

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Keepmoat Homes

Land east of St Mary's Terrace
Coxhoe
County Durham
archaeological evaluation

report 4418
March 2017

Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	Project background	2
3.	Landuse, topography and geology	2
4.	Historical and archaeological background	3
5.	The evaluation trenches	3
6.	The artefacts	5
7.	The palaeoenvironmental evidence	5
8.	The archaeological resource	5
9.	Impact assessment	6
10.	Recommendations	6
11.	Sources	6
	Appendix 1: Data table	7
	Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix	8

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Trench locations
Figure 3:	Trenches 1-8, plans and sections
Figure 4:	Trenches 9-17, plans and sections
Figure 5:	Trenches 18-24, plans and sections
Figure 6:	Trench 19, field boundary ditch F1, looking north

1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation conducted in advance of a proposed development at land east of St Mary's Terrace, Coxhoe, County Durham. The works comprised the excavation of 24 trenches across the site.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Keepmoat Homes and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 Furrows, the remains of medieval or post-medieval ploughing, were recorded in several trenches. A post-medieval field boundary ditch was recorded in Trench 19. This boundary is shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps.

Recommendations

- 1.4 No significant archaeological deposits were identified that would be impacted on by development of the site. As no significant archaeological resource was identified, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at land east of St Mary's Terrace, Coxhoe, County Durham (NGR centre: NZ 315 368). It covers an area of approximately 6.7 ha. The site is surrounded by farmland to the north, east and south, to the west is the B6219.

Development proposal

- 2.2 A residential development is planned for the site.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.
- 2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology.

Written Scheme of Investigation

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by AD Archaeology, and a Method Statement by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS17.106).

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th and 20th March 2017. This report was prepared for March 2017.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Jeffery Lowrey and Matthew Claydon (supervisor). This report was prepared by Matthew Claydon, with illustrations by Dr Helen Drinkall. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **CSM17**, for **Coxhoe St Mary's 2017**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Bowes Museum in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-279598**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised an open field.
- 3.2 The survey area was on a gradual slope rising from approximately 92m OD in the south to 97m OD in the north.

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Pennine middle coal measures overlain by Devensian Till.

4. Historical and archaeological background

Previous archaeological works

- 4.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2014 (Watson 2014). The survey identified anomalies interpreted as being of low archaeological potential, probably relating to agricultural activity.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

- 4.2 There are no known prehistoric finds or features from the site, although an Iron Age settlement has been recorded 500m south-east of the site.

The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

- 4.3 The Roman road known as Cades Road is believed to lie under the route of the B6219 immediately west of the site.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.4 Coxhoe developed through the medieval period. A second settlement known as Coxhoe East House was deserted by the early 15th century. Coxhoe Hall was built around 1400, but demolished in the 1950s.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.5 The modern village developed significantly during the 18th and 19th centuries with the population increasing from 117 in 1801 to 3904 by 1841.

5. The evaluation trenches (Figures 3 & 4)

Introduction

- 5.1 Twenty four trenches were excavated across the site (Figure 2) under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Trench 1

- 5.2 This trench was 50m long, and was located in the north-west of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (99m-97.5m OD). Towards the east end of the trench this was overlain by a spread of light brown loam [5: 6m wide, 0.2m thick] containing late post-medieval/modern debris including glass and brick (discarded). This material was probably used to level this part of the field in the modern period. Two field drains ran through it. The deposit corresponds to a discrete anomaly recorded in the geophysical survey. It was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam.

Trenches 2-4

- 5.3 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located in the west of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97.6m-94.5m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 5

- 5.4 Trench 5 was 50m long, and was located in the south-west of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (93.5m-91.80m OD). Towards the south end of the trench this was overlain by subsoil, a light brown loam [7: 0.2m thick]. This probably accumulated as a consequence of hill-wash. Over this was topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 6

- 5.5 This trench was 50m long, and was located in the south-west of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (92.3m-91.8m OD). The natural subsoil was cut by three plough furrows aligned roughly north-west/south-east. The furrows were approximately 1-1.5m wide and were filled by a light brown clayey silt. Over this was topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam.

Trenches 7-9

- 5.6 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located towards the west of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97m-92.6m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. Trenches 7 and 8 were located over a linear anomaly interpreted as a drain. A drain corresponding with the anomaly was recorded in Trench 8.

