

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Harpers Developments Ltd

Startforth Lodge
Barnard Castle
County Durham

archaeological evaluation

report 5357
September 2020

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and earthwork survey conducted in advance of a proposed development at Startforth Lodge, Barnard Castle, County Durham. The works comprised the excavation and recording of six trial trenches, and a topographical survey of ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Harpers Developments Limited and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 Upstanding ridge and furrow was present across the site. This was recorded in the trenches and as an earthworks survey. No further archaeological resource was identified.

Recommendations

- 1.4 No further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) was located on land at Startforth Lodge, Barnard Castle, County Durham (NGR centre: NZ 0470 1625). To the north, south and west was housing, comprising the village of Startforth. To the east was the B6277 road, with the River Tees and Barnard Castle beyond.

Development proposal

- 2.2 A residential development is proposed.

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.

Research Objectives

- 2.4 The regional research framework *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation. In this instance, the scheme of works was designed to address the following research priorities: Roman Rii. Roads and communication, Rix. Landscape and environment; Later Medieval MDi. Settlement, MDii. Landscape.

Written Scheme of Investigation

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS19.564r) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken w/c 10th August 2020. This report was prepared for September 2020.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was supervised by Matthew Claydon. This report was prepared by Matthew Claydon, with illustrations by David Graham. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **BCS20**, for **Barnard Castle, Startforth 2020**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to County Durham Archaeological Archives 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 **archaeol3-402030**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of the survey the site comprised a single field of rough pasture. East / west aligned upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks were present across the survey area, cut by a north-east / south-west aligned stone-flagged public footpath across the centre of the field. A metal stop-valve tap was noted in the eastern part of the area. Brambles and nettles were present along the northern and eastern edges of the area. The area was bounded to the north and east by drystone walls with barbed wire. Beyond this to the east was the road and the river. To the north were residential properties. To the south was fencing and hedging to residential properties. To the west was Startforth Lodge and associated outbuildings.
- 3.2 The area occupied an east-facing slope on the west bank of the River Tees, with a much steeper slope in the centre. Elevations varied between 153m OD in the west to approximately 136m OD in the east.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises sandstone of the Stainmore Formation, which is overlain by River Terrace Deposits of gravel, sand and silt.

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 The following information is taken from a search of the County Durham Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 1km radius to the north, west and south of the PDA; the River Tees has been used as the eastern boundary of the HER search area due to the large amount of entries relating to Barnard Castle. Primary Reference Numbers (PRN) are shown in brackets below.

Previous archaeological works

- 4.2 A geophysical survey has been undertaken on the site (Archaeological Services 2019). Former medieval ridge and furrow cultivation in a flattened reverse 'S'-shape, which survives as earthworks, was detected across the survey area.
- 4.3 Several schemes of archaeological work have been conducted in the vicinity of the PDA. These include several desk-based assessments for Startforth Lodge (E46164; E46165), approximately 450m west of the PDA; desk-based assessment and subsequent trial trenching at Deerbolt, 250m north-west of the PDA; and a utilities watching brief across the A67 to the north-west of the PDA (E66415). In the main these works recovered information relating to the remains of the former Deerbolt Military Camp.
- 4.4 A programme of geophysical and topographic survey was carried out on land at Startforth (E63754), approximately 200m south-west of the PDA. The surveys identified former ridge and furrow cultivation and possible, uncharacterised, archaeological features.
- 4.5 The only other archaeological works recorded by the HER in Startforth relate to trial trenching and watching briefs at Holy Trinity Church (E44921; E64421; E64747) which recorded unmarked graves.

