



Planning, Transport
and Environment

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ALONG THE PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE A428,
WEST HADDON BYPASS, NORTHANTS

STAGE 2: TRIAL EXCAVATION

Abstract

Trial Excavation was undertaken on land along the line of the proposed A428 West Haddon Bypass. An extensive settlement had been located by geophysical survey comprising of a sinuous road and flanked by rectangular enclosures (NGR SP 629724). Nine evaluation trenches confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and identified further features including stakeholes and postholes as well as a plethora of ditches and pits. Associated finds suggest that the settlement was perhaps short lived dating to the mid-first to mid-second centuries AD.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Trial Excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in August 1998 as a second stage of an archaeological evaluation in connection with the proposed A428 West Haddon Bypass (Fig 1; NGR SP 629724). It follows a desk-based study and field surveys from August to December 1997 (Fig 2; Chapman and Masters 1998). In addition, the remaining fields, 1-4 were surveyed by geophysical survey in order to detect any archaeological anomalies.
- 1.2 The number and location of trenches was determined by Mr A Kidd of Northamptonshire Heritage in a letter dated 19th March 1998.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The settlement is situated on a plateau at 183m AOD and overlooks a valley to the north.
- 2.2 The drift geology on this plateau comprises of glacial sands with some outcrops of ironstone.

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

- 3.1 A reconnaissance survey using a Geoscan Research FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer was carried out over the remaining fields, 1-4, at the western end of the proposed road corridor in September 1998 (Fig 1). The scanning was undertaken along a series of parallel transects, set 10m apart and traversed in a west-east direction. Each transect was traversed at rapid walking pace while continuously monitoring the

fluctuations of the earth's magnetic field. Where readings greater than +3nT were encountered, the surrounding area was scanned in more detail to ascertain whether the readings were isolated magnetic anomalies or part of a more extensive pattern. Where significant anomalies were detected, these were plotted in the field at a scale of 1:2500.

- 3.2 Fields 1 and 2 contained hen coups, caravans and farm machinery which restricted the detection for significant anomalies along the proposed road alignment. The reconnaissance survey overall produced no significant archaeological anomalies.

4. TRIAL EXCAVATION

- 4.1 Nine trial trenches were located within fields either to determine the extent of the settlement or to investigate individual anomalies detected by geophysical survey (Figs 1 and 2). They were opened using a JCB excavator with a toothless bucket. The trenches were 1.5m wide and varied in length from 18m to 30 metres.
- 4.2 Truncated remnants of ridge and furrow were visible within the study area. Trenches 1,2,3,4 and 8 cut into this ridge and furrow. Unfortunately, the relationship between the truncated ridge and furrow and the subsoil could not be ascertained.
- 4.3 The topsoil comprised a layer of turf and friable dark brown sandy loam, some 0.2m-0.3m thick. It was removed by machine to expose a subsoil within which there were no archaeological features. The subsoil typically comprised a single layer of very friable light brown loamy sand 0.4m thick. However in trench 4 three sub-soil layers were identified which measured collectively 0.9m.
- 4.4 Due to the depth of the subsoil it appears that for the most part modern ploughing has not effected surviving archaeological remains.
- 4.5 The subsoil was removed by machine to expose the undisturbed natural bedrock. In most trenches this consisted of bright orange yellow sand, though in a few areas light grey sand or red/brown sands were present. There were also occasional outcrops of ironstone at the highest points.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 TRENCH 1 was located partly to investigate the probable road (Fig 2; A) and a ditch running along its north side identified by geophysical survey. The trench was also intended to gauge if settlement remains

extended into this area.

- 5.2 No archaeological features were found, suggesting that neither the road side ditches nor settlement were as extensive as previously thought.
- 5.3 **TRENCH 2** (Fig 3) was located to intersect a linear anomaly aligned parallel to the road probably defining the northern ditch of an enclosure (Fig 2; B). This was the only anomaly identified from the geophysical survey. The topsoil was 0.2m thick and the subsoil comprised a single layer between 0.37m and 0.5m thick.
- 5.4 The geophysical anomaly was found to comprise two ditches 2/5 and 2/7 about 0.2m apart. Both ditches were filled with a mid orange brown loam sand; their relationship could not be established. The northernmost (2/5) was 1.4m wide and 0.83m deep and contained 5 sherds of pottery including Roman grey ware. The other (2/7) was 0.8m wide and 0.58m deep and contained no pottery.
- 5.5 Further archaeological features, not located during the geophysical survey were uncovered within the trench. In the centre of the trench there was a probable ditch (2/3) which was 2.8m wide and 0.43m deep. Its fill comprised of light orange brown loamy sand. Early Roman pottery were recovered from its fill.
- 5.6 Ditch 2/3 was cut by a small pit 2/8 which was only partially exposed in the trench. It measured 0.65m wide, 0.45m long and 0.34m deep. Its fill 2/2 was a dark brown/black loose loamy sand with pockets of bright yellowish brown sand containing frequent charcoal flecks. A group of large pottery sherds including a near complete vessel were also found in the fill. Below the sherds there were several heavily burnt flattish stones up to 0.28m long. The burnt stones and the nature of the dark black/brown fill suggests that these were the remains of a former hearth which had been sited nearby. The pottery recovered dates from just after the conquest period.
- 5.7 **TRENCH 3** was located within Enclosure E and was intended to identify the presence of any internal features (Fig 2).
- 5.8 After topsoil of 0.17m depth and subsoil 0.25m depth had been removed, the trench was cleaned, revealing archaeological features (Fig 3).
- 5.9 A curving gully (3/1-6) some 0.38m wide and between 0.19m and 0.35m deep, was excavated in three places, each contained different fills which suggests the gully was quickly backfilled from separate localised locations. Gully fill (3/2) was a light orange brown loamy

sand. Large amounts of pottery sherds were found especially in the top 30mm of the fill, including a complete jar dating from the Conquest. Fill 3/4 was formed by a heavily burnt compact clayey sand which was red/black in colour. The sides of the gully were scorched due to burnt material being dumped into the empty gully while hot.

- 5.10 To the east of the gully there was a possible sub-rounded pit 3/9 which measured 1.4m by 0.85m and was 0.45m deep. Its fill was a light orange brown loamy sand and it contained no finds. The pit was cut by another slightly larger sub-rounded pit (3/7) with a depth of 0.4m. Its fill was also light orange brown loamy sand but also contained small patches of grey brown loamy sand and several burnt stones but no pottery.
- 5.11 To the east ditch 3/13 was probably replaced by 3/11. The later ditch was 1.1m wide and 0.54m deep and contained 32 pottery sherds which were largely greywares representing at least six vessels as well as six pieces of baked clay.
- 5.12 TRENCH 4 measured 30m in length and was located across the roadside ditches and adjacent enclosures (Fig 2 and 4). The trench went through an area where medieval ridge and furrow were just visible on the ground surface.
- 5.13 Below topsoil, some 0.24m deep, subsoil layers measuring 0.55m to 0.9m in depth were removed.
- 5.14 A ditch (4/11), subsequently recut (4/1) was located at the eastern side of Enclosure D but has a different alignment. The original boundary ditch survived to depth of 0.46m whereas its recut was deeper at 0.72m with a width of 1m. Only one sherd of greyware pottery was recovered from the later ditch.
- 5.15 Ditch (4/3) represents the northern boundary of Enclosure D shown in the geophysical survey and had a depth of 0.4m. Its fill contained a sherd of samian from Central Gaul which is almost certainly of 2nd century date and some locally made wares.
- 5.16 Between the ditches a layer of light orange brown loamy sand was found (4/15). It contained a sub-circular charcoal feature of uncertain purpose some 0.5m long by 0.45m wide (4/13). No pottery was found.
- 5.17 North of Enclosure D, a large east/west linear ditch, identified in the geophysical survey was found (Fig 2; 4/5). It had a gentle U-shaped profile and was 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep. Its fill was a light orange brown loamy sand and contained two sherds of pottery.

