

**LAND NORTH OF
ZOUCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
TIDWORTH
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

TIDWORTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

CA PROJECT: 2453
CA REPORT: 07170


DECEMBER 2007



LAND NORTH OF
ZOUCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
TIDWORTH
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 02453
CA REPORT: 07170

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date	10 December 2007
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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land North of Zouch Primary School
Location: Tidworth, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 2310 4982
Type: Evaluation
Date: 27–29 November 2007
Planning Reference: K/57187/F
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Site Code: TST 07

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2007 at the request of Tidworth Development Trust on land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire. Seven trenches were excavated across the proposed development area.

Seven undated pits and ditches were identified within trenches 2, 4, 6 and 7. The character and date(s) of this activity or occupation remains undetermined due to the limited view afforded by the evaluation trenching and the absence of dating evidence.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Tidworth Development Trust on land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2310 4982; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref: K/57187/F) for the change of land use of part of the site to an activity area, including a small football pitch and associated fencing and shelter.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation prepared by Sue Farr, Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service (WCCAS 2007), the archaeological advisor to Kennet District Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by Sue Farr. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (WCC Archaeology Service 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Sue Farr, including a site visit on 28 November 2007.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area, approximately 1.4ha in size, lies on the northern outskirts of Tidworth and is bordered to the south by Zouch Primary School and residential development at Gason Hill, to the north-east by woodland and to the north-west by the Elden Road tank crossing track. The site is currently utilised as rough pasture. The south-eastern part of the site lies at approximately 140m AOD, with ground level dropping away to the north-west to approximately 130m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous period (BGS 1967). The natural substrate of soft white chalk, with abundant flint nodules, was encountered within all of the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, with extensive evidence of prehistoric activity and occupation in the locality (WCCAS 2007). Features relating to medieval ridge and furrow (SMR ref. SU24NW716) have previously been recorded within the current site and undated linear features have previously been recorded east of the site (SMR ref. SU24NW713).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Kennet District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches, each 20m in length by 1.5m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995). In the event, no artefacts were retained.
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. A summary of

information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

2.2 No archaeological features were encountered within trenches 1, 3 and 5, where natural chalk substrate was noted overlain by thin silt-clay subsoil and topsoil horizons.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.3 Natural chalk substrate 202, encountered 0.29m below present ground level (bpgl), was cut by oval pit 205. No artefactual material was recovered from either basal fill 207 or its secondary fill 206. An adjacent, shallow feature, 203, that also remained undated, may represent the base of a pit or an area of root disturbance. Both features were overlain by subsoil 201, which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil 200.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)

2.4 Chalk substrate 402, encountered at 0.33m bpgl, was cut by oval pit 403 and NW/SE aligned ditch 405. No artefactual material was recovered from the respective fills of either feature.

2.5 The northern edge of ditch 405 was cut by either a recut of the original ditch or a possible pit 409. All features were sealed by subsoil 401, which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil 400.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 5)

2.5 Natural chalk substrate 602, encountered at 0.32m bpgl, was cut by three oval pits 603, 605 and 607. Flint pieces recovered from each of these features proved to be

natural in origin and have not been retained. All three features were sealed by subsoil 601, which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil 600.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 2.6 Chalk substrate 702, encountered 0.37m bpgl, was cut by sub-circular pit or ditch-terminal 705 and by E/W aligned ditch 703. The latter was heavily root-affected and may represent a former hedgeline. Both features were sealed by silt-clay subsoil 701, which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil 700.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has revealed a series of undated pits and ditches within trenches 2, 4, 6 and 7. However, the character and date(s) of this activity or occupation remains undetermined due to the limited view afforded by the evaluation trenching and the absence of dating evidence.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Charley Jones. The report was written by Alistair Barber, and the illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1967 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)*, Devizes, sheet 282, scale 1:50000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007: *Land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCCAS (Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service) 2007 *Land north of Zouch
Primary School, Tidworth. Field Evaluation Archaeological Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (present ground level 138.04m to 138.91m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.18m	Modern
101	Layer	Subsoil			0.12m	Undated
102	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.3m depth	

