

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

IVY COTTAGE, BOLTBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Planning Reference: NYM/2006/0891/FL
NGR: SE 49094 86629
Site Code: BOIC 10
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-73340
York Museum Accession Number: YORYM: 2010.351



Report prepared for Mr and Mrs Shilling

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2010029

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for an extension at Ivy Cottage in Boltby, North Yorkshire.
- There is significant evidence of later prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Boltby. The site is in the core of the medieval settlement of Boltby, adjacent to the 18th century parish church, which is believed to be located on the site of a medieval chapel.
- The watching brief exposed part of an earlier stone retaining wall that was built when the natural slope was terraced, and produced a small assemblage of medieval to modern pottery and ceramic building material.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Shilling to carry out an archaeological watching brief for a new extension and garage at Ivy Cottage in Boltby, North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 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 specification by the Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer (SACO) of the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) (Lee 2009).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to the York Museum within six months of the completion of the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Boltby is a hamlet situated towards the south-west limits of the North Yorkshire Moors, within the administrative district of Hambleton, approximately 17.5km south-east of the centre of Northallerton and 8.7km north-east of Thirsk. Ivy Cottage is within the core of the village, north of Main Street and directly east of the parish church of Holy Trinity. The site centres on NGR SE 49094 86629.
- 2.2 The development area is positioned towards the base of a steep slope at c.145m OD, and overlies a solid geology of Whitby Mudstone, overlaid by Glaciofluvial sheet deposits and Devensian sand and gravel and/or alluvium of clay, silt sand and gravel (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted on 17th April 2007 for '*the construction of a single storey rear extension together with detached single garage and access arrangements*' (Planning Reference NYM/2006/0891/FL). The planning permissions were granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief as it was recognised that the site may include archaeological remains (heritage assets) of significance.
- 3.2 The approach is consistent with Policy HE12 (Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets) of Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5). This planning policy supersedes PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16), which was in place when the planning condition was attached.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The Hambleton Hills around Boltby contain significant evidence of prehistoric activities, such as barrows and hillforts situated around and on top of the hillsides; although the evidence is slight in the immediate vicinity of Boltby itself. An excavation at High Barn Hesketh Hall c.1km to the east-south-east in 1864 revealed a Bronze Age barrow, containing one inhumation and one cremation (National Monuments Record (hereafter NMR) Reference 635535), and in the 1930s a Bronze Age pygmy cup was found c.90m to the west of the site (NMR Reference 55516). There are also two Bronze Age barrows recorded approximately 2km east-south-east of the site within a contemporary earthwork enclosure at Boltby Scar Camp. Excavations at the site

in 1939 recorded a pair of gold sheet basket earrings of mid 3rd millennium BC date. Peterborough Ware sherds found nearby however suggest activity in this region extending back into the Neolithic period (Manby et. al. 1998).

