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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land at Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney
Lincolnshire**

Site Code: NDT00

Acc. No.: 2000.222

NGR: SK 8875 5857

SK 888 596

Archaeological Evaluation

Report for

RMC Associates (Eastern) Ltd

**LAS Report No. 472
October 2000**

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**Land at Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney,
Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

Site Code: NDT 00

Acc. No.: 2000.222

NGR: SK 8875 5857 (centre)

SK 888 596

Summary

In September 2000, six trenches were machine excavated on the above site, located in the vicinity of a number of cropmark features visible on aerial photographs. Two post medieval ditches and the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture, characteristic of medieval open field cultivation were identified in the trenches along with a number of geological features including an outcrop of ironstone within the sand and gravel.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Oxford Archaeological Associates, on behalf of RMC Associates (Eastern) Limited, to undertake evaluation trenching at the above site. The scope of the work complies with the guidance from *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16), Department of the Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies*, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Field Archaeologists (1993, revised 1994).

The Site

The proposed development area lies north-east of Norton Disney village and east of the existing RMC Norton Disney Quarry site. It consists of 48.13 hectares of agricultural land bounded to the north by an area of managed mixed woodland known as Tonge's Plantation and to the west by Butts Lane (Pls. 1, 2 & 3).

AKA - SWINDRIBY ROAD

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the proposed development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Method

1. All machine excavated trenches were dug by a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 2.20m wide toothless dyking bucket under archaeological supervision (Pl. 4).

2. Archaeological recording on the site was carried out by a team of 4 experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director. After machine removal of the topsoil, the trenches were cleaned by hand and selected excavation of features was carried out in order to achieve the objectives outlined above (Pl. 5).

3. A plan of each trench was made with section drawings illustrating depths of topsoil and various features. In addition sections were recorded for individual features as appropriate. A full photographic record was kept throughout the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site shots. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years, based on MOLAS and CAS formats.

4. Recording System

All archaeological deposits were given a context number, these numbers being prefixed with the number of the trench (i.e. Trench 1 began with 101, Trench 2, 201 etc). Finds recovered from each context were given the same number for processing thus enabling the deposits to be dated.

5. Recovery of Finds

All archaeological material recovered during the evaluation was retained for examination by the appropriate specialist and processed appropriately.

6. Post Excavation

Processing of finds was carried out by LAS before distribution to the appropriate specialists.

Results

The topsoil across the site, **101**, consisted of a uniform mid grey brown sandy silt containing frequent rounded and sub-rounded gravels with an average depth of 0.40m. This was generally above **102**, the natural sand and gravel. An intermittent light grey sandy subsoil was recorded between **101** and **102** in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 and is described more fully below.

Trench 1 (23.20m x 2.20m, Pls. 6 & 7)

Cutting the natural **102** and sealed by topsoil **101** were a series of five treeboles. These remained unexcavated and, although not assigned any context numbers were recorded in plan (Fig. **). No archaeological features were present in this trench.

Trench 2 (29.10m x 2.20m, Pls. 8 & 9)

Below the topsoil, **201**, was a series of three broad, shallow linear features which were interpreted as the remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. The southernmost furrow, **207**, was 1.65m wide and had an average depth 0.38m. It was filled by **208**, a deposit of mid brown silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 10). Located 4.65m north of **207** was a second furrow, **205**. It was 2.50m wide, 0.31m deep and contained a single fill, **206**, a mid brown gravel-rich silty sand (Pl. 11).

Located 7.45m north of **205** was a third furrow, **203**. It was 3.05m wide, 0.35m deep and contained **204**, a mid brown silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 12). A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from this fill. All three of these features cut the natural sand and gravel **202** and were aligned east-west. A number of east-west aligned land drains were also recorded in this trench.

Trench 3 (28.30m x 2.20m, Pls. 13 & 14)

Two parallel east-west aligned furrows were located in this trench. Sealed below topsoil **301**, the southernmost of these was **305** which was in excess of 4.00m wide and remained unexcavated due to the numbers of furrows already investigated in this, and other, trenches. Its fill, **306**, consisted of a light brown silty sand containing frequent gravels. Located 16.60m north of **305** was furrow **303**. It was 4.05m wide, 0.27m deep and contained **304**, a single fill of gravel-rich brown silty sand. Both furrows cut the natural sand and gravel, **302**.

Trench 4 (28.80m x 2.20m, Pls. 15 & 16)

Between the topsoil **401** and the natural sand and gravel, **402** was an intermittent subsoil deposit, **407**, consisting of a mid to light brown silty sand up to 0.08m thick which contained frequent rounded stones. A small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit.

Cutting **402** and sealed beneath **401** were two parallel east-west aligned furrows, the southernmost of which, **405**, was located 6.30m from the end of the trench. It was 1.90m wide, 0.30m deep and contained a sole fill, **406**, a mid grey silty sand containing frequent water-rolled pebbles and discrete areas of iron pan (Pl. 17). Located 9.70m north of **405** was furrow **403**. It was 2.15m wide, 0.30m deep and contained a single fill, **404**, a grey silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 18).

About midway between the two furrows was **408**, an irregular oval feature measuring approximately 2.00m x 1.00m in plan. It was 0.13m deep and contained one fill, **409**, a very dark sandy silt deposit containing occasional rounded pebbles. It is likely that this feature was the result of tree root action.

