
LAND SOUTH OF HORSESHOE ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE



Archaeological Trial Trenching

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September 2025

WA Report Number	680
Site Code	SPHO25
OASIS ID	withamar1-535768
Consultation Number	n/a
Accession Number	LCNCC :
Job Number	797
Planning Reference	n/a (pre-planning)

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Document Information

Document title	Land South of Horseshoe Road, Splading, Lincolnshire
Document subtitle	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author	C. J. Moulis
Commissioned by	Seagate Homes
Site location	Land South of Horseshoe Road, Splading, Lincolnshire, PE11 3GY
National grid reference	TF 22992 21598
Planning authority	South Holland District Council
Museum name	Lincoln Museum
OASIS ID	withamar1- 535768

WA project name	Spalding_Horseshoe_Road_TT
WA job number	J797
Dates of fieldwork	18/03/2025 to 13/05/2025
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Quality Assurance

Issue No	Status	Editor	Issue Date
00	Initial draft (internal)	R. Trimble	15/09/2025
01	Draft for client review	R. Trimble	24/09/2025
02	Draft for curator review	R. Trimble	26/09/2025
03	Final version	R. Trimble	09/10/2025

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LAND SOUTH OF HORSESHOE ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION



Summary

This document describes results of a programme of archaeological trial-trench evaluation carried out on the site of a proposed residential development on land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire ('the site'). The work was commissioned to provide information on the archaeological potential of the site, as part of the pre-planning phase of the development.

The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, with known Roman cropmarks indicating possible settlements in the area. A direct projection of the known route of the Baston Outgang Roman road would cross the site from the south-western corner running to the north-east. The site was bounded to the south by a railway line, which is present on 19th century maps. A geophysical survey undertaken as an initial phase of evaluation indicated low archaeological potential, and anomalies interpreted as large natural features (palaeochannels) were revealed to cross the site.

The site was evaluated through the excavation of 17 trenches, 16 of which were 30m long by 1.8m wide, and the remaining one 15m in length and 1.8m wide. The trenches were laid out in a rough grid pattern, with adjustments to ensure that geophysical anomalies are targeted.

The trial trenching revealed features and deposits predominantly related to natural sedimentary and environmental changes within the development site. There was, however, sufficient artefactual and



archaeological information within the results to enable the environmental evidence to be compared with established models of development drawn from previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity. In particular, the Romano-British land surface was identified, sealed by a significant accumulation of subsequent estuarine silts and sands.

Although one or two linear features indicated utilisation of the ancient landscape, there was no convincing evidence to indicate that the site area had been a location of habitation or of other significant human activity such as salt making. There was also no clear evidence for continuation of the Baston Outgang Roman road through the site, as might have been predicted from its alignment to the southwest. By contrast, possible rutting provided evidence of less formalised traffic across a broader band of the site area at a slightly later date.

With regard to the subsequent depositional history, Earlier Medieval pottery recovered from Trench 11 offers a slightly later date than might be expected for the Post-Roman freshwater wetland phase; the pottery could have been intrusive, although there were no clear signs of disturbance.

Finds recovered during the investigation comprise pottery, brick fragments, clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, and animal bone fragments. The pottery includes sherds of a vessel identified as a new ceramic type (South Lincolnshire Light Firing Iron and Quartz-tempered (SLLFFQ)), probably of late 12th to mid 14th century date.



1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed residential development on land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire ('the site') in advance of a planning application for a residential development. The requirements for archaeological evaluation were set out in advice provided to the local planning authority by the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Witham Archaeology, which set out details of the programme of archaeological work designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority. The WSI was approved by the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken in generally fair and favourable conditions over 22 days in the period between the 19th March and the 13th May 2025

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

2. SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY *(see Fig. 1 & Fig. 2)*

The site is located just beyond the built-up area of the town of Spalding in the civil parish of the same name, approximately 1.9km southwest of the town centre and Market Place. Spalding lies in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, and is approximately 25km north-east of Peterborough and 55km south-east of Lincoln.

The site is centred at NGR TF 22992 21598 and is bounded on its north-west side by Horseshoe Road, north of which are allotments, and on the east by a triangular piece of grassland. The Bourne and Lynn Joint Railway line used to run along the south boundary of the site but was dismantled sometime after 1965. South of the former railway is agricultural land.

The local topography is largely flat at an elevation of around +3.1m O.D. The site lies on bedrock of mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, which formed during the Jurassic period. This is overlain by clay and silt, which are Tidal Flat Deposits formed during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey website). Boreholes dug to the east of the site in 2003 show multiple layers of sand and silt, with a band of clay seen between 0.8m and 1m. A borehole excavated to the west of the site at Cuckoo Junction found layers of silt and sand which overlay deeper deposits of various types of clay (British Geological Survey website)..

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

To the north-west of the site, evidence of Early Iron Age to Roman activity was found during the geophysical survey and fieldwalking conducted along the line of the proposed Spalding Western Relief Road. These were in the form of a ditched enclosure, evidence of salt works, together with a Roman artefact scatter and a trackway (MLI23204).

Late Iron Age to Roman activity was discovered in an area 85m north-east of the site, between Horseshoe Road and Bourne Road (MLI20553). Excavations revealed Late Iron drip gullies, likely indicative of roundhouses, and a Late Iron Age to Roman rectangular enclosure. Evidence of salt making was found across the site, with unique briquetage illustrating the salt production processes of the Late Iron Age to Roman transition.

Spread over a large area, including Spalding Common, 220m south-west of the site at its nearest point, is a possible Romano-British complex of enclosures and field systems, identified as cropmarks on aerial photography, with occasional finds also being recovered (MLI22345). North of here, also straddling East Road and South Drove Drain, are further cropmarks of a Romano-British settlement, visible across a long stretch of land west of the site (MLI23614), and yet further north, on the east side of the road and near to Pode Hole, is another Roman settlement dated from pottery to the 2nd to 4th centuries (MLI22386).

The Baston Outgang Roman road has been identified on cropmarks to the south-west of the site (MLI22343). The projected route of the road would pass through the site, running from the south-west to the north-east. The geophysical survey undertaken prior to the trial trenching showed no signs of the road. A probable small Romano-British farmstead lay at Saddlers Mead (MLI81540), 245m east of the site, where finds and features dating from the 1st to 2nd centuries have been recorded. A Roman salt working site was discovered between Horseshoe Road and Bourne Road, 355m north of the site (MLI23638).

The only monument of Saxon date close to the site is an area of possible enclosure cropmarks which are visible on aerial photographs at Spalding Common, 340m south of the site, believed to date to the Early medieval/Dark Age period (MLI82036).

The place-name Spalding means 'the people of Spalde', which is an old district name derived from Old English 'spald', meaning 'a ditch' (KEPN). The earliest mention of Spalding may date to the Saxon period: Spalde is believed to reference a tribe mentioned in the 'Tribal Hideage', a document dating from the 7th to the 9th centuries, listing thirty-five tribes south of the River Humber.

Although there is a paucity of Saxon activity recorded in the Spalding area, the settlement appears in Domesday Book of 1086, so must have been in existence by at least the late Saxon period. Spallinge was held in 1066 by Crowland Abbey, Earl Algar and Athelston son of Godram. In 1086 it was held by three Norman lords: Crowland Abbey, Ivo Tallboys and Guy of Craon. There were 91 households, with assets including six fisheries and four salthouses. No meadow or woodland was recorded.

A former moat and the site of a grange at Monk's House is the only record of medieval occupation close to the site, lying approximately 750m to the north-east of the site, abutting the north side of Bourne Road (MLI22356).

Trial trenching in the late 1990s revealed a square pit containing 19th century clay pipe approximately 275m to the east of the site.

Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing of 1815, hand-drawn in preparation for publishing the 1st Series of 1 inch to the mile scale OS maps, shows the Site located within open ground south of Horseshoe Road. The first series OS map published in 1824 also shows little detail, but the area of the site appears not to have changed significantly since 1815. The 1st edition 6 inches to the mile scale OS map of 1888 shows the post-enclosure layout of the fields surrounding the site (Fig. 43). The site is sandwiched between



Horseshoe Road and the 'Bourn & Lynn Joint Railway' line and is divided into three parts by two north-to-south trackways, depicted as double parallel dashed lines.

The railway line was constructed in 1866 and forms the south boundary of the site (Bennett and Bennett 113). It crosses Horseshoe Road further to the west at Cuckoo Crossing and Podge Hole Farm, forming an elongated triangle of land, which comprises a further four closes west of the site, the nearest two of which each contain a building.

By 1931, OS maps show that the westernmost track/field boundary within the site had gone, leaving it divided into two sections of equal width by the remaining boundary, which appears to be a trackway. This now crosses north over Horseshoe Road and through the allotment gardens as far as the Westlode Drain. Subsequent maps show that the land remained relatively unchanged throughout the following decades.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

This project forms part of the pre-planning investigations for the site, and will be used to support an application for planning permission for a residential development to be submitted to South Holland District Council,

To provide information on the archaeological potential of the site, the local planning authority has requested the implementation of a programme of trial-trench evaluation in accordance with advice provided by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team on 29th November 2024.

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) designed to meet the requirements of the brief was prepared by Witham Archaeology and presented to the local planning authority for approval in writing. Following approval, all aspects of the project were undertaken in accordance with the WSI

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5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 14th March 2025, were to:

- *Provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the Site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *Assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *Provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*



- *Provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER).*

6. METHODOLOGY

Seventeen trenches were excavated, sixteen measuring 1.8m wide and 30m in length and one measuring 1.8m wide and 15m long. The trenches were laid out in a rough grid pattern intended to enable comprehensive coverage of the site, with adjustments to ensure that geophysical anomalies were targeted and investigated. Trenches were set out in accordance with the directions laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and approved by the curatorial archaeologist.

The most recent deposits were removed mechanically, using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 22). All mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was discontinued when archaeological deposits were exposed, or when undisturbed natural deposits were revealed.

Mechanical excavation was undertaken in three phases. The first phase removed overburden to the level of Post-Medieval features cut into the Post-Roman estuarine deposits, with periodic deeper sondages to expose the underlying deposits (Plate 37). These deposits were subsequently examined during a site visit by paleoenvironmental consultant James Rackham on 25th March 2025, commissioned by Witham Archaeology. Following advice from Mr Rackham, the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Officer (Ruben Lopez Catalan) directed that the trenches should be machined more deeply to fully expose and evaluate the probable early land surface identified within the underlying deposits.

A third phase of mechanical excavation was also subsequently requested to explore at greater depth some of the early channels identified within the trenches. In this phase trenches were excavated to a depth of up to around 2.1m from ground level, down to wet and unstable silt and sand deposits. This phase necessitated considerably widened and stepped trenches to enable safe access (Fig. 5 & Fig. 7. Plate 22 and Plate 29).

Exposed surfaces, both vertical and horizontal, were then cleaned by hand to define the archaeological remains, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through plans and sections drawn scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. This record was augmented by colour digital photographs and written context records on pro forma recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.



7. RESULTS

The results of the investigations are described below, with reference to numbers assigned in the field to the various archaeological contexts. The numbers in square brackets refer to cut features, whereas those in parentheses describe deposits. Appendix A, the Context Summary, provides full descriptions of the contexts.

Underlying geology within the site area comprises bedrock mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, formed during the Jurassic period, overlain by Quaternary period clay and silt Tidal Flat Deposits (British Geological Survey website).

Some significant topographic variation and possible modification was noted within the existing landscape at certain locations within the site. Context (003) was assigned to describe an approximately east to west aligned shallow linear topographic hollow along the southern edge of the development area, along the north side of the former railway. The feature was approximately 23m wide and 0.3m deep.

Similarly, context (004) was assigned to describe an approximately north to south aligned shallow linear topographic hollow along the east side of the development area, adjacent to the boundary dyke. The feature was approximately 25m wide and up to 0.4m deep.

Variation in crop growth within the site was noted as the fieldwork progressed, and that variation reflected, to an extent, the topographic anomalies described here (Plate 2).

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Fig. 8)

North to south aligned Trench 1 was 30m long and was located near the northeast corner of the site.

The earliest deposit encountered was mid greyish brown sandy silt (107), with light yellowish brown silty sand laminations (Fig. 11, Section 5 & Section 6. Plate 2). The deposit was at least 0.26m thick and interpreted as formed in estuarine conditions. At the southern end of the trench, deposit (107) was truncated by southeast to northwest aligned linear cut or anomaly [110], filled by stiff mid to dark grey clayey silt (106) (Fig. 11, Section 6. Plate 3). The feature was interpreted as a natural creek or channel.

Above (106), stiff mid bluish grey clayey silt (105) dipped slightly into the depression of feature [110], and continued beyond as a general horizontal layer, up to 0.14m thick (Fig. 11, Section 5 & Section 6). Layer (105) would have been estuarine in origin but probably also marked a former ground surface and topsoil; its nature, colour and composition may have been affected and transformed by subsequent development of a saturated fenland environment over the site area. Within the slight depression above feature [110], light yellowish grey sandy silt (109) was probably associated with layer (105).

Very dark brownish grey, organic ('peaty') silt (104), up to 0.1m thick (although generally much thinner), was observed to seal fill (109) and to cap deposit (105) throughout the rest of the trench, (Fig. 11, Section 5 & Section 6). It was interpreted as generated in a fenland environment and formed part of the general wetland phase evidenced in all trenches.

Above (104), layer (108) comprised a mix of mid grey sandy silt and light yellowish brown silty sand up to 0.05m thick and was interpreted to indicate a resumption of estuarine deposition over the area of the



trench (Fig. 11, Section 5 & Section 6). Overlying light brownish yellow silty fine sand (103) was a finely laminated deposit up to 0.26m thick laid down under estuarine conditions.

At the northern end of the trench, topsoil layer (1102) was overlain by general topsoil layer (1101). The variation in topsoil is considered to derive from soil movement through modern mechanical cultivation (Fig. 11, Section 5 & Section 6). No artefacts were recovered from investigation of the trench

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Fig. 9, Fig. 10)

West northwest to east southeast aligned Trench 2 was 30m long and was located mid-way along the eastern side of the site. The location was chosen in part to investigate anomalies recorded during preceding geophysical survey of the site.

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 2, soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand (205), represented a period of estuarine deposition (Fig. 12, Section 7 and Section 53. Plate 4 and Plate 5). Towards the eastern end of the trench, deposit (205) was truncated by substantial southwest to northeast aligned linear cut [210], partially revealed as at least 7m wide and at least 0.64m deep (Fig. 12, Section 7 and Section 53. Plate 4 and Plate 5). The feature was interpreted as a probable natural creek or channel, filled by laminated estuarine deposits (223) and (221). Cut [210] and its fills probably generated the geophysical anomaly present at the southeast end of the trench. The area of cut [210] was subjected to an additional phase of deeper machine excavation in order more fully explore its extent (Fig. 5. Plate 5).

Above (221), stiff mid brownish grey clayey silt (206) indicated variation in the composition of estuarine deposition to more finely grained material, and possibly the development of a dryland phase. Nearer the western end of the trench, stiff mid bluish grey clayey silt (216) also probably marked development of the same former land surface (Fig. 11, Section 8).

Over (206) and the revealed extent of feature [210], dark grey silty fine sand layer (209) included very dark grey (organic?) mottles and flecking and was up to 0.14m thick (Fig. 12, Section 7 & Section 53. Plate 4). Layer (209) was interpreted as an element of a former land surface, incorporating degraded remains of former 'peaty' cover. To the west of (209), similar deposits (204) and (215) represented continuation of the same horizon through most of the area of the trench, at an elevation of between approximately +2.25m and +2.3m OD.

Sealing the possible former land surface, and its vestiges of peaty material, dark orange-brown silty fine sand (203) included light yellow-brown streaks and distorted laminations and was up to 0.08m thick (Fig. 12, Section 7 & Section 53. Fig11, Section 8). Layer (203) was interpreted to have been deposited following recommencement of estuarine conditions.

In the central area of the trench, lay narrow approximately south southwest to east northeast aligned linear cut [208] (Fig. 12, Section 7. Plate 6). The feature was interpreted as archaeological disturbance, and may have represented a small gully, rut or score-mark. The formation process of feature [208] was probably comparable with that of features [212], [214], [218] and [220] further west in Trench 2, and with similar features, on similar alignments, noted elsewhere across the site; as a group, the features may have been generated through transit across the area during this depositional phase. Feature [208] was filled by dark grey silty sand (222), with moderate very dark grey (organic?) flecking, and by mid to dark orange-brown silty fine sand (207) with occasional light yellowish-brown lenses and distorted



laminations. Fill (207) was very similar to layer (203), and the deposits could well have been contemporary.

Near the western end of the trench, a group of four narrow linear features comparable in scale and orientation with [208] were noted; the features appeared to be arranged as two pairs (Fig. 11, Section 8. Plate 7). Of the easternmost pair, cut [212] was possibly the earliest, although the similar compositions of the fills of the features rendered interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence somewhat tentative. Southwest to northeast aligned narrow steep sided cut [212] filled by dark brown silty fine sand (211), was possibly truncated by similar cut [218], filled with deposit (217) (Fig. 11, Section 8 & Section 10). Fills of both features included 'orange' mottles and light yellowish brown lenses and distorted laminations, similar to layer (203). Approximately 1.3m to the northwest, narrow linear features [214] and [220] were filled respectively by deposits (213) and (219) (Fig. 11, Section 8 & Section 11. Plate 7). The fills were again similar in composition to each other, and to deposit (203).

Above layer (203) (and the fills of the group of linear features within the trench), light yellowish brown silty sand deposit (202) represented a laminated estuarine deposit, up to 0.7m thick (Fig. 11, Section 8. Fig. 12, Section 7 & Section 53. Plate 4 and Plate 5). Dark brown silty sand topsoil (201), the most recent deposit recorded within the trench, was 0.3m thick.

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 13, Fig. 14)

The northeast to southwest aligned trench was 30m long and located towards the southeast corner of the development area. It was positioned partly to investigate a northwest to southeast aligned anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey of the site.

The earliest deposits encountered in the trench were yellowish brown laminated sandy silts and silty sands (309), (308) and (312), all interpreted as estuarine deposits (Fig. 14, Section 12 and Section 54).

In the central part of the trench, the earlier estuarine deposits were truncated by curvilinear cut [311], 2.8m wide and 0.86m deep (Fig. 14, Section 12 and Section 54. Plate 8). The feature had steep convex sides and a concave base and was interpreted as a probable natural channel or creek; its location and orientation correlated approximately with those of a feature recorded during geophysical survey of the site.

The primary fill of [311] was 0.3m thick firm dark to mid bluish grey sandy silt (313), above which lay 0.15m thick dark orange brown silt (307) with a high 'peaty' organic content. Formed during the same depositional conditions as deposit (307), 0.1m thick dark orange-brown to black very peaty clayey silt layer (310) was observed to continue as a general layer beyond linear feature [311]; together the deposits provided evidence of former fenland conditions surviving at an elevation of approximately +2.2m O.D. to +2.35m OD.

Above fen deposits (307) and (310), laminated silty fine sand deposits (306), (305), (304), (303) and (302) represented variations within a subsequent period of deposition under estuarine conditions (Fig. 14, Section 12). Topsoil (301) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 15, Fig. 16, Fig. 17)

The northwest to southeast aligned trench was in the eastern part of the development area, near its southern boundary. It was positioned in part to investigate a north to south aligned curvilinear anomaly recorded by geophysical survey of the site.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light brown and mid to light grey laminated sandy silt (406), laid down under estuarine conditions (Fig. 17, Section 14). In the central part of the trench, in a position closely correlated with that of the geophysical anomaly noted above, approximately north to south aligned linear cut [412] was up to 4m wide and 0.65m deep, with sides that became steeper and convex towards the gently concave base (Fig. 14, Section 13. Plate 9). The feature was interpreted as a probable natural channel or creek and was filled by firm to stiff mid brownish grey clayey silt (411).

Overlying channel fill (411) (and continuing beyond as a general layer throughout the trench) firm to stiff bluish light grey clayey silt layer (405) was 0.08m thick; it was interpreted as a former ground surface and possible topsoil deposit (albeit gleyed and transformed). Above (405), very dark brownish grey to black peaty silt layer (404) was up to 0.05m thick and was interpreted as deposited in a period of freshwater wetland environmental conditions. Frequent small intrusions of (404) into underlying deposit (405) gave the interface a dappled appearance, an effect possibly caused by the hooves of animals on the former land surface. The approximate elevation of the former land surface lay between +2.18m OD at the southeast end of the trench to +2.36m O.D. near its northwestern end.

Peaty layer (404) was truncated towards the northeast end of the trench by four narrow linear features, all roughly parallel on a southwest to northeast alignment in a band approximately 2.10m wide (Fig. 17, Section 1 and Section 4. Plate 10). Cut [410] was at the southeast edge of the group, with [407] immediately to the northwest. Approximately 0.8m further northwest lay [408], with [409] immediately adjacent to the northwest. The cuts were filled by mid grey sandy silt (403), which included occasional light yellowish brown patches, and which also appeared to continue as a general layer, around 0.06m thick; the deposit was interpreted as probably laid down under estuarine conditions (Fig. 17, Section 1, Section 4, Section 13, Section 14). Deposit (403) was sealed by more clearly laminated light yellowish brown silty fine sand (402), recorded as between 0.1m to 0.25m thick, and similarly interpreted as an estuarine deposit. Topsoil (401) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 18, Fig. 19)

The east to west aligned trench was located centrally within the eastern part of the site, and positioned partly to investigate an anomaly identified by geophysical survey towards its eastern end.

The earliest deposits encountered in the trench were yellow sandy silt (506) and 'yellow spotted orange' sandy silt (509), both of which represented variations within the same accumulations of laminated estuarine sands and silts, at least 0.95m thick (Fig. 19, Section 15, Section 15 and Section 55. Plate 11).

Towards the eastern end of the trench, the early estuarine deposits were truncated by substantial northeast to southwest aligned curvilinear cut [510], at least 4.2m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 19, Section 15 and Section 55. Plate 11). The feature was interpreted as a probable natural creek or channel; it was filled by yellowish brown laminated silty sand (513), and by firmer mid greyish brown laminated silt (514), both of which were 0.25m thick. The area of cut [510] was subjected to an additional phase of deeper machine excavation in order more fully explore its extent (Fig. 5. Plate 11).

The fills of channel [510] were sealed by firm yellowish grey clayey silt (511), up to 0.2m thick (Fig. 19, Section 16 and Section 55). Although deposit (511) was confined to the extent of [510], over much of the western end of the trench similarly firm 0.16m thick yellowish grey clayey silt layer (505) sealed estuarine deposit (506) (Fig. 19, Section 15). Deposits (505) and (511) were probably related and were interpreted to represent transformed vestiges of a former land surface and topsoil. Within the depression of infilled channel [510] the surface elevation of postulated surface layer (511) was +2.16m OD, whereas at the western end of the trench the corresponding surface of (505) lay at +2.38m OD.

Approximately 4m from the western end of the trench, possible former land surface (505) was truncated by north northwest to south southeast linear cut [507], recorded as 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep with steep slightly concave sides and a narrow concave base (Fig. 19, Section 15. Plate 12). Interpreted as a ditch or (more likely) a natural channel or creek, the feature was filled by yellowish grey clayey silt (515), similar in composition to layer (505). On both sides of [507], localised loose yellow sandy silt deposits (504), up to 0.06m thick, were interpreted as deposited by water overflowing from [507] (Fig. 19, Section 15).

At the eastern end of the trench, deposit (511) was sealed by 0.1m to 0.15m thick firm orange brown clayey silt layer (512), distinguished by frequent lumps and flecks of degraded peaty organic material (Fig. 19, Section 55). At the western end of the trench, firm but crumbly 0.04m to 0.14m thick blackish brown peaty silt (503) sealed the fill of ditch [507]. Deposits (512) and (503) represented the same horizon and were indicative of a period of freshwater fenland deposition.

Above (503) at the western end of the trench, firm grey silty clay layer (508), between 0.06m and 0.1m thick, indicated resumption of an estuarine depositional environment (Fig. 19, Section 15). Overlying (508) (and present through the entirety of the trench) 0.25m to 0.55m thick loose laminated silty sand (502) was similarly laid down to in estuarine conditions. Modern topsoil (501) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 20, Fig. 21)

The north northwest to south southeast aligned trench was located centrally within the eastern half of the site.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light greyish brown silty fine sand (606). It was a laminated deposit at least 0.1m thick and was interpreted as formed under estuarine conditions (Fig. 21, Section 17 and Section 18). Above (606), 0.13m thick firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt (605) was interpreted to represent a former topsoil and land surface, albeit gleyed and transformed by subsequent environmental conditions. The upper interface of (605) (the possible former land surface) lay at an elevation of between +2.2m O.D. and +2.24m O.D. within Trench 6.

Towards the southern end of the trench, layer (605) was sealed by very dark brownish grey organic 'peaty' silt layer (604), up to 0.09m thick (Fig. 21, Section 17). Layer (604) was a general presence within the trench and was interpreted as having formed in a freshwater fenland environment. Towards the northwest end of the trench, the same depositional phase was recorded in the vicinity of cut [608] as peaty deposits (609) and (610) (Fig. 21, Section 18).

Narrow east northeast to west southwest aligned linear cut [608] had very steep irregular (and occasionally undercut) sides and a concave base (Fig. 21, Section 18 and Section 19. Plate 13). Although



its origin was unclear, it was interpreted as probably anthropogenic, and may have represented a possible gully, rut or score-mark. It was broadly comparable to similar features noted in trenches 2, 4, 11 and 14, and was filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt (607). No artefacts were recovered from the feature, and its location and orientation did not correlate well with nearby anomalies picked up during geophysical survey of the site.

Above the fill of [608], general firm mid grey silt layer (603) was up to 0.08m thick and included occasional patches and lenses of light brown silty sand, together with traces of laminations (Fig. 21, Section 17 and Section 18). The layer indicated resumption of estuarine depositional conditions, which also prevailed during the accumulation of 0.5m thick overlying light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (602).

Modern topsoil (601) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4, Fig. 21, Fig. 22)

The north northeast to south southwest aligned trench was located north of centre within the eastern half of the site, just east of the modern trackway.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light yellowish and greyish brown laminated sandy silt (706), at least 0.1m thick, interpreted as laid down under estuarine conditions. Above (706), 0.16m thick firm light bluish grey clayey silt layer (705), although alluvial in origin, was interpreted to represent a probable former topsoil and land surface, with a general surface elevation of approximately +2.1m O.D. to +2.2m O.D. (Fig. 21, Section 20 and Section 21. Plate 14). In the north-central part of the trench, what appeared to be an approximately 5m wide shallow east to west aligned linear depression in this land surface was recorded as context [707] (Fig. 22, Section 52. Plate 15). Above layer (705), crumbly very dark brownish grey peaty silt layer (704) was up to 0.11m thick (although generally much thinner), and was interpreted as deposited under freshwater fenland conditions. In general, the layer had a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (705) giving a dappled appearance, an effect possibly caused by the hooves of animals on the former land surface (Plate 37). The same organic layer was recorded within depression [707] as context (708), where it survived slightly thicker and with better organic preservation. A sample of (708) was taken for potential radiocarbon dating.

A localised truncation or erosion of peaty deposit (708) was recorded in section as cut [709] (Fig. 22, Section 52). The anomaly was interpreted as probably naturally generated, particularly as it was filled by deposit (703), which continued beyond the feature as a general layer. Layer (703) was 0.09m thick and composed of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with traces of light yellowish brown silty sand laminations (Fig. 21, Section 20 and Section 21. Fig. 22, Section 52). It was interpreted as an estuarine deposit and indicated a radical alteration of environmental conditions at the site. Overlying laminated light yellowish brown silty fine sand (702), up to 0.58m thick, was also laid down under estuarine conditions. During machining, the deposits displayed a rippled effect, reflective of its alluvial origin (Plate 16).

Topsoil (701) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.



7.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 4, Fig. 23)

The northwest to southeast aligned trench was located at the northern end of the eastern half of the site.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was moderately firm light greyish brown laminated sandy silt layer (807), at least 0.15m thick (Fig. 23, Section 22 & Section 23. Plate 17). The deposit was interpreted as laid down under estuarine conditions. It was sealed by 0.15m thick stiff light bluish grey silt layer (806), alluvial in origin but interpreted to probably represent a former topsoil and land surface; the surface elevation of the postulated former land surface lay at approximately +2.32m OD.

Above layer (806), crumbly very dark brownish grey peaty silt layer (805) was only up to 0.02m thick and was interpreted as formed in freshwater fenland conditions (Fig. 23, Section 22 & Section 23. Plate 17). It displayed a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (806), giving a dappled appearance, an effect possibly caused by the hooves of animals on the former land surface.

Peaty deposit (805) was sealed by 0.02m thick firm dark brownish grey sandy silt (804), interpreted to indicate resumption of estuarine depositional conditions. Silty and sandy laminated deposits (803) and (802) represented variations within the continued estuarine depositional environment, respectively 0.15m and 0.34m thick (Fig. 23, Section 22 & Section 23).

Topsoil (801) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 6, Fig. 22, Fig. 23)

The north to south aligned trench was located at the northeastern corner of the western half of the site, parallel with (and just west of) the existing trackway through the site.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was mid brownish grey sandy silt layer (906), which included occasional light yellowish brown silty sand laminations, and was at least 0.2m thick (Fig. 22, Section 25. Fig. 23, Section 24). The deposit was interpreted as laid down under estuarine conditions.

Above (906), and present as a general layer throughout the trench, stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt layer (905) was 0.12m thick, and, although alluvial in origin, was interpreted to represent a former topsoil and land surface; the elevation of the land surface, at the northern end of the trench was approximately +2.2m OD. Within the southern half of the trench, a shallow linear dip or depression in layer (905), 4.3m wide and 0.12m deep, was recorded as cut [907] (Fig. 22, Section 25. Plate 18). The anomaly was interpreted to represent variation within underlying estuarine deposits, possible indicating a silted channel or creek.

Above layer (905), very dark brownish grey organic 'peaty' silt (904) formed a thin layer around 0.02m thick (Fig. 23, Section 24). Within the depression defined by context [907], the same peaty organic horizon was recorded as context (908), where it survived better preserved to a thickness of 0.14m (Fig. 22, Section 25. Plate 18). Deposits (904) and (908) were interpreted as formed under freshwater fenland conditions.

The organic fenland deposits were sealed by firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt layer (903). up to 0.06m thick, which was interpreted as laid down in estuarine conditions. Overlying light yellowish brown



laminated silty fine sand deposit (902) was accumulated in continued estuarine conditions to a thickness of up to 0.62m.

Topsoil (901) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 24, Fig. 23)

The north to south aligned trench was located at the eastern side of the western half of the site, just west of the modern trackway. The modern land surface elevation in the area of the trench was around +3m OD

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light greyish brown silty sand layer (1007), deposited under estuarine conditions. Above (1007), firm mid grey laminated silt layer (1006) was up to 0.08m thick and was also an estuarine deposit (Fig. 23, Section 29, Section 30 and Section 51. Plate 19).

Stiff light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1005), up to 0.14m thick, was observed to seal estuarine layer (1006). Although itself alluvial in origin, layer (1005) was interpreted to indicate a former topsoil and landsurface, at an elevation of approximately +2.25m OD; the deposit had probably been significantly transformed in colour and composition by the effects of subsequent water level and environmental changes.

Immediately above (1005), 0.02m thick very dark brownish grey very organic 'peaty' silt layer (1004) was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment. Intrusions of (1004) gave a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1005); the dappled appearance may have been caused by trampling animal hooves.

Organic deposit (1004) was sealed by firm mid grey silt layer (1003), up to 0.04m thick, and interpreted as deposited in estuarine conditions; laminations were present within (1003), albeit of an irregular and distorted form. Overlying light yellowish brown silty sand layer (1002) was up to 0.4m thick, with more regular fine laminations, and was accumulated under continuing estuarine conditions.

Topsoil (1001) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.11 Trench 11 (Fig.25, Fig. 26, Fig. 27)

The east northeast to west southwest aligned trench was located near the southeast corner of the western half of the site. It was positioned in part to investigate a substantial curvilinear anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey. An additional phase of mechanical excavation was undertaken at the request of the archaeological curator to more fully investigate the deposits in this area (Fig. 7. Plate 20). Modern surface elevation in the area of Trench 11 was between approximately +2.8m O.D. at the western end of the trench and +2.9m O.D. at its eastern end.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light brownish yellow silty fine sand, at least 1.2m thick. It was a laminated deposit, accumulated in estuarine environmental conditions, and was revealed in deep and stepped mechanically excavated trench (Fig. 7. Fig. 27, Section 26 and Section 56. Plate 20). Deposit (1114) was truncated in the central part of the trench by substantial north to south aligned linear cut [1113], at least 6m wide and 1.5m deep with irregular sides (Fig. 27, Section 26 and Section 56). Feature [1113] was interpreted as a natural channel or creek and was filled by firm and sticky light yellowish brown silty sand (1112).



Estuarine deposit (1111) sealed fill (1112), and was, in turn, truncated by north to south aligned curvilinear cut [1008], revealed as 6.6m wide and 0.9m deep (Fig. 27, Section 26 and Section 56. Plate 20). The feature showed concave sides continuous with a concave base and, like [1113], was interpreted as a probable natural channel or creek; it may have represented a re-cutting or re-establishment of silted earlier channel [1113]. Channel [1108] was filled by greyish brown clayey silt (1109).

