

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:  
TRIAL TRENCHING AT DOLLS HOUSE, MILL LANE,  
LEGBOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: N/100/01468/09  
NGR: TF 3628 8414  
AAL Site Code: LEDH 09  
LCCM Accession Number: 2009.134  
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Report prepared for Lincs Planning Consultancy Limited  
On behalf of Mr William Oliver

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2009048

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The  
Authority on  
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Planning  
Services

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## Document Control

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## **Summary**

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Lincs Planning Consultancy Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Dolls House, Mill Lane, Legbourne, Lincolnshire.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area with the site of Legbourne Priory, which was founded around 1150, situated *c.*100m to the north-west of the site. The traditional medieval core of the village lay to the north of the priory, with the current site lying within an area of historic parkland, and containing a combined wind and water mill that was built in 1847.

Two trenches were excavated in order to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. A single refuse pit containing 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was exposed in Trench 1, and a modern chalk hard standing was evident within both trenches. Numerous modern services were also evident across the site.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Lincs Planning Consultancy Limited to carry out an archaeological evaluation by trial excavation on land adjacent to 'The Dolls House', Mill Lane, Legbourne, Lincolnshire, in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing building.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1999), a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Team at Lincolnshire County Council, and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2009).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln, within six months of the completion of the report.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 Legbourne is located in the administrative district of East Lindsey and is situated approximately 4.5km south-east of central Louth, and 41km east-north-east of Lincoln. The site is on the north side of Mill Lane, to the south-west of the village core, and centres on NGR TF 3628 8414.
- 2.2 The site lies at a height of approximately 22m above Ordnance Datum. The local geology comprises Carstone Formation sandstone with the overlying drift geology comprising glacial Marsh Till (British Geological Survey 1999).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted in June 2009 to East Lindsey District Council for extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at Dolls House, Mill Lane, Legbourne (Planning Reference N/100/01468/09). Planning permission was subsequently refused in August 2009. The current programme of archaeological investigation has been requested in order to provide further information concerning the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, and will be submitted to the planning authority in order to enhance a resubmission of the planning application.

## **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 The proposed development area lies in an area of some archaeological interest. Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is restricted to the discovery of a Neolithic polished stone axe and a polished flint axe both found *c.*450m to the north-east of the site (Lincolnshire Historic Record, hereafter LHER, References 41841 and 41842).
- 4.2 Evidence for Romano-British activity is similarly sparse, being restricted to a small scatter of pottery from the extreme north-east corner of the parish, *c.*2.5km to the north-east (National Monuments Record Reference 354540).
- 4.3 There is no definite archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site although documentary evidence suggests that the nearby town of Louth developed as a

regionally important market centre in the Anglo-Saxon period. Grants of land in Louth were given to Peterborough Abbey in 664 and 680, suggesting the development of farming estates in the area. The development of a monastery by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century is indicated, as in 792 *Aethelheard*, abbot of Louth, was made Archbishop of Canterbury (Field 1978).

