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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land between 129 and 135 Station Street
Rippingale, Lincs
Archaeological Evaluation
Planning Application: S00/0817/64
NGR: TF 102 282
Site Code: RSS 00
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2000.259**

Report

for

Stamford Homes

**LAS Report No. 524
March 2001**

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**Land between 129 and 135 Station Street
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Summary

In February 2001 seven 20 x 2.2m archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated at the above site. The remains of three former farm buildings and a property boundary ditch were located in Trench 7, all other trenches being archaeologically inert.

Introduction

Seven trenches were excavated on behalf of Stamford Homes in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Description

The application site was 1.5ha in extent and located on the north side of Station Road in the north east part of the village (Fig. 1). At the time of these excavations the site was given over to arable land.

Topography and Geology

Rippingale is a thin linear parish, extending from fenland westwards to beyond the fen-edge. The Car Dyke, at about 4m OD, is 2km east of the village whilst to the west of the village the land rises to 50m OD. The application site lay on a south-facing slope, with a stream course flowing west-east immediately to the south. The ground appeared poorly drained, with small amounts of surface water visible across the site.

Geotechnical pits were machine excavated across the site which indicated topsoil thickness to have been fairly constant at about 0.3m, fluctuating by no more than 0.05m. The topsoil overlay a firm clay with limestone gravel. The clay covered 0.3m-0.5m of intervening limestone in TP1 and TP3 (at about 1.1m - 1.4m deep), but elsewhere the upper clay directly overlay dark grey Lias clay at about the same depth. The limestone seems to have been too ephemeral to have had an effect on land use.

Archaeological Background

Rippingale is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is certainly of Saxon or earlier origin. It was considered possible that the proposed development would disturb medieval settlement remains along the present road frontage.

Geophysical survey identified a series of anomalies which had been interpreted as potentially

archaeological in origin and trenching was requested in order to establish their nature.

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 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

Excavation

The seven trenches (Fig. 2) each 20m x 2.2m were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, carried out under archaeological supervision (Pl. 1).

Archaeological recording on the site was carried out by a team of 3 experienced archaeologists. After removal of the topsoil the trenches were cleaned by hand and selected excavation on features was carried out in order to achieve the objectives outlined above.

A plan of each trench was made with section drawings illustrating depths of topsoil and any associated features. 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 recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years, based on MOLAS and CAS formats.

All archaeological deposits were given a context number, these numbers being prefixed with the number of the trench (i.e. the numbering of Trench 1 began with 101, Trench 2, 201 etc.)

Results

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Pl. 2)

Trench 1, aligned east-west, was located to investigate two northwest-southeast aligned linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 1m, at which point the sides started collapsing due to an influx of ground water. All features located in this trench were found to be of natural origin.

The topsoil **101** consisted of a uniform dark grey brown silty clay which had an average depth of 0.30m. This was above **102**, a mid orange silty clay subsoil with an average depth of 0.60m. This material directly overlay **103**, the underlying clay natural.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1 to investigate two potential linear features visible on the geophysical plots. This east-west aligned trench was excavated to a depth of 1m, at which point it suffered a similar fate to Trench 1.

Sealed below the 0.30m deep topsoil **201**, and the 0.70m thick mid orange brown subsoil **202**, were four clay filled features which cut **203**, the underlying natural clay. These were assumed to be of natural origin, although they were not excavated due to both the unstable nature of the trench sides and the presence nearby of working plant.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Pl. 4)

Aligned northwest-southeast, Trench 3 was positioned over an east-west linear anomaly visible on the surface as a small upstanding earthwork. Its position strongly suggested it to be a continuation of the field boundary seen to the east. The 1.1m deep trench filled rapidly with water from the southern end.

Below **301**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was the subsoil, **302**, a deposit of reddish brown silty clay with an average depth of 0.70m which overlay the brown natural clay, **303**. Other than some tree root disturbance at the northern end, no features were noted in this trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Pl. 5)

Aligned north-south, Trench 4 was located to investigate several geophysical anomalies. Excavation ceased at an average depth of 1m, at which point the sides became unstable and the trench started to fill with water.

Below **401**, the 0.28m deep topsoil, was **402**, a 0.40m deep layer of orange clay containing occasional limestone fragments. This material overlay the natural blue-grey clay, **403**. One clay filled natural feature was noted slightly to the north of the centre of the trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 5, Pl. 6)

This trench, aligned east-west, was positioned over a number of geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to an average depth of 1.1m.

The topsoil, **501** was 0.30m thick and overlay a 0.62m deep deposit of grey brown clay subsoil, **502**. This was above the natural orange clay, **503**, through which a number of natural features, the result of tree root action, were cut.

