ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND OFF CROMWELL ROAD, WISBECH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (WICR 15)

Work Undertaken For
Steven Dunn Architects Ltd

December 2015

Report Compiled by
James Snee BSc (Hons)

Planning Application No: F/YR11/0475/EXDTIME
National Grid Reference: TF 4481 0748
Cambs.C.C.HER Event No: ECB 4603
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-236472

APS Report No: **124/15**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Quality Control

Archaeological Evaluation
At
Cromwell Road,
Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire
(WICR15)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	James Snee
Illustration	James Snee
Photographic Reproduction	James Snee
Post-excavation Analyst	James Snee

Checked by Senior Manager (Archaeology)	Approved by Team Leader (Archaeology)
Gary Taylor	Denise Drury
Date:	Date:

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Cromwell Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive. Remains of Roman settlement and salt-production have been found in the vicinity, as well as indications of medieval and later field systems.

The trial trenches revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits typical of the region.

Two undated gullies were revealed, which are probably the result of post-medieval agricultural activity.

A group of undated ditches in the west side of the site do not appear on early maps of the area, but two out of the three respect the alignment of the field system and probably formed part of it.

A post-medieval ditch was revealed in the centre of the site. This was identified on two 18th century field maps, but had gone by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map of 1886. It is possible that it was filled at the same time as drainage works were undertaken in the area.

Two post-medieval ditches were revealed in the southwest part of the site. These were not aligned to the existing field system, but they did run parallel to the former route of a trackway, Redmoor Lane.

A quantity of post-medieval brick, tile and pottery was recovered from the post-medieval ditches identified on the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'* (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

An archaeological trenching evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission (application F/YR11/0475/ EXDTIME) for a business development including a petrol station with ancillary sales kiosk, access, car parking and landscaping at the site.

The evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS) between 1st and 8th December 2015 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by APS and approved by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wisbech is located approximately 28km northeast of Peterborough and 14km northeast of March in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire (Fig 1). The proposed development site lies on the southeastern outskirts of the town, on land off Cromwell Road at TF 4481 0748 (Fig 2). The site comprises an approximately triangular plot measuring 3.4 hectares (Fig. 3, Plates 1 and 2).

The site lies on gently sloping ground at around 1m OD. Local soils are Wallasea 2 Association pelo-alluvial gleys developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Evidence for Romano-British activity in the vicinity has been found in the form of pottery scatters revealed across the remains of a roddon systems on the southeastern corner of the site (CHER 08182) and to east (CHER 04468, 09238). Finds of briquetage suggest that the Roman settlement may be associated with salt making.

A short distance to the north of the site, the remains of medieval of post medieval darland (dyling) field system ditches have been identified (ECB574).

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1886) shows a sheepfold to the southwest of the site (MCB18109) and a windmill on the western edge of the site.

3. AIMS

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Seven trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator, each measuring 50m long by 2m wide (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Spoil from the excavation was inspected visually, manually and with a metal detector for artefacts which could characterise areas of the site, but the topsoil was heavily contaminated with modern litter.

The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. In addition a metal detector was used to aid the discovery of metal artefacts.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a survey-grade differential Global Positioning System (dGPS).

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating (Appendix 2).

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological

evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 (Figures 4 & 13, Plates 3 & 12), was more than 0.10m of firm, mottled yellowish brown and bluish grey silty clay (106). This was revealed in sondages excavated at each end of the trench (Figure 4). Overlying (106), was 0.13m of soft, dark brown peat (105). At the northeastern end of the trench the peat thickened, apparently infilling a natural hollow (Fig 13, Section 3). Above peat layer (105), was 0.12m of firm, bluish grey clayey silt (104). At the northeastern end of the trench, (104) was overlain by 0.18m of firm, light grey and brownish grey clay (107). In the southern half of the trench, (104) was overlain by 0.34m of firm, yellowish brown clayey silts (103).

Two linear features were revealed in Trench 1 (Figure 4). Towards the northeastern end of the trench was a northwest-southeast oriented cut [108] (Figure 13; Section 5, Plate 10), 1.98m wide and 0.60m deep, with steep sloping sides and a rounded base. At the base of this feature was a 0.2m thick layer of friable, dark greyish brown, peat with some silt (112). This was overlain by 0.14m of soft, light to mid brown mixed organic silt (111). The latest fill was 0.20m of firm, mid yellowish brown clayey silt (110), with occasional charcoal flecks and ceramic building material (CBM). Finds of pottery and brick from this feature were dated to the late 18th to early 19th century.

Approximately 8m southwest of linear [108], was a parallel linear cut [109] (Figure 13, Plate 11), 1.23m wide and 0.34m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. At the base of this feature was 0.12m of soft, friable dark brown silty peat (115), with slight clay. This was overlain by 0.06m of soft, light yellow fine sand and silt (114). The latest deposit in this feature was 0.13m of light to medium yellowish brown clayey silt (113), with occasional fine flecks of CBM.

Sealing both of these features was a 0.19m thick layer of soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt (102) with occasional yellowish brown clay patches. Above this was 0.25m soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt (101).

Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figures 5 & 11, Plate 4) revealed a clear sequence of natural alluvial deposits. The earliest of these was more than 0.10m of firm, bluish grey clay (210) and (211) with frequent marine molluscs.

In the northern half of the trench was a 10m wide depression or channel [212], approximately 0.80m deep.

Overlying the clay (210) and (211) was friable, black peat (209), up to 0.12m thick. Overlying the peat layer was 0.10m of firm, bluish grey clay (208). Above this clay layer was a firm, mid orange brown clayey silt deposit (204) of variable thickness, up to 1.32m within channel [212].

At the southern end of the trench was the northern edge of a broad channel [207], more than 3.30m wide and 0.50m deep, with irregular gently sloping sides and a rounded base. This cut contained two fills, a lower of friable, dark greyish brown peaty silt (206) and an upper fill of friable, mid brown silt (205). North of channel [207] was a layer of firm, bluish grey silty clay (202), 20m wide and up to 0.17m thick. Approximately 8m north of (202), was a further layer of firm, bluish grey silty clay (203), up to 0.12m thick.

Covering the entire trench was a 0.30m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (201).

Trench 3

Trench 3 (Figures 6 & 12, Plate 5) also revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits. The earliest of these was more than 0.10m of firm, laminated, bluish grey clayey silt (309), with iron pan and phragmites reed fragments.

Two depressions or channels were observed in the surface of silt layer (309). Towards the western end of the trench was an approximately 8m wide channel [310] and 0.28m deep. At the east end of the trench was a second channel [311], more than 9m wide and approximately 0.40m deep.

Above silty alluvium (309) was up to 0.14m of friable, black peat (308). Overlying (308) was up to 0.16m of firm, bluish grey clay (307). This was covered by up to 0.52m of firm, mid brown clayey silt (306).

At the eastern end of the trench, silt (306) was overlain up to 0.15m of firm, bluish grey silty clay (305). At the western end of the trench was up to 0.15m of firm, bluish grey silty clay (304). This was overlain by 0.14m of firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay (303).

Covering the entire trench was 0.30m of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (302). In places the topsoil was overlain by brick rubble (301).

Trench 4

The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 4 (Figures 7 & 15; Sections 14 & 15, Plate 6) was more than 0.10m of firm, bluish grey clay (408) with frequent marine molluscs. This was overlain by black peat layer (407), up to 0.08m thick. Above the peat was 0.10m of firm, bluish grey clay (406). Overlying (406) was up to 0.24m of firm, mid brown clayey silt (405). This, in turn, was overlain by 0.12m of firm, bluish grey silty clay (404).

Cutting through (404) was a north-south oriented ditch [403] (Figures 7 & 14: Section 7, Plate 13), 1.2m wide and 0.70m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flattish base. Filling [403] was firm, mottled mid and dark brown silty clay (402). Brick fragments from this feature were dated to between the 17th and 19th century.

Covering the entire trench was up to 0.30m of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (401).

Trench 5

The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 5 (Figure 8 & 16; Sections 16 & 17, Plate 7) was more than 0.05m of firm, bluish grey clay (507) with frequent marine molluscs. This was overlain by black peat layer (506), up to 0.07m thick. Above the peat was up to 0.16m of firm, bluish grey clay (505). Overlying (505) was up to 0.35m of firm, mid brown clayey silt (504).

Cutting through (504) was a north-south oriented ditch [503] (Figure 16; Section 18, Plate 14), 1.55m wide and 0.66m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flattish base. Filling [503] was firm, mottled mid and dark brown silty clay (502). Finds of brick and pottery dating to the 18th to 19th century were recovered from this feature (Appendix 2).

Covering the entire trench was up to 0.30m of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (501).

Trench 6

The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 6

(Figures 9 & 17, Plates 8 & 17) was more than 0.10m of firm, bluish grey clay (609). This was overlain by 0.12m of friable, black peat (608). Above this was 0.12m of firm, bluish grey clay (607).

Above clay (607) was approximately 0.10m of firm, mid brown clayey silt (610), overlain by 0.48m of firm, laminated light brown silt and sand (604) (Fig 17).

Cut into laminated silts and sands (604), were two gullies [603] and [606]. The southernmost of these was northwest-southeast oriented gully [603] (Plate 15), 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base (Fig 15, Section 12). Filling the gully was firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay (602). The more northern gully [606] (Plate 16) was 0.47m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base (Fig 15, Section 13). This was filled with firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay (605).

Covering the entire trench was up to 0.30m of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (601).

Trench 7

The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 7 (Fig 10, Plate 9) was more than 0.10m of soft, light brownish grey silt (713). Overlying this was a 0.05m thick peat layer (711) and (712). Above this was up to 0.27m thick layer of firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay (710) (Figure 16; Sections 19 & 20).

Three ditches were recorded in Trench 7. Towards the western end of the trench was a northeast-southwest oriented ditch [702] (Plate 18), *c.* 1m wide and 0.38m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base (Fig 14, Section 9). This contained two fills, the lower was 0.20m of firm, mottled yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay (708). Above this was firm, dark yellowish brown silty clay (703).

In the centre of the trench was an approximately north-south oriented ditch [704] (Plate 19), 1.55m wide and 0.57m deep, with concave sloping sides and an irregular base (Fig 14, Section 10). This ditch had a lower fill of soft, dark greyish brown peat (709), 0.12m thick. Above this was firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay (705).

A third ditch [706] was recorded in section towards the east end of the trench (Plate 20), 1.59m wide and 0.44m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base (Fig 15, Section 11). This was filled with firm, mid brown silty clay (707).

Covering the trench was up to 0.50m of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (701).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits encountered during the evaluation were dominated by a sequence of alluvial layers. The earliest of these was primarily composed of marine clay with inclusions of aquatic molluscs. However, in the middle of the site (Trench 3) and the east end of the site (Trench 7) the earliest deposit was of a coarser silty nature, suggesting the presence of prehistoric water channels.

Across the entire site was a layer of peat. In Trenches 2 and 3, the peat layer filled depressions or channels in the lower alluvium. There was the suggestion of an additional depression or channel at the north end of Trench 6.

Above the peat was a layer of blue-grey clay alluvium, probably deposited by an inundation event that halted peat formation in this area.

Across the majority of the site, the grey alluvium was covered by a thick layer of brown clayey silt. In Trench 6, this deposit became far less clayey, more sandy and visibly laminated. It is thought that this indicates the presence of a silt levee or roddon in this part of the site.

Cutting into the roddon silts in Trench 6 were two undated gullies [603] and [606]. These may have been the result of post-medieval agricultural activity on the site.

In Trench 7 were three undated ditches [702], [704] and [706]. The position and alignment of these were compared with 18th and 19th century maps of the area (Figs 20, 21 and 22), but could not be identified. However, two appeared to be aligned with the post-medieval field system, while the third was diagonally to it. An earlier, probably 17th century, map suggests the investigation site was part of a much larger land block called Bridge Field (Fig 19). This was perhaps a medieval open field, not yet sub-divided by enclosure at the time the map was made. The shared alignments of the undated ditches and the field boundaries shown on the 18th-19th century maps suggest that the ditches are part of the enclosure field system, with the cartographic evidence indicating this was established in the later 17th-18th centuries.

In the western half of the site, a series of post-medieval ditches were revealed. In Trench 1, were two roughly parallel ditches [108] and [109] that followed the alignment of the former Redmoor Lane, which replaced Begdale Lane following the excavation of the Redmoor Drain. However, these ditches could not be identified among the field boundaries shown on the 18th and 19th century maps of the area (Figs 20, 21 and 22).

In Trenches 4 and 5 were two sections of what is believed to be a single post-medieval ditch [403] and [503]. Given a relatively large margin of error in 18th century maps (up to a 30m discrepancy compared to the same fields in the 19th century maps), this may be a field boundary shown on the 1775 map (Fig 20) and the 1796 Estate book (Fig 21), dividing fields 304 and 305. This field boundary was not present on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig 22). In the mid-19th century, drainage works were undertaken in this area (Pugh 1953), which included the excavation of the Redmoor Drain, which discharged into the River Nene a short distance southwest of the present investigation. It is possible that field boundaries were modified at this time.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Cromwell Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive. Evidence of Roman settlement and salt-making, and medieval and later field systems have been identified nearby.