- 5.18 To the north of this a series of five U-shaped gullies (4/7, 4/9, 4/16, 4/18 and 4/20) could represent successive road side boundaries. No pottery or other datable artefacts were found in their fills.
- 5.19 To the north of the gullies a blank area 3.8m wide could denote the location of the probable road/trackway. No metalling or other indication of worn surfaces have survived.
- 5.20 Further north, ditch 4/26 and its recut 4/24 may have defined the road as well as a boundary to the sub-rounded enclosure. They both had a depth of 0.7m and a combined width of about 2m.
- 5.21 A line of four postholes 4/28-4/34, running across the trench east/west were uncovered. The posthole fills were all mid orange brown loamy sand and their depths varied from 0.1m to 0.4m. Two other postholes (4/36 and 4/42) may be associated with this structure. There was no dating evidence from these features.
- 5.22 Beyond the line of four postholes a plethora of stakeholes covered an area of 3m, cut in part by two shallow pits (4/102 and 4/38). The stakeholes were oval in plan with a U shaped profile. They were about 60mm wide and 80mm deep with mid orange brown loamy sand fills. No meaningful structure could be identified from the stakeholes due to the limited size of the trial trench.
- 5.23 **TRENCH 5** was located across the junction of the west and south side ditches of sub-rectangular Enclosure H as well as a long linear ditch to the south (Figs 2 and 5).
- 5.24 The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine, these were 0.25m and c.0.45m deep respectively.
- 5.25 The excavation of ditches forming the boundary of Enclosure H suggest three phases (5/1, 5/3, 5/7 and 5/5). All were aligned east/west with the earliest to the north (5/1). It was by 5/3 so only the north edge survives. Its profile was probably gently U-shaped. Ditch 5/3, 5/7 was bisected by a further ditch (5/5). The fill of the earlier ditch was a mid orange brown loamy sand and contained a single sherd of greyware. Ditch (5/5) had fairly steep sides and was 0.95m wide and 0.6m deep with a flat bottom. Its fill was a dark orange brown loamy sand and contained a further greyware sherd.
- 5.26 To the south of the enclosure a U-shaped ditch (5/9) was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep with a broad flat base. The ditch was aligned east/west and

cut a further possible ditch (5/11) on the south side. Pottery was found in the later ditch consisting of early Roman grog tempered ware.

- 5.27 A group of features to the south were located where the geophysical survey showed a single ditch-like anomaly. The features proved on excavation to comprise of two probable gullies (5/21 and 5/19), a pit (5/17) and two ditches (5/15 and 5/13).
- 5.28 Gully 5/21 replaced an earlier gully (5/19) to the south. Both gullies were about 1.2m wide and over 0.3m deep. They contained orange brown loamy sand fill. Gully 5/19 contained three greyware sherds. Gully (5/19) cut pit (5/17) which was directly to its south.
- 5.29 Pit (5/17) was also cut by a ditch (5/15) on its south side and despite this survived to a width of 1.4m and a depth of 0.44m. Its fill contained greyware pottery including a possible lid.
- 5.30 Ditch (5/15) ran east/west roughly parallel to ditch (5/13) just to the south. It was 0.8m wide and 0.6m deep and its fill contained an early Roman grog tempered sherd. No artefacts were found in Ditch 5/13.
- 5.31 **TRENCH 6** was located from the middle of the road/trackway A, across its south ditch and into the middle of Enclosure H (Fig 2). The roadside ditch was the only geophysical anomaly in the trench.
- 5.32 Topsoil 0.2 metres deep and subsoil up to 0.39m deep over laid archaeological features (Fig 5).
- 5.33 At the southern end of the trench, ditches 6/1 and 6/5, together with gully 6/3 shared a common east/west alignment. Ditch (6/1) had a fairly steep sided U-shaped profile with a flat base and measured 0.8m wide and 0.46m deep. The fill contained a flint and a sherd of Iron Age pottery. The gully (6/3) was 0.4m wide deep of 0.24m and contained a sherd of greyware. Small ditch (6/5) had a steep U shaped profile and was 0.6m wide and 0.36m deep and contained no dating evidence. Immediately to the north a probable posthole (6/7) was 0.48m wide and 0.24m deep.
- 5.34 The ground surface rose to the north of this posthole and by the middle of the trench the natural sands were replaced by outcrops of natural ironstone. Cutting this natural was the truncated remains of a gully (6/9) aligned approximately east/west which survived to a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.18m.
- 5.35 To the north the roadside/enclosure ditch was recut twice each

progressively northward. Ditch (6/11) was the earliest ditch and measured 1.1m wide and 0.47m deep. Its fill contained one sherd of Iron Age pottery and also a greyware sherd. Ditch (6/13) was 0.9m wide and was 0.47m deep. It had three sherds of pottery found all in the late Pre Roman/Iron Age tradition from its fill. The latest ditch (6/15) was 1.1m wide and 0.8m deep. Its fill contained three Roman greyware sherds.

- 5.36 **TRENCH 7** was located across a single geophysical anomaly identified as the east ditch of a sub-rectangular enclosure (Fig 2).
- 5.37 The machine removed 0.25m of topsoil as well as a subsoil layer 0.28m deep. The trench was cleaned and several archaeological features were revealed (Fig 7).
- 5.38 Two small gullies (7/1 and 7/3) and a recut ditch (7/5 and 7/7) identified at the west end of the trench were aligned north/south direction. The gullies were at least 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep. The later ditch was 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep with a gentle U-shaped profile. Its fill contained 5 sherds of greyware. No finds were present in the earlier ditch.
- 5.39 A further ditch (7/9) was found at the east end of the trench and was 0.65m wide and 0.4m deep. There were no finds.
- 5.40 **TRENCH 8** was located from the centre of Enclosure C southwards to the centre of the road/trackway (Fig 2).
- 5.41 The machine removed 0.24m of topsoil as well as a layer of subsoil up to 0.35m deep. A series of archaeological features were identified in the northern half of the trench (Fig 7). The road side ditch was not present within the southern part of the trench.
- 5.42 Two shallow gullies, one of which was recut (8/1, 8/3 and 8/7), and a pit 8/5 were identified in the centre of the trench. Both gullies were aligned east-west. The original gully (8/1) was 0.19m wide and 0.1m deep, while the recut (8/3) measured 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep. Neither had any finds in their fills. The pit had a width of 1.2m and it has a depth of 0.34m. Gully 8/7 had a steep U shaped profile with a flat base. It had a width of 0.4m and a depth of 0.28m but its fill contained no dating evidence.
- 5.43 A further shallow gully (8/9) was aligned roughly north/south. It was 2.75m long but its ends were probably truncated due to damage caused by later agriculture. At the deepest point the feature survived to a depth of only 0.18m.

