

**THE PLAYING FIELDS, WALCOT LANE, FOLKINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 0662 3366  
Planning ref.: S11/1418/MJNF  
PCAS Job No.: 930  
Site code: FFCM 12/WLFM 12  
Archive acc. code: 2012.139

Report prepared for

Crestwood UK

by

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## Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Summary   | 1 |
| <b>1.0</b> Introduction                             | 2 |
| <b>2.0</b> Site location and description            | 2 |
| <b>3.0</b> Geology and topography                   | 2 |
| <b>4.0</b> Planning background                      | 2 |
| <b>5.0</b> Archaeological and historical background | 2 |
| <b>6.0</b> Methodology                              | 3 |
| <b>7.0</b> Results                                  | 3 |
| <b>8.0</b> Conclusion                               | 4 |
| <b>9.0</b> Effectiveness of methodology             | 4 |
| <b>10.0</b> Acknowledgements                        | 4 |
| <b>11.0</b> Site Archive                            | 4 |
| <b>12.0</b> Bibliography                            | 4 |
| <b>Appendix 1:</b> Colour Plates                    |   |
| <b>Appendix 2:</b> Context Register                 |   |
| <b>Appendix 3:</b> OASIS summary                    |   |

## Figures

- Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000, with inset building location plan, not to scale
- Fig. 2:** Footing trench plan at scale 1:50
- Fig. 3:** Representative sections at scale 1:20

## Plates

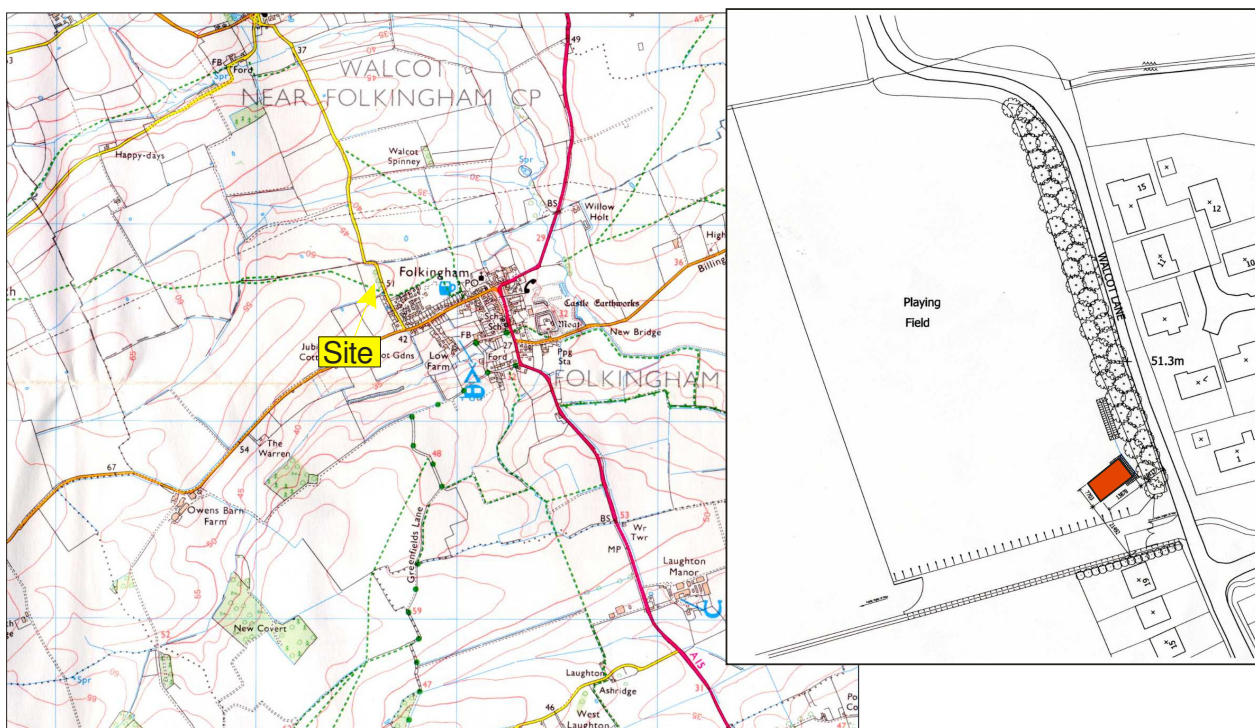
- PI. 1:** General shot of the site after turf removal, showing the concrete foundations of the prior changing room building. Looking north
- PI. 2:** Representative section, (Figure 3 A-B).
- PI. 3:** Footing trenches fully excavated, showing the chamfered edges of the trenches for the building raft. Looking east

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the groundworks for a new changing room at the playing field on Walcot Lane, Folkingham, South Kesteven.

