# *Investigation of Bronze Age Barrows and Enclosure at Hollingbourne in Kent*


*Dated 17th January 2025*

*Investigation by the Kent Archaeological Field School of the tract of land called the Holmsdale, which runs along the west slope of the North Downs in Kent has discovered and investigated an enclosure with the attributes of a henge.*

*The enclosure is adjacent to the Greenway, a path thought to date from the Neolithic and close to another prehistoric path, the Pilgrims Way. The outer rectangular enclosure, dated to the Early Iron Age faces the Greenway path and the site itself is situated on top of a hill surrounded on three sides by water and on its fourth by the Greenway path. The site was identified by the uneven growth of crops and field-walking by the school earlier in the year retrieved prehistoric and Saxon pottery from the area. Additional field-walking to the west of this feature identified the site of three ring barrows and upslope an enclosure and droveway which again had been identified on Google Earth.*

*From 2011 to 2012 KAFS investigated all three barrows. Barrow 1 had a cobbled entrance on the south side delinated by two post-holes either side of the entrance and two adjacent baby burials. KAFS found no other burials within this ring barrow. The artefacts retrieved from the ditches of Barrows 1-3 have been dated to Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age.*


*Plate 1. Google Earth dated April 21st 2007*

In following years 2013-14 KAFS investigated the remaining barrows situated to the south-west of Barrow 1 (above).

The North Downs ridge to the east of the Medway seems on initial survey results to have a plethora of ring barrows. The Medway valley, between Maidstone and Rochester has the famous megalithic long barrows clustered in two groups on either side of the valley, which have long been known (Holgate 1981). Now, with the recent

discovery of a large Neolithic rectangular timber building at White Horse Stone not far from the Lower Kits Coty burial chamber, the identification of a possible new causewayed camp at Burham (Dyson, Shand and Stevens 2000; Oswald *et al*. 2001), along with the circular enclosure at Holborough, this region stands out as a potentially important ritual Neolithic and Early Bronze Age landscape which is in need of extensive, detailed modern study.


Plate 2. Google Earth view of the study landscape with three ring barrow's (red arrow) and prehistoric enclosure (red circle) and prehistoric drove road (red arrow) from the high land grazing downslope to the fresh water springs just off the picture. Historic OS mapping shows more barrows to the east so the three barrows shown were part of a larger group (OS 1907 mapping).

*Excavation of Bronze Age Barrows and Enclosure at Hollingbourne in Kent.*

*From July 2011 to August 2014.*

1. In July 2011 the topsoil and subsoil were removed from Barrow 1 to reveal an area roughly 28m in diameter. Within the site was located a circular feature which is approximately 25m in diameter. Five trenches (T1 – T5) were excavated across the circular feature which was a ditch; this extended the entire perimeter around the excavation area and completed the circle; however, there was only evidence of both the inner and outer edge of a ditch extending approximately 100 percent of the circular feature. Trenches T1-T5 were approximately 2m x 1.5m x 1.2m variable. Section of A1/T1 [016] is 1. 4m x 1m, the section of A1/T2 [014] is 1.9m x 1. 3m, the section of A1/T3 [028] is 1.6m x 1. 1m, section of A1/T4 [023] is 1.9m x 1. 2m and the section of A1/T5 [030] are 1.4m x .80m.

2.Trench A1/T1 [004] consisted of one context (deposits/fills): (004). Contexts were chalk rubble. Trench A2/T1 [007] consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (008). with mid brown silty clay, except for (023) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Context (024) and (025) contained small finds SF/001, SF/002, SF/003, SF/005, SF/006, SF/009, SF/010, SF/011, SF/012, SF/014, SF/015, SF/016, SF/017, SF/018, SF/019, SF/020, SF/021 and SF/022. Except for SF/019, SF/020 and SF/021 all small finds were microliths, the others: one piece of worked flint and two pot boilers.

3.Trench A1/T3 [009] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (020), (019), (010). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay, except for (019) which

consisted of large lump chalk. Frequent shells, rare flint and animal bone were found in all contexts except for (019) and (010). No small finds recorded.
Trench A1/T3 [026] consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (027), (033), (028), (033). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay except for (028) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Context (028) contained one microlith SF/007, moderate flint and animal bone and rare charcoal. No small finds or inclusions recorded in other contexts.
4.Trench A1/T4 [014] Section 6 consisted of six contexts (deposits/fills): (008), (009), 010), (011) (012) and (013). Contexts were chalk with light greyish brown silty clay except for (013) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Context (008) contained small finds SF/008, microlith, and SF/013 pottery. Context (009) contained small find SF/024, antler. Furthermore, moderate snail shells were found in contexts (012) and (013).
5.Trench A1/T5 [016] Section 7 consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (004), (015), (033), (018). Contexts were chalk with light greyish brown silty clay except for (033) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Context (004) includes isolated burning with rare bone, shell and flint and also contained small find SF/023, SF/025, SF/026 and SF/028 microliths and SF/027 worked stone. SF/030 and SF/031 pottery, the former a rim and base were also contained in context (018). Context (033) contained SF/029: burnt pottery and context (018) contained small find SF/034 a flint point.
6.Trench A1/T6 [032] Section 8 consisted of five contexts (deposits/fills): (010), (020), (021), (022) and (035). Contexts were chalk with light greyish brown silty clay except for (035) which consisted of large nodules of loose chalk. Moderate shell, flint, animal bones were found in all contexts. Context (022) revealed a human skeleton S/001 in a crouch position on a north, south orientation between 66cm and 80cm below the surface in the north end of the trench. The

skeleton appeared to be located within a cut in the chalk and may have been disturbed. The skeleton was left unexcavated and in situ; one bone was removed for dating purposes.

*Plate 3. Crouched human burial found in Context 022 (45cm between blue pegs)*

7.Trench A1/T1 [028] Section 9 consisted of five contexts (deposits/fills): (005). Contexts were chalk rubble. Context (024) and (025) contained small finds SF/001, SF/002, SF/003, SF/005, SF/006, SF/009, SF/010, SF/011, SF/012, SF/014, SF/015, SF/016, SF/017, SF/018, SF/019, SF/020, SF/021 and SF/022. Except for SF/019, SF/020 and SF/021 all small finds were microliths, the others: one piece of worked flint and two pot boilers.

8.In July 2013 the topsoil and subsoil were removed from Barrow 2 to reveal a site roughly 28m in diameter. Within the site was located a circular feature

which is approximately 32m in diameter. Five trenches (T1 – T5) were located across the circular feature which was a ditch; this extended the entire perimeter around the excavation area and completed the circle; however, there was only evidence of both the inner and outer edge of a ditch extending approximately 100 percent of the circular feature. Trenches T1-T5 were approximately 2m x 1.5m x 1.2m variable. Section of A1/T1 [005] is 1. 8m x 1m, the section of A1/T2 [007] is 1.8m x 1. 4m, the section of A1/T3 [009] is 1.8m x 1. 1m, section of A1/T4 [016] is 1.7m x 1. 2m and the section of A1/T5 [026] are 1.6m x .80m.

9.Trench A1/T1 [005] consisted of one context (deposits/fills). Contexts were chalk rubble. Trench A2/T1 [005] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (008). with mid brown silty clay, except for (021) which consisted of large lumps of chalk.

10.Trench A1/T2 [007] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (008), (009), (010). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay, except for (019) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Frequent shells, rare flint and animal bone were found in all contexts except for (019) and (010). No small finds recorded.

Trench A1/T3 [009] consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (028), (035), (027), (033). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay except for (027) which consisted of large lumps of chalk.

11.Trench A1/T4 [016] consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (419), (417), 410), (411) (412) and (413). Contexts were chalk with light greyish brown silty clay except for (013) which consisted of large lumps of chalk

Trench A1/T5 [026] consisted of four contexts (deposits/fills): (504), (515), (533), (518). Contexts were chalk with light greyish brown silty clay except for (033) which consisted of large lumps of chalk.

12.In August 2014 the topsoil and subsoil were removed from Barrow 3 to reveal a site roughly 30m in diameter. Within the site was located a circular feature which is approximately 29m in diameter. Six trenches (T1 – T6) were located across the circular feature which was a ditch; this extended the entire perimeter around the excavation area and completed the circle; however, there was only evidence of both the inner and outer edge of a ditch extending approximately 100 percent of the circular feature. Trenches T1-T6 were approximately 2m x 1.5m x 1.2m variable.

13.Trench A3/T1 [016] consisted of one context (deposits/fills). Contexts were chalk rubble. Trench A3/T2 [023] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (008). with mid brown silty clay, except for (021) which consisted of large lumps of chalk.
14.Trench A3/T3 [014] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (008), (009), (010). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay, except for (017) which consisted of large lumps of chalk. Frequent shells, rare flint and animal bone were found in all contexts except for (019) and (010). No small finds recorded. Trench A3/T3 [028] consisted of three contexts (deposits/fills): (011), (015), (019). Contexts were chalk with light brown silty clay except for (015) which consisted of large lumps of chalk.

