

Archaeological Monitoring Report:
Land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

NGR: SK 8283 8921

Local Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

Planning Ref.: 127880

WLDC Archaeological Advisor: A. Thornton / K.Waite

LCNCC Accession No.:2012.68

PCAS Site code: BCGM12

PCAS Job No.: 879

For Gelder Group Ltd
by K. D. Francis (BA, MiFA)

September 2012



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
Fax: 01522 703656

e-mail: info@pre-construct.co.uk

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1. General view of the site during ground reduction
2. Section of Plot 1 footings
3. Working shot of house plots 3 and 4
4. Sample section of Plot 3 footings, looking north
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6. General view of plots 3 and 4 looking ESE
7. Sample section of Plot 4 footings, looking west
8. Sample section of Plot 5 footings, looking north
9. Modern concrete footings [006] in Plot 6
10. General view of plots 7-9, showing the poor ground conditions on the site

Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by Gelder Group Ltd., to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of nine new houses on land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 8283 8921).

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted on the development site during construction groundworks in July 2012, in accordance with a planning condition (Ref.: 127880), and a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC), (PCAS April 2012).

The site lies just to the southeast of the historic core of Gainsborough, in the vicinity of Foxby Hill, where the Civil War Battle of Gainsborough is reputed to have taken place in 1643. No evidence was found during the archaeological monitoring and recording to support this claim.

The scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording work was negative and no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the course of the programme.

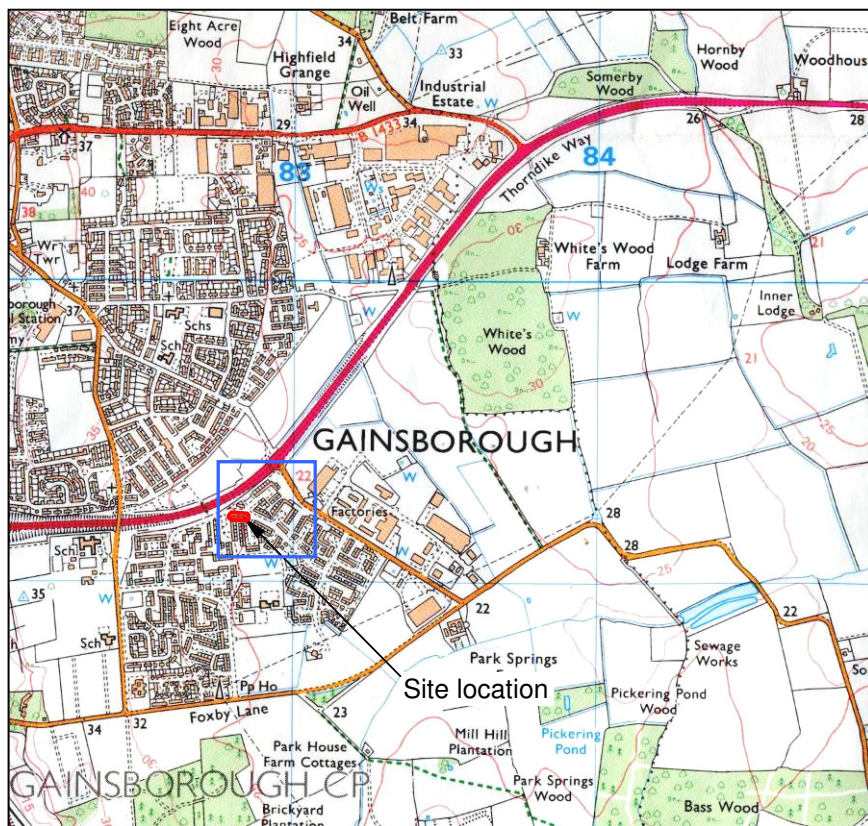


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The site is marked in red and the area shown in Figure 2 is outlined in blue. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by Gelder Group Ltd., to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of nine new houses on c. 0.21 hectares of land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 8283 8921), (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted on the proposed development site during construction groundworks in July 2012, in accordance with planning condition 127880, and a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by West Lindsey District Council (PCAS April 2012).
- 1.3 The scheme of monitoring and recording was found to be negative and no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the course of the works.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 The town of Gainsborough is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 23km north-west of Lincoln. It lies on the eastern bank of the River Trent, which forms the boundary between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire: the river is bridged here, but the town does not extend onto the western bank.
- 2.2 The development site at Brocklesby Close lies within an area of recent development on the south-eastern edge of Gainsborough, bordered to the north by the A631 (Thorndike Way) and to the south by Foxby Lane. Prior to development, the site contained a number of garages (PCAS 2012). The site is centred on NGR: SK 8283 8921.

