

# Hydrus Project AWE Aldermaston West Berkshire



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



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# Hydrus Project, AWE Aldermaston, West Berkshire

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION*

### CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 Evaluation Aims.....	3
3 Evaluation Methodology.....	4
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	4
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording.....	4
3.3 Finds.....	4
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	4
3.5 Presentation of results.....	4
4 Results: General.....	5
4.1 Soils and ground conditions.....	5
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	5
5 Results: Descriptions.....	5
5.1 Description of deposits.....	5
5.2 Finds.....	9
6 Discussion And Interpretation.....	9
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	9
6.2 Overall interpretation.....	9
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	11
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References.....	13
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	13

### LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench locations
Fig. 3	Trench 1, Plan and sections
Fig. 4	Trench 2, Plan and sections
Fig. 5	Trench 3, Plan and sections
Fig. 6	Trench 4, Plan and sections
Fig. 7	Trench 5, Plan and sections
Fig. 8	Trench 6, Plan and sections
Fig. 9	Trench 7, Plan and sections
Fig. 10	Trench 8, Plan and sections

## SUMMARY

Between the 2nd and 10th of July 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on the site of the Hydrus Project, at AWE Aldermaston, West Berkshire (SU 602 640). The fieldwork was undertaken for Atkins Ltd on behalf of AWE in advance of new development. The evaluation revealed an undated ditch, which may relate to enclosures associated with the medieval or post-medieval Aldermaston Estate. A second undated feature, which may also be an enclosure ditch or possibly an erosion gully left when the gravel terrace was deposited was also observed.

Evidence for post-medieval landscaping associated with the use of the site as an airfield during WWII was observed within all except one of the trenches. No other significant archaeology was encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 2nd and 10th July 2007, OA carried out a field evaluation at the site of the Hydrus Project, AWE Aldermaston, West Berkshire (NGR: SU 602 640) on behalf of Atkins Ltd in advance of new development. A brief was prepared by Atkins Heritage detailing the requirements for an Archaeological Investigation (Atkins, 2007).

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.1.2 The village of Aldermaston lies approximately 15 km south-west of Reading (Fig. 1). AWE Aldermaston is located 1.5 km south of the village, with the development site located within the north-west corner of the establishment. The majority of the development site is level ground at roughly 100 m above OD, with the south-east corner of the site sloping down to a stream at 96 m above OD, which lies just outside of the site perimeter. The site is currently grassland with concrete access roads and intermittently sited buildings. The underlying geology is alluvium over pebble gravel of the "Bagshot" series (Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet no. 268).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.1.3 The area around the site has a complex history of human intervention containing many known and many more potential sites of archaeological interest. Henges, long and round barrows, linear bank and ditch earthworks such as Grim's Bank, Roman settlements, traces of ancient field systems and evidence of lynchets are all frequent and characteristic features of the historic landscape of the region (*Countryside Agency 1999*) as well as features representing 20<sup>th</sup> century activities and development.
- 1.1.4 **Early prehistoric period (c.500,000-4,000BC):** Although some Palaeolithic occupation of the Thames Valley is indicated by flint finds, these are generally found

in the floodplains of the Kennet (*Cunliffe 1993, pp 5 – 35*). These groups seem to have spread up the slopes from the riverside to what was probably good grazing land on the edge of the gravel plateau.

- 1.1.5 **Neolithic period (c.4,000-2,500BC):** During the Neolithic period, the region was likely to have been open pasture, used by the local population on the slopes of the plateau. There is little evidence for Neolithic activity near AWE Aldermaston.
- 1.1.6 **Bronze Age (c 2,300BC - 700BC):** By the Bronze Age, the area seems to have been part of a potentially widespread funerary landscape with burial mounds (barrows) being recorded throughout the region. The heathland of the plateau would have been amenable to animal pasture and grazing. Settlements may have been sited nearer to the River Kennet. Clusters of barrows at Mortimer Common and at Brimpton attest to a Bronze Age use of the site and its environs.
- 1.1.7 **Iron Age: (c. 700BC-AD43):** Iron Age activity in the region is mainly characterised by agricultural settlement, enclosed farm sites featuring rectangular enclosures and related field layout (*Cunliffe 1996, pp 165*). Just north of the development area lies a section of Grim's Bank, a linear earthwork. This section of Grim's Bank is part of a much larger monument that runs for three miles from Ufton Nervet to AWE Aldermaston. Investigations carried out here in 2005 failed to conclusively date the monument, but it is thought likely to have been constructed between the Late Iron Age and the Later Roman period (OA 2005).
- 1.1.8 **Roman period (AD43-AD415):** A major administrative capital (Calleva) was located 3 km to the south-east of the proposed development, close to the village of Silchester. The Cirencester to Silchester Roman road, is believed to run through AWE Aldermaston, at the northern extent of the study area (*Cunliffe, 1993, pp237-263*).
- 1.1.9 **Early Medieval period (AD415-AD1086):** a Saxon settlement at Aldermaston is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, as Eldermanestone, the 'Alderman's Town'. It was identified as 'king's land', an estate formerly in the hands of the Saxon Royal Estate. It is possible that Grim's Bank continued in use through the period as a defensive system (WS Atkins, 2001). The Domesday Book also records two manors in Brimpton, one of which was later presented to the Knights Hospitallers. It is likely that the population increased during this period and local farming would have needed to expand to support the community (Betley, JH, 1986).
- 1.1.10 **Medieval period (1086-1540):** During the Norman period, much of the area now occupied by AWE Aldermaston was probably part of the manorial hunting grounds of the Aldermaston Estate. The wool industry brought relative prosperity to the area, and more arable land was enclosed and converted to pasture. This period also saw landownership changes precipitated by the Reformation and Dissolution of the Monasteries.
- 1.1.11 **Post-Medieval period (1540-1900):** The wool trade continued into the post medieval period, and more land was enclosed for sheep rearing. Population continued to

increase and this is reflected in the development of towns such as Newbury and Reading. At Aldermaston, 19th century enclosure increased the area of the Aldermaston estate. Little Heath, including a stretch of Grim's Bank, became part of Aldermaston Park.

1.1.12 **The 20th Century:** Berkshire became the location for a number of military installations such as Farnborough Airfield and Greenham Common Airfield, due to its flat topography and proximity to London and the English Channel.

1.1.13 The current AWE site was chosen for development as a bomber Operational Training Unit. Three runways were provided with extensive dispersed enclaves and a large bomb dump. Opened in 1942, the airfield was never used as originally intended, but was instead taken over by the United States Army Air Force. A large aircraft shed was taken over by Vickers in 1943 for the assembly of Spitfires and the aircraft were flight tested from Aldermaston.

1.1.14 Production of the Spitfires continued until the Spring of 1945, with the site finally closing in 1946. After being temporarily loaned to the Ministry of Civil Aviation the site was acquired in the early 1950s by AWE as the principal centre for Britain's nuclear weapons programme.

1.1.15 AWE Aldermaston continued to change through the Cold War, with new areas and buildings being added within which Britain's nuclear deterrent was researched and developed.

#### ***Previous Archaeological Work***

1.1.16 No fieldwork has been undertaken within the Hydrus site boundary to date, however, Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation of the proposed HEFF site, within AWE Aldermaston in July 2005.

1.1.17 The field evaluation revealed evidence of the construction of the WWII airfield and a possible post-medieval field boundary ditch. No evidence was found of the Roman road (Ermin Street), whose implied projection is believed to run through AWE Aldermaston and which may cross the Hydrus site.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

1.1.18 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1.1.19 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains affected by the proposed works.

1.1.20 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate.

1.1.21 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

1.1.22 The evaluation consisted of eight trenches measuring a total of 260 m in length dispersed throughout the development site (Fig. 2). Trenches 2 and 5 each measured 40 m in length by 1.8 m wide, while the remainder were all 30 m in length and 1.8 m wide. The location of the trenches was determined by Atkins Ltd prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

1.1.23 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.8 m wide toothless grading bucket. Excavation proceeded in spits down to undisturbed natural or to the first significant archaeological layer, whichever was encountered first.

1.1.24 The trenches were cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and where possible, to retrieve finds and environmental samples. A plan of each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:50 if the trench contained archaeological features and at a scale of 1:100 where the trenches were sterile or contained solely modern features. Any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All trenches, sections and features were photographed using a digital colour camera supplied by AWE. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Field Manual* (OA, 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

1.1.25 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. All the dating evidence and artefacts recovered during the course of the evaluation were of post-medieval origin and related to the construction and later development of the WWII airfield. The presence of these finds was noted, but they were not retained.

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

1.1.26 The deposits within the 2 archaeological features observed were deemed to be unsatisfactory for palaeo-environmental sampling due to possible contamination.

