

Marches Archaeology

Land off Domgay Lane Four Crosses Powys

Report on an archaeological evaluation

September 2003

Marches Archaeology Series 297

This report is produced by

Marches Archaeology

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SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Site name: Land off Domgay Lane, Four Crosses, Powys

Marches Archaeology Site Code: FC03A

NGR: SJ 27055 18755 (centre)

Area of site: *c.* 2.4 hectares

Project type: Evaluation

Date and duration of fieldwork: 30th June to 18th July 2003 inclusive

Summary of results: Thirteen trenches were dug to investigate a proposed development area off Domgay Lane, Four Crosses. Anomalies identified by the existing geophysical survey were tested and characterised, identifying several feature types. These types include linear features representing field boundaries, an enclosure defined by a large V-shaped ditch, ring ditches, a large circular feature, and pit alignments, one of which had at least one burial along its line. Dating evidence was slim but suggests activity from the Bronze Age through to the 18th century. A radiocarbon date suggested that the pit alignment and possibly the burial along it were of late Iron Age date.

Location of archive: Paper archive will be held by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. Artefacts will go to the Powys Land Museum, Severn Street, Welshpool

**Land off Domgay Lane
Four Crosses
Powys**

A report on an archaeological evaluation

NGR: SJ 27055 18755 (centre)

**Report by
Jane Kenney**

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**Land off Domgay Lane
Four Crosses
Powys**

A report on an archaeological evaluation

Summary

Thirteen trenches were dug to investigate a proposed development area off Domgay Lane, Four Crosses. Anomalies identified by the existing geophysical survey were tested and characterised, identifying several feature types. These types include linear features representing field boundaries, an enclosure defined by a large V-shaped ditch, ring ditches, a large circular feature, and pit alignments, one of which had at least one burial along its line. Dating evidence was slim but suggests activity from the Bronze Age through to the 18th century. A radiocarbon date suggested that the pit alignment and possibly the burial along it were of late Iron Age date.

1 Introduction

A development programme is being considered for land off Domgay Lane, Four Crosses, Powys. The site is centred on NGR: SJ 27055 18755 and covers an area of c. 2.4 hectares (Figs 1 and 2).

The site is very rich in archaeological remains. Three ring ditches were excavated on the site in 1984 and numerous other archaeological features have been recognised from aerial photographs. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by ArchaeoPhysica in July 2002 revealing an extensive complex of field boundaries, ring ditches and pit alignments (Roseveare 2002). The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that further information was required before the archaeological implications of the application could be adequately assessed and recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out to provide this information.

CPM has produced an "Archaeological Evaluation Specification". CPM on behalf of Jennings Homes (the client) has commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Specification.

The fieldwork was carried out on 30th June to 18th July 2003 inclusive, and the report issued on 11th September 2003.

2 Scope and aims of the project

An archaeological evaluation aims to "gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality) in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context. This may lead to one or more of the following: the formulation of a

strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource; the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research” (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

The Specification stated that the archaeological project would consist of the excavation of 13 trial trenches (9 to be 30m long and 1.8m wide, 3 to be 20m long and 1.8m wide, and 1 to be 10m by 4m) and reporting of the results.

The objectives of this evaluation were

To determine the thickness, depth and depositional history of any archaeological and environmental deposits.

To test the geophysical anomalies and characterise the various types of features identified within the study area, and to assess their survival, quality, condition and relative significance.

To provide some indication of the main periods of occupation.

To assess the survival of artefacts and ecofacts.

To appraise the value of the main features in terms of their importance for preservation and conservation.

To inform recommendations for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further archaeological provision where necessary.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

No documentary research was demanded at this stage, but the Specification gave very little background information and it was felt necessary to place the site within some context of the rich landscape surrounding it. Therefore, in addition to considering the results of the geophysical survey and the published report on the 1980s excavations, the Sites and Monuments Record held by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was consulted.

Fieldwork

An area of 634 square metres of trenches was excavated. The trenches were located as indicated in the Specification, using a total station theodolite to ensure they were set out as accurately as the available mapping information allowed (Fig 3).

The upper deposits were excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator to a level determined to comprise deposits, features or horizons of archaeological significance. Further excavation was by hand. In trench 10 the mechanical excavator was used to dig a small test pit to investigate the natural alluvial deposits. All archaeological features found were recorded and those considered to be of value to the understanding and interpretation of the site were selectively excavated. In all cases excavation was only partially, being sufficient to allow an understanding of the nature of the feature and the possibility of recovering dating evidence. All artefactual and ecofactual material recovered from hand excavation was retained, with the exception of unstratified post-medieval artefacts.

On completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled.

The Specification stated that human remains should be left *in situ*, covered and protected. In the one instance that human remains were found care was taken to disturb them as little as possible. Excavation of the feature was immediately halted and the remains were covered with plastic sheeting and the feature backfilled. Other similar features in the same area were not excavated to the bottom to avoid any further disturbance of potential human remains.

It was agreed with Mark Walters, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor, that sampling for environmental evidence would be restricted at this stage to deposits that appeared to have considerable potential. Samples were taken for the recovery of charcoal, but no waterlogged or other high potential deposits were found.

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed for all layers and features, whether excavated or not. A running matrix was maintained for each trench. All features in each trench were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10 were drawn as appropriate. At least one long section of each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:20. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. A plan of the trenches was created using a total station theodolite. This included the baselines of the hand drawn plans so that these could be accurately added into the final site plan.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. All artefacts found from stratified contexts were archived, and the small amount of pottery was sent for specialist analysis (see appendices II and III). Very little charcoal was found, but two features did contain some. Samples of the fills were collected and wet sieved to recover charcoal for radiocarbon dating. After the charcoal was identified to species (see appendix IV) these samples were sent to Beta Analytic, Florida for analysis. The sample from context [921] proved to be too small for conventional dating. As pottery had also been recovered from this context it was considered unjustifiable at present to pay the extra amount for the sample to be dated by accelerator mass spectrometry, but the laboratory will hold the sample for up to one year, so it could be dated in future if the site went to full excavation. The sample from context [515] had plenty of charcoal for dating and the results are presented in appendix V.

4 Description of the site and geological background

Four Crosses is situated where the B4393 crosses the A483, between Welshpool and Oswestry. It lies on a low gravel terrace between the rivers Vyrnwy and Severn at an altitude of *c.* 67m OD (Fig. 1). Geologically the village lies close to the boundary between the Permian Bridgenorth Sandstone and Ordovician sandstones and siltstones (British Geological Survey 1990). Over the bedrocks is a glaciolacustrine alluvium covered by glacial or fluvioglacial deposits, which form low ridges supporting well-drained Brown Earths. In the low lying areas between these ridges the soils are wet and are often waterlogged stagnogleys. To the north of Four Crosses are the alluvial soils related to the River Vyrnwy (Owen and Britnell 1989, 27).

The site lies between the A483 and a disused railway on the northern side of Four Crosses, the access to it being off Domgay Lane (Fig 2). The land is currently under pasture, although the main field has been deeply ploughed in the past (Roseveare 2002, 2).

5 Archaeological and historical background

No documentary research was required in this phase but the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was consulted to give a context to the present evaluation. Aerial photography, starting in the 1960s by JK St Joseph and GDB Jones and still continued on a regular basis today by CPAT, has revealed extensive archaeological remains showing primarily as cropmarks between the Vyrnwy and the Severn. The SMR contains a large number of sites within a radius of 5km from Four Crosses. No attempt, therefore, has been made to discuss all of them or to present more than a representative example on the map (Fig. 1). Many of the sites were discovered from aerial photography and their exact date and function are unknown. Of the many sites that can be dated there are examples that cover the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. Ridge and furrow from medieval and post-medieval cultivation is widespread, mostly visible from aerial photographs but some still surviving as earthworks.

The earliest evidence of human activity in the area is a barbed antler point from Porth-y-waen (SJ25902339). It was dated to 11390 +/-120BP (OxA-1946), making it late Upper Palaeolithic (PRN 33852). There is little more evidence for activity during the Mesolithic. During an excavation the Breiddin hillfort (PRN 1254, SJ29301430) Mesolithic flints were found and charcoal from the pond dated from around 6500 bc (PRN 50052). There was also a scatter of Mesolithic flints in the buried soil under the bank of the enclosure at Collfryn (PRN 3603, 70910, SJ2219617352). The evidence suggests little more than occasional visits to the area.

The Breiddin excavation also produced late Neolithic pottery and flints associated with an occupation floor, which may represent a settlement (PRN 50053). A feature identified as a henge was recorded at Domgay Farm, although this identification has not been confirmed (PRN 4624, SJ2865318876). There is also a pit circle (PRN 6076, SJ27191909) possibly of Neolithic date (see Fig. 4 for location).

It was in the Bronze Age that the landscape became extensively used. As usual for this period most of the evidence comes from funerary and ritual sites, but some of the many field systems seen from the air may date to this period and evidence of late Bronze Age metal working came from the Breiddin (PRN 50054).

Many years of aerial photography have resulted in the discovery of many Bronze Age barrows, usually surviving as buried ring ditches. Just west of Llanymynech at Carreghafa Mill are three ring ditches, one with a double and one with a triple ring ditch (PRN 4599, SJ2507220758; PRN 4601, SJ2513620687, and PRN 38023, SJ2509620689). Close by on Causeway Lane are two more (PRN 2455, SJ2535520650; PRN 4597, SJ2566320634), with another at Elm Tree House (PRN 3641, SJ2641720768). South of Four Crosses is a cropmark of a ring ditch at Maerdy Bridge (PRN 4625, SJ26551706), but the most important group are located to the north and east of Four Crosses and will be discussed below.

In the Iron Age and into the Roman period the area was more heavily occupied with many enclosed settlements and their related field systems. One that has been extensively excavated

is at Arddleen (PRN 4627 SJ2607516020). This is a double-ditched enclosure, which has had several excavations carried out on it, most recently during the summer of this year. Pottery and radiocarbon dates suggest a 1st to 3rd century AD date. The ditches are large and V-shaped and presumably defensive. On the ridge above Arddleen Grange is a similar double-ditched enclosure, which is unexcavated (PRN 2446, SJ2594116375). Other enclosures detected from the air indicate a fairly dense pattern of early settlement in the surrounding area. Examples are found at Ashfields (PRN 38064, SJ2797017843), Collfryn (PRN 3603, SJ2219617352), Gelli Farm (PRN 7530, SJ2374519255) and Gwern y Go (PRN 7064 SJ2859516810).

Overlooking these more ordinary settlements are hillforts. Two of these are found on Llanymynech Hill to the north of Four Crosses, Blodwel Rock Hillfort (PRN 19259, SJ26602275) and the main Llanymynech Hillfort (PRN 28 SJ2649922149). Bryn Mawr Hillfort (PRN 1250, SJ25101905) is only 2km west of the present site, and to the south-east is the Breiddin (PRN 1254, SJ29301430).

The Roman presence was overwhelmingly military, with camps at Abertanat (PRN 17492, SJ248214) and Clawdd Coch (PRN 21, SJ24822024), and a supply depot at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (PRN 5117, SJ22822061). Some cropmarks seem to be marching camps, but there is the possible cropmark of a villa at Hendre Farm (PRN 5255, SJ2910117795). The Roman road may have run beneath the modern trunk road although this has not been proved. A section of probable Roman road has been found between SJ24172162 and SJ24522128, which may have been part of the road from Viriconium to Segontium (PRN 3987).

There are very few early medieval sites in the area, except, of course for Offa's Dyke (PRN 100000), which runs roughly north-south, passing through Four Crosses, where it may have influenced the alignment of the main road. In places, such as at the western side of the present site, it survives as a substantial earthwork.

Later in the medieval period castles were built here as throughout the Welsh Marches. Carreghofa Castle (PRN 27, SJ25452218) was a ringwork possibly positioned to guard a ford across the River Tanat. There are motte and bailey castles still surviving as earthworks at Domen Gastell (PRN 1243, SJ29431672), and Rhysnant Hall (PRN 1244, SJ2559917539) and Hen Domen (PRN 88, SJ2404918799). Pastureland south of Arddleen apparently belonged to Strata Marcella abbey (PRN 17917, SJ2614).

The Four Crosses barrow cemetery and ancient landscape (Fig. 4)

The aerial photographs have revealed a preserved landscape visible mainly as cropmarks to the north and east of Four Crosses. The most significant features of this landscape are a scattered round barrow cemetery and a series of pit alignments (PRN 17177 and 3601).

CPAT have excavated at 11 sites within this landscape, investigating 8 barrows and 4 trenches on pit alignments. These excavations demonstrated that despite heavy ploughing significant archaeological remains did survive, but also that aerial photography did not reveal all surviving features even in areas particularly favourable to cropmark formation. The evidence suggested that the activity on the barrow sites spanned millennia. There were hints from flint work and radiocarbon dates of Mesolithic activity in the area, but the first burial is dated to the middle or later Neolithic. In the Beaker period and Early Bronze Age small ring

ditches were constructed surrounding inhumation burials. In the Middle Bronze Age much larger barrows were built with concentric stake circles inside the ring ditch, probably to aid the construction of the larger mounds. These seem to have been associated with cremation burials placed in the top or sides of the mounds, most of which have been lost to ploughing. Within some of these larger barrows were secondary deposits of later Bronze Age bucket urns. Some of the barrows remained as upstanding monuments until the 7th century AD, and were used for various activities during this time (Warrilow et al 1986).

The pit alignments seem to define rectangular fields, and the pits within them vary from subrectangular to subcircular in shape and can be up to 2.5m long and generally *c.* 0.7m deep. The pits had been left open to silt up naturally, so they did not function as postholes. The pit alignments have not yet been dated. There is no physical relationship between either Offa's Dyke or the barrows and the pit alignments. The alignments predate the late 18th century, and the correlation between some of the alignments and the modern field boundaries has led Owen and Britnell (1989, 38) to suggest that the alignments may be late medieval or post medieval in date. Elsewhere in Britain pit alignments have been suggested as dating variously to the late Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman periods, so the possible date for the Four Crosses alignments is still wide open (Owen and Britnell 1989).

Two of the ring ditches dug by CPAT lie within the current development area; sites 2 and 3. Although at site 2 (PRN 3604) only a single ring ditch was seen on aerial photographs on excavation it proved to have a small satellite ring ditch (PRN 6129). Both had central graves, but there were also secondary burials inserted after the ditch had filled in. Residual charcoal from a post-Roman grave produced a Mesolithic date, suggesting some activity in this period. A Beaker period pit predated the ring ditches, which although not directly dated, fitted the Early Bronze Age phase of barrow development in the area (Warrilow *et al* 1986, 83). Later activity concentrated on the larger barrow included an Iron Age hearth, a small post-Roman cemetery and the deposition of an iron javelin and spearhead possibly dating to the 6th or 7th centuries AD (Owen 1986a). Site 3 (PRN 5372) was a simple ring ditch with a V-shaped profile and no evidence of burials (Owen 1986b).

In July 2002 the area was surveyed by ArchaeoPhysica (Roseveare 2002). This revealed linear anomalies defining field systems, more ring ditches than had been identified from the aerial photographs, one clear pit alignment with two other potential alignments, and other pits of unknown function (Fig. 3).

6 Results of the evaluation

(See Fig 3 for trench locations and geophysical anomalies)

The topsoil covering the site was a grey-brown friable gritty loam with occasional stones. It varied slightly in depth across the site but was generally between 0.1m and 0.3m thick. A small fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in trench 12.

Generally an old ploughsoil underlay the topsoil. This was a brown clayey silt, slightly gritty, with proportions of small stones varying from very few to *c.* 10%. This layer was generally about 0.2m thick, but in places on the summit of the gravel ridge in the middle of the field ploughing and colluvation had removed it and the topsoil directly overlay the natural. Towards the northern and southern edges of the field the underlying natural sloped away and the old ploughsoil became thicker, reaching a maximum depth of nearly 0.4m in the south-eastern end of trench 12. A small number of finds were recovered from the ploughsoil. All the pottery was post-medieval, with some pieces dating from the 16th to 17th centuries. There was also a small modern glass bottle, 2 nails and a fragment of animal bone.

The natural subsoil was a yellow-brown silty gravel containing no large or medium sized stones. It was composed of layers of various grades of gravel, some very fine, and many with almost no silt content. Generally the gravel was darker and greyer in colour below the surface, though the grey gravel could also crop up on the surface. The highly sorted nature of the gravels shows that they are of alluvial origin, presumably fluvio-glacial. Some of the natural features investigated appeared to be the result of ice wedges and other frost action, showing that the gravel had been exposed to periglacial processes after deposition.

Trench 1 (Figs 5 and 6)

Trench 1 had only 0.3m of topsoil and old cultivation soil over the natural gravels in which there were some small patches of brown clayey silt. Of these three were recorded as possible features, but time constraints prevented their investigation. [104] and [105] were fairly irregular and may prove to be merely hollows in the surface of the natural. [107] was more convincing as a linear cut, filled by [106], a brown clayey silt with few stones. It coincides closely with feature 6 on the geophysical plot, and is probably a small ditch. The geophysical feature no. 7 was not identified in the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 7 and 8)

Two linear features were found in trench 2. Cut [205] was 1.7m wide and 0.3m deep. The north-eastern side sloped down at *c.* 45 degrees, whilst the south-western side was more gradual. The base was flat and it was filled by a mid brown clayey loam [204]. Feature [207] was 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep, with sides sloping at around 45 degrees, to a narrow base, forming a rounded V-shaped profile. The fill [206] was a reddish brown clay loam. These are the features producing the anomalies 17 and 13 on the geophysics plot and appear to be field boundary ditches (Fig. 9).

What appeared to be a small sub-circular feature [209], measuring 1.4m by 1.34m and 0.37m deep, was seen in the north-eastern end of the trench (Fig. 10). On excavation the sides proved to be steep and reasonably well defined, but the cut was more irregular in plan than it initially appear. The fill [208] was a grey brown silt with a high content of pebbles and

sub-rectangular stones. The feature could be an animal burrow, but the gravel fill suggests that it is of geological, probably periglacial origin.

These features were cut through a layer of brown clayey silt containing up to 30% small stones and gravel [203], which varied in colour from strong to pale brown. It covered all the trench except small patches where the underlying gravel protruded. This layer was interpreted as a relict B-horizon surviving below the level of ploughing. It is likely that this deposit obscures other features. The geophysical anomaly 12 (Fig. 3) was not recognised in the trench and may lie beneath [203] or have a fill indistinguishable from it.

Trench 3 (Figs 11 and 12)

Trench 3 contained several linear features, some but not all of which appeared on the geophysical plot.

[305] was a narrow cut with a rounded southern terminal, measuring a maximum width of 800mm and 260mm deep (Fig. 13). The sides sloped at *c.* 45 degrees to a rounded base. The cut was shallower with more gradual sides at the terminal, and the fill [304] was a red-brown clayey silt. It was unclear in the trench whether this feature was the end of a ditch or most of a pit. Although the interpretation plan for the geophysics survey shows no anomalies in this area the original plots indicate that ditch (28) continued as far as this point and that the pit alignment (40) passes through at the same place (Fig. 3). [305] could be related to either or neither of these.

[307] was a narrow linear cut with steep sides curving into flat base (Fig. 13). The sides were quite parallel and regular. The feature measured 720mm wide x 300mm deep, and was filled by a brown clayey silt [306]. It appeared to be a small, straight ditch.

To the east of [307] was a small circular cut [309], measuring 320mm in diameter and 100mm deep. Although very shallow it was well defined with steep sides and a rounded base, and filled with a brown clayey silt [308]. The feature was presumably heavily truncated and was probably the base of posthole.

A narrow, extremely shallow linear feature [315], 320mm wide and a maximum of 40mm deep, ran north-west to south-east diagonally across the trench. Its sides were steep and the base was flat. Although severely truncated the straight, regular plan suggests that this was a genuine feature, probably the remains of gully or the base of a drain.

[311] was a linear cut measuring 1.15m wide and 0.33m deep (Figs 14 and 15). The sides, which were straight and regular, sloped at *c.* 45 degrees, curving gradually into the flat base. The fill [310] was a brown clayey silt. This ditch may be the ring ditch (46) revealed on the geophysics plot, although it appears straight where seen in the trench. The magnetic gradient plot indicates a complete ring, and [307] fits very well on the line of it. However, [307] is much narrower than [311] and it also shows no evidence of curving, so its identification cannot be certain.

Immediately east of [311] was a circular cut [317], measuring 600mm in diameter and 170mm deep (Fig. 15). The two features were too close for them to be contemporary, but there was not enough overlap for the relationship between them to be demonstrated. [317]

had fairly gently sloping sides, a narrow, rounded base, and was filled by a brown, clayey silt [316]. It was presumably heavily truncated and appeared to be the base of a posthole.

At the south-western end of the trench were two linear features running very close together, although not quite cutting so no clear relationship was seen (Fig. 16). [313] was 740mm wide and c.400mm deep with steep, well defined sides and a narrow, rounded base. The fill [312] was a brown clayey silt, with a deposit of gravel and clay against the western side. [319] was 950mm wide and c.500mm deep with steep sides curving into rounded base. The fill [318] was a brown, clayey silt and again there was little evidence of erosion of the cut edges. The geophysics plot (Fig. 3) also shows two features at this point and suggests that [313] is part of the large circular anomaly (47) and that [319] is part of the straight linear (29), however, neither feature resembles the deep V-shaped cut in trench 4, which is clearly part of (47). Anomaly (29) is also seen in trench 6 and here it resembles [313] rather than [319], implying that the latter is the circular feature (47).

There was a slight hollow in the natural gravel at the north-western end of the trench filled by a brown, clayey silt with very little sand content and occasional small pebbles [320]. This appeared to be the remains of a B-horizon of a relict soil. This patch of relict soil may have produced the faint geophysical anomaly (60).

Trench 4 (Figs 17 and 18)

The geophysics plot indicated only a large circular feature and a straight ditch in this area, but the trench revealed a more complex story. However, the significance of many of the features could not be assessed because they could not be adequately understood from what was seen in the narrow trench.

[406] was a shallow sub-rectangular cut, c. 1m wide and 0.23m deep. The fill [428] was a greyish brown sandy silt. This could be an animal burrow or a hollow in the natural gravel, but a wider view of the area may put it in context and suggest an anthropogenic origin.

[408] was a triangular bowl-shaped cut with rounded sides and a rounded base, measuring 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig. 19). It contained three fills; at the top [407], a firm brownish grey silty sand, then [421] a hard, brownish-grey silty gravel tipping from south-eastern edge of the ditch. The primary fill [422] was a loose dark grey gravely silt 50mm thick. The feature was well defined in section but the plan was confused as excavation showed a linear feature running south-west from the broader cut of [408]. This feature seems too well defined and regular to be just a tree-throw hole, but its function cannot be interpreted from the evidence in the evaluation trench.

Two small features may be small pits or the ends of shallow gullies. Both had fairly straight sides and rounded ends. [410] measured 580mm wide and 400mm deep, with gently sloping sides and a narrow, flat (Fig. 20). It was filled by a firm reddish brown silty sand [409], with primary silting [427] in the base. [412] was 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig. 21). The sides sloped at c. 45 degrees to slightly rounded flattish base and it was filled by a reddish brown silty sand [411].

