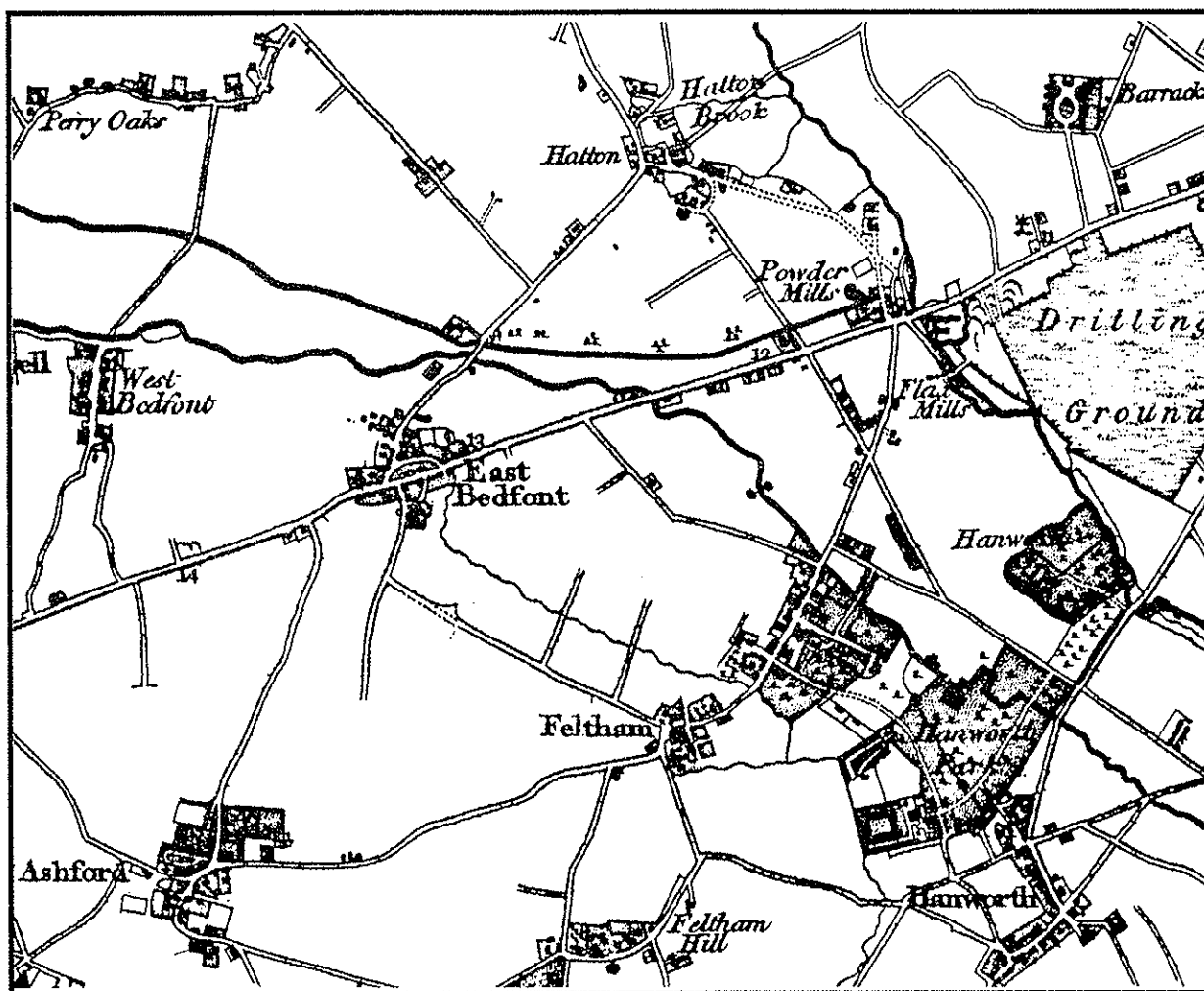


Kempton Park, Water Treatment Works Hounslow, London, TW13

NGR TQ 1125 7126

Archaeological Evaluation



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

June 1995

KEMPTON PARK WATER TREATMENT WORKS,

HOUNSLOW, LONDON, TW 13

TQ 1125 7126

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INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an evaluation in a field immediately north of Kempton Park Water Treatment Works; which Thames Water Plc propose to develop. English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow specified an archaeological evaluation should be carried out to determine the existence and significance of archaeological remains. The work was carried out between the 22nd and 24th of May 1995.

