

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND ADJACENT CASEWICK LANE,
TALLINGTON, Lincs,
TRIAL EXCAVATION, JANUARY 1995

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ABSTRACT

Archaeological trial excavation in January 1995 on land centred at NGR TF 0915 0815 adjacent to Casewick Lane, Tallington, Lincs revealed the truncated remains of a possible ring-ditch in the south-east corner of proposed development land, together with smaller gullies in two separate marginal locations. The ring-gully might relate to a cropmark feature known from a preliminary desktop-study. The scarcity of archaeological deposits within the application area, however, confirms the results of previous non-intrusive investigations. The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology to fulfil the requirements of archaeological evaluation and further investigation as identified by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A series of sixteen trial-trenches was excavated in January 1995 at the request of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist in order to check upon the apparent paucity of archaeological deposits shown by previous desktop and geophysical surveys (Fig 1. Cf Northamptonshire Archaeology 1994, a and b). The work was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Stoneleigh Planning Partnership acting for clients.

2. TRIAL EXCAVATION

- 2.1 In accordance with a scheme established by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, fifteen individual trial-trenches, each 5m long, were excavated under archaeological control using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). A further trench, 10m long, was dug in order to verify the presence of isolated pits identified previously by geophysics (trench 16).
- 2.2 In each trench, a layer of modern ploughsoil, 400mm to 450mm deep, was removed to expose a paler, homogeneous agricultural soil, 250mm-350mm thick, which probably relates to former strip-cultivation. This too was mechanically removed from above the natural sand and gravel. The sides and bases of the individual trenches were hand-cleaned prior to the sampling and recording of features.
- 2.3 Trenches 1-6, 9-10, and 13-15 were all sterile.
- 2.4 Trenches 11 and 16 revealed relatively recent features.

- 2.5 **Trench 11** contained a single linear feature, probably connected with land-drainage, which cut through the lower part of the modern ploughsoil and was filled with a very loose loam containing pieces of limestone.
- 2.6 **Trench 16** contained a recent pit filled with loose debris (context 17). The feature lay directly beneath the modern ploughsoil and cut the earlier cultivation layer.
- 2.7 **Trenches 7, 8, and 12** contained the following features cut into the natural sand and gravel:
- 2.8 **Trench 7** (Fig 3) revealed a single gully, 600mm wide and 200mm deep, running approximately east-west (context 05). There were no associated finds.
- 2.9 **Trench 8** (Fig 3) contained a single ditch, 800mm wide and 400mm deep, running on a north-south alignment (context 19). No finds were present.
- 2.10 **Trench 12** (Fig 4) was enlarged in order to characterise a series of parallel ditch-terminals in an east-west orientation (contexts 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15). Sample-excavation revealed a sequence of individual re-cuts, varying from 0.40m-1.5m wide and between 250mm-550mm deep. Three of the ditch fills (contexts 08, 10, and 12) produced small, abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery which, in the absence of diagnostic traits, cannot be more closely dated.

2.11 Table of stratified pottery

Trench/Context	Number of sherds	Date
T12/08	1	prehistoric
T12/10	6	prehistoric
T12/12	5	prehistoric

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Trial excavation has confirmed the sparseness of significant archaeological deposits as already suggested by non-intrusive investigation. Such archaeological features that were present are individually isolated and have been truncated by later cultivation. Trench 12 might have revealed part of the previously identified circular cropmark which is otherwise imperfectly located from a single photograph of poor quality. The lack of pottery and other debris in both the modern and former ploughsoils does not suggest the presence of settlement within the application site.

