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NYS 8689

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| SNY | 8689 |
| ENY | 2313 |
| CNY | |
| Parish | 3133 |
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**Terrington Bank Top Reservoir
Terrington
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

July 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

**Terrington Bank Top Reservoir
Terrington, North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Terrington Bank Top Reservoir

Terrington, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. undertook an archaeological watching brief on the construction of a new reservoir, and the demolition of its forerunner, at Terrington Bank Top, Terrington, Ryedale District, North Yorkshire (SE 6568 7093 - Fig. 1) in August 1996 and May 1997.

The area of the watching brief lies to the south of the unclassified road between Terrington and Dalby. The new reservoir has been built 30m east of the old one, with the sites of the two being separated by a hedge (Fig. 2).

The geology of the site consists of Estuarine Series sandstone of the Lower Oolite (O.S. 1960), with covering soils of the Rivington 1 Association (Mackney *et al.* 1983). The local topography shows a north-west to south-east aligned ridge, with an elevation of c.120m. The ground drops steeply to the south-west, but falls away more gently to the north and west. To illustrate the commanding position of the site, an Ordnance Survey triangulation point lies immediately to the south-east.

The original reservoir had been built on the site of a barrow still marked on Ordnance Survey maps. There was, however, no real indication of this barrow on the ground at the time of the watching brief, even so construction and demolition work were to be under archaeological supervision/observation.

The work was funded by Babcock Water Engineering, through the contractors, the Dew Group.

The 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, Licence no. AL 50453A.

Excavation Methods

The watching brief necessitated the archaeological supervision of all topsoil stripping, undertaken by a 360 degree excavator, with the archaeological recording and sample excavation of any features present.

The sample excavations were planned at 1: 20, and sections drawn at 1: 10 scales (Fig. 3). A written record was compiled under the continuous context recording system.

The brief also allowed for the recording of a section across the barrow during the demolition of the old reservoir, but in the event, this opportunity did not arise.

Excavation Results

The only archaeological deposits revealed during the watching brief were associated with a linear feature located during topsoil stripping on the site of the new reservoir. The feature, aligned south-east to north-west, with a slight north-western curvature, was excavated in two 0.75m wide segments

(contexts 1005/7 and 1009).

The full width of the feature was revealed in the south-west segment. Here, a cut (context 1007) with gently sloping edges and a flat base, was filled by a pale sandy silt (context 1006). There was an apparent recut (context 1005) to this feature from a point c.0.5m to the south of 1007's southern edge. The recut was of similar profile to 1007, but was c.3m in width and 0.3m deep. The basal fill (context 1004) was a pale sandy silt, with the majority of the cut being filled by context 1003, which was similar in texture but darker. The northern edge of 1005 was indicated by a slight change between the fill (context 1003) and the material into which it was cut (context 1002 - a possible subsoil).

The other segment (context 1009) showed a broad, shallow profile, with the southern edge very gently sloping to the flat base. The fill (context 1008) was similar to context 1003.

The relative breadth and shallowness of the linear feature, its position and alignment clearly rule it out as a ditch surrounding the barrow, whose site lay over 15m to the west. Instead, it probably represents a furrow, perhaps medieval in date. However, a more recent date cannot be ruled out, as the furrow appears to respect the corner of the present field, and could have been created by the turning of the plough there.

The only artefact recovered was a flint blade fragment from the topsoil in the vicinity of the old reservoir (Appendix 2).

Conclusions

No strictly archaeological deposits were revealed during the watching brief, and certainly none associated with the round barrow. Indeed, it is likely that the construction of the original reservoir removed a large part of the barrow, particularly above ground. Site plans supplied by the contractor show a distinct mound for the barrow, but this does not equate with the earthworks on the ground, where the barrow's site was obscure.

The only feature revealed was a linear feature which reflected former agricultural use of the area, rather than being related to prehistoric funerary activity.

