

M6/6



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land adjacent to Croft House, Main Rd,
Donington on Bain, Lincs
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 23493 82955

Site Code: MRDB 06

Accession No.: 2006.95

Planning Application: N/042/0334/06 (withdrawn)

Report for

Harris Building Services

By

I. M. Rowlandson

**LAS Report No: 920
May 2006**

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Highways & Planning
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Summary

Two evaluation trenches were excavated on a plot adjacent to Croft House, Donington on Bain. Trench 1 revealed a number of pits and ditches which contained medieval pottery and worked flints and a modern wall. Trench 2 located next to Hollings Lane showed evidence for a palaeochannel which had run through the village and drained into the River Bain. After the silting of water channel it was subsequently reused as a trackway through the village in the medieval or post medieval period.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Harris Building Services in April 2006 to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced April 20th 2006 and was completed April 21st 2006.

Site Location and Description (Figs 1-2; Pl. 1)

Donington on Bain is a large village in the Lincolnshire Wolds 8km west of Louth. The proposed development site comprises a rectangular plot of land on the west side of Main Road opposite the parish church. It lay within the grounds of Croft House and there were stables still standing on part of the site. The remainder of the ground was paddock.

Planning Background

A planning application was submitted for residential development of two houses with a detached joint garage. This has been withdrawn subject to the completion of an archaeological assessment of the site. Evaluation trenching was been requested by the Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council (archaeology advisor for East Lindsey).

Archaeological Background

Donington is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is clearly of Saxon origin. The site is located in the centre of the village opposite the parish church and there is potential for medieval and earlier remains on the site. The presence of prehistoric and Roman material cannot be ruled out as this is an area where artefacts of all periods have been found.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose 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 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

Two evaluation trenches, 10 x 2m, were excavated using a JCB Sitemaster, using a toothless dyking bucket, to the first horizon. All machine excavation was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans and sections at a scale of 1:20.

The trenches were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and sections were excavated across features to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should they prove to be necessary.

A temporary bench mark (69.88m) was established on the boundary wall across Hollengs Lane opposite to the site from a bench mark on St. Andrew's Parish Church (70.10m (2d.p.), 230ft) located immediately to the south of the west door carved onto the stonework.

Results

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pls 2-5)

The topsoil (100) was removed by the Sitemaster exposing walls 103 and 114 which were manually cleaned. Topsoil 100 produced a modern pottery and tile and a residual Neolithic end scraper (Appendix 2 and 3). Cutting through the topsoil was a modern oval pit (101). Walls 103 and 114 ran roughly north south and had a well-defined western edge evident at the south end of the trench. The sections were probably the same wall until they were disturbed. No foundation trench was evident, both walls appeared to have been laid on an existing surface. Cutting through walls 103 and 114 was a modern oval pit (125).

Beneath 103/114 was a buried topsoil which produced modern pottery (Appendix 2) and sealed a mid brown clay silt subsoil (104). Beneath the subsoil a curving root disturbance was encountered (123) which contained a dark grey silt with degraded roots (124). It is likely that the disturbance was modern but 123 appeared to be beneath the subsoil 104.

Sealed by the subsoil was a shallow pit or ditch (111) at the southern limit of the trench which contained a mid brown silt (110) and a retouched flint flake (**Appendix 3**). An east-west ditch (132) which contained a grey brown silt (121) cut two pits. An irregular shallow pit 118 which contained an orange grey sand silt (119) which produced a flint core fragment of late Mesolithic to Neolithic date. The other larger pit (120) cut by ditch 132 could not be excavated to its full depth and contained a grey brown silt (121) and a sherd of 10th century pottery (**Appendix 2**).

Pit 120 and another broad shallow pit (116), which produced a pottery sherd dating to the 10th-12th century, cut a north south aligned ditch (112). Ditch 112 contained two fills (113 and 115) but produced no finds.

Ditch 112 cut pit 106 which contained fill 107 but produced no finds. Pit 106 cut the natural orange sand silt 108.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Pls 6-7)

Beneath the topsoil (200) were two modern pits (209 and 216) which contained modern glass and plastic. Cutting the subsoil (201) was a broad water channel 211 which was in excess of 5m in width and contained a number of pale fills deposited it silted up (206, 208, 212, 213, 214 and 215). Cutting the uppermost channel fill was a large pit (204) which contained an orange brown silt clay with a greater humic content than the channel fills fragment of Roman tile (**Appendix 2**). Beneath subsoil 201 was a natural orange sand silt (202).

Discussion

Trench 1 exposed a variety of archaeological features. Although a number contained worked flints it is difficult to assess how much of this material is residual. Only features 111 and 118 did not contain medieval pottery. The limited nature of the investigation and the small collection of flints suggests that occupation was short or episodic (**Appendix 3**). The presence of medieval pottery within two features confirms the anticipated presence medieval activity on the site. Only two sherds of medieval pottery were found during the evaluation in possible well 120 and pit 116. The wall exposed beneath the topsoil 103/114 was of a 19th-20th century date.

