



WYAS
**Archaeological
Services**

Barnburgh Lane

Goldthorpe

South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Report no. 4012
August 2023

Client: BWB Consulting Ltd



Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe

South Yorkshire

Trial Trench Evaluation

Summary

Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned by BWB Consulting Ltd on behalf of Homes by Honey Ltd to undertake archaeological trial trenching at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. The work involved the excavation of thirteen trial trenches targeting geophysical anomalies and blank areas.

A potential Iron Age or Roman enclosure or field system, alongside later plough furrows and land drains, was identified, confirming the results of the geophysical survey.



Report Information

Client:	BWB Consulting Ltd
Address:	Whitehall Waterfront, 2 Riverside Way, Leeds, LS1 4EH
Report Type:	Trial Trench Evaluation
Location:	Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe
County:	South Yorkshire
Grid Reference:	SE 4689 0397
Period(s) of activity represented:	Romano-British/Modern
Report Number:	4012
Project Number:	XK45
Site Code:	BBL23
Date of fieldwork:	3rd – 14th July 2023
Date of report:	August 2023
Project Management:	David Williams
Fieldwork supervisor:	Konrad Dziurawiec
Fieldwork:	Jet Jansen, Alexandria Rayner, Jacob Hurst-Myszor
Report:	Stephanie Blues
Illustrations:	Stephanie Blues
Photography:	ASWYAS staff

Authorisation for
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Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JQ
Telephone: 0113 535 0163
Email: admin@aswyas.com



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Document Issue Record

Ver	Author(s)	Reviewer	Approver	Date
1.0	SB	DW	JR	Aug 23
2.0				

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by BWB Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Homes by Honey Ltd, to undertake the excavation of thirteen trenches at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. The trenches were investigated between the 3rd and the 17th July 2023. The work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a Specification produced by BWB Consulting and approved by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (Appendix 1).

Site location, topography and land-use

The proposed development site is located to the south-west of the Goldthorpe, a village approximately 11km west of Doncaster and 11km east of Barnsley (SE 4689 0397 NGR; Fig. 1).

The site is located within an irregular-shaped plot of land bounded by Barnburgh Lane on the south, a narrow, unnamed lane to the west, and woodland along the north and north-east boundary (Fig. 2). The site currently comprises an undeveloped plot of agricultural land.

The ground within the site is generally level, situated at a height of approximately 34-42m above Ordnance Datum.

Soils and geology

The bedrock geology across the site comprises the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, described as pebbly mudstone formed between 318 and 309.5 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. No superficial deposits are recorded on site (BGS 2023).

The overlying soils are described as seasonally wet, acidic loam and clay (Landis 2023).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following information has been derived from the project Specification (Appendix 1).

Iron Age and Roman

The Historic Environment Record (HER) records four Iron Age/Roman entries locally. These comprise aerial photographic cropmarks of a trackway, enclosures, field boundaries and ditches.

Post-medieval and modern

The HER records four post-medieval and modern entries. These are a Dovecote, located at Dovecote Farm (MSY6154), the site of a fire engine in Goldthorpe (MSY13147), an aerial photographic cropmark of 20th-century spoil heaps (1431353), and a sign at the Goldthorpe Public House (1034884).

Previous archaeological investigations

Five archaeological investigations are noted within the vicinity of the site based on HER records, in addition to a recent geophysical survey of the site itself.

Within the site, cropmarks of ridge and furrow, presumed medieval and post-medieval in date, were identified by Historic England in 2021.

To the south of the site, a geophysical survey and trial trenching was undertaken by SLR in 2012. This determined the presence of archaeological remains in the form of cropmarks, potentially Iron Age or Romano-British in date, and archaeological anomalies that were examined during trial trenching. Nine trenches were excavated, one of which showed a single, undated ditch which correlated to a geophysical anomaly.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Phase Site Investigation in 2019 on a site to the north, which identified features interpreted to be part of an enclosure system which had previously been identified by cropmark data. Elsewhere on the site, a ditch containing Roman pottery was identified.

Approximately 1.8km to the south-west of the site, extensive archaeological work was conducted in 2017, which encountered a shallow pit of Mesolithic date and a large rectangular enclosure containing pits and/or post-holes dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British period. These contribute to the increasing knowledge of the wider landscape of prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the area.

An archaeological evaluation for the proposed Dearne Towns Link Road was carried out in 1997. Trenches were excavated to test magnetic anomalies. The excavations found ditches that correlated with the anomalies, some of which were natural, but found no other material to date them.

A geophysical survey of the current site was undertaken by Archaeological Services University of Durham in 2023. The survey found ditches, possibly representing pre-Ordnance Survey land boundaries, traces of former ridge and furrow cultivation, and an area of disturbed ground.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the trial trenching, from the project specification, were to:

- characterise and date the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey;
- assess the potential for other archaeological deposits and/or features to occur;
- determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- inform the scope of archaeological mitigation works.

The objective of the work was to monitor the removal of top and subsoil horizons and assess the resultant trenches for their archaeological potential. Any remains were then subject to archaeological excavation and environmental data were sampled.

4 Methodology

The work involved the excavation of thirteen trenches, all of which measured 30m by 2m. The trenches were positioned to target potential archaeological anomalies identified during the previous geophysical survey (ASDU 2023), as well as to provide a wide sample across the remaining areas of the site (Fig. 2).

All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; CIfA 2020), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the Specification (Appendix 1).

All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to $\pm 0.01\text{m}$. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains.

