

M6/8

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION.
FORMER JEWSONS YARD,
TATTERSHALL ROAD, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**
NGR: TF 3258 4456
SITE CODE: TREB 06
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2006.151
PCA REFERENCE 250



Report prepared for
Focus Consultants
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Summary

- *A program of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on a site situated off Tattershall Road, Boston, Lincolnshire prior to its proposed redevelopment.*
- *The majority of the site was found to consist of made ground deposits relating to the reclaiming of the area in the post medieval period, although the earliest of these may have dated to the late medieval era.*
- *A large ditch, recorded in the southern half of the site, was found to date to the early modern period.*

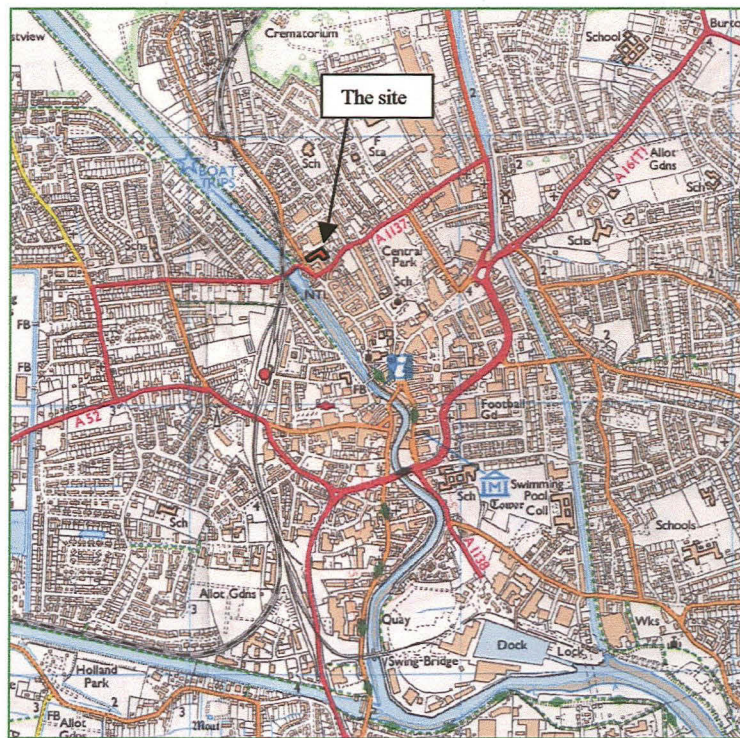


Figure 1: Location of site at scale 1:25000
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Focus Consultants to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to the proposed development of the former Jewsons Yard off Tattershall, Road, Lincolnshire. This was to fulfil a brief prepared by the Boston Planning Archaeologist.

This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, IFA (1994) and the *Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 1998)

2.0 Site location and description

Boston lies in the administrative district of Boston Borough, approximately 53km east-south-east of Newark and 49km north-east of Peterborough. The site is located to the north west of the town centre and comprises a tarmac and reinforced concrete yard of the former Jewsons builders' merchants. It is bordered to the south and east by housing and by Tattershall road and commercial premises to the west and north respectively. The majority of the southern half of the site is occupied by a large warehouse building. The site slopes gently from its Tattershall road frontage to the east, dropping approximately 1m in height.

The underlying drift geology comprises The Barroway Drove Beds, a series of marine saltmarsh alluvial deposits, under which is the Ancholme Group of mudstones. (British Geological Survey, 1995).

The central grid reference is TF 3258 4456

3.0 Planning background

The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning application for the prospective residential development of the site. This report details the results of this work. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *PPG16* (1990).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Boston emerged in earnest as a port and planned town soon after the Norman Conquest and prospered largely through trade with the Low Countries. There is some debate as to the exact location of the 'barditch', which served as a defensive line around the town during this early period, but it is known to have extended to land not far to the south of the site.

Previous archaeological fieldwork projects in the area of new residences on the southern boundary of the site and also approximately 70m to the southeast at 21 Norfolk Street

have revealed later medieval deposits of the 13th to 15th centuries including cut features containing pottery and evidence of cereal processing. The medieval town is known to have grown beyond the limits of the barditch and these remains may attest to this.

Some land in the area is known to have been 'reclaimed' in the late or post medieval periods but the exact nature and extent of this activity is uncertain.

