

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

THE LAURELS, FRONT STREET, ULCEBY, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

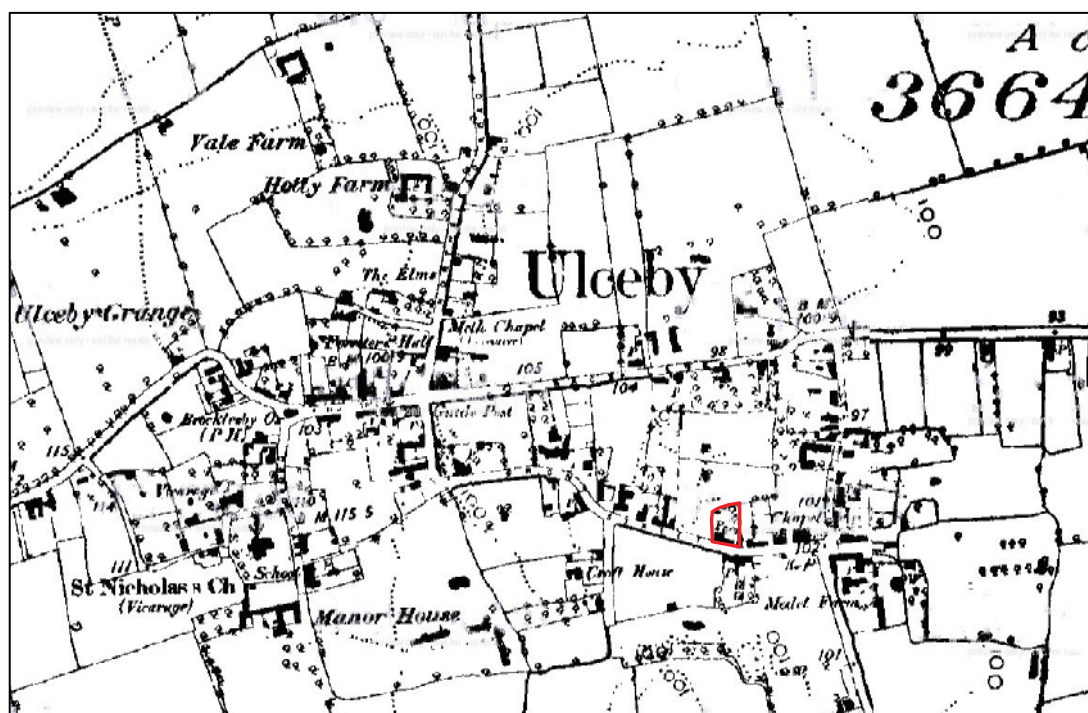
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AAL Site Code: ULFS 09

North Lincolnshire Site Code: UCAF

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Report prepared for Mr Nathan Whall

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2009064

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The
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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for two new dwellings at the Laurels, Front Street in Ulceby, North Lincolnshire.
- There is limited evidence for later prehistoric and Roman activity near the site, including a hoard of late Iron Age gold found to the east of the village. The site is to the east of the historic core of the village, and is surrounded by earthworks and cropmarks of shrunken medieval village remains.
- A small number of features and deposits of limited archaeological significance were observed and recorded during the watching brief. The southern part of Plot 1 had been disturbed by an undated brick well and the foundations of a former dwelling. A modern pit and an undated linear feature, possibly a robbed out limestone wall, were recorded in Plot 2.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr Nathan Whall to carry out an archaeological watching brief for two new dwellings at The Laurels, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1991, revised 1999 and 2008). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740) as well as the methodologies set out in the AAL specification (Clay 2009).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the site code UCAF.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development area is situated within the administrative district of North Lincolnshire, in the village of Ulceby, approximately 22km east-north-east of Scunthorpe. The site is situated to the east of the historic core of the village, on the north side of Front Street and centres on NGR TA 1084 1463. Immediately prior to the groundworks the site was occupied by a single dwelling and outbuilding on Front Street, with garden areas to the rear.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises drift deposits of glacial till, overlying a solid geology of Burnham Chalk (British Geological Survey 1983), and is situated at a height of approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum.

