

**FORMER CO-OP DAIRY, NORTHOLME,
GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 81694 90262
WLDC Planning Ref.: 125240
PCAS Job no. 1037
Site Code: CDNM 13
Archive Acc. no.: 2013.104
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Prepared for
CAD Associates
on behalf of Parkside Luxury Homes (Lincoln) LLP

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1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by CAD Associates to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to Northolme in the town of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The development consisted of 51 new dwellings on a site formerly occupied by the Co-op Dairy, subsequently derelict.

This document details the methodology and results from the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- IFA Code of Conduct (1994 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2008);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2012).

2 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1-2)

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 on to the western bank.

The site of the former Co-op Dairy is situated to the north of the town centre. It is bounded on all sides by existing residential development, apart from the south-west frontage boundary, which overlooks Gainsborough Trinity Football Stadium. The existing, surrounding built environment includes structures of two to three storeys, in terraced block, semi-detached and some detached dwelling forms. The buildings have been built generally utilising brick facing material with slate and tiled roofs. An existing railway line runs parallel to the eastern boundary, with a recently constructed residential development on the opposite side. The overall site has an area of 0.94 hectares (CAD Associates, 2009).

National Grid Reference: SK 81694 90262.

3 Geology and Topography

The site lies at the eastern edge of a drift deposit of 1st Terrace material laid down by the River Trent. This deposit is likely to cover at least part of the site, with the remainder situated on the exposed Keuper Marl (Mercia Mudstone) solid geology (BGS, 1971).

A soils investigation carried out in 2008 excavated a series of trial pits and boreholes. This observed layers of made ground overlying natural strata of either sand, silty marl or sandy clay (Intersoil, 2008).

The site lies at the foot of the west-facing slope of the Trent valley.

4 Planning Background

Full planning permission for the construction of a residential development comprising 51 dwellings, with associated access including a mini-roundabout on Northolme, was granted in July 2011 (planning ref. 125240).

This permission was granted subject to the condition that no development would take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation had been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority (Condition 4).

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Gainsborough and its immediate neighbourhood are considered unlikely to have attracted prehistoric or Roman settlement, as the low-lying clay soils were too heavy and wet for easy cultivation; little Roman or pre-Roman material has been recorded from the area (Gardner, 2005).

Significant settlement in Gainsborough appears to have begun in the Anglian period, around the 6th century AD. The place-name derives from the Old English *burh*, 'a fortress or defended settlement', combined with the personal name *Gaegn* (Cameron, 1998). The implication that Gainsborough was a fortified settlement from the Anglian period, possibly from its inception, is probably due to its position on the Trent, which formed the boundary between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Lindsey and Mercia, making Gainsborough a frontier town (Beckwith, 1988).

The earliest written record of Gainsborough is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which records how King Swein of Denmark brought an invasion fleet via the Humber and the Trent in AD 1013, setting up his campaign base at Gainsborough and leaving it in charge of his son Cnut, who was eventually to be crowned there. Gainsborough may not have been a major settlement at the time: it is likely that its significance to Swein lay in its being the first practical landing point on the east bank of the Trent for a ship coming upstream (Everson, 1991).

Gainsborough appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a single manor, part of the estate of Geoffrey de la Guerche. At the time of surveying, only two-thirds of the usable arable land was in cultivation and the estate's taxable value had fallen from £6 to £3; it also contained 40 acres of meadow and 80 acres of 'scrubland', and had a recorded population of 16 households (Martin and Williams, 1992). The town increased in significance as a port and market throughout the later Middle Ages, corresponding to the decline of the formerly significant trading town of Torksey (Allen, 2002). Gainsborough became a Borough in around 1200-50; by the end of the 13th century, it had a weekly market and two annual fairs (HER ref. 55527). Medieval activity in the vicinity of the site is suggested by findspots recorded by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record: an archaeological evaluation on land off Northolme, at NGR 816 903, retrieved four sherds of medieval pottery, including a Saxo-Norman sherd dating to c.850-1100 (HER ref. 55532), and a medieval floor tile was found in disturbed soil at the neighbouring football ground in 1962 (HER ref. 52072).

