Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Eagle Works, Dover Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent

NGR: 22057 49473

Site Code: EAGLE/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/17/00809)

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

Contents

List of Figures:

Figures 1-2 –Location of site and evaluation trenches

Figures 3- 9- Areas of Strip, Map and Sample and sections

List of Plates:

Plate 1-12 Views of the site and features

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Eagle Works, Dover Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent

NGR: 22057 49473

Site Code: EAGLE-EV-19

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Eagle Works, Dover Road, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/17/00809) to develop this site for a proposed 10 two-storey dwellings following demolition of the existing commercial buildings was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the 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 (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of four evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present within one of the trenches (Trench 1) and on investigation a ring ditch was uncovered with a central grave cut which on excavation produced frontal bone fragments (Plate 10) and leg bone fragments (Plate 12). The geology of Chalk was reached at an average depth of between 0.38m and 0.55m below the top layer of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble. Therefore the Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by the developers 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 2019) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out in November 2019.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated to the south-west of Canterbury within part of an industrial complex currently in use as a garage and service station on the western

side of the A260 Canterbury to Folkestone Road. The NGR location to the centre of the site is NGR 22057 49473. (Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (3):
No development other than demolition shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:
(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.
The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Archaeological Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (19/09/2019).

6. Aims and Objectives

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

6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.

6.2 Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of four trenches within the footprint of the proposed development. A 12.5 ton 360◦ tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the demolition rubble and subsoil to expose the natural geology. 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and CIfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The four evaluation trenches exposed a deposit sequence consisting of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble overlaying Chalk.

The only archaeological features exposed during the evaluation were in Trench 1 which are likely to be two Anglo-Saxon grave cuts with surrounding circular ditches with a postentrance to the east and to the NNE a stand-alone postulated grave cut [1021] and (Plates 1-3 and Figure 3). However, on investigation all three graves had been robbed in

antiquity but with grave [1028] producing human frontal and leg bone fragments (Plates 10, 12).

10. Discussion

Located towards the south of site, Trench 1 lay on a NE-SW alignment and measured 24.7m by 1.80m. A line of 4 modern post holes truncated the trench ([103] [105] [107] [109]), running NE-SW along its NE half. A layer of black, loose, humic clayey silt with significant modern building contamination (topsoil) sealed the trench with an average thickness of 0.13m (101). Under this layer was a light grey brown, soft and sandy, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint and moderate chalk pieces (subsoil), which had an average thickness of 0.24m (102). This sealed the cut of a linear [112] that was truncated by posthole [103] and ran the width of the trench at its NE end from SE-NW, with an average width of 1.24m and depth of 0.46m.

Linear [112] had steep inward sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by a loose compaction of chalk pieces and flint surrounded by light grey brown clayey silt upper fill (110) which sealed a loose mid-brown clayey silt with occasional chalk pieces and frequent medium sized angular flint primary fill (111). [112] was cut into natural geology which consisted of solid chalk (123)

In the SW half of the trench, subsoil (102) sealed a cut of a curvilinear [117] [122] spanning 8.70m against the SE edge of the trench, with an average width of 1m and depth of 0.36m. The curvilinear had stepped shallow to steep inward sloping sides and a moderate concave base and was filled by a loose mid brown, slightly clayey silt with occasional chalk pieces, moderate angular flint inclusions and moderate bioturbation (upper fill) (115), (120) which sealed a loose compaction of chalk pieces with moderate angular flint surrounded by a light brown, slightly clayey silt (primary fill) (116),(121). [117] [122] was cut into (123).

(102) also sealed the cut of an irregular ovate Pit [119] at the apex of curvilinear [117] [122], aligned SW-NE and measuring 1.40m by 0.69m, with a depth of 0.18m and shallow to medium inward sloping sides and a medium concave base. This contained a loose mid brown, slightly clayey silt with inclusions of moderate bioturbation, occasional chalk pieces and very occasional small angular flint (118). No relationship could be determined between pit [119] and curvilinear [122]. [119] was cut into (123).

At the SW end of the trench, (102) sealed the cut of a posthole [114] measuring 0.16m x 0.18m and a depth of 0.04m. [114] was sub-circular with shallow inward sloping sides and a shallow concave base, filled by a soft, mid-brown clayey silt (113). [114] was cut into (123).

Trench 2

Located towards the East of site, Trench 2 lay on an ENE-WSW alignment and measured 22.2m by 1.90m. The trench was blocked to the NE by building foundations from a previous 1930s development. The trench was truncated by a rectangular modern intrusion [203] measuring 1.00m by 1.10m lying in its centre. A layer of compact tarmac and building materials/clinker (overburden) sealed the trench with an average depth of 0.15m deep (200). This sealed a mottled light grey / mid-orangey brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks (subsoil) averaging 0.10m deep (201). This sealed the natural geology of solid chalk (204).

Trench 3

Located in the centre of site, Trench 3 lay aligned N-S and measured 18.9m by 1.80m. The extent of the trench was limited by previous terracing of the site to the N and a large sunken fuel tank to the S. The trench was sealed by a modern deposit of rubble and hard-core (overburden) measuring 0.09m deep (301). This sealed the cuts of three large irregular modern pits [302] [304] [306]. The modern features [302] [304] [306] were cut into the natural geology of solid chalk (307) that had been extensively impacted by modern building material and metal debris.