The trial trenches revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits typical of the area.

Two undated gullies were revealed, which are probably the result of post-medieval agricultural activity.

A group of undated ditches in the west side of the site do not appear on early maps of the area, but two out of the three respect the alignment of the existing field system and probably formed part of it.

A post-medieval ditch was revealed in the centre of the site. This was identified on two 18th century field maps, but had gone by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map of 1886. It is possible that it was filled at the same time as drainage works were

undertaken in the area.

Two post-medieval ditches were revealed in Trench 1. These were not aligned to the existing field system, but they did run parallel to the former route of Redmoor Lane.

A quantity of post-medieval brick, tile and pottery was recovered from the post-medieval ditches identified on the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Steven Dunn Architects Ltd. for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by who edited this report along with.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Staff: Andy Pascoe, James Snee & Fiona Walker
Photographic reproduction: James Snee
CAD Illustration: James Snee
Post-excavation Analyst: James Snee

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pugh, RB, 1953, *The Victoria History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely*, Volume IV, Oxford University Press.

Plan of Wisbech Saint Peter's and Wisbech St Mary's (date uncertain believed to be copy of 17th century map).

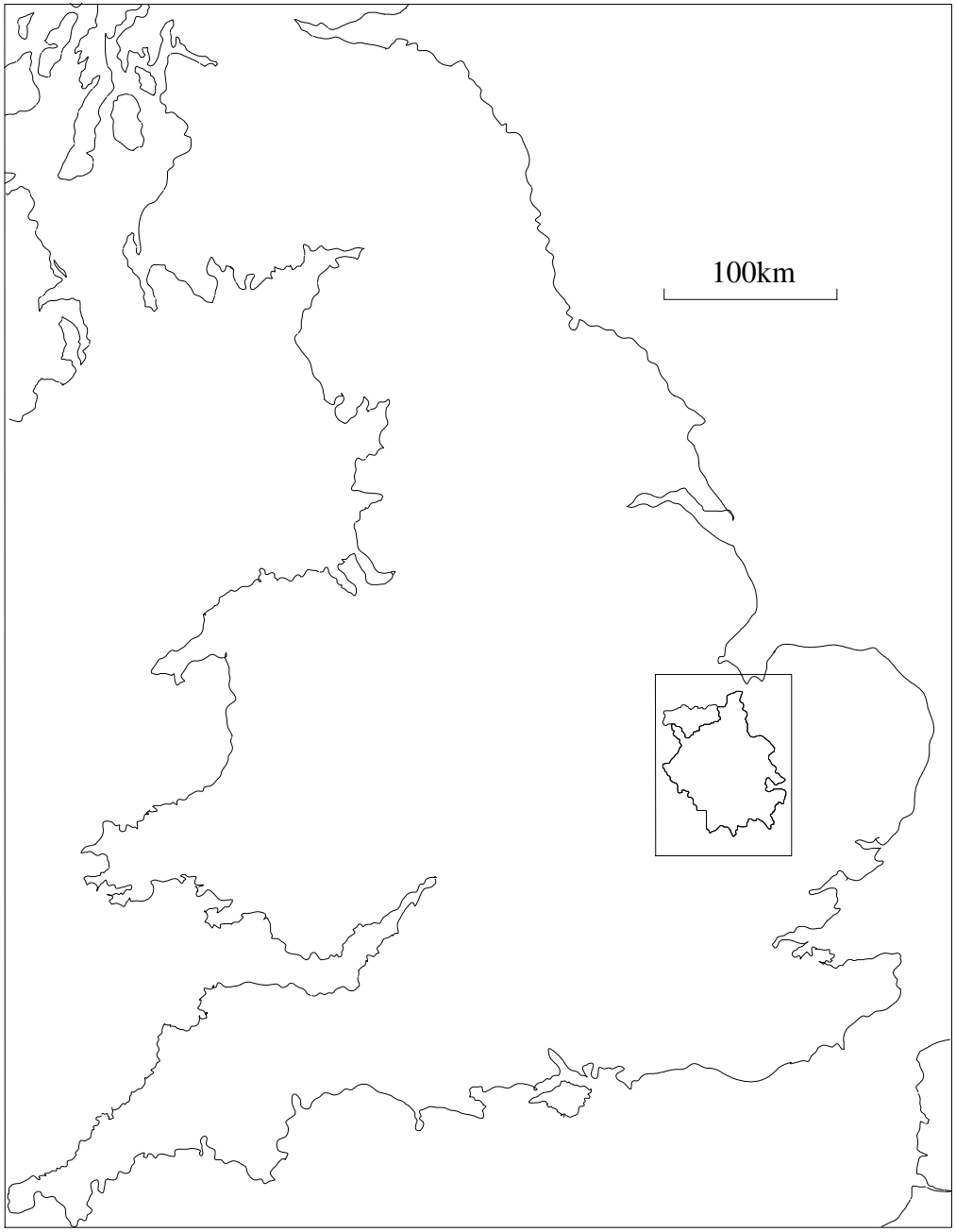
Actual Survey of the Parish of Wisbech St Peter's in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge (1775).

Estates in Wisbech Saint Peter's Town and Brink Watches; and Wisbech Saint Mary's Murrow – Watch (1792).

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1886)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CHER	Cambridgeshire Heritage Environment Record
OD	Ordnance Datum



