

ERMINE GROVE, BROUGHTON, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

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Planning ref.: PA/2014/1048
PCAS Job No.: 1381
Site code: EGBM14
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Report prepared for
North Lincolnshire Homes

by

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Summary

The development site that is the subject of this report is located within a 20th-century housing estate on the south side of the village of Broughton, to the south-west of its historic core.

The site lies approximately 50m from the course of the major Roman road Ermine Street and is within the environs of a probable Bronze Age barrow.

This document describes the archaeological methodology and results of a scheme of monitoring and recording. This took place during the construction of five dwellings, during which no features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

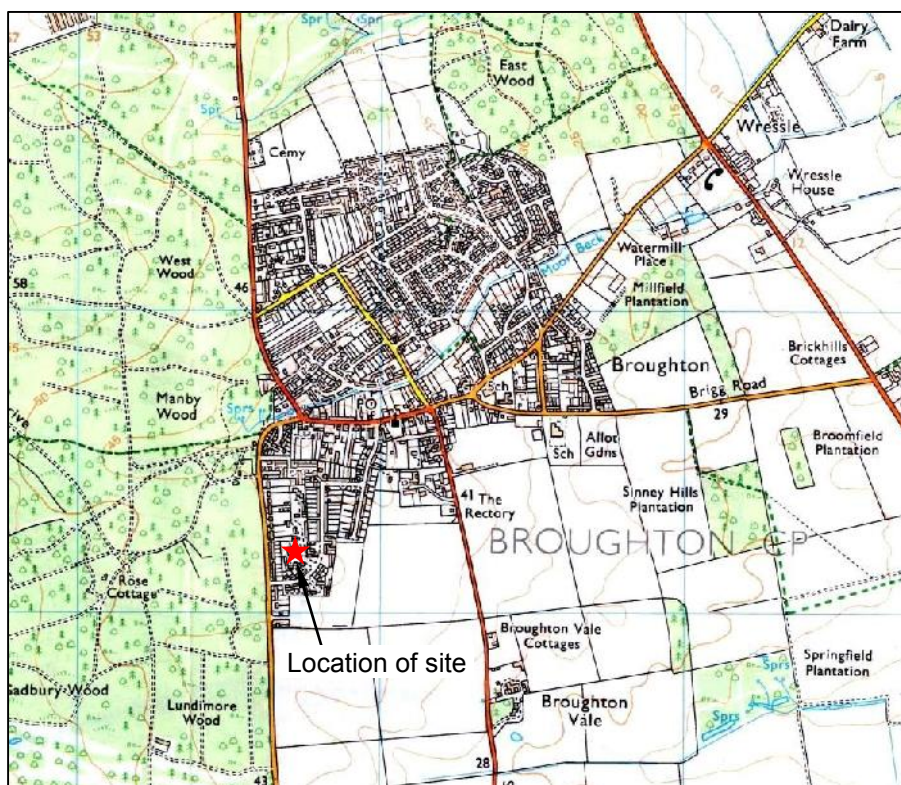


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000: the position of the site is shown in red (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by North Lincolnshire Homes to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Ermine Grove, off Wyatts Avenue in the small town of Broughton in North Lincolnshire. The site was until recently occupied by the disused buildings of a sheltered housing scheme.

This document details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. It follows current best practice and 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)

2 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1-3)

The small town of Broughton is situated in the county of North Lincolnshire, approximately 4km west-north-west of Brigg and 7km east-south-east of Scunthorpe. It lies on the east side of the north-to-south aligned Roman road Ermine Street - the stretch which passes through Broughton is largely followed by the course of the modern B1207.

The development site is located on the east side of Ermine Street, within a modern housing development that extends to the south-west of the historic village core; central National Grid Reference is SE 95698 08206. It was most recently occupied by a sheltered housing scheme, comprising 28 bedsit flats with accommodation for a support officer, demolished at the start of the project.

