

NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, 'SPRING BARNS', UPTON, LINCS.

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 8710 8676
WLDC Planning Ref.: 120926
LCNCC Accn Code: 2010.41
Site Code: SBUL 10
PCA Job Ref.: 631

Report for

Derek Morris Architects Ltd

by

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Non-technical summary

- Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of service, drainage and garden wall foundation trenches associated with the construction of a new dwelling at Spring Barns, Upton.
- Levels across most of the monitored area had been truncated into glacial clay deposits and replaced by up to 1m of mixed rubble, which is understood to have derived from a power station site.
- Grey clay, thought to be the fill of two undated ditches or other archaeological features, was visible at the base of drain trenches to the west of the new building.



Fig 1: Site location. (Based on the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 Landranger map, Sheet 271. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Derek Morris Architects Ltd in March 2010 to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during remaining groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling.

The archaeological scheme was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of:

- *Archaeological Brief* issued by the WLDC archaeological advisor (dated 17th February 2010)
- *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).
- *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 as revised);
- *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2009, and 2.1 revision, 2010)

Archaeological monitoring by Karen Francis, Julian Sleaf and Fiona Walker took place on 13, 14, 17, 19, and 26th May 2010. The requirement for further archaeological monitoring was waived by the WLDC archaeological advisor after extensive 20th century disturbance of the site became apparent.

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

The village of Upton is situated 5.5km south-east of Gainsborough and 30km north-west of Lincoln. The site lies to the east of Church Road on the eastern edge of the village core and is centred at NGR SK 8710 8676.

Prior to development, the site had been situated at the periphery of a former farmyard. The neighbouring property 'Spring Barns' is a converted barn.

3.0 Planning background

Planning consent was granted for the erection of a three bedroom detached house and garage, subject to conditions, including Condition 5:

No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation, including a programme for its implementation, has been agreed in writing by the local planning authority, following which the scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed programme.

Reason: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site in accordance with policy NBE7 of the West Lindsey Local Plan First Review 2006.

The WLDC archaeological advisor had requested archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks for the development. Unfortunately, this condition was initially overlooked and some of the groundworks were completed without archaeological

monitoring taking place. Therefore, the applicant and PCA had discussions with the WLDC archaeological advisor and it was subsequently agreed that all remaining groundworks (including those associated with service trenches and a water harvesting tank) were to be archaeologically monitored, with the ability to stop and record any archaeological remains.

A specification produced by PCA (dated 19/3/2010) was approved.

4.0 Geology and topography

The British Geological Survey has mapped the drift deposits in the vicinity as glacial till (boulder-clay), over mudstones and limestones (BGS online geologyviewer). The site is at about 20m OD, on land sloping down to the east.

5.0 Archaeological and historical context

The settlement of Upton is included in the 1086 *Domesday Survey*, which suggests that it had a Saxon origin. Aerial photographs of the surrounding fields show earthworks and cropmarks representing the sites of dwellings and cultivated open fields associated with the medieval village, indicating that the settlement has since contracted or moved. All Saints' Church has an 11th century chancel.

It was anticipated that the groundworks might encounter remains of the medieval or earlier settlement.

6.0 Aims and objectives of the project

The primary aim of this work was to identify, record, and interpret any archaeological remains that were disturbed or destroyed by groundworks associated with the scheme.

7.0 Methodology (Pls. 1 and 2)

Trenches were excavated by JCB, using a 0.45m wide toothed bucket. Excavation of each trench was monitored and deposits were recorded photographically and by a drawn measured section. Context numbers were assigned to deposits for recording purposes.

8.0 Results

Utilities trench (Pls. 3-5)

A 0.45m wide trench was excavated by machine to a depth of approximately 0.6m from ground level (19.8m OD). The trench course was from alongside the house foundations at the north-west corner to a point 3.5m to the west within the access road, and then along the northern side of the access to link to mains services below Church Road. Close to the new foundations, the trench cut through 0.3m of very dark brown sandy loam (001), which contained slag, clinker, glass, concrete and brick rubble. The archaeologist was informed on site that this material had been imported from a local power station site. It is encountered across the development site and appears to have replaced the topsoil. The layer sealed a 0.3m diameter iron pipe which was seen in the north face of the trench 1.3m from the north-west corner of the new building footprint. The contractors reported that the pipe had extended across the footprint, and that it is believed to have served an earlier farm building on the site.

Beneath the imported material was a 0.3m thick layer of orange/brown sandy clay (002). This layer has been interpreted as weathered natural boulder-clay. A yellow silty clay layer

(003) was beneath it at the southern part of the site.

