



**Thornton Switch Island Link,
Archaeological Evaluation
Site Code 138
Final Report
NGR SD 331 018 to SD 368 016**

Prepared for Sefton Council, Balfour Beatty, Jacobs

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Non-Technical Summary

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) conducted in advance of the construction of the Thornton to Switch Island Link Road, Sefton.

The evaluation was conducted following a programme of fieldwalking with surface artefact collection and geophysical survey. A total of 70 trenches were excavated along the route of the road.

In general the evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, the only identifiable deposits related to post-medieval field boundaries and land drains. Additional fragments of medieval ceramics and possible Roman pottery and industrial waste were recovered from the central section of the route, though these were very widely spread and could not be related to any below ground deposits.

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1. Introduction

This document is the final report on the results of archaeological trial trenching for the Thornton Switch Island Link Road and supersedes the earlier interim report (Adams 2013). The major changes have been the inclusion of the finds report, reporting on additional trenching undertaken in January 2014 and other items as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Jacobs 2012).

The project relates to the construction of a new single carriageway link approximately 4.2km long connecting the A565 Southport Road at Thornton with the M57, M58, A59 and A5036 (Dunnings Bridge Road) at Switch Island. The road will cross Holgate, Brickwall Lane and Chapel Lane, and bypass the A5207 and the local communities of Netherton and Thornton (see Fig. 1).

The road will be constructed as a 10m wide, two lane single carriageways with 1m wide hard strips adjacent to each 2.5m wide verge. From west to east, the carriageway comprises:

- A tie in to the existing A565 and Ince Lane at grade or on a low embankment;
- Ince lane to a new roundabout north of Park View (with a tie in to Park View) at grade;
- New roundabout to Holgate in cutting;
- Holgate to Brickwall Lane (with a new junction tying in to Brickwall Lane) on an embankment;
- Brickwall lane to chapel lane at grade or in shallow cutting; and,
- Chapel Lane to Switch Island at grade or on a low embankment.

Other features of the scheme include:

- Four ponds at Switch Island, Netherton Brook, Rakes Lane/Back Lane and Long Lane;
- Culverts at Rakes Lane and Netherton Brook; and,

- Large embankments at Switch Island to raise the new carriageway to meet the existing junction.

The archaeological works were carried out in response to planning condition S/2010/1050 (Condition 31) dated 25/01/2011 issued by Sefton Council and were conducted in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Jacobs (Jacobs 2012), and agreed with the archaeological advisor to Sefton Council.

2. Topography and Geology

The scheme is located on the southern edge of the valley of the River Alt and to the north of the settlements of Thornton and Netherton, and south of Sefton. Thornton and Netherton are located on one of the two parallel Shirdley Hill sandstone ridges (Cowell and Innes, 1994, 73). From these ridges the land slopes gently northwards towards the river; to the north of the river, the land rises sharply towards the town of Maghull.

British Geological Survey (BGS) maps indicate that the solid geology is Sherwood Sandstone and Mercia Mudstone (BGS 1935).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

Prior to this project little archaeological fieldwork had been conducted in the immediate area around the scheme and most of the available evidence was derived from documentary sources. The following summary is derived from the WSI for the scheme (Jacobs 2012).

3.1 Prehistoric (up to AD 43)

Late Upper Palaeolithic (LUP, c.11000 to c.9000BC) flint tools have been identified on the high sandstone areas of the Wirral and on the Pennines. A chert flake has been recovered from Little Crosby, to the west of scheme, which has been tentatively dated to the LUP period (Cowell and Innes 1994, 24).

Up until about 7000BC, sea levels were approximately 20m lower than present. As a result the coastline was located considerably further to the west than it is at present and was backed by a large coastal plain. As sea levels rose over the next 2000 years this coastal plain flooded and peat developed in low-lying area such as in the basin of the River Alt. Palaeoenvironmental evidence suggests the presence of a mixed environment with sand and mud flats, freshwater swamp and fen woodland behind the coastline, and open woodland birch, hazel and pine (which later developed into denser woodland dominated by alder, oak, hazel and elm) on the higher land (Cowell 2008, 20). The study area would have been located on this higher land, between the 10m and 15m contour.

The range of resources provided by this mixed environment would have made the area attractive to Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. The Mesolithic

period dates from c.8000 to c.4000BC and is characterised by scatters of tools made from chert and flint. There is a concentration of such scatters around Ince Blundell and Little Crosby. This has been interpreted as evidence for hunter-gatherer groups seasonally occupying higher drier land, such as the Shirdley Hill sandstone ridges and islands in flood plain of the River Alt, to exploit the resources of the wetlands (ibid).

This evidence has recently been supplemented by the excavation of a settlement site consisting at least three structures at Lunt Meadows c. 2 km to the north of the scheme and close to the current course of the River Alt. These have been radiocarbon dated to 5800 BC and were substantial permanent structures up to six metres across which the excavator suggests that '...at the least they repeatedly returned to for part of the year' and possibly for longer. In addition to the structural evidence there may also be evidence of ritual practice in stone tools which appear to have been deliberately broken and buried in pits (R. Cowell, pers. comm.).

The Lunt Meadows site was on a low sandy promontory, less than a foot above the water level of a nearby lake. The occupation site was preserved under layers of silts and deposits showing that the site was repeatedly flooded over the succeeding millennia. As such it was in a slightly different landscape to that through which the scheme passes, which is slightly more elevated and for much of its length passes over boulder clay drift rather than the sands, peats and silts at Lunt. However, the site does illustrate the potential of the wider area.

Elsewhere in the country the Neolithic period (c.4000BC to c.2500BC) is characterised by; communal funerary monuments, artefacts such as polished stone axes, a more sedentary way of life and the adoption of agriculture. While palaeoenvironmental evidence indicates that cereal was being grown in this area around 4000BC (Cowell 2008, 24, 26), and polished stone axes have been found at Hightown and Little Crosby, the archaeological evidence, again characterised by scatters of flint tools, suggests that populations in this area were still quite mobile, with the higher ridges being used again and again for temporary settlement (Cowell and Innes 1994, 93). This may indicate that the woodland and wetlands were being used in the same way, but it is also possible that the Neolithic population were using the edges of the marshes and bogs for seasonal grazing which would leave little trace in the archaeological record. After c.2750BC there is palaeoenvironmental evidence for larger scale woodland clearance and cereal cultivation in the region (Cowell and Innes 1994, 94) which may indicate that populations were becoming more sedentary as the Bronze Age (c.2500BC to c.800BC) progressed. There is, however, little other archaeological evidence for settlement in this area.

There is little evidence in this area for activity relating to the Iron Age (c.800 BC to AD 43). Small scatters of irregular flint pebbles and pebble fragments, retouched¹ along one edge for use as scrapers or cutting implements, have been found in association with areas of peat and may date to this period (Cowell and Innes 1994, 94). A very small number of

such sites have been identified on the southern slopes of the valley of the River Alt and on its floodplain (ibid). A few scatters of burnt flint nodules have been identified in the Alt Valley, and these have also been traditionally dated to the later prehistoric period. Again, these tend to be found in or on the edge of wet deposits (ibid). Further afield, a farmstead comprising of an open settlement of roundhouses, granaries and storage pits surrounded by small fields or paddocks and dating to around 200BC has been identified to the north at Lathom near Ormskirk (Cowell 2008, 27).

3.1 Roman and Early Medieval (AD 43 to AD 1066)

The Roman invasion of AD 43 marks the start of the Roman (or Romano-British) Period in England, though the North-West was only incorporated into Roman territory in the 70s AD as a result of campaigns against the Brigantian tribes occupying the area. While no Roman military sites are known nearby, large civilian settlements have been identified at Wilderspool and Wigan (Philpot in Pollard and Pevsner, 2006, 15). Roman remains in the wider region are characterised by farmsteads, including one possible example at Ince Blundell (ibid, 16). This was an undated sub-rectangular enclosure; however, the nature of finds recovered by metal detectorists in the vicinity of the site would suggest that that the enclosure is of Romano-British date (Philpott 2008, 50). However, Roman remains are comparatively rare in Sefton (Cowell and Innes, 1994, 95) which may suggest that the area was sparsely settled. However, this should be seen against a regional background of very low levels of material culture on the few excavated settlement sites and this may be as much a result of the comparative lack of fieldwork in the area rather than the absence of a population.

Evidence of activity in this area in the Early Medieval period (AD 410 to AD 1066) comes almost exclusively from place-names. Some place-names may have British or earlier origins. For example; the element "Ince" in "Ince Blundell" is thought to be derived from the Celtic Ynes, meaning "an island or a watery meadow" (Farthing, 1996, 3), and is likely to reflect its location surrounded by fen. The majority of placenames along the Sefton Coast and in the valley of the River Alt have Norse origins and attest colonisation of the Norse from Ireland in the 10th century AD. Some of these reflect topography; for example the place name "Lunt" derives from the Norse or Swedish word meaning "grove" or "copse", while others reflect settlement, such as those place-names with the "by" suffix (Lewis 2002, 19).

Very few finds or remains have been identified in Sefton from this period, with the exception of a few carved stones and a 10th century coin hoard found at Little Crosby in the 17th century (Philpot in Pollard and Pevsner, 2006, 18). It has been suggested that the settlements from this period were located on the flat part of the sandy ridges, away from the Alt Valley (Cowell and Innes, 1994, 97).

While published after the Norman invasion of AD 1066, the Domesday survey of AD 1086 provides some evidence on the nature of pre-Norman settlement in the area. By this time, Sefton was located within the Hundred of West Derby, a royal estate pre-dating the Norman Conquest (Lewis 2002, 21). This estate would have been divided into a number of manors. It has been suggested that some of these manors may have included a farmstead or hamlet (Lewis 2002, 25), and it is therefore possible that some settlements, such as Thornton and the former settlement of Sefton Town may date to the early medieval period. The large amount of arable land in these areas recorded by the Domesday survey is also suggestive of an organised agricultural system before the Norman Conquest.

3.3 Medieval (AD 1066 to AD 1540)

Initially granted to Roger of Poitou, and later owned by the crown, during the 12th century lands around Sefton, Sefton Town, Netherton and part of Thornton were granted to the Molyneux family. The Molyneux family built a moated site at Sefton, which was their main residence until the 16th century (Lewis 2002, 28). The land around Sefton, extending northeast to the River Alt and southwest towards the former settlement of Sefton Town is likely to have been their demesne. The rest of their lands are likely to have been rented to tenants. The location of Sefton on lower lying, poorer quality land may indicate that the Molyneux family located their manorial centre away from an existing (earlier) settlement at Sefton Town and off the productive arable land (Lewis 2002).

Sefton Town, Lunt and Thornton are likely to have been nucleated settlements (hamlets or villages) in the medieval period (Lewis 2002, 28). Often located at a cross roads, these nucleated settlements would have comprised rectangular houses fronting onto the roadside with rectangular yards and paddocks extending to the rear. In some cases there would have been a church, a mill and a village green. Such settlements would have been surrounded by fields farmed under the open field system, where farmland was subdivided into two or three sectors of large open fields, and crops were rotated within these sectors to maintain soil fertility. Individual farmers would have held strips of land for cultivation scattered across each of the fields. The ploughing of each strip would have created a distinctive pattern of ridge and furrow, with raised linear ridges divided by furrows for drainage. Ridge and furrow tends to survive as cropmarks visible on aerial photographs or fossilised in the field patterns and place-names shown on later estate, tithe and Ordnance Survey mapping. The “reverse S” curved boundaries of long rectangular fields visible on early Ordnance Survey maps (Ordnance Survey 1850) in the area are particularly indicative of ploughing by oxen.

It is, however, unlikely that that the lower lying lands to the south of the River Alt and around Sefton would have been farmed in this way. It is possible that these lands were used for grazing or as hay meadows. Bakewell (1983, 19) has suggested that Sefton’s unique topographic conditions may have resulted in the creation of ditches to prevent flooding,

which would have resulted in a pattern of enclosed fields from an early date.

3.4 Post-Medieval and Modern (AD 1540 to Present)

Evidence from documentary and cartographic sources suggests that the enclosure of the open fields into smaller sub-rectangular fields that started in the 14th century was largely complete by the mid-18th century. Enclosure would seem to have been by agreement following the exchange and consolidation of strips (Lewis 2002, 75). In the 18th century both hedgerows and ditches were described enclosing these fields (Ibid, 75). This field pattern was further modified in the mid to later 20th century as field boundaries were removed to enlarge fields.

By the 18th century the settlement pattern was characterised by isolated farmsteads set within these enclosed fields. It is this pattern that can be seen on Ordnance Survey mapping dating to the mid-19th century (Ordnance Survey 1850).

In 1773, the area was described as “vast array of fine meadows that reach almost as far as the sea... after the first winter flood is covered with water the rest of the season for want of fall to carry it away” (Farrer and Brownbill, 1907, 66). Studies have shown that flooding was most common within 500 m of the River Alt (Cowell and Innes, 1994, 98). To control this flooding, in 1779 an act was brought to regulate the River Alt. A new channel was cut to the east of the existing river and several tributaries were changed or cleared (Farrer and Brownbill, 1907, 59). Despite these measures, an 1879 survey of agricultural land found that the farmland was still susceptible to floods (Lewis, 2002, 8). In addition to drainage, land was improved by applying clay extracted from local marl pits. It is possible that some of the ponds shown on estate and early Ordnance Survey maps are marl pits. Clay would also have been used for bricks, and the presence of kilns is reflected in fieldnames. As communications improved, it is likely that that night soil (household waste) was brought in from city centres to fertilize fields. This process resulted in often large quantities of broken pottery and other non-perishable materials in the topsoil.

At the start of the 20th century, the area consisted of a mixture of meadow near the Alt, which continued to flood in winter, with arable fields on the higher ground to the south (Farrer and Brownbill, 1907, 66).

3.5 Results of Non-Invasive Evaluations

3.5.1 Fieldwalking with Surface Artefact Collection

Fieldwalking has been carried out in all areas where land was made available. Although there was a variety of ground cover, only Parcel 2 proved completely unsuitable for survey. Even taking into account that ground conditions were not ideal for this type of survey, the quantity of material recovered was not large and there were no indications for the

presence of as yet unidentified settlements of any period or other potential 'hot spots'.

Four pieces of worked flint from Parcels 8, 9a, 9b and 14 point to the presence of prehistoric hunter-gatherers in the area and, combined with fire-cracked pebbles (which were used to heat water for cooking) from Parcels 3 and 8, possibly a temporary encampment in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Two sherds of possible Romano-British coarseware pottery from Parcels 8 and 9a indicate the potential for settlement from this period to be located nearby. The fact that these were co-located with finds from the medieval and post-medieval periods suggests the possibility for a long continuity of occupation, possibly located to the south of the proposed scheme, near the site of Poplars Farm (Site 18).

A small but interesting assemblage of medieval pottery was found in Parcel 8, close to the known locations of a medieval cross base (Site 17) and a farm with potential medieval / early post-medieval origins (Site 18, Poplars Farm). The quantity of pottery sherds (5 medieval and 18 post-medieval) does not suggest that any settlement is located within the scheme footprint but that it could be nearby, tying in with the evidence from the Desk-Based Survey (Jacobs 2010).

3.5.2 Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey has been carried out in all areas where land was made available. Despite variable ground cover, no areas proved too densely overgrown for the surveys to be completed.

In general the geophysical survey seems to have been successful in that it consistently detected the buried remains of field boundaries that were identified from historic maps and aerial photographs in the Desk-Based Survey (Jacobs 2010). As well as these features, anomalies consistent with the presence of further linear and discrete archaeological features were also detected in Parcels 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8.

Although anomalies detected in Parcels 7, 8 and 9a coincided with the most (relatively) dense concentration of fieldwalking finds, they are broadly indicative of the prevailing alignment of ridge and furrow fields. As a result, the distribution of finds in this area may be indicative of the distribution of debris from the known nearby occupation site at Poplars Farm (Site 18) as a result of post medieval and modern ploughing.

However, it should be noted that the geology and soils of the North-West are known to mask the weaker geophysical anomalies that are often indicative of prehistoric settlement, therefore the presence of additional archaeological features cannot be ruled out without invasive investigation.

4. Methodology

Excavation was conducted between 1st October 2013 and 17th January 2014. A total of 70 trenches were excavated following the methodology set out in the agreed WSI (Jacobs 2012).

5. Trench Descriptions

The vast majority of trenches retained no archaeological deposits and are described in summary only. All deposits were assigned context numbers, though these are only given in the text where relevant, for example to allow cross-referencing with plan or section drawings. Detailed records of all excavated deposits are retained with the site archive.

Trench locations are given in Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Trenches 1-16, 43-45 and 68-70 are on Fig. 2.

Trenches 17-33 are on Fig. 3.

Trenches 33-41, 46-50 and 52 are on Fig. 4.

Trenches 42, 51 and 53-67 are on Fig. 5.

Trench 1 c. 2-300 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over mixed clays sands and gravels (Plate 1). A slightly deeper area of sub-soil may relate to the geophysical anomaly. A single sherd of early post-medieval dark coarseware dating to the 16th century (SF508) was recovered from plough soil but did not relate to any identifiable archaeological deposits.

Trench 2 c. 300 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The geophysical anomaly corresponds with an earthenware land drain situated in the centre of the trench and dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. At the northern end of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned linear feature (Figs 6 and 7). The cut (context 3, Plate 2) was 2.3-2.70 m wide, 0.3 m deep and filled by soft sandy silty loam containing occasional flecks of clinker (context 15). This feature does not appear on historic mapping of the area and no finds were recovered from the fill, though it does appear to run parallel to adjacent field boundaries shown on the First Edition OS. Its shallow profile and the nature of the fill suggests that it is either a natural variation in the surface of geological deposits or possibly part of ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks.

Trench 3 c. 300 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The geophysical anomaly corresponds with a shallow feature (Context 11) filled with a deposit identical to the sub-soil and cut c. 150 mm into geological deposits (Figs 7 and 8). At the base of this feature was a clay and plough soil filled land drain on the same alignment (Plate 3). This feature ran broadly parallel to adjacent field boundaries shown on the First Edition OS (Fig. 9) and is likely to be either a natural variation in the surface of

geological deposits or possibly part of ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks.

Trench 4 c. 300 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. A ditch c. 1 m wide and 0.30 m deep (contexts 13 and 14) ran SSW-SNE across the centre of the trench and appears to coincide with the geophysical anomaly. It had a shallow, dish-shaped profile and was filled by a mid-greyish brown sandy silt (Fig 11, Plate 4). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill but it runs close to and parallel with a boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 9). Context 24 was the fill of a similar cut (context 25) which ran in an identical alignment 1.4 m to the east of context 14 and is presumed to relate to the same boundary (Figs 10 and 11).

Trench 5 c. 300mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. No archaeological deposits present, a possible ditch fill was investigated but was a shallow (<50 mm) natural variation in topography.

Trench 6 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only features present were clay and soil filled land drains. A possible NE-SW aligned ditch was investigated but was a shallow (<50 mm) natural variation in topography.

Trench 7 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The geophysical anomaly corresponds with two c. 2 m wide and 0.75 m deep cuts into geological deposits (Contexts 58 and 63, Figs 12 and 13). The fills were humic gingery brown sandy silts containing occasional mid-19th cent pottery (Plate 5, Fig. 13). These features coincide with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS and were probably ditches to either side of a hedge. Other features in this trench were all 19th and late 20th century land drains.

Trench 8 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay with occasional lenses of white sand. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 9 c. 500mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay with occasional lenses of iron-panned gravel. The geophysical anomaly corresponds with 1.5 m wide, 0.7 m deep cut (context 31) into boulder clay which was filled by inter-lensed deposits of humic reddish brown sandy silt and redeposited boulder clay (Figs 14 and 15). The fill contained 19th century ceramics and at the base was an earthenware and Welsh slate land- drain (Plate 6, Figs 14 and 15) and coincides with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS.

Trench 10 c. 500mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay with frequent lenses of iron paned gravel. A possible cut feature at the south-western end was investigated but was shallow (less than 150 mm deep) with very irregular edges and was probably related to animal or plant action.

Trench 11 c. 500mm of plough soil and sub-soil sealed 200mm fine silvery sand (possibly deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand) over boulder clay. The geophysical anomaly coincides with a c.5m wide north-west to south-east aligned cut (Context 66). The fills were generally organic silty sands and silty clays which appear to represent the gradual silting up of the cut (Plate 7, Figs 15 and 16). To its west the geology was more varied with substantial lenses of iron panned gravel. Excavation was abandoned due to water ingress at a depth of c. 2m, though the profile suggests that this was close to the base of the cut. 18th and 19th century ceramics were found stratified in the lower fills (Context 66) of the ditch and it is likely that it is the field boundary shown on the First Edition OS (Fig. 17).

Trench 12 c. 600 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay with occasional lenses of iron panned gravel. No archaeological deposits were present. The subsoil was locally deeper by 150 mm c. 7 m from the west end though this was considered to be a natural variation.

Trench 13 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay with frequent lenses of iron-panned gravel which may account for the geophysical anomaly. No archaeological deposits present.

Trench 14 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay and patchy deposits of silvery grey Shirdley Hill Sand which were more frequent at the eastern end of the trench. The sand was thin at c. 150 mm deep. What was first thought to be a possible ditch at the west end (contexts 47 and 51) was in fact a slightly deeper area of sub-soil and a ceramic land drain (Plate 8, Figs 18 and 20) and corresponded with the geophysical anomaly. This feature also corresponded with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 19).

Trench 15 c. 600 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay, no archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 16 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. At the eastern end of the trench a c. 2 m wide 0.5 m deep linear ditch cut (context 49) into boulder clay corresponded with the geophysical anomaly. It lies on the same alignment as, but just west of, a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS and probably relates to that feature (Figs 20, 21 and 22). The cut had a shallow, V-shaped profile (Fig. 20) and was filled by a mid-reddish brown sandy silt containing 19th century glass and ceramics. To the east a suite of narrow linear features appeared to relate to modern ploughing.

Trench 17 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. In the centre of the trench was a c. 5 m wide 1 m deep cut into natural (context 52, Plate 9, Fig. 23). The profile had sides sloping at c.45-30 degrees to a flat base (Fig. 24). The upper fill was a reddish brown humic silty sand from which 19th century ceramics were recovered (context

84), and at the base was a black and yellow mottled sand (context 85). This feature coincides with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 25).

Trench 18 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale grey sands with occasional black mottling. The only archaeological deposit present was the blackish brown sandy clay loam fill (context 81) of a very shallow east-west aligned linear cut (context 99, Figs 24 and 26). No finds were recovered from the fill, though it ran parallel to the field boundary c. 10 m to the north and is presumed to be a post-medieval agricultural feature.

Trench 19 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale grey sands with occasional black mottling. A 1 m wide 0.5 m plus deep cut in the centre (context 77 not illustrated) had a large ceramic pipe at the base acting as drainage for the cemetery to the south (M. Ryding pers. comm.). About 4 m to the east of that feature was a post-hole c. 0.3 m across, the fill contained fragments of modern brick (contexts 75 and 78, not illustrated) and presumably related to a modern fence-line or similar ephemeral structure.

Trench 20 c. 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 21 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only archaeological feature was a c.1.5 m wide 1 m deep cut (context 97) into boulder clay (Plate 10, Figs 27 and 29). This contained three ceramic land drains around which the mid-brown silty clay fill (context 95) had been deposited. This deposit also contained fragments of late 19th to early 20th century ceramics. The primary fills (contexts 96 and 98) consisted of inter-lensed sandy silts and clays probably derived from weathering of the sides which may suggest that it was originally left as open ditch. This feature corresponds with a geophysical anomaly in the centre of the trench and with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 30).

Trench 22 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only feature was a c.1.5 m wide 1 m deep linear, cut into boulder clay (context 176, Figs 28 and 29). This contained three ceramic land drains around which the mid-brown silty clay fill (context 86) had been deposited (Plate 11). This feature corresponds with the geophysical anomaly in the centre of the trench and is probably the continuation of context 97 in Trench 21. It lies at the same location and on the same alignment as a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 30) and also contained late 19th and early 20th century glass and ceramics.

Trench 23 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The geophysical anomaly corresponded with a c.1.5 m wide 1 m deep cut into boulder clay (Context 90 Figs 31 and 32). The cut had steep, near vertical

sides and a flat base (Plate 12) and contained three ceramic land drains around which the mid-brown silty clay fill (context 92) had been deposited. The fill also contained the remains of roots, possibly relating to a hedge. It lies at the same location and on the same alignment as a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 33).

Trench 24 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only archaeological feature was a c. 1.5 m wide, 1 m deep cut into boulder clay filled with mid-brown clayey silt (Figs 34 and 35). At the base of the cut this graded into a dark grey deposit containing an *in situ* root system (Plate 13). This feature had not been detected by the geophysical survey, possibly because of the absence of ceramic land drains. It is not shown on the 1st Edition OS and no dating evidence was recovered from the fill. However, it runs parallel to the other field boundaries in this area so is likely to be a post-medieval field boundary which went into disuse and was filled in prior to c. 1848.

Trench 25 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. . The geophysical anomaly corresponded with a c.1.5 m wide 1 m deep cut into boulder clay (context 177). The cut had steep, near vertical sides and a flat base (Plate 14 Figs 35 and 36). This contained three ceramic land drains around which the mid-brown silty clay fill (context 103) had been deposited. It lies at the same location and on the same alignment as a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 37).

Trench 26 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 27 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only archaeological feature was an east-west aligned land drain constructed in sandstone cobbles (Plate 15). It was constructed by laying two slabs against the sides of the V-shaped profile and a third placed horizontally across the top. The date of this feature could not be determined but is likely to be 18th or 19th century.

Trench 28 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only archaeological feature was a clay packed land drain.

Trench 29 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. The only feature present was a very shallow linear gully (context 116) which was 2.14 m wide and 0.11 m deep (Figs 35 and 38). The fill, context 117 was very similar to the subsoil. Its function and date could not be determined but it ran broadly parallel to the field boundaries shown in the area on historic mapping and may be plough damaged ridge and furrow.

Trench 30 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale brown deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand. At the northern end of the trench was a c. 2 m wide cut into natural (context 125) filled with material similar in character

to the sub-soil (context 125, Figs 39 and 40, Plate 16). At the base of the cut was an *in situ* ceramic land drain and this feature coincides with a field boundary shown on 19th century mapping (Fig. 41).

Trench 31 c. 600 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. A north-south aligned band of blue-grey silty sand c. 5 m across (context 135) ran across the centre of the trench. On excavation this was shown to be c. 600 mm deep (Plate 17, Figs 40 and 42). This feature had very poorly defined edges, with the sands inter-lensed with the under laying boulder clay and the cut (context 136) was very difficult to determine. Although it appears to correspond with the geophysical anomaly it is likely to be of geological origin, though it lies close to the line of a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 43) and may be a ditch relating to the boundary with the inter-lensing being caused by erosion of the sides.

Trench 32 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale brown deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand. An apparent linear feature at the south-eastern end of the trench was proved on excavation to be a shallow (0.19 m deep, 2.9 m wide) variation in the height of geological deposits; possibly a similar feature to the apparently plough damaged ridge and furrow earthworks in Trench 33.

Trench 33 c. 600 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. Two apparent linear features at the southern end of the trench (contexts 112 and 178) were proved on excavation to be shallow (c. 0.2 m deep, 3 m wide) variations in the height of geological deposits (Plate 18, Fig. 44) but may represent evidence of ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks, probably relating to the cropmarks described in the desk-based assessment (Site 30). These features run parallel to field boundaries shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig 45). The southern feature coincided with a brick and stone built land drain which was on the same orientation, suggesting that the earthworks were visible elements of the landscape when the drain was constructed.

Trench 34 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay and lenses of Shirdley Hill Sand. The only archaeological feature was a brick and stone land drain.

Trench 35 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological deposits were present. However, 2 sherds of medieval pottery (Finds No 554) and a sherd of 16th century pottery were collected as surface finds from within a c. 10 m radius around this trench.

Trench 36 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 37 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 38 c. 500 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. The geophysical anomalies corresponded with a set of land drains crossing the trench. The only archaeological feature was a shallow cut or depression into the sands filled with material identical to the sub-soil. This was c. 2m wide and 0.24 m deep (Plate 19). Although probably of natural origin it may relate to ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks similar to the features in Trench 33.

Trench 39 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. A shallow depression at the eastern end was c. 2 m wide and 150 mm deep and likely to be a variation in the height of natural sands or possibly plough damaged ridge and furrow earthworks (Plate 20). In the centre of the trench was a north-south aligned cut c. 2 m wide and 0.75 m deep (context 126) which coincided with the geophysical anomaly (Figs 46 and 48). The silty clay fill had been packed around a ceramic land drain (Plate 21) and this feature coincides with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 47).

Trench 40 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. A shallow depression at the north-western end of the trench was c. 2 m wide and 150mm deep (contexts 140 and 139) and likely to be a variation in the height of natural sands or possibly a plough damaged ridge and furrow earthwork (Plate 22, Figs 48 and 49). In the centre of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned cut c. 2.5 m wide and 0.6m deep with a crudely constructed stone land drain at its base (context 143, Plate 23, Fig. 49). Late 19th century ceramics and glass were recovered from the base of the fill and it runs parallel to other boundaries in the area shown on the 1st Edition OS, though no boundary is shown at this location.

Trench 41 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over pale cream Shirdley Hill Sands. A shallow depression at the north-eastern end was c. 3 m wide and 150mm deep and may be a variation in the height of natural sands or plough damaged ridge and furrow (Plate 24). A similar feature was situated at the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 42 400 mm of plough soil and sub-soil over boulder clay. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 43 300 mm plough soil over yellow clay with frequent lenses of iron panned sands and gravels. Two possible east-west aligned features in the southern arm were investigated but had very irregular edges to the cuts and were probably of natural origin, there was no evidence for the geophysical anomaly shown at the southern end. There was also a ceramic land drain in the same arm of this trench. In the northern arm there was a possible north-south aligned ditch 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep close to the line of the geophysical anomaly. However, its base was very irregular and the fill very similar to geological features in the area and this is likely to be of natural origin (Plate 25).

Trench 44 3-400 mm plough soil over very pale brown sands becoming gritty with occasional pebbles to the south. In the northern arm the geophysical anomaly corresponds with a c. 1m wide 300 mm deep cut into the sands and filled with pale grey sands (Plate 26, Fig. 50). The profile was a shallow V shape (Fig. 48). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill and it is not shown on the 1st Edition OS, however, it does appear to run parallel with boundaries to the east. At the southern end of the southern arm was a north-east to south-west aligned possible cut filled with peaty sand. This had very irregular edges and is presumed to be of natural origin, though it may coincide with the projected line of the geophysical anomaly.

Trench 45 300mm plough soil over yellow clay with frequent lenses of iron panned sands and gravels. No archaeological deposits were present.

Trench 46 c. 350 mm plough soil over pale reddish brown and mid-reddish brown sandy clay, probably weathered top of boulder clay. A possible ditch in the centre of the trench was less than 200 mm deep and had a very irregular profile. It is likely that it was of natural origin, though a ceramic land drain ran parallel to its western edge so this may be a field boundary or possibly a plough damaged ridge and furrow earthwork (Plate 27). Two land drains, one stone, the other ceramic lay to the east and another ceramic land drain at the far western end. These features probably account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 47 c. 300 mm plough soil over pale reddish brown and mid-reddish brown sandy clay, probably weathered top of boulder clay. This trench was criss-crossed by a network of stone and ceramic land drains. A possible pit at the east end had very irregular edges to the cut and was of natural origin.

Trench 48 c. 300 mm plough soil over pale reddish brown and mid-reddish brown sandy clay, probably weathered top of boulder clay. The only feature was a ceramic land drain in the centre of the trench which corresponded with the location and orientation of the geophysical anomaly.

Trench 49 c. 300 mm Plough soil over pale reddish brown and mid-reddish brown sandy clay, probably the weathered upper surface of boulder clay. A ditch in the centre of the trench (Contexts 162 and 163, Figs 51 and 52) contained 19th century ceramics. The remaining features were ceramic land drains parallel with the ditch.

Trench 50 c. 300 mm Plough soil over pale reddish brown boulder clay. The only features were present were a stone land drain and a ceramic land drain.

Trench 51 c. 300 mm Plough soil over pale reddish brown boulder clay. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 52 c. 300 mm Plough soil over pale reddish brown boulder

clay. No archaeological features were present, though a single sherd of badly abraded possible Romano-British oxidised ware pottery (SF582) was recovered from sub-soil.

Trench 53 c. 400-500 mm plough soil and sub-soil over mid-reddish brown sands. A single clay and top soil filled land drain ran north-south across the trench, otherwise there were no archaeological features.

Trench 54 3-500 mm plough soil and sub-soil over mid-yellowish brown boulder clay. Other than an east-west aligned ceramic land drain at the southern end there were no archaeological deposits.

Trench 55 c. 700 mm plough soil and mid-reddish brown sub-soil over dark reddish brown boulder clay. The south-western end of the trench was occupied by clay back fill to the cut for a mains sewer visible as a line of access holes crossing the area.

Trench 56. c. 400 mm plough soil over pale reddish brown boulder clay. No archaeological features were observed, though the northern end of the trench flooded when a land drain was pierced during machine excavation during heavy rain. The trench was monitored for the duration of the project but did not drain sufficiently to hand clean.

Trench 57 300 mm plough soil over mid-reddish brown boulder clay. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 58 300 mm plough soil over mid-reddish brown boulder clay. No evidence was found for the cause of the geophysical anomaly, though it may coincide with a clay filled land drain.

Trench 59 300 mm plough soil over mid-reddish brown sands. The geophysical anomaly corresponded with a ceramic land drain.

Trench 60 300-500 mm plough soil over sand, thickening to the south-east. The geophysical anomaly corresponded with a ceramic land drain (Context 149) associated with a broad c. 3 m wide, 0.40 m deep, cut or depression in the sands (context 149) which was up to 300 mm deep and ran parallel to field boundaries on the 1st Edition OS (Figs 52 and 53). A stone land drain ran c.0.5 m to its west.

Trench 61 400 mm plough soil over Shirdley Hill Sands. Occasional areas of irregular darker staining at east end were less than 100 mm deep and probably of natural origin. Three possible linear features at the west end were either of natural origin, or in the case of the central example a 20th century ceramic sewer pipe of uncertain function. The latter is presumed to relate to the geophysical anomaly.

Trench 62 400 mm plough soil over Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological features which obviously related to the geophysical anomaly. Possible cut feature at southern end. Modern plough marks were

seen cutting into sands.

Trench 63 400 mm plough soil over Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological features were present, though modern plough marks were seen cutting into sands.

Trench 64 400 mm plough soil over Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological features were present. Modern plough marks were seen cutting into sands and a possible land drain at the western end of the trench.

Trench 65 400 mm plough soil over Shirdley Hill Sands. No archaeological features were present. Modern plough marks were seen cutting into sands.

Trench 66 350 mm plough soil over inter-lensed reddish brown coarse sands and pale yellowish grey clay. A c. 1 m wide cut (Context 152) into geological deposits at the eastern end of the trench was filled by a black, sandy peat deposit (context 151, Plate 28). This feature coincides with a field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS (Figs 54 and 55).

Trench 67 400 mm plough soil over inter-lensed reddish brown coarse sands and pale yellowish grey clay. The only features were two land drains, one clay filled and one stone lined, otherwise no archaeological features were present.

Trench 68 Trench 68 was situated c. 5 m south of the footpath from Holgate to Broom's Cross.