#### 3.5 Presentation of results

1.1.27 The results of the evaluation will be described initially trench by trench followed by an overall discussion and interpretation.

#### 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

##### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

1.1.28 The site is located on level ground and was predominately grassland with concrete roadways and modern structures intermittently dispersed. The soil conditions were moist at the time of excavation and groundwater was not encountered in any of the trenches.

##### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

1.1.29 The two features observed were located at the highest points of the underlying natural geology.

#### 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

##### 5.1 Description of deposits

###### *Trench 1*

1.1.30 This trench measured 30 m in length by 1.8 m wide and was located on the western edge of the development area.

1.1.31 Within the sondage at the north-eastern end of the trench a layer of light orange brown silty sand (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.75 m below ground level (Fig. 3, Section 100). This deposit contained fragments of brick and was a modern layer of made ground. Overlying this was a tip line of orange yellow silty sand measuring between 0.18 m and 0.62 m in depth (103). This layer contained many fragments of brick and other demolition debris and was also a layer of modern made ground. This was overlain by a layer of light red brown sandy silt (101), measuring between 0.12 m and 0.5 m in depth (Fig. 3, Sections 100 and 101). This deposit also contained modern demolition debris suggesting that it was a layer of modern made ground.

###### *Trench 2*

1.1.32 This trench measured 40 m in length by 1.8 m wide and was located on the south-western edge of the development area.

1.1.33 The top of the gravel terrace (202) was exposed within the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 4, Plan and Section 200) at a depth of 0.4 m below ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (201) which represents a subsoil, possibly an earlier layer of ploughsoil.

1.1.34 Within the centre and western end of the trench both the subsoil and the top of the gravel terrace had been truncated, probably during the construction and levelling of the WWII airfield. Exposed at the base of this truncation was a dark reddish brown sand (205) which contained large quantities of gravel bonded into a compact mass by iron-panning (Fig. 4, Plan and Section 202) at a depth of 0.6 m below the current



ground level. This was overlain by a layer of dark yellow-brown silt clay (204). This deposit contained numbers of brick fragments and metal artefacts such as wire hawsers suggesting that was a layer of made ground, again probably associated with the construction and levelling of the WWII airfield. This layer varied in depth from 0.2 m to in excess of 0.8 m. Cut into the surface of this deposit was a parallel side linear trench (207), measuring 1.2 m wide and in excess of 0.5 m in depth. This was filled by a light yellow-brown silt clay (206) which produced fragments of tarmac and brick suggesting it was of recent origin. Projection of this feature showed it to link with two old inspection covers unmarked on the services plan which suggests that (207) was a modern service trench.

- 1.1.35 Overlying fill (206) and deposit (204) was a 0.2 m deep layer of yellow-brown silt clay (203). This contained fragments of brick and is a probable levelling layer of made ground associated with the WWII airfield (Fig. 4, Sections 201 and 202). Sealing both 203 and the subsoil 201 was a 0.2 m deep layer of dark grey-brown silt loam (200), a modern landscaping layer of topsoil and turf (Fig. 4, Sections 200, 201 and 202).

### **Trench 3**

- 1.1.36 This was located in the centre of the development area between two standing concrete bunkers and measured 30 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 1.1.37 The top of the underlying gravel terrace (302) was encountered at a depth of between 0.3 m and 0.5 m below the current ground level (Fig. 5, Plan and Sections 300, 301 and 303). This was overlaid by a 0.25 m deep layer of orange-brown silty clay (301) containing much gravel. This may represent a layer of possible alluvium. Cut into the southern end of this deposit was an irregular feature (306) measuring 4 m long and over 1.2 m wide. Upon excavation this was seen to be filled by a orange-brown sandy silt (305) 0.8 m deep. The edges of the feature were very uneven and at times undercut the terrace gravel suggesting that this feature was the product of bio-perturbation, possibly a rabbit warren.
- 1.1.38 Running across the centre of the trench at approximately 40 degrees was a 2.5 m wide feature with roughly parallel sides (309) (Fig. 5, Plan and Section 303). After excavating this feature it could be seen that the majority of it was filled by a dark orange-brown sandy silt (308), up to 0.8 m in depth. The upper part of the feature was filled by an orange-brown sandy loam (307) 0.5 m in depth. The profile of 309 showed that it had steeply sloping sides with two distinct channels in its base, but showing no evidence of recuts within its section. Its profile suggests that it was a channel, however the lack of both evidence of occupation such as charcoal, or dating evidence recovered from its fills renders it impossible to determine if it was a palaeo-channel or part of a man-made feature such as a boundary ditch.
- 1.1.39 A layer of very dark grey sandy silt loam topsoil and turf (300) completed the sections.

#### **Trench 4**

- 1.1.40 This was located on an area of level ground on the southern edge of the development area and measured 30 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 1.1.41 The top of the underlying gravel terrace was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m below ground level at the northern end of the trench sloping down to 1.2 m below ground level at the southern end (Fig. 6, Sections 400 and 401).
- 1.1.42 This was overlaid by a layer of yellow-brown silt clay (402) 0.15 m in depth. This contained fragments of brick and represents a layer of modern made ground. Overlying this was a 0.25 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (401), which produced fragments of demolition debris such as brickwork and cast iron window frames. At the southern end of the trench this was sealed by a layer of grey-brown clay silt (406), up to 0.3 m in depth. This also contained demolition debris. Overlying this was a 0.2 m deep layer of yellow-brown silt clay (405), which in turn was overlaid by a 0.25 m deep layer of dark grey clay silt (404) which produced demolition debris and a length of wire hawser. A 0.25 m deep layer of dark grey brown silt loam (400), a landscaping layer of topsoil and turf ran the length of the trench.
- 1.1.43 The thick deposits of made ground at the southern end of the trench show that the area around the trench has been raised, forming a roughly level terrace overlooking the valley to the east.

#### **Trench 5**

- 1.1.44 This was located in the centre of the development area to the east of the administration buildings and measured 40 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 1.1.45 The top of the underlying gravel terrace (502) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below the current ground level (Fig. 7, Plan and Sections 500, 502 and 505). At the northern end of the trench this was cut by a parallel sided feature 1.6 m wide by 0.4 m deep (504) (Fig. 7, Section 500). This had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was a possible boundary ditch, probably relating to the post-medieval Aldermaston Estate. This ditch was filled by red-brown silt clay (503) 0.4 m deep.
- 1.1.46 Elsewhere in the trench the gravel terrace was disturbed by three roughly circular features (506), (508) and (510). These were filled by a similar grey-brown silt clay (505), (507) and (509) respectively and were all the product of animal disturbance, probably rabbits.
- 1.1.47 Overlying the natural gravel and these features was a 0.25 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (501). This represents a layer of worked soil, possibly an earlier layer of ploughsoil. Sealing this was a 0.2 m deep layer of dark grey silt loam (500) the present day topsoil and turf.

**Trench 6**

- 1.1.48 This was located within the guard dog training area on the north-western edge of the development area and measured 30 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 1.1.49 The top of the underlying gravel terrace (603) was encountered at a depth of between 0.35 m and 0.5 m below the current ground level (Fig. 8, Sections 600 and 601).
- 1.1.50 The surface of this deposit was disturbed by an area of animal disturbance (rabbit burrows) and by a series of parallel plough marks probably dating to WWII land reclamation. The gravel was overlaid by a 0.12 m deep layer of light brown clay silt loam (602), a buried soil horizon, possibly the original topsoil. Overlying this was a layer of dark grey-brown clay silt (601), measuring between 0.12 m and 0.22 m in depth. This contained many lenses of yellow gravel and was a probable layer of made ground, probably associated with the levelling of the WWII airfield. Sealing this layer was a 0.12 m deep layer of dark brown silt loam (600), a modern landscaping layer of topsoil and turf.

**Trench 7**

- 1.1.51 This was located in a valley on the south-eastern edge of the development area and measured 30 m in length by 1.8 m wide. The position of the trench was moved approximately 4 m westwards to bring it inside the current site boundary.
- 1.1.52 The trench was excavated down to the first layer of undisturbed stratigraphy. However in this case this was a layer of colluvium and a sondage was dug in the south-western end of the trench in order to determine if the colluvium sealed any earlier archaeology.
- 1.1.53 Within the sondage (Fig. 9, Section 701), the top of the gravel terrace (706) was encountered at a depth of 1.3 m below the current ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.28 m deep layer of light red-brown silt clay (705), a probable layer of colluvium. Overlying this was a 0.62 m deep layer of red-brown clay silt (704) containing much sub-angular flint gravel and representing another layer of colluvium.
- 1.1.54 Sealing this colluvium and running the length of the trench (Fig. 9, Sections 700 and 701) was a 0.12 m deep layer of dark red-brown clay silt (703). This deposit contained some gravel and was a possible layer of earlier worked soil. Overlying this was a 0.05 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam (702) which may represent a buried soil horizon, probably the original topsoil.
- 1.1.55 This layer was overlaid by a 0.15 m deep layer of orange-brown sand silt (701) which appears to be a layer of redeposited natural, and was a probable layer of made ground. Overlying the made ground was a 0.1 m deep layer of dark grey-brown silt loam (700), a probable modern landscaping layer.

