

HERITAGE NETWORK



**R/o 53-57 HEXTON ROAD,
Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire**

HN1075

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land to rear of
53-57 HEXTON ROAD
Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN1075
LPA Ref: CB/13/01595/PAPC
Accession Number: LUTNM 2013/17

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Irwin and Simpson Property Developments Ltd

by

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Report no. 822

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The cover illustration shows Trench 4, looking south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and Robin Densem. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Greg Jones and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to: Alan Irwin and Keith Simpson of Irwin and Simpson Property Developments Ltd and Martin Oake of the Archaeology Team (AT) of Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land to r/o 53-57, Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, MK45 4JY.		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Barton-le-Clay	Parish:	Barton-le-Clay
Planning reference:	CB/13/01595/PAPC	NGR:	TL 0849 3062.
Client name and address:	Irwin and Simpson Property Developments Ltd, Unit 18 High Barns Farm, Roxton, Bedfordshire, MK44 3ET		
Nature of work:	Residential development	Former land use:	Garden
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	5460m ²	Size of area investigated:	270m ²
Site code:	HN1075	Museum Accession no:	2013/17
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Field Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Luton Museum
Start of work:	08/10/13	Finish of work:	11/10/13
Related HER Nos:	-	Periods represented:	Romano-British
Oasis UID:	heritage1-15395	Significant finds:	Pottery, Romano-British
Monument types:	Pit Romano-British, Pit Unknown, Linear Unknown		
Material archive:	Pottery, animal bone, daub		

Synopsis:

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new development site located on land to the rear of 53-57 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of targeted trial trenching.

Five trial trenches were excavated across the site, focusing on the areas of greatest potential impact. The trenches revealed five undated linear boundary features, a pit containing Romano-British pottery sherds, two gullies and remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb significant archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods except the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods where the risk may be considered to be *Moderate to High*. The Romano-British remains

may be considered, potentially, to be of regional significance and could contribute to a better understanding of the hierarchy of rural Romano-British settlement. The medieval and post-medieval remains are more likely to be considered to be of local significance, demonstrating agricultural practice on the edge of a manorial settlement.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Irwin and Simpson Property Developments Ltd, to cover a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in advance of the submission of a planning application for the proposed development of land to the rear of nos.53-57 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire.

1.2 An application for planning permission for the development (ref. CB/13/01595/PAPC) is intended to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). On the advice of the Council's Archaeology Team (AT), and in line with paragraph 128 of the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), further information regarding the impact of the proposed development on the historic environment has been requested. The extent of the information required was defined in a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at 53-57 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire* (MO 21/05/2013), prepared by the Archaeology Team (AT). A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated September 2013.

1.3 The proposed development site is located on the northern side of Hexton Road, to the rear of nos.53–57, which occupy the frontage, centred on NGR TL 0849 3062. It lies to the south-east of the modern village, to the north of the hamlet of Church End, within the Barton-le-Clay Conservation Area (DBD 3198). The parish church of St Nicholas and The Rectory lie to the south. Barton-le-Clay is a medieval manorial settlement and the planning authority has been advised by the AT that development of the site could have an impact on buried remains that would constitute heritage assets of archaeological interest.

1.4 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake et al 2007, Medlycott 2011), should they be discovered. It was considered that such investigation had the potential to provide evidence that could contribute to an understanding of the settlement of Barton-le-Clay from the prehistoric period onwards.

1.5 The development proposes the construction of forty new retirement dwellings and a community hall, with associated services, access and landscaping.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The proposed development site lies in gently rolling countryside at the foot of the Barton Hills, which rise steeply to the south. The land slopes gently to the south, with an average height of approximately 72mAOD.

2.2 The local soils belong to the Evesham 3 Association (411c), which are described as *“Slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils”* (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology of the area is formed from the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents

2.5 Five trial trenches were positioned across the site, by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures.

2.6 Within each trench, the topsoil and overburden were removed using a 360-degree 6-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, to the natural geological horizon, or to maximum safe depth possible, as appropriate. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds.

2.7 The open trenches were cleaned by hand, and inspected for any potential archaeological features and deposits. Where the natural or archaeological horizon could not be reached along the length of the trench, a sondage was excavated by machine to examine these layers.

2.8 The stratigraphy within the trenches was photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Trench plans and profiles, including potential features and deposits, were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:50, and feature sections at a scale of 1:20.

RESULTS

Stratigraphy

2.9 The stratigraphy was uniform across the site, comprising a layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty clay topsoil, between 0.10m in depth at the northern end of the site and 0.50m in depth towards the southern end. This overlay a firm grey (10YR 5/1) clay subsoil, between 0.10m and 0.50m in depth.

2.10 The natural substratum, which comprised white (10YR 8/12) clayey chalk, was encountered at depths of between 0.50m and 0.60m below the present ground level.

Trench 1

2.11 Trench 1 was to be located in the north-eastern corner of the site. However, due to restrictions on access, and with the agreement of the Archaeology Officer, it was decided to abandon this trench.

Trench 2

2.12 Trench 2 was located at the northern end of the site (Figure 2, Plate 1). It was oriented approximately northeast-southwest and measured 10m in length, 2.0m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of c.0.85m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	10.00	Width (m):	2.00	Maximum Depth (m):	0.85	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	73.27	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	73.21	
		Base	72.60			Base	72.49	
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)				
				Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10 YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown friable silty clay topsoil		-	-	0.10		
-	Layer	10YR 5/1 grey compacted clay subsoil		-	-	0.50		
-	Layer	10 YR 8/1 white compacted clayey chalk natural		-	-	>0.25		
201	Cut	Sub-rectangular, with almost vertical sides. Not bottomed. Contained fills (202) and (203).		1.10	0.8	>0.65		
202	Fill	5Y 3/1 Very dark grey firm silty clay. Upper Fill of [201]. Contained Romano-British pottery sherds and animal bone fragments.		1.10	0.8	-		
203	Fill	5YR 5/1 Grey friable clayey silt. Lower fill of [201] below (202). Contained burnt clay daub.		1.10	0.8	-		

2.13 The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were visible in the topsoil and subsoils in the trench sections (Figure 3).

2.14 Located at the southwest end of the trench was a sub-rectangular pit [201], with almost vertical sides (Figure 3). The feature was excavated to a depth of over 0.65m, but was not bottomed. It contained two fills, the upper fill (202) consisting of very dark grey (5YR 3/1) firm silty clay, c.0.57m in depth (Figure 8, Plate 2). Finds recovered from this fill included sherds of Romano-British pottery and animal bone fragments. The lower fill (203) consisted of grey (5YR 5/1) friable clay silt, over 0.3m in depth, which contained lumps of daub.