- 4.4 Despite the lack of archaeological information, documentary evidence indicates that Legbourne was settled in the Anglo-Saxon period. The place name of Legbourne is Old English in origin, being derived from the elements *lece* and *burna*, meaning ‘the trickling stream’ (Cameron 1998). In the Domesday Survey of 1086, the village appears to have been a reasonably populous settlement. There are two estates listed, in ownership of Earl Hugh and Roger of Poitou, with a total of 87 villagers of varying status listed, along with their dependents (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 The settlement of Little Cawthorpe is located *c.*300m to the south-west, and fieldwork in this area has recorded two medieval pits and a gully containing pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date, suggesting activity of possible Late Saxon to early medieval date (LHER Reference 41923).
- 4.6 The site of the medieval Legbourne Priory is situated approximately 100m to the north-west of the proposed application area. The Priory was established by Robert Fitzgilbert of Tathwell on behalf of the Cistercian order in around 1150. In 1367, there were fourteen nuns and a prioress recorded living at the Priory (Owen 1990). In 1440 a visit by the Bishop of Alnwick uncovered a number of irregularities that included neglect of religious offices and the prioress (Joan Polvertest) was found to use Abbey funds for the boarding of relatives and associates (Morgan 1999). By 1536 the act of suppression was passed and the Abbey was closed with an annual income of less than £200 per year. There are extensive earthworks surviving, which define a series of enclosures and a possible fish pond, and the site is protected by Scheduled Ancient Monument Status (SAM Reference 124, LHER Reference 43601).
- 4.7 Further evidence of medieval settlement activity is recorded immediately to the north of the Priory, where earthworks define shrunken village remains comprising tofts and crofts, field boundaries, a pond and ridge and furrow (LHER Reference 46484). Further medieval ridge and furrow was recorded in advance of development on land to the north of Station Road, *c.*400m to the north-east of the site (LHER Reference 44471).
- 4.8 The current site is situated within an area of historic parkland, Legbourne Abbey Park, which is first shown on the 1907 Ordnance Survey Map (LHER Reference 47140). Less than 50m to the north of the site is a combined wind and water mill.
- 4.9 A water mill was first documented during the medieval period as a possession of Legbourne Priory. The mill continued to operate following the dissolution of ecclesiastical lands in 1536. Surviving documents relating to the mill site refer to a Michael Davy, a shepherd farmer of Barnoldby-le-Beck who moved to Legbourne mill to become master miller in 1764. When Michael retired his son Edwin took over and constructed a post mill after 1813. Following the death of Edwin the mill passed hands to his son Thomas who was in possession when the post mill burnt down.
- 4.10 The present five-floor tower mill, housing three sets of stones, was built by Thomas Davy and the waterwheel was installed at the same time by Saundersons of Louth, at a cost of £90. When Thomas died he left the mill to his son, Henry, who in turn left it to his son Frederick in 1910; Harold, son of Frederick inherited it in 1930. The mill was running down at this time but some oat milling was periodically carried out until 1948.

- 4.11 In 1974 the land and the mill were brought by Hutchinson and Slingsby, trout farmers. The owners of the trout farm resided in Mill House and the associated cottage and barns were sold to independent families. The Dolls House located adjacent to Mill Lane was once a garage for the village baker's cart and subsequently was altered to function as accommodation for visiting anglers.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of two experienced field archaeologists on Monday 14th September 2009. It was initially proposed to excavate a single 8m long trench in the area of the proposed extension. This was not possible however, due to the presence of a hedge boundary through the centre of the site and numerous live services. As a result, two trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed extension. Trench 1 measured 5.4m in length and was 1m wide. Trench 2 was 3.5m long and 0.5m wide and orientated between existing live services.
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket and monitored under close archaeological supervision. The soil was removed in spits not exceeding 0.2m in depth until the natural geology or the first potential archaeologically significant horizon was exposed in each trench. All further excavation was then carried out by hand.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.

## 6.0 Results

### 6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.1.1 The uppermost deposit that was encountered was a topsoil layer up to 0.25m thick, comprising brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, 100. At the northern limits of the trench this sealed a 0.08m thick compact layer of dark brown silty clay with abundant quantities of crushed chalk, 106 that once formed the surface for an area of hard standing.
- 6.1.2 At the south-east end of the trench and cutting the natural brown clay, 101, was a pit with steep sides and slightly concave base, [105], containing three distinct fills. The primary fill 104 consisted of saturated dark grey silty clay with frequent limestone fragments and inclusions of manganese flecks. This was sealed by brown silty clay with occasional limestone and chalk fragments, 103. The final sealing fill, 102 was fairly firm in texture and dark brown in colour with a silty clay texture interspersed with chalk flecks. Pottery of 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from all three fills and included Staffordshire Transfer Printed wares, Pearl wares, Cream wares, Black Glazed wares and Nottingham Stone wares.

## **6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)**

- 6.2.1 Within Trench 2 the topsoil comprised up to 0.20m of moderately compact brown silty clay, 200. This was cut by two modern service trenches, [204] and [206].
- 6.2.2 Beneath topsoil layer 200 was a compact off-white layer of crushed chalk rubble, 202 which, along with 106 in Trench 1, was part of a hard standing area. At the north-west end of the trench layer 202 sealed layer 201, a 0.10-0.20m thick compact deposit of dark brown silty clay interspersed with chalk and brick flecks. Beneath this deposit was the natural brown clay, 203.