During the Civil War, the strategic position of Gainsborough made it attractive to both sides. The town initially organised its own defences, but was soon commandeered by the Royalists; in July 1643, the Parliamentarians surprised the Royalist garrison and captured the town, with little loss of civilian life but extensive destruction of property. The Battle of Gainsborough was fought to lift the ensuing Royalist siege, and was won by the Parliamentarians under Colonel Cromwell (Beckwith, 1988).

The River Trent continued to play an important role in the prosperity and growth of post-medieval Gainsborough. By the late 17th/early 18th century, there were around 2,000 people living in Gainsborough; in 1801 the population was 4,506 people, rising to 7,564 by 1871 and

rising further to 17,740 by 1901. Official Port status and a branch customs house were granted in 1840, but the port and its associated industries began to decline soon after, due to the opening of the railway in 1849 and the deterioration of the river channel, and Gainsborough was eventually reduced to a rural market town (HER ref. 55527). A plan of the town dating from 1748 indicates that the site still lay outside the north-eastern edge of the developed area of the post-medieval town (Gardner, 2005).

6 Methodology (Fig. 2)

The work took place between 18th June 2013 and 7th July 2015.

Each set of plots related to a series of terraced housing, as shown on Figure 2. Standard procedure was to monitor the work on an individual set of plots; the vegetation was stripped prior to monitoring but the footings trenches were completed using a 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket.

Each plot was planned at a scale of 1:200, and all features and deposits observed were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, before being plotted on the plan. The progress of the groundworks was noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the groundworks and supplemented by colour or monochrome slides where appropriate: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

7 Results (Figs. 3-6, Plates 1-8)

Almost the entire footprint of the monitored area had been disturbed, to the extent that no topsoil was recorded in any of the house plots. Even in Plots 21-24 (Plate 6), the highest point of the monitored area where the land was clear of the dairy building, it was not possible to provide an exact measurement of soil depths; upper topsoil to top of natural. The area of higher ground, partly visible in section outside the construction area, was covered in rubble and construction material and yielded no further details.

The natural clay was slightly sandy, and was overlain by one or more layers of silty sand. Plots 21-24 indicated the presence of sandy clay above this; such a layer (2002) was more than 0.50m thick.

Occasionally, the remains of a detached structure associated with the dairy building was noted, such as a fragment of a brick structure 404 in Plot 13 which was covered with a metal plate when found by the contractor (Plate 4). This was evidently a redundant manhole associated with modern drains.

The only area of interest which appeared not to relate to the previous dairy building was a drain 307, which is shown in Plates 7 and 8. This measured 210 x 110 x 70mm and was constructed of single coursed red brick with mortar, and had an arched roof. The associated fill (309) of the drain was the only context yielding finds: two sherds of glazed pottery were sent for specialist assessment, and proved to originate from the period between the mid-17th and the 18th centuries (Appendix 3), indicating that the infill of the drain was 18th century or later.

8 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern era were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme. The site had been disturbed during the construction of the dairy building, but even so, no residual material was retrieved from any footings during the monitoring, excluding two pieces of post-medieval pottery recovered from the fill of a drain.

Based on a plan of the town dated 1748, it is likely that the site was not built on until after this date, and therefore the dairy may have been the first building in this area.

9 Effectiveness of Methodology

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

10 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank CAD Associates and Parkside Luxury Homes (Lincoln) LLP for this commission.

11 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 June 2016.

12 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1: General view of the site from the south-west of Plots 1-5 looking north-east



Plate 2: North facing section of Plots 9-11 showing a stratigraphic sequence typical of the site

Plate 3 (right): The remains of the modern wall **205** which had a fibreglass tank on the inside. Located in Plots 9-11



Plate 4 (left): Wall fragment **404** in Plot 13, looking north-east. This was a modern manhole associated with modern drainage

Plate 5: Plots 12-13 after completion, looking south-west. The wall 404 was located in the bottom right corner of the photograph



Plate 6: View of Plots 21-24 looking west. The topsoil, subsoil, and part of the natural sandy material have been removed, as seen in the section in the background

Plate 7: South-west facing section through the drain 307 in Plots 50-53 before excavation



Plate 8: Plots 50-53 drain 307 after excavation

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Plots 1-5:

Context No.	Type	Description
100	Layer	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty sand. Thickness 0.20m.
101	Layer	Natural. Brownish yellow silty sand
102	Deposit	Concrete and brick foundation of the old co-op building. Thickness 0.30-0.90m.
103	Deposit	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with infrequent CBM. Levelling deposit for construction of co-op building. Variable depth, max. 0.78m.
104	Layer	Natural below (101) to south of Plots 1-5. Light reddish brown sandy clay.
105	Layer	Dark brown silty peat. Rooting throughout. Perhaps original ground surface.