Trench 2 suggests a broad watercourse along a similar alignment to the existing Hollengs Lane which had silted up prior to being cut by pit 204. It is possible that the fragment of tegulla from has been redeposited. This is contradicted by the fact that the channel appeared to be stratigraphically above the subsoil 201. Vertical aerial photographs of the village (Getmapping plc.) show a sinuous line which continued west towards the River Bain from the point which Hollengs Lane turns south (**Fig. 5**). The 1789 enclosure award map shows Hollengs Lane but preserves the confluence of the paleochannel with the River Bain in a field boundary. This suggests that that the palaeochannel drained into the River Bain west of the village. It is likely that the channel silted up in the medieval or post-medieval

period. The silted water course was replaced by a slight hollow way which was eroded through the silts forming the slightly banked lane (Pl. 8), perhaps the reason for of the name Hollengs Lane.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed evidence for medieval occupation in the form of a series of pits, probably for dumping rubbish. Worked flints found in some of the features are probably residual but indicate prehistoric activity in the locality.

Ian Rowlandson MA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
May 2006

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr Harris for his help. The author also wishes to thank Pete and Janet Graham and Postmaster Phil Thomas for their interest and freely sharing their local knowledge and documents. Thanks are due to Matt Jordan for his assistance on two very rainy days on site and to Geoff Tann for pointing out the potential of Getmapping. The ceramic report was by written by Jane Young and the lithics report by Jim Rylatt. Illustrations were prepared by the author. This report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Doug Young.

Site Archive

Context and register sheets- 58

Plans and sections- 5 sheets

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 06/22/6-36; 06/35/1-15

Finds list

Specialist report

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Land adjacent to Croft House, Main Rd, Donington on Bain, Lincs: Archaeological Evaluation (MRDB 06)

| Context | Type | Fill of | Description |
|---------|--------------|---------|--|
| 100 | Layer | - | Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt |
| 101 | Cut | - | Modern pit. |
| 102 | Fill | 101 | Dark grey silt occ charcoal |
| 103 | Structure | - | Stone wall |
| 104 | Layer | - | Subsoil. Mid brown clay silt |
| 105 | Layer | - | Buried soil beneath 103. Dark grey clay silt |
| 106 | Cut | - | Ditch |
| 107 | Fill | 106 | Mid brown clay silt |
| 108 | Layer | - | Orange sand silt |
| 109 | VOID | - | VOID |
| 110 | Fill | 111 | Mid brown clay silt |
| 111 | Cut | - | Shallow ditch or pit |
| 112 | Cut | - | Ditch, north- south aligned |
| 113 | Fill | 112 | Pale grey silt |
| 114 | Structure | - | Stone wall |
| 115 | Fill | 112 | Pink orange silt |
| 116 | Cut | - | Pit |
| 117 | Fill | 117 | Mid grey clay silt |
| 118 | Cut | - | Shallow pit |
| 119 | Fill | 118 | Orange grey sand silt |
| 120 | Cut | - | Deep pit |
| 121 | Fill | 132 | Grey brown silt |
| 122 | Fill | 120 | Grey brown clay silt |
| 123 | Tree Rooting | - | Curving tree rooting |
| 124 | Tree Rooting | 123 | Dark grey silt with degraded tree root |
| 125 | Cut | - | Modern pit |
| 126 | Fill | - | Dark grey sand silt occ mussel shell |
| 127 | VOID | - | VOID |
| 128 | Cut | - | Posthole |
| 129 | Fill | 128 | Mid grey clay silt |
| 130 | Cut | - | Small pit |
| 131 | Fill | 130 | Mid grey silt with orange mottles |
| 132 | Cut | - | East- west ditch |
| 200 | Layer | - | As 100 |
| 201 | Layer | - | As 104 |
| 202 | Layer | - | As 108 |
| 203 | VOID | - | VOID |
| 204 | Cut | - | Pit |
| 205 | Fill | 204 | Orange brown silt clay, occ stone |
| 206 | Fill | 211 | Med- dark orange brown sand clay |
| 207 | VOID | - | VOID |
| 208 | Fill | 211 | Grey sand clay |
| 209 | Cut | - | Modern square pit |
| 210 | Fill | 209 | Dark grey black silt and modern bottles |
| 211 | Channel | | Broad channel in excess of 5m wide |

| | | | |
|-----|------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 212 | Fill | 211 | Grey orange sand silt |
| 213 | Fill | 211 | Mottled grey orange sand silt |
| 214 | Fill | 211 | Light brown orange sand silt |
| 215 | Fill | 211 | Dark grey silt sand |
| 216 | Cut | - | Modern pit |
| 217 | Fill | 216 | Grey black silt |

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive Donnington On Bain, Land to the Rear of Croft House, Main Road (MRDB06)

