

**P-06-138**

## **Forsmark site investigation**

### **Seismic refraction survey 2005–2006**

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August 2006

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*Keywords:* Refraction seismic, Geophysical measurements, AP PF 400-05-034, Forsmark.

This report concerns a study which was conducted for SKB. The conclusions and viewpoints presented in the report are those of the author and do not necessarily coincide with those of the client.

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## Abstract

This report presents the results of a seismic refraction survey performed in the Forsmark area by IMPAKT GEOFYSIK AB during the period May 2005 to March 2006. The intention of the investigation was to cover the area with unbiased distributed seismic survey lines in order to map the propagation velocity of compressional energy (P-wave velocity) in the bedrock material, and by this establish a quantitative analysis of the presence of fracture zones or other low-velocity anomalies in the area.

31 profiles, with a total length of 23,200 m were measured. The measurements were performed according to the activity plan AP PF 400-05-034 and the method description SKB MD 242.001 ver 1.0 with the following exceptions: the geophone separation varied between 2 and 5 m depending upon the terrain.

The results indicate a thin overburden with a maximum thickness not exceeding 20 m and with an arithmetic median value of 3.13 m. The measured velocity distribution in the soil material varies between 330 m/s and 2,500 m/s, ranging from dry friction sandy soil up to very well compressed moraine. In the bedrock material, the mapped velocities indicate a homogenous igneous rock material (5,000–5,700 m/s) with rather few low-velocity anomalies.

# Sammanfattning

I denna rapport presenteras resultaten av refraktionsseismiska undersökningar utförda av IMPAKT GEOFYSIK AB under perioden maj 2005 till mars 2006. Undersökningen syftade till att förutsättningslöst täcka mätområdet med refraktionsseismiska profiler för att bestämma kompressionsvågshastigheten (P-vågen) i bergmaterialet, och därmed kartlägga eventuella låghastighetszoner i det undersökta området.

Totalt mättes 23 200 m uppdelade på 31 mätlinjer. Mätningarna har följt aktivitetsplanen AP PF 400-05-034 och metodbeskrivningen SKB MD 242.001 ver 1.0, med följande avvikelser: geofonavstånden har varierat mellan 2 och 5 m utifrån förutsättningar i terrängen etc.

Resultaten tyder på relativt ringa jorddjup ej överstigande 20 m, med mediandjup 3,13 m. De uppmätta jordhastigheterna varierar mellan 330 m/s upp till 2 500 m/s indikerande torr sand till hård packad morän. Berghastigheterna är överlag höga (5 000–5 700 m/s) med ett relativt fåtal inslag av zoner med lägre hastighet.

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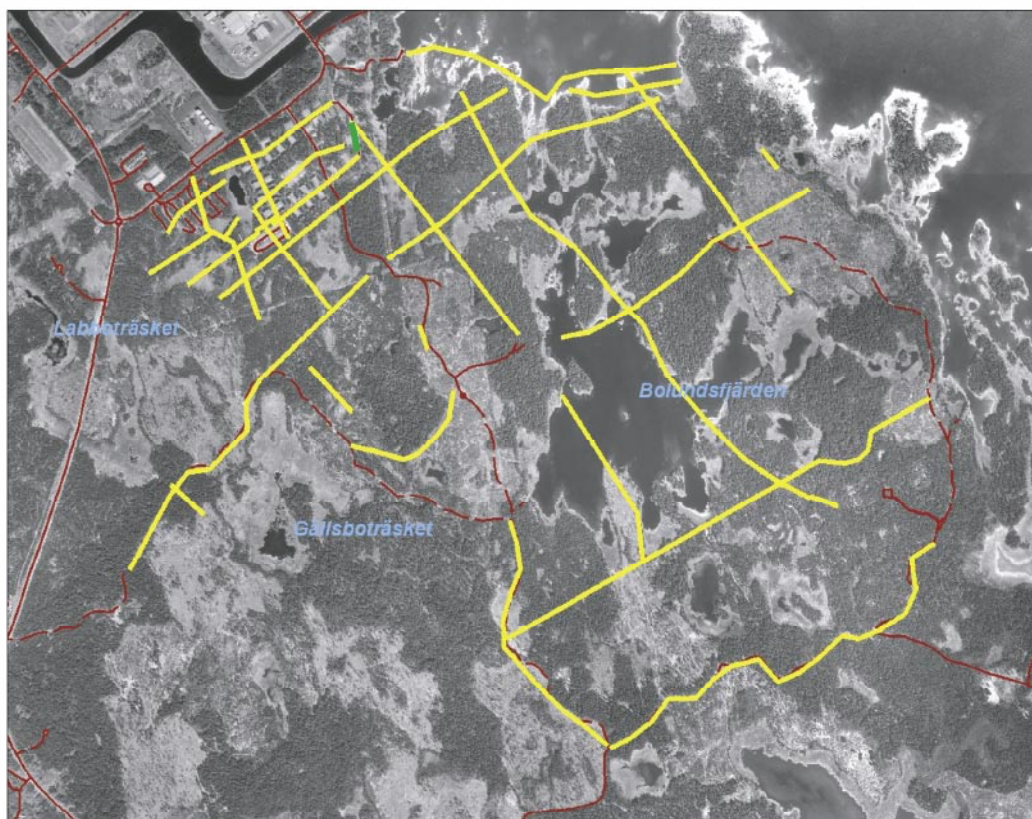
# 1 Introduction

This document reports the results obtained through a seismic refraction survey, which is one of the activities performed within the site investigation at Forsmark. The work was carried out in accordance with activity plan AP PF 400-05-034. The controlling documents for performing this activity are listed in Table 1-1. Both the activity plan and the method description are SKB's internal controlling documents.

The field measurements were performed in the period May 2005–March 2006. 31 profiles with a total length of 23,200 m were measured. The location of the measured profiles is shown in Figure 1-1. The present work is a continuation of similar measurements reported in /1/.

**Table 1-1. Controlling documents for the performance of the activity.**

Activity	Document	Number	Version
Activity plan	Refraktionsseismik 2005	AP PF 400-05-034	1.0
Method description	Metodbeskrivning för refraktionsseismik	SKB MD 242.001	1.0



— Seismic refraction  
— Seismic refraction in trench AFM001265

0 0,25 0,5 1 km  
From GSD-Fastighetskartan © Lantmäteriet  
Gävle 2001, Consent M2001/5268  
2006-06-20, 10:00

**Figure 1-1.** The location of the seismic refraction profiles. The location of the trench AFM001265 in where the detailed survey was made is also marked.

## **2 Objective and scope**

The purpose of the seismic refraction survey was to establish a picture of the uppermost bedrock properties, based on the calculated velocities of the compressional energy propagation (P-wave velocity). The resulting velocity-grid, covering the target area, can also be used to verify possible correlations with lineaments indicated by other information. Another purpose is to estimate the soil depths along the measured profiles.

All presented results are derived from the seismic data, i.e. velocities of the soil and bedrock and the calculated depth profiles have been calculated using only the first pulse of the compressional energy and there has been no adjustment or correction of the results based on information from other activities.

## **3 Equipment**

### **3.1 Description of equipment/interpretation tools**

The seismic data was collected and recorded using a 24 channel ABEM Terraloc MK6 seismograph, equipped with 18-bit + 3-bit IFP A/D converters.

The data is stored primarily in an internal hard disk in SEG-2-format. The signals were registered using vertical 10 Hz geophones connected to specially designed seismic cables. The seismic signal was generated by explosives of dynamite type, which were detonated by electric high-voltage ignition caps.

The collected data was copied onto stationary computers, stored and backed-up on CD-media. A preliminary interpretation using interactive software was performed along with the fieldwork, on a daily basis, thus insuring data quality and helping in planning ahead.

The calibration of the seismic recording unit (the ABEM seismograph) is a matter of testing the performance of the A/D-converters. This is done by comparing a known analogue input signal of a relevant spectrum to the digital output of the system. Hereby the internal noise and overhearing (crosstalk) can also be monitored. Geophone system impedance can be displayed for each channel using built-in software. The most important parameter in obtaining data of correct quality is the signal/noise ratio. This is of practical use in the fieldwork, for example in planting the geophones, placing the shot points, stacking signals and having full control of these parameters during the data collection. This requires a qualified operator, fully trained in seismic interpretation technique. Figure 3-1 gives an illustration of the fieldwork on an ice-covered lake.





*Figure 3-1. Some of the profiles were measured during the winter on the lakes. The geophones were placed on top of long steel-stakes, pressed into the lake sediments.*

## **4 Execution**

### **4.1 General**

The seismic refraction survey was performed in accordance with the method description: “Metodbeskrivning för refraktionsseismik”, SKB MD 242.001 ver 1.0, SKB internal document.

### **4.2 Preparations**

Prior to the start of data acquisition, all functions tests were carried out with satisfying results.

### **4.3 Execution of field work**

The approximate locations of the survey lines were defined by SKB. When placing the lines in the terrain, the profiles were divided into straight sections of varying length, marked and cleared to obtain free sight. Clearing was performed manually in order to cause minimal environmental disturbance.

The geodetic mapping of the profiles was done in direct connection to the execution of fieldwork, using a differential DGPS system with sub-metre precision. An optical levelling instrument was used for the altitude measurements.

The geophones were placed along the survey lines. The number of geophones varied according to the length of the straight sections. The geophone spacing varied between 1 and 5 m, depending upon terrain obstacles and the desired resolution in the velocity estimation.

The shot points were established with an intended separation of approximately 25 m in order to give adequate resolution in determination of the horizontal velocity distribution of the overburden. Explosives were used as seismic energy source at all shot points, except for a few locations in the profiles within the residential area in northwest (LFM000889–LFM000901). At these few locations a sledgehammer was used, in order to avoid damage on buried utilities such as pipes and cables. However, for the offset shots (used for calculating bedrock velocities) explosives were always used.

The collected data was controlled and stored in specific files for each shot.

## **4.4 Data handling/post processing**

The collected data is stored in SEG-2 format. Each file represents the information from a specific shot point. The file identifier refers to a unique shot number that is included in the filename. The file consists of a header with information on acquisition date, time, measuring parameters (recording duration, sample rate, number of used channels) and specifies the format for the binary 32 bit data fields where the registered data from each geophone are located.

The data files are transferred to an interpretation computer where the time of the first arriving compressional wave is determined, using an interactive technique providing manual check of each trace.

Geometries of geophones and shot points, together with the obtained arrival times, are stored in layout-specific files. From these datasets the time elapsed for a compression wave front from each geophone position down to the underlying refractor is calculated. These times are translated into depths by using the velocity information from the shot points within the layout.

## **4.5 Non-conformities**

In accordance with the Method Description, explosives were used as seismic energy source at more than 95% of the shot points. In cases where underground cables or pipes were located in the immediate vicinity of the desired shot point, a sledgehammer was used in order to prevent damage from the explosion.

In all other aspects the survey was conducted in correspondence with the Activity plan and the Method Description (except for the varying geophone separation), and no non-conformities were identified.

## 5 Results

The results of the seismic refraction survey are presented as profiles with information on ground altitude, bedrock elevation, and P-wave velocities of the overburden and P-wave velocities of the bedrock, including low-velocity anomalies. The results were calculated strictly using the output from the seismic measurements, and no correlation from drilling or other information has been used in the interpretation work.

The main volume of the surveyed area indicates a thin soil layer within which no layering is detectable. In areas with a thicker overburden it might be possible to detect intermediate layer boundaries. The analysis shows that it is very difficult to interpret continuous velocity horizons in the overburden material due to the relatively frequent variations in velocities. This behaviour is probably due to rather small-scale irregularities, caused by different grades of compression, varying water- and clay content, occurrence of boulders etc.

The velocities of the overburden indicate a moraine material varying in compactness, constitution and presence of boulders. The variations in the velocities in the soil material in combination with a thin overburden and relatively large geophone separations (typically 5 m), result in a situation where it is hard to detect the presence of a high velocity layer underlying the topsoil. The presence of such an undetected layer would give an erroneous contribution to the calculated depths, which in the worst case could result in a considerably deeper bedrock surface.

The high velocities of the bedrock (typically 5,000–5,700 m/s) indicate a homogeneous material of igneous type. The few exceptions of low-velocity zones (2,300–4,100 m/s) are probably caused by fracture zones or occurrence of weathered bedrock. The exceptions are displayed in the drawings and data files. In some profiles the velocities from long-offset shots as well as from shots close to the geophone layout are presented. The latter are presented above the line. In many cases the velocities from shots close to the geophones are considerably lower than the long-offset shots. This indicates the possible presence of an upper zone of bedrock material with lower velocity than the deeper situated high-velocity rock. Only in cases when there has been enough data to compare the results from closer and more distantly located offset shots, the velocities calculated from the closer shots are presented in the diagrams (Appendix 1).

Along with the specified seismic survey, a direct measurement of the P-wave velocity was carried out on the exposed bedrock surface in the trench AFM001265 (Figure 1-1), parallel to, and approximately 30 m to the East from the profile LFM000894. This measurement was carried out using the same equipment as in the main survey, but with the geophone spacing reduced to one meter. The geophones were placed in predrilled holes 3–5 cm deep and 6–8 mm in diameter. A sledgehammer was used to generate the seismic signal.

The results are displayed in Figure 5-1 and indicate high bedrock velocities with some near-surface irregularities, slightly more expressed in the northern part of the trench. The estimated mean velocity was 5,470 m/s. There is no indication of any low-velocity zones along this profile.

# Velocity distribution as measured directly on the exposed bedrock surface along the trench AFM001265.

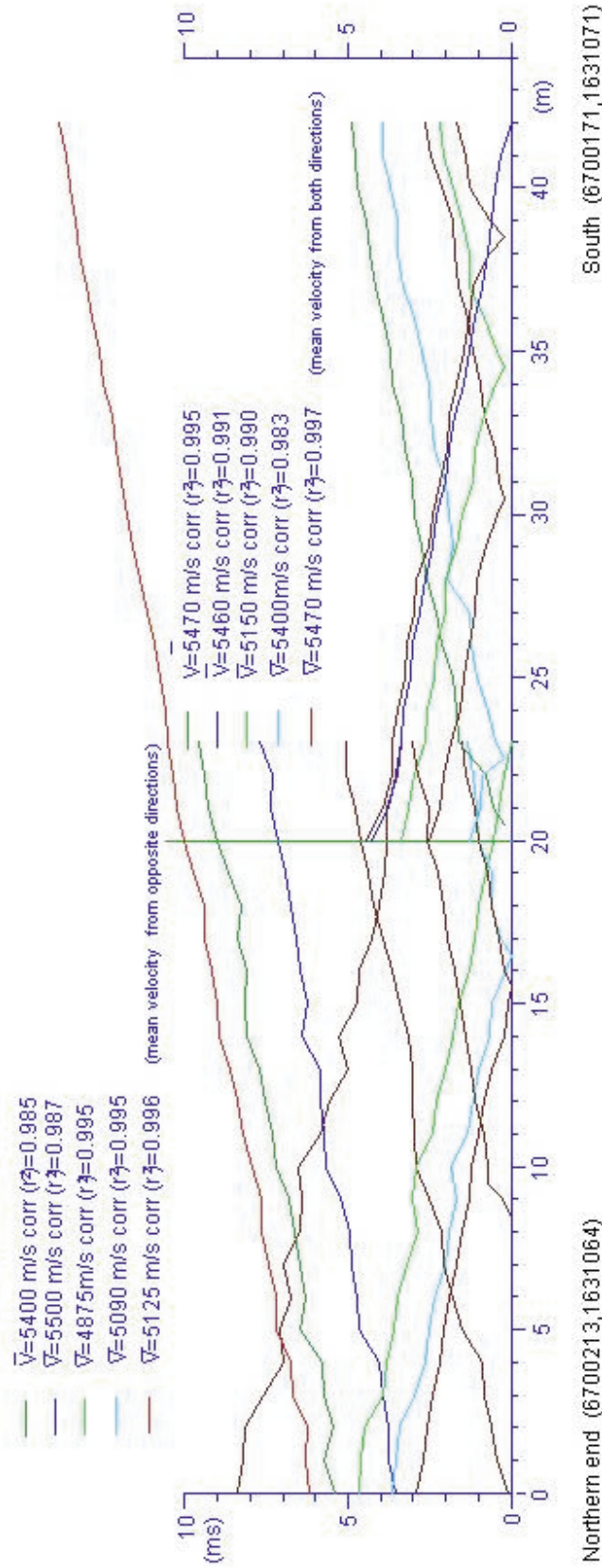


Figure 5-1. Velocity estimation directly on the exposed bedrock in the trench AFM001265 from (6700171,1631071) to (6700213,1631064).

## 5.1 Presentation of data and results

All collected raw data was delivered to SKB after the termination of the field activities. All results have been reported as drawing files (.dwg) and in a database file containing coordinates and velocities (.xls). Output data has been prepared and stored according to SICADA format. Table 5-1 lists the delivered files.

**Table 5-1. Output data files and format.**

Object	File name	No of files	Data Format
Raw data	009302.sg2 – 011719.sg2	1356	SEG-2
Drawing	Forsmarkrefrseis05.dwg	1	dwg
Database	Forsmark_refrseis05.xls	1	xls
SICADA	EG-170_Forsmark_refrseis05	1	xls
SICADA	GP-320_Forsmark_refrseis05	1	xls

The 31 profiles are identified by the SICADA ID-codes:

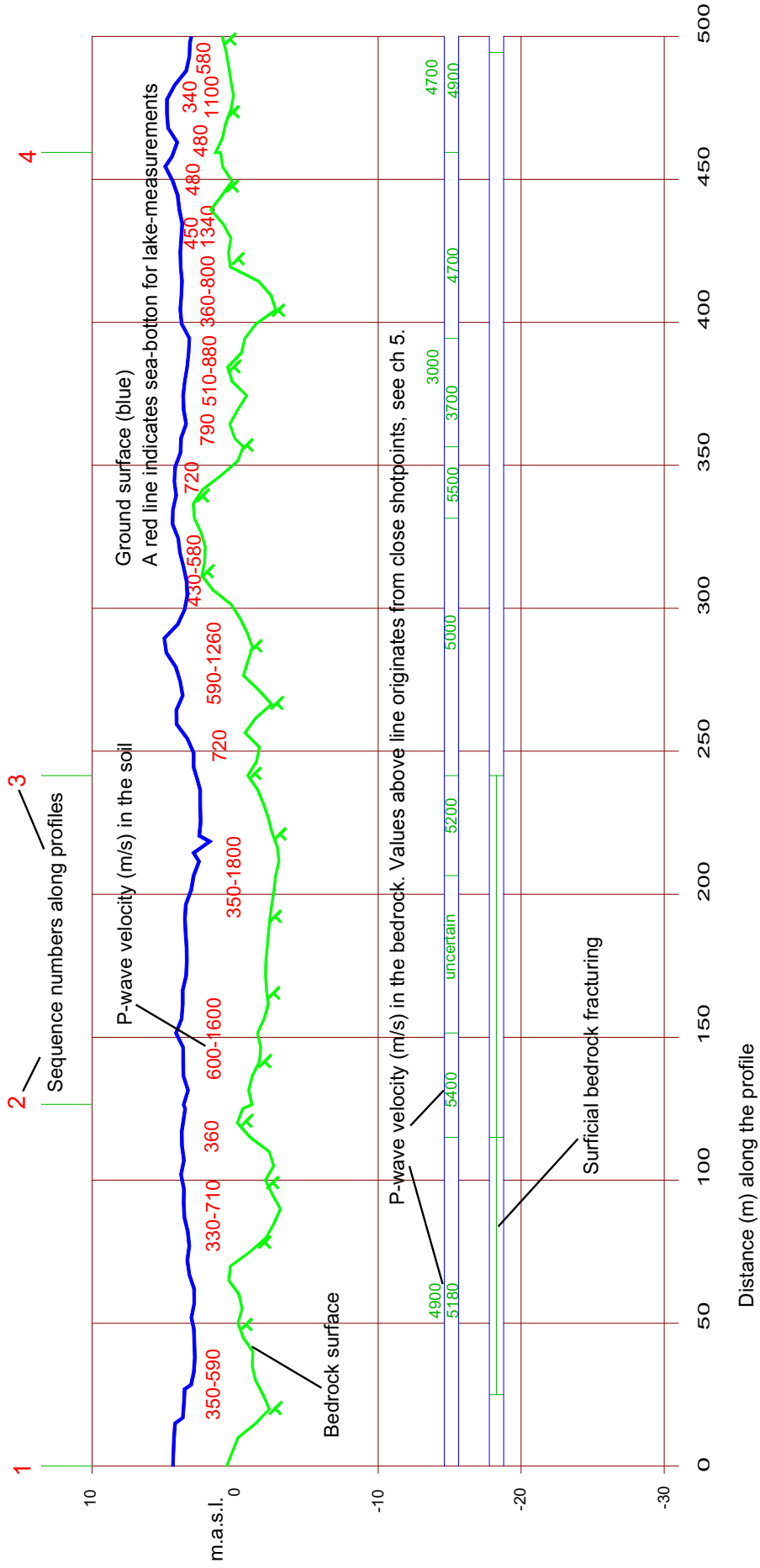
LFM000889      LFM000915      LFM001013  
LFM000890      LFM000916      LFM001014  
LFM000891      LFM000917      LFM001015  
LFM000892      LFM000918      LFM001016  
LFM000893      LFM000919      LFM001017  
LFM000894  
LFM000895  
LFM000896  
LFM000897  
LFM000898  
LFM000899  
LFM000900  
LFM000901  
LFM000902  
LFM000903  
LFM000904  
LFM000905  
LFM000906  
LFM000907  
LFM000908  
LFM001018

All data are presented in Appendix 1.

## 6 References

- /1/ **Toresson B, 2005.** Seismic refraction survey 2004. SKB P-05-12.  
Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB.

