



**DAGENHAM PRIORY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
SCHOOL ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING & DAGENHAM**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**DAGENHAM PRIORY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,
SCHOOL ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Prepared for:
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Dept of Education Arts and Libraries
Civic Centre
Dagenham
RM10 7BN

By:
Wessex Archaeology in London
Unit 113
The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY

**Museum of London Site Code
DPY 05**

REF 59780.03

June 2005

**DAGENHAM PRIORY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,
SCHOOL ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------|
| | <i>Non Technical Summary</i> | <i>iii</i> |
| | <i>Acknowledgements</i> | <i>iv</i> |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| 1.1 | PROJECT BACKGROUND | 5 |
| 1.2 | PLANNING BACKGROUND | 5 |
| 1.3 | SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY | 5 |
| 1.4 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND | 6 |
| 2 | PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 7 |
| 3 | PROJECT METHODS | 7 |
| 3.1 | HEALTH AND SAFETY | 7 |
| 3.2 | METHODOLOGICAL STANDARDS | 8 |
| 3.3 | FIELDWORK | 8 |
| 3.4 | FINDS COLLECTION AND RETENTION | 9 |
| 3.5 | ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING | 9 |
| 4 | DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS | 10 |
| 4.1 | INTRODUCTION | 10 |
| 4.2 | RELICT STREAM / PALAEO-CHANNEL AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES | 10 |
| 4.3 | MAN MADE BANK / TERRACE | 11 |
| 4.4 | AREAS TO THE SOUTH OF BANK / TERRACE | 11 |
| | <i>Summary of Sequence</i> | <i>11</i> |
| 4.5 | MIDDLE BRONZE AGE ? LAND SURFACE | 12 |
| 4.6 | LATE BRONZE AGE / EARLY IRON AGE DITCHES | 12 |
| 4.7 | ? FLOODING EPISODE | 13 |
| 4.8 | LATER DITCHES AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES | 13 |
| 4.9 | MODERN TOPSOIL | 14 |
| 4.10 | NATURAL GEOLOGY | 14 |
| 5 | THE FINDS | 14 |
| 5.1 | INTRODUCTION | 14 |
| 5.2 | POTTERY | 14 |
| 5.3 | FIRE CLAY | 15 |
| 5.4 | OTHER FINDS | 15 |
| | <i>Table 1: All Finds By Context (Number / weight in grammes)</i> | <i>15</i> |
| 6 | ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE | 15 |
| 6.1 | INTRODUCTION | 15 |
| 6.2 | METHODS | 16 |
| 6.3 | RESULTS | 16 |
| | <i>Charred plant remains</i> | <i>16</i> |
| | <i>Charcoal</i> | <i>16</i> |
| | <i>Table 2. Assessment of the Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal</i> | <i>17</i> |
| 7 | DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION | 18 |
| 8 | THE ARCHIVE | 19 |
| 9 | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 20 |
| 10 | APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES | 21 |

TABLE OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Site Location Maps and Trench Layout Plan Showing Archaeological Features and Locations of Sections**
- Figure 2. Sections from Trenches 1 & 2**
- Figure 3. Sections from Trenches 4 & 5**
- Figure 4. Trench 6: Plan and Section**
- Figure 5. Section from Trench 7**

**DAGENHAM PRIORY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,
SCHOOL ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND
DAGENHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Non Technical Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Department of Education, Arts and Libraries, of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road, Dagenham centred on NGR 549574/183998 (the Site).

This report presents the results of the evaluation, which took place between the 31st May – 3rd June 2005.

The northern end of the Site was dominated by a 20m wide, east – west, gravel filled palaeo channel. This feature, which almost certainly represents a silted up tributary of the Wantz stream, was limited to the south by a distinct east – west bank which upon excavation turned out to be at least partly man made.

Below this bank, in the areas adjacent to the palaeo-channel, a number of features, ditches and pits as well as evidence of flood deposits were revealed.

To the south of this bank the evaluation revealed a number of archaeological deposits and features including evidence of a Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age buried landscape, which appears to have suffered only minor post depositional damage .

Of particular significance was a possible relict land surface that produced numerous sherds of well preserved Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery from its upper interface.

Two parallel north - south ditches were discovered on the western edge of the Site. These were almost certainly the silted up remains of a Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age ditched enclosure.

The enclosure and parts of the relict landsurface were overlain by a clean silty deposit, the result of flooding, This flooding event appeared to have been restricted to the south west corner of the Site and seemed to respect the line of the ditched enclosure.

Quantities of ceramic bars (briquetage) were found in the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age ditches and on the top of the possible relic landsurface. These must have originally come from either a nearby, as yet undiscovered, pottery kiln or were used in Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age salt production.

Most of the features and archaeological horizons were found to lie within 0.40m of the present day ground surface.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprising yellowish orange sand and coarse sandy gravels were encountered in all seven trenches, at a height of between 3.52m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern end of the site and 2.57m aOD at the northern edge of the site.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank; Norman Ashkettle of the Department of Education, Arts and Libraries, of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for commissioning the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank David Divers of English Heritages Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the work. The help and enthusiasm of the Headmaster, Colin Holst and Paul Murphy are also warmly and gratefully acknowledged.

Reuben Thorpe managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Gary Evans (Project Officer), Phil Frickers (Site Assistant), Cornelius Barton (Project Officer) and Reuben Thorpe. The environmental samples were processed under the supervision of Sarah Wyles. The plant remains were assessed by Chris Stevens while the finds were analysed by Lorraine Mepham (Finds Manager).

Gary Evans and Reuben Thorpe prepared this report with contributions from Chris Stevens and Michael J. Allen (Environmental) and Lorraine Mepham (Finds). Mark Roughley produced the illustrations.

**DAGENHAM PRIORY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
SCHOOL ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Department of Education, Arts and Libraries, of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road, Dagenham RM10 9QD (the Site) centred on NGR 549574/183998 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The evaluation took place from 31st May to the 3rd June 2005.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planing permission has been granted DC/03/00892/FUL for the construction of a new sports hall, associated parking and an access road.

1.2.2 Consultation by the Planning Department of Dagenham and Barking with English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) led the latter to recommend the execution of an archaeological evaluation prior to development. Planning consent had, by this time, been granted and agreement was reached to implement a 'post-consent' programme of archaeological works in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation in compliance with the spirit and letter of the recommendation by GLAAS.

1.2.3 The Site partially lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA), as defined in the Unitary Development Plan for Barking and Dagenham (adopted 1996). The Site is also adjacent, to the east, to Old Dagenham Park, an open space of some longevity which has demonstrated the existence of buried, potential, archaeological features in the form of crop marks. These crop marks have been interpreted as potential evidence of prehistoric settlement in the immediate environs of the Site.

1.2.4 The purpose of the evaluation described in this document was to inform the need for further mitigation of archaeological deposits in advance of construction.

1.3 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The Site lay to the north and west of the existing school buildings of Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, and encompasses an asphalt covered basketball court and parts of the school's sports field (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 During an initial site visit by Wessex Archaeology, it was observed that the northern extent of the Site has been terraced into the gentle underlying slope (**Figure 1**). A similar east – west aligned terrace could be clearly seen to the north of the Site in Old Dagenham Park. The origins and date of construction of these terraces was unknown, though they predate the construction of the school in the 1930s.

- 1.3.3 The total area of the Site is approximately 0.76 hectares.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology of the area comprises Eocene London Clay overlain by recent and Pleistocene floodplain gravels (BGS, 1976).
- 1.3.5 Topographically, the Site lies between 4.22m and 2.99m above Ordnance Datum, (aOD), on a slight northeast facing slope overlooking the Wantz Stream, a tributary of the Beam River. At the northern end of the Site, just the south of the basketball court (**Figure 1**), a pronounced bank/ridge was present running, east – west, for some 55m. This bank defines a lower lying terrace immediately to the south of the basket ball court. The bank to the west however was created recently through the re-deposition of material during the construction of the basketball court.
- 1.3.6 A similar terrace lies some 20m to the north of the Site, at the southern edge of Old Dagenham Park and probably represents the northern edge of the terrace seen within the Site. This terrace ran towards the Wantz Stream, which flows from north – south, some 660m to the east of the Site.