The fill of channel [1108] was sealed by 0.3m thick bluish grey clayey silt deposit (1110) (Fig. 27, Section 26). Towards the eastern end of the trench, 0.07m thick firm light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1105) lay above estuarine deposit (1111) and was very similar in composition to (1110) (Fig. 26). Together, deposits (1110) and (1105) were interpreted to indicate a probable former topsoil and land surface, with a surface elevation of around +2.29m to 2.36m, dipping slightly into the hollow over silted channel [1113]/[1108] (Fig. 27, Section 26).

Immediately above the probable land surface deposits, crumbly black to very dark brown organic 'peat' layer (1104) was 0.04m to 0.08m thick and was interpreted to have formed in freshwater fenland conditions (Fig. 27, Section 2, Section 26 and Section 56). During mechanical excavation, pottery was recovered from the peaty horizon subsequently recorded as (1104) at the eastern end of the trench and retained as context (001) (Plate 21). The pottery comprised seven fragments of a single jug or jar which 'represents a newly defined ceramic type (SLLFFQ) which has only been previously noted as small undiagnostic sherds. Visually the vessel appears to be of medieval Bourne or Baston type but a closer examination (at x20 binocular microscope level) reveals common iron-rich grains not usually present in these industries.... A date between the late 12th and mid 14th centuries is suggested by the general appearance and manufacture of this vessel.' (Appendix B).

The date of the pottery is somewhat anomalous and late in comparison with other nearby dated examples of both the peaty horizon and of the overlying estuarine material (see Discussion below). In the field, the depositional context of the pottery was considered reasonably secure, with no obvious indications of disturbance to the stratigraphy. However, the pottery was recovered from a location within the trench with relatively thin alluvial cover, and the possibility that the sherds represent intrusive material cannot be dismissed totally.

Near the eastern end of the trench, peaty deposit (1104) was truncated by northeast to southwest aligned narrow linear cut [1106], 0.3m wide and 0.03m deep (Fig. 27, Section 3). The feature was considered anthropogenic, and interpreted as a possible gully, rut or score-mark; its form and orientation were comparable to similar features noted elsewhere across the site, for example in trenches 2, 4 and 13. The cut was filled by friable black 'peat' (1107).

Peaty layer (1104) and the fill of cut [1106] were sealed by firm bluish grey clayey silt (1103), which comprised a discontinuous layer around 0.05m thick interpreted to indicate a resumption of estuarine depositional conditions (Fig. 27, Section 3). Overlying it, yellow laminated silty sand layer (1102) was also laid down from 0.12m to 0.45m thick in an estuarine environment.

Topsoil (1101) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 28, Fig. 29)

The north northwest to south southeast aligned trench was located in the central southern part of the western half of the site. It was positioned in part to investigate a substantial curvilinear anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey. An additional phase of mechanical excavation was undertaken at the request of the archaeological curator to more fully investigate the deposits in this area (Fig. 7. Plate



22). Modern surface elevation in the area of Trench 12 was between approximately +2.8m O.D. at the southern end of the trench and +3.16m O.D. at its northern end.

The earliest deposit encountered was light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1215), at least 1.3m thick, which was revealed in the deep and stepped mechanically excavated trench dug to investigate channel deposits in the southern part of Trench 12. Deposit (1215) was truncated by east to west aligned linear cut [1214], which was interpreted as a natural channel or creek, and was filled by light yellowish brown laminated estuarine silty fine sand (1213) (Fig. 29, Section 57. Plate 23). Fill (1213) was sealed by further estuarine accumulation (1206), which was truncated in turn by east to west aligned steep-sided linear cut [1210], 6m wide and at least 1.2m deep (Fig. 29, Section 33 and Section 57. Plate 23). Feature [1210] was interpreted as a natural creek or channel and may have developed as a re-cutting or re-establishment of silted-up [1214]. Channel [1210] was filled by laminated estuarine deposits (1212) and (1211).

Over most of the trench, estuarine deposit (1206) was capped by stiff light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1205), 0.14m to 0.22m thick, which was interpreted as a probable former topsoil and land surface, transformed in colour and composition by subsequent variations in water levels and environments (Fig. 29, Section 32 and Section 33. Plate 24). Within the shallow hollow of silted feature [1210], similar deposit (1209) probably represented the same horizon, and its upper interface was assigned context [1208] (Fig. 29, Section 33). The former land surface lay at an elevation of generally around +2.3m O.D. to +2.35m O.D. within Trench 12.

Above land surface deposit (1205) through most of the trench, crumbly very dark brownish grey silty organic 'peat' layer (1204) lay up to 0.02m thick. It was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment. Intrusions of (1204) gave a very irregular uneven interface with underlying layer (1205), with a dappled appearance possibly caused by trampling by animal hooves (Fig. 29, Section 32). Above contexts (1209) and [1208] within the shallow depression above silted feature [1210], the same peaty horizon survived slightly better preserved and thicker as context (1207) (Fig. 29, Section 33).

The fenland interlude represented by deposits (1204) and (1207) was sealed by firm dark greyish brown peaty silt layer (1203), up to 0.07m thick, interpreted to indicate a resumption of estuarine conditions and deposition (Fig. 29, Section 32 and Section 33). Overlying it, light yellowish brown laminated silty sand (1202) also accumulated in estuarine conditions to a thickness of 0.48m thick.

Topsoil (1201) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

7.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 31, Fig. 31, Fig. 32, Fig. 33)

The east to west aligned trench was located centrally within the western half of the site. Modern surface elevation in the vicinity of the trench varied from +3.12 O.D. to +3.19m OD.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was light greyish brown laminated silty sand (1306), at least 0.14m thick, which was interpreted as an estuarine deposit. At the eastern end of the trench, layer (1306) was truncated by partially revealed possible linear cut [1312] (Fig. 32, Section 34 and Section 35. Plate 25). The cut was at least 2.2m by 1.3m in plan and 0.45m deep and possibly aligned southeast to northwest, with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base. It was interpreted as most



likely naturally formed and was filled by sticky and plastic mid to dark brown clayey silt (1320), which yielded no artefacts.

Towards the western end of the trench, estuarine layer (1306) was truncated by Irregular sub-oval cut [1310], at least 6.2m by 1m in plan and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 33, Section 36 and Section 37. Plate 26). The feature was filled by sticky and plastic mid to dark brown clayey silt (1321) and interpreted as most likely naturally formed on account of its irregularity and the sterility of its fill.

Over much of the trench, estuarine deposit (1306) was capped by 0.12m thick stiff light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1305), which was interpreted to probably represent a former topsoil and land surface at an elevation of around +2.31m O.D. (Fig. 32, Section 34, Section 35 and Section 36). Very similar deposits observed to dip into the slight hollows over silted features [1310] and [1312] ((1309) and (1311) respectively) were probably variations within the same general land surface horizon. Fragments of pig bone were recovered from deposit (1309) (Fig. 32, Section 36 and Section 37).

The deposits which comprised the postulated former land surface were sealed by crumbly very dark greyish brown very organic 'peaty' silt layer (1304), which was up to 0.1m thick. The deposit was interpreted to have formed in a freshwater fenland environment. Intrusions of (1304) gave a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1305), possibly generated in part from trampling by the hooves of animals.

Near the western end of the trench, peaty deposit (1304) was truncated by narrow southwest to northeast aligned linear cut [1308], 0.1m wide and 0.08m deep with very steep sides and a gently concave flattish base (Fig. 32, Section 39. Fig. 33, Section 36. Plate 27). The feature was considered anthropogenic on account of its regularity, and interpreted as a possible gully, rut or score-mark. It was filled by firm mixed mid grey and mid orange sandy silt (1307). Recorded in section approximately 4.3m east of [1308], similar narrow linear cut [1314] was 0.25m wide and 0.11m deep, filled by mid grey and mid orange-brown sandy silt (1313) (Fig. 33, Section 36).

Recorded in the opposing southern side of the trench, narrow linear cut [1316] was 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep and was filled by mid grey and mid orange-brown sandy silt (1315) (Fig. 32, Section 38). It was considered likely that contexts [1314] and [1316] recorded the same feature, otherwise lost during mechanical excavation, and that they represented a narrow linear feature similar to, and parallel with, cut [1308] located 2.6m to the northwest.

The narrow gullies were sealed by mid grey sandy silt (1303), up to 0.12m thick, which included light yellowish brown sandy laminations and light orange-brown streaks; the laminations were very distorted (Fig. 32, Section 34, Section 35 and Section 38. Fig. 33, Section 36 and Section 37. Plate 25 and Plate 26). Layer (1303) was interpreted as deposited in estuarine conditions, as was 0.54m thick overlying light yellowish brown laminated silty sand (1302).

The estuarine deposits were truncated by north northwest to south southeast aligned ditch [1318], filled by dark brown silty sand deposits (1317) and (1319) (Fig. 33, Section 36); a 19th century clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from fill (1317). The location and orientation of the ditch approximately matched a boundary depicted on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping, and pottery of 18th century type was recovered and retained as context (002) during mechanical excavation of the trench. The ditch also correlated with one of the clearer anomalies found by the geophysical survey of the site, and corresponded with a cropmark visible on an aerial view of the site (Plate 1).

Modern topsoil (1301) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.



7.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 6, Fig. 34)

The east to west aligned trench was located towards the northern edge of the western half of the site. Modern surface elevation in the vicinity of the trench ranged from +3.05mOD at its eastern end to +3.2m O.D. at its western end.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was the laminated estuarine sandy silt deposit represented by contexts (1413) and (1414), at least 0.2m thick (Fig. 34, Section 46). Immediately above the estuarine deposit lay 0.15m to 0.25m thick firm bluish grey clayey silt layer (1404), also alluvial in origin, but interpreted to indicate a probable former topsoil and land surface (Fig. 34, Section 40, Section 45 and Section 46). The deposit had been transformed in colour and composition by subsequent changes in the water level and local environmental conditions.

Layer (1404) was sealed by 'peaty sand' layer (1403), up to 0.08m thick. The deposit was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment (Fig. 34, Section 40 and Section 46). At the eastern end of the trench, the organic component of the same peaty layer was better preserved and was recorded as context (1411) (Fig. 34, Section 45. Plate 28). A sample of (1411) was retained to be available for radiocarbon dating, should additional dating be required.

Immediately above peaty layer (1404)/(1411), firm bluish grey clay with peat (1412) formed a thin layer, 0.02m thick, interpreted as laid down in estuarine conditions. Overlying it, yellow-orange laminated sandy silt layer (1402) represented further accretions of estuarine sediments up to 0.5m thick.

Approximately 13m from the eastern end of the trench, estuarine deposit (1402) was truncated by north to south aligned ditch [1405], 0.75m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 34, Section 40). It was filled by orange brown silty sand (1406), from which early modern/late post-medieval pottery was recovered. The fill of [1405] was truncated by similar ditch cut [1407], interpreted as a re-cut of [1405]. Ditch [1407] was filled by mixed yellow and brown sandy silt (1408). Just east of [1407], parallel ditch [1409] was 0.62m wide and 0.45m deep, and was filled by mixed yellowish brown sandy silt (1410). These linear features correlate approximately with an anomaly picked up by the geophysical survey, and also with a boundary depicted on late 19th Ordnance Survey century mapping. A corresponding cropmark is also visible on the aerial view of the site (Plate 1).

Topsoil (1401) was the most recent deposit recorded in the trench

7.15 Trench 15 (Fig. 35, Fig. 36, Fig. 37)

The north northwest to south southeast aligned trench was located towards the northwest corner of the western half of the site. It was positioned partly to investigate a clear linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. An additional phase of mechanical excavation was undertaken at the request of the archaeological curator to more fully investigate the deposits in this area (Fig. 7. Plate 29). Modern surface elevation in the area around Trench 15 varied between +3.15m O.D. and +3.2m OD.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was firm mid brownish grey sandy silt (1508), which included thin light yellowish brown silty sand laminations and was at least 0.15m thick. The deposit was interpreted as laid down in estuarine conditions (Fig. 36, Section 41 and Section 58. Fig. 37, Section 44).

Towards the southern end of the trench, the estuarine deposit was truncated by southeast to northwest aligned linear cut [1511], which had a rounded flat terminus at its northwest end (Fig. 37, Section 42, Section 43 and Section 44. Plate 30). The feature was 0.46m wide by at least 1.8m long and 0.2m deep,



with steep sides and a gently concave base. Its regularity suggested that it was anthropogenic, and it was interpreted as a small ditch, filled by stiff mid grey clayey silt (1510); the fill was sterile and yielded no artefacts.

Nearer the northern end of the trench, estuarine deposit (1508) was truncated by east northeast to west southwest aligned linear cut [1509], recorded as 5m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and an uneven stepped base (Fig. 36, Section 41 and Section 58. Plate 29 and Plate 38). The location of the feature correlated approximately with that of the mapped geophysical anomaly and the feature may have caused the variation recorded by the survey. If so, then the regularity of the mapped anomaly may be interpreted to suggest that the feature had a human rather than a natural origin and was a dug channel or ditch rather than a naturally formed creek. Feature [1509] was filled by firm and sticky mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt (1519), from which no artefacts were recovered.

Estuarine deposit (1508) was capped by 0.16m thick stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1507), which included moderate rusty flecking (Fig. 36, Section 41 and Section 58. Fig. 37, Section 44). The layer was interpreted as a probable former topsoil and land surface, albeit somewhat transformed by subsequent changes in water level and environmental conditions. Although the deposits were very similar and the distinction uncertain, layer (1507) probably also sealed the fill of ditch [1511] (Fig. 37, Section 44), and, as context (1518), similarly sealed the fill of ditch [1509] (Fig. 36, Section 41 and Section 58). Over much of the trench the former land surface lay at an elevation of around +2.2m OD; it was slightly lower at +2.13m O.D. in the depression over the fill of possible ditch [1509].

Immediately above the former land surface, very organic dark grey sandy silt layer (1506) was up to 0.11m thick and was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment (Fig. 36, Section 41 and Section 58. Fig. 37, Section 44). The organic component of (1507) was quite degraded but survived thicker and better in the depression over feature [1509] as context (1515). Intrusions of (1506) gave a very irregular and uneven dappled interface with underlying layer (1507), possibly caused in part by the trampling of animals' hooves.

Peaty horizon (1506)/(1515) was sealed by 0.09m thick light greyish brown laminated sandy silt (1505), interpreted as deposited in estuarine conditions. Above (1505) towards the southern end of the trench, 0.5m thick light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1512) also accumulated in estuarine conditions (Fig. 37, Section 44).

Towards the northern end of the trench, the deposits indicated additional complexity in the process of accretion of the estuarine deposits (Fig. 36, Section 41. Plate 38). Laminated yellowish brown silty fine sand (1504) lay 0.35m thick above layer (1505), at which level (1504) was interrupted or truncated by 1.8m wide and 0.52m deep approximately east to west aligned linear cut [1503], which had convex sides and a flattish base. Thin basal fill (1514) of brownish yellow silty sand lay below similarly thin dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (1513). Most of the feature was filled by light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1502), which continued to accumulate to a thickness of 0.33m above feature [1503]. Feature [1503] was interpreted as short-lived natural creek or channel formed in the contemporary estuarine environment.

Topsoil (1501) capped the estuarine deposits. It was truncated at the northern end of the trench by modern geotechnical trial pit [1517] (Fig. 36, Section 41).



7.16 Trench 16 (Fig. 6, Fig. 37)

The northwest to southeast aligned trench was located in the southwestern part of the western half of the site. The elevation of the modern ground surface in the area of the trench varied from +2.86m O.D. to +2.94m OD.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was 0.16m thick light brown laminated silty sand layer (1606), interpreted as laid down in estuarine environmental conditions (Fig. 37, Section 49 and Section 50. Plate 31). Deposit (1606) was capped by 0.2m thick stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt layer (1605), which was estuarine in origin, but also probably represented a former topsoil and land surface, the surface elevation of which varied from +2.27m O.D. at the northwest end of the trench to +2.38m O.D. at its southeast end.

Layer (1605) was sealed by firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey peaty deposit (1604), composed of decayed organic material and silt Fig. 37, Section 49 and Section 50). The deposit was up to 0.03m thick and was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment. Intrusions of (1604) give a very irregular and uneven dappled interface with underlying layer (1605) (Plate 32).

Above the peaty layer, mid to dark grey silt (1603) was up to 0.08m thick and was interpreted to indicate a resumption of estuarine depositional conditions, along with overlying 0.08m thick mid brownish grey laminated sandy silt and silty sand layer (1609). Above (1609), continued estuarine accretion was represented by light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1602), up to 0.28m thick Fig. 37, Section 49 and Section 50. Plate 31).

The estuarine deposits were capped by modern topsoil (1601), which was truncated near the northwestern end of the trench by modern geotechnical trial pit [1608] Fig. 37, Section 49).

7.17 Trench 17 (Fig. 38, Fig. 39)

The north to south aligned trench was shorter than the other trenches and was located at the southwestern corner of the site. It was positioned in part to investigate anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey of the site. An additional phase of mechanical excavation was undertaken at the request of the archaeological curator to more fully investigate the deposits in this area (Fig. 7. Plate 33). Modern surface elevation in the trench area varied from +2.91m O.D. at its southern end to around +2.76m at its northern end.

The earliest deposit encountered in the trench, light yellowish brown silty sand (1731), was at least 0.2m thick, and was interpreted as an estuarine deposit, although laminations were not so evident as in overlying deposits (Fig. 39, Section 48. Plate 34). Above (1731), 0.23m thick light yellowish brown silty fine sand (1730) showed more prominent sandy laminations, whereas overlying 0.6m thick light to mid greyish brown sandy silt (1705) showed more prominent silty laminations (Fig. 39, Section 47 and Section 59. Plate 33 and Plate 35).

The estuarine deposits were capped by 0.12m thick stiff light to mid bluish grey clayey silt layer (1704), interpreted to represent a former topsoil and land surface at an elevation of approximately +2.22m O.D. (Fig. 39, Section 47. Plate 35). It had probably been transformed in appearance and composition by subsequent changes in water level and environmental conditions. The same horizon was recorded after additional machining at the northern end of the trench as layer (1736) (Fig. 39, Section 59. Plate 36).



The former land surface was covered by very dark grey peaty silt layer (1703), up to 0.05m thick, which was interpreted as formed in a freshwater fenland environment (Fig. 39, Section 47. Plate 35). At the northern end of the trench, the same peaty layer was recorded as context (1735) (Fig. 39, Section 59. Plate 36).

Layers (1703) and (1735) were truncated by a substantial east to west aligned linear cut, recorded as context [1706] at the southern end of the trench and as context [1737] at the northern end of the trench (Fig. 39, Section 47 and Section 59. Plate 33, Plate 35 and Plate 36). In total, the feature was approximately 10.3m wide and 1.8m deep, and its location correlated well with that of the large linear anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey. The regular linear course of the mapped anomaly was interpreted to indicate that the feature was probably anthropogenic, and that it more likely represented a dug channel than a naturally formed creek or watercourse. A variation noted in the growth of the crop at the time of the fieldwork correlated approximately with the feature and the mapped geophysical anomaly (Plate 1).

Within a small hand-excavated sondage dug into the base of feature [1706], the earliest recorded fill was mid to light yellowish brown silty sand (1733), which included occasional lumps of sticky clayey silt, and displayed patchy mid to dark grey discolouration (Fig. 39, Section 48. Plate 34). Above (1733), dark grey very organic 'peaty' deposit (1732) was 0.05m wide and 0.22m thick and was interpreted as a possible decayed organic (wooden?) intrusion.

The principal fill of feature [1706]/[1737] above fill (1732) was 1.1m thick light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1707) (Fig. 39, Section 47 and Section 59). The clear laminations of the deposit indicated that it was likely to have been deposited under estuarine influence.

At both the northern and southern edges of the feature, the relationships of fill (1707) with the very similar adjacent estuarine deposits were not definitive but were considered to indicate that the deposits were related and broadly contemporary. To the north, 0.35m thick light yellowish brown laminated silty fine sand (1734) was interpreted as probably continuous with (1707) (Fig. 39, Section 47. Plate 35), whereas to the south, similar deposit (1702) was also interpreted as continuous with (1707) (Fig. 39, Section 59. Plate 36). At the very least, it appeared that [1706] was silting up when deposits (1702) and (1734) comprised the surrounding exposed land surface.

Deposit (1707) partially filled feature [1706] but left a topographic hollow into which further deposits accumulated. Immediately above (1707), deposits (1723) and (1726) probably represented the same mix of dark grey sandy silt and light whitish brown sandy laminations, up to 0.22m thick (Fig. 39, Section 47. Plate 35). Above these deposits, a 0.4m thick firm but crumbly fill composed of dark grey very organic sandy silt with frequent small snail shells was represented by contexts (1715), (1722) and (1725); context (1725) yielded a fragment of horse bone. The overlying 0.22m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt layer represented by contexts (1721) and (1724) probably represented a former topsoil horizon developed within the topographic hollow.

The former topsoil was truncated by east to west aligned ditch cut [1720], which was 2.8m wide and 1.0m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 39, Section 47 and Section 59). Its primary fill was 0.09m thick dark grey silt (1719), the composition of which derived from deposits (1725/1726) and (1722/1723). The main fill of [1720] was 0.68m thick dark brownish grey sandy silt (1718), from which an 18th century clay tobacco pipe stem and brick fragments of 15th to 18th century date were recovered. Above (1718) lay slightly more mixed deposit (1717).

The southern edge of ditch [1720] was truncated by partially revealed probable rectangular cut [1714], which was 3.4m north to south by at least 0.3m east to west and 0.76m deep; it had vertical sides and a flattish base (Fig. 39, Section 47. Plate 35). The feature was interpreted as a pit, the function of which was not entirely clear. Thin primary fill (1713) was 0.03m thick and composed of dark brown silty fine sand with moderate dark flecking derived from decayed organic material. A fragment of 15th to 18th century brick recovered from (1713) was probably a residual artefact. Above it, mid greyish brown silty fine sand (1712) included snail shells and was 0.26m thick, mixed and patchy dark brown and light yellowish brown silty fine sand (1711) was 0.14m thick, and dark brown sandy silt (1710) was 0.35m thick.

To the north of ditch [1720], deposit (1724) was truncated by partially revealed possible rectangular cut [1728], at least 0.7m wide and at least 0.5m deep. The feature was filled by mid to dark brown silty fine sand (1727).

Features [1728] and [1714] were capped by modern topsoil (1701), which was truncated in the central part of the trench by modern intrusion [1709], which may have been a geotechnical trial pit. Post-Medieval brick fragments recovered during mechanical excavation were retained as context (1729), and most likely derived from the fills of either ditch [[1720] or pit [1714].

8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The trial trenching revealed features and deposits predominantly related to natural sedimentary and environmental changes within the development site, with no convincing evidence to indicate that it had been a location of habitation or of other significant human activity (saltmaking, for example).

The results of the trial trenching have been divided to indicate six broad archaeological phases, which are described below.

8.1 Early Estuarine Deposits

The site lies on bedrock of mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by clay and silt Tidal Flat Deposits formed during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey website). The earliest deposits within the trenches, as revealed down to a maximum depth of excavation at +0.42m O.D. (in Trench 11), represented deposition in estuarine conditions. The deposits were typically finely laminated and displayed some variation with elevation in the relative proportions of silt or sand within the mix, a trend most clearly shown in Trench 17.

Within trenches 2, 5, 11, and 12, substantial linear features were revealed which correlated well with some of the sinuous anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey of the site (Fig. 40). The features represented naturally formed large creeks or channels within the former saltmarsh environment. They were filled by sterile laminated estuarine deposits and would have been extinct by the time the early land surface developed. Smaller linear features revealed to correlate with geophysical anomalies within trenches 3 and 4 may also have had a similar origin, although the fills were less clearly laminated and estuarine.



8.2 Early Land Surface and Associated Features

All trenches showed evidence of a general horizon, mostly less than 0.2m thick, of finely grained grey or bluish grey clayey silt which capped the early estuarine depositional sequence. The texture of the layer indicated that it had accumulated in a less active depositional environment, and the lack of laminations was taken to indicate possible disturbance and mixing associated with the development of a soil profile during a hiatus in deposition. The layer was, therefore, interpreted as an early land surface and (in consideration of the overlying organic deposit discussed below) taken to indicate, broadly speaking, the Romano-British ground level. The elevation of the former surface varied across the site but generally lay between +2.2m O.D. and +2.3m O.D.

Several features identified during the fieldwork showed an association with the former land surface, although most appeared to have been sealed by it. In Trench 5, ditch [507] was anomalous in that it was recorded to truncate the layer, although the fill of the feature was noted as very similar in composition to it.

In Trench 15, both substantial channel [1509] and smaller ditch [1511] appeared sealed by the general land surface layer. If larger channel [1509] did indeed cause the geophysical anomaly with which its location correlated, then the anomaly indicated a straight and regular cut, and a likely archaeological origin for the feature. Similarly, the straight and regular form of [1511] made it convincing as an archaeological feature, although its fill was sterile and devoid of artefacts; again, the fill of [1511] was similar in composition to that of the land surface layer. The features in Trench 15 demonstrated at least one episode of land division or of attempted improvement to drainage at the level of the ancient land surface.

Features identified in Trenches 1 and 13 were less regular in form and were interpreted as less likely to have had an archaeological origin. Pig bone fragments recovered from the former land surface where it sealed pit [1310] in Trench 13 comprised the only stratified artefacts recovered from this phase of the site's development.

The apparent sealing of most of the features revealed across the site by the postulated ancient land surface could be interpreted to suggest that features were not rigorously maintained over an extended period. Indeed, the paucity of features associated with the ancient land surface was notable, when compared, for example, with the regular ditched pattern of land division evidenced by cropmarks and excavations around Pennygate Drain 600m to the north (Herbert, 1996); contemporary artefactual evidence was also almost entirely lacking and represented only by the pig bone fragments from Trench 13.

It may have been the case that the land hereabouts was marginal and possibly vulnerable to flooding; it may have been more usefully employed as unenclosed rough grazing than as enclosed fields or paddocks. It is curious, however, that modern ground level around cropmarks recorded west of Monks House Lane and adjacent to the Bourne Road accords approximately with the general ancient ground level revealed at Horseshoe Road (i.e. that the more 'developed' area does not appear to have been in a significantly elevated location during the Romano-British period when compared to the current site).

One of the most significant results of the trial trenching was negative and regarded the projected course of the Baston Outgang road (Fig. 41). The road has been confidently attributed as originally Romano-British in date (Hallam in Philips, 1970, p. 30), with a suggestion that it may have continued as a



routeway into the Early Medieval period and may possibly undergone maintenance in the mid 11th century (Hallam, 1965. p. 112-113).

Further southwest, the road survived into modern times as a band of gravelly material across the fen, whereas closer to the investigation site its course has been mapped from the cropmarks of its roadside ditches. These cropmarks have been traced to within approximately 200m of the southwest corner of the site (Fig. 41). A direct projection of the nearest recorded alignment of the road would carry it diagonally through the western half of the development site, and it was postulated that the course of the road may have been concealed by post-Roman accretion.

The results of the trial trenching provided evidence of neither a metalled road carriageway nor of roadside ditches within the area of investigation. All trenches were machined to a level where any such traces would have been visible, and, had the road been present in the form suggested by the cropmarks to the southwest, it would most likely have passed through multiple trenches across the site. Indeed, it was notable that the features in Trench 15 were eccentric to the projected line of the road (although, of course the features were undated, and could have been earlier).

With regard to the question of where the road goes northeast of its last known location as a cropmark, several scenarios remain plausible. Cropmarks suggestive of a ditched trackway identified on the north side of Horseshoe Road, just northwest of the site (Palmer 1998), could represent an associated subsidiary track, or potentially a more irregular continuation of the main alignment (Fig. 41).

More generally, a slight adjustment of the last recorded alignment of the road to the north would take it by the northwest corner of the site (beyond all the trenches) in the direction of the junction of Monks House Lane and the A151 Bourne Road (the A151 runs along the course of the Westlode Drain, a possible ancient watercourse). Conversely, an adjustment towards the east to miss the southern edge of the site would carry the road approximately in the direction of Spalding High Bridge, or possibly towards Spalding parish church and Halmer Gate (another possible ancient routeway).

Although further investigation beyond the site's boundaries would address uncertainty around the Romano-British route the road, observations discussed below regarding possible ruts or scoremarks have raised the possibility of transit across the site area at a slightly later period, but in a direction which correlated broadly with the alignment of the Baston Outgang road.

8.3 Freshwater Fenland Development

Immediately above the ancient land surface in all the trenches lay a very dark brownish grey organic 'peaty' layer, the thickness and composition of which varied with location. Where it dipped into topographic hollows, it survived better and maintained more of its fibrous 'peaty' composition; elsewhere it was more degraded and merely persisted as a thin very dark grey silt layer with organic flecking. The layer was interpreted to mark a period of freshwater waterlogging and fenland environmental conditions.

A very similar deposit had previously been noted during investigations at Holland Park, to the southeast of the site, where a sample had been radiocarbon dated as sixth to seventh century in date (site HPS99. JSAC, 2000). A similar depositional episode has also been noted at other sites in the vicinity, including at Wygate Park 1km to the north (Wood, 2006) and at Spalding Common, 1.5km to the southwest (Moulis, 2024)



Better preserved examples of the layer were selected and retained for radiocarbon dating from locations within trenches 7 and 14, and are available should additional scientific dating be required.

In Trench 11, seven sherds of pottery (from a single vessel) were recovered from the peaty layer at the eastern end of the trench during mechanical excavation and retained as context (001). The pottery has been identified as a new ceramic type, called 'South Lincolnshire Light Firing Iron and Quartz-tempered (SLLFFQ)', and an estimated date of between the late 12th and mid 14th centuries suggested by the general appearance and manufacture of the vessel.

The presence of the pottery may be attributed to a casual loss by someone out on, or crossing, the contemporary fen, although its provisional dating presents a significant challenge to the current model of sedimentation. The pottery seems anomalous and late in comparison with both the 6th to 7th century Anglo-Saxon radiocarbon date of the peaty layer at Holland Park (see above), and the Earlier Medieval OSL date from overlying estuarine deposits at Wygate Park (see below).

If the provenance is correct, it would indicate, firstly, that the fenland phase continued here much longer than previous scientific dating has suggested, and, secondly, that tidal estuarine deposits began accumulating here on the landward side of Spalding at a period later than has been previously suggested. In the field, the depositional context of the pottery was considered reasonably secure, with no obvious indications of disturbance to the stratigraphy. However, the pottery was recovered from a location within the trench with relatively thin alluvial cover, and the possibility that the sherds represent intrusive material cannot be dismissed totally.

The interface of the peaty layer with the underlying former land surface was irregular, and frequent small intrusions of the organic deposit into the underlying layer were noted both in section (Plate 24) and in plan (Plate 37). Most of this disturbance was interpreted as bioturbation, probably caused by a combination of root intrusion and by the trampling of animals (stock?) grazing or moving over the former fen or marsh landscape.

Within trenches 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13, the initial phases of mechanical excavation revealed a group of narrow linear features, around 0.2m wide, which truncated the peaty horizon (Fig. 42). Although the features were not all precisely aligned with each other, they shared a general trend of a southwest to northeast alignment; it was largely on account of this regularity of arrangement, that they were considered anthropogenic, and interpreted as possible gullies, ruts or cultivation marks. In trenches 2, 4 and probably 13, the 'ruts' could be interpreted to have occurred in parallel pairs, between approximately 1.3m and 2.6m apart and possibly suggested the marks of wheeled traffic across a soft land surface.

It is possible that other similar features were present within the uneven lower interface of the organic horizon noted above but lost without record during mechanical excavation. The curatorial archaeologist has sought informal expert opinion about these marks, which, so far, has largely concurred with possible interpretation as ruts; no suggestion of a natural process likely to have generated the pattern has yet been forthcoming.

These linear 'ruts' were filled by deposits partly derived from the organic horizon, but mostly derived from the silty material of the immediately succeeding estuarine phase, discussed below. The activity recorded by the features may, therefore, have been a relatively short-lived period of activity or transit across the site around the time of the transition from fenland to estuarine environmental conditions.



8.4 Resumption of Estuarine Conditions

The 'peaty' horizon was sealed across the site by a relatively thin layer of fine-grained silt or clayey silt, within which the fine laminations were frequently somewhat distorted. This layer was interpreted to indicate a resumption of estuarine depositional conditions, which was also observed to fill and seal the pattern of linear ruts described above.

Above the initial phase of fine-grained silts, continuing accretion of more sandy laminated alluvium was apparent across the entire site area, up to a thickness of 0.64m in Trench 2 and 0.6m in Trench 14. For the most part, this accumulation was grouped and considered as a single phase, although there was considerable subtle variation in detail in the composition and colour of the laminations and the pattern of accretion. In Trench 15, for example, cut [1503] represented a temporary natural creek or channel generated during this phase of siltation, which was eventually sealed by further estuarine material.

Within Trench 17, substantial linear cut [1706] was revealed as approximately 10.25m wide and up to 1.8m deep and was observed to truncate the general peaty horizon within the trench. The cut approximately corresponded with an anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey of the site which indicated a broad and regular east to west aligned feature (Fig. 40); cut [1706] was, therefore, interpreted as a former channel, and considered most likely deliberately dug for water management.