[414] was a shallow linear cut, 1.3m wide and 0.22m deep, with a wide flat bottom and rather irregular sides. The fill [413] was a reddish brown gravely silt. This feature appeared to be a natural erosion gully.

Most dramatic of the features in this trench was [405], a linear cut 1.1m deep and *c.* 1.5m wide at the top. It had a 'V' shaped profile with a narrow flat base (Fig. 22). At the base the sides became very steep forming a slot in the bottom of the feature. The feature had several fills. In the top was [404] a reddish brown silty sand, then [423] a greyish brown silty gravel. Beneath [423] was [424] a brown silty gravel, then [425], a loose brown gravelly silt very similar to the natural gravels [403], and was probably derived from erosion of ditch sides. The primary fill [426] was a loose dark grey gravelly silt. The geophysics plot (Fig. 3) shows that [405] was part of a large circular anomaly which might be a very large ring ditch. However the slot in the base of [405] is unusual for a ring ditch and could function as a trench to support timbers. There is, therefore, the possibility that this feature was a palisaded circular enclosure. Features [313] and [319], one of which is probably part of the northern arc of this feature, showed no trace of a possible palisade slot in the base, so the true nature of the feature is still unknown.

Martin and Anne Roseveare of ArchaeoPhysica recorded the magnetic susceptibility of the different layers in this feature. This showed some of the fill, especially [424] and [423], to have a particularly high susceptibility suggesting that it eroded from a layer associated with human activity, presumably from inside the ring ditch.

To the east of [405] were two large, shallow sub-circular features. [416] was 750mm wide and 450mm deep, with gently sloping sides and a wide flat base (Fig. 22). Its fill [415] was a reddish brown silty sand. [418] was similar to [416], but shallower. It measured *c.* 1m in diameter and was only 0.17m deep. The sides were steep and the base flat, making it appear too regular for a geological feature, so [418] may be the truncated base of a pit. These features were the only ones found on the line of the geophysical anomaly (37), which appeared to linear. However, close inspection of the magnetic gradient plot suggests that it might be composed of small discrete features with a shadow round them like that along the pit alignments. The anomaly is not sufficiently clear to identify it securely as a pit alignment, but this might be possible.

[420] was a rather irregularly shaped linear cut with a rounded terminus. The north-western side was very steep, but the south-eastern side was gradual. It was filled by a brown, clayey silt [419]. This feature appeared too irregular to be man-made, but could be a disturbed shallow ditch terminus.

Trench 5 (Figs 23 and 24)

Trench 5 is confusing in that, with the exception of [513], none of the features found were indicated on the interpretative geophysics plot and none of the geophysics anomalies could be associated with features on the ground.

[505] was a linear feature, 0.91m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 25). The moderately sloping sides curved gradually into a concave base. The fill [504] was a pale yellow-brown clayey loam with rare flecks of charcoal scattered throughout. There is the vaguest hint of a linear feature in this location in the magnetic gradient data. This may run north and could also appear in trench 7 as [703].

[507] was a rather irregular feature with a steep eastern side and shallow western side (Fig. 25). The section was not clear but there was an indication that the natural [503] rose up in the

middle of the feature, suggesting that it was actually composed of two cuts. The different angles of the two sides in plan may also indicate that there are two features within this area, but the question was not clarified. The fill [506] was a brown, clayey silt, some sand and up to 40% small stones. [507] could be a natural channel in the gravel, but it might represent the junction of two linear features. The geophysics plot gives no help in the interpretation.

Between [507] and [511] to the east was an area of brown, clayey silt, more compact than [502]. This was indistinguishable from other patches and all these were recorded as [508] and interpreted as patches of relict soil surviving in hollows in the natural gravel. However, at this point in the middle of the trench the geophysics plot has part of the linear anomaly (26) crossing the trench at an angle very similar to the patch of brown soil (Fig. 3). There was a hint of a cut here but it was no more than 50mm deep. The geophysics strongly suggests that this is the very heavily truncated remains of a ditch, but it also shows that the geophysics, especially the magnetic gradient data, could pick up very slight features, possibly explaining why they are not always seen in the excavated trenches. Such slight features would be more easily interpreted during the excavation of an open area than in a narrow trench.

[511] was a poorly defined linear cut. It was cut into very loose natural gravels, which caused the east side in particular to be difficult to define (Fig. 26). The sides seemed to slope gently into a flat base. The cut was 0.8m wide but only 0.2m deep, and it was filled by mid yellow-brown clayey silts. This feature was a ditch, but its shallowness is evidence of how heavily truncated features are in this area. It seems to be running at the wrong angle to be associated with the narrow linear anomaly (20), but it is in approximately the right location, so it could be related in some way.

[513] was an oval pit, *c.* 0.95m x 1.20m x 0.31m deep, of which a quadrant was dug carefully as the presence of burnt bone and charcoal in its fill initially suggested it might be a cremation. The sides were steep and the base seemed flat, although only a small area of the base was exposed (Fig. 27). Animal burrows were dug into the sides and all the fill had been disturbed by burrowing. [512] was a thin layer in the top of the feature, described as a dark grey, gritty silt, charcoal dust, charcoal pieces and fragments of burnt bone. It was only present in the middle of feature, and did not extend right to the sides. [514] was a dark brown gritty containing less charcoal and fewer bone fragments than [512]. It was not clearly defined in section, and had diffuse interfaces, but seemed to have originated from erosion of the cut sides. [515], a dark grey silt, contained most of the charcoal and small burnt bone fragments. The lower interface was undulating and confused due to disturbance by animal burrowing. [516] was a mottled yellow-brown and dark grey gritty silt which extended up the sides and over the base of the cut, again extensively disturbed by animal burrows. It contained relatively little charcoal and bone except where introduced by burrowing. No artefacts were found and the quantity of charcoal and burnt bone was not sufficient for this to have been a major cremation deposit. It is possible that some of the ashes of a cremation were scattered into the pit, although it is more likely that the burnt bone fragments were from animal bone.

All the soil excavated from fill [515] was collected, wet sieved and the charcoal was picked out. This was sent to Beta Analytic Inc. for radiocarbon dating and was dated to cal BC 385 to 115 (2200+/-50 BP, Beta-181726), *i.e.* late Iron Age (see appendix V). [513] is on the pit alignment (40) indicated on the geophysics plot (Fig. 3), although it is possible that it is a later addition to the alignment and not one of the original pits. The pit was cut through the

relict soil horizon [508], a band of which survived around the pit. This relict soil appears to explain the shadow associated with the pit alignment on the magnetic gradient plot.

The corner of a cut [518] appears in the trench. This had vertical sides and cut through the ploughsoil [502]. It was filled by dark grey-brown loam [517]. As it cut the ploughsoil the feature must be recent, and its location and neat, nearly right-angled corner suggests that it is the edge of the 1984 excavation trench.

The faint geophysical anomalies (55) and (59) were not represented by anything seen in the trench and do not appear to represent real features (Fig. 3).

Trench 6 (Figs 28 and 29)

Trench 6 was particularly busy and contained features of demonstrably different date, as proved by both finds and stratigraphy.

[605] initially appeared to be a single linear feature but on excavation proved to consist of two shallow cuts separated by a very narrow gap, with the two parts slightly offset. The two ends were rounded and the cuts become shallower towards the ends. The sides sloped fairly gently and the bases were flat (Fig. 30). The fill [604] was a brown, clayey silt with a c.30% small stones and gravels. The function of the slots is unknown, but the break and offsetting almost suggests a structural use. The cuts were only 0.18m deep, but could have been heavily truncated. The geophysics anomaly (23) runs through the trench at just the same angle as [605], although it appears slightly to the east. It does seem likely that [605] is the same feature as anomaly (23) (Fig. 3).

[605] was cut at its southern end by [621], a narrow linear feature with gently sloping sides curving into a flat base. [621] was 600mm wide at the top, 100mm wide at the base and 200mm deep, and filled by [620], a brown clayey silt (Fig. 31). Most of its south-eastern side was destroyed by [607]. The feature seems to be too narrow and shallow for a ditch, but may represent the truncated remains of one. There is a faint hint on the magnetic gradient plot of a linear feature in the right place and same angle as [621]. Other linears run parallel to it and look initially as if they might be an artefact of the plot, but the excavated results imply that these might be agricultural furrows.

The feature cutting [621] was a large pit [607], measuring 2.3m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig. 31). It was roughly square in plan, with rounded but fairly well defined corners. The sides were steep and the base fairly flat. The fill [606] was a dark brown clayey silt with c.30% small stones and gravel. It had a loose, fairly good crumb structure, making it easy to dig. This fill was darker and looser than the other fills on site except [610], which made it appear more recent than the rest. This impression was confirmed when a large sherd of unabraded post-medieval pot was found securely within the fill. This sherd was of Midlands purple and dated to the 15th to 16th centuries (appendix III).

To the east of [607] was a small circular hollow [619], c.200mm wide and 70mm deep, filled by a brown clayey silt with occasional small stones [618]. This may be just a hollow in the natural, but its very regular shape and proximity to [607] suggests that it may be the base of a posthole.

[609] was a narrow linear cut, measuring 800mm wide and c.300mm deep (Fig. 32). The fairly steep sides curved gently into a flat base. It was filled by a brown clayey silt [608] with c.30% small stones and gravel. Although the relationship was not clear [609] seemed to cut through a feature on its eastern side. This feature [623] was a narrow but well defined linear cut running nearly but not quite parallel to [609] (Fig. 32). The sides sloped at c.45 degrees into a narrow flat base. The cut was 600mm wide at the top, c.150mm wide at base and c.200mm deep. Its fill [622] was a brown clayey silt very similar to [608]. [623] might be an earlier phase of ditch [609], but it resembles [621], which the geophysics plot hints is a furrow.

[611] was a large, deep cut c.3.6m wide and 0.7m deep, with the north-western side sloping at c.45 degrees and the south-eastern side much steeper (Fig. 33). The base was fairly flat and the upper parts of the sides sloped much more gradually and seem to be rather disturbed and confused. The fill [610] was a dark brown silty loam with shale grit. It was fairly homogenous, quite loose and easy to dig, and similar to [606], so it is also assumed to be post-medieval in date. There was a grey gravel [627] in the base of the cut showing that it had been left open long enough for some erosion of the sides to occur. From what was seen in the trench it was unclear whether this feature was a large pit or part of a ditch. The geophysics plot shows a ditch (28) at this point. The excavated feature seems much wider than the geophysical anomaly, but this is mainly due to the erosion and disturbance of the upper edges of the feature.

[613] was a linear feature measuring c.1.4m wide at the top, 0.45m wide at the base, and 0.45m deep, with sides sloping at c.45 degrees into a flat base (Fig. 34). It was filled by [612], a mid brown clayey silt, below which yellowish and greyish loose sand, silt and gravel [626] slumped down the north-western side of the cut. The geophysics plot shows that this is part of the linear anomaly (29), previously seen in trench 3. [613] closely resembles [313] including the presence of gravel in the fill against the western side of the feature. This seems to confirm that [313] is part of (29) and that [319] is part of the circular feature (47).

The eastern side of [613] appears to cut a shallow linear feature [625]. This feature measured 1m wide and up to 0.25m deep and the sides sloped very gently into a rounded base (Figs 34 and 35). A hollow was found in the base of the cut and it is not clear if this was a burrow or the impression of a stake. The fill [624] was a mid brown clayey silt with c.5% small stones and some patches and lenses of yellowish sand. [625] seemed to have a slight curve in plan and may relate to a circular feature on geophysics plot (58). This is a very faint anomaly and no other trace of it was seen in the trench, so this cannot yet be firmly identified as a ring ditch.

[615] was a steep sided cut with a rounded base, measuring 830mm by more than 860mm and 500mm deep below the surface of the gravel (Fig. 36). It had a rounded southern end and fairly straight east and west sides. The compact, clean nature of fill [614], a brown silty clay with fine shale grit, which was very compact and hard to dig, and the steep sides suggest it might have been caused by an ice wedge. However, the cut did not taper down in the deep "V" typical of ice wedges. Close to it was another feature [617] even more convincing as a natural feature. [617] had steep sides with a pointed north-western end and was rather irregular in shape. The fill [616] was a firm brown silty clay containing only very occasional small stones and fine grit. It was very compact and hard to dig and contained very occasional charcoal flecks. The steep sides and compact fill again suggests that this was caused by an ice wedge or similar frost-formed feature.

Trench 7 (Figs 37 and 38)

Trench 7 was positioned to investigate a ring ditch revealed by the geophysics plot (44) (Fig. 3). This feature was clearly seen in excavation. The eastern arc of the ring [712] was 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep, with the sides sloping down at *c.* 45 degrees to a narrow base to give a broad “V”-shaped profile (Fig. 39). In comparison the western arc [710] was much broader, *c.* 3.2m wide and 0.54m deep (Fig. 40). The full width of the ditch at this side was not excavated but the base here seemed to be broad and flat, giving a wide U-shaped profile. In both arcs the fill was a brown, slightly gritty clayey silt ([709], [711]), with loose gravel as a primary erosion deposit ([715], [714]). The erosion proves that the ditch had been left open for a considerable length of time.

In the middle of the ring ditch was a narrow, deep cut [706]. The south-eastern side was well defined and sloped at *c.* 45 degrees (Fig. 40). The north-western side was poorly defined as it cut into very loose gravel. This side appeared to be vertical or even a little undercut. The feature was not investigated to the bottom, but it was over 0.6m deep and seemed to be heading sharply downwards, possibly into deep crevice. The fill [705] was a brown sandy clay, very hard in places. The hardness seemed to be due to concretion as in other patches the same deposit was soft. The concreted fill, vertical side and deep narrow profile suggests that it was formed by an ice wedge. [706] was cut by [712], so it clearly pre-dates the ring ditch. There were other more amorphous patches of concreted silt in the middle of the ring ditch which probably similarly the result of periglacial action.

[712] also cut through another feature, but this one did not appear to be natural. [717] was a shallow linear cut, 1.4m long, over 0.25m wide and 0.13m deep, with a rounded eastern terminus. It was filled by [716], a brown clayey silt with some sand and gravel. It is not possible at present to suggest the function of this slot.

[704] was a linear feature up to 0.8m wide and over 2m long. The edges appeared rather irregular, and it was not investigated. It was filled by [703], a brown clayey silt. Although it appeared rather natural and amorphous on the surface excavation may prove that this is a narrow ditch as the magnetic gradient data hints that it may be part of the same feature seen in trench 5 as [505].

There were two patches of brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones ([707] and [708]), which are probably just filling hollows in the natural, but might, on investigation, prove to be genuine features.

At the south-eastern end of the trench was a roughly triangular patch [718], measuring *c.* 800mm by 600mm, of pale brown sandy silty clay, with patches of darker brown and one small patch of reddish material. This was not investigated, and had the high clay content common to other features on the site that appear to be natural. Although the reddish material could be result of burning it is perhaps more likely to be due to mineral oxidisation.

It appears that the trench just failed to hit one of the pits on the pit alignment (40).

Trench 8 (Figs 41 and 42)

Trench 8 was positioned to investigate two of the more prominent linear anomalies on the geophysics plot, and these two ditches were clearly seen in excavation.

[805] was *c.* 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep. Its sides sloped gently to a wide flat base (Fig. 43). The upper fill [804] was a brown loamy clay, which was loose with much root disturbance and unlike fills of other (prehistoric) features. Below that was [813] a yellowish brown silt, clay, gravel and loam. This was a very mixed layer, probably caused by disturbance from roots and animal burrows. The primary fill was [814], a loose dark grey gravelly silt, again with heavy root disturbance. This feature is a field boundary ditch that, according to Owen (1986, 62), is shown on the enclosure map of 1790.

[807] was 1.4m wide and 0.56m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig. 44). The upper fill [806] was a friable, reddish brown loamy clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The primary fill [810] was a loose brown gravelly sandy silt. The fill was more compact, homogenous and slightly redder in colour than the fill of [805], and these two ditches are probably of very different dates.

[812] was a large sub-circular bowl shaped cut with gently sloping sides and a wide flat base, 300mm deep. It was filled by a brown gravelly sandy loam [811], and may have been just a hollow in the gravel. The geophysics plot does not show a pit-like feature here. Other pit like anomalies on the plot were not identified in the trench. This may be due to numerous patches of brown clayey silt [816] occurring over the trench. Sometimes these were paler and more clayey, and generally they are assumed to be the remnant of the relict soil horizon, though the patches were not investigated to check this.

Trench 9 (Figs 45 and 46)

In the western corner of the field the geophysics plot showed one or possibly two enclosures that appear to be different in character to the other linear anomalies. From the evidence on the plot one enclosure has been numbered anomaly (15) and another ditch, possibly forming part of an enclosure, is numbered (14). Trench 9 was positioned to investigate this area and it demonstrated that the anomalies may need some reinterpretation.

The trench was dominated by, what appeared to be, the corner of a substantial enclosure ditch. The southern arm of the ditch [909] was *c.* 2.7m wide and 1.3m deep with a steep V-shaped profile (Fig. 47). The sides became almost vertical at the base, which was flat. The ditch had numerous fills. The upper fills ([908], [914], [915]) were brown and loamy with varying proportions of gravel. These appear to be the result of fairly gradual infilling with soil. Stratigraphically below these and tipping down the south-eastern side was a lens of greyish brown silty sandy gravel [916]. This seemed to represent a period of erosion. The lower fills ([917], [918], [919]) were generally grey in colour and more gravelly, and represent more active erosion of the sides. The primary fill [920] was a soft dark brown silty gravel with no other inclusions, resulting from more gentle silting before the main phase of erosion.

The northern arm of the enclosure [913] was *c.* 2.7m wide and 1.3m deep (Fig. 48). Again the profile was V-shaped but the sides sloped more gradually than in [909], and the 'V' was much broader. The upper fills ([912] and [921]) were generally brown and loamy resulting from the gradual build up of soil in the partially infilled ditch. [921] produced 4 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to 120-350 AD (see appendix II), and fragments of charcoal.

The lower fills ([923], [924], 925]) were more gravely, representing active erosion of the ditch sides. The primary fill [926] was a loose, dark grey gravely silt.

Cuts [909] and [913] are assumed to be part of the same feature, although the narrow trench could not conclusively prove this. The excavated evidence, therefore, suggests that the enclosure is defined by anomalies (14.2), (14.5), (15.1) and (15.2), but not (15.3) and (15.4). (14.1) might represent the return of the ditch. The geophysics plot is quite confused at this point, with evidence of a gap between (14.2) and (15.2), which the excavation shows to be non-existent. Clearly more work would be necessary to adequately define the extent of this enclosure.

Elsewhere in the trench a possible linear feature [905] was revealed to be an irregular hollow in the natural, *c.* 0.1m deep, filled with brown clayey silt with occasional small stones [904]. Another possible linear feature [907] also filled by brown clayey silt [906] was not investigated, but could be a small ditch. Another possible ditch [911] was seen at the northern end of the trench, but also was not investigated.

Across the trench there were several patches of friable brown loamy sand with occasional gravel and pebbles [927], that is interpreted as remnants of the relict soil horizon.

Trench 10 (Figs 49 and 50)

Compared to the other trenches relatively little was found in trench 10, but it did provide an important insight into the geology of the site.

At the eastern end of the trench a linear feature [1013] crossed it. This was not clearly seen in plan but identified in section, where the gently sloping western side was identified. The feature was not excavated so its base was not exposed. [1013] is presumably part of the linear anomaly (20), even though this is shown slightly further west than the feature seen in the trench (Fig. 3). [1013] cut through a patch of red brown clayey silt with occasional small stones [1011], which was interpreted as remains of the relict soil horizon.

Towards the western end of the trench another ditch was seen. This feature [1005] was 0.9m wide and over 0.5m deep. In the section it was seen to have a fairly gentle western side and steeper eastern side, and was filled by brown clayey silt with occasional small stones [1008]. This feature was not further investigated so its base was not seen, but it can be identified with confidence as being the same as the geophysical anomaly (15.4). This ditch is very small compared to those in trench 9, so it is possible that the geophysical anomalies (15.3) and (15.4) are part of a different feature to (15.1) and (15.2). Their horizontal relationships do, however, suggest that these features are contemporary.

[1005] cut through various alluvial deposits. All the western end of the trench was covered by [1003], a friable brownish grey sandy silt, with little clay content, mixed with pea gravel. Beneath this were patches of soft, clean, grey-brown sand ([1006] and [1009]), which seemed to fill cut features ([1007] and [1010] respectively). However, the cleanness of the fill and the fact that these features were sealed under [1003], which was clearly of alluvial origin, strongly suggests that these were natural variations in the alluvial deposits and not genuine features.

A test pit was dug in the western end of the trench to investigate these alluvial deposits. This was 2.6m deep below the present ground surface and revealed below [1003] a series of horizontal layers [1004]. These were mostly composed of friable grey silt with low clay content, and varying proportions of sand and gravel. The limit of these alluvial deposits was defined by a fairly sharp dip [1015] in the natural fluvio-glacial gravels [1014]. This appeared to have been an eroded edge and may define a water-worn channel. It is possible that this is the edge of the ancient flood plain for the River Vyrnwy. The alluvial deposits were not seen in trench 9, so the channel edge must pass just to the north of trench 9 and presumably it left the field to the west of the barrow (geophysical anomaly 85), so only a small area against the north-western boundary of the field seems to contain these alluvial deposits.

Trench 11 (Figs 51 and 52)

The aim of trench 11 was to investigate the pit alignment, geophysical anomaly (40). It was successful in this, although the results were quite unexpected.

A number of features were identified along the alignment of the geophysical anomaly (40) including two roughly circular pits ([1109] and [1121]). [1109] measured 1.2m by c.1.5m and 0.4m deep, and its steep sides curved gradually into a flat base (Fig. 53). It was filled by [1108], a reddish brown clayey silt. There was little evidence of erosion, which suggests that the pit was not left open for long. There was no post pipe or packing evident, so there was no evidence that it was a posthole.

[1121] was less well defined as it was confused by feature [1113], however, it appeared to have a diameter of 0.76m and a depth of 0.36m deep (Fig. 54). It had steep sides and a rounded base and was filled by [1120], a brown clayey silt.

On its northern side [1109] cut through another feature [1117]. This relationship was clear as the gravely fill of [1117] could be seen in the side of [1109] (Fig. 55). [1117] was a sub-rectangular cut with a rounded northern end, measuring 1.5m long, 1.2m wide, and over 0.5m deep. The north-west quadrant was excavated and this showed that the upper edge was eroded to a gentle slope but lower down the sides were nearly vertical. In the top of the feature was a brown sandy silt [1116], over a layer of grey gravel [1118], with a red-brown sandy silt [1119] in the bottom.

Cut [1117] was not excavated to the bottom because of its similarity to another feature projecting from the southern baulk. This was cut [1111], which was 870mm wide and over 1m long (Fig. 56). The sides were near vertical and the fill was a brown sandy silt with some clay and c.20% small stones and gravel. At a depth of 0.4m fragments of human skull were found along with parts of a maxilla with teeth *in situ*. These were not cleaned up or exposed more than necessary to confirm that they were human. Excavation immediately stopped and the remains were covered with plastic sheeting and covered.

The Specification stated that the disturbance of human remains should be avoided. The remains in cut [1111] were therefore not disturbed any more than necessary and other features which resembled this grave cut were not excavated to the base so preventing disturbance of any potentially surviving remains or body shadows. Cut [1117] resembles [1111] in plan form and profile, especially the near vertical sides, so it was not fully excavated.