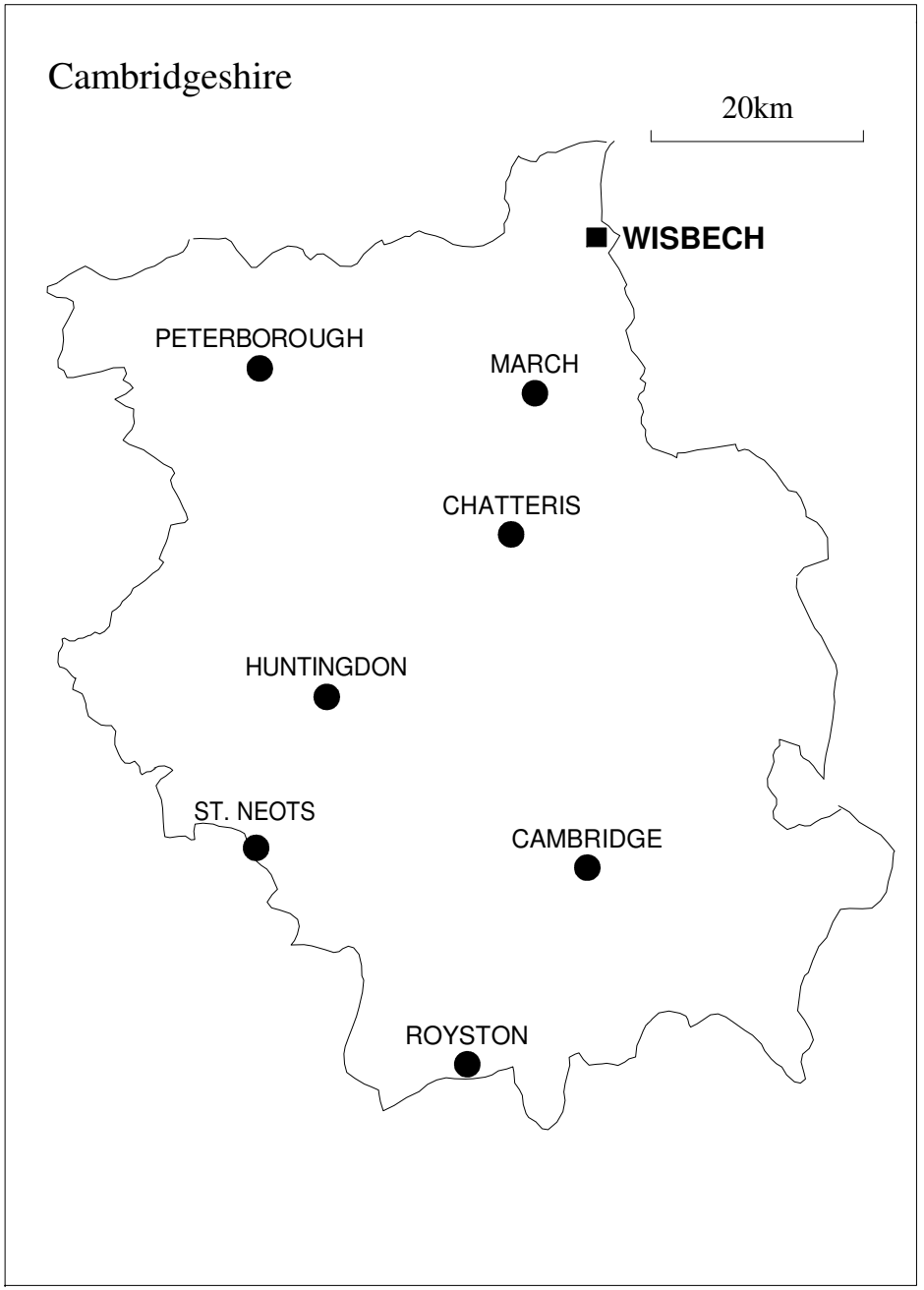


Figure 1 General Location Plan

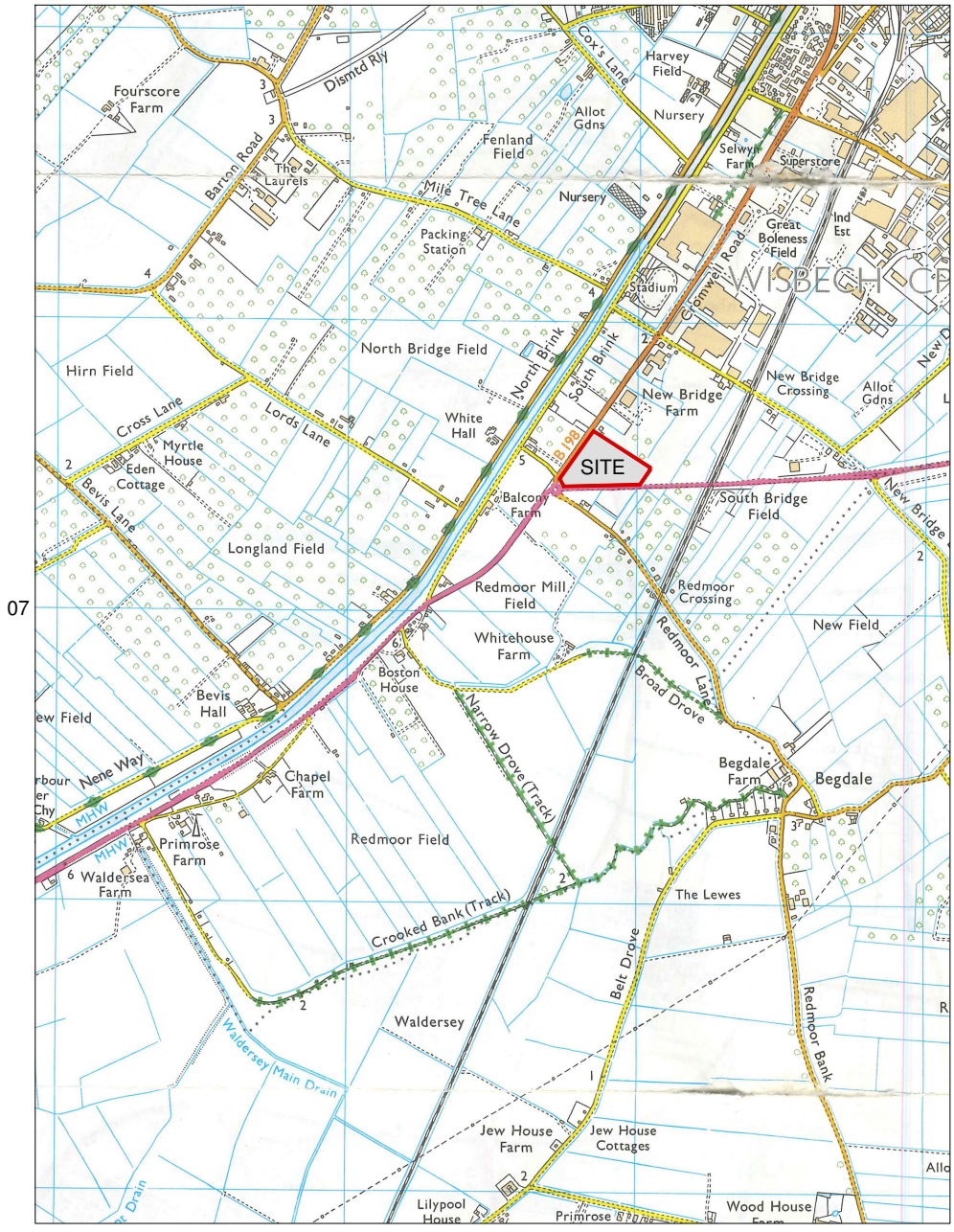


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Figure 2 Site Location

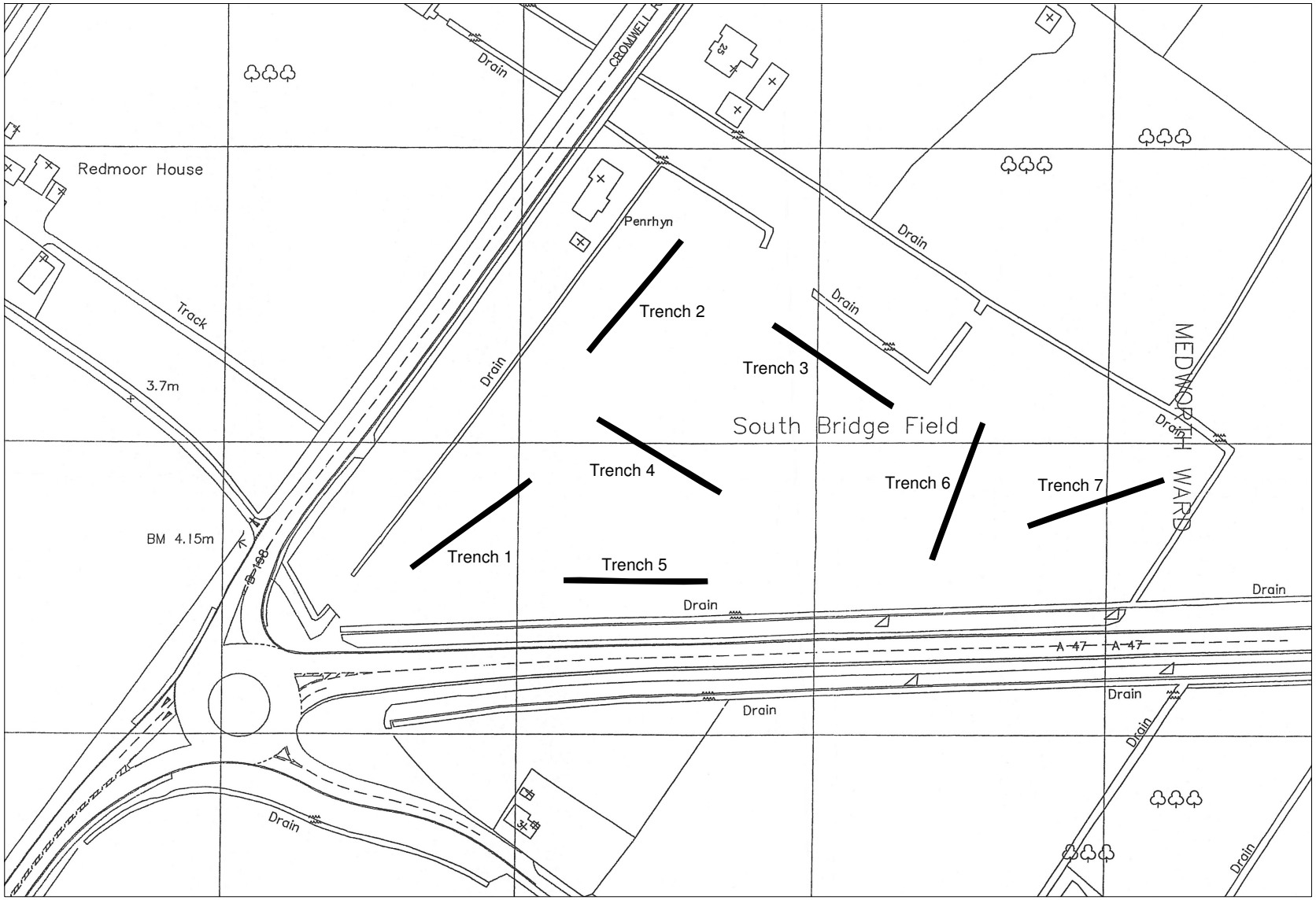

Figure 3 Trench layout plan.

