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**Dunholme, Four Seasons Hotel,
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 7905 0250

Site Code: DFSH 01

LCNCC Museum Accession No.: 2001.176

Planning Application No: M01/P/0431

Report for

Mr I. Walton

On behalf of

Mellowquay Ltd

LAS Report No. 543

August 2001

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Contents

List of figures and plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location and Description	1
Archaeological Background	1
Aims and Objectives	2
Method	2
The Evaluation Trenches	2
Results	2
Discussion	3
Conclusion	4
Acknowledgements	4
References	4
Archive List	4
Appendix 1: Context List	
The figures	
The plates	

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Dunholme site location. (Insert C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map sheet TFO7. © Crown Copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS licence number AL 100002165)

Fig. 2 Trench location in relation to existing buildings. Based upon a plan provided by the client.

Fig. 3 Plan of Trench 1.

Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 2.

Fig. 5 Plan and section of Trench 3.

List of Plates

Pl. 1 Machine excavation of Trench 2 under archaeological supervision.

Pl. 2 Location of Trench 1. Looking south-west.

Pl. 3 Trench 1 after cleaning. Looking west-south-west. Scales 1m and 2m.

Pl. 4 Root disturbance 105. Scale 0. 20m.

Pl. 5 Location of Trench 2. Looking north-east.

Pl. 6 Trench 2. Looking north-west. Scales 1m and 2m.

Pl. 7 Sequence of deposits in Trench 2. Vertical scale 1m horizontal scale 0.50m.

Pl. 8 Location of Trench 3. Looking south.

Pl. 9 Trench 3. Looking south east.

Pl. 10 Sequence of deposits in Trench 3. Vertical scale 1m horizontal scale 0.30m.

Pl. 11 Tree root disturbance in Trench 3. Looking east. Scales 1m.

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Summary

Evaluation at the Four Seasons Hotel revealed no archaeological remains. Previously waterlogged deposits were identified close to Scothern Lane. No finds were recovered to date these deposits. The archaeological potential of this area is considered to be minimal and the impact of development is therefore low.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological evaluation for Mr Ian Walton, on behalf of Mellowquay Ltd, in accordance with the requirements of the Built Environment Assistant and the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council, as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (1998). The work was carried out on 25th – 26th July 2001.

Planning Background

An outline application for residential development at the Four Seasons Hotel has been made. The application is to be determined after archaeological evaluation of the site has been carried out.

Site Location and Description

Dunholme is a large village lying c.5 miles north-east of Lincoln in the Clay Vale. The proposed development site (Figs.1 and 2) is located on the south side of the modern village on the west side of Scothern Lane. It is currently a hotel and the evaluation will be undertaken in an area used as car park.

Archaeological Background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 there were two manors (estates) in Dunholme, with additional lands belonging to the Royal manor at Nettleham. Archaeological evaluation of land immediately opposite the site, outside the core of the present village, has identified settlement remains of Saxon and medieval date and may be the location of one of the manorial centres (Allen 2000a, Allen 2000b). The village is clearly of Saxon origin and it was thought there was potential for finding evidence for settlement remains of this and later periods on the proposed development site. The potential for prehistoric and Roman remains was thought to be low.

Aims and Objectives

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.

Method

Machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision (Pl.1). The trenches were hand-cleaned, where possible, to reveal features in plan. A temporary bench mark was established on site, derived from a spot height on the exit of the Four Seasons Hotel (13.95m O.D.).

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans and sections at a scale of 1:20. A full photographic record, in colour print, in 35mm format, was made during the progress of the evaluation covering principal features together with general site views.

The Evaluation Trenches

Three trenches, 12m x 1.8m, were positioned in accordance with the requirements of the Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was excavated using a mini-digger with a 1.15m wide toothless bucket. Trenches 2 and 3 were located in the car park and the tarmac was machine cut to enable neat reinstatement of the site. These trenches were machine excavated, using a JCB excavator, initially with a toothed bucket to break up the tarmac and remove underlying makeup, then with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. As no archaeological features were observed the fourth proposed trench was not opened, in accordance with the brief.