400 mm of dark brown humic sandy topsoil overlay 230-280 mm of mid-greyish brown humic silty sand. This lower deposit graded into the underlying geological deposits which consisted of pale brown silty sands.

A poorly defined band of slight darker sands (Context 166) 1.4 m wide ran across the centre of the trench (Fig. 56) and appeared to fill a cut feature (Context 167). On excavation no defined edge could be found for 167, the sands of the fill lensing with the underlying clays at a depth of c. 200 mm (Plate 29). This feature is presumed to represent a former hedge line or possibly a continuation of the track identified in Trench 69, though no boundary is marked at this location on the First Edition OS (Fig. 60).

Immediately to the south of this feature was a north-south aligned gully (Contexts 164 & 165) running for c. 1.6 m from the southern edge of the trench before the fill merged with Context 166 with which it was identical (Figs 56 and 59). It was 200 mm wide and 50 mm deep and the cut had a shallow 'bowl' shaped profile (Plate 30). No dating evidence was retrieved from either feature.

Trench 69 Trench 69 measured 20 x 10 m and was situated in an area of forestry plantation consisting of a mix of birch and conifers. The trench

was relocated 4m to the east from the proposed location to minimise the number of larger trees which needed to be removed.

300 mm of dark brown humic sandy topsoil overlay 200-300 mm of mid-greyish brown humic silty sand (sub-soil) which in turn overlay mixed deposits of inter-lensed pale brown sand, dark reddish brown sandy gravel and mid-brown clay. The sub-soil contained very occasional fragments of daub/fired clay (c. 10 were noted over an area of 25 m²) though none were bigger than c. 10 mm and all were amorphous with no diagnostic features. The daub was not associated with any archaeological features. The significance of this scatter is uncertain but it may relate to a ploughed out structure or dispersal of debris deposited from elsewhere.

The deeper area of sub-soil coincided with a south-west to north-east aligned feature filled with the same material (context 168, Figs 57 and 59). On excavation this trowelled to a sharp interface with the underlying clay (context 169) and was c. 70-100 mm deep and 3 m wide. This feature runs parallel to a trackway shown on the on the 1st Edition OS (Fig. 60) and irregularities in its base may be wheel ruts (Plate 31).

Context 172 was a dark brown sandy silt filling an east-west aligned gully c. 5 m long, 0.41 m wide and up to 0.34 m deep (context 173, Figs 57 and 59, Plate 32). The sides of this cut were steep, near vertical and the base flat. Although no datable material was recovered from its fill its size and form was similar to post-medieval land drains excavated elsewhere in Thornton.

Context 172 was cut by context 171, a curvi-linear gully running from the southern edge of the trench to its north-eastern corner (Fig. 57). It had a shallow, U-shaped profile and was 0.3-0.35 m wide and 0.05-0.16 m deep (Fig. 59). The fill (Context 170) was similar to context 172 but slightly darker and with occasional charcoal flecks (Plate 33). The function of this feature is uncertain, it was too long to be part of a building and was probably related to a fence or similar structure. Although no dating evidence was found, its stratigraphic relationship with Context 172 suggests that it was 19th or 20th century in date.

The tree roots appear to have had little impact on the below ground deposits being largely confined to top-soil. Smaller rootlets penetrated into geological deposits but have created no significant disturbance.

Trench 70 Trench 70 was the southern most trench and measured 20 x 5 m. 300-350 mm of dark brown humic sandy topsoil graded into 400 mm of mid-greyish brown humic silty sand overlay mixed deposits of inter-lensed pale brown sand, dark reddish brown sandy gravel and mid-brown clay. The only feature was an east-west aligned ditch at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 59). This was filled with a dark grey clayey silt (Context 174) which began to flood at a depth of c. 300 mm. This necessitated that the remainder was excavated by machine. This found that the cut (Context 175) was 2.20 m wide and 0.88 m deep with a V-shaped profile and side

sloping at c. 60 degrees (Plate 34). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill, though this feature was broadly similar in character to other post-medieval boundaries excavated along the route of the scheme and lay at a right angle to the other boundaries in the area as depicted on historic mapping (Fig. 60).

6. Finds Assessment (M. Adams, C. Ahmad & J.I. Speakman)

All finds have been washed and visually inspected and catalogued using a number sequence which continues that used for the fieldwalking. The full catalogue is retained within the project archive and is provided in summary in Appendix 1. The vast majority are of late 18th and early 19th century date and are reported upon summarily here by material type.

6.1 Pottery

A total of 142 sherds or pottery weighing a total of 1.91 kg were recovered from a range of contexts, mainly plough soil and the fills of cut features readily identifiable as post-medieval field boundaries.

The vast majority of the assemblage (137 sherds (96.5%) weighing 1.89 kg (98.9%)) consisted of post-medieval Dark Wares, China, Unglazed Earthenware and Mottled Wares dating to the 18th and 19th century. A small percentage of the assemblage (three sherds) consisted of Early post-medieval dark coarseware dating to the 16th century. This level of material is consistent with the results of the fieldwalking and is likely to result from the casual dispersal of domestic debris derived from the surrounding settlements.

A total of 4 sherds of medieval pottery weighing 20.1 g were recovered from top soil in Trenches 2 and 35 (Finds 549, 554, 578). Three were from Trench 35 and add to the medieval assemblage from that section of the scheme which was recovered during fieldwalking. All of these sherds were in locally produced fabrics dating to the 13th/14th century.

A single badly abraded sherd of possible Romano-British oxidised ware weighing 1.9g was recovered from sub-soil in Trench 52 (Finds No 582). The sherd is very badly abraded and identified from the fabric only.

Finds No 507 from Trench 31, context 133 (sub-soil sealing a post-medieval ditch) may also be a fragment of Romano-British Oxidised Ware but is more likely to be a fragment of fired clay of indeterminate date.

6.2 Tobacco Pipes

A total of 8 fragments of tobacco pipe weighing 14.5 g were recovered from plough soil and the fills of cut features readily identifiable as post-medieval field boundaries. Most were stems though there was a single bowl fragment (Finds No 575) and all dated to the late 18th to 19th century.

6.3 Flint

Two potential flint tools were retrieved from excavated contexts (Finds 536 and 537), though both were later identified as being unworked (R. Cowell, pers. comm.).

6.4 Glass

A total of 28 fragments of glass weighing 848.4 g were recovered from a range of contexts, mainly plough soil and the fills of cut features readily identifiable as post-medieval field boundaries.

All of the assemblage consisted of small pieces of window and bottle glass dating to the 19th or 20th century and is likely to result from the casual dispersal of domestic debris derived from the surrounding settlements.

6.5 Industrial Waste

A total of 4 fragments of industrial waste weighing 501.60 g were recovered from plough soil and subsoil contexts in Trenches 46, 34 and 14. The fragments in Trenches 34 and 14 were non-diagnostic fragments of slag, possibly related to iron working but not diagnostic of period or date.

Finds No 510 from sub-soil (context 154) in Trench 46 and consisted of two joining fragments of smithing hearth bottom weighing 331.4g. Although the process has not been confirmed by analysis it is likely to relate to iron working. Dating of this type of material is difficult but it has been found locally in Iron Age to early medieval contexts (e.g. Philpott & Adams 2010)

6.6 Miscellaneous Objects

The remainder of the finds assemblage consisted of stone and ceramic building material (brick and tile) fragments, iron and copper alloy objects of 19th or 20th century date. A single fragment of sagger in Trench 35 derives from post-medieval pottery production but is likely to be a chance casual loss.

6.7 Additional Surface Finds

Additional fieldwalking took place during the excavation of Trenches 44-67 to cover parcels not available earlier in the project. The detailed results are retained as part of the project archive and are summarised here.

A single flint blade was recovered close to Trenches 62 and 63 (Fig. 61) and a badly abraded rim sherd provisionally identified as medieval or Romano- British oxidised ware was found in the same parcel (Fig. 62).

7. Conclusions

The trial trenching has largely confirmed the results of the geophysical

survey and fieldwalking which suggested that there was little identifiable archaeological potential along the road corridor. Most of the features excavated relate to post-medieval land divisions and/or drainage features filled and/or constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century and are not discussed further.

The substantial ditch in Trench 11 was filled in the 19th century and appears to follow the general alignment of field boundaries shown on the First Edition OS, though no boundary seems to be shown at the exact location.

The ditch in Trench 24 was not detected by the geophysical survey. However, it appears to follow the general trend of the post-medieval boundaries in Trenches 21, 22 and 25. Although no dating evidence was retrieved and its profile was slightly different to the others, it is very likely to be broadly contemporary with the other post-medieval boundaries in the area. One possible explanation for its absence as a geophysical anomaly is that it did not contain the dense arrays of ceramic land drains seen in the fills of other ditches such as those in Trenches 21, 22 and 25. It is possible that it was the ceramic component within the latter ditch fills which was being detected by the geophysical survey, though a range of factors beyond the control of the project, such as a low level of magnetic contrast between the ditch fill and geological deposits and/or the greater depth of top soil and sub-soil in the area around Trench 24 (where the latter were c. 500 mm thick in contrast to the 3-400 mm observed elsewhere along the road corridor), may also have served to mask the ditch in Trench 24 from the geophysical survey (c.f. Jordan, 2007).

The complex of geophysical anomalies evaluated by Trenches 43, 44 and 45 could not easily be related to archaeological features. The north-south ditch in Trench 44 probably relates to one of the anomalies but is likely to be a post-medieval boundary rather than part of a circular enclosure. The features elsewhere in this area all appeared to be of geological origin.

Fieldwalking identified a diffuse scatter of medieval ceramics to the west of Brickwall Lane (Adams & Ahmad 2012). Although the evaluation trenches in this area (Trenches 34-37) found no evidence of buried archaeological deposits, further sherds of medieval pottery have been collected as surface finds from the immediate area around Trench 35 and it is possible that the linear features in Trench 33 to its west relate to medieval ridge and furrow earthworks. Similar features in Trenches 3, 38 to 41 are likely to be of identical origin. This suggests that this area retains potential for widely dispersed cut features similar to those excavated at Brunt Boggart, Tarbock (Cowell & Philpott, 2000) and Hilary Breck, Wallasey (Adams 2012).

In the absence of dateable finds or other evidence the significance of the trackway identified in Trench 69, and its possible continuation in Trench 68, is difficult to assess. However, it appears to respect the general orientation of the post-medieval field boundaries in the area and is therefore likely to be of broadly similar date.

The significance of a short section of possible gully in Trench 68 represented by contexts 164 and 165 (Fig 56) is also difficult to assess. The fill was identical to that in the trackway or hedge line discussed above which suggests that it had a similar origin or date. In addition the lack of artefactual evidence and the absence of inclusions such as frequent charcoal flecking commonly seen in early structural features in the region (e.g. at Hilary Breck (Adams 2012), Tarbock (Cowell & Philpott 2000), Irby (Philpott & Adams 2010) and Court Farm (Adams & Philpott in prep)) argues against the interpretation of this features as having any structural origin. It is instead perhaps more likely to relate somehow to the post-medieval boundary to its north.

In Trench 69 contexts 168 and 169 represent the traces of a trackway which respects the orientation of the post-medieval boundaries to its north-west and south-east and is therefore likely to be of similar date. The only other features in this trench were a post-medieval land drain represented by contexts 172 and 173 and a curvi-linear gully represented by contexts 170 and 171. The curvi-linear gully is superficially of significance bearing a resemblance in plan and section to early medieval buildings excavated at Irby (Philpott & Adams 2010) and Bidston (Adams 2011). However, the projecting the line of gully 171 would suggest an enclosure measuring at least 10 x 11 m, significantly larger than the structures at Irby and Bidston of which the largest measured 7 x 10 m in plan. In addition despite total excavation of fill 170 no artefactual evidence was present. Whilst levels of cultural material such as ceramics tend to be low in early medieval contexts on Merseyside (in deed their absence can be used to argue for an early medieval date) the gullies at Irby and Bidston contained occasional flecks of fired clay/daub and none of that material was found within context 170. Finally although the stratigraphic relationship of gully 170/171 with the post-medieval land-drain was far from clear, the consensus of the archaeologists on site was that the land drain was the earlier feature and that the gully was therefore 18th century or later in date, a conclusion perhaps supported by the similarity of their fills.

The only feature noted in Trench 70 was the north-west to south-east aligned ditch represented by contexts 174/175. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this feature it respects the orientation of post-medieval field boundaries in the immediate area and is similar in form to other such boundaries excavated as part of this evaluation.

One of the subsidiary aims of trenches 68-70 was to assess the impact of the planting of conifers upon sub-surface features. It appears that this has been at most minimal, saplings seem to have been planted directly into topsoil with no disturbance into the underlying sub-soil. The tree roots subsequently followed a line of weakness at the interface between top-soil and sub-soil and did not penetrate into the underlying deposits. This had the additional impact that trees could be removed by mechanical excavator without significant disturbance to the underlying deposits. In conclusion the planting of conifers on Boulder Clay soils seems to have little or no impact upon archaeological deposits.

A fragment of Industrial waste recovered from sub-soil in Trench 46 is part of a smithing hearth bottom. These range in date from the Iron Age to Early Medieval period. Although in itself not necessarily directly indicative of settlement in the area, additional weight is perhaps given by the possible sherd of oxidised ware found in Trench 52, the possible sherds of Oxidised Ware recovered during fieldwalking of Parcels 9a and 14 and a fragment of early industrial waste in Parcel 11.

Although widely spread these finds need to be viewed in their regional context. Romano-British settlement sites in the region are not commonly associated with large quantities of material culture, for example the extensive settlement at Ochre Brook produced only 959 sherds (7.6 kg) of Roman pottery despite being associated with evidence for the manufacture of roof tiles for the XX Legion, whilst Brunt Boggart produced 108 sherds (Cowell & Philpott, 2000).

The vast majority of these tend to be small, badly abraded body sherds of locally produced Oxidised Ware. Elsewhere, Barker House Farm, near Lancaster produced no Roman pottery from two roundhouses with Roman radiocarbon dates (R. Philpott pers. comm.) and at Samlesbury two Iron Age or Romano-British roundhouses were associated with no datable artefacts other than a single fragment of quern, the site only being located only by virtue its association with a medieval kiln site (Wood et al 2008). Romano-British pottery is found infrequently in plough soil in Merseyside, for example Ochre Brook was identified on the basis of very small numbers of reddish, sandy sherds similar in quality and quantity to those described here (Cowell & Philpott, 2000, 216).

Assessing the prehistoric potential provides similar problems. A single flint tool was recovered from the area adjacent to Trenches 62 to 63 during excavation. Although the trial trenches have not found below ground deposits regional parallels suggest that any which may be present would be shallow and widely dispersed.

In conclusion the widely spread and unstratified finds described above give little to target directly. However, viewed in a local and regional context they do suggest the potential presence of thinly spread settlement nearby but outside the footprint of the proposed road.

8. Acknowledgements

Despite the presence of the author's name on the front page of this report, it is in fact, like the majority of archaeological fieldwork, the result of the efforts of a multitude of individuals.

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10. Figures



Fig.1. Scheme location and the location of Figs. 2-5. Scale 1:20000.

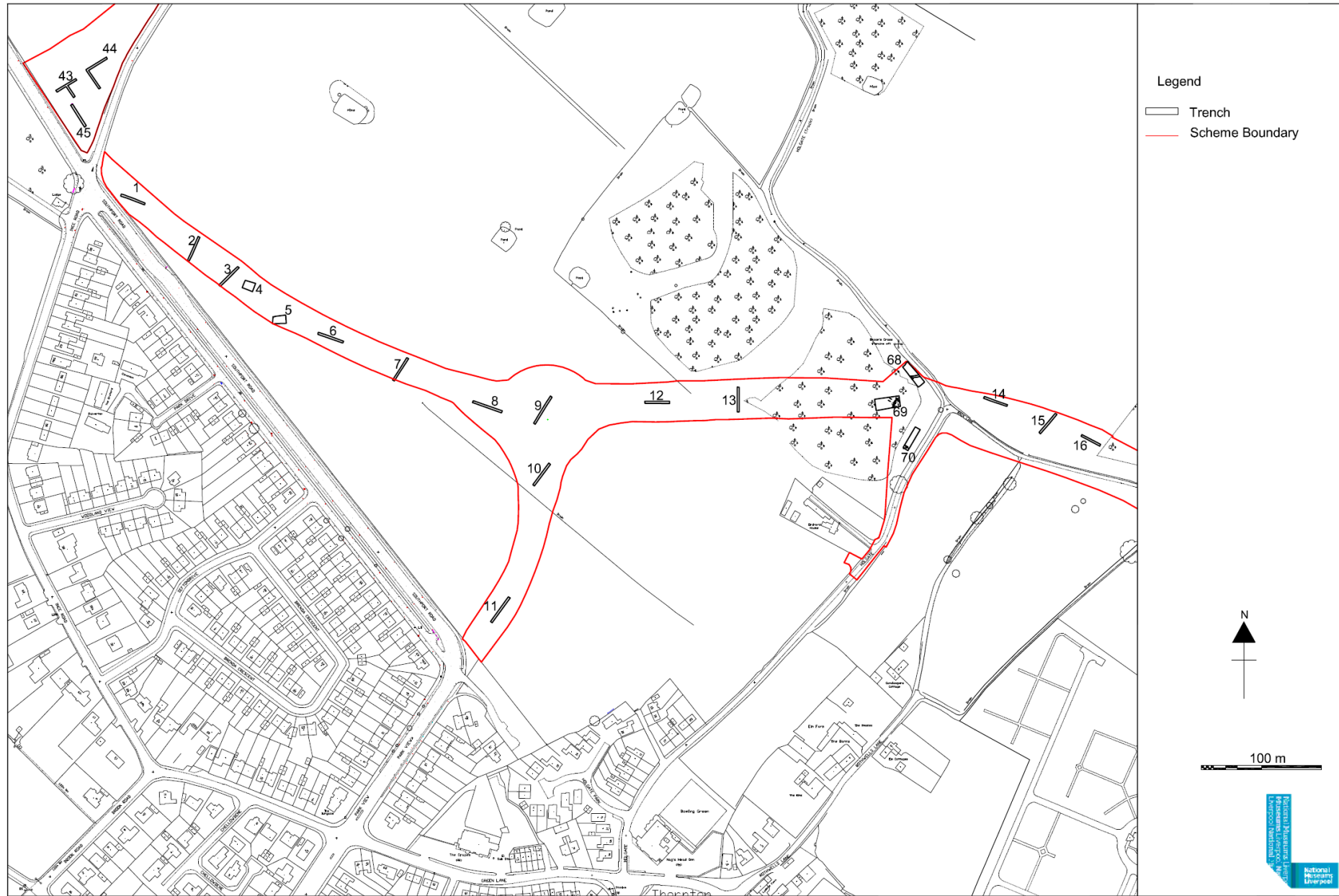


Fig. 2. The location of Trenches 1-16, 43-45 and 68-70. Scale 1:4000.



Fig. 3. The location of Trenches 17-33. Scale 1:4000.

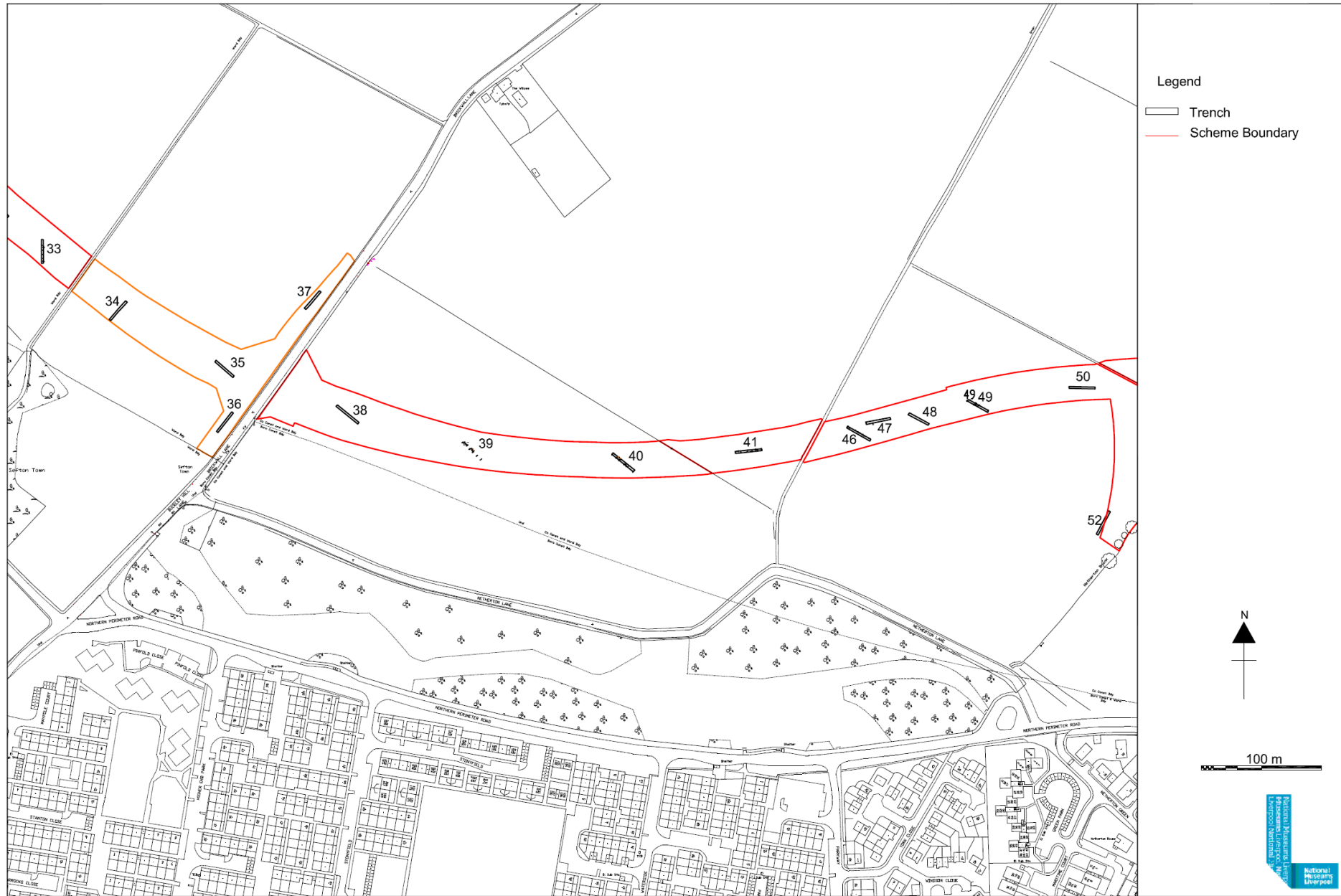


Fig. 4. The location of Trenches 33-41, 46-50 and 52. Scale 1:4000.

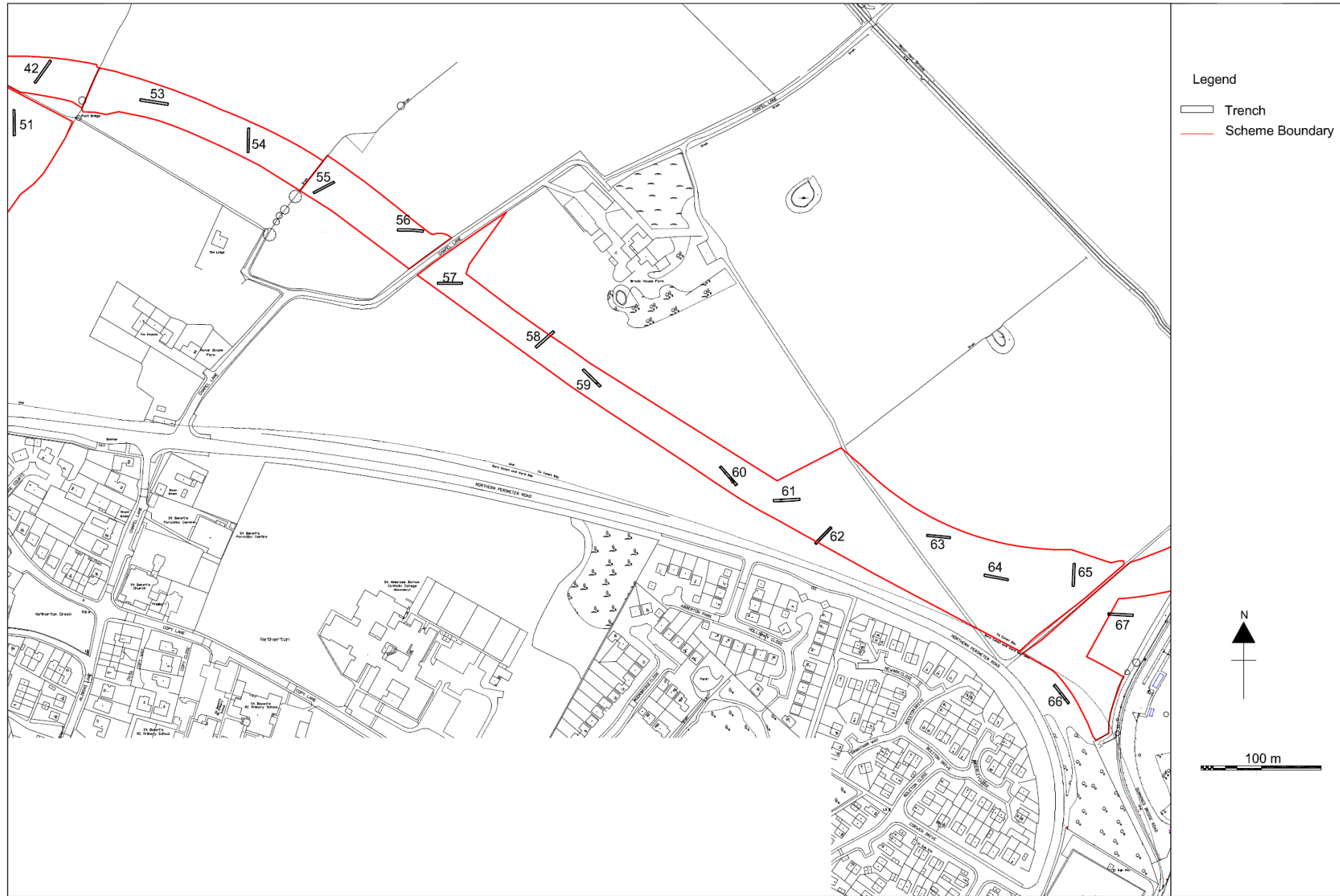


Fig. 5. The Location of Trenches 42, 51 and 53-67. Scale 1:4000.

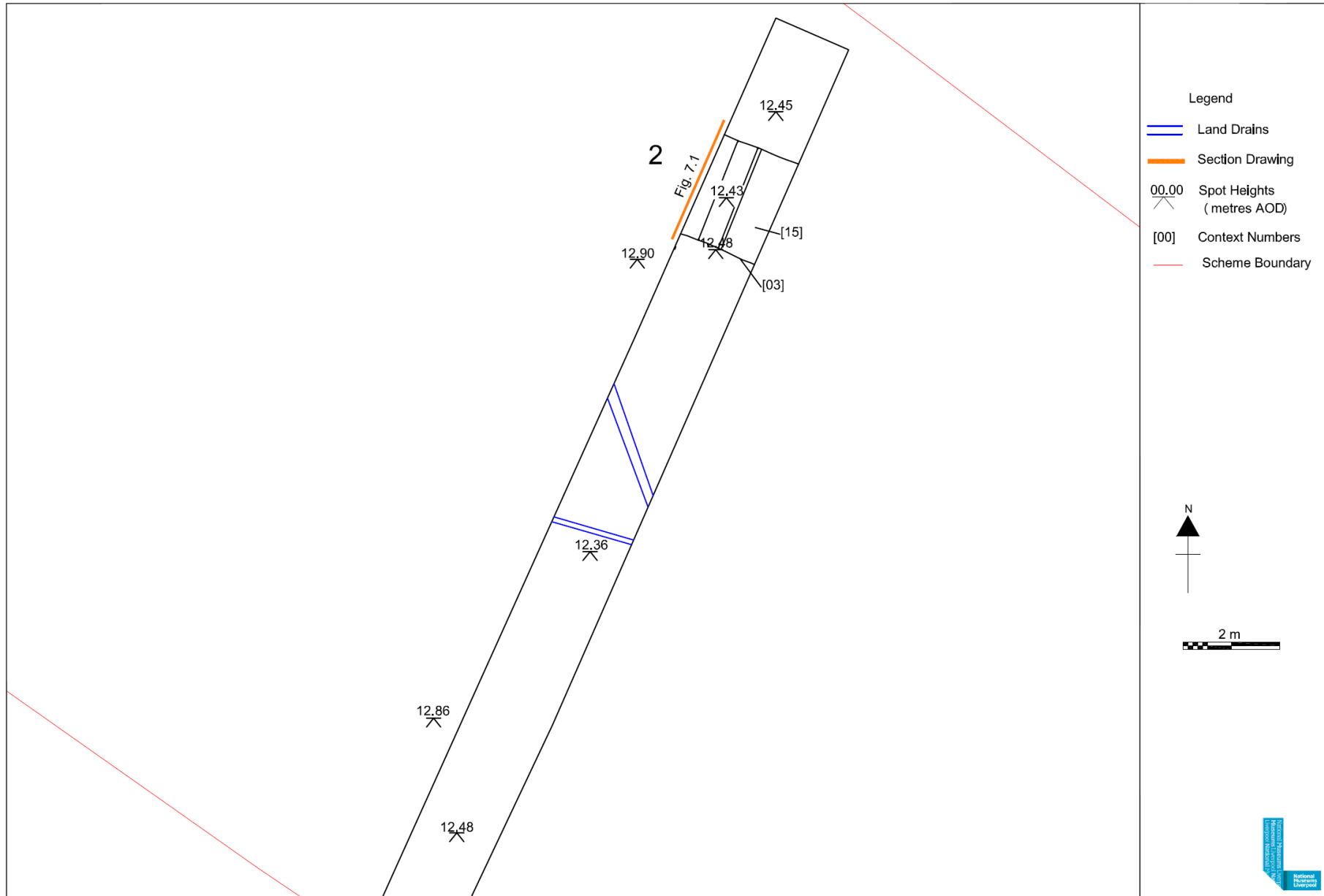


Fig. 6. Trench 2, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

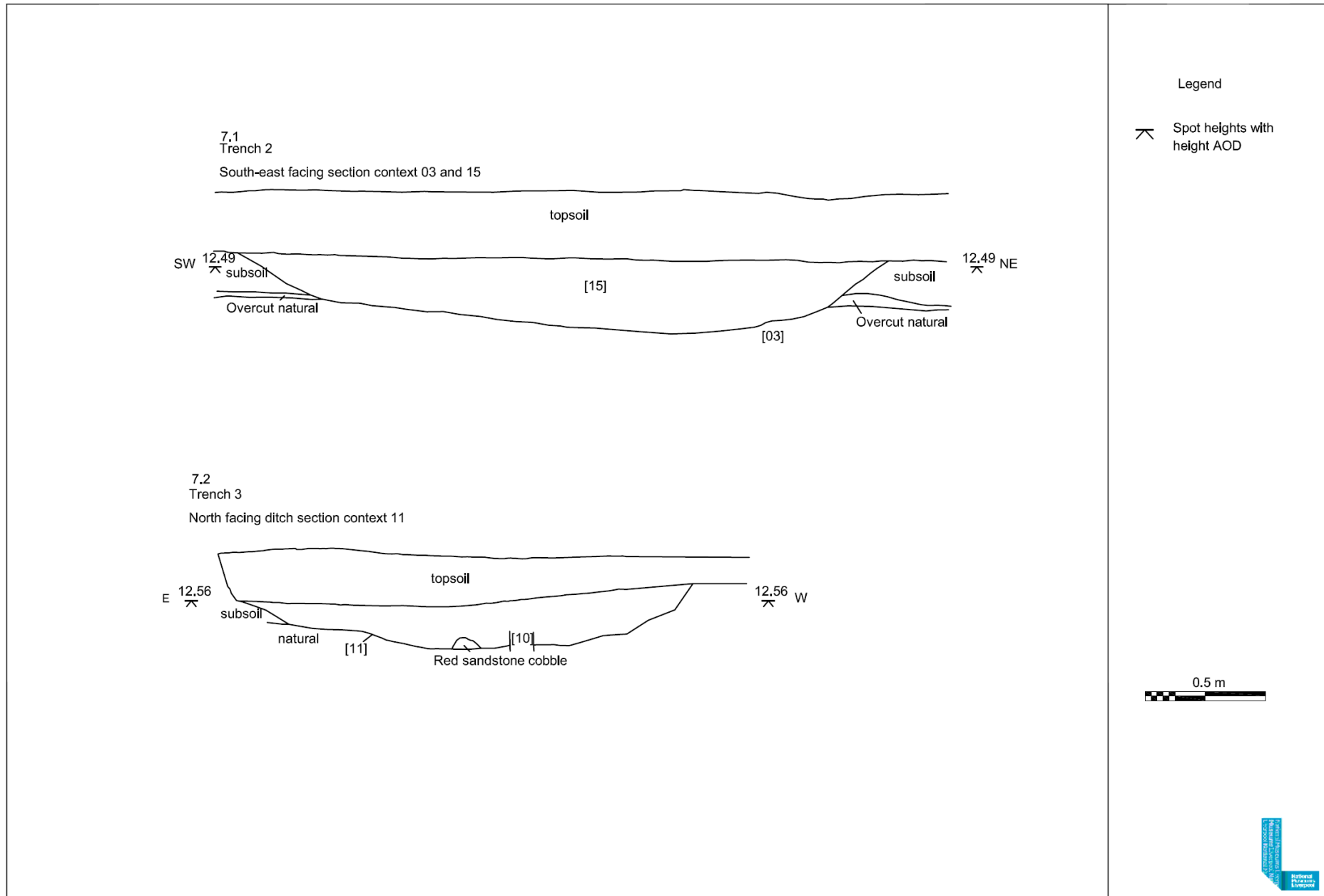


Fig. 7. Sections across deposits in Trenches 2 and 3. Scale 1:20.