Another feature that resembled grave [1111] was [1113]. [1113] was a sub-rectangular cut with parallel long sides and rounded ends, measuring c.1.66m long, 0.8m wide and over 0.35m deep (Fig. 57). It too had vertical sides and was filled by a brown clayey silt with some fine gravel [1112], which was disturbed by animal burrowing. The excavation of this feature was also suspended before the bottom was reached.

Pit [1121] confused the northern end of [1113]. The fills of the two features were identical so it was impossible to prove the relationship between them, but they can be compared to [1109] and [1117]. If the two pits are contemporary and the two possible grave cuts are contemporary it suggests that [1121] cut [1113].

[1115] had straight, fairly parallel long sides and a rounded southern end, and measured over 1.14m long, 0.95m wide, and 0.26m deep (Fig. 58). Although considerable burrowing had damaged the sides, where these were well preserved they were steep or near vertical. The base was well defined and flat. The fill [1114] was a brown clayey silt, rather gritty, with occasional small stones. This feature was much shallower than [1111], [1117] and [1113], but otherwise resembles them in plan and in the steepness of the sides. There was no trace of human remains in the base, but this feature could have been a grave cut. However, more than the other features in trench 11 [1115] resembles the pits dug on other alignments by CPAT (Owen and Britnell 1989), so it may represent a more typical pit alignment pit. The excavation of [1115] indicated that not all sub-rectangular features in this area necessarily contain human burials.

Around the cut features were patches of a clayey silt [1122] with varying quantities of sand and gravel (from very little to c.50%). The features cut this layer which was up to 0.15m deep and varied in colour from brown to pale yellow-brown. This appears to be a relict B-horizon and was presumably the level from which the graves and pits were cut.

There were several patches of sediment which might prove to be features were identified but not investigated. Two of these ([1123] and [1124]) were composed of pale brown, slightly gritty silty clay, with reddish spots and some traces of charcoal. Similar patches were investigated in trench 6 ([615] and [617]), where they appeared to be periglacial features. It is suggested that [1123] and [1124] are also of natural, periglacial origin.

There were also two roughly circular patches of brown clayey silt ([1125] and [1126]), which might be cut features but could be isolated patches of [1122].

A poorly defined linear feature [1107] seemed to cross the northern end of the trench. As this matches the location of part of a large circular anomaly (52) this was investigated in some detail (Fig. 3). A section dug along the western baulk revealed a confusion of fills apparently dipping into a feature, but the edges were very difficult to define (Fig. 59). Eventually more consolidated deposits were reached which defined some sort of edge, but some of the fills continued into these edges. The base of the feature was very flat with a hollow against the section. A vein of purple sand ran through the natural in the base and southern side of the feature. A section was put through this feature further east and some kind of northern side was found but again the edges were not very convincing. The fills [1106] were varied and mixed including an upper fill of sandy clayey silt with c.10% stones, below which was a layer of very loose pea gravel with no matrix. In places this continued down to the base of the feature, elsewhere there is a grey brown silty gravel in the base. The pea gravel became thinner at the 'edges' of the feature but continue into the sides.

The flat base of [1107] suggests the interface of a natural horizontal layer, and the unconvincing sides suggest that this was not an anthropogenic feature. The pea gravel suggests that water was involved in its creation, washing silt out from the gravel. The general conclusion is that this is a natural feature, but it coincides exactly with the tentative circular anomaly on the geophysics plot (52), strongly implying that a natural periglacial feature such as an ice polygon was detected by the geophysics survey, rather than a large ring ditch as suggested in the geophysical survey report.

Trench 12 (Figs 60 and 61)

[1205] was a linear cut, 1.5m wide. It had a fairly gently sloping north-western side, and a steeper south-eastern side (Fig. 62). It was filled by [1204], a dark brown clayey silt, which was slightly darker than the fill of other features in the trench. [1205] was not fully excavated, only a shallow slot was dug against the section to establish the edges of the feature. This ditch is clearly the same as anomaly (30) on the geophysics plot (Fig. 3), and the dark fill suggests that it is post-medieval in date.

Immediately north-west of [1205] was another, smaller ditch, [1207]. This was *c.* 0.7m wide, and had sides sloping at *c.*45 degrees into a flat base (Fig. 62). It was filled by [1206], a brown clayey silt with little evidence of eroded gravel. This fill was not as dark as [1204] and appeared to be earlier in date, although there were no finds to prove this. Organic matter tends to breakdown and leach from soil over time, so the paler, more compact fills across the site are assumed to be older than the loose, darker ones.

Between [1205] and [1207] was a fairly straight steep edge [1226], only the north side of which was seen. This was filled by red-brown clayey silt [1225] very similar to [1222], and it is possible that this feature was just a natural hollow filled by relict soil.

[1209] was a shallow elongated pit or the terminal of a ditch. Its north-western side sloped gently but was well defined, and most of south-eastern side seems to have been lost due to erosion of gravel (Fig. 63). The base was flat and it was filled by [1208], a brown clayey silt with small stones and gravel concentrated against the sides and base of the cut.

[1211] was an oval pit measuring 0.9m by 1.0m (Fig. 64). It is currently very shallow, only 0.2m deep, but presumably it has been severely truncated. The sides were vertical sides, and they curved sharply into the flat base. The fill was a brown clayey silt [1210] with no trace of gravel from erosion of the sides. This pit is a little to the south-east of the short pit alignment shown on the geophysics plot (41), and no pit was recognised on this line.

[1213] was a linear cut 0.7m wide, with fairly straight and parallel sides, and a brown clayey silt fill [1212]. This feature was not investigated but seems to have been a ditch. In terms of its position and orientation it may be associated with the pit alignment, anomaly (41).

[1215] was a circular cut, 260mm in diameter, filled by a dark brown loam [1214]. It was not excavated, but may be a posthole. Another similar feature [1224] was found just to the north-west of [1215]. This was *c.*0.4m in diameter and filled by a very loose dark brown gritty loam [1223]. The looseness of fill suggests it may be quite modern. These two circular features may be related. [1224] cut through the fill of ditch [1213].

[1217] was a linear cut 0.32m wide with straight, parallel sides in plan but it seemed to fade away at the north-eastern end. It was filled by [1216], a brown clayey silt, and may be a narrow slot or furrow.

Most of these features cut through a layer of red-brown clayey silt containing occasional small stones [1222]. This layer was *c.* 0.15m deep and probably represents surviving patches of the relict B-horizon.

Just north-west of the limit of [1222] was a complex of deposits. [1219] appeared to be a curvilinear cut, forming an arc, which seemed to join into another similar arc [1221]. Both were filled by pale brown silty clay with mainly shale gravel ([1218], 1220). In places the fill was very hard and appeared concreted. It also contained patches of reddish material and occasional pieces of charcoal. In the gravel near the features were patches of iron oxide staining. A narrow slot was excavated through [1219] next to the section (Fig. 65). The south-eastern side was fairly well defined, but the north-western side was difficult to establish as the fill extended beneath a patch of brown silt, which in plan appeared to be outside the cut. The features were not fully investigated, but the fill resembles that of [615] and [617], which are probably of periglacial origin. The uncertain edges also suggest a natural origin for these features, although the neat arcs and the presence of charcoal suggest that they may be worth further investigation.

At the very north-western end of the trench was a linear cut [1229] (Fig. 66). This was not fully excavated, but the eastern side was seen and it sloped at *c.* 45 degrees and was well defined. The upper fill was a brown clayey silt with few stones [1228] and below this was a deposit of fine grey gravel [1227]. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.4m but bottom not reached and the western side was not located. If this ditch is indicated on the geophysics plot (Fig. 3) it may be part of a faint circle (51) and could be part of a ring ditch. The opposite arc of the ring ditch should also pass through the trench but it was not recognised. The anomaly on the plan coincides with part of feature [1219], but this is not convincing as a ring ditch. Ditch [1213] may be related to the anomaly, although it seems to be much too far to the south-east. It is possible that the layer [1222] obscures this part of the ring ditch. There was a well defined north-western edge to this layer, which may actually be the edge of a feature.

There was no sign of the possible large circular anomaly (52) in trench 12.

Trench 13 (Figs 67 and 68)

At the north-western end of trench 13 was a deep cut [1305] 1.16m wide and 0.65m deep (Fig. 69). It ran diagonally across the width of the trench but terminated just before the section with a narrow rounded terminus. The north-western side of the feature was unclear in plan. The steep sides tapered to narrow base giving a V-shaped profile. The cut was filled by red-brown clayey silt [1304], with a primary fill of loose grey gravel [1321] indicating that it had been left open long enough for erosion of the sides to occur. In the trench [1305] appeared to be the terminus of a linear feature, but on the geophysics plot it coincides exactly with an elongated pit on the pit alignment (40), so it can be assumed that [1305] is a pit. It may not be an original component of the pit alignment as it is also part of a sinuous row of elongated pits shown on the geophysics plot (84). These have the look of graves, but no human remains were detected in [1305], and its V-shaped profile is not typical of grave cuts.

There were two sub-rectangular features with roughly the same orientation. [1307] measured *c.* 2.7m long, *c.* 1m wide, and 0.34m deep with straight long sides and rounded ends, although the western end was badly disturbed by burrowing (Fig. 70). The sides sloped at *c.* 45 degrees to a rounded base and the cut was filled by brown clayey silt [1306] with some gravel slumping against the sides.

[1311] was also a sub-rectangular cut measuring *c.* 1.4m long, 0.6m wide and 0.27m deep, with sides sloping at *c.* 45 degrees and a flat base (Fig. 71). It was filled by brown clayey silt [1310]. The sides were very difficult to see as the natural here was very soft, loose and easily mistaken for erosion fill.

At the north-western end of [1311] was an oval pit [1309]. It measured 1.14m by *c.* 1m, and was filled by brown clayey silt with some gravel at edges from erosion of the sides. [1309] was only dug to depth of 0.15m to establish sides, and its relationship to [1311] was not established, although one feature must have cut the other.

South-east of [1311] and just cut by it was [1312], a pale brown gritty silty clay. This was very compact except where disturbed by burrowing and had reddish patches. In plan it formed a rough arc but seemed to be too irregular to be convincing as a feature, and it was probably natural. It was not investigated. However, the geophysics plot does show a pit-like anomaly at this location. Other amorphous patches of similar pale brown silty clay [1316] were found a little further south-east, which are probably the result of the same process. The presence of these makes [1312] look even more natural, and they are probably related to periglacial conditions.

[1314] was a ditch 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep with fairly straight, parallel sides (Fig. 72). This turned north-westwards at the northern end to create an obtuse corner. The sides sloped fairly gently into a flat base. The fill was a brown clayey silt containing very few stones or gravel [1313], with a primary fill of very loose grey gravel [1323], which had built up in the base and up the sides of the cut, showing that it had been open and exposed to considerable erosion. This may be the corner of the linear anomaly (22) where it turns, possibly to join (32) (Fig. 3).

There was a narrow linear feature [1325] to the south-eastern side of [1314], running roughly parallel to it. [1325] was 0.3m wide and filled by brown clayey silt [1324]. It was not investigated, but may be a narrow gully or furrow.

[1315] was a broad clayey patch up to 1.7m wide with rather irregular edges in plan. The deposit was a pale brown silty clay with very few stones. It resembled other clayey deposits on site which seemed to be of a natural origin, and it was not investigated, but it may account for part of the large circular geophysics anomaly (52).

There were several odd patches which might be features, but which were not investigated. [1318] was a linear feature 0.43m wide, filled with brown silty clay with occasional gravel [1317]. However, it was more clayey than most genuine features and could be natural. [1319] was a small patch of red brown clayey silt c.0.8m in diameter. [1320] was a similar small patch of brown clayey silt c.0.7m wide. These might be features but more probably were just patches of relict soil.

7 Discussion

Geophysics plot

The subsoil conditions respond well to geophysical survey and the plot provided a detailed image of the site far superior to what is usually available before excavation. While the evaluation allowed the anomalies on the plot to be checked and characterised, that plot allowed interpretation of the dug features that would be impossible from the evidence in the trenches alone. The combination of the two methods, therefore, give a good general understanding of the site.

The two methods do not however, always correspond perfectly. Some geophysical anomalies such as (12) were not seen in the evaluation trenches and some features not indicated on the plot were revealed in the trenches. The largest example of the latter case is pit [607]. However, when the two plans from the different sources were overlaid accurately it was possible to relate most of the dug features to some anomaly in the geophysical data, even if it meant reinterpreting the original data plots.

Anomaly (26) provides an example of what slight traces the geophysics may be detecting. Where this crossed trench 5 there was nothing more than a very slight hollow in the natural, which was dismissed as insignificant on excavation. However, overlaying the plans demonstrated that this was probably the truncated remains of the ditch, and that the geophysics had been more reliable at identifying a badly damaged feature than the evaluation trench.

The largest discrepancy lay with faint anomalies represented on the interpretative geophysics plan with dashed lines. Occasionally, as with layer [320] in the north-western end of trench 3, they might be explained as patches of relict soil, most showed no corresponding features in the trenches at all, and do not seem to represent real features. Anomalies indicated with solid grey lines did sometimes correspond with features in the trenches. Although not certain, [625] may relate to the circular anomaly (58), and the large circular anomaly (52) may be represented in trenches 11 and 13 by [1107] and [1315], both of which are at present interpreted as natural.

Linear ditches

Ditches are the most common feature type in the evaluation trenches and they can be divided into categories by their fill and profiles. Some of these categories may indicate chronological or functional differences.

Post medieval field boundaries

Some of the ditches were filled with darker, less consolidated fill than the majority of features on the site. This category includes [805] in trench 8, [611] in trench 6 and [1205] in trench 12. Although not indicated on the interpretation plan, the magnetic gradient data strongly suggests that [611] and [1205] are parts of the same ditch, anomaly (28). Although not very clear the data also indicates that this ditch joins with the geophysical feature (18), on which [805] lies, to form a right angled corner. This forms the boundary to a field, probably of fairly recent date. Owen (1989b) states that (18) is shown on a map of 1790, so this field would appear to be of post-medieval date. This date is further confirmed by the find of a large post-medieval pot sherd in pit [607]. [607] is located only 4m from [611] and has a similar dark, loose fill, so it is possible to suggest that these features are roughly contemporary.

Substantial earlier field boundaries

[205] is broader than many of the ditches on site, but has a brown clayey silt fill like most of the earlier features. The geophysics survey shows that [205] is part of the same linear anomaly (17) as [807], even though the latter has a well defined V-shaped profile compared to [205] which has a broad U-shape. Profile alone can therefore not be taken to prove which features are contemporary.

[313] and [613] do have very similar profiles and the geophysics plot suggest that they are part of the same ditch (29). [207] is also quite similar, although it is narrower, perhaps because it has been more severely truncated. Ditch (29) could be associated with either (17) or (13), but is more nearly perpendicular to (13) than to (17). This and the similarities of the profiles of (29) and (13) could suggest that these ditches are contemporary and of a different phase to (17). Linear anomaly (20), seen in trench 10 as [1013], is nearly parallel to (17) and may be part of the same phase of field boundaries. (26) runs nearly perpendicular to (17) and may be part of the same system. This is probably represented in trench 6 as [609]. (22) may also be part of this system, but it is less perpendicular to (17) and with (24) may belong to another phase of field boundaries. [1314] appears to be a corner of a junction on ditch (22).

It is noticeable that all the phases of field boundaries, even the one existing in the 18th century, are on broadly similar alignments, roughly parallel to Offa's Dyke. Without further dating evidence it is not possible to say whether the Dyke has influenced subsequent alignments or whether some of the field boundaries are earlier than the Dyke and demonstrate that the Dyke followed a pre-existing orientation in the landscape.

Gullies and furrows

Three ditches have narrow gullies or furrows running beside them, all on the south-eastern side. In some cases the ditch seems to cut the gully. These pairings can be seen in trench 13 with [1314] and [1325], trench 6 with [609] and [623], and [613] and [625]. This may indicate contemporaneity between the ditches, but the function of the gullies is not clear. They may be earlier versions of the larger ditches or related to their laying out. [621] may be a furrow as it is not close to a ditch, and there is some hint in the geophysics data that there are other linear anomalies parallel to it. [625] is roughly parallel to [621], but there is a slight possibility that [625] is not a furrow but part of a small ring ditch shown as (58) on the geophysics plot.

[605] lines up quite closely with the linear anomaly (23), which appears on the geophysical plot to be a field boundary, although it is hard to assign it to a phase.

Of the other ditches discovered there are two in trench 5 ([505] and [511]), which do not seem to follow the general alignment, although [505] may be on a faint linear running between ring ditches (45) and (43), which might also include [704]. In trench 12 [1213] and [1207] are also difficult to account for, although [1207] might be a precursor of [1205].

Large enclosure ditches

Geophysical anomalies (14) and (15) appeared to form two enclosures in the western part of the field that were of a different character than the other field boundary ditches. Excavation in trench 9 clearly demonstrated their different character. Trench 9 seems to have uncovered the junction between (14) and (15) and showed them to be deep, steep sided ditches far too large to be field boundaries, but sufficient to provide a defensive function. Such ditches might surround a settlement site, and some pottery and charcoal, possibly from the occupation of the internal area, was found in the fill of [909], although only towards the top. These finds suggest that the ditches are of Romano-British date. Although it can be suggested that (15.1) and (15.2) are part of this large enclosure it seems less likely that (15.3) and (15.4) are anything other than field boundaries, although probably contemporary with the enclosure. (15.4) was not excavated in trench 10, but enough of it could be seen in the section to prove that it was not one of the big V-shaped enclosure ditches. It would appear that any occupation might be restricted to a small area west of (15.2) and north of (14).

Ring ditches

The geophysical plot hinted at several circular features which showed up more or less clearly in the data. Excavation has shown that some of these are ring ditches. Anomaly (44) was definitely confirmed as a ring ditch ([710] and [712]). Although not tested by the evaluation (43) is also clearly defined on the geophysics plot. Although less certain (46) may be represented by [307] and [311] in trench 3. However, no curve was noticed on either of these ditches, so the circular anomaly might be an illusion created by the proximity of several features.

Anomaly (51) appeared to be a large ring ditch. One side might be represented by [1229], but the opposite arc was not identified. However, it is possible that it was obscured by the presence of the relict soil layer, and might be found in the middle of trench 12.

Anomaly (47) appeared to be an even larger ring ditch and this was clearly seen in trench 4. Here [405] showed it to be a substantial V-shaped ditch, but the slot in the base of the ditch raises the possibility that this feature is not a traditional ring ditch. The slot might have supported a palisade, but there was no firm proof of this. Where (47) cut through trench 3 it seems to have been represented by [319], but this did not have a slot like [405] and was on a much smaller scale. However, (44) as revealed in trench 7 shows that genuine ring ditches can vary in width and profile from one side to another.

Pit alignments

CPAT have carried out small excavations at three sites along pit alignments around Four Crosses (Owen and Britnell 1989). The pits they excavated were oval or sub-rectangular in plan, about 0.7m deep from the surface of the gravel, *c.* 2-2.5m long and 1.5-2m wide, and separated from each other by a causeway of the same length. At the present site the pits were either circular or sub-rectangular, varying in size from 0.76m diameter to nearly 2m long and in depth from 0.36 to over 0.4m. However, the smallest pits at CPAT's site 11 were closely comparable in size and shape to the sub-rectangular features on the present site in trench 11. Features falling directly on the alignment were divided into two types; circular pits and sub-rectangular features. Due to the discovery of human remains in the bottom of one of the latter the sub-rectangular features could be interpreted as graves, but there is no firm evidence that they all contained burials.

Three circular pits were excavated ([513], [1109], [1121]). [513] contained charcoal and burnt bone, but the others produced no finds. Charcoal from one of the fills of [513] was dated to cal BC 385 to 115 (2200+/-50 BP, Beta-181726) (see appendix V). If it is assumed that pit [513] was an original part of the pit alignment this feature can, therefore, be dated to the late Iron Age. The coherence of the system of pit alignments in the Four Crosses area suggests that they are all roughly contemporary. The pit alignment presumably predates most of the field boundary ditches, which seem to be related to the large enclosure ditches, dated to the Romano-British period. However, further investigation is necessary to confirm these assumptions.

The potential grave cuts were only seen in trench 11, so it is not known how far along the alignment they continue or whether they are restricted only to the alignment. Although the circular pits are assumed to be the original components of the alignment, one of them, pit [1109] clearly cut one of the possible graves [1117], and [1121] may also post date [1113]. This raises the question of how the alignment was originally defined and why the different classes of feature, belonging to different stratigraphic phases, occur on exactly the same alignment. If the known burial is confirmed to be of late Iron Age date it is of considerable importance, as relatively few burials of this period have been excavated.. If any of the other sub-rectangular features also prove to be burials their importance will be significant.

What appeared to be an elongated pit was also located on the alignment in trench 13, [1305], but this may not actually belong to the pit alignment and its position is largely fortuitous. [305] is also on the alignment, and although it is not as circular as the other pits it may be related.

The pit alignments are all parallel but aligned at *c.* 45 degrees to the alignment of the field boundaries. This strongly suggests that they belong to a different phase of activity. The main alignment, geophysical anomaly (40) is so close to the position and orientation of the

alignment seen in the aerial photographs north of Cae Hen Farm (PRN 38101) that it must be part of the same feature.

Relict soil horizon and randomly distributed pit-like anomalies

In most trenches there was a layer below the ploughsoil and above the natural gravel that the features cut through. It was generally fragmentary, probably restricted to hollows in the natural that had preserved it below the level of the ploughing. Where the pit alignment was revealed in both trench 5 and trench 11 this layer survived around the pits, and may account for the shadow on the geophysical plot. Detailed analysis by Martin and Anne Roseveare of ArchaeoPhysica demonstrated that this layer gave a distinct magnetic susceptibility response typical of a buried soil horizon (appendix VI).

This layer has been interpreted as a relict soil horizon. Its leached, non-organic appearance suggests that it is a B-horizon, which developed on the gravel substrate. The A-horizon must have been lost in antiquity to ploughing and bioturbation. At only 0.15m deep this layer is the very base of a soil profile that could have been of a considerable depth, but where it is present it suggests that erosion has not removed more than about 0.3 to 0.4m of deposits.

As most features cut this deposit it was not removed during the excavation, but it is possible that it obscures further features, either because they have fills indistinguishable from the soil horizon, or because they are actually sealed by it. These possibilities should be explored if further excavation is to be carried out on the site.

The many randomly distributed pit-like anomalies shown on the geophysical plot were generally not seen in the evaluation trenches. It is possible that some of these anomalies are caused by thicker patches of the relict soil, giving a stronger magnetic response.

The effects of weathering on open trenches often reveal features not seen when the sediments were freshly exposed. However, the trenches in the present evaluation were open for three weeks, and weathering caused features to be obscured rather than revealed.

Natural features

A distinct category of features appeared in the evaluation. These all had a particularly clayey fill, often concreted or very hard at least when dry. The fill also contained patches of red colouration and some charcoal. In trench 6 ([615] and [617]), in trench 7 [706], and partially in trench 12 [1219] these features were excavated. In all cases the edges proved difficult to find. [706] resembled a fairly typical ice wedge cast, and the other features had characteristics suggestive of a similar origin. The fluvio-glacial gravel would have been highly susceptible to frost action under periglacial conditions, and it is not surprising to find features resulting from this process. The large, roughly circular anomaly (52) may be the largest example in this category, and could be a small ice polygon. Some of the anomalies detected by the geophysical survey can be accounted for by natural features.