- 5.44 An interrupted boundary formed by two shallow gullies (8/11 and 8/21) and posthole 8/13 was aligned south-west/north-east across the trench. The gullies were up to 0.3m wide and 0.12m deep, while the posthole has a diameter of 0.2m and a depth of 60mm. A further gully 8/23 was parallel to this line and may be a related feature. It contained two greyware sherds.
- 5.45 A ditch with two recuts (8/15,17 and 19) was located within the gap between the two gullies and probably represents a separate phase of occupation. Its relationship with gully 8/21 was not ascertained. The earliest ditch (8/19) survived to a width of 0.6m and was 0.35m deep while the later recuts both measured 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep. There were no finds from the fills of these ditches.
- 5.46 To the west was another gully (8/23) which had a similar alignment. It was 0.36m wide and 0.14m deep; it contained two greyware sherds.
- 5.47 TRENCH 9 was located to the east of the sub-rectangular enclosures found in the geophysical survey. This trench was placed to examine the possible continuation of the settlement.
- 5.48 The machine removed topsoil 0.28m thick and subsoil some 0.48m deep. This exposed red/brown natural sands throughout the trench. No archaeological features were discovered.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 A pottery report by Donald Mackreth is included as Appendix 1.
- 6.2 Apart from the pottery and clay reported on above, the only other finds were two pieces of worked flint.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL

- 7.1 No bone survived in the acidic sandy soil. In all trenches, with the exception of trench 4, modern roots permeated down to the natural geology.
- 7.2 The environmental potential is therefore limited to the possible recovery of carbonized seeds.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The excavation has shown that there was no significant pre-conquest presence in this settlement. The settlement appears to date from about 50 A.D. and continued to about 150 A.D., since only four sherds of Iron Age pottery were found in three different trenches.
- 8.2 With the exception of a few sherds of Samian ware, no finds indicative of high status settlement were retrieved. The large quantity of pottery found in trenches 2 and 3 as well as evidence for hearths may suggest that these enclosures were occupied. In contrast trench 8, within Enclosure C, produced only two pottery sherds despite the excavation of many features.
- 8.3 The only evidence for possible industrial use are the two probable hearths as evidenced by large quantities of burnt stone and signs of burning in 2/2 and 3/4. No slag or metal working were found in any of the trenches.
- 8.5 The excavations have shown that this settlement hugged the hill top and confirmed the results from the geophysical survey which suggested that the enclosures do not continue lower down the slope. The lack of features in trenches 1 and 9 have therefore probably marked the east and west boundaries of the settlement. This would give the settlement a probable length of up to 200m. The north side of the settlement is perhaps delineated by boundary ditch (B). Trench 5 showed that the settlement probably continued southwards outside the road corridor thereby making the settlement over 100m wide.
- 8.7 The evaluation has shown the variable survival of the archaeology. Certainly the archaeological features lower down the slope have not survived as well as those near the top of the hill. The good survival of trenches 4,5 and 6 must be due to the greater depths of subsoil presumably derived from localised hillwash.
- 8.8 Whatever the reason for the survival here, the net effect is that these trenches have shown that good survival of archaeological remains including posthole and stakehole structures occupy an area 90m by 75m within the road corridor. Elsewhere, trenches 2,3,7 and 8 have shown average survival of many earthcut features.

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Project Manager: Stephen Parry, MA MIFA
Text: Robert Atkins, BSocSc DipArch
Geophysics Survey: Peter Masters, BA HND PIFA
Excavation: Robert Atkins, Richard Barrett BSc, Brigid
Gallagher BA and Peter Masters
Pottery Report: Donald Mackreth, BA FSA
Illustrations: Deirdre Prisen BA and Tony Baker

Northamptonshire Archaeology
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APPENDIX 1

THE POTTERY

by Donald Mackreth

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THE POTTERY

by Donald Mackreth

The bags are arranged in Trench and Layer order, the contents described in short order form, along with the number of sherds, flints and lumps of baked clay where these occur. There is a record of the stones discarded, all of which were very small and flat, being mistaken for sherds under their enrobing dirt. The fabrics are described after the listing. Finally, there is a comment on the fabrics and the likely date-range of individual pots, ending with an overview of the site collection.

The numbered pots are those for which there is either a substantial fragment of the rim or a collection of sherds, some having bases and more extensive profiles. A few general parallels are given in the form of site and number, the latter being that of the pot in the report identified in the Bibliography. These citations are only guides, there being very few actual parallels.

The site code, WH98, is left out of the headings.

The Pottery

2/2 ditch fill, 2 bags, 5 pieces of stone discarded.

Baked clay, 1 large piece, 1 small.

7 sherds of Fabric 3, nearly black all through, no rim, 1 fragment of base, combed exterior.

18 sherds of Fabric 1b, mainly fired dirty brown with fumed exteriors, although some are reduced throughout. 3 pieces of rim like that on Pot 1 in 2/2

2/2 pit fill, R+P, 11-8-98 1 piece of stone discarded.

Pot 1 Fabric 1b, fired with a very pale brown core and a fumed dark grey surface. Form, complete profile, Moulton 141, with a more markedly everted rim and probably a more pear-shaped body.

2 sherds Fabric 3, 1 fired dark grey, the other a very pale grey.

2/4 ditch fill, RHB, 12-8-98

Pot 2 Fabric 1a, fired generally pale brown with some fuming on the outside. Form: cook-pot with a rim like that of Pot 10, with enough of the body to suggest a pear-shape, and with fine combing over it.

2/6 ditch fill, RHB, 13-8-98

2 flints.

2 sherds Fabric 3, with a darker fumed surface.

3 sherds Fabric 1b, 2 fired grey with orange surfaces, and another nearly all grey.

3/1 ditch/gulley 36, 11-8-98 1 stone discarded.

Pot 3 Fabric 1a, 6 sherds. Form: thin-walled, the rim is missing, probably a wide-mouthed pot characterised by a wide and shallow cordon at the base of the neck and a groove further down, the base has an upright wall meeting the curve of the body.

Pot 4 Fabric 1b with less sand fired harder and dark orange right through except for fumed grey exterior, 10 sherds. No rim, no base.

Pot 5 Fabric 1a, grey core, oxidised orange outside with fine combing. No rim, no base. 4 sherds.

2 sherds from a similar pot, and 1 from another; 10 sherds from miscellaneous pots of the same general family.

Fabric 3: 4 sherds. 3 sherds from one pot with a pale body and burnished lines; the 4th comes from a different pot and has a coarser fabric and is fired to a much darker colour. No rims, no bases.

3/2 B6, 11-8-98,

Pot 6 Fabric 1b, fired a dirty brown with fumed dark grey exterior. Complete profile of a beaker with a straight everted rim, a high shoulder and three wide and definite grooves above a wall which splays outwards a little and then curves in quickly to a properly formed base. Related to Weekley 6 & 140, but not as slack having a more definite shoulder than either. The general appearance is more Romanised than the Weekley examples.

3/3 (6), 12-8-98

Pot 7 Fabric 2, 1 large rim and 14 sherds. Form: cook-pot, everted rim with lid-seating effect inside reproduced as a hollow outside, no neck and the beginnings of a globular body.

3/4 ditch fill, RHD, 11-8-98, 2 bags

1 stone discarded.

TS: Central Gaulish f18/31, almost certainly C2, but not late.

Pot 8 Repeat of Pot 3, but in Fabric 1b.

Pot 9 Fabric 1b, fired to a more or less uniform grey. Form Moulton 142, but with more of a more squared everted top to the rim.

Pot 10 Rim, fabric 3, fired almost black. Form: everted slightly upturned rim with the top folded like that in a typical Dalesware pot, but forming an angular hollow and not a step as there: Overstone 35, but with a proper, although short, neck.

Another rim which has lost all its inner surface has an outward form just like the last, the fabric is also similar, but this is probably a different pots. 4 sherds of a similar pot, including a damaged rim, represents a third.

Pot 11 Fabric 3, again like Pot 10, but not fired so black. Form: there is a slightly everted upright rim rising without a neck from a shoulder: Overstone 14, but with a rounded top to the rim, not enough of the profile survives to show a shoulder groove.

2 sherds of another pot like Pot 10, but thicker.

3 sherds, 1 large, Fabric 1b, but sandier than most, fired a grey/pale brown. Form: like Pot 12?, but no rim.

