

Land North of  
Aspreys at Olney  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



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# Land North of Aspreys at Olney, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

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## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In May 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Land North of Aspreys, Olney, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 8839 5233) on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. The proposed evaluation comprised ten trenches measuring 2 m by 40 m; one trench was reduced in length due to services.*

*A possible linear stone surface of uncertain date was observed in trenches to the centre of the site (Trenches 2, 3, 7, and 8). The surface was on a SW-NE alignment and comprised large slabs of limestone mixed with smaller stones set above natural subsoil sealing the underlying natural limestone bedrock. A track-way or road surface is a possible explanation for this distinctive structure. A smaller localised stone spread or structure was observed to the NW of the site (Trench 6).*

*At the SW corner of the site (Trench 1), a number of square-shaped postholes were situated amongst natural stone outcrops; one of the postholes contained Iron Age pottery. A group of pits at the centre of the site (Trench 7) also contained Iron Age pottery, which in association with a number of postholes here suggests domestic activity of this period nearby. A number of large undated pits across the site could suggest quarrying activity for the underlying stone. All of the trenches showed evidence of probable medieval ridge and furrow.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land north of Aspreys, Olney in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Brian Giggins, Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer, set a project brief (MKC 2005). OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation for the work (OA 2005).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd for George Wimpey, in respect of a planning application for residential development (Planning Application No. 03/01362/OUT). OA's Will Bedford supervised the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 The development site is centred on grid reference SP 8839 5233 and is situated at the junction of Aspreys and Yardley Road (Fig. 1). The site is approximately 15,500 sq. m in area and the evaluation was designed to sample 5% of that area with ten 2 m by 40 m trenches.
- 1.1.4 Trench 5 was shortened to 28 m to avoid a gas pipeline, which was known to be in the vicinity of the east corner of site. Although this slightly reduced the sampling area, the loss was very small and Trench 5 was positioned on low lying ground where no significant archaeology other than furrows was discovered.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development lies at the junction of Aspreys and Yardley Road in Olney, Milton Keynes. Topographically the site has two areas; one of relatively flat high ground on the western half of site which lies at about 75 m OD, and the eastern part of site, which slopes away fairly sharply to approximately 67 m OD in the west corner.
- 1.2.2 A linear arrangement of stone paving, interpreted as an archaeological rather than geological feature (see site description below) was seen consistently in Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8 and roughly follows this topographic division, except that the actual ridgeline curves away northwards from the paving in Trench 8 and westwards in Trench 2 (Fig. 3).
- 1.2.3 Geologically the area of higher ground overlies weathered limestone into which all of the features encountered during the evaluation were cut. At the ridge described above there is an outcrop of limestone bedrock. As the site slopes away towards the south-west drift deposits including boulder clays begin to predominate.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The site has not been the subject of a systematic background survey. The scheduled Roman settlement of Ashfurlong (SAM MK 127) lies 0.6 km to the east of the development site (SP 8950 5270).
- 1.3.2 This settlement is scheduled and comprises a complex of rectangular enclosures and drove-ways orientated east-west. Large quantities of Roman material have been recovered through field-walking and during watching briefs. Iron Age coins and sherds have also been found at the site as well as five struck flint blades.
- 1.3.3 There are a number of other sites of prehistoric or Roman date in the area. These include a cropmark of a probable round barrow (SP 8881 5291), Romano British sherds and building material (SP 8810 5140), Romano British sherds (SP 8940 5190) and Romano British sherds and a flint scraper (SP 8869 5194).

### 1.4 Evaluation Aims

- 1.4.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site.
- 1.4.2 To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present and to provide potential options for minimising or preventing damage to any remains.
- 1.4.3 To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present and to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
- 1.4.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 2.1.1 A total of 5% of the site was evaluated with ten 40 m x 2 m trenches (Fig.2). The trench locations were CAT scanned and Trench 5 was shortened to 28 m owing to the possible presence of a gas pipeline in this part of the site.
- 2.1.2 A 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket excavated the trenches under archaeological supervision. Excavation proceeded to the natural geology or the top of the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was scanned for artefacts.

### 2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 2.2.1 The evaluation conformed to the mandates and practices for archaeological evaluations as set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). The work was completed in three weeks by a supervisor and a team of two field archaeologists, managed by Clare King and under the overall direction of Nick Shepherd (OA Head of Fieldwork).
- 2.2.2 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was carried out in accordance with established OA practices as detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (OA 1992). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. Colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features. Trench plans were drawn at 1:100 with any archaeological features present in them drawn at 1:20. 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.

### 2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

### 2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## 3 RESULTS: SOILS AND GROUND CONDITIONS

- 3.1.1 The natural varies in composition slightly across the site, with the flattish hilltop consisting of a sandy loam and the base of the hill being thick clay. There are some limestone outcrops around the break of the slope.
- 3.1.2 There is natural subsoil present in some parts of the site, mostly consisting of sandy silt. Where present, it was a narrow band, averaging around 0.1 m. This may be the remains of an earlier soil subjected to plough action.

- 3.1.3 The whole site has sandy silt topsoil, which has been recently ploughed and planted with crop. This is a light, easily eroded soil. There is only a slight variation in depth across the site, with the average depth being around 0.35m.

#### 4 RESULTS: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

##### 4.1 Trenches 1-4

###### *Trench 1*

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located at the western edge of the site, at the top of the hill (Fig. 2). The natural clay loam and weathered limestone (103) was encountered at around 73.83 m OD. This trench contained a number of stone filled features and linear features as well as a number of possible postholes.
- 4.1.2 In the central part of the trench there were two areas of inter-cutting linear features (Fig. 4, sections 103 and 104). In the easternmost of these (Fig. 4, section 104), the earliest feature was a possible ditch (118), which was 0.4 m wide and 0.13 m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid orange brown clay silt (119).
- 4.1.3 Cutting feature 118 was a possible ditch or natural channel (114 = 116). This was 4 m wide and 0.25 m deep with very gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown clay silt (115 = 117) which contained small gravel inclusions.
- 4.1.4 Ditch 112 cut the fills of feature 114/116. This ditch was 2 m wide and 0.4 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with mid brown silty clay (113) with small gravel inclusions and some charcoal flecks.
- 4.1.5 West of this group (Fig. 4, section 103) the earliest of a group of features were a pit or ditch (128) that was 0.32 m deep and filled with brown silt (129) containing limestone pieces. This was cut by a shallow linear feature (130), possibly the remains of a ditch filled by silt and limestone pieces (131). None of these features were dated.
- 4.1.6 Further west was feature 126, interpreted as a ditch (Fig. 4, section 103). The feature had a vertical east edge and flat base and was filled with a brown silt and limestone (127). The fill was cut by a concave shaped pit feature (124) that was 0.22 m deep. The fill (125) contained a quantity of flat limestone pieces but was undated.
- 4.1.7 Towards the west end of the trench were areas of stone spreads - probably natural outcrops. A number of possible postholes were noted within these areas of stones, but only one feature was investigated. Feature 132 (Fig. 4, plan and section 105) was square in plan, 0.08 m deep and 0.22 m wide and interpreted as a posthole. The fill comprised a brown-grey silt with gravel and included one sherd of pottery dated to the Iron Age. The remainder of the possible postholes are shown on the plan of Trench 1.
- 4.1.8 At the west end of the trench were two features interpreted as pits cut into the natural stone (103). Pit 106 was 0.4 m deep and 2 m in width and was filled by 107, a mid-

brown clay silt and stone that was undated. Pit 104 was concave and shallow with a flat base with a fill predominately of limestone pieces in a clay silt (105); no finds were recovered.

- 4.1.9 The latest features in the trench comprised plough furrows (120, 108 and 110) - 110 cut the fill of feature 112 and 108 cut the fills of features 130 and 124. The fill of furrow 120 was cut by a modern service trench (122).
- 4.1.10 Overlying the feature fills was a layer of brown sandy soil (102), possibly colluvial in origin and subject to previous plough action; topsoil (101) overlay this.

### ***Trench 2***

- 4.1.11 The trench was located to the west of the site down-slope of Trench 1. Natural limestone bedrock (203) was reached at 71.54 m OD. This was overlain by a layer of compact brown-yellow sandy loam (202) up to 0.1 m thick. This formed the natural subsoil over the limestone bedrock.
- 4.1.12 Layer 202 was overlain by 204, a spread of large and medium sized limestone slabs lying flat (Fig. 5, plan). The largest of the slabs measured 1 m by 0.75 m and smaller stones lay within the group. The alignment of the stone spread was noticeably straight and different to the natural contours of the hill slope was to be revealed again in subsequent trenches.
- 4.1.13 It is suggested that this stone spread formed part of a track-way or road since it was clearly above the natural subsoil capping the underlying bedrock. A 0.1 m thick layer of soil (205) had accumulated over and between the stones forming the stone spread, but was undated.
- 4.1.14 Layer 205 was sealed by colluvial soil layer 201, in turn sealed by the topsoil (200). No finds were recovered from the trench.

### ***Trench 3***

- 4.1.15 The trench (Fig 6) was excavated east of Trench 2 and natural limestone bedrock was revealed at 72.4 m OD. As in Trench 2, the natural soil had a spread of limestone slabs upon it (Fig. 6, plan and section 301). Some of the stones were large and a layer of soil had accumulated, or possibly deliberately placed as bonding material between the stones (layer 305). The stone spread was interpreted as a continuation of the road/track-way noted in Trench 2.
- 4.1.16 The stone spread was cut by a NW-SE aligned plough furrow (303) whose fill (302) contained pottery dated to the 17th century. Topsoil (300) sealed the trench. No other finds were recovered from the trench.

### ***Trench 4***

- 4.1.17 The trench (Fig. 7) was opened east of Trench 3 and natural limestone bedrock (410) was located at c 70.15 m OD. Down-slope the natural changed to be boulder clay (403) at c 68.2 m.



4.1.18 Limestone 410 was cut by three post-medieval plough furrows (405, 407, 409). A natural loam subsoil (402) sealed the bedrock deposits, in turn overlain by colluvium (401) and then topsoil 400. No finds were recovered from the trench.