Trench 6 (Fig. 5, Pl. 7)

Beneath **601**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was **602**, a 0.60m thick deposit of red brown clay-rich subsoil which, in turn, overlay **603**, the blue grey clay natural.

Trench 7 (Fig. 6, Pl. 8)

This trench was positioned perpendicular to Station Street to investigate the possibility of buildings along a former street frontage.

Along much of the length of the trench the 0.30m thick topsoil, **709**, was overlain by a black, ashy deposit, **708**, which had an average depth of 0.20m. This material was almost certainly associated with the original function of a building or buildings, elements of which are described below.

The remains of four separate walls, all relatively modern red brick constructions, were identified within the trench. The southernmost was **717** which was aligned east-west and situated within a 0.60m wide, 0.38m deep construction trench, **718**, which also contained a small amount of clay and mortar packing material, **719**. Approximately 1.5m north of this was a north-south aligned section of wall, **714**. This 1.60 long section of brickwork was within **715**, a 0.22m deep construction trench which also contained a small amount of clay and mortar, **716**. This section of wall butted up to an east-west aligned section, **712**, which was housed within a 0.48m wide, 0.40m deep construction trench, **713**. Wall **710**, also east-west aligned was located a further 1.30m to the north. It was built within a 0.55m wide, 0.35m deep construction trench, **711**.

Below the topsoil, **709**, were three distinct underlying natural deposits. At the south end of the trench was **705**, a deposit of broken limestone, north of which was **706**, a red brown clay. At the extreme north end of the trench was **707**, a mottled grey and orange clay. No subsoil was present in this trench.

Cutting **706**, in the approximate centre of the trench were two ditches. Both aligned roughly east-west, the more southerly of the two was **701** (Pl. 9). It was 1.20m wide, 0.32m deep and contained **702**, a dark grey clay fill. Approximately 0.75m north of this was ditch **703** (Pl. 10). It was 1.10m wide, 0.45m deep and contained **704**, a single fill of light grey clay. Small quantities of animal bone and fired clay were recovered from **702**, but both of these features remain undated.

Discussion

Despite some relatively promising results from the geophysical survey, all but one of the seven trenches produced no archaeological features whatsoever. Only Trench 7, located adjacent and perpendicular to the road produced any features, and these appear to be of fairly recent origin.

Pottery recovered from the structure dates it to, at the earliest, the late 18th century (although 19th or even 20th century seems more likely). The wall remnants found within the trench were cut into the topsoil, whilst animal bone recovered from ditch fill **702** (sealed beneath the building) was still robust and exhibited few signs of any great antiquity.

The two ditches below the building probably represent no more than two short-lived drainage features

of relatively recent date (illustrated by the condition of the recovered animal bone described above); the ground water problems still obvious today with water filling the evaluation trenches so rapidly that hand-cleaning was impossible.

Acknowledgements

All site work was undertaken by Sue Farr, Mick McDaid and Rob Armour-Chelu. All graphics were completed by Sue Farr, and the report was edited by Naomi Field.

Rob Armour-Chelu & Sue Farr

April 4th 2001

Rippingale (RSS 00) Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Finds
Trench 1				
101	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
102	Layer	Mid orange brown silty clay subsoil	D=0.60	
103	Layer	Brown clay natural		
Trench 2				
201	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
202	Layer	Mid orange brown silty clay subsoil	D=0.70	
203	Layer	Brown clay natural		
Trench 3				
301	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
302	Layer	Red brown silty clay subsoil	D=0.70	
303	Layer	Brown clay natural		
Trench 4				
401	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.28	
402	Layer	Mid orange brown silty clay subsoil	D=0.40	
403	Layer	Blue grey clay natural		
Trench 5				
501	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
502	Layer	Grey brown clay subsoil	D=0.62	
503	Layer	Orange brown clay natural		
Trench 6				
601	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
602	Layer	Red brown silty clay subsoil	D=0.60	
603	Layer	Blue grey clay natural		
Trench 7				
701	Cut	Ditch	W=1.20 D=0.32	
702	Fill	Dark grey clay, fill of 701	D=0.43	Animal Bone, Fired Clay
703	Cut	Ditch	W=1.10 D=0.45	
704	Fill	Light grey clay, fill of 703	D=0.45	
705	Layer	Limestone outcrop		
706	Layer	Red brown clay natural		
707	Layer	Mottled grey and orange clay natural		
708	Layer	Black humic material, overlies 709	D=0.20	Pottery 18th-19th
709	Layer	Topsoil	D=0.30	
710	Masonry	Red brick wall	W=0.55 D=0.35	Pottery late 18th-19th
711	Cut	Construction trench, contains Wall 710	W=0.55 D=0.35	
712	Masonry	Red brick wall	W=0.48 D=0.40	Brick sample, 19th-20th

Rippingale (RSS 00) Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Finds
713	Cut	Construction trench, contains Wall 712	W=0.48 D=0.40	
714	Masonry	Red brick wall	L=1.55 D=0.20	
715	Cut	Construction trench, contains Wall 714	L=1.60 D=0.22	
716	Fill	Mortar & clay within 715, below 714	D=0.02	
717	Masonry	Red brick wall	W=0.45 D=0.30	
718	Cut	Construction trench, contains Wall 717	W=0.60 D=0.38	
719	Fill	Mortar & clay within 718, below 717	D=0.08	

Policy Archive RSS00

For more information, contact the author.