5.0 Methodology

The evaluation methodology required the investigation of 4 trial excavation trenches. These were located in order to best determine the nature of deposits across the whole site. 3 of the trenches measured 1.6m wide by 20m long, whilst the remainder was 15m long.

All exposed surfaces were examined and cleaned. The trenches were recorded in section drawings at 1:50. Written accounts were prepared on pro forma context record sheets. Colour and black and white photographic records were maintained throughout the project, and selected prints have been reproduced in this report.

Will Munford and Chris Swales, undertook the excavation and recording of the trenches between the 3rd and the 9th May 2006.

6.0 Results

Trenches 1 to 3.

Trenches 1 to 3 contained between 3 or 4 superimposed layers of silty clay of varying dark grey and brown hues from 1.5m to 0.50m below the existing ground surface. They contained large lumps of brick and tile and also fragments of pottery, which indicate that they were deliberate deposits, intended to raise the level of the site, rather than natural accumulation. The majority of pottery from these layers ranged in date from the post medieval period to the early modern.

In trench 1 a single sherd of pottery dating from between the mid 15th to 17th centuries was recovered from the earliest layer. In theory, therefore, this deposit could have been created in the late medieval period, however the corresponding layer in trench 2 contained later pottery of early modern date, so it is likely that the earlier find in trench 1 was residual.

A thin seam of lightly coloured sandy silt was recorded lying between the two uppermost made ground deposits in both trenches 1 and 2 indicating an episode of flooding.

In trench 3 the made ground layers had been heavily disturbed throughout by tree roots and in trench 2 a number of small pits and postholes containing 19th century finds truncated the made ground layers.

The remnants of a cobbled surface and brick walls associated with finds from the 19th and 20th centuries overlay the made ground deposits in trench 1.

Trench 4.

A natural substratum consisting of light yellow brown silty clay was recorded within trench 4 at a height of approximately 2.00mOD. Natural seams were not reached in any of the other trenches even though trenches 2 and 3 were excavated to greater relative depths. This indicates a significant rise in the underlying strata within the southern half of the site.

This natural stratum was truncated to an approximate depth of 3.5m by a large brown silty clay filled ditch which was on an east west alignment at the north eastern end of the trench. The fill contained one residual sherd of medieval pottery and a number of ceramic fragments of post medieval and early modern date including pieces of pottery, brick and a pantile dating from the 18th to 20th centuries. This ditch appeared to have been re-cut both by a large channel on its original alignment and by a smaller ditch on its southern edge. Finds suggest this re-cutting occurred in the early modern period.

A very large pit containing early modern finds also truncated the natural substrata at the southern end of trench 4 and a brick built culvert, which was also early modern in date, crossed the centre of the trench.

All of the trenches were sealed by a substantial layer of modern rubble. This varied in depth increasing from west to east and represented a final effort to level the site prior to the laying of the concrete and tarmac hard standings.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The only archaeological deposit of possible significance revealed in this work is that at the base of Trench 1, which could be of late medieval date. However there is evidence in Trench 2 which indicates that it dates to the post medieval or later periods. Either way the considerable depth of this deposit should merit it good protection from development.

Whilst the large ditch in trench 4 was initially thought to be a medieval feature, the subsequent identification of later artefacts has demonstrated the contrary and the datable re-cuts at the top of the ditch show that the feature was still partially in use in the early modern period. However such channels and ditches in the area tend to have been long lived and there remains the possibility that these re-cuts indicate the reuse of a much older feature. It therefore could contain earlier undisturbed deposits at its base, but the field work has shown these are unlikely to exist at any depth where they would be unduly affected by development.

The general paucity of medieval remains revealed in comparison to other fieldwork in the area may be explained by the fact the majority of the site is some distance from the

historic street frontages, where previous finds were made and where activity would have been concentrated.