The principal fill of channel [1706], deposit (1707), was of essentially the same composition as the main accumulation of 'Post-Roman' sandy alluvium, with which it appeared to be continuous at both the northern and southern edges of the channel (Plate 34, Plate 35 & Plate 36). Based on the nature of its principal fill, therefore, the feature appeared to have been open during a period when estuarine influence was predominant (possibly even 12th to 14th century, from the pottery in Trench 11- see below). It may, therefore, be of moderate significance as an 'engineered' drain, stratigraphically Post-Roman and probably earlier Medieval in date.

The proposed dating of channel [1706] feeds into questions regarding the processes and influences which directed the substantial accumulation of estuarine material at this location on the landward side of Spalding; questions such as, for example: along which channels would the tidal waters approach the area, and was there any attempt to direct their flow? The answers lie beyond the scope of the current project.

During previous investigations at Wygate Park, just over 1km north of the site, the start of a phase of Post-Roman estuarine deposition was scientifically established by optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) as between the 7th and 10th centuries AD. The suggested late 12th to mid 14th century date of the pottery from Trench 11 (if the depositional context is correct – see above) is at variance with this, indicating that tidal estuarine deposits began accumulating here on the landward side of Spalding at a period later than previously suggested, and when estuarine influence should have been moderated by the presence of sea banks to the north of the town.

8.5 Medieval to Post-Medieval Fenland and Common

The deposition of laminated estuarine deposits partially filled channel [1706], and the remaining linear hollow further silted up with dark grey highly organic silt, rich in snail shells. The deposit indicated amelioration of estuarine influence, and a return to freshwater fenland conditions. Deposits similarly mollusc-rich revealed at Spalding Common were found to comprise overwhelmingly freshwater species, and were dated by associated Medieval pottery (Moulis, 2024). The reduction of estuarine influence



was, in part, related to the construction of sea banks to the north of Spalding, generally considered to have been under way by the eleventh century (Hallam, 1965. Crowson et al., 2005).

During the Medieval period, the proposed development area lay within Spalding Common, at the northeast end of the wider area known as Deeping Fen. It was outside the core of the settled area of the township of Spalding, where protection from periodic freshwater inundation was offered by embankments along Hawthorn Bank 750m to the east, and along the Westlode Drain 400m to the north. Although the area was marginal and exposed, it would, nevertheless, have been regarded by commoners as a valuable for its rough grazing and other wetland resources. Early maps, such as the late Medieval Pinchbeck Fen Map (Mitchell & Crook, 1999) and Dugdale's 17th century representation, add little fine detail about the contemporary patterns of drainage, land use and land division.

8.6 Post-Medieval to Modern Features and Developments

From the early seventeenth century, Deeping Fen (including the area of investigation) was the object of a prolonged campaign of drainage works, the arrangements of which progressed and evolved in response to set-backs caused by both environmental and social factors (Wheeler, 1896). An Act of Parliament was passed in 1801 to facilitate the division and allotment of lands in Deeping Fen, and by the time of preliminary Ordnance Survey mapping in 1815, Horseshoe Road was depicted as having been established on its modern alignment.

Within the Site, the linear topographic depression along its eastern side recorded as context (004) may have marked the former line of a watercourse called the 'Forty Foot' drain depicted at that location on 18th century mapping of the area (see Wheeler, 1896, Fig. 11). The name of the drain suggests that the existing drainage dyke on the boundary, although reasonably substantial, was formerly considerably larger. Unfortunately, the trial trenches were not close enough to the eastern boundary of the site to test the suggestion.

Within trenches 13 and 14, traces of a former ditched boundary were revealed, the location of which correlated with a boundary recorded on late 19th century Ordnance Survey Mapping (Fig. 43).

At the southern edge of the site, a significant episode of disturbance came with construction of The Midland and Great Northern joint railway line, which was operational by 1866, and which closed to all traffic by 1965 (Fig 43). The shallow topographic depression recorded as context (003) ran parallel with the railway along the southern edge of the site, and appeared to continue the trend of a former broad elongated rectangular marshy basin on the north side of the railway in the field to the east (possibly still represented in modern vegetation, see Plate 1); a larger sub-rectangular basin had also been present on the south side of the railway (Fig. 43). It seemed likely, therefore, that landscape modification associated with construction of the railway had occurred at the southern edge of the site, and had affected the modern ground level, particularly around trenches 4 and 17.

Features recorded in Trench 17 to truncate fills of the earlier large channel yielded material suggestive of an 18th century date. Although ditch [1720] could have pre-dated the railway, it was thought possible that pit [1714] may have been related to railway construction works; the steep sides and organic basal fill, for example, may have indicated a possible latrine pit for the workforce.

No features were identified which could be interpreted as associated with the hexagonal concrete pillbox located on the south side of the former railway, just beyond the southern boundary of the site (Fig. 40).



8.7 Conclusions

The trial trenching revealed features and deposits predominantly related to natural sedimentary and environmental changes within the development site. There was, however, sufficient artefactual and archaeological information within the results to enable the environmental evidence to be compared with established models of development drawn from previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity. In particular, the Romano-British land surface was identified, sealed by a significant accumulation of subsequent estuarine silts and sands.

Although one or two linear features indicated utilisation of the ancient landscape, there was no convincing evidence to indicate that the site area had been a location of habitation or of other significant human activity such as salt making. There was also no clear evidence for continuation of the Baston Outgang Roman road through the site, as might have been predicted from its alignment to the southwest. By contrast, possible rutting provided evidence of less formalised traffic across a broader band of the site area at a slightly later date.

With regard to the subsequent depositional history of the general locality, pottery recovered from Trench 11 has provided an additional stratified date to the corpus available locally, even though that date is problematic and relatively late in comparison with results of previous scientific dating nearby.

8.8 Finds

The limited assemblage of finds recovered during the investigation comprises pottery, brick fragments, clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, and animal bone fragments. The pottery includes sherds of a vessel identified as a new ceramic type (South Lincolnshire Light Firing Iron and Quartz-tempered (SLLFFQ)), probably of late 12th to mid 14th century date.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Seagate Homes for their commission and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project. Thanks are also due to James Rackham for his advice and direction regarding the depositional history and paleoenvironmental potential of the site, Johanna Gray and Jane Young for the ceramic report, Julie Curl for the animal bone report and Gary Taylor for the finds report. The role and contribution of Ruben Lopez Catalan of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team is gratefully acknowledged.

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11. PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE:	SPHO25
PLANNING APPLICATION No.:	n/a (pre-planning)
FIELD OFFICER:	C. Moulis
NGR:	TF 22992 21598
CIVIL PARISH:	n/a (Spalding is a 'Non-Civil Parish or Community' in South Holland District)
SMR No.:	n/a
DATE OF INTERVENTION:	19/03/25 to 13/05/25
TYPE OF INTERVENTION:	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
UNDERTAKEN FOR:	Seagate Homes

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION:	Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT
FINAL LOCATION:	Lincoln Museum, Danes Terrace, Lincoln
FINAL DIGITAL LOCATION:	Archaeological Data Service
MUSEUM ACCESSION No.:	LCNCC : 2025.41
STERILE (NEGATIVE) SITE	NO

The Site Archive comprises:

Watching Brief Day Sheet	22 sheets
Trench Recording Form	17 sheets
Context Register	2 sheets
Context Records	240 sheets
Matrix	1 sheet. 1 data file
Sections Register	2 sheets
Plans Registers	1 sheet
Plans with Notes	4 sheets
Scale Drawings	16 sheets of gridded drafting film
Sections with Notes	12 sheets
Photo Register	5 sheets
Digital Photographs	200 image files
SfM/Photogrammetry Register	2 sheets
SfM Digital Photographs	349 image files
Sample Register	1
Sample Sheets	2
Survey Data	4 Surveys: 13 data files



Transfer of Data.....
FindsYES

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.



12. Colour Plates





Plate 1 – Aerial view of the site from the southwest



Plate 2 – Trench 1. Deposits in Section 6 at the north end, looking east



Plate 3 – Trench 1. Feature [110], looking southeast



Plate 4 – Trench 2. Deposits in Section 7, looking northwest

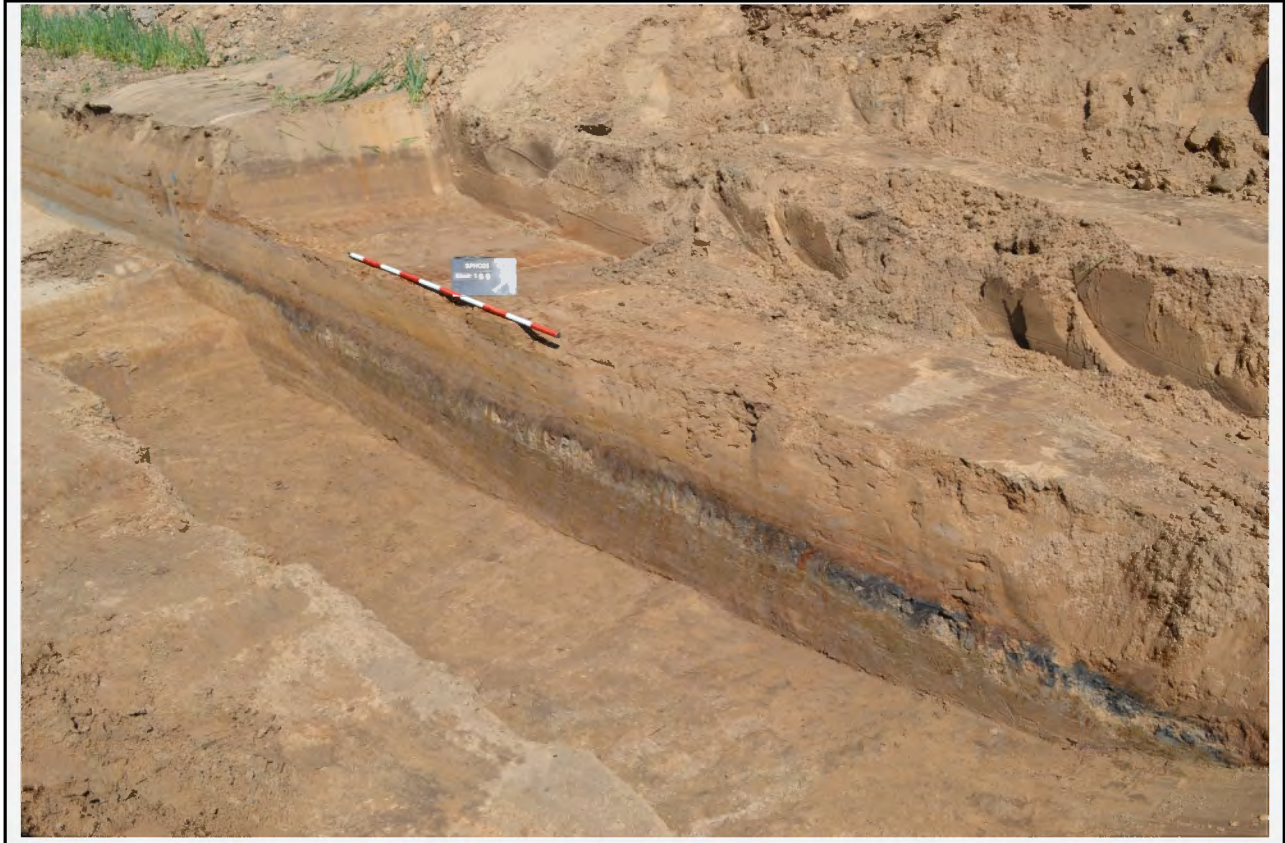


Plate 5 – Trench 2. Channel [210] and deposits in Section 53, looking northwest



Plate 6 – Trench 2. Linear feature [208], looking northwest



Plate 7 – Trench 2. Linear features [212], [214], [218] and [220], looking southwest



Plate 8 – Trench 3. Linear feature [311] and Section 54, looking northwest



Plate 9 – Trench 4. Linear feature [412], looking north



Plate 10 – Trench 4. Linear features and Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 11 – Trench 5. Natural channel [510] in Section 55, looking northwest



Plate 12 – Trench 5. Linear feature [507] and Section 15, looking south

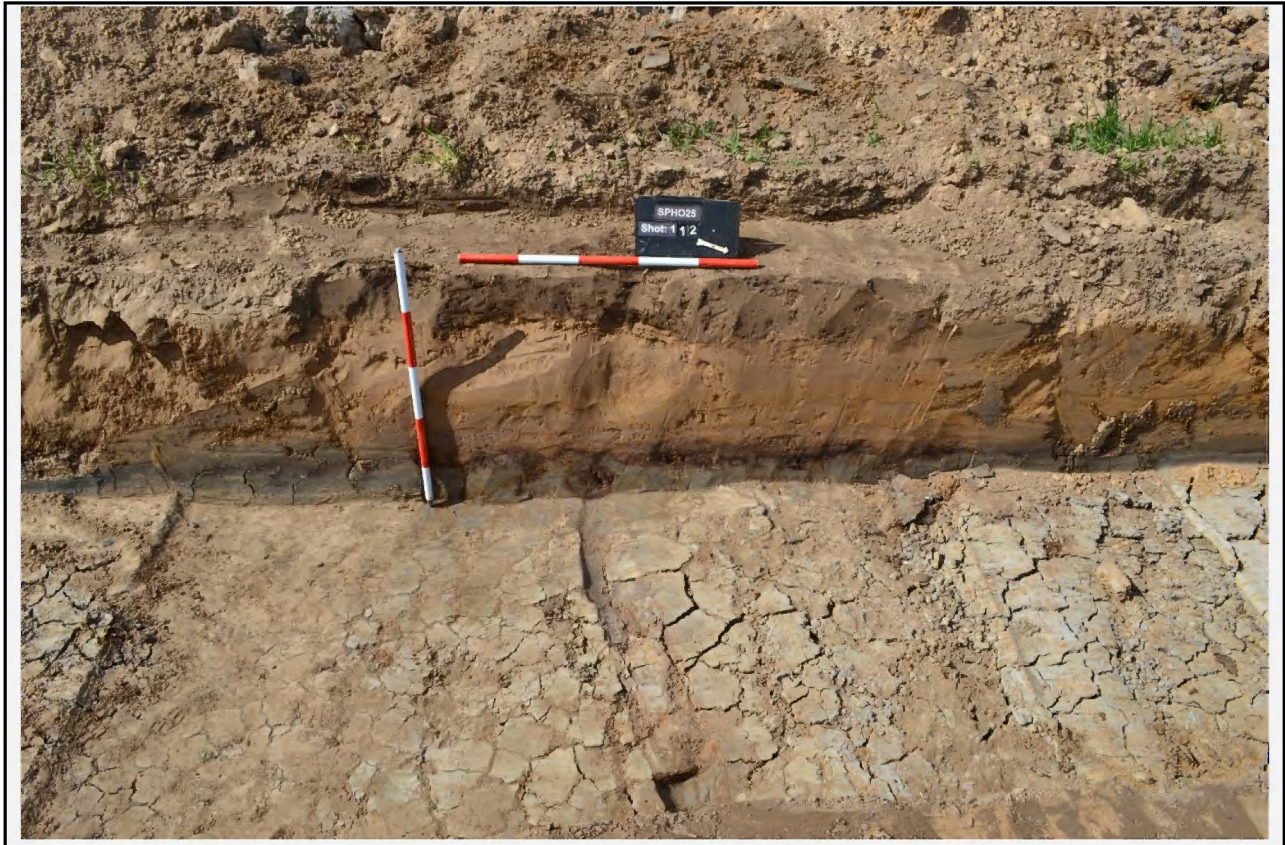


Plate 13 – Trench 6. Linear feature [607] and Section 18, looking west southwest



Plate 14 – Trench 7. Deposits at the south end in Section 20, looking south southeast



Plate 15 – Trench 7. Depression [707] and deposits in Section 52, looking north



Plate 16 – Trench 7. 'Wavy' appearance of estuarine deposits at south end, looking southwest



Plate 17 – Trench 8. Deposits at the southeast end in Section 23, looking west



Plate 18 – Trench 9. Depression [907] and deposits in Section 25, looking northeast



Plate 19 – Trench 10. Deposits at the south end in Section 30, looking southeast



Plate 20 – Trench 11. Channel [1113] in Section 56, looking northeast



Plate 21 – Trench 11. Traces of deposit [1104] at the east end, looking west



Plate 22 – Trench 12. View of additional machine excavation, looking northwest



Plate 23 – Trench 12. Channel [1210] in Section 57, looking northwest



Plate 24 – Trench 12. Deposits at the north end in Section 32, looking northwest



Plate 25 – Trench 13. Pit [1312] in Section 34, looking north



Plate 26 – Trench 13. Pit [1310] in Sections 36 & 37, looking northwest



Plate 27 – Trench 13. Linear feature [1308], looking north



Plate 28 – Trench 14. Deposits at the east end in Section 45, looking south



Plate 29 – Trench 15. Linear feature [1509] in Section 58, looking northwest



Plate 30 – Trench 15. Ditch [1511] in Section 43, looking south southeast



Plate 31 – Trench 16. Deposits at the southeast end in Section 50, looking southwest



Plate 32 – Trench 16. Showing the dappled interface of (1604) and (1605), looking southeast



Plate 33 – Trench 17. Channel [1706] in Section 59, looking northwest



Plate 34 – Trench 17. Basal fills of [1706] in Section 48, looking southeast



Plate 35 – Trench 17. Features in Section 47, looking northeast



Plate 36 – Trench 17. The northern edge of [1706] in Section 59, looking west



Plate 37 – Trench 7. The dappled interface of (1704) and (1705), looking southwest



Plate 38 – Trench 15. Deposits in Section 41, looking southeast

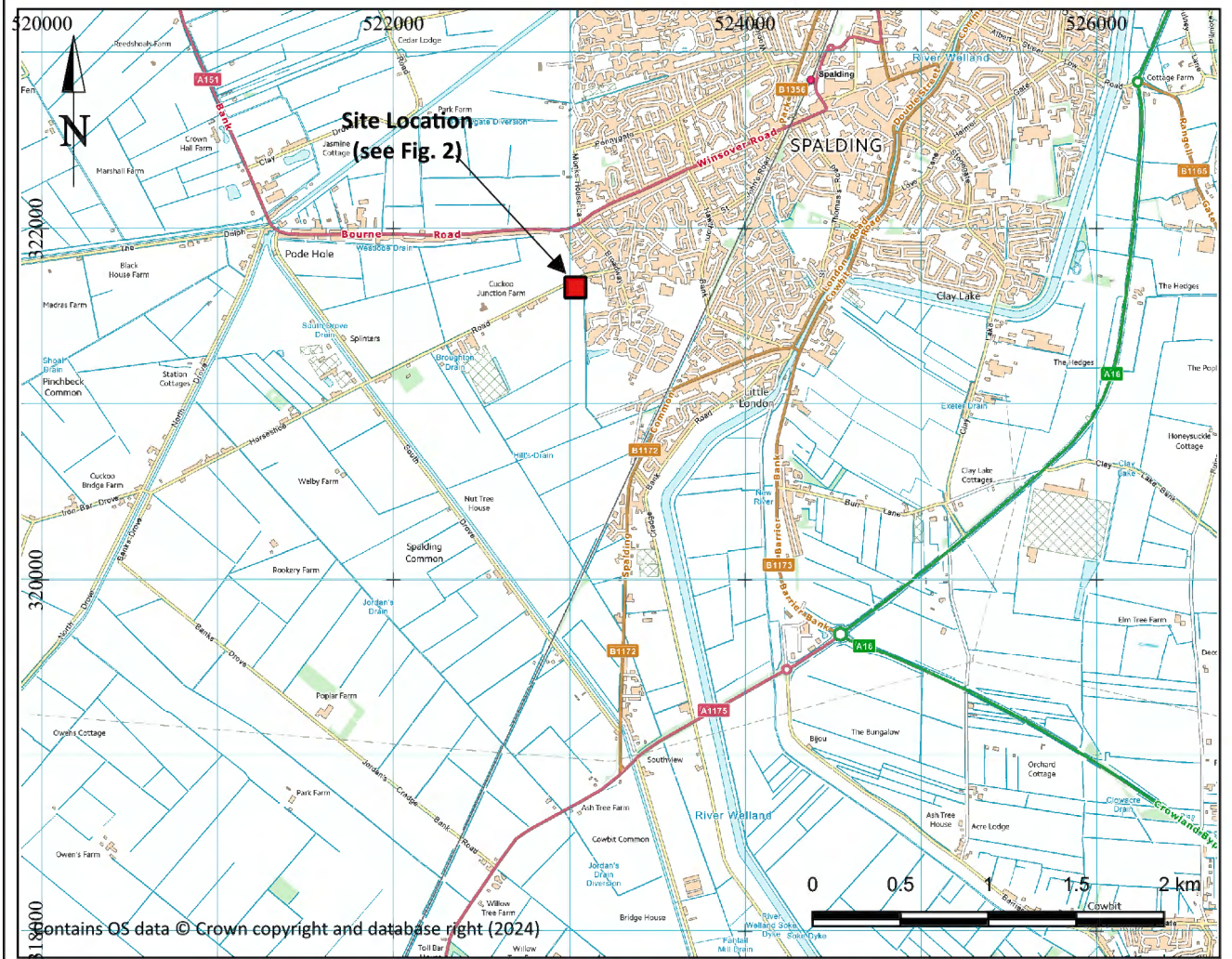


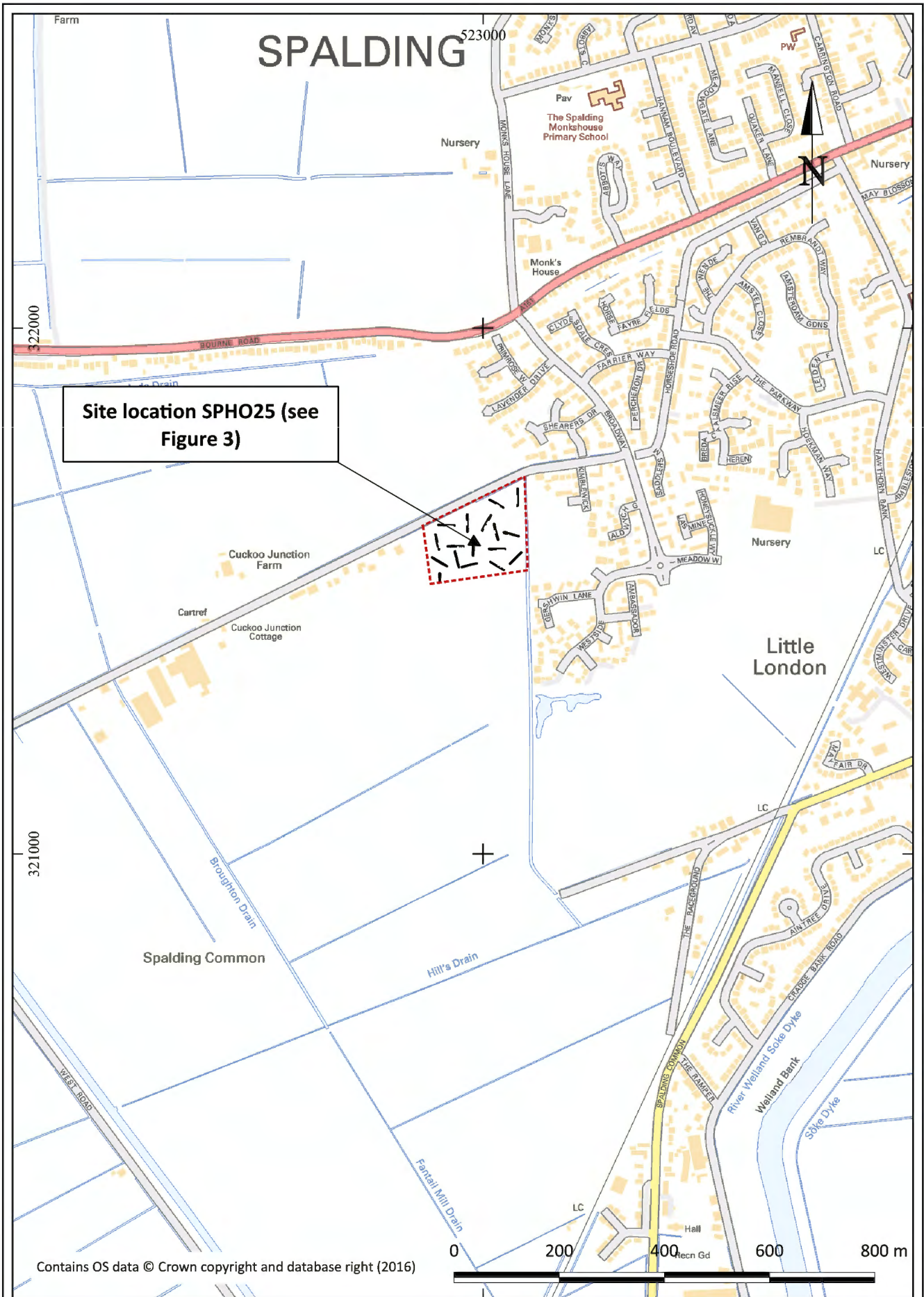


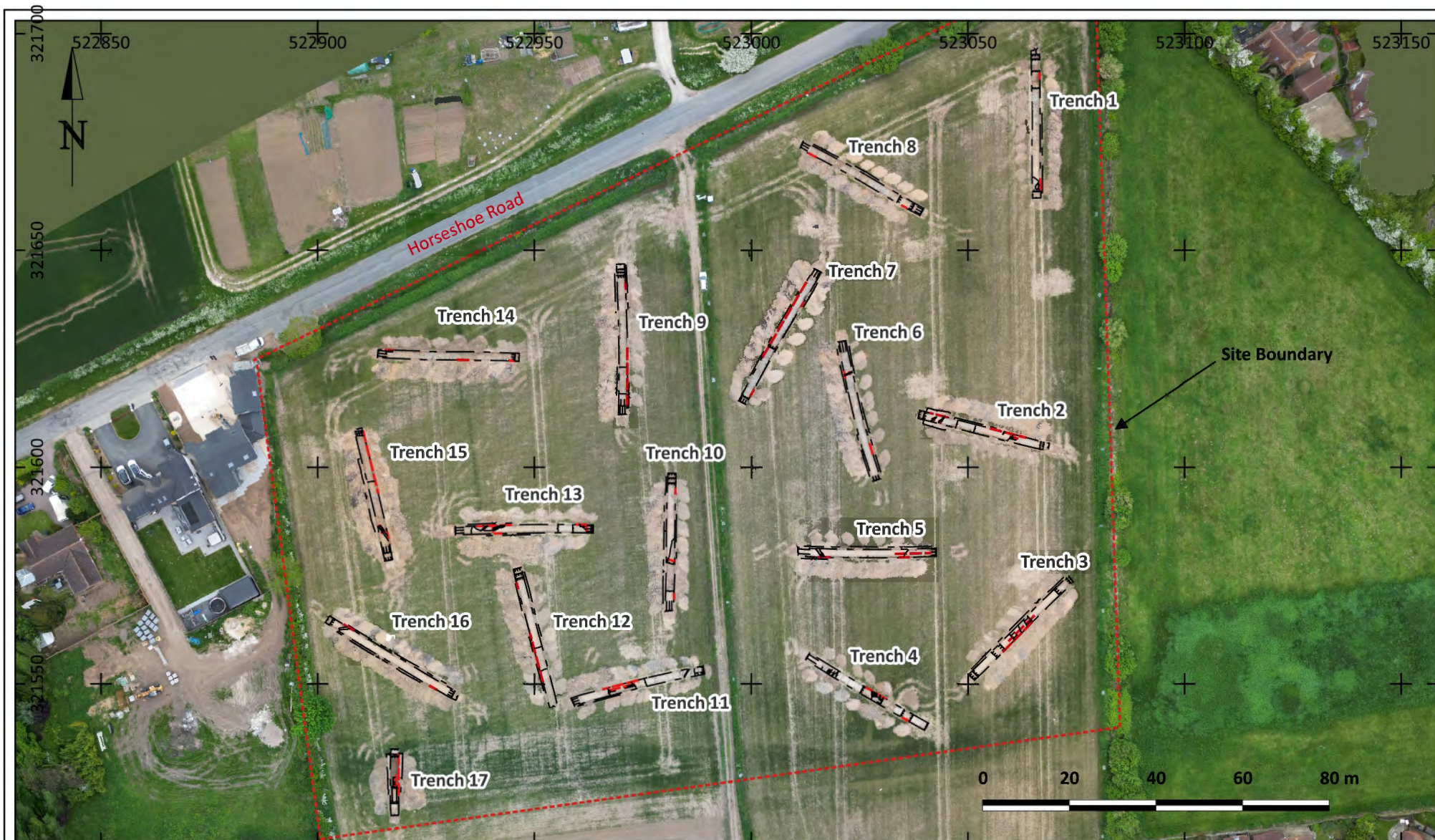
13. FIGURES









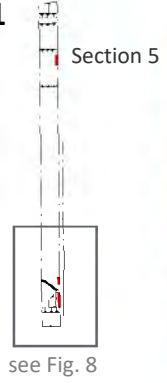




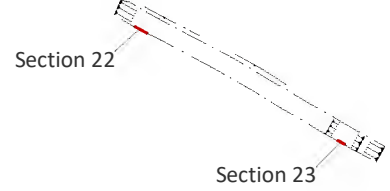
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Horseshoe Road

Trench 1



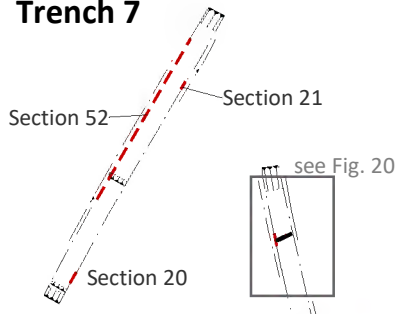
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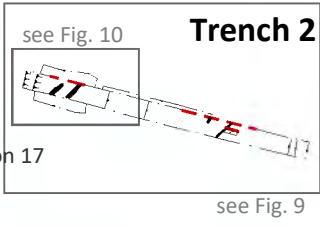
Trench 9



Trench 7

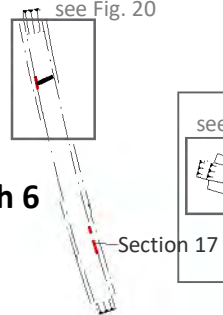


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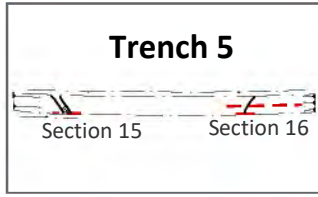


Trench 2

Trench 6



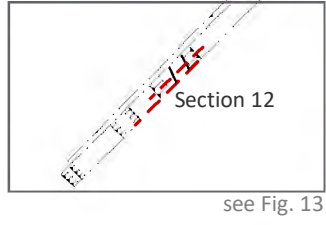
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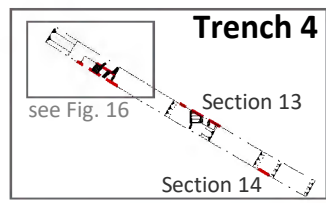
Trench 5

see Fig. 18

Trench 3



Trench 11



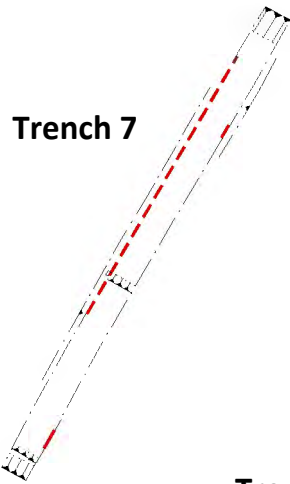
Trench 4

see Fig. 15

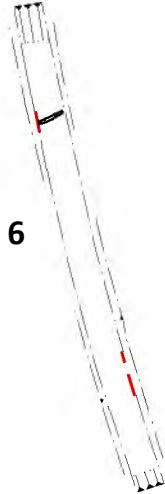


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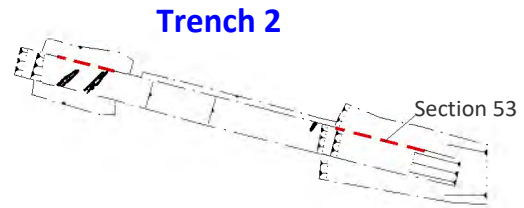




Trench 7



Trench 6



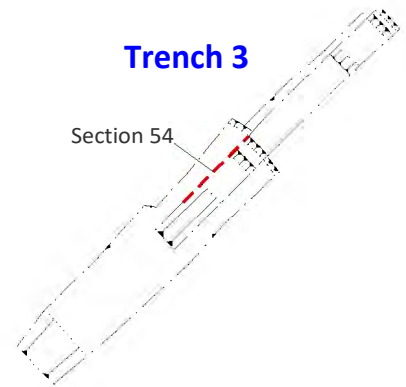
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Section 53



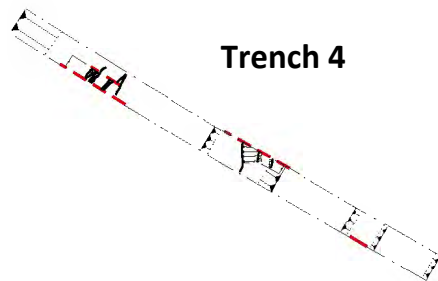
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Section 55