Trench 10

- 5.7 This trench was 50m long, and was located towards the centre of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97.6m-95.8m OD). The natural subsoil was cut by three plough furrows aligned roughly north-west/south-east. The furrows were approximately 1-1.5m wide and 3m or more apart. They were filled by a light brown clayey silt. Towards the east end of the trench was a modern drainage cut. This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam.

Trench 11

- 5.8 Trench 5 was 15m long, and was located towards the centre of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97.2m OD). Over this was topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trenches 12-13

- 5.9 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located towards the south of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97m-93.7m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 14

- 5.10 This trench was 50m long, and was located in the south of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (93.8m-93.5m OD). The natural subsoil was cut by a plough furrow aligned roughly north-west/south-east. The furrow was 2.5m wide and filled by a light brown clayey silt. Over this was topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam.

Trenches 15-16

- 5.11 These trenches were each 25m long, and were located towards the south-east of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97.5m-94.5m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trenches 17-18

- 5.12 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located towards the east of the site over a linear anomaly interpreted as a drain. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (97.8m-97.5m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. A drain corresponding with the anomaly was recorded in Trench 18.

Trench 19

- 5.13 This trench was 50m long, and was located in the north-east of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (98.9m-98.5m OD). A shallow ditch [F1: 2.8m wide, 0.25m deep; Figures 5 and 6] was cut into this, filled with a brown sandy clay [2], overlain by a grey sandy silty clay [3]. A clay field drain was cut into the ditch. Immediately above the natural and covering the features was topsoil [4: 0.4m deep], a thick brown clay loam.

Trenches 20-22

- 5.14 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located towards the north-east of the site over linear anomalies, including that of a presumed drain. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (98.6m-97.6m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. A drain corresponding to an anomaly was recorded in Trenches 21 and 22; the other anomalies were not identified.

Trenches 23-24

- 5.15 These trenches were each 50m long, and were located in the north-east of the site. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange boulder clay [6], was identified at a depth of 0.25m (100m-98.3m OD). This was overlain by topsoil [4: 0.25m deep], a thick brown clay loam. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No significant artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 Furrows, the remains of medieval or post-medieval ploughing, were recorded in several trenches. A post-medieval field boundary ditch was recorded in Trench 19. This boundary is shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps.

9. Impact assessment

- 9.1 No significant archaeological deposits were identified that would be impacted by development of the site.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 As no significant archaeological resource was identified, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

11. Sources

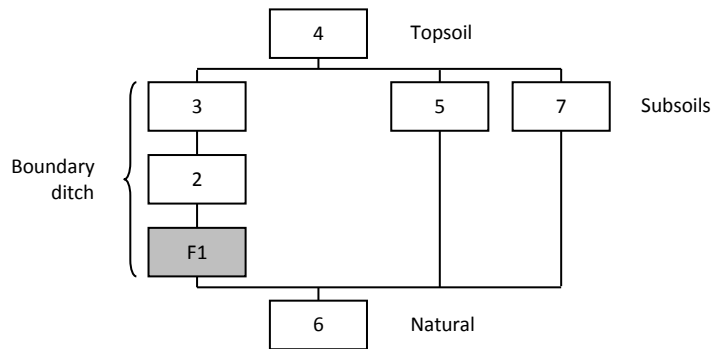
- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham
- Watson, E, 2014 *Land at Coxhoe; Geophysical Survey Report G1425*. GSB Prospection Ltd.

