

**CHURCH HALL FARM ENDURANCE TRACK,  
WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

CHER No. ECB 3950

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NGR: TL 6607 6021	Report No: 4358
District: East Cambs	Site Code: AS 1581
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Signed:	Date: 22 July 2013

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Church Hall Farm, Endurance Track, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Taylor Vinters on behalf of Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of an endurance track (Planning Ref. 13/00286/FUL), based on advice from CCC HET.</i></p> <p><i>A trial trench evaluation of the line of the proposed track was undertaken by AS in April 2013 (Barlow &amp; Thompson 2013). Sparse struck flint was found in topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layers. Two features of early date were recorded. A ditch at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flints, and a large ditch was recorded in the centre of the southern part of the track route. The latter contained mid to late Iron Age pottery, and may represent part of an enclosure.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring recorded ditches, gullies, pits and post holes. The ditches were commonly orientated NW/SE (Fig.7). The post holes occurred in clusters in the north west and north east sector of the site (Figs. 18 and 20-22). The majority of features contained no finds and were undated. The exception was Ditch F2014 which contained a sherd of early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. The monitoring did not correlate very well with the evaluation which recorded prehistoric (early Neolithic, and mid – late Iron Age finds (flint and pottery) but the recorded features and finds were sparse.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>June 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5268</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1581</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Hedge-lined paddocks and access tracks</i>		
Planned development	<i>Endurance Track</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated ditches, gullies, pits and post holes</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Sherd of early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambs</i>	<i>Woodditton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>c. 2440m length of track corridor</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6607 6021</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 72-100m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Darley Stud Management Co Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Church Hall Farm, Endurance Track, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Report no.	<i>4358</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2013</i>		

**CHURCH HALL FARM ENDURANCE TRACK, WOODDITTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Taylor Vinters on behalf of Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of an endurance track (Planning Ref. 13/00286/FUL), based on advice from CCC HET.*

*The site lies to the north of Church Hall Farm and west of Moorley Plantation, on chalk deposits at c.80-90m AOD. Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement is known from this area. The site lies within a general area where many archaeological finds have been made, principally on the areas where local chalk deposits are not capped by Boulder Clays. Evidence of Bronze Age barrows and other activity, including scatters of prehistoric flintwork, indicative of occupation, are known from the NE/SW aligned chalk band which traverses the area. Crop mark evidence of likely prehistoric activity is also recorded in fields locally. Archaeological investigations by AS close by to the south at Blackhall Barn have also revealed prehistoric and post-medieval remains (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record – HER ECB2193).*

*A trial trench evaluation of the line of the proposed track was undertaken by AS in April 2013 (Barlow & Thompson 2013). Sparse struck flint was found in topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layers. Two features of early date were recorded. A ditch at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flints, and a large ditch was recorded in the centre of the southern part of the track route. The latter contained mid to late Iron Age pottery, and may represent part of an enclosure. A modern pit and gully were also recorded. Preservation of remains lower down the slopes on the site may be good due to being sealed by colluvial build up, but elsewhere on the site topsoil directly overlay the natural chalk.*

*The monitoring recorded ditches, gullies, pits and post holes. The ditches were commonly orientated NW/SE (Fig.7). The post holes occurred in clusters in the north west and north east sector of the site (Figs. 18 and 20-22). The majority of features contained no finds and were undated. The exception was Ditch F2014 (Fig.12) which contained a sherd of early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. The monitoring did not correlate very well with the evaluation which recorded prehistoric (early Neolithic, and mid – late Iron Age finds (flint and pottery) but the recorded features and finds were sparse.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Taylor Vintners on behalf of Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of an endurance track (Planning Ref. 13/00286/FUL), based on advice from CCC HET.

1.2 The requirement for monitoring followed a trial trench evaluation carried out on the site by AS (Barlow & Thompson 2013).

1.3 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; dated 30/05/2013), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31/05/2013), and approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

1.5 The principal research aim was to identify any further information relating to the local prehistoric landscape, adding to the extensive corpus of known prehistoric activity in the surrounding area in proximity to the line of the Icknield Way.

### *Planning policy context*

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural,

economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.7 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located 750m north of the hamlet of Woodditton and is 3.5 km south of Newmarket. It is a sub-rectangular block of land made up of six paddocks divided by hedges and tracks. There are also two buildings on the site associated with the stables. The site is bounded on the west side by the Woodditton Road and on the north by another road following the course of the Icknield Way. The south side is bordered by a track with more paddocks beyond. The eastern side is bordered by a hedge and a small wood.

## **3 THE EVIDENCE**

### **3.1 Topography, Geology & Soils**

3.1.1 The local topography is an undulating landscape with the land on the site sloping down quite steeply from approximately 100m AOD to the north to 73m AOD to the south. The local soils are chalky tills of the Hanslope association described as slowly permeable calcareous clay. They overlie the solid geology of Cretaceous chalk.

## 3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

### *Prehistoric*

3.2.1 Four sections of the Icknield Way run through the parish of Woodditton with one bordering the northern edge of the site. Despite some dispute over the validity of the Icknield Way as a series of prehistoric routeways (Harrison 2005), it is generally accepted that the tracks were in use from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and formed a network of paths between East Anglia and the South-west. A large amount of archaeological work has been carried out in the locality showing, particularly in areas of outcropping chalk not covered by the glacial till, that the local chalk mass has abundant evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity seen in the presence of barrows and flint scatters. In particular the area bordering the east and south-east of the site has undergone systematic archaeological investigation.

3.2.2 Cropmarks approximately 300m to the south of the site of a ring-ditch have been identified through aerial photography, which may represent the remains of a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow (CHER 09134). Evidence for low level prehistoric activity including an early Bronze Age pit was identified 300m to the south during an archaeological evaluation at Moorley Farm (CHER MCB17370). A scatter of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pits containing pottery, worked flint and animal bone, and a possible dew pond were also identified 420m to the south (CHER MCB18468). An archaeological evaluation identified prehistoric ditches, gullies and pits including a late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age pit located 420m north of the site at Derisley Wood (CHER17520). An Iron Age gully, prehistoric ditch and an undated post-hole were identified during another archaeological evaluation approximately 620m north of the site (CHER MCB19194).

### *Romano-British*

3.2.3 The nearest known Roman settlements are some distance from Woodditton although sections of the Icknield Way continued to be used by the Romans. Archaeological investigations at Moorley Farm identified Romano-British ditches and pits containing pottery, animal bone and a fragment of iron some 300m south of the site (CHER MCB18470). The finds suggested the presence of a field system with a possible settlement located to the east.

### *Anglo-Saxon*

3.2.4 'Ditton' means 'settlement by a dyke or ditch' (Ekwall 1936:140), the prefix 'wood' denotes that the area was formerly woodland. The dyke/ditch part of the name refers to the Devil's Dyke, which forms the western boundary of Woodditton Parish and part of which reaches to within 1.25km to the west of the site. The dyke was seemingly constructed in one phase and extends over 11km. In places it has



survived to a height of 10.5m from the base of the ditch to the top of the embankment. The dykes were strategically positioned across the Icknield Way, controlling access to areas of East Anglia, although it has yet to be established with certainty whether they represent territorial boundaries or defensive installations (Muir 2002). The dating of the dykes is uncertain, though excavations in the 1990's produced evidence to suggest that some at least were built in the immediate aftermath of the Roman withdrawal. They had previously been connected with conflicts between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 27).

3.2.5 The land units of Ditton and Saxton pre-date 1086 and the Domesday survey records dispersed communities in the general area. As yet no archaeological evidence of a Saxon settlement has been discovered within Woodditton. A minster was established in neighbouring Kirtling during the 10<sup>th</sup> century and it is likely the settlement there was a relatively important local centre at this time (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000:28). Several mid 10<sup>th</sup>-century coins have also been recovered in the parish of Kirtling (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000:29). An Anglo-Saxon knife was recovered 720m to the north of the site (CHER 11842). An archaeological evaluation at School Lane identified a pit containing Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone in good condition given a centre point 660m east of the site (CHER MCB17372).

### *Medieval*

3.2.6 Woodditton Parish comprises two ancient land units; Ditton and Saxton, although Ditton had been subdivided some time prior to 1086 (Lewis 2002:80). Consequently, medieval Woodditton was divided between three principal manors: Ditton Camoys in the west, Ditton Valence in the centre, and Saxton in the east. To the north-east of Woodditton, Cheveley Park (CHER 12335) appears to have first been enclosed as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the earliest documentary reference to the park is in 1517.

3.2.7 Much of the area of modern Woodditton parish comprised small patches of forest, and records indicate a significant amount of coppicing and clearing during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries of woodland in Saxton Heath, Ditton Park, Ditton Valence and Derisley (Lewis 2002:80). Non-wooded land north of the village and in Saxton Heath was traditionally used for grazing. The parish economy was at this time based on mixed cereal production and sheep husbandry. Open-field arable land occupied the centre of the parish, which probably incorporated the site (Lewis 2002:79). A larger settlement was established at Newmarket c. 1200, and since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the most important roads in Woodditton parish have been those leading to and from the town. Part of a medieval moat survives at Dalham Hall Stud and is located approximately 630m north of the site (CHER 01189). The Parish Church of St Mary's in Woodditton has its earliest

structures dating from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century and is Grade I listed (CHER 07374).

### *Post-medieval*

3.2.8 In the 1730-40s, Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, bought out most of the land in Woodditton and incorporated it into the Cheveley Park Estate. Cheveley Park, approximately 800m east of the site (CHER 12335), may have originated as a medieval deer park. It was enlarged and landscaped during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and by 1775, it also had wide avenues and rides. The parish was enclosed c. 1816, although the formal award was not made until 1823. The Cheveley Park Estate was divided up around 1920 and stud farms increasingly sprung up throughout the parish. The first, later to be called Woodditton Stud, was established in the mid-1890s by a Newmarket trainer, Martin Gurry. Others were founded after 1920 on land formerly part of the Cheveley Estate, which included the area around the site.

3.2.9 Woodditton never grew to be more than a small hamlet, similar in size and setting to those at Little Ditton and Ditton Green. In 1694, there were approximately 93 houses in the parish and by 1801, this number only rose to around 100 (Lewis 2002:82). New farmhouses were constructed after the inclosure of 1823, including one at Derisley Wood. A post-medieval boundary ditch and possible plough scars were identified some 300m south of the site (CHER MCB 18470).

## **3.3 Cartographic Information**

3.3.1 There was no Tithe map available at Shire Hall Record Office. The 1884-1885 First Edition OS map shows the site as one large field divided in two by the footpath existing today (Fig.3). There is a chalk pit in the south-west corner, and other chalk pits are in the area indicated by Chalk Pit Plantation to the north. The 1896, 1927 and 1950 OS maps show no change to the site (Figs. 4 – 6).

## **3.4 Previous Investigation**

3.4.1 A trial trench evaluation carried out on the site by AS (Barlow & Thompson 2013). In summary:

*In April 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021).*

*A length of the Icknield Way borders the northern edge of the site. A ring ditch and Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and pits are located 300m to the south and beyond. Prehistoric features were excavated 400-650m to the north. A Romano-British field system was located*

300m to the south. Saxo-Norman pottery was found in a pit 660m to the east and the arm of a medieval moat survives 630m north of the site. The 1884-5 OS map records a chalk pit in the south-west corner.

During the evaluation, sparse struck flint was found in the topsoil (Trs. 1 and 2), colluvium (Tr.3) and subsoil (Tr.3). Two features of early date were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1010 in Trench 4 at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flint, and Ditch F1031 in Trench 7 in the centre of the southern edge of the site contained mid – late Iron Age pottery. Two other features, a large pit (F1018) in Trench 9 in the south western corner and a small gully (F1016) in Trench 5 on the eastern side were both of modern date.

## **4 RESEARCH POTENTIAL**

4.1 Concentrations of prehistoric activity are often recorded in proximity to the Icknield Way and so the presence of archaeology of the dates recorded is not unexpected. Indeed, such areas may provide useful comparisons for further understanding the archaeology recorded here.

4.2 The Neolithic and Iron Age activity recorded here adds to the fairly extensive corpus of known prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. This suggests that further work here is likely to reveal more information relating to the local prehistoric landscape, adding to work previously done in the surrounding area (e.g Stone *et al* 2009; Schofield & Higgs 2010; Grassam 2007).

4.3 The identification of Neolithic worked flint suggests a potential for information relating to the study of Neolithic flint technologies from this site; a particularly important associated research question for the eastern region focuses on the selection of particular sources and types of flint for the production of particular tool types (Medlycott 2011, 14). The possibility that Neolithic flint dates F1010 suggests that a Neolithic enclosure or similar activity may be present at this site. Medlycott (2011, 14) indicates that such sites are underrepresented in NMR/HER records in the region in comparison to funerary/ceremonial monuments of this date.

4.4 Enclosure was an important aspect of the Iron Age landscape. They may have functioned in a variety of ways, which were not necessarily exclusive of one another. Boundaries may have functioned as defensive features, to delimit activity areas, as boundaries between communities, for purposes of display, to reflect the status of the inhabitants, or in symbolic ways (Collis 1996, 88-90). Therefore, the identification of a particularly large Iron Age ditch may indicate that there is a potential for further work at this location to provide information relating to settlement types, and particularly the zonation

and organisation of space within and around settlements, settlement form and function, or social organisation (Medlycott 2011, 29, 31). Alternatively, this feature may have had an agricultural function and may, therefore, have the potential to provide information relating to the agrarian economy and other aspects of the organisation of the local Iron Age landscape (Medlycott 2011, 30-31).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The groundworks for the construction of the new endurance track were subject to archaeological monitoring, in order to identify, excavate and record any archaeological remains within these areas.

5.2 The principal element monitored was the mechanically-excavated removal of overburden preparatory for the construction of the proposed endurance track. Also the drainage system within the track which consisted of several soakaways connected by a deep narrow trench in the middle of the track backfilled with gravel.

5.3 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### 6.1 Sample Sections

Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections presented below (Figs.7-8).

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>0.00 = 82.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L2000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint.
0.31 – 0.49m	L2002	Subsoil. Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand
0.49m+	L2003	Natural. Mixed patches of firm, very pale grey brown and white chalky silt with moderate small and rounded chalk, and firm mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint.

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>0.00 = 87.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.27 – 0.44m	L2001	Subsoil. Firm, pale orange, silty sand
0.44m+	L2003	Natural. As above.

