

West Wick
Weston-Super-Mare
North Somerset
Phase 2



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In August 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare (centred at NGR: ST 375 617) on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. A series of nine trenches were excavated.

The evaluation produced evidence of drainage ditches and a field boundary relating to wider field systems of unknown date. Despite the lack of dating material, there is a phased sequence of activity on the site: earlier ditches had filled by the time of deposition or formation of the dark soil layer noted across the site, while other ditches appeared to contain this material. A large ditch in Trench 9, possibly a field boundary, cut this layer and is therefore of later date. Alluvial clay was noted across the site and peat observed and sampled in a trench at the east of the investigation area. The evaluation appears to demonstrate that the site here is typical of agricultural land prone to flood, with ditches being excavated to drain water away from the fields. The lack of artefactual material suggests no obvious settlement within the study area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 From the 8th to the 19th of August 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. A new development is proposed here comprising 200 new houses and access routes and the evaluation was undertaken in accordance with PPG 16 and North Somerset Local Plan Policy ECH/6.

1.1.2 A brief was prepared by and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, OA 2005a) agreed with Vince Russett, North Somerset's County Archaeologist. OA outlined how it proposed to investigate the potential for archaeological remains and identify within the constraints of the evaluation the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the proposed development area.

1.1.3 The area of proposed development covers approximately 7.9 ha, is centred at NGR: ST 375 617 and is situated south-west of Junction 21 of the M5 motorway. It is to the east of West Wick village, bounded to the west by Wolverhill Road and to the north by Westacres Farm, Summer Lane (Fig. 1).

1.1.4 The strategy for the evaluation involved the excavation of nine trial trenches measuring from 25 to 50 m in length by 1.6 m wide (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the site comprises alluvial deposits of the Northmarsh. It has typical North Somerset Levels topography, being generally flat, at between c 5.2-5.6 m Ordnance Datum.

- 1.2.2 The site is divided into a number of pasture fields, which are bounded by hedgerows and water-filled rhynes. There is extensive evidence of artificial drainage in the form of ditches and land drains.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following archaeological background is a brief summary of information contained within the North Somerset Council's Brief and should be read in conjunction with that document (North Somerset, 2004).
- 1.3.2 The site and the surrounding area have been the subject of a number of archaeological studies. These have indicated that the surface archaeology of the site is largely of medieval or later origin. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or in the immediate vicinity.
- 1.3.3 There is evidence of earlier prehistoric occupation in the wider environs of the site, but this material is sealed within the peat deposits at some depth.
- 1.3.4 Ditches of Roman date relating to occupation and agricultural activity have been identified immediately north and south of the Phase 2 area (SMRs 42512, 46011). The site of a Roman building is known and mapped SW of the evaluation area.
- 1.3.5 Previous work undertaken in the area by Avon Archaeological Unit in 2002 and an exploratory EM31 survey by Terra Nova in 2001, have indicated that a horizon of Iron Age and early Roman archaeology exists at a depth of 0.5 m to 1 m below the current ground surface. Features identified include ditches and ground surfaces containing cultural material.
- 1.3.6 The hamlet of West Wick (SMR 09303) is first mentioned in the 13th century. Its name implies that it is a typical example of late-Saxon re-occupation of the Northmarsh following its virtual abandonment at the end of the Roman period, or immediately afterwards. A motte and bailey lie due SW of the evaluation area.
- 1.3.7 Evaluation by OA on the adjacent site (Phase 1, centred at NGR: ST 371 618) has identified pits containing cultural material from phases dating to the 10th to 14th century and the 17th to 20th century (OA, 2005b).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to clarify the presence/absence and extent of archaeological deposits within the site.
- 2.1.2 Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the site.
- 2.1.3 Assess the degree of impact to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A series of nine trenches 1.6 m wide and 50 m or 25 m in length was to be excavated across the site. These were placed in order to provide samples of the range of possible archaeological deposits expected on site and of variations in existing topography and ground conditions.
- 3.1.2 Trenches 2, 5, and 9 were slightly relocated to avoid overhead services.
- 3.1.3 In several trenches where archaeological deposits were not present at the level of the upper alluvial layer or where archaeology was not present towards the end of a trench, a sondage was machined to a depth of approximately 2 m below present ground level.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.6 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to the top of the first archaeological horizon, or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.2 Trenches were cleaned by hand where necessary and the revealed features sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds and environmental samples where appropriate. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 which was appropriate for the level of archaeological remains encountered.
- 3.2.3 Section drawings of features and sample sections of trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 A small sample was taken from the peat lens (9006) contained within deposit (9007). Only 10 litres could be recovered from this lens due to the depth of the deposit and the water table. This sample will be retained by OA and could form part of an additional research agenda should further work take place (and see Appendix 2).

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 In the following sections the deposits are described by trench. The stratigraphy and archaeology of each trench is described. There is additional comment on the finds and

reliability of the results. A discussion, interpretation and conclusion follow this. A context inventory is included in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is a generally flat landscape at c 5.2-5.6 m OD with deep rhynes running along most of the boundaries. Groundwater entered trenches moderately when machined to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 The majority of the trenches contained some archaeology. Trenches 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 all produced linear features.

4.2.2 Trench 7 produced the highest concentration of archaeology consisting of five undated ditches. Trenches 2, 4 and 5 were devoid of archaeological evidence.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3) was orientated NW-SE and was 25 m in length reaching a depth of 1.17 m (4.48 m AOD). A light yellow-brown clay with patches of light blue-grey alluvium (10014) was overlain by light blue-grey clay with occasional mid-grey-brown patches (10013), which was overlain by alluvium (10003), a mid-orange-brown clay with light yellow-brown sandy inclusions. It was capped with a thin dark grey-brown silty clay layer which was sealed by a mid-orange-brown silty clay subsoil (10001) which was overlain by mid-grey-brown silty clay topsoil (10000).

5.1.2 Four ditches were observed within the trench. Three were orientated E-W and one N-S. No finds were recovered from any of the features.

5.1.3 Two ditches were situated at the north-west end of the trench both running E-W. Ditch 10010 was 3.5 m in width and ditch 10009 was 2.8 m in width. Both ditches were excavated to a depth of c 0.4 m in a 0.5 m slot was placed against the east facing section. Neither ditch was bottomed owing to safety concerns.

5.1.4 Ditch 10010 contained a mid-blue-grey clay deposit with patches of orange-brown sandy silt (10012) and cut through deposit (10013). This ditch was visible as a slight depression from the ground surface.

5.1.5 Ditch 10009 also contained a mid-brown silty clay deposit with patches of mid-grey clay and cut through (10013).

- 5.1.6 At the south-east end of the trench a N-S orientated ditch (10004) was cut by an E-W aligned ditch (10006). This relationship was visible in plan and confirmed in section. Both ditches were similar to those seen in other trenches across site. They were both defined by a thin dark grey-brown silty clay band towards the outer edges of the ditch, deposit (10002), although in ditch 10004, this had been truncated by the machine at the intersection with 10006. Ditches 10004 and 10006 both contained similar lower deposits, a firm light blue-grey clay with rare sandy yellow-brown inclusions (10007 and 10015). These deposits appear to be alluvial in origin and contained no artefacts.

Trench 2

- 5.1.7 Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was orientated NW-SE and was 25 m in length. It reached a depth of 1.31 m (4.34 m OD). Light blue-grey alluvium (2003) was overlain by a thin layer of dark grey-brown silty clay (2002), which was overlain by light orange-brown silty clay subsoil (2001), in turn overlain by mid-grey-brown topsoil (2000).
- 5.1.8 No archaeological deposits were present within Trench 2. One fragment of possible worked stone was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 3

- 5.1.9 Trench 3 (Fig. 5) was orientated NW-SE and was 50 m in length. It reached a depth of 1.11 m (4.19 m OD) except at the north-west end, where a sondage 1.5 m -2 m deep was opened at the south-east end (3.2 m OD). One ditch (3003) was present running in a N-S orientation through the trench.
- 5.1.10 Ditch 3003 was cut into the alluvium (3002). The ditch was 0.36 m deep with 'U'-shaped profile. Two deposits were excavated from within the ditch. The lowest excavated deposit was a thin dark grey-brown silty clay deposit with no inclusions (3004). This was overlain by a mid-orange-brown sandy clay with no inclusions (3005). No finds were recovered from either deposit. It is probable that this feature was not bottomed as at the base of the feature was a likely primary deposit of mid-blue-grey clay under the thin dark layer (no context). This type of ditch fill sequence was consistently observed in other similar ditches across the site.
- 5.1.11 The sondage at the south-east end of the trench revealed a sequence of alluvial deposition seen elsewhere across site. Mid-blue-grey clay (3007) with occasional flecks of organic material, probably indicative of peat formation, was overlain by light blue-grey alluvial clay (3002) with no inclusions. This was overlain by a thin layer of dark grey-brown silty clay (3006), which was overlain by light yellow-brown silty clay subsoil (3001) followed by mid-grey-brown topsoil (3000). In Trench 3 deposit (3004) was observed to be the same as 3006.