Appendix 1: Data table

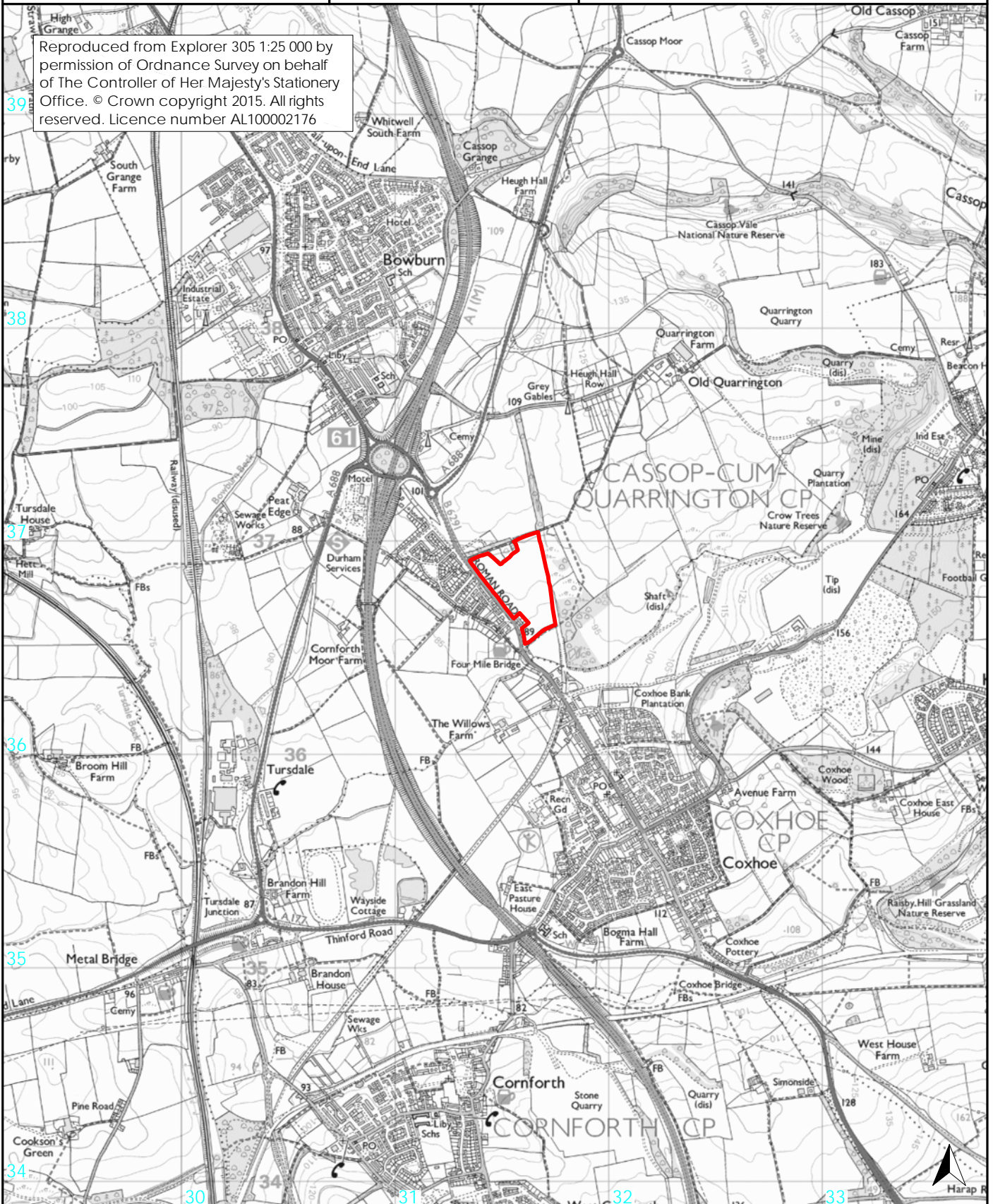
Table 1.1: Context data

No	Trench	Description
F1	19	Boundary ditch cut
2	19	Boundary ditch fill
3	19	Boundary ditch fill
4	All	Topsoil
5	1	Subsoil
6	All	Natural
7	5	Subsoil

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix

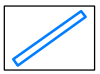


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 site location

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scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot