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The Site lies within what is demonstrably an historic landscape and the area has produced evidence of human activity dating from the Palaeolithic through to the Post-medieval period. This evidence includes artefacts, excavated sites and a number of crop marks, visible from the air, in the locale of the Site. The origin and date of the crop marks are unknown, although a prehistoric date has been mooted.
- 1.4.2 Archaeological discoveries from the vicinity of the Site include:
- 1.4.3 A number of worked flints, dating from the Palaeolithic (500,000 - 10,000 BC) have been discovered at Rainham Road, Rainham and Becontree Heath to the north of the Site (Museum of London, 2000, 39. Map sheet 1).
- 1.4.4 A single Mesolithic flint (10,000 - 4000 BC) has been found to the east of the Beam River at Walden Avenue, Rainham (*Ibid.* 60, Map sheet 2).
- 1.4.5 A Bronze Age (2400 - 700 BC) palstave axe was found at Selinas Lane, Becontree and a quantity of Iron Age (700 BC - AD 47) pottery was discovered at Westrow Drive, Dagenham (*Ibid.* 94, 115, Map sheet 5 and 6).
- 1.4.6 Roman (AD 47 - 410) settlement of the area is attested by the discovery of a Romano British farmstead at Walden Avenue to the east of the Beam River. Roman cemeteries have been found at Whalebone Lane, Becontree Heath and Manser Road, Rainham (*Ibid.* 162, Map sheet 7).
- 1.4.7 Dagenham is thought to be one of the earliest Saxon settlements in Essex, and its name, possibly derived from the Saxon (AD 410 - 1066) “*Deccanhaam*” (Decca’s home) (Weinreb and Hibber, 1983, 226), suggests a Saxon presence in the area. However, no evidence has been found of Saxon or early medieval occupation in the vicinity of the Site.
- 1.4.8 In medieval and Post-medieval times (1066 - 1789) the main settlement in the area appears to have lain to the south of what is now Dagenham East underground station. The earliest maps of the area, Thomas Fanshawe’s map of 1653 and Chapman and Andre’s map of 1777, show the village centred on

the 13th century parish church of Saints Peter and Paul, and the east - west lane which was later to become Crown Street. The original village and Crown Street was absorbed into a housing estate in the 1960's. The rest of Dagenham appears to have been rural throughout the period, although Chapman and Andre's map shows a small settlement at Broad Street as well as a number of buildings, and a series of lanes and /or streams immediately adjacent to the Site. Most of the area to the south of Dagenham village retained it's rural character until the 20th century, when the Ford motor works and accompanying housing was constructed. Although mainly given over to agriculture the area was the site of a number of manor houses and moated sites. These included East Hall Manor House in Old Dagenham Park, Gallance Manor, "on the east side of Broad Street", and a "moated site" at Rainham Road, Dagenham. A 13th century windmill is also attested in the area and lay to the north of the Site, on the banks of the Wantz Stream (Museum of London, 2000, 235, 245. Map sheets 11 and 12).

2 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The principle objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Elucidate the location, nature, character, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area and assess their significance.
- Assess the degree of archaeological survival and identify the depth of burial (and thus the depth of sensitivity) of any archaeological deposits or features.

2.2 More specifically the evaluation sought to:

- Establish the degree, if any, of activity associated with the crop marks seen adjacent to the Site.
- Clarify the nature, date and function of the terracing seen at the centre of the Site.

3 PROJECT METHODS

3.1 Health and Safety

3.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.

3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.1.3 Wessex Archaeology prepared a Health and Safety Risk Assessment. This was reviewed as the project progressed.

3.1.4 As part of the Project Briefing, all staff were made aware of their responsibilities and site-specific hazards (identified under the Risk Assessment).

3.2 Methodological Standards

- 3.2.1 The evaluation and the preparation of this report was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2005, report 59780.01) which was approved in advance by GLAAS.
- 3.2.2 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, arrangements were made with the Museum of London for deposition of the archive and finds, and a Museum of London Site code was allotted (**DPY 05**).
- 3.2.3 All field work was undertaken and this report has been prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (as amended 2001), *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* (GLAAS, 1998, Archaeological Guidance Paper 3), *Archaeological Reports*. (*Ibid.* Archaeological Guidance Paper 4), and *Evaluations* (*Ibid.* Archaeological Guidance Paper 5).

3.3 Fieldwork

- 3.3.1 The fieldwork strategy is described in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex, *Op., Cit.* 2-7). In summary the evaluation comprised the machine excavation of, six 20m x 2m trenches and one 30m x 2m trench which together encompassed some 300m² or 4% of the proposed development area.
- 3.3.2 Trenches were located on the ground by digital survey using a Total Station Theodolite and manually from known points and features present on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (e.g. boundaries or buildings).
- 3.3.3 In each trench the overburden was stripped using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of an archaeologist.
- 3.3.4 All spoil was scanned for finds.
- 3.3.5 Machining continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural strata.
- 3.3.6 Once archaeological deposits were exposed they were cleaned by hand.
- 3.3.7 Further excavation of archaeological features and deposits was undertaken by hand. Hand excavation of features was sufficient only to date and characterise the deposits.
- 3.3.8 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded utilising Wessex Archaeology's standardised context recording system.
- 3.3.9 A complete drawn and photographic record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 or 1:20 for sections).
- 3.3.10 The heights of all principal features were calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD), plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.
- 3.3.11 A photographic record was compiled including digital images, colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).

3.3.12 The trenches were backfilled with the agreement of the Archaeological Advisor of GLAAS following a site sign off meeting on 2nd June 2005.

3.4 Finds Collection and Retention

3.4.1 All collected finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993), Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001) and the Institute of Field *Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999).

3.4.2 Where features or deposits were clearly modern, finds were examined, noted and discarded.

3.5 Environmental Sampling

3.5.1 Where archaeological deposits were encountered which were deemed likely to contain information relating to diet, economy, health, environmental regime or site formation processes they were sampled.

3.5.2 The sampling strategy adhered to the spirit, principles, practices and procedures outlined by English Heritage in; *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recover* (2002).

3.5.3 Bulk samples were taken, where deemed appropriate from securely sealed archaeological features for the recovery of plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts.

3.5.4 Bulk samples were processed by flotation and scanned, to assess the environmental potential of deposits.

3.5.5 Residues and sieved fractions were recorded and retained as part of the project archive.

4 DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section narrates the archaeological sequence on the Site by period and feature type. Contexts representing the deposition, re-deposition or re-working of material, signifying use/disuse are enclosed in round parentheses ie. (00). Those representing the actions of construction, reconstruction or truncation are enclosed in square brackets ie. [00].
- 4.1.2 The results of the evaluation are presented below, a more detailed context description is contained in **Appendix 1**. Fully cross-referenced site records are contained in the site archive.
- 4.1.3 In summary, on the basis of the stratigraphy and the dating evidence recovered, the Site seems to represent one or more phases of ditched enclosure, defined to the north by a former tributary of the Wantz Stream. Concordances between the trenches, their sequences and their archaeological deposits can, at this stage, only be speculative and the following interpretative narrative is offered with the appropriate caveats.

4.2 Relict Stream / Palaeo-Channel and Associated Features

- 4.2.1 The northern extent of the Site was characterised by the silted up remnants of a relict stream or palaeo-channel in Trench 1. This palaeo-channel [106, 112] was at least 20m wide, flowed from northwest to southeast and cut into the coarse sandy gravels and gravelly sands of the natural geology (111). Over time this stream appears to have migrated northwards, its later edge represented by [112] (**Figure 1 & 2**).
- 4.2.2 The channel was in excess of 1.20m deep below the current ground surface. Its use and disuse is represented by a series of waterlain coarse sands and sandy gravels (108, 109, 110) none of which contained ecofacts or artefacts. All of these fills appeared to have been waterlain and their sequence is interpreted as demonstrating a succession of different fluvial environments ranging from high-energy environments during which the coarse gravels of (110) were laid down, to a lower energy environment in which sandy and silty deposits represented by (108 and 109) were deposited. The final fill of channel [106] comprised a 0.40m thick deposit of blue grey silty clay containing frequent pebbles (107) and appears to have been laid down in a low energy fluvial environment and contained modern glass fragments. The sole fill of [112] was a mixed yellow brown silty sandy clay (110) with frequent sub rounded flint pebbles (**Figure 2**).
- 4.2.3 Associated with the use of this palaeo-channel and respecting its southern edge lay ditches [102] and [105] (**Figures 1 & 2**). Ditch [102] was 0.50m wide and 0.45m deep, while ditch [105] was 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep. Both ditches had concave bases and contained dark brown silty sands (101, 104) respectively. Ditch [102] appeared to have been dug while channel [106] was at least partially active.
- 4.2.4 To the southeast of Trench 1, a possible flooding event was attested between 2.77m and 2.66m aOD in Trenches 2 and 3 (202 and 302) respectively,

comprised of a deposit of homogenous, friable, yellowish brown sandy silt with few inclusions.

- 4.2.5 In Trench 2 this putative flood event overlay a possible pit [203] of unknown date and function (**Figure 2**).
- 4.2.6 The flooding event could not be physically traced further to the south and appeared to have been limited to a low lying terrace, defined to the south by a pronounced bank, which ran east - west (**Figure 1**).

4.3 Man Made Bank / Terrace

- 4.3.1 Trench 5 was sited to investigate a marked east – west bank, noted during the initial site visit. The evaluation revealed that this bank was at least partially man made. Bank [501] (**Figure 3**) stood some 0.40m high, was constructed of redeposited natural gravels which probably derived from an adjacent ditch [509] and from the removal of a 2.50m wide swathe of the contemporary topsoil [504] to the south
- 4.3.2 To the east of Trench 5, a distinct “crop mark” (shown in light green on **Figure 1**) could be seen in the playing field grass, this was c. 2.50m wide and ran in an east - west direction beyond the limits of the Site. This “crop mark” was in line with the artificial bank [501] ditch [510], which ran parallel to the bank along its base and a shallow possible wear hollow [511] which ran along the top of the slope.
- 4.3.3 The top of this bank lay at 3.40m aOD, its base at 2.98m a OD. The present ground levels on this part of the Site drops sharply from 3.80m aOD, at the top of the bank, to 3.08m aOD to the north, at the bank’s base.
- 4.3.4 Bank [501] sealed a small posthole [503] of unknown date (**Figure 3**) which was probably associated with the construction of the bank itself.
- 4.3.5 The prominent north – south bank to the west of the basketball court was created recently through the re-deposition of material during the construction of the basketball court (**Figures 1 & 3**).

