

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS REPORT:  
LAND AT HOMELEIGH, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD, MIDDLE RASEN, LINCONSHIRE.**

Planning Reference: 125194  
NGR: TF 0890 8896  
Site Code: MRHO 10  
LCC Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2010.90  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-82942



Report prepared for Oakdale Developments

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2010057

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The  
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Services

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**Document Control**

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### Summary

- An archaeological scheme of works was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of two semi-detached dwellings on land at Homeleigh, Gainsborough Road, Middle Rasen in Lincolnshire.
- The site is situated in area of some archaeological potential. There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity and none for Romano-British activity within 1km of the site. There is also no evidence Anglo-Saxon activity in the area. However the place name is Old English in origin, the Rasen element meaning a bridge or planks laid across a river or marshy ground, with the Middle element referring to its relationship to West Rasen and Market Rasen and there is a higher possibility of medieval and post medieval activity in the area.
- A number of later features and deposits were identified within the development area. However all evidence of definite activity related to the construction occupation and subsequent demolition of the cottages known to have formerly occupied this site.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Oakdale Developments to carry out an archaeological scheme of works to be undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of two detached and two semi-detached dwellings on land at Homeleigh, Gainsborough Road, Middle Rasen in Lincolnshire.
- 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 watching briefs' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), county guidelines in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual for archaeological practice* (LCC 2009). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed ([www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740](http://www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740)), as well as the methodologies set out in a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2010).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to 'The Collection' museum in Lincoln, after completion of the project where it will be stored under the Museum Accession Number LCNCC: 2010.90

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Middle Rasen is situated approximately 1.5km west of Market Rasen and 21km north-east of central Lincoln, in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The proposed development area comprises a sub-rectangular block of land to the south of Gainsborough Road (A46). The site centres on NGR TF 0890 8896, and lies at a height of approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises drift deposits of blown sand, sealing a solid geology of Ampthill Clay (British Geological Survey 1999).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the 'erection of 2 four bedroom 1 ½ storey dwellings and a pair of two bedroom semi-detached houses' (Planning Application 125194). This report covers the groundworks for the semi detached dwellings (Plots 1 and 2) – the two detached dwellings (Plots 3 and 4) will be completed at a later stage. Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works by a suitably competent archaeologist. The scheme of works will comprise the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This 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 Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is restricted to a single find; a rough-out for a Neolithic stone axe found during ploughing approximately 0.9km to the north-north-east of the proposed development area (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference 52016).
- 4.2 A small scatter of Romano-British greyware pottery has been recovered from c.450m to the east-south-east (LHER Reference 52017), and a single coin of the emperor Gratian (AD 375 – 383) has been found 100m to the south-east (LHER Reference 52015). No other evidence of Romano-British activity has been recovered from the vicinity of the site, although Market Rasen, to the east, was the site of a major pottery industry from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Whitwell 1992).
- 4.3 There is no evidence of early Anglo-Saxon activity in the parish, although a watching brief at the junction of Church Street and North Street, c.500m to the north-north-west, recorded two large ditches and a number of other features producing pottery of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century date (LHER Reference 52518).
- 4.4 The place name is Old English in origin, the Rasen element meaning a bridge or planks laid across a river or marshy ground, with the Middle element referring to its relationship to West Rasen and Market Rasen (Cameron 1998). In the Domesday Survey of 1086, six landowners are listed; the Bishop of Bayeux, Roger of Poitou, Alfred of Lincoln, Jocelyn son of Lambert, Ralph Pagnell and Durand Malet. The parish had a population of sixty villagers of varying status (along with their dependents), suggesting a large and prosperous settlement. The largest estate was that of the Bishop of Bayeux, which accounted for 29 villagers, and also included a church and a priest (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 During the Middle Ages, the six Domesday estates coalesced into two settlements, Middle Rasen Drax, and Middle Rasen Tupholme, named after the two abbeys that owned land in the area (Cameron 1998). Middle Rasen Tupholme was centred around the church of St. Peter, approximately 600m to the north, where surviving earthworks indicate a regular planned settlement of tofts extending back from an east – west street. The existing Church Street is a later addition to the pattern, connecting to Middle Rasen Drax, further to the south (LHER Reference 52023).
- 4.6 Middle Rasen Drax was centred around 100m to the north-north-east of the site, and comprised an irregular street pattern to the north of Gainsborough Road, which apparently shifted southwards to a more regular planned settlement either side of the main road (LHER Reference 52022). Trial trenching in Jacksons Field adjacent to the site exposed a number of pits and ditches of medieval date that related to this settlement (*ibid.*). The former church of Middle Rasen Drax, dedicated to St. Paul, was located c.300m to the north-east and was demolished in 1860. Much of the stone was used in a restoration of St. Peters church, which was said to be in a poor state of repair at this time (LHER Reference 52014, Pevsner and Harris 2002).
- 4.7 A recent archaeological watching brief c.300m to the west recovered a stone wall foundation and a quantity of early 13<sup>th</sup> to late 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, all likely to be indicative of medieval settlement activity (AAL 2010).