15.The dating and Assessment of the ceramic assemblage from Barrows 1, 2, 3 With an overall total of 16 sherds, weighing 218gms, were recovered from this excavation. The sherds are vari-sized, small to fairly large and most are worn to varying degrees. None come from undisturbed primary deposits. All the definite Early and Mid Bronze Age, or Mid-Late Bronze Age transition ceramic is likely to be re-deposited from the original *probable* use of the ring-ditch for burial or

ancestor-related activities. The later first millennium BC-dated sherds are more likely to be accidental discards. Together with the partial flint assemblage delivered with the pottery the following periods are represented -

*16.Summary of the flint assemblage*

The small, partial, assemblage of 28 worked flints superficially appears to be dominated by white patinated material. However, one well-prepared narrow-bodied end-scraper from the *East quadrant*, is more densely patinated and has slightly worn burred flake scars and may well earlier than the majority – and *possibly* of Earlier or Mid Neolithic date. The remainder mostly consists of rather thinly white-patinated flakes, the original grey mottled flint still showing through the patination - with a further three only partially patinated. The main patination trend suggests that the majority of this material is broadly contemporary. It consists of both cortical and non-cortical flakes, some waste, some prepared tools and some more *ad hoc* opportunistically-selected and utilized elements. Overall the flakes are moderate or fairly large-sized with a tendancy for broad rather squat flakes and although suggesting a broadly Neolithic date perhaps not quite the large flakes of earlier Neolithic date – and more probably of later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. This likelihood is re-inforced by the presence of at least one barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of EBA date. In addition, a small burnt flake from the *North quadrant* has partial bifacial pressure flaking and is almost certainly a triangular arrowhead or blank for a small barbed-and-tanged head. If the former – these are exclusively of Early to Mid Bronze Age date – c.2300-1500 BC. Summarising – the earlier more heavily patinated flake from the *East quadrant* is likely to stem from a pre-monument phase of activity, with the bulk of the remainder of either Late Neolithic or more certainly Early Bronze Age date and broadly contemporary with the two infant burials close to the ring-

ditch's entrance and the single Beaker sherd from the *North quadrant*. Less certainly the few less patinated elements could be of Mid Bronze Age or slightly later date.

*17.Middle Neolithic*

One small rather fragmentary sherd from the *North quadrant* could *just* be of this period. The sherd is fresh and rather coarsely flint-tempered and its fabric has a slight visual tendancy to appear 'squidged' and sub-laminar rather than the more standard variably evenly integrated components of most prehistoric fabrics. This peculiarity appears to be confined solely to Middle Neolithic Peterborough-type products in this region. However, there are no other defining characteristics and the identification is highly tentative – and this sherd could well be of MBA or MBA/LBA date. Unless the rest of the lithic assemblage definitely contains earlier or Middle Neolithic-type elements – any claim for a MN phase of activity has to be treated with caution.

*18.Early Bronze Age Beaker – c.2000-1700 BC*

A single small fairly worn body sherd of grog-tempered Beaker was recovered from the *North quadrant.* It is comb-decorated but too small to determine whether it is from an early combed-zone Beaker, ie broadly c.2300-2000 BC or from a later type. However, the decoration appears rather crudely applied and the fabric a little coarse and a date as early as this is considered unlikely. However, it need not be a late type and a date from around c.*2000* to *1800 BC* is possible.

*19.Middle Bronze Age – c.1550-1350 BC*

Heavily and rather coarsely flint-tempered sherds, typical of the region's

Deverel-Rimbury tradition, were recorded from the *North, East, South-east* and *West-south-west* quadrants - three each from the first two quadrants, and two each from the last two. Those from the *North quadrant* are small but include two from the same small-diametered tub-shaped vessel – a formal type typical of this period – but also continuing into the Mid-Late Bronze Age transition. Two of the three sherds from the *East quadrant* (depth 45cms) are fairly large and from the same fairly thick-walled large-diametered coarse ware jar. Two other sherds, one from the *South-east* and one from the *West-south-west*, quadrants are also fairly large – the latter a rim sherd from a probable barrel-shaped jar with an applied horizontal finger-tip decorated cordon just below the rim. Overall, 6 vessels are represented – with the 3 thick-walled storage-type jars present *probably* being used as cremation urns. The little tub-shaped vessel is more certainly associated with ancestor-related offering ceremonies rather than as receptacles for cremations. Two regional examples tend underline the point – one from the east side of an MBA ring-ditch cemetery at Bridge, near Canterbury (Macpherson-Grant 1980 Figs.24, 25 No.149), another from the south-west side of a basal ring-ditch context in the MBA cemetery at Bon Secours, Ramsgate (Moody *et.al* 2010, Fig.2, 3 No.1 and Plate II).

*20.Mid-Late Bronze Age transition – c.1350-1150 BC*

A single small but unworn flint and grog-tempered sherd from the upper fill of the *East quadrant may* represent this period. Allocation to this period is based on the recent recognition during work associated with material from the CTRL route – that mixed-tempered fabrics containing both flint and grog appear to be a phenomenon of the MBA-LBA transition and associated with radiocarbon dates that allow for the above date placement (Morris 2006). However, although this may be so, it is also felt that, since the flint-tempered Deverel-Rimbury

tradition followed fairly immediately after the regional currency of the predominantly grog-tempered Collared and other Urn types, a degree of manufacturing-trend overlap may have occurred between the two traditions. It is inappropriate to present the full argumentation here but, as a result, it is felt not impossible that an earlier, specifically MBA, date *might* be more appropriate for this element.

*21.EIA and later – c.900 BC-plus*

One sherd from the *West-south-west quadrant* and, possibly, a small scrap from the *South quadrant* date to the *Earliest Iron Age* – that is c.900-600 BC. The first sherd is from a large-diameter fairly heavily flint-tempered coarse ware jar with what appears to be traces of an iron-oxide slip. The application of iron-rich slips to the exteriors of fine ware bowls or small jars, and copying similarly-shaped bronze prototypes, is a recognized trend for this period. There is also a growing but less certain body of evidence to indicate that some large coarse ware jars were similarly finished – with these the form of the jars again copies imported bronze prototypes. Abnormally in the present instance, the potential slip coating is *internal*. An internal slip is not practical on a storage-jar – simply because the 'quality value' of its appearance is invisible within a closed-form shape. So, assuming the present sherd's bright red-brown slip is **not** a bi-product of original firing conditions, then this technically kitchen grade vessel has to have been an open bowl form – and used for serving, despite the relative coarseness of its fabric.

22.One other element, from the *South quadrant*, *may* be of this date or possibly Early-Mid Iron Age, **c**.600-350 BC. This is a fairly small body sherd from the upper shoulder panel of a fine ware jar or bowl with traces of dull iron-rich red-finish.

23.In addition, there are two base sherds – one from the *South-east quadrant* and one from the *West-south-west quadrant*. Although from separate parts of the ring-ditch, on its southern side, these two sherds are in a similar not heavily worn condition and conjoin neatly. They are difficult to date closely but their sandy and only moderately flint-tempered fabric suggests a date *after* c.900 BC rather than before. Technically, they could have arrived in-context anywhere between c.900-50 BC or even slightly later.

24.Finally, one other ceramic element is represented by a fragment of roof-tile. It is exceptionally hard-fired, has a dark almost chocolate-brown fairly sandy fabric with fairly dark grey reduced surfaces. The fabric is sufficiently hard-fired to be called a 'near-stoneware'. For roof-tiles, sandy fabric recipes are typical for the Medieval and Late Medieval periods, with slightly or decreasingly sandy, ultimately non-sandy fabrics being preferred during the Post-Medieval period. Further, hard-fired pottery and roof-tile in sandy or slightly sandy fabrics typically occur towards the end of the fifteenth century and during the earlier sixteenth. The conjunction of this type here together with a dark near-stoneware firing trend suggests that this fragment is from the Biddenden area and broadly datable to between c.1475-1550 AD or slightly later. This element almost certainly arrived in-context via agricultural manure.

*25.Summary*

Other than any earlier-dated flintwork, the bulk of the latter together with the single Early Bronze Age Beaker sherd represents the first main phase of burial activity associated with this ring-ditch - and broadly datable to the Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. The fragments of six Middle Bronze Age vessels

represent the second and last main phase of activity – again almost certainly associated with the re-use of the ring-ditch as a cemetery.
Any later prehistoric-type ceramic is more likely to reflect sporadic visitations or accidental losses of a more secular nature.

**Macpherson-Grant, N., 1980:**
Archaeological Work along the A2: 1966-1974', *Archaeologia Cantiana* xcvi (1980), 133-183.

**Morris 2006:**
Morris, E. 'The Later Prehistoric Pottery' in Booth, P.(ed.), *Ceramics from Section 1 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Kent*, CTRL Specialist Report Series (2006), 34-121

**Moody *et al* 2010:**
Moody, G. *et.al.* 'Later Bronze Age Cremation at West Cliff, Ramsgate', *Archaeologia Cantiana CXXX* (2010), 147-172


Plate 4. Location of the Prehistoric Enclosure at NGR 586330 154249 (red cross) and adjacent Prehistoric droveway (red arrow)

**1.The Prehistoric Enclosure to the north of the three barrows**

In August 2016 and 2017 the Kent Archaeological Field School investigated a large ditched enclosure to the north of the group of Prehistoric Barrows which was seen to be adjacent to a prehistoric drove road Plate 4) which enabled flocks and herds to be herded from the upland chalk grazing grounds to a source of fresh spring water and to be corralled within a secure enclosure with a timber watchtower.

2.The enclosure measures approximately 40m by 65m and is orientated NNE by SSW (Figures 1-5). The watchtower itself with four postholes (1602, 1604, 1608, 1606) each measuring 62-64cm in diameter was located in a separate

but adjacent corridor to the main enclosure and both bounded by a bank and ditch. The main area of enclosure had no apparent postholes but three potential waterholes 1703, 1706, 1715. The only postholes were clustered around the inner north-east gate CRN 1610, 1618, 1628, 1638 and 1613 (Figure 2).