Trench 3

2.15 Trench 3 was located to the south of Trench 2 (Figure 2, Plate 3). It was oriented approximately northwest-southeast and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a depth of c.0.60m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	25.00	Width (m):	2.00	Maximum Depth (m):	0.60	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.12	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	73.54
			Base	72.33			Base	72.91
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Layer	10 YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown friable clay topsoil.	-	-	0.25			
-	Layer	10 YR 5/1 grey firm clay subsoil with occ. sub-angular stones.	-	-	0.25			
-	Layer	10 YR 8/1 white firm clayey chalk natural.	-	-	>0.10			
301	Cut	Linear feature with gentle sloping sides and a slightly irregular concave base, orientated N-S. Contains (302).	>2.00	c.1.2	0.45			
302	Fill	10YR 6/1 grey firm clay, possibly waterlain. No finds. Fill of [301].	>2.00	c.1.2	0.45			
303	Cut	Linear plough furrow with steep sides and a flattish base. Orientated E-W. Contains (304).	>5.00	0.5	0.05			
304	Fill	10YR 7/1 light grey firm clay. Fill of furrow [303].	>5.00	0.5	0.05			
305	Cut	Linear plough furrow with steep sides and a flattish base. Orientated E-W. Contains (306).	>6.00	0.65	0.08			
306	Fill	10YR 6/1 grey firm clay. Fill of furrow [305].	>6.00	0.65	0.08			

2.16 A linear feature, [301], measuring over 2.0m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.45m in depth, was revealed in the centre of the trench. This was orientated north-south with gentle sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 4, Plate 4). It contained a single fill, (302), which consisted of a possibly waterlain firm grey (10YR 6/1) clay. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.17 Two east-west aligned parallel linear features, cuts [303] and [305], were located to the southwest of [301] (Figure 4). Feature [303] measured over 5m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.05m in depth, while [305] measured over 6m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.08m in depth (Plate 5). Both features have been interpreted as plough furrows. No finds were recovered from their fills.

Trench 4

2.18 Trench 4 was located to the south of Trench 3 (Figure 2). It was orientated approximately northeast-southwest and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a depth of c.1m (Plate 6). A sondage was excavated to a depth of c.1.3m from the top of the trench at its north-eastern end in order to confirm the natural substratum.

Trench data:

Length (m):	25.00	Width (m):	2.00		Maximum Depth (m):	1.00	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.59	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.37
			Base	72.89				Base	72.77
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown friable clay.	-	-	0.40				
-	Layer	10YR 5/1 Grey compact clay with occasional sub angular gravel.	-	-	0.20				
-	Layer	10 YR 8/1 white clayey chalk natural.	-	-	0.40				
401	Cut	Linear with rounded and angular sides and a flattish base. Orientated NW-SE. Contained (402).	>1.75	0.85	0.23				
402	Fill	10YR 6/1 Grey firm clay with occ. sub-angular gravel to 60mm. Water lain fill of [401]. No finds.	>1.75	0.85	0.23				
403	-	Natural feature - tree root.	-	-	-				
404	-	Natural feature - tree root.	-	-	-				
405	Cut	Rounded ditch terminus 45 degree angle of slope and concave base. Contained (406).	>1.60	2.1	0.58				
406	Fill	10YR 5/1 Grey firm clay water lain ditch fill of [405]. No finds.	>1.60	2.1	0.58				

2.19 A northwest to southeast aligned linear feature, cut [401], was encountered in the centre of the trench (Figure 5). This measured over 1.75m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.23m in depth. It had irregular sides and a concave base (Plate 7). The fill (402) consisted of firm grey (10YR 6/1) clay with occasional sub-angular gravel to 60mm. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.20 Two irregular features, cuts [403] and [404], were encountered at the north-eastern end of the trench. Investigation demonstrated that these were natural in origin, probably caused by tree roots.

2.21 Feature [405], which appeared to form the rounded terminus to a ditch, was exposed at the south-western end of the trench (Figure 5). This measured over 1.6m in length, 2.1m in width and 0.58m in depth (Plate 8). The sides were irregular, steeper to the southwest, and the base was concave. It contained a single fill (406), an apparently waterlain grey (10YR 5/1) firm clay with occasional flint cobbles. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.22 No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 4.

Trench 5

2.23 Trench 5 was located on the western side of the site, to the southwest of Trench 4 (Figure 2). It was oriented approximately northwest-southeast, measured 25m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a depth of c.0.80m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	25.00	Width (m):	2.00		Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.44	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.67
			Base	72.63				Base	73.00
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)			Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10 YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown silty clay with lots of root action.	-	-	-	-	-	0.50	
-	Layer	10 YR 5/1 grey clay with moderate sub-angular chalk gravel to 60mms.	-	-	-	-	-	0.10	
-	Layer	10 YR 8/1 White compacted powdery clayey chalk natural.	-	-	-	-	-	>0.45	
501	Cut	Linear feature. Slightly irregular-shaped profile. Orientated N-S. Contained (502). Probable boundary ditch.	>3	1.0	0.45				
502	Fill	10YR 5/2 greyish brown firm clay, with occ. small flint gravel. Fill of [501]. No finds.	>3	1.0	0.45				
503	Cut	Linear. Butt-ended gully with convex sides and bowl shaped base at butt-end. Orientated N-S. Contained (503).	>4.00	0.45	0.13				
504	Fill	10YR 6/2 light brownish grey firm clay with occ. chalk flecks. Fill of [503]. No finds.	>4.00	0.45	0.13				
505	Cut	Butt-ended linear feature with rounded profile. Orientated N-S. Contained (506).	>2.5	0.75	0.23				
506	Fill	10YR 5/2 greyish brown firm clay fill of [505]. No finds.	>2.5	0.75	0.23				

2.24 The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were clearly visible in the topsoil and subsoil in the trench sections (Plate 10). These were orientated approximately east-west across the site.

2.25 Three features were encountered in Trench 5 (Figure 6). Linear [501], which was orientated north-south, was exposed at 4.4m from the south-eastern end of the trench. It measured over 3m in length, 1m in width and 0.45m in depth, with a slightly irregular V-shaped profile (Plate 11). The single fill (502) consisted of firm greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clay, with occasional flint cobbles. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.26 Immediately to the north of [501] was a narrow butt-ended north-south aligned gully, cut [503]. This measured over 4m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.13m in depth, with convex sides and a bowl shaped base (Plate 12). The single fill (504) consisted of firm light brownish grey (10YR 6/2) clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.27 Almost abutting feature [501] was another north-south aligned gully, cut [505], which may represent a continuation of the same feature. It measured over 2.5m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.23m in depth, with rounded sides and base (Plate 13). The single fill (506) consisted of firm greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clay with moderate sub-angular flint cobbles to 0.12m and occasional sub-angular gravel to 40mm. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.28 No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 5.

Trench 6

2.29 Trench 6 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site, to the southeast of Trench 5 and to the south of Trench 4 (Figure 2). It was orientated north-south and measured 25m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.6m in depth (Plate 14).