- 4.2 The mid 2nd millennium BC sees a shift from barrow construction to the development of large linear monuments in this region. The Cleave Dyke system comprises a north – south linear bank and ditch earthwork running parallel to the escarpment and crossed by a series of east – west dykes. The earliest phase of the monument appears to have been a pit alignment, elements of which survive at Boltby Moor, c. 1.5km north of the village, and at High Paradise Farm, north-east of the village. At the latter location the pit alignment curves around an earlier barrow (Manby et. al. 1998). A section was excavated across one of the dykes at Sneck Plantation, c.1km to the east-north-east, dating the boundary feature to the Bronze Age and Iron Age (NMR Reference 655746).
- 4.3 There is no physical evidence of Roman or Anglo-Saxon period activity in the vicinity, although the place name Boltby is Old Norse in origin meaning ‘Bolti’s farmstead/settlement’ (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~aezins/kepn.php>). The nearby place names of Hesketh Grange and Hesketh Dike are also of Norse origin, Hesketh meaning ‘horse’ and ‘course or track’, pertaining to a possible Viking period racecourse. Furthermore, Hesketh Dike crosses a prehistoric ridgeway which has documented use for horse racing dating back at least to the 17th century (NMR Reference 57176).
- 4.4 Boltby is also mentioned in the Domesday Book, as *Boltebi*, received by Hugh fitzBaldric from Sumarfugl after the Conquest. It mentions a manor of “*1 league long and 1 broad*” (Williams and Martin 1992). Approximately 175m north-west of the site is an area of medieval earthworks, which were surveyed by English Heritage and Geoquest Associates in 2002. The site comprises an oval enclosure of approximately two hectares surrounding a square moated enclosure and fishpond, all overlying earlier ridge and furrow. This may represent a manorial manor associated with the de Boltby family, first documented in 1131, and pottery scatters recovered from the site suggest use during the 13th to 16th centuries (NMR Reference 1451071).
- 4.5 Post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded to the south, south-west and west of the village (North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record References MNY5753, MNY5759, MNY5758 and MNY5757).
- 4.6 The western wall of the existing property lies on the eastern boundary of the churchyard of the 18th century Holy Trinity church, which may be on the site of an earlier medieval chapel (Lee 2009).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the new extension was undertaken on Tuesday 23rd February 2010 by the author. Following completion of these works, in consultation with SACO it was not deemed necessary that the footings of the proposed garage were to be monitored as the area had already been extensively disturbed by the excavation of services and a soakaway.
- 5.2 The extension area was stripped down to the natural geology in spits of 0.10m with a tracked 360° mini excavator with a 1.20m wide toothless bucket, and was monitored at all times by the author.
- 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. A

photographic record was maintained in both colour slide and monochrome formats, with selected digital shots included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).

- 5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique two digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figures 2 and 3)

- 6.1 The uppermost layer that covered the site was firm dark brown silty clay garden soil 01, that contained a small mixed assemblage of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery, and frequent fragments of modern tile. Layer 01 was c.0.40m thick and sealed compact mid orange brown clay with moderate sandstone inclusions, 02 towards the north side of the stripped area. This layer was c.0.30m thick and was interpreted as a layer of colluvium (hillwash) that was devoid of finds. Layer 02 sealed the natural geology, a compact light reddish brown clay, 03.
- 6.2 Towards the south side of the site, layer 01 sealed the remnants of an earlier stone retaining wall 05, parallel and adjacent to the existing retaining wall. Four courses of the wall were evident, consisting of dressed, unbonded sandstone blocks (c.500 x 180 x 300mm) overlying a foundation course of rubble and large rounded cobbles 06, which produced a single intrusive sherd of 13th to 15th century medieval local pottery. To the east this wall was masked by a compact mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and stone rubble, 07. This deposit contained a single fragment of peg tile of 13th to 18th century date.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The watching brief exposed few deposits of archaeological interest, other than an earlier retaining wall for the existing cottage. It appears the cottage was constructed by digging a terrace into the hillside, and shoring it up with stone retaining wall 05, and its foundation 06. Wall 05 has since been replaced by the existing retaining wall. Layer 07 is likely to reflect a build up of material across the slope in the medieval and post-medieval period that was then truncated to form the terrace and walling.
- 7.2 The remaining deposits exposed comprised the modern topsoil, overlying a natural colluvium and the underlying natural geology.
- 7.3 A small assemblage of pottery and tile was recovered from the site, dating to the 13th to 20th centuries. The majority of the material was 19th to 20th century roof tile likely to be derived from the existing cottage.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It suggests that the groundworks have not disturbed any archaeological deposits of significance.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr and Mrs Shilling for this commission and their hospitality and co-operation during the groundworks.

