

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING AT 21 AUDIT HALL ROAD,
EMPINGHAM, RUTLAND**

Planning Reference: FUL/2010/0190 & APP/A2470/A/10/2129494

NGR: SK: 9497 0838

AAL Site Code: EMAH 10

Museum Accession Number: OAKRM:2010-32

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Report prepared for Charleswood Homes Limited

By
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Summary

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Charleswood Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at 21 Audit Hall Road, Empingham, Rutland, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

The site lies in an area of some archaeological potential, within the historic core of the medieval village

A single 10m long trench was excavated in the footprint of the proposed dwelling. A single Romano-British ditch, two medieval pits and a concentration of loose limestone were exposed.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Charleswood Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at 21 Audit Hall Road, Empingham in Rutland.
- 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 field evaluations*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), English Heritage documents '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006) and '*Management of Archaeological Projects*' (English Heritage 1991), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2010).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to a suitable local archive repository within six months of the completion of the report where it will be stored under the accession code OAKRM:2010-32.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is located at the south-west edge of the centre of the village, on the south side of Audit Hall Road and c.60m to the west of its junction with Church Street. The development area currently contains a bungalow (to be demolished) and terraced gardens to the rear of the property. The site centres on NGR SK 9497 0838.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises Ooidal Ironstone with Whitby Mudstone to the south of the site (British Geological Survey 1978).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for a new dwelling was granted on appeal on 12th October 2010 (Planning Application References FUL/2010/0190 and APP/A2470/A/10/212494). The appeal was granted, with conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works. The first stage of these works comprises an evaluation by trial trenching within the footprint of the new dwelling.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The development area lies within the historic core of the settlement of Empingham. The village is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086, with two major landowners noted, William Peverel and Gilbert of Ghent, indicating it is of at least late Saxon origin (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.2 Information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (LRHER) also shows that the development area lies adjacent to the Grade II listed 18th century former rectory (LRHER Reference DLE5786). The Grade I listed Church of St Peter is approximately 120m to the north-east (Listed Building Reference 186927), and a scheduled moated manorial complex has been identified c.130m to the south-west.
- 4.3 The LRHER also noted an undated burial was discovered to the rear of the site (LRHER Reference MLE5206), and a medieval stone cross base and shaft nearby (LRHER Reference MLE5166).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of two experienced field archaeologists on Wednesday 10th November 2010. The evaluation entailed the excavation of a single trench measuring 10m x 1.6m to the rear of an existing dwelling, but within the footprint of the proposed new house in a position agreed with the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (Figure 2).
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked mini-excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket. Under close archaeological supervision the soil was removed in spits not exceeding 0.1m in depth until either the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon was exposed. All further excavation was subsequently carried out by hand.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. 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. Numbers in square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch [107]). All plans and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale, with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing.
- 5.4 A photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork; a selection of these images is included in Appendix 1.

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit throughout the trench was a very dark greyish brown sandy silty garden soil 101, approximately 0.40m thick. This layer contained seven fragments of pottery, a nail, a piece of clay pipe stem and some clay daub, ranging in date from the late 18th to 20th century. At the west end of the trench, garden soil 101 sealed a yellowish brown silty sand layer 102, up to 0.1m thick.
- 6.2 In the eastern part of the trench a spread of squared, unbonded limestone blocks 104 was uncovered beneath the modern garden soil 101, evident along the south facing section of the trench. In the western part of the trench below 101 and 102 was a dark yellowish brown silty clay layer, 103, containing frequent limestone rubble, and several fragments of pottery and ceramic building material of 13th to 16th century date. A piece of sheep/goat leg bone was also recovered.
- 6.3 At the west end of the trench was a pit [109], directly sealed by layer 103. The pit had an almost vertical southern side, with a concave northern side and a flat base. It contained a single fill of dark yellowish brown silty clay, 110, producing one piece of mid 11th to mid 12th century Stamford Ware pottery and two fragments of leg bone from a large mammal.
- 6.4 Throughout the remainder of the trench, below 103 and 104, was a c.0.05 – 0.10m thick brown silty clay layer, 105, with frequent granular limestone, possibly reflecting a former ground surface.
- 6.5 Layer 105 sealed two features; ditch [107] and pit [111], both cut through the natural geology of dark yellowish brown gravel, 108. Ditch [107] ran on a broadly north – south alignment towards west end of the trench. It had a steep sided V-shaped profile and contained a single fill of dark yellowish brown silty sand 106, which produced seven fragments of Nene Valley pottery and a