REFERENCES

Northamptonshire Archaeology 1994 (a) An archaeological assessment of land adjacent Casewick Lane, Tallington, Lincolnshire, August 1994, August 1994

Northamptonshire Archaeology 1994 (b) A geophysical survey of land adjacent Casewick Lane, Tallington, Lincolnshire, August 1994

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1: Tallington, site location

Fig 2: Trench location

Fig 3: Trenches 7 and 8: plans and sections

Fig 4: Trench 12: plan and section

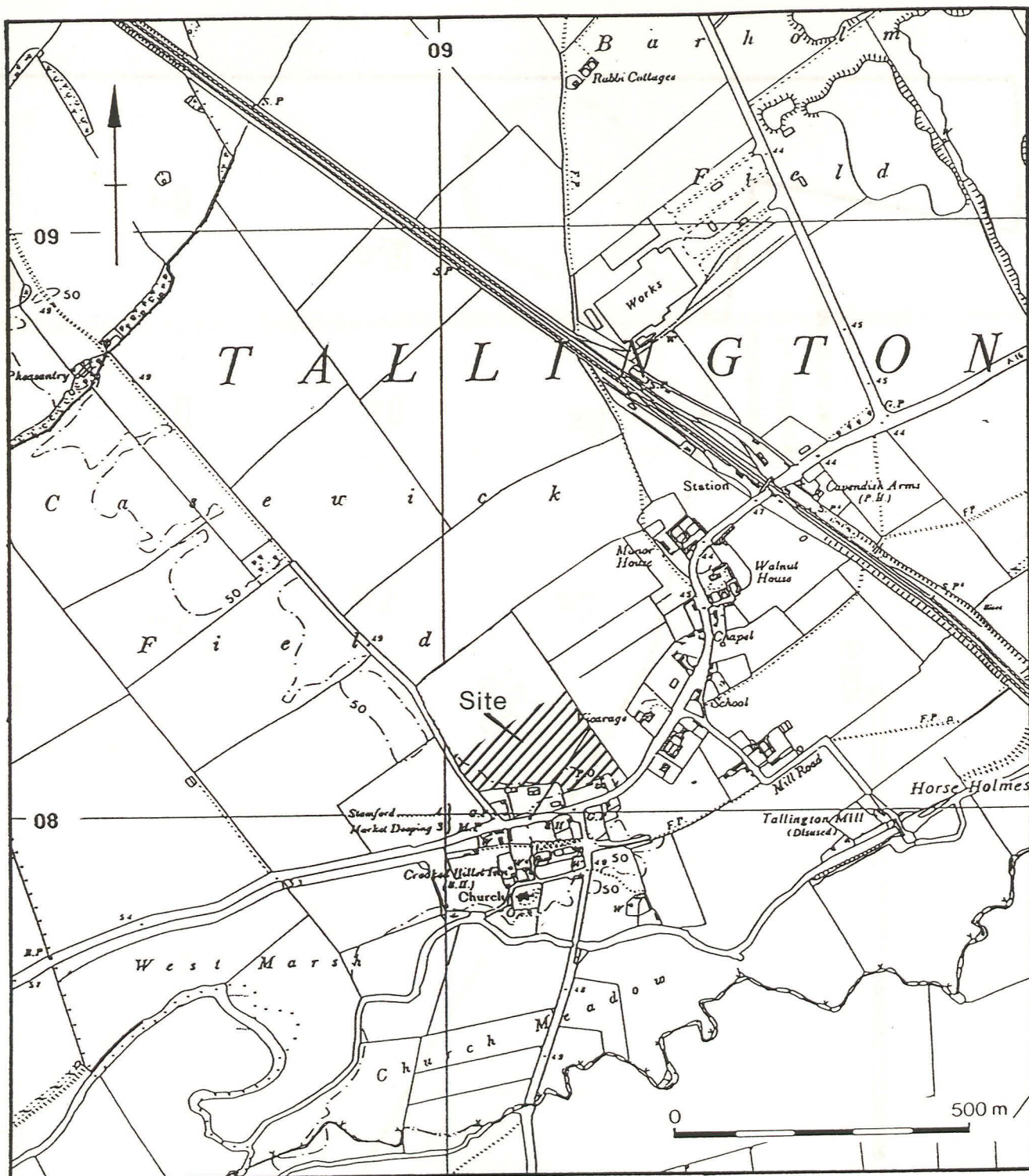


Fig 1: Tallington, site location