An appropriate sample was excavated through all archaeological features with at least a 20% sample through linear features (with a minimum sample of 1m) and a 50% sample through discrete features. These were undertaken to investigate the full depth, profile and fills, where possible, and to recover dating evidence from the fills. All excavated sections were, where possible, located adjacent to the trench edge in order to provide a full stratigraphic sequence.

All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 and trench summary tables are given in Appendix 3.

ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.

5 Results

Below is a description of each trench containing archaeological remains. Trenches devoid of archaeological features are not discussed further but tables displaying the depths and widths of each context along with a brief description are shown in Appendix 3.

All features were sealed by a mid-brown clayey silt topsoil (Plates 1 and 2). The subsoil on site, where present (Trenches 1, 2, 8, 12 and 13) comprised firm mid-greyish brown silty clay. The underlying geology comprised firm mid-orangey brown sandy clay. A variation in the underlying geology was observed in Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Within these trenches the underlying geology comprised compact mid-dark orangey yellow mudstone and sandstone.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 contained one ditch (103), on a north-south orientation. Ditch 103 (Fig. 3, S. 9; Plate 3) corresponds with an enclosure or field ditch identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). It contained a single fill (104).

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 contained one ditch (203), on a north-south orientation and one plough furrow. Ditch 203 (Fig. 4, S.1; Plate 4) contained a single fill (204). Ditch 203 is the continuation of enclosure ditch 103, observed in Trench 1.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 contained one ditch (302), on a north-south orientation, and three plough furrows. Ditch 302 (Fig. 5, S.3; Plate 5) corresponds with an enclosure or field ditch identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). It contained a single fill (303).

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Trench 4 contained two ditches (402 and 405), both on a north-south orientation. Both ditches correspond with enclosure ditches identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Ditch 402 (Fig. 6, S. 10; Plate 6) contained two fills (403 and 404). Ditch 405 (Fig. 6, S. 9; Plate 7) contained three fills (406, 407 and 408). Ditch 405 was later disturbed by a furrow (409).

Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Trench 5 contained two ditches (502 and 510) and two plough furrows (506 and 508), all of which were on a north-south orientation. Ditches 502 and 510 both correspond to an enclosure ditch identified in the geophysical survey. The ditches are a continuation of ditches 402 and 405 present in Trench 4.

Ditch 502 (Fig. 7, S. 12; Plate 8) contained a single fill (503) and was recut by 504. Recut 504 was filled by topsoil suggesting a modern cut. This recut was not visible within the continuation of this ditch in Trench 4.

Ditch 510 (Fig. 7, Fig. 8, S. 17; Plate 9) contained a single fill (511) and was cut by plough furrow 508.

Trench 9 (Fig. 9)

Trench 9 contained one ditch (902) and two plough furrows, all of which were observed on an east-west orientation. Ditch 902 (Fig. 9, S. 14; Plate 10) corresponds to an enclosure or field ditch identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2) and contained a single fill (903).

Trench 12 (Fig. 10)

Trench 12 contained one ditch (1203), on a north-south orientation. Two plough furrows were also present within the trench. Ditch 1203 (Fig. 10, S. 5; Plate 11) corresponds to an enclosure or field ditch identified in the geophysical survey and contained a single fill.

Trench 13 (Fig. 11)

Trench 13 contained one ditch (1303) on an east-west orientation. Ditch 1303 (Fig. 11, S.18; Plate 12) corresponds to an enclosure or field ditch identified in the geophysical survey. The ditch contained three fills 1304, 1305 and 1306.

Land drains

Ceramic horse shoe-type land drains were observed within all trenches with the exception of Trenches 6 and 9. The position of the majority of the land drains corresponded to linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The type of horse shoe drain pipe observed on site dates from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century (Harvey 1980).

6 Artefact Record

No artefacts were recovered during the trial trenching, so the proposed Roman date for the features remains speculative at this time.

7 Environmental Record**Carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal** by Diane Alldritt

Eleven environmental sample flots were assessed for carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal. No carbonised remains were recovered from the sample retents.

The bulk environmental samples were processed by ASWYAS using a Siraf-style water flotation system (French 1971). The samples were 20 to 40 litres in volume. The flots were dried before examination under a low power binocular microscope typically at x10 magnification.

The environmental samples were all sterile. Modern material was recorded in amounts 5ml to 30ml mainly root detritus and modern straw with occasional finds of earthworm egg capsules indicating bioturbation and plough disturbance were taking place. Small quantities of crushed clinker and coal were present in three samples and probably originated from post-medieval activity and disturbance. The results are given in Table 1. No further analysis is required and the flots can be discarded.

Table 1. Results from the flot samples

	Context	204	303	403	404	406	408	903	1204	1304	1305	1306
	Sample	3	1	5	4	6	7	8	2	9	10	11
	Cut	203	302	402	402	405	405	902	1203	1303	1303	1303
	Trench	2	3	4	4	4	4	9	12	13	13	13
	Sample											
	Volume (l)	40	40	20	40	40	40	40	40	20	40	40
	Total CV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Modern	20ml	5ml	5ml	20ml	5ml	5ml	10ml	15ml	5ml	5ml	30ml
Environmental Remains	Common Name											
	Clinker						2				1	
	Coal	5+			1		1					
	Modern straw	5+		5+	5+				5+	1	1	5+
	Modern wood				1							
	Earthworm egg capsules					2						

8 Discussion and Conclusions

Feature visibility and reliability

The underlying geological deposits were consistent across site allowing for features to be clearly defined and identified by geophysical survey. No geological features were present.

Within Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12 and 13 anomalies forming an enclosure or field were identified by the geophysical survey. When investigated, ditches cutting the natural were observed and these corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey.

When investigated, weak linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were identified as land drains and plough furrows.