Author: [Name] | Date: [Date] | Title: [Title]

Version: [Version]

Category: [Category]

Keywords: [Keywords]

Abstract: [Abstract]

Summary: [Summary]

Appendix 2

Title Archive RSS00

For more information, contact the author.

Author: [Name] | Date: [Date] | Title: [Title]

Version: [Version]

Category: [Category]

Pottery Archive RSS00

Jane Young *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	date
708	CRMWARE	Creamware	?	1	1		base	18th to 19th
708	BS	Brown stoneware	jar	1	1		rim	18th to 19th
708	LPM	Early Modern wares (general term)		5	5	transprint etc	various	19th
710	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	jug?	1	1	machine dec	BS	late 18th to 19th

Tile Archive RSS00

Jane Young *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	frags	description	date
702	FIREDCLAY	fired clay	2		unknown
711	BRKDISC	brick (discarded)	1	230x115x50mm	19th to 20th

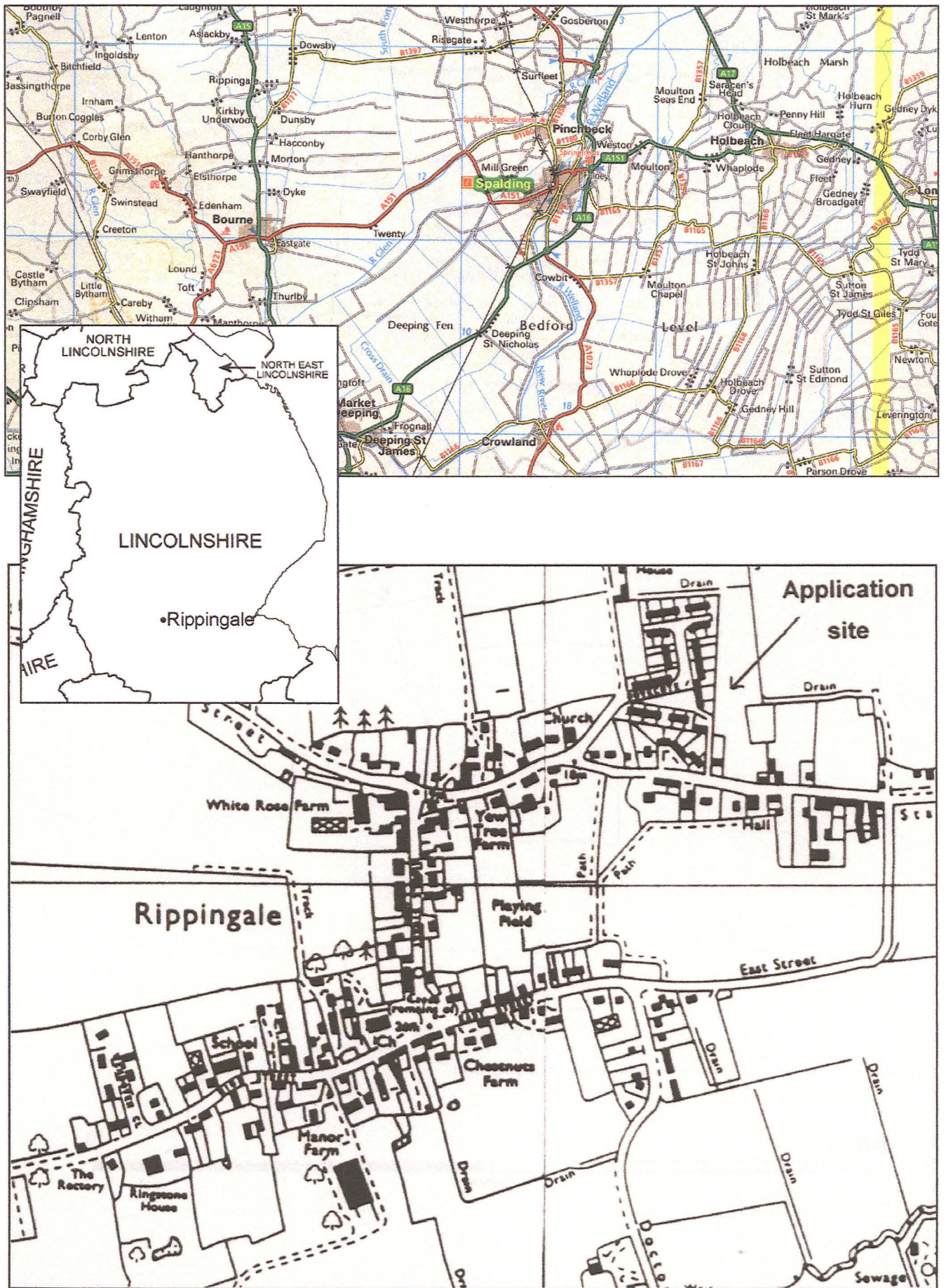


Fig. 1 Location of Rippingale, base on the 1985 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 maps, TF 02NE and TF 12NW site location, reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS Map. © Crown copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 50424A.

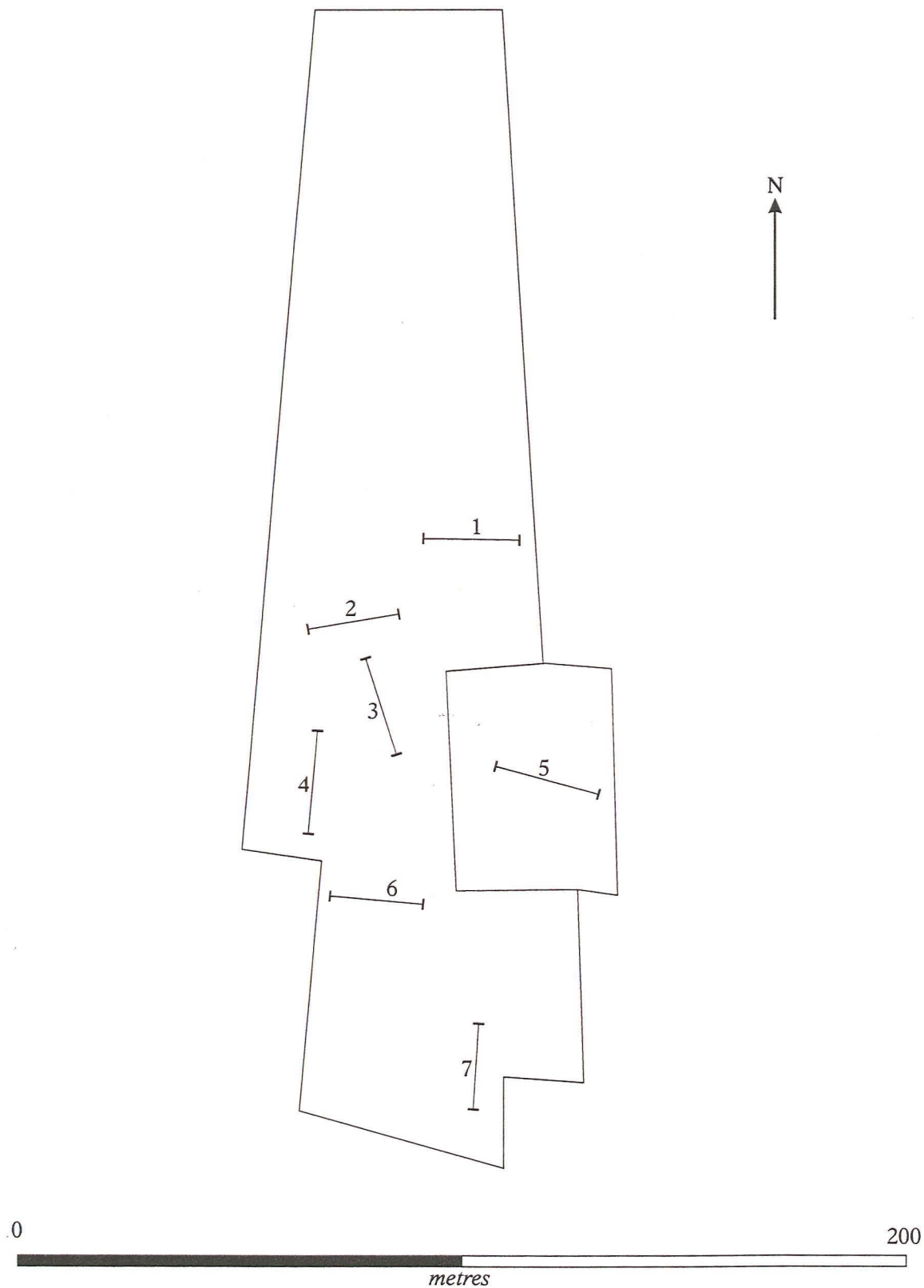


Fig. 2 Location of trenches.