## 4.2 Trenches 5-7

### *Trench 5*

4.2.1 The trench (Fig. 8) was situated east of Trench 4 and natural boulder clay was revealed at 68.0 m OD. Two plough furrows (503 and 505) cut the clay; pottery of mid-15th century date was recovered from the fill of furrow 503. Topsoil (500) overlay the furrow fills.

### *Trench 6*

4.2.2 The trench (Fig. 9) was excavated north of Trenches 2 and 3. Natural limestone bedrock was revealed at *c* 73.5 m OD.

4.2.3 To the west end of the trench was a spread of limestone slabs (Structure 603, stones 601) set within what was interpreted on site as a possible construction cut (600). A layer of clay silt (602) had accumulated around and between. The stones occupied an area *c* 4 m by 2 m within the trench limits and possible facing stones were evident within the structure. The stonework was interpreted as structural, although not obviously associated with the possible track-way structure seen in Trenches 2 and 3.

4.2.4 East of stonework 603 was a smaller stone spread (structure 607 in foundation cut 604) thought also to represent paving. The limestones (605) formed a spread measuring 1 m x 0.7 m within which a layer of clay silt (606) had accumulated. Overlying the stone spreads was topsoil 610. No finds were recovered from the trench.

### *Trench 7*

4.2.5 This trench (Fig. 10) contained the most dateable features found during the evaluation and was excavated east of Trench 6. Natural limestone bedrock (701) was revealed at *c* 72.6 m OD and was capped by a natural loam subsoil (702) up to 0.08 m thick.

4.2.6 Two truncated features (pit 728 and ?gully 726) were only just observed within the limits of the trench. However, to the south end of the trench were a group of inter-cutting features that produced dating evidence.

4.2.7 Feature 730 (Fig. 10, section 707) was interpreted as a posthole and was concave in shape with a diameter of 0.22 m and depth of 0.04 m. The fill (729) was a brown sandy silt that contained Iron Age pottery. Adjacent was a further posthole or small pit (716) that was 0.5 m in diameter and 0.08 m deep. It was filled with silty loam 715. A further shallow pit, 719 (Fig. 10, section 705), to the north was 0.08 m deep and 0.4 m in diameter and its fill (717) was cut by a larger shallow pit (714). The feature was 0.8 m across and 0.28 m deep and filled with a brown silty sand (713) that contained Iron Age pottery.

- 4.2.8 Fill 717 in 719 was also cut by pit 722, whose fill (720) contained Iron Age pottery. Another shallow pit feature, 731, also contained pottery of Iron Age date, suggesting an area of presumably domestic activity in this part of the site. Two further postholes were noted here: posthole 712 being cut by a later posthole (710), suggestive of structural elements nearby in association with the features containing pottery.
- 4.2.9 At the southern end of the trench was an area of limestone slabs (704) set flat within a possible foundation cut 734 above subsoil 702. The structure (733) was at least 4 m wide and may prove to be a continuation of the stonework seen in Trenches 2 and 3 to the west.
- 4.2.10 The latest features in the trench were three furrows 706, 708, and 724 that truncated features 726 and 728. Topsoil (700) sealed the trench.

### 4.3 Trenches 8-10

#### *Trench 8 (Fig. 11)*

- 4.3.1 The trench was opened at the eastern end of the site. Natural limestone (802) was sealed by natural loam subsoil 812. A tree-hole (810) was cut by a small pit (808) that was 1.4 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep.
- 4.3.2 To the centre of the trench a stone spread (structure 811) was set upon the subsoil 812. It comprised limestone slabs 814 and smaller stones 813 and was thought to be a continuation of the possible track-way seen in Trenches 2, 3 and 7.
- 4.3.3 Two post-medieval plough furrows (804 and 806) were the latest features in the trench. These were sealed by colluvium (801) and lastly topsoil 800.

#### *Trench 9*

- 4.3.4 At the north end of the site, Trench 9 (Fig. 12) was excavated to natural limestone at c 72.75 m OD. Natural weathered limestone (906) was overlain by natural subsoil (902=904) and cut by a furrow, 911, that contained pottery of mid-15th century date.
- 4.3.5 An undated shallow gully (907) was cut by a further furrow, 910 dated to the mid-17th century by pottery. A colluvial soil (903) sealed the trench and was overlain by topsoil (901).

#### *Trench 10 (Fig. 13)*

- 4.3.6 The trench was at the NE corner of the site and natural limestone was reached at 71.4 m OD.
- 4.3.7 To the south end of the trench were two pit features (1017 and 1015) that were undated. Pit 1017 was roughly square in shape with sides that sloped to a central point in the base. It was 2.3 m wide and 0.9 m deep with a series of stony loam fills. These suggest that it filled in over a period of time and may possibly have acted as a storage pit or stone quarry pit. The upper fill 1018 occupied most of the feature; the fill below was cut by a small shallow feature (1023) interpreted as a posthole.

- 4.3.8 Pit 1015 was 1.8 m wide and 0.35 m deep with a steeply sloping south western edge and a more gently sloping north eastern and a flat base. It contained a brown silt sand (1016). The profile suggests that it may be a tree bole.
- 4.3.9 A portion of a gully (1006) at the north end of the trench was undated but was cut by a later plough mark. A number of plough furrows (1005, 1011, 1013 and 1027) cut across the trench. Furrow 1011 contained nails, part of and part of an iron sheet, likely to be post-medieval in date. The features were sealed by colluvial soil (1002) and lastly topsoil (1001). No pottery was recovered from the trench.

## 5 FINDS

*Table 1: Table of finds by category and specialist*

Category	OA Box Number	Fragment Count	Specialist
<b>Animal Bone</b>	Misc.01	5	Fay Worley
<b>CBM</b>	Misc.01	2	Rose Grant
<b>Clay Pipe</b>	Misc.01	1	Rose Grant
<b>Copper Alloy</b>	FE.01	1	Leigh Allen
<b>Flint</b>	Misc.01	2	Rebecca Devaney
<b>Glass</b>	Misc.01	3	Hugh Willmott
<b>Iron</b>	FE.01	4	Leigh Allen
<b>Pottery</b>	Misc.01	42	P Blinkhorn
<b>Stone</b>	Misc.01	4	Ruth Shaffrey

***Animal Bone***

- 5.1.1 A total of five fragments (141g) of animal bone from contexts 713 and 1012 were assessed. Context 713 contained a single cattle femur fragment (125g). The surface of the bone was very weathered preventing the potential identification of fine butchery marks.
- 5.1.2 Context 1012 contained four fragments (16g) of animal bone including a sheep/pig sized left tibia fragment, two further sheep or pig sized long bone fragments and a cattle-sized long bone fragment. The fragments from 1012 were in better condition than that from 713.

***Ceramic Building Material***

- 5.1.3 A total of 2 fragments of building material weighing 26grams were recovered from context 1012.

***Clay Pipe***

- 5.1.4 There is a single stem fragment of clay pipe recovered from context 1012.

***Metal***

- 5.1.5 A total of 5 metal objects were recovered from the investigation. All the objects come from context 1012. The assemblage comprises 3 iron nails, a small serrated fragment of iron sheet and a copper alloy loop fastener. Simple loops of fine wire with the ends twisted around each other are commonly found in large numbers in medieval and post-medieval contexts, often associated with assemblages of pins and lace tags, they were used to fasten light clothing (Margeson 1993, 20, fig.10, No.101). The small serrated fragment could come from a saw blade or possibly a curry comb.

***Flint***

- 5.1.6 One flint flake was recovered from context 1022. It is short and squat with a cortical distal end. The piece is in a fresh condition but has heavy cortication.

### ***Pottery***

5.1.7 The pottery assemblage comprised 22 sherds with a total weight of 173 g. It consisted of a range of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval material, with fabrics that are typical of those from other contemporary sites in the region. The Iron Age sherds were undiagnostic, and cannot be dated other than to within the broad period. The later material suggests that the main period of activity at the site was from the mid – 15th to 17th centuries, with a small amount of residual earlier medieval material noted.

#### **Iron Age**

5.1.8 The Iron Age pottery all had shelly limestone-based fabrics which are typical of the region, and can be paralleled at sites such as Pennyland in Milton Keynes, where they represented around 85% of the assemblage by weight (Knight 1993).

5.1.9 *Shelly Limestone*. Hand-built. Sparse to moderate sub-angular shelly limestone up to 5mm. Sparse organic voids. Rare sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, rare angular white flint up to 1mm, rare red ironstone up to 1mm. 6 sherds, 63 g.

5.1.10 The entire assemblage comprised featureless bodysherds, other than a single rather crude base sherd with a flat profile. None of these are diagnostic, and so the assemblage can only be given a broad Iron Age date.

#### **Medieval and later**

5.1.11 The medieval and later material was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

**MC1:** *Shelly Coarseware* AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 7 g.

**MC6:** *Potterspurpy Ware*. AD1250 - 1600. 2 sherds, 11 g.

**PM8:** *Red Earthenware*. 16th – 19th century. 6 sherds, 47 g.

**PM2:** *Staffordshire Buff Slip-Trailed ware*. Mid 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 8 g.

**PM15:** *Cistercian ware*, AD1470-1550. 1 sherd, 4 g.

5.1.12 The following, not covered by the Milton Keynes type-series, was also noted: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware; ?AD1450-1550. The material has a number of sources, including Jack Ironcap's Lane at Great Brickhill in Bucks (Beamish 1989). Fabric is generally very hard and grey, with weak to bright orange surfaces, sometimes with a poor quality green glaze. Moderate to dense subrounded quartz up to 1mm, with sparse rounded ironstone up to 2mm. Occasional calcareous fragments. Full range of late medieval/transitional vessel forms (Cisterns, 'fish dishes' etc). 4 sherds, 33 g.

5.1.13 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2 below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types shows that there was earlier medieval activity (12th – 14th century) at the site, but most of the material of that date was redeposited in features of mid-15th century or later date.