Results

Trench 1 (Fig.3)

Trench 1 was placed 7m north of the hall, trying to avoid the roots of existing trees (Pls 2 and 3). The machine removed the 0.30m deep topsoil, **100**, revealing a north-east/south-west aligned drain trench **102**, containing a mix of yellow and brown silt clay, **101**. An inactive concrete drain was covered by **101**. The drain cut a layer of brown silt clay, **103**, situated in a depression in the natural yellow clay, **104**. Layer **103**, contained a sock, indicating its modern origin. Shallow features, **105**, up to 0.05m deep, were also noted in the trench (Pl. 4). The

amorphous shape and irregular sides and bases of the features indicated they were probably plant disturbance. Their fill was a brown silt clay.

Trench 2 (Fig.4)

Trench 2 was located close to the eastern boundary of the car park, parallel to Scothern Lane (Pls 5, 6 and 7). The tarmac surface of the car park, **200**, was 0.05m thick. It overlay darker tarmac 0.05m deep, **201**. Beneath **201** were fragments of limestone up to 0.15m in size **202**. The limestone fragments formed a dressing over a layer of bricks, **203**, 220mm x 110mm x 50mm in size, which formed the hardcore base of the car park .

A damp, black, humic soil, **205**, 0.20m thick lay beneath below the car park make-up **203**. This layer is probably the remains of topsoil, present before the car park was built. Beneath **203** was a green-grey brown sand silt, **205**, 0.50m thick. It was very damp and contained many roots. **205** sealed two converging land drains, **206** at the south-east end of the trench. A third crossed the trench at its north-west end. All were 0.30m wide and contained a black silt clay sealing the yellow tile drains. The drains at the south-east end of the trench were cut through **209**, a deposit identical to **205**. Natural yellow clay, **208** was exposed 1.20m below the car park surface (13.52m O.D.). As water partially filled the trench base and began to undermine the trench sides, no cleaning was attempted.

Trench 3 (Fig.5)

Trench 3 was 40m of Trench 2 and was also parallel to Scothern Lane, some 10m from the south-eastern corner of the site (Pls 8, 9 and 10). The sequence of deposits was similar to that found in Trench 2 with **300** and **301** overlying hardcore, **302**, 0.50m deep in places. The remains of a topsoil, **303**, was present below the hardcore. Its depth varied from 0.30m to 0.65m depending on the degree of tree disturbance (Pl. 11). Approximately half the trench contained heavy root disturbance. Further root disturbance, **308**, was noted within the dark olive green sand silt, **304**, below **303**. This 0.40m thick deposit covered a light olive green sand silt, **305**, up to 0.30m deep. A brown sand, **306**, was seen in the base of the trench at approximately 13.00m O.D., as was a blue clay, **307**. The general slope of the deposits in Trench 3 was to the south-east.

Discussion

Archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in advance of housing development to the west and east of the Four Seasons Hotel in the last 5 years. In 1996, evaluation to the west of the hotel by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, comprising 18 trenches, produced no evidence of archaeological remains except for medieval ridge and furrow (Wragg 1996). Land to the east of Scothern Lane, however, revealed substantial Saxon and medieval settlement remains on a sandy knoll towards Ashing Lane (Allen 2000a, Allen 2000b). Two trenches were dug close to Scothern Lane, One to the north-east of the hotel revealed stone foundations and associated 13-14th century pottery which may have been part of Dunholme

Manor which was demolished in 1898 (Allen 2000a). However, a trench which was positioned almost opposite the hotel car park produced no evidence of occupation and was very wet. This accords with the evidence produced in Trenches 2 and 3 of this evaluation. It would seem that the low-lying land on either side of Scothern Lane was waterlogged and subject to flooding and, as such, was probably unsuitable for occupation.

