

DAGLINGWORTH (GL)

Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 DBFO Scheme

Daglingworth Quarry

Site code DAGQ 96

NGR SP 00340583



Archaeological Evaluation Report

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

**Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 DBFO Scheme:
Archaeological Evaluation Report**

DAGLINGWORTH QUARRY

Site code DAGQ96

**A report on the field evaluation undertaken between 12/02/96 and 23/02/96 at
land adjacent to Daglingworth Quarry, Daglingworth, Gloucestershire**

NGR SP 00340583

**Oxford Archaeological Unit
13 March 1996**

Contents		Page
	Summary	2
1	Introduction	2
2	Topographic and Geological background	4
3	Historic and Archaeological background	4
4	Methodology	5
5	Archaeological Results	6
6	Conclusions	9
	Bibliography	11
	Appendix 1: Context Descriptions	12

Figures

- 1 Site location plan
- 2 Trench and geotechnical testpit locations and aerial photograph rectifications
- 3 Aerial photograph (National Monuments Record SP 0005/6) showing cropmarks
- 4 Plan and sections of a possible dew pond recovered from Trench 1
- 5 Plan and section showing colluvial build up and tree-throw hole in Trench 12
- 6 A plan and sections of features in Trench 10
- 7 A section showing the extent of made ground in Trench 18
- 8 Plan and sections of Trench 14 showing two possible linear features

**Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 DBFO Scheme:
Archaeological Evaluation Report**

DAGLINGWORTH QUARRY

Parish/Site: Daglingworth Quarry

HA Project Design Reference: Annex 4, Appendix 1, Paragraph 4.2.2

Site Code: DAGQ96

Field Number: GCCAS Survey Nos 30 & 31

CPO Parcel: NOSNI 1 to 1a; [3] and 3a to 3 m

Chainage: 11800

National Grid Reference: SP 0034 0583

Summary

The evaluation comprised 18 trenches with dimensions of 2 x 30 m, and represents a 1.9 % sample of the area of development, part of the A417/A419 Swindon to Gloucester Road Improvement. Thirty-eight features were identified in 18 trench excavations, and 11 pottery sherds were recovered from two contexts. Thirty-seven of the features identified have been interpreted as natural in origin, and may represent periglacial solution holes or irregular tree root disturbance. The south-east extent of a clay-sealed rectangular feature that contained a limestone surface was identified in Trench 1, and is the only feature deemed of archaeological significance. Aerial photographic evidence suggests that the stone-lined feature extends to the north-west, beyond the CPO boundary, and forms a square shape (approximately 9 x 9 m). This feature has been interpreted as the remains of a dew pond, provisionally dated between the 16th and 18th centuries.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a field evaluation at the above mentioned site which is affected by the A417/A419 Swindon to Gloucester Road Improvement. It has been prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) and Chris Blanford Associates (CBA) on behalf of Road Management Group (RMG) to fulfil the requirements of the Outline Project Design issued by the Highway Agency in DBFO, Schedule 4 Construction Requirements, Annex 4, which represents the brief for the work.

- 1.2 Annex 4, Appendix 1, paragraph 4.2.2 provides the following background information:

"Under the revised road scheme layout the area under investigation will be taken up with two roundabouts and associated access roads (Drg 9104/40/24A; A417 Trunk Road, Daglingworth Quarry Junction, Compulsory Purchase Order (No. SW) 199, Sheet 1, 3a-3m) an area of about 42, 100m², with an additional area of about 8,900 m² (A419/A417 Trunk Road, Cirencester and Stratton Bypass, CPO (No. SW) 199 Sheet 1, 1-1a) to the north-east."

"A further area of 5500m², in the southern part of the field to the east (OS Parcel 3545; A417 Truck Road Daglingworth Quarry Junction, Compulsory Purchase Order (No. SW) 199, sheet 1, 3j) was not evaluated as part of Stage 2 field evaluation of the A417/A419 Cirencester and Stratton Bypass (D Woodward pers. comm.)."

"The total unevaluated area under threat from the revised scheme is 56500 m²."

- 1.3 The area under investigation lies approximately 1 km south-west of cropmarks believed to be features associated with the "Tribal Capital" enclosure at Bagendon (Roberts 1989). Two further cropmarks are visible on National Monuments Record (NMR) air photograph SP 0005/6 (Figure 3); an open rectangular small ditched enclosure outside the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) boundary (GCC SMR No. 4783), and a closed rectangular feature which has not been noted and does not have a Sites and Monument record number (SMR No). There is no evidence for any other archaeology in the area.
- 1.4 The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the above mentioned site (OAU 1996) and a general WSI (OAU/CBA 1996) which covers general field work procedures undertaken by the OAU. This report should be read in conjunction with these documents.
- 1.5 The evaluation comprised 18 trenches with dimensions of 2 x 30 m. The placement of trenches was random with a slightly greater density of trenching in the areas of greater impact from the road. The trenches were designed to provide a representative 1.9 % sample of the total area of predicted impact. Two trenches (1 and 2) were targeted to identify cropmarks visible on NMR air photograph SP 0005/6, or features that may be associated with these cropmarks (Trenches 1 and 2). Eighteen of the 21 trenches proposed in the specific WSI were excavated. The exclusion of three trenches (8, 19, and 20) was approved by the Highways Archaeological Agent due to logistical problems, following the absence of archaeological features recorded from trenches closest to their proposed locations.

2 Topographic and Geological Background

- 2.1 The evaluation area falls within three fields, east of and adjacent to Ermine Street. Fields 30 and 31 are presently lain to pasture whereas land parcel 3545 is arable. The land has a general gradient westwards towards Ermine Street with undulations that respect the course of a north/south-aligned eroded dry valley. Trenches 4 and 6 are located in the base of the dry valley. Fields 30 and 31 are separated by Welsh Way that meets Ermine Street at 90 degrees. The natural geology in the area is oolitic Limestone deposited in the Jurassic period, overlain by "cornbrash" weathered limestone.
- 2.2 Geotechnical ground investigations were carried out by Soil Mechanics in 1991 on behalf of RMG. Nineteen testpits and 6 boreholes are located within the evaluation area. Testpits with dimensions of 1.5 x 4 m were excavated to a depth of 3 m and revealed similar sequences: oolitic limestone was identified at an average depth of 0.6 m below ground surface (bgs) and was overlain by a weathered limestone, 0.3 m bgs, beneath the present topsoil. One distinct variation was identified in testpit SM116 at the eastern extent of the evaluation area. In this testpit a thick colluvial deposit "head", which comprised angular and subangular coarse tabular gravel and occasional cobbles of weathered oolitic limestone, was identified at a depth of 0.35 m, above weathered limestone.

3 Historic and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Research was carried out to identify the post-medieval history of the area of investigation. Reference was made to cartographic sources, but little additional information concerning the development of the site was found. An Inclosure award exists but without a map, no estate maps are on record and there is no reference to the parish in the Victoria County History (VCH). A transcription of the tithe map (dated 1838) names field 31 and land parcel 3545 as "Downs". Field 30 was separated into three fields; the north-western of which was named "Gunpits". Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 1" and 25" maps show no variation from the present field layout.
- 3.2 Annex 4, Appendix 1, paragraph 4.2.2 states that the area under investigation falls within the enclosed area of the late Iron Age tribal capital centred at Bagendon (Roberts 1989), a site of national importance, part of which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, and a small rectilinear cropmark (GCC SMR No. 4783) is recorded within the unevaluated area in land parcel 3545.
- 3.3 The evidence referred to in section 3.2 was drawn from a summary of the archaeological evidence of the late Iron Age to early Roman settlement at Bagendon, Gloucestershire carried out by Roberts in 1989. The project was undertaken by the examination of existing archaeological data, historic records, and fieldwork carried out by Roberts.