### **Trench 8**

- 1.1.56 This was located on the western edge of the development area and measured 30 m in length by 1.8 m wide.
- 1.1.57 The underlying natural, the top of the gravel terrace (803) was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the current ground level (Fig. 10, Sections 800 and 801). At the southern end of the trench the natural was overlaid by a lens of red-brown clay silt (804), 0.1 m deep and 2.2 m wide. This was part of a probable peri-glacial deposit. Overlying both 803 and 804 was a 0.2 m deep layer of light grey-brown clay silt (802) which contained a mixture of silts and gravel and probably represents a buried soil horizon, possibly an earlier plough soil. Overlying this was a layer of grey-brown clay silt (801), measuring between 0.18 m and 0.25 m in depth. This layer contained fragments of brick and iron wire and is a probable layer of modern made ground, probably associated with the levelling of the WWII airfield. This was sealed by a 0.15 m deep layer of dark grey silt loam (800), a modern landscaping layer.

### **5.2 Finds**

- 1.1.58 All the dating evidence recovered was of post-medieval origin and comprised cast iron window frames, steel pipe, wire hawsers, concrete, tarmac and fragments of brick. All these finds relate the twentieth century and were probably associated with levelling of the area for the construction of the WWII airfield. The presence of the dating evidence was recorded on the context sheets, however the artefacts were not retained.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 1.1.59 The full depth of stratigraphy down to the top of the natural deposits was achieved in all trenches except Trench 7. The depth of made ground within the remaining trench (Trench 1) rendered it impossible to bottom the trench down to natural without either shoring or stepping the trench. However since the base of this trench was excavated below the depth of the natural within the two closest trenches it was felt that any original stratigraphy would have been truncated within that area.
- 1.1.60 The uniformity of the stratigraphy observed the positioning of the trenches and percentage of excavation was felt to give a realistic representation of the archaeology within the study area.

### **6.2 Overall interpretation**

- 1.1.61 Only two of the trenches produced evidence of archaeology predating the construction of the WWII airfield. Within Trench 3 a channel was encountered running approximately east-west, however lack of evidence made it impossible to determine if this was a man-made or prehistoric feature. Within Trench 5 a second

east-west running feature was encountered, however, this was interpreted as a post-medieval boundary ditch.

1.1.62 All trenches produced evidence of landscaping and levelling operations probably associated with the WWII airfield with the exception of Trench 7. The large deposits of made ground within Trench 4 appear to be part of an operation to construct a level terrace, probably to enable prefabricated structures common to WWII sites to be constructed.

1.1.63 No archaeology earlier than the post-medieval period was encountered, and no evidence for the location of the Roman Road was observed.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1							
	100	Layer	-	0.18 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	101	Layer	-	0.35 m	Modern made ground	-	C20th
	102	Layer	-	0.06 m	Modern made ground	-	C20th
	103	Layer	-	0.68 m	Modern made ground	Brick	C20th
	104	Layer	-	0.25 m	Modern made ground	Brick, wire rope	C20th
2							
	200	Layer	-	0.18 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	201	Layer	-	0.2 m	Earlier plough soil	-	-
	202	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
	203	Layer	-	0.25 m	Modern made ground	-	C20th
	204	Layer	-	> 0.8 m	Modern made ground	Brick, wire rope	C20th
	205	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Naturally occurring ironpan	-	-
	206	Fill	-	> 0.4 m	Backfill of modern service trench	Brick	C20th
	207	Cut	1.1 m	> 0.4 m	Modern service trench	-	C20th
3							
	300	Layer	-	0.16 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	301	Layer	-	0.18 m	Earlier plough soil	-	-
	302	Layer	-	> 0.6 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
	303	Fill	0.4 m	> 0.17 m	Backfill of modern service trench	-	C20th
	304	Cut	0.4 m	> 0.17 m	Modern service trench	-	C20th
	305	Fill	2.6 m	0.7 m	Peri-glacial deposit disturbed by animals	-	-
	306	Cut	2.6 m	0.7 m	Animal disturbance	-	-
	307	Fill	1.3 m	0.45 m	Upper fill within Cut 309	-	-
	308	Fill	2.6 m	0.95 m	Primary fill of Cut 309	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Thick.</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
---------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	---------------	----------------	--------------	-------------

	No		(m)	(m)			
3							
	309	Cut	2.6 m	0.95 m	Gully, possibly natural in origin	-	-
4							
	400	Layer	-	0.25 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	401	Layer	-	0.25 m	Tip line of made ground	Brick, glass	C20th
	402	Layer	-	0.2 m	Tip line of made ground	Brick, glass	C20th
	403	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
	404	Layer	-	0.25 m	Tip line of made ground	Brick, iron	C20th
	405	Layer	-	0.2 m	Tip line of made ground	-	C20th
	406	Layer	-	0.3 m	Tip line of made ground	Brick, iron	C20th
5							
	500	Layer	-	0.15 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	501	Layer	-	0.25 m	Earlier plough soil	-	-
	502	Layer	-	> 0.4 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
	503	Fill	2.0 m	0.4 m	Fill of Ditch 504	-	-
	504	Cut	2.0 m	0.4 m	Boundary ditch	-	-
	505	Fill	0.6 m	0.18 m	Fill of Cut 506	-	-
	506	Cut	0.6 m	0.18 m	Probable tree throw hole	-	-
	507	Fill	0.5 m	0.15 m	Fill of Cut 508	-	-
	508	Cut	0.5 m	0.15 m	Animal disturbance	-	-
	509	Fill	0.6 m	0.18 m	Fill of Cut 510	-	-
	510	Cut	0.6 m	0.18 m	Animal disturbance/ rabbit burrow	-	-
6							
	600	Layer	-	0.12 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	601	Layer	-	0.2 m	Modern made ground	Brick, glass	C20th
	602	Layer	-	0.12 m	Buried soil horizon, original topsoil	-	-
	603	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Width	Thick.	Comment	Finds	Date
--------	------	------	-------	--------	---------	-------	------

	No		(m)	(m)			
7							
	700	Layer	-	0.1 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	701	Layer	-	0.15 m	Modern made ground	-	C20th
	702	Layer	-	0.05 m	Buried soil horizon, original topsoil	-	-
	703	Layer	-	0.11 m	Earlier plough soil	-	-
	704	Layer	-	0.62 m	Colluvium	-	-
	705	Layer	-	0.28 m	Colluvium	-	-
	706	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
8							
	800	Layer	-	0.18 m	Modern topsoil and turf	-	C20th
	801	Layer	-	0.25 m	Modern made ground	Brick, iron	C20th
	802	Layer	-	0.2 m	Buried soil horizon, possibly layer of earlier plough soil	-	-
	803	Layer	-	> 0.2 m	Top of gravel terrace	-	-
	804	layer	-	0.15 m	Peri-glacial deposit	-	-

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Atkins, 2007 *Hydrus Project, AWE Aldermaston, Berkshire: Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

OA, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Hydrus Project, AWE Aldermaston, West Berkshire