Pot 12 3 sherds Fabric 1a, base and body with shoulder, but no rim. Form: cordon at the top of the shoulder, the body appears to be well rounded and there is a definite, flared, foot-ring, the only one in the collection.

3/8 12-8-98 2 bags.

1 piece of baked clay.

1 sherd Fabric 1a, fired an orange colour

5 sherds of Fabric 1b, with fair amount of sand, fired pale grey core with orange surfaces, includes 1 piece of an undistinguished base.

1 tiny sherd of Fabric 5.

6 chips of Fabric 6, fired a very pale orange, 2 with a grey surface outside and 1 grey bodied with a fumed exterior. No indication of form.

1 sherd of what looks like a mortarium, the inside surface is lost.

1 sherd white bodied suitable for a flagon.

2 sherds Fabric 3.

3/12 ditch, B6, 13-8-98 2 pieces of stone, discarded.

6 pieces of baked clay, very little tempering, some sign of surfaces and having a very slight micaceous content.

32 miscellaneous sherds representing at least 6 pots, no rims, 1 piece of undistinguished base. Fabrics roughly akin to Fabric 2, fired to have generally an orange interior with a fumed exterior = Pot 1 fabric, but some are fired grey right through and so fall into Fabric 3.

Pot 13 2 pieces of rim. Fabric 2. Form: a fairly small pot akin to Moulton 163 with a slightly everted rim having a slight hollow in the top, but with a more rounded body. Here, the internal diameter at the neck is of the order of 100mm.

Pot 14 Fabric 2, rim and 9 sherds including a piece of base, but none joins. Form: everted rim on a short funnel neck, the body flaring out and the shoulder marked by a deep groove or cut.

4 further related sherds, 1 a base, all with differing surface finishes.

Pot 15 Fabric 3. Form: a cornice rim and shoulder probably from a beaker, although the fabric is a little unusual.

Pot 16 Fabric 4, 8 sherds, no rim no base. Burnished lattice on outside. The only pot definitely in this fabric.

Pot 17 Fabric 3, 3 sherds, no rim, no base, grey with burnished latticing on the outside.

1 thick base and 3 sherds in Fabric 3.

Pot 18 Fabric 3, 1 rim, everted, Roman style, but from a small pot.

6 miscellaneous sherds. Nothing which has to be mid-C1. No shell-tempered.

4 u/s

Pot 19 Fabric 3. Form: strongly everted rim with a very shallow and narrow cordon.

Pot 20 Fabric 3. Form: rim everted, even flaring, with a groove on the neck

4/2 ditch, RA, 14-8-98

1 sherd of ordinary Fabric 3.

4/4 ditch, KA, 14-8-98

TS, Central Gaul, a fragment of an everted rim, almost certainly C2.

Baked clay.

Pot 21 Fabric 1a, 1 sherd of rim and top of body. Form: everted rim with a squared end, a very small cordon on the neck and a shoulder suggesting a pot rather than a bowl.

The top of 1 rim in Fabric 1a fired mid grey. Form: slightly everted.

1 sherd Fabric 1a, fired very pale grey.

4 sherds Fabric 1b, of which 2 are rims, fired nearly black.

4/6 ditch, RA, 14-8-98

2 tiny sherds, one Fabric 3.

4/23 RA, 18-8-98

1 sherd Fabric 3 with brownish surface.

5 from subsoil

1 flint.

1 lump of Fabric 5 clay.

5/6 ditch fill, RHB, 20-8-98

1 body sherd Fabric 3, fired pale grey.

5/8 ditch fill, RHB, 20-8-98

1 sherd in Fabric 3, fired a pale brown and fumed a near black.

5/10 ditch fill, RHB, 20-8-98

Pot 22 Fabric 1a, with hardly any sand, burnished outside. Form: everted rim which has lost its top, double cordon over a well rounded body of markedly greater diameter than the rim. IA type.

5/15 ditch, B6, 20-8-98

1 sherd Fabric 1a, fired orange throughout.

5/17 pit, B6, 20-8-98

Pot 23 Fabric 3, fired mid-grey. Form: crude 18/31, Brixworth 8, or lid, only there is no wear to suit the latter.

5/19 B6, gulley, 20-8-98

2 sherds, 1 nondescript Fabric 3.

1 sherd Fabric 7, NVGW.

6/2 ditch fill, RA, 20-8-98

1 flint.

1 sherd Fabric 5, fired brown with a darker surface.

6/4 ditch fill, RA, 20-8-98

1 sherd of Fabric 3, fired pale brown and fumed grey.

6/12 ditch fill, RA, 20-8-98

1 flint.

1 sherd Fabric 5.

1 sherd Fabric 3 with very fine sand, fired grey core with orange skin and fumed grey outside.

6/14 ditch fill, RA, 20-8-98

1 sherd Fabric 1b oddity: the grog is itself sandy, fired an orange; 1 sherd similar.

1 sherd Fabric 23.

6/16 ditch fill, RA, 20-8-98

3 nondescript sherds of Fabric 3 and a fragment of everted rim in the same, fired very dark grey

7 topsoil 1 flint

7/6 RA, 19-8-98

1 sherd Fabric 7 NVGW.

3 sherds Fabric 3, 2 with darker fumed exteriors, 1 base.

1 sherd Fabric 3, fired with a grey centre with an orange zone on each side and a reduced skin. Form: body sherd only, from a storage jar?

7 subsoil

1 flint.

8 u/s

flint core.

1 sherd Fabric 3 and another in the same but with a black core and dirty orange surfaces.

Fabrics

These are the principal ones. There are others, but they tend to be singletons: see 3/8.

1 a: grog-tempered, hardly any sand

b: grog-tempered with more noticeable sand content

The distinction is subjective: in b, the sand and grog mixture can vary a fair amount.

2 Pot 1, thin, very sandy, fired dark orange fracture and a fumed dark grey surface.

3 Grey Wares. Sand-tempered, only variations are those which are fired to a pale, mid or dark grey, and this kind of division, apart from the very pale shades, is of dubious value.

4 Reminiscent of BB but wheel-thrown: sandy hackly fracture with a faint trace of oxidation in the middle.

5 No visible grog or sand, evidence for shell, often leached out, all vesiculated sherds assumed to be in this fabric.

6 Very fine sand and fired cream/pale orange.

7 NVGW, Nene Valley Grey Ware, very pale grey, nearly white, body, with a fair amount of sand and a characteristic light grey fumed surface, made in great quantities in the Peterborough area and exported mainly into the Fens and through the Wash.

Comment

The first point is that there is nothing here which must be C3 or later. The second is that there are very few signs of significant pre-conquest occupation, although that may only be a product of the location of the trenches and their relative density on the site: Fabric 5, with no profile capable of being reconstructed.

The pottery indicates a strong second half of C1 presence running on into the C2. Fabrics 1a and 1b, deriving from the grog-tempered LPRIA tradition of SE England, point that way, without any form being so strongly of that tradition that it would have derived from a significant pre-conquest presence. This supports the deduction made from the general lack of Fabric 5.

The distinction made here between Fabric 2 and Fabric 3 is, in reality, one in the style of firing, but there is little doubt that there is a basic chronological difference as well: the oranges and browns are basically C1 and the greys are late C1 and onwards.

Looking at the pots identified by numbers, and breaking them down into fabrics, Fabric 1a has Pots 2, 3, 5 (no form), 12, 21 and 22. Of these, the form of 2 is repeated in Fabric 2 and represents a fairly long-lived form; 12 is closer to the earlier LPRIA types; 21 is again part of the developed LRIA group while 22 is perhaps the earliest pot of all. The date range is from the middle of the C1 and runs close to the end when most of the forms should have been transferred to Fabric 3. There are almost certainly not enough pots from the middle of the century to point to an immediate post-conquest presence.