Plots 9-11:

Context No.	Type	Description
200	Layer	Black clayey sand with gravel and rubble. Destruction layer. Same as (300).
201	Layer	Concrete, mortar and brick destruction layer.
202	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Perhaps same as (100), buried topsoil?
203	Layer	Soft reddish brown sand.
204	Layer	Contaminated ground.
205	Structure	Corner of modern building with fibreglass tank on the inside.
206	Layer	Natural. Reddish brown soft sandy clay, perhaps same as (104).
207	Layer	Fine grey sand.

Plots 50-53:

Context No.	Type	Description
300	Layer	Black clayey sand with gravel and rubble. Destruction layer. Same as (200).
301	Layer	Dark brown clayey sand, mortar.
302	Layer	CBM, mortar and sand. Destruction layer.
303	Layer	Soft reddish brown sand.
304	Layer	Fine grey sand.
305	Layer	Natural. Reddish brown sandy clay. Same as (206).
306	Layer	Dark grey brown sand with a slight clay component.
307	Structure	Red brick and mortar drain 70 x 110 x 210mm with arched roof.
308	Cut	Steep sided cut for drain. N side visible.
309	Fill	Loose mid brown sandy silt fill of drain [308] with some mortar and brick.

Plots 12-13:

Context No.	Type	Description
400	Layer	Black clayey sand with gravel. Destruction layer. Same as (200).
401	Layer	Thin mid brown clayey layer with occasional limestone flecks.
402	Layer	Dark grey sandy clay. Frequent bottle glass, modern refuse, CBM and stone rubble.
403	Layer	Reddish brown natural sand.
404	Structure	Brick 220 x 110 x 80mm with cement mortar. 1m wide, 0.80m deep. Part of drainage system in corner of plot 13.
405	Fill	Loose dark grey fill of [406].
406	Cut	Construction cut for [404], probably modern drainage system.
407	Layer	Reddish brown natural clay. Maybe a dark degraded peat remnant in NE corner.

Plots 48-49:

Context No.	Type	Description
500	Layer	Dark brownish grey clayey sand with frequent small fragments of CBM and limestone rubble. Thickness 0.30m.
501	Layer	Mid brownish grey clayey sand, modern demolition refuse, CBM and rubble. Thickness 0.90m.
502	Layer	Natural clay.

Plots 14-16:

Context No.	Type	Description
600	Layer	Dark greyish brown clayey sand, frequent gravel and occasional CBM. Thickness 0.30m.
601	Layer	Dark grey, frequent gravel and stone, occasional modern refuse and concrete. Thickness 0.55m.
602	Layer	Reddish brown natural sand.

Plot 47:

Context No.	Type	Description
700	Layer	Black clayey sand with gravel. Destruction layer. Same as (400). Thickness 0.15m.
701	Layer	Mid orange brown building sand, part of (700). Thickness 0.35m.
702	Layer	Dark grey clayey sand, frequent pebbles to 10cm, some gravel and brick rubble. Thickness 0.50m.
703	Layer	Dark grey mixed gravel, some rubble. Looser than (702). Thickness 0.40m.
704	Layer	Natural orangey brown sand.

Plots 17-20:

Context No.	Type	Description
800	Layer	Modern overburden, dumps and brick rubble.
801	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay, possibly redeposited natural. No inclusions.
802	Layer	Pellets of clay similar to [803] and a black powdery substance which may be deteriorated peat in the NW corner of plots 18-20. Thickness 0.10m.
803	Layer	Reddish brown sandy clay natural.