- 3.4 The evaluation area is situated 1 km south-west of the well-defined eastern and south-eastern boundaries of the Bagendon enclosure. No evidence of the southern boundary of the enclosure exists as cropmarks or earthworks. Three linear banks and ditches west of Perrotts Brook, two to the north of Welsh Way (Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) SMR No. 4129, 4130) and one to the south (GCC SMR No. 12), do not continue far enough west to indicate the course of a boundary on the south and south-western side (Roberts 1989 p8, paragraph 2.4). Roberts suggests that the enclosure may have continued in the vicinity of the Bagendon/Daglingworth Parish boundary (GCC SMR No. 4128), 1 km north-east of the evaluation area. Linear features to the north-west (GCC SMR No. 2045, 4125) are interpreted as radial dykes, not part of the main enclosure (Roberts 1989 p9-13, paragraphs 2.10-2.11, 3.7).
- 3.5 Cropmarks visible on NMR air photograph SP 0005/6 (GCC SMR No. 4783) were plotted at a scale of 1:2500 using the "Möbius" network method (Figures 2 and 3). Two distinct features likely to be of archaeological interest were visible in land parcel 3545; an open rectangular small ditched enclosure outside the CPO boundary, and a closed rectangular feature. Trench 1 was positioned over the closed rectangular feature; Trench 2 was located at the closest feasible position within the CPO corridor to the open rectangular feature, with an aim of identifying possible associated features. No historic map sources contribute additional information related to these cropmarks.

4 Methodology

- 1.1 All trenches were excavated by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. A full method statement can be referred to in OAU 1996. All field recording was in accordance with OAU's Field Manual (Wilkinson 1992).
- 4.2 Three of the proposed 21 Trenches (8, 19, and 20) were not excavated due to health and safety restrictions, access and logistical problems. Trenches 19 and 20 were located on a narrow strip of shrub-land, north-east of Ermine Street, in dense woodland close to the road. Trench 8 was located within an area cordoned off by an electric fence and in use for sheep pasture, and within a narrow band of the CPO corridor underneath low-lying electric cables. The exclusion of these trenches was approved by the Highways Archaeological Agent following the absence of archaeological features recorded from trenches closest to their proposed locations.
- 4.3 It was agreed with the Highways Archaeological Agent that an observation pit should be excavated in the base of Trench 18, after a depth of 1.2 m of made-ground was identified.
- 4.4 Following the discovery of a substantial stone-lined feature in Trench 1 (section 5.4.4), it was agreed with the Highway Archaeological Agent that boreholes should be taken through an underlying clay layer. This action was taken to avoid unnecessary damage to the feature, when investigating its underlying stratigraphy.

4.5 No features identified were thought to either be suitable for or merit environmental sampling.

4.6 Actual trench positions, as seen in Figure 2, were surveyed using a theodolite equipped with an electromagnetic distance measurement (EDM) and Penmap software. The following three Permanent Ground Markers (PGM) surveyed by Samsett on behalf of RMG were utilized: BC68, BC69, and BC70.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Rather than providing a trench-by-trench description, this section has been organized into three areas which correspond to fields 30, 31 and land parcel 3545 (Figure 2). An account of the results will be presented for each area. A full tabulated list of contexts is provided in Appendix 1.

5.2 *Field 30*

5.2.1 Seven trenches were excavated in field 30: Trenches 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Trench 18 has been incorporated into this area for discussion purposes, and was located north-west of the Daglingworth Quarry access road in a wooded area adjacent and to the north-east of Ermine Street (Figure 2).

5.2.2 Natural superficial geology within this area comprised weathered limestone (cornbrash). This deposit was identified at an average depth of 0.21 m below the present topsoil. Two trenches (10 and 18) exhibited contrasting characteristics.

5.2.3 Natural tabular limestone (1809) was identified at a depth of 2.8 m below ground surface in the base of an observation pit in the south-eastern end of Trench 18 (section 4.3). This was overlain by a natural mid-grey clay (1807), 0.6 m thick, which was below a sequence of clay based made-ground deposits (1802-1805). A depth of 1.3 m of made ground was identified below topsoil (1801: Figure 7).

5.2.4 Trench 10 was positioned at the base of a north-east rising slope. Natural weathered limestone was identified at a depth 0.5 m bgs, and was overlain by a series of mid-reddish brown clayey silt (1002 and 1003) deposits. These deposits are likely to represent colluvial episodes induced by cultivation. The colluvium was overlain by the present topsoil (1001: Figure 6).

5.2.5 All features identified in field 30 cut weathered limestone, and apart from the above described exceptions (sections 5.2.3 and 5.2.4), were overlain by topsoil. A total of 18 features were found in field 30 and none of the excavated sections contained finds. Typically features were oval in shape with irregular profiles, and filled with a mid-reddish brown clayey silt (Appendix 1). It is likely that these features are natural in origin, and may represent periglacial solution holes or irregular tree root disturbance. A distinction between these two interpretations is difficult to make with certainty.

- 5.2.6 Seven irregular features were identified in Trench 10 (Figure 6), representing 38% of the total number of features identified in field 30. The high incidence of features within this trench compared to other trenches is likely to be a result of the mask created by the overlying colluvium layers (see section 5.2.4), which has protected them from recent plough events. North-west/south-east-aligned plough furrows identified in Trenches 14, and 16 demonstrate that the weathered limestone has been cut during recent ploughing. Three sherds of sand tempered medieval cooking pot were recovered from colluvium layer 1002, and dated between the 12th and middle 13th centuries (A pottery assessment was carried out by Lucy Bowen). Two small circular features (1018 and 1016) could possibly represent postholes, however this interpretation is doubtful considering their sterile fills (1015 and 1017). Other features in this trench are likely to represent root disturbance.
- 5.2.7 Initial investigations in Trench 14 suggested that two North-west/south-east-aligned ditches (1403 and 1408) had been located (figure 8). Close inspection of excavated sections, suggested that these features represent shallow undulations in the natural and had been over excavated. The thick line in Sections 1 and 2 (Figure 8) shows the real extent of these features, with underlying deposits representing variations in the weathered limestone natural. These large regular undulation could tentatively be interpreted as eroded ridge and furrow, although no similar features have been identified elsewhere within the evaluation area.
- 5.3 *Field 31*
- 5.3.1 Six trenches were excavated in field 31: Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 21.
- 5.3.2 The natural superficial geology comprised weathered limestone (cornbrash), and was identified at an average depth of 0.21 m below topsoil in Trenches 5, 6, 7, 11, and 21. In Trench 12, at the bottom south-western corner of the field adjacent to Ermine Street, a mid-yellow silt natural (1203) was identified, below a series of colluvium deposits. Weathered limestone in Trench 4 was overlain by a mid-reddish brown clayey silt (410) colluvium, 0.3 m thick, below topsoil.
- 5.3.3 A total of 16 features were identified in field 31. No finds were recovered from excavated sections. No features were found in Trenches 7 and 11, and only single features were identified in Trenches 5, 6, and 12. Features took the same form as those described in field 30 (section 5.2.5) and were irregular oval in shape with irregular profiles, filled with a mid-reddish brown clayey silt (see Appendix 1). All features are likely to be natural in origin, and may represent periglacial solution holes or irregular tree root disturbance.
- 5.3.4 Ten irregular features were identified in Trench 4, representing 62% of all the features discovered in field 31. As observed in Trench 10 (section 5.2.6 and 5.3.2), the high incidence of features within this trench compared to other trenches is again likely to have resulted from their better preservation beneath the overlying colluvium layers. All features identified were irregular and are likely to be derived from periglacial or

root activities.

5.3.5 The colluvium sequence identified in Trench 12 is the result of the deposition of soil from the north-east rising slope over a sustained period of time. Only one feature (1204) was identified in Trench 12, which is probably the remains of a sizeable up-rooted tree. The resultant stratigraphy present within this feature, although not a "text book" example of a tree-throw hole (Moore and Jennings 1992, Figure 7, p10), represents the best example found during this evaluation (Figure 5).

5.4 *Land parcel 3545*

5.4.1 Three trenches were excavated in land parcel 3545. Cropmarks visible on NMR air photograph SP0005/6 shows an open rectangular small ditched enclosure outside the CPO boundary, and a closed rectangular feature within the CPO corridor adjacent to Ermine Street (Figure 3). Trench 1 was positioned over the closed rectangular feature, and Trench 2 was located close to the open rectangular feature.

