Snowy Fielder Waye, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

NGR TQ 1667 7620

Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Proposal

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

January 1996

SNOWY FIELDER WAYE, ISLEWORTH,

LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW,

MIDDLESEX

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT AND EXCAVATION PROPOSAL

Oxford Archaeological Unit

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Archaeological Evaluation Report and Excavation Proposal

1 Summary

1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation on the above named site in January 1996. The work was carried out on behalf of Prestoplan Design and Build Ltd in connection with a proposal to build a nursing home on the site. The evaluation established the existence of significant, and well preserved, archaeological deposits on the site, representing later prehistoric agricultural and occupation activity. This report therefore details the results of the evaluation and sets out a proposal for the excavation of these remains.

2 Introduction

2.1 It is proposed by Prestoplan Design and Build Ltd to build a Nursing home on an area of wasteland between Snowy Fielder Waye and Hepple Close, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Middlesex. As part of the conditions of planning for this development Prestoplan commissioned the Oxford Archaeological unit to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed new building. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the existence, and significance of any archaeological remains which might survive.

2.2 The fieldwork took place over a period of four days in January 1996 and was carried out according to specifications agreed with English Heritage.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background (by Ianto Wain)

3.1 The site of the proposed Nursing Home at Snowy Field Way, Isleworth lies on the first gravel terrace just to the north-west of the historic centre of Isleworth Village, a Domesday Village which historically clustered along the Thames. Immediately to the north-west lies Syon House, 16th century Manor house built upon the site of a 15th century Bridgettine Abbey, and its Grade II Listed Park. To the south of the development area lies Mill River and to the south of this lies the site of Isleworth Manor House, a 13th century moated manor house. Little is known about the development site in the medieval period although it may have formed part of the lands of Isleworth manor and may in turn have passed, along with the other lands of the manor to the Bridgettine Abbey on its foundation in 1414. On the 17th and 18th century maps consulted the development site lies in the open fields of Isleworth immediately outside the boundary of Syon Park.

As marked on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) the site

contains no recorded archaeological remains and there is very little recorded archaeology in its immediate area. However there is evidence of multi-period archaeological activity in the area around the river and to the north of the proposed development site. In addition evidence of multi-period activity ranging from Palaeolithic to early medieval has been recovered from the river in the vicinity of the site, mostly in the form of chance finds from the foreshore or material dredged from the Thames. Much of the surrounding area is now built up and largely residential so there has been limited excavation in the vicinity of the site. However a concerted programme of excavations at Brentford, which lies just over a km to the north of the site, in the late 1960's and 1970's uncovered evidence for the Roman and Medieval settlement of the area (Canham et al 1978).

No prehistoric settlement sites have hitherto been recognised in the area although the quantity of Prehistoric finds from the river, and the presence of unstratified Prehistoric finds on sites in the area, does indicate the general prehistoric potential of the development site. On the whole, and with the exception of the large quantity of Mesolithic and Bronze Age finds from the river, the evidence of prehistoric activity in the area has hitherto been dominated by Neolithic material: both the large concentrations of prehistoric material recovered from excavations in the area in the last twenty years have been ascribed Neolithic dates. A Department of Greater London Archaeology (DGLA) excavation in 1975 (GLSMR no 050608) discovered unstratified material including 144 flint flakes or implements and 97 Neolithic flint-tempered potsherds during the excavation of a series of Roman ditches at a site close to the London Road. Farther to the north an excavation just to the north of Brentford High St (Canham 1978, Site 4) revealed 181 struck flints and 105 sherds of flint-tempered Neolithic pottery contained within the brickearth deposits. This excavation also revealed one small prehistoric gulley. Unstratified Prehistoric material has also been recovered from recent excavations at the London Road Filling Station site (GLSMR no 052322) to the north-west and during the excavation of Isleworth Manor House (GLSMR 052685) to the south of Snowey Fielder Way. Iron Age activity is suggested by the find of late Iron Age pottery (GLSMR no 050234) in deposits sealed by the Roman wattle hut (see below) on the edge of the Thames foreshore.

Nevertheless considerable Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity in the area as a whole is suggested by the large quantity of prehistoric artefacts which have been discovered during periodic dredgings of the river or recovered from the Thames foreshore. These include not only quantities of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements but also a large number of high quality Bronze Age and Iron Age objects, such as swords, daggers, horse equipment, axes and bronze buckets. Although many of these may have been votive deposits by communities situated away from the river the quantity of multi-period finds from this stretch of the Thames does suggest a scale of Prehistoric activity higher than that suggested by excavation alone. This apparent absence may be attributable to the generally residential nature of, and the consequent low level of archaeological investigation in, the area around the development site. In addition Canham (1978 147) has suggested that the absence of prehistoric evidence in the archaeological sites of the area may be attributable to the substantial rise in the water table since later prehistory which would have had the effect of either burying sites beneath layers of alluvium or washing away all evidence of riverside settlement.

Roman settlement of the area is more clearly defined. The line of the London Road, now the A315, which passes to the north of the development area, is generally considered to form the line of the main Roman Road from London to Silchester. Excavations close to the line of the road in 1975 (GLSMR no 050868) and 1993 (GLSMR 052322) failed to locate any trace of the road although the 1975 excavation, by the DGLA, did uncover a ditch, running parallel to the road, which contained late Roman pot sherds. More significant Roman activity has been located at Brentford where the series of excavations conducted by Canham identified the remains of a small Romano-British roadside settlement (1978 148) and on the both foreshores of the Thames where excavations by Mortimer Wheeler in 1928 and by the West London Archaeological Field Group in 1955 and 1966 revealed sealed Roman deposits and the remains of at least two wattle huts, associated with both Roman and late Iron Age pottery.

4 Location and Topography

4.1 The site is situated on the east side of Isleworth in the London Borough of Hounslow (NGR TQ 1662 7620) and lies close to the River Thames which borders Isleworth to the east. The site consists of a small strip of flattish waste ground, some 80m long and 40m wide, which until recently was an orchard and it is not known to have been disturbed by any previous developments.

4.2 The present ground level exists at a height of 5m O.D. The underlying geology is river terrace sands and gravel.

5 Methodology (see Fig. 2 for trench locations)

5.1 The evaluation comprised of three 15m trial trenches, positioned within the footprint of the proposed new building. The trenches were excavated to a width of 3.2m at ground level to allow for any deep areas of excavation to be stepped in where necessary.

5.2 The trenches were excavated down to the top of the first significant archaeological deposits using a 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench sections and exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand, and the various archaeological deposits were described, drawn and photographed. Sections were then excavated by hand through any archaeological features in order to establish their date and character and samples were taken for environmental analysis.

5.3 Trenches 2 and 3 were later extended in order to clarify the character of archaeological features and to assess the possible extent of the deposits that were discovered.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

This trench was located at the north end of the site and was roughly aligned E-W. The top of the natural sand was located at an average depth of 1.4 m below the present ground surface. However, in the last 3m at the west end of the trench the sand was cut away by a deep clay filled feature (118). Only the east edge of the feature was within the trench and it continued down below a depth of 2m. The size, and character of the fill within this feature, suggest that it is a palaeochannel (dried up river bed), apparently running along the eastern border of the site in a N-S alignment.

6.2 Overlaying the natural sand on the east bank of the channel was a deposit of greyish silty clay (117), which was slightly banked close to the channel, then gradually tapered out towards the east end of the trench. The character and appearance of this deposit suggested that it was a buried soil horizon, and it was sealed beneath two thick layers of what appeared to be redeposited natural subsoil (116 and 112), the latest of which, 112, also extended to the west end of the trench, filling the hollow above the palaeochannel.

6.3 Above this level were numerous post-medieval dump layers containing fragments of brick, intercut by various modern disturbances, at least two of which (111 and 107) cut right down to the lowest levels of the trench.

6.4 Trench 2 (Fig 4)

N.B. The description of this trench also includes some discussion of the deposits, which is necessary at this stage in order to understand the purpose and location of extensions made to the trench.

