

WRAYSBURY  
BR.

WRCOPEV

Land at 126 and 128  
Coppermill Road  
Wraysbury  
Berkshire



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



**Oxford Archaeology**

24th January 2003

**Client Name: Maplehall Limited**

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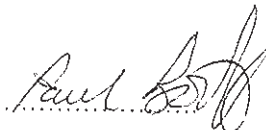
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**Land at 126 and 128 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION*

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## SUMMARY

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 126 and 128 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire (NGR TQ 0187 7482) on behalf of Maplehall Limited. No archaeological evidence was recorded during the evaluation, although a buried soil of uncertain date and a twentieth century soakaway were revealed.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In January 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 126 and 128 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire (NGR TQ 0187 7482) on behalf of Maplehall Limited. The work was in respect of a planning application for the construction of three detached houses following the demolition of the existing dwelling (Planning Application No. 02/82334). A brief outlining the archaeological requirements of the work was set by, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how OA would implement the brief, agreed with Babcie Group, the archaeological representative of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on river terrace gravel at c 18 m above OD. The site is situated by the side of the River Colne and opposite the Wraysbury Reservoir. It is comprised of three unoccupied plots of land on Coppermill Road, to the east of the line of Green Belt land, and is 0.3 hectares in area.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies in an area noted for evidence of prehistoric activity. Excavations at Stanwell Moor, Yeoveney, and Heathrow have revealed Neolithic enclosures and Bronze Age field systems. Some evidence of Iron Age and Roman farmsteads has been revealed on slightly higher ground to the south-west. The fact that the nearby villages of Poyle and Horton are mentioned in Domesday could mean that they are Saxon in origin, although no convincing archaeological evidence for Saxon settlement has been recovered in the area. At Poyle House (OAU 1999) evidence for medieval and post-medieval settlements was recorded.

1.3.2 The development site also lies close to several find spots of Mesolithic and early medieval date (Babcie 2002).

### 2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, significance, quality and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the development. The degree of complexity of horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy was also to be determined.

- 2.1.2 Attention was given to sites and remains of all periods including evidence of past environments, with provision for environmental sampling included.
- 2.1.3 The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion on the site and assess the degree of survival of all buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 15 m by 1.6 m and one trench measuring 35 m by 1.6 m (Fig 2). The overburden was removed under constant archaeological supervision by a JCB-type mechanical excavator 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 a scale 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* (Wilkinson, 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 No finds were retrieved during the course of the evaluation.

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No environmental samples were taken as no significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

#### 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 site was located on silt which overlay river gravel. The water table was encountered c 0.50 m below ground level (bgl) and partially obscured the natural gravel in two of the Trenches.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

#### *Trench 1*

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3), measuring 35 m by 1.6 m, was aligned east to west at the northern end of the site. Natural gravel (103) was recorded at 16.37 m OD (0.90 m bgl) and this was sealed by a 0.20 m thick layer of silty alluvium (102). The alluvium (102) was overlain by a layer of dark grey brown silty clay (101) that lay directly beneath the topsoil (100).

#### *Trench 2*

- 5.1.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4), measuring 15 m by 1.6 m, was aligned east to west on the western side of the site. Natural gravel (203) was recorded at 16.35 m OD (0.70 m bgl). A layer of alluvium (202) sealed the gravel and was overlain by a dark layer of silty clay (201). Layer 201 was truncated by a modern soakaway (204), constructed from machine made frogged and stamped bricks, which was sealed by the topsoil (200).

#### *Trench 3*

- 5.1.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5), measuring 15 m by 1.6 m, was aligned east to west on the eastern side of the site. Natural gravel (303) was recorded at 16.50 m OD (0.60 m bgl) and was sealed by a layer of alluvium (302). The alluvium (302) was overlain by a buried soil (301) that lay directly beneath the topsoil (300).

#### *Trench 4*

- 5.1.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 6), measuring 15 m by 1.6 m, was aligned north-west to south-east at the south-western end of the site. Natural gravel (404) was recorded at 16.30 m OD (0.70 m bgl). A layer of alluvium (403) overlay the gravel and was truncated by root disturbance (402) that was filled by an overlying layer of buried soil (401). This buried soil was sealed by the topsoil (400).

