

Ashton Court Golf Pavilion Long Ashton North Somerset



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Signed. 

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Ashton Court Golf Pavilion, Long Ashton, North Somerset.

NGR : ST 5538 7267

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Ashton Court Golf Course, Long Ashton, North Somerset NGR : ST 5538 7267, on behalf of Bristol City Council. No archaeological features or deposits were found. Natural stone bedrock was observed overlain by subsoil and topsoil. There was also evidence of recent landscaping possibly associated with the construction of the golf course. .

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In June 2006 OA carried out a field evaluation adjacent to the present golf pavilion and its car-park at Ashton Court Golf Course, Long Ashton, North Somerset, on behalf of Bristol City Council (Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief prepared by Vincent Russett, Planning Archaeologist for North Somerset County Council (NSCC 2006), regarding the proposed construction of a new golf pavilion and additional car-parking within open parkland.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated in an area of mixed geology of head deposits, Keuper marl, Upper Cromhall sandstone and Hotwells and Burrington Oolite. (British Geological Survey, 1979, Sheet 264). It lies on ground that slopes down gently towards the east and south east from c. 57 m above Ordnance Datum. The site encompasses the present golf course car-park, pavilion buildings and surrounding grassed areas. The area immediately to the east of the present pavilion is somewhat irregular, suggesting the presence of possible landscaping or former quarrying activity.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a detailed archaeological assessment and management survey (OA 2001) and an archaeological impact assessment (OA 2006), which is briefly summarised below:-

Prehistoric

1.3.2 The development area has very high potential to contain intact archaeological remains associated with a prehistoric (probable Iron Age) field system consisting of upstanding lynchet banks, track-ways and field boundaries, preserved, in part, as earthworks.

Roman

- 1.3.3 No archaeological features or deposits are known within the development area, although finds scatters of Roman date exist.

Medieval

- 1.3.4 Evidence of remnant medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has been identified, although for the most part this seems to have been removed by later ploughing.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the extent of possible quarrying activity within the development area.
- 2.1.2 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area, particularly prehistoric features and deposits.
- 2.1.3 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present. To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 Three 15 m x 1.6 m trenches were excavated by an JCB mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.2 Two trenches were arranged in a 'T' pattern within the footprint of the new pavilion and a single trench was located to the east of the present wooden pavilion, where it is proposed to extend the present car-park (Fig. 2).

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. The underlying natural stone was fully tested by the excavation of deeper machined sondages within Trenches 1 and 3.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand as appropriate, and planned at a scale of 1:50. Sample sections were 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* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 The only finds identified were of obviously modern date and were found within either the present topsoil or made-ground deposits. These finds were noted but not retained. The finds are briefly described within the trench descriptions.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 Each trench is individually described. The descriptions are followed by a discussion and interpretation of the results, together with a summery of the results. A table of contexts is given within Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

4.1.1 The top of the underlying marl was found at a depth of 57.51 m aOD. This typically consisted of undisturbed small - medium sized broken marl in a matrix of orange brown silty loam, with occasional outcrops of larger stone (102). The deposit was tested by machining a deepened sondage and was found to be at least 1.5 m thick.

4.1.2 The stone was covered by up to 0.08 m of orange-brown silty loam and up to 0.2 m of brown silty loam topsoil and the present turf-line.

4.1.3 No finds were recovered.

Trench 2

4.1.4 The sequence within Trench 2 was similar to that within Trench 1, with a broken marl bedrock and orange-brown silty loam (202), overlain by up to 0.13 m of orange-brown silty loam (201) and up to 0.15 m of the present topsoil and turf-line. Small quantities of modern white-glazed pottery were noted within the topsoil, but not retained.

Trench 3

4.1.5 The underlying natural (303) identified with Trench 3 varied from that found within Trenches 1 and 2, in that it consisted of a mixture of marl and sandstone, deposited as irregular spreads of smaller broken stone within bands or veins of larger, harder bedrock. This deposit was tested by excavating down to a depth of 1 m within the south-eastern half of the trench, revealing more extensive patterns of the underlying bedrock.

