



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Source L17152  
L17153.

**River Rase Improvement Scheme,  
Land Formerly Part of Market Rasen Golf Club  
and Race Course**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Site Code: RRMG 01  
NGR: TF 1275 8825  
LCNCC Museum Accession No: 2001.207

**Report**

**for**

**The Environment Agency**

**LAS Report No. 548  
August 2001**

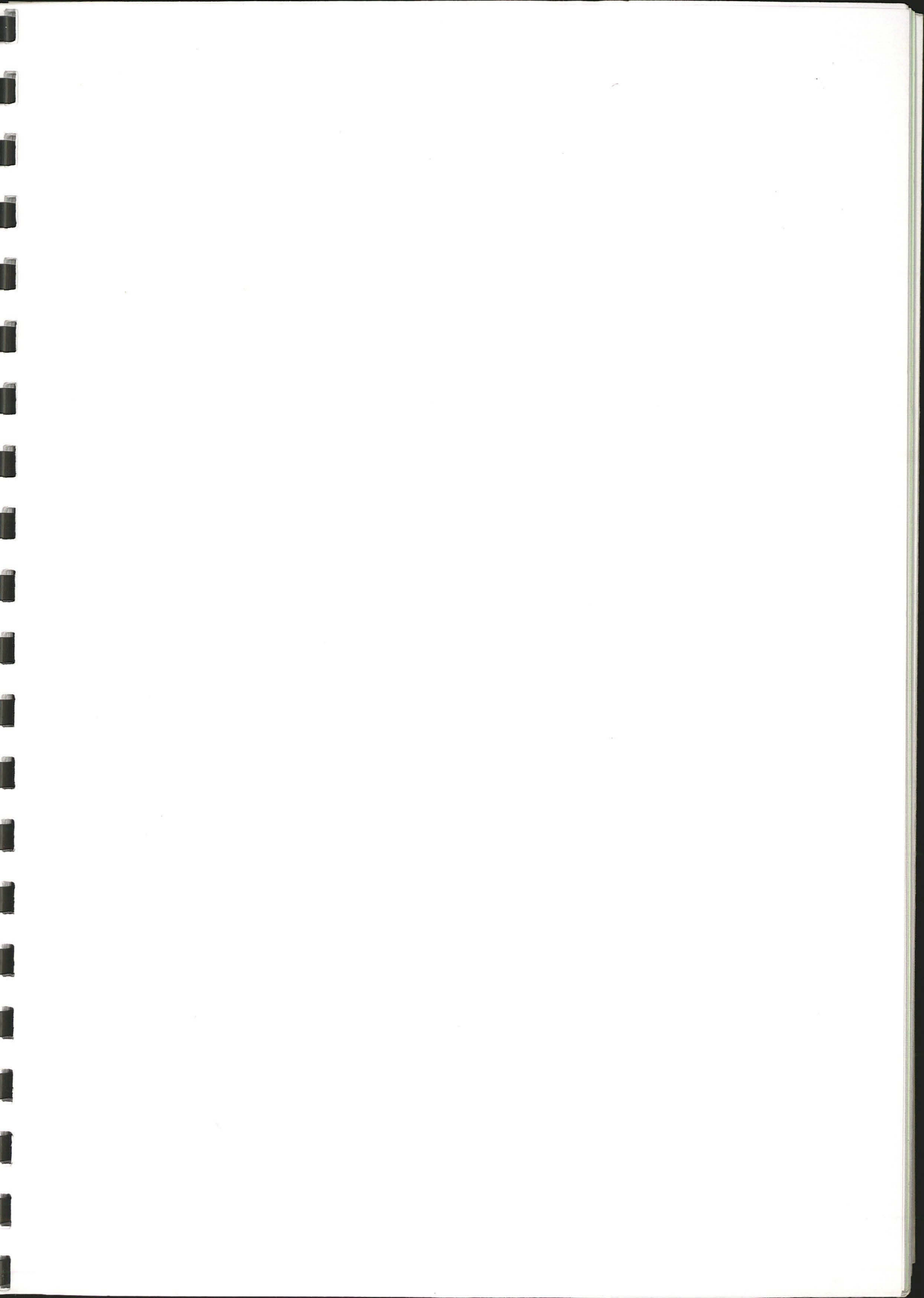
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# River Rase Improvement Scheme Land Formerly Part of Market Rasen Golf Club and Race Course

Site Code: RRMG 01

NGR: TF 1275 8825

LCNCC Museum Accession No: 2001.207

## Summary

*The evaluation established the presence of a modern dump in Trench 1, a pond in Trench 3 and water channels in Trench 5. Both the pond and the later water channel appear to be relatively recent as topsoil seals the pond and make-up for the golf course covers the water channel. The earliest water channel was noted to have silted up before the landscaping of the golf course. No archaeological features were noted on the site.*

## Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services for Environment Agency in August 2001 in accordance with the requirements of the brief set by the Environment Agency in the Contract Document no. NHB30958, the two Corrigenda, and the general requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

## Site Location and Description (Fig. 1 and 2) *Linwood + Tealby parishes*

The Environment Agency will be improving the protection of Market Rasen from flooding by creating water storage areas upstream of Market Rasen on both the River Rase and the South Branch. The potential flood area (75 year event) will cover 10.8 ha along the river valley, but, the area affected by groundworks will be 5.5ha. Proposed works comprise construction of an embanked flood storage reservoir including minor diversion of the river with a control structure to regulate flows in the river.

The South Branch site (designated Site 2 by the Environment Agency) was part of Market Rasen & District Golf Course and is the area evaluated. The site is located on the south bank of the river on what was the western part of the Market Rasen & District Golf Club course. This piece of land was landscaped during construction of the golf course. Proposed works would totally destroy any archaeological remains which might be present, over about 2ha of the site, and the remaining 3.5ha would be affected to a lesser extent by attendant landscaping.

