Hilgay Habitat Creation Site Methwold Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Hilgay Habitat Creation Site, Methwold, Norfolk

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Written by Laura Piper

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Summary

During May 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the Hilgay Habitat Creation site, Methwold, Norfolk (centred on NGR TL 645 975) on behalf of the Environment Agency. Sixteen trenches were excavated across the site. Six of the trenches targeted anomalies recorded in an earlier geophysical survey of the site, and one targeted a former water-filled pit. There was little correlation between the geophysical survey results and the archaeology encountered.

The evaluation revealed a series of six ditches, four pits, two post holes and one tree throw, but no dating was recovered. It is likely that most of the features recorded relate to post-medieval drainage and agricultural use of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Atkins Water and Environment on behalf of the Environment Agency to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in advance of the proposed Hilgay habitat creation project at Hilgay, Norfolk.

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the creation of 40ha of reedbed habitat along with smaller area of grassland, earth bunds and a storage reservoir. The total site area is approximately 70ha. The site is located immediately to the south of the River Wissey and some 2km east of Hilgay in the parish of Methwold (Figure 1) at NGR TL 645 975. The impacts of the scheme on sub-surface deposits are likely to be confined largely to the excavation of the storage reservoir with only limited impacts elsewhere.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located immediately to the south of the River Wissey at a height of between -1.0m and 1.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying solid geology is divided between Roxham and Runcton Beds (sands) over the majority of the site with Kimmeridge Clay to the south-west. The local soils are classified in the Isleham 2 and Altcar 1 associations. Isleham 2 soils are characterised as deep, permeable, sandy peats that are affected by groundwater, with very complex soil hummocks and hollows. Altcar 1 soils are classified as Fen Peat with deep soils with groundwater controlled by ditches.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A number of sites and find spots are recorded in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within the site itself and in the immediate vicinity (Figure 2).

1.3.2 A number of finds of burnt flint and occasional struck flints were made during fieldwalking as part of the Fenland Survey. It is likely that these have come to light as a result of the wastage of overlying peaty soils. These are NHER 23376 (burnt flints), NHER 23377 (burnt flints), NHER 23370 (burnt and worked flints), NHER 23378 (burnt flints), NHER 29045 (burnt and worked flints). It is possible that the burnt flints are the remnants of burnt flint mounds which typically occur in fen edge locations.

1.3.3 The location of NHER 29045 also contains three circular soil marks seen on air photographs. Initially interpreted as ring ditches, further study showed them to be water filled pits with straight cuts leading from them to the field edge ditches. It is possible that they are the remnants of marl pits although few are known from the area. Two of these hollows were evident on the ground surface during a geophysical survey of the site undertaken as part of this project (see below)

1.3.4 Beyond the site boundary, the most significant known site is a Romano-British farmstead (NHER 4455). The site, which is also a Scheduled Monument (National Monument No. 20819), is particularly well-preserved and contains low earthworks representing the platforms and ditches which define the rectilinear buildings, yards and paddocks of the farmstead.

1.3.5 A number of post-medieval drainage mills and wind pumps existed in the area including one in the north-west corner of the site (NHER 4467) and a second one in the north-east corner of the site (NHER 41058) (Figure 2).

1.3.6 As part of the current scheme, the site was the subject of a geophysical survey (ASWYAS, 2007). The evidence for anomalies of archaeological origin was slight but a number of possible features were tentatively identified (Figure 2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Philip Catherall of the Environment Agency, Danielle Phillips of Atkins Water and Environment, and Ken Hamilton, Head of Archaeological Planning at the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

Strategy

2.1.1 The evaluation strategy was to assess the potential for archaeological remains within those areas of the site which would most likely be subject to significant impact i.e. the storage reservoir. In addition, geophysical anomalies in other areas of the site were targeted in order to determine their origin.

Objectives

2.1.2 The principle objective of the evaluation was to carry out an assessment of the proposed development area in such a manner that an informed and reasoned decision can be made regarding the extent of any likely archaeological impact, and the most appropriate strategy and methodology for its mitigation.

2.1.3 The aims of the field evaluation were to determine, as far as was reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

2.2 Methodology

Introduction

2.2.1 The evaluation objectives were met through the excavation of a series of 16 trial trenches, each 30m by 1.8 m, within the proposed storage reservoir and more generally across the site. The layout is given in Figure 2.

Fieldwork methods and recording

2.2.2 The evaluation was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as revised 2001), and Standards For Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14) except where they were superseded by statements made below:

2.2.3 A unique-number site code was agreed with the Norfolk Museums Service. Arrangements have also been made with the Norfolk Museums Service for the deposition of the archive subject to agreement with the Client.

Service Location

2.2.4 Before excavation began the client was consulted for information regarding the presence of any below/above ground services.

2.2.5 Trial trench locations were 'swept' before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool to verify the absence of any underground services.

Excavation

2.2.6 Each trench was excavated using a 360° tracked excavator with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, trench edges.