rim fragment from a large greyware jar, all of 2nd to 3rd century AD date. The ditch also contained a small assemblage of animal bone; six fragments from unidentified medium to large size mammals, along with a sheep/goat tooth and a cow tooth.

- 6.6 Pit [111], situated in the eastern portion of the trench, was sub-circular in plan, with irregular concave sides and a rounded base, with a near vertical step in its northern edge. Its fill was a brown sandy clay, 112, that produced three fragments of Stamford Ware pottery of mid to late 11th century date and three fragments of animal bone from medium and large mammals of undetermined species.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 Several archaeological features and deposits were identified within the trench. The earliest feature identified was north – south running Romano-British ditch [107], which produced eight un-abraded sherds of 2nd to 3rd century AD pottery.
- 7.2 Two pits, [109] and [112] were also exposed, producing 11th to 12th century Stamford Ware, which are likely to reflect the remnants of features associated with the early development of the medieval village, although the precise function of the features remains unclear. They were sealed by buried soil layer 105, which may suggest a period when the site was disused or turned to agriculture, allowing a soil horizon to form over the earlier features.
- 7.3 This layer was in turn sealed by demolition layers 103 and 104. Dating evidence from these deposits was of medieval date, indicating some form of activity of this period in the wider landscape.
- 7.4 Overlying layers 103 and 104, garden soil 101 produced a small assemblage of datable artefacts all of 18th century and later date.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 This scheme of archaeological investigation has enabled an appropriate sample of the proposed development area to be investigated. The results of this evaluation have identified archaeological finds, features and deposits of Romano-British to modern date, occurring at approximately 0.35m below the existing ground surface.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Charleswood Homes Limited for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site at the commencement of the works, looking west-north-west



Plate 2: Pit [109], west end of trench. Looking west



Plate 3: Medieval deposits 103 and 104 in section. Looking north

Appendix 2: Romano-British Pottery Assessment

By Ian Rowlandson

Introduction

The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit- CLAU (see Darling and Precious *forthcoming*) and the fabric and form series developed for Leicestershire (Pollard 1999; Clark 1999). Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Orton (1975, 31). The archive record (Appendix 3) is an integral part of this report and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format. The report was produced on the basis of site information provided by AAL.

Condition

The ceramics presented for assessment totalled 8 manually retrieved Roman sherds, weighing 77g total RE 0.09, from a single context from a scheme of archaeological evaluation. The Roman sherds are relatively fresh with an average sherd weight of 9.63g/sherd.

The pottery presented for study is a small group of Roman pottery from context 106, fill of ditch 107, which probably dates to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD. The only diagnostic form is the rim from a large jar in the GW5 fabric.

Dating

The detailed archive is presented as Appendix 3. Table 1 provides a quantified spot dating summary by context.

Table 1- Dating Summary

Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
106	L2-M3	A small group including colour coats, Nene Valley grey ware types and a the rim of a large grey ware jar	8	77	9

Overview of Fabrics

Table 2- Fabric summary

Fabric	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %
C2NV	Fine	Nene Valley colour coat- white fabric	4	50.00%	15	19.48%	0
GW4NV	Reduced	Nene Valley Greyware	3	37.50%	30	38.96%	0
GW5	Reduced	Greyware	1	12.50%	32	41.56%	9

Discussion

A number of Roman sites in the area have been published by Cooper (2000). The group is small and suggests the potential for more Roman pottery to be found in the vicinity. Further speculation on the basis of such a small group would be spurious.