trench



feature

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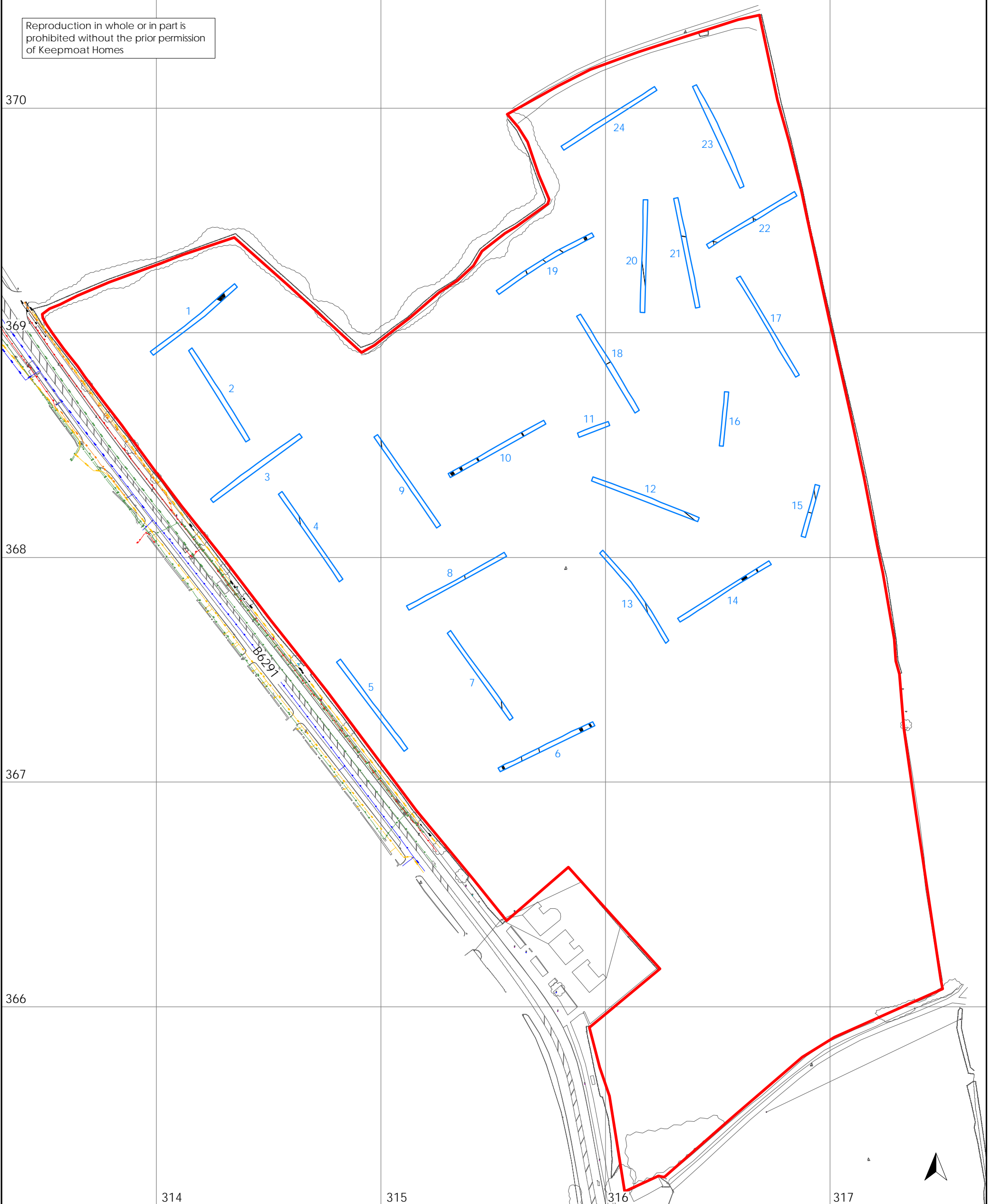
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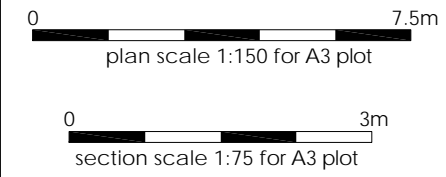
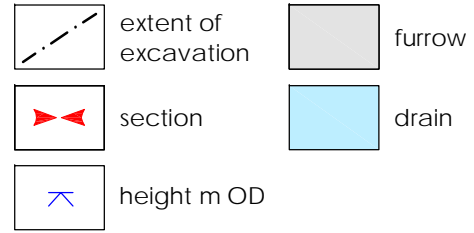
on behalf of
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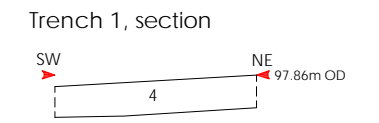
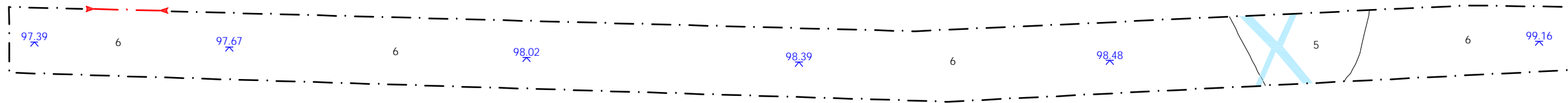
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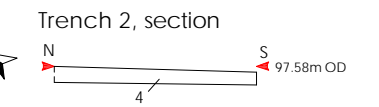
Figure 2: Trench locations