## Archaeological Background

Archaeological discoveries in the Market Rasen area include at least two foci for a Roman pottery industry which flourished in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. Kilns have been excavated south of the town on both the west and east sides of Linwood Road. Further kilns were discovered in Linwood parish, in the 1960s, south of the site. Additional kilns or other features associated with Roman pottery manufacture are possible.

### **Previous Archaeological Work**

A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in July 2001. Golf course landscaping made interpretation of the results difficult but it was believed that the anomalies recorded by the survey suggested former water courses.

After consultation with the Senior Built Environment Officer (Lincolnshire County Council) a scheme of evaluation comprising excavation of 7 trenches was prepared. Part of the site contains a soil storage which could not be evaluated. This requires investigation at a later date.

### **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 and to assess their importance in a local, regional and national context
- establish whether waterlogged deposits exist on the site
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the 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 the remains and any mitigatory measures appropriate either in advance of and/or during development

### **Method**

#### ***Recording System***

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director. Each trench was machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. The trenches were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans and sections. A full photographic record (colour print) was made during the progress of the evaluation to cover each trench, 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 models.

#### **Evaluation Trenching (Fig. 2)**

Seven machine excavated trenches, ranging from 15m to 30m in length and 1.8m wide, were dug using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned to investigate areas where possible archaeological features would occur and to sample the general site area. Machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist (Pl.1).

A temporary bench mark (99.09m O.D.) was established on the site.

### **Results**

#### ***Trench 1*** (Fig. 3, Pls. 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was the westernmost trench on the northern side of the dike, on what had previously been



ground owned by the Market Rasen race course. It was c.15m long. Beneath the 0.25m deep topsoil, **100**, was a light brown clay silt subsoil, **101**, 0.25m deep in places. A 1.50m wide, 0.60m deep, pit, **103**, containing a light brown to yellow sand, **102** (devoid of finds), was noted c.3m from the southern end of the trench. Pit **103** cut a mid brown to black silt sand deposit, **104**, which contained plastic, glass bottles, metal, concrete, polythene and coke bottles. This modern dump layer was 0.75m deep in places. A tree disturbance, **105** (Pl.4), which projected a metre into the north end of the trench, filled by a grey brown clay, **106**, proved to be no deeper than 0.05m, when excavated. Natural was a yellow brown clay at the north end of the trench, **107**, and a yellow grey sand with panning to the south, **108**.

#### **Trench 2** (Fig. 3, Pls. 5 and 6)

Trench 2 was located some 50m east of Trench 1. Trench 2 was positioned to expose three anomalies which were picked up during the geophysical survey. It became obvious during the initial topsoil stripping that these anomalies, **202** and **203** (Pls. 7 and 8) were the remains of tree disturbance, the stumps of the trees being present within the topsoil. The northernmost anomaly was not noted but extensive root disturbance was. Topsoil, **200**, had a maximum depth of 0.30m. Below topsoil was a light brown clay silt subsoil, 0.20m deep, **201**. Natural, **204**, was an orange white sand containing patches of clay.

#### **Trench 3** (Fig. 4, Pls. 5, 9 and 10)

Trench 3 was closest to the eastern boundary of the old race course ground. Due to heavy rain and marshy ground conditions the JCB became stuck and could not continue excavating the trench. In freeing itself, it partially destroyed the trench, obscuring the northern end of the trench base.

Topsoil **300** was the same depth as in Trench 2. A subsoil, **308**, was seen at the southern end of the trench, but unlike the other trenches, did not continue the length of the trench. Instead **308** changed to a blue grey silt clay, **301**, filling a large, 10m long, pond, **302**. The pond had an edge that sloped 45°. Augering of the feature revealed that it had a depth of over 2m with the fill becoming progressively sandier. The pond cut into a yellow clay, **307**, to the north and a grey white sand, **303**, to the south. Below **303** was a layer of laminated sands, **304**, 0.14m deep, which sealed a 0.08m thick blue grey clay layer, **305**. Beneath **305** was grey sand **306**.

#### **Trench 4** (Fig. 4, Pl. 12)

Trench 4 was the most northerly of the trenches in the grounds of the old golf course (Pl.11). Topsoil (**400**) depth was 0.30m. Light brown clay silt, **401**, was 0.30m deep. An electricity cable cutting into **401** was noted, so, the trench was stepped to prevent any further disturbance by machine. Beneath **401** was a grey-white sand, **402**, 0.22m deep, covering the southern half of the trench. Sealed by **402** was a black humic silt sand, **403**, a former topsoil. This layer followed the undulations of the natural grey white sand, **404**, which was higher to the north. **403** was partially removed to see if archaeological features were sealed beneath but none were seen.

#### **Trench 5** (Fig. 5, Pl. 13)

Trench 5 was 30m long. Topsoil **500**, 0.32m deep, sealed a subsoil, **501**, with a thickness of 0.35m in places. Below subsoil **501** was a c.5m wide, 0.50m deep, water channel, **511**. It contained a dark brown grey clay silt, **510**, which sealed a mix of yellow sand and black silt, **512**. Land drain **509** and a further a light brown silt clay layer **502**, 0.45m deep at the north end of the trench were also below **501**. A north-west /south-east drainage feature, **506**, 0.80m wide, with a fill (**507**) identical to **502**, was recorded south of **509**. A grey silt clay layer, **503**, was beneath **502** in the south end of the trench, in the undulation of **504**, a black humic silt sand containing root fibres and wood.

Sealed by **504**, directly below **511**, was water channel **515**. It had a width of c.5m. Fill **513** was a mix of grey white sand and blue grey clay. Augering established that **513** was over 0.70m deep and became sandier lower down. The water table was approximately 0.20m below the base of the trench. Natural was a grey sand, **505**.