Trench 2 (present ground level 138.77m-139.89m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.13m	Modern
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.06m	Undated
202	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.29m depth	
203	Cut	Shallow ?circular pit, with gently-sloping sides and concave base	0.65m	0.4m	0.06m	Undated
204	Fill	Fill of ?pit 203: mid brown silt-clay with occasional chalk fragments	0.65m	0.4m	0.06m	Undated
205	Cut	Oval pit, with steeply-sloping sides and concave base	1.45m	0.8m +	0.25m	Undated
206	Fill	Secondary fill of 205: mid-brown silt-clay with occasional chalk fragments	1.45	0.8m +	0.18m	Undated
207	Fill	Primary fill of 205: grey-brown silt-clay with occasional chalk fragments	1.45m	0.8m +	0.2m	Undated

Trench 3 (present ground level 135.01m to 136.65m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m	Modern
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.1m	Undated
302	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.25m depth	

Trench 4 (present ground level 134.87m to 136.31AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil				Modern
401	Layer	Subsoil				Undated
402	Layer	Natural chalk substrate				
403	Cut	Oval pit cut, with steeply-sloping sides and concave base.	1.9m	1.05m	0.42m	Undated
404	Fill	Secondary fill of 403: light brown chalk-rich silt-clay	1.9m	1.05m	0.2m	Undated
405	Cut	NW/SE aligned ditch with U-shaped profile, steeply-sloping sides and concave base	2m+	0.6m	0.6m	Undated
406	Fill	Secondary fill of 405: mid brown silt-clay	2m+	0.6m	0.26m	Undated
407	Fill	Primary fill of 403: light grey-brown silt-clay and chalk	1.9m	1.05m	0.22m	Undated

408	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 405: mid grey-brown silt-clay	2m+	0.6m	0.34m	Undated
409	Cut	?Pit . oval, partially exposed. Steep u shaped profile	1.8m+	0.85m	0.36m	Undated
410	Fill	Fill of ?pit 409: light mid-brown humic silt-clay with sparse chalk fragments	1.8m+	0.85m	0.36m	Undated

Trench 5 (present ground level 137.26m to 138.24m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m	Modern
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.17m	Undated
502	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.32m depth	

Trench 6 (present ground level 132.39m to 133.42m AOD)

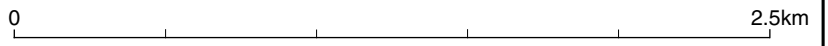
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.21m	Modern
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.11m	Undated
602	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.32m depth	
603	Cut	Shallow oval pit, with gently-sloping sides and relatively flat base	0.8m	0.4m	0.07m	
604	Fill	Fill of pit 603: mid brown silt-clay with chalk fragments	0.8m	0.4m	0.07m	
605	Cut	Oval pit: with steeply-sloping N side and relatively flat base	1.1m	0.4m	0.15m	
606	Fill	Fill of pit 605: mid brown silt-clay with chalk fragments	1.1m	0.4m	0.15m	
607	Cut	Pit with steeply-sloping N side and relatively flat base	0.55m+	0.65m	0.13m	
608	Fill	Fill of pit 607: mid brown silt-clay with chalk fragments	0.55m+	0.65m	0.13m	

Trench 7 (present ground level 130.85m to 132.42m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.22m	Modern
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.13m	Undated
702	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			At 0.37m depth	
703	Cut	E/W aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and irregular, root-affected, base.			0.18m	Undated
704	Fill	Fill of ditch 703: Light brown silt-clay with occasional chalk			0.18m	Undated
705	Cut	? pit or ditch terminal. Steeply-sloping W side and sloping base.	0.6m+	1.25m	0.22m	Undated
706	Fill	Fill of ?pit or ditch terminal 706: Light grey-brown silt-clay with pebbles	0.6m+	1.25m	0.22m	Undated

