

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Goffs Park, Crawley, West Sussex



NGR: 526000 136100

Site Code: GOF/EV/16

(Planning Application pending)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Goffs Park, Crawley in West Sussex. Because of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of National Planning Policy 2012 and the Crawley Borough Council Local Plan (2000), Crawley Borough Council intended to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site as a exploratory exercise in advance of the planning application. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification and Sussex Archaeological Standards) and in discussion with the Archaeological Advisor to Crawley Borough Council. The results of the excavation of the 10 evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1). The natural geology of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone was reached at an average depth of between 0.28m and 0.30m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Crawley Borough Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Advisor to Crawley Borough Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 21st to 22nd September 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is located in the town and borough of Crawley. The A23 is to the west of the site and the Old Horsham Road forms the southern boundary. Goffs Park surrounds the site to the north and east which was formally a nursery.

The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone, The Superficial Geology is not recorded (BGS 2016).

4. Planning Background

Crawley Borough Council are currently making preparations for the development of land at Goffs Park, Crawley in West Sussex (NGR 526000 136100). A planning application for the proposed development is pending.

Because of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of National Planning Policy 2012 and the Crawley Borough Council Local Plan (2000), Crawley Borough Council intend to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site as a exploratory exercise in advance of the planning application. The archaeological works are to be monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to Crawley Borough Council.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The application site is adjacent to an archaeological notification area (DWS8651) of 4.61 Ha and thought to be the site of an Iron Age settlement and (DWS8654) of 16.13 Ha, the location of a Roman Ironworking site. Despite these archaeological surroundings several archaeological assessments have proved unsuccessful.

In 1970 the excavation of two ditches (MWS678) produced pottery from 250-30BC and two sub circular cuts (MWS6909) revealed unstratified medieval pottery.

In 2004 an excavation (EWS1094) uncovered modern barns or sheds and unstratified Iron Age/Roman pottery and slag.

In 2006 a Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey (MWS7990) produced results that could be interpreted as ditches, but an excavation of eight trenches revealed no archaeological features.

In 2009 an evaluation (EWS1542) of ten trenches again revealed no archaeological features.

6. Aims and Objectives

According the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

- 2.5 The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.

- 2.6 To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation of any features exposed.

- 2.7 To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.8 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. Specific research questions that may be answered are to include the origins of the adjacent prehistoric ditches and is there any evidence for medieval farmstead activity on the site? In general the work is to inform decision making on a future/pending planning application and to publish the results either on-line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of 10 trenches within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 4.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the SWAT 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 Sussex Archaeological Standards, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the 10 trenches (Figure 1).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1, 2, 3). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**103**) was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.20m OD) below the present ground surface at 90.50m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a layer of concrete crush (**102**) 0.13m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil (**101**) 0.10m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean.

Trench 2

9.2 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 4, 5). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 24m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(203)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.20m OD) below the present ground surface at 90.50m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a layer of concrete crush **(202)** 0.20m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(201)** 0.07m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean.

Trench 3

9.3 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 2 (see also Plates 6, 7, 8, 9). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(303)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.70m OD) below the present ground surface at 91.00m OD at mid-trench. Cut into the natural was a modern foundation trench **[303]** infilled with gravel and concrete pieces and about 36cm wide. Above this was a layer of concrete crush **(301)** 0.18m thick topped by a thin layer of sand and earth.

Trench 4

9.4 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 3. (see also Plate 11) The trench lay on an SSE to NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(402)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.20m (90.80m OD) below the present ground surface at 91.00m OD at mid-trench. Cut into the natural were three modern features, two modern rubbish dumps **[407], (406), (408)** and a modern foundation trench **[403]** 23cm wide and filled with gravel and crushed concrete **(404)**. The natural geology **(405)** was sealed by a layer of gravel and cement crush mix 0.20m thick.

Trench 5

9.5 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 4 (see also Plates 12-15). The trench lay on an ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(502)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.70m OD) below the present ground surface at 91.00m OD at mid-trench. Cut into the natural were three modern features, two dumps **[503], [505]** of broken concrete paving slabs, bricks and concrete lumps **(504), (505)** and to the west a modern foundation **[507]** trench 57cm wide infilled with Type 2 mixed with clay and modern clay tile fragments (508). The natural geology was sealed by a layer of concrete crush.

Trench 6

9.6 The plan is recorded in Figures 1, 5 (see also Plates 16, 17, 18). The trench lay on a NNW to SSE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(602)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.70m OD) below the present ground surface at 91.00m OD at mid-trench. Cut into the natural were two features, to the south a modern rubbish dump **[603]** infilled with cement block fragments and broken roofing tiles **(604)** and to the north to parallel runs of planking on edge **[604]**, **[605]** presumably a modern pathway. The natural geology was sealed by a 11cm thick layer of concrete crush overlaid by a 9cm layer of bright orange crushed brick.

Trench 7

9.7 The plan is recorded in Figures 1, 6 (see also Plates 19-23). The trench lay on a WSW to ENE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(702)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.70m OD) below the present ground surface at 91.00m OD at mid-trench. Cutting into the natural geology were six features, to the west a modern manhole and cover and adjacent concrete post. Mid trench a drainage channel **[703]** filled with clinker **(704)** and about 31cm wide. To the east another drainage channel **[705]** infilled with clinker **(706)** and 31cm wide and exposed at the south end an in situ an earthenware pipe. Adjacent another modern rubbish dump **[707]** filled with concrete crush and broken paving stones **(708)**. The natural geology was sealed by gravel mixed with lumps of concrete.

Trench 8

9.8 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and 7 (see also Plates 24-28). The trench lay on an NNW to SSE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(802)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.32m (90.38m OD) below the present ground surface at 90.70m OD at mid-trench. Cut into the natural geology were four modern features. To the south a modern dump **[803]** of broken frogged bricks. Mid trench a disturbed area of a tree bole and to the north two modern pits **[805]** and **[807]** both infilled with broken paving slabs and broken bricks **(806)** and pea gravel containing a blue plastic pipe **(808)**. The natural geology was sealed by a layer of mixed soil, gravel and concrete pieces.

