

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ON LAND AT

DUNELM FARM

RICCALL

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

Phase 1

Humber Archaeology Report No.394

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January 2012

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1 Summary

This assessment report presents the initial results of the first phase of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Dunelm Farm, Riccall, East Riding of Yorkshire, in January 2012. It will be followed by a full report upon completion of a second phase of works, which will include specialist assessments combining the results of both.

The four trenches provided evidence for possible early post-medieval activity (17th/early 18th century) in the form of several pits, linear features and silt-filled hollows which appear to represent sporadic occupation of the area, possibly related to the farmhouse to the north or a predecessor. A boundary ditch may also have been cut along the southern edge of the site following the line of present Carr Lane.

This was followed by ground-raising dumps, further pitting and the planting of a hedgerow, as well as land drainage during the course of the 18th and early 19th century. A possible yard south of the present farm was replaced in the mid 18th-century by a Primitive Methodist Chapel, of which one foundation was recorded.

In the 20th century, the area was covered by several phases of agricultural sheds and Dutch barns, of which several postholes were recorded. In the later 20th and early 21st century, the site was cleared of the chapel and farm buildings, and has remained derelict.

The report concludes that there is no indication of medieval activity, suggesting the site was peripheral to the main settlement until the construction of Dunelm Farm, followed by the chapel. The proposed development will therefore have little impact. There will however be a second phase of work on the western half of the site, consisting of monitored site stripping; following this, a combined report will be issued, contained final conclusions, revised phasing, and completed specialist assessments.

2 Introduction

2.1 Site background

In early 2012, an archaeological evaluation, consisting of four trial trenches was carried out over a period of two weeks by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) on land at Dunelm Farm, Riccall, North Riding of Yorkshire (Site Code DFR 2011; National Grid Reference SE 6202 3773; see Fig 1). The work was commissioned by the client, Linden Homes North, in support of their proposals to construct infill housing on an empty site in the centre of the town.

All of the former agricultural buildings and a 19th-century chapel have been demolished, leaving the concrete yards and building footings in situ; the former farmhouse remains on its own separate plot immediately to the north. The site as a whole is bounded to the north, south and west by village housing, some of which appears fairly modern, and to the east by the roughly north-north-west to south-south-east line of Main Street.

As it was considered likely that below ground works would encounter archaeological remains, a Desk-Based Assessment of Archaeological Potential (DBA) was commissioned by the client (Brigham 2011a). The DBA comprised the collation and evaluation of existing information, including records of previous discoveries in the general area, historic map and documentary evidence and a site walkover survey. This identified, as far as was possible, the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual and potential archaeological resource, as well as making recommendations for a programme of archaeological fieldwork. It was suggested that evidence for possible medieval/early post-medieval occupation might be present and the eastern half of the site was considered suitable for trial trenching. The western half of the site, which was overgrown and contained areas of giant hogweed, was considered more suitable for monitored site stripping ('strip, map and record') following removal of the vegetation and potentially contaminated topsoil.

The Local Planning Authority, Selby District Council, approved the DBA recommendations as representing a suitable archaeological scheme. A programme of evaluation by trial trenching on the eastern half of the site was therefore agreed, with the proviso that this was to be undertaken as a pre-determination exercise, to be followed, should planning consent be given, by monitored site stripping on the western half in response to a planning condition which would be included in the Notice of Decision. Accordingly, HFA supplied a specification detailing the proposed staged scheme to the LPA for their approval (Brigham 2011b), in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, which replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning, in 2010, and Selby District Council Policy ENV28.

The first stage of the evaluation (trial trenching) was subsequently carried out by HFA in accordance with the specification and the stated planning policies.

The purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence, condition, extent, date and quality of archaeological remains in advance of a proposed development, in order to provide sufficient information to allow the production of a mitigation strategy for dealing with any remains, and for their future management.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

This short section is intended to summarise possible features of the site, and give a general context for the area.

Natural topography and geology

The village stands at *c* 9–10m OD on a ridge overlooking the River Ouse, which passes on a meandering course to the west. The surface falls to the river to *c* 3–4m OD, although flood banks protect the lower-lying areas which were historically seasonally-flooded ‘ings’.

The subsoil below Riccall is classified by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as deep permeable sandy soil of the Blackwood soil association (821b), overlying sands deposited as glaciofluvial drift. These deposits were covered to the west of the village near the Ouse by marine alluvium of the Romney association (532b). Below this at depth is the Bunter Sandstone.

The sandy soil has encouraged the formation of heathland; the partly windblown nature of the subsoil can be seen in relic dunes to the east on Riccall and Skipwith Commons.

Archaeological and historical background

The proposal area is situated in the southern part of the historic village of Riccall in a block of land defined by long-established streets, and containing the medieval church of St Mary.

The prominent topographic location of the site suggests that it may have been attractive to early settlers. On Skipwith Common to the east, there are Bronze Age burial mounds, banks and ditches, an Iron Age enclosure, with a Romano-British enclosure and traces of cropmarks of field systems and trackways in the area. Similar features are undoubtedly present across the Riccall area as a whole.

The present village lies on the York to Selby road and has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period, appearing as *Richale* in Domesday Book (1086). The name possibly derived from *Ricas+halh*, ‘corner of land belonging to Rica’; the ‘corner’ element (*halh*) probably refers to the prominent bend in the River Ouse below the village to the west. This is an early placename formation, possibly suggesting an early or middle Saxon settlement. Certainly light, well-drained sandy land close to rivers or watercourses seem to have attracted early Saxon settlers elsewhere in Britain, in contrast to the heavier claylands: East Heselton (North Yorkshire), Dryham Lane and Sancton (East Yorkshire), Flixborough (North Lincolnshire) and Lakenheath, West Stow and Sutton Hoo (Suffolk) are all settlements or cemeteries located on sandy subsoil. The presence of a settlement or cemetery on a ridge next to a river bend would have made the site of

Riccall prominent, particularly for waterborne travellers, although it also lies on the road from Selby to York. It was probably this combination of factors which caused the Norwegian army of Harald Hardrada to land at Riccall in 1066 before marching to Fulford, York, where he was defeated by Harold II (Harold Godwinson).

At the time of Domesday, there were two estates or manors in the village, one belonging to the Archbishop of York, the other to Harold II. The former descended through various hands, and was based from at least as early as *c* 1295 at a moated manor house located to the west of the village; this was used from 1869 as the vicarage of St Mary's Church, and buildings still remain on the outskirts of the village, with traces of a moat. The second manor became part of the Bishop of Durham's estate after Harold was defeated at Hastings; the manor house, called Wheel Hall, remained as part of the see of Durham until 1836, eventually being sold to Lord Wenlock. Again the site of Wheel Hall remains west of the village next to the Ouse and the York Road, although occupied now by an 18th-century farmhouse, with traces of the moat.

A third holding emerged in the 16th century, based on Riccall Hall, located south of Back Lane. The Hall itself was demolished in 1951–2, and the present house of that name was converted from outbuildings and stables within the remains of the gardens.

The present layout of the village broadly represents its medieval form, with Silver Street and Main Street forming the principal framework, and Church Street, Coppergate and Station Road as subsidiary centres. Silver Street forms two sides of a triangular area which may have been an early market place next to the church, although there is only a reference to a market and fair being granted in 1350. St Mary's Church includes a 12th-century doorway and other 12th- and 13th-century elements, although the remainder of the church has been substantially rebuilt several times, including a thorough 19th-century reconstruction of the tower. Much of the present village is made up of 18th- to 20th-century buildings, including several farmsteads; at least one earlier timber-framed building survives, Bangram Hill Farm, north-east of the village centre.

The first edition 6" series Ordnance Survey (1851) shows that the proposal site itself site was originally subdivided into two narrow east–west plots which could suggest that the area was occupied in the medieval period by tenements. If this were the case, it might indicate that the historic street frontages include a number of burgage plots which reverted to fields, and in some cases were not built on for several centuries, by which time the boundaries had often been altered or several plots amalgamated. The proposal site could have been subdivided into two possible medieval plots: the presence of medieval and earlier post-medieval structures on the frontage, with pits, boundary ditches, outbuildings etc to the rear cannot therefore be ruled out.

These plots widened considerably towards the west where they abutted yards or gardens to the rear of buildings fronting Church Street. In the northern plot by 1851 was the farm house itself with several outbuildings in an adjacent yard and a paddock or orchard extending westward. The appearance of the farmhouse suggests that it was built in the late 18th/early 19th century. At the frontage of the southern plot south of an entrance track next to the farmhouse was a smaller building with a possible attached outshot or extension to the rear, within a small yard or garden. There seems to have been a gap in the fence or hedge to the rear of the yard leading into an orchard, implying that the rear of the southern property had already been amalgamated with the northern property.

As the site already formed part of the village's built up area, it was not affected by the 1883 enclosure of the remaining fields and commons, and the enclosure plan consequently shows no detail. The second edition 1:10560 (6") Ordnance Survey of c 1890 shows that a Methodist Chapel had been built on the frontage of the southern plot; this was probably one recorded as being constructed for the Primitive Methodists in 1857, last used as a place of worship in the 1930s, and only recently demolished. It replaced an earlier chapel, possibly the building shown on the same site in 1851, although not labelled as such. By this time, the fields to the rear had been subdivided differently; instead of being split longitudinally into two relatively narrow strips, a single L-shaped western field was created by amalgamating the rear of the two properties and dividing it from the area to the rear of the farm and chapel using a north-south hedge or wall. The chapel was now clearly only left with a small yard, with the farmstead wrapped around the west side. The 1:2500 (25") 1910 Ordnance Survey shows the layout of the farm much more clearly, and by now it included the L-shaped farmhouse itself with an open-fronted building, probably a cart shed, immediately to the rear, and three further buildings surrounding a yard which was open to the south-east. There was a new building to the rear of the existing farmstead, which may have been an open-sided 'Dutch' barn located parallel to the field boundary.

The 1937 1:2500 edition showed a further east-west 'Dutch' barn to the south and a new building at the north end of the earlier barn. The Methodist Chapel also had outbuildings to the rear, which may have been a hall and/or schoolroom, as these were common features of chapels in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The enlarged L-shaped field to the rear had lost the 'tail' at the west end to the property to adjacent house fronting Church Street, reducing it to a simpler rectangle.

Around the time of World War 2, the chapel changed use, and it was no longer shown as such in post-war map editions, although the building layout appears to have remained the same until final demolition of all the buildings on the site with the exception of the farm, in the early 21st century.

In summary, there was clearly potential for medieval and earlier post-medieval remains to be present within the proposal area. It was less certain whether the recently-demolished structures, including substantial areas of floors and hardstandings, had damaged or destroyed any potential remains. The presence of prehistoric, Romano-British and earlier medieval features could also not be ruled out.