3.Pottery found in secure contexts of the Prehistoric Enclosure include:

Context: North quadrant - 5 sherds (weight: 12gms)

1 *possible* MN Peterborough-type flint and grog-tempered ware (c.3350-2800 BC or MBA)

1 EBA grog-tempered Beaker ware (c.2300/200-1700 BC emphasis)

3 MBA flint-tempered ware (c.1550-1350 BC; 2 same vessel)

and:

Seven Neo-EBA worked flints (weight: 50gms) – small-medium-sized flakes, mottled grey flint, variably strong white patination, 2 semi-cortical waste flakes; rest non-cortical including 1 waste; 1 fairly broad flake with possible utilization chipping; 1 fairly broad thin flake, S-twist section and one edge used as short-term scraper; 1 fairly small squat end-scraper; 1 small basically triangular partially patinated and burnt flake, with bifacial pressure flaking – probable small triangular arrowhead.

Comment: The potential MN sherd is a fresh small fragmentary bodysherd – the identification is highly tentative but the fabric does have the compact 'squidged' sub-laminar appearance fairly frequently associated with this region's Peterborough-type products. The EBA element is a small worn bodysherd with traces of combed decoration. The MBA elements are all small, 1 rim fragment and 2 bodysherds from another vessel. The rim s from a small tub-form vessel. All these are near-fresh.

Likely date: Ceramic range – definitely c.2000-1350 BC, with a *possible* MN or MBA/LBA element

Context: East quadrant - 2 sherds (weight : 10gms)
1 MBA flint-tempered ware (c.1550-1350 BC)
1 MBA>MBA/LBA transition flint and grog-tempered ware (c.1550/1350-1150 BC probable emphasis)
and :
16 Neo-EBA worked flints (weight : 259gms) – small-medium sized flakes, mostly grey, sometimes buff-white mottled flint, 14 white patinated, 2 slightly, 7 semi-cortical flakes and 9 non-cortical; among the semi-cortical flakes - 5 waste including 1 core rejuvenation flake, 1 possibly utilized, 1 used as a short-term 'borad-blade' side-scraper; among the non-cortical flakes – 3 waste, 1 angular lump flake from a hammerstone with the thin end used as a short-term 'nosed' end-scraper, 1 thin broad flake 1 edge possibly blunted for use as a short-term blade, 1 broad asymmetrically-sectioned rounded flake with, *possibly*, a utilised blade-like edge and a narrow-bore spokeshave at the flakes platform end, 1 fairly small narrow flake with longitudinal S-section, 1 neatly trimmed for use as a narrow end-scraper and, thickly white patinated with some worn secondary flaking scars and possibly *earlier* than majority, one fairly small well-prepared narrow fairly thick-sectioned flake with trimming on one side and utilization scars on other.
Comment: The earliest sherd is a small fairly worn bodysherd scrap, the latest near-fresh.
Likely date: Ceramic range – c.1550-1150 BC

Context: East quadrant – 45cm depth - 2 sherds (weight: 73gms)

2 MBA flint-tempered ware (c.1550-1350 BC; same vessel)
Comment: Two fairly large-large not conjoining body sherds from a large thick-walled vessel, edges slightly burred, one only moderately worn, the other similar but with some worn unifacial sherd-edge chipping.
Likely date: c.1550-1350 BC

Context: South-east quadrant - 2 sherds (weight: 62gms)
1 MBA flint-tempered ware (c.1550-1350 BC)
1 EIA-MIA>LIA flint and grog-tempered sandy ware (c.600-50 BC; = SSW quadrant)
and:
2 Neo-EBA worked flints (weight: 12gms) – medium-sized, non-cortical, patinated white (some grey flint dappling), waste, 1 *possibly* utilized
1 fragment LM>PM roof-tile (weight: 14gms) – moderate-sized, fairly fresh, hard dark purple-brown near-stoneware fabric, *possibly* Biddenden-type – c.1475-1550 AD
Comment: The MBA element is a large bodysherd, chipped and moderately worn. The less certainly dated, but definitely mid-late first millennium BC sherd is from a jar base, and only slightly worn. The base edge conjoining with the sherd from *SE quadrant* is an old, not modern fracture.
Likely date: Ceramic range – c.1550-50 BC with a probable LC15-MC16 AD late arrival

Context: South quadrant - 2 sherds (weight: 7gms)
1 EIA>EIA-MIA flint-tempered sandy ware (slight preference EIA, c.900-600/350 BC emphasis)
1 EIA>MIA-LIA flint-tempered sandy ware (c.900-50 BC)

and: 3 Neo-EBA worked flints (weight: 57gms) – grey flint, 1 small waste flake with one end used as short-term spokeshave; 1 medium-sized, fairly thin white patination, bulky, rounded core scraper; 1 long sub-triangular pointed flake, patination as last, pressure-flaked on dorsal surface, some hard-hammer trimming underside, appears to have a notch on left side for use as narrow-shank spokeshave – usable as an arrowhead.
1 large rectangular fragment stone (weight: 903gms) – used as a tool grindstone or polisher. Stone type not identified.
Comment: The first element is a fairly small bodysherd, from the shoulder panel of a medium-diameter fineware bowl with a *possible* pale iron-oxide slip externally. Moderately but not heavily worn overall with slightly burred sherd edges. The second is small and moderately worn.
Likely date: Ceramic range – c.900-50 BC

Context: South-south-west quadrant - 1 sherd (weight: 5gms)
1 EIA-MIA>LIA flint and grog-tempered sandy ware (c.600-50 BC; = SE quadrant)
Comment: Small base sherd, only slightly worn – the sherd edge conjoining with the base from *SE quadrant* is an old, not modern fracture.
Likely date: Range - c.600-50 BC

Context: West-south-west quadrant - 2 sherds (weight: 49gms)
1 MBA flint-tempered ware (c.1550-1350 BC probably)
1 EIA-type flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)
Comment: The MBA element is a fairly large rather heavily worn rim fragment from a bucket or possibly barrel jar with a horizontal thumb-press decorated cordon applied just below the rim. The EIA element is a fairly worn bodysherd

with apparent races of a thick iron-oxide slip externally and, oddly, over one sherd edge. The sherd has not obviously been re-fired, which would be necessary if the slip was a secondary - post original manufacture and any subsequent fracture – application. This can only mean that the slip has 'run' slightly post-loss and during any weathering the sherd received. Also oddly, the slip is *internal* which is unusual for any EIA vessels and on what has to be an open bowl-form.

Likely date: Range – c.1550-600 BC

Analyst: Nigel Macpherson-Grant

---

Plate 5. Barrow 1 (looking East)

Plate 6. Excavating sections on Barrow 1 (looking SE)

Plate 7. Section of Barrow 1 (looking South)

Plate 8. Excavating Barrow 2 (looking NE)

Plate 9. Excavating Barrow 2 (Horse burial)

Plate 10. Horse burial (Barrow 2)


Plate 11. Section (Barrow 2)

Plate 12. Dog burial (Barrow 2)

Plate 13. Placed animal bones (Barrow 2)

Plate 14. Excavating section (Barrow 2)

Plate 15. Excavating horse burial (Barrow 2)

Plate 16. Excavations (Barrow 3)

Plate 17. Excavations

Plate 18. Section (Barrow 3)


Plate 19. Section (Barrow 3)

Plate 20. Excavations (Barrow 3)


Plate 21. Section (Barrow 3)

