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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Church Farm, Doddington Lincolnshire  
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: 490150 370150

Site Code: DCF03

LCNCC Museum Accn. No.2003.235

North Kesteven District Council Planning Application No. N23/0319/00

for

**Mr and Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Birch**

by

**D. Britchfield & A. Russell**

Lincolnshire  
heritage

**LAS Report No. 683**

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Conservation  
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### **Archaeological Evaluation**

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#### ***Summary***

*In February 2003, Lindsey Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Church Farm, Doddington Lincolnshire. The evaluation revealed two parallel ditches, orientated east-west, dating between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the sites location, close to the medieval core of the village, no earlier archaeological deposits were encountered.*

#### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Birch, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*, published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the requirements of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (dated 20/01/03). Recommendations and guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) were also adhered to.

#### **Site Description**

The village of Doddington is situated in the Witham Valley some 10km west of Lincoln of the city of Lincoln. Church farm is located at the north end of the village, east of the main road within a Conservation Area, with the development site comprising c.0.6ha in extent at a level of approximately 27.50m AOD. Prior to the evaluation, the site was occupied by farm buildings including a large concrete slab situated within the centre of the site where a large grain store used to stand.

#### **Planning Background**

An application was granted by North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), which was initially subject to the condition that an archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground penetrating works. However, following discussions between the Heritage Officer and the client, with regards to the archaeological implications of the site, it was decided that a programme of trial trenching be adopted in order to determine the impact upon potential deposits and remains (NKDC Planning Application No. N23/0319/00).

Development proposals included the construction of nine dwellings, along with associated access routes and services, as well as a conversion to the existing barn and additional garaging at Church Farm.

### Archaeological Background

Doddington is first mentioned in the Domesday survey of AD1086, noting the presence of an early church believed to have been on the site of the present church (rebuilt in 1770-1775). However, the exact location has never been confirmed, although an alternative has been suggested. A late 16<sup>th</sup> century hall, the work of Robert Smythson, is situated less than 100m to the south-west. It is not uncommon to find the local church relocated to the manorial core, although there is no evidence to either confirm or deny this. Flattened earthwork remains are, however, visible within a field immediately south of the proposed development, which may represent features associated with the early medieval settlement, and possibly the expansion of the village.

### Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish whether evidence of medieval or earlier activity, was present within the proposed development area. In general terms, the aims and objectives of the evaluation were 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 the 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 and/or during development

### Method

NKDC required the excavation of four trenches, 20m in length with a minimum width of 1.5m, along with intensive archaeological monitoring during the removal of the existing concrete slab, located in the centre of the development. Depending on the nature of the deposits underlying demolition debris, it was also suggested that an additional trench be excavated through the centre of the longest axis of the slab.

Mechanical excavation was carried out using a JCB excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision until the first archaeological horizon was recognised. Following this, trenches were hand cleaned and allowed to weather, with potential archaeological features being tagged prior to the preparation of a pre-excavation plan. Carefully selected cross-sections through features were then excavated by hand, in order to enable sufficient information about form, function, development date and stratigraphic relationships.

Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**) and are listed in Appendix 1.

## Results

The trenches were excavated according to the plan on Fig.2, as recommended by NKDC. The site revealed a common stratigraphy of topsoil (101, 201, 301 & 401) comprising a dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones, generally overlying a subsoil and natural drift geology. The consistency of the deposit varied from relatively friable, within Trenches 1 and 2, to firm within Trench 3 and plastic within Trench 4. The natural drift deposits encountered were between 0.39m and 0.97m (26.77m – 27.86m AOD) below the existing ground level, ranging from a mid olive brown sandy silt within the eastern extent of the site (Trenches 1, 2 & 5), to strong orange brown sandy gravel along the western extent of the site (Trench 3). Within the lower south western corner, the natural comprised dark orange brown sandy clayey silt (Trench 4)

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 3)*

Situated within the northern area of the site, Trench 1 measured 20m in length with a width of 1.5m. Directly underlying the topsoil, which had a depth of approximately 0.21m, layer 102 consisted of a plastic dark grey brown sandy silt, with abundant inclusions of medium-small sub-angular stones (Fig.5 Profile 1). The density of stone within this layer, which did not appear to have been formed by natural processes, suggests a function relating to the barn or farm, possibly associated with an area of hardstanding, or access. Underlying the hardstanding layer, a deposit of compact mid grey brown sandy silt (103), with occasional to moderate inclusions of small rounded stones, represented a former topsoil horizon. Beneath this, at a depth of 0.39m below the surrounding ground level (26.77m AOD), natural deposits were encountered (104).