- 5.1.14 This is supported by the fact that the shelly coarseware and Potterspurty sherds were all abraded, showing that they had been the subject of considerable attrition before their final deposition. It would appear therefore that the main period of activity at the site covered the mid-15th – 17th centuries.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g.) of sherds by context & by fabric type

Cxt	IA		MC1		MC6		LM Ox		PM15		PM8		PM2		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
133	1	2													IA
302											1	27			17thC?
502			1	3			1	9							M15thC
707							1	17							M15thC
713	2	8													IA
720	1	9													IA
729	1	40													IA
732	1	4													IA
800			1	4											U/S
801					1	5			1	4					L15thC
909					1	6					5	20	1	8	M17thC
912							2	7							M15thC
<b>Total</b>	6	63	2	7	2	11	4	33	1	4	6	47	1	8	

### Stone

- 5.1.15 Four pieces of stone were retained from context 713. The stone was examined with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens. Of the four pieces retained, two are adjoining and form the remains of a pebble, now burnt, which may have been used as a rubber. The other two pieces are not adjoining but appear to be part of the same item. This is also a burnt pebble that has been used as a rubber and probably as a pounding tool. All are made from an un-remarkable fine grained slightly micaceous sandstone.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 6.1.1 Topographically the site is divided into two areas; one of relatively flat high ground on the west part of site, and the eastern part of site which slopes away fairly sharply. The paved surface seen in Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8 roughly follows this division, except that the actual ridgeline curves away northwards from the paving in Trench 8 and westwards in Trench 2.
- 6.1.2 According to the information collected by the evaluation, this boundary seems to be archaeologically significant as it divides the site into the western area, which has significant archaeological features, and the eastern area which has none except for some post-medieval furrows.
- 6.1.3 The stone surface - possibly a track-way or road - was consistently traced across the site and wherever noted, certainly lay over the natural subsoil sealing the natural bedrock. This appears to remove the possibility that the feature is natural in origin although only further, more extensive investigation could confirm this.

- 6.1.4 No direct dating evidence was forthcoming for the surface, though features within Trench 7 were dated by pottery to the Iron Age, which could provide a date for the structure. The presence of pottery of Iron Age date in some of the features across the site, some of which were interpreted as postholes, indicates occupation of this date in the general area.
- 6.1.5 Whether the postholes form part of house structures and thus represent settlement is unclear at this stage. It is possible, however, that any structures relate to temporary buildings erected on the site, perhaps if stone quarrying was taking place here. A number of pits dug on the site could have been originally excavated for the quarrying of stone. There was limited evidence for animal husbandry on site but little in the way of structural materials.
- 6.1.6 No evidence of Roman occupation was revealed by the evaluation, and the next certain activity here is demonstrated by ridge and furrow agriculture in the post-medieval period.
- 6.1.7 The results of the evaluation show some evidence of Iron Age activity on the site: further work would be needed to clarify the nature and extent of the potential stone track-way and similar stone structures noted in this evaluation.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
01					
	101	Layer		0.4	Sandy silt topsoil
	102	Layer		0.14	Sandy silt subsoil
	103	Layer			Natural weathered limestone
	104	Cut	2.0	0.1	Pit
	105	Fill	2.0	0.1	Fill of 104
	106	Cut	2.0	0.4	Pit
	107	Fill	2.0	0.4	Fill of 106
	108	Cut	2.6	0.09	Furrow
	109	Fill	2.6	0.09	Fill of 108
	110	Cut	2.4	0.09	Furrow
	111	Fill	2.4	0.09	Fill of 110
	112	Cut	2.0	0.40	Ditch
	113	Fill	2.0	0.4	Fill of 112
	114	Cut	4.5	0.13	Ditch/natural channel
	115	Fill	4.5	0.13	Fill of 114
	116	Cut	4.5	0.15	Ditch/natural channel
	117	Fill	4.5	0.15	Fill of 116
	118	Cut	0.4	0.13	Ditch
	119	Fill	0.4	0.13	Fill of 118
	120	Cut	2.0	0.13	Furrow
	121	Fill	2.0	0.13	Fill of 120
	122	Cut	0.18	0.22	Modern service
	123	Fill	0.18	0.22	Fill of 122
	124	Cut	0.48	0.22	Linear
	125	Fill	0.48	0.22	Fill of 124
	126	Cut	0.6	0.18	Possible pit
	127	Fill	0.6	0.18	Fill of 126
	128	Cut	0.9	0.32	Pit/ditch terminus
	129	Fill	0.9	0.32	Fill of 128



<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	130	Cut	0.75	0.12	?Ditch
	131	Fill	0.75	0.12	Fill of 130
	132	Cut	0.22	0.08	Posthole
	133	Fill	0.22	0.08	Fill of 132
02					
	200	Layer		0.4	Sandy silt topsoil
	201	Layer		0.06	Sandy silt subsoil
	202	Layer			Natural loam
	203	Layer			Natural limestone outcrop
	204	Structure			Possible road/paved surface
	205	Fill		0.1	Fill between the stones of 204
03					
	300	Layer		0.28	Sandy silt topsoil
	301	Layer			Natural limestone
	302	Fill	1.0	0.06	Fill of 303
	303	Cut	0.1	0.06	Linear
	304	Structure			Possible road/paved surface
	305	Fill		0.1	Fill between the stones of 304
	306	Layer			Natural loam
04					
	400	Layer		0.23	Sandy silt topsoil
	401	Layer		0.08	Sandy silt subsoil
	402	Layer			Natural loam
	403	Layer			Natural boulder clay
	404	Fill	1.0	0.08	Fill of 405
	405	Cut	1.0	0.08	Furrow
	406	Fill	1.0	0.08	Fill of 407
	407	Cut	1.0	0.08	Furrow
	408	Fill	1.0	0.08	Fill of 409
	409	Cut	1.58	0.08	Furrow
	410	Layer			Natural limestone
05					
	500	Layer		0.37	Sandy silt topsoil

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	501	Layer			Natural clay
	502	Fill	1.8	0.08	Fill of 503
	503	Cut	1.8	0.08	Furrow
	504	Fill	1.6	0.08	Fill of 505
	505	Cut	1.6	0.08	Furrow
06					
	600	?Cut	4.0		Possible construction cut for 601
	601	Deposit	4.0		Possible wall/ foundation
	602	Fill	4.0		Fill between stones of 601
	603	Structure	4.0		Possible wall/foundation
	604	Cut	1.0		?Pit/structure
	605	Fill	1.0		Fill of 604
	606	Fill	1.0	0.10	Layer overlying 605
	607	Structure	1.0		?Pit/structure
	608	Layer			Natural limestone
	609	Layer		0.2	Redeposited rubble
	610	Layer		0.30	Sandy silt topsoil
07					
	700	Layer		0.38	Sandy silt topsoil
	701	Layer			Natural limestone
	702	Layer			Natural sandy loam
	703	Deposit		0.08	Gravel, part of 733
	704	Deposit			Limestone blocks, part of 733
	705	Fill	2.0	0.12	Fill of 706
	706	Cut	2.0	0.12	Furrow
	707	Fill	1.8	0.1	Fill of 708
	708	Cut	1.8	0.1	Furrow
	709	Fill	0.3	0.08	Fill of 710
	710	Cut	0.3	0.08	Posthole
	711	Fill	0.4	0.08	Fill of 712
	712	Cut	0.4	0.08	Posthole
	713	Fill	1.8	0.28	Fill of 714
	714	Pit	1.8	0.28	Pit

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	715	Fill	0.5	0.08	Fill of 706
	716	Cut	0.5	0.08	Pit
	717	Fill	0.4	0.05	Fill of 719
	718	Fill	0.4	0.02	Fill of 719
	719	Cut	0.4	0.07	Pit
	720	Fill	0.58	0.11	Fill of 722
	721	Fill	0.58	0.04	Fill of 722
	722	Cut	0.58	0.15	Pit
	723	Fill	2.4	0.10	Fill of 724
	724	Cut	2.4	0.1	Furrow
	725	Fill	0.24	0.1	Fill of 726
	726	Cut	0.24	0.1	Gully
	727	Fill	0.22	0.52	Fill of 728
	728	Cut	0.22	0.52	Pit
	729	Fill	0.22	0.04	Fill of 730
	730	Cut	0.22	0.04	?Posthole
	731	Cut	0.74	0.3	Pit
	732	Fill	0.74	0.3	Fill of 731
	733	Structure			Possible road
	734	Cut			Possible road cut
08					
	800	Layer		0.34	Sandy silt topsoil
	801	Layer		0.13	Sandy silt subsoil
	802	Layer			Natural limestone
	803	Fill	3.4	0.08	Fill of 304
	804	Cut	3.4	0.08	Furrow
	805	Fill	3.4	0.08	Fill of 306
	806	Cut	3.2	0.09	Furrow
	807	Fill	1.4	0.4	Fill of 808
	808	Cut	1.4	0.4	Pit
	809	Fill	1.6	0.36	Fill of 810
	810	?Cut	1.6	0.36	Treethrow
	811	Structure			Possible road

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	812	Layer			Natural loam
	813	Fill			Gravel, part of 811
	814	Fill			Limestone blocks, part of 811
	815	Cut			Possible road cut
09					
	901	Layer		0.28	Sandy silt topsoil
	902	Layer		0.08	Sandy silt subsoil
	903	Layer		0.3	Redeposited stone
	904	Not used			
	905	Layer			Natural limestone
	906	Not used			
	907	Cut	0.22	0.04	Posthole
	908	Fill	0.22	0.04	Fill of 907
	909	Fill	2.6	0.14	Fill of 910
	910	Cut	2.6	0.14	Furrow
	911	Cut	1.4	0.06	Furrow
	912	Fill	1.4	0.06	Fill of 911
10					
	1001	Layer		0.25	Clay silt topsoil
	1002	Layer		0.39	Clay silt subsoil
	1003	Layer		0.2	Natural weathered Chalk
	1004	Layer			Natural chalk
	1005	Cut	1.1	0.1	Furrow
	1006	Cut	0.2	0.2	Gully
	1007	Fill	0.2	0.2	Fill of 1006
	1008	Cut	0.15	0.15	Ploughscar
	1009	Fill	0.15	0.15	Fill of 1008
	1010	Fill	1.1	0.1	Fill of 1005
	1011	Cut	1.4	0.1	Furrow
	1012	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of 1011
	1013	Cut	1.4	0.1	Furrow
	1014	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of 1013
	1015	Cut	1.8	0.38	?Treethrow