Jane Young

| context | cname | full name | sub fabric | form type | sherds | weight | part | description | date |
|---------|-------|---|------------|------------|--------|--------|------|---|------------------------|
| 100 | BL | Black-glazed wares | | large bowl | 1 | 39 | rim | discarded | 19th to 20th |
| 105 | ENGs | Unspecified English Stoneware | | jar | 1 | 28 | BS | discarded | 19th to 20th |
| 117 | NLQS | North Lincolnshire Quartz and Shell Fabrics | | jar/bowl | 1 | 52 | base | wide based;soot part ext;carbonised deposit int & over breaks;leached;? ID;abundant fine subround to round quartz common fine-medium shell carbonised veg | 10th to 12th |
| 122 | LSH | Lincoln shelly ware | A | bowl | 1 | 8 | rim | inturned rim;leached;soot ? | early/mid to late 10th |

Ceramic Building Material Archive

Donnington On Bain, Land to the Rear of Croft House, Main Road (MRDB06)

Jane Young

| context | cname | full name | fabric | sub type | frags | weight | description | date |
|---------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------|-------|--------|---|-------------------|
| 100 | FLOOR | Floor tile | fine red fabric | | 1 | 98 | abraded upper;discarded | 18th to 20th |
| 100 | BRKDISC | Brick (discarded) | orange fabric | | 1 | 55 | little quartz | 18th to 20th |
| 100 | BRKDISC | Brick (discarded) | poorly sorted fabric | | 1 | 34 | | 18th to 20th |
| 100 | MODTILDISC | Modern tile (discarded) | semi-vitrified | | 1 | 329 | square floor tile | 19th to 20th |
| 100 | PNRDISC | Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile | fine orange fabric | | 1 | 146 | | 18th to 20th |
| 105 | NIB | Nibbed tile | oxidised med sandy | moulded | 1 | 21 | very abraded;common fine-medium subround quartz moderate fe | late 12th to 13th |
| 205 | TEG | Tegula | OX/R/OX;fine-med sandy | | 1 | 377 | flange;sanded sides & base;part trimmed side;abundant fine quartz sparse larger sparse ca sparse fe | Roman |

APPENDIX 3

**Land near Croft House,
Main Road, Donington on Bain,
Lincolnshire
MRDB 06**

Lithic Materials: Assessment

Report by Jim Rylatt – May 2006

1.0 Introduction

This report concerns an assemblage of lithic material recovered during an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land adjacent to Croft House, Donington on Bain, Lincolnshire. A total of five pieces of struck or modified flint were retrieved, which weighed a total of 84 grams, together with two pieces created by natural thermal fractures. The items with diagnostic traits were indicative of activity beginning in the later Mesolithic or early Neolithic and possibly extending to the Bronze Age. The different elements of this collection comprised one end scraper, one retouched flake, one core fragment and two chunks.

2.0 Method of study

All of the artefacts that were submitted were physically examined in order to create an archive catalogue. The attributes of each piece were noted to determine its position in the reduction sequence, any observable characteristics of the reduction technology and an assessment of its functional potential. The catalogue also records the presence of patination, cortex, and whether any piece has been burnt. Additionally, metrical data was recorded for complete flakes, and each piece was weighed. Some artefacts were also examined with a x3 hand-lens to determine whether there was any evidence of localised modification that could be indicative of use.

3.0 Comments

This is an extremely small assemblage, which makes it very difficult to establish its chronological attributes, and prevents any determination of its character. Despite these limitations, certain observations can be made about elements of the collection.

One piece, the core fragment (*SF 3*), exhibits traits indicative of blade manufacture. These traits include the creation of parallel-sided pieces, structured removal from curated cores and careful platform edge preparation. Small blades/bladelets were produced, which appear to have been detached by indirect percussion (using a punch). These morphological characteristics are indicative of Mesolithic or early Neolithic industries. The end scraper (*SF 2*) is produced on a relatively broad, but thin blank. Its form is paralleled in both early Neolithic and later Neolithic assemblages. The retouched flake (*SF 8*) is an expedient tool without morphological characteristics that would provide a secure date for manufacture.

One of the pieces of irregular waste (*SF 1*) preserves evidence of two distinct phases of core reduction. The patinated scars resulting from the first episode probably reflect the production of blades and/or flakes from a curated core, which is suggestive of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic activity. Several unpatinated scars were probably created at the same time as this chunk broke away from the core; this indicates that a much older, abandoned core was picked up and reworked. The gross difference in the level of patination between the two phases suggests that the second event occurred during the later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

All of the struck lithic artefacts examined were produced from flint. Where cortical surfaces survived it was possible to establish that the raw materials were derived from secondary deposits; the cores and secondary flakes have areas of thin, abraded cortex. This collection included a high proportion of irregular waste, with many of the pieces being relatively large (16.8g mean weight). This suggests that there was a plentiful supply of raw material in the immediate area. The site is situated close to the river Bain, suggesting that this section of the valley contains outcropping glacio-fluvial sheet deposits that incorporate flint pebbles. The collection of flint from secondary deposits is likely to have been a relatively expedient process. This may simply have involved the inspection of tree throws, or the banks of streams and other adjacent bodies of moving water (Edmonds, 1995). Alternatively, the creation of slight delves into the upper surface of out cropping gravel beds may have proved to be a more reliable means of acquisition, and could potentially account for some of the more irregular earthcut features encountered in the area.