2.2.7 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was first encountered. Once archaeological deposits were exposed further excavation proceeded by hand.

2.2.8 A sample of each feature and of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes, and ditches, was excavated and recorded.

Recording

2.2.9 The trenches were cleaned by hand, as necessary, and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide, black and white print film and digital photography. Recording followed procedures laid down in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

Finds

2.2.10 No finds were recovered from the evaluation

Environmental Samples

2.2.11 No soil samples for environmental analysis were taken during the evaluation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Presentation of results

3.1.1 Section 3.2 describes the general ground and soil conditions encountered at the site. Section 3.3 describes the sequence of deposits and archaeological remains from the trenches where archaeological deposits were encountered. Plans of all trenches which contained archaeological deposits are illustrated in Figure 3 and a representative selection of sections are illustrated in Figure 4. Those trenches without archaeological remains have not been described in detail. An inventory of all contexts including measurements not presented within the text is provided in Appendix A.

3.2 Soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The site occupies a relatively sheltered position on the Fenland edge to the south of the River Wissey. At the time of the evaluation the fields were covered by long grass and scrub.

3.2.2 The trenches were excavated through sandy peat Isleham 2 soils. The presence of an active land drain in Trench 16 meant that it quickly became waterlogged and could only be observed briefly. The remaining trenches did not become waterlogged.

3.3 Distribution of archaeological deposits

General

3.3.1 A total of seven trenches, Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10, contained evidence of archaeological deposits and these are described in turn below. The remaining 9 trenches revealed no evidence for archaeological deposits or features.

Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

3.3.2 The underlying natural sand (110) was encountered at an average depth of 0.50 m below the current ground level. Overlying layer 110 was a layer of mixed slightly silty sand with peat intrusions (109), between 0.20 m and 0.30 m thick. This was sealed by a layer of loose, pale grey, fine sand (108) between, 0.02 m and 0.10 m deep, which was overlain by the modern topsoil, a dark grey brown sandy silt loam, 0.40 m deep

3.3.3 Layer 110 was cut at the southern end of the trench by a small posthole (103), measuring 0.20 m in diameter and 0.27 m deep. This feature was filled with a dark brownish grey silty sand (104).

3.3.4 At the southern end of the trench, deposit 108 was cut by a shallow scoop (100), measuring 1.20 m in diameter and existing to a depth of 0.35 m. This was filled with a friable, black peaty loam (102).

3.3.5 Crossing the centre of the trench and also cutting 108 was an east-west orientated ditch (105) measuring 1.00 m wide and 0.40 m deep. This was filled by a friable, black, peaty loam (106).

Trench 2 (not illustrated)

3.3.6 The natural sand (204) was encountered at an average depth of 0.77 m. This was cut at the eastern end of the trench by a tree throw (203) measuring 0.55 m in length and 0.16 m deep. Overlying 204 was a friable pale grey brown sand (202), 0.33 m deep.

This in turn was sealed by the modern topsoil, a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt loam (201), 0.40 m deep.

3.3.7 Layer 204 was cut at the eastern end of the trench by a tree throw (203) measuring 0.55 m in length and 0.16 m deep. It was filled with a friable pale grey brown sand, similar to the overlying layer (202).

Trench 4 (Figures 3, 4 and 5)

3.3.8 The natural sand (403) was reached at an average depth of 0.54 m. This was overlain throughout the trench by a friable, mixed silty sand (402), between 0.20 m and 0.30 m in depth. This in turn was overlain by a friable pale brownish grey silty sand (401), between 0.02 m and 0.10 m in depth, and by the topsoil, a friable black sandy silt loam (400), 0.32 m in depth.

3.3.9 At the northern end of the trench, cut into layer 401, two pits (404 and 406) were identified. Pit 404 measured 1.00 m in diameter and 0.30 m deep, and was filled by a friable, black clayey silt loam (405). Pit 406 measured 1.10 m in diameter and 0.40 m deep and was filled by a friable, black clayey silt loam (407), similar to fill 405.

Trench 5 (Figures 3 and 5)

3.3.10 The natural sand (507) was reached at an average depth of 0.70 m. Layer 507 was overlain by an orange-brown sand (502), 0.18 m in depth. This in turn was sealed by the topsoil, a friable black sandy silt loam 0.43 m in depth.

3.3.11 Layer 507 was cut by a small pit (504) measuring 0.84 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep. The pit was filled with a dark brown silty sand (503).

3.3.12 Towards the western end of the trench the natural sand was cut by a north-south orientated gully (506), 0.55 m wide and 0.08 m deep. It was filled by a dark brown sand (505).

Trench 7 (Figures 3 and 5)

3.3.13 The underlying natural sand (704) was reached at an average depth of 0.52 m. Overlying this was a layer of friable white sand (701), 0.24 m deep. This in turn was sealed by a friable blackish grey peaty silt (700), 0.28 m deep.