6.5 This trench ran through the central area of the site in a N-S alignment, and revealed, that unlike the northern end of the site, this central area was almost completely free of any modern disturbance or post-medieval overburden.

6.6 The top of the natural sand and silt was located at an average depth of 0.90m below the present ground surface. Overlying the natural subsoil was a layer of greyish silty clay (204), sealed beneath a layer of very 'clean' orange silt (203), which extended in a fairly even band throughout the trench. These two deposits represented the same sequence seen in the lowest level in trench 1, comprising of an early soil horizon buried beneath what appeared to be redeposited natural subsoil. Above this level were the remains of a fairly recently buried soil (202), directly overlaid by the present topsoil (201).

6.7 It seemed most likely that the redeposited natural subsoil spread over the buried soil represented upcast, or bank material, derived from a feature cut into the subsoil, which had later been levelled across the site. The extent of the material suggested that this must have been a fairly large earthwork, and it was therefore considered that the

location of the earthwork might be visible in the present topography, represented by the existence of a depression in the ground, or changes in ground level. A brief examination of the topography of the site and surrounding area was therefore carried out. This revealed that the ground was slightly raised through the middle of the site, falling away gradually on each side, toward the western and eastern boundaries. The fall toward the western boundary almost certainly indicated the line of the palaeochannel, but it was possible that the fall in ground level toward the eastern boundary represented the location of the earthwork.

6.8 An extension was therefore made to the trench, running at right angles toward the eastern boundary. Four metres to the east of the main trench a ditch (207) was located running in a N-S alignment. The buried soil (204), which was observed in the main trench, continued in this section, gradually tapering off toward the west edge of the ditch. One of the lower fills within the ditch (211) was distinctively similar to the buried soil and appeared to represent soil which had eroded into the ditch, apparently indicating that the buried soil horizon and the ditch were contemporary. Overlying the buried soil to the west of the ditch was a slightly mounded deposit of silty clay and this appeared to be upcast material from the ditch, representing the remains of a bank in situ. A deposit of similar material (209) tipping into the west edge of the ditch appeared to be soil from the bank which had slumped back into the ditch.

6.9 The upper layers of backfill (208 and 213) in the ditch consisted of very "clean", redeposited natural silty sand, representing deliberate backfilling of the ditch, by what appeared to upcast material, most probably from a bank which had been pushed back in.

6.10 A further 2m to the east the edge of another N-S aligned ditch (217) was located, with more upcast material (214 and 215) forming a bank on the west edge of the ditch and this partially overlay the earlier backfilled ditch (207). It was uncertain whether a thick deposit of clay silt (216), which overlay the bank material represented more upcast material from a later cleaning out of this ditch, or merely dumped material from another source. The hollow created by ditch and bank was filled in by layers of clay silt and loam (219, 220 and 221). As only the very edge of the ditch was within the trench it was not further excavated at this point, but a larger section of the ditch was excavated in trench 3 (306).

6.11 No dating evidence, or finds of any description, were retrieved from either of the ditches or from the bank material.

6.12 Two further extensions were later made to this trench. An extension was made to the west side of the trench to observe the continuation of the buried soil, and to try to retrieve dating evidence from it by taking it down in shallow spits and a single sherd of Iron pottery was retrieved in this way. Due to the later discovery of an Iron Age feature cut into the top of the redeposited bank material at the south end of the site (trench 3), this trench was extended southwards by 6m to try to establish the possible continuation of features into the central area of the site. However, no features, other than a shallow modern gully, were located in this extension.

6.13 Trench 3 (Fig 5)

This trench was located at the south end of the site and was aligned E-W. This area of the site was also completely undisturbed by any post-medieval activity and well preserved archaeological deposits survived immediately below the present topsoil.

6.14 The sequence of deposits in this trench were almost exactly the same as those seen in trench 2, with one notable addition. Part of a wide curving gully (305) was discovered towards the east end of the trench, cut into the top of the levelled out bank material (203 in trench 2 and in this trench numbered 302) and directly overlaid by the present topsoil. The gully extended 3m into the trench before terminating, and was some 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep. Two sections excavated through the gully produced a quantity of large Iron Age pot sherds, several fragments of triangular loom weight and a number of animal bones.

6.15 The trench was extended in the area to the north of the gully to observe its possible continuation, and to establish whether any other features existed in the immediate vicinity, however, no further features were discovered.

6.16 In the remaining area of the trench to the east of the gully the redeposited bank material tipped away to the east, and deeper excavation in this area revealed the existence of a large backfilled ditch (306) which was the apparent continuation of the ditch located at the east end of trench 2 (217). The ditch was partially excavated to a depth of 1.8m below the present ground surface, at which level the water table was reached and excavation ceased, though, the ditch clearly continued down below this depth.

6.17 The depression above the ditch was filled by similar material to that which existed above the ditch in trench 2, though in this trench these deposits contained charcoal and occasional fragments of animal bone.

7 The Pottery (by Paul Booth)

7.1 Forty seven sherds of pottery were recovered in the evaluation. Twenty one of these, of 19th-20th century date, came from contexts in Trench 1 (102, 103 and 110). The remainder was hand made material of Middle Iron Age date. Most of these sherds were recovered from context 303 in Trench 3, but 1 sherd was also recovered from a buried soil in trench 2 (204) and 3 sherds were found in Trench 1 (104), though these were redeposited.

7.2 The Iron Age material was generally in good condition. Sherds varied considerably in size, but even the small ones had relatively sharp edges - i.e. they had not been abraded by continual redeposition.

7.3 The fabrics represented were generally fairly fine and principally tempered with quartz sand. Very sparse flint was present in some sherds and a single sherd was in a coarser, flint-tempered fabric. Sherds were often quite well finished and several were burnished externally, but there was no other decoration. Five rims were present in

the assemblage. These were usually slightly squared and expanded at the tip. Where larger sherds were present these indicated fairly slack profiled shouldered jar forms with slightly everted rims. Base sherds were of simple type consistent with such jar forms.

7.4 All the characteristics of the hand made pottery indicate a Middle Iron Age date. This is supported by associated finds, which form context 303 included 3 fragments of a typical triangular loomweight. The condition of the material suggests that it derives from closely adjacent domestic activity.

8 **Animal bone** (assessed by Nicola Scott)

8.1 A small assemblage of thirty one pieces of animal bone was recovered from the site, all of which came from contexts in trench 3. Seven of these were recovered from the fill of the Iron Age ring gully (context 303), and the remaining fragments were recovered from context 307 and 317, which were layers filling in a hollow above a ditch immediately to the east of the ring gully.

8.2 The bone was generally in a good state of preservation, and virtually all of the fragments could be identified to species. This material would appear to be typical of domestic refuse.

9 **Environmental** (in consultation with Jane Sidell)

9.1 Twenty litre bulk samples were taken from the top of the palaeochannel in trench 1, from the buried soil in trench 2 (204) and from the fill of the large ditch in trench 3 (320). These were floated and the flots were briefly assessed by Jane Sidell of the Museum of London Environmental department.

9.2 The brief analysis of the sample taken from clay deposit in the top of the palaeochannel (114) showed that this material was heavily contaminated by the by post-medieval intrusions and contained fragments of coal and brick.

9.3 The mollusc preservation in the buried soil from trench 2 (204) was very good and a variety of species could be observed. However, this deposit had also suffered a small amount of contamination due to root action, and this included a small number of intrusive snail species. Although only a brief analysis of this material was undertaken at this stage it was fairly apparent that there was very little carbonized plant remains or charcoal present. The slightly stony character of the buried soil, and an initial observation of the molluscs, suggest that this deposit is more likely to represent a ploughsoil, as apposed to a more stable ground surface. This is also suggested by the erosion of the soil into the ditch (207), which bordered the soil to the east.

9.4 The mollusc preservation in the material taken from the large ditch in trench 3 (320) was noticeable poorer than in the buried soil and again there was very little carbonized plant remains or charcoal present.