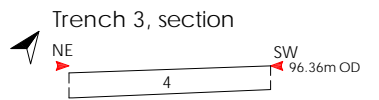
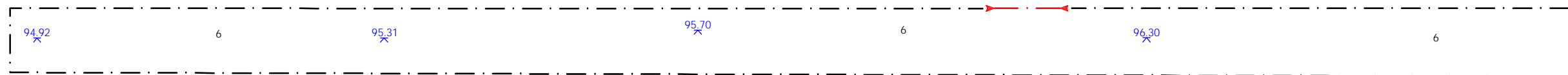
Trench 1, plan



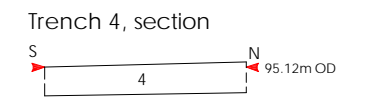
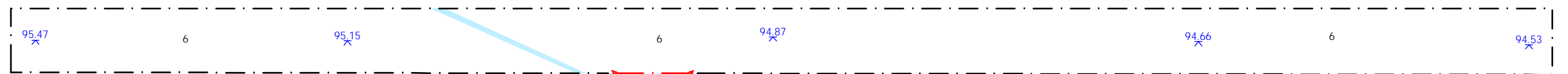
Trench 2, plan



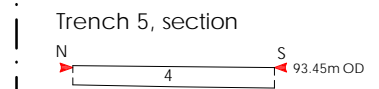
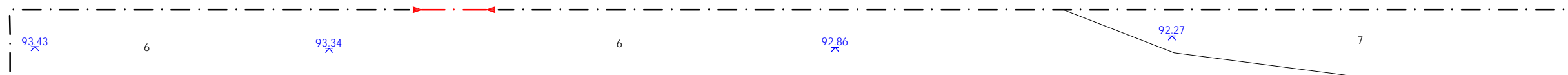
Trench 3, plan



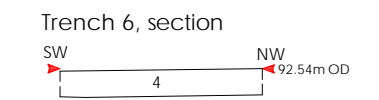
Trench 4, plan



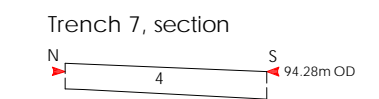
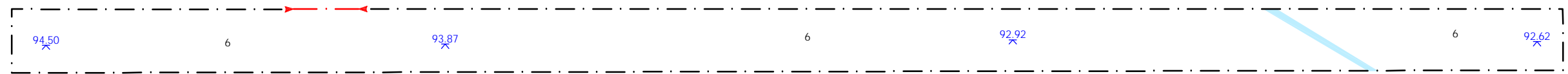
Trench 5, plan



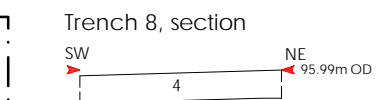
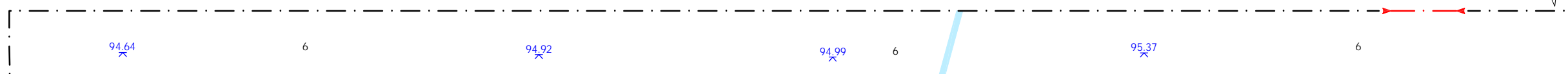
Trench 6, plan



