

Received 3/10/02

NYE 697 3082
NYS 6954

**High Barn
East Luton
North Yorkshire**

NYCC HER	
SNY	6954
ENY	697
CNY	2082
Parish	3082
Rec'd	3.11.02

Archaeological Watching Brief

MAP
July 2002

**High Barn
East Lutton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
1 Introduction	3
2 Geology	3
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4 Methodology	4
5 Results	4
6 Conclusion	5
7 Bibliography	5
Appendices	
1 Context List	9

Figure List

Page

1 Site Location

6

2 Watching Brief Areas

7

3 Trenches 5 & 6 Sections

8

**High Barn
East Lutton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Introduction

In May 2002 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd carried out a Watching Brief during the erection of eight electricity poles at High Barn, East Lutton, Luttons Parish, North Yorkshire (SE 9435 6875 Fig 1)

All work has been funded by Yorkshire Electricity

All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright License No AL 50453A

2. Geology

The site stands on soils of the Andover 1 Association, shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk (Mackney et al 1983)

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site is located on higher ground on the southern edge of the Great Wold Valley, a natural dry valley which forms part of the Wolds, a range of chalk uplands with which there is a great density of archaeological evidence, ranging from early prehistory through to the industrial period (Figs 1 & 4)

In the immediate area surrounding the site there exists a large number of prehistoric trackways (found mainly on the higher ground), a number of Bronze Age Ring ditches and to the immediate East of the site, a known Square Barrow cemetery. The Double Dykes, the series of ditches in the vicinity of which the Watching Brief took place are assumed to be prehistoric dyke systems, which until the nineteenth century survived above ground as an earthwork bank and associated ditches, extending for many miles. The earthworks no longer survive above ground, but their location was recorded by the Ordnance Survey earlier this century, and more recently by aerial photography as cropmarks due to the surviving, below ground remains of the ditches (Stoertz 1997). The

proposed route line of the electricity poles intersected the dyke system and therefore provided an opportunity to secure dating evidence of these important archaeological features

4. Methodology

In total eight trenches were dug (Fig 2), in a straight line that intersected the Double Dykes system at an oblique angle, the Dykes system itself being visible to the naked eye as a series of three linear cropmarks running approximately North East to South West. All the trenches were dug to the same dimensions using a small 0.4m wide toothed bucket, each, 2m length and 0.9m width, with all trenches being dug to a depth of approximately 1.8m. The conditions were overcast and cold with occasional drizzle and light rain, visibility was poor and vegetation cover was standing to a height of about 0.15 - 0.25m.

5. Results

Trenches 1 to 4 revealed no traces of the ditches, in each case a shallow topsoil overlay a deeper subsoil of approximately 0.3 - 0.4m depth, below which there occurred the natural chalk deposits.

Trench 5 clipped the middle dyke of the three visible cropmarks. This ditch was seen as cut (1006), containing a mid brown deposit (1003), a friable, clayey silt deposit, containing occasional chalk fragments, 0.01 - 0.02m in diameter, there were no finds (Fig 3).

Trench 6 cut through the southernmost cropmark of the sequence. On the surface the ditch was marked by a slight but discernible change in the colour of the crop, and measured approximately 4m in width. The edges of the ditch were not visible in the sections and it was assumed that the trench had cut through solely into the ditch fill, the trench being only 0.70m wide.

A topsoil (1001) of 0.3m depth was underlain by a subsoil (1002), of approximately 0.6m depth consisting of a friable, clayey silt deposit, with occasional chalk fragments 0.01-0.02m in diameter.

The ditch fill (1004), was dark brown in colour, with a clayey silty texture, friable consistency, and contained occasional chalk fragments approximately 0.02m in width, there were no finds (Fig 3). Context 6004 had a depth of c 1m.

Trenches 7 and 8 did not contain any archaeological deposits. In each of the trenches, a profile similar to that of Trenches 1 to 4 was visible, where shallow topsoil and subsoil deposits overlay the natural chalk.

