

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

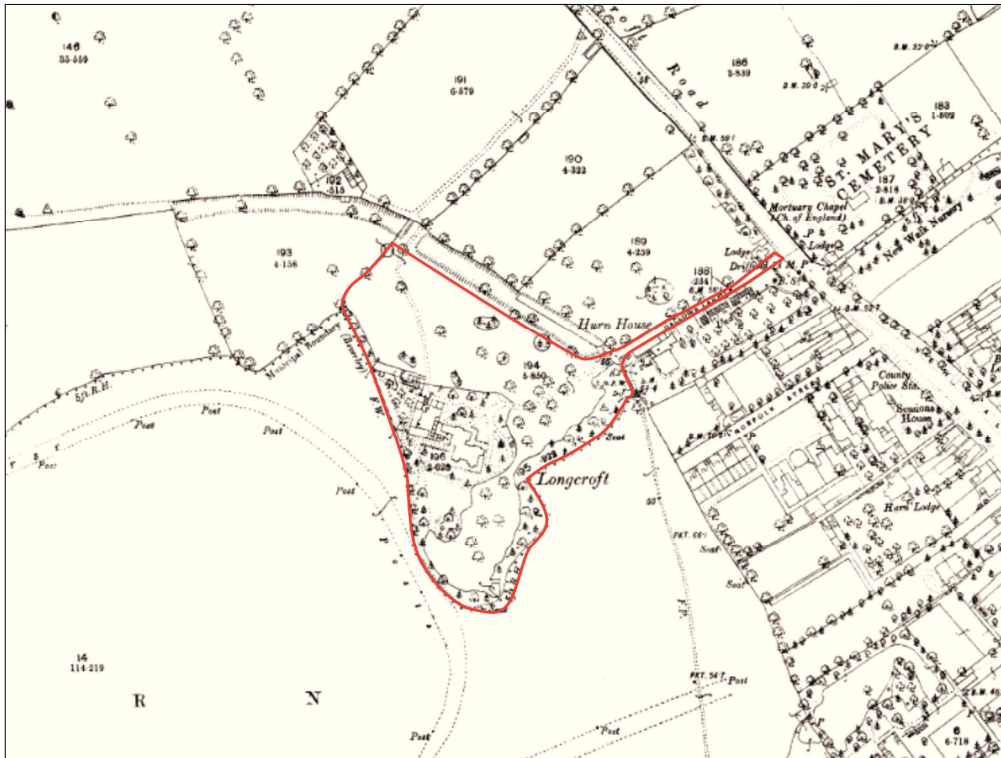
**TRIAL TRENCHING AT EAST RIDING COLLEGE, GALLOWS LANE, BEVERLEY,
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE**

Planning Reference: Pre-Planning

NGR: TA 0233 4015

AAL Site Code: BERC 12

Oasis Reference: allenarc1-141939



Report prepared for Prospect Archaeology
On behalf of East Riding College

By
Allen Archaeology Limited

Report Number 2013010

January 2013



Allenarchaeology



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Document Control

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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at East Riding College in Beverley, East Yorkshire.
- The site lies within an area of recognised archaeological potential with prehistoric and medieval activity nearby. Burial mounds have been identified to the west and north of the site; along the northeast boundary is a medieval hollow way and a possible moated enclosure is recorded to the northeast of site.
- The trial trenching identified two undated linear features and a single undated pit. There was also significant evidence of levelling and landscaping deposits associated with the development of the college grounds, and several modern services.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to support a planning application for a proposed residential development at East Riding College, Beverley in East Yorkshire.
- 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 evaluation*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006), as well as a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site comprises the grounds of East Riding College, located on the north-western edge of Beverley, at the southwest end of Gallows Lane, and is centred on NGR TA 0233 4015. The site falls within the parish of Molescroft, and occupies an irregular shaped plot of land of c.3.85ha.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Flamborough Chalk, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The proposed development comprises the redevelopment of the college grounds for residential use. In order to determine the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, a desk-based assessment was undertaken as the first stage of investigation (Rosenberg 2012). This identified a significant archaeological potential for the proposed development area, and following discussions with the Partnership Manager at Humber Archaeology Partnership (advising East Riding Council), it was agreed that a programme of trial trenching should be undertaken to further characterise the archaeological resource in advance of the submission of a planning application for the proposed development, and to provide sufficient information to allow the planning authority to develop any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effects of the development upon the archaeological resource.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of Chapter 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The preceding archaeological desk-based assessment (Rosenberg 2012) identified a significant archaeological potential for the proposed development area, and this information is summarised below.
- 4.2 Prehistoric activity nearby is represented by burial mounds on the racecourse to the west, as well as possible examples to the north of the site. Two Romano-British enclosures are also known from the area of the racecourse. In the medieval period the site lay in farmland on the border of the parishes of Beverley and Molescroft. The line of a medieval hollow way is preserved in the north-eastern site boundary, and the medieval moated manor of Woodhall is believed to have been located at the end of Gallows Lane to the northeast of the site. A house called Longcroft was built on the site in 1863 and the surrounding area landscaped as gardens. It now forms part of the college buildings.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author and two experienced field archaeologist between Wednesday 2nd January and Friday 4th January 2012. Each trench was stripped of topsoil and underlying subsoil with a tracked 360° mini excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. The soil was removed in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness until the first archaeological horizon or underlying natural geology or was exposed. All further excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 5.2 A total of nine trenches were initially proposed totalling an excavated area of 200m². However, due to overgrown and inaccessible areas of the site and the presence of modern services some trenches were moved and/or merged with the nearest suitable trench. In total six trenches were excavated to fulfil the 200m² requirement.
- 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 scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:20 and 1:50). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy and all photographs incorporated scales, with 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 three digit unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 4. Three digit numbers within square brackets represent cut features (e.g. gully [103]).