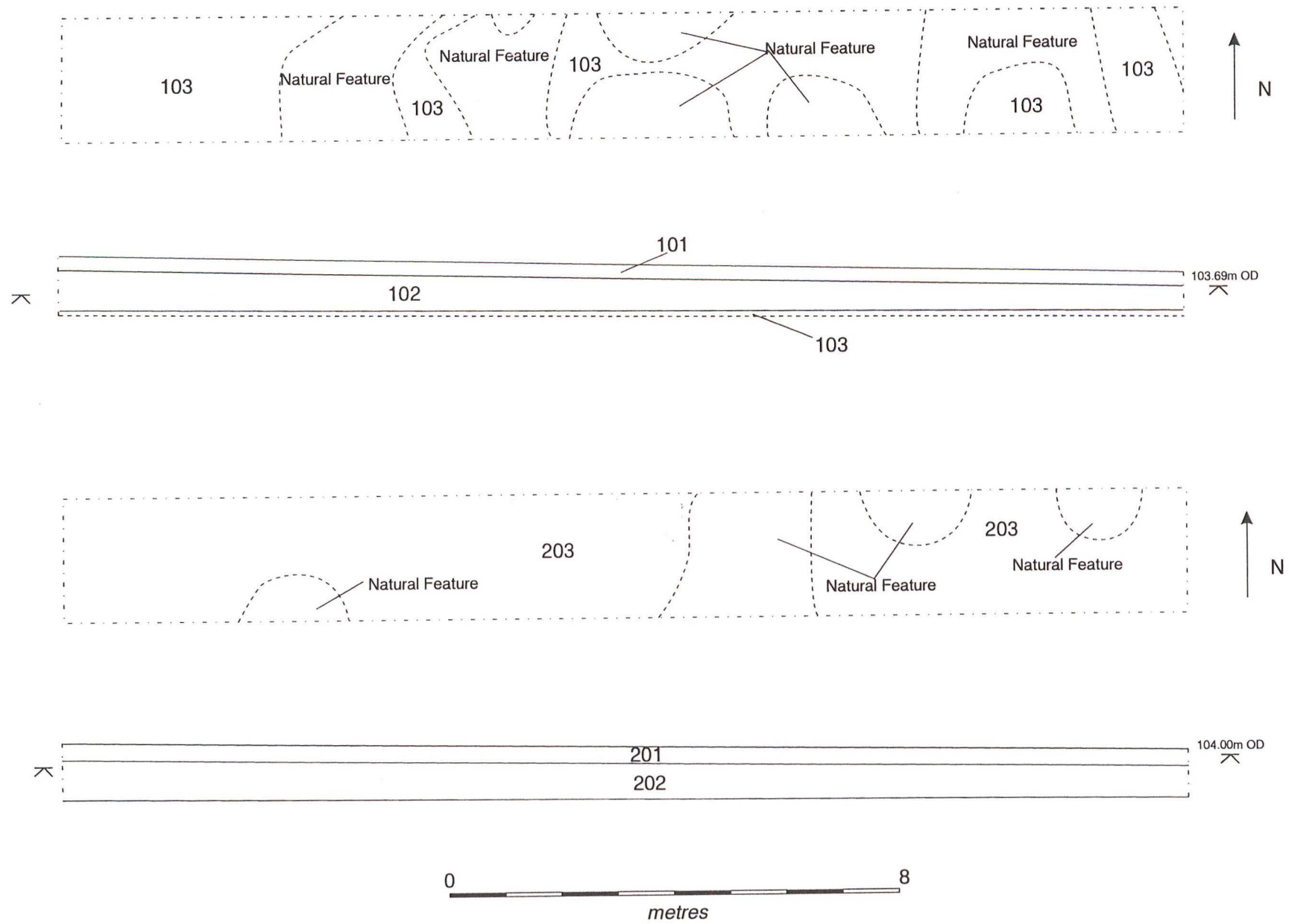


Fig. 3 Plan and section of Trenches 1 & 2.