#### **Trench 6** (Fig. 6, Pl. 17)

Trench 6 was located closest to the south-west corner of the old golf course. It had to be moved further north due to the presence of trees to the south. Topsoil **600** was slightly deeper than elsewhere, being 0.35m deep. Root disturbance, **602**, was noted extending up to 2m into the southern end of the trench. The dark grey silt sand associated with the roots, **601**, indicated the disturbance was caused by existing trees. No subsoil was recorded in this trench. Natural was a washed grey white sand, **603**, projecting c.6m into the southern end of the trench and a yellow orange sand, **604**, to the north. Blue grey clay, **605**, was seen within **604**.

#### **Trench 7** (Fig. 6, Pl. 18)

Trench 7 was located north east of the corner of the golf course, east of Trench 5. Like Trench 6 it had to be moved south due to the presence of a tree. It had the now familiar sequence of topsoil (**700**, 0.30m thick), subsoil (**702**, 0.30m deep), a former topsoil (**703**, 0.10m in depth) and an undulating grey white sand natural, **704**. A yellow clay, **701**, was noted beneath topsoil **700**. This deposit is associated with the back filling of a land drain at the northern end of the trench. Two other land drains were observed and left *in situ*. This resulted in the trench being shortened by a metre.

### **Discussion**

The evaluation established a general sequence of deposits within the area of the former golf course. Topsoil and subsoil were deposited during landscaping of the grounds for a golf course sealing the remains of the former topsoil above natural sand. Trench 4 had an additional layer of redeposited grey sand above the former topsoil, redeposited sand, possibly from the cleaning out of the dike. The speculated water channel at the south end of the golf course appeared in Trench 5. Two phases of channel were noted, one pre-dating the landscaping of the golf course, the other filled in during the landscaping. Although not excavated, augering established that the earliest channel has a depth in excess of 0.70m. The water table was noted quite close to the base of the trench, within 0.20m. fairly recently, Twigs and roots were noted to be within all fills of the water courses.

Trenches north of the dike, on the side of the race course, revealed relatively undisturbed ground to the east. The stratigraphic sequence in Trenches 2 and 3 had topsoil sealing a subsoil, covering natural sand. A pond, 302, was noted in Trench 3. It appeared to have silted up quite recently as only topsoil covered it. Augering had to be abandoned after 1.70m due to the increasing sand content of the fill collapsing the sides of the auger hole. Trench 1 had up to 0.50m depth of golf course make-up sealing a deposit of modern rubbish which covered the natural sand and clay. Presumably the golf course make-up was deposited to make the ground less hazardous.

No archaeological features were noted on the site nor were any finds noted. This is not unexpected given that the land south of the dike was formerly a golf course and that the area as a whole had been a very wet, marshy area prior to its construction.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation established the presence of a modern dump in Trench 1, a pond in Trench 3 and water channels in Trench 5. Both the pond and the later water channel appear to be relatively recent as topsoil seals the pond and make-up for the golf course covers the water channel. The earliest water channel was noted to have silted up before the landscaping of the golf course. No archaeological features were noted on the site.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mark Bowlt of the Environment Agency for his help and assistance, Pip Adams of the Market Rasen Race Course and to Eric Carnaby, 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  
August 2001

### **Site Archive**

Plans

Sections

Levels

Context Sheets

Correspondence

Photographs:

LAS Film Nos: 01/61/25 - 37

01/62/1 - 25

01/63/1 - 36

01/65/10 - 36

### References

Bunn, D and Palmer – Brown, C; 2001 *Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey: Land at Market Rasen Golf Club and Race Course, Lincolnshire*. Pre – Construct Geophysics report.

**APPENDIX 1**

**The Context List**

Context	Trench	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Topsoil
101	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Subsoil
102	1	Fill	1.50m +	n/a	0.60m	Fill of 103
103	1	Cut	1.50m +	n/a	0.60m	Pit
104	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.75m	Dump
105	1	Cut	1m +	0.60m	0.05m	Tree bole
106	1	Fill	1m +	0.60m	0.05m	Fill of 105
107	1	Layer	4m +	Trench	n/a	Natural Light Brown Clay
108	1	Layer	10m +	Trench	n/a	Natural Grey Sand
200	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Topsoil
201	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Subsoil
202	2	Feature	3.40m	Trench	0.75m +	Treebole
203	2	Feature	2.50m +	Trench	0.75m +	Treebole
204	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Sand
300	3	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Topsoil
301	3	Fill	10m	Trench	2.30m +	Fill of 302
302	3	Cut	10m	Trench	2.30m +	Pond
303	3	Layer	2m +	Trench	0.50m +	White Sand
304	3	Layer	2.25m +	Trench	0.14m	Laminated Sands
305	3	Layer	4.50m +	Trench	0.08m	Blue Grey Clay
306	3	Layer	4.50m +	Trench	n/a	Natural Grey Sand
307	3	Layer	1.80m +	Trench	n/a	Yellow Clay
308	3	Layer		Trench		Subsoil
400	4	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.35m	Topsoil
401	4	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.40m	Subsoil
402	4	Layer	7.50m +	Trench	0.25m	Grey Sand
403	4	Layer	11m +	Trench	0.20m	Former Topsoil
404	4	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Grey Sand
500						Topsoil
501	5	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.50m	Subsoil
502	5	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Brown Clay
503	5	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Grey Clay
504	5	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.40m	Former Topsoil
505	5	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Grey Sand
506	5	Fill	1.80m +	0.50m	n/a	Fill of 507
507	5	Cut	1.80m +	0.50m	0.40m	Modern Land Drain
508	5	Fill	1.50m +	0.25m	0.25m	Fill of 509
509	5	Cut	1.50m +	0.25m	0.25m	Modern Pipe Trench
510	5	Fill	1.50m +	c.5m	0.50m	Fill of 511
511	5	Cut	1.50m +	c.5m	0.50m	Water Channel
512	5	Fill	1m	n/a	0.25m	Fill of 511
513	5	Fill	1.50m +	c.5m	n/a	Fill of 515
514	5					Not Used
515	5	Cut	1.50m +	c.5m	n/a	Water Channel