Dating, phasing and function

No finds were recovered from the subsoil or topsoil deposits. In addition, no dating evidence was recovered from the enclosure ditches. Based on known heritage assets locally and the form of the enclosures/fields (Fig. 2), however, the ditches investigated here are likely to be Iron Age or Roman in date. In the absence of any internal features, the enclosures are likely to have had an agricultural purpose, perhaps for containing livestock, rather than for domestic settlement.

No dating evidence was recovered from the plough furrows observed across site. The position of the plough furrows did not respect that of the enclosure ditches and on occasion plough furrows were observed to cut the enclosure ditches. Clearly the enclosures or fields predate the plough furrows.

All land drains encountered comprised ceramic horse shoe type drain pipes, which are early modern in date (*c.* mid-19th to early 20th century). Many of the land drains appear to respect the position of the plough furrows, with some land drains positioned within the plough furrows, suggesting contemporaneity.

Conclusions

The scheme of trial trenching at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe was successful in monitoring the removal of topsoil and subsoil horizons to assess the resultant trenches for their archaeological potential. The trial trenching identified an enclosure or field system of possible Iron Age or Roman date, alongside a later field system of plough furrows and land drains.

The trial trenching indicates that there is potential for further archaeological remains for archaeological remains to be found within the proposed development area.

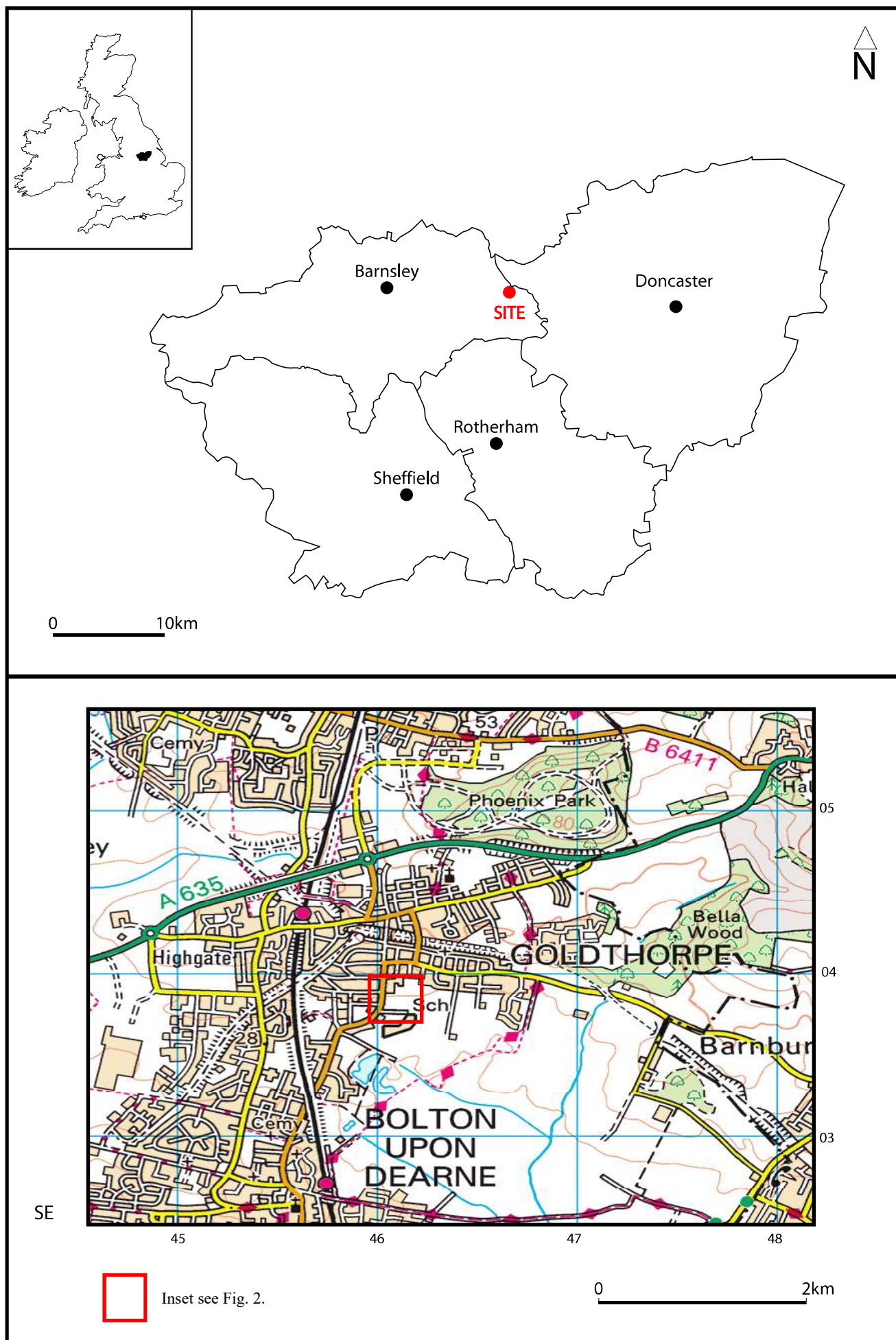
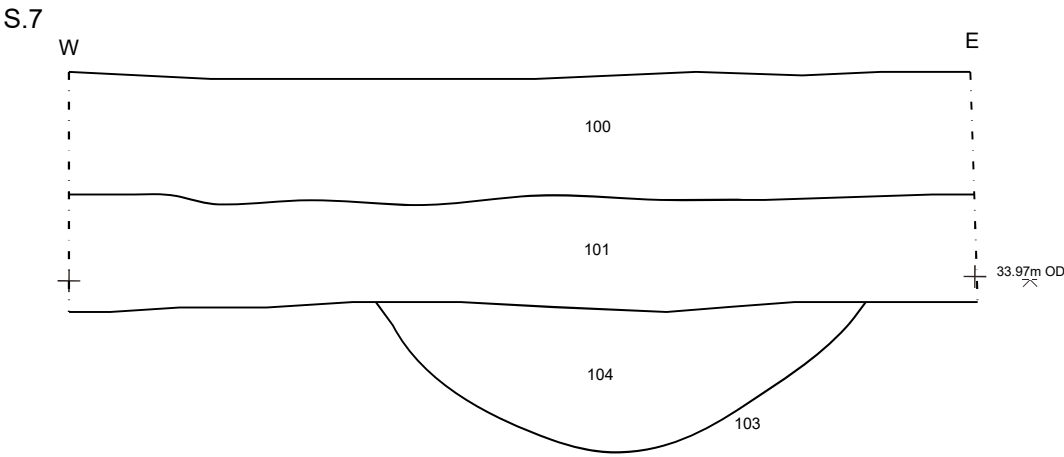


