

CgMs Consulting

**45-61 Church Road and
Green Circle, Pynnales Close
Stanmore, London Borough of Harrow**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR TQ 1675 9225

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CONTENTS

Summary	2
1 Introduction.....	2
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	2
1.2 Geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	2
2 Evaluation Aims	4
3 Evaluation Methodology	4
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	4
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	4
3.3 Finds	4
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence	4
3.5 Presentation of results.....	4
4 Results: General.....	5
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	5
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits	5
5 Results: Descriptions	5
5.1 Description of deposits	5
6 Discussion and Interpretation	6
6.1 Reliability of field investigation	6
6.2 Overall interpretation.....	6
7 Impact of the Development.....	7
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	8
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references	9
Appendix 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR Archaeological Report Form	10

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location map
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Fig. 3 Trench 3 and Sections

SUMMARY

In September 2001, the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore, London Borough of Harrow (NGR TQ 1675 9225). The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting of London. The evaluation revealed a 20th century drainage ditch and a sequence of made ground deposits relating to the landscaping of the existing gardens of houses built in the 1940s. Undated buried soils were seen below the made ground overlying natural clay.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In September 2001 Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore, London Borough of Harrow NGR TQ 1675 9225 (Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting in respect of a planning application for the demolition of existing dwellings and the construction of three residential blocks, an access road, car parking and landscaping.

1.1.2 A project brief was set by Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting London. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OAU was agreed with CgMs Consulting and English Heritage.

1.1.3 The development site is situated within the core of the historic village of Stanmore and is c. 0.5 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the redevelopment area is London Clay. To the north of the site Claygate Beds outcrop, overlain by Pebble Gravels. These latter deposits form the higher ground overlooking London Road and this area is known as Brockley Hill.

1.2.2 The site is currently occupied by detached houses and their gardens. The north of the site is at 87.42 m OD and 83.95 m OD to the south making a downhill slope of 1 in 15.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (CgMs 2001), the results of which are presented below. The site itself has produced limited archaeological evidence. There are several known sites with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.

- 1.3.2 Prior to the Iron Age there is scant archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the redevelopment area. However, Neolithic flint artefacts and a stone axe, suggestive of hunting and tree felling activities, have been located nearby.
- 1.3.3 There is some evidence of greater activity during the Bronze Age particularly that of a possible barrow on Brockley Hill (VCH 1969). Flints have also been recovered from a ploughed field surface immediately west of Watling Street and below the crest of Brockley Hill.
- 1.3.4 In Pear Wood, approximately 1 km north of the London Road, substantial linear earthworks stretch westwards towards the River Pinn. These have been interpreted as possibly representing a territorial boundary between two tribal groupings although parts of the earthworks appear to be 4th century Roman.
- 1.3.5 Belgic pottery sherds have been located during excavations on Brockley Hill and there is evidence of Iron Age activity in Stanmore to the north.
- 1.3.6 The Church Road site lies c. 1.5 km to the west of Watling Street, one of the principle Roman roads in Britain. The area around Brockley Hill, approximately 1 mile to the north, has been associated with the Roman settlement of Sulloniaca. The GLSMR, however, does not list any Roman findspots within 500 metres of the redevelopment area.
- 1.3.7 The Domesday Book records that 9½ hides of land in Stanmore were granted by Offa to St Albans and held by Algar. Although no church has been recorded there may have been a low density, dispersed settlement within Great and Little Stanmore.
- 1.3.8 The redevelopment area lies inside the parish of Great Stanmore within Gore Hundred and although Great and Little Stanmore are considered to be pre-conquest names the first documentary evidence of their names dates from 1354 (SMR052129). The oldest roads in this area of Stanmore were the routes of the modern Church Road, Uxbridge Road, Old Church Lane and Green Lane, which runs along the western side of the site. The GLSMR records medieval buildings along those routes. The redevelopment area lies within the heart of the later medieval village of Great Stanmore whose focus shifted from the south end of Old Church Lane to the north end during this period. From the later part of the medieval period the site was the location of a head copyhold tenement called the Pynnales. The tenement occupied land bounded by the modern streets of Church Road, Green Lane and Stanmore Hill although the exact location of the Pynnales buildings is uncertain.
- 1.3.9 From at least the 17th century onwards the Pynnales tenement was located on the plot immediately to the west of where Cherchefelle Mews now stands. The Pynnales were burnt down in 1930. The GLSMR lists various post-medieval buildings along Old Church Lane and the new church, St John's, which is immediately adjacent to the redevelopment area. The church of St John was built in 1632 and lasted until

