



# Plot W, Basing View, Basingstoke

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Plot W, Basing View, Basingstoke

## *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

An archaeological evaluation of a 2ha-site at Basing View in Basingstoke, Hampshire, was carried out in advance of a planning application. Ten trenches were excavated across the site. Two trenches in south-central part of the site revealed numerous features dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The density of the archaeology and the quantity of domestic material in this area suggests the presence of a small rural settlement, perhaps similar to contemporary sites known elsewhere in and around Basingstoke. Trenches across the northern half of the site revealed several undated ditches. These may relate to outlying field boundaries associated with the late Iron Age/early Roman settlement, though it is possible that one, at least, dated to the post-medieval period.

## Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Dan Sykes, who was supported by David Pinches and Omar Sherif. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Matt Reynolds, Aidan Farnan and Markus Dylewski. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Plot W, Basing View, Basingstoke in advance of a proposed commercial development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of the submission of a planning application. Although the Local Planning Authority has not set a brief for the work, discussions with David Hopkins, Planning Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, have established the scope of work required and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work has been undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2015) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of Basingstoke town centre within the Basing View Business Park and is centred on SU 64699 52698 (Fig. 1). The site is located approximately 750m to the north-east of the Basingstoke Conservation Area.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of tarmac parking and open grassland equating to approximately 2 hectares (ha), of which 1.3 ha is available for the trial trench evaluation. The site is bounded to the north by the South Western Main Line railway, to the south and west by Basing View and to the west by business units. The site is largely flat, and the land gradually slopes down from 97m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to 93m aOD in the south.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation sedimentary bedrock, which formed approximately 84–90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background of the site has previously been described in the WSI (OA 2017) and will not be repeated here. However, considering the discovery of late Iron Age/early Roman features in the evaluation trenches, it is worth reemphasising the fact that the site is located fairly close to several Iron Age and Roman sites. These include Oakridge II/IV and Oakridge VII to the north-west (Oliver 1993; Maltby 1994), Cowdery's Down and Daneshill to the north-east (Millett and James 1983; Millett and Schadla-Hall 1992), and Rucstalls Hill to the south (Oliver and Applin 1979).

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project's aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive;
- ii. to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
- iii. to determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means;
- iv. to determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- v. to determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
- vi. to assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
- vii. to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
- viii. to determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity;
- ix. and, to determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of ten trenches were excavated. Seven trenches were 30m long, one was 29m, one was 20m and one was 15m. All the trenches were between 1.6m and 1.8m wide. Together, the trenches exposed an area equating to c 4% of the total site.

2.2.2 The trenches were laid out as shown in Fig. 2, using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy, except where minor adjustments were required due to ground conditions or site obstructions.

2.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist. The resulting spoil was stored adjacent to the trench edges at a safe distance.

2.2.4 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending on which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

2.2.5 The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features. A sample of most features was excavated and recorded, though in some areas the complexity of the archaeology allowed for a more targeted approach to sampling. Overall, the excavation was sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

2.2.6 In agreement with David Hopkins, Planning Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, the trenches were backfilled after the excavation had finished.

- 2.2.7 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was undertaken in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual.
- 2.2.8 Digital photographs were taken of archaeological features, deposits, trenches and the general evaluation works. These will form part of the project archive.
- 2.2.9 Plans were drawn at 1:20 and 1:50 where appropriate. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. All section drawings have been located on the relevant site plans. The absolute height (m aOD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines have been calculated and recorded on the drawings.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated. For example, ditch 103 was a feature located in Trench 1, while posthole 306 was a feature located in Trench 3.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform, though it differed in the eastern half of the site where Trenches 6–10 encountered areas of tarmac and modern made ground, much of which related to the use of the area as a temporary compound during the construction of a footbridge over the railway line. The natural chalk geology was overlain in places by an often thin, silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. The weather was overcast, though the trenches remained largely dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1–6 and 8. A concentration of features, including ditches, pits and postholes, in Trenches 3 and 4 contained material dating to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period. Ditches in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 could not be reliably dated, though some if not all may relate to outlying field boundaries to the north of the late Iron Age/early Roman settlement. Trenches 7, 9 and 10 were devoid of archaeology and these will not be discussed any further in this report.

### **3.4 Trench 1**

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 contained ditch 103, which was oriented north–south at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 3). Ditch 103 measured just under 1.0m wide and 0.44m deep, and exhibited steep sides with a rounded base (Fig. 6, Section 100). It contained a thin basal fill of dark red/brown clay silt and an upper fill of friable grey/brown clay silt with chalk. No finds were recovered.

### **3.5 Trench 2**

- 3.5.1 Ditch 202 was located at the southern end of Trench 2 (Fig. 3). It was oriented east–west and was comparatively shallow at 1.55m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 6, Section 200). The ditch contained a single grey/brown clay silt with chalk, but did not produce any finds.

### 3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 contained two ditches, two pits, six probable postholes and a possible cut containing a spread of debris (Fig. 4). Not all the features in the trench were sampled since the dating evidence recovered was sufficient to show that most, if not all, dated to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period.
- 3.6.2 Ditches 302 and 310 were aligned east–west and ranged between 0.8m and 0.9m wide. Both exhibited steep, sloping sides with narrow bases around 0.5m–0.55m deep (Fig. 6, Section 300; Fig. 7, Sections 304). Ditch 302 was cut by feature 308 on its southern side. It contained three grey/brown silt fills that differed primarily in texture and compactness rather than colour. The middle fill of the ditch produced animal bones. Ditch 310 was cut by pit 312 on its southern side and it contained a single, quite fine-grained, chalky silt fill.
- 3.6.3 In the southern half of the trench, a broad spread of material was identified within a probable cut (308). This was traced for about 3m, cutting ditch 302 at its northern end (Fig. 6, Section 300). The fill consisted of a 0.08m-thick layer of dark red/brown clay silt containing late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and animal bones, it was cut by posthole 306.
- 3.6.4 A large pit (312) was revealed near the southern end of the trench. About half of the pit was revealed in plan, showing that it was at least 1.3m across, and it cut ditch 310 on its northern side (Fig. 7, Section 303). The pit had near vertical sides and a flat base, almost 0.7m deep. It contained three distinct fills of friable chalky silt that together contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, animal bones and burnt stones. Another possible pit (316) lay to the north of ditch 302 in the centre of the trench, though its irregular shape suggests that it may have been a natural feature, thus it was not excavated.
- 3.6.5 Four fairly substantial postholes (318, 320, 322 and 324) were identified in the northern part of Trench 3. Only posthole 318 was sample excavated and was shown to be 0.18m deep with moderately steep sides and a flattish base (Fig. 7, Section 302). It contained a friable, grey/brown chalky fill that included some late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. All four postholes measured c 0.4m wide and were circular in plan. These were almost identical in size to postholes 306 and 314, located in the southern third of the trench. Posthole 306 was sample excavated as it cut through feature 308. It was 0.16m deep with a rounded base and contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and animal bones (Fig. 7, Section 301).