Artefactual and dating evidence

Only a very small number of finds were recovered, even when those from the topsoil and ploughsoil are included. This seems unusual considering the amount of activity on the site. However, few finds would be expected from field boundaries of any period. In the 1984 excavations one pit on site 2 contained 53 Beaker sherds but otherwise only a very small number of pot sherds and flints were found. Site 3 produced only a single abraded sherd (Warrilow et al 1986, 72, 73, 74). Only the possibility of Romano-British period occupation activity in the western corner of the site might be expected to produce many artefacts. Further excavation might reveal individual features containing finds but it is likely that on the majority of the site finds will be rare.

No water logged deposits were discovered and seem unlikely considering the well draining gravel subsoil. Pit [513] was rich in charcoal, but apart from a small amount in the upper fill of ditch [913] no deposits seen contained more than very occasional flecks. As the presence of charcoal is related to the use of a feature rather than general preservation factors it is impossible to predict from the evaluation how many charcoal rich deposits might be found.

Some fragments of bone were seen to be preserved in the graves at site 2 excavated in 1984 (Owen 1986a, 61), and the present evaluation has further demonstrated the possibility of bone surviving despite the acid, free draining subsoil. Even where bone did not survive in the 1984 excavations body shadows were sometimes found, so any graves on site may contain some information on the burial within. The burnt bone in pit [513] might have originated from a cremation, and the possible presence of these features should also be considered.

In conclusion, finds and environmental evidence are likely to be rare over most of the site, although some individual features might be rich in either. Burials, potentially containing inhumations in varying states of preservation, are to be expected and cremations are possible.

8 Conclusions

The evaluation was not intended to investigate extensively every feature revealed in the trenches. Nevertheless, it allowed the assessment and characterisation of most types of anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. Few finds were recovered to aid the dating of the features but radiocarbon dating of a charcoal sample provided a late Iron Age date for the pit alignment, a monument class which was previously undated in the area. It is probable that the burial located on the pit alignment in trench 11 is also late Iron Age and of considerable national importance in clarifying the poorly understood burial traditions of this period. The large enclosure ditches in the western part of the site have also been dated to at least the Romano-British period by the pottery evidence. As the ring ditches have previously been dated to the Early Bronze Age by the 1984 excavations it can be demonstrated that there are at least three separate periods of activity on the site. Of the field boundaries some might be contemporary with the Romano-British activity, and two seem to be post-medieval. There are some stratigraphic relationships between the features, which in a wider excavation might provide a basis for more detailed phasing of the site.

The evaluation has also demonstrated that bone can survive on the site and that graves can appear in unexpected places. The relationship of all the many features on the site to Offa's Dyke would also be well worth exploring. For any future site work the general absence of

artefactual evidence places a great importance on close attention to stratigraphic relationships, best understood in open area excavation, and on scientific dating techniques.

The evaluation has confirmed what was known from aerial photographs and from the geophysical survey that there is a wide variety of archaeology. At each stage of study from the aerial photographs, through the 1984 excavations to the geophysical survey and the evaluation considerable new data not available from the previous stages have been added to our knowledge of the site. The evaluation has made it clear that there is a great deal more information and more unexpected surprises that can be obtained from the site.

However, the evaluation has also confirmed that not all the geophysical anomalies are archaeological features as some were of natural origin. Features near the summit of the gravel ridge have been heavily truncated, and the good drainage of the gravel soils has reduced the potential for environmental evidence as waterlogged deposits are highly unlikely to be present. Artefacts are generally rare on site, although isolated deposits might be found that are rich in artefacts and limited environmental evidence in the form of charred plant remains.

Perhaps the greatest value of this site derives from its location within a fairly well recorded landscape. This one field contains good examples of all the major landscape features of the Four Crosses ancient landscape. A good understanding of the features within this field would therefore contribute considerably to the understanding of the landscape as a whole.

9 Sources

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10 The archive

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to the appropriate repositories. The paper archive will be held by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and the finds will be sent to the Powys Land Museum, Welshpool. The Marches Archaeology site code is FC03A.

The archive consists of:

225	context index sheet		
13	trench sheets		
2	drawing index sheets		
48	field drawings on 20 sheets		
1	sheet of levels for sections		
1	sheet level traverse notes		
2	sheets survey notes		
1	sheet site diary		
9	finds sheets		
1	sheet sample index		
2	sample recording sheets		
4	films of black and white photographic negatives		
4	films of colour photographic transparencies		
1	box of finds:		
	Context 202	1 pot sherd	C16th-17th
		1 small bottle	modern
	Context 515	burnt bone fragments	Iron Age Cal BC 385 to 115
	Context 606	1 pot sherd	C15th-16th
	Context 702	1 pot sherd	C16th-17th
	Context 915	slag	Romano-British?
	Context 921	4 pot sherds	Romano-British (120-350 AD)
		2 pieces burnt, non-local stone	Romano-British
	Context 1102	1 pot sherd	post-medieval
		1 nail	post-medieval
	Context 1201	1 pot sherd	medieval
	Context 1202	1 pot sherd	post-medieval
		1 nail	post-medieval
		pieces of 1 animal bone	post-medieval

Appendix I

List of contexts

Appendix II

Romano-British pottery by Jeremy Evans

Context 921

1 BB1 jar shoulder sherd dated 120-350 AD

3 sherds from Severn Valley ware, constricted neck jar with hooked rim. Dated to 1st to 4th century AD. The fabric is similar to Warwickshire Museum fabric 023.

The overall date for the context appears to be 120-350 AD

Appendix III

Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

All the pottery is from a local source and includes post-medieval fine, unglazed redware and medieval fine sandy redware.

Context 202	1 sherd	55g	Midlands purple type jar?	C16th-17th
Context 606	1 sherd	60g	Midlands purple late redware	C15th-16th
Context 702	1 sherd	11g	Unglazed redware	C16th-17th
Context 1102	1 sherd	3g		Post-medieval
Context 1201	1 sherd	2g		Medieval
Context 1202	1 sherd	6g		Post-medieval

Appendix IV

FOUR CROSSES, POWYS, FG 03A: CHARCOAL

Rowena Gale, Folly Cottage, Chute Cadley, Andover, Hants SP11 9EB
Honorary Research Associate, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Visiting Research Fellow of the Dept. of Archaeology, University of Reading
30th July 2003

Introduction

Two samples of charcoal were examined to identify to species and to select suitable material for dating.

Methods

The charcoal was mostly firm and well preserved. The samples were prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). The anatomical structures were examined using a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications up to x400 and matched to reference slides of modern wood. The identified material was weighed and recorded.

Results

Sample 5, context 515: willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), roundwood, diameter 15mm, 4g
elm (*Ulmus* sp.), <1g

oak (*Quercus* sp.), sapwood, 1g
ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), 1g
cf. pine (*Pinus* sp.), <1g, (owing to the poor condition of this charcoal it was not possible to rule out Spruce (*Picea*) or larch (*Larix*) – both of which are non-native taxa)

(oak (*Quercus* sp.), heartwood, <1g, – not recommended for dating)

Sample 7, context 921: elder (*Sambucus* sp.), roundwood, diameter c. 20mm, 1g

blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), <1g
ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), <1g
willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), <1g
hazel (*Corylus avellana*), <1g
gorse (*Ulex* sp.) or broom (*Cytisus* sp.), <1g

oak (*Quercus* sp.), sapwood, <1g

References

Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000 *Plants in Archaeology*, Westbury and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Appendix V

Radiocarbon dating by Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, USA

Appendix VI

Notes Concerning Magnetic Susceptibility Results From Domgay Lane, Four Crosses by Martin Roseveare

Anne and Martin Roseveare of ArchaeoPhysica conducted a detailed survey of selected trenches and features using a small, hand-held magnetic susceptibility meter in order to understand what the general geophysical survey was detecting and to provide additional information on certain deposits.

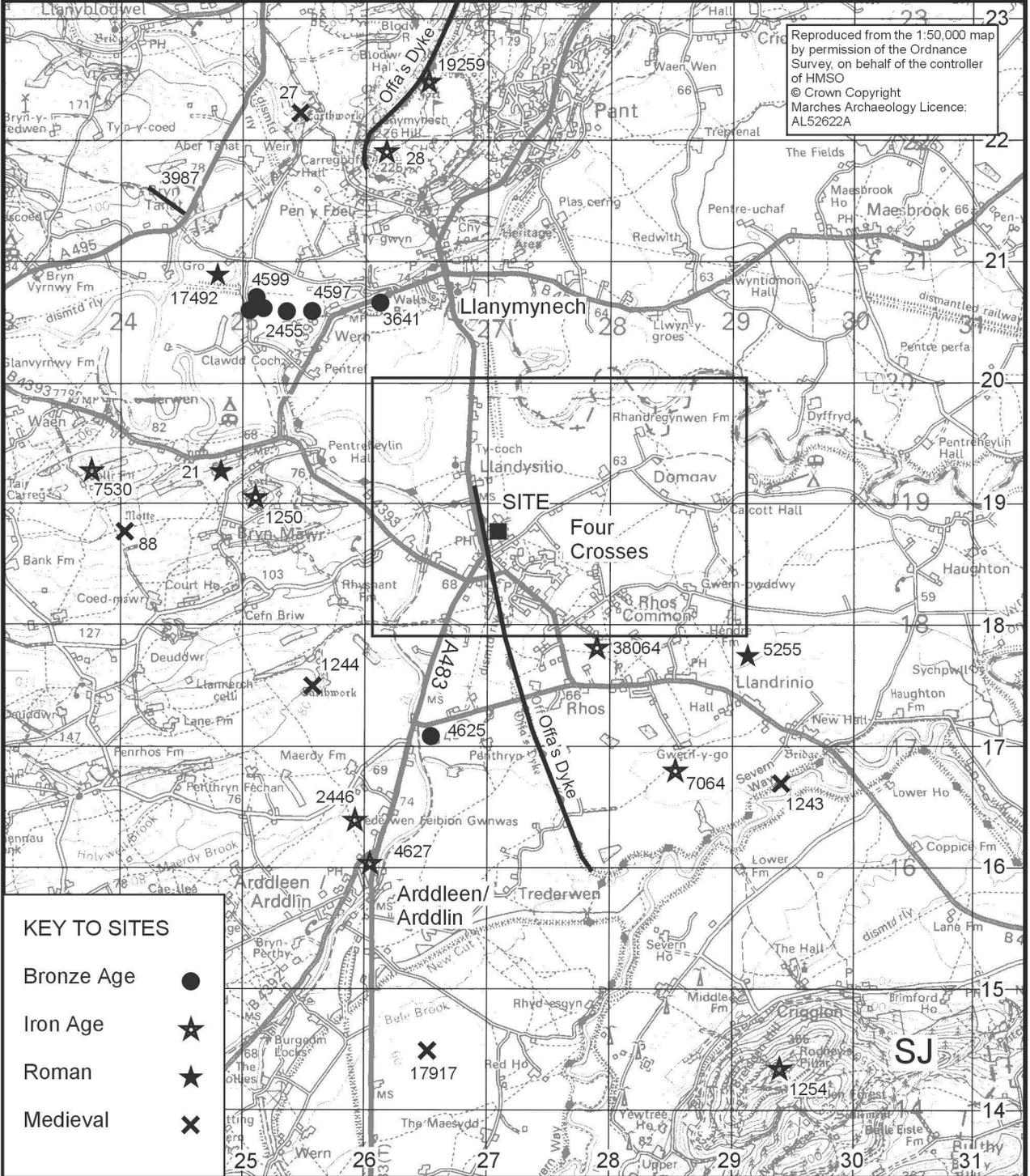


Fig. 1: Location of current site and nearby SMR sites (for area in box see Fig. 4)



Fig. 3: Location of evaluation trenches and geophysical anomalies

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AL52622A

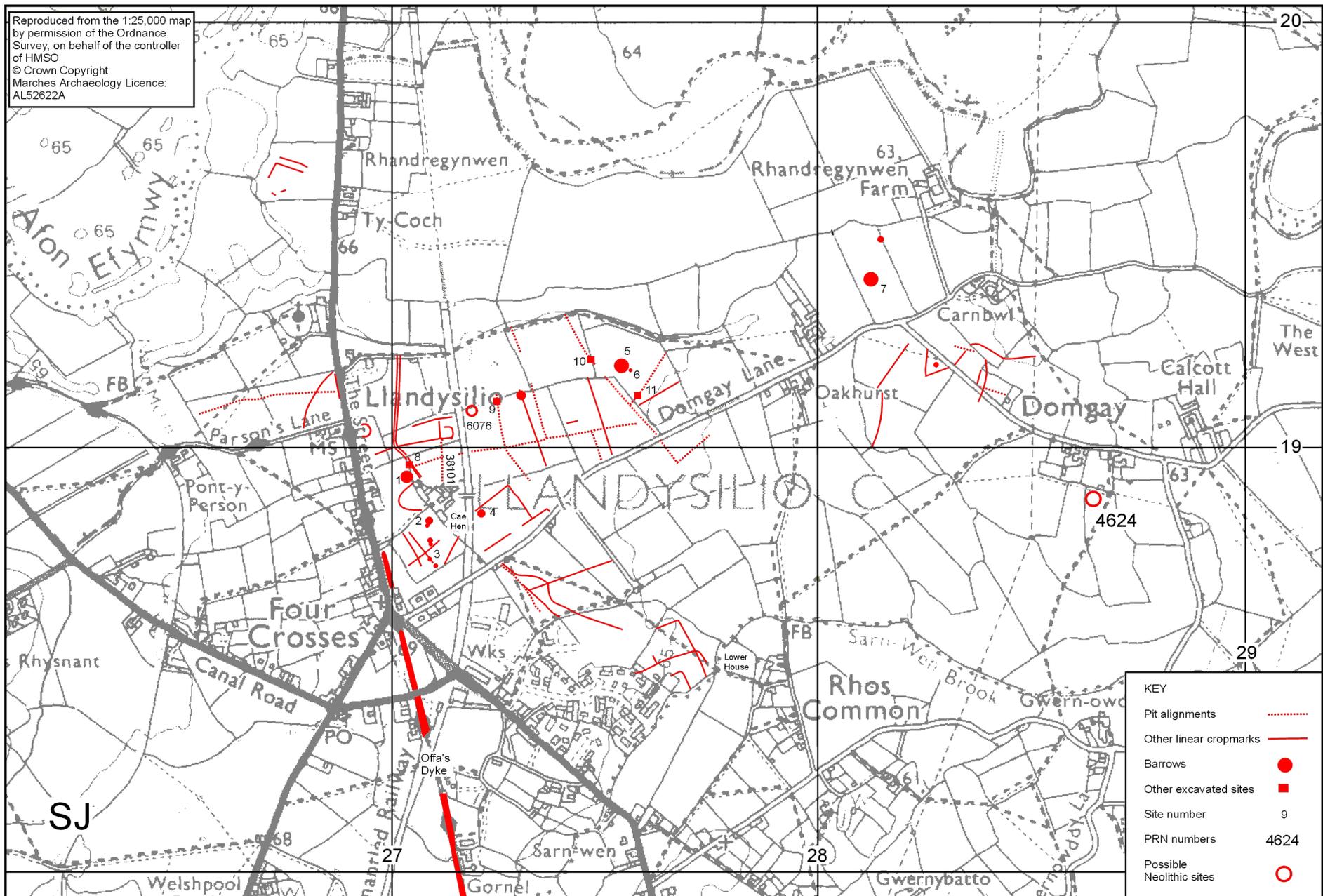


Fig. 4: Four Crosses relic landscape and barrow cemetery (based on Owen and Britnell 1989, more sites not shown are recorded on the SMR)

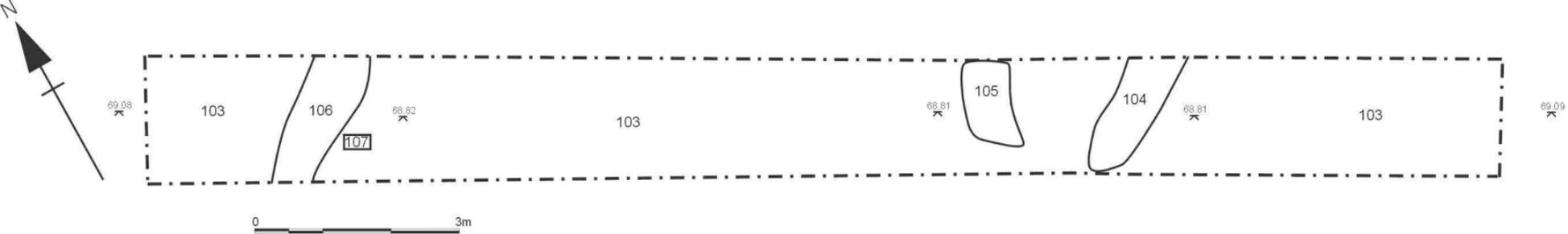


Fig. 5: Plan of trench 1

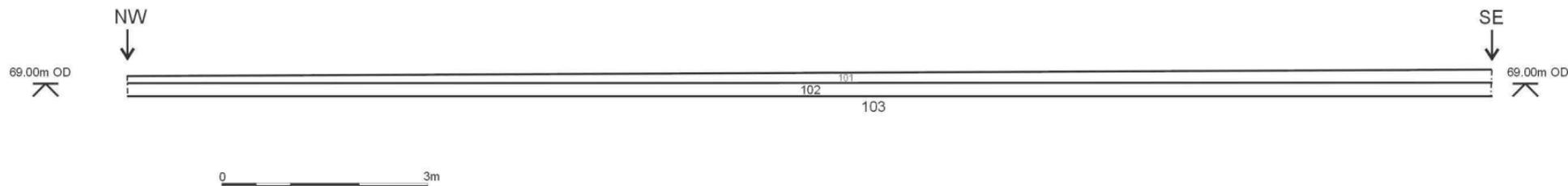


Fig. 6: South-east facing section of trench 1

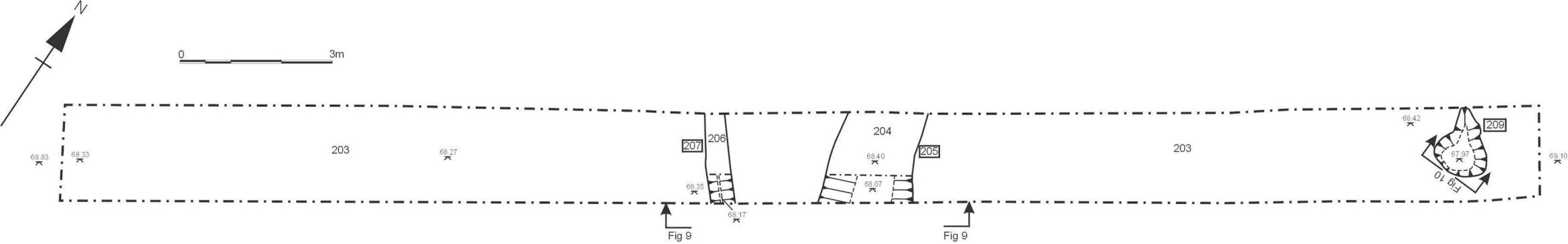


Fig. 7: Plan of trench 2

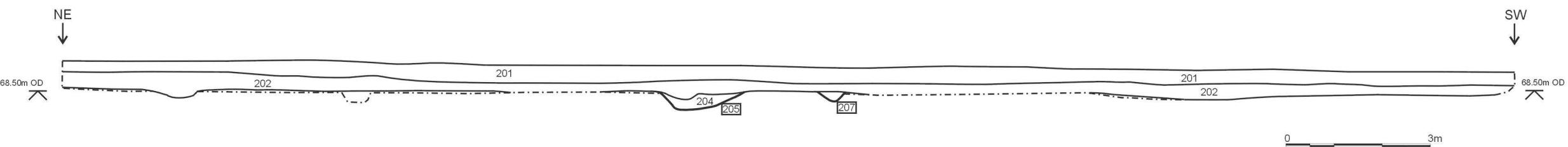


Fig. 8: North-west facing section of trench 2

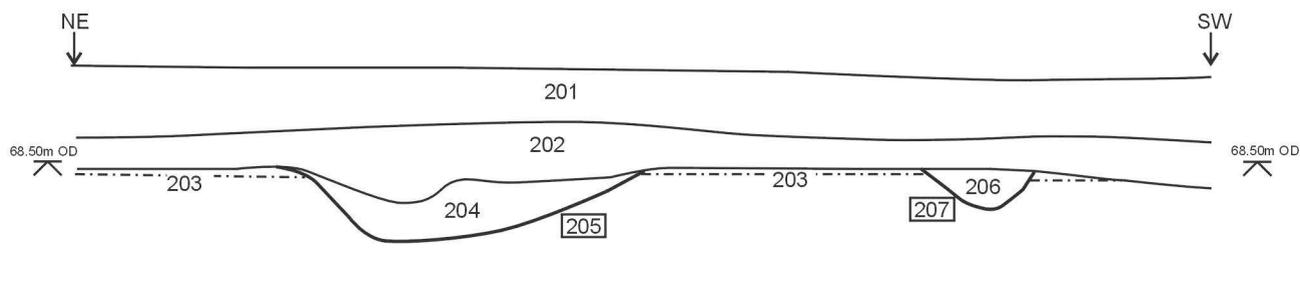


Fig. 9: Detail of north-west facing section through cuts [205] and [207]

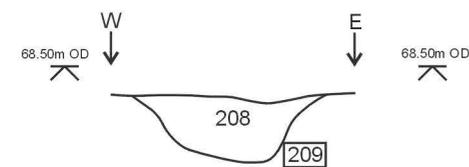


Fig. 10: South facing section of [209]

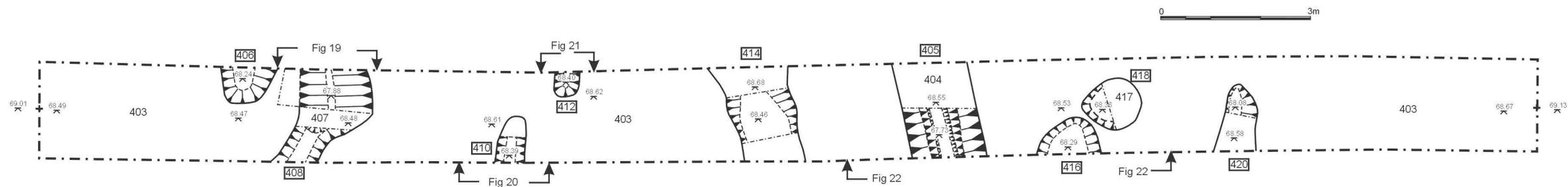


Fig. 17: Plan of trench 4

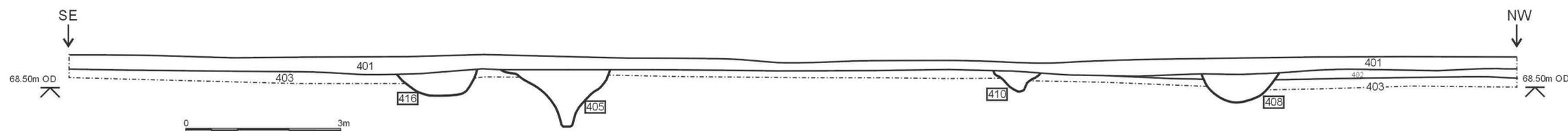


Fig. 18: North-east facing section of trench 4

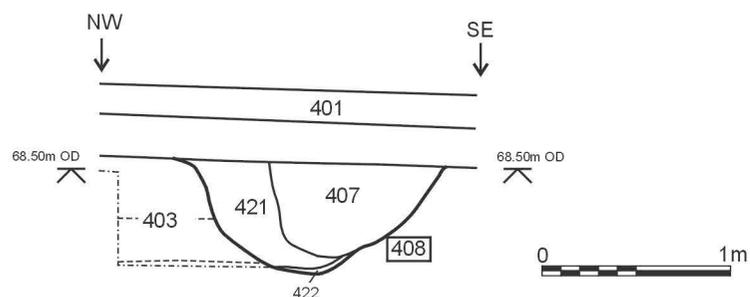


Fig. 19: South-west facing section of [408]