Trench 4

Located in the NW of site, Trench 4 lay aligned WSW-ENE and measured 20.9m by 1.80m. The ENE extent of the trench was limited by previous terracing of the site. The trench was sealed by a modern deposit of rubble/ hard-core with sandy silt (overburden) measuring 0.17m deep (400). This sealed the cut of a modern service drain [403] that ran the width of the trench aligned SE-NW and contained a mixture of tarmac and hard-core backfill (401) and a mid-brown sandy silt with frequent chalk and flint (402). (400) sealed the cut of a linear [407] that was located in the WSW of the trench aligned E-W and measured 1.60m wide by 0.61m deep. [407] was rectilinear with steep inward sloping sides and a very shallow concave base and contained a cap of very compacted, redeposited natural chalk upper fill (404). This sealed a

loose mid-brown clayish silt with very frequent large angular flint and chalk pieces (405). This sealed a loose compaction of chalk pieces and occasional small angular flint, surrounded by mid-brown clayish silt primary fill (406). [407] was cut into natural geology of solid chalk, severely impacted by modern building materials (408).

11. Finds

No pottery finds were made and all graves had been robbed in antiquity but with grave [1028] producing frontal human and leg bone fragments (Plates 10, 12).

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed a number of archaeological features in Trench 1. 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 topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair McKeever and Philippa Foulds and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 27th January 2020.

14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2019) *Site Specific Requirements: Land at Eagle Works, Dover Road, Barham, Canterbury Kent*

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Eagle Works, Dover Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent
SWAT Site Code: EAGLE/EV/19
Site Address: As above

Summary:
Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for 10 two-storey dwellings whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation 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 possible Anglo-Saxon grave cuts.
District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council
Period(s):
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 22057 49473
Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation
Date of recording: November 2019
Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)
Geology: Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Deposits
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Eagle Works, Dover Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)
Three possible Anglo-Saxon grave cuts
Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP
Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Appendix 1 Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 24.7m x 1.80m		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
100	Loose black humic clayey silt with tarmac and concrete inclusions	Topsoil	0.00-0.13m
101	Light grey brown soft sandy, clayey silt w/ occ small ang flint, moderate chalk pieces	Subsoil	0.09-0.33m
102	Fill of MOD posthole [103]	MOD	-
103	Cut of MOD posthole	MOD	-
104	Fill of MOD posthole [105]	MOD	-

105	Cut of MOD posthole	MOD	-
106	Fill of MOD posthole [107]	MOD	-
107	Cut of MOD posthole	MOD	-
108	Fill of MOD posthole [109]	MOD	-
109	Cut of MOD posthole	MOD	-
110	Loose light grey brown clayey silt w/ occ chalk & freq medium ang flint	Upper fill of linear [112]	0.33-0.79m
111	Loose mid-brown clayey silt w/ occ chalk & freq medium ang flint	Primary fill of linear [112]	0.35-0.79m
112	Rectilinear w/ steep inward sloping sides and a flat base aligned SE-NW	Cut of linear	0.33-0.79m
113	Soft mid-brown slightly clayey silt	Fill of posthole [114]	0.33-0.37m
114	Circular posthole w/ shallow inward sloping sides and a shallow concave base	Cut of posthole	0.33-0.37m
115	Loose mid-brown slightly clayey silt w/ occ chalk & medium ang flint	Upper fill of curvilinear [117]	0.33-0.49m
116	Loose light brown slightly clayey silt w/ very freq chalk and occ small ang flint	Primary fill of curvilinear [117]	0.33-0.65m
117	Curvilinear w/ stepped shallow to steep inward sloping sides and a moderate concave base	Cut of curvilinear	0.33-0.65m
118	Loose mid-brown slightly clayey silt w/ moderate bioturbation, occ chalk & very occ small ang flint	Fill of pit [119]	0.33-0.51m
119	Irregular ovate pit w/ shallow to moderate inward sloping sides and a moderate concave base aligned SW-NE	Cut of pit	0.33-0.51m
120	Loose mid brown slightly clayey silt w/ occ chalk & moderate ang flint	Upper fill of curvilinear [122]	0.33-0.51m
121	Loose light brown slightly clayey silt w/ freq chalk & occ small ang flint	Primary fill of curvilinear [122]	0.18-0.74m
122	Curvilinear w/ stepped steep to v.steep inward sloping sides and a concave base	Cut of curvilinear	0.00-0.74m
123	Solid chalk	Natural	0.33m+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 22.20m x 1.90m		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
200	Compact tarmac and building materials/clinker	Overburden	0.00-0.15m
201	Mottled light grey / mid-orangey brown clayey silt w/ moderate chalk	Subsoil	0.15m-0.25m
202	Fill of MOD pit [203]	MOD	-
203	Cut of MOD pit	MOD	-
204	Solid chalk	Natural	0.25m+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 18.90m x 1.80m		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
300	Sandy silt w/ rubble, CBM, hardcore and freq flint	Overburden	0.00-0.09m
301	Fill of MOD pit [302]	MOD	-
302	Cut of MOD pit	MOD	-
303	Fill of MOD pit [304]	MOD	-
304	Cut of MOD pit	MOD	-
305	Fill of MOD pit [306]	MOD	-
306	Cut of MOD pit	MOD	-
307	Solid chalk impacted by modern building material	Natural	0.09m+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 20.90m x 1.80m		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
400	Sandy silt w/ rubble, CBM, hardcore and freq flint	Overburden	0.00-0.17m
401	Fill of MOD service/drain [403]	MOD	-