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted in June 2008 '*to erect a detached house with access and erect two detached domestic garages to serve existing and proposed dwelling*' (Planning Reference PA/2008/0392). The proposed dwelling type was amended by a subsequent application, approved in June 2009 (Planning Reference PA/2009/0524). A further planning application for the site was approved in September 2009, for the demolition of the existing property and construction of a replacement dwelling (Reference PA/2009/0957). The planning permissions were granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief.
- 3.2 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, thus 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 There are several find spots in the parish indicating prehistoric activity. A possible Bronze Age barrow has been identified by cropmarks to the west of the village (National Monuments Record Reference 1053511 (hereafter NMR)), and another possible ploughed-out barrow is recorded in grid square TA 10 14, to the south of the village. Its presence was noted by Abraham de la Pryme in 1697, as being a large mound, hollow on the top and containing a number of burials (NMR Reference 80480). There is now no evidence of this monument.

- 4.2 A single Iron Age gold stater has also been found in Ulceby, although this too is only located to within 1km grid square TA 10 14 (NMR Reference 883583). Further to the east, during the digging of a railway cutting in Ulceby parish in 1847, a hoard of late Iron Age metalwork was discovered. The hoard included two gold torcs, a gold bracelet, and several fragments of gold rods and horse bits, which has been interpreted as a collection of waste material deposited by a smith for later use, and was probably of 1st century BC date (May 1976).
- 4.3 Evidence for Roman activity is restricted to a single find spot; a scatter of pottery from a brick pit c.100m to the south-west of the site (NMR Reference 80483).
- 4.4 The place name Ulceby suggests an origin during the period of Viking settlement in the 9th century AD. It is derived from the Old Danish, meaning '*Ulf's farmstead, village*' (Cameron 1998). At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, the principal landowners were the Bishop of Lincoln, Norman of Arcy, and Erneis of Buron. This final estate included a church with a priest, half a mill, and also yielded 500 eels per year (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 The existing village is surrounded by the earthwork and cropmark remains of medieval settlement and agricultural features, including tofts and crofts, building platforms and ridge and furrow (NMR Reference 883584).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The watching brief was carried out by the author over a period of two days, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November 2009. The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2009) and to the national guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects (IfA 1991).
- 5.2 The previous dwelling on site had been demolished immediately prior to the archaeological watching brief and the site stripped of surface vegetation. The foundations of the buildings were subsequently excavated with a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a 600mm wide smooth bucket.
- 5.3 All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for any archaeological features and deposits 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 photographic record was maintained in both colour slide and monochrome formats, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).
- 5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. pit or ditch terminus [207]).

6.0 Results (Figures 2 - 4)

6.1 Plot 1

- 6.1.1 The new house footprint of Plot 1 overlay part of the footprint of the previous dwelling and a former undated brick well, resulting in significant ground disturbance. The well still held water and flooded a large part of the foundations, making this area unsafe to enter.
- 6.1.2 Three layers were recorded within Plot 1. The uppermost layer, garden soil 100 consisted of a c.0.3m thick loose dark grey brown silty sand with building debris from the previously demolished dwelling.

6.1.3 100 sealed a natural alluvial deposit 101, a laminated mid orange brown clayey sand which sealed the natural drift geology 102; a firm mid orange brown sandy boulder clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional manganese flecks.

6.2 Plot 2 (Figures 2 and 4)

6.2.1 The uppermost deposit recorded was a modern garden soil, 201 that consisted of loose dark brown silty sand. It sealed a thin intermittent layer of demolition material, 202, comprising dark brown silty sand with chalk and brick fragments. Towards the east side of the plot this was cut by a small pit or ditch terminus, [209], containing modern brick and glass fragments.

6.2.2 Towards the south side of the site, layer 202 sealed a probable ground raising or levelling layer, 206, of loose, dark, greyish brown silty sand containing frequent small brick and tile fragments (not retained).