Conclusion

The three evaluation trenches at the Four Seasons Hotel revealed no archaeological remains which is consistent with the lack of finds to the west. The area closest to Scothern Lane was probably too wet for occupation. Occupation was probably confined to the higher ground east of Scothern Lane. The archaeological potential of this area is considered to be minimal and the impact of development is therefore low.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr Walton and the owner of the Four Seasons Hotel for their assistance. Thanks also to the receptionists at the Four Seasons Hotel for their help. David Cox was the machine driver. All fieldwork was carried out by the author and Mark Williams. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid
July 31st 2001

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Allen, M. 2000b *Land off Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincs. Archaeological Trial Excavation (Phase II)* . PCA developer report.

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Archive List

Plans - 3

Sections - 3

Levels list

Correspondence

Photographs- LAS Film No. 01/55/3 - 26

APPENDIX 1

Four Seasons Hotel Dunholme (DFSH 01)

Context List

Context	Trench	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Modern Topsoil
101	1	Layer	Trench	0.30m +	0.35m+	Fill of 102
102	1	Layer	Trench	0.30m +	0.35m+	Drain
103	1	Layer	6m+	1.80m +	0.26m	Spread
104	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural
105	1	Cut	n/a	n/a	0.05m	Fill of 106
106	1	Fill	n/a	n/a	0.05m	Plant Disturbances
20	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05m	Tarmac
201	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05m	Tarmac
202	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.20m	Hardcore
203	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.10m	Bricks
204	2	Fill	Trench	Trench	0.20m	Topsoil
205	2	Cut	Trench	Trench	0.50m	Grey Brown Silt Sand
206	2	Layer	1.80m +	0.30m	n/a	Land Drains
207	2	Fill	1.80m +	0.30m	n/a	Fill of 206
208	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural
209	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.10m?	Grey Brown Silt Sand
300	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05m	Tarmac
301	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05m	Tarmac
302	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Hardcore
303	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.65m	Topsoil
304	3	Layer	1.80m +	0.50m	0.40m	Green Sand Silt
305	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Light Green Sand Silt
306	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Brown Sand
307	3	Layer	Trench?	Trench?	n/a	Blue Clay
308	3	Cut	6m	1.80m+	0.60m	Root Disturbance