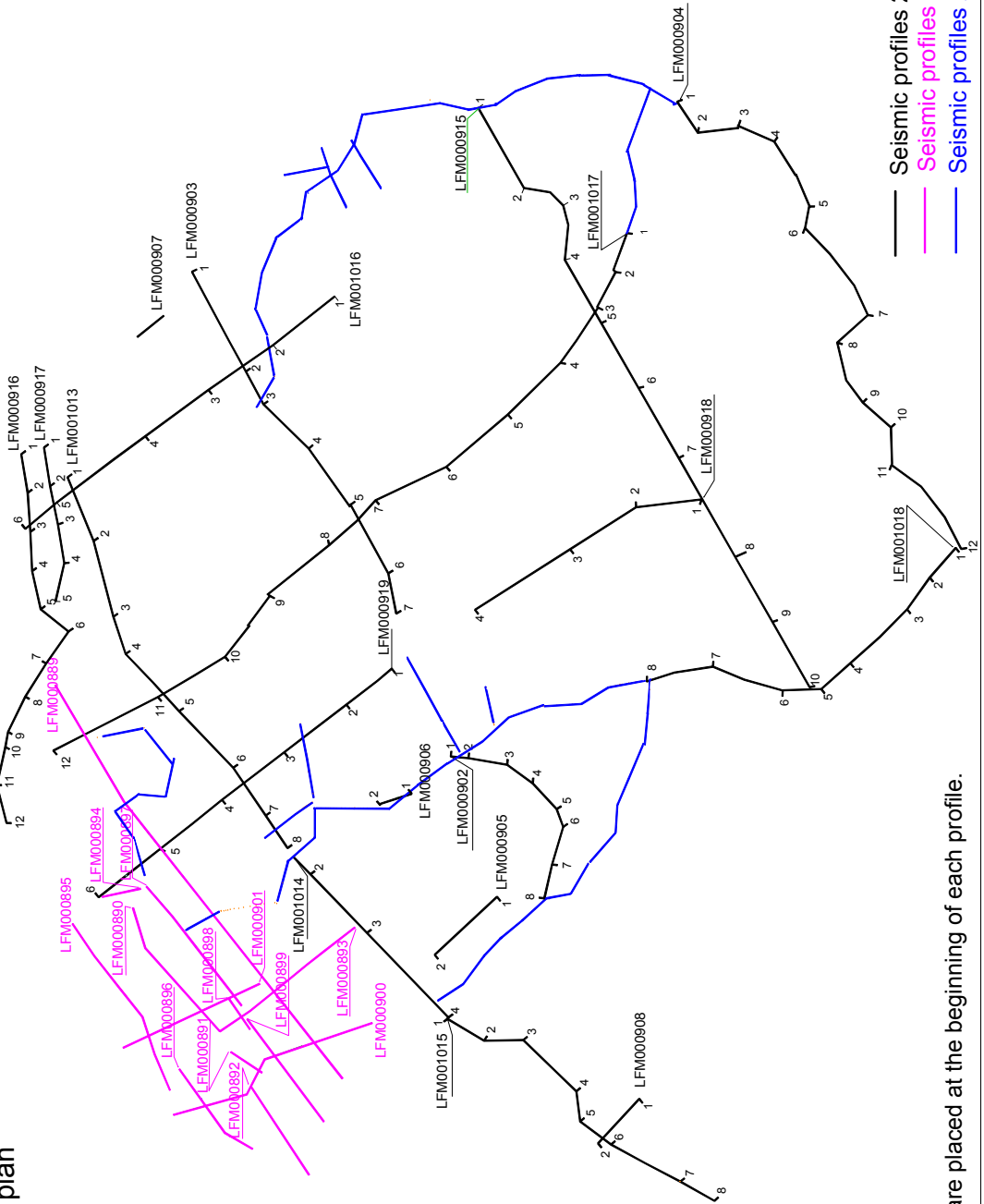
# Explanation of components in the following diagrams





# Appendix 1

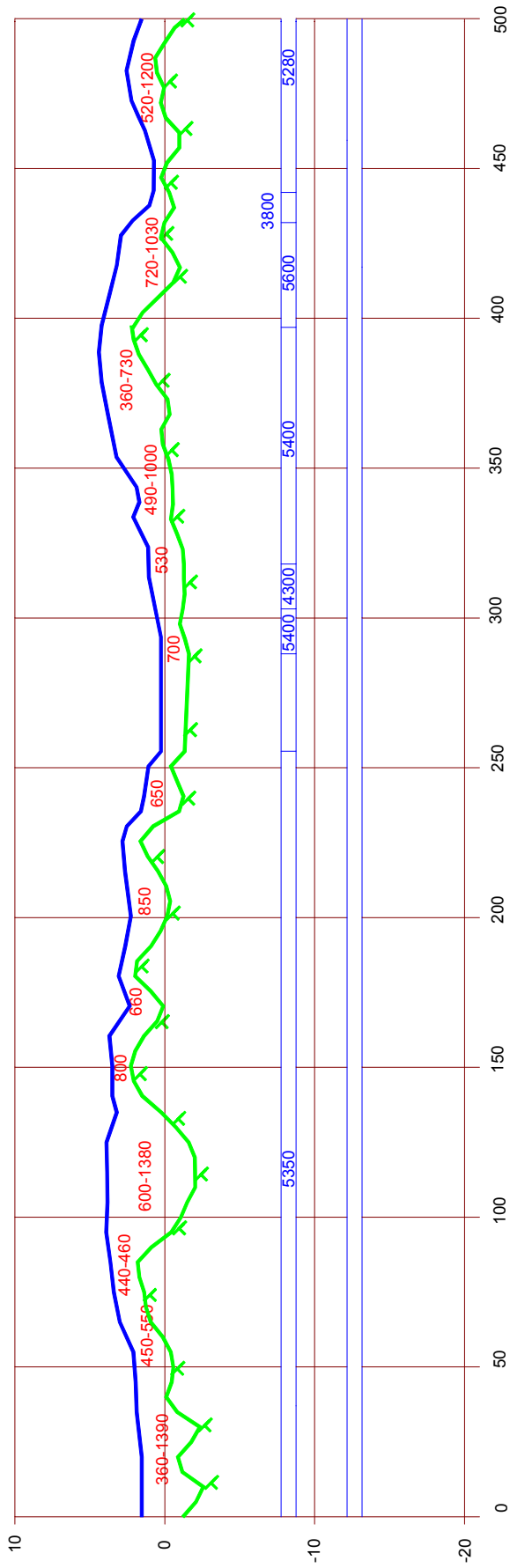
## Forsmark Seismic Refraction Profiles Orientation plan



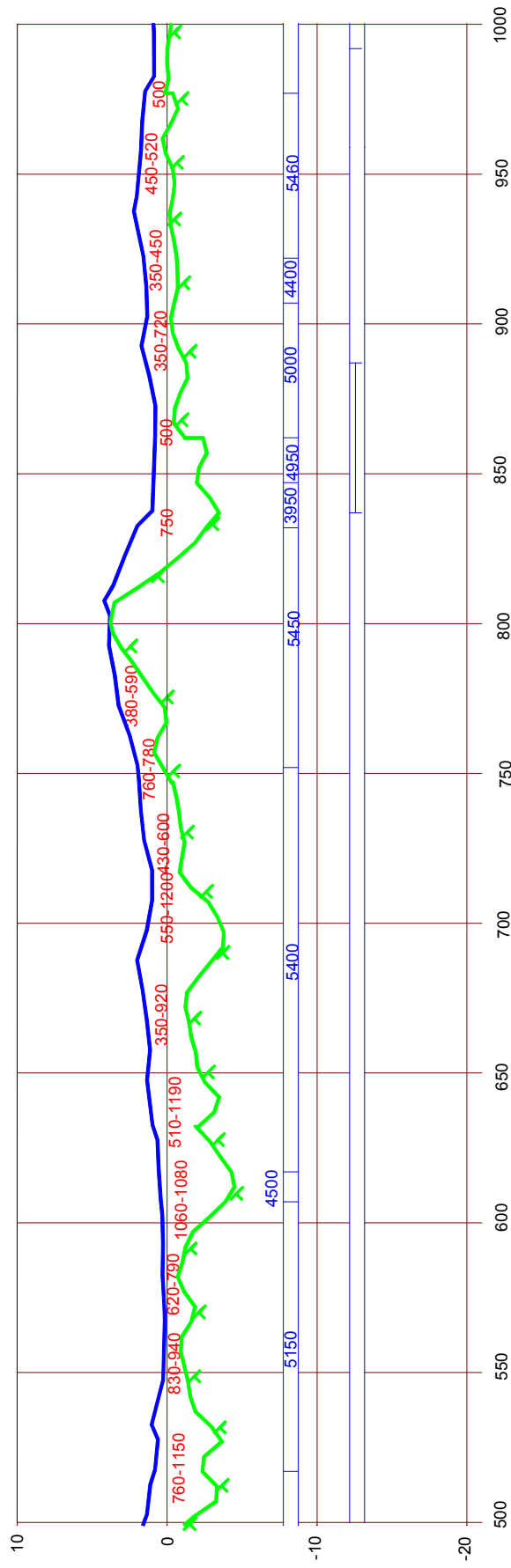
The ID-labels are placed at the beginning of each profile.

- Seismic profiles 2005-2006
- Seismic profiles 2005 residential area
- Seismic profiles 2004 (reported in 1/1)

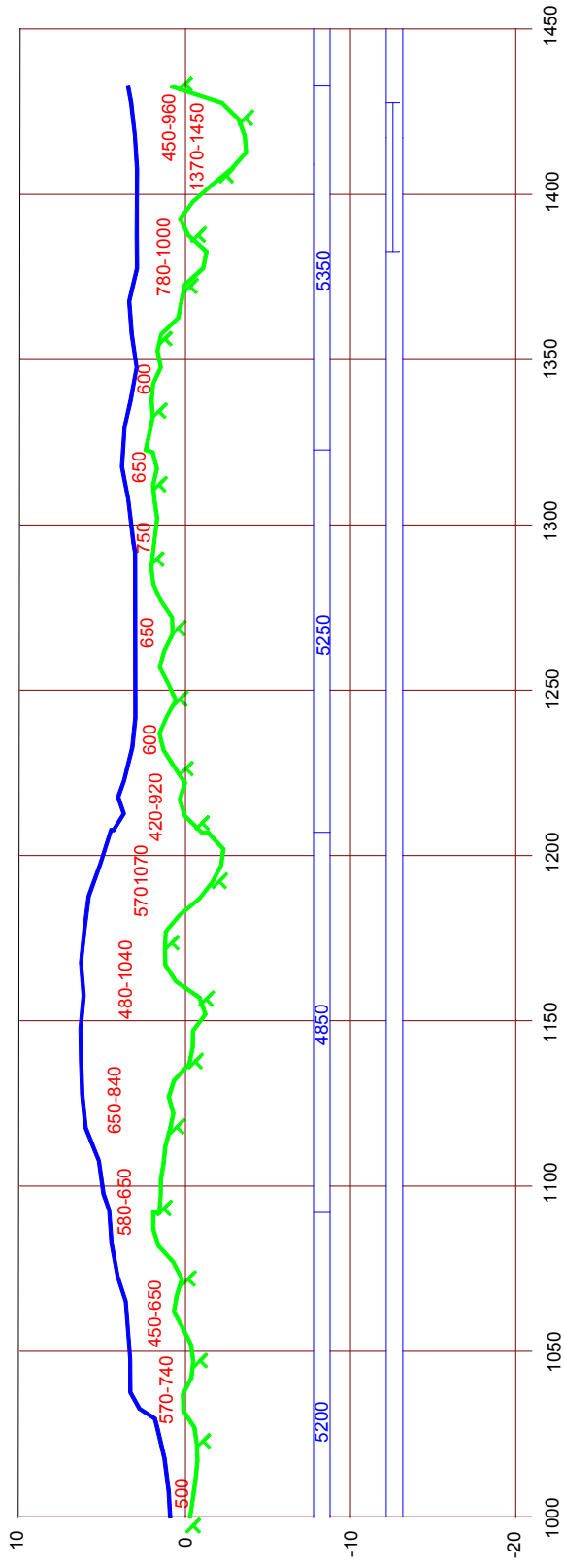
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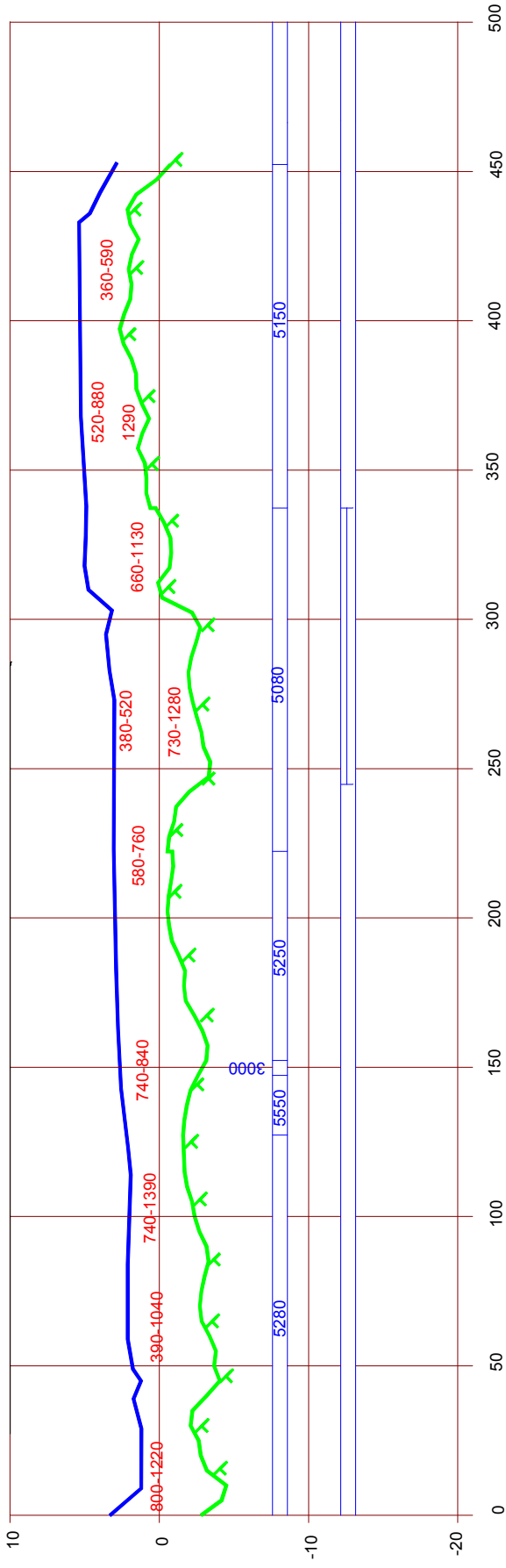
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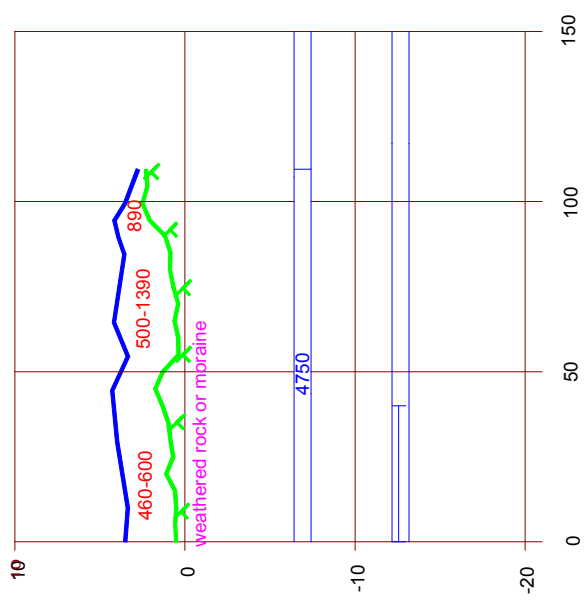
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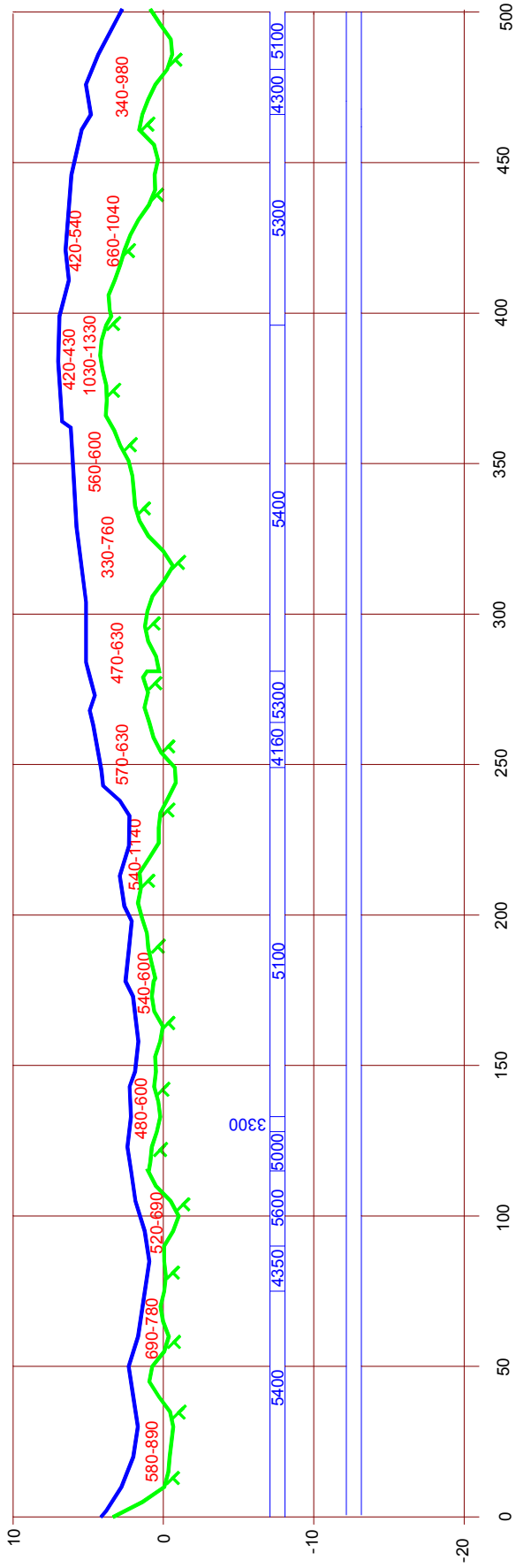


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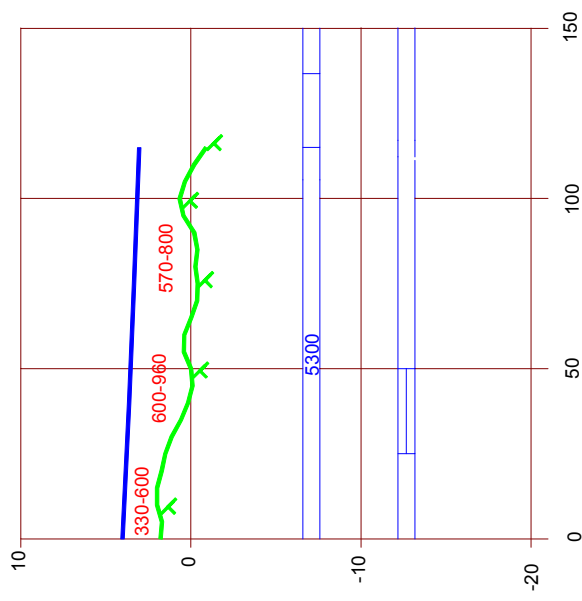


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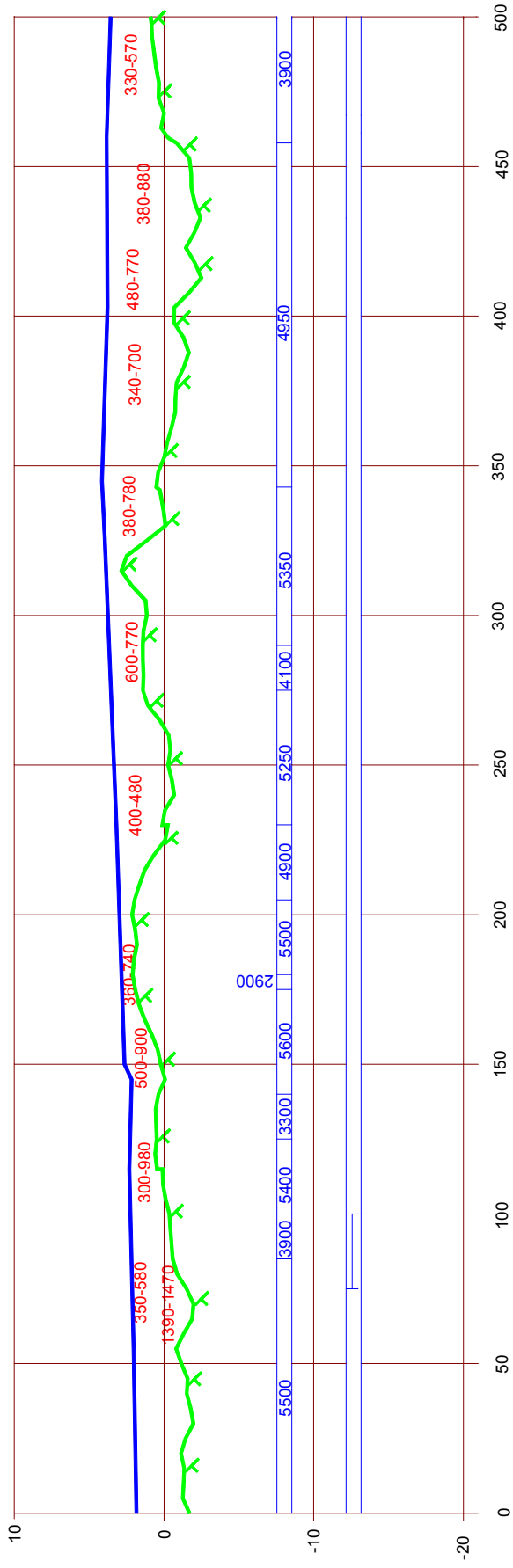