Plots 21-24:

Context No.	Type	Description
2000	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of brick and mortar. Remains of modern overburden. Thickness 0.07m plus that machined away, total approx. 1m.
2001	Layer	Dark greyish brown clay with small fragments of brick (>0.5m). Possibly redeposited natural for foundations. Thickness 0.18m.
2002	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with no inclusions.
2400	Layer	Mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with no inclusions. Thickness 0.30m.
2401	Layer	Light grey clay lens following the land contour. Natural. Thickness 0.04m.
2402	Layer	Mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay, flaky when dry. No inclusions, deeper to east of site. Thickness 0.46m.

**THE POST ROMAN POTTERY FROM THE FORMER CO OP, NORTHOLME,
GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE (CDNM 13)**

JANE YOUNG CERAMIC CONSULTANT

INTRODUCTION

Two post-Roman sherds were presented for examination. The material was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005). The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel or CBM count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

CONDITION

The material is in slightly worn but stable condition with fragments weighing between 5 and 6 grams.

THE RANGE AND VARIETY OF MATERIALS

The two small Post-Roman sherds were recovered drain **308**. One sherd is from a Brown-glazed Earthenware (BERTH) jug or jar in an orange-red medium sandy fabric. The internally glazed vessel is of Staffordshire/Derbyshire mid 17th to 18th century type. The other sherd comes from a large Midland Light-bodied Slipware jar or bowl of 18th to mid 19th century date. The vessel is in a pale orange fine sandy fabric and has an internal mid-brown glaze over an orange slip.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The recovered pottery suggests that the in-fill of the drain is of 18th century or later date.

The assemblage should be kept for future study.

REFERENCES

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http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1073/Archaeological_Handbook.pdf

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**Former Co-op, Northholme,
Gainsborough (CDNM 13)**
The Animal Bone
By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 1 (16g) refitted fragment of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd on land at Former Co op, Northholme, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from a single context (309). No dating evidence was available at the time of assessment.

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging at grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of butchery, burning, working or gnawing was noted on the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
309		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	16	Shaft fragment

As can be seen, the assemblage was unidentifiable beyond size category.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry or utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

References

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Former Co op Dairy, Northolme, Gainsborough
CDNM13
LCNCC:2013.104
Finds Catalogue

Context	Material	No.	Weight (g)	Description	Date	Action
309	Coal	1	1g	Coal fragment		Discard

