REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD SCHEME:

GROVE FARM, BRANDESBURTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

Planning Reference: 09/02346/PLF
NGR: TA 12193 50557
AAL Site Code: BRGF 10
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-72625

Report prepared for G. Dean and Sons

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2010007

February 2010

The Authority on Archaeological Planning Services

Contents

List of Appendices

List of Figures

List of Plates

Document Control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Chris Clay	17/02/2010
Illustrations prepared by:	Chris Clay	16/02/2010
Report edited by:	Mark Allen	18/02/2010
Report produced by:	AAL 2010007	19/02/2010

Cover image: The development area, looking south-west

Summary

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by G. Dean and Sons to undertake a strip, map and record scheme in advance of the construction of a wind turbine on land at Grove Farm, Brandesburton, East Yorkshire.

Cropmarks of two possible Bronze Age barrows are recorded to the east of the site, as well as further cropmarks of a complex of rectilinear enclosures of possible later prehistoric or Romano-British date. Medieval ridge and furrow is known to exist to the west of the site.

A single trench measuring approximately 5m by 5m was excavated over the footprint of the proposed new wind turbine. A single undated curvilinear feature was recorded, and a soil sample from the fill contained small quantities of spelt wheat, tentatively suggesting a broadly later prehistoric to Romano-British date for the feature.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by G. Dean and Sons to carry out an archaeological strip, map and record on land at Grove Farm, Brandesburton, East Yorkshire.

1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation*' (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008), a specification prepared by this company (Allen 2009), and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage 2006). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).

1.3 The archive will be submitted to Hull and East Riding Museum within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 Brandesburton is situated approximately 8.3km west of Hornsea and c.11.5km north-east of the centre of Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The site is approximately 3.1km north-north-east of the village, in a grassed field to the north-west of an existing chicken shed. The proposed development area centres on NGR TA 12193 50557, and lies at a height of approximately 13m above Ordnance Datum.

2.2 The local geology comprises drift deposits of glacial till, overlying a solid geology of Flamborough Chalk (British Geological Survey 1995).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 A planning application was submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council in June 2009 for the '*erection of an 11 KW Wind turbine*' (Planning Application Reference 09/02346/PLF). The application was granted in August 2009, with conditions, including the undertaking a programme of archaeological investigation and recording in advance of the construction of the proposed turbine.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 There is some evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. The 1855 and 1892 Ordnance Survey maps record two tumuli approximately 500m to the east, although there was no trace of them on aerial photographs of the immediate post-war period (National Monuments Record References 80957 and 80960).

4.2 Cropmarks evidencing rectilinear enclosures and a large oval or sub-circular feature have been noted to the east of the site. The date of these features is not known, but they are morphologically of a later prehistoric or Romano-British form.

4.3 The current site is situated on moorland at the northern boundaries of the parish of Brandesburton. In the Domesday Book of 1086 the parish was divided into three estates,

controlled by the Archbishop of York, Drogo de la Beuvriere and Count Alan. It was a sparsely populated area at the time, with a total of nine villagers of varying recorded in the three estates. The parish was clearly in a poor state at the time, as the value of the estate of Drogo de la Beuvriere had declined from £40 before the Conquest to 40s in 1086 (Williams and Martin 1992).

4.4 It seems likely that the area was marginal moorland at the time, used for little more than grazing of livestock, although the presence of ridge and furrow cropmarks to the west of the site suggests that it was brought under the plough at some time in the medieval period.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author on Monday February 8th 2010. An excavation area of 5m by 5m on the proposed footprint of the new turbine was marked out by the client in advance of the fieldwork.

5.2 Machine excavation was carried out with a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless dykeing bucket. Under close archaeological supervision, the soil was removed in spits not exceeding 10cm in depth until the first archaeologically significant horizon or natural geology was exposed.

5.3 A full written record of the archaeological and natural deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale (1:50 and 1:20), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in 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 3. Two digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch [04]).

6.0 Results (Figures 2 and 3)

6.1 The uppermost deposit removed by machine was a 0.3m thick modern topsoil, 01, comprising a very dark grey/brown sandy clay. This sealed a 0.1m thick subsoil horizon of brown sandy clay, 02. The underlying natural geology was a coarse brown clayey sand with frequent sub-rounded gravel, 03.