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	1016	Fill	1.8	0.38	Fill of 1015
	1017	Cut	2.7	0.87	Pit
	1018	Fill	2.7	0.5	Fill of 1017
	1019	Fill	2.7	0.16	Fill of 1017
	1020	Fill	2.7	0.14	Fill of 1017
	1021	Fill	2.7	0.18	Fill of 1017
	1022	Fill	2.7	0.1	Fill of 1017
	1023	Cut	0.42	0.12	Posthole
	1024	Fill	0.42	0.12	Fill of 1023
	1025	Cut	0.2	0.05	Posthole
	1026	Fill	0.2	0.05	Fill of 1025
	1027	Cut	2.6	0.14	Furrow
	1028	Fill	2.6	0.14	Fill of 1027

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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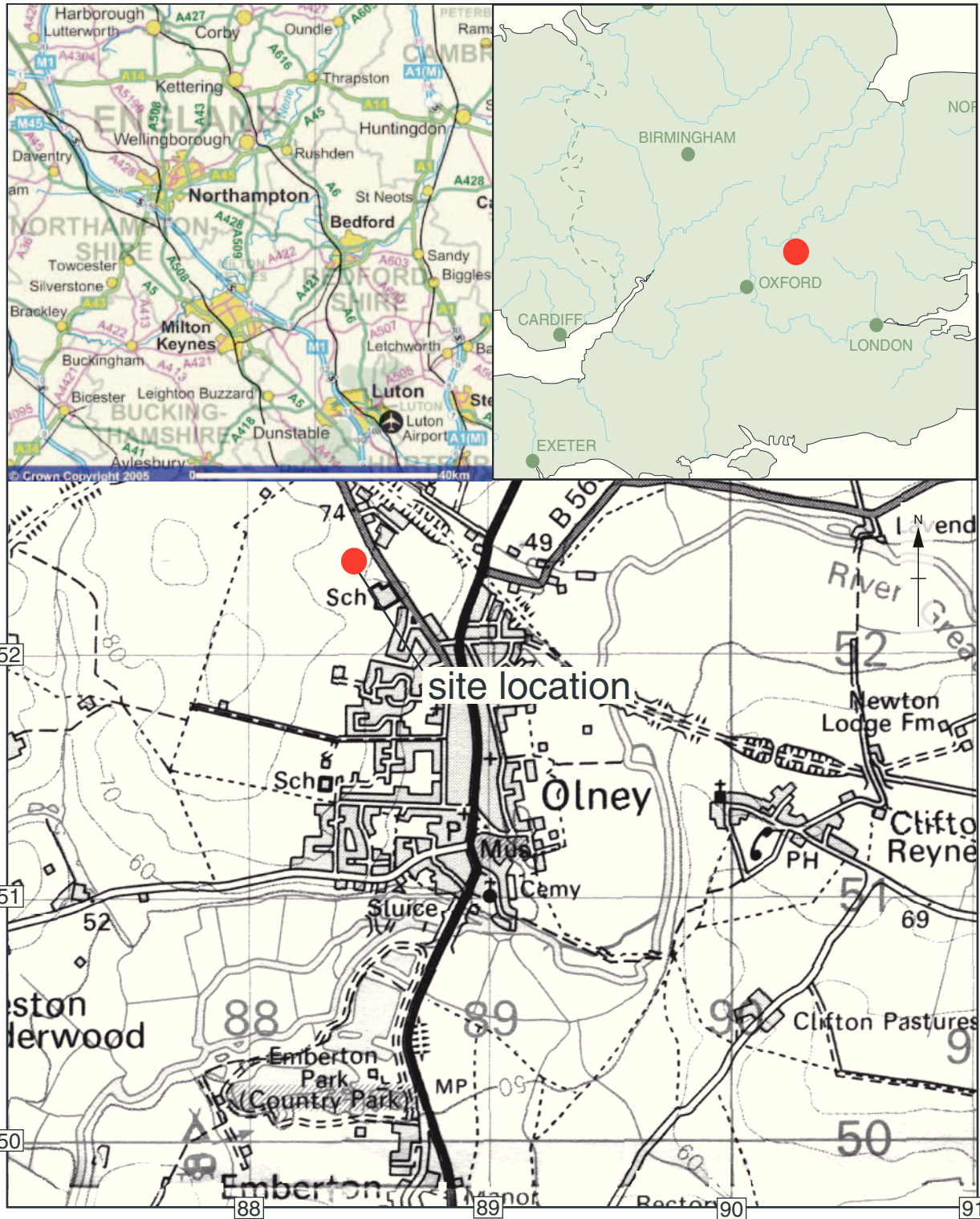
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Zeepvat, R J, Roberts, J S and King, N A 1994 *Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. Excavation and Fieldwork 1966-91* Bucks Archaeol Soc Monog Ser **9**

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS****Site name:** Land north of Aspreys, Olney, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire**Site code:** OLNEY 05**Grid Ref:** NGR: SP 8839 5233**Type of evaluation:** 10 x 40 m trenches**Date and duration of project:** May 2005, 3 weeks**Area of site:** 15,500 sq. m.**Summary of results:** The site showed evidence of Iron Age pits and postholes, undated pits, perhaps for stone quarrying and shallow gully features; an undated possible track-way of stone was revealed in a number of trenches, together with smaller structural surfaces. Post-medieval ridge and furrow activity was evident in all the trenches.**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Aylesbury and Buckingham County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM 2005.42



Servergo:/oapubsl\_1.htmQ\*OLNEY05\*OLNEYEV\*Land at Olney, Buckinghamshire\*LK\*01.06.05



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location.