3.3.14 Cutting layer 704 at the eastern end of the trench was a circular posthole (702), 0.28 m in diameter and 0.38 m deep. This was filled by a dark grey sand (703).

3.3.15 This trench was sited to the north of a large drainage ditch (the remaining 15 trenches were to the south of it) and was sited thus in order to investigate an anomaly identified during an earlier geophysical investigation. The anomaly proved to be geological in nature.

Trench 9 (Figures 3 and 6)

3.3.16 Trench 9 was also centred on a geophysical anomaly. Here the underlying natural sand (903) was reached at a depth 0.40 m. Overlying 903 was a friable, dark grey silty sand loam (902) measuring 0.35 m in depth, the modern topsoil.

3.3.17 Layer 903 was cut by a shallow, east-west orientated, slightly curving ditch (900), 0.80 m wide and 0.45 m deep, which was filled by a mixed silty sand loam (901). This ditch is likely to be the cause of the geophysical response.

Trench 10 (Figures 3 and 6)

3.3.18 Trench 10 was partially sited over a water filled hollow which had been previously identified as a possible marl pit. Here the underlying natural sand (1002) was reached at an average depth of 0.60 m. This was overlain throughout the trench by a pale grey, sand (1001) measuring between 0.02 m and 0.10 m in depth. Sealing this was a dark grey silty sand loam (1000) measuring 0.30 m in depth, the modern topsoil.

3.3.19 Towards the southern end of the trench, Layer 1001 was cut by an east-west orientated linear ditch (1003). This measured 1.32 m in width and 0.50 m in depth and was filled by a friable black peaty loam (1004).

3.3.20 Towards the north of the trench, two features (1005 and 1007) were identified cutting layer 1001. The first on the eastern side of the trench (1005) measures 1.00 m in width and 0.60 m in depth and was filled with a friable, black peaty loam (1006). the second (1007), on the western side of the trench, measures 0.80 m in width and 0.40 m in width and was also filled with a friable, black peaty loam (1008).

Trenches 13, 14, 15 and 16 (not illustrated)

3.3.21 These trenches were all located over anomalies identified during the geophysical survey of the site (ASWYAS 2007). No archaeological features were encountered during the excavation of the trenches, indicating that the anomalies may have been geological in origin.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 During the evaluation conditions were generally good. All the trenches were excavated to below the impact level of the development and any archaeology sealed below the investigated deposits will not be affected by the development.

4.1.2 The results of the evaluation confirmed the generally low potential for archaeological deposits indicated by the previous geophysical survey of the site. Although six trenches targeted geophysical anomalies, only one, Trench 9, produced a corresponding feature, the remaining five anomalies were probably of geological origin.

4.1.3 The results obtained during this evaluation are felt to be representative of the site as a whole.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 Three main types of feature were identified in the impact area during the course of the excavation, a series of pits, a series of ditches and two post holes.

4.2.2 Ditches 105, 1003 and 1005 all display square shaped profiles and are orientated east-west. The square profile is indicative of drainage and as all three are cut through the sandy subsoil and no cultural material was recovered, it is likely that these represent the remains of post-medieval drainage ditches dug for agricultural purposes. A post-medieval drainage mill exists to the north-west of the site and it is possible that these ditches lead fed into the ditch which was pumped by the mill.

4.2.3 Ditch 900 is located over a series of previously noted geophysical anomalies. It differs from the other ditches seen in the impact area as it has a 'U' shaped profile and appears to be curvilinear plan. It is located near to a group of three water-filled pits (NHER 24095) but is unlikely to represent one of the cuts leading from them as these are described as being straight.

4.2.4 Trench 10 was located over the northern edge of one of the previously described water-filled pits. However, no evidence of the pit was seen within the trench.

4.2.5 The pits identified in the survey produced no dating evidence. They vary in size and profile but all were filled with a peaty soil which is likely to be derived from redeposited topsoil.

4.2.6 The postholes (103 and 702) although a long distance apart (at least 250 m) displayed a similar profile and contained similar grey sandy fills (104 and 703). Each was observed in isolation within their trench and cannot be assigned to any particular structure.

4.2.7 Although a number of potential anomalies were identified through geophysical survey, all but one of these (that in Trench 9) proved to be caused by underlying geological changes.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Few archaeological features or finds were recorded during the evaluation and no finds were recovered from excavated features, indicating a general lack of past human activity, other than agricultural activity, on the site.

4.3.2 No evidence for prehistoric activity was located during the evaluation, although burnt flints and occasional struck flint flakes have previously been found at the site (see Section 1.3 above). While it is possible that further artefacts of prehistoric date may exist at the site, the potential for extensive and/or well-preserved *in situ* archaeological deposits of this date to be present within the site is low.

4.3.3 The investigation area sits on the edge of Methwold fen, the eastern edge of which between Methwold and Feltwell Anchor, is an area rich in Romano-British archaeology (Gurney, 1986:2). However. no evidence for Romano-British activity was found during the evaluation.