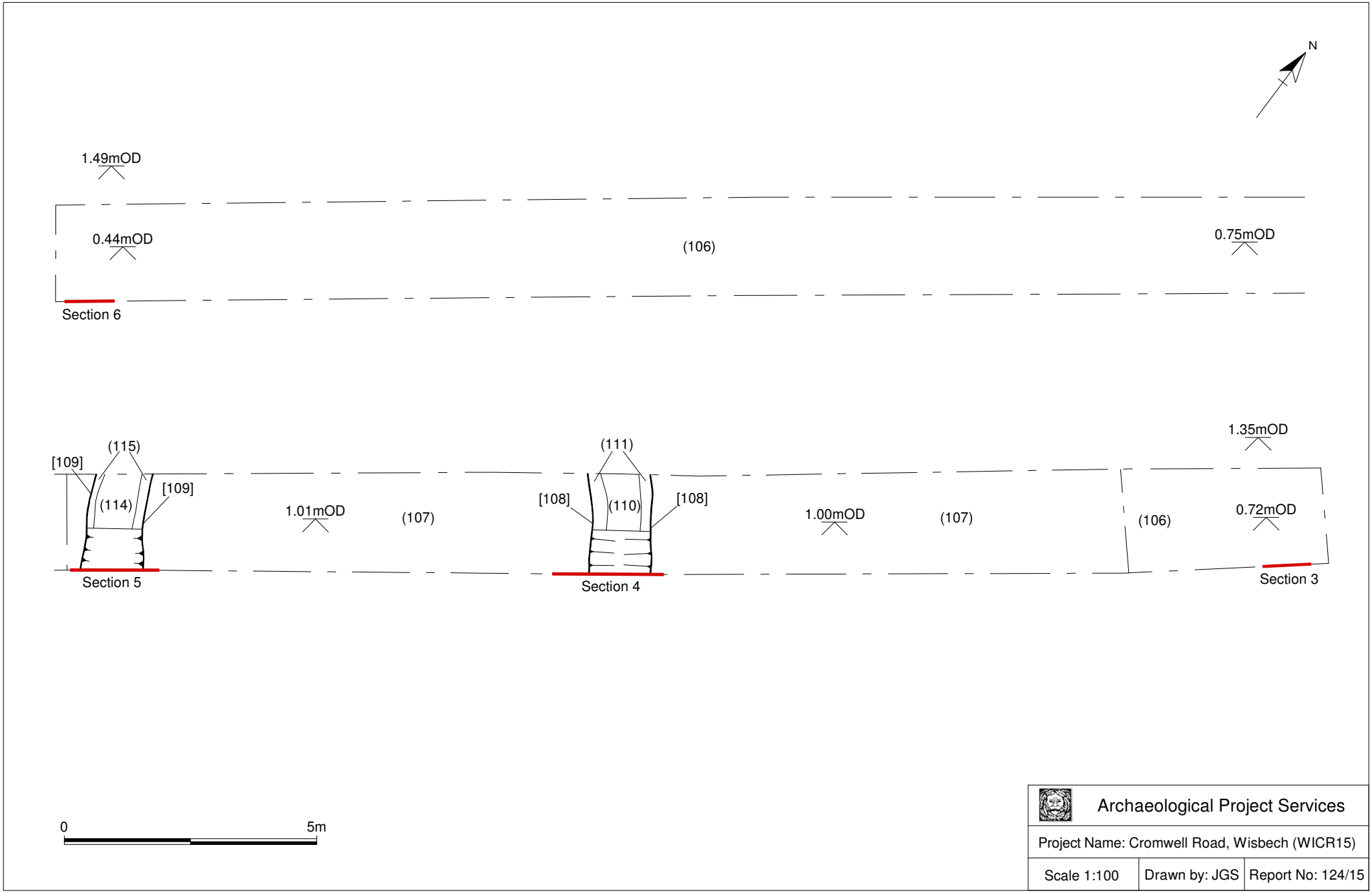

Figure 4 Trench 1

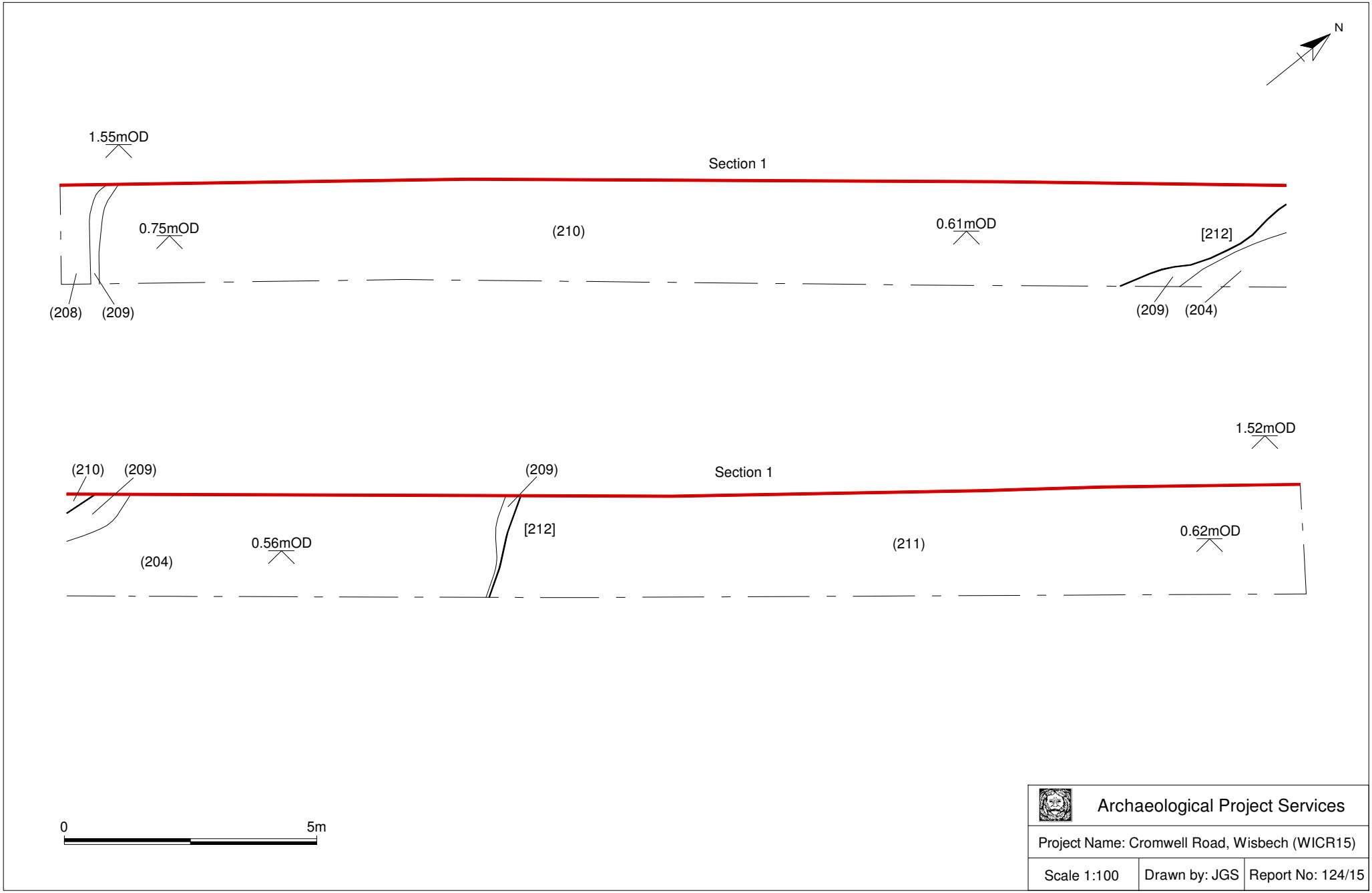

Figure 5 Trench 2

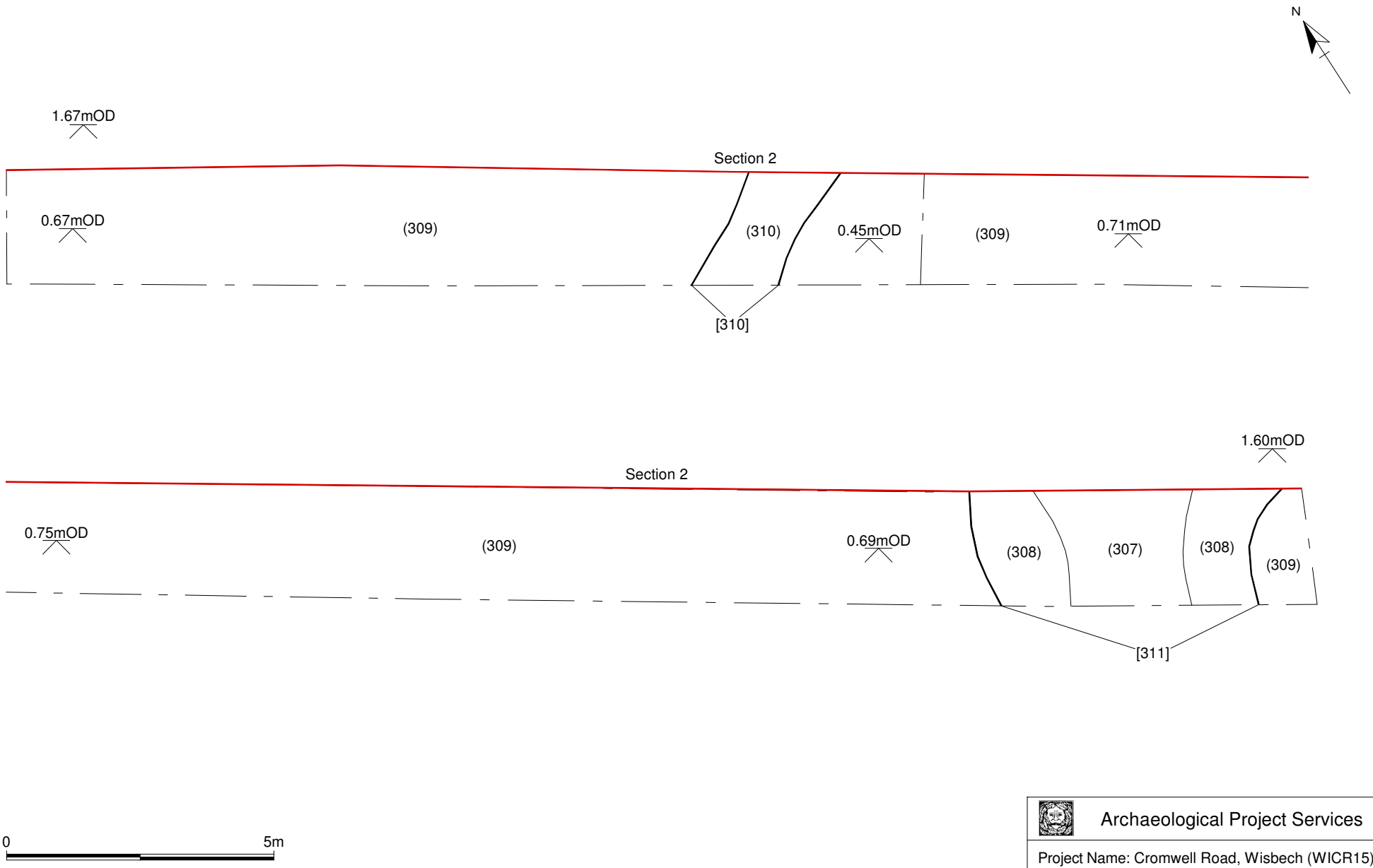

Figure 6 Trench 3

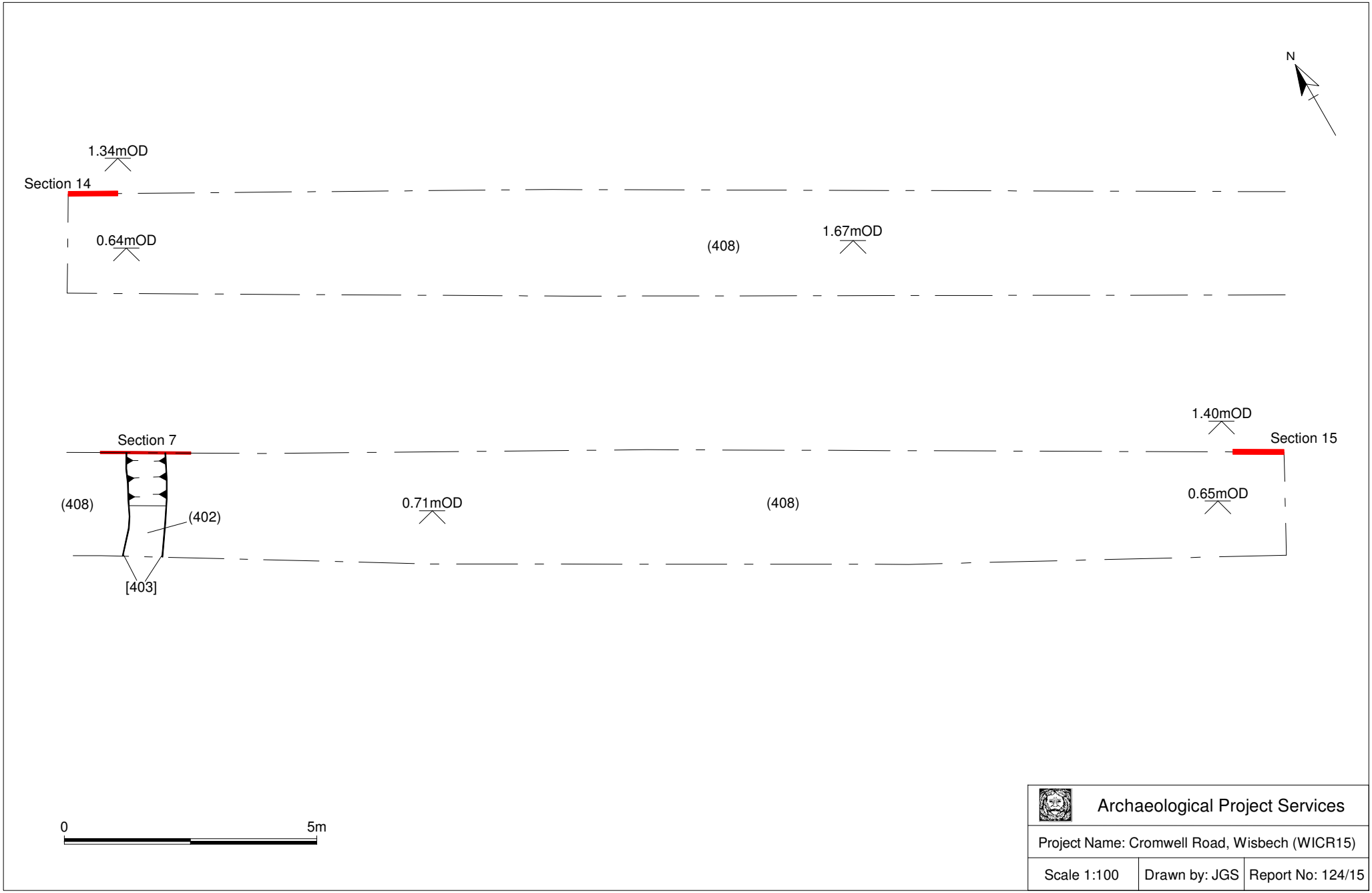

Figure 7 Trench 4

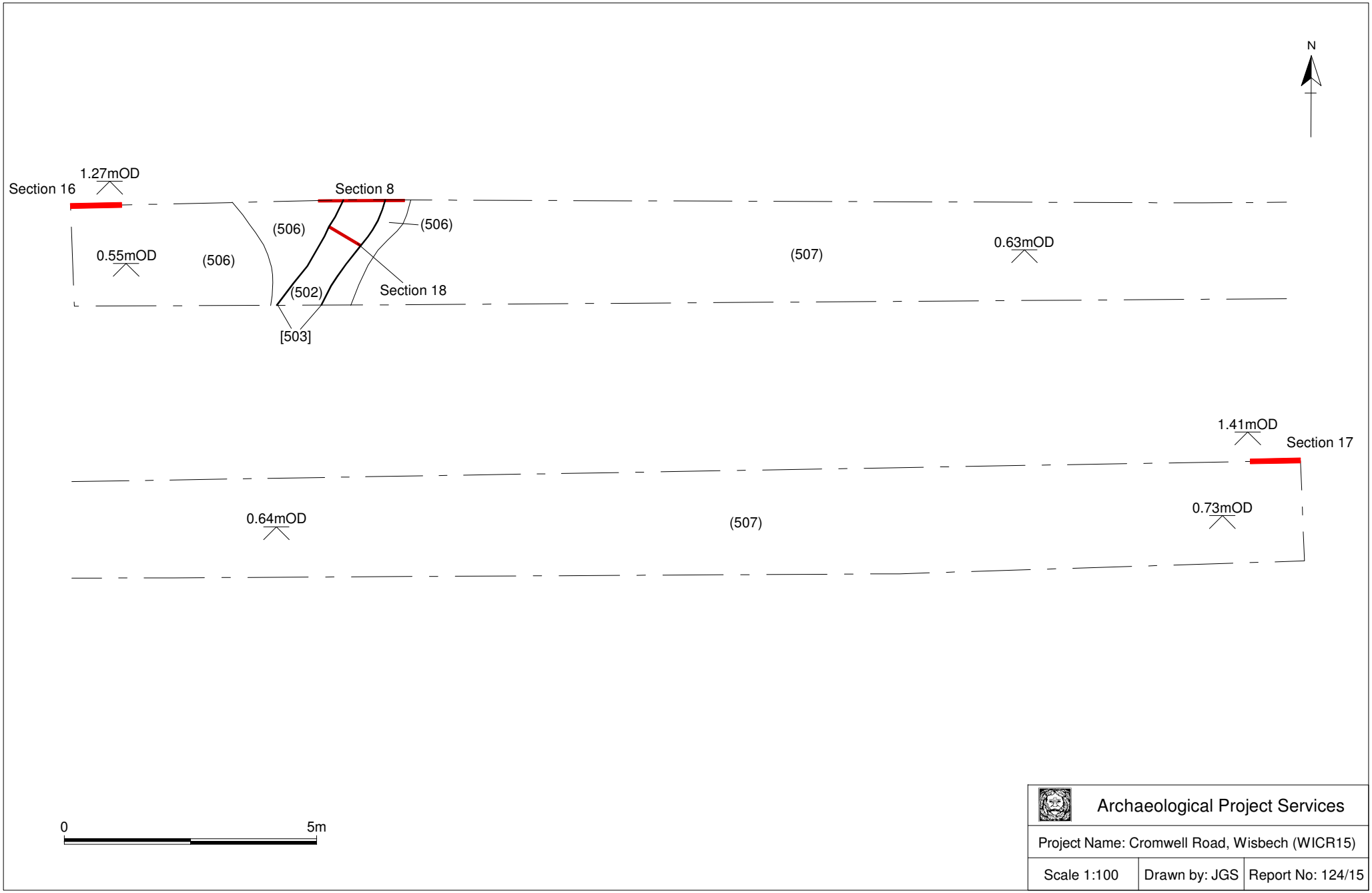

Figure 8 Trench 5