3 The Excavation

3.1 Methodology

Four trenches were excavated (see Fig 2), with two (Trenches 1 and 2) measuring approximately 6m x 3m at the street frontage, and two (Trenches 3 and 4) measuring 15m x 2m towards the rear of the eastern half of the site, within the area of the old farm yard area. Some adjustment to the original planned location of Trench 2 was required due to the presence of former services and foundations.

The recent concrete/tarmac surfaces and overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator, and the trenches excavated with a flat-bladed ditching bucket down to the uppermost archaeological deposits, which were then cleaned and excavated by hand.

The on-site excavation and recording methodology employed was in accordance with procedures set out in a site-specific Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation, dated 14/12/11 (Brigham 2011b).

Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout; each identified feature was allocated a context number, with written descriptions recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale on pre-printed permatrace sheets. A colour transparency and monochrome print photographic record was maintained. The trench positions were surveyed using electronic distance-measuring equipment (EDM) to give exact locations. Finds recovered from each feature were labelled accordingly, with those of individual interest, other than pottery or animal bone, being allocated Recorded Find (RF) numbers.

A number of selected deposits were sampled for the purpose of analysing any surviving biological remains.

3.2 Results

Analysis of the stratigraphic sequence, along with the dating of the pottery, has enabled four broad chronological phases to be assigned to the site, as follows:

Phase 1	Early post-medieval (<i>16th–17th century</i>)
Phase 2	Late post-medieval/early modern (<i>18th–early 19th century</i>)
Phase 3	Early modern (<i>19th century</i>)
Phase 4	Modern (<i>20th century–present</i>)

These are subject to modification when the Phase 2 work and all specialist assessments have been completed.

Trench 1

This trench was rectangular in plan (Figs 2, 3), and measured around 6m north-south by 4m east-west, and was located as near the eastern limit of the site as possible, in order to investigate the possible presence of medieval structures and features adjacent to the course of Main Street, which runs north-south at the eastern edge of the village of Riccall.

Natural deposits

(Fig 3; Fig 6, sections 1, 2; Fig 7, section 3)

The underlying natural material encountered within this trench was context [147], a grey-brown silty sand, with occasional red-brown iron-pan staining.

Phase 1

(Fig 3; Fig 6, sections 1, 2; Fig 7, sections 3–6; Plates 5, 7)

At the eastern edge of the trench lay an oval pit [109], measuring 2.10m north-south, and at least 0.80m wide east-west. The full extent of the feature could not be ascertained, as it extended eastwards beyond the limits of excavation. The fill, [108], was a 0.6m thick deposit of grey-brown silty sand, which contained post-medieval Red Earthenware and an animal tooth. The upper surface had been re-cut by a later pit, [107], which measured roughly the same dimensions. The fill of this pit was a further grey-brown silt sand material, [106], approximately 0.16m thick, and which contained no finds. Above this lay a thin (around 0.05m thick) band of yellow-brown sand [105]; this may represent a deposit of wind-blown material which accumulated in the open feature. This was then sealed below a further grey-brown silt sand material [104], which may represent the upper or tertiary fill of the pit sequence.

At the north-eastern corner of the trench, a small curvilinear gully [125] extended from the northern section of the trench, and curved around to exit through the eastern (west-facing) section. The gully measured around 0.50m wide, and was 0.20m deep with a shallow concave profile, and was filled by a pale grey-brown sandy silt [124].

At the western edge of the trench was a substantial oval pit, [127], which measured 2.68m north to south, and at least 1.25m east-west; the full dimensions could not be ascertained, as it extended beyond the limits of the trench. It was not safe or prudent to attempt to reach the base of the pit, but the excavated limit lay at 1.6m below the surface of the natural, or at xx mod. The earliest material within the base of the pit (which may or may not have been the primary fill) was a laminated and mottled grey silt sand [126] around 1.37m deep, which contained pottery and animal bone fragments, and fire-affected stone fragments. This deposit lay below a further 0.27m of friable grey sandy silt, [114], which also contained a small assemblage of medieval/post-medieval pottery, brick, and animal bone fragments.

Seen within the northern, south-facing section of the trench, was a thin (0.15m thick) deposit of orangey grey-brown silt sand, [116], which extended into the eastern, west-facing section. Both the gully 125 and pit 109 appeared to have been originally cut through this layer, which lay directly above the underlying natural 147, and may represent an original soil horizon, possibly medieval in date.

The northern limits of 125 was truncated by a small pit, [129], which extended northwards beyond the limits of the excavated area, but the visible dimensions within the exposed section were around 0.96m wide by 0.52m long, and 0.22m deep. The fill, [128], was a mottled grey-brown clay, from which no datable materials were recovered.

Phase 2/3

(Fig 3; Fig 6, sections 1, 2; Fig 7, sections 3–6; Plates 1–9)

Within the rest of the excavated area of the trench, a series of intercutting oval pits [111], [140], [142], [144], [146], measuring an average of 1.80m long by 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep) truncated the earlier features. The fills of these later pits [110], [112], [141], [143], [145] respectively was a very dark, humic silty sand, strongly resembling the dark subsoil which was prevalent across the larger part of the site, suggesting a recent origin. All of the fills contained small assemblages of pottery with an aggregated late 18th-/early 19th-century date, as well as post-medieval brick and tile and land drain fragments in some instances; 110 and 112 contained contemporary bottle glass fragments.

A series of irregular rectangular pits at the western edge of the trench, underlying a shallow linear feature [113] appeared to be the course of a hedgeline with small root ball pits up to c 0.5m across, 0.2m deep, including [119], fill [118], [121], fill [120] and [123], fill [122] in the north-west and [136], [137], [138], [139], in the south-west, the latter filled by 112, which also filled pit 140 (see above); the dark brown/grey-brown silty humic nature of the fills of a series of staggered pits, which could be seen to extend up to a high level within the trench section, probably represent a period of ornamental planting. Fill 122 contained single examples of post-medieval brick and pantile. The larger part of the trench was sealed below a layer of dark grey-brown humic sandy silt, [117], which appears to represent a levelling deposit of subsoil, cut in the north-west by posthole [135], 0.32m in diameter, 0.54m deep, filled by mixed very dark brown/mid grey-brown sandy silt [134]. This was in turn overlain by a further layer of soil material [103], which may be later localised levelling.

Phase 3

(Fig 3; Fig 7, section 3; Plate 8)

At the northern edge of the trench, a linear cut 0.34m deep and 0.33m wide, context [130], extended from east to west, and effectively helped define the northern limit of the excavated area. This cut was partially filled by deposit [131], a mottled grey-brown sandy bedding layer for a series of rough-hewn chalk blocks [132], which formed the foundation layer for the base of a brick wall, [133], an east–west stretcher-on-bed structure, which may represent either part of the Primitive Methodist chapel which stood on the site, or part of the farm building complex.

Phase 4

(Fig 6, section 2; Fig 7, section 6)

Sealing Phase 2 deposit 103 was a layer of dark gritty sandy silt and brick rubble, context [102] which seems to represent the levelling dump laid preparatory to the

construction of the concrete yard surface [101] which overlay the greater part of the trench and site area.

Trench 2

This trench measured approximately 6m east-west and 4m north-south (Figs 2, 4), and was positioned to the south-west of Trench 1, close to the southern boundary of the site, in order to investigate the possible presence of structures or industrial material associated with any occupational material encountered within Trench 1.

Natural deposits

(Fig 4; Fig 8, sections 7–9)

The underlying natural within the area of the trench was a grey-brown silt sand [206], with mingled bands of stiff grey clay [216] seen in section within two small sondages.

It was notable that the natural deposits in the north were wetter than at the southern side of the trench. This may suggest that there was an underlying palaeochannel or watercourse extending east–west along the southern boundary of the site, but beyond the limits of the excavated trenches.

Phase 1

(Fig 4; Fig 8, sections 7, 9)

In the south-western corner, a 0.3m hollow in the surface of the natural contained dark grey-brown soft silty sand [210]; this may have been considered a natural deposit, but contained a sherd of late 17th-/early 18th-century pottery and a contemporary fragment of clay tobacco pipe.

Visible in the northern (south-facing) section of the trench was dark grey-brown sandy silt deposit, [217], around 0.20m thick; this may have been a natural deposit filling a local hollow in the surface of 206, but was very similar to 210.

Visible within the northern section of the trench at the eastern half was a shallow concave feature, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, context [204], filled by a dark grey to black soft humic silt, [205]. This feature may represent either the southern limit of a shallow pit, or more likely is part of a north–south linear feature. It did not appear within the opposite, north-facing section of the trench.

Phase 2

(Fig 4; Fig 8, sections 7–9)

Sealing the earlier features was a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey-brown silt sand [203], which appeared to extend across the entire area of the trench. This deposit and 210 were overlain in the south of the trench by a 0.15m thick layer of mixed grey-brown silt, [209], containing two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a land drain fragment; this extended southwards beyond the limits of the excavation. Overlying this in turn was layer [215], a 0.25m thick layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt indistinguishable from 203, and which was probably the same material.

In the north-west, layer 203 was cut to the immediate west by what appeared to be a pit, [221], which was filled by a very similar dark grey-brown humic silty sand, [211], almost indistinguishable from the overlying sealing soil deposit 202; it contained a single 16th-/17th-century pottery sherd, although this is assumed to have been residual.

Phase 3

(Fig 4; Fig 8, sections 7, 9; Plates 10, 11)

Layer 215 was overlain in the southern half of the site by layer [214], a 0.40m thick layer of silty sand, soil, and 19th-century brick rubble.

In the south-eastern corner of the trench section, a pit [220] was present, extending down through layers 214, 215 and 219. this pit was approximately 1.5m wide and 0.40m deep, the primary fill [213] consisting of a 0.20m thick layer of mottled grey-brown silt sand containing ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, late 18th-/very early 19th-century pottery, and a bottle glass shard, overlain by [212], a mixed deposit of yellow-grey sand and dark grey silt.

Extending from east to west across the centre of the trench was a substantial linear feature, possibly a boundary ditch, [208], which was approximately 1.75m wide and 0.40m deep. The fill, [207], was a dark grey-brown sandy silt, and contained sherds of late 17th-/early 18th-century pottery, clay pipe, and bottle glass.

Phase 4

(Fig 4; Fig 8, sections 7–9)

This entire feature was sealed below dark grey-brown silt material [202], which appears to represent a general levelling event across the site as a whole. The overlying rubble layer [201] which formed the base for the concrete farm yard which covered the site sealed the entire area of the trench, and was 0.55m thick at its greatest depth.

Visible within the northern section of the trench was a comparatively modern 0.20m-wide post-hole, [219], which extended down 0.60m from the upper surface of 202. The fill of 219, context [218], was another dark grey-brown silt sand deposit, almost identical to the upper material within the trench.