The site occupies an approximate area of 3600 square metres; the portion subject to archaeological monitoring, on the west side of the development, occupies approximately 1000 square metres.

3 Geology and Topography

Ermine Street runs approximately along the crest of the Lincoln Edge, between the valleys of the River Ancholme to the east and Trent to the west; Broughton is situated towards the northern extremity of the Lincoln Edge, near the point at which it begins to decline into the Humber estuary into which the Trent and the Ancholme fall. It lies on the shallower eastward slope of the Lincoln Edge, on land declining from roughly 45m to 25m OD; the development site, at the western edge of the town, is at a height of approximately 45m OD. The Moor Beck rises in the woodland on the opposite side of Ermine Street and runs on a generally eastward course through the town towards the Ancholme valley.

The drift geology of the area is recorded as Blown Sand, overlying a solid matrix of Coleby Mudstone (BGS, 1982).

4 Planning Background

Planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 13 dwellings (ref. PA/2014/1048) was granted by North Lincolnshire County Council on 23rd December 2014, subject to conditions. One of these was that the present groundworks followed a specification

for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording (Savage, 2014b), which acted as a supporting document to meet condition 12.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

A detailed archaeological and historical background, taking a study area of 500m radius around the development site, has already been prepared as part of the Heritage Impact Assessment for this scheme (Savage, 2014a).

In summary, the Historical Impact Assessment notes that the site lies within the neighbourhood of a probable Bronze Age barrow, and there is some evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of other finds made in the area. There is currently little evidence for a Roman settlement within the study area, but the site lies approximately 50m from the course of the major Roman road of Ermine Street.

The pre-Norman origins of the present settlement of Broughton are attested to by Domesday Book and by the Grade I listed Church of St. Mary, but little, if any, archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon and early medieval activity has been retrieved within the study area. Medieval Broughton was a substantial settlement, with a market and a fair, but there is little archaeological evidence from this period within the study area, and the site lies well beyond the historic core of the village, within its agricultural hinterland. Historic mapping from 1885 shows that the site was agricultural land into the mid-20th-century and not part of the woodland area to the west, and that the first post-medieval development there was the present Ermine Grove (*ibid.*).

6 Methodology

The fieldwork was carried out over a number of visits, between 8th May and 12th October 2015. Using a JCB excavator with a flat-bladed bucket, a strip of some 0.3m of topsoil from Plots 7-9 was carried out as the first part of the groundworks, with the spoil temporarily placed on Plot 11. The same machine was then used, with a narrow bucket, to excavate the footings trenches for the new building on Plots 7-9, which were 0.60m wide and a maximum of 1m deep. Building started on Plots 7-9; at the same time the spoil stored on Plot 11 was removed from the site. This allowed the footings trenches of Plots 10 and 11 to be excavated as the second part of the groundworks, including a small length of drainage channel along the north and east sides of Plot 11.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on standard PCAS site diary sheets. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan at 1:200. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the monitoring supplemented by colour slides where necessary: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

7 Results (Figs. 4-6, Plates 1-7)

Throughout all five plots on the site, the sandy silt topsoil (101), which was between 0.15m and 0.23m thick, sealed the natural sand (102). There was no subsoil noted in any of the footings. The site was characterised by a number of layers of made ground, especially in the areas towards the eastern edge of the site, closest to the previous buildings. These were predominantly sand based, and where present, covered the turf layer (108) and the topsoil (101). There were a number of tree roots and two tree stumps remaining in the natural sand in Plots 7 and 8, but nothing in Plots 10 and 11, in the northern part of the site.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring.

8 Conclusion

The close proximity of Ermine Street, a major Roman road, suggested the possibility of Roman occupation or roadside activity was a strong one. Despite this, nothing of archaeological interest was encountered anywhere during the monitoring. The lack of pre-Norman and medieval finds shows that the settlement of Broughton never extended as far south as the development area.