The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century)

- 4.6 There is little evidence of prehistoric occupation in Startforth, with only one possible prehistoric record, a former lynchet field-system (H1982), subsequently destroyed by military housing, approximately 400m north-west of the PDA.
- 4.7 Evidence of Roman occupation at Startforth survives in the form of the former Roman Road between the forts of *Lavatrae* (Bowes) and *Vinovia* (Binchester) (H4116), now the route of the A67, approximately 150m to the north-west of the PDA. Stone sculptures (H1985), originally described as being of household gods and a depiction of a boar, were recovered in the vicinity of the road, and originally believed to be Roman in date, although the boar is also the symbol of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who died at Barnard Castle, so the stones have been thought to be more likely of medieval date.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.8 The PDA lies to the immediate west of Barnard Castle conservation area (R41276). Barnard Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (1007505). This includes an early 12th century ringwork and 12th to 14th century keep, and sits on a cliff top above the River Tees, approximately 100m to the east of the PDA. The conservation area includes numerous medieval and post-medieval listed buildings in the market town and two medieval bridges: Deepdale Bridge (H1980), approximately 400m north of the PDA, and Barnard Castle Bridge (H1975), less than 100m north-east of the PDA. Both the bridges are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (1002321 and 1002353 respectively).
- 4.9 The Church of the Holy Trinity (H37016) is located approximately 300m south of the PDA. The current church was built in 1863, replacing a medieval church. An early medieval stone cross (H6383) has been recovered from the site, and probable medieval effigies, grave slabs and inhumations have also been recorded.
- 4.10 Further evidence of the medieval exploitation of the landscape around Startforth survives in the form of medieval field systems at Lartington Lane (H46806), just under 1km north of the PDA; and within the PDA itself, where ridge and furrow earthworks are recorded (H65058) along with an undated rectangular cropmark feature, reported to pre-date the ridge and furrow. A medieval lead spindle whorl was recovered from the River Tees in 1990, approximately 250m north of the PDA.

The post-medieval period and modern periods (1541 to present)

- 4.11 The village of Startforth expanded in the post-medieval period and there are numerous post-medieval HER entries regarding post-medieval buildings and architectural features in the village, including Startforth Manor House (H1981) and Startforth Hall (H1983), 350m and 400m south-west of the PDA respectively, both of which date to the 16th century.
- 4.12 Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) editions show little change within the PDA itself, which was probably in use as agricultural land from the medieval period until the present day. The PDA lies to the east of Startforth Lodge (H34949), a Grade II listed (1121656) early 19th century house subsequently remodelled and enlarged in 1853 for Robert and Mary Lodge. The garden walls, railings and gate (H37101) to Startforth Lodge, which comprise parts of the north-western boundary of the PDA, probably date from the 1853 remodel and are also Grade II listed (1161175).

- 4.13 Deerbolt Camp (H46154), a late 19th to early 20th century former military camp sits approximately 120m to the north-west of the PDA, and is now the site of a HM Young Offenders Institution and current housing development.

5. The evaluation trenches and earthwork survey

Introduction

- 5.1 Six trenches were excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figures 3 and 4). Trench 5 was relocated in order to avoid an underground service pipe.

Trench 1

- 5.2 This trench was 25m long, and was located in the west of the site. Natural subsoil, a red-brown clayey sand [2], was identified at a depth of 0.3m (150.4-152m OD). Over the subsoil was a dark brown loamy sand topsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered

Trench 2 (Photo 1)

- 5.3 Trench 2 was 25m long and was aligned north / south across upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks. Natural subsoil, a stony red-brown clayey sand [2], was identified at a depth of 0.3m (148.5m OD). This was cut by four plough furrows aligned roughly east / west. The furrows were evenly spaced, each approximately 1.5m wide and 4m apart. The ridges and furrows comprised dark brown loamy sand ploughsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 3

- 5.4 This trench was 15m long, and was located in the north of the site, along a plough ridge. Natural subsoil, a red-brown clayey sand [2], was identified at a depth of 0.35m (144.3-146.6m OD). Over the subsoil was a dark brown loamy sand ploughsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 4 (Photo 2)

- 5.5 Trench 4 was 25m long and was aligned north / south across upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks. Natural subsoil, a red-brown clayey sand [2], was identified at a depth of 0.4-0.6m (139.5-140m OD). This was overlain by an orange-brown sandy loam subsoil [3: up to 0.2m deep]. This was cut by four plough furrows aligned roughly east / west. The furrows were evenly spaced, each approximately 2m wide and 4m apart. These were recorded in section. The ridges and furrows comprised dark brown loamy sand ploughsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 5