9.5 Small fragments of 'cokified' coal were present in all of these samples, and this presumably derives from ash and clinker spread on to the orchard, which has been worked down by root and worm action.

10 Discussion

10.1 The sequence of deposits that were located were fairly uniform throughout the site and of the significant archaeological levels four main phases of activity were apparently represented.

10.2 The first phase appears to consist of the buried soil (contexts 117, 204 and 314), possibly representing a narrow strip of ploughsoil, bordered to the west by the palaeochannel (118) and to the east by a small boundary ditch (207), with a bank (206) along its west edge. Although the date of the palaeochannel could not be established, at the very least this feature would have constituted of a seasonally wet hollow throughout the later prehistoric period.

10.3 The only find to be recovered from the buried soil was a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery from trench 2 (204). However, this sherd was very small and was possibly an intrusion due to root action. The positive dating of the latest phase in the sequence also appears to suggests that it is unlikely that the buried soil is later than the earlier Iron Age and it is quite possibly earlier.

10.4 The ditch (207) was also undated, however, the occurrence of the buried soil material eroding into the ditch, indicates that the ditch was open and therefore contemporary with this early soil horizon.

10.5 The second phase of activity would appear to consist of the deliberate backfilling of the small ditch (207) and the excavation of a much larger ditch (217) immediately to the east, with a bank created along its western edge (contexts 214, 215 and 310). However, it is uncertain whether this ditch merely replaced the function of the earlier ditch or represented the creation of a more significant boundary, associated with activity to the east of the site.

10.6 The next phase is represented by the levelling out of bank material across the site (context 112, 116, 203 and 302), burying the early soil horizon. Although this material spread over the site was clearly redeposited natural subsoil, it appeared to be of a slightly different character from the more sandy subsoil which occurred on the site and which formed the bank material which survived in situ adjacent to the ditches. It also appeared to represent a greater volume of material than could have derived from the ditches. It is therefore possible that this material was either brought in and dumped on the site or is from a different, much larger earthwork which existed outside the area of the site. A possible explanation for the levelling out, or dumping of this material across the site was a necessity to raise the ground level, due to the rising water table.

10.7 The final, and possibly most significant, phase in the sequence is represented by the Iron Age gully (305), which was cut into the top of the levelled out bank material

(302) at the south end of the site. The finds retrieved from the gully clearly represents domestic refuse and the date and character of the feature therefore suggest that this is almost certainly ring gully, representing evidence of an Iron Age dwelling.

10.8 The existence of charcoal and animal bone in the layers filling in the hollow above the ditch, immediately to the east of the ring gully, would also appear to represent refuse associated with the iron Age occupation, and this would indicate that the large ditch (217 and 306), and its associated bank, still survived as a partial earthwork when the Iron Age structure was in use. It is therefore possible that the earthwork was utilized as a boundary or served as drainage on the east side of the dwelling.

10.9 Given the urban location of the site, the extent of the deposits, and the lack of later intrusions is quite remarkable. However, some post-medieval disturbance has clearly occurred at the north end of the site, and to a lesser degree tree root disturbance has occurred across the whole area due to the sites former use as an orchard.

11 Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 The evaluation has clearly established the existence of a well preserved sequence of archaeological deposits on the site, representing later prehistoric agricultural and occupation activity.

11.2 The rarity of survival of deposits relating to Iron Age occupation in the London area mean that this period is poorly understood; the evidence of Iron Age occupation on this site is therefore of significant interest. However, of equal importance is the unusual survival of a stratified sequence of deposits of this date, and in particular the existence of an early buried soil horizon. This site is therefore of significant regional importance.

11.3 However, it is the view of the applicant's archaeological consultants and English Heritage that the remains are not considered to be of such importance as to be preserved *in situ*. They are, however, of sufficient importance to merit preservation by record, along with limited mitigation designed to preserve some areas of the deposits beneath the proposed building.

11.4 The following section of this document therefore forms a detailed proposal for a limited archaeological excavation, aimed to create a record of any archaeological deposit that would be destroyed by the proposed development, and to recover finds and environmental data, in order to fully interpret these deposits.

12 Excavation proposal

12.1 Aims

12.1.1 To preserve by record all archaeological remains that will be affected by the development, with detailed aims including the following.

12.1.2 To define the nature and date of the buried soil horizon.

12.1.3 To establish the extent and full dimensions of the two ditches and to recover dating evidence from them.

12.1.4 To recover the layout of the house plan within the ring gully and to define the extent of the Iron Age occupation.

12.1.5 To recover assemblages of pottery, animal bone and other artefacts from the Iron Age features to assess the character of the occupation and to provide evidence of domestic practices and the pastoral economy.

12.1.6 To obtain environmental data revealing the character of the various deposits and to provide evidence and land use and agricultural practices.

12.2 Excavation strategy

12.2.1 Due to the level of the Iron Age occupation being immediately below the present topsoil, it is likely that any construction activity on the site, including the stripping of the topsoil, would result in the destruction of any features associated with this phase. Although the results of the evaluation appeared to show that features at this level were not extensive, it is likely that at least some features would occur in the areas of the site not observed in the evaluation trenches. It is therefore proposed that the site would be stripped of topsoil using a mechanical excavator and the resulting surface be cleaned by hand. Any features exposed at this level would then be subjected to 100% excavation. However, the topsoil would not be stripped along the western boundary of the site, where existing trees and bushes are to be retained, or at the far north end of the site, where the ground is heavily disturbed by post-medieval activity. These areas could therefore be used for storing the topsoil.

12.2.2 The area within the ring gully will be closely examined in order to investigate any evidence relating to a possible structure. The surviving evidence is most likely to consist of spacial arrangements of postholes representing a post-built structure and the distribution and location of any postholes would therefore be analysed, in order to elucidate the character of potential structures. Other features representing the wall lines of structures, such as slots, might also be present.

The possible existence of floor surfaces or evidence of mass wall constructions will be investigated, though it is unlikely that these type of deposits would survive. It is possible that other traces of superficial stratigraphy might survive, however, including hearths, gravel thresholds and other compacted surfaces.

The distribution of daub, burnt stone, and domestic refuse within the immediate vicinity of any potential structures will be analysed, including the distribution of any material recovered from the ring gully(s), as this may provide evidence relating to the character of the structure and the nature of the occupation.

The possible existence of external features associated with any structure will also be investigated, and these may include pits containing domestic refuse, clay lined pits, and possible fence lines, represented by posthole or stakehole alignments.

12.2.3 Deeper excavation on the site would be limited to areas where deeper disturbance would be caused by foundations. However, it would also be proposed to dig two deeper trenches, continuing from the east end of evaluation trenches 2 and 3 to the eastern boundary of the site, in order to excavate complete sections through the two ditches, to establish their size and character and also to try to recover dating evidence.

12.2.4 After the ring gully had been completely excavated, it would also be intended to continue down with the section created by the south edge of evaluation trench 3, in order to record the complete sequence of deposits at this point and also to observe whether the smaller ditch seen in trench 2 was continuous throughout the site.

12.2.5 The main foundations trenches for the proposed building will be excavated down to the top of the natural subsoil, subsequently removing the early buried soil along the line of the foundation trenches. It is therefore suggested that a 2m wide trench would be machine excavated along the entire length (approximately 50m) of the western foundation of the proposed building to expose the buried soil horizon. The resulting surface would be cleaned by hand to observe whether any features cutting into the soil were visible. Alternate 2m squares would then be excavated by hand through the soil and the resulting spoil sieved to try to recover artefacts.

12.3 Environmental sampling strategy (in consultation with J Sidell and M Robinson)

12.3.1 Column samples for mollusc analysis would be taken through the fills of the two ditches and one would be taken through the sequence of the *in situ* bank material and buried soil horizon observed in evaluation trench 2. A micromorphology sample would also be taken through this sequence, however, if the information obtained from the molluscan analysis was sufficient to interpret these deposits, the micro morphology sample would not be processed.

12.3.2 Limited bulk sampling would be used to try to recover carbonized plant remains from the buried soil, though the brief analysis of this material processed from the evaluation suggests that this deposit is of low potential for preservation of this kind.

