

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
NEW VILLAGE HALL, GREAT COATES, NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: DC/1011/08/FRE
NGR: TA 23698 10246
AAL Site Code: GRCO 12
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-140153



Report prepared for Jonathan Hendry Architects

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Jonathan Hendry Architects to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new village hall at Great Coates in North East Lincolnshire.
- The area of works lies in the medieval core of the village. A preceding topographic survey identified a possible house platform on the site with quarry pits and ridge and furrow to the southwest. A subsequent evaluation trench in the proposed development area exposed a sequence of medieval to post-medieval dumped deposits and demolition spreads.
- The excavation uncovered no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance. The groundworks were generally shallow and exposed only recent dumped deposits of limited interest.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Jonathan Hendry Architects to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new village hall at Great Coates in North East Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) as well as a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice will also be followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the museum site code GCAD.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Great Coates is in the administrative district of North East Lincolnshire, on the western outskirts of Grimsby. The site lies within the core of the village, with Station Road to the south and Cook's Lane to the north and east. The central National Grid Reference of the proposed development area is TA 2369 1024, and the site was rough pasture prior to development.
- 2.2 The local geology consists of superficial 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 was submitted in September 2008 for the '*Erection of a community facility building, associated parking and vehicular access*' (Planning Application Reference DC/1011/08/FRE). The application was granted, subject to conditions, including the requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990) that was in place at the time. This has since been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010) and then the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, although numerous scatters of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements have been recovered from the Grimsby 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 has also been recorded, with round barrow burial monuments known at Toothill in Little Coates, 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 coins discovered including four Gallo-Belgic imported coins from Bargate, two Gallo-Belgic E imports and four British coins from Scartho, and a single Corieltavian 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 Evidence of Romano-British activity is sparse, although pottery has been recovered from the area of Little Coates, to the south of the site (Tann and Field 2005).
- 4.6 Great Coates appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD, where five separate landowners are recorded in the parish. The landowners were the Bishop of Bayeux, Count Alan, Alfred of Lincoln, Norman of Arcy and Durnad Malet. This final estate was the largest and included a church with a priest as well as a mill (Morgan and Thorn 1986). This suggests that there was a relatively well-established settlement in the area in the late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 4.7 The place name Coates is Old English in origin, meaning 'cottage, shelter', also suggesting a pre-Conquest origin. The 'Great' prefix relates to its relationship with Little Coates to the south (Cameron 1998).
- 4.8 A geophysical survey, topographic survey and evaluation by trial trenching were undertaken by the Humber Archaeology Unit in 1989 in advance of residential development. The works were located to the west and southwest of the current site, and identified elements of the former medieval settlement of Great Coates, including house platforms, property boundaries and streets. Pottery evidence recovered from the trial trenching indicates that settlement in the area had begun by the 10th century AD. The main concentration of activity was in the 12th century, and the abandonment of these areas probably occurred during the 14th century (Dennison 1989).
- 4.9 A topographic survey and evaluation trenching of the site was undertaken by this company in 2009 (AAL 2009). The topographic survey identified a probable house platform immediately to the south of the proposed new building, as well as ridge and furrow and quarry pits/ponds further to the south. The subsequent evaluation trench exposed a sequence of medieval to post-medieval demolition spreads and three undated postholes.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the author over a single day, 16th November 2012. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundworks entailed removal of topsoil over the entire site and further ground reduction for the foundations. All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.

- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Sections recorded were marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All excavated sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 5.3 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique two digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.
- 5.4 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, and appropriate metric scale. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 A 0.2m thick dark brown slightly clayey silt topsoil 01 was the uppermost deposit across the site. Below 01 over the majority of the site was a mid brown/orange slightly silty clay layer 02. This was observed in the south-eastern three quarters of the site.
- 6.2 In the north-western quarter of the site, below 01 was a brick and ceramic land drain rubble spread 03 measuring c.0.15m thick.
- 6.3 Below 03 was a dark grey/brown slightly silty clay with occasional brick debris and chalk flecks and pieces, 04, which extended below the limit of excavation

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The excavation uncovered no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance. The groundworks were generally shallow and exposed only recent dumped deposits of limited interest.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the watching brief has had a negligible impact on the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Jonathan Hendry Architects for this commission and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking north



Plate 2: Southeast facing representative section (section 4.1-4.2). Scales are 1m and 0.2m



