

Innova Park Enfield



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Innova Park, Enfield

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Table of Contents

Summary.....	4
1 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Geology and topography.....	5
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	5
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	6
2.1 Aims.....	6
2.2 Specific aims and objectives.....	6
2.3 Methodology.....	6
3 Results.....	7
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	7
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	7
3.3 Trench descriptions.....	7
3.4 Trench 1.....	7
3.5 Trench 2.....	7
3.6 Trench 3.....	7
3.7 Trench 4.....	7
3.8 Trench 5.....	7
3.9 Trench 6.....	7
3.10 Trench 7.....	8
3.11 Trench 8.....	8
3.12 Trench 9.....	8
3.13 Trench 10.....	8
3.14 Finds and environmental summary.....	8
4 Discussion.....	9
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	9
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	9



4.3 Interpretation.....	9
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	10
Appendix B. Bibliography and References.....	14
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	15



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Trench location with trench plans showing feature and section location
Fig. 3 Sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Representative section of Trench 2
Plate 2 Trench 3 showing modern ditch
Plate 3 Representative section of Trench 4
Plate 4 Trench 8 showing gravel natural



Summary

In March 2014 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Innova Park, Enfield for CgMs Consulting. The evaluation consisted of 10 trenches each measuring 30m by 1.8m.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches. Evidence was found throughout the area for disturbance associated with the sewage works that had formerly occupied the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 During March 2014 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Innova Park, Enfield for CgMs Consulting on behalf of PSK Building Surveyors Limited.
- 1.1.2 The site was located on the north-east side of Enfield, south of the M25 and west of the River Lea. The site was bounded on three sides by roads: Electric Avenue to the west, Innova Way to the north and Mollison Avenue to the east (Figs 1 and 2).
- 1.1.3 The site consisted of a parcel of scrub land that had previously been occupied by part of a sewage works. It covered an area of c.1.3 ha.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation consisted of ten trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken in accordance with a Specification for an Archaeological Investigation that was prepared by CgMs (2014) and agreed by Gillian King of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Centre on behalf of the London Borough of Enfield.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the area consists of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand), overlain by alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravels) in the northern part of the site (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 1.2.2 The site was level at c.18m aOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2010), and will not be reproduced here.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OAS would like to thank James Gidman, Consultant Archaeologist for CgMs, who commissioned the evaluation, and Gillian King of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Centre. The project was managed for OAS by Gerry Thacker, and the fieldwork was supervised by Dan Sykes with the assistance of Ben Slader, Dave Jamieson, Richard Kevill and Diogo Silva.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 General

2.1.2 The aims of the evaluation, as defined in the Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2014), were:

- (i) to determine if possible the date of the earliest human activity in the area and the subsequent sequence of occupation.
- (ii) To further inform our understanding of past activity in this area of North London.
- (iii) To record any significant archaeological deposits or palaeoenvironmental sequences which may be present within the site.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- (i) To excavate and record any archaeological features and associated artefacts that may be revealed and assess the level of impact any further development may have on any archaeology that may be present.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 Ten trenches were excavated, comprising a 4% sample of the area of the site. Each trench measured 30m × 1.8m.

2.3.2 Each trench was located by a global positioning system by an OAS Surveyor.

2.3.3 Modern over-burden was excavated under close archaeological supervision by a 14 tonne 360° mechanical excavator operated by a competent and experienced driver.

2.3.4 Revealed features were excavated and recorded according to OAS standard methodologies (Wilkinson 1992).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 General ground conditions, the distribution of archaeological features and individual trench descriptions form the content of Section 3 below. The interpretation of the results forms Section 4. The depths and dimensions of all deposits and features are shown within the tables that form Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Topsoil, consisting of a brown-grey silty-clay was present in all trenches and had an average thickness of 0.16m. Below this there was a layer of made ground directly overlying the natural geology. This made ground was a very mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete.