- 5.6 This trench was 20m long, and was located in the north-east of the site, along a plough ridge. Bedrock was identified at the west end of the trench, overlain by natural subsoil, a red-brown clayey sand [2], identified at a depth of 0.5-0.7m (135.5-136.5m OD). This was overlain by a stony orange-brown sandy loam subsoil [3: 0.2-0.4m deep]. Over the subsoil was a dark brown loamy sand ploughsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 6 (Photo 3)

- 5.7 Trench 4 was 25m long and was aligned north / south across upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks in the east of the site. Natural subsoil, a red-brown clayey sand [2], was identified at a depth of 0.5-0.7m (135.4m OD). This was overlain by a stony orange-brown sandy loam subsoil [3: 0.3-0.5m deep]. This was cut by four plough furrows aligned roughly east / west. The furrows were evenly spaced, each approximately 2m wide and 4m apart. These were recorded in section. The ridges and furrows comprised dark brown loamy sand ploughsoil [1: 0.3m deep]. No artefacts were recovered.

Earthwork survey (Figures 5 and 6; Photo 4)

- 5.8 Trenches 2, 4 and 6 were positioned so as to provide sample sections and profiles across the upstanding ridge and furrow, in addition two further profiles were recorded. The profiles recorded a height difference between the base of the furrows and the top of the ridges of approximately 0.3m. The survey corresponded with the geophysical survey (Archaeological Services 2019), but the condition of the earthworks was insufficient to confirm a flattened reverse 'S'-shape plough regime typical of medieval oxen-driven ploughs. A north / south bank along the east side of the site is probably the result of upcast soil during the construction of the adjacent road, rather than a plough headland.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 Upstanding ridge and furrow survives across much of the site. No further archaeological resource has been identified.

9. Impact assessment

- 9.1 Groundworks associated with the development will remove the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. A record of the earthworks has been made, which mitigates this impact.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

11. Sources

Archaeological Services 2019 *Startforth Lodge, Barnard Castle, County Durham: geophysical survey*. Report **5207**

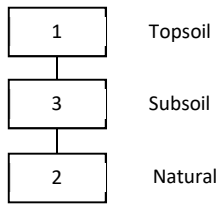
Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1.1: Context data