3.0 Geology and topography

- 3.1 No drift geology has been identified on the site itself, which British Geological Survey mapping records as lying on the exposed Keuper Marl (Mercia Mudstone). Drift deposits of Head are recorded immediately to the east (BGS, 1971).
- 3.2 Brocklesby Close is positioned some distance to the east of the slope down into the modern valley of the River Trent, on relatively level ground within the wider Trent vale. The site is at an approximate elevation of 27m OD.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 A detailed history of Gainsborough and of the proposed development site was presented in the approved specification (PCAS 2012). This has not been reproduced in this document, due to the lack of archaeology exposed at the site during the monitoring programme.

5.0 Planning and Site background

- 5.1 Full planning permission for the demolition of 21 garages and the construction of 9 new dwellings was granted in October 2011 (WLDC planning ref. 127880). This permission replaced an extant planning permission, 122722.
- 5.2 The planning permission document noted that the site falls within the likely area of the Battle of Gainsborough, which took place during the Civil War, and stipulated that no development was to take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation had been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority (condition 8).
- 5.3 In July 2012, in accordance with planning condition 8 and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (PCAS April 2012), a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted on the development site during construction groundworks.

6.0 Aims & Methodology

- 6.1 The monitoring and recording scheme (PCAS April 2012) was designed in collaboration with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER). It followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:
- *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *as revised*);
 - *IFA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2008);
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE);
 - *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG, March 2012);
 - *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, June 2012).
- 6.2 Under archaeological supervision, a JCB fitted with a toothless blade was used to initially remove all vegetation and topsoil from the construction footprint. The strip footings were then excavated with a toothless blade.
- 6.3 Context information recorded on standard Context Record Sheets, and the site and individual house-plot footings were planned at a scale of 1:100; representative trench sections were drawn at 1:20 scale.
- 6.4 Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy in 35mm colour transparency format, supplemented by colour digital.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 The monitoring and recording took place during all groundworks on the site, including initial ground reduction and the excavation of strip foundation trenches for the nine house plots and associated services (**Fig. 2**). The monitoring was conducted over the course of two weeks in July 2012. A total of seven contexts were identified and recorded (nos. 001-007, Appendix 1).
- 7.2 The natural, solid substrate (002) was encountered within all of the excavated footing trenches. This was overlain by a modern levelling layer associated with the

construction of the former garages that had occupied the site. Two modern linear cuts/disturbances were identified within this layer: [004], containing brick garage footings (003) in house plot 3; and [007], containing concrete footings (004) in house plot 6. Both features were sealed by a deep layer of overburden (001) comprised of demolition rubble from the garages (**Fig. 3**). No significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were identified during the course of the monitoring.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were identified during the course of the monitoring on land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

9.0 Site Archive

- 9.1 The documentary archive for this scheme (no physical archive exists) is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. Following approval by the commissioning body, copies of this report will be submitted to the Lincolnshire HER and the Archaeological Advisor for WLDC. The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum, The Collection, Lincoln, within six months of submittal of this report under the unique Accession Number 2012.68.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., are grateful to Gelder Group Ltd., for this commission; and to Alex Thornton and Karen Waite, the Archaeological Advisors for WLDC.

11.0 References

Ordnance Survey, 2000, *Isle of Axholme, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough*: Explorer series no. 280, 1:25,000 edition. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

PCAS: Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. April 2012. *Land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire: Specification for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording*. R. D. Savage.

Plates



1. General view of the site during ground reduction



2. Section of Plot 1 footings



3. Working shot of house plots 3 and 4



4. Sample section of Plot 3 footings, looking north



5. Section in Plot 3 showing modern wall foundations [003]



6. General view of plots 3 and 4 looking ESE



7. Sample section of Plot 4 footings, looking west



8. Sample section of Plot 5 footings, looking north



9. Modern concrete footings [006] in Plot 6



10. General view of plots 7-9, showing the poor ground conditions on the site

Appendix 1. Context summary

Context No.	Type	Site Location	Description	Finds / Dating
001	Layer	Site-wide (plots 1-9)	Overburden / demolition layer across all house plots: mid brownish-grey coarse sandy clay containing moderate CBM rubble and whole bonded bricks. Above 003. Depth maximum of 0.53m.	none
002	Layer	Site-wide (plots 1-9)	Natural substrate in all house plots: Mid reddish-brown mottled light bluish clay. Compact to cemented.	none
003	Structure	Plot 3	Brick / concrete footing in north side of Plot 3. Orientated N-S, heavily disturbed.	none
004	Cut	Plot 6	Linear construction cut with probable vertical sides for structure [003]. Cuts 005.	none
005	Layer	Plots 3-9	Construction / levelling layer below and mixed with 001: mid reddish-brown mottled light greyish-blue clay.	none
006	Structure	Plot 6	Concrete footing in east side of Plot 6: part of former modern garage footings.	none
007	Cut	Plot 6	Linear construction cut for structure [006]. Cuts 005.	none

Appendix 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: preconst3-133445

Project details

Project name Land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough

Short description of the project Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by Gelder Group Ltd., to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of nine new houses on land adjacent to Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 8283 8921). The scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording work at Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough was found to be negative and no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the course of the monitoring works.