<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 94.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.18 – 0.42m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 2.
0.42m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 4</i> <i>0.00 = 100.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.27 – 0.40m	L2002	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.40m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 5</i> <i>0.00 = 92.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.24 – 0.49m	L2002	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.49m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 6</i> <i>0.00 = 74.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.22 – 0.52m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Tr.2.
0.52m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 7</i> <i>0.00 = 77.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.31 – 0.56m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 2.
0.56m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 8</i> <i>0.00 = 76.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.33 – 0.46m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 2.
0.46m+	L2003	Natural. As above Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 9</i> <i>0.00 = 76.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Section 1.
0.32 – 0.49m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Section 2.
0.49m+	L2003	Natural. As above Section 1.

<i>Sample section 10</i> <i>0.00 = 89.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Section 1.
0.19 – 0.42m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Section 2.
0.42m+	L2003	Natural. As above Section 1.

<i>Sample section 11</i> <i>0.00 = 91.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Section 1.
0.21 – 0.40m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Section 2.
0.40m+	L2003	Natural. As above Section 1.

<i>Sample section 12</i> <i>0.00 = 95.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Section 1.
0.18 – 0.56m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Section 2.
0.56m+	L2003	Natural. As above Section 1.

<i>Sample section 13</i> <i>0.00 = 87.65m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L2000	Topsoil. As above Section 1.
0.36 – 0.48m	L2001	Subsoil. As above Section 2.
0.48m+	L2003	Natural. As above Section 1.

## 6.2 Archaeological Features

*Summary: A total of 52 features were excavated. The features comprised five linear ditches, seven gullies, five pits, a stake hole and 34 post holes. The ditches and gullies were mostly identified in the south-eastern corner of the excavated area. The post holes and the stake hole were located in the NE and NW sectors of the endurance track.*

### Linear Features: Ditches and Gullies

Five ditches of medium size were excavated and all were located in the SE corner of the site. Only F2014 (L2015) contained an abraded, late Saxon or early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherd. The

gullies were mostly present in the SE corner and on the E stretch of the track.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Spot Date	Relationships
F2004	L2005	Ditch linear in plan, steep sides, concave base (3.0 x 0.80 x 0.30)	Compact, dark orange brown, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2006	L2007	Gully irregular, linear in plan, irregular sides and base (3.24 x 0.65 x 0.22)	Compact, mid orange, sandy clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2008	L2009	Gully irregular, linear gully in plan, shallow, gently sloping sides	Firm, orange brown, sandy clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2010	L2011	Gully linear in plan, gently sloping sides (3.0 x 0.41 x 0.11)	Compact, pale yellow brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2012	L2013	Gully linear gully in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base	Compact, mid reddish brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2014	L2015	Ditch linear ditch in plan, moderately steep sides, flattish base (3.0 x 1.0 x 0.35)	Compact, dark grey brown, silty clay	Abraded 10th – 12th century sherd	Cut L2003
F2018	L2019	Ditch linear in plan, moderately steep sides, concave base (3.5+ x 1.07+ x 0.29)	Firm, dark grey brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2034	L2035	Ditch linear in plan, gently sloping sides, flattish base (5.0+ x 1.04 x 0.24)	Friable, mid grey orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2071	L2072	Ditch linear in plan, moderately steep sides, concave base (3.0 x 0.72 x 0.23)	Friable, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	

## Pits

The pits had no obvious focal point. One large possible quarry pit, F2021, was excavated in the SE sector, close to Trial Trench 7. It contained no dating material. Additional pits, also undated, were recorded in the SE and NE corners of the track.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Spot Date	Relationships
F2016	L2017	Semicircular in plan, irregular sides (3.2 x 0.59 x 0.23)	Friable, mid orange brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003

F2021	L2022	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, flattish base (4.5 x 0.95 x 1.35)	Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
	L2023	0.82 x 0.64 x 0.45	Loose, pale orange yellow, chalky sand	Undated	
	L2024	0.82 x 0.64 x 0.46	Firm, mid brown grey, clayey silt	Undated	
	L2025	1.66(W) x:0.31(D)	Compact, mid grey brown, silty clay	Undated	
F2030	L2031	Sub-circular in plan, near vertical sides, uneven base (0.8 x 0.9 x 0.07)	Firm, mid orange brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2036	L2020	Sub-oval in plan, near vertical, shallow sides, uneven base (1.12 x 0.68 x 0.26)	Firm, mid orange brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2050	L2051	Semi-circular in plan, moderately steep sides, concave base (0.7 x 0.6 x 0.29)	Very compact, dark reddish brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003

## Post holes

The post holes were recorded mostly in two areas of the site: in the NE and NW sectors. The features were generally clustered. Some comprised linear, and some semicircular alignments suggestive of possible structures but none contained finds. One stake hole was excavated in the NE corner near a group of post holes.

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Spot Date	Relationships
F2037	L2038	Sub-rounded in plan, vertical sides, concave base (0.52 x 0.32 x 0.37)	Compact, dark reddish brown, clayey silt	Undated	Cut L2003
	L2039	(0.36 x 0.20 x 0.21)	Very compact, light yellowish brown, sandy clay	Undated	
F2040	L2041	Sub-rounded in plan, vertical sides, concave base (0.37 x 0.32 x 0.53)	Compact, dark reddish brown, clayey silt	Undated	Cut L2003
	L2042	(0.16 x 0.25 x 0.22)	Compact, light orange brown, silty clay	Undated	
	L2043	(0.1 x 0.05 x 0.08)	Post packing. White, grey blue sub-rounded flint	Undated	
F2044	L2045	Sub-circular in plan, near vertical sides.	Post packing. Mid yellowish orange	Undated	Cut L2003



		Partially excavated (0.28 x 0.33 x 0.35)	sub-rounded flint		
	L2046	(0.03 x 0.03 x 0.32)	Firm, mid yellowish orange, sandy silt	Undated	
	L2047	(0.28 x 0.33 x 0.35)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay	Undated	
F2048	L2049	Sub-rounded in plan, vertical sides, concave base (0.34 x 0.58 x 0.56)	Compact, mid orange brown, sandy clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2052	L2053	Sub-oval in plan, vertical sides. Partially excavated (0.5 x 0.52 x 0.31+)	Post packing. Mid yellowish orange with grey, white and blue mottling sub-rounded flint	Undated	Cut L2003
	L2054	(0.5 x 0.52 x 0.31+)	Compact, mid orange brown, sandy/silty clay	Undated	
F2055	L2056	Rounded in plan, very steep sides, concave base (0.23 x 0.18 x 0.18)	Compact, dark reddish brown, sandy clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2057	L2058	Semi-circular in plan, steep sides almost vertical, concave base (0.5 x 0.42 x 0.32)	Compact, dark reddish brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2059	L2060	Circular in plan, vertical sides, concave base (0.21+ x 0.37 x 0.48)	Compact, dark reddish brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2061	L2062	Circular in plan, near vertical irregular sides, concave and uneven base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.3)	Post packing. Mid yellowish orange sub-rounded large stones/flint	Undated	Cut L2003
	L2066	(0.35 x 0.35 x 0.3)	Stiff, dark brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003
F2067	L2068	Oval in plan, very steep sides, concave base (0.59 x 0.45 x 0.56)	Firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2069	L2070	Oval in plan, very steep sides, not bottomed (0.43 x 0.38 x 0.57)	Firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2073	L2074	Sub-circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, flattish base (0.29 x 0.24 x 0.12)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2075	L2076	Sub-oval in plan, near vertical sides, flattish base (0.3 x 0.15 x 0.17)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2077	L2078	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003

		base (0.28 x 0.28 x 0.18)			
F2079	L2080	Sub-oval in plan, vertical sides, not bottomed (0.5 x 0.26 x 0.31)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2081	L2082	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.28 x 0.2 x 0.21)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2083	L2084	Oval in plan, moderately steep sides, concave base (0.34 x 0.27 x 0.17)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2085	L2086	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.34 x 0.3 x 0.2)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2087	L2088	Oval in plan, moderately steep sides, concave base	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2089	L2090	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.22 x 0.25 x 0.11)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2091	L2092	Circular in plan, gently sloping sides (0.2 x 0.19 x 0.04)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2093	L2094	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.22 x 0.17 x 0.04)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2095	L2096	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.16 x 0.12 x 0.08)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2097	L2098	Sub-oval in plan, near vertical sides, flattish base (0.22 x 0.14 x 0.08)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2099	L2100	Sub-oval in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.22 x 0.22 x 0.1)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2101	L2102	Oval in plan, with moderately steep sides, concave base (0.58 x 0.46 x 0.34)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2103	L2104	Circular in plan, steep sides. Not bottomed (0.38 x 0.39 x 0.28)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2105	L2106	Oval in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.33 x 0.26 x 0.25)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003
F2107	L2108	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.23 x 0.23 x 0.18)	Very compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	Undated	Cut L2003

F2109	L2110	Sub-circular in plan with moderate slope of sides and flat base (0.28 x 0.29 x 0.08)	Firm dark, brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2111	L2112	Circular in plan with steep sides and concave base (0.22 x 0.09 x 0.14)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2113	L2114	Sub-oval in plan, h near vertical sides, concave base (0.3 x 0.11 x 0.2)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2115	L2116	Sub-oval in plan, near vertical sides, concave base (0.24 x 0.15 x 0.24)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003
F2117	L2118	Circular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base (0.22 x 0.14 x 0.23)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty sand	Undated	Cut L2003

### Stake hole

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Spot Date	Relationships
F2064	L2065	Circular in plan, vertical shallow sides, flattish base (0.16 x 0.12 x 0.07)	Compact, mid orange brown, silty clay	Undated	Cut L2003

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L2000 was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint (0.25 – 0.30m thick). Below L2000 was Subsoils L2001 and L2002 (0.60 – 0.75m thick).

8.2 Below the topsoil and subsoil were the natural deposits, L2003, mixed patches of firm, very pale grey brown and white chalky silt with moderate small and rounded chalk, and firm mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint (0.26 – 1.05m below the present day ground surface).

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site lies to the north of Church Hall Farm and west of Moorley Plantation, on chalk deposits at c.80-90m AOD. Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement is known from this area.

9.2 An archaeological evaluation preceded the monitoring (Barlow 2013). Sparse struck flint was found in the topsoil (Trs.1 and 2), colluvium (Tr.3) and subsoil (Tr.3). Two features of early date were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1010 in Trench 4 at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flint, and Ditch F1031 in Trench 7 in the centre of the southern edge of the site contained mid – late Iron Age pottery.

9.3 The monitoring recorded ditches, gullies, pits and post holes. The ditches were commonly orientated NW/SE (Fig.7). The post holes occurred in clusters in the north west and north east sector of the site (Figs. 18 and 20-22). The majority of features contained no finds and were undated. The exception was Ditch F2014 (Fig.12) which contained a sherd of early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.

9.4 The monitoring did not correlate very well with the evaluation which recorded prehistoric (early Neolithic, and mid – late Iron Age finds (flint and pottery) but the recorded features and finds were sparse.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the Darley Stud Management Co Ltd for funding the project and for assistance, and their planning consultants Taylor Vinters. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main contractor, OJ Neil Contracting Ltd.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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## APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

### AS1581, Endurance Track, Phase 2

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery
2014	2015	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	(1) 2g

## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORT

### The Pottery

*by Peter Thompson*

L2015 contained a single abraded sand tempered sherd (2g) with oxidised inner surface and outer margin. The fabric comprises moderate medium sub-rounded quartz sand with occasional other inclusions such as coarser quartz and burnt organics. It is probably late Saxon or early medieval with a date centred on the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

# PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Endurance track after stripping



2  
Endurance track after stripping



3  
F2021 looking south-west



4  
F2016 looking north



5  
F2037 looking north



6  
F2037 looking north-east

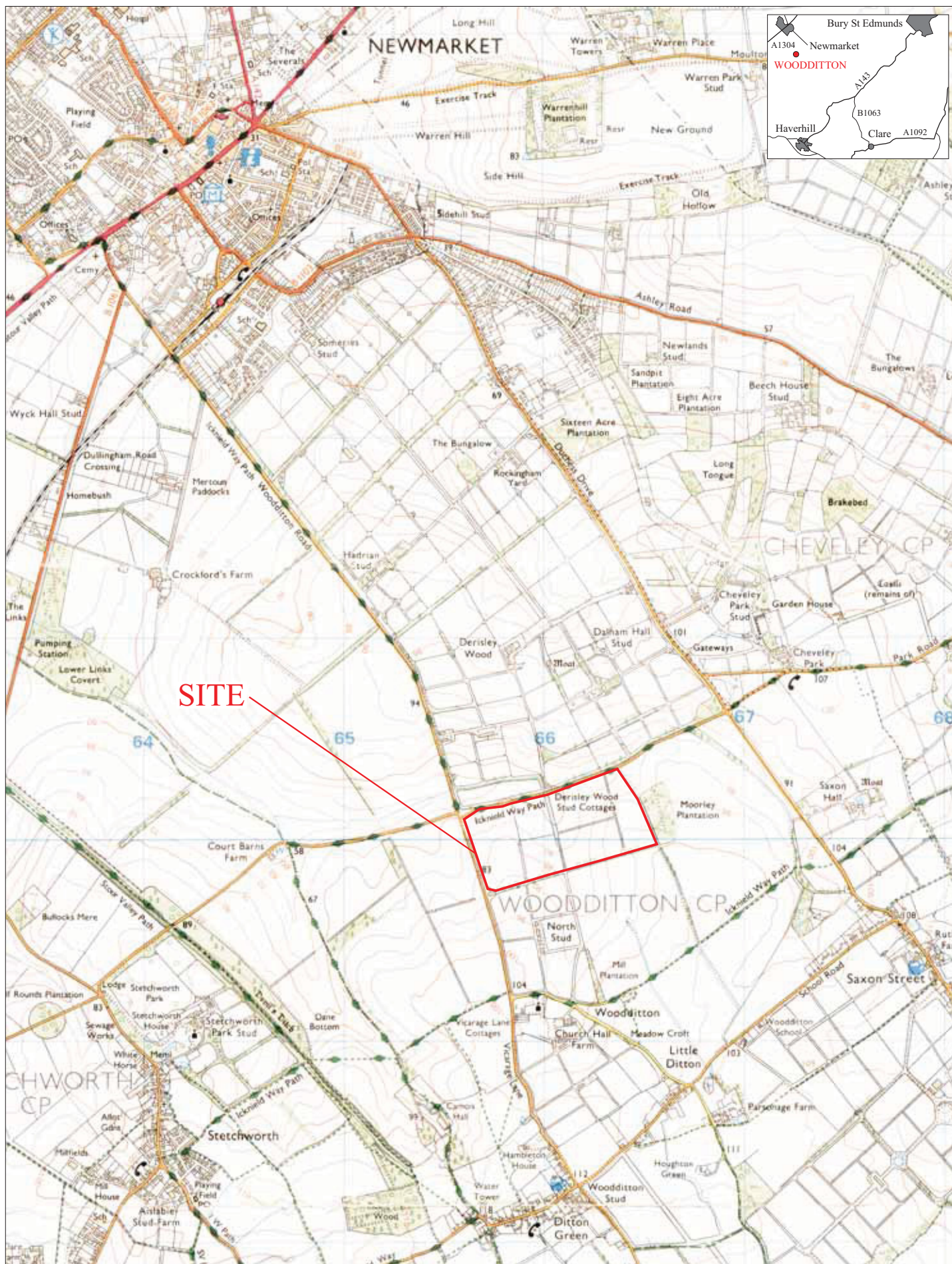


7  
Posthole cluster looking west



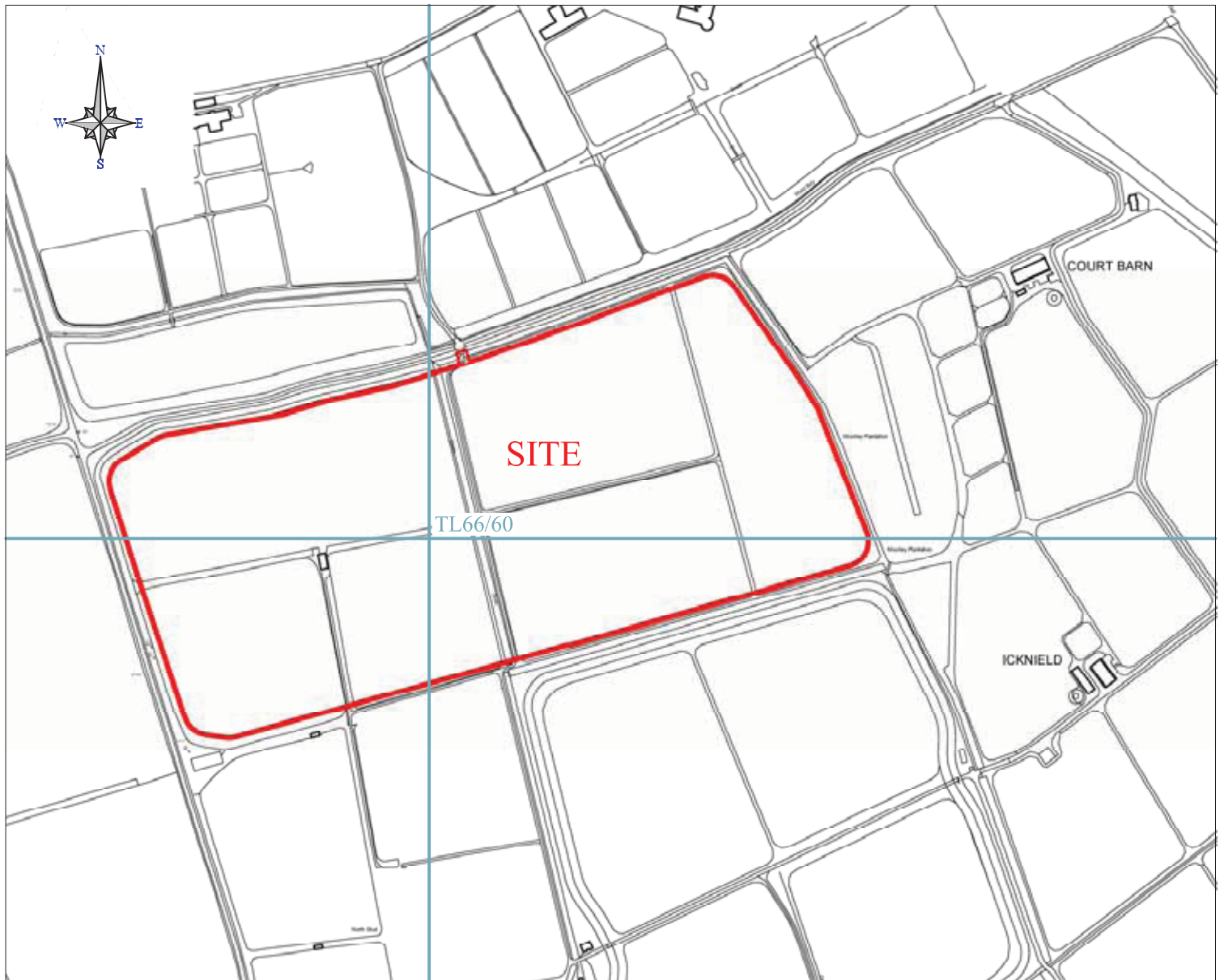
8  
Sample section 2 looking south





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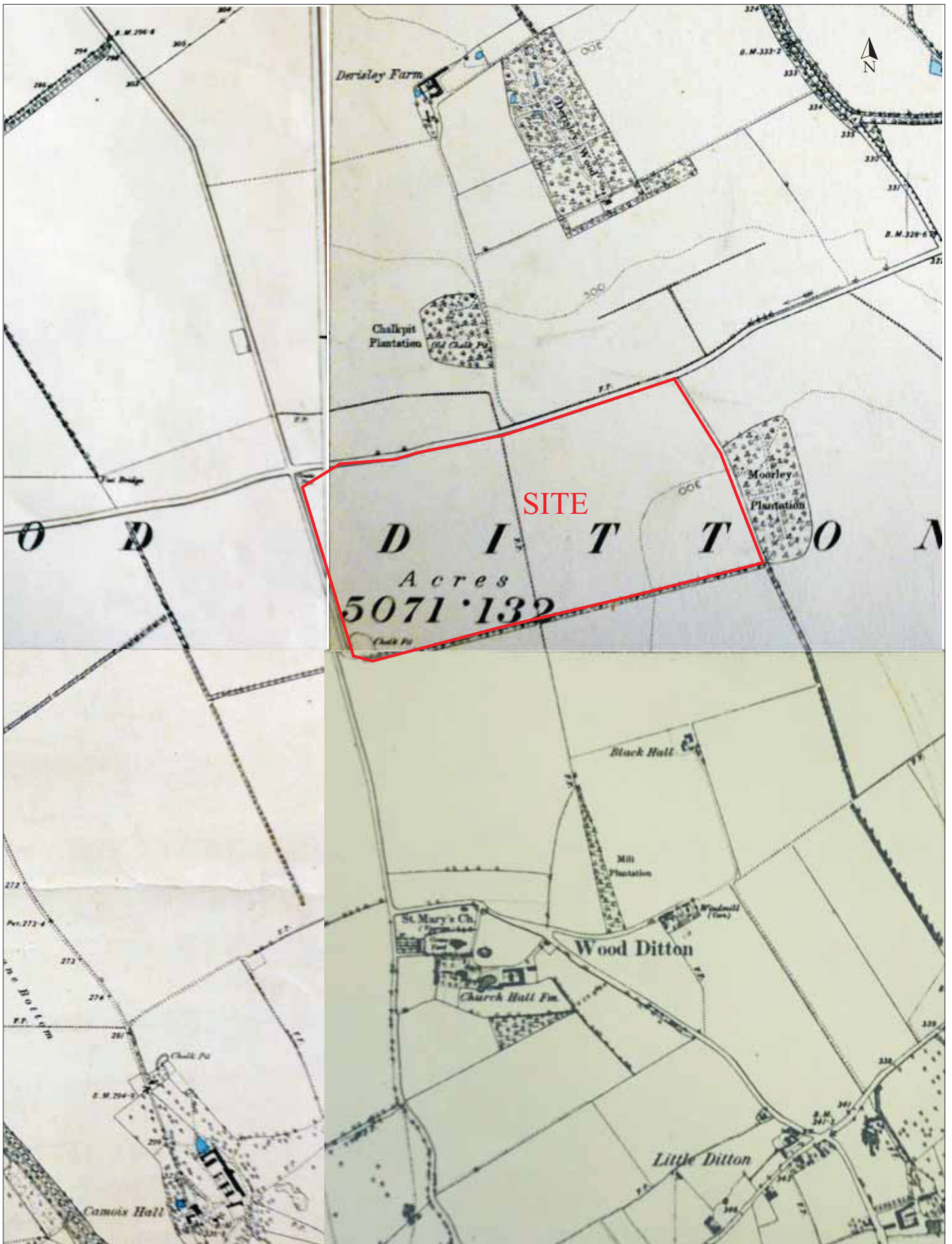
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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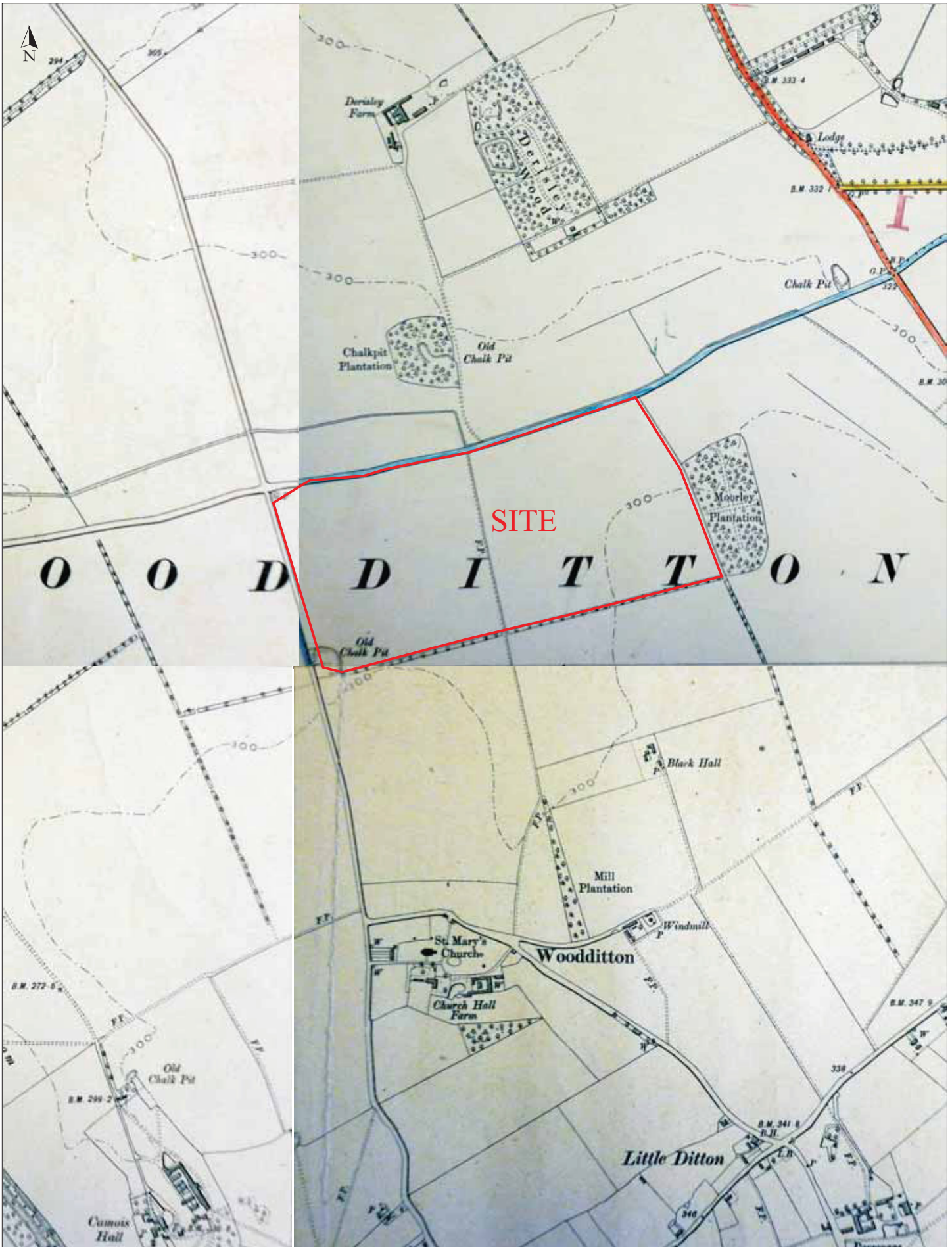
0 500m

*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:7500 at A4



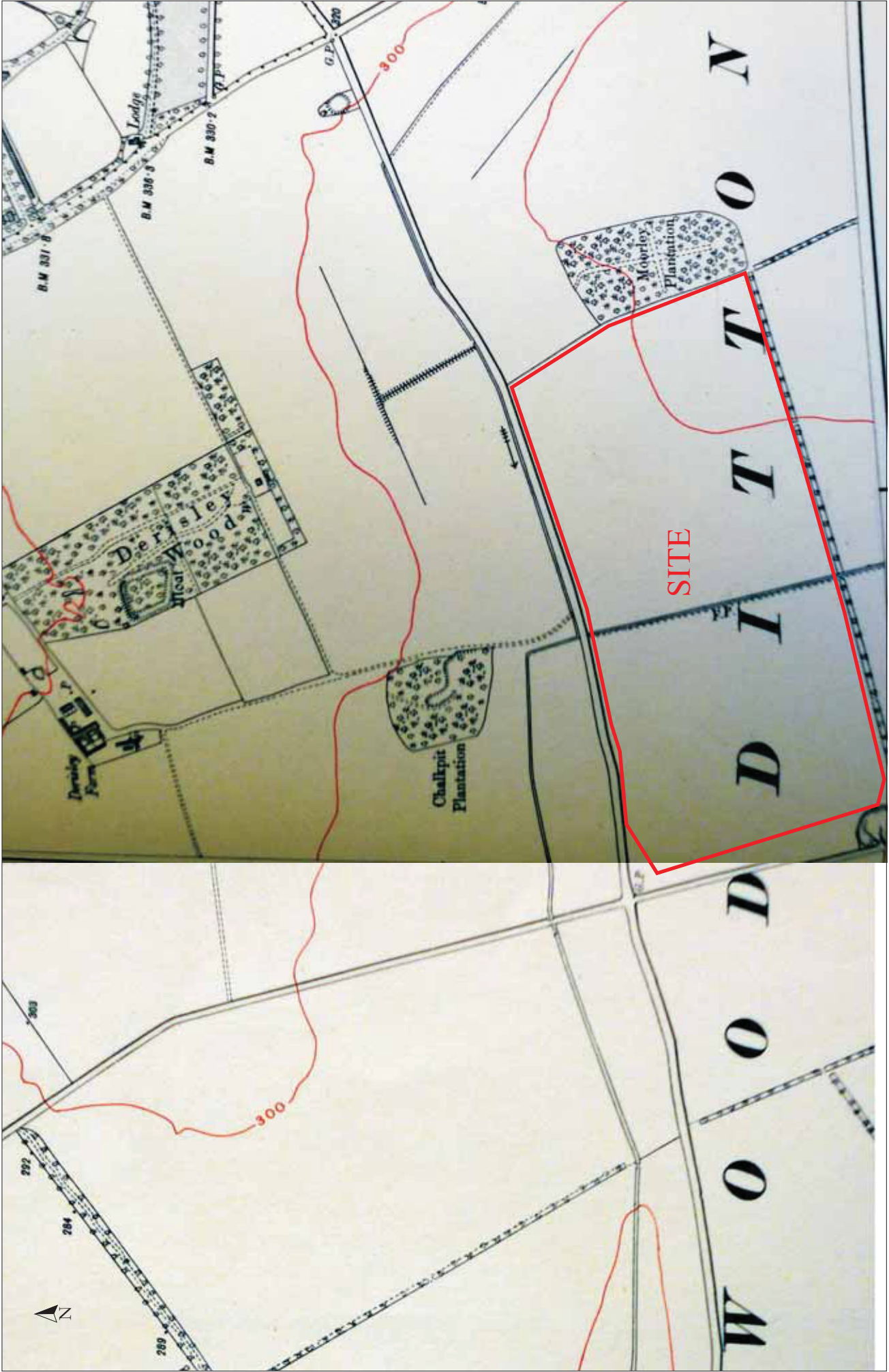
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<b>Fig. 3 OS map, 1885</b>
Not to scale