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

- 7.1 The fieldwork exposed a single pit in Trench 1, containing 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and therefore likely to relate to activities associated with the former mill and farm site. Trench 2 was devoid of archaeological finds or features.
- 7.2 The development area appears to have been subject to extensive modern disturbance. The site is crossed by numerous modern services, and has also been levelled in recent years to create a hard standing for the storage of farm vehicles and machinery, as evidenced by layers 106 and 202. The adjacent road is significantly higher than the current site, and the ground surface falls steeply into the garden area where it levels out into a gentler downwards slope towards the mill and adjacent river. It seems likely therefore that the area has been subject to significant truncation when the former outbuilding and garage for the Doll's House were constructed. This truncation may have removed any evidence for earlier episodes of activity on the site.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation methodology was appropriate to the small scale of the proposed development. The excavation and recording suggested a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area, and has shown the extensive disturbance caused by modern services and recent truncation.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Lincs Planning Consultancy Limited for this commission. Thanks also go to the landowners for their co-operation during the fieldwork.



## 10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1999, *Louth. England and Wales Sheet 103. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50,000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

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Owen D.M., 1990, *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire volume V, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

## 11.0 Site Archive

11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within twelve months of the completion of the project, where it will be stored under the global accession code 2009.134.

**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** General view of the site, looking east-south-east



**Plate 2:** Section through pit [105], looking south-west



**Plate 3:** Trench 2 north-east facing section, looking south-west

## Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Archive

Jane Young

### Pottery Archive

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description	date
102	PEARL	Pearlware		large bowl	1	1	62		base	discarded		late 18th to mid 19th
102	TPW	Transfer printed ware		plate	1	1	141	navy blue floral print	base	discarded		19th to mid 20th
102	STMO	Staffordshire Bristol		large jar	1	1	346		base	discarded	not Staffs ?	18th
102	ENGS	Unspecified English		hollow	1	1	18	BS		discarded		19th to 20th
102	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		bowl	1	1	92	machine	rim	discarded	internal grey glaze	late 18th to 19th
102	ENGS	Unspecified English	buff	bottle	1	1	55		rim	discarded		19th to 20th
102	WHITE	Modern		bowl	1	1	30	cornish blue	BS	discarded		19th to 20th
102	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		lid	1	1	34	roller stamping	rim	discarded		late 18th to 19th
102	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware		jar	1	1	43	brown & white banded	base	discarded		19th to mid 20th
102	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware		jar/bowl	1	1	25	brown & white banded	BS	discarded		19th to mid 20th
103	ENPO	English		saucer	1	1	26	profile		discarded		19th to mid 20th
103	TPW	Transfer printed ware		large dish	1	1	79	navy blue print with landscape surrounded by oak branches	profile	discarded		19th to mid 20th
103	ENGS	Unspecified English	buff	bottle	1	1	43		BS	discarded		19th to mid 20th
103	WHITE	Modern		open	1	1	13	base		discarded	ironstone	19th to mid 20th
104	CREA	Creamware		sauceboat	1	1	33	blue painted lines	BS with side	discarded	intertwined strap handles	late 18th to mid
104	MISC	Unidentified	fine dull	jar ?	1	1	8		BS		very	Roman to

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description	date
			orange sandy								micaceous; no glaze; abraded; moderate white inclusions	early modern
104	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine orange fabric	large bowl	1	1	56		rim	discarded		mid 18th to 19th
104	WHITE	Modern		large plate	1	1	33	turquoise painted line around rim	rim	discarded	water discolouration	19th to 20th

### Ceramic Building Material Archive

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	action	description	date
104	BRK	Brick	1	76	discarded	modern machine made	late 19th to 21st