Bibliography

O.S. (1960) *Geological Survey of England and Wales: Pickering, sheet 53.*

Mackney, D. *et al.* (1983) *Soil Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England.*

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

| Context No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 1001 | Dk. brown friable sandy silt; occasional flat limestone (modern topsoil) |
| 1002 | Brown compact sandy silt; moderate flat limestone frags. (?colluvial deposit) |
| 1003 | Brown friable sandy silt; occasional flat limestone frags.(fill of 1005) |
| 1004 | Yellowish brown friable sandy silt; moderate flat limestone frags. (fill of 1005) |
| 1005 | Cut (?recut furrow segment) |
| 1006 | Yellowish brown friable sandy silt; occasional flat limestone frags. (fill of 1007) |
| 1007 | Cut (?furrow segment) |
| 1008 | Brown friable sandy silt; occasional flat limestone frags. (fill of 1009) |
| 1009 | Cut (?furrow segment) |
| 1010 | Limestone bedrock |

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

| Context No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 1001 | Flint blade frag.; proximal break. Semi-translucent bluish grey flint. L. 18, W. 14, T. 3.5mm. |

APPENDIX 3

Archive Summary

1 x A2 permatrace sheet of field drawings
10 context sheets, completed and checked for consistency
7 monochrome and 9 colour print exposures
1 small bag of containing the find

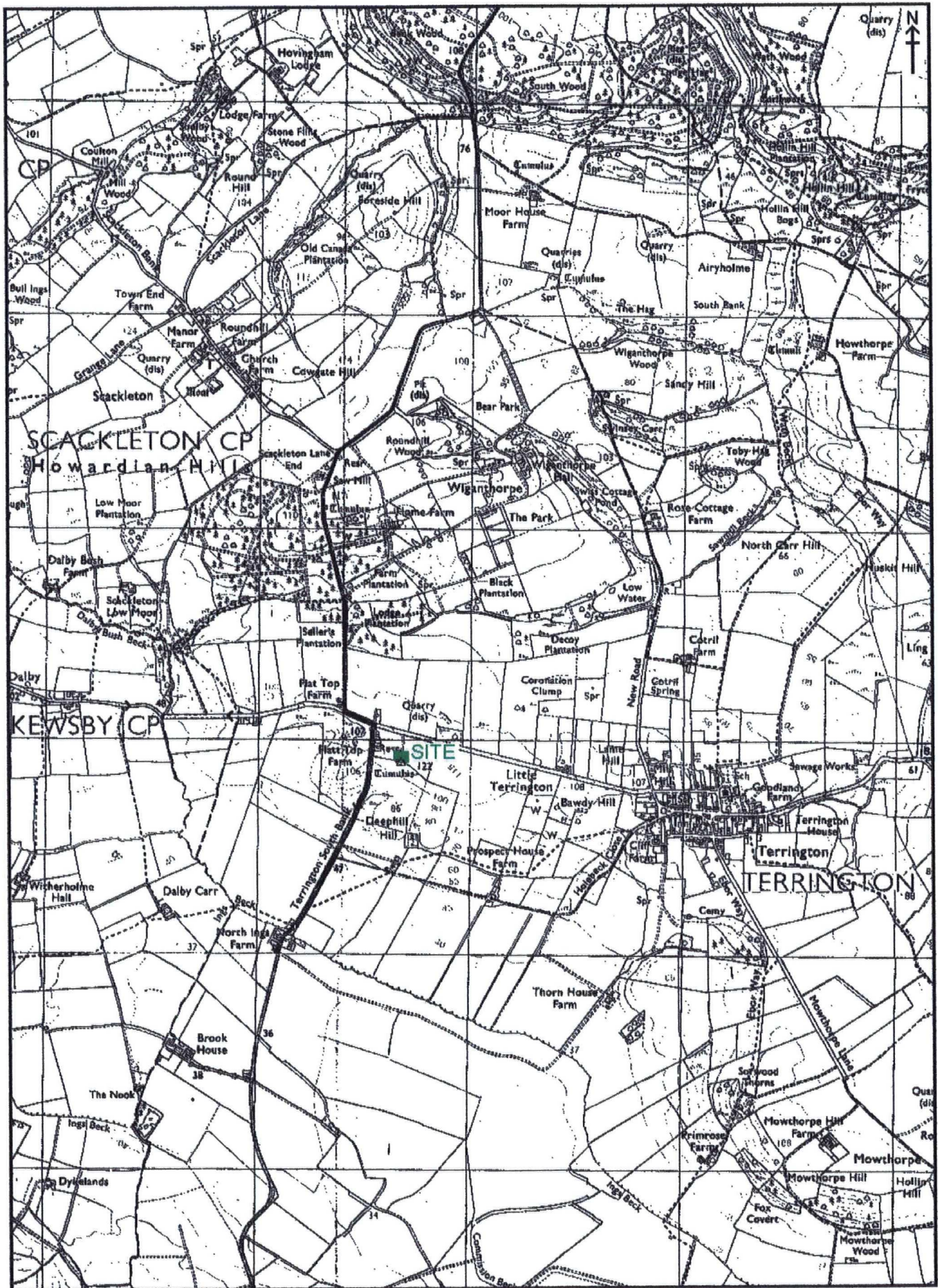


Figure 1. Site Location.