Trench 3

This trench was positioned to the immediate west of Trench 2, and measured 12.5m long by 3m wide (Figs 2, 5), orientated south-east to north-west. This trench was positioned in order to assess the possible presence of significant archaeological deposits towards what may have been the rear of potential medieval plots extending westwards from a frontage on Main Street to the east.

Natural deposits

(Fig 5; Fig 9, sections 10, 11)

The underlying natural within the area of Trench 3 was a yellow- to grey-brown sand, [305]. At the north-eastern end of the trench, this underlying material showed

evidence of long-term waterlogging, having a significant orange-brown iron-pan component [304]; this may be evidence of a long-standing waterlogged area such as a pond, which did not have a formal excavation cut. Overlying both 304 and 305 was a 0.20m-thick layer [303] of grey-brown silty sand, possibly an accumulated subsoil layer.

Phases 1/2

(Fig 5; Fig 9, section 11; Plates 12–14)

Cutting into subsoil 303 at the south-eastern end of the trench was a substantial 1.60m wide and 0.65m deep curvilinear ditch, [307] orientated east–west. The fill was grey-brown sandy silt [308], with no obvious inclusions or variations in stratigraphy, suggesting a single phase of deposition. This may have been a drainage ditch, although it was not obviously aligned with any existing features. Although undated, it has been assigned to Phases 1 or 2 largely on the grounds that it was clearly a different phase of activity to the land drain which cut it.

Phase 3

(Fig 5; Fig 9, section 11)

Cut into the upper fill of ditch 307 was a ceramic land-drain [309] of 19th-century inverted-horseshoe type, with no baseplate. This extended east–west across the width of the trench. A similar land drain, [310], lay at a somewhat greater depth at the southern end of the trench; this appeared to have a more north-south orientation. The south-eastern end of the trench was noticeably more waterlogged than the north-western, with elements of the grey clay lenses seen within the natural within Trench 2 in evidence; this suggests that the possible boundary ditch feature represented by 208 in Trench 2 may have continued along the southern site boundary, but just beyond the scope of the Trench 3 excavation.

Phase 4

(Fig 5; Fig 9, sections 10, 11)

Overlying and sealing the area of the trench was [302], a layer of dark grey-brown silty sand with a significant organic component. This varied in thickness between around 0.30m thick at the north-western end of the trench, and 0.40m around the centre of the excavated area. A ceramic yellow salt-glazed service pipe [306] extended east–west across the north-western end of the trench, at a depth of around 0.80m below ground level. The entire area of the trench was then sealed below a layer of mixed brick rubble [301]; the presence of occasional fragments of corrugated asbestos sheeting within the rubble suggests a late 19th- to early 20th-century date of origin for the deposition of the rubble. The trench area had been sealed below a concrete farmyard slab, which was mechanically removed to facilitate excavation.

Trench 4

This trench was 15m long by 3m wide, orientated east–west, and was positioned at the rear (east) of the site (Figs 2, 5), in order to ascertain the presence and nature of any archaeological deposits or features which may have been present to the very rear of any properties fronting onto Main Street to the east; there was also the possibility that

there may have evidence relating to possible activity from occupation fronting onto Church Street to the west of the site.

Natural deposits

(Fig 5; Fig 10, section 12)

The underlying natural within this part of the trench was [423], a yellow- to orange-brown sand, with darker orange-brown mottled patches evident within the upper surface, presumably as a result of natural water-staining processes.

Phase 1

(Fig 5; Fig 10, section 12; Plates 15–17)

The earliest feature within the trench appeared to be a substantial squared pit [417] 1.48m deep and 2m wide, and which extended 1.32m north from the southern section of the trench; it is probable that it continued a significant distance beyond the excavated area. The primary fill, [415], was a dark grey-brown silty sand, 0.74m thick, and which contained a sherd of medieval/post-medieval pottery and some degraded organic material. This was overlain by upper fill [416], a soft grey sand silt with white sand laminations and mottling, containing two late medieval/early post-medieval pottery sherds. The pit was sealed below a thin 0.12m thick band of pale grey-brown silty sand, [426], which may represent a final levelling over the area of the fills.

Phase 2

(Fig 5; Fig 10, section 12; Plate 18)

Immediately overlying the infilled pit was a series of what appeared to be a series of grey-brown silty sand subsoil layers, [406], [405], [404], varying between 0.30m and 0.10m thick; these seem to represent a series of accumulation events across the general area of the site. At the east end of the trench, the north-facing section showed that layer 406 filled a depression in the surface of the underlying natural to the south [407], at least 3.0m long, 1.04m wide, 0.4m deep, continuing beyond the limit of excavation. This may be a continuation of the conjectured channel along the southern boundary of the site, represented by the wetter conditions in the southern portions of Trenches 2 and 3. These deposits were sealed by 0.24m deep buried topsoil [403], which extended across the whole area.

Within the north-facing section of the trench, pit [409], 3.86m wide and 0.94m deep, and filled by a dark grey brown sand silt [408], cut into topsoil 403 and was itself cut at its western edge by square pit [411], presumably a post or stanchion pit related to relatively modern farm buildings; this was filled by a dark grey to black humic sandy silt, [410]. Immediately to the west of this was a further pit [413], 1.76m wide and 0.82m deep, filled by dark grey-brown sandy silt [412];

Phase 3

(Fig 5; Fig 10, section 12)

Infilled pit 413 was cut at its western edge by a 0.20m wide cut for a ceramic land drain [414] which extended across the trench from north to south. 1.5m to the west of

this, a 0.54m squared pit [419], the fill [418] disturbed by a modern animal burial, obscured the eastern edge of pit 417. This seemed to be paired with an almost identical feature [425] in the northern section of the trench, filled by dark grey-brown silty sand [424]. At the western extreme of the trench, a further ceramic land drain [422] extended from north to south across the width of the trench.

Phase 4

(Fig 5; Fig 10, section 12)

The Phase 3 features were sealed below [402], a 0.12m thick deposit of mixed modern brick demolition rubble and soil spread over the surface of buried ; this in turn was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of brick hardcore [401] which had underlain the concrete farmyard slab which had covered the site. A modern geotechnical test-pit [421/422] extended down through the stratigraphic sequence at the western end of the trench, filled by modern soil and rubble [420].

4 Specialist Reports

4.2 Finds Summary

Sophie Tibbles

Introduction

The following gives a brief summary of the hand collected finds assemblage, from the archaeological evaluation at Dunelm Farm, Riccall. Each category is tabulated, with comments and provisional dating where applicable. A brief overall discussion of the assemblage is included at the end of this summary.

Full assessment reports on the pottery, registered finds, bulk finds, faunal remains, and ceramic building materials will follow on completion of the Phase 2 fieldwork.

Material catalogue

Table 1 Pottery and clay pipe

Context No.	Trench	Quantity & Weight	General Comments & Provisional Identification	Provisional Date
108	1	1 sherd (3.3g)	Glazed Red Earthenware with green glaze (GREG)	Post-medieval
110		15 sherds (67.6g)	Including: Creamware (CREAM), Pearlware (PEARL), Banded Slipware (BANDSL), Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE)Green Glazed and Whitewares	Late 18th/early 19th century
112		36 sherds (c.400g)	Including: Creamware (CREAM), Staffordshire Slipware (STAFSL), Late Blackware (LBLAK), Humberware (HUM) Post-medieval Humberware (HUM5), Tin-glazed earthenware (TIN).	Late 18th/early 19th century
		1 stem (2.0g)	Clay tobacco pipe (CTP)	
114		5 sherds (c.350g)	Medieval and x1 Glazed Red Earthenware with ?brown glaze (GREB?)	Medieval/post-medieval
117		1 sherd (14.1g)	Late Blackware (LBLAK) & clay pipe	18th/19th century
		1 bowl/stem (7.3g)	Clay tobacco pipe (CTP) – 2 joining fragments	
118		6 sherds (32.6g)	Including: Creamware (CREAM), Staffordshire Slipware (STAFSL)	Late 18th/early 19th century
		1 stem (2.0g)	Clay tobacco pipe (CTP)	
120		1 sherd (2.4g)	Stoneware bottle	18th/19th century
126		3 sherds (c.530g)	Post-medieval	17th century

141	2	2 sherds (16.6g)	Creamware (CREAM) & Whiteware	Mid 19th century
143		2 sherds (50.1g)	Including: Humberware (HUM)	Post-medieval
145		2 sherds (7.8g)	Including: Blue edged plate in Pearlware	Early 19th century
207		2 sherds (15.2g)	Humberware (HUM) & White English Salt-glazed Stoneware (WESGSW)	Last 3rd of 17th/early 18th century
		1 bowl/stem (11.8g)	Yorkshire Bulbous clay tobacco pipe (CTP)	
209		2 sherds (40.9)	Staffordshire Slipware (STAFSL) & Unglazed red earthenware (URGE) probably flower pot	Post-medieval
210		1 sherd (20.5g)	Post=medieval pot	Late 17th/early 18th century
		1 bowl (7.6g)	Small spur clay tobacco pipe (CPT)	
211	4	1 sherd (13.1g)	Pot	16th/17th century
213		8 sherds (c.450g)	Creamware (CREAM) soup dish & Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) x2 vessels	Late 18th/very early 19th century
415		1 sherd (5.7g)	Beverley 2 (BEV2) Orangeware or Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE)	Medieval or post-medieval
416		2 sherds (75.6)	Late Humberware (HUM5) jug or cistern & medieval jug base	Late medieval/very early post-medieval

Table 2 Faunal remains

Context No.	Trench	Quantity & Weight	General Comments & Provisional Identification
103	1	3 (2.9g)	Tooth fragments. ?Sheep/goat (?Caprovid)
110		2 (60.6g)	Inc 1 tooth from a cow (<i>Bos</i>)
112		3 (37.1g)	From a medium-sized mammal
		4 (28.4g)	Oyster valves: 1 top and 3 bottoms.
114		2 (225g)	From a large mammal
118		1 (21.9g)	?Proximal end of a long bone from a juvenile, large mammal ?cow (? <i>Bos</i>).
126		2 (101g)	Fragment of pelvis from a large mammal. 1 tooth from a ?cow (<i>Bos</i>)
145		1 (7.7g)	Tooth – incisor from a large mammal
207	2	2 (45g)	From a large mammal
209		2 (4.2g)	From a ?medium-sized mammal
211		1 (180g)	Metatarsal from a cow (<i>Bos</i>)
213		2	?Long bone from a medium-sized mammal

		(18.3g)	
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Table 3 Ceramic building material

Context No.	Trench	Quantity & Weight	General Comments & Provisional Identification	Provisional Date
110	1	19 (800g)	Brick. Mortar patches	Post-medieval
112		16 (3410g)	Brick. Mortar patches. 1 fragment has rounded arrises & 1 bed surface	Medieval/post-medieval
114		1 (225g)	Brick. Mortar over breaks	Late Medieval/early post-medieval
117		1 (90g)	Brick. Mortar patches	Post-medieval
122		4 (150g)	Brick. 1 fragment is over fired	Post-medieval
143		1 (40g)	Brick. Slightly blown	Post-medieval
145		2 (25g)	Brick	Post-medieval
110		1 (20g)	Land drain sole plate.	Early modern
		1 (5g)	Pantile	Post-medieval
		7 (150g)	Flat roof tile	Medieval
112		4 (190g)	Pantile	Post-medieval
		5 (200g)	Flat roof tile	Medieval
122		1 (20g)	Pantile	Post-medieval
207	2	1 (30g)	Land drain sole plate.	Early modern
209		1 (100g)	Flat roof tile	Medieval
		3 (430g)	Land drain. Type 1c	Early modern

Table 4 Vessel glass

Context	Trench	Quantity & Weight	General Comments	Provisional Date
110	1	2 shards (30 g)	Green. Bottle	Early modern
112	1	10 shards (190g)	Green. Bottle	Post-medieval
122	1	2 shards (25g)	Green. Bottle	Modern
207	2	1 shards (15g)	Green. Bottle	Early modern
213	2	1 shards (15g)	Green. Bottle	Early modern

Table 5 *Burnt stone*

Context	Trench	Quantity& Weight	General Comments
1126	1	1 (800g)	Glacial erratic.