Recommendations

All of the pottery should be retained and deposited in the relevant museum. Further investigations on this site may produce more substantial groups which this assemblage might be integrated with for any final report. It is difficult to be sure of the nature of any Roman occupation on the site on the basis of this small assemblage.

Bibliography

Clark, R., 1999, The Roman Pottery, in Connor A. and Buckley, R.,, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs No. 5, Leicester ,95-164

Cooper, N.J., 2000, *The Archaeology of Rutland Water: Excavations at Empingham, 1967-73 & 1990*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph, No.6, Leicester

Darling, M.J., 2004, Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 11, 67-74.

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Pollard, R., 1999, Roman Pottery in Leicestershire. Leicestershire Museums Fabric Type Series: A Concordance with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection and selected other Series

Tomber, R. and Dore, J., 1998, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook*, MoLAS Monograph 2, Museum Of London

Roman Pottery archive

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Ves	Alt	D. No	Comments	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
106	GW4NV	-		3			BS	3	30	0	0
106	C2NV	-		2			BS; DARK BROWN CC	2	4	0	0
106	C2NV	-		1			BS; ORANGE CC	1	3	0	0
106	C2NV	-		1			BS; DARK BROWN CC	1	8	0	0
106	GW5	JL		1			RIM; AS RIM SHAPE AS ON LEIC FORM CODE- III M.1(3)	1	32	18	9

Appendix 3: Post–Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Assessment

By Jane Young

Introduction

In total, fourteen sherds of pottery from fourteen different vessels, seven fragments of tile and one piece of fired clay were submitted for examination. The material recovered ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to early modern periods. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. Reference has been made to the post-Roman Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire fabric codenames (Young *et al.*) with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

Condition

The ceramic material is mostly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (between 2 and 22 grams). Each pottery vessel is represented by only one sherd, although the seven fragments of glazed ridge tile come from a single tile.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of nine different, identifiable pottery types were identified, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to early modern periods and includes local and regionally imported wares. A limited range of form types is present with most sherds coming from jars or jugs. A single fragment of fired clay found in topsoil layer 101 is likely to be a piece of early modern daub.

Table 1: Ceramic codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd count

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1
BOUA	BO2	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	1150	1400	1
CIST	CW	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	1
ENGS	SW	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1
FIRED CLAY	-	Fired clay	-	-	1
GRID	-	Glazed ridge tile	1200	1400	7
MP	MP2	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	1
PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	1770	1900	1
ST	ST2	Stamford Ware	970	1200	5
TPW	EA10	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	1
WHITE	EA10	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	2

The pottery was recovered from four different contexts with the greatest number of sherds being recovered from the topsoil (layer 101). The small group of three Stamford ware sherds recovered from pit 111 are in a fairly fresh condition and suggest a mid to late 11th century date for deposition. The latest sherd recovered from possible destruction layer 103 can only be generally dated to between the late 14th and mid 16th centuries, however the glazed ridge tile found in this layer is in a fairly fresh condition and is of 13th to 14th century type.

Saxo-Norman

Five vessels are of Saxo-Norman type and date to between the mid 11th and mid 12th centuries. All of the vessels are Stamford ware products in Fabrics A, A/B and B. These vessels are mainly unglazed jars, but one sherd is from a glazed jar or pitcher. An everted rim from a jar in Stamford Fabric A could potentially date to as early as the beginning of the second quarter of the 11th century but the type continued in production until towards the end of the century and a mid to late 11th date is more probable. A second jar rim, also found in context 112 is in a slightly finer fabric (Fabric A/B) and is of the collared type. This type of rim is considered to be of post-conquest date (Kilmurry 1980) but recent excavations at Pontefract have called this into question and the type may have originated in the earlier part of the 11th century (Roberts and Cumberpatch 2009). The only glazed Stamford ware sherd is in Fabric B and probably comes from a mid/late 11th to mid 12th century jar or pitcher.