10.0 References

IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

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

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 York Museum within six months of the completion of the project, where it will be accessible through the global accession number YORYM: 2010.351.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Overall shot of site during groundworks, looking south-west



Plate 2: South facing representative section showing layers 01, 02 and 03, looking north. Vertical scale is 1m



Plate 3: North facing section showing retaining wall 05. Vertical scale is 1m

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery Archive

By Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
001	MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	light firing OX/R/OX; med sandy	jug	1	13	spalled scale dec ?	BS	prob HM;fabric includes abun very fine quartz with sparse larger rounded quartz up to 2mm mod fe mod white clay frags up to 6mm; micaceous twinkle to fabric; ext sl pocked glaze is unmatured & is a light yellow-green with cu mottling	13th to 14th
001	PMLOC	Post-medieval Local fabrics	OX/R/OX; fine sandy	bowl	1	30		base	soot on underside & over break; int reduced green glaze; fabric incl abundant very fine quartz sparse fe; similar to pottery from Osmotherly	16th to 18th
001	TVW	Tees Valley ware		bowl	1	12		rim	unglazed; unusual triangular rim;? ID as possibly a more local copy	ate 13th to 15th
001	WHITE	Modern whiteware		hollow	1	4	blue sponged dec	BS		19th to early 20th
006	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	oxid med sandy	bowl	1	11		BS	olive-brown pocked int glaze; fabric incl common fine-med subround to round quartz (0.2-0.5mm) mod fe; fabric similar but a bit too coarse for Brandsby	13th to 15th

Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material Archive

By Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
001	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine red calcareous fabric	1	277		19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	fine red sandy	10	138	incl 9 flakes; occ fine aggregated sst	19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	light dull red calcareous fabric	1	126		19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	light dull red calcareous fabric	1	101		19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	light dull red calcareous fabric	1	79		19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	light dull red calcareous fabric	1	57		19th to 20th
001	PANT	Pantile	light dull red calcareous fabric	1	9		19th to 20th
007	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	orange med sandy	1	143	flat roofer;corner; 20mm thick; fairly sandy upper & underside; fabric incl abundant fine quartz below 0.2mm mod subround to round quartz 0.3-0.6mm mod fe sparse ca; micaceous twinkle to fabric; bedding incl comm fe	13th to 18th

Appendix 4: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Firm dark brown silty clay with frequent root intrusions, moderate occurrence of pot, building debris and modern glass. Seals 01 and 07	Modern topsoil
02	Layer	Firm compact mid orange brown clay with moderate sandstone. Sealed by 01 and seals 03	Colluvium (hillwash)
03	Layer	Firm compact mid reddish brown clay, sealed by 02	Natural geology
04	Void		
05	Structure	East-west aligned, unbonded, cut sandstone overlaying uncut rounded large stones. Seals 06	Sandstone retaining wall
06	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown, slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by 05	Foundation for wall 05
07	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded stone rubble. Sealed by 01	Soil build up behind wall 05

