

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Rackenford, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 8818 1718	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Archaeological trench evaluation and watching brief at Gibbet Moor Farm, Rackenford, Devon		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 07/01849/FULL	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 50355	Museum Accession no: 69/2008	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6403	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 10 th and 17 th April 2008	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in April 2008 in advance of and during groundworks for the construction of an access driveway and hardstanding on Gibbet Moor Farm, Rackenford, North Devon.</p> <p>The site was located within the existing farm complex and adjacent pasture fields of Gibbet Moor Farm, approximately 3km to the southeast of Rackenford (Fig 1). It was located on an elevated position at around 270m AOD. The site was situated in an area of known prehistoric activity, with flint scatters and Bronze Age bowl barrows recorded in close proximity.</p> <p>Archaeological work comprised the machine excavation of four trenches, each 1.9m wide and with a total length of 99m using a wheeled digger fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The trenches were sited along the route of the access road and hardstanding area (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated through a consistent silt loam topsoil onto a natural subsoil that comprised a mixed light yellowish brown to light yellowish red firm clay with weathered sandstone at a depth of between 0.2-0.29m.</p> <p>No pre modern archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the evaluation trenches.</p> <p>The subsequent watching brief fieldwork principally targeted the recording of two hedgebank breaches along the route of the access road.</p> <p>Hedgebank 500, aligned east west, measured 3.00m wide and 1.3m high and comprised two flanking ditches 501 and 503 with the partial survival of the core of the hedgebank (505). Overlying the fills of ditches 501 and 503 and layer 505 was accumulated hedgebank material 500, which was heavily root-disturbed. No dating evidence was recovered (fig.3).</p> <p>Hedgebank 517 (comprising layers (521)(516) and (517)), aligned northwest southeast, bound the road to the northeast and measured 1.96m wide and 1.38m high. It consisted of a basal layer of dark red brown silt clay (521), over which the stone-rich core of the hedgebank (516) had been cast. A humic layer on top of the hedgebank (517) was heavily root-disturbed. No dating evidence was recovered. The hedgebank was flanked by ditches 511 and 513 either side of the central bank. Slumping of the north-eastern face of the hedgebank had resulted in a 0.46m thick accumulation of bank material over ditch 513 (fig. 3).</p> <p>Two agricultural ditch features 507 and 509 were also exposed along the route of the access road. Ditch 507, aligned northeast southwest, measured 0.91m wide and had a shallow concave profile that was 0.15m deep. Ditch 507 contained a mid grey brown clay silt fill (508) that was undated. Ditch 509, aligned north south, measured 1.48m wide and had a shallow flat based profile that was 0.14m deep. The ditch petered out towards the south. Ditch 509 contained a mid brown clay silt fill (510) that yielded a single sherd of 19th century pottery (discarded) (fig. 3).</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, Exeter Archaeology	Date sent to HER: 28/10/08	