No archaeological finds or features were present within Trench 1.

### *Trench 2 (Fig. 3)*

Initially planned to be orientated WNW-ESE, Trench 2 was re-aligned NE-SW in order to target any potential east-west linear features. Underlying the topsoil, 201, at a depth of 0.13m, layer 202 represented a former hardstanding or access layer, comprising angular stone chips with a thickness of 0.11m (Fig.5 Profile 2). Beneath this 203 comprised compact dark grey brown clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones, with a depth of 0.55m. This lay directly over the natural horizon 204, which varied from a plastic olive brown to a compact orange brown sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones.

Modern truncation had occurred throughout the trench, consisting of a concrete pad foundation in the south and services at the far northern extent of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were present within Trench 2.

*Trench 3 (Fig. 3)*

Located along the western boundary of the site, immediately south of the barns and stables, Trench 3 was orientated ENE-WSW. At 0.20m in thickness (Profile 3), the topsoil 301 overlay a subsoil of plastic dark grey brown sandy silt, with abundant inclusions of medium-small sub-angular stones (302). With a depth of 0.40m, this layer produced a single sherd of early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware. Layer 303, with a depth of 0.26, consisted of friable dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with moderate to frequent small sub-angular stones, which overlay the natural at a overall depth of c.0.94m below the existing ground level ( ).

Within the south-western half of the trench an east-west aligned ditch was recognised. The cut of the ditch, [304], possessed shallow sloping, undulating sides with a width of 2.80m and depth of 0.30m (Fig.5 Section 1). The single fill, 305, consisted of friable dark grey/black sandy/gritty clay silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

*Trench 4 (Fig. 4)*

A similar stratigraphy was recognised in Trench 4 (Fig.5 Profile 4), with the 0.26m thick topsoil, 401, overlying a 0.20m thick subsoil layer comprising compact/plastic dark brown fine clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small rounded stones (402). The natural, 403, was reached at a depth of approximately 0.48m below ground level.

As with Trench 3, an east-west aligned ditch was present within the centre of the trench, with a width of 0.90m, depth of 0.40m and exposed length of 10m. Recorded as [404] the ditch possessed parallel, albeit irregular edges, with relatively steep undulating sides (Fig.5 Section 2). The single fill, (405), comprised plastic dark black/grey sandy clay silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones. Two fragments of handmade brick, dating between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, were retrieved from this deposit.

*Trench 5 (Fig. 4)*

Following the removal of the concrete slab within the centre of the development area, it was decided that Trench 5 be excavated parallel to the longest axis, in order to determine the degree of preservation and/or impact upon potential underlying archaeological deposits. An east-west orientated trench was excavated to a depth of c.0.70m revealing an upper layer of modern demolition debris (501), to a depth of 0.48m, directly overlying the natural, 502 (Fig.5 Profile 5).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

**Conclusion**

Despite being close to the medieval core of the village, no evidence of occupational was found. The material incorporated into ditch [404] suggests a date between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that

both of the ditches represent former drainage channels, and with a parallel orientation and similar characteristics, it also seems likely that they are contemporary.

The lack of earlier or contemporary archaeological material within any of the five trenches would suggest that the proposed development will have little, if any, archaeological impact.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The watching brief and evaluation was carried out by Alec Russell, assisted by Mike Garrett. LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Birch for commissioning the project and Jo Hambly (North Kesteven Heritage Officer) for her advice and assistance.