5.4.2 The natural superficial geology comprised weathered limestone (cornbrash), and was identified at an average depth of 0.21 m below topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, and 3. Features were identified in Trenches 1 and 3 cutting the weathered limestone. No features were identified in Trench 2.

5.4.3 North-west/south-east-aligned discontinuous plough ruts (309 and 311) cut the weathered limestone in Trench 3. Two irregular oval shaped features were identified (304 and 307), and probably represent tree root disturbance.

5.4.4 A clay lined feature (105), 8.35 m wide, was identified 2.5 m from the south-eastern end of Trench 1, and cut weathered limestone (Figure 4). The location of Feature 105 corresponds to the closed rectangular feature seen on No. air photograph SP 0005/6. Excavated sections exposed the south-western extent of the feature, where the cut had a shallow gradient (1 in 4), with a flattened base. A tenacious mid-bluish grey clay (114), 0.32 m thick, was overlain by a well-made rectangular limestone surface (106). The visible north-western and south-eastern edges of the surface, had up to 17 concentric courses of roughly squared limestone placed on edge, interrupted by diagonal lines of limestone at the southern and western corners. The base of the surface was made up of large roughly hewn limestone (Figure 4). The surface was in an excellent state of preservation and overlain by a thin band of light brownish yellow clayey silt (112). Limestone rubble (107) which comprised rough hewn stones overlay the silt deposit and filled the feature to the level of the weathered limestone natural. Eight sherds of pottery were recovered from the rubble fill (107); seven were locally produced Ashton Keynes ware and dated between the mid-16th to 18th century and one sherd was a medieval courseware dated between the late 12th to early 16th century (pottery identifications were carried out by Lucy Bowen). Patches of a lime based mortar (108) overlay the rubble deposit beneath two ploughsoil horizons (101 and 102).

5.4.5 Aerial photographic evidence would suggest that the stone-lined feature extends to the north-west, and forms a square shape (approximately 9 x 9 m). If this is the case, over half of the feature extends beyond the CPO boundary. The most plausible interpretation is the remains of a dew pond. The eight pottery sherds of 16th to 18th century date (One sherd dated between the 12th-16th centuries is likely to be residual) recovered from within the rubble fill (107), suggest that the dew pond was backfilled within this time period.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Reliability

6.1.1 The evaluation was carried out during periods of snow and rain in difficult working conditions. When weather improved trenches were checked to ensure that no features had been obscured.

6.1.2 Sixty percent of features discovered were sampled by excavated sections, although not described above, almost all of these were suspected and proved to be of natural origin. This high percentage was deemed necessary to establish conclusively their nature, extent and possible date. One hundred percent of features suspected of being archaeological were sampled.

6.1.2 Despite the abandonment of three trench locations, the resulting 1.9% sample of the evaluation area is thought to be representative of the area of proposed impact.

6.2 Interpretation

6.2.1 No evidence associated with the late Iron Age enclosure of Bagendon was found during the evaluation. Trench 2, located closest to the small rectilinear cropmark (GCC SMR No. 4783) outside the CPO boundary, recorded no archaeological features.

6.2.2 Thirty-eight features were identified in 18 trench excavations, and 11 pottery sherds were recovered from two contexts; 8 from a rubble fill (107) of a clay-lined feature (105) and 3 from a layer of colluvium (1002) in Trench 10. Clay-lined cut 105 is the only feature deemed of archaeological significance.

6.2.3 Thirty-seven of the features recovered have been interpreted as either periglacial solution holes or root disturbance. In all cases these features contained sterile fills and were irregular in shape and profile. No clear distinction can be made between the two interpretations offered, due to the absence of artefactual and surviving cartographic evidence. More detailed study of these features would need to be carried out by geomorphologist.

6.2.4 Trenches placed in higher topographical locations (Trenches 9, 7 and 21) tended to have thin layers of topsoil overlying weathered limestone (A/C horizon), with no surviving subsoil. In contrast, trenches located at the base of slopes contained colluvial

derived subsoil above the natural substrate (Trenches 4, 10, and 12). A high incidence of features were located in Trenches 4 and 10 beneath thick colluvial deposits, which perhaps suggests that the colluvium has aided preservation in these locations, whereas soil erosion induced by agricultural activity has destroyed features in more exposed locations.

- 6.2.5 A depth of 1.3 m of made ground was identified below topsoil (1801: Figure 7) in Trench 18 (section 5.2.3), located north-west of the Daglingworth Quarry access road in a wooded area adjacent and to the north-east of Ermine Street. This area has been quarried and built up in the last twenty years (Daglingworth Quarry Manager pers. comm.).
- 6.2.6 The dew pond identified in Trench 1 is the second recorded in Gloucestershire. A circular dew pond measuring about 10 m in diameter was recovered in the parish of Coberley (GCC SMR No. 14732), and was first documented on a map dated 1863 (Gloucs. RO D1388 SL4, No. 83) and has appeared on all OS map editions since 1884. During a programme of restoration thick layers of silt were removed from the Coberley pond revealing a stone-lining formed of small blocks of limestone (Charles Parry, pers comm.).
- 6.2.7 No documentary evidence of the dew pond discovered at Daglingworth has been found from map sources dating back to 1838. The condition of the well-preserved limestone surface and the absence of silting episodes (Only a thin band of silt (112) was removed during excavation from above the limestone surface) identified in the features fill sequence, suggests that it was either regularly cleaned, and cleaned before its deliberate backfill, or that its function as a dew pond was short lived. The latter would explain its absence from map sources, unless its date precedes the above mentioned cartographic sources (section 3.1). Pottery identified within the deliberate backfill of the pond perhaps suggest an earlier date, although a larger assemblage of sherds would be needed to be conclusive.

Rob Early
Oxford Archaeological Unit
13 March 1996

Bibliography

- Moore, J and
Jennings, D 1992 Reading Business Park: a Bronze Age Landscape, Thames Valley
Landscape: the Kennet Valley, Volume 1
- OAU/CBA 1996 Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 DBFO Scheme:
Archaeological Project Design- General Strategy and
Methodology
- OAU 1996 Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 DBFO Scheme: Daglingworth
Quarry Written Scheme of Investigation
- Roberts 1989 The late Iron Age to early Roman settlement at Bagendon,
Gloucestershire
- Wilkinson, D 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual

Appendix 1: Context Description

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
101	Loose dark brown silty loam	0.2	Topsoil
102	Tenacious mid-greyish brown clay silt	0.13	Ploughsoil overlying 110
103	Friable mid-reddish brown silt with 50% limestone	Not excavated	Natural limestone cornbrash
104	NE/SW-aligned linear cut, 8.5 m long	1.2	Possible rectangular cut, sealed by a clay and backfilled with limestone rubble.
105	Tenacious mid-bluish grey clay	0.21	Clay layer sealing cut 104.
106	Floor of dew pond, made up of limestone	0.15	Limestone surface
107	Loose light yellowish brown limestone	0.8	Deliberate limestone rubble fill which contained 8 sherds dated between 16th and 18th centuries
108	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt/lime mortar	0.14	Lime based mortar overlying rubble 107
109	Friable mid-yellow lime mortar	0.1	Lime based mortar
110	Square limestone floor	Dimensions 6 x 6 x 0.15	Limestone floor surface (Structure number)
111	NE/SW-aligned cut		
112	Tenacious light brownish yellow clayey silt	0.1	Silt deposit above dew pond surface
113	Friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt	0.22	modern feature
114	Tenacious mid-bluish grey clay	0.32	Clay sealant for cut 104, below limestone floor surface
115	Mid-orange brown sandy clay, with limestone fragments	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
201	Friable dark brown silty loam	0.2	Topsoil
202	Loose light reddish-brown silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
301	Friable dark brown silty loam	0.2	Topsoil
302	Friable mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.5	Fill of a tree hole 304
303	Friable mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.22	Fill of tree hole 304
304	Irregular ovoid cut with irregular base and sides	1.5 x 1 x 0.5.	Tree hole
305	friable dark reddish brown clayey silt	0.2	fill of tree hole 307
306	Dark brown clayey silt with some limestone	0.1	fill of tree hole 307
307	irregular ovoid with irregular base and sides	1.3	Tree hole
308	Loose light reddish brown silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural combrash
309	Friable dark brown clayey silt with some limestone	0.1	Fill of plough rut
310	Loose dark brown silt with limestone	<0.1	Fill of a shallow plough rut
311	Friable dark brown silt	<0.1	Fill of a shallow plough rut
312	Shallow linear feature	6 x 0.1	Plough rut
313	Shallow linear feature	3 x 0.1	Plough rut
314	Shallow linear feature	6 x 0.1	plough rut
400	Friable dark brown silt loam with limestone fragments	0.2	Topsoil
401	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.3	Colluvium
402	Friable light brown clay silt with 80% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
403	Friable mid reddish brown clay silt	Unknown	Tree hole/ periglacial feature (not excavated)
404	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	Unknown	Tree hole/periglacial feature (not excavated)
405	Friable mid-reddish brown clayey silt	Unknown	Tree/ periglacial feature