Fig. 1. Site location



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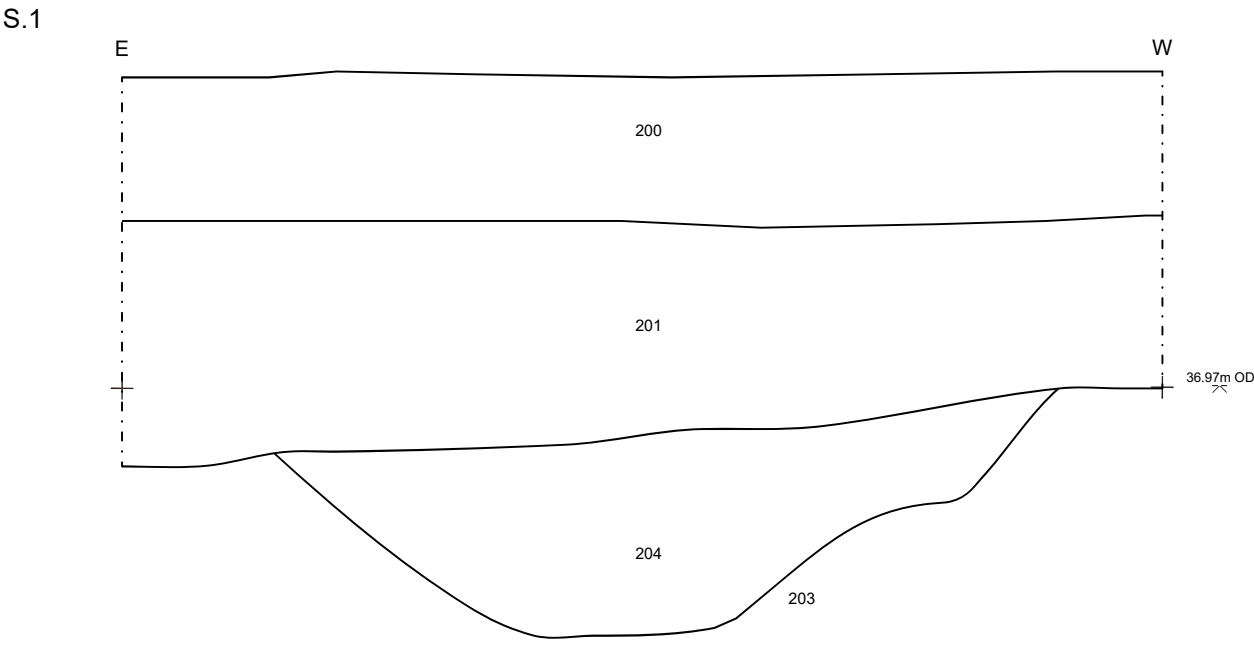
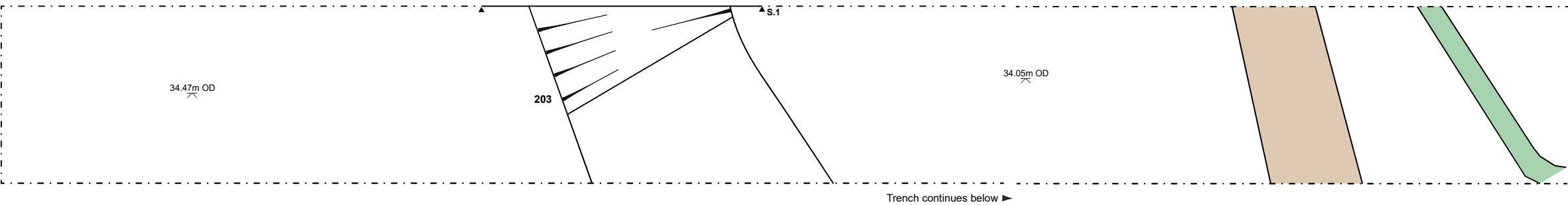
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Fig. 3