Figure 2: Trench locations

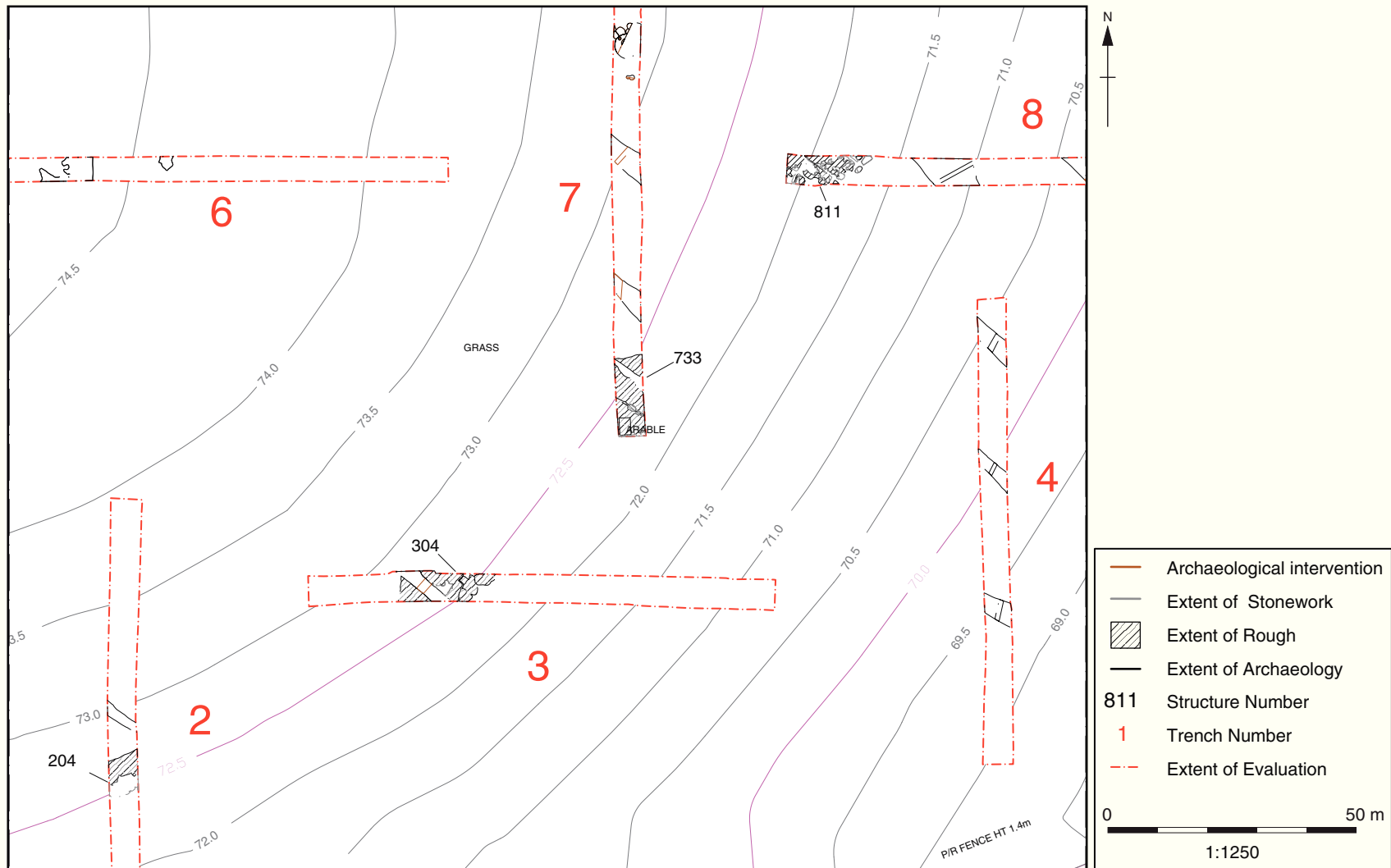


Figure 3: Close up of possible paved surface

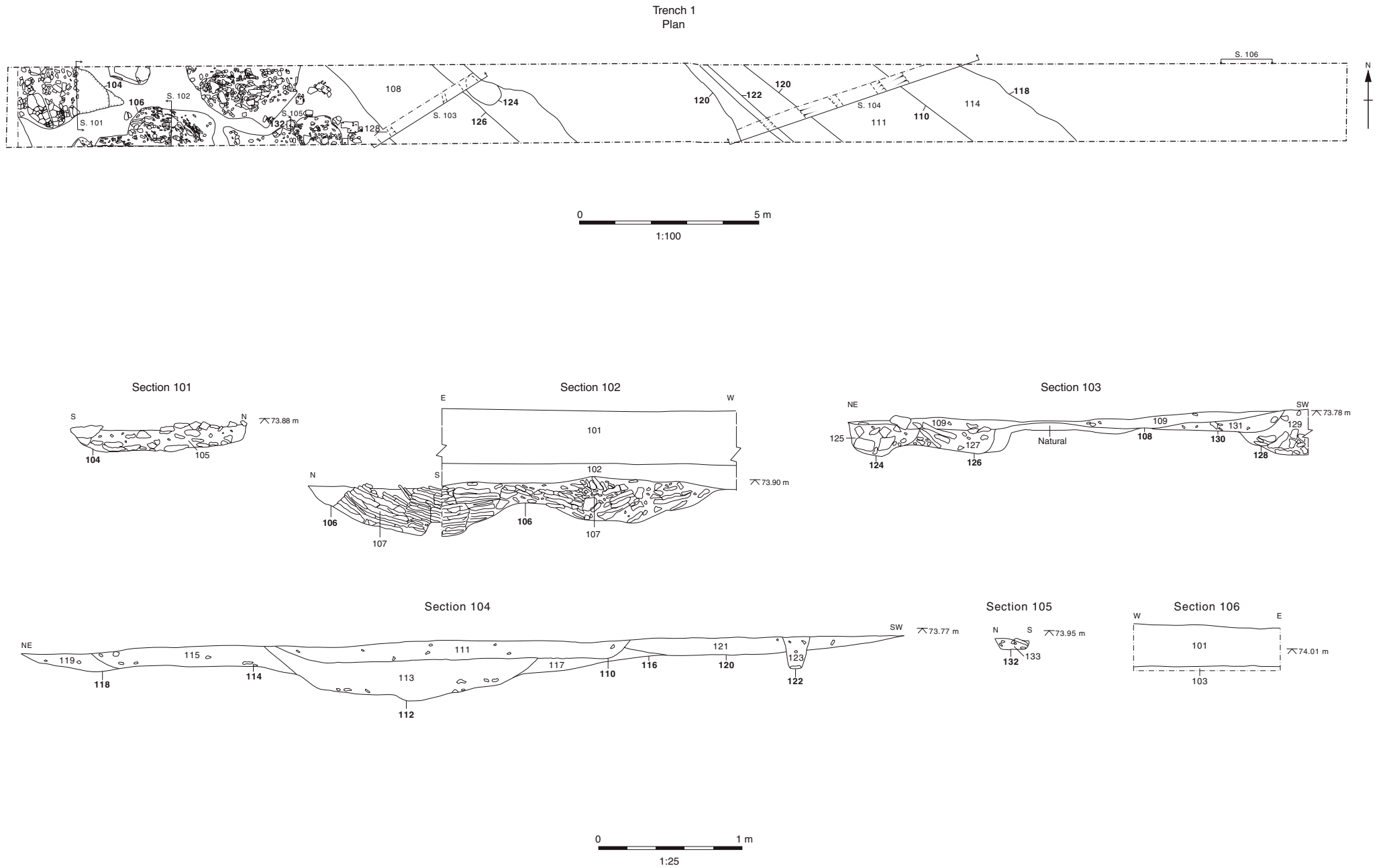


Figure 4: Trench 1, plan and sections

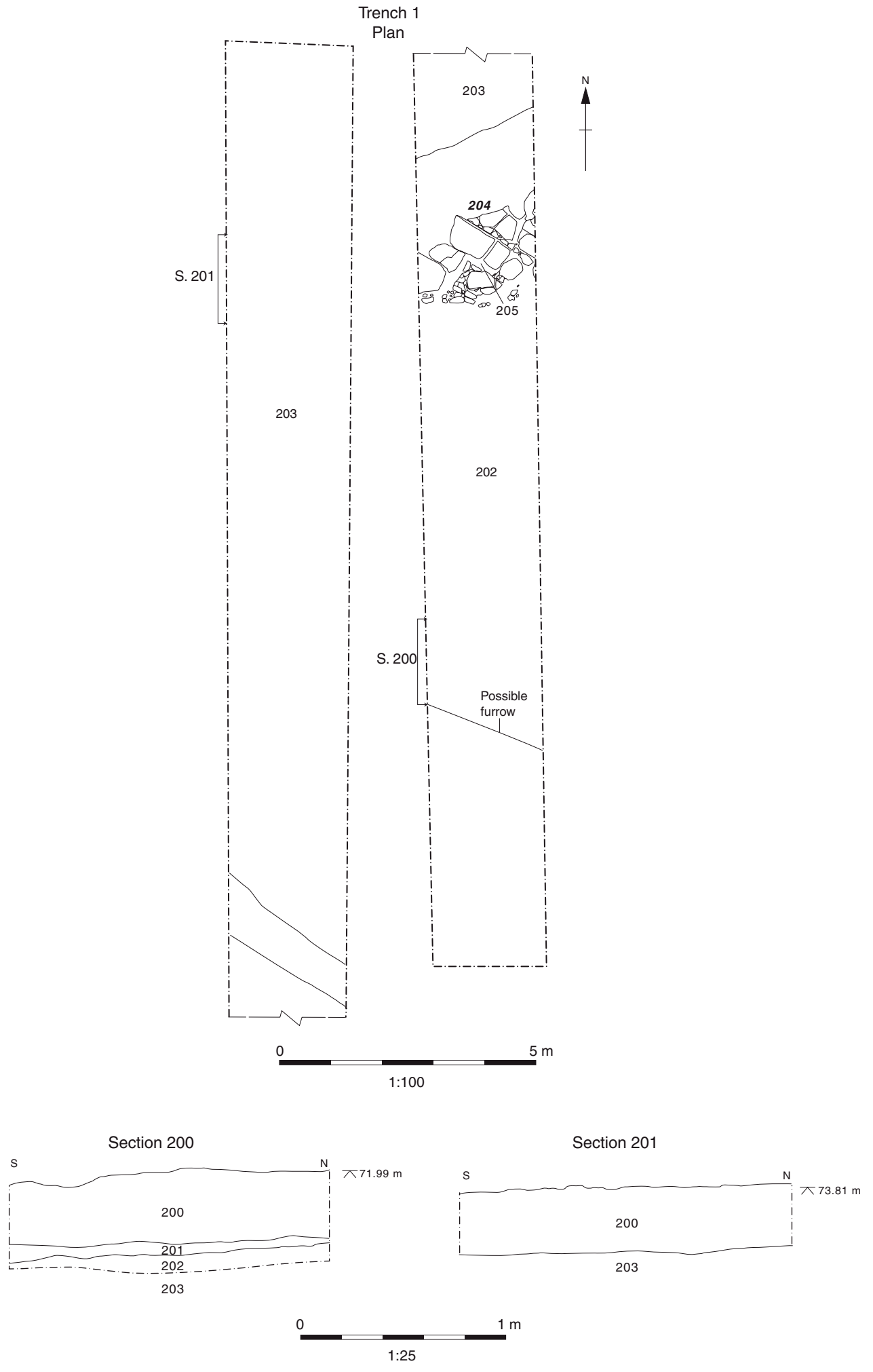


Figure 5: Trench 2, plan and sections

### Trench 3 Plan

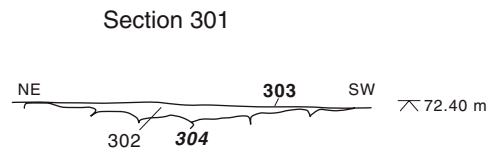
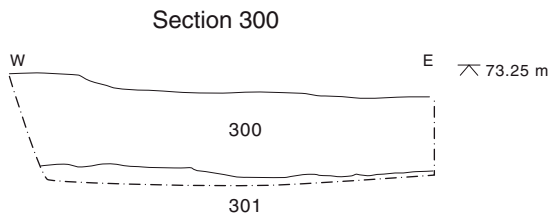
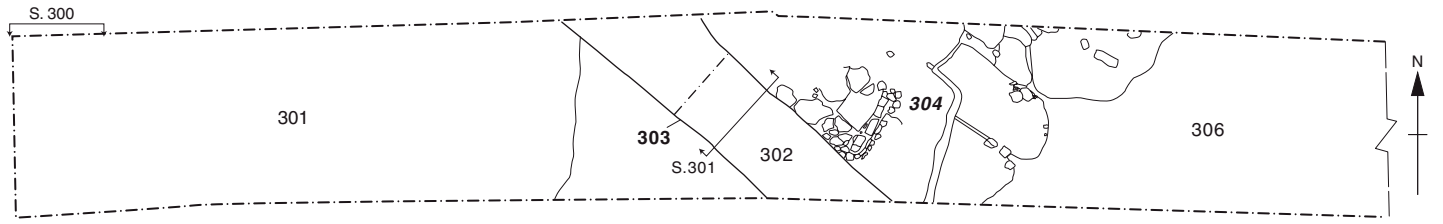