Discussion

The majority of the finds assemblage appears to represent activity during the post medieval and early modern periods. Evidence for early medieval activity and any associated activities is sparse. This may be attributed to loss of evidence due to intense later activity, probably associated with the former farm buildings.

Recommendations

As stated, full assessment reports will be completed by the appropriate specialists to refine identification, dating (where applicable) and to assess the archaeological potential of each material category. These reports will also include recommendations for any further work, if required.

Unless the land owner requests its return, the finds assemblage should be deposited within the appropriate museum.

4.3 The Biological Remains

John Carrott, Deborah Jaques, Palaeoecology Research Services

Summary

Visual inspection of the ten sediment samples collected suggested that all bar one offered little potential for the recovery of interpretatively valuable assemblages of ancient biological remains. The possible exception to this was the sample from context [308] (post-medieval ditch fill) which gave a slight sulphide smell when lumps of the sediment were broken open which could indicate the presence of decaying organic material; however, any ‘ancient’ remains may have completely decayed and the sulphide smell may simply represent rotting rootlet (which may itself be relatively old but could equally be a more recent intrusion).

Black flecks of ?rotted charcoal or ash were noted in two of the samples, those from [106] (primary fill of pit) and [126] (secondary fill of pit [127]). The likelihood of significant quantities of interpretable charred remains being recovered from these deposits is considered to be small, however.

It is recommended that subsamples from [106], [126] and [308] should be processed for the next stage of the evaluation/assessment to investigate their possible content of charred/waterlogged organic remains; if only to confirm the lack of ‘useful’ remains. A subsample from the earliest deposit encountered, context [116], should also be

examined; this may also act as a representative for the remaining sand deposits of very low potential and with no obvious inclusions.

Table 6 Rapid assessment summary of samples

Sample	Context	Context type	Potential	Notes	No of tubs	No of tubs for assess
1	124	Fill of gully [125]	Very Low	Moist, light to mid grey to light to mid grey-brown (occasionally light and dark grey), crumbly to unconsolidated, sand. No obvious inclusions.	2	1
2	128	Fill of pit [129]	Very Low	Just moist to moist, light to mid grey to light to mid grey-brown (occasionally light and dark grey), crumbly to unconsolidated, sand. No obvious inclusions.	2	1
3	108	Fill of pit	Very Low	Moist, light to mid grey to light to mid grey-brown (occasionally light grey-brown), crumbly to unconsolidated, sand. No obvious inclusions.	2	1
4	116	Earliest 'soil'	Very Low	Moist, mostly mid grey with some light to mid grey-brown, crumbly to unconsolidated, sand. No obvious inclusions.	2	1
5	106	Primary fill of pit	Low	Moist, mostly mid grey with some light to mid grey-brown, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft), sandy silt/silty sand. Black flecks of ?rotted charcoal or ash present.	2	1
6	415	Primary fill of pit [417]	Very Low	Moist, dark brown to dark grey-brown to dark grey with occasional patches of light grey, crumbly to unconsolidated (working slightly soft), ?slightly silty sand. Traces of decayed rootlet (perhaps 'ancient') present.	2	1
7	416	Secondary fill of pit [417]	Very Low	Moist, mid to dark grey with occasional patches of light to mid brown, crumbly to unconsolidated, ?slightly silty sand. No obvious inclusions.	2	1
8	308	Post-medieval ditch fill	?Medium	Moist, mid to dark grey-brown to mid to dark grey, brittle to crumbly (working soft and slightly plastic), silt. Decayed rootlets (possibly 'ancient') and root trace filled by a moist, light to mid grey sand/silty sand were present (there were also occasional clasts of this minor component). Lumps of the sediment gave a slight sulphide smell when broken.	2	1
9	114	Secondary fill of pit [127]	Very Low	Moist, mid grey (occasionally light to mid grey-brown), crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft),	2	1

				slightly sandy silt. No obvious inclusions.		
10	126	Secondary fill of pit [127]	Low	Moist, light to mid brown to mid grey (in shades of brown, grey and grey-brown and with occasional patches of light grey), crumbly to unconsolidated, sand. Black flecks of ?rotted charcoal or ash present.	4	1 or 3

5 Discussion and Recommendations

5.1 Discussion

The site sequence

The underlying natural across the site was a grey to yellow-brown sand, obviously the same material evident within the base of all four trenches, but assigned separate context numbers in each. The general profile of the underlying material seemed to be fairly level; the highest level for the exposed surface of the natural in Trench 1 at the eastern frontage was around 7.82m OD, whilst the highest level at the west of the site was at around 7.70m OD.

Phase 1

The earliest archaeological activity on site seems to be represented by features [109], [125] and [127] within Trench 1, at the eastern end of the site. Two of these features, pits [109] and [127] contained post-medieval pottery in their primary fills, [108] and [126] respectively. Spot-dating suggests a 17th-century date for the pottery from [126], although a slightly later date may be more appropriate, if we conjecture that the material used as infill already contained residual pottery sherds, which, given the low sherd count for the recovered finds, does not seem unlikely. This suggests that the earliest activity on this part of the site was relatively recent, which in turn suggests that the site was largely peripheral agricultural land on the outskirts of Riccall throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Pit [109] appears to have been cleaned out or re-excavated on at least one occasion. This suggests long-term use and reuse; it is possible that there was an earlier farmhouse on the site of the present late 18th-/early 19th-century building to the immediate north of the site. Feature [125], the shallow curvilinear gully seen at the north-eastern corner of the trench, did not contain any dating material, and so it is not possible to assign a definite date-range for its excavation. However, given that it was sealed below context [115], which also overlay pits [107/109], suggests a roughly contemporary date. While the specific purpose of [125] is unclear, a drainage gully around a hayrick or vegetable clamp close to the farmhouse all seem plausible explanations.

In Trench 2, several early deposits filling hollows or shallow cuts ([205], [210], [217]) may have belonged to the earliest phase, since they antedate general ground-raising activity comparable to that assignable to later phases

The substantial squared pit [417] seen within Trench 4 to the west also contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the medieval or early post-medieval period. During the current programme of excavation, the combination of a high water table and running sand at the base of the feature, around 2m below modern ground level, caused the collapse of the sides of the excavated feature as soon as it was excavated. The lack of evidence for the original collapse of the pit sides, the lack of artefacts within the

two fills, and its comparatively narrow date range all seem to point to a feature which was backfilled quickly with organic material. It may therefore have been a slurry or cess pit; environmental assessment of the fills may determine the nature of its function. Had the pit been used for a purpose which required it to remain open, such as for storage or as a well, it is almost certain that the sides would have required shoring; if the sides of the cut had been planked, however, it is likely that they would have shown a more vertical profile. A final possibility is that [417] was excavated to remove a tree prior to the construction of farm buildings at the rear of the site, but the cut seems to be too deep and regular for this, particularly when compared with later features in Trench 1.

Phases 2/3

The larger part of the remaining features seen during the course of the excavation can be assigned to relatively modern phases of activity. Broadly these can be divided into ground-raising activity and early pits and ditches (Phase 2) and later ground preparation, including hedge/shrub removal and land drains (Phase 3). This is likely to have occurred broadly between the later 18th and mid 19th centuries, prior to the construction of the Primitive Methodist Chapel (Phase 3).

Trench 1 was originally positioned in an attempt to locate activity relating to occupation at the street frontage, assuming that the present Main Street, to the immediate east of the site, follows its original alignment and width.

Within Trench 1, the many small cuts, pits and linear features evident were all filled with very similar dark soils, indicative of scrub clearance and/or cultivation beds. What appears to be a hedgeline, including linear gullies [113] and [119], resolved in the north-west and south-west corners of the trench into a series of small squared pits, [121], [123], [136], [137], [138], and [139], forming an alternating double row. The layout, shape and profile of the pits suggests spade-cut planting holes for individual plants. The hedge may have divided off the plot for what became the chapel. Larger pits [111], [140], [142], [144] and [146] may be related to shrub removal, but could be planting holes.

The presence of the Phase 1 waste pits [109], [127] and possible hayrick gully [125], superseded in Phase 2 by planting, suggest activity relating to the farmhouse occupying the northern portion of the street frontage. If so, there may have been a yard which was replaced by a garden, with a hedge running along its southern edge. This arrangement was dismantled and the site levelled prior to the construction of the Primitive Methodist chapel (represented by wall [132/133] in the 19th century.

Across the rest of the site, the main activity seems to have been represented by ground-raising in Trench 2, followed by the cutting of linear feature [208]; this appears to be an east–west boundary or drainage ditch, with the material within the fill [207] relating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. This suggests a comparatively shallow and broad linear ditch running close to the southern boundary of the site, which was either deliberately filled or allowed to silt by the middle of the 18th century. The ditch may have been cut to counter wetter conditions south of this trench and Trench 3, perhaps relating to a slope in the underlying natural towards the south recorded at the eastern end of Trench 4 which could imply a natural watercourse on or

close to the line of the public footpath called Carr Lane. Alternatively, the desk-based assessment (Brigham 2011a) has shown that the village as a whole lies upon a slightly elevated ridge on the eastern bank of the River Ouse, and it may be that the waterlogging to the south of the site marks the southern limits of the higher ground upon which the village lies.