Trench 4

- 5.1.12 Trench 4 (Fig. 6) was orientated WSW-ENE and was 25 m in length. It reached a depth of 0.62 m (4.91 m OD) except at the east-north-east end where a sondage was

excavated to a depth of 2 m (3.53 m AOD). The sondage revealed the same sequence as observed in Trench 3. No archaeological deposits were present within Trench 4.

Trench 5

- 5.1.13 Trench 5 (Fig. 6) was orientated ENE-WSW and was 25 m in length. It reached a depth of 1.22 m (4.25 m OD), except at the east-north-east end where a sondage was excavated to a depth of 2.12 m (3.25 m AOD). The sondage revealed the same sequence as observed in Trench 3.
- 5.1.14 No archaeological deposits were present within the trench. A single Roman tessera was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 6

- 5.1.15 Trench 6 (Fig. 7) was orientated ENE-WSW and was 25 m in length. It reached a depth of 0.79 m (4.61 m OD). Mid-yellow-brown alluvium (6002) was overlain by a thin dark grey-black silty clay layer (6007) which was overlain by subsoil (6001) and then topsoil (6000). Four linear features ran in a north-south orientation across the trench cutting into the alluvium.
- 5.1.16 Two shallow linear features (6004) - a shallow gully - and 6006, a truncated ditch, were excavated. Two further ditches, one to the east-north-east and the other to the west-south-west were not excavated, as agreed on site with Vince Russett, North Somerset's County Archaeologist. Both the unexcavated ditches appeared similar to other ditches found across the site. They were both defined by a thin dark band of soil running down either side of the ditch (deposit 6007) and this was overlain by an un-excavated mid-orange-brown silty clay (no context no.). Both these ditches followed the alignment of other depressions visible on the ground surface.
- 5.1.17 Located in the central part of the trench, feature 6004 was a shallow gully with a flat base and diffuse sides, which was only clearly visible in section. This feature contained a single light blue-grey silty clay fill (6003) and reached a depth of 0.16 m. Although the deposit contained occasional rare flecks of charcoal, no finds were recovered. This deposit was sealed by layer 6007.
- 5.1.18 Ditch 6006 was located immediately to the east of gully 6004, but despite their close proximity, no relationship could be established. Ditch 6006 contained a single fill (6005), a mid-brown silty clay with occasional patches of fine greyish sand. The feature survived only to a maximum of depth of 0.08 m. The edges of the feature were diffuse and were only clearly visible in section. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7

- 5.1.19 Trench 7 (Fig. 8) was orientated ENE-WSW and was 50 m in length. It reached a depth of 0.91 m (4.67 m OD). At the east-north-east end of the trench, a 2 m deep sondage was excavated, reaching a depth of 3.44 m OD. The sondage revealed the same general sequence of deposits as seen in Trench 3.

- 5.1.20 Five ESE-WNW orientated ditches were observed running across the trench. Ditch 7003 was located at the west-south-west end of the trench and contained three deposits cut into the alluvium (7001). It measured 3.12 m wide and reached a depth of 1.2 m (3.7 m OD). The ditch was not bottomed due both to the large amount of ground water within the feature and also because of safety concerns. Deposit (7010) was a tenacious mid-blue-grey clay and appeared to be alluvial in origin. This was overlain by a thin dark grey-brown silty clay layer 0.08 m in depth (7004). This deposit was clearly seen extending beyond the limits of the feature and running the length of the trench. This was then overlain by (7005) a mid-brown sandy clay, with no inclusions or finds, that reached a depth of 0.88 m.
- 5.1.21 Ditch 7013 was located 1.7 m immediately to the east of ditch 7003 and was cut into the alluvial clay (7001). It was 2.6 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.8 m. (3.94 m OD). Further excavation was not possible due to ingress of water. Deposit 7020 a sticky mid-blue-grey clay was excavated to a depth of 0.21 m. This was overlain by a thin dark grey-brown silty clay layer (7021) that was 0.16 m in thickness. This layer was overlain by a mid-brown sandy clay, 0.52 m in thickness, with no finds or inclusions.
- 5.1.22 Located 12.3 m to the west-south-west was a smaller ditch/gully (7006) measuring 0.84 m in width by 0.22 m in depth. This ditch was cut into the alluvium (7001) and contained three deposits. The lowest deposit was a tenacious blue-grey clay similar to 7010 and 7020. It was 0.2 m in thickness and contained a few flecks of red sandstone. This deposit was overlain by a dark grey-brown silty clay (7008) which reached a maximum depth of 0.02 m. This deposit, probably representing a flooding event was overlain by 7009, a firm mid-brown sandy clay with no inclusions and a maximum thickness of 0.11 m.
- 5.1.23 Ditch 7011 was located 9.45 m to the west-south-west of 7006. This ditch was visible on the ground as a slight surface depression and was 0.7 m wide and 0.28 m deep. It contained three fills, exhibiting the same pattern of deposition as observed in the other ditches within this trench. The lowest fill (7014) was a sticky light blue-grey clay with no inclusions reaching a maximum depth of 0.28 m. Immediately overlying this was 7015, a thin dark grey-brown silty clay layer. Above this was 7016, a firm mid-brown sandy clay deposit with a maximum thickness of 0.08 m.
- 5.1.24 The final ditch (7012), was located 10.75 m further towards the west-south-west end of the trench. It was similar in character to all of the other ditches excavated in this trench and contained three fills. The lowest deposit (7017) was a tenacious light blue-grey clay with no inclusions reaching a maximum depth of 0.08m. This was overlain by the thin dark grey-brown silty clay reaching a maximum thickness of 0.05 m (7018). Above this was 7019 a firm mid-brown sandy clay, maximum thickness 0.18 m, with no inclusions.

Trench 8

- 5.1.25 Trench 8 (Fig. 9) was orientated ENE-WSW and was 25 m in length. It reached a depth of 1.14 m (4.34 m OD). An undated ditch (8004) extended NW-SE through the east-north-east end of the trench. This ditch contained a single tenacious mid-grey-brown silty clay fill (8005) with no inclusions and is interpreted as a drainage ditch.
- 5.1.26 Ditch 8004 cut the alluvium (8001) which was sealed by thin a dark soil layer (8003, similar in nature to the deposit seen in Trench 3. This was overlain by subsoil (8002), in turn overlain by topsoil (8000).

Trench 9

- 5.1.27 Trench 9 (Fig. 10) was orientated NW-SE and was 50 m in length. It reached a depth of 1.2 m (4.08 m OD) except for the north-west end, where a sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.82 m (3.46 m OD). A substantial 6 m-wide ditch (9003) orientated E-W ran obliquely through the trench containing one mid-blue-grey silty clay fill (9004). This deposit had rare inclusions of orange-brown sand and degraded stone. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.1.28 The ditch was interpreted as probably cutting layer 9001 and the dark soil layer 9005 beneath, both just below just below topsoil, and the feature is therefore of later date than other ditches on the site.
- 5.1.29 Two hand excavated sections were opened across both sides of ditch 9003. The south-eastern slot was 1.7 m in length by 0.5 m in width and the north-western slot was 2.3 m in length by 0.5 m in width. Both sections were excavated to a depth of 3.04 m OD and 3.85 m OD respectively.
- 5.1.30 A 0.6 m wide machine-excavated slot was then placed across the width of the ditch to a depth of 3.27 m OD. Machining ceased at this depth but it was believed that the ditch was not bottomed at the base of the slot, and the presence of ground water made observation difficult. Further work on the ditch was not possible due to health and safety considerations.
- 5.1.31 The sondage excavated at the north-west end of the trench revealed the same sequence as seen in the other trenches. The lower mid-blue-grey alluvial clay (9007), however, contained lenses of peat: these lenses began to appear at 3.78 m OD. No finds were recovered, although a soil sample was taken from the peat deposit (Layer 9006 - see Appendix 2).