Trench 1 plan and section

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



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Fig. 4

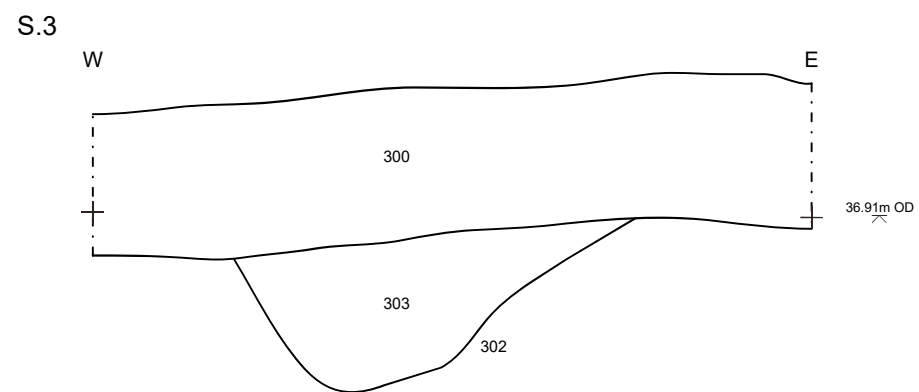
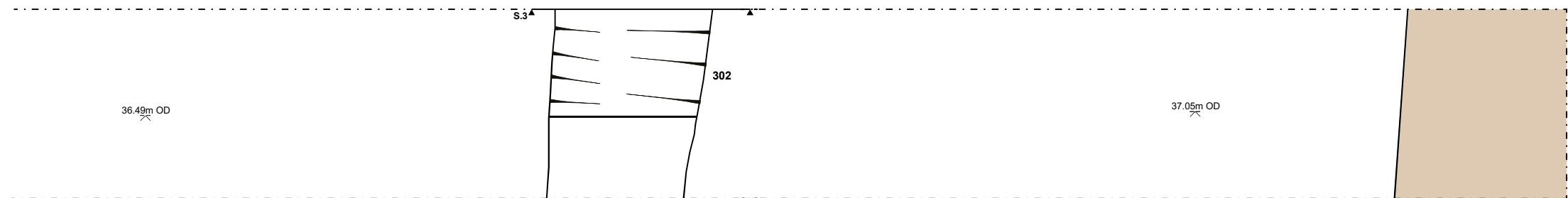
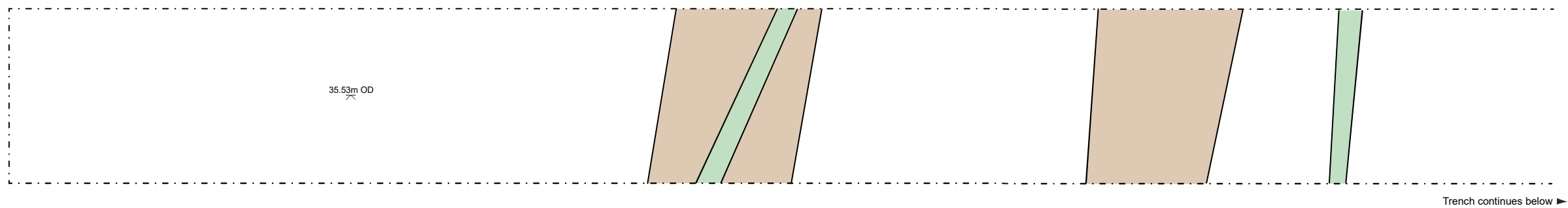
Trench 2 plan and section

Key

-  PLOUGH FURROW
-  LAND DRAIN

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



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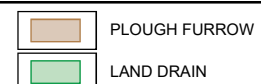
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Fig. 5