4.3.4 No evidence for activity between the Roman period and the post-medieval drainage of the fens was found during the evaluation, although this is not unexpected as the water levels rose in the post-Roman period enabling peat to continue to develop in the freshwater wetlands of the inland fens (Hall & Coles, 1994).

4.3.5 It is likely, then, that most of the features recorded relate to post-medieval drainage and agricultural use of the site.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
One ditch, one posthole and one scoop were identified within this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	29.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Cut	1.20	0.35	Cut of Scoop	-	-
101	Void	-	-	Unused	-	-
102	Fill	1.20	0.35	Fill of Scoop (100)	-	-
103	Cut	0.20	0.27	Cut of Posthole	-	-
104	Fill	0.20	0.27	Fill of Posthole (103)	-	-
105	Cut	1.00	0.40	Cut of Ditch	-	-
106	Fill	1.00	0.40	Fill of Ditch (105)	-	-
107	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
108	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
109	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
110	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
A single tree bowl was identified within this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.77
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.95
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
201	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
203	Cut	0.55	0.16	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
204	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and geological deposits overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.95
					Width (m)	1.60
					Length (m)	29.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
301	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.07	Peat Deposit	-	-
304	Layer		0.29	Deposit	-	-
305	Layer		-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Two pits and a modern land drain were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
400	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
404	Cut	1.00	0.30	Cut of Pit	-	-
405	Fill	1.00	0.30	Fill of Pit (404)	-	-
406	Cut	1.10	0.40	Cut of Pit	-	-
407	Fill	1.10	0.40	Fill of Pit (406)	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
One pit and one gully were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.70
					Width (m)	1.76
					Length (m)	29.40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
501	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
503	Fill	0.83	0.18	Fill of Pit (504)	-	-
504	Cut	0.83	0.18	Cut of Pit	-	-
505	Fill	0.55	0.08	Fill of Gully (506)	-	-
506	Cut	0.55	0.08	Cut of Gully	-	-
507	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	1.65
					Length (m)	27.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
A single posthole was identified at the eastern end of the trench. The geophysical anomaly the trench targeted proved to be geological.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.52
					Width (m)	1.55
					Length (m)	27.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
700	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
702	Cut	0.28	0.38	Cut of Posthole	-	-
703	Fill	0.28	0.38	Fill of Posthole (702)	-	-
704	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
800	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch cut through a natural of silty sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	28.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
900	Cut	0.80	0.45	Cut of Ditch	-	-
901	Fill	0.80	0.45	Fill of Ditch (900)	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained three ditches.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	28.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	1.32	0.50	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1004	Fill	1.32	0.50	Fill of Ditch (1003)	-	-
1005	Cut	1.00	0.60	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1006	Fill	1.00	0.60	Fill of Ditch (1005)	-	-
1007	Cut	0.80	0.40	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1008	Fill	0.80	0.40	Fill of Ditch (1007)	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of a soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1100	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of a series of geological deposits overlying a natural of clayey sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.78
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1200	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.10	Peaty Loam	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.10	Silty Clay	-	-
1203	Layer	-	0.05	Sand	-	-
1204	Layer	-	0.05	Sand	-	-
1205	Layer	-	-	Clayey Sand	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.78
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1301	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.20	Peat	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.15	Sand	-	-
1304	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.50
					Width (m)	1.60
					Length (m)	25.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1400	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.20	Sand	-	-
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.81
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	26.30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1501	Layer	-	0.65	Topsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.90
					Width (m)	1.60
					Length (m)	25.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.40	Peat Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.25	Clay Subsoil	-	-
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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Oxford Archaeology, 2000, *OA Environmental Sampling Guidelines and Instruction*, Manual.

APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hilgay Habitat Creation Scheme

Site code: 50262

Grid reference: NGR TL 645 975

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 19th to 22nd May 2008

Area of site: 70ha

Summary of results: Sixteen trenches were excavated revealing six ditches, four pits, two postholes and one tree throw. It is likely that most of the features recorded relate to post-medieval drainage and agricultural use of the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Norfolk County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: 50262