Fig. 3: Plan of Plots 1-5

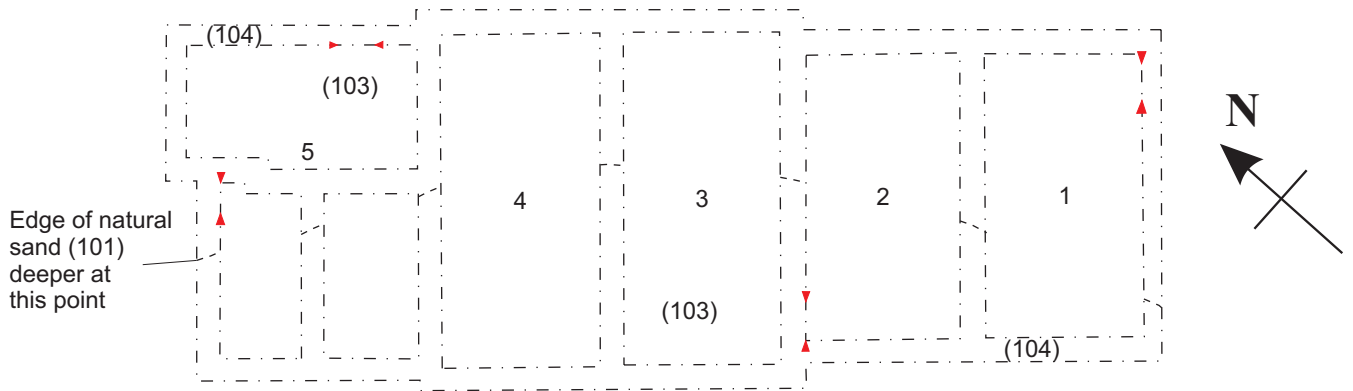
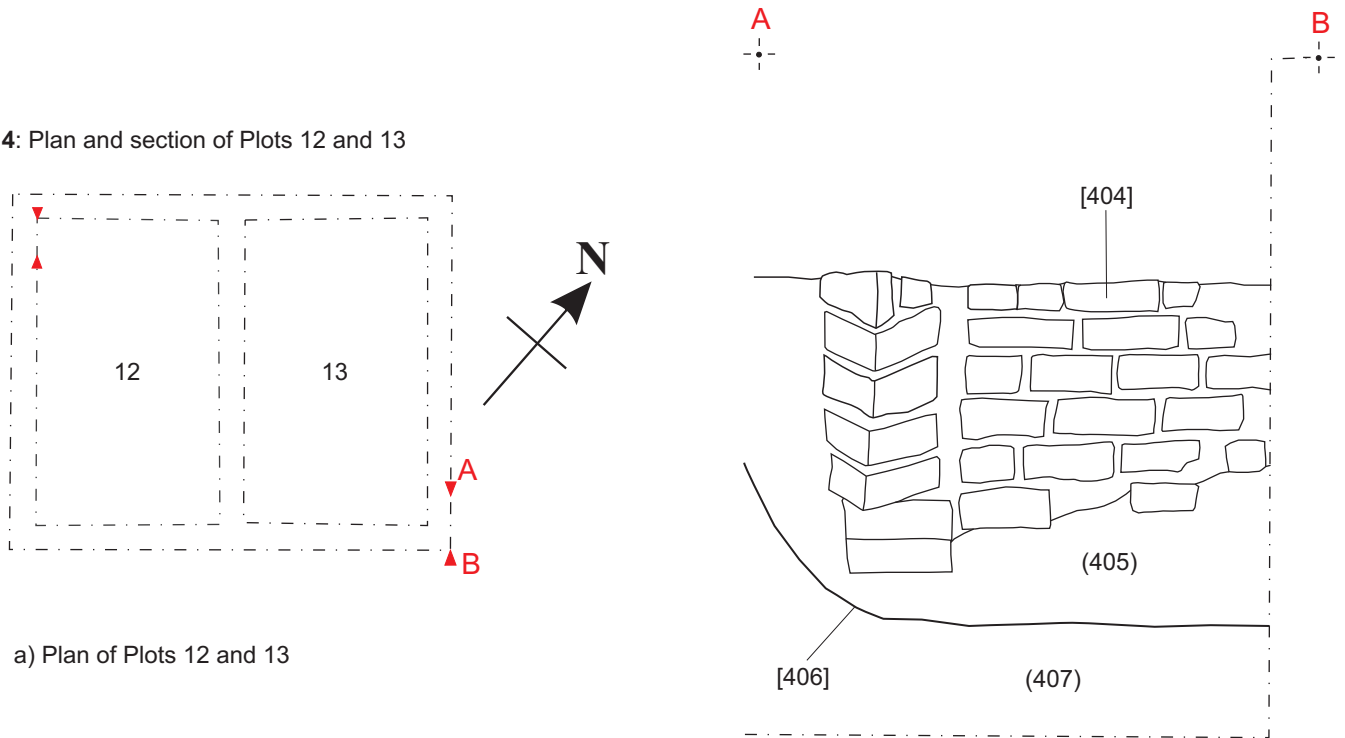


