

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

LAND OFF GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROAD, BRIGG, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: Pre-Planning
NGR: TA 0002 0821
AAL Site Code: BGSR 11
North Lincolnshire Museum Accession Code: BRIBT
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-105604



Report prepared for Kirton Consulting
on behalf of Hunt Group Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2011047

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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Kirton Consulting on behalf of Hunt Group Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Grammar School in Brigg, North Lincolnshire.
- The proposed development area lies in an area of significant archaeological potential. There is extensive evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, including nationally significant discoveries of waterlogged later prehistoric remains. Romano-British activity is also represented by a number of nearby finds.
- The trenching has shown that it is unlikely that development of the site will impact upon any archaeological deposits of significance. Much of the site is likely to have been stripped of topsoil and levelled, most probably during the construction of the adjacent M180 motorway. At the north-west end of the site chalk hardcore was then laid, possibly to form an access road or compound area for the adjacent groundworks, exposed in Trench 1. Across the rest of the area a windblown sand seems to have formed, indicating the ground surface was left open for a period of time. Following completion of the works, the topsoil was relaid across the whole area.
- The only features that pre-dated the windblown sand, and therefore also pre-dated the groundworks associated with the M180 construction, were two postholes in Trench 6 that follow a boundary shown on a late 19th century map, and an undated pit or tree bowl in Trench 2.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Kirton Consulting on behalf of Hunt Group Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial excavation in support of a proposed planning application for a residential development on land off Grammar School Road in Brigg, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IFA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2011). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within twelve months of the completion of the fieldwork and will be stored under the North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code BRIBT.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Brigg is situated in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire, approximately 11.5km east-south-east of central Scunthorpe. The proposed development area comprises a sub-rectangular block of land of c.0.75 hectares, located to the north of the town centre, on the west side of Grammar School Road and immediately to the south-east of the M180. The site is centred on NGR TA 0002 0821 and lies at a height of approximately 2m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises superficial Vale of York Glacial Lake deposits of sand and gravel, overlying a bedrock geology of Ancholme Group Clay (British Geological Survey 1982).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application has not yet been submitted, but the development proposals will entail a residential development of the site. The purpose of the works is to provide detailed information that will determine the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, and will allow the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer (hereafter NLHEO) to make an informed decision as to whether further archaeological investigations will be required following the determination of a planning application for the proposed development. This is in line with the recommendations of Planning Policy Statement 5 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site is situated in an area of significant archaeological potential. There is extensive evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, with scatters of worked lithic material of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date having been recovered nearby (North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter NLHER) References 2237, 19382 and 19427).
- 4.2 Brigg has been the site of several nationally significant discoveries of waterlogged later prehistoric remains, including a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age wooden causeway and a wooden plank built boat of similar date, both recovered from the River Ancholme floodplain approximately 1km south-west of the current site (NLHER References 1783 and 1790).
- 4.3 Romano-British activity is also represented by a number of dispersed finds, the nearest to the current site being a coin of the emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138 – 161) and a spindle whorl, found c.200m to the north-east (NLHER Reference 1786).
- 4.4 Brigg does not appear in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was previously named Glanford, an Old English name meaning 'the ford where sports are held' (Cameron 1998), and is first documented in the Pipe Rolls of 1086. The name Brigg derives from the Old Norse for a jetty or quay, and it was not until the Calendar of Patent Rolls in 1318 that the town was known as *Glaunford Brigge (ibid.)*. There is no evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the site however, which lies to the north of the historic core of the settlement. Prior to the Enclosure of the parish in 1805, the site was within an area of open moorland known as West Moor, which was divided into a series of smaller plots following Enclosure (Russell and Russell 1983). The current site boundaries preserve this layout.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of experienced field archaeologists between Wednesday 13th and Friday 15th July 2011. The trial trenching entailed the excavation of six trenches, each measuring 25m x 1.8m.
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked 360⁰ excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed in spits no greater than 100mm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. A sondage was machine excavated in all six trenches to obtain a deep stratigraphic profile through the underlying deposits. All further excavation was then carried out by hand.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to an appropriate scale, in plan and section. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.

- 5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 3. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch or gully [108]).

6.0 Results (Figures 3 – 6)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.1.1 Topsoil 100 was the uppermost layer encountered in Trench 1. At the south end of the trench this sealed a sequence of modern deposits that are most likely associated with the construction of the M180 motorway immediately to the north-west of the site. The uppermost of these deposits, 110, was an intermittent layer of dirty mid to light brown silt with small occasional small chalk chips that sealed 106, a layer of very light grey to white sandy gravel with abundant crushed chalk and chalk nodules. This was cut by [108] a steep sided elongated modern ditch or gully orientated east-north-east to west-south-west filled with compact mid brown clay, 109.
- 6.1.2 Deposit 106 overlay 101, a mid to light brown silt with occasional stones and chalk nodules very similar to 110. This deposit extended to the northern limit of Trench 1 where it was directly sealed by the topsoil.
- 6.1.3 Layer 101 sealed 102, a very dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt from which a single tin plated button of late 19th to early 20th century date was recovered. 102 sealed a number of modern land drains and cut [104], a curvilinear feature orientated east to west, turning northwards with moderate sides and a concave base. This was filled by 105, a compact fill of very dark grey silty sand with very occasional clinker, charcoal and red brick. [104] cut 103, a natural deposit of mid brownish orange silty sand.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

