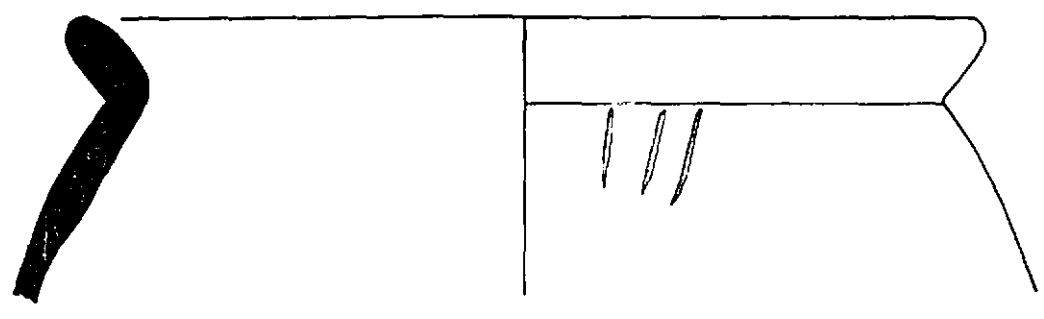


1992

Excavations at Tarmac's Shopwyke, Oving, Quarry

EXCAVATIONS AT TARMAC'S
SHOPWYKE, Oving, QUARRY
C.D.A.U. 1992



O.92.147

0 5cm

Trial Excavations at Tarmac Quarry, Shopwyke, 1992

Excavations in 1992 in advance of gravel extraction at Tarmac's Oving quarry concentrated on the northern third of the area evaluated in 1991. Several post-medieval, Roman and prehistoric features were noted and a sample excavated, two small Bronze Age cremation cemeteries were completely excavated and an area of high density Iron Age and Roman settlement was identified.

During a watching brief on the removal of topsoil the only significant features noted in the western half of the area were a large post-medieval disturbance in the extreme NW corner and a post-medieval field boundary ditch (Fig. 1, No. 94) running parallel with the existing western boundary.

A series of features noted north of centre of the area were excavated fully. They proved to be a small group of Bronze Age in-urned cremations and associated features (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). Excavations, carried out between May and June (area 171) resulted in the recovery of two near complete cremation urns and the base of a third. The urns are currently being conserved before more precise identification and analysis of their contents can take place.

Because of the known existence of an extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement near to the NE corner of the area (partly excavated by Wessex Archaeology along the line of the new Westhampnett Bypass) evaluation trenches were dug in order to define the limits of the settlement. Apart from a few shallow features in trench 120 (Fig. 3) which produced small quantities of Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a large pit full of fire-cracked flints in trench 140 (Fig. 3, Fig. 4) a concentration of archaeological features was noted at the extreme NE corner of the site. Ditch 146 in particular (Fig. 3) may be enclosing the Roman settlement while the ditch that runs south from it (proved in 1991 to be Iron Age) may enclose its predecessor. Both settlements seem to favour the slightly higher ground in this area and in particular to avoid a large, circular, internal depression.

Because of the absence of archaeological features in trenches 12, 13, 121, 139, 141 and 142 and the poor quality of those in trench 120 (although every possible feature was excavated in trench 120 only one third as much pottery was recovered as in one small section though part of ditch 146) it is proposed that an area enclosing the features in the NE corner be designated as an archaeologically sensitive area. This should then not be in any way disturbed without total archaeological excavation.

Trial trenching across the central part of the evaluation area (trenches 173-177) revealed a small group of features (Fig. 5), at least one of which contained an in-urned cremation. This is either an outlier of the cemetery in area 171 or both are concentrations of burials representing ploughed-out round barrows.

James Kenny, B.A., A.I.F.A.