6. Conclusion

Following the excavation of eight trenches to accommodate a series of electrical poles to a private residence, the archaeological evidence confirmed the existence and alignment of a series of three ditches running North East to South West, commonly known as the Double Dykes. Excavation of the trenches revealed that the most southerly ditch of the sequence was of a moderate size, the absence of any satisfactory dating evidence however, meant that it was not possible to confirm if the ditches were of the prehistoric period.

7. Bibliography

Mackney D 1983 Soils of England and Wales - Sheet 1 Northern England

Stoertz C 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds RCHM (E)

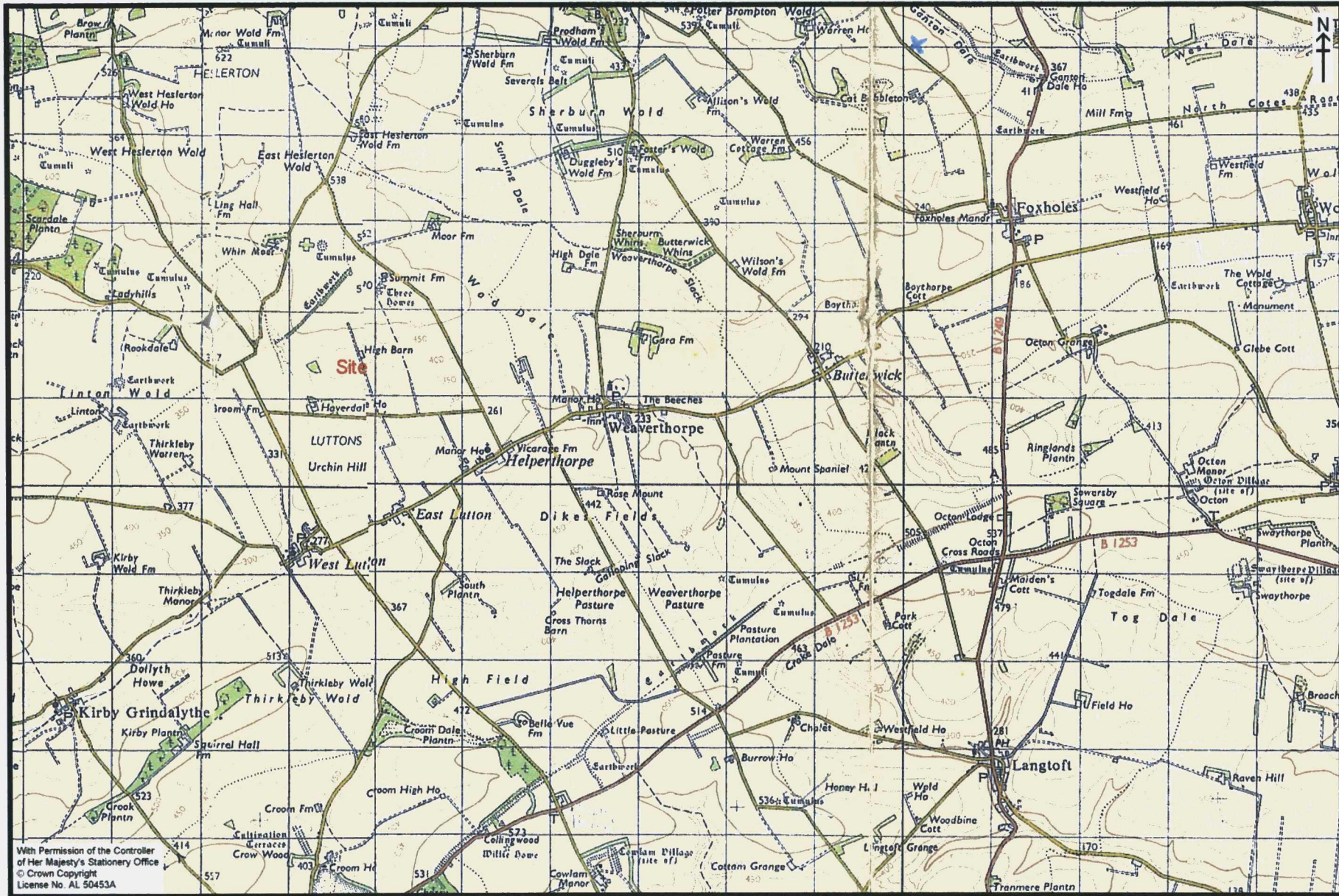


Figure 1. Site Location

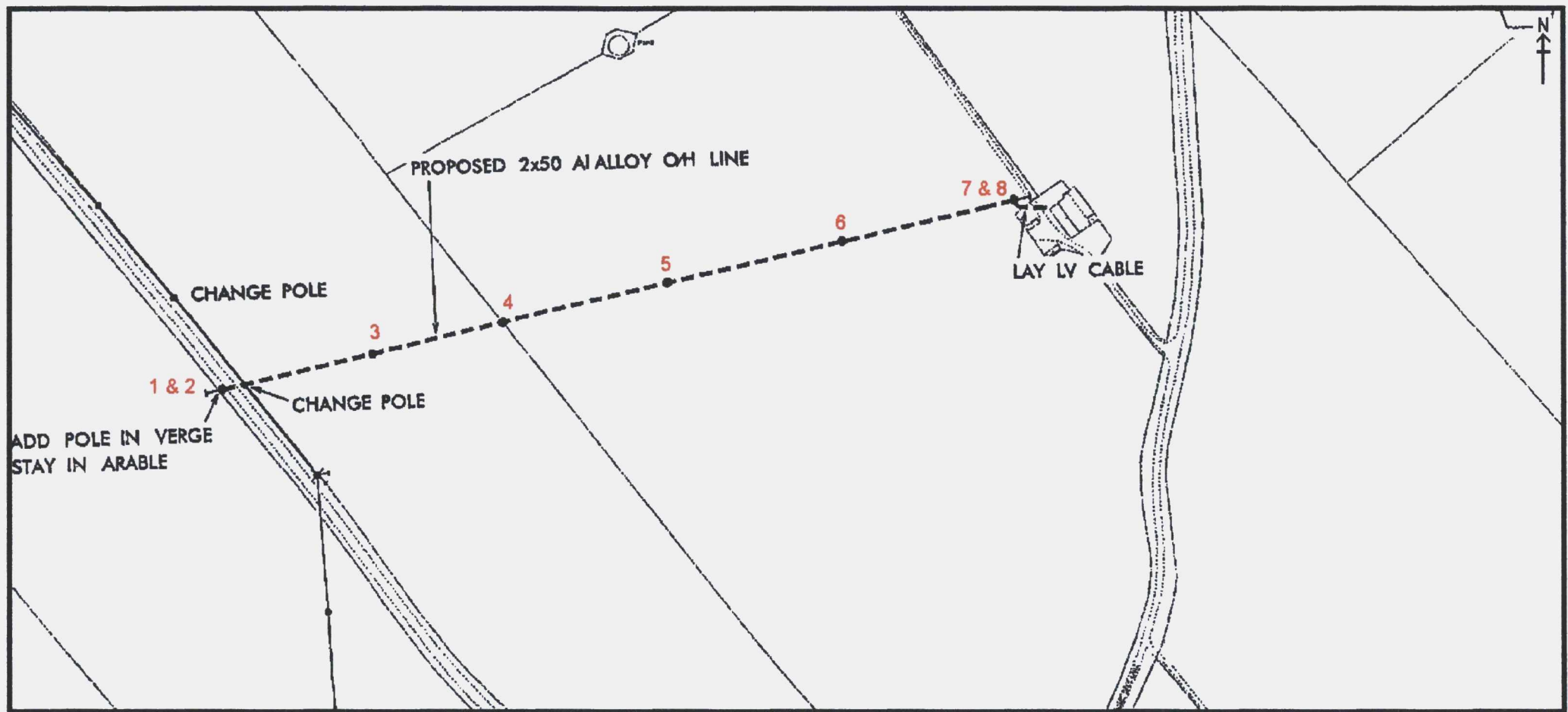


