

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
LAND OFF EAST END WALKINGTON**

Site Code: MEER 07
NGR: SE 99818 37256
SMR ref. DC/06/05328/PLF/EASTSE/SR

PCA 08 380 – 01 Rev A

Report prepared for LKR Architects (on behalf of Simon Wride)

by

Linda Hamilton
January 2008



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
Fax. 01522 703656
e-mail simonj@pre-construct.co.uk
©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological context	2-3
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	3-4
7.0 Discussion and conclusion	4
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	4
9.0 Acknowledgments	4
10.0 References	5
11.0 Site archive	5

Illustrations

- Fig 1:** General location map at scale 1:25 000
Fig 2: Ground plan with location of house plots and sections 1, 4, 5 and 6
Fig 3: House plots in plan with located sections 7 – 11
Fig 4: Plan showing former development of the site with location of house plots
Fig 5: Drawn sections

List of colour plates

- Plate 1:** General view of site looking north east
Plate 2: General view of site looking south
Plate 3: General view of top soil strip looking north
Plate 4: Linear [006] looking south
Plate 5: Section 10 looking east
Plate 6: Section 7 looking south
Plate 7: Section 9 looking south

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of three detached dwellings following the demolition of a bungalow and sheds at Mere Ley, 53 East End, Walkington, East Riding of Yorkshire.
- Despite the development location within the medieval core of the village and an area of the Yorkshire Wolds where past human activity has been evidenced since the Neolithic period, no finds or deposits of any great archaeological interest were recorded.



Fig 1: General site location (1: 25 000)
(O.S. Copyright License No. A1 515 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by LKR Architects (on behalf of Simon Wride) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of three detached dwellings, following the demolition of a bungalow and sheds at Mere Ley, 53 East End, Walkington, East Riding of Yorkshire.

These works were undertaken from the 9th July – 22nd August 2007 by William Munford to fulfil the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by the Humber Archaeology Partnership Sites and Monuments Records. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment 1990), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA 1999).

2.0 Site Location and description

The site of development is situated in the village of Walkington, a civil parish three miles south of Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire (NGR: SE 99818 37256). It lies within the medieval core of the village and within an area of late 18th century expansion.

The south of the site is bounded by the B 1230 road, and there are residential properties to the east and west. At the north are open fields.

The topography drops across the site from 57.731m OD at the north end - 49.56m OD at the south (Fig 5).

The underlying geology of the area is Glacial Till (stony clay) (British Geological Survey 1995).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission (planning ref; DC/06/05328/PLF/EASTSE/SR) was granted by Hull City Council for the erection of three detached dwellings subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of development involving ground disturbance; to record any archaeological remains encountered as a result of development.

4.0 Archaeological context

The site lies within the historic landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds, where human activity has been documented since the early prehistoric period.

In the parish of Walkington, there is evidence of Neolithic ritual activity in the form of a sub – circular enclosure defined by a broad ditch with an external bank; presumed to be a henge monument (ADS, 1996 - 2007).

Further prehistoric activity is evidenced by the Walkington Wold Bronze Age barrow complex, sited a few kilometres west of the village, and several linear cropmarks (Stoertz 1997).

Although Romano-British activity has been recorded from a large area of the Yorkshire Wolds, the evidence from Walkington is inconclusive. This comprises several linear crop-marks, and an enclosure which have been assigned a broad Iron Age/Romano British date (ADS, 1996-2007).

Inclusion in the 1086 Domesday Survey suggests that the village was probably founded in the Saxon period. This is also suggested by the discovery of twelve Saxon burials inserted into the earlier barrows at Walkington Wold. However, Allison (1998) states that the burials could be as early as the 4th century (ie they may be Roman, and not Saxon).

The medieval village of Walkington probably began as ‘a street village’ (a single row of houses) which subsequently expanded, following a trend noted in other East Yorkshire villages such as Beeford, Wetwang and Wheldrake (Allison J. K. 1998).

In the 19th century, Walkington was the site of the former East Riding Lunatic Asylum, Broadgates. Built in 1868 – 71, it was demolished in 1991, to make way for a housing estate.

5.0 Methodology

The methodology involved the monitoring of all machine excavations.