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire. Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2007 at the request of Tidworth Development Trust on land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire. Seven trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.</p> <p>Undated pits and ditches were identified within trenches 2, 4, 6 and 7. The character and date(s) of activity or occupation within the site remains uncertain from the limited view afforded by evaluation trenching and the absence of dating evidence.</p>	
Project dates	27 – 29 November 2007	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation.	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	none	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land north of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2310 4982	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical		none
Paper	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Context sheets, Trench Recording Forms, Drawing Register, Levels Register
Digital	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 Land North of Zouch Primary School, Tidworth, Wiltshire. Archaeological Evaluation. Cotswold Archaeology Typescript Report No. 07170 , Cirencester		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Land North of Zouch Primary School
Tidworth, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2453

FIGURE NO.

1



0 100m

- site
- trench showing archaeological features



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Land North of Zouch Primary School
Tidworth, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features**

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:1250@A4

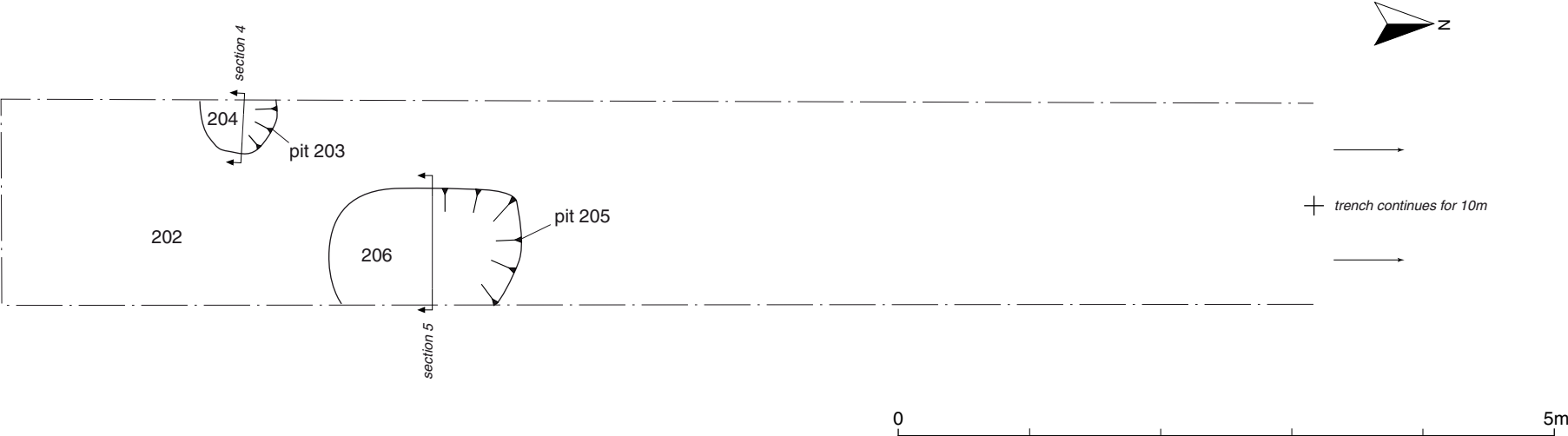
PROJECT NO.

