Hampton Court Golf Club

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Prepared by:	Brian Matthews	
Position:	Project Officer	
Date:	21st November 2008	
Checked by:	David Wilkinson	
Position:	Senior Project Manager	
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Approved by:	David Wilkinson	Signed…….
Position:	Senior Project Manager	
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Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800 e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
f: (0044) 01865 793496 w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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Hampton Court Golf Club , New Irrigation System

NGR TQ 1570 6850

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In October 2007Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club. The work was commissioned by Irritech Limited on behalf of Hampton Court Palace Golf Club in advance of the construction of a new irrigation system. The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds although the trench cut through a known earthwork bank. No evidence was found for the original use of the bank, or of its date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In October 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club, to mitigate the effects of the installation of a new irrigation system(Figure 1).

1.1.2 This brief specifically concerns a narrow trench excavated for the installation of a new water feed between the clubhouse and the course. The trench ran along the eastern and northern sides of the golf club car park, crossing a earthwork bank, and continued as far as the access drive to the north-west (Figure 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies at about 9m OD, on First Terrace drift geology of the River Thames, which overlies London clay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

2.1.1 Hampton Court and Kingston upon Thames have long been traditional crossing points over the Thames in a area where fording points crossed shallow waters associated with branched channels and islands within the Thames.

2.1.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds have not been recorded to date in Home Park but undiagnostic prehistoric flint artefacts have been recovered, although they are probably Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

2.1.3 Home Park lies within a meander of the Thames and is located on the light, free-draining soils blanketing the underlying terrace gravels, which would have been attractive to early farmers from the Neolithic period onwards.

2.1.4 There is evidence of Neolithic exploitation and settlement along the Thames, principally upstream from Home Park; archaeological features and finds include postholes, pits and sparse deposits of flint and pottery found within Hurst Park, 1.5 km to the west of Home Park. However no Neolithic finds or features have been recorded in Home Park to date.

2.1.5 Evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement and ritual activity along banks of the Thames has been found during excavations at Runnymede Bridge, 8 km from Home Park, and Hurst Park (WA 1996, 107) and it has been suggested that Bronze Age barrows were found close to the river in Hampton Court Park and can, apparently still be seen as earthworks by Hampton Wick Gate and at the east end of the Long Water (Thurley 2003, 1).

2.1.6 No confirmed finds or features of Iron Age origin have been recorded to date from within the park.

2.2 Roman

2.2.1 A large Romano-British vessel was reported to have been discovered in 1882 somewhere within the area of the Palace and cremation burials were found during excavations in Hurst Park (WA 1996, 109), however no features or finds of Roman origin have been recorded from within the Park.

2.3 Early Medieval (AD410 to 1066)

2.3.1 Early Saxon features and finds have been recorded from Eden, Booth and Brook Streets and South Lane in Kingston-upon-Thames and a Saxon settlement was found 1.5 km to the west of the Park (WA 1996, 109-111).

2.3.2 An early medieval spearhead was recovered from the general vicinity of the Pavillion Terrace within Home Park, however no other features or finds of early medieval origin have been recorded.

2.4 Later Medieval (AD1066-1514)

2.4.1 By 1495 Giles Daubeney, Henry VII's Lord Chamberlain, had transformed Hampton Court from a modest country manor into a brick-built moated courtyard house, which now lies underneath the present palace. The area of Home Park in the lower sections of the park near the Thames appears to have been divided into about 400 acres of sheep pasture whilst the northern sector of the present park was cultivated as open fields (HRP 2005) which is the probable origin of the eroded ridge and furrow earthworks that are still visible today.

2.5 The Tudors (AD1514-1603)

2.5.1 Between 1514 and 1529 Cardinal Wolsey enclosed about 1700 acres of land incorporating pasture land and open field systems, which included the area of ridge and furrow, and created Home and Bushey Parks.

2.5.2 Wolsey also created a conduit system to provide a water supply to the palace, although the exact location of these conduits are uncertain.

2.5.3 Further work was carried out in the Park when Henry VIII made Hampton Court one of his Royal Palaces. Notably the creation of a vast Royal hunting chase beside the Thames. The wooden palings that surrounded the park were replaced with brick

walling and the park itself was divided into two by another brick wall, although the location of this boundary is unknown.