4.4 Areas to the South of Bank / Terrace

Summary of Sequence

- 4.4.1 The area to the south of the east – west bank lay between 3.80m aOD at the top of the bank and 4.22m aOD at the southern edge of the Site. This area was characterised by a different depositional sequence of archaeological deposits and features than that of the northern part of the Site.
- 4.4.2 This part of the Site was characterised by one or more phases of ditched enclosure which largely defined and enclosed the remnants of a deposit of mid grey brown, sandy silt (407, 504, 602) with frequent flat small stones included in its matrix. These deposits either pre-dated or were contemporary with the construction and initial use of the excavated ditches (see section 4.6). In turn these ditches were largely sealed by an homogenous layer of silt (601, 701) possibly representing a flooding event.

4.5 Middle Bronze Age ? Land surface

- 4.5.1 In Trenches 4, 5 and 6, the gravels and sands of the natural geology were overlain by a well sorted, mid grey brown, sandy silt (**407, 504, 602**) which lay between 3.69m and 3.90m aOD. This deposit contained frequent rootlets and small, flat laid angular and sub angular flint pebbles through out, as well as a single fragment of a Mid to Late Bronze Age ceramic loom weight which was recovered within the body of this deposit (**407**).
- 4.5.2 This horizon which, varied in thickness from 0.15m (Trench 6) to 0.25m (Trench 5) sloped down slightly from 3.80m aOD in the west (Trench 4) to 3.66m aOD in the east (Trench 5). Its southern edge was not found, but must lay between the western end of Trench 6, where it was recorded at a height of 3.70m aOD, and Trench 7 where it did not appear in the archaeological sequence (**Figures 3, 4 & 5**).
- 4.5.3 At the western end of Trench 4 quantities of well preserved Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age pottery were discovered lying on the interface of (**407**) and the overlying modern topsoil (**400**). The pottery was unabraded and must have been buried shortly after deposition.
- 4.5.4 In Trench 5 a marked concentration of small, extremely fragmented, pieces of pottery (less than 10mm in size) was recorded within the upper interface of (**504**). This situation was mirrored to the south, in Trench 6 on the upper interface of (**602**) and in the basal 50mm of overlying silt (**601**) (**Figure 4**).

4.6 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Ditches

- 4.6.1 At the western edge of the Site (Trenches 4 and 6), a linear feature [**403, 607**] was recorded cutting into the ?land surface of (**402, 602**). These ditches, which contained pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (see section 5) probably formed part of the boundary of a ditched enclosure (**Figures 1, 3 & 4**) the interior of which lay to the east.
- 4.6.2 In Trench 6, Ditch [**607**] was 2.00m wide and 0.50m deep. It had an uneven base which sloped down from south to north. The southern edge of ditch [**607**] was butt ended and appeared to represent the ditch terminus.
- 4.6.3 Ditch [**607**] was filled by primary fill (**608**) a dark reddish brown silty sand, which was overlain in turn by secondary fill (**609**) a mid reddish brown sandy silt. Fill (**608**) contained quantities of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of ceramic bars associated with salt or pottery production. (for the results of the analysis of the environmental samples from this feature see below paragraph, **5.1.1**).
- 4.6.4 To the north of Trench 6, in Trench 4, ditch [**403**] was 1.60m wide and of unknown depth, and was revealed in an extension of Trench 4, designed to identify whether the ditches in Trench 6 continued to the north. The secondary fill of [**403**], (**402**) also comprised a mid reddish brown sandy silt.
- 4.6.5 Between Trench 6 and Trench 4 a distinct “crop mark” (shown in grey on **Figure 1**) running, northwest – southeast, could be clearly seen in the grass of the playing field. It was some 2.50m wide and appeared to correspond to the alignments of ditches [**607**] and [**403**]. This and the fact that the two

ditches were similar in size and contain similar fills, suggests that they are the same ditch (**Figure 1**).

- 4.6.6 To the east of the terminus of [607] lay a circular posthole [610]. This was 0.50m in diameter with steep sides leading to a flat base. It contained a single fill [611] which contained flecks of flint tempered pottery. It is tempting to assume that posthole [610] was associated with ditch(es) [607, 403].
- 4.6.7 A putative gully [615] was also observed in section at the western edge of Trench 6 beneath possible flood horizon (601).
- 4.6.8 To the east of Trench 6, at the southern edge of Trench 5, a small posthole [506] was observed cutting through land surface [504]. It was filled with a charcoal rich fill (505) which contained fragments of burnt bone (see section 6).

4.7 ? Flooding Episode

- 4.7.1 In Trenches 6 and 7 a layer of friable, homogenous, yellow brown, silt (601) (701) was recorded. This is interpreted as signifying a possible flooding event. In Trench 6, (601) was 0.10m – 0.20m thick and overlay the ? land surface of (602) as well as overlying the partially silted up remnants of [607].
- 4.7.2 A similar deposit, (701) was encountered to the south (in Trench 7) though here it was much thicker and was seen to lie directly above the sands and gravels of the natural.
- 4.7.3 The area covered by putative flood deposit (601, 701) was not extensive and appeared to be restricted to the southwest corner of the Site and was only present in Trenches 7 and 6. In Trench 6 it sealed the remains of shallow gully [615] (observed in section) and ditch [607] to the east as well as parts of the ?relict land surface (602) but appeared to extend no further than the eastern edge of ditch [607].
- 4.7.4 It is possible that this deposit represented an episode of flooding similar to the one which produced the silt deposit observed in the northern area of the Site adjacent to the palaeo channel / stream. [106, 112]. However, the marked difference between the heights of the two silting events - the top of the silting to the north of the bank was at 2.77m aOD whilst the silt to the north was 3.70 aOD - must mean that it is unlikely that they are the result of the same flooding episode.
- 4.7.5 It is tempting therefore to see the area to the east of the parallel ditches as the interior of an enclosure and the silty area to the west of the ditches as the exterior.

4.8 Later Ditches and Associated Features

- 4.8.1 In Trench 6, the ?flood deposit (601) was cut by ditch [603] which was 0.80m wide with steep sides leading to an uneven base. Ditch [603] was aligned northwest – southeast and extended across the width of the trench. It contained a sandy silty fill (612) which had been cut by posthole [605].
- 4.8.2 In Trench 4, some 17m to the north, a 0.80m wide ditch [405] was also observed, running northwest–southeast across the width of the trench. A distinct “crop mark” which could be seen running, northwest – southeast,

between Trenches 4 and 6 adds weight to the suggestion that this ditch and Ditch [603] were in fact different sections of the same feature. (Figures 1, 3 & 4).

- 4.8.3 Ditch [405] did not produce any dating evidence. However its alignment, respecting that of ditch [607] [403] strongly suggests that it was part of a later incarnation of the earlier enclosure.
- 4.8.4 At the southern edge of the Site, a ditch [705] and post hole [702] were observed, once the section had weathered, cutting into the silty deposits of (701).
- 4.8.5 Ditch [705] was filled with a greenish brown sandy silt (705) which contained no dating material. It was 0.80m wide with steeply sloping sides leading to a rounded base (Figures 1 & 5).

4.9 Modern Topsoil

- 4.9.1 A mid grey brown, fine sandy silt, topsoil formed the latest deposit excavated on Site. This deposit, which was observed in all of the evaluation trenches, was between 20mm and 0.10m thick (including a thin layer of grass turf) and contained occasional small sherds of Post medieval stone ware and red slip pottery (Figures 2 - 5).

4.10 Natural Geology

- 4.10.1 Deposits of coarse sand, coarse sandy gravels with sub angular - sub rounded flint pebbles, and small patches of light greenish grey clay were the earliest deposits uncovered on Site. At the southern edge of the Site (more specifically at the southern end of Trench 7) and in Trench 3 several overlaying layers of natural geology were uncovered. In these trenches, a 0.40m thick deposit of coarse sand (302) (707) overlay a deposit of coarse sandy gravels, which was seen to slope down towards the north.
- 4.10.2 Natural geological deposits were observed in all of the trenches excavated. The height of these deposits varied from 3.52m aOD at the southern end of Trench 7 to 2.57m aOD at the northern end of Trench 2 (Figures 2 - 5).

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of artefacts, deriving from four of the seven evaluation trenches excavated (Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 6). The assemblage includes material of prehistoric and Post-medieval date. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is summarised in Table 1.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery provides the only close dating for the Site. The majority of the pottery is of later prehistoric date and consists of two context groups, the possible relic topsoil (407) (mostly at the interface of (407) with the overlying topsoil (400)) and ditch fill (608). Sherds from both contexts are in flint-tempered fabrics, including finer, well sorted, variants from ditch fill

(608). These fabrics can be identified as characteristic of the post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age in southern England. Fill (608) included no diagnostic sherds, but (407) appears to contain sherds from a single vessel, a coarseware jar.