Following excavation, plan and section surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined to assess the presence/ absence of archaeological deposits and to record the general stratigraphy. Spoil upcast was also scanned for artefactual remains.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

The topography of the site was reflected by the levels at which the natural geology (011) was encountered. This comprised of a mid - orange brown boulder clay, 0.30 - 0.80cm below the modern ground surface.

Overlying (011) was a light orange clay subsoil (002). This covered the parts of the site that had been unaffected by previous development (Fig 4).

Cutting (002) in the southwest corner was a possible construction trench [003]. This was orientated NW/SE and terminated within the road strip (Fig 2). It was filled with chalk rubble, typically 10 - 20 cm in length. Fig 4 shows no evidence of an earlier building in this location, but its position close to the road frontage suggests that it may originally have been associated with a structure; even if of atypical orientation (ie not

parallel with/perpendicular to the road). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Overlying (011) in the north east corner of the site was a 0.50m thick layer of re-deposited dark grey brown silty clay (010). This appeared to be an infilling of a former swimming pool (see Fig 4).

Sealing (010) and extending over the northern half of the development was a 0.20cm thick layer of light orange-brown re-deposited sandy clay (012) (Sections 10 and 11, (Fig 5)). This layer was indicative of levelling following the demolition of the former house and out-buildings (see Fig 4) and infilling of the former swimming pool (Section 10 (Fig 5)).

Cutting this layer were two modern features. At the east of the site was a small shallow ditch [006] (Fig 2). This extended E/W and was filled by a 0.30cm thick dark grey brown silty clay containing modern pottery (not retained). Its location in the centre of the site suggests it may represent an earlier land division.

The second modern feature was a large pit [007] (Section 7(Fig 5)). This was evidenced in the foundation trenches of Plot 1 and contained two fills (008) and (009). The lower fill (008) comprised of mid grey silty clay 0.40cm thick, with inclusions of small rounded stones. The upper fill (009) was a 0.14cm thick deposit of dark grey brown silty clay incorporating a sherd of modern pottery (not retained) and flecks of charcoal and angular stone.

The site was sealed by dark grey brown silty clay topsoil (001) the depth of which varied from 10cm– 1m. (Sections 1 and 11 (Fig5)).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the development being located within close proximity to the medieval core of the village and within an archaeologically sensitive area of the Yorkshire Wolds, no finds or deposits of any great archaeological interest were recorded.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of this development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of the archaeological potential to be established, which was deemed to be moderate in this area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank LKR Architects (on behalf of Simon Wride) for this commission. Thanks are also due to the ground workers for their help and co – operation.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey 1995, *Beverley: England and Wales Sheet 72. Solid and Drift Geology*. 1: 50 000 Provisional Series.

Allison K.J., (1998) *The East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape*, Howden Mr.Pye (Books).

Stoertz C., (1997) *Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds*, RCHME

Williams Dr. A., & Prof. G.H. Martin, 1992, *Domesday A Complete Translation*, Penguin Books

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/search/fr.cfm?rcn=NMR>

11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at The Hull and East Riding Museum within six months.