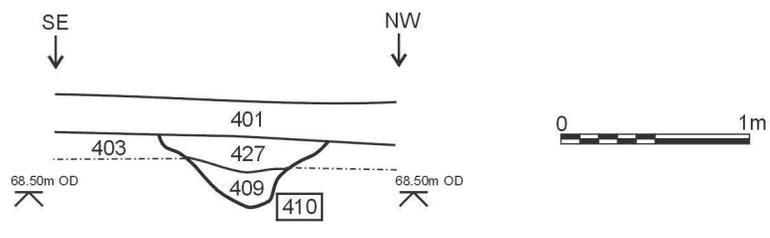


Fig. 20: North-east facing section of [410]

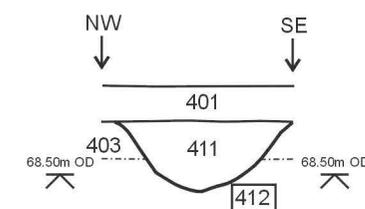


Fig. 21: South-west facing section of [412]

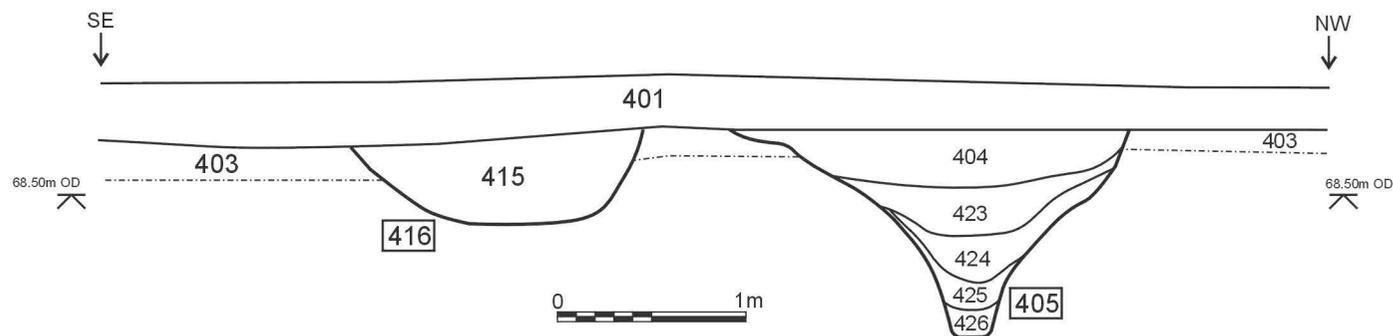


Fig. 22: North-east facing section of [405] and [416]

+142
+125

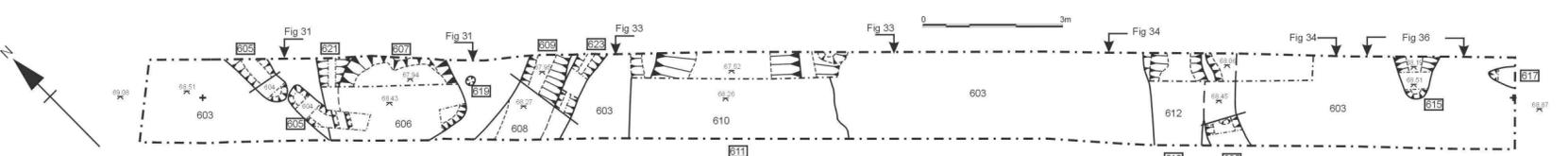


Fig. 28: Plan of trench 6

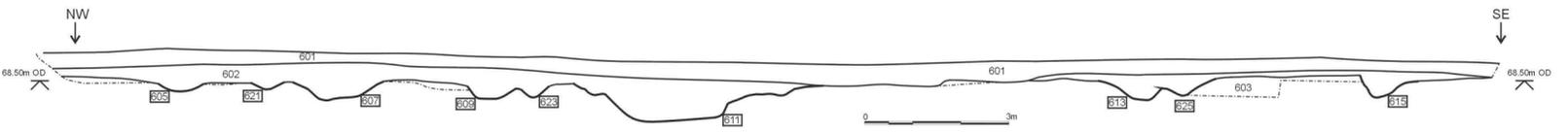


Fig. 29: South-west facing section of trench 6

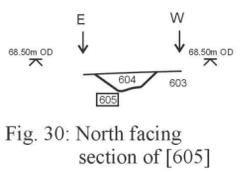


Fig. 30: North facing section of [605]

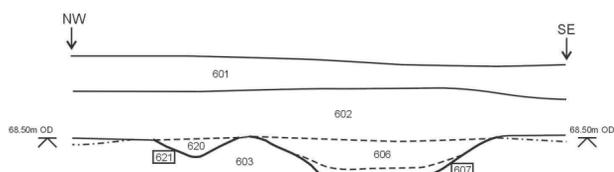


Fig. 31: South-west facing section of [607] and [621]

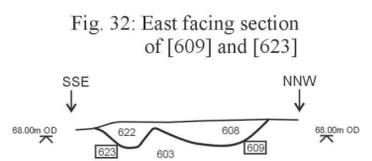


Fig. 32: East facing section of [609] and [623]

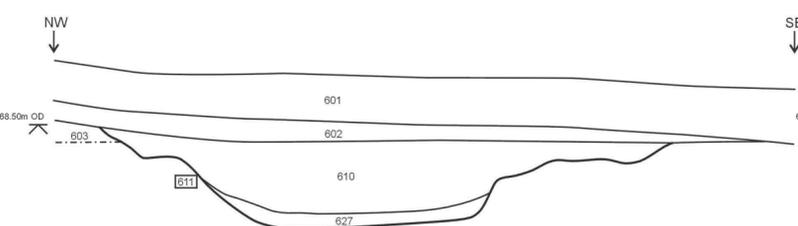


Fig. 33: South-west facing section of [611]

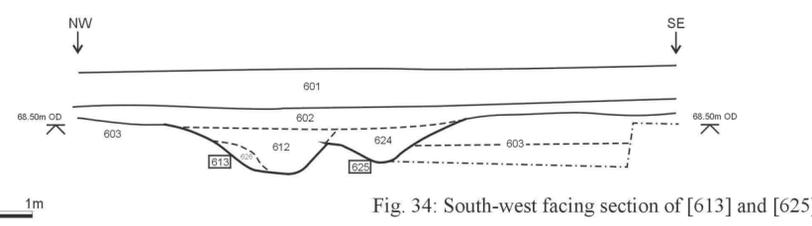


Fig. 34: South-west facing section of [613] and [625]

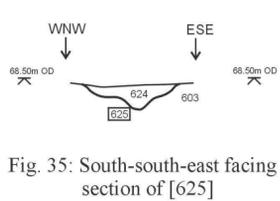


Fig. 35: South-south-east facing section of [625]

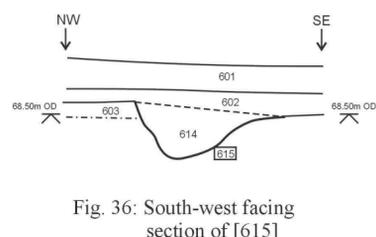


Fig. 36: South-west facing section of [615]

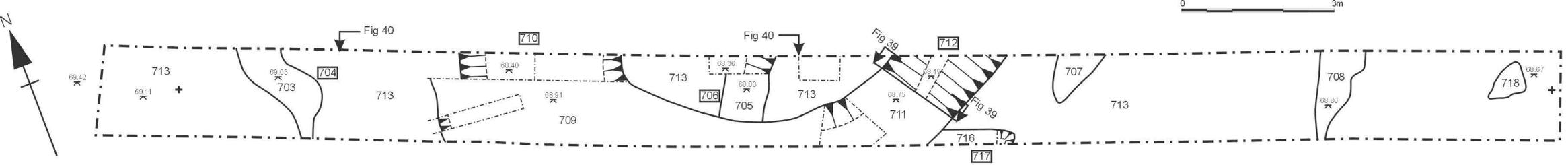


Fig. 37: Plan of trench 7

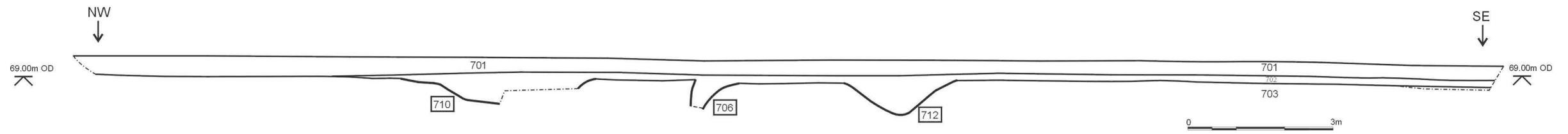


Fig. 38: South-west facing section of trench 7

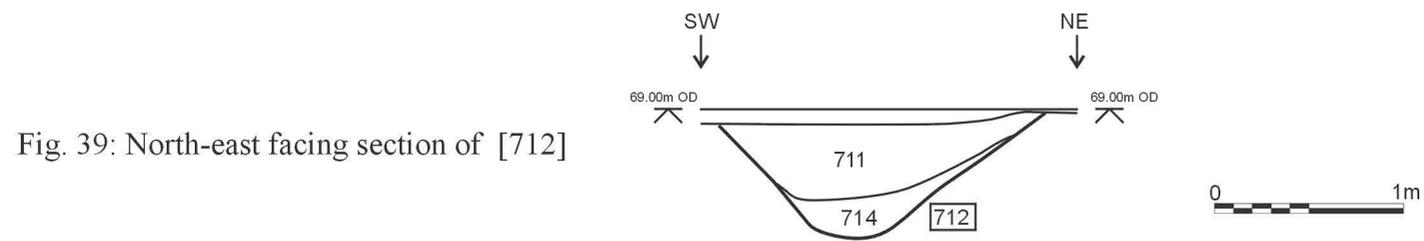


Fig. 39: North-east facing section of [712]

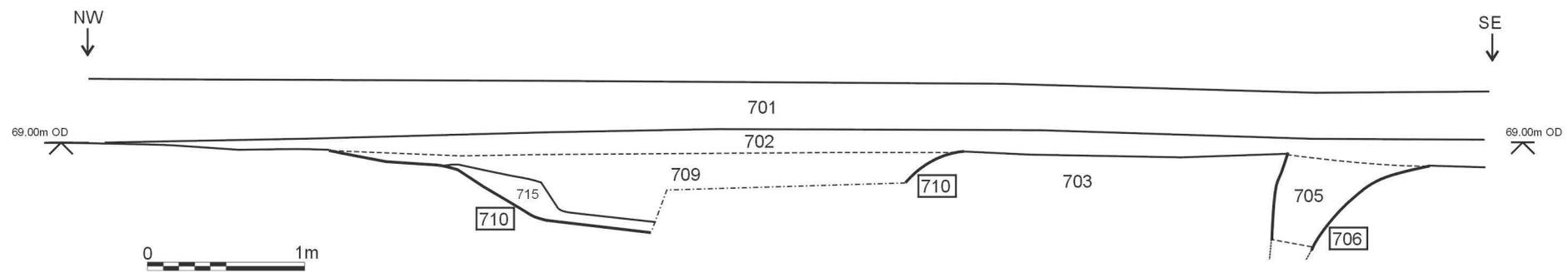


Fig. 40: South-west facing sections of [710] and [706]

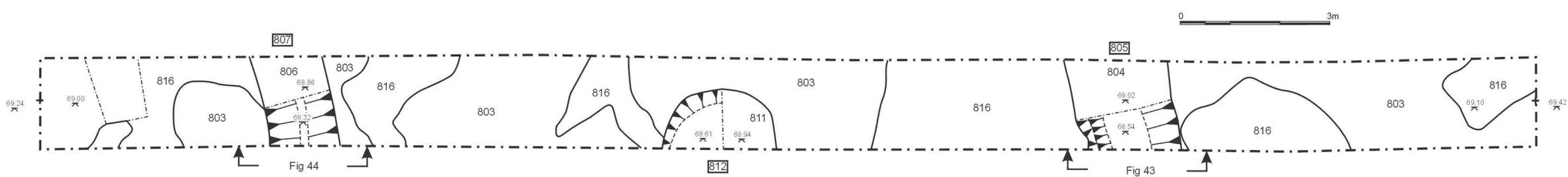


Fig. 41: Plan of trench 8

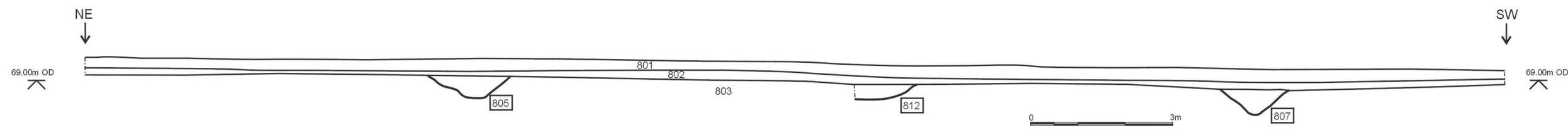


Fig. 42: North-west facing section of trench 8

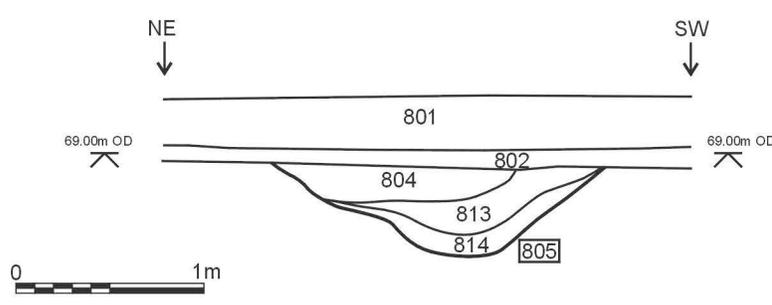


Fig. 43: Detail of north-west facing section of [805]

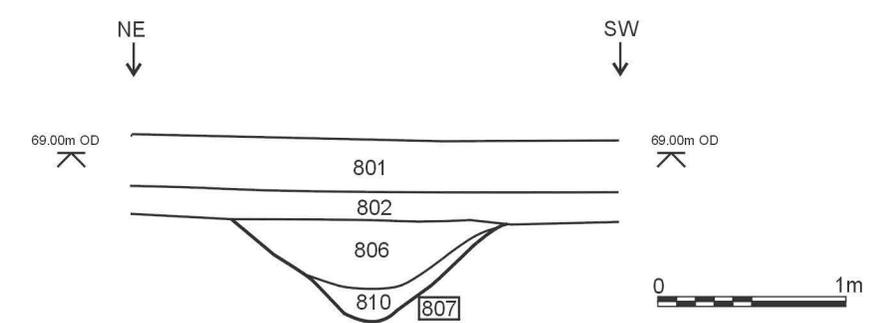


Fig. 44: Detail of north-west facing section of [807]

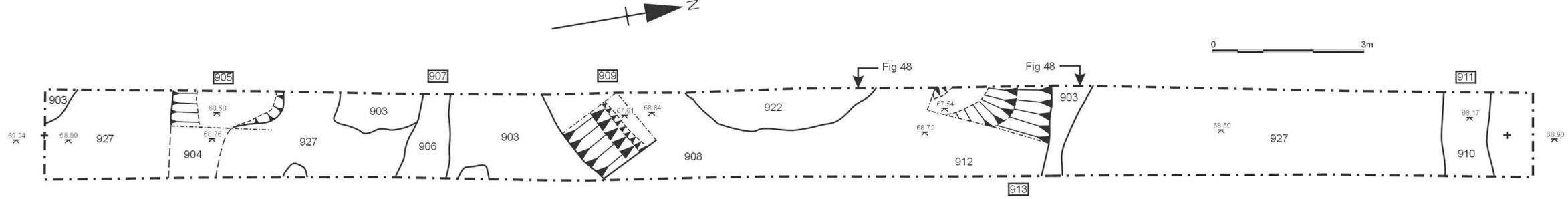


Fig. 45: Plan of trench 9

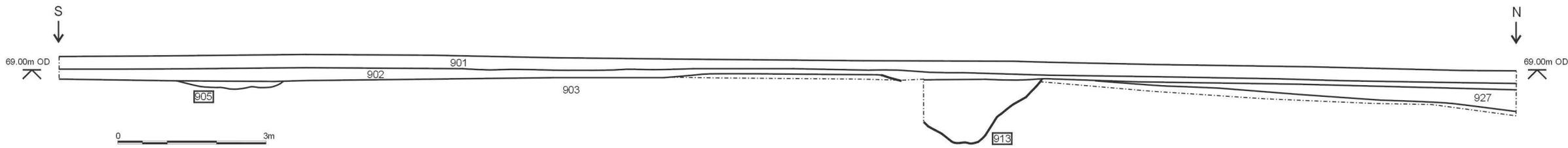


Fig. 46: East facing section of trench 9

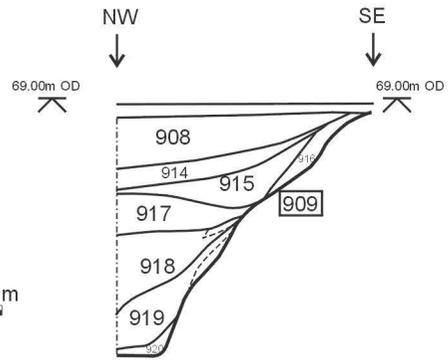


Fig. 47: South-west facing section of [909]

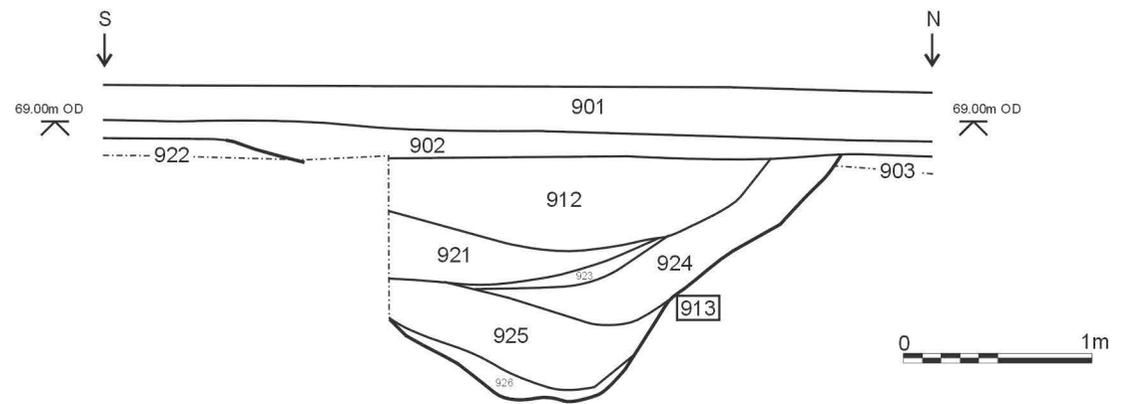


Fig. 48: East facing section of [913]

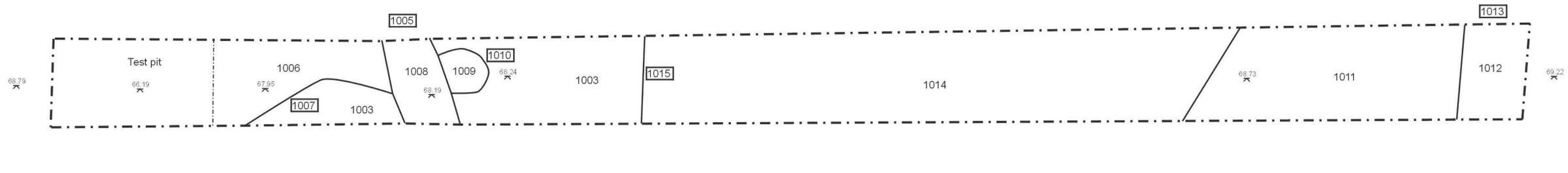


Fig. 49: Plan of trench 10

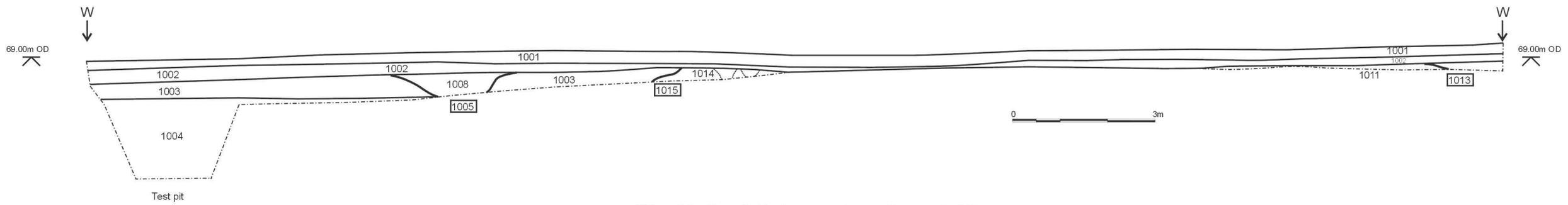


Fig. 50: South facing section of trench 10

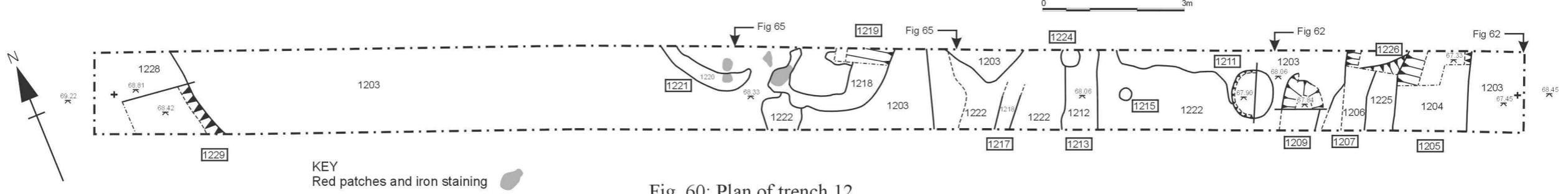


Fig. 60: Plan of trench 12

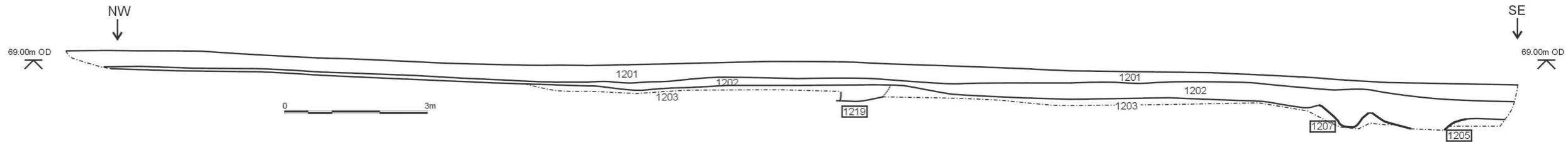


Fig. 61: South-west facing section of trench 12

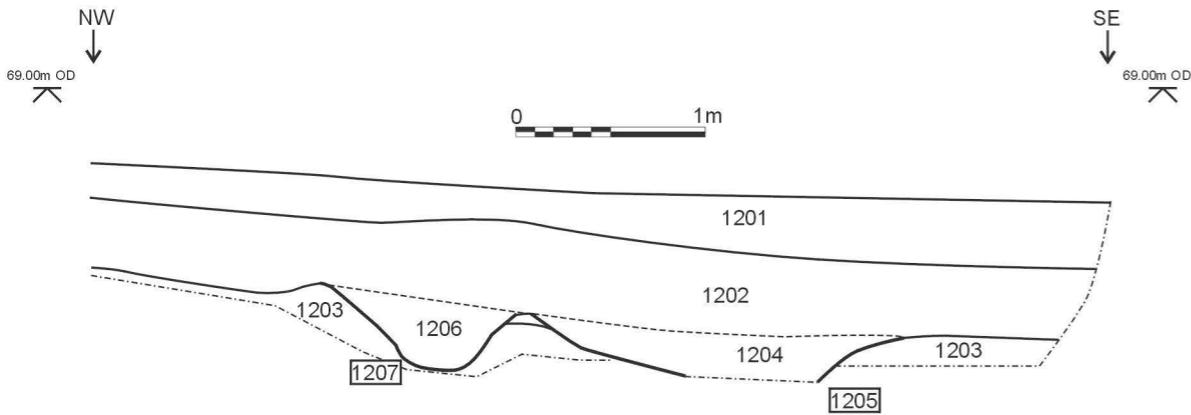


Fig. 62: South-west facing sections of [1205] and [1207]