1849 when it was robbed and rebuilt close by. The houses on the redevelopment site, numbers 45-61 Church Road, were constructed in 1947.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present and to establish the exigency for a mitigation strategy.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features and to make available the results of the investigation.
- 2.1.4 To define any relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation proves necessary.
- 2.1.5 If significant archaeological remains were discovered then the OAU would signal to all parties that an archaeological find has been made, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of six trenches each measuring *c* 20 m x 1.8 m (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 No finds were retrieved.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Because of the absence of archaeological features no environmental samples were taken.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 Section 5 includes individual context descriptions, with archaeological deposits and features described from earliest to latest. Context information is summarised in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The trenches were located in the gardens of the properties due to be demolished. The rear gardens consisted of topsoil overlying make-up layers that overlay London Clay. The front gardens had the same sequence of soils but were generally paved. Excavation in the front gardens was made difficult by the presence of services. Tree roots had disturbed all deposits encountered.
- 4.1.2 At the time of the evaluation houses 51 and 55 were still occupied and as a result no excavation work occurred at these two properties.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 There was made ground associated with the landscaping of the present gardens in all the trenches. Buried soils were evident in Trenches 1, 5 and 6, and a 20th century ditch was identified in Trench 3.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 *Trench 1* (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was 16 m long and aligned north-west - south-east. Natural clay and gravel (103) was seen at 85.61 m OD or 0.13m below ground level (bgl) in the north of the trench and at 85.38 m OD (0.2 m bgl) in the south. This was overlain by a possible clay loam layer (102), probably a former [undated] topsoil, in turn sealed by a sandy clay imported soil (101). A clay loam garden soil (100) sealed the deposits. ...

Trench 2 (Fig.3)

Trench 2 was 18 m long and aligned *c* north - south. In the north of the trench natural clay and gravel (203) was encountered at 85.45 m OD (0.45 m bgl). In the south of the trench 203 was seen at 84.96 m OD (0.3 m bgl). Over 203 lay an imported silty clay soil (202), which was sealed by a sandy clay levelling layer (201) below the garden soil (200).

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was 18 m long and aligned east - west. Natural (301) was seen at 85.44 m OD in the west and 84.92 m OD in the east (0.5 m bgl). Overlying 301 was an imported soil (304), which was cut by a linear ditch aligned north-west - south-east

(302). This was 0.80 m wide and clearly defined. The ditch was filled with redeposited natural clay and garden soil (303) and contained 20th century brick fragments. The ditch fill was sealed by the garden soil (300).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned east - west and was 15 m long. The natural (403) was seen at 84.51 m OD in the west (1.2 m bgl) and at 84.35 m OD in the east (0.8 m bgl). A disturbed clay natural layer (402) sealed this, which in turn was sealed by 401, an early imported soil. A rubble make up layer with a brick and concrete parking area (400) completed the sequence.

Trench 5 (Fig.3)

Trench 5 was aligned north-west - south-east and was 16 m long. Natural clay (505) was encountered at 86.89 m OD (0.7 m bgl) in the north and at 86.18 m OD (1 m bgl) in the south. A buried imported soil (504) and topsoil (503) overlay 505 and were in turn overlain by 502 a levelling deposit. An imported silty clay (501) and topsoil (500) overlay 502 and were sealed by 506, a parking surface.