The presence of the core fragment and irregular waste indicates that core reduction was undertaken on or very near the site, but the small size of the assemblage implies that this is unlikely to have been a significant activity.

None of the collection exhibited any evidence of thermal damage that could have been caused by burning. Consequently, there is no indication that that fires or hearths were created in the immediate vicinity of this site during the period when these prehistoric artefacts were deposited.

4.0 Conclusions

The recovery of five pieces of worked flint provides an indication of human activity in the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period, with visitations continuing into the later Neolithic or Bronze Age. However, the limited quantity of artefacts suggests there was no sustained activity or occupation, and that any prehistoric visits were episodic and brief. It appears likely that flint could be procured in the immediate vicinity, making it possible some visits were partially or primarily motivated by a desire to obtain raw materials, which were transformed into cores that would be used in the production of tools at other locations.

MRDB 06: worked and modified lithic materials

| C'text no. | SF no. | Type | Date | Weight (g) | Size (mm) | Cortex | Recort. | Burnt | Retouch | Platf | Bulb | Term | P-dep damage | Comments |
|------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|--------------|---|
| 100 | 2 | end scraper (T) | Neo | 10.8 | 47x33 | | partly | | yes | comp | pron | feath | yes | relatively thin hard hammer flake, with dorsal scar indicating removal of similar; larger invasive flakes removed along both lateral edges, with careful serial removal of small abrupt flakes and spalls along dist end, also poss retouch (backing) across platf - diffuse polish and wear along ventral side of dist margin = use-wear; slight post-dep chipping to margins, notch at centre of 1 lat edge, poss later reuse of tool, but most likely post-dep damage; mottled caramel-brown to mid-grey opaque flint, with black inclusions |
| 110 | 8 | retouched flake (S) | | 8.1 | 30x29 | 20 T.A | partly | | yes | flat | pron | feath | no | slightly irreg hard hammer flake; 1 lat edge cortical, medial section of other has series v small semi-abrupt spalls detached - ventral margin has slight diffuse polish; expedient tool; greyish-brown semi trans flint |
| 119 | 3 | core frag (S) | L.Mes/E.Neo | 13.4 | no | 10 T.R.A | | | | | | | no | frag from small blade or flake & blade core, flint flawed with insipient fractures; surviving section of platf edge indicates removal of small blades/bladelets - small pronounced bulbs suggest use of punch - core has platf edge prep; greyish-brown semi-trans flint |
| 121 | 1 | chunk (S) | | 17.9 | no | 50 T.R.A | partly | | | | | | no | irreg waste from flawed core with insipient fractures; dorsal scars of four previous removals - 2 during same event as creation of piece, 2 much earlier with partial patination and some evidence of platf edge prep - latter prob result from removals from a Mes/E.Neo type B flake & blade core: piece therefore likely to be result of expedient production, on reused core, in L.Neo to LBA; pale brownish-grey opaque Wolds flint |
| 122 | 4 | chunk (S) | | 33.6 | no | 30 T.A | | | | | | | | irreg waste, with flake scars; mid brownish-grey opaque Wolds flint, chalky and dark-grey inclusions |

MRDB 06: worked and modified lithic materials

Summary:

| No. of finds | Type | Date | Weight (g) | Complete | Recort. | Burnt | Retouch | Platf | Bulb | Term | P-dep damage |
|--------------|--|------------------------|------------|---------------|----------|-------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| 5 | end scraper 1 retouched flake 1 core frag 1 chunk 2 | L.Mes/E.Neo 1 Neo 1 | 83.8 | yes 2 no 3 | partly 3 | | yes 2 | flat 1 comp 1 | pron 2 | feath 2 | yes1 no 3 |