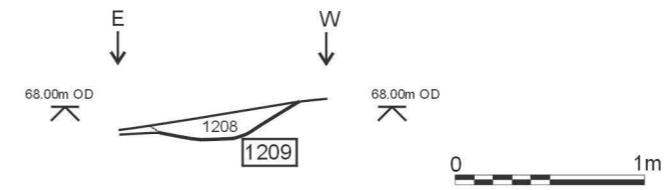


Fig. 63: North-east facing section of [1209]

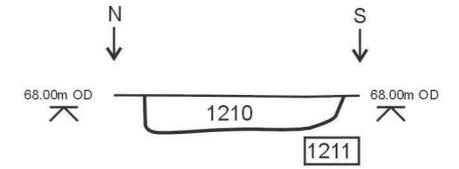


Fig. 64: West facing section of [1211]

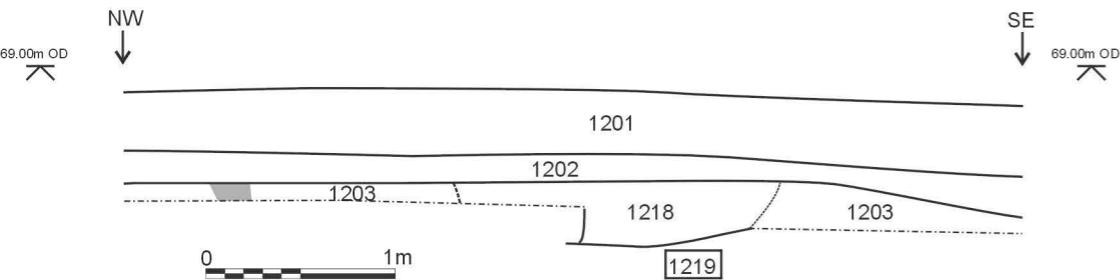


Fig. 65: South-west facing section of [1219]

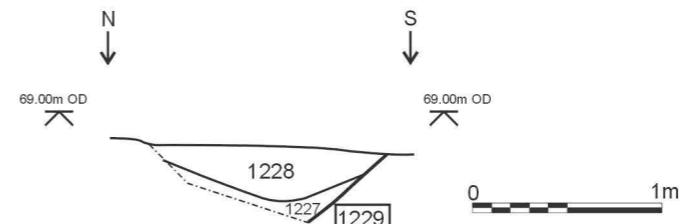


Fig. 66: South facing section of [1229]

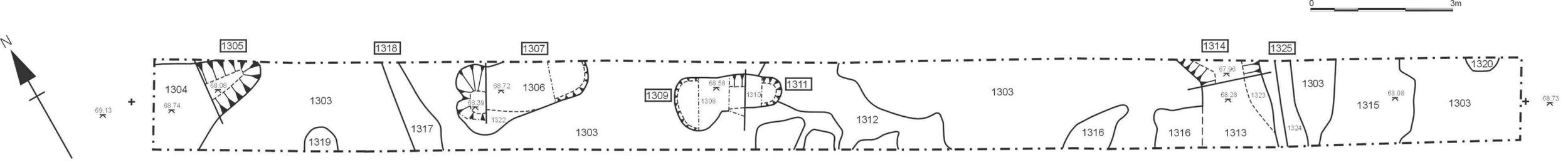


Fig. 67: Plan of trench 13

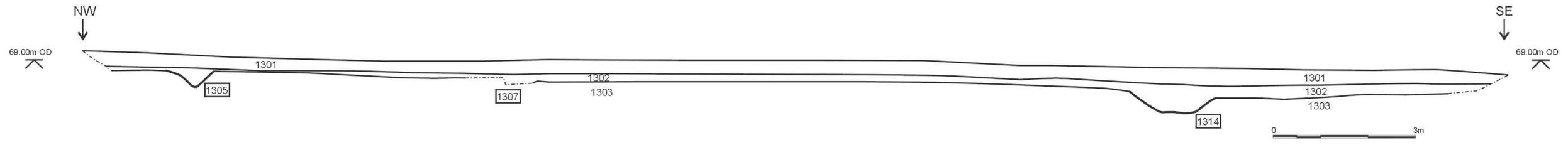


Fig. 68: South-west facing section of trench 13

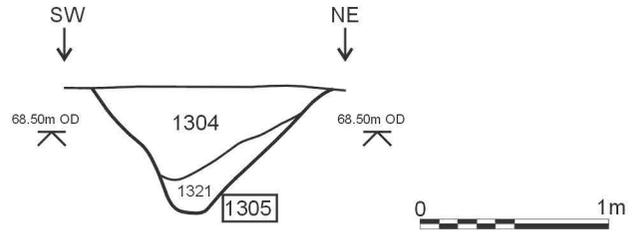


Fig. 69: East facing section of [1305]

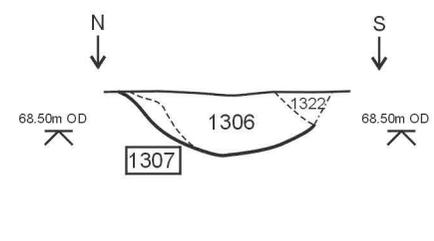


Fig. 70: West facing section of [1307]

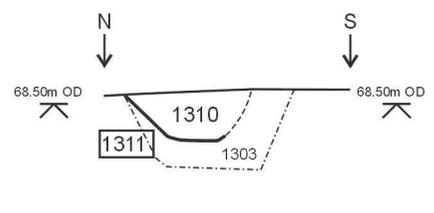


Fig. 71: West facing section of [1311]

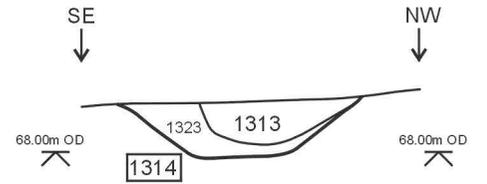


Fig. 72: North facing section of [1314]

Land off Domgay Lane, Four Crosses

List of Contexts

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
101	T1	Dark brown loam, relatively few stones.	Top soil	0.12m thick		102
102	T1	Brown clayey silt, up to 20% pebbles and gravel	Old plough soil	0.2m thick max.	101	104, 105, 106
103	T1	Gravel with patches of brown silt on the surface.	Natural gravel		104, 105, 107	
104	T1	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Possible feature		102	103
105	T1	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Possible feature, but rather irregular so may just be a patch of relic soil.		102	103
106	T1	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Fill of 107		102	107
107	T1	Linear cut, not investigated.	Possible ditch		106	103
201	T2	Grey-brown friable gritty loam with occasional stones.	Top soil	280mm thick		202
202	T2	Orange-brown clayey silt, occasional pebbles and stones.	Old plough soil	200mm thick	201	204, 206, 208
203	T2	Brown clayey silt containing up to 30% small stones and gravel. Varies in colour from strong to pale brown. Covers all trench except small patches where underlying gravel pokes through.	Probable old soil horizon over surface of gravel. It is likely that this deposit obscures other features.		205, 207	210
204	T2	Mid brown friable loam with a content of clay - loam has leached. Occasional stone inclusion - stones are small. Fill of 205.	Fill of ditch [205]		202	205
205	T2	Linear feature. The break of slope at the top is sharp. The sides are not vertical. The north-east side roughly drops at 45 degrees, whilst the south-west is more curved and gradual. The break of slope at the bottom is shallow, more gradual. The base is flat though falls more towards the north-east.	Linear feature - ditch, probably once denoting a field boundary.	1.7m wide x 0.3m deep	204	203
206	T2	Reddish brown clay loam - few stones. The loam has leached.	Fill of linear feature [207]		202	207
207	T2	Linear cut. Sharp break of slope at the top. Sides fall at around 45 degrees, ending together at a shallow 'U' or 'V'	Linear feature - ditch	0.4m wide x 0.18m deep.	206	203

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		shape - more 'V' shaped than 'U'.				
208	T2	Grey brown silt with a high content of pebbles and sub-rectangular stones. The stones and pebbles are less than 30mm in diameter. The fill was less compact than the gravel layer that [209] cut.	Fill of [209]		202	209
209	T2	When initially uncovered the feature appeared to be sub-circular in plan. The feature was 1/2 on the north-east side. The ½ section revealed nice sides sloping towards the middle. However, the south-west half of the feature is less sub-circular. The feature appears to have a channel running from the sub-circular part of the feature towards south-west.	The ½ section of the feature suggested that the feature was man-made. The subsequent excavation of the complete feature suggests that it is not man-made as the shape seems wrong. The shape of the feature may suggest that it was constructed by an animal and may once have been a fox hole etc.	1.4m x 1.34m x 0.37m deep	208	203
210	T2	Dark grey silty gravel, with 80% gravel	Natural gravel		203	
301	T3	Dark grey loam with c.5% small stones.	Top soil	220mm deep		302
302	T3	Brown clayey silt, slightly gritty, occasional small stones.	Old plough soil.	200mm deep	301	304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320
303	T3	Yellowish silty gravel, no large or medium stones.	Natural gravel		305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 320	
304	T3	Red brown clayey silt with c.5% small stones and gravel. Lens of gravel visible in section in fill. Fairly compact. Some root disturbance.	Fill of [305]		302	305
305	T3	Narrow linear cut with rounded southern terminal. Sides c.45 degrees, base rounded. Becomes shallower with more gradual sides at terminal. Also slightly broader towards terminal.	Ditch terminal?	Max. 800mm wide, 260mm deep	304	303
306	T3	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. Some root disturbance.	Fill of [307]		302	307
307	T3	Narrow linear cut. Steep sides curving into flat base. Sides	Small ditch	720mm wide x	306	303

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		quite parallel and regular.		300mm deep		
308	T3	Brown clayey silt, rather gritty containing c. 5% small stones. Root disturbance.	Fill of [309]		302	309
309	T3	Small circular cut. Well defined with steep sides and rounded base. Presumably heavily truncated.	Very base of post hole	320mm diam x 100mm deep	308	303
310	T3	Brown clayey silt, rather gritty. Contains c. 5% small stones. becomes v. clayey and hard against w. side of feature. Root disturbance. Upper interface v. diffuse.	Fill of [311]		302	311
311	T3	Linear cut. Sides c. 45 degrees, curving gradually into flat base. Sides straight and regular. E. side slightly over dug during excavation due to difficulty in identifying slumped gravel from in situ natural.	Ditch. May relate to ring ditch [GP46]	1.15m wide x 0.33m deep	310	303
312	T3	Brown clayey silt containing c.10% small stones and gravel, most concentrated in lenses or along sides and base. Considerable root disturbance. Diffuse upper interface. Relatively little slumping of gravel into cut.	Fill of [313]		302	313
313	T3	Linear cut. Steep, well defined sides. Narrow, rounded base. W. side appears straight in plan but E. side seems to narrow in towards S. Real shape in plan somewhat uncertain. Relationship to [319] cannot be established in this trench as they do not overlap sufficiently.	Ditch - presumably relates to either [GP47] or [29]. If [GP29] crosses over [47] just N.E. of T3, as suggested on the plot, then [313] is part of [G47], though it does not resemble the slot cut through this feature in [T4]	740mm wide x c.400mm deep	312	303
314	T3	Loose brown silt with crumb structure. Contains c.20% small stones and gravel.	Fill of [315]		302	315
315	T3	Narrow, v. shallow linear feature. Sides steep, base flat. Obviously very truncated. Very straight and regular in plan so seems to be genuine feature.	Remains of gully. Possibly agricultural mark.	320mm wide x max 40mm deep	314	303
316	T3	Brown, clayey silt with c. 5% small stones. Considerable root disturbance.	Fill of [317]		302	317
317	T3	Circular cut situated on E. side of [311]. The 2 cuts are too close, with their sides just overlapping for them to be contemporary but there isn't enough overlap for the relationship to be demonstrated. [317] has fairly gently sloping sides and narrow, rounded base. Presumably heavily truncated.	Base of post hole?	600mm diam x 170mm deep	316	303
318	T3	Brown, clayey silt, rather gritty with c. 5% small stones. Little evidence of erosion of cut edges. Considerable root	Fill of [319]		302	319

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		disturbance.				
319	T3	Linear cut. Steep sides curving into rounded base. Relationship to [313] unclear.	Ditch. May be part of either [GP47] or [29]. More similar to the part of [47] in T4 than [313] is.	950mm wide x c.500mm deep	318	303
320	T3	Brown, clayey silt. Very little sand content. Occasional small pebbles. Appears in patch at W. end of T3.	Essentially continuation down of [302] but more compact, no surviving crumb structure. Less sand than [302]. Could be remains of old B-horizon.	up to 200mm thick	302	303
401	T4		Top soil			402
402	T4	Reddish brown sandy silt	Old plough soil		401	404, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 418, 419, 428
403	T4		Natural gravel		405, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420	
404	T4	Firm reddish brown silty sand - few gravel inclusions	Upper fill of [405] below topsoil.		401	423
405	T4	Linear. 'V'shaped profile. NE slope is less steep. Base is flat and narrow with nearly vertical sides. Filled by [404], [423], [424], [425] and [426]	Steep ditch, possibly eroded on NE slope. Several fills. Could be part of ring ditch. Primary fill [426] gave strong positive results on geophysics plot.	1.1m deep, 1.5m wide at the top	426	403
406	T4	Sub-rectangular.	Pit - animal burrow?	1m wide, 0.23m deep	428	403
407	T4	Upper fill of cut [408]. Firm brownish grey silty sand with frequent small gravel inclusions	Upper fill of cut [408]		402	421
408	T4	Triangular. Bowl-shaped cut with rounded sides and rounded base. Profile is very good but gravel fill was removed with post glacial gravel.	Could be terminal of ditch or part of triangular shaped pit. Rodent burrows in upper fill disturbed by animals - however, further excavation shows a continuous linear feature running across the trench.	1.5m wide x 600mm deep	422	403
409	T4	Firm reddish brown silty sand. Frequent gravel inclusions.	Fill of [410]		427	410
410	T4	Rectangular with rounded corners. Gently sloping sides	Small sub-rectangular pit. Could be	580mm wide x	409	403

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		except SW edge which is steeper. Flat and narrow base.	posthole or terminal of small linear - only partially seen in plan.	400mm deep		
411	T4	Same as [409]	Fill of [412]		401	412
412	T4	Sub-rectangular with rounded end. Sides slope at approx. 45 degrees to slightly rounded flattish base.	Identical to [410]	0.5m wide, 0.22m deep	411	403
413	T4	Reddish brown gravely silt	Fill of [414]		402	414
414	T4	Shallow linear cut with wide flat bottom. Sides rather irregular.	Possibly natural erosion gully.	1.3m wide, 0.22m deep	413	403
415	T4	Firm, reddish brown silty sand and frequent gravel inclusions and occasional small pebbles.	Fill of [416]		401	416
416	T4	Sub-circular cut. Possibly ovoid. Gently sloping sides and wide flat base.	Shallow sub-circular pit? Not fully seen in plan.	750mm wide x 450mm deep	415	403
417	T4	Brown, clayey silt.	Fill of [418]		401	418
418	T4	Similar to [416], but shallower. Circular in plan. Steep sides. Flat base.	Possibly a geological feature. JK thinks it looks too regular and is probably a pit.	c. 1m diam, 0.17m deep	417	403
419	T4	Brown, clayey silt.	Fill of [420]		401	420
420	T4	Sausage-shaped cut - i.e. fairly parallel sided linear cut with rounded terminus. Bends slightly towards terminus, NW side steep, SE side gradual.	Shallow ditch terminus or natural feature?		419	403
421	T4	Hard, brownish grey silty gravel and sand. Frequent gravel and small pebbles inclusions	Secondary fill of cut [408]. Gravel deposit tipping from SE edge of ditch.		407	422
422	T4	Loose dark grey gravely silt.	Primary silting in ditch/pit [408]	50mm thick	421	408
423	T4	Greyish brown firm silty gravel. Frequent gravel inclusions and small pebbles.	Middle fill of ditch [405] - could suggest more gradual filling of feature as colour could be caused by more humic content.		404	424
424	T4	Firm brown silty gravel.	Initial filling of ditch after erosion of NE edge of ditch.		423	425
425	T4	Loose brown gravely silt. Frequent small pebbles inclusions	Fill of ditch [405], very similar to upper gravel [403]. Fill may be derived from erosion of ditch sides.		424	426
426	T4	Loose dark grey gravely silt.	Primary fill of ditch, prob. derived from fine loose gravel underlying upper gravel. But darker than natural		425	405

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
			gravels and with occasional thin lenses of greyish silty ash (not enough to sample).			
427	T4	Greyish brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions and few small pebbles.	Upper fill of cut [410]		401	409
428	T4	Greyish brown sandy silt. Root disturbance with occasional humic patches of root material.	Fill of [406]		402?	406
501	T5		Top soil	0.26m		502
502	T5	Brown clayey silt, quite gritty, c.10% small stones.	Old plough soil	0.3m	518	504, 506, 508, 510, 512
503	T5		Natural gravel		505, 507, 508, 511, 513,	
504	T5	Pale yellow-brown clayey loam. Very compacted with occasional pebbles (5mm to 40mm) which are well rounded. Slight concentration of pebbles towards base of deposit. Rare flecks of charcoal scattered throughout. Common presence of roots - some quite large (15mm to 20mm thick).	Fill of [505]	0.91m wide x 0.27m deep	502	505
505	T5	Cut of linear feature running approx. N-S. Sharp break of slop at top, with moderately sloping sides leading gradually to a concave base. W. side of cut is well defined, cutting into very loose natural gravels. E. side cuts into a natural of mixed gravels and silts and is less well developed. Filled with [504] and cuts natural.			504	503
506	T5	Brown, clayey silt, some sand. Up to 40% small stones. Stone content v. variable. Some patches of brown clay.	Fill of [507]		502	507
507	T5	Rather irregular feature with steep E. side and shallow W. side. Increase in stones in middle may suggest it was originally 2 features but this is not clear. E. side runs N-S, W. side at angle across trench also suggesting 2 features but section gives no clear proof.	Nature of feature not established. Could be 2 genuine features confused by erosion but may just be hollow in natural filled with old B-horizon.	c.2.3m wide x up to 0.3m deep	506	503
508	T5	Brown, clayey silt with occasional small stones. More compact than [502]. Occurs in patches filling slight hollows in the natural gravel. Pit [513] cuts one of these	Possible patches of surviving old B-horizon.	up to 120mm deep	513, 502	503

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		patches.				
509	T5	DELETED ENTRY				
510	T5	Fill of shallow N-S linear [511]. Mid yellow-brown clayey silts, quite compacted with occasional small pebbles (up to 30mm) which are well rounded. Occasional small flecks of charcoal throughout the deposit. Some root activity.	Fill of [511]	0.80m wide x 0.29m deep	502	511
511	T5	Irregular cut for N-S aligned linear feature. W. side has moderately sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, with a gentle slope leading to the base. The E. edge is moderately to steeply sloping. The base of the cut is irregular, being deeper to the E. This may be due to a pocket of silt within the natural rather than a definite feature of the linear cut. Cut into the very loose natural gravels [503] and filled with [570]. Fairly well defined in plan, but less so in section.	Possible ditch. Poorly defined and presumably heavily truncated.	0.80m wide x 0.20m deep	510	503
512	T5	Thin layer in top of fill of cut [513]. Dark grey, gritty silt with v. occasional small stones, charcoal dust and charcoal pieces and fragments of burnt bone. Dug in quadrants. Only present in middle of feature, does not extend right to sides.	Upper fill of [513]	max 40mm thick	502	514
513	T5	Oval cut. Initially intended to dig ½ section, but discovery of burnt bone required careful digging and extensive sampling, so only ¼ of pit dug. Sides steep - base seems fairly flat. Animal burrows dug into side. Upper back of slope sharp so probably truncated.	Fills contain burnt bone and charcoal but not v. large quantity of bone and no artefacts, so may not be cremation. Bone needs to be analysed to see if human.	c. 0.95m x 1.20m x 0.31m deep	516	503
514	T5	Dark brown gritty silt with occasional small stones. Less charcoal and fewer bone fragments than [512]. Not clearly defined in section, diffuse interfaces. Deeper towards middle of feature and shallower towards edge. Obscures edges of feature because contains eroded natural.	Erosion from sides. Fill of [513]	max 50mm deep	512	515
515	T5	Dark grey silt with small pebbles and some gravel. Contains charcoal dust, pieces of charcoal and fragments of burnt bone. Upper interface diffuse, lower interface undulating and confused. Considerable disturbance from burrowing.	Deposit containing most of the burnt bone and charcoal. Fill of [513]	max 100mm thick	514	516
516	T5	Mottled yellow-brown and dark grey gritty silt with c.5% small stones and gravel, including some stones up to	Erosion from cut sides. Primary fill of [513]		515	513