6.2 A single curvilinear feature, [04] was recorded in the northern half of the excavation area. It extended from the west side of the trench on an east – west alignment, and turned sharply northwards to continue beyond the northern limit of excavation. It had moderately steep sides and a flat base and was approximately 0.56m wide and 0.36m deep, and contained a single fill of brownish grey slightly clayey sand, 05. No finds were recovered from the deposit. A soil sample was retrieved for palaeoenvironmental evidence and contained limited quantities of coal and charcoal, as well as a small number of charred spelt glume bases, interpreted as windblown refuse on account of its limited quantity (see Appendix 2).

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

7.1 The strip, map and record exercise exposed only a single undated curvilinear feature, directly below a subsoil horizon. Although no dating evidence was recovered, a soil sample from the feature contained a small number of glume bases of spelt wheat. This is a type of crop that is very rare before the early Iron Age, and was rarely cultivated in the Anglo-Saxon period. It is therefore tentatively suggested that the feature may be broadly later prehistoric to Romano-British in date. The very sparse assemblage of plant remains and other material from the soil sample, and the lack of finds collected during hand excavation of the feature suggests that the ditch was at some distance from any focus of contemporary settlement activity, and that it is likely to be some form of agricultural land division or boundary feature.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The strip, map and record methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has shown that the proposed development area has a very limited archaeological potential that is of local interest only.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr and Mrs Dean for this commission and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 Bibliography

Allen, M., 2009, *Specification for an archaeological strip, map and record: Grove Farm, Brandesburton, East Yorkshire*, Allen Archaeology Limited

British Geological Survey, 1995, *Beverley. England and Wales Sheet 72 Solid and Drift Edition. 1:50000 Series.* Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London

IfA., 1995 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Williams, A. and Martin, G.H., 1992, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, Alecto Historical Editions, London

11.0 Site Archive

11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to Hull and East Riding Museum within six months of the completion of the project.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1: General view of the excavation area, looking south-west

Plate 2: The excavation area on the site of the turbine base, looking south-west

Plate 3: East facing section through ditch [04], looking west

Appendix 2: Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations within a small trench at Brandesburton, undertaken by Allen Archaeology, recorded a single undated ditch (context [04]). A sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil was taken from the fill. The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots and arthropod remains were present within the flot.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present within the residue.

Results

The flot is extremely small (considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume) and sparse. However, a small number of identifiable plant remains are recorded (namely spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases) alongside a fragmentary indeterminate cereal grain and a low density of charcoal/charred wood fragments. Minute pieces of coal are also present.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

As plant remains are so scarce it is, perhaps, most likely that the few macrofossils recorded are derived from scattered or windblown refuse, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fill. Assuming that the remains are approximately contemporary with the feature, it is tentatively suggested that the ditch is probably of later prehistoric or Roman date, as spelt is rarely seen before the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and cultivation of this crop had largely ceased by the Saxon period.

As the assemblage contains insufficient material for quantification, no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