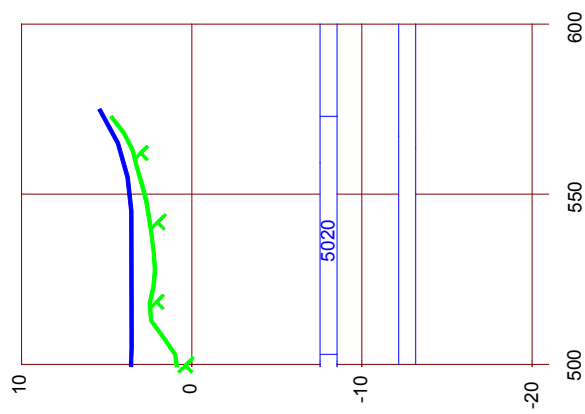
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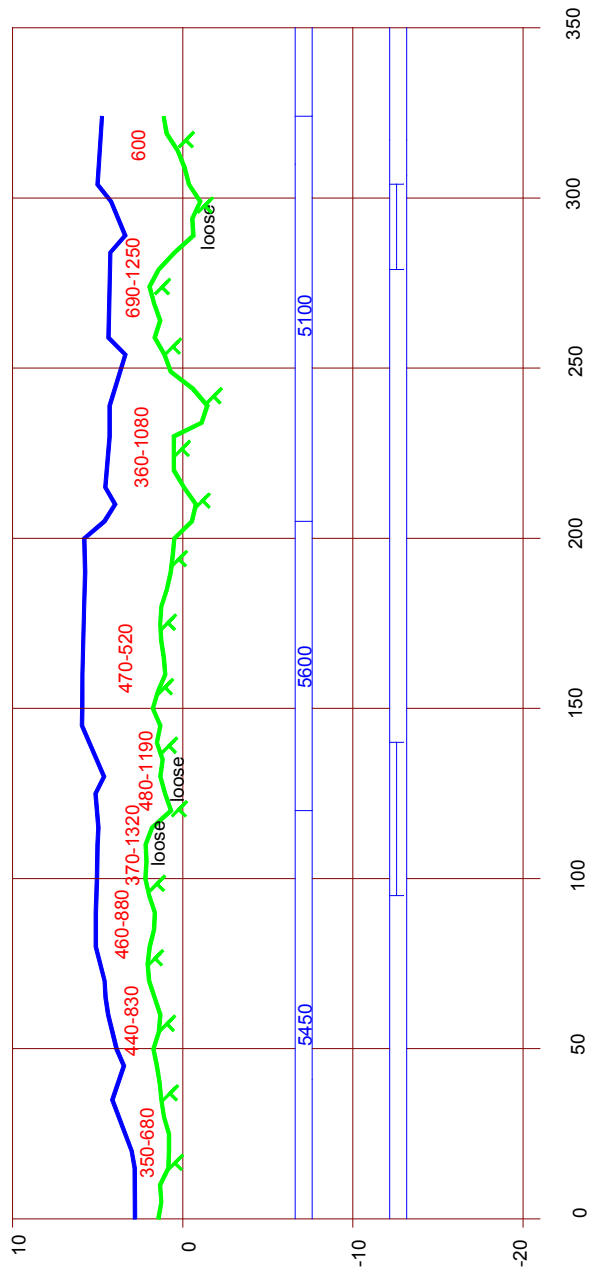
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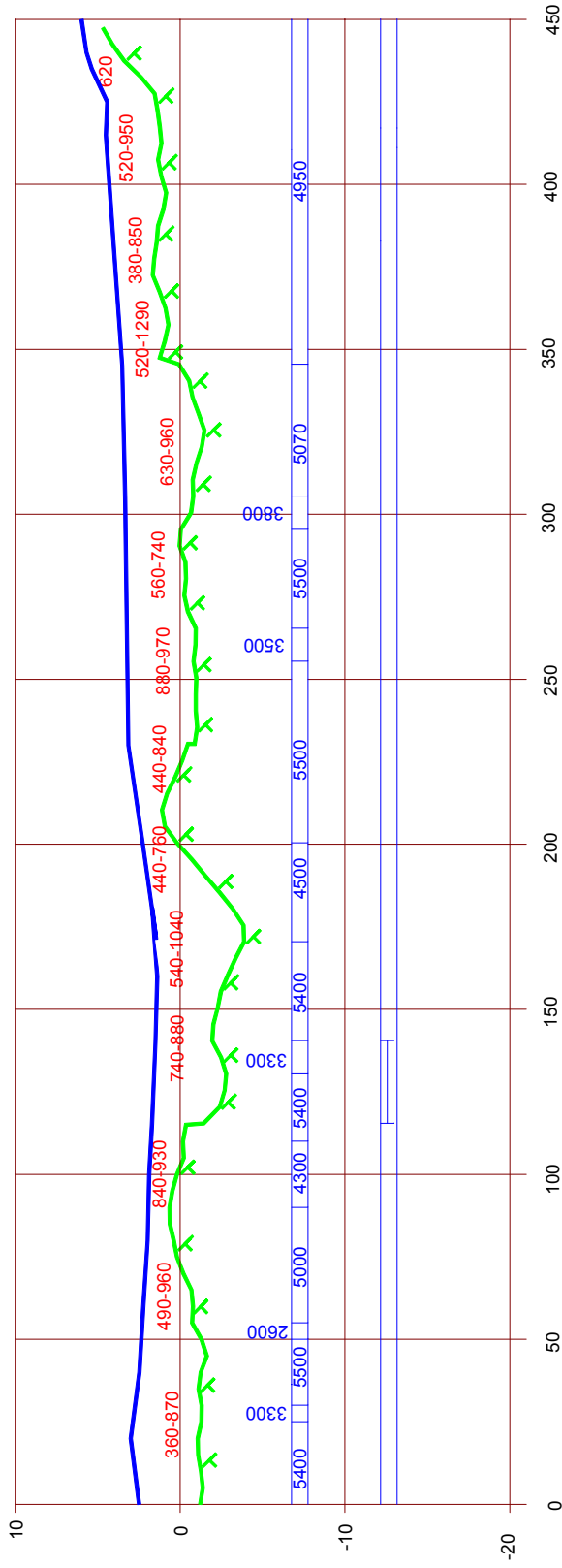
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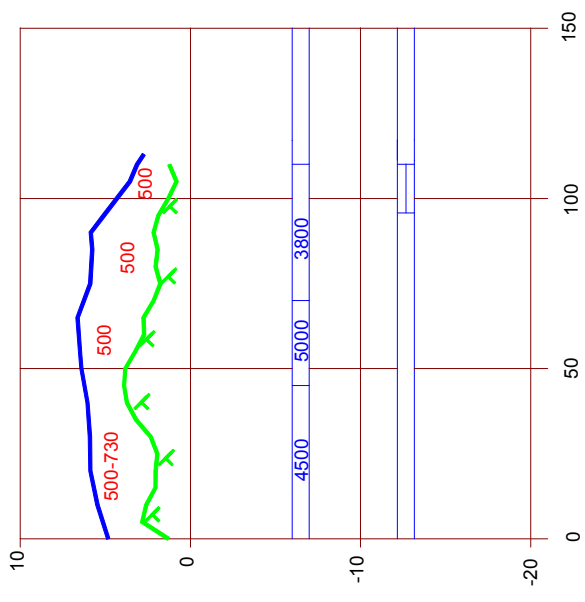
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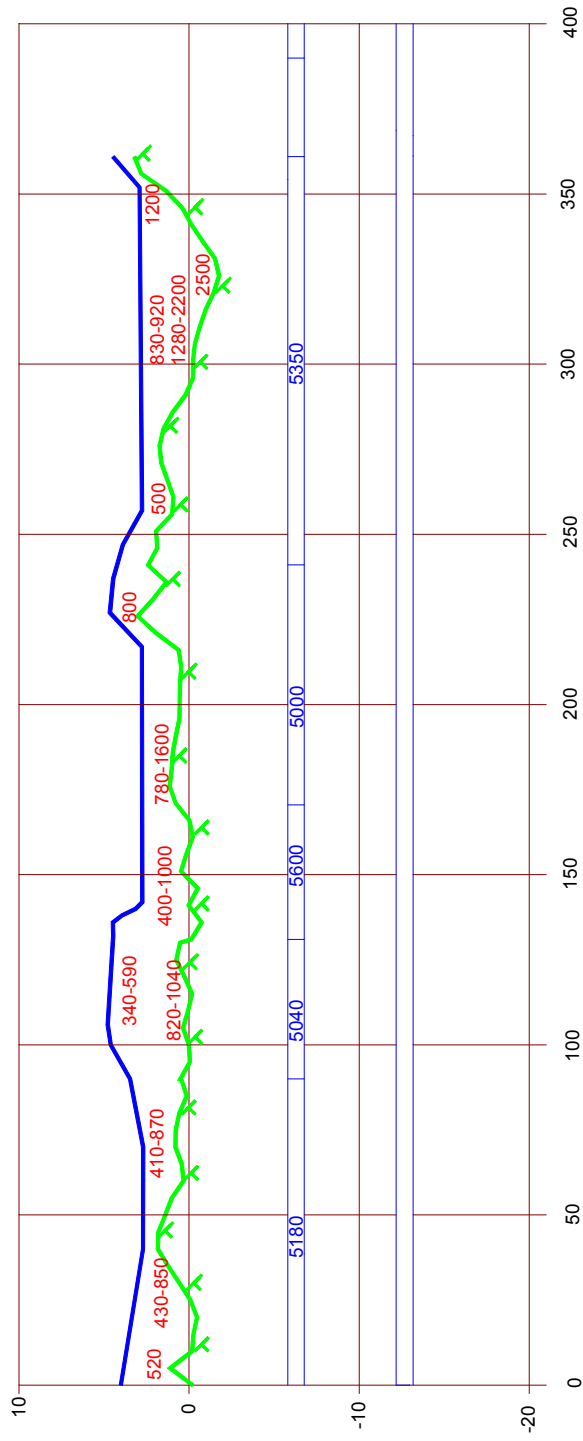
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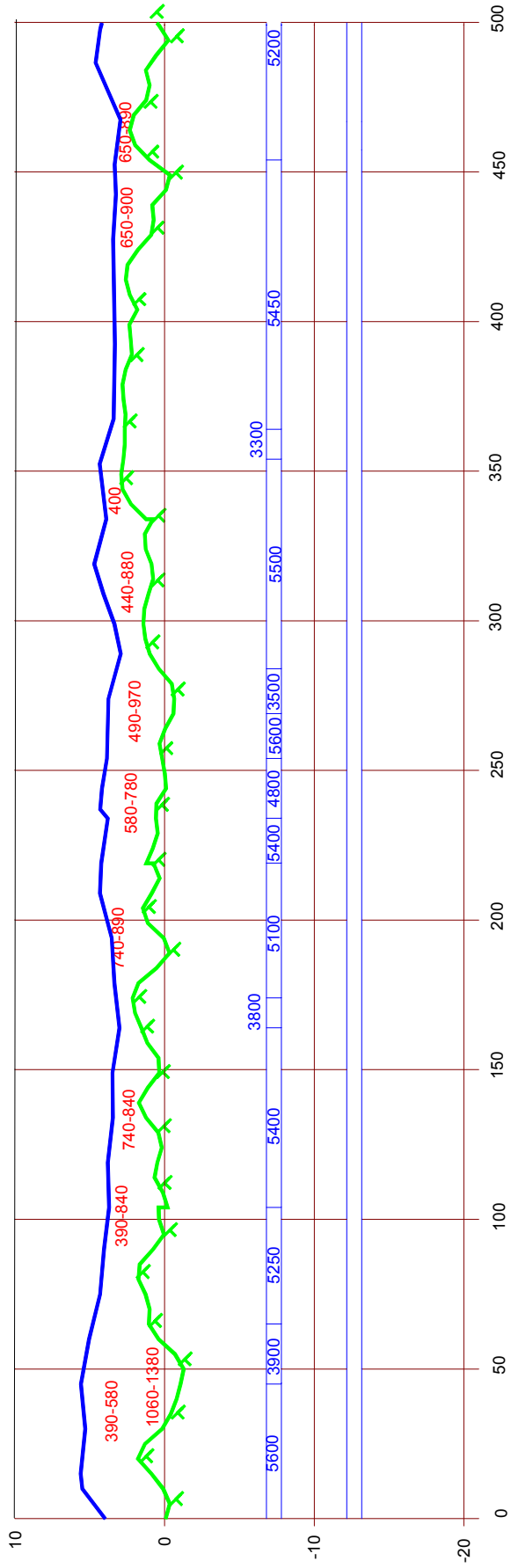
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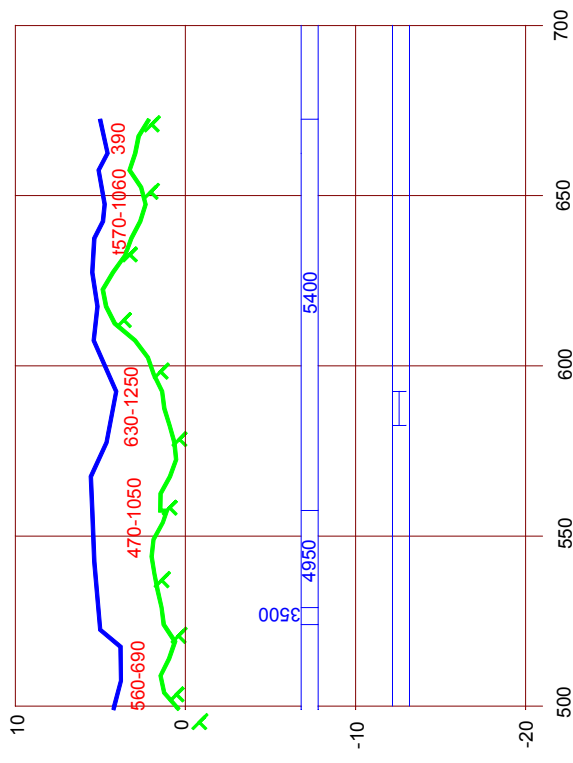


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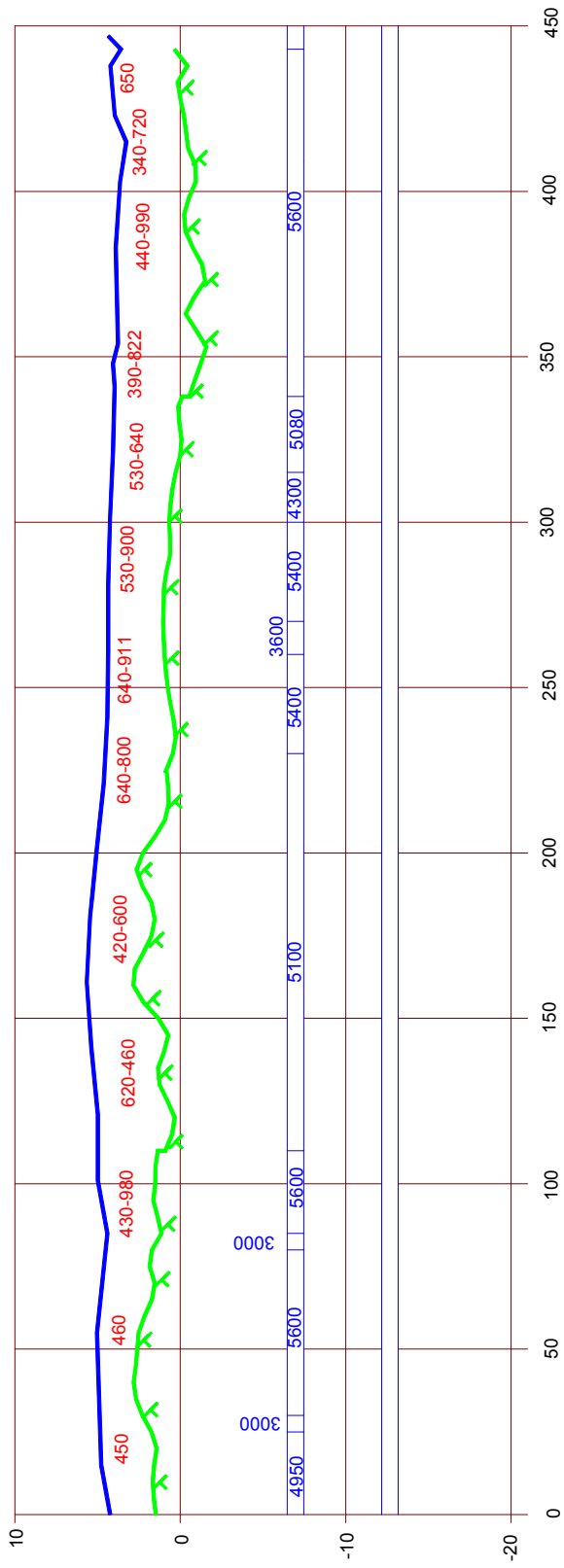




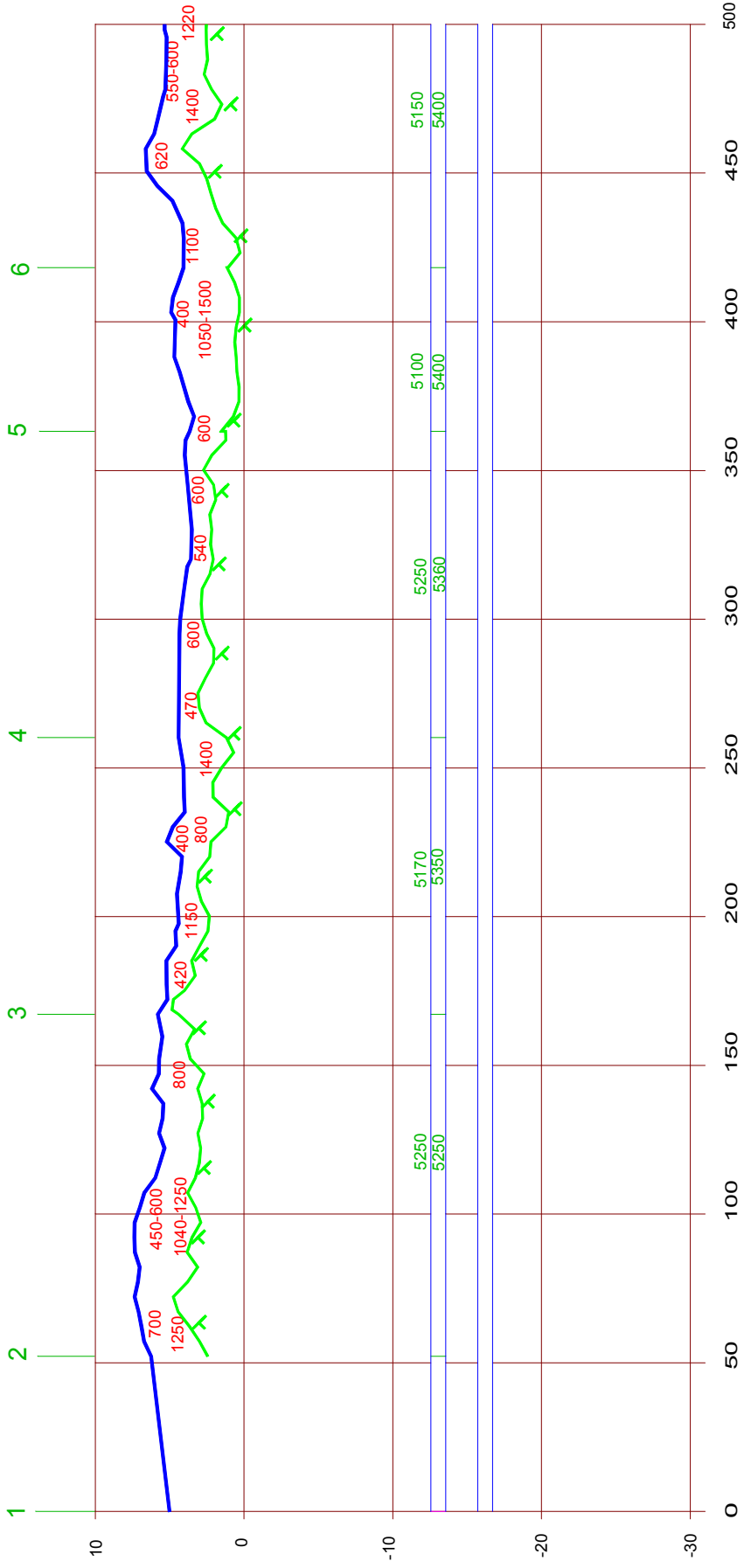
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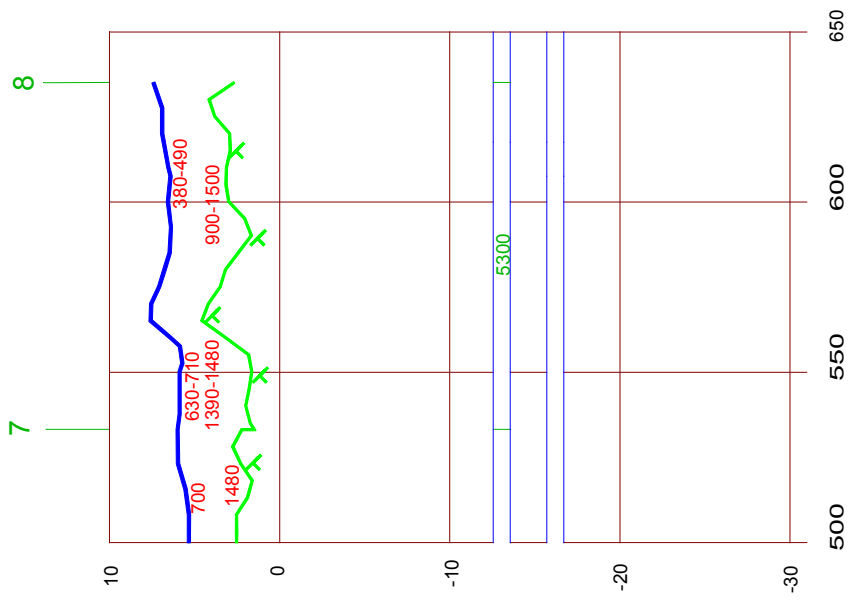
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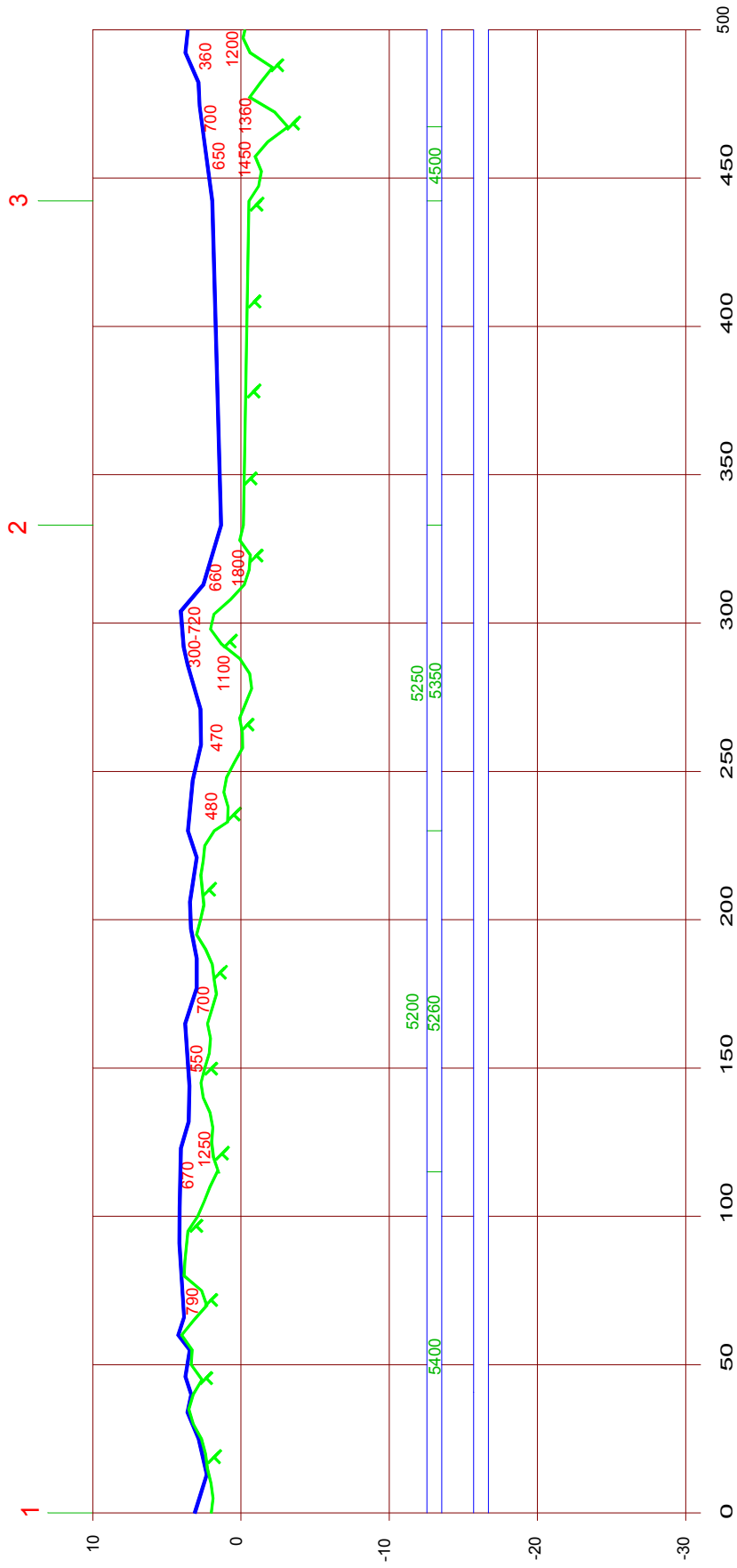
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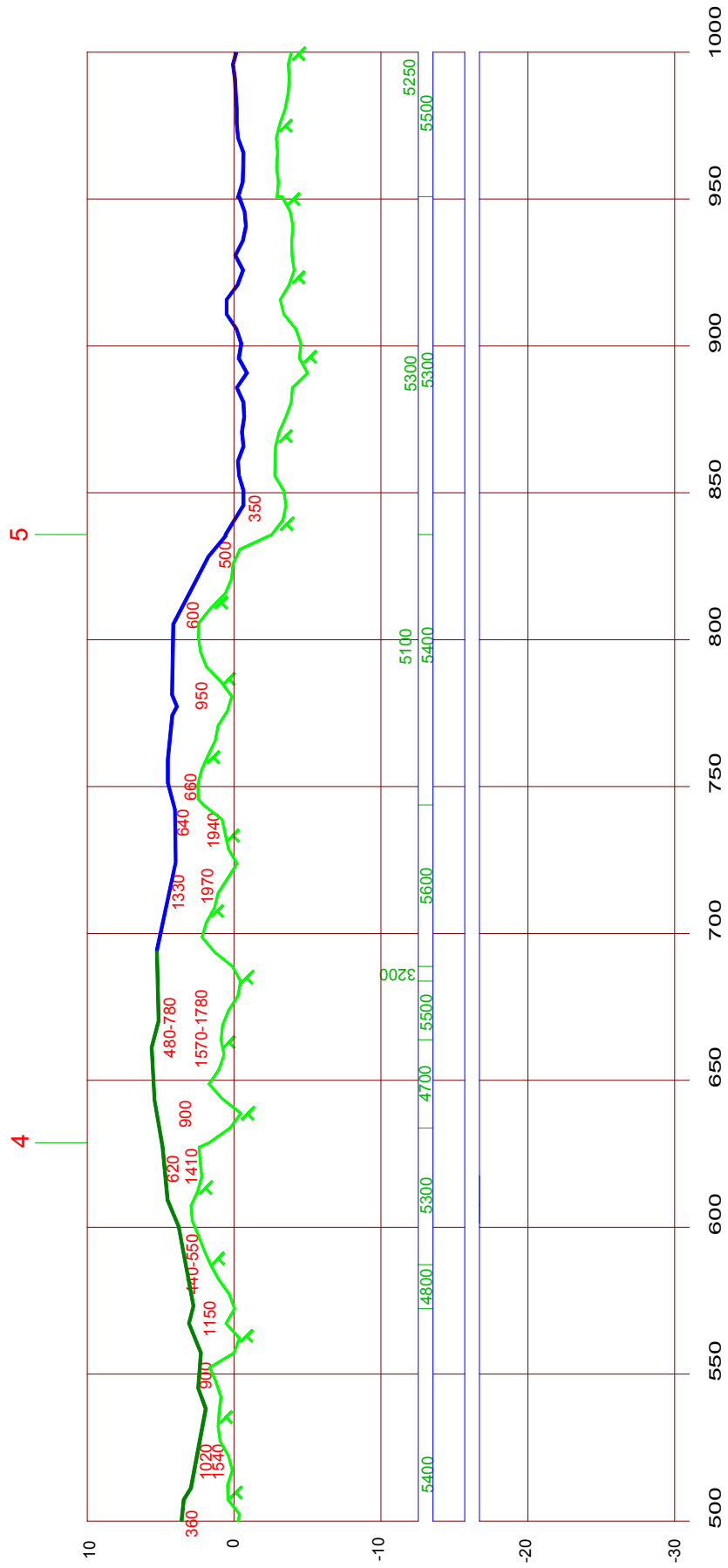
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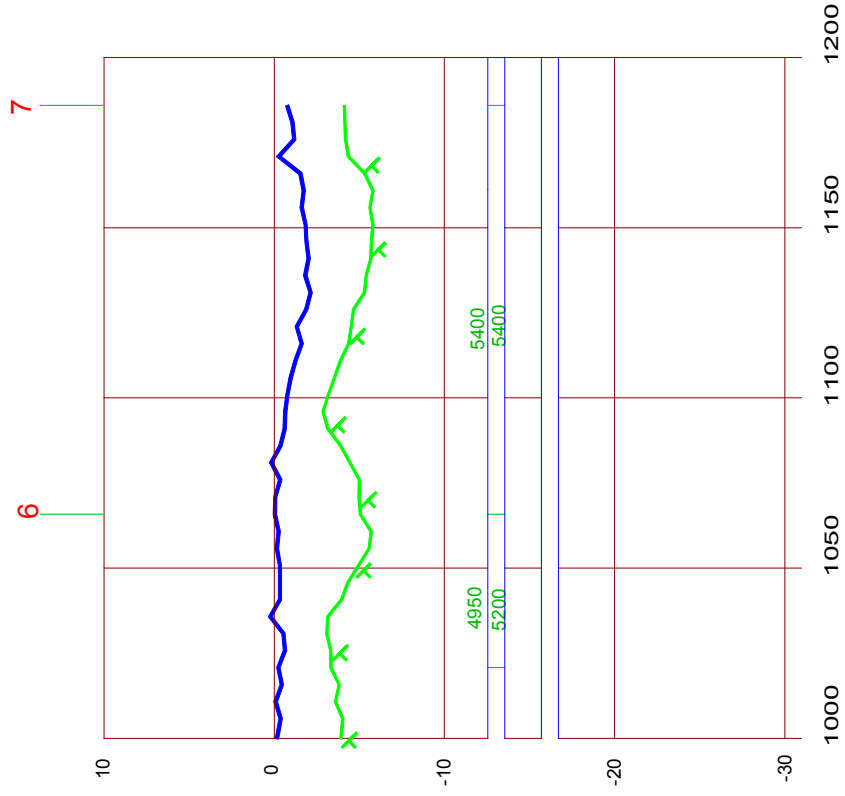
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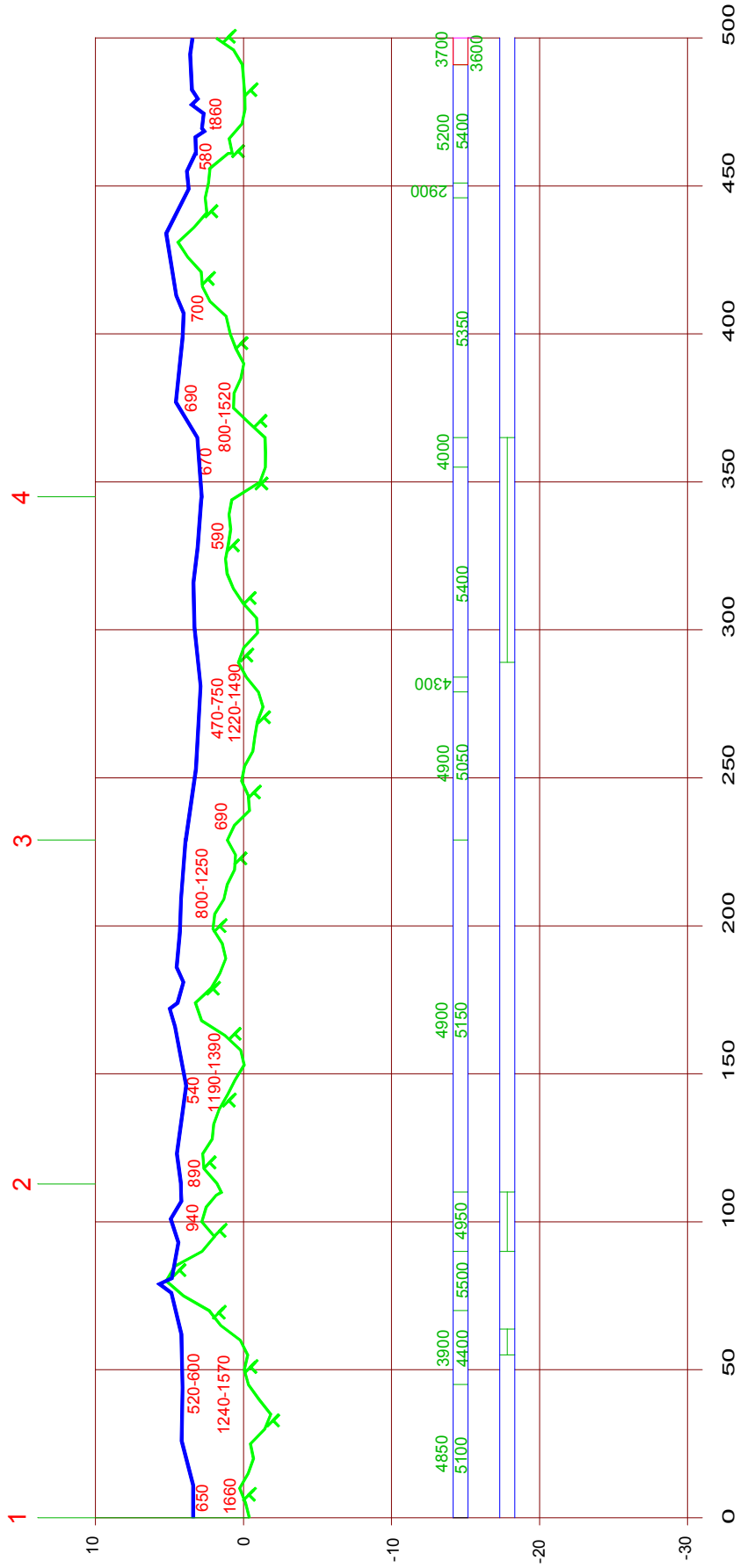
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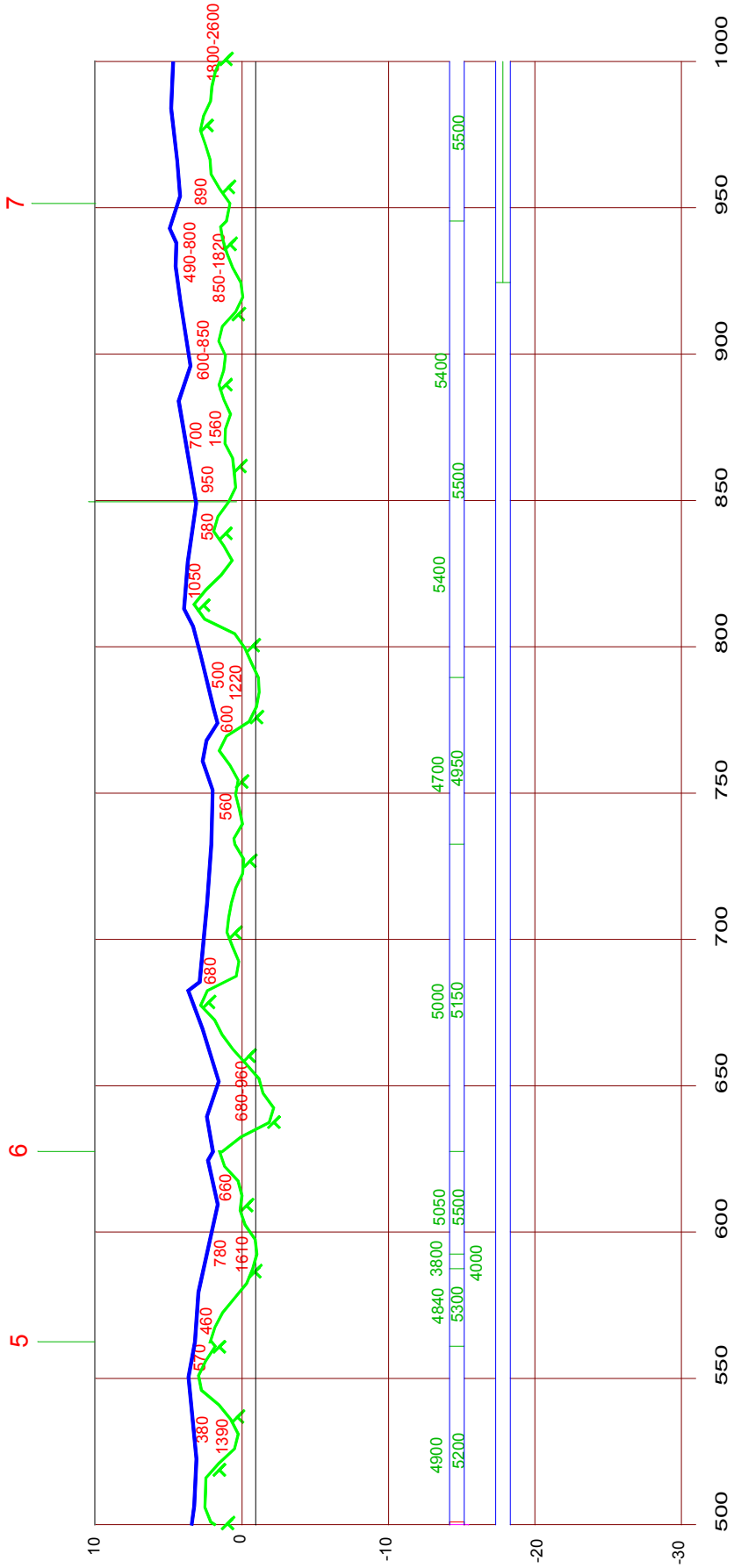