- 4.1.6 The underlying stone was covered by a probable subsoil (302), consisting of up to 0.1 m of reddish-brown loam which sloped down gently towards the southeast.
- 4.1.7 Within the south-eastern end of the trench, layer 302 was overlain by up to 0.45 m of medium sized stone hardcore in a matrix of grey granular tarmac. This appears to be a deliberate levelling-up deposit, to the east of the present pavilion. Several pieces of white-glazed pottery and modern metalwork were found at the interface of the hardcore and the underlying loam. This was noted but not retained.
- 4.1.8 The trench was sealed by up to 0.1 m of brown silty clay topsoil and the present thin turf-line.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The results are consistent throughout. Underlying stone deposits were tested by the excavation of machined sondages and revealed undisturbed stone horizons. No archaeological features or finds were identified. Undulations within the landscaping to the east of the pavilion buildings were identified to be the result of modern levelling up in this area.

5.2 Overall interpretation

- 5.2.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified. The revealed underlying stone horizons appeared to be undisturbed and consistent. Undulations of the ground level to the east of the present pavilion buildings were identified as the result of modern landscaping. The general lack of archaeological finds may also suggest a lack of archaeological activity within the immediate area.

Summary of results

- 5.2.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1					
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.08		
102	Layer	Stoney natural	1+		
Trench 2					
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
200	layer	Topsoil	0.15	Pottery	Modern
201	Layer	Subsoil	0.13		
202	Layer	Stoney natural			
Trench 3					
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
300	Layer	Topsoil	0.1		
301	Layer	Made-ground	0.45	Pottery/metal	Modern
302	Layer	Subsoil	0.1		
303	Layer	Stoney natural	0.5 +		

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Oxford Archaeological Unit. *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

Oxford Archaeology, January 2001. *Ashton court estate, Bristol, Archaeological assessment and management Survey*

North Somerset Council, 2006. *Project Brief for Archaeological Mitigation: land at Ashton Park, Long Ashton.*

APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Ashton Court Golf Pavilion