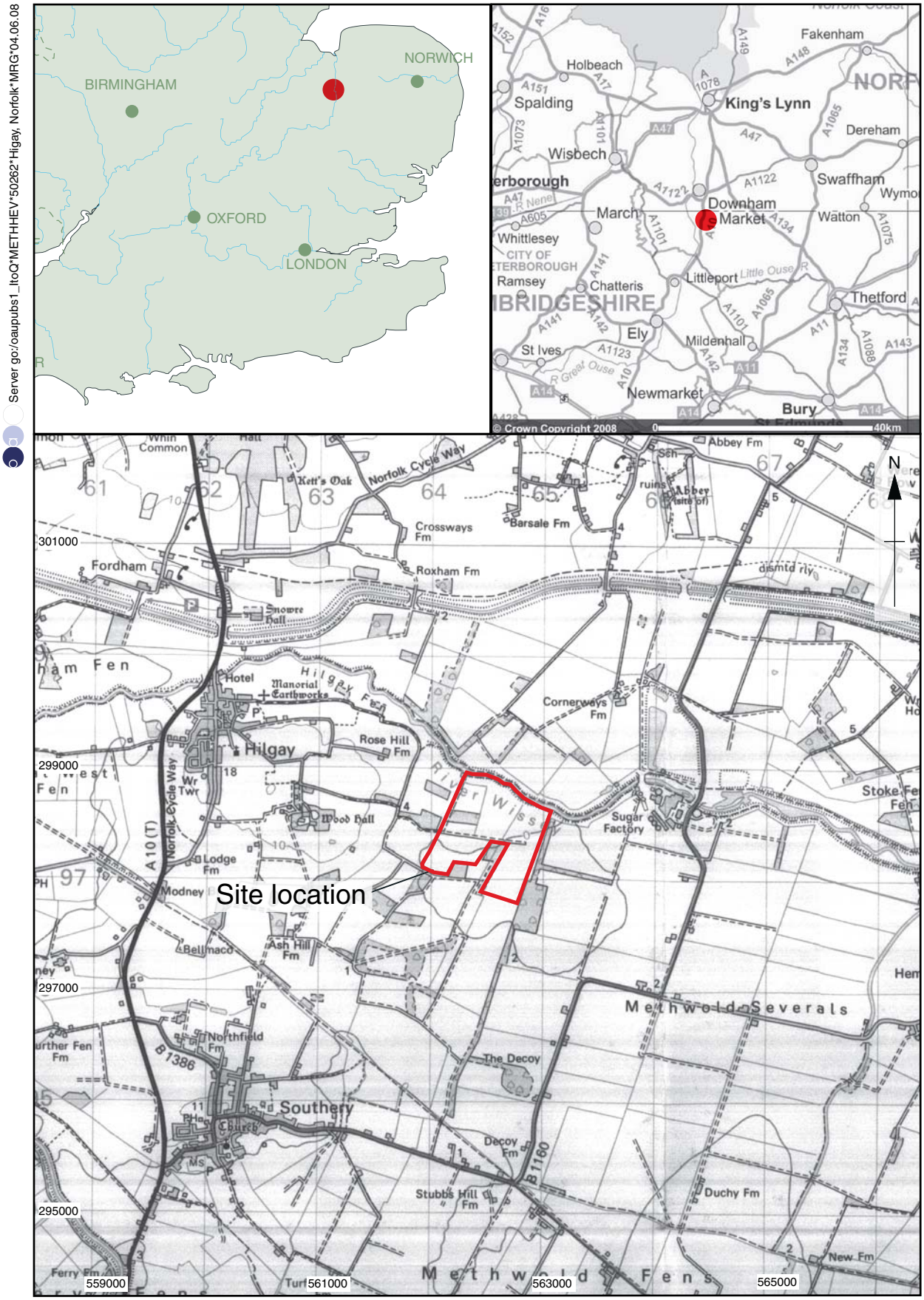


Figure 1: Site location

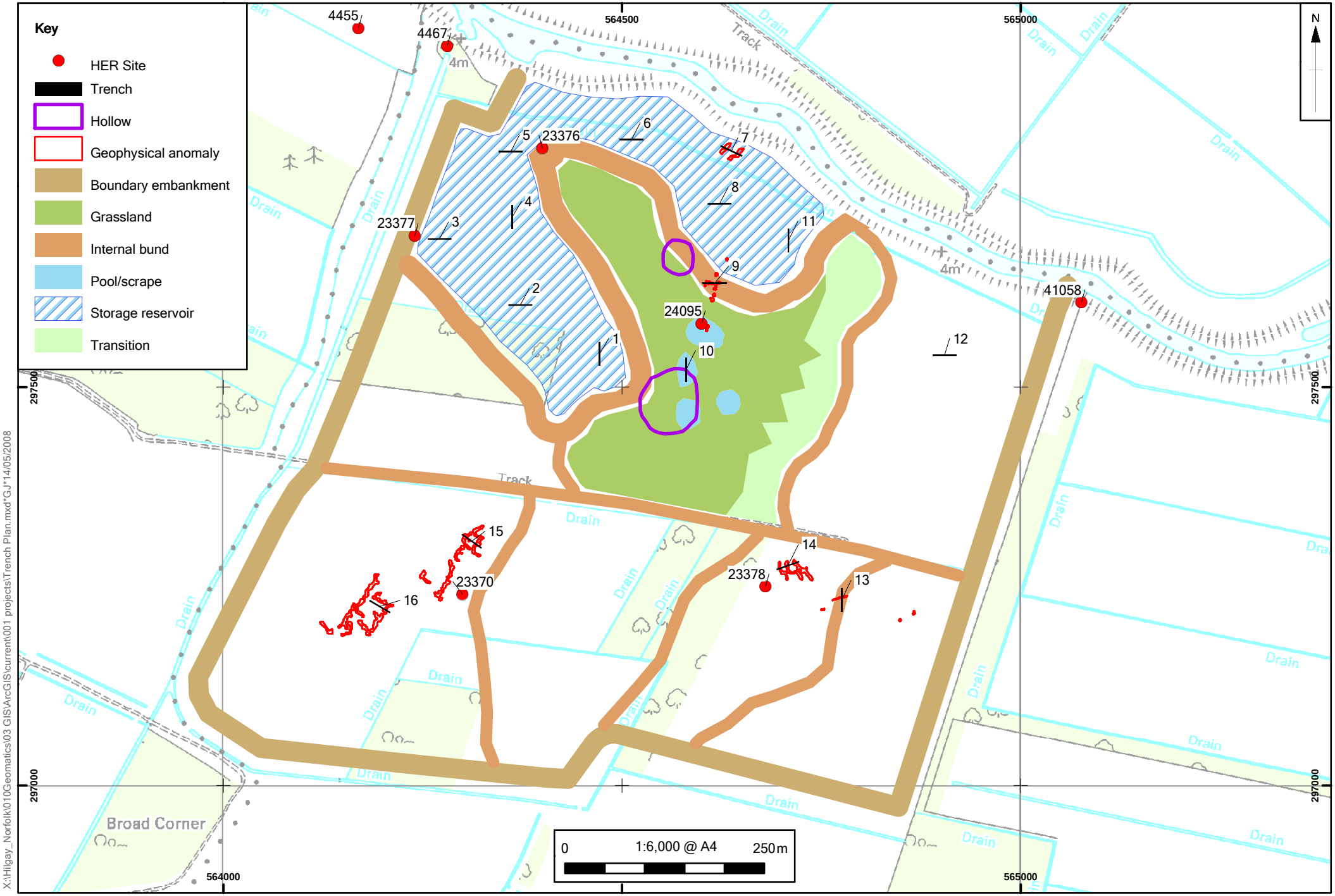


Figure 2: Trench location plan

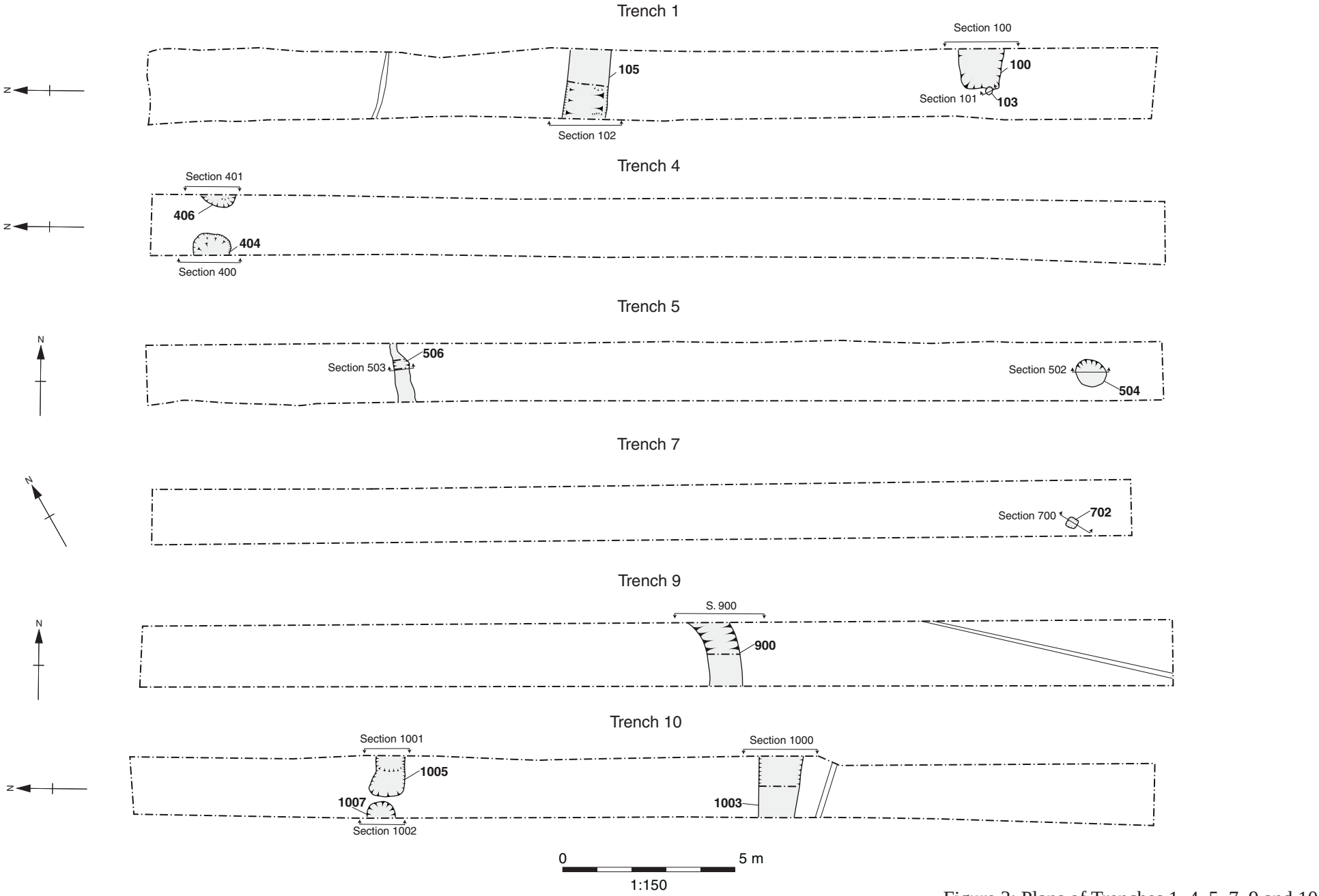