APPENDIX 1: THE FINDS

CONTEXT

- U/S 4 sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery, 1 flint waste flake (SF.5).
- 97 1.1kg of fire-cracked flint, near complete Bronze Age cremation urn.
- 99 1.4kg of fire-cracked flint, 4 small flint waste flakes, 4 sherds of coarse prehistoric pottery.
- 101 3 small fire-cracked flints, 2 small sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery.
- 103 9kg of fire-cracked flint, 19 sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery, including one rim sherd decorated with fingertip impressions, 1 flint blade tool, possibly mesolithic (SF.4) and 6 possible flint waste flakes (SF.s 6,7,8,9,12, and 14).
- 109 0.3kg of fire-cracked flint, 3 fragments of fired clay, 8 sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery, 1 possible mesolithic blade (SF.10), 1 flint waste-flake (SF.11).
- 111 0.1kg of fire-cracked flint, 8 sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery, including 2 rimsherds.
- 112 4 small fire-cracked flints, 11 sherds of coarse prehistoric pottery, 0.2kg of carbonised wood, 1 possible flint waste-flake (SF.15).
- 116 3 sherds of very coarse prehistoric pottery and almost all of the base of a Bronze Age cremation urn.
- 118 5 small fire-cracked flints, 4 sherds of prehistoric pottery, near complete Bronze Age cremation urn, small fragment of quern stone (SF.13).

Contexts 97 to 118 are all related to the Bronze Age cremation cemetery, so it is assumed that all the prehistoric potsherds are in fact Bronze Age.

- 122 1kg of fire-cracked flint, 1 fragment of Roman tile, 2 flint waste-flakes, 16 sherds of (Iron age?) pottery, 5 sherds of coarse Roman pottery, 6 sherds of Roman fineware, including 3 sherds of samian ware.
- 125 0.6kg of fire-cracked flint, 1 small sherd of Iron Age pottery, 1 small fragment of bone, 1 small fragment of copper.
- 127 0.15kg of fire-cracked flint, 1 small fragment of burnt bone, 51 sherds, including rim and base, of Iron Age saucepan-type pot (probably representing 2 individual pots), 1 unidentified iron object (SF.16).
- 129 3 small fire-cracked flints.
- 130 0.65kg of fire-cracked flint, 4 sherds of Iron Age or Roman pottery, 1 small fragment of vitrified material.
- 132 0.4kg of fire-cracked flint, 4 fragments of animal bone (sheep's tooth?), 2 fragments of fired clay, 4 sherds Iron Age or Roman pottery, including 1 rimsherd, 1 small copper object (SF.17), 1 iron nail (SF.18).
- 136 0.7kg of fire-cracked flint, 6 sherds of prehistoric (Iron Age?) pottery, 2 fragments of fired clay.
- 137 1 small sherd of prehistoric pottery.
- 145 1 small fire-cracked flint, 1 oyster shell, 1 large fragment of deer antler. 1 sherd of prehistoric pottery.

- 147 2 large fragments of sandstone, 5 fragments of animal bone, 1 fragment of Roman tile, 49 sherds of Roman greyware pottery, including several rims and bases, one a batch-marked Rowlands Castle type (see cover illustration), 1 sherd of Roman fineware, 1 rim sherd of a samian ware type 36 dish.
- 148 2 fire-cracked flints, 2 oyster shells, 6 fragments of animal bone, 1 fragment of Roman tile, 54 sherds of coarse Roman pottery, including several rims and bases, 4 sherds of Roman fineware.
- 151 0.1kg of fire-cracked flints, 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 153 0.7kg of fire-cracked flint, 4 sherds of Roman or Iron Age pottery, one fragment of vitrified material.
- 154 2 fragments of fire-cracked flint.
- 156 Fire-cracked flints made up at least 40% of the entire context.
- 157 Fire-cracked flints made up at least 30% of the entire context, 1 worked flint flake (SF.19).
- 161 400g of fire-cracked flints.
- 163 300g of fire-cracked flints.
- 165 45 sherds of prehistoric pot (some Bronze Age, some? Iron Age), 2,400g of fire-cracked flint, 2 flint waste-flakes, 1 flint blade tool or waste-flake (SF.22), 1 ceramic, oval spindle whorl (SF.21).
- 166/ Base of Bronze Age cremation urn containing 3,800g of
167 fire-cracked flint.
- 170 1,450g of fire-cracked flint.
- U/S 1 fragment of saddle quern (SF.23).