Trench 6 (Fig.3)

Trench 6 was aligned north-west - south-east and was 16 m long. In the north natural clay (604) was reached at 86.43 m OD and in the south at 86.08 m OD (0.8 m bgl). This was sealed by an imported soil below a buried topsoil (603 and 602) which was overlain by a silty clay make-up layer (601). Topsoil (600) sealed the sequence.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The development site would appear to be devoid of significant archaeological remains. Although the landscaping of the property gardens may have truncated archaeological features, buried topsoils appear in most of the trenches. It is assumed that archaeological remains would be sealed by these pre-1947 topsoils. The results obtained from the evaluation would appear reliable and not influenced by intrusive factors.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

Before the construction of the residential properties in 1947 the site would have been parks and gardens associated with the Pinnacles, one of many of the large houses in Stanmore in the 19th century. No archaeological evidence has been found to suggest a use for the land other than fields or parkland.

Significance

The site would appear to be an area of no demonstrable archaeological significance, though the properties of numbers 51 and 55 were not investigated.

7 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 7.1.1 The evaluation produced no evidence for significant archaeological remains so it would seem unlikely that the development will affect any material of archaeological importance.

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2001 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land at 45-61 Church Road and Pynnales Close, Stanmore, Harrow

OAU, 2001 Written Scheme of Investigation, 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore, London Borough of Harrow

VCH, 1969 A History of the County of Middlesex. Volume 1

Wilkinson, D, 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (1st edition)

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2) LOCATION

Borough: Harrow

Site address: 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore

Site Name: 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore

Site Code: CUP01

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 1675 9225

Limits of site: N TQ 1675 9260

S TQ 1675 9190

E TQ 1715 9225

W TQ 1635 9225

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeological Unit

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Andrew Norton

Project manager: Jon Hiller

Funded by: CgMs Consulting, London/Wilcon Homes, North London

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 24/09/01 Date finished: 26/09/01

Fieldwork previously notified? YES

Fieldwork will continue? NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

20th century, unknown and geological

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

Ditch of 20th century date containing modern bricks

7) NATURAL

Type: London Clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 87.42 m OD

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes	1 file	PLans	2	PHotos		Ngtives	1 film
SLides		1 film		Correspondence	1 file	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BULK finds	0	SMall finds	0	SOil samples	0		
OTHer							

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: MOLAS
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: yes

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs, 2001 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land at 45-61 Church Road and Pynnales Close, Stanmore, Harrow*