12.3.3 Bulk sampling would also be used to try to recover carbonized plant remains from the Iron Age ring gully and from any other features of this date that might be discovered. Bulk samples from the ring gully would be taken at intervals along the gully to try to define any evidence of different activity around the structure.

12.3.4 The use of scientific dating techniqeues, including O.S.L. and Palaeo-magnetic dating, was considered to try to obtain a date for the early buried soil horizon. However, after consultation with Jane Sidell of the Musuem of London, and Dr Mark Robinson of the University of Oxford, it was decided that the character of the buried soil, and in particular the occurrence of contamination due to tree root action, would mean that it was very unlikely that any of these techniques would work and the use of these techniques would therefore not be cost effective.

12.3.5 The analysis of the environmental material would be undertaken by Dr Mark Robinson of the University Museum, Oxford.

12.4 General

12.4.1 All site methodology, access and safety, treatment of finds and samples to be as defined in English Heritage, London Region Archaeological Guidance paper:3 (Standards and practices in Archaeological Fieldwork) Nov 1992. Recording to be undertaken according to OAU Field Manual (ed D. Wilkinson 1992).

12.4.2 The work to be undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and to conform to the IFA Codes of Practice.

12.4.3 The project officer to be Mr Christopher Bell under the general direction of George Lambrick (Head of Fieldwork) and David Jennings (Head of Post Excavation).

12.4.4 The work to be undertaken in 12 days by the Project Officer and four technicians.

12.5 Post-Excavation, Analysis, Archive Deposition and publication

12.5.1 On completion of the fieldwork the site archive to be complied according to the requirements of Guidance Paper:3 and the Museum of London.

12.5.2 An assessment of potential for analysis to be undertaken as far as possible concurrently with the preparation of the site archive. A summary of the results of the excavation, and a publication proposal to be produced within a month of the completion of the fieldwork and a summary draft of the excavation report to be submitted for comment within 1 year.

12.5.3 The final report to be submitted for publication within an appropriate professional journal (LAMAS or PPS) within two years of the completion of on site work. A summary report to be published within London Archaeologist at the earliest opportunity. The main report to seek to place the discoveries in their local and regional context.

12.5.4 The analysis of the material to be undertaken by the Project Officer and appropriate specialist to be agreed with English Heritage.

12.6 Miscellaneous

12.6.1 The client has also requested that unit prepare a display board illustrating the findings of the excavation, which would be exhibited within the new building. This would consist of a laminated A1 board showing drawings and photographs of the site, accompanied by a brief descriptive text.

12.7 Monitoring

12.7.1 The London Borough of Hounslow on their appointed representative to monitor the progress of the work and quality of the works at intervals to be agreed.

Christopher Bell
Project Officer
The Oxford Archaeological Unit
January 1996

Archive sources consulted

Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) as held by English Heritage (London Division).

National Archaeological Record (NAR) as held by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME).

Published Sources

Canham R (1978) *2000 years of Brentford*

VCH (1962) *The Victoria History of the County of Middlesex* Vol III 1962

Map Sources

A map of Isleworth Hundred (1635)

Rocques map of London and Ten Miles Around (1746)

Ordnance Surveyors Drawings London SW and Surrey (1804-6) A 17th century map of the area indicated that medieval and early post-medieval Islewoth stretched along both sides of the "Islewoth River", and shows buildings at the southern end of Hepple Close.

Appendix 1 Table of contexts and finds

TRENCH	CTX	TYPE	DEPTH	COMMENTS	FINDS
1	101	Layer	0.31m	Present topsoil	
	102	Layer	0.50m	Post-Medieval dump layer	8 sherds of 19/20th century pottery
	103	Layer	0.26m	Recent buried soil	11 sherds of 19/20th century pot
	104	Fill	0.15m	Fill of pit 107	3 sherds of Iron Age pot and 1 sherd of 19/20th century pot
	105	Fill	0.30m	Post-Medieval dump layer	
	106	Fill	0.16m	Fill of pit 107	
	107	Pit	0.70m	Post-Medieval pit	
	108	Fill	0.45m	Fill of pit 107	
	109	Layer	0.30m	Post-medieval dump layer	
	110	Fill	1.00m	Fill of 111	3 sherds of 19/20th century pot and one clay pipe stem
	111	Feature	1.00m	Deep modern disturbance	
	112	Layer	0.40m	Redeposited Natural	
	113	Layer	0.20m	Fill of Palaeochannel	
	114	Layer	0.30m	Fill of Palaeochannel	
	115	Layer	N/A	Natural subsoil	
	116	Layer	0.30m	Redeposited Natural	
	117	Layer	0.50m	Early buried soil horizon	
	118	Channel	> 0.50m	Palaeochannel	

TRENCH	CTX	TYPE	DEPTH	COMMENTS	FINDS
	119	Feature	> 1.00m	Modern disturbance	
	120	Fill	> 1.00m	Fill of 119	
2	201	Layer	0.25m	Modern dump layer	
	202	Layer	0.24m	Present topsoil	
	203	Layer	0.40m	Redeposited bank material	
	204	Layer	0.22	Early buried soil horizon	1 sherd of Iron age pot
	205	Natural		Natural subsoil	
	206	Layer	0.08m	In situ bank	
	207	Ditch	0.85m	N-S ditch	
	208	Fill	0.62m	Deliberate backfill in ditch 207	
	209	Fill	0.20m	Eroded bank material	
	210	Fill	0.08m	Fill within ditch 207	
	211	Fill	0.10m	Eroded soil layer in ditch 207	
	212	Fill	0.08m	Primary fill of ditch 207	
	213	Fill	0.26m	Deliberate backfill in top of ditch 207	
	214	Layer	0.25m	In situ bank material	
	215	Layer	0.30m	In situ bank material	
	216	Layer	0.42m	Dumped material?	
	217	Ditch	> 0.30m	N-S ditch	
	218	Fill	0.20m	Fill in top of ditch 207	

TRENCH	CTX	TYPE	DEPTH	COMMENTS	FINDS
	219	Layer	0.62m	Filling in hollow above ditch 217	
	220	Layer	0.18m	Filling in hollow above ditch 217	
	221	Layer	0.17m	Recent buried soil	
3	301	Layer	0.30m	Present topsoil	
	302	Layer	0.14m	Redeposited bank material	
	303	Fill	0.21m	Fill of ring gully 305	23 sherds of Iron Age pot, 5 fragments of loom weight, 7 pieces of animal bone and 6 pieces of burnt flint
	304	Fill	0.20m	Fill of ring gully 305	
	305	Gully	0.41m	Iron Age Ring gully	
	306	Ditch	> 0.40m	N-S ditch	
	307	Layer	0.31m	Layer above ditch 306	18 pieces of animal bone
	308	Layer	0.50m	Layer above ditch 306	
	309	Layer	0.39m	Layer above ditch 306	
	310	Layer	0.50m	In situ bank material	
	311	Not used			
	312	Not used			
	313	Layer	0.23m	Recent buried soil	
	314	Layer	0.27m	Early buried soil horizon	
	315	Natural		Natural subsoil	
	316	Layer	0.22m	Layer above ditch 306	

TRENCH	CTX	TYPE	DEPTH	COMMENTS	FINDS
	317	Layer	0.25m	Layer above ditch 306	6 pieces of animal bone
	318	Layer	0.20m	Layer above ditch 306	
	319	Layer	0.40m	Layer above ditch 306	
	320	Fill	> 0.40m	Fill within ditch 306	

Appendix 2 Gazetteer of sites

1: Museum of London excavation in 1993 revealed two parallel East-West ditches, containing 13th and 14th century pottery. The area was in use for market gardening throughout much of the post-medieval perioed and the ditches, probably drainage ditches, were heavily truncated by post-medieval agricultural activity.
GLSMR nos 052557-8.
Grid ref; TQ 1625 7610