2453

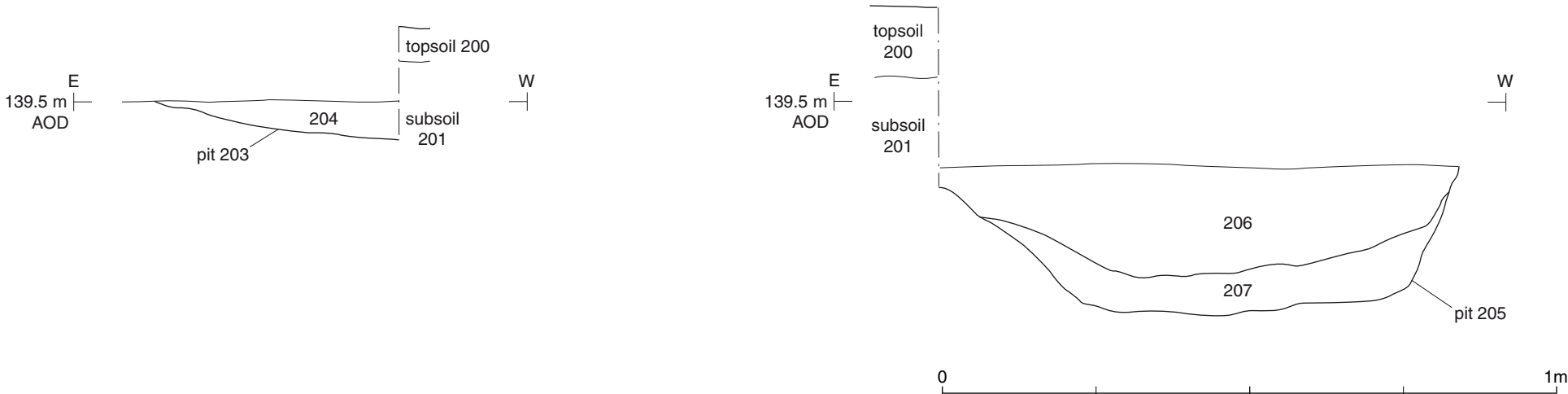
FIGURE NO.