LOCATION (see fig. 1)

The one hectare field (centred at TQ 1125 7126) is situated just north of the Kempton Park Racecourse in south-west London. It is bound to the south by the Kempton Park Treatment Water Works. The A316 dual carriage way flyover and slip road form the western boundary of the site. The Nallhead Road runs along the northern edge of the adjacent field. The field is generally flat at 13.60 m Ordnance Datum (OD) and is presently used to graze horses. Thames Water understand the field was used a contractors compound during the construction of the A316 dual carriageway.

GEOLOGY

The drift geology consists of first River Terrace gravel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Extensive gravel extraction, reservoir construction and urban development in the Thames Basin has destroyed much of the archaeological evidence from this region. Many isolated find spots occur south of the River Thames, particularly between Weybridge and Hampton. Bronze Age finds occur frequently, suggesting dense occupation. This is supported by stray finds from the Thames itself. The density of finds north of the Thames is sparse in comparison to the south (D. Longley 1976).

There are no known archaeological remains within the development site. A ring ditch cropmark (GLSMR 50819) is located just north of Nallhead Road (TQ1138 7133), which is possibly Bronze Age in date.

An isolated find of a tanged flint arrowhead was recorded at Proctors Pit in Hansworth Park (GLSMR 50890) at TQ115 716.

Isolated finds of flint also occurred at Feltham Hill (GLSMR 50413) at TQ 106 716).

At Kempton Park Racecourse, one kilometre south of the site, two Bronze Age urns were located during trial trenching in 1971-73 (Surrey SMR 2446) at TQ117699. The same work also identified a 17th century building known as Hyde House.

The only notable Roman find in the area is a small hoard of coins of the House of Constantine, found at 38 Wigley Road some 1.5 km north-east of the development site.

The site of Hanworth Manor (GLSMR 210595) is situated 500 m north of the development site at TQ 11250 71800. It was acquired by Henry VII in 1501 and later bestowed to Ann Boleyn by Henry VIII. The building on the site in 1797 was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt.

Bibliography

D. Longley 'The Archaeological Implications of Gravel Extraction in North-west Surrey' In: Research Volume of the Surrey Archaeological Society No.3 (1976).

Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR)

Surrey Sites and Monuments Record

STRATEGY

Five trenches (see fig. 1) were machine excavated with a JCB equipped with a five foot toothless ditching bucket. The trenches represented a sample of approximately 1.8% of the development area. The positioning of the trenches was designed to establish the presence and extent or absence of archaeological remains within the development area.

The trenches were first excavated down to the first archaeologically significant horizon. Features revealed in the trench were then hand excavated to establish their condition, character, quality and to recover material to date the archaeological remains present.

SUMMARY

All of the site had been used as a compound for contractors during the construction of the adjacent A316 dual carriageway. The topsoil had been stripped, and the resulting surface disturbed before it was covered with compacted rubble. No archaeologically significant remains were located. A post-medieval ditch was located in Trench 1, which probably represents a former field boundary. A recut ditch in Trench 3 is likely to represent a continuation of this boundary.

RESULTS (see fig. 2 & fig. 3)

For dimensions of deposits, features and trenches see Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW. The natural geological deposit of gravel and silt 103, was exposed at a depth of 0.37 - 0.47 m (c. 13.22 m OD) below the present ground surface.

A ditch 105, orientated approximately NE/SW was cut into the natural gravel. It was flat bottomed with a broad U-shape profile and measured 1.70 m in width and 0.55 m in depth. The silty clay fill 104, produced four fragments of post-medieval red roof tile. The grey colour of the fill may be due to later discolouration/contamination.

The ditch was overlaid by a layer of compacted silt, 102. This layer was similar to the natural silt subsoil. Within 102 there were isolated patches of grey discolouration indicating contamination. This grey discolouration was noted in all the trenches and generally became more extensive in the western half of the site where it also discoloured the natural silt and gravel.