Fabric 1b, Pots 1, 4 (no form), 6, 8, 9 break down into the following: 1 and 2 are of a generic form belonging to 50-100, and 9 should probably be associated; 6 appears to be a beaker and again probably falls in the period 50-100. There is probably a gradual increase in sand through time, heralding the adoption of Fabric 3 which is generally introduced to the area after the conquest.

Fabric 2, Pots 7, 13, 14, 17 (no form) produces the following: 7 again probably more 50-100 than later; 13 and 14 are developments from the LPRIA tradition, and may not be later than 100.

Fabric 3, the pots here are 10, 11, 15, 18-20, 23 and comprise the following: 10 and 11 which should run on into the C2; 15 which seems to be a beaker and as such probably predates the mass production of colour coated ones in the Lower Nene Valley from the 150s onwards; 18 probably another beaker representing a growing need for this form, the cavetto rim should be C2; 19 and 20 which span the late C1 and the 1st ½ part of the C2 at least. 23 emphasises the C2 content in this fabric, although this might belong to the earlier C2 when there seems to have been a shortage of plain TS, rather than the late C3 when production centres began making TS forms to compensate for the declining imports: there is no supporting colour-coat content in the collection.

Fabric 4 has Pot 16 whose form is not recoverable in any real sense, but whose decoration points to the C2, and it is to the middle and later parts that Fabric 7 belongs.

The main absences from the assemblage are colour-coated wares, mortaria and flagons, apart from 1 possible sherd of each and whatever might be represented by the very slight incidence of Fabric 6.

The conclusion is that, on the evidence available, there is no significant pre-conquest presence, occupation starting, apparently, perhaps only 10 to 20 years afterwards, and then running on into the C2. However, it probably ended by or shortly after 150, if the absences can be relied on.

D. F. Mackreth, September 2nd, 1998.

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APPENDIX 2

TRENCH No	CONTEXT No	DESCRIPTION
TRENCH 1	-	No context numbers
TRENCH 2	-	2/1 Fill of 2/7 2/2 Fill of 2/8 2/3 Ditch 2/4 Fill of 2/3 2/5 Ditch 2/6 Fill of 2/5 2/7 Ditch 2/8 Cut of pit
TRENCH 3	-	3/1 Ditch 3/2 Fill of 3/1 3/3 Gulley 3/4 Fill of 3/4 3/5 Gulley 3/6 Fill of 3/5 3/7 Pit 3/8 Fill of 3/7 3/9 Pit 3/10 Fill of 3/9 3/11 Ditch 3/12 Fill of 3/11 3/13 Ditch 3/14 Fill of 3/13
TRENCH 4	-	4/1 Ditch 4/2 Fill of 4/1 4/3 Gulley/ditch 4/4 Fill of 4/3 4/5 Ditch 4/6 Fill of 4/5 4/7 Gulley 4/8 Fill of 4/7 4/9 Gulley 4/10 Fill of 4/9 4/11 Ditch 4/12 Fill of 4/11 4/13 Feature? 4/14 Fill of 4/13 4/15 Layer 4/16 Gulley 4/17 Fill of 4/16

4/18	Gulley
4/19	Fill of 4/18
4/20	Gulley
4/21	Fill of 4/20
4/22	N/A
4/23	N/A
4/24	Ditch
4/25	Fill of 4/24

APPENDIX 2 continued

TRENCH No	CONTEXT No	DESCRIPTION
TRENCH 4	4/26	Ditch
	4/27	Fill of 4/26
	4/28	Posthole
	4/29	Fill of 4/28
	4/30	Posthole
	4/31	Fill of 4/30
	4/32	Posthole
	4/33	Fill of 4/32
	4/34	Posthole
	4/35	Fill of 4/34
	4/36	Posthole
	4/37	Fill of 4/36
	4/38	Pit?
	4/39	Fill of 4/38
	4/40	Pit
	4/41	Fill of 4/40
	4/42	Posthole
	4/43	Fill of 4/42
	4/44 - 100	Stakeholes
	4/45 - 101	Fill of 4/44 - 100
	4/102	Pit
	4/103	Fill of 102
	4/104	Stakehole
	4/105	Fill of 4/104
	4/106	Stakehole
	4/107	Fill of 4/104
	4/108-112	Stakeholes
	4/109-113	Fill of stakeholes
TRENCH 5 -	5/1	Ditch
	5/2	Fill of 5/1
	5/3	Ditch
	5/4	Fill of 5/3
	5/5	Ditch
	5/6	Fill of 5/5
	5/7	Ditch
	5/8	Fill of 5/7
	5/9	Ditch
	5/10	Fill of 5/9
	5/11	Ditch
	5/12	Fill of 5/11
	5/13	Ditch
	5/14	Fill of 5/13
	5/15	Ditch
	5/16	Fill of 5/15
	5/17	Pit
	5/18	Fill of 5/17
	5/19	Gulley
	5/20	Fill of 5/19
	5/21	Gulley
	5/22	Fill of 5/21

APPENDIX 2 continued

TRENCH No	CONTEXT No	DESCRIPTION
TRENCH 6	6/1	Ditch
	6/2	Fill of 6/1
	6/3	Ditch/gulley
	6/4	Fill of 6/3
	6/5	Ditch
	6/6	Fill of 6/5
	6/7	Posthole
	6/8	Fill of 6/7
	6/9	Gulley
	6/10	Fill of 6/9
	6/11	Ditch
	6/12	Fill of 6/11
	6/13	Ditch
	6/14	Fill of 6/13
	6/15	Ditch
	6/16	Fill of 6/15
TRENCH 7	7/1	Ditch/gulley
	7/2	Fill of 7/1
	7/3	Gulley
	7/4	Fill of 7/3
	7/5	Ditch
	7/6	Fill of 7/5
	7/7	Ditch
	7/8	Fill of 7/7
	7/9	Ditch?
	7/10	Fill of 7/9
TRENCH 8	8/1	Gulley
	8/2	Fill of 8/1
	8/3	Gulley
	8/4	Fill of 8/3
	8/5	Pit
	8/6	Fill of 8/5
	8/7	Gulley
	8/8	Fill of 8/7
	8/9	Gulley
	8/10	Fill of 8/9
	8/11	Gulley
	8/12	Fill of 8/11
	8/13	Posthole
	8/14	Fill of 8/13
	8/15	Ditch
	8/16	Fill of 8/15
	8/17	Ditch
	8/18	Fill of 8/17
	8/19	Ditch
	8/20	Fill of 8/19
	8/21	Gulley
	8/22	Fill of 8/21

APPENDIX 2 continued

TRENCH No	CONTEXT No	DESCRIPTION
	8/23	Gulley
	8/24	Fill of 8/23
TRENCH 9	No context numbers	

SCHEDULE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1. General location plan of site