6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 6)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3)

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was a combination of two ten metre trenches, one in its original location, and one moved from an area of dense overgrowth to the east. A modern electrical service was encountered at the northwest end of the trench and as such it was reduced in length by c.2m.
- 6.1.2 After removing c.0.3m of firm dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil 100, a firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks, 101, was exposed, and was interpreted as a

levelling or landscaping layer. A single undated north – south aligned linear was sealed by this deposit. Gully [103] had moderately steep sloping sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It contained a natural silting deposit 104 of firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional rootlets and stone fragments.

6.1.3 The feature was cut through the natural geology 102 of firm mid orange brown sandy silt.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 4)

6.2.1 Trench 2 was originally proposed to be 20m long but was extended by 2m to compensate for the 2m lost at the end of Trench 1. Topsoil 200, measuring c.0.25m thick comprised firm dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent modern ceramic building material (hereafter CBM), stone fragments and chalk flecks. It sealed a 0.75m thick modern overburden 201 of firm dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent modern building debris, including glass, tiles, bricks and chalk. A single small undated pit or natural hollow, [203] was exposed underneath this layer, measuring c.0.36m in diameter and containing a mottled light grey and mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks, 204.

6.2.2 The pit cut through natural geology 202 of firm mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments.

6.3 Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 5)

6.3.1 Trench 3 measured 20m by 2m and was located on a landscaped soil bank towards the northwest corner of the site.

6.3.2 The uppermost layer consisted of a modern topsoil 300, a 0.1m thick firm dark grey sandy silt with occasional flecks of CBM and natural flint fragments. It sealed an earlier topsoil layer 301, a firm dark brown sandy silt with occasional mid orange clay flecks, charcoal and modern CBM flecks measuring 0.11m thick.

6.3.3 Below 301 was a series of dumped deposits likely to represent landscaping of the college grounds. The first of these deposits was 302, a 0.13m thick firm mid blue grey sandy silt with occasional iron panning. It sealed 303, a 0.17m thick firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional CBM and charcoal flecks, below which was 304, which consisted of firm mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate chalk, charcoal, modern CBM flecks and occasional flint fragments. It was c.0.28m thick and sealed layer 305, a possible redeposited natural of firm mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks that diminished in thickness towards the southwest end of the trench.

6.3.4 Layer 305 sealed a possible former topsoil 306, a 0.21m thick firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone pebbles. This initially appeared in plan to represent the fill of a linear feature, cutting layer 305. However, upon further excavation it transpired that it was a layer and sealed another layer of mid brown sandy silt 307, varying in thickness between 0.06m and 0.21m.

6.3.5 At the northeast end of the trench, 306 sealed a narrow northeast to southwest aligned gully [309], with shallow sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained an undated natural silting deposit 310 of moderately firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks

and small pebbles. A soil sample from this deposit contained a moderate density of hazelnut shell fragments, a fragmentary cereal grain, and a low density of charcoal.

6.3.6 Another slot excavated through 306 exposed either a small pit or terminus to linear [309]. Cut [311] contained a primary dumped deposit 313, of burnt dark orange red sandy silt and a secondary dump of firm charcoal rich very dark brown sandy silt 312. A soil sample from deposit 312 contained frequent charcoal, coal and burnt organic residues, as well as a burnt cherry pip, a spelt grain and a wheat grain.

6.3.7 At the base of the sequence was the natural geology 308, a firm mid reddish brown sandy clayey silt with moderate chalk and manganese flecks, and occasional small pebbles.

6.4 Trench 4 (Figures 2 and 6)

6.4.1 Trench 4 measured 5m x 2m and was located towards the centre of the site. The sequence comprised a 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil 400, overlying the natural geology 401 of firm mid orange brown sandy silt. A modern electrical cable was recorded in the northern part of the trench. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

6.5 Trench 5 (Figures 2 and 6)

6.5.1 The trench was positioned towards the south end of the site and was initially proposed to be a 10m long trench but was extended to incorporate a 5m trench that could not be excavated towards the east side of the college grounds due to dense vegetation. It was excavated as an L-shaped trench to avoid a live gas main.