THE FIGURES

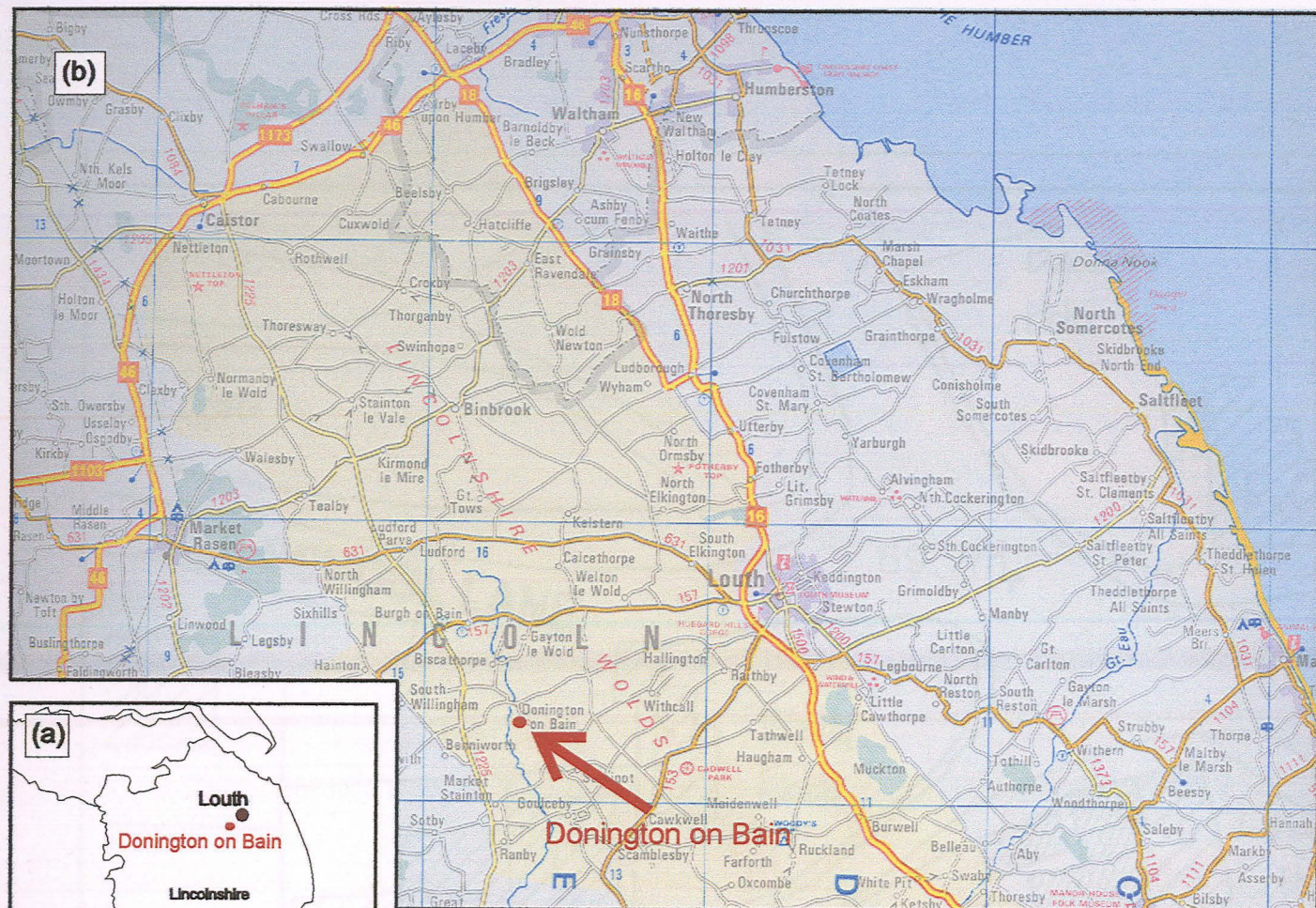


Fig. 1 Location of the Site. c) reproduced from the 1999 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer 282 map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO © Crown copyright. LAS Licence No: AL 10000265.

