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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Linwood Road
Market Rasen, Lincs.**

NGR: TF 1080 8880

(1076 8868)

Proposed Foodstore Development

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Montagu Evans

on behalf of

Carter Commercial Developments Ltd

LAS Report No. 326

November 1998

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Linwood Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire
Proposed Foodstore Development
Archaeological Evaluation
NGR: TF 1080 8880
Site Code: MRH 98

1.0 Summary

An archaeological evaluation comprising the machine excavation of nine trenches was carried out at the above site, following a desk-top assessment and magnetometer survey. Two Roman kilns and numerous ditches, containing 2nd century pottery were located. The main focus of archaeological interest appears to be confined to the southern 120m of the site. Trenches at the north end of the site contained two ditches which had no associated finds and whose fills were different in character to the Roman features. They are possibly post-medieval in date.

The potential impact of groundworks associated with the development is considered to be greatest at the southern end of the site in the area of proposed housing with least impact in the proposed car park at the north end of the site. Zones of potential archaeological interest are identified in the report.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Montagu Evans Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Carter Commercial Developments Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to Linwood Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

2.2 The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the archaeological potential of the development area and the possible impact of development on any archaeological remains.

3.0 The Application Site

3.1 Market Rasen is situated 22km north east of Lincoln and 24km west of Louth, in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire. The proposed application site is located to the SE of the centre of the small town, south of the junction of B1202 Oxford Street and Chapel Street. The site extends westwards to the railway embankment; the active line is bridged across Chapel Street. At present, the site contains a fire station to the north of the disused cattle market.

4.0 Planning Background

4.1 The site is currently the subject of a planning application for a mixed development comprising a 25,500ft² foodstore in the centre of the application site, with car parking and a petrol filling station to the north.

A development of eighteen detached and semi-detached houses is to be located south of the store, with an estate access road off Linwood Road. The existing fire station is to be demolished and a new one built south of the foodstore and north of the housing. A small block of land at the northern tip of the site is to be set aside for a separate housing scheme.

5.0 Topography and Geology

- 5.1 Market Rasen is sited at the western edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds on the southern side of the River Rase, a small tributary of the River Ancholme. The western side of the parish lies on boulder-clay/till, with wind-blown cover-sands masking it to the east.

6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 6.1 A fuller account is contained in the desk-based assessment prepared for the application site (Tann 1998).
- 6.2 There are no prehistoric finds recorded from the vicinity of the site, the nearest recorded remains being a possible prehistoric enclosure located 1km to the SE and a flint axe found in 1905, 2km to the SE.
- 6.3 There is very little known about the Roman settlement in the area although extensive pottery production is known from an area south east of the modern town extending into the adjoining parish of Linwood (Tann and Field 1988). This production centre is part of a group with further kiln sites at Claxby and Walesby.
- 6.4 Two fragments of hanging bowl mounts, three sleeve-clasps and part of a cruciform brooch have been found, indicating the likely presence of an early Anglo Saxon inhumation cemetery in the vicinity of Market Rasen.
- 6.5 The field at the south end of the proposed development site was an old enclosure at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure in 1783 and may not have been ploughed since at least the mid-18th century. Substantial earthwork remains of medieval plough furrows survive (Pl. 1):

7.0 Excavation

- 7.1 Evaluation trenches were completed on November 9th 1998. This comprised the machine excavation and hand-cleaning of nine trenches, four of which were positioned to examine anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Johnson 1998) in the field at the south end of site (Trenches 1-4).
- 7.2 The original scheme of trench positions had to be abandoned because of difficulties of access, and the remaining five trenches were located on the eastern half of the proposed development area. Two were situated in the area of the propose fire station (Trenches 5 and 6). One trench was located in the cattle market (Trench 8) and two trenches were north of the existing fire station (Trenches 7 and 9).

7.3 Trenches were machine excavated using a 1.8m toothless dyking bucket. The conditions during the excavations were very difficult with torrential rain flooding trenches and causing the soft sand to collapse, this problem particularly affected Trench 4 (see below). The size of many of the trenches was restricted by the need to maintain access to parts of the site which were still in use.

7.4 The numbers referred to in the text and on accompanying drawings are context numbers assigned during the recording of the site. Context numbers were assigned in blocks, prefixed by the trench number (i.e. trench 1 was numbered from **100** onwards, Trench 2 from **200** etc).

8.0 Results

8.1 Trench 1 (21x2m) Fig. 3

This trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.70m and 0.80m through a dark brown clay silt sand topsoil **100** with a maximum depth of 0.32m, this overlay a grey and grey brown sandy silt subsoil which was up to 0.40m deep, **101** and **130**.

8.1.1 Three features were visible cutting through these subsoil layers. A land drain ran across the trench, c.2.60m from the southern end of the trench. This cut through a small pit **136**, 0.80m wide and 0.50m deep, which contained a brown grey silty sand fill. A plough furrow **133**, 4.6m wide and filled with a light grey silty sand, also crossed the trench.

8.1.2 A spread of grey brown sandy silt **125** was uncovered 2m from the northern baulk, containing an abundance of surface pottery. It crossed the full width of the trench and was 3.60m wide and at its centre there were heat-affected limestone blocks **124** forming a small channel approximately 0.50m apart. It is possible that this formed a flue to a kiln beyond the limits of the trench, and the pottery spread was part of the rake out deposit.

8.1.3 A large pit **109** was located near the centre of the trench of the trench (Pl. 5). Its excavated depth was approximately 0.80m. A grey black silty sand formed the upper deposit **112**, which overlay a light grey silty sand **113** and a yellow grey sand **127**. This in turn overlay a yellow/grey sand **128**. Due to the high water table it was impossible to fully excavate this pit but it cut through the natural green-blue clay **140**. It is likely that this pit was a quarry pit excavated to provide raw material for the pottery production as there were several hundred sherds of in its fill. (see Appendix 2).

8.1.4 Six ditches were observed running across the trench. **103** was approximately 1m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with a mid brown grey silt sand, **104**, which contained 16 sherds of pottery. A small gully **111** lay 0.70m north of **103**, it was 1.50m wide, 0.20m deep and filled with a brown grey silty sand, **110**. **114**, a gully, was located 0.40m to the north of **111**. It was 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep, filled with a grey brown

- sandy silt, **115** and overlay a grey/yellow sand **116**. These fills contained 55 sherds of pottery. **117**, a rounded gully, contained a grey brown sandy silt **118**, with 177 fragments of pottery, overlying a light grey brown silty sand **119**. A small gully **121**, located at the north-west end of the trench contained a brown grey sandy silt **122** overlying a light grey silty sand **123**. This feature contained 31 sherds of Roman pottery.
- 8.1.5 At the south-eastern end of the trench there were three possible post holes. **107** an approximately circular feature, 0.41m x 0.38m and 0.08m deep, was filled with a mid to light grey sand **108** and contained 4 sherds of Roman pottery. An oval feature, 0.60m by 0.36m and 0.13m deep, was located to the east of **107**, which contained a light grey mottled sand **106**. A third feature **136** continued the line to the east but was only partially visible in the side of the trench. It was 0.70m wide and 0.10m maximum visible depth.
- 8.2.0 Trench 2 (11m x 2m) Fig. 4
- 8.2.1 This trench was excavated through between 0.60 and 0.80m of topsoil and subsoil. The topsoil, a dark brown sandy silt **200**, was 0.05m deep at the south end of the trench and increased in depth to 0.22m deep at the north, possibly filling a furrow that was invisible in the excavated section although visible as an earthwork.
- 8.2.2 Seven linear features crossed in this trench. **209**, a ditch, 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep with a round base and steep sides contained a grey silty sand, **210**, which overlay a brown sandy silt **211**. In the bottom of the ditch was a large clay lump **221**, 0.80m by 0.60m by 0.40m deep. It was a relatively clean grey/blue clay and may have been raw material for pottery production. 203 sherds of Roman pottery, including kiln wasters, were found in the ditch. Ditch **209**, cut through a ditch, **212**, with a brown/grey silty clay fill, **213**, running north-south at the south end of the trench. Its full profile was not determined but the excavated section was 0.80m wide and was 0.22m deep. Parallel to ditch **209** was a second, narrower ditch or gully, **208**.
- 8.2.3 A curving gully **204** was located 8.5m from the northern baulk it was 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with an irregular base and steep sides, filled with a dark grey brown silty sand **205**. A gully **219** was located 1.60m to the south of **204** it was 0.50m wide and 0.16m deep, filled with a grey brown silty sand **220**. These features cut into a backfilled ditch **206**, 4.5m wide and over 1m deep. Flooding and trench collapse prevented this feature being fully excavated. It was filled with a grey brown silt sand **215**. A deposit of mixed natural **203** at the northern side of this ditch may represent a bank associated with the ditch.
- 8.2.4 A curving linear feature ran from the eastern baulk **216** and was cut by ditch **206**. It was 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep, round bottomed and filled with a grey silty sand **217**.

8.3.0 Trench 3 (5x5m) Fig. 5

8.3.1 Trench 3 was positioned over a geophysical anomaly, thought to be a kiln. It was excavated to a depth of 0.50-0.60m. A dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil **300** overlay a red/brown sand silt subsoil **301**. Due to the nature of the deposits in this trench none of the features was excavated; they were cleaned, recorded and covered with a protective membrane, prior to backfilling.

8.3.2 A kiln was uncovered in the south western corner of the trench (Pls. 2 and 3). The circular oven was contained within a rectangular clay-lined pit, **312/317**, 2m x 1m. The kiln lining, **310**, was 0.10m thick and baked bright red. Behind the lining was a deposit of heat-affected clay, pink/red in colour **311/316**. It is possible that the lining **310**, which looked separate from the packing, may have been a re-lining of the oven. A fragment of kiln lining **315** was found embedded in the packing material **316**, also hinting at more than one phase of oven construction.

8.3.3 The visible interior of the kiln consisted of a mixed deposit of collapsed kiln lining **308** and packing clay **306** (possibly from the oven roof). Some disturbance was observed in the western part possibly animal or root disturbance. To the east of the main structure was a deposit of strongly heat affected red clay, which may be the roof of the flue, **305**. Beyond this was the rake out material from the kiln **303**, **304** and **323**, which covered an area of 5m by 4m. 157 sherds of pottery were recovered from the surface of these deposits during cleaning, only a small sample of the material present.

8.3.4 A possible pit, **320**, was revealed in the south-east corner of the trench. It was covered by part of the rake out deposit and was not fully revealed. It contained a brownish grey sandy silt **321** and a mixed yellow and yellow brown clay/sand **319**. Also present was a deposit of yellow grey clay **318**, possibly raw material for pottery production.