The fluctuations in the height of the natural substrata across the site suggest that the made ground layers in the northern half of it were deposited to compensate for a natural hollow, which prevented its occupation. The finds indicate that this process occurred in the post medieval although earlier attempts may be found at deeper levels. However, as mentioned, the depth of these deposits probably rules out the development of the site impacting significant archaeological resources anywhere in the northern half of the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed in this field evaluation has been effective and appropriate. It has provided the information necessary to assess the impact of the whole development of the site upon archaeological resources.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Focus Consultants for this commission and for their help and co-operation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1995. *Boston. England and Wales Sheet 128. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

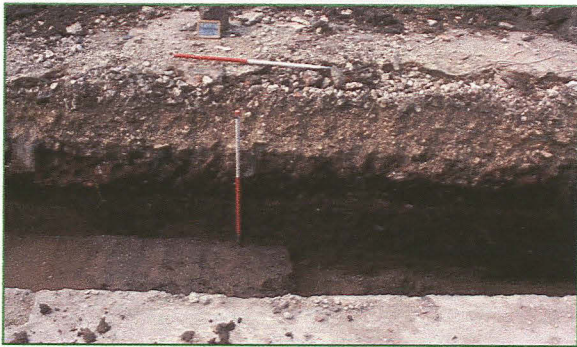
11.0 Site Archive

The site archive (documentary) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office within six months. Access may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2006.151

Appendix 1: Colour Plates.



Pl. 1. Trench 1, looking east.



Pl. 2. Sample section Trench 1, looking south.



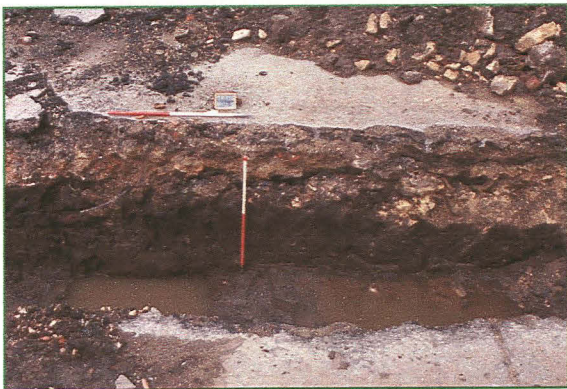
Pl.3. Trench 2, looking north east.



Pl. 4. Sample section Trench 2,
looking north west.



Pl. 5. Trench 3, looking
north east.



Pl. 6. Sample section 1, looking
South.



Pl. 7. Trench 4, looking east.



Pl. 8. Ditch [419], looking south west.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench 1

- 101 – Layer of brick rubble directly below very recent stone.
- 102 – Layer of rubble rich soil overlying cobbled surface.
- 103 - Cobbled surface with infill of dark brown silty clay.
- 104 – Series of north west south east aligned brick foundations.
- 105 – Layer of subsoil seemingly associated with (104) and (103)
- 106 - Layer of made ground, mid greyish brown silty clay.
- 107 - Dark brownish grey silty clay, horizon of made ground.
- 108 – Light greyish brown sandy silt, flood deposit.
- 109- Deep layer of made ground, dark brownish grey silty clay.

Trench 2

- 200 – Concrete surface for modern yard
- 201 – Bedding layer modern concrete yard
- 202 – Post med made ground, dark greyish brown silty clay
- 203 – Dark greyish brown silty clay, post med made ground.
- 204 – Light greyish grey clayey clay, confined to eastern end of trench
- 205 – Mid greyish brown silty clay, made ground.
- 206 - Light grey clay, made ground.
- 207 - Mid greyish brown silty clay made ground deposit
- 208 - Cut for small pit
- 209 – Dark greyish brown silty clay, fill of pit 208
- 210 – Large post hole cut
- 211 – Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 210
- 212 – Cut for post hole
- 213 – Light grey silty clay, fill of 212
- 214 – Cut for posthole
- 215 – Light grey silty clay, fill of 214
- 216 - Cut for posthole
- 217 – Dark greyish brown silty clay, fill of 216
- 218 – Layer of redeposited clay
- 219 – Mid greyish brown silty clay, made ground layer.

Trench 3

- 301 – Dark greyish brown silty clay, made ground.
- 302 – Mid orangey brown silty clay, made ground.
- 303 – Dark greyish brown silty clay made ground.
- 304 – Mid brownish grey silty clay made ground.
- 305 – Dark brownish grey silty clay, made grond.
- 306 – Dark brownish grey silty clay, fill of pit 307
- 307 – U shaped pit cut or large posthole

Trench 4

- 400 – Concrete surface
- 401 – Stone beneath concrete
- 402 – Dark brown grey silty clay, made ground
- 403 – Mid reddish brown silty clay, made ground
- 404 – Light yellow brown silty clay, natural
- 405 – Pit cut
- 406 - Mid greyish brown silty clay, fill of 405
- 407 – Cut for brick culvert
- 408 - Red brick early modern culvert
- 409 – Mid grey brown silty clay, fill of 407
- 410 – Void
- 411 – Void
- 412 – Cut of east west aligned ditch
- 413 – Mid grey brown silty clay, fill of 412.
- 414 – Cut for ditch east west aligned
- 415 – Mid grey brown silty clay, fill of ditch 414
- 416 – Cut of ditch, east west aligned ditch
- 417 – Mid grey brown silty clay, fill of 416
- 418 – Cut of east west ditch
- 419 – Mid grey brown silty clayey loam, fill of 418.