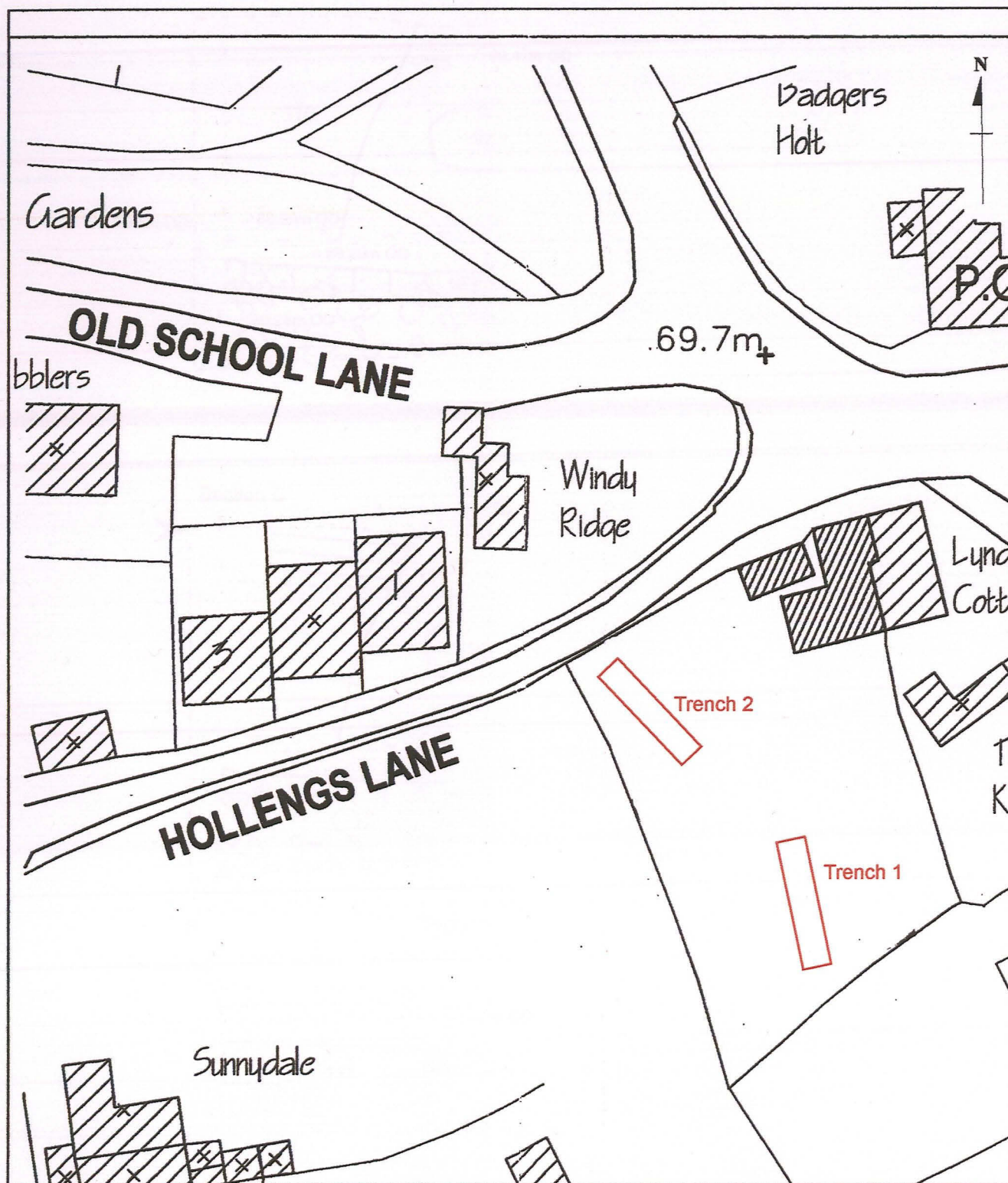


Fig. 2 Location of trenches (after 1:500 Block Plan supplied by the client).