No	Trench	Description
1	1	Topsoil
2	1	Natural subsoil
3	1	Subsoil

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix





Photograph 1: Trench 2, looking south



Photograph 2: Trench 4, looking south



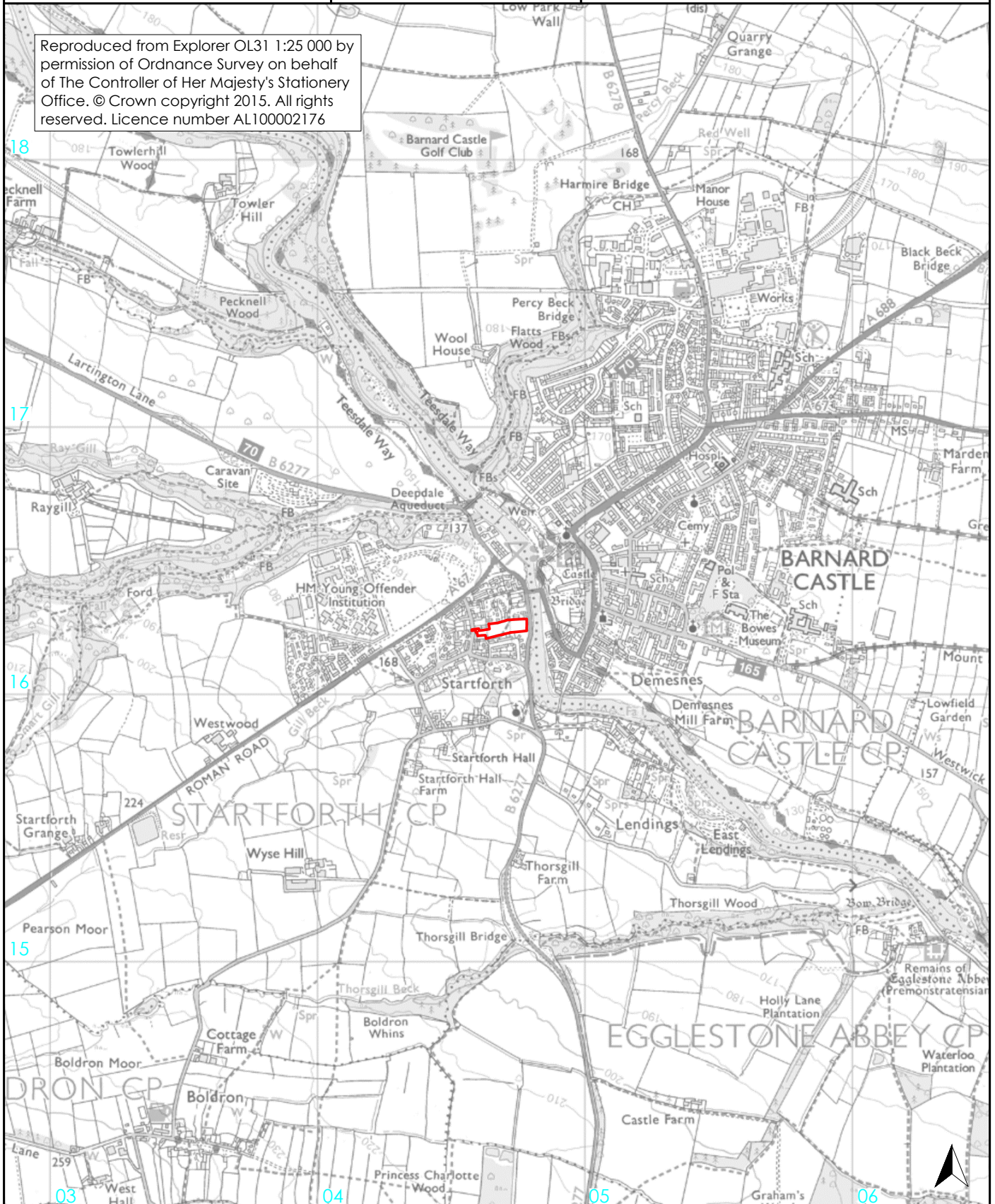
Photograph 3: Trench 6, looking south




Photograph 4: Ridge and furrow earthworks, looking north-east

Figure 1: Site location

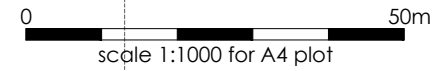
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 site boundary

0  1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

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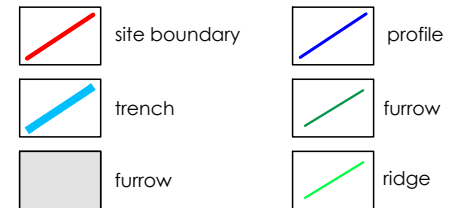
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Figure 2: Trench locations and topographic survey