5.2.2 The four remaining sherds (from Layer (400), Trench 5 Topsoil, and Unstratified) are Post-medieval redwares and stonewares.

5.3 Fired Clay

5.3.1 Fired clay was recovered from three contexts. The fragment from context (407) has a curved surface and could derive from a cylindrical loomweight of Middle / Late Bronze Age type. Fragments from the top of (407) and from ditch fill (608) are more intriguing and appear to represent small, rectangular bars. These are of uncertain function. A similar fragment was identified at the site of Mucking in Essex and, although discussed with the Late Bronze Age briquetage (salt production) equipment is admitted to be anomalous (Barford 1988, 41, fig. 27, 21). A potential alternative function is as items of kiln furniture (see, for example, Swan 1984, pl. 18), although these are generally associated with kilns of Late Iron Age type. Associated pottery here indicates a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age date, at least for the fragments from ditch fill (608).

5.4 Other Finds

5.4.1 Other finds comprise a small quantity of burnt, unworked flint (of uncertain origin, but probably prehistoric, mostly from pit [202]), and a clay tobacco pipe stem (Trench 5 topsoil).

| Context | Description | Burnt Flint | Clay Pipe | Fired Clay | Pottery |
|---------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 205 | Pit [203] | 28/210 | | | |
| 407 | Relic Topsoil | | | 2/95 | 1/8 |
| 407 | Relic Topsoil | | | 1/55 | 108/2017 |
| 500 | Modern Topsoil | | 1/6 | | 2/113 |
| 608 | Ditch [607] | 1/36 | | 16/664 | 34/304 |
| - | Unstratified | | | | 1/12 |
| | TOTALS | 29/246 | 1/6 | 19/814 | 146/2454 |

Table 1: All Finds By Context (Number / weight in grammes)

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from features deemed to be securely sealed within the evaluation trenches. These comprised two fills from pit [205], a 100% sample from posthole [506] and a bulk sample from the cleaned back, unexcavated section of ditch [607].

6.1.2 The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of;

- Charred plant remains
- Charcoal

6.2 Methods

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 6.2.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 – x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**), in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims.

6.3 Results

Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 The flots were relatively rich in rootlets, a reflection of the shallowness and degree of bioturbation within the sampled features. This and the presence of modern seeds indicate the proximity of the sample to the active soil horizon. This would mean that there is a greater risk of stratigraphic mixing and more potential of material of a later or earlier date having become worked into the deposit.
- 6.3.2 Almost all the charred plant remains were recovered from either ditch or the pit fills, with a single seed of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) recovered from ditch [607]. However, the sample from posthole [506] contained some ten or more whole tubers of onion couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. bulbosum*).
- 6.3.3 While onion couch grass may simply reflect the collection of such grasses for tinder, upon other British archaeological sites it has a very definite association with Middle and Later Bronze Age cremations (Robinson, 1988). That the sample also contained fragments of burnt bone may be significant.
- 6.3.4 Charred cereal remains are often indicative of domestic waste and hence proximity to settlement. While the absence of such remains may be attributed to other factors, the charred remains from the features sampled from the Dagenham Priory School Site do not suggest settlement. However, the remains from the posthole [506] may hint at the possibility of Bronze Age cremation burials in the vicinity or firing either in the production of salt or pottery.

Charcoal

- 6.3.5 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. All the samples produced both larger and smaller fragments of charcoal. Many of the fragments were poorly preserved and subject to iron staining and other calcifications, and it could not be distinguished whether twig or roundwood was present.

6.4 Palaeo-Environmental Summary

6.4.1 Environmental remains were sparse, indicating that the excavated features were possibly not near the foci of domestic burning activity, or that such events did not occur here, or that taphonomic processes have affected preservation. Nevertheless, the presence of burnt bone and onion couch grass is reminiscent of cremation-related material, and may indicate that pyres and / or cremation burials may exist in the wider vicinity. Which at this period (Bronze Age / Iron Age), can be isolated and widespread.

| Feature Type/No. | Context No. | Sample No. | Size litres | Flot | | | | | | | Residue | |
|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | | flot size ml | Grain | Chaff | Weed uncharred | Other charred | Charcoal >5.6mm | Other | Charcoal >5.6mm | |
| Trench 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pit [203] | 205 | 1 | 10 | 40 ¹⁰ | - | - | c | - | A | - | - | |
| | 206 | 2 | 2 | 20 ⁵ | - | - | - | - | B | - | - | |
| Trench 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Posthole [506] | 505 | 3 | 6 | 100 ⁴⁰ | - | - | - | A | C | burnt bone | - | |
| Trench 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ditch [607] | 609 | 4 | 11 | 55 ¹⁵ | - | - | c | C | C | - | - | |

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items,
 (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs;

Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE:

¹Flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material.

²Unburned seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

Table 2. Assessment of the Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 The evaluation of the Site has demonstrated the existence two distinct areas of archaeological preservation. The northern extent of the Site, in the area of the present day terrace is characterised by the silted up remnants of a relict stream or palaeo-channel [106] [112] and its floodplain with at least two ditches in association respecting its alignment.
- 7.1.2 This palaeo channel [106, 112] is almost certainly a silted up tributary of the Wantz Stream.
- 7.1.3 The flood plain of this palaeo channel was limited to the south by a distinct bank which ran east–west to the south of the basketball court. The evaluation revealed that this was at least partly man made. Below this bank, in the areas adjacent to the channel/ stream, a number of ditches and pits as well as evidence of silty flood deposits was revealed.
- 7.1.4 To the south of this bank, the evaluation produced evidence of a Late Bronze Age –Early Iron Age landscape, which has suffered only minor post depositional damage or alteration.
- 7.1.5 Of particular significance was the evidence of a potential ditched enclosure and the evidence of a possible relic Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age landsurface
- 7.1.6 A northwest-southeast ditch [403] / [607] was discovered on the western edge of the Site. Ditch [403]/ [607] produced fragments of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and briquetage, and almost certainly represented the silted up remains of a Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age ditched enclosure.
- 7.1.7 The size of the pottery sherds from both the land surface and the fill of ditch [607] / [403] were medium or large. This and the fact that most of the pottery had not been abraded by water action, showed that they had been buried shortly after the original vessels had been broken. It can also be assumed that they had not been moved very far, e.g. by water action or ploughing, from the point where they were first deposited.
- 7.1.8 Both fills from ditch [607] / [403] and the top of the relict landsurface (407) produced quantities of ceramic bars that have been identified as fragments of briquetage (see above). The size and the condition of these suggest that they had not been carried far from where they were used. Finds of briquetage are quite rare and they almost certainly originally came from either a nearby, as yet undiscovered, pottery kiln or were used in Bronze Age salt production.
- 7.1.9 It is tempting to see the briquetage fragments, ditches, episodes of silting along with the environment evidence which suggests that onion couch grass was collected on Site and used as tinder, as evidence of Bronze Age - Early Iron Age salterns in the area.
- 7.1.10 The ditched enclosure and parts of the buried landsurface to the west of the ditches were overlain by a layer of clean silt, the result of flooding, which appeared to have been restricted to the south west corner of the Site.

- 7.1.11 This flooding episode was cut by northwest – southeast ditch [603] that ran parallel to and some 2m to the east the earlier ditch [607] / [403].
- 7.1.12 This feature produced no dating evidence but the fact that followed the same alignment as ditch [403] / [607] would suggest that the either the earlier ditch was still at least partly visible or that the same property / field boundaries were in use.

8 THE ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with *the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 8.2 The resulting archive will be microfiched to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR).
- 8.3 One copy will be deposited with the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); a further copy will be deposited with the NMR. Two copies will be deposited with GLAAS, one with the Museum of London and two copies will be deposited with the Barking and Dagenham Local Archives.
- 8.4 The archive, including the finds, from the project, subject to the wishes of the landowner, will be deposited with the Museum of London.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barford, P.M., 1988 Salt production equipment' in Bond, D., *Excavation at the North Ring, Mucking, Essex: A Late Bronze Age Enclosure*, East Anglian Archaeology. 43, 39-41
- British Geological Survey, 1976 British Geological Survey, Romford, Sheet 275
- English Heritage (GLAAS) 1998 *London Region, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London. Archaeological Guidance. Paper 3.*
- Ibid. 1998 *London Region; Archaeological Reports. Archaeological Guidance Paper 4*
- Ibid. 1998 *London Region; Evaluations. Archaeological Guidance Paper 5*
- English Heritage 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*
- Museum of London 2000 *The Archaeology of Greater London*
- Robinson, M. 1988 The significance of the tubers of *Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) Beauv, from site 4, Cremation IS/II, In G. Lambrick, (ed.), *The Rollright Stones; megaliths, monuments and settlements in the prehistoric landscape*, HBMC Archaeological Report 6, London English Heritage, 102
- Swan, V., 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, RCHM Supp. Series 5
- Weinreb, B. and Hibber, C. 1983 *The London Encyclopædia*
- Wessex Archaeology 2005 *Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Project design for Archaeological Evaluation*