Trench 3

Section 54



Trench 4

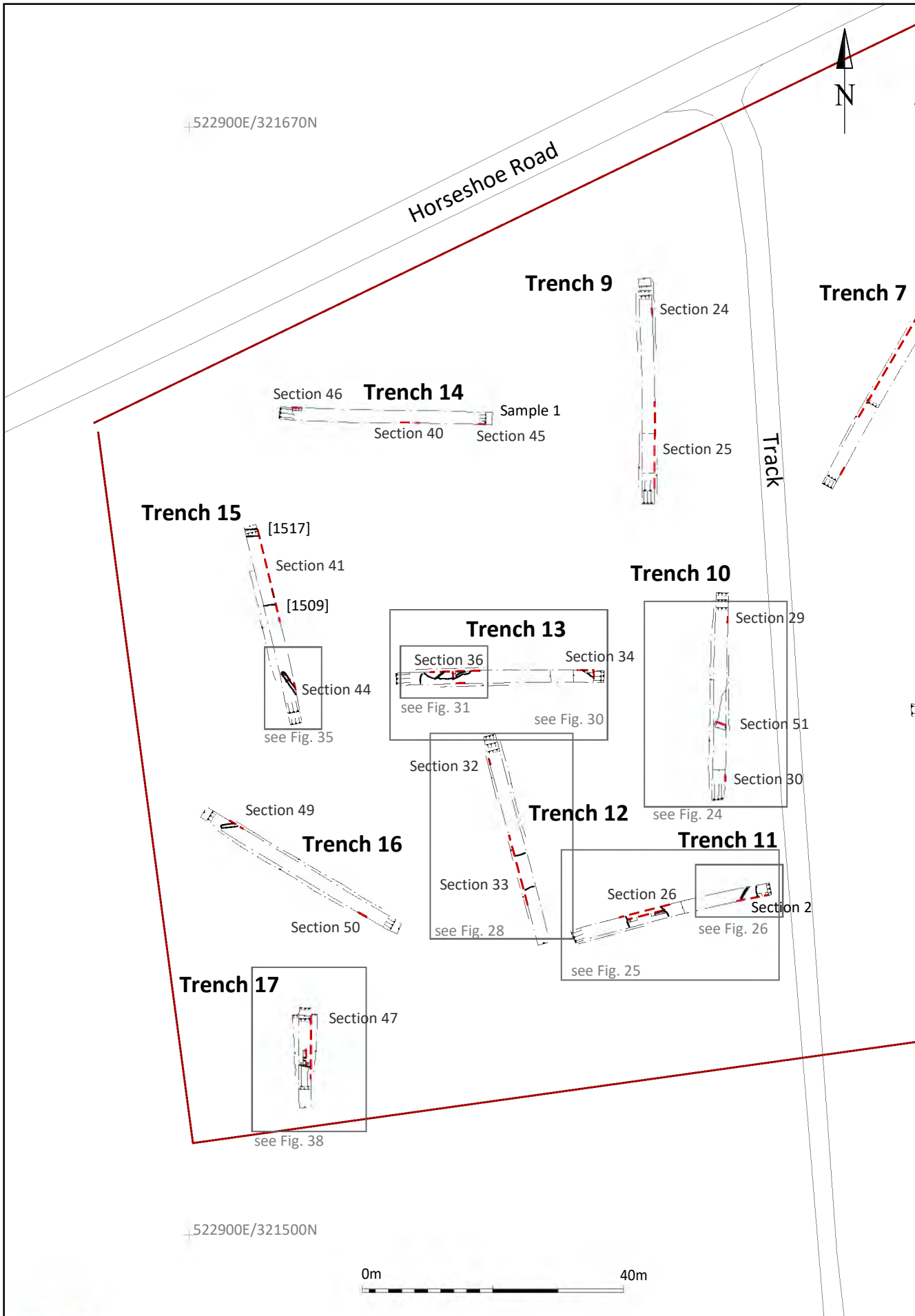
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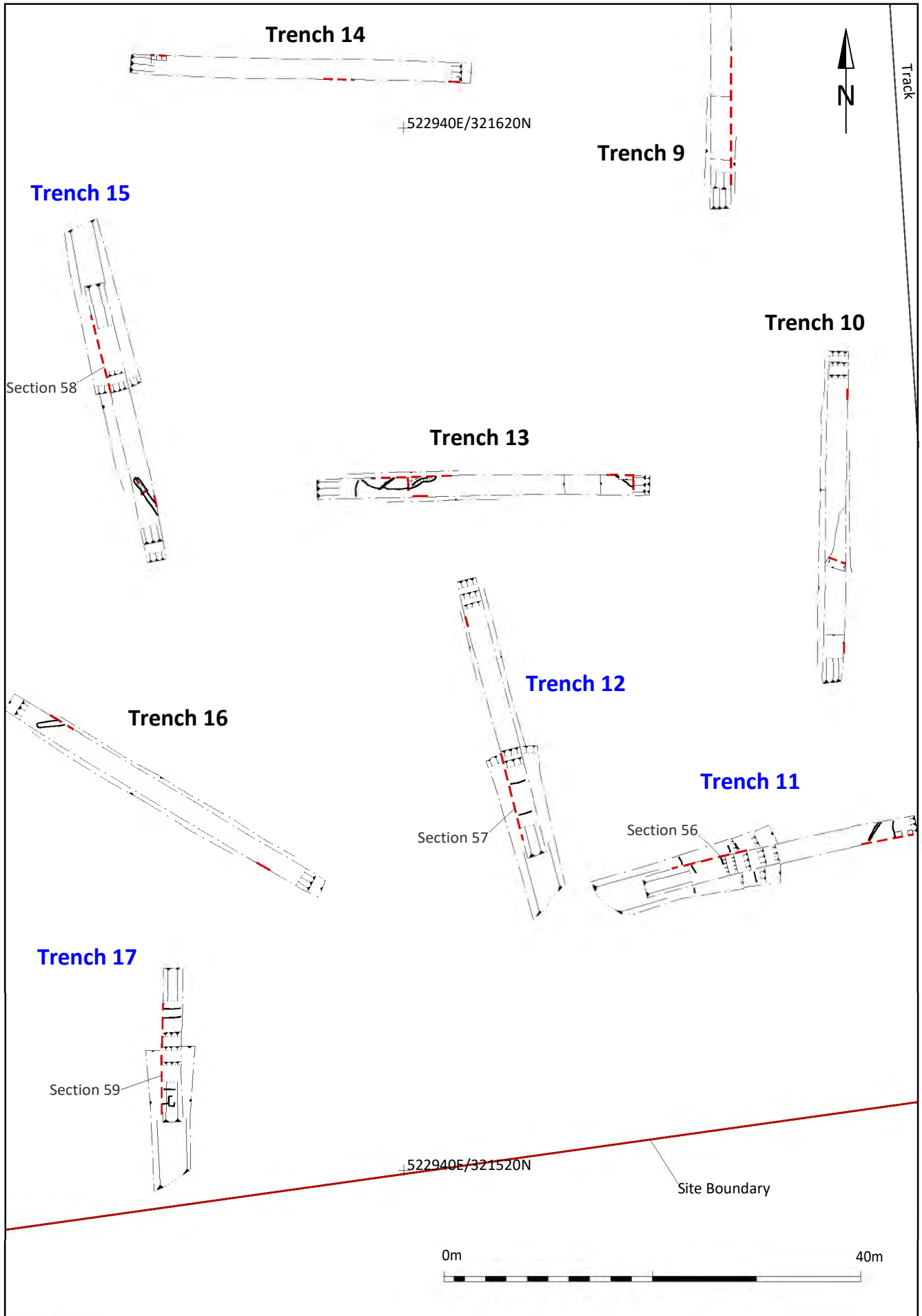
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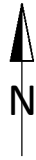
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523063E/321672N



step

(107)

Section 6

[110]

523063E/321662N

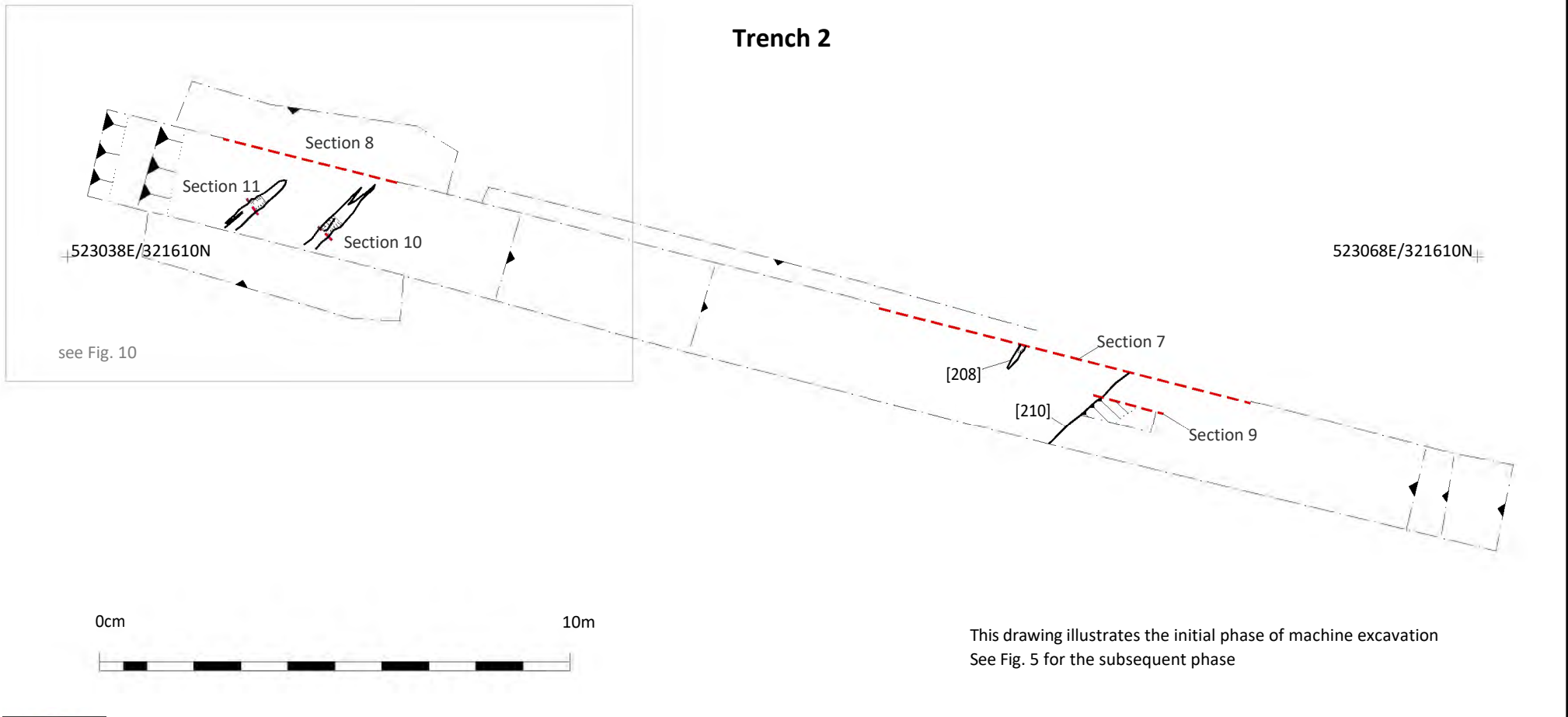
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4m





Trench 2



see Fig. 10

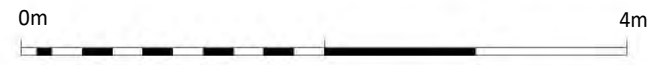
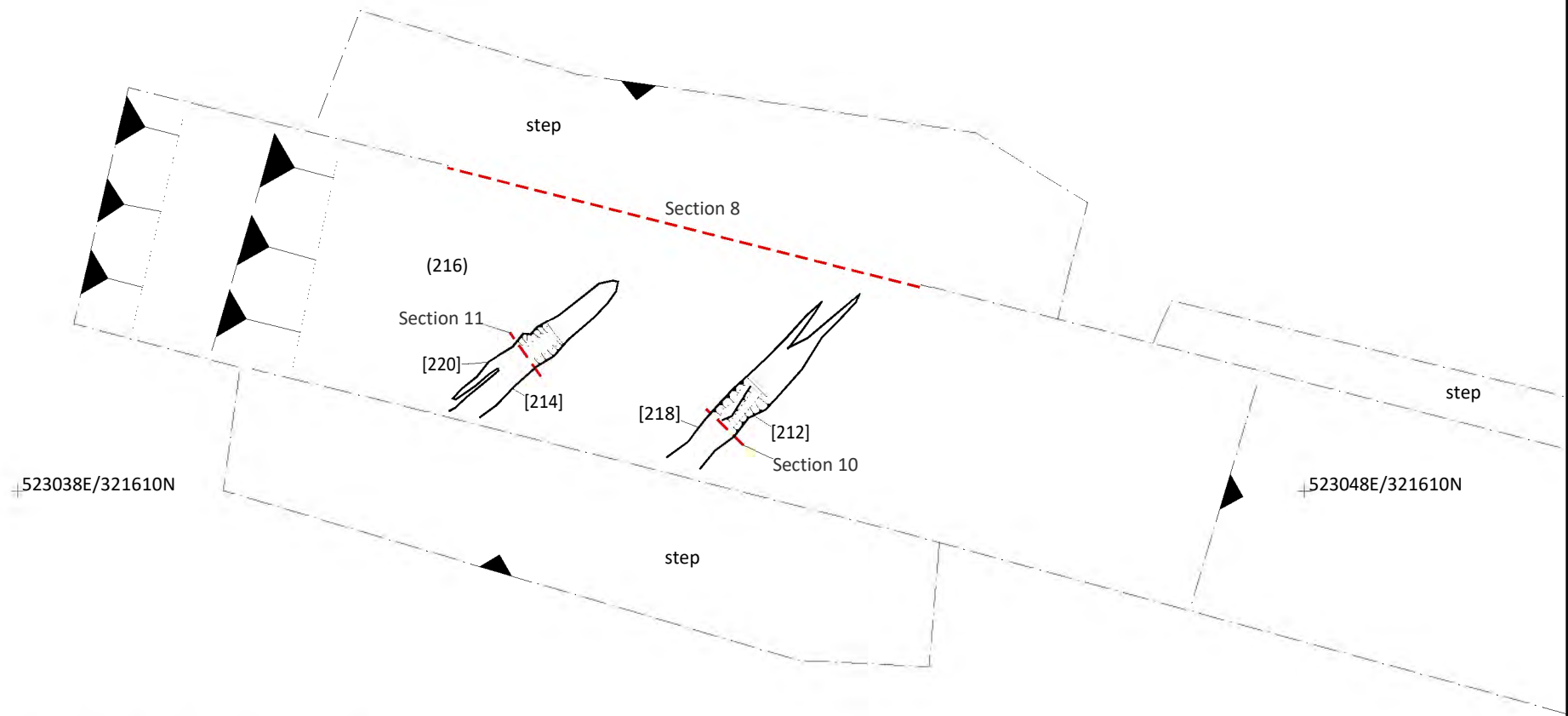
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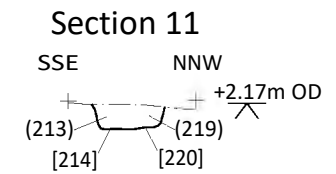
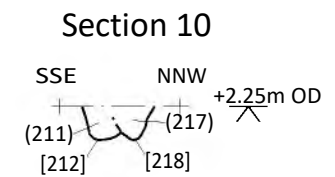
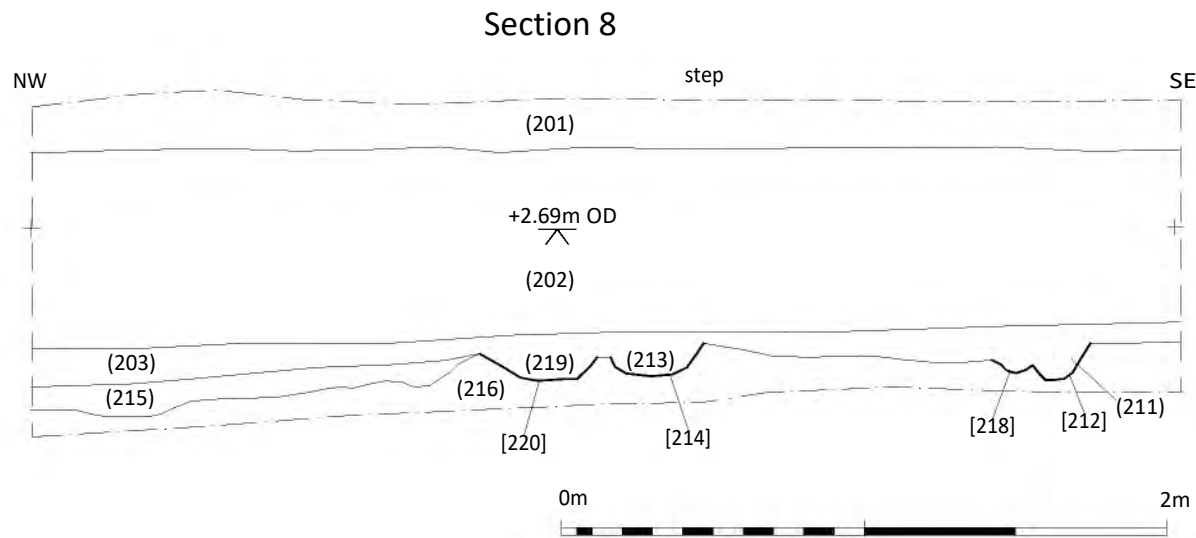
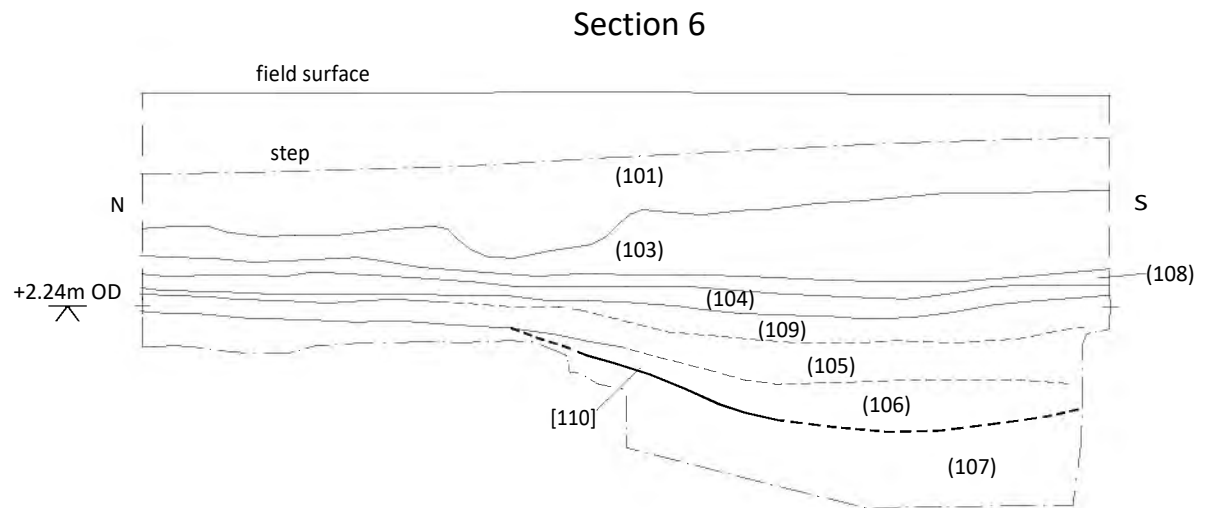
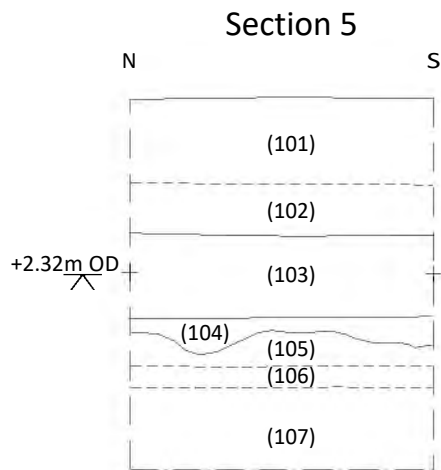
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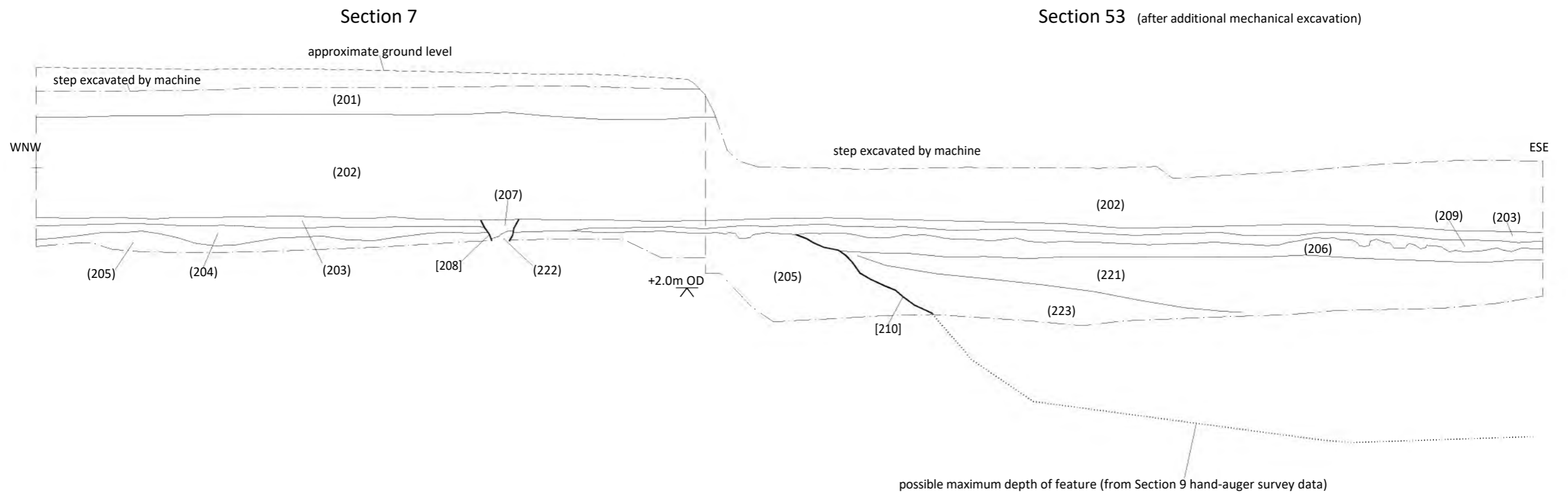
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See Fig. 5 for the subsequent phase

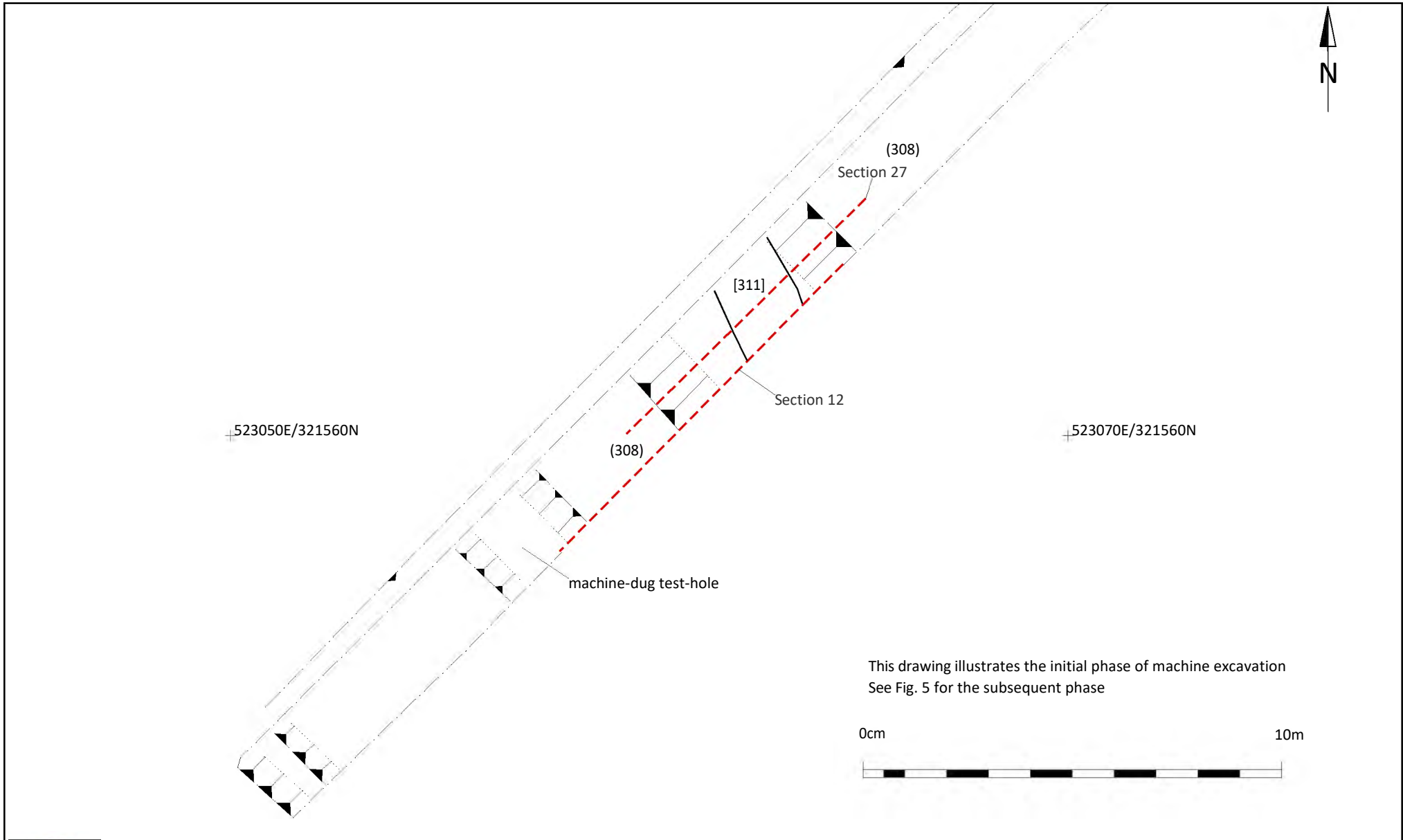


Trench 2





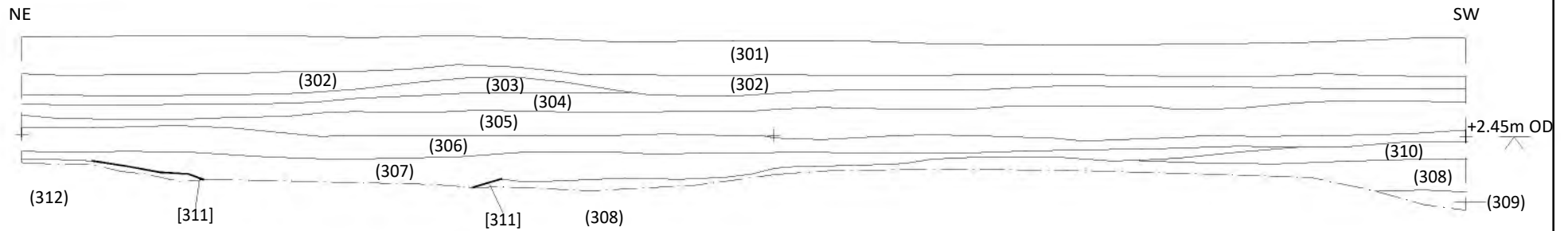




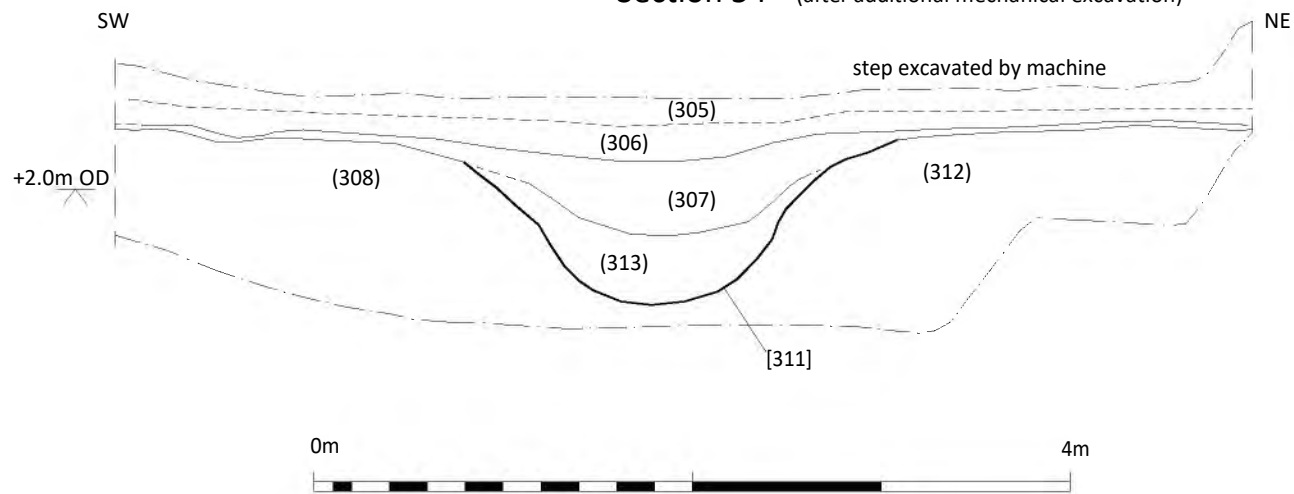
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See Fig. 5 for the subsequent phase

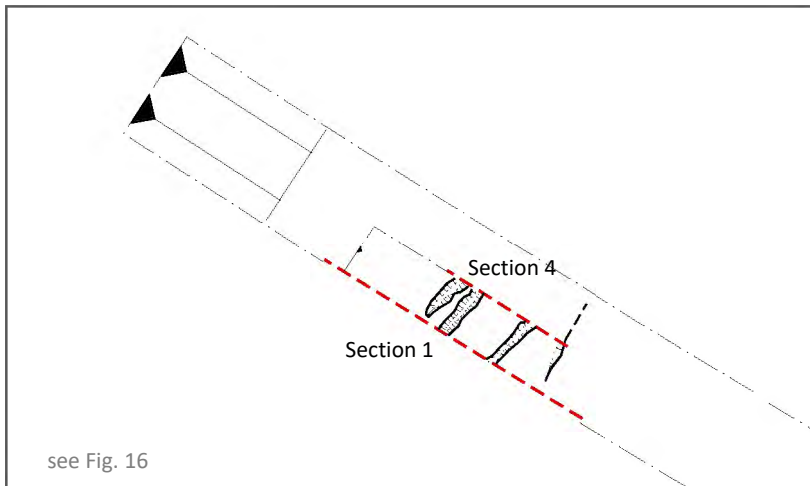


Section 12



Section 54 (after additional mechanical excavation)