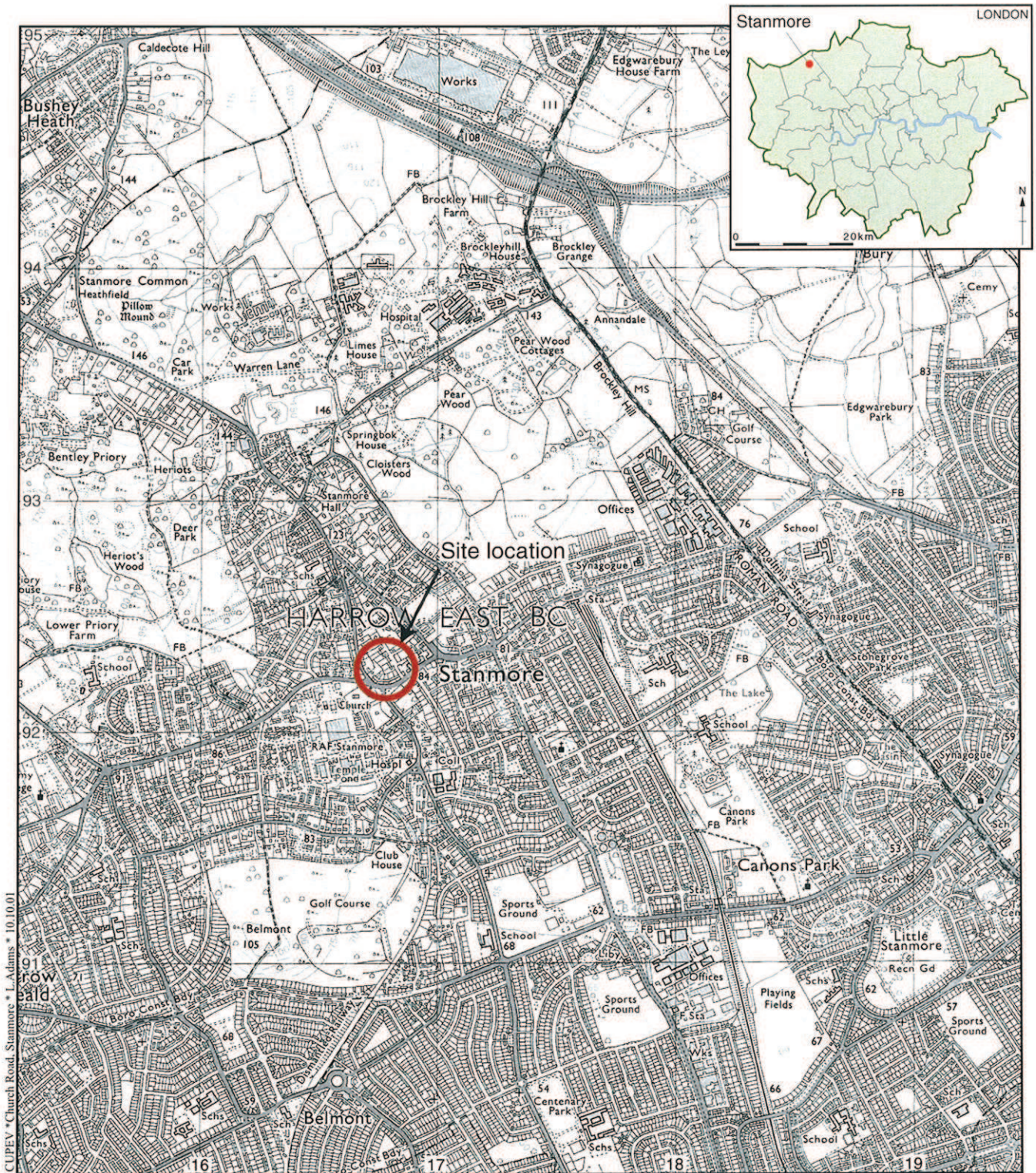
OAU, 2001 *Written Scheme of Investigation, 45-61 Church Road and Green Circle, Pynnales Close, Stanmore, London Borough of Harrow*

VCH, 1969 *A History of the County of Middlesex. Vol 1*

Wilkinson, D, 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (1st edition)

SIGNED: 
NAME JONATHAN HILLER, BA, MIFA:

DATE: 17/10/2001



CUPEV * Church Road, Stanmore * L. Adams * 10.10.01

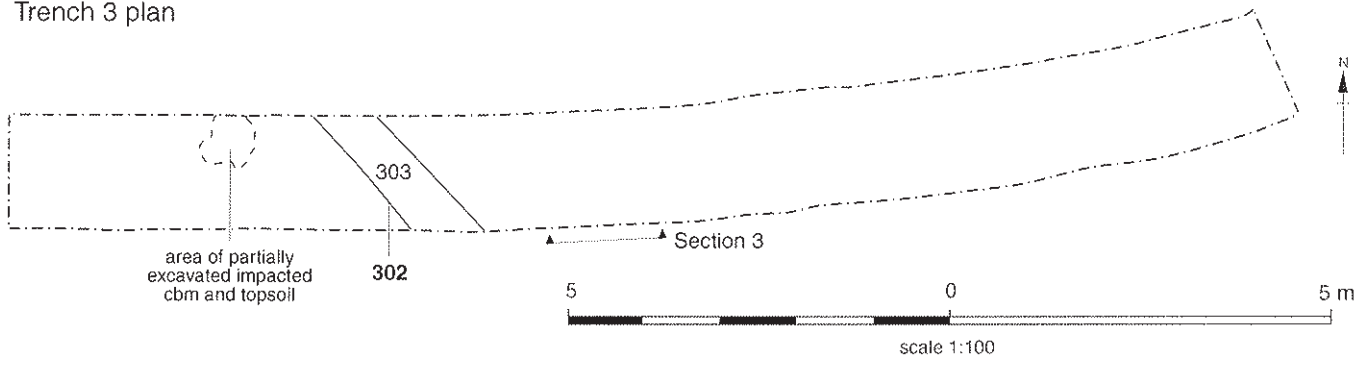
Reproduced from the Pathfinder 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 1991. All rights reserved. Licence No AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location plan