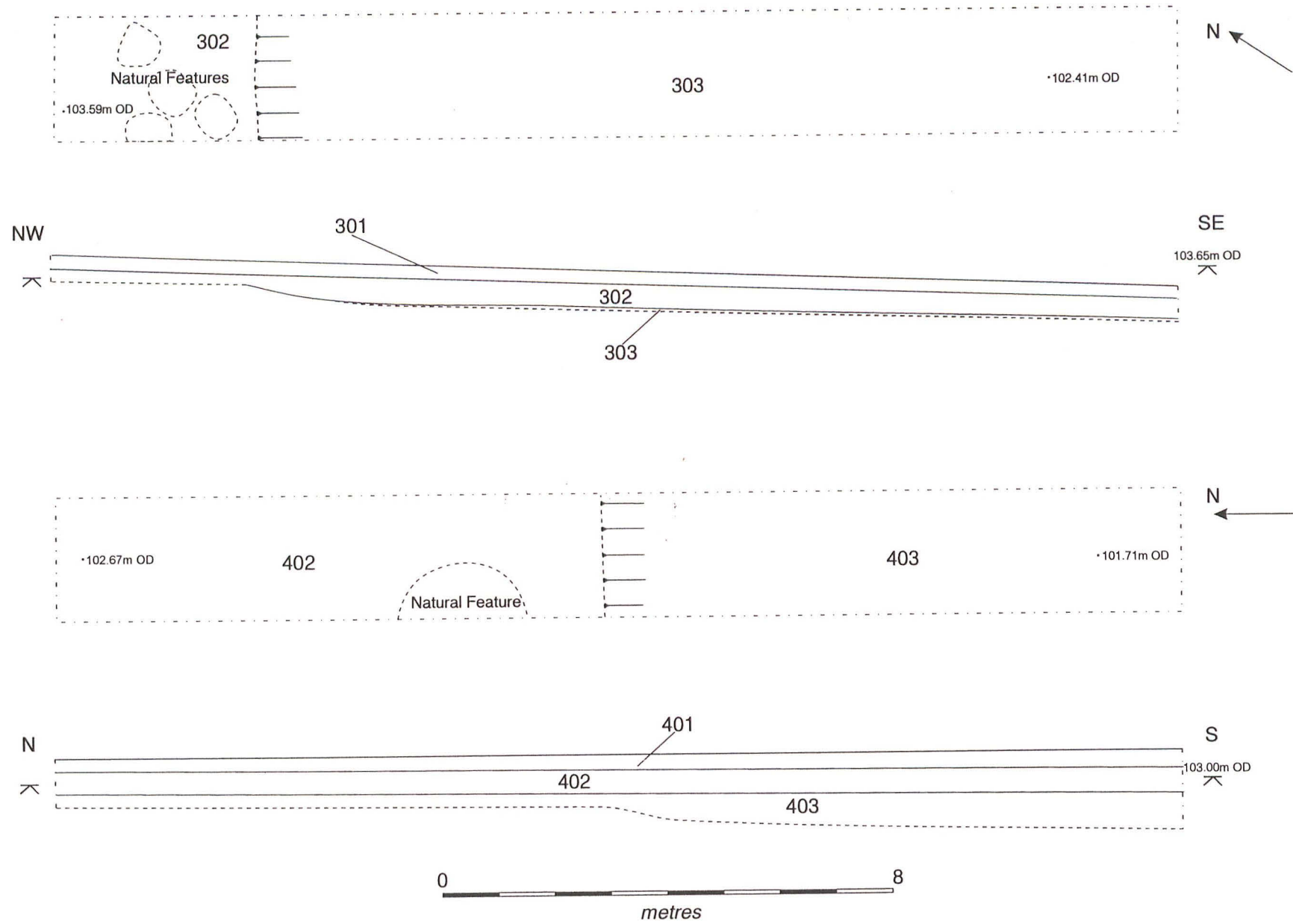


Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trenches 3 & 4.