8.3.5 North of the kiln three ditches were observed running approximately east-west across Trench 3. Only a small part of **330** was visible in the north western corner of the trench, it contained a brown/grey sandy silt **329**. Ditch **333** was 0.12m south of **330**. It was 0.70m wide and contained a grey sandy silt **331**, and a slightly brown grey sandy silt **332**. A third ditch **335**, south of **333**, was 0.80m wide and contained a brown/grey sandy silt **334**. This deposit was partially overlain or truncated by the rake out material **304**.

8.3.6 South of the kiln was ditch **339/327/325** which was partially overlain by the rake out material. It contained a series of grey silt sands **328/326/324** which may have been the same deposit, but located in different parts of the feature.

8.4.0 Trench 4 (20x2m)

8.4.1 This trench was excavated to a depth of around 0.65m. Severe flooding and trench collapse (Pl. 4) meant that no recording could be carried out

beyond an initial clean and photograph. Features were noted in the central area of the trench in the form of two linear gullies and a discoloured soil spread. During cleaning 21 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of the features, giving their probable date.

8.5.0 Trench 5 (20 x 2m) Fig. 6

8.5.1 This trench was positioned to determine whether significant archaeological deposits continued beyond the south field. There was 0.70m of overburden. A dark brown sandy silt topsoil, **501**, c.0.10m deep overlay a deposit of black sand, **502**, and what appears to be coal dust from the coal yard formerly situated to the west. Below this deposit was a deposit of mixed orange and black sand, **512**. Two ceramic field drains were observed cut to a depth of about 0.75m below the topsoil, one was 10.5m from the eastern baulk and another 3m from the western baulk.

8.5.2 Two adjacent ditches crossed the trench towards its east end. **505** was a shallow rounded ditch, at least 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep. It was filled with a light grey sand **506** containing 2 sherds of Roman pottery. Its full width was not determined because it was truncated to the east by ditch **503**. **503** was 1.20m wide by 0.20m deep and filled with a dark grey sand **504** which contained 5 sherds of Roman pottery.

8.5.3 Near the centre of the trench was an area of disturbance at least 2.20m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.30m deep. This comprised the cuts **507**, **510**, and **524**, but the disturbance from the insertion of a modern drain in this area made it difficult to determine their relationship to one another. These comprised a grey sandy silt **525**, which overlay a dark grey sand **508** containing a single sherd of Roman pottery, a paler grey sand **509**, and a light grey sand **511**.

8.5.4 Gully **513** was 2m wide with a flat base, deeper along its western edge. The ditch was filled with a mid orange grey sand **515** which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, over a deposit of mid grey sand **514**.

8.5.5 At the eastern end of the trench were two ditches. **516** was 1.80m wide and 0.20m deep containing a grey sand fill **517**. This cut through a deeper ditch **518**, which was only observed in the south east corner of the trench so its full profile could not be ascertained. Its visible extent was 0.70m wide and 0.50m deep, and contained a heavily iron panned grey sand **519** overlying a dark grey sandy clay **520**, which in turn overlay a light grey sand **522**.

8.6.0 Trench 6 (19m x 1.8m) Fig. 7

8.6.1 This trench was excavated through 0.20m of dark brown/black topsoil **601**, and 0.60m of dark orange brown subsoil **602**.

- 8.6.1 A kiln was uncovered in the northern end of this trench.. This consisted a deposit of pale yellow/grey clay **605**, 1.50m across, surrounding a mid to dark orange/red clay lining **606**. The fill of the kiln was a dark grey black sand **607**. This kiln was cut across by a shallow linear ditch **603**, filled with a mid brown grey silty sand **604**. The ditch ran along the centre of the trench for approximately 11m where it turned west and beyond the trench side. Although this ditch contained 8 sherds of Roman pottery they were only found in the vicinity of the kiln and may be residual.
- 8.6.2 Ditch **603** also crossed, **626**, a poorly defined feature whose fill was similar to the surrounding natural. It was at least 0.80m deep but could not be fully excavated because of flooding and trench collapse. **626** was filled with a mid brown/grey silty sand, **627**, overlying a mid light grey silty clay **628**, a yellow grey silty sand **630**, and a yellow orange sand **631**. These in turn overlay a yellow grey silty sand **632** and a mid grey silty sand **633**.
- 8.6.3 Two intercutting pits were located at the southern end of the trench. **612** a steep sided feature contained a light grey sandy silt **622**, a dark grey sandy silt and the uppermost fill was a pale grey silt sand **620**. Due to flooding and trench collapse it was impossible to fully excavate this feature. 43 sherds of Roman pottery were found in this pit. **612** cut through a larger pit **615** to its south which was 1.40m wide at its maximum visible width and 0.60m deep from the surface. Again it was impossible to fully excavate this feature due to flooding. **615** contained a light grey sand **623** overlain by an orange sand **625**, a dark grey sandy silt **619**, grey silty sands **617** and **616**. The pit contained 19 sherds of Roman pottery.
- 8.6.4 A deposit of fine orange grey sand overlay both features and seems to represent the natural infilling of the hollow left by the pits. A grey silt sand **613** was the final fill of this deposit.
- 8.7.1 Trench 7 (19.5x2m) Fig. 8
- 8.7.2 Located towards the northern part of the site Trench 7 was excavated through 0.20-0.25m of a dark grey black silty sand topsoil **700**, 0.10m of dark brown grey sand **701**, and a light brown grey sand **702** some 0.24m deep. Below this deposit was a relatively clean light grey brown sand **703**. A hand dug section 0.25m wide and 0.14m deep, was excavated through this deposit, onto a natural orange sand **704**. Apart from a modern pipe trench and possible post-medieval plough scores no archaeological features or artifacts were observed in this trench.
- 8.8.0 Trench 8 (13x2m) Fig. 9
- 8.8.1 This trench was excavated through 0.06m of grey black silty sand topsoil **800**, a layer of grey brown silty sand **801** which was 0.20m deep at the southern end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 0.52m at the northern end. At the base of the trench was a natural brown orange sand **802**.

8.8.2 A modern pipe trench **807** cut across the trench c2.80m from its south end into the top of the natural sand. North of **807** was ditch **803**. It had relatively steep sides and a flat base and was 0.60m deep from the surface and filled with a dark brown grey silt sand **805** overlain by a mid brown grey silt sand **804**.

8.8.3 In contrast with the features found in the southern part of the site there were no Roman artifacts from this trench and no dating evidence in this feature.

8.9.0 Trench 9 (9x 2m) Fig. 9

Trench 9 was excavated to a depth of 1.10m through a dark grey black silty sand **900**, over a mid brown grey silty sand **901** and a light grey brown sand **902**.

8.9.1 There were six modern features cut from the surface (all noted as **906**). A single ditch, **904**, was sealed below the subsoil **902**. This was 2.5m wide and filled with a light grey silty sand, **905**. The ditch contained no pottery or other artifacts and given the large quantity of Roman pottery associated with features in the southern part of the site it is suggested that ditch **904** is of more recent date.

9.0 Discussion

9.1 The evaluation revealed evidence of Roman pottery production dating to the 2nd century AD (see Appendix 1). Two kilns were revealed in Trenches 3 and 6 and there is evidence for a third kiln immediately adjacent to the northern end of Trench 1 where part of the flue and the rake out deposit were uncovered.

9.2 Other Romano-British features identified comprised ditches and pits. The pits were probably quarry pits for clay and sand, the raw materials of pottery production. These were backfilled with quantities of pottery, probably waste material from the kiln firings.

9.3 While the majority of the linear features recorded were probably drainage ditches at least some may have been land divisions. This can only be determined by further large-scale excavation.

9.4 There were no structures relating to domestic occupation found during the evaluation. Although this may be at least partially due to the emphasis of the evaluation on locating and assessing the presence of the kilns there were very few animal bones or pottery from sources other than the local kilns, which suggests that there is a genuine absence of domestic activity in this area.

9.5 The pottery from the kiln deposits provides a tightly dated sequence from the 2nd century AD. This is earlier than the material found during evaluation of a site on the east side of Linwood Road, some 300m south-east of the proposed foodstore development (Albone 1998). No

kilns were found on that site but pottery wasters were present and may indicate a shifting of the kiln industry to the south over time.

- 9.6 Previously recorded kiln sites are located immediately south of the proposed development, on land to the west and south of Highfield. It is possible that the area investigated in the south field is at the north end of an extensive industrial area, associated with a settlement, as yet unlocated.
- 9.7 There have been few excavations of Roman pottery kilns in Lincolnshire in recent years and little is understood of the associated structures that might be present such as drying sheds, storage areas etc. This is also the case nationally and few excavations of pottery production sites have produced information about their organization and scale of production, which is essential for an understanding of the Roman pottery industry and its relationship to local economies.
- 9.8 The kiln in Trench 3 was well preserved, on a high point in the field beneath one of the medieval plough ridges, above the lowest point of the plough furrows. Whilst archaeological remains still survive beneath the furrows they have clearly been truncated. However, the field has probably not been ploughed since at least the 18th century which means that the level of plough damage is far lower than normally found on rural sites, thus increasing the potential for discovering more ephemeral features which are seldom identified.
- 9.9 The importance of kiln sites is recognized as being a key to understanding the regional economies in the Roman period, as with the *Priorities* submission to English Heritage by the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and the *Research Frameworks for the Study of Roman Pottery* submitted to English Heritage by the Study Group for Roman Pottery. The significance of the discoveries at Market Rasen is discussed more fully in Appendix 1.
- 9.10 There was no evidence for medieval occupation found in any of the evaluation trenches. This is not surprising in view of the position of the proposed development near the parish boundary and the evidence that most of the area was under cultivation in the medieval period. The site clearly lay beyond the limits of the known settlement, until the expansion of Market Rasen in the 19th century, associated with the construction of the railway.
- 10.0 Impact of Development on Archaeological Remains**
- 10.1 Several factors must be taken into account when assessing the possible impact of development on archaeological remains. Firstly, it was not possible to evaluate part of the western side of the development area because it is currently in use. However, this same area coincides roughly with the raised ground level, which was probably created during construction of the adjacent railway line. Borehole information will provide more accurate data concerning the

10.1 depths of made ground, which will enable a model of the natural deposits to be predicted over the area of the site which has not been evaluated archaeologically.

10.2 The mixed nature of the development means that resulting below ground disturbance will vary across the site. The highest level of disturbance will probably be associated with the housing development because of the numerous foundation and service trenches required; construction of the fire station with its associated water storage tanks and the petrol station with its associated fuel storage tanks. The lowest areas of impact will be the carparking and the supermarket with its proposed pile and ringbeam form of construction.