Appendix 3: Pottery Archive

Context	Full Name sub fabric	Form type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Date
105	Transfer printed ware	plate	6	1	47	BS	19th
109	Toynnton/Bolingbroke wares	bowl	1	1	23	BS	mid 15th to 17th
202	Unspecified English Stoneware	bottle	1	1	18	BS	19th to 20th
204	Staffordshi cream fabric	cup	1	1	1	BS	late 17th to 18th
209	Transfer printed ware	plate	1	1	66	rim to base	19th
209	Transfer printed ware	flat	1	1	7	base	19th
209	Transfer printed ware	cup	1	1	2	BS	19th
218	Glazed Red Earthenware	jar ?	1	1	44	base	17th to 18th
218	Brown glazed earthenware	large bowl	1	1	70	rim	17th to 18th
402	Modern whiteware	flat	1	1	1	BS	19th to 20th
402	Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	1	44	rim	18th to 19th
402	Creamware	hollow	1	1	11	BS	mid/late 18th to 19th
402	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	flat	1	1	1	BS	18th
417	Glazed Red Earthenware	mug/jug	1	1	5	BS	mid/late 16th to mid 17th
417	Staffordshi cream fabric	press mould dish	1	1	7	BS	mid/late 17th to mid 18th
419	Toynnton Medieval Ware	jug	1	1	11	BS	
419	Glazed Red Earthenware	cup/mug ?	1	1	8	base	17th to 18th
419	Glazed Red Earthenware	jar	1	1	5	neck	17th to 18th
419	Unidentifie hard red fabric	small dish/bowl	1	1	5	rim	late 17th to 19th

Appendix 4: Ceramic building material Archive

Context	Code name	Full name	Fabric	Frag	Weight	Description	Date
201	BRK	Brick	hard orange fabric	1	48	fabric includes fe & shale/fired clay inclusions;35mm thick	15th to 18th
218	BRK	Brick	hard orange fabric	1	2288	fabric virtually inclusionless;mortar;handmade;sunken margins;struck upper;bedded on organic & coarse sand;sanded sides;near complete;215+x126x53mm	14th to 16th
218	BRK	Brick	hard orange fabric	1	1385	fabric virtually inclusionless;mortar;handmade;sunken margins;struck upper;bedded on organic & coarse sand;sanded sides;half brick;?x130x53mm	14th to 16th
218	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine sandy	1	141	thick flat roofer or thin floor	18th to 20th
218	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 1	1	86	flat roofer	13th to 16th
417	BRK	Brick	hard red silty fabric comm fe	1	8	handmade	14th to 18th
419	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)	hard orange fabric	1	1166	soot	late 18th to 20th

Appendix 5

Assessment of finds from Tattershall Road, Boston (TREB-06)

Alan Vince

A small collection of artefacts from archaeological fieldwork at Tattershall Road, Boston, carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd was submitted for identification and assessment. None of the submitted finds, which consist of clay tobacco pipes and glass (Table 1) appears to be earlier than the mid 18th century.

Table 1

class	cname	209	219	402	417	Grand Total
CTP	PIPECLAY		1	2	1	4
PMGL	PMGL	2		2	1	5
Grand Total		2	1	4	2	9

Description

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Four fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. Three of these were stems, whose bore diameters suggest a late 18th or 19th-century date, and one was a fragment from a bowl rim, showing that the pipe was undecorated and with a small bulbous bowl, typical of 19th-century examples.

Glass

Five fragments of glass were recorded. One of these, from context 417, is from a thin-walled bottle whose overall shape suggests a "mallet" or "tall" form. The fragment is heavily weathered, which suggests a date in the mid 18th-century or earlier (there was evidently a change in glass composition after this date which makes more recent glass more stable).