Project dates Start: 01-07-2012 End: 31-08-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes BCGM12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 2012.68 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Monument type NONE None

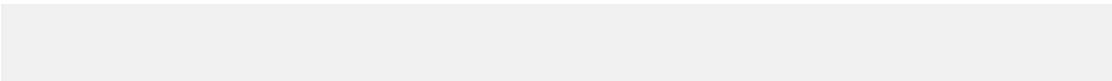
Significant Finds NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Prompt WLDC Ref. 127880



Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY GAINSBOROUGH Land adjacent to
Brocklesby Close, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

Postcode DN21 1TT

Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 8283 8921 53 0 53 23 34 N 000 45 15 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 24.50m Max: 26.80m



Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Organisation

Project brief Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.
originator

Project design N/A
originator

Project Will Munford
director/manager

Project supervisor R. D. Savage

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Gelder Group Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive n/a
recipient

Digital Archive Not yet ascertained
recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography"
available

Paper Archive Not yet ascertained
recipient

Paper Contents "none"

Paper available Media "Context sheet","Map","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"



Entered by K. D. Francis (karen@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 6 September 2012

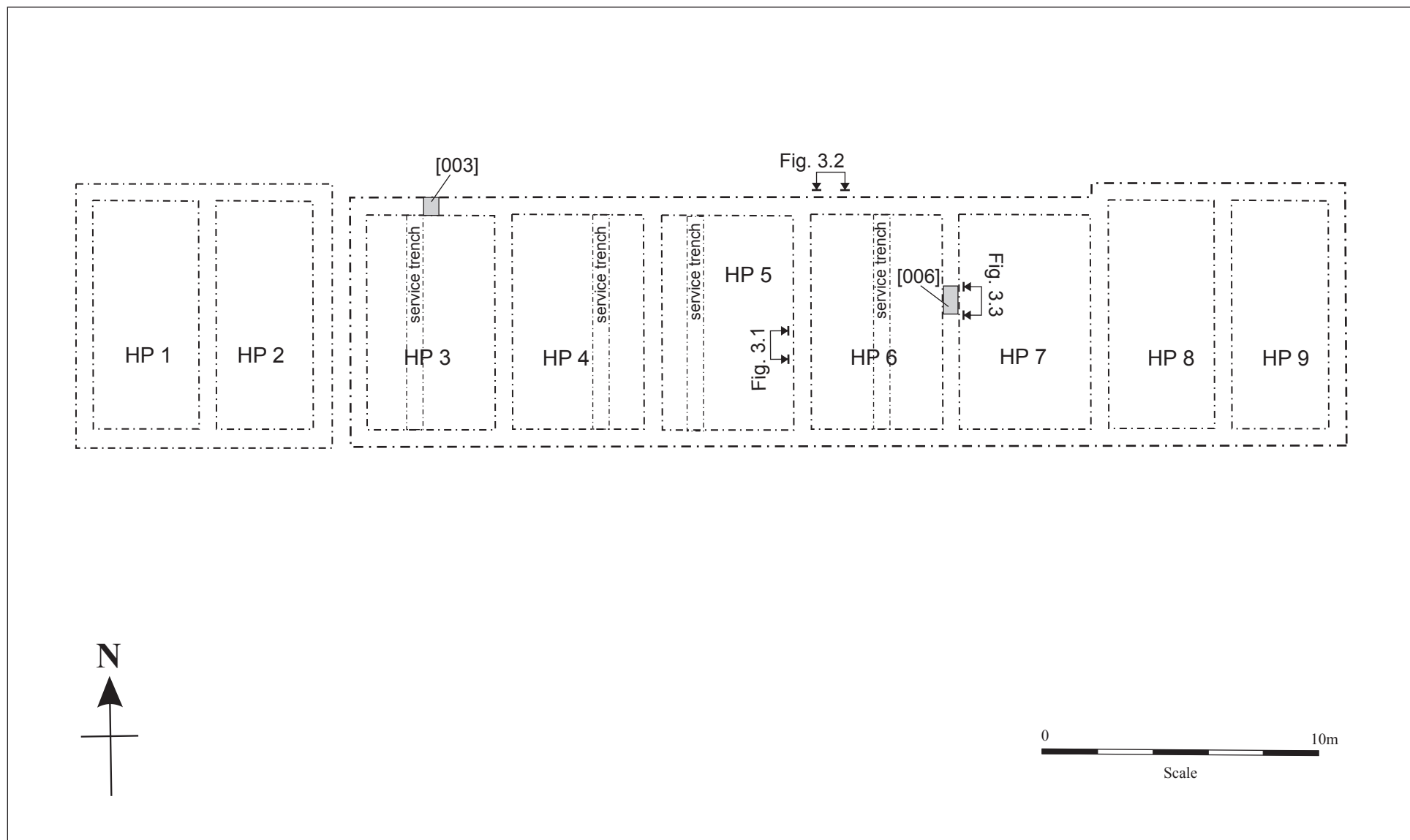


Fig. 2. Detailed site plan showing locations of sample sections in Fig. 3.

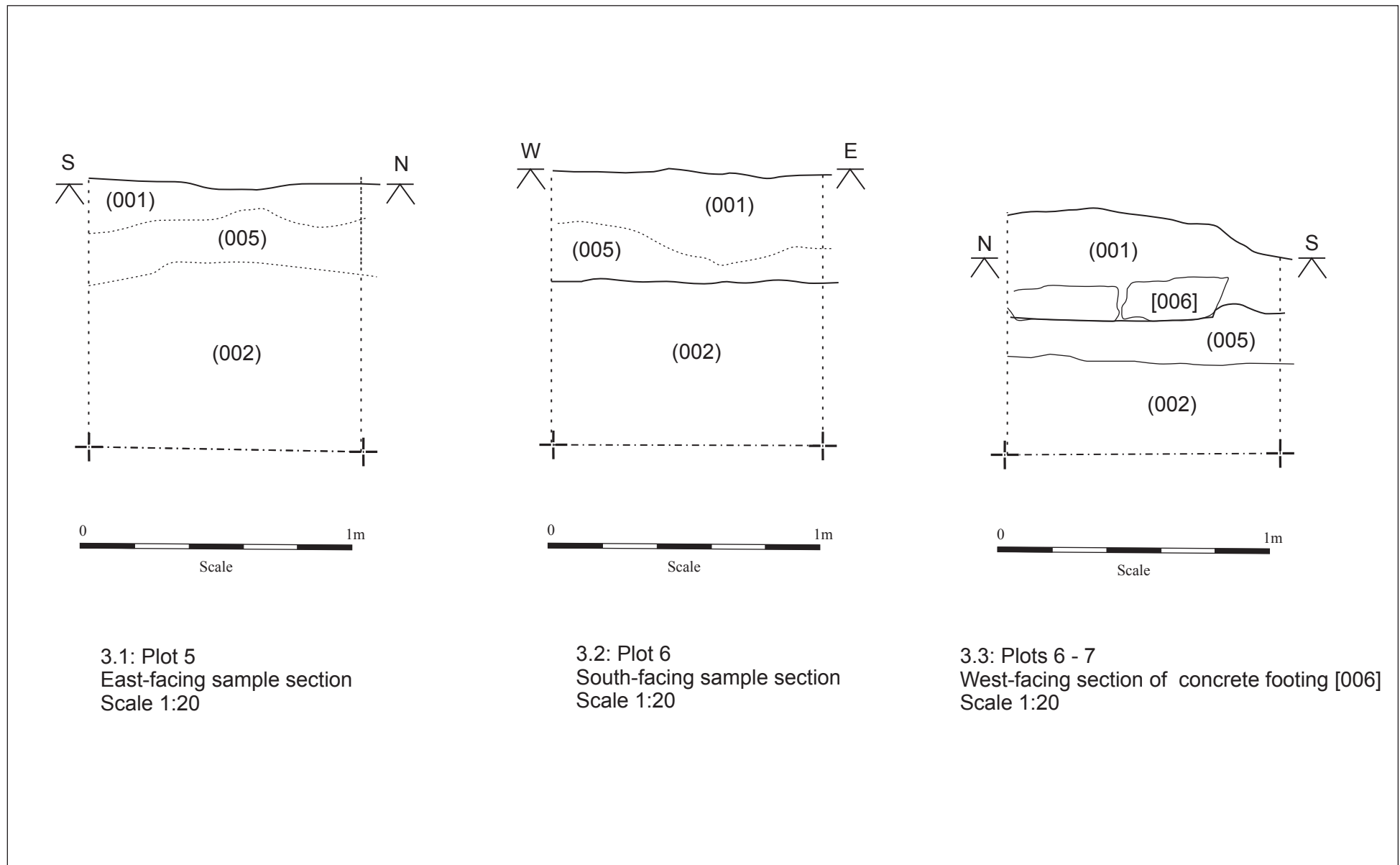


Fig. 3. Sample sections of the excavated house-plot footings