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 Only two finds were recovered from the whole of the site. One fragment of possible worked stone of unknown date was recovered from topsoil in Trench 2 and one Roman tessera was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 5.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 Weather and light conditions were generally good. Ground water presented problems, especially in the deeper trenches and features. On occasions it was felt that to excavate a deep feature to its base was unsafe and this was noted within the record.
- 6.1.2 The integrity of the archaeological evidence encountered during the evaluation is believed to be reliable. It should be noted, however, that the sample of the alluvial sequence is a small one though it was generally consistent across the site.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 Archaeological features were revealed in six of the nine trenches excavated (Trenches 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9). Trenches 2, 4 and 5 contained no features. All features exposed have been interpreted as having a drainage function due to the alluvial nature of the fills within them.
- 6.2.2 Ditch 9003 is interpreted as a field boundary ditch due to its size and notably different profile to the other ditches observed. Trench 7 revealed the highest concentration of ditches, with five revealed in the 50 m-long trench. Most features were cut into the natural alluvium and sondages placed across the site showed a very similar pattern of deposition.
- 6.2.3 A thin dark soil layer was noted in all the trenches at *c* 4.5 m OD. This deposit is likely to represent an episode of flooding that affected the entire area (Vince Russett, 12/08/05, *pers comm.*).
- 6.2.4 This deposit was also noted within the majority of features across the site with the exception of ditches 10009, 10010, 6004 and 8004, whose fills were sealed by this flooding event. Ditch 9003 cut through the deposit. Several of the ditches excavated still survive as shallow depressions on the ground surface (ditches 10010, 7003, 7011) as well as two un-excavated ditches within Trench 6.
- 6.2.5 A small peat deposit was recorded within the sondage in Trench 9 at a depth of 1.6 m below ground level. The sample contained weed seeds including *Ranunculus sp.* (buttercup) and possible pond-weed (*Potamogetonaceae*). These types are indicative of a damp environment, as demonstrated by the formation of alluvial clay layers and other peat deposits noted across the site.

Conclusion

- 6.2.6 The evaluation has produced evidence for the presence of drainage ditches and a field boundary relating to a wider field system of unknown date. That a number of water-filled rhynes are still visible on the ground at present suggests that historically water levels have always had an influence on the landscape here.

- 6.2.7 The lack of artefactual material suggests no obvious settlement within this evaluation study area.
- 6.2.8 Despite the lack of dating material, there is a phased sequence of activity on the site: earlier ditches (10009, 10010, 6004 and 8004) had filled by the time of deposition or formation of the dark soil layer noted across the site, while other ditches appeared to contain this material. The large ditch in Trench 9 (Fig. 10) cut this layer and is therefore of later date.
- 6.2.9 Further excavation would be needed to clarify and date the sequence of soil formation and drainage, though this evaluation appears to demonstrate that the site here is typical of agricultural land prone to flood, with ditches being excavated to drain water away from the fields.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
1								
	10000	Layer		0.40	Topsoil			
	10001	Layer		0.28	Subsoil			
	10002	Layer		0.08	Dark Layer			
	10003	Layer		0.46	Natural Alluvium			
	10004	Cut	>0.60	>0.30	Ditch			
	10005	Fill	>0.60	>0.30	Fill of 10004			
	10006	Cut	>1.00	>0.30	Ditch			
	10007	Fill	>1.00	>0.30	Fill of 10006			
	10008	Not Used						
	10009	Cut	2.80	>0.44	Ditch			
	10010	Cut	3.50	>0.40	Ditch			
	10011	Fill	2.80	>0.44	Fill of 10009			
	10012	Fill	3.50	>0.40	Fill of 10010			
	10013	Layer		0.12	Natural Alluvium			
	10014	Layer		0.38	Natural Alluvium			
	10015	Fill	0.08	0.18	Fill of 10006			
2								
	2000	Layer		0.40	Topsoil	Worked stone		unknown
	2001	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	2002	Layer		0.10	Dark Layer			
	2003	Layer		>0.56	Natural Alluvium			
3								
	3000	Layer		0.25	Topsoil			
	3001	Layer		0.35	Subsoil			
	3002	Layer		1.20	Natural Alluvium			
	3003	Cut	1.05	0.36	Ditch			
	3004	Fill	1.05	0.06	Fill of 3003. Same as 3006			

	3005	Fill	1.05	0.30	Fill of 3003			
	3006	Layer		0.05	Dark Layer			
	3007	Layer			Natural Alluvium			
4								
	4000	Layer		0.38	Topsoil			
	4001	Layer		0.20	Subsoil			
	4002	Layer		0.06	Dark Layer			
	4003	Layer		1.30	Natural Alluvium			
	4004	Layer		>0.12	Natural Alluvium			
5								
	5000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	Tessera		Roman
	5001	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	5002	Layer		0.05	Dark Layer			
	5003	Layer		1.45	Natural Alluvium			
	5004	Layer		>0.14	Natural Alluvium			
6								
	6000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
	6001	Layer		0.30	Subsoil			
	6002	Layer		>0.28	Natural Alluvium			
	6003	Fill	0.34	0.16	Fill of 6004			
	6004	Cut	0.34	0.16	Gully			
	6005	Fill	0.60	0.08	Fill of 6006			
	6006	Cut	0.60	0.08	Ditch			
	6007	Layer		0.06	Dark Layer			
7								
	7000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			
	7001	Layer		1.30	Natural Alluvium			
	7002	Layer		0.35	Subsoil			
	7003	Cut	3.12	>1.10	Ditch			
	7004	Fill		0.08	Dark Layer. Same as 7023			
	7005	Fill	3.10	0.88	Fill of 7003			
	7006	Cut	0.84	0.22	Ditch			
	7007	Fill	0.84	0.20	Fill of 7006			
	7008	Fill	0.62	0.02	Dark Layer. Same as 7023			

	7009	Fill	0.62	0.11	Fill of 7006			
	7010	Fill	1.30	0.36	Fill of 7003			
	7011	Cut	0.70	0.28	Ditch			
	7012	Cut	0.85	0.30	Ditch			
	7013	Cut	2.60	>0.80	Ditch			
	7014	Fill	0.70	0.28	Fill of 7011			
	7015	Fill	0.43	0.02	Dark Layer. Same as 7023			
	7016	Fill	0.42	0.07	Fill of 7011			
	7017	Fill	0.85	0.08	Fill of 7012			
	7018	Fill	0.74	0.05	Fill of 7012			
	7019	Fill	0.68	0.18	Fill of 7012			
	7020	Fill	2.60	>0.21	Fill of 7013			
	7021	Fill	2.30	0.16	Fill of 7013			
	7022	Fill	2.22	0.52	Fill of 7013			
	7023	Layer		0.05	Dark Layer			
	7024	Layer		0.10	Natural Alluvium			
8								
	8000	Layer		0.40	Topsoil			
	8001	Layer		>0.48	Natural Alluvium			
	8002	Layer		0.20	Subsoil			
	8003	Layer		0.02	Dark Layer			
	8004	Cut	0.75	0.28	Ditch			
	8005	Fill	0.75	0.28	Fill of 8004			
9								
	9000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
	9001	Layer		0.16	Subsoil			
	9002	Layer		1.00	Natural Alluvium			
	9003	Cut	6.00	>1.50	Ditch			
	9004	Fill	6.00	>1.50	Fill of 9003			
	9005	Layer		0.06	Dark Layer			
	9006	Lens		0.10	Lens within 9007. Given a separate number for sample purposes.			
	9007	Layer		>0.30	Natural Alluvium			

APPENDIX 2 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By Seren Griffiths, OA

Methodology

A single sample was taken as part of the second phase of evaluation at West Wick. This was a bulk sample of 10 litres from a peat lens (Sample 9001, context 9006) within a deposit of mid-blue-grey alluvial clay (9007). A 1 litre sub-sample was hand floated to assess the anoxic preservation of macroscopic plant matter and insect remains.