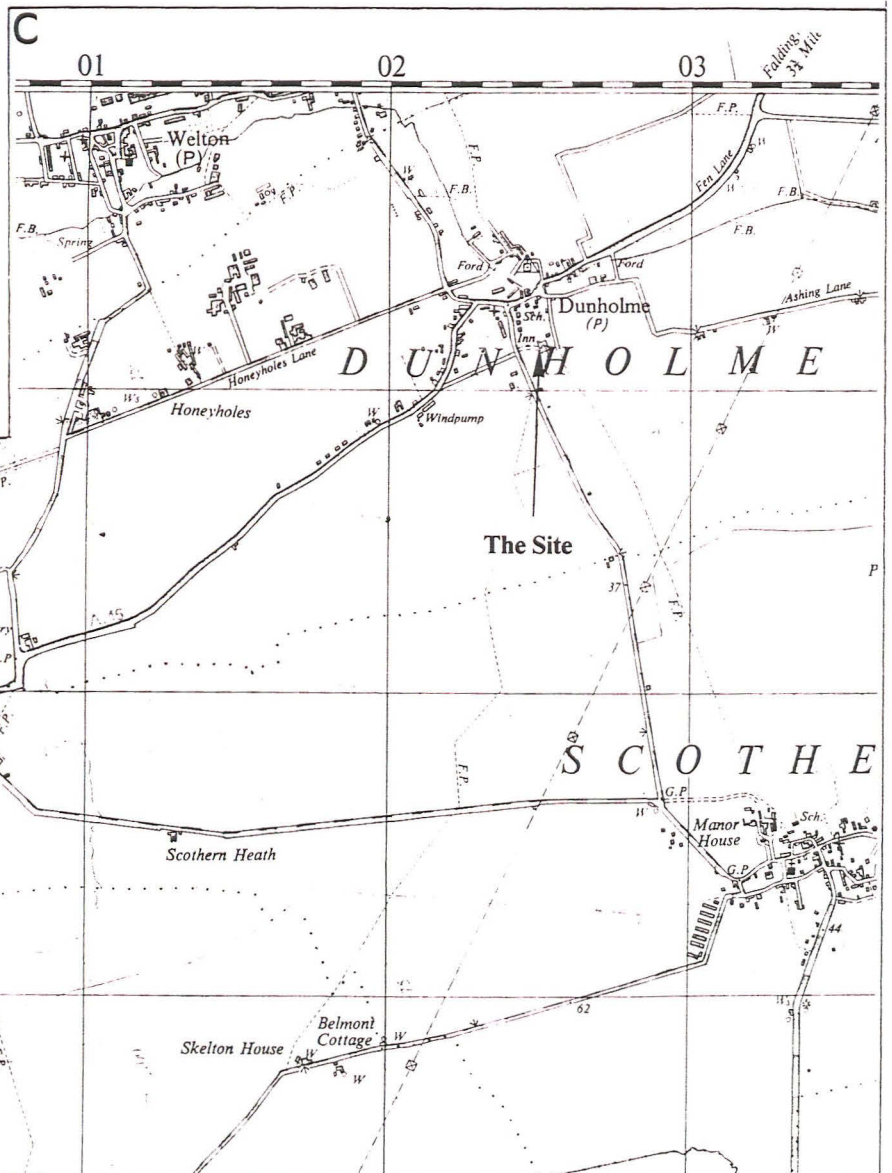
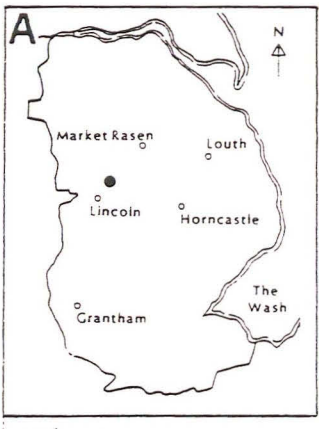
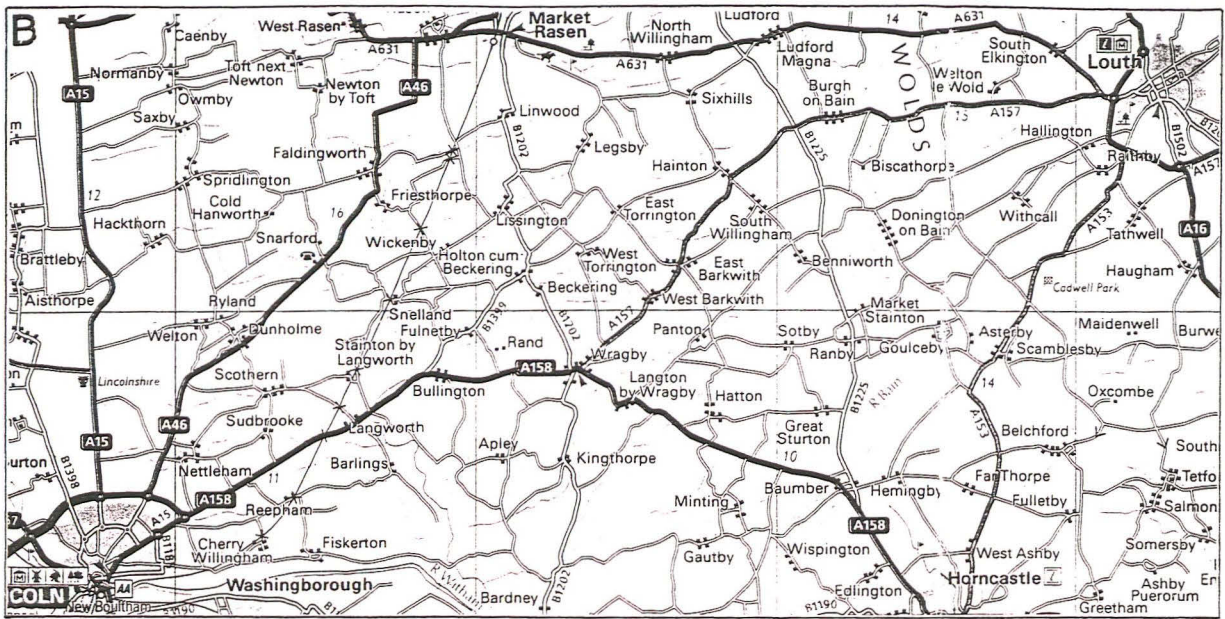