Phase 4

Although the larger part of the features and deposits seen within the trenches largely represent post-medieval levelling and occupation of the site, several smaller squared pits within Trench 4 and a single example in Trench 2 are probably post pits from an agricultural building, and it may be that the post-pit within the south facing section of Trench 2 relates to something similar. The final activity on site was further levelling and the deposition of a hardcore layer to take the concrete yard surfaces (Phase 4).

Impact assessment

The evaluation assessment undertaken on the eastern half of the site has revealed no features or deposits of regional or national significance in the area examined. Possible early post-medieval cut features are present to within *c* 0.7m from the present surface, above that is mainly later post-medieval to modern ground-raising activity. It is unlikely, therefore, that the proposed development will have any major impact on the archaeological resource, although the cutting of foundations, services, access routes and any general ground reduction may locally truncate or damage the earliest features, depending on the level of intrusion.

5.2 Recommendations

The views and recommendations expressed in this section are those of Humber Field Archaeology, and will not necessarily be those of the local authority.

It is recommended that watching brief be carried out on the eastern area during ground reduction and construction to monitor the actual level of disturbance and plot any features which may be present, including any continuation of the features assigned to Phase 1 in the four trenches.

On completion of the proposed monitored site strip on the western half of the site, all specialist assessments will be completed, and a new report will be issued incorporating all new data and corrected phasing, if required.

A summary of the site sequence should be included in the annual round-up of *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Linden Homes North.

The on-site work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by Mr D. Evans of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record. The site was excavated by a team of staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) under the supervision of Neil Adamson: Jim Fraser and Pam Cartwright.

The figures reproduced in this report are the work of Dave Atkinson. Spot dating of the pottery was undertaken by Peter Didsbury. Finds and ceramic building materials processing and assessment was carried out by Sophie Tibbles. Initial work on the biological remains was carried out by John Carrott, Palaeoecology Research Services.

The report was edited by Trevor Bringham who also contributed to the Discussion and Recommendations. Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson and June Rooney.

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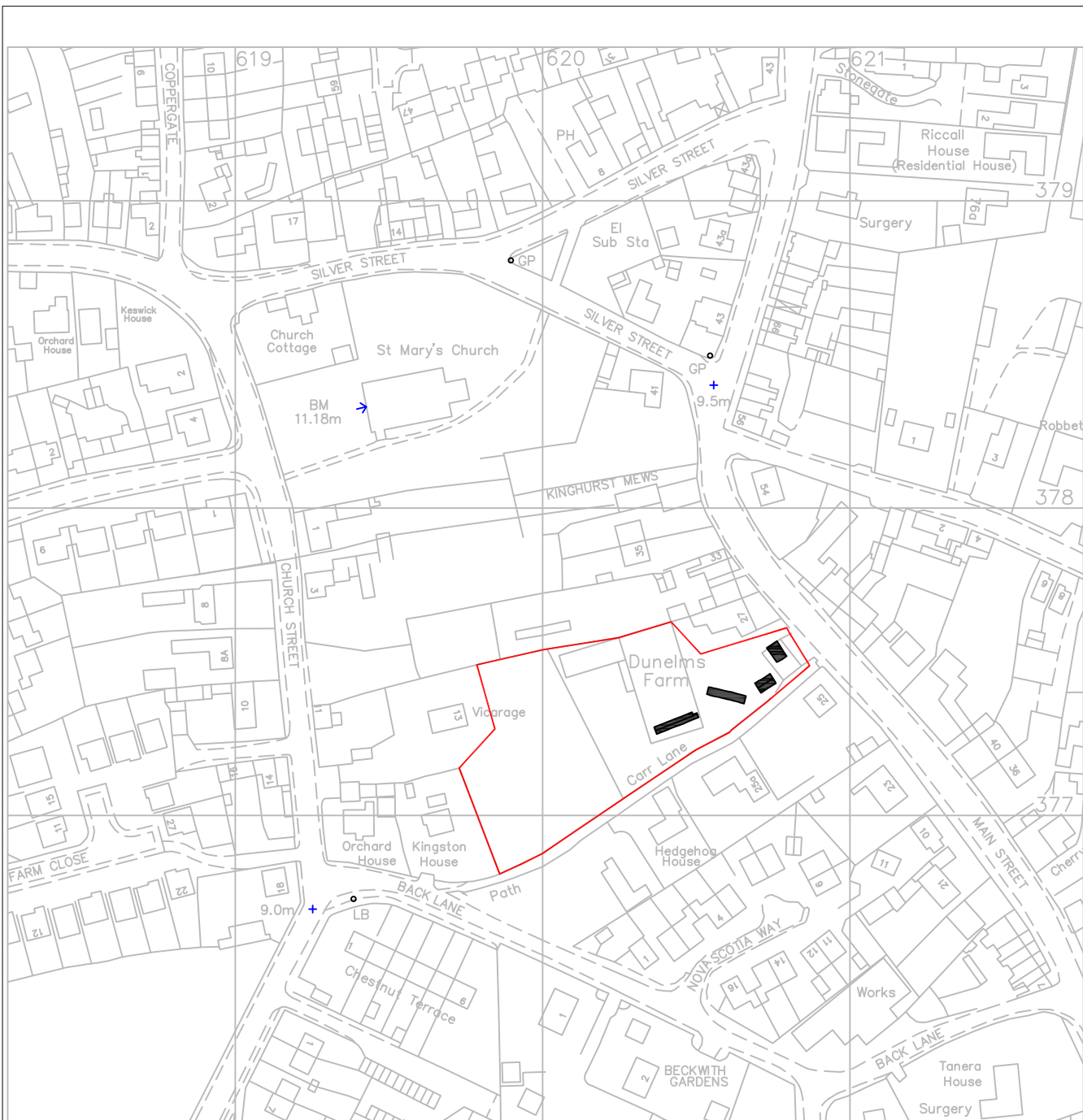
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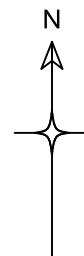
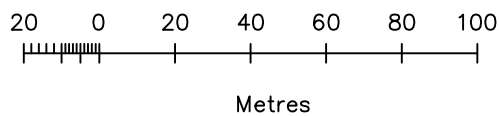