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
406	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	Unknown	Tree/ periglacial feature
407	Irregular cut , base and sides	0.11	Part of tree hole
408	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.14	Fill of tree bowl (407)
409	Irregular cut with irregular shaped sides and base	1.35 x 1.5 x 0.21	Tree/periglacial feature
410	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.21	Fill of 409
411	Oval cut	1 x 2.7 x 0.27	Tree hole
412	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.27	Fill of 411
413	Shallow circular flat bottomed feature	0.7 x 0.14	Periglacial feature
414	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.14	Fill of 413
415	Shallow circular feature	0.5 x 0.12	Shallow periglacial feature
416	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.12	Fill of 415
417	Irregular oval shaped feature	0.7 x 0.9 x 0.05	Tree/periglacial feature
418	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.05	Fill of 417
419	Friable mid-brown clay silt with 80% limestone	Unknown	Natural combrash
500	Friable dark grey brown clay loam	0.26	Topsoil
501	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.06	Colluvium deposit
502	Friable mid-brown clay silt with 80% limestone fragments	0.2	Natural combrash
503	Compact yellow limestone	Unknown	Natural limestone
504	Irregular ovoid feature which extends beyond the south baulk	2.5 x 1.4 x 0.24	Tree/periglacial feature

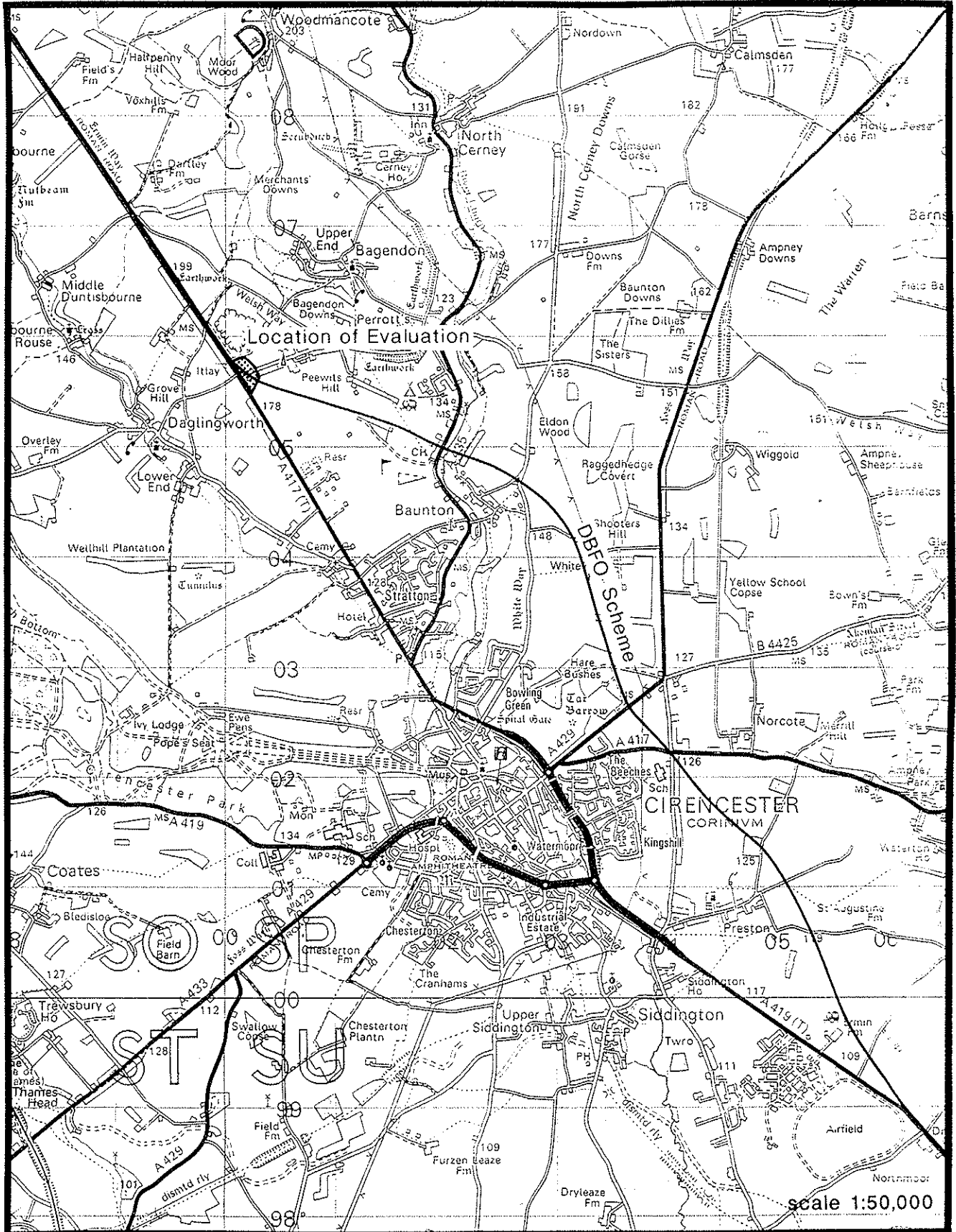
Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
505	friable mid-reddish brown clay silt with 50% limestone	0.24	Fill of feature 504
601	Friable mid-brown silt loam	0.18	topsoil
602	Tenacious mid-reddish brown	0.28	Fill of tree/periglacial feature
603	shallow irregular feature	3 x 1.5 x 0.28	Shallow irregular feature
604	Tenacious mid-reddish brown clayey silt with >50% limestone	0.2	Previous ploughsoil
701	Friable mid-brown silt	0.16	Topsoil
702	Loose light brown silt with 60% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
900	Friable mid-brown silt loam	0.2	Topsoil
901	Loose reddish brown silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
902	Mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.13	Fill of natural pocket in natural
903	Irregular shaped feature	0.3 x 0.25	Natural periglacial feature
1001	Friable mid brown clayey silt	0.22	Topsoil
1002	Tenacious mid-brownish red clayey silt	0.16-0.34	Colluvium. Three sherds of pottery dated between 12th and 13th century were recovered
1003	Tenacious mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.14	Colluvium
1004	Loose light yellowish brown silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
1005	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.35	Tree/root disturbance
1006	Irregular shaped cut	0.35	Tree/root disturbance
1007	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.12	Fill of natural feature
1008	Irregular cut	0.12	Tree/root disturbance
1009	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay with limestone	Unknown	Fill of tree/root disturbance

