Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at the former Hammill Brickworks, Woodnesborough, near Eastry, Kent

Date: 25/04/2013

NGR 629329 155743
Site Code: HEW-EV-12
(Planning Application DOV/12/00460)

Report for
Quinn Estates Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at the former Hammill Brickworks, Woodnesborough, near Eastry, Kent

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land at the former Hammill Brickworks, near Eastry in Kent. A planning application (DOV/12/00460) for planning permission for a mixed use development comprising A) Full application for change of use and conversion of two engine sheds to six live/work units and B) Outline application for the erection of nineteen dwellings, 2352m2 of B1 (c) accommodation, construction of vehicular access, associated car parking and landscaping (existing buildings/structures to be demolished) was submitted to Dover District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.

1.2 The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of nine trenches and one test pit which encountered some archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Quinn Estates Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 21st to 29th March 2013.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The proposed development site is located at the former Hammill Brickworks, Hammill, Woodnesborough, near Eastry, Kent (NGR 629329 155743). Prior to the use of the site as a brickworks it formed part of the (aborted) Woodnesborough Colliery and a number of buildings relating to the colliery and brickwork use of the site survive. Site is bounded to the north-west by Hammill Road and to the north-east by the road to Selson, with access to the site available off both**.** According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, (1:50,000) the site has Bedrock Geology of Thanet Sand Formation, Sand, Silt and Clay with Superficial

Deposits of Clay and Silt. The site averages 20.00mOD.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The Local Planning Authority (DDC) placed the following condition on the (draft) planning consent:

> *No development (other than contamination remediation works) shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (South East Plan Policy BE6).*
>
> *Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

4.2 Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with eight trenches and one test pit (Fig. 2) designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER and itemised in the KCC Evaluation Specification.

5.2 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment by Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology 2012), an Archaeological (Historic Buildings) Desk Top Assessment by Architectural Archaeology (2012), and a Statement of Heritage Significance by Architectural Archaeology and SWAT Archaeology (2012) were produced in support of the planning application submission. The first looks at the general potential of the site for below ground archaeological remains and the second two studies consider the surviving buildings at the site and their historic significance.

5.3 The archaeological contractor should ensure that they are familiar with the results of the desk-based assessments prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The archaeological background to the site is summarised below.

5.4 The proposed development site lies within an area of Dover District that has seen only limited systematic archaeological investigation. The most extensive recent archaeological works in the area relate to the Ringlemere Barrow complex which lies some 1 km. to the north of the site in question. Here an important and complex prehistoric and later landscape has been investigated following the discovery of a gold-cup by metal-detecting in 2001. The discovery of casual Mesolithic habitation, a ditched henge enclosure of Neolithic date (later modified into a barrow in the Bronze Age), numerous other Bronze Age barrows, Romano-British field systems and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery highlight the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be present in the general vicinity of the site.

5.5 Other remains known from the area include a series of ditches, described as being of 'Belgic' date, recorded during rescue excavations associated with the extraction of clay for use at Hammill Brickworks. Other works at nearby extraction pits associated with the Brickworks have recorded evidence of Late Iron Age, Romano-British and early post-Roman occupation. A Romano-British 'ritual shaft' is also recorded as being found on land belonging to Hammill Brickworks. Chance metal-detecting finds from the fields surrounding the brickworks have recovered coins and artefacts of Iron Age, Romano-British, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval date (KCC 2013).

5.4 Further information on the above can be found in the County Historic Environment Record which is held at the Heritage Conservation Group, Environment & Waste, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2013) was:

- Identify areas where additional evaluation or mitigation would be appropriate
- Determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site

7.0 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Trial trenching was carried out on 21st-29th March with the excavation of eight trenches and one test pit trench. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All trenches measured about 30m in length and 2m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in

the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

8.0 MONITORING

Curatorial advice was available during the course of the evaluation.

9.0 RESULTS

The archaeological evaluation consisted of eight trenches, 30m in length and 2m in width. They were located throughout the proposed development site. The trenches were situated either on waste land or grassland, and adjacent to standing industrial buildings. A ninth trench, measuring 3.5m by 8m, was situated within a compound surfaced with concrete slabs.

9.1 Trench One

Trench one was located within the SW corner of the development site and was aligned NE - SW. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) exposed 1.5m of contaminated sands, mixed with brick and concrete building debris and metalwork.

9.2 Trench Two

Trench Two was located along the NW facing side of one of the 'Engine Sheds' and was aligned NE–SW. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.33m. The removal of the topsoil (200) revealed a series of industrial related deposits (201), (202) and (203) sealing the natural brick earth (204) at the SW end of the trench. This brick earth lay directly underneath the topsoil at the NE end.

9.3 Trench Three

Trench Three was located in front of a series of Nissan Huts, sat on concrete slabs. Aligned NE–SW, this trench was machined to a depth of 0.45m. The removal of the topsoil (300) at the NE end exposed a series of industrial related deposits. Underneath the concrete slab, for the Nissan Huts (304) were three layers (305), (306) and (307). These industrial deposits sealed a mid grey – brown silty clay (308), containing fragments of modern brick. This context sealed the natural geology, which at this location comprised of yellow sandy clay between lenses of mid yellow–brown gravel (303). The removal of the topsoil at the SW end exposed a layer (301) of industrial material, mostly brick, which overlay a compact mid yellow silty, sandy clay (302). Underneath this was the natural (303).

9.4 Trench Four

Trench Four was located within the SE central area of the development site, an area last used for the storage of slurry, and aligned E–W. This trench was machined to an average depth of 1.1m. The removal of the topsoil (400) revealed an extensive series of layers of industrial related material (401), (402) and (403). Context (403), an undulating horizon of grey clay containing very frequent charcoal flecks, sealed (404), a layer of re-deposited brick earth, containing clinker; and (405), a mid brown silty colluvium containing frequent small chalk pieces. The natural, orange–brown brick earth (406) was sealed by (405) and was only encountered at the western end of the trench.