Drain trench to the east of the new building (Pl. 6)

The excavation of a shallow drain trench along the eastern side of the new foundations was monitored. The imported layer (001) had been removed in this area, revealing a 0.3m thick dark brown sandy clay with occasional limestone rubble inclusions (008) which may have been a surviving topsoil. This layer covered (002) at the trench base.

Drain trench to the south and west of the new building (Pls. 7-10)

A longer drain trench was excavated around the southern projection of the new building to a depth of 0.6m. The imported layer of rubble directly overlay natural clay (003) across most of the area but vestigial traces of an earlier sequence of deposits was identified at three locations during post-excavation analysis. No finds were associated with any of the deposits encountered.

Near to the western end of the southern drain trench, grey gleyed clay (009) crossed the trench base (Pl. 9). This has been interpreted as the fill of a 1m wide north-south ditch [010] which had cut through the subsoil layer (002). Further grey clay immediately to the west may represent another less distinct feature.

Around the trench corner, to the west of the new building, another similar probable ditch [012] was noted, approximately 6m from the south-west corner of the trench. It was 1m wide and aligned west-east (Pl. 10).

Garden wall footings trench (Pl. 11)

A 0.45m wide trench was excavated by machine from the north-east corner of the new house around the eastern and northern sides, to rejoin the house close to its north-western corner. The trench varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.8m.

The turf covered the imported layer (001) with its brick rubble, concrete and other modern inclusions. Beneath this was a layer of dark brown clay silt (008), approximately 0.35m thick. This had the characteristics of topsoil but it was not clear whether the soil sequence here remained intact or whether this was redeposited topsoil. At the trench base, below (008), the lighter brown subsoil (005) was seen. This layer probably equates with (002).

Percolation test pit (Pl. 12)

The intended trench for the soakaway, to the south-west of the new house, was not excavated as a revised method for surface water disposal was being considered. Instead, a 1m x 1m test pit was excavated 8m to the south of the house in order to assess the permeability of deposits.

The turf covered between 0.7m and 1m of imported material (001), directly overlying 0.4m thick natural yellow clay (003). Traces of red/brown chalky boulder-clay were seen at the trench base.

9.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring and recording established that most of the area of the new development, including the access track to Church Road, had been recently disturbed prior to the excavation of the house footings. Topsoil and almost all subsoil had been removed, and a large quantity of imported rubble and other debris spread in its place. It is unclear if this consolidation occurred while the farm buildings remained in agricultural use or whether the rubble was laid in anticipation of the new building. The iron pipe which was found at the base of the rubble appears to indicate that the consolidation occurred while

farm buildings occupied the site.

The identification of gleyed clay in two possible ditches at the base of the drain trench to the south and west of the new building may explain the introduction of the rubble. The ditch fills indicate wet ground and the ditches may have been an attempt to drain it – although there remains the possibility that these undated features served another function and that their presence caused a drainage problem in the first place.

Any other archaeological features on the house site had been removed when levels were truncated before the rubble layer was spread. As no artefacts were found in topsoil and subsoil deposits where they survived, the site is unlikely to have been in the immediate proximity of earlier settlement.

10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology used for this scheme was intended to recover an indication of any archaeological information which had been lost when the house foundations were constructed without archaeological monitoring. Monitoring of the service trenches and drainage trenches demonstrated that the site had been considerably disturbed before the foundations were laid and that only deeper parts of archaeological features were likely to survive. The monitored trenches were too shallow to characterise earlier features, but they caused negligible impact on any archaeological remains which survive.

11.0 Acknowledgements

PCA thank Derek Morris Architects Ltd for commissioning this work.

12.0 Site Archive

The archive is currently held at the offices of PCA, Saxilby, Lincolnshire and will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln (LCNCC Accn. No. 2010.41).

Appendix 2

Context Summary (SBUL 10)