Figure 6: Trench 3, plan and sections

Trench 4  
Plan

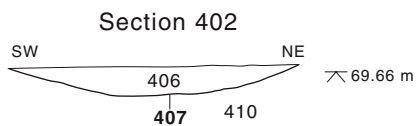
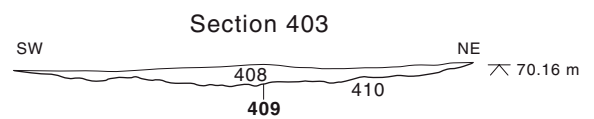
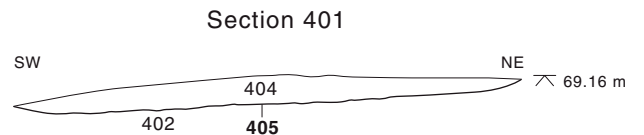
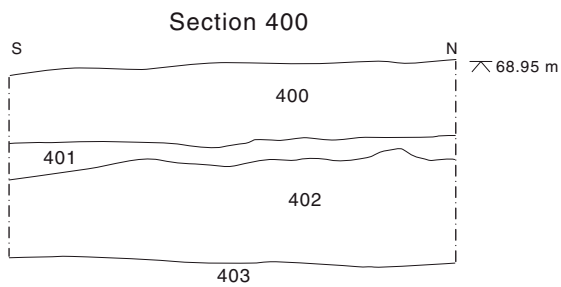
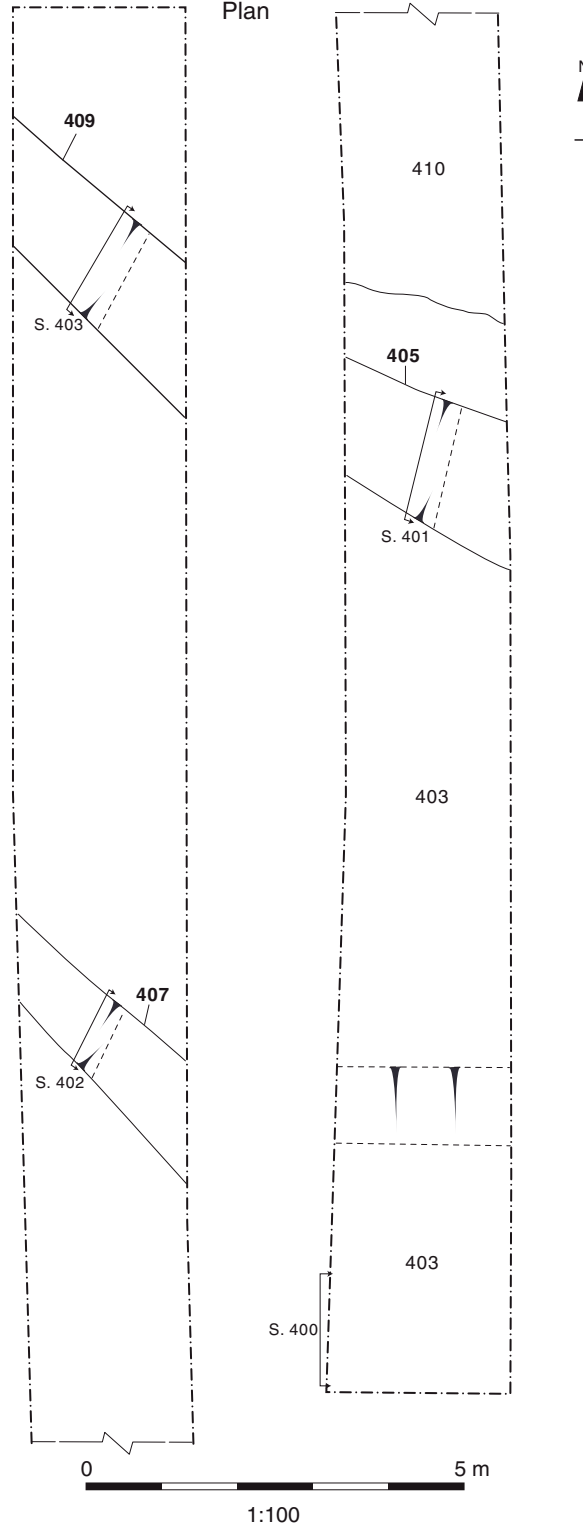


Figure 7: Trench 4, plan and sections

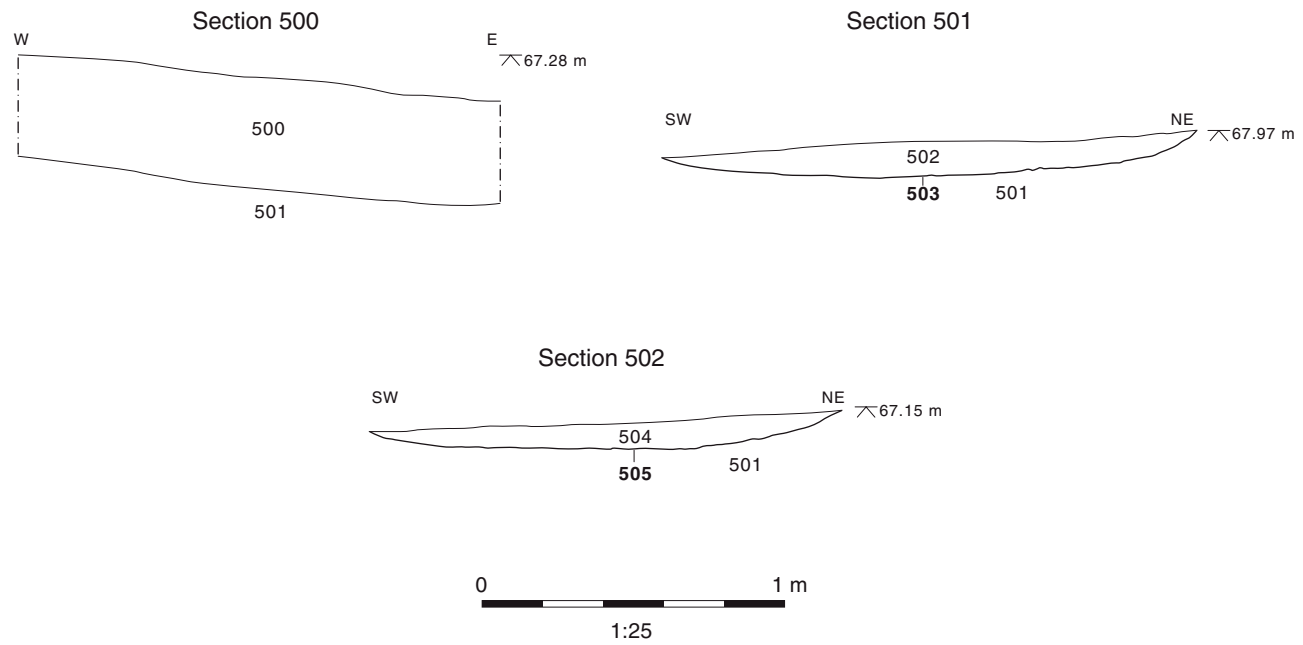
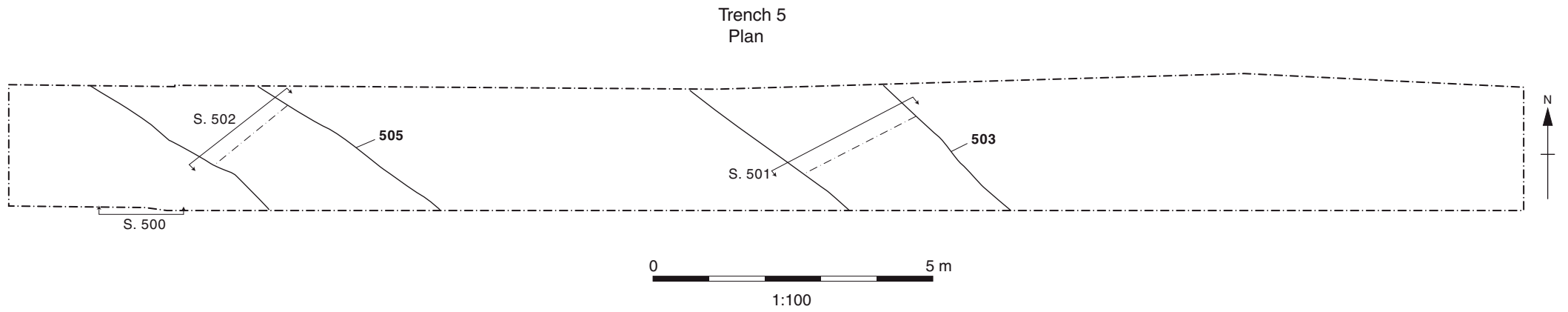