**Site code:** ALHY 07

**Grid reference:** SU 602 640

**Type of evaluation:** 8 machine dug evaluation trenches, total length of 260 m

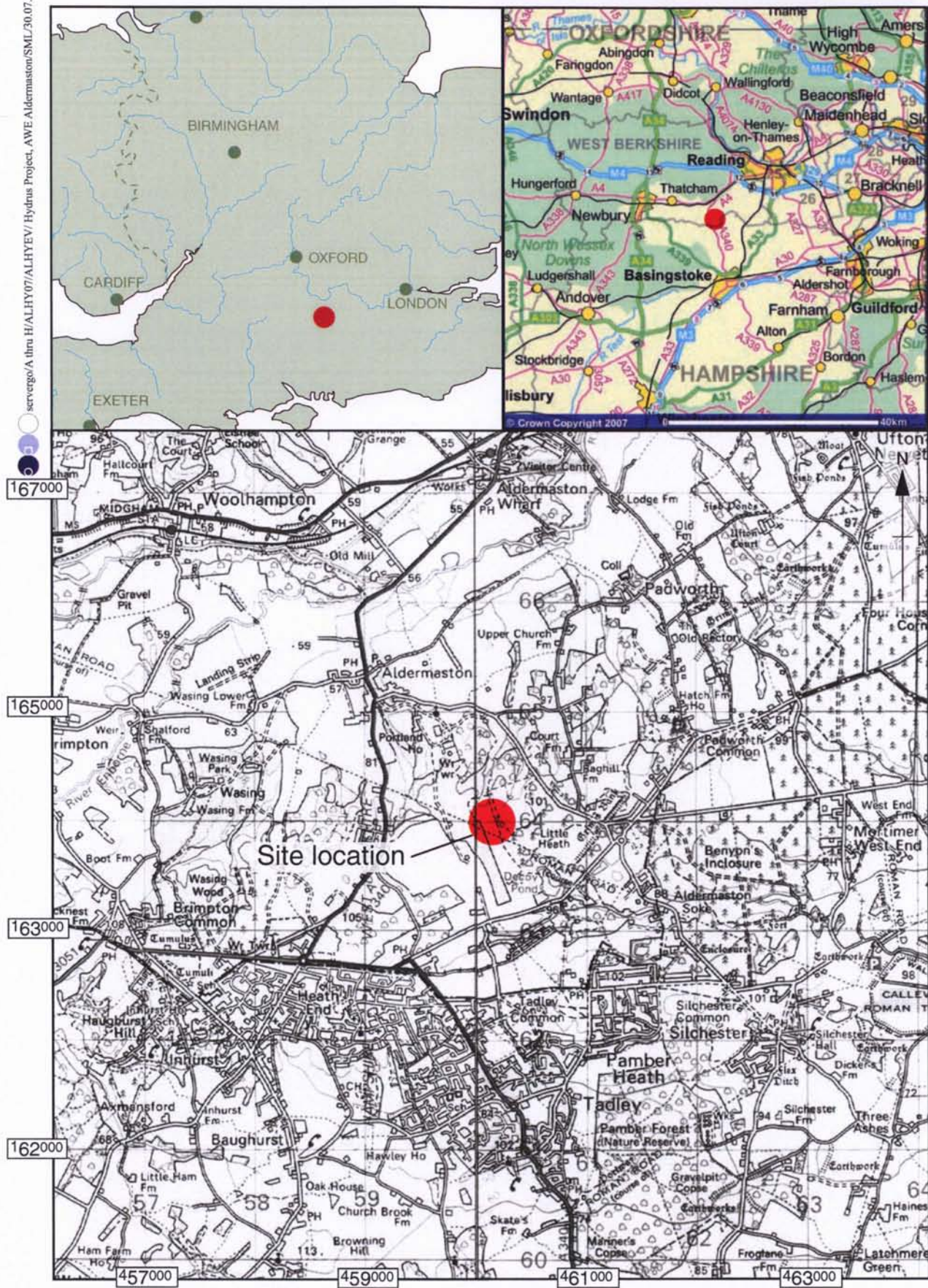
**Date and duration of project:** Between 2nd and 10th July 2007, 7 days

**Area of site:** 6.4 hectares

**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed a ditch which may relate to enclosures associated with the medieval or post-medieval Aldermaston Estate. A second feature, which may also be an enclosure ditch or possibly an erosion gully left when the gravel terrace was deposited was also observed.

Evidence for post-medieval landscaping associated with construction of the airfield during WWII was observed within 7 of the 8 trenches. No other significant archaeology was encountered.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West Berkshire Heritage Service in due course, under the following accession number: NEBYM:2007.94



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Figure 1: Site location

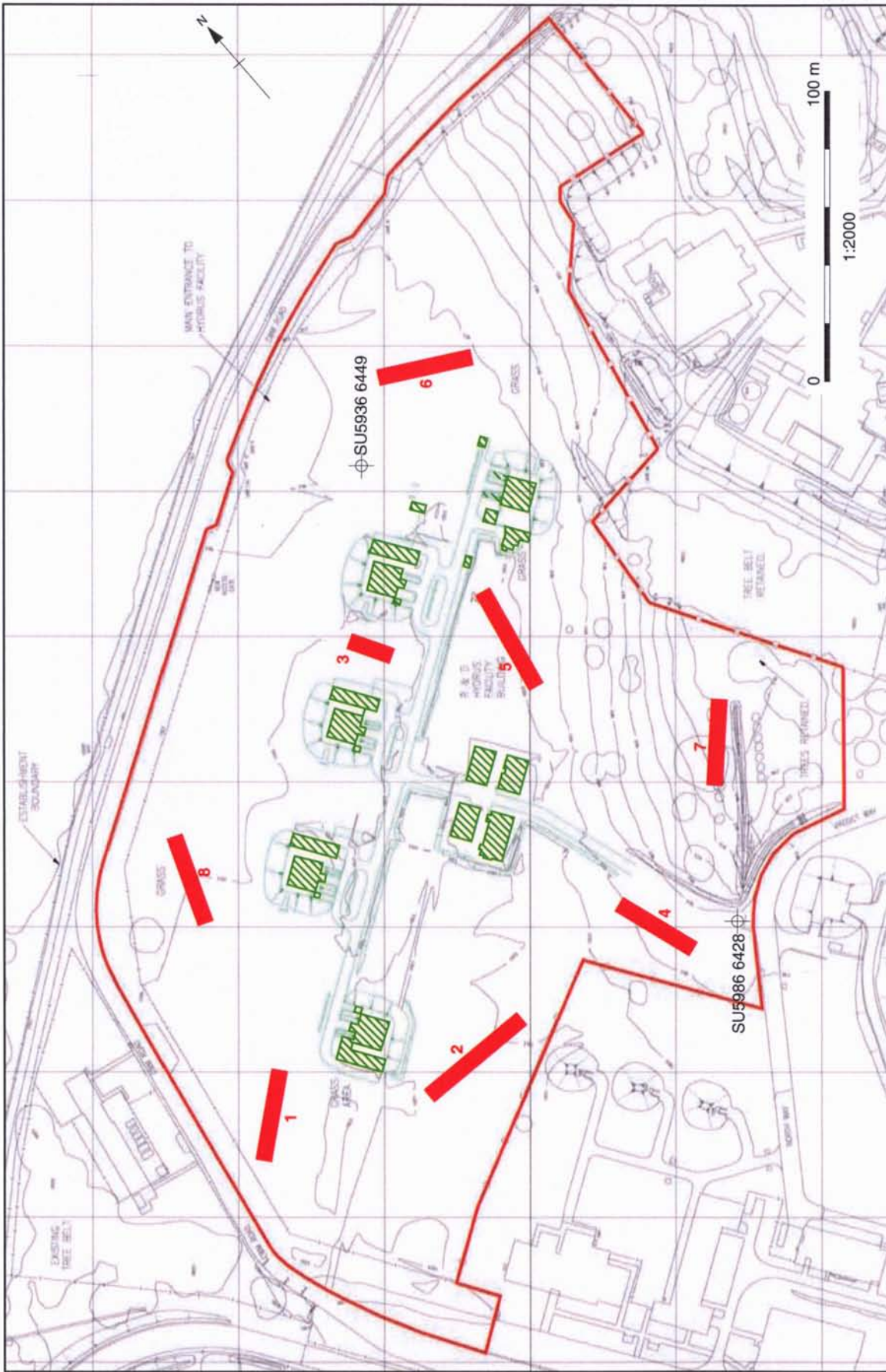
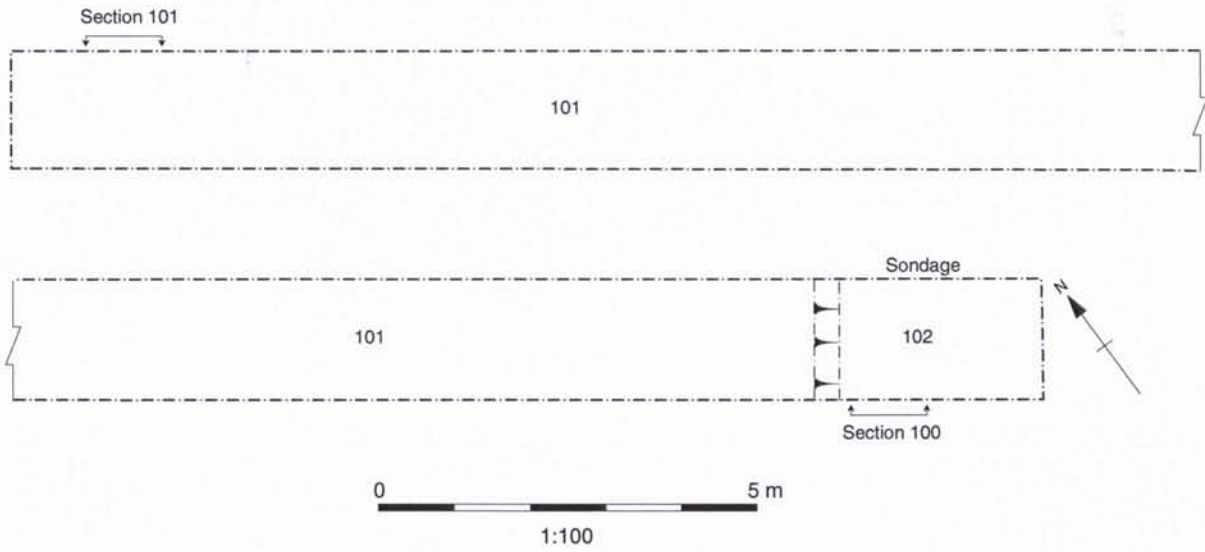