2.5.4 It has also been noted that between 1529 and 1539, 16 million bricks were fired in kilns in Home Park for the extensive building works being undertaken (Thurley 2003, 44). The location of the kilns is unknown.

2.5.5 In 1538 Henry VIII built the Combe Conduit to provide a reliable source of water for the Palace, which utilised the springs on Kingston Hill and crossed the Thames at Kingston and through Home Park.

2.5.6 Little work was done to the parklands during the later Tudor period except for work taking place to the Coombe Conduit between 1600 and 1602.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 The post-medieval period saw extensive works carried out in Home Park. The work included the re-laying of Wolsey's old conduit system and a major overhaul of the Coombe Conduit during the 1620s. Building work during the early 17th century included the institution of The Stud and the construction of a bowling green in 1635.

2.6.2 The later Stuarts (1660-1689) undertook a series of works, most notably the construction of the Long Water running eastwards from the east side of the palace across the centre of Home Park. This work also involved excavating a new stretch of the Longford River from the north of the palace into Home Park in order to fill the Long Water. This is still visible today as an earthwork.

2.6.3 William and Mary (1689-1701) carried out further works in the park which included the laying out of diagonal avenues of lime trees and the construction of a bowling green along the Thames at the south side of the Park in 1701, with four pavillions built at each corner of the bowling green by 1702, one of which survives today in a much altered form.

2.6.4 A series of Chaise Ridings were laid out during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) in order to allow her to hunt from a light carriage. The raised trackway seen near the golf club could represent such a riding.

2.6.5 Little work was carried out within Home Park during the period of the Hanoverian Monarchs (1714-1837). The Coombe Conduit was again overhauled in 1742 while two of the pavillions situated around the bowling green were demolished in 1811; the third was demolished in 1855. Some landscaping was carried out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown from 1760 but on the whole Home Park remained little altered during this period.

2.6.6 During the Victorian period very little was done to Home Park although the Royal Stud was finally moved to Sandringham in 1894. In 1895 the Hampton Court Golf Club was established and this involved the re-landscaping of part of Home Park to create greens, fairways and bunkers etc. A club house was erected in 1905 but has been replaced by a modern clubhouse building.

2.6.7 An OS plan of 1893-5 shows additional features within the park including two new lodges and the complex of paddocks and buildings to the east of Kingston Avenue is more developed.

2.6.8 Part of Home Park was ploughed during World War 1 and a number of allotments created. Ploughing did not continue after the war. During World War 2 an extensive grid of anti-glider defences were created and these consisted of a series of long ditches.

2.6.9 A number of earthwork and crop mark features were identified during the Desk Based Assessment for which a date and definite function could not be assigned. Noteable among these features are a series of enclosure boundaries in the vicinity of the Stud, they are on various alignments and may relate to earlier paddocks associated with the Stud, as well as what appears to be the footprint of a building to the south of the Stud. Other features have been identified to the south of the Long Water and include raised areas, linear features and more irregular features.

2.6.10 A Geophysical Survey was carried out in August 2006 by GSB Prospection Ltd in the western area of the park where the annual Flower Show is held. The survey appeared to reveal the course of the Coombe Conduit although it is possible that a replacement iron pipe was found instead. Extensive ground disturbance was also indicated and this may relate to the construction of the golf course or in connection to past flower shows (GSB 2006, 2). Other anomalies were identified as being indicative of buried ditches or similar features although a clear pattern could not be ascertained and an archaeological interpretation was therefore difficult (GSB 2006, 2-3).

2.6.11 Due to the limited impact/disturbance in Home Park the Desk Base Assessment demonstrated that all the archaeological remains lying outside the areas of later disturbance were likely to be well preserved and could form an important potential resource. Given the significant topographical location of the park and the surrounding archaeological evidence there was therefore a high potential for prehistoric remains (OA 2006, 22).

3 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains exposed during the works, and relate these to the known history and archaeology of Hampton Court Palace and Home Park.

3.1.2 A further aim was to make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The watching brief was maintained during the period of groundworks that would have either affected or revealed archaeological deposits

3.2.2 Most of the small-bore pipework across the golf-course was installed using a moling technique within the topsoil, offering no opportunity to examine underlying deposits. However, a chain extractor was used to excavate a narrow open trench for the installation of a new water-feed to the north of the clubhouse and this installation was watched.