Area	Context	Type	Relationships	Description
Utilities trench, garden wall trench	001	Layer	above 002, 004, 008, 009, 011, 013	Turf, with very dark brown/black sandy loam topsoil, with slag, clinker, glass, concrete, brick rubble; may have been imported from power station. 0.3m thick.
Utilities trench, garden wall trench	002	Layer	below 001, above 003	Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil; 0.4m + thick.
Drain trench and Percolation test pit	003	Layer	below 002, above 007	Yellow silty clay, recorded at southern side of house site. Weathered boulder-clay; natural deposit.
Utilities trench	004	Layer	below 001, above 005	Dark grey/brown sandy silt. Topsoil layer, may be former topsoil or a redeposited stripped topsoil.
Utilities trench	005	Layer	below 004, above 006	Brown sand/clay/silt mix subsoil. 0.44m thick.
Utilities trench	006	Layer	below 005	Yellow/brown sandy clay.
Percolation test pit	007	Layer	below 003	Red/brown and blue/grey chalky boulder clay. Natural deposit.
Garden wall trench	008	Layer	below 001, above 002	Dark grey/brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick. Topsoil layer, may be former topsoil or a redeposited stripped topsoil.
Southern drain trench	009	Fill	below 001, fill of 010	Grey gleyed clay seen at base of trench
Southern drain trench	010	Cut	filled by 009, cuts 002	North-south ?ditch at base of trench, 1m wide.
Western drain trench	011	Fill	below 001, fill of 012	Grey gleyed clay seen at base of trench
Western drain trench	012	Cut	filled by 011, cuts 002	East-west ?ditch at base of trench, 1m wide.

Appendix 3



Pl. 1 The new development site (looking north, with the converted barn to the left and the access to the right of the cabins).

Pl. 2 The Spring Barns development site, looking north-east across the constructed building footprint towards Church Road.



Pl. 3 Beside the new house, the utilities trench cut through a layer of mixed rubble (001) imported from a power station. This covered an iron pipe which may have served the former farm buildings. Scale 1m.



Pl. 4 Location of the utilities trench along the site access (looking west towards Church Road).

Pl. 5 Soil deposits visible in the utilities trench face at the eastern end of the site access. The topsoil and subsoil sequence had survived in this area. Looking north, scale 1m).



Pl. 6 A shallow trench was excavated for drainage on the eastern side of the house footprint (looking south, scale 1m).



Pl. 7 Drainage trench alongside the southern side of the new building (looking east).

Pl. 8 Imported brick rubble layer (001) directly above weathered boulder-clay natural in the southern drainage trench (looking south, scale 1m).



Pl. 9 Beneath the imported rubble, grey clay (009) at the base of the southern drainage trench may represent fill of a ditch [010]. Looking south, scale 1m).