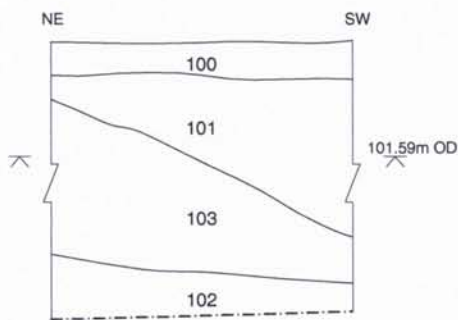
Figure 2: Trench locations

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### Trench 1



### Section 100



### Section 101

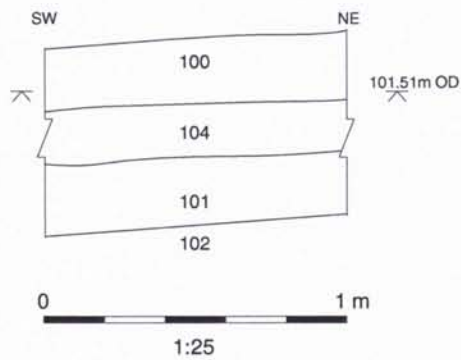


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections

### Trench 2

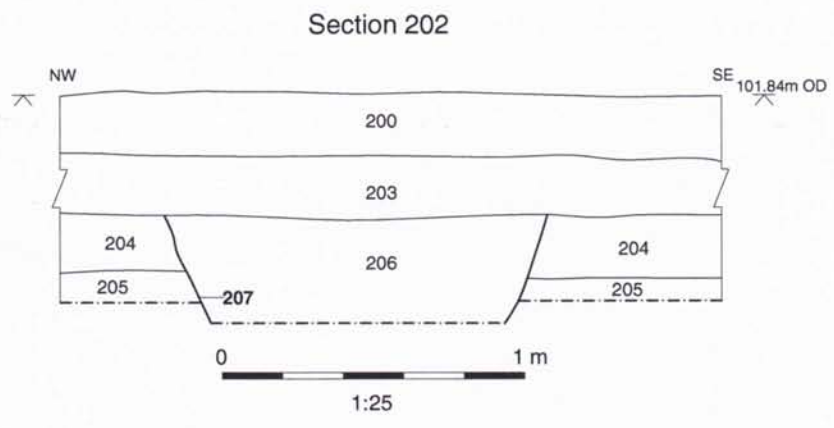
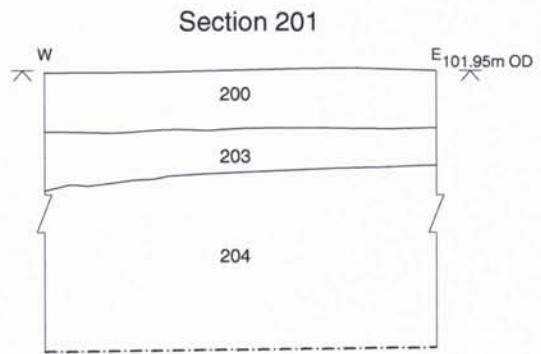
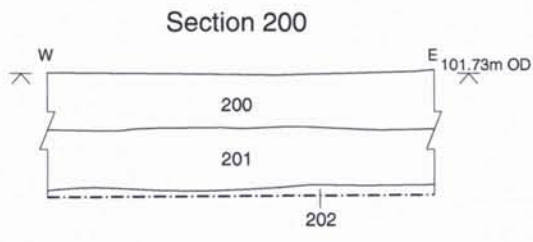
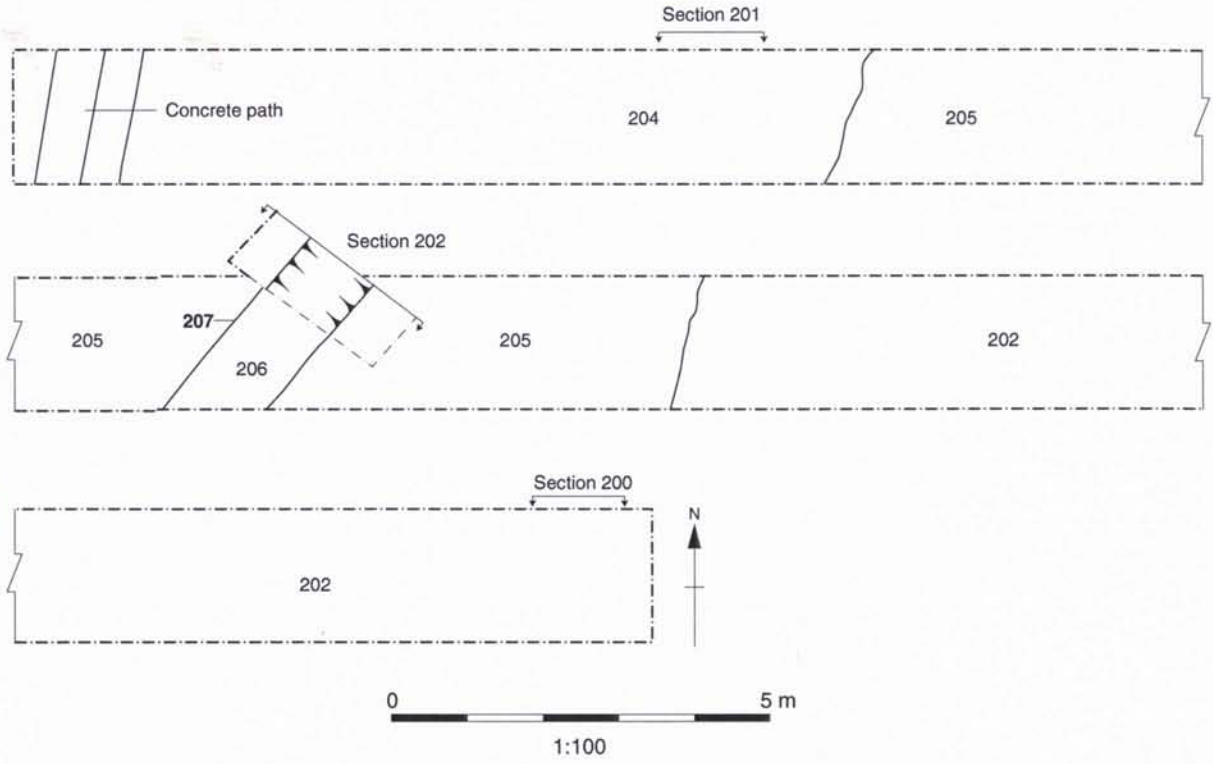
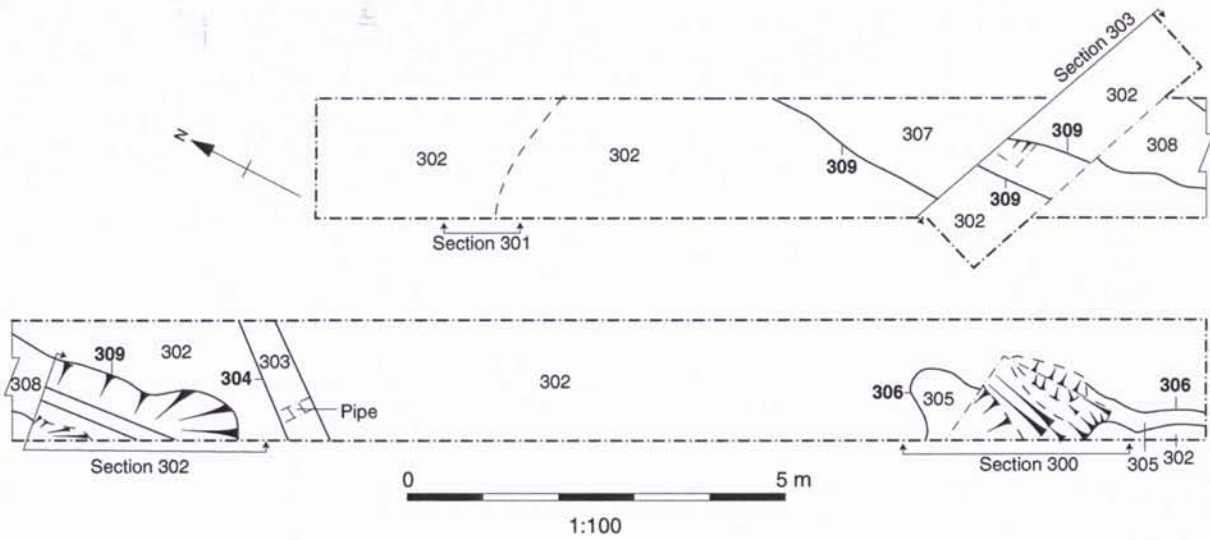
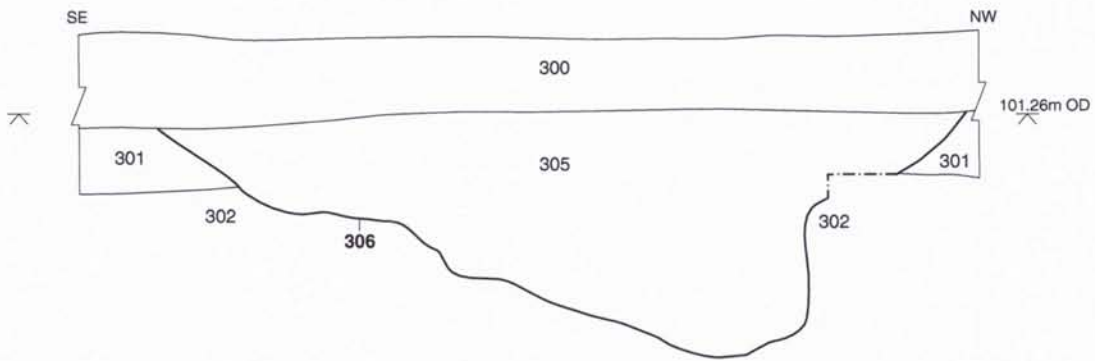