Fig. 4: Plan and section of Plots 12 and 13

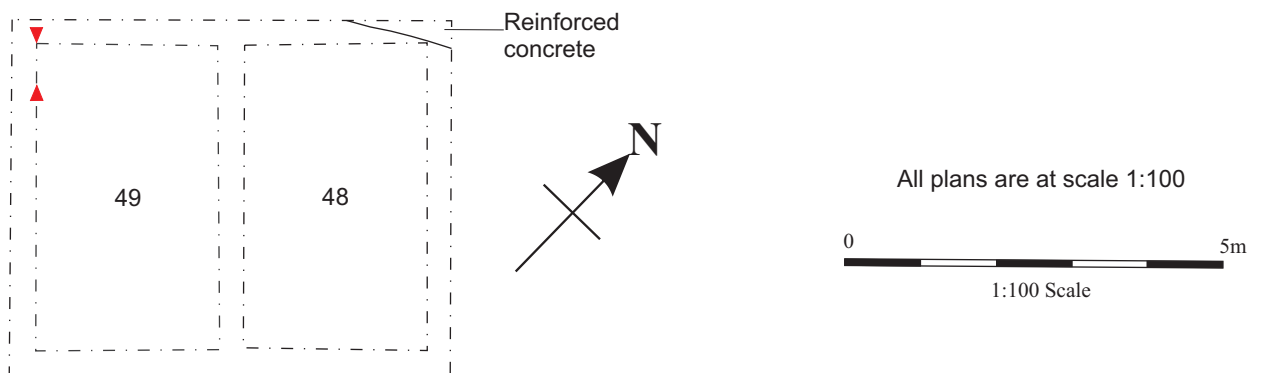


a) Plan of Plots 12 and 13

b) SW facing section of Plot 13

0 1m
1:20 Scale

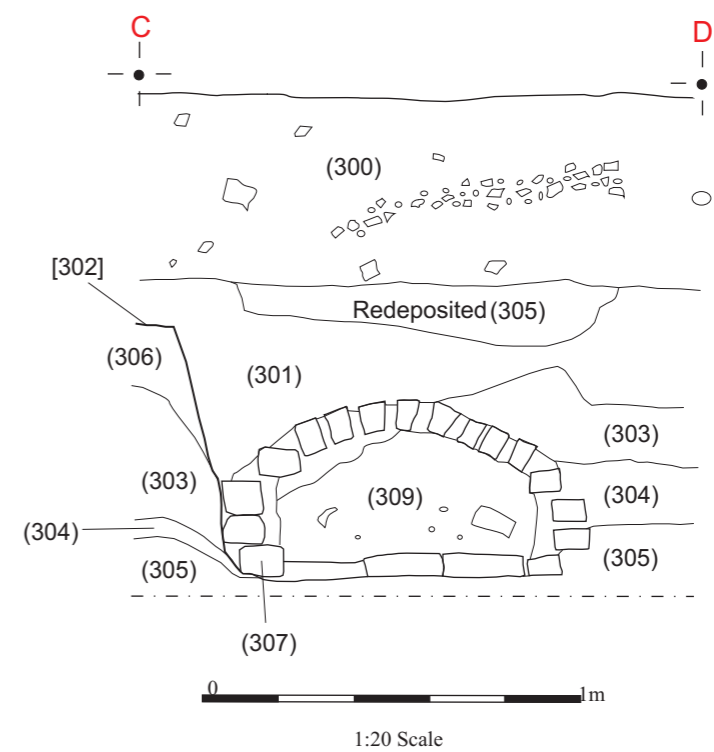
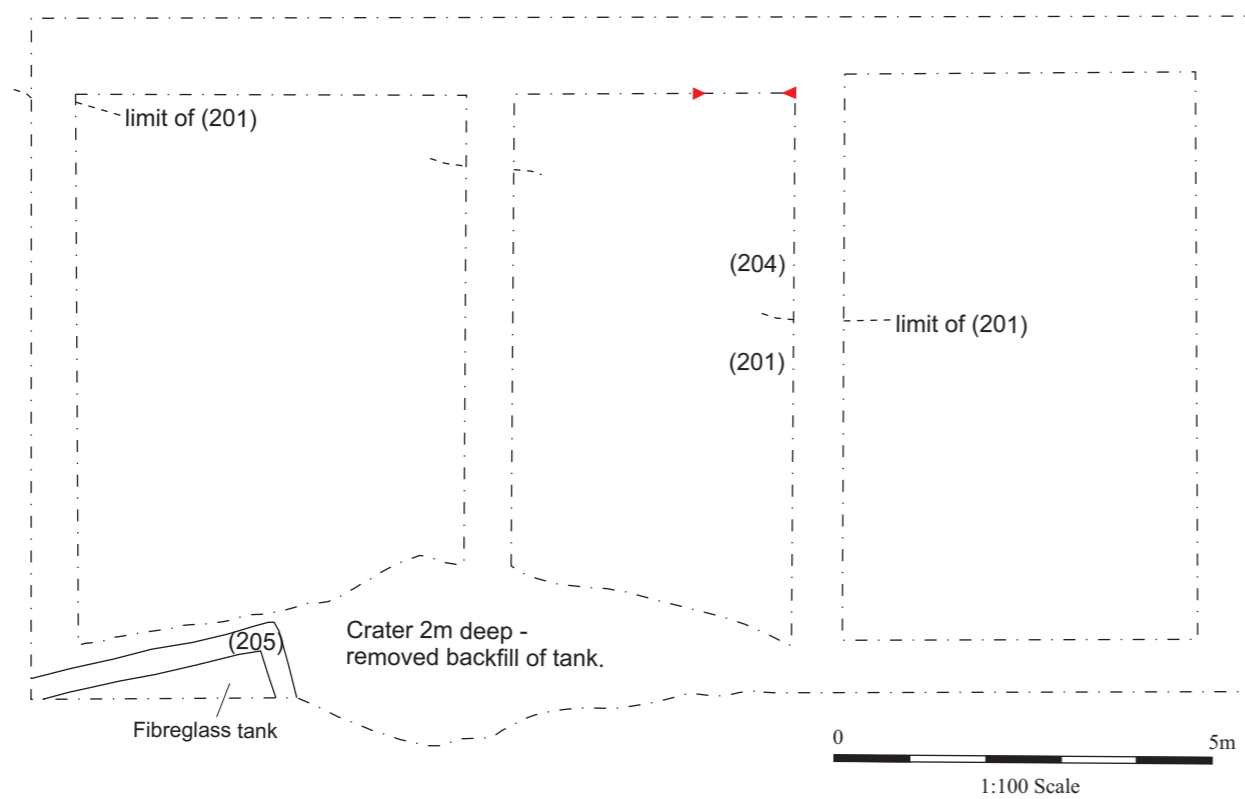
Fig. 5: Plan of Plots 48 and 49