Medieval to post-medieval

Four of the vessels recovered from the site are of medieval to post-medieval type. The earliest of these is probably a jug or jar sherd in medieval Bourne-type ware. This vessel is of 13th to 14th century date. A jug in Midlands Purple ware is possibly a Ticknall product but is also similar to earlier vessels found in Nottingham. As only the lower handle join is represented it is only possible to suggest a late 14th to mid 16th century date. The Cistercian ware cup sherd was recovered residually in early modern context 101 but would have been produced between the mid 15th and 16th centuries. A Brown-glazed Earthenware jar sherd, also found in context 101, is of mid 17th to 18th century type and is possibly a fairly local product.

Seven fragments from a single medieval glazed ridge tile were recovered from demolition layer 103. The tile has the remaining stub of a crest of unknown type with small slash marks on either side of the join. The fabric of this tile is typical of Bourne or Baston products of the 13th to 14th centuries and similar tiles are known from sites in South Lincolnshire.

Early modern

Five sherds found in topsoil layer 101 are of early modern industrial type. A Pearlware cup or small bowl rim sherd could date to as early as the late 18th century but is more likely to belong to the first half of the 19th century. A Transfer printed cup and two Whiteware vessels including an egg cup, can only be generally dated to the 19th or 20th centuries, but a Stoneware jam or lard jar sherd is of late 19th to mid 20th century type.

Summary and Recommendations

The post-Roman pottery recovered from this site suggests that there had been activity in the area under investigation from the mid to late 11th century onwards. The early modern material has been discarded but the remaining assemblage should be kept for future study.

References

Kilmurry, K. 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs c AD 850-1250*, BAR Brit Ser, 84, Oxford

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Slowikowski, A. Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.

Young, J, Vince A G and Nailor V 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeology Studies **7**, Oxbow, Oxford

Post Roman Pottery Archive

Context	cname	Full name	Sub fabric	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Decoration	Part	Leicestershire code	Description
101	BERTH	Brown glazed earthen ware	fine orange Fabric	jar ?	1	1	3		BS	EA2	internal glaze;mid 17 th to 18th
101	CIST	Cistercian-type ware	cup		1	1	3		rim	CW	
101	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	cream fabric	jam/lard jar	1	1	3		BS	SW	grooved;discarded
101	PEARL	Pearlware		small bowl/cup	1	1	2	blue print	rim	EA9	discarded
101	TPW	Transfer printed ware		cup ?	1	1	2	blue print	rim	EA10	discarded
101	WHITE	Modern whiteware		jar/bowl	1	1	2	blue & brown	BS	EA10	discarded
101	WHITE	Modern whiteware		egg cup	1	1	9		BS	EA10	pedestal type
103	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	Fabric A/B	jug/jar	1	1	2		BS	BO2	flake
103	MP	Midlands Purple ware		jug	1	1	22		LHJ	MP2	possibly Ticknall product but could be an early Nottingham type.
103	ST	Stamford Ware	Fabric A	jar	1	1	5		BS	ST2	unglazed
110	ST	Stamford Ware	Fabric B	jar/pitcher	1	1	3		BS	ST2	glaze
112	ST	Stamford Ware	Fabric A	jar/bowl	1	1	3		BS	ST2	unglazed;soot;internal deposit
112	ST	Stamford Ware	Fabric A	jar	1	1	10		rim	ST2	hollow everted rim unglazed: soot
112	ST	Stamford Ware	Fabric A/B	collared jar	1	1	11		rim	ST2	unglazed;soot

Ceramic Building Material Archive

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description
101	FIRE CLAY	fired clay	light grey fine sandy	2	3	flattened surface;probably duab from against lath;probably early Modern
103	GRID	Glazed ridge tile	Bourne/Baston	7	266	light reduced glaze;crest with slashing on either side at join;thin walled at c.1.1mm;one fresh break & no joining sherds

Appendix 4: Other Finds Assessment

By Kevin Trott

Iron Object

A single complete iron nail was recovered from the topsoil (101) layer during an archaeological evaluation at 21 Audit Road Empingham in November 2010.

