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Barn Farm, Hundred Road March, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR TL 4070 9890

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

April 1995

BARN FARM, HUNDRED ROAD, MARCH

SITE CODE: MABF95

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**A report on the field evaluation undertaken between 27/03/95 and
7/04/95 at Hundred Road, March, Cambridgeshire.**

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1 SUMMARY

Excavations have identified a series of probable field boundary ditches peripheral to a concentration of activity to the north of the development area. No structural evidence or concentrations of occupation debris were identified and only six pottery sherds were recovered from 67 excavated sections. No dates can be attributed to features with certainty, although the proximity of identified Roman sites (MAR23 and MAR35) and cropmarks in the area that have been attributed to the Roman period from results from the Fenland Survey, imply that the site is Roman in date.

It is likely that the D-shaped feature identified in the aerial photo assessment is naturally formed, and may represent the course of a meandering low-energy watercourse.

Features identified in trenches 29 and 30, may represent more recent activity associated with grazing. The aerial photograph assessment indicates that the eastern area of the site was used for grazing in the 1950's (Palmer 1995).

2 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological unit (OAU) were asked by David T Ward Associates on behalf of East Waste Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land off Hundred Road, March, Cambridgeshire in advance of clay extraction.

Twenty-eight trenches, 25 m long and 1.85 m wide, were excavated and supplemented during the evaluation by additional test pits located where archaeological features required further definition. Two trenches in the proposed trench layout at the eastern end of the development area were not excavated; these were close to the site of a natural spring (farmer per. comm.) where a pond which was backfilled in the 1960's was located. The actual excavation strategy represents a 2% sample of the proposed development area.

The aim of the field evaluations was to provide an assessment of the nature, location, extent, significance and date/period of all archaeological deposits encountered, and to offer a provisional interpretation.

3 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 Site Location

The site lies at OS reference TL 40709890, and comprises 7 hectares of arable land, situated about 1 km north of the centre of March. It is bounded on its south side by an E/W-aligned track which separates the area from the Eastern Waste land-fill site, on its north and west by further arable land, and to the east by Barn Farm, adjacent to Hundred Road (figure 1). Drainage ditches approximately 1.5 m deep run along the northern, southern and western boundaries of the area.

3.2 Geology

The site is situated on the north-west side of March island at a height of 2.48 m OD. The island rises to a maximum height of 4 m and comprises beds of tills (boulder Clay) overlain by interglacial gravels and sands of the Hoxnian phase (river terrace drift). These deposits overlay the pre-Flandrain bedrock which consists in the main of Kimmeridge clay.

3.2.1 Geotechnical Investigations

Geotechnical ground investigations were carried out by Soil Property Testing Ltd on behalf of Eastern Waste, and comprised 16 Site Investigation Boreholes excavated to depths of 8 metres. Four boreholes were placed in the corners of the development area, eleven internal and one in the middle of the southern edge. The results from these investigations described the present ploughsoil overlying terrace deposits and/or boulder clay. The thickness of the ploughsoil varied from 0.1 to 0.5 m, and was shallowest in the samples taken in the centre of the area (MA6/94, MA6A, MA6B, and MA6C). The ploughsoil was described to overlay silty boulder clay, and in cases terrace deposit (MA3, MA4, and MA6A). The terrace deposits were recorded as having depths of 0.3 m.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The principal source of archaeological background for the area can be obtained from published results of the Fenland Project, carried out between 1981 and 1989. The project was undertaken to survey the wetlands of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk, in association with palaeoenvironmental investigations allied to a radio-carbon dating programme. The results of the survey have been published in a series of monographs, and The Fenlands project, Number 2: Cambridgeshire Survey, Peterborough to March by David Hall contains the results relevant to this evaluation.

4.1 Early Prehistoric Evidence

The earliest sites known at March are Mesolithic flint scatters, lying on sandy gravels. The Fenland Survey results provided a precise location for these sites situated next to Gaul Road (Hall 1987), approximately 2 km from the evaluation site. There are few discoveries dating to the Neolithic period other than material found at the Gaul Road sites. A majority of the lithic material identified in the area has been attributed to the Bronze Age. Three concentrations have been recognised, two close to the development area; site 36 (Hall 1987) lies 1 km to the south-west, and site 38 is situated 1 km to the east.

4.2 Iron Age and Roman Evidence

The Fenland landscape had changed dramatically by the Iron Age period. It has been claimed that the Fens were too wet during the Iron Age to support much

activity during this period, although this is not necessarily the case with many Iron Age sites discovered in the Isle of Ely and other central fen islands (Hall 1981). Two early Iron Age sites have been identified on March island. Site 21 (Hall 1987) north of Grandford lies on the northernmost tip of dry land, and Flaggrass (Site 34) on the eastern edge of the island, 2 km north-west and 2 km to the east of the development area respectively.

Marine flooding deposited silts (Terrington Beds) north-east of March during the Iron Age period. This event made settlement possible in this area during the Roman period. Crop mark evidence attributed to this period is concentrated to the north-east (Hall 1987: figure 23) of March.

The sites of Grandford and Flaggrass established during the Iron age, stand out in size and siting as of more than usual significance in the Roman period (Hall 1987). They were placed on rivers flowing south to north and were linked by east-west canals crossing the fen, providing a link between the East Midlands and East Anglia. The canals rapidly silted up and were subsequently made-up as a road. The road, The Fen Causeway, runs less than 500 m south of the development area.

Hall (1987) records two small scatters of Roman pottery close to the development area. MAR 23 adjacent to the Fen Causeway approximately 200 m west, and MAR 35 in the adjacent field to the north.

4.2.1 The Roman Economy

It is suggested that a dual-based economy combining salt production and animal rearing was in operation in the Fenlands during the Roman period (Hall 1987). Sites located on the edges of tidal watercourses to the north-east of March have produced quantities of briquetage, and associated cropmarks may represent drove and paddocks. The identification of saltern briquetage in the Terrington beds silt area, demonstrates that salt water was penetrating many kilometres into the fens (Hall 1987). These conditions make it unlikely that quantities of grain could be produced in the area (Hall 1987).

4.3 Aerial photograph evidence in the development area

A re-plotting of aerial photographs of the development area, carried out by Rog Palmer of the Air Photo Services, was carried out on behalf of the OAU. The results of this assessment, are produced in a report which should be referred to in conjunction with this evaluation. In brief, the results from this assessment indicate that a number of crop-marked ditches, NW/SE-aligned, together with short NE/SW-aligned cropmarks visible to the east, run through the development area. A D-shaped feature is visible, formed by uncharacteristically broad ditches. It was not certain whether this feature is archaeological or natural.

Further reference will be made to the aerial photographic assessment when discussing the results of the field evaluation.

5 METHODOLOGY AND STRATEGY

Trenches were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.85 m wide toothless ditching bucket down to the first significant archaeological horizons, or failing this to natural subsoil. The resulting surfaces were cleaned, planned, levelled, and photographed; where applicable a sample section was excavated through the fills of features. The finds strategy complied with the Carver finds retrieval strategy; a sample of finds from the overburden was kept for analysis, and all finds were kept from hand excavated contexts of potentially significant deposits. Palaeoenvironmental bulk samples were extracted for provisional analysis from selected deposits of interest. Recording was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the OAU field manual (edited David Wilkinson 1992).

Trench locations were surveyed into the national OS-grid using a total station theodolite and were plotted using "Penmap" software.

6 THE RESULTS

Rather than providing a trench-by-trench description, this section has been organized into four areas within which an account of the results will be presented (figure 2). A table of contexts is provided in appendix 1.

6.1 Area 1: The western end of the site; trenches 1-11

Area 1 comprises trenches 1 to 11, at the western end of the site. The aerial photographic assessment failed to identify any crop-mark features in this area; excavation revealed a low to moderate concentration of features, and only trenches 9 and 10 were void of features of potential archaeological interest.

6.1.1 The natural superficial geology within this area comprised a greater proportion of fine-grained sediments than the natural observed in the other areas and the fills of features were clayey. All the features identified were sealed by ploughsoil; trenches 2, 7, 9, and 10 revealed the remains of an earlier ploughsoil which also overlay the features. The depths of the upper and lower ploughsoils were typically 0.3 m and 0.14 m respectively. The depth of the ploughsoils in area 1 varies little when compared with trenches in the middle and eastern end of the site, however the natural geology in area 1 is noticeably more clayey. These clayey conditions probably contribute to the poor crop response evident in this area from the aerial photograph assessment.

6.1.2 Ditches and gullies identified in trenches 7, 8, and 11 were on an NW/SE-alignment, respecting the orientation of the cropmarks identified in the field north of the development area. Ditches and gullies in trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were orientated N/S and E/W.

The NW/SE-aligned gully identified in trench 11 may represent a continuation of the westernmost linear cropmark feature identified on the aerial photograph plots

(figure 2). Ditches 707 maybe part of the same feature as 808, 810 or 811 which follow the same NW/SE-alignment. The profiles of sections 707 and 808 are however markedly different (figure 7) and features 810 and 811 were unexcavated.