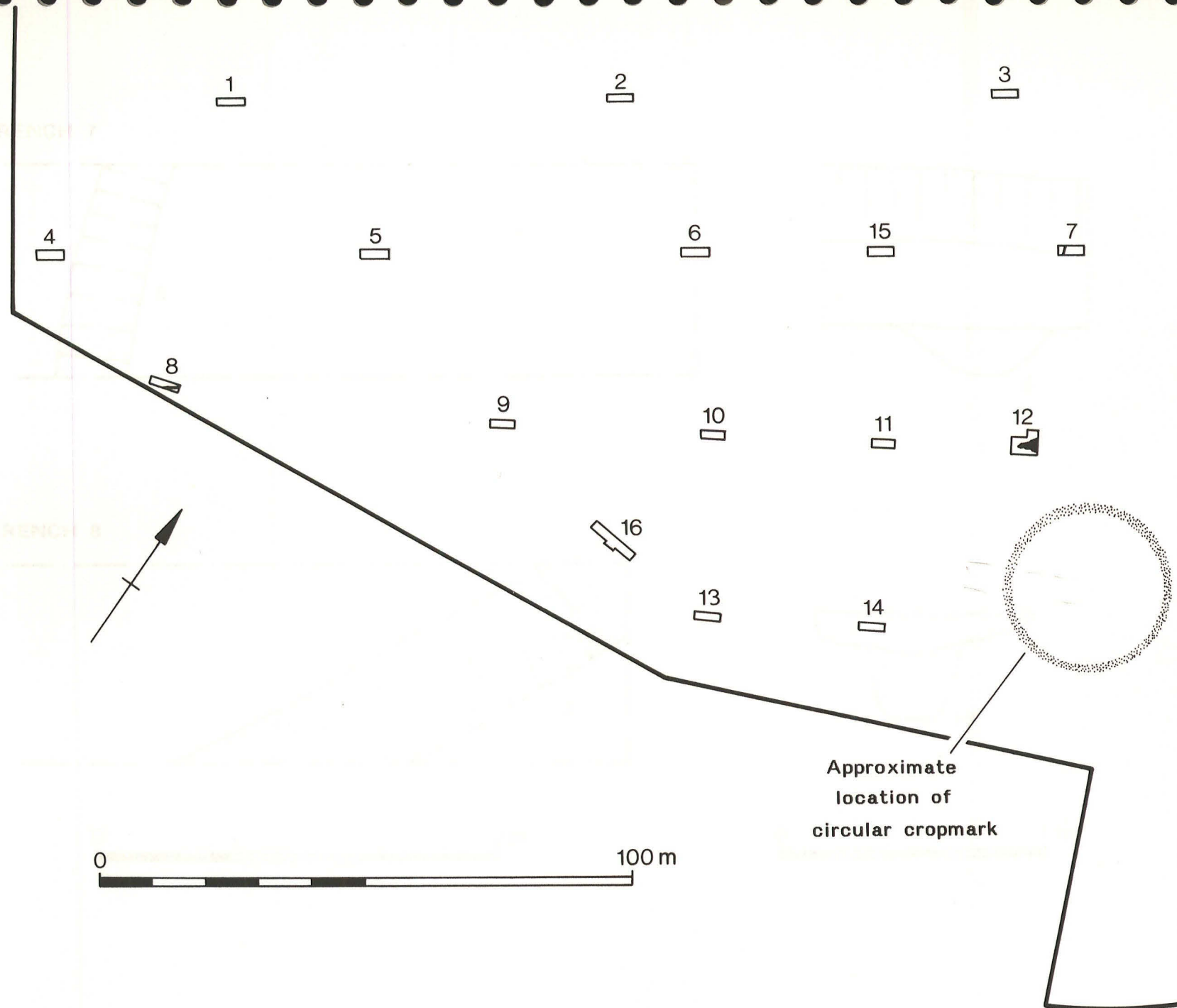


Fig 2: Trench location

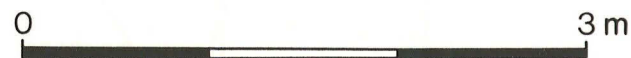
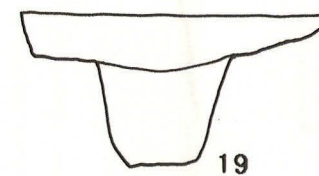
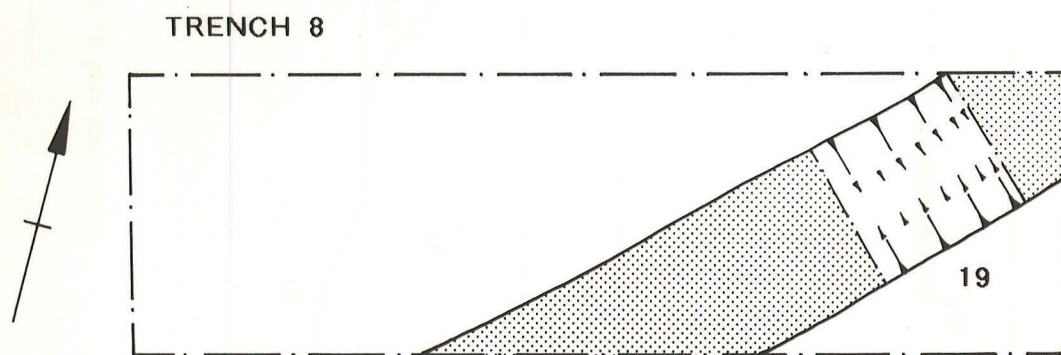
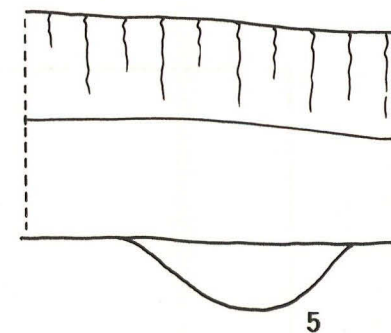
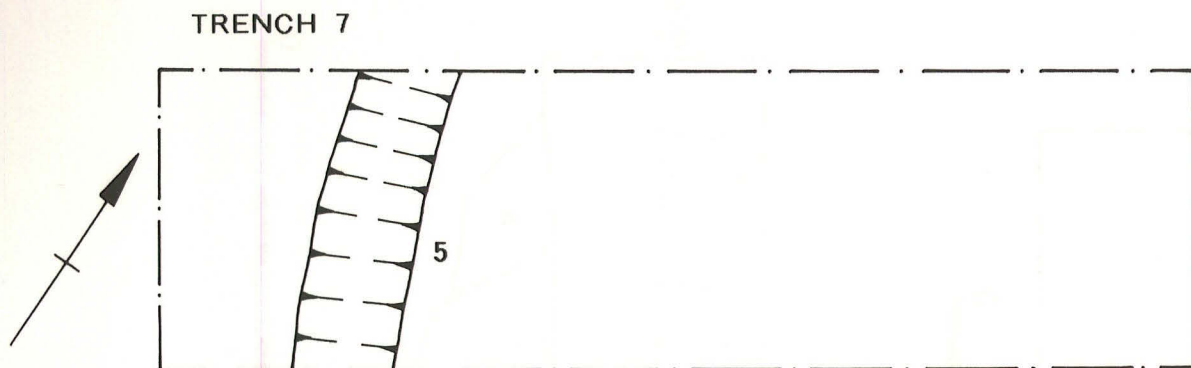