Plate 3: Southeast facing representative section (section 4.3-4.4). Scales are 1m and 0.2m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Moderately compact, dark brown slightly clayey silt. Seals 02 and 03	Topsoil
02	Layer	Compact, mid brown/orange slightly silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and flecks. Sealed by 01	Made ground
03	Layer	Loose, broken brick and land drain rubble. Sealed by 01 and 02	Dumped deposit
04	Layer	Compact, dark grey/brown slightly silty clay with some brick debris and chalk fragments and flecks. Sealed by 02 and 03	Made ground

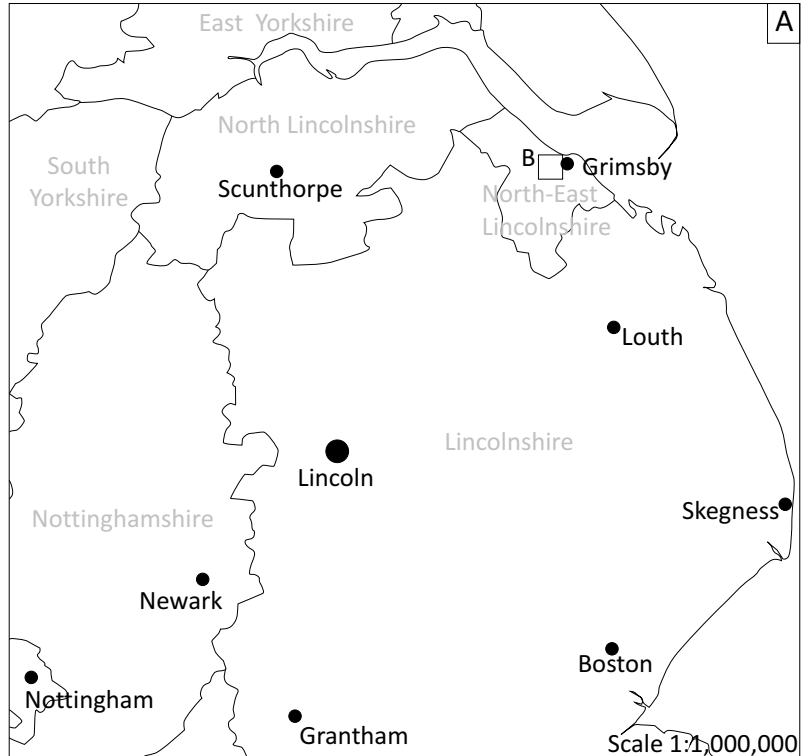
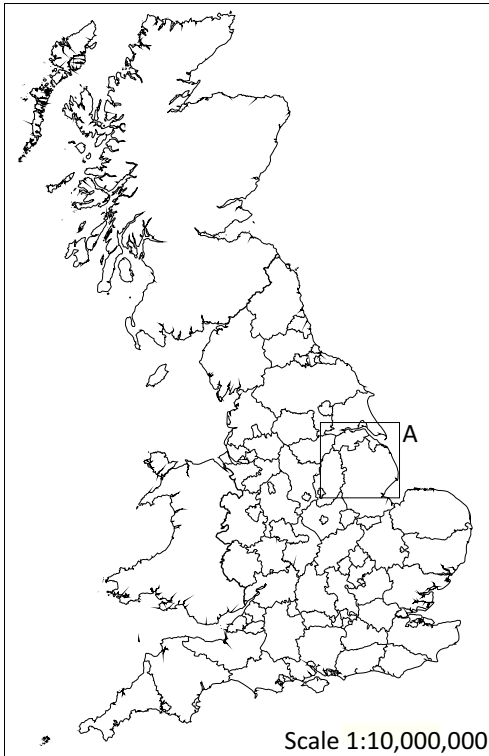


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red
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Site Code	GRCO 12
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	21/01/13