Layer 102 was overlaid by a compacted layer of rubble brick and concrete hardcore 101. Lenses of gravel occurred in the top of the deposit, but no topsoil was evident. Exposed gravel and stone or a sparse cover of grass was noted on the surface.

Interpretation Trench 1

The compacted rubble layer 101 indicates 'builders rubble' brought to the site to provide hard standing for a contractors compound during the construction of the adjacent A316 dual carriageway.

The disturbed natural silt 102, indicates disturbance caused when the site was stripped of topsoil to construct the compound. The impact of the disturbance upon this deposit appeared variable. It clearly overlaid ditch 104, but elsewhere in Trench 1, although heavily disturbed, it probably remains broadly *in situ*.

Ditch 104 probably represents a former field boundary.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW. The natural geological silt and gravel was exposed at a depth 0.66 - 0.70 m (12.92 - 13.02 m OD) below the present ground surface. The natural in the northern half of the Trench was predominantly gravel 203 but in the southern half consisted mainly of silt, 204.

The sequence of layers in Trench 2 was identical to those seen in Trench 1. The natural, 203 & 204 was overlain by a disturbed silt layer 202; which in turn was overlain by a rubble hardcore 201.

The natural silt in the southern end of the Trench was heavily stained olive green and grey although the staining was rare in the exposed gravel.

To define the exact nature of the silt a section was excavated through one of the green stains. The section revealed 0.53 m of mixed and bedded lenses of silt, loose sand and gravel; characteristic of water-lain natural sand and gravel. The green staining was confined to the silt indicating capillary seepage of contamination from above.

Interpretation Trench 2

No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 2. The disturbance from the former contractors compound was similar to Trench 1, although there was significant discolouration of the natural silt in the southern half of the trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW. The natural geological deposit occurred at a depth of 0.25 - 0.60 m (13.47 - 13.25 m OD) below the present ground surface.

The sequence of layers in Trench 3 was similar to Trench 1 & 2. Two intercutting ditches were identified, 306 and 308, both orientated approximately NW/SE. A layer of mostly undisturbed natural 302 was cut by both ditches.

The earliest ditch 308 appeared to be cut by ditch 306. Both ditches had similar fills of dark grey clayey silt.

Ditch 308 had a U-shape profile and is estimated to have measured 1.50 m in width and 0.80 m in depth. The silty clay fill 307, produced four fragments of post-medieval red roof tile and one fragment of red brick.

Ditch 306 had a broad flat bottomed U-shape profile and measured 2.40 m in width and 0.65 m in depth. The ditch contained two fills, 305 and 303. The grey to olive green colour of the ditch fills may be due to post-depositional discolouration/contamination.

Interpretation Trench 3

The alignment of ditches 306 and 308 suggest a continuation of the post-medieval boundary ditch 104 located in Trench 1; ditch 306 representing a recut and redefining of ditch 308.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated approximately WNW-ESE. The natural geological deposit of gravel and silt, was exposed at a depth of 0.60 - 0.70 m (13.15 m OD) below the present ground surface.

The sequence of layers was similar to trenches 1, 2 & 3. Grey discolouration occurred in the natural silt and gravel 404, as well as in the disturbed natural silt 403.

The rubble hardcore 402 deepened (up to 0.70 m thick) at the west end of the trench and the western five metres consisted of concrete and was not excavated.

Interpretation Trench 4

No archaeological features were located in Trench 4 and the thickening of rubble hardcore and concrete rubble at western end suggest some truncation of the natural gravel.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW. The natural geological deposit of gravel and silt, was exposed at a depth of 0.68 - 0.74 m (c.12.98 m OD) below the present ground surface.

The trench had a heavy odour of oil and diesel and the natural gravel along virtually the whole trench was stained black or grey. There was considerable disturbance of the natural silt and gravel.

Interpretation Trench 5

No archaeological features were identified, although the trench served to confirm an area of heavy disturbance and contamination adjacent to the A316 flyover at the western end of the site.

CONCLUSIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF THE METHODOLOGY

No significant archaeological deposits or features were located. The five trenches confirmed the former use of the site as a contractors compound during the construction of the A316 flyover.

The natural subsoil had been disturbed in all the trenches and contamination had stained undisturbed natural silt and gravel. This disturbance was most severe to the west of Trench 4 and in Trench 5 towards the flyover.