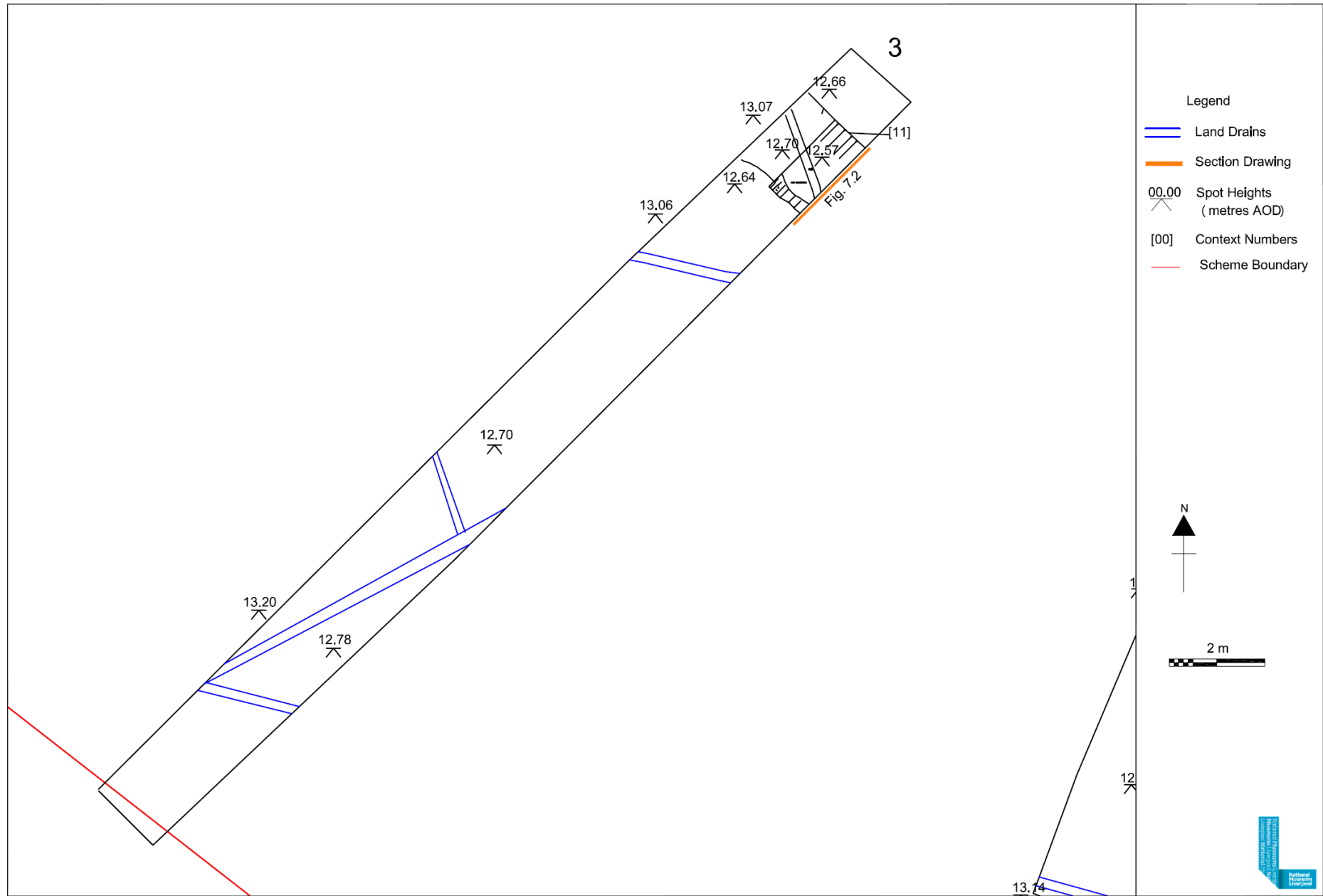


Fig. 8. Trench 3, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

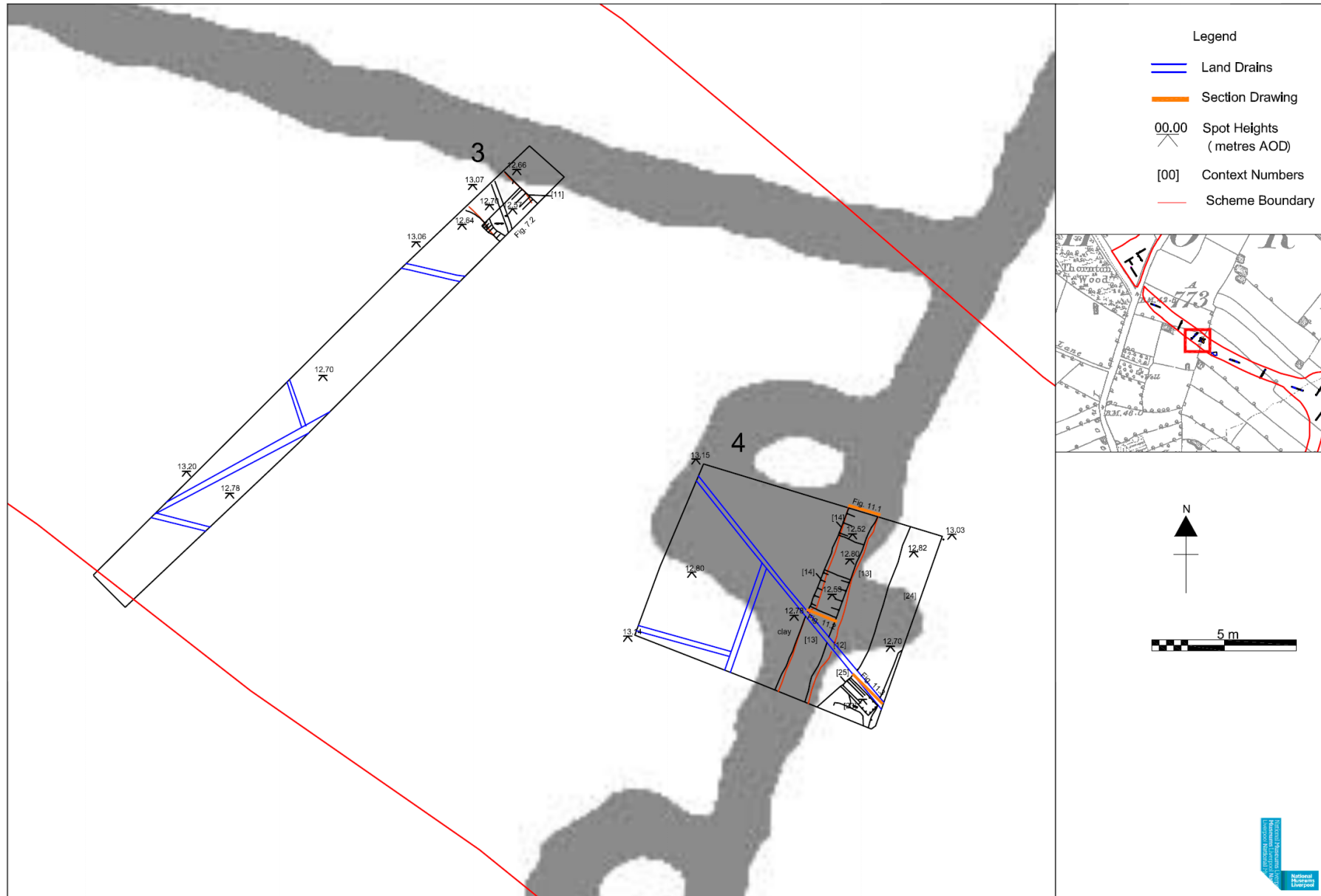


Fig. 9. Trenches 3 and 4 superimposed on to the 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

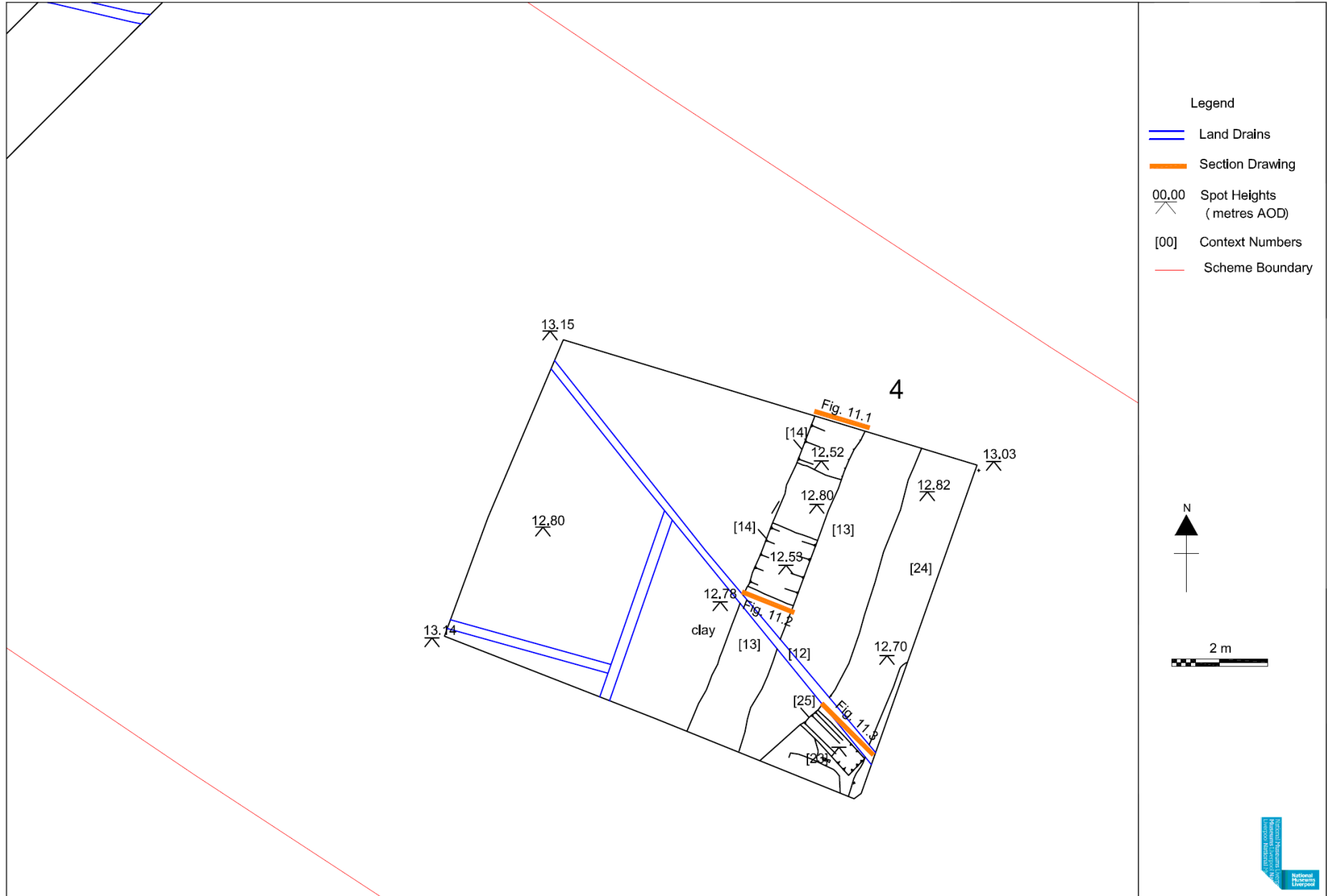


Fig. 10. Trench 4, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

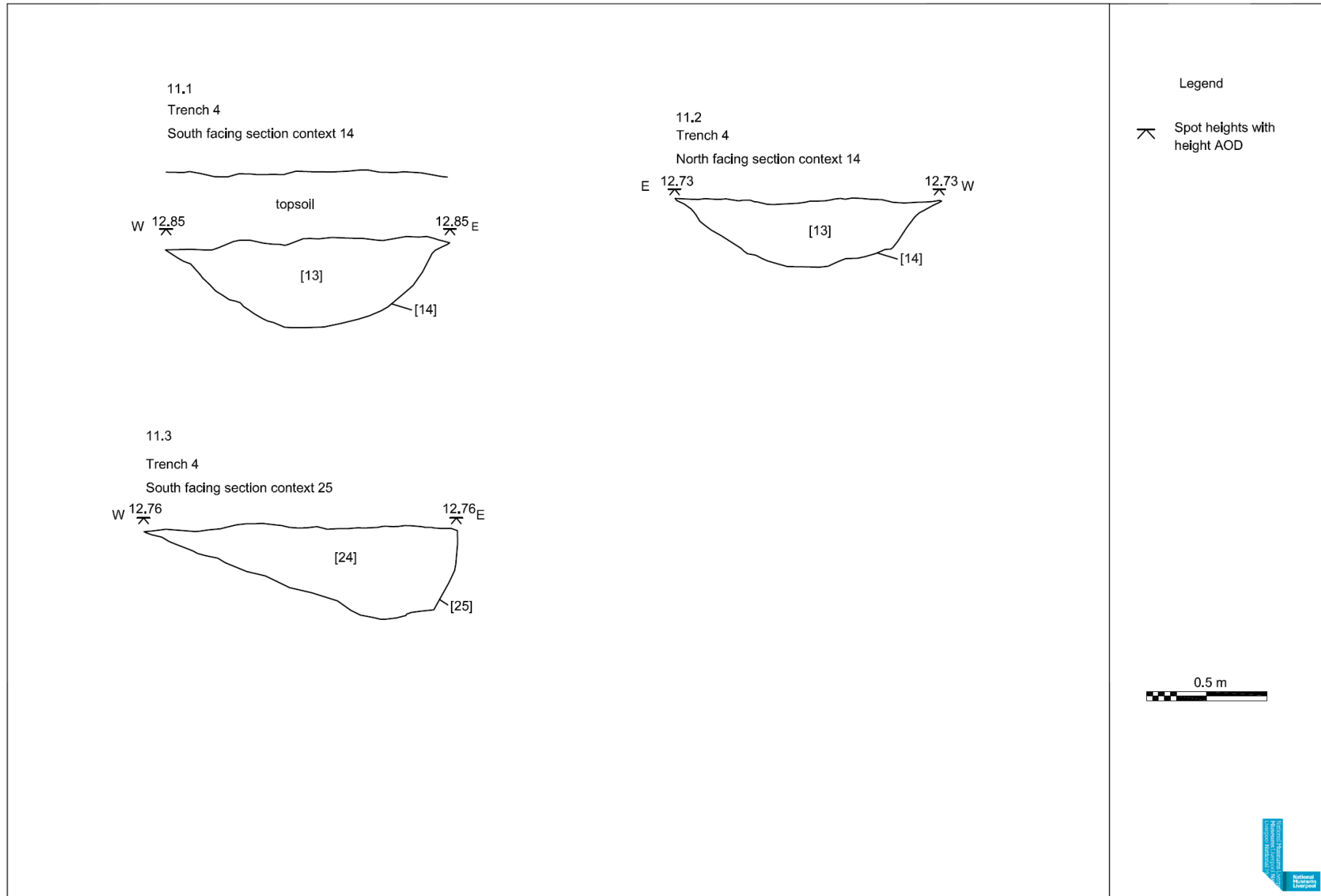


Fig. 11. Sections across deposits in Trench 4. Scale 1:20.

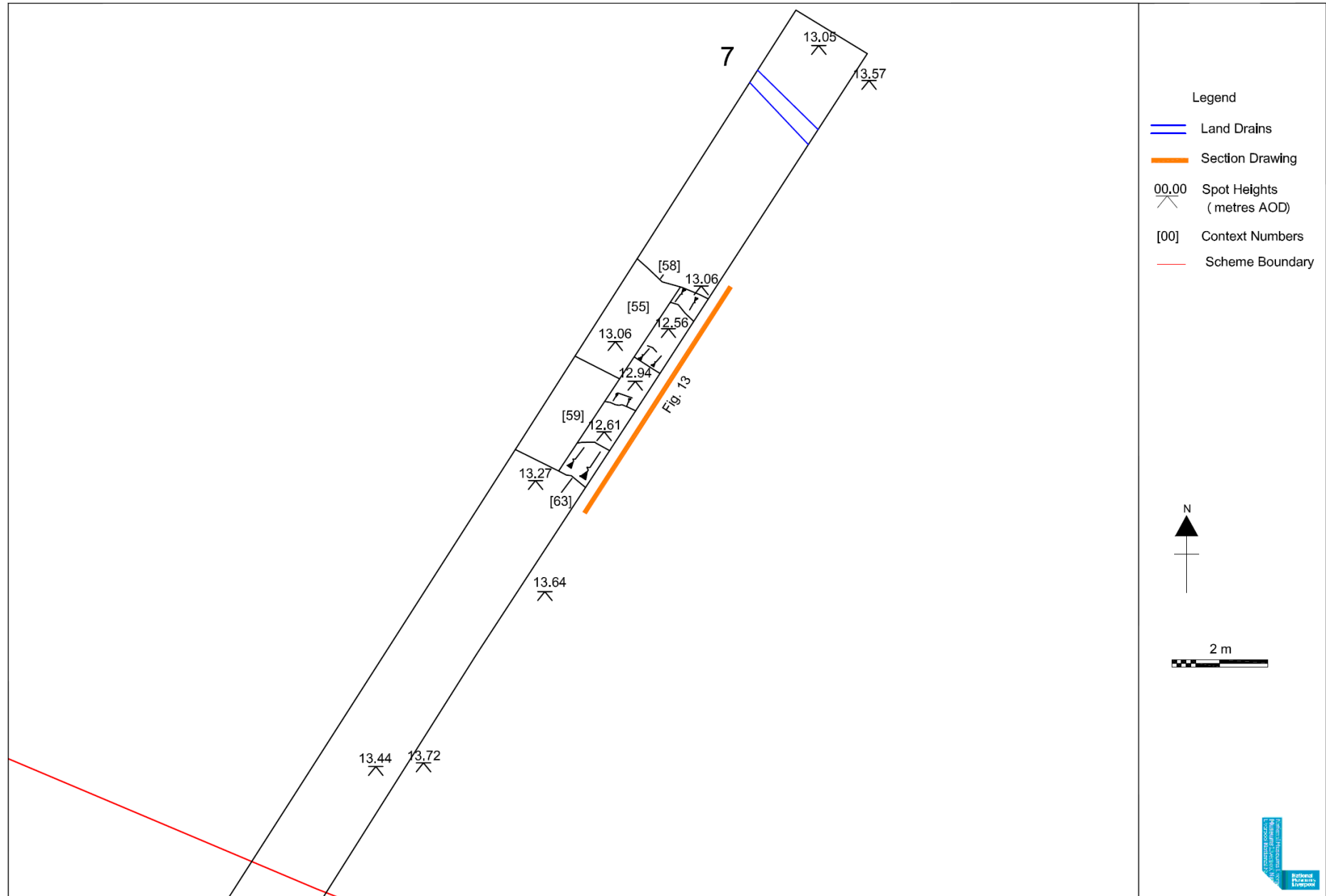


Fig. 12. Trench 7, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

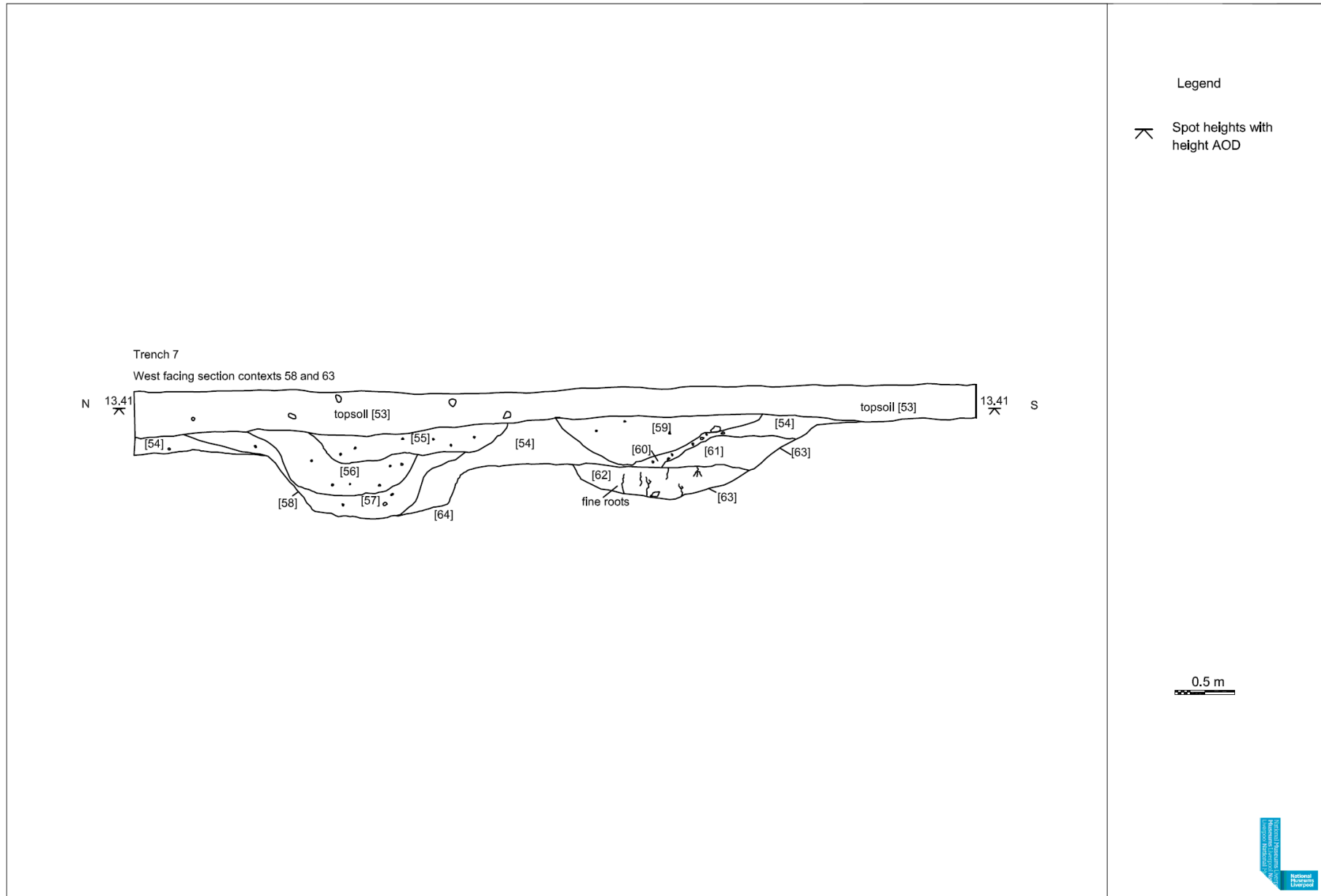


Fig. 13. Section across deposits in Trench 7. Scale 1:50.

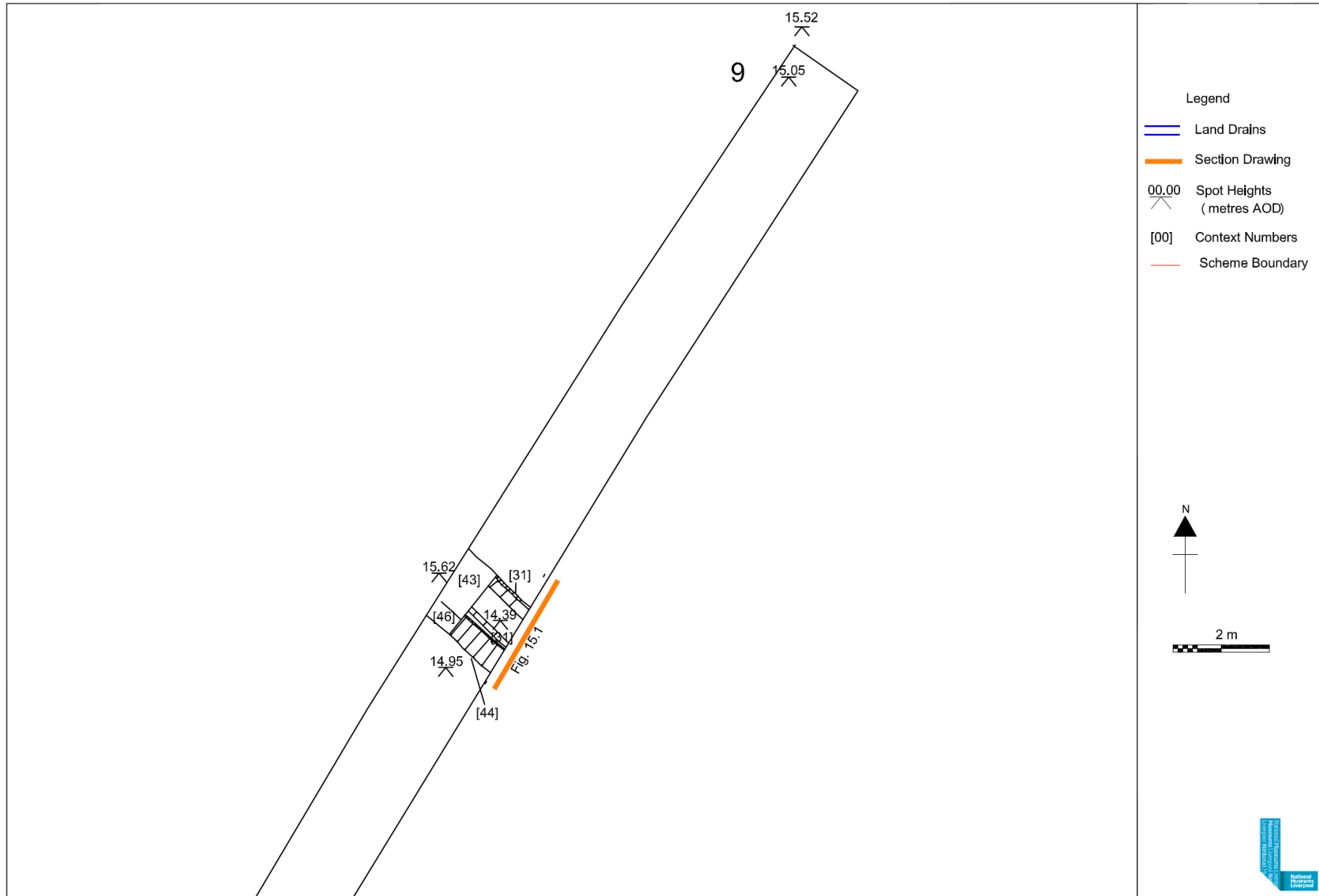


Fig. 14. Trench 9, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

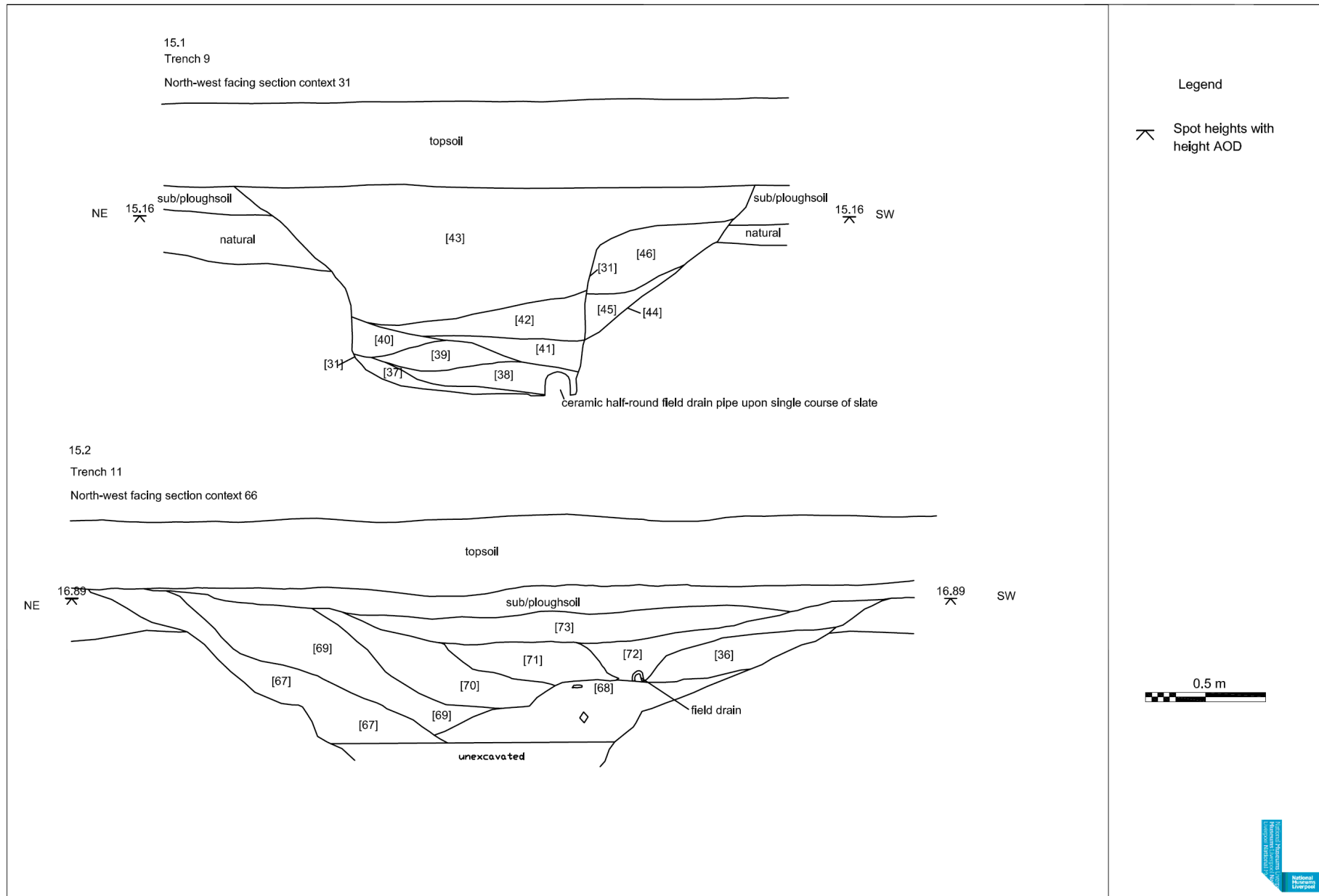


Fig. 15. Sections across deposits in Trenches 9 and 11. Scale 1:20.

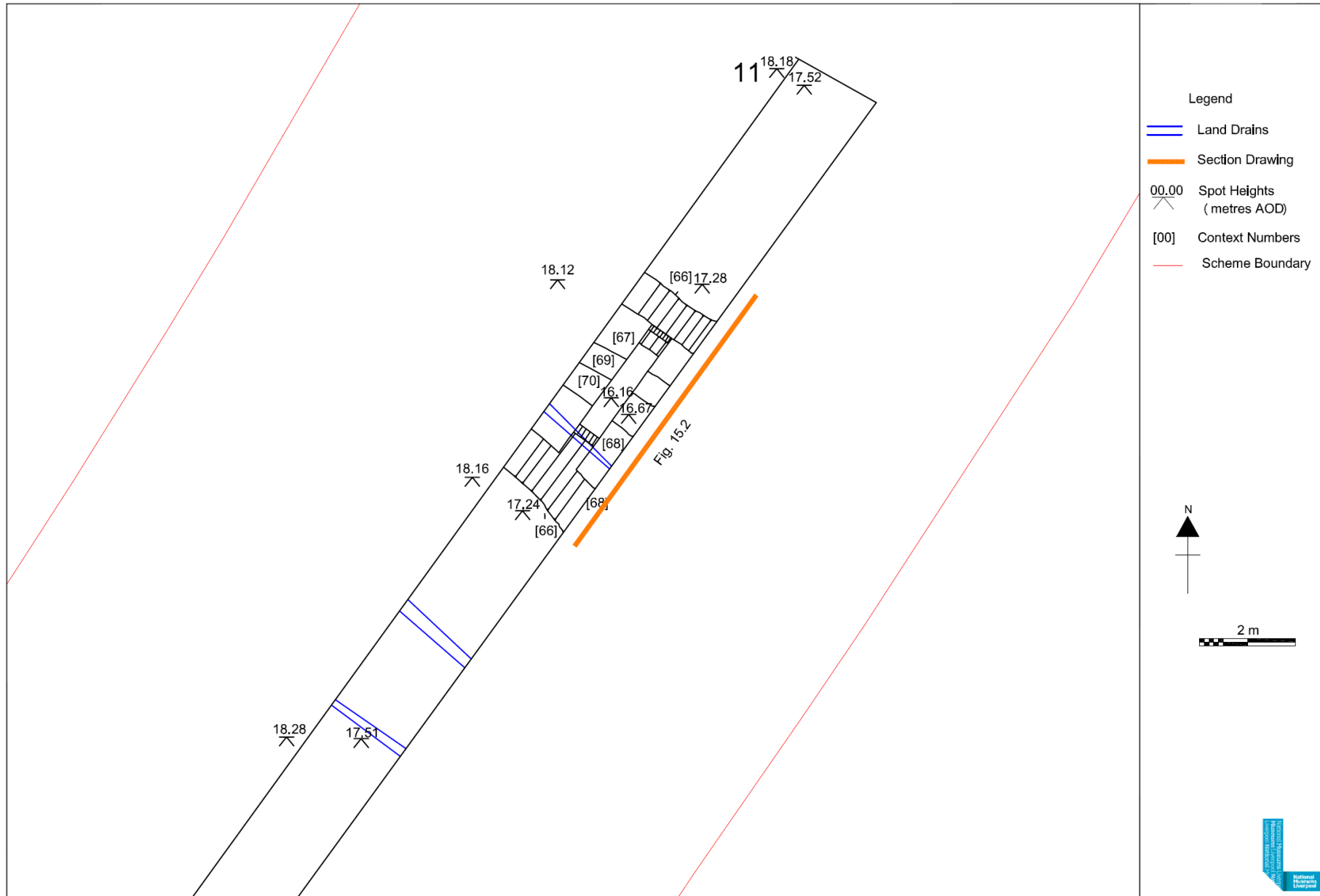


Fig. 16. Trench 11, plan of excavated deposits.

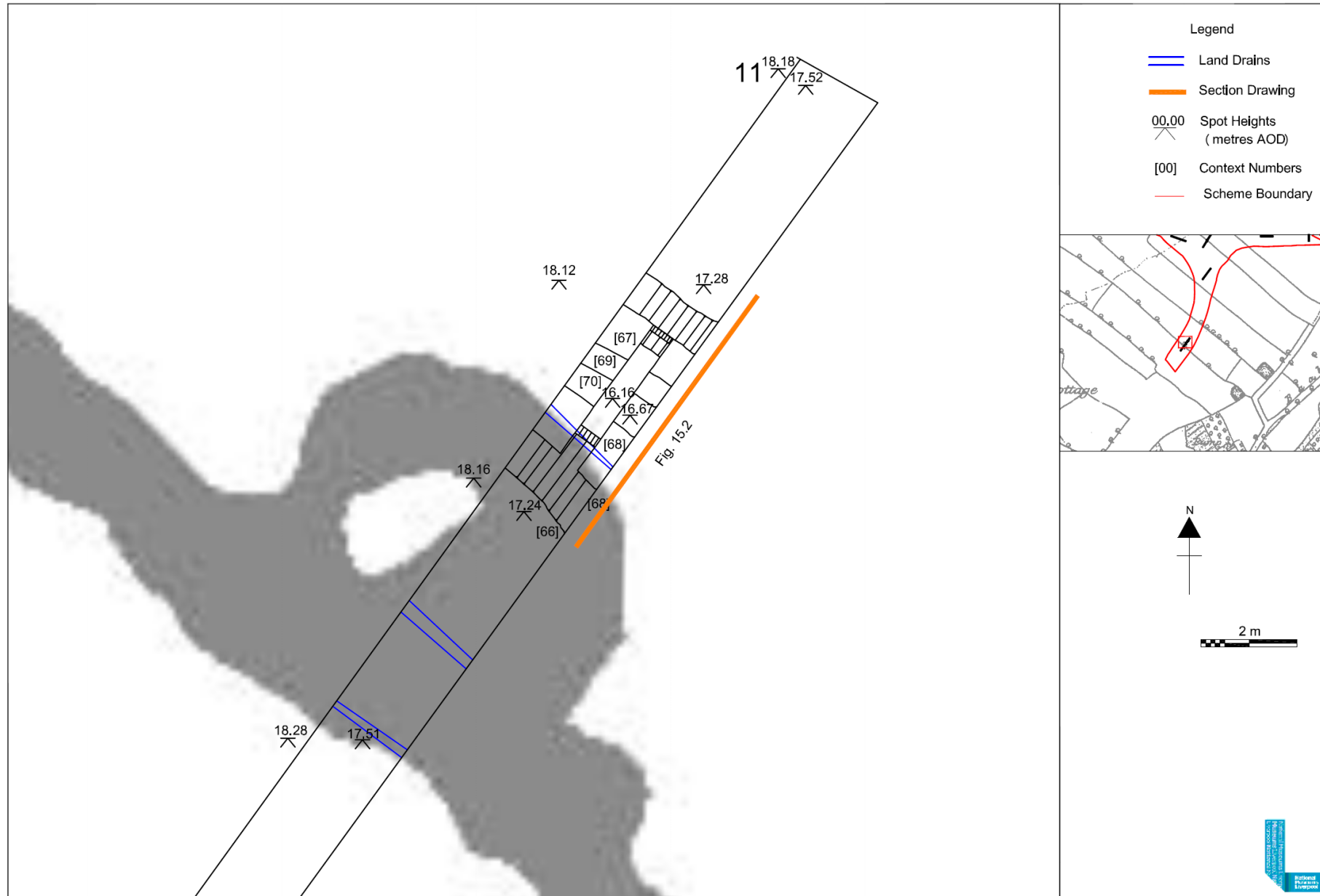


Fig. 17. Trench 11, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on the 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850.

