

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE SITE OF A  
PROPOSED NEW SPORTS HALL, PENZANCE CRICKET  
GROUND (NGR SW46733095)**

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**RESULTS OF THE PHASE 2 EVALUATION**

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## RESULTS OF THE PHASE 2 EVALUATION

### 1. SUMMARY

*Following the completion of a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of this proposed development a field evaluation was undertaken. This comprised the excavation, by mechanical plant, of six evaluation trenches in positions agreed with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. The detailed examination of subsoil deposits within these trenches revealed the presence of a number of subsoil features, many of which contained pottery of prehistoric and early Romano-British date. The features, which were primarily pits, post holes and gullies are considered to relate to settlement activity in the area. This information, along with the earlier discovery of artefacts of late Iron Age and Romano-British date in the vicinity provides strong evidence for the presence of an extensive and important settlement, possibly associated with a 'round' enclosure.*

### 2. INTRODUCTION

**2.1** This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out by AC archaeology in September 1995, at Penzance cricket ground, St. Clare Street, Penzance.

**2.2** The work was commissioned by Penwith College and was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by AC archaeology (doc. E9571/1/0) and approved by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, acting as advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

**2.3** The area examined comprised the north-east corner of the cricket ground, on the site of proposed development for a new sports hall and associated services.

**2.4** The area of proposed development covers approximately 0.37 hectares, with the current land use being playing fields. The site lies on the north-east facing side of a ridge top at around 64m OD, with the trenches positioned where the field slopes gradually to the east and north-east.

**2.5** The aim of the work was to determine the nature, date, quality and importance of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will enable an informed planning decision to be made in relation to the proposed development of the site.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

**3.1** The field evaluation followed on from the phase 1 investigations, comprising geophysical survey and a review of available documentary sources (Cox *et al* 1995, Doc. ref. 4595/1/0).

**3.2** The development site lies within an area considered to be a possible prehistoric or Romano-British settlement or 'Round'. The curvilinear boundary to the south of the site may fossilise the course of the enclosure ditch, while the local field name 'Carngroes' meaning Rocky ground, and the earlier name 'Kerigou', also suggests the possible presence of a prehistoric or Romano-British settlement in the area of the cricket ground.

**3.3** Two pottery vessels were recovered within 60 metres of the site when the cemetery was extended to the west during the nineteenth century. Two coins of Roman date as well as animal bone were also

said to have been recovered from this area during grave digging in 1899.

**3.4** The geophysical survey was able to provide only limited evidence for subsoil features of archaeological potential within the boundaries of the development area. A single linear feature was recorded and the definition of two further poorly defined linear 'trends' was only tentative. A scanned survey by magnetometer to the south failed to reveal any trace of an enclosure ditch associated with the presumed circuit of the round. The recorded geophysical survey within the development area was limited in its effectiveness due to the presence of magnetic interference.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

**4.1** The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 6 trenches with a total length of 154.60m by 1.60m wide, amounting to an approximately 4.2% sample of the proposed development area. Initially a 2% sample was investigated (Trenches 1 - 3), but this was subsequently increased at the request of John Gould and Steve Hartgrove of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

**4.2** The machine excavation of trenches was carried out in two stages. The first stage involved the removal of topsoil and overburden onto a hillwash subsoil deposit. This layer was then cleaned by hand in order to identify any archaeological features or deposits, which were then recorded. On completion, the hillwash layer was removed onto the underlying natural subsoil. At this level, the clarity of archaeological features was generally good, although hand cleaning was necessary in all trenches. The majority of features were then investigated by manual excavation. In trenches 4 - 6 the hillwash material was machined off, having been shown to be of Post-Medieval date in the former trenches.

**4.3** All recording was carried out using the standard *AC archaeology* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records.

## 5. RESULTS

A total of six trenches was excavated, the positions of which are shown on Fig. 1. The evaluation revealed a large number of subsoil features generally characteristic of domestic occupation rather than agricultural activity. All features were characterised by the presence of local blue alvin stone blocks and fragments in the hillwash subsoil immediately overlying these features. The density of subsoil features across the whole of the site is shown in Fig. 2, with more detailed plans and sections included as Figs. 3 - 10. All trenches showed a similar general depositional sequence which is summarised in Table 1. A summary for each trench is given below in section 5.1 - 5.6.