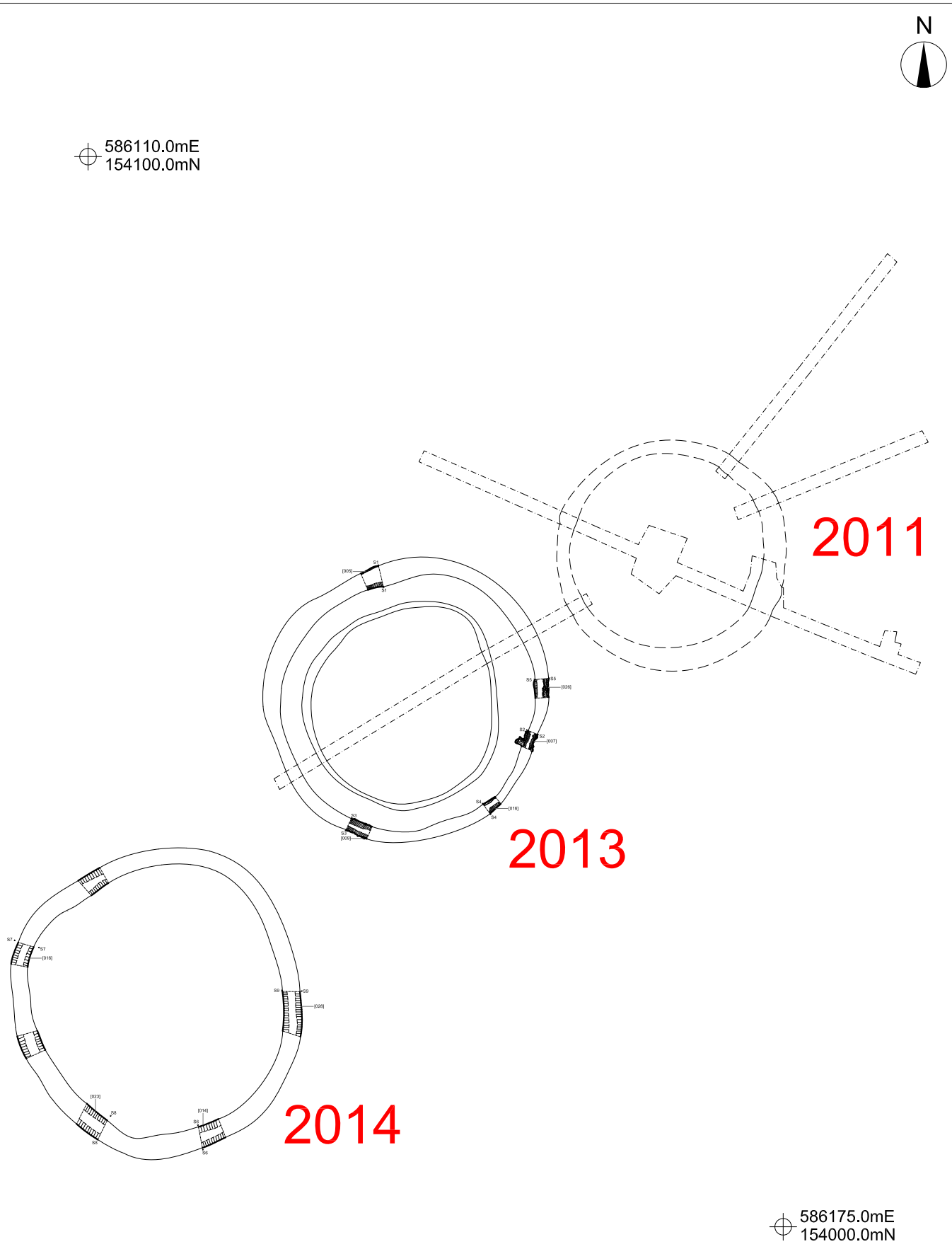



Figure 1: Location of Barrows

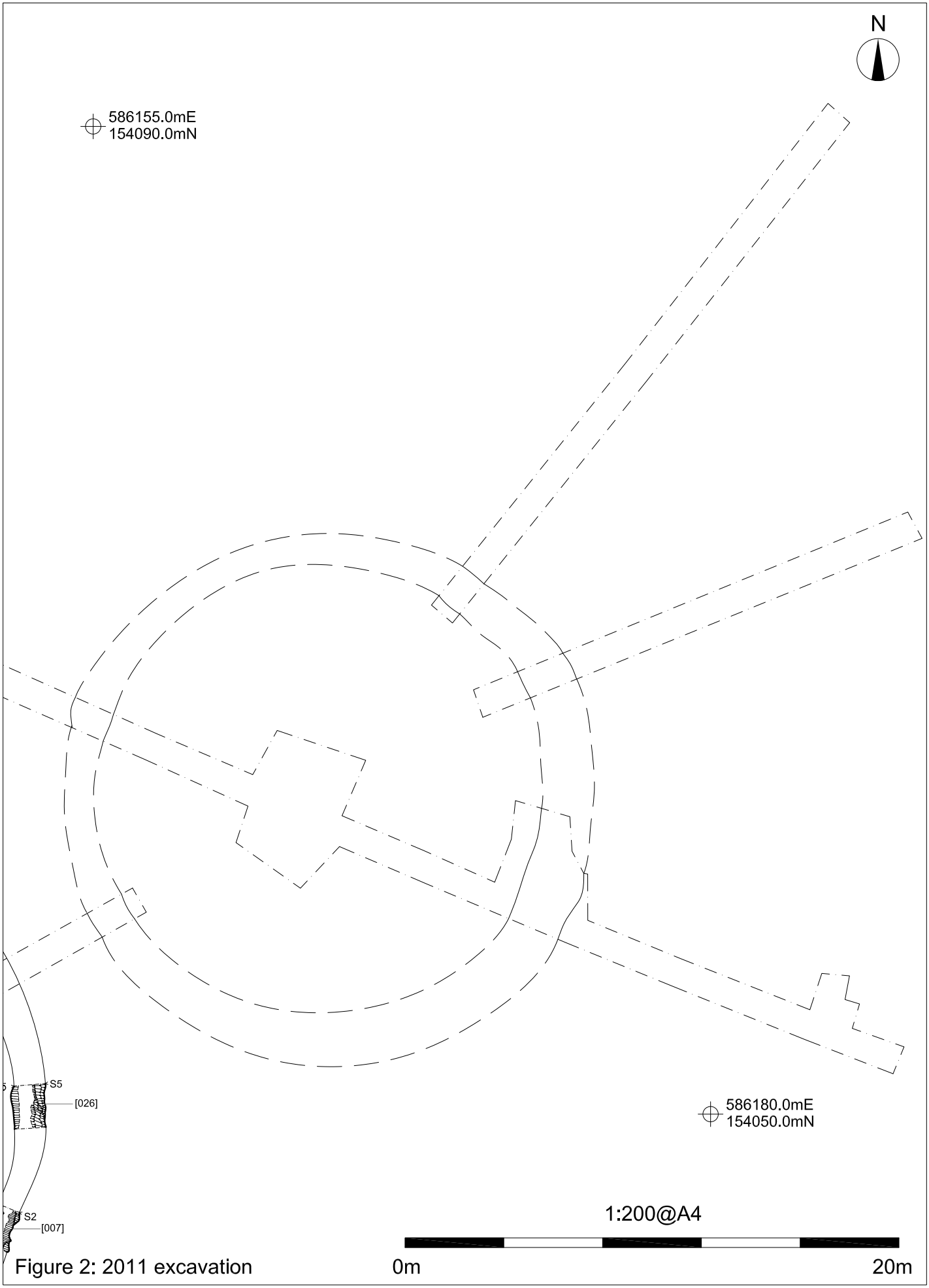



Figure 2: 2011 excavation