The flot was collected onto a 250 micron mesh and stored wet. No residue was recovered. The flot was scanned at x10 and x20 under a binocular microscope at Oxford Archaeology. Initially assessment was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology by Seren Griffiths.

Results

Sample 9001, context 9006, produced a reasonable flot volume c 500ml. Identifiable weed seeds were common in the flot; plants represented include *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercup) and possible pond-weed (Potamogetonaceae), suggestive of damp conditions.

Reasonably large (c 2mm diameter) woody plant fragments were also observed, and also present were well-preserved though not numerous insect fragments representing several taxa. No molluscs were present in the flot.

Discussion and Recommendations

The sub-sample from the peat lens demonstrates that a number of ecofact types are preserved due to anoxic conditions. Further work on this site should include a targeted sampling strategy to maximise understanding of palaeoenvironmental and economic evidence.

Any future excavations undertaken on the site should include an appropriate strategy for sampling in accordance with current best practice and based on guidelines published by English Heritage and Oxford Archaeology. Appropriate sampling strategies to recover waterlogged macroscopic plant remains, insect remains, and pollen should be devised prior to any further work. Moreover, the sampling strategy should include the potential for producing an absolute chronology for the site, specifically radiocarbon determinations from well understood stratigraphic units of earlier prehistoric deposits.

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

North Somerset Council 2004 *Land at West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare, Project Brief for Archaeological Mitigation (SMR 47227)*

OA 2005a *Land at West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, Phase 2 Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*

OA 2005b *West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset. Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 1)*

Wilkinson, D 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August (ed. 1992))

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset. Phase 2

Site code: WWW 05

Grid reference: NGR: ST 375 617

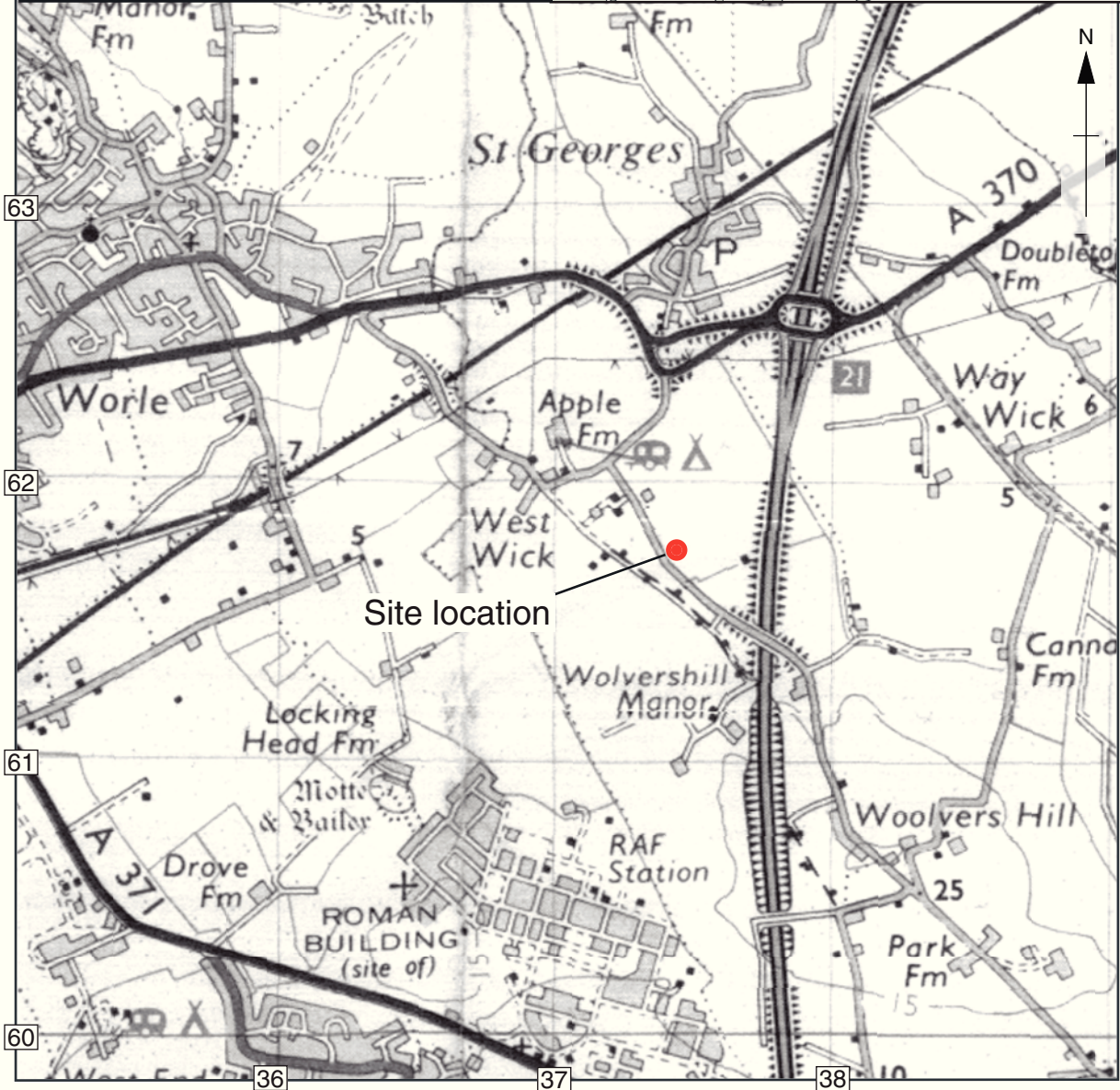
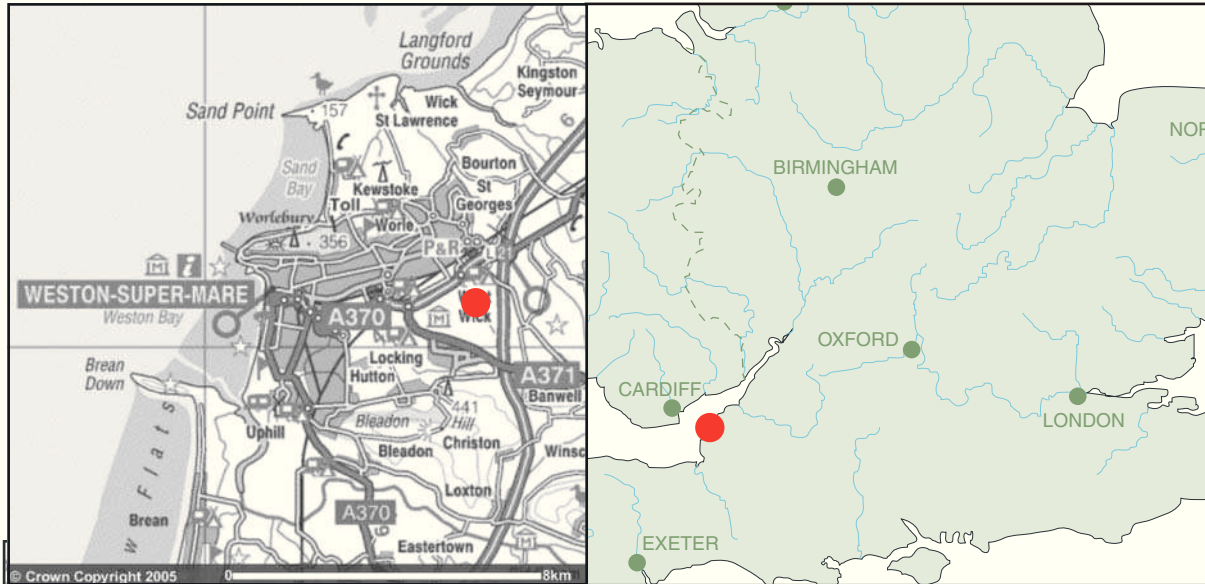
Type of evaluation: Nine evaluation trenches, three 50 m in length and six 25 m in length were excavated across the site. Some were moved slightly from their proposed location due to the presence of overhead services.