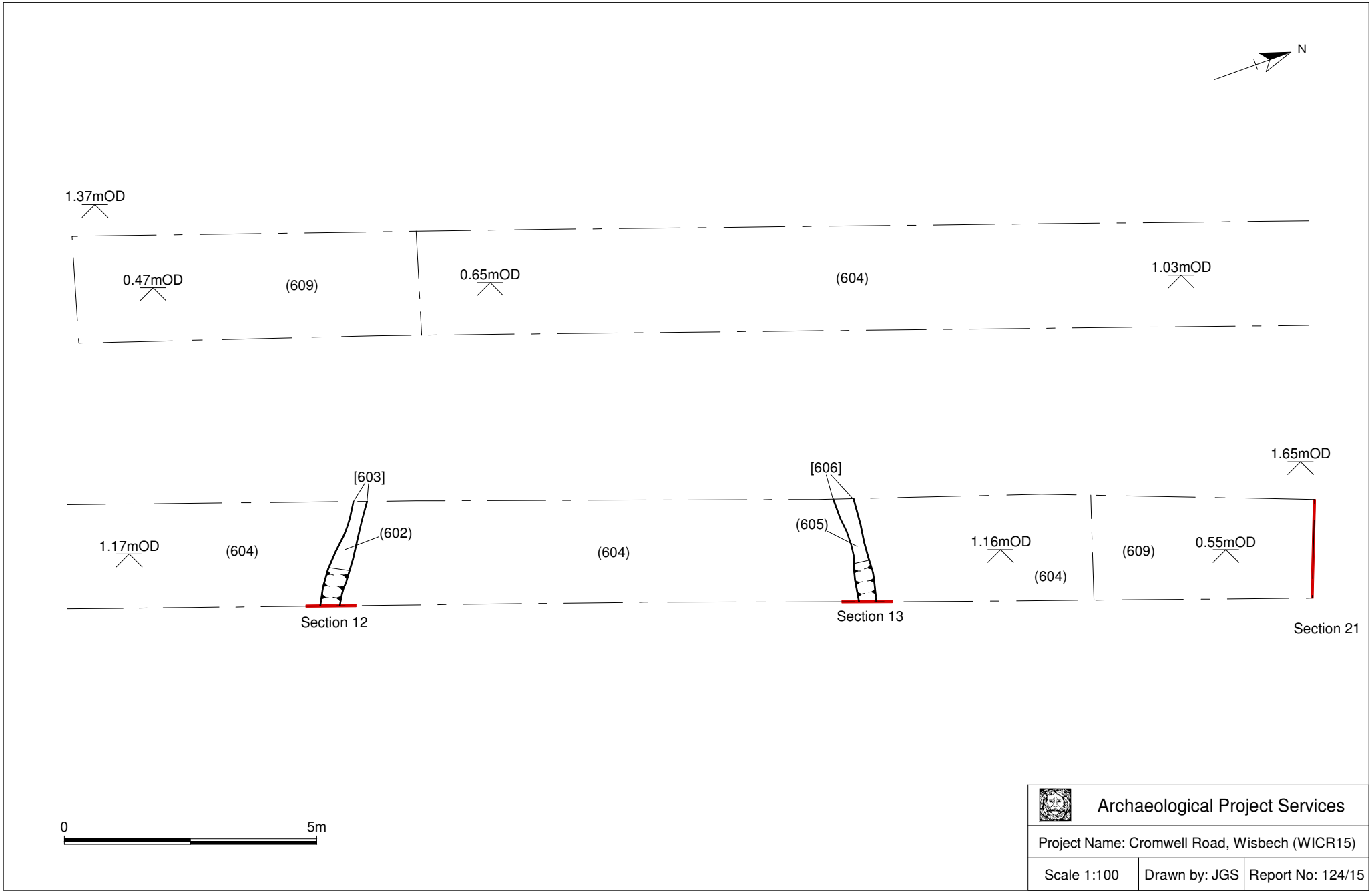

Figure 9 Trench 6

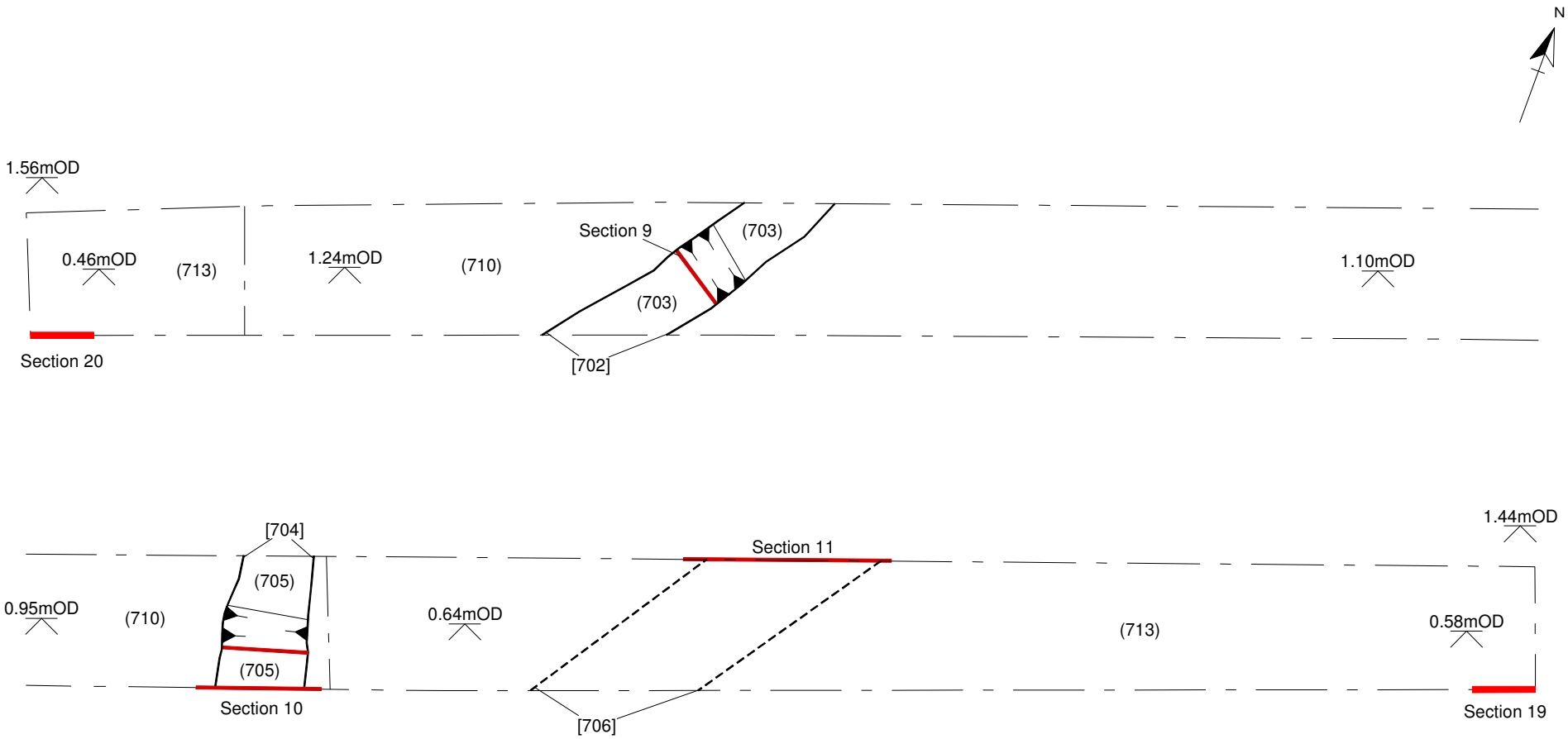

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Figure 10 Trench 7

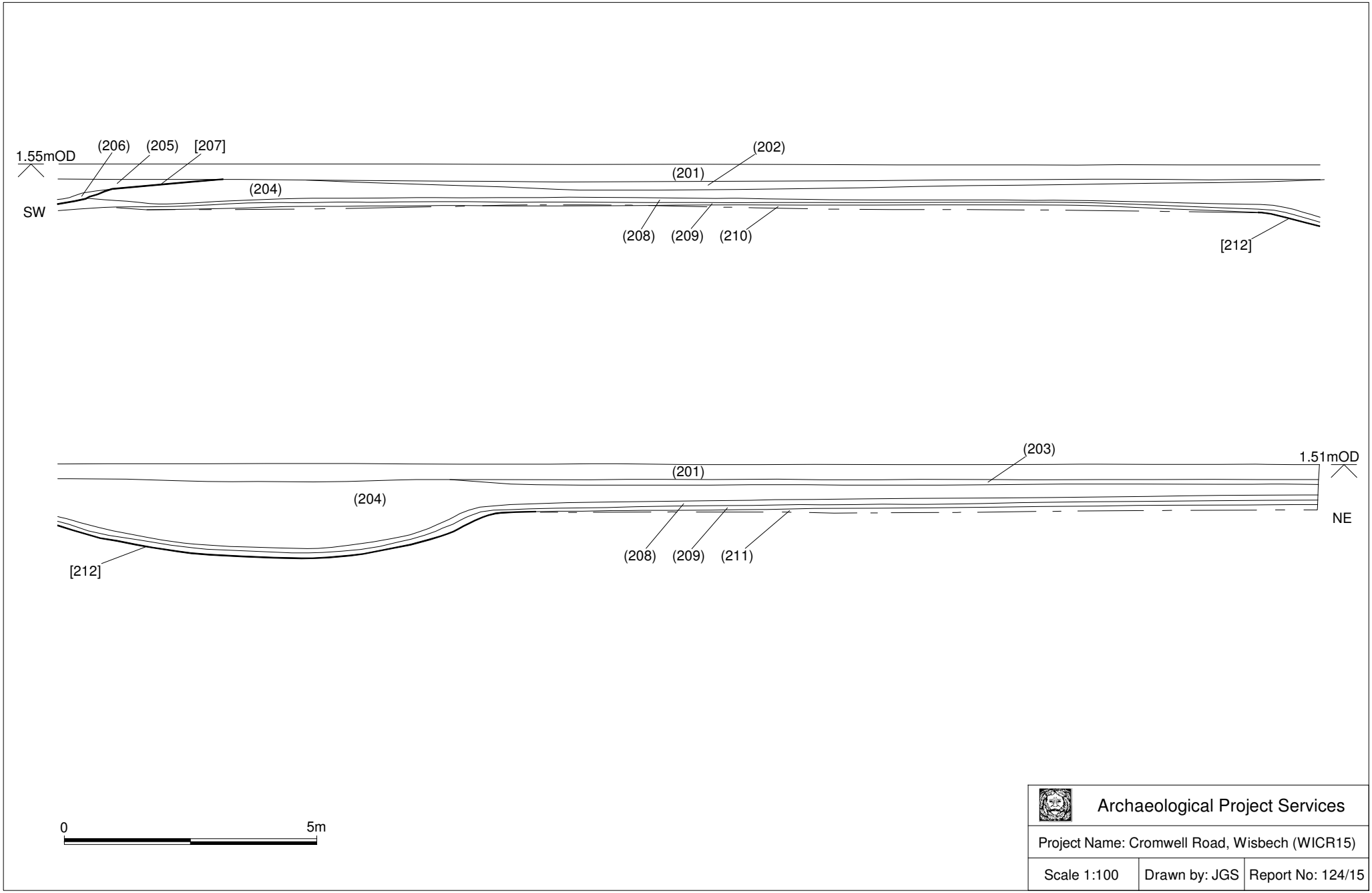


Figure 11 Trench 2 Section 1

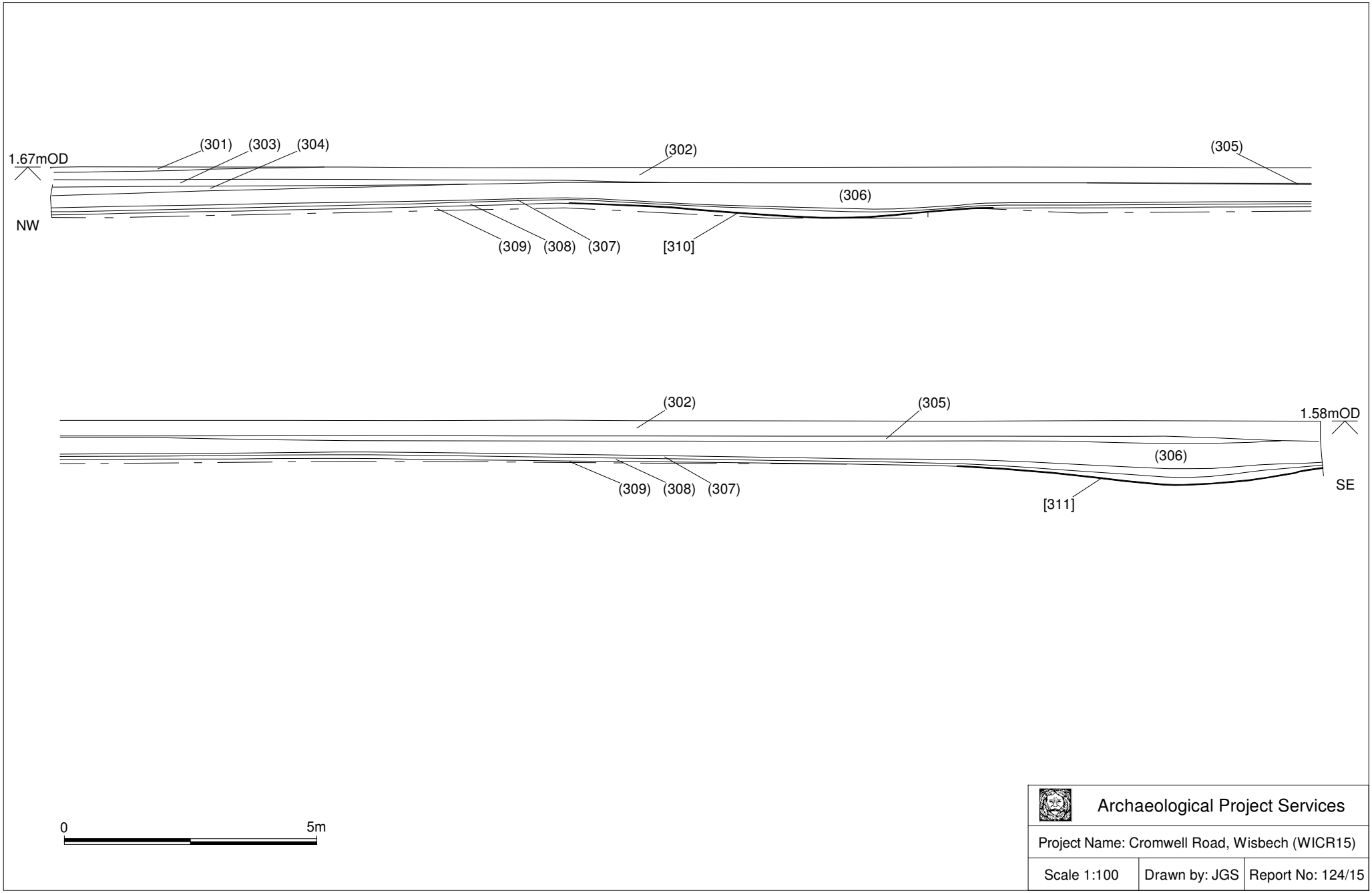
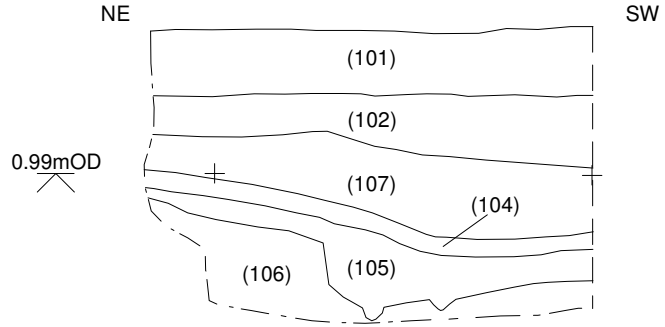