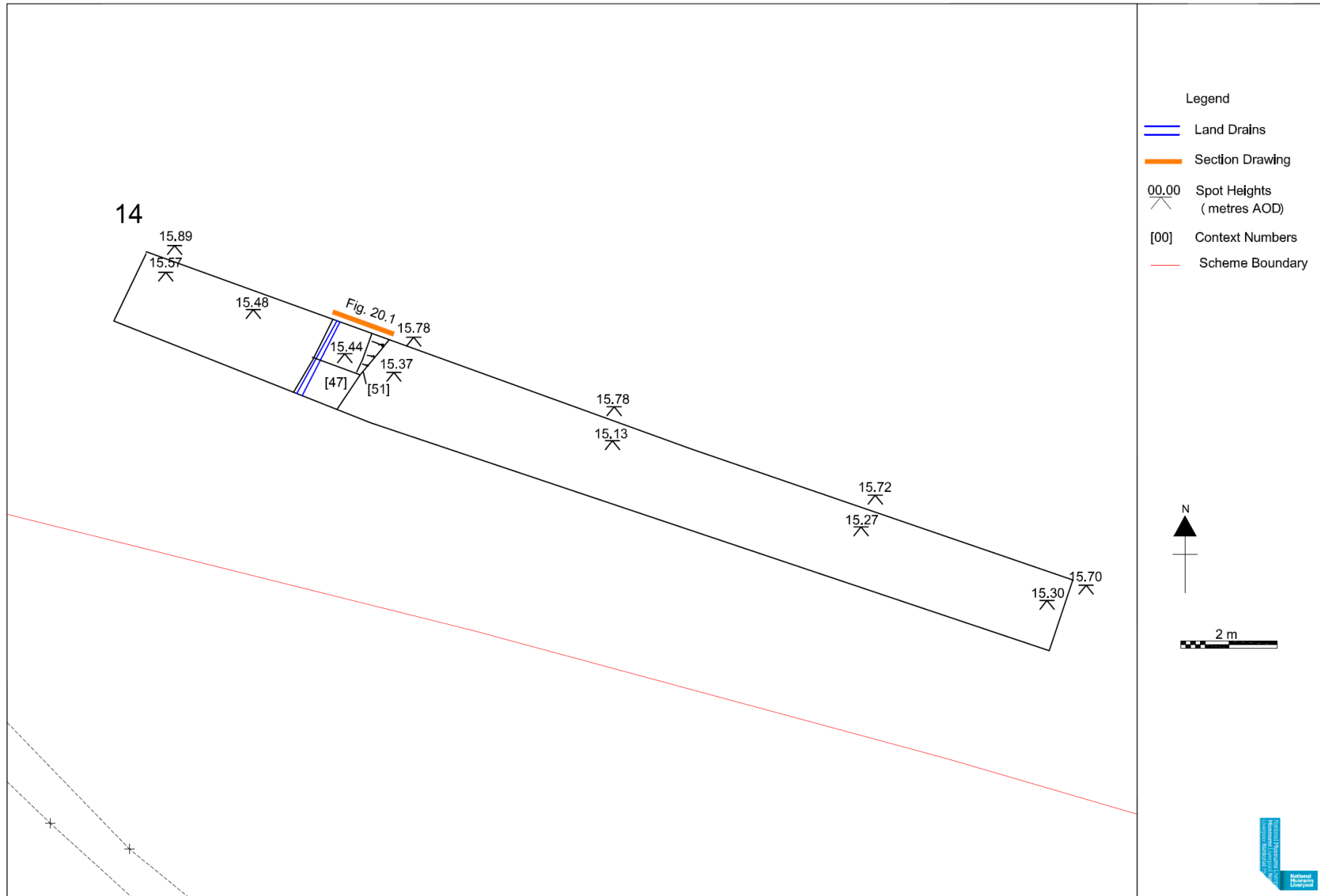


Fig. 18. Trench 14, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

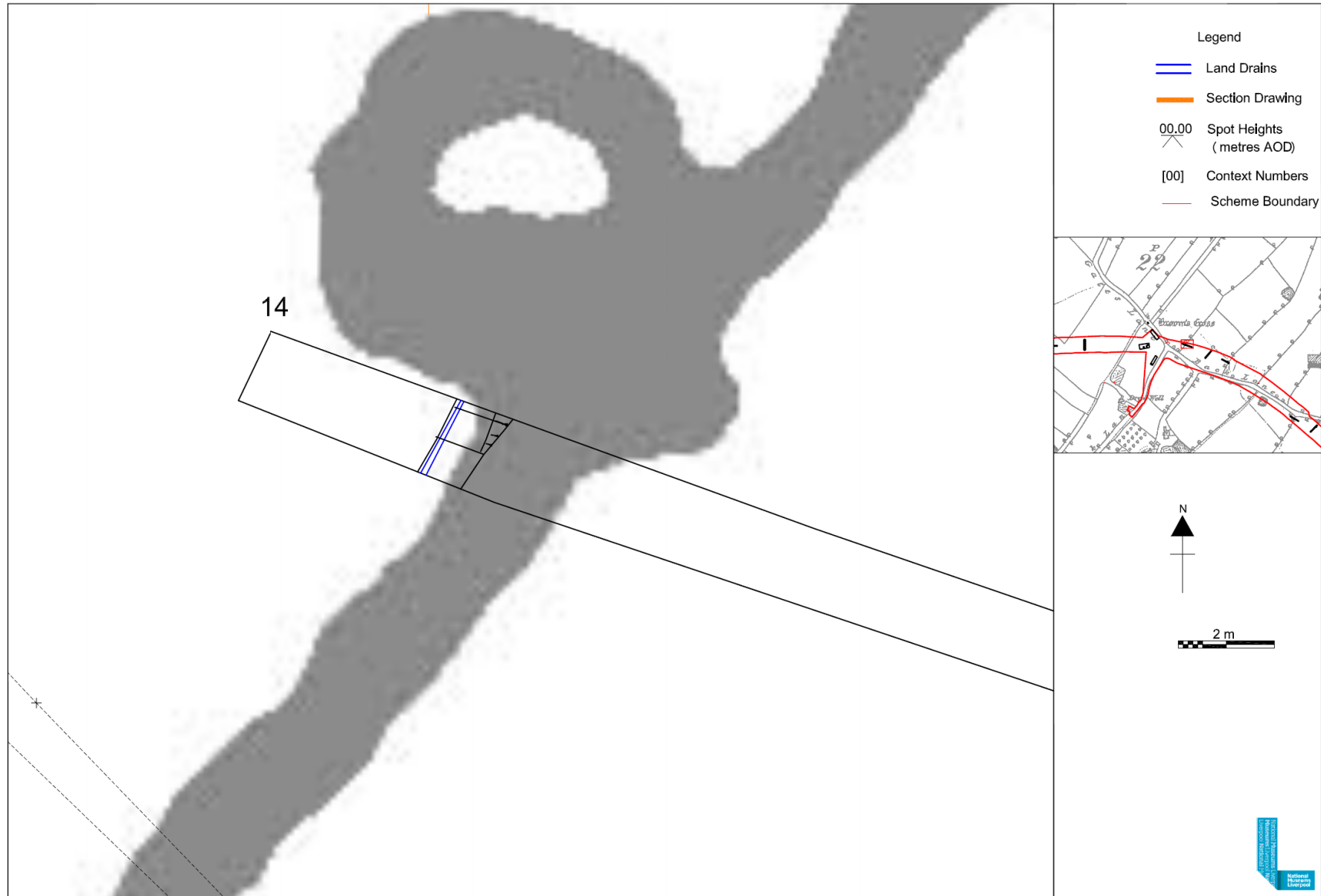


Fig. 19. Trench 14, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100

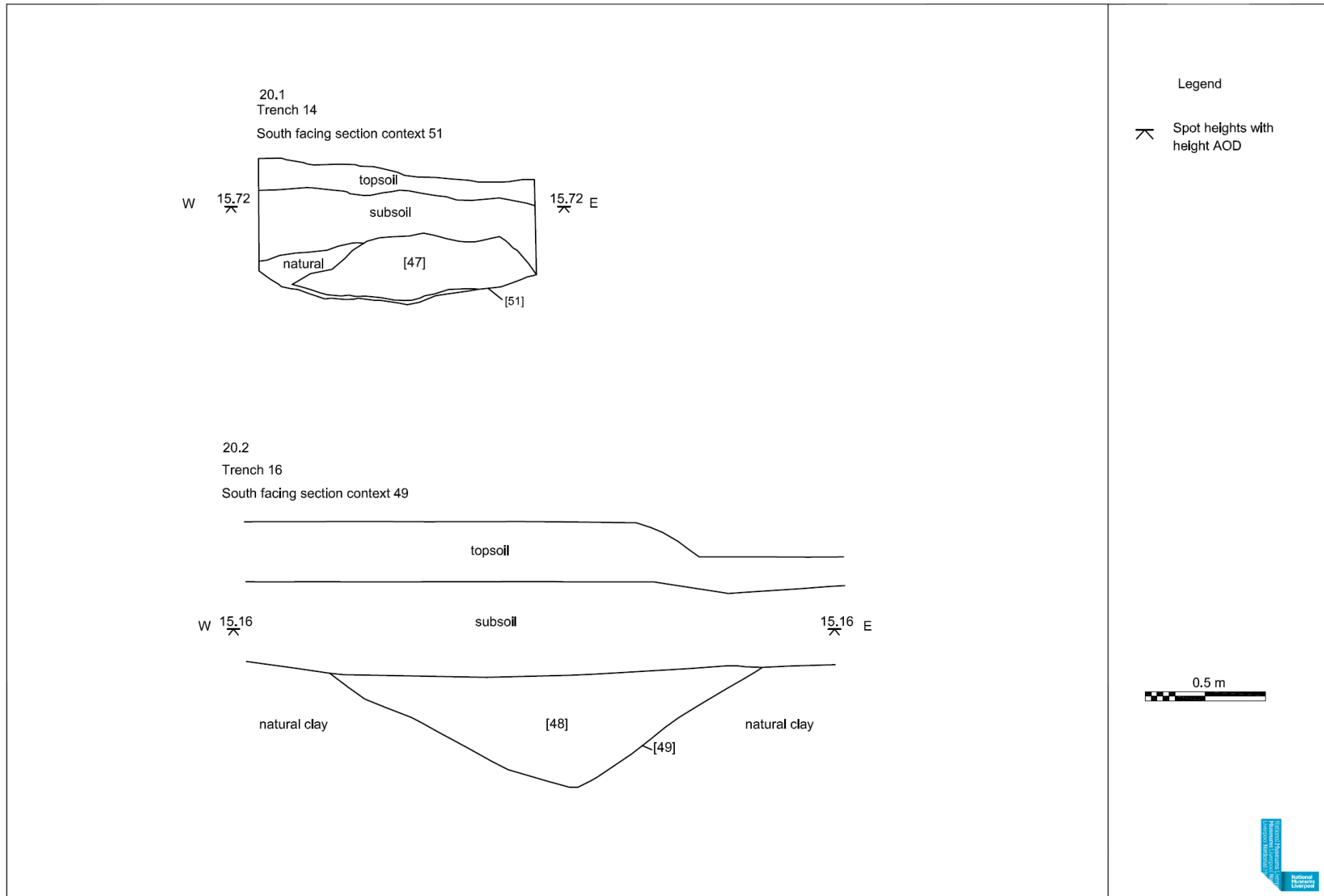


Fig. 20. Sections across deposits in Trenches 14 and 16. Scale 1:20.

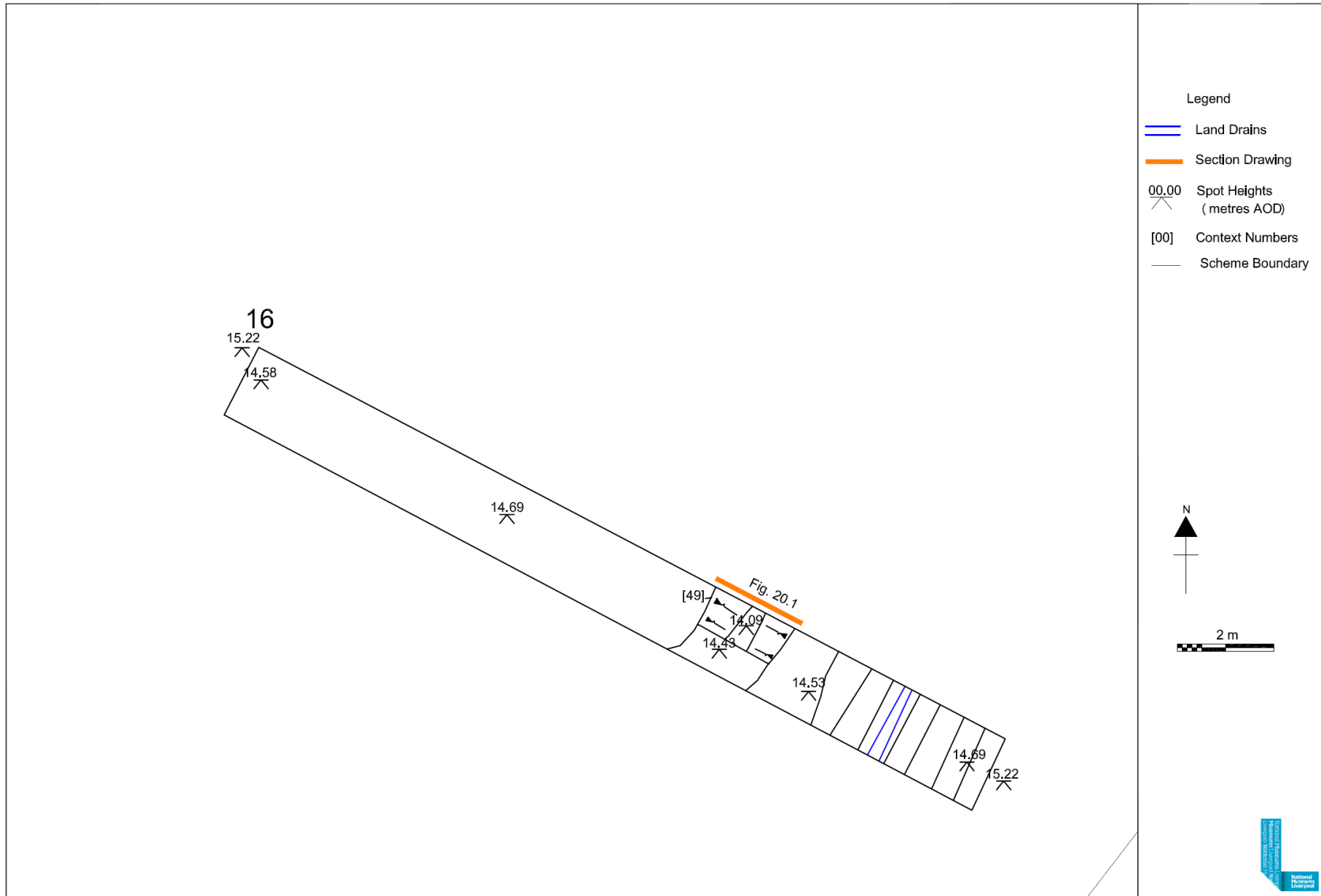


Fig. 21. Trench 16, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

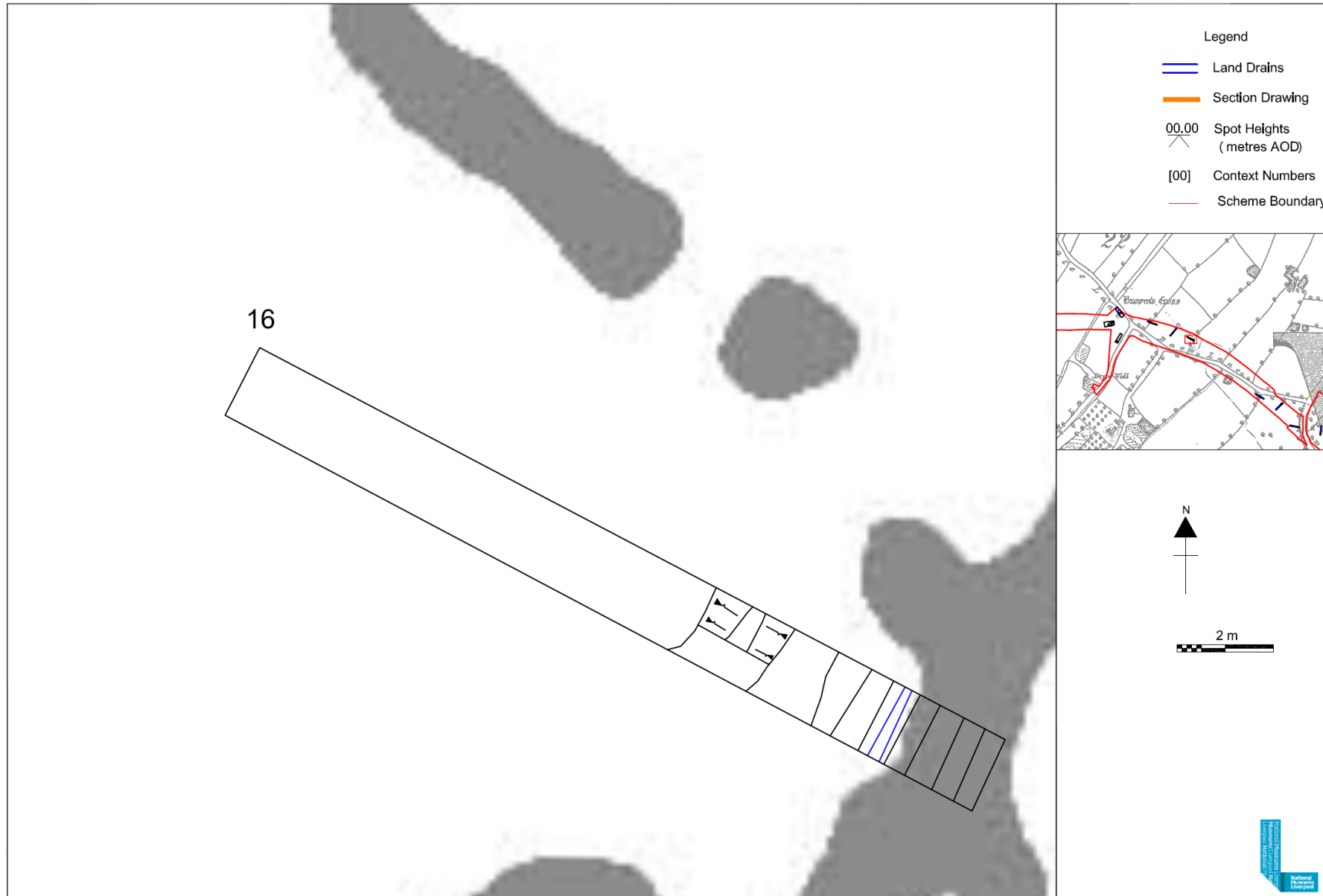


Fig. 22. Trench 14, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS. Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850 Scale 1:100.

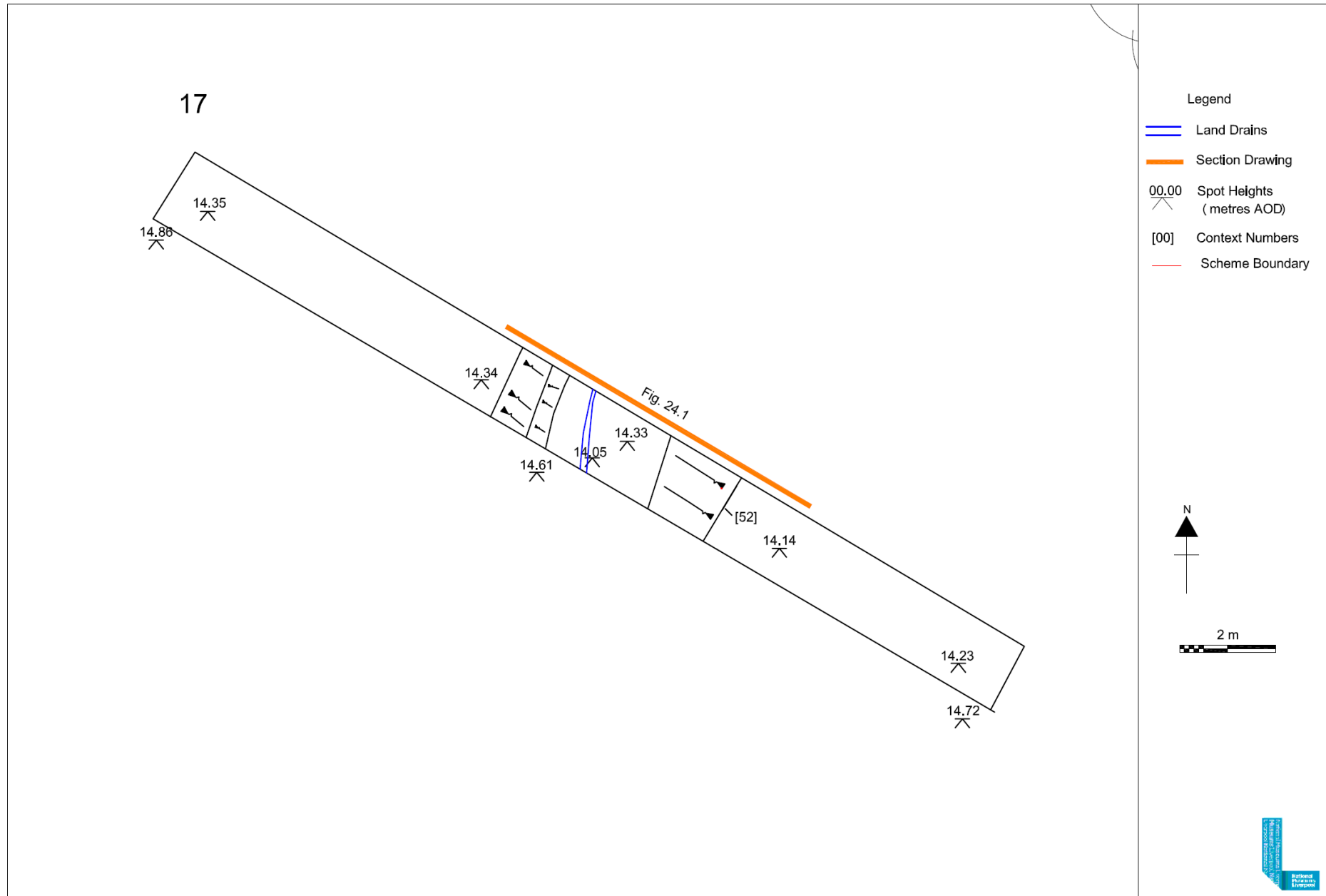


Fig. 23. Trench 17, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

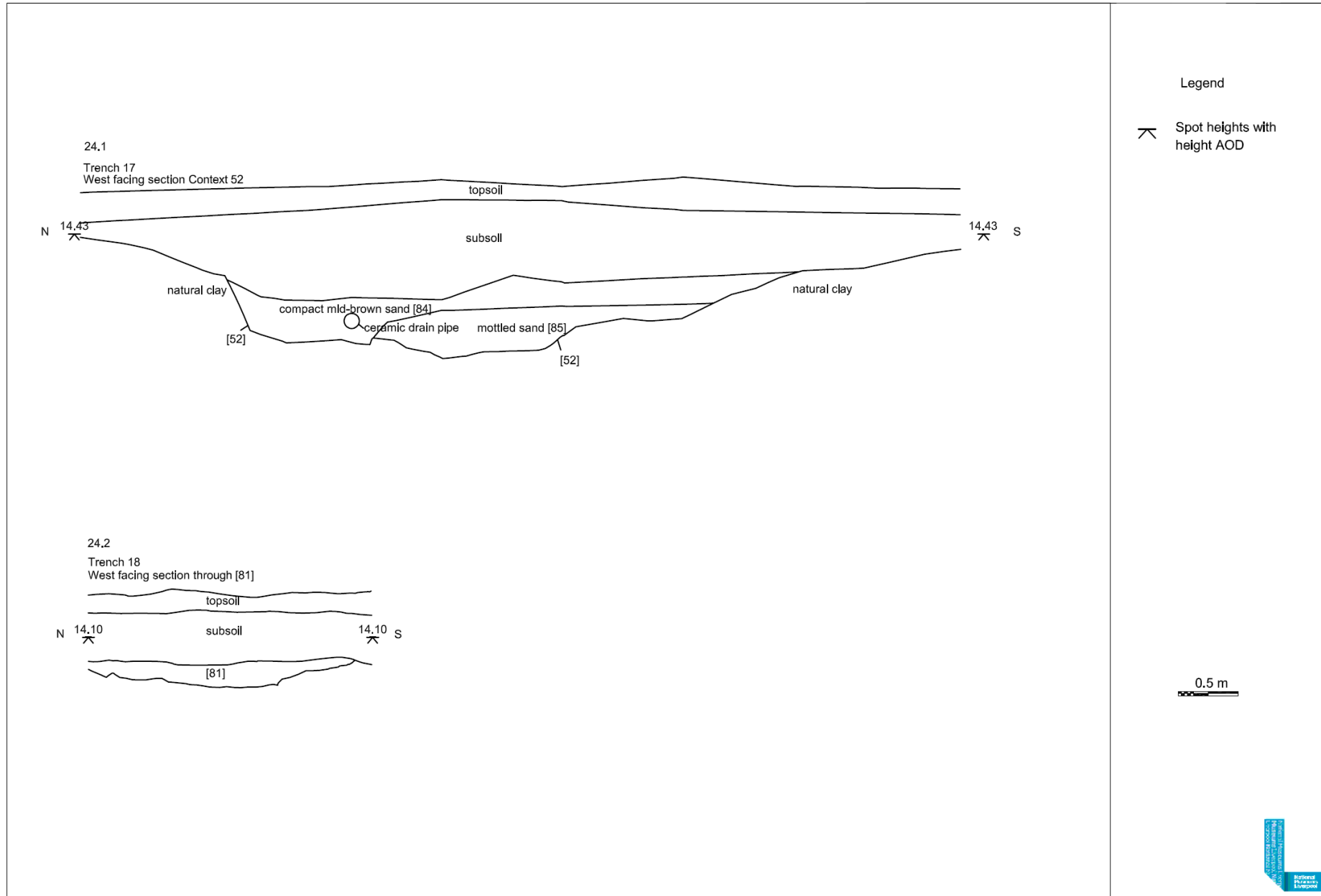


Fig. 24. Sections across deposits in Trenches 17 and 18. Scale 1:20.