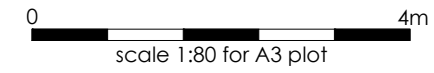
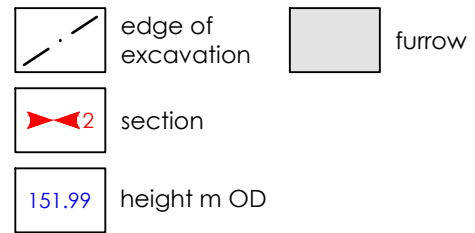
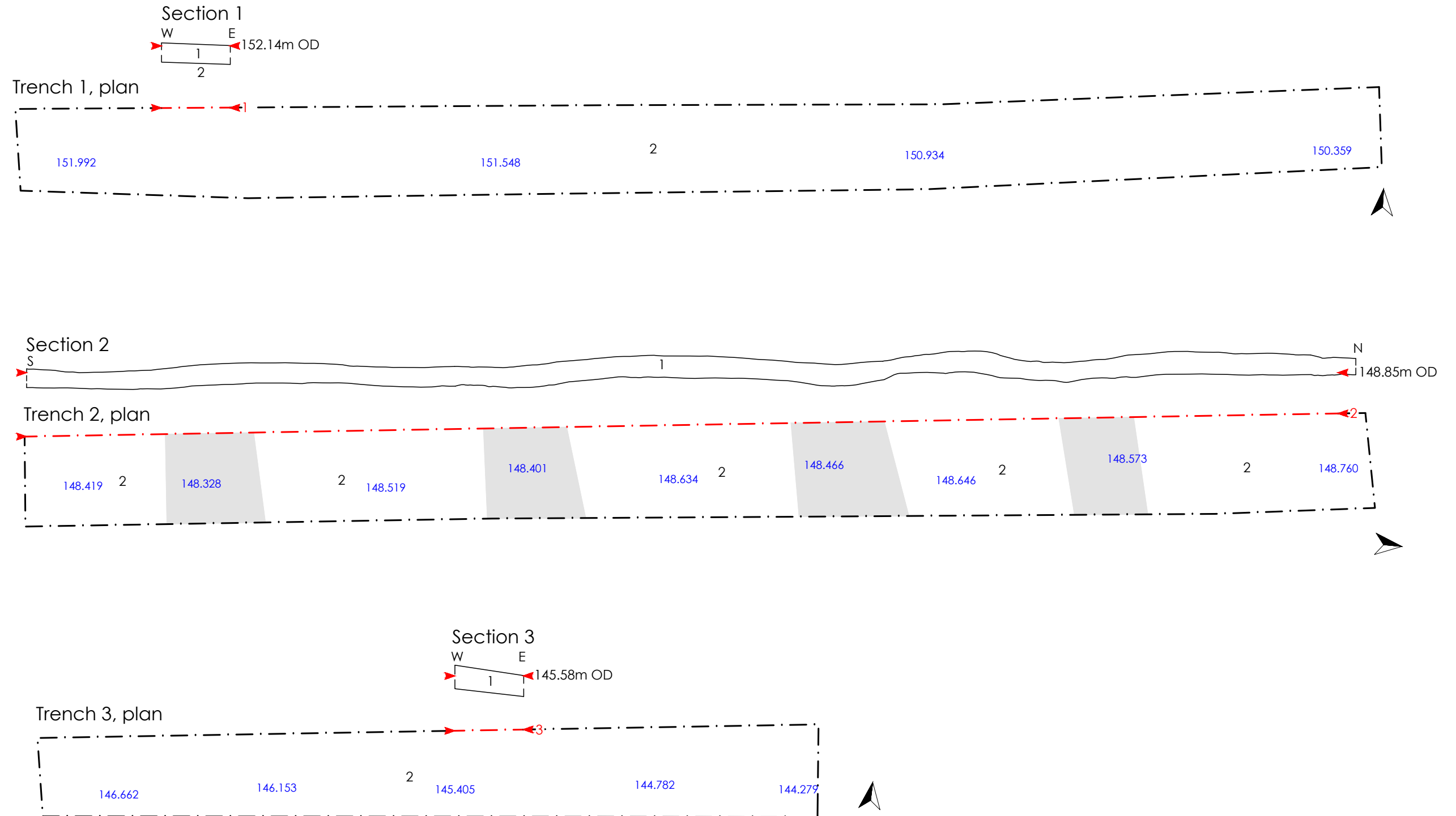