Trench 5 (24.10m x 2.20, Pls. 19 & 20)

Below the topsoil, **501**, across the central 9m of the trench was **503**, a 0.06m thick deposit of light grey brown subsoil containing frequent rounded and sub rounded gravels. This material was above the natural sand and gravel, **502**. Located 4.5m from the northern end of the trench and aligned NE-SW was ditch **506**. This shallow, probable drainage feature was 1.50m wide, 0.13m deep and contained one fill, **507**, a mid grey brown deposit of silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 21). Approximately 1.00m south of **506** was a second ditch, **504**. Aligned slightly more to the north than **506**, this feature was 1.65m wide, 0.22m deep and contained **505**, a dark grey brown silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 22).

Trench 6 (40.20m x 2.20, Pls. 23 & 24)

Beneath the topsoil, **601**, was a 0.06m thick subsoil deposit, **603**, comprising a grey silty sand layer which, in turn, overlay the sand and gravel natural, **602**. Located 6.00m from the west end of the trench was an east-west aligned furrow, **604**. It was 1.45m wide, 0.10m deep and contained **605**, a mid grey brown sandy silt deposit containing frequent gravels (Pl. 25). A second furrow, **608**, was located 15m east of **604**. It was 1.76m wide and contained **609**, a grey silty sand with frequent gravels. this feature remained unexcavated.

Aligned NE-SW and situated 2.40m from the eastern end of the trench was ditch **606**. It was 0.58m wide, 0.21m deep and contained a single fill, **607**, a deposit of mid grey brown silty sand containing frequent gravels (Pl. 26).

Discussion and Conclusion

The trial trenches excavated at Tonge's Farm revealed very few archaeological features. An east-west aligned system of medieval ridge and furrow was identified in four of the trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6). It is interesting to note that the two trenches which contained no ridge and furrow were located near to the northern and southern boundaries of the existing field. This suggests these particular field boundaries to have remained relatively unchanged since at least the medieval period. Trench 1 revealed a probable ancient tree line adjacent to the existing hedge, with Trench 2 containing undated drainage ditches which have been interpreted as post medieval (probably relatively modern) due to the nature of their fills.

The trenches were positioned in order to target cropmark features visible on aerial photographs. It was suggested in the Environmental Statement (Griffiths, Johnson & Colcutt, 1999) that these features may be 'geological or geomorphological in origin'. This interpretation appears to have been largely borne out by the results of the trial trenching, with the majority of these 'features' not showing up at all within the gravel/topsoil interface region. The exception was Trench 6 where an outcrop of ironstone appeared to correspond to a north-south aligned linear cropmark, visible in the north-eastern corner of the field (Fig. *). Ditch **606**, the terminus of which was also located in Trench 6 may correspond to the rectilinear cropmark seen in the same region. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature which may, in reality, be geological in origin.

Although no gridded fieldwalking of the site was carried out (due to ground conditions), a general walkover was undertaken prior to the commencement of machine trenching which produced no archaeological material whatsoever. The presence of relatively well preserved ridge and furrow together with very few obvious plough marks below the level of the topsoil suggests that modern agricultural practices have had a minimal impact on the underlying layers. These results, combined with a general lack of other features within the trenches suggests an absence of buried archaeological remains within this part of the Proposed Development Area.

Acknowledgements

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References

Griffiths, D.W., Johnson, A.P. & Colcutt, S.N. 1999. *Land at Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney, Lincolnshire: Environmental Statement, Cultural Heritage Issues.*

Context	Type	Description	Finds
Trench 1			
101	Layer	Topsoil	
102	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
Trench 2			
201	Layer	Topsoil	Pottery 18th-20th
202	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
203	Cut	Furrow	
204	Fill	Fill of 203	Pottery 13th-16th
205	Cut	Furrow	
206	Fill	Fill of 204	
207	Cut	Furrow	
208	Fill	Fill of 207	
Trench 3			
300	Layer	Topsoil - same as 301	Pottery 18th-19th
301	Layer	Topsoil - same as 300	Pottery 18th-19th
302	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
303	Cut	Furrow	
304	Fill	Fill of 303	
305	Cut	Furrow	
306	Fill	Fill of 305	
Trench 4			
401	Layer	Topsoil	
402	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
403	Cut	Furrow	
404	Fill	Fill of 403	
405	Cut	Furrow	
406	Fill	Fill of 405	
407	Layer	Subsoil deposit	Pottery 13th-15th
408	Cut	Natural feature - treebole	
409	Fill	Fill of 408	
Trench 5			
501	Layer	Topsoil	Pottery 18th
502	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
503	Layer	Subsoil deposit	
504	Cut	Ditch	
505	Fill	Fill of 504	
506	Cut	Ditch	
507	Fill	Fill of 506	
Trench 6			
601	Layer	Topsoil	
602	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	
603	Layer	Subsoil deposit	
604	Cut	Furrow	
605	Fill	Fill of 604	
606	Cut	Ditch	
607	Fill	Fill of 606	

Pottery Archive NDT00

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

A small group of mainly early modern material of 18th to 19th century date. Two vessels are in local medieval fabrics, neither are of diagnostic type and can only be dated to within the period between the 13th and 16th centuries.