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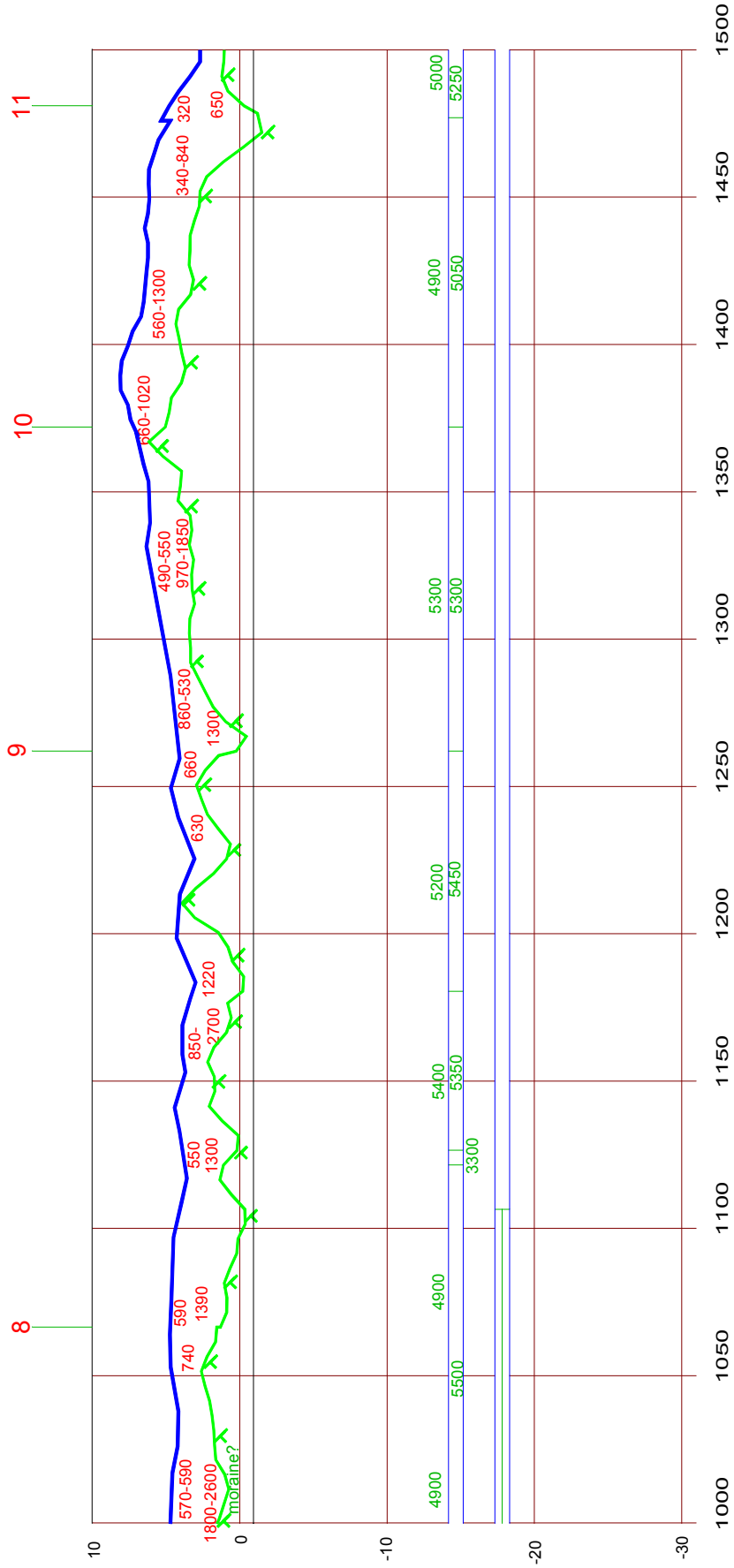




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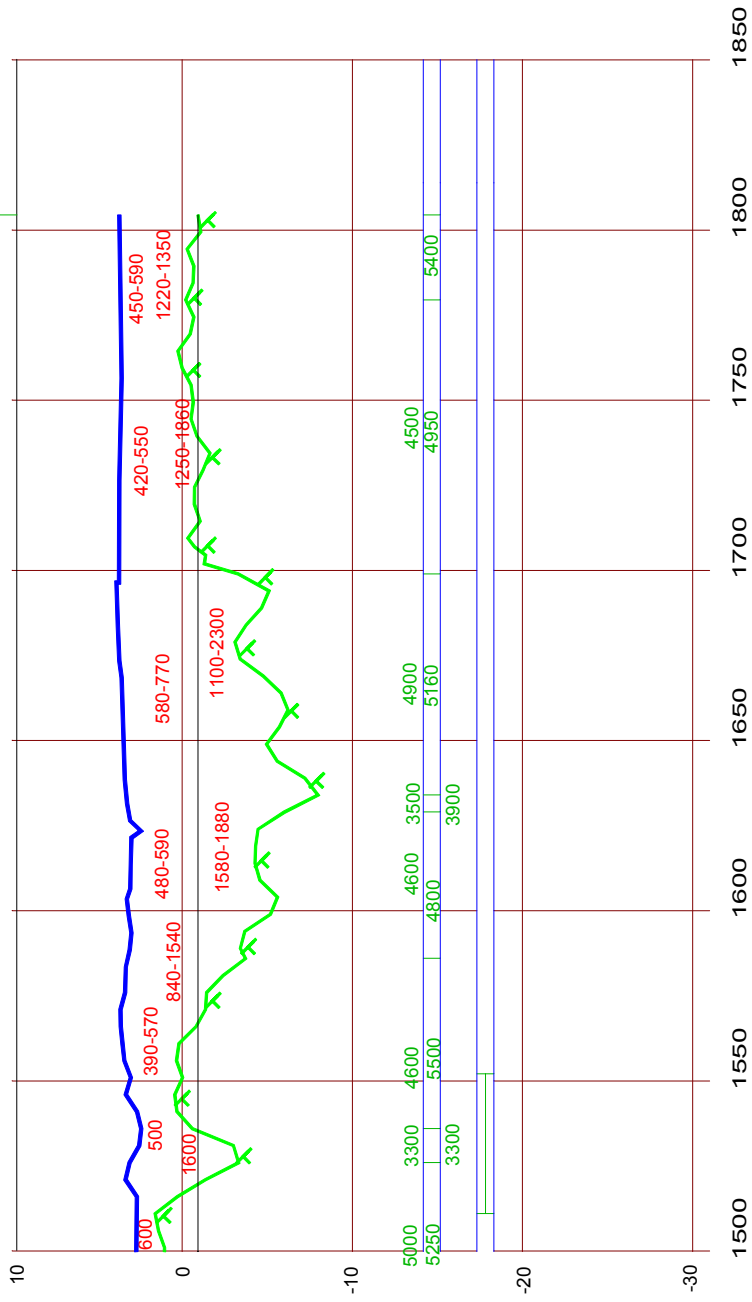


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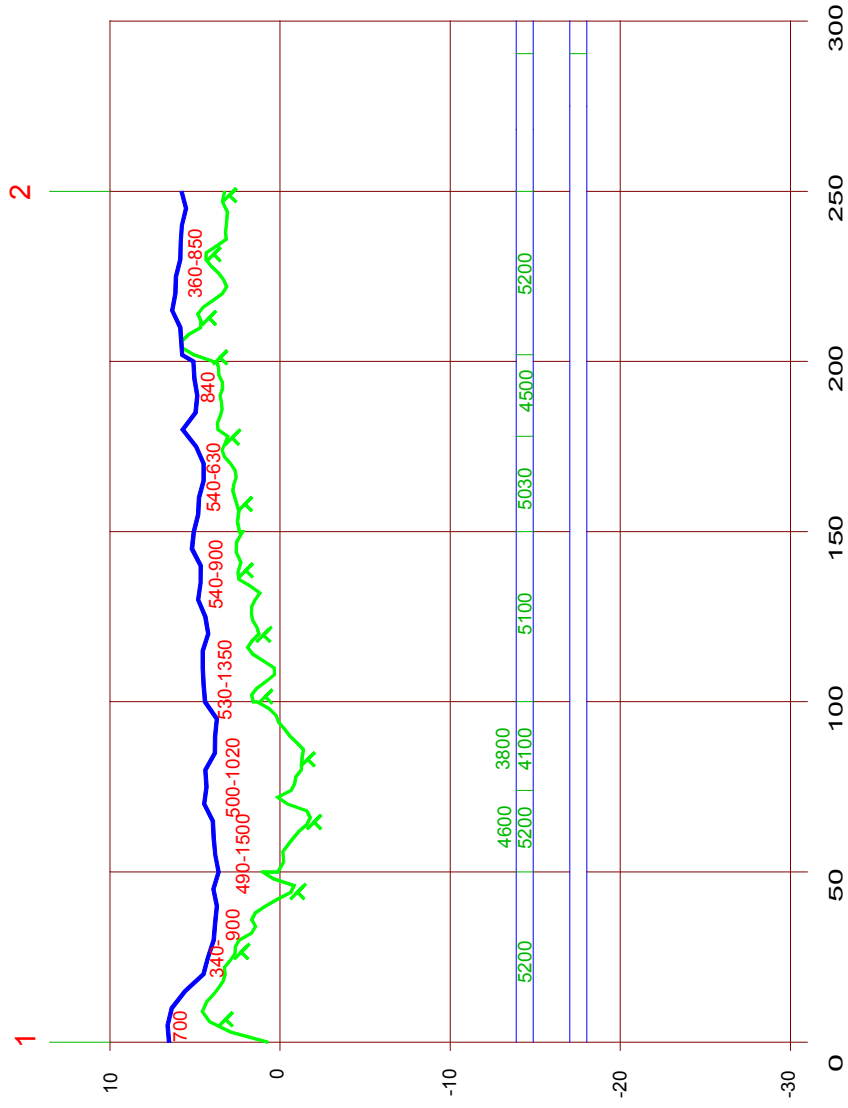