Figure 3: Trenches 1-3, plans and sections



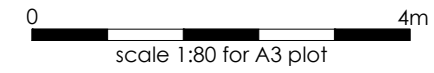
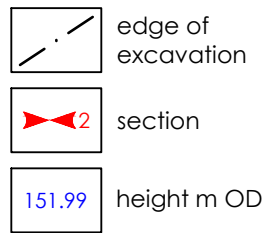
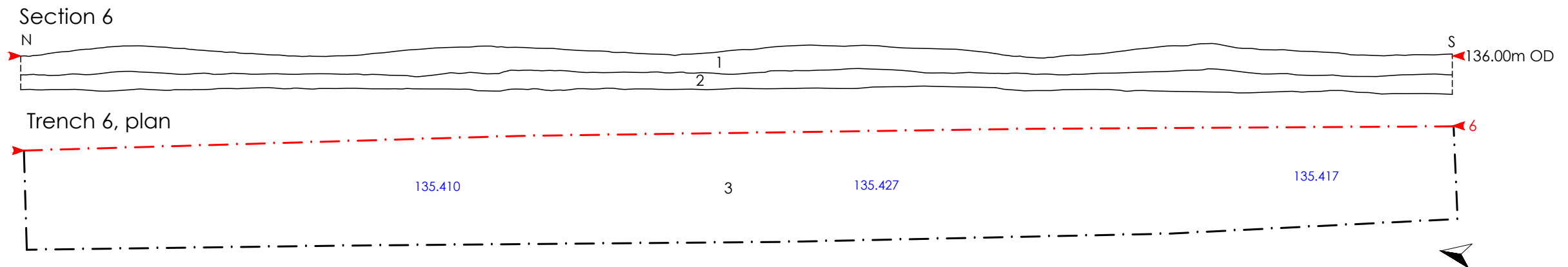