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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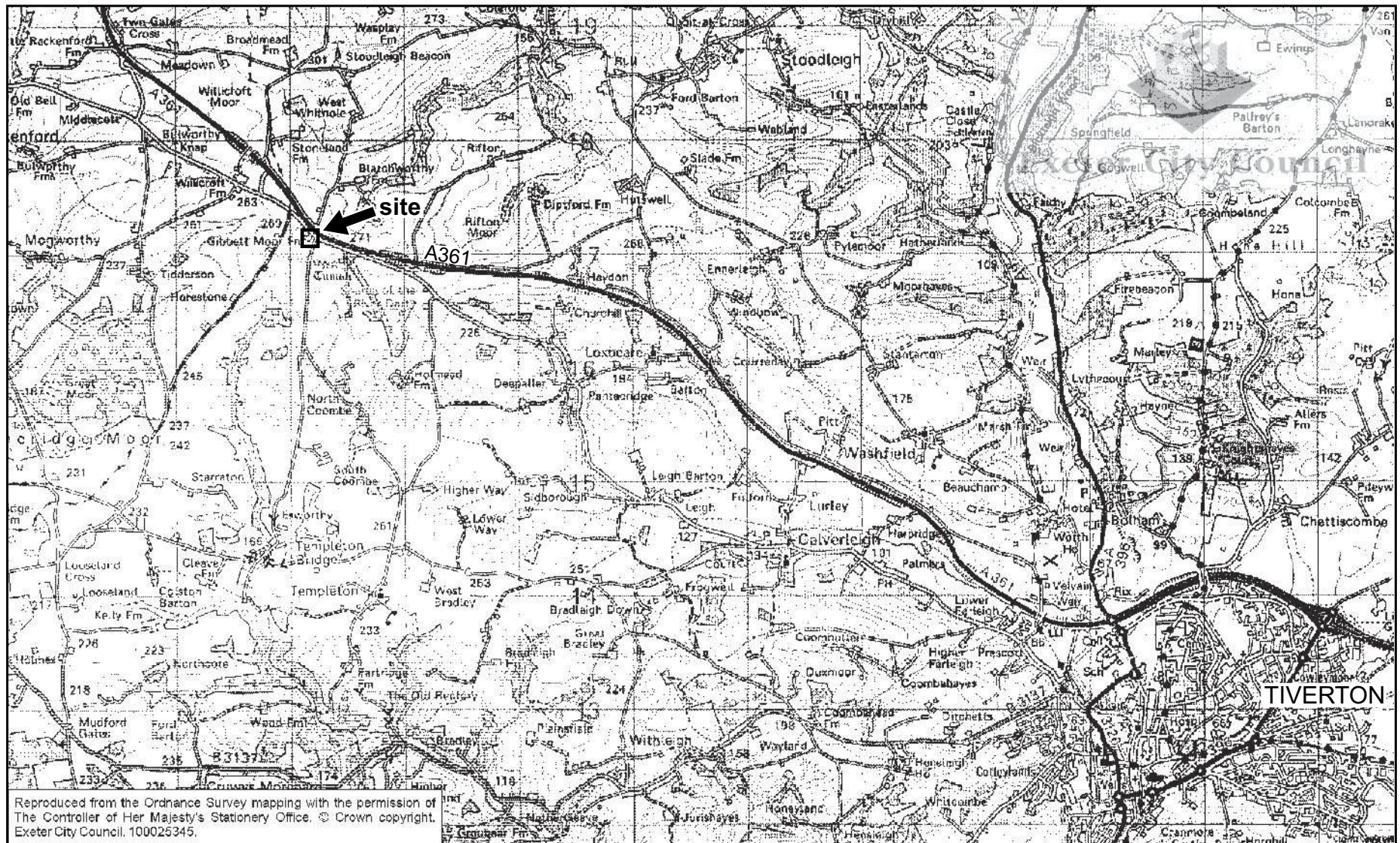
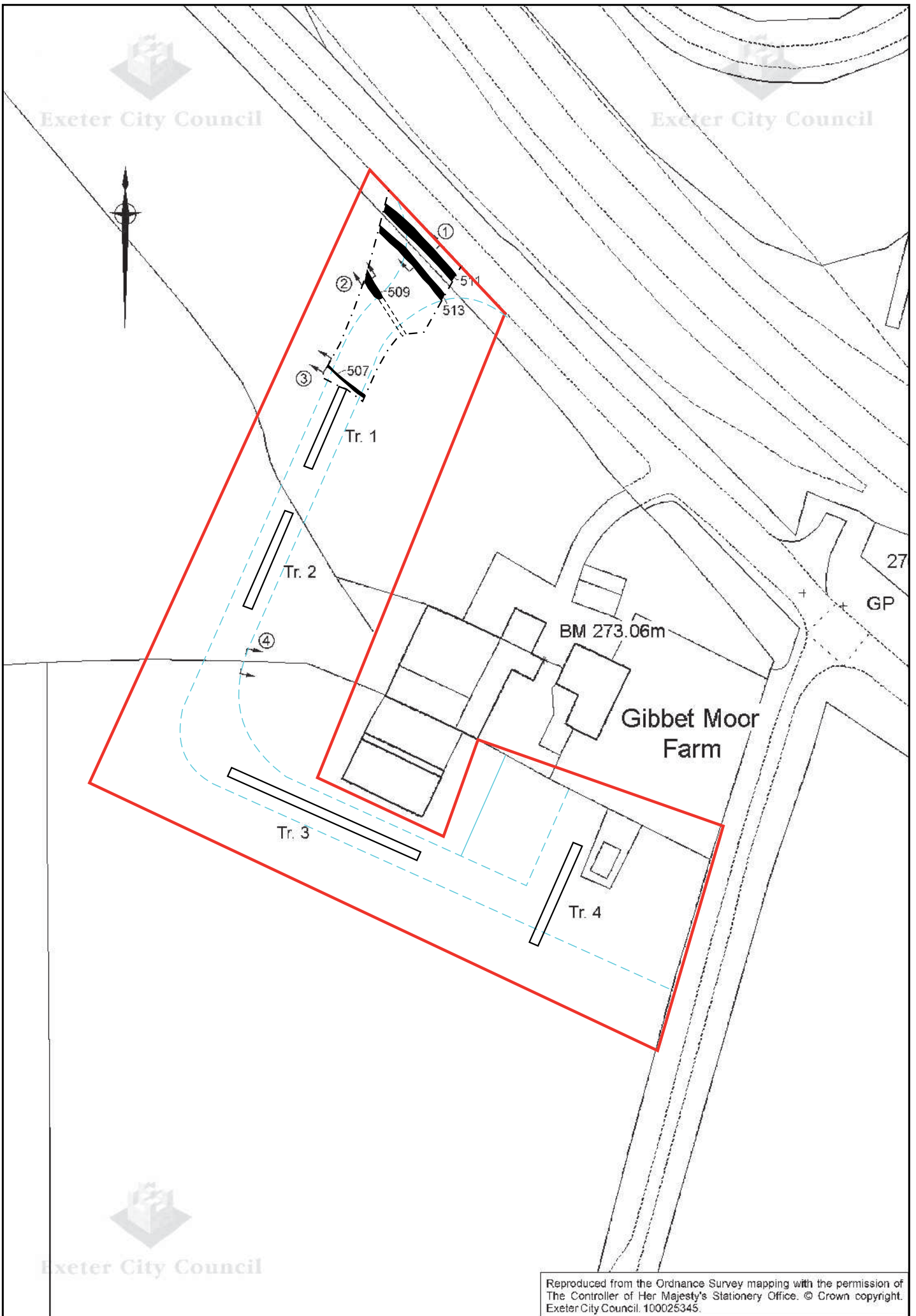