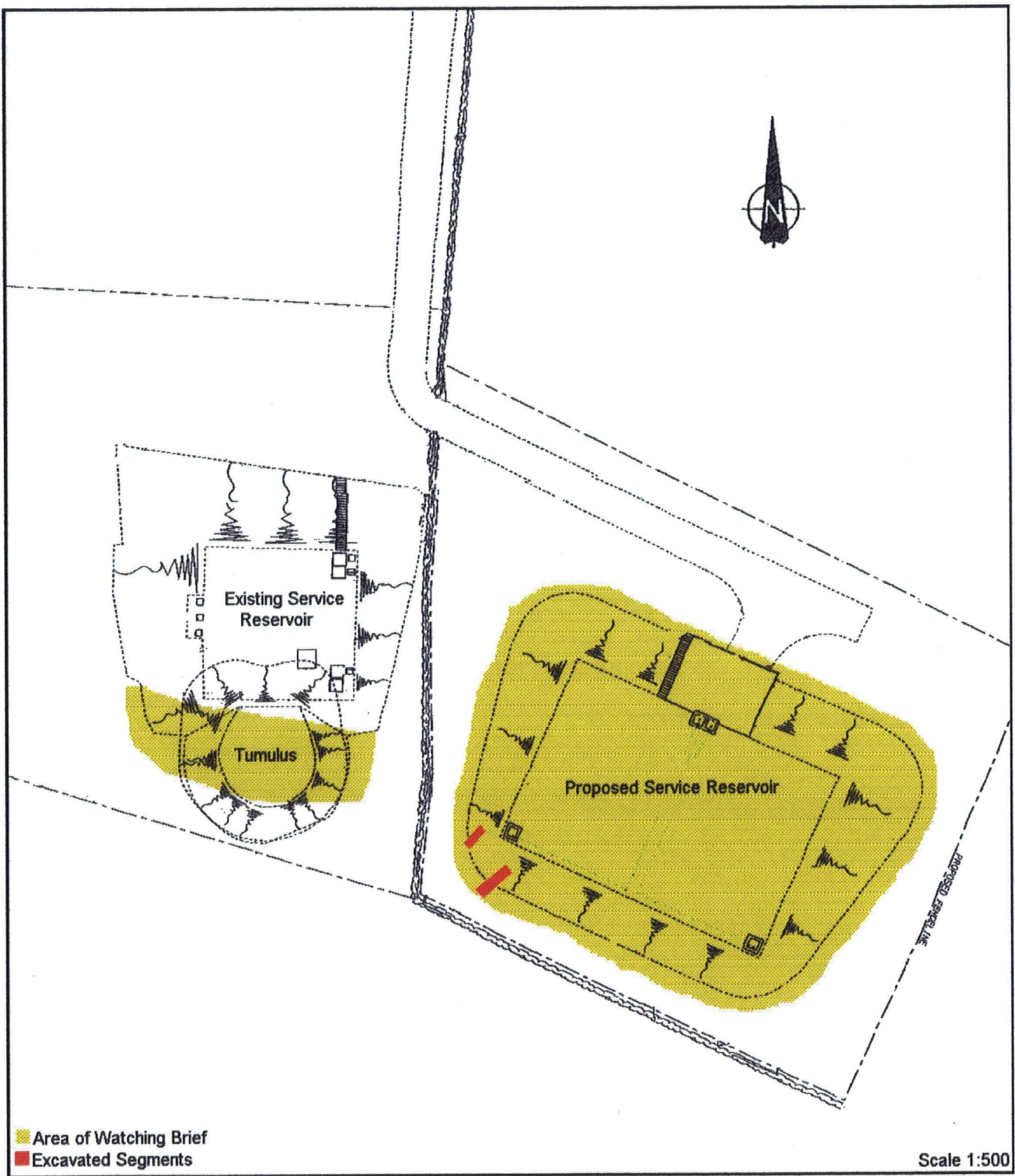


Figure 2. Development Area.