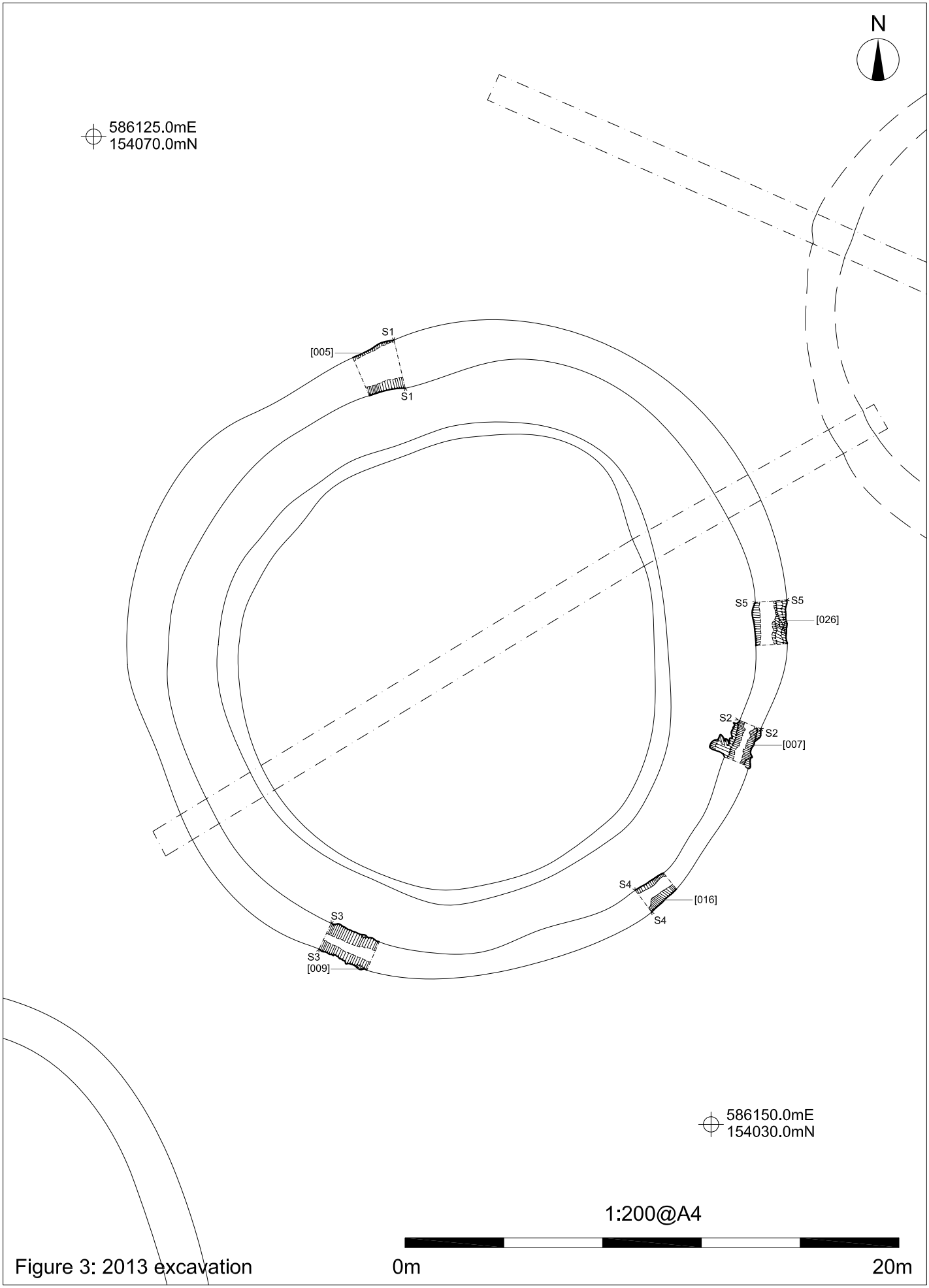



Figure 3: 2013 excavation

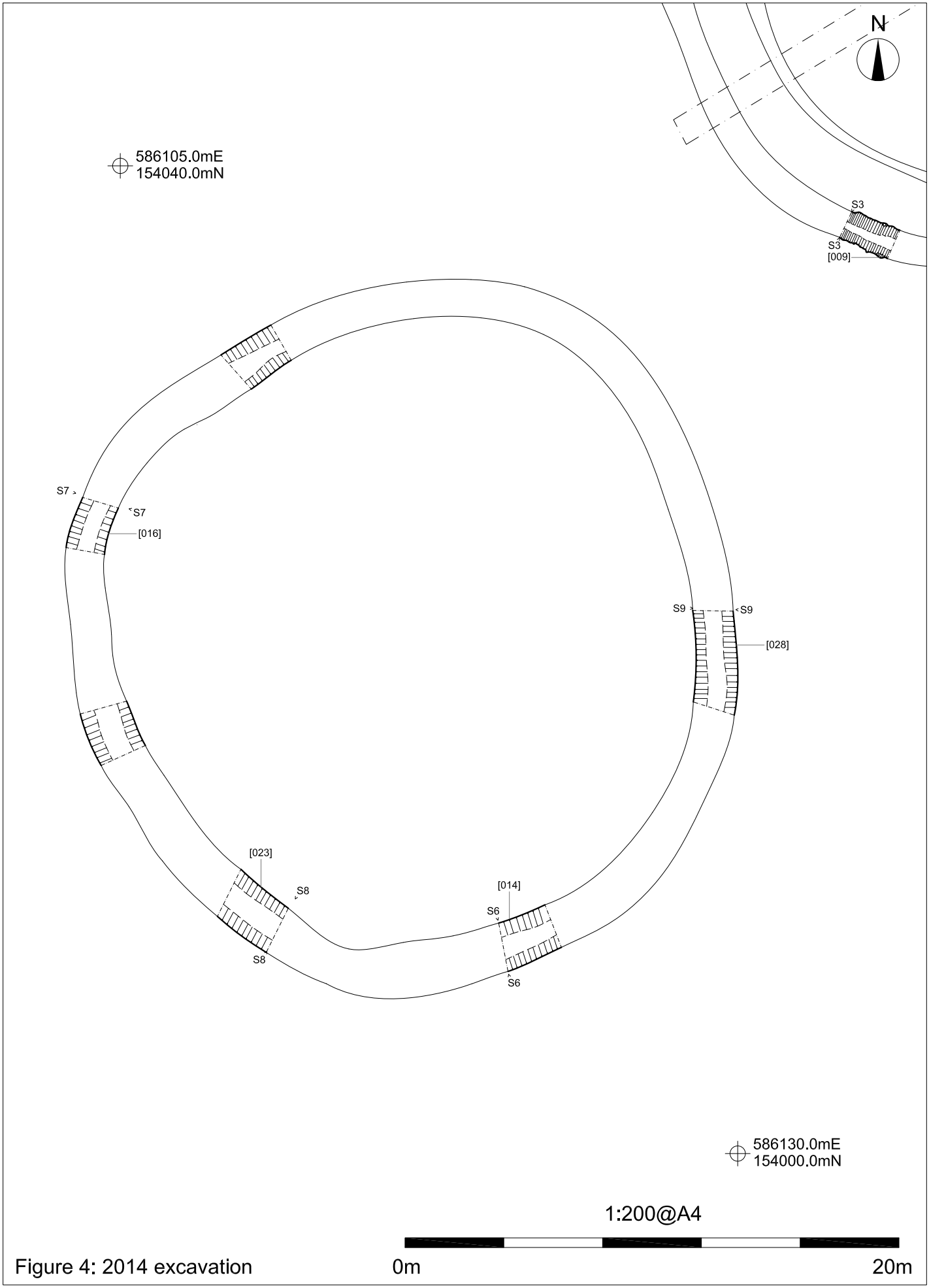



Figure 4: 2014 excavation

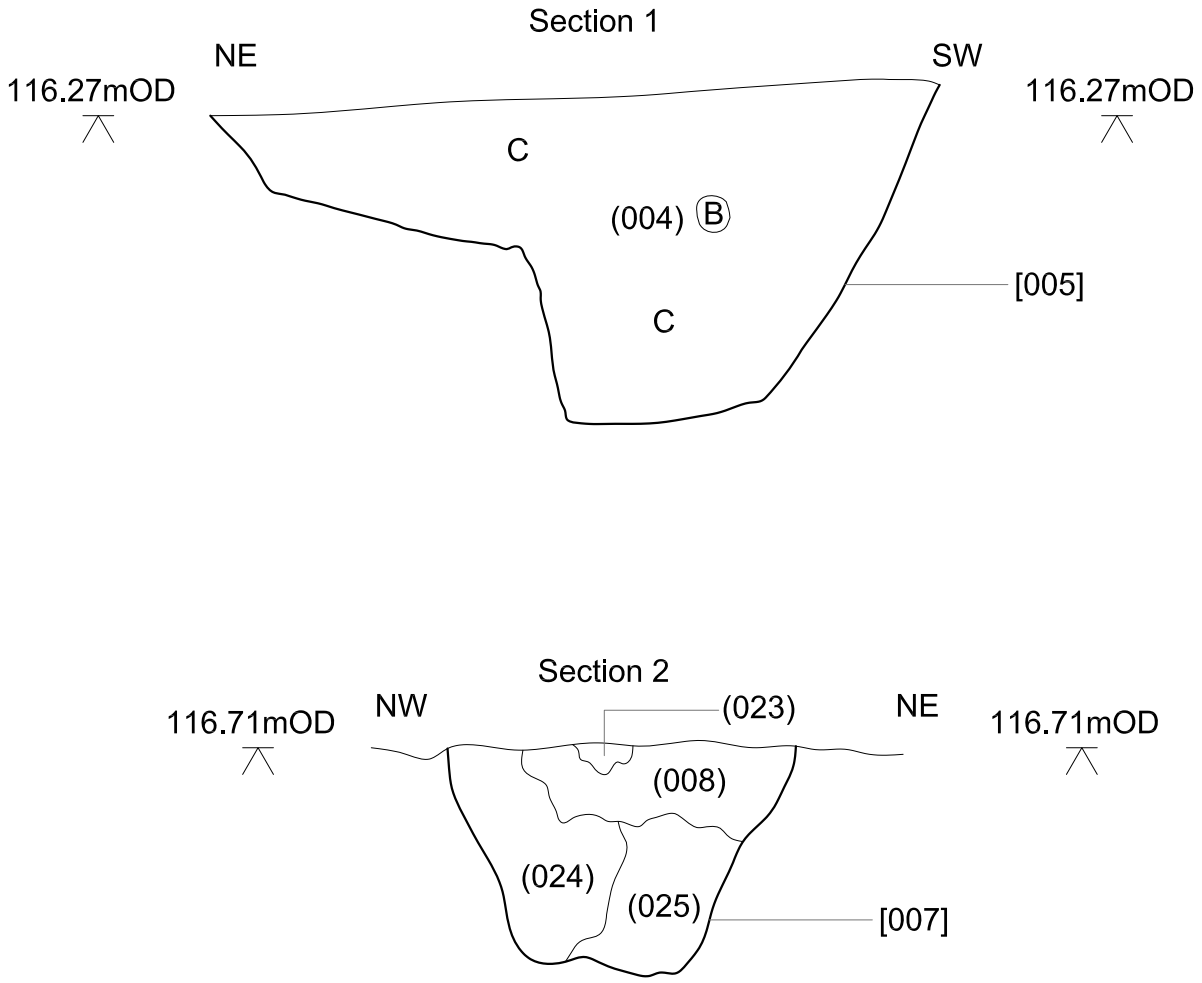