Depth below ground surface (mm)	Contexts	Description	Interpretation
0 - 200 (min.) 0 - 350 (max.)	100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600	Dark greyish-brown silty loam.	Topsoil and turf present in all trenches.
200 -500 (min.) 350 - 750 (max.)	101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601	Layer of pale greyish-brown clay loam present in all trenches at varying depths (deeper downslope).	Redeposited layer likely to be colluvial in nature (all trenches located off break of slope). Layer contains post-medieval pottery and is cut by probable post-medieval ditch.
510 - 740	203, 204	Equivalent layers occurring only in Trench 2. Mottled orange - brown clay loam.	Lower deposit of hillwash which seals probable Iron Age / early Romano-British feature in terraced area at east end of trench
500 (min.) 750 (max.)	102, 202, 302, 402, 502, 602	Mottled orange / yellow-brown sandy clay	Natural subsoil cut by Iron Age and Romano-British archaeological features.

**Table 1 : The general depositional sequence for all trenches**

### 5.1 Trench 1

The trench dimensions were 15 x 1.6m , and was orientated approximately NW to SE across a gradual E and NE facing slope. This trench contained a layer not present in other trenches; context 107,

that was only visible at the easternmost 10m of the trench (see Fig. 3), sealed by context 101. It was composed of a dark brown sandy clay containing occasional blue alvin stone and slate fragments. This layer has been interpreted, based on stratigraphic evidence, as an earlier colluvial deposit. Archaeological subsoil features cutting this layer comprised:

#### **5.1.1 Medieval**

F103 : NE - SW aligned linear feature, probably a ditch. The width of this feature was c. 3.00m and depth of 250mm. The edges were variable with the SE edge very clear, showing moderately sloping sides onto a flat wide base, with the NE edge more shallow sloping onto a flat base. The fill (context 104) was composed of a very dark greyish-brown clay loam containing occasional fragments and blocks of blue alvin stone, rare charcoal flecks and rare slate fragments (Fig. 3). Artefacts recovered include Romano-British and Medieval pottery and a possible slate loom weight (SF 1). This probable shallow ditch continued into Trench 5 where it is recorded as context 543. The feature was originally thought to correspond to the 'trend' in the geophysical survey, but this is now considered unlikely.

#### **5.1.2 Uncertain**

F105 : Roughly circular in plan this small possible posthole had a diameter of 350mm and depth of 100mm. The sides showed as steep sloping onto an irregular base. The fill (context 106) was composed of a very dark greyish-brown silty loam containing large quantities of charcoal (Fig. 3). No artefacts were recovered.

### **5.2 Trench 2**

The trench dimensions were 15 x 1.6m, and was orientated approximately E to W across a gradual E and NE facing slope. Archaeological features identified within the trench comprised :

### **5.2.1 Iron Age and uncertain**

F215 : roughly NE - SW aligned shallow gully present across the full width of the trench (Figs. 4 & 5). The feature was 500mm wide and had a maximum surviving depth of 100mm. The sides showed as moderately to gradual sloping onto a reasonably flat base. The fill (context 216) was composed of a mottled dark brown clay loam containing rare charcoal flecks and stone fragments. Artefacts recovered were two pieces of probable Iron Age pottery.

F206, 207, 208, 210 : these comprise a group of pits or postholes located towards the E end of the trench (Figs. 4 & 5). All were sealed by lower hillwash layers 203 (south side of trench) and 204 (north side of trench), a mottled orange and brown clay loam with a depth of around 100mm , seemingly infilling a deliberate cutting into the natural subsoil (F218). All pits were broadly similar in profile, showing moderate to steep sloping sides onto a fairly flat base. The ground plan varied from being oval or probably circular, to sub rectangular, with the depths varying from 200 - 300mm. The soil composition was also similar, all fills being composed of orange-brown clay loams. No artefacts were recovered from any feature. It seems probable that this sequence of probable postholes are within an artificially created terrace or hollow, forming part of a structure of unknown function.