402	Fill of MOD service/drain [403]	MOD	-
403	Cut of MOD service/drain	MOD	-
404	very compacted redeposited chalk	Upper fill of linear [407]	0.17-0.28m
405	Loose mid-brown clayish silt w/ freq large ang flint & freq chalk	Secondary fill of linear [407]	0.17-0.58m
406	Loose mid-brown clayish silt w/ very freq chalk & small-med ang flint	Primary fill of linear [407]	0.38-0.68m
407	Rectilinear w/ steep inward sloping sides and a very shallow concave base aligned E-W	Cut of linear	0.17-0.68m
408	Solid chalk impacted by building materials	Natural	0.17m+

BEW-EX-19 selected photos

Plate 1: North facing working shot of machine strip of site

Plate 2: South facing plan of stripped area of excavation (scale 1m)

Plate 3: West facing plan of ring ditch [1011] (scale 1m)

Plate 4: North facing plan of ring ditch [1008] (scale 1m)

Plate 5: North facing plan of ring ditch [1003] (scale 1m)

Plate 6: East facing section of intervention [1017] within ring ditch [1011] (scale 1m)

Plate 7: North facing plan of intervention [1017] in ring ditch [1011] (scale 1m)

Plate 8: North facing plan of pit [1021] (scale 1m)

Plate 9: East facing section of grave cut [1028] (scale 1m)

Plate 10: South facing detail plan of frontal bone fragment within grave cut [1028] (scale 0.5m)

Plate 11: East facing plan of grave cut [1028] (scale 1m)

Plate 12: South facing detail plan of leg bone fragments within grave cut [1028] (scale 0.5m)