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
1010	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.4	Tree/root disturbance
1011	Irregular cut	1.4 x 0.63 x 0.4	Tree/root disturbance
1012	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.06	Buried ploughsoil
1013	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.15	Fill of tree/root disturbance
1014	Irregular shaped feature	1.1 x 0.6 x 0.15	Tree/root disturbance
1015	Friable mid-reddish silty clay	0.15	Fill of tree/root disturbance
1016	Irregular feature	0.18 x 0.22 x 0.15	Tree/root disturbance
1017	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.16	Fill of 1018
1018	Irregular feature	0.5 x 0.38 x 0.16	Tree/root disturbance
1101	Friable dark brown silty loam	0.24	Topsoil
1102	Friable reddish brown clayey silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
1200	Friable dark brown clay loam	0.24	Topsoil
1201	Friable mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.3	Colluvium
1202	Friable light reddish brown clay silt	0.2	Colluvium
1203	Friable yellow silt	Unknown	Natural
1204	Oval shaped feature with rounded base	Visible extent 3.3 x 0.4	Tree hole
1205	Friable yellowish brown clay silt	0.14	Fill of 1204
1206	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.35	Fill of 1204
1207	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.4	fill of 1204
1208	Friable yellow silt	0.05	Thin band of natural that was cast up by the tree
1209	Friable yellowish brown clayey silt	0.05	Colluvium

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
1300	Friable dark brown silt loam	0.28	Topsoil
1301	Loose reddish brown silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural combrash
1302	Friable mid reddish brown silty clay	0.21	Fill of tree/root disturbance
1303	Irregular shaped feature	1.4 x 0.45 x 0.2	Tree/root disturbance
1401	Friable mid-brown silty loam	0.2	Topsoil
1402	Friable mid-orange brown silt	0.1	Fill of natural hollow
1403	Linear feature	2 x 2 x 0.4	Tree disturbance
1404	Friable orange brown silt with limestone fragments	0.26	Buried ploughsoil
1405	Friable mid-brown clay silt with >50% limestone	Unknown	Natural combrash
1406	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	0.2 min.	Natural combrash
1407	friable light orange brown silt with 50 % limestone	Unknown	Clean natural
1408	Linear feature with gradual sloping sides and rounded base	6 x 2 x 0.7	Probable natural hollow
1501	Dark brown silty loam	0.22	Topsoil
1502	Tenacious mid-reddish brown clay silt with fragments of limestone	0.1	fill of tree/root disturbance
1503	Irregular ovoid shaped feature	0.9 x 1.1 x 0.1	tree hole/ periglacial feature
1504	Loose mid-reddish brown sandy silt with >50 % limestone	Unknown	Natural combrash
1601	Friable dark brown silty loam	0.2	Topsoil
1602	Friable mid-orange brown clayey silt	0.1	Fill of periglacial feature
1603	Loose dark brown silt loam with 40 % limestone	0.2	Fill of periglacial feature

Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
1604	Loose mid-brown clayey silt with 40% limestone	0.1	Fill of 1605
1605	Shallow irregular feature	2.5 x 2 x 0.1	Periglacial feature
1606	Friable mid-orange brown clayey silt	0.1	Fill of periglacial feature
1607	Loose mid-brown clayey silt with 40% limestone	0.2	Fill of periglacial feature
1608	Shallow irregular feature	2 x 2 x 0.3	Tree/root disturbance
1609	Loose dark brown clayey silt	0.1	Fill of plough rut
1610	Shallow linear feature	3 x 0.2 x 0.1	Plough rut
1611	dark brown clayey silt	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
1700	Loose mid-brown clay loam	0.2	Topsoil
1701	Loose mid-brown silty loam with 50% limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash
1702	Friable reddish brown clay silt	Unknown	Tree/root/Periglacial feature, unexcavated
1703	Oval irregular feature	0.26	Tree hole
1704	Friable reddish brown clay silt	0.26	Fill of 1703
1705	Irregular feature	1 x 2.1 x 0.28	Tree hole
1706	Friable reddish brown clay silt	0.28	Fill of 1705
1801	Loose reddish brown humic loam	0.15	Topsoil
1802	Friable mid-reddish brown silty clay	0.4	Made ground (20th century)
1803	Tenacious light yellow clay	0.3	Made ground (20th century)
1804	Tenacious mid reddish brown clay	0.3	Made ground (20th century)
1805	Friable mid-reddish brown silt with 10 % limestone	0.35	Made ground (20th century)
1806	Loose mid-brown clay silt with 80 % limestone	Unknown	Natural cornbrash

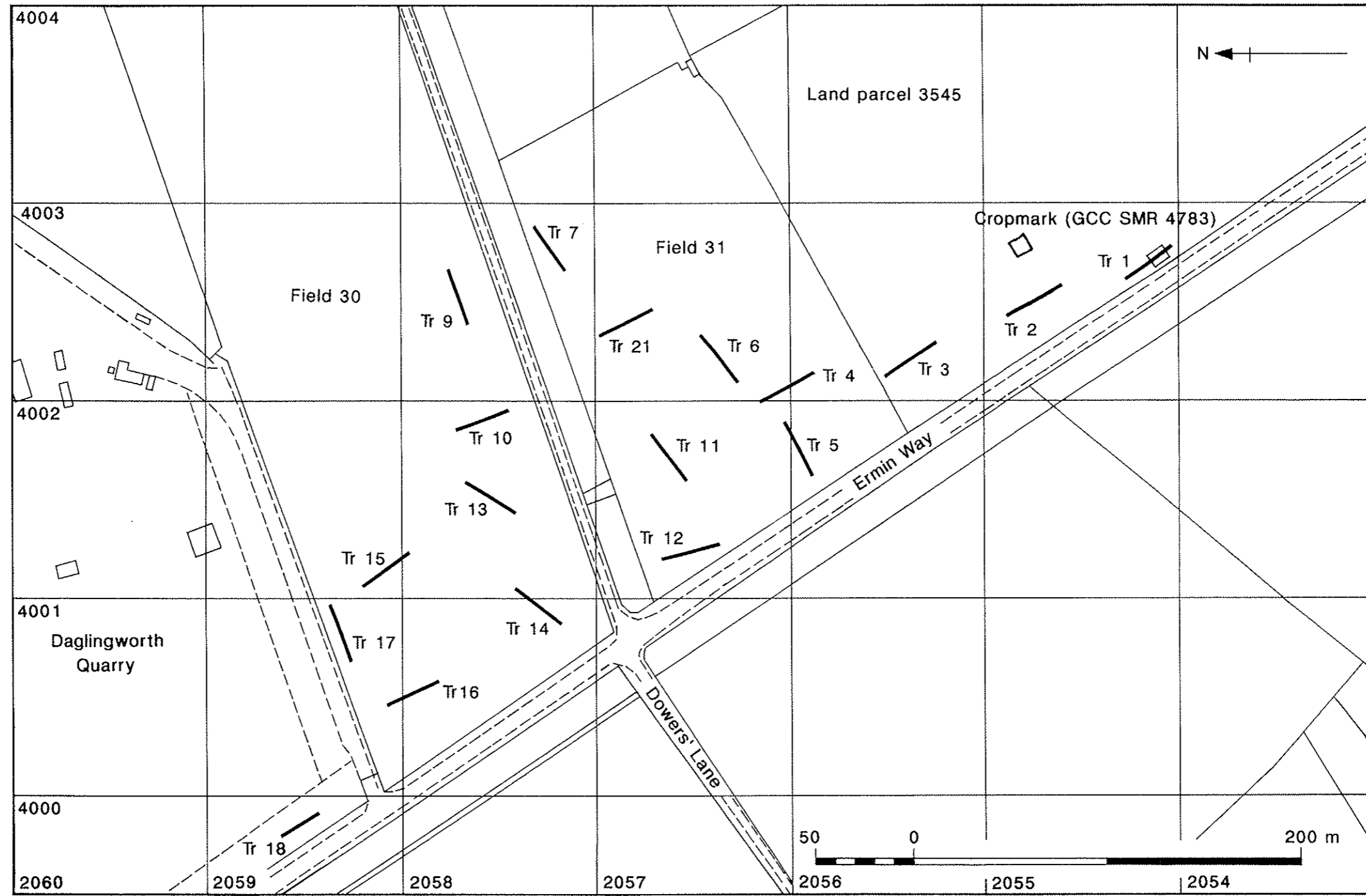
Context Number	Context description	Depth of deposit/feature (metres)	Summary Interpretation and artefactual evidence
1807	Friable reddish brown clay silt	1	Made ground (20th century)
1808	Tenacious mid-grey clay	0.6	Natural clay overlying limestone bedrock
1809	Compact yellow tabular limestone	Unknown	Natural limestone
2101	Friable dark brown clayey loam	0.2	Topsoil
2102	Tenacious mid-reddish brown clayey silt with > 50% limestone	Unknown	Natural conbrash
2103	Shallow irregular feature	1.2 x 0.8 x 0.12	Root disturbance/ periglacial feature
2104	Friable mid-reddish brown clay silt	0.12	Fill of 2103



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:50,000 map of 1990 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. Licence No. AL 854166

Figure 1: Location of Evaluation.

figure 1



Scale 1:2500

Figure 2: Trench locations and aerial photograph rectification.