### **5.2.2 Post-Medieval**

F212 : this large, roughly N - S aligned probable ditch appears to corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly identified during the phase 1 survey (see Fig. 2). The ditch, unlike other features identified, was cut through the hillwash layer 201, rather than sealed by it (Figs. 4 & 5). It had a width of 2.70m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.40m but not bottomed. The profile showed initially as moderately sloping edges, becoming more steep with depth. The ditch contained two fills, with the upper fill (context 213) composed of a mid brown clay loam containing large blocks of blue alvin stone up to c. 500mm. The lower fill (context 214) was composed of a yellowish-brown sandy clay. A single fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the lower fill which, coupled with the stratigraphic evidence, provides positive dating evidence for the ditch. The ditch continued into Trench 3 as context 305.

### **5.3 Trench 3**

The dimensions of the trench were 21 x 1.6m , and was orientated approximately NE to SW across a gradual E facing slope.

Archaeological features identified within the trench comprised :

#### ***5.3.1 Late Iron Age / early Romano-British***

F303 : a roughly N - S aligned probable gully visible across the full width of the trench. It had a width of 600mm and depth of 160mm, with the edges showing as moderately sloping onto a rounded base. The fill (context 304) was composed of a dark brown silty loam containing rare stone and charcoal flecks. Finds recovered included six sherds of Late Iron Age / early Roman pottery.

#### ***5.3.1 Post-Medieval***

F305 : continuation of large ditch excavated in Trench 2 as F212 (see 5.2.2 above). This segment remained unexcavated with the only noticeable difference in fill was that this segment contained no blocks of blue alvin stone. No artefacts were recovered from surface cleaning.

### **5.4 Trench 4**

The trench dimensions were 5 x 1.6m, and was orientated approximately E to W along a gradual E facing slope. The trench was located adjacent to the east boundary wall of the site. No archaeological features were identified within this trench, with the only ground disturbance consisting of a N - S aligned gravel scalping track used as an access road during recent construction of Penwith College buildings.

### **5.5 Trench 5**

The trench dimensions were 27.50 x 1.60m, and was orientated approximately E - W across a gradual E and NE facing slope. Topsoil

(context 500) and hillwash (context 501) were removed carefully by machine onto the natural subsoil (context 502). Archaeological features were identified at this level throughout the trench which comprised :

#### ***5.5.1 Late Iron Age or uncertain***

F511 : curving shallow gully located towards the eastern end of the trench. The exposed width was 450mm and depth was 70mm. Sides showed as moderately sloping onto a level base (Figs 7 & 8). The fill (context 512) was composed of a mottled yellow / greyish-brown clay loam containing rare charcoal flecks and stone fragments. No artefacts were recovered.

F509 : irregular in plan and profile with a diameter of roughly 650mm and depth of 60mm (Figs. 7 & 8). Probably formed as a result of tree root disturbance rather than archaeological activity. No artefacts were recovered.

F506 : small circular possible pit or posthole with a diameter of 400mm and depth of 100mm. The sides show as moderate and steep sloping onto a fairly flat base (Figs. 7 & 8). The fill (context 507) was composed of a mottled yellowish-brown clay loam. No artefacts were recovered.

F517, F519, F521 : this group of features comprised a large pit (F517) seemingly cutting a curving gully with terminal end (F519) and another pit (F521) also cutting the gully. F517 appeared as irregular in plan continuing under the northern trench edge, its width was approximately 2.50m and depth was 500mm (Figs. 7 & 9). The edges showed as initially steep sloping, then a ledge, with the slope continuing as moderately sloping onto a fairly flat base. The fill (context 518) was composed of a dark brown clay loam containing frequent blocks of blue alvin stone. No artefacts were recovered. F519 was a curving gully with a width of 300mm and depth of around 120mm. The profile showed as steep-sided onto a level base, with the terminal edge more moderately sloping. The fill (context 520) was composed of a mid to dark greyish-brown clay silt containing rare charcoal flecks. No artefacts were recovered. F521 was observed to cut F519 on its S side. It appeared in plan as sub-circular with a width of around 1.00m. The feature could not be fully excavated due to the presence of large blocks of blue alvin stone continuing under the trench edge. The fill (context 522) was composed of a mid yellowish-brown clay silt. No artefacts were recovered.