3.2.2 Several trenches, particularly Trenches 5, 4 and 9, suffered from the ingress of ground water.

3.3 Trench descriptions

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3) was aligned NE-SSW. Two parallel electrical cables running on a north-south alignment were located within the east of the trench. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.85m thick.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and Plate 1) was aligned NW-SE and contained a cast iron pipe located in the north corner and running NE-SW. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.65m thick.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 and Plate 2) was aligned NW-SE. Towards the north-west end of the trench was a modern ditch 304 on a WSW-ENE. The ditch fill (305) was a dark brown-grey soft silt-clay which contained a modern tile and a milk bottle. In the south-eastern end of the trench were two parallel electricity cables running on a N-S alignment. The made ground overlay the natural and averaged 0.86m thick.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and Plate 3) was aligned E-W. Near the centre of the trench was a cast iron pipe and an electricity cable running on parallel north-south alignments. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.66m thick.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 3) was NE-SW aligned. It did not contain any archaeological features or modern pipes and cables. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.8m thick.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 3) was NW-SE aligned. It did not contain any archaeological features or modern pipes and cables. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.7m thick.



3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 3) was ENE-WSW aligned. It did not contain any archaeological features or modern pipes and cables. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.94m thick.

3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 Trench 8 (Figs 2, 3 and Plate 4) was E-W aligned. It did not contain any archaeological features or modern pipes and cables. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 1m thick.

3.12 Trench 9

3.12.1 Trench 9 (Figs 2 and 3) was aligned NW-SE. In the centre of the trench were two cast iron pipes running parallel to each other on north-south alignments. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.86m thick.

3.13 Trench 10

3.13.1 Trench 10 (Figs 2 and 3) was aligned NW-SE. At the eastern end of the trench was a cast iron pipe running on a NE-SW alignment. The made ground directly overlay the natural and averaged 0.4m thick.

3.14 Finds and environmental summary

3.14.1 One modern glass milk bottle was recovered from ditch 304, but was not retained.

3.14.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were uncovered during the course of the evaluation.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather. There was some ingress of ground water within trenches to the south of the site, but in each instance a clean trench base had already been visually inspected prior to this.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation determined the absence of archaeological features within the footprints of the trenches. Uncovered intrusions were modern (electrical cables and cast iron pipes) and a record of their locations was made on the trench plans (Fig. 2).

4.3 Interpretation

Trial trench evaluation

4.3.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches. A layer of made ground was recorded in all trenches, indicating that significant previous disturbance had occurred across the entire area. This was most likely associated either with the construction of the sewage works that had previously occupied the site, or with remediation following its demolition. There was no evidence for a former topsoil layer buried beneath the made ground and this indicates that the site had been stripped, and perhaps reduced, prior to its deposition. The depth of this impact is not known but it may have been deep enough to have removed any archaeological remains that had formerly been present.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil and overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. Below this two electricity cables 1m apart, ran parallel to each other on a N-S alignment. These cut a mid grey gravelly sand natural.				Avg. depth (m)	1	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.88	Made ground	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil which overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete This overlay a cast iron pipe which was situated in the north corner and runs on a NE-SW alignment. The pipe cut through a mid grey-yellow gravelly sand natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.65	Made ground	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil which overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. A modern ditch ran through the trench on a WSW-ENE alignment, two electricity cables ran parallel to each other on a N-S alignment. These cut a dark grey-yellow sandy gravel.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-



302	Layer	-	0.68	Made ground	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
304	Cut		-	Modern ditch WSW-ENE	-	-
305	Fill		-	Fill of modern ditch [304]. Unexcavated	Milk bottle and tile	Modern

Trench 4

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil, overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a cast iron pipe and an electricity cable, they ran parallel to each other on a N-S alignment. These were cut into a dark brown grey clay with grey brown gravel patches.	Avg. depth (m)	1
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
401	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.86	Made ground	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil and overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a mid grey brown clay with gravel patches.	Avg. depth (m)	1
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
501	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.83	Made ground	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil This overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a mid red-brown to grey-brown clay with gravel patches.	Avg. depth (m)	0.9
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts						
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date



no		(m)	(m)			
601	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.71	Made ground	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil This overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a mid grey sandy gravel.				Avg. depth (m)		1.1
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
701	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.94	Made ground	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil and overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a mid grey sandy gravel.				Avg. depth (m)		1.1
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
801	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.95	Made ground	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil and overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay two cast iron pipes which ran parallel to each other on a N-S alignment. These cut a mid grey-brown clay gravel natural.				Avg. depth (m)		1
				Width (m)		21.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



901	Layer	-	0.13	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.87	Made ground	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil and overlay made ground which consisted of a mixed red-yellow silt sand with clay and sand lenses with inclusions of modern brick and concrete. This overlay a cast iron pipe which ran on a NE-SW alignment. This cut a grey gravel sand natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1001	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.39	Made ground	-	-
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, www.bgs.ac.uk

CgMs 2010, Plot 1, Innova Park, Enfield. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment.