- 6.2.1 At the west end of Trench 2 the topsoil 200 sealed a light yellowish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments, stone and occasional ceramic building material (e.g. brick or tile, hereafter CBM) fragments 201. This sealed 202 a dark grey to dark brown fine silty sand former topsoil which was cut by a modern land drain and overlay 203 an intermittent layer of very light brown to white fine sand identified as a possible windblown sand.
- 6.2.2 To the east these deposits petered out and the topsoil sealed 206, a mixed layer of mid grey silty sand and very light yellow to orange sand, which in turn sealed the natural geology, a mixed deposit of orange sand and blue brown silty clay, 204.
- 6.2.3 At the north-east end of the trench the natural geology was cut by [205], a sub-circular pit or natural feature with steep sides and an undulating base, filled by a sequence of undated fills 207 – 209.

6.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

6.3.1 Trench 3 proved to be devoid of any archaeological features of significance. Topsoil 300 sealed an intermittent deposit of light greyish white sand 301, identified as a possible windblown sand. This in turn sealed a natural geology of light yellowish brown sand 302.

6.4 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

6.4.1 Trench 4 also did not contain any archaeological deposits. Topsoil 400 sealed windblown sand 401 an intermittent deposit of mottled light beige sand which sealed the natural geology 402, a light brown to orange sand with occasional roots.

6.5 Trench 5 (Figure 5)

6.5.1 In Trench 5 topsoil 500 sealed 501, a substantial accumulation of fine light greyish white windblown sand up to 0.7m thick. This was cut by a modern land drain and an irregular disturbance thought to represent a collapsed animal burrow, 506.

6.5.2 Deposit 501 sealed 502, a mixed layer of dark grey to orangey brown sand which in turn sealed 503 a grey brown sand with occasional mid brown mottling. These layers represent the upper, root disturbed element of a sequence of natural deposits with the lower undisturbed element being comprised of light yellowish orange sand, 504 and bluish grey sand 505 respectively.

6.6 Trench 6 (Figure 6)

6.6.1 In Trench 6 the uppermost deposit was topsoil 600, this sealed very light brown to white windblown sand, 601. Deposit 601 sealed 602, a mixed layer of dark brown sand. Removal of the windblown sand revealed a modern pit containing an animal burial and a filled flecked with tarmac, as well as [605] and [607]. The latter comprised a pair of small steep sided, flat based, rectangular cut postholes with fills of mid to dark brown clayey sand, 606 and 608 respectively.

6.6.2 Layer 602 sealed a mixed layer of dark brown to light brown sand 603 which in turn seals 604 a light brown to orange sand.

7.0 Discussion

7.1 The evaluation provided little evidence of archaeological activity on the site. Trenching revealed a series of natural sand layers (some of which had been disturbed by root action), sealed by an accumulation of windblown sand.

7.2 In Trench 1 the natural geology was sealed by a former topsoil and cut by a number of land drains and a modern gully [104]. The former topsoil was sealed by a sequence of modern deposits likely to be associated with the construction of the adjacent M180, including 106, a

chalk rich layer of hardcore thought to be either a hard standing or access road used during the motorway construction.

- 7.3 In Trench 2 the natural sand was cut by an undated pit, [205]. This had been backfilled by 209 and 208 before a windblown sand formed in the remaining depression. This windblown sand was also noted in Trenches 3 – 6.
- 7.4 Trench 6 contained a modern pit and a pair of rectangular postholes which correspond to the location and orientation of a property boundary visible on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map of the area. These were again sealed by a layer of windblown sand.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 It appears that the whole site was probably stripped of topsoil relatively recently, very likely associated with the construction of the M180 motorway immediately to the north-west of the site. This created a relatively level area at c.2m aOD. The surface was then left open for a time, allowing a windblown sand to accumulate on the site, and infilling hollows. Around Trench 1 only part of the topsoil was removed, probably as the ground in this area was naturally lower. A series of deposits including a chalk-rich hardcore were then laid at the north-west end of the site, perhaps to form a compound or access road for the adjacent construction works. The topsoil was then re-laid across the site to re-instate the land.
- 8.2 The only features that pre-dated the windblown sand, and therefore the groundworks most likely associated with the M180 construction, were two postholes in Trench 6 that follow a boundary shown on a late 19th century map, and an undated pit in Trench 2.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the proposed development of the site is unlikely to impact on any deposits of archaeological significance.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Kirton Consulting and Hunt Group Limited for this commission.