Figure 1 Site location within Riccall

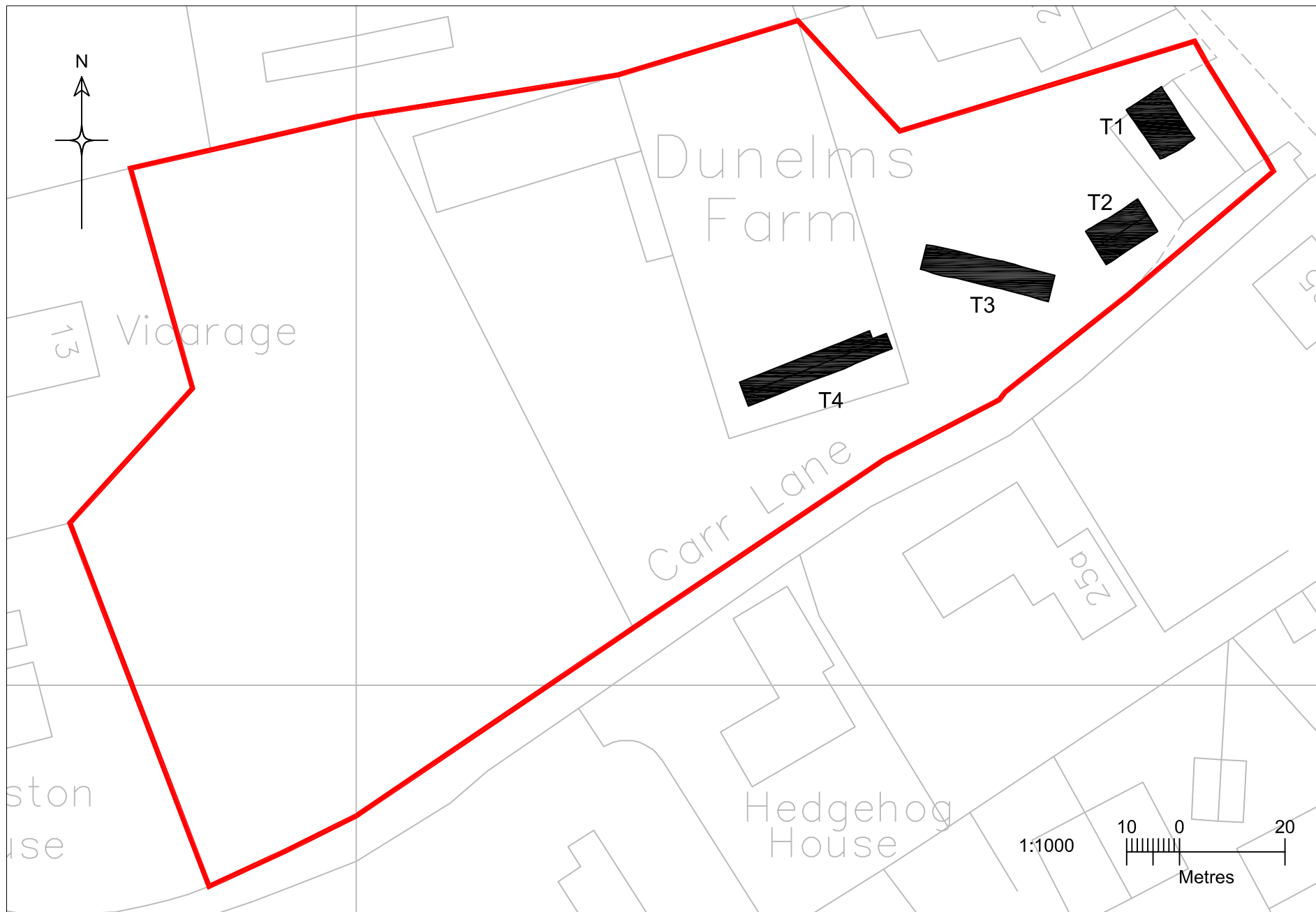


Figure 2 Site plan showing the trench locations

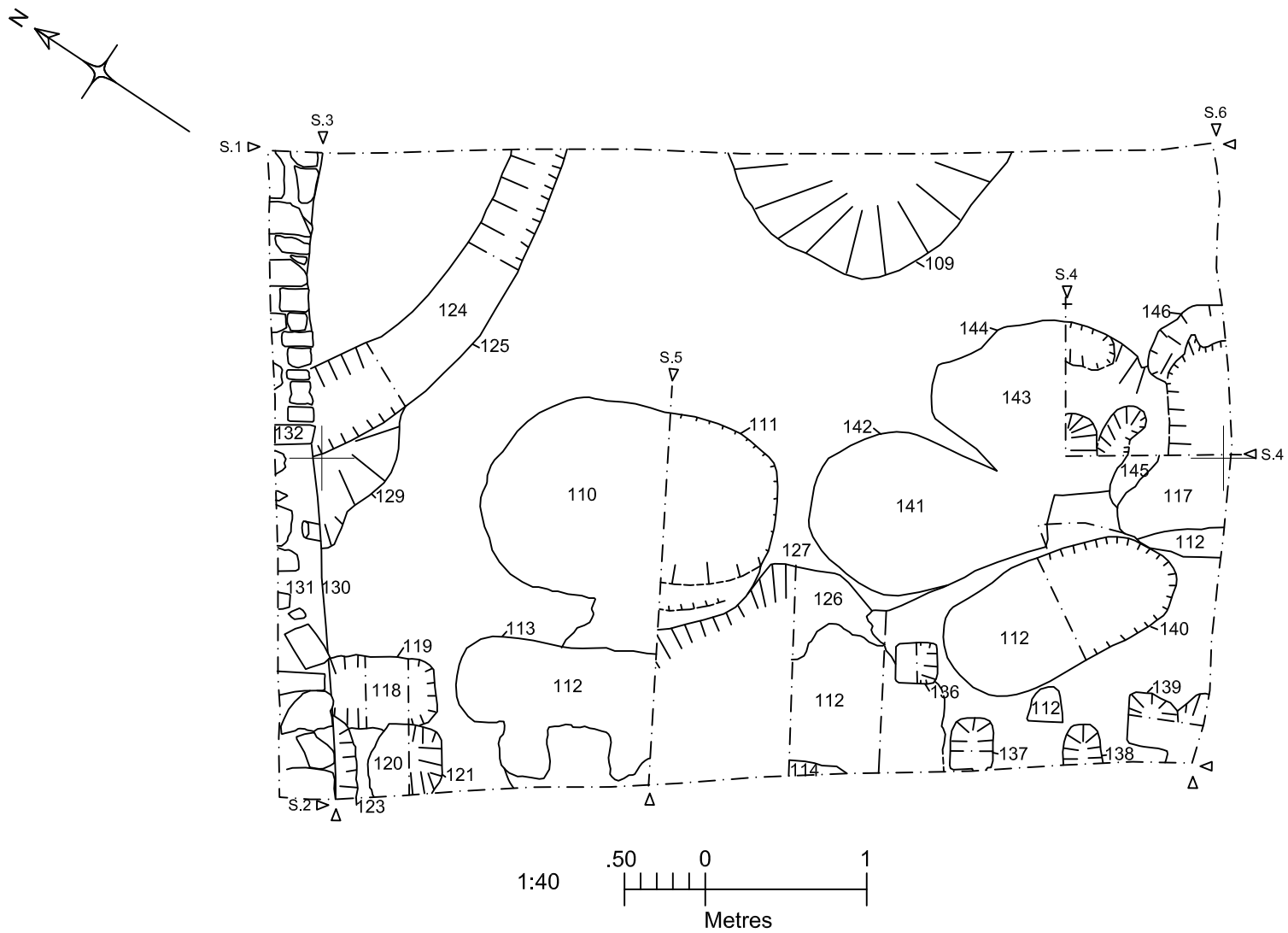


Figure 3 Trench 1 recorded in plan