2

Trench 2, plan



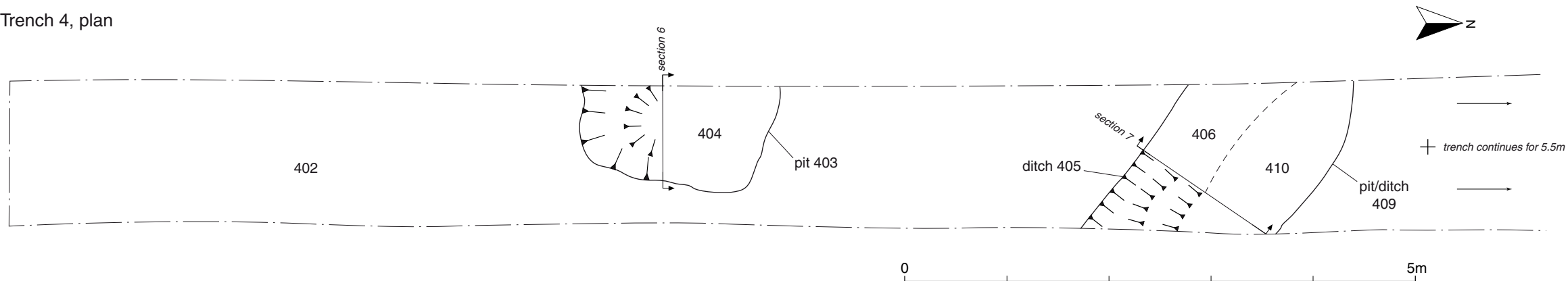
Trench 2, section 4 and 5



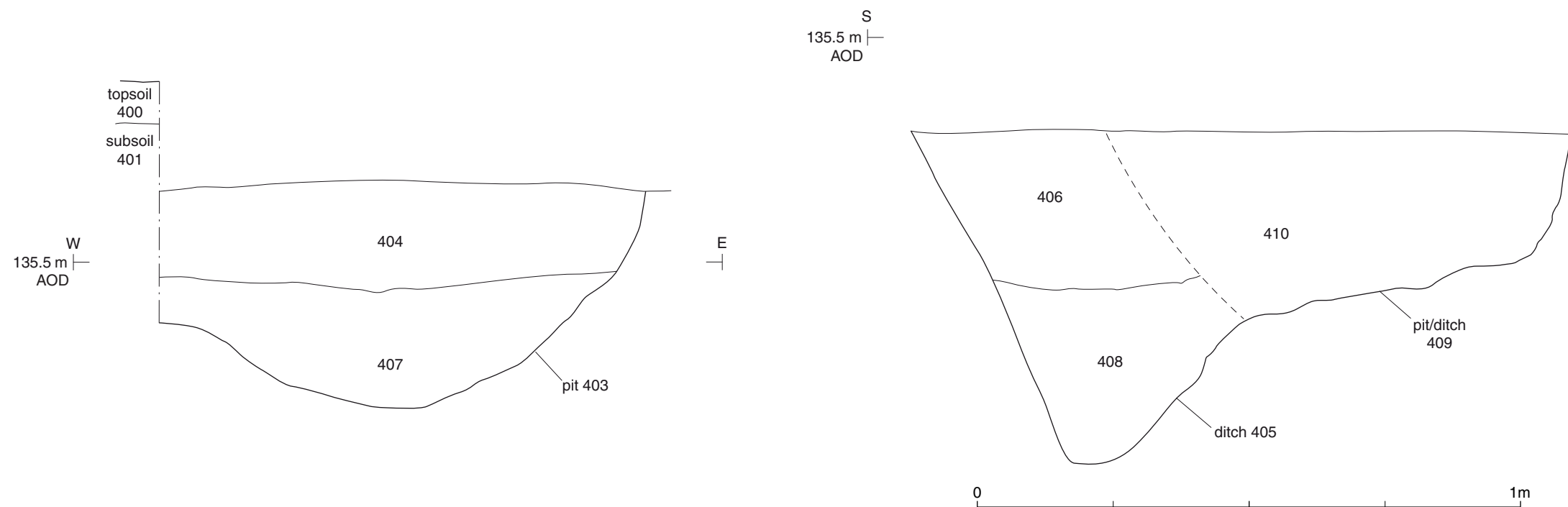
Pit 205, view looking south (0.5m scale)



Trench 4, plan



Trench 4, sections 6 and 7



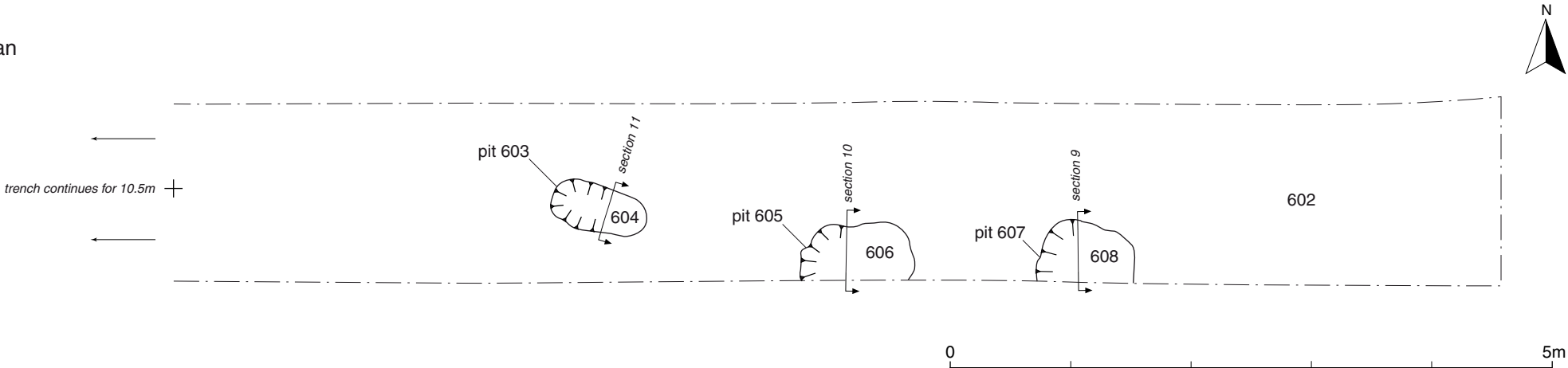
Pit 403, view looking north (0.5m scale).