CgMs, 2014, Land Adjacent to Innova Park, Enfield. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation.

Wilkinson, D, (ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Fieldwork Manual



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Innova Park, Enfield
Site code: INW 14
Grid reference: NGR 536967 199121
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 3rd March – 7th March 2014
Area of site: 1.3 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation uncovered one modern ditch and a number of services pipes and cables. No archaeological features were uncovered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.



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Figure 1: Site location

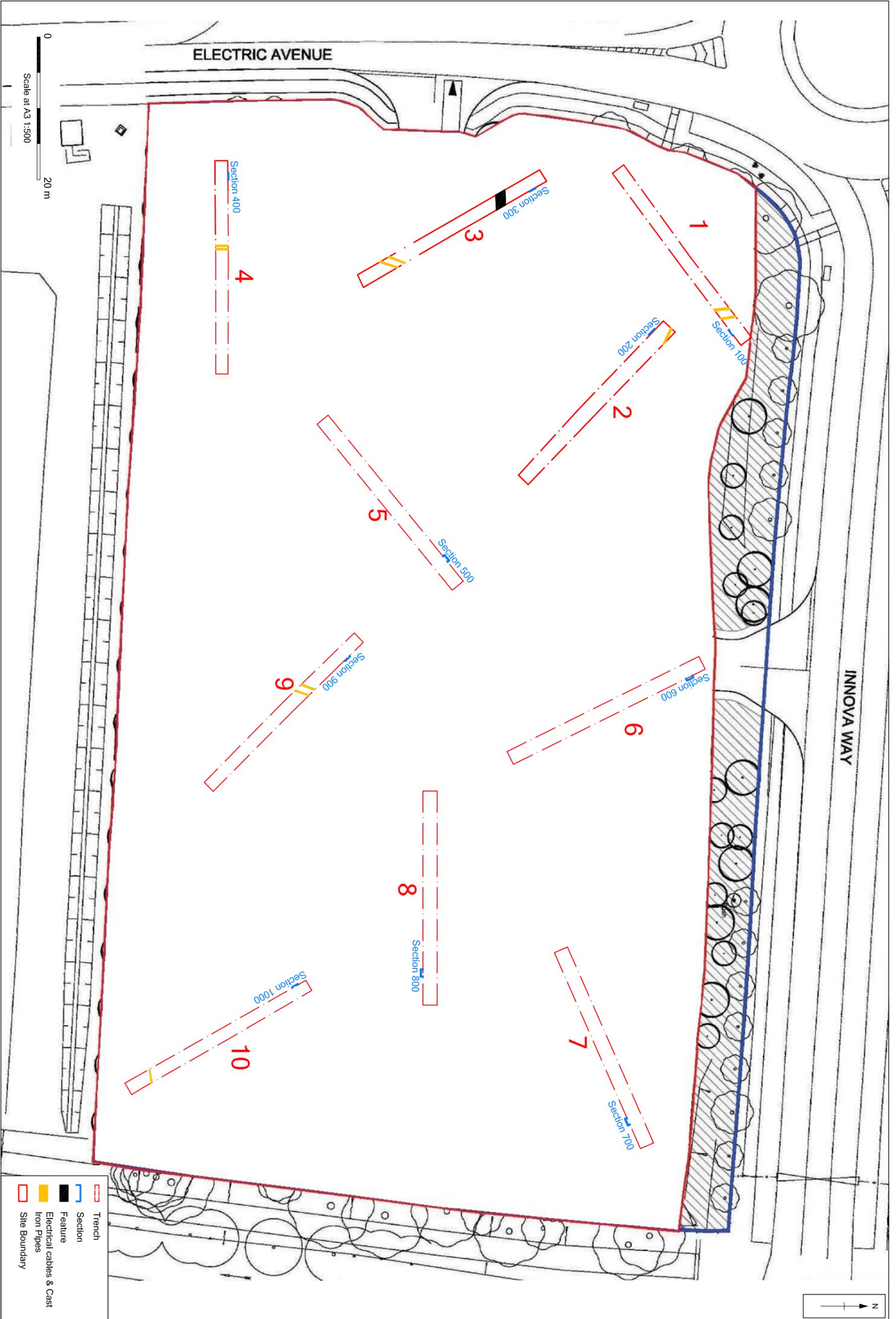


Figure 2: Trench location with trench plans showing feature and section locations