11.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking west



Plate 2: West-north-west facing section of Trench 1 showing [104] and [108], looking east-south-east



Plate 3: South-south-west facing section of sondage in Trench 2, looking north-north-east



Plate 4: South-south-west facing section of [205] in Trench 2, looking north-north-east



Plate 5: East-south-east facing section of sondage in Trench 3, looking west-north-west



Plate 6: North-north-east facing section of sondage in Trench 4, looking south-south-west



Plate 7: Shot along the length of Trench 5, looking north-north-east



Plate 8: South-south-west facing section of sondage in Trench 6, looking north-north-east



Plate 9: West-south-west facing sections of postholes [605] and [607] in Trench 6, looking east-north-east

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Loose to friable mid grey sandy silt with moderate plant roots. Seals 110	Topsoil
101	Layer	Friable to moderate dirty mid to light brown silt with occasional stones and chalk nodules. Seals 102, sealed by 106	Modern dumped deposit
102	Layer	Moderately compact very dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt. Seals 105, sealed by 101	Buried topsoil
103	Layer	Firm to compact mid brownish orange silty sand. Cut by [104]	Natural
104	Cut	Curvilinear cut orientated east to west turning northwards, moderate sides to a concave base. Cuts 103, filled by 105	Modern ditch or gully
105	Fill	Firm to compact very dark grey silty sand with very occasional clinker, charcoal and red brick chips. Sealed 102	Backfill of modern ditch or gully [104]
106	Layer	Moderately compact to friable very light grey to white sandy gravel with abundant crushed chalk and chalk nodules. Cut by 108, seals 101	Access way or yard surface probably associated with the construction of the M180
107		VOID	
108	Cut	Elongated or linear cut orientated east-north-east to west-south-west with steep sides to a flat base. Cuts 106, filled by 109	Modern ditch or gully
109	Fill	Compact mid brown clay with very occasional chalk pebbles. Sealed by 110	Backfill of modern ditch or gully [108]
110	Layer	Friable to moderate dirty mid to light brown silt with small occasional small chalk chips. Seals 109, sealed by 100	Modern dumping

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Loose dark brown silty sand with occasional modern brick, glass and chalk fragments. Seals 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Moderately compact light yellowish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments, stone and occasional cbm fragments. Seals 201, sealed by 200	Modern dumped deposit
202	Layer	Loose mottled dark grey to dark brown fine silty sand. Seals 203, sealed by 201	Buried topsoil
203	Layer	Loose light beige to white fine sand. Seals 204, sealed by 202	Windblown sand
204	Layer	Firm to loose mixed deposit of orange sand and blue brown silty clay. Sealed by 203	Natural
205	Cut	Sub-circular cut with steep sides to an undulating base. Cuts 204, filled by 207 – 209	Pit
206	Layer	Friable mixed layer of mid grey silty sand and very light yellow to orange sand. Seals 207 sealed by 200	Root disturbed layer comprised of overlying topsoil mixed with the underlying sand
207	Fill	Loose light greyish white fine sand. Seals 208, sealed by 206	Windblown sand accumulated in depression of [205]

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
208	Fill	Firm to friable mixed fill of mid grey sandy silt and orange sand. Seals 209, sealed by 207	Secondary accumulated fill of pit [205]
209	Fill	Firm mid to very dark grey sandy silt. Sealed by 208	Primary backfill of pit [205]

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Loose to friable mid grey sandy silt with occasional small stones and abundant plant roots. Seals 301	Topsoil
301	Layer	Friable light greyish white sand. Seals 302, sealed by 300	Windblown sand
302	Layer	Friable to firm light yellowish brown sand. Sealed by 302	Natural

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand. Seals 401	Topsoil
401	Layer	Loose mottled light beige sand. Seals 402, sealed by 400	Windblown sand
402	Layer	Loose light beige to orange sand with occasional roots. Sealed by 401	Natural

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Loose to friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with abundant plant roots and small stones. Seals 501	Topsoil
501	Layer	Loose to friable light greyish white fine sand. Seals 502, sealed by 500	Windblown sand
502	Layer	Moderately compact mixed layer of dark brown to orangey brown sand	Root disturbed sand layer
503	Layer	Firm to friable light grey brown sand with occasional mid brown mottling. Seals 504, sealed by 502	Slightly root disturbed sand layer
504	Layer	Firm light yellowish orange sand. Seals 505, sealed by 503	Natural
505	Layer	Firm bluish grey sand. Sealed by 504	Natural (waterlogged)
506	Cut	Irregular elongated disturbance visible as a moderately compact dark brown soil element in the middle of 502	Animal burrow (partially collapsed)

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand. Seals 601	Topsoil
601	Layer	Loose light whitish beige sand. Seals 602, sealed by 600	Windblown sand
602	Layer	Moderately compact mixed layer of dark brown sand. Seals 603, sealed by 601	Root disturbed sand layer
603	Layer	Loose dark beige to light brown sand. Seals 604, sealed by 602	Natural geology
604	Layer	Loose to moderate light brown to orange sand. Sealed by 603	Natural geology
605	Cut	Rectangular cut with steep sides to a flat base. Cuts 603, filled by 606	Modern posthole
606	Fill	Compact mid to dark brown clayey sand. Sealed by 602	Fill of modern posthole
607	Cut	Rectangular cut with steep sides to a flat base. Cuts 602, filled by 608	Modern posthole
608	Fill	Compact mid to dark brown clayey sand. Sealed by 601	Fill of modern posthole