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<b>Fig. 4 OS map, 1896</b>
Not to scale

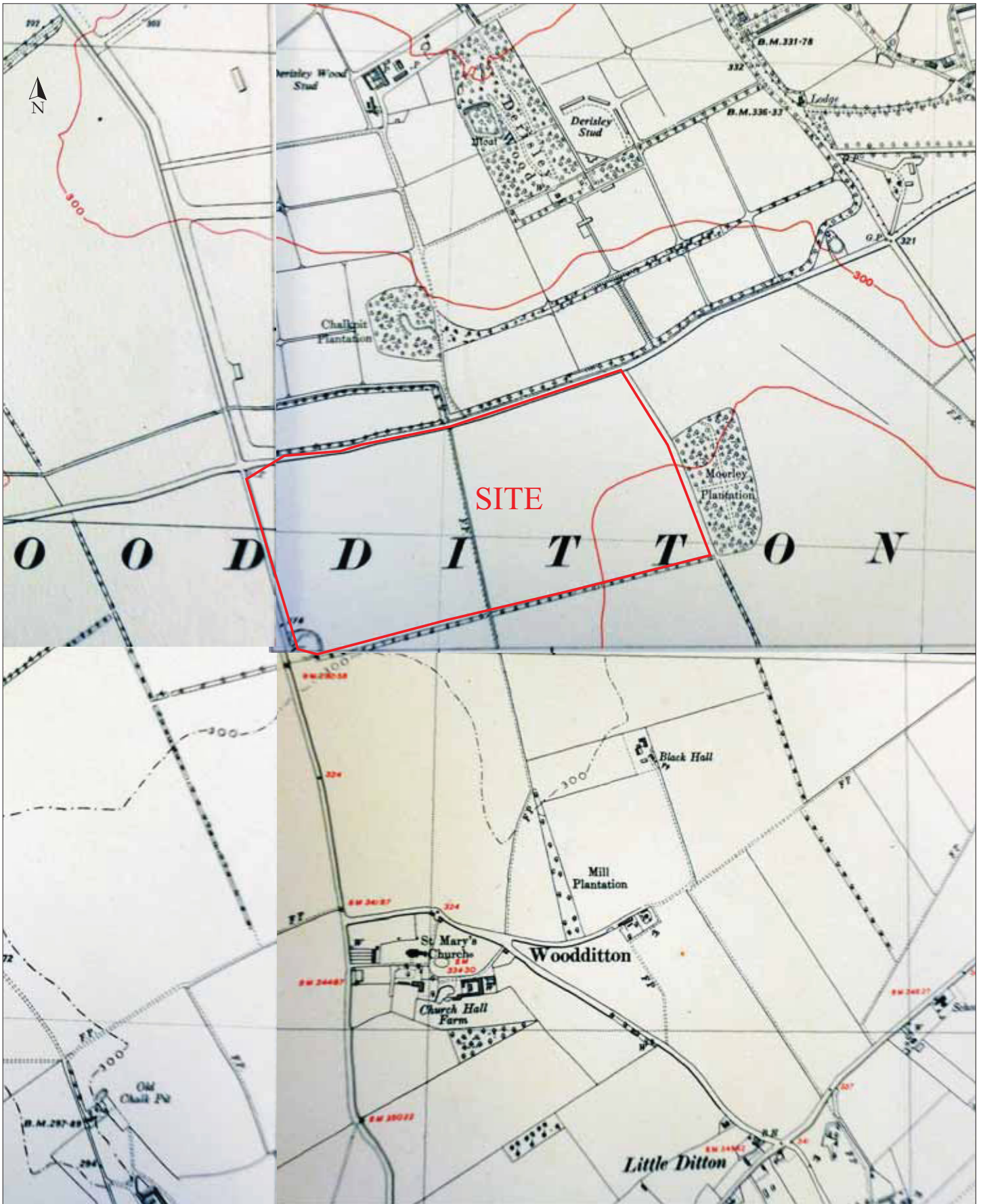


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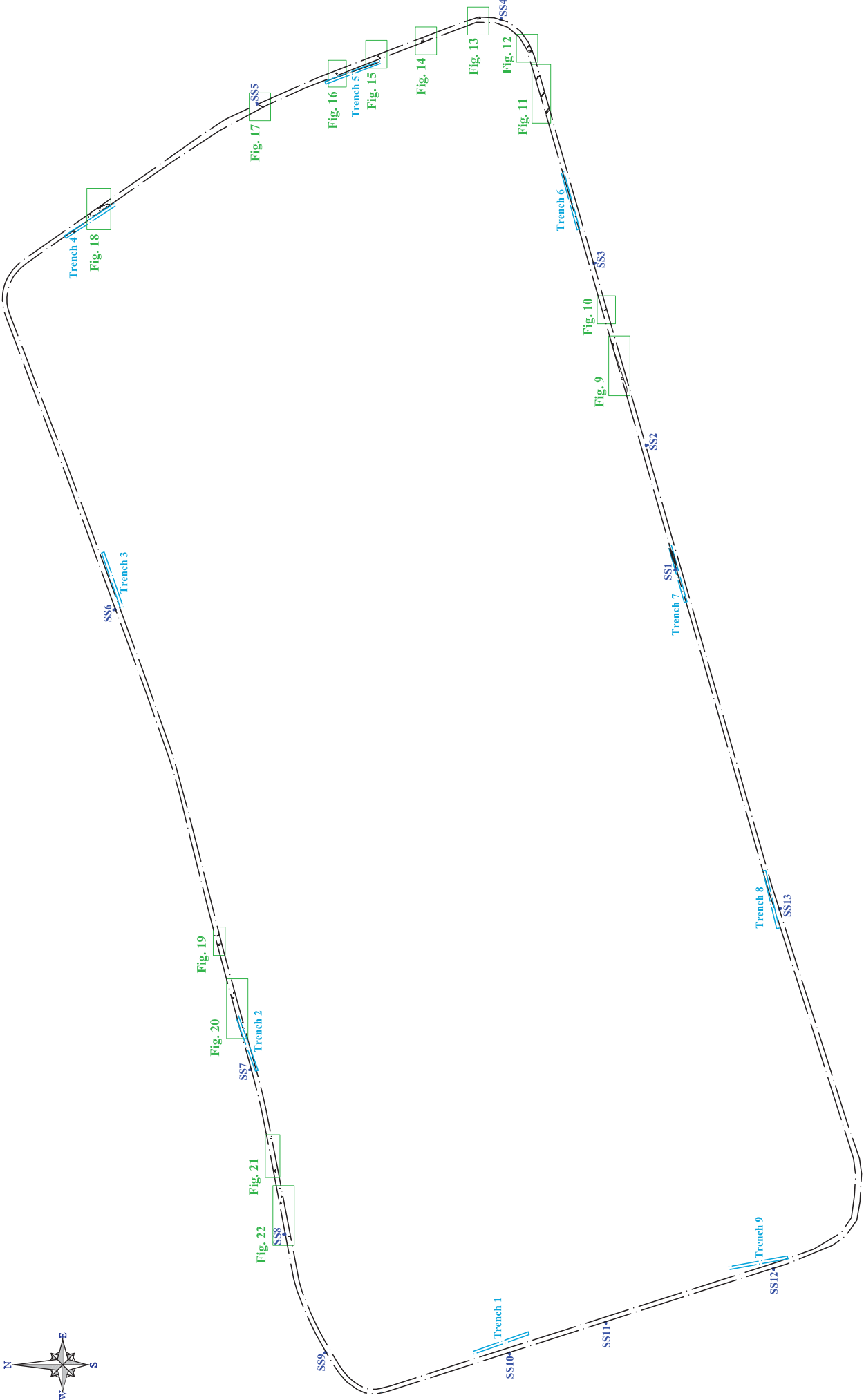
Fig. 5 OS map, 1927

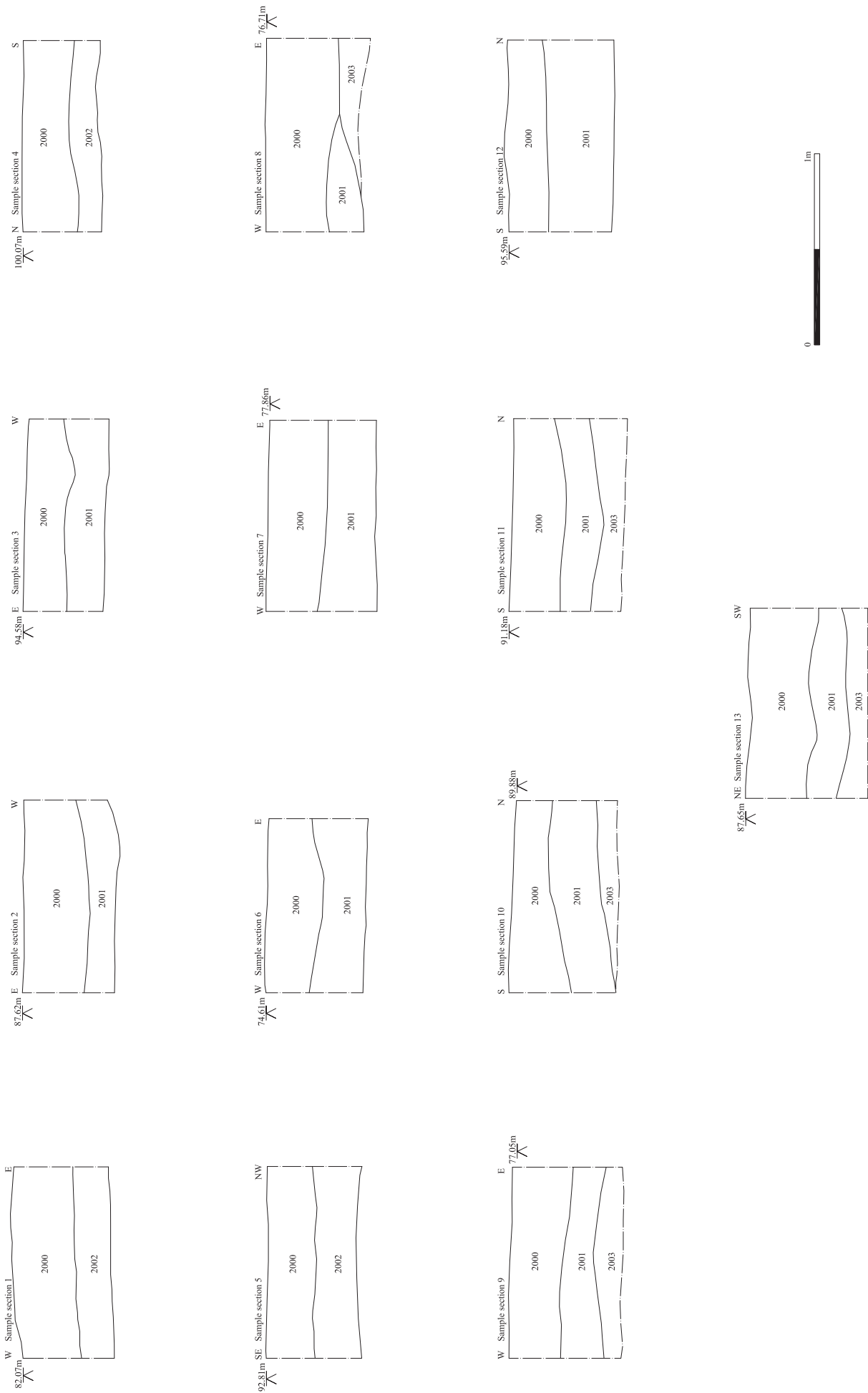
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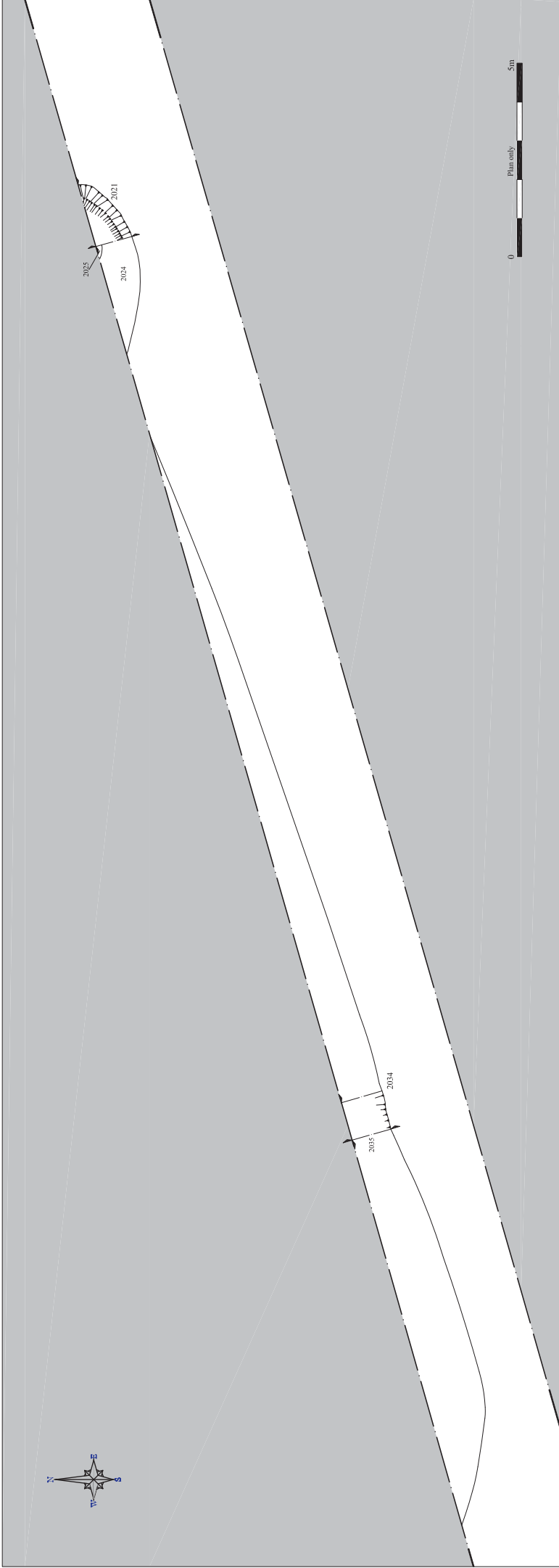
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<b>Fig. 6 OS map, 1950</b>
Not to scale