#### **References**

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Field, N. (2003) *Church Farm, Doddington, Lincs. Proposal for Archaeological Investigation*. Lindsey Archaeological Services

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David Britchfield  
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11<sup>th</sup> July 2003



APPENDIX 1

## APPENDIX 1

## Context Summary: Church Farm, Doddington , Lincolnshire (DCF03)

Context Number	Trench Number	Type	Description
101	1	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with common sub-angular stones
102	1	Layer	Plastic dark grey brown sandy silt, with abundant inclusions of medium-small sub-angular stones
103	1	Layer	Compact mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional to moderate inclusions of small rounded stones
104	1	Natural	Compact mid olive brown sandy silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular stones
201	2	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
202	2	Layer	Hardstanding layer comprising angular stone chips
203	2	Layer	Compact dark grey brown clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
204	2	Natural	Mixture of plastic olive brown and compact orange brown sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
301	3	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
302	3	Layer	Plastic/firm mid orange brown sandy clayey silt, with occasional to moderate small sub-rounded stone
303	3	Layer	Friable dark grey brown sandy clayey silt, with moderate to frequent small sub-angular stone
304	3	Cut	Linear, north-south orientated ditch
305	3	Fill	Fill of [304]. Friable dark grey/black sandy/gritty clay silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
306	3	Natural	Plastic/friable strong orange brown sandy gravel
401	4	Topsoil	Plastic dark grey brown clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
402	4	Subsoil	Compact/plastic dark brown fine clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small rounded stones
403	4	Natural	Plastic/compact dark orange brown sandy clayey silt, with common inclusions of sub-rounded stones
404	4	Cut	Linear, north-south orientated ditch
405	4	Fill	Fill of [404]. Plastic dark black/grey sandy clay silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones
501	5	Layer	Modern demolition debris
502	5	Natural	Compact/friable mid olive brown sandy silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones

APPENDIX 2

# Pottery Archive DCF03

*Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
301	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	jug ?	1	111	base	staffs ?	18th
302	SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	cup ?	1	6	base		early/mid to late 18th

# Tile Archive DCF03

*Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

<b>context</b>	<b>cname</b>	<b>full name</b>	<b>frags</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>date</b>
301	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)	1	444	part of nib	18th to 20th
405	BRK	Brick	1	718	handmade;38mm thick	17th to 19th
405	BRK	Brick	1	298	handmade;35mm thick	17th to 19th