F523 : possibly a circular pit continuing under the northern trench edge. The feature had a probable diameter of 700mm and depth of 280mm. The sides were moderately sloping onto a rounded base and contained a single fill, context 524, a mid-brown clay loam (Fig. 7 & 9).

F504 : probable circular feature which continues under the southern trench edge, also cutting F513 (see below). The probable diameter was 750mm and depth was 250mm. The edges showed as moderate to steep sloping onto a level base. It contained two fills, with the upper fill (context 505) composed of a mid orange-brown silty clay. Within this fill was an in situ, but fragmented, Cordoned Ware pottery vessel (SF 5) of late Iron Age / early Romano-British date (see section 6.1 below). The lower fill (context 508) was a dark brown / black silty clay containing frequent patches of charcoal (Fig. 7 & 8).

F513 : large, probably oval or circular pit (cut by adjacent features), with diameter of 1.38m and depth of around 650mm. The edges were fairly steep sloping onto a level base. The pit appeared to be lined with a yellow-brown silty clay (see Figs 7 & 8). It contained two further fills, with the upper fill (context 514) composed of a mid brown silty clay containing large blue alvin blocks and fragments. The lower fill (context 515) was composed of a very dark brown / black silty clay containing frequent patches of charcoal. No artefacts were recovered.

F526 : probable pit not fully excavated (hand excavation ceased when relationship with F525 {see below} was clarified ). It contained at least two fills, with the upper fill (context 533) being composed of a reddish-brown clay loam and the lower fill (context 534), composed of a greyish-brown clay loam (Figs. 7 & 8) No artefacts were recovered.

F525 : roughly circular pit, cut by F526 and cutting F527. The dimensions were diameter of 1.00m and depth of 450mm. The sides showed as moderate to steep sloping onto a level base. Again, this feature appeared to be lined with a yellowish-brown silty clay (context 529). The pit contained three other fills, with the upper fill (context 503) composed of a reddish-brown sandy loam containing large blocks and fragments of blue alvin stone. Immediately below this was context 531, a reddish-brown sandy loam, containing large blue alvin blocks and rare charcoal flecks. The lowest fill, context 530, was sealed by the pit lining. It had the appearance of being

very burnt, containing frequent patches of charcoal, within a silty clay matrix. The pit appeared to have three narrow 'radials' leading from it (Figs. 7 & 8).

F527 : this appeared as a small, shallow scoop, located on the western edge of F525 (Fig. 7). The dimensions were diameter of 300mm and depth of 120mm. The fill, context 528, was composed of a yellowish-brown clay loam containing rare charcoal flecks. It contained another in situ late Iron Age / early Romano-British pottery vessel, SF 4.

F540, F541, F542 : these three probable pits remained unexcavated, with the dimensions unclear, as they all continued under the trench edges. The fills were all clay loams containing blue alvin stone fragments. F541 contained frequent charcoal fragments within the fill. No artefacts were recovered from surface cleaning, though there is no reason to suppose that they are not contemporaneous with the main phase of occupation on the site.

F537 : approximately N - S aligned ditch, present across the full width of the trench continuing into trench 6 as F611 (see section 5.6.1 below). The profile showed as rounded, moderately sloping sides, onto a rounded base. It contained two fills, with the upper fill (context 538) composed of a dark brown silty clay, containing occasional stone and rare charcoal fragments. The lower fill (context 539) was composed of a yellowish brown clay loam, containing occasional stone fragments (Figs. 7 & 9). Three fragments of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the upper fill.

F535 : a shallow gully located on the western side, and cut by F537. The sides and terminal end showed as abrupt edges onto a level base. The dimensions were width of 400mm and depth of 150mm. The fill (context 536) was composed of a yellowish-brown clay loam containing occasional stone and rare charcoal flecks (Figs. 7 & 9). No artefacts were recovered.

### **5.5.2 Medieval**

F543 : continuation of ditch F103 from trench 1. This segment remained unexcavated with the fills being identical. No artefacts were recovered from surface cleaning.