10.3 Taking these combined factors into account it is possible to identify zones of differing potential impact on the archaeological resource (Fig. 10 and Table 1). The zones have been defined according to:

- the nature of the proposed development and its attendant groundworks
- the results of the archaeological evaluation
- the proposed finished ground levels

10.4 Where areas have not been examined archaeologically the potential is noted as being 'untested' and a provisional assessment of archaeological potential has been made.

Zone	Current landuse	Proposed Landuse	Finished ground Level	Impact of Development	Archaeological potential
1a	1 bldg + rough ground	Housing	? same	High	Untested/low
1b	Goods shed + misc bldgs	Carpark/petrol station	Reduced	Low/high	Untested/low
1c	Fire station + Cattle market	Carpark/petrol station	Raised	Low/high	Low
2a	Coal yard + Cattle market	Foodstore	Reduced	Medium	Untested/low
2b	Rough ground	Foodstore	Raised	Medium	Untested/medium
2c	External storage	Service yard + Staff carpark	Reduced	Low	Untested/medium
3a	External storage	Fire station/ Water tanks	Reduced	High	Untested/high
3b	Rough ground	Fire station	Raised	High	High
3c	External storage	Housing	? same	High	Untested/high
3d	Pasture	Housing	Levelled	High	High

Table 1. Zones of potential development impact on the archaeological resource.

- 10.5 Even with incomplete data it is already possible to identify areas of potential high and low impact which provides a guide towards the preparation of a mitigation strategy on the archaeological resource.
- 10.6 In Zone 1 the impact of housing development will be high but is coincides with an area close to a former watercourse where the likely presence of archaeological remains is considered to be low. Equally, the construction of storage tanks below the petrol station will have a high impact but is located close to Trenches 7 and 9 where little of archaeological interest was uncovered.
- 10.7 Ground disturbance associated with the carpark construction will be relatively low and much of the area will have a finished level above known archaeological deposits. Zones 1b and 1c contain existing buildings that may already have disturbed below ground deposits.
- 10.8 Much of Zone 2 has not been evaluated but, subject to borehole results, it is anticipated that finished levels will be above the level of archaeological deposits. In addition, the existing coal yard and cattle market may have disturbed below ground deposits. The proposed foundations for the supermarket will comprise piles and a ringbeam, placed at a depth of c.500mm with some potential impact, depending on depths of made ground.
- 10.9 The high quality of archaeological remains in Zones 3b and 3d has been demonstrated during the evaluation of the site. Zone 3a contains the site of the proposed water storage tanks for the fire station and there is no doubt that they would be dug to a depth below the archaeological horizon. Whilst not evaluated, the potential for archaeological remains in this area must be assumed to be high until demonstrated otherwise.
- 10.10 Zone 3c contains the remainder of the proposed housing development, which lies beyond the south field, beneath the external storage area. However, its proximity to a further possible kiln, together with the high impact of the foundation construction makes this another potentially high-risk area.
- 11.0 Conclusion**
- 11.1 The archaeological evaluation indicated the presence of archaeological remains potentially of national importance. However, this seems to be contained in Zones 3b and 3d, and possibly 3a and 3c, at the south end of the proposed development. This coincides with those areas of development which will have the highest level of impact on below ground. It is recommended that excavation should be carried out in Zone 3b prior to construction of the fire station. The significance of the archaeological remains in Zone 3d is still under consideration but, it is recommended that development could proceed, subject to further archaeological investigations and appropriate excavation and recording for the following reasons:

- the kiln production area extends beyond the southern limits of the proposed development and has produced assemblages of similar 2nd century date
 - it has not been demonstrated that Parisian wares are being produced in the kilns uncovered during the evaluation
 - the potential information which might be retrieved from excavation far outweighs the benefits of preservation in situ
- 11.2 There was no evidence of significant archaeological remains in Zones 1 and 2, where examined, at the northern end of the site. This coincides with those areas of development which will have the highest level of impact on below ground deposits. It is recommended that a watching brief during construction would be an appropriate level of intervention in Zones 1 and 2.

12.0 Acknowledgement

- 12.1 LAS would like to thank Jim Bonnor, Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, Roger Walker and Peter Santesson, Stanley Bragg Architects for supplying development plans. The fieldwork was carried out by Liz Davies, Sue Farr, Wayne Livesey, Jeremy Mordue, Tobin Rayner and Mark Williams. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid and Mark Williams. Field survey was carried out by Midland Surveying and Engineering. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost and managed by Naomi Field.

Naomi Field and Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
November 17th 1998

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ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE ROMAN POTTERY FROM THE EVALUATION AT LINWOOD ROAD, MARKET RASEN MRH98

by Margaret J Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

10 November 1998

INTRODUCTION

The pottery so far recovered from the evaluation trenches 1-6 has been quickly scanned. The bulk of the pottery came from Trench 1; the smaller quantities from the other trenches appeared to be of a similar character, range and date. The condition is generally good; no problems are anticipated for long term storage. A reasonable proportion of the sherds show definite evidence of being waste from pottery production. The potters, however, seem to have had fairly good control of their firings, in that few grossly over- or under-fired sherds occurred. Wastage may have occurred more due to movement of kiln load rather than lack of control of firing temperature, and/or some problems with clay preparation. Some of the obvious 'wasters' would not have been identifiable as such had the sherds been smaller.

FABRICS

There is an admixture of coarser fabrics, alongside what may be viewed as the standard fabric, a sound well-fired grey fabric. Whether these coarser fabrics were made at these particular kilns is unclear, but a larger sample, particularly from such features as stokeholes, together with microscopic examination of the fabrics and inclusions should enable this question to be decided. A small number of oxidized sherds occur; some of these appear to have been the result of re-firing in an oxidizing atmosphere.

The other well-known fabric from Market Rasen kilns, the so-called Parisian ware (Elsdon 1982), is certainly present in the material from the evaluation, although no stamped sherds were found.

DEFINITE NON-KILN SHERDS

A single sherd of samian occurred, probably from a Central Gaulish dish of 18/31R, which would fit an early to mid 2nd century date. No mortaria or amphorae sherds were noted.

The oxidized sherds will need to be examined to check whether these are re-fired waste from the kilns, or vessels brought to the site. Some of the coarser fabrics may also turn out to be non-kiln vessels, particularly the occasional vesicular sherds. It is not clear what tempering has been lost but the use of such tempering does not fit with the bulk of the kiln products. There is little evidence for normal settlement type pottery, particularly the apparent absence of cooking vessels and mortaria.

PRODUCTS

When the pottery is archived, it seems likely that the range of forms will be relatively few with a comparatively restricted date-range. Many of the forms occur in the surface collections made in the 1960s, including flanged bowls and dishes, the characteristic carinated beaker (CLAU type B334), narrow-necked jars or flasks, plain-rimmed dishes, wide-mouthed bowls (often of

the neckless variety, pre-dating the main 3rd to 4th century forms so common in Lincolnshire), beakers (including the occasional sherd from a folded type), lug-handled jars, lid-seated jars (again a common Lincolnshire type, also made at the Roxby kilns), rusticated jars with linear rustication (often as relatively thin-walled vessels), bowls with small beads and flanges (not the later type), lids. Some large jars are probable, but no jars of the size classified as storage jars were seen. A single fragment of a jug with a folded rim (fabric with oxidized surfaces) occurred amongst unstratified material, which needs examination to check whether it is a kiln product. A flagon handle was also found. Decoration techniques observed included (apart from linear rustication) lattice, scored and burnished wavy lines, stabbing including herring-bone zones, and on a probable large jar, zones of relatively coarse rouletting. In general terms, the assemblage fairly closely resembles that seen from the Roxby kilns (Rigby 1976), although there seem to be fewer definite cooking vessels.

DATING

The range of forms suggests an Antonine date, broadly *c* AD130/140 to perhaps AD170/200. This dating may be refined on further study, particularly from a larger sample. There is no certain evidence for 3rd or 4th century pottery. This contrasts with the overall date which might be applied on the basis of past surface finds, and including material recently found in evaluation trenches at LRM97, to the south of the present site, on the other side of Linwood Road. The pottery from LRM97 included 'wasters' alongside kiln debris and quantities of slag, but the main date emphasis was much more in the later Roman period, 3rd to 4th centuries. This LRM97 assemblage has not been analysed in detail since anticipated further work on the site would produce a better sample, but includes several forms seen in the later Roman industries in Lincoln at the Rookery Lane and Swanpool kilns.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SITES

The LRM97 group to the south is as would be expected from the environs of a pottery production area. The analysis in terms of vessel types would be highly unusual for a normal domestic site, with the main class being open forms, bowls and dishes, and comparatively few jars, normally the commonest form. Analysis based on vessels represented by rims shows bowls and dishes to represent over 70% of the normal grey ware, the main fabric produced. Earlier vessels occur on this site, including Parisian ware sherds, flanged bowls and dishes, the lid-seated Roxby type jars and other vessels, as seen from MRH98.

The finer wares from LRM97 occurred mainly as body sherds from closed vessels, either beakers or flasks. There are, however, two flasks with collars on the neck (FDN), bases typical of Parisian beakers, sherds from a possible folded beaker and a poppy-head type. A copy of a samian bowl form 38 also occurred in the fine fabric, with rouletting under the flange. The evidence of the flasks (a type more common in the later Roman period), and probably also the bowl, substantiates the view (Darling 1984, 80) that production of vessels in this fine fabric continued after the normal *floruit* of Parisian ware, and it is particularly useful to have this evidence from a production site.

It is possible that this LRM97 site represents a later shift by the potters. No kilns were located in the evaluation trenches, although kiln debris occurred; it is unlikely this would be moved far from the kilns and further excavation is necessary to determine the nature of this site.

The earlier known areas as detailed by Swan (1984) are noted as:

Gordon Fields Estate, area centred TF 104884

Chantry's Field, S. of Highfield House, area centred TF10768853 approx.

'Austins', Highfield House Paddock, area centred TF107886 approx.

Swan has postulated a total of up to 10 probable kiln sites in the Chantry's Field complex, south of the present site. While finds from all sites are stated to have been deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum, it seems clear that a reasonable quantity is still with the individual excavators, D. Boyce and K. Hunter. In order to deal adequately with this industry, particularly its spatial development, it will be necessary to gain access to these reserved finds. It is known that the fabric of Parisian ware varies between finds from the Highfield House area and from Gordon Fields Estate.

Pottery scatters are also noted in fields to the south-west of the present site (field 5336, Mill Close; field 6234). Whether this is due to pottery production or settlement is unknown.

OTHER INDUSTRIES?