Trench Data

Length (m):	25.00	Width (m):	1.80		Maximum Depth (m):	0.60	Orientation	E-W	
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)			Top	73.99	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)			Top	74.44
			Base	73.49				Base	73.72
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)			Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10 YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown friable clay topsoil.	-	-	-	-	-	0.30	
-	Layer	10 YR 5/1 firm clay subsoil with occasional sub-angular gravel.	-	-	-	-	-	0.20	
-	Layer	10 YR 8/1 white firm, fine grained clay chalk natural.	-	-	-	-	-	>0.10	
601	Cut	Butt end of Linear feature. Rounded sides, slightly irregular and a concave base. Orientated SW-NE. Contained (502).	>1.5	1.15	0.42				
602	Fill	10YR 5/1 grey firm clay, with occasional sub-angular gravel and cobbles up to 0.12m. Water lain. Fill of [601]. No finds.	>1.5	1.15	0.42				

2.30 A possible butt-end to a linear feature, [601], was encountered at 9m from the south eastern end of the trench (Figure 7). This extended south from the northern baulk and measured 1.5m in length, 1.15m in width and 0.42m in depth. It had irregular sides with a rounded base (Plate 15). The cut contained fill (602) a firm grey (10YR 5/1) clay, with occasional sub-angular gravel and cobbles. No finds were recovered to date the fill.

2.31 No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 6.

FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery		Daub		A.Bone	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
202	2	60g	2	90g	8	35g
302	1	5g			6	25
Totals	3	65g	2	90g	8	35g

Pottery

2.32 Three sherds of pottery, weighing 60g, were collected from 1 unstratified and 1 stratified context. Two sherds of unsourced Romano-British sand-tempered grey ware were recovered from (202), the upper fill of pit [201]. These consisted of undiagnostic bodysherds from a single vessel. A rim fragment from a late 3rd century bowl in Harrold shelly ware (Brown 1994, Figure 31, no.193) was recovered from the overburden within Trench 4.

Recommendations

2.33 Given the small size and undiagnostic nature of the pottery assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Daub

2.34 Two joining fragments of daub, weighing 90g, were collected from upper fill (202) of pit [201]. These appear to be made from the local grey clay, tempered with small pebbles, chalk pieces and organic matter. Their presence indicates a structure in the immediate vicinity.

Recommendations

2.35 Given the small size and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Animal Bone

2.36 A total of 14 animal bone fragments, weighing 60g, was collected from two stratified contexts comprising (203) the lower fill of pit [201] and (302), the fill of linear [301].

2.37 The fragments consisted of largely unidentifiable pieces from probable mid-sized animals, such as sheep/goat or pig. Cleanly cut ends to some of the fragments demonstrate butchery practices.

Recommendations

2.38 Given the small size and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) lists all documented heritage assets within the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough administrative districts, including evidence of archaeological activity, ranging from chance finds to full-scale excavations. The HER was consulted on 05th July 2013, covering a 500m radius from the site centre.

- Slight evidence of prehistoric activity was recovered during an archaeological evaluation at The Rectory (EBD230), approximately 300m to the south-east. A boundary ditch, containing two sherds of prehistoric pottery, was encountered in one of the trenches.
- Trial trenching in the grounds of The Bury (EBD32), approximately 200m to the south-east, revealed two pits of possible Iron Age date.
- Barton-le-Clay has medieval origins (HER 17012). It is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as part of the holdings of St Benedict's Abbey at Ramsey. The manor had formed part of the abbey's land before 1066. The manorial site is now lost, but is likely to lie in Church End, close to the parish church.
- The hamlet of Church End, focused on the medieval parish church of St Nicholas, lies to the south. The church (HER 1014) was first mentioned in 1178 and consisted of an aisleless nave and chancel. It was largely rebuilt in the 13th century, with later additions of 14th – 15th century date.
- An area of lynchets (HER 1473), of possible medieval date, have been identified on the north facing slope of the Barton Hills, approximately 400m to the south-east.
- An L-shaped pond at The Rectory (HER 1016) was thought to represent the remains of a possible moat. However, there is no evidence for this and it seems likely that it may be the result of clay digging, or the enlargement of a natural watercourse.
- The Enclosure map of 1814 shows that the present site formed part of a large field called Dunstall. No buildings are marked on the site at this date.
- A cluster of listed buildings of medieval and post-medieval date lie along Church Street, between 100 and 400m to the south (DBD 1112, DBD 1114, DBD 1125, DBD 31175, DBD 3206). Another cluster is located around the junction of Bedford Road and the road to Sharpenhoe, between 400 and 500m to the north-west (DBD 1102, DBD 1103, DBD 1165, DBD 1204, DBD 3202, DBD 3203).

3.2 The combined evidence from a variety of sources indicates that the site lies in a medieval manorial landscape, with evidence for settlement activity dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods possibly preserved on the site. Slight evidence for later prehistoric activity has also been revealed in archaeological investigations to the south of the present site.

Aims and Objectives

3.3 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake et al 2007, Medlycott 2011), were they to be discovered.

3.4 It was considered that such an investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the village of Barton-le-Clay from the late prehistoric period onwards.

Collected Data

3.5 The excavation of five trial trenches across the site demonstrated a uniform stratigraphy comprising a topsoil layer between 0.10 and 0.40m thick above a layer of subsoil between 0.1 and 0.50m thick. The shallowest depth of overburden was recorded in Trenches 3 and 6 at 0.60m and the deepest was recorded in Trench 4 at 1.00m.

3.6 A small number of cut features were encountered in the evaluation trenches, most of which produced no dateable artefacts. The only dateable feature was in Trench 2, in the north-eastern corner of the site. A sub-rectangular pit, cut [201] produced two sherds of Romano-British greyware from its upper fill. Two fragments of daub, probably made from the local grey clay, and a few animal bone fragments, were recovered from the lower fill of the same feature.

3.7 Three linear features were exposed in Trench 3, to the south of Trench 2. Two of these, cuts [303] and [305], appear to represent east – west aligned plough scars of probable medieval or post-medieval date. Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation, following the same alignment, were also observed on the field surface. A pre-enclosure map of Barton held by the Bedfordshire CRO and dated 1778 (copy held by HER), demonstrates that the ridge and furrow in Dunstall Field did, indeed, run east – west.

3.8 A north – south aligned linear, cut [301], was encountered immediately to the west of [303]. No stratigraphic relationship between the two was visible within the trench, but their respective alignments suggest the possibility that [303] crossed [301] immediately to the south of the trench. No dateable artefacts were present in the fill of [301], suggesting that it represents a field boundary rather than a domestic enclosure ditch. No evidence for a boundary has been noted on the available cartographic evidence, indicating that this feature possibly pre-dates the medieval period and may be contemporary with the Roman pit in Trench 2.

3.9 Other undated features were recorded in Trenches 4, 5 and 6, including a northwest to southeast aligned feature in Trench 4 and three north – south aligned features in Trench 5. Two possible ditch termini were also present in Trenches 4 and 6.