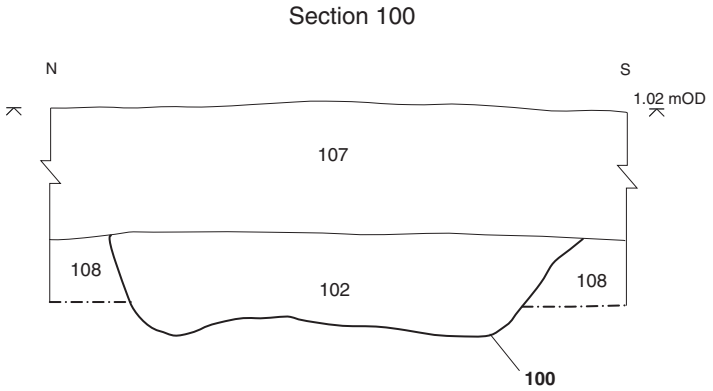
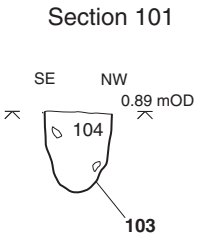
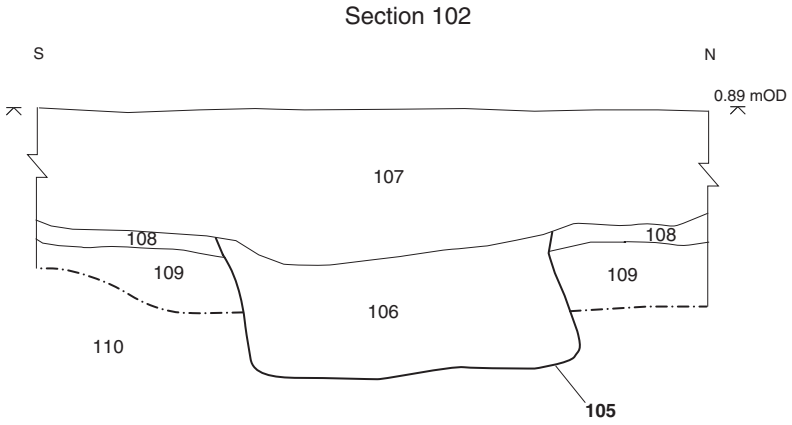


Figure 3: Plans of Trenches 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10