9.5 Trench Five

Trench Five was located within the NW central area and aligned N–S and was excavated to an average depth of 1.1m. The topsoil comprised of a mix of fine sands and grits (500) at the north end and a compact grey clay (505) at the south end. Context (500) sealed the same compact dark grey clay (505) (labelled as (501)). This compact clay layer sealed a thin, undulating layer of dark grey clay, containing clinker (502) at the north end and a layer of compacted yellow clay (506) at the south end. Context (502) overlay a red–brown silty colluvium containing moderate chalk pieces. Context (506) sealed another layer of clay (507). The layer of colluvium (502) at the north end of the trench sealed the natural red–brown brick earth (504). The clay layer (507) at the south end sealed a layer of re-deposited brick earth (508), which in turn sealed a dark brown silty brick earth containing very occasional charcoal flecks and burnt flint (509). This context has been interpreted as the original subsoil. Underneath this context re-appeared (503), which sealed (504)–the natural brick earth.

Trench Five produced the only identifiable archaeological feature, a 2m section of a ditch [511]. This ditch had steep sloping sides, forming a roughly ‘V’-shaped profile. The ditch had a width of 1.85m and a depth of 0.75m. The primary fill (510) comprised of very compact grey–brown silty brick earth containing very frequent manganese flecks and very occasional charcoal flecks. This context also produced pottery and flint waste flakes. Overlying this primary fill was a layer of light brown silty brick earth (512). Sealing the ditch was the colluvium layer (503).

9.6 Trench Six

Trench Six was located within the NW area of the development and was aligned E–W. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m at the east end and 0.3m at the west end.
The removal of the topsoil (600) at the east end exposed a grey–brown clayey colluvial subsoil (601), which sealed a lighter grey–brown silty colluvium (602) containing moderate chalk pieces. The colluvium sealed the natural red–brown brick earth (603). The overlying

stratigraphy at the west end was truncated for the construction of an access road made up of re-deposited building debris (604). The removal of this material exposed the natural brick earth (603) directly underneath.

9.7 Trench Seven

Trench Seven was located within the NW corner of the proposed development and was aligned NW–SE. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 1.1m. Removal of the topsoil (700) at the south east end exposed a layer (701) of re-deposited industrial material, mainly brick fragments and soot. This overlay light brown silty colluvium with lenses of orange–brown brick earth (702). This was the surviving subsoil. The surviving subsoil sealed a light brown silty colluvium containing moderate chalk pieces (703). This layer also contained a background 'noise' of burnt flint. This colluvial horizon sealed the natural red–brown brick earth (704). The stratigraphy at the NW end consisted of the topsoil (700) overlying the surviving subsoil (702), which in turn sealed the colluvial horizon (703) above the natural brick earth (704).

9.8 Trench Eight

Trench Eight was also located within the NW corner of the site. The trench was aligned N – S and was excavated to an average depth of 1.2m. The removal of the topsoil (800) at the north end exposed two extensive layers (801) and (802) of industrial waste and re-deposited building debris. Underneath this was a layer of grey–brown clayey silt (803), containing occasional rounded pebbles, angular and sub-angular flints and small chalk pieces. This was the surviving subsoil and it produced very occasional burnt flint and pottery. Underneath the subsoil was a very thick layer of orange–brown silty clay (804). This contained occasional rounded pebbles, angular and sub-angular flints and small chalk pieces. This context also contained occasional burnt flint, flint waste flakes and pottery. The removal of the topsoil (800) at the south end exposed (802) and the stratigraphical sequence (803) and (804) observed at the north end. The natural orange–brown brick earth (805) was exposed at the north end via a hand excavated test pit, measuring 0.5m x 0.5m at a depth of 1.5m.

9.9 Trench Nine

Trench Nine was located in the NE corner of the site, within a concrete paved compound. The trench measured 3.5m x 8.m and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. It was aligned NW–SE. The removal of the concrete slab (900) exposed a 20mm thick band of crushed chalk (901). This overlay a layer of very compact dark green–grey clay (902). This sealed (903); the natural yellow-brown, slightly sandy, silty brick earth and lenses of gravel.

10.0 FINDS

10.1 Assessment by Nigel MacPherson-Grant

A small multi-category finds assemblage was recovered from this evaluation consisting of 4 pottery sherds weighing 41gms and 5worked flint flakes weighing 97 gms, together with a small quantity of burnt flint. The rather limited range of finds recorded indicates phases of at least a dual-phase activity in the area evaluated.

10. 2 Period-based summary

Later Prehistoric

The prehistoric flint-tempered pottery from *Contexts 510, 512* and *804* is rather crudely tempered and worn – and is certainly residual in *804* if not both contexts. That from *510* could equally well be Earlier (Early-Middle Neolithic) or Later Prehistoric (preferably Middle Bronze Age), the other from *804* more certainly broadly allocatable to the Mid Bronze-Earliest Iron Ages. The poor knapping quality within the lithic assemblage recovered strongly suggests, together with the re-worked and un-patinated elements, a Later Prehistoric date. Crude flaking techniques are a recognised characteristic of this general period and, together with the available ceramic data, there is a fairly strong possibility that both the pottery and flints belong to the same phase of activity. On the bass of the recovered data, there is an initial preference to date this phase to the Mid or Mid-Late Bronze Age, **c.1550-1150 BC.**

Early Medieval

One obvious context, *804*, produced later post-Prehistoric material consisting of two Early Medieval Canterbury sandy ware sherds, both fairly fresh – and almost certainly from a contemporary context. Taking into account likely manufacture dates and usage-time, a date between **c.1175-1150 AD** is likely for this phase of activity.

Context dating:

10.3 - Excavated contexts:

Context: 512

2 worked flints (weight : 31gms) – 1 small re-worked flake, 1 large re-worked part-nodule
5 fragments burnt flint (weight : 48gms) – fairly small-medium sized, white or light grey
Comment : Flints – Small flake re-worked from an earlier previously worked pale blue patinated element as a ‘core’ for later flaking, later secondary re-use unpatinated dark grey flint, one corner with minor scarring from use as a short-term edge scraper. Larger fragment again reusing a previously worked white blue patinated element from a fairly large land-sourced semi-cortical nodule of flawed glauconitic flint, secondary flaking unpatinated with both fresh thermal and intentional flaking from use as a crude core.
Likely date : Uncertain – if not residual, possibly Later Prehistoric