Conclusions

3.10 The study area lies in a defined archaeological landscape close to the medieval hamlet of Church End, with evidence for late prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Although the present project did not produce clear evidence for prehistoric or medieval occupation it did reveal

evidence for Roman activity, together with a number of undated, possibly Roman, features. Clear evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation, of medieval or early post-medieval date, was also recorded on the site.

3.11 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb significant archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods except the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods where the risk may be considered to be *Moderate* to *High*. The Romano-British remains may be considered, potentially, to be of regional significance and could contribute to a better understanding of the hierarchy of rural Romano-British settlement. The medieval and post-medieval remains are more likely to be considered to be of local significance, demonstrating agricultural practice on the edge of a manorial settlement.

Confidence Rating

3.12 In the course of the trial trenching programme, the weather, ground and light conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, there are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for this stage of the project that was less than *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

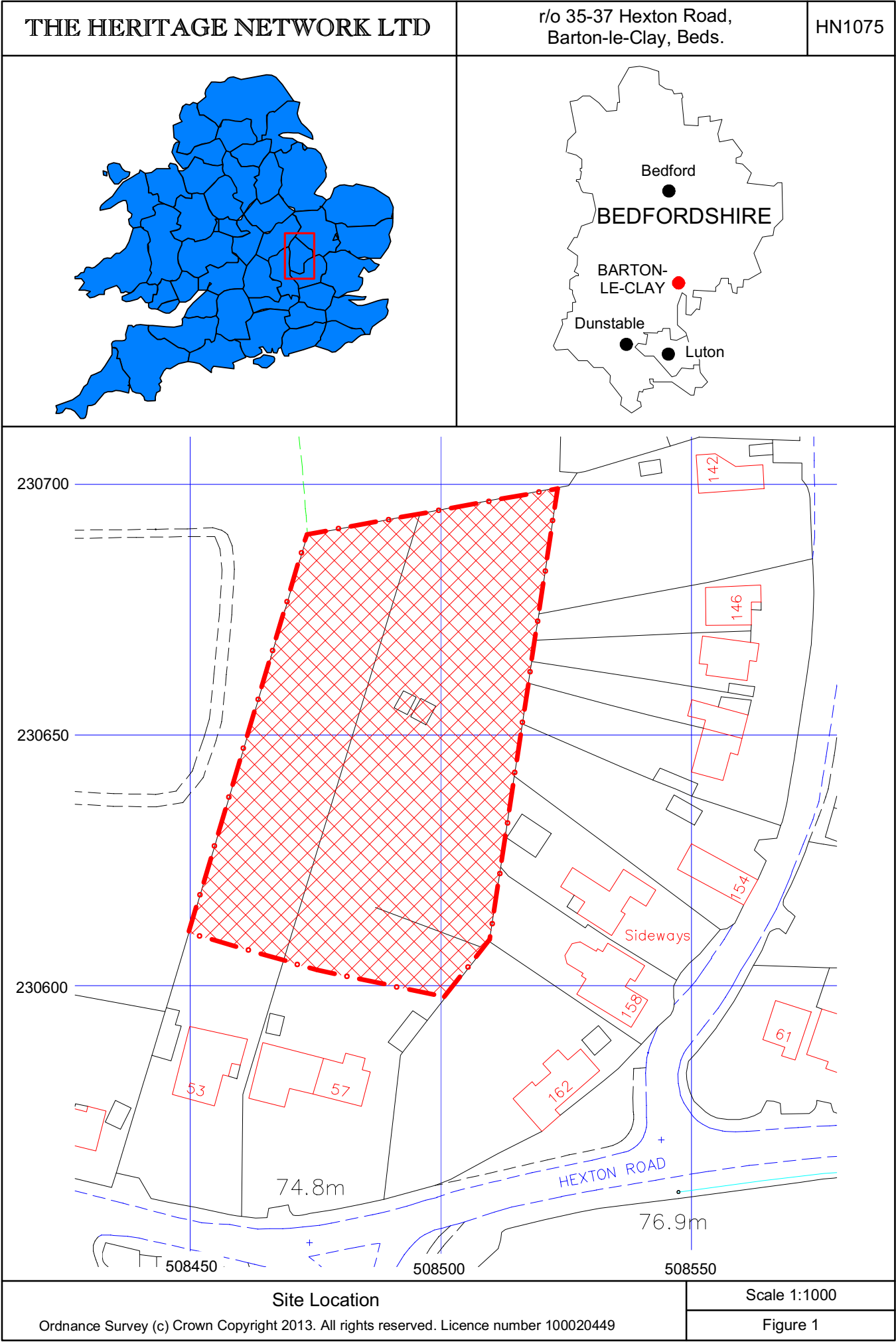
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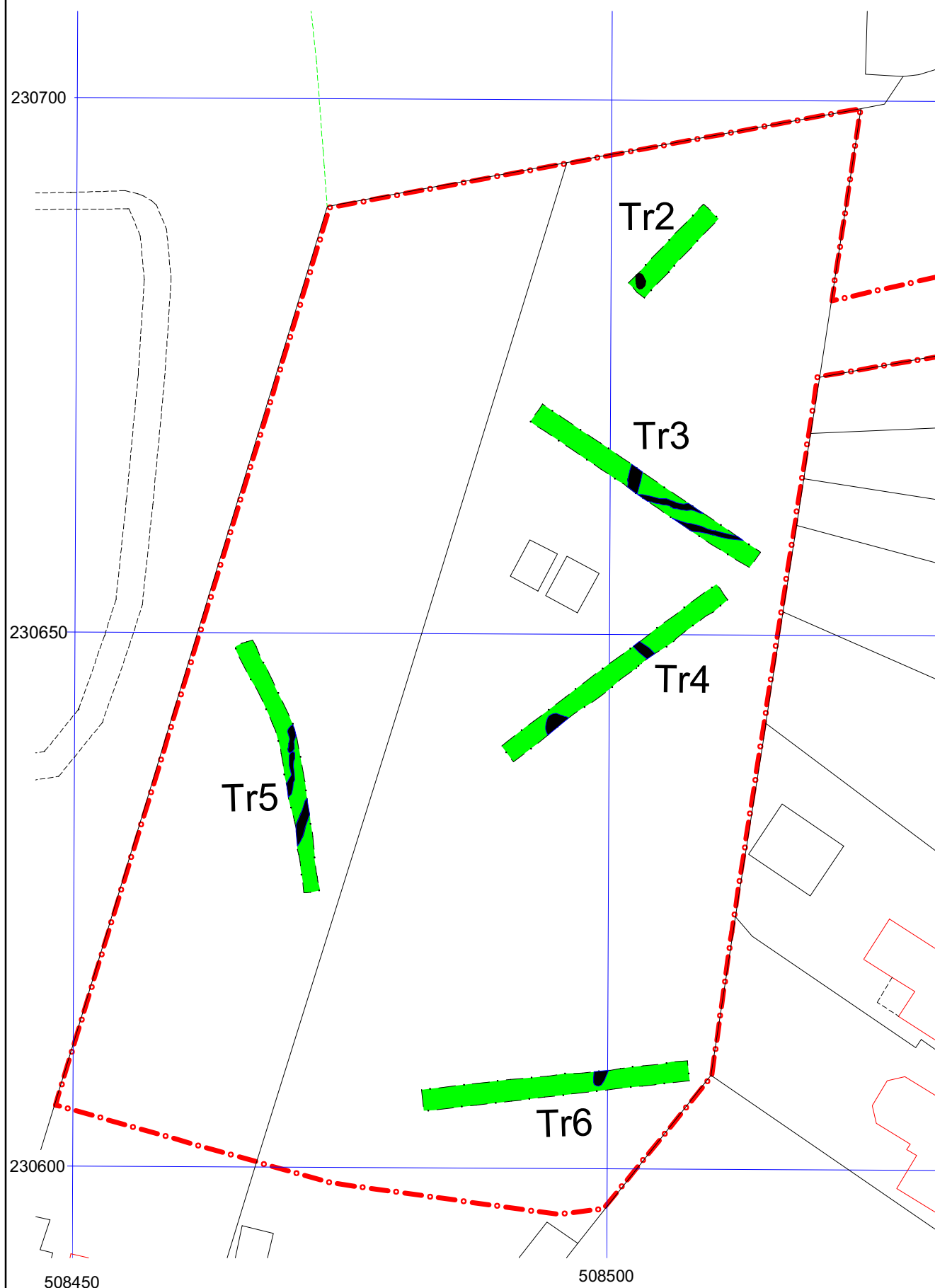
5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench location
Figure 3	Trench 2: plan and section
Figure 4	Trench 3: plan and section
Figure 5	Trench 4: plan and section
Figure 6	Trench 5: plan and Section
Figure 7	Trench 6: plan and Section
Figure 8	Feature sections

