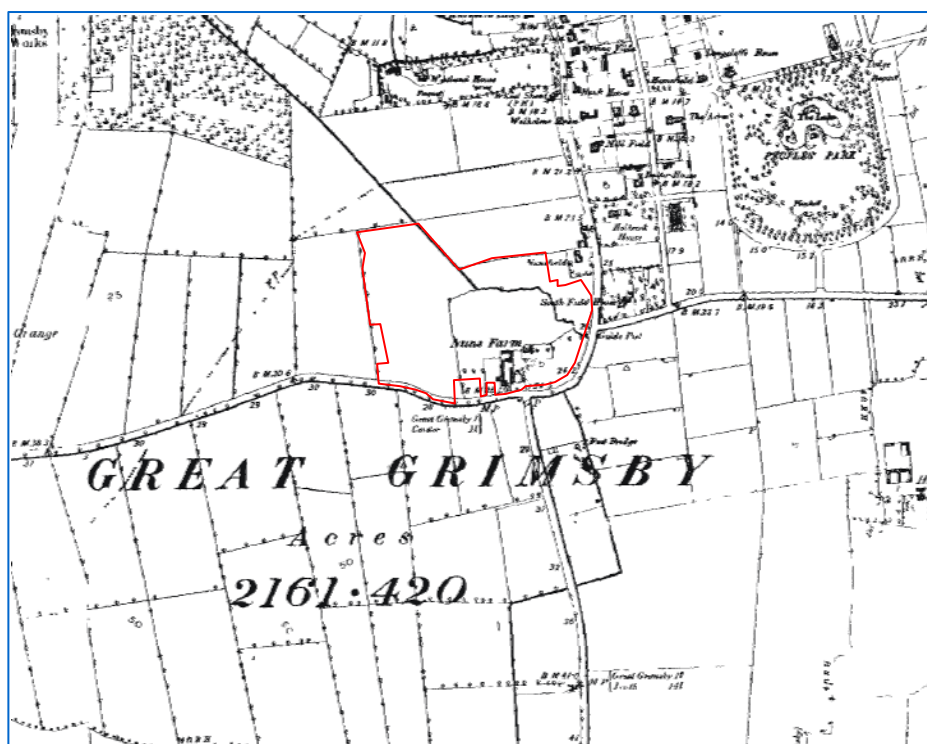


ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING AT THE GRIMSBY INSTITUTE,
NUNS CORNER, GRIMSBY,
NORTH-EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: N/A
NGR: TA 2648 0804
Site Code: GRIN 08
North-East Lincolnshire Museum Accession Number: GRIM.2008.13



Report prepared for
CDC Architecture Limited
On behalf of The Grimsby Institute

AAA Report Number 2008/033

June 2008

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Document Control

| Element | Name | Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Report prepared by: | Chris Clay and Mike Daley | 30/05/2008 |
| Illustrations prepared by: | Maria Piirainen | 28/05/2008 |
| Report edited by: | Mark Allen | 30/05/2008 |
| Report produced by: | AAA 2008/033 | 02/06/2008 |

Summary

- An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in advance of an extensive programme of redevelopment at the Grimsby Institute, Nun's Corner, Grimsby, North-East Lincolnshire.
- The site is believed to lie in the vicinity of the 12th century Augustinian priory of St. Leonard's. In the 19th century, much of the area was used for the dumping of domestic waste from Grimsby.
- Two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, exposing a series of features of possibly late Saxon and 12th to 13th century date, sealed beneath a substantial flood horizon of late medieval/post-medieval date. This clay layer was overlain by a spread of Victorian refuse.