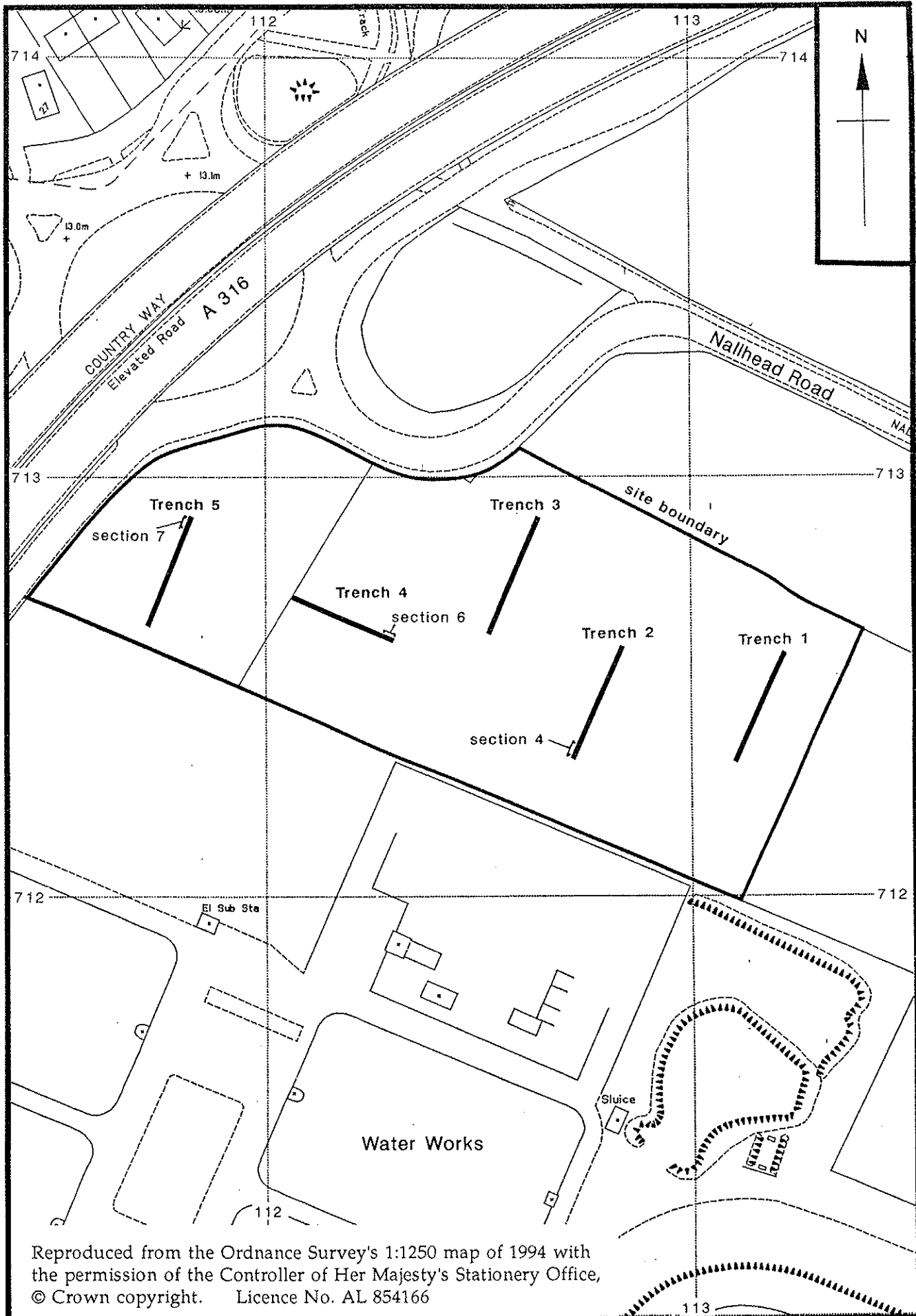
The line of an old field boundary was indicated by the ditches in Trenches 1 and 3. The red roof tile in the ditch fills, although undiagnostic, indicate a post-medieval to modern date. The ditches themselves have little intrinsic archaeological interest, although they provide a useful indication of the degree preservation which could be expected if earlier archaeological features had been present. This suggests that only shallow features would have been disturbed.