This single nail has a small rounded head (0.05m diameter) and a cylindrical profile shank that tapers to a central point (0.37m in length). Iron corrosion adheres to this nail and its appearance suggests it is machine made and possibly of late 19th-20th century date. The size of this nail indicates it was not used for heavy duty purposes.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Two plain stem fragments were recovered from the archaeological investigations at 21 Audit Road, Empingham.

These two stem fragments were from two individual clay tobacco pipes that were recovered from the topsoil layer 101. The average stem diameter is 0.06m and the internal bore measurement is 0.02m, these stem fragments derive from near the mouth-piece of two late 18th-19th century tobacco pipes. Both fragments have little abrasion indicating primary deposition.

References

Oswald, A. 1975. *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. British Archaeological Reports **14**, Oxford.

Appendix 5: Animal Bone Assessment

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 17 (113g) fragments of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at No 22 Audit Hall Road, Empingham, Leicestershire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from a possible Roman ditch [107] and possible medieval/post-medieval topsoil, demolition layer, Pit [109] and Pit [112] deposits.

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996). A single fragment of large mammal size rib recovered from possible Roman ditch [107] had been chopped and snapped through the mid-blade. This butchery was commonly used to portion the meat for the pot. A single fragment of bone recovered from pit [112] displayed evidence of carnivore gnawing on the shaft. No evidence of pathology or burning was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
101	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	21	Proximal shaft. Large
103	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	3	45	Shaft fragments
106	Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	7	Possible chopped and snapped mid-blade
	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	4	7	Shaft fragments
	Large Mammal Size	Skull	X	1	1	Fragment
	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	1	6	Upper M1
	Cattle	Tooth	R	1	15	Upper PM2
110	Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	1	Broken into two fragments
	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	2	Shaft Fragment
112	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	5	Shaft fragment, carnivore gnawing on the shaft
	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	1	Shaft fragment
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	2	Blade fragment

As can be seen from Table 1, both cattle and sheep/goat have been identified. The majority of the assemblage could not be identified to species beyond size category.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals/remains on site. In the event for further works the site is liable to produce further remains of a similar condition with a moderate potential to provide further information of the animal husbandry and utilisation for the site.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 6: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
101	Layer	Moderately compact very dark greyish brown sandy silt with limestone slab inclusions. Seals 102 and 103	Topsoil
102	Layer	Firm yellowish brown silty sand with limestone inclusions	Subsoil
103	Layer	Compact dark yellowish brown silty clay with large and small angular limestone rubble also occasional charcoal flecks	Rubble/demolition layer
104	Layer	Squared limestone blocks, no visible signs of mortar	Limestone
105	Layer	Moderately compact brown silty clay with granular limestone inclusions. Sealed by 103, seals 106	Possible former ground surface
106	Fill	Very compact dark yellowish brown silty sand with 80% limestone inclusions	Fill of ditch [107]
107	Cut	V-Shaped cut, irregular sides orientated north south	Ditch
108	Layer	Compacted orange gravel with iron stone inclusions	Natural gravel
109	Cut	Shallow, with steep south side and concave north side	Pit
110	Fill	Compact grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and limestone fragments	Fill of pit [109]
111	Cut	Irregular Westside, concave east side and rounded base. Step in north edge	Pit
112	Fill	Compact grey brown sandy clay with limestone inclusions	Fill of pit [112]