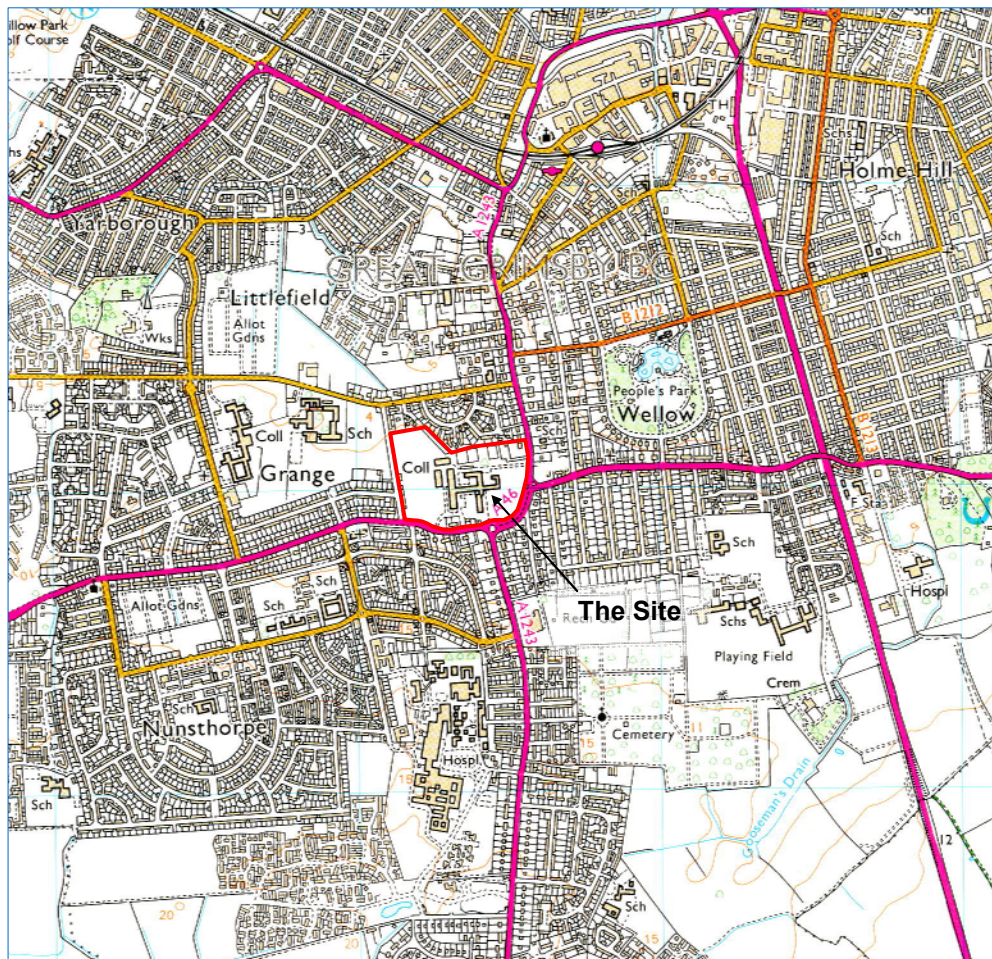


Figure 1: Location of site with the college outlined in red, at scale 1:25,000

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by CDC Architecture Ltd, on behalf of the Grimsby Institute, to carry out an archaeological evaluation by trial excavation within the grounds of The Grimsby Institute, Nuns Corner in Grimsby, North-East Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (Andrews 1991), and the Institute for Field Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations*' (IFA 2001).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North-East Lincolnshire Museums Service within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Grimsby lies on the coast of the administrative district of North-East Lincolnshire, and on the southern bank of the Humber Estuary. The site is situated to the south-west of the town centre, off Bargate and Laceby Road. The area of works is within area of landscaped grounds, to the south of the Bargate entrance to the college, and east of the college sports hall.
- 2.2 The site centres on NGR TA 2648 0804, and lies on predominantly flat ground at an OD height of approximately 7m. The local geology consists of drift deposits of Glacial Till, overlying a solid geology of Cretaceous Flamborough Chalk (British Geological Survey 1990).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 A planning application will shortly be submitted for a major redevelopment of the college grounds, involving the demolition and rebuilding of much of the existing college. As the site lies in an area of potential archaeological significance, it was requested that a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application, in order to more accurately determine the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, although numerous scatters of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements have been recovered from the wider area, predominantly located within riverine locations along the banks of the River Freshney, Buck Beck and along the coastal plain (Ellis et al 2001).
- 4.2 Evidence for funerary activity in the Bronze Age in the surrounding area is noted, with round barrow burial monuments recorded at Toothill and Bourne Lane in Grimsby, and Beacon Hill in Cleethorpes (Wise 1990).
- 4.3 A thriving economy, possibly with continental trading links, is well attested in the Iron Age with gold coin hoards including four Gallo-Belgic imported coins from Bargate, two Gallo-Belgic E imports and four British coins from Scartho, and a single Corieltauvian coin from Beacon Hill (*ibid*).
- 4.4 An Iron Age settlement excavated from 1976 until 1990 at Weelsby Avenue in Grimsby revealed evidence for a mixed farming economy that was replaced by a specialist manufacturing industry,

focussed upon the production of high status harness fittings. The significance of this site may be demonstrated by it yielding the second largest volume of Iron Age bronze casting debris in England (Sills 2001).