Figure 12 Trench 3 Section 2



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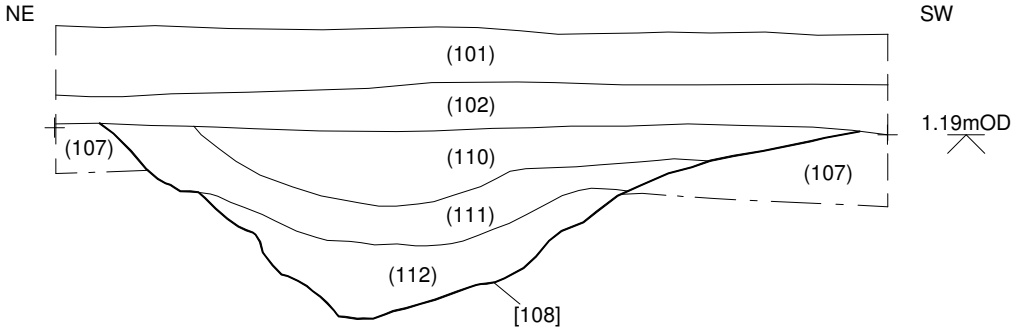

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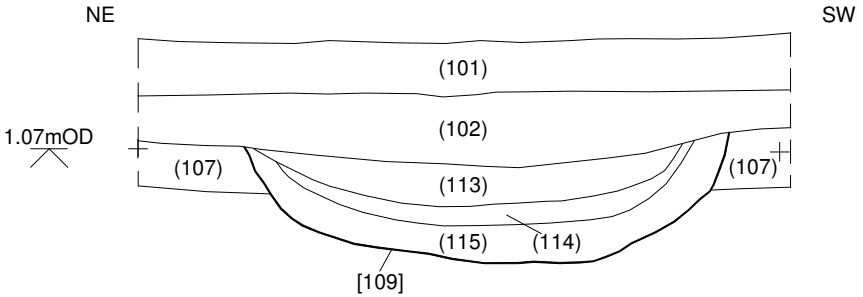

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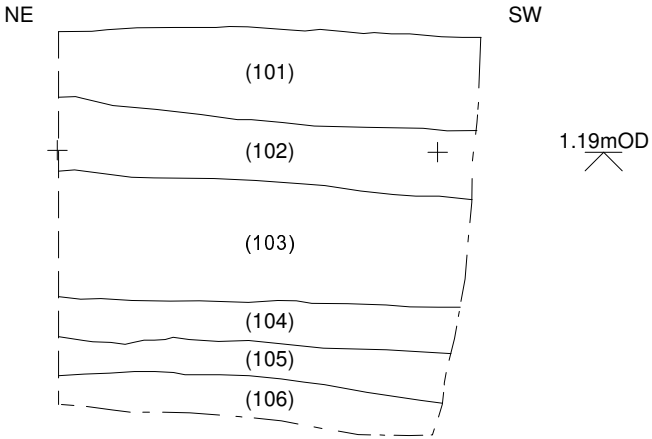

Section 6 Northwest facing

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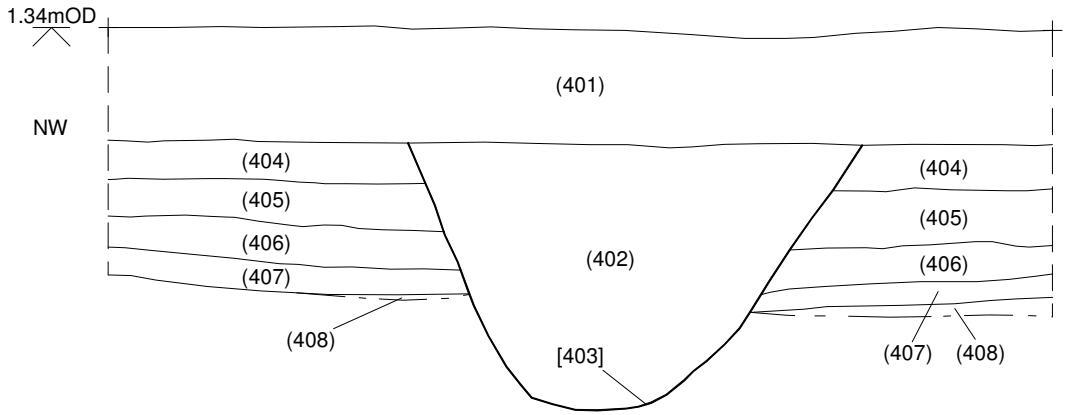
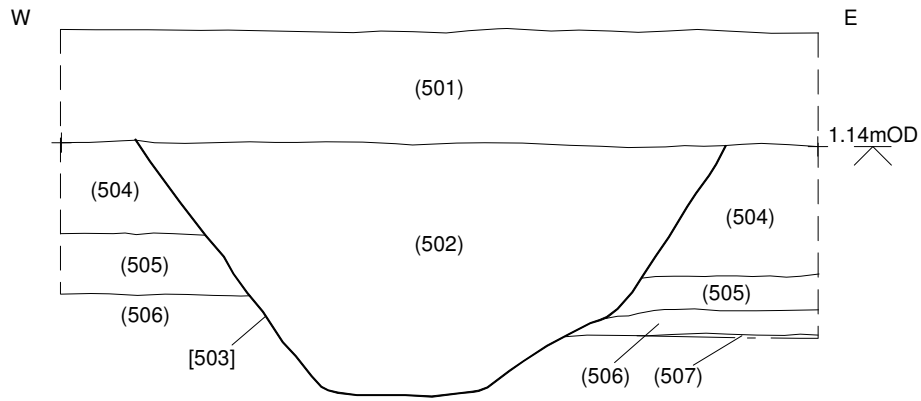
Figure 13 Sections 3 to 6



Section 7 Southwest facing



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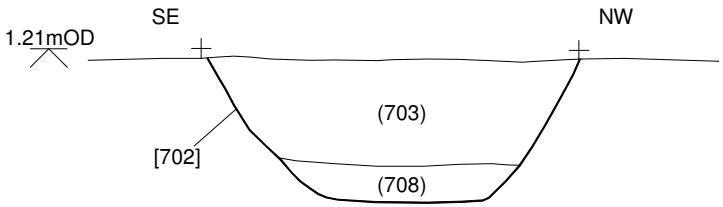

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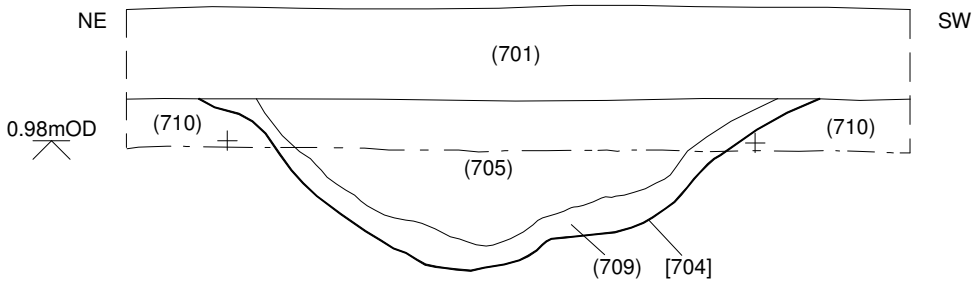
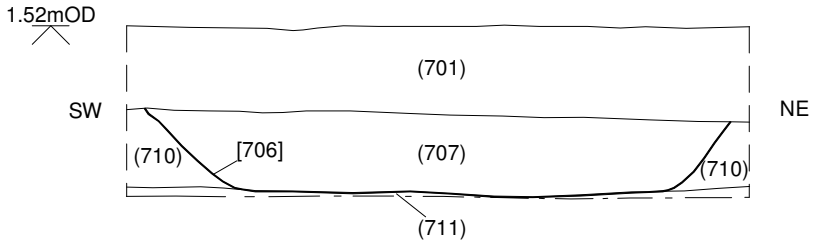


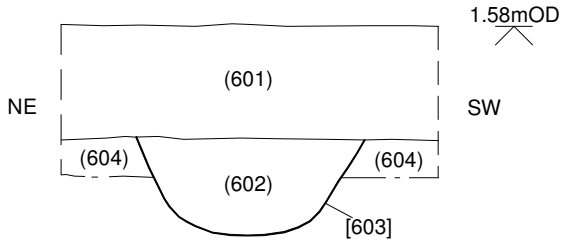
Section 10 Northwest facing

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Cromwell Road, Wisbech (WICR15)		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: JGS	Report No: 124/15

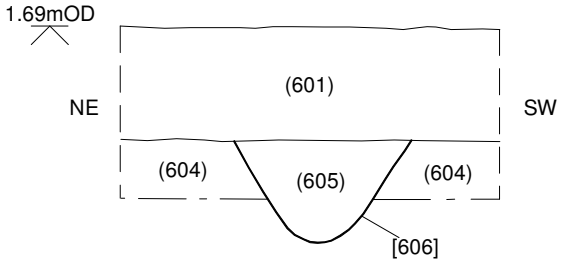
Figure 14 Sections 7 to 10



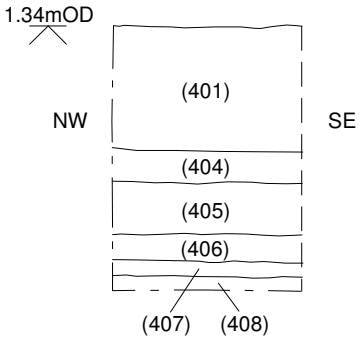
Section 11 Southwest facing



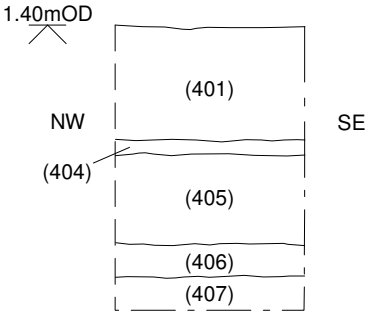
Section 12 Northwest facing



Section 13 Northwest facing



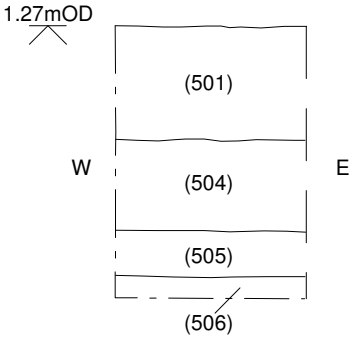
Section 14 Southwest facing



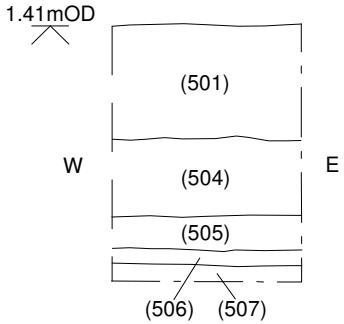
Section 15 Southwest facing

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Cromwell Road, Wisbech (WICR15)		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: JGS	Report No: 124/15

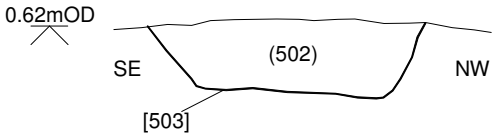
Figure 15 Sections 11 to 15



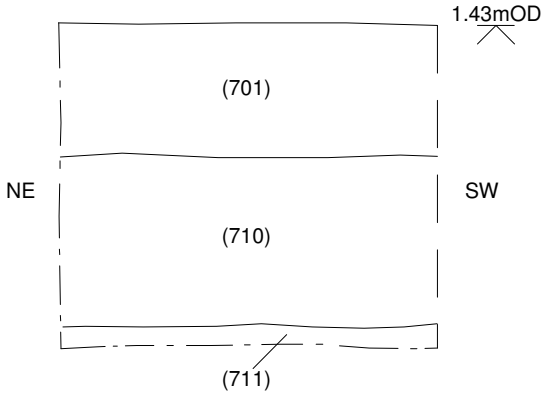
Section 16 South facing



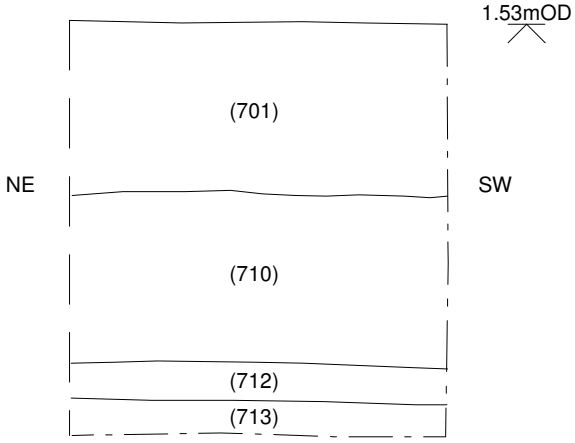
Section 17 South facing



Section 18 Northeast facing



Section 19 Northwest facing



Section 20 Northwest facing

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Cromwell Road, Wisbech (WICR15)		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: JGS	Report No: 124/15