APPENDIX 2: THE FEATURES

<u>CONTEXT</u>	<u>FILL(S)</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DATING MEDIUM</u>
94	95	post-medieval field boundary	post-medieval pottery (discarded)
96	97	Bronze Age cremation pit	Bronze Age cremation urn
98	99	? Bronze Age pit	? Bronze Age pottery
100	101	? Iron Age	Cuts Bronze Age pit 108
102	103/112	? disturbed Bronze Age cremation pit	Bronze Age pottery
104	105	posthole	-
106	107	posthole	-
108	109/116	disturbed Bronze Age cremation pit	base of Bronze Age cremation urn
110	111	part of cremation pit 108?	Bronze Age pottery
114	115	posthole (NOT ILLUSTRATED)	-
117	118	Bronze Age cremation pit	Bronze Age cremation urn
123	122/130	Roman ditch	Roman pottery and tile
124	125	? Iron Age pit	? Iron Age pottery
126	127	Iron Age pit	Iron Age pottery
128	129	prehistoric gully	fire-cracked flints
131	132-134	Roman ditch	iron nail
135	136/154	? Iron Age ditch	? Iron Age pottery
138	137	prehistoric pit	prehistoric pottery
143	144/145	? prehistoric ditch	prehistoric pottery and cut by Roman ditch
146	147-149	Roman ditch	upper fill C2-C3 AD pottery lower fill C1-C2 AD pottery
150	151	Iron Age pit	Iron Age pottery
153	(LAYER)	Roman or Iron Age layer	Roman or Iron Age pottery
160	161	? Bronze Age pit	fire-cracked flints
162	163	? Bronze Age pit	fire-cracked flints
164	165	? Iron Age pit	? Iron Age pottery
168	166/167	Bronze Age cremation pit	Bronze Age cremation urn
169	170	? Bronze Age pit	fire-cracked flints

The cover illustration is of a second century AD Roman cooking pot of local manufacture. It was found in ditch 146.

All finds are currently held by Chichester District Archaeological Unit pending a decision by the owners on their disposal.



Plate 1. Trenches 173-177.