- 4.5 Little in the way of excavated evidence has been recorded for the Romano-British period in this area, although a broad range of artefactual evidence has been recovered, including a large pottery assemblage dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD from Peakes Lane, c. 1km to the east of the site (Whitwell 1982).
- 4.6 Grimsby is traditionally considered to have been founded during the Anglo-Scandinavian period. The account of Geoffrey Gaimar, a 12th century writer, attests to the existence of a settlement by chronicling the crossing of the Danes to Grimsby on their way to York in AD 866 (Wise 1990). The place name also suggests development in this period, as it comes from the Old Norse, meaning Grimir's farm or settlement (Cameron 1998).
- 4.7 Grimsby appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086, under the control of three major landowners; the Bishop of Bayeux, Drogo of La Beuvrière and Ralph of Mortimer (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The town also appears in the Orkneying Saga of c.1200, in the phrase '*i grims bæ mithivm*' meaning 'in the middle of Grimsby' (Pálsson and Edwards 1981).
- 4.8 The town developed in the medieval period as a major port with important trade links with Scandinavia, with a particular emphasis on the trade of fish. The gradual silting of the natural haven and competition from the emerging ports of Boston and Hull caused serious decline in the 14th and 15th centuries however (Ambler 1990).
- 4.9 The proposed development area is believed to be located within the boundaries of the medieval priory of St Leonard's. Excavations in 1962 on the college grounds revealed burials, pottery and architectural fragments likely to be associated with the priory. St. Leonard's was an Augustinian nunnery, built before 1184 (probably by Henry II), and occupied until its closure during the dissolution of 1539. It was a relatively small and poor establishment; in 1296 the nuns had to beg for alms to support themselves, and in 1297 certain men were excommunicated for an unjust distraint, or recovery of rent arrears, upon their property. Another licence to beg was granted in 1311, on the ground that their houses and corn had been consumed by fire. In 1394 they were excused from payment of a subsidy at the bishop's request, on account of their poverty. A further licence to beg was granted in 1459, as not only had their buildings been burnt again, but their land inundated by floodwaters (Page 1906).
- 4.10 The late medieval decline in Grimsby continued until the development of a new dock in 1800 to encourage seaborne trade, with the arrival of the railway in 1846 inspiring further growth (Ambler 1990).
- 4.11 Cartographic evidence provided by the 1890 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of Grimsby (see front cover) shows that urban expansion had not yet reached the development area. The map shows the site to be open ground, with Nun's Farm shown to the north of Bargate at its junction with Scartho Road.
- 4.12 Previous archaeological interventions in the college grounds have shown that the area was used as a landfill site for the expanding town, with substantial dumps of up to 0.7m of 19th/20th century domestic waste being recorded (Allen 2006, Clay 2006).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The trial excavation methodology entailed the excavation of two trenches in locations specified by the Archaeologist at North-East Lincolnshire Council (Figures 2 and 3). Trench 1 was 20m long by 1.6m wide and Trench 2 was 10m long by 1.6m wide.
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a 3CX JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless dykeing bucket. Modern topsoil and overburden was removed in layer not exceeding 0.1m in depth, under close archaeological supervision, until the first archaeologically significant horizon was exposed. All further excavation was then carried out by hand.
- 5.3 Archaeological features were sample excavated in order to determine their depth, profile, orientation and where possible, date and function. A full written record of all archaeological features and deposits was made on Allen Archaeological Associates context record sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:50 and 1:20). A full colour photographic record was maintained, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix 1). The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the assistance of one experienced field archaeologist over a period of three days, Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th May 2008.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 6.1.1 The uppermost deposit was a modern topsoil horizon, 100, that was between 0.3 and 0.6m deep and represented the modern landscaping of the college grounds. It sealed 101, a 0.1 to 0.2m deep layer of dark brown/grey silty clay with frequent ceramic building material, chalk fragments and 19th/20th glass bottles, pottery and other domestic detritus. This deposit represents the recent use of the area as a landfill site, identified at other localities within the college grounds (Allen 2006, Clay 2006).
- 6.1.2 Below 101 was 102, a compact grey/brown clay. The deposit was between 0.3m and 0.85m deep, and was at its deepest towards the centre of the trench, over a slight natural hollow (see Section 6.1.3 below). It was archaeologically sterile and was interpreted as an alluvial deposit.
- 6.1.3 102 sealed a buried topsoil, 103, and underlying subsoil 104, both of which slumped into a slight hollow in the underlying natural clay, 105, at the centre of the trench.
- 6.1.4 104 sealed a series of linear features and pits that were cut into the natural clay. At the north-west end of the trench, ditch [106] ran on a broadly east – west alignment, and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by an undated natural silting deposit, 107, of dark grey/brown silty clay.
- 6.1.5 To the south-east, ditch [106] cut a steep-sided linear feature, [108], which was aligned north-east to south-west. It also was undated and was filled by a silting deposit of mid brown/grey silty clay, 109. Towards the west side of the trench, the ditch was cut by a large sub-circular feature, [110], probably representing part of a large pit or pond, the remainder of which lay beyond the limit of excavation. The section exposed measured 7.5m by 0.85m and was 0.12m deep. The fill was an undated natural silting deposit of very dark grey/brown silty clay, 111.
- 6.1.6 Further to the south-east [110] cut two further intercutting linear features, [112] and [118]. The earlier of the two ditches, [118], was approximately 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep, with a moderately steep bowl-shaped profile, and it was aligned north-east to south-west. The primary fill, 120, was a dark brown/grey silty clay, representing natural silting. It was sealed by a mixed

deposit, 119, comprising grey/brown silty clay mottled with yellow/brown clay. The mixed nature of the deposit suggests that it may represent a deliberate backfilling event.