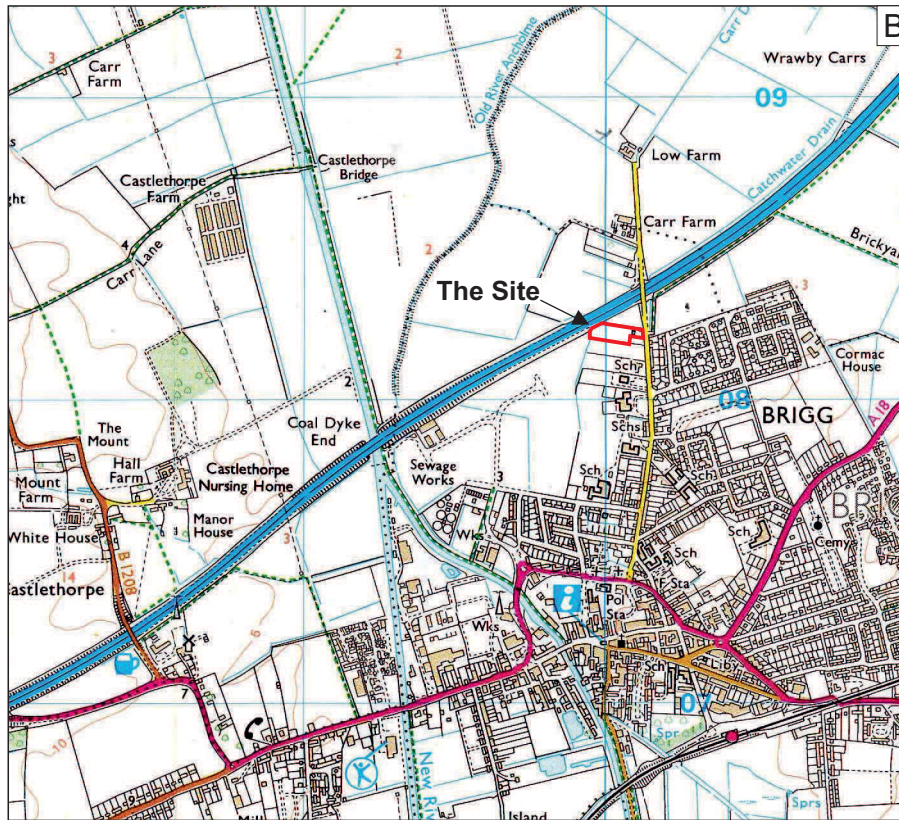
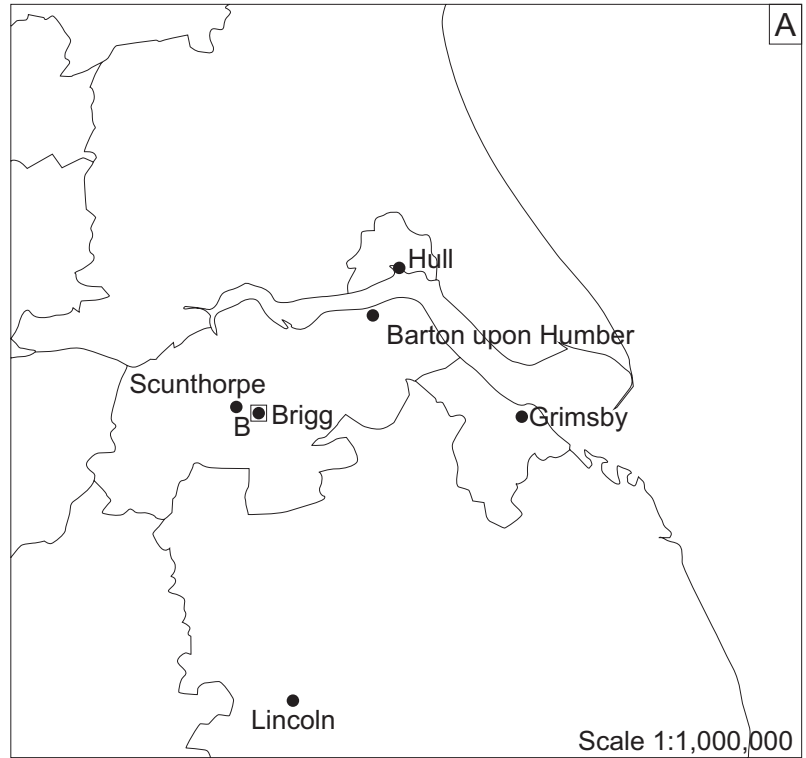