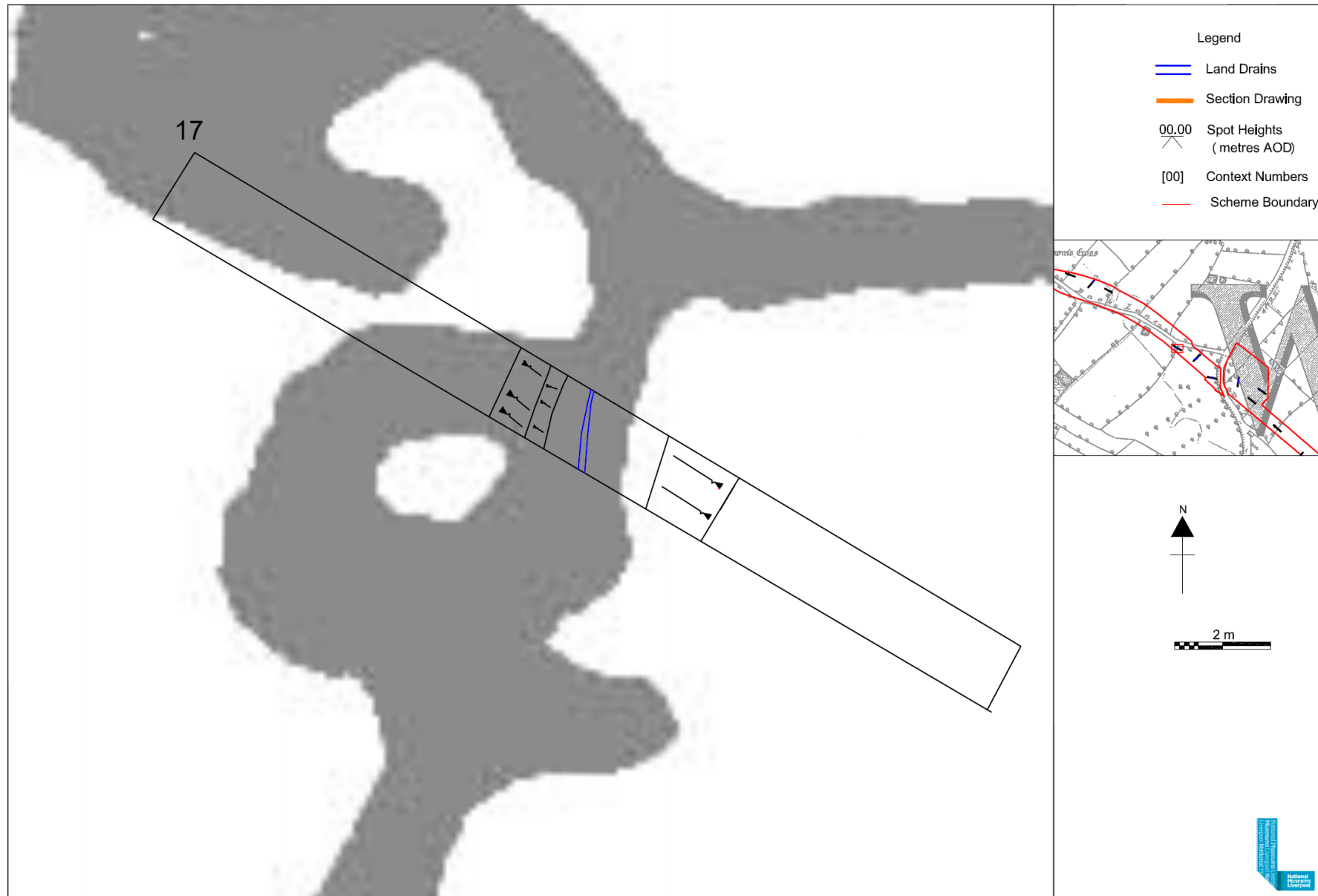


Fig. 25. Trench 17, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

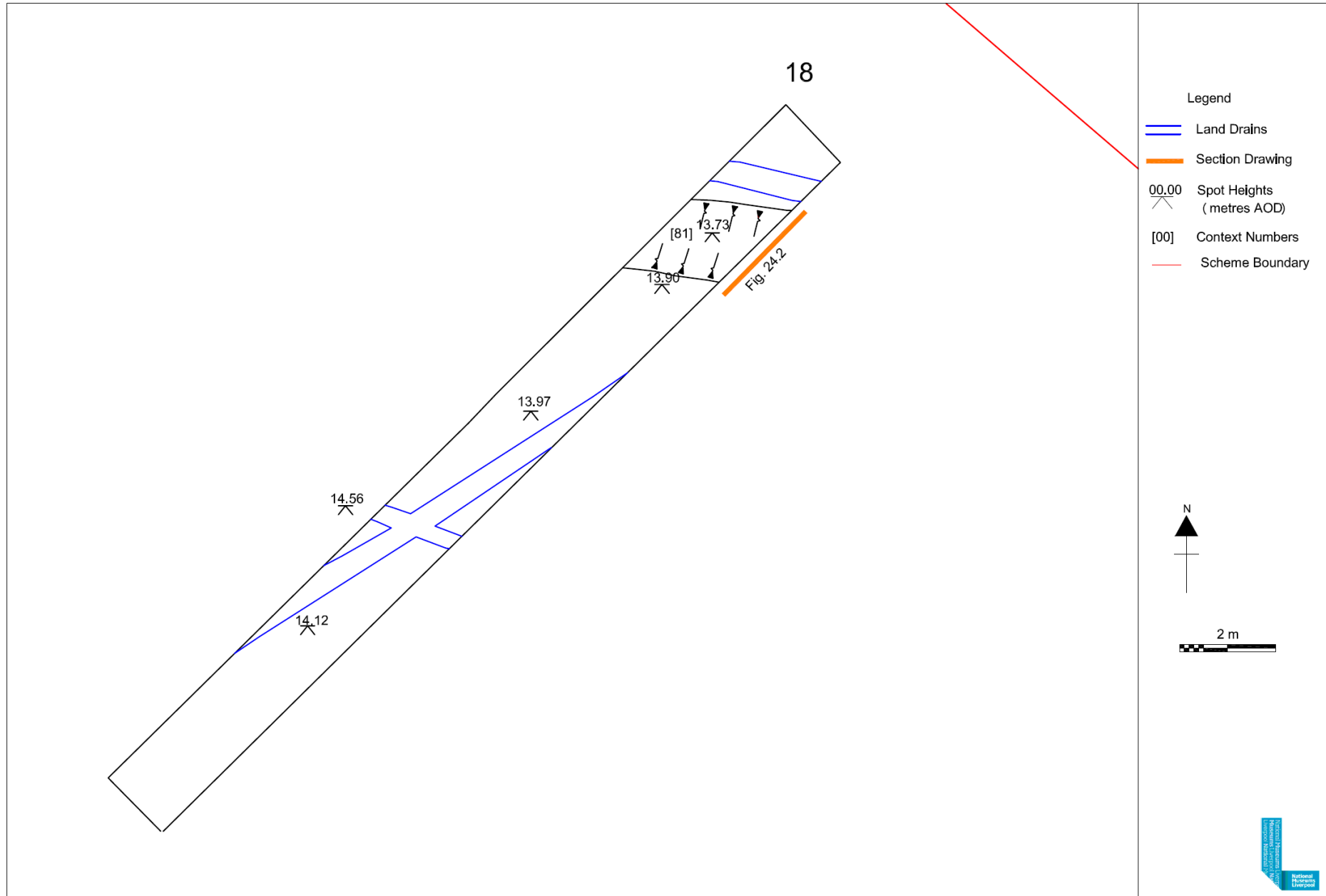


Fig. 26. Trench 18, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

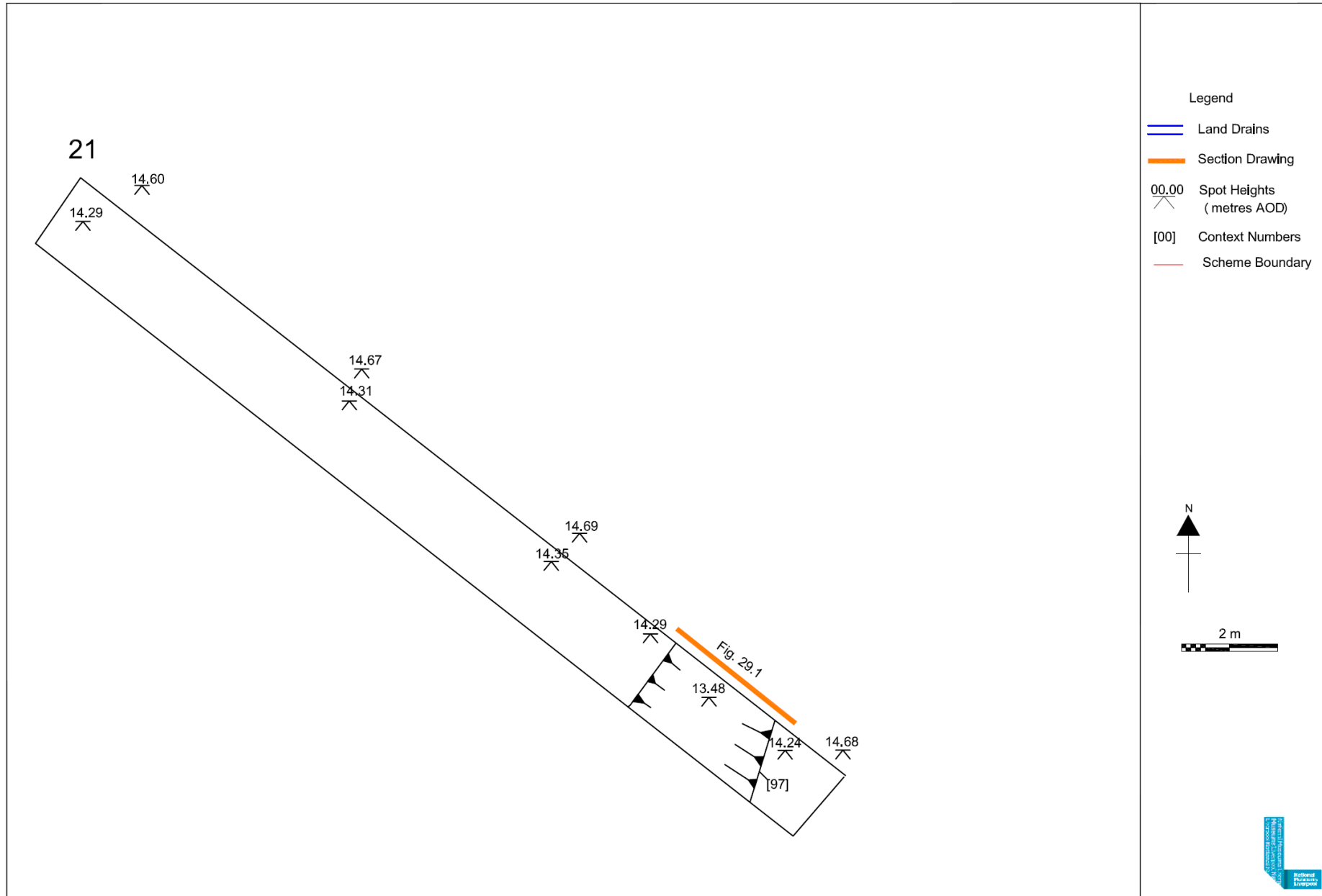


Fig. 27. Trench 21, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

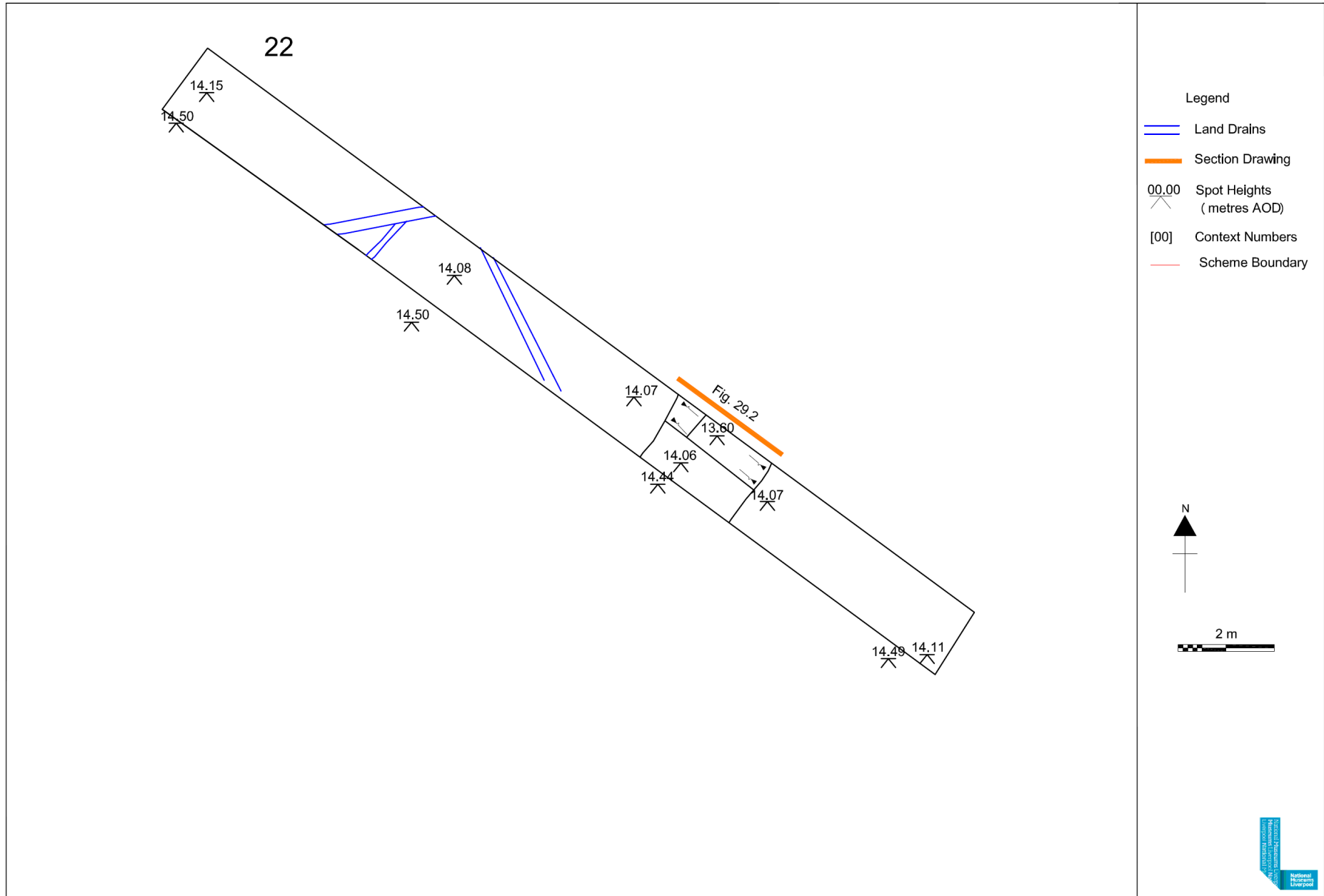


Fig. 28. Trench 22, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

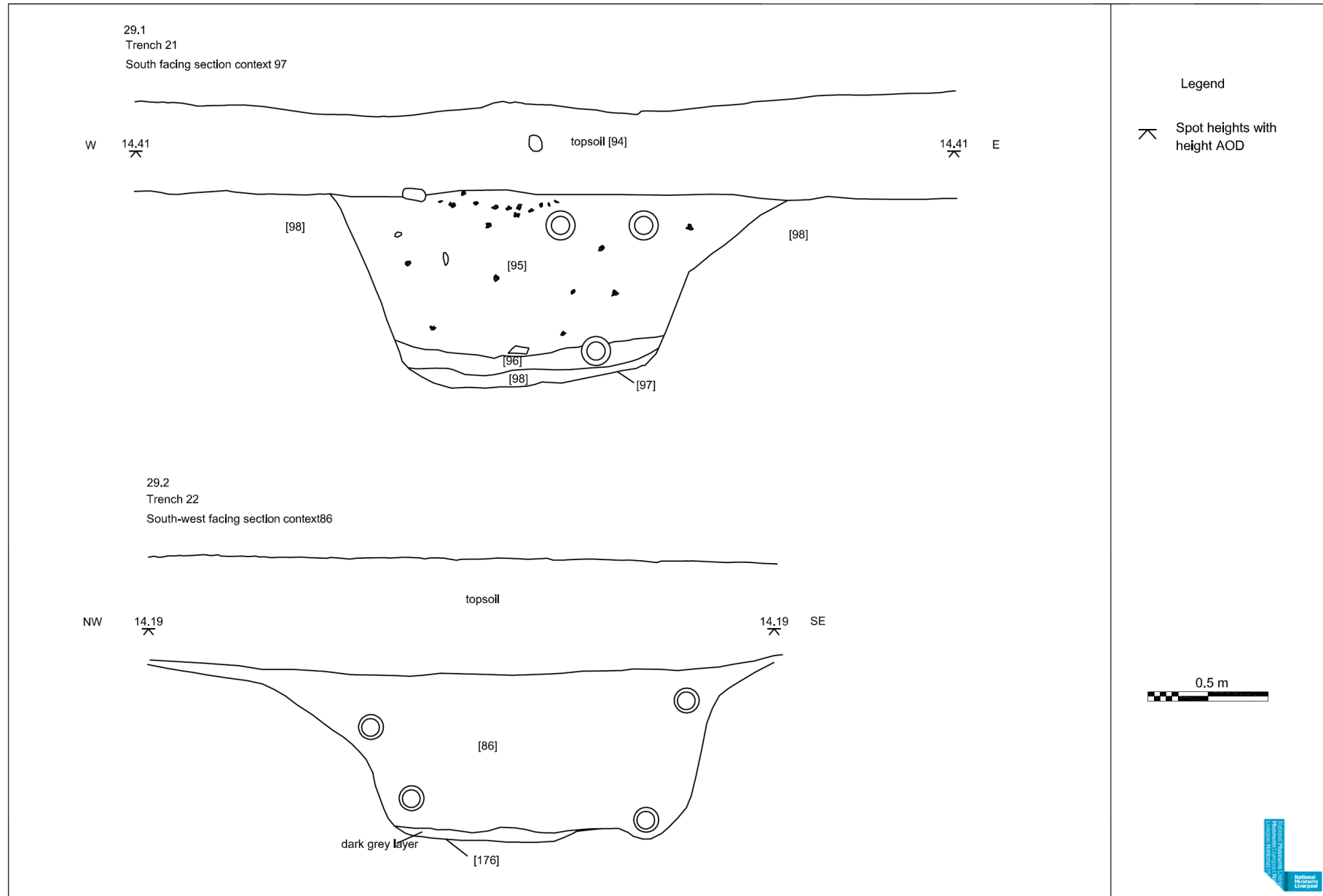


Fig. 29. Sections across deposits in Trenches 21 and 22. Scale 1:20.

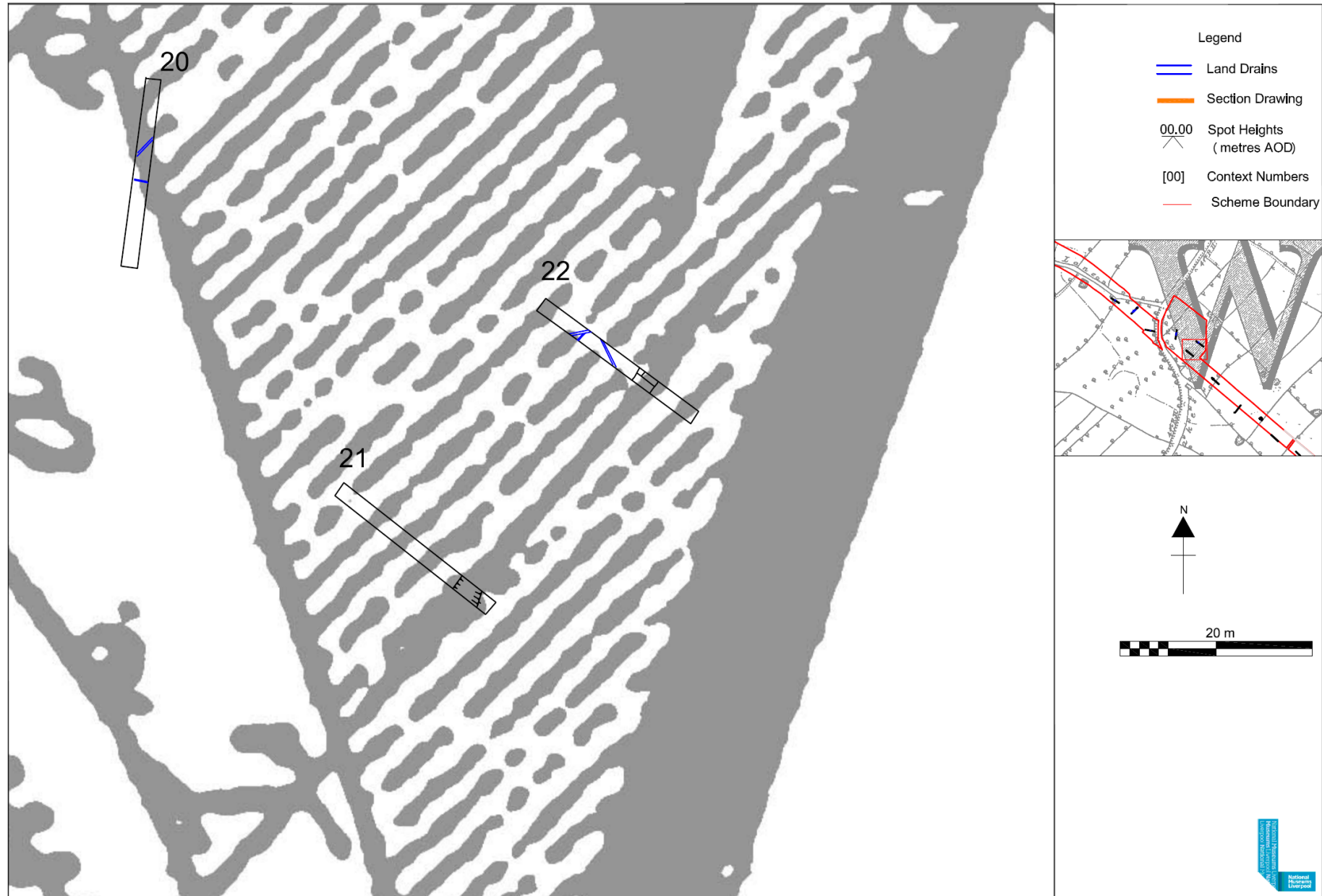


Fig. 30. Trenches 20, 21 and 22 superimposed onto the 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:500.

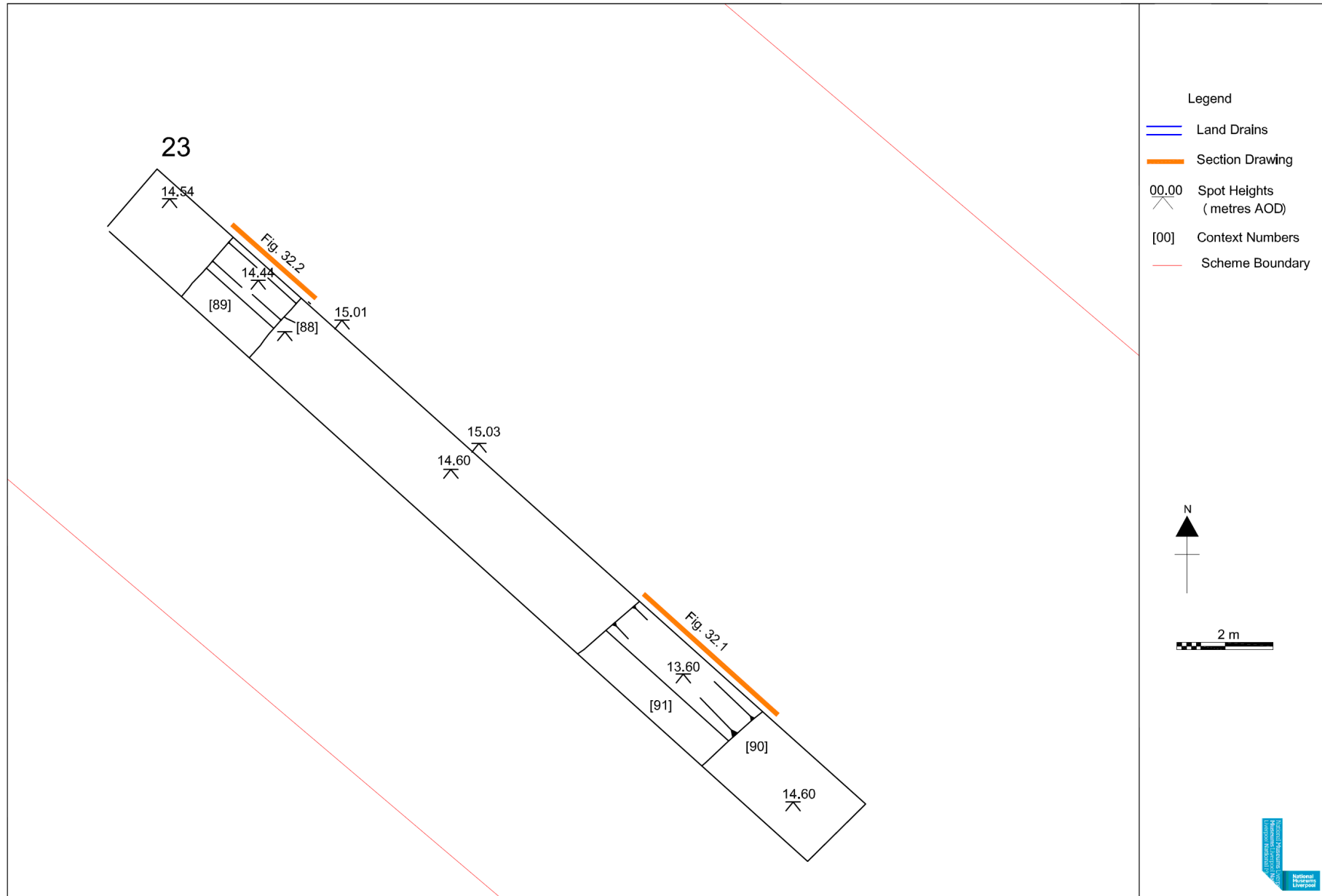


Fig. 31. Trench 23, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

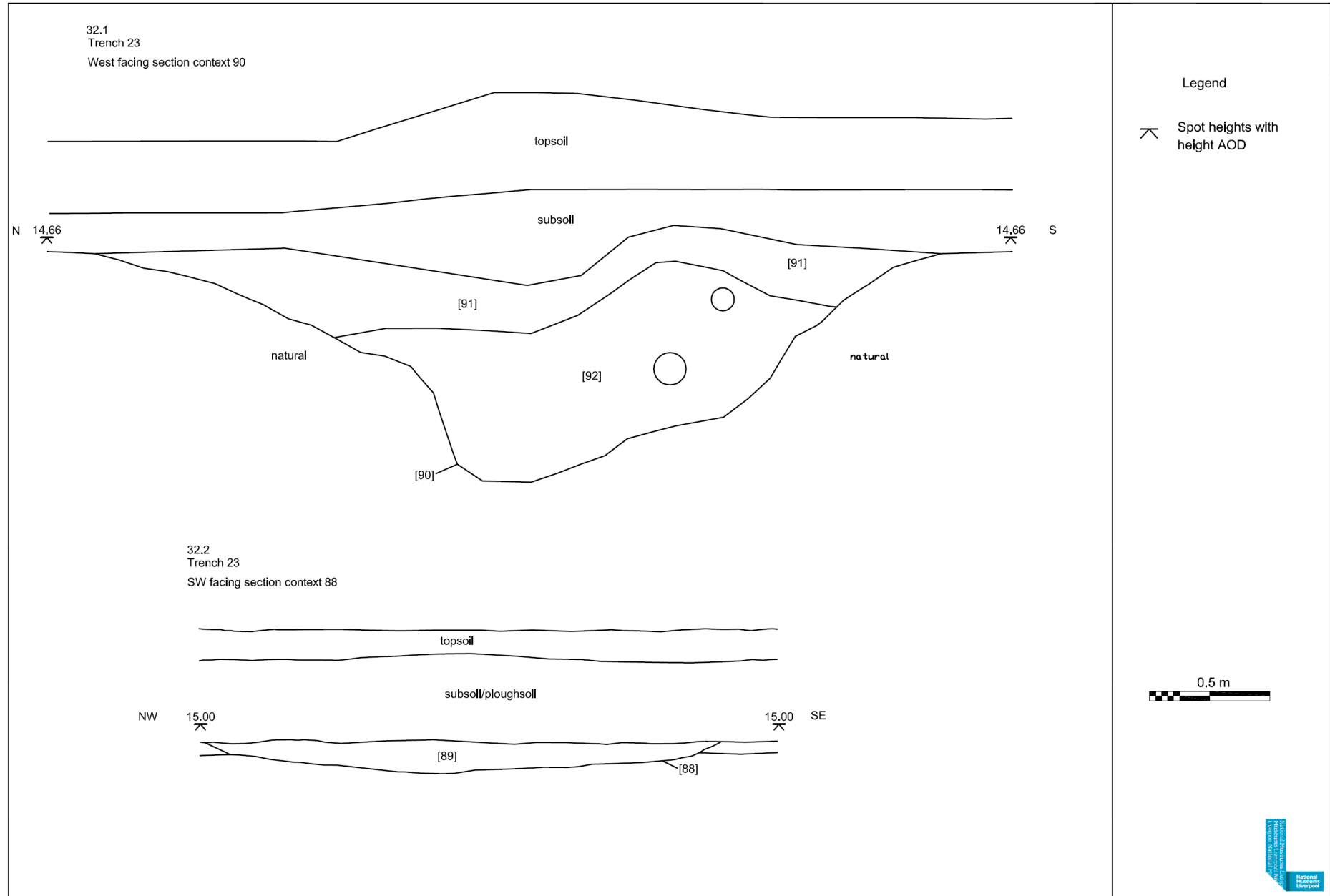


Fig. 32. Sections across deposits in Trench 23. Scale 1:20.

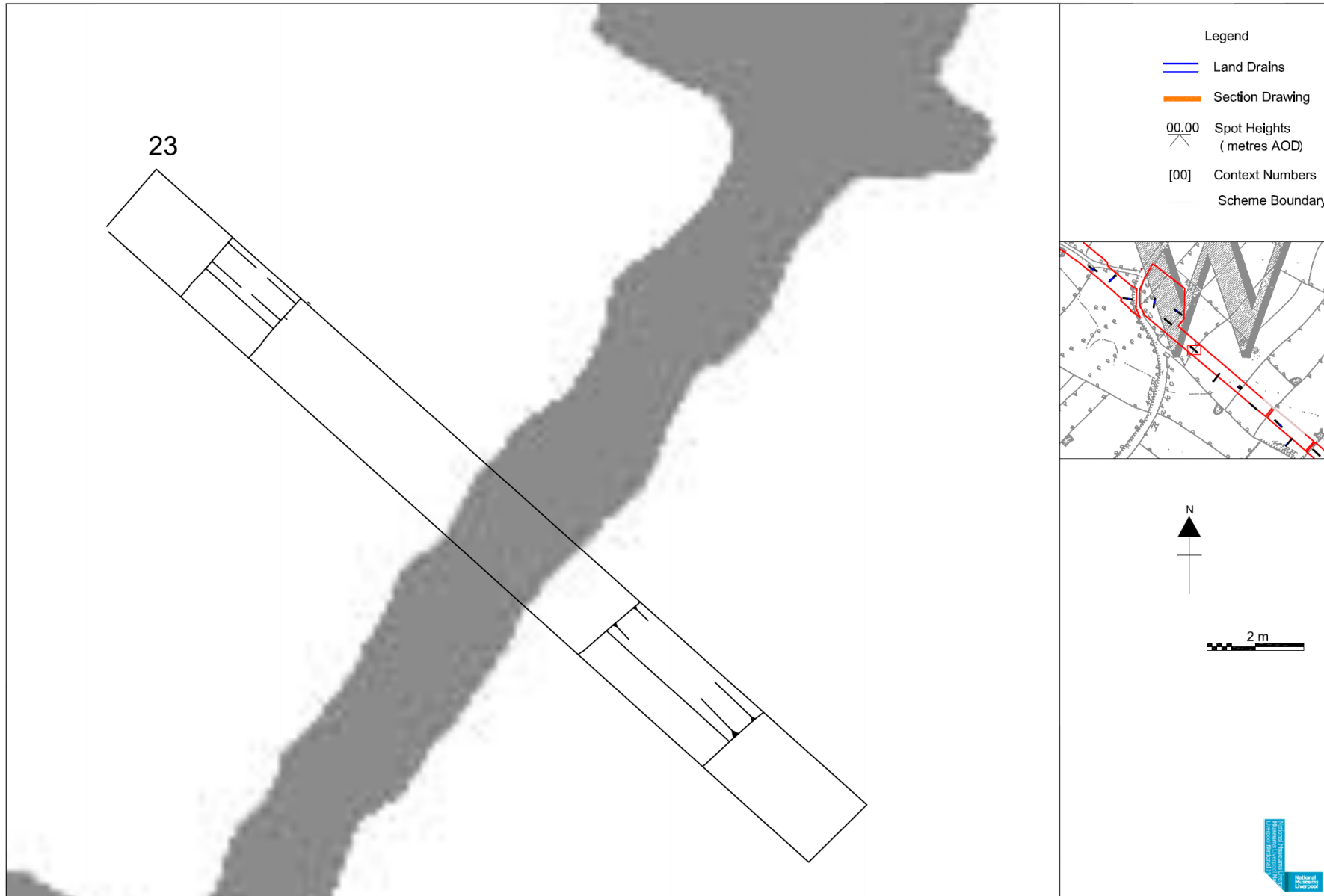


Fig. 33. Trench 23, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

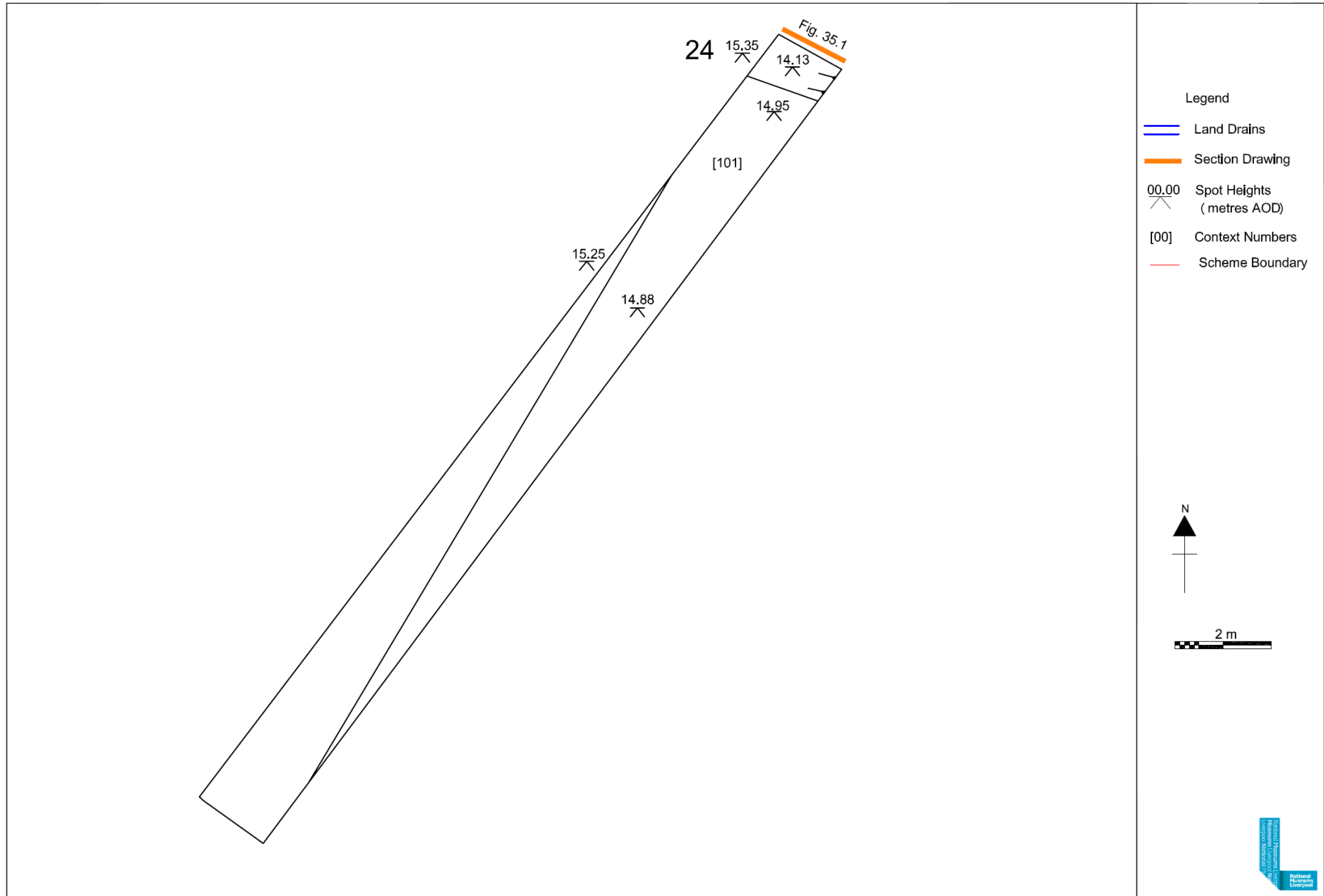


Fig. 34. Trench 24, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

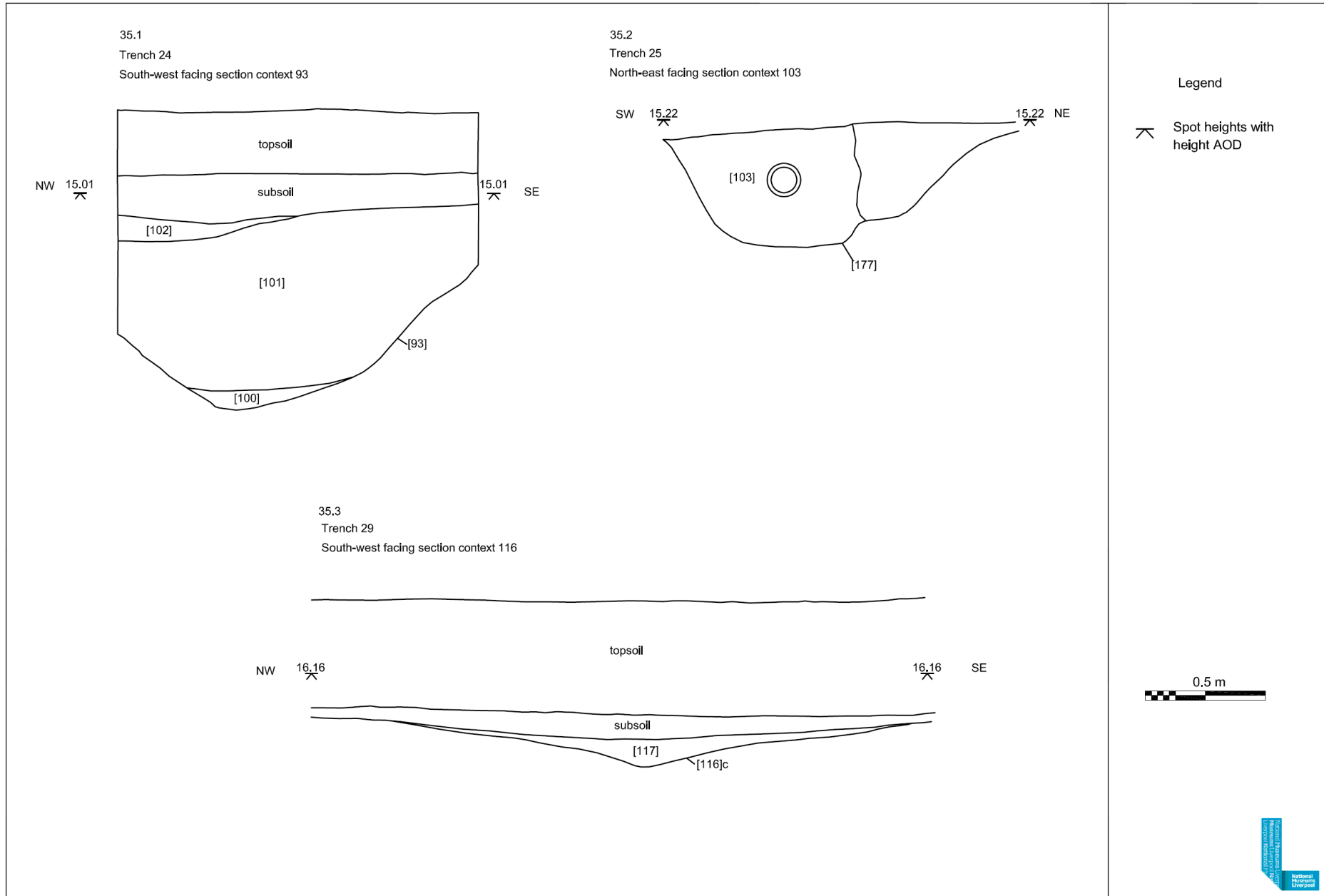


Fig. 35. Sections across deposits in Trenches 24, 25 and 29. Scale 1:20.