- 6.1.7 The north-west side of [118] was cut by [112], which also ran on a broadly north-east to south-west alignment. The profile of the ditch varied along its excavated length, from a steep-sided V-shape at the north-eastern baulk, to a steep-sided profile with a wider, flatter base further to the south-west. It was filled by a silting deposit of grey/brown silty clay, 113. Both ditches [112] and [118] were undated.
- 6.1.8 Towards the south-east end of the trench, a narrow steep-sided linear feature, [115] ran on an east – west alignment. The possible beam-slot was filled by a natural silting deposit, 117 which was undated. At the south-western side of the trench, it intersected a shallow irregular pit, [114], which was also undated, but contained two animal bone fragments and a fragment of fish bone. The similarity of the fills of the two features made it impossible to determine a stratigraphic relationship.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 6.2.1 The topsoil in this trench was a 0.5 to 0.75m deep dark brown silty clay, 200, representing the modern landscaping of the college grounds. It sealed 201, a dumped deposit of black and dark brown silty clay with abundant early modern glass and ceramic vessels, scrap metal and brick and tile fragments. This deposit was up to 0.45m deep, and represented the ubiquitous 19th/20th century landfill deposit.
- 6.2.2 Below 201 was 202, a 0.1 to 0.3m deep grey/brown silty clay representing a possible former subsoil. This deposit sealed the natural geology, 203, an orange/brown clay, which was cut by a number of small pits and linear features.
- 6.2.3 At the north end of the trench, one side of a ditch was exposed, running east – west and curving slightly to an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment at the east side of the trench, [204]. The feature had a moderately steep southern edge and a flat base, and contained a single fill of dark grey/brown silty clay, 205. The fill produced three pottery sherds of 12th to early 13th century date, two fragments of fired clay, five animal bone fragments, eight fish bone fragments and two pieces of oyster shell.
- 6.2.4 To the south of ditch [204], a small sub-rectangular shallow pit, [206] was excavated against the eastern limit of excavation. It survived to a depth of 0.1m and had very shallow sides and a concave base. The fill, 207, was an undated brown/grey silty clay.
- 6.2.5 Towards the south end of the trench was another small pit-like feature, [208]. It was roughly circular, with a diameter of c.0.25m. The feature had shallow sloping sides, with a sharp break of slope to a very steep pointed base, 0.14m deep. The profile of the feature suggested that it was a void for a wooden stake. It contained an undated fill of brown/grey silty clay, 209, which contained a single fragment of pig femur.
- 6.2.6 Immediately to the south of [208] was a small gully or elongated pit, [210]. It was 0.3m wide and extended 0.55m from the western edge of the trench, ending with a semi-circular terminus. It was very shallow, surviving to only 0.08m deep, and contained a natural silting deposit of grey/brown silty clay, from which a single sherd of 9th/10th century Lincoln Shelly Ware was recovered.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The scheme of archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological features within both of the excavated trenches. The earliest activity on the site is represented by a single small sherd of pottery of late Saxon date (9th/10th century). This was recovered from the small pit or ditch [210], at the south end of Trench 2. The function of the feature is unclear therefore the nature of the activity represented is unknown; although the presence of Late Saxon pottery on the site is significant, as it represents the first evidence of activity of this period in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.2 At the north end of Trench 2, ditch [204] produced three sherds of pottery indicating a 12th to early 13th century date for the feature. This potentially makes the feature contemporary with the priory of St. Leonard's, which is believed to have been established in the vicinity of the site towards the end of the 12th century (Page 1906). As a note of caution however, the date range for the pottery makes it equally possible that the ditch represents a land division or property boundary that pre-dates the foundation of the priory. It is possible, though not certain, that the same ditch is represented by [106] in Trench 1.
- 7.3 A further series of ditches were identified in Trench 1. None of the ditches produced any dating evidence, although stratigraphic relationships provided a relative sequence. Towards the north end of the trench, ditch [108] was cut by ditch [106]. It has been suggested that [106] is the same feature as [204] in Trench 2 which produced early medieval pottery, which would indicate an earlier date for [108]. However, this interpretation is far from certain.
- 7.4 South-east of [108], ditch [118] was cut by [112]. It contained an initial natural silting deposit, sealed by a probable backfill deposit. It is possible that the feature was backfilled immediately prior to the excavation of the adjacent ditch [112], representing a slight realignment of an existing boundary. Based on a shared alignment, it is also plausible that either [112] or [118] are broadly contemporary with [108].
- 7.5 Ditches [108], [112] and [118] were all cut by a large sub-circular feature, [110]. The function and date of the feature were unclear, although it may represent a large pond, the majority of which extends beyond the limit of excavation to the south-west.
- 7.6 Possible structural elements were identified during the evaluation, comprising possible beam slot [115] in Trench 1, and posthole [208] in Trench 2. Without associated features or dating evidence however, these features offer little interpretative potential.
- 7.7 The general lack of dating evidence and other artefacts from the site suggests that the features were located away from the centre of any contemporary settlement activity, in areas not habitually used for the disposal of domestic or industrial waste. Instead, they may be associated with agricultural processes.
- 7.8 All the features were sealed by a considerable depth of overburden, particularly in Trench 1. Immediately overlying the features, a subsoil and topsoil had formed after the silting up and abandonment of these features. This in turn lay beneath a thick layer of sterile clay, interpreted as an alluvial horizon. Documentary evidence suggests flooding of the area in 1459, when the nuns of St. Leonard's were given license to beg on account of flooding of their estates, and it is possible that this flood event is represented by the clay layer (Page 1906).
- 7.9 This scenario fits well with the wider historical context of the area. Grimsby was suffering a serious decline in the 14th and 15th centuries, partially due to the gradual silting of The Haven which restricted sea access to the town (Ambler 1990). A further consequence of the silting of The Haven was that it would have impeded the outflow of local rivers into the sea, therefore encouraging overbank flooding onto the surrounding land. The depth of the alluvial deposit on the

site (up to 0.85m) indicates that it formed over a long period of time and that at some stage after the 12th to 13th century the area was inundated and remained submerged or frequently flooded marshland, usable for little more than seasonal grazing. This situation may have persisted until the diversion of the River Freshney through Grimsby to The Haven at the beginning of the 18th century to improve the flow and provide fresh water (Ambler 1990).

- 7.10 The presence of this medieval and later flood horizon would suggest that the underlying features recorded in the two trenches all predate this period of flooding, and are likely to be of a broadly similar date to the features dated by ceramic evidence to the late Saxon and early medieval periods, although the lack of dating evidence from the majority of the features makes closer dating impossible.
- 7.11 In the 19th century, the site was used as a dumping ground for waste from Grimsby, and evidence of this was recorded overlying the flood horizon in both trenches. This deposit was significantly deeper in Trench 2, and had a greater density of domestic waste, comprising glass bottles, pottery, brick and tile, wood, leather shoe fragments, and metal objects such as pots, pans and kettles, all of 19th and 20th century date. Archaeological watching briefs within the college grounds to the north of the current programme of fieldwork have shown that this deposit extends over much of the area, and is up to 0.7m deep in places (Allen 2006, Clay 2006). It is quite probable that this depth of material has allowed for the preservation of earlier features and deposits within the college grounds, which relate to the documented medieval priory and possibly earlier activity.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.0 This scheme of archaeological investigation has identified a complex of features and deposits of late Saxon and later date within the proposed development area, although the most significant finds and features are buried at some depth below the existing ground surface. The evaluation has provided sufficient evidence to inform the planning process and allow for appropriate mitigation strategies to be established, if required.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank CDC Architecture and their client, The Grimsby Institute for this commission. Thanks also go to the staff and students of Grimsby Institute for their co-operation during the fieldwork.

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11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to North-East Lincolnshire Museums Service within six months, and can be accessed using the Global Accession Number GRIM 2008.13.

Appendix 1: Colour plates



Plate 1: The development area, looking north-west.