2: Site of Isleworth Moated Manor House. Machined trial trenches in advance of development revealed 'isolated Prehistoric finds (unspecified), medieval north-south ditches probably pre-dating moat, remains of moat and foundations of medieval manor house and the cellar range of the 17th century house which replaced the moated site.
GLSMR nos 050530, 051128-051130, 051132, 052685.
Grid refs TQ 165 759

3: Findspot of four Late Palaeolithic flint artefacts (2 handaxes, 2 flakes).
GLSMR no 050068
Grid refs TQ 165 750

4: Generalised findspot of two fragments of Roman box/flue tile with Roller Die stamp.
GLSMR no 050293
Grid refs TQ 1676

5: Museum of London Excavation site. Excavation by MoLas (London Road Filling Station site) in 1993 revealed post-medieval ploughsoil cut by 19th century pits. This overlay a layer of disturbed or weathered brickearth. The brickearth contained isolated prehistoric finds (3 struck flints and several fragments of burnt flint), the post-medieval ploughsoil contained Roman (abraded sherds of coarse ware and 1st century amphora) and early medieval (fragments of sandy ware) finds.
GLSMR nos 05232-6
Grid refs 1614 7668

6: Findspot of a fragment of Neolithic polished axe.
GLSMR no 050174
Grid ref TQ 1640 7590

7: Museum of London evaluation in 1992 revealed natural brickearth overlain by probable fluvial deposits of the nearby River Crane. These contained post-medieval artefacts.
GLSMR no 052508
Grid Ref TQ 1650 7535

8: DGLA excavation (1975), Roman and possibly Prehistoric settlement site. Ditch

containing abraded late Roman pottery found running parallel to London Road, which is the putative site of the London to Silchester Road. Site contained a large quantity of disturbed and unstratified prehistoric finds (144 flint flakes and implements and 97 Neolithic flint tempered potsherds) suggesting possible settlement site. Site also produced a baked clay slab/plaque interpreted as being Late Bronze Age.
GLSMR nos 0508601,

9: Old England Reach site, excavated in 1928 by Mortimer Wheeler and the West London Archaeological Field Group. Evidence of Bronze Age activity, Iron Age potsherds and a Roman wattle and pile hut discovered on Thames Foreshore.
GLSMR nos 050234-5, 050237, 050997.
Grid refs TQ 178 769

10: Roman Wattle and post Built hut on Thames Foreshore at Syon Reach, excavated by the West London Archaeological Field Group (WLAFG) in 1955.
GLSMR no 050238
Grid ref TQ 17260 76280.

11: Roman occupation debris from River Bank, excavated by WLFAG in 1955.
GLSMR no 050239
Grid ref TQ 171 762.

12: Roman occupation site. Sealed Roman occupation layer in River Bank excavated by WLFAG in 1955 (GLSMR 050240), one or possibly two Roman wattle huts excavated by WLFAG in 1966 (GLSMR 050275), Watching Brief by Museum of London in 1978 a few sherds of Roman pottery and post-medieval pottery and clay pipes (GLSMR 052536-80).
GLSMR nos 050240, 050275, 052536-80.
Grid ref TQ 178769.

13: Late 10th/early 11th century coin hoard. 28 coins and fragments of coins of Ethelred II found in coarse jar by workmen in 19th century.
GLSMR 050607
Grid ref TQ 162 758

14: Mesolithic flint' from Thames at Isleworth': includes 8 tranchet axes and a pick.
GLSMR 106003.
Grid ref TQ 168 755

15: Prehistoric finds from foreshore at Isleworth Ait: these include sherds of Beaker pottery, Late Iron Age Terret Ring (Horse equipment?), 11 Late Iron Age potin coins, a Romano-British coin and a human skull
GLSMR 106020, 106024, 106025, 106048, 106057
Grid ref TQ 1628 7598

16: Multi-period finds from the Thames foreshore at Syon Reach. These include Mesolithic implements (picks, axes and antler implements), a Neolithic stone axe, macehead and implements, Bronze Age finds including a Bronze dagger, Bronze pin, rapier, palstave and possible Bronze Age founders hoard, an Early Iron Age axe and

Roman coins and potsherds.
GLSMR nos 106007, 106012, 106014-17, 106021, 106036, 106060-1, 106075, 106089, 106097-8.
Grid ref TQ 175764

17 Multi-period finds from Thames at Richmond Lock. These include Neolithic axes, a Bronze Age scabbard chape, Iron Age potsherds, Roman knife, pottery sherds, loom weights and dug-out canoe, medieval brooch and seal, 100276- 7, 100280- 5, 100288-9, 106018.
Grid ref TQ 170 750.

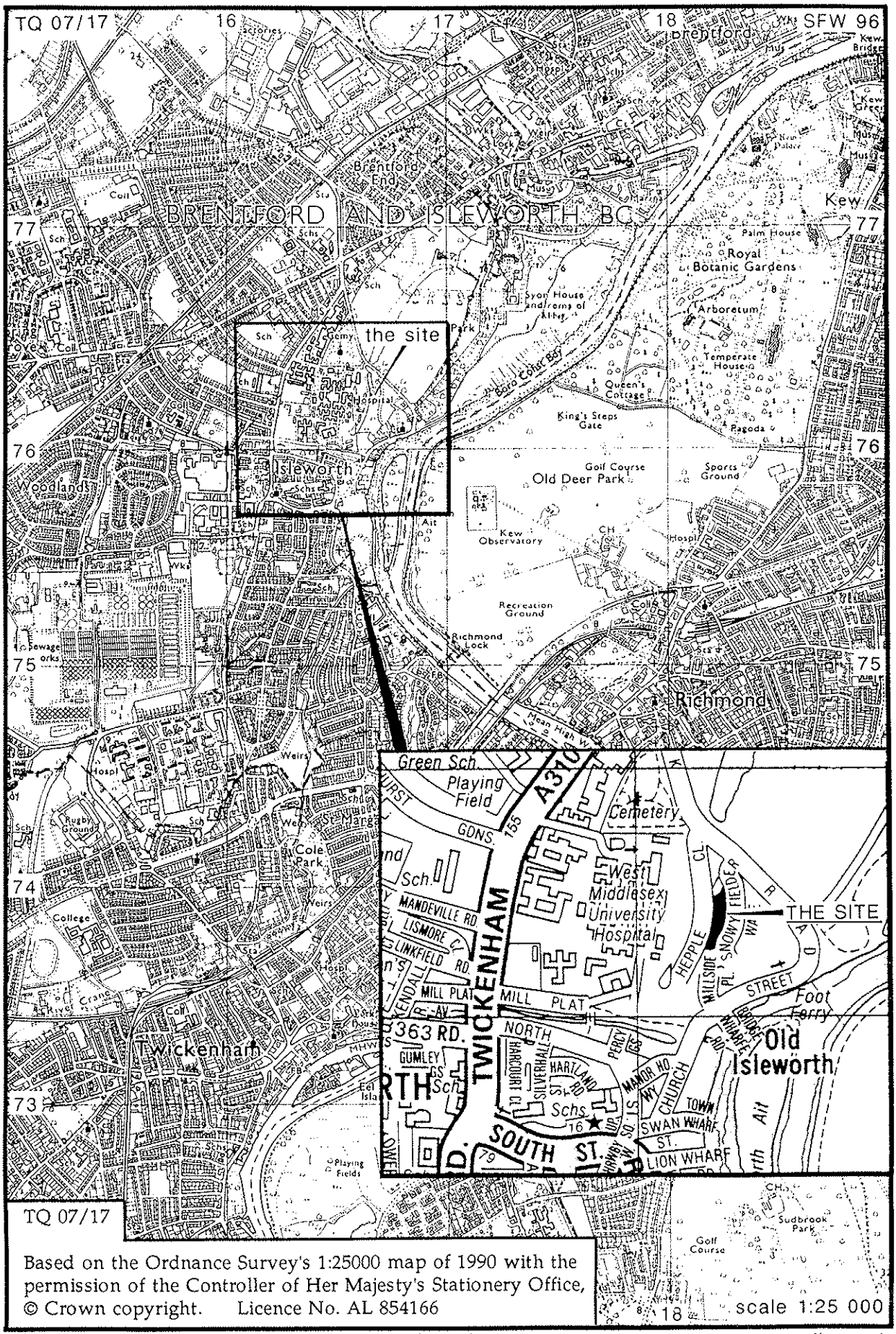
18: Finds from River Thames at Isleworth Syon Reach including a mesolithic pebble mace head, a neolithic flint axe , Mid Bronze Age rapiers, two stone battle axes, a bronze palstave, (possibly foreign imports), a piece of late Bronze Age horse cheek piece made from antler, Bronze Age spearheads, early Iron Age Iron Axe, two late Bronze Age or early Iron Age bronze buckets, 5 pieces of Late Iron Age horse armour, saxon and medieval swords,.
GLSMR nos 106000, 106076, 106079-80, 106085, 106092-3, 106096, , 106103, 106106, 106107, 106109-10.
Grid ref TQ 178768