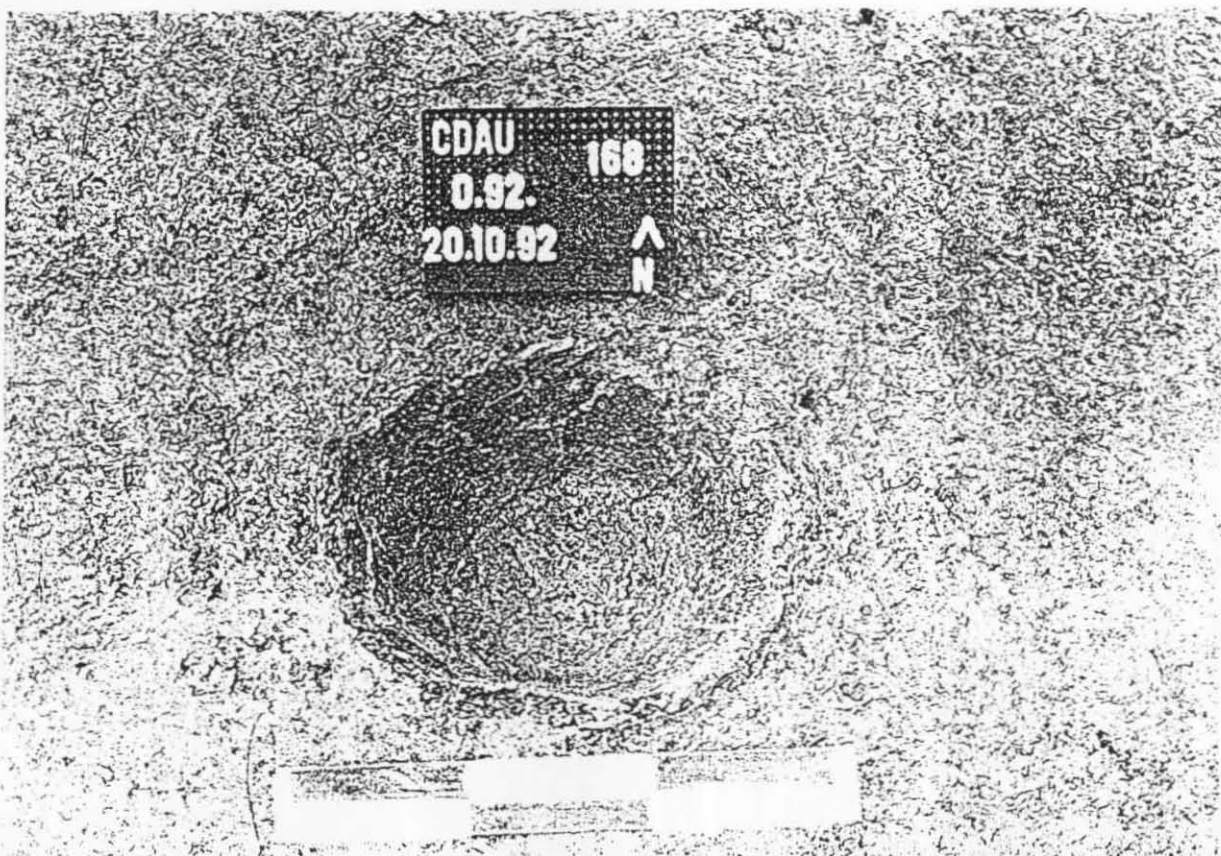


Plate 2. Base of Bronze Age cremation urn in pit number 168.

O.91-92 TRENCH PLAN



LOCATION PLAN.