contex	cname	full name	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
201	BL	Black-glazed wares	1	1	rim		18/19th
201	LERTH	Late earthenwares	1	1	BS		18-20th
204	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1	1	rim/base	poorly sorted aubround to subangular quartz + comm fe;? a lid or re-used ground down base;very abraded	13-16th
300	LSTON	Late stoneware	1	1	BS		18/19th
300	WS	White stoneware	1	1	rim		18th
301	LERTH	Late earthenwares	1	1	BS	? vessel	18/19th
301	LSTON	Late stoneware	1	1	BS		18/19th
301	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1	1	rim	plain yellow	18/19th
407	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1	1	BS	medium quartz	13-15th
501	BL	Black-glazed wares	1	1	rim		18th

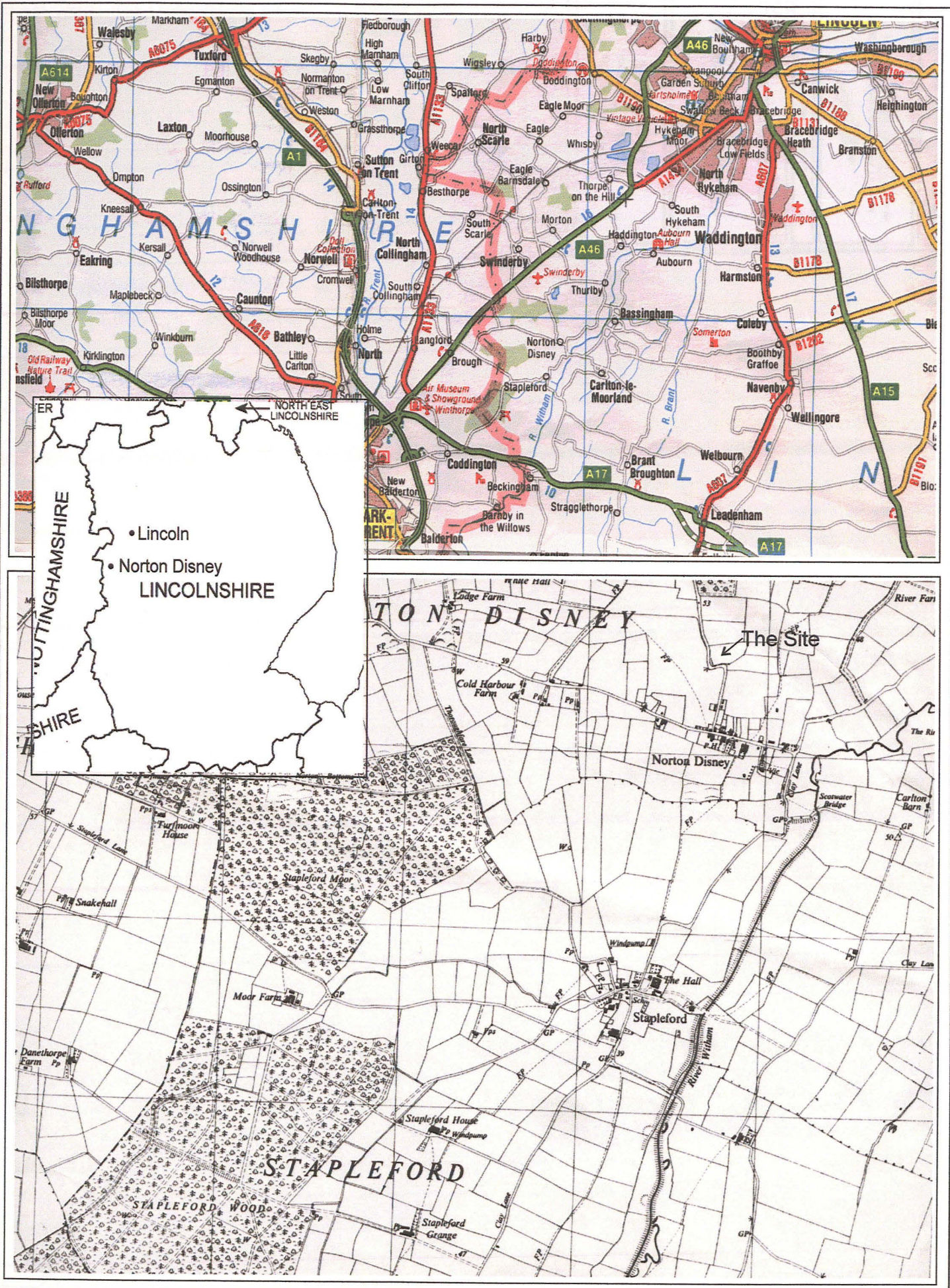
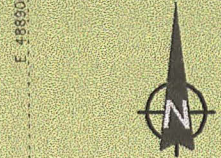


Fig. 1 Location of site, reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS Map. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS License number AL 50424A