Context	Trench	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Description
600	6	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.35m	Topsoil
601	6	Fill	2m +	Trench	0.50m +	Fill of 602
602	6	Cut	2m +	Trench	0.50m +	Tree Disturbance
603	6	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Grey Sand
604	6	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Yellow Sand
605	6	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Blue Grey Sand
700	7	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Topsoil
701	7	Layer	1.50m	Trench	0.50m	Yellow Clay
702	7	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.25m	Subsoil
703	7	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.10m	Former Topsoil
704	7	Layer	Trench	Trench	n/a	Natural Sand

## The Figures



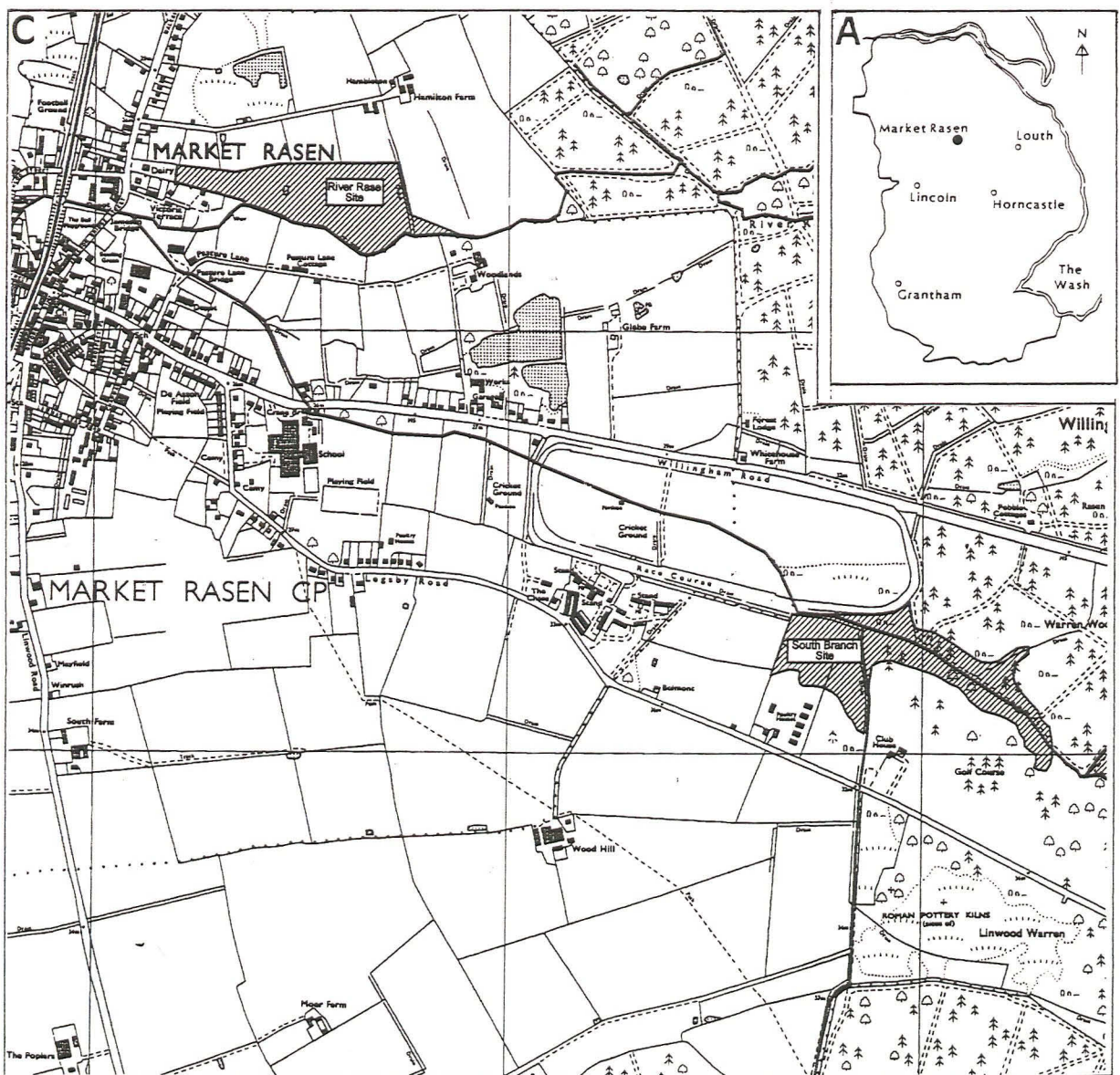
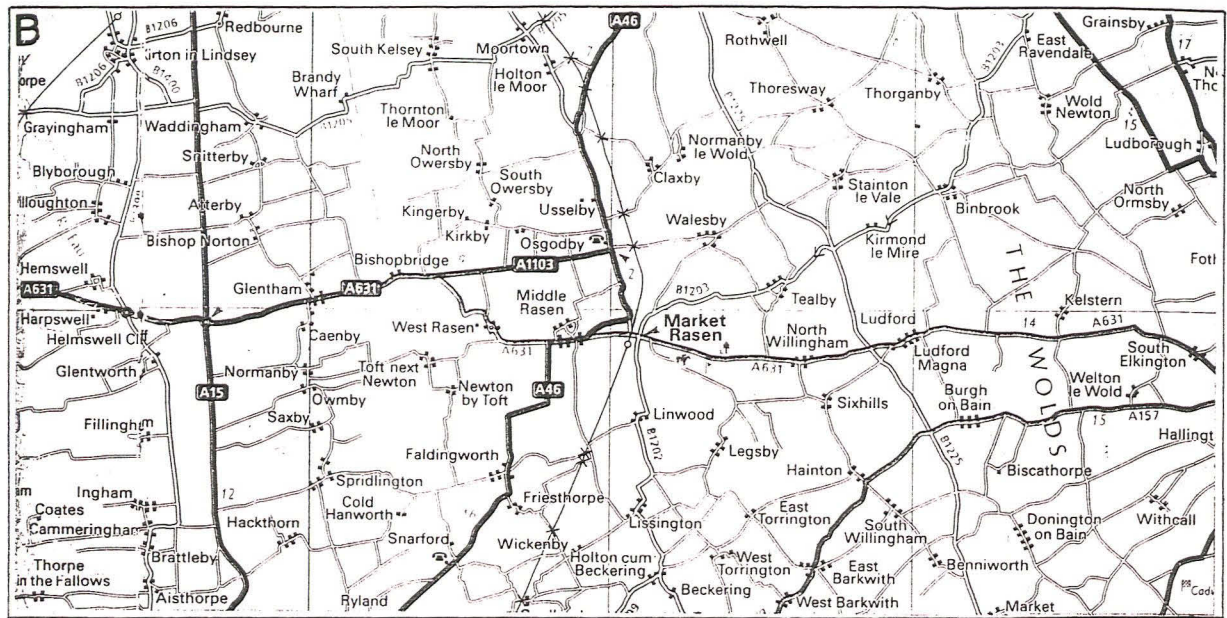