6.5.2 The topsoil in this trench, 500, measured 0.27m thick and comprised firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small rounded stones. It sealed 501, a 0.03m thick lens of redeposited natural of firm mid orange brown silty clay.

6.5.3 Beneath 501 was a 0.4m thick levelling layer of friable mid grey brown sandy silt 502 with occasional brown clay lenses and modern plastics and glass. This sealed the natural geology 503, a firm mid orangey brown silty clay that was exposed at a depth of c.0.8m from the existing ground surface.

6.6 Trench 6 (Figures 2 and 6)

6.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to c.16m in length to compensate for a trench further to the north for which there was no access. Topsoil 600 was a firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots. It sealed a modern steep sided linear cut aligned broadly north – south, [605]. The primary fill 603, consisted of soft mid grey brown sandy silt with roots and modern CBM, and was sealed by 602, a dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional roots. The final fill, 601, was a dumped deposit of loose brownish red cinder.

6.6.2 The modern feature was cut through the natural geology 606 of firm pale yellowish orange silty clay.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The trial trenching has identified few features or deposits of archaeological interest. Undated linear features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3, and soil samples from a pit/linear feature in Trench 3 were interpreted as being the result of the dumping of hearth and midden waste from the vicinity of the site. A small undated pit or natural hollow was recorded in Trench 2.
- 7.2 There was significant evidence of ground raising or levelling of the site associated with the development of the college grounds, with landscaping deposits recorded in Trenches 1 – 3 and 5. A modern linear cut was recorded in Trench 6, the function of which was unclear, although it may represent a cut for a former service that has since been removed. Further modern services were recorded in Trenches 1, 4 and 5.
- 7.3 The fieldwork indicates little potential for archaeological activity in any part of the site, in part due to landscaping and levelling of the area both during the 19th century and during its subsequent use as a college. The only exception is in the northwest corner of the site where undated features and deposits may indicate some slight survival of pre-19th century but this is unproven.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that there are few features or deposits of archaeological significance within the site, and it is likely that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Prospect Archaeology and their client East Riding College for this commission.

10.0 References

AAL, 2012, *Specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching: East Riding College, Beverly, East Riding of Yorkshire*

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London

IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Rosenberg, N., 2012, *East Riding College, Gallows Lane, Beverley. Cultural Heritage Assessment*, Prospect Archaeology report number ERC01

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Northeast facing section of gully [103], looking southwest. Scales are 1m and 0.5m



Plate 2: Northeast facing representative section of Trench 2, showing pit [203]. Scales are 1m and 2m



Plate 3: Northeast facing section of ditch [309], looking northeast. Scales are 1m



Plate 4: Southwest facing section of [311], looking northeast. Scales are 1m and 0.5m



Plate 5: Northwest facing representative section of Trench 5, looking southeast. Scales are 1m



Plate 6: East-northeast facing section of modern cut [605], looking west-southwest. Scale is 1m

Appendix 2: Palaeoenvironmental Report

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at the East Riding College, Beverley were undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two fills within a linear feature which was undated.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous and woody roots were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and tree/shrub macrofossils are present at varying densities within both assemblages. Preservation is generally good, although the cereal grains are fragmentary and the fruit stone within sample 2 (context 312) has suffered severe thermal damage.

The assemblage from sample 1 (context 310) contains a moderate to high density of reasonably well-preserved hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments. Such remains are most commonly seen within contexts of prehistoric date, although it should be stressed that this should not be used as a means of dating the feature, as later occurrences are also frequently recorded. Other remains are scarce, but do include a possible fragmentary cereal grain and pieces of charcoal/charred wood.

The material within the assemblage from sample 2 appears to have been heated to a very high temperature. The single fruit stone (possibly of cherry (*Prunus avium*) type) has a crazed surface and much of the charcoal has a slightly 'tarry' appearance. However, a moderately well-preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base are also recorded. Neither are intrinsically datable, although spelt is most frequently seen within deposits of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to Roman date. Black porous and tarry residues are also common within sample 2, and although some may be derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, most would appear to be bi-products of the burning of coal, fragments of which are also abundant.

Conclusions

In summary, although both samples are from the same linear feature, the nature of the assemblages is very different, possibly suggesting that the deposit has been disturbed and compromised at some point. However, notwithstanding this, it would appear most likely that the recovered remains are largely derived from activities which were occurring nearby, with both probably containing elements of midden or hearth waste. Although the nutshell fragments within sample 1 may be suitable for dating, the date may not be entirely relevant, as it is unclear whether the remains are in a primary context.