Plate 1	Trench 2, looking NE
Plate 2	[201] looking NW
Plate 3	Trench 3, looking NW
Plate 4	[301], looking SW
Plate 5	[303] & [305] looking W
Plate 6	Trench 4 looking NE
Plate 7	[401] looking SE
Plate 8	[405], looking SE
Plate 9	Trench 5, looking S
Plate 10	Trench 5, ridge and furrow looking NE
Plate 11	[501] looking SW
Plate 12	[503] looking S
Plate 13	[505] looking N
Plate 14	Trench 6 looking W
Plate 15	[601] looking N

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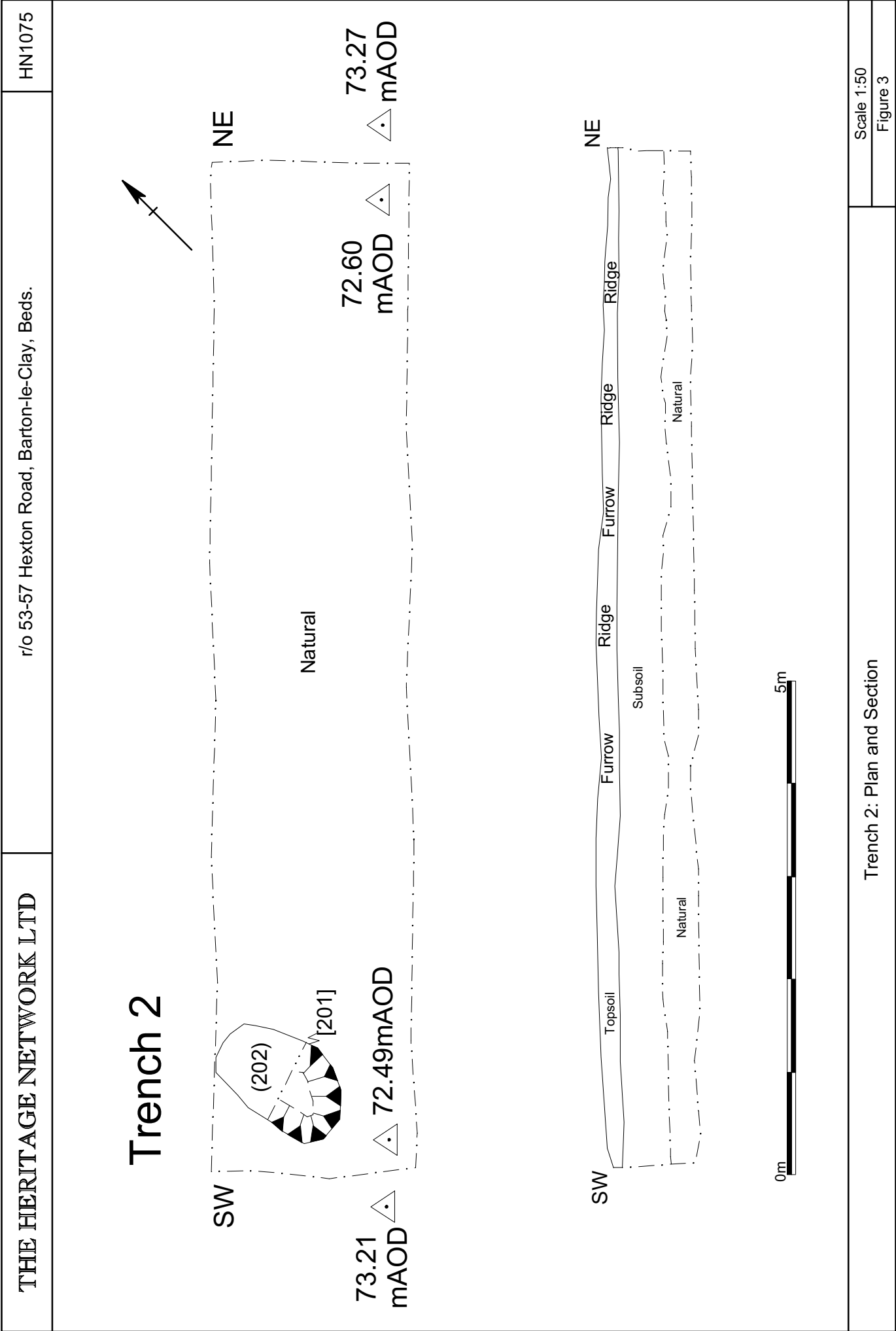