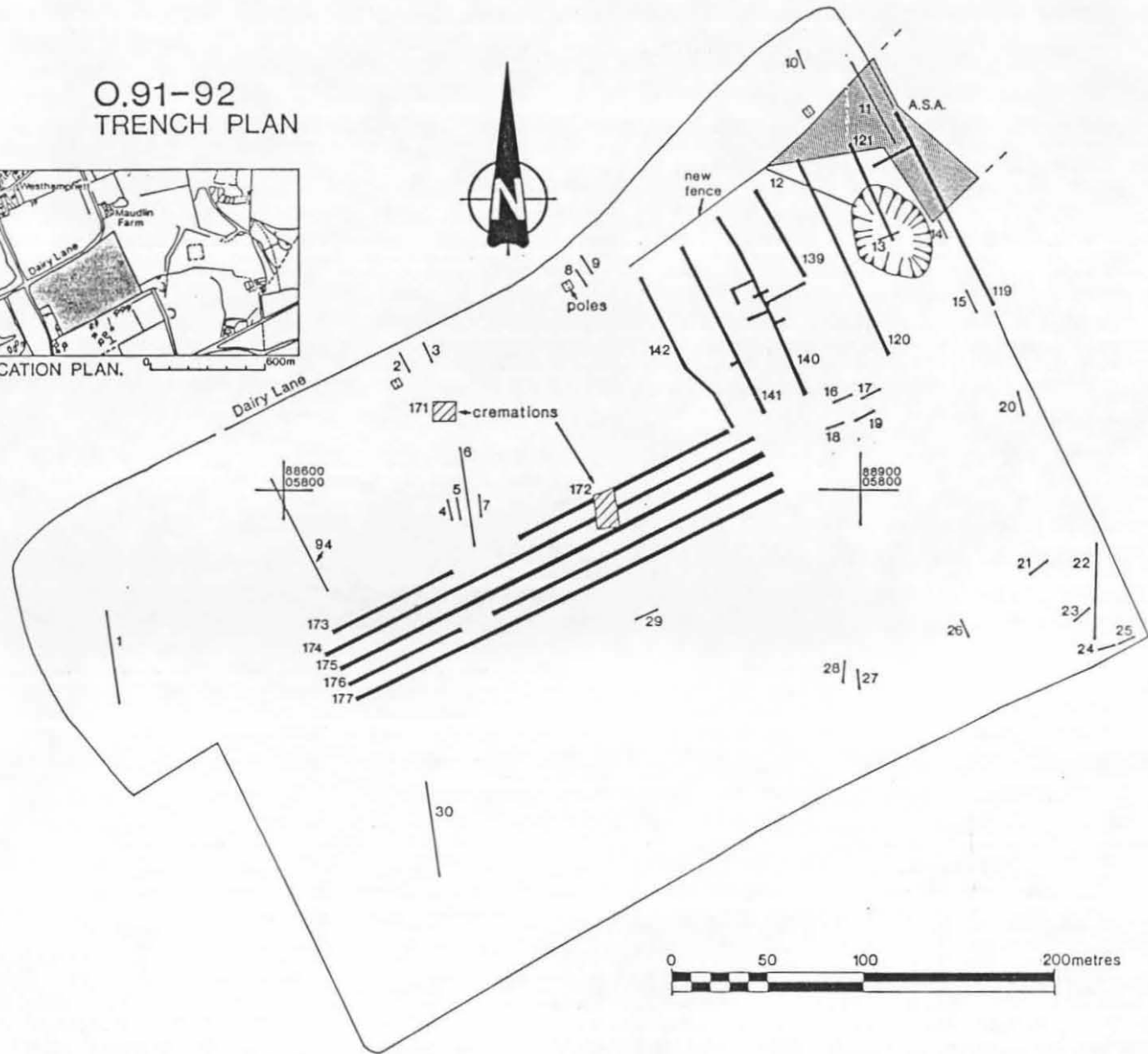


Fig. 1

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08545

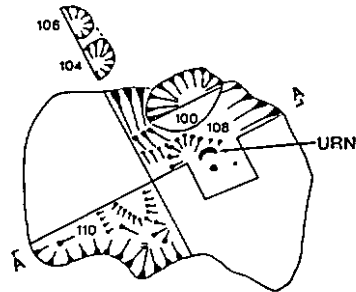
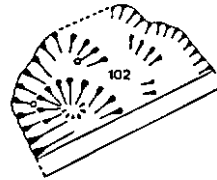