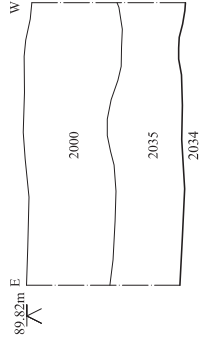
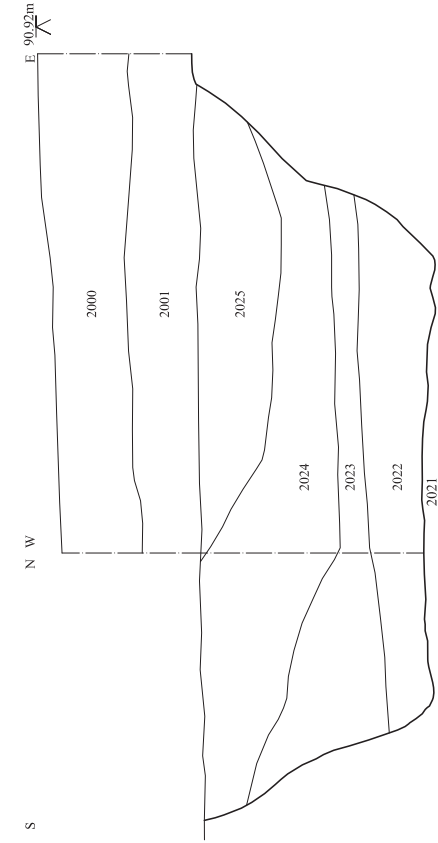


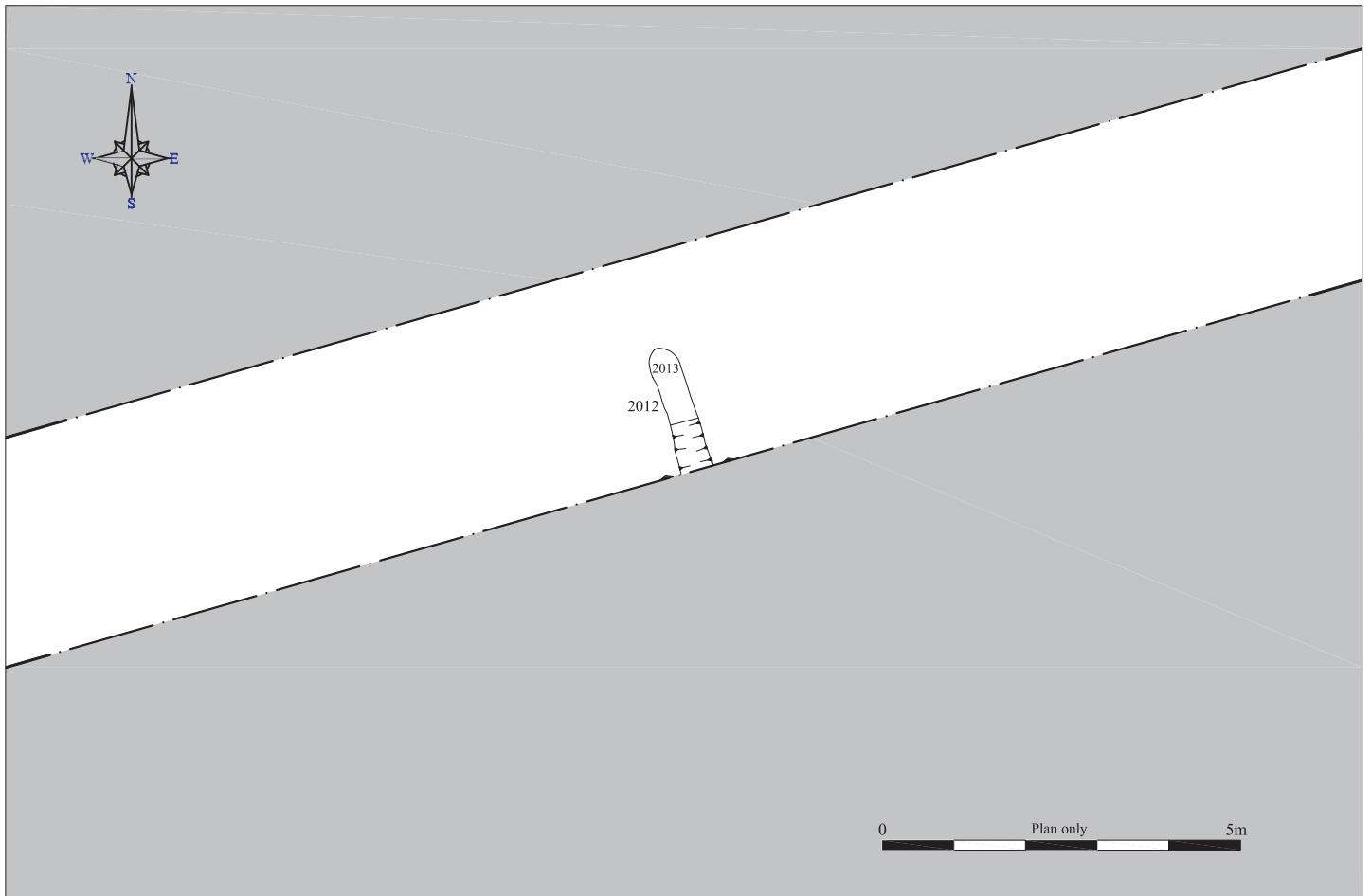




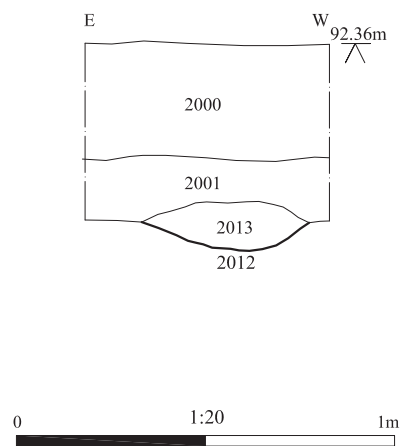


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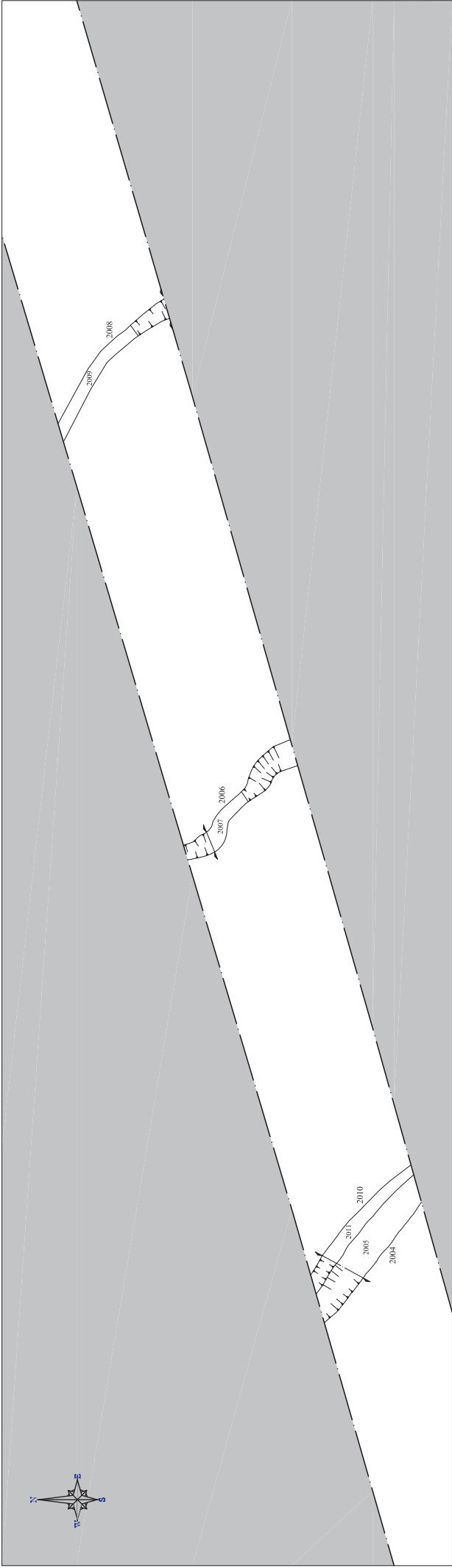




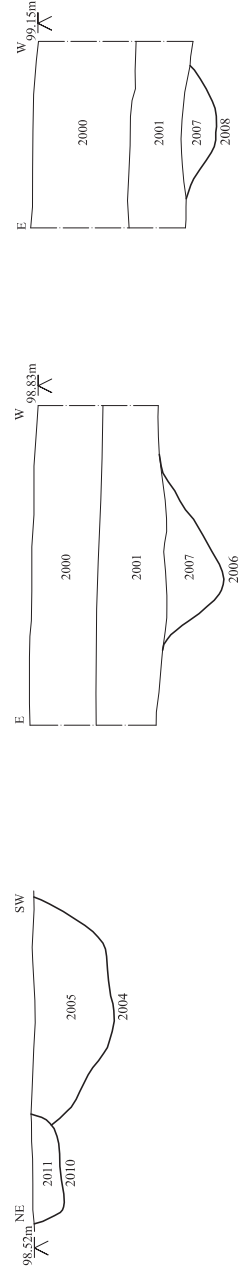
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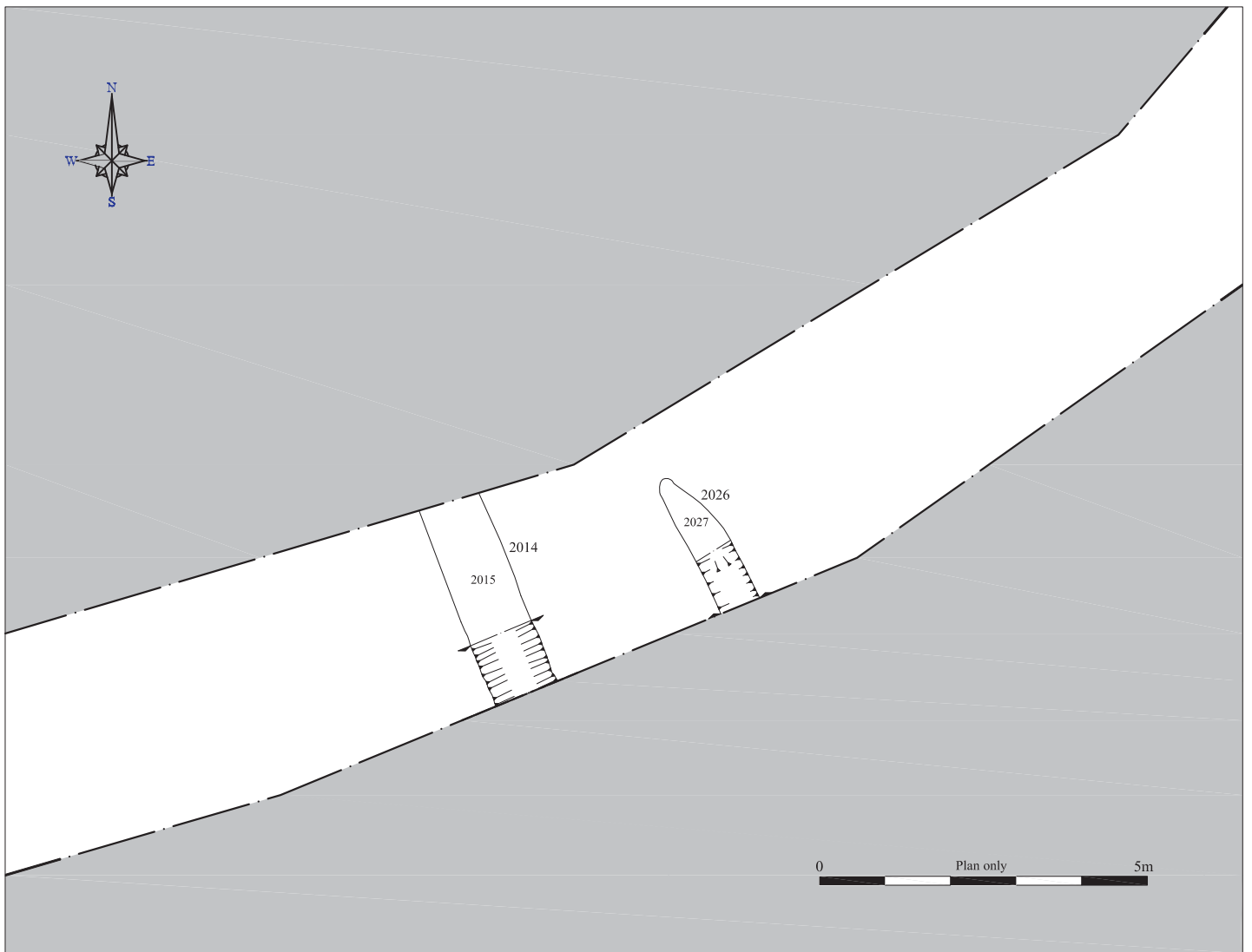