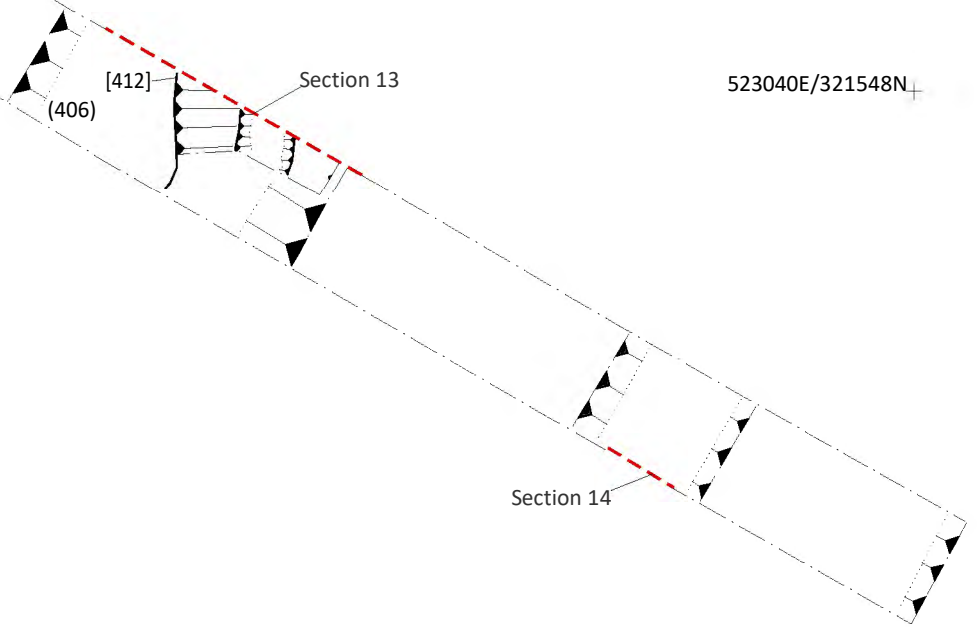


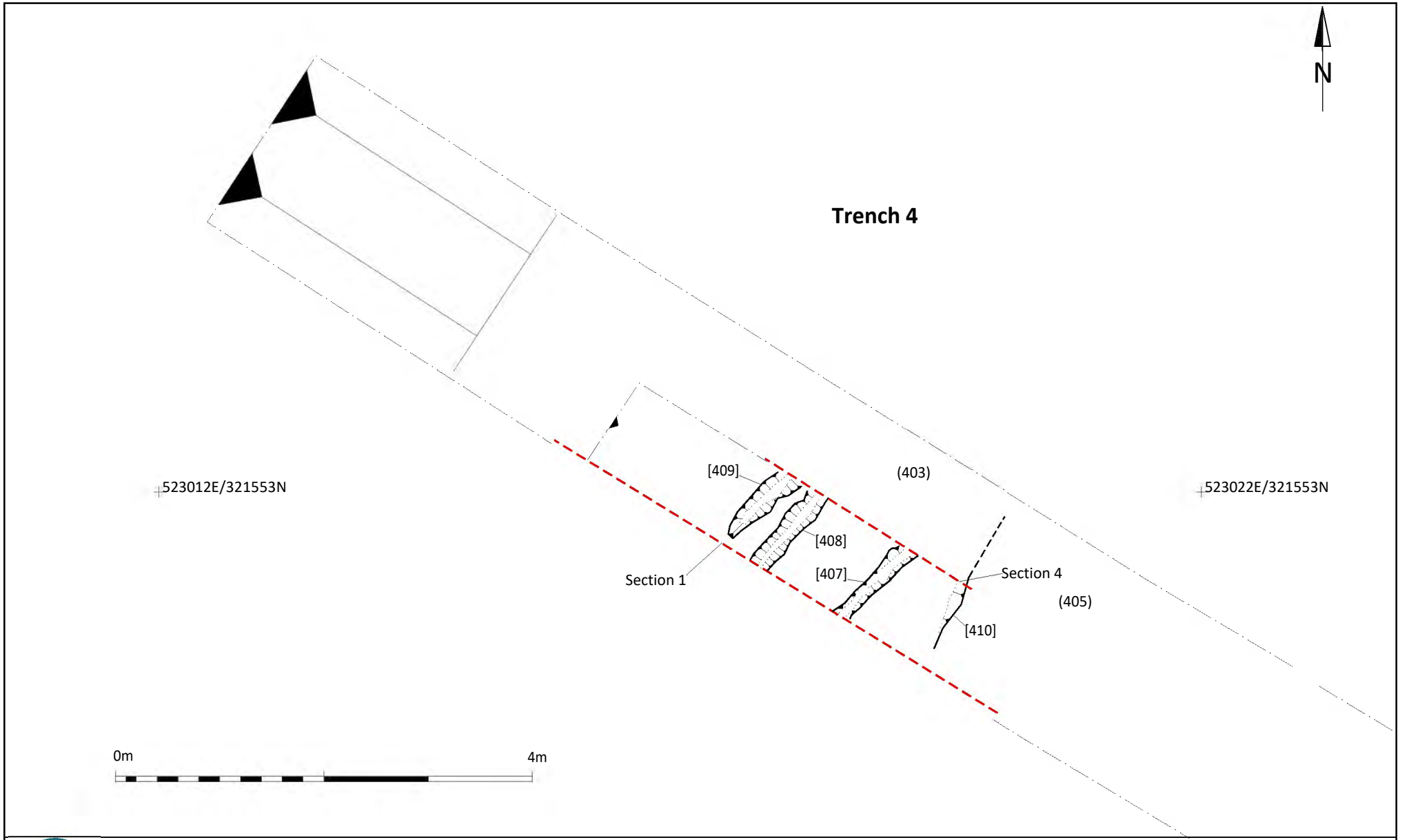


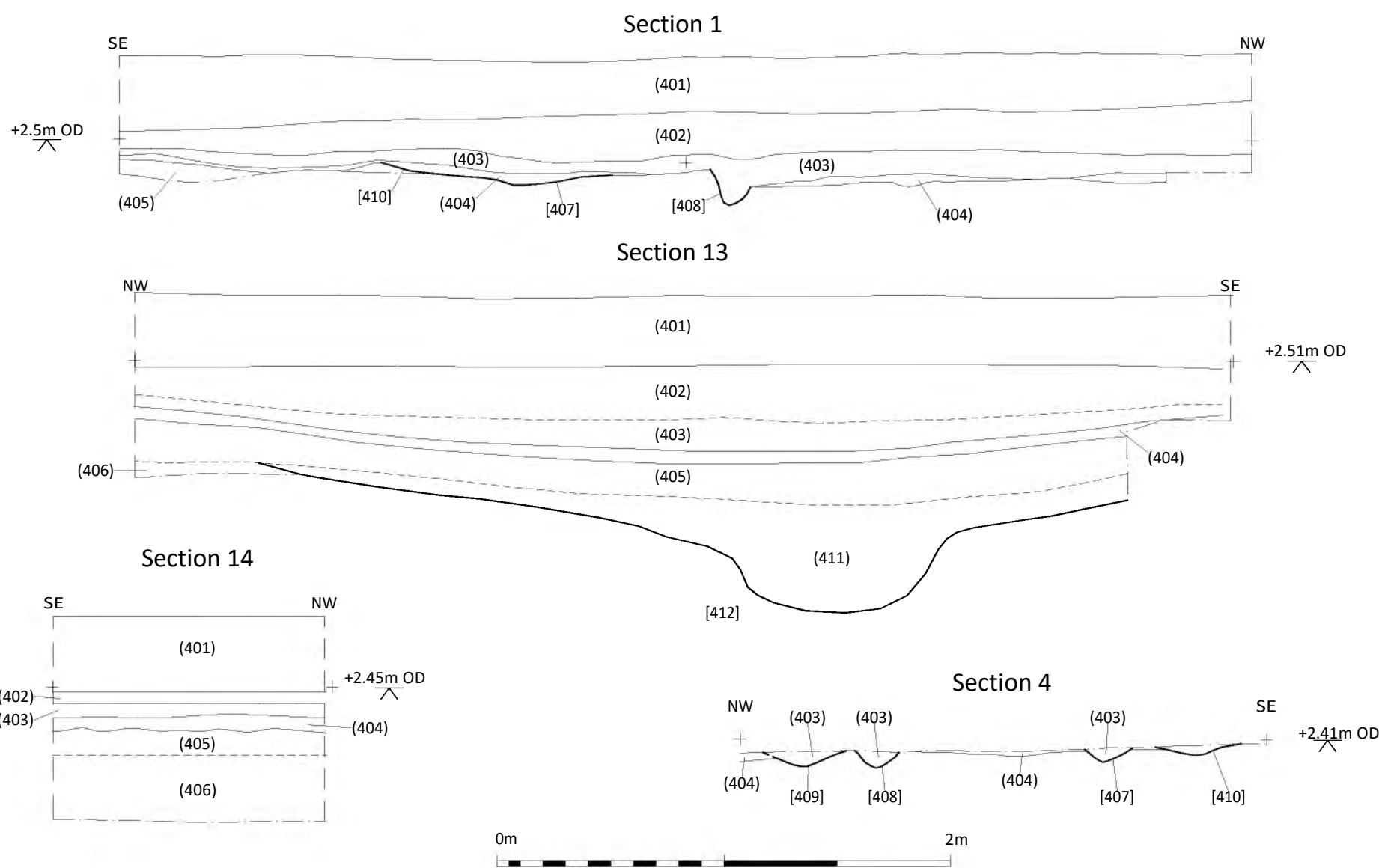
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523040E/321548N

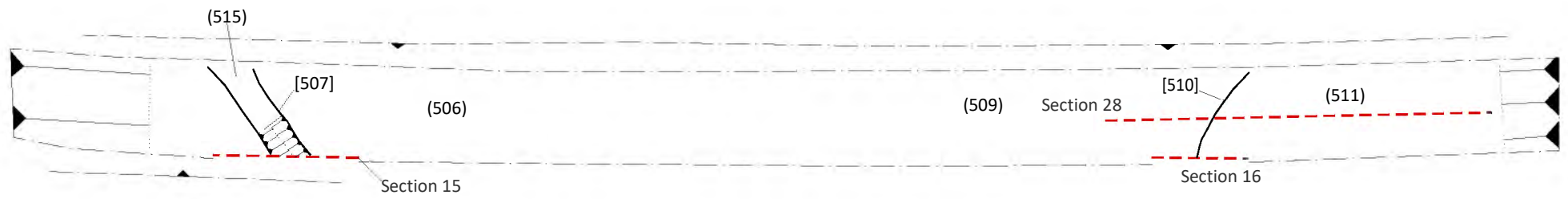








Trench 5



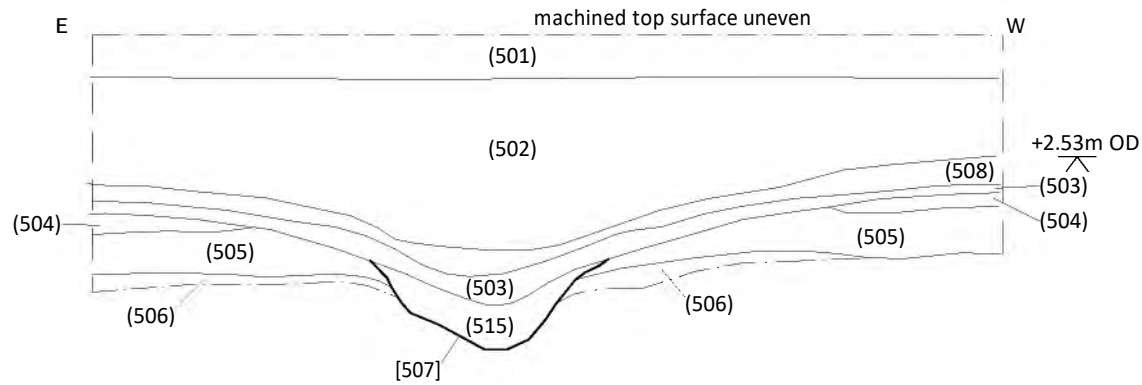
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See Fig. 5 for the subsequent phase

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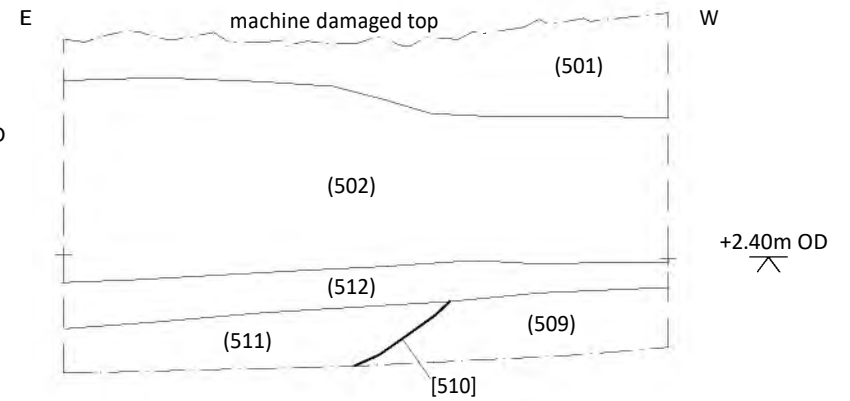
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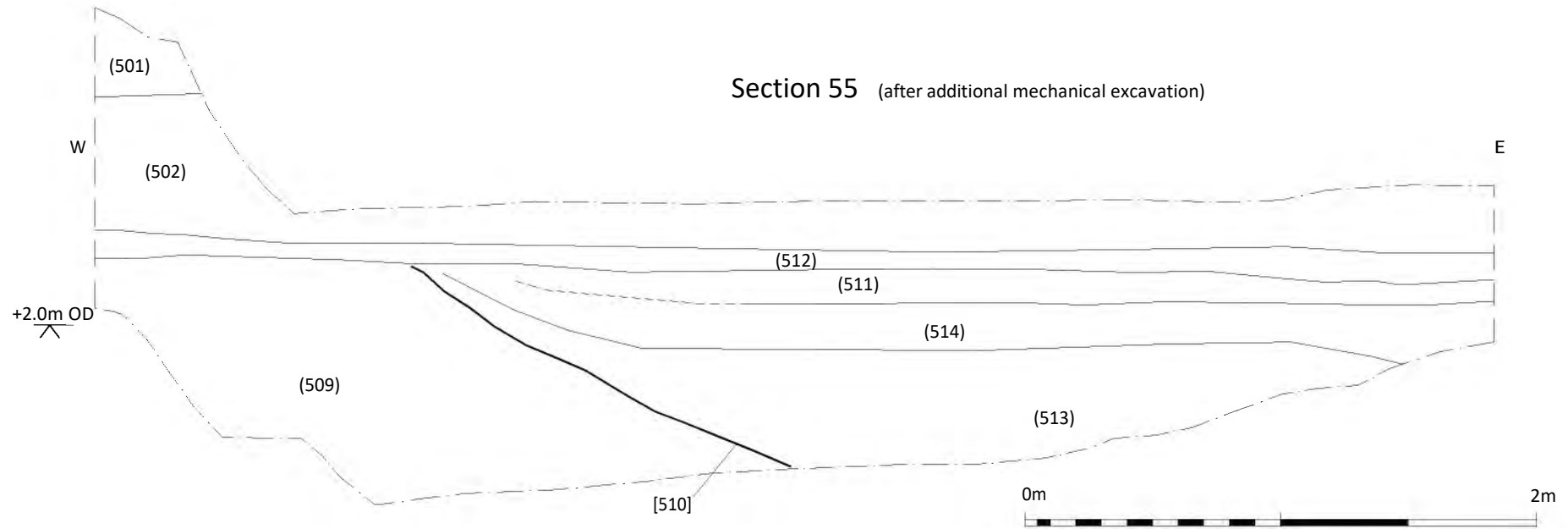
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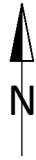


Section 16



Section 55 (after additional mechanical excavation)





523025/321626N

Trench 6

step

step

Section 19

[608]

Section 18

(605)

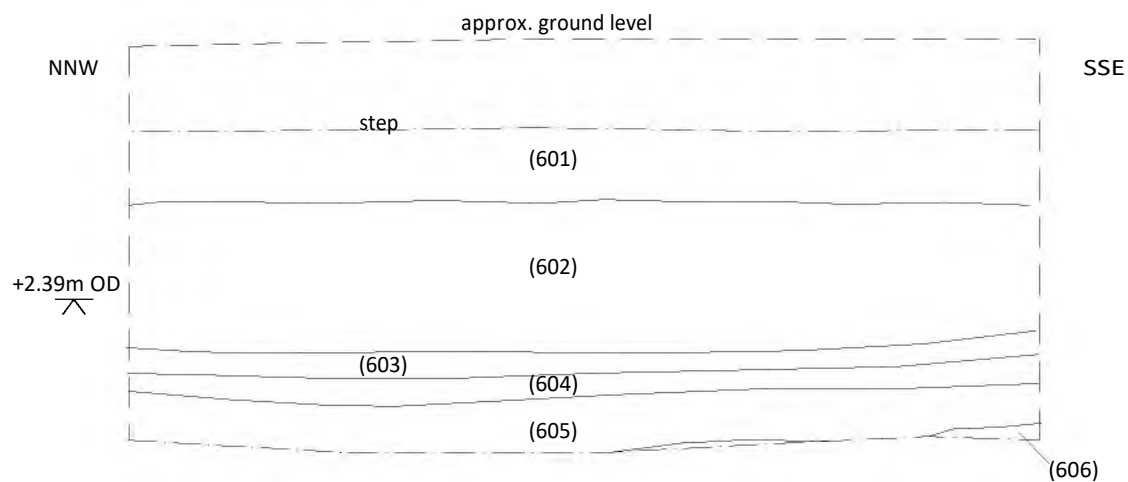
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0m

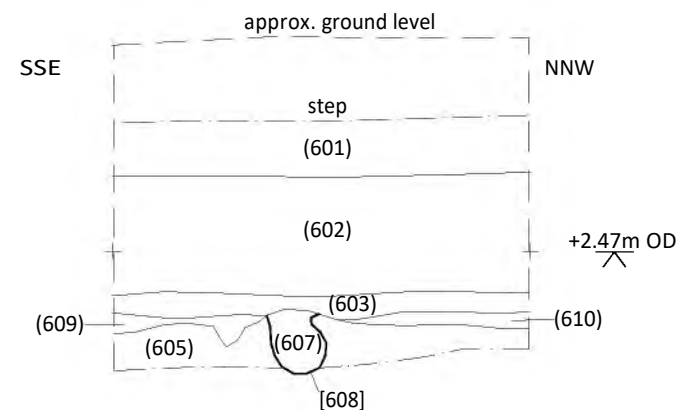


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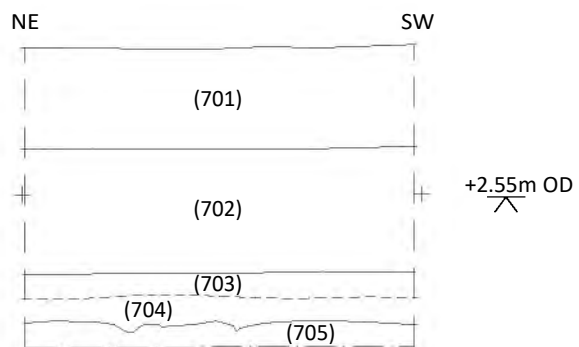
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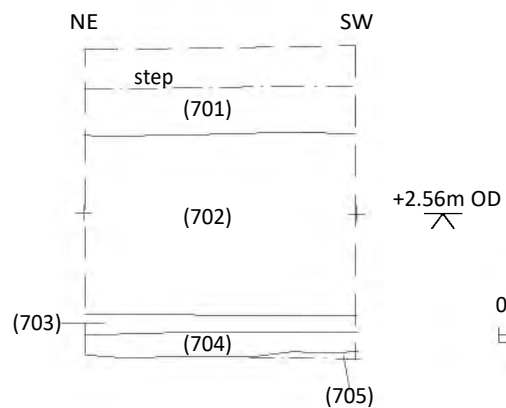
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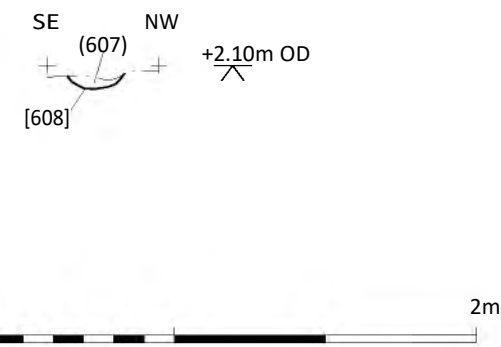
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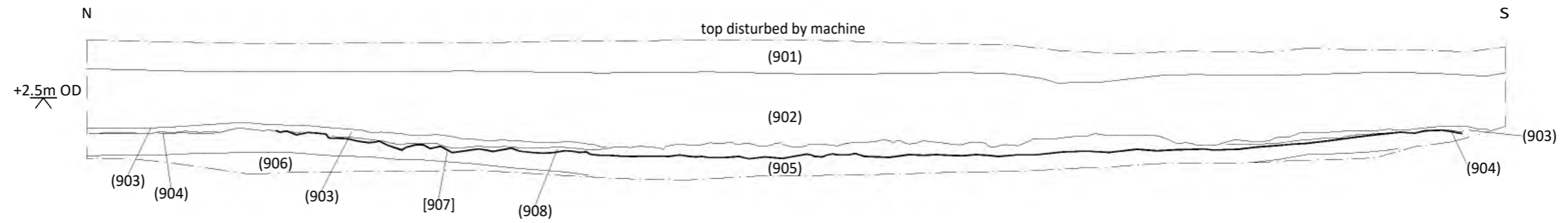
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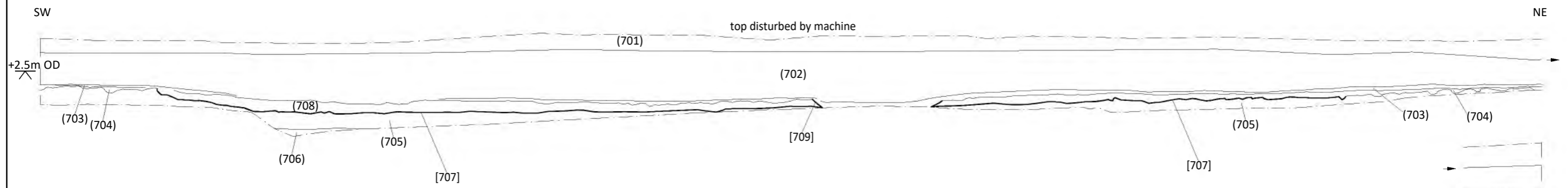
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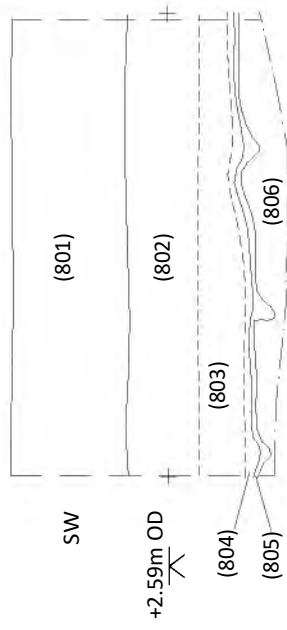
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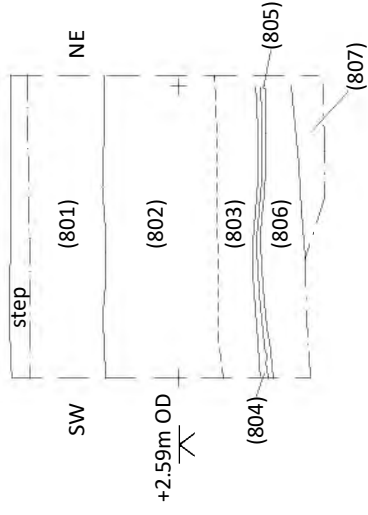
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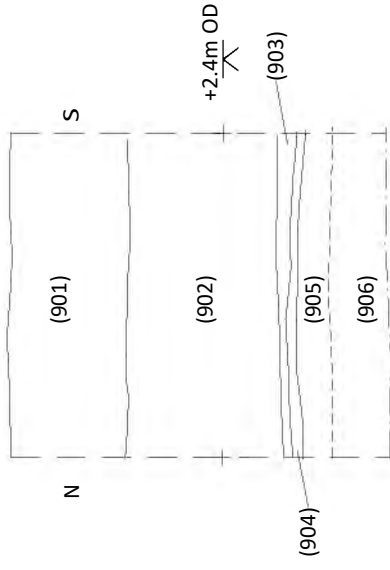
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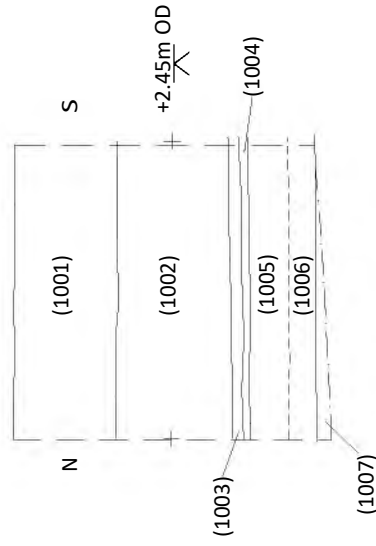
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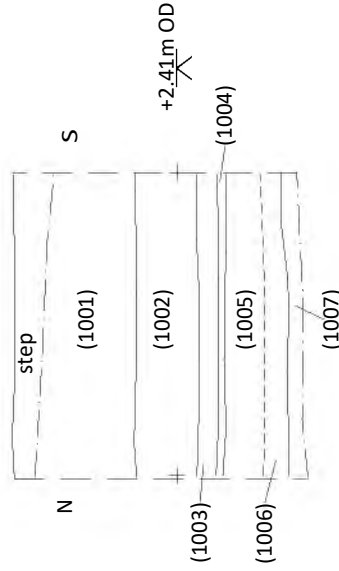
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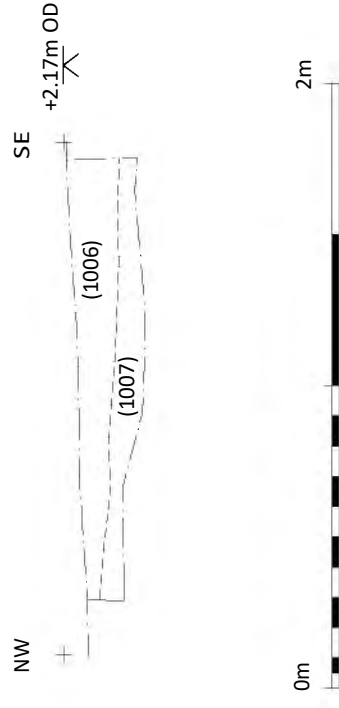
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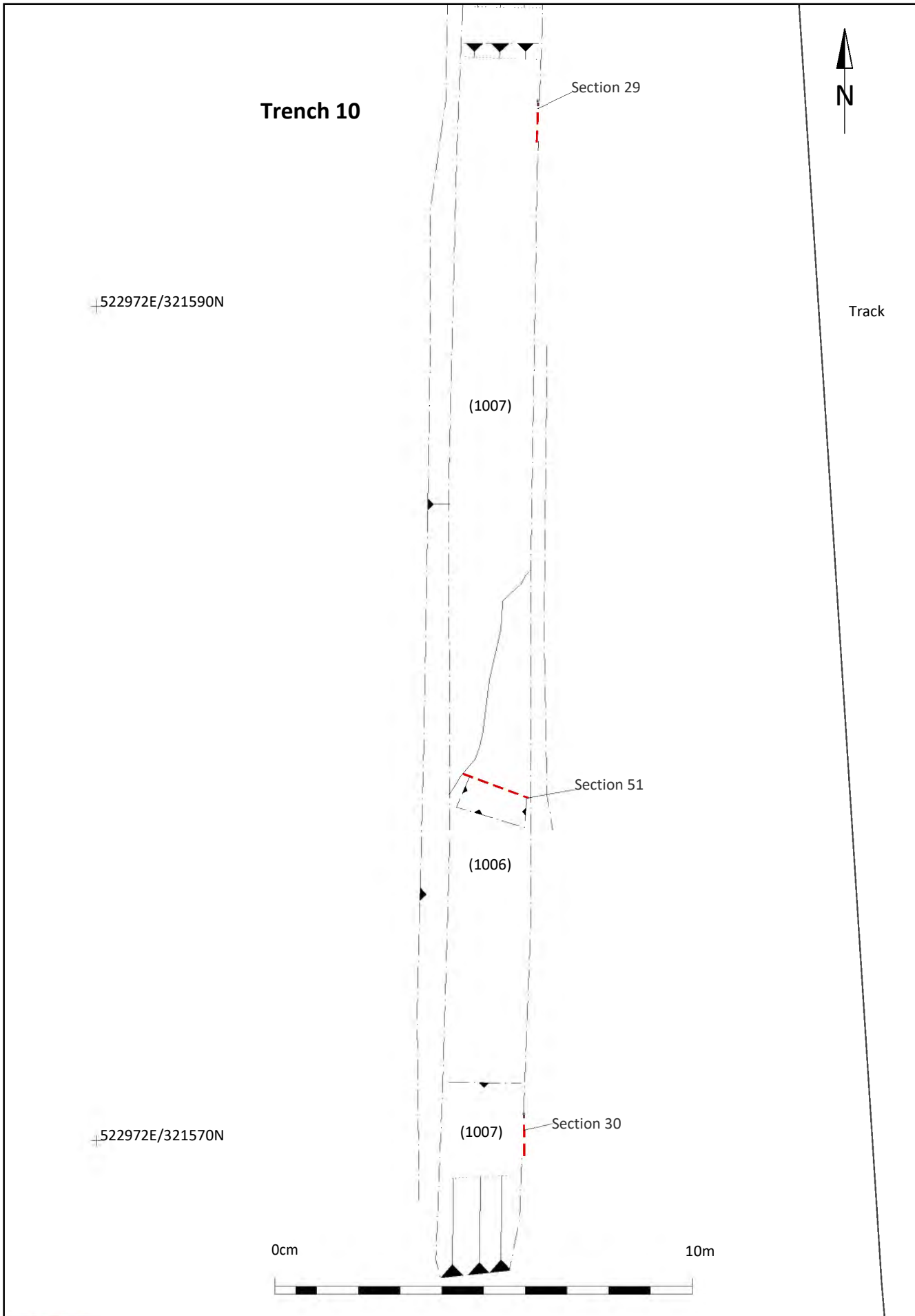


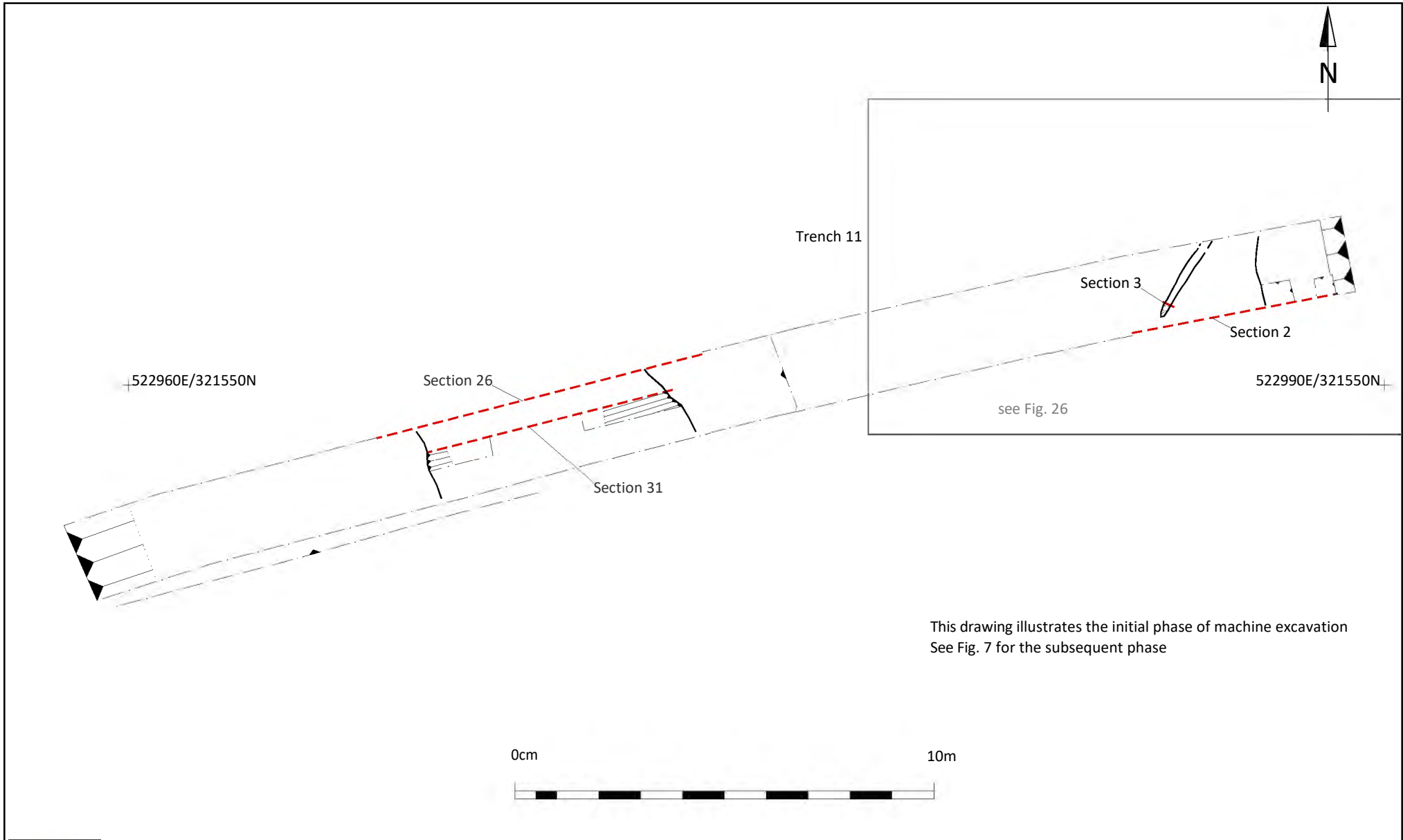
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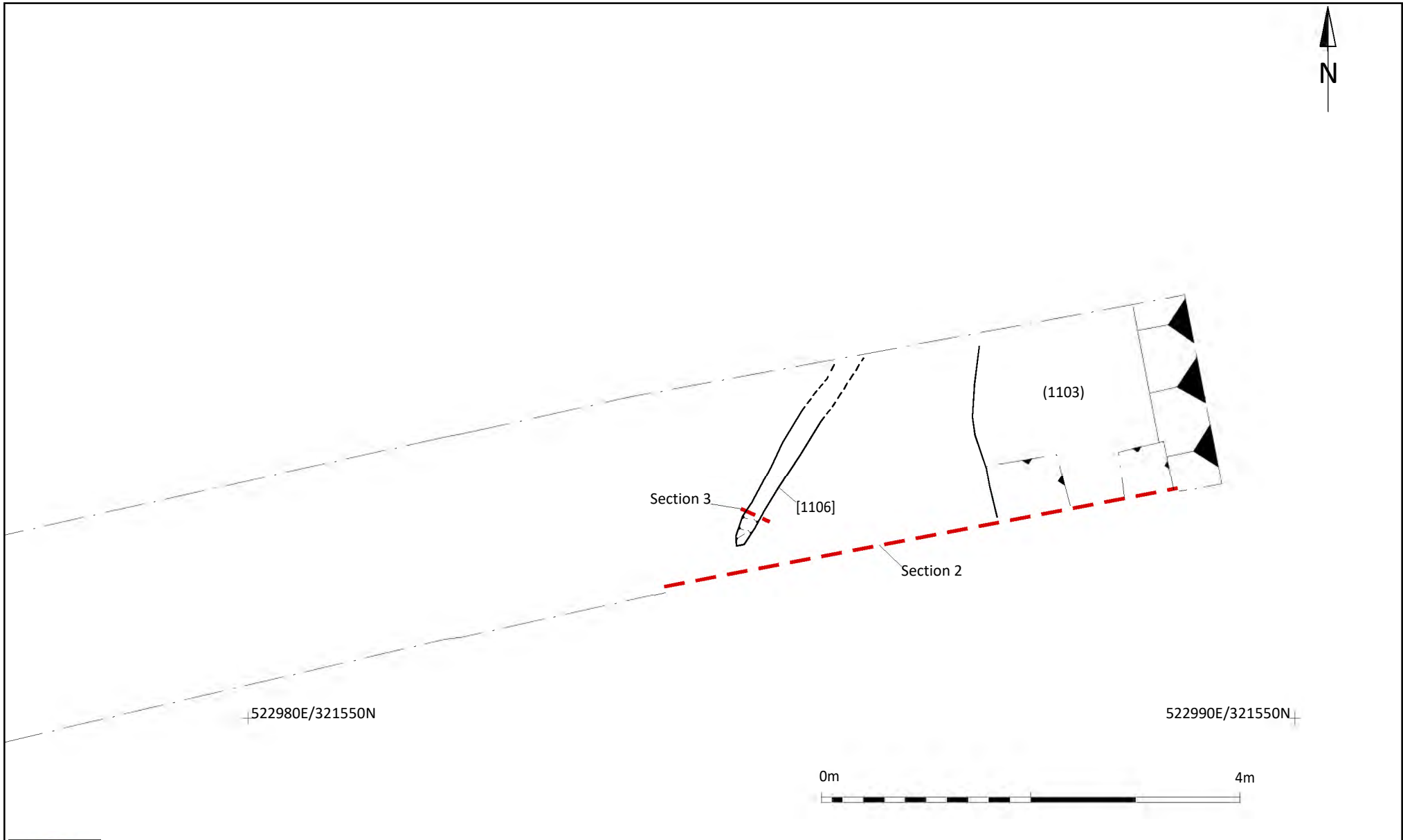