THE FIGURES

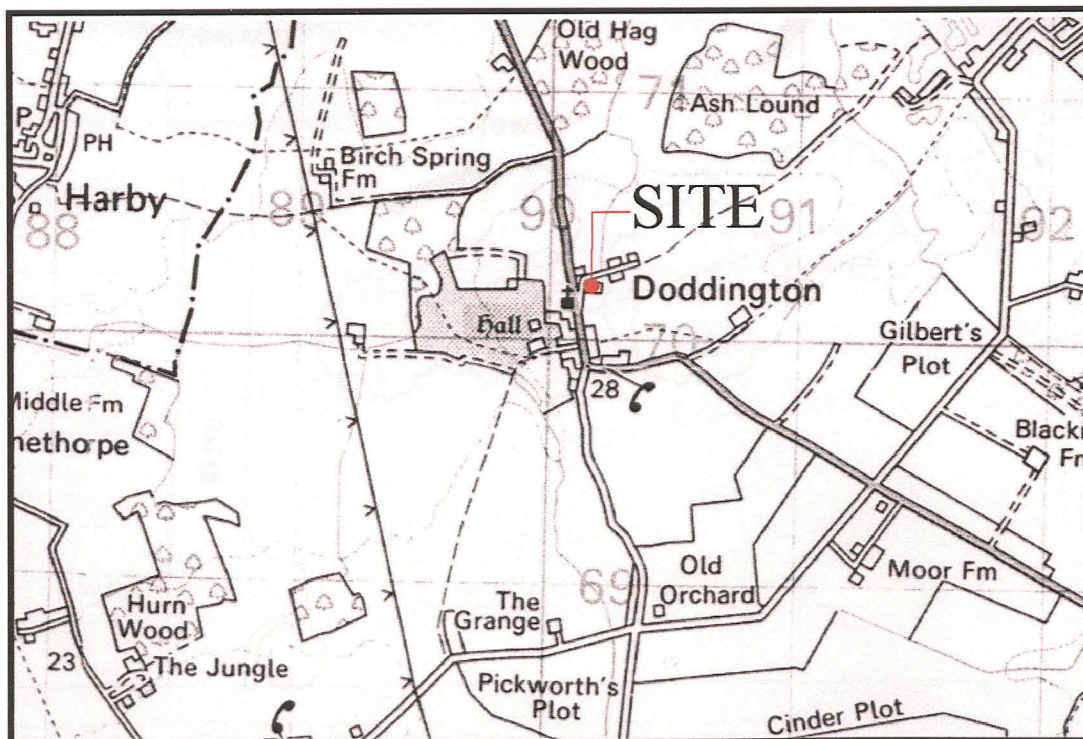
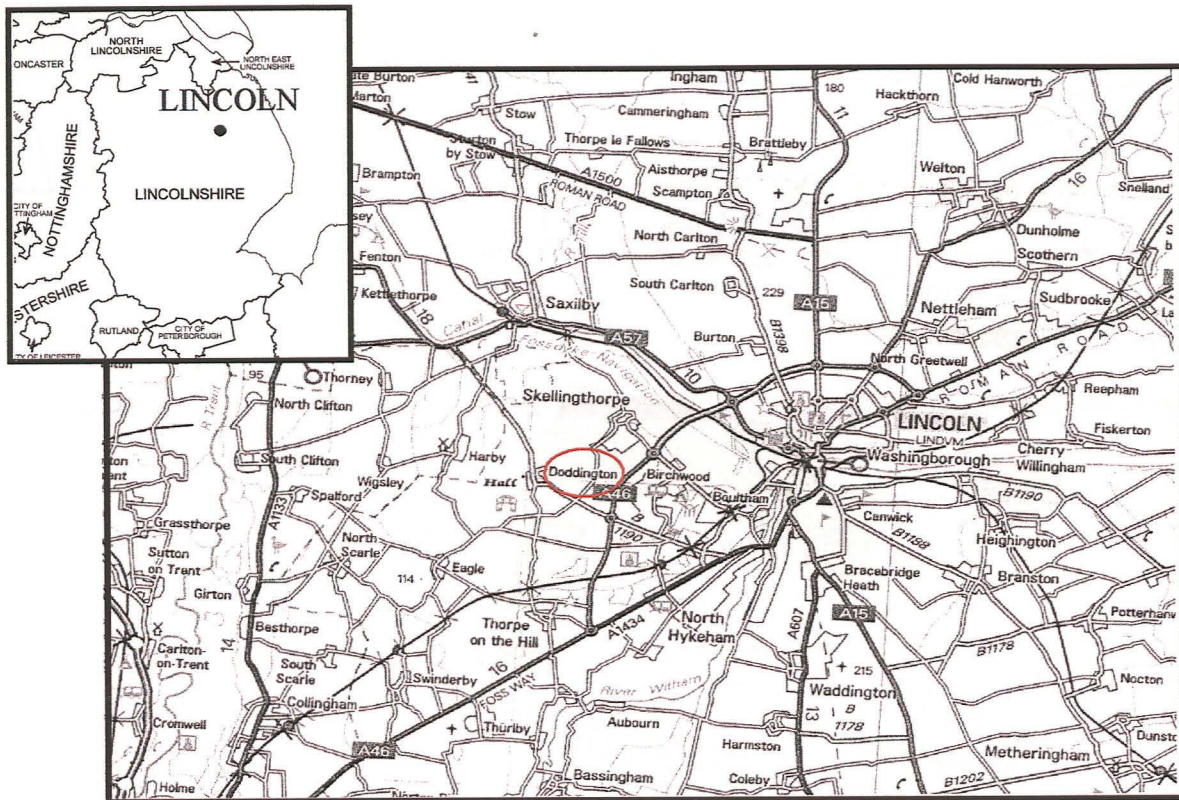


Figure 1. Doddington Location Plan (Lower insert based on the Ordnance Survey :25,000 map, Explorer Series No. 121). Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. 100002165