Site code: BRSMG 2006.35

Grid reference: ST 5538 7267

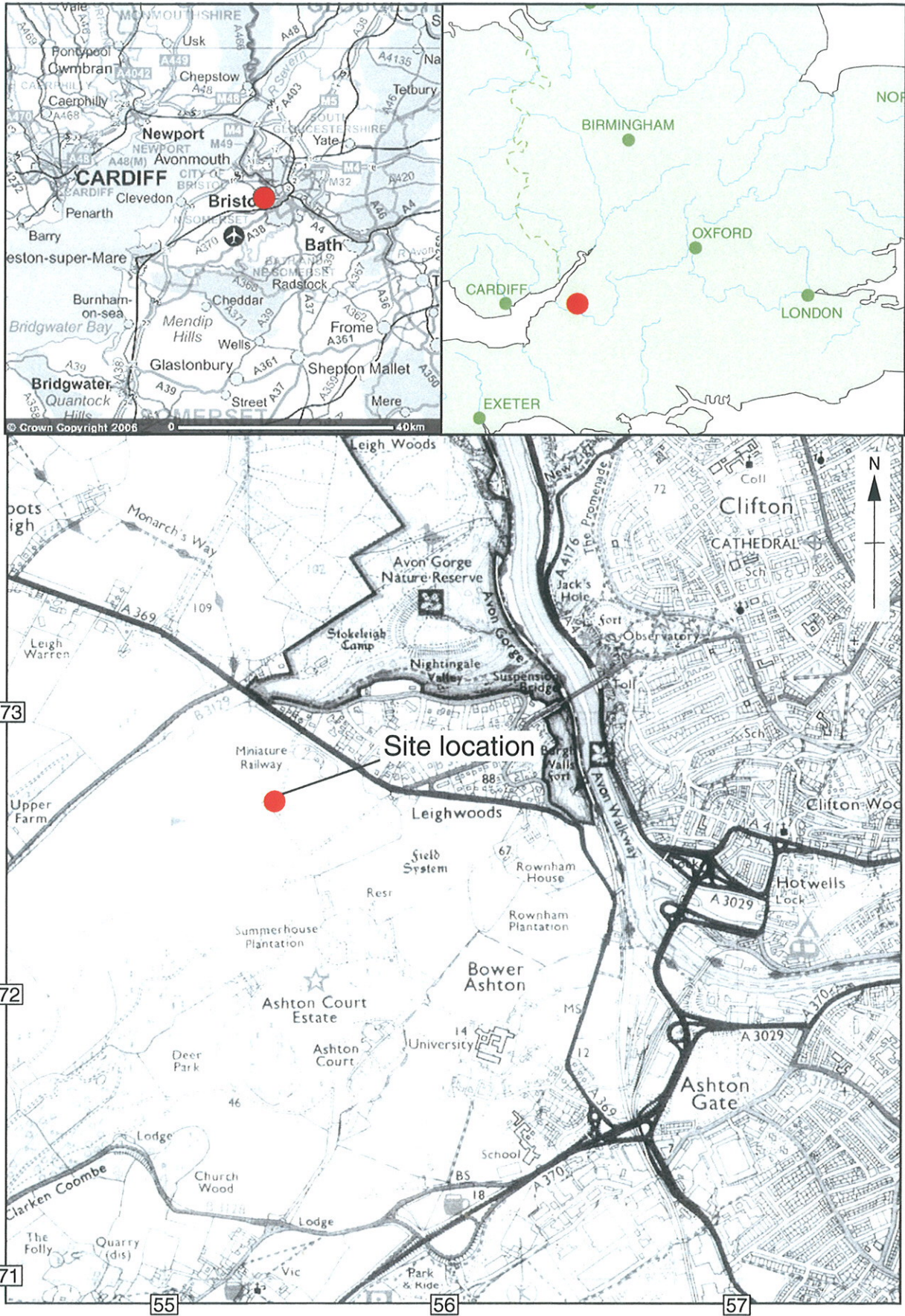
Type of evaluation: Three trenches

Date and duration of project: Two days, 14th/15th June.

Area of site: 0.3 ha

Summary of results: No archaeological remains or features were observed. Trenching revealed natural bedrock, subsoil and modern landscaping.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Galleries in due course. Accession Number BRSMG : 2006.35