Fig. 1 Market Rasen Golf Course site location (Insert C based on a plan provided by the Environment Agency. Drg. No. NHB 30958/200).



512700m

512800m

512900m

Race Course

drain

trench 1

trench 2

trench 3

trench 4

trench 6

trench 5

trench 7

soil stockpiles

Golf Course

drain

388300m

388300m

388200m

388200m

Reference

Trench location (backfilled)

Grid is in metres to O.S.N.G. by correlation to local features.

Date	Revision	Revision No.

Site

Land Adjacent to Market Rasen Golf Course

Project

River Rase Flood Defence Scheme

Plan

Archaeological Trench Locations

Scale : 1/1000 Date : 24/08/01

Plan Ref : LAMSE/1709-1



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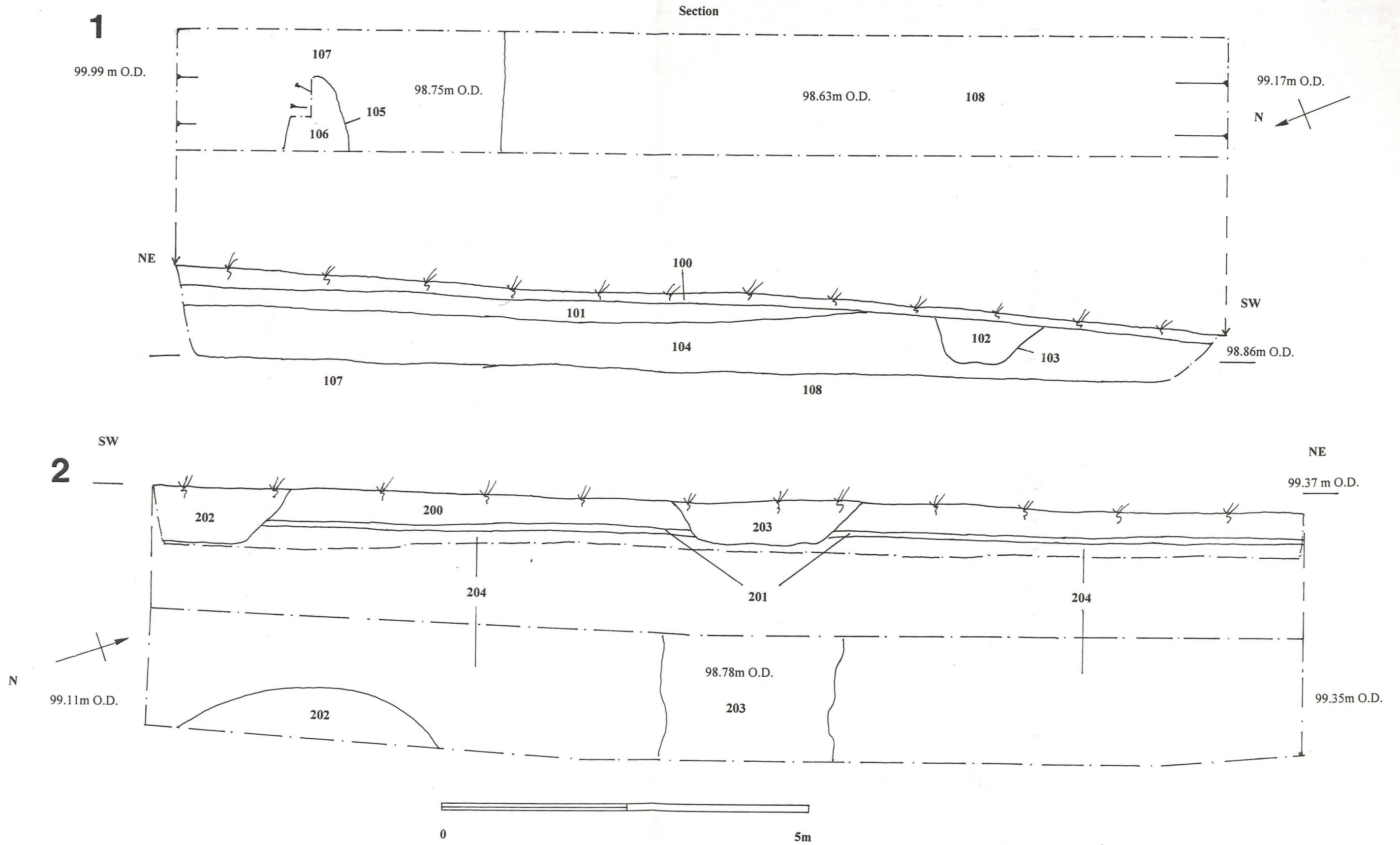
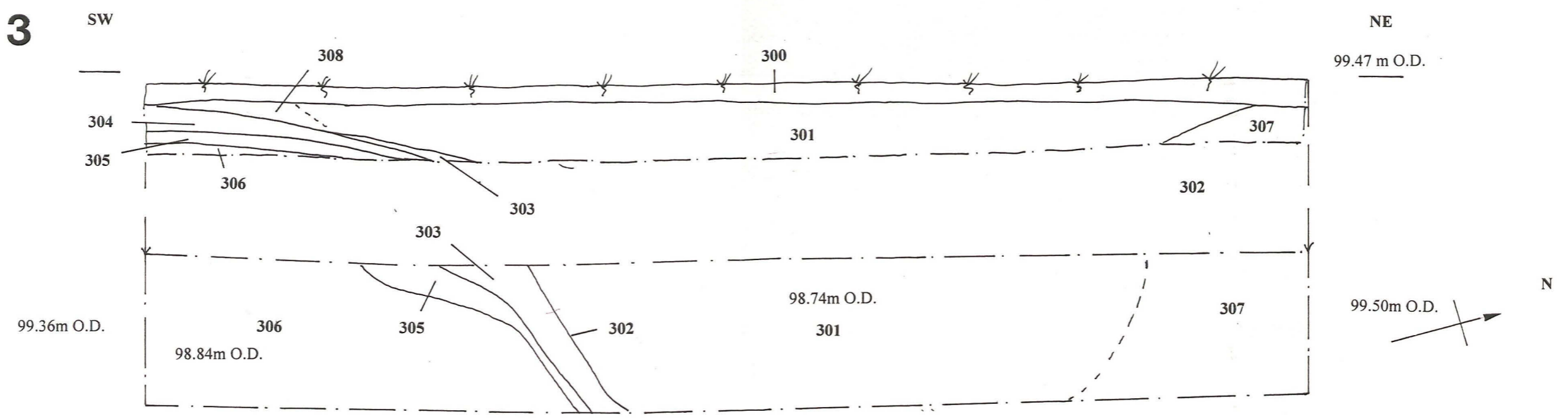