### 3.7 Trench 4

- 3.7.1 Ditch 403 extended east–west across the whole length of Trench 4 (Fig. 4). It was 1.1m wide and 0.5m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig. 7, Section 400), similar to ditches 302 and 310 in Trench 3 to the south. The ditch contained a single, quite fine-grained, chalky silt fill that produced late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and worked flints.

### 3.8 Trench 5

- 3.8.1 Ditch 503 was located about 9m north of ditch 403 and was similarly oriented east–west (Fig. 4). The ditch had shallow, sloping sides and a rounded base containing two

fills, both of which consisted of a fine-grained, brown chalky silt with chalk fragments (Fig. 7, Section 500). The primary fill was concentrated on the northern side of the ditch, which suggests that it had slumped or silted from this side. Prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the primary fill.

### **3.9 Trench 6**

3.9.1 Trench 6 revealed two roughly east–west aligned ditches, one of which (604) was excavated (Fig. 5). This ditch contained a brown chalky fill, similar to that identified in ditches 503 and 403. The fill of the ditch produced a fragment of late 17th–early 18th century clay pipe.

### **3.10 Trench 8**

3.10.1 Trench 8 contained a ditch (804) and a gully (806), both of which were oriented east–west (Fig. 5). Ditch 804 and the unexcavated ditch in Trench 6 may have formed the same feature as they appeared to be on the same alignment, and may have continued to ditch 503 further to the west. Ditch 804 contained a brown chalky fill and produced burnt flints.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Although conditions were overcast throughout the work, the trenches remained dry and the excavation was undertaken with little difficulty. The natural chalk allowed for the archaeological features to be easily distinguished.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 Archaeological features were discovered in seven out of ten trenches. Owing to the comparatively thin topsoil and subsoil, the archaeology was encountered at a fairly shallow level. The overburden deposits were rarely more than 0.3m thick in most trenches, other than in the eastern half of the site where there was a greater level due to modern disturbance and made-up ground.

4.2.2 The most significant archaeology was found in Trenches 3 and 4, where there was clear evidence of late Iron Age/early Roman features. Despite the shallow topsoil and subsoil layers, these features, including ditches, pits and postholes, were generally well preserved. Several undated ditches were discovered in other trenches and these also appear to have survived well.

4.2.3 The quantity of pottery from features in Trenches 3 and 4 is sizeable enough to determine their date as being of late Iron Age/early Roman. Prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint was recovered from sections of undated ditches to the north, though these finds may be residual. The fill of undated ditch 604 produced a fragment of late 17th–early 18th century clay pipe. However, this ditch does not appear on the 1897 six-inch Ordnance Survey map, when the whole site was within a large field between the railway line to the north and the River Lodden to the south. It is possible that the find dates the feature to the post-medieval period, or it may have been intrusive in the fill of an earlier ditch.

4.2.4 The recovery of a sizeable quantity of well-preserved animal bones and pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period suggests that the site has good potential for producing further finds and environmental remains. More extensive excavation in this area is likely to be successful in generating enough material to enable an assessment of the social and economic character of the settlement.

### 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The features discovered in the south-central part of the site (Trenches 3 and 4) almost certainly relate to a late Iron Age/early Roman rural settlement, perhaps similar in size and status to other known settlements in the region (see *Archaeological and historical background*). The recovery of pottery and animal bones suggests the presence of domestic activity. The observed features perhaps represent the northern part of a settlement, as only elements of field boundary ditches were discovered in the northern part of the development site. The consistent alignment of most of these ditches suggests that they were contemporary. Only ditch 403 produced material that confirmed its date as late Iron Age/early Roman, though the others may have defined outlying fields and possibly trackways.

- 4.3.2 A small assemblage of worked flints suggests an earlier prehistoric presence at the site, though most of these finds appear to be residual in later features. The recovery of a late 17th–early 18th century clay pipe fragment from ditch 604 may date this feature to the post-medieval period, or it was intrusive in an earlier ditch.

#### 4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The late Iron Age/early Roman settlement activity found at the site is significant as it is located in an area that contains a number of contemporary sites. However, although several settlements of this date are known, the quantity and quality of existing data is highly variable. For many of the known sites, the morphology and character of the settlements is not well understood. This is partly due to the fast pace of development in Basingstoke during the late 1970s to early 1990s, which provided difficult conditions for excavations (see Oliver 1993). Palaeo-environmental evidence is particularly lacking, for example, and a programme of environmental sampling would be welcome in addressing this oversight in order to examine questions of agricultural production and consumption. Further excavation at Basing View would offer a new opportunity to consider the late Iron Age/Romano-British economy and add to our understanding of the settlement landscape of this region.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contains a single north–south ditch in the eastern end of the trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.19	Sandy silt with clay topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
103	Cut	1.65	0.44	N–S ditch with steep sides and rounded base	-	-
104	Fill	-	0.09	Basal fill of ditch 103; firm, dark red/brown clay silt	-	-
105	Fill	-	0.35	Upper fill of ditch 103; friable, grey/brown silt	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contains a single east–west ditch in the southern end of the trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.22	Clay silt topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk	-	-
202	Cut	1.55	0.15	Shallow E–W ditch with rounded sides and a flattish base	-	-
203	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of ditch 202; friable, grey/brown clay silt with occasional chalk	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contains two ditches, two pits, six postholes and spread of material. Dating of several features found to be late Iron Age and/or early Roman.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.25	Clay silt topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk with pockets of clay silt	-	-
302	Cut	0.8	0.5	Steep-sided E-W ditch with narrow, flat base	-	-
303	Fill	-	0.05	Basal fill of ditch 302; firm, brown/grey clay silt with occasional chalk	-	-
304	Fill	-	0.2	Secondary fill of ditch 302; loose, grey/brown silt with chalk fragments	Animal bones	-
305	Fill	-	0.25	Tertiary fill of ditch 302; friable, grey/brown clay silt with sand and chalk fragments	-	-
306	Cut	0.4	0.16	Probable posthole with rounded base	-	-
307	Fill	0.4	0.16	Fill of posthole 306; firm, dark red/brown clay silt	Pottery and animal bones	50 BC-AD 100
308	Cut	1.0	0.08	A broad cut filled with a spread of material	-	-
309	Fill	-	0.08	Spread of material filling cut 308; firm, dark red/brown clay silt	Pottery, CBM and animal bones	50 BC-AD 100
310	Cut	0.9	0.55	E-W ditch with steep sides and concave base	-	-
311	Fill	-	0.55	Fill of ditch 310; friable, light grey/brown chalky silt	-	-
312	Cut	1.3	0.65	Pit with near vertical sides and flat base	-	-
313	Fill	-	0.16	Upper fill of pit 312; friable, light grey/brown chalky silt	Pottery, animal bones and burnt stones	-
314	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated pit	-	-
315	Fill	-	-	Fill of pit 314	-	-
316	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated pit	-	-
317	Fill	-	-	Fill of pit 316	-	-
318	Cut	0.4	0.18	Circular posthole with moderately steep sides and flattish base	-	-