10 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

(+) Indicates deposits features not fully excavated

Trench 1

Orientation: North - South

Size: (L/W/D) 20.m x 2m x 1.20m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|---|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 100 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation .Use | Deposit | Mid - dark brown, fine sandy clay silt. Very occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | 2.99m |
| 101 | Fill of [102] Disuse | Deposit | Mid – dark brown silty sand. | 2.75m |
| 102 | Drainage/ Boundary Ditch. Construction. Use | Cut | East – west linear feature. Concave base. Sides 45°angle. | Top= 2.75m Base=2.39 |
| 103 | Flooding.Use | Deposit | Mid greenish brown, silty sand. | 2.70m |
| 104 | Fill of [105] | Deposit | Mid - dark brown, fine sandy silt. | 2.75m |
| 105 | Drainage/ boundary ditch. Construction. Use | Cut | East – west, linear feature. Sides, 45°angle. Concave base. | Top= 2.75m Base=2.52m |
| 106 | Palaeo-channel / Stream. Use | Cut | East – west. Linear feature. Southern side gentle slope. Filled with (107) (108) (109). | Top=2.75m Base=1.78m (+) |
| 107 | Waterlain Upper fill of [106]. Use | Deposit | Blue grey, clay frequent gravel modern wood. | 2.39m |
| 108 | Waterlain Fill of [106]. Use | Deposit | Yellow brown, silty sand. | 2.19m |
| 109 | Waterlain Fill of [106]. Use | Deposit | Mixed yellow and brown ,sand with patches of blue grey clay. | 2.00m |
| 110 | Waterlain Primary Fill of [112]. Use | Deposit | Mixed yellow and brown, silty clay with frequent sand and small sub rounded gravel. | 2.69m |
| 111 | Natural Geology | Deposit | Dark - mid orange brown, compact coarse sandy gravel mostly sub rounded to well rounded small to medium flint pebbles. | South=2.79m North=1.99m (+) |
| 112 | Channel / Stream. Use | Cut | East – west. Linear feature Base not reached. Sides 45°angle slope. filled with (110). | 1.99m(+) |

Trench 2

Orientation: East – west

Size: (L/W/D) 21m x 2m x 0.55m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keywords | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|---|---------|--|--------------------------------|
| 201 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid - dark brown, fine sandy clay silt. Very occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | 2.97m |
| 202 | Flooding Episode Use | Deposit | Light yellow brown ,clayey sand silt few inclusions. | 2.79m |
| 203 | Pit / Terminus of Drainage boundary ditch. Construction. Use. | Cut | Concave Base Filled with (204)(205) (206). | Top=2.78m Base=2.35m |
| 204 | Secondary Fill. Disuse | Deposit | Light grey, loose, fine silt. No inclusions Uppermost Fill of [203]. | 2.75m |
| 205 | Secondary Fill. Disuse | Deposit | Mid grey with mid orange patches. A compact sandy silt with moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and small – moderate burnt flint fragments throughout. Lowest Fill of [203]. | 2.67m |
| 206 | Secondary Fill. Disuse | Deposit | Loose, black silt. Frequent fragments of burnt flint at base of deposit. | 2.45m |
| 207 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Orange brown, compact sand and gravel frequent iron panning in sand. Gravel = small angular -sub-angular. Small patches of coarse orange, sand throughout. | West=2.39m – East=2.78m (+) |

Trench 3

Orientation: North - South

Size: (L/W/D) 21.40m x 2m x 0.70 m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|------------|
| 301 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid grey brown, loose, fine sand silt. Occasional small sub- rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | 3.08m |
| 302 | Flooding Episode Use | Deposit | Mid grey brown, loose, very sandy silt with Occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles. | 2.78m |
| 303 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Mid – light yellow and orange brown coarse sand. Frequent patches of dark brown iron staining especially near top of deposit. Very occasional small sub – rounded flint pebbles throughout. | 2.70m |
| 304 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Mid –dark yellowish brown. A compact, coarse sandy gravel. Gravel =sub angular - sub rounded flint pebbles. Frequent small medium patches of light green grey clay throughout. | 2.38m (+) |

Trench 4

Orientation: East – west

Size: (L/W/D) 29.50m x 2.0m x 0.60m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD (+/- 50mm) |
|------------|--|---------|--|-------------------------|
| 400 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid grey brown, fine sandy clay silt. Occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | 3.94m |
| 401 | Interface of Buried Land surface | Deposit | The Interface between (407) and (400). Containing frequent Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Pottery sherds and occasional briquetage fragments. | 3.74m |
| 402 | Fill of ditch [403]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid reddish brown, friable, sandy silt. | 3.77m |
| 403 | Drainage / Boundary ditch. Construction. Use | Cut | North – south linear feature. Flat base, sides slope more than 45° angle. | Top=3.77m Base=3.34m |
| 404 | Waterlain Fill of [405]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt. | 3.84m |
| 405 | Drainage / Boundary ditch Construction .Use | Cut | North – south, linear feature. | Top=3.84m |
| 406 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Mid –dark yellowish brown. A compact, coarse sandy gravel. Gravel =sub angular - sub rounded flint pebbles. Frequent small medium patches of light green grey clay and coarse sand throughout. | 3.64m (+) |
| 407 | Buried landsurface | Deposit | Mid brown, loose, sandy silt. Frequent sub angular flint pebbles through out. Occasional pottery fragments. | 3.69m |

Trench 5

Orientation: North – South

Size: (L/W/D) 20m x 2.0m x 0.60m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD (+/- 50mm) |
|------------|---|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 500 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid grey brown, fine sandy clay silt. Occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | North=3.29m South=3.86m |
| 501 | Bank. Construction. Use | Deposit | Mid yellow brown with frequent brown iron staining. A coarse sandy silty gravel made up of small – medium sub angular – sub rounded flint pebbles. | 3.45m |
| 502 | Waterlain Fill of Post hole [503] | Deposit | Mid grey, fine sandy clay silt. | 3.20m |
| 503 | Posthole. Construction. Use | Cut | Circular feature, diameter 0.20m. Vertical sides tapering slightly at base. Concave base filled with (502). | Top=3.20m Base=3.00m |
| 504 | Relic topsoil .Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid brown, loose, sandy silt. Frequent sub angular flint pebbles through out. Occasional pottery fragments. | 3.65m |
| 505 | Fill of Posthole [506]. Disuse | Deposit | Dark grey, loose, silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of burnt bone throughout. | 3.66m |
| 506 | Posthole. Construction. Use | Cut | Circular feature. Diameter 0.30m. Vertical sides tapering slightly at base, concave base. Filled with (505). | Top=3.65m Base=3.10m |
| 507 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Yellow brown with frequent brown iron staining. Coarse sandy gravel small – medium sub angular – sub rounded flint pebbles. | North=3.27m South=3.40m (+) |
| 508 | Waterlain Fill of ditch [509]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid grey brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent small – medium sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. | 3.40m |
| 509 | Drainage / Boundary ditch Construction. Use | Cut | Linear feature. East –west. Flat base slopes down from north to south, north side slope less than 45° south side between 45°and vertical. Filled with (508). | 3.40m |
| 510 | Waterlain Fill of ditch [511]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid grey brown, loose sandy silt with frequent small – medium sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. | 3.40m |
| 511 | Erosion Gully. Use | Cut | Linear feature, shallow east –west. Flat base, Side slope 45° (Filled with (510)). | Top=3.40m Base=3.20m |

Trench 6

Orientation:

Size: (L/W/D) 21m x 2.0m x 060m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD (+/- 50mm) |
|------------|--|---------|---|--|
| 600 | Modern topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Dark - mid brow, fine sandy clay silt. Very occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots through out. | West=4.10m East=3.86m |
| 601 | Flooding episode. Use | Deposit | Yellowish brown, friable, homogenous sandy silt, Few inclusions. | West=4.00m East=3.80m |
| 602 | Buried land surface | Deposit | Mid - dark brown, silty sands with frequent small angular - sub angular flint pebbles throughout. Occasional pottery and ceramic kiln brick fragments. | West=3.80m East=3.90m |
| 603 | Boundary / Drainage ditch Construction. Use | Cut | Linear feature, northwest- southeast. Flat base. Filled with (604). | Top=3.53m Base=3.34m |
| 604 | Lowest Fill of [603] Disuse | Deposit | Mid yellowish brown, a very mixed and poorly sorted sandy silt. Occasional pottery fragments. | 3.39m |
| 605 | Posthole. Construction. Use | Cut | Circular feature. Diameter 0.45m. Flat base. Vertical slightly tapering sides. Filled with [606]. | Top=3.51m Base=3.24m |
| 606 | Primary Fill of posthole [605]. Disuse | Deposit | Light brown, friable sandy silt Concentration of small waterworn pebbles at centre and base possible indication of packing for post. Occasional fragment pottery. | 3.51m |
| 607 | Drainage / boundary ditch. Construction. Use | Cut | Linear feature northwest – southeast. Flat base, sides =45° Gradual break of slope sides and base. Filled with (609) (608). | Top=3.50m Base= North 3.04m South 3.17m |
| 608 | Primary Fill of [607]. Disuse | Deposit | Dark reddish brown, sandy silt. | 3.20m |
| 609 | Secondary fill of [607]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid reddish yellow brown, friable, sandy silt. | 3.50m |
| 610 | Posthole. Construction. Disuse | Cut | Circular feature. Diameter 0.60m. Flat base. Vertical slightly tapering sides. Filled with (611). | Top=3.49m Base=3.13m |
| 611 | Primary Fill of Posthole [610] Disuse | Deposit | Light brown, friable, sandy silt. | 3.13m |
| 612 | Secondary Fill of [603]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid brown, friable, sandy silt. | 3.53m |
| 613 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Mid yellow brown with dark brown mottling (Iron staining) throughout. A coarse sandy gravel. | West=3.61m East=.3.60m |
| 614 | Secondary Fill of [615]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid brown, sandy silt. | 3.70m |
| 615 | Pit / Posthole / Ditch Construction. Use | Cut | Concave base. Vertical slightly tapering sides Filled with [614]. | Top= 3.70m Base= 3.50m |