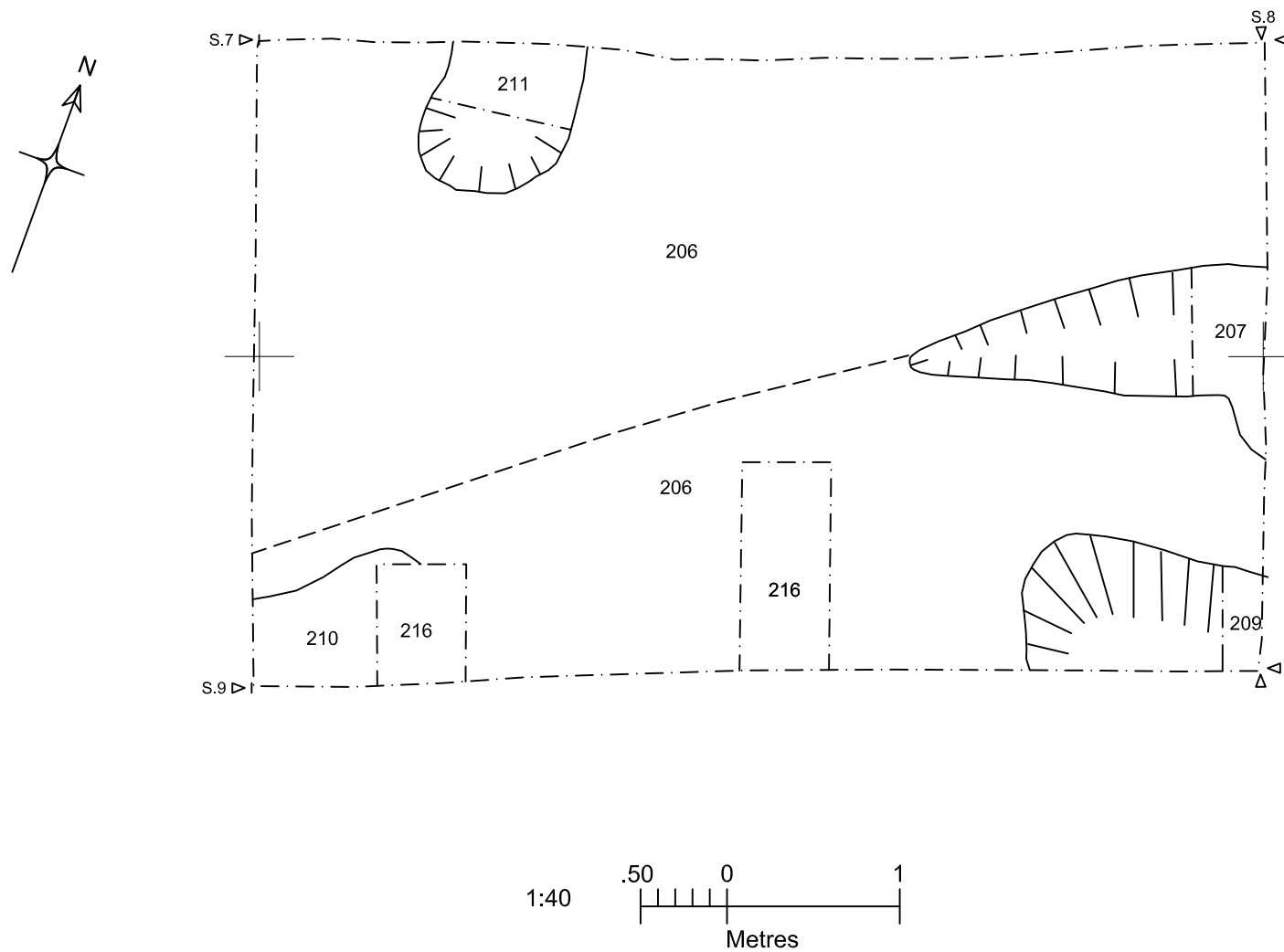


Figure 4 Trench 2 recorded in plan

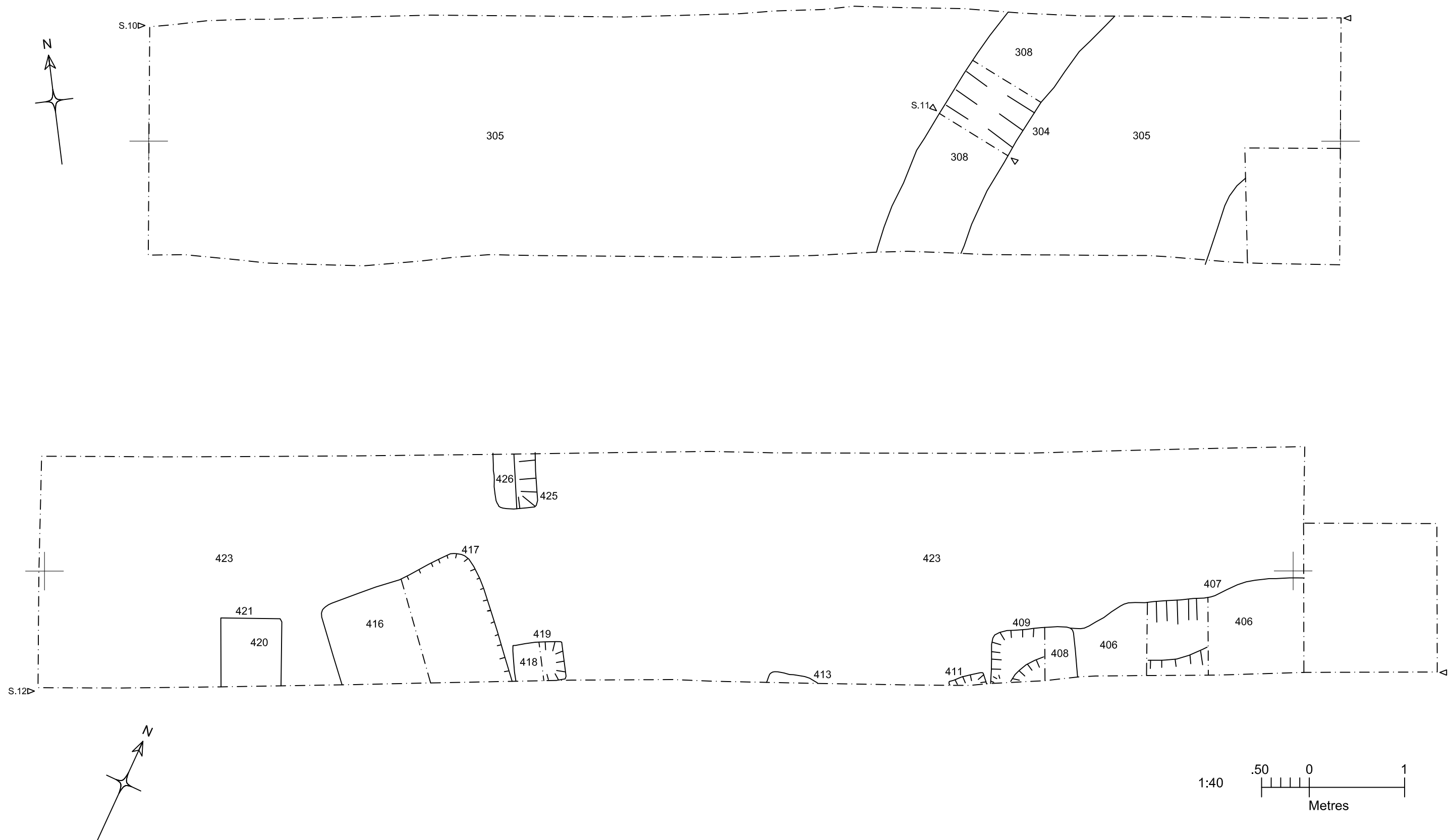


Figure 5 Trenches 3 and 4 recorded in plan

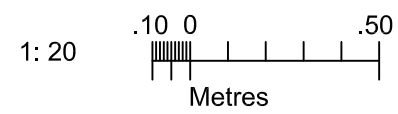
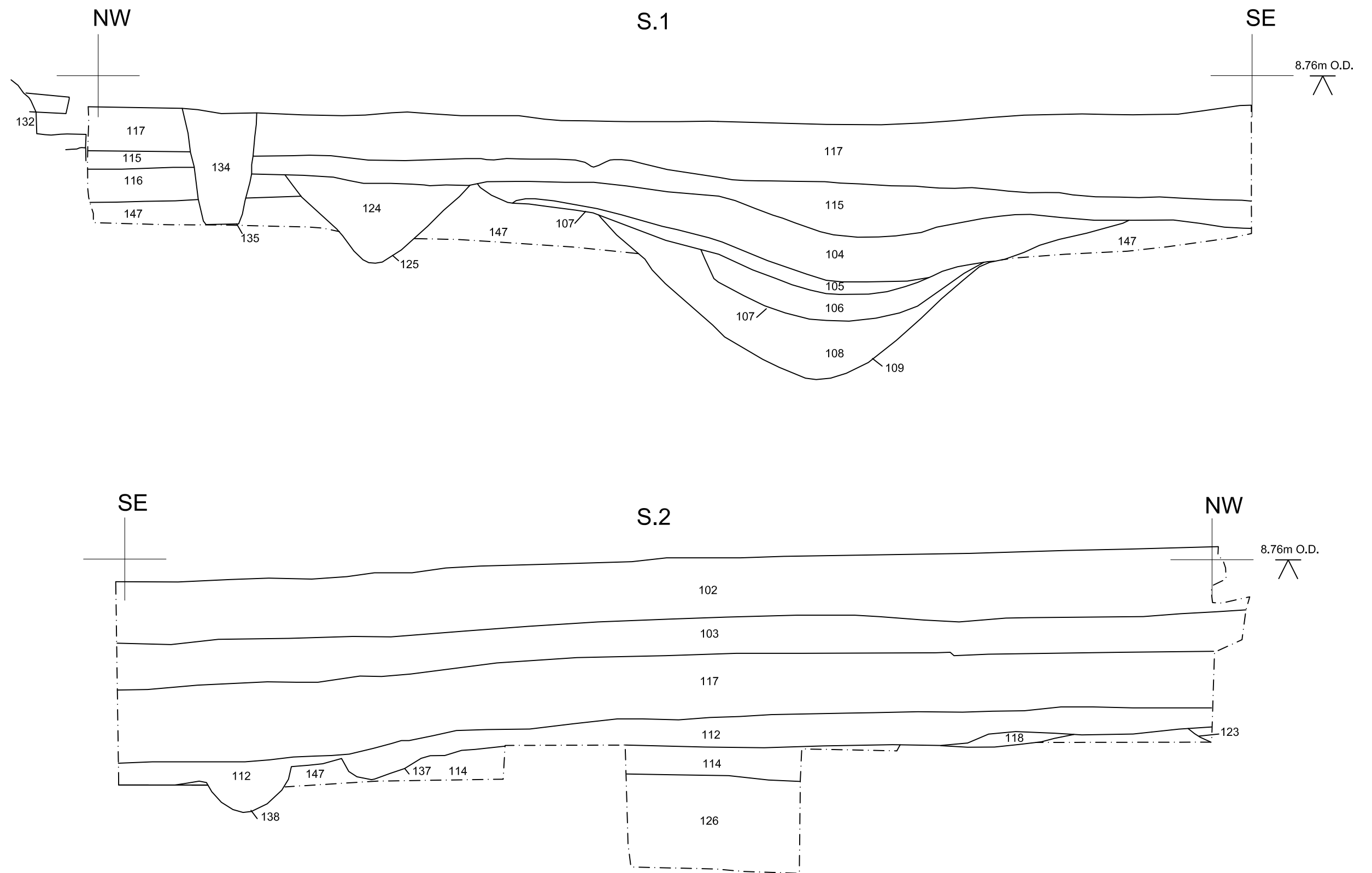