Plate 2: Trench 1, pre-excavation, looking north-west.



Plate 3: Ditches [106] and [108], north-west end of Trench 1, looking north-east.



Plate 4: Ditches [112] and [118], Trench 1, looking north-east.



Plate 5: Trench 2 pre-excitation, looking north.



Plate 6: Ditch [204], north end of Trench 2, looking east.

Appendix 2: Post-Roman pottery and fired clay assessment

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* 2001 and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* 2005. Four sherds from four vessels, weighing 20 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the Early Medieval period.

Condition

The sherds are small but in fairly fresh condition; the average sherd weight is five grams. Three of the sherds have signs of soot suggesting they were used over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Full name | Fabric | Form | NoS | NoV | W (g) | Part | Description |
|-----|-------|---|---------------------|----------|-----|-----|-------|------|--|
| 205 | ELQC | East Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk | 1 | Jar? | 1 | 1 | 3 | BS | |
| 205 | ELQC | East Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk | 1 | Jar? | 1 | 1 | 4 | BS | Soot |
| 205 | WEMS | Wheel thrown Early Medieval Shell-tempered ware | Reduced; Fine Shell | Jar/bowl | 1 | 1 | 3 | Base | Soot |
| 211 | LSH | Lincoln Shelly ware | | Bowl | 1 | 1 | 10 | Base | Soot; white internal deposit; leached; fe slip |

Provenance

Three vessels are associated with the fill of Ditch [204] are probably residual as they are all represented by single sherds. A single leached Late Saxon sherd came from Linear [211].

Range

East Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk (ELQC) and Wheel thrown Early Medieval Shell-tempered wares (WEMS) are known from other excavations in this area. The Late Saxon sherd comes from a Lincoln Shelly ware bowl.

Potential

The pottery poses no problems for long term storage and should be retained. The assemblage does not require further work, although the pottery should be reassessed in light of further work at the site.

Summary

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from two contexts. The pottery suggests activity in the vicinity of the site during the Late Saxon and Early Medieval periods, although the assemblage is too small to draw any further conclusions.

FIRED CLAY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in table 2.

Condition

The fragments are small and abraded.

Results

Table 2, Fired Clay Archive

| Cxt | Fabric | NoF | W (g) | Description |
|-----|----------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 205 | Oxidised; fine sandy | 1 | 5 | Possible flat surface; CBM? |
| 205 | Reduced; fine sandy | 1 | 6 | Organic impressions; possible mould |

Provenance

Both fragments came from (205), fill of Ditch [204].

Potential

The assemblage should be retained; no further work is required.

Summary

Two small fragments of fired clay were recovered from the site. The poor condition of the material prevents interpretation of the assemblage.

SPOT DATING

The dating in table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

| Cxt | Date | Comments |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| 205 | 12 th to early 13 th | |
| 211 | Late 9 th to 10 th | Date on a single sherd |

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| BS | Body sherd |
| CBM | Ceramic Building Material |
| CXT | Context |
| NoF | Number of Fragments |
| NoS | Number of sherds |
| NoV | Number of vessels |
| W (g) | Weight (grams) |

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Appendix 3: Animal bone assessment

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 19 (120g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates at Grimsby Institute, Lincolnshire. A further two (46g) fragments of oyster shell were also recovered. The remains were recovered from a possible pit [114], a ditch [204] and stakehole [208].

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate to poor overall condition, averaging grades 3 and 4 on the Lyman criteria (1996). A single fragment of Sheep/Goat bone recovered from pit [114] displayed evidence of burning.

No evidence of butchery, carnivore gnawing or pathology was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

| Cut | Context | Taxon | Element | Side | Number | Weight | Comments |
|-----|---------|---------------------|-------------------|------|--------|--------|--|
| 114 | 116 | Medium Sized Mammal | Long Bone | X | 1 | 3 | Broken into three pieces |
| | | Sheep/Goat | Calcaneus | L | 1 | 2 | Proximal end, charred black |
| | | Fish | Dentary | R | 1 | 2 | Large Gadid |
| 204 | 205 | Cattle | Zygomatic | L | 1 | 17 | |
| | | Cattle | Humerus | L | 1 | 45 | Shaft fragment, broken into two pieces |
| | | Cattle | Femur | L | 1 | 17 | Distal end, unfused infant |
| | | Pig | Skull- Frontal | L | 1 | 5 | |
| | | Cattle | Skull- Premaxilla | R | 1 | 4 | |
| | | Fish | Vertebra | B | 5 | 9 | Large Gadid |
| | | Fish | Supraoccipital | B | 1 | 3 | Large Gadid |
| | | Fish | Unidentified | X | 2 | 1 | |
| | | Unidentified | Unidentified | X | 2 | 4 | |
| | | Oyster | Shell | R | 2 | 46 | |
| 208 | 209 | Pig | Femur | L | 1 | 8 | Unfused distal shaft |

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site. The skeletal element present suggests the remains mainly represent a mixture of butchery and food waste.