#### 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring of the initial stripping of the footprint of the new dwelling was carried out by Mike Jarvis on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and the excavation of the foundation ring beam was monitored by Kath Stone on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The groundworks were

carried out using a 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless dykeing bucket for the site strip and with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket for the foundation excavations.

- 5.2 All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits and to determine the stratigraphic sequence. 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. Each context was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:50). A colour photographic record was maintained during the fieldwork, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (See Appendix 1).

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost layer across the site consisted of a c.0.2m thick sandy silt topsoil horizon 01, which was completely removed by machine. This sealed a layer of brown sandy silt, 02, containing frequent modern demolition rubble, interpreted as a ground raising/levelling deposit, which was approximately 0.3m thick. This deposit was cut by a circular brick-lined well, 03, which was not excavated but was probed with a measuring tape to a depth of c.4m. The structure was 0.8m wide at the top, widening to 1.4 metres with water present at a depth of 0.9 metres. The brick lining was bonded with cement for the first two courses and unbonded below, and was capped by a large York stone slab. A lead pipe was seen to enter the structure from the north-east at a depth of 0.3 metres. The well is most likely to have been associated with the cottages that previously occupied this part of the site prior to their recent demolition.
- 6.2 The initial site strip exposed a linear band of compact pale yellow sandy mortar and red brick rubble c.0.5m wide and c.5m long orientated north to south in the north-east corner of the stripped area. This deposit, 04, may represent a truncated foundation bedding layer for a wall of the former cottages. Further traces of these cottages were exposed during the excavation of the ring beam, and comprised 05, a single course of bricks forming the fragmentary remains of an east - west aligned wall running across the central portion of the site.
- 6.3 Excavation of the ring beam showed layer 02 to seal 06 a yellow/orange sandy layer, interpreted as a possible lense of dumped sand recorded in the south-west corner of the foundation trenches. Across the remainder of the building, layer 02 sealed a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal representing a possible former subsoil, which extended below the limit of excavation.

## 7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The programme of monitoring and recording has identified a number of later features and deposits within the development area. However all identified evidence of definite activity relates to the construction occupation and subsequent demolition of the cottages known to have formerly occupied this site. With the possible exception of the deposition layers 06 and 07 no earlier evidence of archaeological activity was identified within the excavated area. It is likely given the high quantity of archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity and the shallow nature of the groundworks; that earlier features and deposits exist below the limit of excavation sealed by 07

## 8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The scheme of works was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It suggests that the groundworks have had a negligible impact on the limited archaeological resource within the development area.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Oakdale Developments for this commission, and for their cooperation during the groundworks.

## 10.0 References

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**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** General view of the development area during the site strip. Looking south-west