Although data from the current assemblages is somewhat limited, it is apparent that well-preserved plant remains are present within the local archaeological horizon. Therefore, if any further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all features recorded during excavation.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997

New Flora of the British Isles. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	310	312
Plant macrofossils		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)		x
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume base)		x
Cereal indet. (grain frags.)	xcf	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xx	
<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>avium</i> L.		x
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x
Charred root/stem	x	
Indet. tuber/nutshell/seed frag.	x	x
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xxx
Black tarry material		xxx
Bone		xx
Burnt/fired clay		x
Burnt stone	x	
Ferrous globule	x	
Fish bone		xcf
Mineral concretion	x	
Small coal frags.	x	xxx
Vitreous material		x
Sample volume (litres)	12	12
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 = 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 50+ specimens cf = compare

Appendix 3: Context Summary List

(CBM – ceramic building material i.e. tile and brick)

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stone fragments and rootlets. Seals 101	Topsoil
101	Layer	Firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks, sealed by 100, seals 104	Landscaping/levelling layer
102	Layer	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional root truncation and sub angular stones, cut by [103]	Natural geology
103	Cut	N-S aligned linear with moderate steep sides sharp break of slope with flat base, contains 104	Undated gully
104	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional rootlets and stone fragments, sealed by 101	Natural silting of [103]

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent CBM, stone fragments and chalk flecks, seals 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Firm to friable dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent modern building debris, glass, CBM, fabric and chalk	Modern levelling/landscaping layer
202	Layer	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay, occasional chalk fragments, cut by [203]	Natural geology
203	Cut	Sub circular feature with irregular sides and base, contains 204	Small pit or natural feature
204	Fill	Moderately firm mottled light grey and mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks	Natural silting [203]

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Firm dark grey sandy silt with occasional CBM flecks, natural flint fragments, seals 301	Modern topsoil
301	Layer	Firm dark brown sandy silt with occasional mid orange clay flecks, occasional charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by 300, seals 301	Modern buried topsoil
302	Layer	Firm mid blue grey sandy silt with occasional iron pan. Sealed by 301, seals 303	Landscaping/levelling layer
303	Layer	Firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional CBM and charcoal flecks. Sealed by 302, seals 304	Landscaping/levelling layer
304	Layer	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt moderate chalk, charcoal, CBM flecks and occasional flint fragments. Sealed by 303, seals 305	Landscaping/levelling layer
305	Layer	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks. Sealed by 304, seals 306	Landscaping/levelling layer
306	Layer	Firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, stone pebbles. Sealed by 305, seals 307	Landscaping/levelling layer
307	Layer	Firm mid brown sandy silt, sealed by 306, seals 312	Possible buried topsoil
308	Layer	Firm mid brown sandy clay with moderate chalk flecks, manganese, occasional rounded stones. Sealed by 307, cut by [309] and [311]	Natural geology
309	Cut	NE-SW linear with moderately steep sides and concave base, contains 310, cuts 308	Linear gully
310	Fill	Moderately firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional chalk and pebbles, sealed by 306	Natural silted fill of [309]

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
311	Cut	Sub circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base, contains 312, 313, cuts 308	Terminus of linear gully [309]
312	Fill	Firm charcoal rich mid brown sandy silt, sealed by 307, seals 313	Secondary dumped deposit in [311]
313	Fill	Firm dark orange red sandy silt, sealed by 312	Primary dumped deposit in [311]

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent tree roots, occasional small pebbles, seals 401	Modern topsoil
401	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown sandy silt with rounded stones, sealed by 400	Natural geology

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots, occasional small rounded stones, seals 501	Topsoil
501	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay, sealed by 500, seals 502	Redeposited natural
502	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional clay patches, plastics and glass, sealed by 502, seals 503	Modern levelling/landscaping layer
503	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones, sealed by 502	Natural geology

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots, seals 601	Topsoil
601	Fill	Loose mid brownish red cinder, seals 602	Final dumped deposit in [605]
602	Fill	Firm dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional roots, sealed by 601, seals 603	Secondary dumped deposit in [605]
603	Fill	Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with roots and frequent modern CBM, sealed by 602	Primary dumped deposit in [605]
604	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown sandy silt with roots and occasional charcoal flecks, cut by [605], seals 606	Subsoil
605	Cut	NW-SE linear with moderately steep sides, sharp break of slope to flat base	Modern linear cut of uncertain function
606	Layer	Firm pale yellowish orange silty clay with stones, sealed by 604	Natural geology