3.2.3 A plan of the resulting trench was drawn to a scale of 1:100 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Description of deposits

4.1.1 The trench was excavated by a chain extractor, producing a narrow trench which was approximately 166 m long, 0.16 m wide and typically 1 m deep.

4.1.2 The trench crossed an earthwork bank, to the north of the clubhouse car-park. The top of the bank is approximately 1.1 m above the car park level.

4.1.3 Within the area of the bank, a brownish orange gravelly sand (3), was seen at a depth of 1 m beneath the present ground level. This is probably the undisturbed natural. It is overlain by a 0.4 m thick brown sandy loam (2). Small to medium sized flinty stone made up between 12 to 20 % of this deposit. The stone typically measured up to 0.06 m and appeared to be unsorted, which suggests this is of relatively modern origin. The sandy loam was overlain by up to 0.6 m of brown sandy loam topsoil (Context 1; Figure 3, Sections 1, 2).

4.1.4 A south-east to north-west aligned ceramic drain was seen within the north-western end of the bank, at a depth of approximately 1 m beneath the present ground level and this is probably part of the earlier drainage system.

4.1.5 The only find was a single fragment of dark crimson-red brick, recovered from the western end of the bank. This is described in section 4.2.1 below. Because of mixing of the soil layers caused by the excavation method it was not possible to determine which layer the brick came from and it was therefore allocated to the uppermost layer, Context 1.

4.1.6 To the south of the bank and along the eastern side of the car-park, sections revealed underlying orange gravelly sand (6) at between 0.5 - 0.6 m beneath the present ground level. This was overlain by up to 0.4 m of orange-brown loamy sand (5 & 7), which contained between 2 to 12 % of gravelly stone. The loamy sand was overlain by the present topsoil and turf-line (1), except in a localised area next to a row of gardening storage bins, where a 0.12 m thick deposit of mixed compost and topsoil (4), was found (Figure 3; Sections 3 & 4).

4.1.7 The spoil tip was walked over and inspected during and after machining.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 A single crudely brickbat was recovered from the western end of the earthwork bank, from Context 1 (see above). It measured 10 cm wide by 7 cm deep by minimum 11 cm long and was of very rough appearance, with a shallow 3 cm wide off-center frog on one side. The fabric of the brickbat contained grog, straw and flint inclusions and had been hard-fired, perhaps even overfired, giving a red to purple-black colour with evidence of vitrification.

4.2.2 There is no apparent match between this brick and any of the bricks in the HCP type series.

4.2.3 The brickbat was not retained due to its uncertain provenance and limited interpretive value.

4.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

4.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 General conclusions

5.1.1 Although the trench ran for approximately 166 m around the east and north side of the golf club car park no archaeological finds and features were observed.

5.1.2 The earthwork bank that the trench cut through was observed to be 1.1 m higher than the level of the car park, however the nature/function of the earthwork was not ascertained and no dating was recovered from the layers within the bank.

5.1.3 One fragment of brick was recovered from the western end of the earthwork bank, however is was undiagnostic and remains undated.