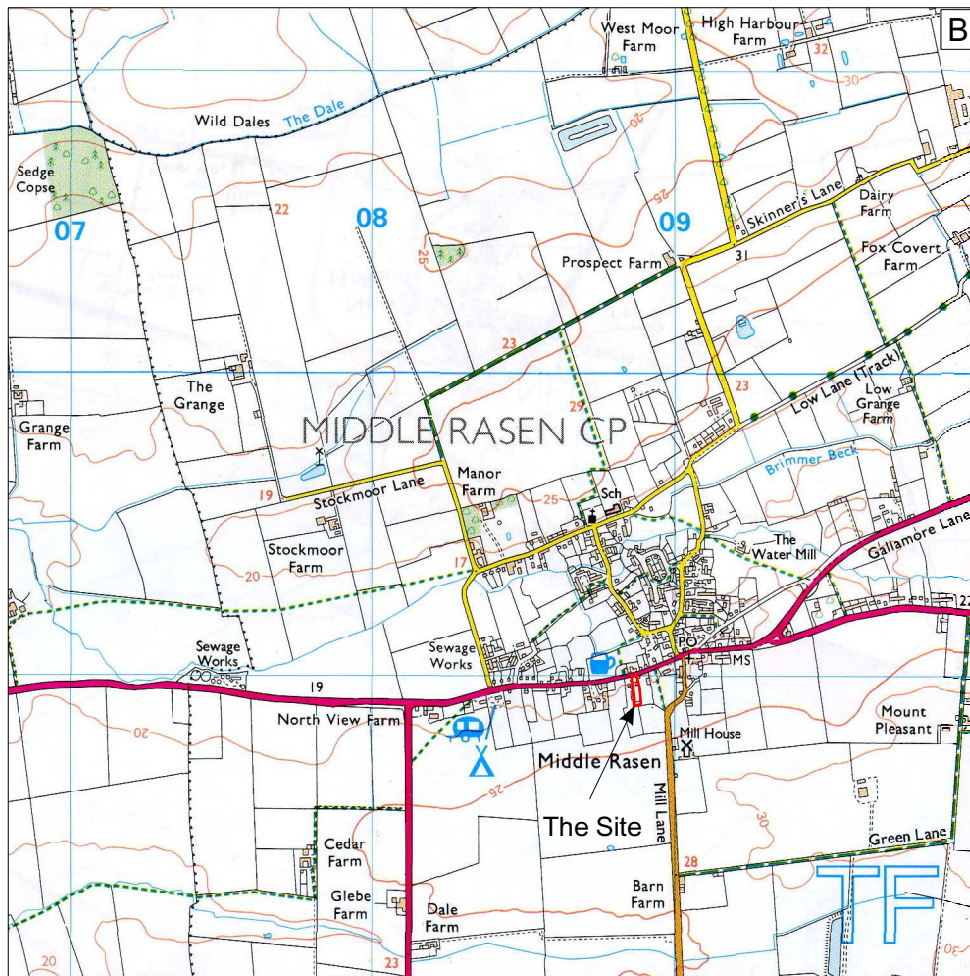
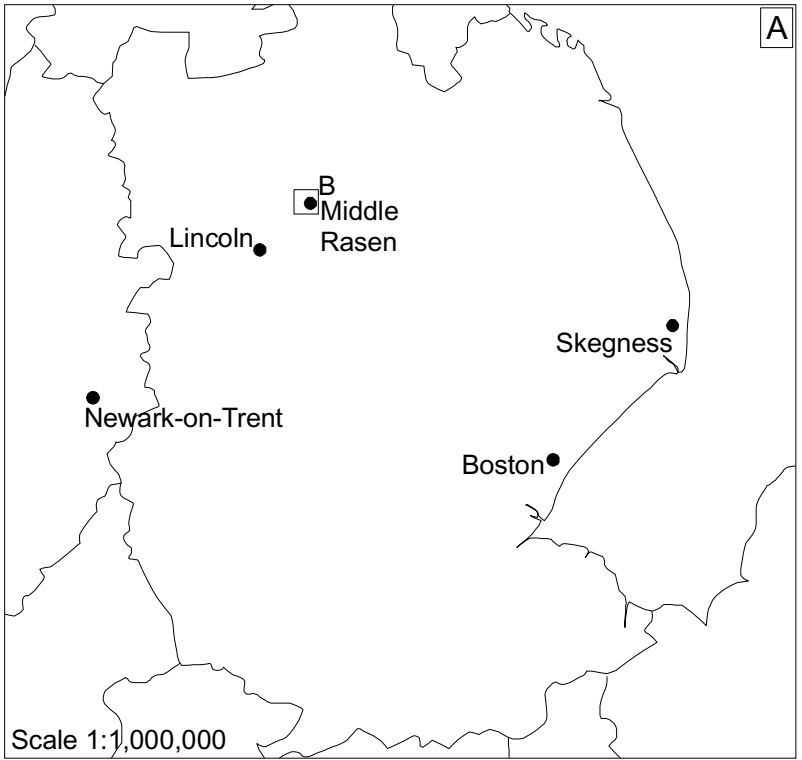
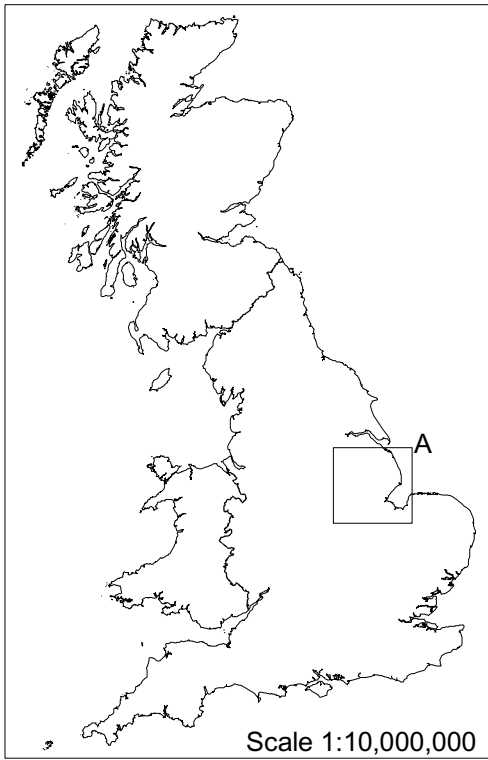
**Plate 2:** Well 03. Looking North