Fig. 1 Dunholme site location. (Insert C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map sheet TFO7. © Crown Copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS licence number AL 10002165)

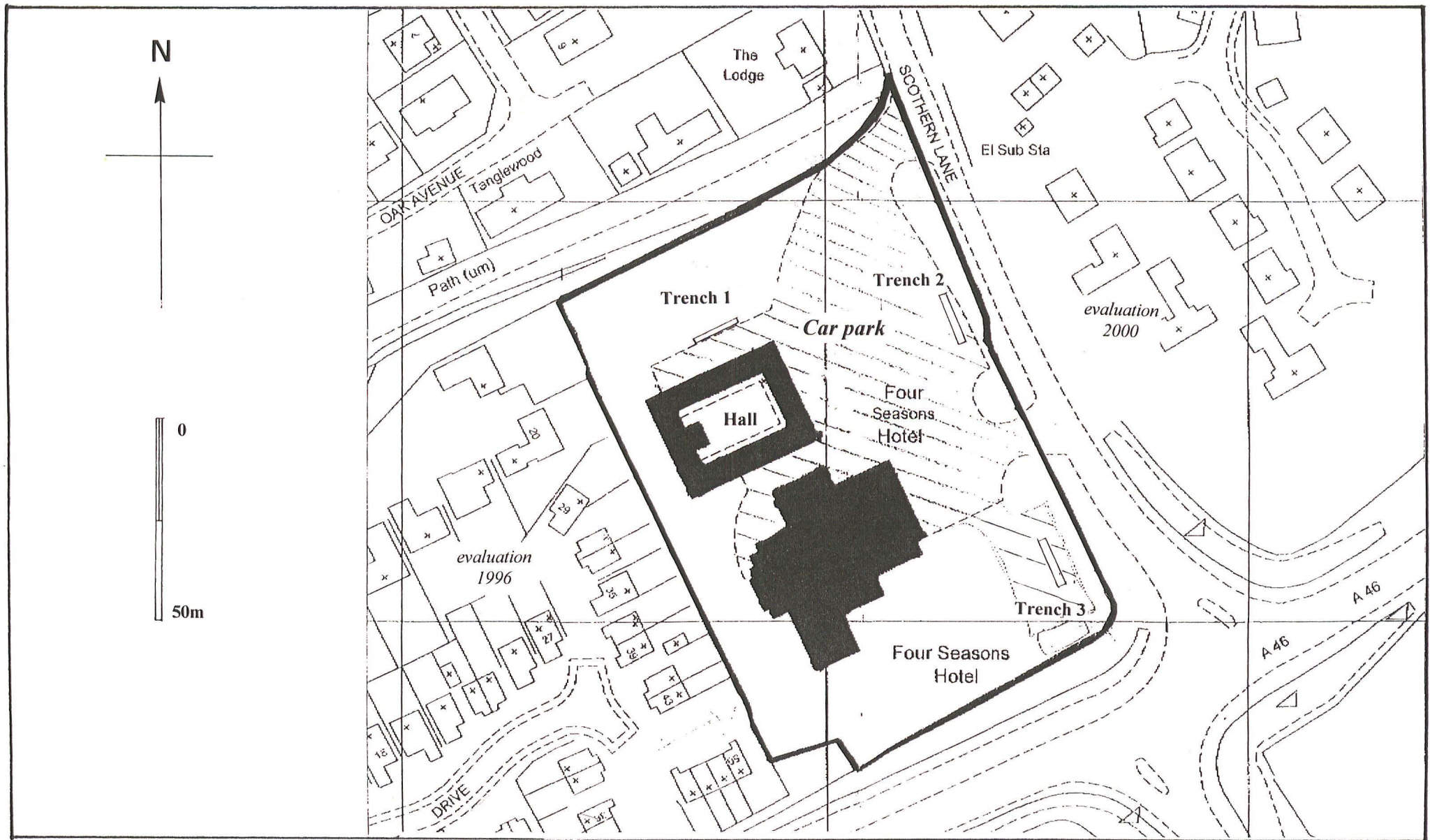


Fig. 2 Trench location in relation to existing buildings. Based upon a plan provided by the client.