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site outlined in red
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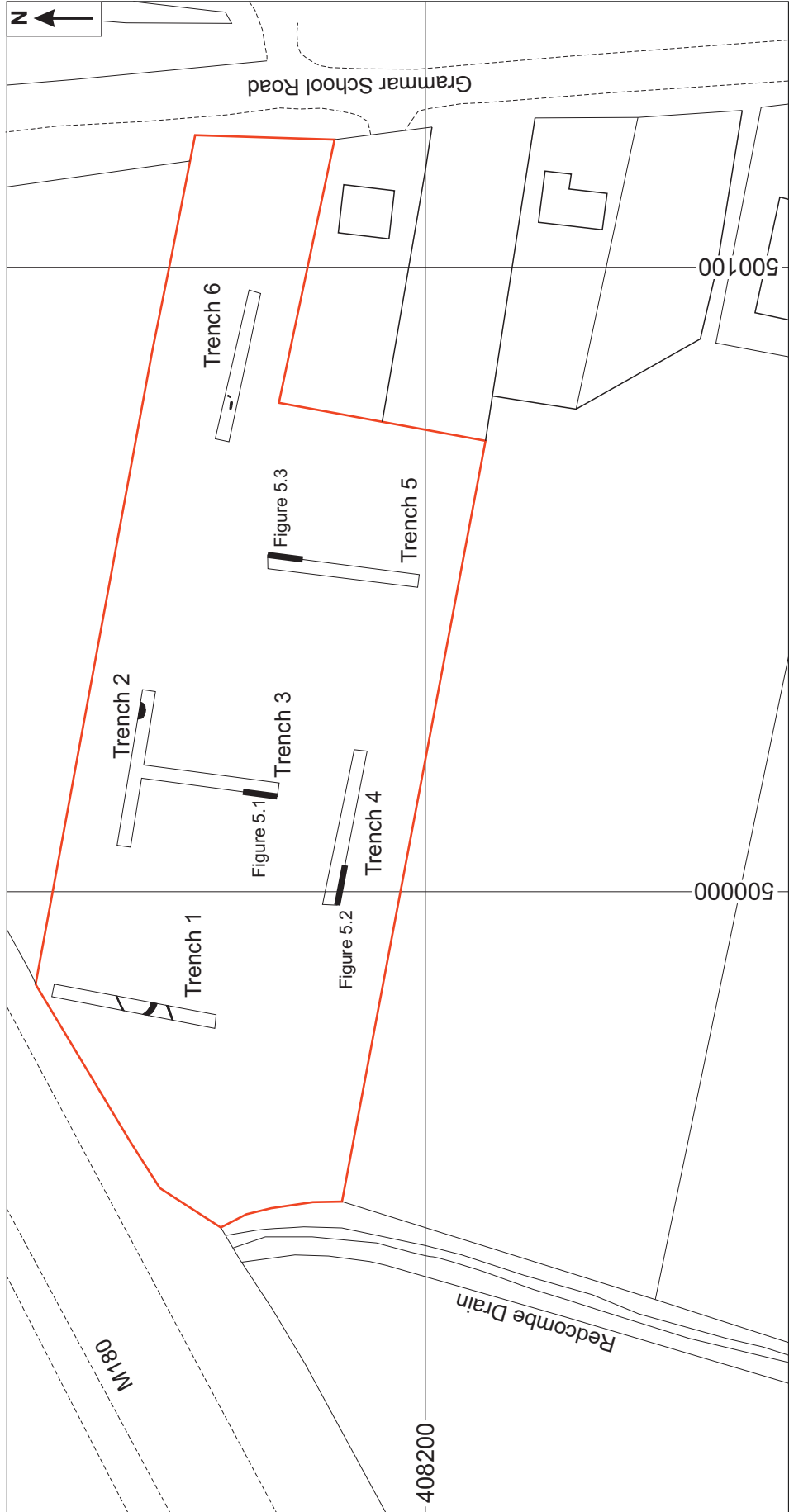


Figure 2: Site Location plan at scale 1:1000 with site outlined in red and features filled in black. Figure 5 section locations also shown