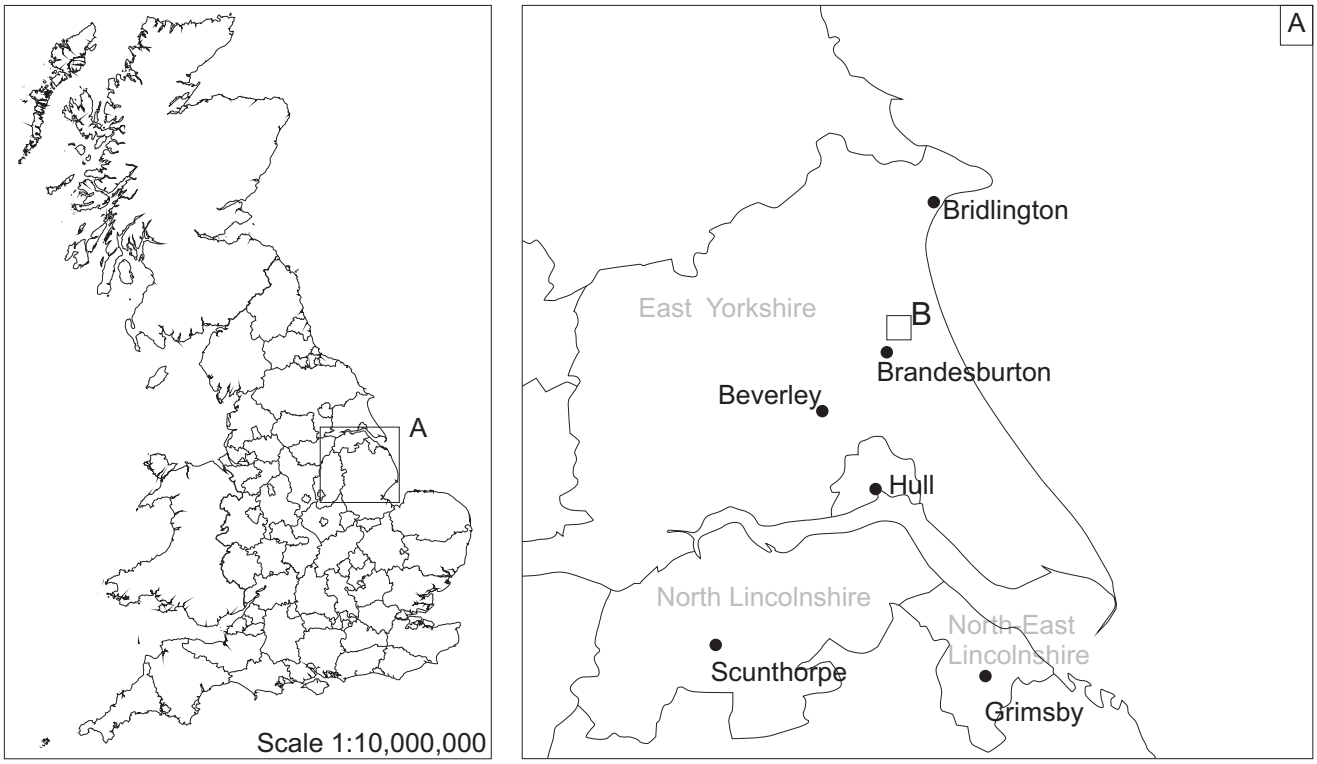
Sample No.	**1**
Context No.	**05**
Triticum sp. (spikelet base)	x
T. spelta L. (glume base)	x
Cereal indet. (grain frag.)	x
Charcoal <2mm	x
Charcoal >2mm	x
Black porous material	x
Mineralised concretions	x
Small coal frags.	x
Sample volume (litres)	**20**
Volume flot (litres)	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens

Appendix 3: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Very dark grey/brown sandy clay. Seals 02	Modern topsoil
02	Layer	Brown sandy clay, occasional sub-rounded gravel. Sealed by 01, seals 03, 05	Subsoil
03	Layer	Brown coarse clayey sand, frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stone	Natural geology
04	Cut	Steep sided curvilinear cut with flat base, aligned N-S and E-W. Contains 05	Ditch cut
05	Fill	Brownish grey slightly clayey sand, occasional sub-rounded stone	Natural silting of [04]