Fig. 2: Bronze age cremation cemetery, Area 171

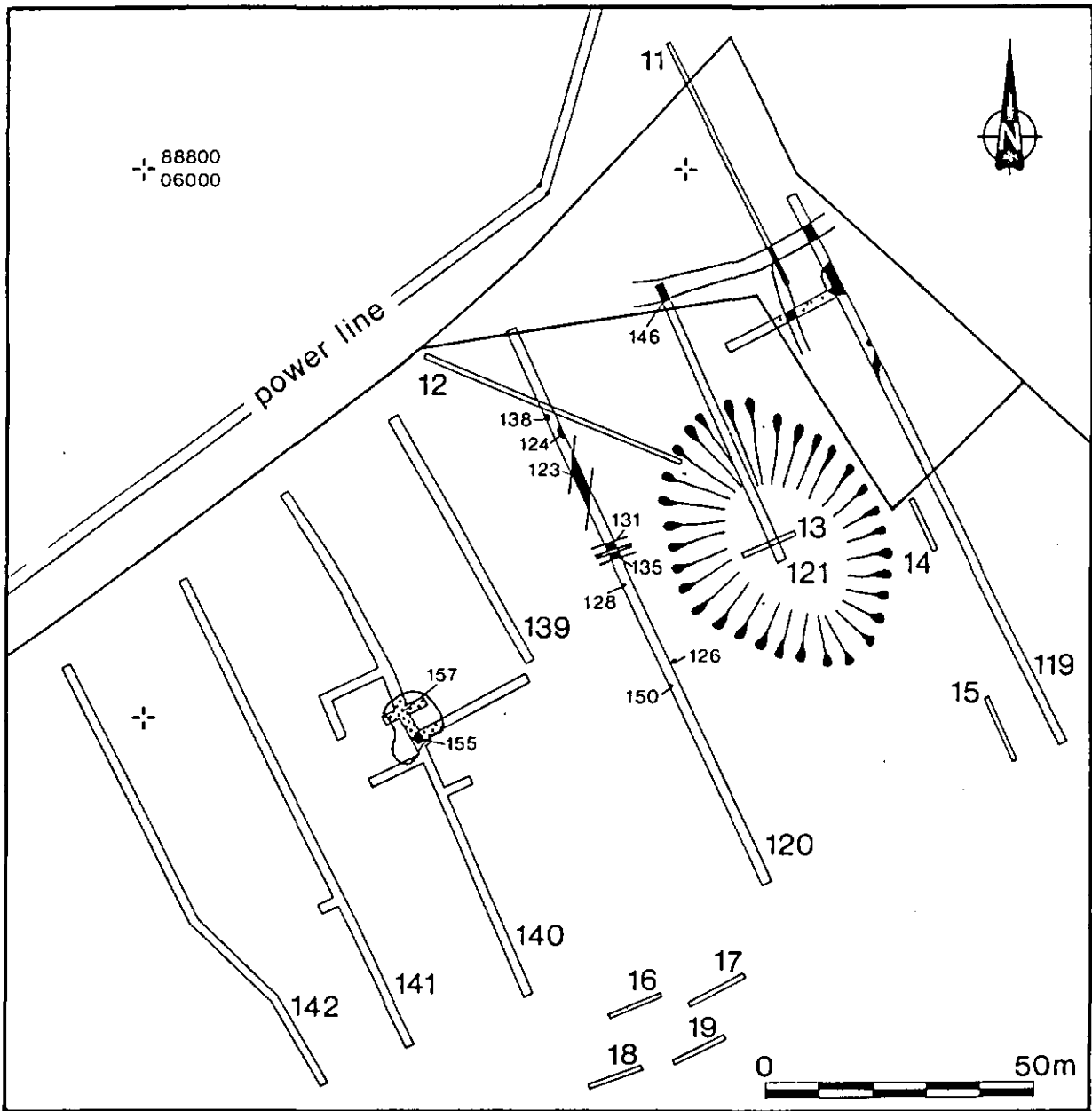


Fig. 3