Trench 7, plan



Trench 8, plan



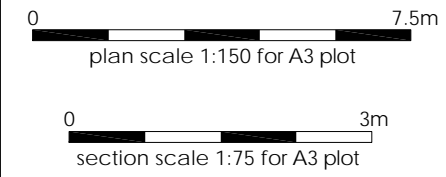
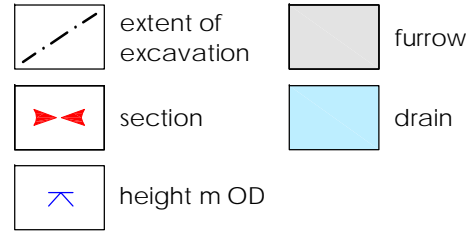
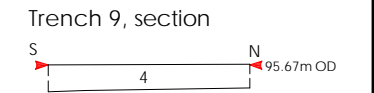
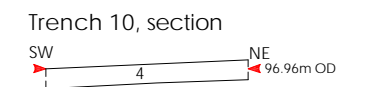


Figure 4: Trenches 9-17, plans and sections

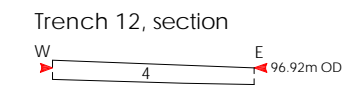
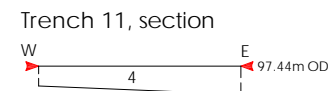
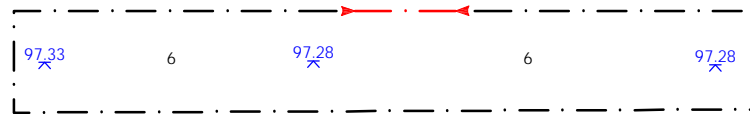
Trench 9, plan



Trench 10, plan



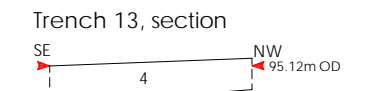
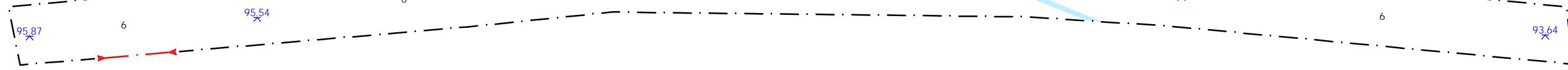
Trench 11, plan



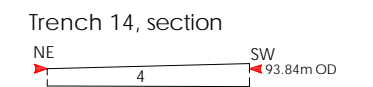
Trench 12, plan



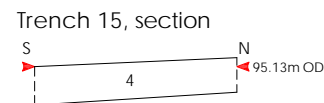
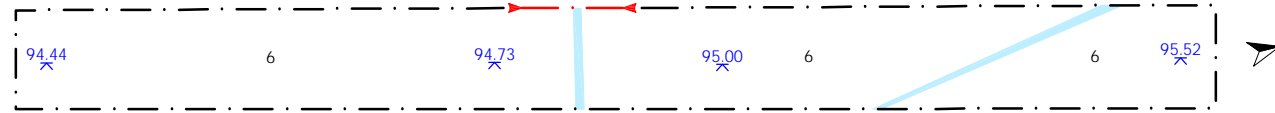
Trench 13, plan



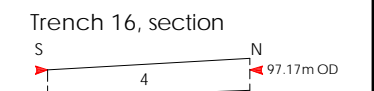
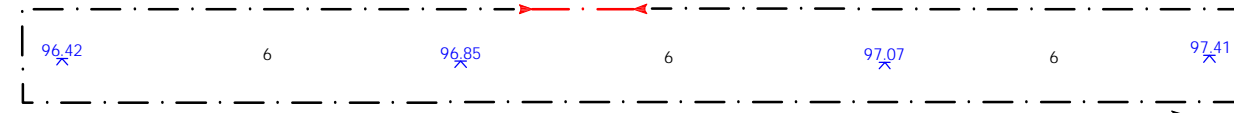
Trench 14, plan



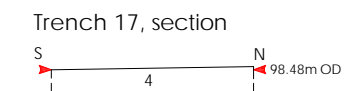
Trench 15, plan

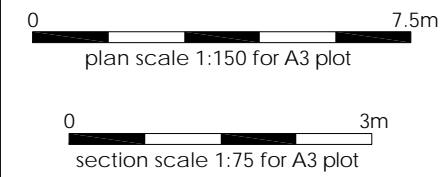
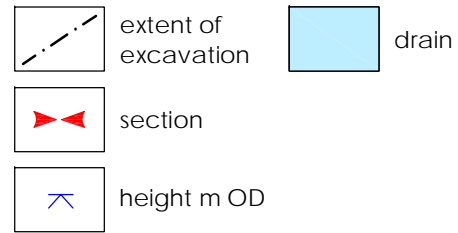