The removal of topsoil for the construction of the contractors compound means it was not possible to establish the presence of any residual finds in the topsoil.

OAU
A Parkinson
June 1995

APPENDIX 1: Table of Contexts and Finds

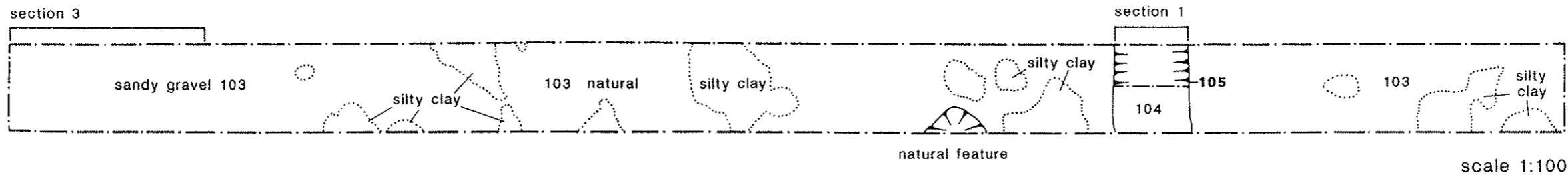
KEMPTON PARK, WATER TREATMENT WORKS, HOUNSLOW (KPW 95)						
Context	Type	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Finds
TRENCH 1		0.37-0.60	30.00	1.60		
101	Layer	0.20-0.35			Rubble hardcore	
102	Layer	0.10-0.15			Disturbed natural	
103	Layer	-			Natural	
104	Fill	0.55			Fill of Ditch 105	4 fragments of red roof tile
105	Cut	0.55		1.70	Ditch	
TRENCH 2		0.66-0.70	30.00	1.60		
201	Layer	0.35-0.50			Redeposited topsoil	
202	Layer	0.15-0.25			Rubble hardcore	
203	Layer	-			Natural	
204	Layer	-			Natural	
TRENCH 3		0.60-0.80	30.00	1.60		
301	Layer	0.35-0.55			Rubble hardcore	
302	Layer	0.20-0.40			Natural although disturbed in places	
303	Fill	0.60			Fill of Ditch 306	
304	Layer	-			Natural	
305	Layer	0.21			Fill of Ditch 306	4 fragments of red roof tile. 1 fragment of brick
306	Cut	0.65		2.40	Ditch	
307	Fill	0.80			Fill of Ditch 308	
308	Cut	0.80		1.00+	Ditch	
TRENCH 4		0.60-0.70	25.00	1.60		
401	Layer	0.26-0.30			Topsoil	
402	Layer	0.23-0.40			Rubble hardcore	
403	Layer	0.15-0.20			Disturbed natural	
404	Layer	-			Natural	
TRENCH 5		0.68-0.74	28.80	1.60		
501	Layer	0.40-0.80			Rubble Hardcore	
502	Layer	0.06-0.32			Disturbed natural	
503	Layer	-			Natural	



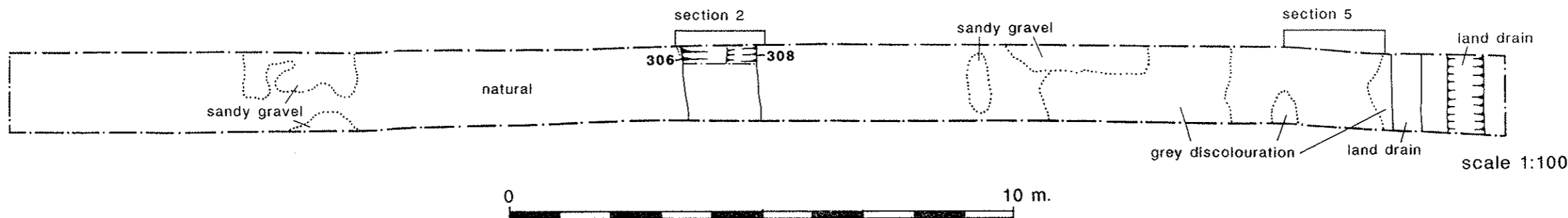
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figure 1