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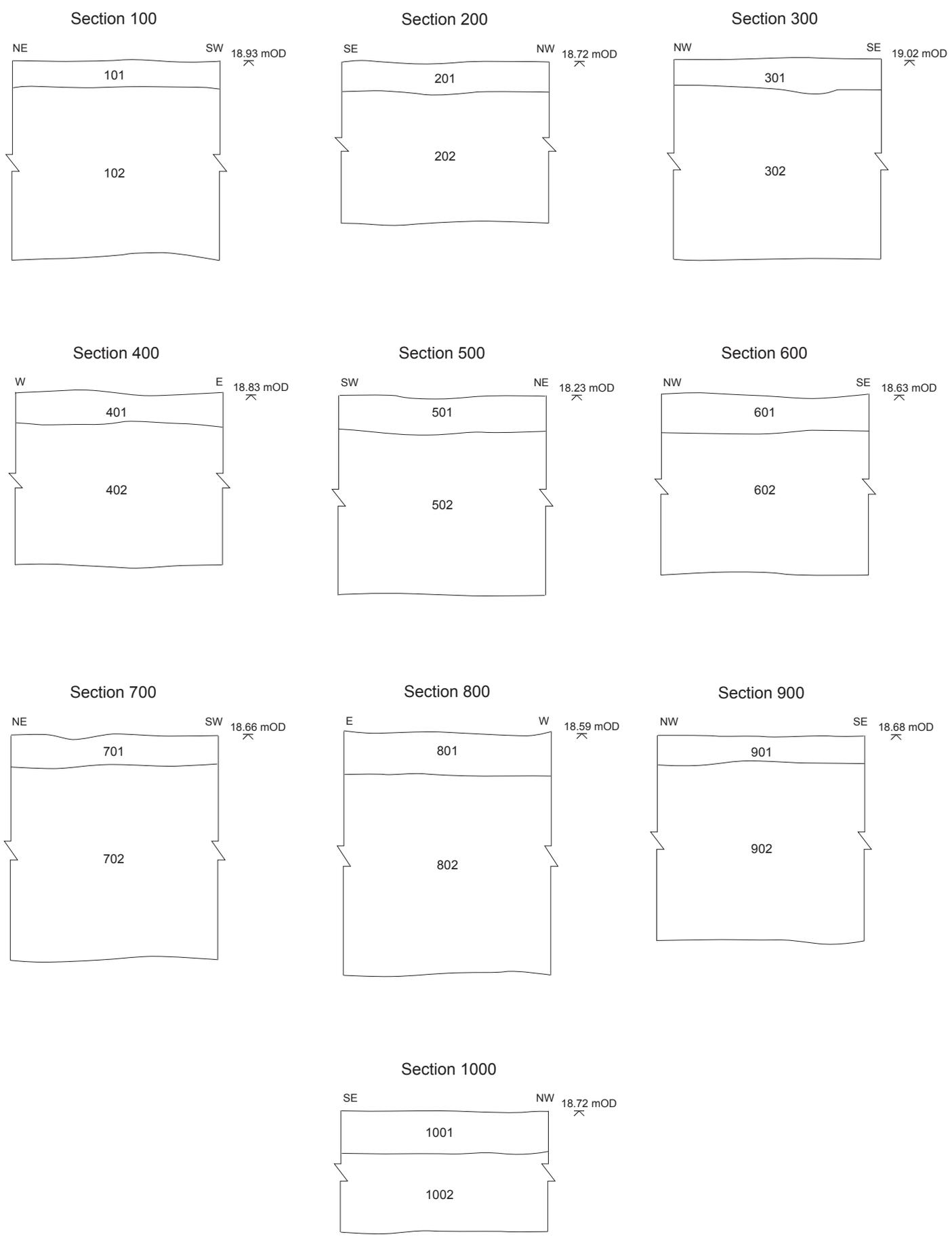


Figure 3: Sections



Plate 1: Representative section of Trench 2



Plate 2: Trench 3 showing modern ditch



Plate 3: Representative section of Trench 4



Plate 4: Trench 8 showing gravel natural



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