19: Syon House. 16th century house on site of 15th century Bridgettine Abbey. House built between 1547 and 1552 and incorporates part of the Nuns cloister of the abbey and part of the 15th century undercroft of the west range of the abbey.
GLSMR 050882, 210758.
Grid refs TQ 17307665

20: Site of post-medieval (possibly 16th century) jetty. Rubble foundations of a jetty consisting of brick, tile and stone. Wooden posts lead into the ruver.
GLSMR 050566
TQ 1764 7658

21: Remains of (possibly medieval building). Remains of collapsed Timber, brick and tile building in west bank of inlet, 2-4ft down in dark silt.
GLSMR 050567
Grid ref TQ 1728 7628

22 Excavation to the north of Brentford High St, one of a number of excavations in the mid 1960's and early 1970's revealed quantities of prehistoric flint and neolithic flint tempered pottery trapped within the brickearth. One small prehistoric gully also located.
Grid ref TQ 17407733.



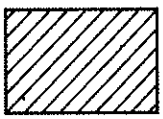
site location

figure 1

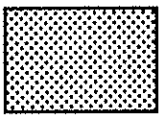
Snowy Fielder Waye, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

Key to conventions used in figures 3, 4 and 5

deliberately deposited material (possibly levelled out bank)

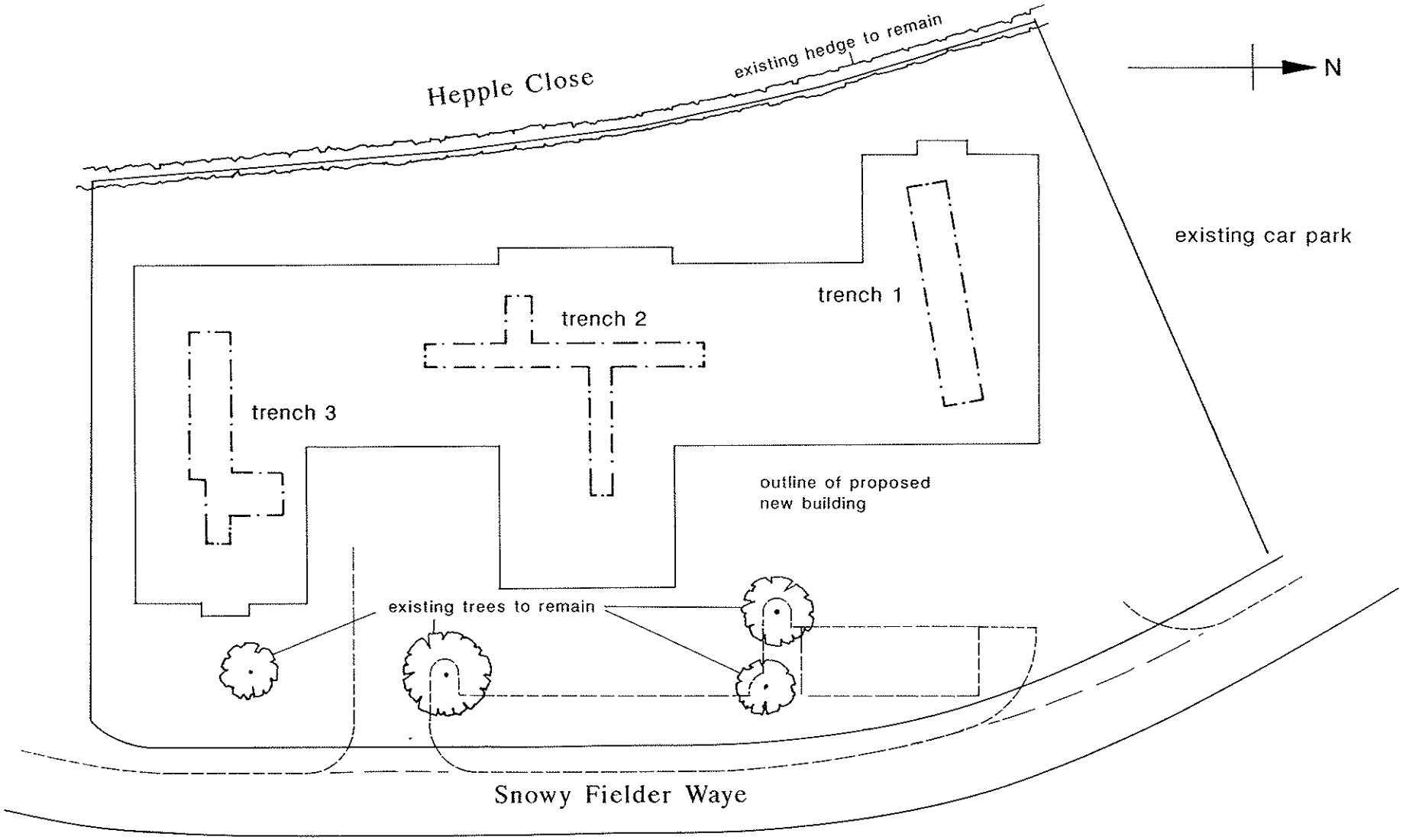


Palaeochannel deposits



buried Prehistoric soil horizon

modern disturbance

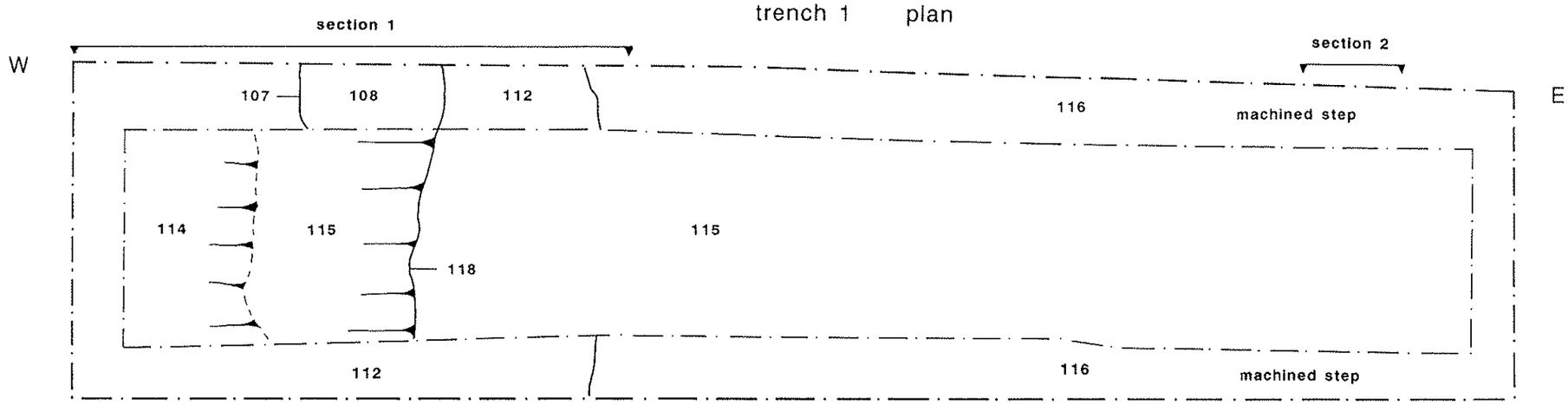


scale 1:400

trench location plan

figure 2

trench 1 plan



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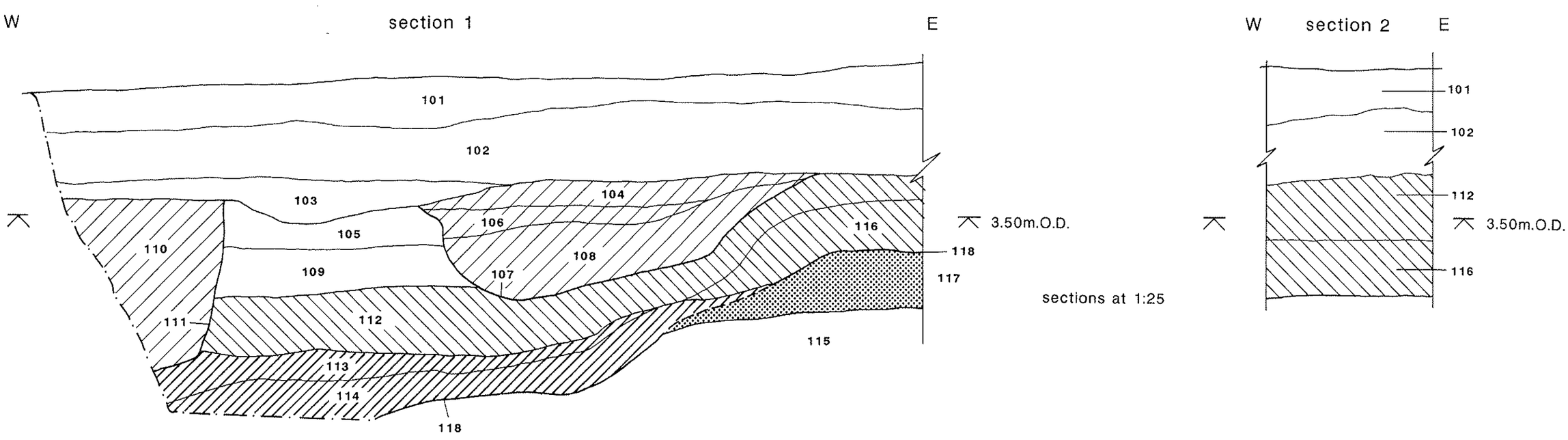