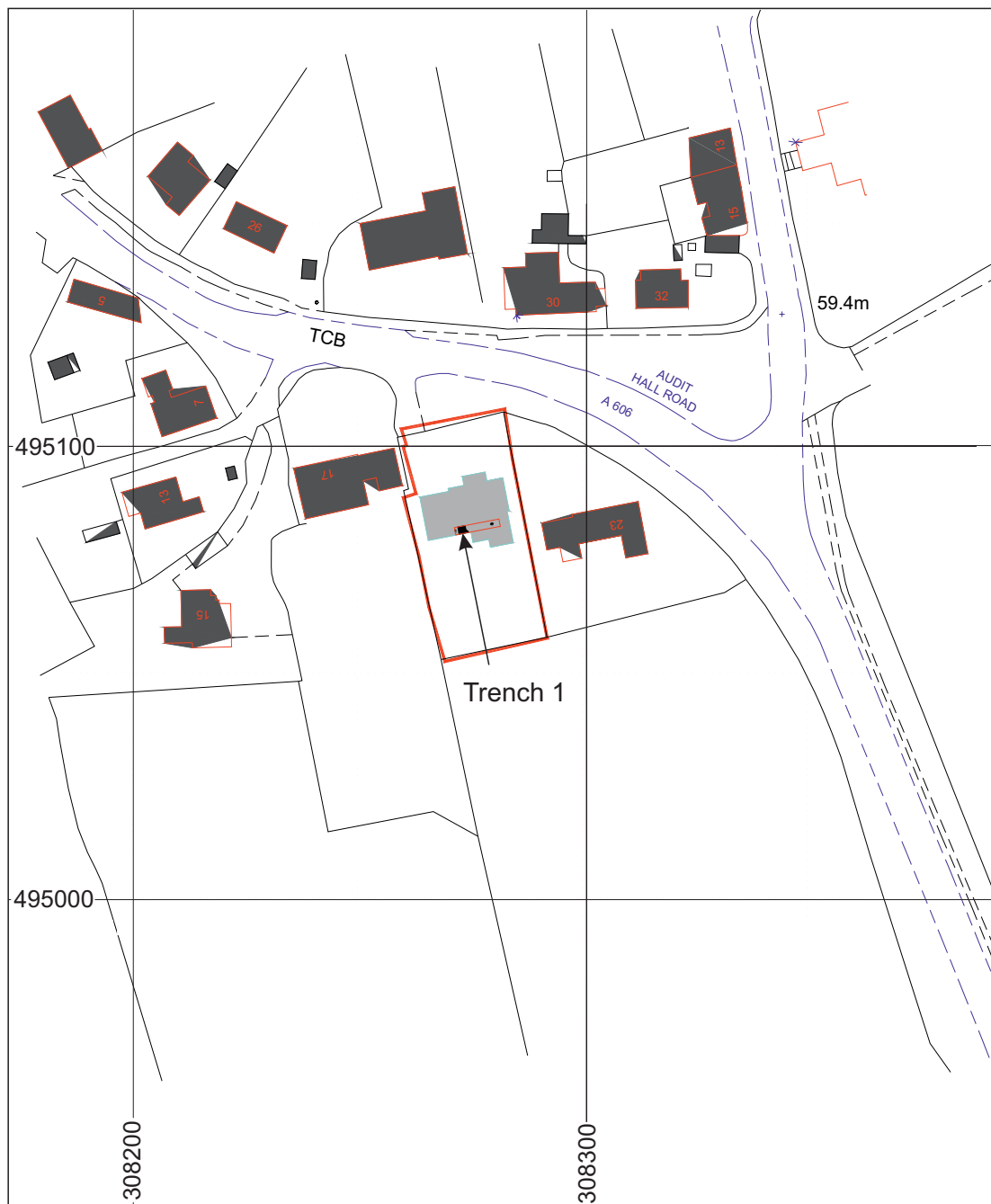


Figure 2: Trench plan in red superimposed over new dwelling at scale 1:1500. Archaeological features shown in solid black