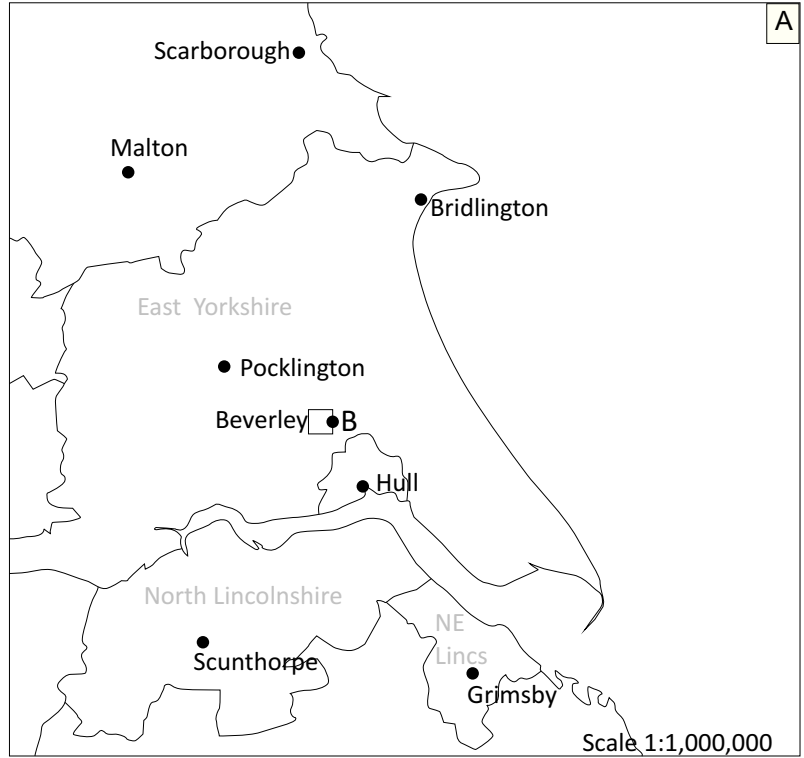
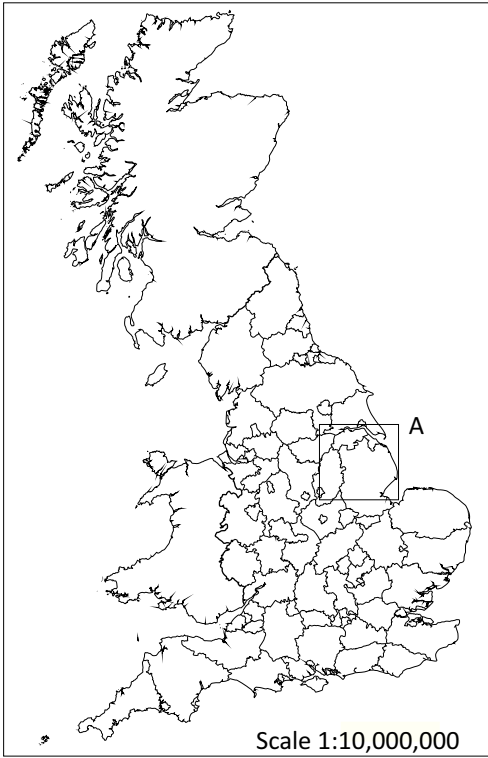


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Drawn by	M Piirainen
Date	25/01/13