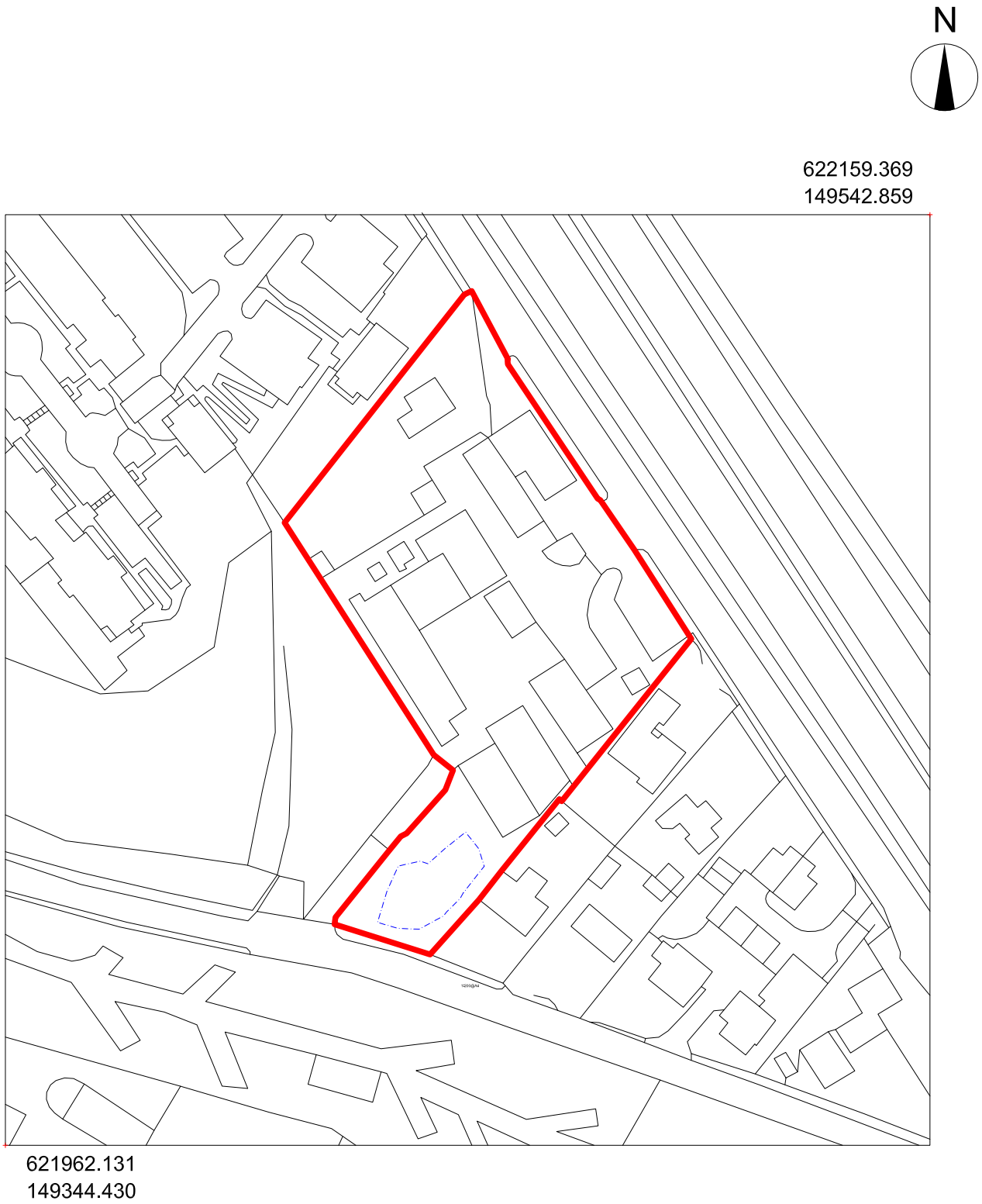


Figure 1: Location of site

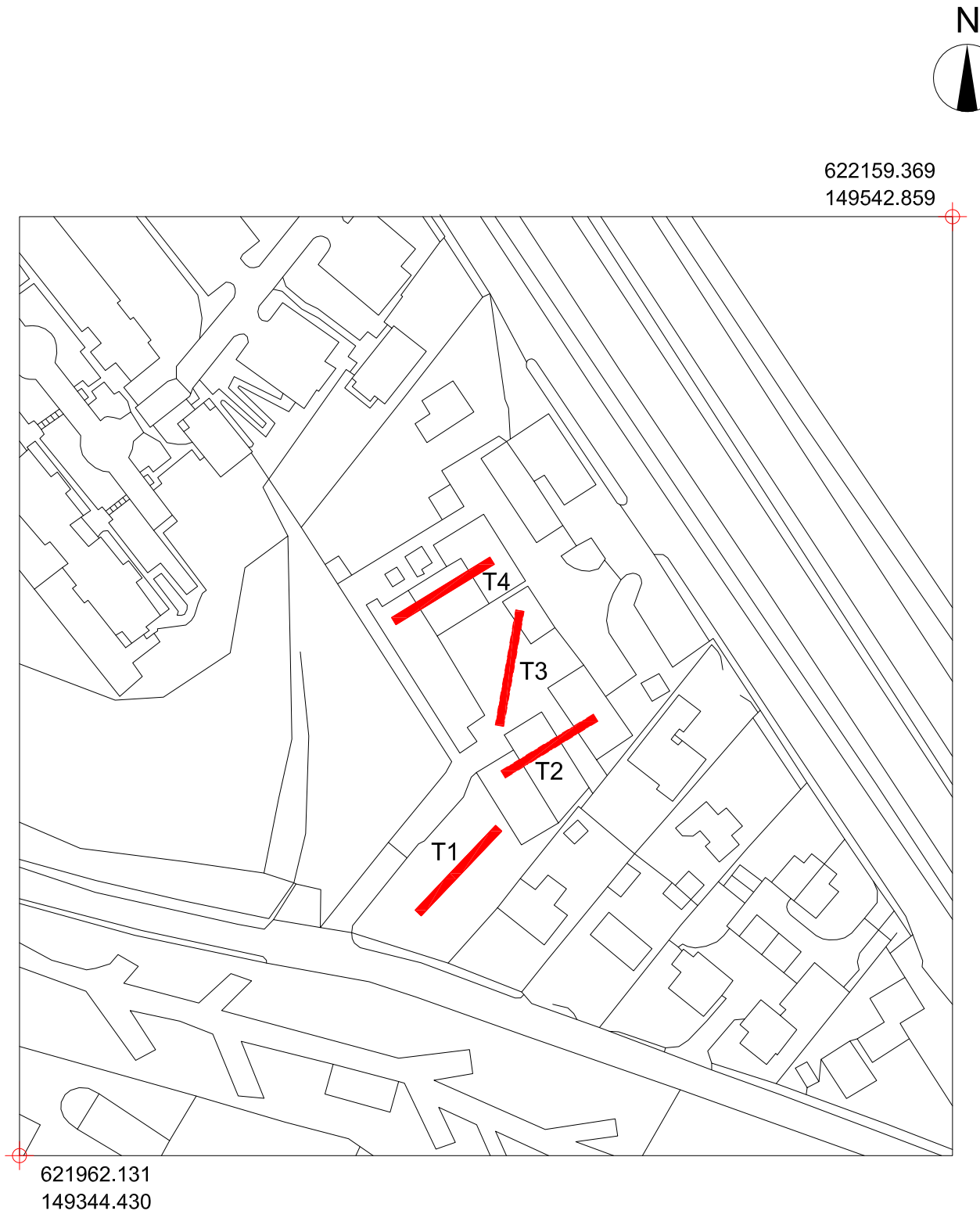