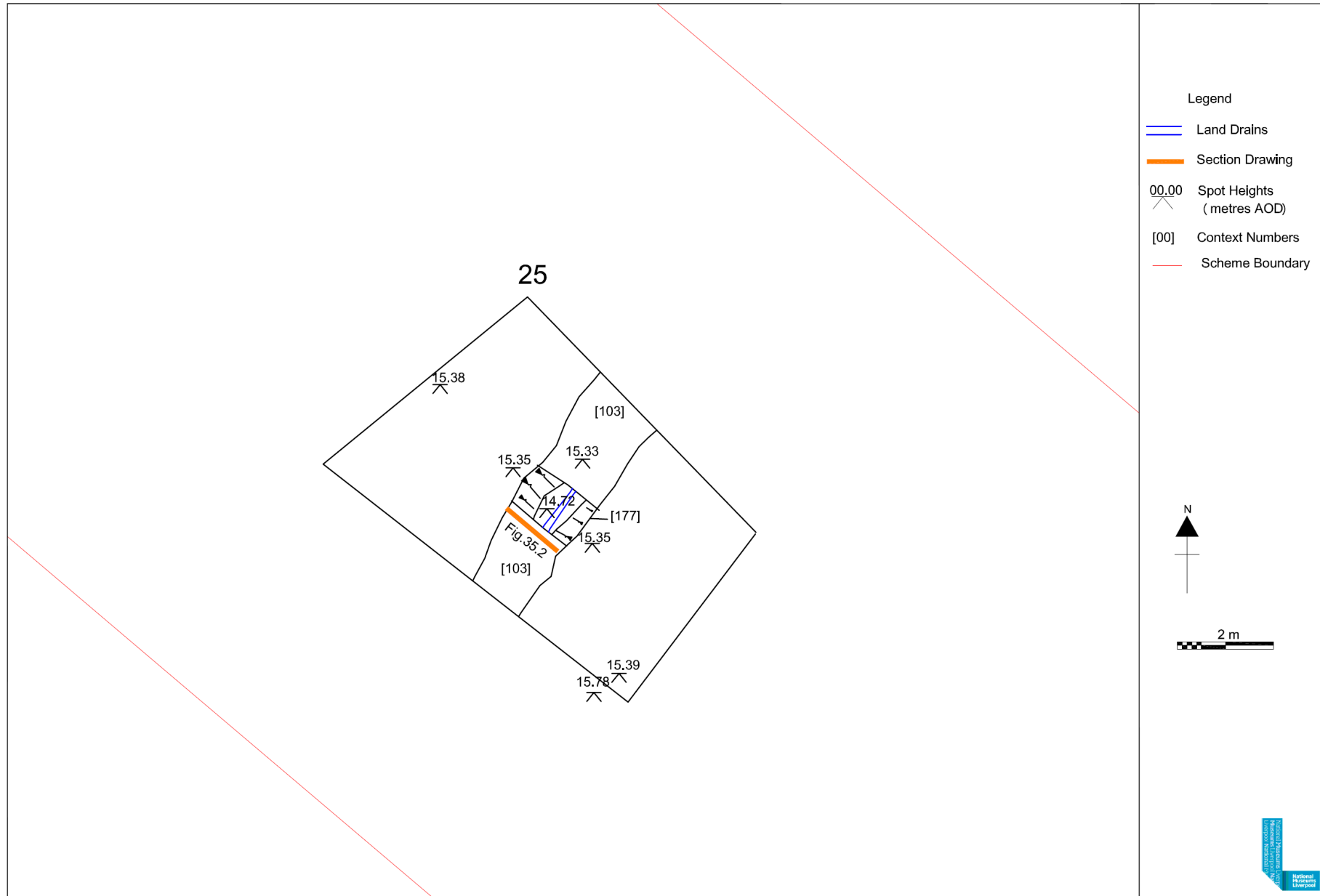


Fig. 36. Trench 25, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

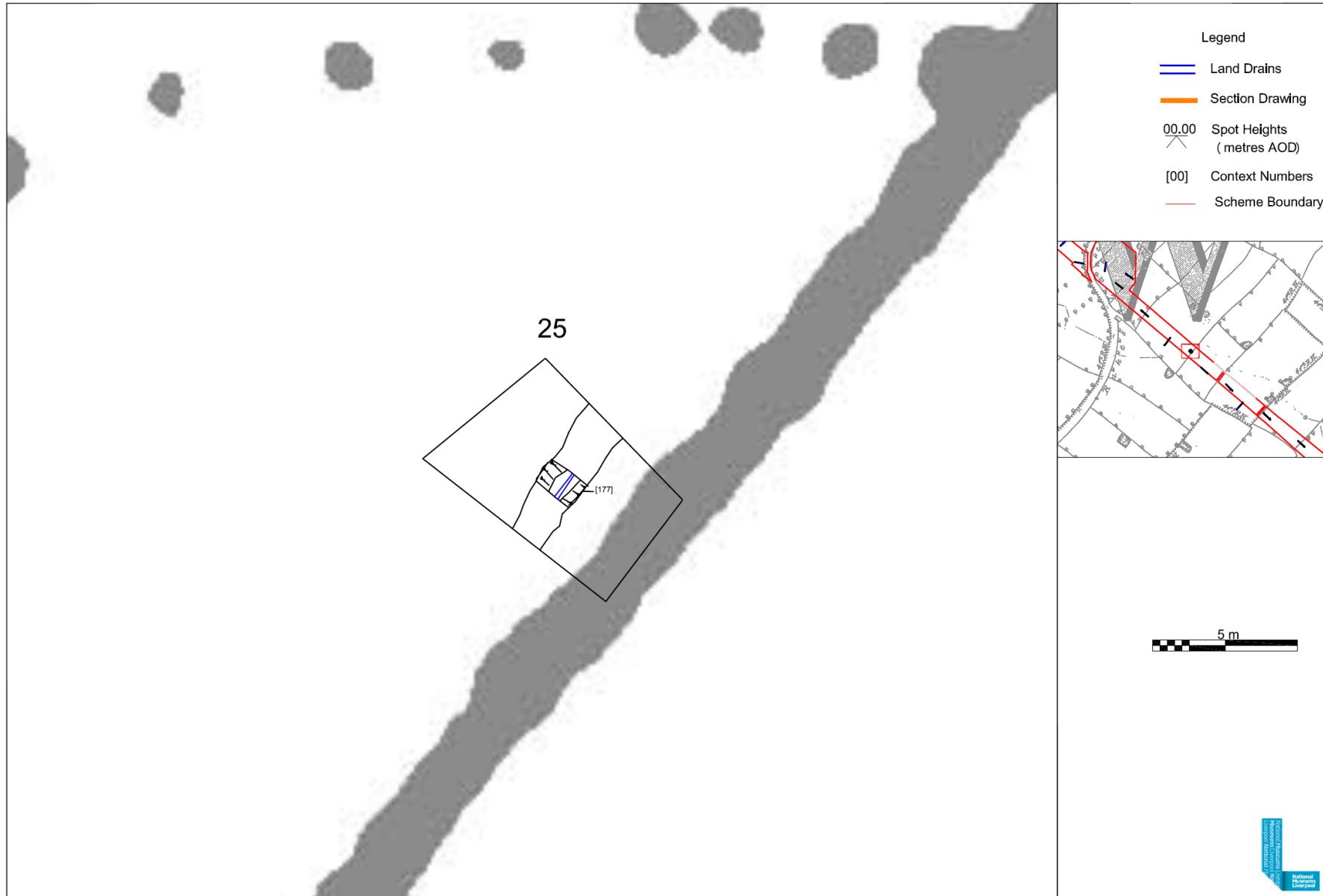


Fig. 37. Trench 25, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

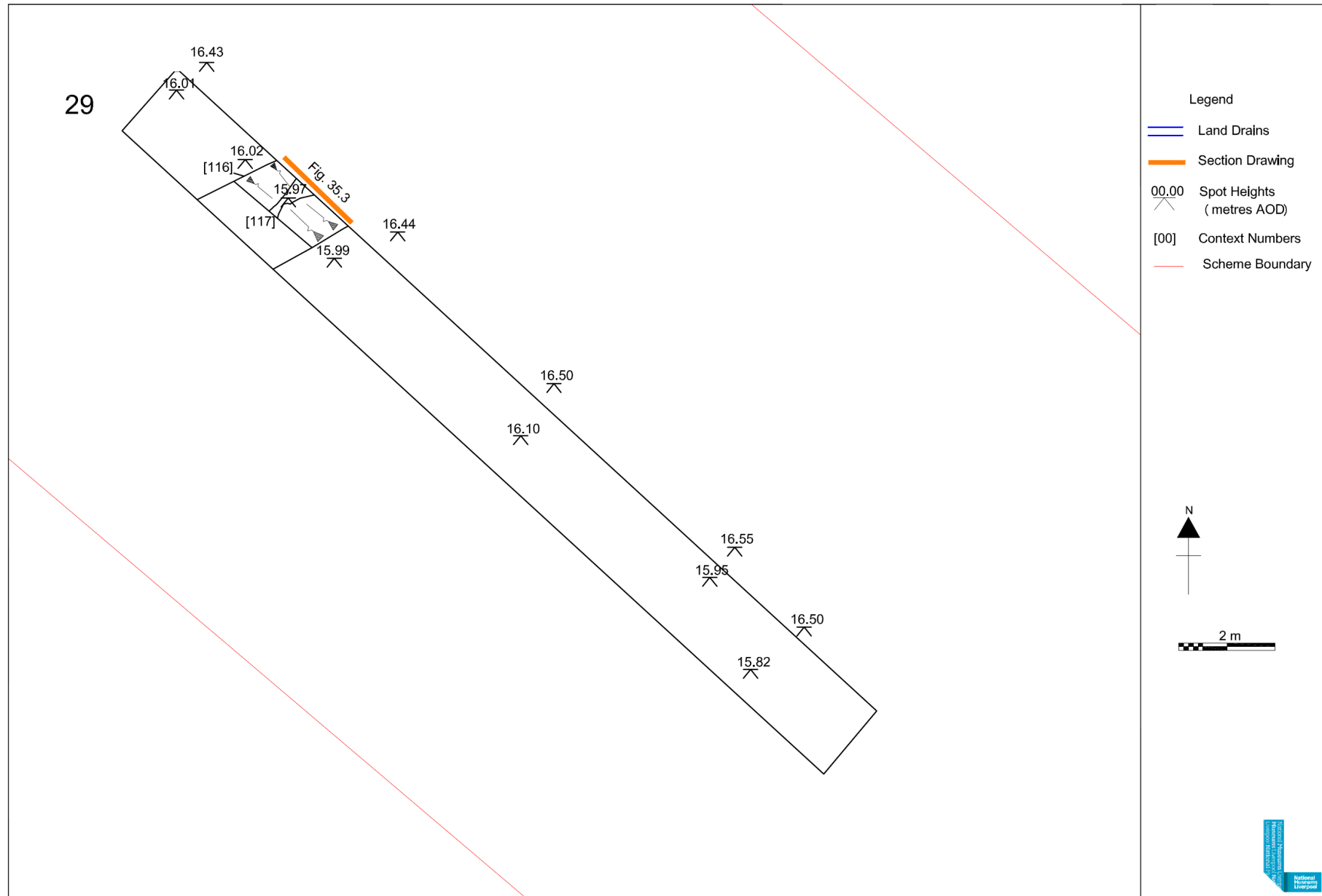


Fig. 38. Trench 29, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

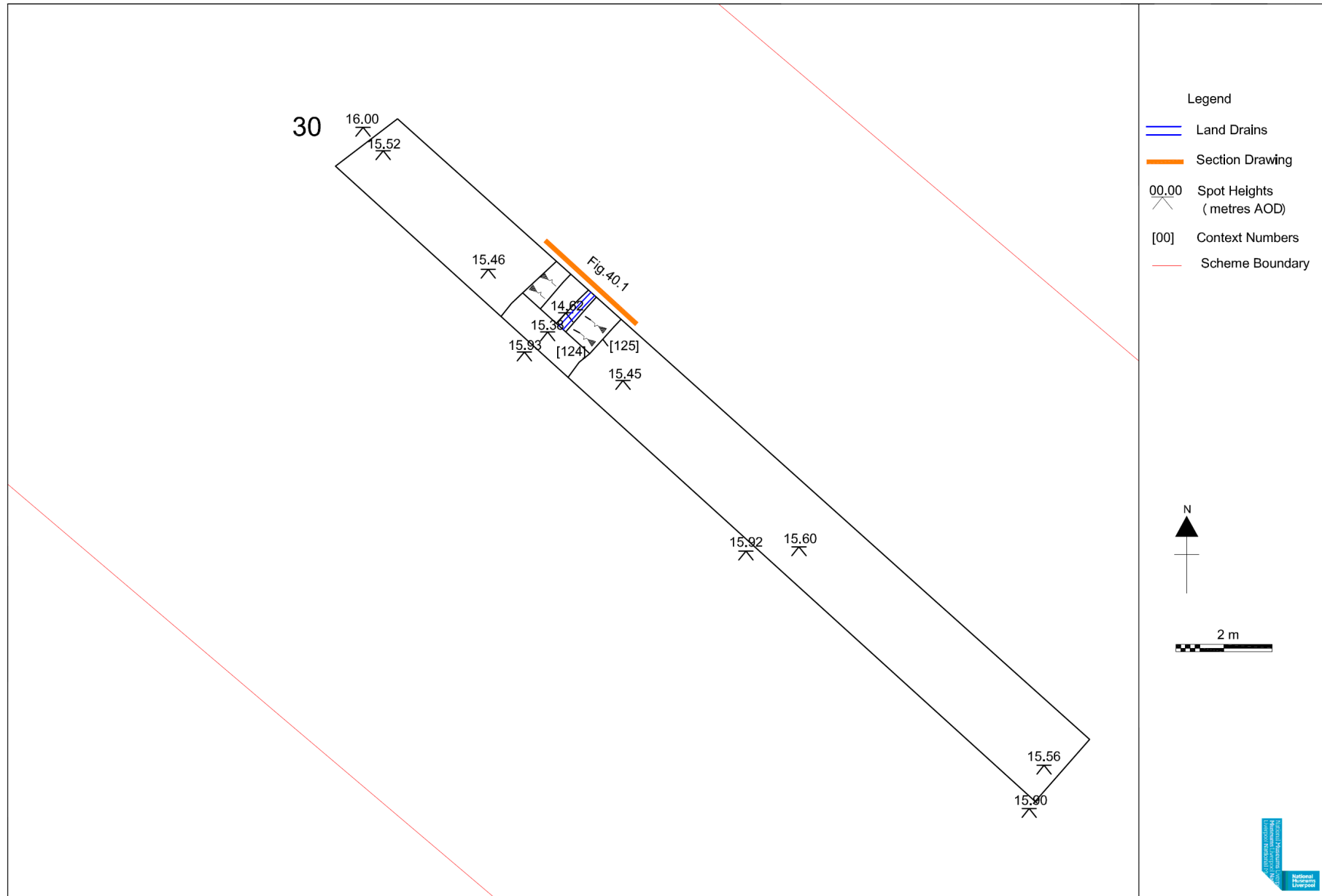


Fig. 39. Trench 30, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

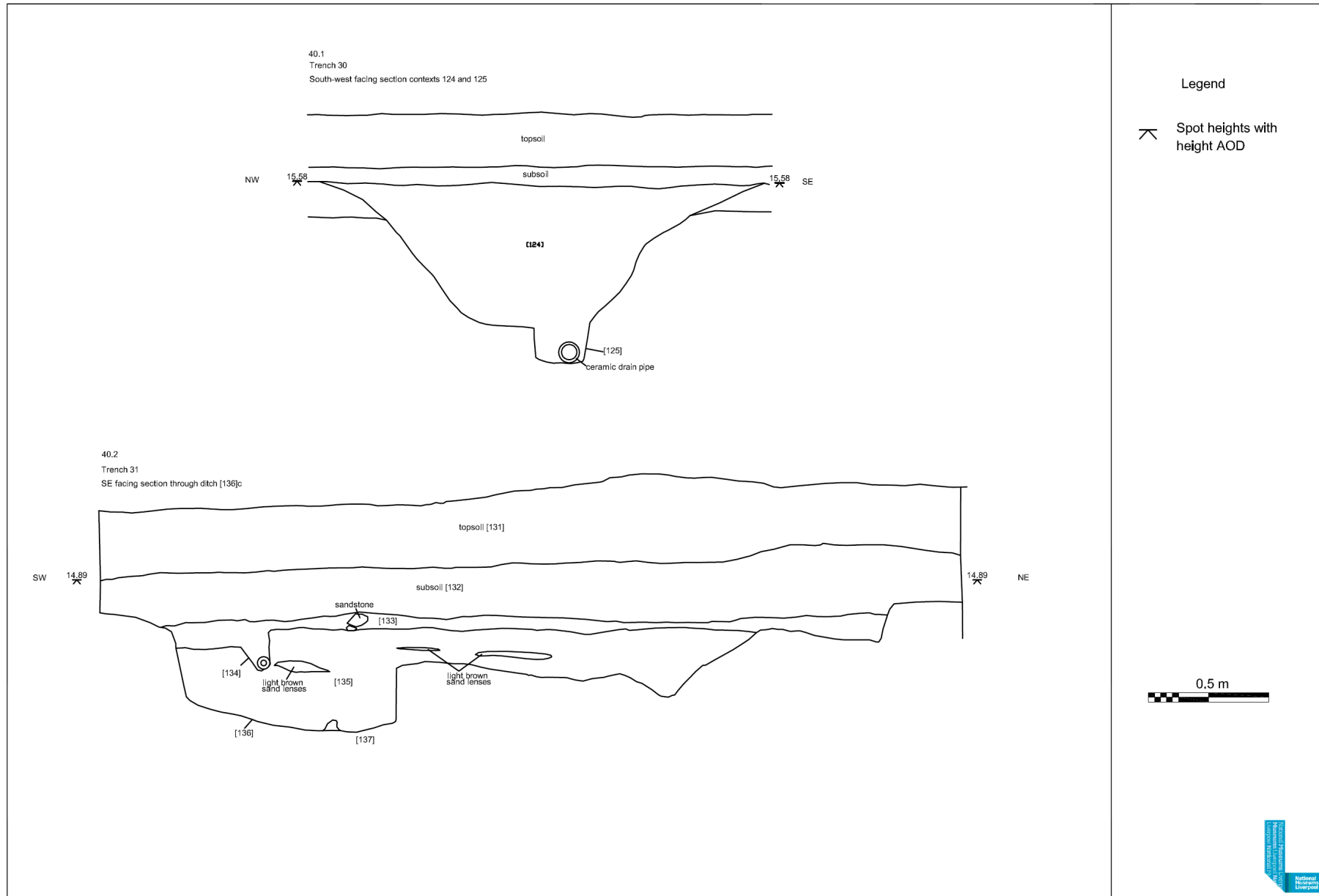


Fig. 40. Sections across deposits in Trenches 30 and 31. Scale 1:20.

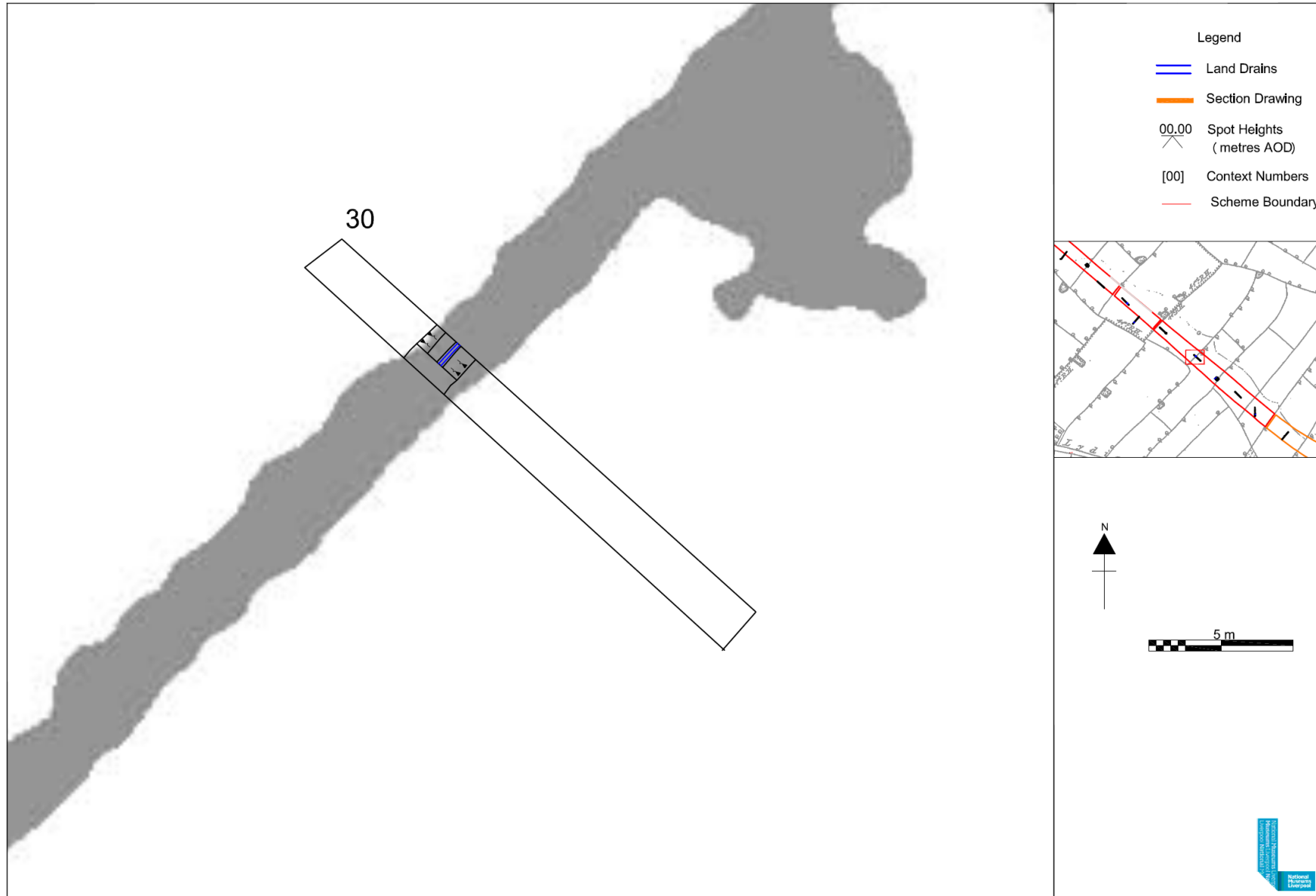


Fig. 41. Trench 30, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

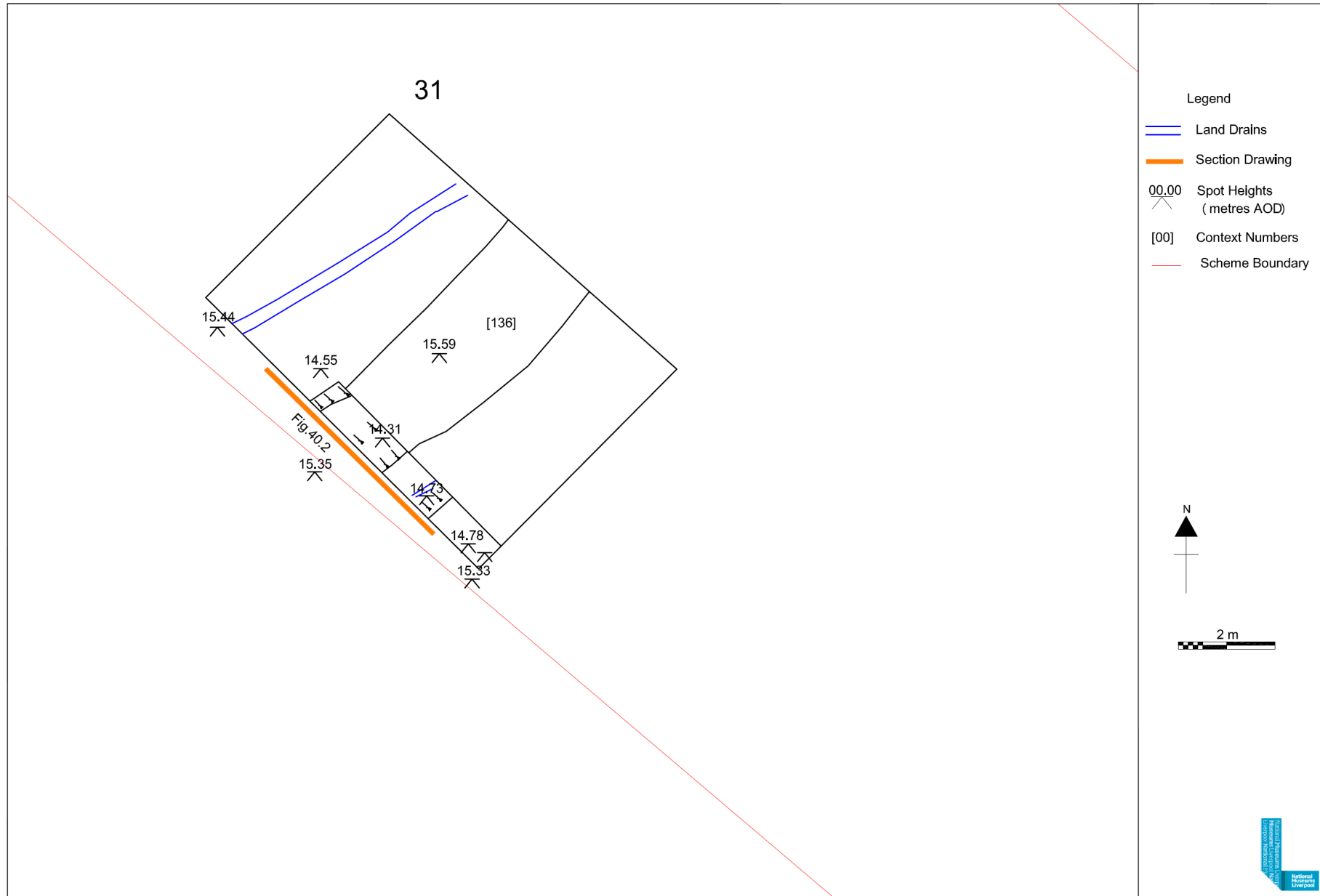


Fig. 42. Trench 31, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

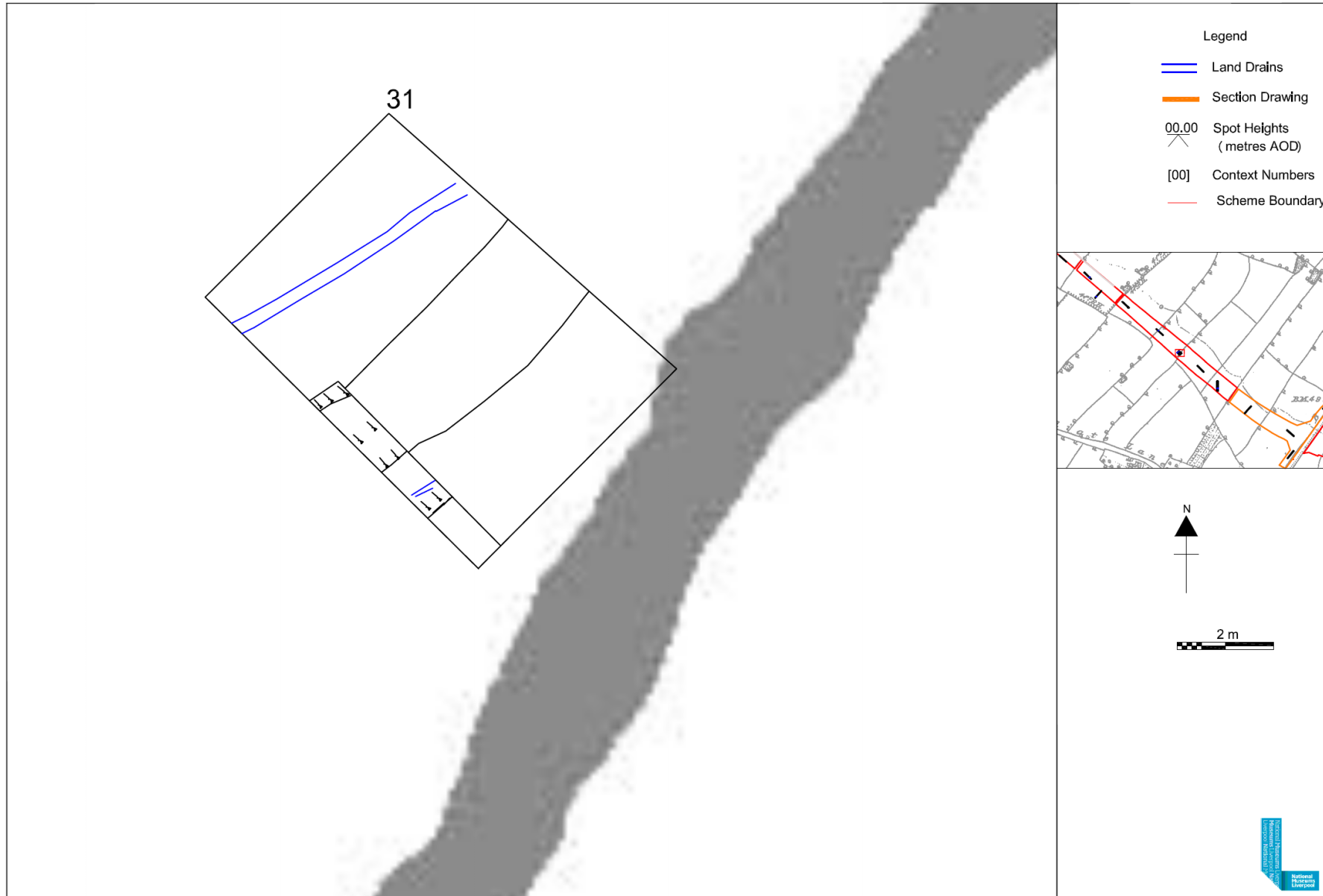


Fig. 43. Trench 31, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

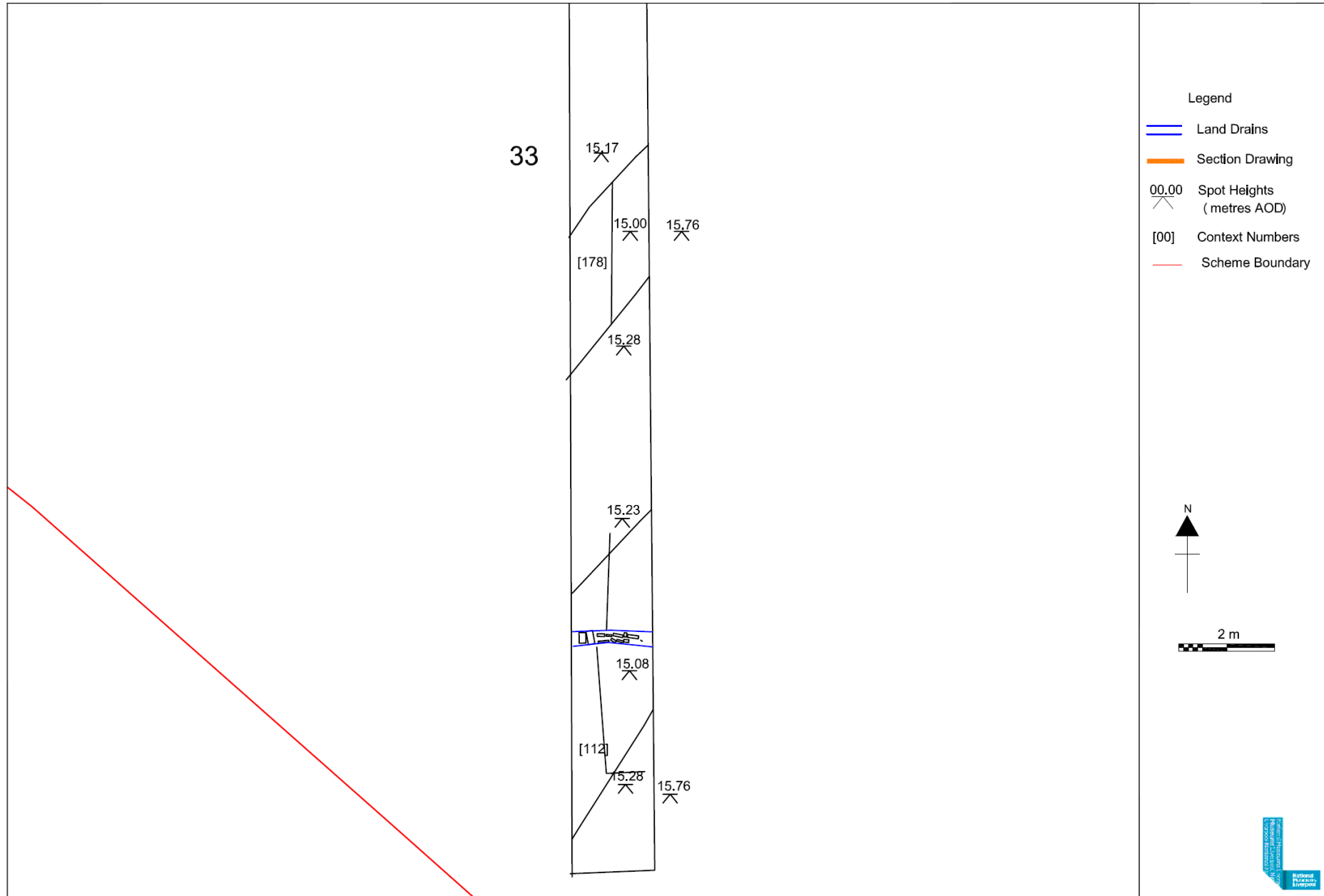


Fig. 44. Trench 33, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

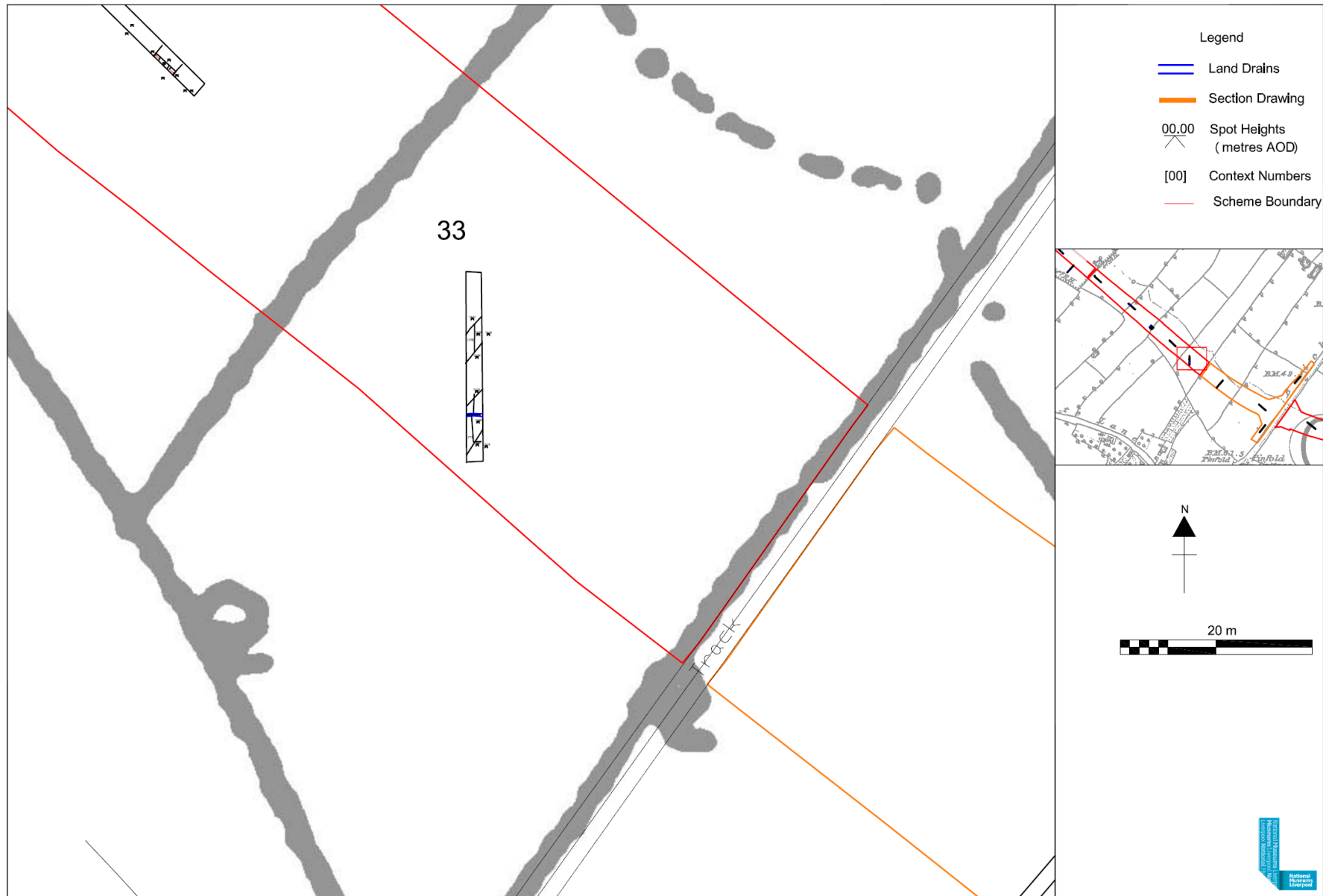


Fig. 45. Trench 33, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

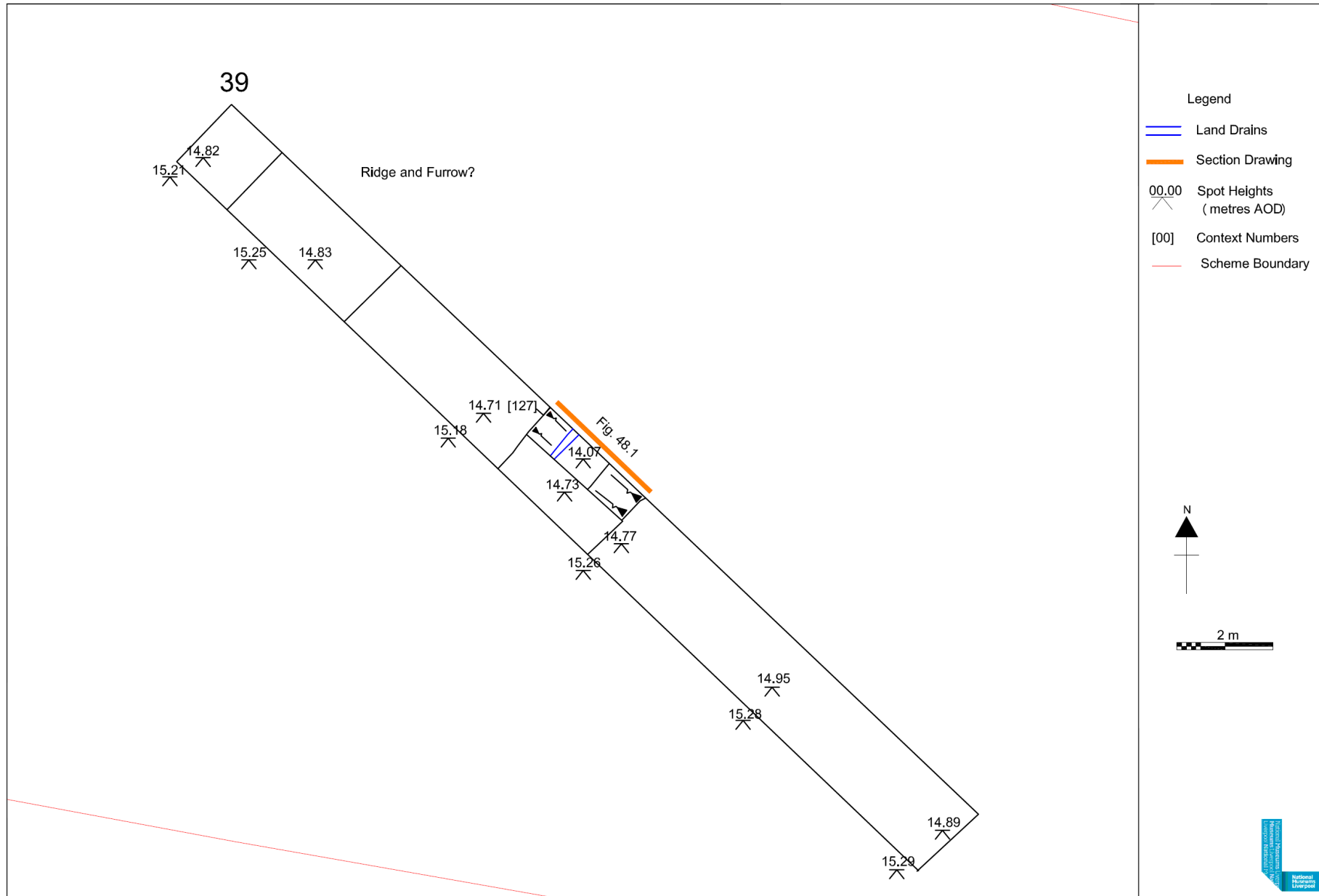


Fig. 46. Trench 39, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.