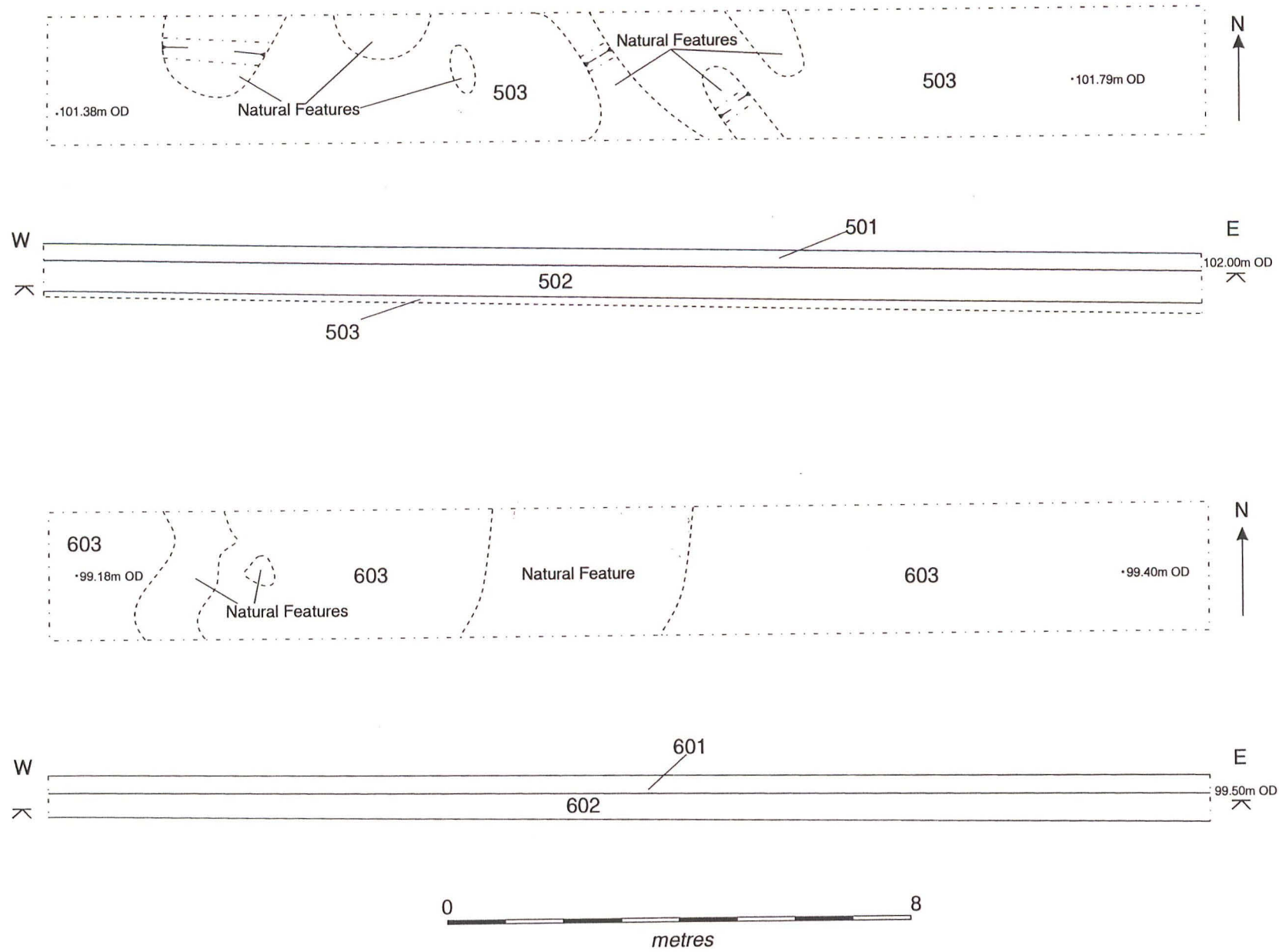


Fig. 5 Plan and section of Trenches 5 & 6.