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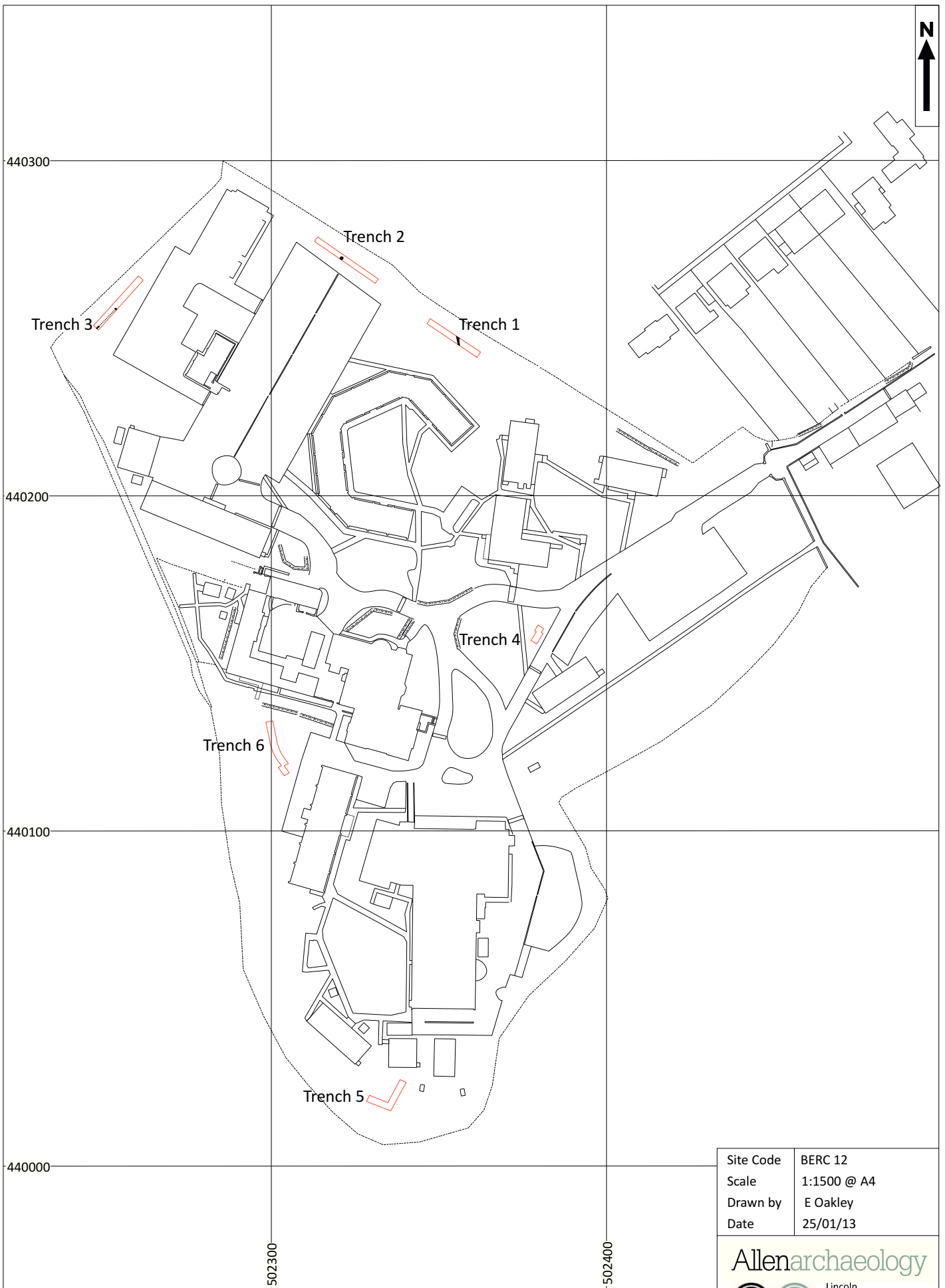
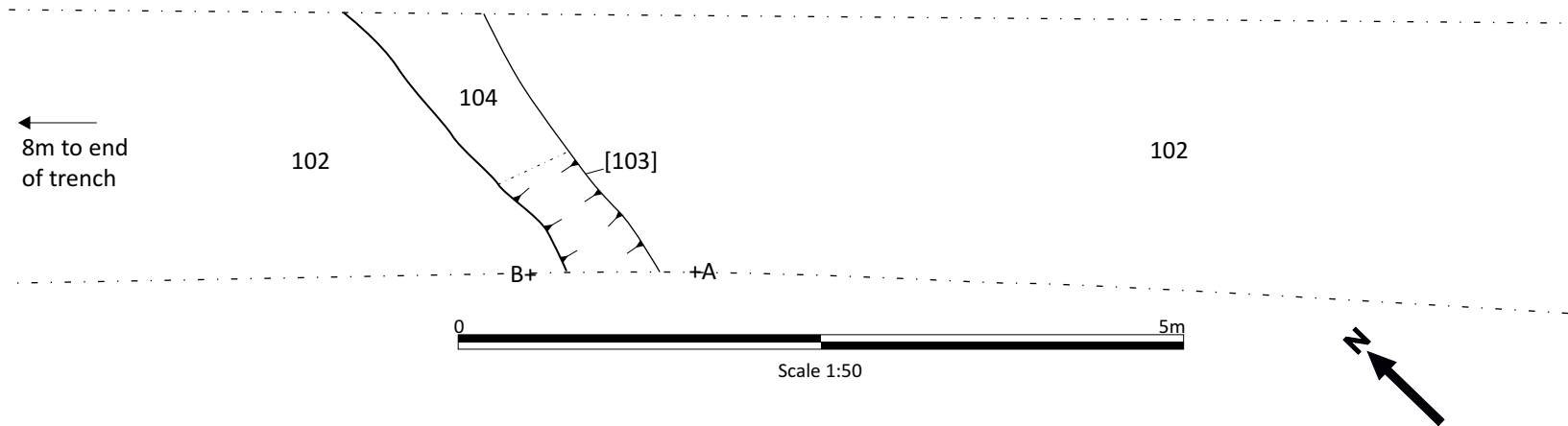
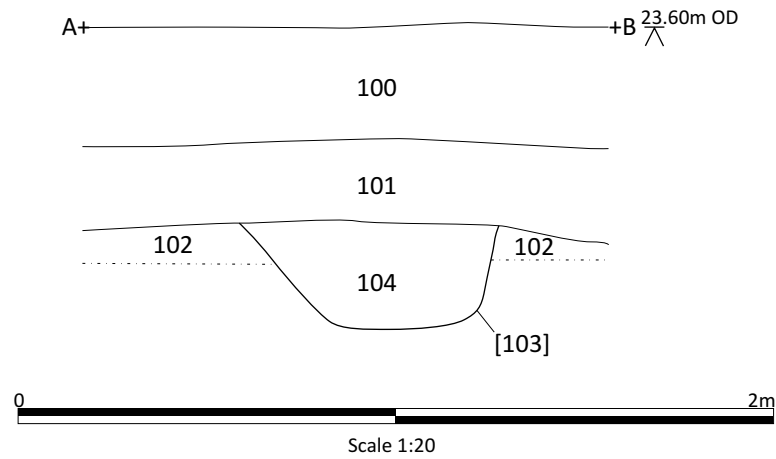