Trench 9

9.9 The plan is recorded in Figures 1, 8 (see also Plates 29-33). The trench lay on a WSW to ENE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(902)** was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.60m OD) below the present ground surface at 90.90m OD

at mid-trench. Cutting into the natural geology were four features. To the west an area of extremely bright orange crushed brick butting up to a concrete foundation [904], To the east an area of extremely wet clay with modern tree branches (905) laid into the mud and further to the east a concrete post pad [906]. The natural geology was sealed by a layer of broken concrete and gravel mix.

Trench 10

9.10 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 9. (see also Plates 34-38) The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 24m by 1.90m.

Undisturbed natural geology (1001) was identified across the trench as Wealden Clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (90.60m OD) below the present ground surface at 90.90m OD at mid-trench. Cutting into the natural geology were three features. To the west a large modern rubbish pit [1002] infilled with dumped building debris (1003). Mid trench a 30cm diameter possible post hole [1004] infilled with modern bright yellow sand (1005). To the east the remains of a roadway [1000] comprising timber edging, and layers of geotex fabric, sand, concrete and brick crush topped by cinders. Above this a mix of very wet topsoil and peat.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from any of the 10 trenches.

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site is heavily disturbed has been used as a modern dump and/or lorry and car parking. All trenches showed a typical sequence of dumped modern material and natural geology of Weald Clay Formation.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of a dumped layer of crushed brick and gravel (101) which overlay the natural geology (103). Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Crawley Borough Council for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Juliet Whittall Engineer, Waterman Infrastructure & Environment and to Alexandra Egginton Archaeological Officer and Christopher Hudson Contracts Manager, both at Crawley Borough Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by John Madden. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson 11/10/2016

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Goffs Park, Crawley, West Sussex*

Sussex Archaeological Standards

West Sussex County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Goffs Park, Crawley

SWAT Site Code: GOF/EV/16

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the Proposed development site above. Crawley Borough Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Crawley Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 526000 136100

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: August 2016

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

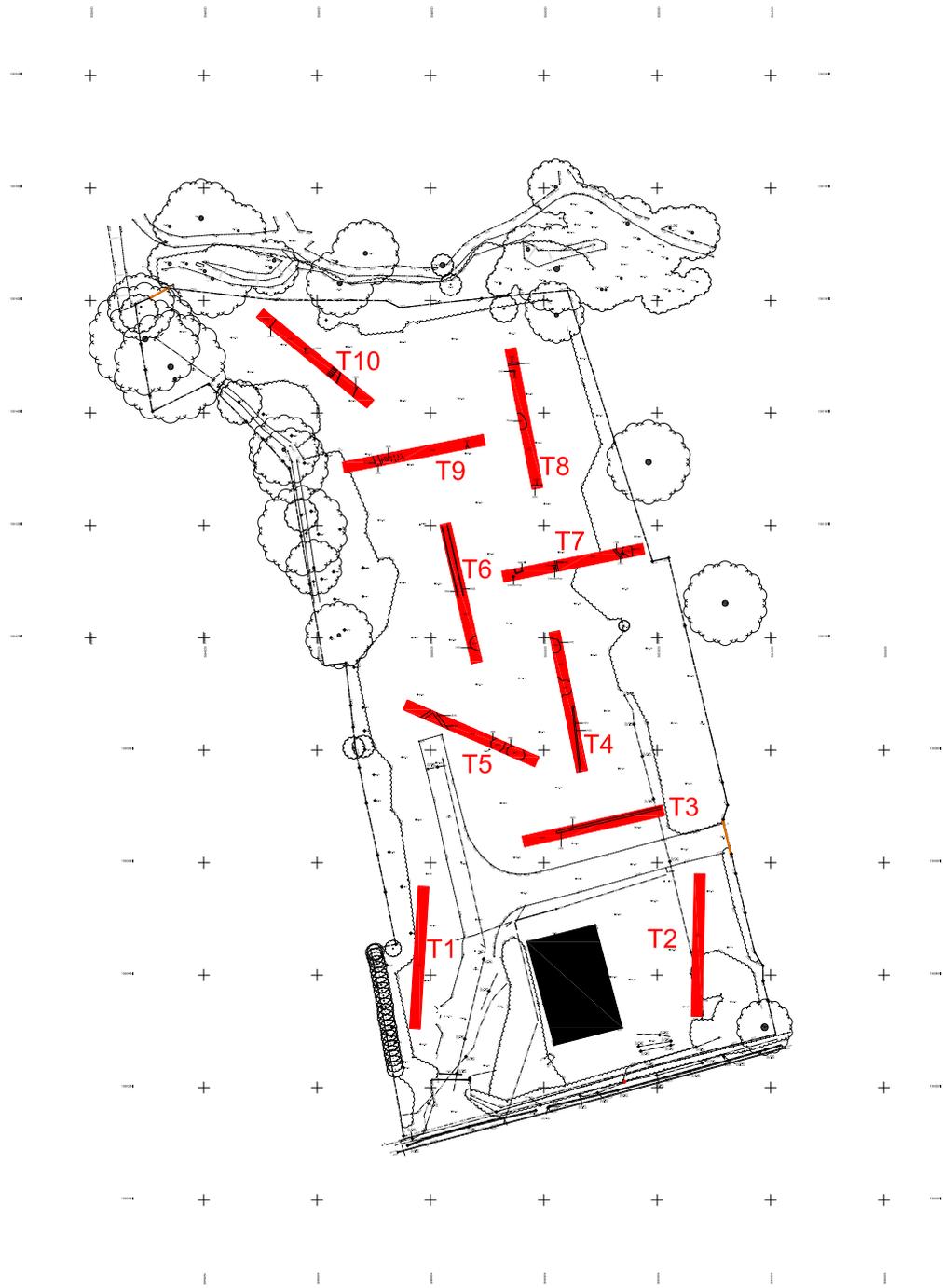
Geology: Underlying geology is Wield Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Goffs Park, Crawley, West Sussex

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No archaeology found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP