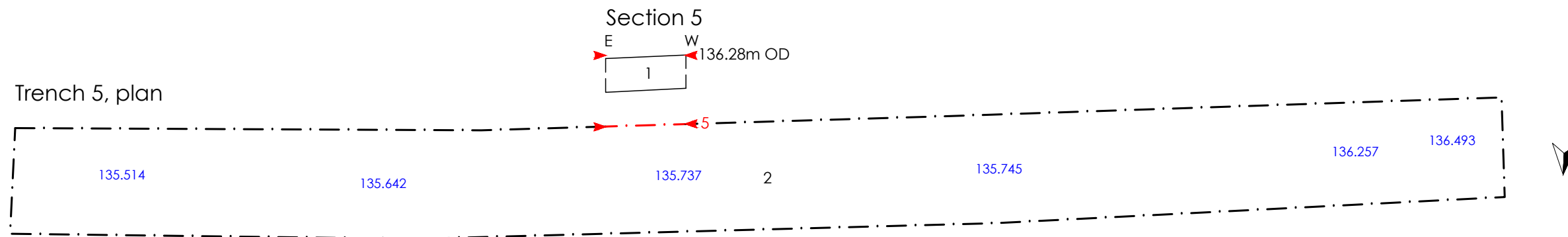
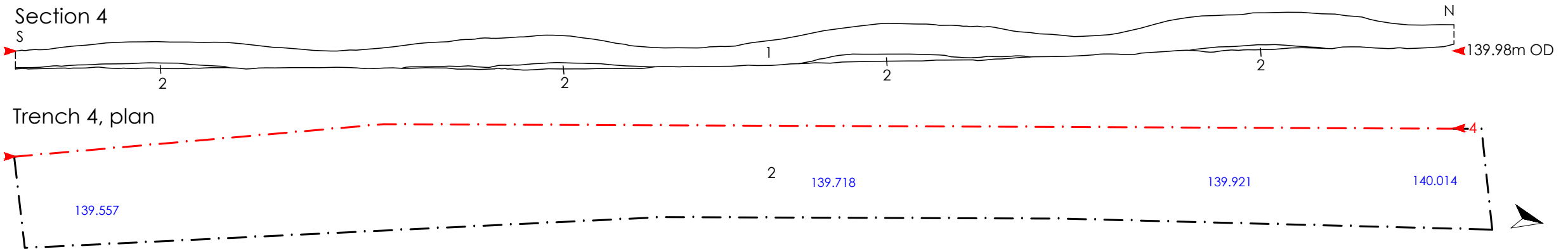
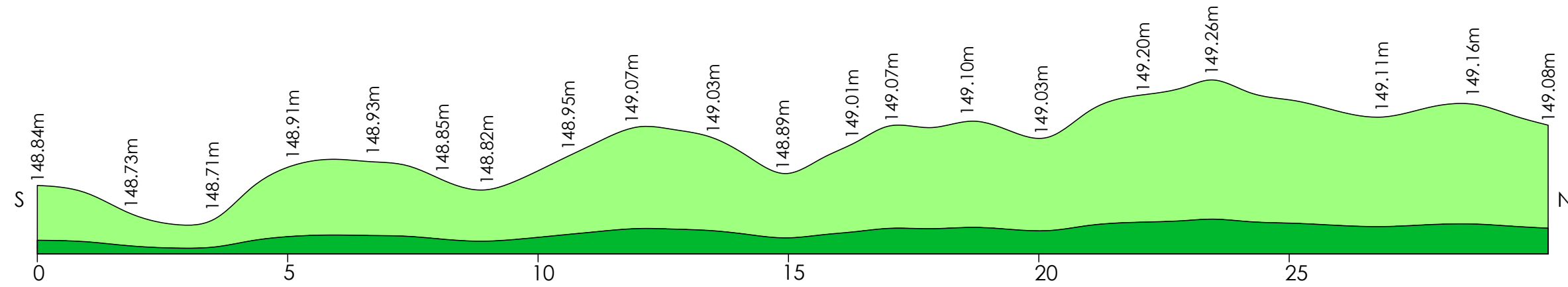
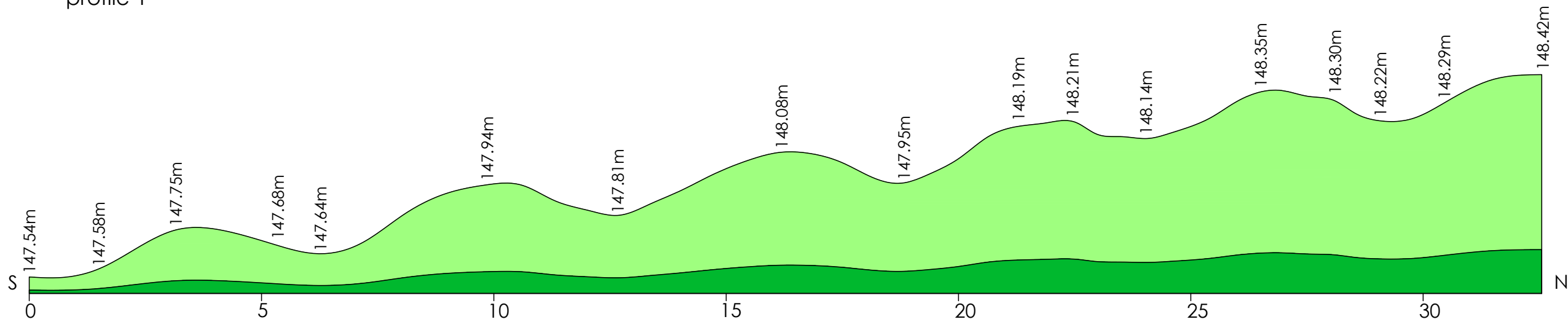