Trench 3 continued						
319	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of posthole 318; friable, grey/brown chalky silt	Pottery	50 BC–AD 100
320	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated posthole	-	-
321	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 320	-	-
322	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated posthole	-	-
323	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 322	-	-
324	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated posthole	-	-
325	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 324	-	-
326	Fill	-	0.44	Middle fill of pit 312; friable, cream/grey/brown silt with concentration of ash and fragments of flint and chalk	Pottery	AD 43–100
327	Fill	-	0.3	Upper fill of pit 312; friable, dark grey chalky silt with charcoal and flint	Pottery and animal bones	50 BC–AD 100

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E–W
Trench contains two probable ditches (one not excavated). One ditch contains late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.03	Second silty subsoil layer	-	-
403	Cut	1.1	0.5	E–W ditch with steep, sloping sides and flat base	-	-
404	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of ditch 403; fine-grained brown silt with chalk and flint	Pottery, worked flints and large quantity of chalk	50 BC–AD 100
405	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk and silt geology	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contains one ditch.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.06	Silt subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.05	Second silty subsoil layer	-	-
503	Cut	1.06	0.26	E-W ditch with shallow sloping sides and flat base	-	-
504	Fill	-	0.26	Primary fill of ditch 503 concentrated on northern side; fine-grained, brown silt with chalk	Worked flints	-
505	Fill	-	0.22	Secondary fill of ditch 503; fine-grained, brown silt	-	-
506	Layer	-	-	Chalk with silt natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a modern tarmac layer and two ditches (one remains unexcavated).					Length (m)	29
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Area of modern tarmac	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Layer of loose, fine-grained, brown sediment	-	-
604	Cut	-	-	Cut of ditch	-	-
605	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 604; brown, chalky silt	Clay pipe fragment	l. 17th-e. 18th C.
606	Layer	-	-	Chalk with silt natural	-	-
607	Cut	-	-	Cut of unexcavated ditch	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench devoid of archaeological features and contains modern made-up ground and areas of tarmac.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.18	Made-up ground consisting of loose, dark brown sandy silt (a section of tarmac, 0.12m thick lies between 700 and 701)	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.09	Dark red/brown subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Chalk natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contains tarmac layer, a ditch and a gully.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	-	Chalk natural	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.2–0.5	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Subsoil at southern end of trench	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Tarmac mixed with chalk	-	-
804	Cut	1.3	-	E–W ditch	-	-
805	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 804; friable, brown, chalky silt	Burnt flints	-
806	Cut	0.2	-	E–W gully (unexcavated)	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NE–SW
Trench devoid of archaeology—modern made-up ground to the south-west.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
901	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.2	Tarmac layer	-	-
903	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
904	Cut	-	-	Chalk natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology—modern made-up ground to the south.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1001	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.2	Tarmac mixed with chalk	-	-
1003	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1004	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk	-	-

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

#### *Introduction and methods*

B.1.1 Some 123 sherds of pottery, weighing 2,996g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, and to provide spot-dates. Fabrics and forms were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Context groups were quantified by sherd count and weight in grams, while forms identified by rims were quantified by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the proportion of the rim circumference that survives (e.g. 24% or 0.24 EVE).

#### *Results*

B.1.2 Several fabrics were identified:

E30	Sand-tempered fabrics
E50	Limestone-tempered fabrics
E60	Flint-tempered fabrics
E80	Grog-tempered ware (SOB GT; Tomber and Dore 1998)
O80	Coarse-tempered oxidised ware
R30	Medium sandy reduced wares

B.1.3 Forms identified during the scan comprised:

CH	Bead-rimmed jar
CN	Storage jar
CU	'Saucepan pot'

#### *Description of the assemblage*

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
307	1	4	Body sherd (E30), with elongated voids from organic inclusions	400 BC–AD 43/100
309	5	31	Body sherds (E30, E60)	400 BC–AD 43/100
319	1	2	Body sherd (E50)	400 BC–AD 43/100
326	28	1,300	R30 (CH – 0.24 EVE), O80 (CN – 0.37 EVE), E60 (CH – 0.09 EVE), R30 complete base with central perforation made after firing, E30/R30 body and base sherds. Some fabrics are micaceous and calcareous.	AD 43–100
327	86	1,657	E60 (CU – 0.16 EVE; CH – 0.04 EVE), E30 (CH – 0.11 EVE), E30, E60, E80 body and base sherds. Some E30 fabrics are glauconitic.	50 BC–AD 43/100
404	2	2	Body sherds (E30, E60)	400 BC–AD 43/100
Total	123	2,996		

Table 1: Summary of the pottery assemblage

- B.1.4 All the pottery, except context group 326, has a broad later Iron Age/early Roman date range. The bead-rimmed jars in context 327 are characteristic of the late Iron Age or early Iron Age, while 'saucepan pot'-type jars, also seen in context 327, are attested from the middle Iron Age onwards (Gerrard 2012, 105–6). The association of the two types may confine deposition of the group to the late Iron Age.
- B.1.5 The pottery from context 326 is of similar character to that in context 327, but a bead-rimmed jar in a uniformly grey, sand-tempered, reduced ware (R30), places deposition after *c* AD 43. Given the general similarity of the group to the pottery in context 327, however, deposition need not have been very far after this date.
- B.1.6 No forms were recovered from contexts 307, 309, 319 and 404, but the fabrics in those groups are consistent with the fabrics recorded in context 326 and 327.
- B.1.7 The assemblage was dominated by sand-tempered fabrics, which were generally handmade and orange-brown/grey in colour (E30). Quartz sand was used, but occasional glauconitic grains are present. Fabric R30 appeared to be wheel-thrown. Flint-tempered fabrics (E60) were of secondary importance, while fabrics E50 and E80 made minor contributions to the assemblage. Storage jar fabric O80 was coarse, but predominantly sand-tempered.