Prehistoric and Roman activity in the surrounding area is limited to a small number of finds and a boundary ditch appearing as a cropmark to the south-west of the village. Folkingham is recorded in the Domesday Book, and pre-Norman occupation in the village is likely. The earthwork of a motte and bailey castle lies less than 1km to the south-east of the development, and a 14<sup>th</sup> century castle in the town was demolished during the Civil War. Throughout the medieval period Folkingham was a thriving village on the main road between Sleaford and Bourne.

No archaeological horizons or features were recorded during this scheme.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000 (OS mapping © Crown copyright). All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278). Inset building location plan, not to scale, supplied by client.

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Crestwood UK to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of a new changing room facility as part of the Sports Pavillion at the playing field, Walcot Lane, Folkingham.

## 2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

Folkingham lies on the A15 road between Bourne and Sleaford in the South Kesteven district, approximately 12km south of Sleaford and 15.5km east of Grantham. It is positioned within a slight dip on the western edge of the Lincolnshire Fens.

The development site lies on the west side of the village, on the east side of the existing playing fields. It comprises a roughly rectangular area of c. 8m x c. 14m. to the north and east the site is bordered by Walcot Lane.

The site covers an area of c. 0.01 hectares and is centred on NGR TF 0662 3366.

## 3.0 Geology and topography

Folkingham lies on a bed of concrete-like grey Oxford clay overlain with more pliable layers of Kellaways Formation sand and clay, and Blisworth Clay. In places the area is capped by areas of Blisworth Limestone which is up to 0.40m thick. (BGS, 1972; [www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk))

## 4.0 Planning background

Conditional planning permission was granted by South Kesteven District Council for the development of a new changing room at the playing field, Walcot Lane, in August 2011 (Planning ref. S11/1418/MJNF).

The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, with a Norman motte and bailey castle lying to the south-east of the development. For this reason, Condition 3 of the planning consent required the developer to ensure that all the groundworks associated with the new building were monitored by an archaeologist. This would ensure that any archaeological remains would be identified and recorded or preserved *in situ* where necessary.

## 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological and historical background of the site has been outlined in the project specification (PCAS 2012) and is reproduced as follows:

There is evidence of prehistoric activity in Folkingham in the form of a multiple-ditched boundary recorded as a cropmark on the valley slope to the south-west of the village. Roman finds of pottery and a coin have been recorded c.1km to the southeast of the site (PCA 2004). In the vicinity of the site, a Bronze Age flint scraper (HER 35353), a Roman roof tile (HER 35354) and a number of undated archaeological features (HER 35358; 36605) are recorded on the HER on Churchfields Road, c. 150m to the northeast of the site ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/); APS 2000; 2005).

A settlement at Folkingham is documented in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086 as *Fulechingeham*, meaning 'the homestead, estate of the Folcingas' – and is therefore of likely Anglo-Saxon origin (Cameron 1998, 45; Morgan & Thorn 1986). Folkingham was one of 130 Lincolnshire manors bestowed by William the Conqueror on his wife's nephew, Gilbert of Ghent, who later became Earl of Lincoln (Mee 1970, 131; Trollope 1872).

Folkingham contains a significant post-conquest castle in the form of a motte and bailey, built as a centre of administration and the residence of the lord within his estate (Cooper 2006). The castle was rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> century but later destroyed during the Civil War. A house of correction was built on the castle site in 1825.

A previous programme of archaeological observation and recording undertaken by PCA Lincoln in Folkingham in 2004, close to St Andrew's churchyard retrieved unstratified sherds of medieval pottery.

There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) in Folkingham: this is Folkingham Castle (SAM LI 86), located c. 700m east of the site, on the eastern edge of the village. The closest designated heritage asset to the site is the Grade II listed, late 17<sup>th</sup>-century Low Farmhouse on Spring Lane, c. 300m to the southeast ([http://www. heritagegateway.org.uk/](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/)).