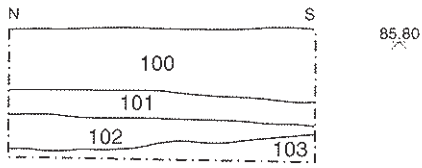


Figure 2: Trench location plan

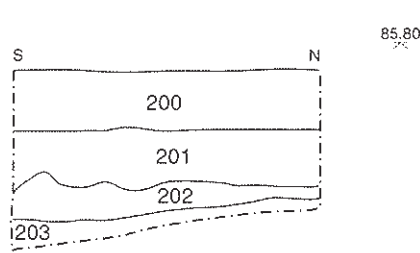
Trench 3 plan



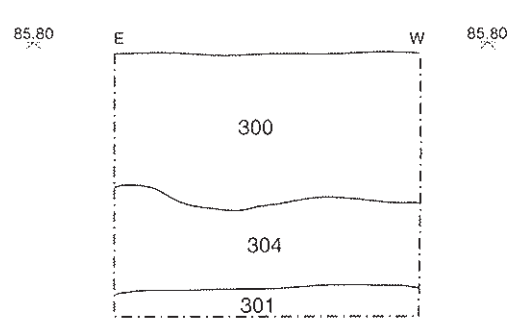
Section 1



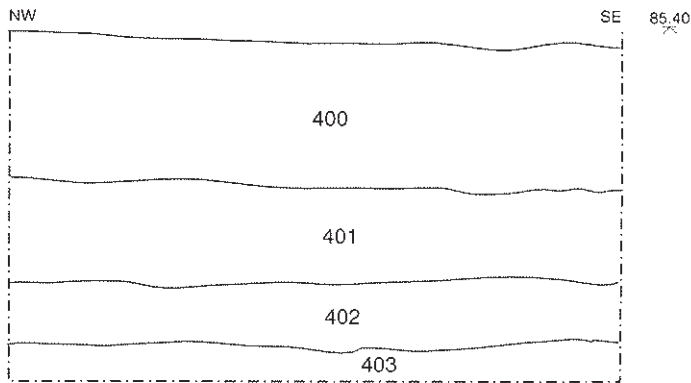
Section 2



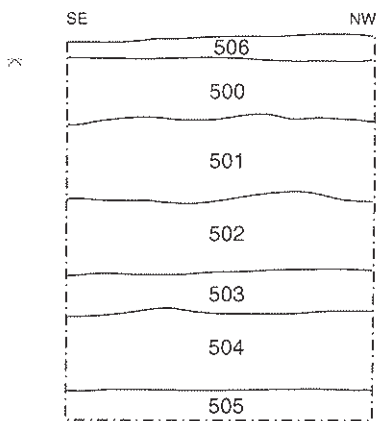
Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6

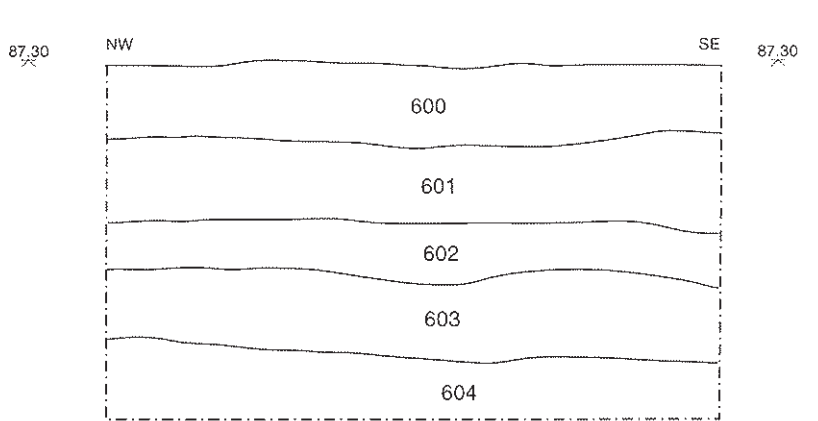


Figure 3: Plan and sections



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