**Plate 3:** Representative section of ring beam foundation. Looking south

**Appendix 2: Context Summary List**

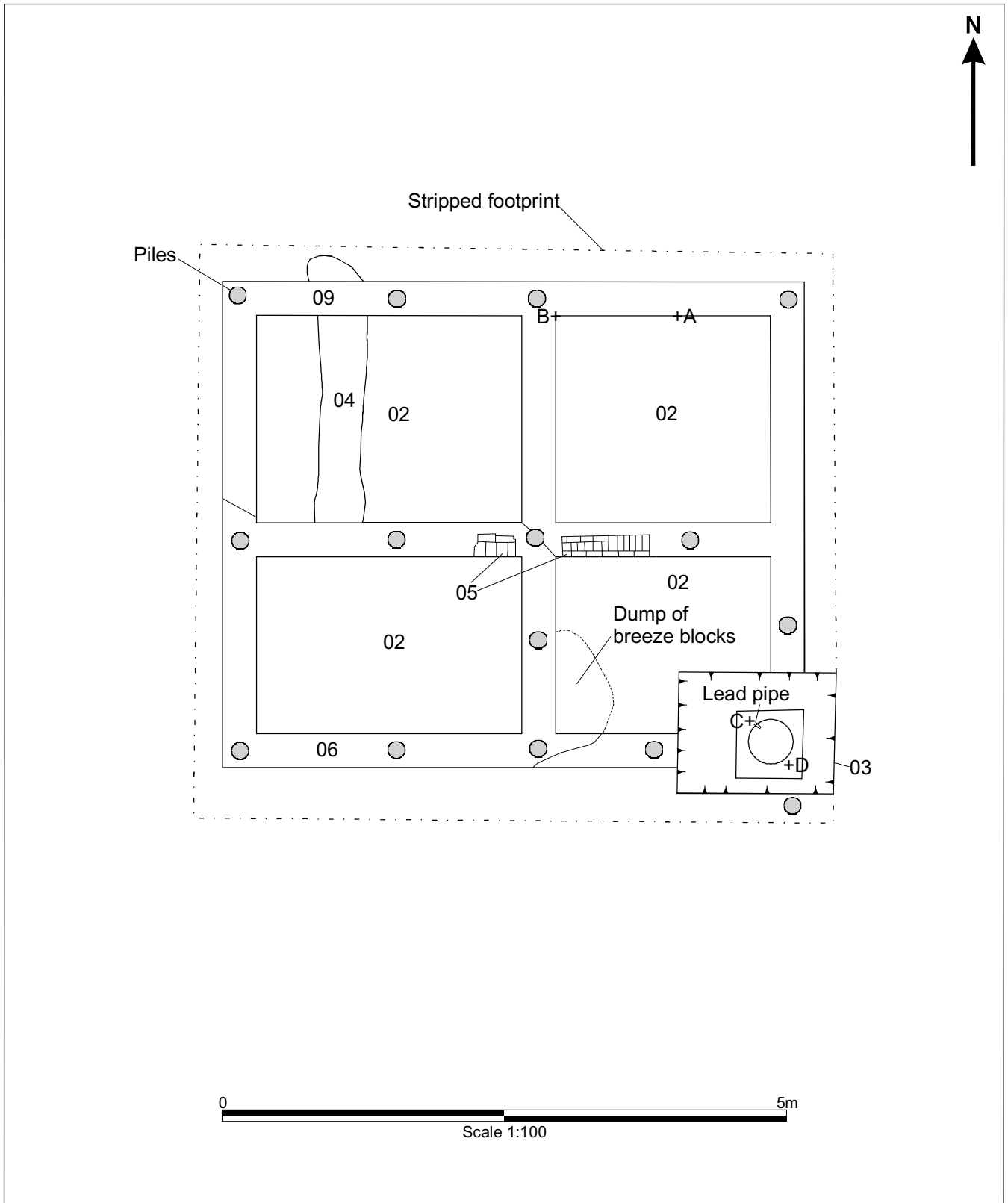
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
01	Layer	Loose mid brown fine sandy silt with occasional brick fragments and infrequent coal and plastic.	Garden soil
02	Layer	Loose mid brown fine sandy silt with frequent to machine made brick rubble, wood and concrete.	Made ground
03	Structure	Brick lined cut 0.8 metres wide at the top expanding to 1.4 metres. 4 metre deep with water present at 0.9 metres. Bricks bonded with cement in upper two courses and unbonded below, capped with a large York stone slab. A lead pipe enters the structure from the north east at 0.3 metres.	Well
04	Layer	Compact mix of yellow sandy mortar and brick rubble.	Foundation bedding layer
05	Structure	Red bricks forming structure 1.5 metres long and 0.7 metres wide orientated east to west.	Demolished building remains
06	Layer	Yellow to orange sand	Dumped sand layer
07	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks and charcoal.	Possible former subsoil