## Discussion

- B.1.8 Overall, the pottery potentially spans the middle Iron Age to early Roman period, though given the composition of the assemblage, a late Iron Age/early Roman date for all is preferred. The absence of regional and imported wares, however, suggests that the date of deposition need not extend very far into the Roman period.
- B.1.9 Most, if not all the pottery is likely to have been made locally. Basingstoke sits on the junction of the Thames Group, which is characterised by clay, silt, sand and gravel, and the White Chalk Subgroup, from which the calcareous inclusions could have been procured. Flint was available locally (for example in the river gravels, clay pockets and chalk), while nearby areas of greensand produced the glauconitic grains ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).
- B.1.10 Overall, the condition of the assemblage is good. The pottery has a mean sherd weight of 24g, which reflects the presence of large sherds. The pottery was not overly worn, and surfaces were well-preserved. These observations suggest that the assemblage has not undergone prolonged periods of weathering or many episodes of redeposition, having been deposited reasonably rapidly after initial discard and close to areas of settlement.

## B.2 Flint

*By Mike Donnelly*

### Introduction

- B.2.1 The evaluation yielded a small assemblage of six struck flints and three pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 135g. The flints were evenly spread between two relatively

close ditches 403 and 503, while the burnt flint was recovered from a spread (309) and a pit (312) in Trench 3.

## Results

B.2.2 Ditch 403 contained three flakes of probable later prehistoric date. These were quite thick flakes with unprepared platform margins and squat profiles. They were edge-damaged and heavily corticated, and are clearly residual in the ditch.

B.2.3 Ditch 503 contained three flakes of uncertain or mixed age. One is quite squat and probably of a similar age to the flints recovered from ditch 403, while another is a well struck and regular flake with parallel negative scars. Such a flake could still be later prehistoric in date but an earlier date, possibly Neolithic, is more likely. As with ditch 403, these pieces are also edge-damaged and corticated, and are probably residual.

B.2.4 The burnt flint fragments are clearly unworked and are likely to represent natural flint nodules that have been heated for domestic purposes, such as heating water and/or cooking food. They indicate that flint nodules were readily available in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
309	Burnt unworked		1 large fragment 121g	
327	Burnt unworked		2 fragments 14g	
404	Flake x 3	Distal trimming, side trimming & inner	Squat hard-hammer flakes	LPH
504	Flakes x 2	Inner x 2	Squat hard-hammer flakes	LPH
504	Flake	Distal trimming	Quite regular flake with parallel negative scars and are of modern damage on left side	?NEO

Table 2: Summary of worked flint

## Conclusion

B.2.5 The recovery of a small assemblage of residual flintwork from this evaluation indicates the likelihood of a limited prehistoric presence. Most of the activity represented by the flintwork appears to date to the Middle Bronze Age or later. There is also a slight possibility of the presence of very limited Neolithic activity.

## B.3 Ceramic building material

*By Cynthia Poole*

B.3.1 A fragment of ceramic building material weighing 83g was recovered from context 309. It is made in a hard red fabric containing sparse fine sand and occasional flint and quartzite grits, 7mm in size. Only one original surface survives, which is partly covered in moulding sand and is partly striated by knife or wire trimming. It is 44mm+ thick. Black residue on the base surface may be sooting, resulting from burning. The fragment is probably a piece of Roman brick.

## B.4 Fired Clay

*By Cynthia Poole*

- B.4.1 A single, heavily abraded fragment (3g) of fired clay made in an orange/brown fine sandy fabric was recovered from context 309. The scrap is amorphous apart from a small, blackened, burnt patch which may be the remnant of the original surface. The fragment is suggestive of oven or hearth structure. It is undatable but it could be contemporary with the ceramic building material found with it.

## B.5 Clay Pipe

*By John Cotter*

- B.5.1 A single piece of clay pipe was recovered from context 604 and is dated to the late 17th to early 18th century.
- B.5.2 Description: 1 piece (3g): Stem fragment of 'chunky' early type. Stem bore diameter of 2.9mm. Abraded condition.

## B.6 Animal bones

*By Lee Broderick*

- B.6.1 A total of 70 animal bones were recovered from the site, all from contexts dating from the late Iron Age to the early Roman period (Table 1). The assemblage was moderately well preserved, with no discernible difference in bone condition between most contexts. All the material was recovered by hand. Most specimens exhibited extensive root-etching, which may have obscured butchery or gnawing marks.
- B.6.2 The assemblage included specimens from each of the principal domesticates: cattle *Bos taurus*, sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus* and pig *Sus scrofa*. At least one mandible was positively identified as sheep, and no certain goat remains were observed. In addition to these three mammals, a horse *Equus caballus* tibia and six dog *Canis familiaris* specimens were also identified, though five of the latter probably came from the same skull.
- B.6.3 Most of the limb bones were fused, showing that most of the animals represented were skeletally mature. A sheep/goat first phalanx was unfused proximally and must have come from an animal that died in its first year, and the sheep mandible was from an individual aged between two-and-a-half and five-and-a-half years old. The horse tibia was fused proximally, thus deriving from an animal at least two years old, while a fused distal cattle tibia must have come from an animal over two years old.
- B.6.4 Two cattle specimens had been gnawed by dogs. A sheep/goat tibia fragment was calcined from intensive burning, suggesting that some refuse may have been disposed of by burning.
- B.6.5 Given the small size of the assemblage, it is difficult to draw significant conclusions. However, if further excavations were to be undertaken, these remains should be studied alongside any new material recovered. As it stands, the assemblage should be considered a low priority for retention.