Figure 2. Watching Brief Areas

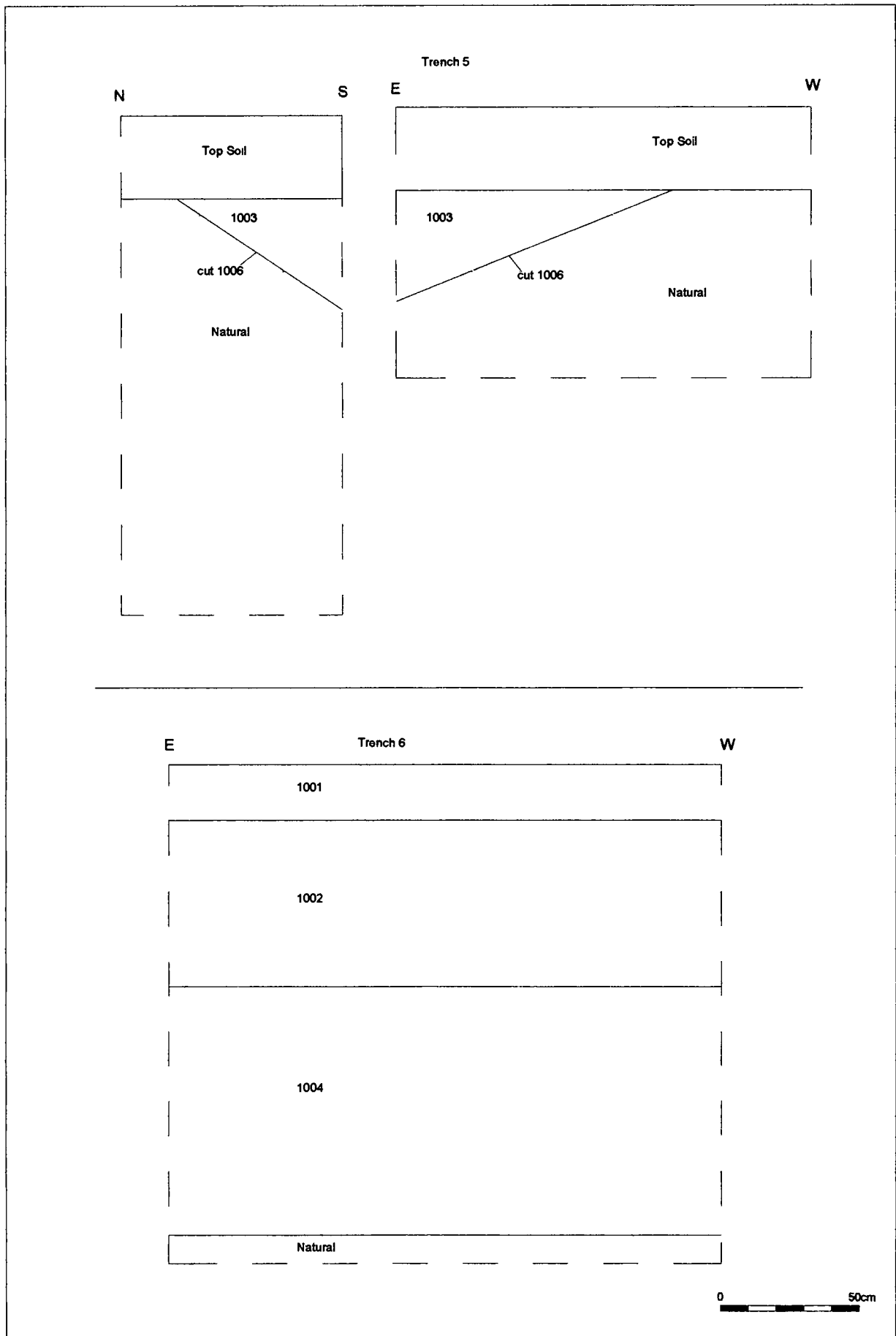


Figure 3 Trenches 5 & 6 Sections

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context	Description
1001	Deposit, 10YR 3/2, clayey loam topsoil
1002	Deposit 10YR 4/2, clayey silt, subsoil
1003	Deposit, 10YR 3/3, clayey silt, ditch fill
1004	Deposit, 10YR 4/2, clayey silt, ditch fill
1005	Deposit, 10YR 3/2, clayey loam topsoil
1006	Cut, ditch cut