Figure 2: Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

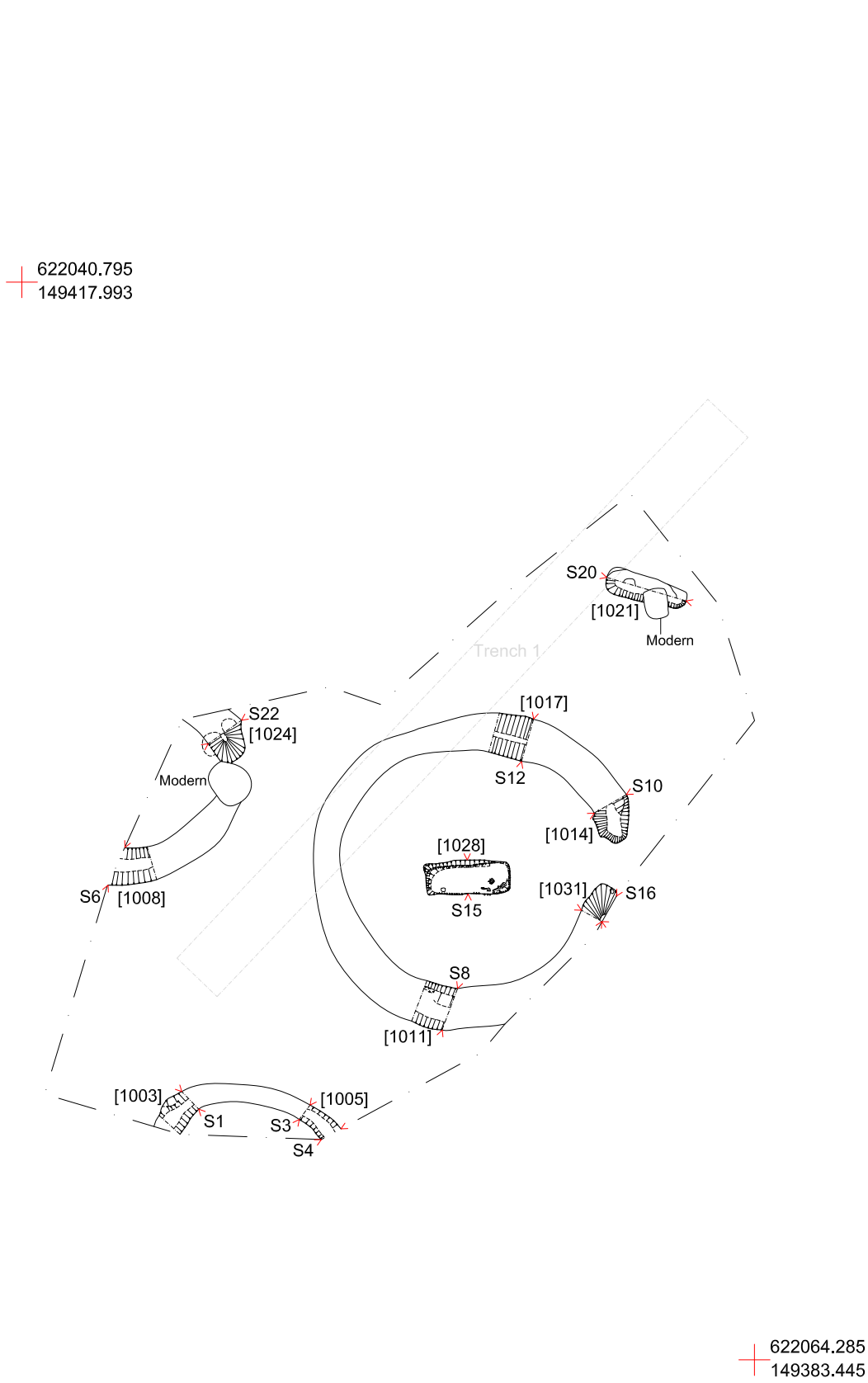


Figure 3: Area of Strip, Map and Sample