Date and duration of project: 8th to 19th of August 2005.

Area of site: 7.9 ha.

Summary of results: Six trenches revealed evidence of an undated field system cut into the natural alluvium. All archaeology uncovered consisted of drainage and field boundary ditches. The ditches appear to be separated by a soil layer that sealed some features, filled others and was cut by a single large probable field boundary ditch. No finds were recovered from any of the features.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with North Somerset Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: WESTM: 2005.44.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

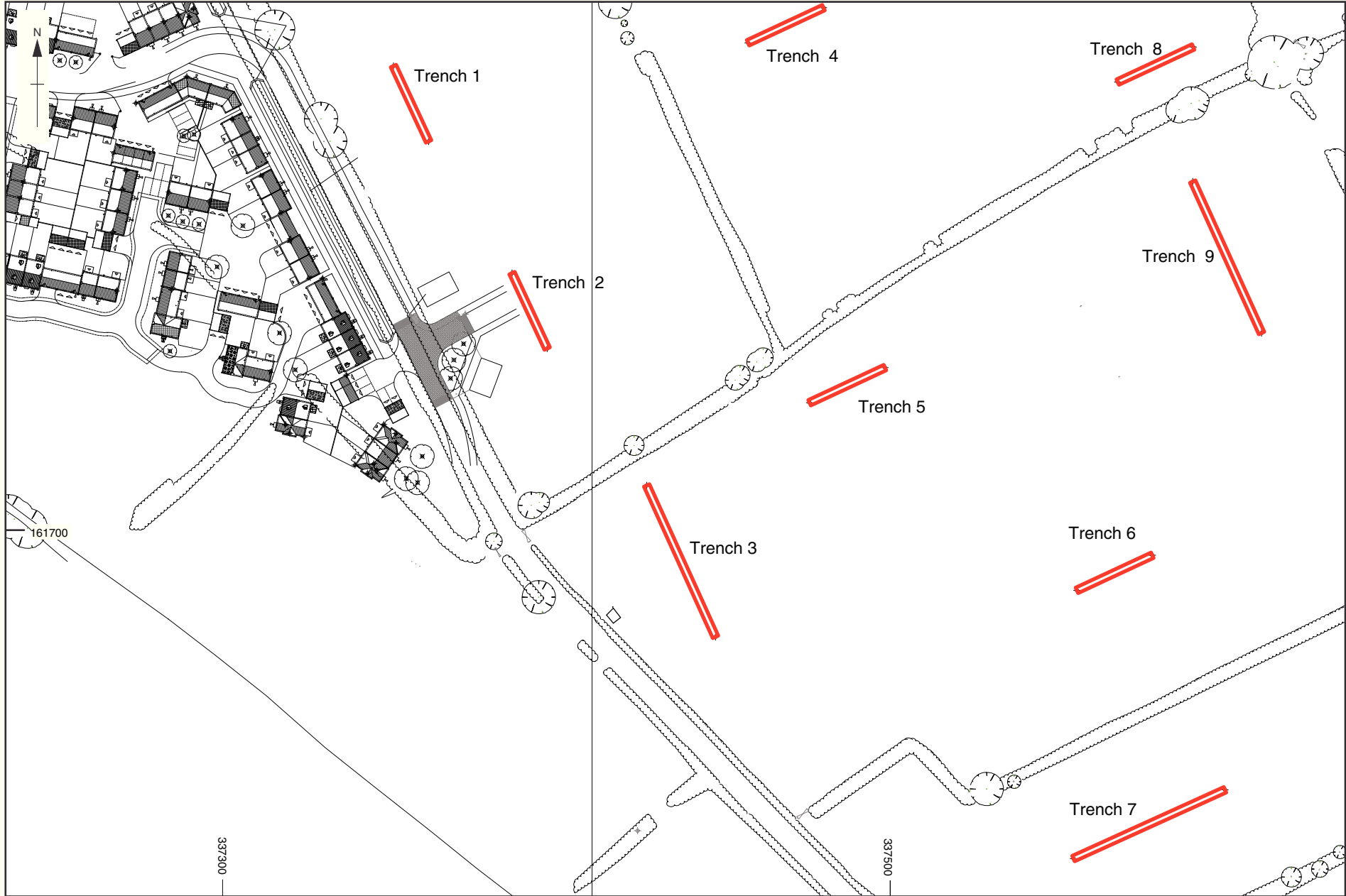


Figure 2: Trench locations

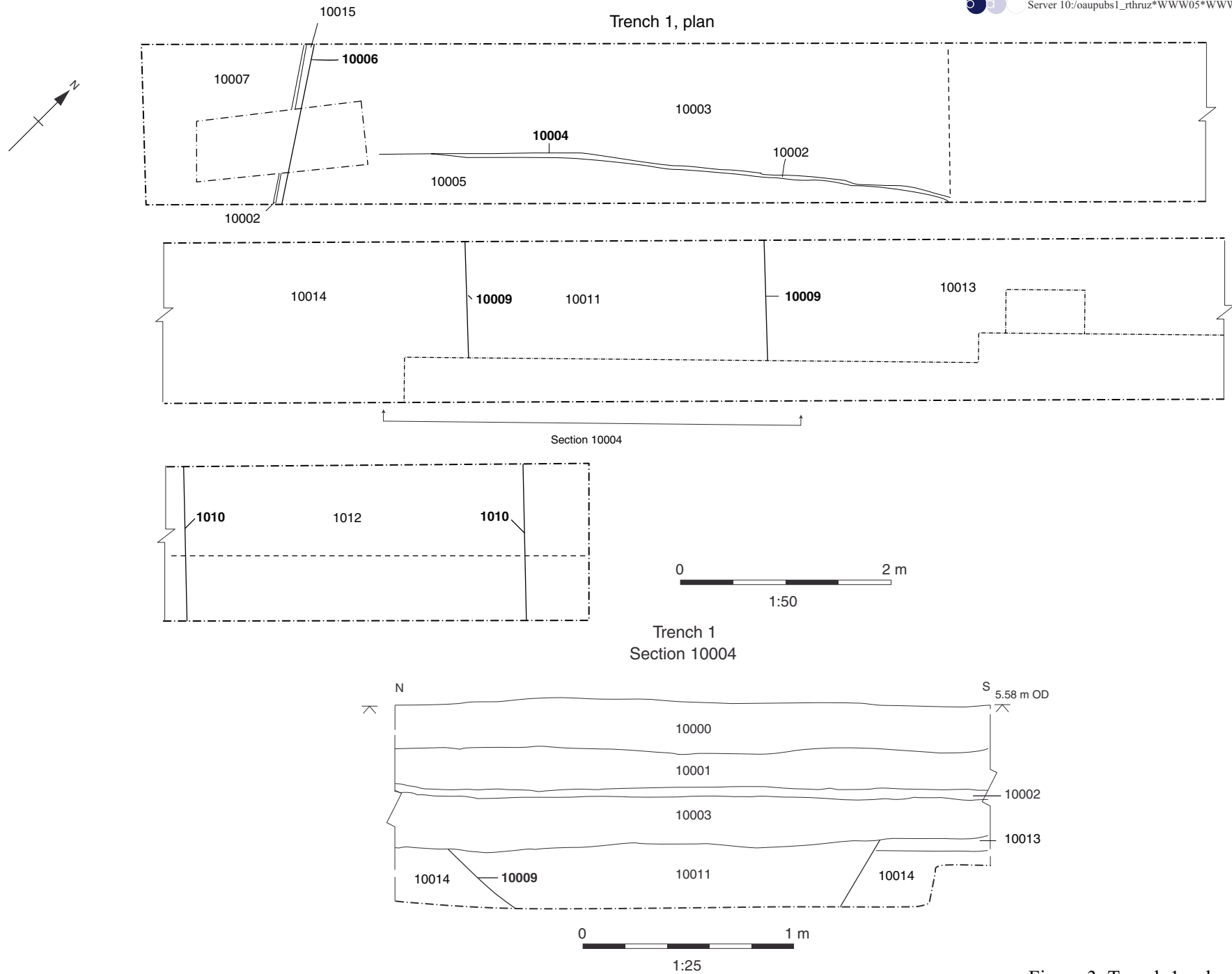


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section



Section 2001

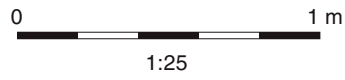
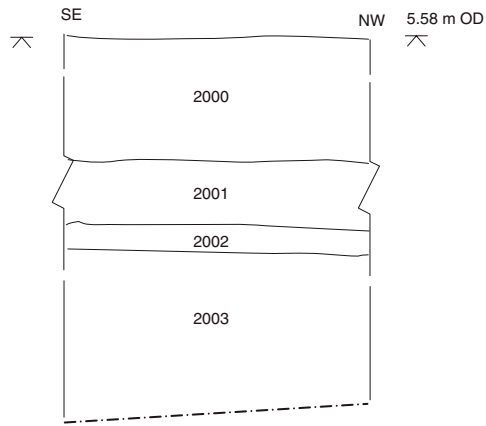