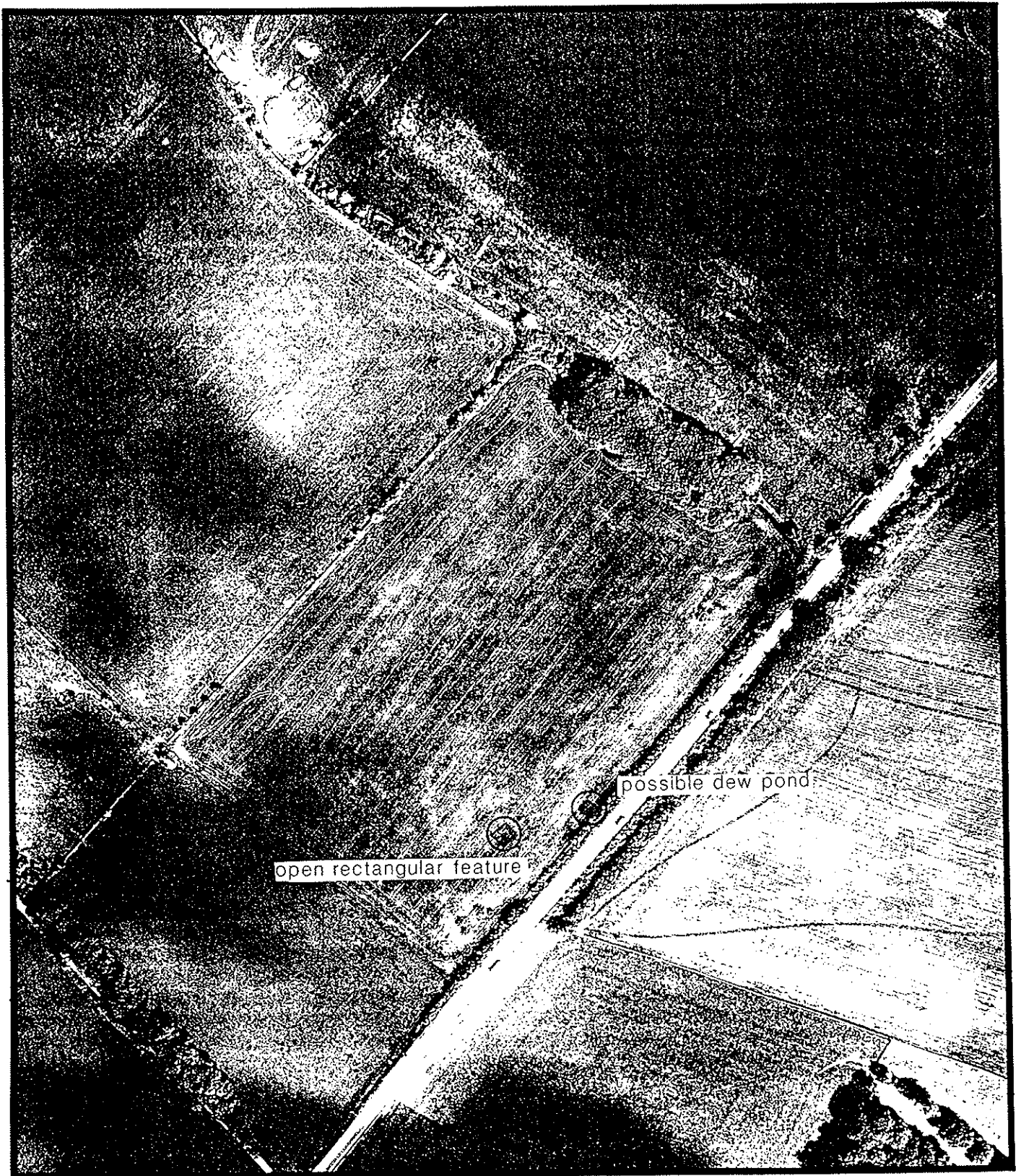


Figure 3: Aerial photograph (Natural Monuments Record SP0005/6) showing cropmarks

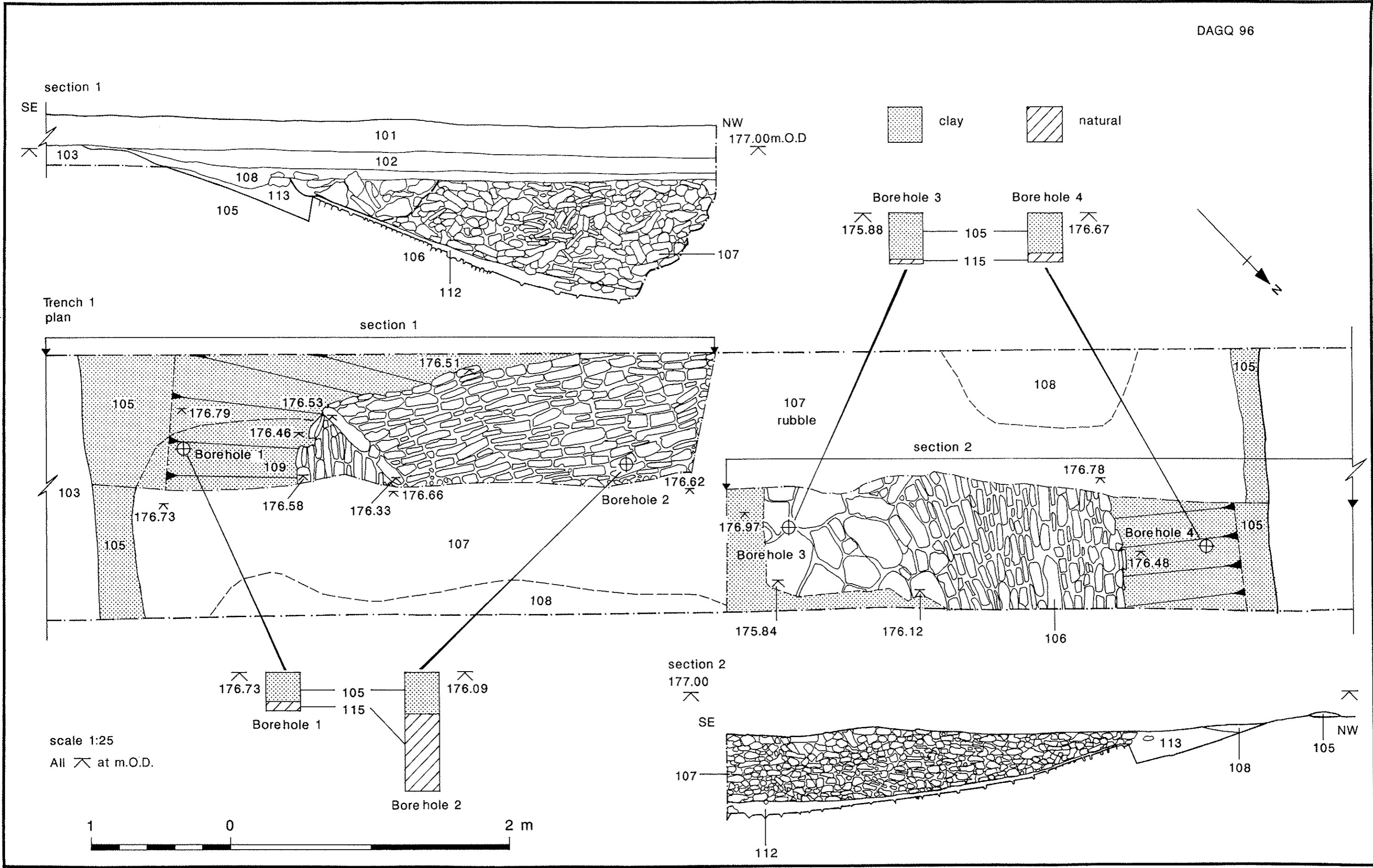


Figure 4: Plan and sections of Trench 1 showing the remains of a possible dewpond.