Trench 7**Orientation:** North – South**Size:** (L/W/D) 20m x 2.0m x 1.00m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD (+/- 50mm) |
|------------|---|---------|--|----------------------------|
| 700 | Modern Topsoil. Cultivation. Use | Deposit | Mid grey brown, fine sandy clay silt. Occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Grass roots throughout. | South=4.22m North=4.09m |
| 701 | Flooding Episode. Use | Deposit | Yellow brown, sandy silt, no inclusions. | 3.72m |
| 702 | Posthole. Construction. Use | Cut | Circular feature, 0.40m diameter. Concave base, slightly tapered sides. Filled with (702) and (704). | Top=3.70m Base=3.50m |
| 703 | Primary Fill of Posthole [702]. Disuse | Deposit | Mid brown, sandy silt mottled with dark brown iron staining. | 3.70m |
| 704 | Secondary Fill of Posthole [702]. Disuse | Deposit | Dark brown, sandy silt. | 3.70m |
| 705 | Pit/ Ditch .Use | Cut | Concave base. Filled with (706). | Top=3.60m Base=3.30m |
| 706 | Waterlain Fill of Pit / Ditch. [705] Disuse | Deposit | Greenish brown, sandy silt, frequent brown mottling iron stains throughout. | 3.60m |
| 707 | Geological Natural | Deposit | Dark grey with dark brown mottling iron staining throughout. Coarse sand and gravels small medium sub rounded flint pebbles. | South=3.30m North=3.60m |

11 APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

Project details

Project name **Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road: evaluation**

Short description of the project Seven evaluation trenches were excavated to the north and west of the school buildings. At the north end of the site a palaeo channel was limited by a partly man made bank to its south. Below the bank, adjacent to the channel, were a number of ditches and pits. More archaeological deposits and features and evidence of a Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age buried landscape were recorded to the south of the bank, where a possible relict land surface produced much late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age pottery. Two parallel north - south ditches of a Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age enclosure were recorded at the west side of the site. A clean, silty flood deposit overlay the enclosure and parts of the relict land surface. Quantities of ceramic bars were found in the ditches and on top of the land surface, possibly indicative of the site of a kiln nearby.

Project dates Start: 31-05-2005 End: 03-06-2005

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 59780 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes DPY05 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type BURIED SOIL HORIZON Late Bronze Age

Monument type DITCHES Late Bronze Age

Monument type ENCLOSURE Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Bronze Age

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Post-planning consent agreement

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Study area 300.00 Square metres

National grid reference TQ 49574 83998 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design
originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager R. Thorpe

Project supervisor G. Evans

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Museum of London

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','other'

Paper Archive
recipient Museum of London

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unspecified Archive'

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Dagenham Priory Comprehensive School, School Road: evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Wessex Archaeology

Date 2005

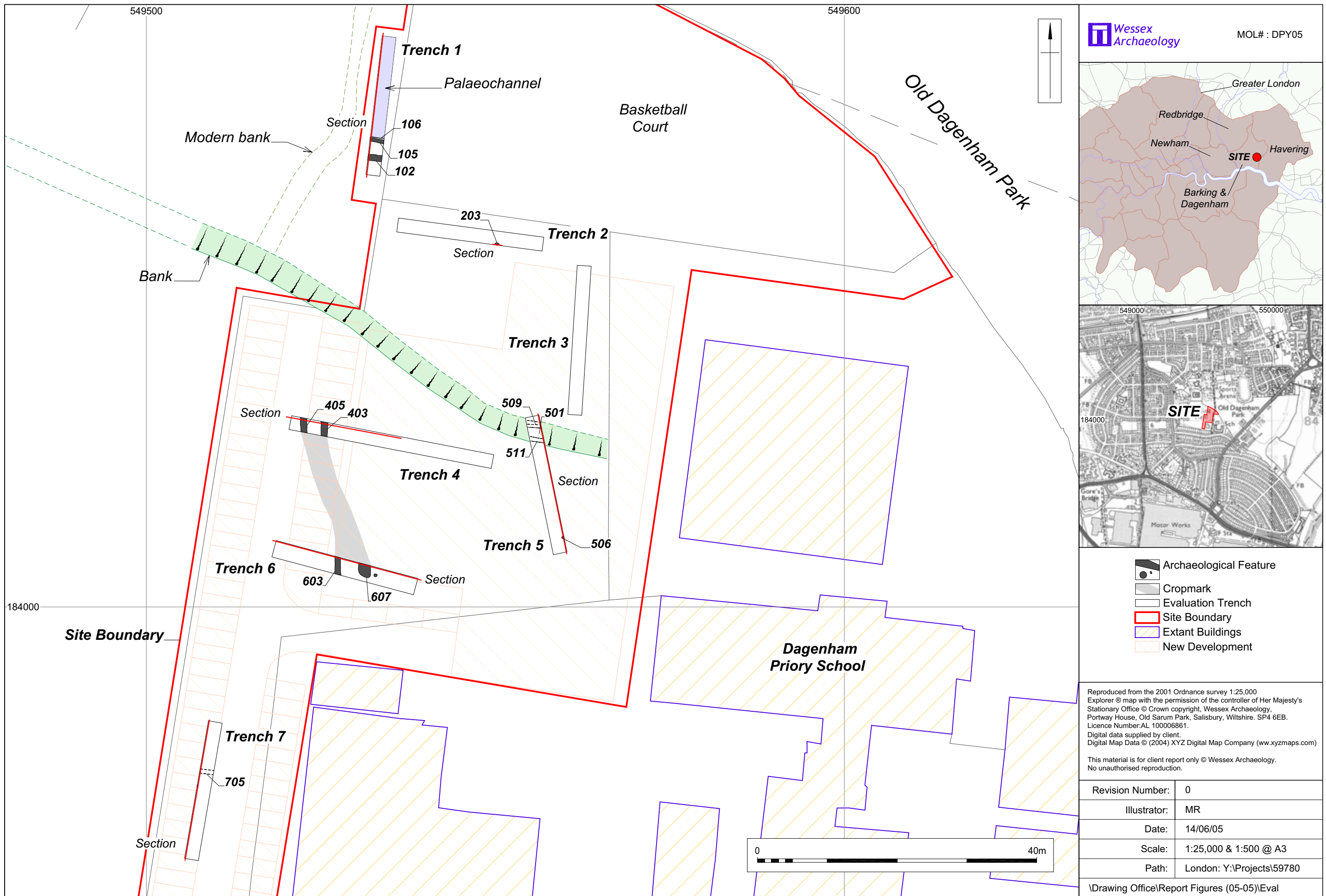
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Entered by C Butterworth (c.butterworth@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 28 June 2005