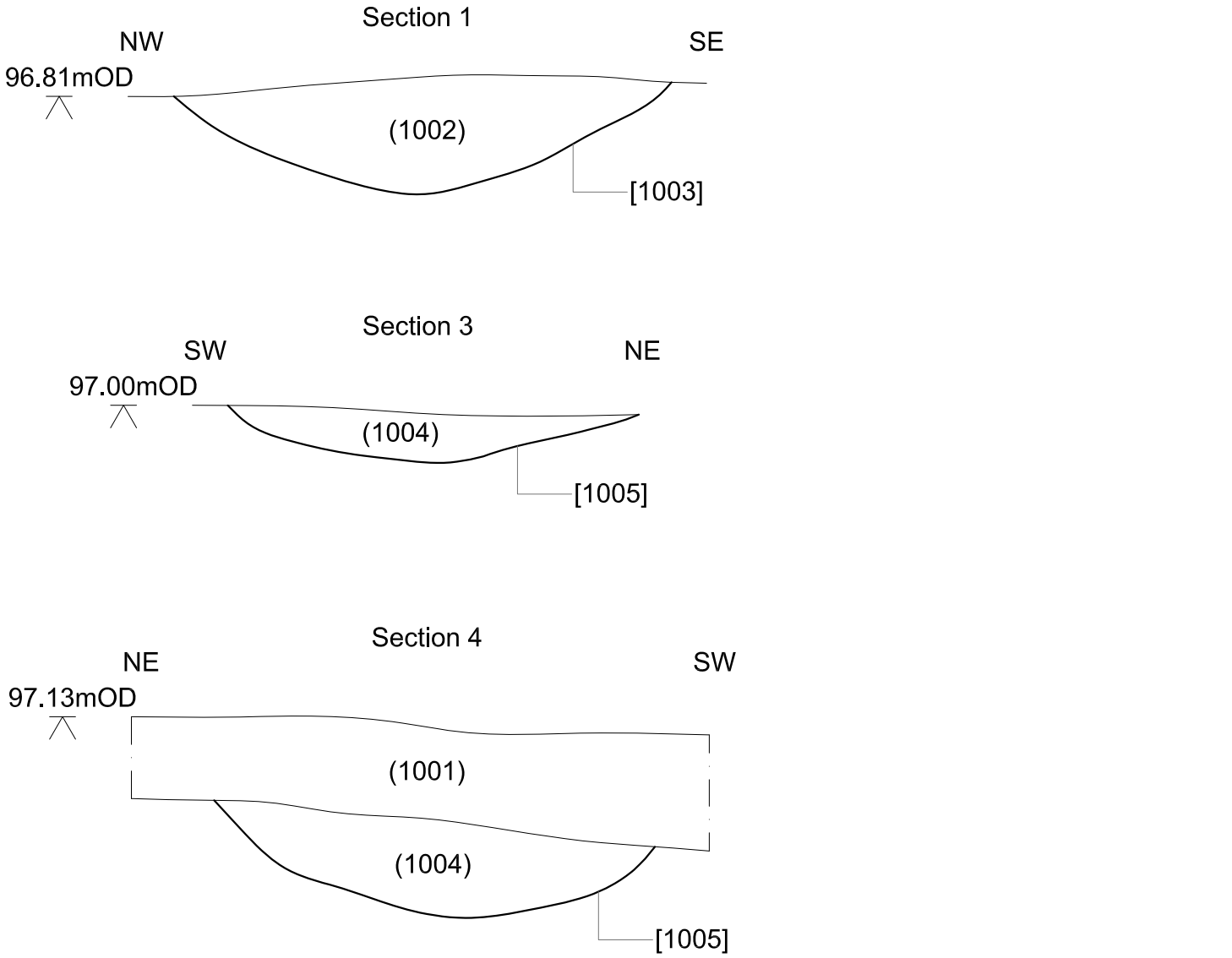
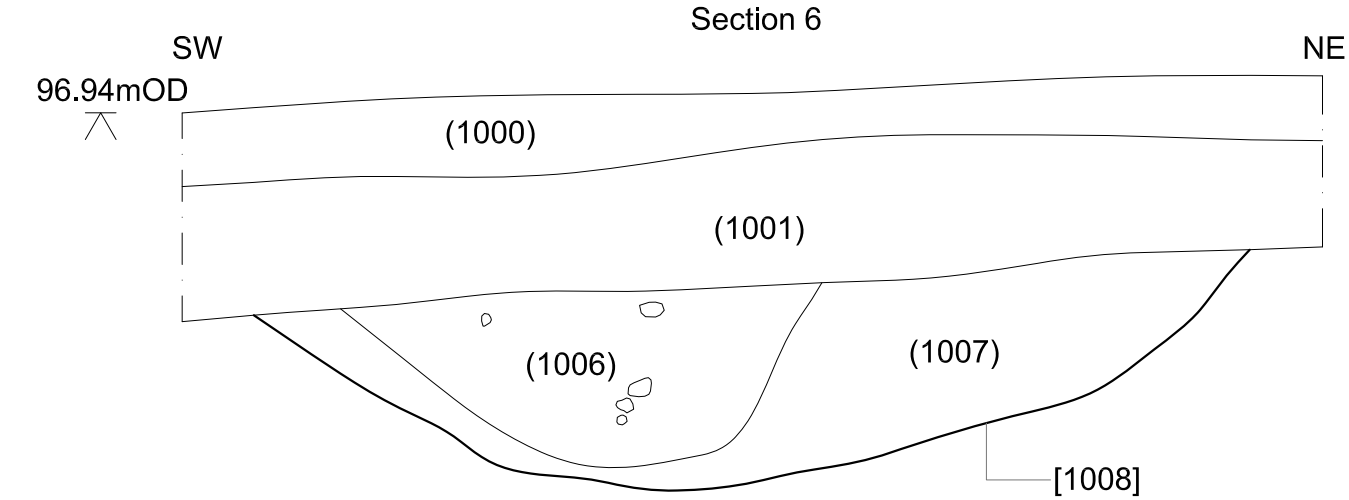
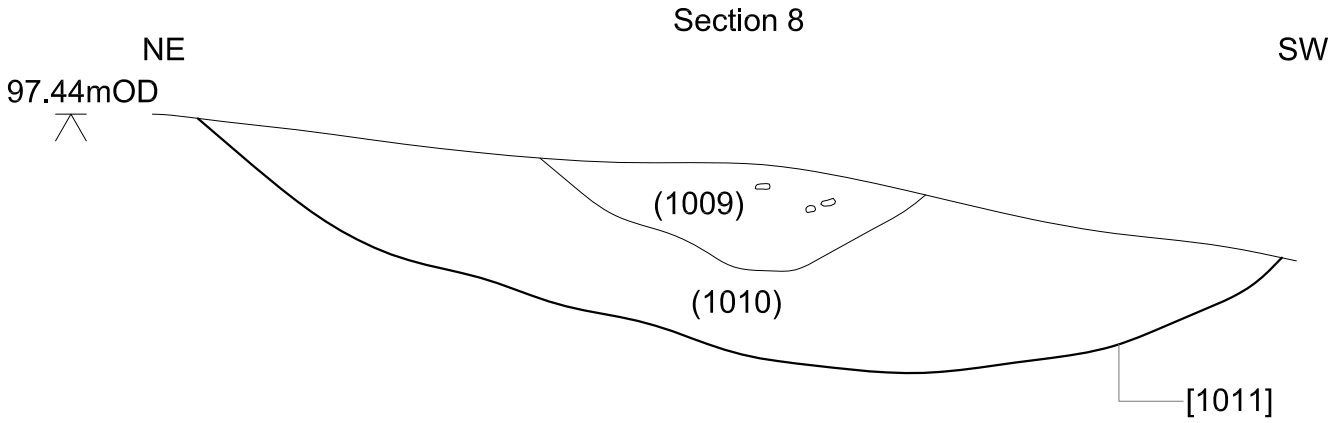