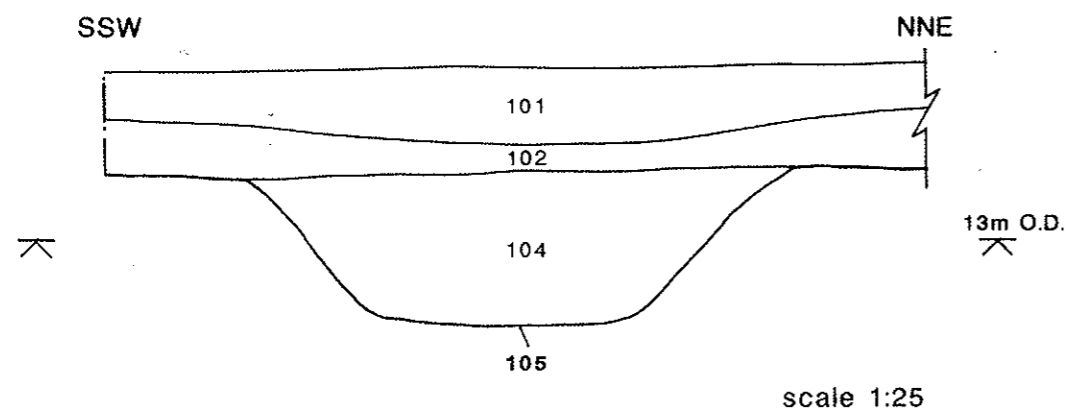
Trench 1



Trench 3



Trench 1 section 1 Ditch 105



Trench 3 section 2 Ditches 306 & 308

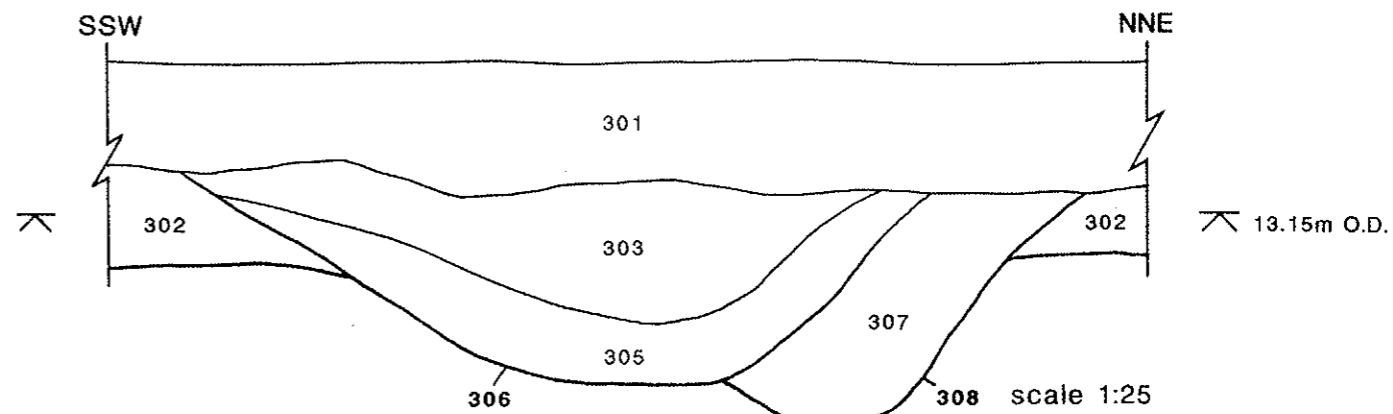
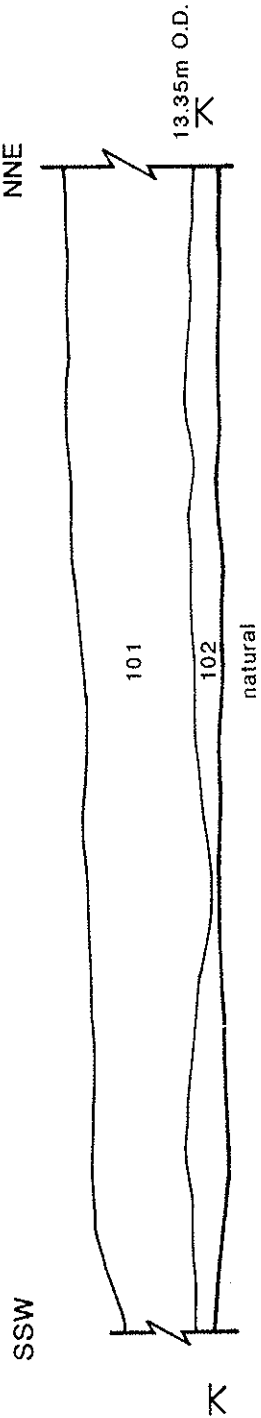
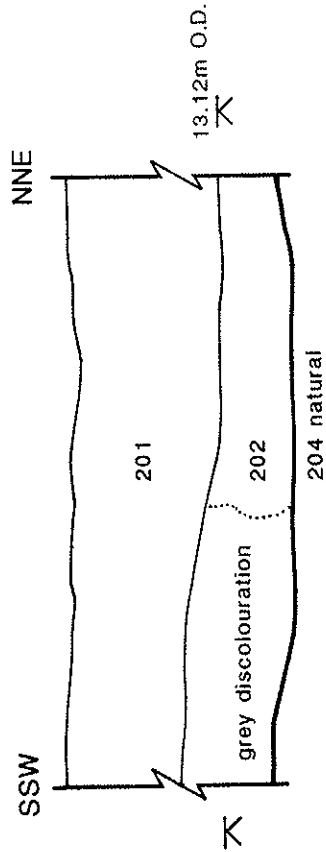