A small quantity of slag came from the evaluation trenches. Slag also occurred at the LRM97 site to the south, and is noted by Swan in the backfill of kilns in the Chantry's Field complex. John Samuels worked on material mainly from Douglas Boyce (it is not clear whether this was limited to Gordon Fields Estate or was from other sites as well), which included fired clay from kilns with grain, vegetable and straw impressions. These have been identified as stem and leaf spikelets of spelt wheat, and their abundance suggests the close proximity of a threshing floor (Samuels 1983). The relationship of pottery industries with other industries is a matter of concern nationally, to more fully understand the economics of Roman Britain. Metal working is the main industry connected with potting, and research is urgently needed.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS POTTERY INDUSTRY

Local

There is a cluster of pottery production sites within the area of Market Rasen, see attached map (Swan 1984). Of these, the earliest and arguably the most important, are the kilns within Market Rasen, marking the start of such production in the area. The foundation of such kilns has an obvious bearing on our understanding of the settlement of the area, such settlement justifying local production on this scale, and the relationship with the *colonia* at Lincoln is also of importance. The probability that production continued into the later Roman period provides evidence for the continuing settlement, and again the relationship to other centres, including Lincoln needs to be examined. There has been virtually no work or publication on the other kiln sites, severely limiting our knowledge of Roman settlement in this area of Lincolnshire. Without clear understanding of the local kilns, work on finds from field work in the area and the information to be derived from them is greatly handicapped.

Regional

Regionally there is an impelling need for work on the kilns, particularly to explore such similarities as appear here, with the kilns at Roxby, and to understand the specifically Lincolnshire types. The occurrence of these types are likely to produce useful information relating to tribal areas; different ceramic zones can be identified as between the Lincoln area and further south and the Trent Valley. No chance of doing so has occurred to the north of

Lincoln due to the lack of work and publication of kiln material. Similarities between the production of different kilns clearly has implications for the movement of potters, and connections between settlements.

National

The product with implicit national significance is the so-called Parisian ware, a stamped fine ware. Parisian ware is a nationally recognised fabric, and is included in the *National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*, compiled with funding from English Heritage and housed at the British Museum. This ware ties in with a spate of such industries in the earlier part of the 2nd century, including the stamped wares at West Stow in Suffolk, and the so-called London Wares, produced at a number of different centres, including London and the Nene Valley. The technique of decorative stamps on pottery appears to be a long-lived style in the East of England, and the relationship of the Roman stamped wares to the earlier Iron Age stamped vessels (Elsdon 1975) needs to be explored. Parisian ware, as a fine ware, is usually a small part of the production of any pottery industry, the potters working mainly to supply the full range of ceramics for the local population, but is also the ware mostly likely to be traded outside the region.

The importance of kiln sites is nationally acknowledged, as with the *Priorities* submission to English Heritage by the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies (1985, Section 4.5.1.1), and the *Research Frameworks for the Study of Roman Pottery*, submitted to English Heritage by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Willis 1997, 4.4). Kiln sites provide information which is out of all proportion to the resources required to dig them. The study of kilns and kiln products has multiple benefits, not least by helping to date traded items occurring in site deposits, but also providing information upon technology, the endurance (or not) of traditions, and economics, while study of the location and siting of kilns raises interesting issues, for instance to do with economics, the organization of industry in the Roman period, the relationship between town and country and so forth (Willis 1997).

SUMMARY

The pottery from the evaluation indicates a relatively consistent range of types, almost certainly all of 2nd century date. These kilns would provide the first stratified group of material to enable a better understanding of a major production site, so far only known from unstratified surface collections. These are likely to be part of a longer-lived pottery industry serving a settlement or settlements in the area, later supplemented by further kilns in surrounding parishes. Part of the production includes a nationally recognised ware, Parisian ware, a fineware likely to have been traded outside the area, and conceivably with Iron Age precursors.

Locally its importance is paramount, providing evidence for a thriving settlement in the area. Similarities with other kilns provides evidence for the relationship of that settlement to others. Study of the other kilns within the area is handicapped without the evidence from the earliest group, the Market Rasen kilns. A clearer understanding of these kilns in relation to other kilns and their products in Lincolnshire will greatly aid Roman archaeology in this area, and facilitate studies of the ceramics of the tribal area, with national implications. Without exploration and publication, the archaeology of this area will continue to be severely handicapped and restricted. Kiln sites are recognized as being of crucial importance to archaeology, and included in all national frameworks for future research.

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Appendix 2

Market Rasen (MRH 98) Context Summary

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Layer	Dark brown silty loam topsoil	
101	Layer	Mid grey silty sand subsoil	
102	Natural	Yellow natural sand	
103	Cut	Gully	
104	Fill of 103	mid brown grey silty sand	16 sherd of RB pottery
105	Cut	Possible post hole	
106	Fill of 105	Light grey mottled sand	
107	Cut	Possible post hole	
108	Fill of 107	Light grey mottled clay	4 sherds of RB pottery
109	Cut	Pit	
110	Fill of 111	Gully	
111	Cut	Gully	
112	Fill of 109	Grey/black silty sand	535 sherds of RB pottery and 20 fragments of kiln furniture
113	Fill of 109	Light grey silty sand	85 sherds of RB pottery
114	Cut	Gully	
115	Fill of 114	Grey/brown sandy silt	53 sherds of RB pottery
116	Fill of 114	Grey yellow sand	2 sherds of RB pottery
117	Cut	Gully	
118	Fill of 117	Grey brown sandy silt	177 sherds of RB pottery 3 fragments of kiln furniture
119	Fill of 117	Light grey/brown silty sand	
120	Fill of 109	Brown/grey silty sand	10 sherds of RB pottery
121	Cut	gully	
122	Fill of 121	Brown grey sandy silt	25 sherds of RB pottery
123	Fill of 121	Light grey silty sand	6 sherds of RB pottery
124	Structure	Possible part of the kiln flue	
125	Fill of 126	Grey brown sandy silt	129 sherd of RB pottery 7 fragments of kiln furniture
126	Cut	Pit	
127	Fill of 127	Yellow/grey sand	
128	Fill of 128	Dark brown/grey silty sand	7 sherds
129	Fill of 129	Dark grey/brown sandy silt	
130	Layer	Grey/brown sandy silt	
131	Fill of 132	Brown grey sandy silt	16 sherds of greyware
132	Cut	Ditch or pit	
133	Cut	Furrow	
134	Fill of 133	Light grey silty sand	4 sherds of RB pottery
135	Fill of 133	Light grey silty sand	
136	Cut	pit	
137	Fill of 136	Brownish grey sandy silt	
138	Cut	Pit	
139	Fill of 139	Brownish grey sandy silt	78 sherds of RB pottery

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt	
201	Layer	Red/brown sandy silt	
202	Natural	Yellow/white/orange natural	
203	Deposit	Mixed yellow/orange and brown silty sand	
204	Cut	Gully	
205	Fill of 204	Dark grey brown sandy silt	
206	Cut	Steep V sided ditch with a concave rounded base	
207	Same as 206		
208	Cut	Ditch	
209	Cut	Ditch	
210	Fill of 209	Grey silty sand	203 sherds of RB pottery
211	Fill of 209	Brown sandy silt	
212	Cut	Ditch	
213	Fill of 212	Brown grey silty clay	
214	Fill of 211	Brown/grey slightly silty clay	
215	Fill of 206	Grey brown fill of 206	
216	Cut	Curvilinear feature	
217	Fill of 216	Grey brown silty clay	
218	Fill of 207	Grey brown silty clay	
219	Cut	Gully	
220	Fill of 219	Brown grey silty sand	
221	Deposit	Grey blue clay	
<i>Trench 3</i>			
300	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy silt	
301	Layer	Grey brown sandy silt	
302	Deposit	Grey brown sandy silt	
303	Deposit	Brown grey silty sand	18 sherds of RB pottery
304	Deposit	Very dark grey sandy silt	139 sherds of RB pottery
305	Deposit	Pink/red clay packing	
306	Deposit	Clay packing	
307	Deposit	Green/grey heat affected clay	
308	Deposit	Pinkish red clay	
309	Deposit	Grey brown sandy silt	
310	Structure	Pink/red baked clay lining of kiln	
311	Deposit	Pink/red heat affected clay	
312	Deposit	Green/grey clay packing	
313	Cut	Pit	
314	Cut	Pit	
315	Structure	Baked pink/red clay	
316	Deposit	Dark pinkish red clay	
317	Packing	Green/grey clay packing	
318	Deposit	Yellow/grey clay	
319	Fill of 320	Mixed yellow and yellow/brown clay sand	
320	Cut	Pit	
321	Fill of 322	Pit	
322	Not used		
323	Deposit	mid grey sandy silt	

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
324	Fill of 325	mid grey silty sand	
325	Cut	gully	
326	Fill of 327	mid grey silty sand	
327	Cut	Gully	
328	Fill of 339	Brown/grey silty sand	
329	Fill of 330	Brown/grey sandy silt	
330	Cut	Ditch	
331	Fill of 333	Grey sandy silt	4 sherds of RB pottery
332	Fill of 333	Grey sandy silt	
333	Cut	Ditch	
334	Fill of 335	Brown/grey sandy silt	4 sherds of RB pottery
335	Cut	Ditch	
336	Deposit	Grey/brown sandy silt	4 sherds of RB pottery
337	Deposit	Brown sandy silt	
338	Deposit	Brown grey sandy silt	2 sherds of RB pottery
339	Cut	Gully	
340	Deposit	Grey silty sand	
341	Cut	Ditch or pit	
342	Deposit	Brown/orange sand silt	
343	Natural	Pale yellow/off white sand	
Trench 5			
501	Layer	Dark grey brown topsoil	
502	Deposit	Black sand and coal dust	
503	Cut	Ditch	
504	Fill of 503	Dark grey sand	5 sherds of RB pottery
505	Cut	Gully	
506	Fill of 505	Light grey sand	2 sherds of RB pottery
507	Cut	Gully	
508	Fill of 507	Dark grey sand	1 sherd of RB pottery
509	Fill of 507	Pale grey sand	
510	Cut	Gully	
511	Fill of 510	Light grey sand	
512	Deposit	Mixed black and mid orange sand and coal dust	
513	Cut	Gully	
514	Fill of 513	mid grey sand	
515	Fill of 513	mid orange/grey sand	1 sherd of RB pottery
516	Cut	Gully	
517	Fill of 516	Grey sand	
518	Cut	Ditch	
519	Fill of 518	Grey sand with iron panning	
520	Fill of 518	Dark grey sandy clay	
521	Deposit	Dark grey sand	
522	Fill	Light grey sand	
523	Natural	White/yellow sand	
524	Cut	Gully	
525	Fill	Grey sandy silt fill	
Trench 6			
601	Layer	Dark brown/black topsoil	
602	Layer	Dark orange brown subsoil	52 sherds of RB pottery
603	Cut	Gully	
604	Fill of 603	Brownish grey silty sand	8 sherds of RB pottery