No clear relationship exists between ditch sections 110, 204, 303, and 405. Profiles indicate recuts in sections 204 and 303 (figure 7). The N/S-aligned ditch in trench 1 (110) became shallower at its northern extent suggesting that it may terminate beyond the northern edge of trench 1. A circular pit (112), 0.75m in diameter, cut the upper fill of ditch 110 (113). Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fills of ditch 110, dated between the late-1st and 2nd centuries.

A NE/SW-aligned rectilinear feature (316) was identified in trench 3, 1.38 m long and 0.38 m wide and with a surviving depth of 0.27 m. The trench was extended to identified whether this feature was part of a broken ditch/gully, but no associated features were recovered.

6.1.3 Irregular ovoid features were identified in trenches 3 and 5. Features 305, 307 and 503 were excavated. Figure 6 shows a detailed plan of feature 503, and its irregular shape and profile suggest that this is a geological feature. Flecks of charcoal identified in the fills of similar irregular features, 305 and 307, may be indicative of tree clearance.

6.2. Area 2: The central area of the site; trenches 12-18

Area 2 comprises trenches 12 to 18, in the central area of the site. The aerial photographic assessment identified two NW/SE-aligned linear crop-mark features in the south-west, and a concentration of similarly orientated features in the north of this area, closest to the cropmarks in the adjacent field to the north. Excavations in trench 18 identified a high concentration of NW/SE-aligned features, and trenches 12, 13, and 14 identified ditches and gullies. Trenches 15, 16 and 17 were void of features of potential archaeological interest.

6.2.1 Figure 4 provides a detailed plan with profiles of the features identified in trench 18. Ditch 1806, which is a recut of ditch 1820, represents the linear cropmark which runs through the development area from the northern field, where it is adjacent on the south-western side to the possible occupation area marked on the aerial photo plots. The position of gullies 1817 and 1818 suggested that they may be part of an L-shaped feature seen on the aerial phot plots (figure 2). The trench was extended with the intention of identifying the return of the feature, but it was not located.

Parallel gullies 1818 and 1809 were recut as 1817 and 1812 respectively. These cuts together with recut 1806 suggest that these boundaries were re-established.

6.2.2 Ditch sections 1306 and 1405 represent a NW/SE-aligned linear feature which runs through the centre of area 2 (figure 2). Trench 13 was extended to reveal the relationship between the NE/SW-aligned ditch 1304 and 1306. The

excavated section shows that 1304 cuts the upper fill (1305) of 1306.

6.2.3 A NE/SW-aligned U-shaped ditch (1203) was recorded at the western end of trench 12. Aerial photo plots suggested that a NW/SE-aligned feature would run through the centre of trench 12, but despite close examination this feature was not found.

6.3 Area 3: The D-shaped enclosure; trenches 19, 25, 31, 32

Area 3 comprises trenches 19, 25, 31 and 32. The aerial photographic assessment identified a D-shaped cropmark in this area. Two additional trenches were excavated to enable an interpretation to be made as to whether this feature was man-made.

6.3.1 Figure 5 illustrates trenches excavated in area 3, showing their position in relation to the D-shaped feature. A wide shallow SW/NE-aligned feature (2510), 0.1 m deep and filled with a clayey sand was observed at the northern-end of trench 25. This feature was above/ or cut the reddish brown sandy clay (2501). A similarly shallow feature (3103) was observed in trench 31, which was 2.5 m wide, filled with a sandy deposit (3102), and cut clay natural. Bands of the same sandy deposit, not found elsewhere during the evaluation, were visible in trenches 19 and 32 (figure 5). It is likely that these features are naturally formed, and may represent the meandering course of a low-energy shallow watercourse. It is suggested that features 3104, 3203, 3205, and 3207, which all exhibited irregular forms, represent natural depositional events associated with the water course.

6.3.2 A E/W-aligned gully (3209), which cut the clayey sand in the south of trench 32 and a NE/SW-aligned U-shaped feature (1905) in the west of trench 19 are the only archaeological features identified in area 3.

6.3.3 Ill-defined shallow features 3211, 2507, 2503, 2505 and 1907 were naturally formed.

6.4 Area 4: The eastern area of the site; trenches 20-24, 26, 29, 30

Area 4 comprises trenches 20 to 24, 26, 29, and 30 in the eastern area of the site. The aerial photographic assessment identified a series of short NE/SW and NW/SE-aligned linear cropmark features, and a long NE/SW-aligned linear feature within this area. Two trenches positioned in the north-eastern corner of the field were not excavated (trenches 27 and 28) on the farmer's recommendation. These were close to a pond with a natural spring source, which was backfilled in the 1960's. Trenches 20, 21, 23 and 24 were void of features of potential archaeological interest.

6.4.1 An oval shaped shallow feature with a flat base (2103) was identified in trench 21. This was filled by a yellow clayey sand, and is most likely to be a natural depression. In trench 26, the fill (2605) of an oval shaped pit (2607) with vertical sides and a flat base was cut by an E/W-aligned V-shaped gully (2604)

(figure 7). Aerial photograph plots suggested that a NE/SW-aligned linear feature runs through the centre of this trench , but this feature was not identified.

6.4.2 A section through the NE/SW-aligned linear feature running through area 4, was excavated in trench 29. The feature (2908) had an irregular profile, with a vertical western edge and a gradually sloping eastern edge. It was filled by a light grey (2906) and a dark brown (2907) sandy silt. It is uncertain whether this feature is archaeological or natural in origin.

Two irregularly shaped features (2905 and 2903) filled with clayey sands (2902 and 2904) were recorded in the eastern-end of trench 29, and are likely to be natural depressions.

6.4.3 A series of postholes (some with wooden posts surviving: 3005, 3011, 3013, 3016, 3019) and a pit (3022) were identified in Trench 30, the closest trench to the boundary of Barn Farm. These are likely to represent more recent activity and could be part of a fence boundary erected in the 1950's, when the eastern area of the site was used for grazing (Aerial Photo Assessment).

7 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

7.1 Flint Analysis *by Philippa Bradley*

Three pieces of struck flint and 12 pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the evaluation. The flint is relatively good quality, one piece being stained yellow. The flint is lightly corticated. The worked flint consists of a single soft-hammer struck flake and two small chips. The burnt unworked flint is a reddish brown colour with light cracking and the fragments are generally quite small (c 5 g). Some of this material may result from more recent agricultural activity such as stubble burning. The assemblage lacks diagnostic pieces and is too small to provide any dating evidence.

7.2 Pottery Analysis

Only six sherds of pottery were recovered during the evaluation.

Three Roman sherds were recovered from the fills of ditch 110; one body sherd of south Gaulish decoration Samian dated to the late-1st century (108) and two shell tempered rim and body sherds dated between the 1st and 2nd centuries (109).

A tiny abraded sandy oxidized sherd was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 405 and another from the fill of ditch 808; these could be Roman or medieval in date.

A rim-sherd of sandy reduced fabric, burnished inside and out, dated between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, was recovered from the fill of rectangular pit 3022. This context is likely to be contaminated.

7.3 Environmental data

A total of 17 deposits were sampled (appendix 3). Following flotation onto 0.5 mm mesh to recover charred plant remains and a sample of the snails, each sample was passed through 10, 4 and 2 mm sieves to recover artefacts. The flots were assessed by Dr Mark Robinson, head of English Heritage's Environmental Archaeology Unit at the University Museum, Oxford.

7.3.1 Artefacts

No artefacts were recovered during the sieving. The flot from Sample 14 contains small fragments of coked and unburnt coal.

7.3.2 Charred remains

Samples 1, 3, 8, 13, 15 and 17 contained small amounts of wood charcoal fragments, but charred plant remains were absent from these samples as well as samples 5, 6, 7, 10 and 16. The small charcoal fragments include some oak (*Quercus*) in samples 2 and 17 and hazel/alder type (*Corylus/Alnus*) from sample 9, but were too small to be identifiable in the others.

Sample 11, taken from ditch fill 807, contains indicators of crop processing in the vicinity. Besides the small wood charcoal fragments it contains two unidentifiable cereal grains. Burnt chaff is present as a rachis node of barley (*Hordeum*) and a glume base probably of spelt wheat (*Triticum cf. spelta*), the characteristic wheat crop of the Iron Age and Roman periods. Arable weed seeds include probable brome grass (cf. *Bromus* sp.), and vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), but in numbers too small to indicate whether the crop was produced locally or was imported.

Other samples have weak indicators of crop processing. Sample 12, taken from the fill of ditch 1806, has a single unidentifiable cereal grain and four weed seeds, one of red bartsia (*Odontites verna*), one of goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) and two unidentifiable. Sample 2, taken from the fill of gully 207, has a single seed of goosegrass, and Sample 4, taken from a fill of ditch 110, has a single unidentifiable weed. Sample 14, taken from ploughsoil (1801), which overlay the ditches, has some free-threshing wheat.