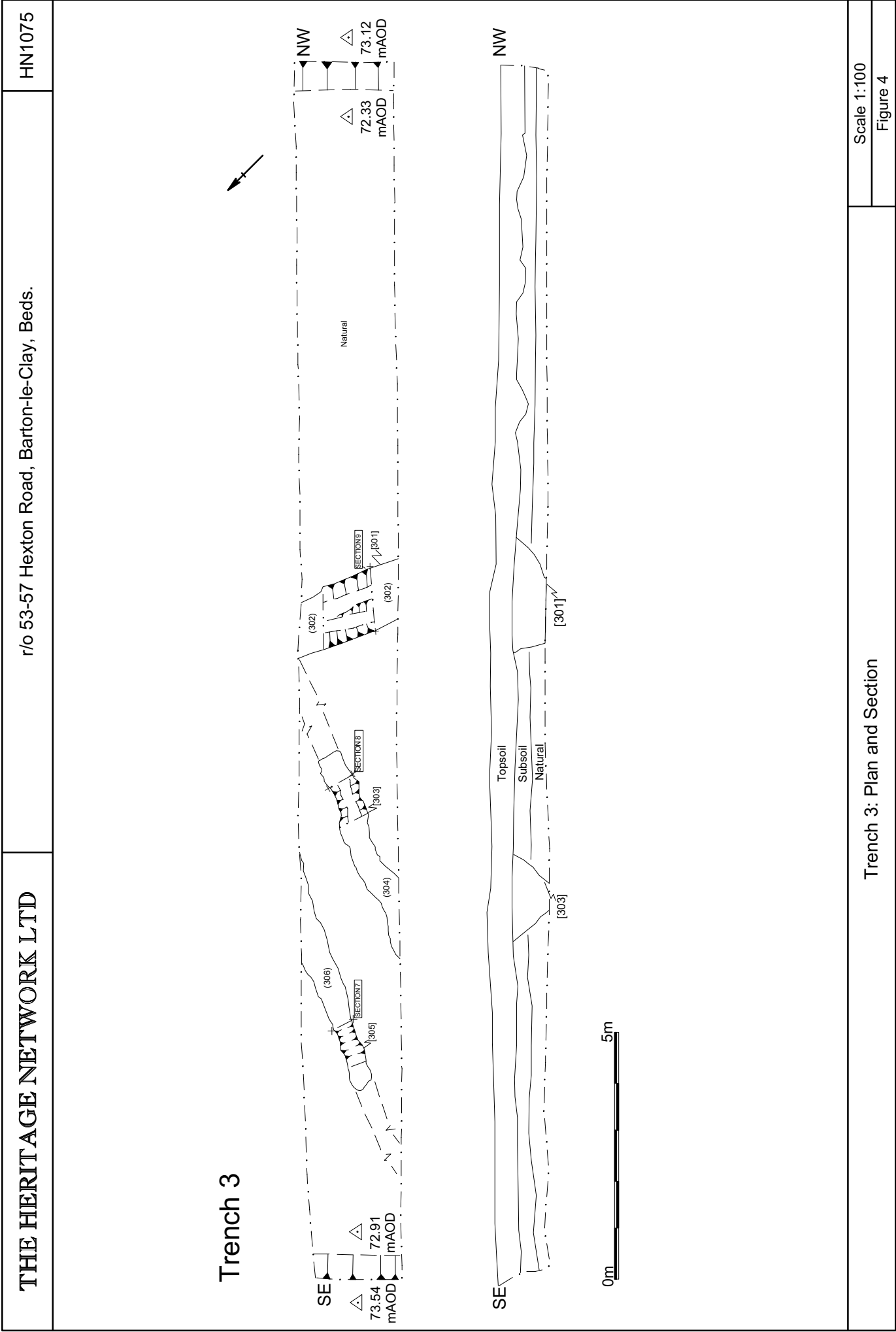
Trench locations

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Scale 1:500

Figure 2

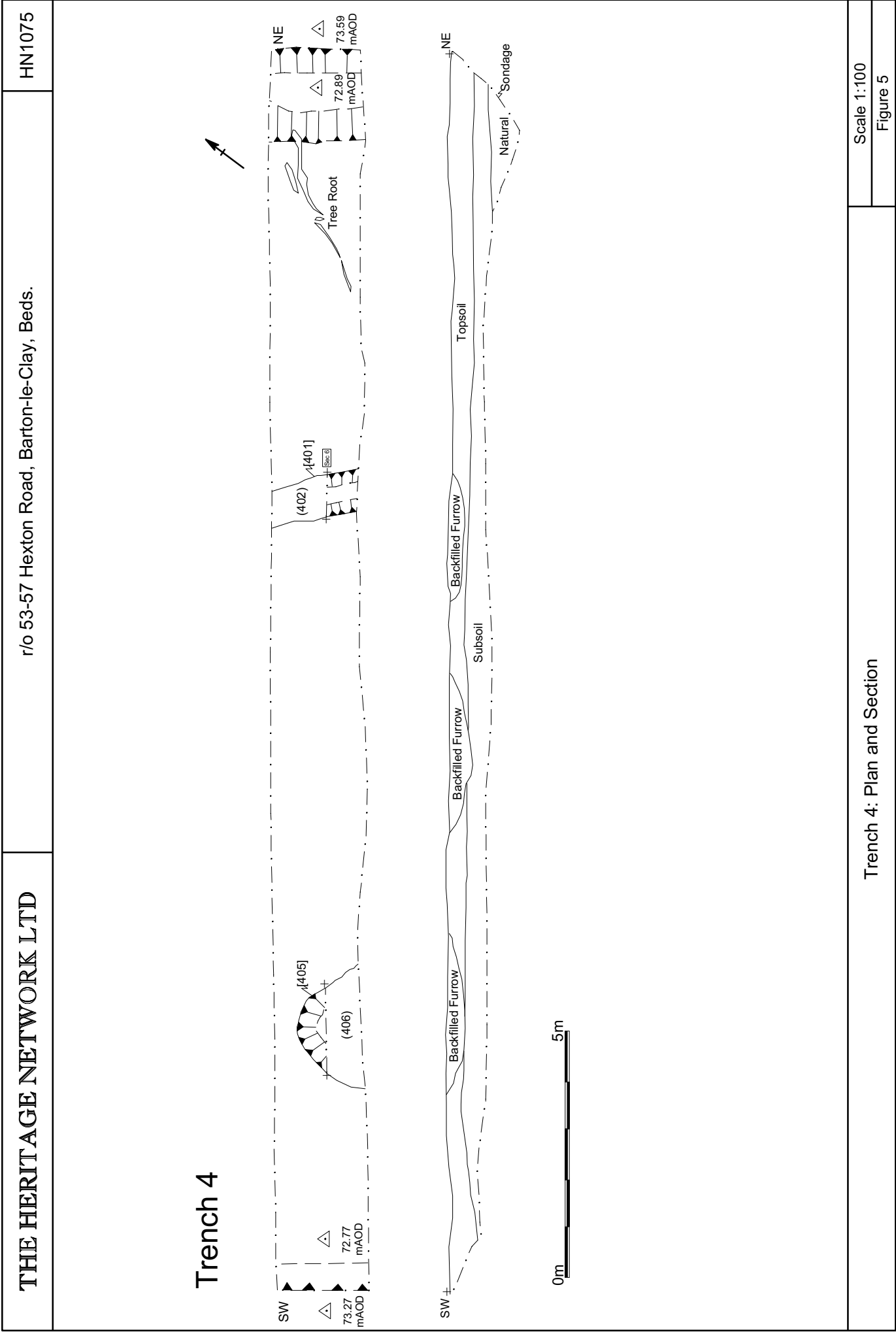


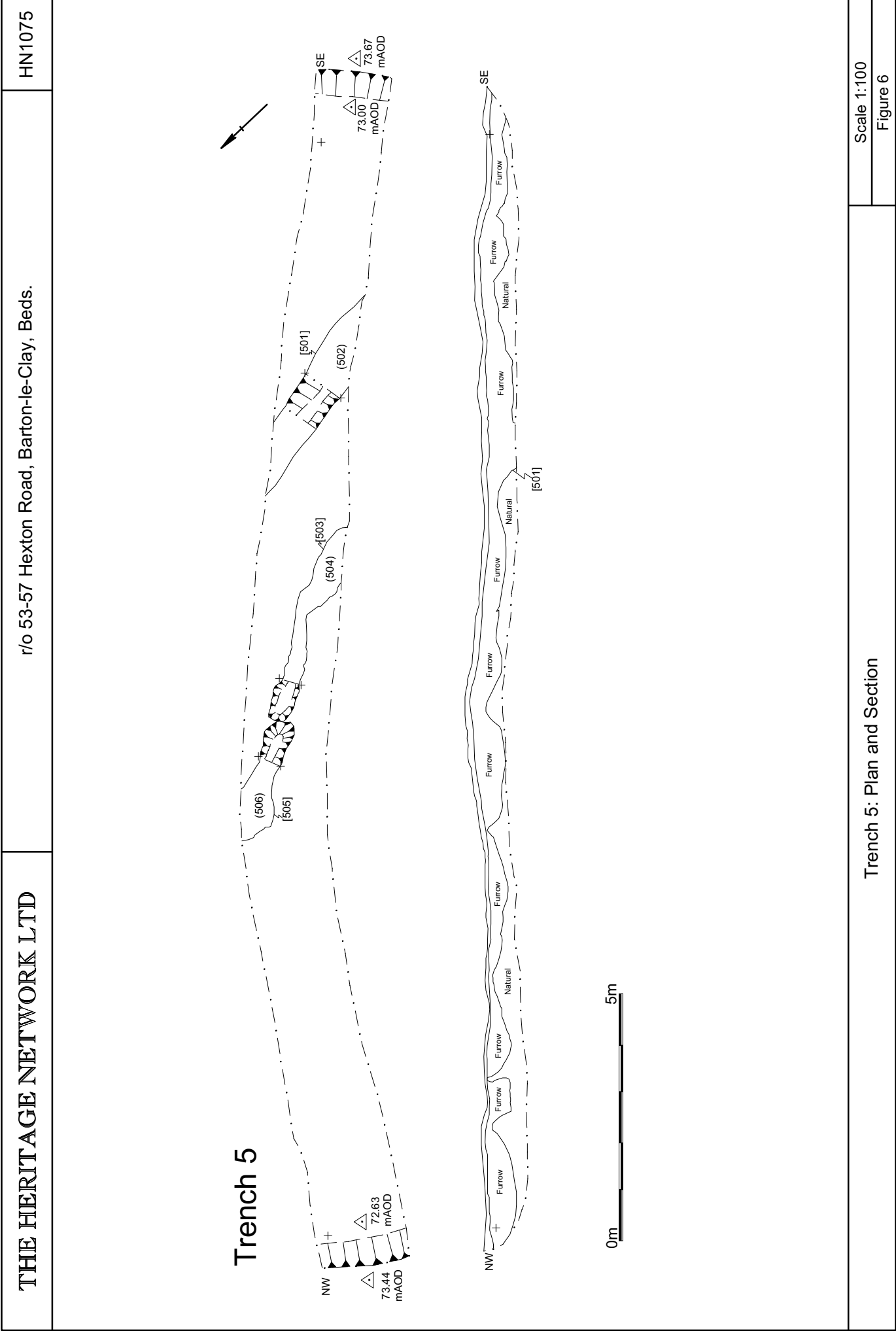


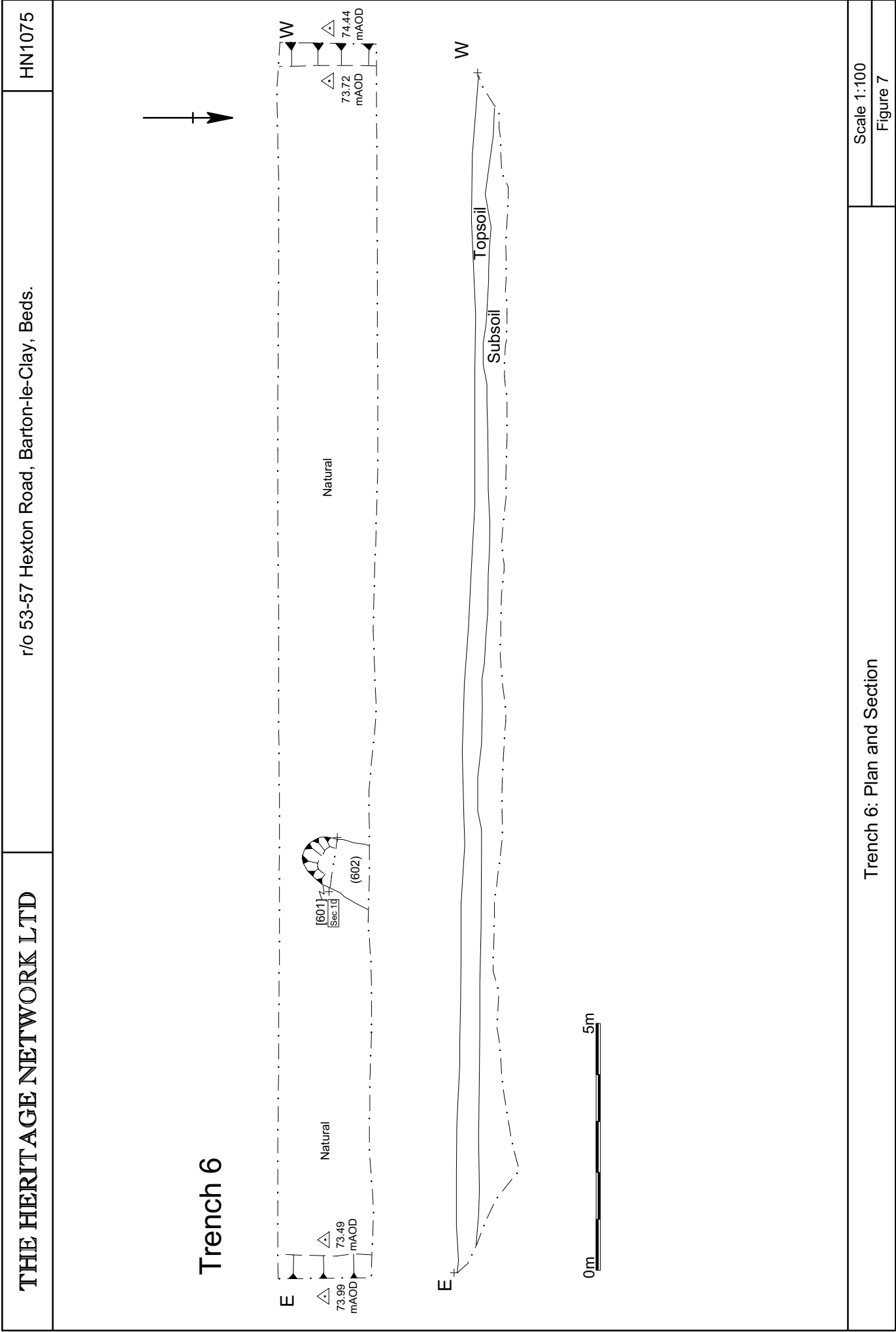
Trench 3: Plan and Section

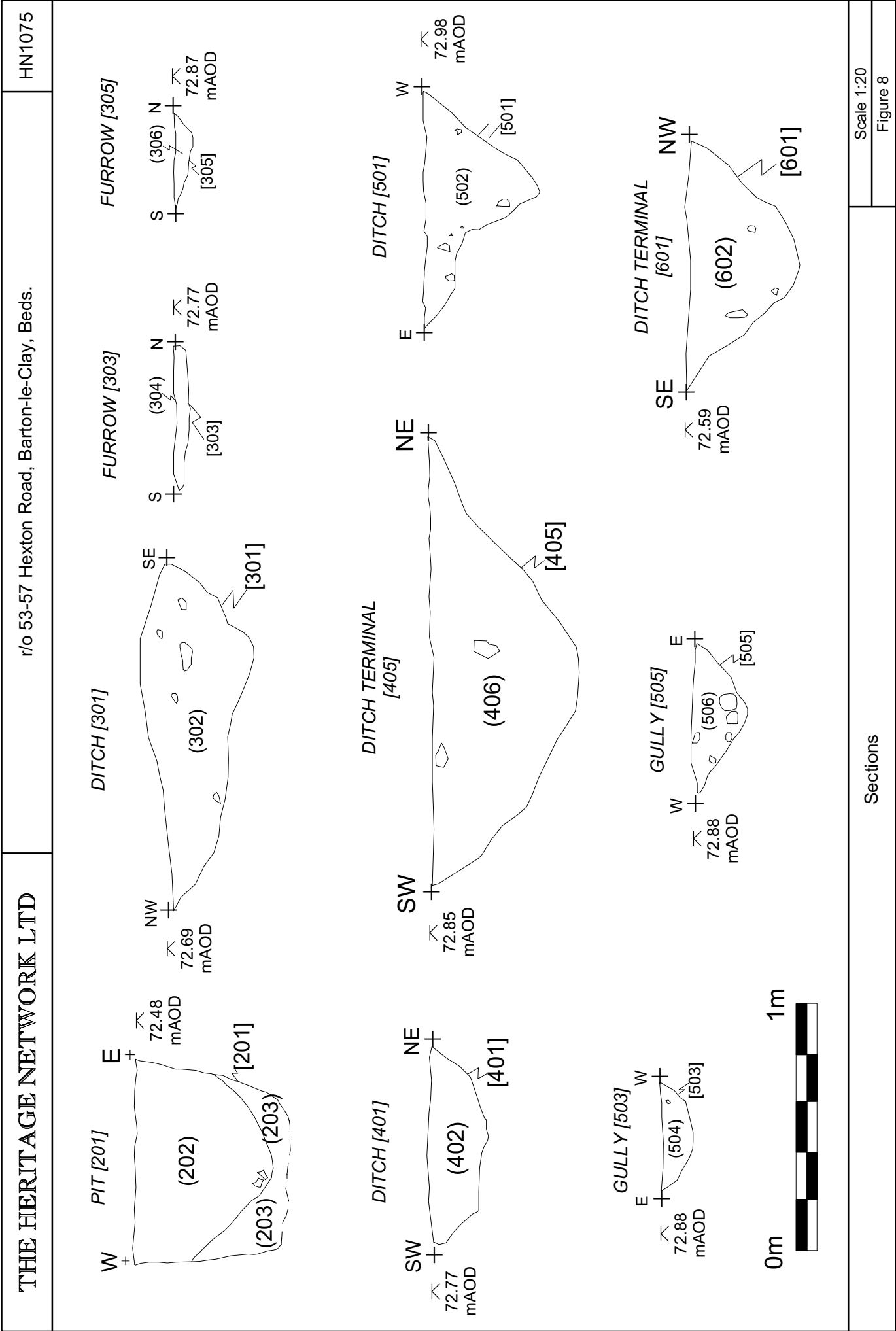
Scale 1:100

Figure 4









Sections

Scale 1:20

Figure 8



Plate 1: Trench 2 looking NE



Plate 2: [201] looking NW



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking NW



Plate 4: [301] looking SW



Plate 5: [303] & [305] looking W



Plate 6: Trench 4 looking NE



Plate 7: [401] looking SE



Plate 8: [405] looking SE



Plate 9: Trench 5 looking S



Plate 10: Trench 5 Ridge and Furrow looking NE



Plate 11: [501] looking SW



Plate 12: [503] looking S



Plate 13: [505], looking N



Plate 14: Trench 6 looking W



Plate 15: [601] looking N

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-153985	
Project details	
Project name	Barton-le-Clay, 53-57 Hexton Road