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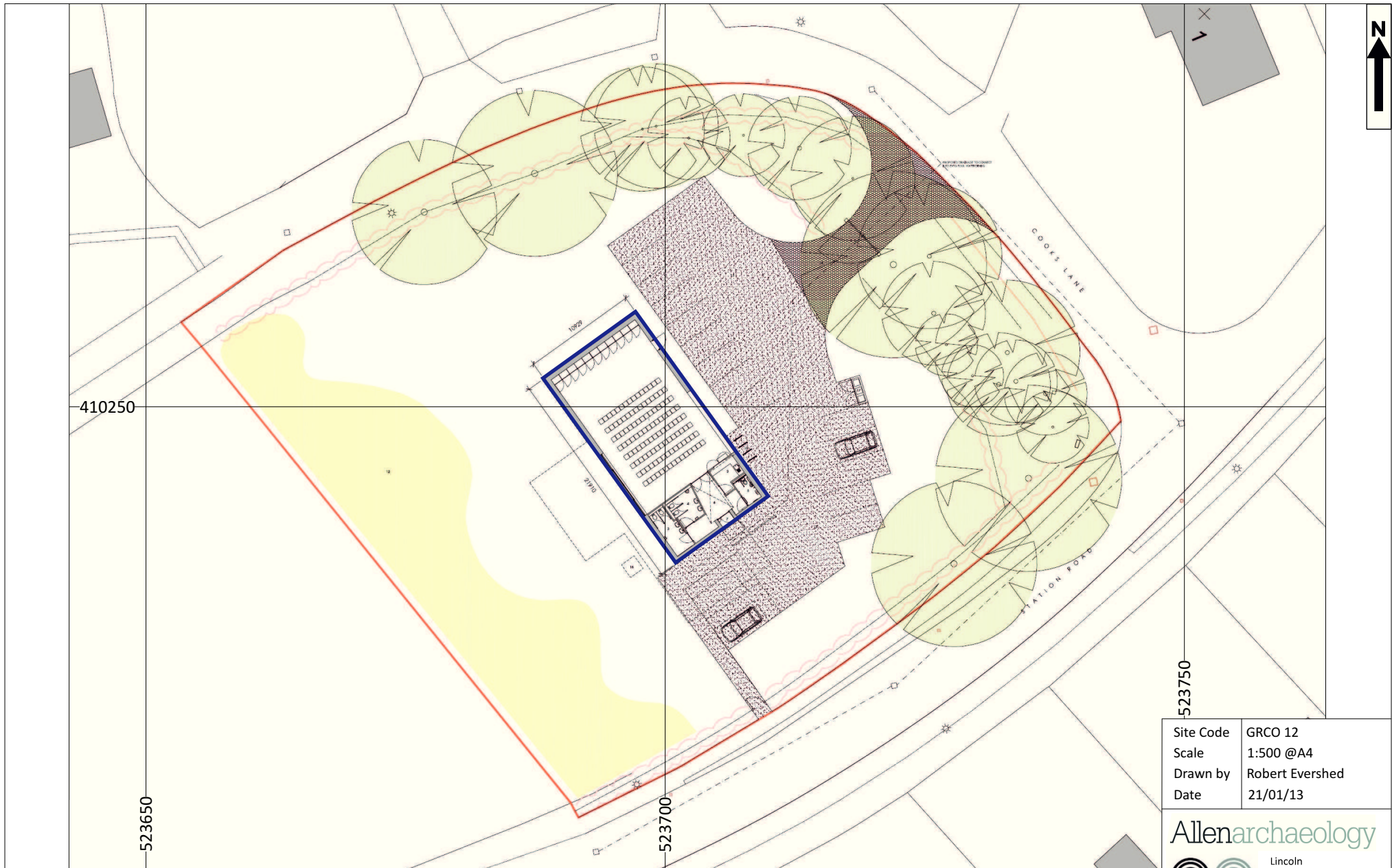


Figure 2: Site location plan, with development area outlined in red and area monitored outlined in blue