Figure 2: Site location plan, with evaluation trenches in red and archaeological features in solid black



Northwest Facing Section



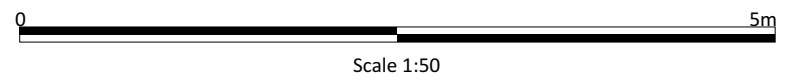
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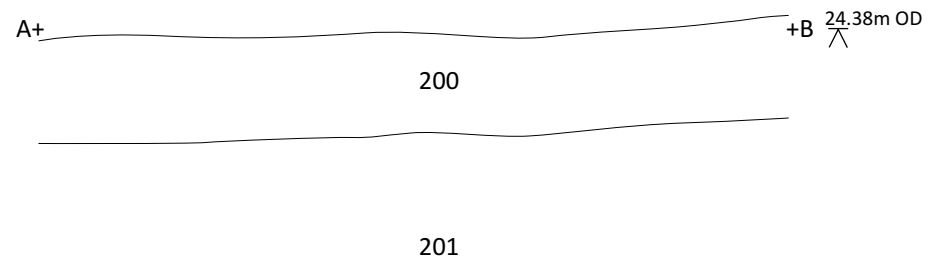
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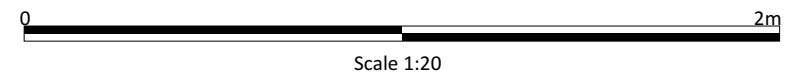
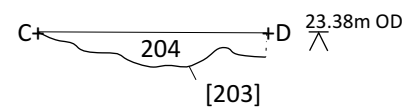
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan and section



Northeast Facing Section



Northwest Facing Section



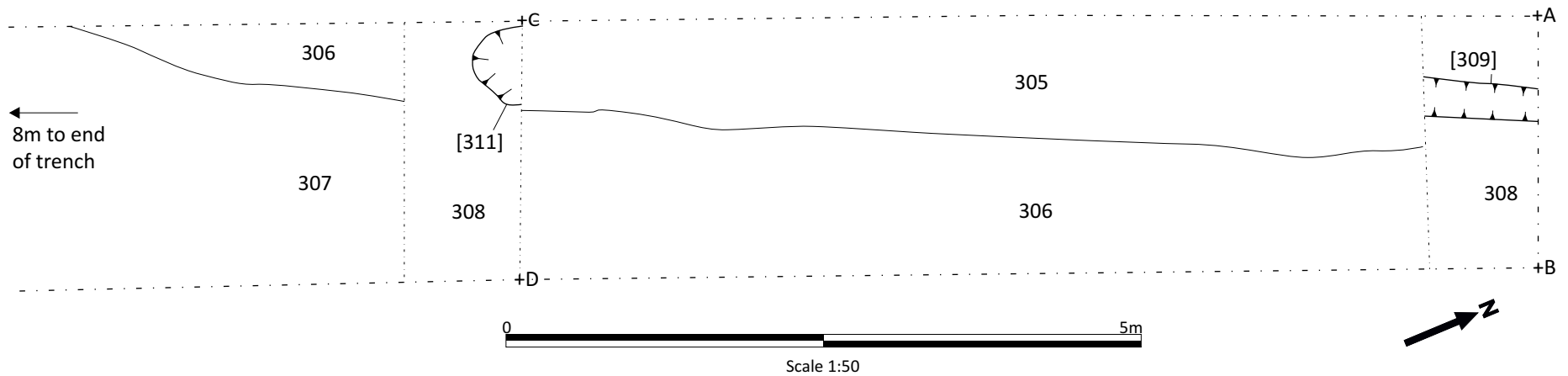
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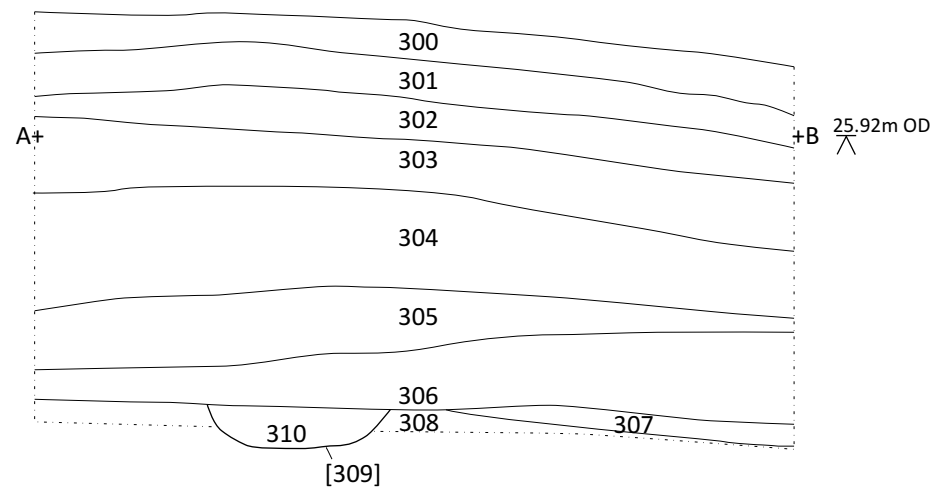
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Figure 4: Trench 2 plan and section