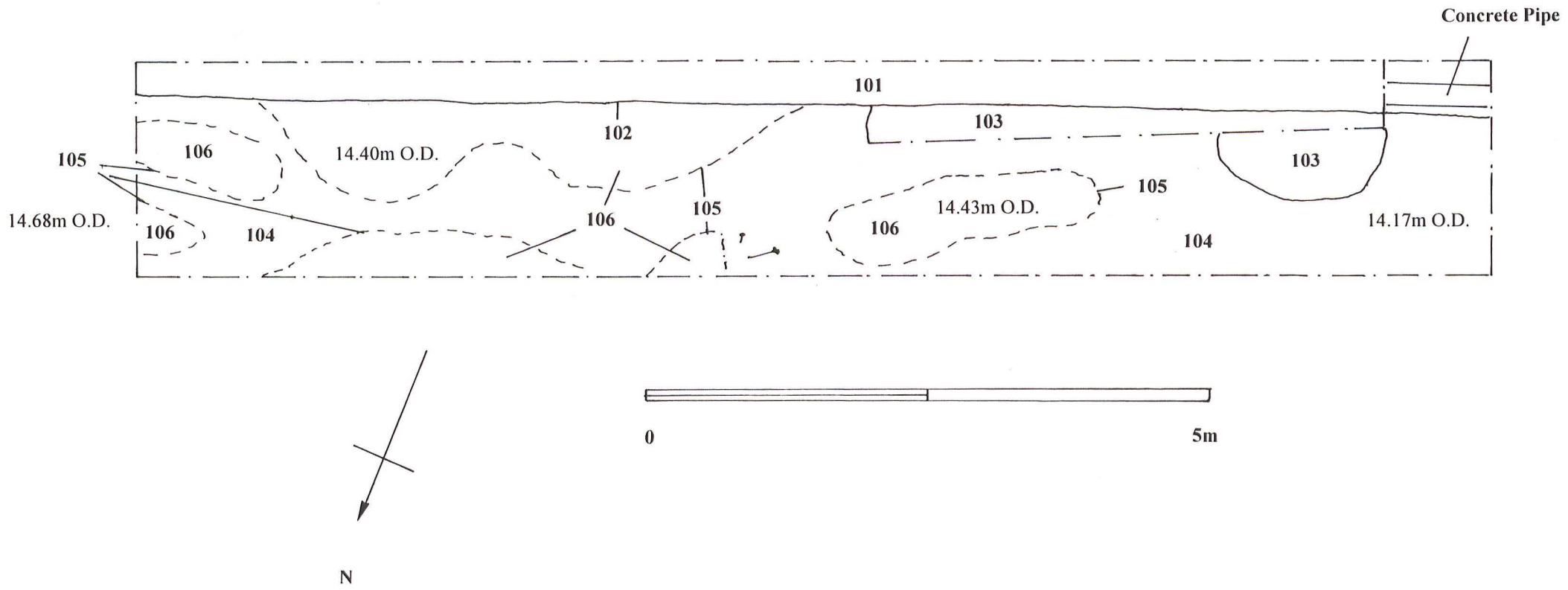


Fig. 3 Plan of Trench 1.