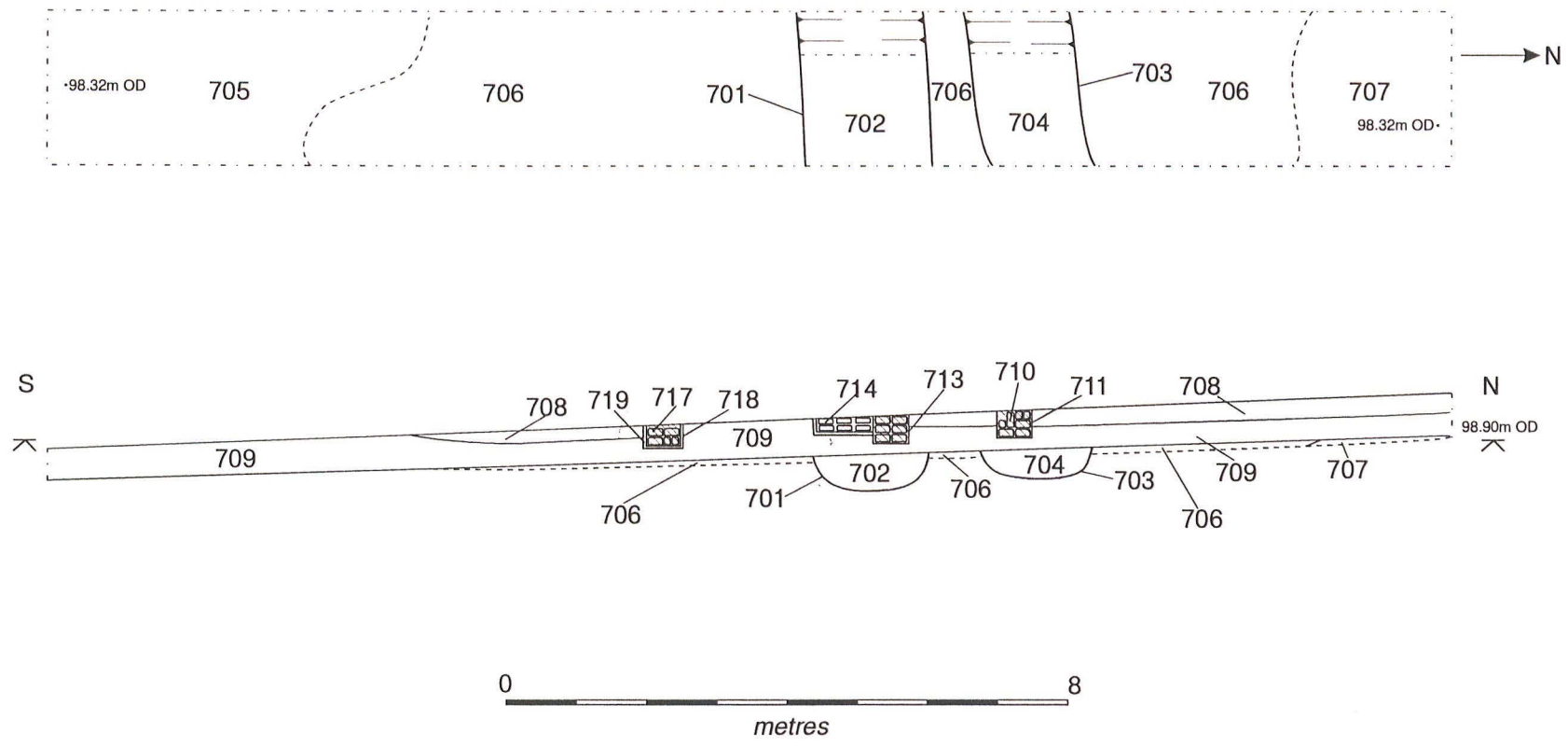


Fig. 6 Plan and section of Trench 7.

The Plates

PL. 1. *Leptis* showing some of the plates.

PL. 2. *Trachis*, showing some of the plates.



PI. 1 Machine trenching under archaeological supervision.

PI. 2 Trench 1, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.





Pl. 3 Trench 2, looking east. Scale 2m.

Pl. 4 Trench 3, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 5 Trench 4, looking south. Scales 2m & 1m.



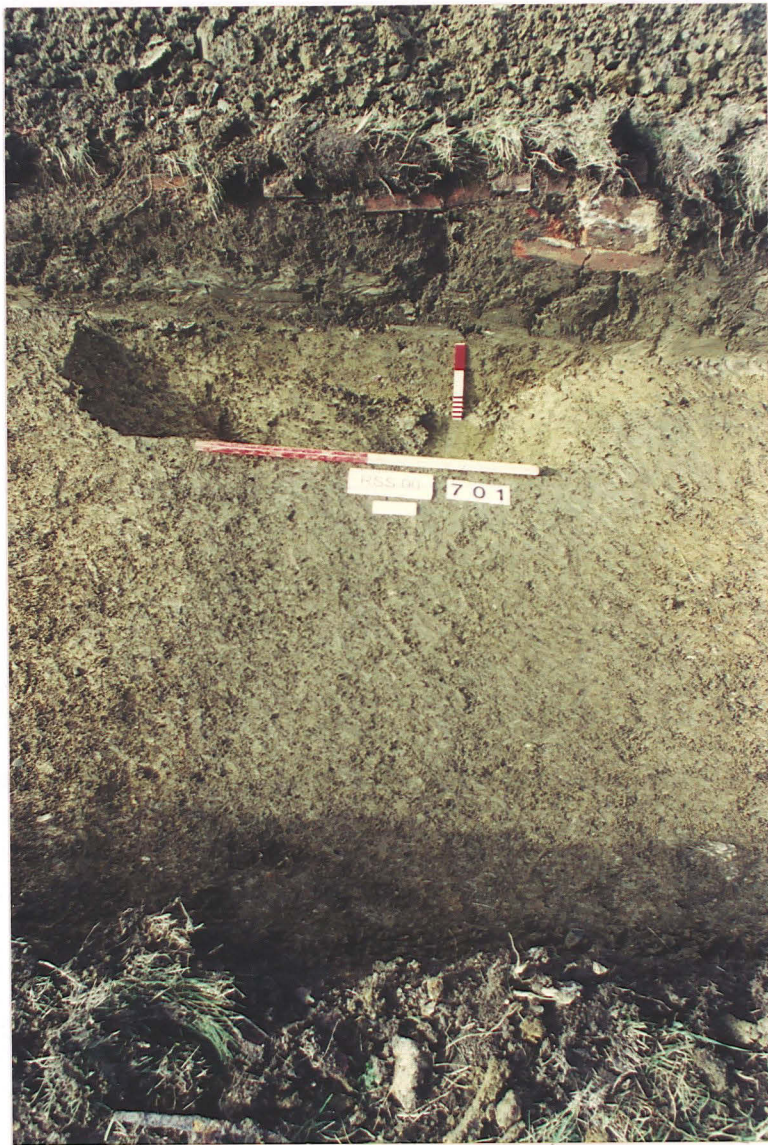
Pl. 6 Trench 5, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 7 Trench 6, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 8 Trench 7, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.



Pl. 9 Ditch 701, looking west. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 10 Ditch 703, looking west. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