Fig 2. Location of Trenches in relation to magnetometer survey

Fig 3. Trench 2 and Trench 3, plan and sections

Fig 4. Trench 4, plan and sections

Fig 5. Trench 5 and Trench 6, plan and sections

Fig 6. Trench 7 and Trench 8, plan and sections

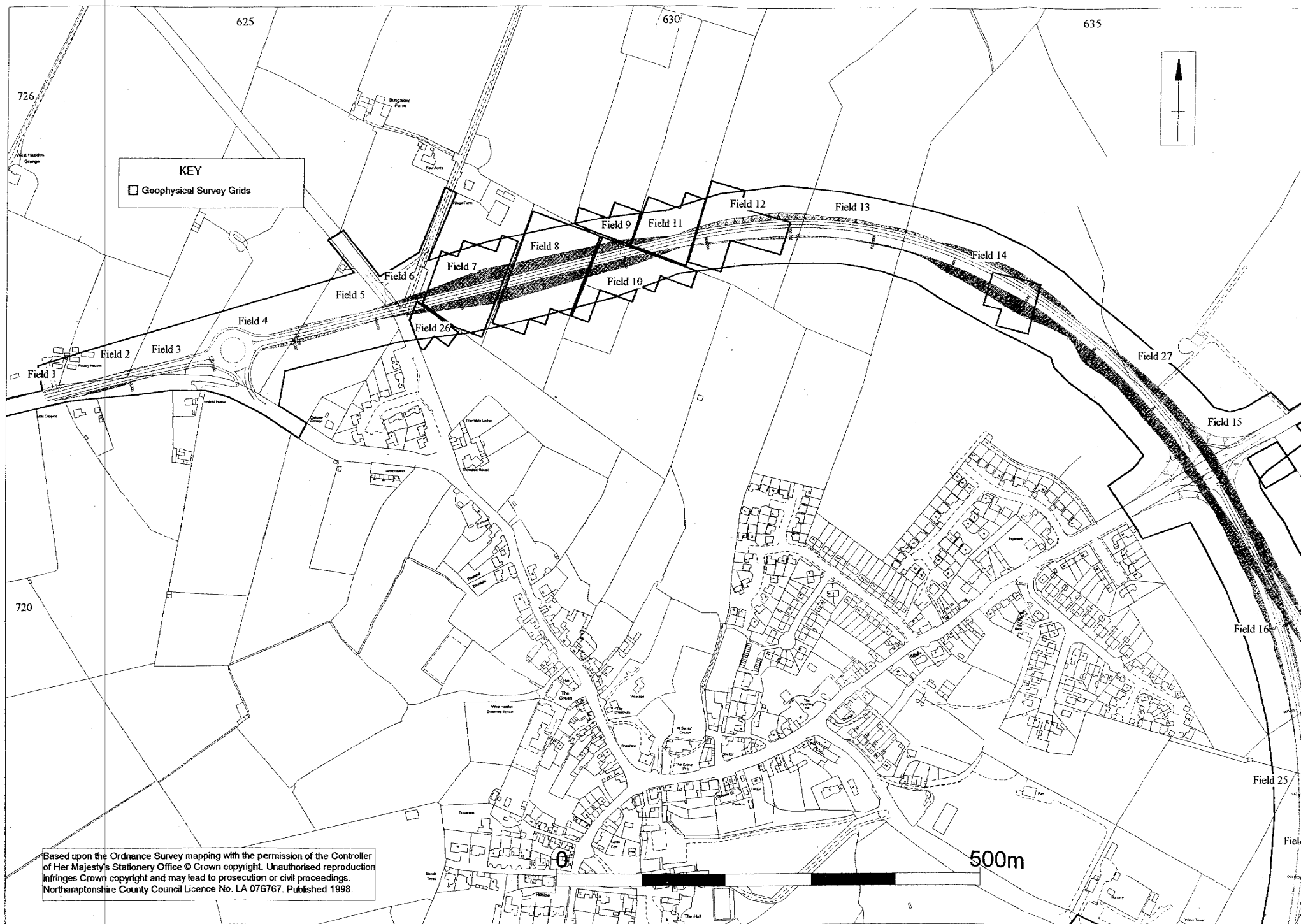


Fig. 1

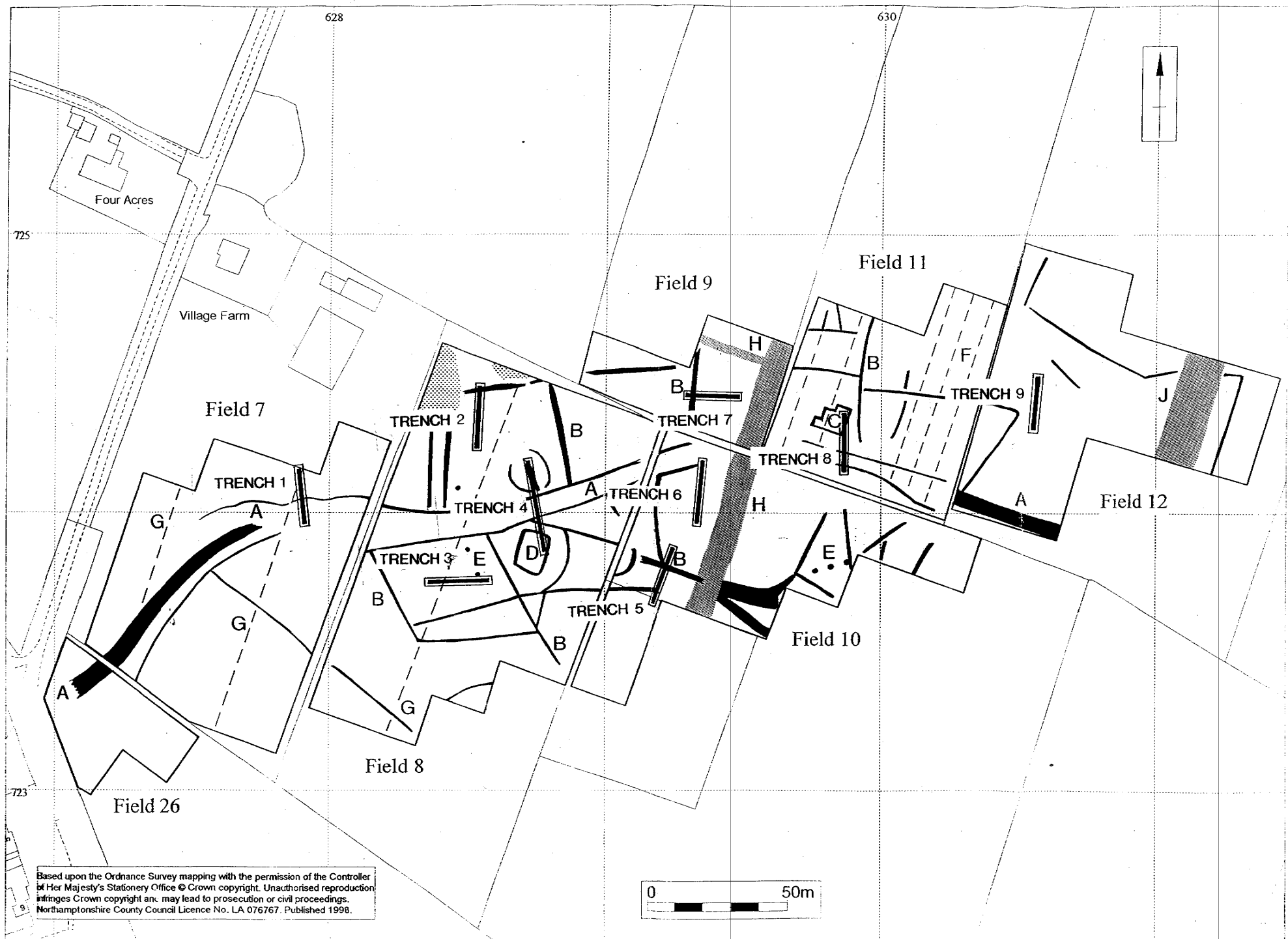
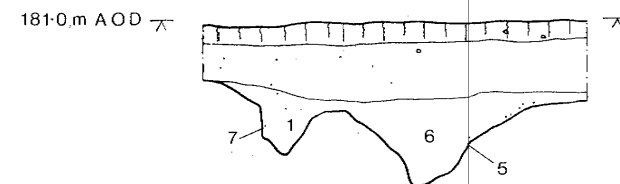
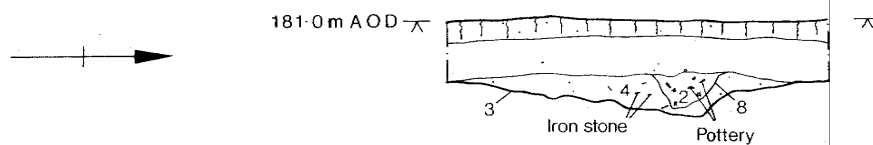
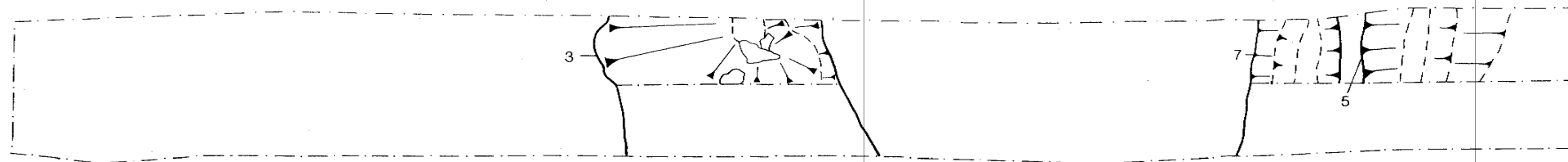