**Figure 1: Site location in red at scale 1:25,000**  
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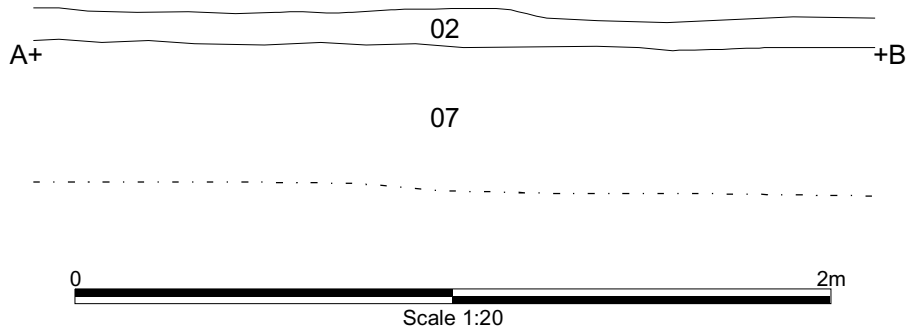


**Figure 2:** Location plan at scale 1:500, with the site outlined in red. Future developments on the site (Plots 3 and 4) shaded grey



**Figure 3:** Plan of the foundations at scale 1:100. Sections A-B and C-D located on Figure 4

North Facing Section



South-West Facing Section

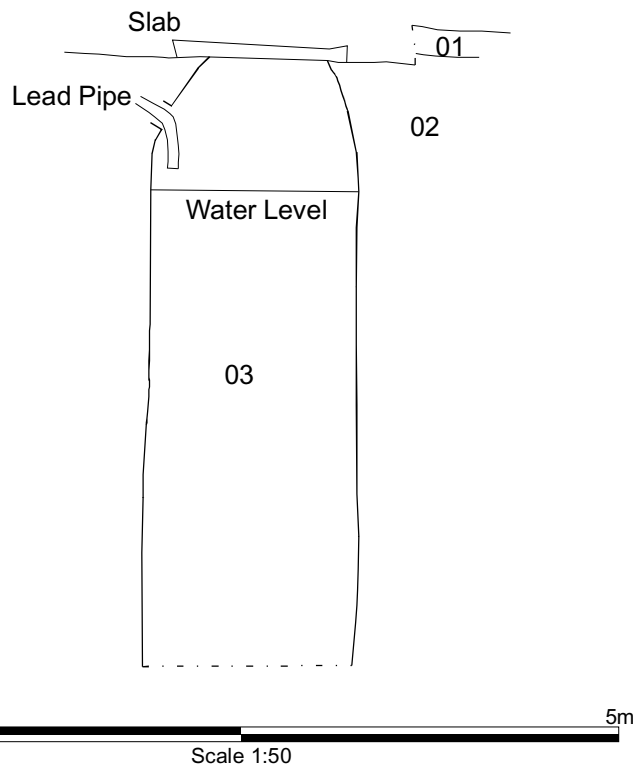


Figure 4: Sections at Scale 1:50