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<b>Fig. 10 Plan and section</b>
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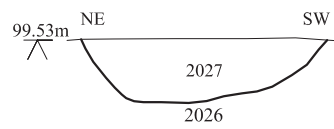
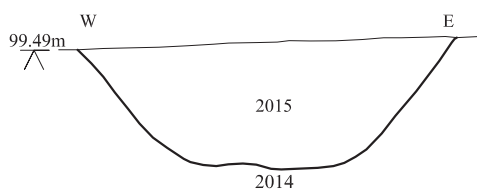


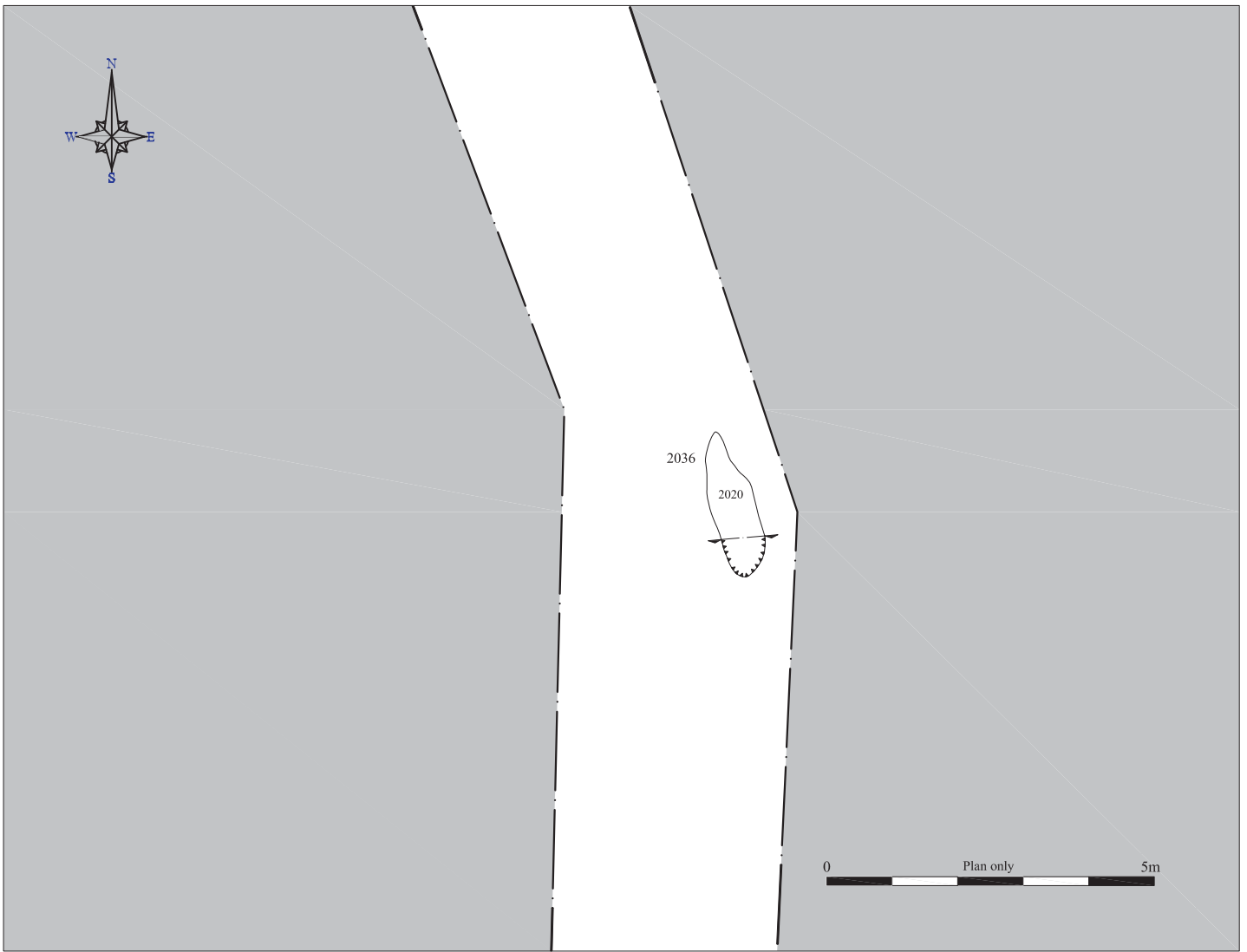
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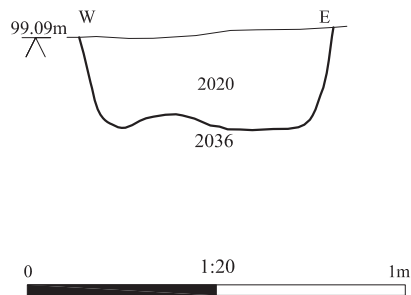


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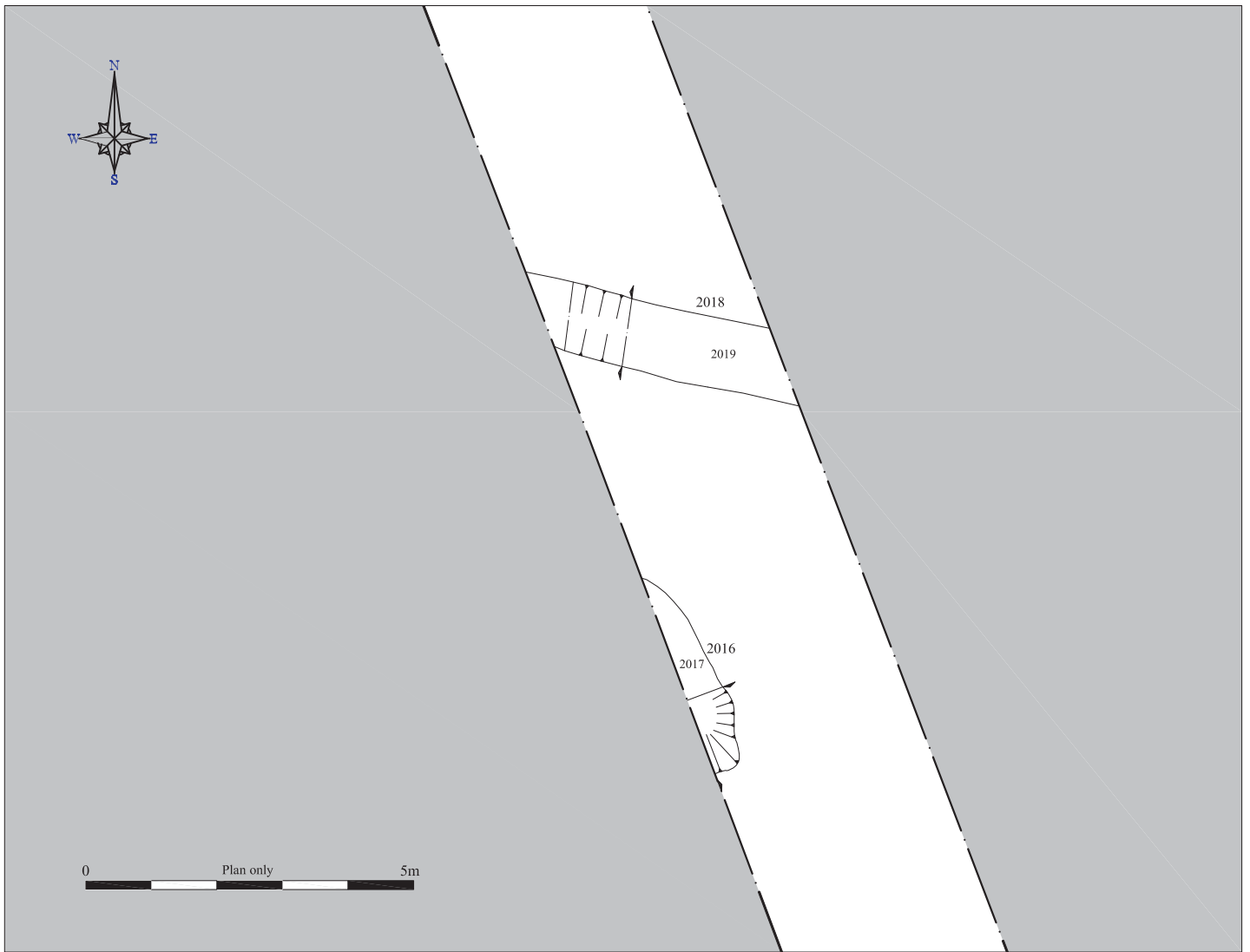