Figure 4: Sections

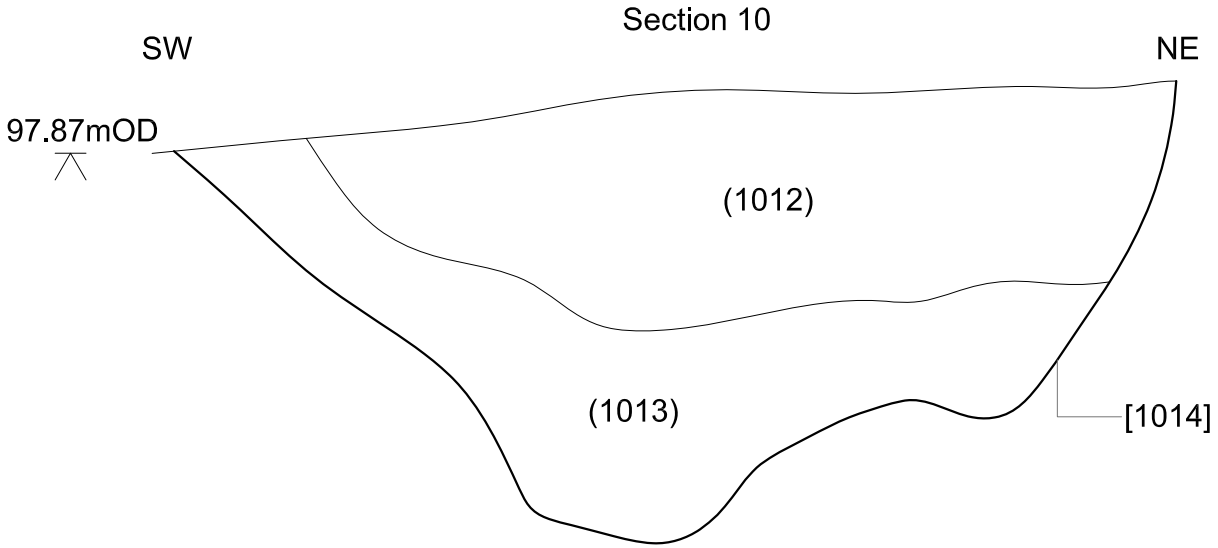


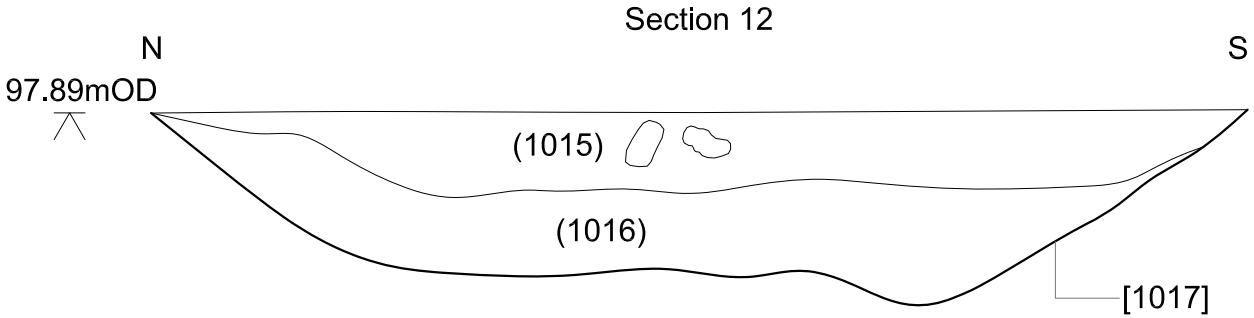


1:10@A4

0m 1m

Figure 5: Sections

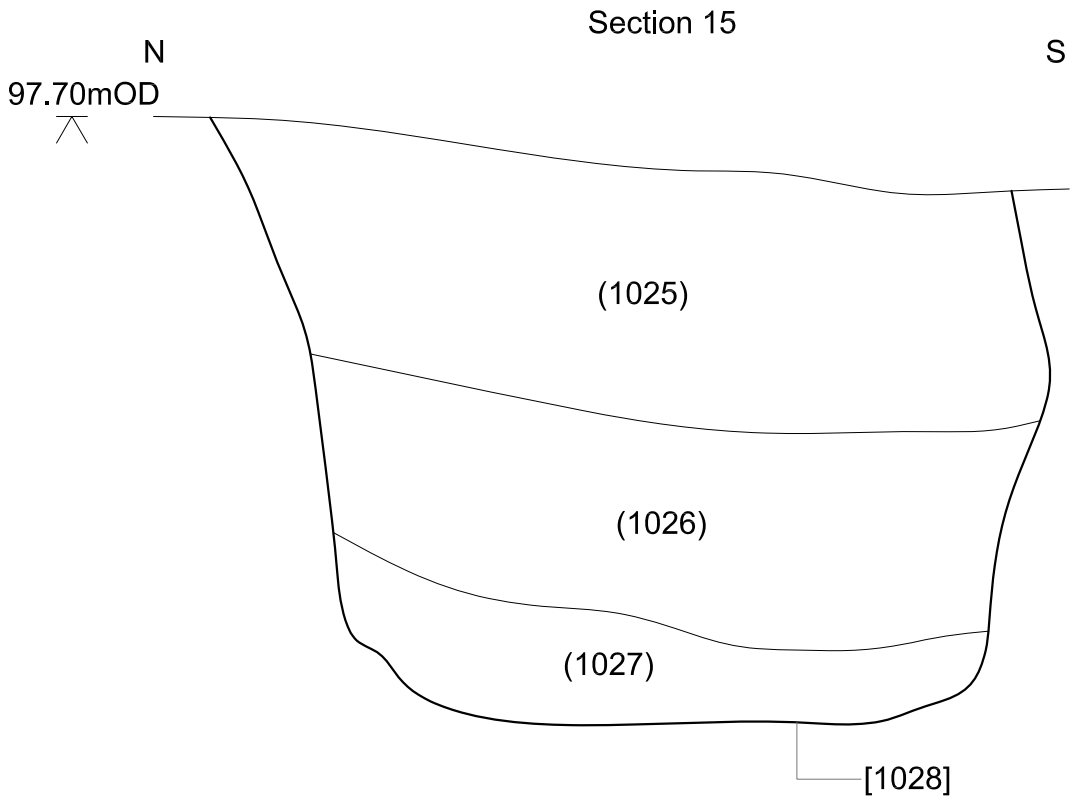




1:10@A4

0m 1m