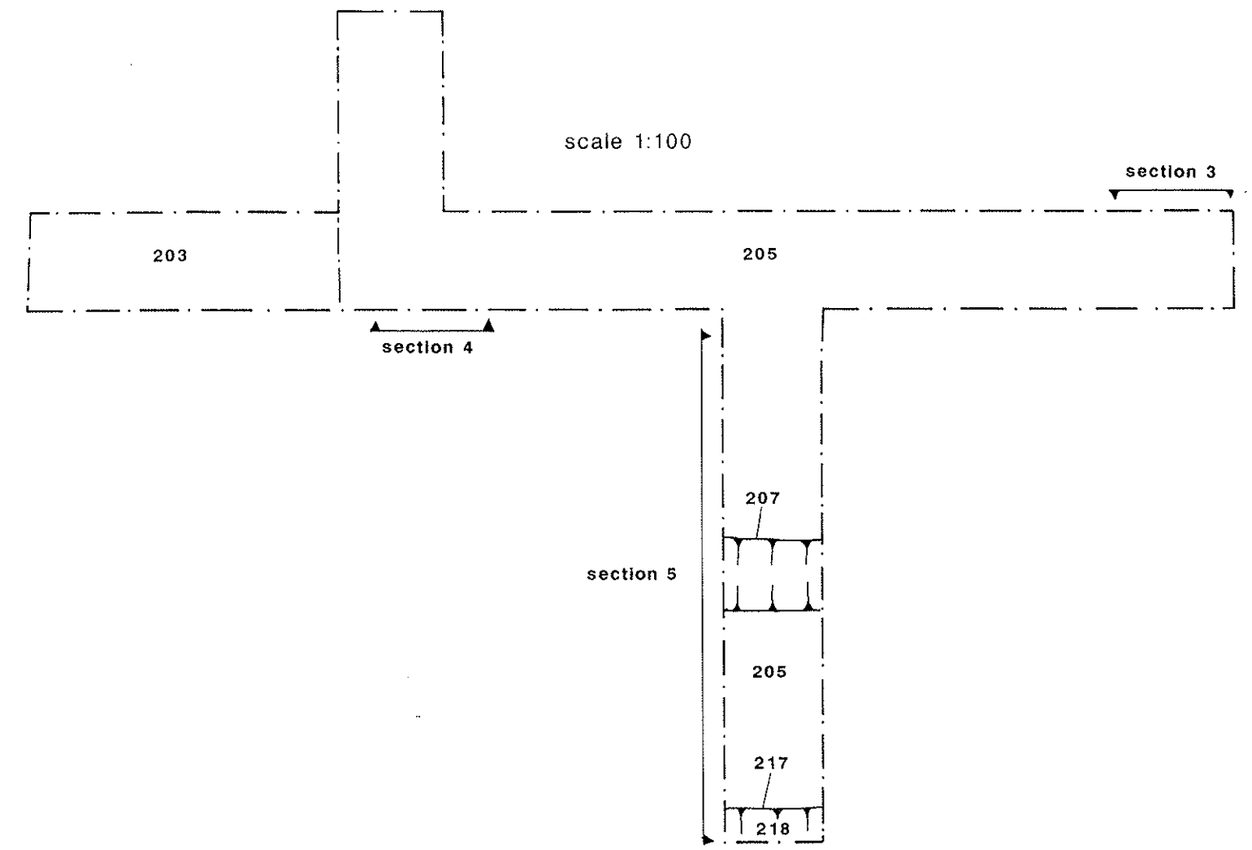
sections at 1:25

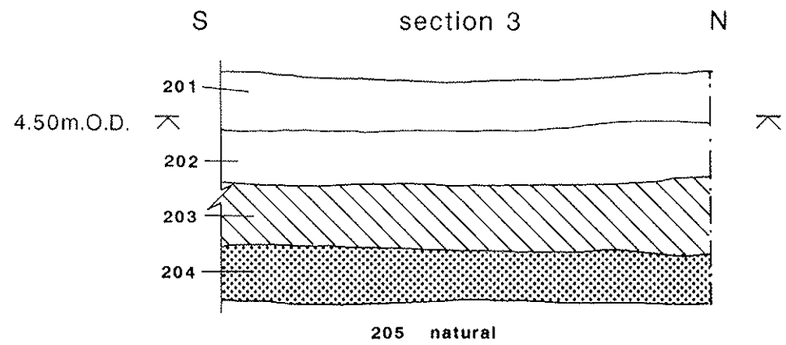
trench 1 plan and sections

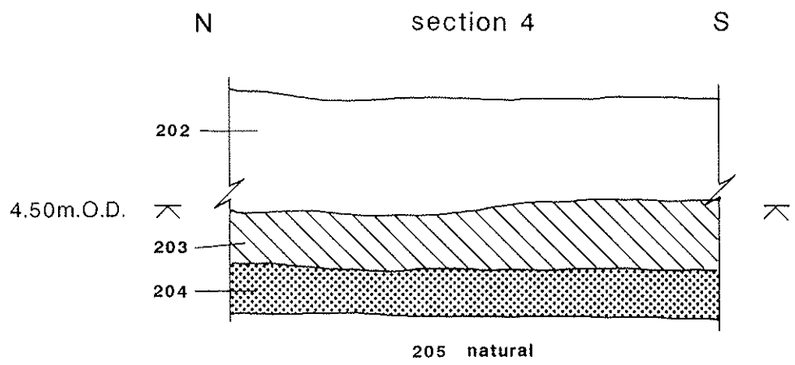
figure 3

SFW 96

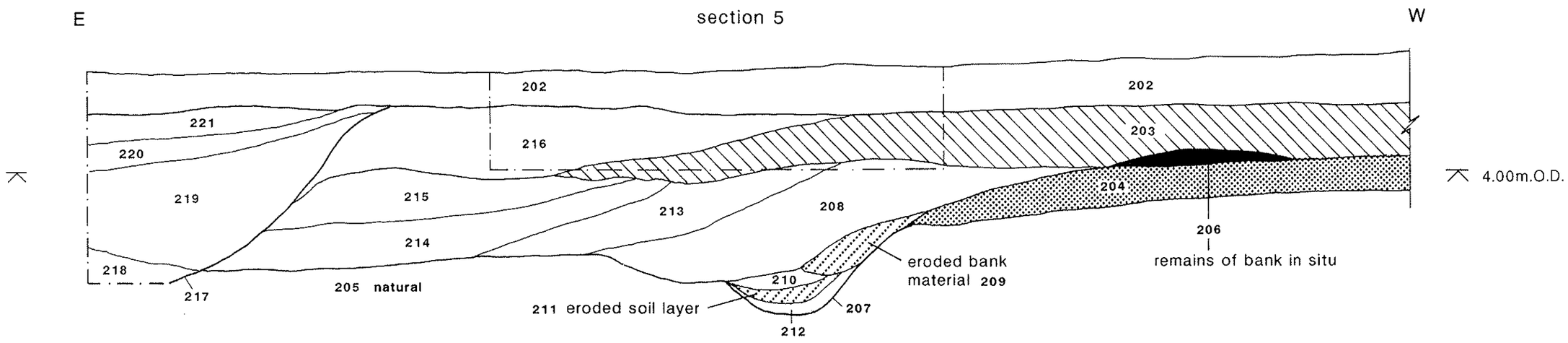
trench 2 plan







sections at 1:25

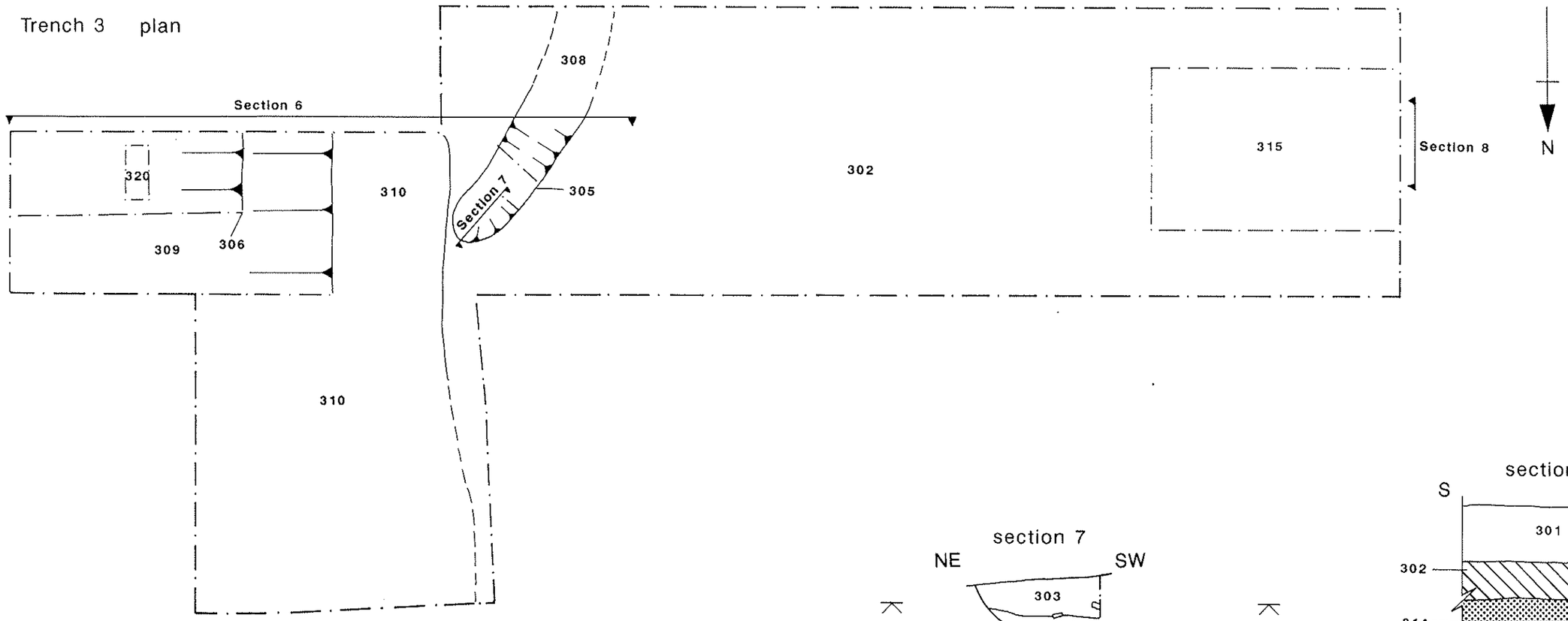


trench 4 plan and sections

figure 4

SFW 96

Trench 3 plan