#### *Trench 5*

- 5.1.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 7), measuring 14 m by 1.6 m, was aligned north-west to south-east at the south-eastern end of the site. Natural gravel (503) was recorded at 16.08 m OD (1 m bgl) and this was overlain by a layer of alluvium (502). The alluvium (502) was sealed by a layer of buried soil (501) that lay directly beneath the topsoil (500). The northern end of the trench was truncated by a modern service.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 Due to the high level of the water table the natural gravel was partially obscured in some of the trenches. The gravel, where visible, and the overlying alluvium were not truncated by archaeological features. The lack of evidence for archaeological remains throughout the site suggested that archaeological remains were not present in the

isolated areas where the gravel was obscured. The alluvium did not appear to be modern in date and was not obscured by the high level of the water table. If archaeological features were present it is thought that they would have been evident in the alluvium (*Beachus pers. comm.*). Archaeological remains are therefore unlikely to have been present in the gravels and as such the results of the investigations appear to be reliable.

## 6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 No archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. The buried soil, which was seen in all the trenches, pre-dated the construction of the properties on Coppermill Road, and may have originally been part of the woodland to the rear of the properties. If the area was historically woodland, archaeological evidence would be limited in the area. This is reflected by the lack of any recorded finds suggestive of occupation activity from the site.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Layer	0.34	Topsoil
	101	Layer	0.10	Buried soil
	102	Layer	0.26	Alluvium
	103	Layer		Natural gravel
2	200	Layer	0.29	Topsoil
	201	Layer	0.12	Buried soil
	202	Layer	0.28	Alluvium
	203	Layer		Natural gravel
	204	Masonry		Soakaway
3	300	Layer	0.3	Topsoil
	301	Layer	0.12	Buried soil
	302	Layer	0.21	Alluvium
	303	Layer		Natural gravel
4	400	Layer	0.30	Topsoil
	401	Layer	0.30	Buried topsoil
	402	Cut	0.70	Root disturbance
	403	Layer	0.30	Alluvium
	404	Layer		Natural gravel
5	500	Layer	0.30	Topsoil
	501	Layer	0.50	Buried soil
	502	Layer	0.20	Alluvium
	503	Layer		Natural gravel



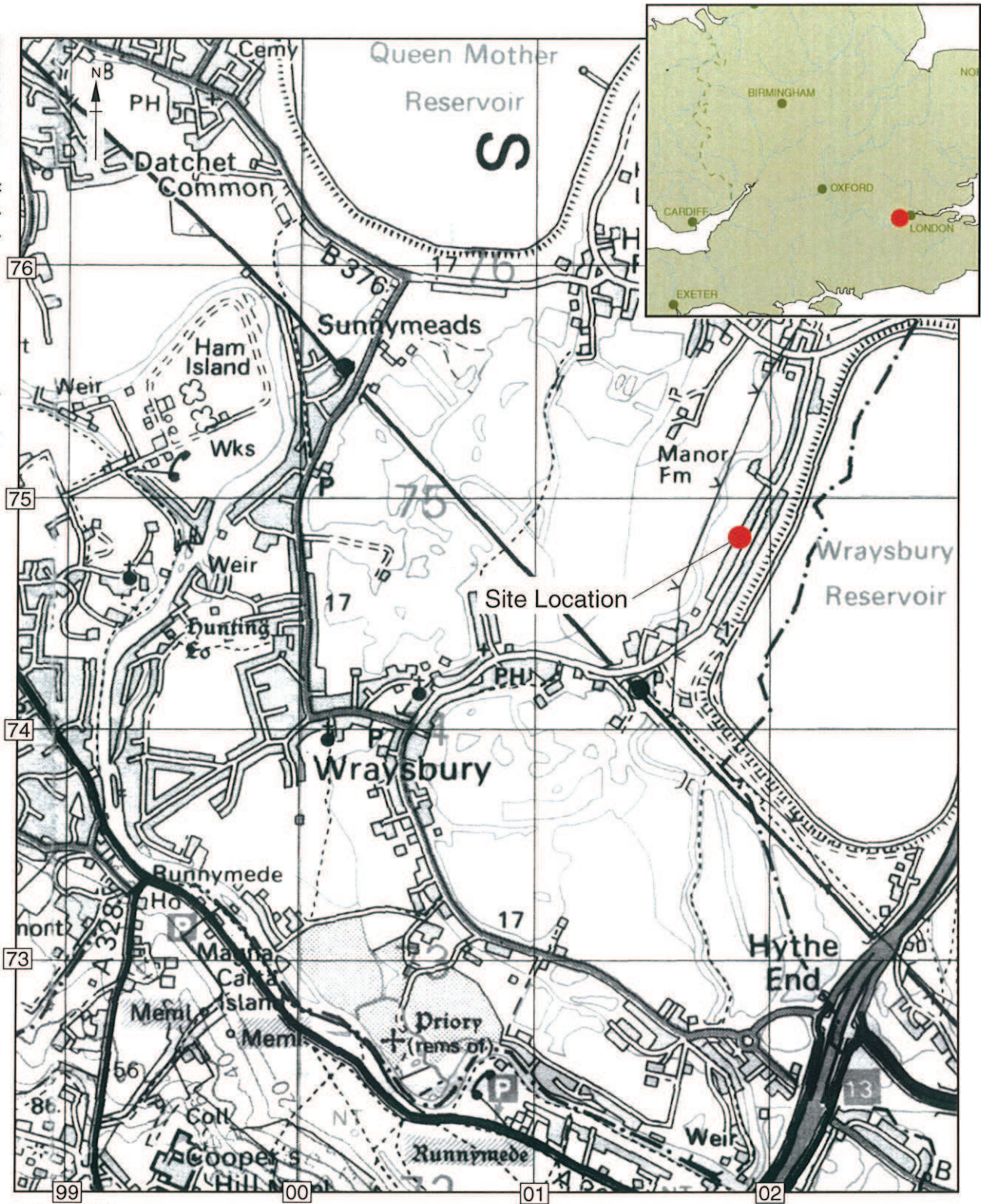
**APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