Fig. 3 Trenches 1 and 2. Plans and sections.

3



4

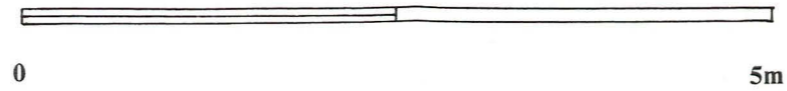
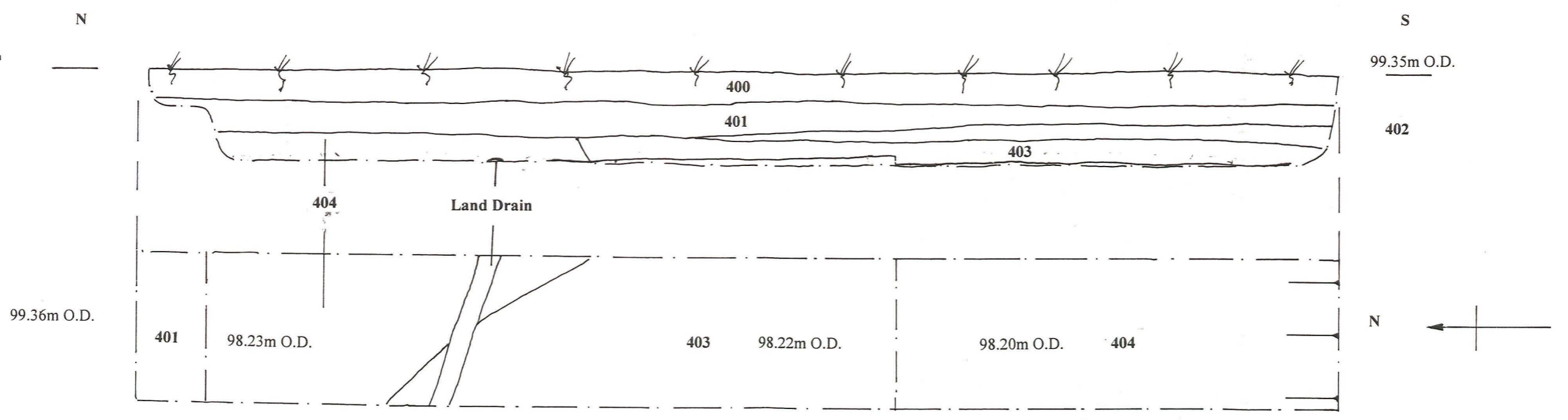


Fig. 4 Trenches 3 and 4. Plans and sections.