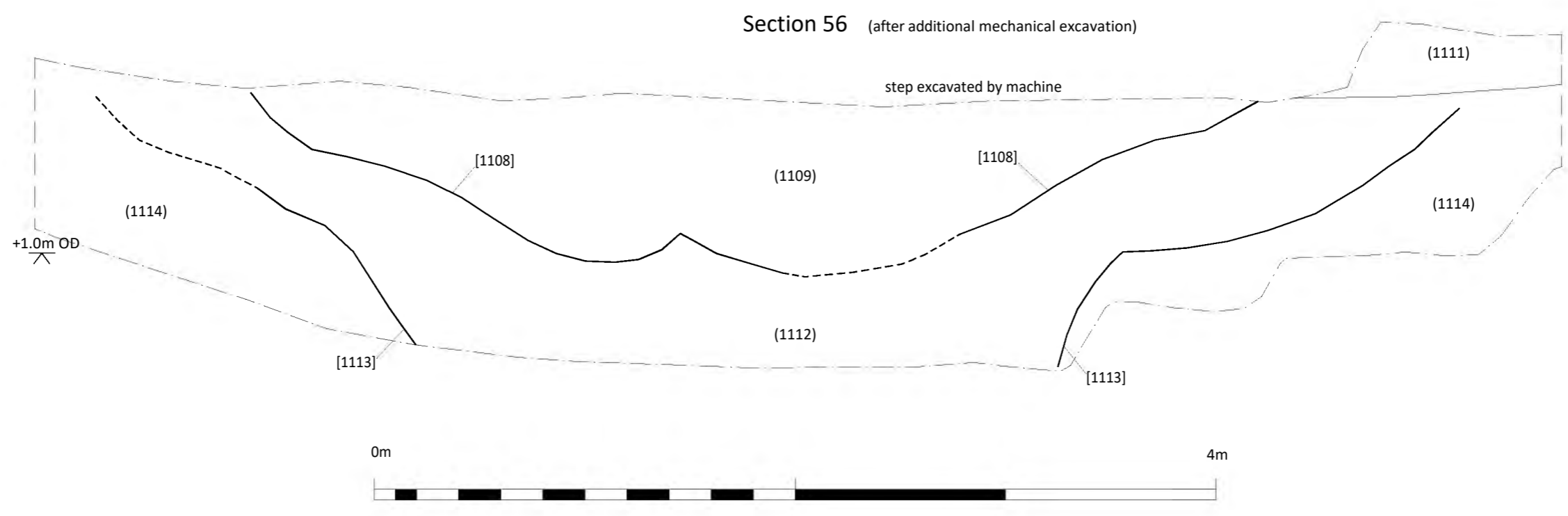
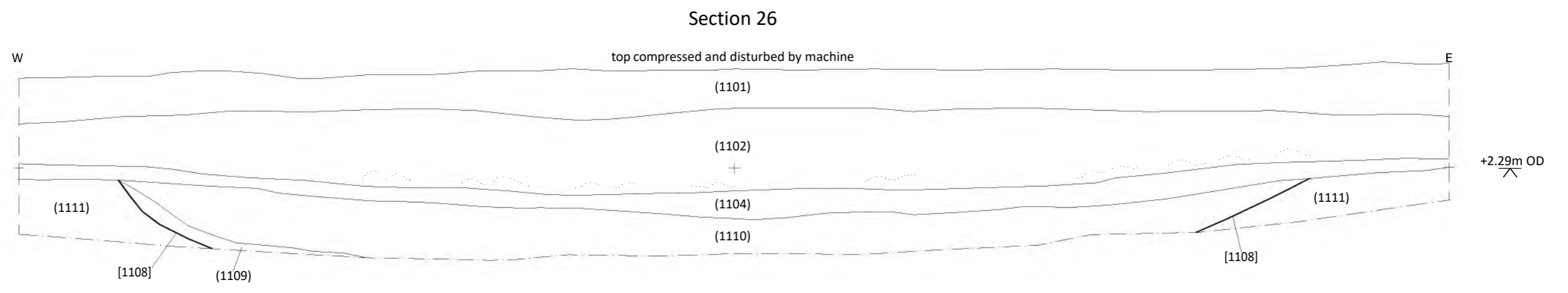
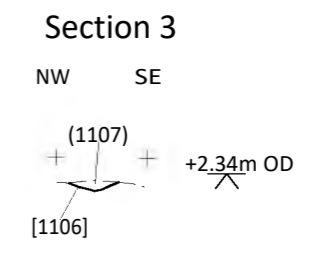
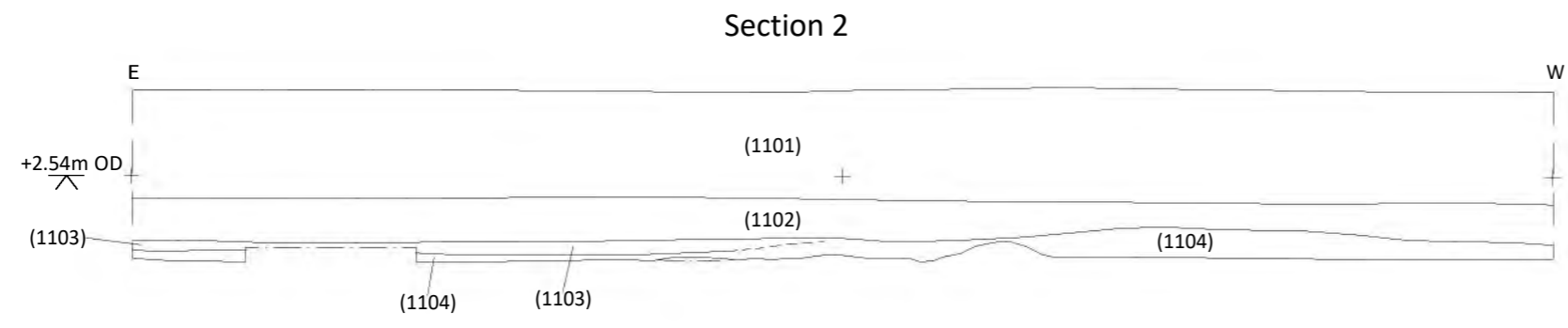
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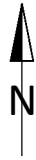












+522940E/321575N

Section 32

Trench 12

(1206)

[1210]

Section 33

(1209)

[1210]

(1206)

+522940E/321550N

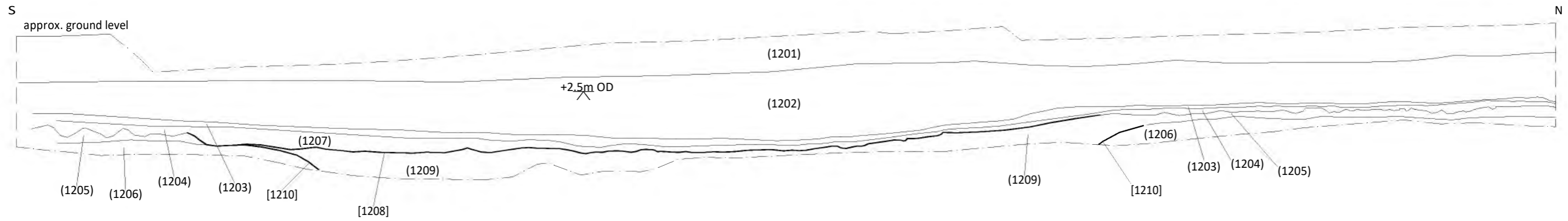
This drawing illustrates the initial phase of machine excavation
See Fig. 7 for the subsequent phase

0cm

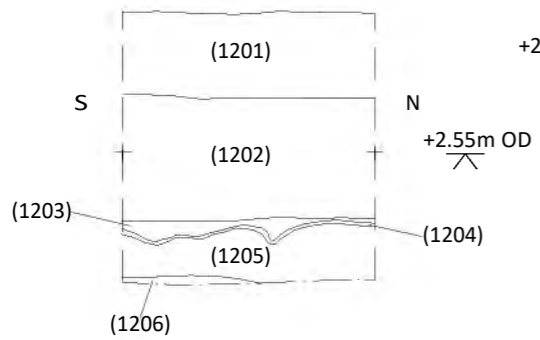
10m



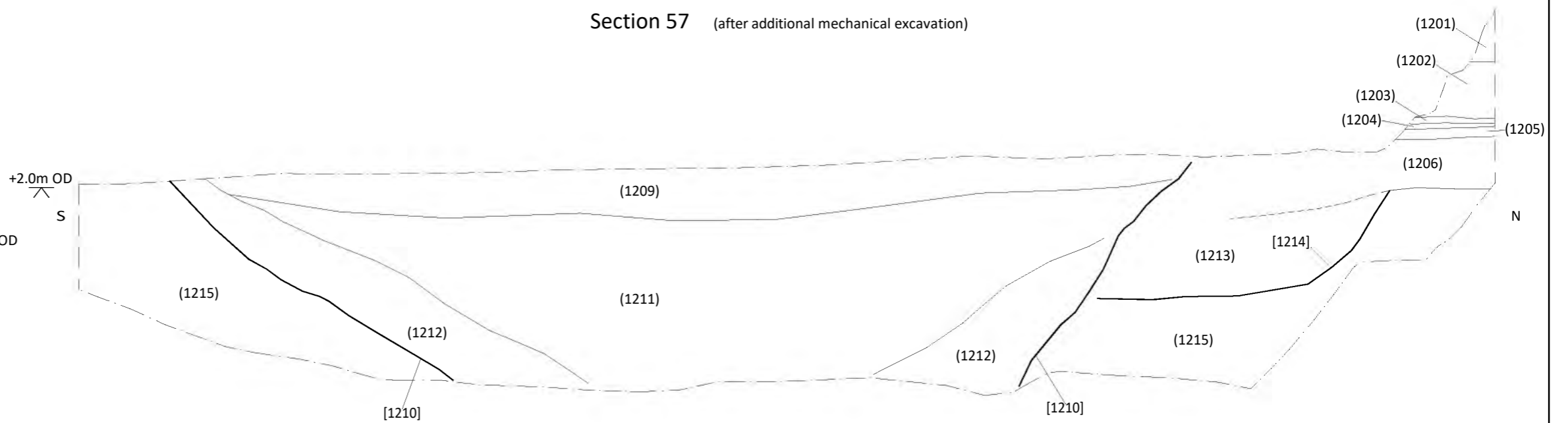
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Section 32



Section 57 (after additional mechanical excavation)

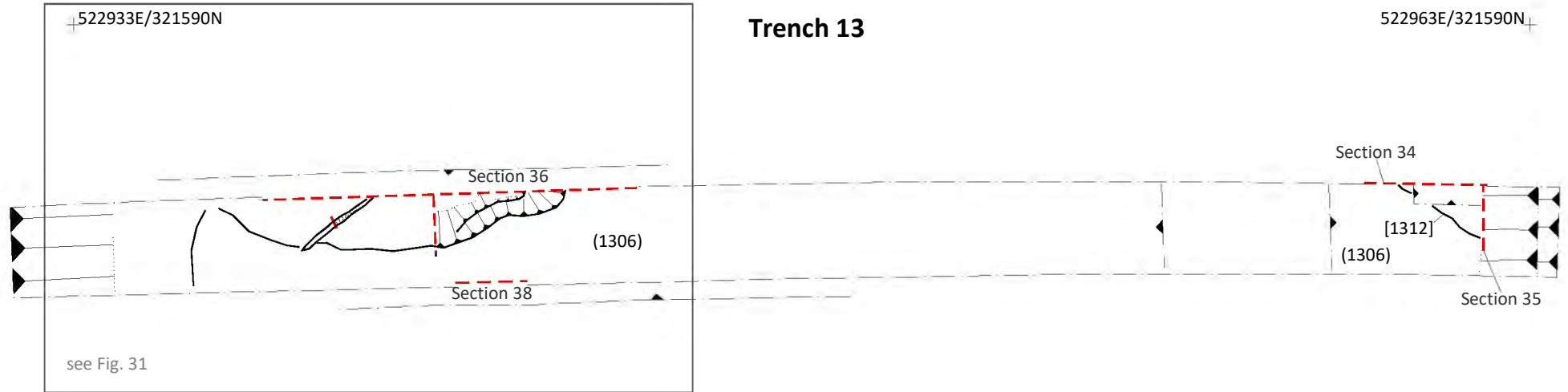




Trench 13

522933E/321590N

522963E/321590N

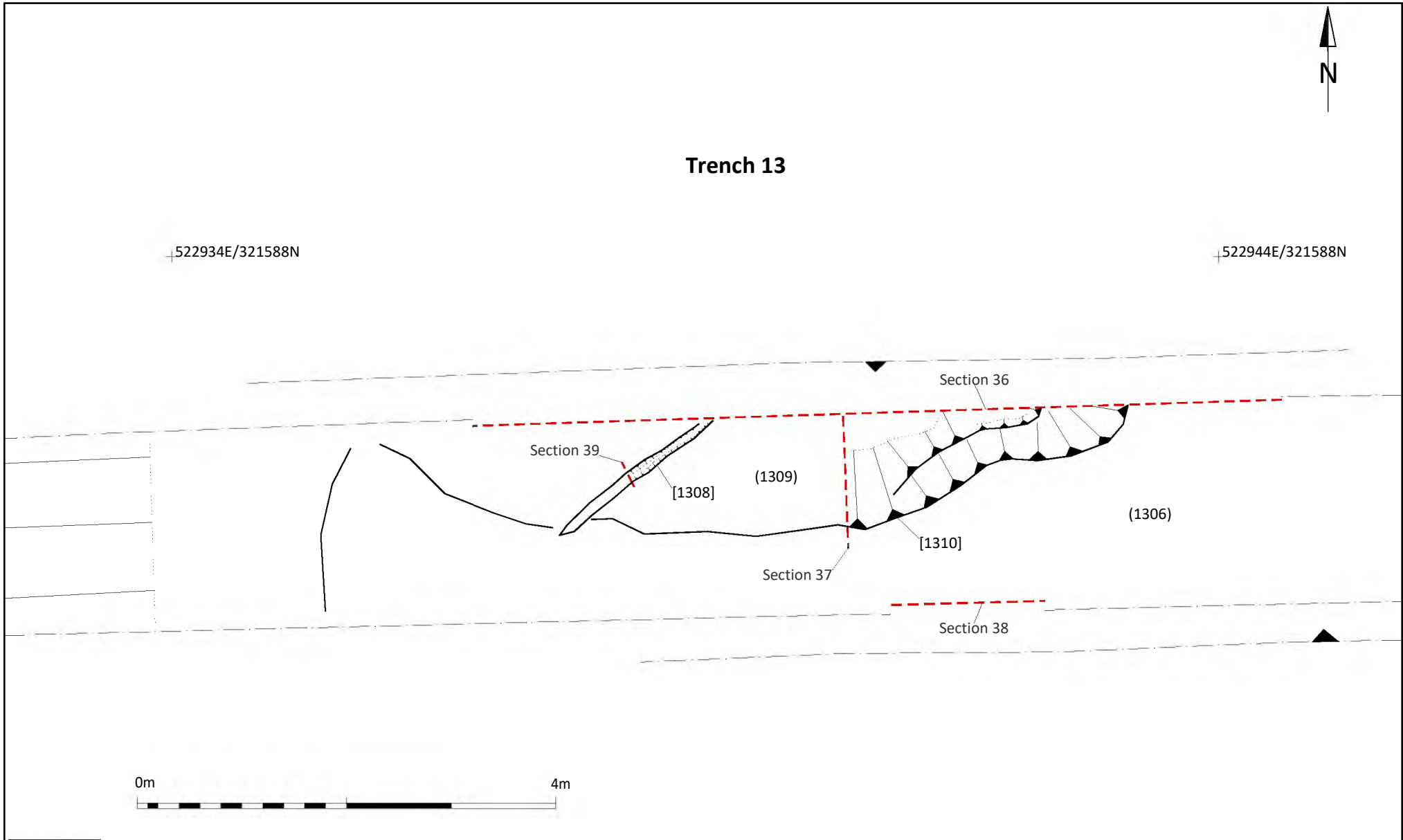


see Fig. 31

0cm

10m

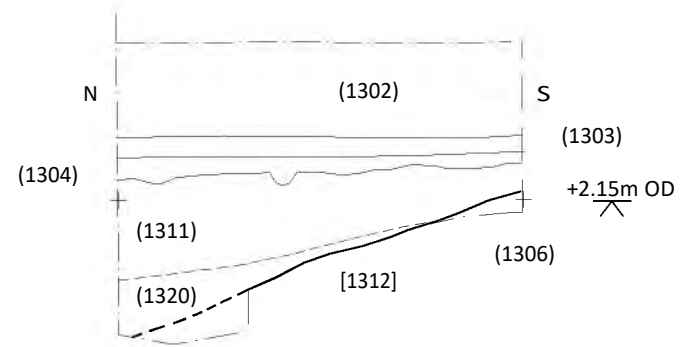




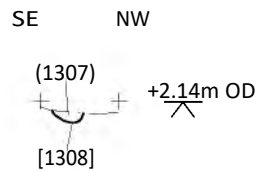
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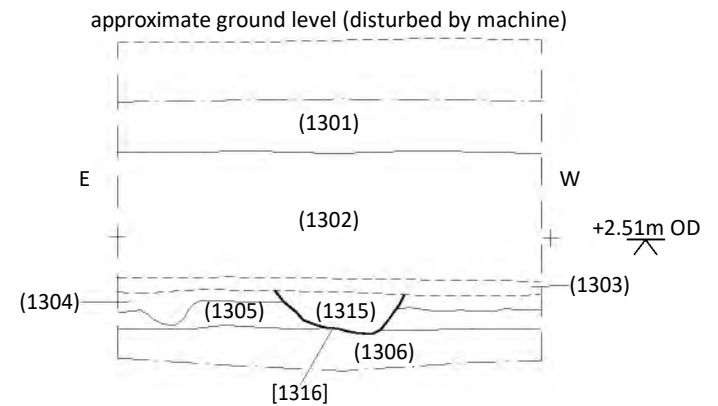
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Section 39



Section 38

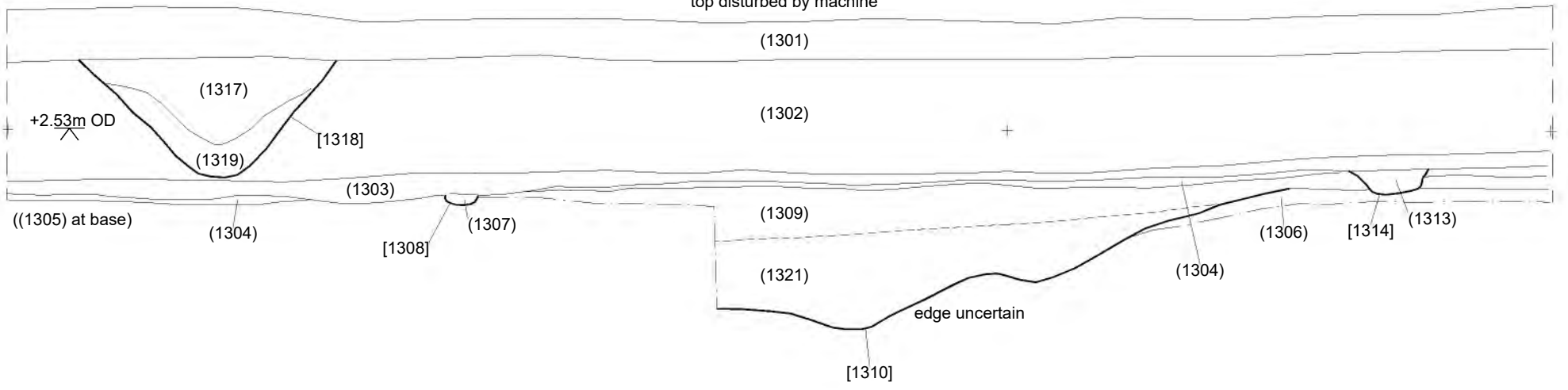


W

Section 36

E

top disturbed by machine



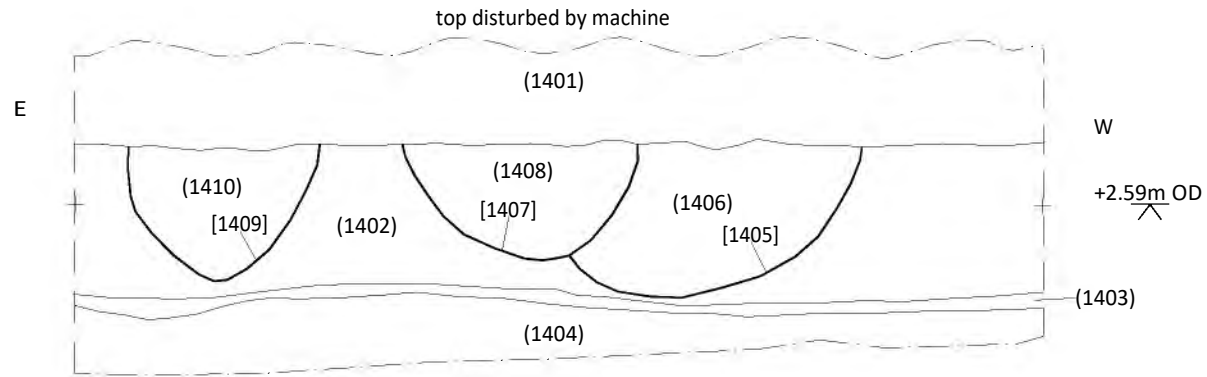
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S

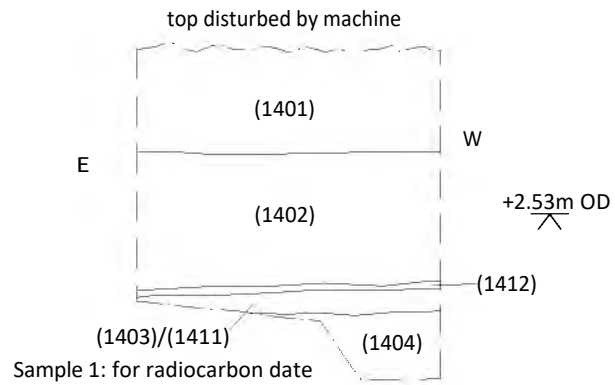
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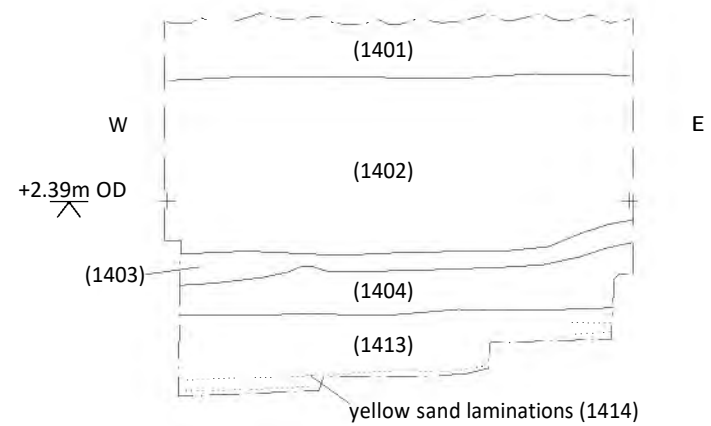
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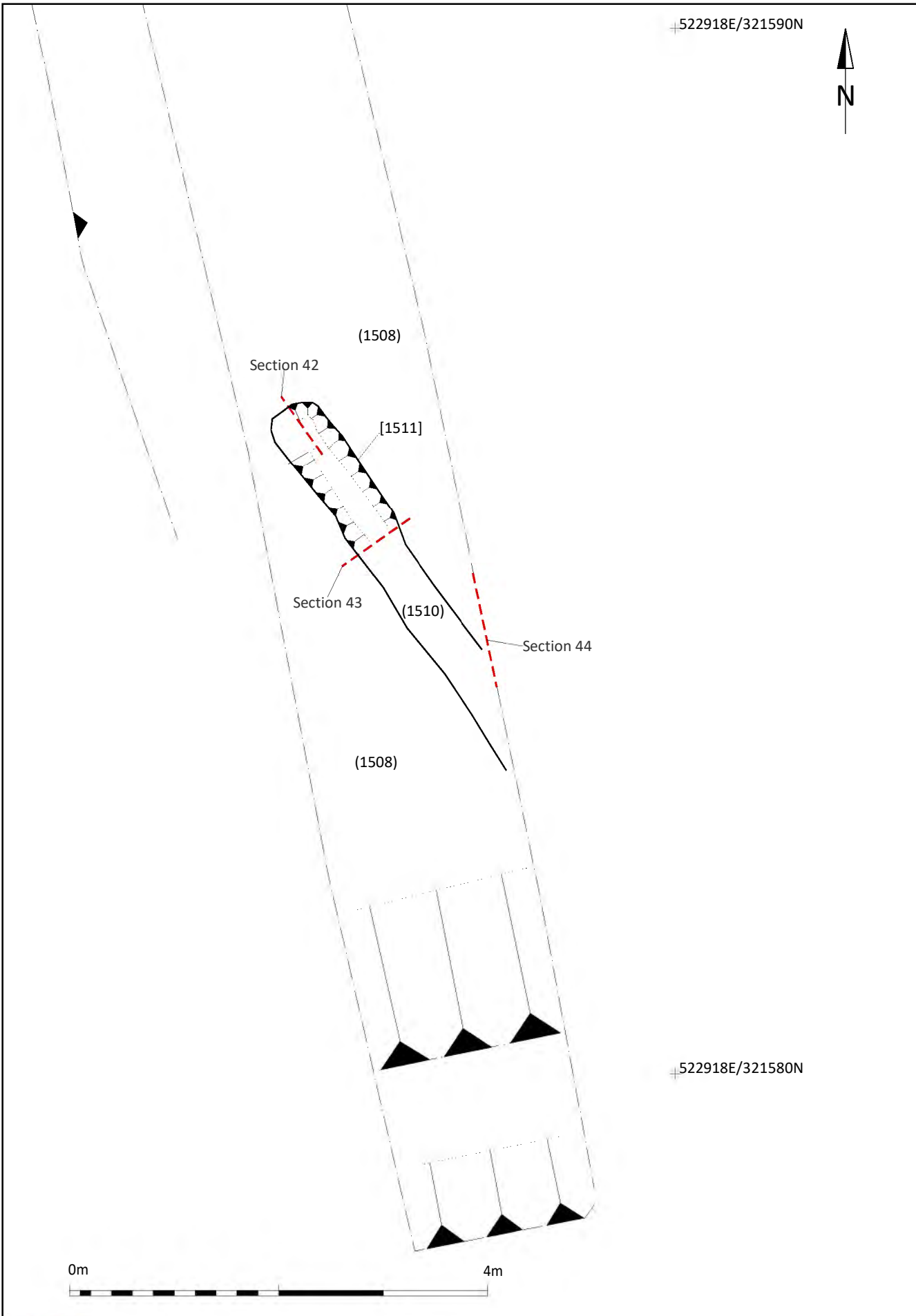


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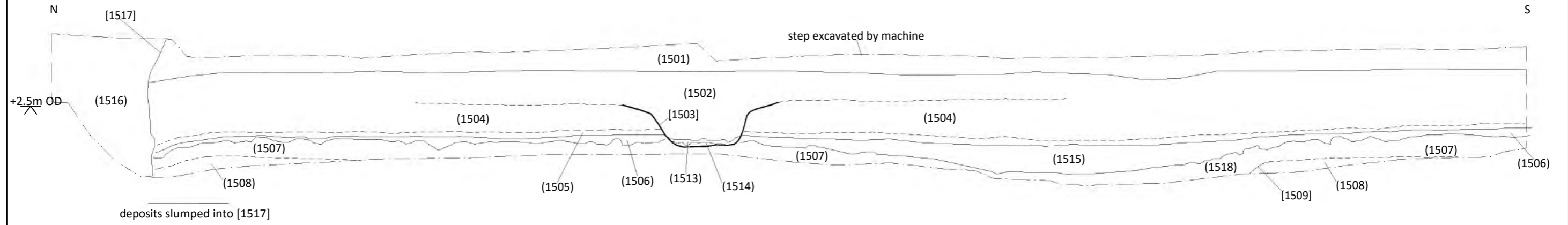


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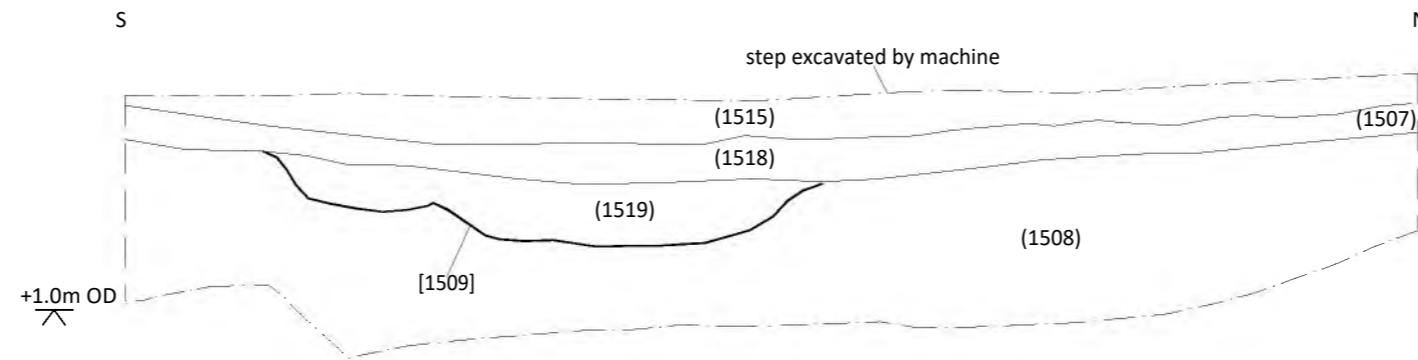




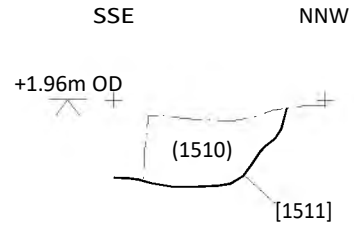
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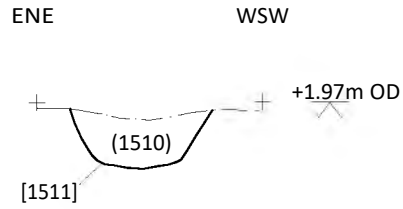
Section 58 (after additional mechanical excavation)