Taxa	No. specimens
cattle	8
sheep/goat	6
sheep	1
pig	1
horse	1
dog	6
medium mammal	7
large mammal	30
Total	70

Table 3: Number of animal bone specimens

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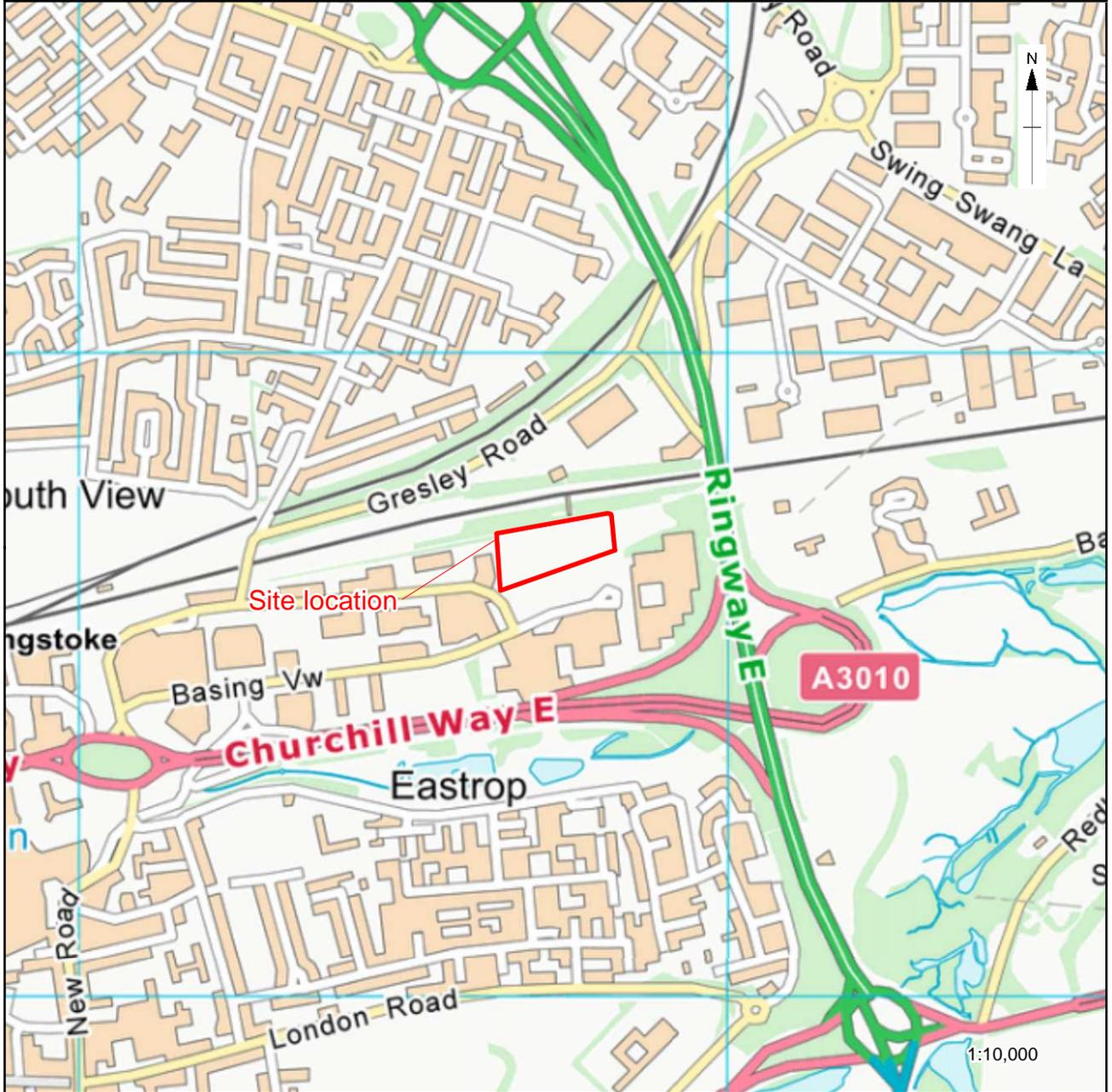
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**APPENDIX D****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

<b>Site name:</b>	Plot W, Basing View, Basingstoke
<b>Site code:</b>	A2017.91
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	SU 64699 52698
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	October 2017
<b>Area of Site</b>	2ha
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service (Willis Museum) in due course.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	The evaluation at Basing View revealed features dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The features were found in two trenches located in the south-central part of the site. The density of the features and the quantity of domestic material they contained suggests the presence of a small rural settlement. This may be similar to other contemporary sites known elsewhere in and around Basingstoke. Trenches across the northern half of the site revealed several undated ditches. These may relate to outlying field boundaries associated with the late Iron Age/early Roman settlement, though it is possible that one, at least, dated to the post-medieval period.