7.3.3 Mollusca

Snails were recovered from several ditch fill samples. The species in each sample are listed in appendix 2. The snails recovered could have been living at various points up the ditch sides, from flowing water (either permanent flow or seasonal flooding) in the ditch bottom through damp ground on the sides to dry ground at the ditch edges. The stagnant water snail *Lymnaea truncatula*, the intermediate host of the sheep liver-fluke, is a weak indicator of the unsuitability of the site for sheep, but the snail fauna recovered so far is too small to clarify how the fields defined by the ditches were used. The succession in ditch 1806 from stagnant water and dry ground (Sample 13) to flowing water (Sample 12) may indicate a

rising water table. It is also possible that the aquatic species have been washed down the soil profile into the ditch fills from a later covering of alluvium which has been removed recently. The snail (subfamily Helicellinae) in Sample 14 is a medieval introduction.

7.3.4 Summary of results

Charred remains are present, but in very low concentrations. Crop processing in the vicinity is indicated. The wheat recovered makes it probable that the crop processing is of Iron Age or Roman date at least in part, but it is not clear if the crop was grown locally or imported.

Snails are present in the fills of ditches defining fields, but those recovered from these samples cannot define the use of the fields. A rising water table or subsequent widespread flooding and alluviation are both possible. The coal and medieval snail in Sample 14 argue strongly that the ploughsoil 1801 is a late medieval or later deposit. The coal was probably a component in basic slag or clinker strewn on the fields as a mineral supplement.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Reliability

8.1.1 The evaluation of trenches within area 1 began during periods of snow and rain. The natural geology in this area had a high portion of clay, which created difficult working conditions. When weather improved the trenches were checked to ensure that no features had been obscured during the poor weather conditions.

8.1.2 Figure 2 shows the results of the excavations superimposed on the aerial photograph plots. When making such comparisons it is necessary to take full account of the values for error of the control points from both plots. The aerial photograph rectifications were prepared to an accuracy of below ± 2 m. The trench locations were plotted using a total station theodolite. The control points taken from the OS 1:1250 map during this survey were not ideal, but an accuracy of ± 1 m is expected. It should be noted that resultant errors greater than a trench width could occur.

8.1.2 Three features identified on the aerial photograph plots as crossing the positions of trenches 12, 19, and 26 were not identified during excavations. Since all three of these features would have been located in the middle of these trenches it is unlikely that they were missed due to survey error.

8.2 Preservation

8.2.1 Modern plough ruts were visible in the natural geology in a large percentage of trenches excavated, demonstrating the continued levelling of archaeological features. It is probable that buried surfaces originally associated

with the negative features identified have been destroyed, and that the features recorded have been severely truncated.

8.2.2 Only six pottery sherds were recovered from 67 excavated sections. These were small fragmented sherds which in some cases had been heavily abraded. No artefacts were recovered from the 130 litres of soil samples taken from 17 contexts. Environmental sampling indicates that charred remains are present but in low concentrations. Snails are present in the fills of ditches, further sampling of which could add to the understanding of the site.

8.3 Interpretation

The low quantity of artefacts recovered from excavated features, makes clear interpretation difficult. No dates can be attributed to features with certainty, although the proximity of identified Roman sites (MAR23 and MAR35) and cropmarks in the area that have been attributed to the Roman period from results from the Fenland Survey, imply a Roman date. Of the six sherds of pottery recovered on the site, four are certainly Roman in date.

8.3.1 Areas 1 and 2

Ditches and gullies identified in trenches 7, 8, 13, 14 and 18 have a general NW/SE-alignment a similar orientation to those identified on the aerial photograph plots in the northern field, which enclose an area of dark soil. Many of the fenland settlement sites show on the ground as dark areas caused either by spreads of occupation soil or burnt debris (Palmer 1995). The scarcity of artefactual and charred remains identified from the ditches in this evaluations suggests that they are peripheral to the main concentration of activity to the north of the development area, and probably represent field boundaries. Profiles of the ditches and gullies identified in trench 18 (figure 4; sections 2 and 4) indicate that these boundaries had been re-established.

Environmental Sample 11, taken from ditch fill 807, contained two unidentifiable cereal grains, perhaps an indication of crop processing in the vicinity. Arable weed seeds were also found including probable brome grass (cf. *Bromus* sp.), and vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), but in numbers too small to indicate whether the crop was produced locally or was imported. Sample 12, taken from a fill of ditch 1806, has a single unidentifiable cereal grain and four weed seeds. These samples are of potential interest, although the small quantities of surviving environmental material prevents more detailed interpretation. Further targeted sampling of dated contexts may add further to our understanding of the site.

Ditches and gullies in trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were on N/S and E/W-alignments, and it is likely that these features are indicative of a different phase of activity on the site. Three of the six pottery sherds recovered during the evaluation were found in the fills of ditch 110, and were dated between the 1st and 2nd centuries. This could tentatively imply a phase of activity between the 1st and 2nd centuries, perhaps preceded by further activity represented by the features in area 2.

8.3.2 Area 3

The aerial photo assessment identified a D-shaped feature formed by broad ditches (Palmer 1995). Enclosures of this shape are not commonly found in Fenland situations, although one twice the size of this example has been identified at Cottenham, 30 km to the south of the site.

Excavation identified bands of clayey sand deposits, not found elsewhere during the evaluation, in the projected location of the D-shaped feature (figure 5). It is likely that the D-shaped feature is naturally formed, and may represent the course of a meandering low-energy watercourse. It is suggested that features identified within these sand deposits (3104, 3203, 3205, and 3207) represent natural depositional events associated with the water course.

8.3.3 Area 4

A section through the NE/SW-aligned linear feature running through area 4, was excavated in trench 29. The ditch (2908) had an irregular profile and its fills were different to those of other ditches excavated during the evaluation. It is tentatively suggested that this feature and a series of postholes (some with wooden posts surviving: 3005, 3011, 3013, 3016, 3019) and a pit (3022) identified in Trench 30, represent more recent activity associated with grazing. The aerial photograph assessment indicates that the eastern area of the site was used for grazing in the 1950s (Palmer 1995).

9 Recommendations

9.1 The proposed extraction of clay from the site will destroy all archaeological remains within the development area. However, an extensive programme of further excavation is difficult to justify when considering the evidence obtained from the field evaluation. The lack of dating evidence and low concentrations of environmental material would imply that a phased interpretation of the site would be difficult to achieve.

9.2 The environmental assessment suggests that should further work be undertaken at the site, earlier buried soils which are likely to be contemporary with the ditches should be sought, and samples for charred plant remains should be taken from the fills in those features (including ditched boundaries) whose artefactual content make them readily datable. These objectives would be difficult to achieve. It is probable that buried surfaces originally associated with the negative features identified, have been destroyed by intensive ploughing, and that all the features recorded have been severely truncated.

9.3 A combination of Phosphate and Magnetic Susceptibility analysis will detect areas of enhancement resulting from both human and animal activity (Gurney 1985). This method of analysis could potentially be utilized to identify whether the field boundaries across the site, are associated with past grazing or agriculture. The presence of post-medieval basic slag or clinker-spreading

identified from environmental sampling, and the likely spreading of modern mineral fertiliser on the fields, will however render phosphate distribution across the site very difficult to interpret.

9.4 It is suggested that a watching-brief be carried out. If the ploughsoils were stripped from areas 1 and 2, a detailed plan could be made of the underlying features. The north-end of area 2, closest to the cropmark features in the adjacent field, and south-western corner of area 1, exposing the extent of the N/S and E/W-aligned features, would be of prime interest. This would add to the understanding of the relationships between features, and perhaps differentiate phases of activity across the site. This could be incorporated with a selected environmental sampling strategy, aimed particularly at obtaining samples from features that may enable an interpretation of past landuse within the local environment.