6.2.3 206 sealed alluvial deposit 203, representing the same deposit recorded as layer 101 in Plot 1; a loose laminated mid orange brown clayey sand that was up to 0.8m thick. This in turn sealed 204, a naturally formed deposit of very saturated, coarse, mid yellowish brown sandy gravel. 204 sealed 205, a reddish brown boulder clay with frequent chalk, flint and manganese fragments.

6.2.4 A linear feature [207] was exposed in the easternmost section of the plot, measuring approximately 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a single undated fill 208, a mid grey brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular chalk rubble. The feature was aligned broadly east – west, as it was visible in the opposing section of the footing, where it was significantly more shallow. It was not observed elsewhere in the plot and had probably been truncated by later activity.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

7.1 Few archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief. A large part of the foundations in Plot 1 were disturbed by the previous dwelling and a brick well. Any earlier archaeological deposits that may have existed in this area are therefore likely to have been destroyed, although there was no evidence of archaeological deposits or features elsewhere in the plot.

7.2 Within Plot 2 a small modern pit or ditch terminus was recorded, as well as a possible former boundary feature [207], a layer of ground raising/levelling material and a thin lens of demolition material. These features and deposits were all undated but may be related to earlier structures shown on the 1891 OS map of the site (see report cover).

7.3 Throughout the remainder of the development area, a largely similar natural sequence was recorded, comprising natural boulder clay, sealed by a laminated clayey sand deposit of probable alluvial origin, which was sealed by the modern garden soil.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has demonstrated that the construction of the two new dwellings has had a negligible impact on the limited archaeological resource of the development area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Nathan Whall for this commission and Keigar Homes Limited for their co-operation during the groundworks.

10.0 References

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Morgan P. and Thorn, C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester

11.0 Site Archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum, within twelve months of the completion of the project, and will be stored under the museum site code UCAF.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Representative north-facing section in Plot 1, looking south



Plate 2: West-facing in Plot 2, showing modern pit [209] and possible boundary feature [207]. Looking east



Plate 3: North-facing section in Plot 2, showing levelling layer 206. Looking south

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with frequent modern building debris and occasional chalk flecks. Seals 101	Modern garden soil
101	Layer	Loose, laminated mid orange brown clayey sand with occasional roots. Sealed by 100, seals 102	Natural alluvial deposit
102	Layer	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional manganese flecks. Sealed by 101	Natural drift geology of boulder clay
200	Void		
201	Layer	Loose dark brown silty sand with frequent roots and fragmented building debris. Seals 202	Modern garden soil
202	Layer	Loose dark brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments. Sealed by 200, seals 206	Probable demolition layer
203	Layer	Loose, laminated mid orange brown clayey sand. Sealed by 206, seals 204	Natural alluvial deposit
204	Layer	Loose but coarse and saturated, mid yellow brown sandy gravel. Sealed by 203, seals 205	Natural alluvial deposit
205	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay with frequent chalk fragments, small natural flint pebbles and moderate manganese fragments. Sealed by 204	Natural drift geology of boulder clay
206	Layer	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, moderate brick and tile fragments, occasional roots. Sealed by 202, seals 203	Levelling deposit
207	Cut	E-W aligned linear with steep sloping sides and concave base. Contains 208	Cut of possible robbed out chalk wall
208	Fill	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with chalk rubble.	Fill of linear [207]
209	Cut	Small bowl shaped feature observed in section. Cuts 202, contains 210	Probable pit or ditch terminus
210	Fill	Very dark grey sandy silt with occasional modern glass, brick, chalk rubble	Backfill of [209], contains modern material