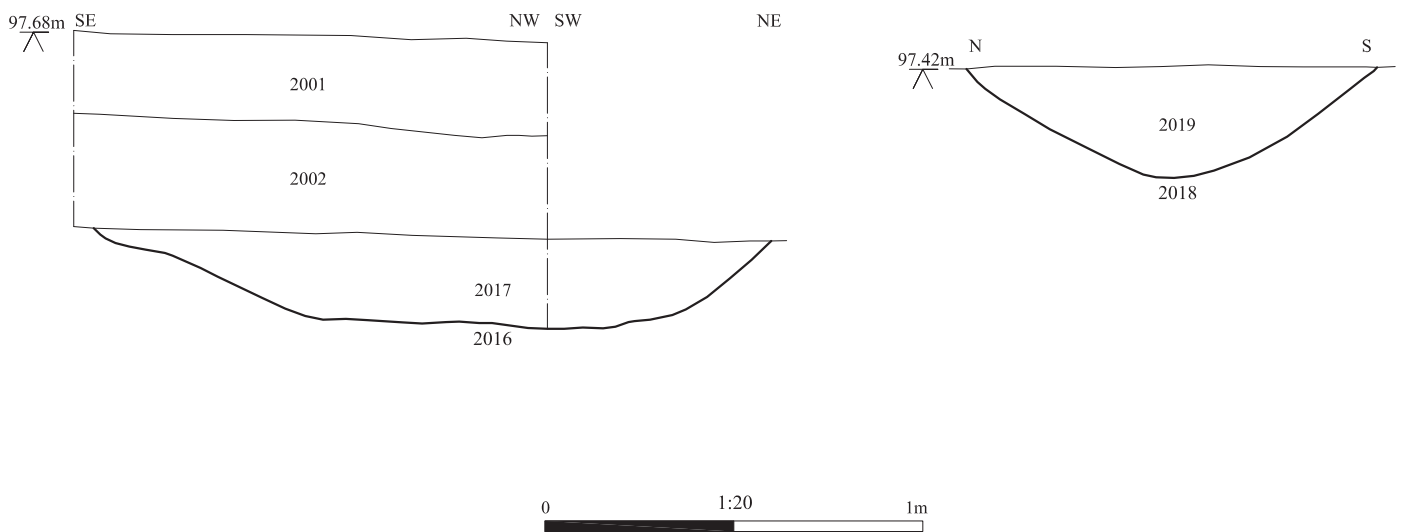
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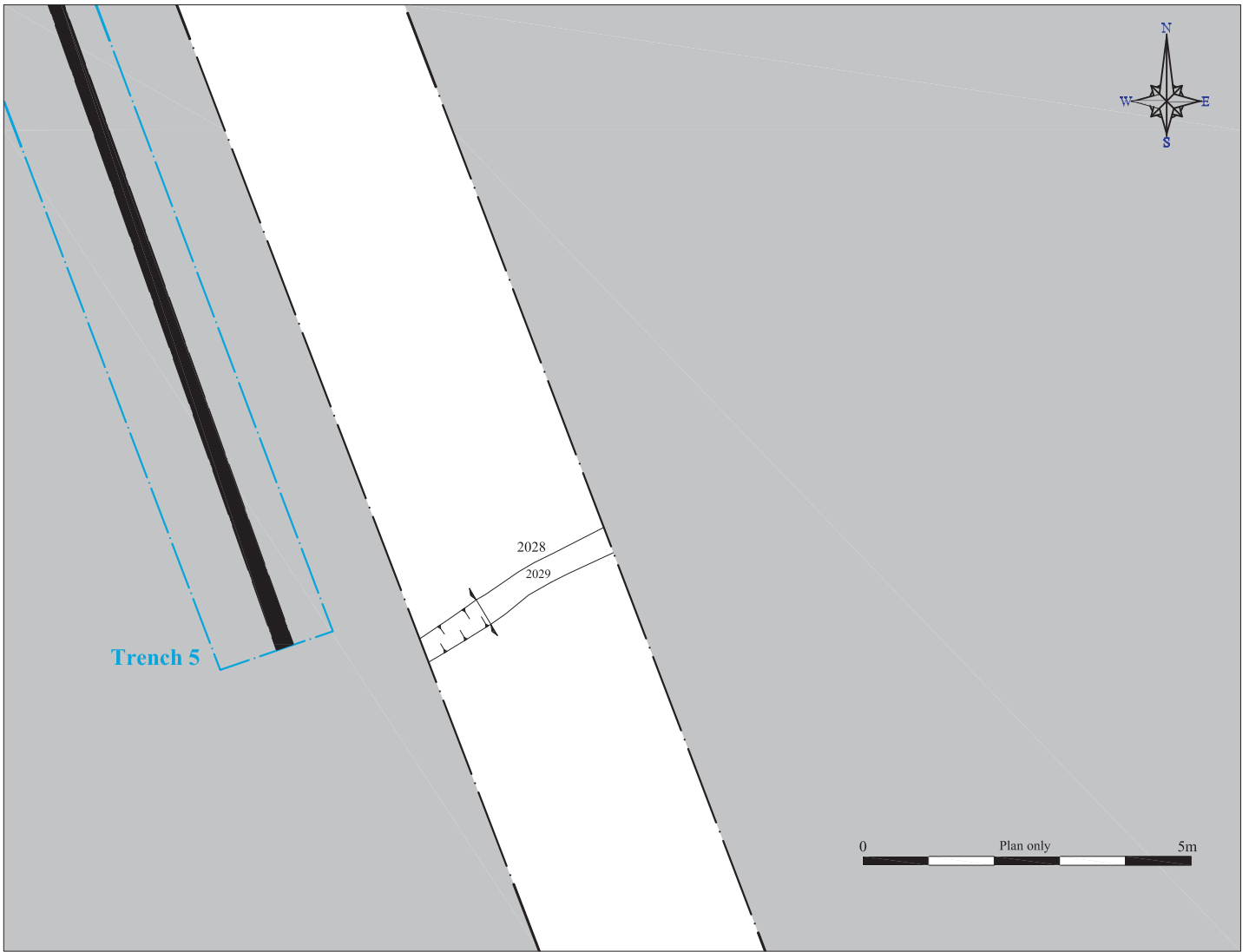
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<b>Fig. 13 Plan and section</b>
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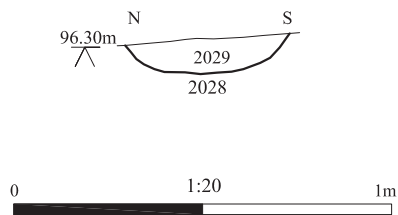
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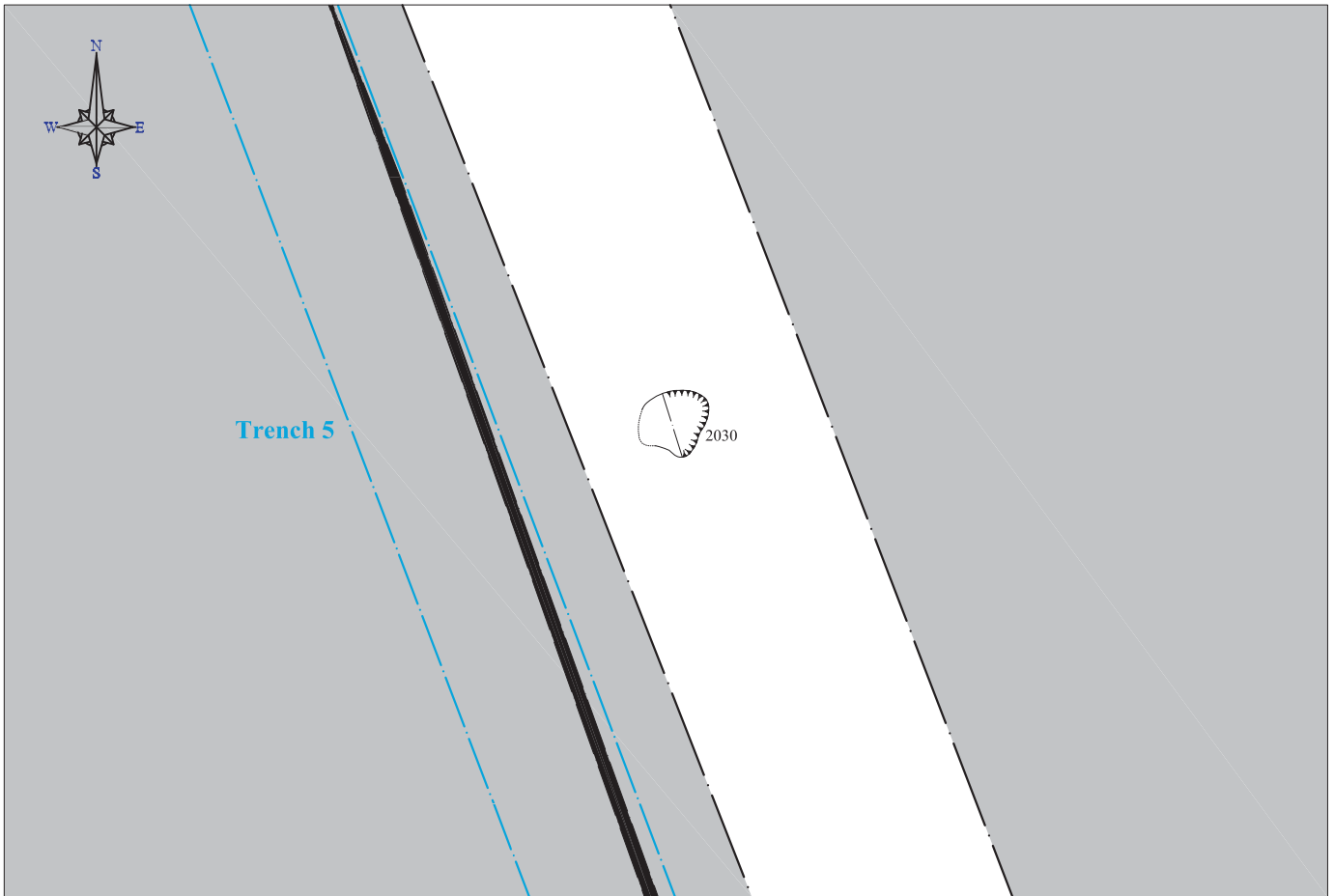
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<b>Fig. 14 Plans and sections</b>
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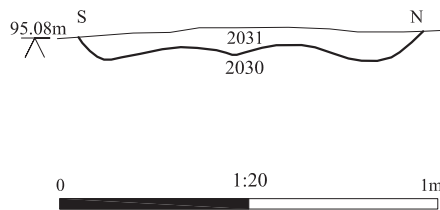
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<b>Fig. 15 Plan and section</b>
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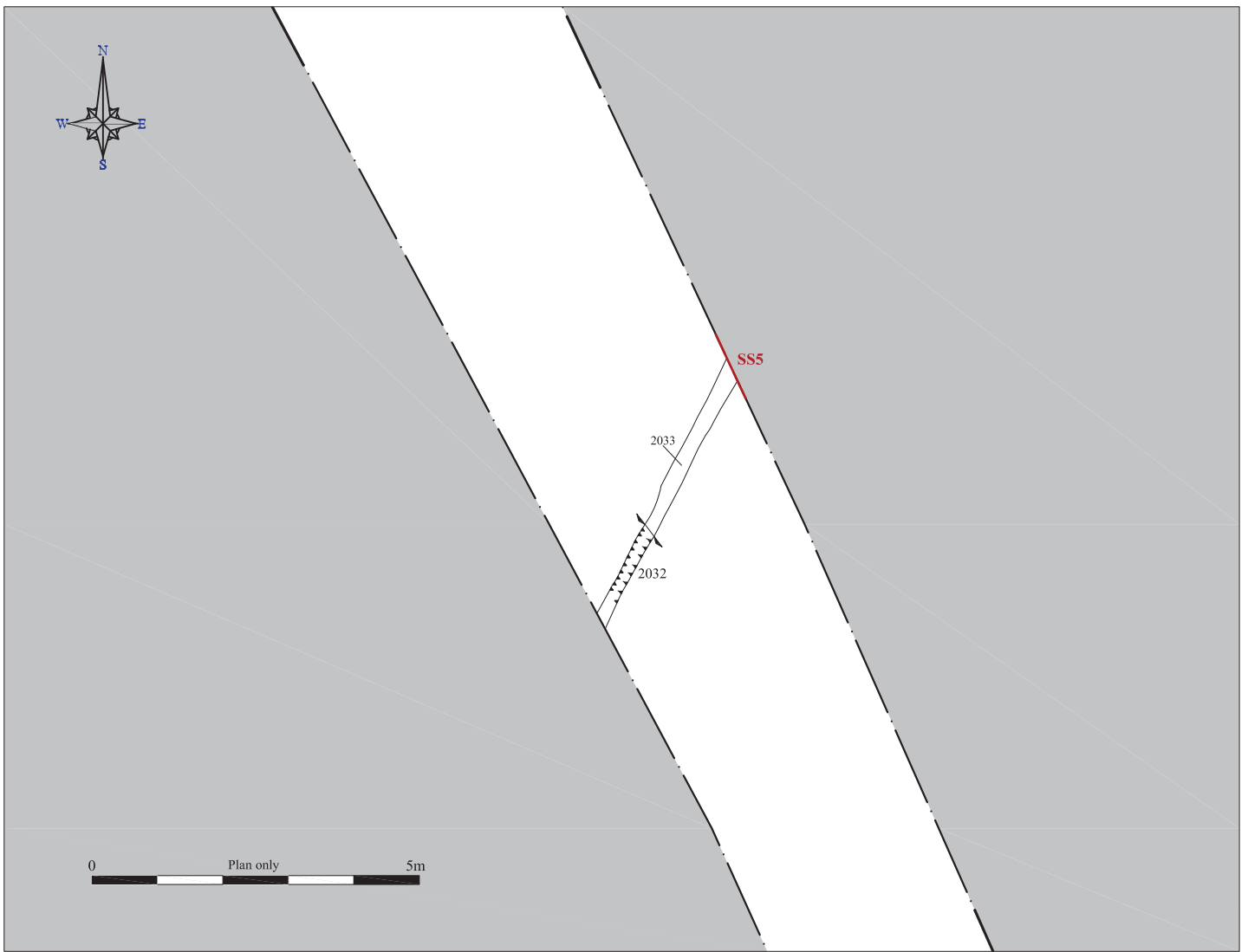


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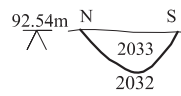


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<b>Fig. 16 Plan and section</b>
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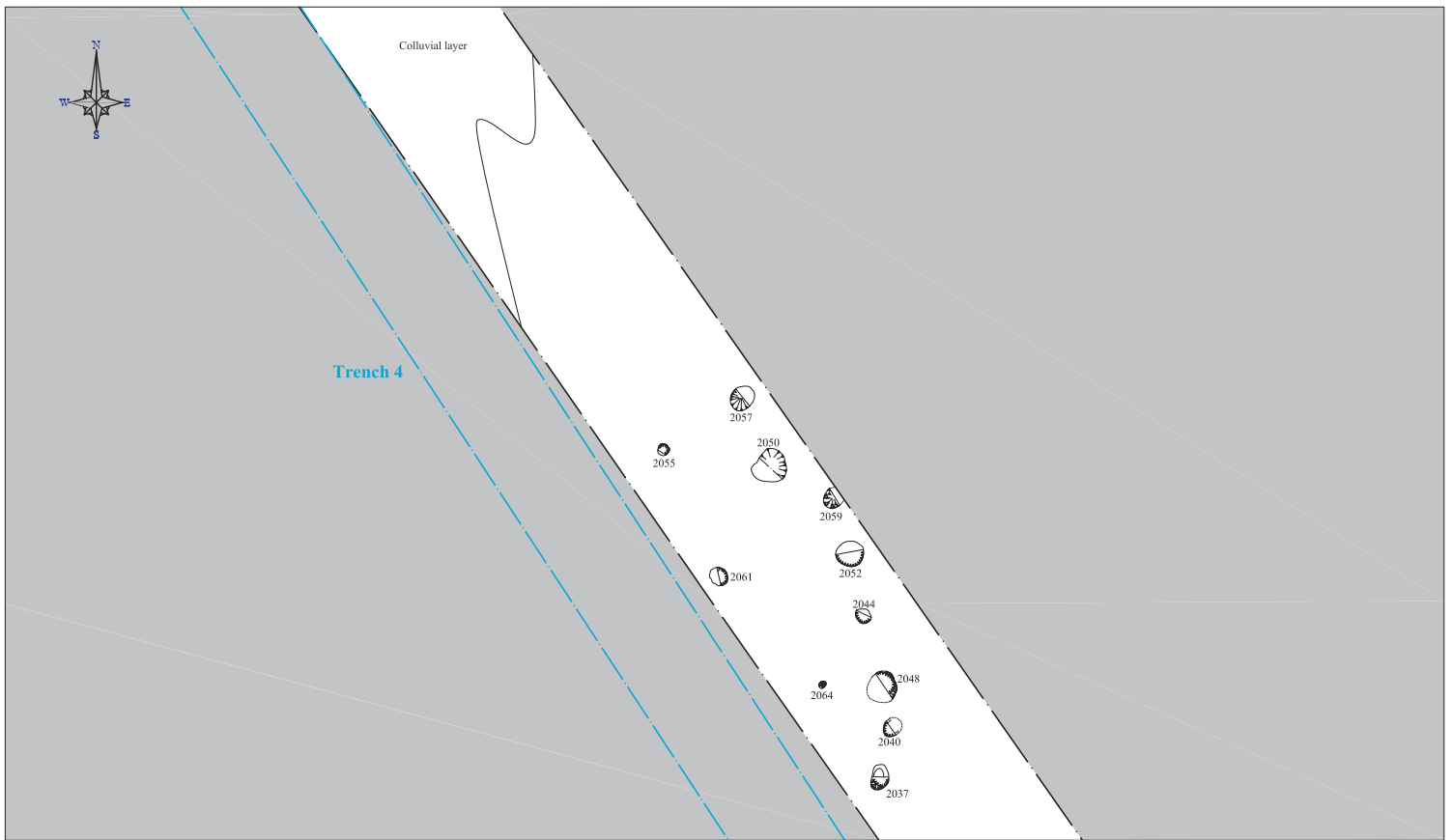