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28 April 1995

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Appendix 1: List of Stratigraphy

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
100	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.3 m	n	
101	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravels	Unknown	n	
102	Layer	Plough disturbance	0.15	n	
103	Layer	Fill of N/S-aligned truncated gully	0.24	n	
104	Cut	N/S-linear gully aligned with modern field boundaries	0.24	n/a	n/a
105	Layer	Fill of ditch 110	0.22	n	Sample 5
106	Layer	Fill of ditch 110	0.12	n	
107	Layer	Fill of ditch 110	0.16	n	
108	Layer	Fill of Ditch 110	0.09	One sherd of Roman Samian, late 1st century	Sample 4
109	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 110	0.06	2 sherds of 1-2 century shell-tempered fabric	
110	Cut	N/S-aligned ditch terminus	0.46	n/a	n/a
111	Layer	fill of large pit/posthole	0.6	n	
112	Cut	Pit/posthole:cuts fill 113	0.6	n/a	n/a
113	Layer	Top fill of ditch 110	0.16	n	
201	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.28	n	
202	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.1	n	
203	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial sands and gravels	Unknown	n	
204	Cut	NNE/SSW-aligned ditch	0.44	n/a	
205	Layer	Fill of ditch 204	0.44	n	
206	Cut	Re-cut of 204	0.44	n/a	
207	Layer	Fill of re-cut 206	0.44	n	Sample 6
300	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.3	n	
301	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
302	Layer	Fill of an irregular ovoid, possible tree hole	0.32	n	Sample 8
303	Cut	Irregular ovoid shaped feature: possible tree hole	0.32	n/a	
304	Layer	Fill of irregular shaped feature	0.19	n	Sample 1

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Finds	Environmental Samples
305	Cut	Root/animal disturbance	0.19	n/a	
306	Layer	Fill of possible pit/posthole or root disturbance	0.1	n	
307	Cut	Truncated pit or root disturbance	0.1	n/a	
308	Layer	Fill of unexcavated irregular feature	Unknown	n	
309	Layer	Fill of unexcavated irregular feature	Unknown	n	
310	Layer	Fill of unexcavated irregular feature	Unknown	n	
311	Layer	Fill of short regular rectangular feature	0.27	n	Samples 3 and 9
312	Layer	Fill of possible posthole or root disturbance	Unknown	n	
313	Layer	Fill of 305	0.19	n	
314	Layer	Root disturbance	Unknown	n	
315	Layer	Fill of ovoid feature 303	0.28	n	
316	Cut	Short rectangular feature (1.38 x 0.38)	0.27	n/a	
400	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.32	n	
401	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravels and sand	Unknown	n	
402	Layer	Upper fill of ditch 405	0.1	One sherd of Sandy oxidized ware, Roman or Medieval	
403	Layer	fill of ditch 405	0.08	n	
404	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 405	0.17	n	Sample 7
405	Cut	E/W-aligned ditch, naturally silted up	0.3	n/a	
501	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.34	n	
502	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravels and sand	Unknown	n	
503	Cut	Geological feature	0.4	n/a	
504	Layer	Fill of geological feature	0.22	n	
505	Layer	Upper fill of geological feature	0.18	n	
600	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.33	n	
601	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravel and sands	Unknown	n	
602	Layer	Fill of NE/SW-aligned gully 604	0.2	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
603	Layer	Fill of 604	0.24	n	
604	Cut	NE/SW-aligned gully	0.24	n/a	
605	Layer	Fill of N/S-aligned pipe trench	Unknown	n	
606	Cut	N/S-aligned pipe trench	Unknown	n/a	
700	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.3	n	
701	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
702	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravels and sand	Unknown	n	
703	Layer	Fill of a NW/SE-aligned ditch 707	0.09	n	
704	Layer	Fill of 707	0.08	n	
705	Layer	Fill of 707	0.1	n	
706	Layer	Primary fill of 707	0.03	n	
707	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.29	n/a	
800	Layer	Current Ploughsoil	0.46	n	
801	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravel	Unknown	n	
802	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.36	n	
803	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.36	n/a	
804	Cut	Land-drain	0.32	n/a	
805	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 808	0.24	n	
806	Layer	Fill of 808	0.14	n	
807	Layer	Fill of 808	0.29	One sherd of Sandy oxidized reduced ware, Roman or Medieval	
808	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.48	n/a	
809	Layer	Fill of NE/SW-aligned ditch	Unknown	n	
810	Layer	Fill of NNW/SSE-aligned ditch	Unknown	n	
811	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch	Unknown	n	
812	Layer	Fill of Land-drain 804	0.28	n	
900	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.32	n	
901	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
902	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sands and gravel	Unknown	n	
1000	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.28	n	
1001	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
1002	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
1003	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1004	Cut	Land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1100	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.4	n	
1101	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sands and gravels	Unknown	n	
1102	Layer	Fill of shallow gully 1104	0.15	n	
1103	Layer	Fill of 1104	0.18	n	
1104	Cut	Shallow E/W-aligned gully	0.22	n/a	
1105	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned recut gully 1108	0.27	n	
1106	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned gully 1116, recut by 1108	0.16	n	
1107	Layer	Fill of 1116	0.11	n	
1108	Cut	NW/SE-aligned gully, recut of 1116	0.27	n/a	
1109	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1110	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1111	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1112	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1113	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1114	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned plough furrow	Unknown	n	
1115	Layer	Fill of ill-defined feature	Unknown	n	
1116	Cut	NW/SE-aligned gully, recut by 1108	0.27	n/a	
1200	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.38	n	
1201	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sands and gravel	Unknown	n	
1202	Layer	Fill of NE/SW-aligned ditch 1203	0.36	n	Sample 16
1203	Cut	NE/SW-aligned ditch, 0.76 m width	0.36	n/a	
1204	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1301	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.24	n	
1302	Layer	Upper fill of ditch 1304	0.24	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
1303	Layer	Fill of ditch 1304	0.24	n	
1304	Cut	NE/SW-aligned ditch, cuts fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1305	0.25	n/a	
1305	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1306	0.56	n	
1306	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch, with steep sides and flat base	0.52	n/a	
1307	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sands and gravels	Unknown	n	
1401	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.28	n	
1402	Layer	Upper fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1405	0.16	n	
1403	Layer	Fill of 1405	0.26	n	Sample 17
1404	Layer	Primary fill of 1405	0.4	n	
1405	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.5	n/a	
1500	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.28	n	
1501	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
1502	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
1503	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1504	Cut	E/W- aligned land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1600	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.24	n	
1601	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
1602	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravel	Unknown	n	
1603	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1604	Cut	Fill of E/W-aligned land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1605	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1606	Cut	Land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1700	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.28	n	
1701	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
1702	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
1800	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.24	n	
1801	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	Sample 14
1802	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
1803	Layer	Top fill of ditch 1806	0.14	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
1804	Layer	Fill of ditch 1806	0.16	n	Sample 12
1805	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1806	0.1	n	Sample 13
1806	Cut	NW/SE-aligned, 1.04 m wide ditch	0.4	n/a	
1807	Layer	top fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1809	0.07	n	
1808	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1809	0.12	n	
1809	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch, 0.84m wide	0.22	n/a	
1810	Layer	Top fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1812	0.12	n	
1811	Layer	Fill of ditch 1812	0.14	n	
1812	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch	0.34	n/a	
1813	Layer	Top fill of NW/SE-aligned ditch 1816	0.12	Fragment of animal bone	
1814	Layer	Fill of ditch 1816	0.1	n	
1815	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1816	0.16	n	
1816	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch, 0.74 m wide	0.3	n/a	
1817	Cut	NW/SE-aligned V-shaped ditch, 0.92 m wide	0.42	n/a	
1818	Cut	NW/SE-aligned, possibly associated with ditch 1806	0.48	n/a	
1819	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1820	0.32	n	
1820	Cut	NW/SE-aligned ditch, recut by ditch 1806	0.32	n/a	
1821	Layer	Top fill of ditch 1817	0.16	n	
1822	Layer	Fill of ditch 1817	0.12		
1823	Layer	Primary fill of 1817	0.16	n	
1824	Layer	Top fill of ditch 1818	0.16	n	
1825	Layer	??redeposited natural	0.16	n	Sample 15
1826	Layer	Fill of ditch 1818	0.14	n	
1827	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1818	0.14	n	
1828	Layer	Fill of land-drain	0.1	n	
1829	Cut	Land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1830	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1831	Cut	Land-drain	0.1	n/a	
1832	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1833	Cut	Land-drain	Unknown	n/a	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Finds	Environmental Samples
1834	Layer	Fill of land-drain	Unknown	n	
1835	Cut	Land-drain	Unknown	n/a	
1836	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 1812	0.1	n	
1900	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.24	n	
1901	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
1902	Layer	Fill of a NE/SW-aligned gully 1903	0.19	n	
1903	Cut	NE/SW-aligned shallow U-shaped gully	0.19	n	
1904	Layer	Fill of NE/SW-aligned U-shaped gully	0.15	n	
1905	Cut	NE/SW-aligned U-shaped gully	0.15	n	
1906	Layer	Shallow pit/natural depression	0.15	n	
1907	Cut	Shallow oval shaped pit/natural depression	0.15	n	
1908	Layer	Deep area of clean loose sand?? possible stream course	0.4	n	
2000	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.22	n	
2001	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.14	n	
2002	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sands and gravel	Unknown	n	
2100	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.32	n	
2101	Layer	Inter-glacial sands and gravel	Unknown	n	
2102	Layer	Fill of a natural depression 2103	0.1	n	
2103	Cut	Natural depression	0.1	n	
2104	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.1	n	
2200	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.22	n	
2201	Layer	Earlier ploughsoil	0.16	n	
2202	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
2300	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.32	n	
2301	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
2302	Layer	Inter-glacial sands	up to 0.3	n	
2303	Layer	very loose clean sand	0.4	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
2400	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.34	n	
2401	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels	Unknown	n	
2500	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.3	n	
2501	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial gravel and sands	Unknown	n	
2502	Layer	Fill of a natural depression 2503	0.24	n	
2503	Cut	Natural depression	0.24	n	
2504	Layer	Fill of shallow depression in natural	0.15	n	
2505	Cut	Shallow depression cutting natural	0.15	n	
2506	Layer	Fill of WNW/ESE-aligned gully 2507	0.34	n	Sample 2
2507	Cut	WNW/ESE-aligned irregularly shaped feature	0.33	n/a	
2508	Layer	Fill of posthole 2509	0.1	n	
2509	Cut	Posthole, dark fill suggests recent in origin	0.1	n/a	
2510	Layer	Fill of SW/NE-aligned feature 2511	0.1	n	
2511	Cut	SW/NE-aligned feature >2 m wide: possible represents part of D-shaped feature seen on AP plots	0.1	n/a	
2600	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.32	n	
2601	Layer	Till and inter-glacial gravel and sands	Unknown	n	
2602	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned ditch 2604	0.3	Fragments of bone	
2603	Layer	Primary fill of ditch 2604	0.1	n	
2604	Cut	E/W-aligned V-shaped ditch, 0.8 m wide	0.4	n/a	
2605	Layer	fill of pit 2607	0.28	n	
2607	Cut	Oval shaped pit, cut by ditch 2604	0.3	n	
2900	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.4	n	
2901	Layer	Till and inter-glacial sand and gravels, cut by recent plough furrows	Unknown	n	
2902	Layer	Fill of natural depression 2903	0.14	n	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Finds	Environmental Samples
2903	Cut	Irregular depression in natural	0.14	n/a	
2904	Layer	Fill of natural feature 2905	0.26	n	
2905	Cut	Irregular shaped feature in natural	0.26	n/a	
2906	Layer	Fill of 2908	0.2	n	
2907	Layer	fill of 2908	0.08	n	
2908	Cut	NNE/SSW-aligned, old stream course?	0.3	n/a	
2909	Layer	Fill of natural depression	0.15	n	
2910	Cut	NNE/SSW-aligned, old stream course?	0.15	n/a	
3000	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.34	n	
3001	Layer	Tills and inter-glacial sands and gravels	Unknown	n	
3002	Layer	Fill of land-drain 3003	0.22	n	
3003	Cut	Land-drain	0.22	n/a	
3004	Layer	Fill of post-pipe	0.3	n	
3005	Layer	Post-pipe, containing post: likely C19/20 date	0.3	n	
3006	Layer	Fill of posthole 3007	0.3	n	
3007	Cut	Sub-rectangular posthole, containing post: likely C19/20 date	0.3	n/a	
3008	Layer	Fill of posthole 3011	0.23	n	
3009	Layer	Fill of posthole 3011	0.2	n	
3010	Layer	Fill of posthole 3011	0.13	n	
3011	Cut	Subrectangular posthole: Likely C19/20 date	0.34	n/a	
3012	Layer	Fill of posthole 3013	0.06	n	
3013	Cut	Square posthole containing remains of post: Likely C19/20 date	0.06	n/a	
3014	Layer	Fill of posthole 3016	0.05	n	
3015	Layer	Fill of posthole 3016	0.2	n	
3016	Cut	Oval shaped posthole: Likely C19/20 date	0.3	n/a	
3017	Layer	Fill of posthole 3019	0.08	n	
3018	Layer	Fill of posthole 3019	0.36	n	
3019	Cut	Oval shaped posthole: likely C19/20 date	0.4	n/a	