Southwest Facing Section



Southwest Facing Section

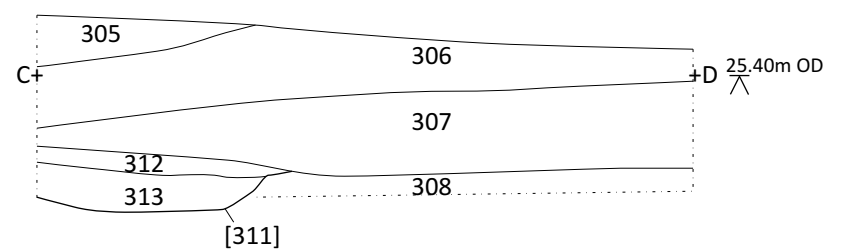


Figure 5: Trench 3 plan and sections

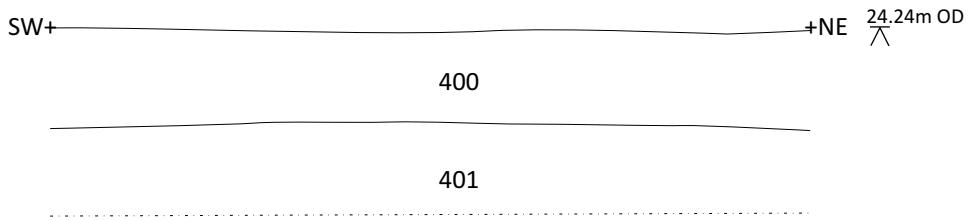
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Scale	1:50 and 1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	25/01/2013

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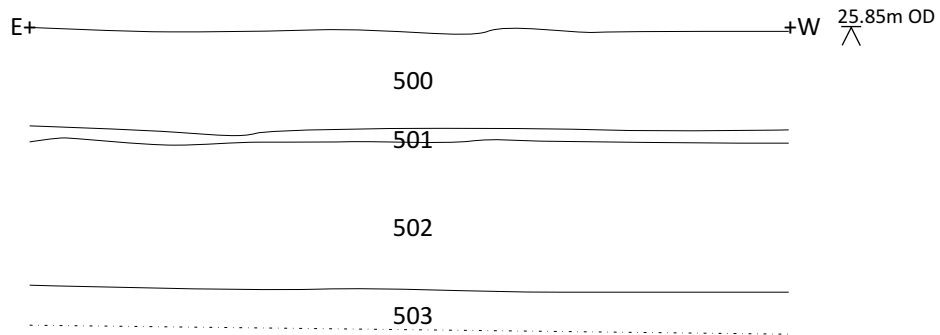


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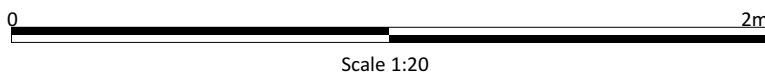
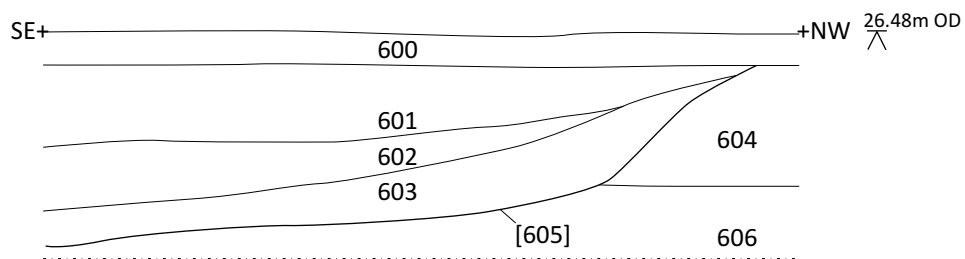
Trench 4
Southeast Facing Section



Trench 5
North Facing Section



Trench 6
Northeast Facing Section



Site Code	BERC 12
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	25/01/2012

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Figure 6: Representative sections of Trenches 4 - 6



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