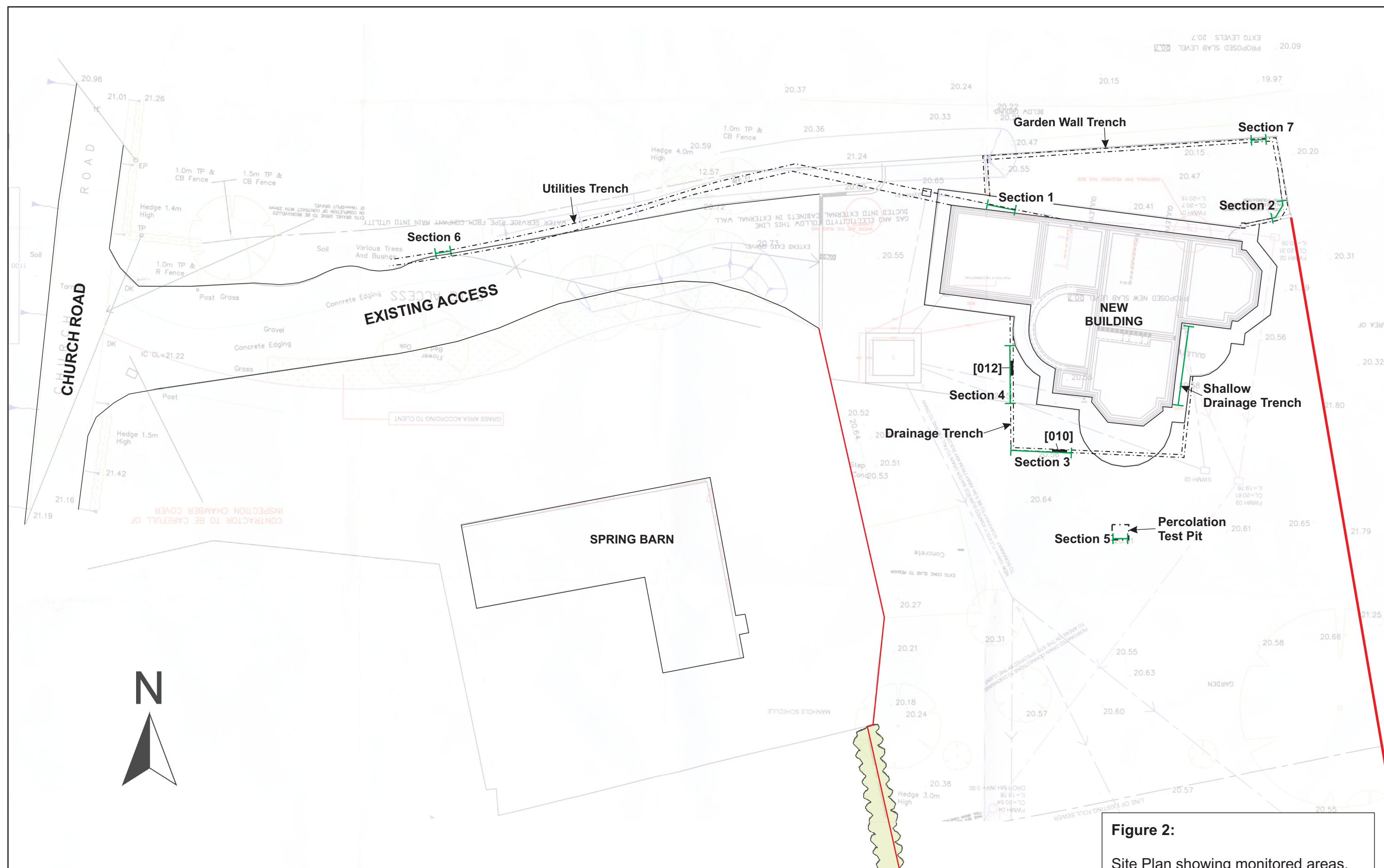


Pl. 10 A second feature with a grey clay fill (011) crossed the western drainage trench. This possible ditch [012] was only visible at the trench base below imported rubble. The rubble is thought to have been laid to replace wet ground. Looking west, scale 1m).

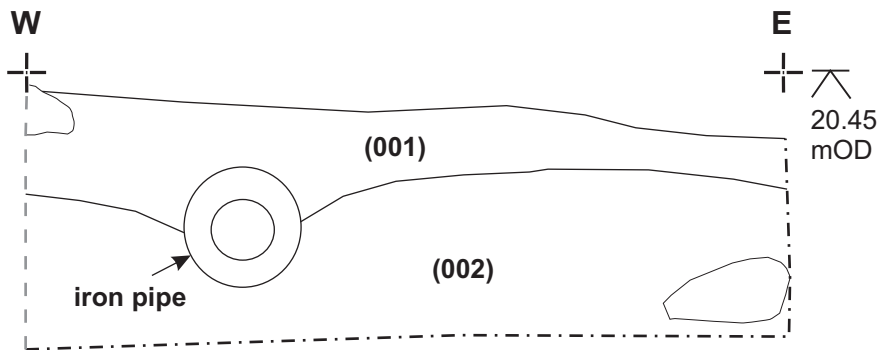
Pl. 11 Construction trench for a new garden wall at the northern end of the house (looking east, scale 1m). The trench cut through thick brown soil, which may have been redeposited topsoil.



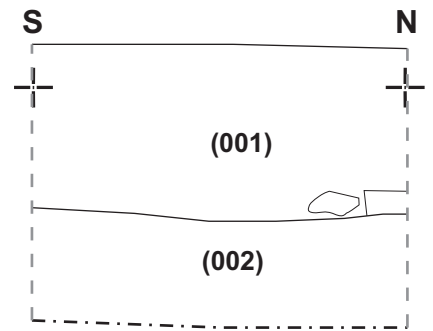
Pl. 12 To the south of the house, a percolation test pit encountered thick imported rubble directly above weathered boulder-clay natural. Scale 1m).