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Figure 1: Site location

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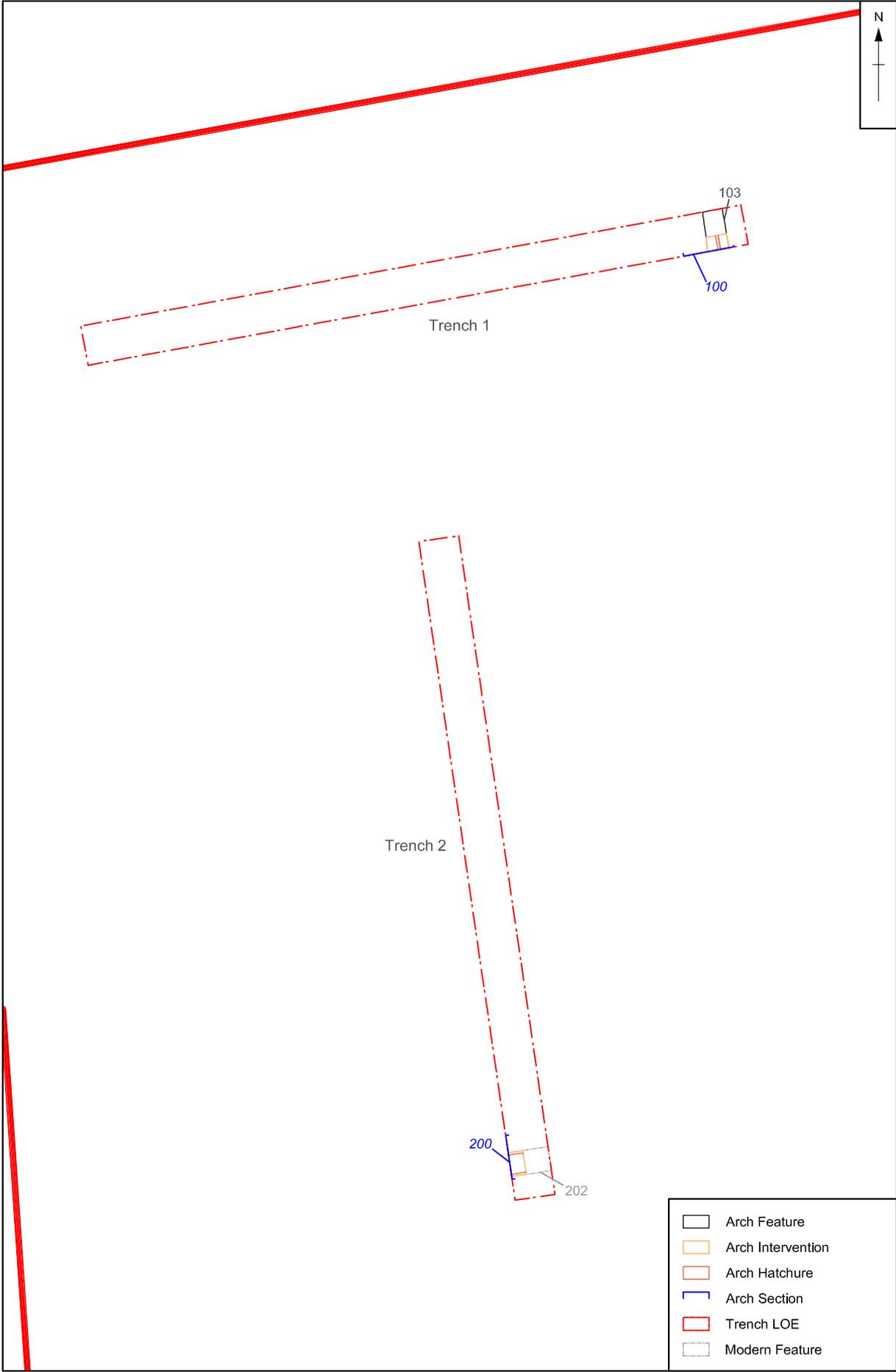


Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Site boundary  
Proposed trenches

Figure 2: Proposed trench locations

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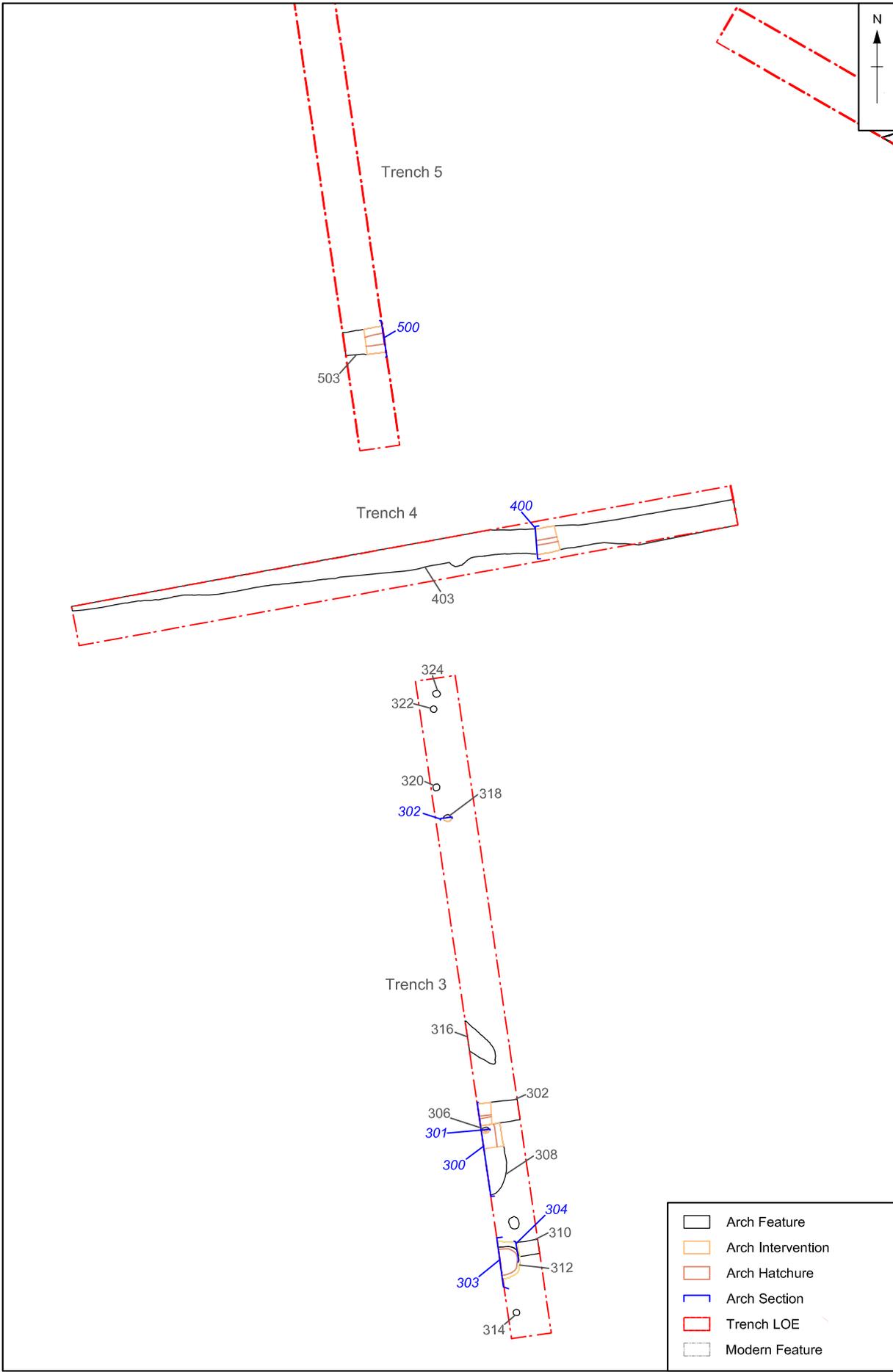
Survey Data supplied by :  
Matt Reynolds