All plans are at scale 1:100

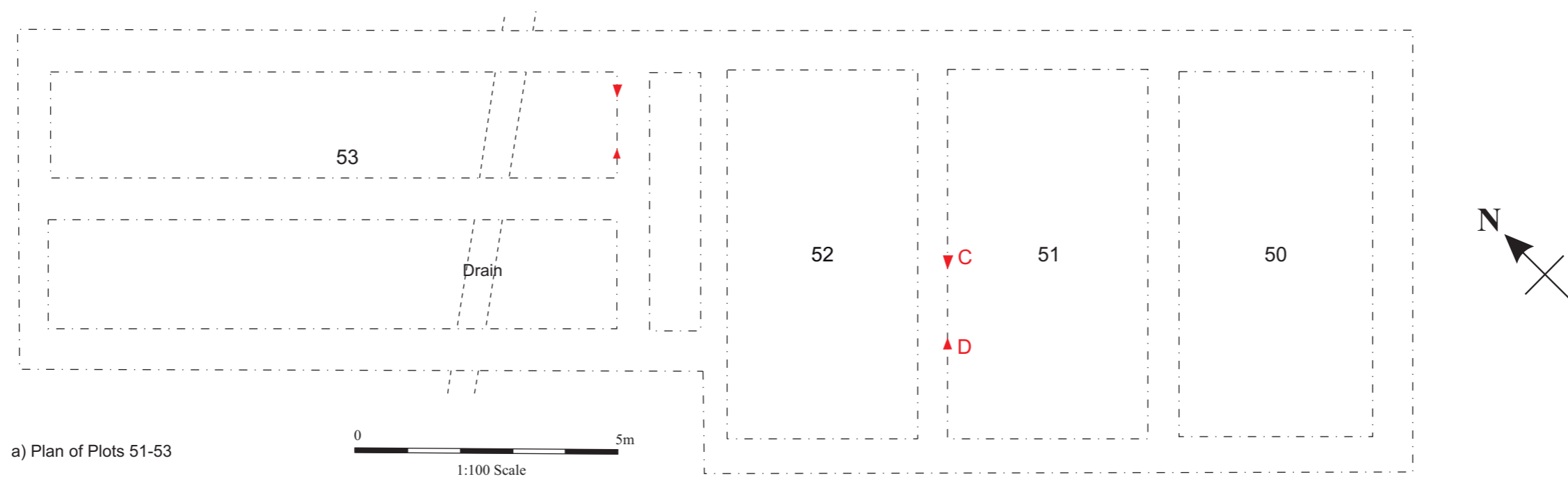
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1:100 Scale