figure 4

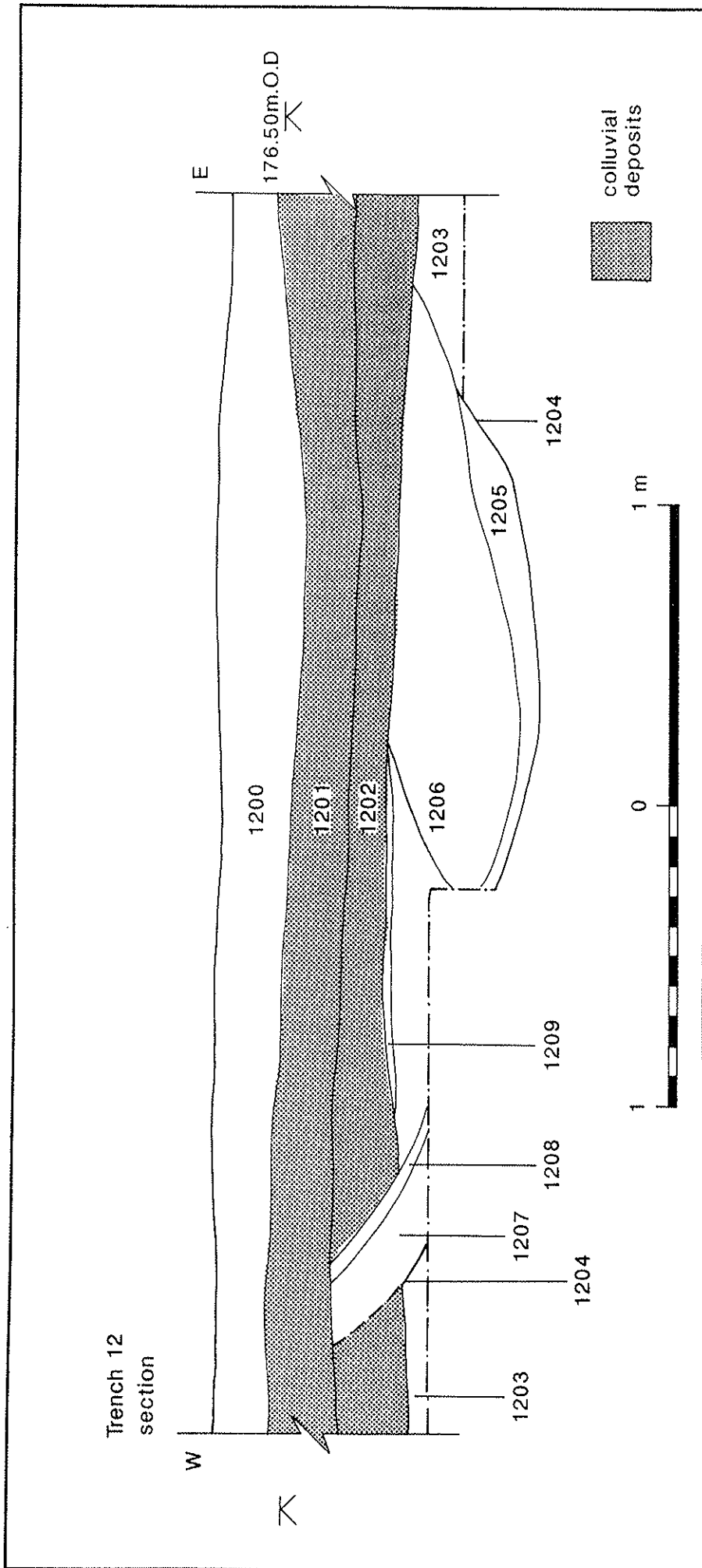


Figure 5: Section showing colluvium build up and tree throw-hole in Trench 12

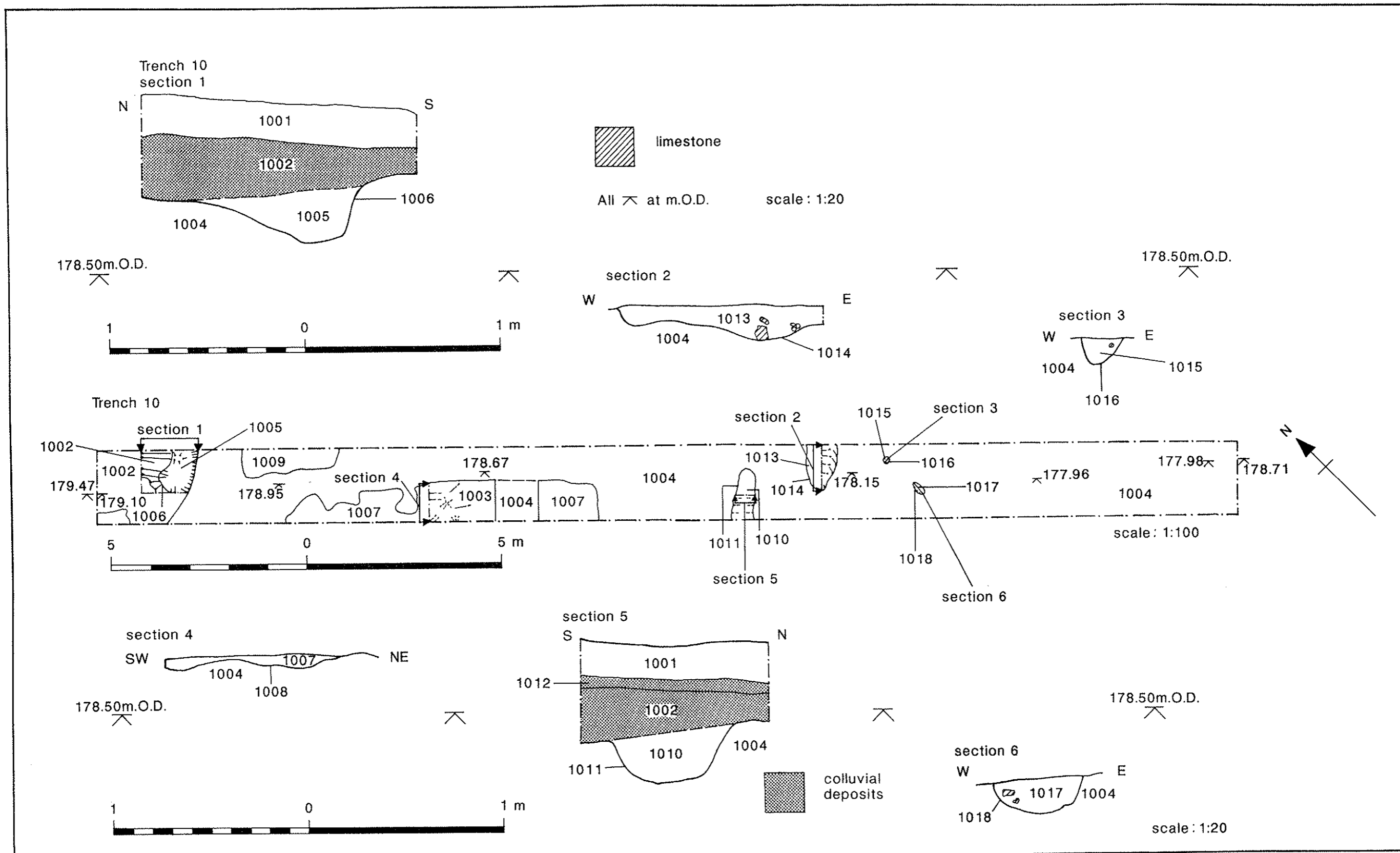


Figure 6: Plan and sections of features in Trench 10.