Figure 5: Sections

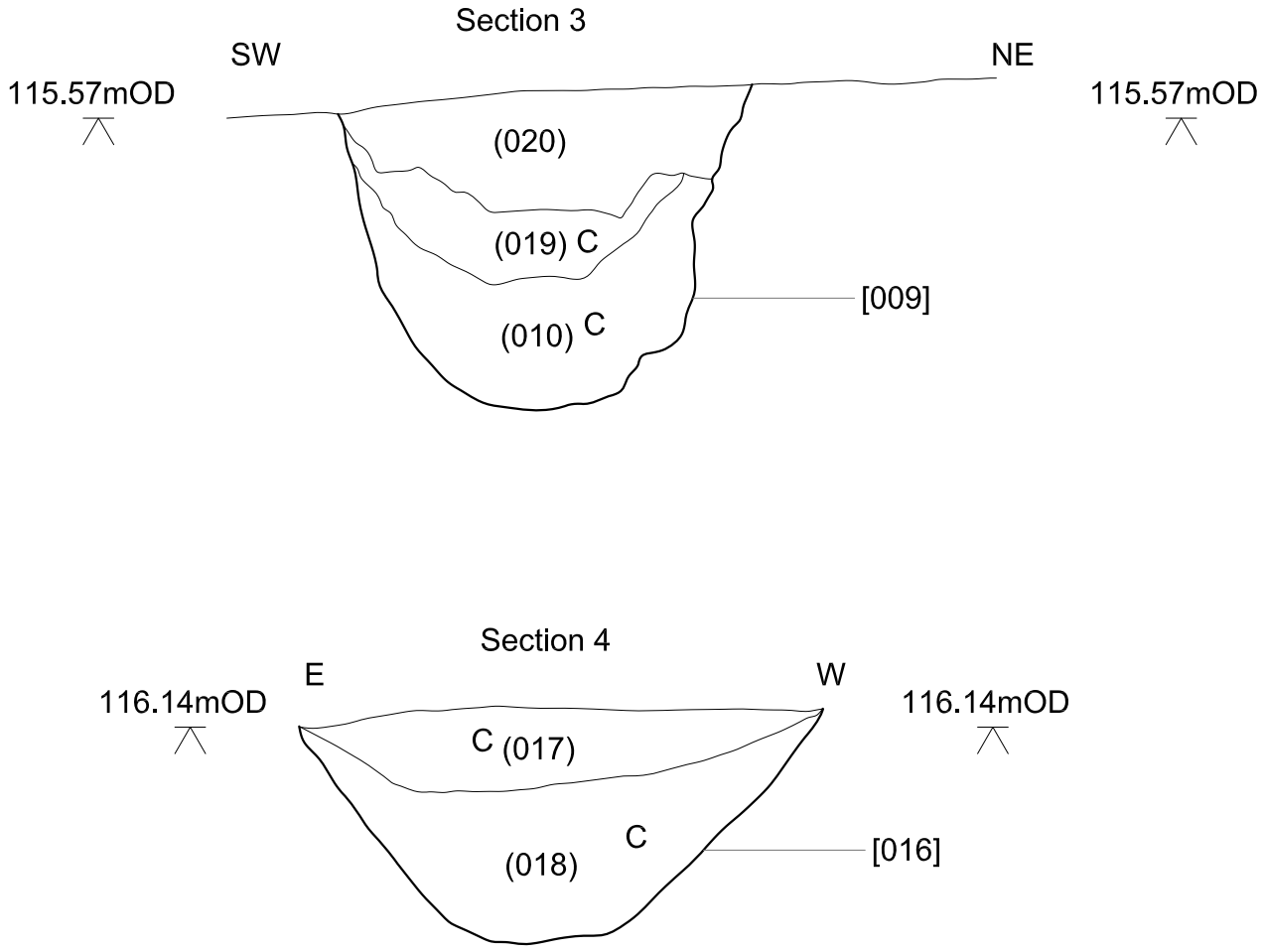



Figure 6: Sections

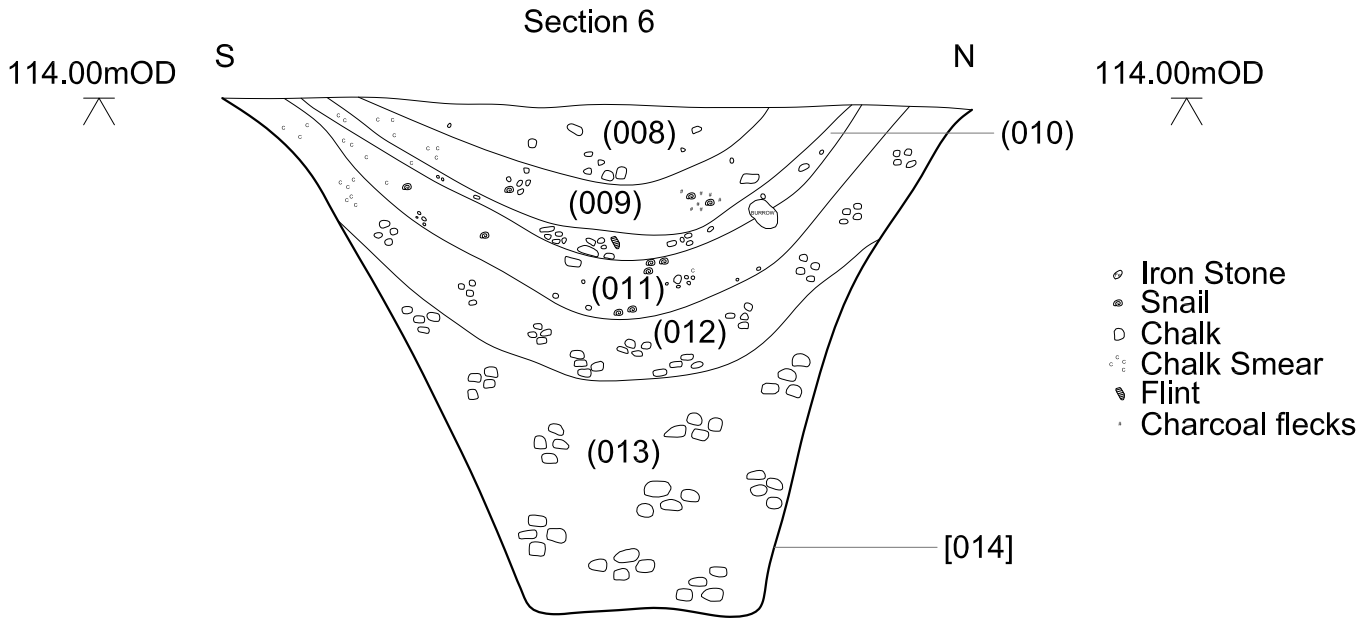
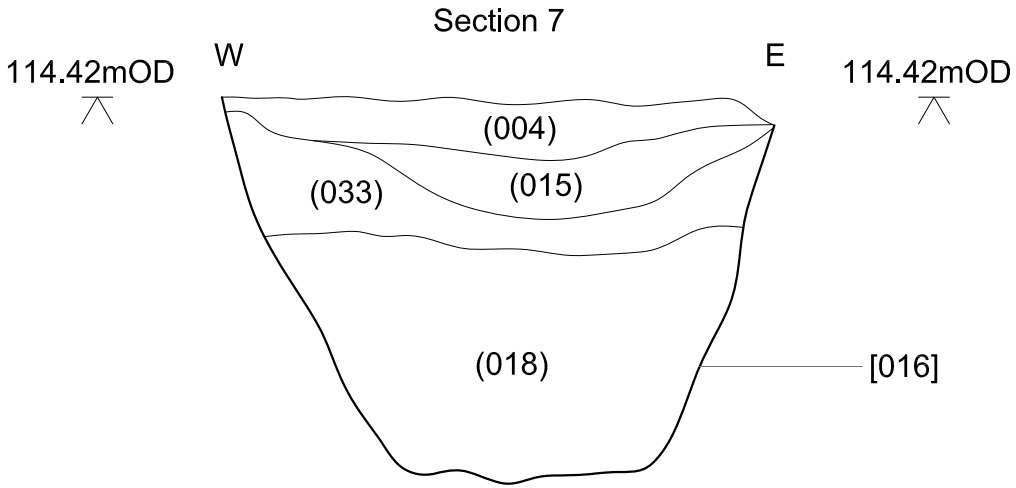