References

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

Appendix 4: Context summary list**Trench 1**

| Context No. | Type | Description | Interpretation |
|-------------|-------|--|---|
| 100 | Layer | Firm, dark brownish grey silt clay with moderate chalk fragments, CBM and roots. Seals (101) | Modern topsoil, associated with landscaping of college gardens |
| 101 | Layer | Firm, dark brownish grey silt clay with frequent CBM, glass and chalk fragments etc. Sealed by (100), seals (102) | Demolition/waste dump layer, same as (201) |
| 102 | Layer | Firm, greyish brown, silt clay with occasional sub-rounded chalk. Sealed by (101), seals (103) | Possible alluvial deposit, late med/post med. flooding? |
| 103 | Layer | Firm, dark brownish grey, clay silt. Sealed by (102), seals (104) | Former buried topsoil, predating flood horizon and Victorian landfill |
| 104 | Layer | Fairly firm, mid greyish brown silt clay. Sealed by (103), seals (107), (111) and (116) | Buried subsoil |
| 105 | Layer | Firm, mid brownish grey, silt clay with frequent chalk flecks and fragments. | Natural clay layer |
| 106 | Cut | E-W running ditch, steep sided, moderate break of slope to concave base. Cuts (105), contains (107) | Possibly same ditch as [204] in Trench 2 |
| 107 | Fill | Firm, dark greyish brown, silt clay with rare charcoal fragments and natural stone pebbles. Fill of [106], sealed by (104) | Probable naturally silted fill of ditch |
| 108 | Cut | NE-SW running ditch, steep sided with concave base. Cuts (105), contains (109) | Cut of ditch, possibly contemporary with ditch [112] |
| 109 | Fill | Fairly firm, mid brownish grey, silt clay with rare charcoal flecks. Fill of [108], cut by [110] | Probable naturally silted fill of ditch |
| 110 | Cut | N-S curvilinear feature. Cuts (109) and (113), contains (111) | Possible cut of ditch |
| 111 | Fill | Firm, mid greyish brown with rare flecks of charcoal and chalk. Sealed by (104), fill of [110] | Fill of curvilinear feature |
| 112 | Cut | E-W running cut of ditch, steep sided, sharp break of slope to concave base. Contains (113), cuts (119) | Cut of ditch, possibly contemporary with ditch [108] |
| 113 | Fill | Mid brownish grey, silt clay. Cut by [110], fill of [112] | Naturally silted fill of ditch |
| 114 | Cut | Irregular in plan. Gradually sloping sides and break of slope to slight concave base. | Cut of possible pit |

| | | | |
|-----|------|---|---|
| | | Contains (116), cuts (117) | |
| 115 | Cut | NW-SE cut of possible gully, moderate sloping sides and break of slope to concave base | Cut of possible gully/beam slot |
| 116 | Fill | Fairly firm, mid brownish grey silt clay with rare flecks of charcoal and sub-angular flint pebbles. Sealed by (104), fill of [114] | Fill of possible pit |
| 117 | Fill | Fairly firm, mid greyish brown, silt clay. Cut by [114], fill of [115] | Possible naturally silted fill of gully |
| 118 | Cut | NE – SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping sides, gradual break of slope to a concave base. Cuts (105), contains (119) and (120) | Cut of possible ditch |
| 119 | Fill | Firm, mid greyish brown silt clay mixed with natural re-deposit. Cut by [112], fill of ditch [118], seals (120) | Secondary fill of ditch, probable deliberate backfill |
| 120 | Fill | Firm mid brownish grey, silt clay. Sealed by (119), fill of ditch [118] | Naturally silted primary fill of ditch |

Trench 2

| Context No. | Type | Description | Interpretation |
|-------------|-------|--|--|
| 200 | Layer | Compact, dark brownish grey, slit clay with rare CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. Seals 201 | Modern topsoil, associated with landscaping of college gardens |
| 201 | Layer | Coarse, mottled dark orangey/blackish brown sandy silt with frequent glass, pottery, CBM and coke fragments, moderate chalk and bone fragments. Sealed by 200, seals 202 | Demolition/waste dump layer, same as (101) |
| 202 | Layer | Firm, mid greyish brown silt clay with rare flecks of charcoal. Sealed by 201, seals: (205), (207), (209) and (211) | Subsoil – same as 104? |
| 203 | Layer | Firm friable, mid brownish orange silt clay. | Natural silty clay layer |
| 204 | Cut | NW-SE aligned, shallow ditch. Cuts (203), contains 205 | Cut of ditch – possibly same as [106]. |
| 205 | Fill | Fairly firm, dark greyish brown clay silt with moderate bone fragments, rare flecks of charcoal and pottery. Sealed by (202) | Natural silting of [204] |
| 206 | Cut | NE-SW sub-rectangular shallow pit. | Cut of pit |

| | | | |
|-----|------|--|--|
| | | Cuts 203. Contains 207 | |
| 207 | Fill | Fairly firm, mid brownish grey, silt clay with rare charcoal flecks and chalk. Sealed by (202) | Natural silting of pit [206] |
| 208 | Cut | Circular stake-hole. Cuts 203. Contains 209 | Cut of stake-hole |
| 209 | Fill | Fairly firm, dark brownish grey silt clay with rare flecks of charcoal and bone. Sealed by (202) | Fill of stake-hole [208] |
| 210 | Cut | Shallow linear feature with eastern terminus. Cuts (203), contains (211) | Shallow linear feature or elongated pit. |
| 211 | Fill | Loose, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and pottery. Sealed by 202 | Fill of linear feature/pit [210] |