Fig. 47. Trench 39, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:500.

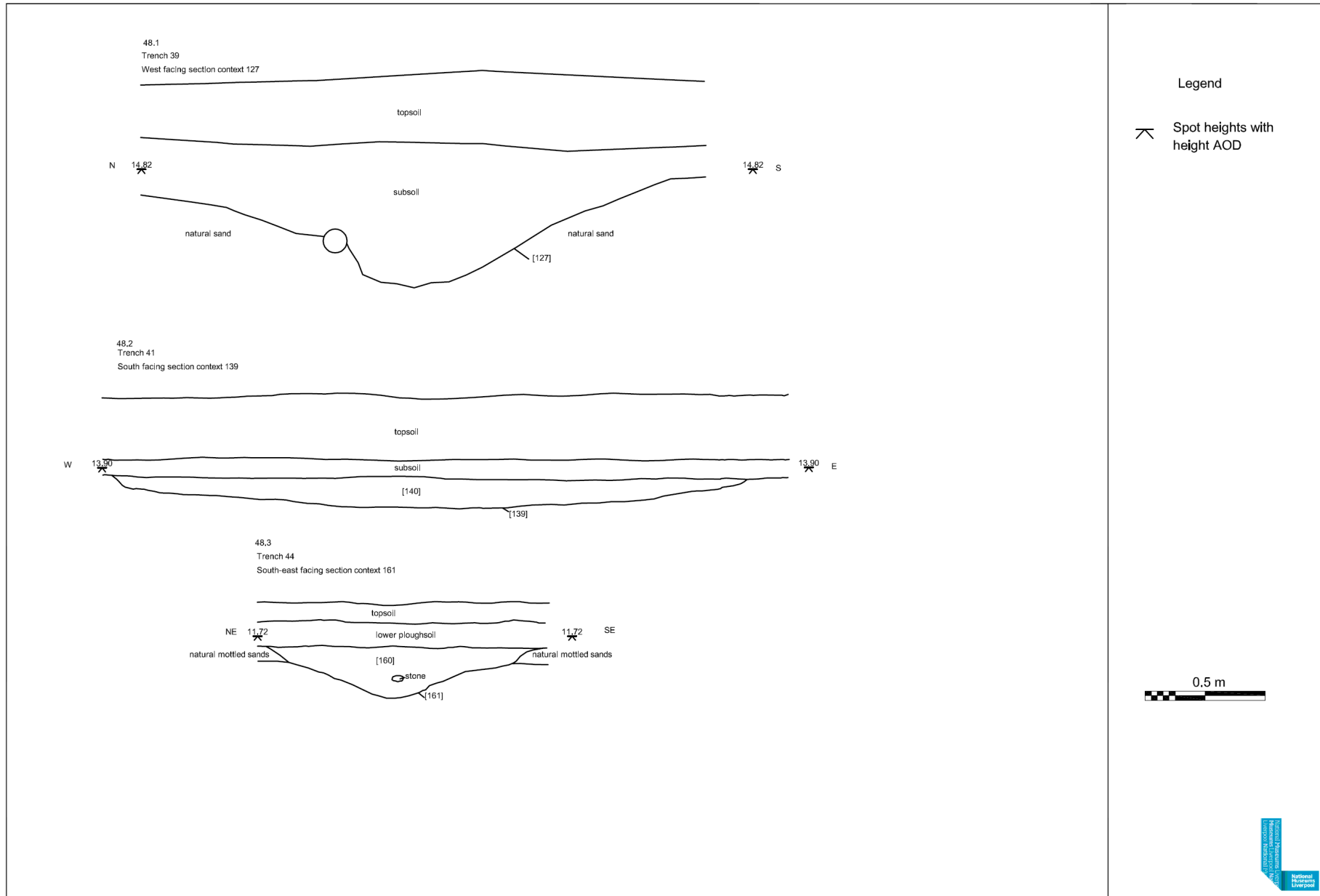


Fig. 48 Sections across deposits in Trenches 39, 41 and 44. Scale 1:20.

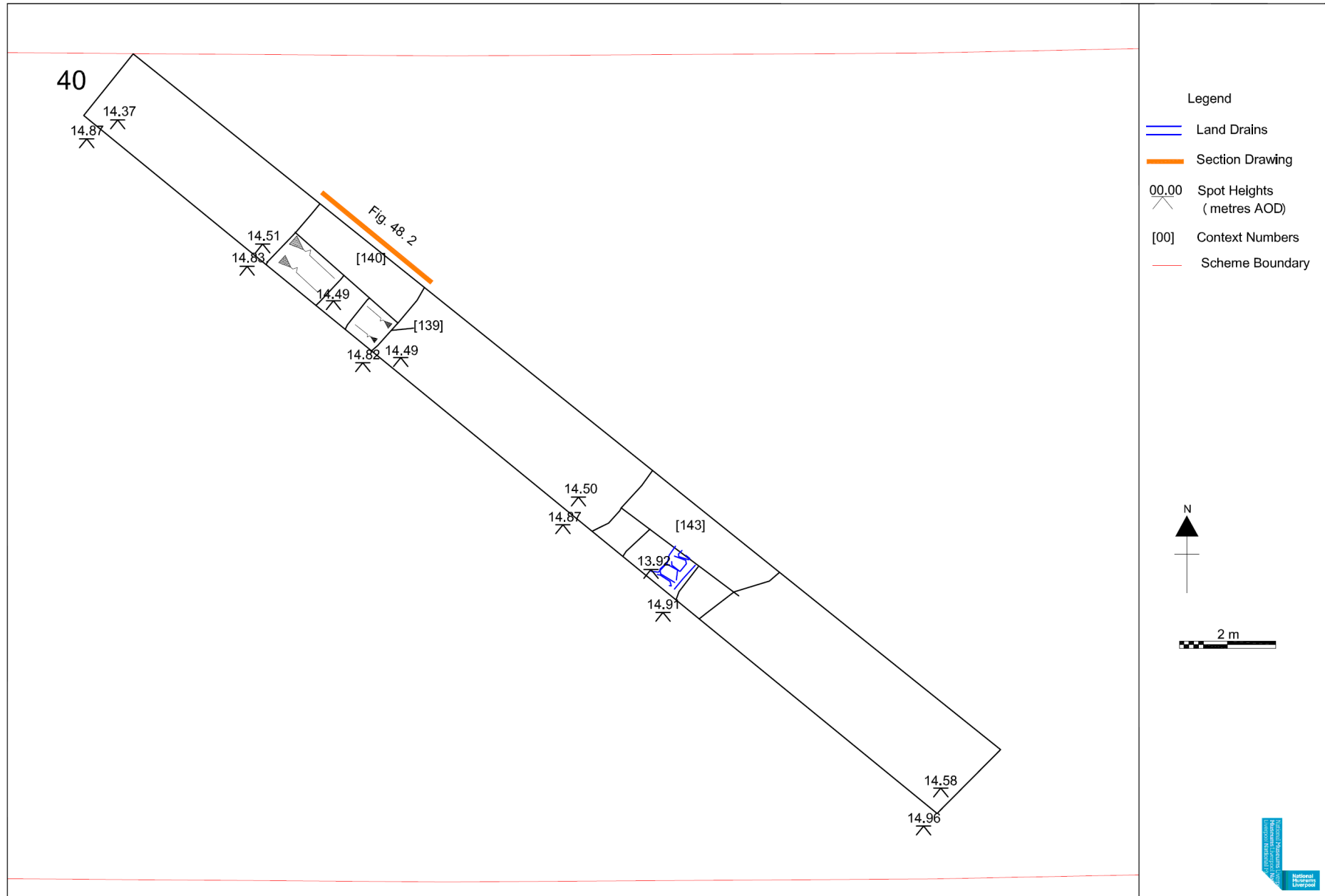


Fig. 49. Trench 40, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

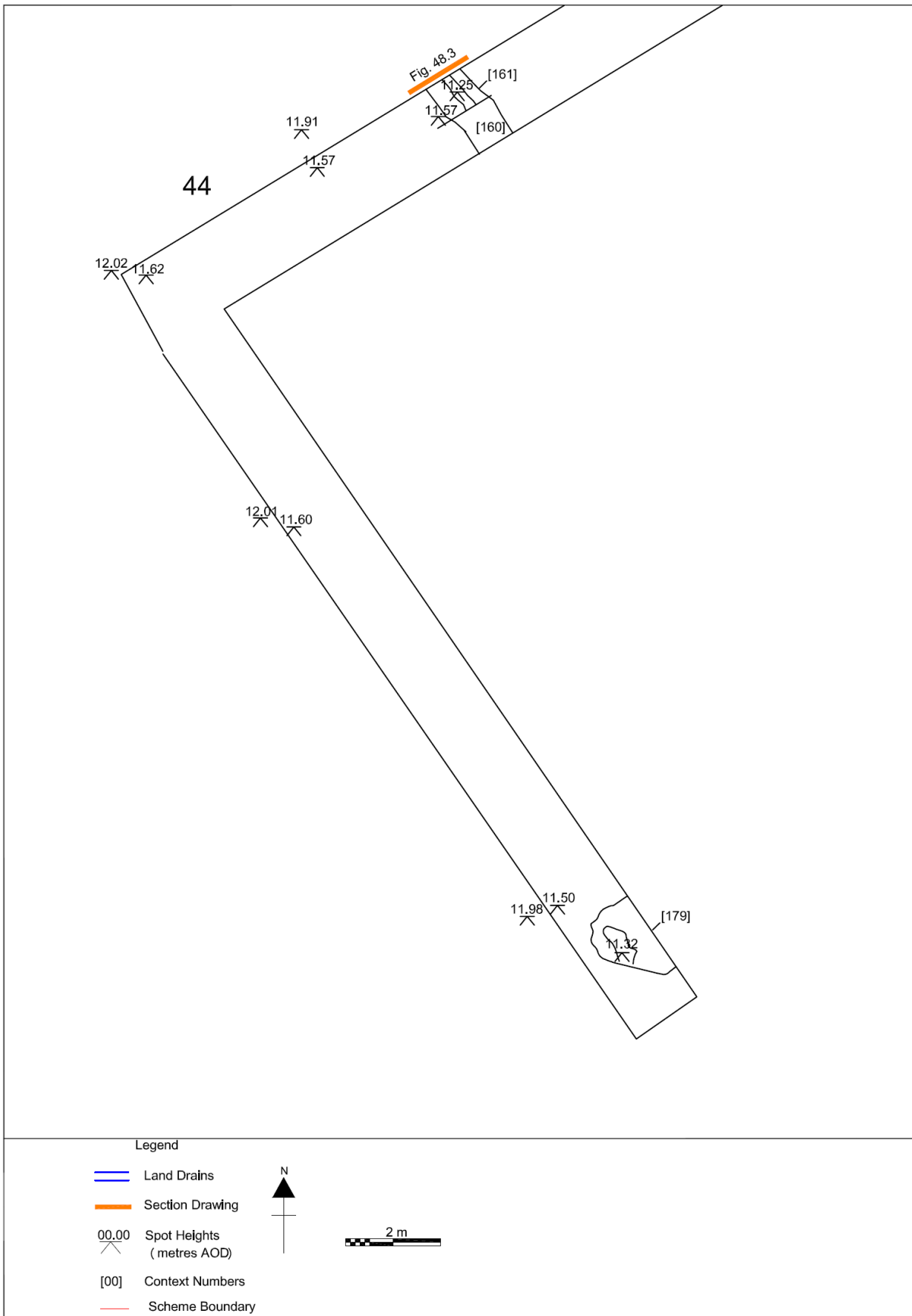


Fig. 50. Trench 44, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

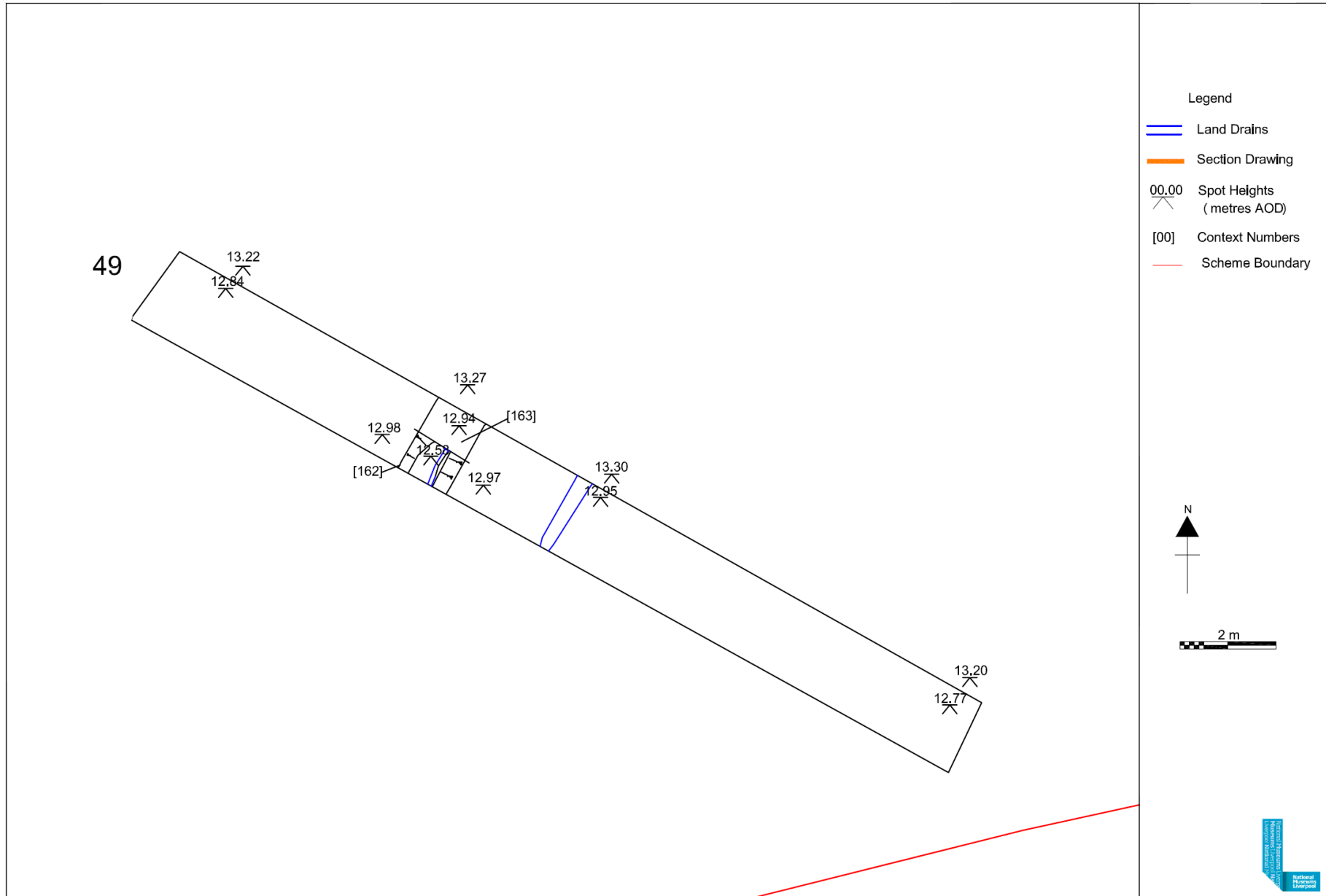


Fig. 51. Trench 49, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

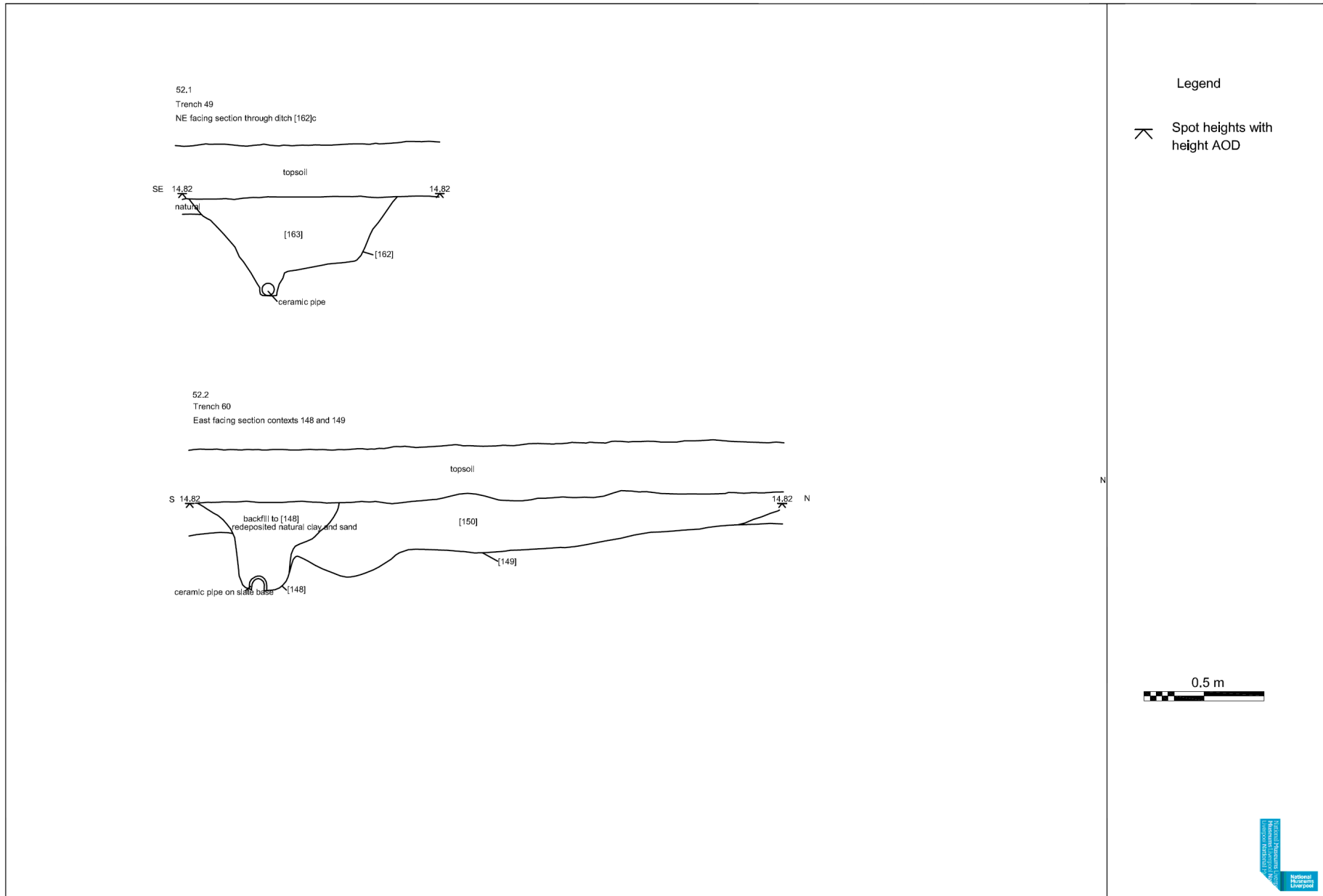


Fig. 52. Sections across deposits in Trenches 49 and 60. Scale 1:20.