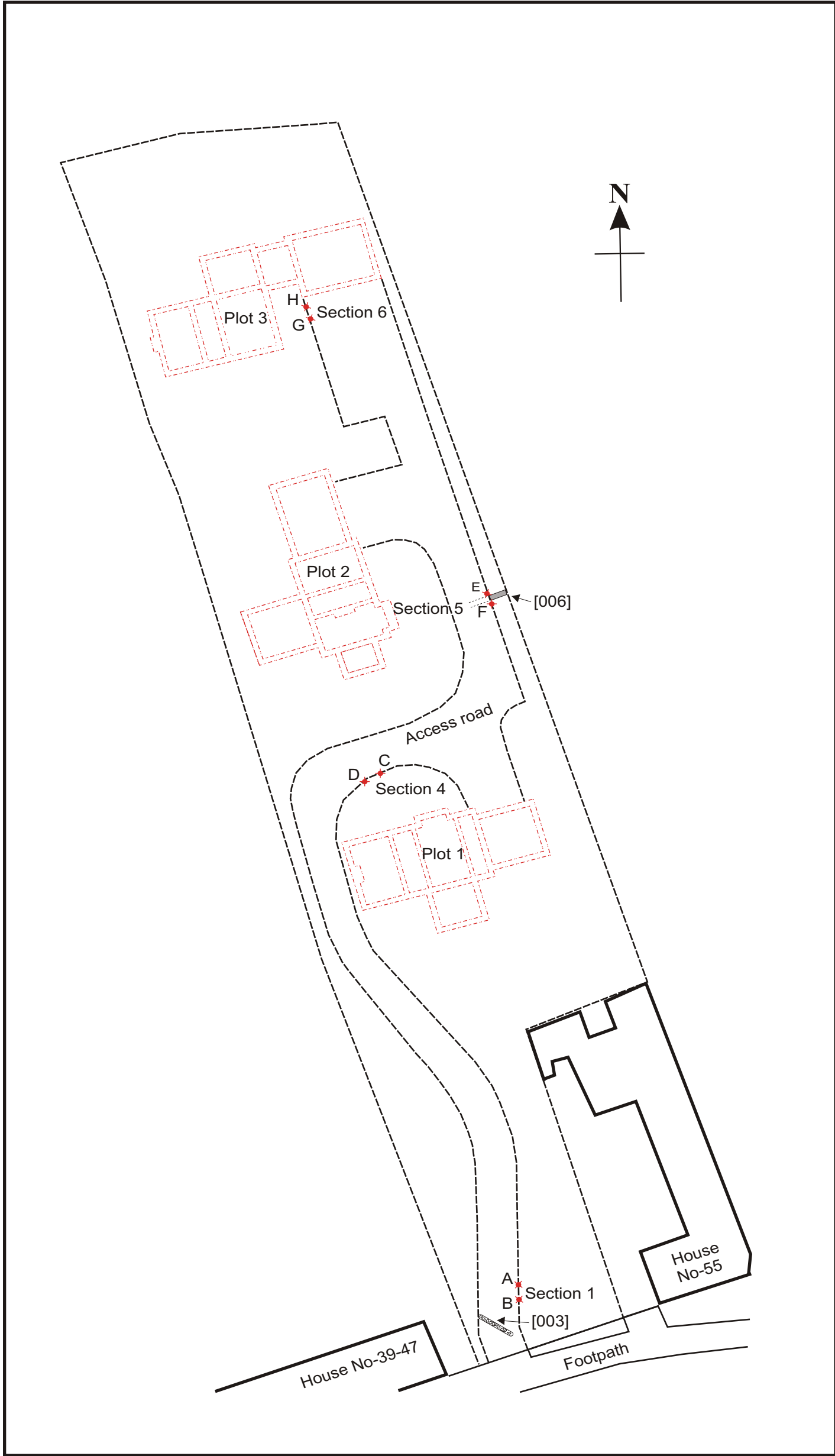


Fig 2 : detailed site plan at scale 1:500 with the location of features [003], [006] and section drawings 1 (A, B) 4 (C, D) and 5 (E, F).



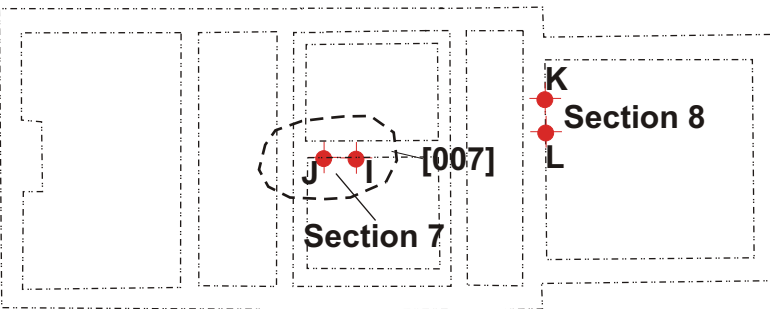
House Plot 3

Section 9
M N

Section 10
P O

House Plot 2

Section 11
Q R



House Plot 1

Fig 3:
Drawn sections 7 - 11 located to house plots and pit [007] at scale 1:250



Fig 4:
 Plan showing former development on site with location of new house plots in red at scale 1:500