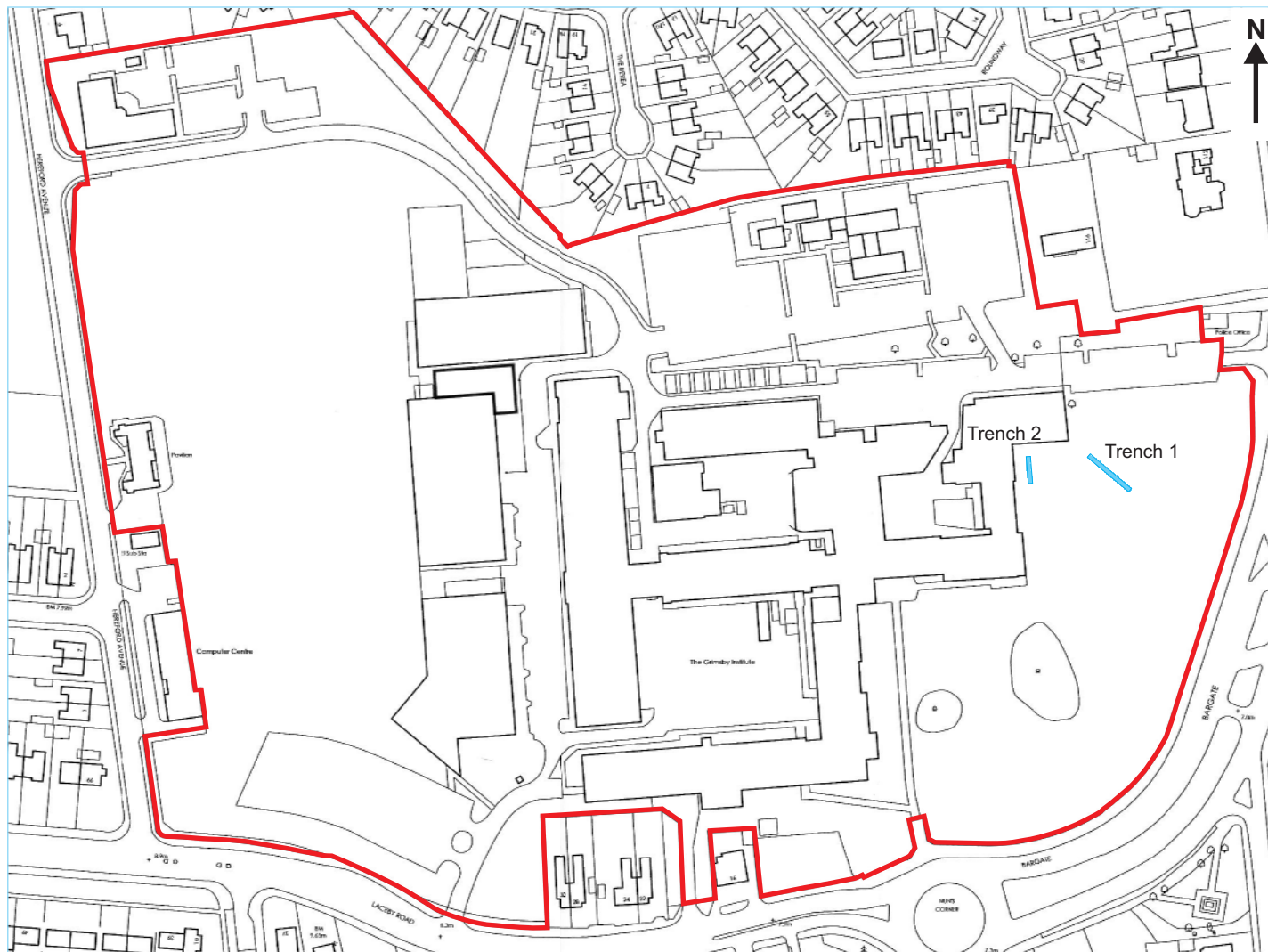


Fig. 2: Site location plan, with the college grounds outlined in red and the two trenches shown in blue (scale 1:2500)

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|--|------------------------------------|--|
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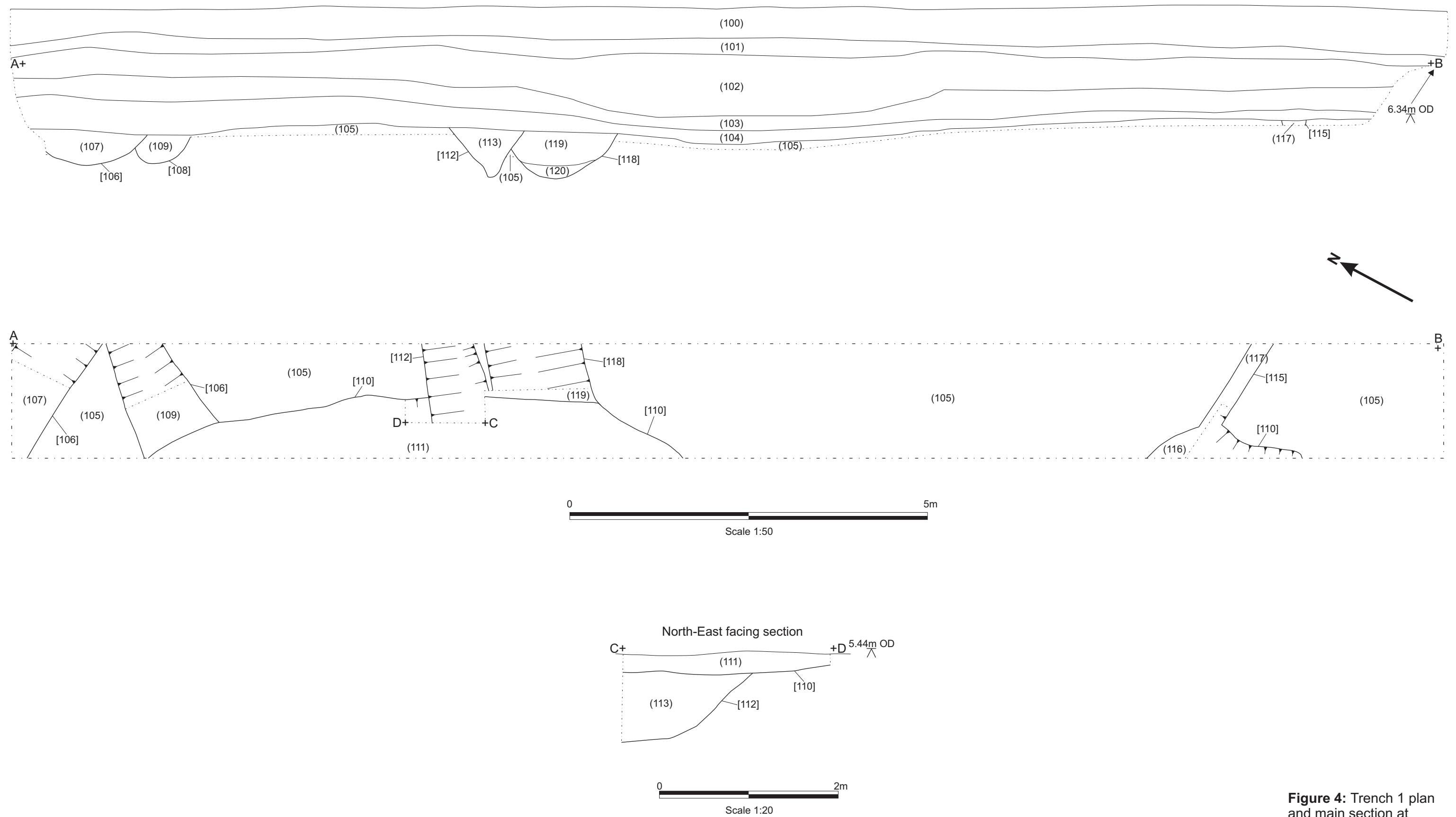