Figure 16 Sections 16 to 20

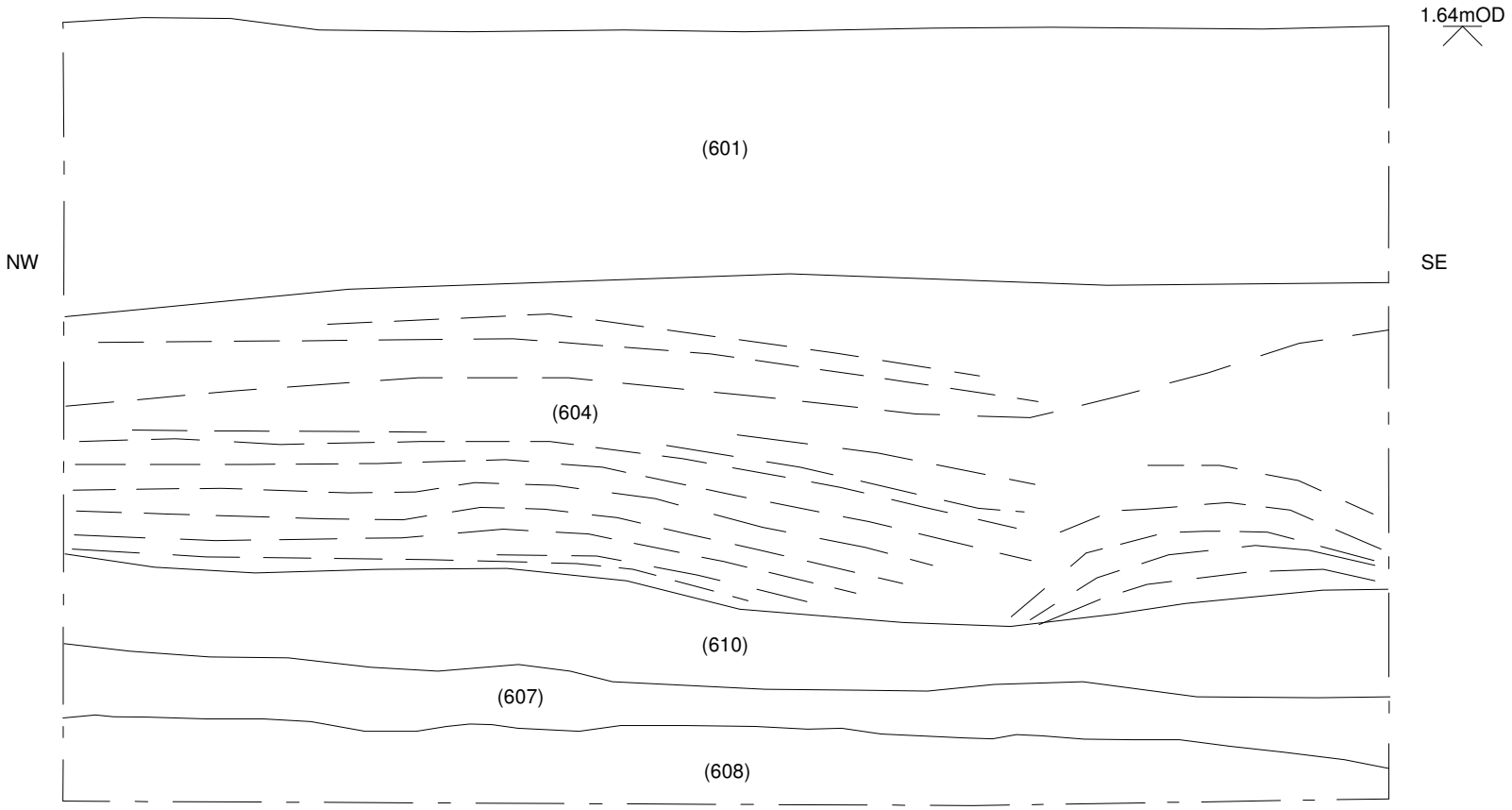


Figure 17 Section 21 Southwest facing.

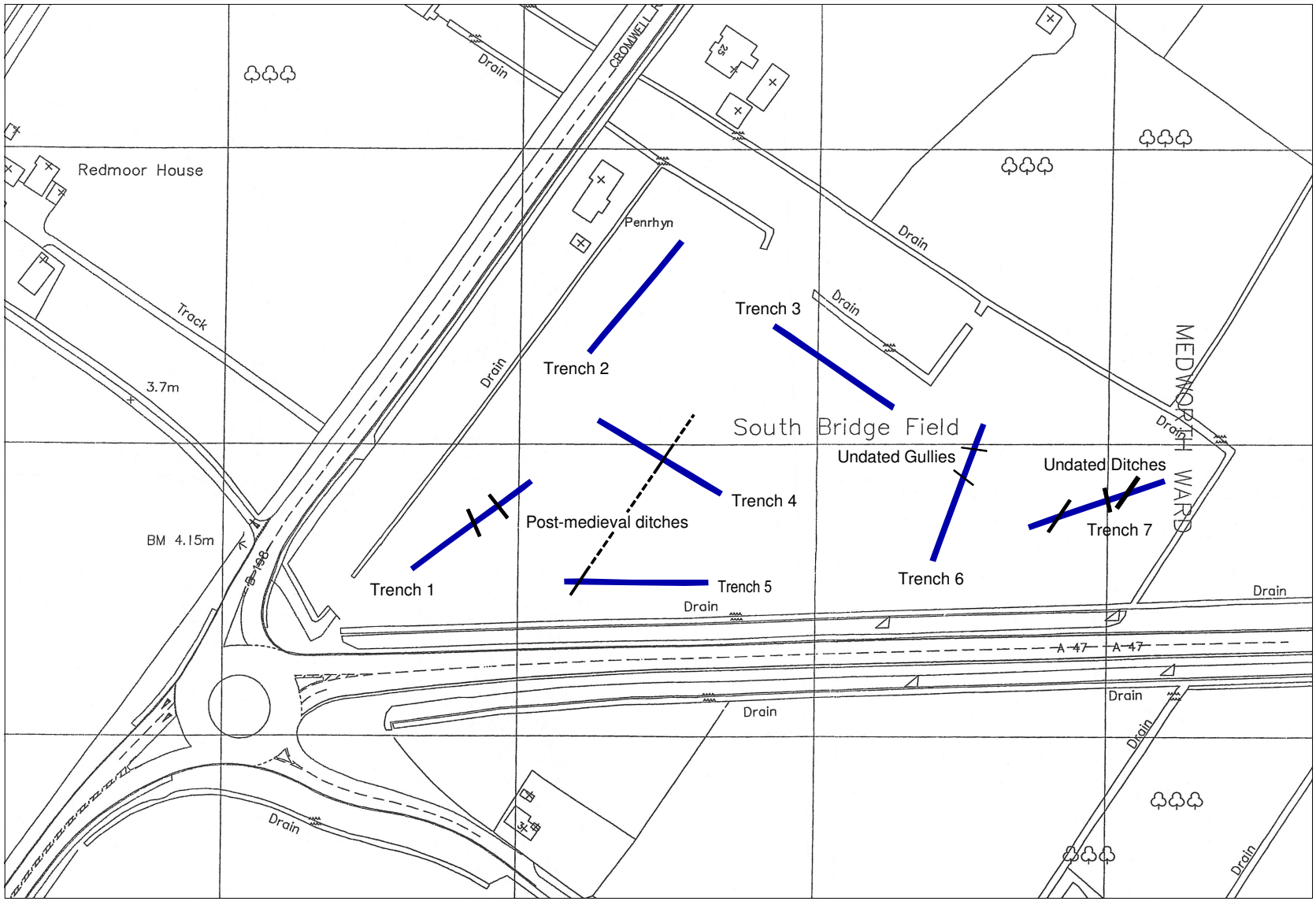


Figure 18 Interpretive plan.

Extract from Plan of Wisbech St Peter's and Wisbech St Mary's (date uncertain - believed to be copy of 17th century map)

N

Site Boundary

N.B. Approximate position only

Trench

Identified Ditch

0 500m

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Cromwell Road, Wisbech (WICR15)

Scale 1:10000 | Drawn by: JS | Report No: 124/15

Figure 19 Probable 17th century map with interpretation overlaid

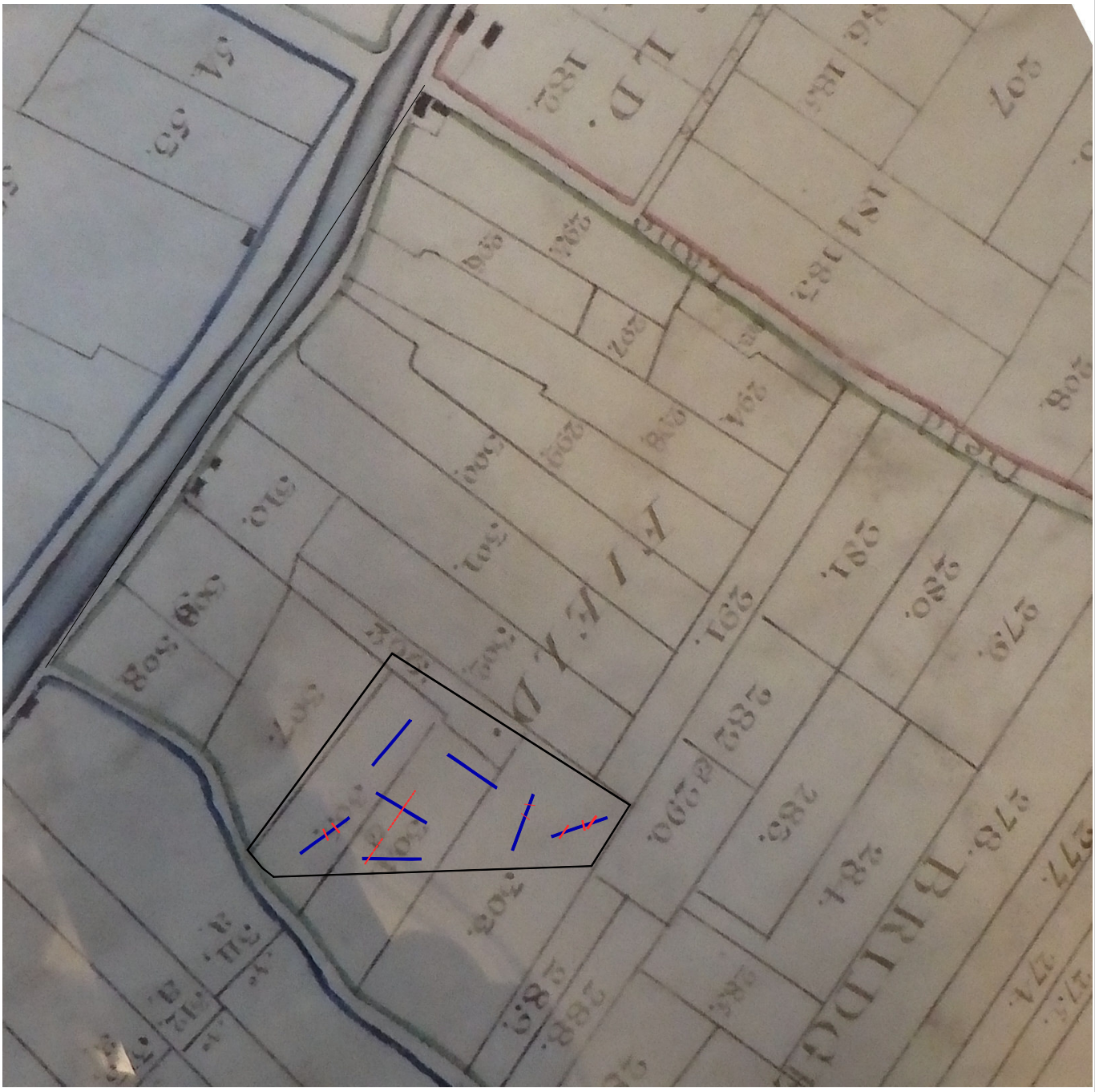


Figure 20 1775 map with interpretation overlaid

Figure 21 1792 map with interpretation overlaid

Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1886).

N

Site Boundary

Trench

Identified Ditch

0 200m

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Cromwell Road, Wisbech (WICR15)

Scale 1:5000	Drawn by: JS	Report No: 125/15

Figure 22 1886 map with interpretation overlaid

Plate 1 General view of site, looking south.

Plate 2 General view of site, looking east.

Plate 3 Trench 1, looking southwest.

Plate 4 Trench 2, looking southwest.

Plate 5 Trench 3, looking northwest.

Plate 6 Trench 4, looking northwest.

(incorrect N arrow)

Plate 7 Trench 5, looking west.

Plate 8 Trench 6, looking northeast.

Plate 9 Trench 7, looking northeast.

Plate 10 Ditch [108], looking southeast.

Plate 11 Ditch [109], looking southeast.

Plate 12 Sample Section (Section 6) of Trench 1, looking southeast.

Plate 13 Ditch [403], looking northeast.

Plate 14 Ditch [503], looking northeast.

(incorrect N arrow)

Plate 15 Gully [603], looking southeast.

(incorrect N arrow)

Plate 16 Gully [606], looking east.

Plate 17 Sample section (Section 21) of Trench 6, looking northeast.

Plate 18 Ditch [702], looking southwest.

Plate 19 Ditch [704], looking south.