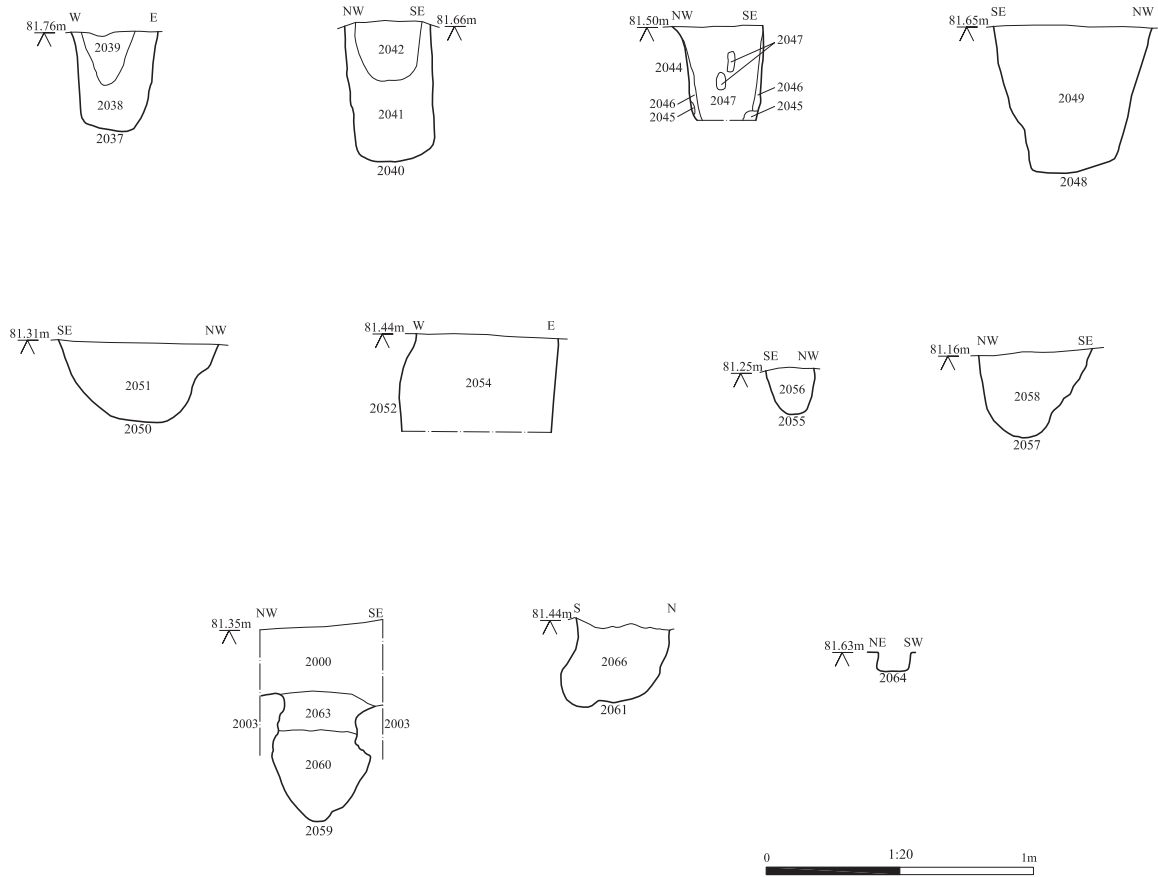
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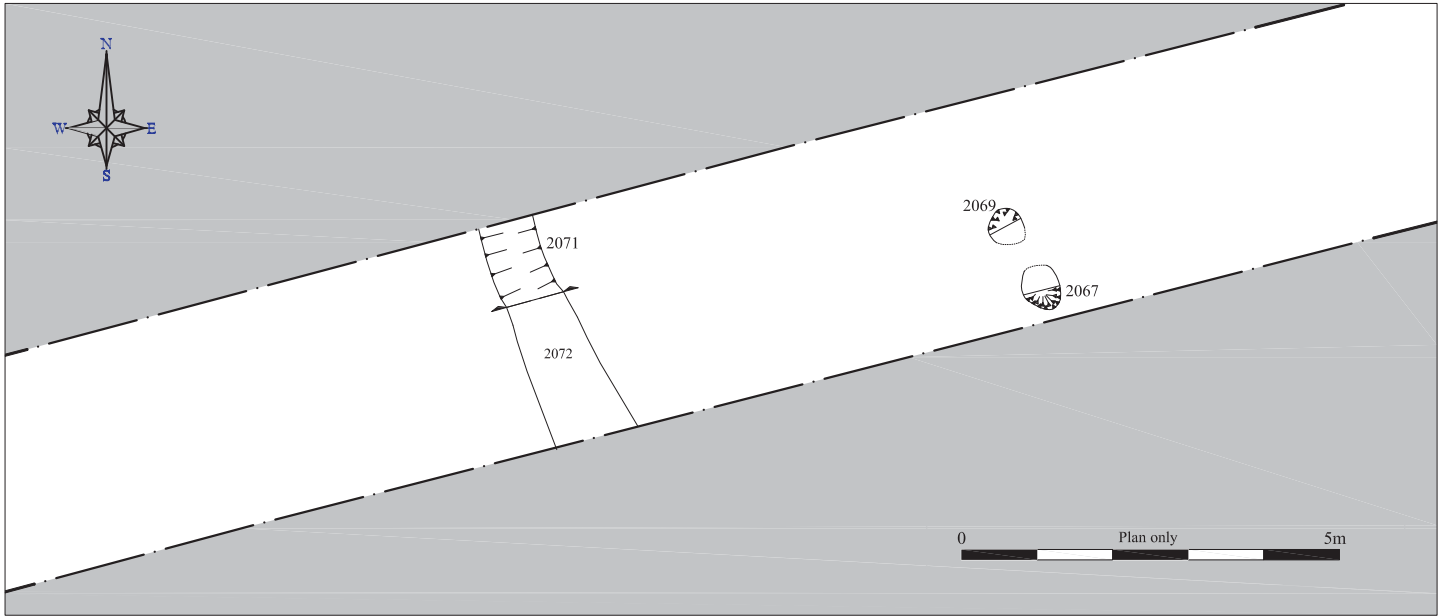


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<b>Fig. 17 Plan and section</b>
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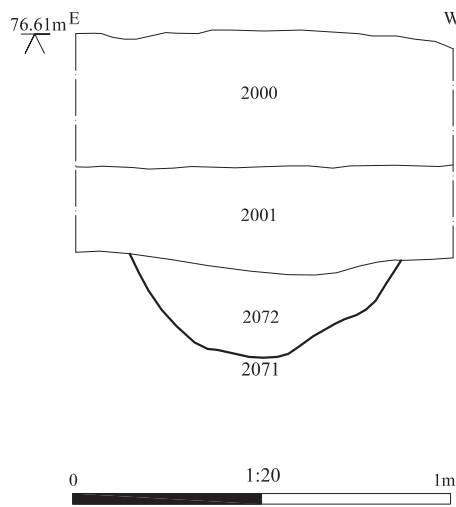
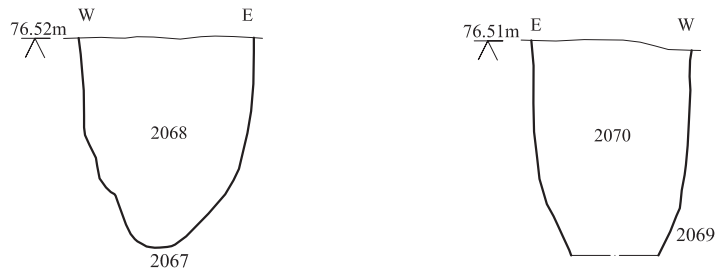


See Fig. 7 for location

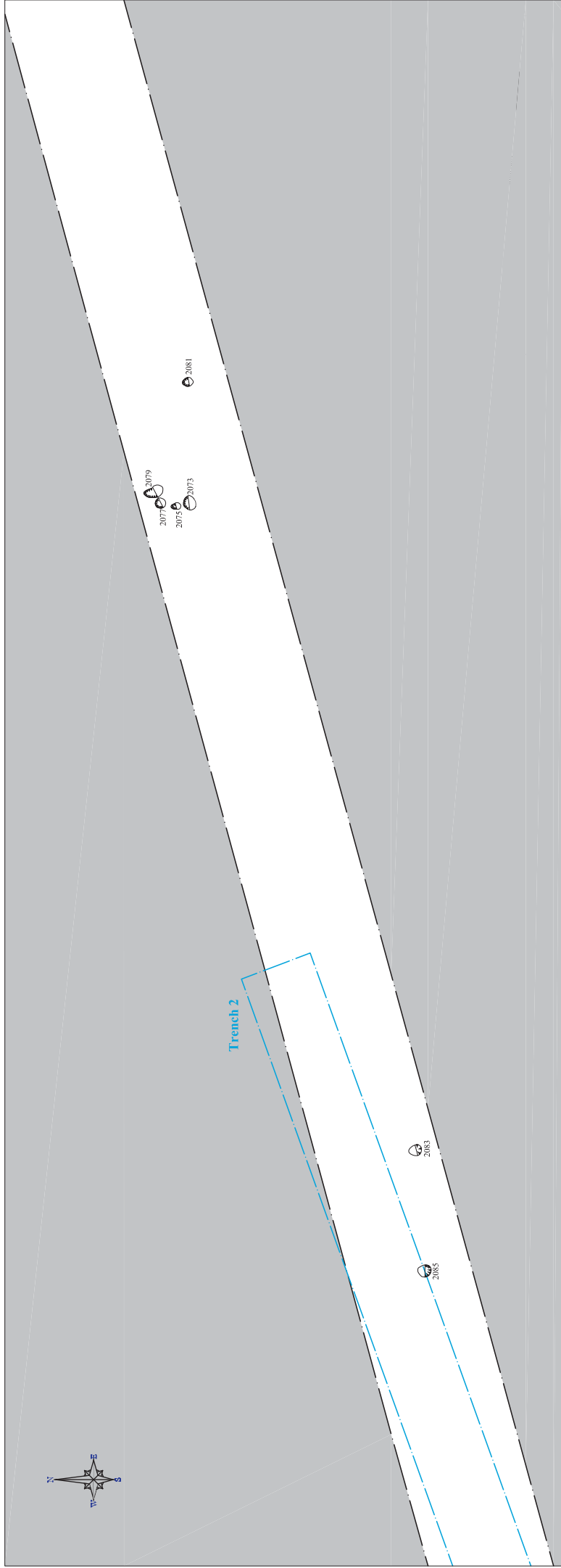




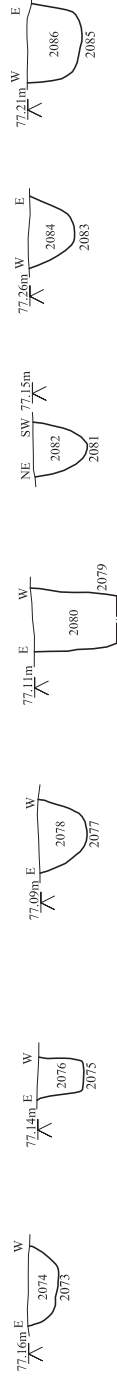
See Fig. 7 for location

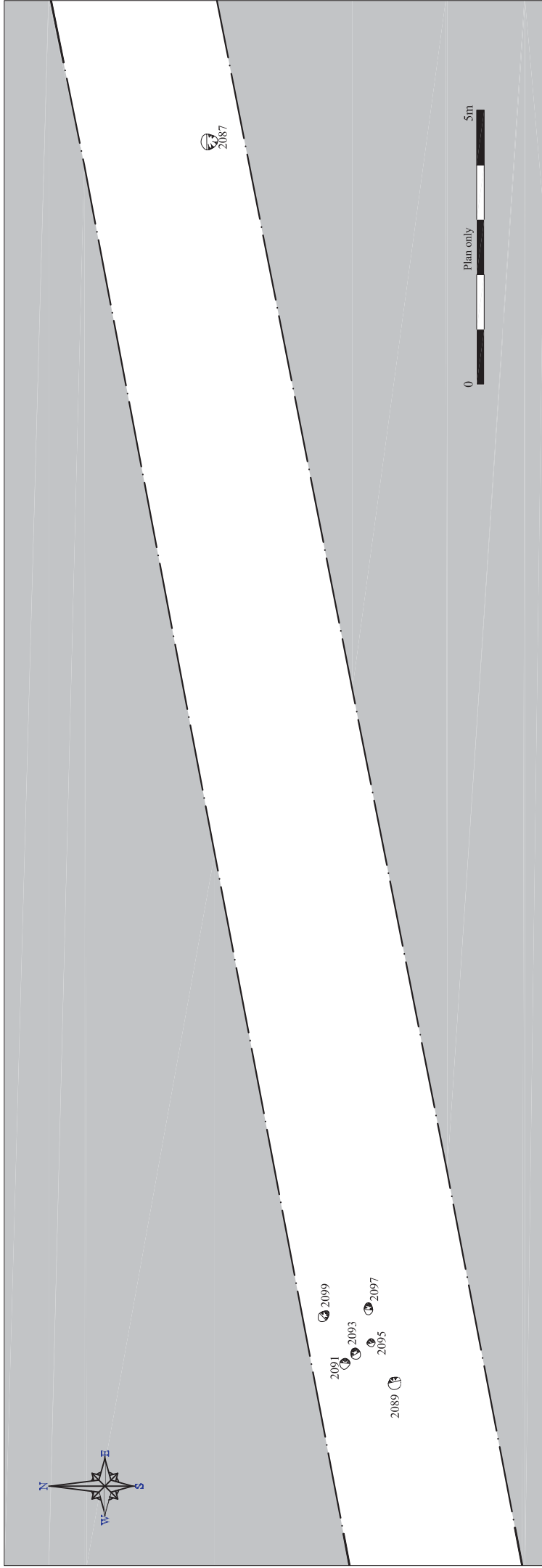


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**Fig. 19 Plans and sections**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4



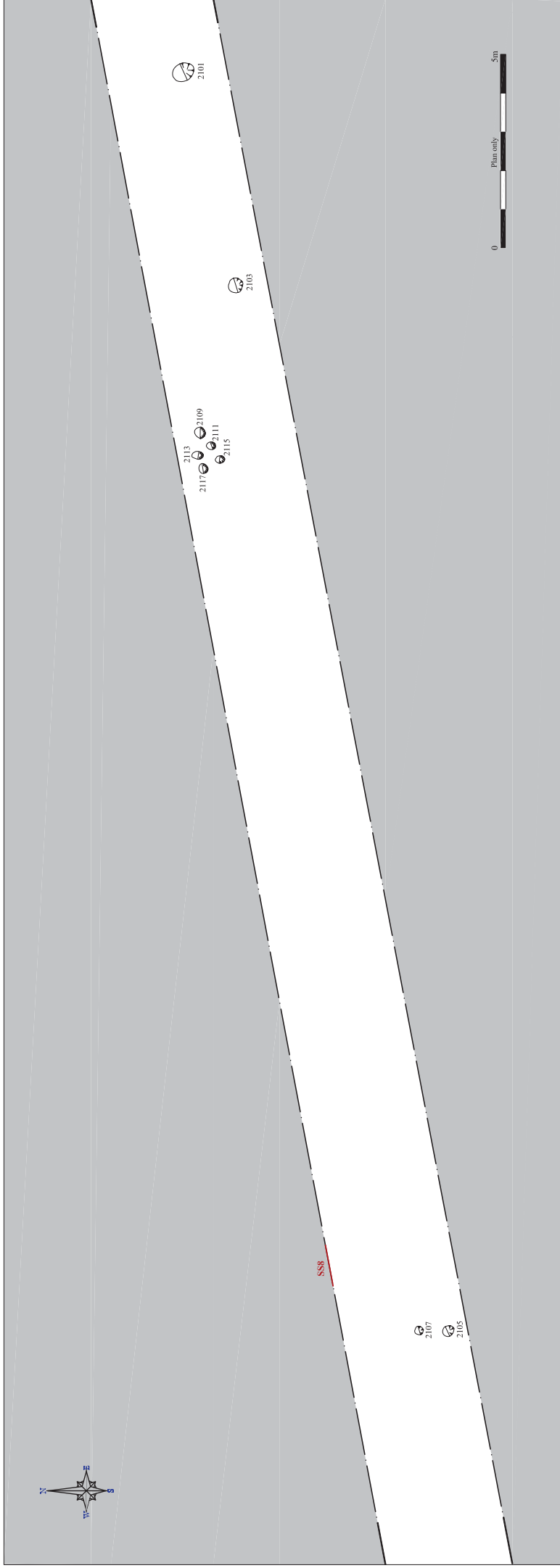
See Fig. 7 for location





See Fig. 7 for location





See Fig. 7 for location