Trench 3 plan and section

Key

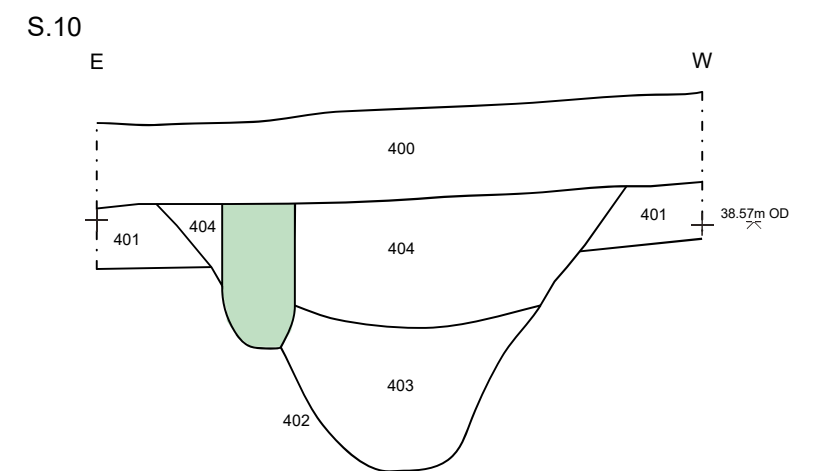
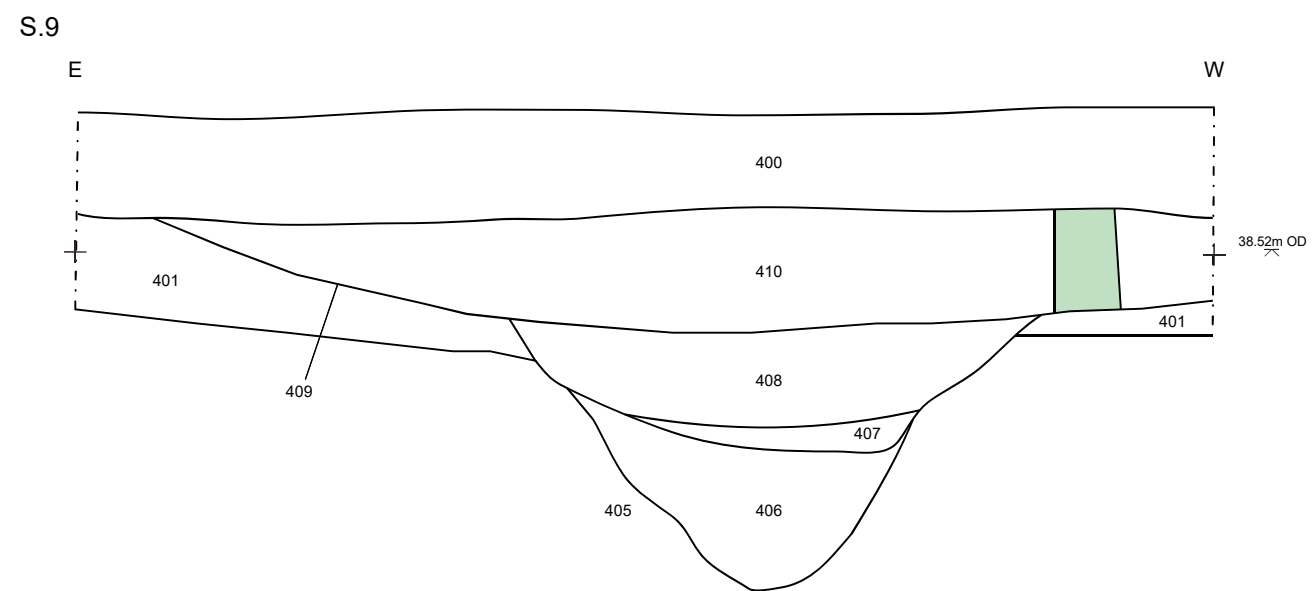
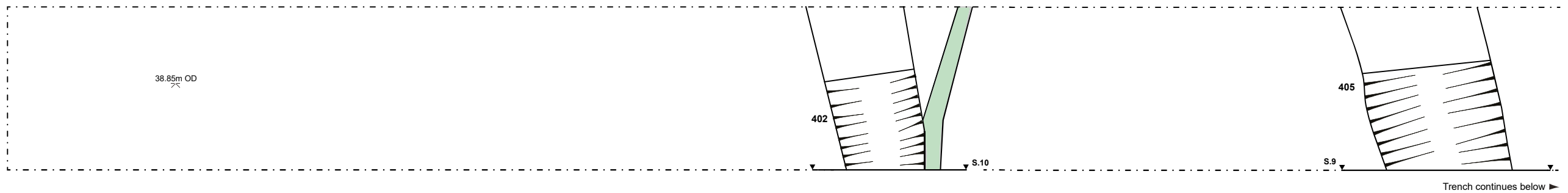


Plans

0 2m (1:50)

Sections

0 1m (1:20)



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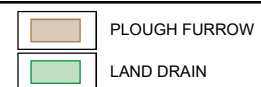
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Fig. 6

Trench 4 plan and sections

Key

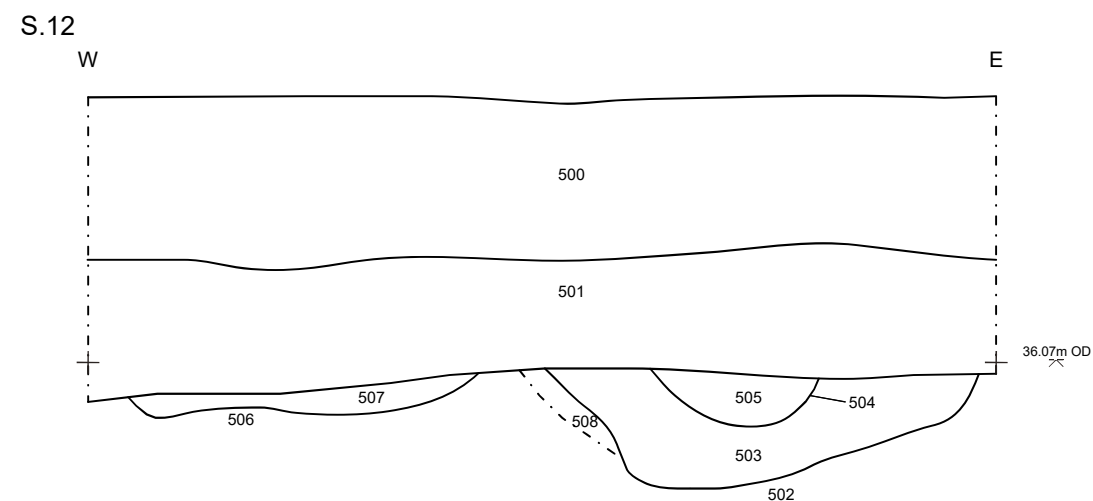
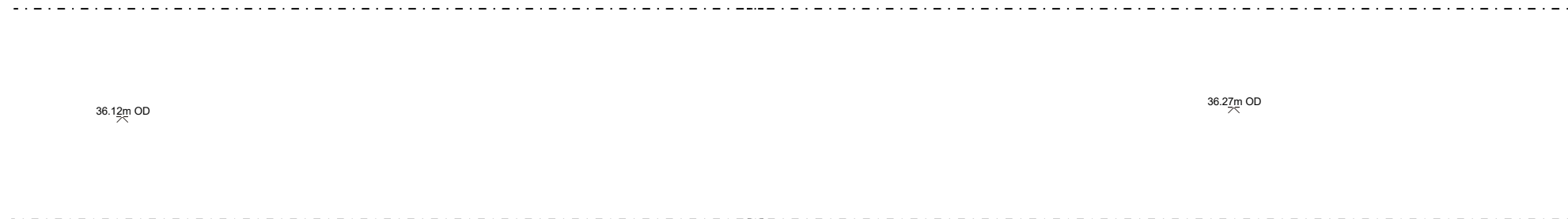
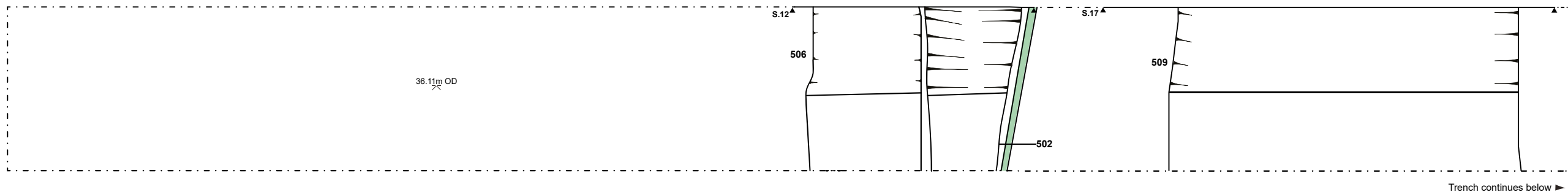