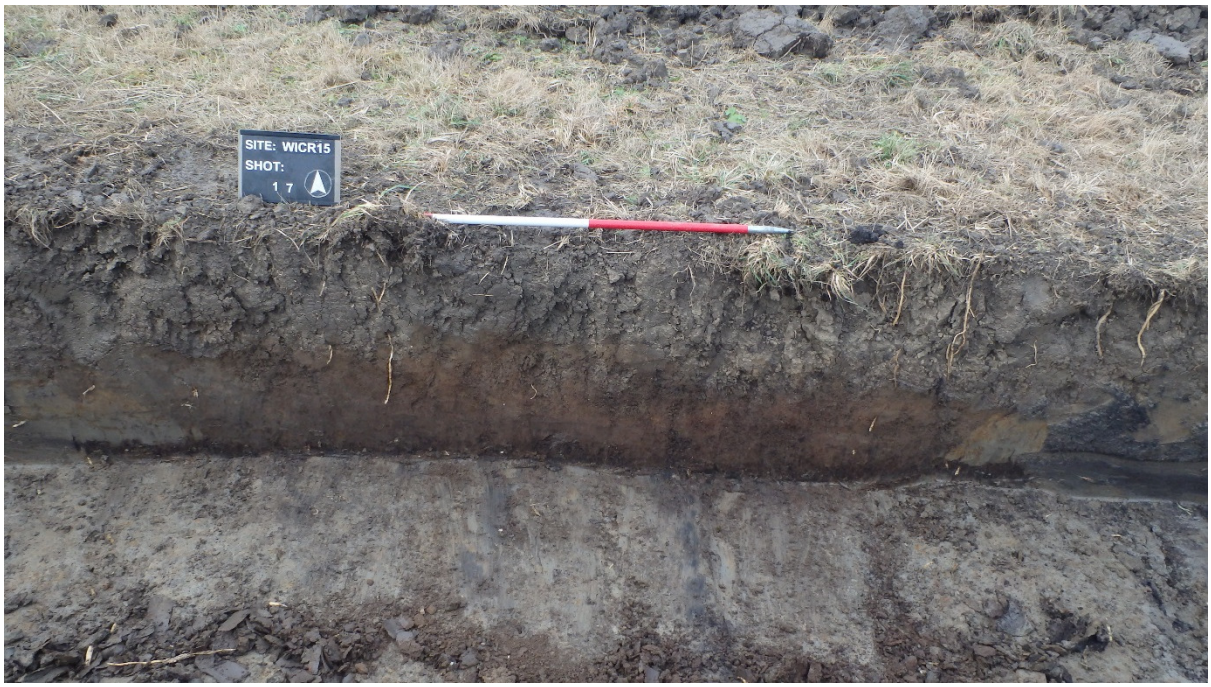


Plate 20 Ditch [706], looking north.

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	1	Soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick.	Topsoil.
102	1	Soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional yellowish brown clay patches, 0.19m thick.	Subsoil.
103	1	Firm, yellowish brown clayey silts, 0.34m thick.	Alluvium.
104	1	Firm, bluish grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick.	Alluvium.
105	1	Soft, dark brown peat, 0.13m thick.	Layer.
106	1	Firm, mottled yellowish brown and bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
107	1	Firm, light grey and brownish grey clay, 0.18m thick.	Alluvium.
108	1	Linear cut, more than 2m long, 1.98m wide and 0.60m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base, oriented northwest-southeast.	Ditch.
109	1	Linear cut, more than 2m long, 1.23m wide and 0.34m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base, oriented northwest-southeast.	Ditch.
110	1	Firm, mid yellowish brown clayey silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM, 0.20m thick.	Fill of ditch [108].
111	1	Soft, light to mid brown mixed organic silt, 0.14m thick.	Fill of ditch [108].
112	1	Friable, dark greyish brown, peat with some silt, 0.2m thick.	Fill of ditch [108].
113	1	Firm, light to medium yellowish brown clayey silt, with occasional fine flecks of CBM, 0.13m thick.	Fill of ditch [109].
114	1	Soft, light yellow fine sand and silt, 0.06m thick.	Fill of ditch [109].
115	1	Soft, friable dark brown silty peat, with slight clay, 0.12m thick.	Fill of ditch [109].
201	2	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay.	Topsoil.
202	2	Firm, bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
203	2	Firm, bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
204	2	Firm, mid orange brown clayey silt.	Alluvium.
205	2	Friable, mid brown silt.	River deposit.
206	2	Friable, dark greyish brown peaty silt.	Layer.
207	2	Irregular linear cut, gently sloping sides and a rounded base.	Palaeochannel.

208	2	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
209	2	Friable, black peat.	Layer.
210	2	Firm, bluish grey clay with frequent marine molluscs.	Alluvium.
211	2	Firm, bluish grey clay with frequent marine molluscs.	Alluvium.
212	2	Irregular cut, gently sloping sides and a rounded base.	Palaeochannel.
301	3	Brick rubble.	Rubble layer.
302	3	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay.	Topsoil.
303	3	Firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay.	Subsoil.
304	3	Firm, bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
305	3	Firm, bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
306	3	Firm, mid brown clayey silt.	Alluvium.
307	3	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
308	3	Friable, black peat.	Layer.
309	3	Firm, laminated, bluish grey clayey silt, with iron pan and phragmites reed fragments.	Alluvium.
310	3	Irregular cut, gently sloping sides and a rounded base.	Palaeochannel.
311	3	Irregular cut, gently sloping sides and a rounded base.	Palaeochannel.
401	4	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	Topsoil.
402	4	Mottled mid and dark brown silty clay, 0.70m thick.	Fill of ditch [403].
403	4	Linear cut, with steep sides and a flattish base, 1.20m wide and 0.70m deep.	Ditch.
404	4	Firm, bluish grey silty clay.	Alluvium.
405	4	Firm, mid brown clayey silt.	Alluvium.
406	4	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
407	4	Friable, black peat.	Layer.
408	4	Firm, bluish grey clay with frequent marine molluscs.	Alluvium.
501	5	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	Topsoil.
502	5	Mottled mid and dark brown silty clay, 0.66m thick.	Fill of ditch [503].
503	5	Linear cut, with steep sides and a flattish stepped base, 1.55m wide and 0.66m deep.	Ditch.
504	5	Firm, mid brown clayey silt.	Alluvium.
505	5	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
506	5	Friable, black peat.	Layer.
507	5	Firm, bluish grey clay with frequent marine molluscs.	Alluvium.
601	6	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay,	Topsoil.

		0.30m thick.	
602	6	Firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay, 0.25m thick.	Fill of gully [603].
603	6	Linear cut, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base.	Gully.
604	6	Firm, laminated light brown silt and sand, 0.57m thick.	Rodon silts.
605	6	Firm, mottled grey and bluish grey silty clay, 0.27m thick.	Fill of gully [606].
606	6	Linear cut, 0.47m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base.	Gully.
607	6	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
608	6	Friable, black peat.	Layer.
609	6	Firm, bluish grey clay.	Alluvium.
610	6	Firm, mid brown clayey silt.	Alluvium.
701	7	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	Topsoil.
702	7	Linear cut, *c.* 1m wide and 0.38m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base, oriented northeast-southwest.	Ditch.
703	7	Firm, dark yellowish brown silty clay, 0.28m thick.	Fill of ditch [702].
704	7	Linear cut, 1.19m wide and 0.32m deep, with concave sloping sides and an irregular base.	Ditch.
705	7	Firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	Fill of ditch [704].
706	7	Linear cut, 1.59m wide and 0.44m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base.	Ditch.
707	7	Firm, mid brown silty clay, 0.44m thick.	Fill of ditch [706].
708	7	Firm, mottled yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay.	Fill of ditch [702].
709	7	Soft, dark greyish brown peat, 0.12m thick.	Fill of ditch [704].
710	7	Firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.27m thick.	Alluvium.
711	7	Soft, dark greyish brown peat, 0.05m thick.	Layer.
712	7	Soft, dark greyish brown peat, 0.05m thick.	Layer.
713	7	Soft, light brownish grey silt.	Alluvium.

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY
By Alex Beeby

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of three sherds from three vessels, weighing 75 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology
The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the late post medieval to the early modern period

Condition
The pottery is fragmentary but unabraded.

Results
Table 1 Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Part	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	110	SWSG	Staffordshire white salt glaze	Small closed	BS	18th	1	1	2
1	110	CREA	Creamware	?	BS	L18th-M19th	1	1	1
5	502	PEARL	Pearlware	Bowl	Base	L18th-19th	1	1	72
						Total	**3**	**3**	**75**

Provenance
Pottery was recovered from ditch fills (110) in [108], within Trench 1 and (502) in [503], within Trench 5.

Range
There are three pieces of pottery, all of which are of 18th or 19th century date. The types here common domestic ceramic varieties of the period.

Potential
There is limited potential for further work. The items are of limited archaeological significance and are not worthy of retention within the archive.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL
By Alex Beeby

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of 17 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 2689 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology
The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition
The condition of the ceramic building material is mixed, with some large fresh pieces as well as smaller abraded fragments. A single brick fragment is partially vitrified.

Results
Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Condition	Date	NoF	W(g)
1	110	BRK	Brick	Gault	Handmade	Abraded	Post Medieval to early modern	5	233
1	110	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	Handmade; fenland fabric	Abraded		2	2
1	115	CBM	Miscellaneous Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; fine	Flake	Abraded	Roman or Post Roman	1	1
4	402	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	60mm deep; slop moulded; fenland fabric		Post Medieval to early modern	2	712
4	402	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; calcareous; Fe	60mm deep; cloth marks			1	395
4	402	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	Partially vitrified; Fenland fabric; 60mm deep?; 110mm wide			1	817
4	402	PANT	Pantile	Oxidised; fine sandy			17th-19th	1	26
5	502	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; mica; Fe		Abraded		1	48
5	502	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; calcareous; Fe; mica	52mm deep; narrow; atypical Fenland fabric		Post Medieval	2	162
5	502	FLOOR	Floor tile	Gault	37mm deep; struck; worn upper		Post Medieval	1	293
							Total	**17**	**2689**

Provenance
Ceramic building material was recovered from fills within ditch features in Trenches 1, 4 and 5. Productive fills and features included (110) in [108] and (115) in [109], within Trench 1, as well as (402) in ditch [403], within Trench 4, and (502) in [503], within Trench 5.

Range
Fragments of brick, roofing tile and floor tile were recovered, as well as a single undiagnostic flake of ceramic building material.

Brick
There is a range of post medieval to early modern dated brick. All of the items are handmade. The fabrics are light firing Gault and fine calcareous Fenland types, varieties that are typical of this region. These bricks are too fragmentary to be closely datable, as there is little recorded differentiation within the fabrics of this area during the post medieval period . Fragments from ditch [503] in Trench 5 are probably 16th to 18th century in date rather than later.

Other ceramic building material
There are single pieces of post medieval floor tile in a gault fabric and a fragment of post medieval or early modern dated pantile.

Potential
There is limited potential for further work. The ceramic building material is of limited archaeological significance and is not worthy of retention within the archive.

Summary
A small assemblage of post medieval ceramic building material was recovered from ditch features within Trenches 1,4 and 5. The bulk of the fragments are brick pieces, some of which are substantially sized. The material may be demolition rubble.

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction
Three items, together weighing 28g, were recovered.

Condition
The coal is in good condition, but the nails are in fairly poor condition and very heavily corroded**.**

Results
Table 3, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
110	Fire residue	Coal	1	3	
402	Iron	Nail in 2 linking pieces. Heavily corroded.	2	25	

Provenance
The finds were recovered from ditch fills (110 and 402).

Range
A nail, in two pieces, and a piece of coal were recovered.

Potential
The other finds are of limited archaeological significance and are not worthy of retention within the archive.

SPOT DATING
The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
110	L18th-M19th	
115	Undated (Roman or Post Roman)	Based on CBM
402	17th-19th	Based on CBM
502	L18th-19th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm >

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

76	Context records
7	Trench records
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
5	Daily record sheets
10	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Bag of finds.

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	WICR 15
Cambridgeshire C.C. HER Event No:	ECB 4603
OASIS Record No:	archaeol1-236472

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol1-236472

Project details

Project name	Cromwell Road, Wisbech
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Cromwell Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive. The trial trenches revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits typical of the region. Two undated gullies were revealed, which are probably the result of post-medieval agricultural activity. A group of undated ditches in the west side of the site do not appear on early maps of the area, but two out of the three respect the alignment of the field system and probably formed part of it. A post-medieval ditch was revealed in the centre of the site. This was identified on two 18th century field maps, but had gone by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map of 1886. It is possible that it was filled at the same time as drainage works were undertaken in the area. Two post-medieval ditches were revealed in Trench 1. These were not aligned to the existing field system, but they did run parallel to the former route of Redmoor Lane. A quantity of post-medieval brick, tile and pottery was recovered from the post- medieval ditches identified on the site.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2015 End: 08-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4603 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WISBECH Cromwell Road
Postcode	PE14 0RL
Study area	3.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 4481 0748 52.645326099368 0.140630138681 52 38 43 N 000 08 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 1m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Archaeological Project Services
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Jim Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Steve Dunn Architects

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4603
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB4603
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4603
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on Land Off Cromwell Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (WICR15)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	APS Report No: 124/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington, Lincs
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Entered by	Jonathon Smith (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
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