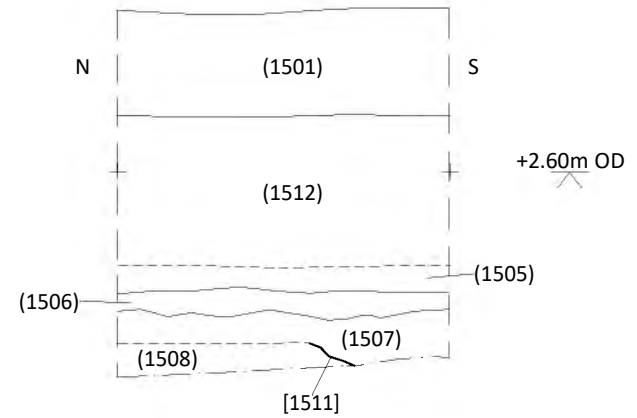
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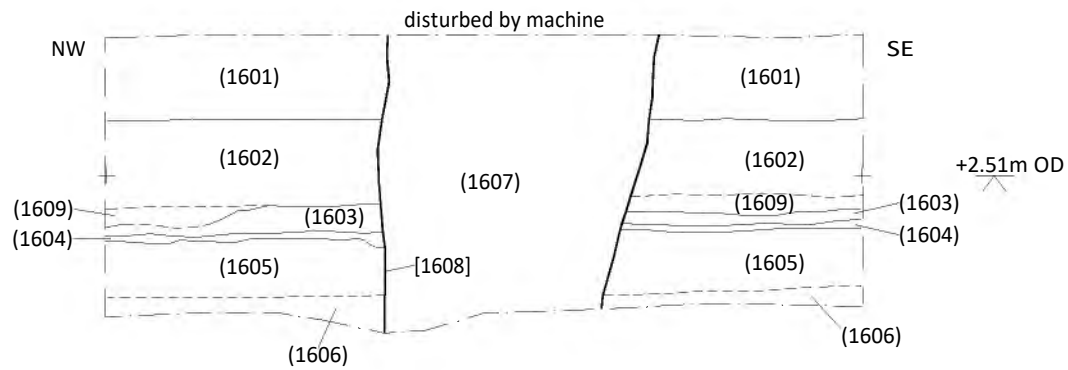
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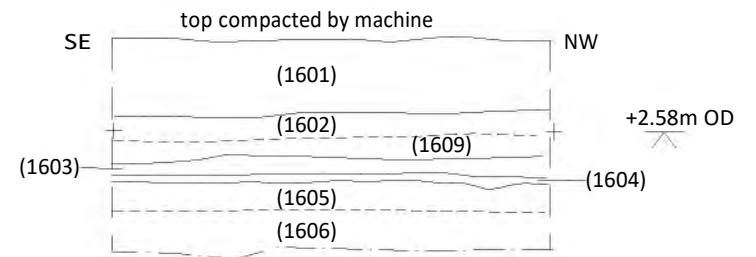
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Section 49

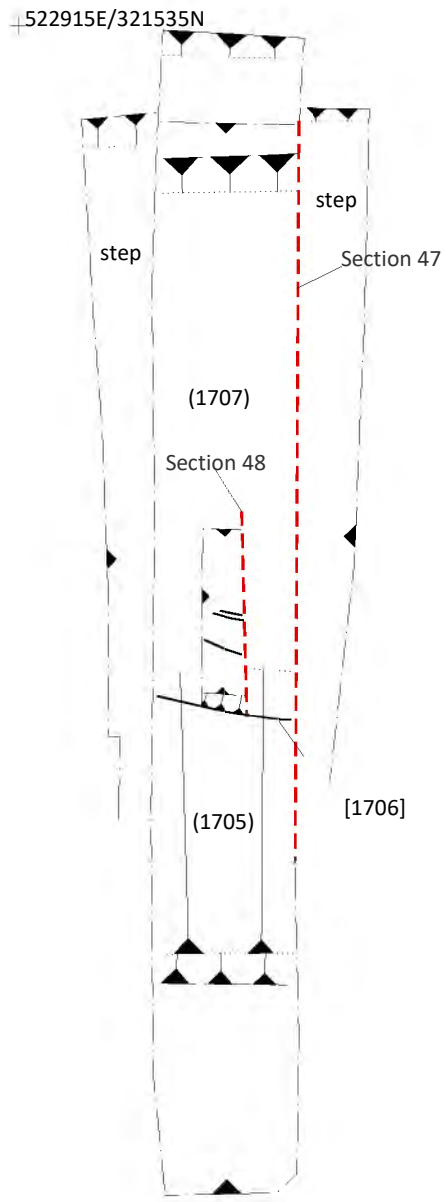


Section 50





Trench 17

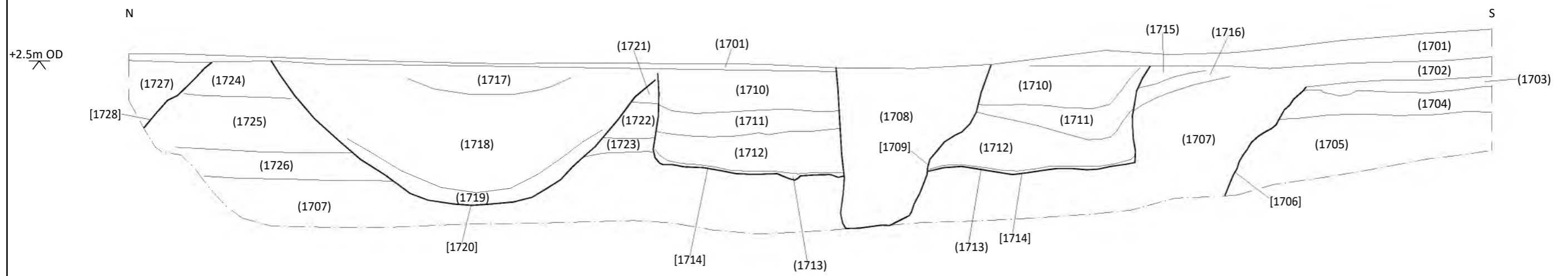


Site Boundary

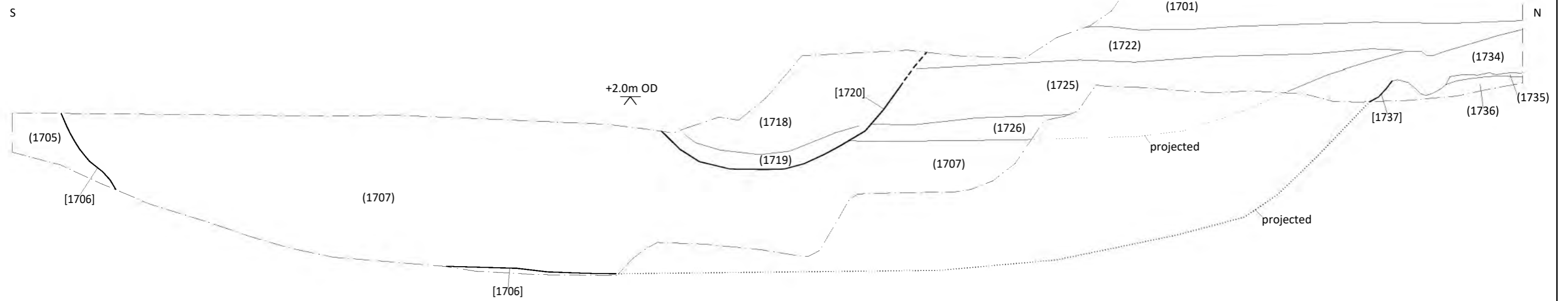
This drawing illustrates the initial phase of machine excavation
See Fig. 7 for the subsequent phase

522915E/321515N

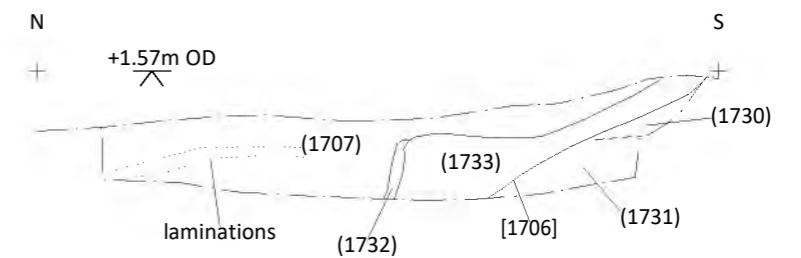
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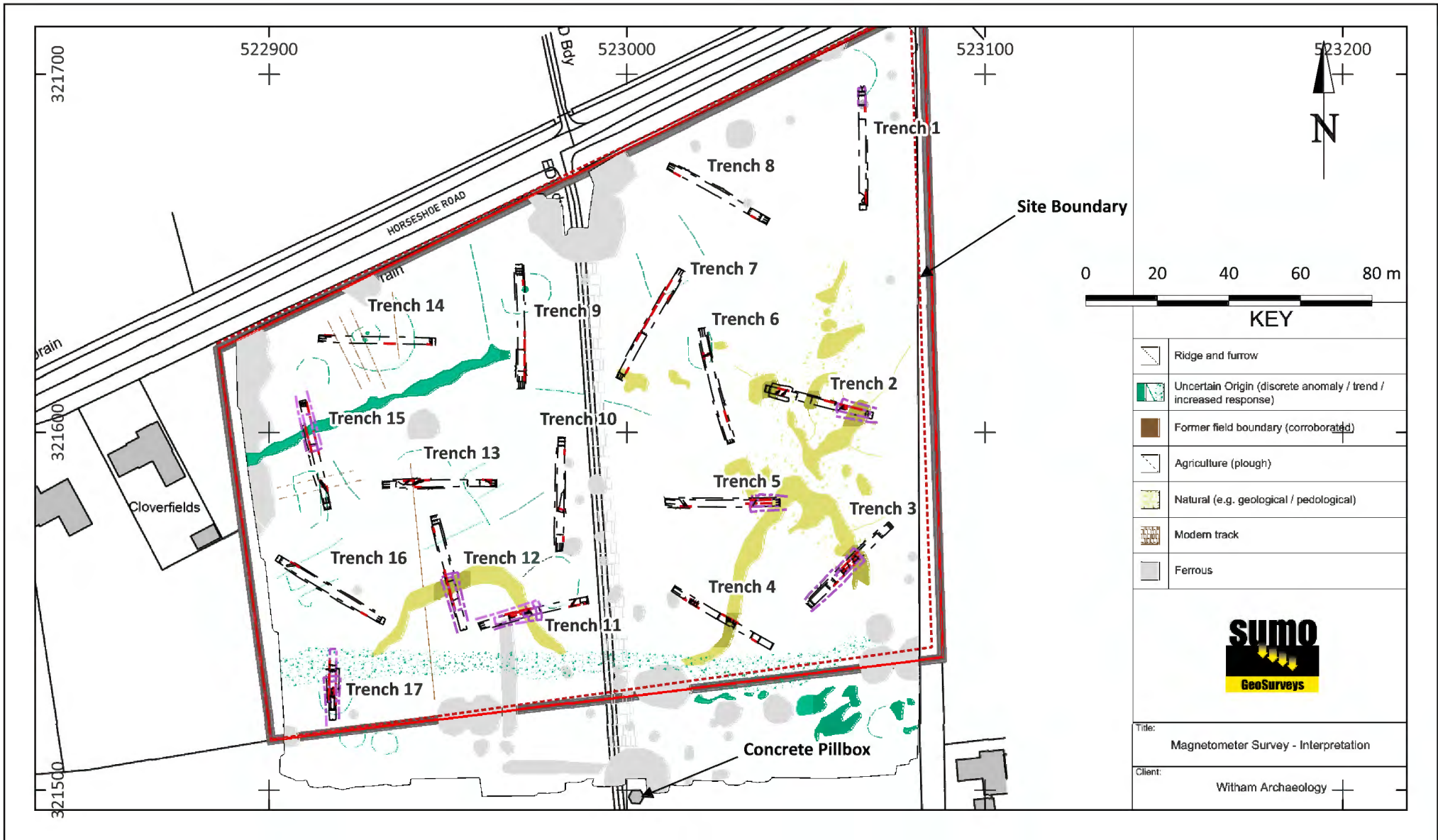


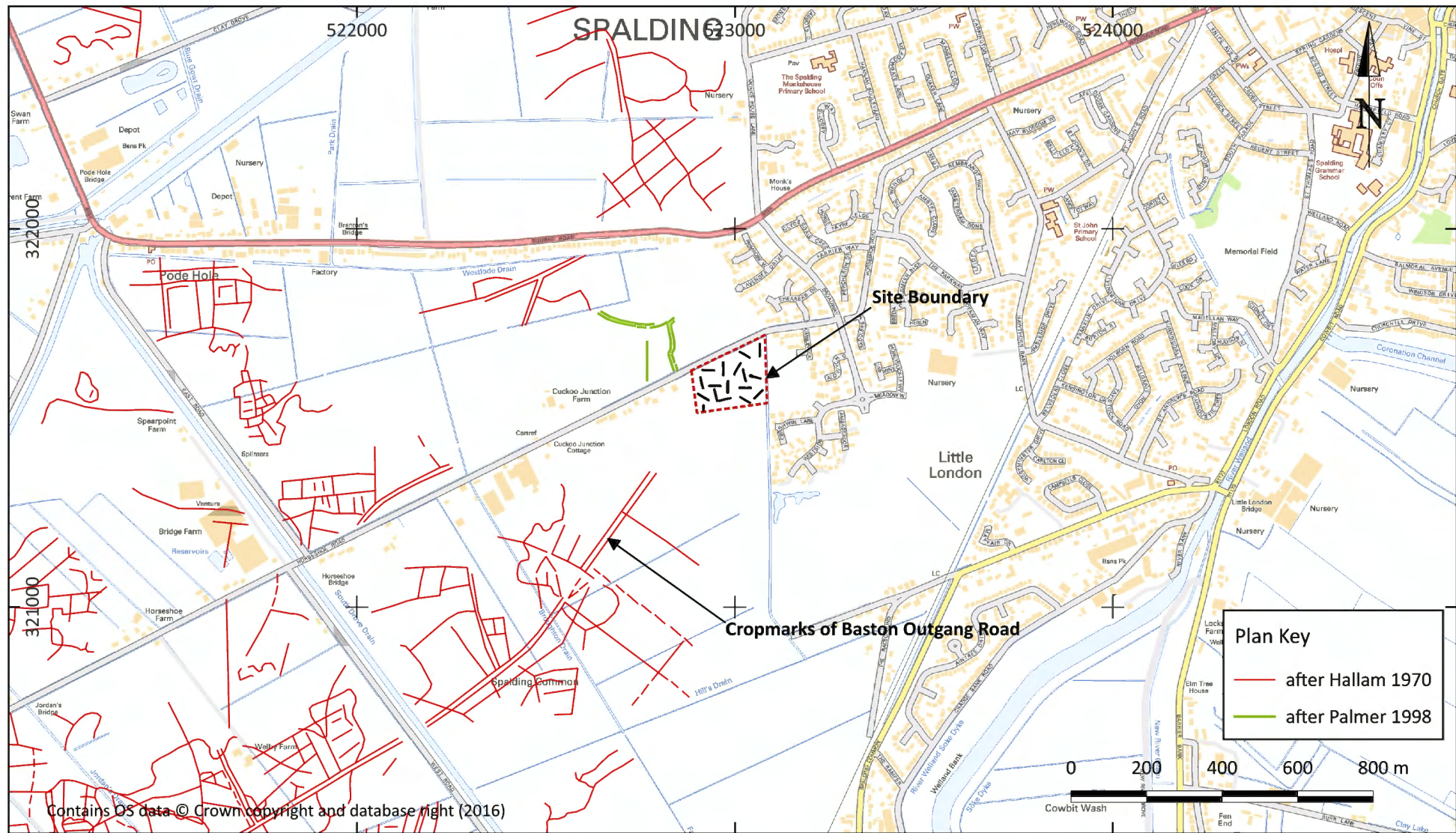
Section 59 (after additional mechanical excavation)

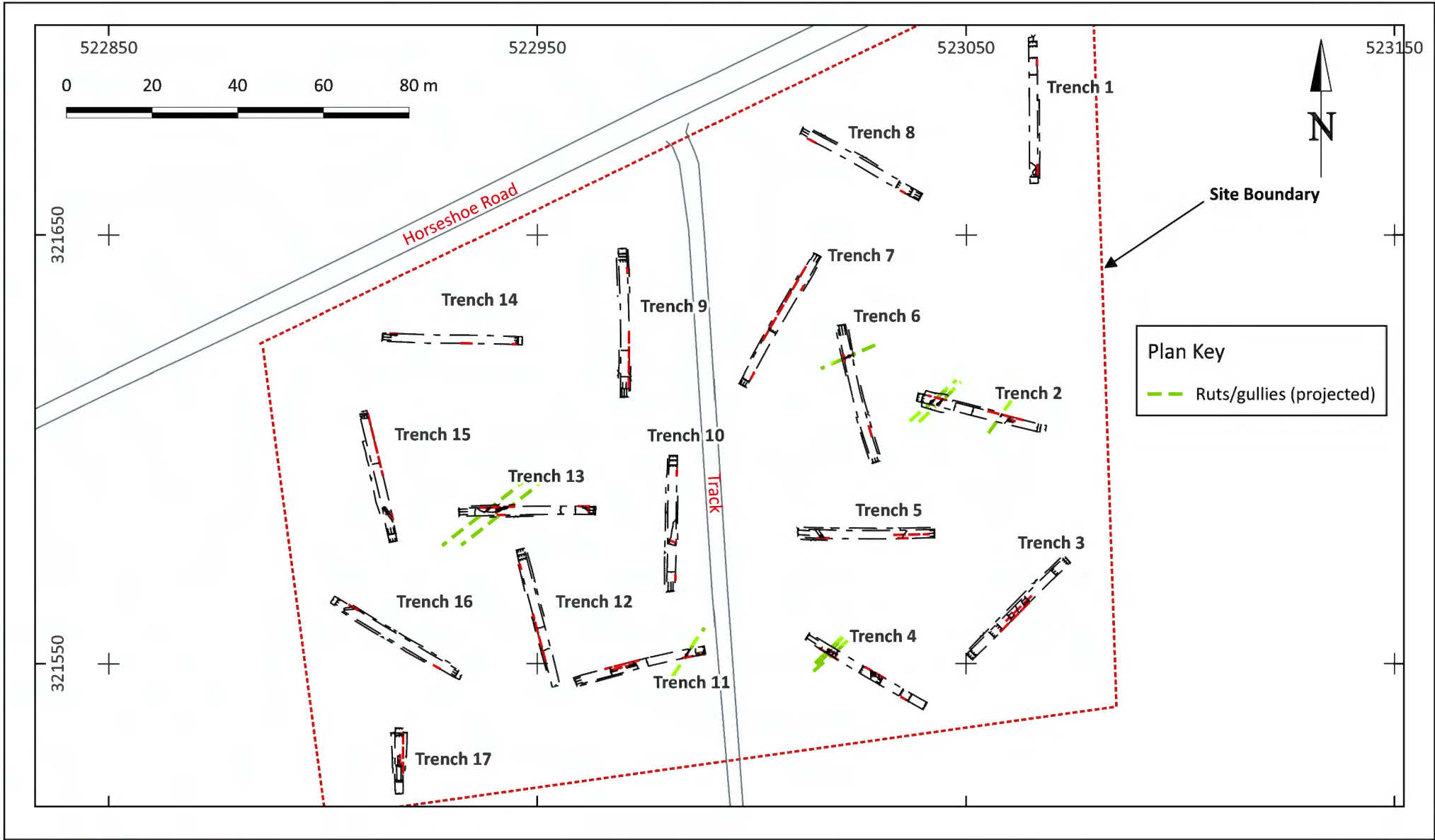


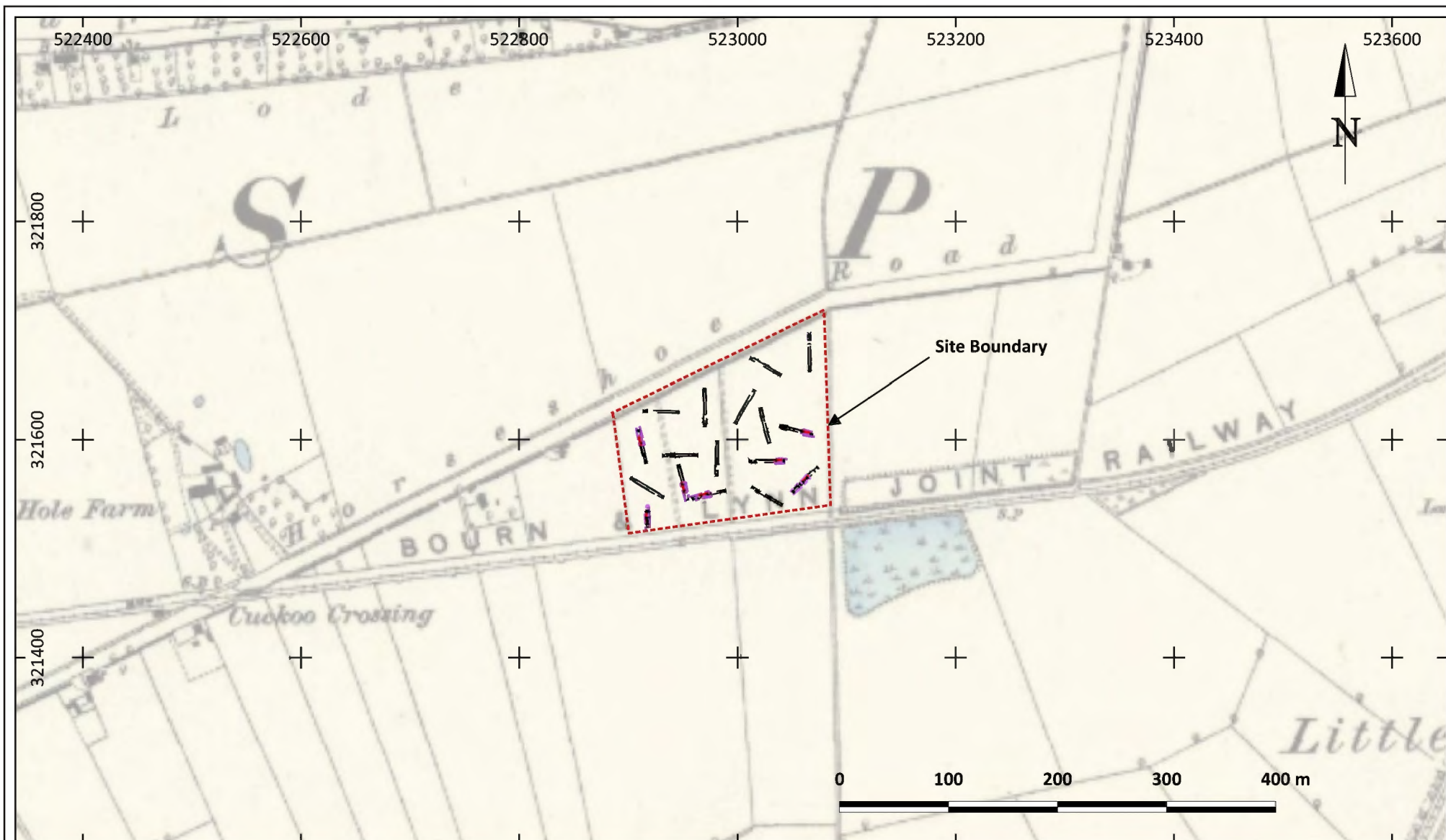
Section 48











APPENDIX A. CONTEXT SUMMARY

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
001	11	Pottery recovered during mechanical excavation of peaty/organic layer in Trench 11. Probably accords with layer (1104)	Finds recovery
002	13	Pottery recovered during mechanical excavation of ditch in Trench 13. Probably accords with fill (1317)	Finds recovery
003	-	Approximately east to west aligned shallow linear topographic hollow along the southern edge of the development area, along the north side of the former railway. Approximately 23m wide and 0.3m deep	Landscape modification
004	-	Approximately north to south aligned shallow linear topographic hollow along the east side of the development area, adjacent to the boundary dyke. Approximately 25m wide and up to 0.4m deep	Landscape modification

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
101	1	Soft dark brown silty fine sand. 0.28m thick	Topsoil (a recent accumulation)
102	1	Soft dark brown (slightly lighter than (101)) silty fine sand. 0.18m thick	Topsoil
103	1	Soft light brownish yellow silty fine sand. Up to 0.26m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
104	1	Firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey, very organic ('peaty') silt. Up to 0.1m thick, although generally much thinner	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
105	1	Stiff mid bluish grey clayey silt up to 0.14m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
106	1	Firm to stiff mid to dark grey clayey silt. Up to 0.16m thick, but generally less than 0.1m thick	Estuarine deposit

107	1	Firm deposit. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with light yellowish brown silty sand laminations. At least 0.26m thick	Estuarine deposit
108	1	Moderately firm deposit. Mix of mid grey sandy silt and light yellowish brown silty sand. Up to 0.05m thick	Probable estuarine deposit
109	1	Firm light yellowish grey sandy silt. Up to 0.14m thick.	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
110	1	Linear cut, at least 2m long and 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep. Gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a gently concave base. Aligned approximately northwest to southeast	Probably a natural channel or creek

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
201	2	Quite soft dark brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
202	2	Soft light yellowish brown deposit with occasional orange-brown (rusty) staining. Up to 0.7m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
203	2	Moderately firm dark orange-brown silty fine sand, with light yellow-brown streaks and distorted laminations. Up to 0.08m thick	Estuarine deposit (commencement of estuarine phase)
204	2	Moderately firm dark grey silty fine sand with frequent very dark grey 'organic' mottles. Up to 0.12m thick	Probable former land surface. Incorporates degraded remains of former 'peaty' cover
205	2	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand. A general deposit	Estuarine deposit
206	2	Firm to stiff mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional rusty streaks. At least 0.24m thick	Estuarine deposit within former channel
207	2	Moderately firm deposit. Mainly mid to dark orange-brown with occasional light yellowish brown lenses and distorted laminations. Silty fine sand 0.18m thick	Fill of anomaly [208]
208	2	Linear cut, 0.24m wide and 0.18m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately south southwest to east northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark

209	2	Moderately firm deposit. Dark grey silty fine sand with very dark grey (organic?) mottles and flecking. Up to 0.14m thick	Probable former land surface. Incorporates degraded remains of former 'peaty' cover
210	2	Linear cut, at least 7m wide and at least 0.64m deep. Quite steep sides, breaking gradually towards the base. Aligned approximately northeast to southwest	Natural channel or creek
211	2	Moderately firm deposit. Mid to dark brown with orange mottles and light yellowish brown lenses and distorted laminations. Silty fine sand. 0.11m thick	Fill of gully [212]
212	2	Linear cut, 0.19m wide and 0.11m deep. Very steep sides breaking gradually to a gently concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark. Machined away on the north side of the trench
213	2	Moderately firm deposit. Mid to dark orange brown with light yellowish brown lenses and distorted laminations. Silty fine sand, 0.08m thick and 0.18m wide	Fill of gully [214]
214	2	Linear cut, 0.18m wide and 0.08m deep. Very steep sides breaking gradually to a very gently concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
215	2	Stiff very dark grey 'peaty' silt, up to 0.12m thick. Very irregular and uneven interface with underlying deposit (216)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
216	2	Firm to stiff mid bluish grey clayey silt, at least 0.18m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable early land surface
217	2	Moderately firm deposit. Mid to dark brown with orangy mottles and light yellowish brown lenses and distorted laminations. Silty fine sand, 0.11m thick	Fill of gully [218]
218	2	Linear cut, 0.14m wide and 0.11m deep. Very steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
219	2	Moderately firm deposit. Mid to dark orange-brown with light yellow brown lenses and distorted laminations. Silty fine sand. 0.06m thick	Fill of gully [220]

220	2	Linear cut, 0.07m wide and 0.06m deep. Very steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
221	2	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.1m thick. A laminated deposit (laminations dip with the slope of feature [210])	Estuarine fill of channel [210]
222	2	Moderately firm deposit. Dark grey silty sand with moderate very dark grey (organic?) flecking	Fill of gully [208]
223	2	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, at least 0.28m thick. Laminations dip towards east. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Estuarine fill of channel [210]

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
301	3	Loose brown-grey sandy silt with occasional flints and stones. Approximately 0.25m thick	Topsoil
302	3	Loose light yellow silty sand with grey laminations. 0.15m to 0.2m thick	Estuarine deposit
303	3	Loose orange-yellow silty sand, 0.08 to 0.1m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
304	3	Loose variable yellowish grey silty sand, 0.08 to 0.12m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
305	3	Loose orange-grey to yellow silty sand, occasionally with firmer and more silty laminations. 0.15m to 0.2m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
306	3	Loose (soft) grey clayey silt, 0.1m to 0.15m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
307	3	Firm 'corky' dark orange brown silt with high organic content (peaty). Up to 0.15m thick. Probably the same material as (310)	Fill of channel [311]. Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
308	3	Loose yellow sandy silt at least 0.2m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
309	3	Moderately firm brownish orange clayey silt. Up to 0.15m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit

310	3	Moderately firm but crumbly dark orange-brown to black deposit Very peaty clayey silt. 0.1m thick. Probably the same material as (307)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
311	3	Curvilinear cut, 2.8m wide and 0.86m deep. Steep convex sides breaking gradually to a concave base	Natural channel or creek
312	3	Loose 'yellow spotted orange' silty sand. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
313	3	Moderately firm dark to mid bluish grey sandy silt, 0.3m thick. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Fill of channel [311]

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
401	4	Soft dark brown silty sand, 0.33m thick	Topsoil
402	4	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand. From 0.1m to 0.25m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
403	4	Firm deposit. Mid grey with occasional light yellowish brown patches. Sandy silt. Generally around 0.06m thick	Estuarine deposit
404	4	Friable very dark brownish grey to black peaty silt. Up to 0.05m thick. Intrusions of (404) give an uneven interface with underlying deposit (405)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
405	4	Firm to stiff bluish light grey clayey silt. 0.08m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
406	4	Soft light brown and mid to light grey laminated sandy silt. At least 0.25m thick	Estuarine deposit
407	4	Linear cut, up to 0.32m wide (generally c. 0.2m wide) and 0.06m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
408	4	Linear cut, 0.2m wide and 0.16m deep. Concave sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark

409	4	Linear cut, up to 0.35m wide by at least 0.6m long and 0.08m deep. Quite gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
410	4	Linear cut, 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep. Gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a gently concave base. Aligned southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
411	4	Moderately firm to stiff mid brownish grey clayey silt, with moderate rusty streaks. Up to 0.46m thick	Fill of channel [412]
412	4	Linear cut, up to 4m wide and 0.65m deep. Sides become steeper and convex towards base, and break to a gently concave base. Aligned approximately north to south	Probable natural channel

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
501	5	Loose greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small flints. 0.2m to 0.3m thick	Topsoil
502	5	Loose light yellow/orange/grey silty sand. 0.25m to 0.55m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
503	5	Firm but crumbly blackish brown peaty silt. 0.04m to 0.14m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
504	5	Loose yellow sandy silt, 0.06m thick.	Deposit just outside the edges of ditch [507]
505	5	Firm yellowish grey clayey silt, up to 0.16m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable early land surface
506	5	Loose yellow sandy silt, 0.06m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
507	5	Linear cut, 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. Steep slightly concave sides breaking gradually to a narrow concave base. Aligned north northwest to south southeast	Ditch. Possibly a natural channel or creek
508	5	Firm grey silty clay, 0.06m to 0.1m thick	Estuarine deposit
509	5	Loose 'yellow spotted orange' sandy silt. At least 0.95m thick	Estuarine deposit

510	5	Curvilinear cut, at least 4.2m wide and 0.8m deep. Aligned approximately northeast to southwest	Natural channel or creek
511	5	Firm yellowish grey clayey silt, 0.15m to 0.2m thick	Fill of cut [510]. Possible continuation of former land surface layer
512	5	Firm orange brown clayey silt with frequent lumps and flecks of degraded peaty organic material. 0.1m to 0.15m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
513	5	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand. At least 0.45m thick. A laminated deposit. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Estuarine fill of channel or creek [510].
514	5	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.25m thick. A laminated deposit. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Estuarine fill of channel or creek [510]
515	5	Firm yellowish grey clayey silt up to 0.16m thick. Same composition as (505)	Fill of ditch or channel [507]

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
601	6	Soft dark brown silty fine sand up to 0.55m thick. (thickness may be distorted by disturbance from machine tracks)	Topsoil
602	6	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, with some orange/rusty staining. Up to 0.5m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
603	6	Firm mid grey silt. Occasional patches and lenses of light brown silty sand. Up to 0.08m thick. Traces of laminations noted	Estuarine deposit
604	6	Firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey very organic 'peaty' silt. Up to 0.09m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
605	6	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt, with occasional rusty streaks and mottles. 0.13m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface

606	6	Moderately firm light greyish brown silty fine sand, at least 0.1m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
607	6	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate very dark (probably organic) flecking. 0.22m thick	Fill of gully [608]
608	6	Linear cut, 0.2m wide by 0.22m deep and at least 1.8m long. Very steep irregular (and occasionally undercut) sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately east northeast to west southwest	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
609	6	Firm very dark brownish grey peaty silt. Up to 0.08m thick. Very uneven and irregular interface with underlying layer (605)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
610	6	Firm very dark brownish grey peaty silt. Up to 0.06m thick. Very uneven and irregular interface with underlying layer (605)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
701	7	Soft dark brown silty fine sand, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
702	7	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, up to 0.58m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
703	7	Moderately firm deposit. Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with traces of light yellowish brown silty sand laminations. 0.09m thick	Estuarine deposit
704	7	Firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey peaty silt, up to 0.11m thick (although generally much thinner). Very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (705)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
705	7	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt with occasional orange streaks. 0.16m thick	Estuarine deposit
706	7	Firm light yellowish and greyish brown sandy silt, at least 0.1m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit