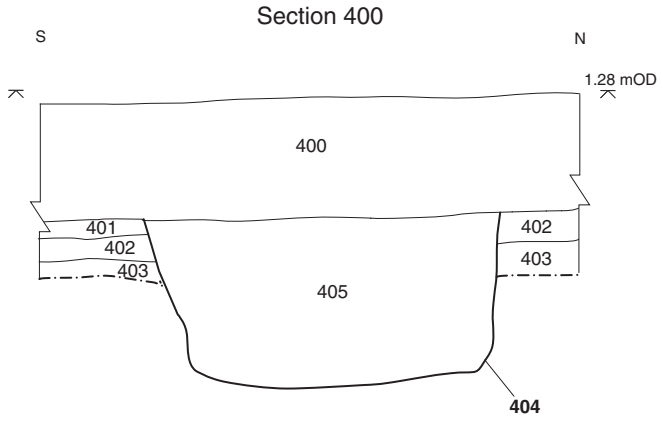
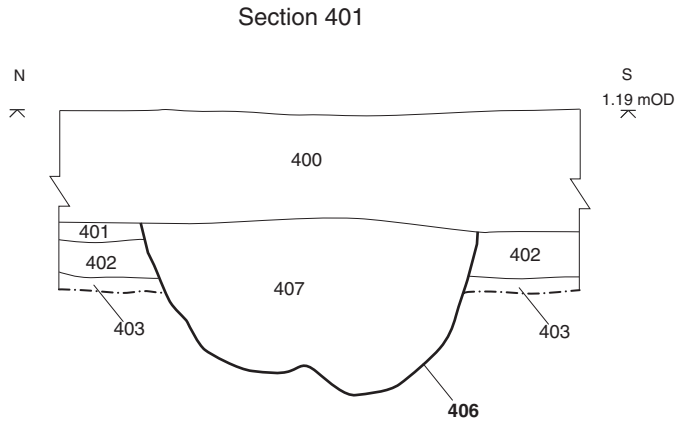
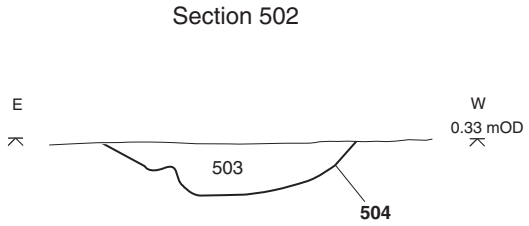
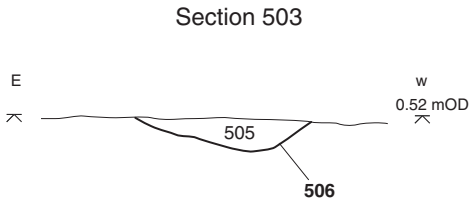