Plans

0 2m (1:50)

Sections

0 1m (1:20)



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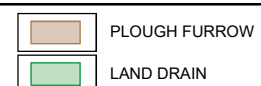
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Fig. 7

Trench 5 plan and section

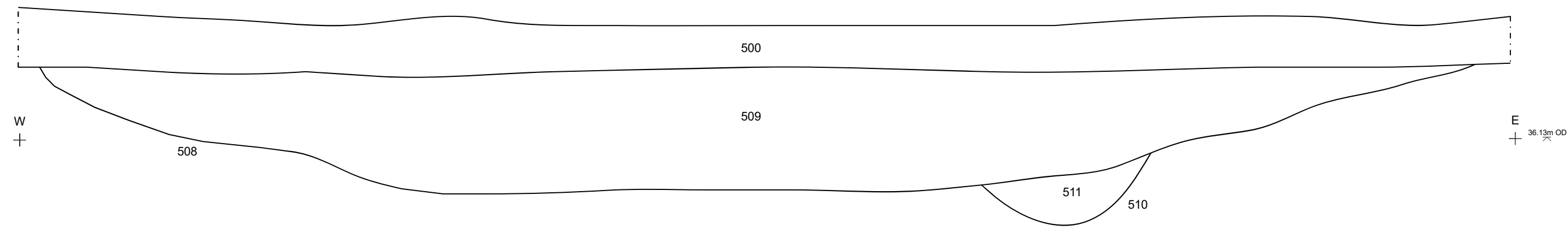
Key



Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)

S.17



W
+

E
+ 36.13m OD



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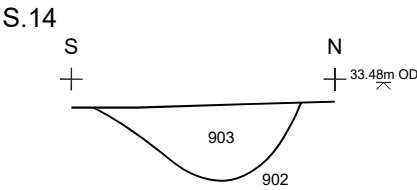
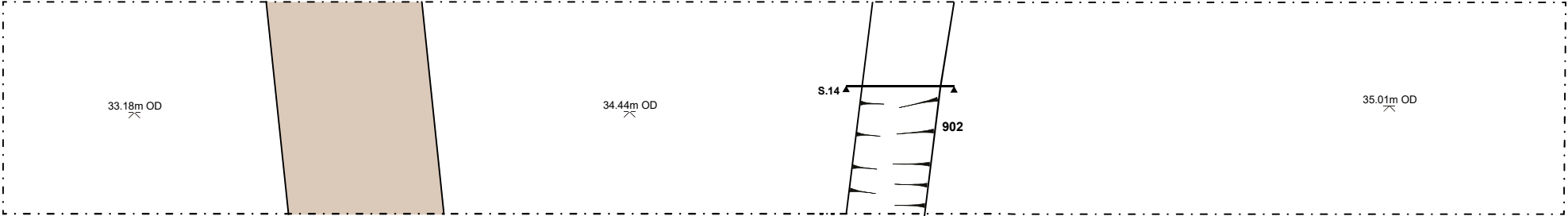
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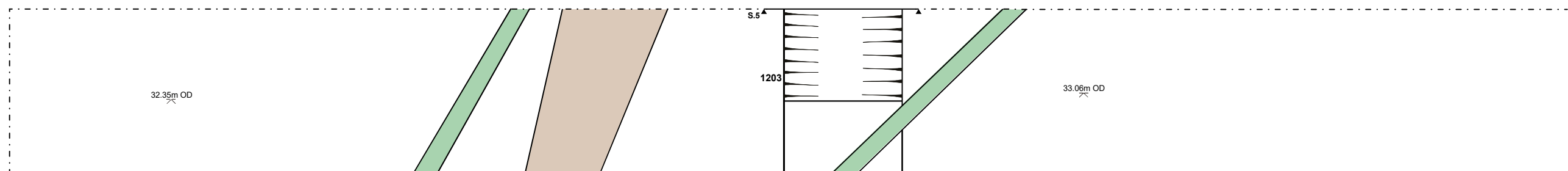
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Fig. 8