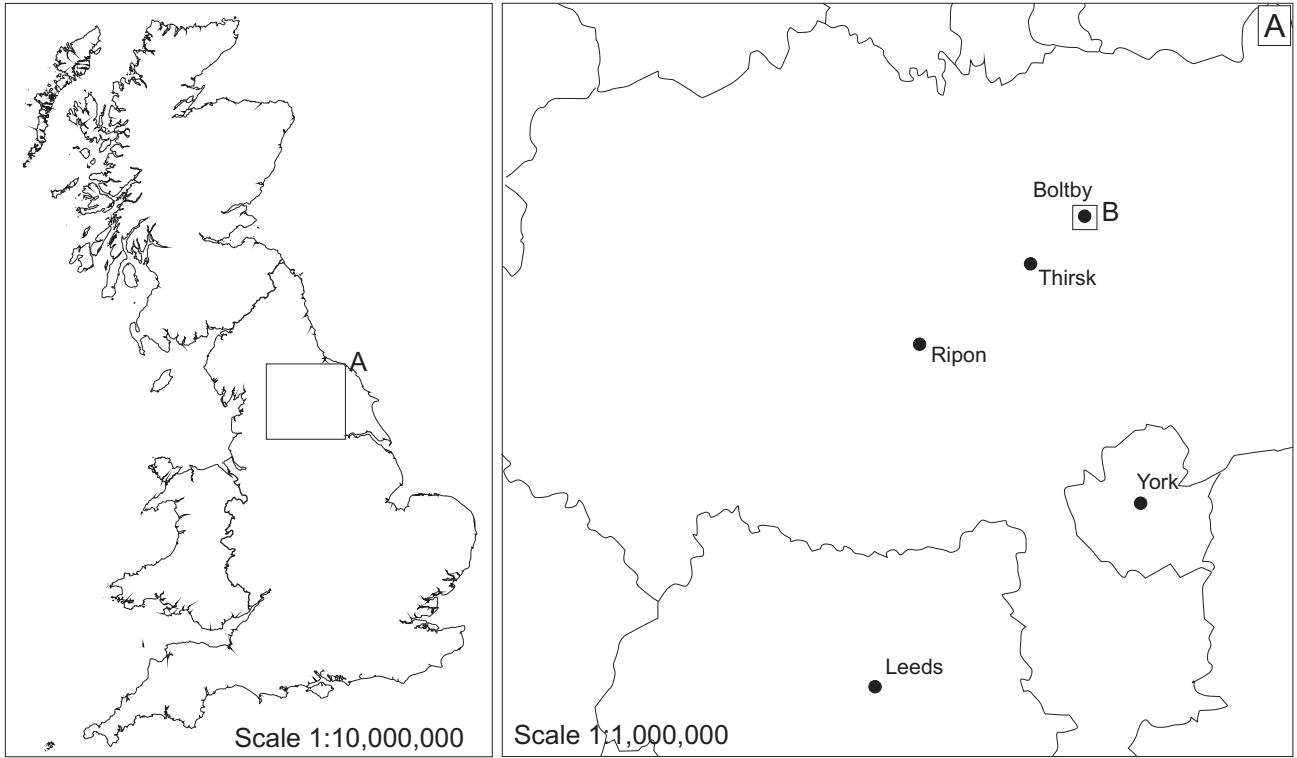


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site shown in red