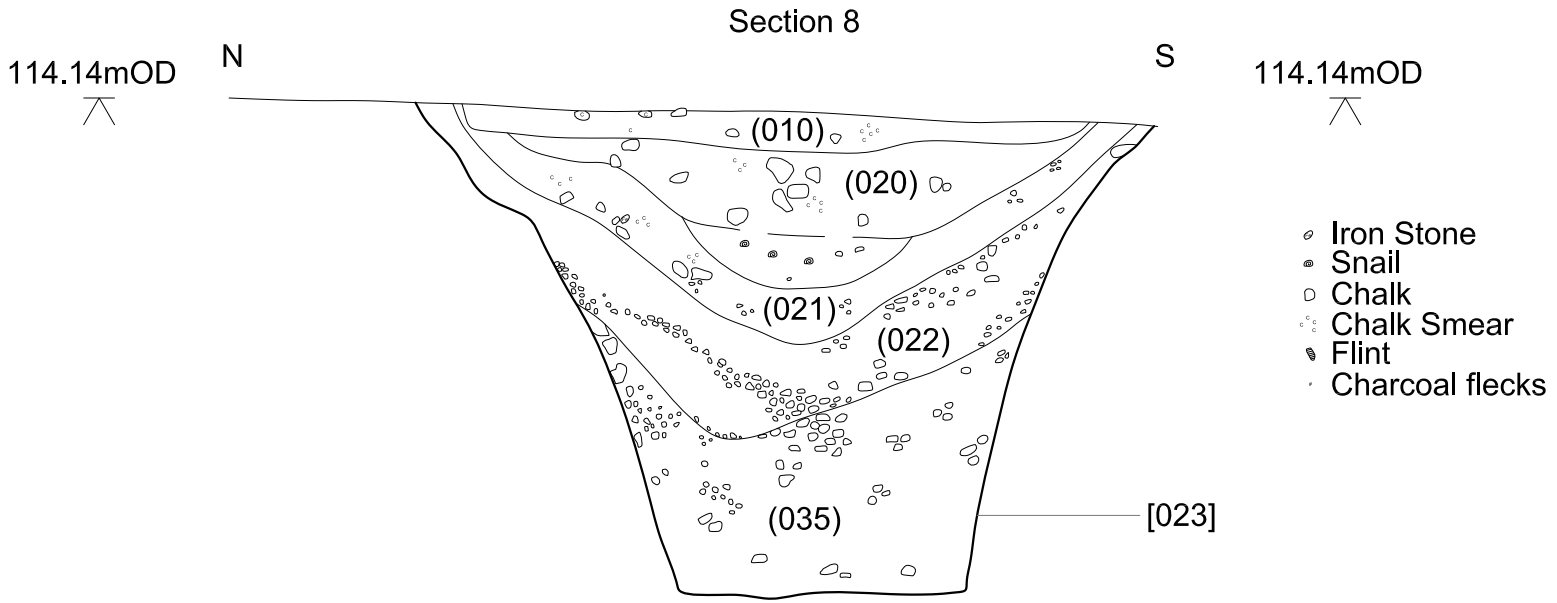

Figure 8: Sections




1:20@A4

0m 2m

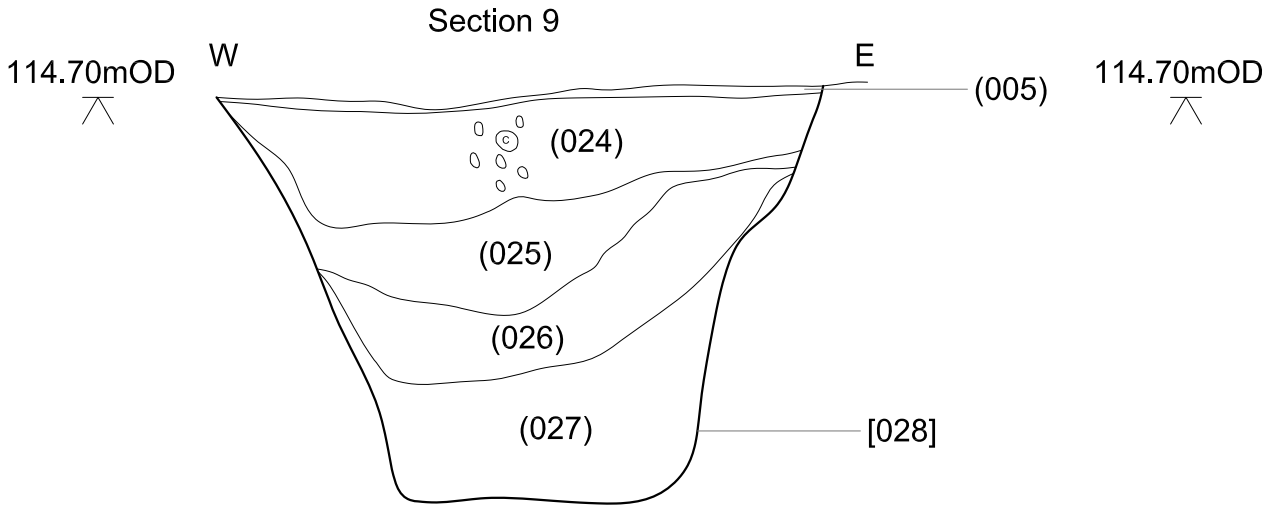
Figure 9: Sections




1:20@A4

0m 2m

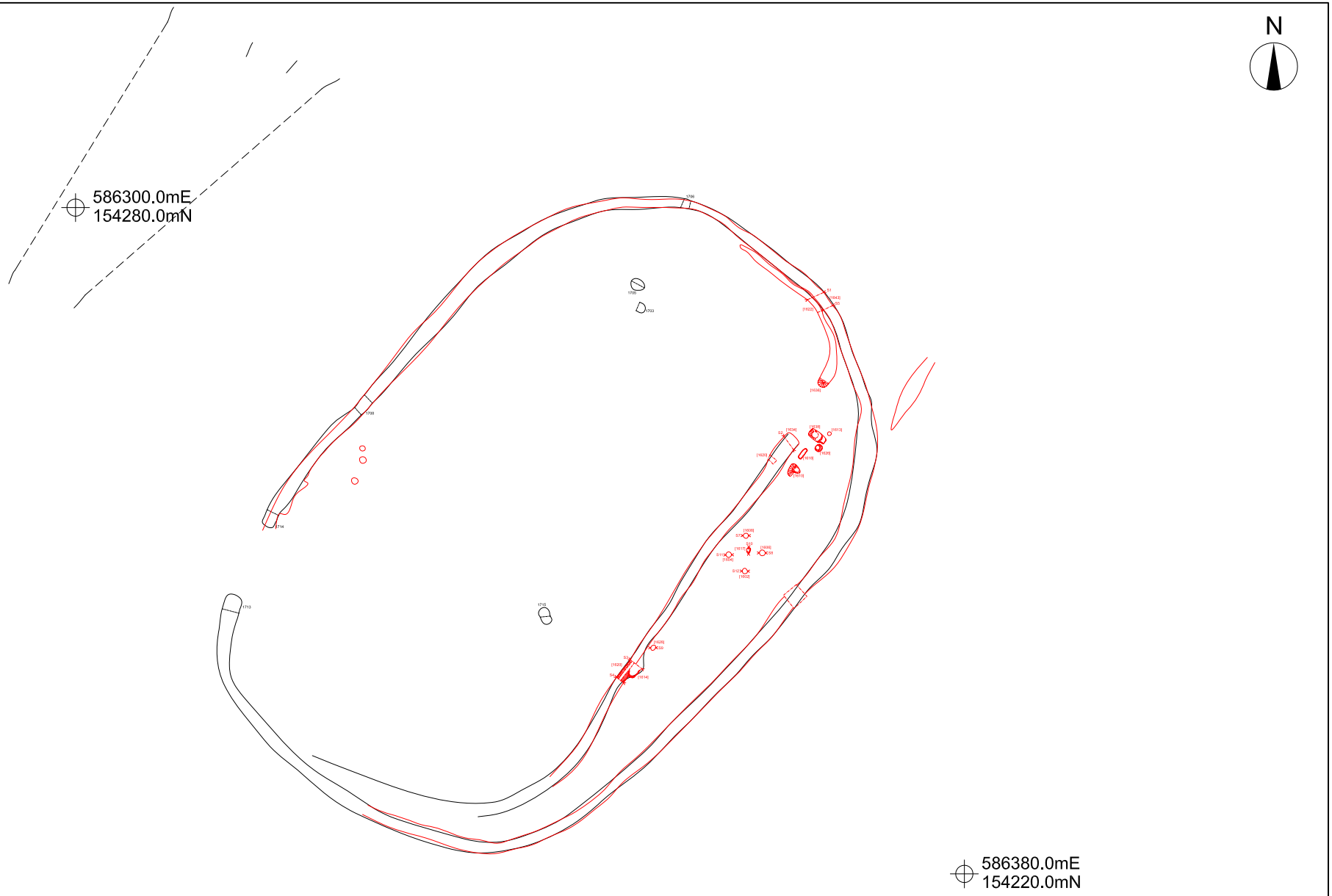
Figure 10: Sections

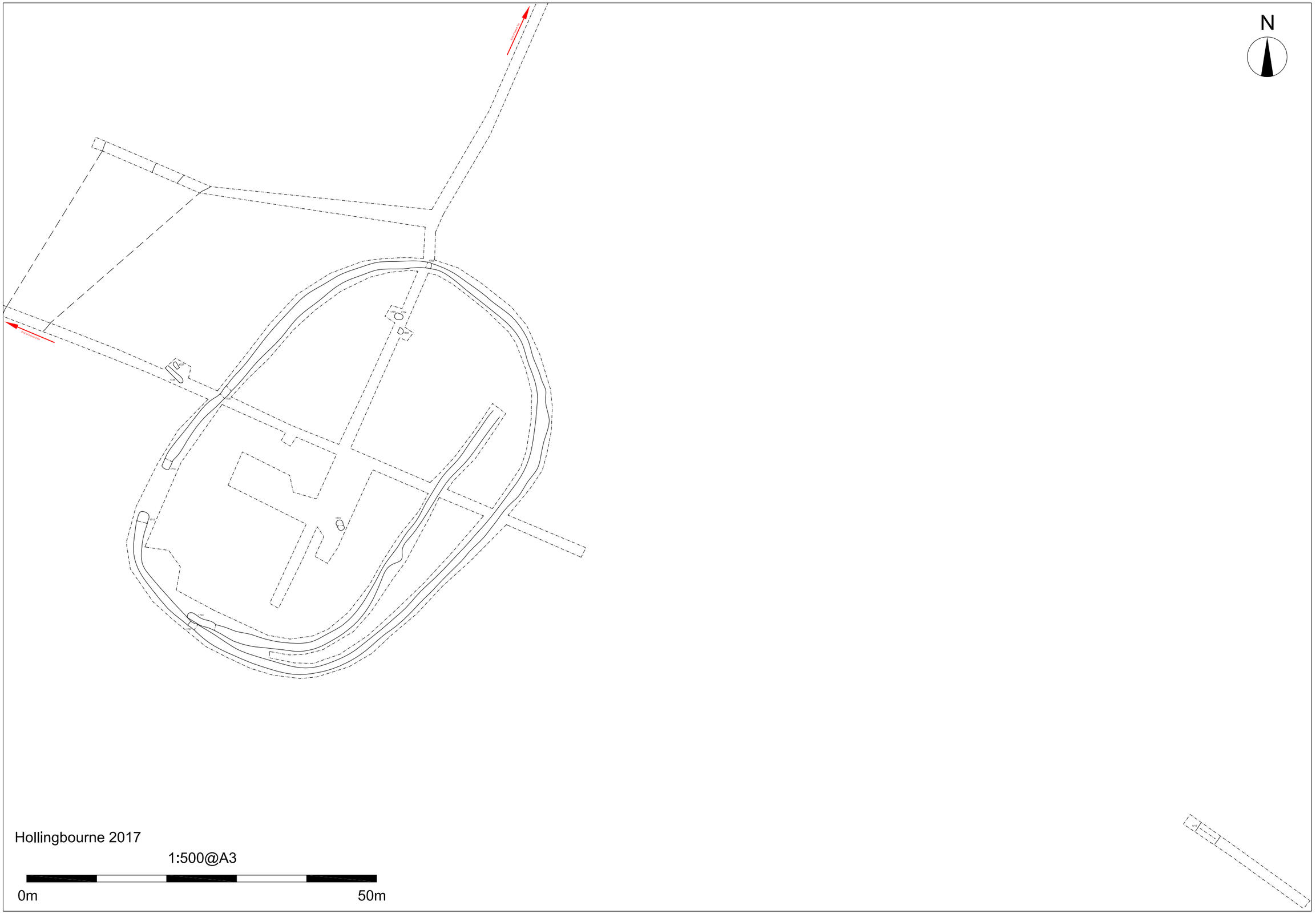



1:20@A4

0m 2m