Context: 510 - 1 sherd (weight : 11gms)
1 EP or LP flint-tempered ware (no real preference, c.4000-2850 or c.1550-1350 BC)
and :
2 worked flints (weight : 58gms) – medium-sized semi-cortical flakes
1 fragment burnt flint (weight : 82gms) – medium-sized pale grey fired nodule of glauconitic flint
Comment : **Pottery** – moderate-sized, split and heavily worn bodysherd, although fracture face less weathered than original exterior surface. **Flint** – 1 end-nodule flake from land-sourced grey-skinned nodule, un-patinated black flint, crude, one edge narrow-notched from use as a wood/bone trimming scraper, opposing edge possibly used as a short-term side-end scraper. Second element crude possible core-rejuvenation flake from a land-sourced nodule with remnant frost-fracture 'pot-lidding', un-patinated black flint, one edge-corner possibly trimmed for use as a crude borer.
Likely date : Uncertain – if not residual, possibly Later Prehistoric

Context: 804 - 3 sherds (weight : 30gms)
1 EP or LP flint-tempered ware (slight preference MBA>EIA c.1550-600 BC)
2 EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1050-1150 AD range)
and :
1 worked flint (weight : 8gms) – fairly small semi-cortical flake
2 fragments burnt flint (weight : 41gms) – fairly small, burnt pale grey
Comment : **Pottery** – Prehistoric element is moderate-sized but fairly worn overall, with rounded edges – and should be residual in-context. EM sherds are fairly small body and base elements, one near-fresh, one slightly worn and probably from an undisturbed contemporary context.
Flint – From a glauconitic nodule, crude un-patinated triangular pointed flske, one edge with both deliberate finger-grip blunting near to percussion end and adjacent 'saw-tooth' serrating for use as small crude saw.
Likely date : Late eleventh or earlier twelfth century AD

RECOMMENDATIONS
No material warranting a separate lithic or ceramic report was recovered during this of work.

11.0 DISCUSSION

11.1 The results of the excavation of the eight evaluation trenches revealed that extensive truncation of the landscape within (and around the outer perimeter) of the proposed

development has taken place. However, one ditch of Later Prehistoric date was revealed in Trench 5 (512) and Trench 8 produced both Prehistoric and Medieval pottery in the same context (804).

11.2 The evaluation trenches were all contaminated. Trenches One, Three, Four, Eight and Nine were extremely contaminated by industrial waste and / or re-deposited building debris (55%). The remaining 45% (trenches Two, Five, Six and Seven) were partially contaminated with the same materials described above.

11.3 The natural geology was observed in all but one trench (Trench Eight) and the natural varied, due to its nature and the severity of the truncation, from brick earth to outcrops of gravel.

11.4 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Limited archaeological activity was found during the evaluation which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

12.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The impact of the proposed development on areas of the site including the vicinity of Trench 5 has as yet to be assessed.

13.00 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Quinn Estates Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

James Madden supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Simon Holmes. Illustrations were produced by James Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

14.00 REFERENCES

Bibliography

Kent County Council (KCC), (2013) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at the former Hammill Brickworks, Woodnesborough, near Eastry, Kent.*

Wilkinson P. *A Desk-based Assessment Hammill Brickworks, Eastry, Kent.*
Unpublished document. 2012

Samuel M. *Statement of Heritage Significance, Hammill Brickworks, Eastry*, *Kent.*
Unpublished document 2012

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2011) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

Maps

Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawings 1798
Ordnance Survey1st Edition (1871-1890)
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1897-1900)
Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)
Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

Kent Landscape Information System http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm
Exploring Kent's Past http://www.extranet7.krnt.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/

Plate 1. View of Trench 1 looking south, 1m scale

Plate 2. Trench 1 section looking north-west. 1m scale

Plate 3. Trench 2 section looking south-east. 1m scale

Plate 4. Trench 2 looking south-west. 1m scale

Plate 5. Trench 2 section looking south-east. 1m scale

Plate 6. Trench 3 section looking south-east. !m scale

Plate 7. Trench 3 looking south-west. 1m scale

Plate 8. Trench 4 section looking north. 1m scale

Plate 9. Trench section through ditch [510] looking east. 1m scale

Plate 10. Trench 5 looking south. 1m scale

Plate 11. Trench 5 context [510] looking west. 1m scale

Plate 12. Trench 6 looking north-west. 1m scale

Plate 13. Trench 6 section looking north. 1m scale

Plate 14. Trench 7 section looking east. 1m scale

Plate 15. Trench 8 looking south. 1m scale

Plate 16. Trench 8 sondage looking north. 1m scale

Plate 17. Trench 8 section looking east. 1m scale

Plate 18. Trench 9 section looking north-east. 1m scale

Plate 19. Trench 9 looking south. 1m scale

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: *Hammill Brickworks, Woodnesborough, near Eastry, Kent* **SWAT Site Code:** *HEW/EV/13*	
Site Address: *As above*	
Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Hammill Brickworks, Kent. A planning application (DOV/12/00460) for the construction of dwellings and live/work units along with associated car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.* *The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of nine trenches which encountered a medieval archaeological feature; a sherd of prehistoric pottery and worked lithics were also retrieved.*	
District/Unitary: *Dover*	**Parish:**
Period(s): **Tentative:**	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): **(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):** *NGR 629329 155743*	
Type of archaeological work (delete) *Evaluation*	
Date of Recording: *March 2013*	
Unit undertaking recording: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)*	
Geology: *Head Brick earth*	
Title and author of accompanying report: *Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at Hammill Brickworks, Woodnesborough, Kent*	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) *As above* **(cont. on attached sheet)**	
Location of archive/finds: *SWAT*	
Contact at Unit: *Paul Wilkinson*	**Date:***17/04/2013*