Figure 4: Trench 1 plan and main section at scale 1:50, with C-D section at scale 1:20

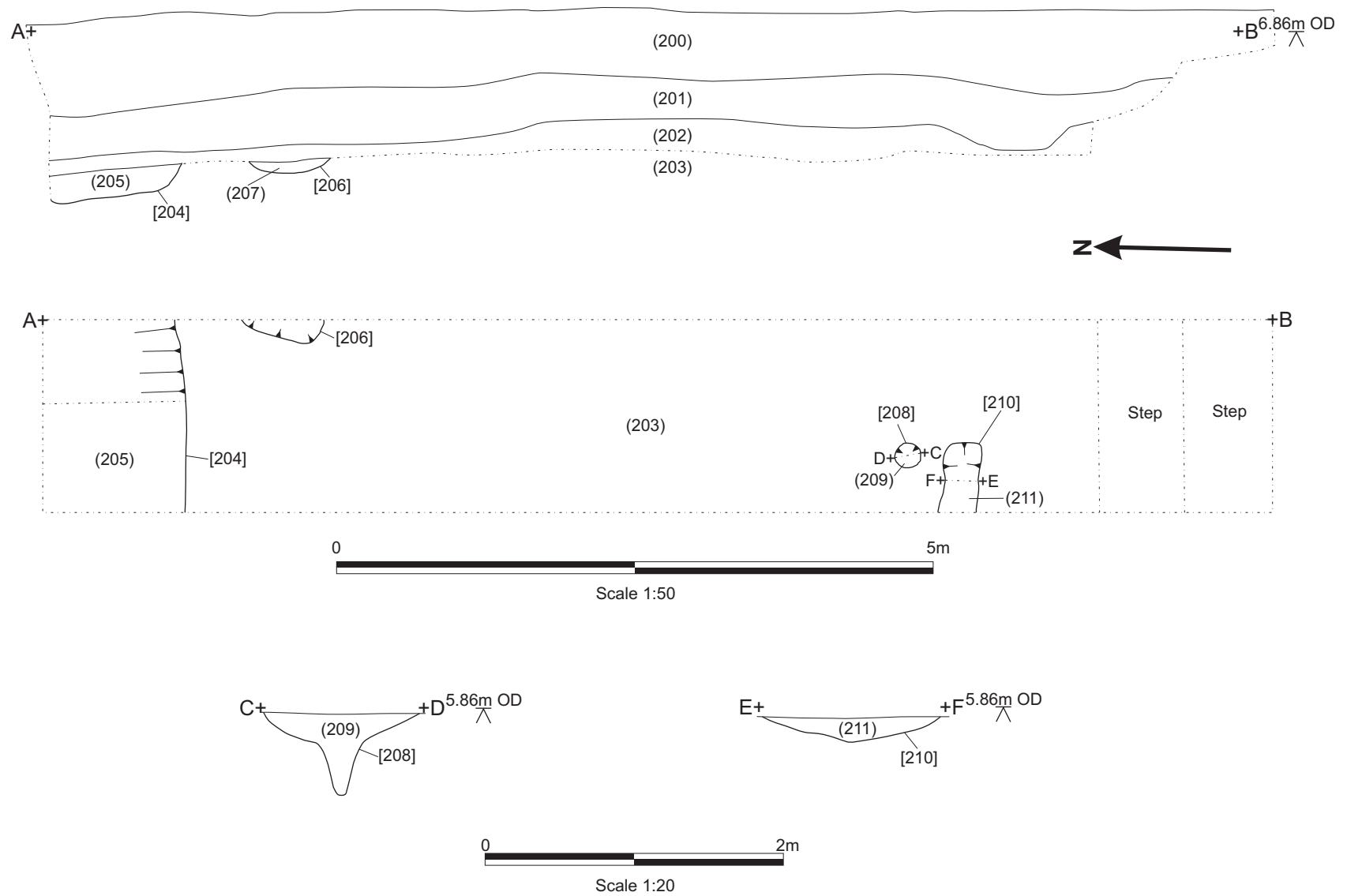


Figure 5: Trench 2 plan and main section at scale 1:50 and sections C-D and E-F at scale 1:20