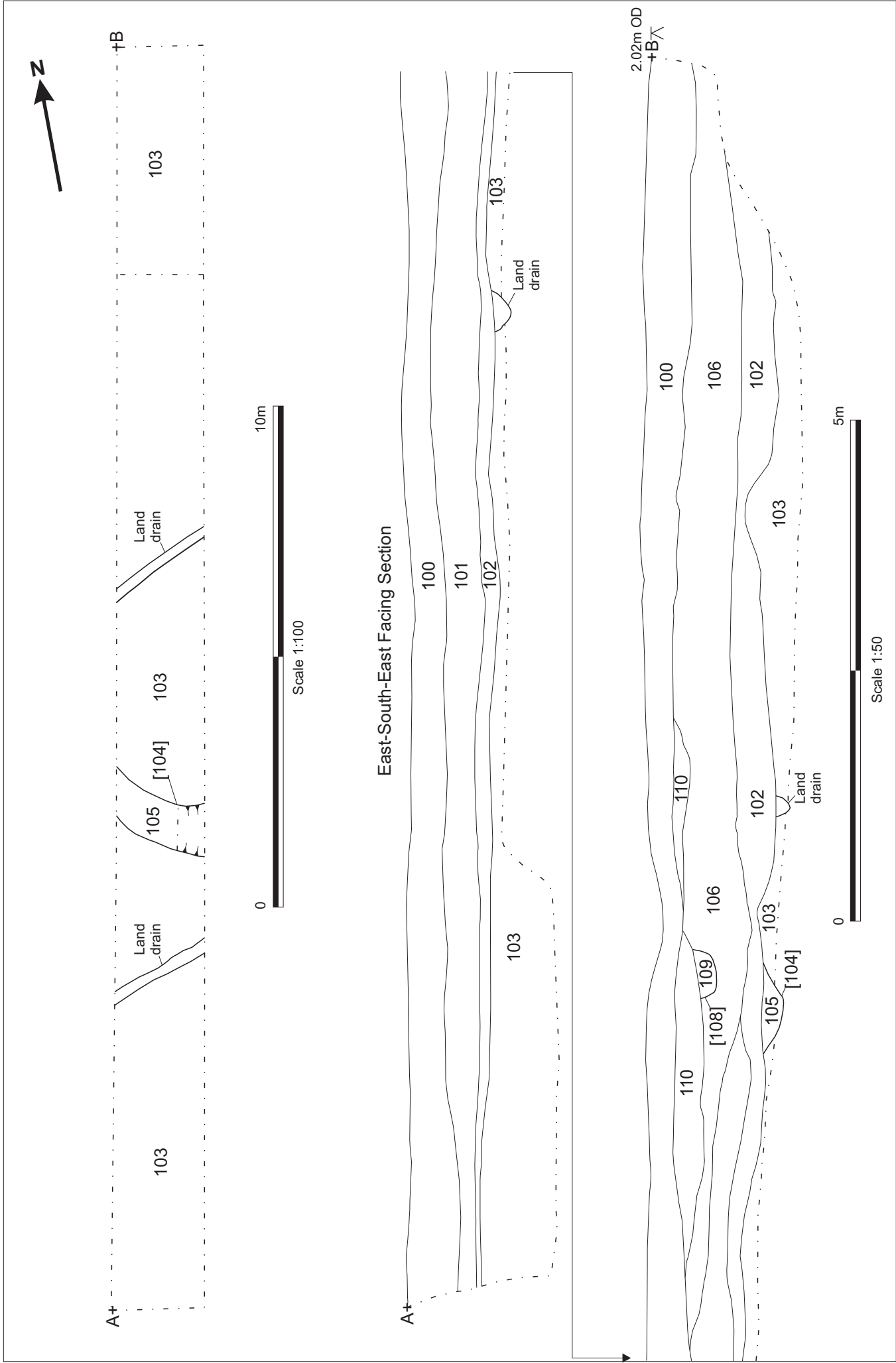


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1 at scale 1:100 with section at scale 1:50