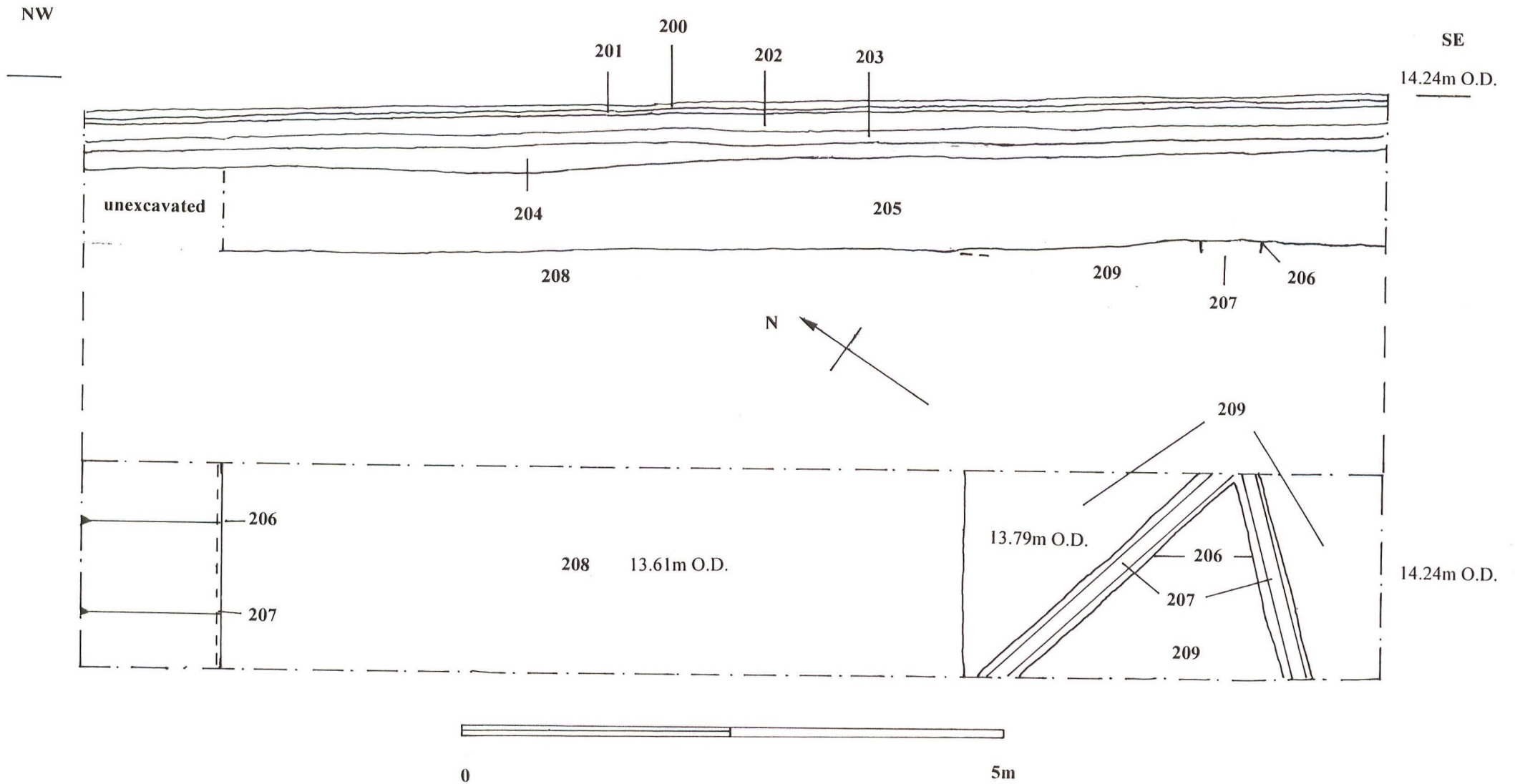


Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 2.