Figure 11: Sections


N
586300.0mE
154280.0mN
586380.0mE
154220.0mN
Hollingbourne Surveys
Red = 2016
Black = 2017
1:500@A4
0m
50m


N
Hollingbourne 2017
1:500@A3
0m
50m

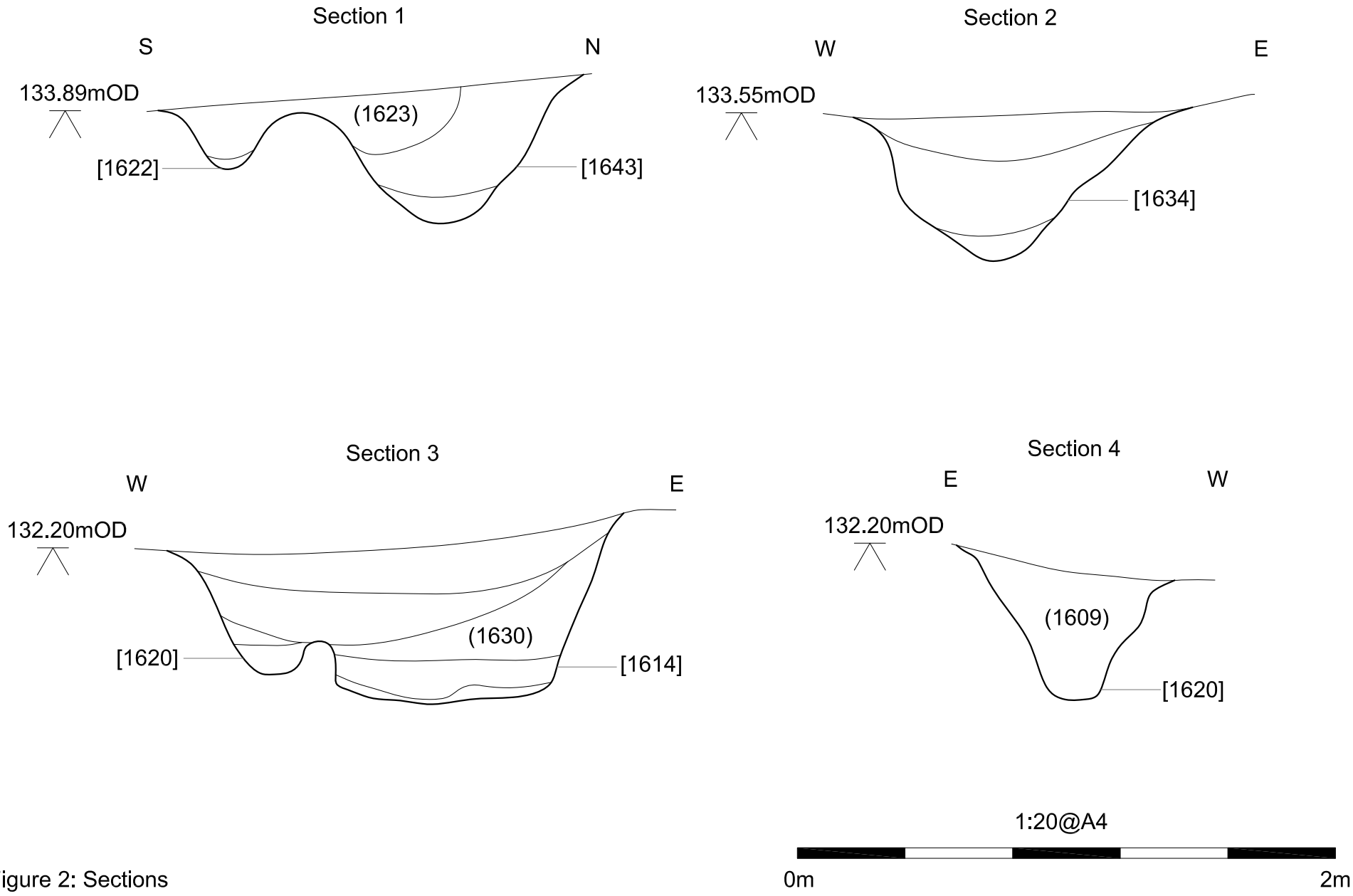



Figure 2: Sections

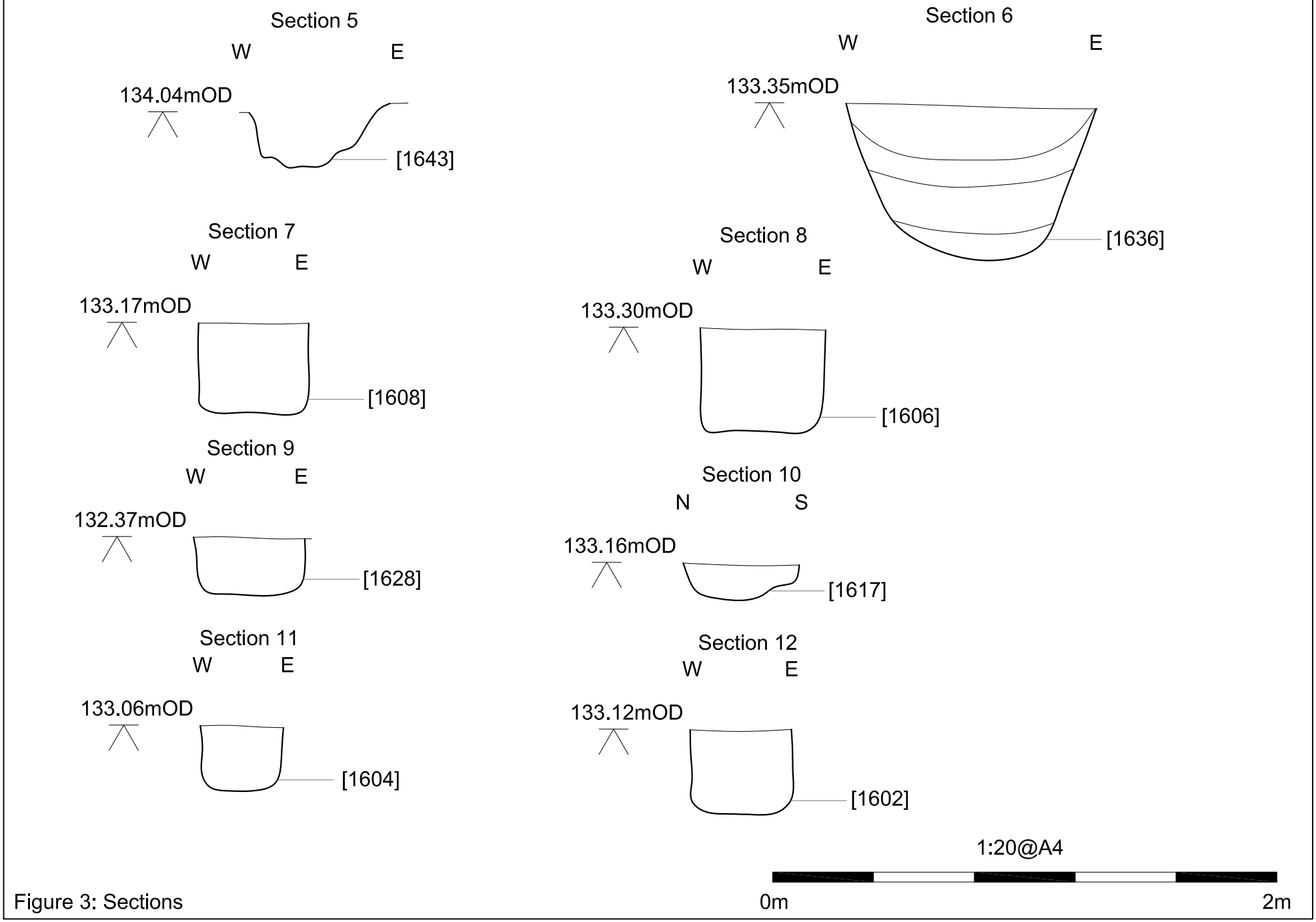



Figure 3: Sections