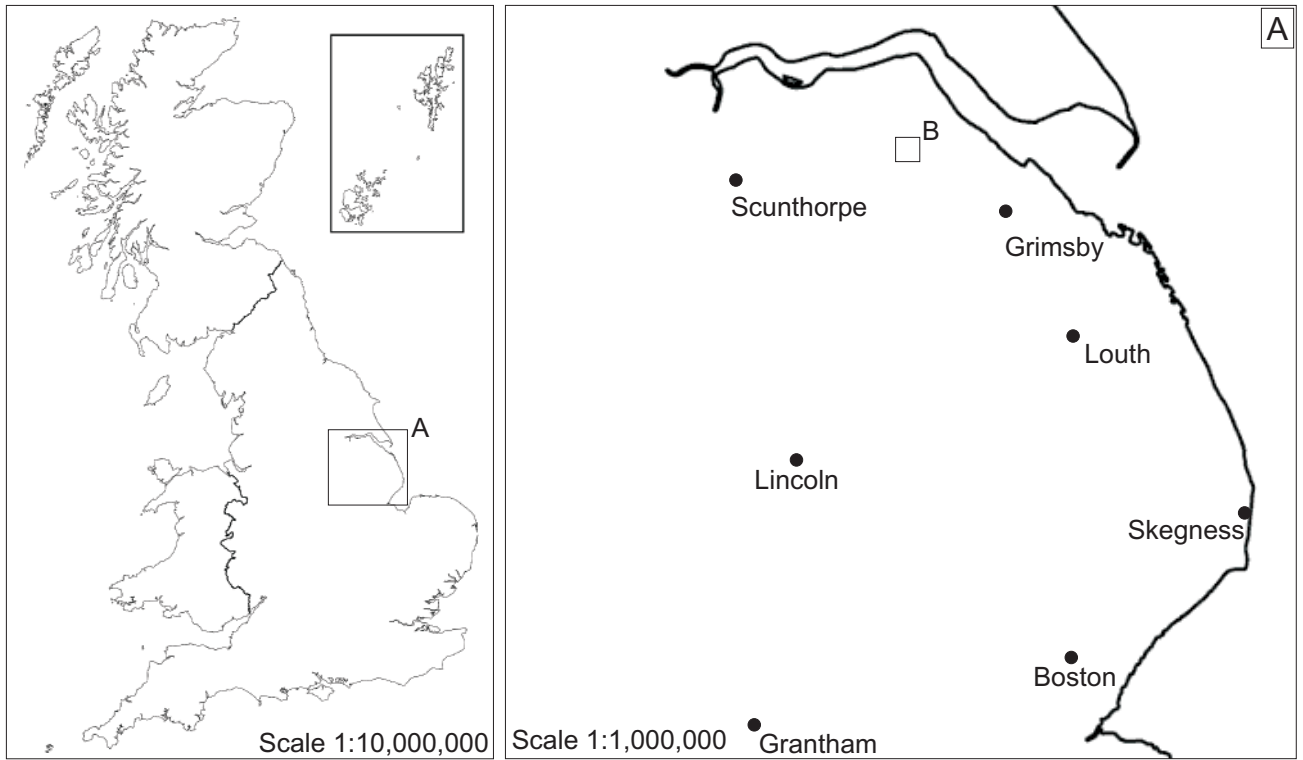


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the site in red.