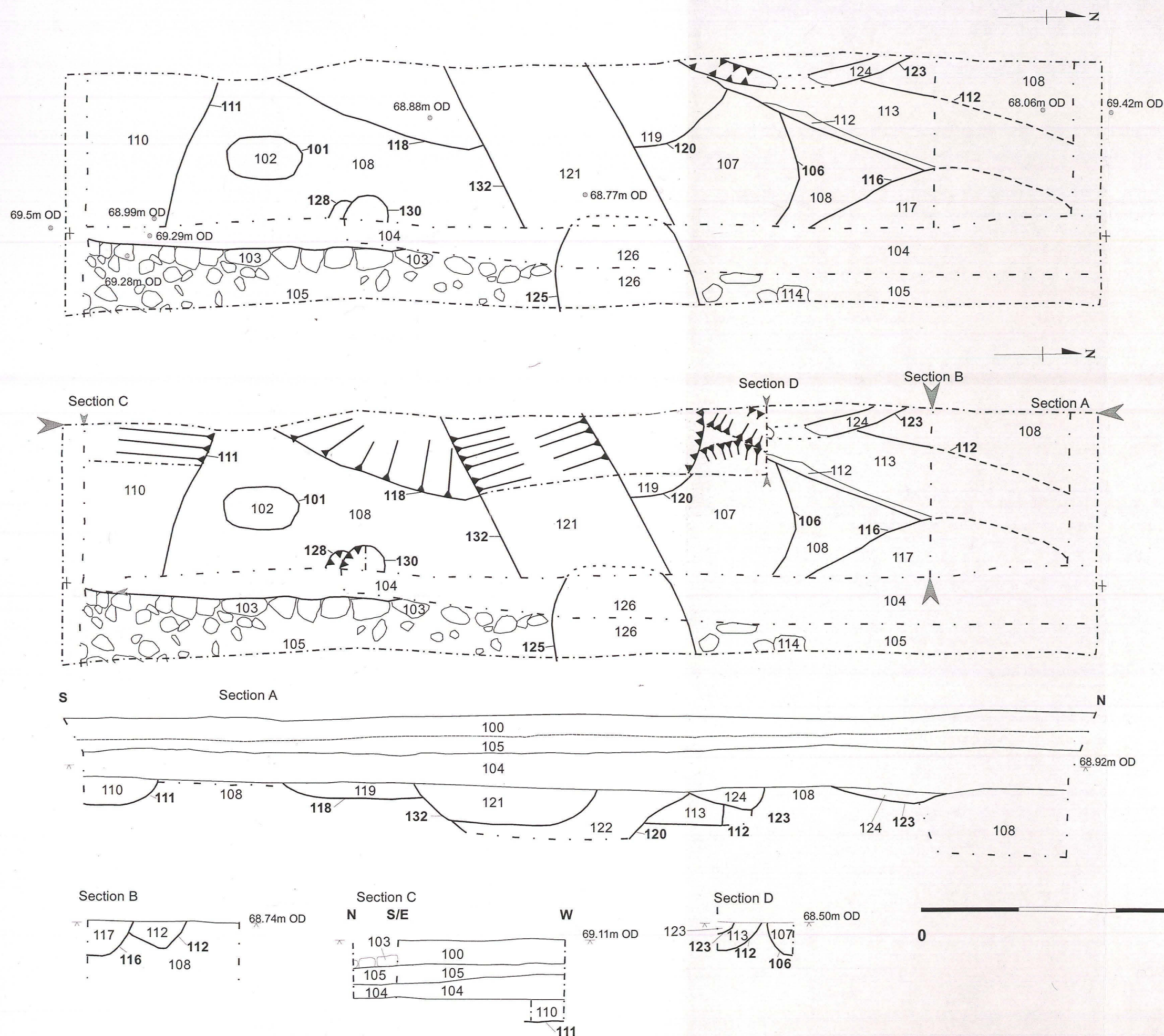


Fig. 3 Trench 1, plans and sections.