Short description of the project	<p>In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new development site located on land to the rear of 53-57 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of targeted trial trenching.</p> <p>Five trial trenches were excavated across the site, focusing on the areas of greatest potential impact. The trenches revealed five undated linear boundary features, a pit containing Romano-British pottery sherds, two gullies and remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation.</p> <p>On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb significant archaeological remains may be considered to be Low for all periods except the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods where the risk may be considered to be Moderate to High. The Romano-British remains may be considered, potentially, to be of regional significance and could contribute to a better understanding of the hierarchy of rural Romano-British settlement. The medieval and post-medieval remains are more likely to be considered to be of local significance, demonstrating agricultural practice on the edge of a manorial settlement.</p>
Project dates	Start: 08-10-2013 End: 11-10-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1075 - Contracting Unit No.
Associated project reference codes	LUTNM 2013/17 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE BARTON LE CLAY land at 53-57 Hexton Road
Postcode	MK45 4JY
Study area	5460.00 Square metres

Site coordinates	TL 0849 3062 51 0 51 57 46 N 000 25 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 72.00m Max: 74.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Helen Ashworth
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of funding body	Developer
Name of funding body	Irwin and Simpson Property Developments Ltd.
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Luton
Physical Archive ID	2013/17
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Luton Museum
Digital Archive ID	2013/17
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Luton
Paper Archive ID	2013/17
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to r/o 53-57 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Beds.: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report Number: 822
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	The Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	A4 booklet, green cover, 16 pages, 8 figures, 15 plates