Figure 6 Sections 1 & 2

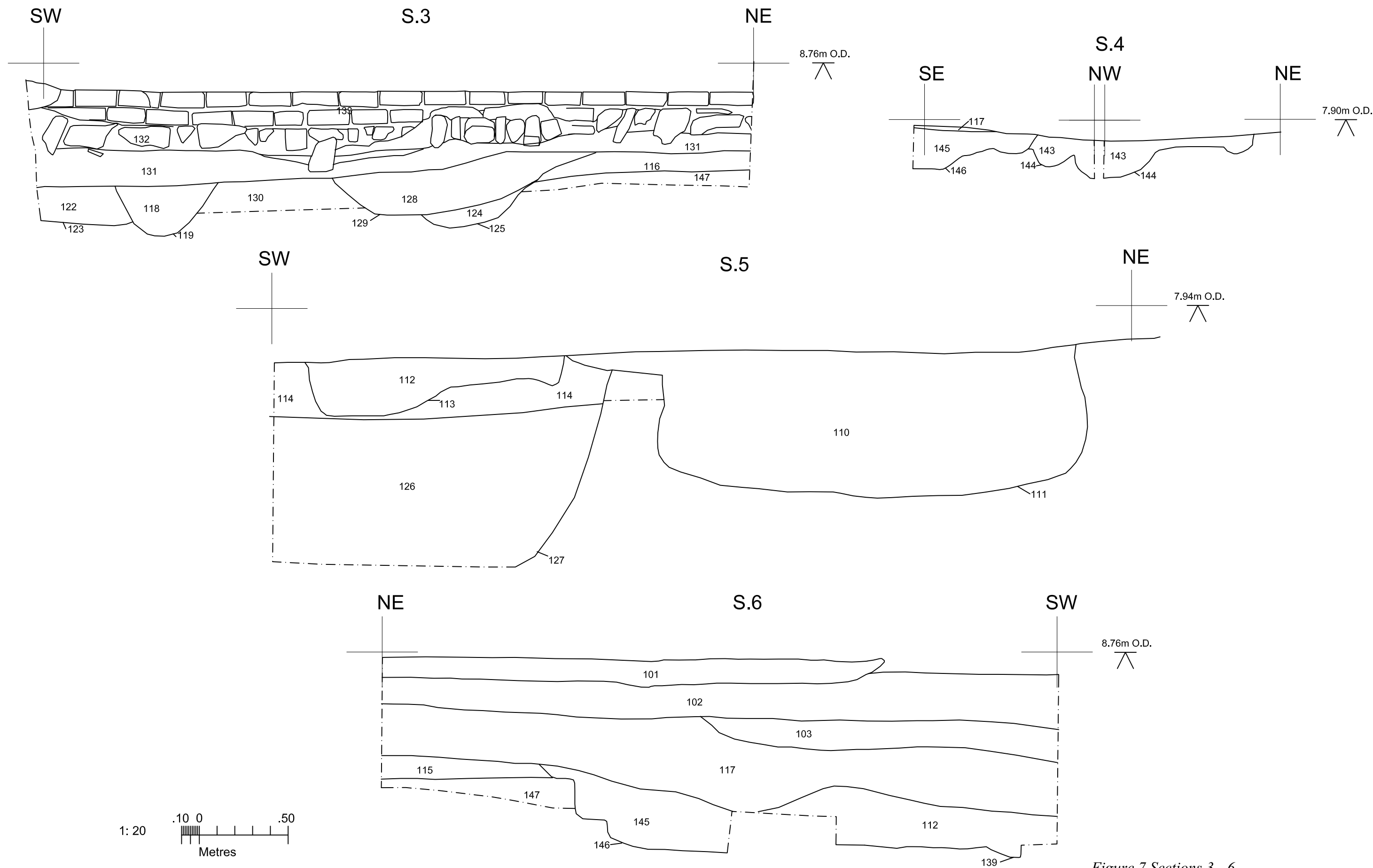


Figure 7 Sections 3 - 6

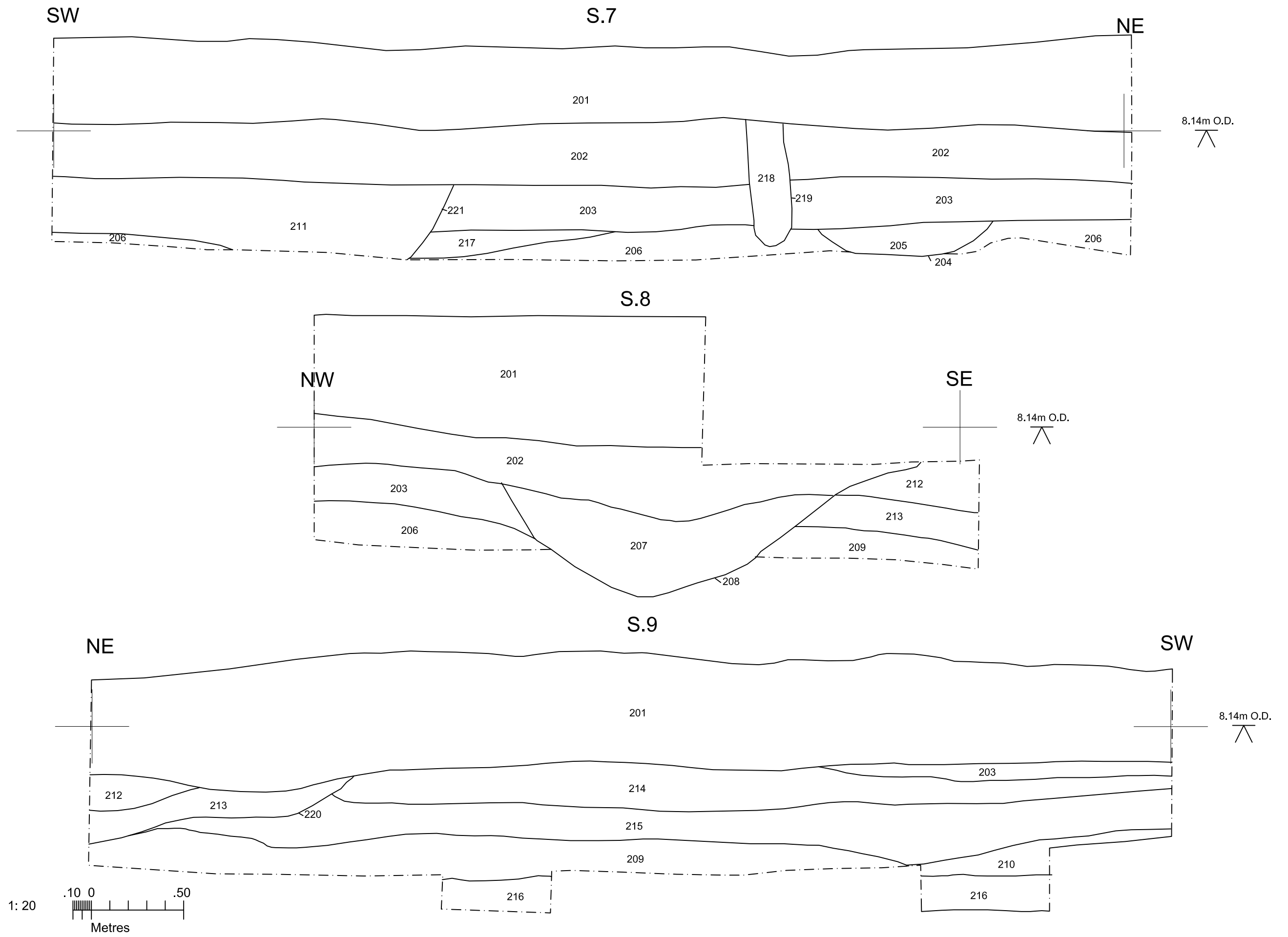


Figure 8 Sections 7 - 9

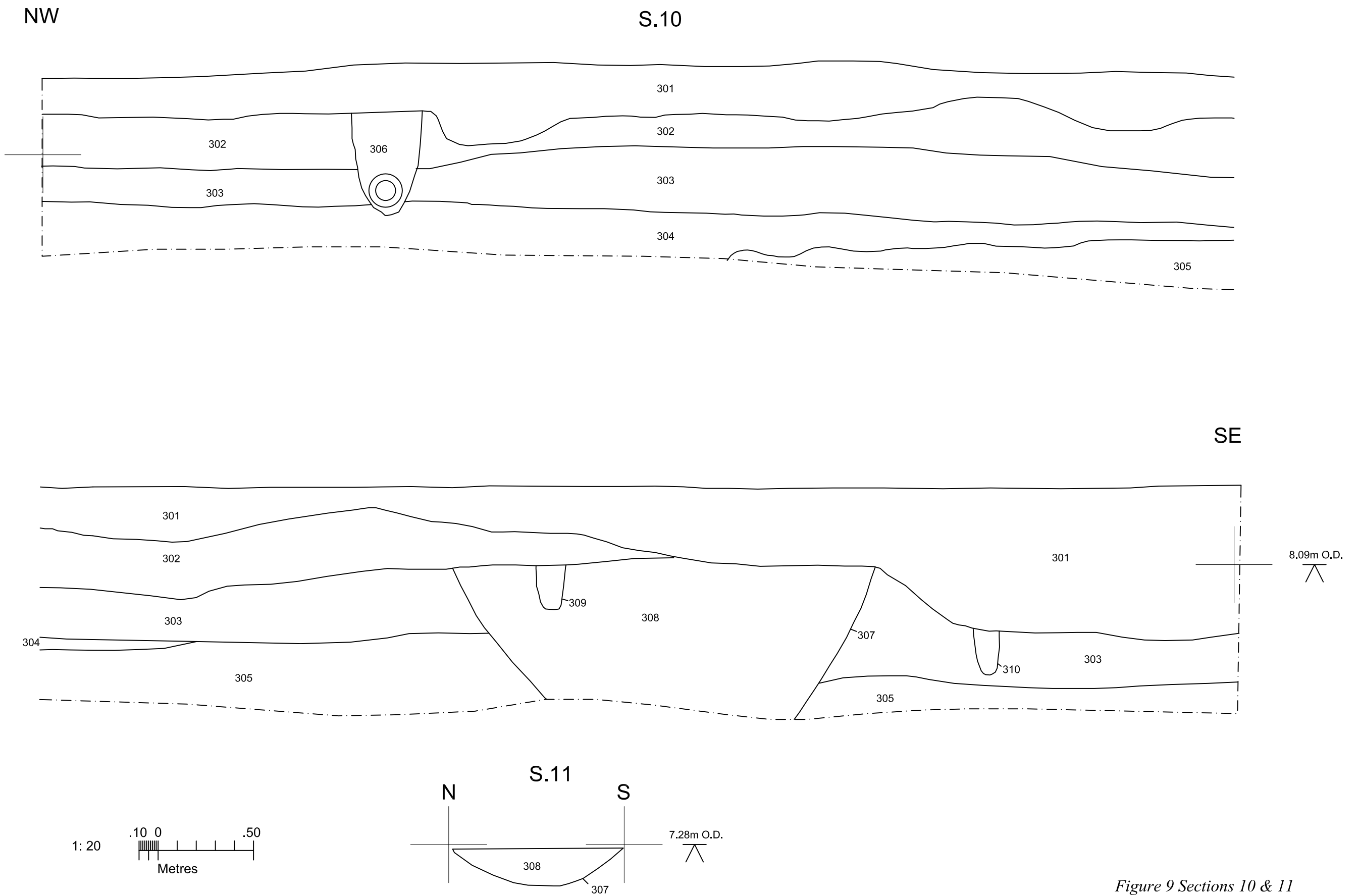


Figure 9 Sections 10 & 11

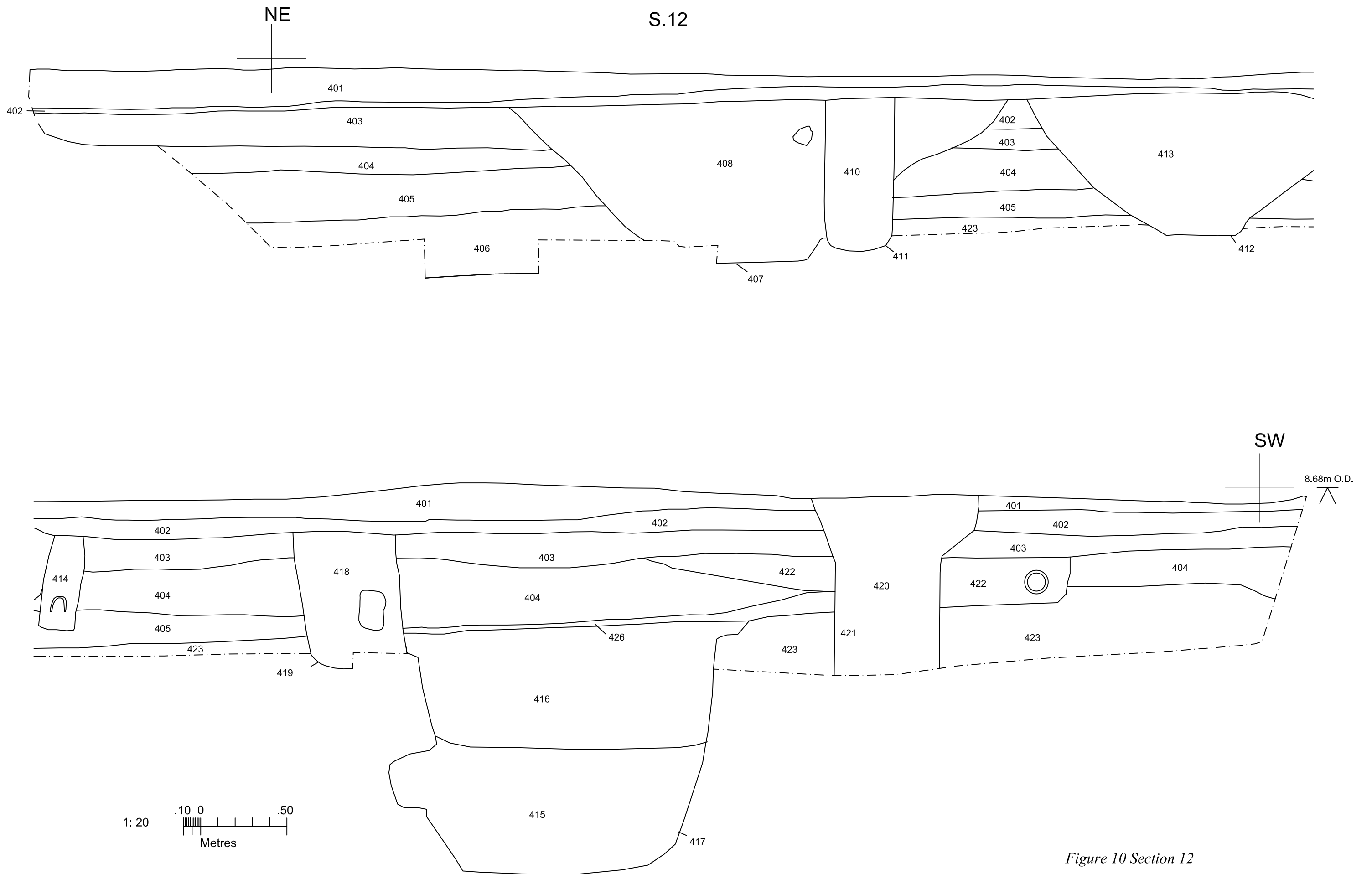


Figure 10 Section 12



Plate 1 Trench 1, before excavation, showing Phase 2/3 hedgeline [112] et al (left) and pits [111], [140], [142], [144], looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2 Trench 1, before excavation, showing Phase 2/3 pits[144][142] et al, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 3 Trench 1 during excavation, showing Phase 1 gully [125] (rear right) and Phase 2/3 hedgeline and pits, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 4 Trench 1, showing Phase 2/3 pits, hedgeline and west section, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 5 Trench 1, showing Phase 1 gully [125] (left foreground) and Phase 2/3 features, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 6 Trench 1, showing sections through Phase 2/3 features [111] and [112], looking north (1m scale)



Plate 7 Trench 1, section through gully Phase 1 [125] (left) and Phase 2/3 pit [109], looking north-east (1m scale)



Plate 8 Trench 1, Phase 3 chapel foundation [132] cutting earlier hedgeline, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 9 Trench 1, half-sectioned Phase 2/3 pit [140] (foreground) with hedgerow cuts to rear, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 10 Trench 2, base of Phase 3 ditch [208], looking east (1m scale)



Plate 11 Trench 2, section through Phase 3 ditch [208], looking east (1m scale)



Plate 12 Trench 3, Phase 1/2 ditch [307], looking north (1m scale)



Plate 13 Trench 3, section through Phase 1/2 ditch [307], looking north (1m scale)



Plate 14 Trench 3, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 15 Trench 4, Phase 1 pit [417], looking south (1m scale)



Plate 16 Trench 4, section through Phase 1 pit [417], looking south (1m scale)



Plate 17 Trench 4, general view of Phase 1 pit [417], with modern test pit (right) looking south-east (1m scale)



Plate 18 Trench 4, showing slope in natural filled by Phase 2 deposit [406] (left foreground) looking south-west (1m scale)

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