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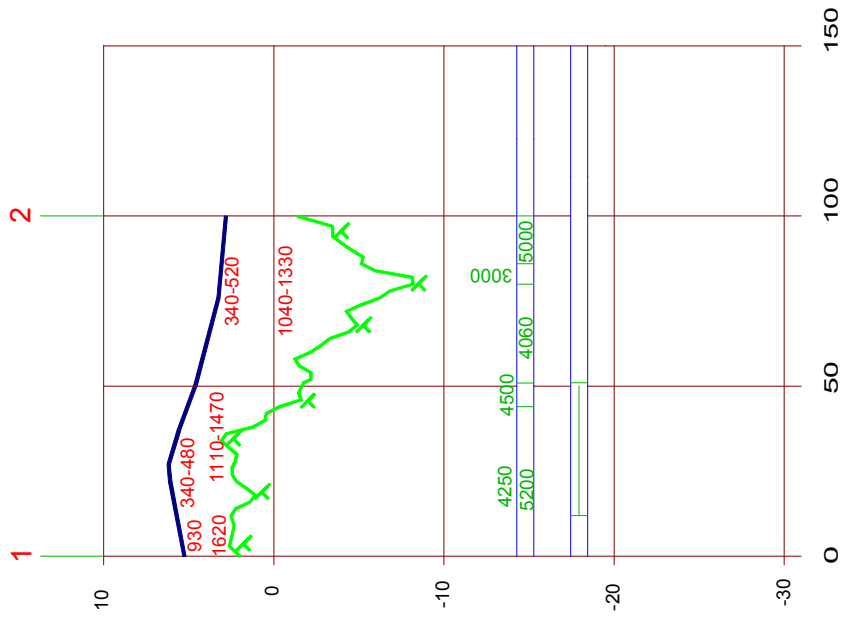
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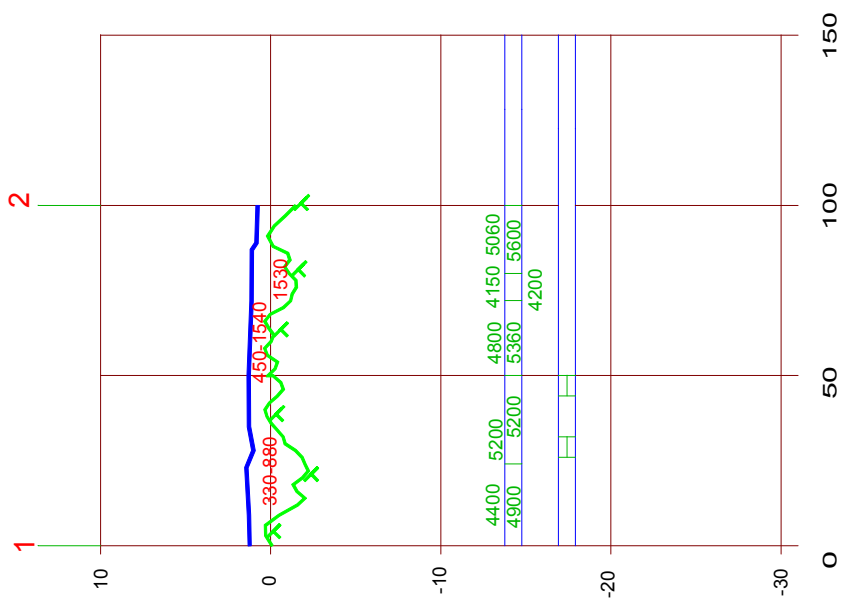
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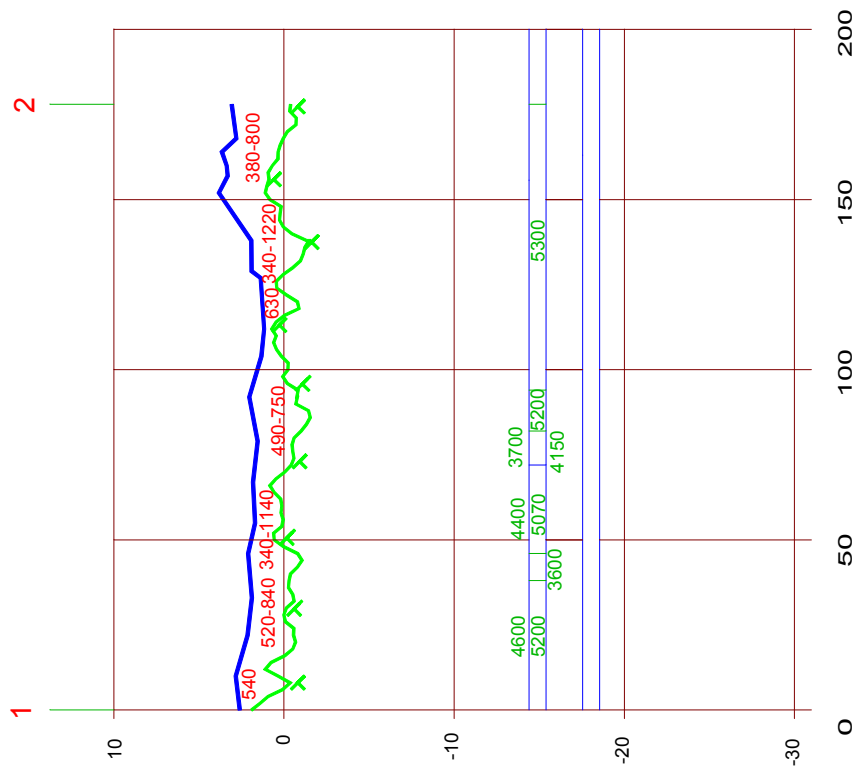
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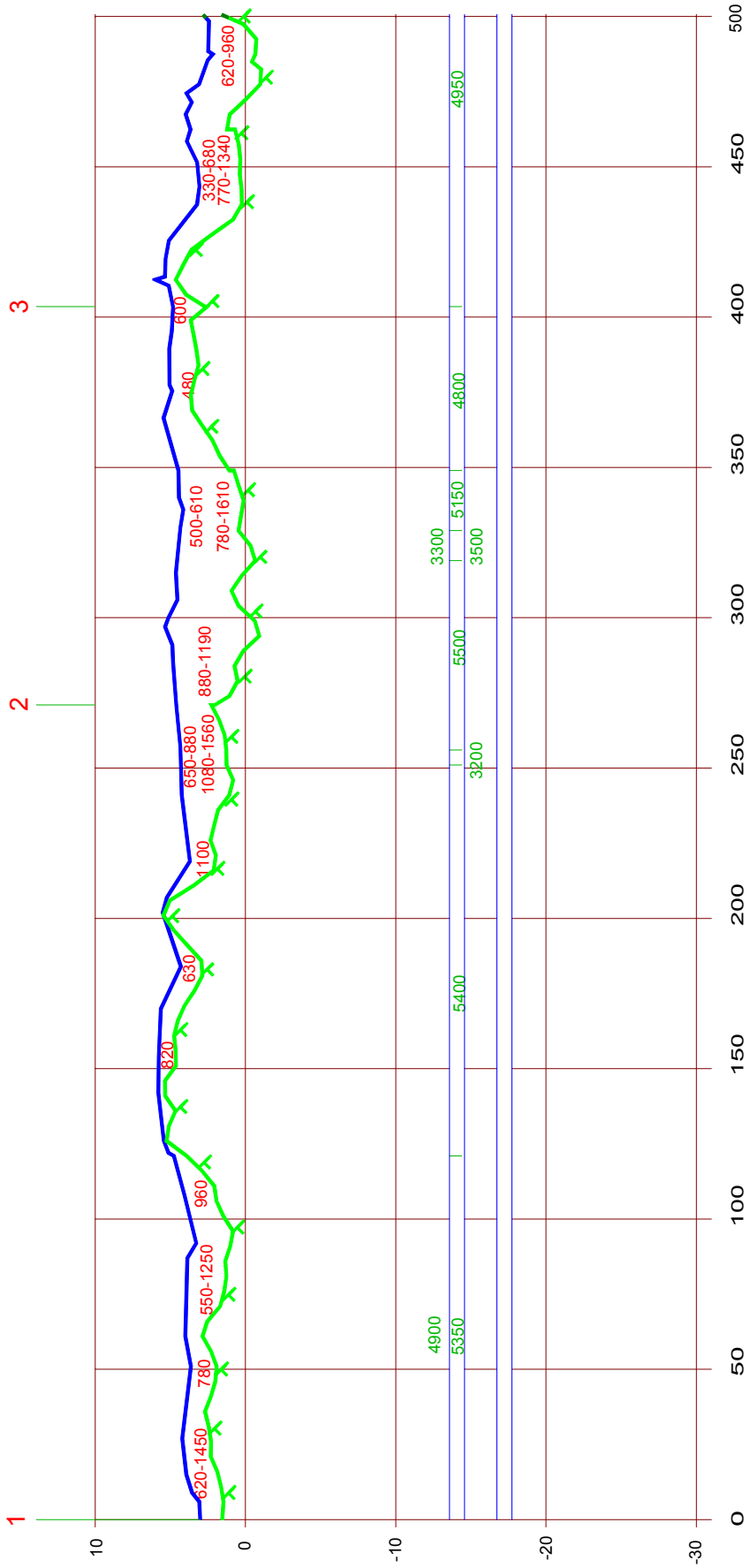
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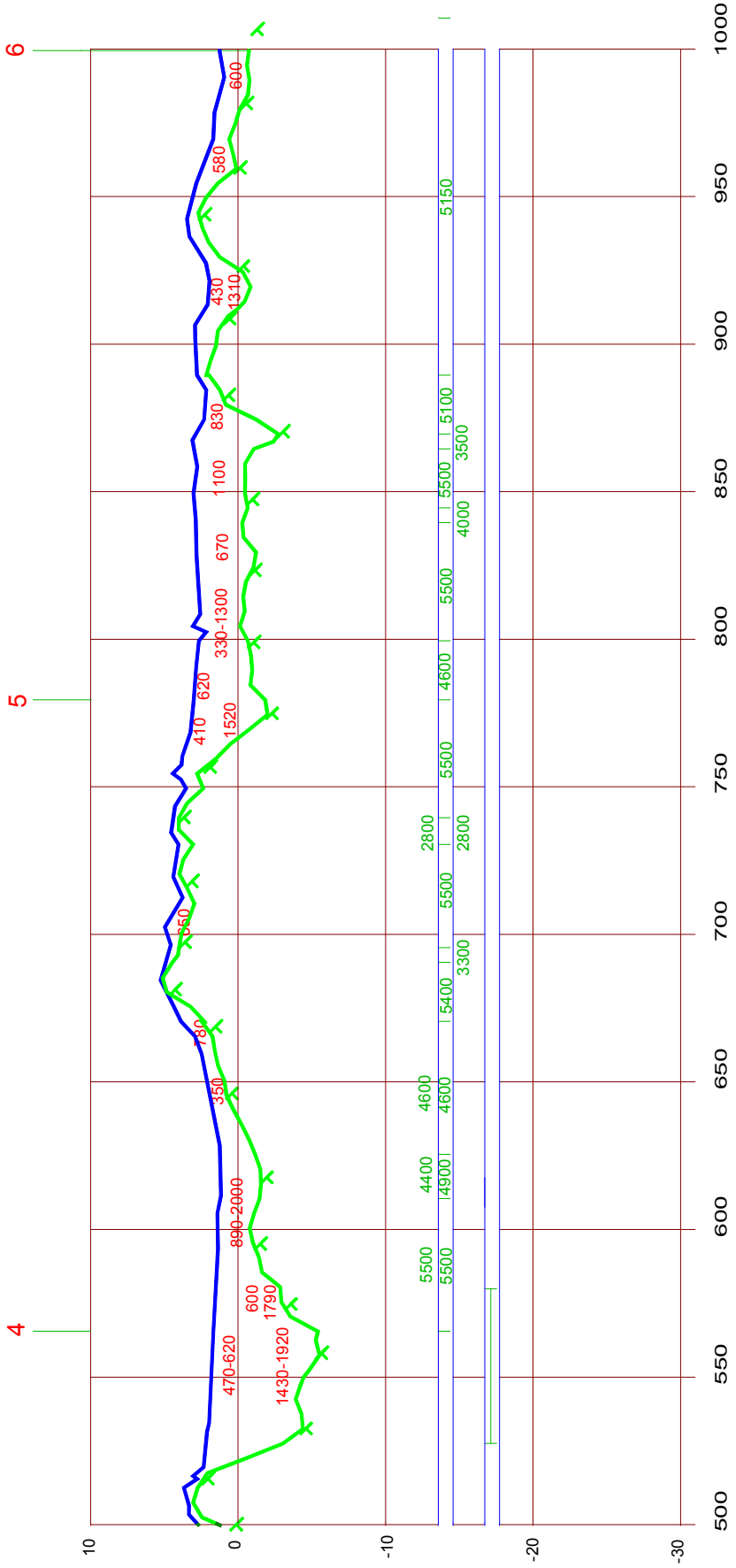


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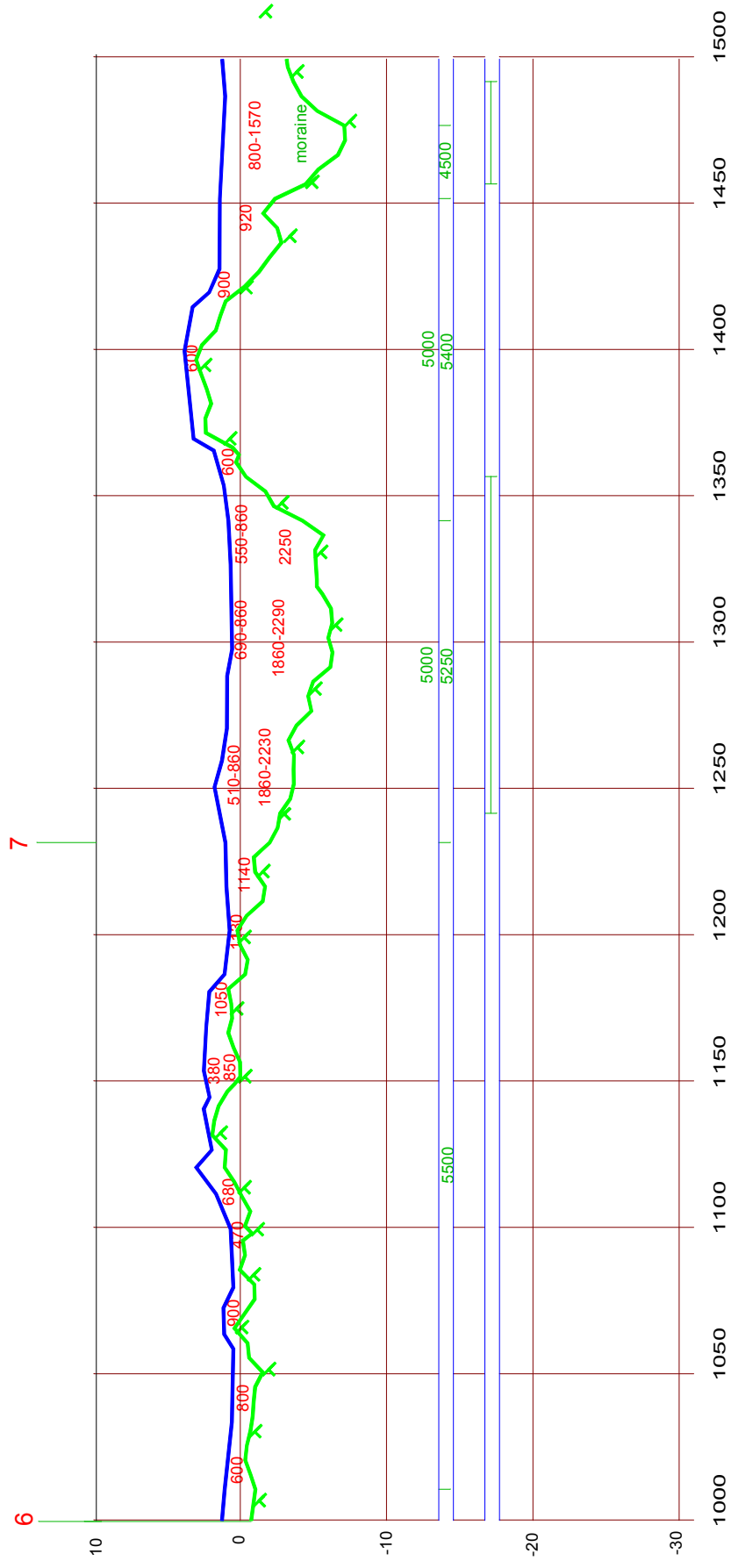




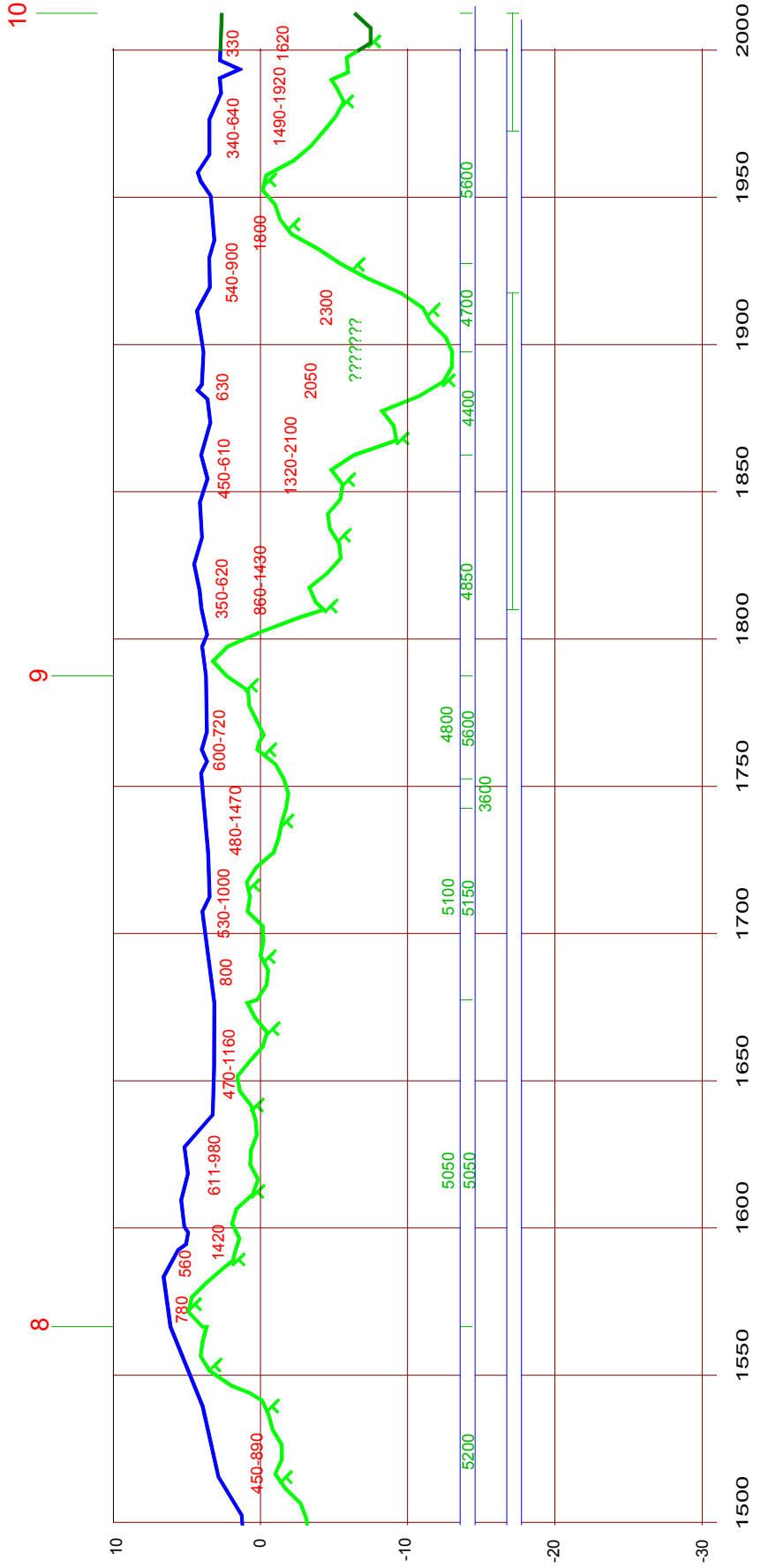
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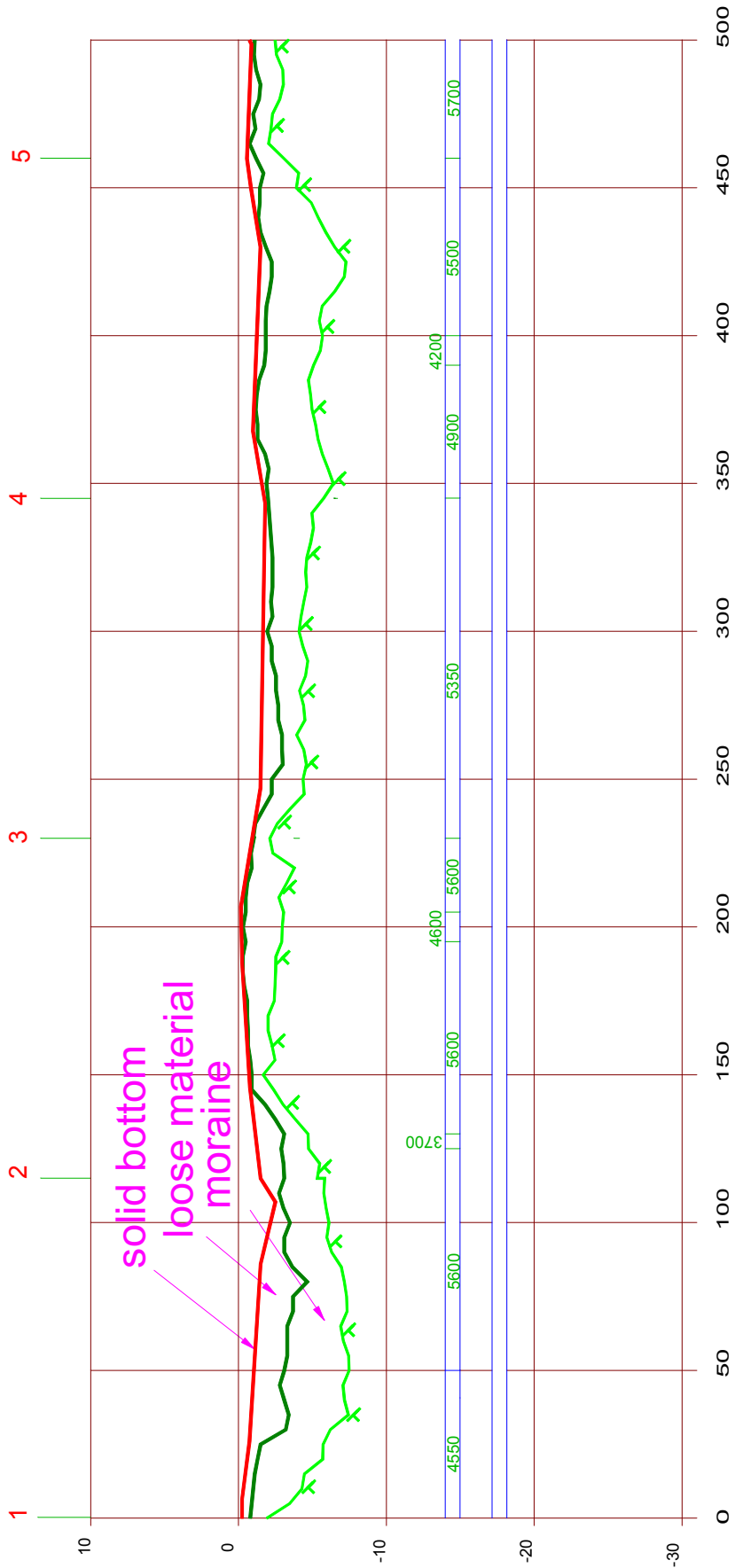
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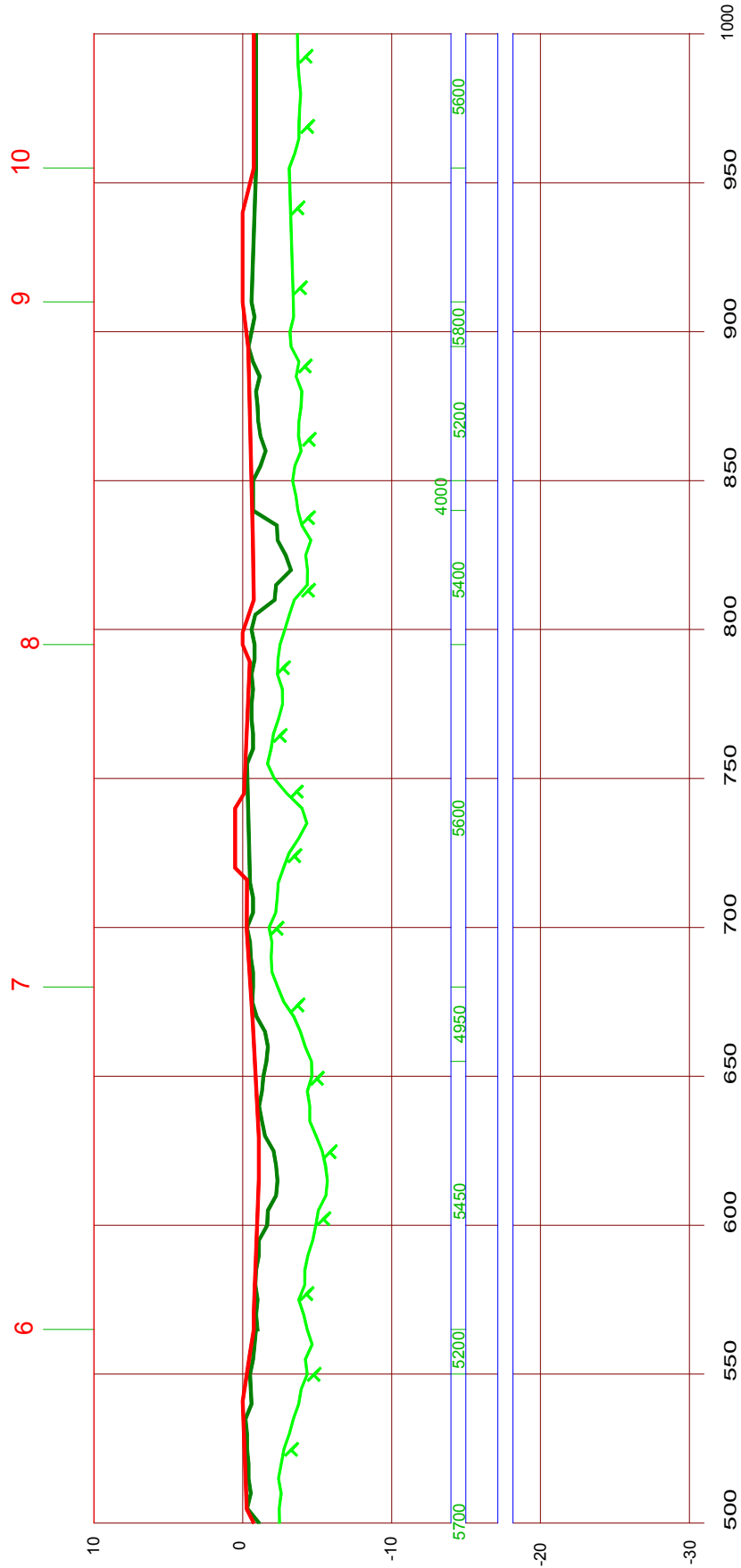
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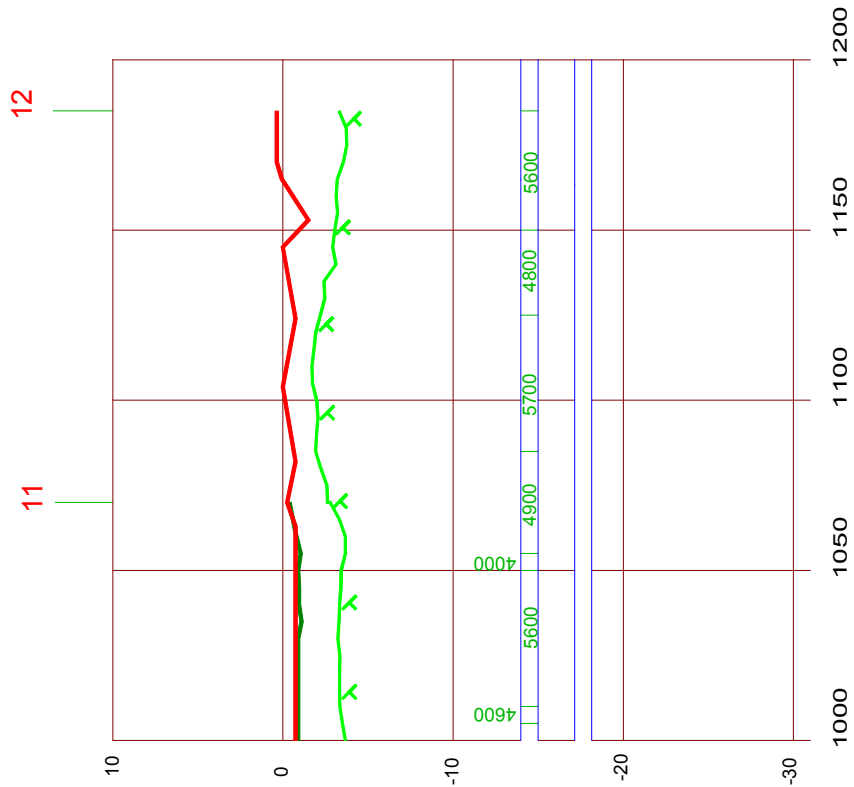
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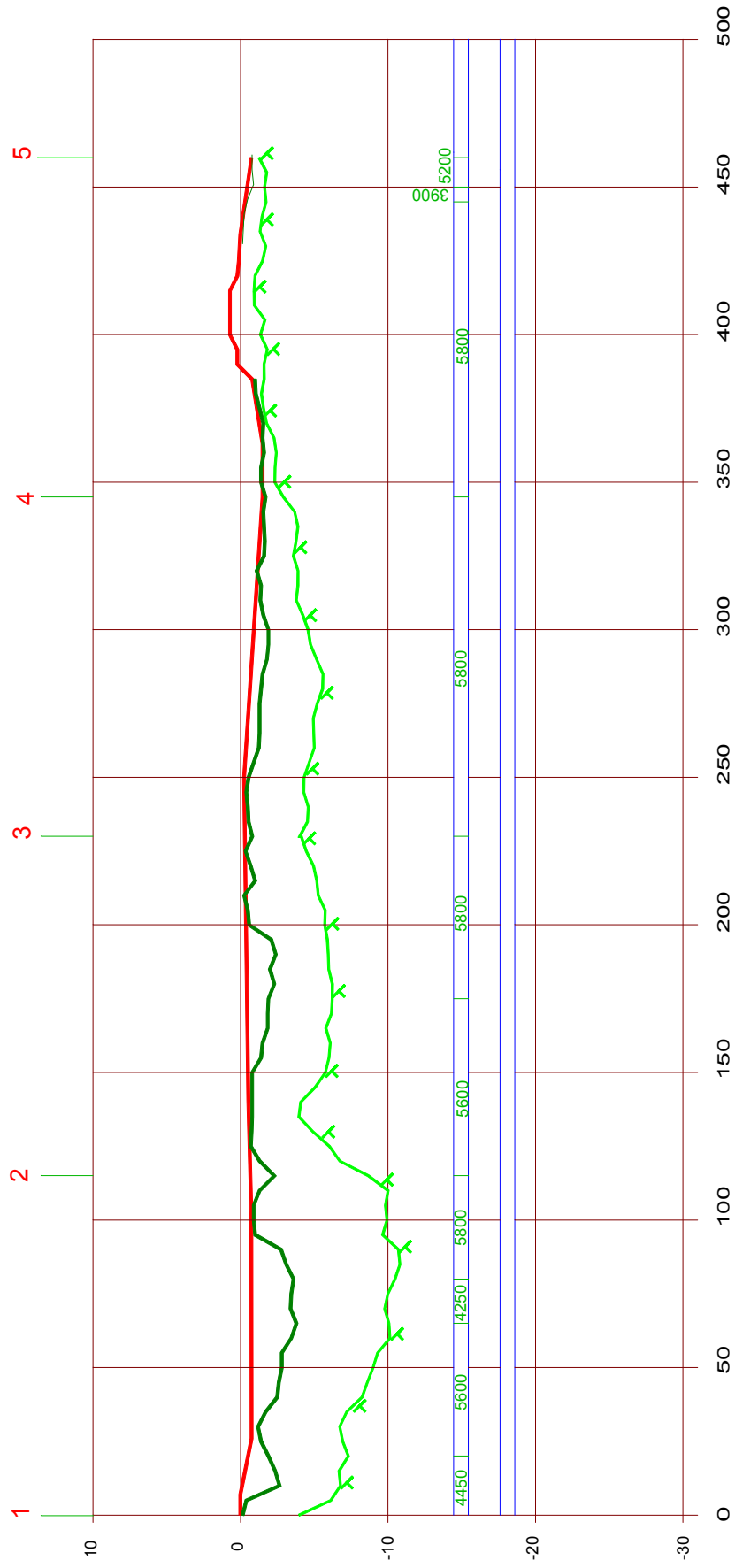
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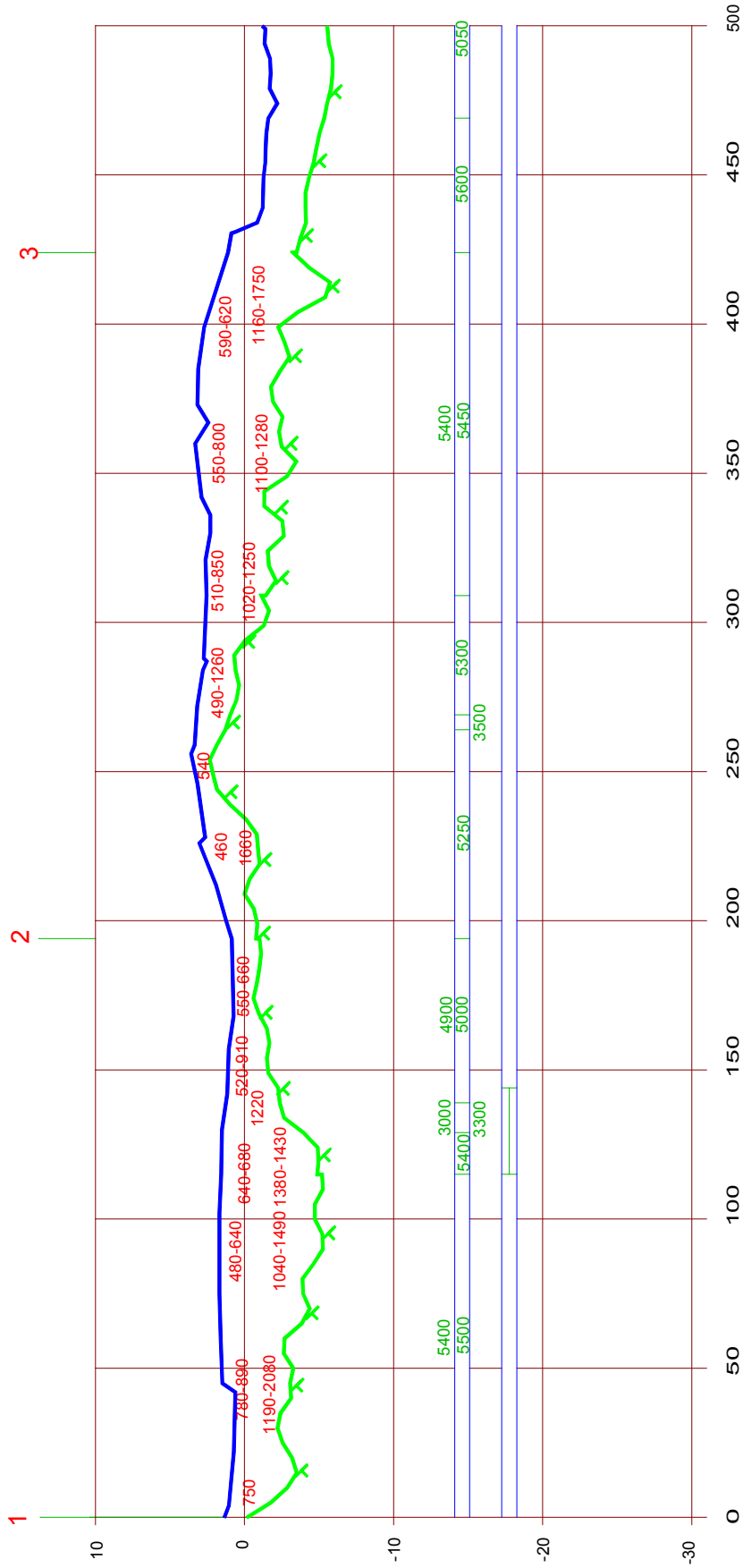
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# LFM000917 0/000-0/500