The tree roots and stumps noted in Plots 7 and 8 indicate the presence of trees which may have been part of a small orchard, of which Plot 8 was its northern extent. However, historic mapping (Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 onward) does not support this as there is no indication that the area was wooded during the last century and a half.

9 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 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank North Lincolnshire Homes 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 North Lincolnshire Museum by July 2016 under the archive accession code BHCC.

12 References

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1982, *Brigg: Geological Survey of England and Wales sheet 89, 1:50,000 Drift Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Ancholme Valley, Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Scunthorpe & Kirton in Lindsey: 1:25,000 Explorer series no. 281*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Savage, R. D., 2014a, *Ermine Grove, Broughton, North Lincolnshire: Heritage Impact Assessment*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services.

Savage, R. D., 2014b, *Ermine Grove, Broughton, North Lincolnshire: Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services.

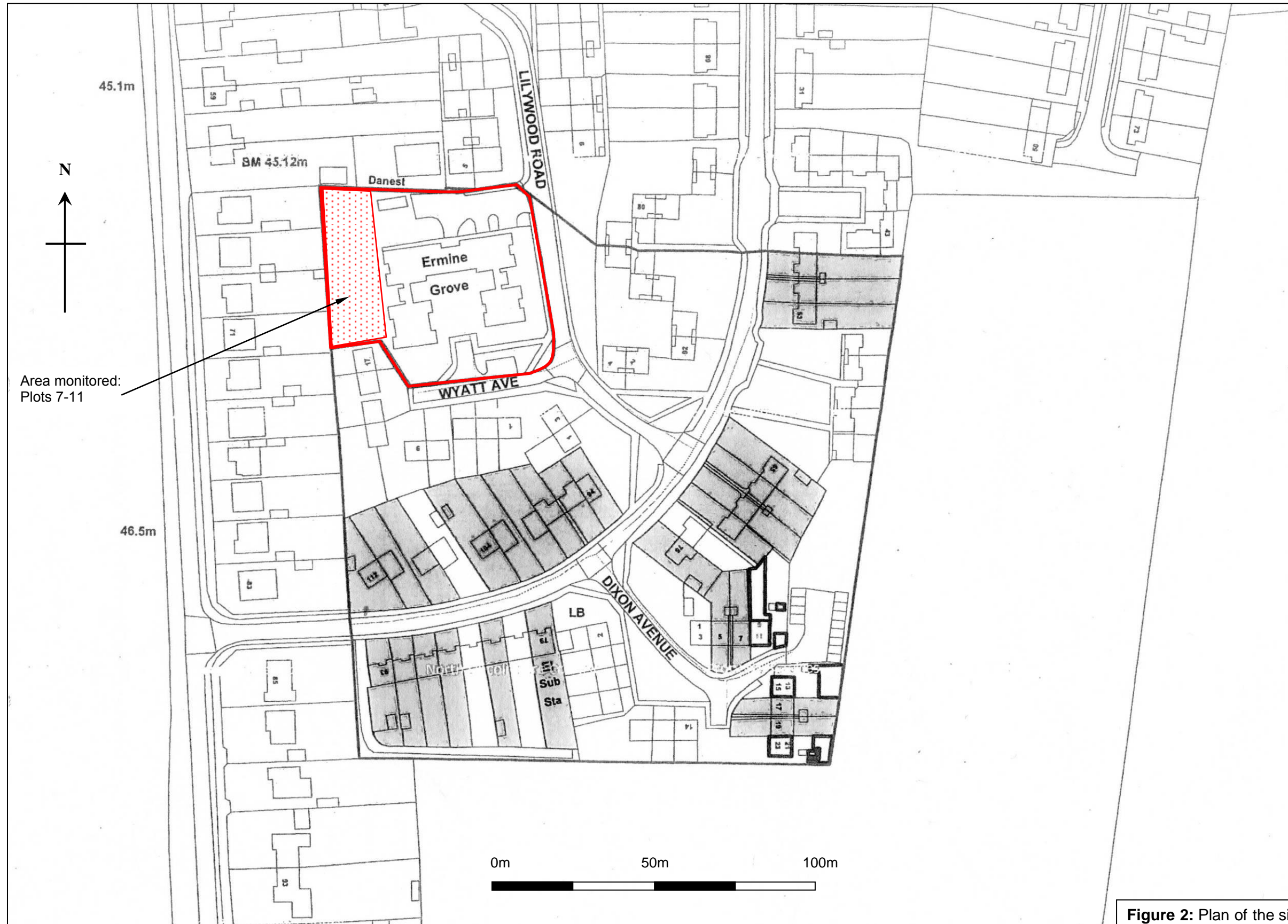


Figure 2: Plan of the site (outlined in red) at scale 1:1250. Plan supplied by client.