## 5.6 Trench 6

The trench dimensions were 11.50 x 1.60m and was orientated roughly NE - SW across a gradual E facing slope. Topsoil and hillwash was removed carefully by machine onto the natural subsoil. Archaeological features identified at this level comprised :

### *5.6.1 Late Iron Age and uncertain*

F611 : unexcavated segment of approximately N - S aligned ditch, identified in Trench 5 as F537 (see 5.5.1 above). The fill was identical to F537, with no artefacts recovered from surface cleaning.

F608 : roughly oval shaped pit, continuing under NW trench edge. The dimensions were width of 1.05m, length of 1.20m+ and depth of 720mm. The sides showed as near vertical onto a flat base. The feature contained two fills, the upper fill (context 609) had a depth of 550mm and was composed of a dark reddish-brown clay loam, containing occasional blue alvin stone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. The lower fill (context 610) was composed of a dark brown silty clay (Fig. 10). Two small fragments of probable Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill.

F612 : a small, roughly oval in plan small pit or posthole, with dimensions of 550 x 300mm and depth of 120mm. The sides showed as moderate to steep sloping onto a fairly flat base. The fill (context 613) was composed of a dark reddish-brown silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks (Fig. 10). No artefacts were recovered.

F605 : probable terminal end of shallow gully aligned roughly N - E. The width was 250mm and depth was around 150mm. The profile showed as steep sloping onto a fairly flat base, with the terminal end being fairly shallow sloping. The fill (context 606) was a dark reddish-brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of local blue alvin stone and rare charcoal flecks (Fig. 10). Two small fragments of probable Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill.

F603 : shallow N - S aligned ditch or gully, irregular in plan. The profile consists of a fairly steep sloping central slot with a fairly rounded base, with

shallow ledges or spreads of fill on either side. The fill (context 604) was composed of a dark brown silty clay containing a single large blue alvin stone block (up to 300mm), occasional stone and slate fragments and rare charcoal flecks (Fig. 10). No artefacts were recovered.

F607 : probable circular pit continuing under the SW trench edge. It had a visible diameter of around 800mm and depth of 220mm. The sides showed as fairly steep sloping onto a flat base. The fill (context 614) was composed of a dark reddish-brown silty clay containing occasional blue alvin stone blocks and fragments and rare charcoal flecks. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill.

## 6. THE FINDS

A summary of all finds recovered from the site is shown in Table 2.

### 6.1 The pottery

A total of 132 fragments of pottery, weighing 666g, was recovered from the excavation. A total of 87%, by weight was from excavated features, 12.85% from hillwash or post-medieval features and 0.15% from topsoil (spoil heap scanning).

The material has been examined by Henrietta Quinnell who has provided the following catalogue and comment.

**context 101** - 1 sherd with much crushed grit. Likely to be prehistoric and pre-late Bronze Age in date.

**context 104** - 1 sherd eroded Roman redware footring, not Samian or Oxford; 3 fresh sherds, gabbroic, probably of Early Medieval date; 1 sherd gabbroic of Roman period type; 1 Medieval body sherd with glaze splash.

**context 200** - 1 Medieval body sherd

**context 201** - 1 sherd late Medieval bowl rim in fine granitic fabric.

Trench	Context	Prehistoric pottery		Iron Age/ early RB pottery		RB pottery		Medieval pottery		Post-Med pottery		Uncertain pottery		Calcined bone		Cu alloy objects	Stone objects
		No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	No.
1	101	1	2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	104	-	-	-	-	2	13g	4	49g	-	-	-	-	10	2g	-	SF 1
2	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	SF 2	-
2	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	203	-	-	1	1g	-	-	1	11g	3	35g	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1g	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	216	-	-	2	38g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SF 3	-
3	301	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1g	3	20g	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	304	-	-	6	12g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1g	-	-	-	-
5	505	-	-	44	235g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	528	-	-	54	202g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	538	-	-	3	20g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	606	-	-	1	1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	609	-	-	1	1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	614	1	7g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>9g</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>510g</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13g</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77g</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>56g</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1g</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2g</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF EXCAVATED FINDS**

**context 203** - 1 17th century North Devon gravel-tempered sherd; 2 sherds with internal glaze of similar date; 1 late Medieval / early Post-Medieval body sherd  
1 eroded small gabbroic rim of Iron Age type.