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		80mm in length. Extends up sides and into base. Extensively disturbed by animal burrows. Contains little charcoal and bone except where introduced by burrowing.				
517	T5	Upper part of cut [518]. Dark grey-brown loam, loose and friable, containing occasional common small pebbles (up to 50mm) and rare fragments of charcoal. Also contained a small number of fragments of coal and larger piece of burnt stone. Fill of feature [518], stratigraphically overlies [519] and is overlain by the topsoil [501].	Possible backfill of 1980s excavations	1.75m wide x 0.14m deep max	501	519
518	T5	Cut of feature that is only partly visible due to the fact that it extends out from the N. facing section of the trench. Appears to be rectangular in plan with one reasonably sharp corner visible. The top break of slope is sharp with the sides varying between a gentle and moderate slope. Bottom break of slope moderately gentle, leading to a flat base. Cut into the natural, which at this point is mixed sands and gravels. Filled with [519] and [517] and cuts plough soil [502].	Probable cut of 1980s excavations.	1.75m wide x 0.21m deep	519	502
519	T5	Primary fill of feature [518]. Consists of mid yellow brown clayey silts which were very compacted. Common small (up to 30mm) well rounded pebbles. Some animal disturbance.	Fill of [518]	1.05m wide x 0.11m deep max	517	518
601	T6	Dark grey loam, c.5% small stones	Top soil	0.26m		602
602	T6	Brown clayey silt, c.10% small stones	Old plough soil	0.25m	601	606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 622
603	T6	Yellow-brown silty gravel	Natural gravel		605, 609, 611, 615, 617, 619, 623, 625	
604	T6	Brown, clayey silt with a c.30% small stones and gravels. Fairly loose. Root disturbance	Fill of [605]		621	605
605	T6	Narrow linear cut, which seems to have a break in it, the 2 parts being slightly offset. The 2 ends are rounded and the cuts become shallower towards the ends. Sides c.40 degrees, bases flat. Cut at south end by [621].	Function unknown. Break and offsetting almost suggests structural use, but not deep enough. May be heavily truncated.	0.5m wide, 0.18m deep	604	603

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
606	T6	Darkish brown clayey silt with c.30% small stones and gravel. Loose, fairly good crumb structure, easy to dig. Root disturbance. Some particles and lenses of gravel in fill. Darker and looser than other fills on site except [610]. Produced large sherd of unabraded pot - poss. early post-med. Some slumped gravel down sides of cut, but difficult to identify erosion from in situ deposits.	Fill of [607]		602	607
607	T6	Large pit, roughly square in plan, with rounded but fairly well defined corners. Sides steep and base fairly flat. Cuts [620].	Large early post-med pit. Feature [62] on geophysics plot??	2.3m wide x 0.45m deep	606	620
608	T6	Brown clayey silt with c.30% small stones and gravel. Quite firm, clean fill. Feels older and more settled than [606].	Fill of [609]		602	609
609	T6	Narrow linear cut, running at angle across trench. Fairly steep sides curving gently into flat base. Straight and regular. No direct relationship with [623].	May be part of geophysics feature [28], but orientated more towards E-W than this is shown.	800mm wide x c.300mm deep	608	603
610	T6	Darkish brown silty loam with shale grit and c.10% small stones. Fairly homogenous. Quite loose and easy to dig. Some root disturbance. Similar to [606]. It isn't clear that [602] covers this fill as they appear quite similar and [602] is very thin here. [611] may be cut from directly under [601] and [602] may have been lost to ploughing here.	Fill of [611]		602?	627
611	T6	Large deep cut with W. side c.45 degrees and E. side steeper. Fairly flat base. Upper parts of sides slope much more gradually and seem to be rather disturbed and confused.	Unclear from trench if this is a pit or a ditch, but correspond with geophysical feature [28].	c.3.6m wide x 0.7m deep	627	603
612	T6	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles. V. homogenous. Some root and worm disturbance.	Fill of [613]		602	626
613	T6	Linear feature with sides sloping at c.45 degrees, curving gently into flat base. Runs c.NE-SW and perpendicular across T6. V. difficult to tell if it cuts [624] but this seems most likely interpretation of section.	Small ditch, presumed to be same as geophysics feature [29].	c.1.4m wide at top, 0.45m wide at base, 0.45m deep	626	624?
614	T6	Brown silty clay with fine shale grit and very occasional small stones. V. compact and hard to dig.	Fill of [615]		602	615
615	T6	Steep sided cut with rounded base. Generally sharp upper break of slope and gradual basal break of slope. Rounded southern end and fairly straight E and W sides.	Compact, clean nature of fill and steep sides suggest it maybe an ice wedge, but doesn't taper down in deep "V" as	830 x >860mm x 500mm deep below surface of	614	603

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
			typical of ice wedges. Could be a genuine feature. Fill v. similar to [616] which fills [617]. [617] is more convincing as a natural feature.	gravel.		
616	T6	Firm brown silty clay containing only very occasional small stones and fine grit. V. compact and hard to dig. V. occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [617]		602	617
617	T6	Steep sided cut with pointed W. end and rather irregular in shape. Sides slope to narrow base.	Steep sides and compact fill suggest this is an ice wedge or similar frost-formed feature.	>600mm long - goes under baulk x 480mm wide max x 220mm deep from gravel surface.	616	603
618	T6	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. V. similar to [602].	Fill of [619]		602	619
619	T6	Small circular hollow.	Could be just a hollow in natural, but very regular shape and proximity to [607] suggests it may be real feature.	c.200mm wide x 70mm deep	618	603
620	T6	Brown clayey silt with c.20% small stones and gravel. Fill is fairly soft. Root disturbance.	Fill of [621]		607	621
621	T6	Narrow linear cut running along NW side of [607] and cut by [607]. Gently sloping sides curve into flat base. Most of SE side destroyed by [607]. Cuts through [604].	Narrow slot. Too narrow and shallow for ditch. Maybe furrow or other agricultural feature.	600mm wide to top x 100mm wide at base x 200mm deep	620	604
622	T6	Brown clayey silt with c.30% small stones and gravel. Very similar to [608].	Fill of [623]		602	623
623	T6	Narrow but well defined linear cut running nearly but not quite parallel to [609]. Sides slope at c.45 degrees into narrow base. Base is flat.	Narrow slot. Seems too small to be ditch. Possibly structural.	600mm wide at top x c.150mm wide at base x c.200mm deep	622	603
624	T6	Mid brown clayey silt with c.5% small stones and some patches and lenses of yellowish sand. Generally less homogenous than [612]. Seems to be cut by [613].	Fill of [625]		613	625
625	T6	Narrow, shallow linear cut with possible slight curve on it. Sides slope very gently into rounded base. A hollow	May relate to circular feature on geophysics plot feature [58]. Very		624	603

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		200mm diam x 100mm deep was found in the base of the cut. It is not clear if it is a burrow or the impression of a stake.	slight, insubstantial ditch for a burrow, but would be very heavily truncated.			
626	T6	Loose sand silt and gravel slumping down side of cut [613], mainly W. side. Yellowish and greyish in colour. Hard to distinguish what is slumping and what is in situ.	Erosion of sides of [613]		612	613
627	T6	Grey gravel in base of cut [611]	Shows some erosion has occurred		610	611
701	T7		Top soil			702
702	T7		Old plough soil		701	703, 705, 707, 708, 709, 711, 706, 718
703	T7	Brown clayey silt, slightly gritty with occasional stones. Considerable worm disturbance.	Fill of [704]		702	704
704	T7	Cut. Edges appear rather irregular, but not investigated. Might turn out to be more regular on excavation.	Possible cut feature.	Cut up to 0.8m wide x >2m long.	703	713
705	T7	Brown sandy clay. Very hard in places. The hardness seems to be due to concretion as in other patches the same deposit is soft. c.5% small stones. Concretion makes it feel very natural, though some genuine features on site do have patches of concreted deposits. Cut by [712].	Fill of [706]		712	706
706	T7	Narrow, deep cut. E. side well defined, sloping at c.45 degrees; W side poorly defined as cut into v. loose gravel. Appears to be vertical or even a little under cut. Cut not bottomed because of lack of time, but seems to be heading sharply downwards, possibly into deep crevice.	Concreted fill, vertical side and deep narrow profile suggests ice wedge.	c. 0.8m wide, 0.6m deep	705	713
707	T7	Brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones. In patch measuring max. 0.8 x >1m - part under baulk. Tapers to point at S. end. Not investigated.	May prove to be pit or ditch terminal.		702	713
708	T7	Brown sandy clayey silt with occasional stones in linear patch. Not investigated.	May prove to be a genuine linear feature	Tapers in width from 0.9m to 0.2m	702	713
709	T7	Brown gritty clayey silt with c. 10% small stones and gravel.	Fill of [710]		702	715
710	T7	Very broad cut. Not fully excavated across full width. W.	Part of ring ditch. Profile v. different	c.3.2m wide x	715	713

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		side slopes c.45 degrees, E slide much steeper. Base is flat. Upper W. side slopes very gradually up to level of top of natural. E. side has sharp top break of slope. In plan, curves round to join [712]. Almost certainly parts of same feature.	to [712], so it is possible that there is something more complicated going on here, but not enough time to find out.	0.54m deep		
711	T7	Brown, slightly gritty clayey silt with c.30% small stones and gravel.	Fill of [712]		702	714
712	T7	Curvilinear cut. Sides sloping down at c.45 degrees to narrow base to give broad "V"-shaped profile. Erosion deposit [714] shows ditch was open for sometime before stabilising. Seems to cut through [716], though relationship difficult to prove.	Part of ring ditch.	1.7m wide x 0.6m deep	714	716
713	T7	Yellowish brown silty gravel. There are patches of concreted silt in the middle of the ring ditch which resemble [705], and are probably similarly the result of periglacial action.	Natural gravel.		ALL	713
714	T7	Fine, loose gravel with some silt and some small pebbles. Grey brown in colour. Slopes down side of cut and fills lower part of base.	Fill of [712]. Erosion of sides.		711	712
715	T7	Loose, yellow brown and grey gravel with some stones up to 60mm in length. Mainly against W. side of [710] and along base.	Erosion deposit showing ditch was open for sometime. Fill of [710].		709	710
716	T7	Brown clayey silt with some sand and gravel. Seems to be cut by [712].	Fill of [717]		712	717
717	T7	Shallow linear cut. S. side under baulk. Rounded E. terminus. Gently sloping sides.	Slot of unknown function.	1.4m long x >0.25m wide, 0.13m deep	716	713
718	T7	Roughly triangular patch. Pale brown sandy silty clay, but with patches of darker brown and one small patch of reddish material. Not investigated. More clayey than most features in the trench.	Reddish material may be result of burning. Too irregular to be clearly a pit but might turn into a small one on excavation. Appears to be on line of pit alignment.	c.800mm x 600mm	702	713
801	T8		Top soil			802

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
802	T8		Plough soil		801	804, 806, 811, 816
803	T8	Yellowish brown	Natural gravel		805, 807, 812, 816	815
804	T8	Friable crumbs, reddish brown loamy clay. Few medium size pebbles.	Fill of field boundary ditch [805]		802	813
805	T8	Linear cut, gently sloping sides with wide flat base. Firm, yellowish brown silty clay and gravel.	Field boundary ditch. Appears on 18th century map. Fill [804] is loose with much root disturbance and unlike fills of other (prehistoric) features.	1.7m wide, c.0.5m deep	814	803
806	T8	Friable, reddish brown loamy clay with frequent gravel inclusions	Upper fill of field boundary ditch.		802	810
807	T8	Linear cut with "V"-shaped profile. Narrow flat base.	Field boundary ditch.	1.4m wide x .56m deep	810	803
808	T8	Deleted				
809	T8	deleted				
810	T8	Loose brown gravely sandy silt.	Primary fill of field boundary ditch [807]		806	807
811	T8	Brown gravely sandy loam.	Fill of [812]		802	812
812	T8	Large sub-circular bowl shaped cut. Gently sloping sides. Wide flat base.	Oval scoop. Could be naturally created hollow filled by ? soil horizon. The fill [811] is similar to the upper gravel [803] and above post glacial gravel [815].	30cm deep	811	803
813	T8	Firm, yellowish brown silt, clay, gravel and loam.	Fill of ditch [805]. Very mixed layer. Possibly caused by tree/hedge roots and animal burrows.		804	814
814	T8	Loose dark grey gravely silt. Heavy root disturbance.	Primary fill of ditch [805]		813	805
815	T8	Dark grey gravel	Lower natural gravel seen in base of ditches		803	
816	T8	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones and gravel. Occurs as patches over the trench. Sometimes paler and more clayey. May include or obscure uninvestigated features.	Old soil horizon over gravel. Some patches may resolve into features.		807, 812	803
901	T9		Top soil			

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
902	T9		Plough soil			
903	T9		Natural gravel			
904	T9	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones.	Fill of [905]; not really distinguishable from [927]		902	905
905	T9	Irregular shaped cut with undulating base. Seems to cut [927] but probably actually part of [927] in hollow.	Natural hollow.	c.01.m deep	904	927
906	T9	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones.	Fill of [907]			
907	T9	Linear feature crossing trench perpendicularly. Edges fairly well defined. Not investigated.	Ditch?		906	927
908	T9	Firm slightly greyish brown loamy clay with frequent gravel inc. and small pebbles. Fill of [909]	Upper fill of ditch below plough soil [902]		902	914
909	T9	Linear cut running from NE to SW. 'V' shaped profile, with sides becoming almost vertical at base. The base of the cut is flat. Filled by [908], [914], [915], [916], [917], [918], [919], [920]	Large ditch. Part of SE corner of rectangular enclosure. Below plough soil [902]	c.2.7m wide x 1.3m deep	920, 916	903, 922?
910	T9	Brown clayey silt with few stones	Fill of [911]		902	911
911	T9	Possible linear cut located at N end of trench. Not investigated.	Possible ditch	c.1m wide	910	927
912	T9	Greyish brown loamy clay gravel. Freq. small pebbles.	Upper fill of large ditch below plough soil [902]		902	921
913	T9	Linear cut running from the SE to NW. 'V' shaped profile with narrow flat base. Filled by [912], [921], [923], [924], [925], [926]. Southern edge of ditch is obscured by [922] gravel.	Large ditch. Part of rectangular enclosure. Outer scarp NE corner running at right angle to [909]	c.2.7m wide x 1.3m deep	926	903, 922?
914	T9	Firm, reddish brown loamy gravel clay. Freq. small pebbles inc. Fill of [909]	Part of upper fill of ditch appears to tip from external SE edge.		908	915
915	T9	Firm, reddish brown loamy clay gravel. Freq. small pebbles.	Part of upper fill of ditch above erosion? Fill of [909]		914	917, 916
916	T9	Firm, greyish brown silty sandy gravel. Freq. small pebbles incl.	Tipping from SE (external) edge of ditch. Possibly from erosion of top of ditch, prior to filling by [914] and [915].		915	909
917	T9	Dark grey loose, fine, gravelly silt with occasional small pebbles. Tips into ditch from SE.	Fill of [909]		915	918
918	T9	Brown, soft silty sandy gravel. Gravel lenses on SE edge,	Lower fill of ditch [909]		917	919

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		which probably come from erosion of ditch sides, are included in this context.				
919	T9	Loose dark grey fine, gravely silt with occasional small and medium sized pebbles. Tips acutely along SE edge of cut.	Lower fill of ditch [909].		918	920
920	T9	Soft dark brown silty gravel with no other inclusions. Very distinct from base of cut which is compact and solid.	Primary fill of ditch [909] resulting from silting prior to erosion of ditch sides.		919	909
921	T9	Friable loamy clay with frequent gravel inclusions, small pebbles and occasional fragments of limestone <100mm in length.	Upper fill of ditch [913]		912	923
922	T9	Hard grey gravely sand with frequent small pebbles. Covers area with rectangular enclosure between ditches [909] and [913]. At slightly higher level than gravel elsewhere in trench.	Could be natural preserved between the ditches or intact layer representing base of gravel mound or bank.		909?, 913?	903
923	T9	Loose gravely silt with frequent small and medium sized pebbles. Tips down from north side of cut.	Middle fill of ditch [913].		912	924
924	T9	Firm greyish brown loamy clay gravel. Tips from northern edge of cut. Appears to have been truncated at top by ploughing.	Middle fill of ditch [913].		923	925
925	T9	Soft dark brown silty gravel with frequent pebbles.	Lower fill of [913]		924	926
926	T9	Loose, dark grey gravely silt.	Primary fill of ditch [913], probably derived from erosion/weathering of sides of cut.		925	913
927	T9	Friable brownish loamy sand with occasional gravel and pebbles. Stratified between the plough soil 902 and the natural gravels 903. Mainly north of ditch [913], but also patches elsewhere.	Probably remains of relic soil horizon		907	903
1001	T10	Dark grey loamy clay	Top soil	0.3m thick		
1002	T10	Light brown loamy clay with a few small pebbles	Plough soil	0.5m thick		
1003	T10	Friable brownish grey sandy silt, with little clay content, mixed with pea gravel. Seen only at western end of trench	Fill of possible water channel	0.4m thick	1005	1004
1004	T10	Friable brownish grey silt with frequent gravel. Low clay content, little plasticity. Test pit dug in western end of trench exposed this layer and revealed that it was	Natural water-laid deposits		1003	1016

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		composed of numerous horizontal layers and lenses of differing sand and gravel content, most of which were grey in colour.				
1005	T10	Linear cut seen in main section. Fairly gentle NW side and steeper SE side. Not investigated. Cuts 1009 and 1006	Ditch?	0.9m wide, >0.5m deep	1008	1003
1006	T10	Soft clean sand with very few inclusions	Fill of [1007]. Clean alluvial deposit. No evidence that it is anthropogenic.		1003	1007
1007	T10	Rather vaguely defined linear feature. Not investigated.	Possibly the edge of a water channel or just the limit of the alluvial deposits in a slight hollow.		1006	1004
1008	T10	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones.	Fill of 1005		1002	1005
1009	T10	Fine grey-brown sand similar to 1006 but slightly greyer with higher proportion of shale sand.	Fill of 1010		1003	1010
1010	T10	Oval cut, could be part of 1007. Cut by 1005. Not investigated.	Appears to be within the alluvial deposits so it is probably natural .	0.76m x 0.9m	1009	1004
1011	T10	Red brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. A patch at the E end of the trench.	Possible old soil horizon		1013	1015
1012	T10	Friable reddish brown silty clay	Fill of 1013		1002	1013
1013	T10	Possible cut feature running across eastern end of trench. Not clearly seen in plan but identified in section. Gently sloping western side. Bottom not exposed.	Possibly the ditch shown on the geophysics plot.	>1.6m wide, >0.2m deep.	1012	1011
1014	T10	Loose mottled brown and dark grey gravel. In places yellow-brown silty gravel, in others clean grey pea gravel. Disturbed in places by root activity.	Natural gravel		1011, 1015	
1015	T10	Fairly steep slope in 1014. Seems too steep to be original undulation within the gravels. Looks as if something has eroded the gravels away. Seen most clearly in section. Defines limits of alluvial deposits.	Probably the edge of a natural water-worn channel. Possible the ancient edge of the River Vyrnwy's flood plain.		1004	1014
1101	T11		Top soil	0.37m thick		1102
1102	T11	Brown clayey silt, generally with few stones but there are some patches of gravel.	Plough soil	0.26m thick	1101	
1103	T11		Natural gravel			
1104	T11	Densely packed gravel with occasional small stones up to 30mm long with c.10% silt matrix. Dark grey brown. Very compact, in parts concreted. Circular in plan	Natural lens in the gravel	600mm diam, 70mm deep	1102	1103

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
1105	T11	Initially interpreted as circular cut but just natural hollow containing lens [1104].	Not a real cut			
1106	T11	Varied and mixed fill with several layers included in this one context. Upper fill is sandy clayey silt with c.10% stones. Below this is layer of very loose pea gravel with no matrix. In places this continues down to the base of the feature, elsewhere there is a grey brown silty gravel in the base. The pea gravel becomes thinner at the 'edges' of the feature but does continue into the sides. A vein of very compact, fine purple-grey sand runs diagonally through the feature.	Fill of 1107		1123, 1121	1107
1107	T11	A possible linear feature was investigated in the N part of the trench. The fills could be followed dipping into the feature but the edges were very difficult to define. Eventually more consolidated deposits were reached which defined some sort of edge, but some of the fills, especially the pea gravel continued into these edges. The base of the feature is very flat with a hollow against the section. The vein of purple sand was clearly within the natural and ran through the base of the feature. A section was put through this feature further east and some kind of N edge was found but again the edges were not very convincing.	The flat base suggests the interface of a natural horizontal layer, and the unconvincing sides suggest that this is not a real feature. The pea gravel suggests that water was involved in its creation, washing silt out from the gravel. The general conclusion is that this is a natural feature, but it coincides exactly with the tentative circular feature GP 52.		1106	1103
1108	T11	Reddish brown clayey silt with c.10% small stones. Fairly homogenous. Some root and worm disturbance. Small amounts of eroded gravel against sides but very little in the base.	Fill of 1109. Little evidence of erosion suggests pit was not left open for long. No postpipe or packing evident.		1102	1109
1109	T11	Sub-circular pit. Steep sides curving gradually into flat base. Upper break of slope sharp. On N side it cuts through 1116 and the other fills of 1117. This relationship was clear as 1118 was particularly gravelly and could easily be distinguished from 1108	Pit, presumably one of the pit alignment pits, though rather smaller than typical.	1.2m x c.1.5m, 0.4m deep	1108	1116
1110	T11	Brown sandy silt with some clay. c.20% small stones and gravel. Some root disturbance. Rather more gravelly towards top of fill. At a depth of c.0.4m fragments of human skull were found. Also a maxilla with teeth in situ. These were not cleaned up or exposed more than necessary	Fill of 1111		1102	1111

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		to confirm they were human. Excavation immediately stopped and the remains were covered with plastic and reburied.				
1111	T11	Cut with S end hidden under baulk. Sides near vertical and poorly defined, especially towards the top. Excavated to a depth of 0.4m, where human remains were discovered and excavation stopped.	Grave cut.	870mm wide and >1m long	1110	1122
1112	T11	Brown clayey silt with some fine gravel and c.10% gravel and small stones. Homogenous. Some root disturbance and animal burrows.	Fill of 1113		1121?	1113
1113	T11	Sub-rectangular cut with parallel long sides and rounded ends. Vertical sides. Sharp upper break of slope. Not excavated to base as vertical sides and shape in plan suggested it was a grave, and evaluation aimed to avoid disturbing burials.	Possible grave. In plan 1121 appeared to be part of the same feature and even after excavation the relationship was not clear. However, the shape in plan and profile does suggest that these were separate features. Comparison with 1109 and 1117 may suggest that 1121 cuts 1113, but this could not be proved as the fills of the cuts were indistinguishable.	c.1.66m long, 0.8m wide, >0.35m deep	1112	1122
1114	T11	Brown clayey silt, rather gritty, with occasional small stones. Becomes paler towards base of cut. Some root disturbance and considerable burrowing damage.	Fill of 1115		1102	1115
1115	T11	Cut with straight, fairly parallel long sides and rounded S end, N end under baulk. Considerable burrowing damage to sides, but were well preserved these are steep or near vertical. Base is well defined and flat. Sides curve fairly sharply into flat base. Upper break of slope very sharp, so presumably heavily truncated.	This feature is much shallower than 1111 and 1117 and 1113, but otherwise resembles them in plan and in the steepness of the sides. There was no trace of human remains in the base, but this feature must be a suspect as a grave. 1115 may have been more severely truncated than the other similar features explaining its lack of depth.	>1.14m long, 0.95m wide, 0.26m deep	1114	1122
1116	T11	Brown sandy silt containing c.10% small stones. Very similar to 1108.	Upper fill of 1117	Up to 0.26m deep	1109	1118
1117	T11	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded N end. Upper side on W slopes fairly gradually but becomes vertical lower down.	Vertical sides and shape in plan strongly suggest that this is a grave cut	1.5m long, 1.2m wide, >0.5m deep	1119	1122