**Tonges Farm,
Norton Disney,
Lincolnshire**

Fig 2 Trench Locations

Scale : 1/1250

Date : 06/10/00

Plan Ref : LAMSE/1551-1



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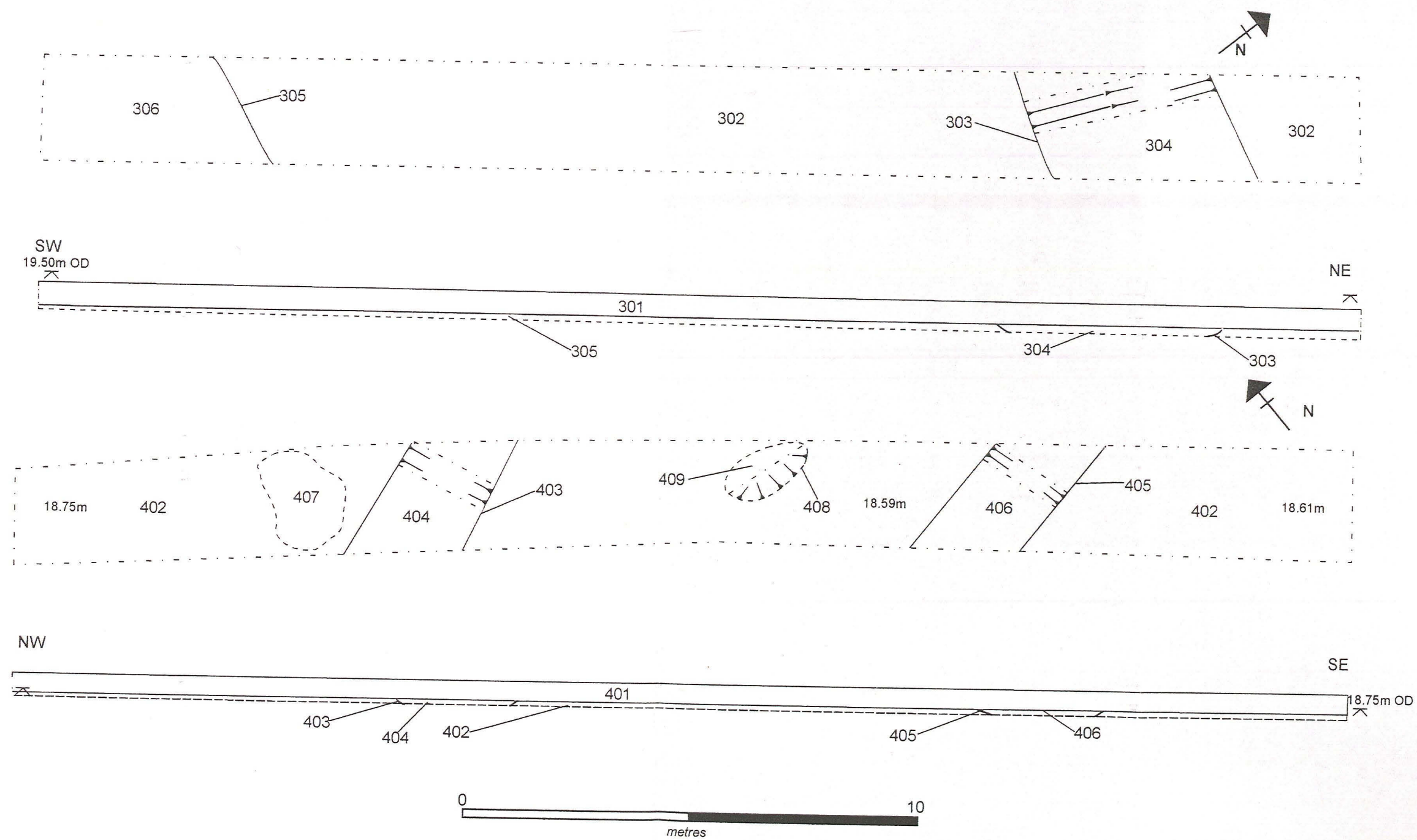


Fig. 3 Plans and Sections of Trenches 3 and 4.