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
605	Fill of 609	Yellow/grey clay	
606	Fill of 609	Dark orange red clay	
607	Fill of 609	Grey black sand	137 sherds of RB pottery
608	Fill of 609	Dark grey black sand	3 sherds of RB pottery
609	Cut	Kiln	
610	Cut	Gully	
611	Fill of 610	mid grey sand	4 sherds of RB pottery
612	Cut	Pit	
613	Deposit	Grey silty sand	3 sherds of RB pottery
614	Deposit	Orange grey flood deposit	
615	Cut	Pit	
616	Fill of 615	Grey silty sand	6 sherds of RB pottery
617	Fill of 615	Grey silty sand	6 sherds of RB pottery
618	Fill of 615	Grey silty sand	7 sherds of RB pottery
619	Fill of 615	Dark grey sandy silt	
620	Fill of 612	Pale grey silty sand	33 sherds of RB pottery
621	Fill of 612	Dark grey sandy silt	10 sherds of RB pottery
622	Fill of 612	Light grey sandy silt	
623	Fill of 615	Light grey sand	
624	Fill of 615	Orange sand	
625	Fill of 615	Orange sand	
626	Cut	Ditch	
627	Fill of 626	Mid brown grey silty sand	
628	Fill of 626	Greenish yellow silty sand	
629	Fill of 626	mid grey silty sand	
630	Fill of 626	Yellow grey silty sand with clay	
631	Fill of 626	Yellow orange sand	
632	Fill of 626	Yellow grey silty sand	
633	Fill of 626	mid grey silty sand	
634	Fill of 615	Yellow pale orange sand	
635	Fill of 615	Orange and yellow orange sand	
636	Natural	Orange white and yellow sand	
<i>Trench 7</i>			
700	Layer	Dark grey black silty sand	
701	Layer	Dark brown grey sand	
702	Layer	Light brown grey sand	
703	Layer	Light grey brown sand	
704	Natural	Brown/orange sand	

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
<i>Trench 8</i>			
800	Layer	Grey black silty sand	
801	Layer	Grey brown silty sand	
802	Natural	Brown orange sand	
803	Cut	Ditch	
804	Fill of 803	Mid brown grey silty sand	
805	Fill of 803	Dark brown grey silty sand	
806	Cut	Pipe trench	
807	Fill of 806	Dark grey silty sand	
<i>Trench 9</i>			
900	Layer	Dark grey black silty sand	
901	Layer	Mid brown grey silty sand	
902	Layer	Light grey brown sand	
903	Natural	Mid brown orange sand	
904	Cut	Ditch	
905	Fill of 904	Brown grey silty sand	
906	Fills	Dark grey black silt sand	

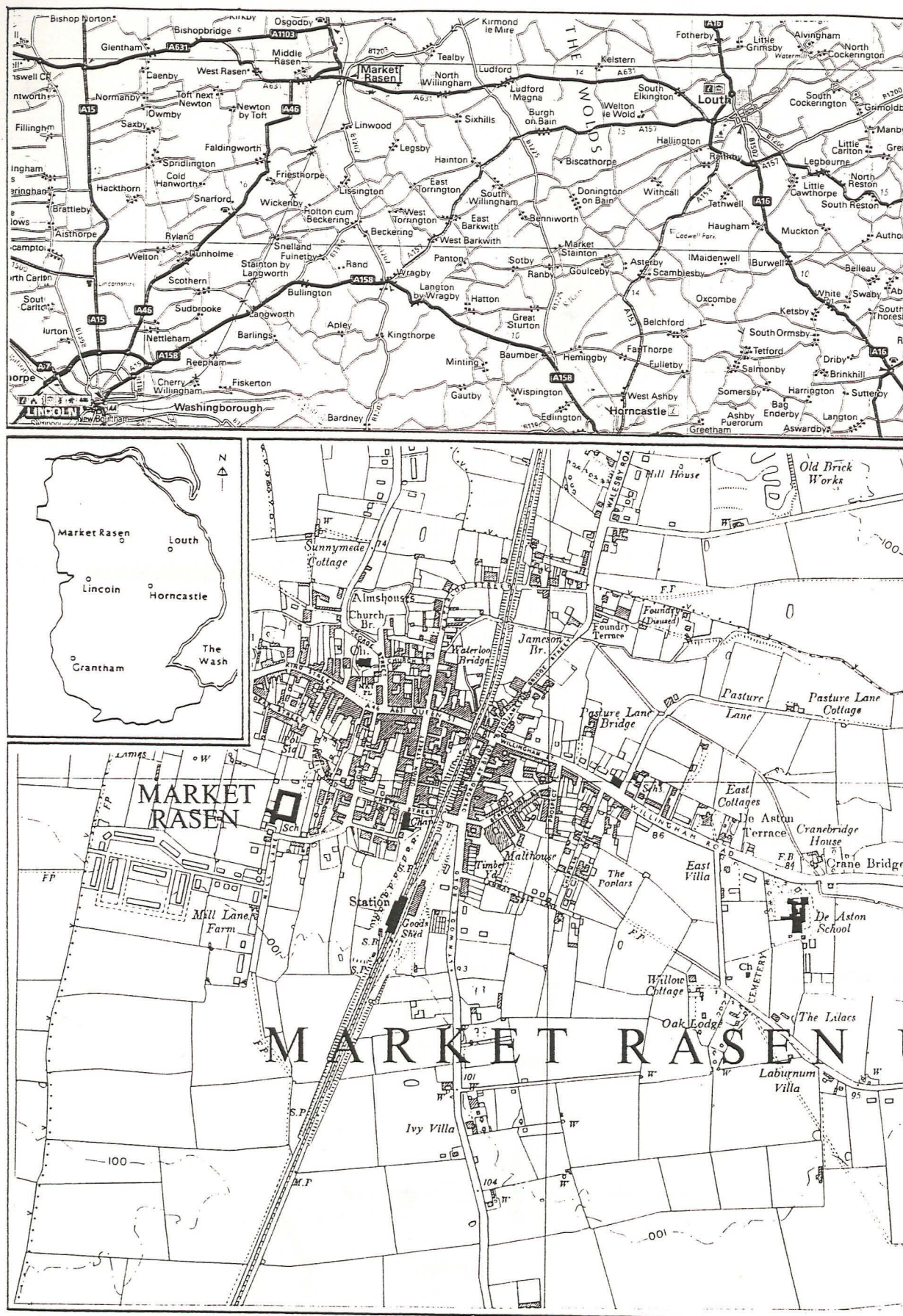


Fig. 1 Location of Market Rasen (based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map sheet TF 18NW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

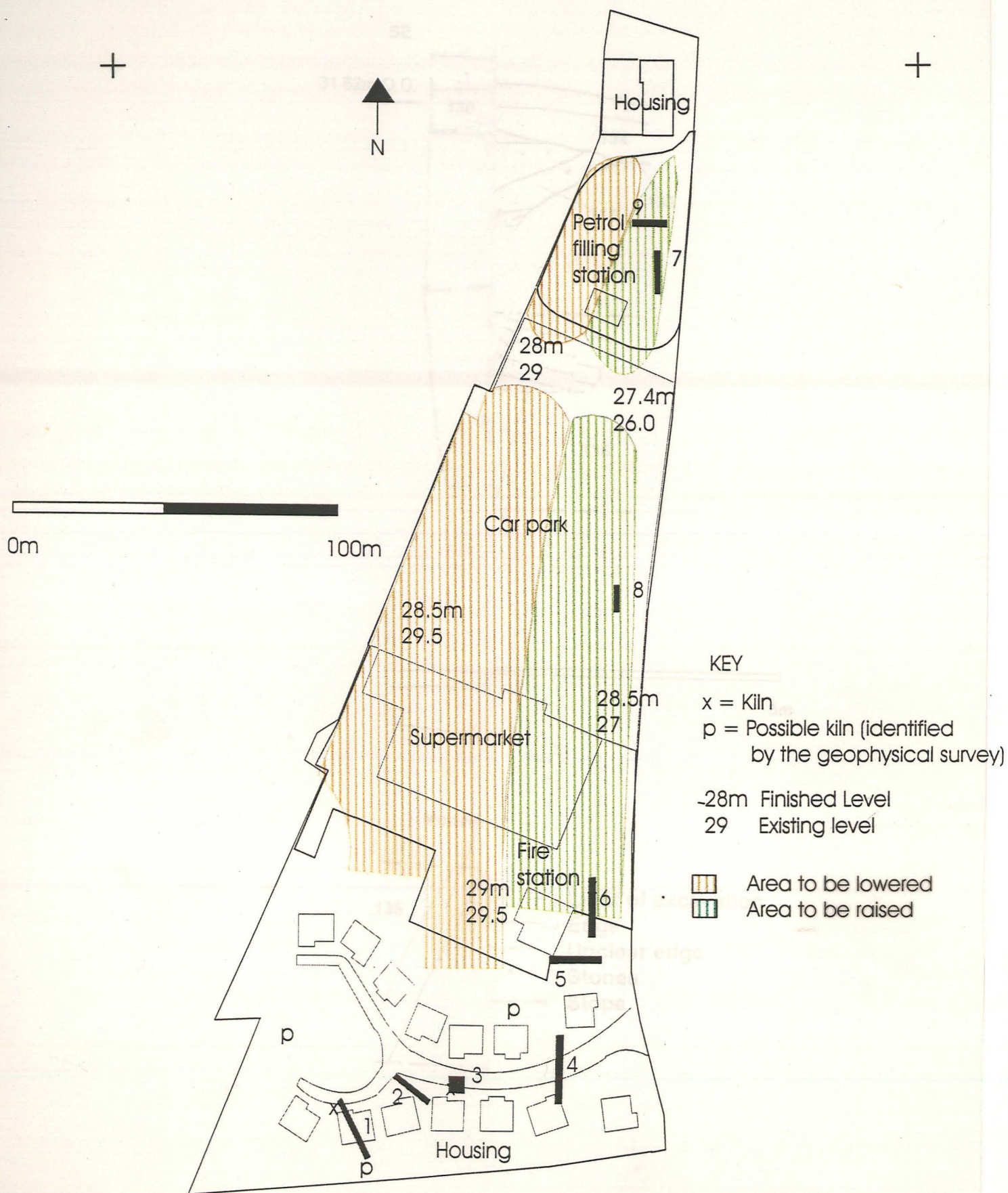


Fig. 2: Trench location plan in relation to proposed scheme of development and associated landscaping.