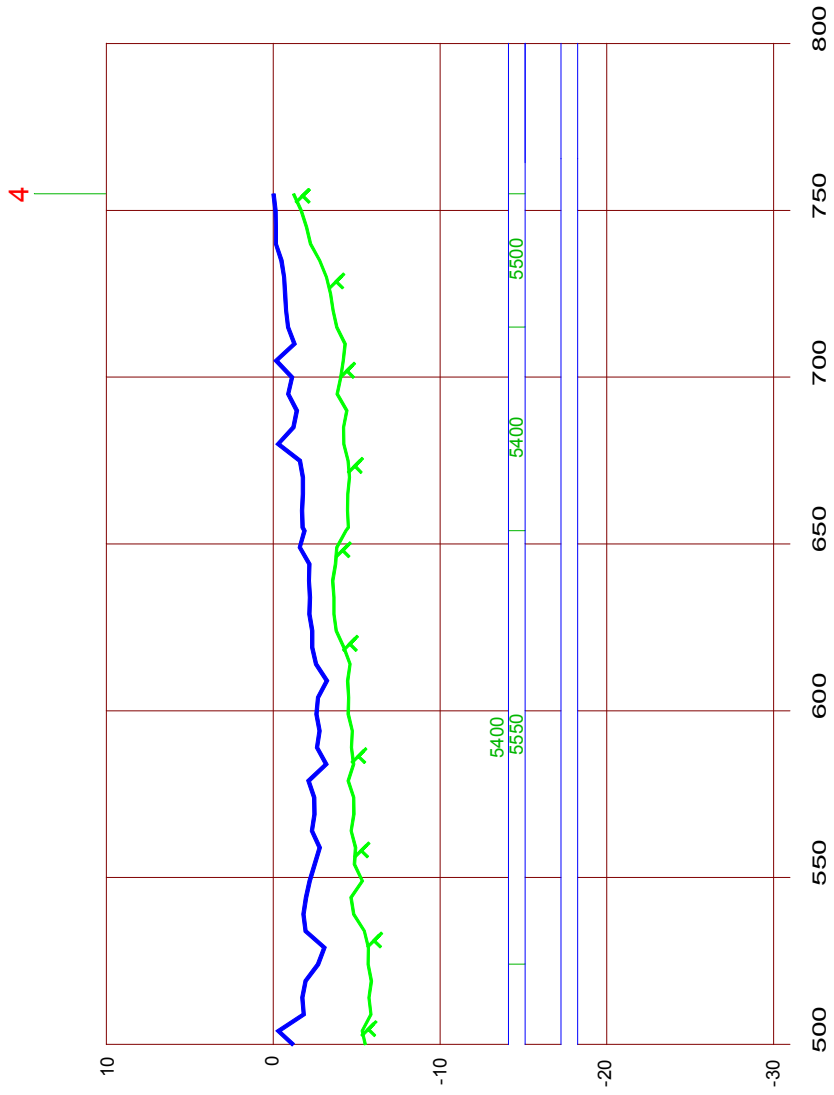


# LFM000918 0/000-0/500

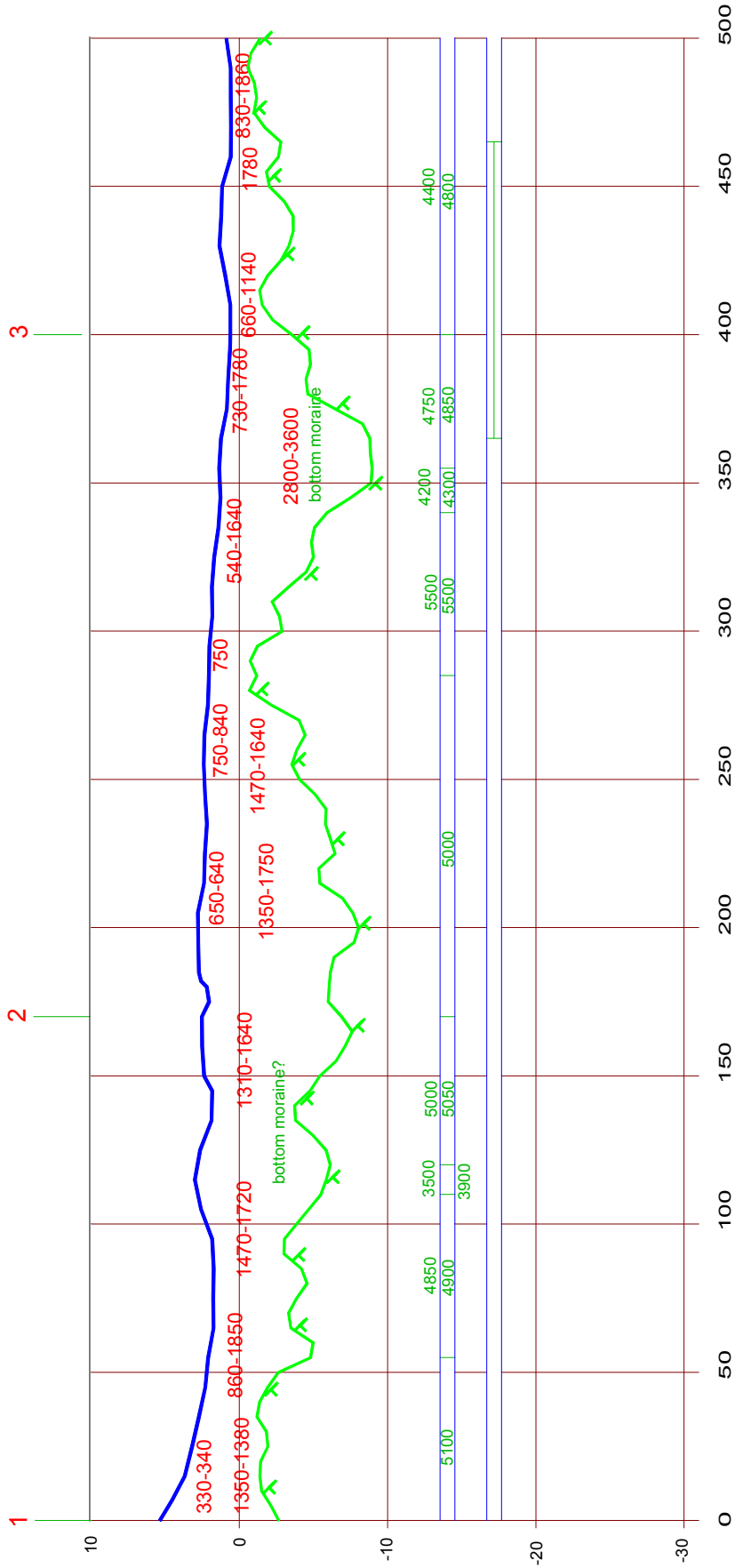




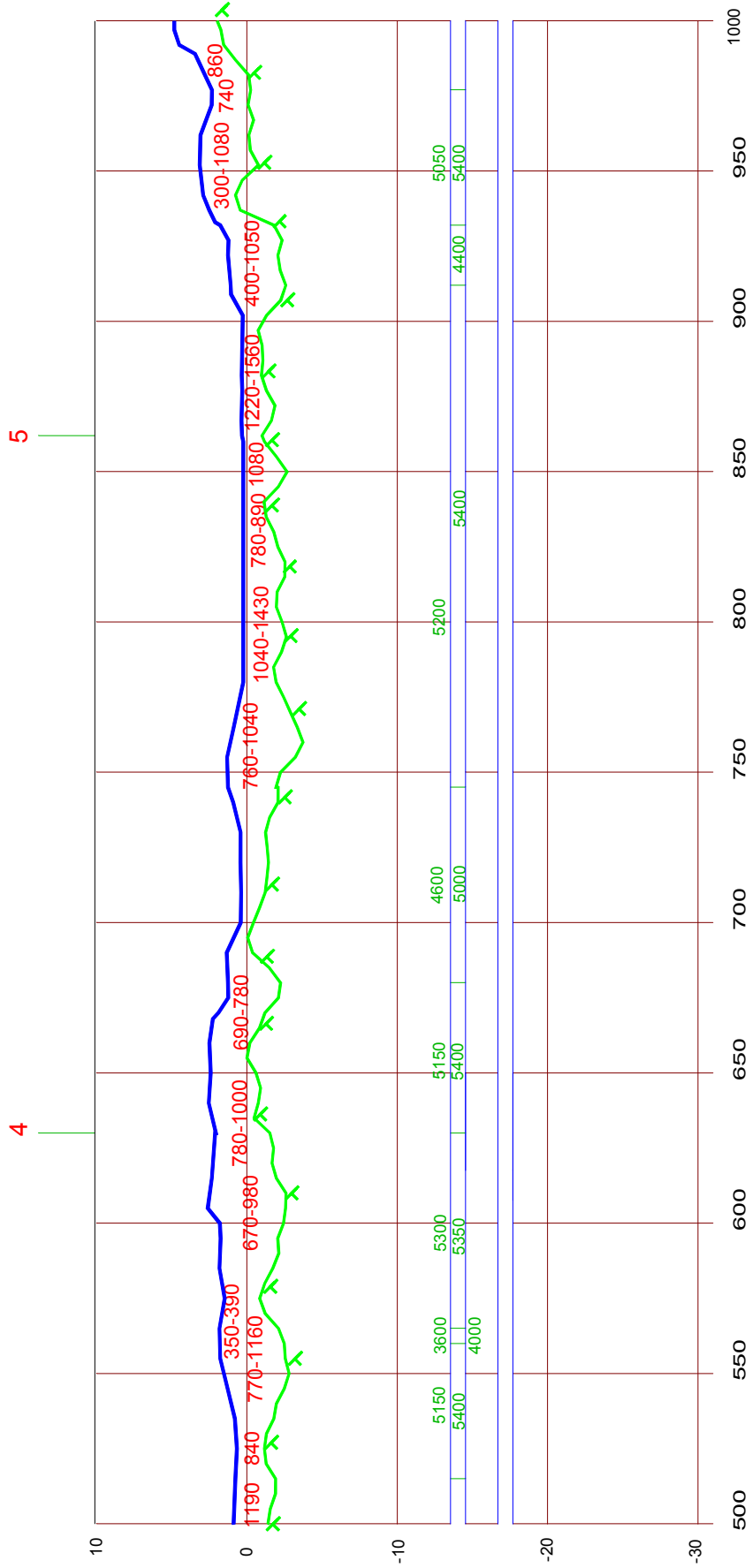
# LFM000918 0/500-0/800



# LFM000919 0/000-0/500

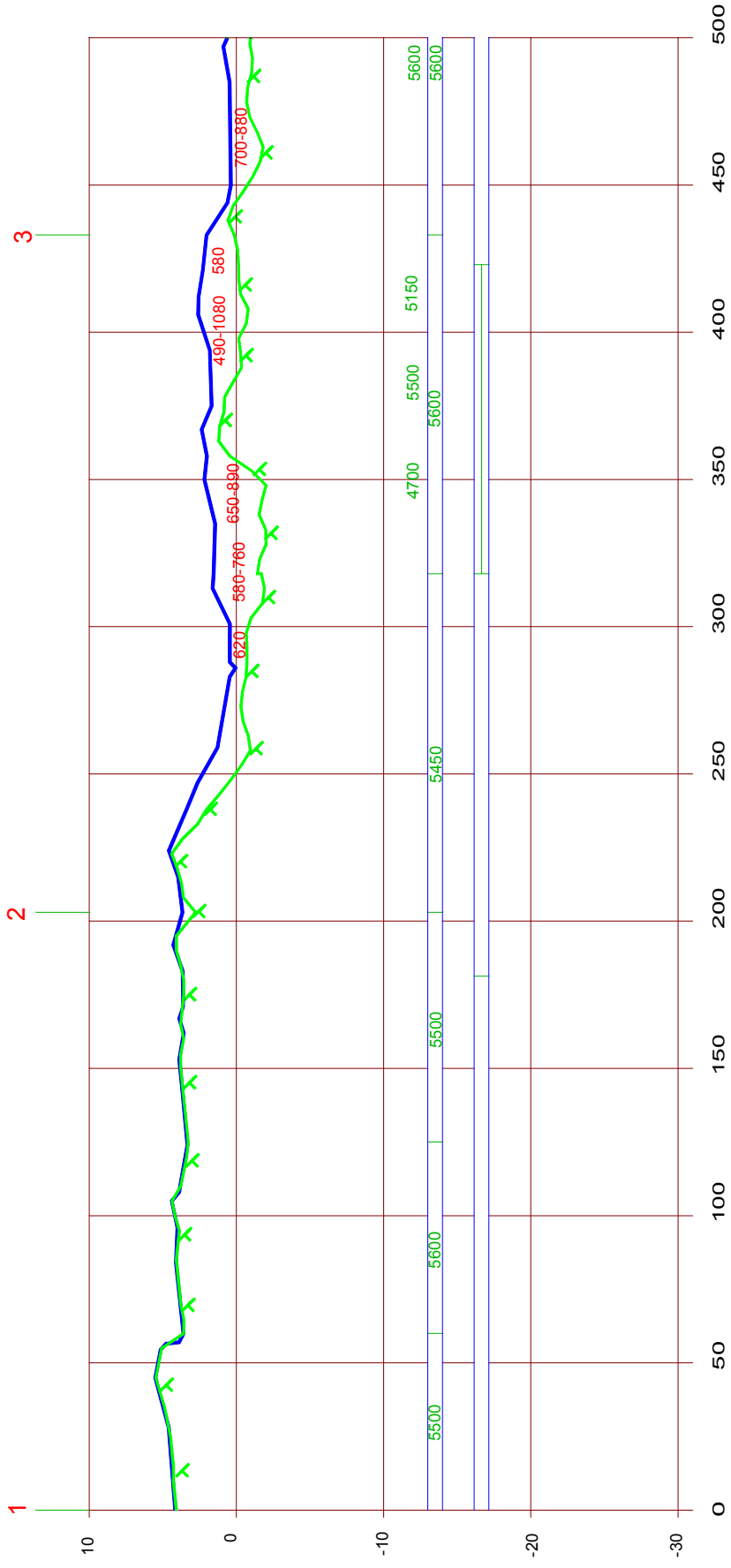


# LFM000919 0/500-1/1000

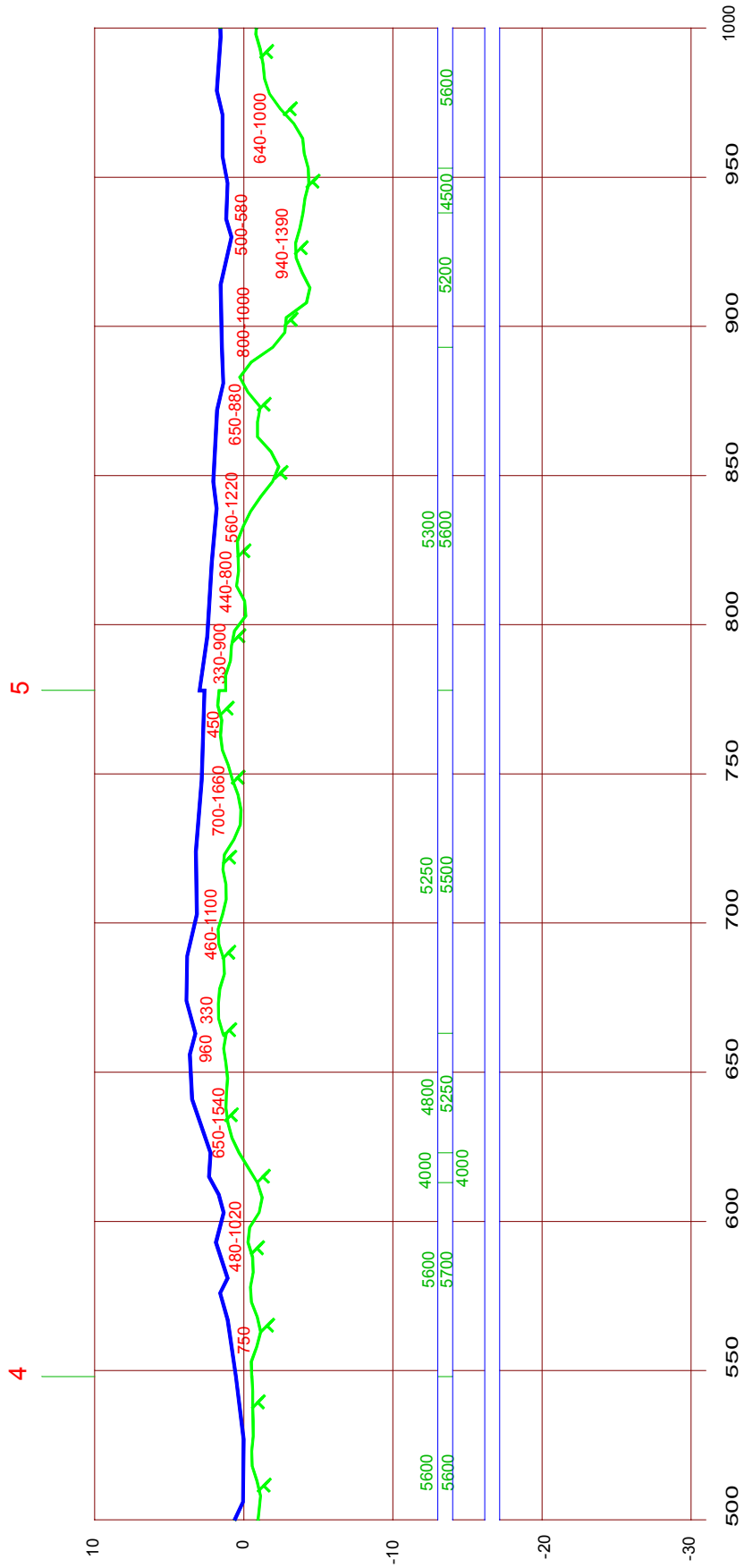




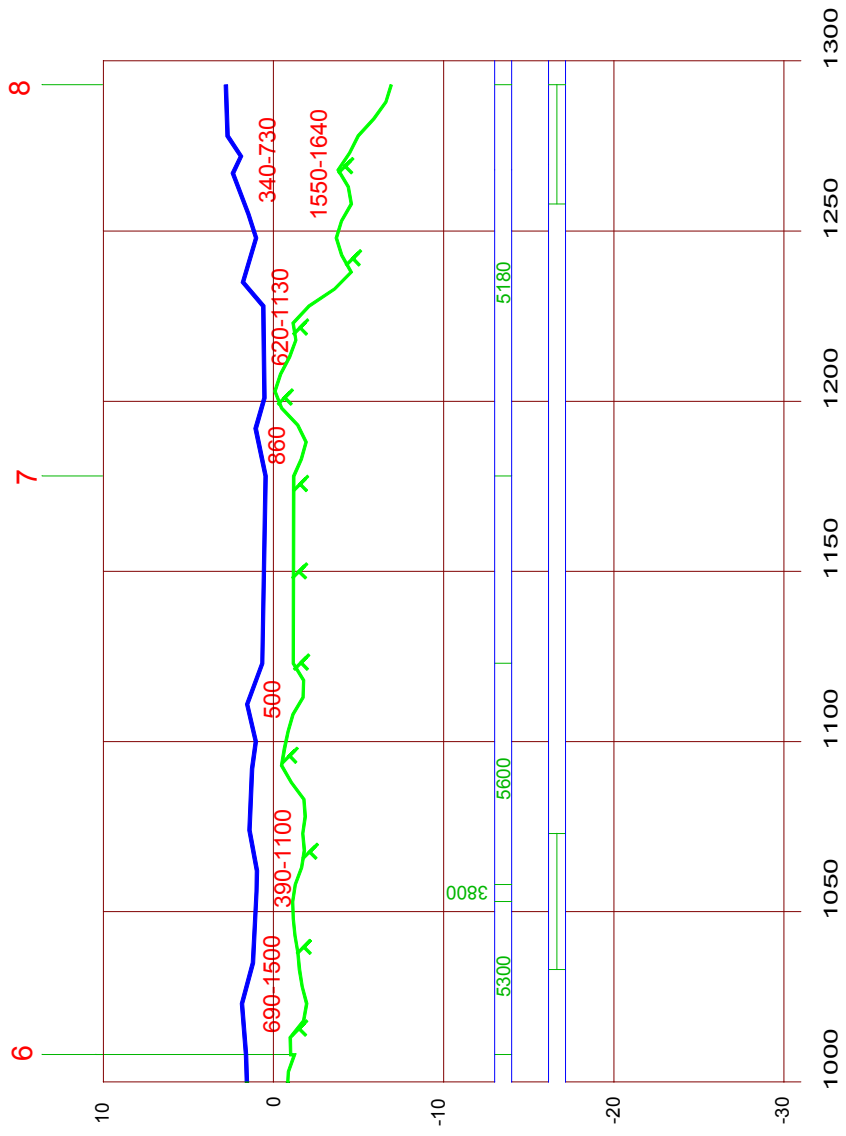
# LFM001013 0/000-0/500



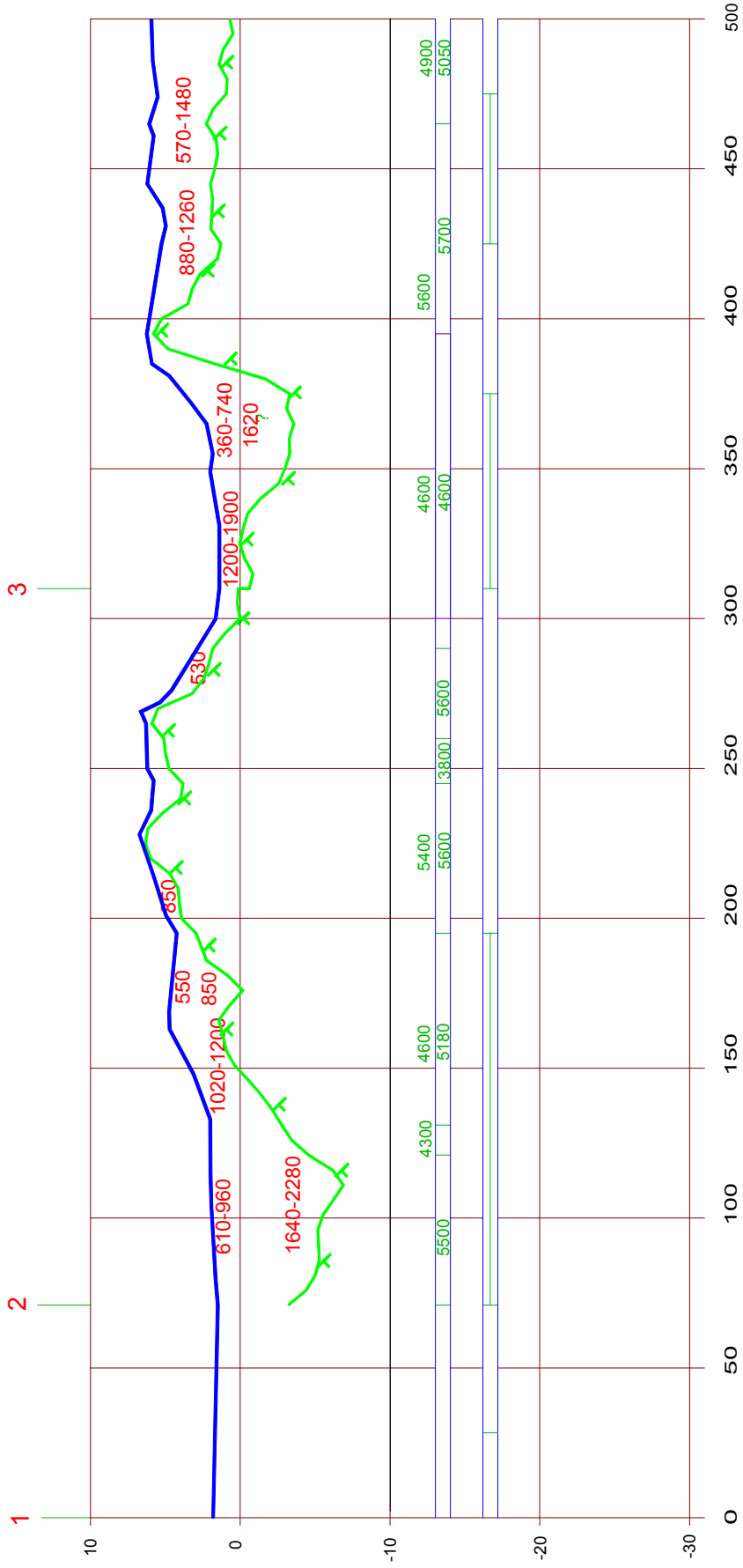