Figure 4: Section 2001

Trench 3, plan

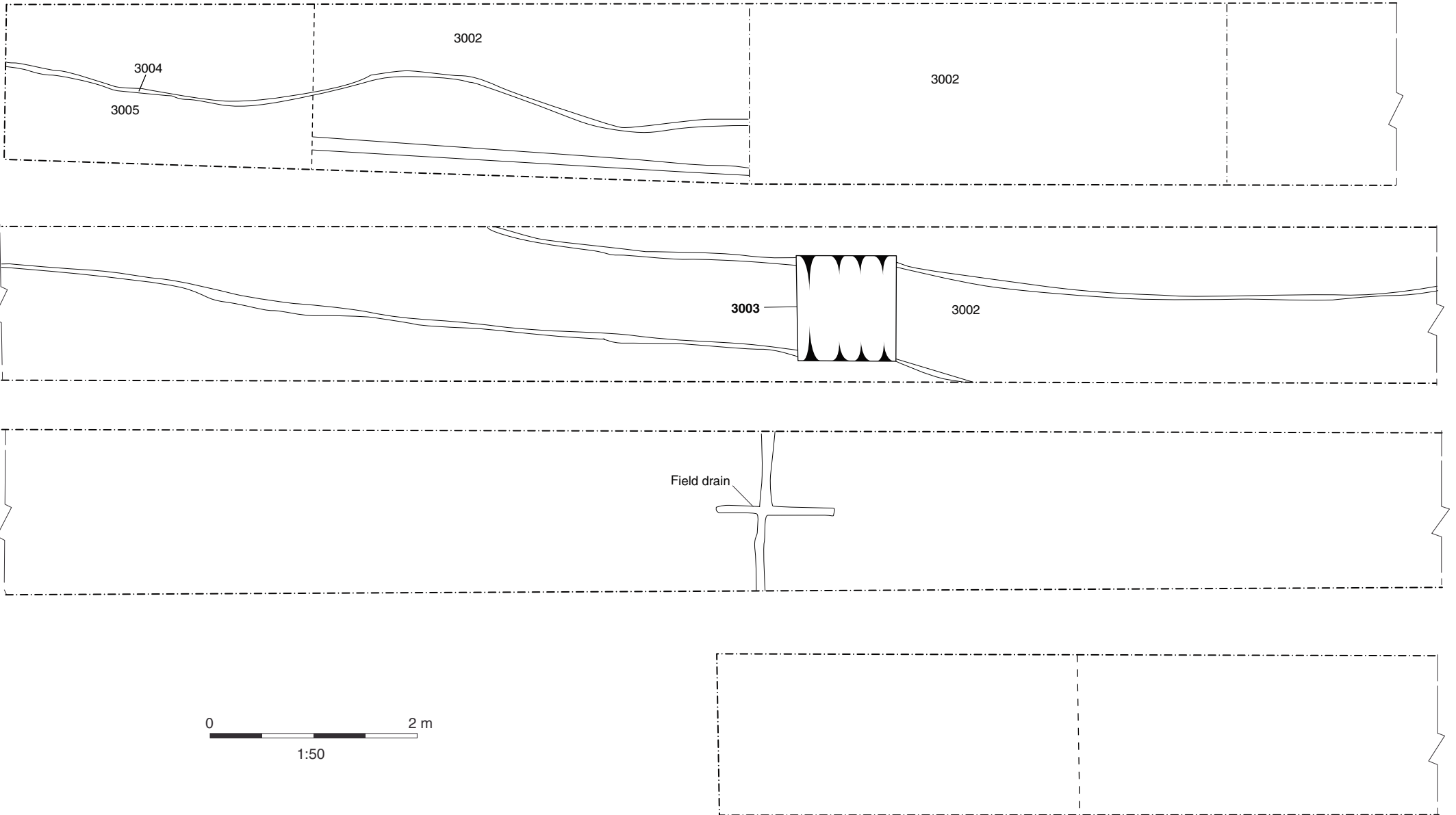
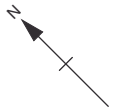