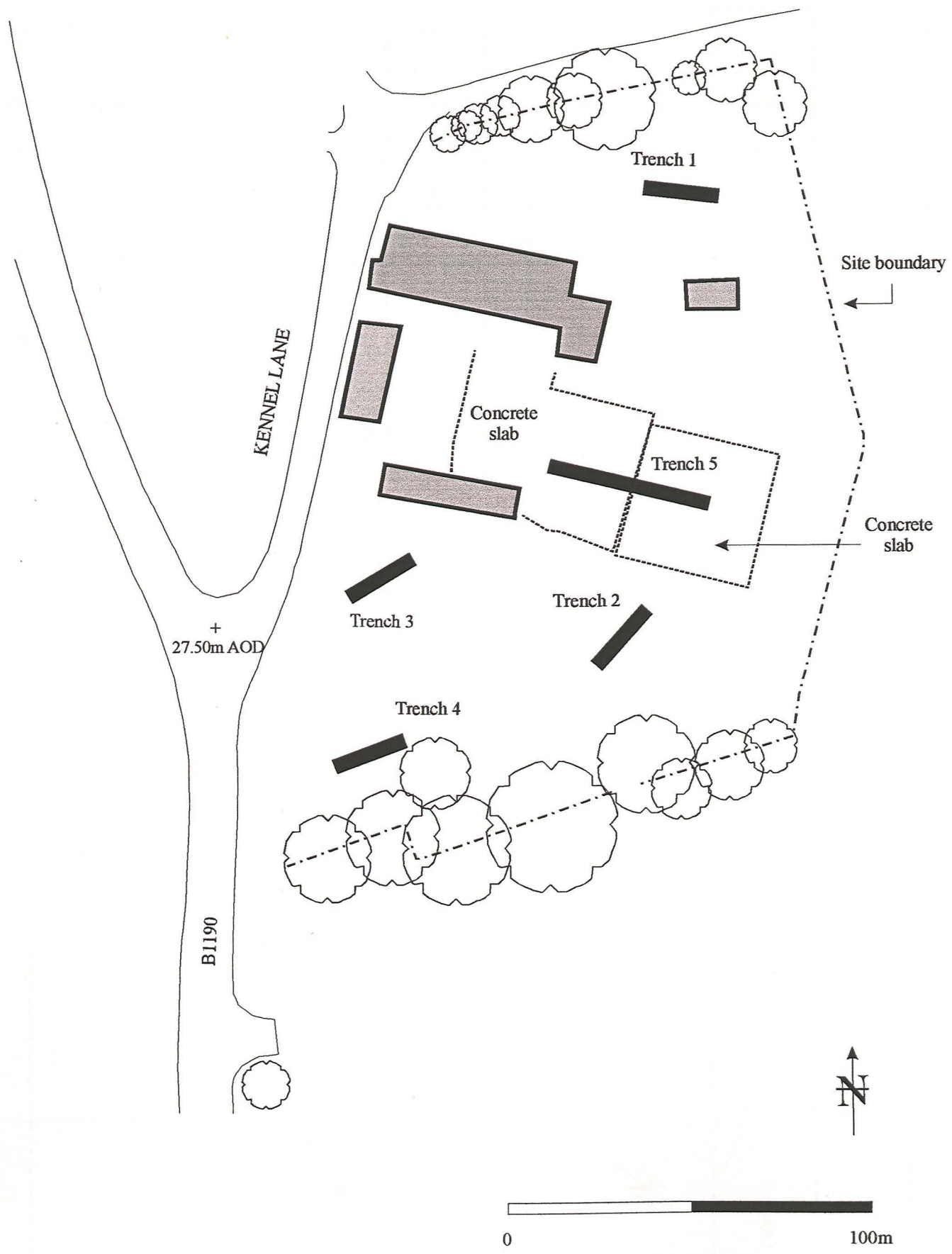


Figure 2. Site Plan



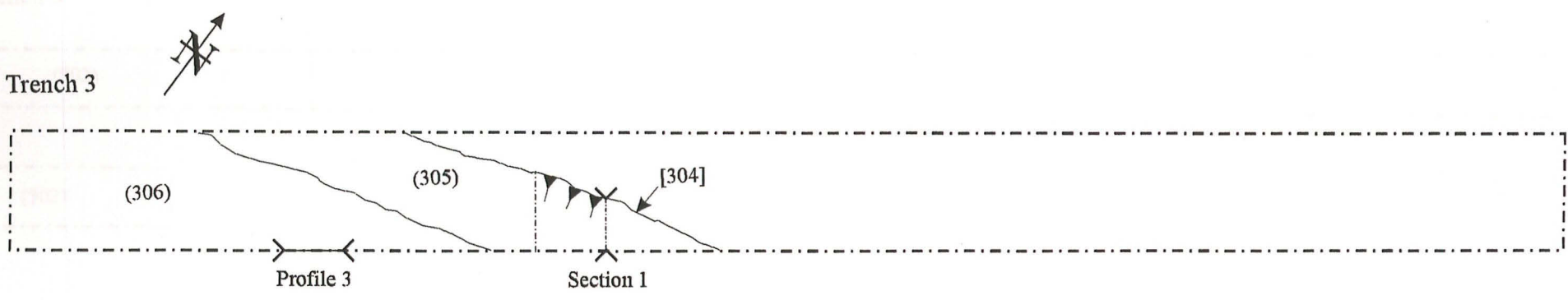