Context Number	Type of context	Interpretation/Comments	Depth of deposit	Findings	Environmental Samples
3020	Layer	Fill of subrectangular pit 3022	0.03	n	
3021	Layer	Fill of pit 3022, contaminated	0.2	one sherd of lower neene valley ware, late 2nd /3rd century.	
3022	Cut	Subrectangular pit, 1 x 0.7 m dimension	0.12	n	
3100	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.31	n	
3101	Layer	Natural sandy clay	Unknown	n	
3102	Layer	Fill of shallow natural feature	0.19	n	
3103	Cut	NE/SW-aligned shallow feature, old stream course	0.19	n/a	
3104	Layer	Fill of NW/SE-aligned gully 3105	0.3	n	
3105	Cut	NW/SE-aligned U-shaped gully	0.3	n/a	
3200	Layer	Current ploughsoil	0.34	n	
3201	Layer	Natural sandy clay	Unknown	n	
3202	Layer	Fill of natural depression	0.32	n	
3203	Cut	E/W-aligned feature, 0.3 m wide	0.4	n/a	
3204	Layer	Fill of shallow depression	0.2	n	
3205	Cut	Irregular depression in natural	0.2	n/a	
3206	Layer	Fill of a natural depression	0.2	n	
3207	Cut	Depression in natural	0.2	n/a	
3208	Layer	Fill of a depression in the natural	0.23	n	
3209	Cut	U-shaped E/W-aligned gully, 0.4 m wide	0.23	n/a	
3210	Layer	Fill of E/W-aligned shallow depression in the natural	0.06	1 flint flake	
3211	Cut	E/w-aligned shallow depression in the natural	0.06		

Appendix 2: Snails from sampled deposits

Habitat	Snail	Sample No.						
		4	12	13	14	15	16	17
aquatic	<i>Planorbis</i> sp.			+		+		
flowing water	<i>Bithynia</i> sp.						+	+
	<i>Bithynia tenticulata</i>		+			+		
	<i>Valvata cristata</i>		+					
stagnant water	<i>Limnia trunculata</i>	+		+				+
	<i>Armiger crista</i>					+		
damp ground	<i>Vallonia pulchella</i>					+		+
dry ground	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.			+				+
	<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>			+		+		+
	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>							+
	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>			+				
	subfam. Helicellinae				+			
dry shade	<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>							+
dry shade	<i>Vitria</i> sp.							+

Appendix 3

Sample No.	Cxt No.	Vol (l)	Date	Interpretation and comments
1	304	5	undated	sole fill of irregular feature 305, possible tree-hole
2	2506	9	undated	sole fill in gully 207
3	311	8	undated	sole fill in rectangular feature 316. Same as Sample 9
4	108	8	?Flavian	fill in terminus of ditch 110. Earlier than cxt 105 (SS 5)
5	105	8	?Flavian	fill in terminus of ditch 110. Seals 106, which seals 107, which seals 105 (SS 4)
6	207	7	undated	sole fill in ditch 206, which is a recut of ditch 204
7	404	4	undated	earliest fill in ditch 405
8	302	10	undated	sole fill in irregular ovoid feature 303, poss treehole
9	311	10	undated	same deposit as SS 3
10	705	2	undated	second fill in ditch 707, covers fill 706
11	807	6	undated	earliest fill in ditch 808
12	1804	10	undated	second fill in ditch 1806, seals 1805 (SS 13)
13	1805	9	undated	earliest fill in ditch 1806, under 1804 (SS 12)
14	1801	8	undated	possible relict ploughsoil. Under the modern ploughsoil, seals most cut features.
15	1826	9	undated	second fill in ditch 1818
16	1202	8	undated	sole fill in ditch 1203
17	1403	9	undated	second of three fills in ditch 1405