Figure 6: Sections



1:10@A4

0m 1m

Figure 7: Sections

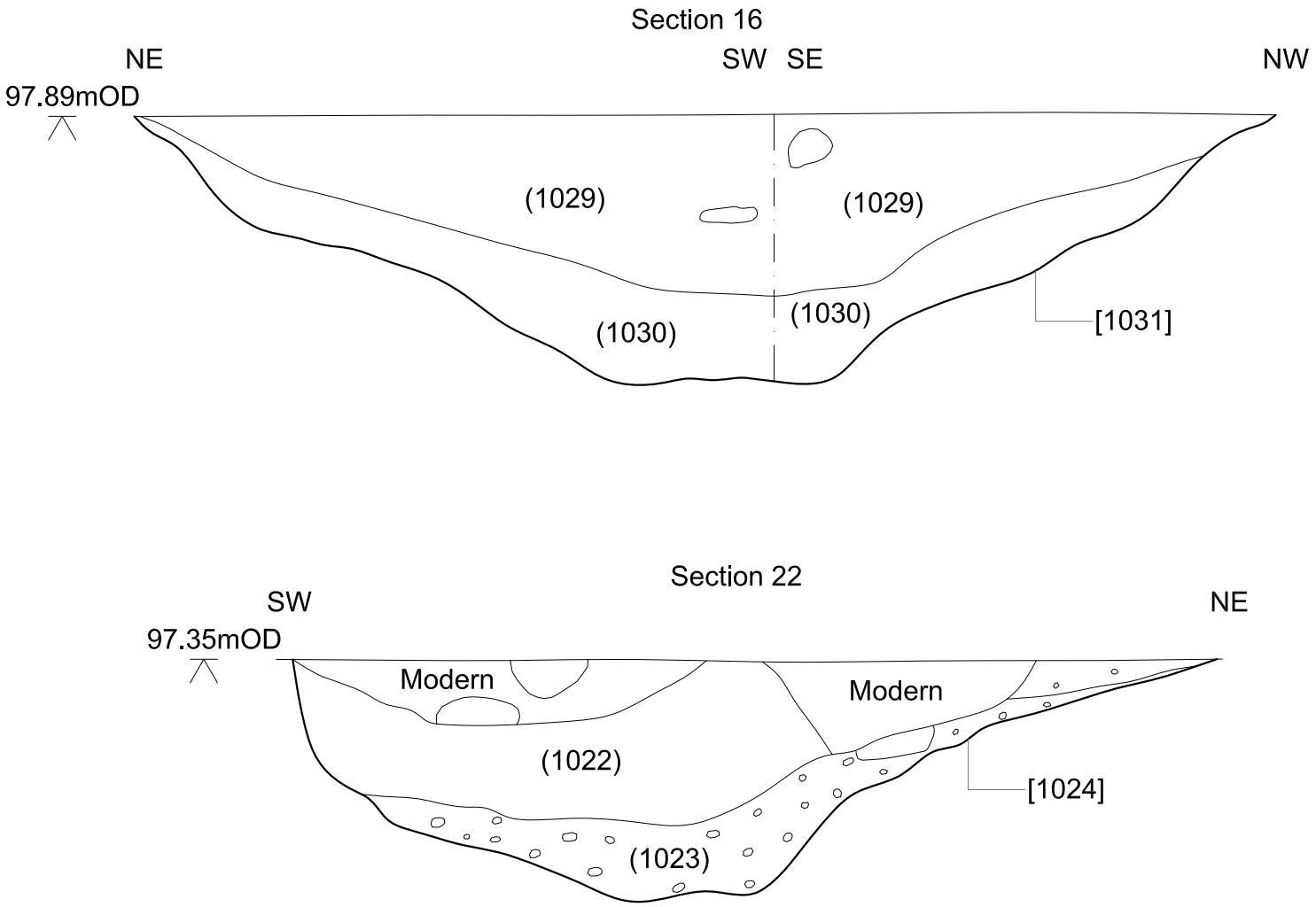
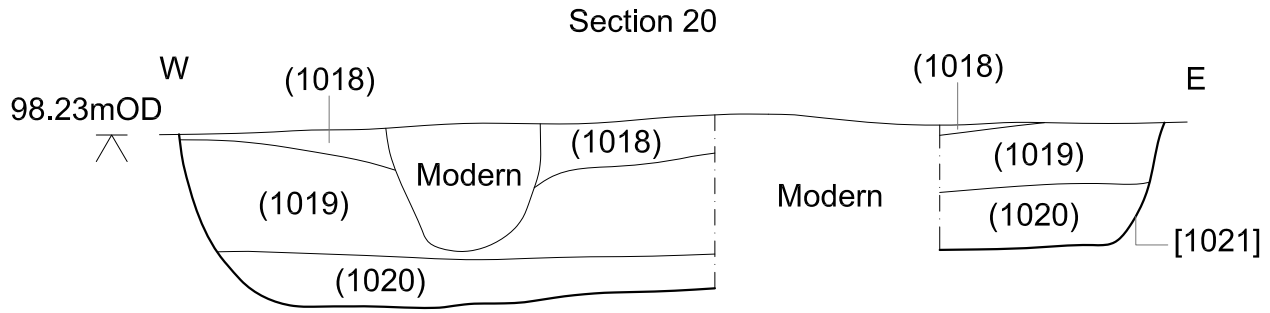


Figure 8: Sections



1:20@A4

0m 2m

Figure 9: Section