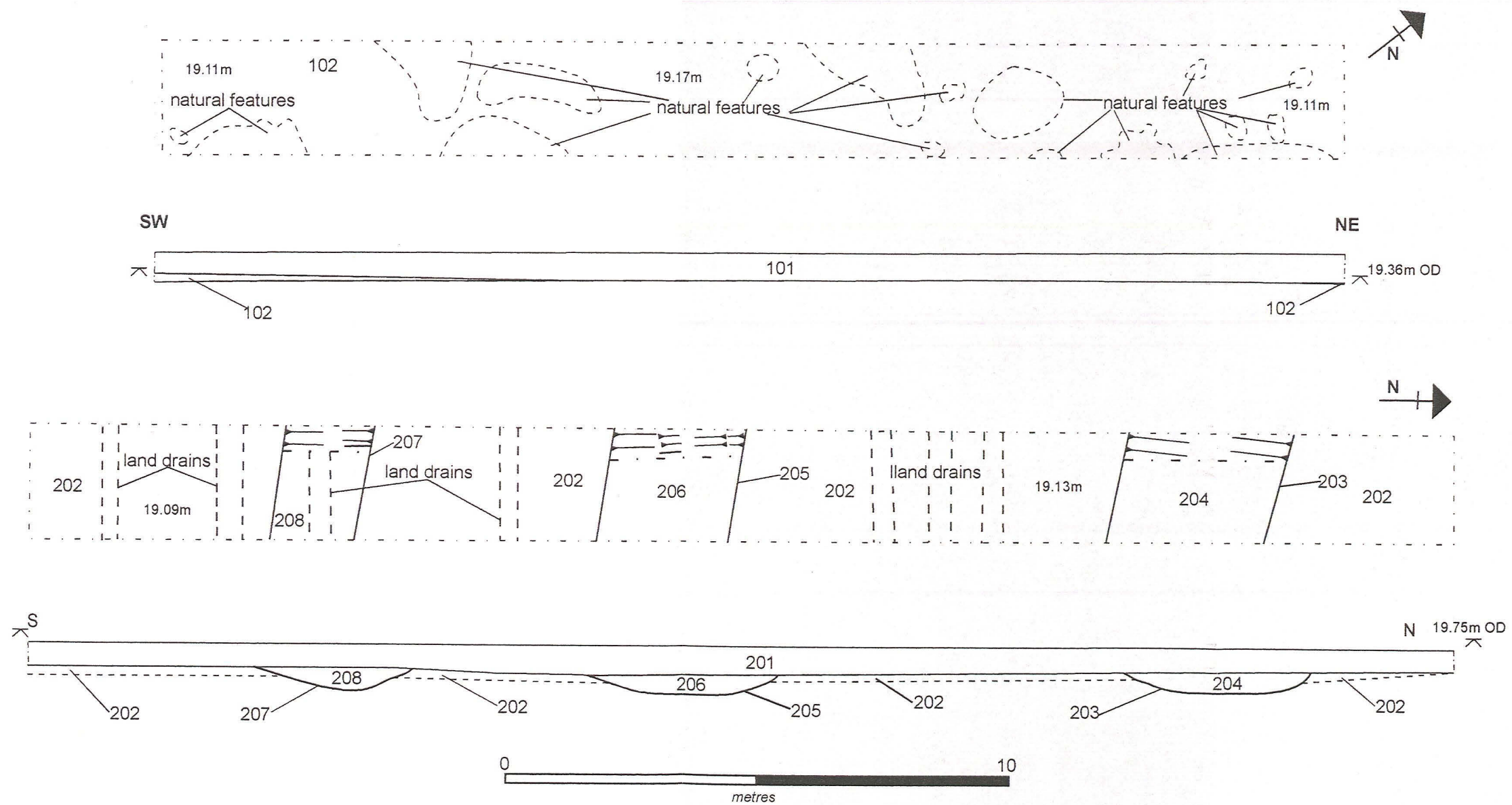


Fig. 4 Plans and Sections of Trenches 1 and 2.