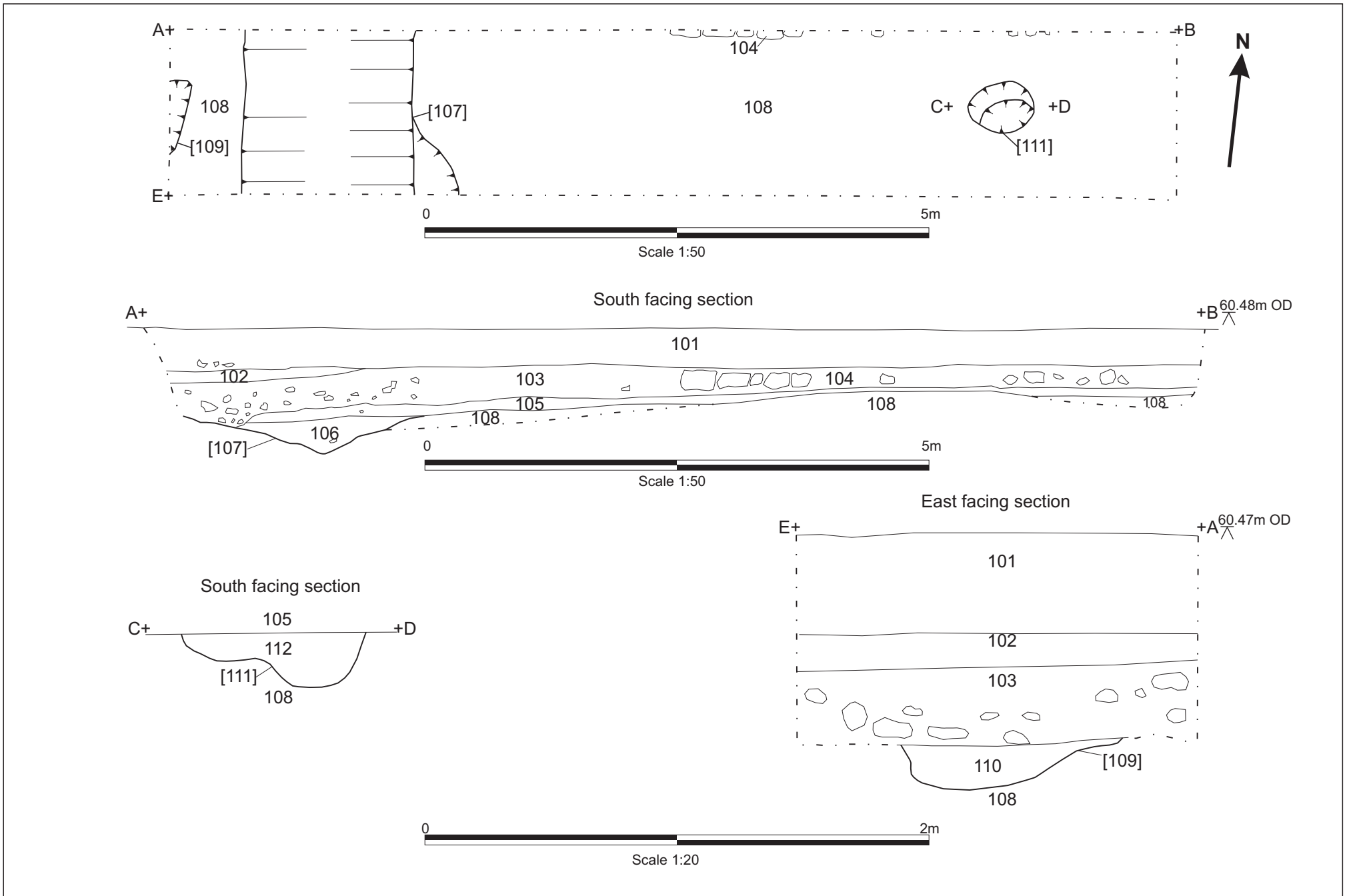


Figure 3: Trench plan at scale 1:50 and sections at scales 1:50 and 1:20