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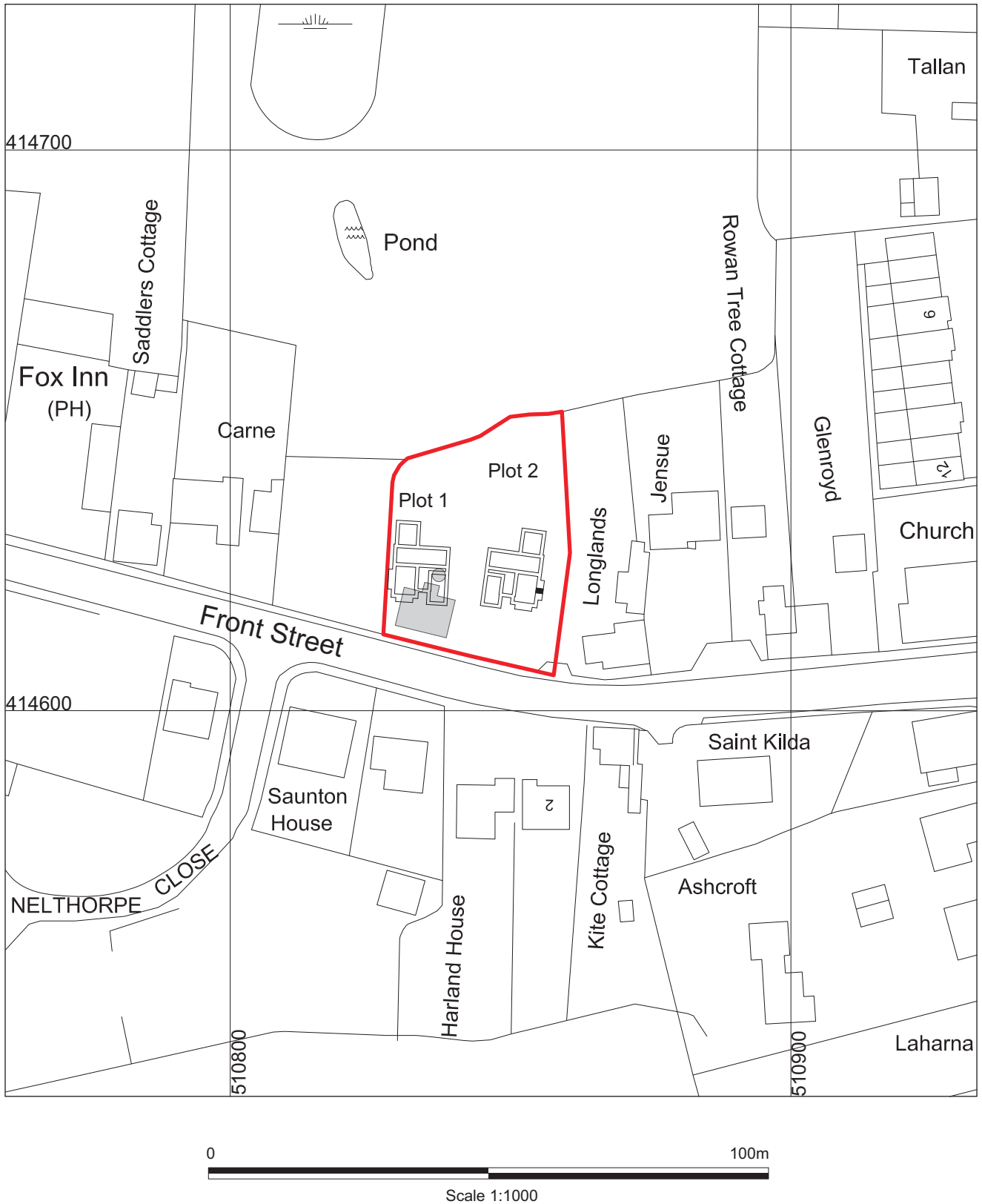
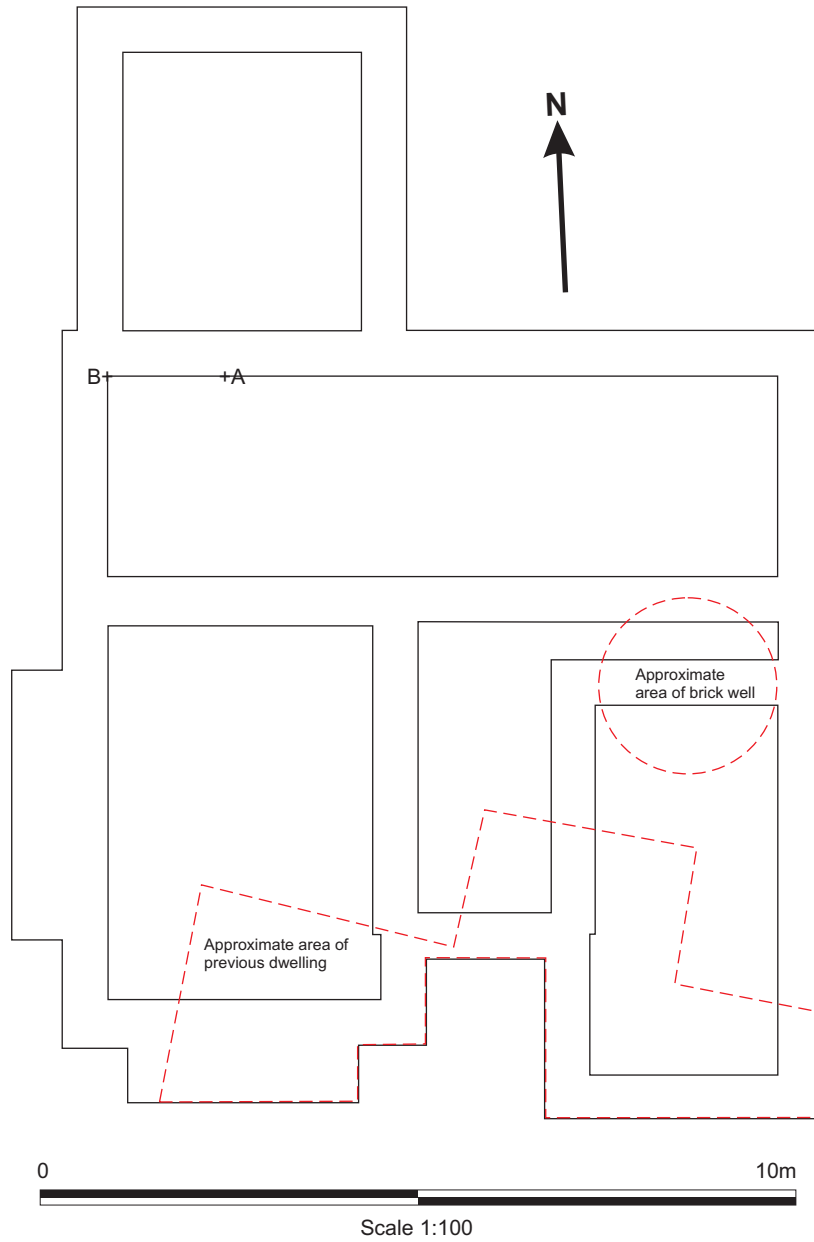