figure 2

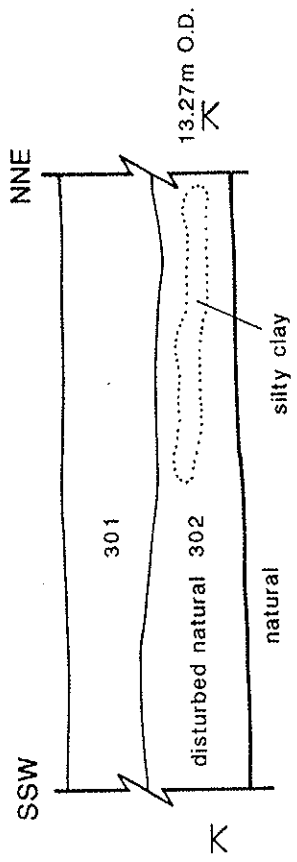
Trench 1 section 3



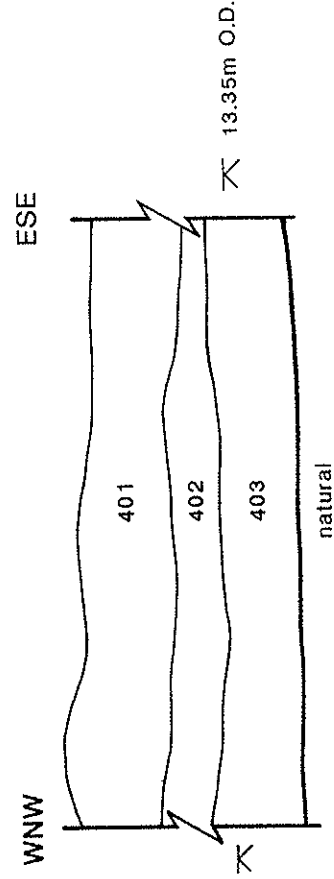
Trench 2 section 4



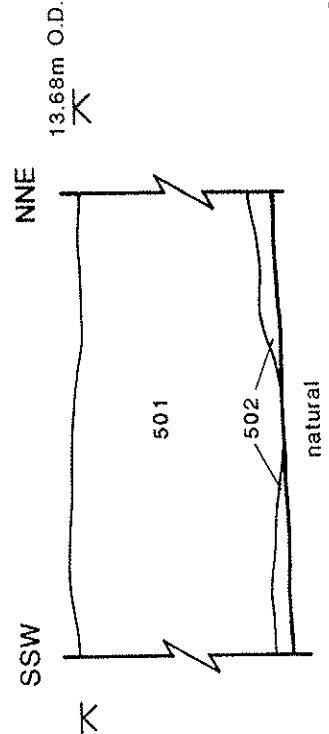
Trench 3 section 5



Trench 4 section 6



Trench 5 section 7





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