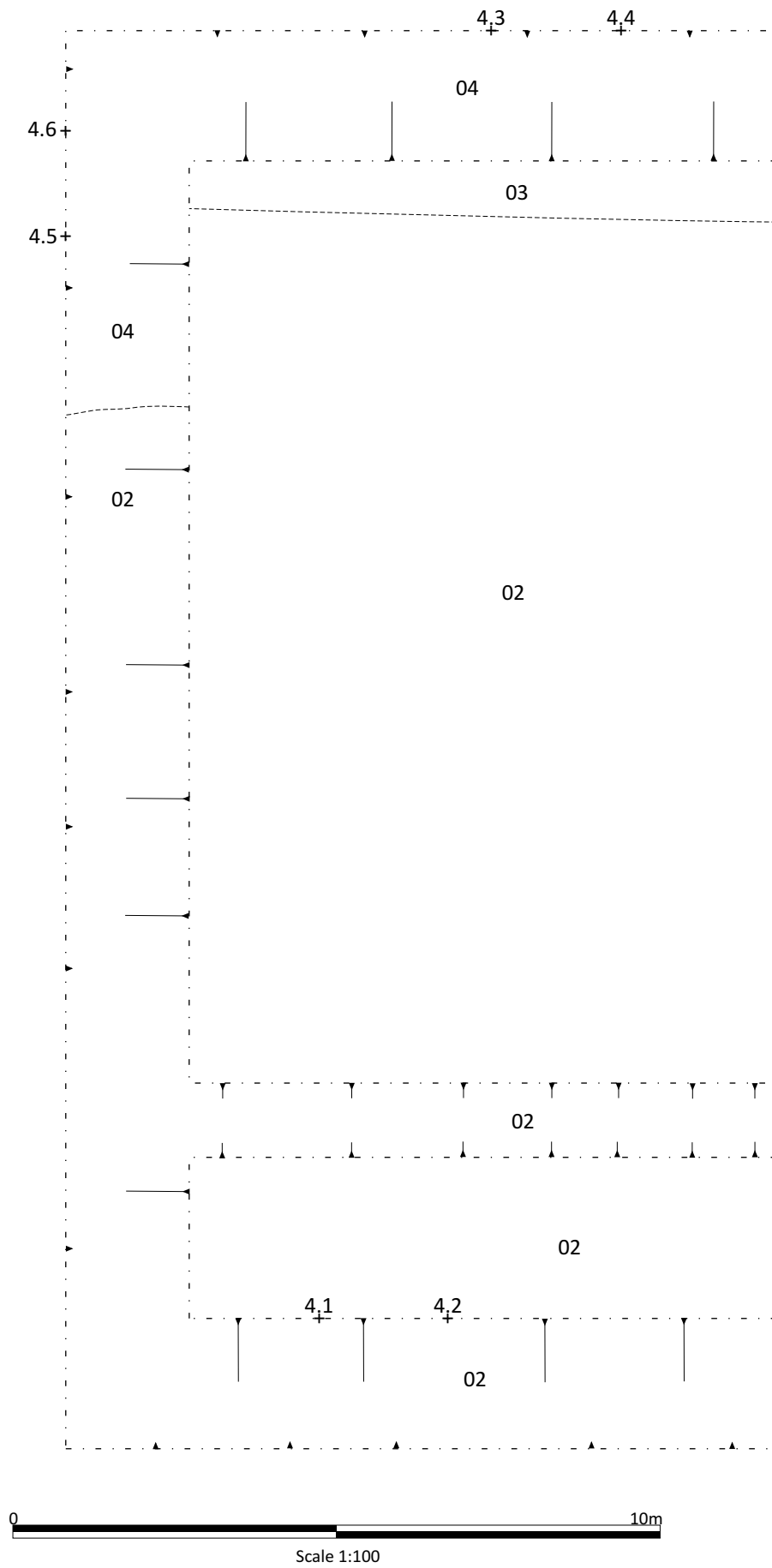
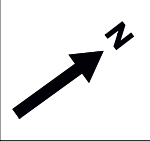
Site Code	GRCO 12
Scale	1:500 @A4
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Site Code	GRCO 12
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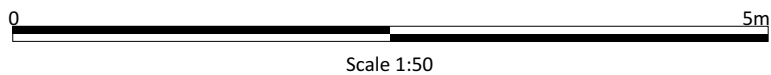
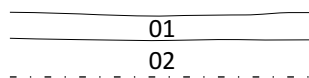


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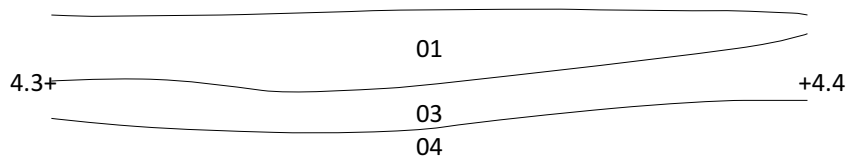
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Figure 3: Plan of excavated area. Sections 4.1-4.2, 4.3-4.4 and 4.5-4.6 shown on Figure 4

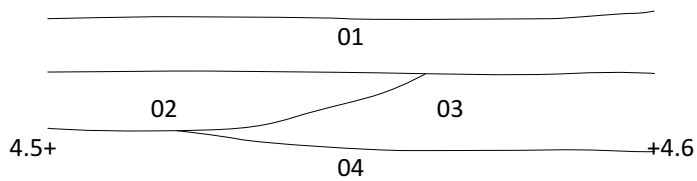
Southeast Facing Section
4.1+ +4.2



Southeast Facing Section



Northeast Facing Section



Site Code	GRCO 12
Scale	1:50 and 1:20 @A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	21/01/13

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Figure 4: Sections, shown on Figure 3



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