Figure 5: Trench 3, plan

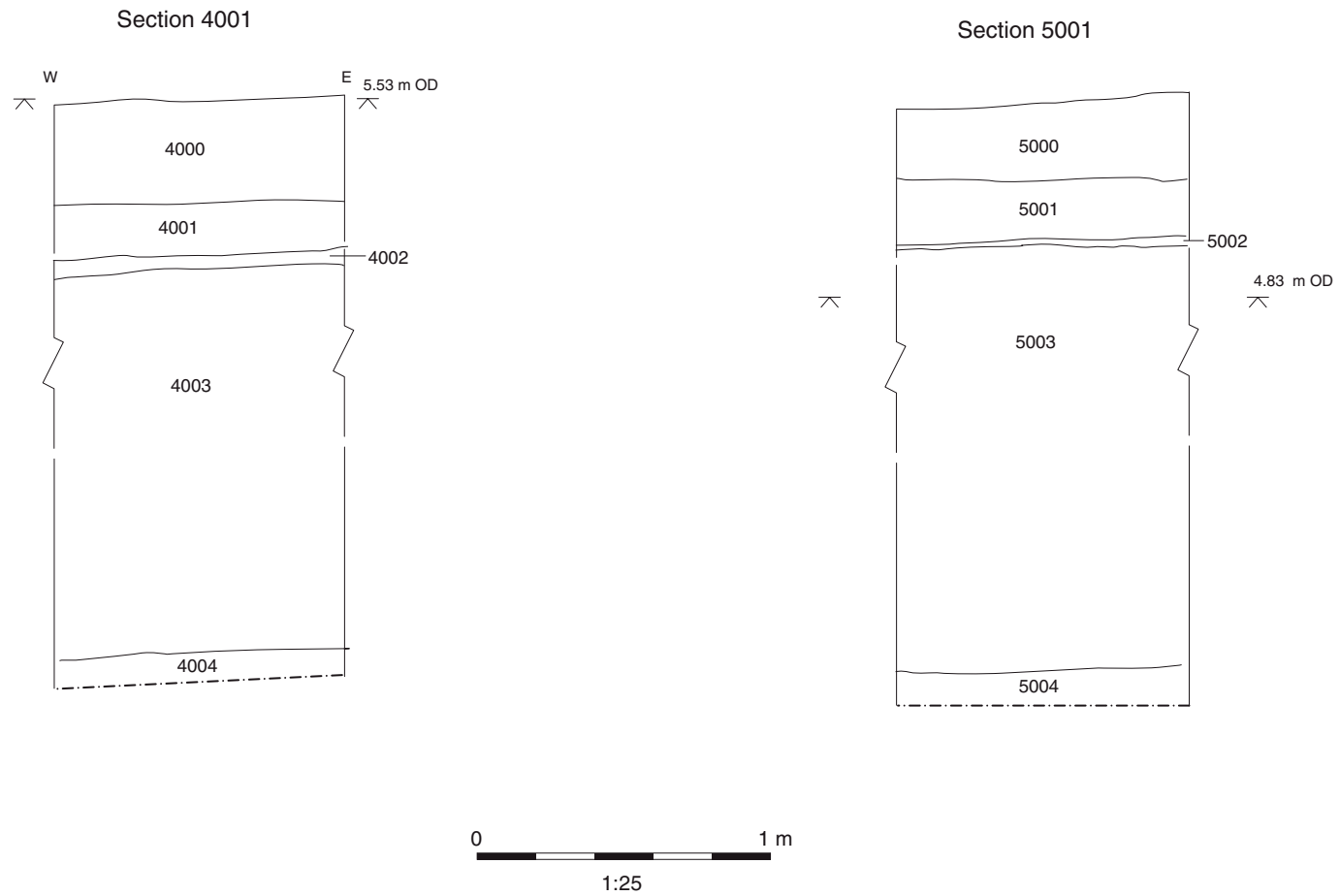


Figure 6: Sample sections of trenches 4 and 5

Trench 6, plan

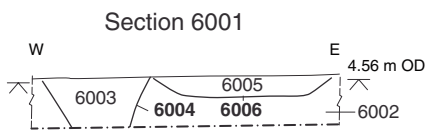
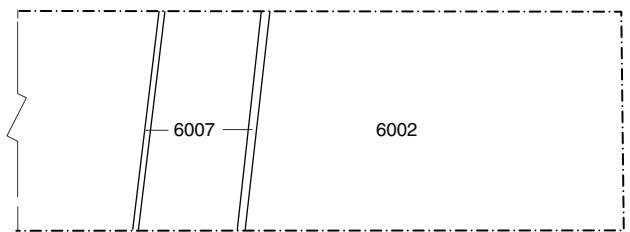
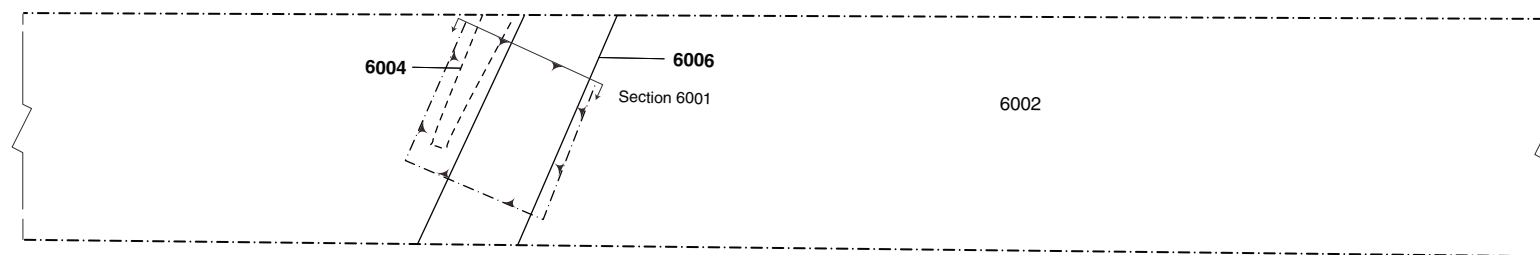
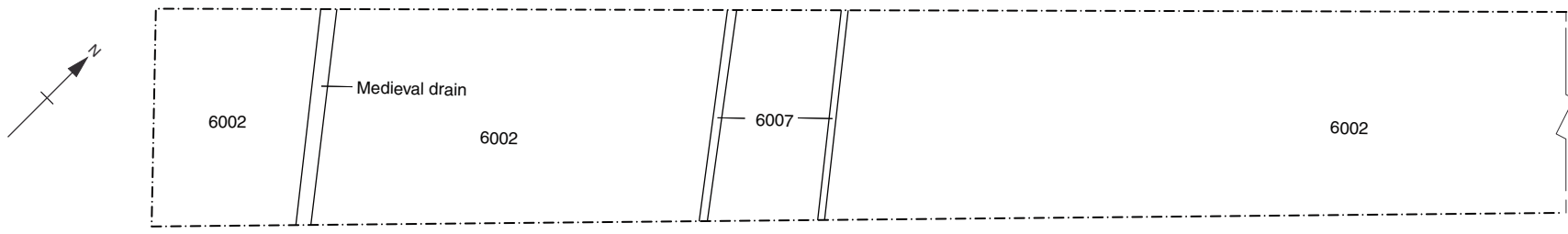


Figure 7: Trench 6, plan and section

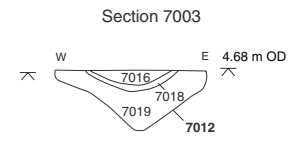
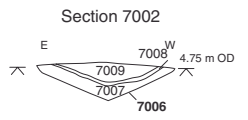
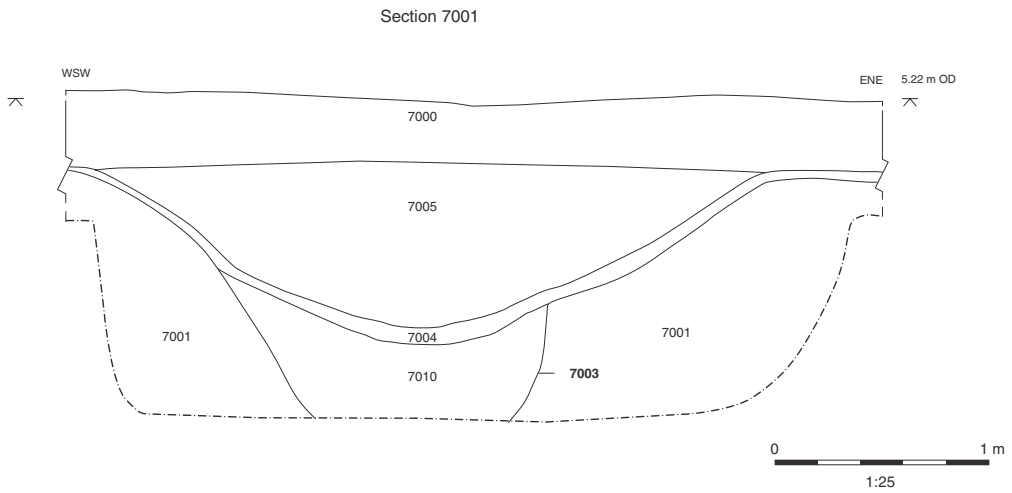
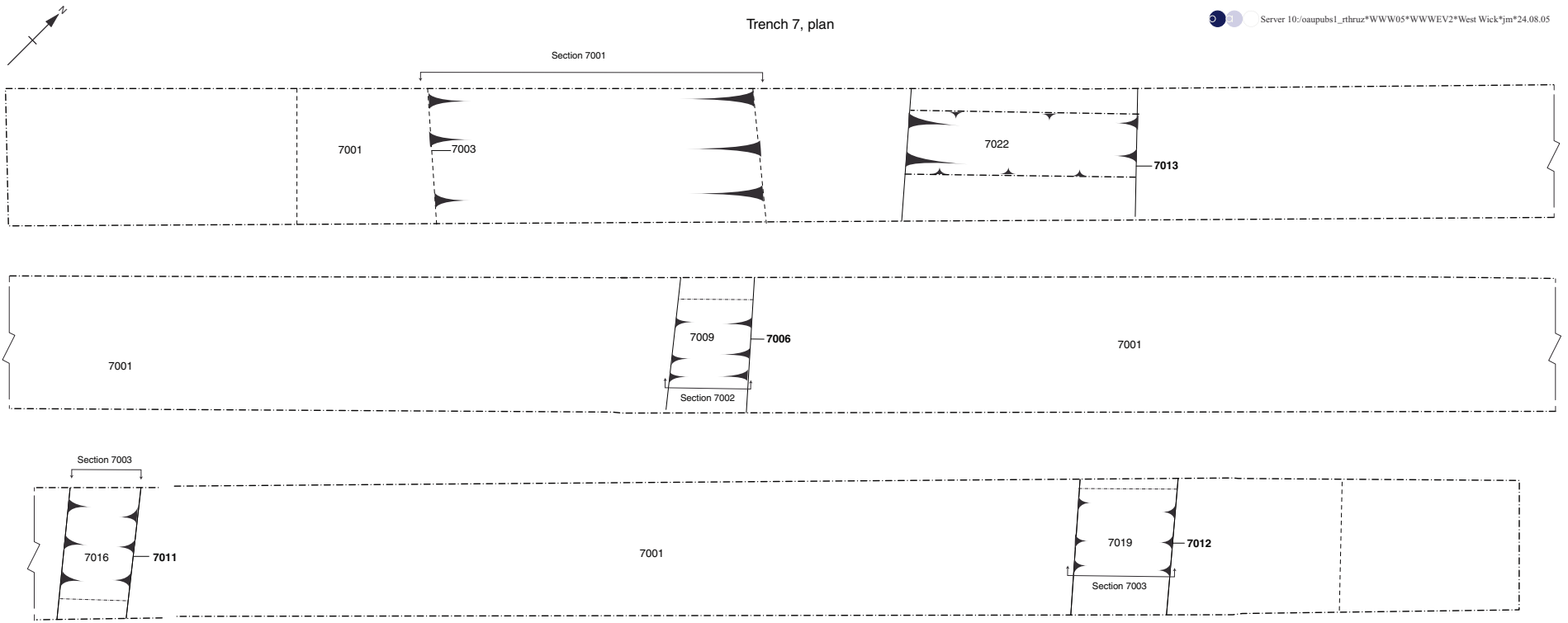