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Scale at A4 1:250

Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

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CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

Survey Data supplied by :  
Matt Reynolds

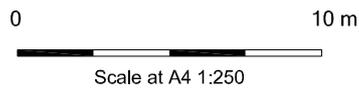


Figure 4: Trenches 3, 4 & 5

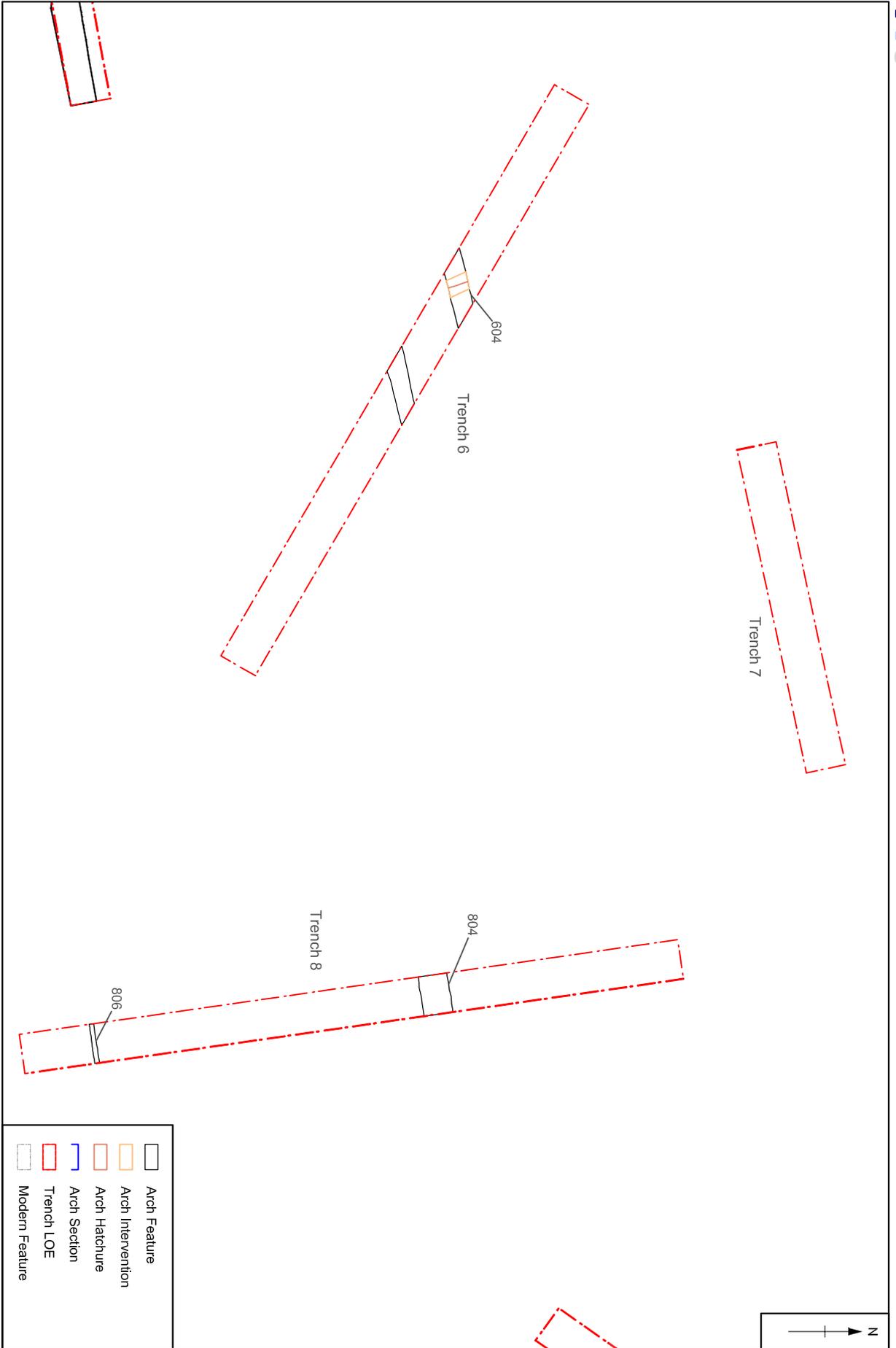


Figure 5: Trenches 6, 7 & 8

Survey Data supplied by :  
Matt Reynolds

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

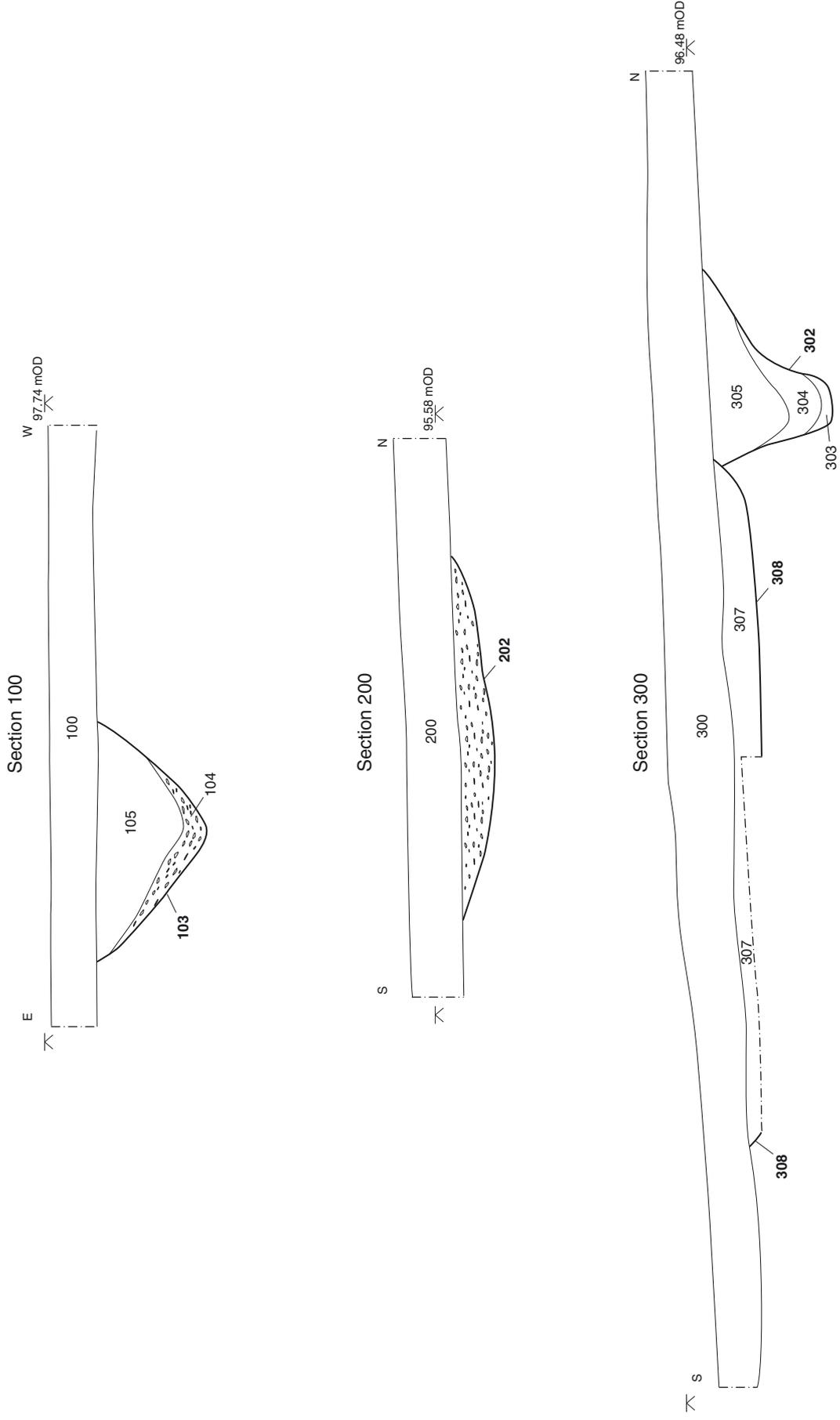