Babtie 2002 *Land at 126 and 128 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire. Brief for an archaeological evaluation.*

Mayes A, Hardy A and Foreman S 1999 *Excavations on the site of Poyle House, Berks* OAU Occasional Paper

Wilkinson D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992).

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Figure 1: Site Location

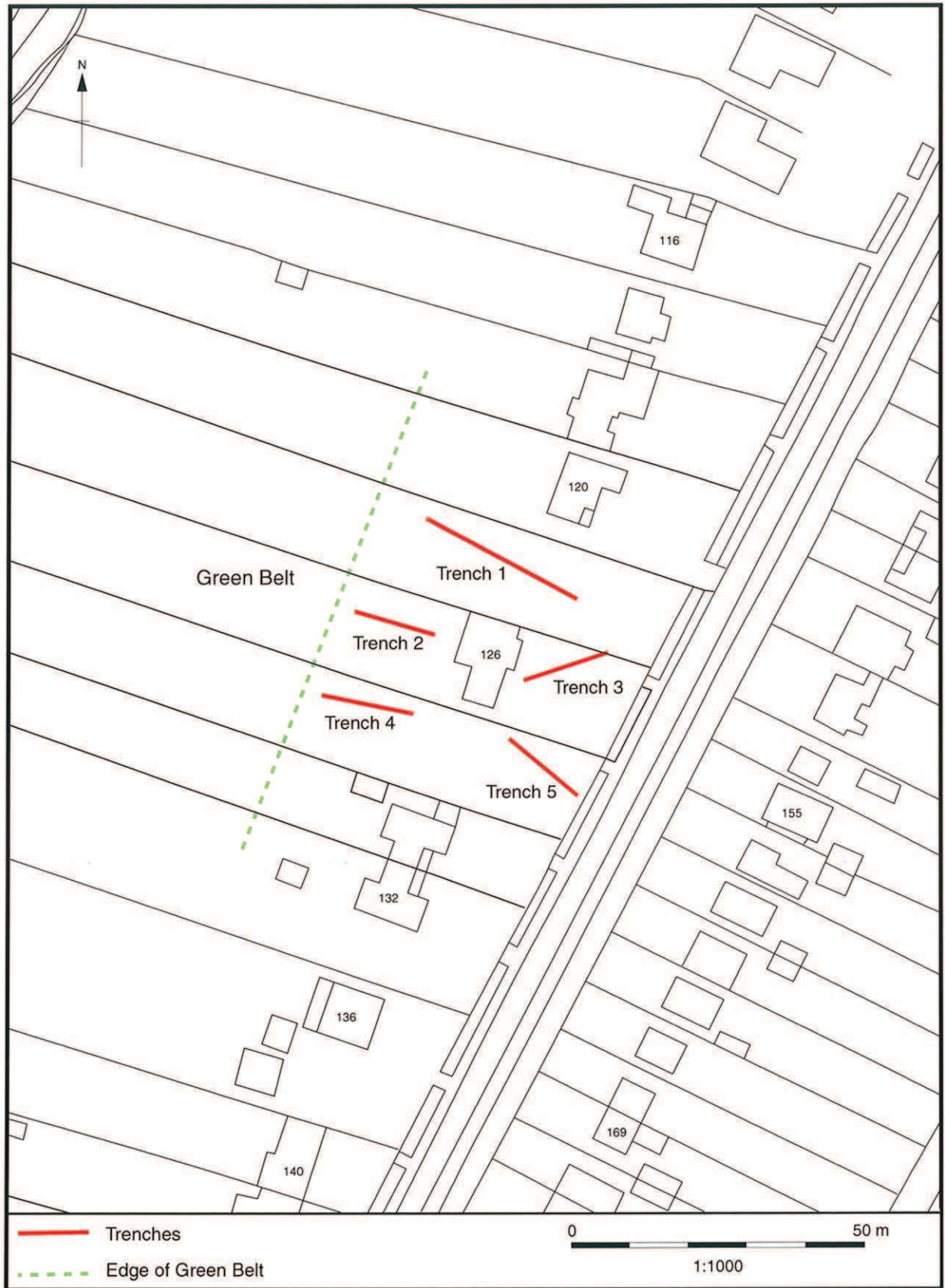
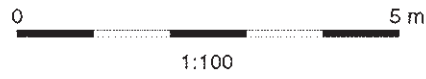
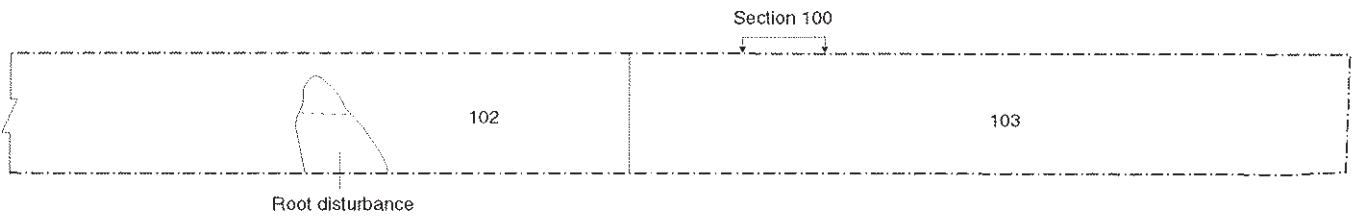
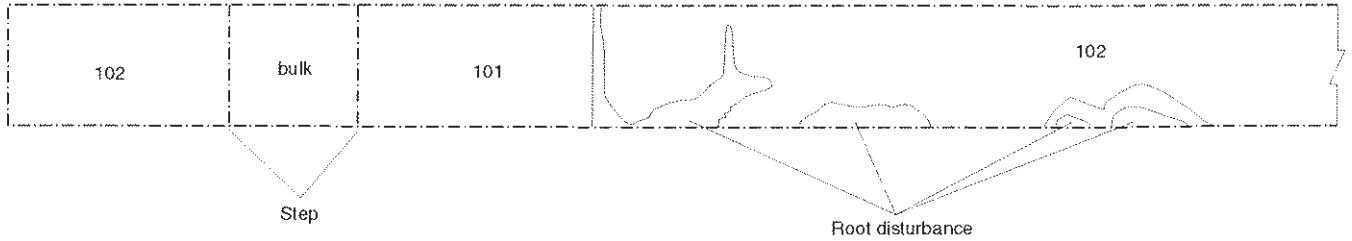


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Trench 1  
Plan 100



Section 100

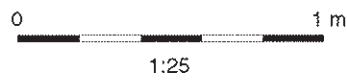
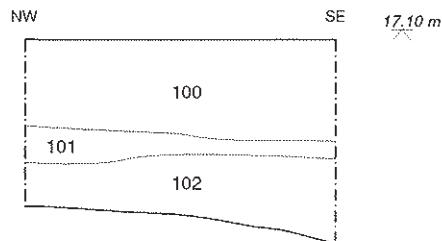