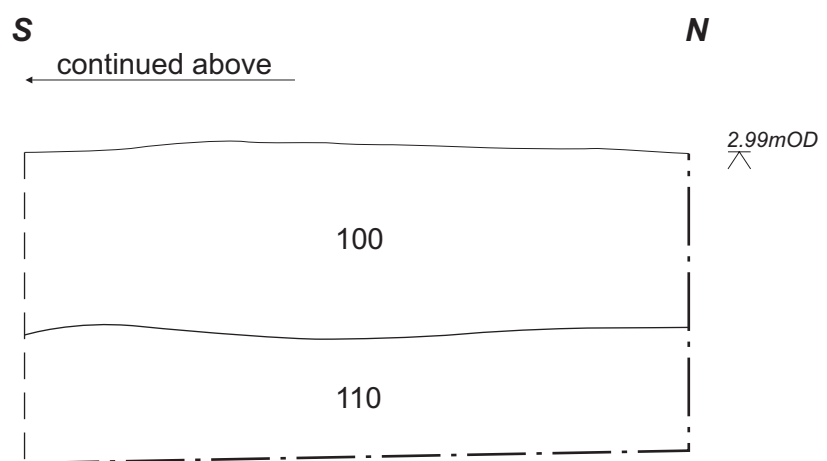
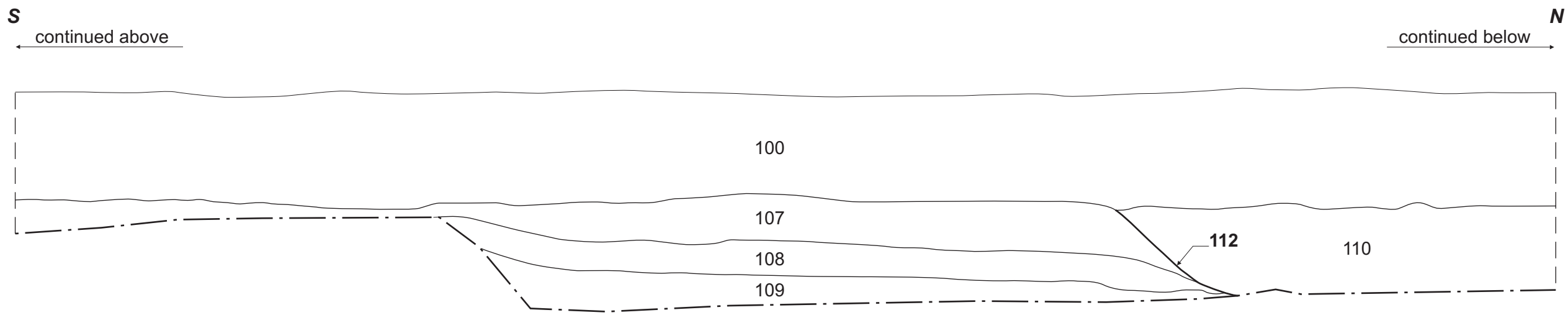
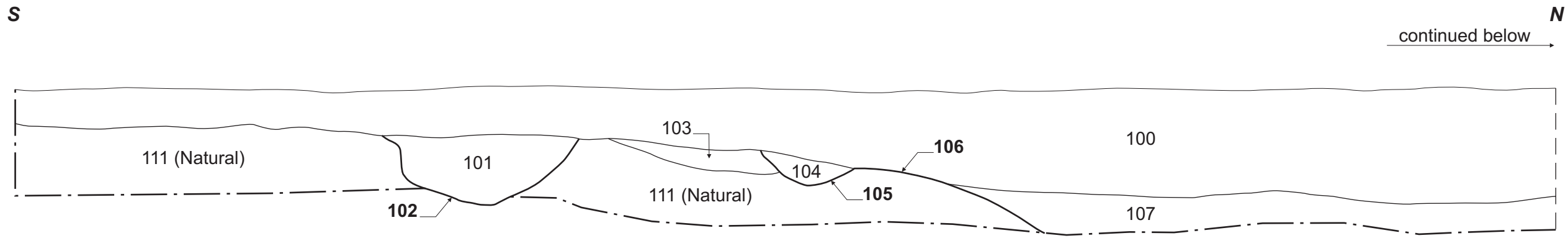
OASIS



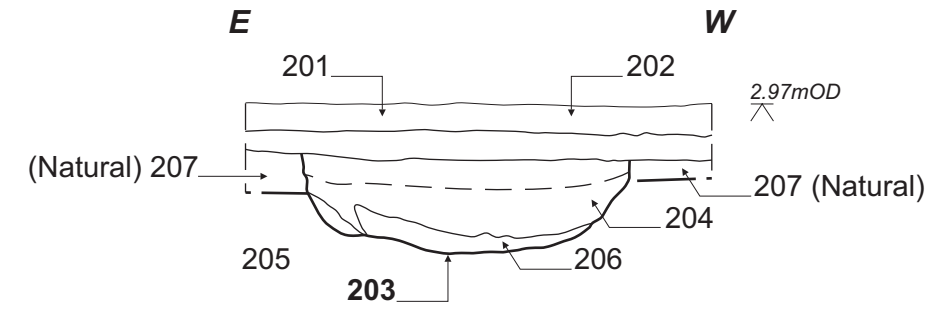
Site Location Maps and Trench Layout Plan Showing Archaeological Features and Location of Sections

Figure 1

Trench 1 - Section

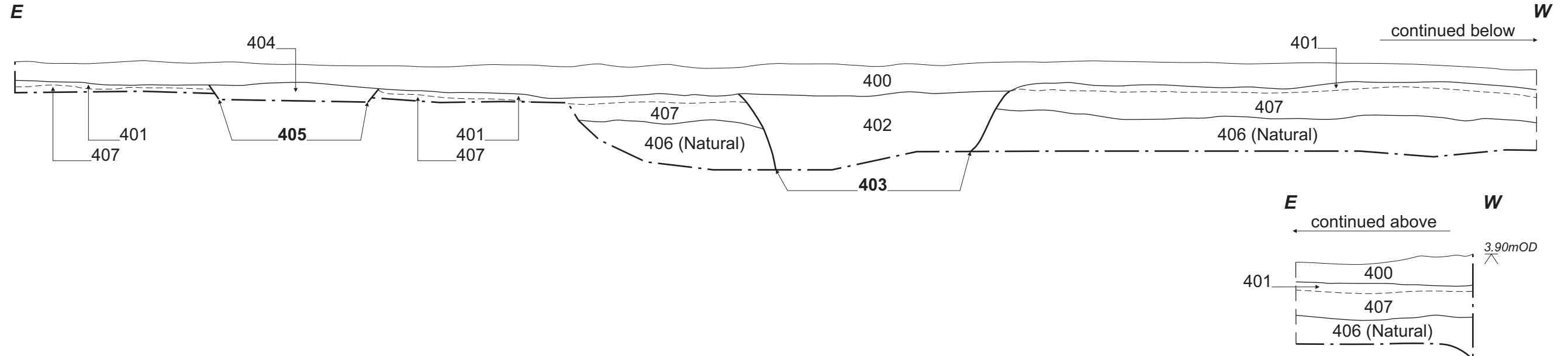


Trench 2 - Section

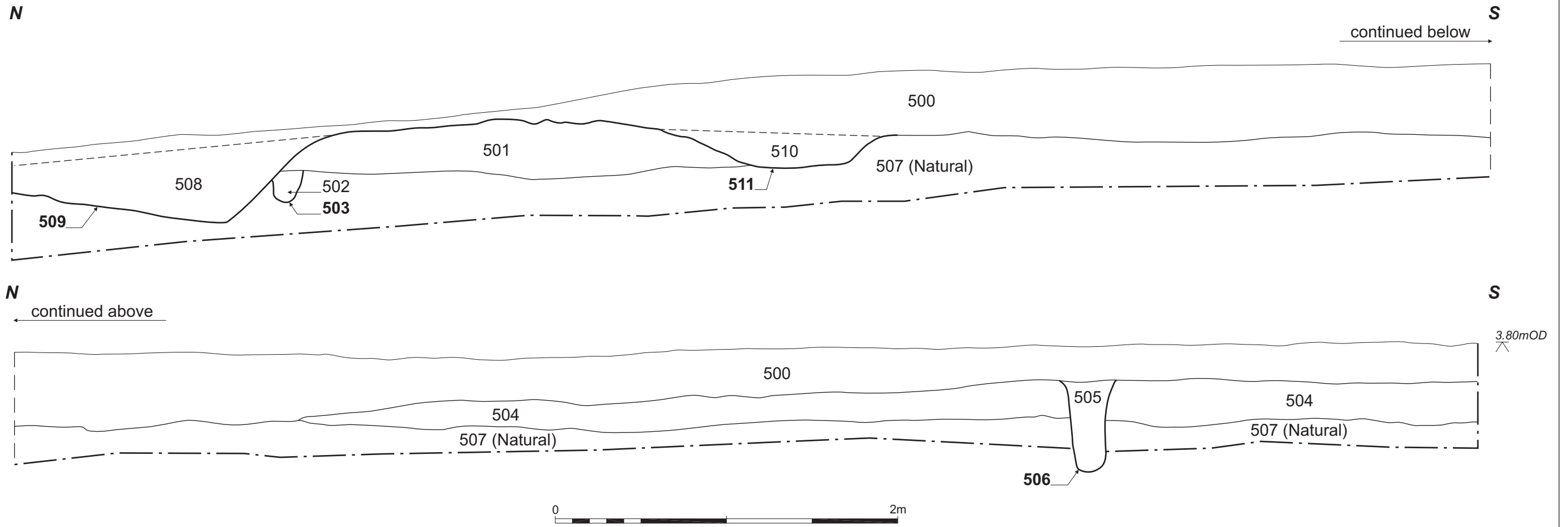


| | | | |
|--------|--|------------------|----|
| Date: | 14/06/05 | Revision Number: | 0 |
| Scale: | 1:25 @ A3 | Illustrator: | MR |
| Path: | London: Y:\Projects\59780\Drawing Office\Report Figures (05-05)\Eval | | |