# LFM001013 0/500-1/000



# LFM001013 1/000-1/300

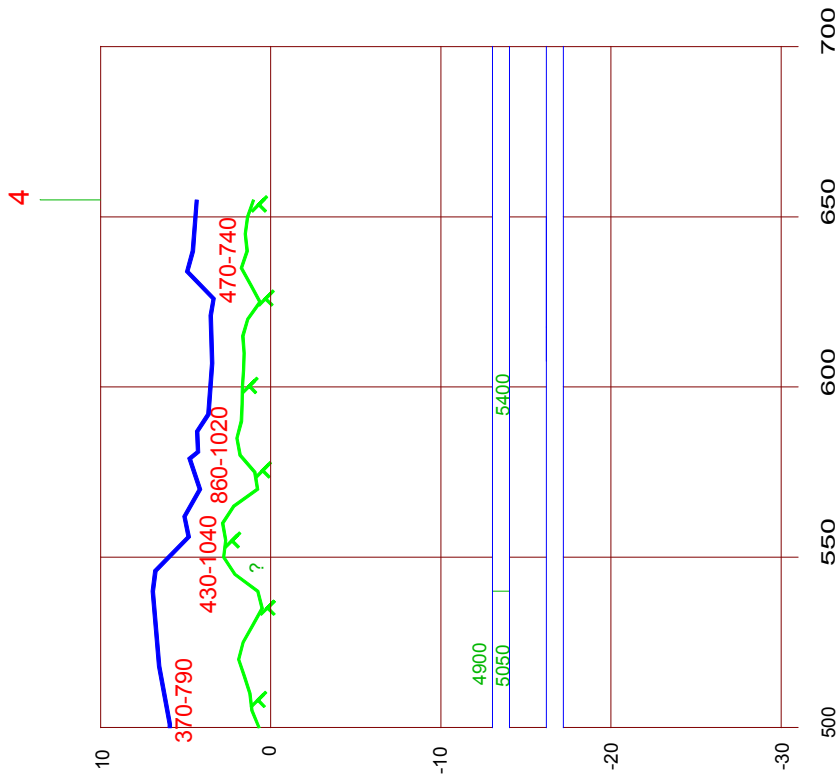


# LFM001014 0/000-0/500

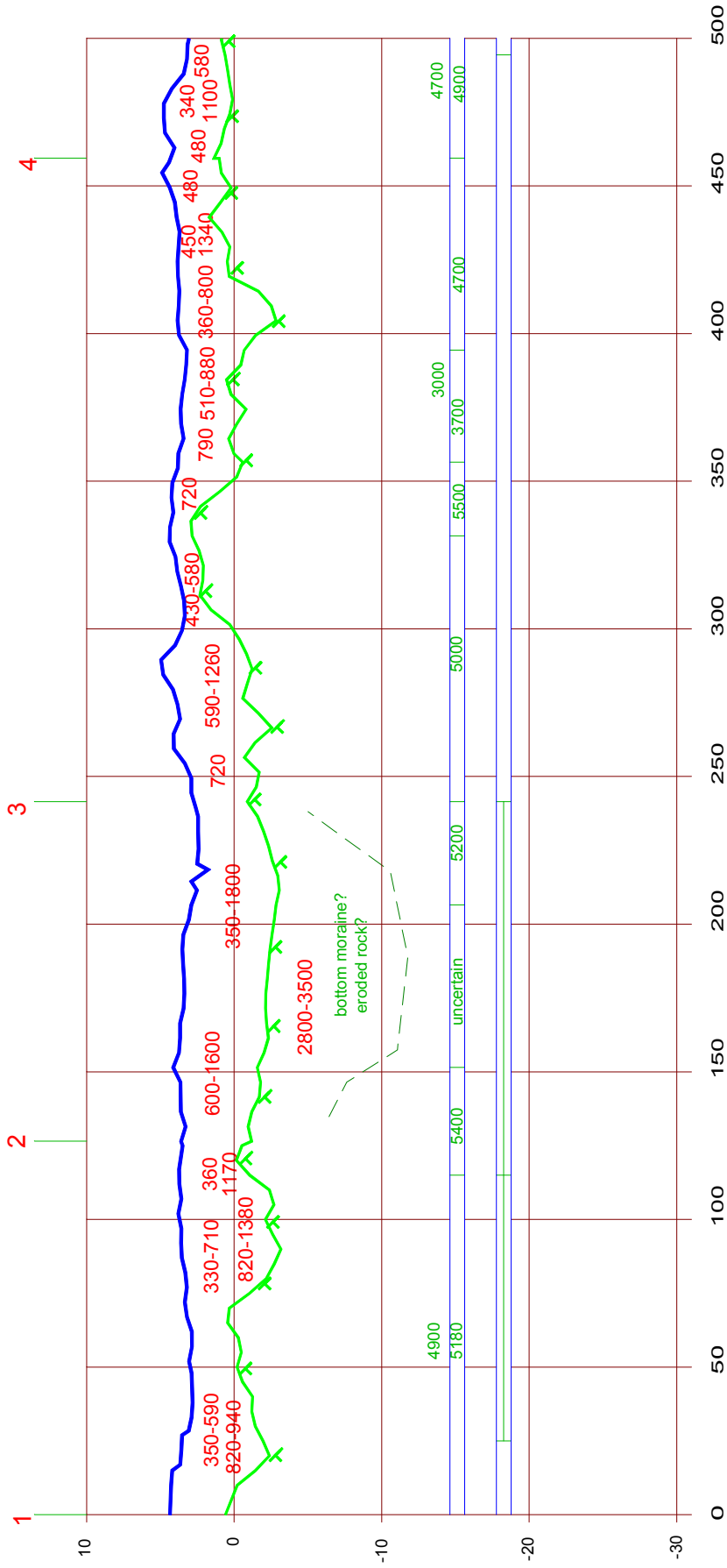




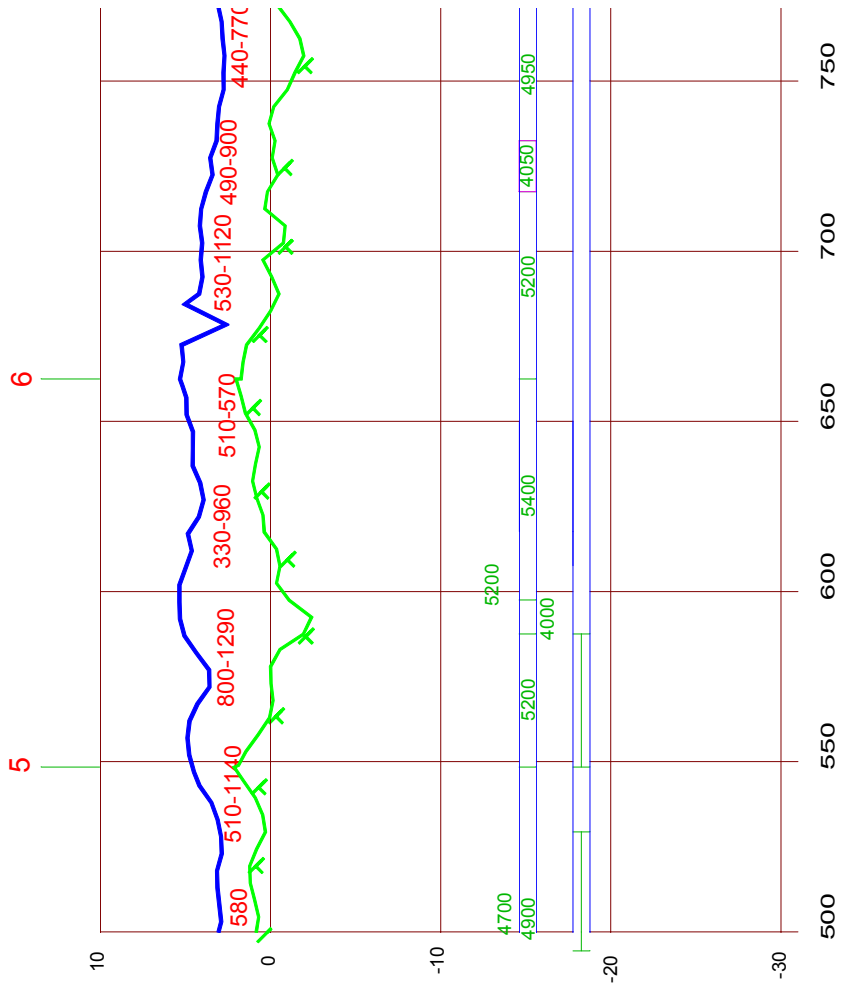
# LFM001014 0/500-0/700



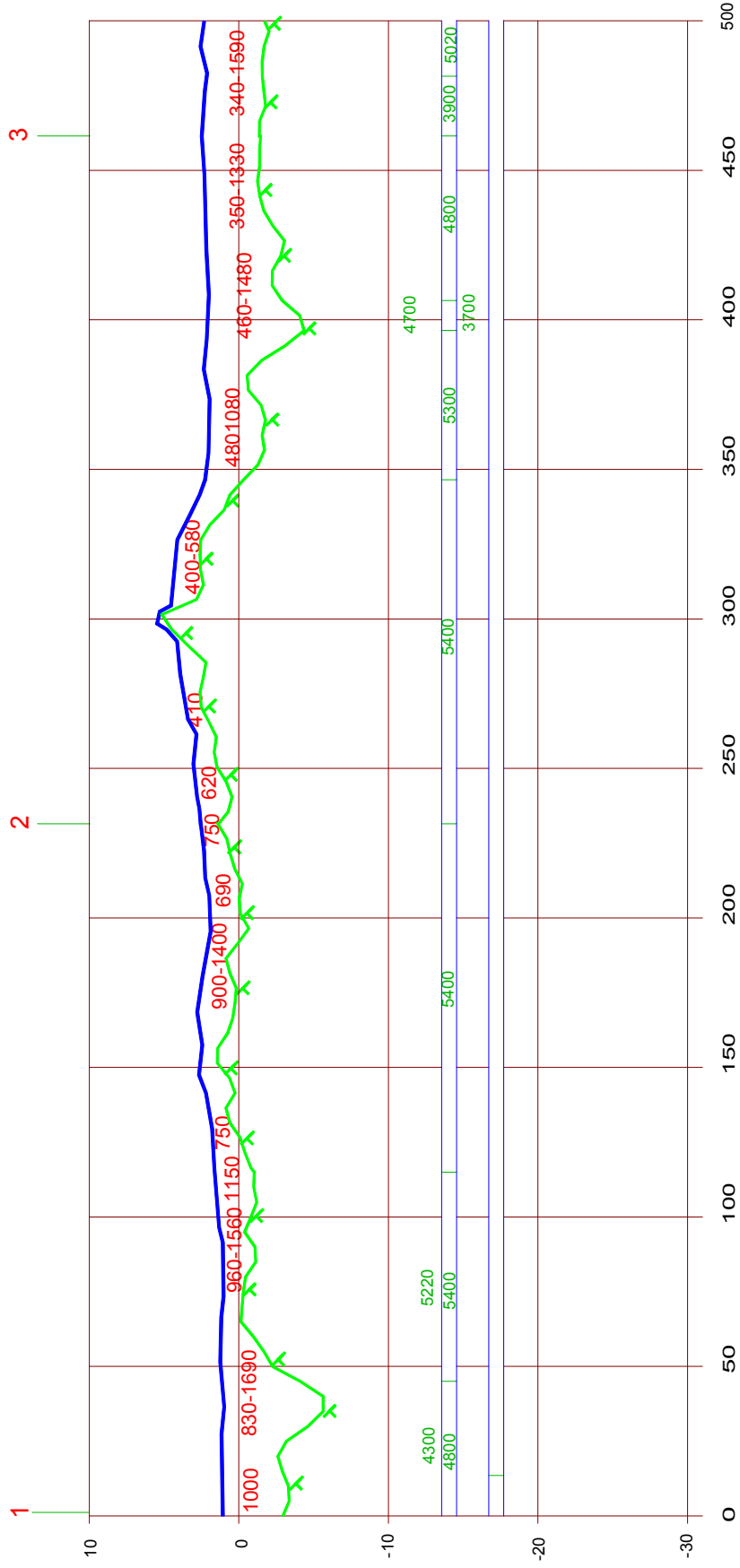
# LFM001015 0/000-0/500



# LFM001015 0/500-1/050



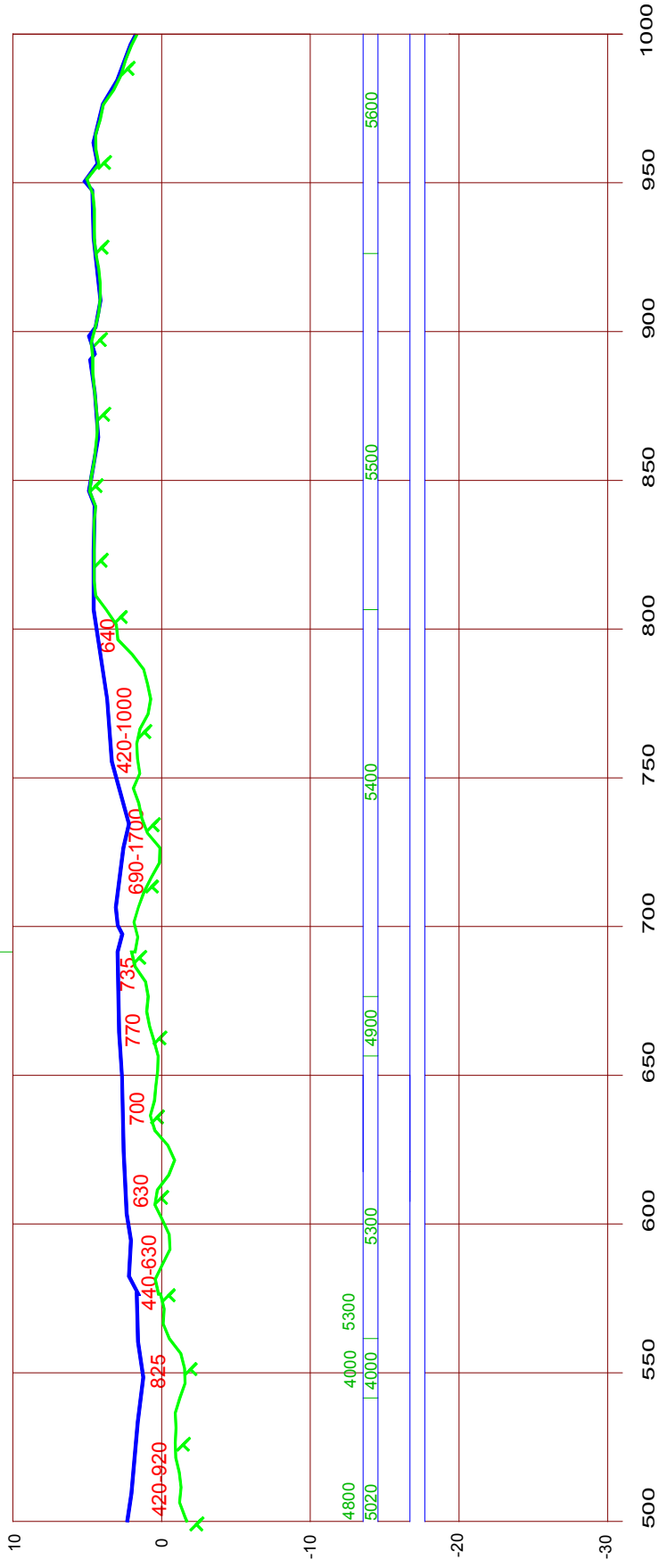
# LFM001016 0/000-0/500



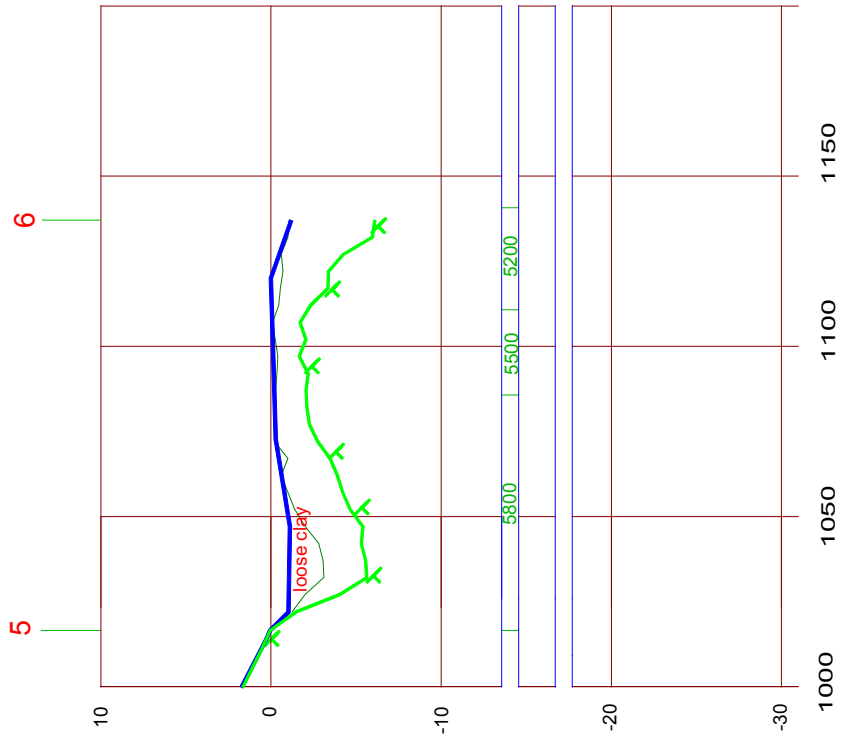
# LFM001016 0/500-1/1000

5

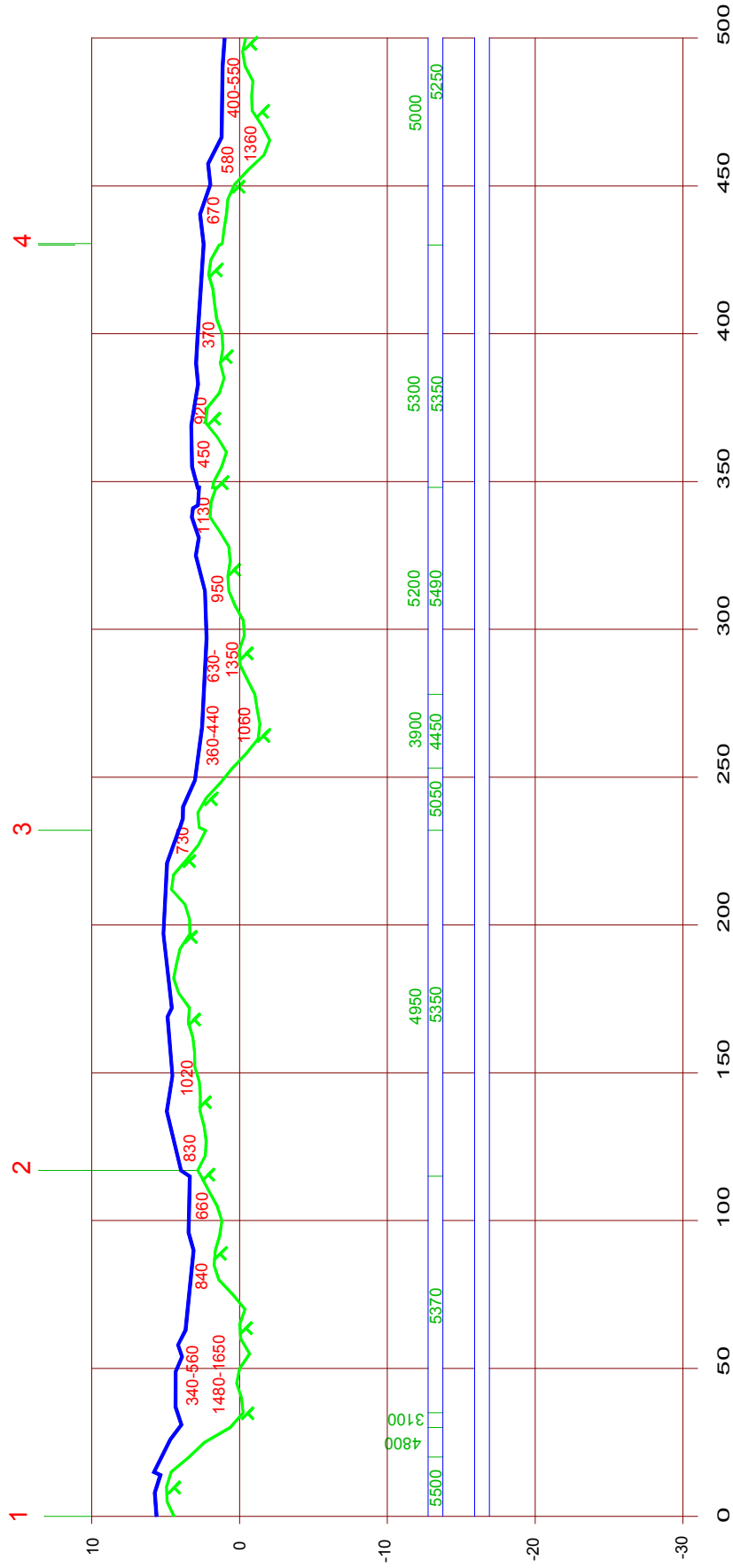