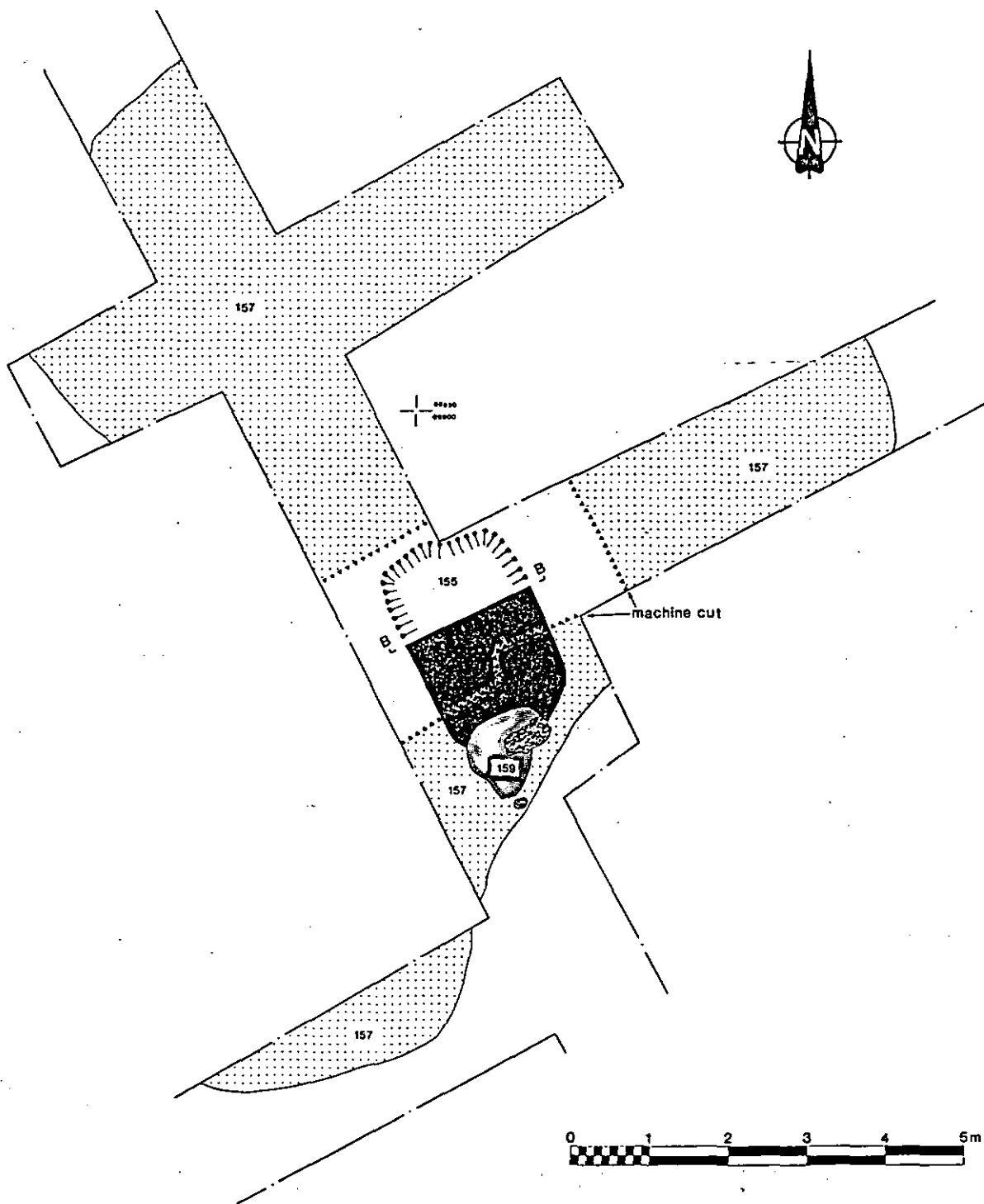


Fig. 4: Trench 140

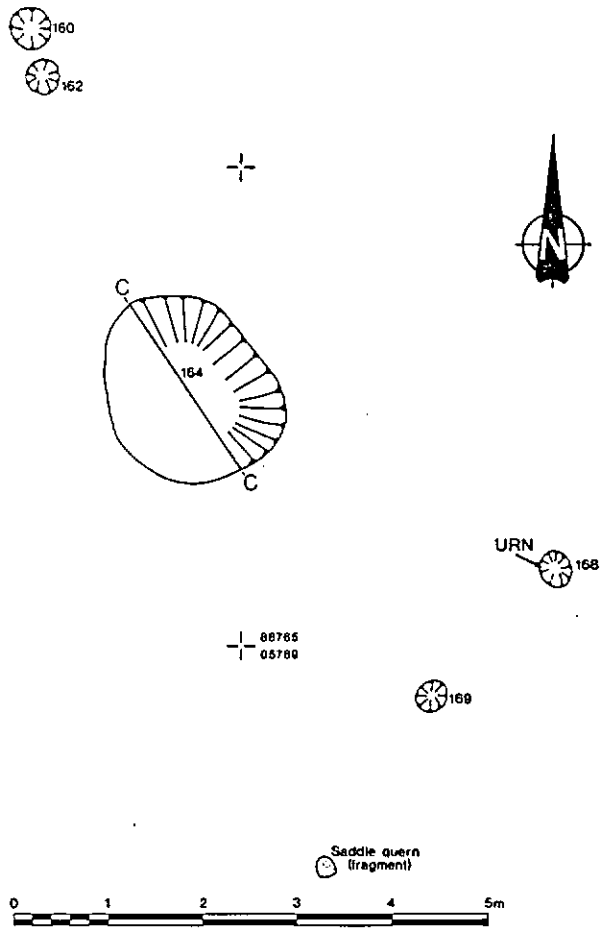