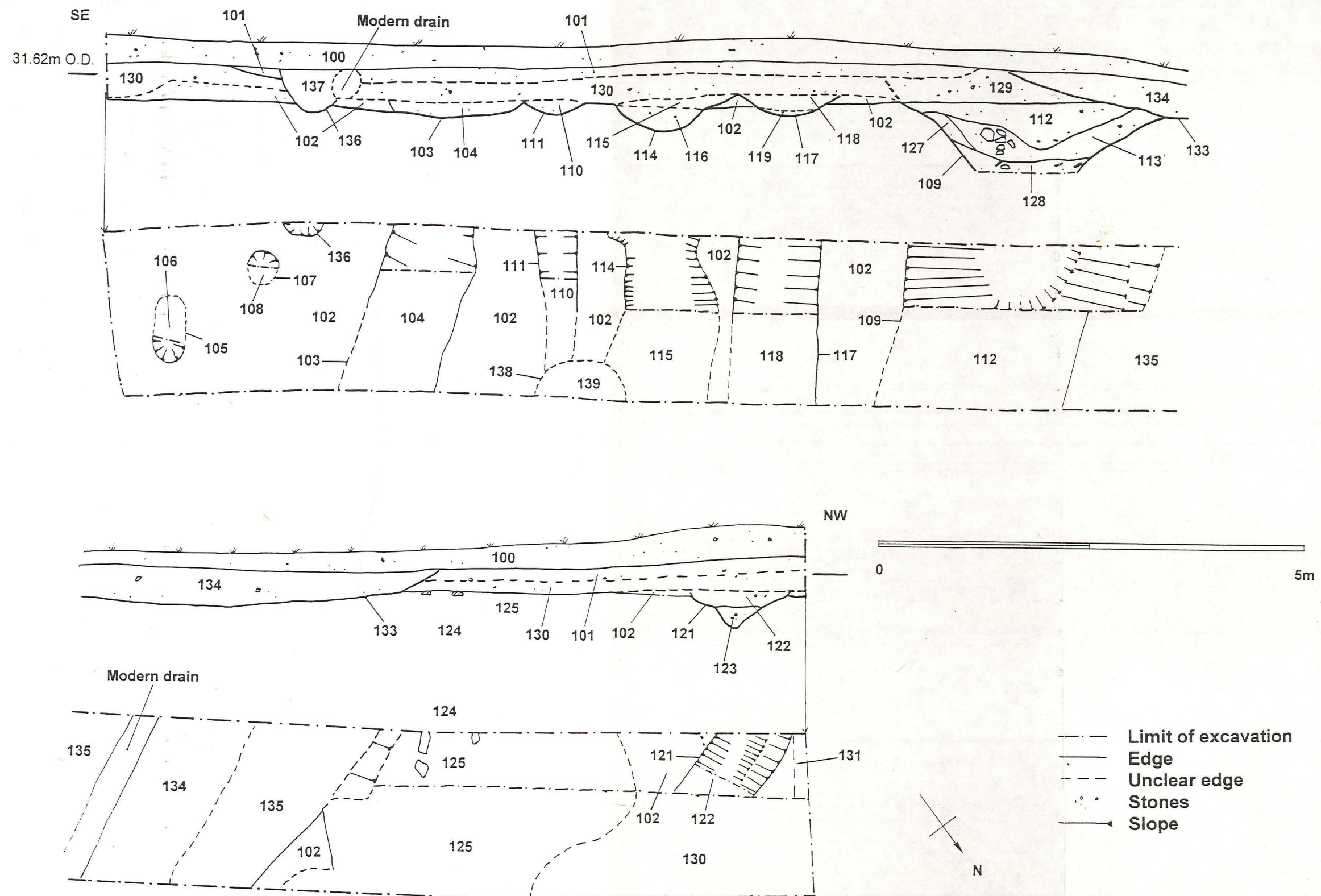


Fig. 3 Plan and section of Trench 1. Scale 1:50

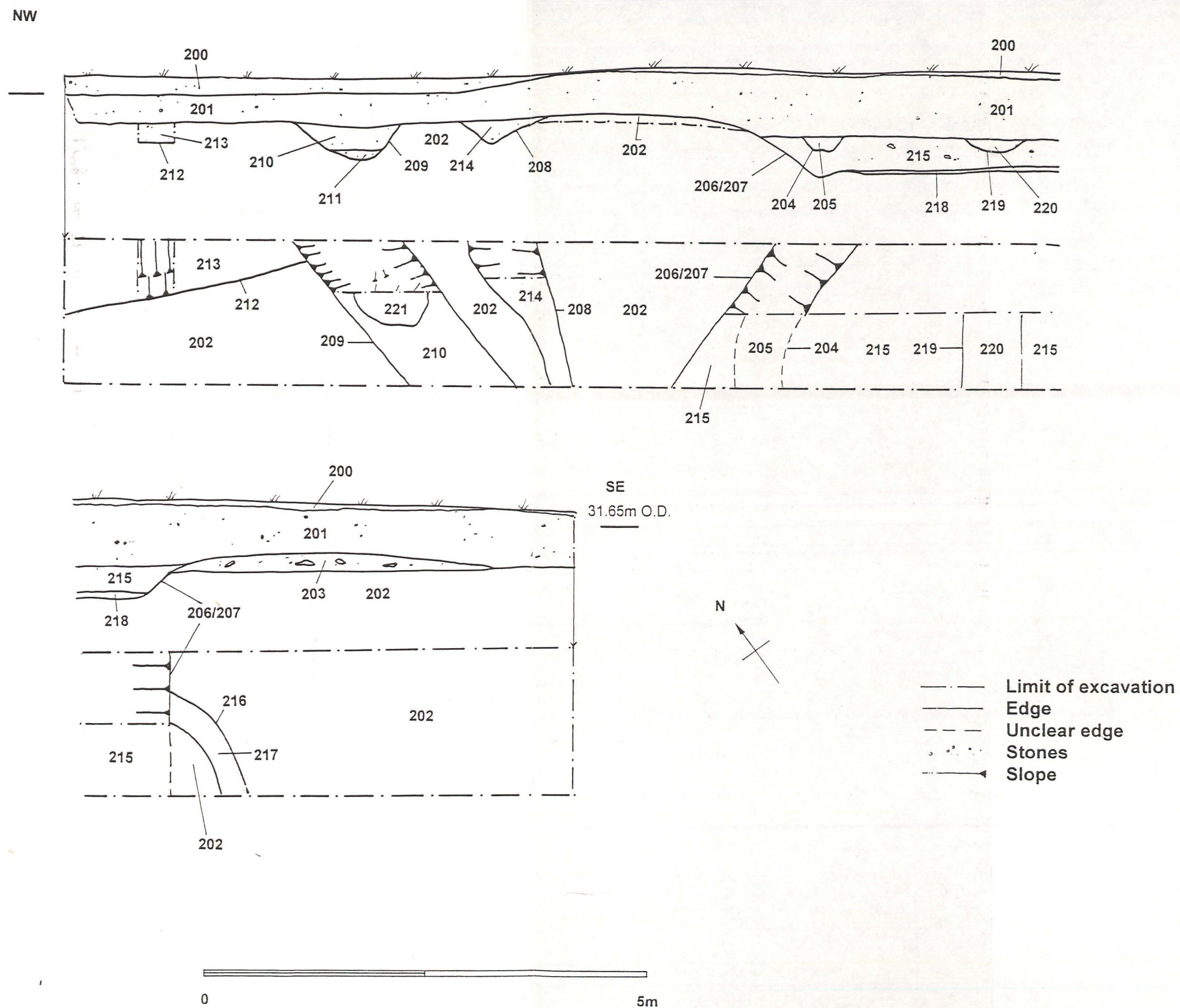


Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 2. Scale 1:50

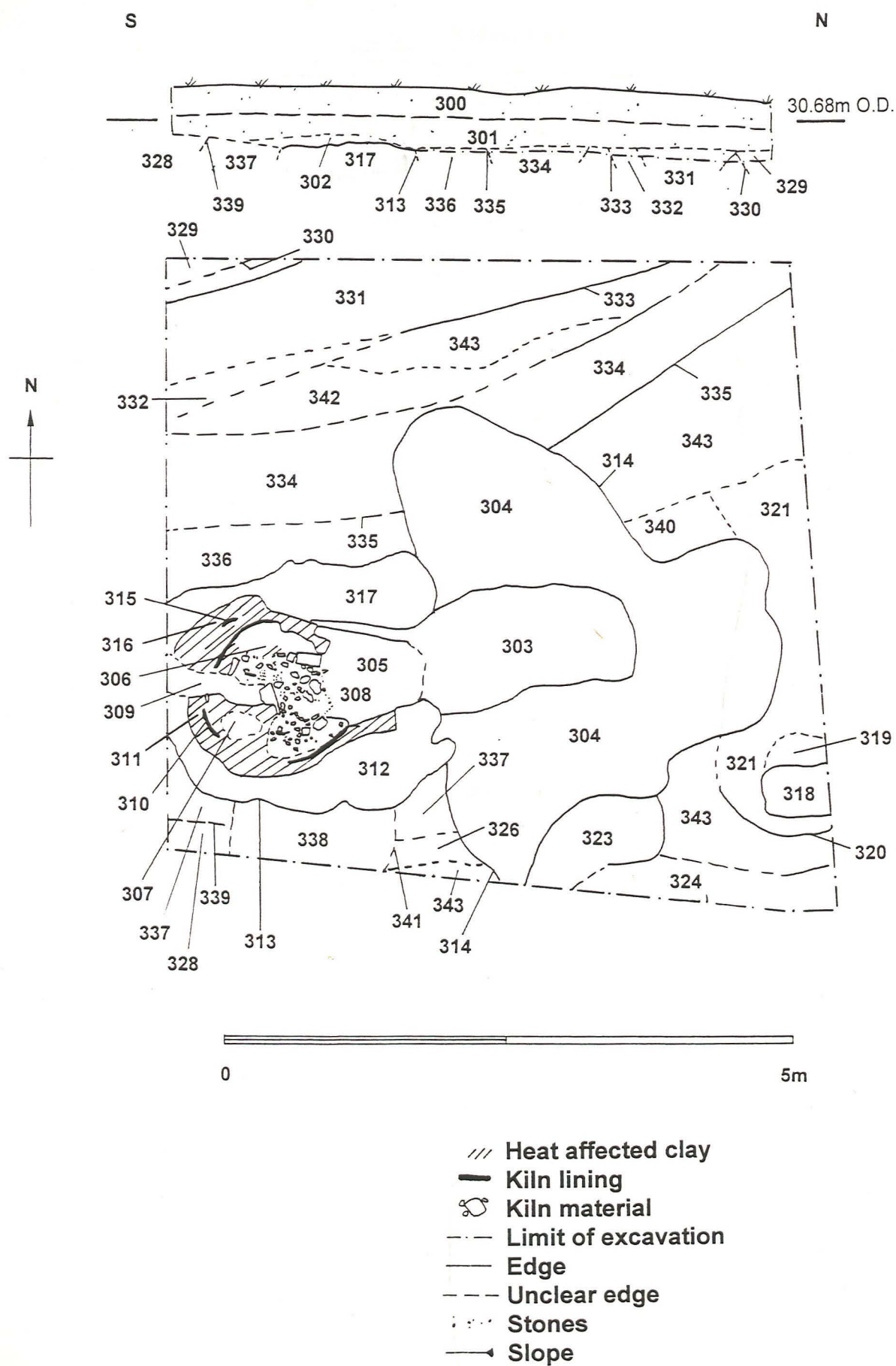


Fig. 5 Plan and section of Trench 3. Scale 1:50

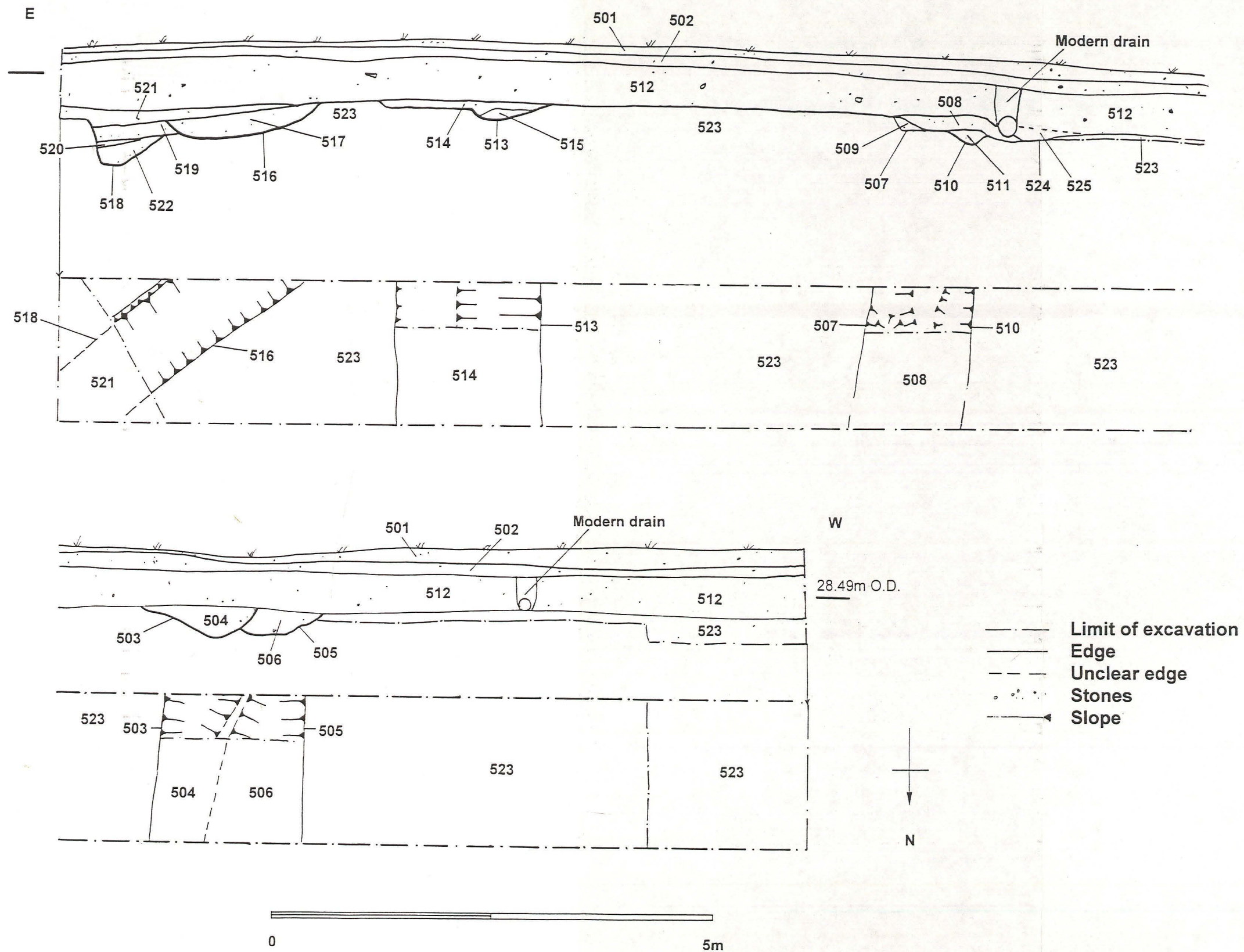


Fig. 6 Plan and section of Trench 5. Scale 1:50

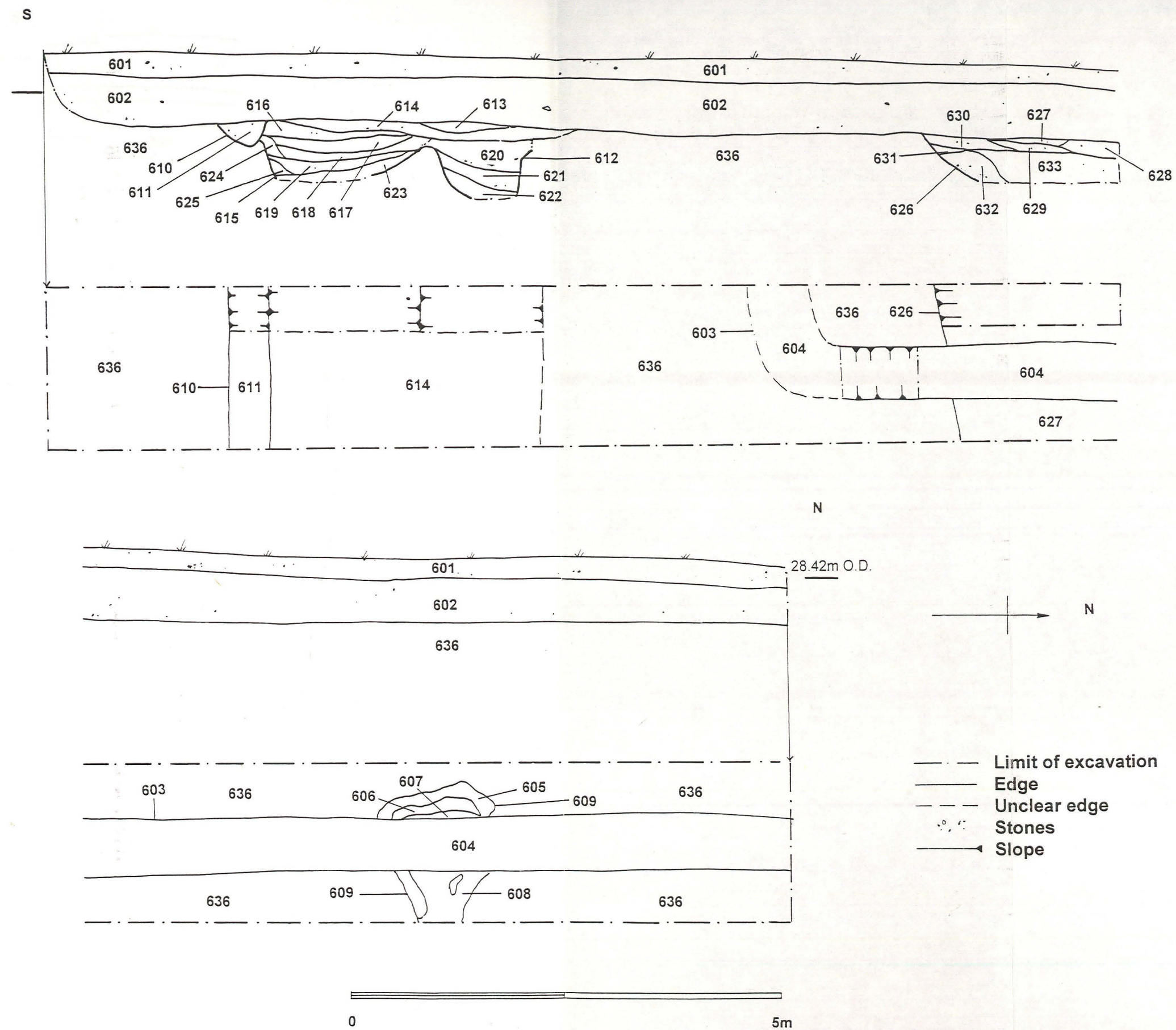