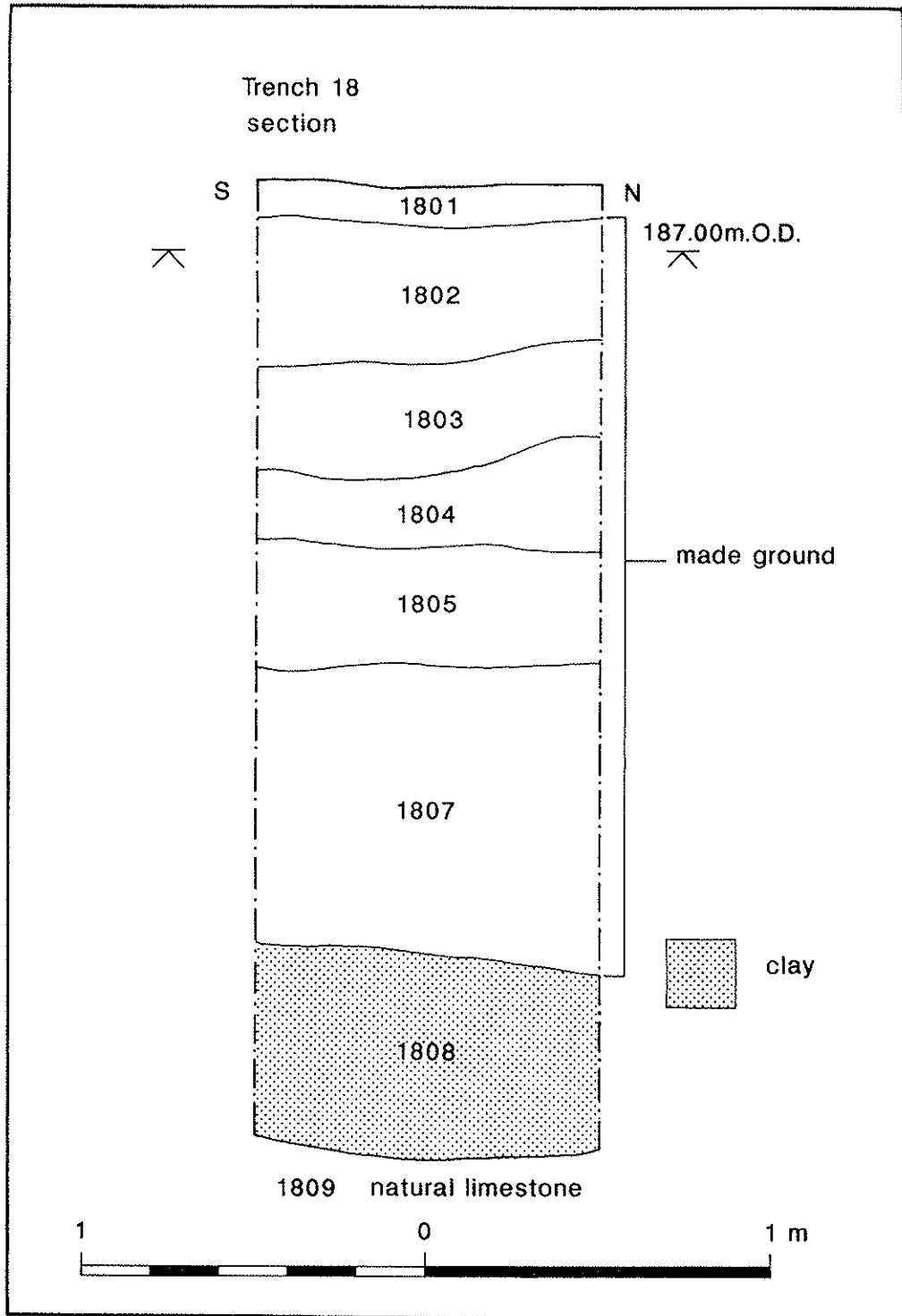


Figure 7: Section showing the extent of made ground in Trench 18.

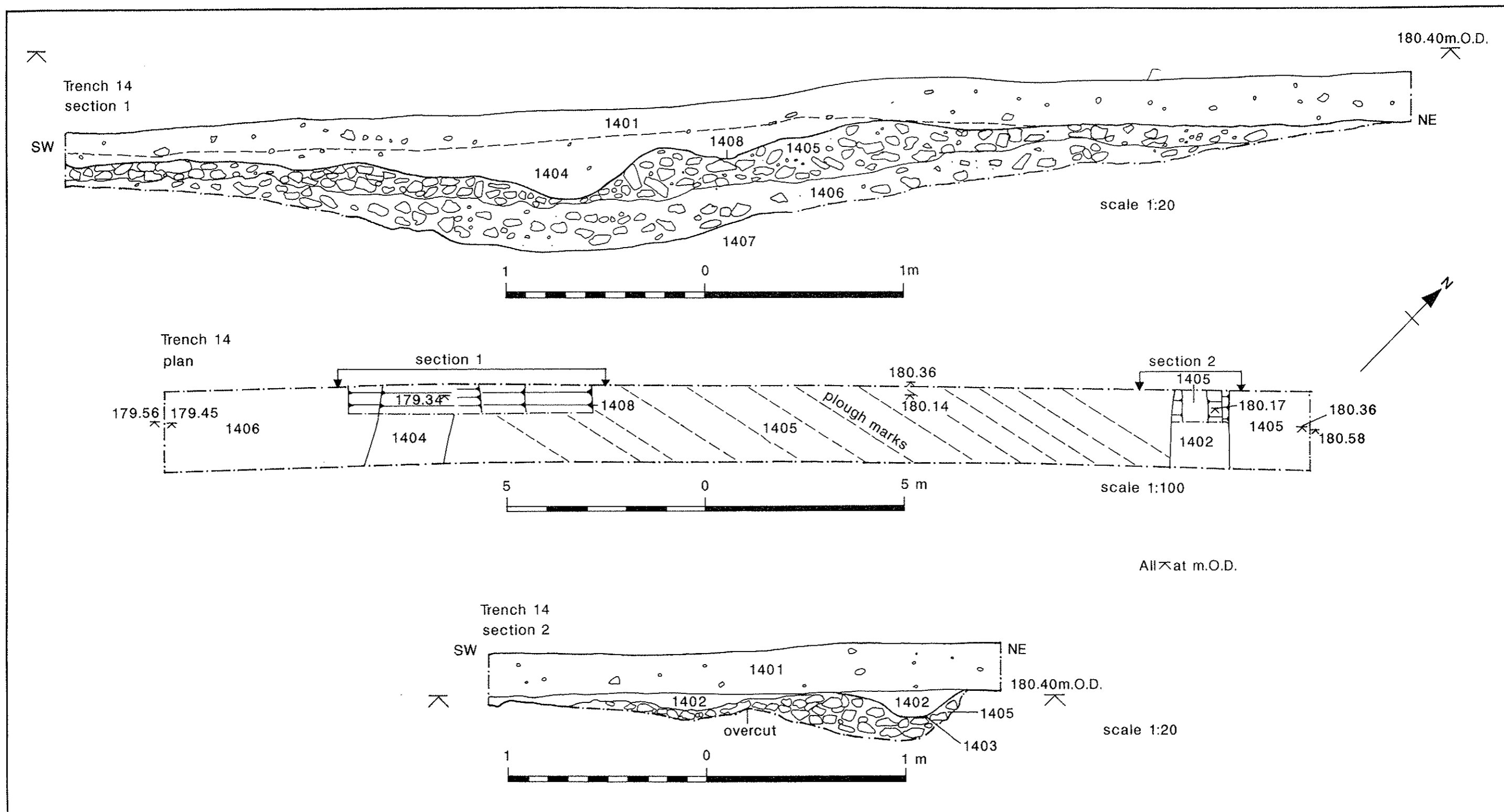


Figure 8: Plan and sections of Trench 14 showing two undulating features.



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP
Head Office Tel: 01865 243888 Fax: 01865 793496
Post-Excavation Tel: 01865 204642 Fax: 01865 204637



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

The Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited. Registered Charity Number: 285627
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Office: 46 Hythe Bridge Street