Figure 3: Trench 1 Plan and Section

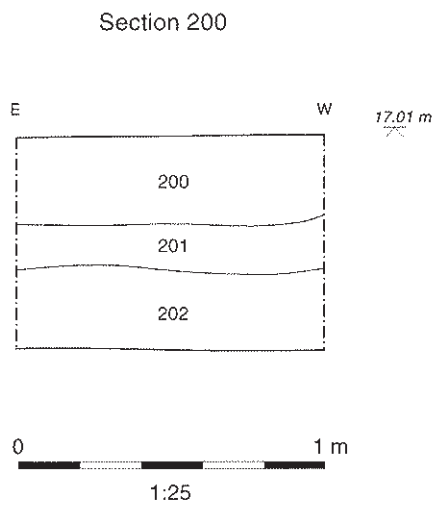
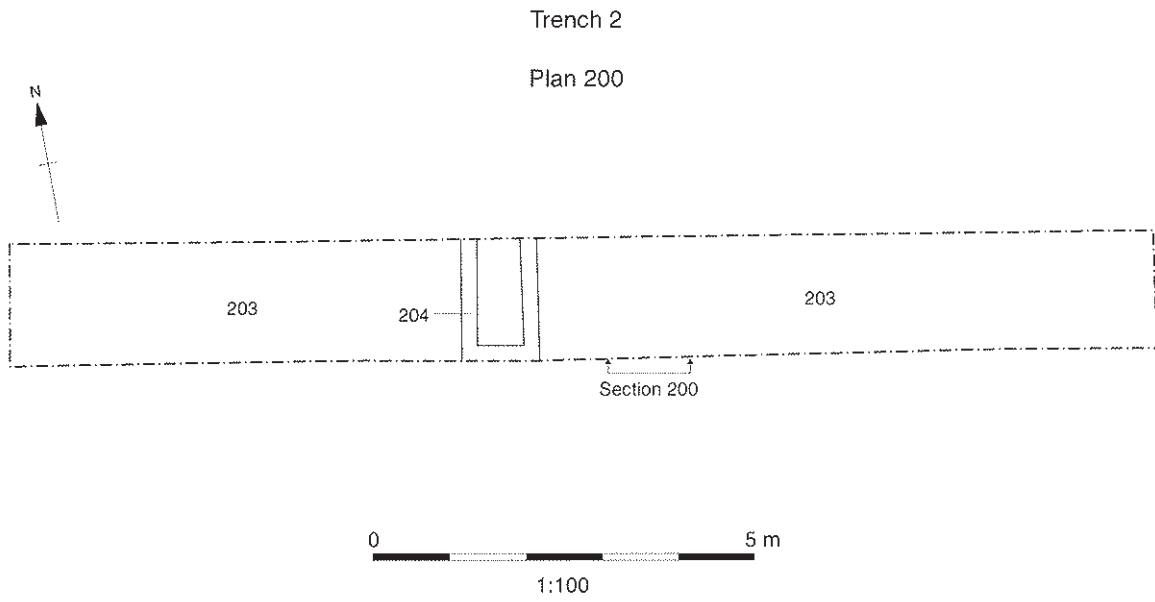
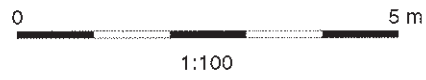
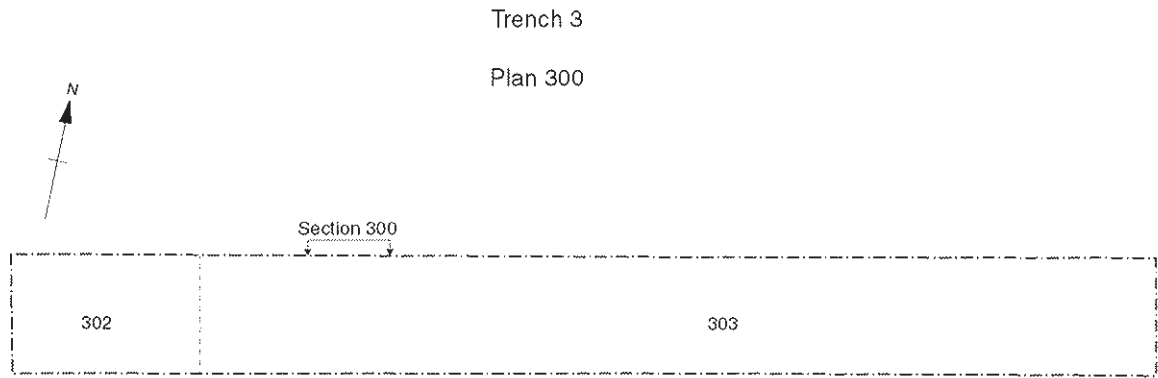