Figure 3: Plan of the site at 1:500. The area of monitoring is marked by the broken white line in the north-east corner of the site.

0

50m

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1: General view of the site from Plot 10 looking south across Plots 7-9.



Plate 2: General view of the site from Plot 7 looking north across Plots 7-9.

Plate 3: Plots 7 and 8 after the topsoil was removed. There is heavy rooting here, indicating the presence of a number of trees, perhaps an orchard.



Plate 4: East south-east facing section through Plot 8, showing the sandy overburden (103) sealing the dark topsoil (101) and natural sand (102). This is probably the remnants of landscaping during the building of the nearby flats.

Plate 5: South south-east facing section through Plot 11. Levels of modern sand are present over the dark former turf (108) and topsoil (101).



Plate 6: North facing section of Plot 11. No overburden is present in the far north of the site.

Plate 7: The footings in Plot 9, looking north-east. The sandy deposits are typical of the whole site.



Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description
101	Layer	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Thickness 0.2-0.25m.
102	Layer	Natural. Mid orange sand. Thickness <0.6m.
103	Layer	Overburden. Modern made ground. Thickness 0.4m.
104	Layer	Natural. Sand with silt lenses. Thickness 0.18m.
105	Layer	Sand. Thickness 0.2m.
106	Layer	Sand. Thickness 0.08m.
107	Layer	Sand. Thickness 0.1m.
108	Layer	Probable former turf. Thickness 0.02-0.05m.