N

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1:100,000@A3

0m 10km

Figure 1: Location of Site

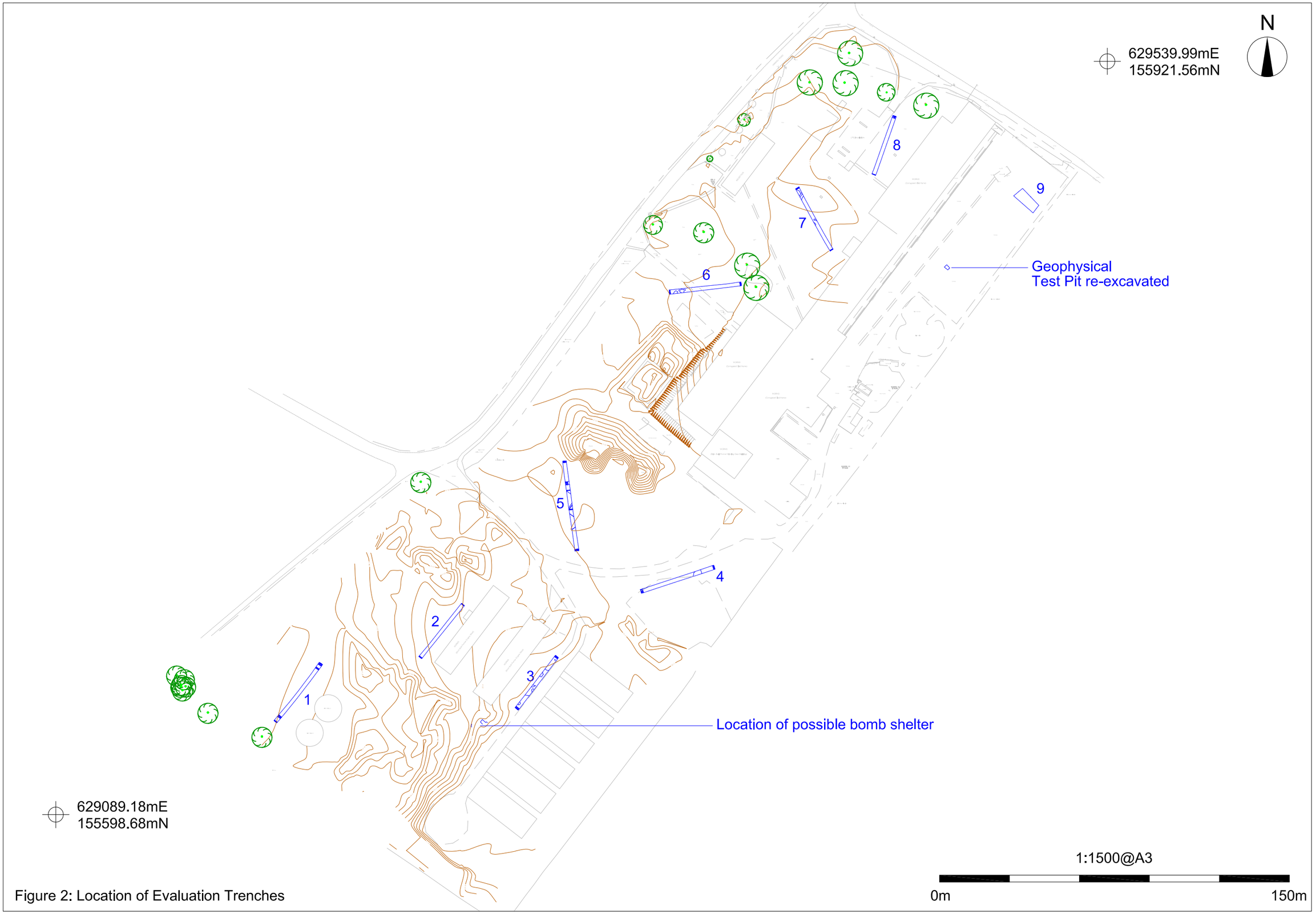

Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

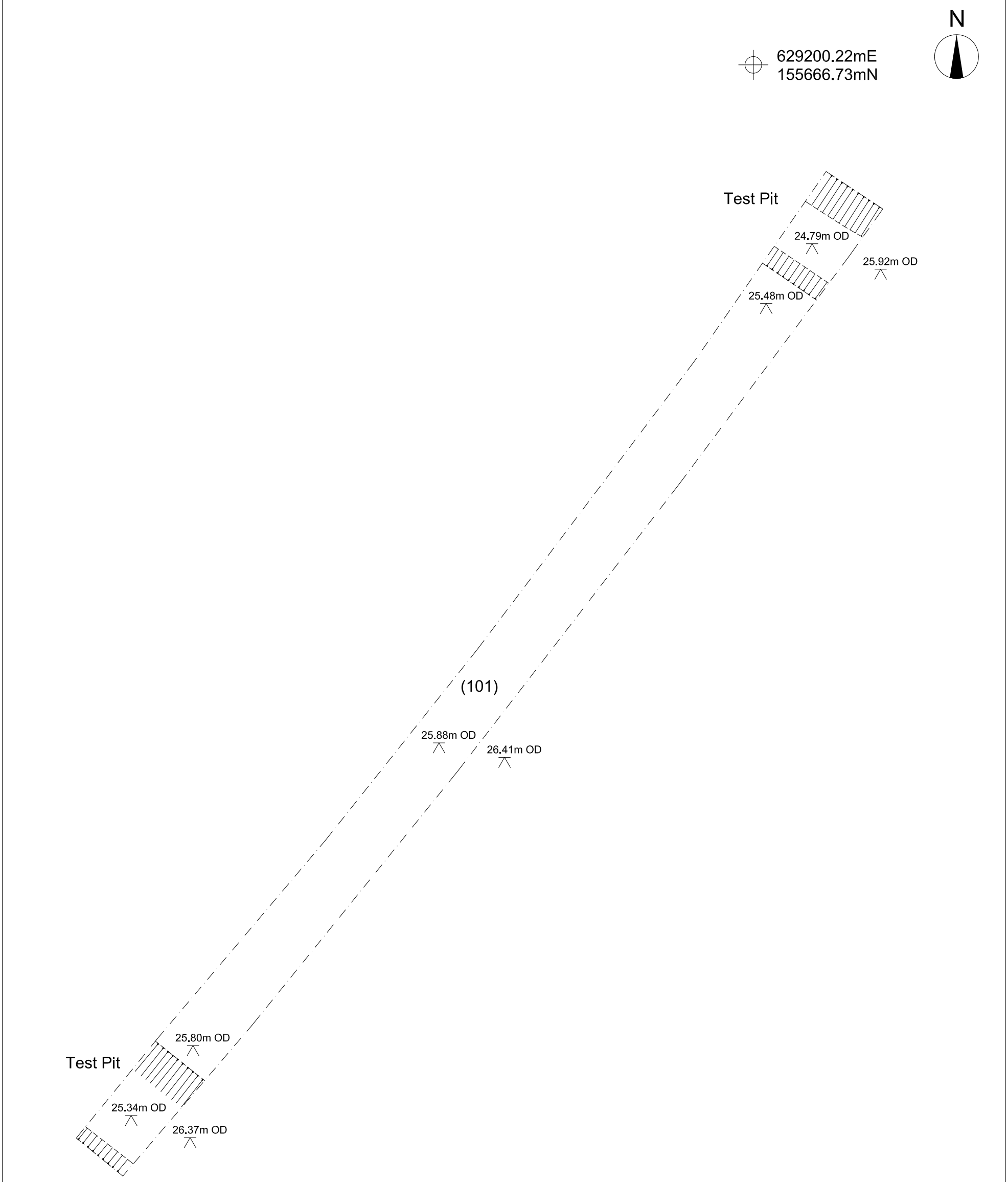