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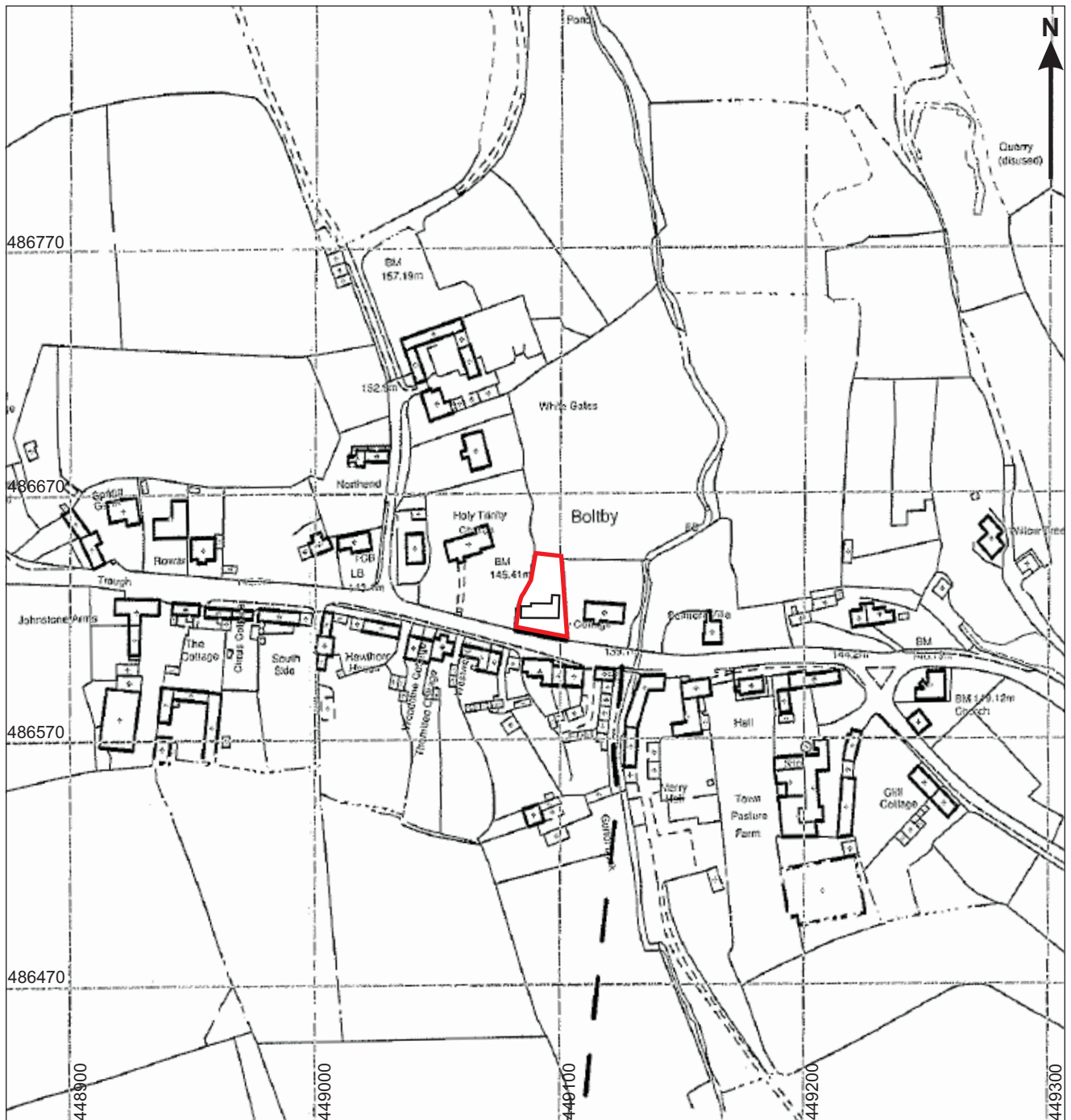