Figure 8: Trench 5, plan and sections

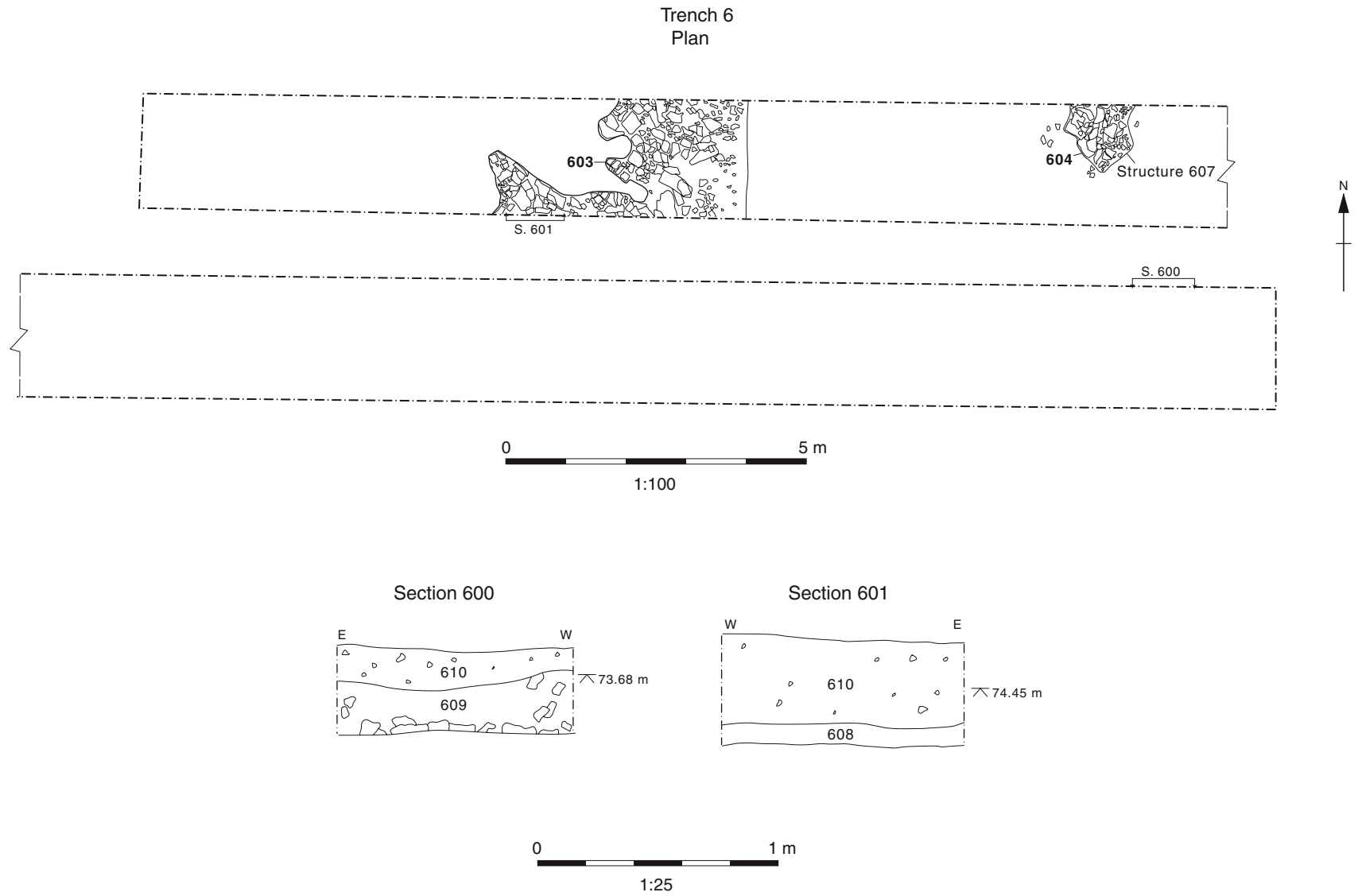


Figure 9: Trench 6, plan and sections



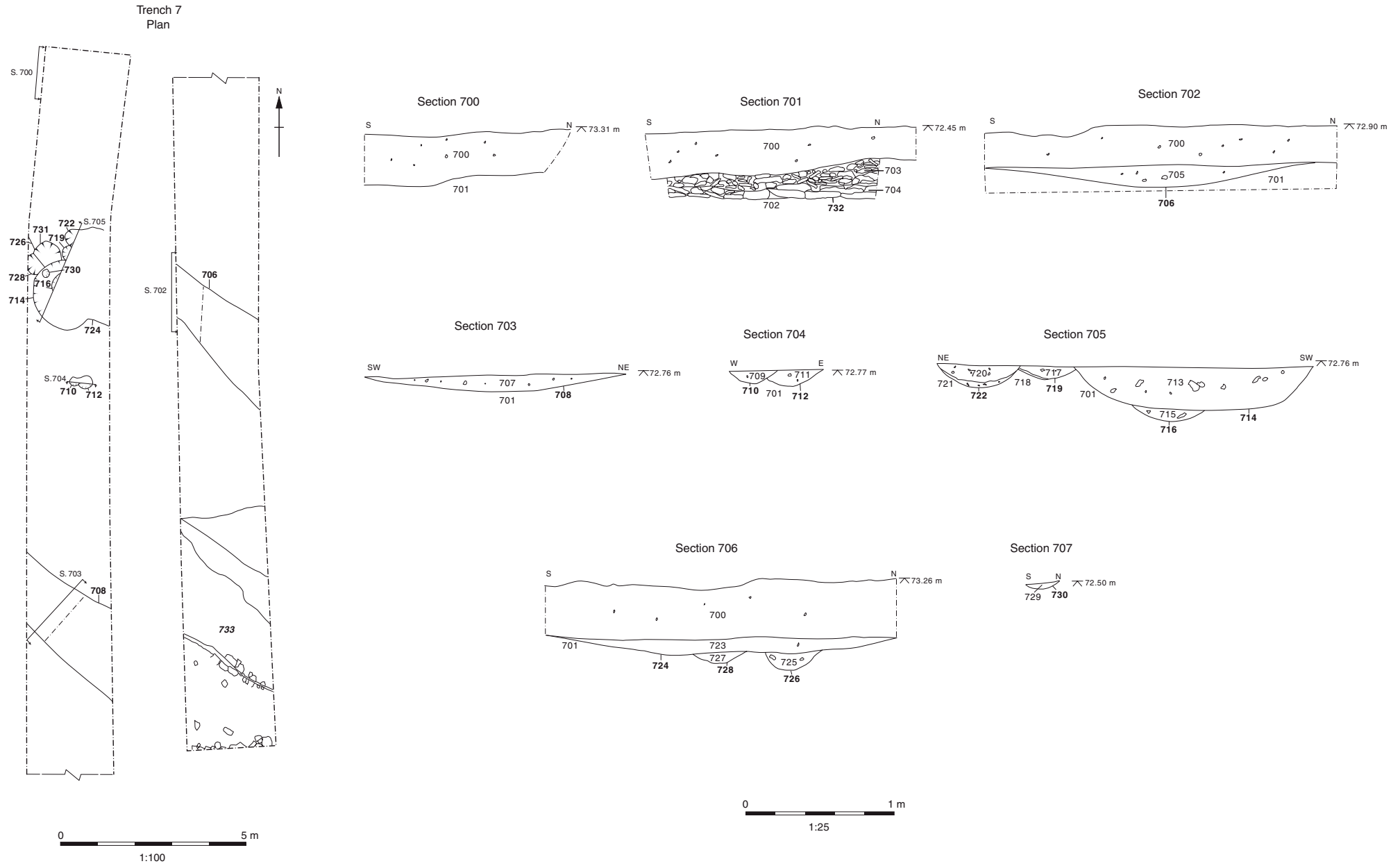


Figure 10: Trench 7, plan and sections

### Trench 8 Plan

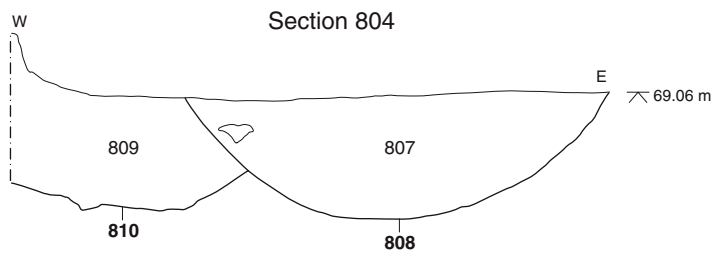
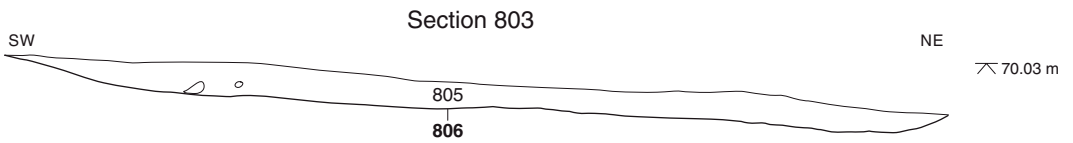
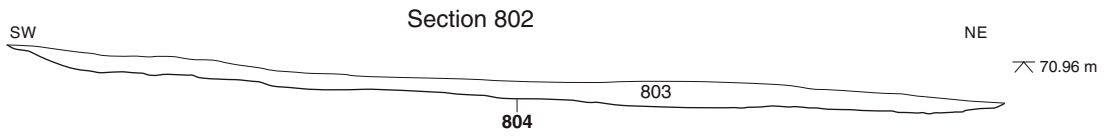
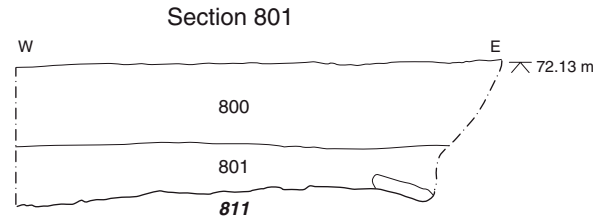
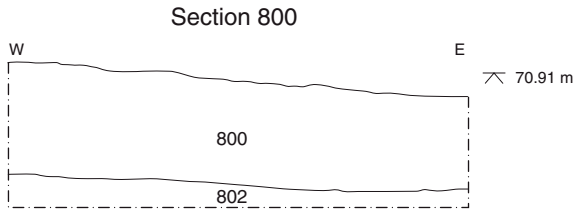
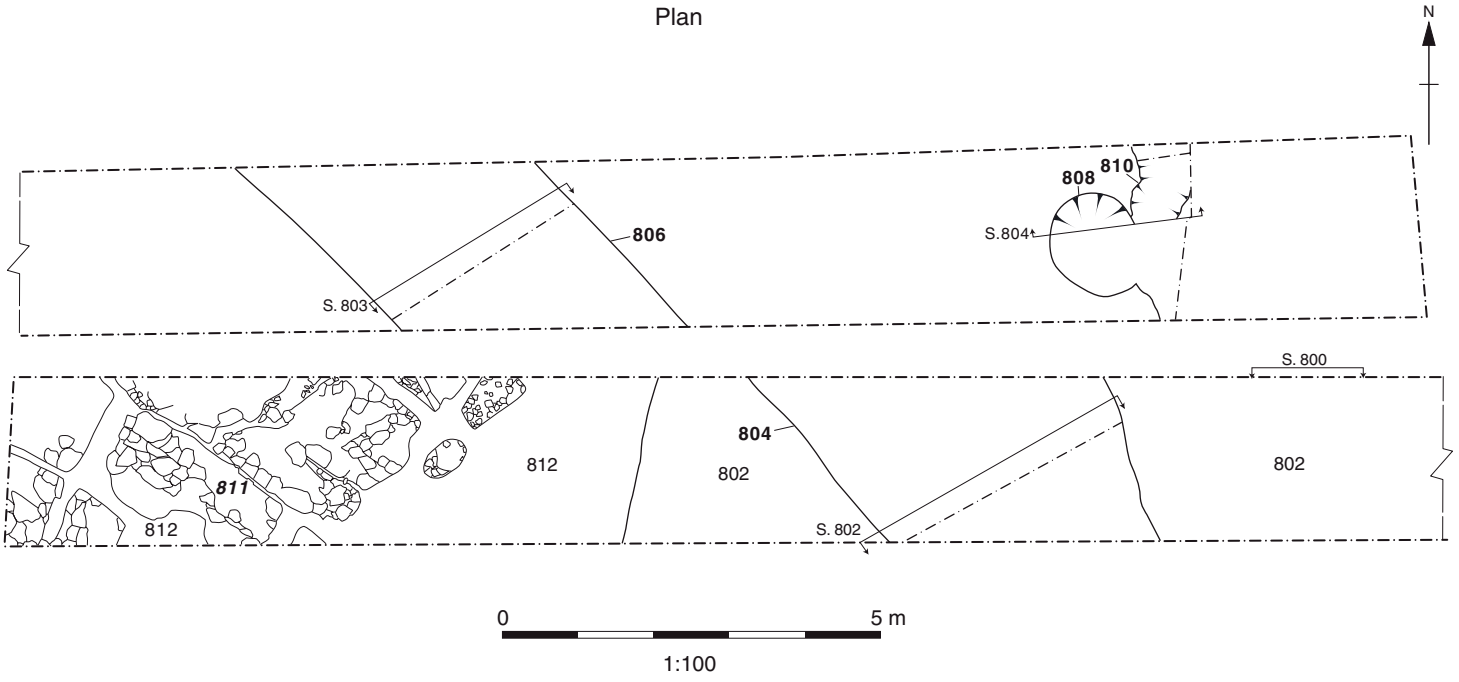