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1

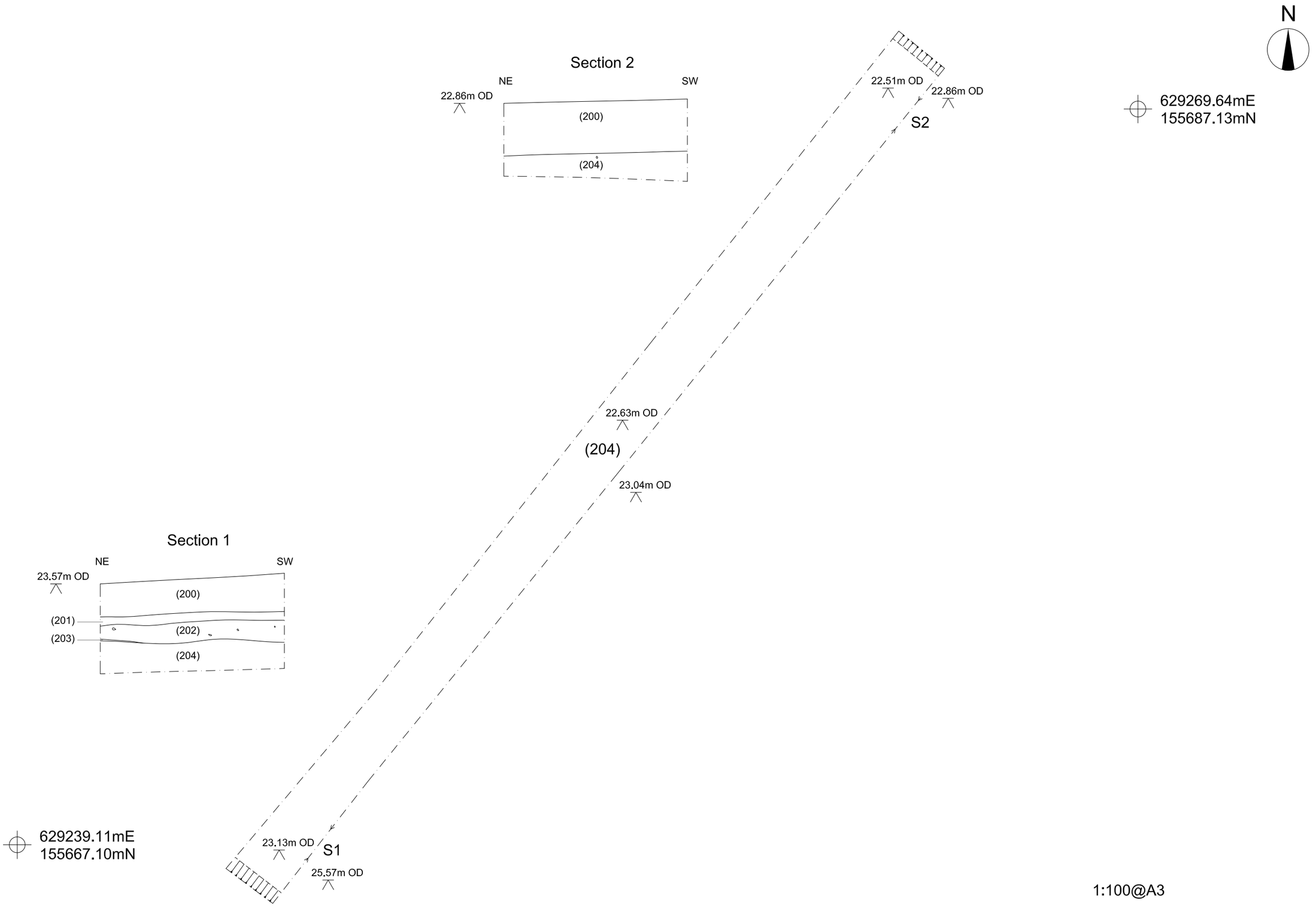

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

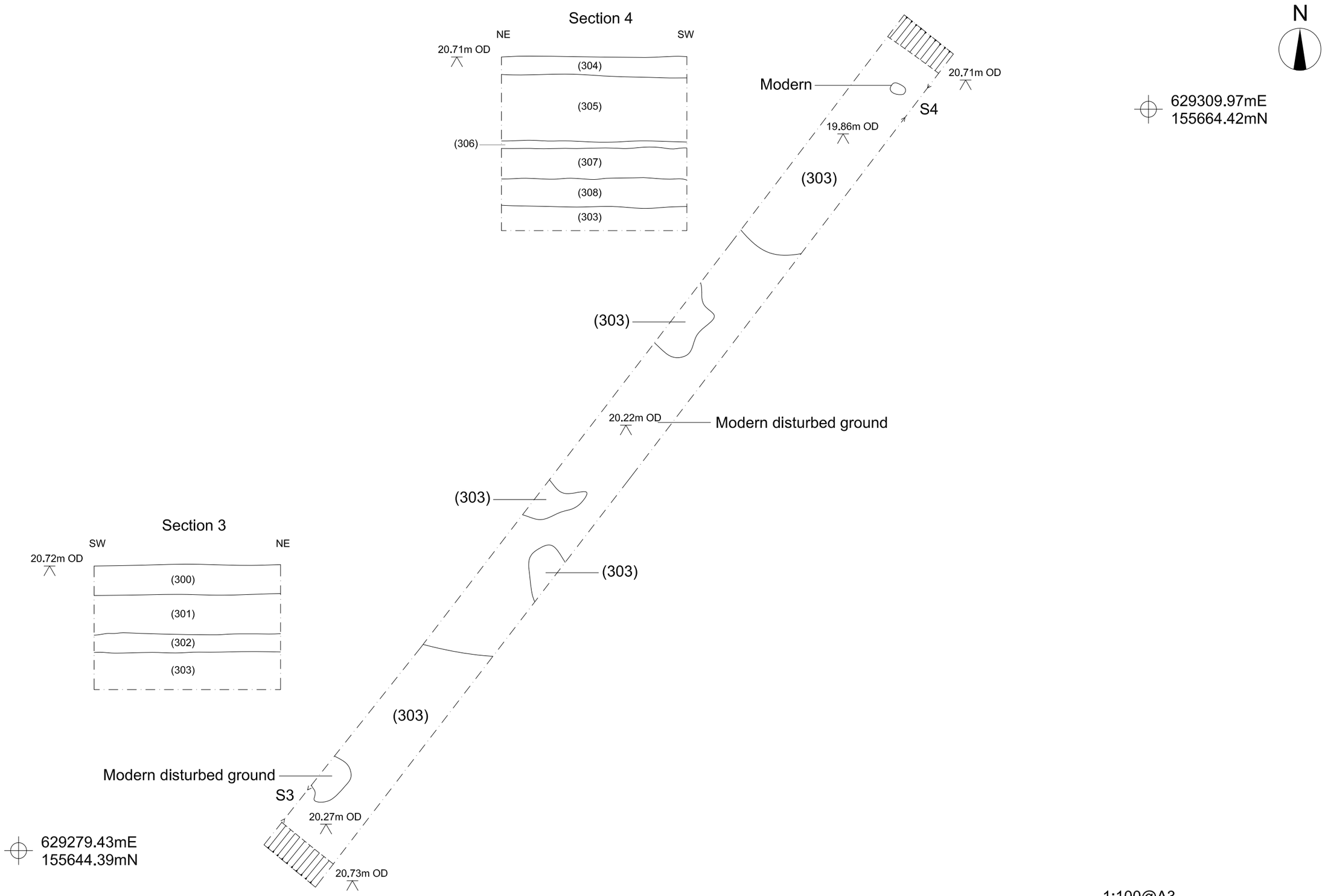

Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