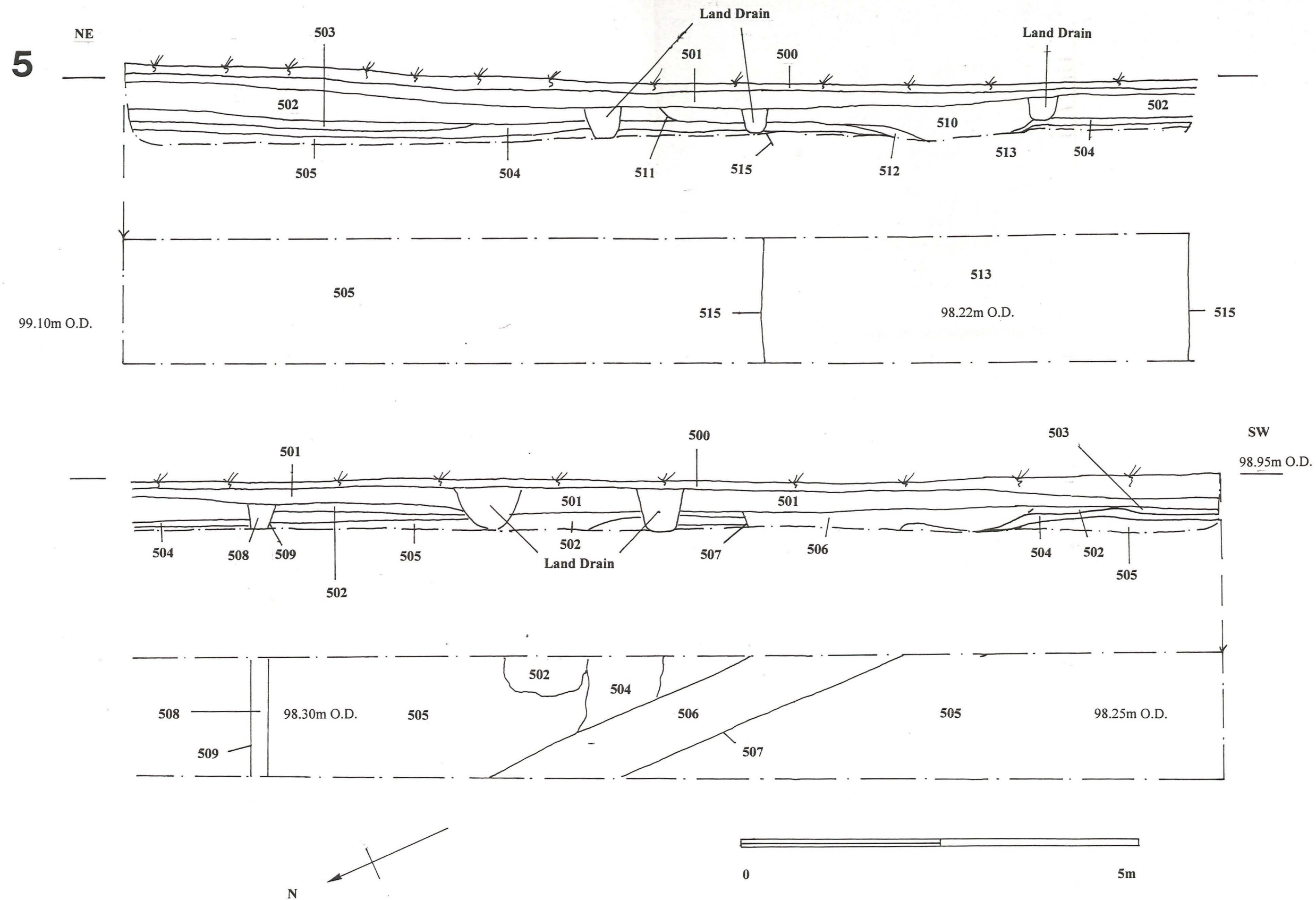


Fig. 5 Trench 5. Plan and section.

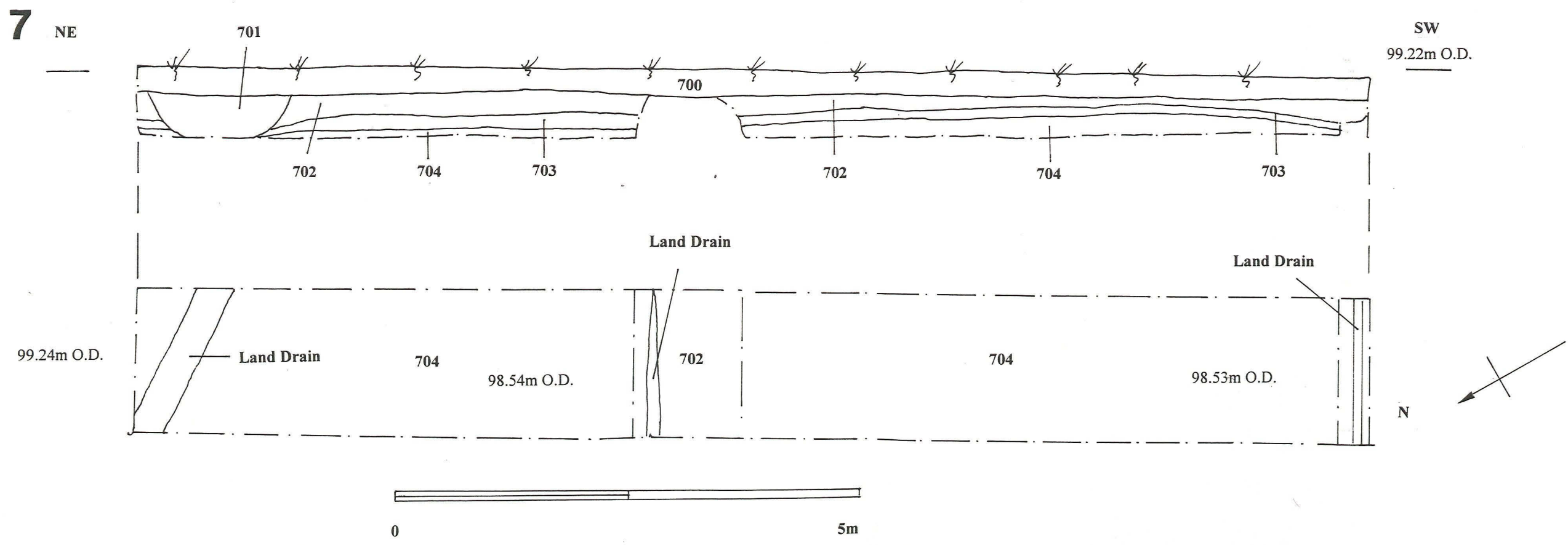
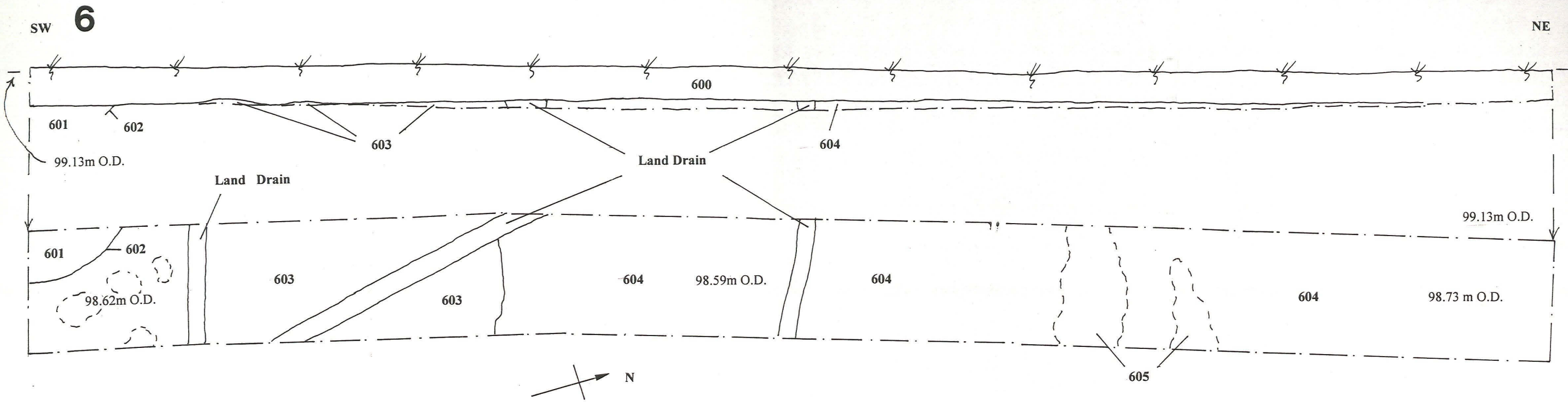