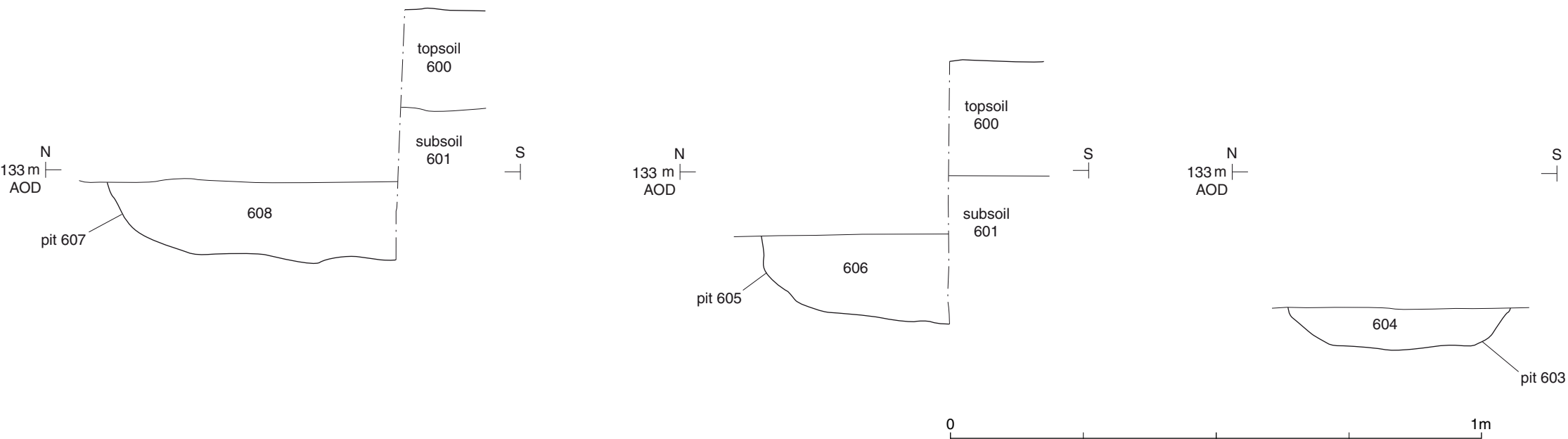
Ditch 405, view looking north-west (0.5m and 1m scales).



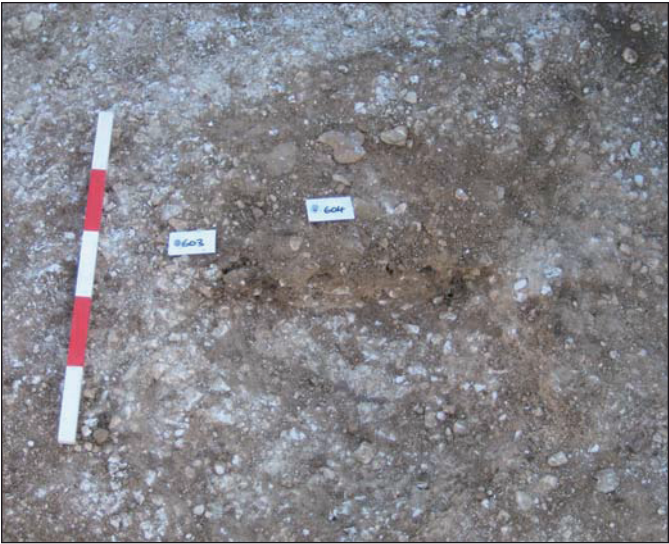
Trench 6, plan



Trench 6, sections 9, 10 and 11



Pit 603, view looking south-east (0.5m scale)