1:1250@A4

0m

100m

Figure 1: Location of Evaluation Trenches

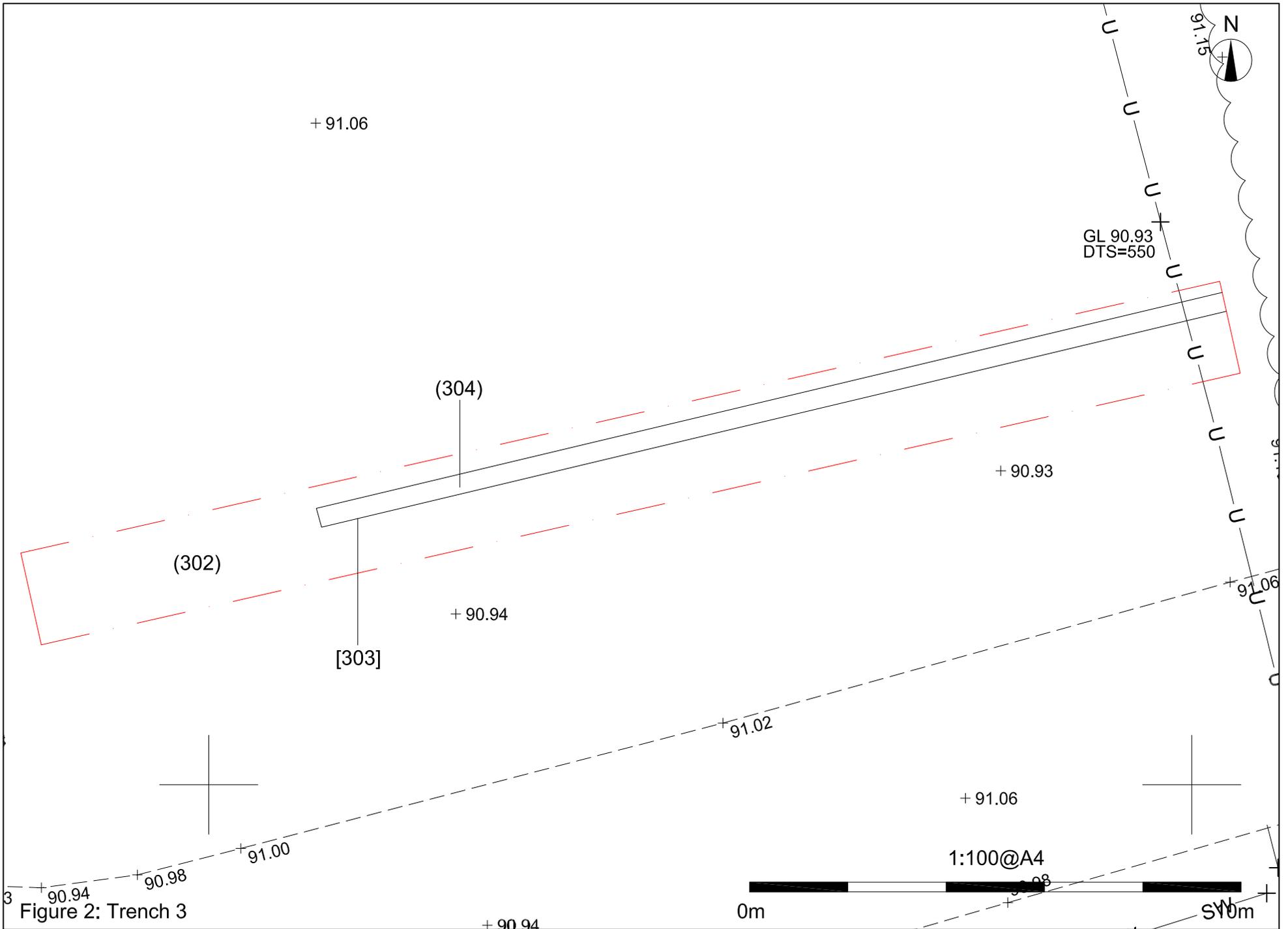


Figure 2: Trench 3

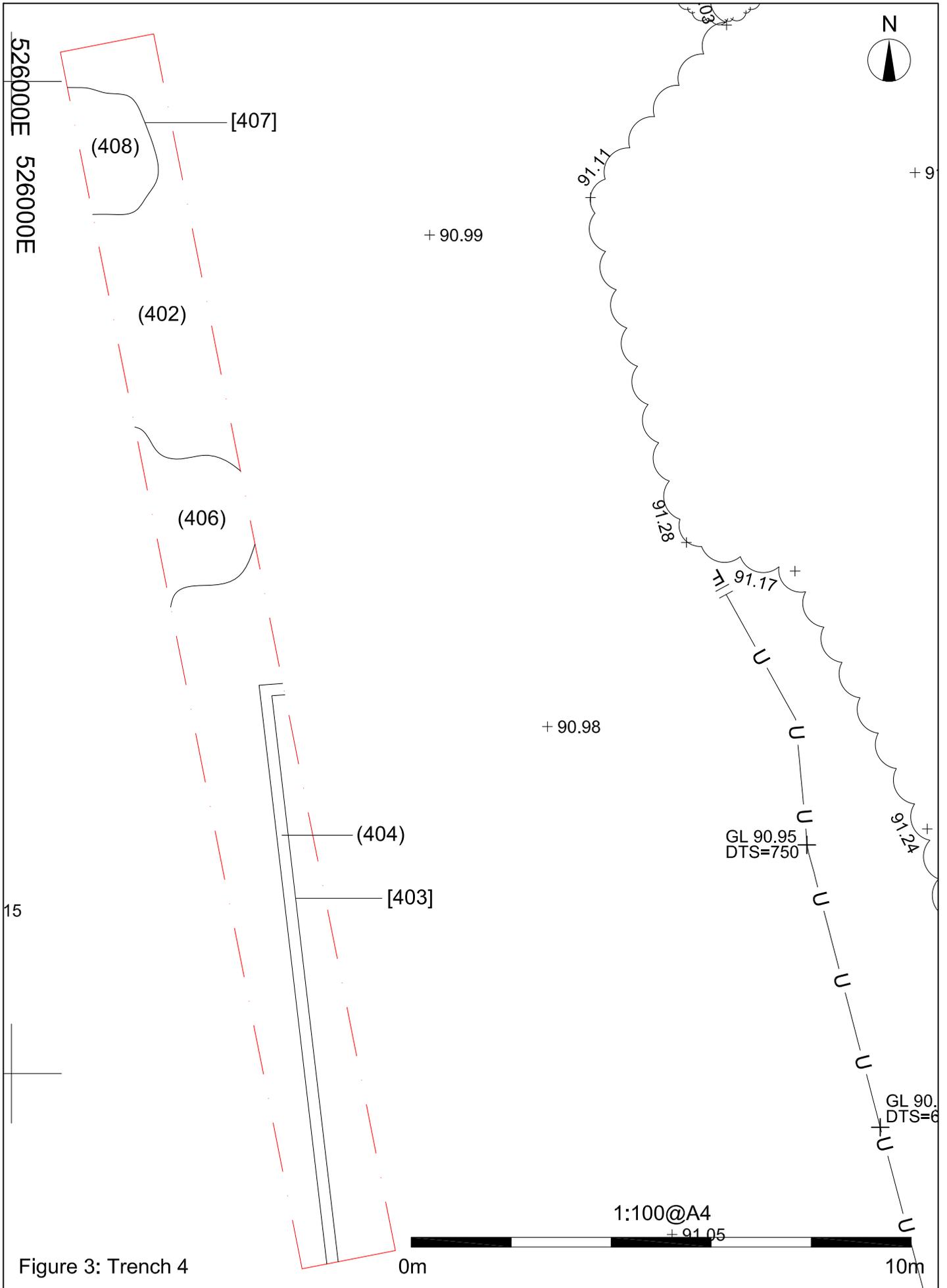


Figure 3: Trench 4

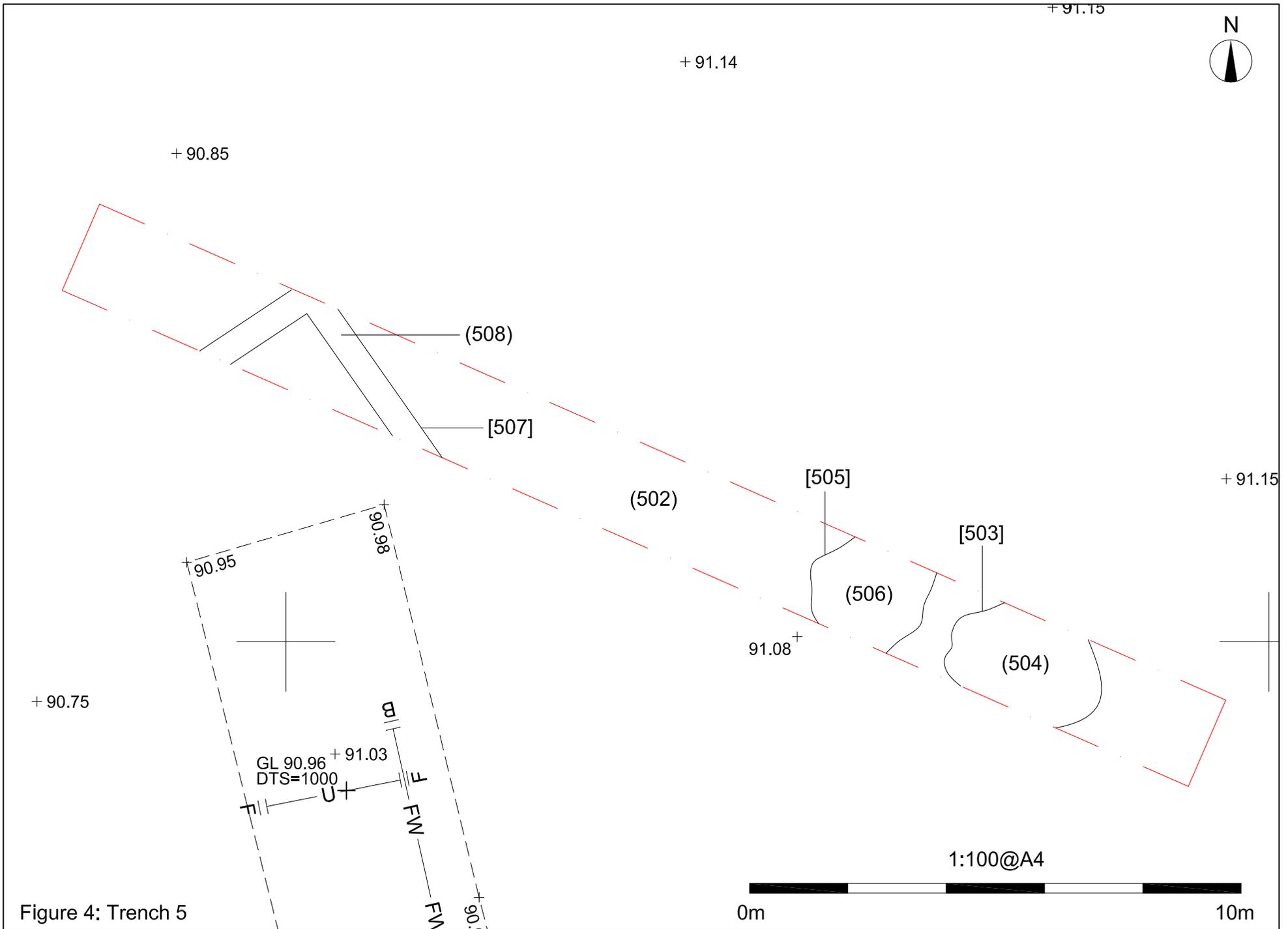


Figure 4: Trench 5

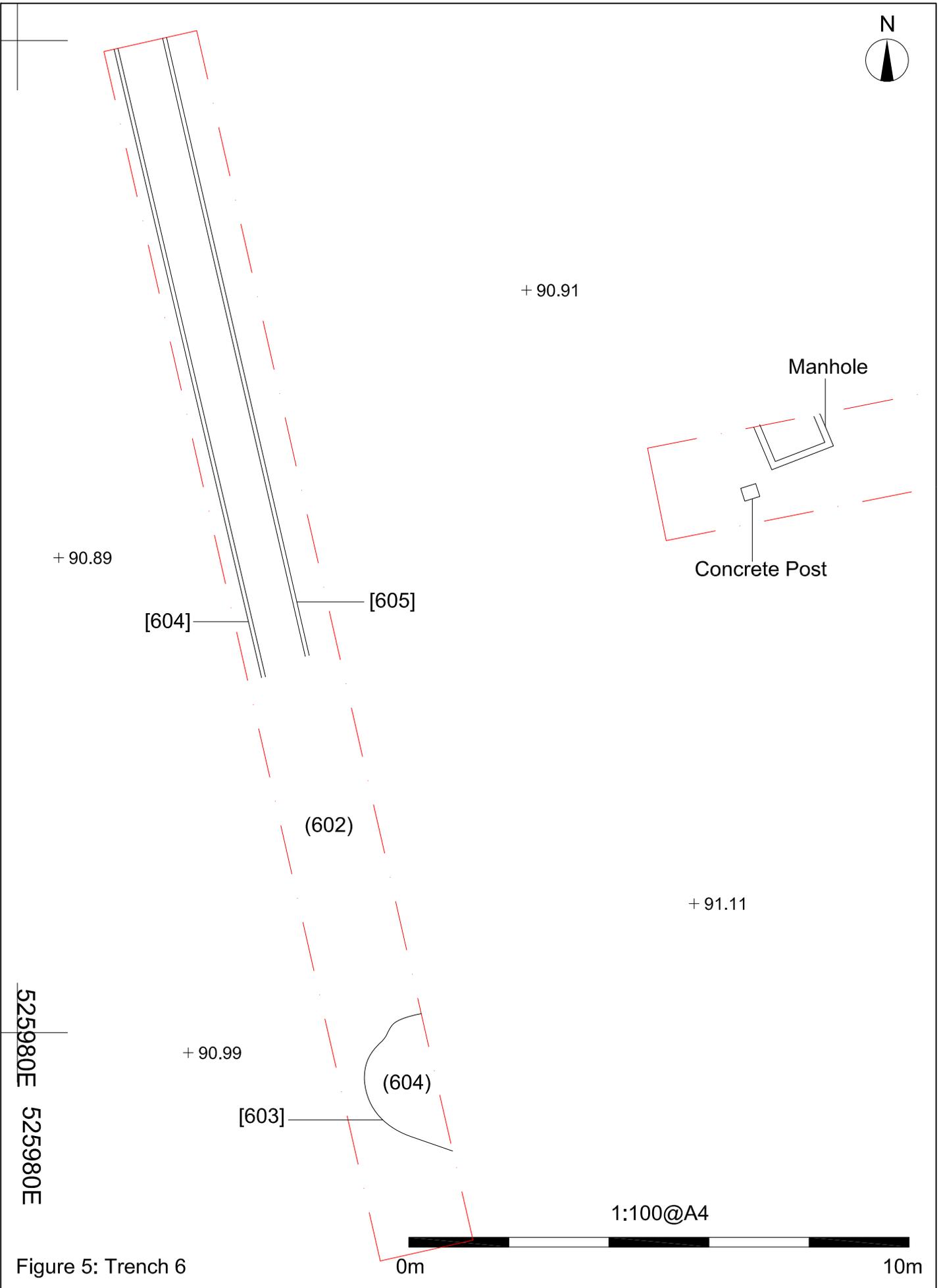


Figure 5: Trench 6