Trench 16, plan

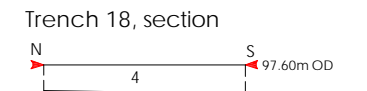
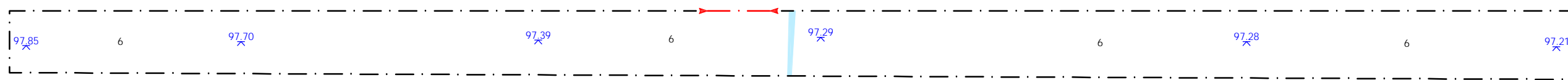


Trench 17, plan

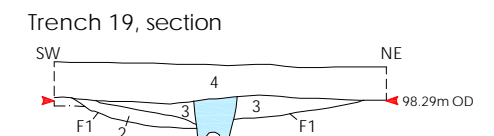
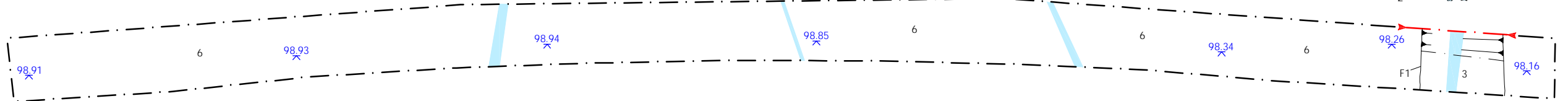




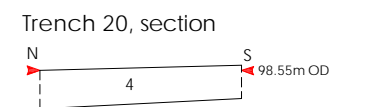
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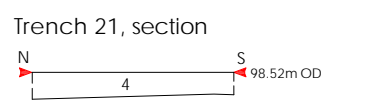
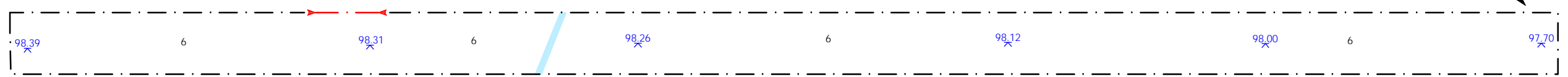
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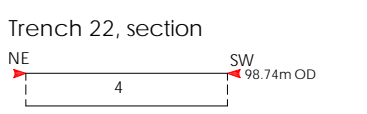
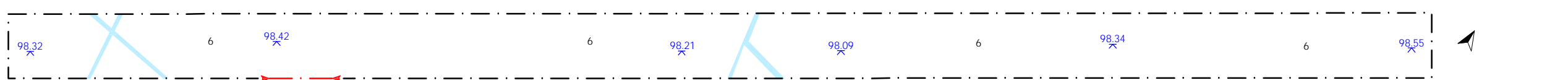
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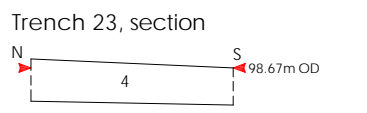
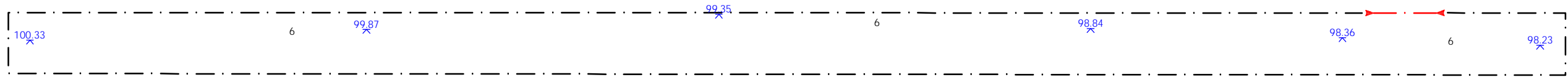
Trench 21, plan



Trench 22, plan



Trench 23, plan



Trench 24, plan

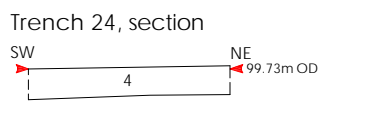
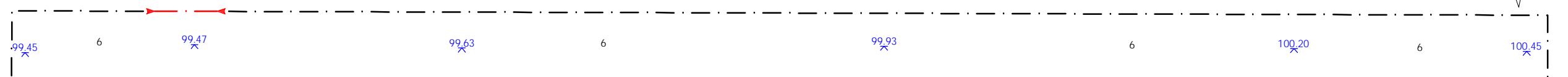




Figure 6: Trench 19, field boundary ditch [F1] with field drain, looking north