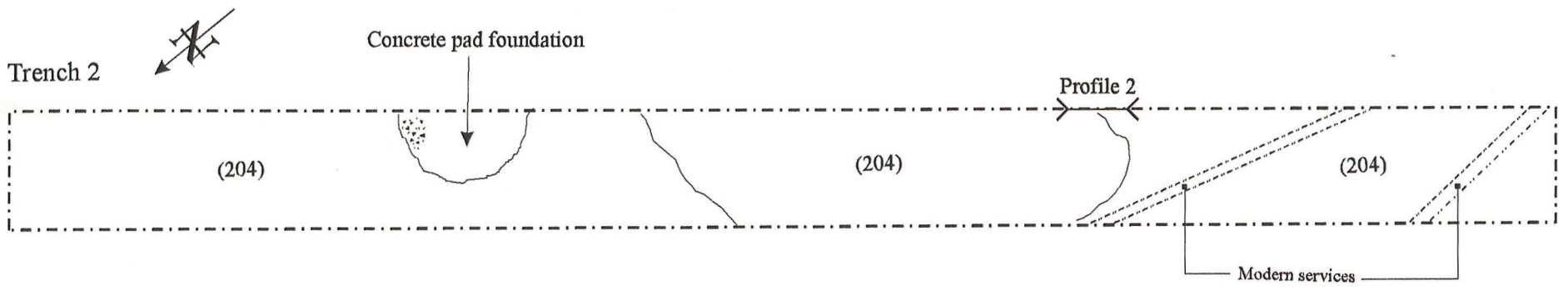
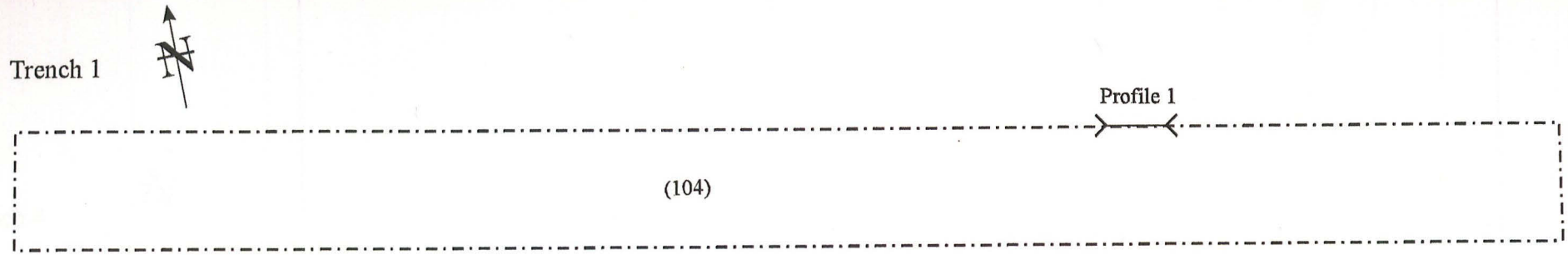
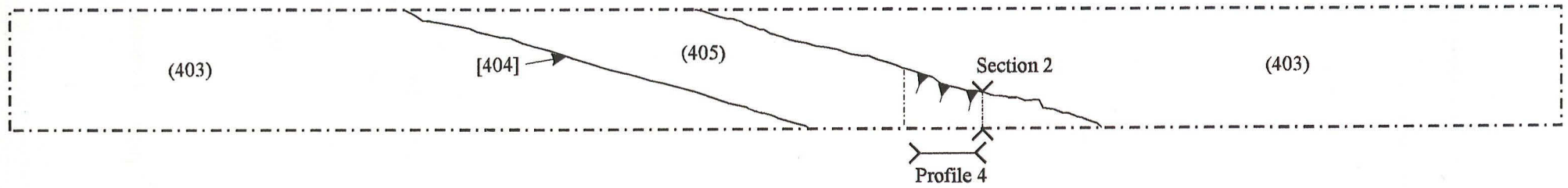