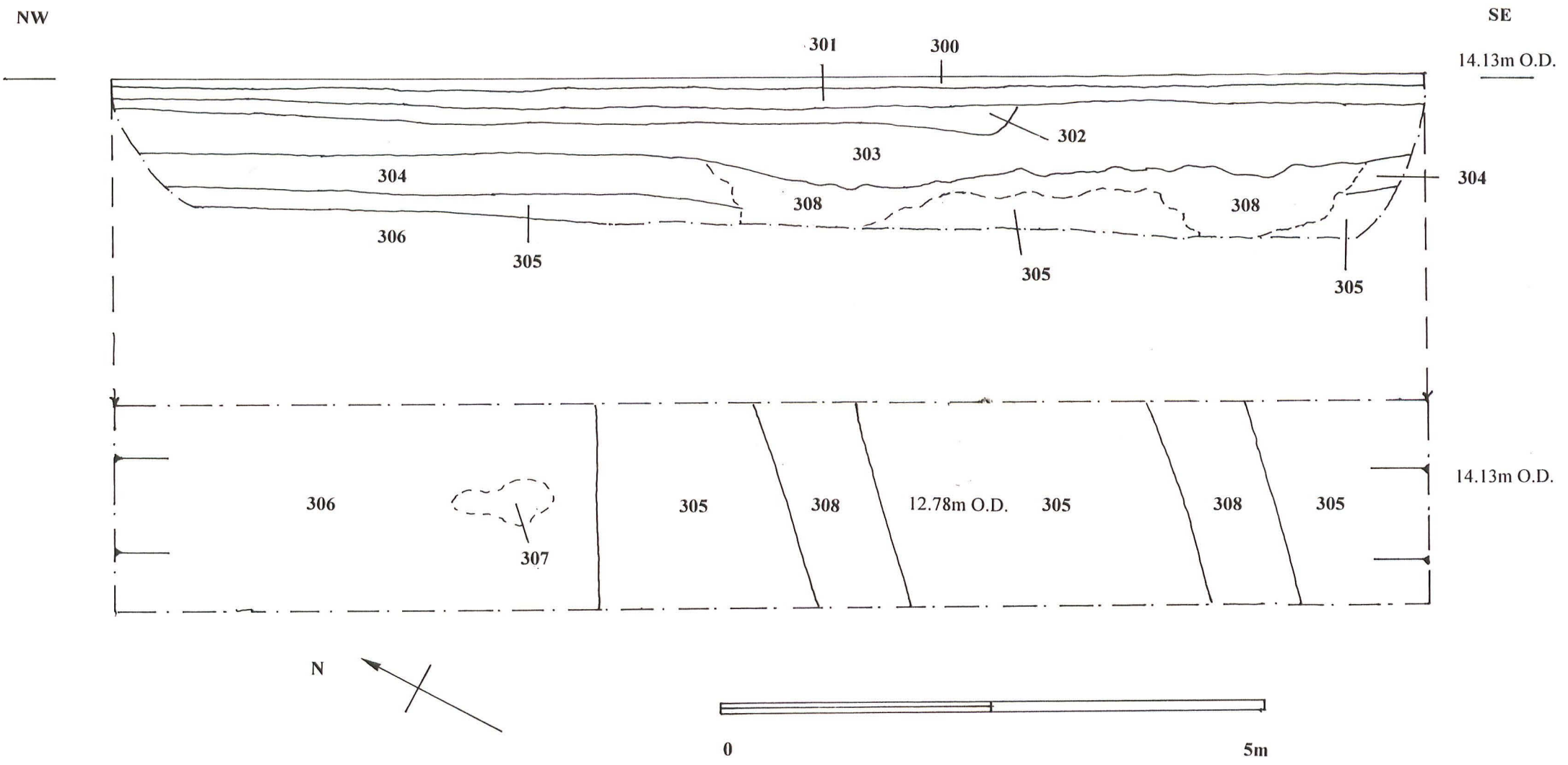


Fig. 5 Plan and section of Trench 3.



Pl. 1 Machine excavation of Trench 2 under archaeological supervision.

Pl. 2 Location of Trench 1. Looking south-west.





Pl. 3 Trench 1 after cleaning. Looking west-south-west. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 4 Root disturbance 105. Scale 0.20m.



Pl. 5 Location of Trench 2. Looking north-east.

Pl. 6 Trench 2. Looking north-west. Scales 1m and 2m.





Pl. 7 Sequence of deposits in Trench 2. Vertical scale 1m horizontal scale 0.50m.

Pl. 8 Location of Trench 3. Looking south.





Pl. 9 Trench 3. Looking south east.



Pl. 10 Sequence of deposits in Trench 3. Vertical scale 1m horizontal scale 0.30m.



PI. 11 Tree root disturbance in Trench 3. Looking east. Scales 1m.