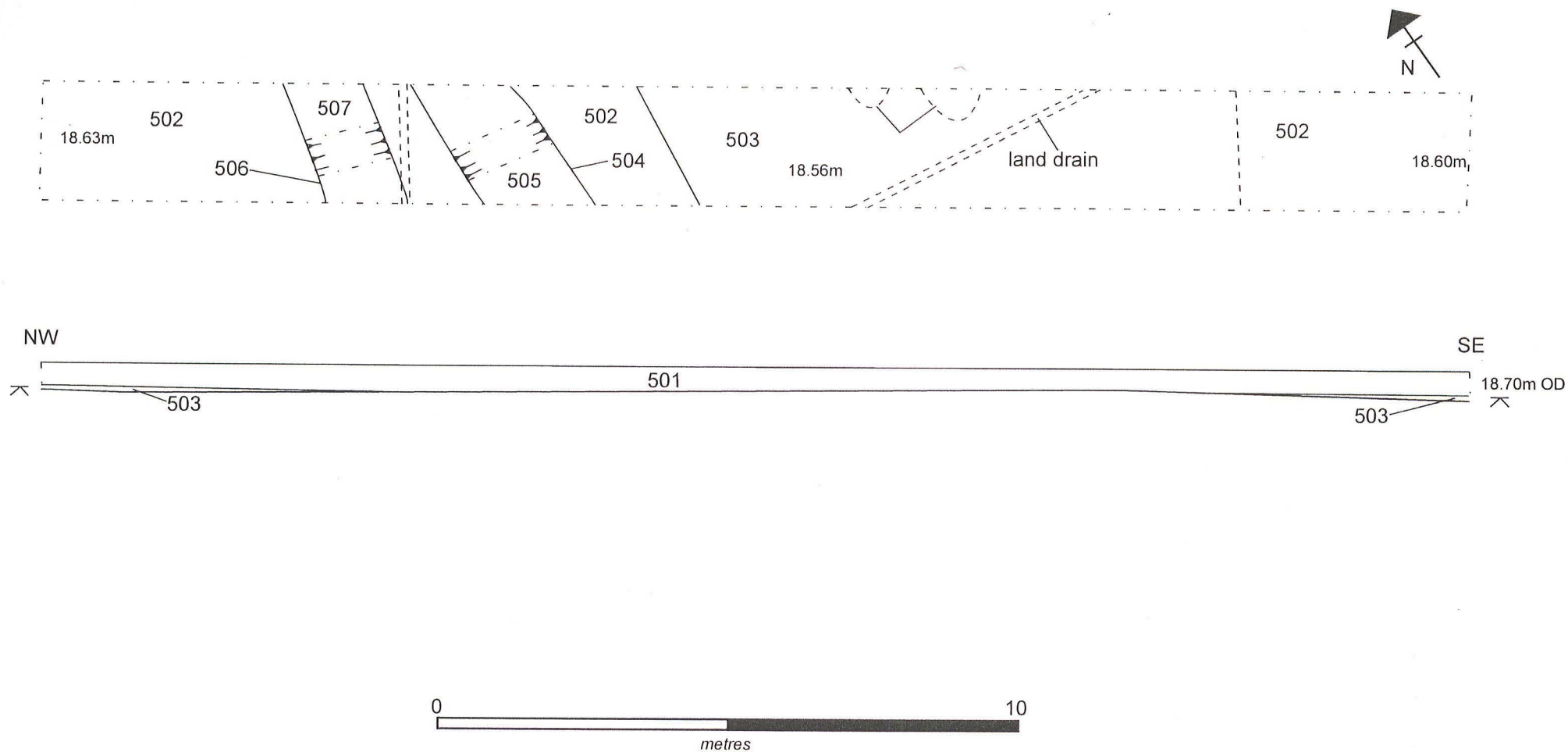


Fig. 5 Plan and Section of Trench 5.

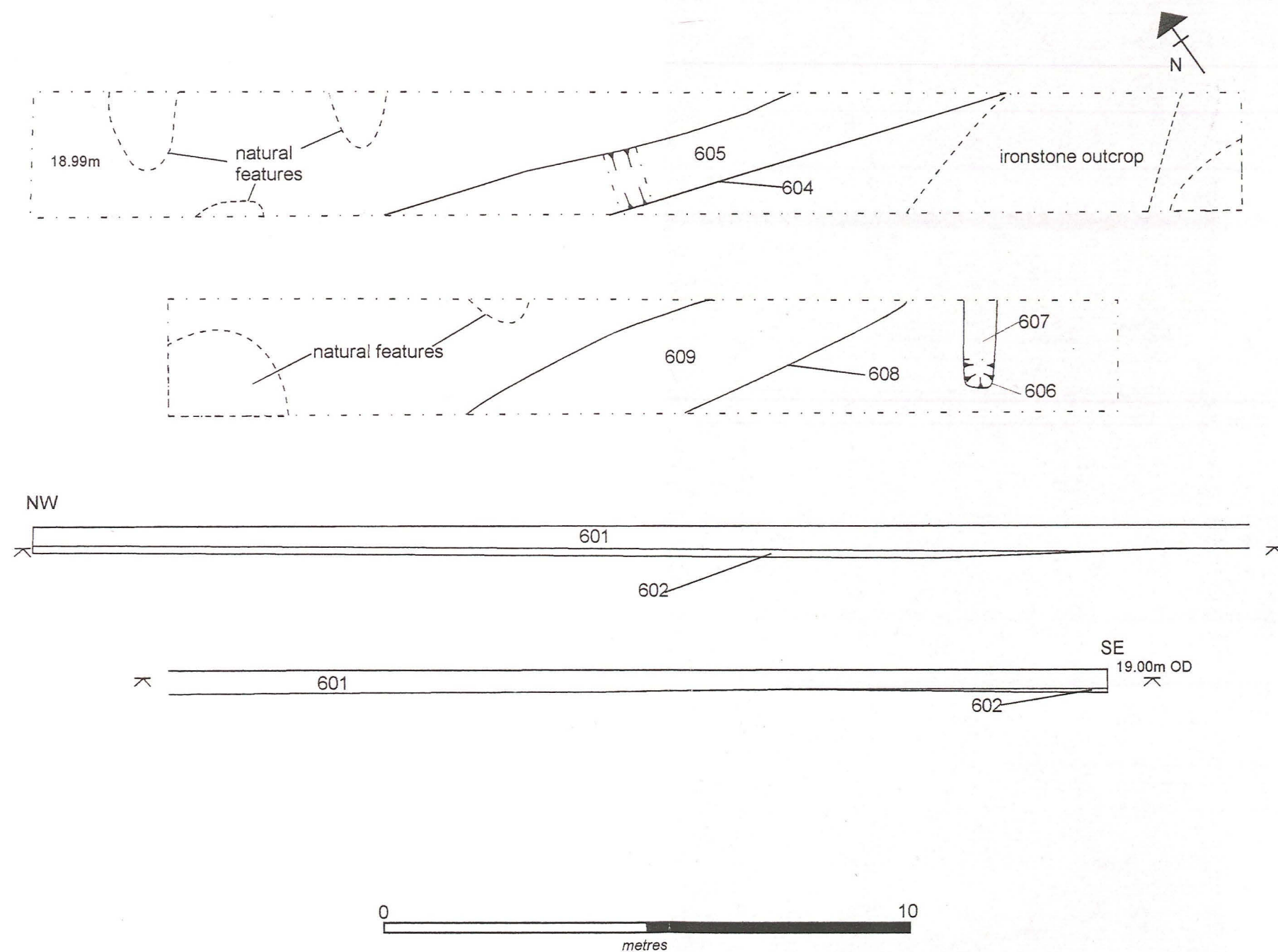


Fig. 6 Plan and Sections of Trench 6.