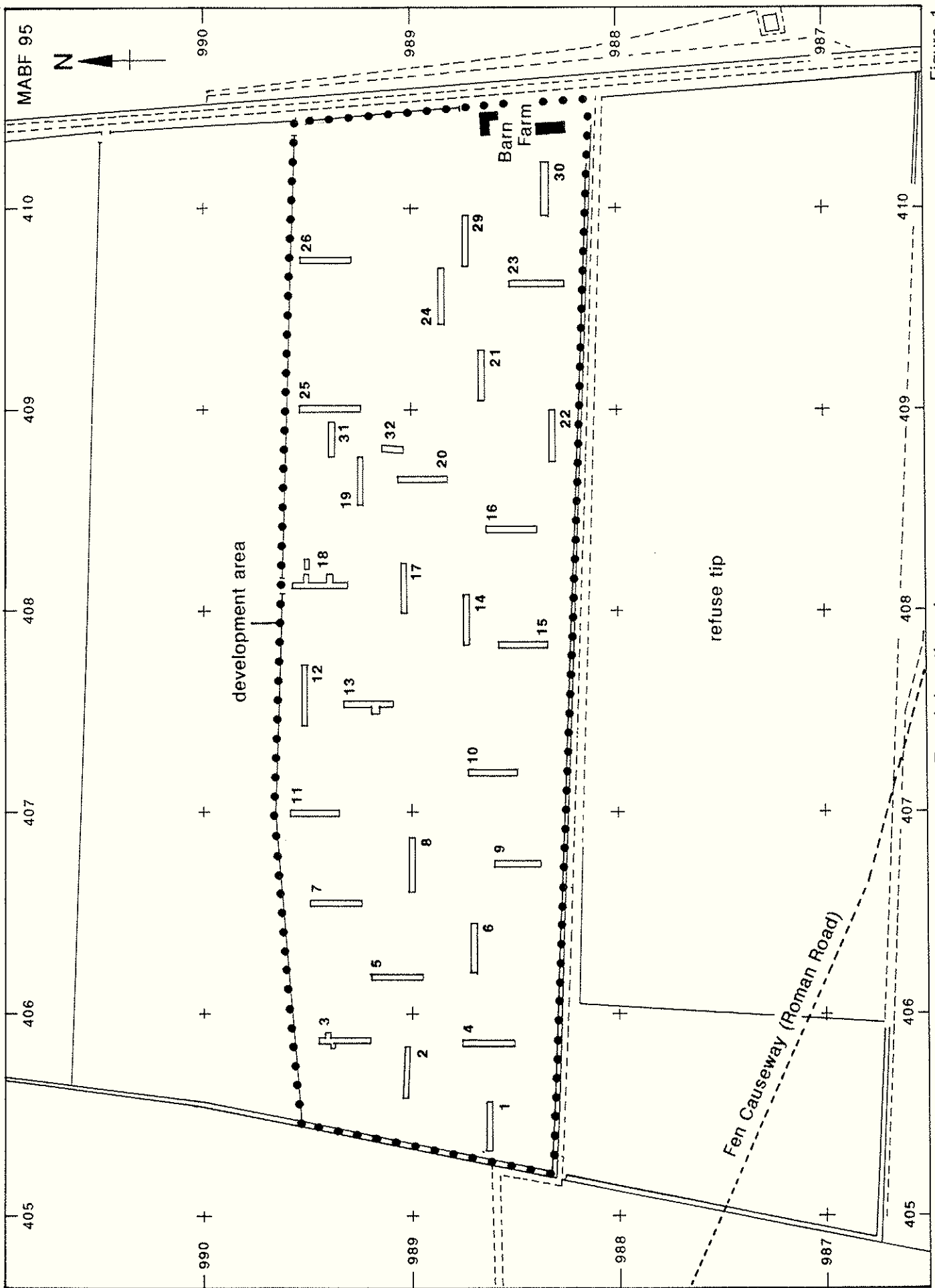


Figure 1

Trench location plan

scale 1:2500

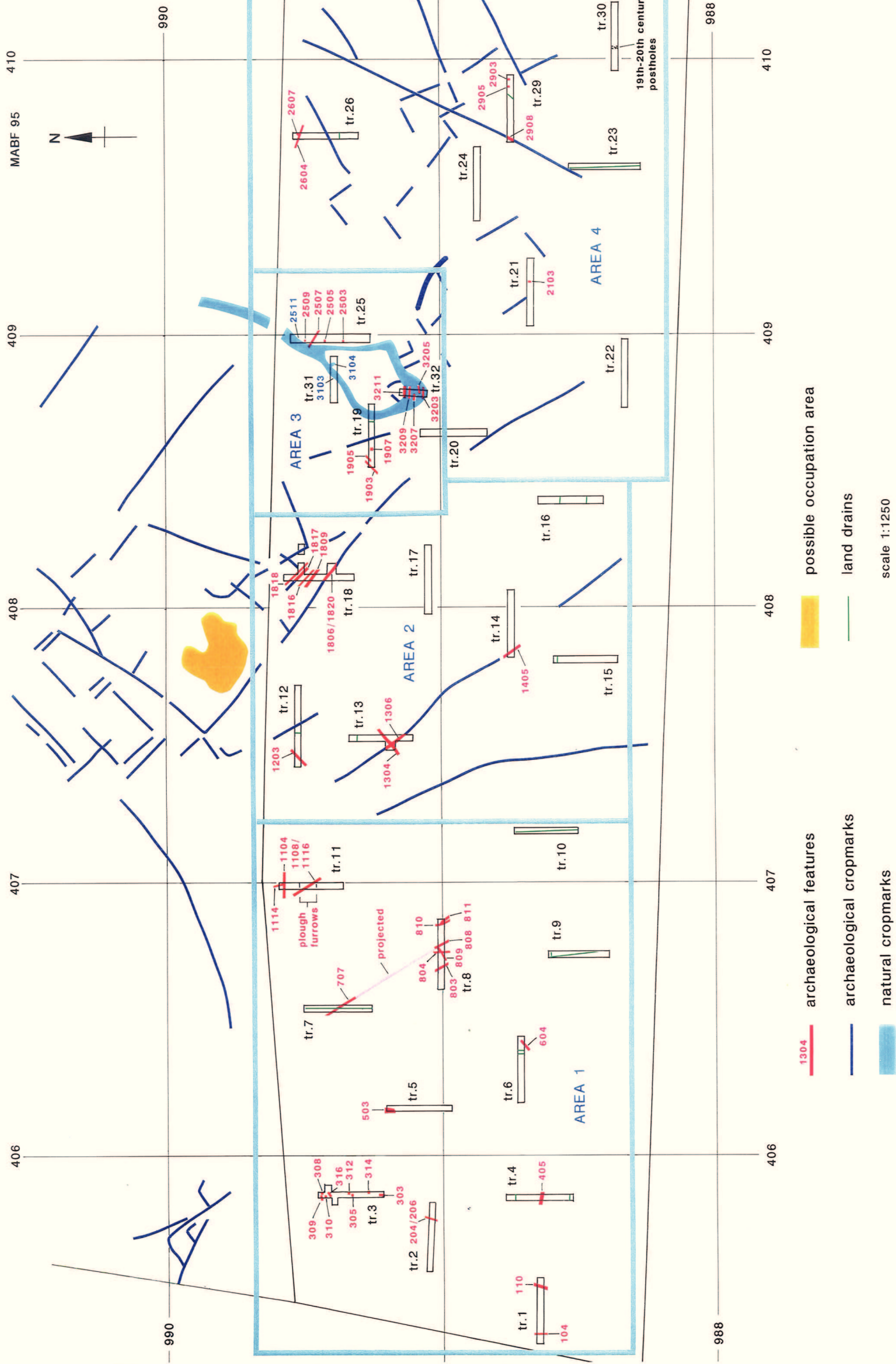
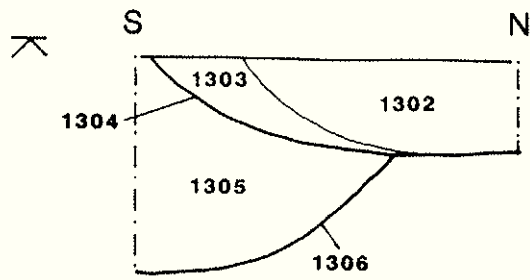


Figure 2

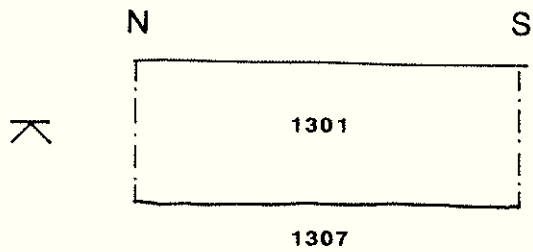
trench 13

section 1



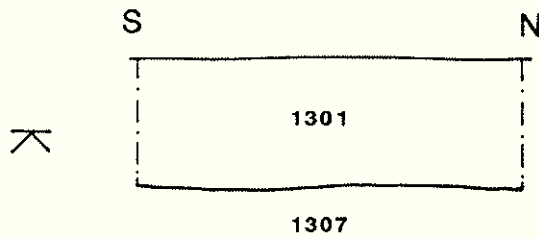
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section 2



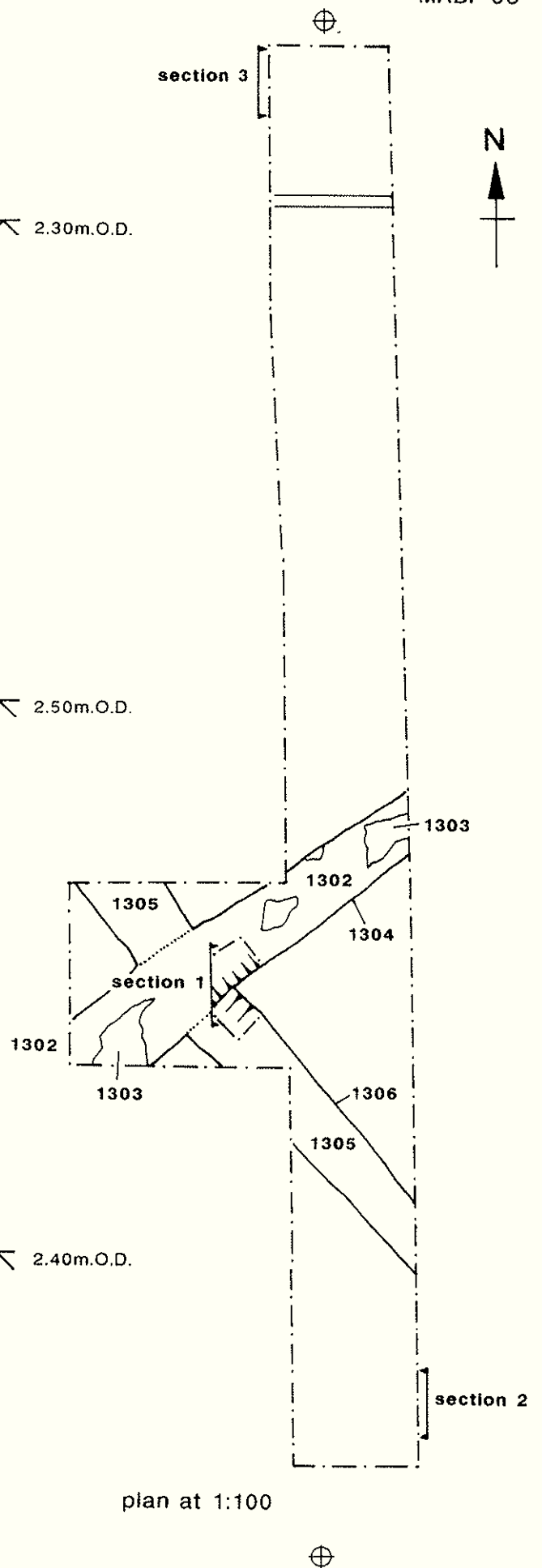
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section 3