Figure 2: Site location plan at scale 1:2500 with the development area in red

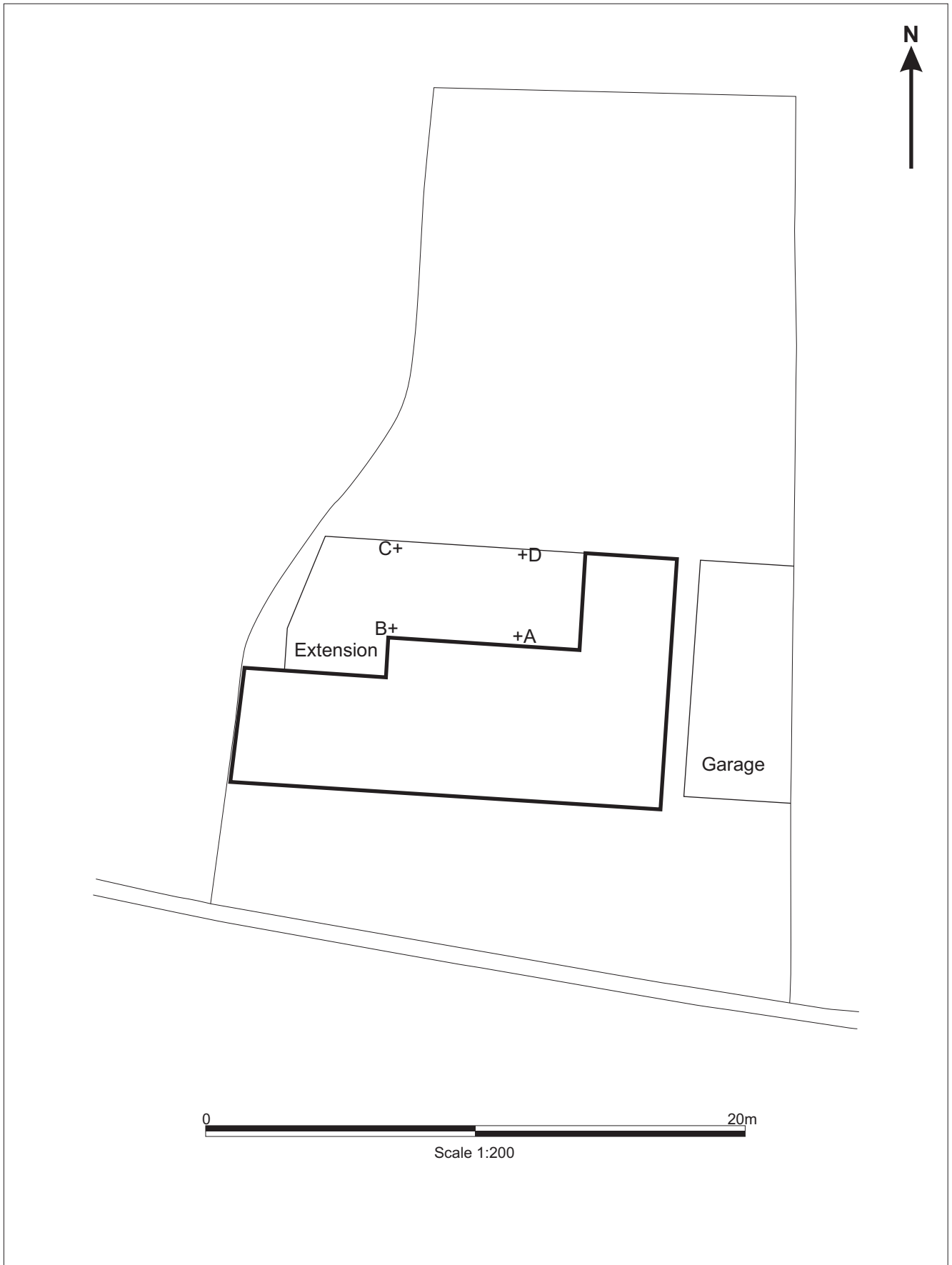
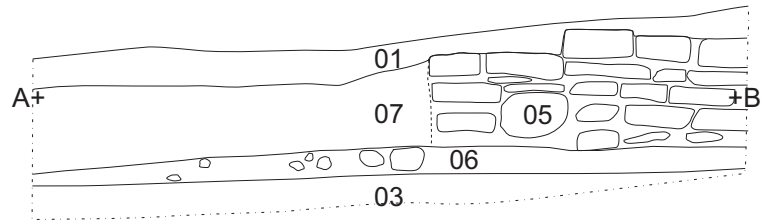


Figure 3: Site plan at scale 1:200. Sections shown on Figure 4

North facing section



South facing section

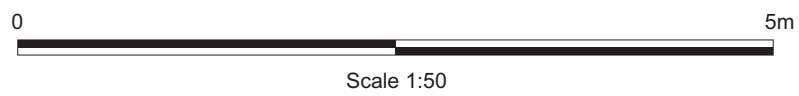
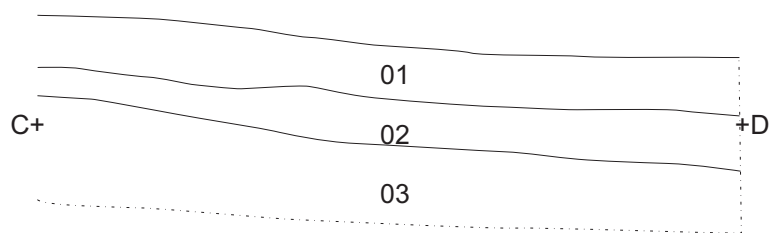


Figure 4: Sections at scale 1:50. Located on Figure 3