Figure 3. Trench plans 1-3

Trench 4



Trench 5

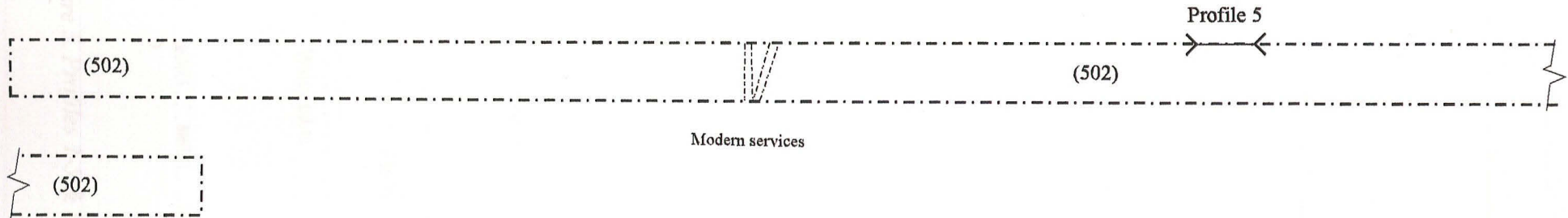


Figure 4. Trench plans 4 &

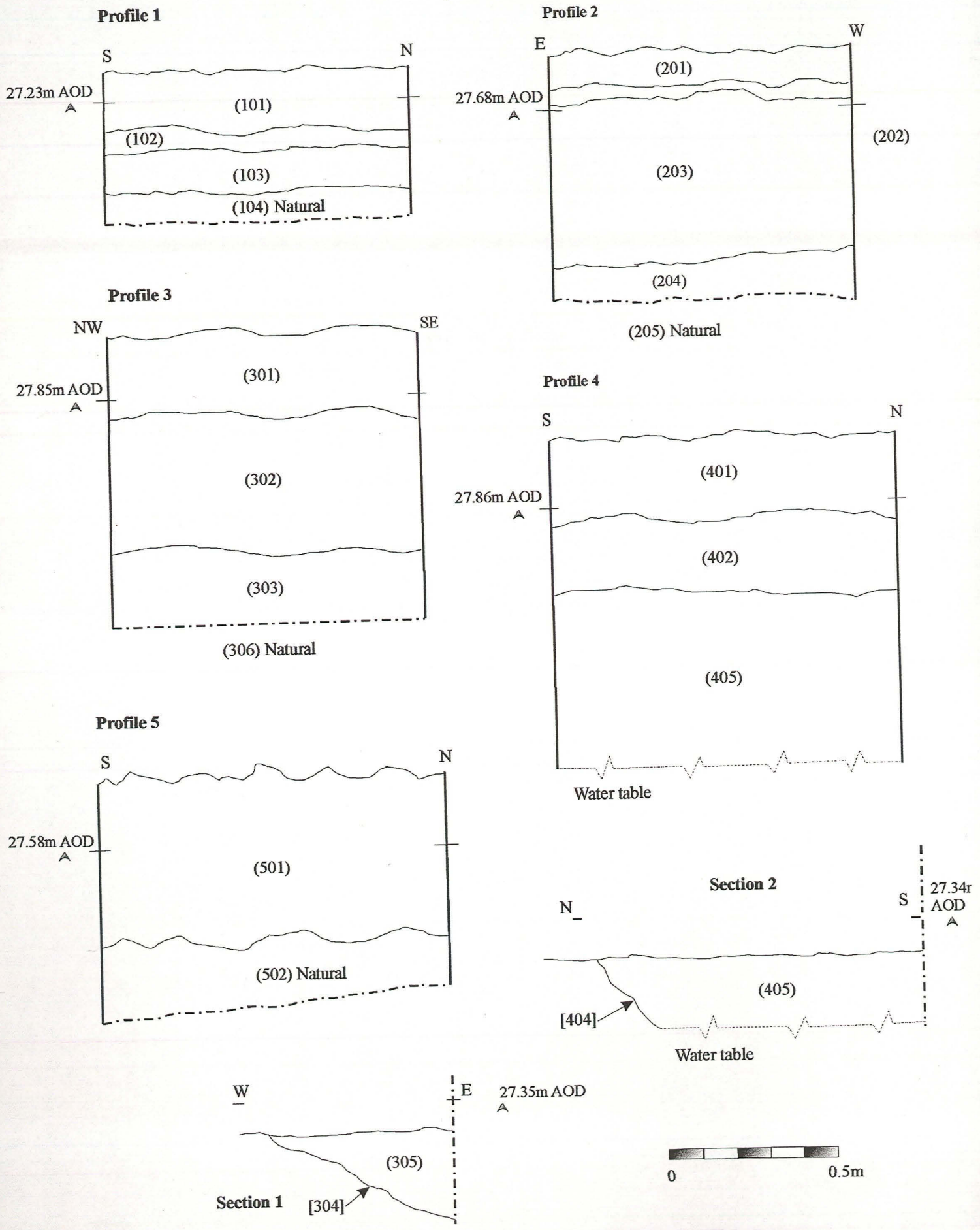


Figure 5. Profiles 1-5 & Sections 1 & 2

THE PLATES



Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, facing east



Plate 2. South facing Profile 1