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections

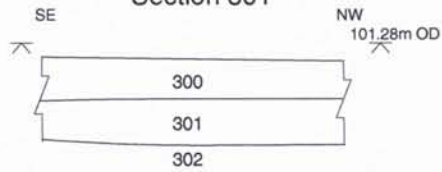
### Trench 3



### Section 300



### Section 301



### Section 302

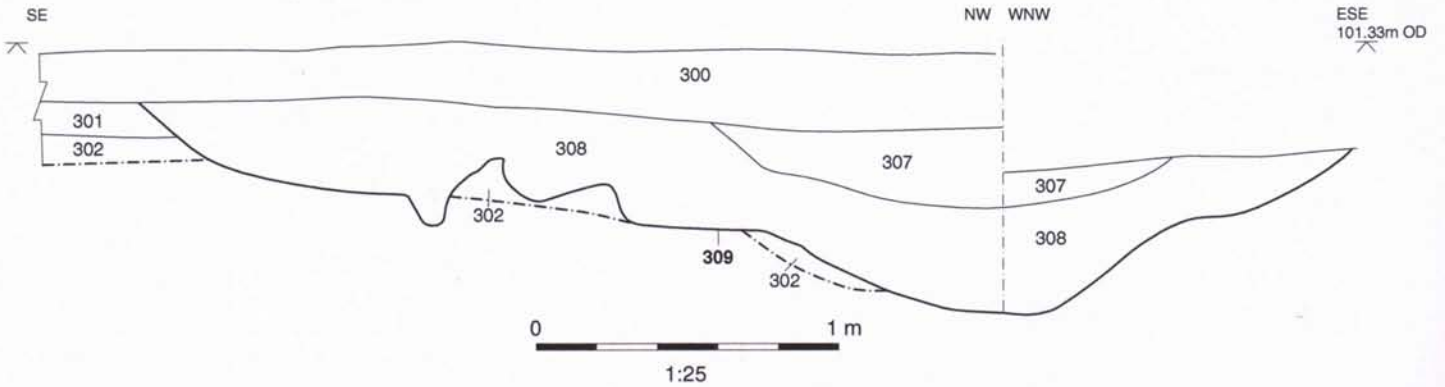


Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and sections

### Trench 4

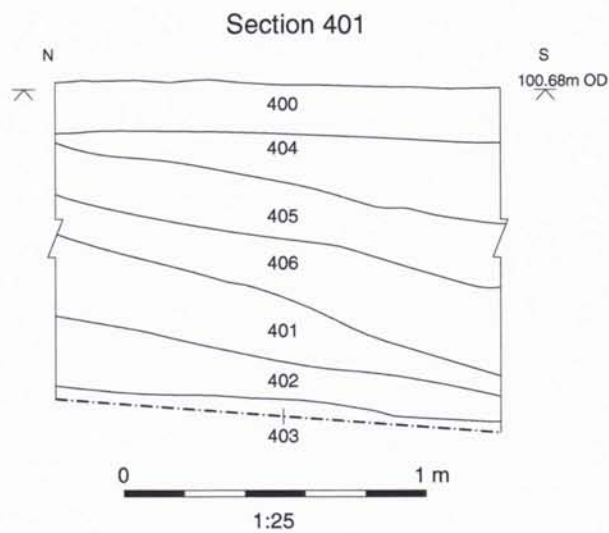
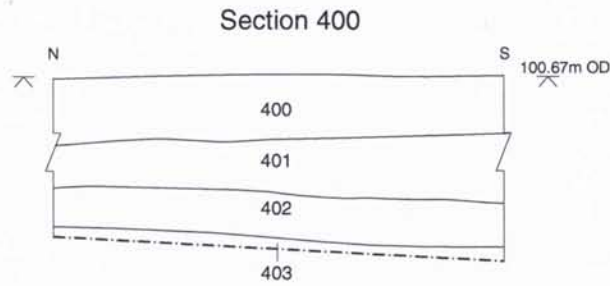
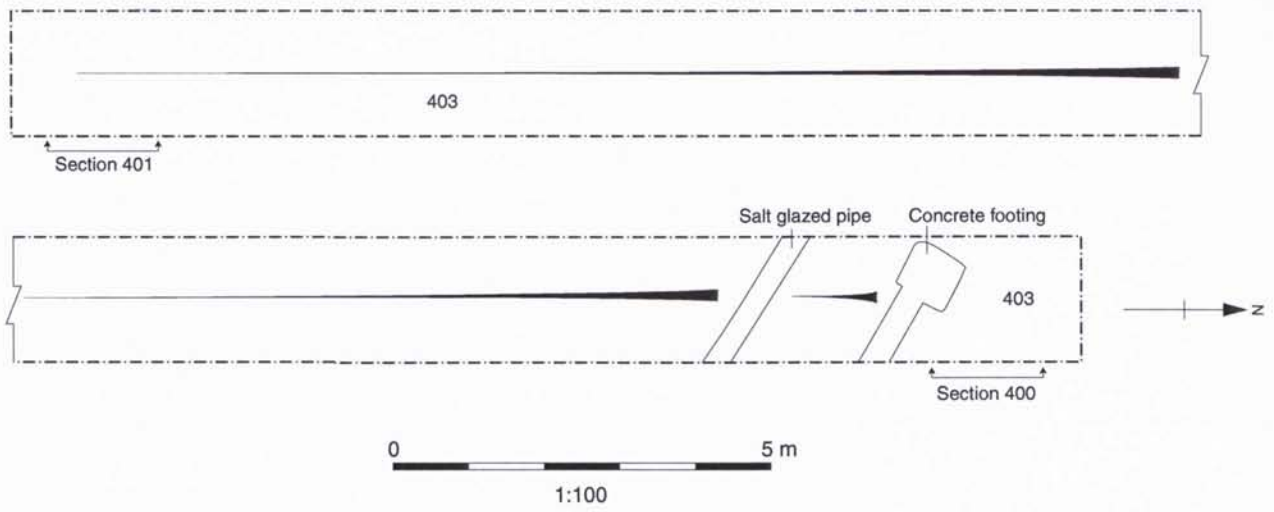