5.1.4 Although the trench was 166 m in length, it was only 0.16 m wide, therefore it provided only a narrow space in which to pick up any archaeological features. It is entirely possible that some features that may once have existed have long since disappeared through the landscaping/re-landscaping of this area of Home Park over the construction of the golf course itself.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	*Type*	*Depth*	*Width*	*Height*	*Comments*	*Finds*
1	Layer	0.49 m	-	-	Topsoil	Brickbat
2	Layer	0.40 m	--	-	Subsoil	-
3	Layer	-	-	-	Brownish/Orange Gravelly Sand	-
4	Layer	0.18 m	-	-	Reddish/Brown compost/topsoil	-
5	Layer	0.32 m	-	-	Orange/Brown Silty Sand	-
6	Layer	-	-	-	Orange Gravelly Sand	-
7	Layer	0.42 m	-	-	Orange/Brown Loamy Sand	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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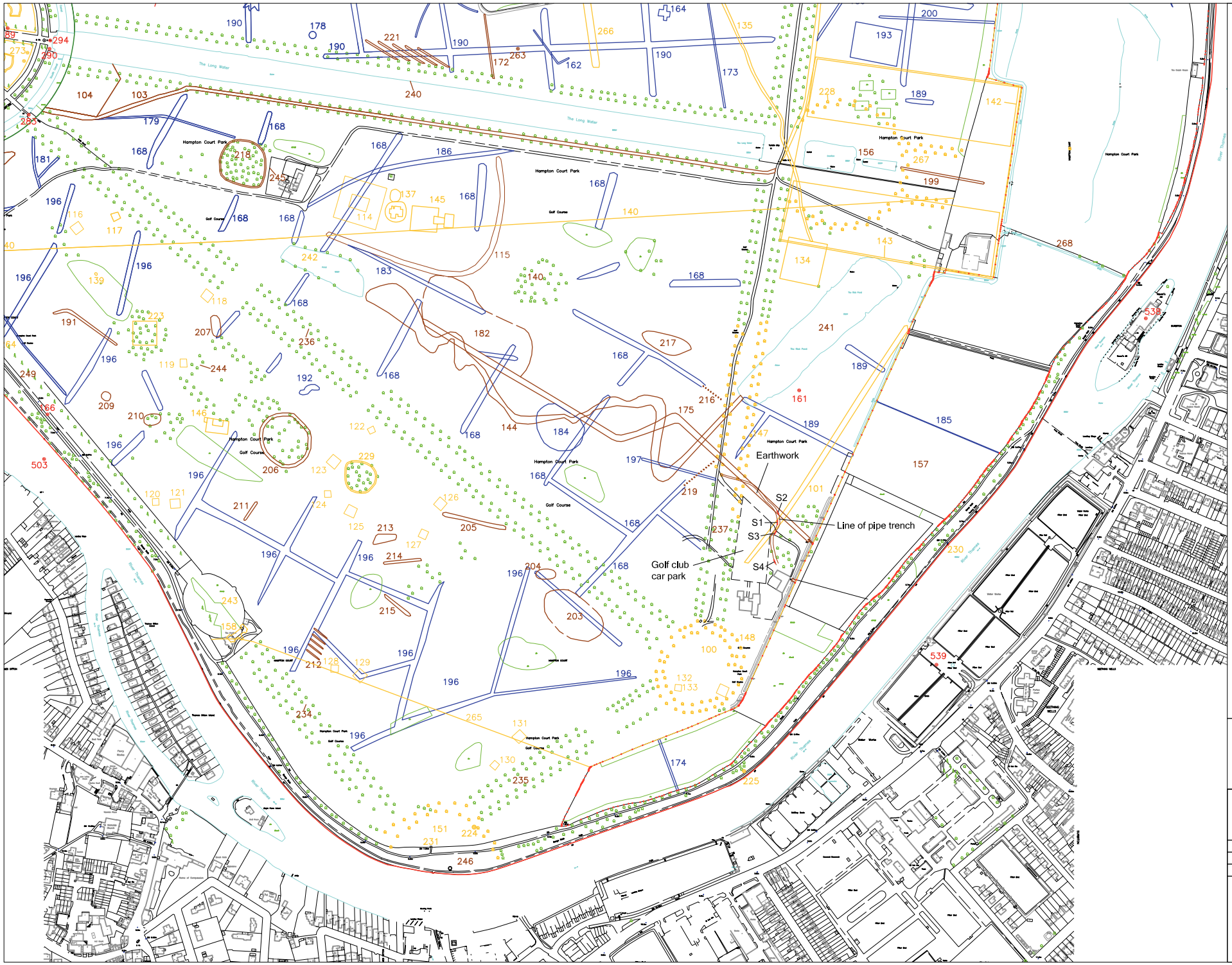
APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hampton Court Golf Club, New Irrigation System
Site code: HCP5507
Grid reference: TQ 170 676
Type of watching brief: Monitoring of groundworks during the construction of a new irrigation system.
Date and duration of project: 24th October 2007
Summary of results: No archaeological features/finds were recorded.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Historic Royal Palaces in due course.