707	7	Linear cut or depression, over 5m wide and 0.2m deep. Gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. Aligned approximately east to west	Shallow linear channel. Possibly an interface within the fills of a larger feature
708	7	Crumbly very dark grey peaty organic deposit, up to 0.12m thick	Fill of depression [707]. Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
709	7	Linear cut, 1.45m wide and 0.15m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. Aligned approximately east to west	Possible natural channel or creek

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
801	8	Soft dark brown silty fine sand, up to 0.32m thick	Topsoil
802	8	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand with occasional orange staining. Up to 0.34m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
803	8	Soft light greyish brown sandy silt with light yellowish silty sand laminations. 0.15m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
804	8	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt, up to 0.02m thick	Estuarine deposit
805	8	Firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey peaty silt. Up to 0.02m thick. Very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (806)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
806	8	Firm to stiff light bluish grey silt, 0.15m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
807	8	Moderately firm light greyish brown sandy silt. At least 0.15m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
901	9	Soft dark brown silty fine sand, up to 0.38m thick	Topsoil

902	9	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand with occasional orange staining. Up to 0.62m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
903	9	Moderately firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. Up to 0.06m thick	Estuarine deposit
904	9	Moderately firm very dark brownish grey organic 'peaty' silt. Generally, around 0.02m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
905	9	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt with occasional rusty orange streaking. 0.12m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
906	9	Firm mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional light yellowish brown silty sand laminations. At least 0.2m thick	Estuarine deposit
907	9	Linear cut or depression, 4.3m wide and 0.12m deep. Gently concave sides breaking gradually to a very gently concave base. Aligned approximately east to west	Shallow linear channel. Possibly an interface within the fills of a larger feature
908	9	Moderately firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey organic 'peaty' deposit. Up to 0.14m thick	Continuation of (904) within depression [907]. Organic deposit formed in fenland environment

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1001	10	Soft dark brown silty sand, up to 0.4m thick	Topsoil
1002	10	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand, with some orange staining. Up to 0.4m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1003	10	Firm mid grey silt. Some 'orange' patches. Up to 0.04m thick. Laminations present, but irregular and distorted	Estuarine deposit
1004	10	Moderately firm but crumbly deposit. Very dark brownish grey very organic 'peaty' silt. 0.02m thick. Intrusions of (1004) give a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1005)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1005	10	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt, up to 0.14m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1006	10	Moderately firm mid grey silt, up to 0.08m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit

1007	10	Soft light greyish brown silty sand, at least 0.05m thick	Estuarine deposit
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CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1101	11	Loose greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones and flints. Up to 0.3m thick	Topsoil
1102	11	Loose (soft) deposit. Yellow silty sand with occasional orange streaks. From 0.12m to 0.45m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1103	11	Firm bluish grey clayey silt. Discontinuous layer, around 0.05m thick	Estuarine deposit
1104	11	Crumbly black to very dark brown organic 'peat', 0.04m to 0.08m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1105	11	Firm light bluish grey clayey silt, with orange mottles/streaks. At least 0.07m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1106	11	Linear cut, 0.3m wide and 0.03m deep. Concave sides continuous with a shallow concave base. Aligned northeast to southwest	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
1107	11	Friable black 'peat', 0.03m thick	Fill of gully [1106]
1108	11	Curvilinear cut, 6.6m wide and 0.9m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned north to south	Probable natural channel or creek. A re-cutting of existing watercourse [1113]
1109	11	Moderately firm greyish brown clayey silt, mottled with orange (possibly mineralised reeds?). Around 0.75m thick	Fill of channel [1108]
1110	11	Firm bluish grey clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Fill of channel [1108]. Similar to former land surface (1105)
1111	11	Soft 'orange-yellow speckled' sandy silt	Estuarine deposit
1112	11	Moderately firm and sticky light yellowish brown silty sand. Patchy mid grey discolouration. Includes occasional oyster shell towards the base of the deposit. At least 0.5m thick	Fill of channel [1113]
1113	11	Linear cut, at least 6m wide and 1.5m deep. Irregular sides, becoming steeper towards the base. Aligned north to south	Natural channel or creek

1114	11	Soft light brownish yellow silty fine sand, at least 1.2m thick. A laminated deposit. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Estuarine deposit
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CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1201	12	Soft dark brown silty sand up to 0.35m thick	Topsoil
1202	12	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand, with some orange staining. Up to 0.48m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1203	12	Moderately firm dark greyish brown peaty silt, up to 0.07m thick	Estuarine deposit
1204	12	Crumbly very dark brownish grey silty organic 'peat', up to 0.02m thick. Intrusions of (1204) give a very irregular uneven interface with underlying layer (1205)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1205	12	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt, 0.14m to 0.22m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1206	12	Soft deposit. Laminations of light yellowish brown and light greyish brown silty sand. At least 0.1m thick	Estuarine deposit
1207	12	Crumbly very dark brownish grey to black silty organic 'peat', up to 0.08m thick	Fill of [1208]. Organic deposit formed in fenland environment, probably the same as (1204)
1208	12	Linear cut or depression, 7.6m wide and 0.35m deep. Very gently concave sides breaking gradually to a broad gently concave base. Aligned approximately east to west	Shallow linear channel. Possibly an interface within the fills of a larger feature
1209	12	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt with occasional rusty streaking. At least 0.18m thick	Fill of channel [1210]. Probably a continuation of former land surface (1205)
1210	12	Linear cut, 6m wide and at least 1.2m deep. Steep sides	Natural channel or creek. Possible re-cutting of [1214]
1211	12	Moderately firm and sticky mid greyish brown sandy silt. At least 1.1m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine fill of channel [1210]

1212	12	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand, at least 0.5m thick. Indications of laminations	Estuarine fill of channel [1210]
1213	12	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand. 0.6m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine fill of channel [1214]
1214	12	Linear cut, at least 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep. Steep concave north side breaking gradually to a gently concave base. Aligned approximately east to west	Natural channel or creek
1215	12	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, at least 1.3m thick. A laminated deposit. Revealed in deep stepped mechanically excavated trench	Estuarine deposit

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1301	13	Soft dark brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
1302	13	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand, with light orange staining. Up to 0.54m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1303	13	Moderately firm mid grey sandy silt, with light yellowish brown sandy laminations and light orange-brown streaks. Up to 0.12m thick. Laminations very distorted.	Estuarine deposit
1304	13	Firm but crumbly very dark greyish brown very organic 'peaty' silt. Up to 0.1m thick. Intrusions of (1304) give a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1305)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1305	13	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt with some rusty orange streaking. Generally, around 0.12m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1306	13	Soft light greyish brown silty sand, at least 0.14m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1307	13	Moderately firm mix of mid grey and mid orange sandy silt. Up to 0.08m thick	Fill of gully [1308]

1308	13	Linear cut, 0.1m wide and 0.08m deep. Very steep sides breaking gradually to a gently concave to flattish base. Aligned approximately southwest to northeast	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
1309	13	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt with moderate rusty orange streaks. Up to 0.25m thick	Fill of cut [1310]. Probably a continuation of former land surface layer (1205)
1310	13	Irregular sub-oval cut, at least 6.2m by 1m in plan and 0.5m deep. Sides approximately 1 in 1, breaking gradually to a concave base	Probably a naturally formed hollow or depression
1311	13	Firm to stiff light bluish grey clayey silt with moderate rusty orange streaking. Up to 0.3m thick	Fill of cut [1312]. Probably a continuation of former land surface layer (1305)
1312	13	Partially revealed possible linear cut, at least 2.2m by 1.3m in plan and 0.45m deep. Gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Possibly aligned southeast to northwest	Probably a naturally formed hollow, depression or creek
1313	13	Moderately firm mixed deposit. Mid grey and mid orange-brown sandy silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of gully [1314]
1314	13	Linear cut, 0.25m wide and 0.11m deep. Steep sides breaking quite sharply to a very gently concave or flattish base. Likely continuation of [1316] on the same southwest to northeast orientation as [1308]	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
1315	13	Moderately firm mixed deposit. Mid grey and mid orange-brown sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of gully [1316]
1316	13	Linear cut, 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a very gently concave base. Likely continuation of [1314] on the same southwest to northeast orientation as [1308]	Narrow linear anomaly: possible gully, rut or score-mark
1317	13	Soft dark brown silty sand with moderate light yellowish brown mottles. Occasional brick or tile fragments. 0.43m thick	Fill of ditch [1318]
1318	13	Linear cut, 1.28m wide and 0.6m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned approximately north northwest to south southeast	Ditch (Post-Medieval)
1319	13	Soft dark brown silty sand, 0.16m thick	Fill of ditch [1318]

1320	13	Firm, sticky and plastic deposit. Mid to dark brown clayey silt with rusty streaks. 0.2m thick	Fill of natural anomaly [1312]
1321	13	Firm, sticky and plastic deposit. Mid to dark brown clayey silt with rusty streaks. 0.48m thick	Fill of natural anomaly [1310]

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1401	14	Loose greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flints and stones. Approximately 0.3m thick	Topsoil
1402	14	Soft yellow-orange sandy silt, 0.5m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1403	14	Moderately firm but crumbly peaty sand, up to 0.08m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1404	14	Firm bluish grey clayey silt, 0.15m to 0.25m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1405	14	Linear cut, 0.75m wide and 0.5m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned north to south	Ditch (Post-Medieval)
1406	14	Loose orange brown silty sand with occasional flints and stones. 0.5m thick	Fill of ditch [1405]
1407	14	Linear cut, 0.78m wide and 0.4m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned north to south	Ditch (Post-Medieval)
1408	14	Loose mixed yellow and brown sandy silt with occasional stones. 0.4m thick	Fill of ditch [1407]
1409	14	Linear cut, 0.62m wide and 0.45m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned north to south	Ditch (Post-Medieval)
1410	14	Loose mixed yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. 0.45m thick	Fill of ditch [1409]
1411	14	Firm but crumbly dark black organic 'peat', 0.06m to 0.08m thick. Sample 1 taken for radiocarbon dating	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1412	14	Firm bluish grey clay with peat, 0.02m thick	Estuarine deposit

1413	14	Firm 'orange mottled grey-blue' clay. 0.15m to 0.2m thick. See also (1414)	Estuarine deposit
1414	14	Loose yellow sandy silt (laminations up to 0.01m thick within (1413))	Estuarine deposit

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1501	15	Moderately firm dark brown silty fine sand, with occasional stones and occasional brick or tile fragments. Up to 0.35m thick	Topsoil
1502	15	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, up to 0.4m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1503	15	Linear cut, 1.8m wide and 0.52m deep. Convex sides, becoming steeper towards the base, breaking gradually to a flattish base. Aligned approximately east to west	Probable natural channel or creek
1504	15	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, 0.35m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1505	15	Soft light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.09m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1506	15	Firm dark grey deposit, with moderate rusty flecking. Sandy silt, very organic, up to 0.11m thick. Intrusions of (1506) give a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1507)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1507	15	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey with moderate rusty flecking. Clayey silt, 0.16m thick.	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1508	15	Moderately firm mid brownish grey sandy silt with thin light yellowish brown silty sand laminations. At least 0.15m thick	Estuarine deposit
1509	15	Linear cut, 5m wide and 0.5m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to and uneven stepped base. Aligned east to west	Possible ditch
1510	15	Firm to stiff mid grey clayey silt with moderate rusty flecking. 0.2m thick	Fill of ditch [1511]

1511	15	Linear cut, with a rounded flat terminus at the northwest end. 0.46m wide by at least 1.8m long and 0.2m deep. Quite steep sides breaking gradually to a gently concave base. Aligned approximately southeast to northwest	Ditch terminus
1512	15	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, 0.5m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1513	15	Moderately firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.03m thick	Fill of cut [1503]
1514	15	Soft light brownish yellow silty fine sand up to 0.04m thick	Fill of cut [1503]
1515	15	Moderately firm but crumbly very dark blackish brown deposit with some rusty mottling. Organic 'peaty' deposit, up to 0.25m thick	Fill within hollow of feature [1509]. Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1516	15	Soft mixed dark brown and light yellow brown silty fine sand	Fill of modern cut [1517]
1517	15	Short linear cut, 0.7m wide. Vertical sides. Aligned approximately east to west	Modern geotechnical trial hole
1518	15	Firm to stiff mid grey clayey silt with occasional light brown sandy patches. At least 0.15m thick	Fill of channel [1509]. Possibly a continuation of layer (1507)
1519	15	Firm and sticky mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt with rusty streaks. 0.35m thick	Fill of channel [1509]

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1601	16	Soft dark brown silty fine sand with occasional brick or tile fragments. At least 0.25m thick	Topsoil
1602	16	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, 0.28m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1603	16	Firm mid to dark grey silt with frequent organic flecking. Up to 0.08m thick	Probable estuarine deposit

1604	16	Moderately firm but crumbly very dark brownish grey deposit. Decayed organic material and silt, up to 0.03m thick. Intrusions of (1604) give a very irregular and uneven interface with underlying layer (1605)	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1605	16	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt with occasional rusty streaks. 0.2m thick.	Estuarine deposit
1606	16	Moderately firm light brown silty sand, at least 0.16m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine deposit
1607	16	Soft mixed deposit. Dark brown and light yellowish brown silty fine sand, at least 0.95. thick	Fill of modern cut [1608]
1608	16	Short linear cut, with a square western end. 0.5m wide and at least 0.95m deep	Modern geotechnical trial hole
1609	16	Moderately firm mid brownish grey sandy silt with light yellowish brown silty sand laminations. Up to 0.08m thick	Estuarine deposit

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1701	17	Soft dark brown silty fine sand with occasional brick or tile fragments. 0.35m thick	Topsoil
1702	17	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand up to 0.12m thick. A laminated deposit. Relationship with (1707) inconclusive, but possibly contemporary	Estuarine deposit
1703	17	Moderately firm very dark grey peaty silt, up to 0.05m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment
1704	17	Firm to stiff light to mid bluish grey clayey silt with moderate rusty streaking. 0.12m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1705	17	Soft light to mid greyish brown sandy silt at least 0.6m thick. A laminated deposit; silty laminations more prominent	Estuarine deposit
1706	17	South side of linear cut, at least 8m wide and 1.4m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. Aligned approximately east to west. See also [1737]	Former channel

1707	17	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand at least 1.1m thick. A laminated deposit – possible estuarine influence	Fill of channel [1706]
1708	17	Soft mixed dark brown and light yellowish brown silty fine sand, at least 1.1m thick	Fill of modern cut [1709]
1709	17	Short linear cut up to 1.1m wide and at least 1.1m deep. Vertical (partly slumped) sides	Modern intrusion
1710	17	Moderately firm dark brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick	Fill of pit [1714]
1711	17	Soft mixed and patchy dark brown and light yellowish brown silty fine sand. 0.14m thick	Fill of pit [1714]
1712	17	Moderately firm mid greyish brown silty fine sand with moderate snail shells. 0.26m thick	Fill of pit [1714]
1713	17	Soft dark brown silty fine sand with moderate dark flecking (decayed organic material). Up to 0.03m thick	Basal fill of pit [1714]
1714	17	Partially revealed probable rectangular cut, 3.4m north to south by at least 0.3m east to west and 0.76m deep. Vertical sides breaking sharply to a flattish base	Pit
1715	17	Moderately firm dark brown silty fine sand. 0.1m thick	Fill of channel [1706]. Possible vestige of topsoil in former earthwork hollow
1716	17	Firm but crumbly dark brownish grey sandy silt, with a high organic content. Frequent small snail shells. 0.2m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1717	17	Soft mixed deposit. 80% dark brownish grey and 20% light yellowish brown patches. Silty sand, 0.13m thick	Fill of ditch [1720]
1718	17	Moderately firm dark brownish grey sandy silt, 0.68m thick	Fill of ditch [1720]
1719	17	Firm dark grey silt with occasional light whitish brown sandy patches. Up to 0.09m thick. Composition derives from (1725/1726) and (1722/1723)	Fill of ditch [1720]
1720	17	Linear cut, 2.8m wide and 1.0m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base. Aligned east to west	Ditch

1721	17	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Fill of channel [1706]. Possible vestige of topsoil in former earthwork hollow
1722	17	Moderately firm but crumbly dark grey very organic sandy silt, with frequent small snail shells. 0.26m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1723	17	Soft mix of dark grey sandy silt and light whitish brown sandy laminations. 0.08m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1724	17	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Fill of channel [1706]. Possible vestige of topsoil in former earthwork hollow
1725	17	Firm but crumbly dark grey very organic sandy silt with frequent small snail shells, 0.4m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1726	17	Moderately firm mix of dark grey silt and light whitish brown sandy laminations, 0.22m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1727	17	Moderately firm mid to dark brown silty fine sand, at least 0.5m thick	Fill of pit [1728]
1728	17	Partially revealed possible rectangular cut, at least 0.7m wide and at least 0.5m deep. Does not appear in opposing section	Pit
1729	17	Finds recovered during mechanical excavation, possibly from pit [1714]	Finds recovery
1730	17	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand at least 0.23m thick. Sandy laminations more prominent	Estuarine deposit
1731	17	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand, at least 0.2m thick. Laminations not so evident as in overlying deposits	Estuarine deposit
1732	17	Soft dark grey very organic 'peaty' deposit, 0.05m wide and 0.22m thick	Possible decayed organic intrusion
1733	17	Soft mid to light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional lumps of sticky clayey silt. Patchy mid to dark grey discolouration. At least 0.25m thick	Fill of channel [1706]
1734	17	Soft light yellowish brown silty fine sand, 0.35m thick. A laminated deposit. Relationship inconclusive, but probably continuous with (1707)	Estuarine deposit
1735	17	Firm very dark brownish grey very organic silt. 0.03m thick	Organic deposit formed in fenland environment

1736	17	Firm to stiff mid to light bluish grey clayey silt with rusty streaks. At least 0.15m thick	Estuarine deposit. Probable former land surface
1737	17	North side of linear cut. 9.8m wide and up to 1.4m deep. Steep sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. Aligned approximately east to west. See also [1706]	Former channel

APPENDIX B

THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND SOUTH OF HORSESHOE ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE (SPHO25)

JOHANNA GRAY AND JANE YOUNG

INTRODUCTION

Nine sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 86grams in total and representing three vessels of medieval to early modern date were examined for this report. The material was examined visually and then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit adapted for use in the wider County (Young et al 2005). The assemblage was quantified by several measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight in grams with the resulting archive being entered onto an Access database (Appendix B1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and a Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (2016) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

CONDITION

The material is in a slightly abraded and stable condition. Individual sherd size varies between 1gram and 52grams.

THE POTTERY

The three vessels were recovered from deposits in three trenches (Trenches 11, 13 and 14). The only medieval vessel to be recovered is represented by seven sherds from a jug or jar recovered during mechanical excavation of a peaty/organic layer in Trench 11 (context 001). The vessel is unglazed and has some surface leaching of calcareous inclusions. This vessel represents a newly defined ceramic type (SLLFFQ) which has only been previously noted as small un-diagnostic sherds. Visually the vessel appears to be of medieval Bourne or Baston type but a closer examination (at x20 binocular microscope level) reveals common iron-rich grains not usually present in these industries.

South Lincolnshire Light Firing Iron and Quartz-tempered (SLLFFQ)

The recovered sherds in this type are wheel-thrown and come from a single small unglazed jug or jar in a light oxidised fabric with a light reduced core. The slightly micaceous fabric contains common variable but mainly rounded iron-rich grains of mostly between 0.2mm and

1.5mm size and moderate to common round to sub-round quartz grains of 0.3 to 0.5mm size that are mainly opaque. Also in the fabric are sparse rounded calcareous grains that have been leached out on the surface of the vessel. It is probable that the vessel is made within the South Kesteven or South Holland areas of Lincolnshire.

Date: A date between the late 12th and mid 14th centuries is suggested by the general appearance and manufacture of this vessel.

In Trench 13 a basal sherd from a large Black-glazed Earthenware jar (BL) of 18th century type was recovered during mechanical excavation of a ditch (context 002). The jar is internally and part externally glazed with a thick black glaze and is likely to have been manufactured within Lincolnshire.

A tiny sherd from a small early modern English Stoneware (ENGS) preserve jar was recovered from the fill of ditch 1405 (fill 1406). These cylindrical jars were mainly used for jam or marmalade and as in the case of this vessel often had vertical ribbing. The jars mainly date to the period between the late 19th and mid 20th centuries but often continued in use long after their period of manufacture.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The medieval vessel indicates ceramic disposal between the late 12th and mid 14th centuries in the vicinity of Trench 11. The recovered vessel usefully defines a type only previously seen as small un-diagnostic sherds. The other vessels denote disposal of 18th century (trench 13) and early modern (Trench 14) ceramics in the local area.

The ENGS jar can be discarded but the other two vessels should be retained for future study of medieval fabrics post-medieval coarsewares in Lincolnshire. A sherd from the SLLFFQ jug or jar has been added to the County Fabric Type Series.

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APPENDIX B1. The Pottery Archive

site code	trench	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	action	description
spho 25	Trench 11	0001	SLLFFQ	South Lincolnshire Light Firing Iron and Quartz-tempered	light OX/light R/light OX medium sandy + fe	small jug/jar	7	1	33	BS	RETAIN;x1 to County Fabric Type Series	late 12th to mid 14th;unglazed;wheelthrown;surface ca incl leached
spho 25	Trench 13	0002	BL	Black-glazed wares	dull orange fine sandy	large jar	1	1	52	base	RETAIN	18th;slightly beaded base;int & part ext glaze;ext
spho 25	Trench 14	1406	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	buff	small preserve jar	1	1	1	BS	discard	late 19th to mid 20th;close vertical ribbing

APPENDIX C

THE BRICK FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND SOUTH OF HORSESHOE ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE (SPHO25)

JOHANNA GRAY AND JANE YOUNG

INTRODUCTION

Seven fragments of handmade brick each representing an individual brick and weighing 0.974kgs in total were submitted for examination. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification using a binocular microscope. The assemblage was recorded using ceramic codenames and the resulting archive was entered in an Access database (Appendix C1). Recording complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001), the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group guidelines (2001) and the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

CONDITION

The material recovered is mainly in an abraded but stable condition with all but one brick being represented by flakes. Individual fragment size ranges from 27 gram to 505grams.

THE BRICK

The seven recovered fragment of brick (BRK) were recovered from three deposits in Trench 17. All of the pieces are from handmade bricks with six of the bricks being in oxidised fine calcareous fabrics typical of 15th to 18th century production and one being in yellow gault clay. For all but one of the calcareous bricks only a broad 15th to 18th century date can be given as they lack any diagnostic manufacturing or dating attributes.

Three inner core flakes from calcareous bricks were recovered from fill 1718 of ditch 1720. These pieces can only be dated to between the 15th and 18th centuries.

Fill 1713 of pit 1714 produced a single large upper flake from a calcareous brick of potential 15th to 18th century date. Three further handmade brick fragments were recovered during mechanical excavation of what also may have been part of pit 1714 (deposit 1729). One of the two calcareous bricks is represented by a measurable end fragment of 110mm width and 67mm thickness. This brick has been obviously slop-moulded and there are traces of what may have been a sunken end margin dating the brick to between the 15th and 17th centuries. There is a longitudinal stick impression on the underside of the brick and another vertical one on the end face of the brick suggesting the use of sticks for separation during drying. The upper surface has two deep finger impressions that distort the brick at the corner. There is a matching thumb impression causing further distortion on the stretcher face. The other piece of handmade brick recovered from deposit 1729 is in a yellow gault clay also containing common fragments of iron-slag. This brick has been sand-moulded and dates to the 18th or 19th centuries.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A narrow range of handmade brick was recovered from the site. The six calcareous bricks are in a poor condition and with one exception represented by un-diagnostic flakes of potential 15th to 18th century date. The largest fragment of calcareous brick has attributes that indicate a 15th to 17th century date. These handmade bricks need not necessarily have been used in a building as early brick was quite often used for the construction of drains, wells, cess-pits, flooring or hearths. The other recovered brick is of 18th or 19th century date.

.With the exception of the measurable piece recovered from deposit 1729 the assemblage is suitable for discard.

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APPENDIX C1 The Brick Archive

site code	trench	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	width	thickness
spho 25	Trench 17	1713	BRK	Brick	orange/dark grey fine calcareous + fe	1	133	discard	15th to 18th;handmade;large upper flake;abraded	0	0
spho 25	Trench 17	1718	BRK	Brick	red fine calcareous + fe	1	27	discard	15th to 18th;handmade;inner core flake	0	0
spho 25	Trench 17	1718	BRK	Brick	red fine calcareous + fe	1	30	discard	15th to 18th;handmade;inner core flake;fabric incl some mica	0	0
spho 25	Trench 17	1718	BRK	Brick	red fine calcareous + fe	1	97	discard	15th to 18th;handmade;inner core flake;some mica in fabric	0	0
spho 25	Trench 17	1729	BRK	Brick	yellow gault + fe slag	1	103	discard	18th to 19th;sand moulded;corner flake	0	0
spho 25	Trench 17	1729	BRK	Brick	red fine calcareous + fe	1	505	RETAIN	15th to 17th;handmade;end;slop moulded;abraded;poss sunken end margin;longitudinal stick impression on underside;vertical stick impression on end;deep finger impressions on upper with thumb impression on side	110	67
spho 25	Trench 17	1729	BRK	Brick	red fine calcareous + fe	1	79	discard	15th to 18th;handmade;inner core flake	0	0

Appendix D

The Finds

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Horseshoe Road, Spalding (SPHO25), are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported, during June 2025, in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2020), and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2024).

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Introduction

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). Two pieces of pipe weighing a total of 4g were recovered.

Condition

The clay pipe is in good condition.

Results

Table 1, The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Context	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
1317						1	1	2	stem	19 th century
1718					1		1	2	stem	18 th century
Totals					1	1	2	4		

Provenance

The tobacco pipes were recovered from ditch fills (1317, 1718). They are probably local products, likely made in Spalding.

Discussion

A small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe fragments, single items of 18th and 19th century date, were recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The clay pipe assemblage is of limited potential though provides some tentative dating evidence. No further work is required. The material can be discarded.

The Other Finds

Introduction

A single other find weighing 3g was recovered.

Condition

The other find is in good condition.

Results

Table 2: Other finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
002	clinker	Clinker, vitreous	1	3	Post-medieval – early modern

Provenance

The find was recovered as unstratified material during finds recovery from Trench 13 (002). It may equate to ditch fill (1317).

Discussion

A single piece of clinker was recovered. This is highly fired and vitrified, such characteristics being typical of the elevated temperatures available in the post-medieval period and later.

Potential and Recommendations

The other find is of negligible potential.

No further work is required, and the material can be discarded.

Context Date Summary

The dating in the following table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Spot dates

Context	Date (Century AD)	Comments
002	Post-medieval – early modern	Based on 1 clinker

1317	19 th	Based on 1 clay pipe
1718	18 th	Based on 1 clay pipe

References

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Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX E: The animal bone
by Julie Curl –Sylvanus – Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration
Services for Witham Archaeology. June 2025

THE ANIMAL BONE (Table 1 & Appendix E1)

Methodology

This report was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976, but no suitable bones are present. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts. As this is a small assemblage, the information was recorded directly into the table in the appendix.

The bone assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 116g of bone, consisting of 16 pieces, was recovered, with the totals quantified in Table 1. The bone was recovered from two deposits, each in different trenches. No datable finds were found with the animal bone, so they are undated at the time of writing this report.

The remains are in good condition, although fragmented from some butchering and breakages of more fragile parts. Bone in this assemblage shows traces of natural iron that can be absorbed into bones and this is more evident in the natural Channel [1706]. No canid gnawing was seen, which might suggest a lack of scavenging or domestic dogs to feed and that bone was fairly rapidly buried. No invertebrate (insect, isopod, mollusc) damage was seen, which would suggest waste was rapidly buried preventing access to waste from these small creatures.

Context	Trench	Feature	Date	Context Qty	Weight (g)	Species	NISP
1309	13	Depression/ Hollow 1310	Undated	15	30g	Pig	6
						Mammal	9
1725	17	Channel 1706	Undated	1	86g	Equid	1
TOTALS				16	116g	NISP	16

Table 1. Quantification of the faunal remains

Two species were identified from the assemblage, see Table 1 and some fragments could only be identified as mammal as they lacked any diagnostic features that would allow identification to species.

Equid was recorded from the Channel fill (1725) in Trench 17 with the proximal end of an ulna. The bone is fully fused and shows an animal of around 4 years old or older. The bone is not butchered, but has a natural break on the thin shaft. The animal is estimated, from the size of the bone, to be in the range of a larger pony or small horse.

Pig/boar was recovered from the Depression/Hollow fill (1309) with fragments of a femur. These fragments have lain in iron-rich sediments for sometime.

Some bone from the Depression/Hollow fill (1309) that was too fragmented to allow species identification and could only be recorded as **mammal** and these have traces of iron-rich sediments. It is quite likely that these are further fragments of the pig/boar femur in the same deposit, but they do not refit.

Discussion

This is a small assemblage of bone that consists of probable domesticated stock animals. The equid might have been a traction or load-bearing work animal and likely to be domestic in origin. The pig/boar may have been from a source of wild porcines. The assemblage is broadly similar to others of the same date range and size where the remains are those of domestic stock animals. The lack of bird and smaller mammals is perhaps surprising as they might have been used for furs, feathers and meat, but this could be a preservation or recovery bias as small bones either do not survive or are hard to collect without sieving soils.

Recommendations for further work

If further work is carried out that produces bone, then this assemblage should be included in the analysis, otherwise, no further work is required.

If further excavations are carried out at this site it is recommended that samples are taken for wet or dry sieving to maximise the chance of recovering small bones. Samples should be taken from a range of features, including natural channels which can be a rich source of smaller species.

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APPENDIX F – CONCORDANCE TABLE

Context	Pottery	CBM	Glass	Bone and Shell	Metal	Other Finds
001	Medieval					
002	Post-Medieval					Clinker
1309				Pig bone		
1317						Clay tobacco pipe stem
1406	Post-Medieval					
1713		Post-Medieval Brick				
1718		Post-Medieval Brick				Clay tobacco pipe stem
1725				Horse bone		
1729		Post-Medieval Brick				

APPENDIX G – OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS Summary for withamar1-535768

OASIS ID (UID)	withamar1-535768
Project Name	Trial Trench at Land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Sitename	Land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Sitecode	SPHO25
Project Identifier(s)	Archaeological Trial Trenching of land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Activity type	Trial Trench
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Witham Archaeology
Project Dates	19-Mar-2025 - 13-May-2025
Location	Land south of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire NGR : TF 22992 21598 LL : 52.77796557751189, -0.178069516323868 12 Fig : 522992,321598
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Lincolnshire Local Authority District : South Holland Parish : South Holland, unparished area

Project Methodology	<p>Seventeen trenches were excavated, sixteen measuring 1.8m wide and 30m in length and one measuring 1.8m wide and 15m long. The trenches were laid out in a rough grid pattern intended to enable comprehensive coverage of the site, with adjustments to ensure that geophysical anomalies were targeted and investigated. Trenches were set out in accordance with the directions laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and approved by the curatorial archaeologist. The most recent deposits were removed mechanically, using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 22). All mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was discontinued when archaeological deposits were exposed, or when undisturbed natural deposits were revealed.</p> <p>Mechanical excavation was undertaken in three phases. The first phase removed overburden to the level of Post-Medieval features cut into the Post-Roman estuarine deposits, with periodic deeper sondages to expose the underlying deposits (Plate 37). These deposits were subsequently examined during a site visit by paleoenvironmental consultant James Rackham on 25th March 2025, commissioned by Witham Archaeology. Following advice from Mr Rackham, the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Officer (Ruben Lopez Catalan) directed that the trenches should be machined more deeply to fully expose and evaluate the probable early land surface identified within the underlying deposits.</p> <p>A third phase of mechanical excavation was also subsequently requested to explore at greater depth some of the early channels identified within the trenches. In this phase trenches were excavated to a depth of up to around 2.1m from ground level, down to wet and unstable silt and sand deposits. This phase necessitated considerably widened and stepped trenches to enable safe access (Fig. 5 & Fig. 7. Plate 22 and Plate 29).</p> <p>Exposed surfaces, both vertical and horizontal, were then cleaned by hand to define the archaeological remains, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.</p> <p>Excavated features were recorded through plans and sections drawn scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. This record was augmented by colour digital photographs and written context records on pro forma recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.</p>
Project Results	<p>The trial trenching revealed features and deposits predominantly related to natural sedimentary and environmental changes within the development site. There was, however, sufficient artefactual and archaeological information within the results to enable the environmental evidence to be compared with established models of development drawn from previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity. In particular, the Romano-British land surface was identified, sealed by a significant accumulation of subsequent estuarine silts and sands.</p> <p>Although one or two linear features indicated utilisation of the ancient landscape, there was no convincing evidence to indicate that the site area had been a location of habitation or of other significant human activity such as salt making. There was also no clear evidence for continuation of the Baston Outgang Roman road through the site, as might have been predicted from its alignment to the southwest. By contrast, possible rutting provided evidence of less formalised traffic across a broader band of the site area at a slightly later date.</p> <p>With regard to the subsequent depositional history of the general area, pottery recovered from Trench 11 and radiocarbon samples from Trenches 7 and 14 have provided additional stratified dates to the corpus available locally.</p>

Keywords	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Water Channel - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Palaeochannel - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Jar - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Jar - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tobacco Pipe - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Seagate Homes
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Ruby Neale, Russell Trimble
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire;

Report generated on: 30 Jul 2025, 11:01

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