Figure 6: Trench 4, plan and sections

### Trench 5

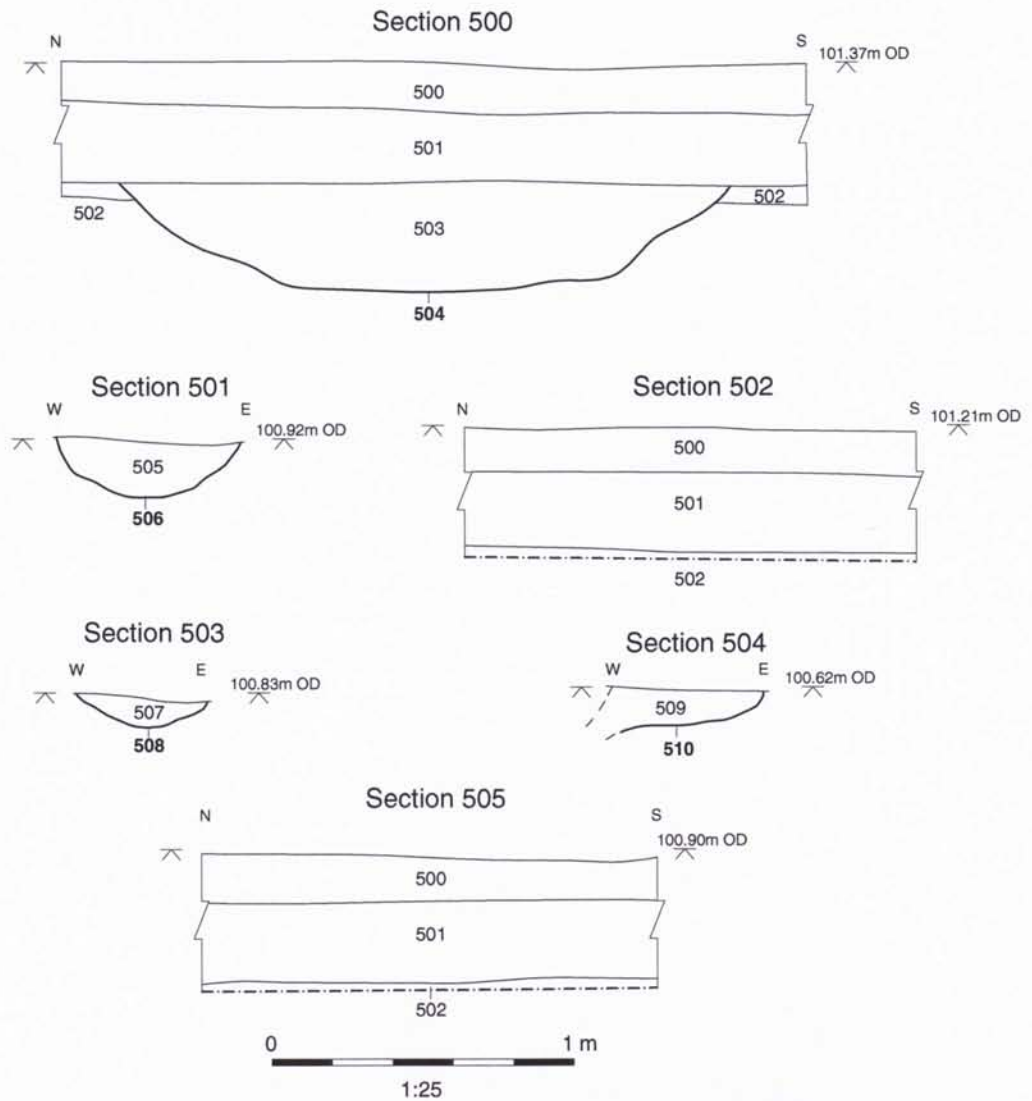
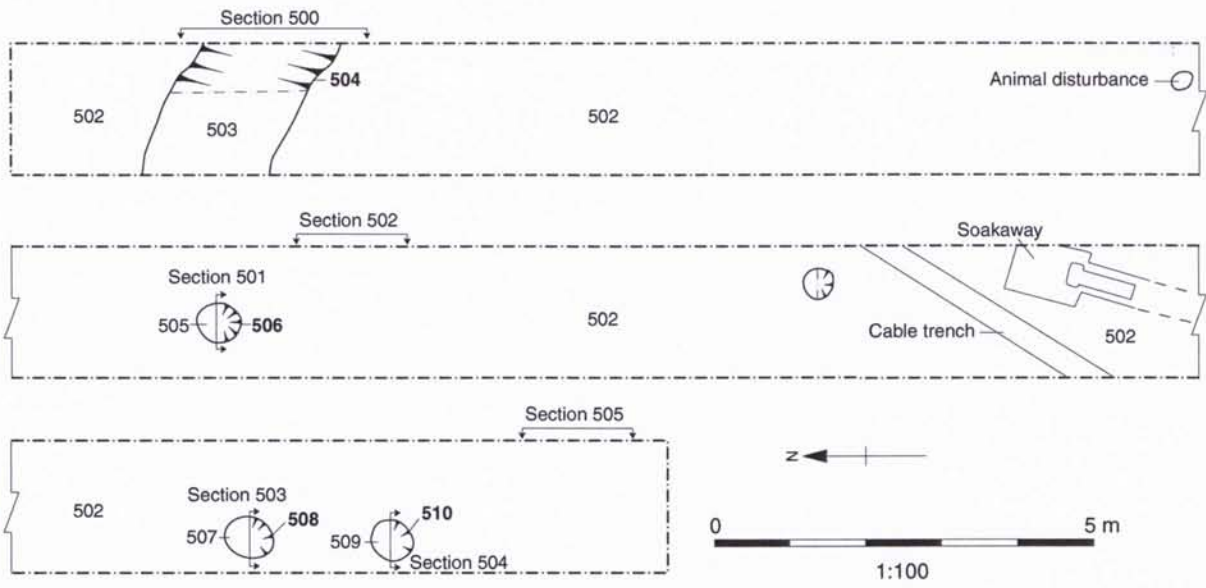


Figure 7: Trench 5, plan and sections



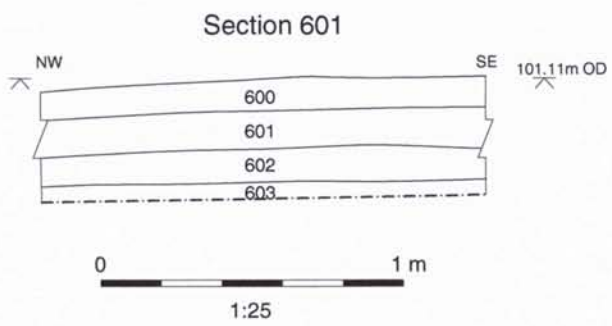
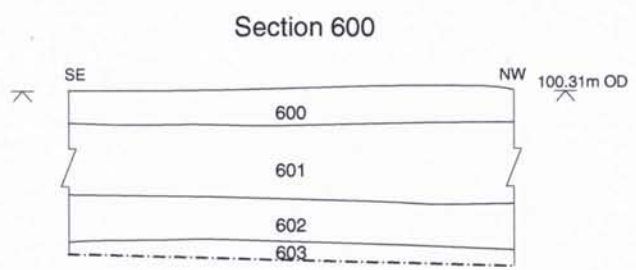
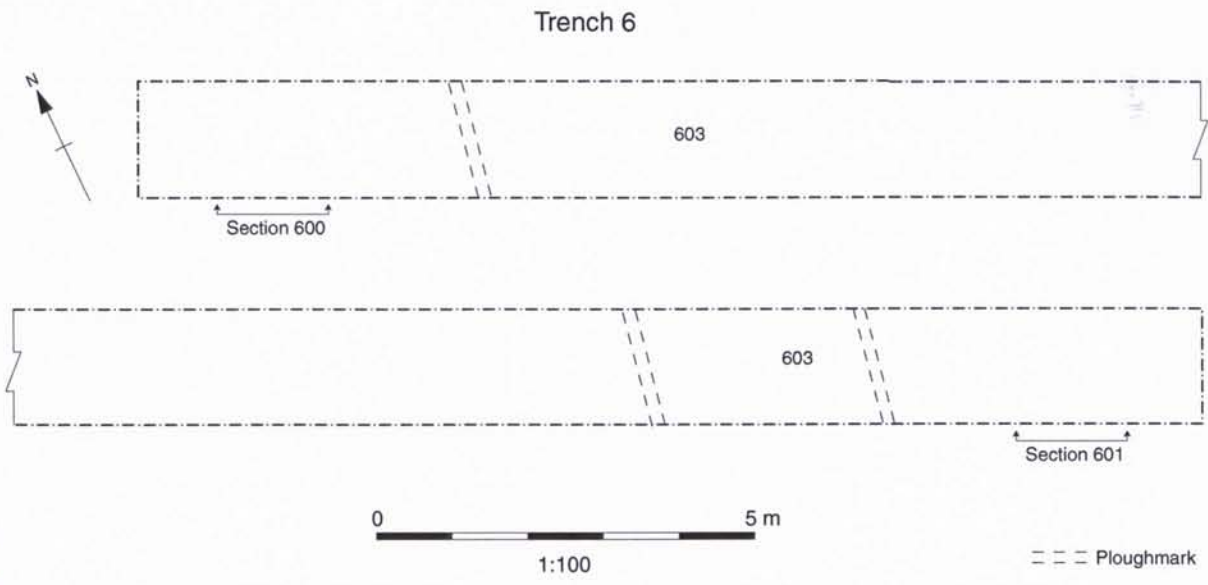