Fig. 2

TRENCH 2



TRENCH 3

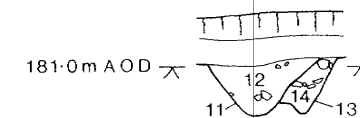
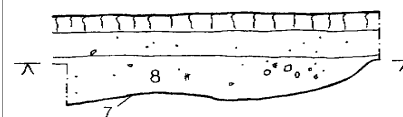
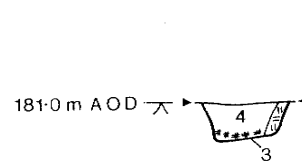
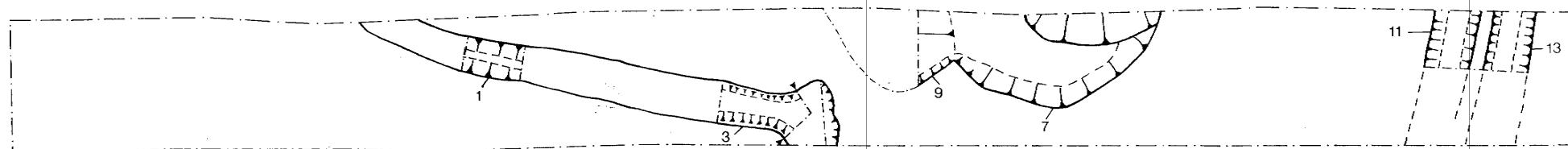


Fig. 3

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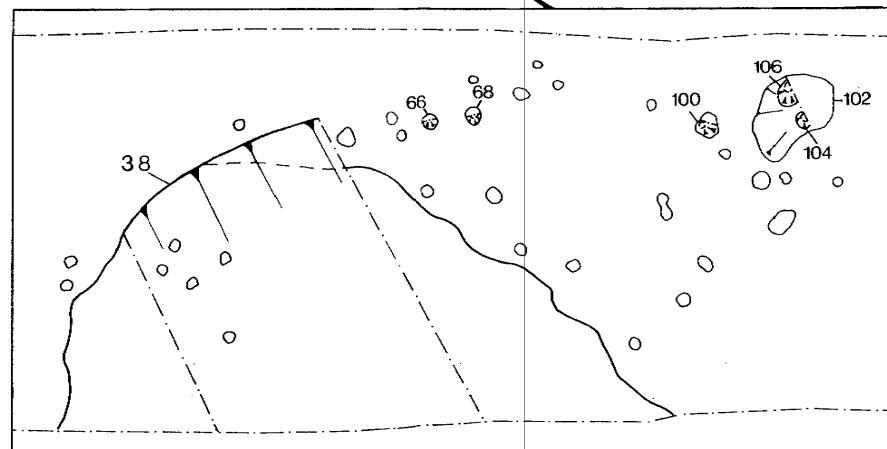
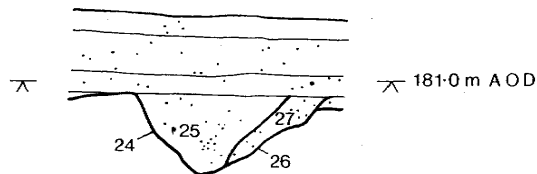
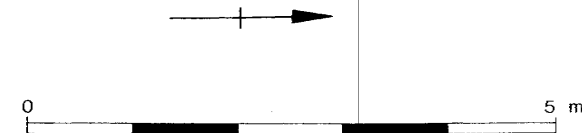
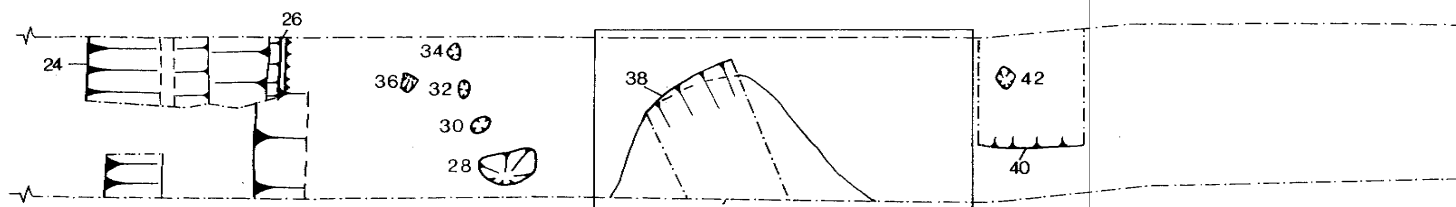
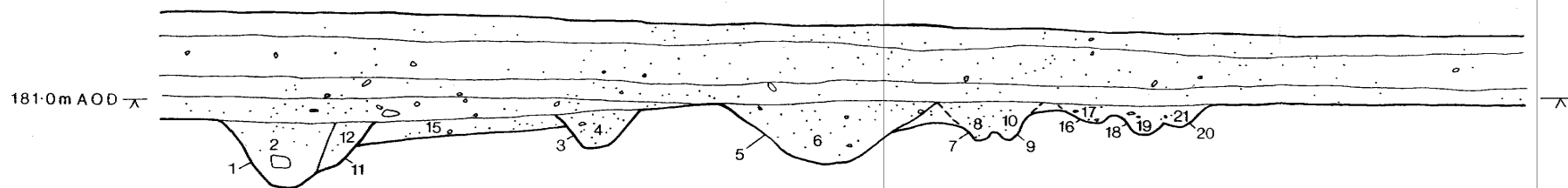
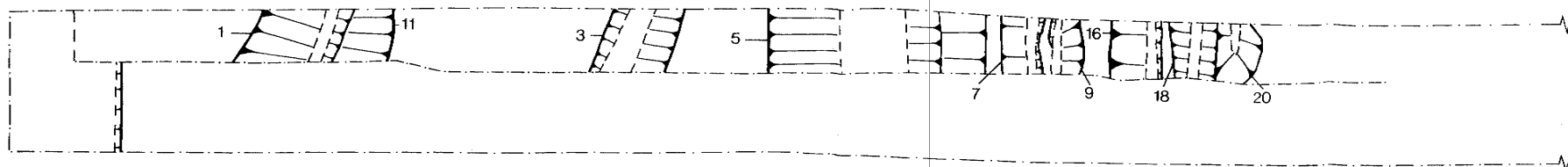
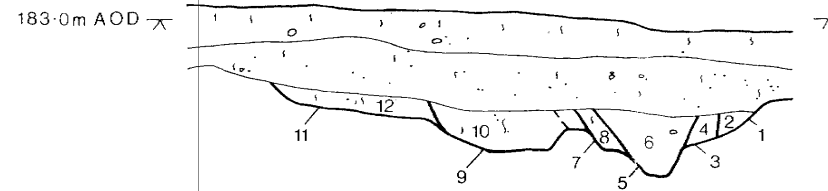
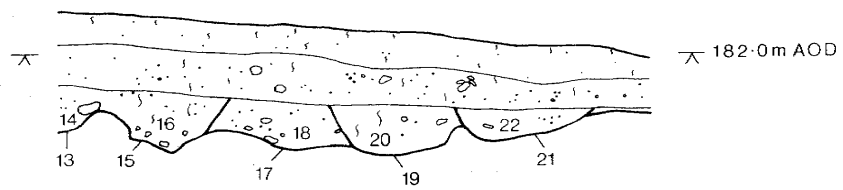
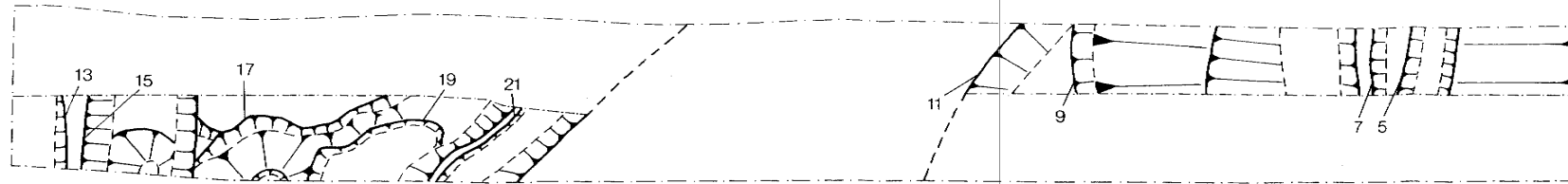
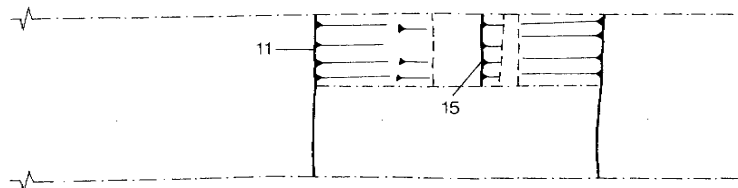
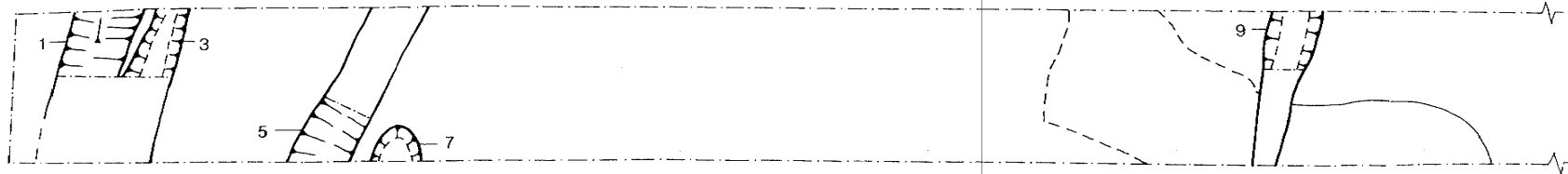