Figure 6: Sections

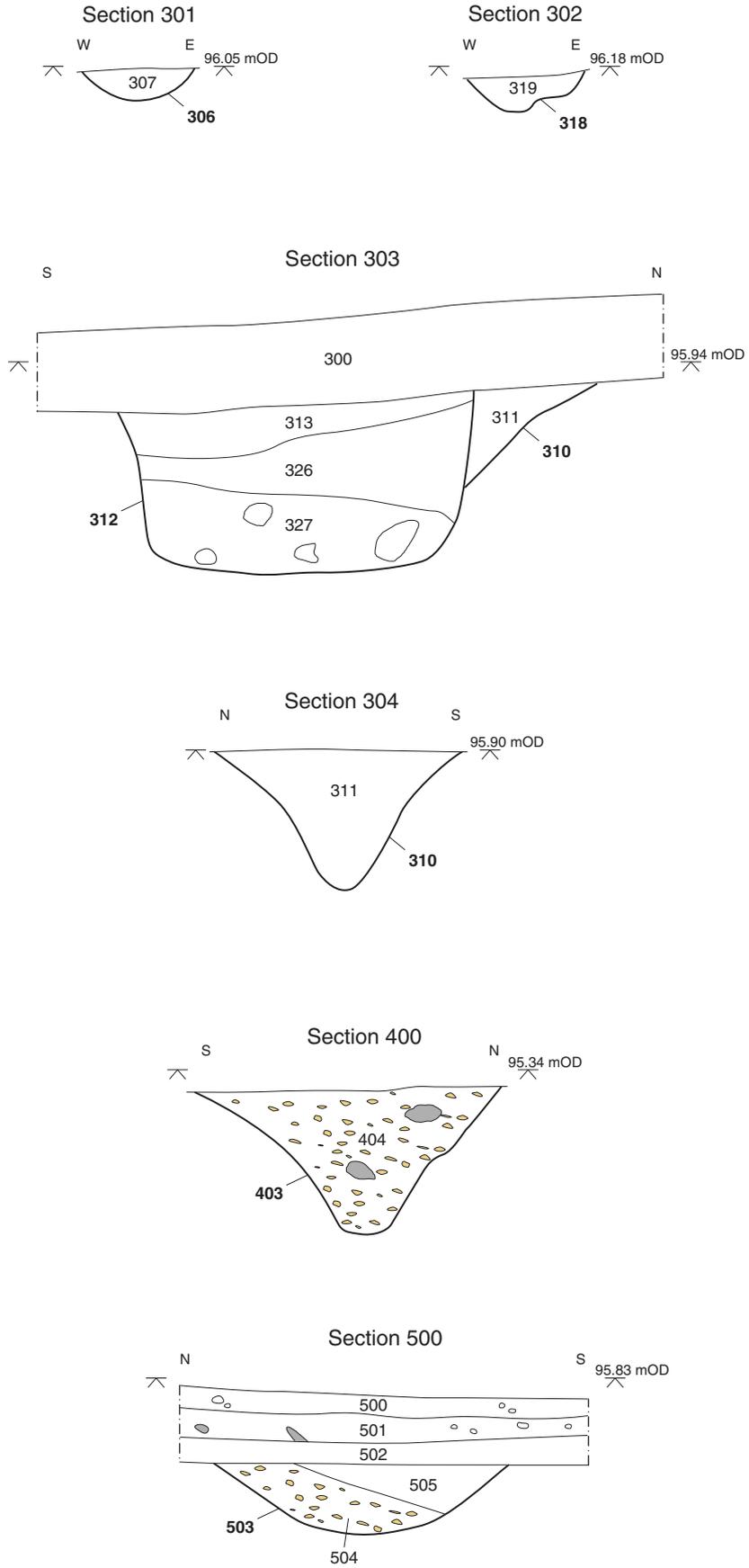


Figure 7: Sections



Plate 1 Trench 1 - ditch 103, view to S



Plate 2 Trench 2 - view to N



Plate 3 Trench 3 - spread 306 and ditch 302, view to W



Plate 4 Trench 3 - ditch 310 and pit 312, view to W



Plate 5 Trench 4 - view to W



Plate 6 Trench 4 - ditch 403, view to W



Plate 7 Trench 5 - view to N



Plate 8 - ditch 503, view to E



Plate 9 Trench 6 - view to W



Plate 10 Trench 7 - view to E



Plate 11 Trench 7 - view to N



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