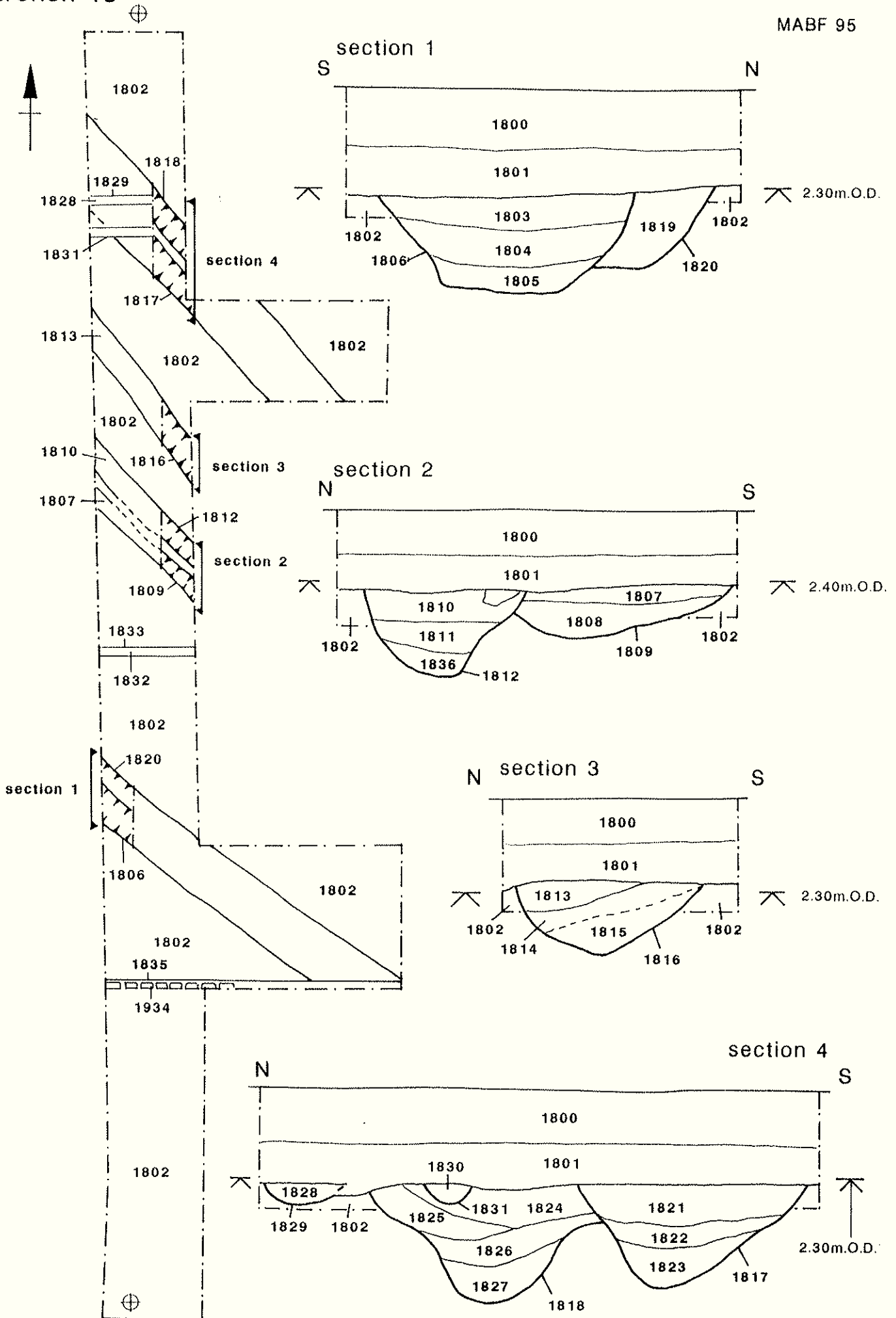
2.40m.O.D.

sections at 1:20



plan at 1:100

Figure 3



plan at 1:100

sections at 1:20

Figure 4

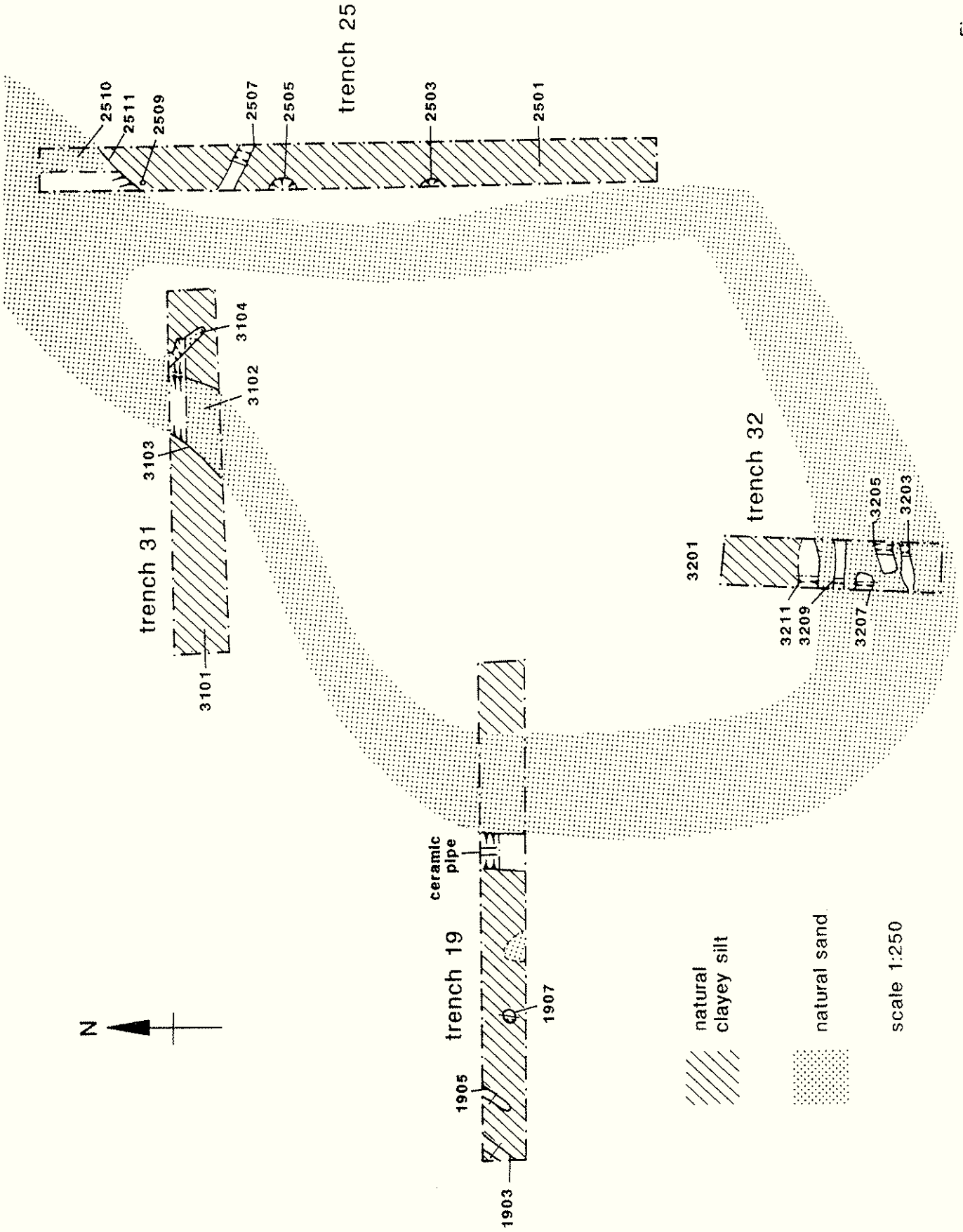
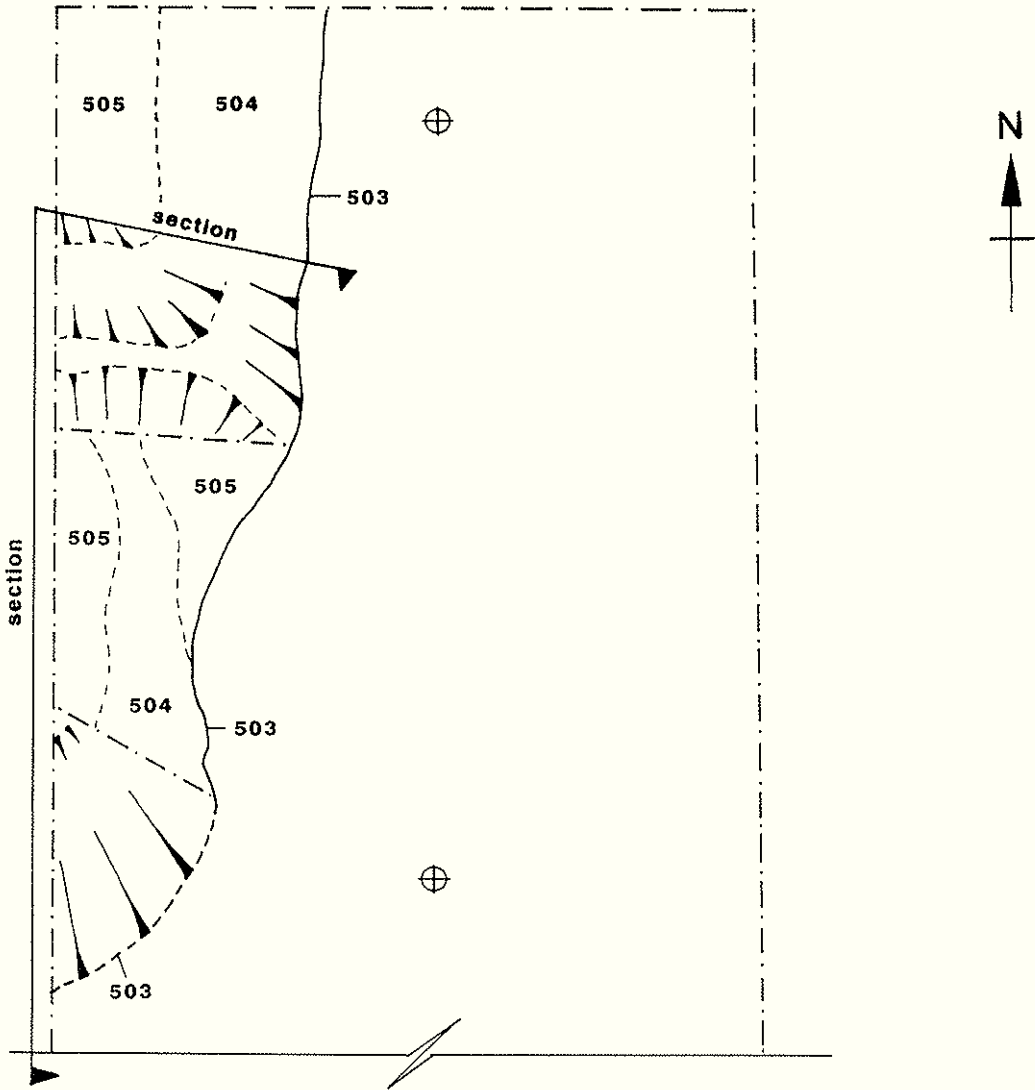