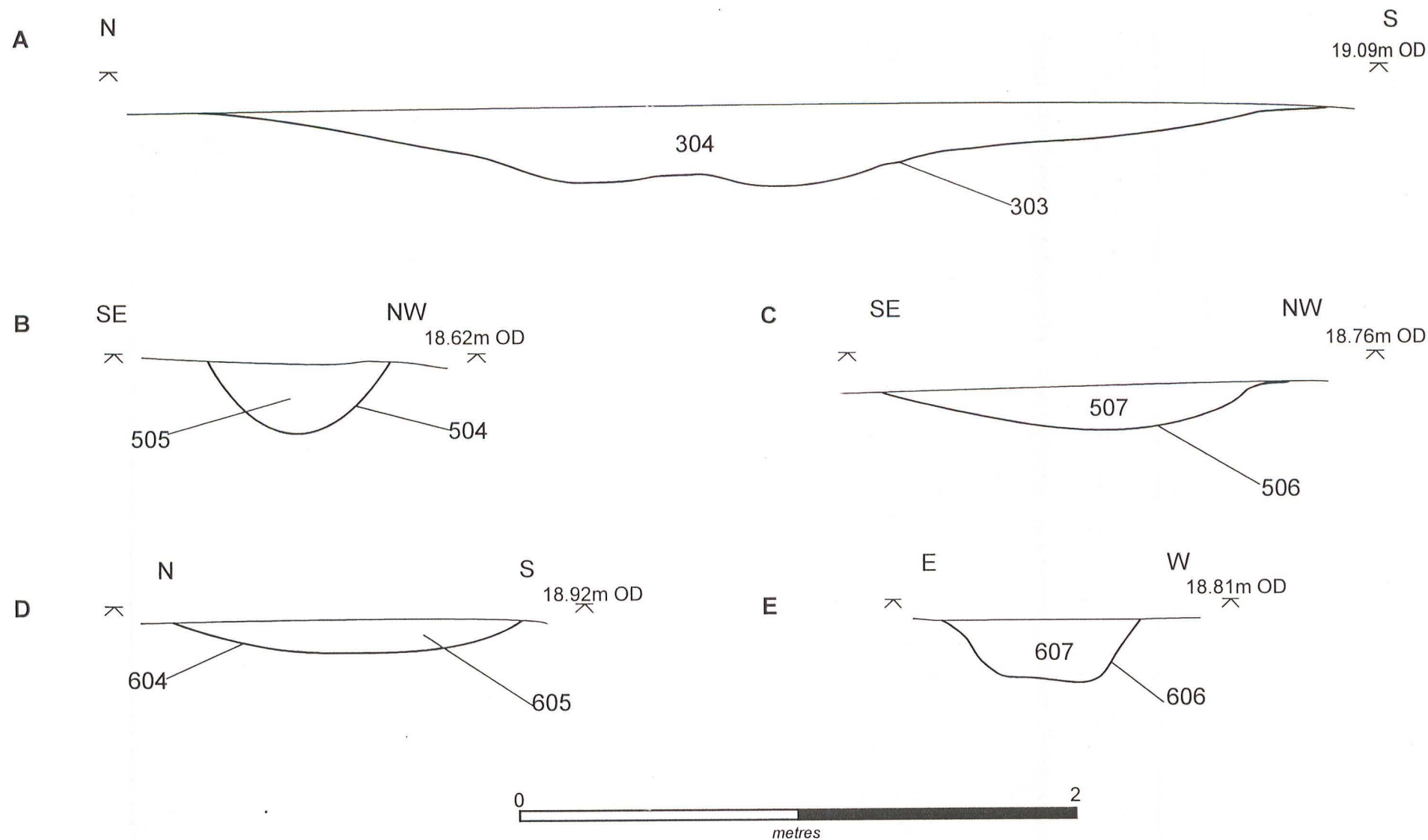


Fig.7 Sections through features: A. Furrow 303
 B. Ditch 504
 C. Ditch 506
 D. Furrow 604
 E. Ditch 606



Pl. 1 General view of site, looking north-west.

Pl. 2 General view of site, looking north.





Pl. 3 General view of site, looking north-east.

Pl. 4 Machine trenching under archaeological supervision.





Pl. 5 Hand cleaning of trenches.



Pl. 6 Trench 1, looking west. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 7 Trench 1, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 8 Trench 2, looking south. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 9 Trench 2, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.

Pl. 10 Furrow 207, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.5m.





Pl. 11 Furrow 205, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.5m.

Pl. 12 Furrow 203, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.5m.





Pl. 13 Trench 3, looking west. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 14 Trench 3, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 15 Trench 4, looking south-east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 16 Trench 4, looking north-west. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 17 Furrow 405, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 18 Furrow 403, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.3m.





Pl. 19 Trench 5, looking south. Scales 2m & 1m.