Fig. 6 Trenches 6 and 7. Plans and sections.

## The Plates



**PI. 1 Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping.**

**PI. 2 Location of Trench 1. Looking north west.**







Pl. 3 Trench 1. Looking north east. Scales 1m and 2m.

Pl. 4 Trench 1. Tree disturbance 105. Looking north west. Scale 0.30m





PI. 5 Location of Trenches 2 and 3. Looking north east.

PI. 6 Trench 2. Looking north east. Scales 1m and 2m.





PI. 7 Trench 2. Tree disturbance 202. Looking south west. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.

PI. 8 Trench 2. Tree disturbance 203. Looking east. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.





PI. 9 Trench 3. Looking north east. Scales 1m and 2m.

PI. 10 Trench 3. Eastern facing section. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.





PI. 11 Location of Trenches 4 - 7. Looking north west.



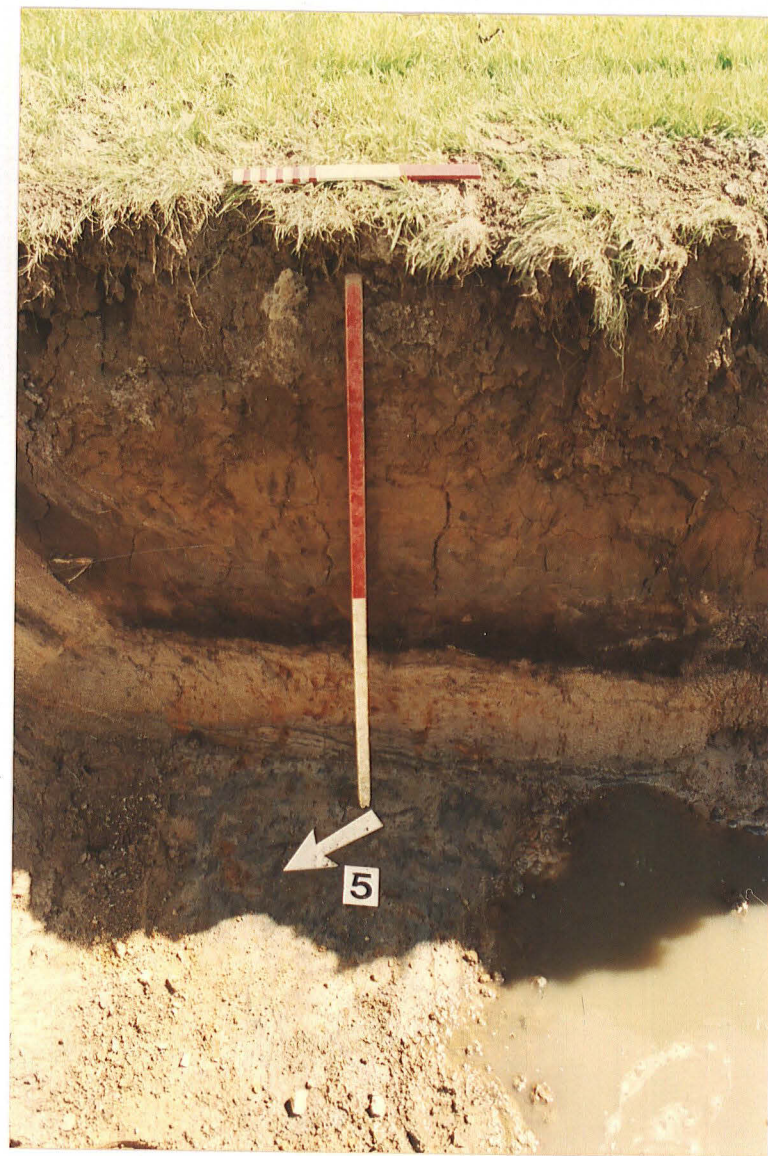
**Pl. 12 Trench 4. Looking south. Scales 1m and 2m.**



**Pl. 13 Trench 5. Looking north east. Scales 1m and 2m.**



Pl. 14 Trench 5. Northern end. Standing water. Looking south west.



Pl. 15 Trench 5. General stratigraphy. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.30m.



Pl. 16 Trench 5. Water channel 511. Looking north. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.

Pl. 17 Trench 6. Looking south west. Scales 1m and 2m.







Pl. 18 Trench 7. Arrow points north east. Scales 1m and 2m.