Two fragments from near-identical moulded bottles of mid 19th century or later date were recorded from context 209.

Two fragments of glass, both melted, were recovered from context 402. The colour of the glass (clear and light green) suggest a 19th century date.

Assessment

None of the finds require further treatment. Since they are all from stratified contexts they should all be retained for potential future study. The glass fragment from context 417 may require special storage conditions and should be submitted for a conservation assessment.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006071.pdf>

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Object	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Description	Condition
402	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	3	BOWL	PROB 19TH C;PLAIN WITH NO ROULETTE AT RIM	
402	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	2	BS	2.4-2.8MM BORE DIAM L18TH/19TH C	
417	PMGL	PMGL		BOT	1	1	3	BS	POSSIBLE MALLET BUT THIN WALLED	WEATHERED
417	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	6	BS	2.0-2.4MM BORE DIAM L18TH/19TH C	
209	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	2	2	131	B	MOULDED BOTTLES;M19TH+	
402	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	-	1	1	3	BS		BURNT/MELTED
402	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	-	1	1	19	BS		BURNT/MELTED
219	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	2	BS	2.8MM BORE DIAM; L18TH/19TH C	

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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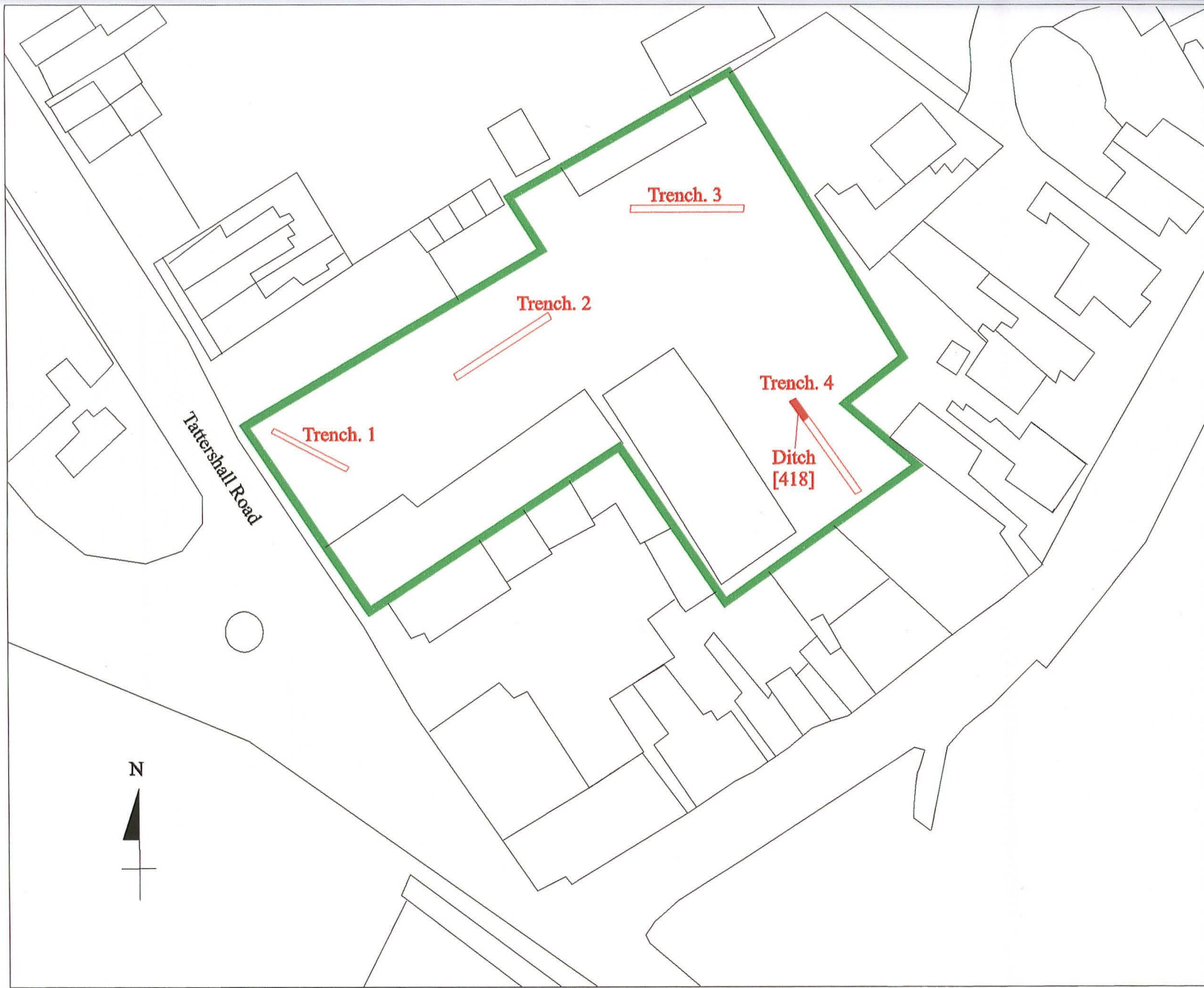