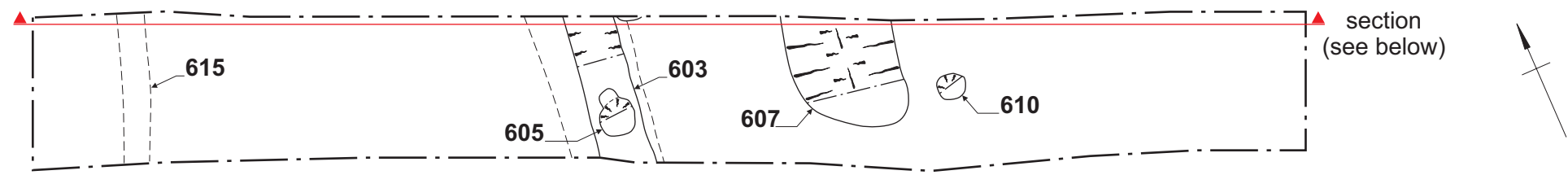
Trench 4 - Section



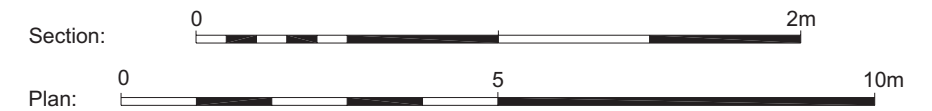
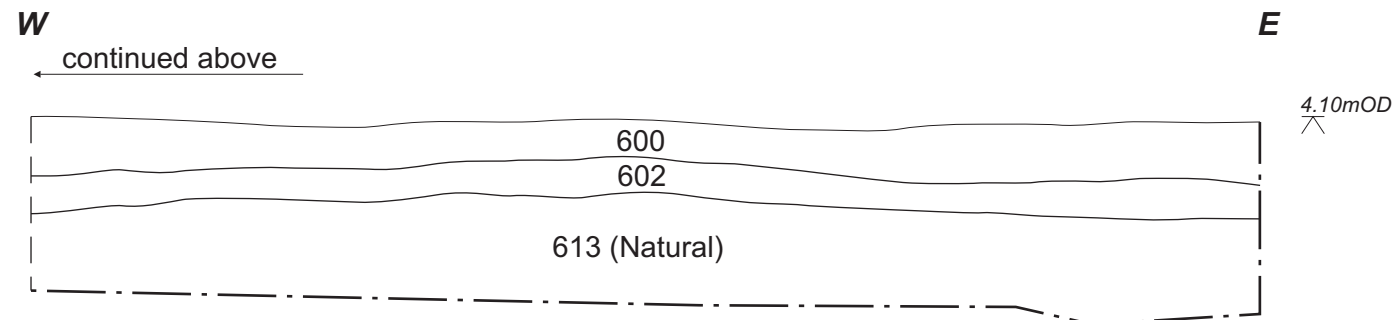
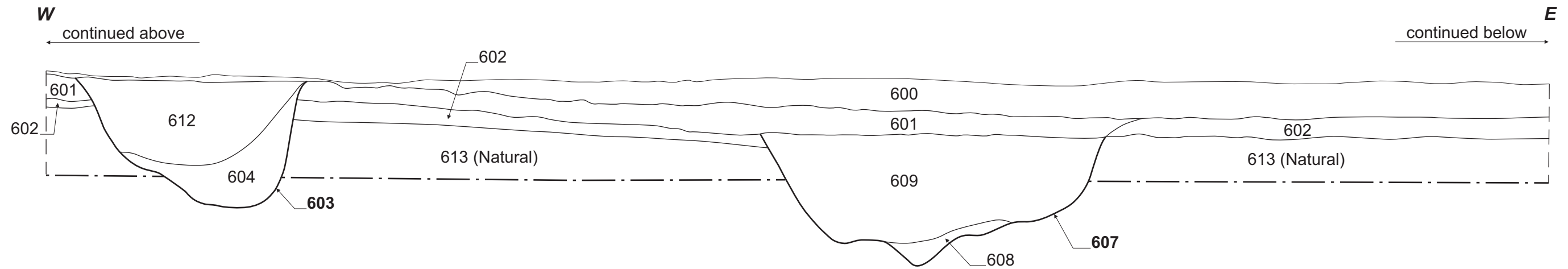
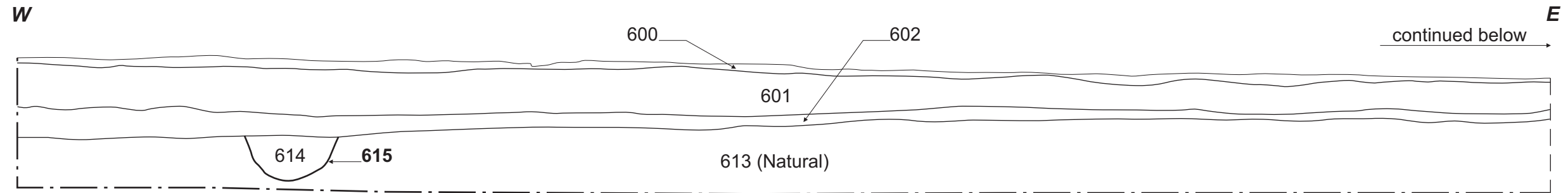
Trench 5 - Section



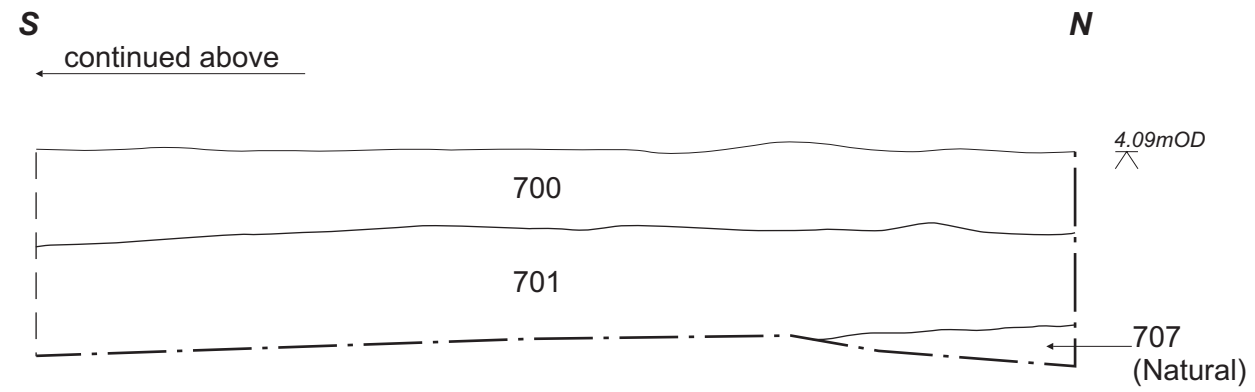
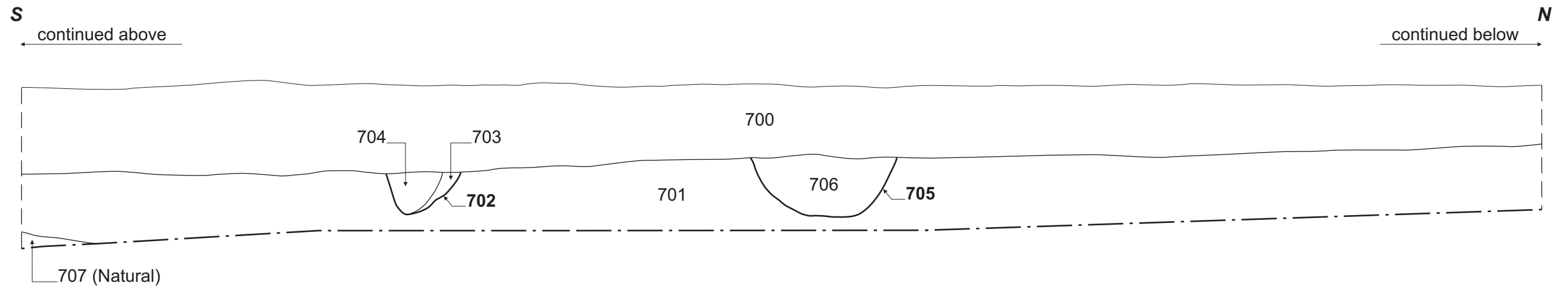
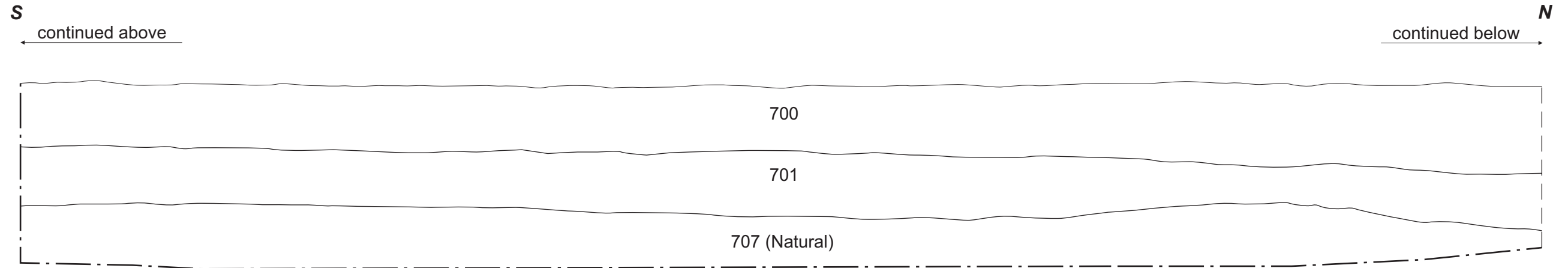
Trench 6 - Plan



Trench 6 - Section



Trench 7 - Section





THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 701, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