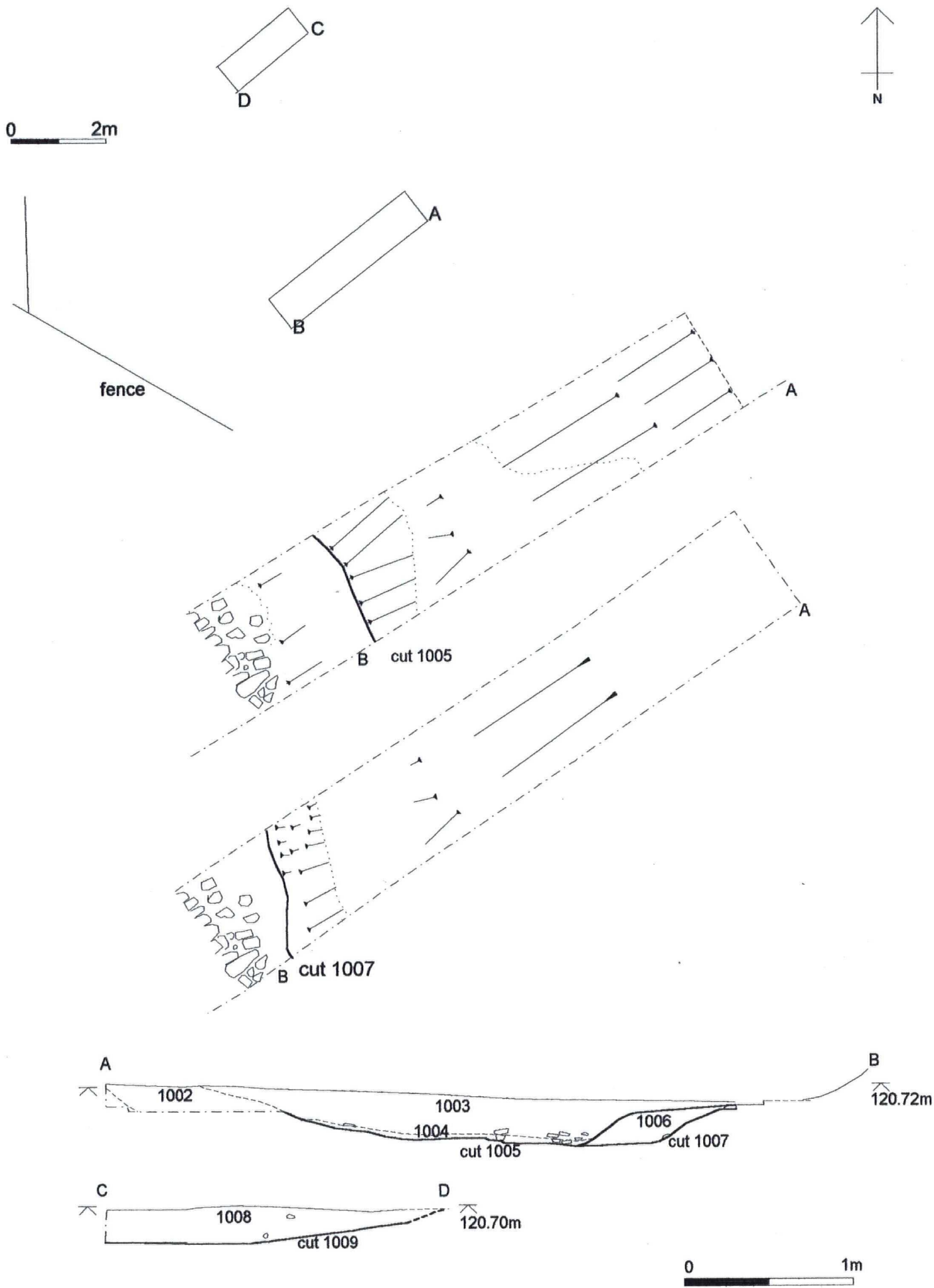


Figure 3. Plans and sections.