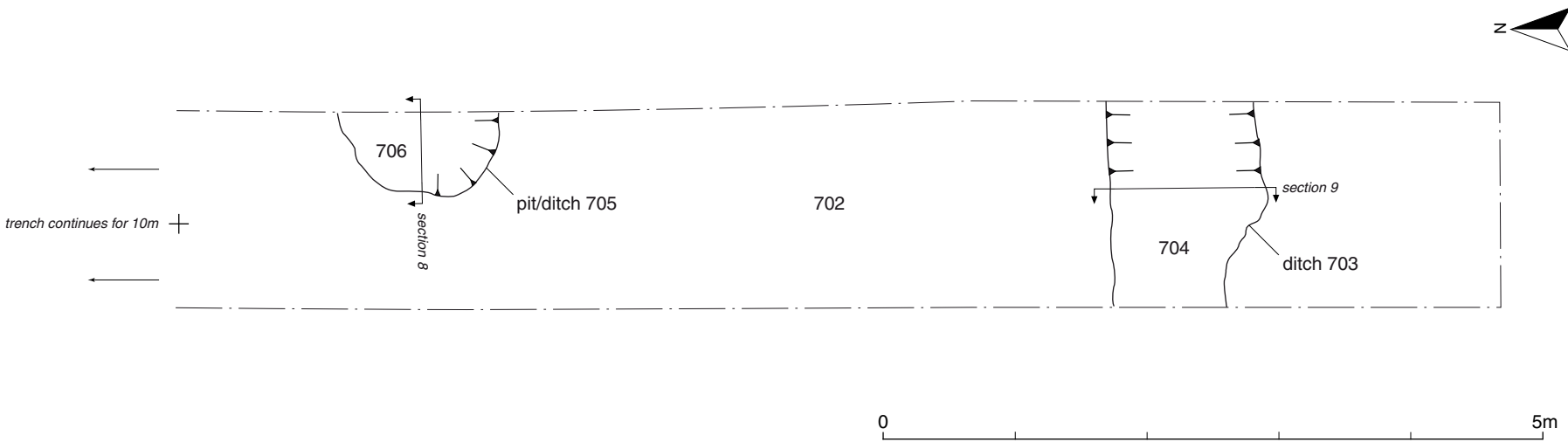
Pit 605, view looking south (0.5m scale)



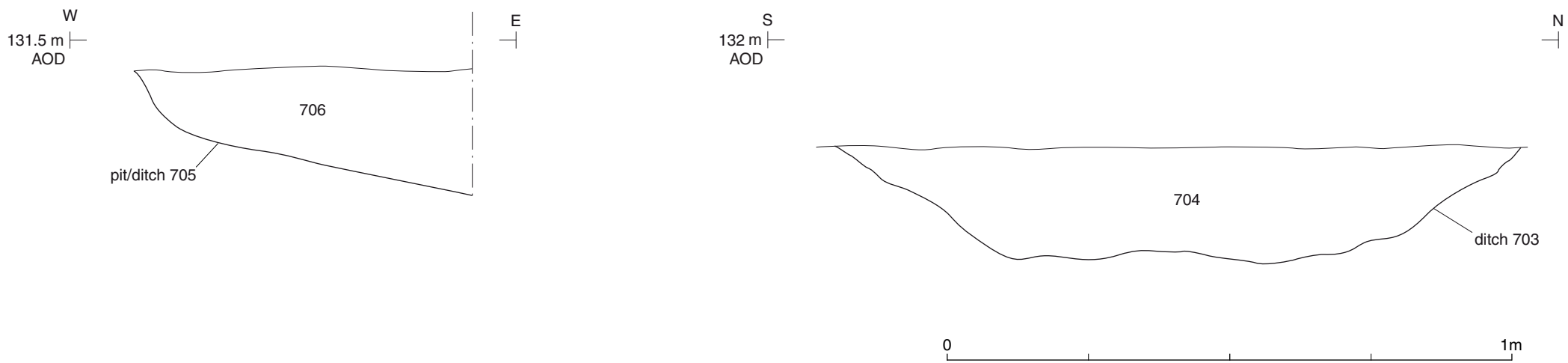
Pit 607, view looking south (0.5m scale)



Trench 7, plan



Trench 7, section 8 and 9



Ditch 703, view looking west (0.5m scale)