Figure 8: Trench 6, plan and sections

### Trench 7

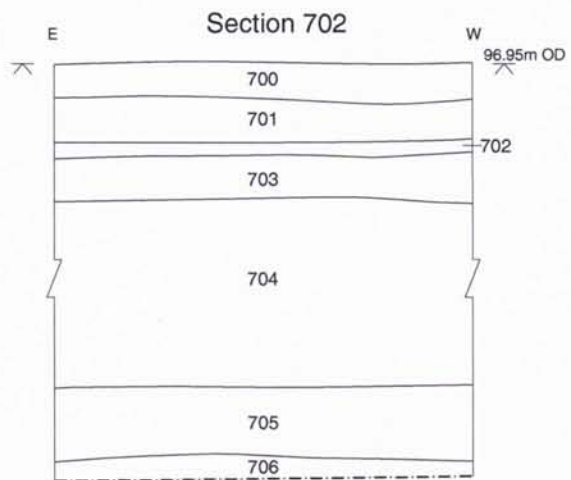
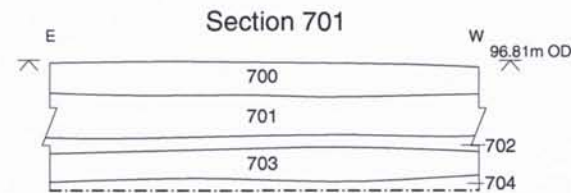
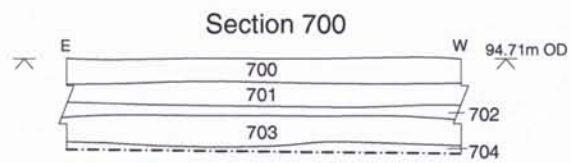
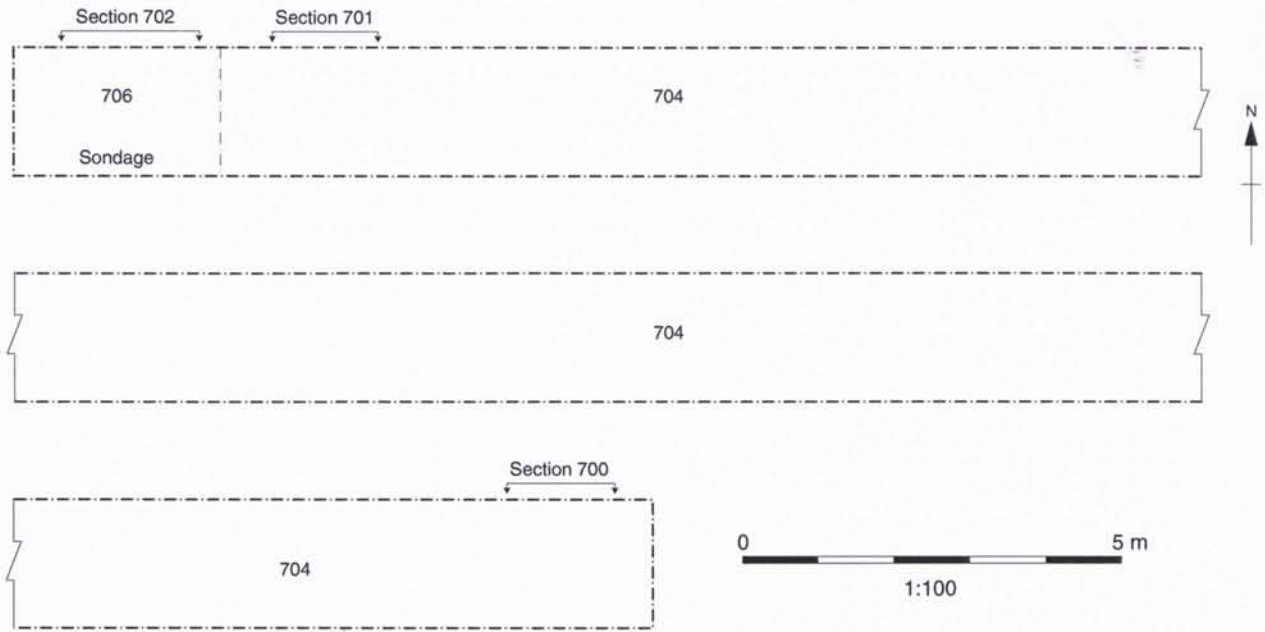
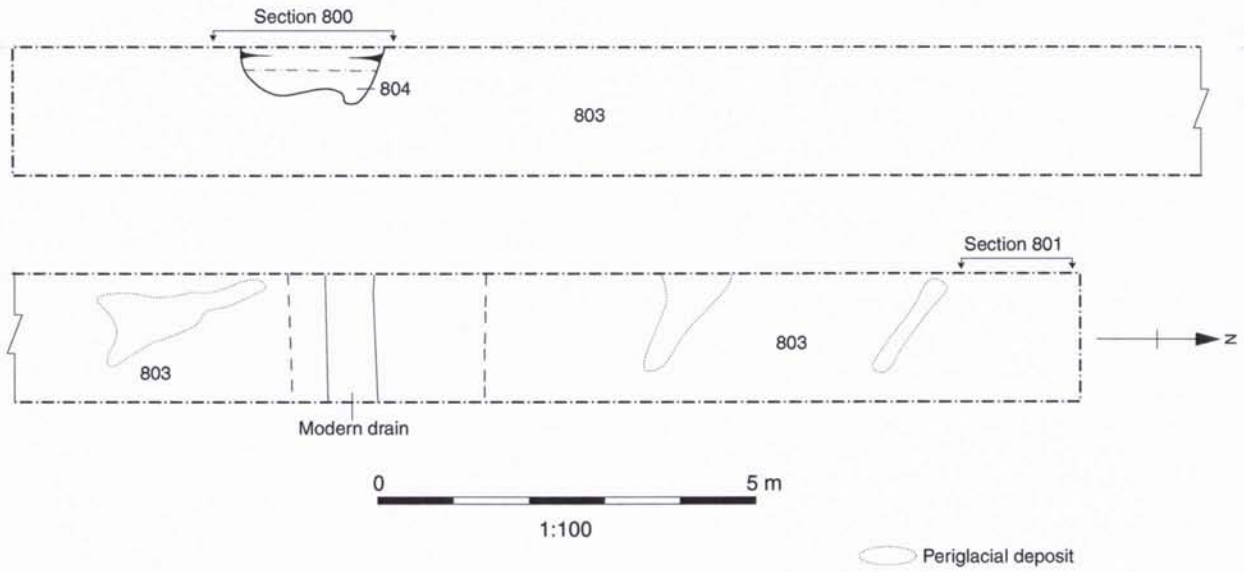
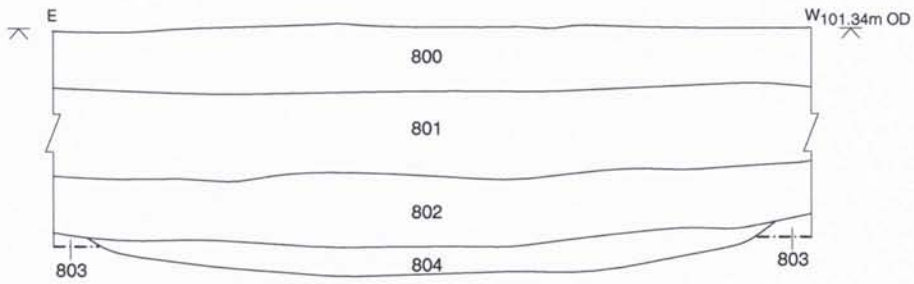


Figure 9: Trench 7, plan and sections

### Trench 8



### Section 800



### Section 801

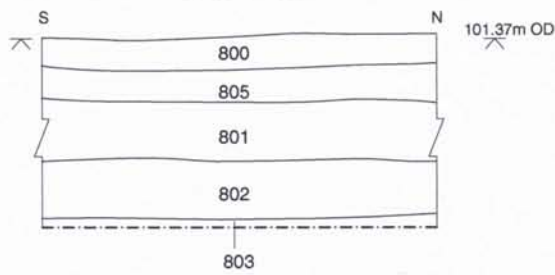


Figure 10: Trench 8, plan and sections



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