Fig. 1 Location of site.



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Fig. 2 Location of trenches, features and sections. Scale 1:1000.

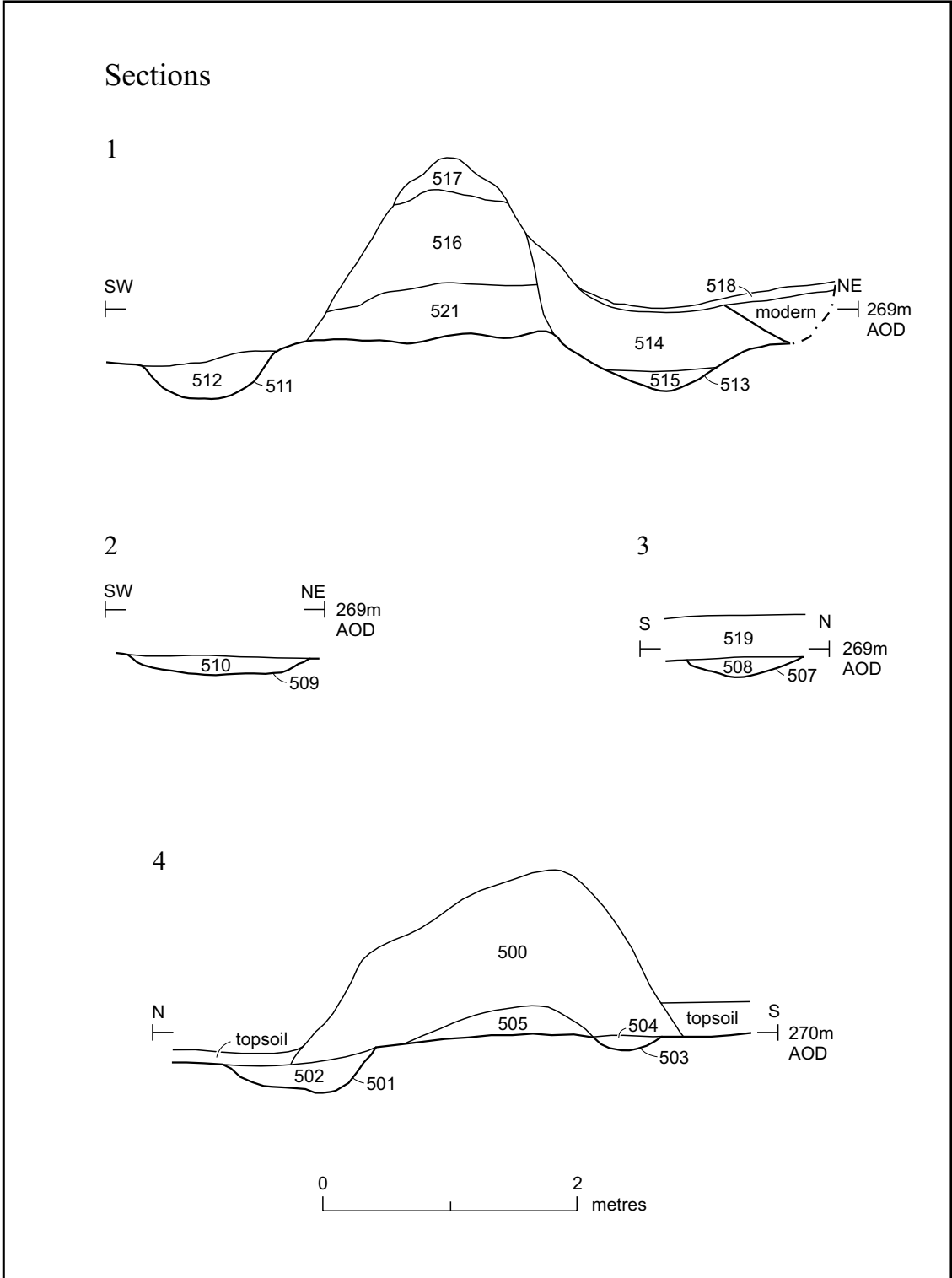


Fig. 3 Sections.