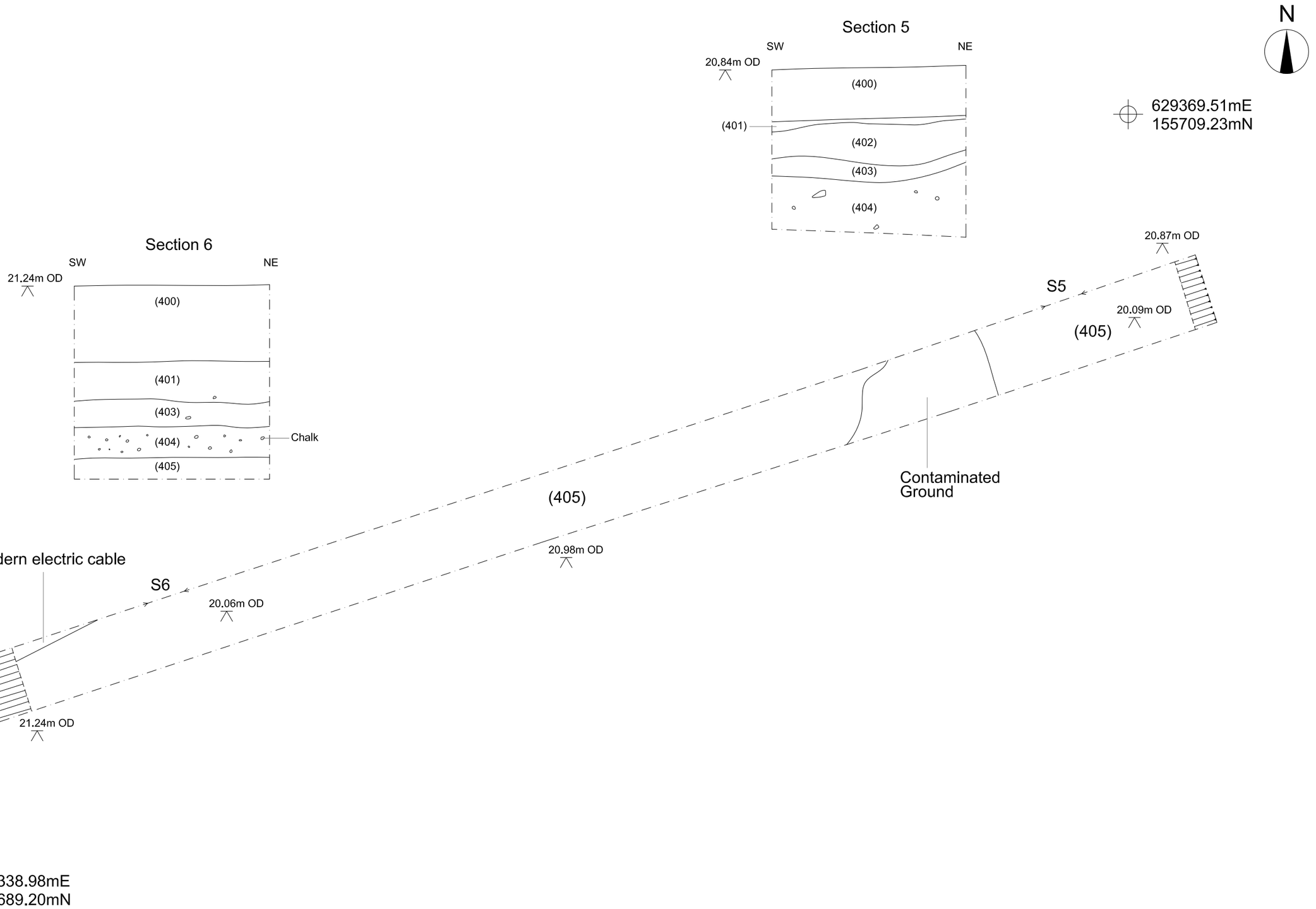

Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

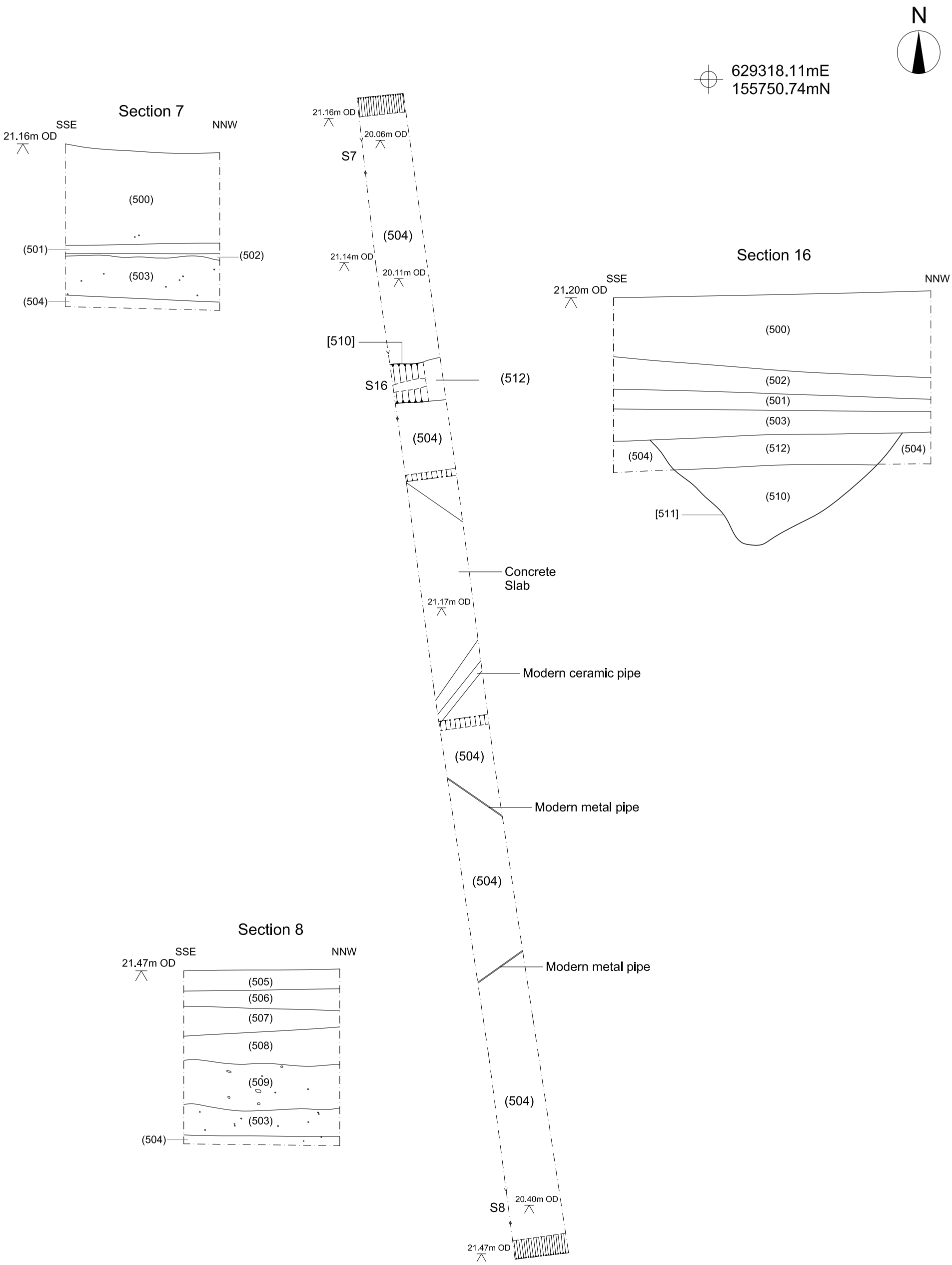

Figure 7: Plan of Trench 5 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

N

629380.70mE
155833.61mN

Section 10

WSW ENE

18.64m OD

(604)

(603)

S9

17.78m OD

18.28m OD

19.00m OD

S10

(603) 17.70m OD

18.30m OD

18.34m OD

Modern Tarmac

Modern Tarmac

Section 9

WSW ENE

18.40m OD

(600)

(601)

(602)

(603)