Figure 4: Trench 2 Plan and Section



Section 300

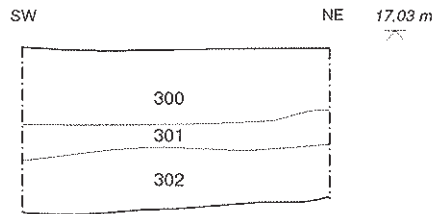


Figure 5: Trench 3 Plan and Section

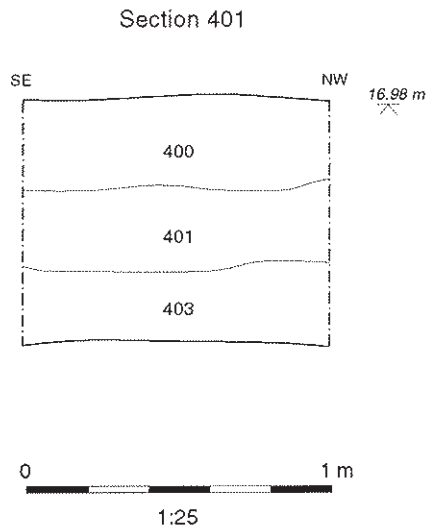
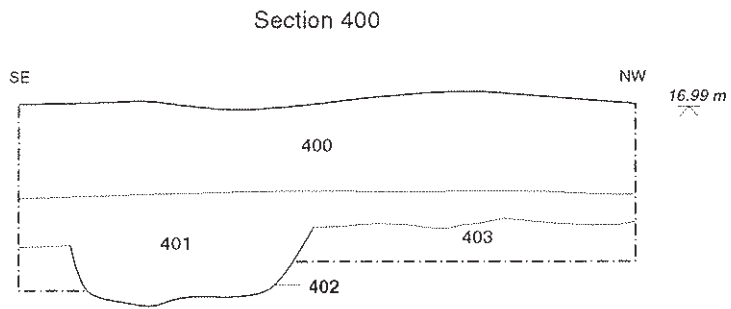
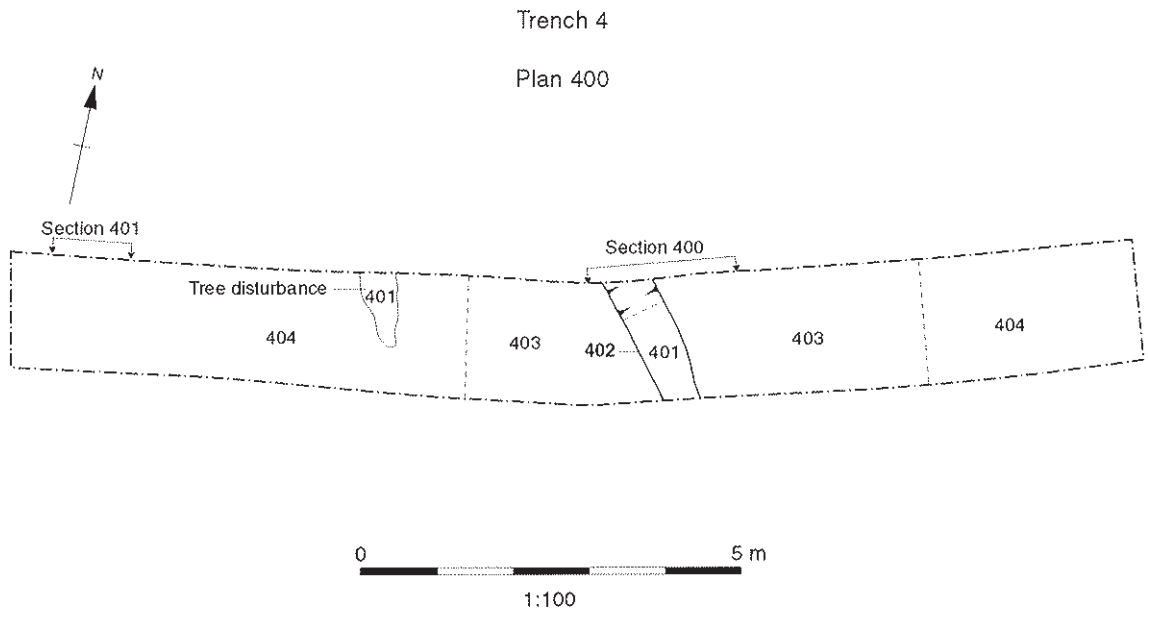