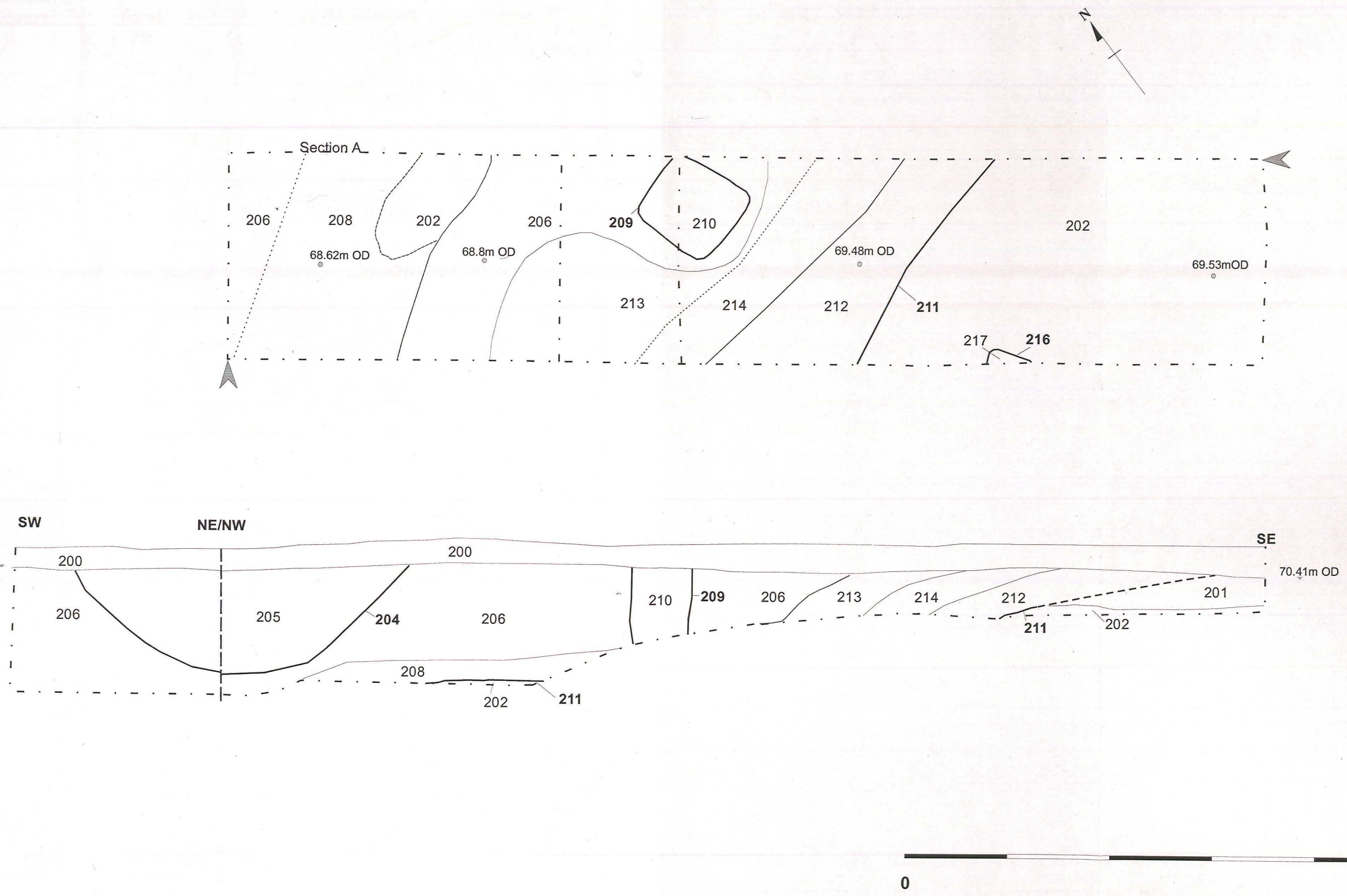
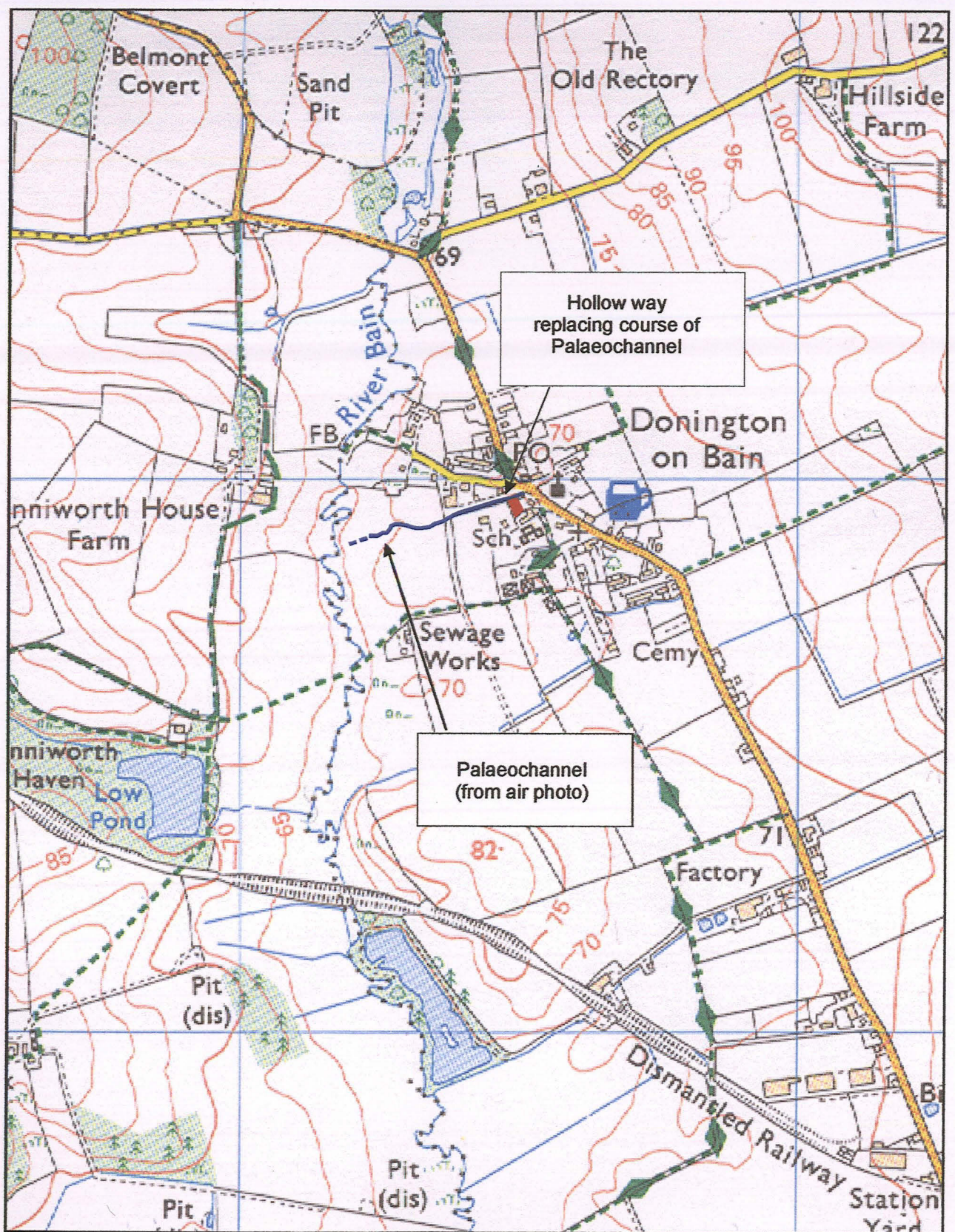


Fig. 4 Trench 2, plan and section.



Pl. 5 Palaeochannel and hollow way, scale 1:5000 (after vertical aerial photo, Get Mapping plc and a re-scaled OS 1:25,000 Explorer Map revised 1999).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Looking north across the site.



Pl. 2 Looking north at Trench 1, scales 1m.



Pl. 3 Trench 1, looking east at sondage cut up against wall 103, scale 0.5m.



Pl. 4 (above) Trench 1, looking west after excavation of features 118, 132, 120, 106, 112 and 123. Scale 1m.



Pl. 5 (left) Trench 1, looking north after excavation. Scales 1m.



Pl. 6 (left) Trench 2, looking northeast. Scales 1m.

Pl. 7 (below) Trench 2, pit 204, looking east. Scale 1m.





Pl. 8 Looking east along Hollengs Lane, the site lies beyond the trees.