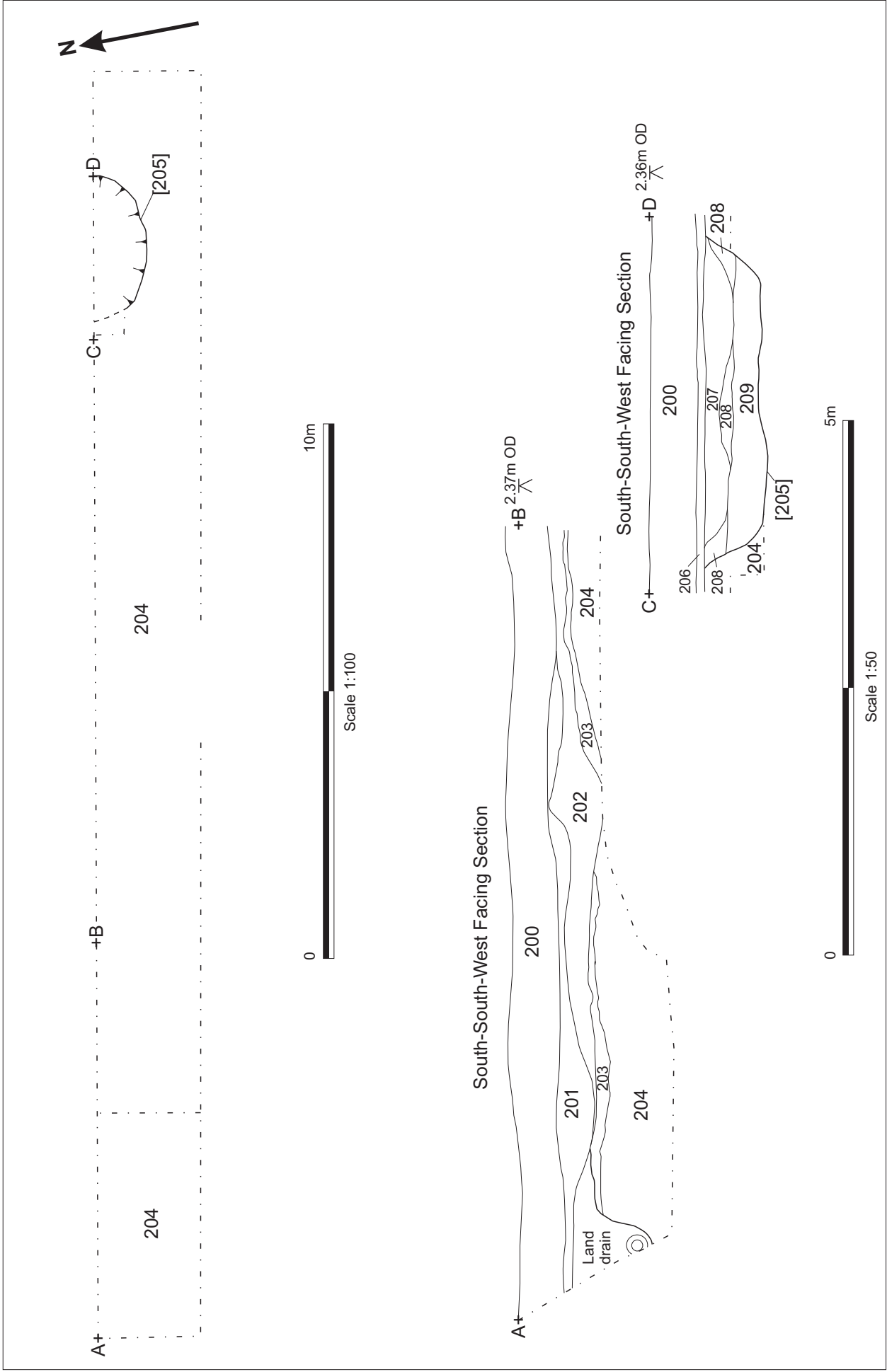


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2 at scale 1:100 with sections at scale 1:50