Fig. 2. The development site outlined in green with the four evaluation trenches and the position of ditch [419] highlighted in red. Scale 1:1000

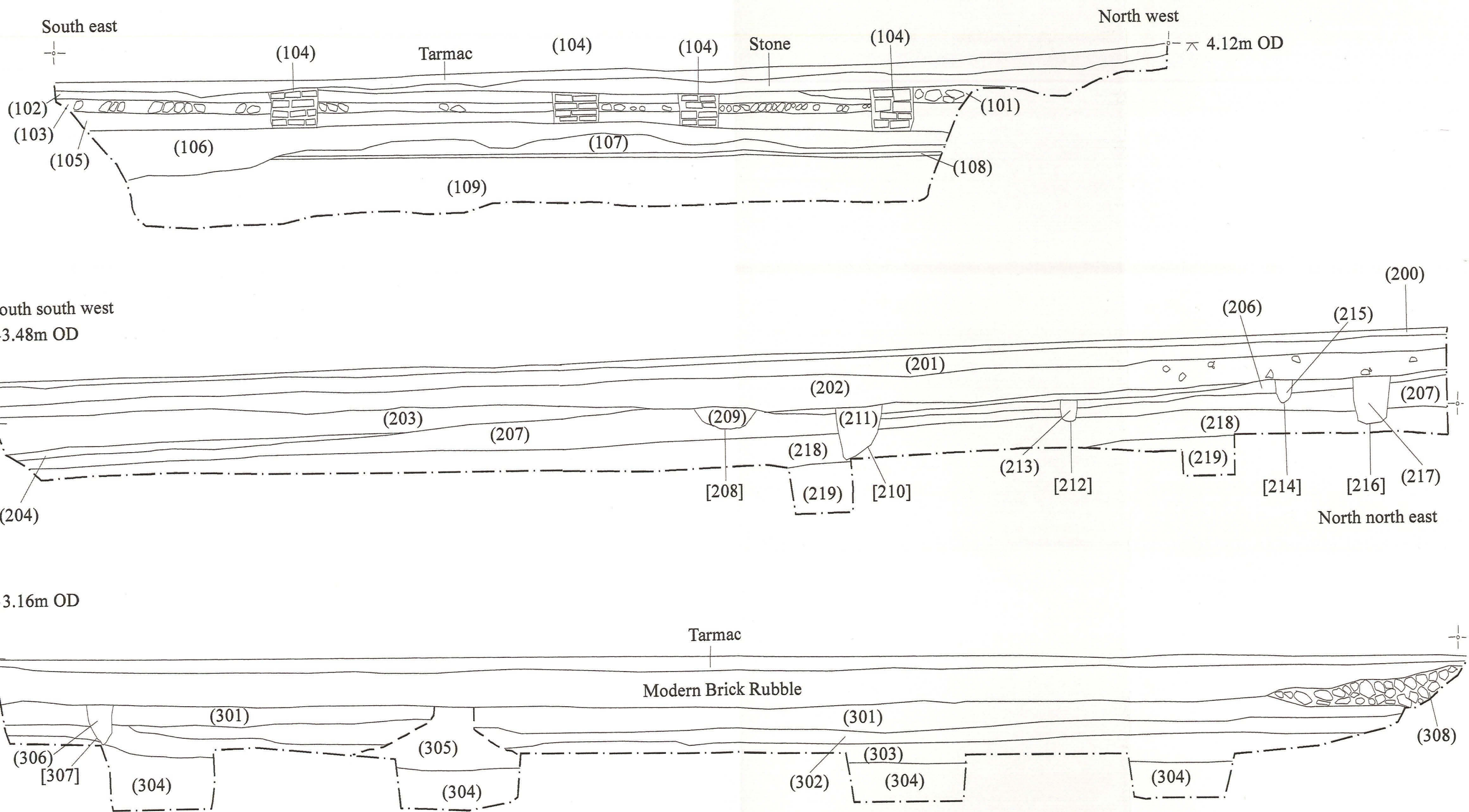


Fig. 3. Sections of trenches 1 to 3 at scale 1:50

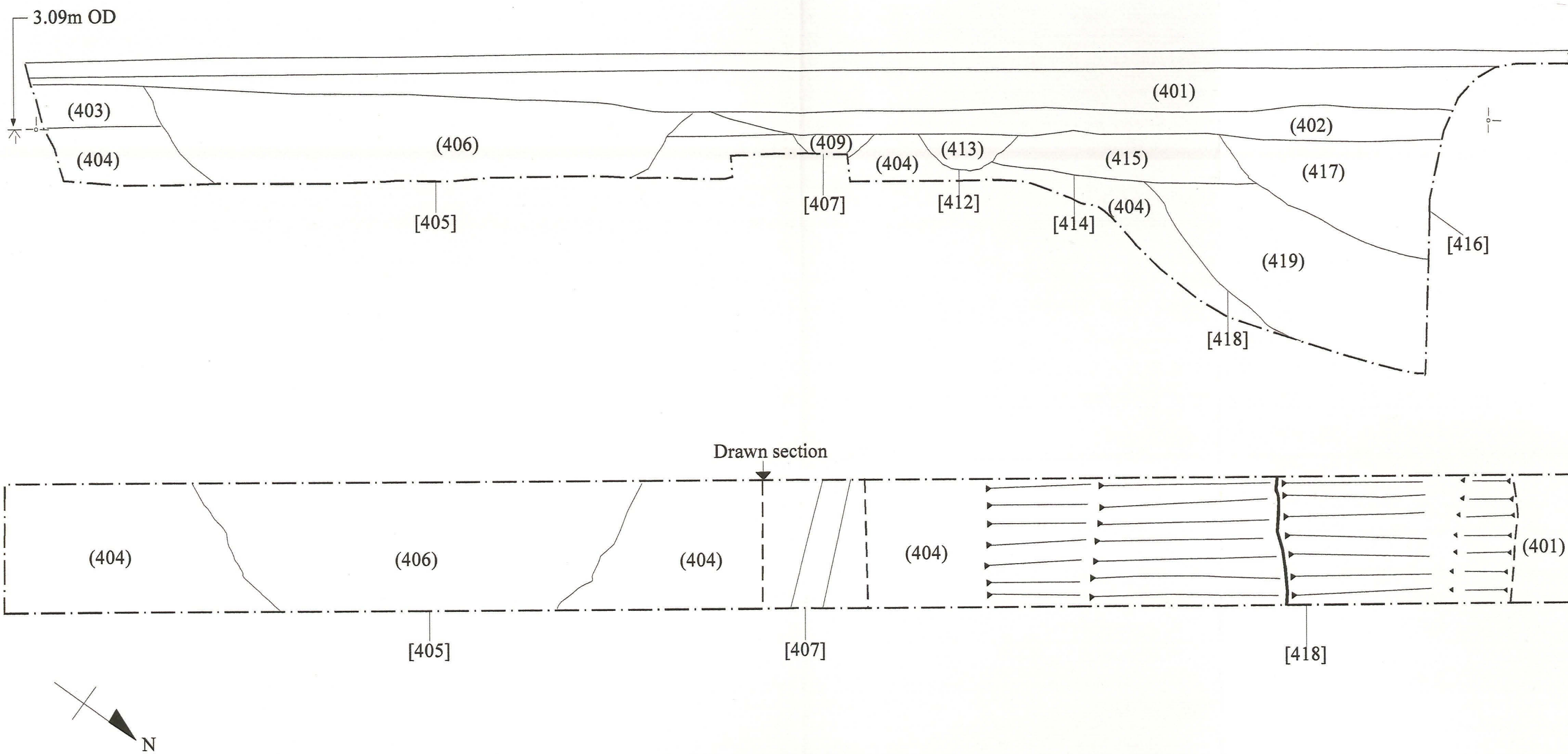


Fig. 4. Trench 4 section and plan. Scale 1:50.