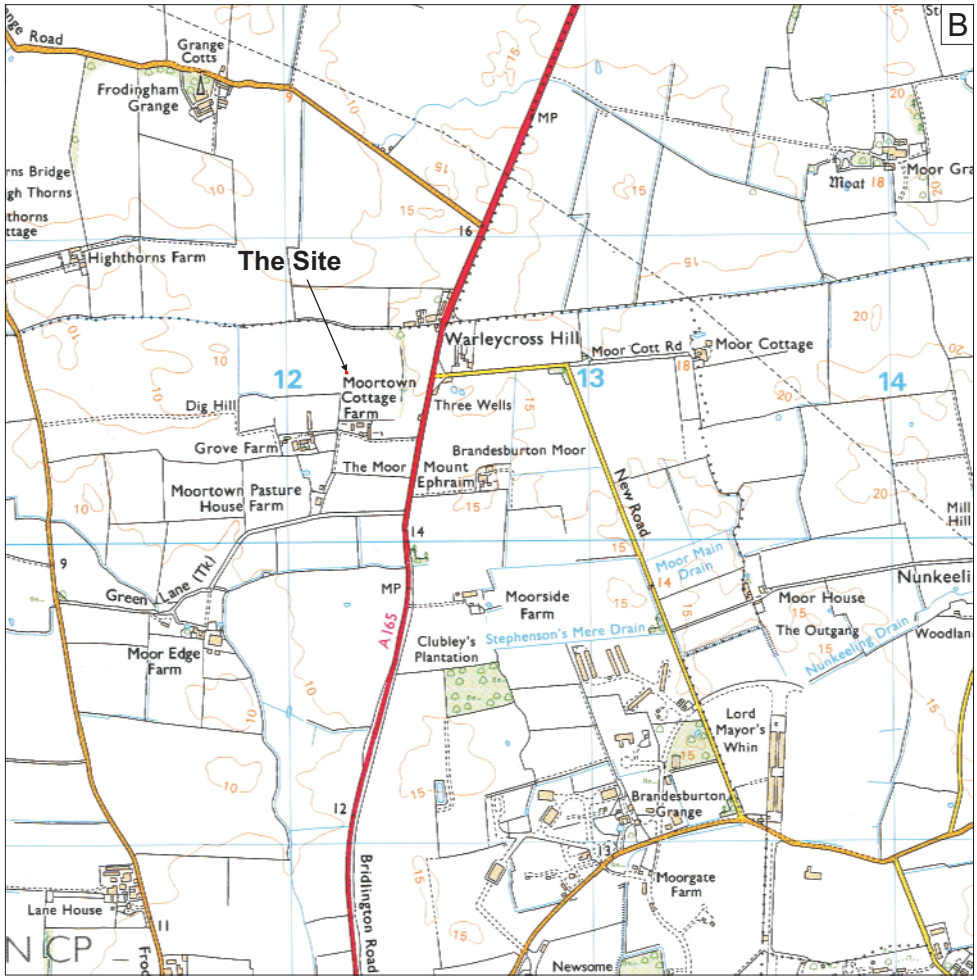


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site shown in red

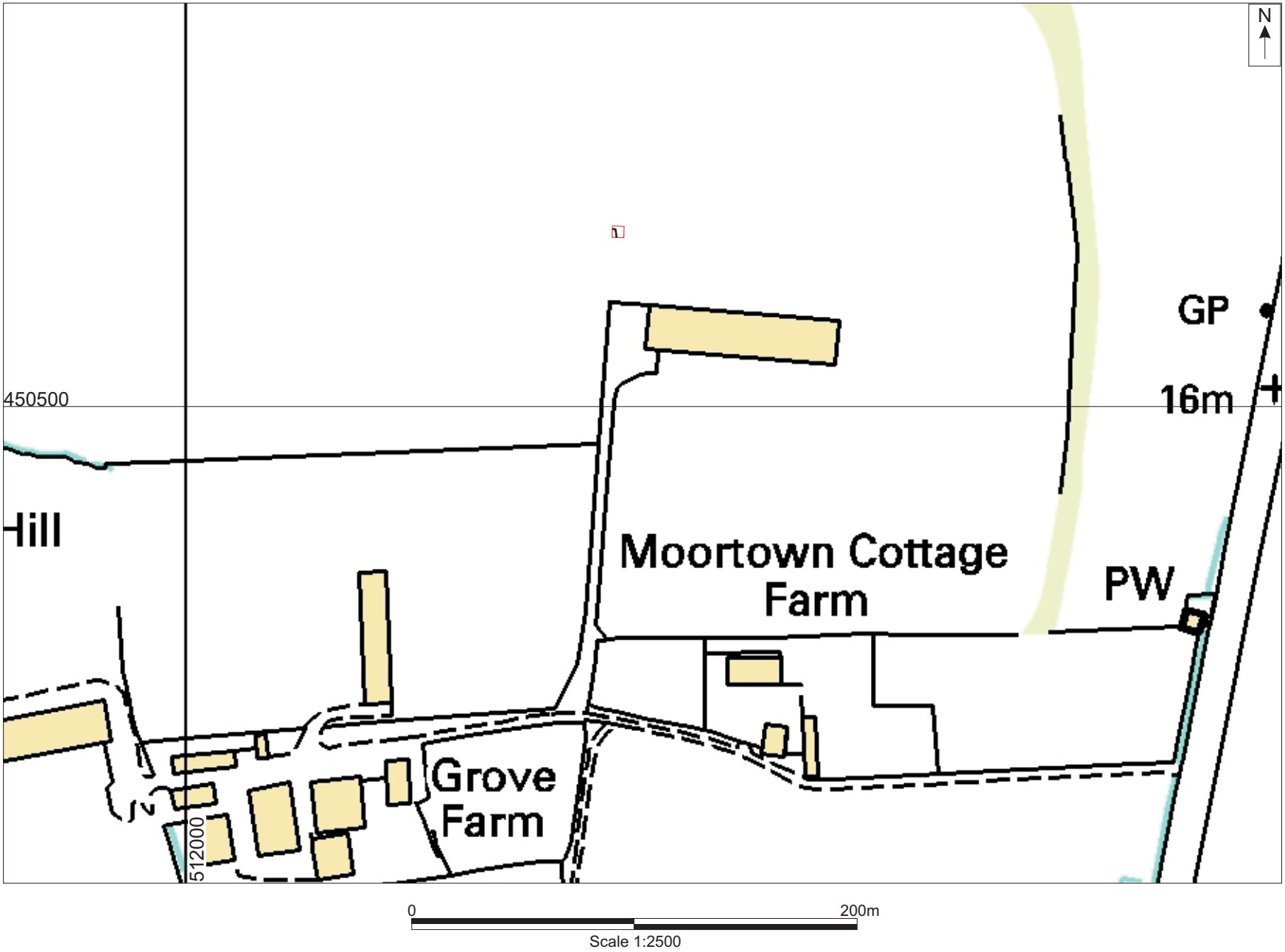


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:2500, with the strip, map and record area outlined in red. Ditch [04] shown in solid black