Figure 4: Trenches 1 and 4, sections







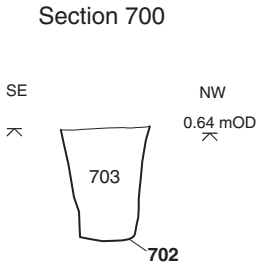


Figure 5: Trenches 4, 5 and 7, sections

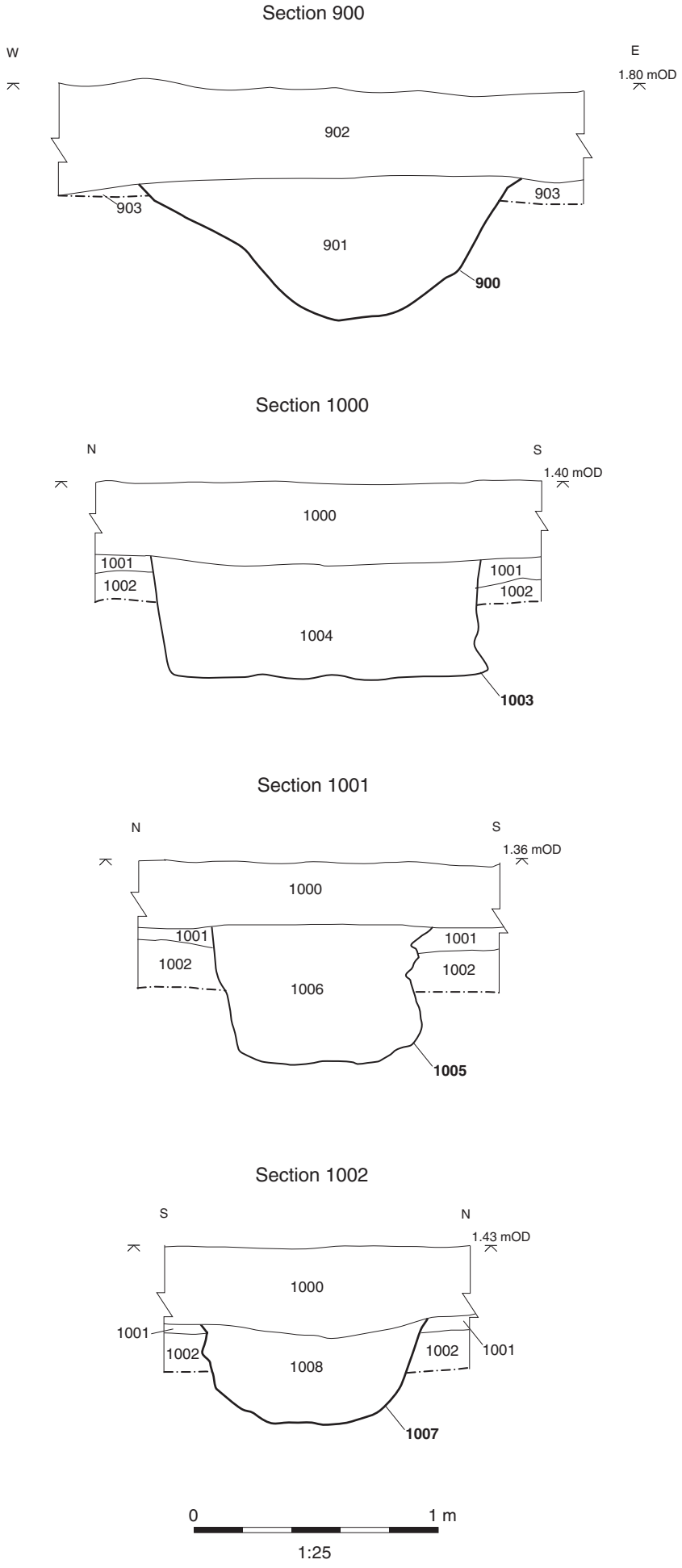


Figure 6: Trenches 9 and 10, sections

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