Fig. 7 Plan and section of Trench 6. Scale 1:50

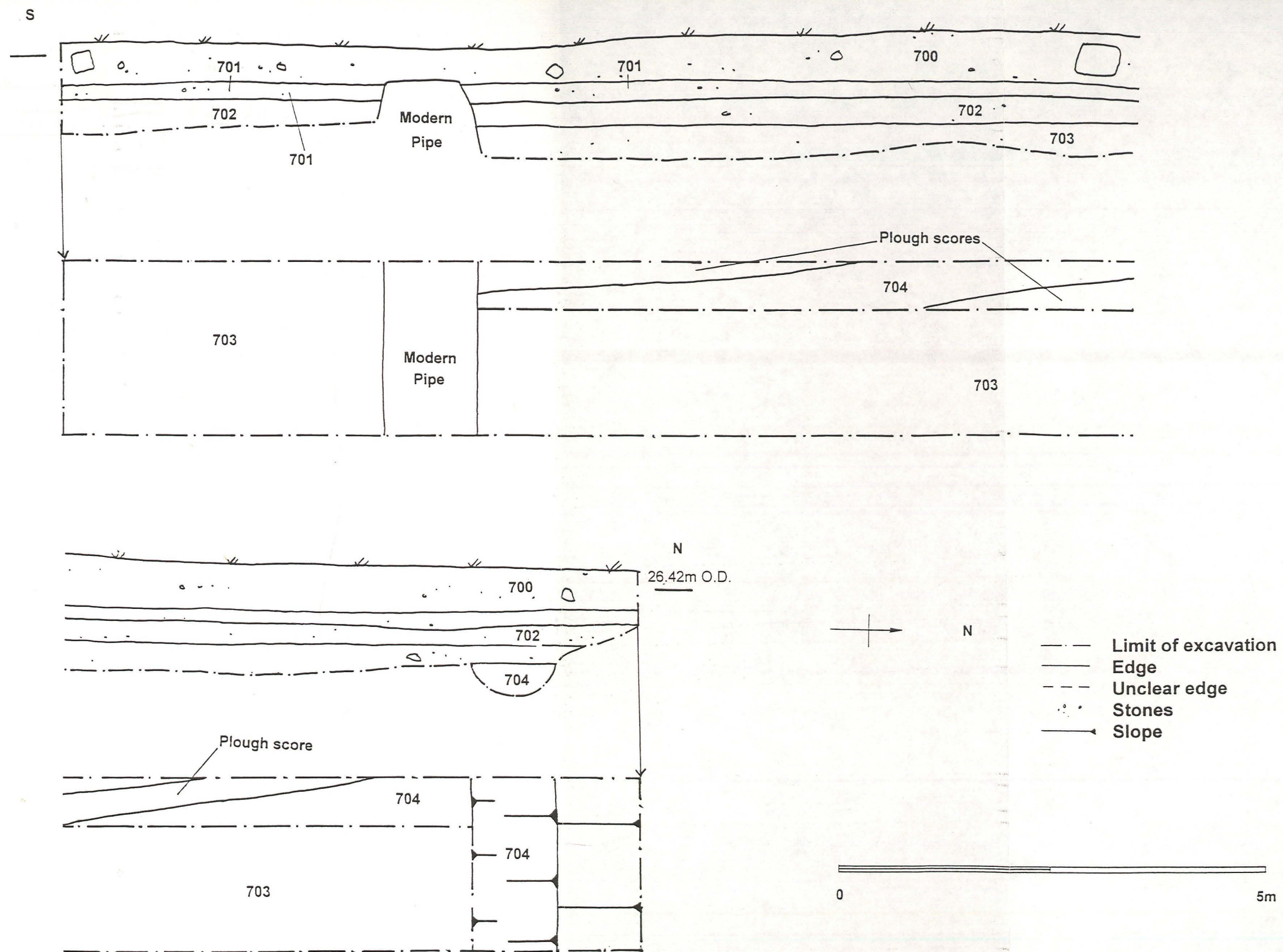


Fig. 8 Plan and section of Trench 7. Scale 1:50

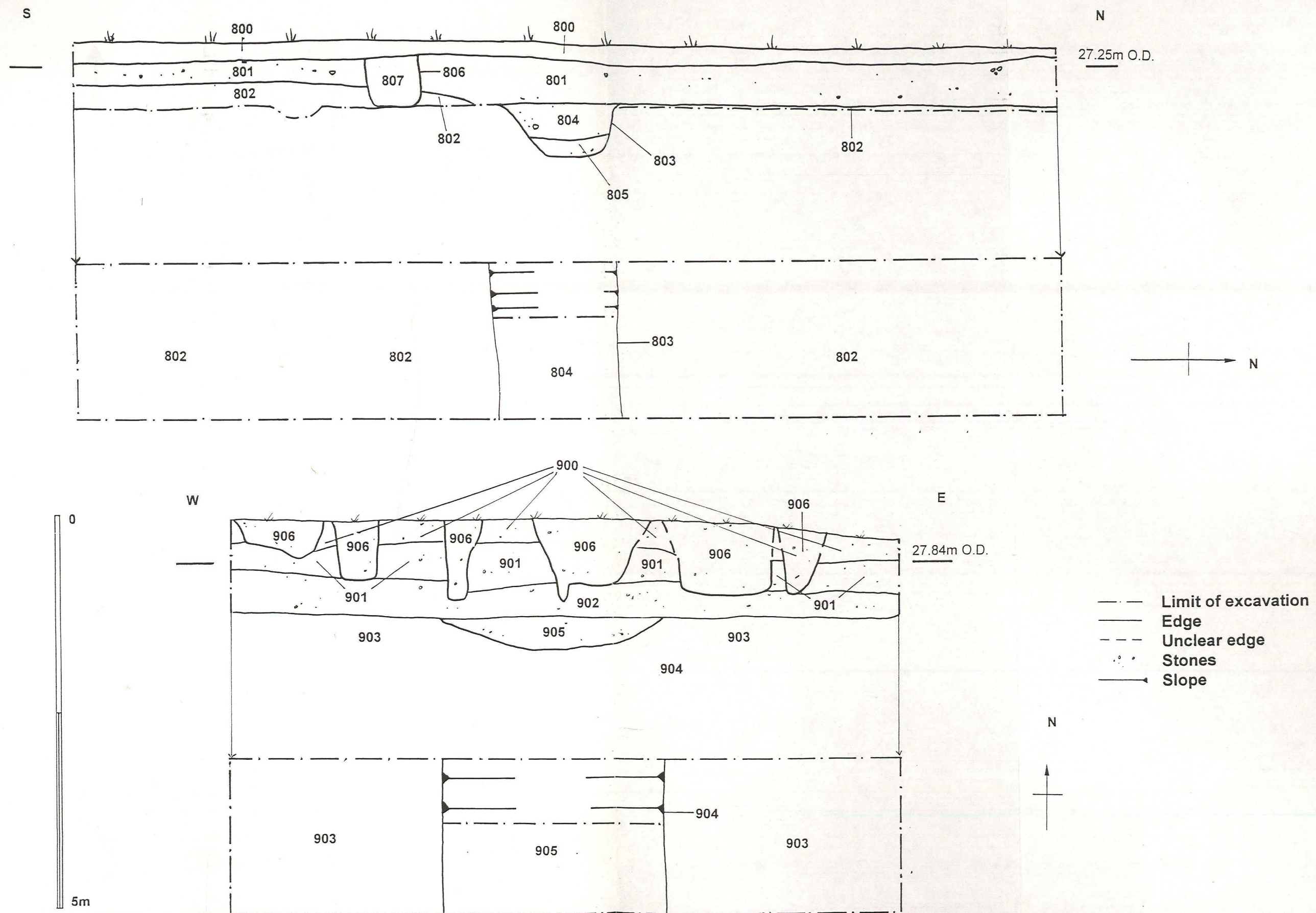


Fig. 9 Plans and sections of Trenches 8 and 9. Scale 1:50

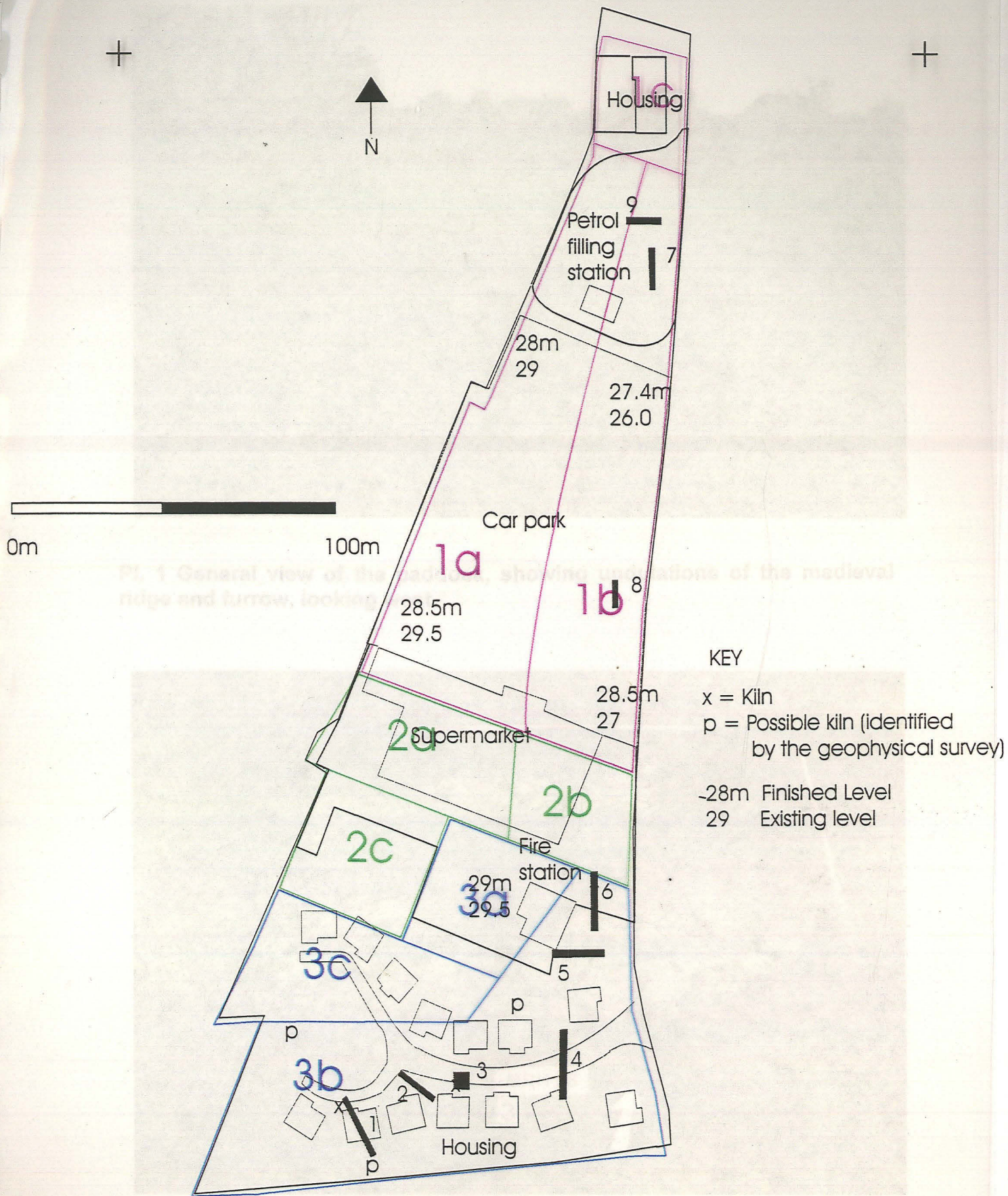


Fig. 10 Zones of archaeological potential



Pl. 1 General view of the paddock, showing undulations of the medieval ridge and furrow, looking west.



Pl. 2 Trench 3. The kiln looking north, the rake out material can be seen to the right of the picture. Scales 2m and 1m.



Pl. 3 Trench 3. The kiln looking west, the rake out material can be seen in the foreground. Scales 1m, 2m and 0.50m.



Pl. 4 Trench 4. Flooding and trench collapse



Pl. 5 Quarry pit 109 showing the nature of the features excavated. Scales 2m and 1m vertical