Figure 6: Trench 4 Plan and Sections.

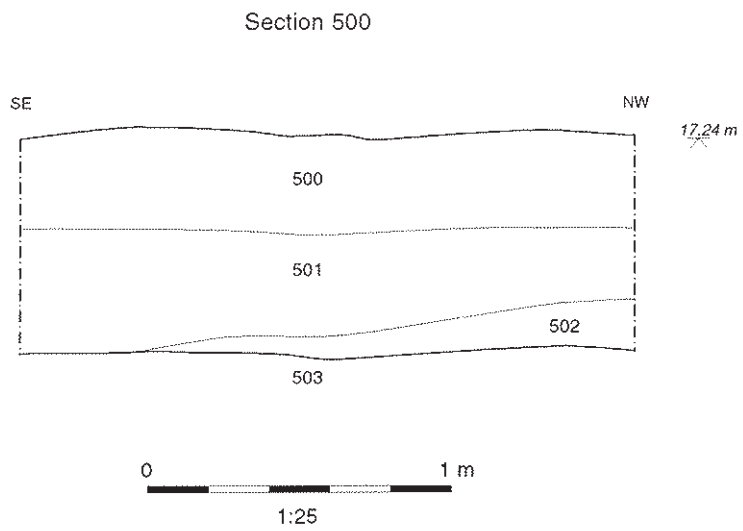
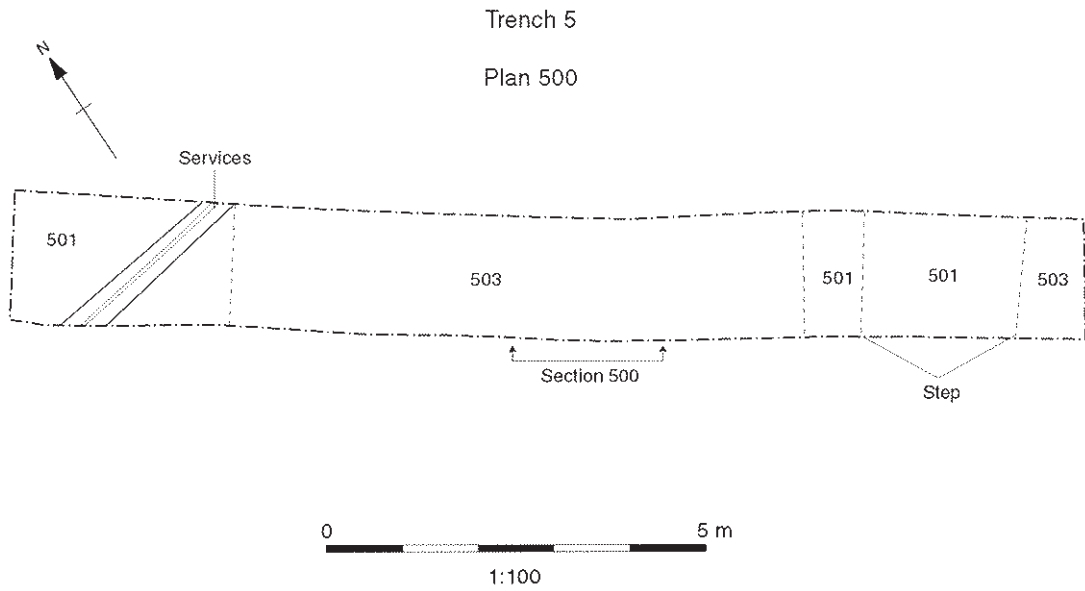


Figure 7: Trench 5 Plan and Section





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