Fig. 5: Bronze age cremation cemetery, Area 172

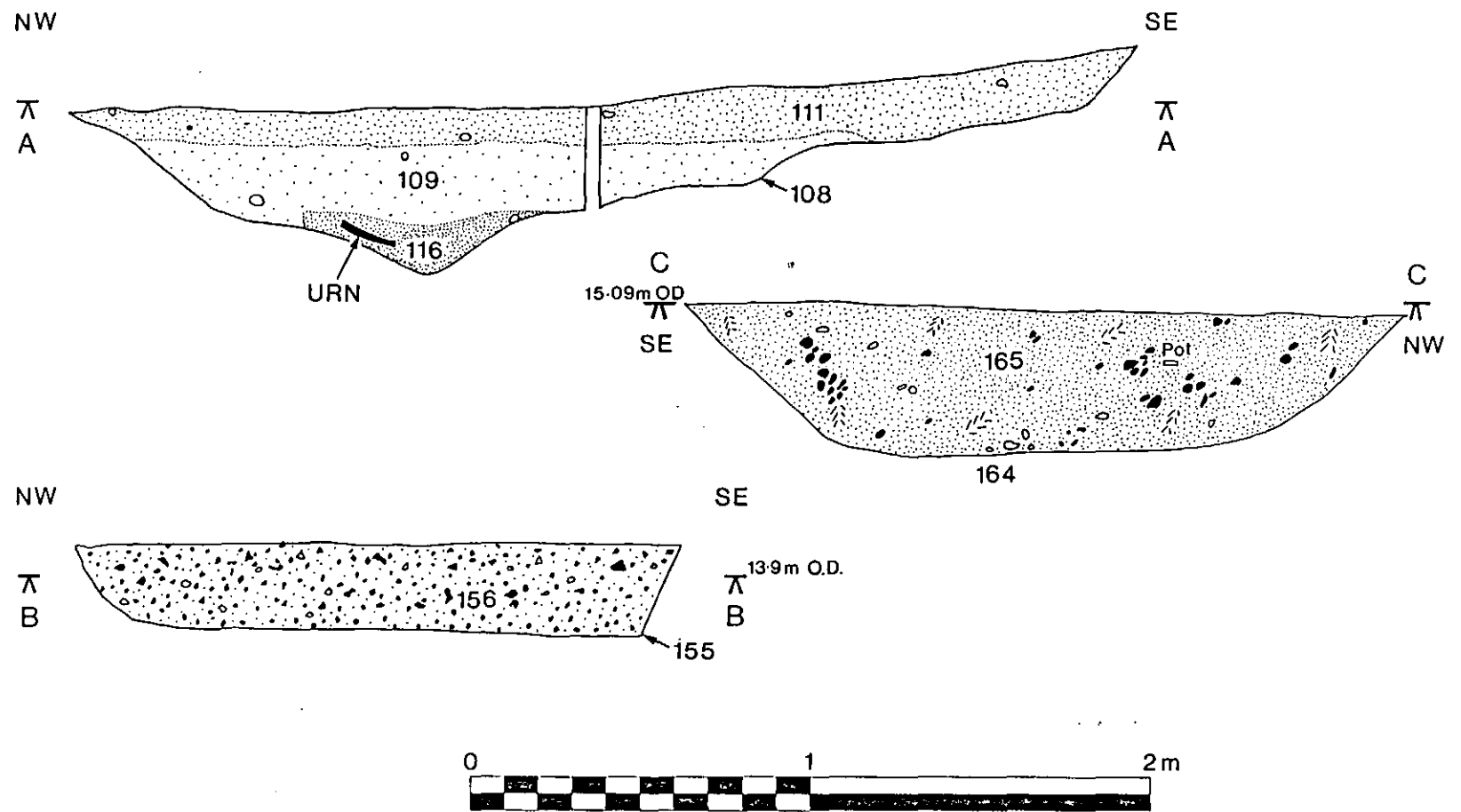


Fig. 6: Sections