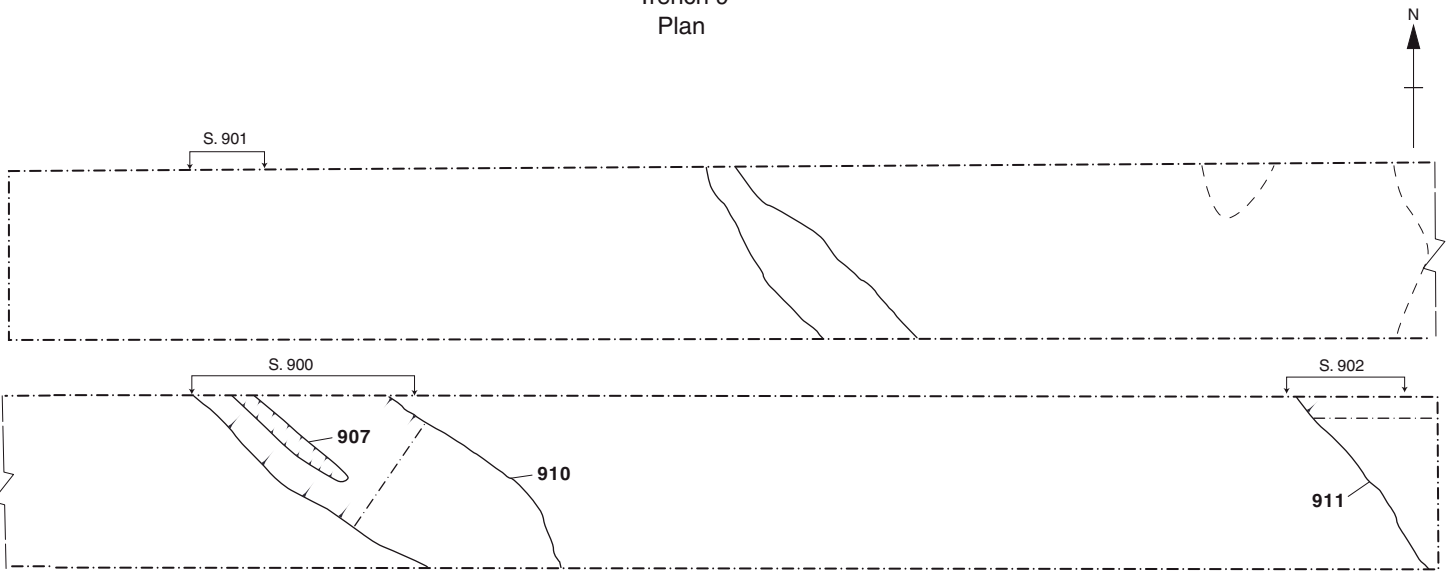
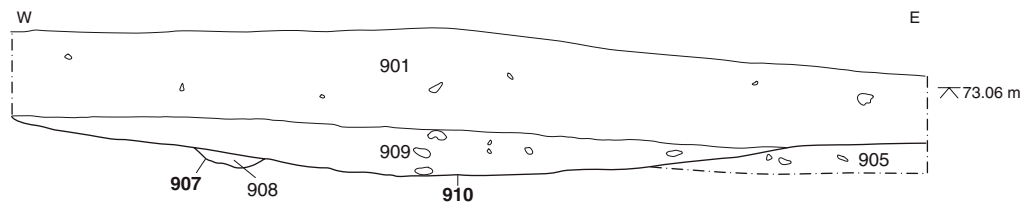


Figure 11: Trench 8, plan and sections

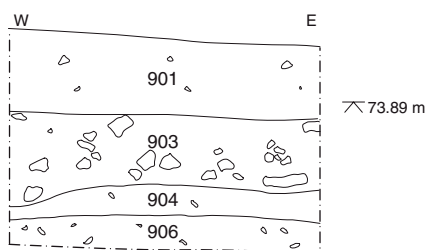
### Trench 9 Plan



### Section 900



### Section 901



### Section 902

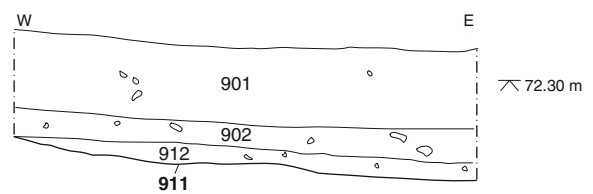


Figure 12: Trench 9, plan and sections

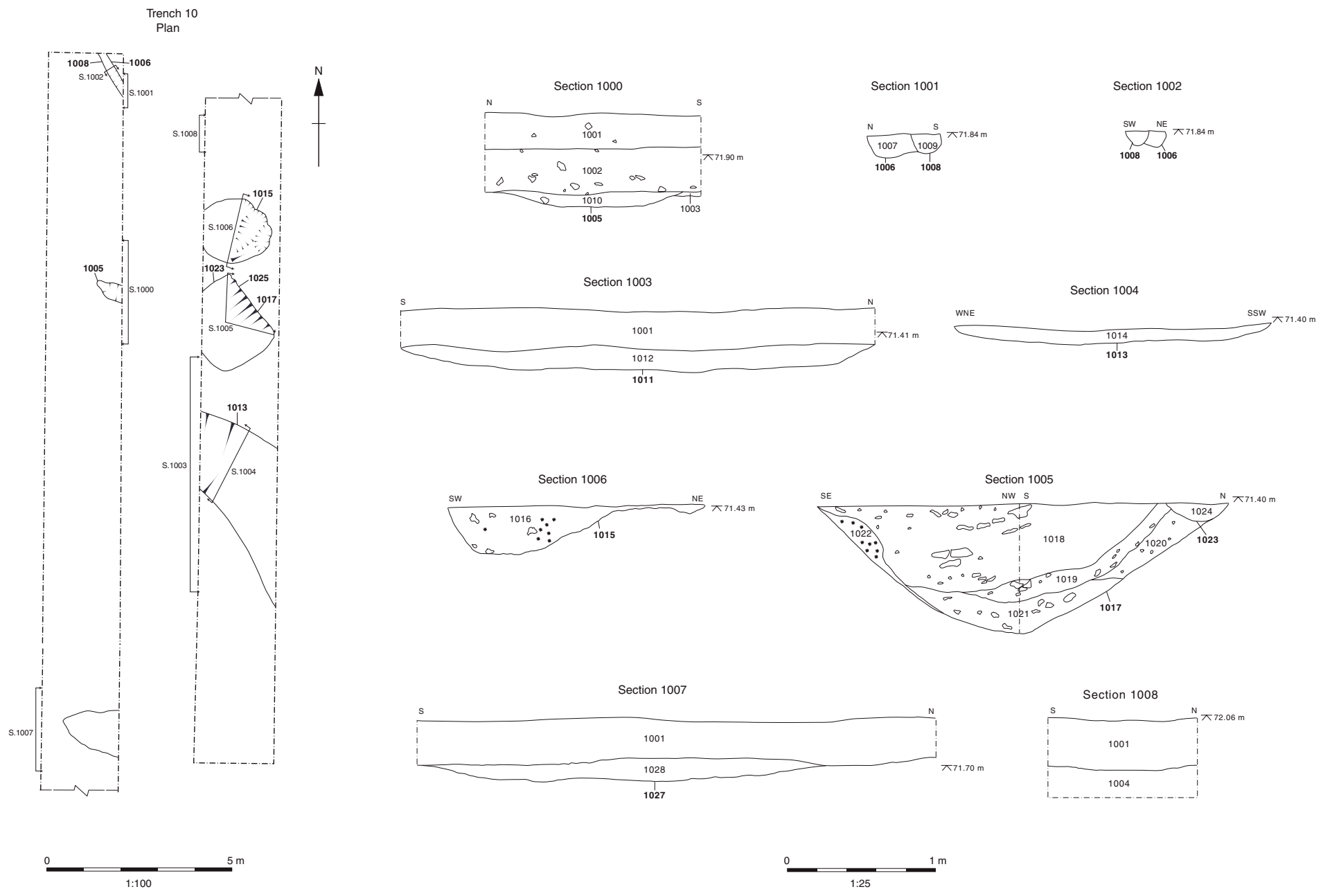


Figure 13: Trench 10, plan and sections



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