### Appendix 3: Context Summary List

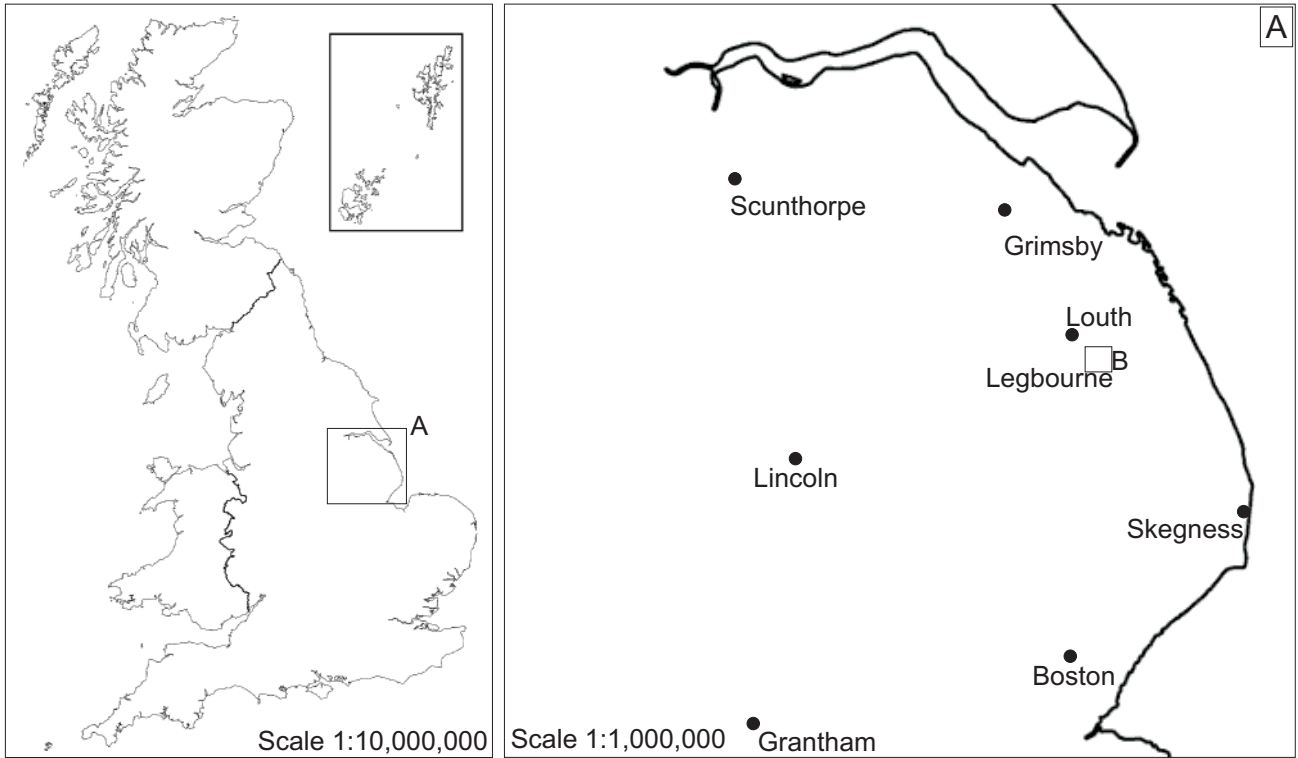
#### Trench 1

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Very compact and firm, brown silty clay with frequent roots, chalk, brick and tile, glass and pottery fragments. Seals 106	Modern garden soil
101	Layer	Very compact, mid greyish brown clay with frequent chalk specks, moderate manganese fragments and occasional sandstone fragments. Sealed by 100, 106	Natural drift geology
102	Fill	Fairly firm dark brown silty clay with frequent brick, tile and pottery fragments; moderate chalk fragments.	Tertiary backfill of pit [105]
103	Fill	Fairly firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk and limestone specks.	Secondary backfill of [105]
104	Fill	Saturated, dark grey silty clay with frequent pottery fragments, occasional limestone and manganese fragments.	Possibly natural silted, primary fill of [105]
105	Cut	Steep sided feature with slight undulated, tapered blunt pointed base. Contains 102, 103 and 104	Modern rubbish pit
106	Layer	Compact, coarse, dark brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular chalkstone fragments. Sealed by 100, seals 101	Modern chalk surface

#### Trench 2

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Moderately compact brown silty clay with chalk flecks. Seals 202	Modern garden soil
201	Layer	Moderately compact, dark brown silty clay with chalk flecks and brick fragments. Sealed by 202, seals 203	Re-deposited topsoil
202	Surface	Compact white chalk. Sealed by 200, seals 201	Chalk hard-standing surface
203	Layer	Compact, brown clay. Sealed by 201	Natural drift geology
204	Cut	West-south-west to east-north-east aligned linear with steep sides, tapered round pointed base, containing modern water pipe and backfill	Cut for water pipe
206	Cut	West-south-west to east-north-east aligned linear with steep sides, tapered round pointed base, containing modern water pipe and backfill	Cut for water pipe