4



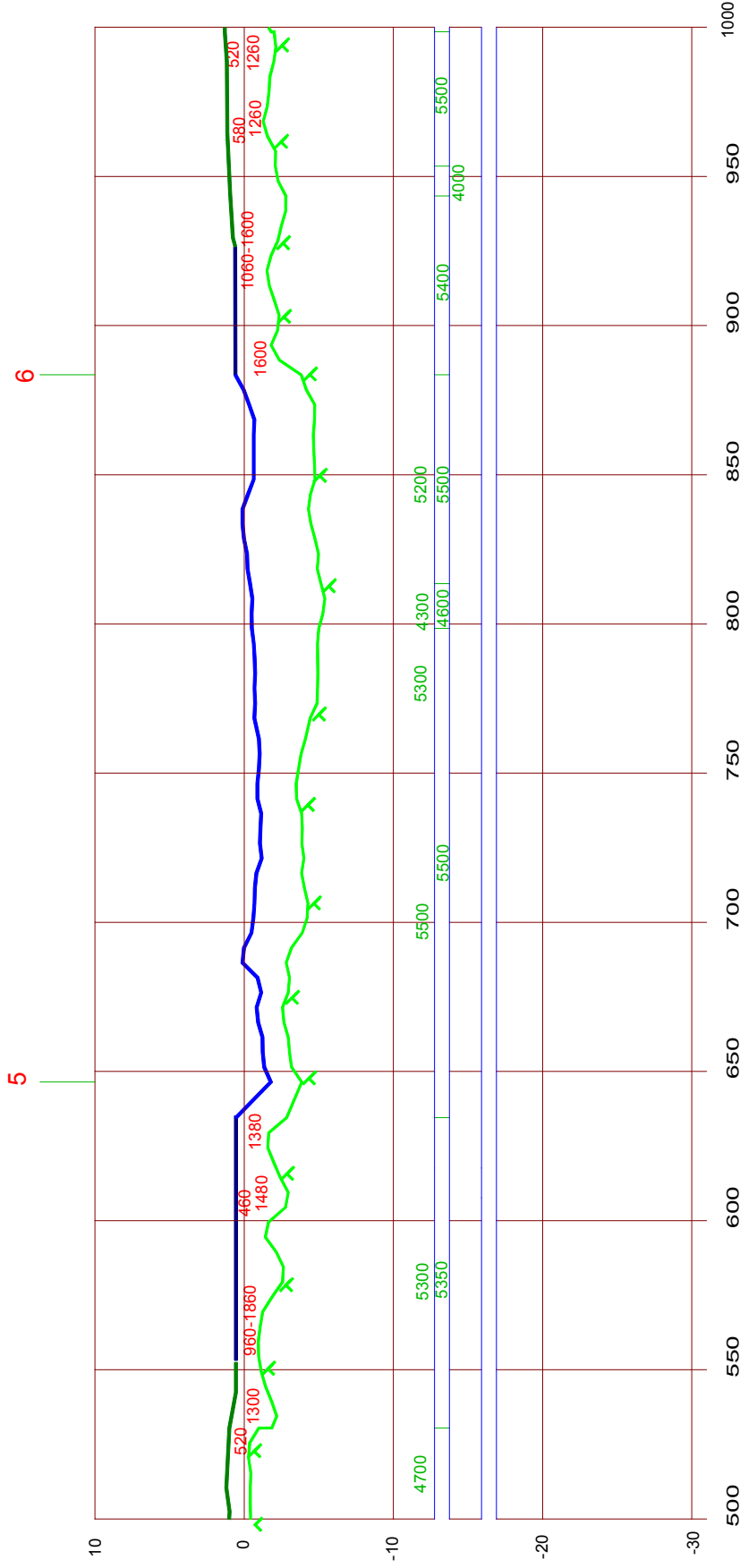
# LFM001016 1/000-1/150



# LFM001017 0/000-0/500

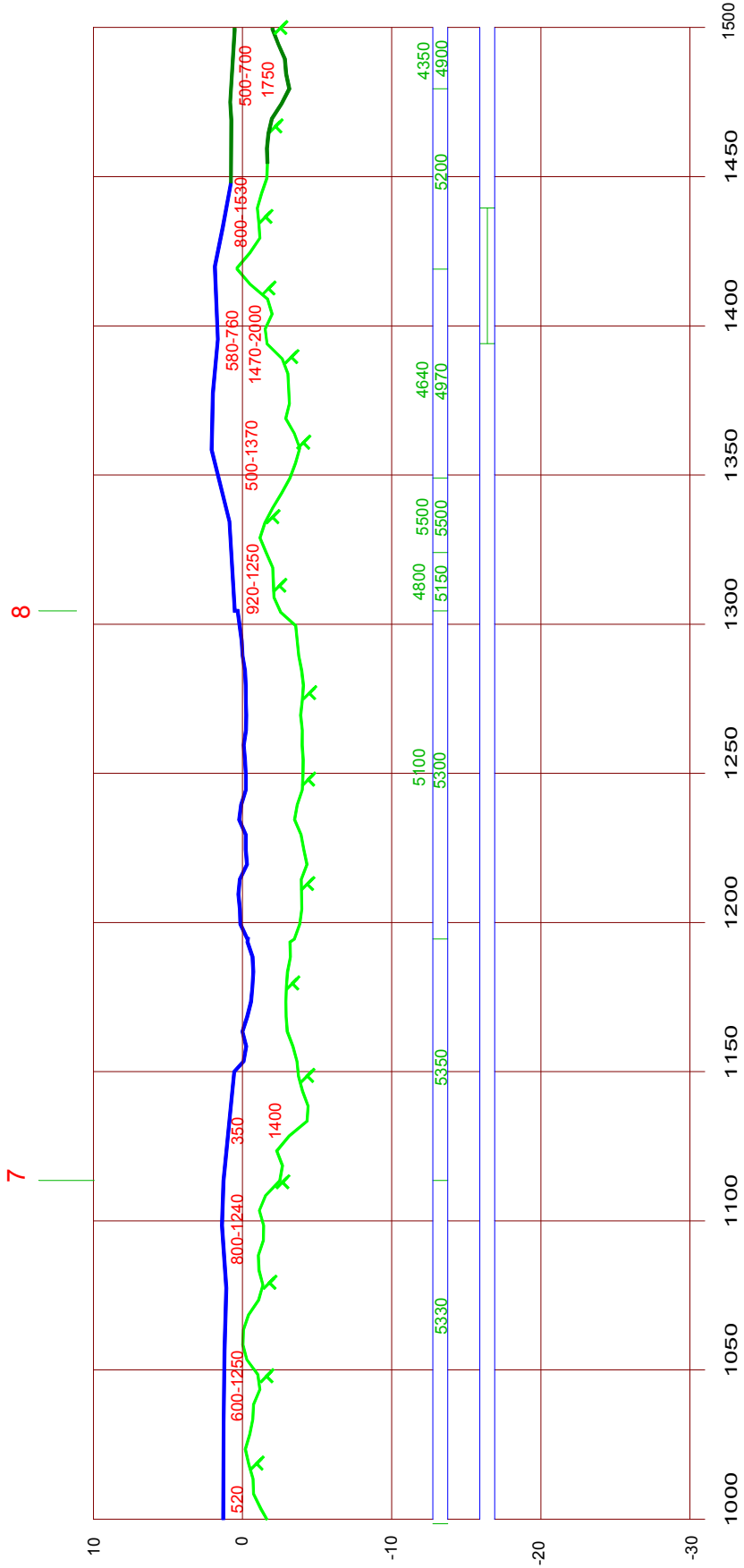


# LFM001017 0/500-1/1000





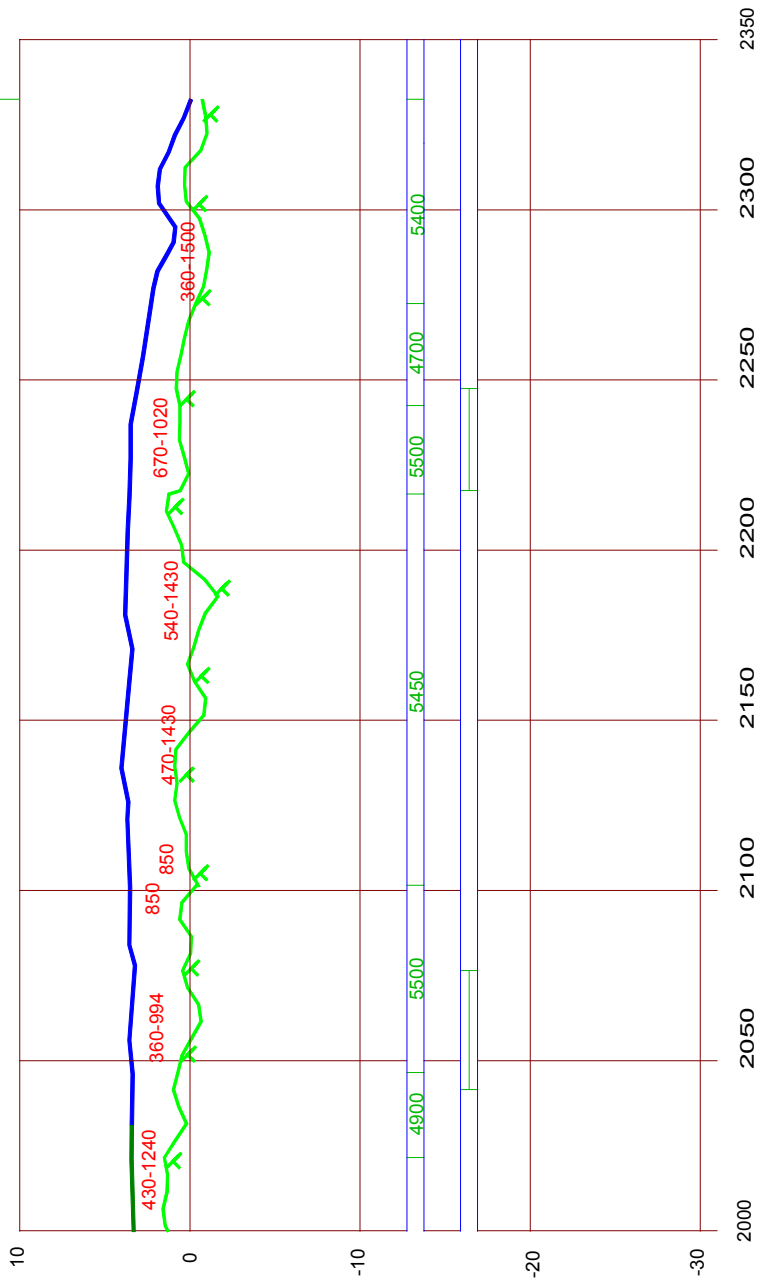
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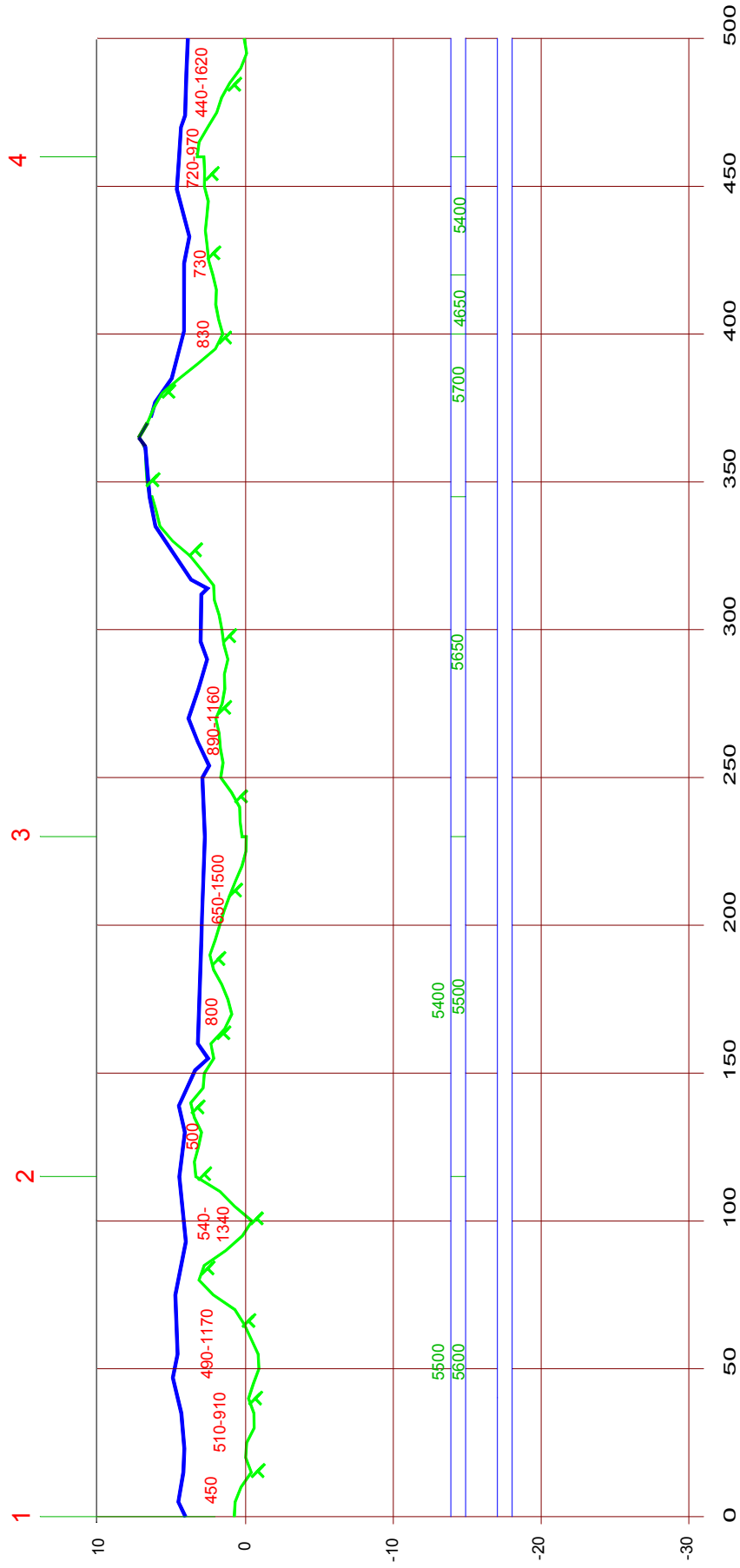


# LFM001017 2/000-2/350

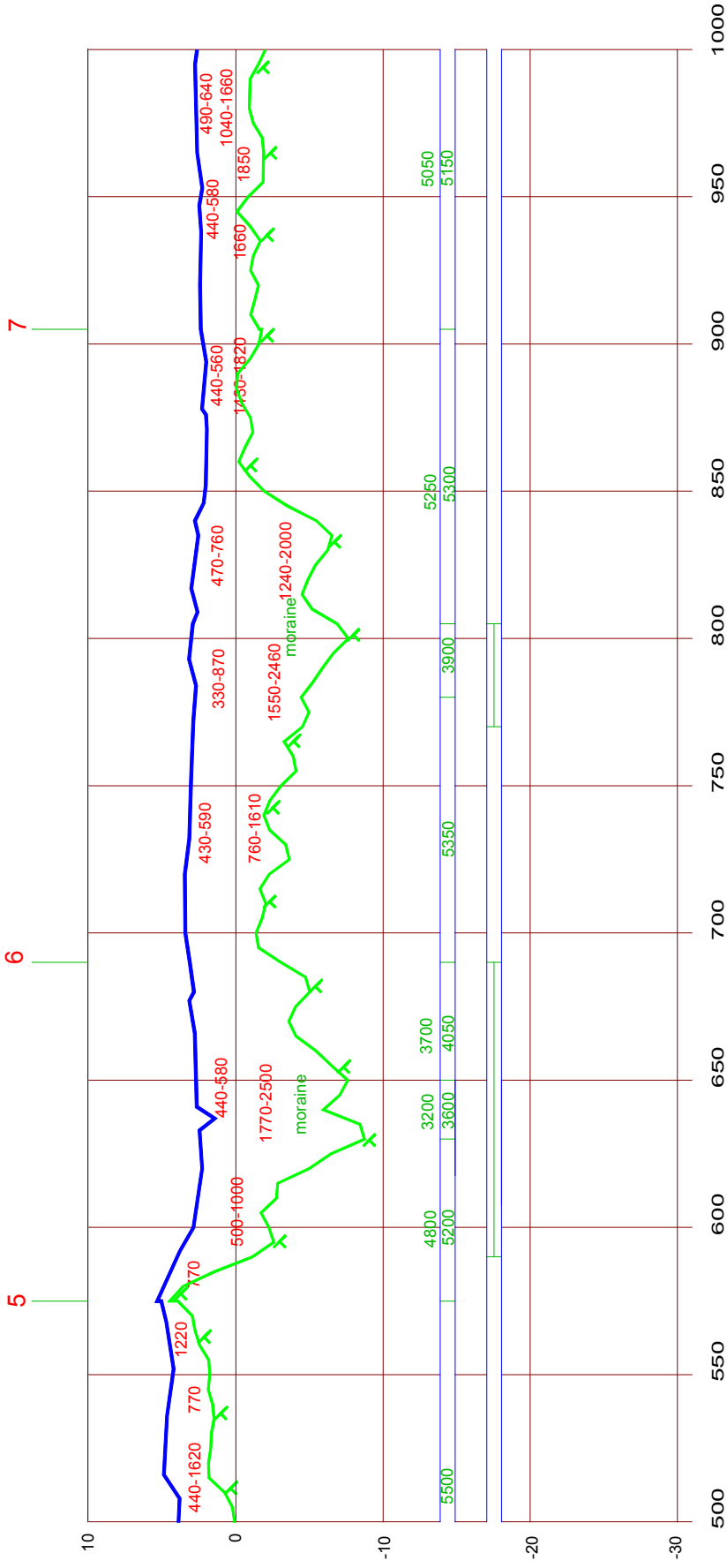
12



# LFM001018 0/000-0/500



# LFM001018 0/500-1/000



# LFM001018 1/000-1/150