629350.17mE
155813.58mN

1:100@A3

0m 10m

Figure 8: Plan of Trench 6 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

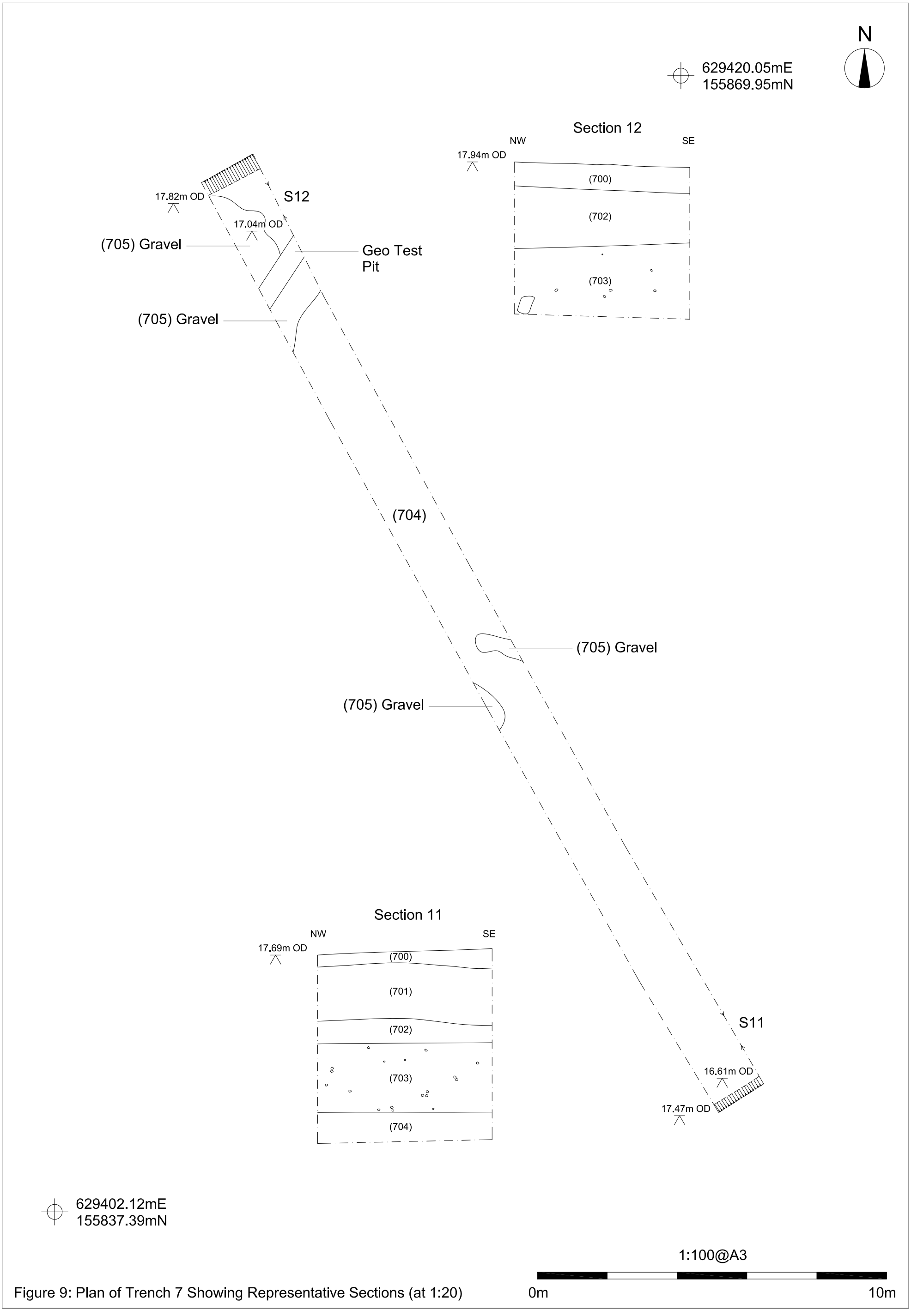

Figure 9: Plan of Trench 7 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

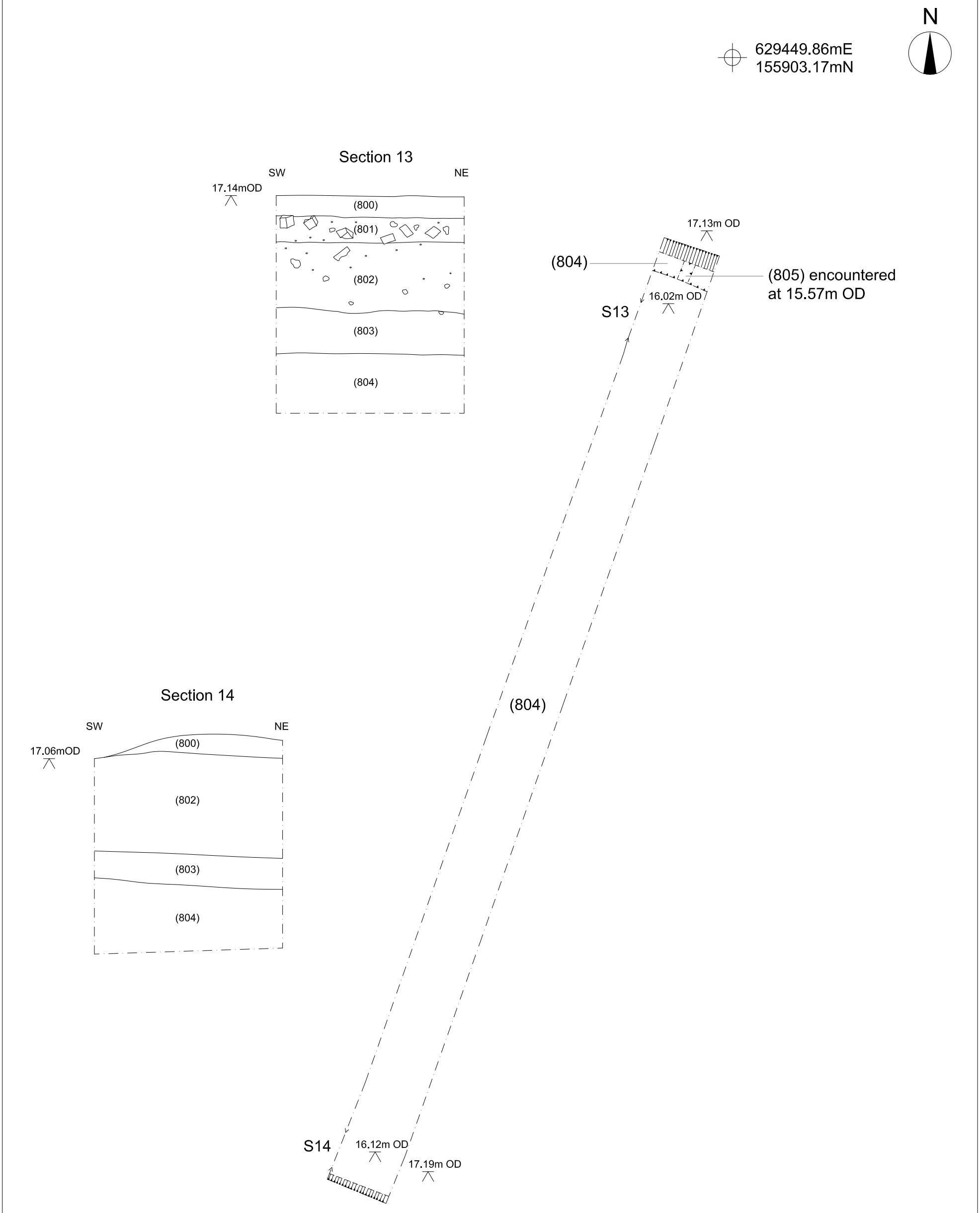

Figure 10: Plan of Trench 8 Showing Representative Sections (at 1:20)

629512.84mE
155878.15mN

N

Section 15

NW SE

17.69m OD

(900)

(901)

(902)

(903)

17.69m OD

17.19m OD

S15

(903)

629494.91mE
155845.60mN

1:100@A3

0m 10m

Figure 11: Plan of Trench 9 Showing Representative Section (at 1:20)

N

629477.97mE
155848.71mN

629460.04mE
155816.16mN

1:100@A3

0m 10m

Figure 12: Plan Showing Location of Geophysical Test Pit