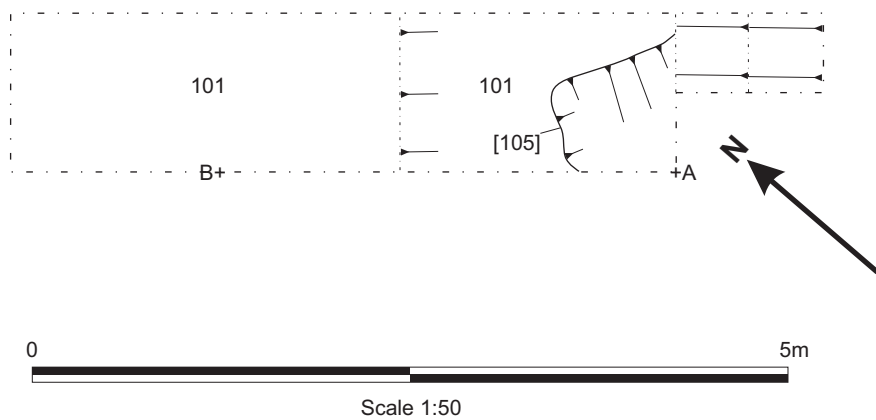




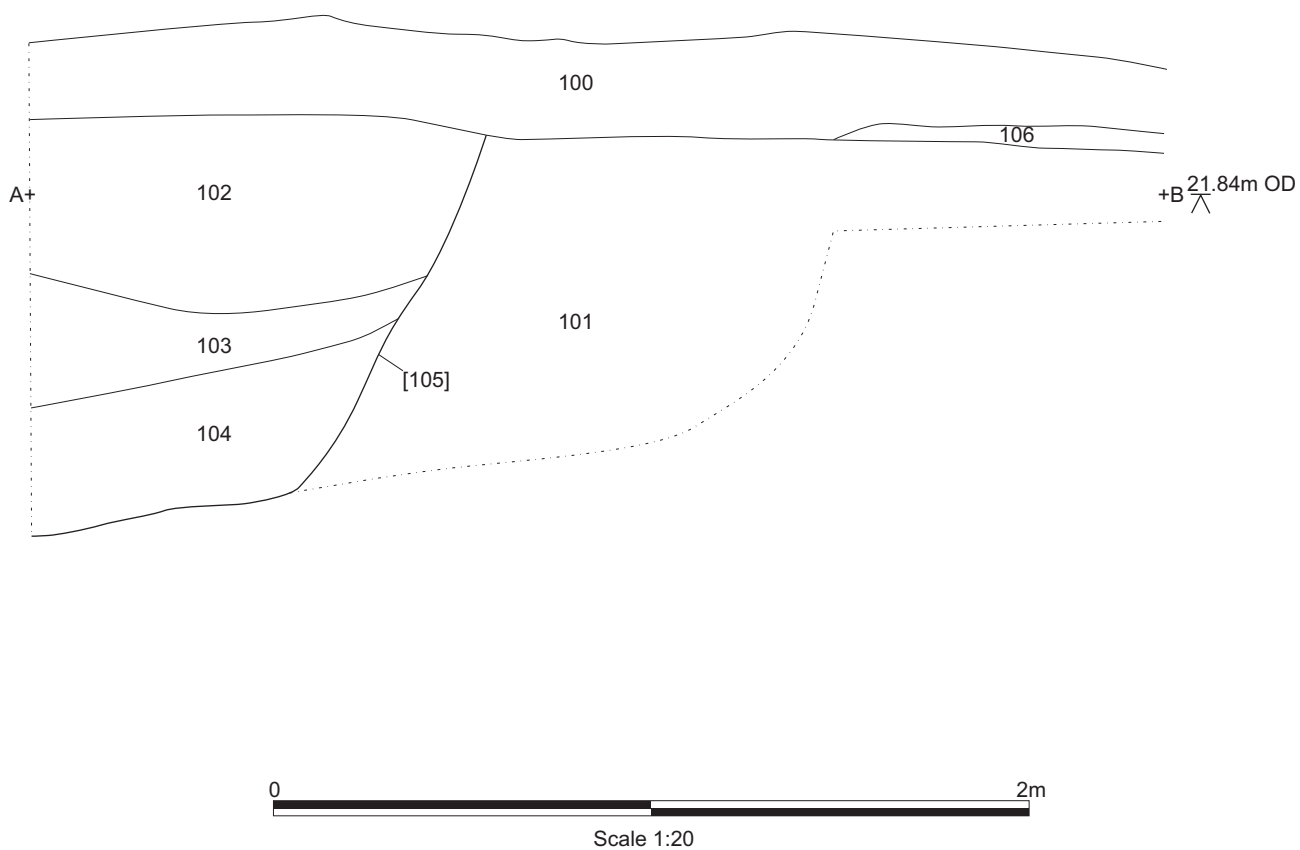
**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site shown in red.