The proposed development site lies well outside the boundaries of the Folkingham Conservation Area, which was designated in 1968. The Conservation Area is based principally around Market Place, West Street and Chapel Lane, encompassing the historic centre of the village.

## 6.0 Methodology

The development area had previously been occupied by the former changing rooms associated with the playing field, therefore the concrete foundations of this building lay partly within the new development footprint. Old concrete in the affected areas was broken up by Jack Hammer, and a mini digger fitted with a smooth bucket excavated the footing trenches for the new build. All excavations were monitored by an archaeologist. The new foundation trenches were approximately 0.6m wide and 0.7m deep. As the new building was to be built on a raft, internal footings were chamfered off at an approximate angle of 45 degrees.

The groundworks were undertaken between 17/9/12 and 20/9/12, and were monitored by Julian Sleep.

All features and deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks was recorded on a day sheet. Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, plotted on a site plan drawn at scale 1:50. This record of the development was supplemented with a photographic record; a selection of the digital photographs is reproduced in Appendix 1.

## 7.0 Results (Figs. 2 & 3)

The earliest horizon identified at a depth of 0.62m was a mid yellow silty clay 105. This compact layer contained moderate chalk flecks, and was recorded as natural. This was only identified on the western half of the site; the eastern footings were not excavated through the mid orange-brown silty clay 104, a subsoil deposit which extended across the whole site.

The subsoil was overlain by mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments and chalk flecks 103. This topsoil covered the site, and was topped by the turf layer 102 of the playing field.

The concrete footing of the old changing rooms was allocated the context number 101.

No finds were recovered from any of the horizons.

## 8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land, excluding previous modern development, was not hitherto occupied.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Crestwood UK for this commission.

## 11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') by April 2013.

## 12.0 Bibliography

APS: Archaeological Project Services. Sept 2000. *An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off Walcot Road, Folkingham*. FWR97.

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Mee A. 1970. *The King's England: Lincolnshire*. Hodder & Stoughton.

Morgan, P. and Thorn, C. (eds). 1986. *Domesday Book, Lincolnshire*.

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Trollope, E. 1872. *Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardhurn in the County of Lincoln.* London: Fawcett.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Turf removed and the old concrete footings exposed. Looking north.



Plate 2: Representative section (Figure 3 A-B).



Plate 3: Footing trenches excavated, showing chamfered sides for raft. Looking east.



## Appendix 2: Context Summary

| Context No. | Type      | Description  | Finds/Dating |
|-------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| 101         | Structure | Concrete footings of previous changing rooms. 0.4m deep.   | Modern       |
| 102         | Layer     | Mid grey-brown friable clay silt. 0.06m thick. Turf layer  | None         |
| 103         | Layer     | Mid grey-brown compacted silty clay with occasional limestone fragments and chalk fleck inclusions. 0.31m thick. Topsoil extending across site.  | None         |
| 104         | Layer     | Mid orange-brown compacted silty clay with occasional rounded limestone fragments. 0.13m thick. Subsoil extending across whole site. Lower limit of subsoil not established on western side of the footings. | None         |
| 105         | Layer     | Mid yellow silty clay with moderate chalk flecks. Natural horizon recorded on east side of footings at a depth of 0.62m.   | None         |

## Appendix 3: OASIS summary

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

### Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-143939**

#### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | The Playing Field, Walcot Lane, Folkingham  |
| Short description of the project       | Watching brief complete during groundworks for a new changing room at the Playing Field, Walcot Road, Folkingham, South Kesteven. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 17-09-2012 End: 20-09-2012   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | WLFM 12 - Sitecode  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2012.139 - Museum accession ID  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 14 - Recreational usage   |
| Monument type                          | NONE None   |
| Monument type                          | NONE None   |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None   |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None   |
| Investigation type                     | "Watching Brief"  |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition  |

#### Project location

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Country           | England   |
| Site location     | LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN FOLKINGHAM The Playing Field, Walcot Lane, Folkingham |
| Study area        | 0.01 Hectares   |
| Site coordinates  | TF 0670 3330 52 0 52 53 10 N 000 24 50 W Point                                    |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 50.00m Max: 50.00m   |

#### Project creators

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation         | Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd                             |
| Project brief originator     | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator    | Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd                             |
| Project director/manager     | Will Munford  |
| Project supervisor           | Julian Sleep  |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer   |