Figure 4: Trench 5 and 6, plans and sections

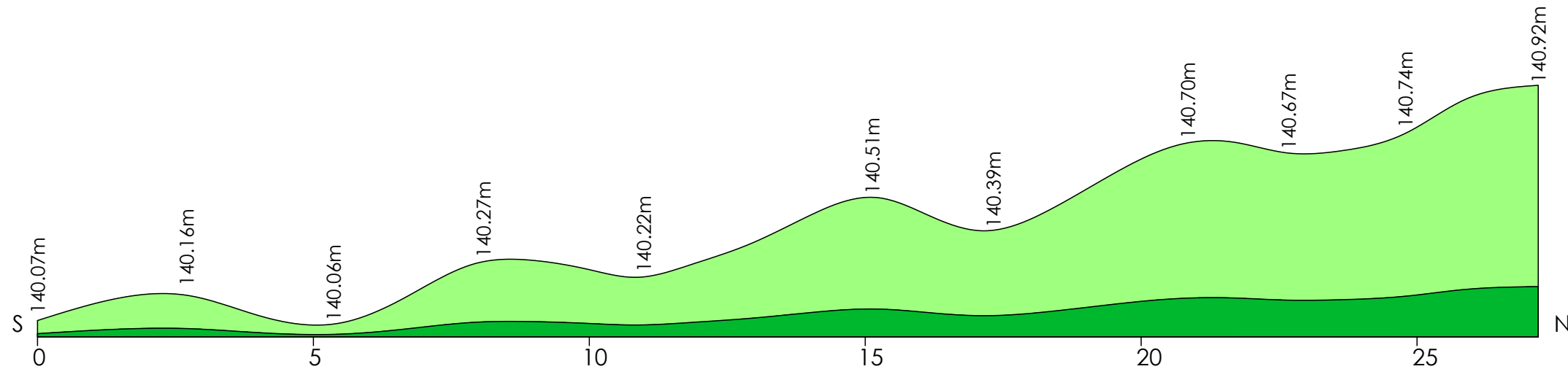




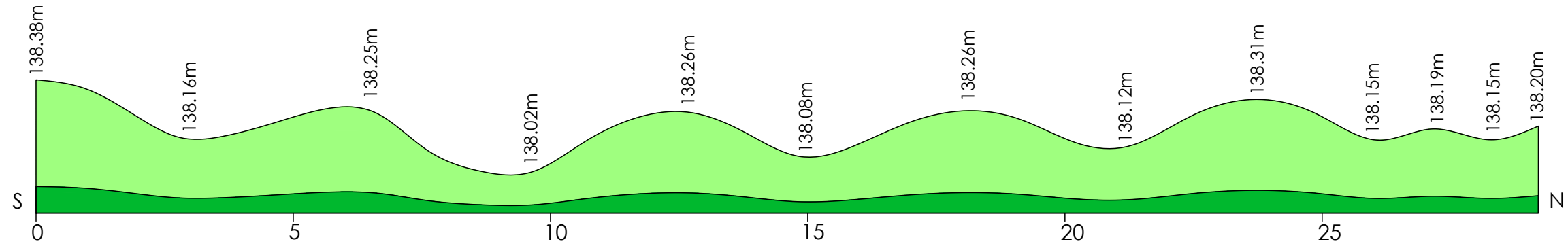
profile 1



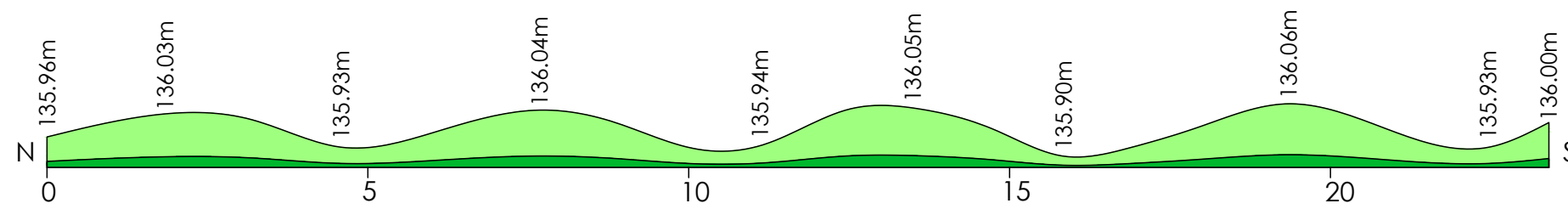
profile 2



profile 3



profile 4



profile 5