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Figure 1: Site location

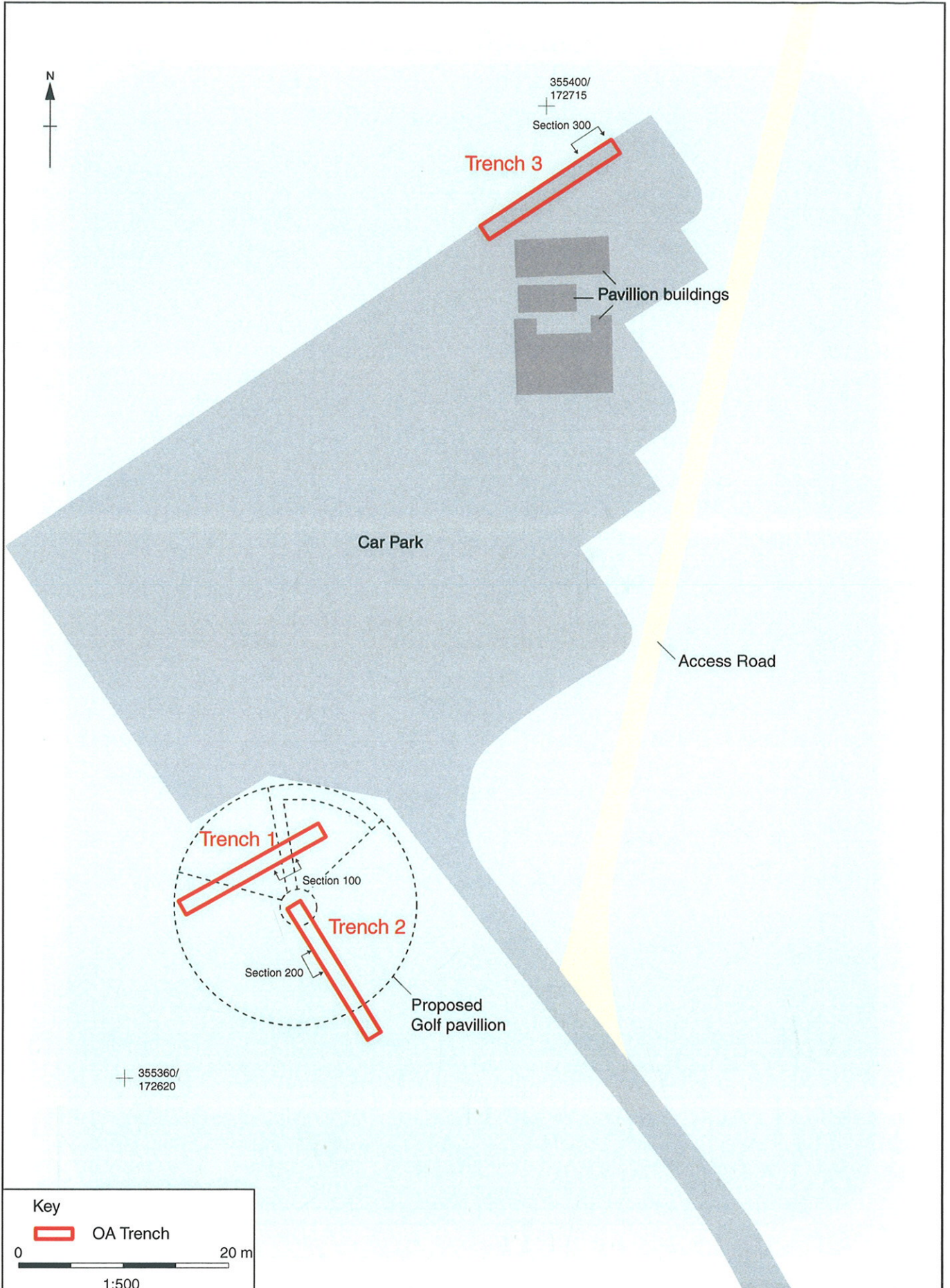


Figure 2 : Trench plan

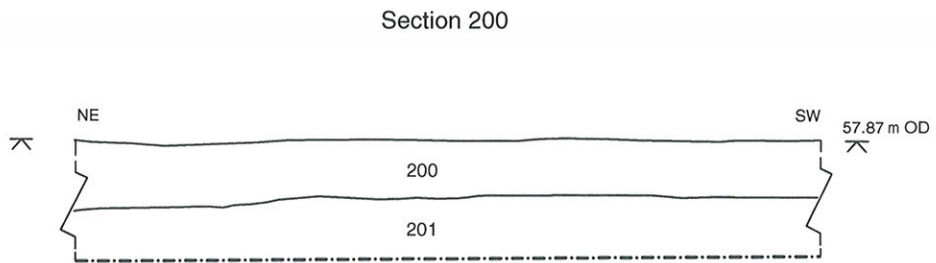
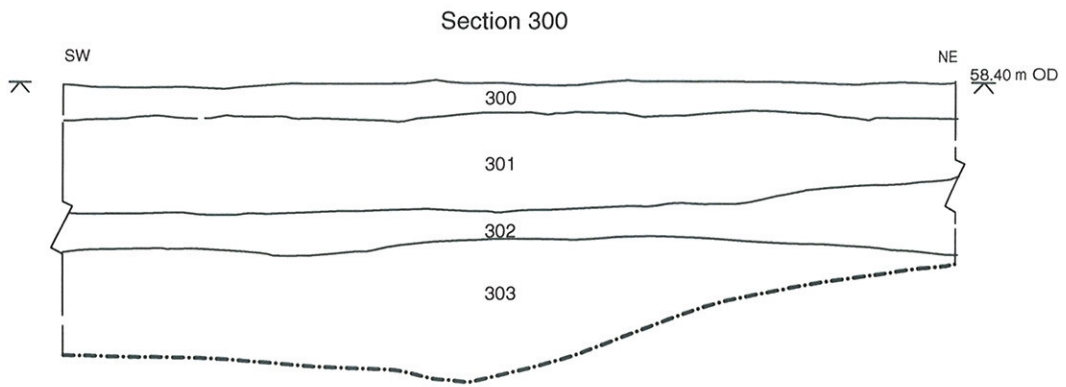
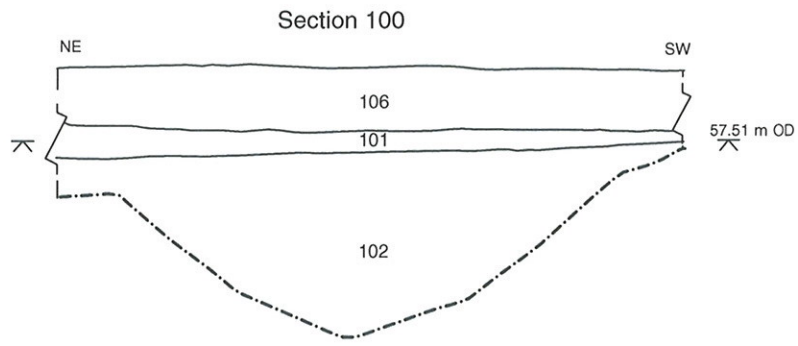


Figure 3: Sections



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