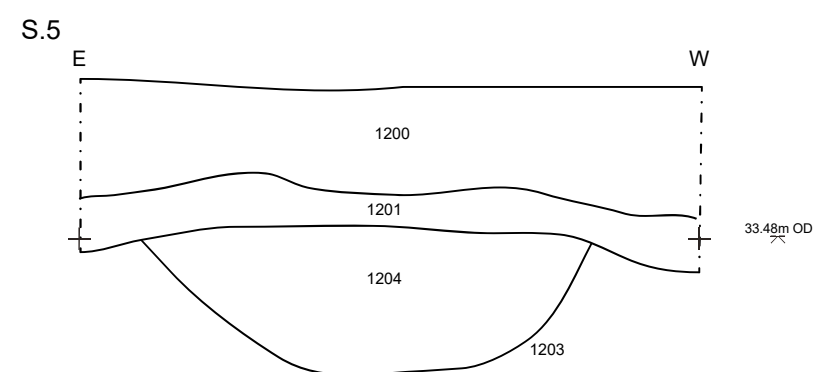
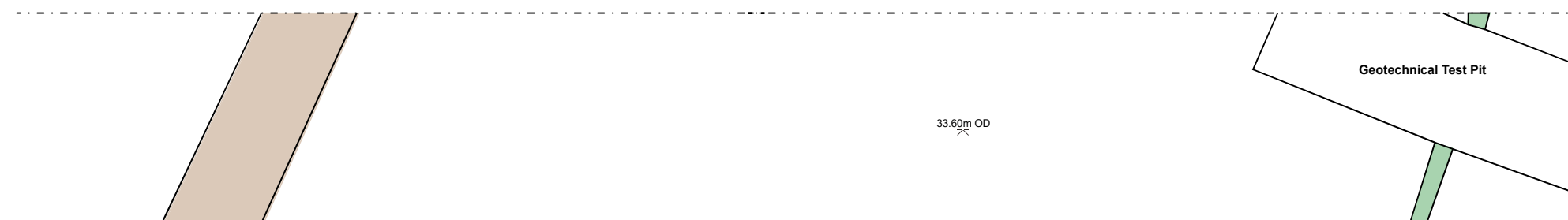
South facing section of furrow 508 and ditch 510

Section 0 1m (1:20)





Trench continues below ►



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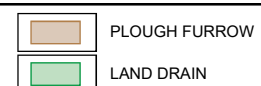
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Fig. 10

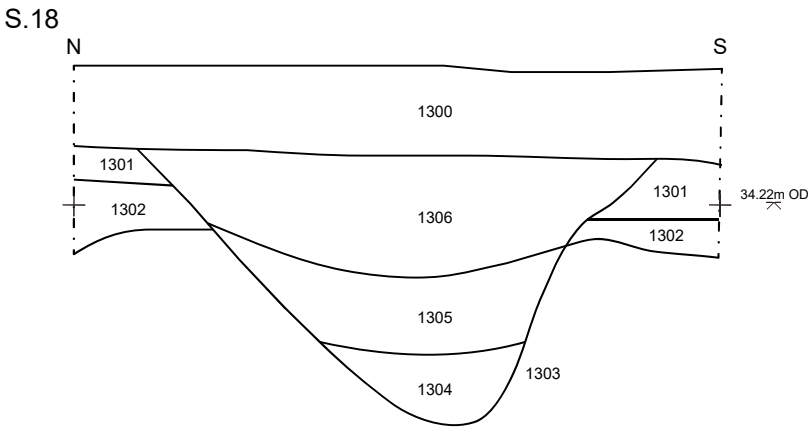
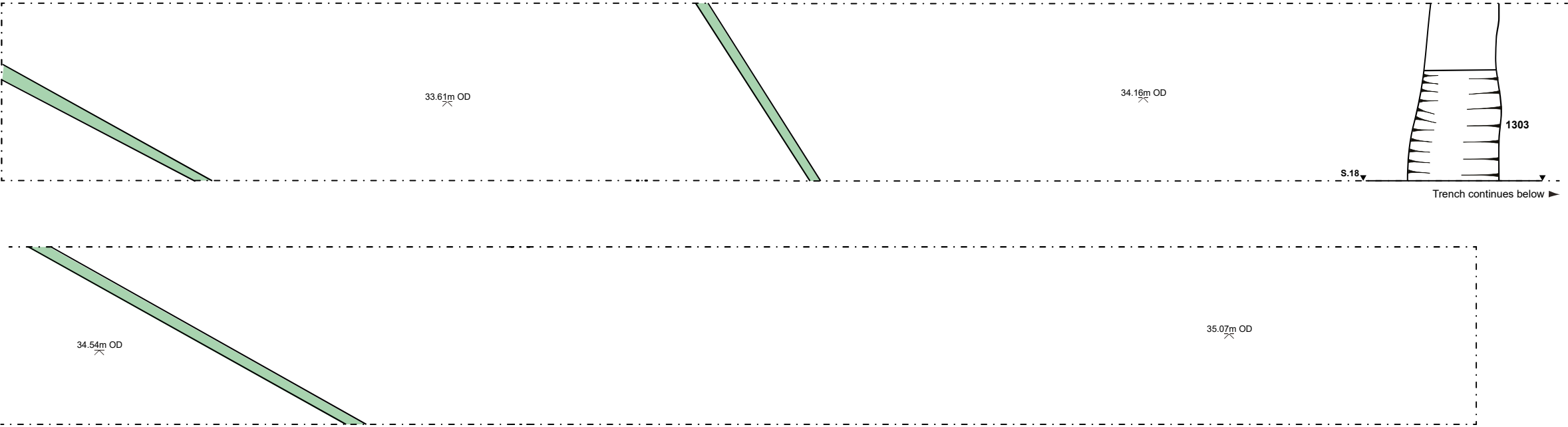
Trench 12 plan and section

Key



Plans 0 2m (1:50)

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Fig. 11

Trench 13 plan and section

Key

-  PLOUGH FURROW
-  LAND DRAIN

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



Plate 1. General view of Trench 13, looking north



Plate 2. Representative section of Trench 6, looking southwest



Plate 3. South facing section of ditch 103



Plate 4. North facing section of ditch 203