Fig. 4: Plan of Plots 7-11

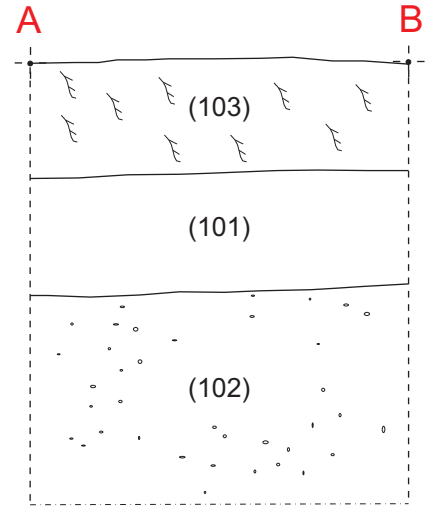
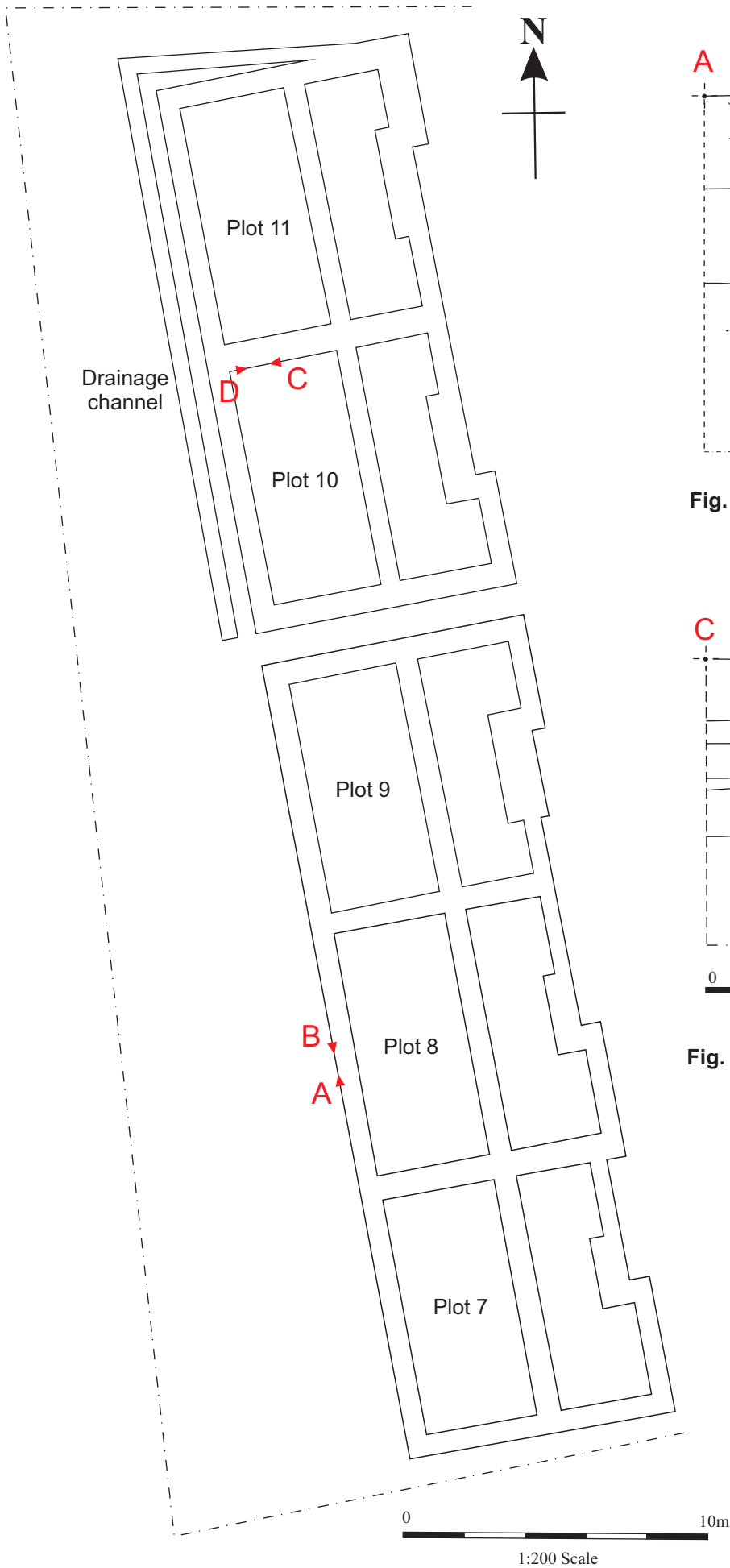


Fig. 5: ESE facing section of Plot 8

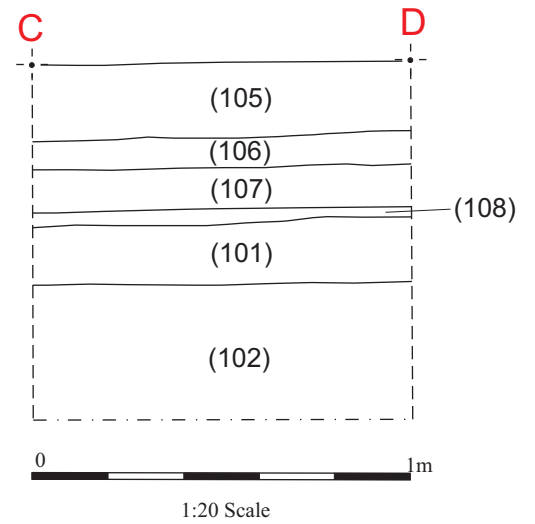


Fig. 6: SSE facing section of Plot 10

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Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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