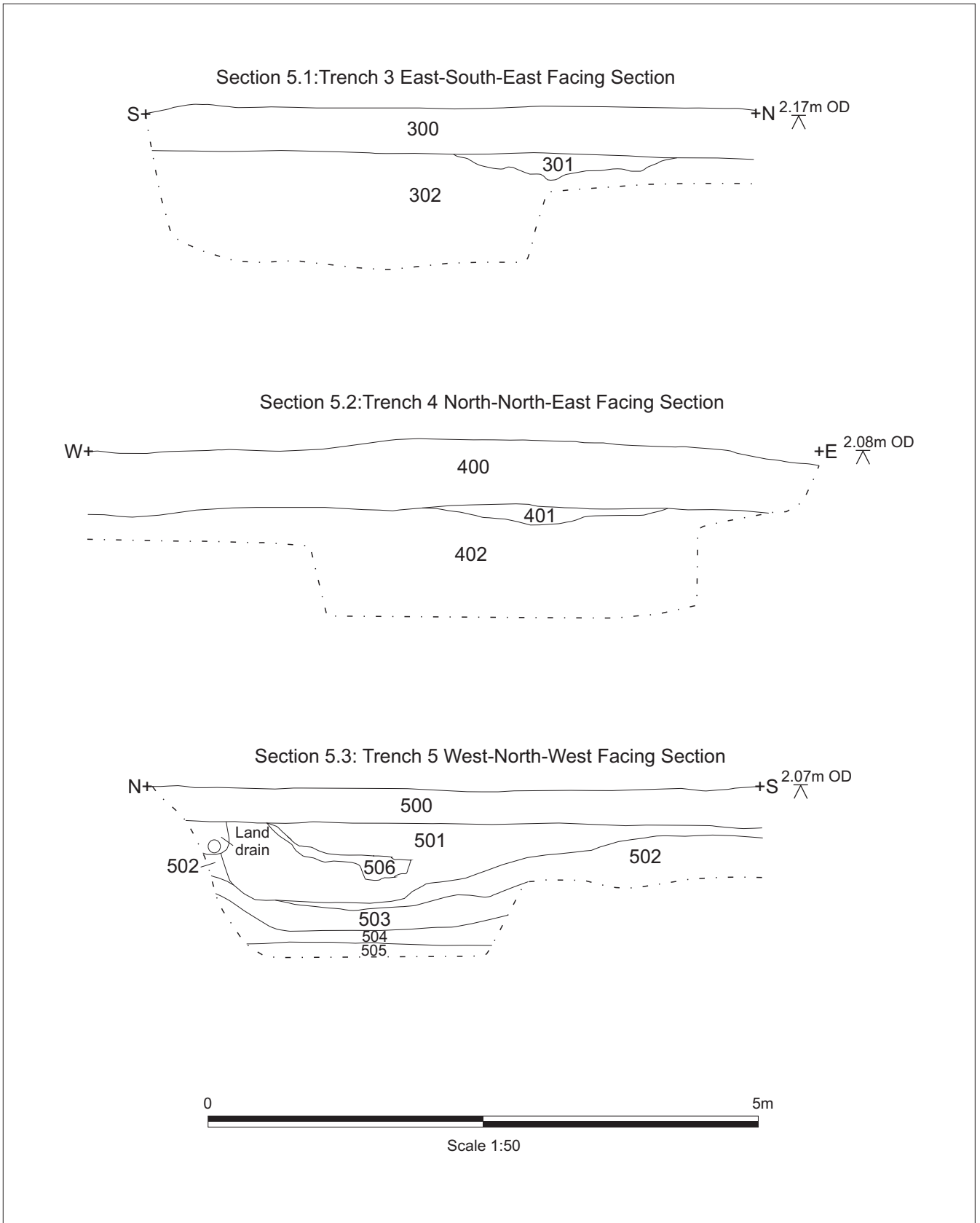


Figure 5: Trenches 3, 4 and 5 sections at scale 1:50. Located on Figure 2

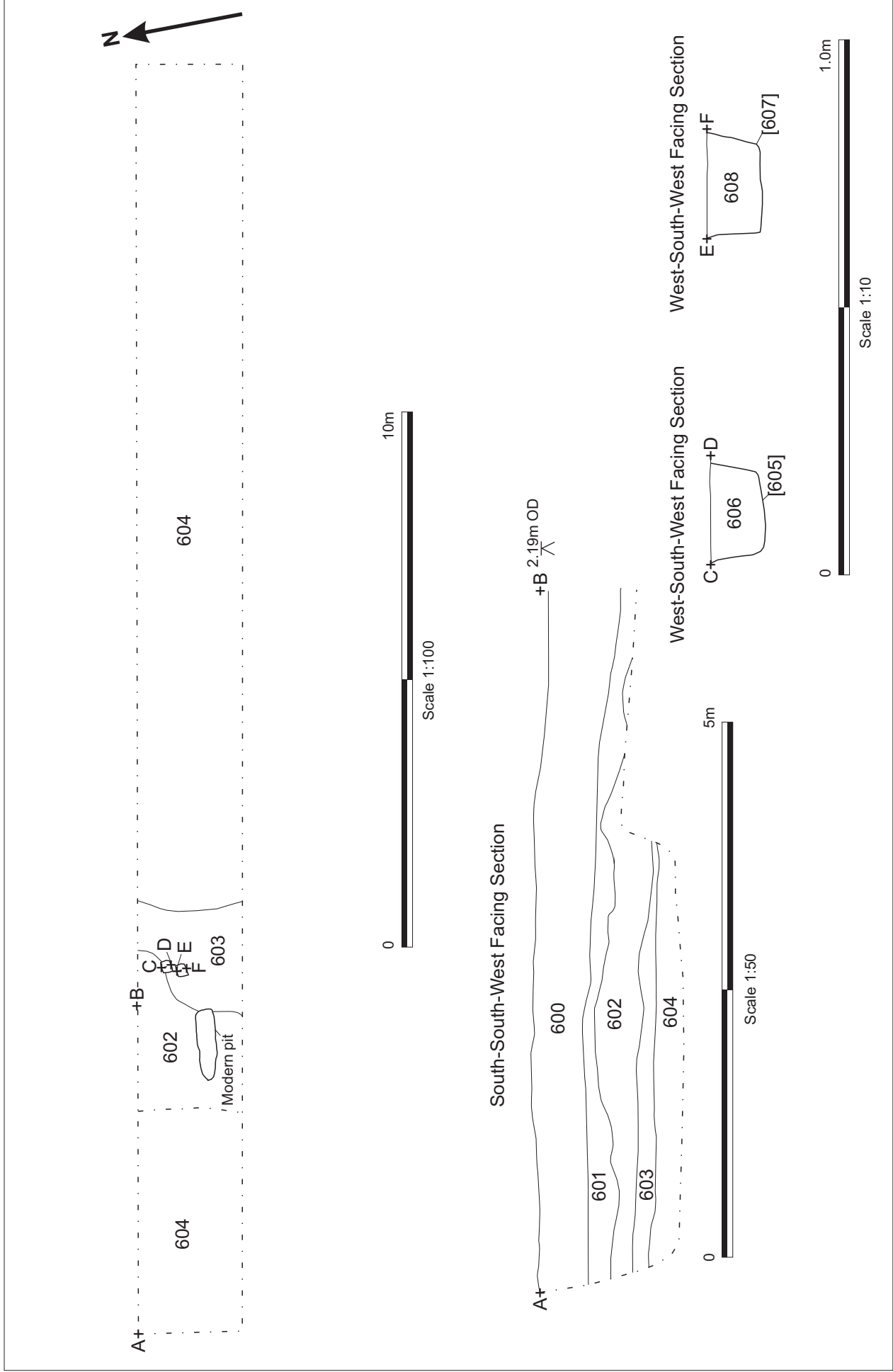


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 6 at scale 1:100 with sections at scales 1:50 and 1:10



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