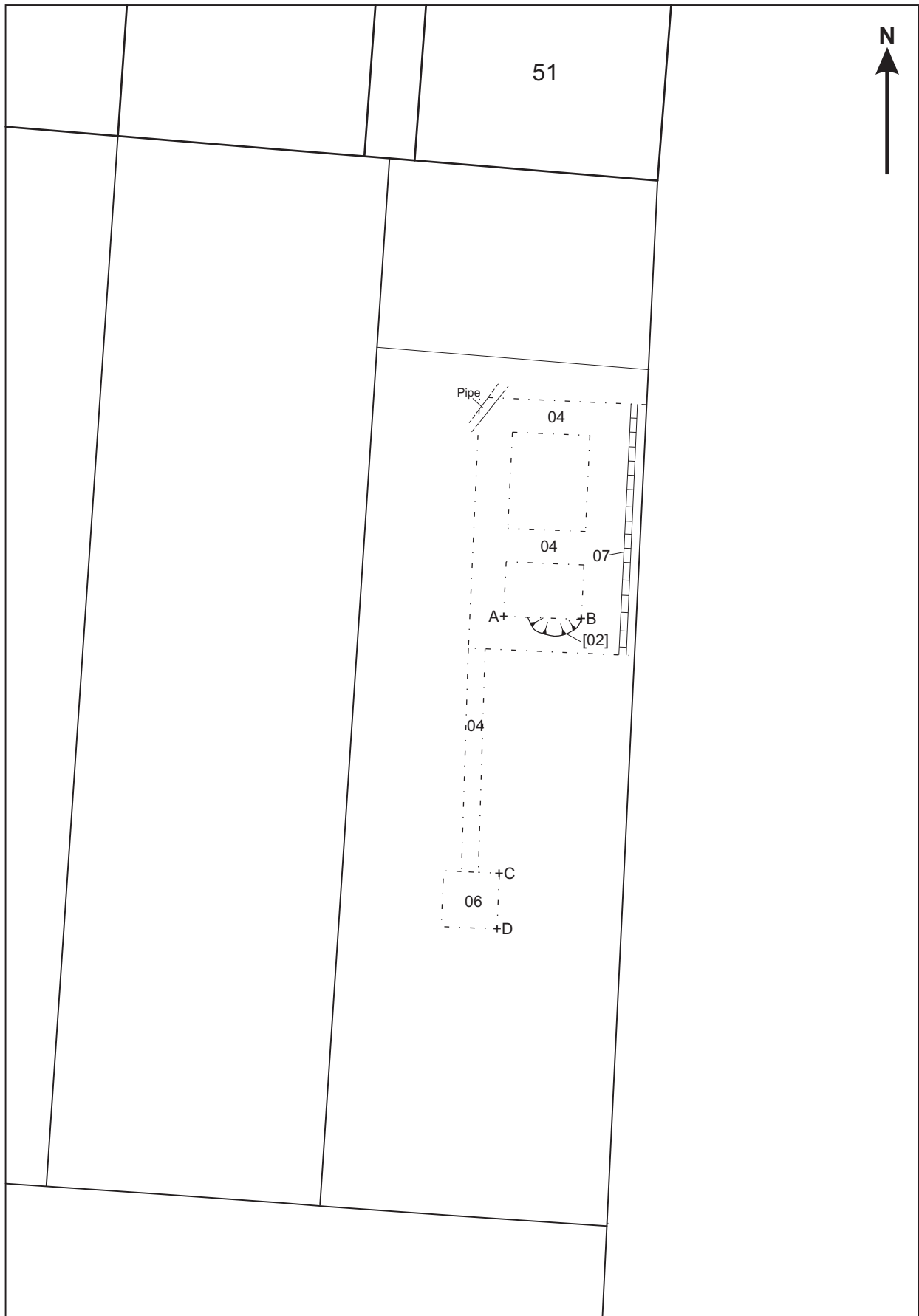




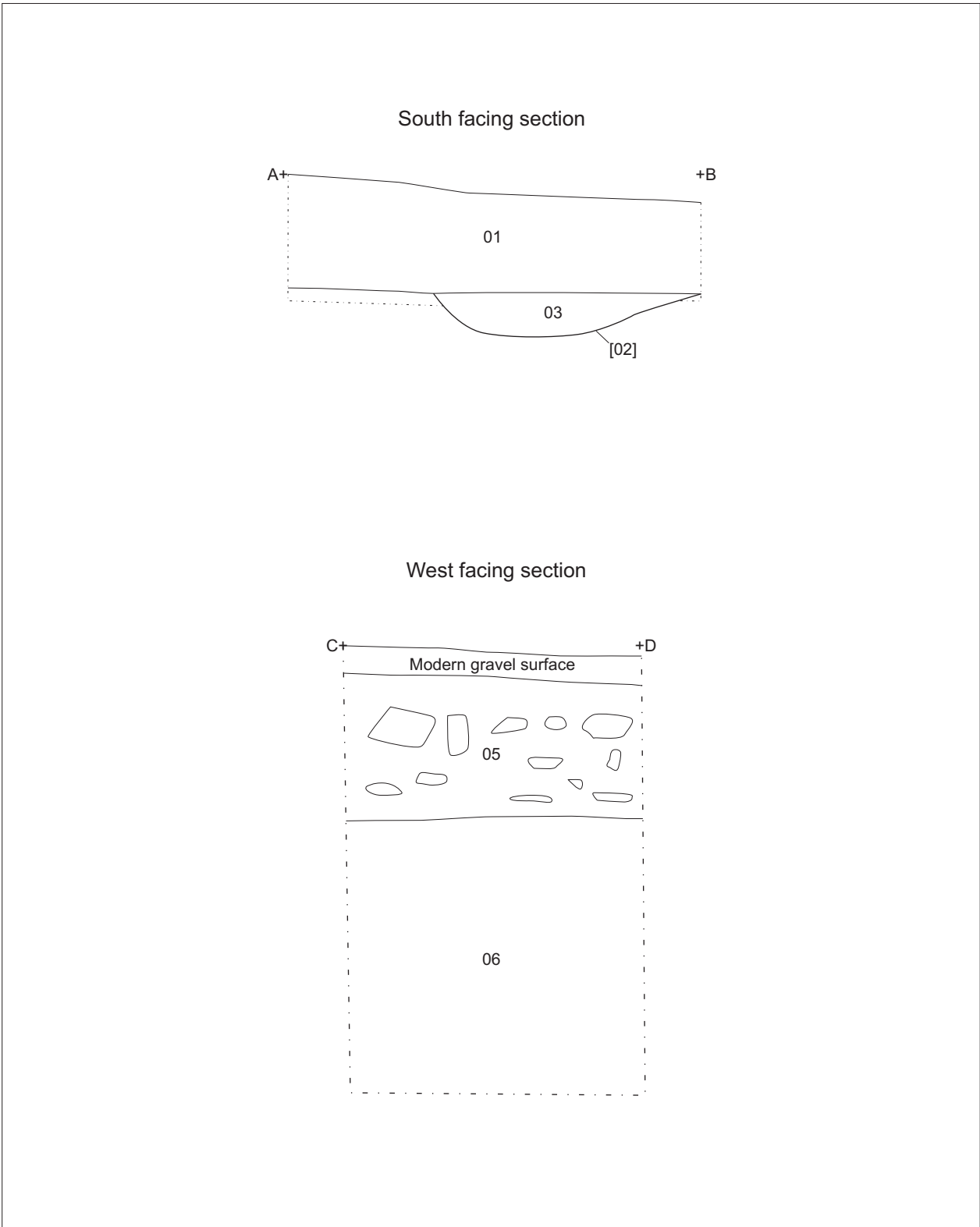
**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site shown in red  
 © Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330



**Figure 2:** Site location plan at scale 1:2000, with the development area outlined in red



**Figure 3:** Site plan at scale 1:100. Sections shown on Figure 4



**Figure 4:** Sections at scale 1:20, located on Figure 3