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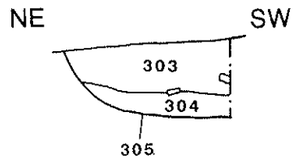

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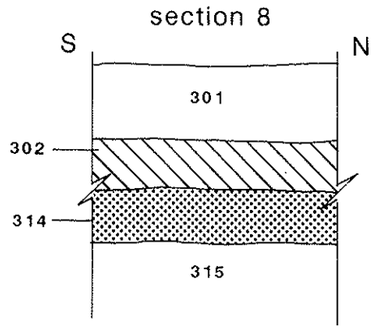

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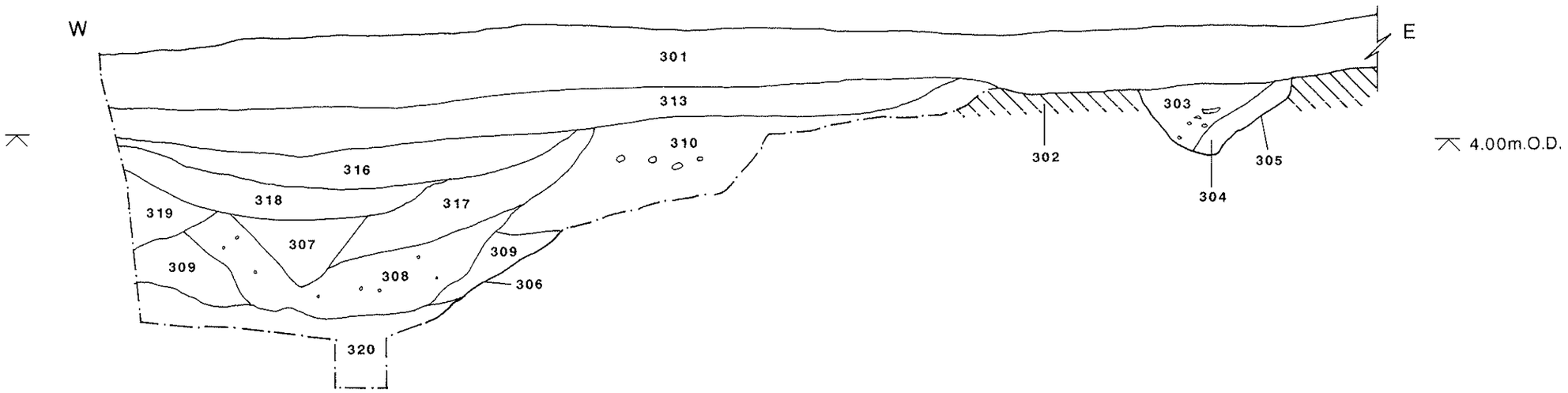
sections at 1:25

section 6



4.00m.O.D.

trench 3 plan and sections

figure 5

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