Fig. 4

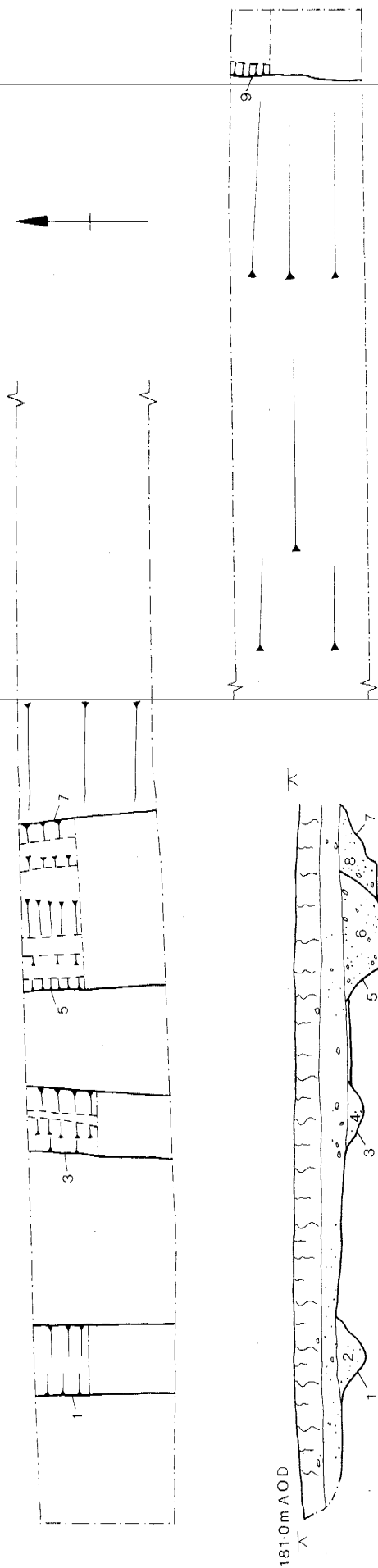
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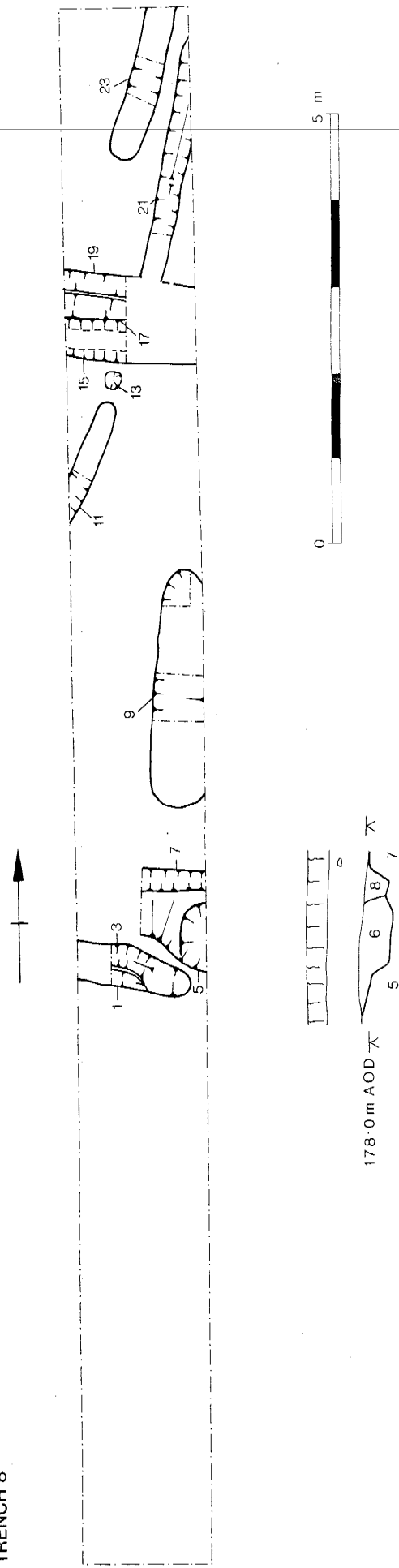
TRENCH 6



TRENCH 7



TRENCH 8



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