#### Project archives

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists?  | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient | The Collection, Lincoln  |
| Digital Archive ID        | 2012.139   |
| Digital Contents          | "none"   |
| Digital Media available   | "Images raster / digital photography","Text"                             |
| Paper Archive recipient   | The Collection, Lincoln  |
| Paper Archive ID          | 2012.139   |
| Paper Contents            | "none"   |
| Paper Media available     | "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text" |
| Entered by                | Alison Lane (findsroom@pre-construct.co.uk)                              |
| Entered on                | 18 February 2013   |

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) for OASIS help and advice  
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cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

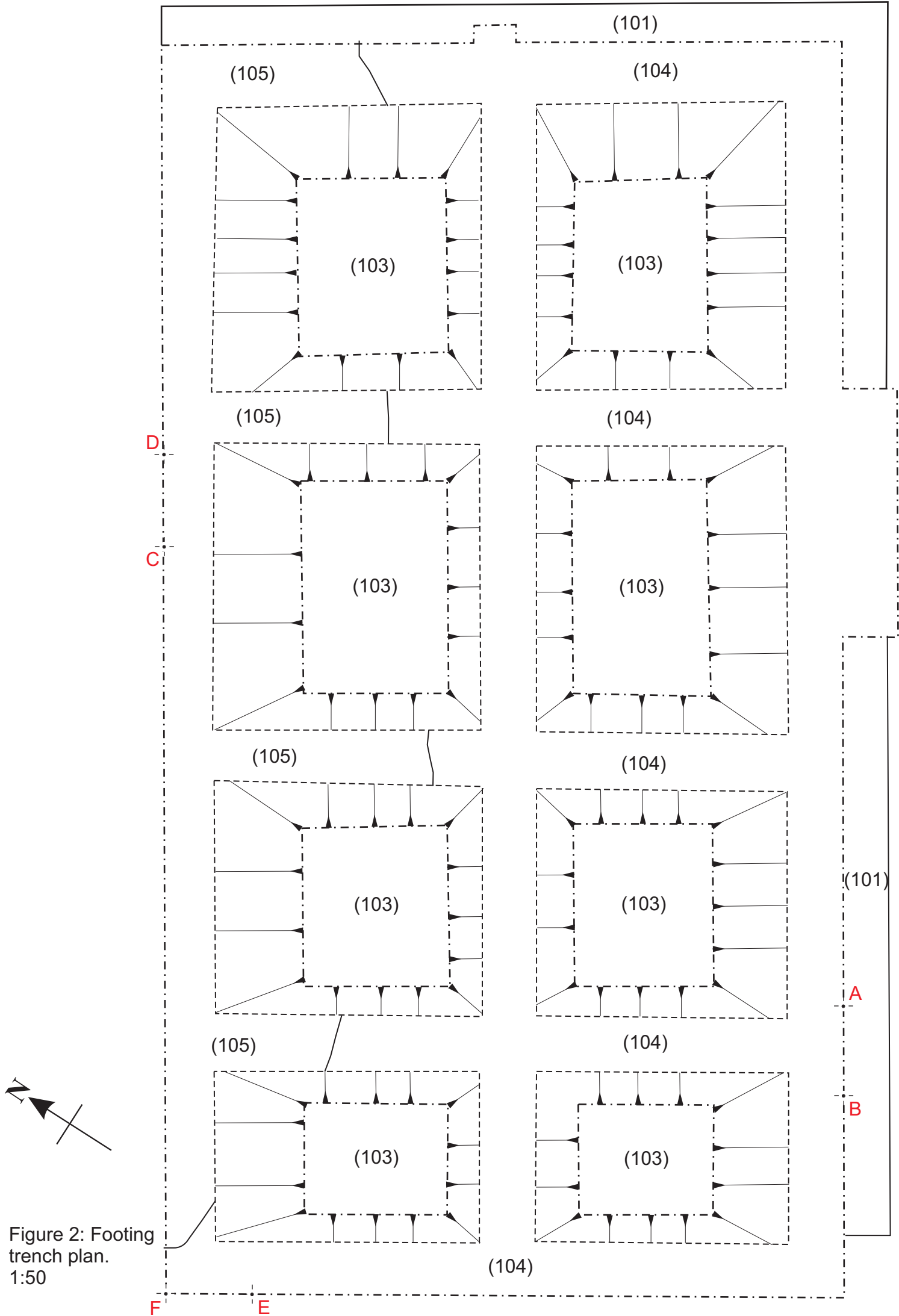


Figure 2: Footing trench plan.  
1:50

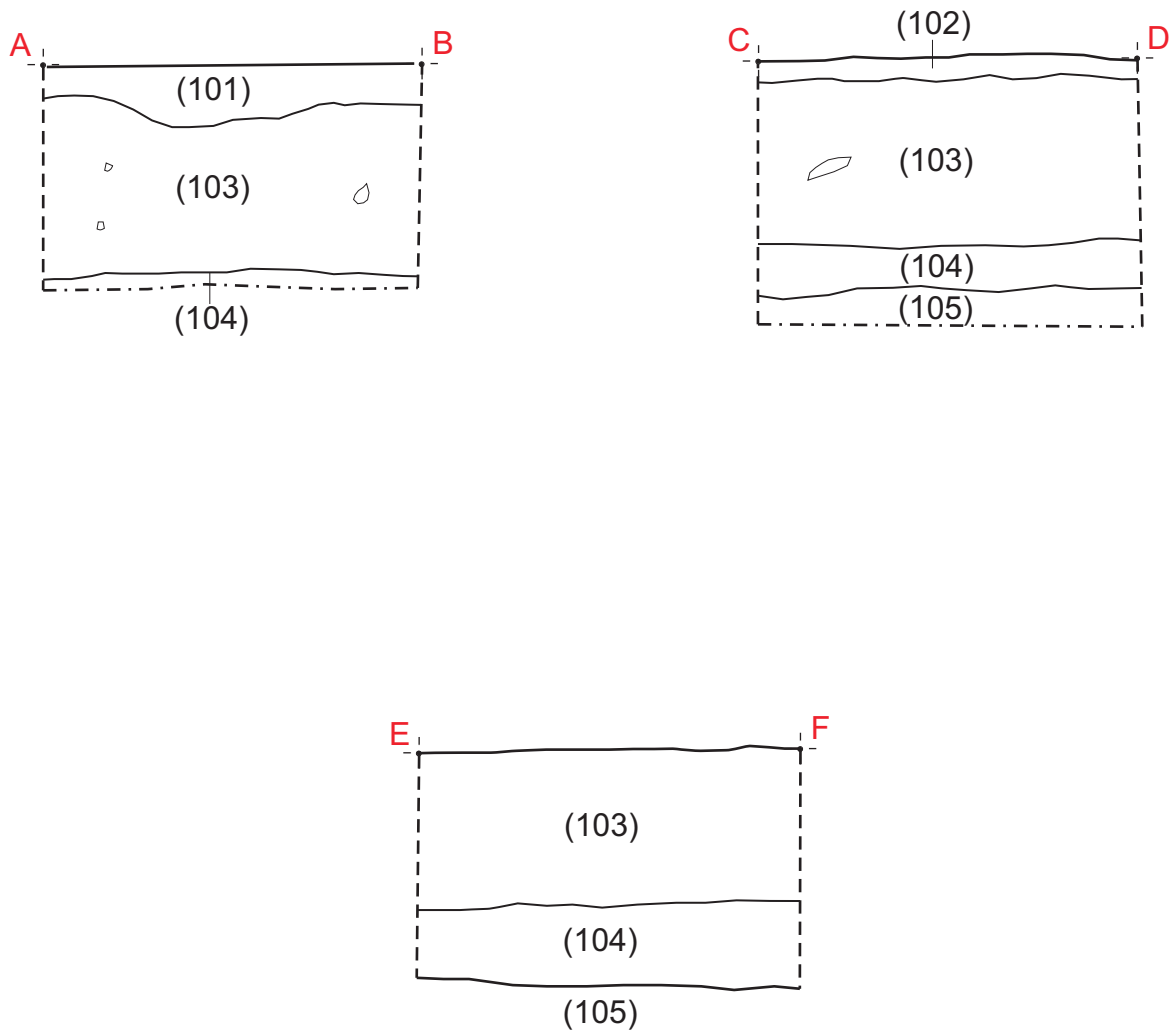


Figure 3: Representative sections.  
See Figure 2 for section locations.