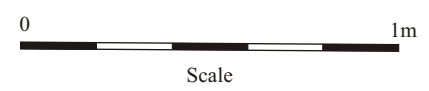
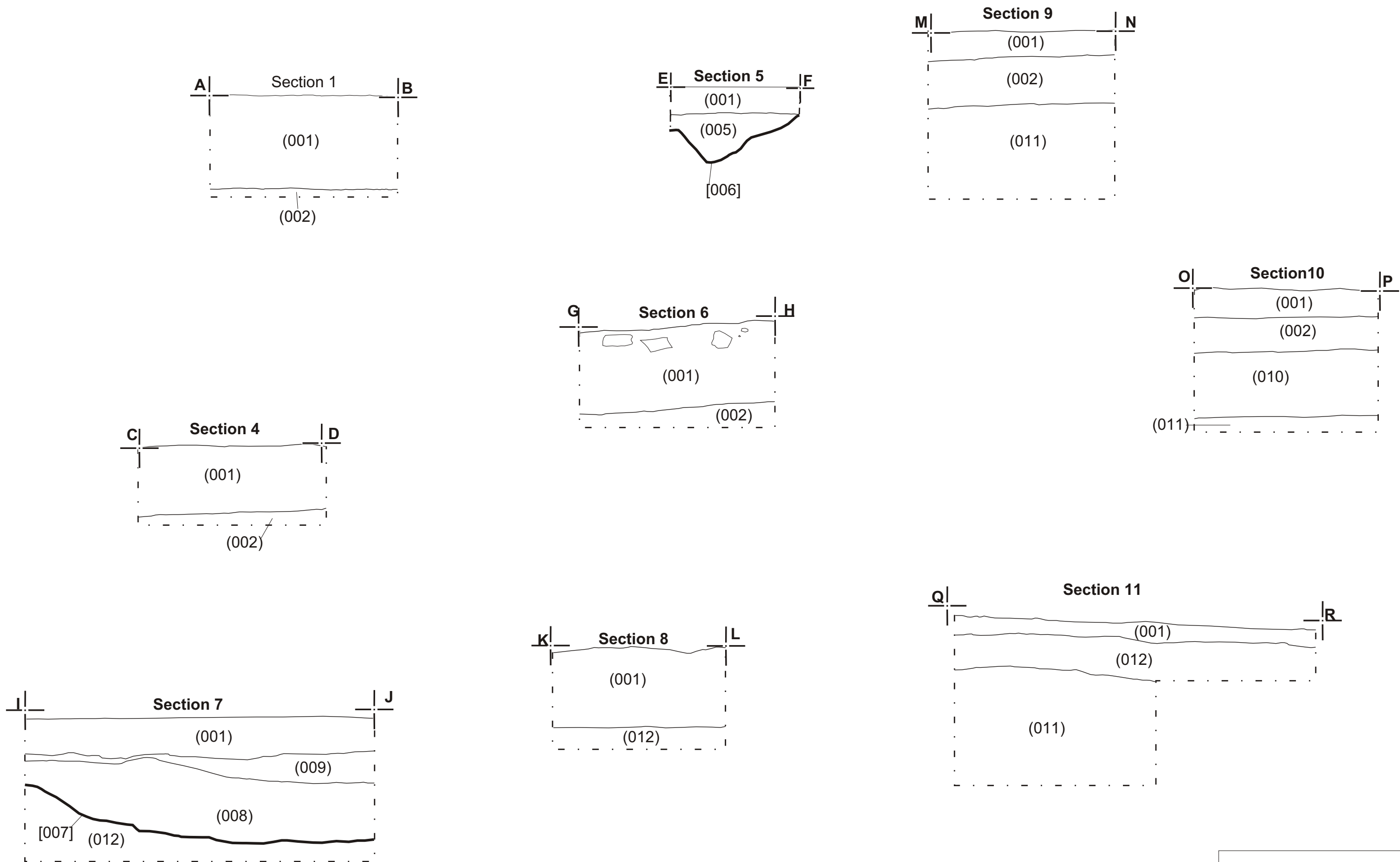


Fig 5
Drawn sections at scale 1:20

Plate 3: General view of top soil strip looking north



Plate 4: Linear [006] looking south





Plate 5: Section 10 looking east



Plate 6: Section 7 looking south



Plate 7: Section 9 looking south

Appendix 1: Colour plates



Plate 1: General site view looking north east



Plate 2: General view of site looking south

Appendix 2

Context List

Context No.	Type	Description
001	Layer	Topsoil.
002	Layer	Subsoil.
003	Cut	Possible construction cut
004	Fill	Chalk rubble foundation.
005	Fill	Fill of linear [006]
006	Cut	Cut of linear
007	Cut	Cut of modern pit.
008	Fill	Fill of pit [007].
009	Fill	Fill of pit [007].
010	Layer	Made ground
011	Layer	Natural.
012	Layer	Levelling layer