Figure 8: Trench 7, plan and sections

Trench 8, plan

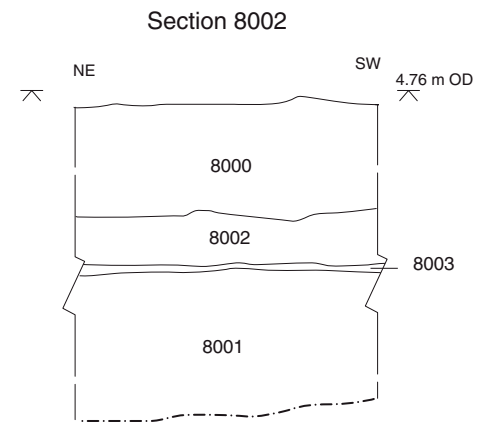
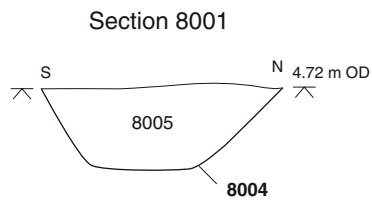
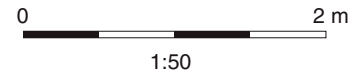
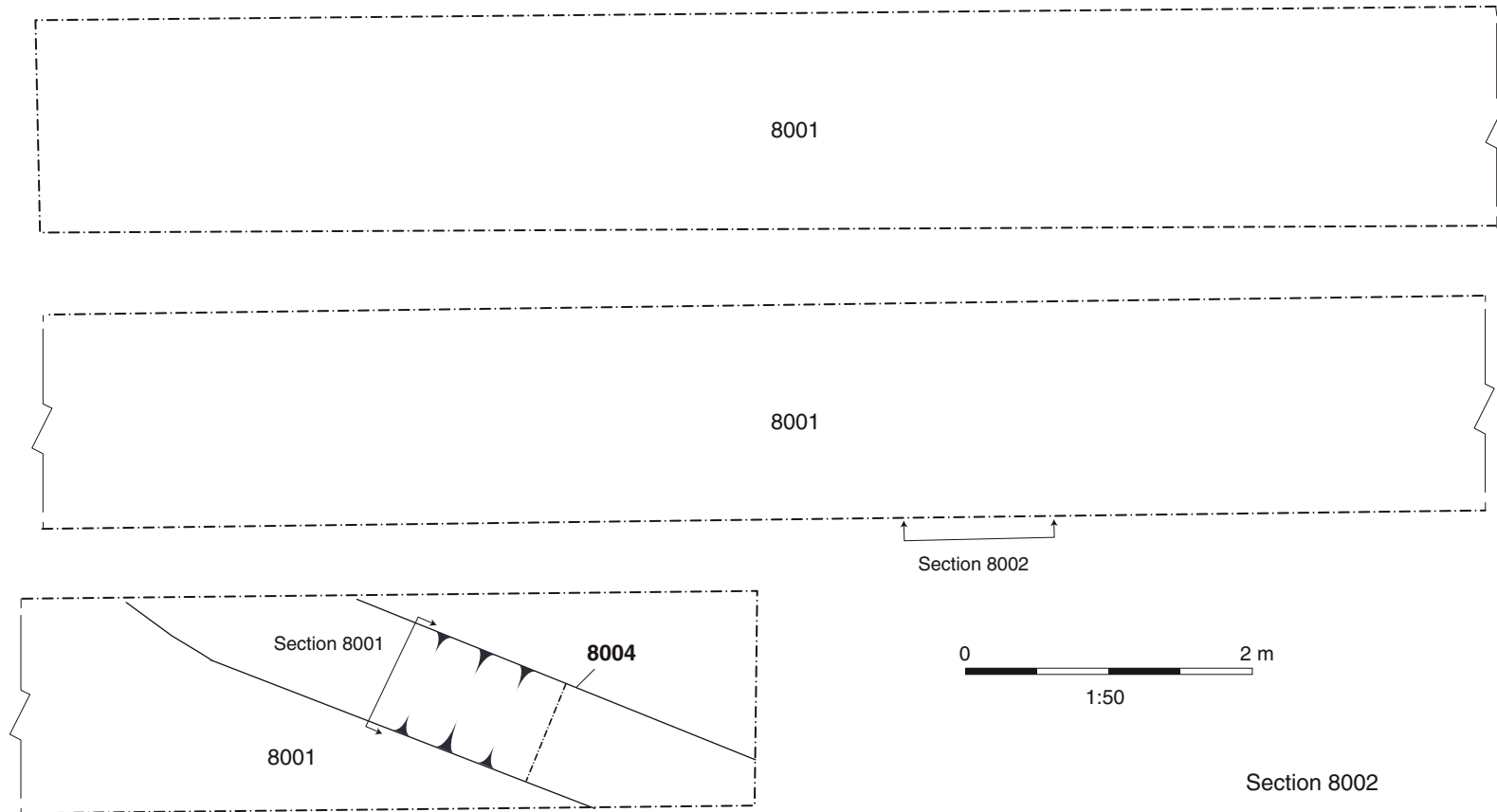
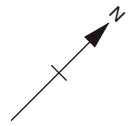
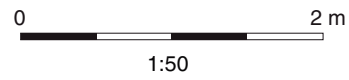


Figure 9: Trench 8, plan and sections

Trench 9, plan



Section 9003

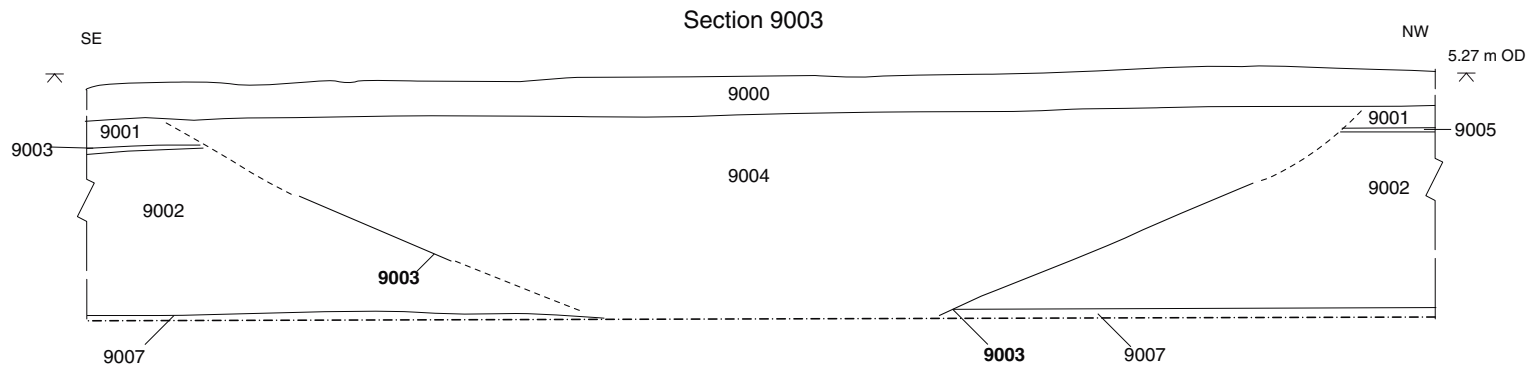


Figure 10: Trench 9, plan and section