Fig 3: Trenches 7 and 8: plans and sections

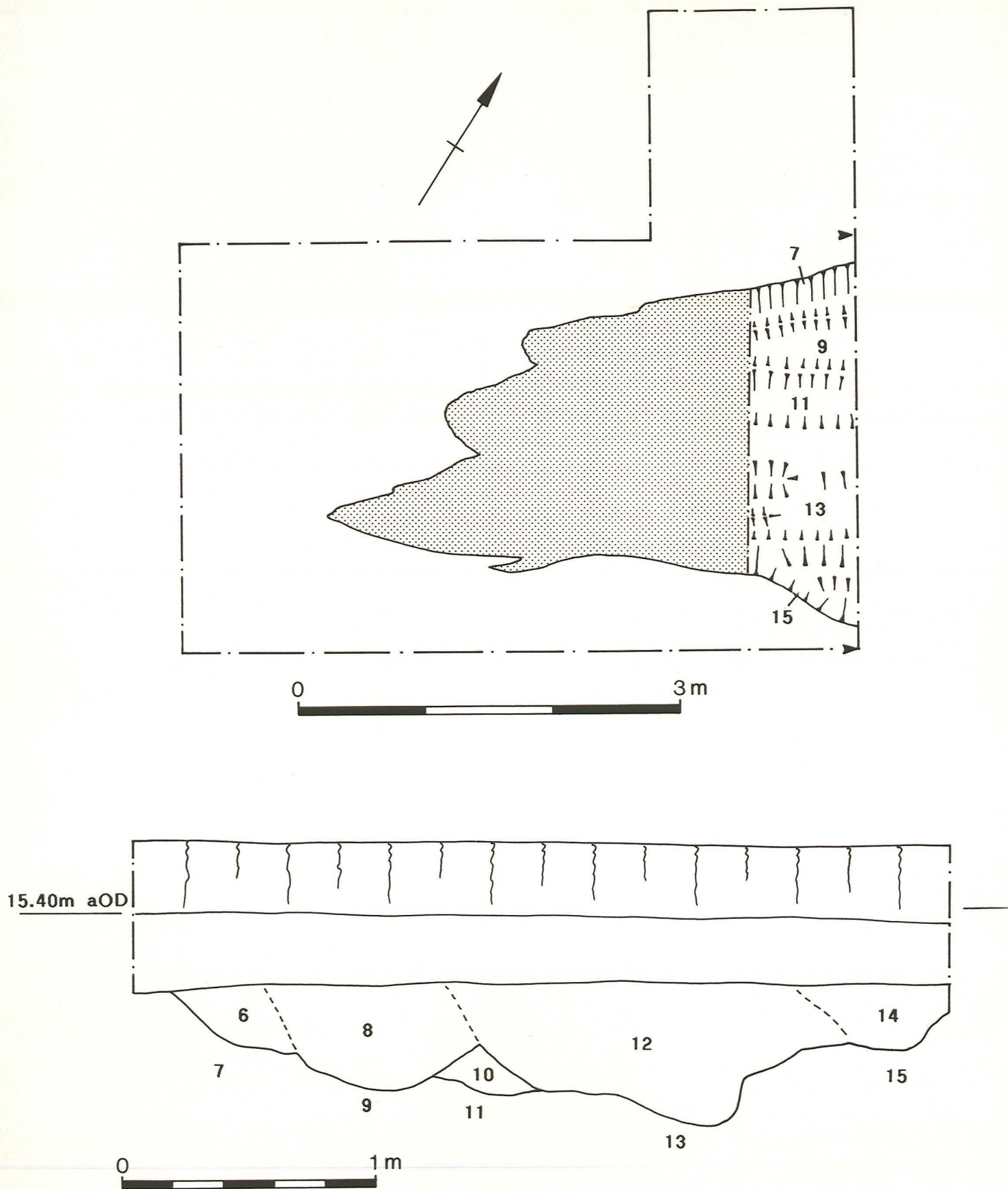


Fig 4: Trench 12: plan and section