Scale 1:25,000

Figure 1: Site location



S1 Section

Study area

OA157 - access unavailable during walkover survey

Hampton Court Scheduled Monument

115 Features seen on walkover survey

190 Features visible on aerial photographs

106 Features shown on historic maps and in documentary evidence

501 Features recorded by the GLSMR/NMR and archaeological interventions.

179 OA reference number

Water

Trees

Area of rough ground

OS basemap

Survey Data supplied by : HRP & OA

N

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:5000

Oxford Archaeology
Janus House,
Osney Mead,
Oxford,
OX2 0ES.
Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496
email : mail@oxfordarch.co.uk
web : www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Hampton Court Home Park

Drawing No.	HCHPFig2c
Date printed	18th August 2006
Drawing title	

Figure 2: Pipe trench location and archaeological features mapping

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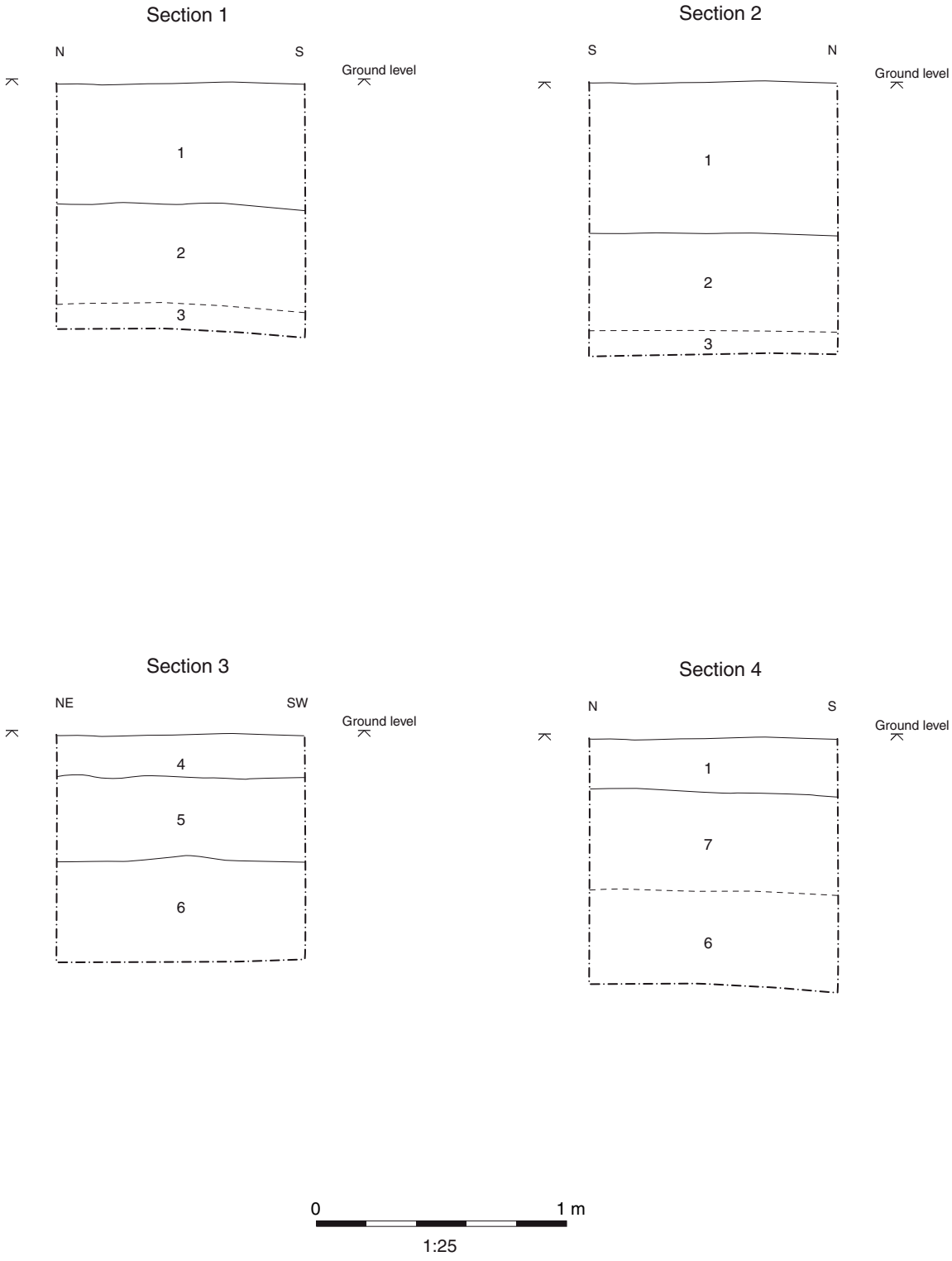

Figure 3: Sections 1 to 4