Figure 2: Site location plan at scale 1:1,000 with the site outlined in red. Former dwelling and well shaded grey, feature [207] shown in black



North facing section

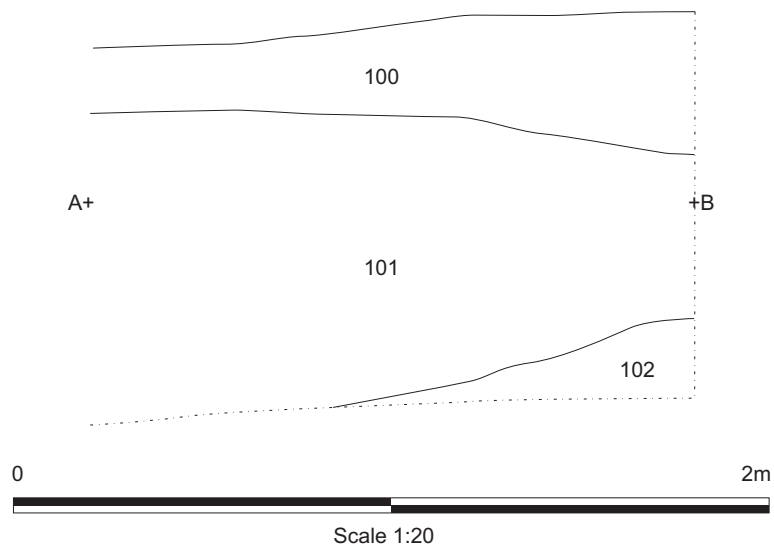


Figure 3: Plot 1 plan at scale 1:100 and representative section at scale 1:20

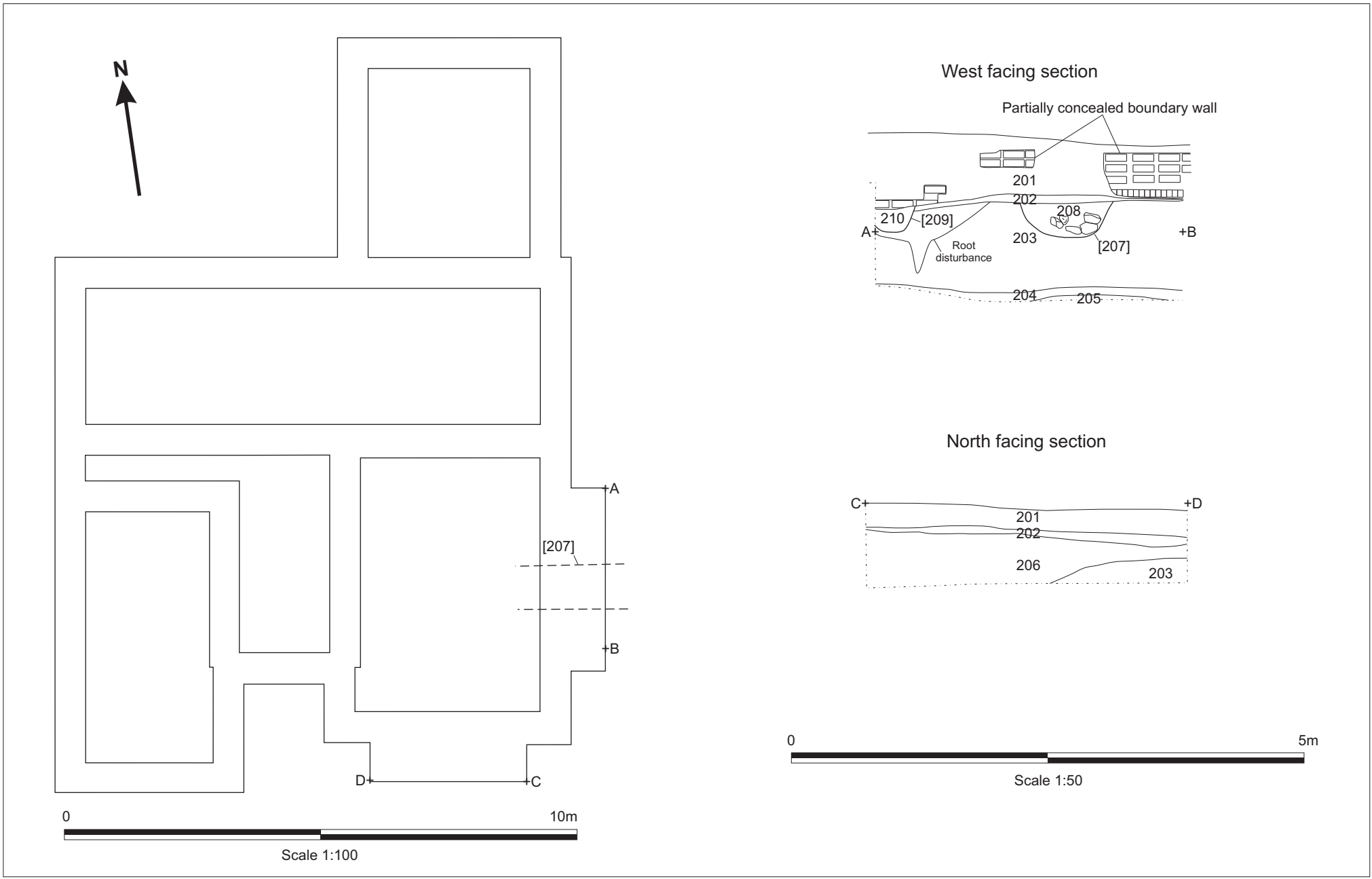


Figure 4: Plot 2 plan at scale 1:100 and sections at scale 1:50