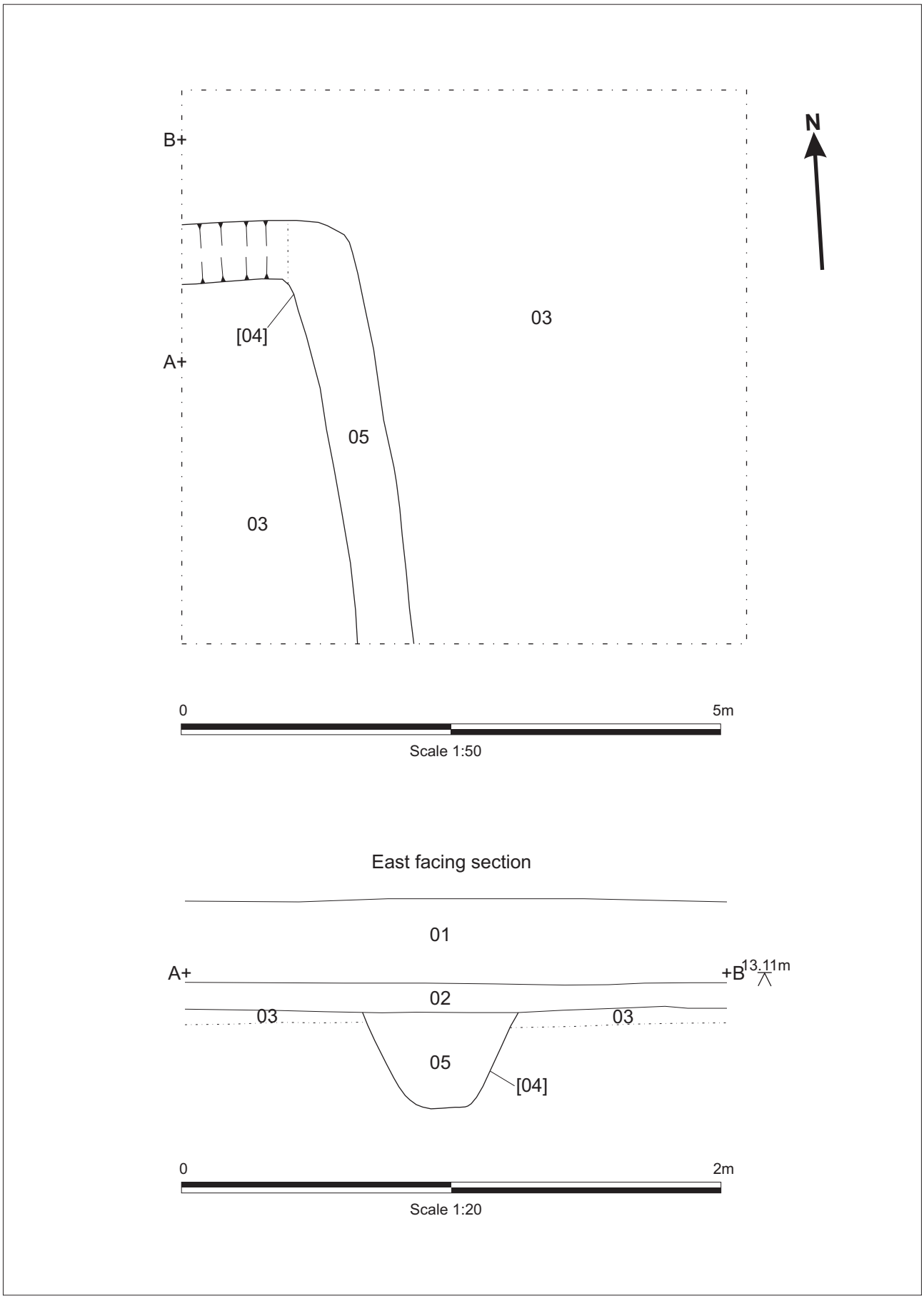


Figure 3: Plan of the turbine base at scale 1:50 and section at scale 1:20