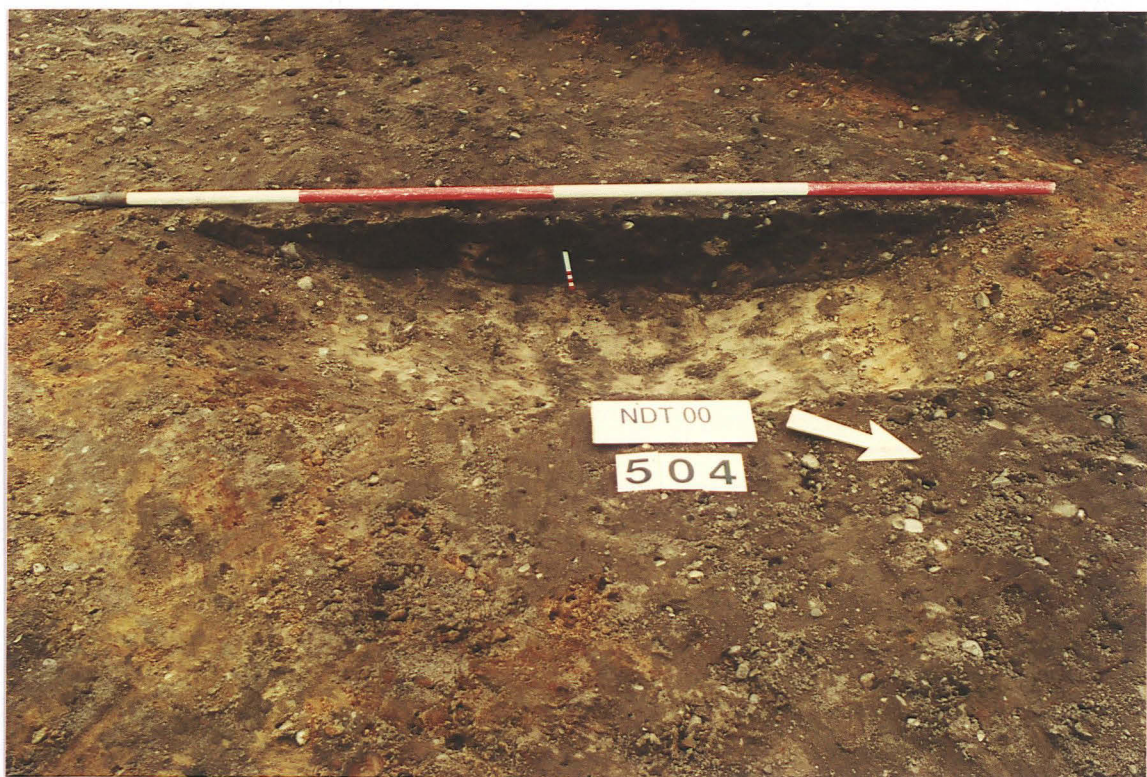


Pl. 20 Trench 5, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 21 Ditch 506, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.1m.

Pl. 22 Ditch 504, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.1m.

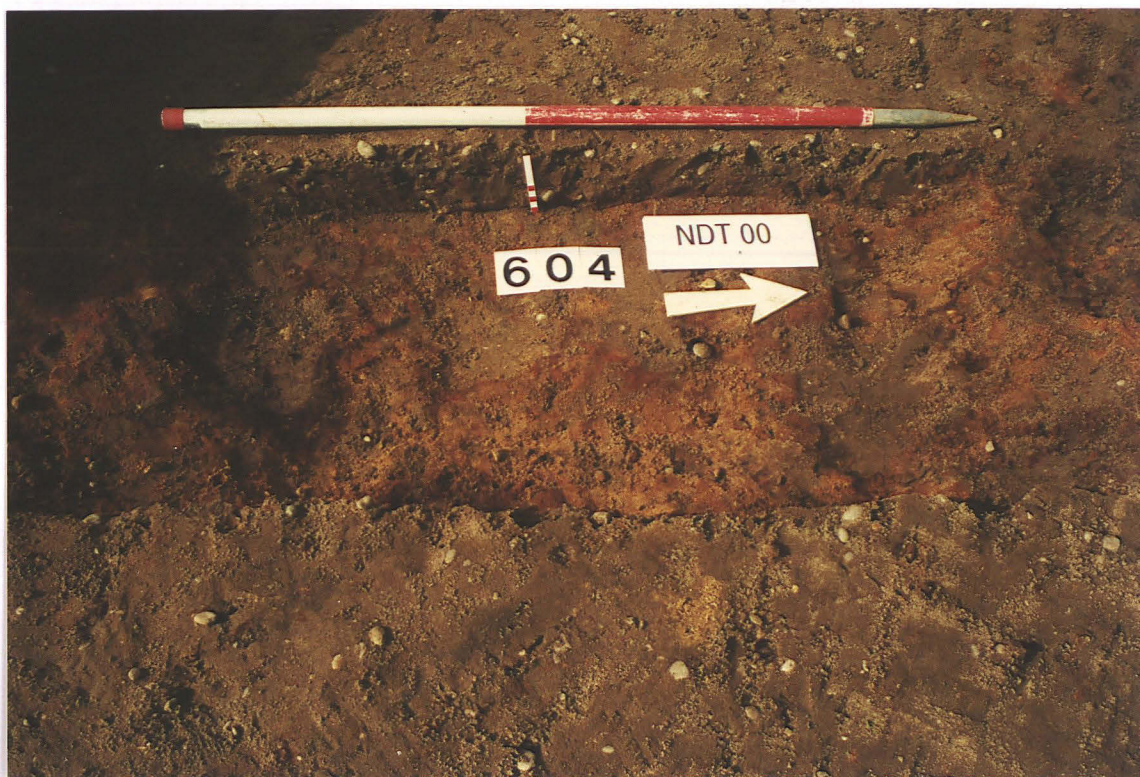




Pl. 23 Trench 6, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 24 Trench 6, looking west. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 25 Furrow 604, looking west. Scales 2m & 0.1m.

Pl. 26 Ditch 606, looking north. Scales 0.5m & 0.1m.