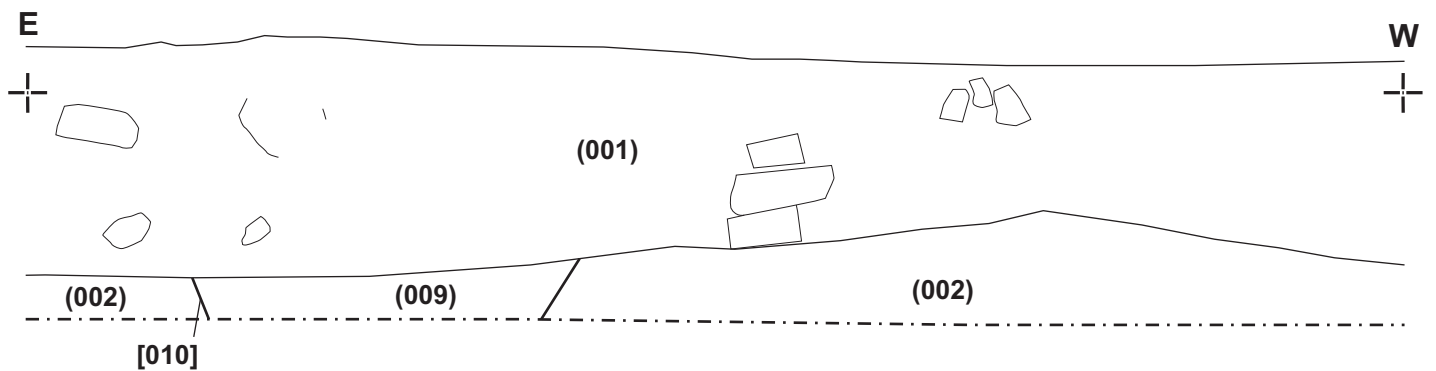
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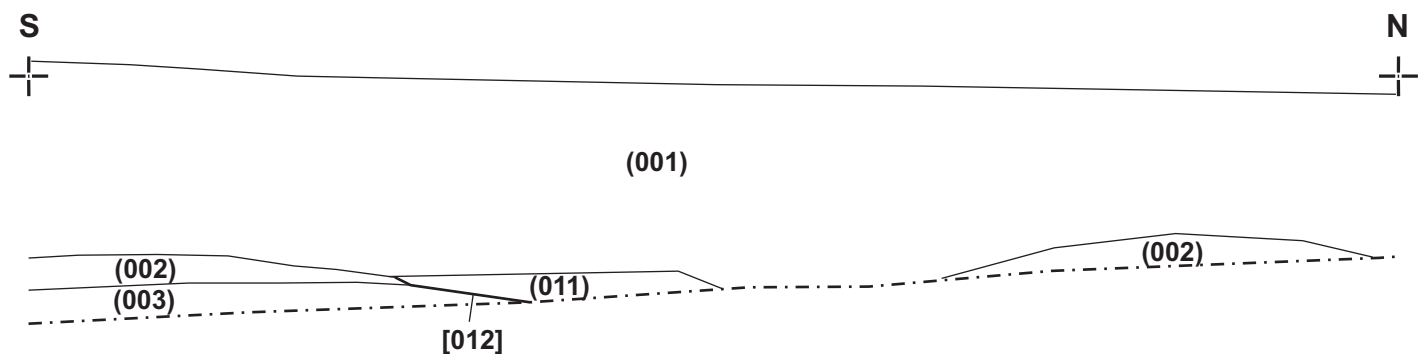
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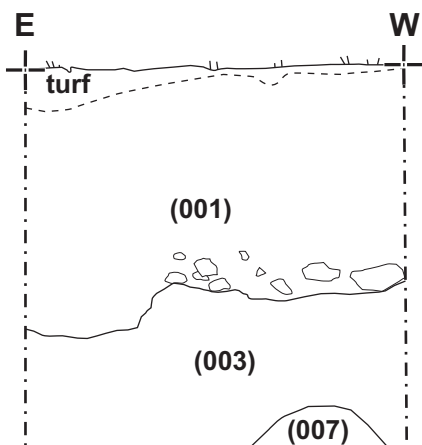
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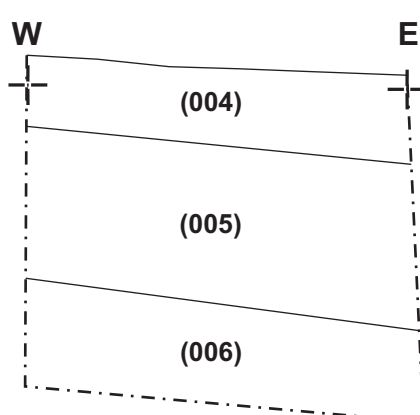
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Section 5 - 1:20



Section 6 - 1:20



Section 7 - 1:20

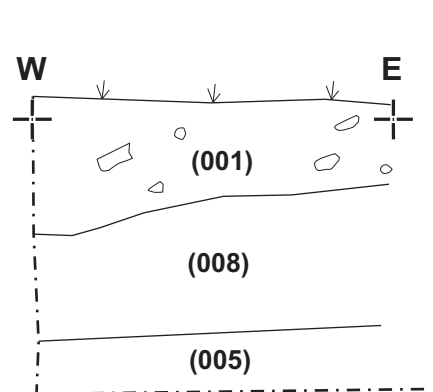


Figure 3: Sections of monitored works
Scales as shown at A4