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		The more gentle upper slope is probably due to erosion. S end cut by 1109	like 1111			
1118	T11	Gravel and small stones (up to 80m in length) in sandy silt matrix. c.70% gravel and stones. Grey brown in colour.	Middle fill of 1117. Clearly visible in side of 1109. Presumably originated from erosion of the cut sides.	Up to 0.2m deep	1116	1119
1119	T11	Red-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and c.20% fine gravel. Lines base and sides of 1117	Primary fill of 1117		1118	1117
1120	T11	Brown clayey silt with c.10% stones. Impossible to distinguish from 1112.	Fill of 1121		1102?	1121
1121	T11	Cut assumed to be circular. Steep sides and rounded base. Impossible to distinguish fills of 1113 and 1121 so hard to tell if they are truly separate features and if so the relationship between them. Comparison to 1109 and 1117 suggests 1121 cuts 1113, but not proved.	Pit, presumably part of pit alignment	0.76m diameter, 0.36m deep	1120	1112?
1122	T11	Clayey silt with varying quantities of sand and gravel (from very little to c.50%). Varies in colour from brown to pale yellow-brown. Present mainly round line of pits and graves. Cut by all the pits and graves	Possible relic B-horizon. Presumably the level from which the graves were cut.	Up to 0.15m deep	1113, 1111, 1109, 1117, 1115	1103
1123	T11	Elongated oval patch of slightly gritty silty clay. Pale brown with few stones. Reddish in places with some traces of charcoal. Well defined. Considerable worm activity	Possible feature. Not investigated.		1102	1106
1124	T11	Oval patch of pale brown silty clay with few stones. Considerable worm activity suggest that the deposit is fairly deep. Well defined	Possible feature. Not investigated	c.0.8m x 0.6m	1102	1103
1125	T11	Brown clayey silt with some sand and c.10% gravel and pebbles.. Considerable worm disturbance	Possible feature. Not investigated	c. 1.2m diam	1102	1103
1126	T11	Brown clayey silt with sand and gravel and c.10% small stones. Roughly circular patch. Little worm disturbance	Possible feature but may just be surviving patch of 1122. Not investigated.	c.1.5m diam	1102	1103
1201	T12		Top soil			
1202	T12		Plough soil			
1203	T12		Natural gravel			
1204	T12	Dark brown gritty clayey silt with occasional small stones. Slightly darker than the fill of other features in the trench.	Fill of 1205		1202	1205
1205	T12	Linear cut. Fairly gently sloping N side. Not fully	Ditch. GP 30	1.5m wide	1204	1222

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		excavated, only shallow slot to establish the edges.				
1206	T12	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones and gravel. Little eroded gravel in fill.	Fill of 1207		1202	1207
1207	T12	Linear cut . N side c.45 degrees, S side very difficult to define and over dug but seems to slope at about the same angle. Flat base.	Ditch	c. 0.7m wide	1206	1222
1208	T12	Brown clayey silt with c.10% small stones and gravel, especially against sides and base of cut.	Fill of 1209		1202	1209
1209	T12	Shallow cut of elongated pit or terminal of ditch. N side gentle sloping but well defined, most of S side seems to have been lost due to erosion of gravel. Flat base.	Ditch terminal? pit?		1208	1203
1210	T12	Brown clayey silt with c.10% small stones. No trace of gravel from erosion of the sides.	Fill of 1211		1202	1211
1211	T12	Oval pit. Currently very shallow but presumably severely truncated. Vertical sides, sharp bottom break of slope and flat base.	Pit	0.9m x 1.0m, 0.2m deep	1210	1203
1212	T12	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones	Fill of 1213		1224	1213
1213	T12	Linear cut. Sides fairly straight and parallel in plan. Not investigated.	Ditch	0.7m wide	1212	1222
1214	T12	Dark brown loam with occasional small stones.	Fill of 1215		1202	1215
1215	T12	Circular cut . Not excavated	Possible posthole, may be related to 1224	260mm diam	1214	1222
1216	T12	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. Only slightly darker than parts of 1222.	Fill of 1217		1202	1217
1217	T12	Linear cut with straight parallel sides in plan but seems to peter out. Not investigated	Narrow slot or furrow	0.32m wide	1216	1222
1218	T12	Pale brown silty clay with mainly shale gravel. Very hard in places - concreted. Seems to run under deposits in the middle of the ring. Not fully investigated. Contains patches of reddish material and occasional pieces of charcoal. In the gravel just W of 1219 was a patch of iron oxide staining, associated with charcoal	Fill of 1219		1202	1219
1219	T12	Curvilinear cut, only investigated in small slot. E side seemed to be fairly steep but W side was difficult to establish as fill extended beneath patch of brown silt, which in plan appeared to be outside the cut. This and the	May be a natural feature, perhaps periglacial, but not adequately investigated in the evaluation.		1218	1222

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		very hard concreted nature of the fill may suggest a natural origin.				
1220	T12	Same description as for 1218, but iron staining I just N of feature 1221	Fill of 1221		1202	1221
1221	T12	Curvilinear feature defining arc partly hidden under trench balk. May join up with 1219 but there seems to be a break between them	1219 was felt to be possibly of natural origin so 1221 presumably is too, but both would benefit from further investigations.		1220	1203
1222	T12	Patches of red-brown clayey silt containing occasional small stones. Cut through by several of the features in this trench	Probably surviving patches of the old B-horizon	c. 0.15m deep	1213, 1215, 1211	1203
1223	T12	Very loose dark brown gritty loam with occasional small stones.	Fill of 1224. Looseness of fill suggests it may be quite modern.		1202	1224
1224	T12	Circular cut. Not investigated. Cuts 1212	Posthole?	c.0.4m diam	1223	1212
1225	T12	Red-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. Very similar to 1222 but seems to fill a cut.	Fill of 1226		1207, 1205	1226
1226	T12	Fairly straight steep edge seen running between 1205 and 1207 and cut by these features. Only N side of feature seen. Only small slot investigated	Filled with clean silt similar to 1222 so may be natural hollow filled by old soil.		1225	1203
1227	T12	Fine grey gravel with few stones	Lower fill of 1229. Shows that the ditch was left open and erosion occurred		1228	1229
1228	T12	Brown clayey silt with few stones	Upper fill of 1229		1202	1227
1229	T12	Linear cut. Only S side seen. Edge is straight and regular, slopes steeply. Excavated to a depth of 0.4m but bottom not reached.	Ditch not shown on the geophysics plot.		1227	1203
1301	T13	Grey brown silty loam with occasional small pebbles and late post-medieval pottery	Top soil			1302
1302	T13	Yellow brown clayey loam with small rounded pebbles	Plough soil		1301	
1303	T13	Gravel, often very fine and loose	Natural gravel			
1304	T13	Red-brown clayey silt with 10% small stones	Upper fill of 1305		1302	1305
1305	T13	Linear cut, runs diagonally across W end of trench. N side of feature unclear in plan. Steep sides tapering to narrow base. V-shaped. Terminates just before section with	V-shape suggests a ring ditch but terminus is intriguing. Not seen on geophysics plot	1.16m wide, 0.65m deep	1321	1303

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		narrow rounded terminus.				
1306	T13	Brown clayey silt with c.5% small stones. Some gravel slumping against sides, especially N side but gravel in top of fill at S side [1322] seems to be due to later disturbance. Burrowing has confused edges around W end	Fill of 1307		1322	1307
1307	T13	Sub-rectangular cut, long sides seem to be straight and parallel, ends are rounded. W end is very confused due to burrowing. Sides slope at c45 degrees to rounded base. Disturbance along S side may be due to root or animal activity	Elongated pit	c.2.7m long, c.1m wide, 0.34m deep	1306	1303
1308	T13	Brown clayey silt with some sand and occasional small pebbles, some gravel at edges from eroded sides. Relationship with 1311 unknown. 1308 and 1310 are indistinguishable.	Fill of 1309		1302?	1309
1309	T13	Oval pit only dug to depth of 0.15m to establish sides., which seem to be fairly steep. Relationship to 1311 unknown as the fills are indistinguishable, but one feature must cut the other.	Pit	1.14m x c.1m	1308	1310??
1310	T13	Brown clayey silt with c.5% small stones and gravel.	Fill of 1311		1309??	1311
1311	T13	Sub-rectangular cut. Sides c.45 degrees, S side may be steeper, and base flat. Sides very difficult to see as natural is very soft and loose here, so both sides and base were over excavated and seen in section.	Elongated pit	c.1.4m long, 0.6m wide, 0.27m deep	1310	1303?
1312	T13	Pale brown gritty silty clay with c.5% small stones and gravel. Very compact except where disturbed by burrowing. Reddish in patches. Forms shape that seems to describe part of a circle but generally fairly irregular. Not investigated.	Seems to be natural but would be worth investigation.		1302	1303
1313	T13	Brown clayey silt containing very few stones or gravel.	Fill of 1314		1302	1323
1314	T13	Cut with fairly straight, parallel sides. Turns towards N at E end to create an obtuse corner. Sides fairly gently sloping with flat base.	Ditch. Erosion in base of cut suggests it was left open for some time.	1.3m wide and 0.3m deep	1323	1316
1315	T13	Broad clayey patch with rather irregular edges in plan. Deposit is pale brown silty clay with very few stones. Not investigated	May relate to large circular feature GP 52. Seems to be natural deposit but not investigated.	Up to 1.7m wide	1302	1303
1316	T13	Patch of pale brown silty clay. Amorphous shape,	Probably a natural feature		1314	1303

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over
		apparently cut by 1314. Not investigated				
1317	T13	Brown silty clay with occasional gravel. More clayey than most genuine features.	Fill of 1318		1302	1318
1318	T13	Linear feature. Sides look quite parallel. Not investigated	Probable ditch	0.43m wide	1317	1303
1319	T13	Small patch of red brown clayey silt. Contains some stones up to 800mm in length. Not investigated	Possible feature but may just be patch of old soil.	c.0.8m diam	1302	1303
1320	T13	Small patch of brown clayey silt with occasional stones. Roughly circular, though partially hidden under the balk. Not investigated	Possible feature	c.0.7m wide	1302	1303
1321	T13	Loose grey gravel, some very fine. Mainly concentrated on NE side and base of cut.	Erosion from sides. Indicates ditch was open for a while. Lower fill of 1305		1304	1305
1322	T13	Yellow-brown silty gravel in S side of cut 1307. Seems to form fill of a disturbance along this side rather than genuinely a fill of 1307	Disturbance in edge of 1307		1302	1306
1323	T13	Very loose grey gravel, some very fine. Built up in base and up sides of 1314. Mainly on SE side.	Primary fill of 1314, showing ditch was open and exposed to considerable erosion.		1313	1314
1324	T13	Brown clayey silt with occasional stones.	Fill of 1325		1302	1325
1325	T13	Narrow linear cut . Fairly neat parallel sides. Not investigated	Possible gully	0.3m wide	1324	1303

REPORT OF RADIOCARBON DATING ANALYSES

Dr. Jane Kenney

Report Date: 8/28/2003

Marches Archaeology

Material Received: 8/8/2003

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	$^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ Ratio	Conventional Radiocarbon Age(*)
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Beta - 181726	2200 +/- 50 BP	-25.0* o/oo	2200 +/- 50* BP
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SAMPLE: FC03A/515/05

ANALYSIS: Radiometric-Standard delivery (with extended counting)

MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT: (charred material): acid/alkali/acid

2 SIGMA CALIBRATION: Cal BC 385 to 115 (Cal BP 2335 to 2065)

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS(Variables: est. $\text{C}^{13}/\text{C}^{12} = -25$; lab. mult=1)Laboratory number: **Beta-181726**Conventional radiocarbon age¹: **2200±50 BP****2 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 385 to 115 (Cal BP 2335 to 2065)**
(95% probability)¹ $\text{C}^{13}/\text{C}^{12}$ ratio estimated

Intercept data

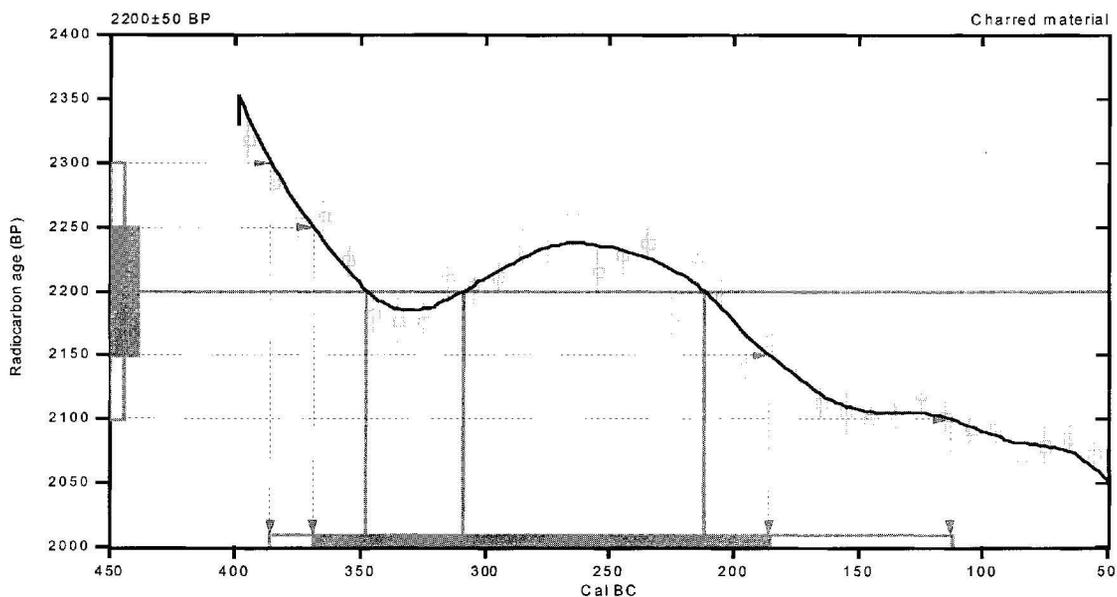
Intercepts of radiocarbon age

with calibration curve:

Cal BC 350 (Cal BP 2300) and

Cal BC 310 (Cal BP 2260) and

Cal BC 210 (Cal BP 2160)

1 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 370 to 185 (Cal BP 2320 to 2135)
(68% probability)

References:

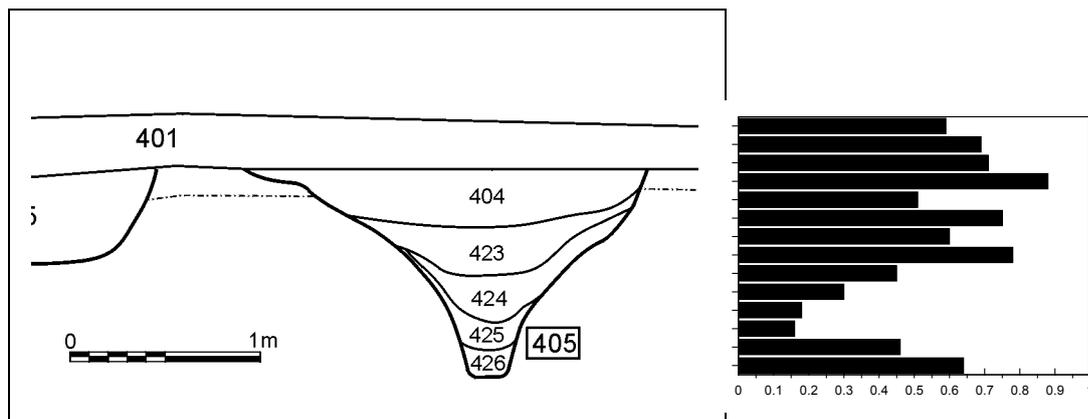
*Database used**Calibration Database**Editorial Comment*Stuiver, M., van der Plicht, H., 1998, *Radiocarbon* 40(3), pxi-xiii*INTCAL98 Radiocarbon Age Calibration*Stuiver, M., et. al., 1998, *Radiocarbon* 40(3), p1041-1083*Mathematics**A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C^{14} Dates*Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, *Radiocarbon* 35(2), p317-322

Notes Concerning Magnetic Susceptibility Results From Domgay Lane, Four Crosses

Trench 9 Feature 909

Fill 908 was found to have low susceptibility (17 to 22 x 10⁻⁵ SI) but was covered by an area of yellow-coloured soil similar to 1122 in Trench 11, identified there as probably a former topsoil. This had susceptibilities of between 49 and 71 x 10⁻⁵ SI again in accordance with Trench 11, with the highest values associated with the thickest region where it had accumulated in the top of fill 908. Mechanical excavation had proceeded to below this depth but the material was located in the side of the trench immediately above its floor.

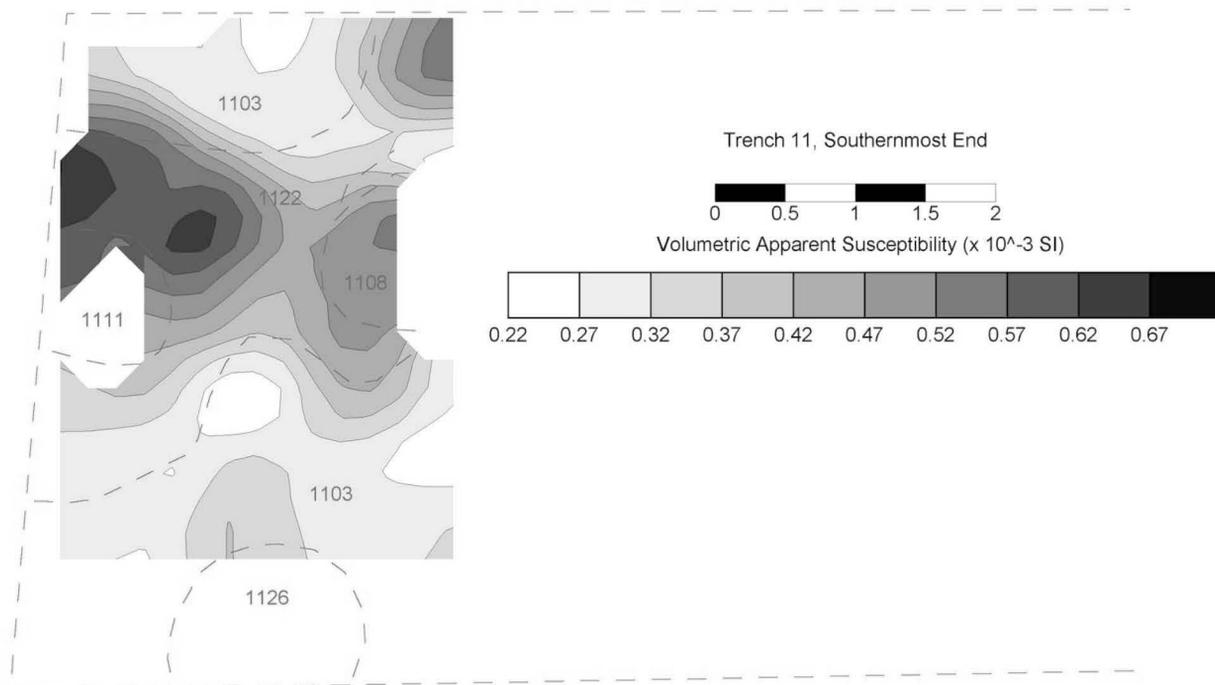
Trench 4 Feature 405



The susceptibility profile shown to the right of the extract from the excavation drawing (at a similar scale) illustrates the complexity of the magnetostratigraphy within the fills of the feature. The most obvious element is the high susceptibilities associated with 426 right at the base of the ditch where a rich sandy silt seems to represent primary silting from the topsoil contemporary with the construction of the feature. Above this, 425 is much less magnetic and appears to be secondary silting from the sides of the ditch, predominantly non-magnetic subsoil and gravel.

424 and/or 423 contained charcoal and is a typical modified soil associated with anthropogenic activity. The upper region (423) is in particular highly magnetic and with the presence of charcoal suggests that some burnt material, probably cleared from within the ring ditch, is present in these deposits. This also effectively fills in the ditch implying that its deposition is related to the disuse of the monument. It seems unlikely that the monument was a barrow judging by the small size of the ditch and the present of primary and secondary silting mitigates against the ditch being a post trench. The presence of burnt material in a disuse context implies recycling of material from nearby activity areas, perhaps within the ring.

Deposit 404 is again fairly magnetic but less so than the modern topsoil above and the modified soils beneath. The susceptibility is again typical of a former topsoil and is probably a continuation of soil 1122, accumulated in a depression left by the sinkage of the fills beneath. It is a post-disuse deposit as noted elsewhere in the site.



Measurements made using an Exploranium KT5 on a 20cm grid over the base of the trench. In situ measurements mean that data contains small variations due to surface stones and occasionally uneven contact between the instrument and the soil. The effect of these have been lessened by application of a gaussian low pass filter of radius 30cm.

The lowest values are associated with areas of stony soil context 1103 which confirms its interpretation as a non-modified natural subsoil. There is a marked correlation between mid-range to high values and context 1122 suggesting that this is a relict top soil surviving below the modern plough horizon. It has been noted elsewhere on the site, e.g. Trench 9 in a similar stratigraphic position.

Context 1108, a pit fill, displays a strong enhanced susceptibility associated with the uppermost regions of its fill. This is thought to be due to material from a former topsoil included within the fill. Where sectioned, the enhancement is not present throughout the depth of the fill but is most marked in the uppermost regions.

Pit fill 1111 is not associated with any localised susceptibility anomaly which may in part be due to it being a grave fill. There is nothing to distinguish it magnetically from the surrounding former soil 1122 so there cannot be any local thickening of this deposit where the grave fill has settled. This might imply that the grave fill was truncated by actions related to the deposition or working of 1122 rather than the grave being cut through it. If this is the case soil 1122 seems to be a feature relating to the disuse of the grave and perhaps the other pits.

Finally there are two strong areas of enhancement immediately northwest of the grave. These do not coincide with excavated features but are likely to indicate the presence of at least one more pit, probably with a thick lense of 1122 in the uppermost parts of its fill. An alternative is that it indicates a region of soil beneath a hearth that has been removed entirely in the past. However, from the evidence elsewhere at Four Crosses suitably strong enhancement is associated with the soil 1122 which in many cases is the most magnetic soil apart from the modern topsoil.

An overall interpretation is that the most magnetic regions within the site seem to correspond to where 1122 exists and many discrete anomalies seem to be created by relatively thicker regions of this. The fills of the features beneath where found to be non-magnetic in several cases except where 1122 had accumulated in the tops of the features, implying that they were once sealed by it.

Project Code: FCS20021

Project Name: Domgay Lane Four Crosses - Magnetic Susceptibility Study

Drawing No.: DWG 01

Author: MJR

Date: 2/9/2003

Drawing Title: Susceptibility Data from Trench 11 Overlaid with Excavation Plan

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