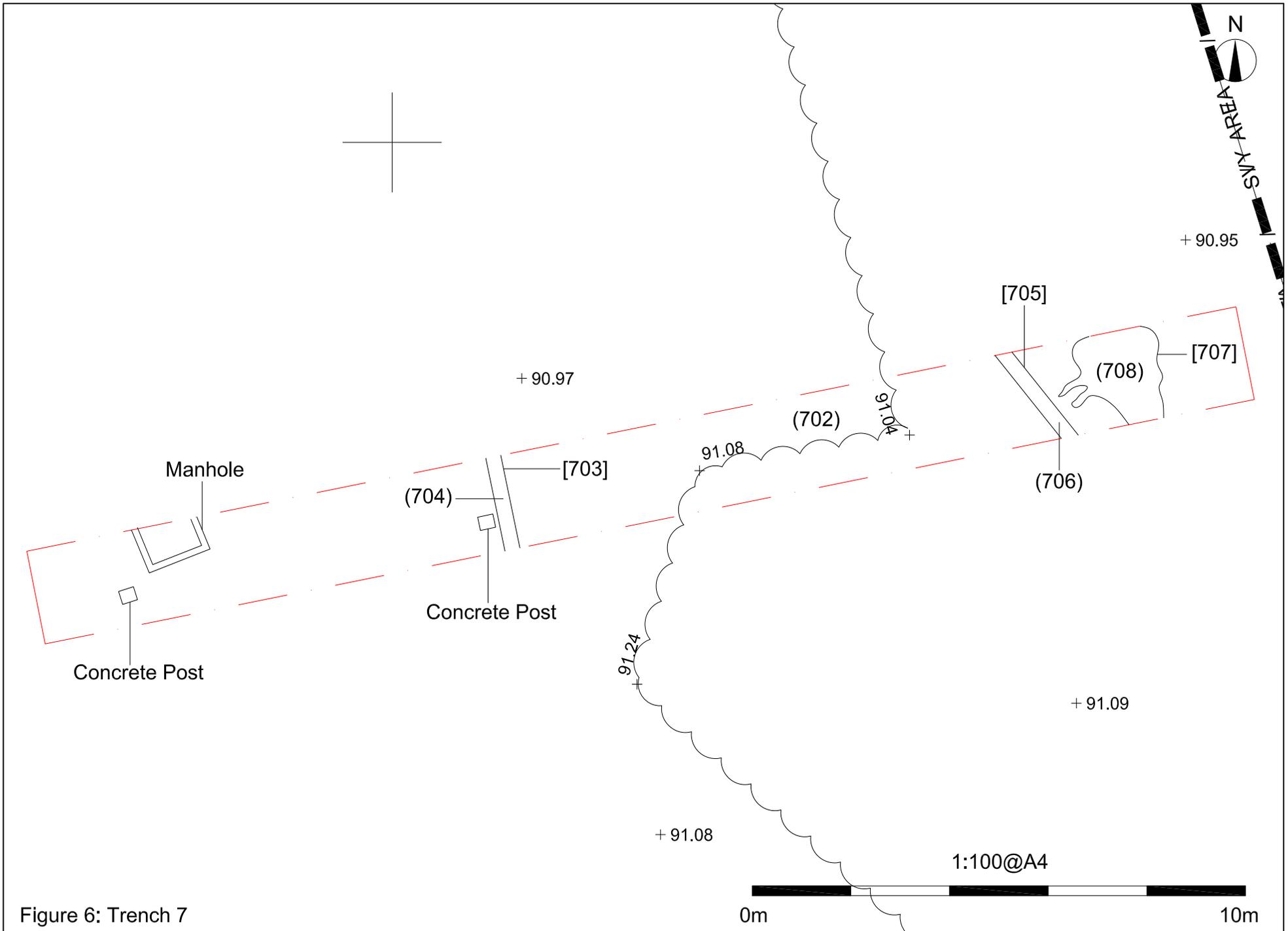


Figure 6: Trench 7

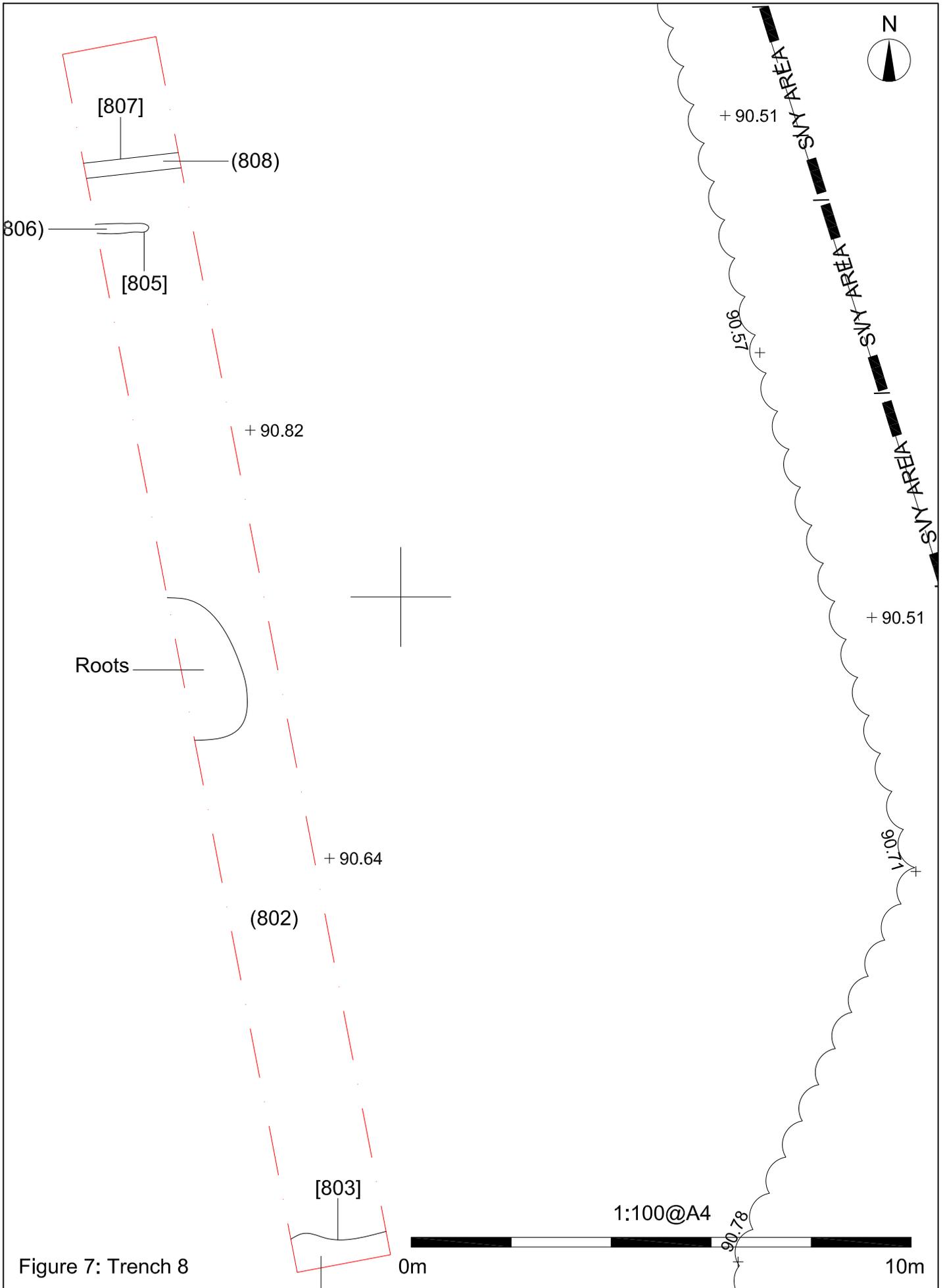


Figure 7: Trench 8

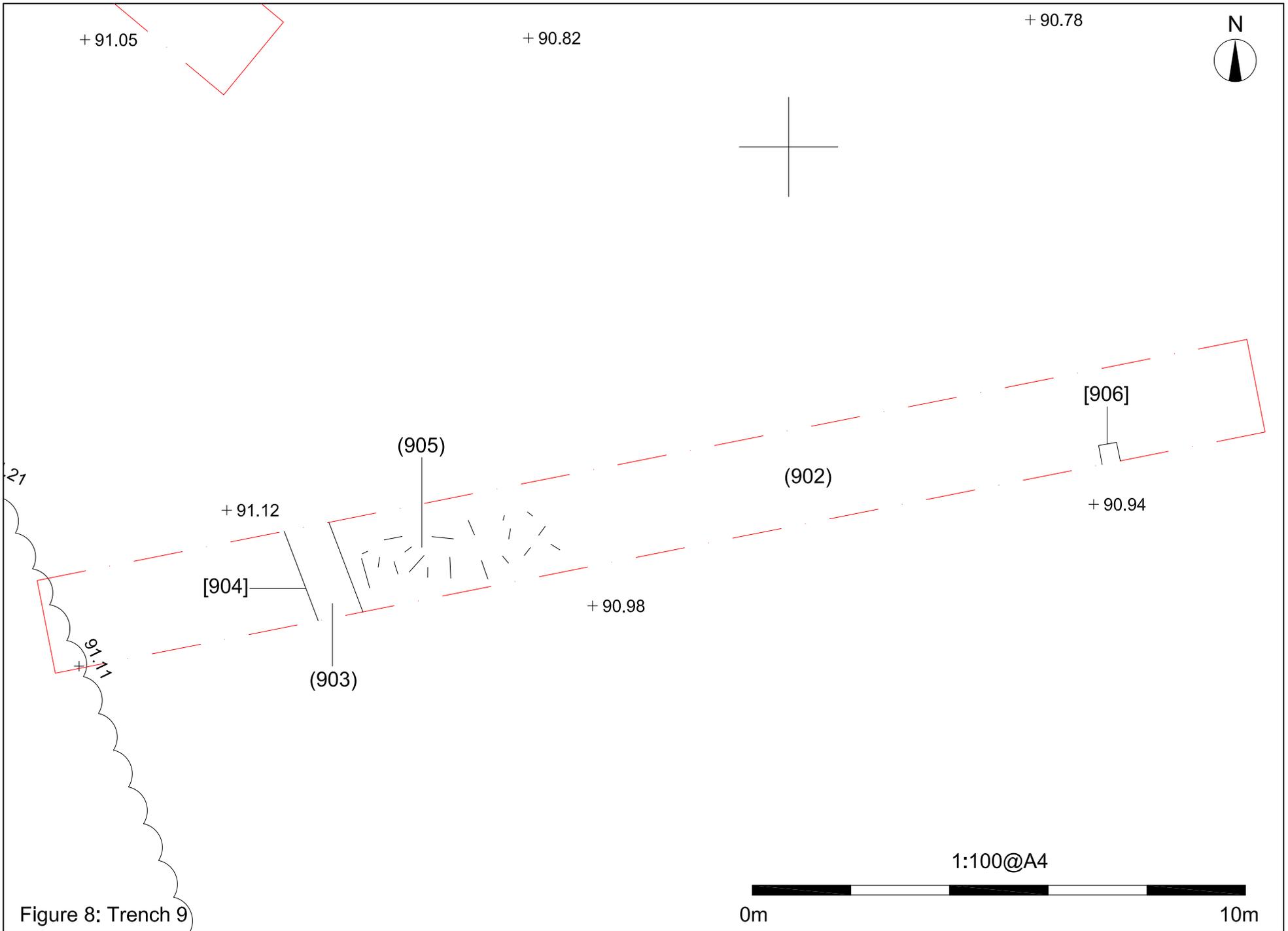


Figure 8: Trench 9

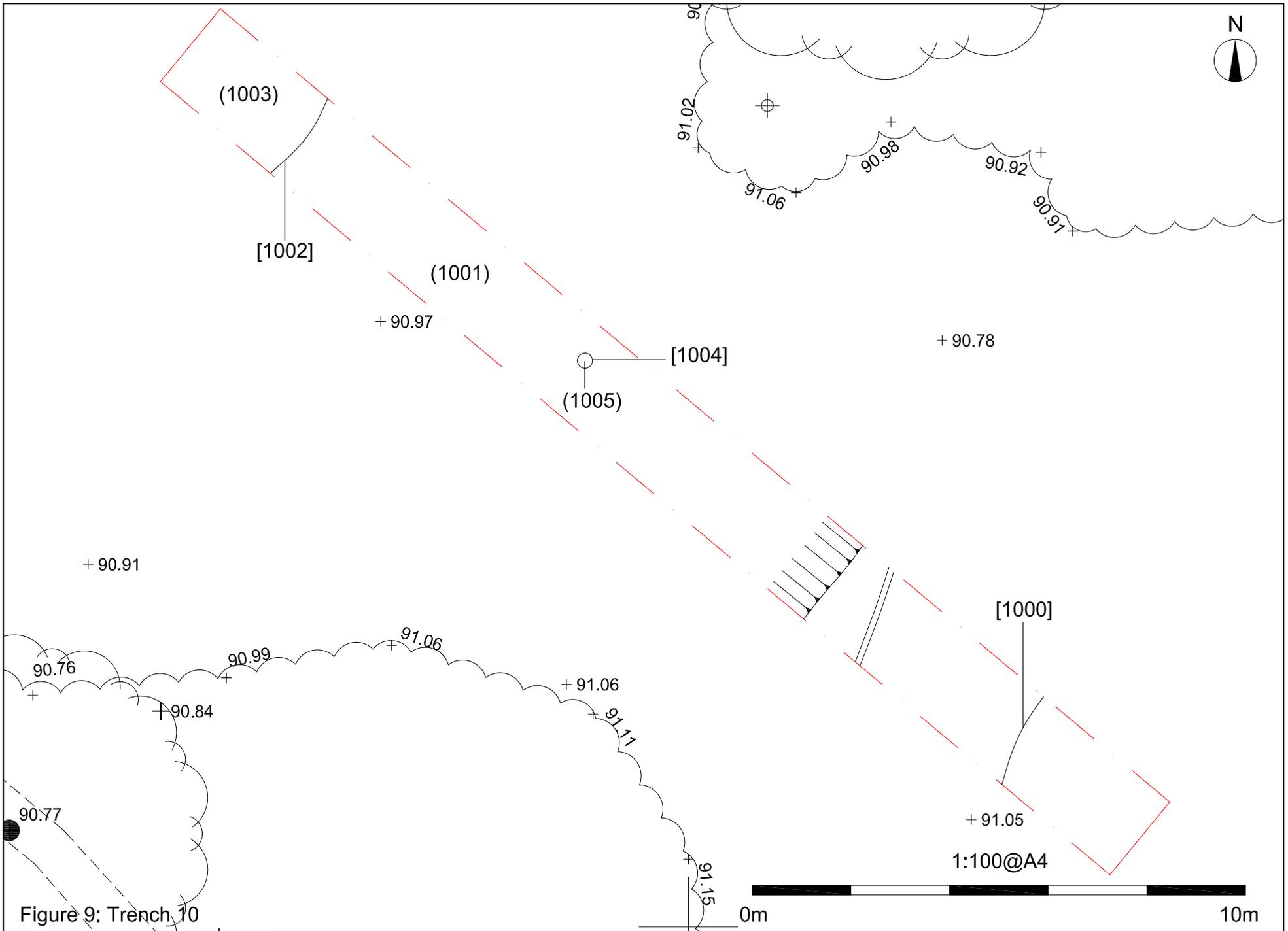


Figure 9: Trench 10



Plate 1.Trench 1 location



Plate 2.Trench 1 location



Plate 3. View of Trench 1