Fig. 6: Plan of Plots 9-11



b) South-west facing section through drain [307] in Plot 51

Fig. 7: Plan and section of Plots 50-53



a) Plan of Plots 51-53

Fig. 8: Plan of Plots 17-20

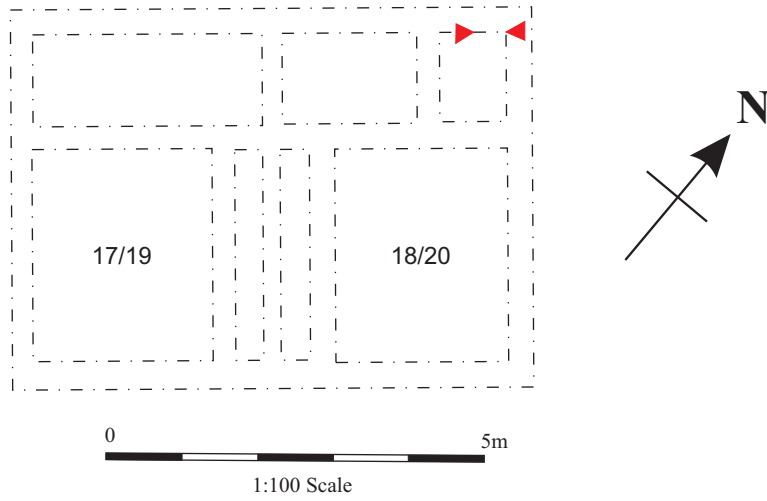
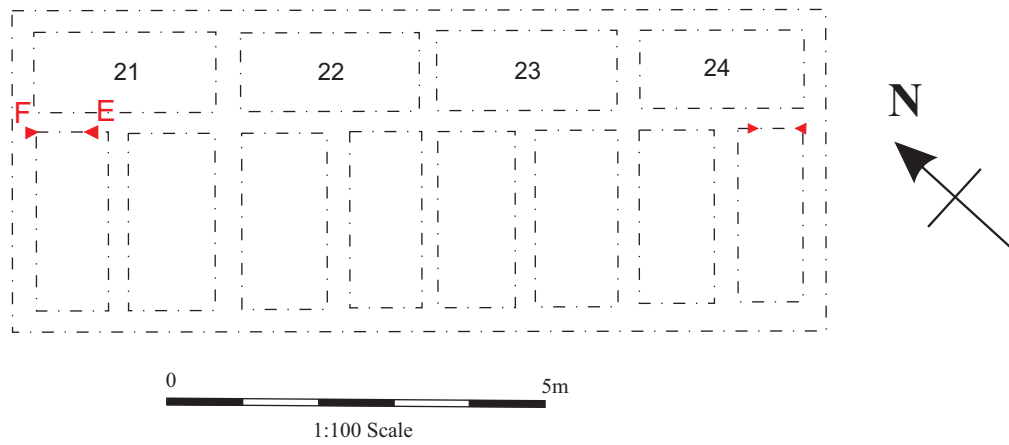
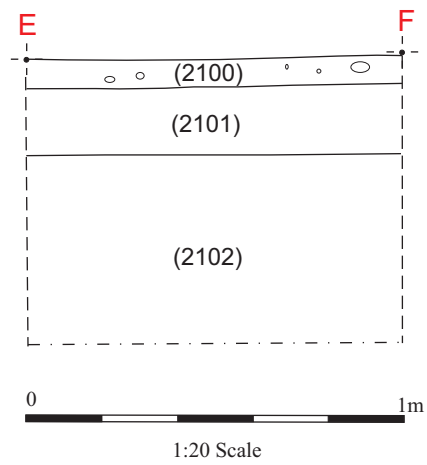


Fig. 9: Plan and section of Plots 21-24



a) Plan of Plots 21-24



b) South-east facing section of Plot 21

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