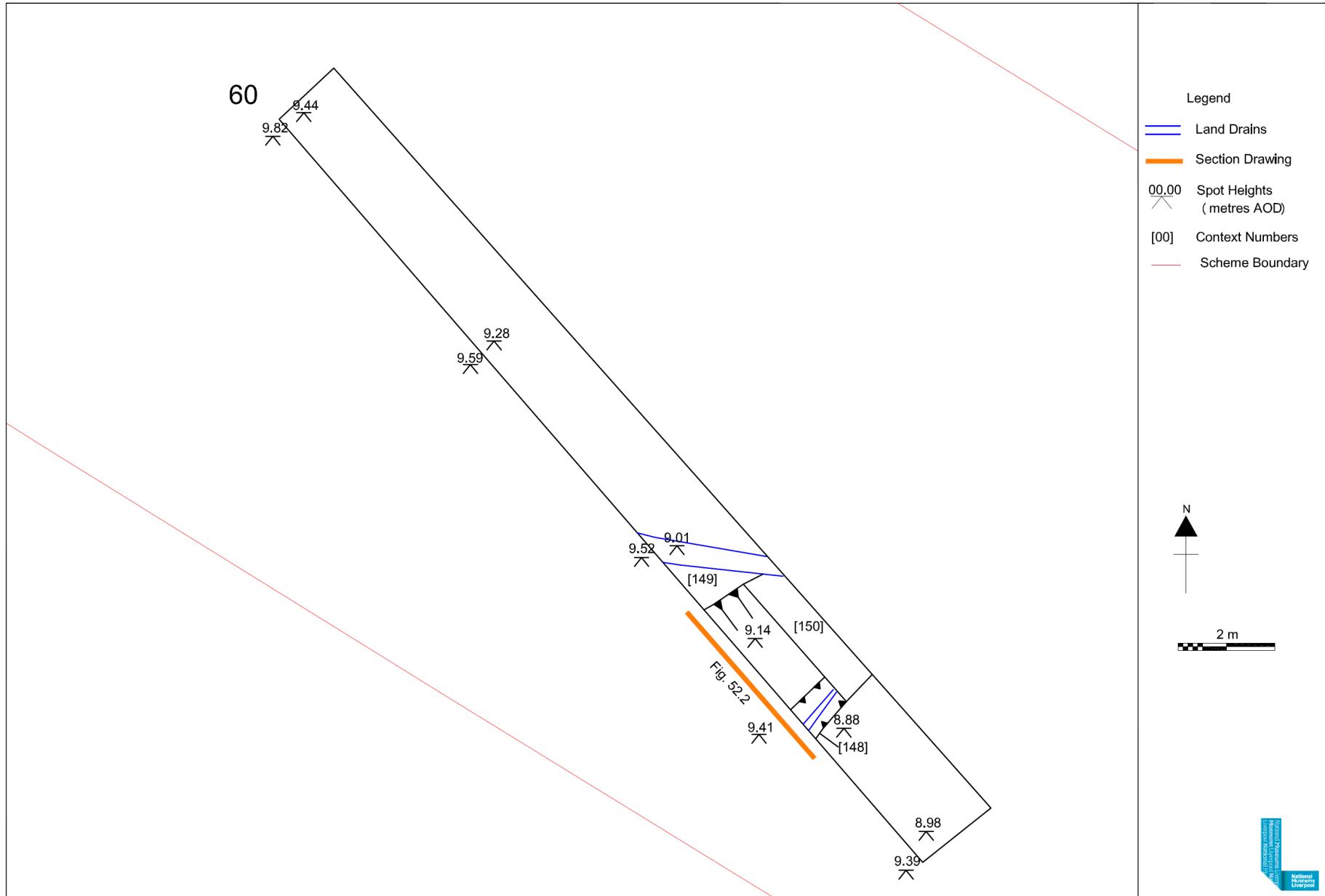


Fig. 53. Trench 60, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

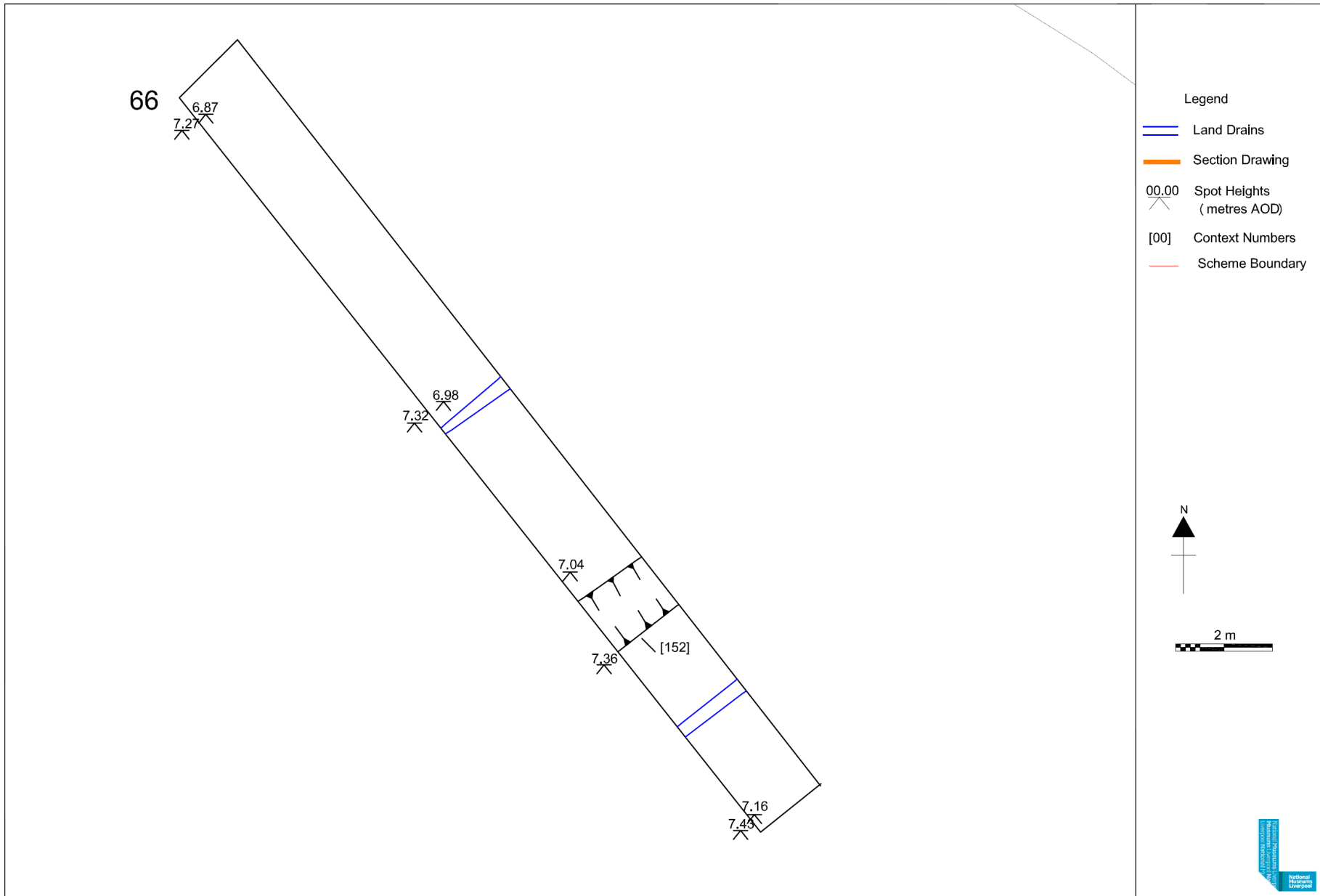


Fig. 54. Trench 66, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

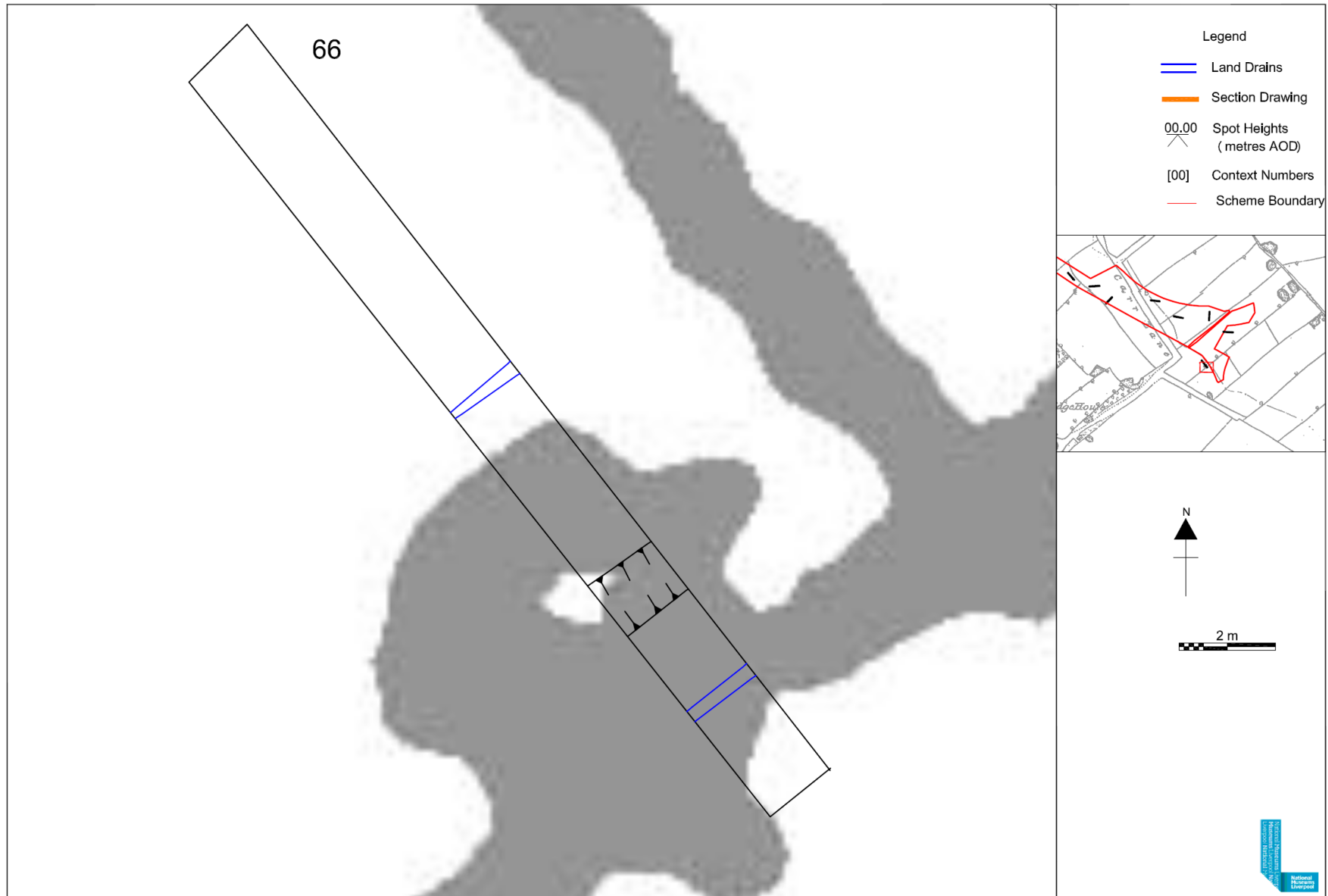


Fig. 55. Trench 66, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

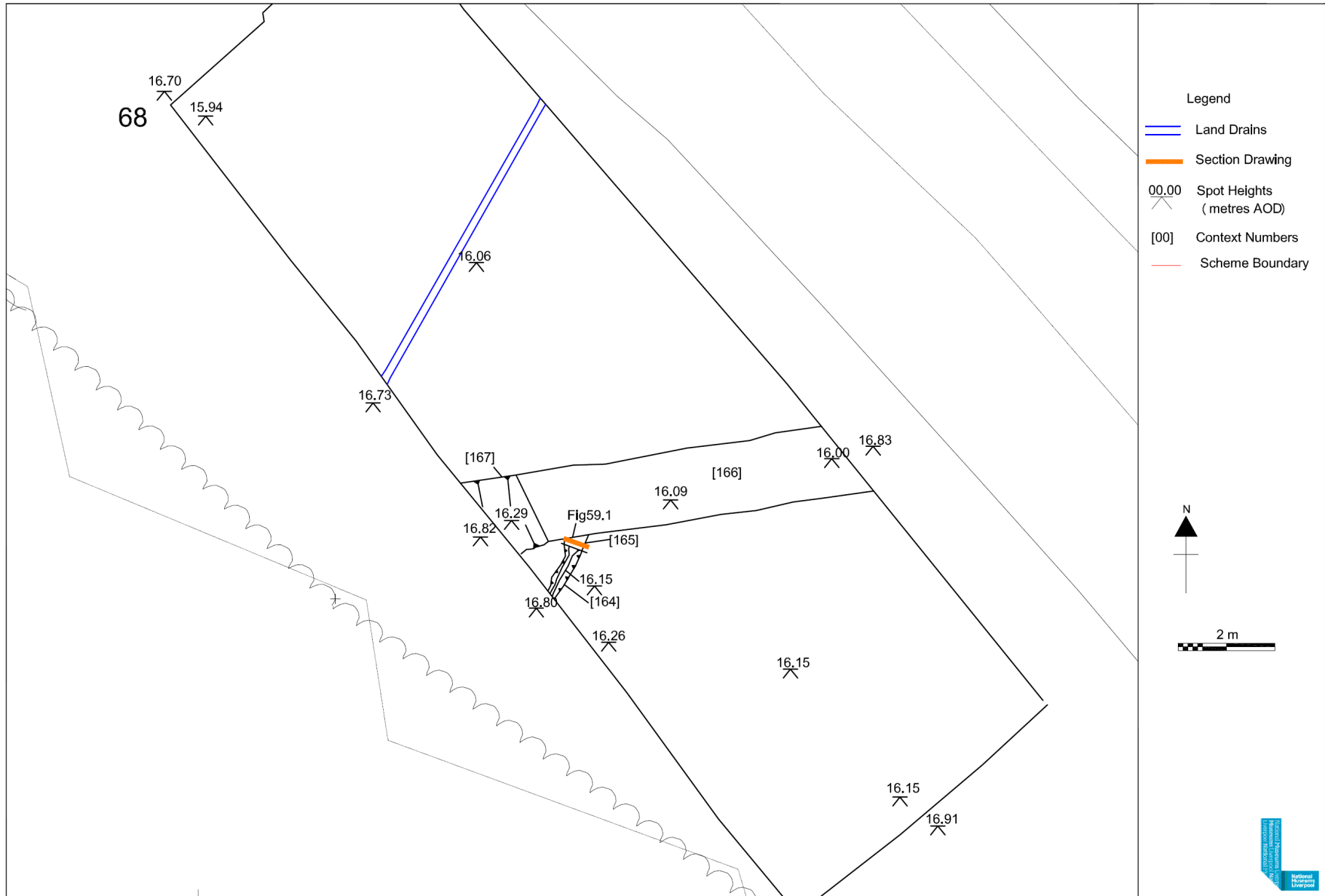


Fig. 56. Trench 68, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

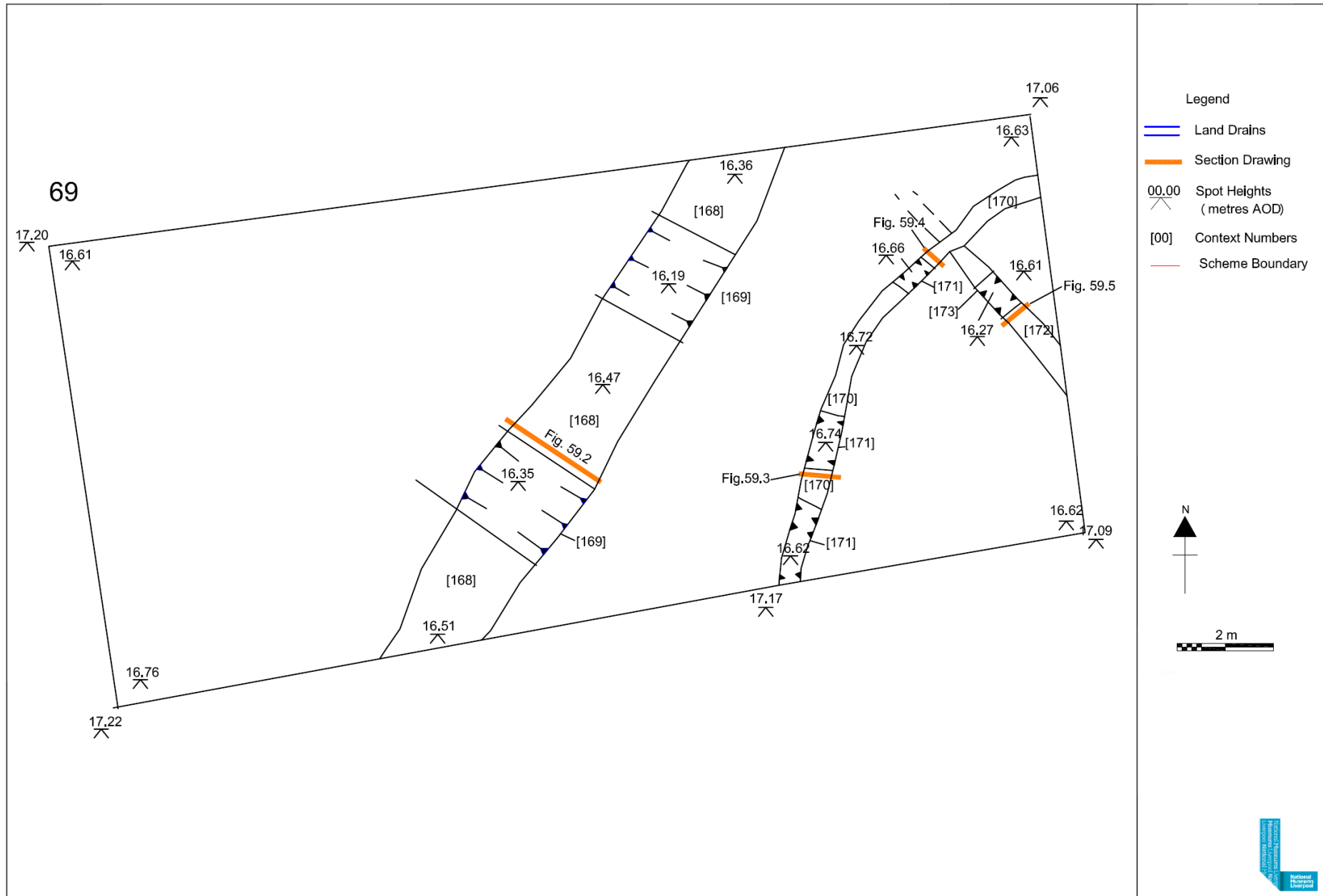


Fig. 57. Trench 69, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

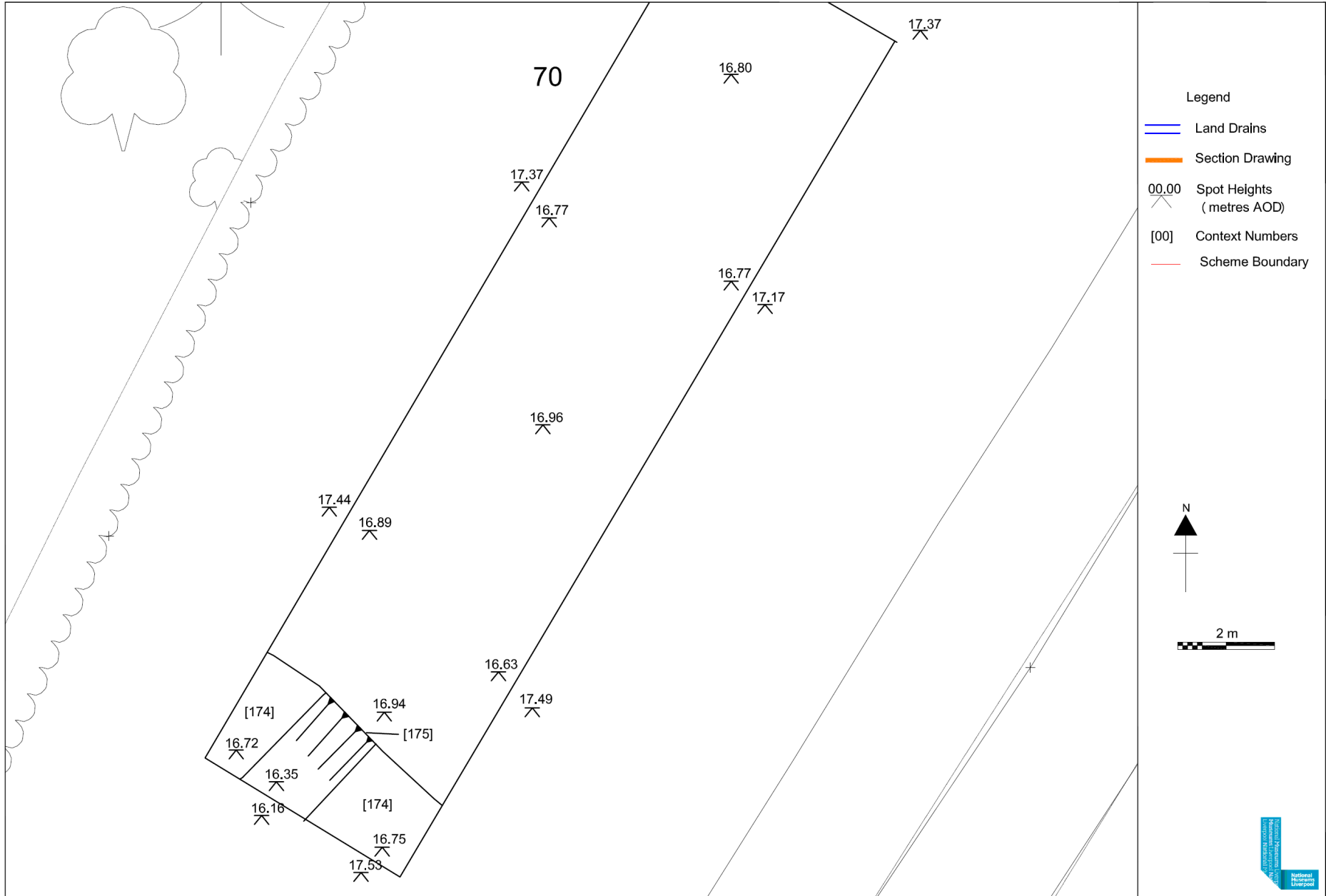


Fig. 58. Trench 70, plan of excavated deposits. Scale 1:100.

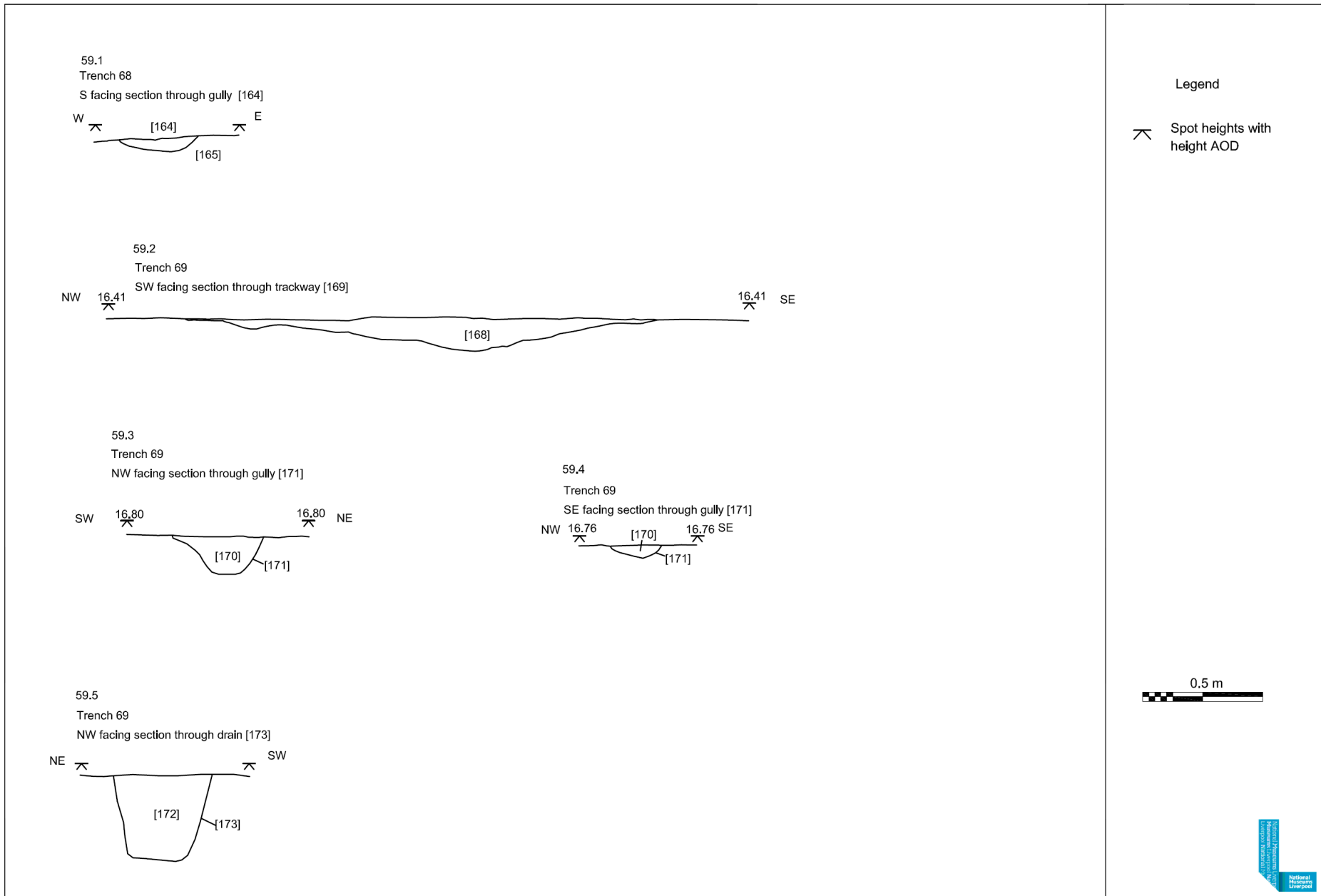


Fig. 59. Sections across deposits in Trenches 68 and 69. Scale 1:20.

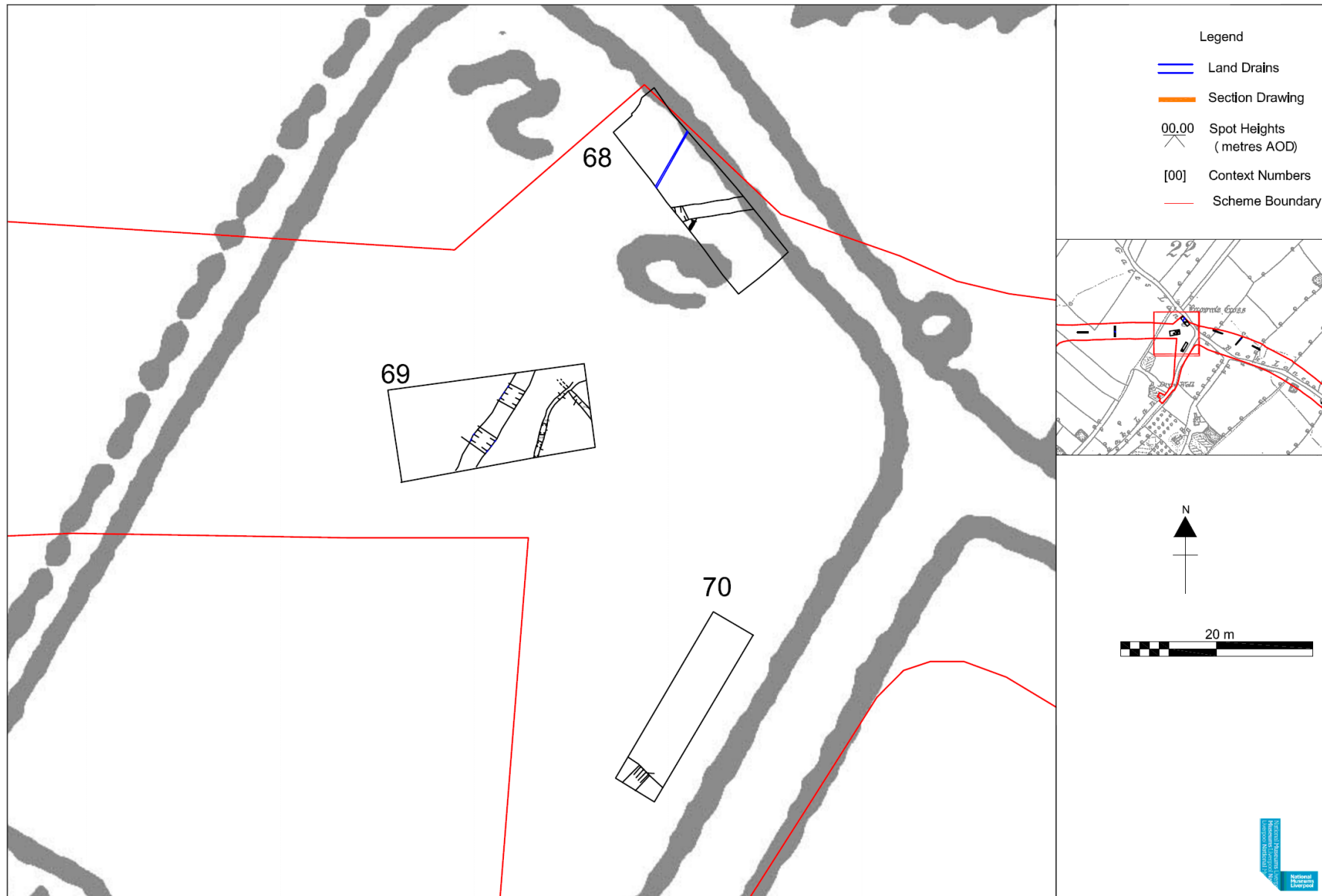


Fig. 60. Trenches 68, 69 and 70, plan of excavated deposits superimposed on to 1st Edition OS Sheet 99, surveyed 1845-8, published 1850. Scale 1:100.

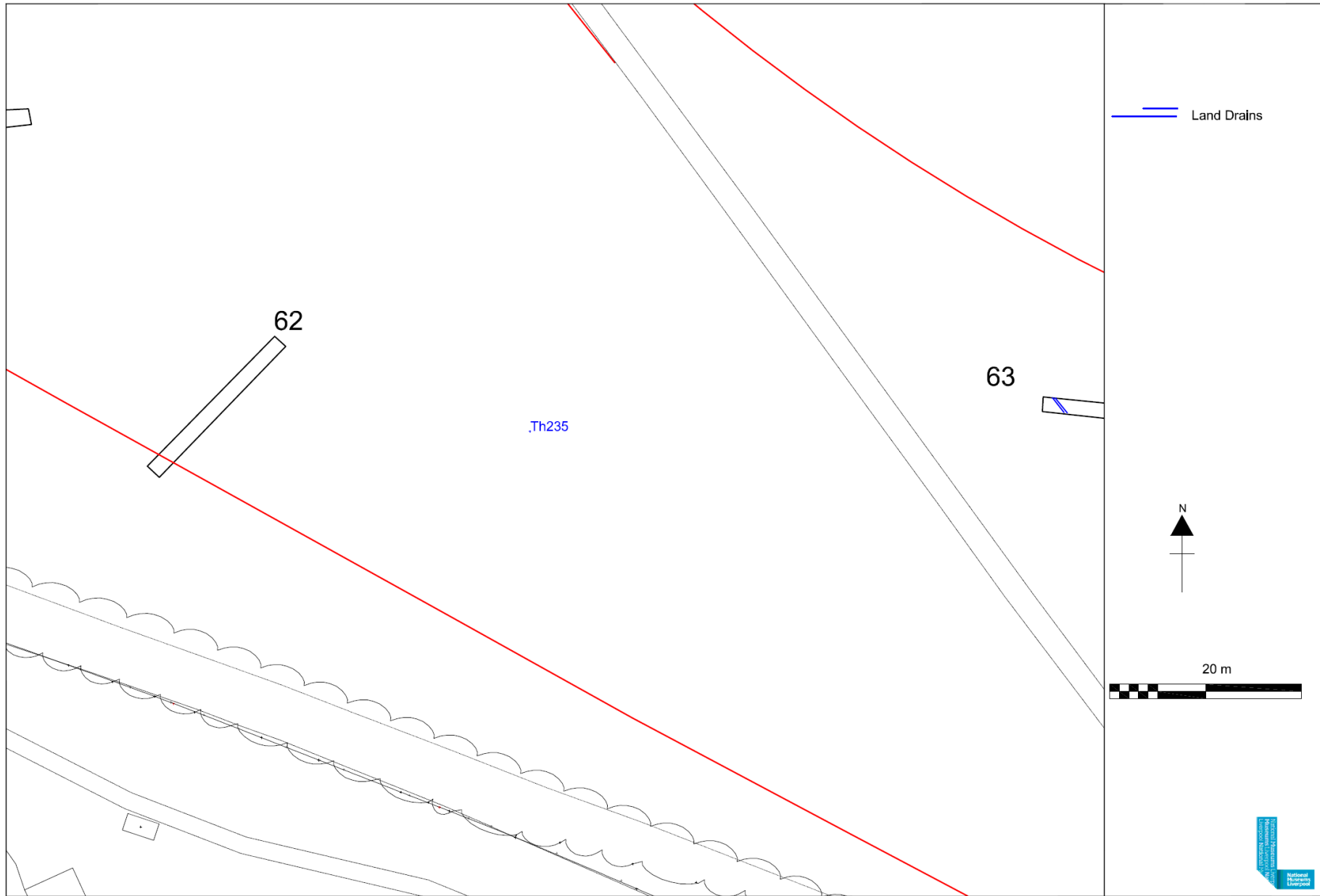


Fig. 61. Position of flint blade (blue).

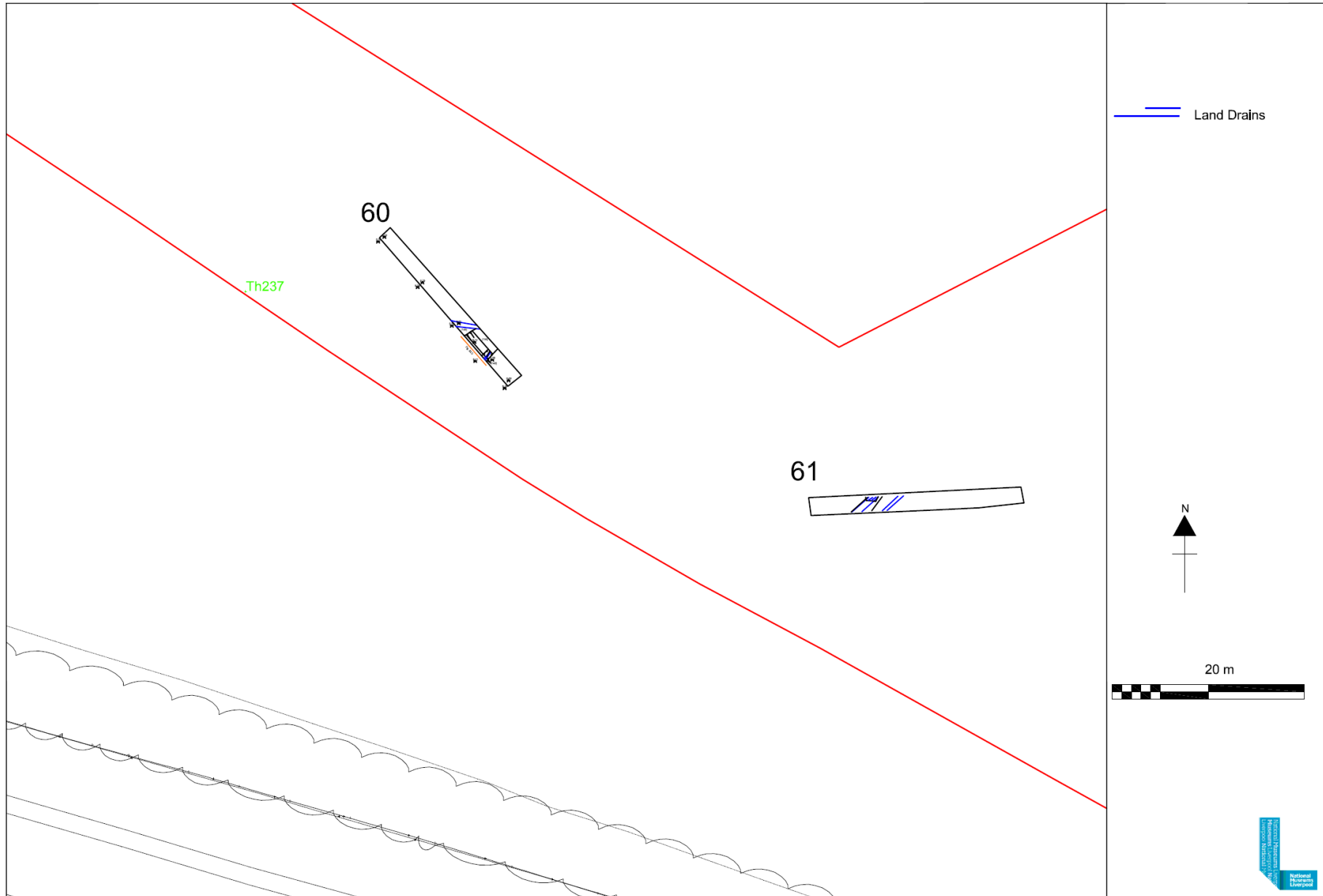


Fig. 62. Position (Green) of possible sherd of Roman or Medieval Pottery.

11. Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1 after cleaning showing the mixed deposits of Boulder Clay and gravels. The linear feature in the foreground is a clay and plough soil filled land drain.



Plate 2. Trench 2, south-east facing section across ditch fill context 03.



Plate 3. Section across shallow feature (Contexts 10 & 11) at north end of Trench 3.



Plate 4. North facing section across fill (context 14) of north-south ditch in Trench 4.



Plate 5. North-west facing section across fills of ditch in Trench 7.



Plate 6. Section across ditch fill in Trench 9.



Plate 7. Section across ditch fill in Trench 11.



Plate 8. Land drain in Trench 14.



Plate 9. Ditch excavated in Trench 17 (replace with montaged section in final).



Plate 10. South facing section across ditch in Trench 21.



Plate 11. South facing section across ditch in Trench 22.



Plate 12. South-west facing section across ditch contexts 91 and 92.



Plate 13. South facing section across ditch in Trench 24.



Plate 14. North-east facing section across ditch in Trench 25.



Plate 15. Stone capped land drain in Trench 27.



Plate 16. South-west facing section across ditch in Trench 30.



Plate 17. Section excavated across possible ditch in Trench 31.



Plate 18. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow earthworks and brick and stone land drain.



Plate 19. Trench 38. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow earthworks.



Plate 20. Trench 39. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow earthworks.



Plate 21. Section excavated across ditch in Trench 39.



Plate 22. Trench 40. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow earthwork.



Plate 23. Section excavated across ditch in Trench 40.



Plate 24. Trench 41. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow earthwork.



Plate 26. Trench 44, ditch coinciding with geophysical anomaly.



Plate 27. Possible plough damaged ridge and furrow with land drain to west.



Plate 28. Cut feature in Trench 66.



Plate 29. Contexts 166 and 167, Trench 68. View looking west.



Plate 30. Contexts 164 and 165, Trench 68. View looking west.



Plate 31. Contexts 168 and 169, Trench 69. View looking west.



Plate 32. Probably land-drain contexts 172 and 173, Trench 69. View looking north-west.



Plate 33. Gully, contexts 170 and 171, Trench 69. View looking north-east.



Plate 34. Ditch, contexts 174 and 175, Trench 70.

Appendix 1: Finds Catalogue

Finds No	Trench	Context	Material	Type	Class	Count	Weight (g)	Period/Date	NOTES
500	7	56	Pottery	Dipped Earthenware		1	16.9	Post-medieval	Dipped earthenware body sherd pale fabric yellow and brown glaze
501	7	56	Iron			4	18.2	Post-medieval	Iron non-specific
502	7	56	Ceramic	Brick		2	42.2	Post-medieval	Two brick fragments one with large inclusions
503	7	56	Pottery	Slip-coated		1	1.3	Post-medieval	18th century buff slip-coated, dark glaze, pale fabric
504	7	59	Pottery	Darkware	Early Dark Coarse ware	1	24.3	Post-medieval	17th/18th century purple fabric dark, even glaze
505	9	38	Pottery	China		1	4.9	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
506	35	0	Ceramic	Kiln Furniture	Sagger	1	69.5	Post-medieval?	Sagger from subsoil at eastern end of trench
507	31	133	Ceramic	Fired clay		1	0.3	Romano-british?	Small fired clay fragment/ ?very worn pottery - ?oxidised ware
508	1	1	Pottery	Darkware	Early Post-medieval Dark Coarse ware	1	69.2	Early post-medieval?	Early post-medieval dark coarseware - 16th century
509	1	1	Ceramic	Brick		1	74.2	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
510	46	154	Industrial Waste	Slag	Smithing Hearth Bottom	2	331.4	Uncertain	Fragments of hearth bottom - potentially early ?ROMANO-BRITISH/?Medieval
511	40	144	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	2	40.6	Post-medieval	Glass bottle fragments
512	40	144	Coal			1	7.3	Post-medieval	Coal fragment
513	40	144	Ceramic	Fired Clay	Brick	2	10.6	Post-medieval	2 x ?brick fragments
514	40	144	Pottery	China		2	13.5	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
515	40	144	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse	1	5.4	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherd

Finds No	Trench	Context	Material	Type	Class	Count	Weight (g)	Period/Date	NOTES
					Darkware				
516	40	144	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	1	2.5	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment
517	40	144	Bone			1	1	Post-medieval	Small burnt bone fragment
518	23	92	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	2	521	Post-medieval	Complete embossed green blob top bottle 'joseph thompson trademark liverpool' - 19th century with cork loose inside + bottle base fragment
519	30	124	Ceramic	Brick		2	35.5	Post-medieval	2 x brick fragments
520	30	124	Pottery	China		1	0.8	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
521	21	95	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	1	2.3	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment
522	21	95	Pottery	Porcelain Biscuit		2	8	Post-medieval	Porcelain biscuit ware sherds
523	17	84	Ceramic	Fire Brick	Fire Brick	1	453.7	Post-medieval	Fire brick fragment found at base of feature
524	17	84	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	1	20.8	Post-medieval	Glass bottle fragments
525	17	84	Glass	Window glass		3	6.5	Post-medieval	Window bottle fragments
526	17	84	Pottery	China		1	6.1	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
527	17	84	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	2	30.2	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherd
528	25	103	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	1	1.6	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment
529	25	103	Pottery	Stoneware		1	32.4	Post-medieval	Stoneware sherd
530	25	103	Pottery	China		7	62.2	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
531	25	103	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	1	101.3	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherd
532	25	103	Copper Alloy	Button		1	1.4	Post-medieval	Wound ?cloth ?button with copper alloy

Find No	Trench	Context	Material	Type	Class	Count	Weight (g)	Period/Date	NOTES
									pin
533	25	103	Shale			3	40.3	???	Burnt shale fragments
534	16	49	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	3	161.7	Post-medieval	Brown bottle glass sherds
535	16	49	Pottery	China		5	8.2	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china - 2 x burnt
536	19	74	Flint	Geological		1	23	Na	Natural unworked flint (pers comm ron cowell 11/11/13)
537	19	75	Flint	Geological		1	12.9	Na	Natural unworked flint (pers comm ron cowell 11/11/13)
538	23	91	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	1	12.9	Post-medieval	Embossed lass bottle fragment '...ll'
539	23	91	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	1	1.5	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment
540	23	91	Pottery	China		2	1.8	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
541	17	84	Iron	Bolt		1	311	Post-medieval	Large iron bolt
542	17	84	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	1	7.7	Post-medieval	Glass bottle sherd
543	17	84	Pottery	Dipped Earthenware		1	2.5	Post-medieval	Dipped earthenware body sherd
544	17	84	Pottery	Mottled ware		3	254.6	Post-medieval	Mottled ware base sherds
545	17	84	Pottery	China		2	4.1	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
546	17	84	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	1	1.9	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment
547	34	0	Industrial Waste			1	36	Uncertain	Industrial waste lump - from topsoil
548	34	0	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	2	64.2	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherds - from topsoil
549	2	36	Pottery	Medieval		1	2.3	Medieval	13th/14th century Medieval pottery sherd
550	2	36	Pottery	Stoneware		1	24.9	Post-medieval	Stoneware sherd
551	2	36	Pottery	China		4	146.7	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
552	21	96	Pottery	Whiteware		3	83	Post-medieval	Whiteware sherds

Find No	Trench	Context	Material	Type	Class	Count	Weight (g)	Period/Date	NOTES
553	21	96	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	1	62.5	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherd
554	35	0	Pottery	Medieval		2	11.5	Medieval	13th/14th century Medieval pottery sherds - from topsoil
555	35	0	Pottery	Darkware		1	9.5	Post-medieval	17th/18th century purple fabric dark, even glaze - from topsoil
556	19	78	Ceramic	Fired clay	Brick?	1	9.5	Post-medieval	?Brick fragments
557	19	78	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	1	6.8	Post-medieval	Glass bottle sherd
558	19	78	Pottery	Unglazed	?Flower pot	1	1	POST-Medieval IEVAL or ROMANO-BRITISH	Very worn unglazed pot sherd, soft surface - ?ROMANO-BRITISH oxidised ware
559	22	86	Slate	Roof tile?		1	453.3	Post-medieval	Welsh slate ?roof tile
560	22	86	Copper Alloy	Personal Ornament	Button	1	3	Post-medieval	Copper alloy button
561	22	86	Glass	Window?		2	6.9	Post-medieval	Clear window glass?
562	22	86	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	1	21	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherd
563	22	86	Pottery	China		14	60.2	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
564	11	68	Shale			1	42.7	Na	Burnt shale
565	11	68	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	5	253.2	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherds
566	11	68	Pottery	China		7	111.5	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
567	14	47	Ceramic	Fire Brick	Fire Brick	1	353.8	Post-medieval	?Fire brick fragment
568	14	47	Pottery	Darkware	Late Coarse Darkware	2	93.5	Post-medieval	Late dark coarseware sherds
569	14	47	Glass	Bottle Glass	Bottle Glass	12	63.5	Post-medieval	Non-specific bottle glass sherds
570	14	47	Pottery	Stoneware		6	98.3	Post-medieval	Non-specific stoneware sherds
571	14	47	Pottery	China		49	171	Post-medieval	Non-specific english china
572	14	47	Ceramic	Unglazed	Drainpipe	1	68.8	Post-medieval	Unglazed ceramic drainpipe

Find No	Trench	Context	Material	Type	Class	Count	Weight (g)	Period/Date	NOTES
573	14	47	Pottery	Mottled ware		2	17.4	Post-medieval	Mottled ware sherds
574	14	47	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Stem	2	3.8	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments
575	14	47	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	Bowl	1	0.9	Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment
576	14	47	Iron			3	209.8	Post-medieval	Iron rod x 1; iron ?bolt/rod x 1; undetermined iron lump x 1
577	14	47	Industrial Waste			1	134.2	Post-medieval	Industrial waste lump
578	0	0	Pottery	Medieval		1	6.3	Medieval	13th/14th century Medieval pottery sherd - unstratified, SW of Tr 35
579	0	0	Pottery	Dipped Earthenware		1	28.9	Post-medieval	Dipped earthenware base sherd - unstratified, sw of tr 35
580	0	0	Ceramic	Fired clay		2	11.8	Post-medieval?	2 x fired clay lumps - unstratified, S of tr 35
581	0	0	Pottery	Unglazed	Flower pot	1	2.3	Post-medieval?	Unglazed ?flowerpot - unstratified, sw of tr 35
582	52	0	Pottery	Oxidised ware?		1	1.9	Romano-british?	Possible Romano-British oxidised ware pottery found at unstratified at base of lower ploughsoil towards SE end of trench