Plate 3. General view of Trench 3, facing southwest



Plate 4. North facing Profile 3



Plate 5. Ditch [304], Section 1



Plate 6. North facing Profile 4



Plate 7. Ditch [404], Section 2



Plate 8. General view of Trench 4 facing east



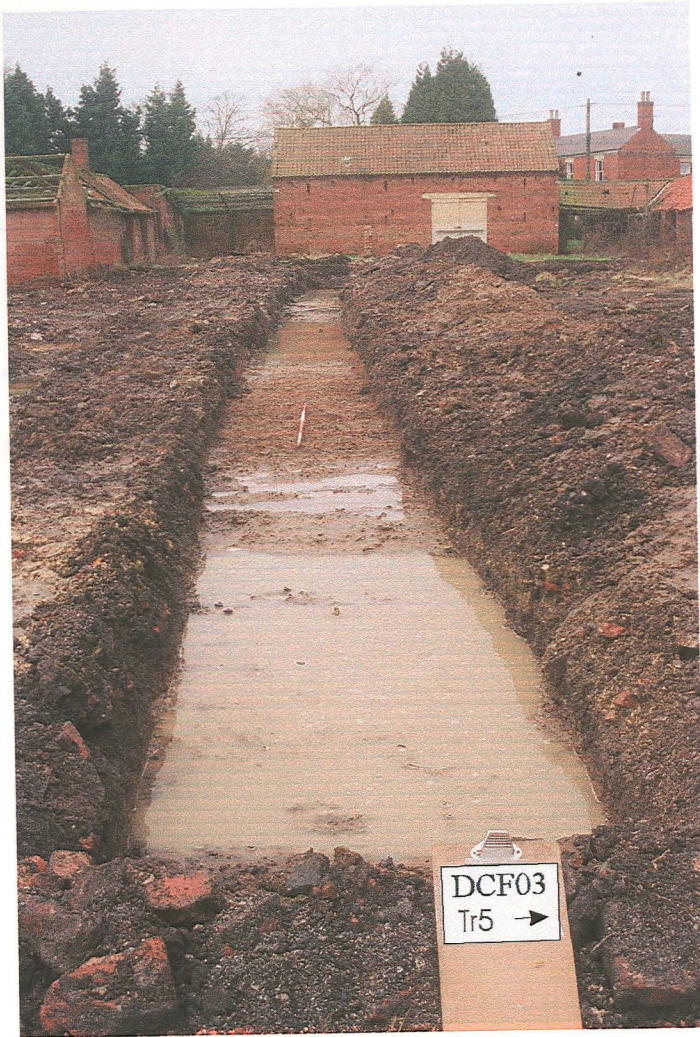


Plate 9. General view of Trench 5, facing west



Plate 10. South facing Profile 5