Figure 5



scale 1:20

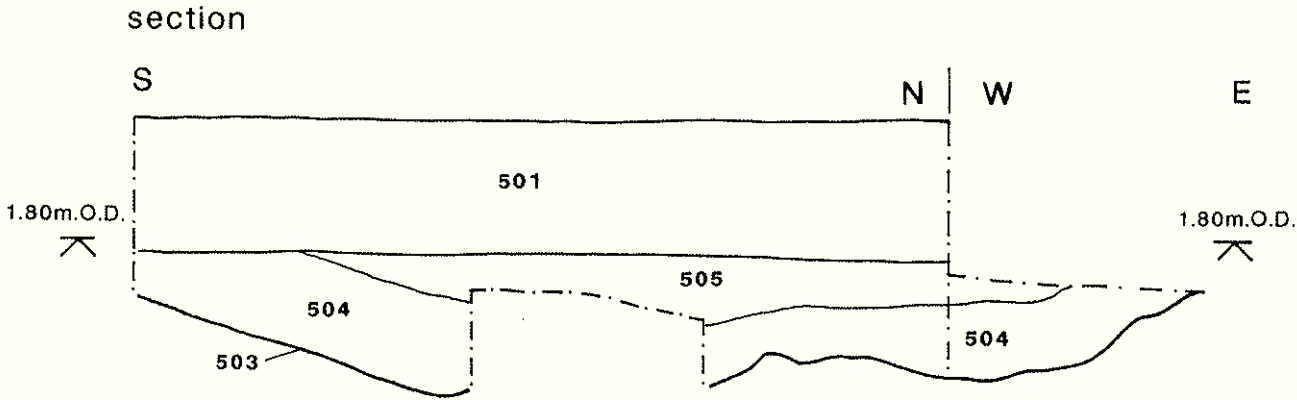
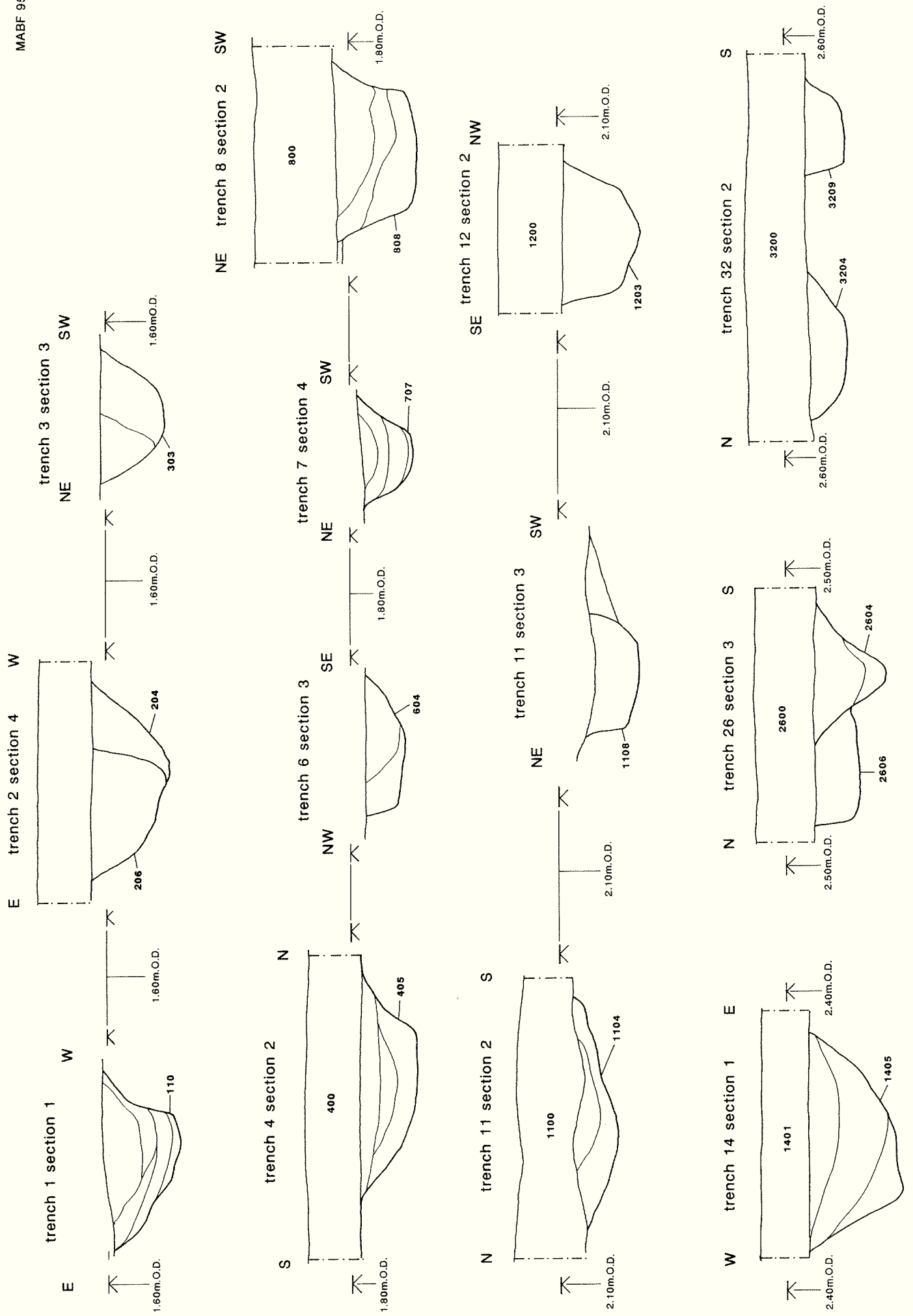


Figure 6



Examples of ditch profiles identified on the site scale 1:20

Figure 7

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