**Figure 2:** Trench location plan at scale 1:500 showing modern services in blue and evaluation trenches in green

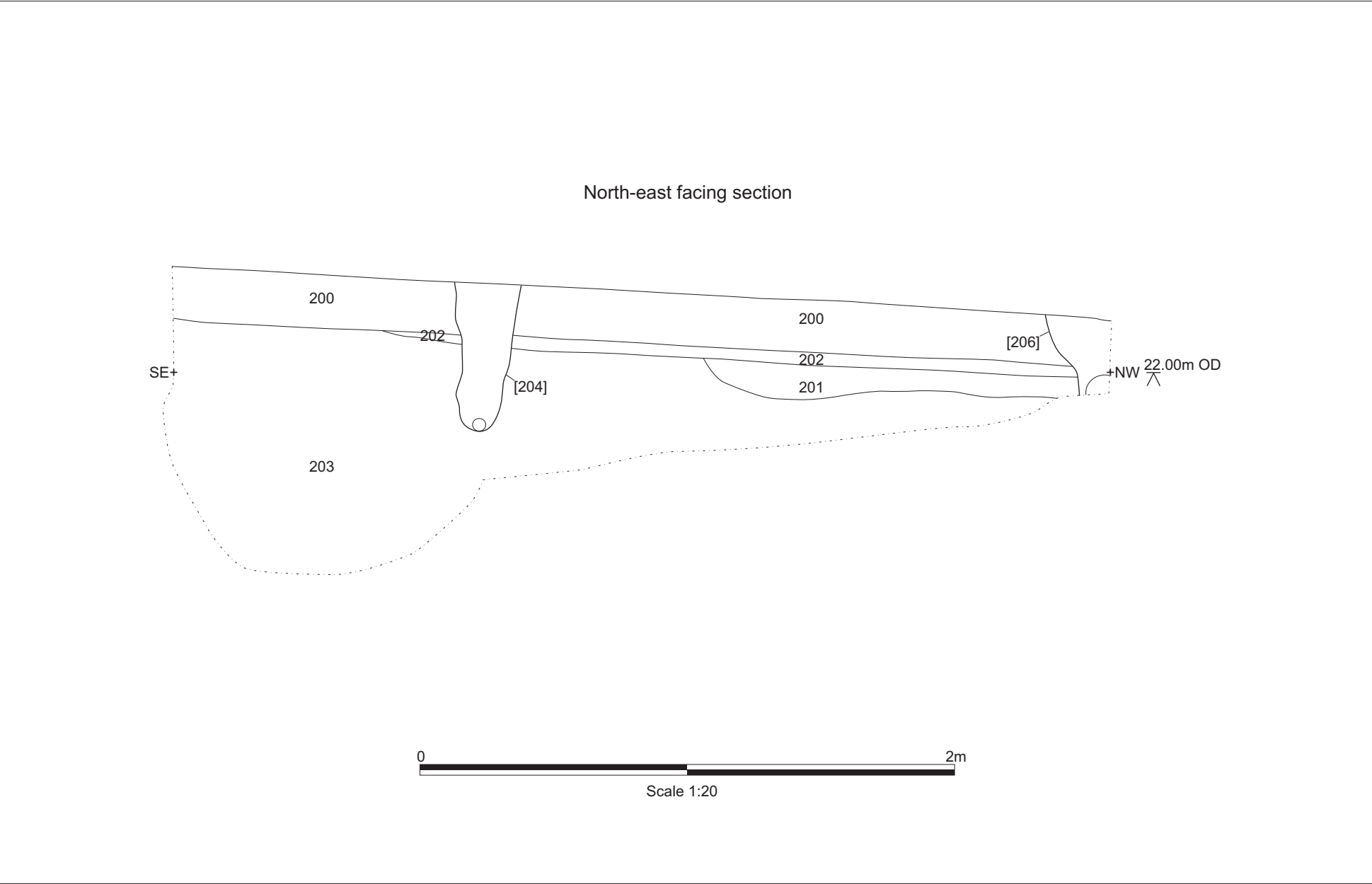


North-east facing section



**Figure 3:** Trench 1 plan at scale 1:50 and section at scale 1:20





**Figure 4:** Trench 2 north-east facing section at scale 1:20