Plate 4. Trench 2 location



Plate 5. Trench 2 section



Plate 6. Trench 3 location



Plate 7. Trench 3 section



Plate 8. Trench 3 modern foundations (red arrow)



Plate 9. Trench 3 modern foundations detail



Plate 10. View of Trench 4



Plate 11. View of Trench 5



Plate 12. Trench 5 location



Plate 13. Trench 5 section



Plate 14. Trench 5 feature [507]



Plate 15. Trench 5 view



Plate 16. View of Trench 6



Plate 17. Trench 6 detail of path edging [604]



Plate 18. Trench 6 section



Plate 19. View of Trench 7



Plate 20. Trench 7 location



Plate 21. Trench 7 view of manhole



Plate 22. Trench 7 drainage channel [705]



Plate 23. Trench 7 modern dump [707]



Plate 24. View of Trench 8



Plate 25. Trench 8 location

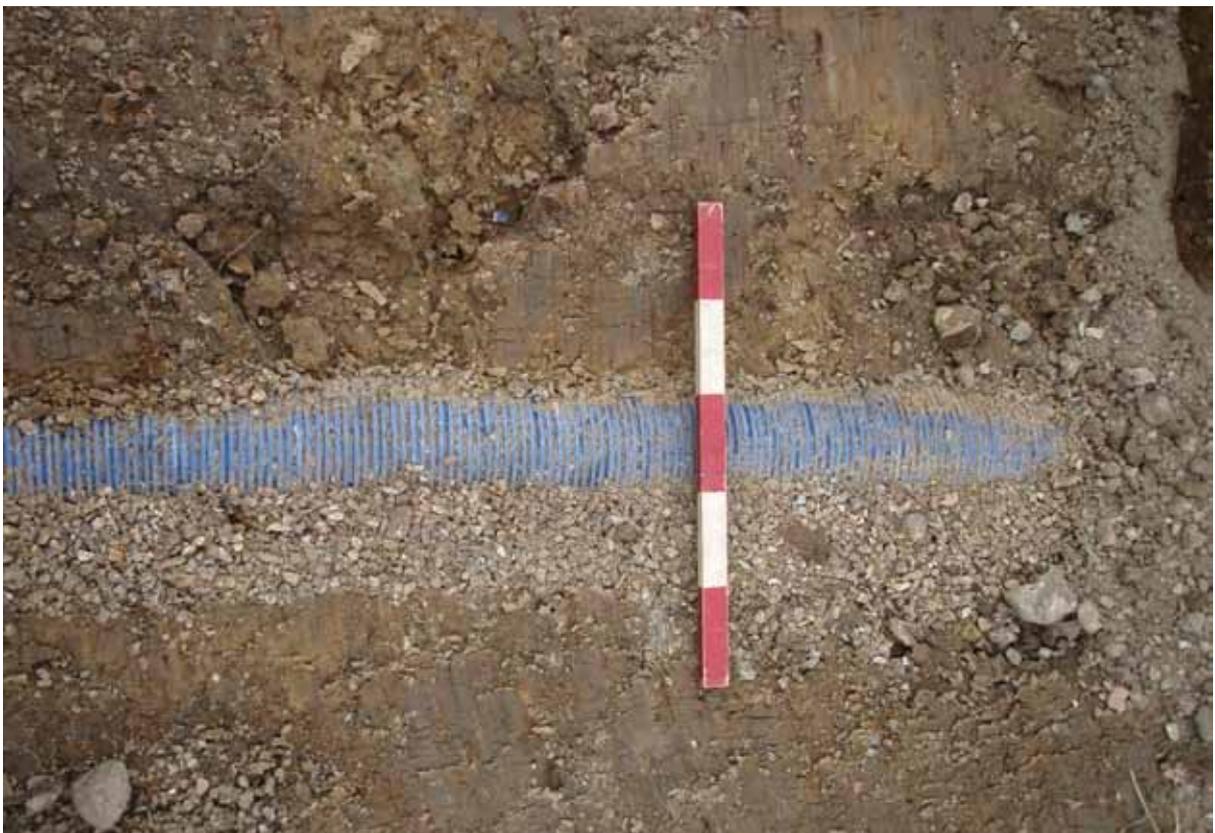


Plate 26. Trench 8 detail of drainage pipe (808)



Plate 27. Trench 8 modern dump [803]



Plate 28. Trench 8 section



Plate 29. View of Trench 9



Plate 30. Trench 9 location



Plate 31. Trench 9 view of feature (905)



Plate 32. Trench 9 section



Plate 33. Trench 9 section



Plate 34. Trench 10 section SW side



Plate 35. Trench 10 view of section



Plate 36. Trench 10 view of roadway [1000]



Plate 37. Trench 10 view of rubbish pit [1002]



Plate 38. Trench 10 view of disturbed ground