**context 214** - 1 internally-glazed Post-Medieval sherd

**context 216** - 1 base sherd and one body sherd from rounded carination angle, fabric not recognisable but contains crushed quartz and other inclusions, probably Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

**context 301** - 1 Medieval body sherd; 2 17th century sherds with internal glaze;  
1 sherd of fine red fabric which is probably 19th century

**context 304** - 6 sherds in gabbroic fabric of Late Iron Age or early Roman type;  
1 sherd in a fabric unrecognised.

**context 505** - 44 sherds from one gabbroic vessel, a Cordoned Ware bowl of Caerloggas Type G (Threipland, 1956). Such bowls have a date range from first century BC until c. AD 100.

**context 528** - 54 burnt sherds from gabbroic jar of Late Iron Age or early Roman date; could be compared to Caerloggas Type D; date range perhaps 300 BC to AD 100; an unusual feature is the very fine scratched decoration on the burnished shoulder.

**context 538** - 3 Burnt gabbroic sherds from cordoned jar shoulder

**context 606** - 1 gabbroic scrap

**context 609** - 1 gabbroic scrap

**context 614** - 1 granite body sherd; prehistoric, any date before c. 100 BC

### **Comment**

The features sealed by the hillwash deposits are of varied date. Features [304], [505], [538] and [606] form a coherent group which can be assigned to the period when Cordoned Ware of Late Iron Age type was current, roughly 100 BC - AD 100. This type of Cordoned Ware is much finer than that which

continues through the Roman period and includes a wider range of types of which the Type G bowl in [505] is typical. Feature [216] is likely to be late Bronze Age or early Iron Age (before c. 500 BC). Feature [614] is likely to be prehistoric because c. 100 BC, on current knowledge, gabbroic fabrics appear to have become predominant in the area. Feature [104] contains a mixture of material, up to early Medieval.

The hillwash deposits contain mixed material of which 17th-century sherds are the most obvious. The colluvium either accumulated over a long period of time, or is 17th-century in date and contains redeposited sherds. The features cutting through the hillwash are probably 17th century in date.

The earliest elements present within the collection are of considerable importance as it indicates activity of two separate dates. Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age sites are almost unknown in the area. It is also extremely unusual to find cordoned ware unassociated with later Iron Age Glastonbury material, so much so that it is still unclear whether the two styles were current at the same time: this comment is made bearing the small size of the collection in mind. There are also hints of activity of other prehistoric dates. For general background on the ceramics see Quinnell, 1986. There has been no work on later prehistoric or Roman material from the area since the publication of Carn Euny (Christie, 1978) when a ceramic sequence from c. 1000 BC onwards was poorly understood. There is still much we do not know about this sequence, and indeed ceramic of all dates from West Penwith, so the location of a site with indications of occupation of different dates within the later Prehistoric period is of considerable importance.

## **6.2 The metalwork**

Two copper alloy objects were recovered from the excavation:

### **6.2.1 Coin**

A very worn Victorian 'bun' penny, date illegible, from context 300, topsoil in Trench 3 (SF3).

### **6.2.2 Brooch (Fig. 11)**

A brooch was recovered from context 200, topsoil in Trench 2 (SF2). The following comment has been provided by Mark Corney (RCHM[E]) and is based on a provisional assessment prior to cleaning and conservation.

The brooch appears to be a Colchester/Simple Gaulish type. The bow is round in section and the spring chord is held by a short forward-facing hook. These are typological features which indicate a probable Gallic origin. There are further indications of this; the short wings and the probability of a pierced catchplate. The overall large size is also a good indicator of an early date. The date of the brooch is possibly c. 10 BC - AD 30.

### **6.3 Worked stone (Fig. 12)**

A single stone object was recovered from context 104, Trench 1 (SF1). This is a fragment of a near-circular, pierced, piece of slate c. 60 mm in original diameter, one side of which has been cut. The object is probably a spindle whorl, date unknown.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

**7.1** The evaluation has provided conclusive evidence for the presence of important archaeological deposits on the site which may be dated to the later prehistoric and early Romano-British period. The full extent of this site cannot be confirmed by the present investigation, nor can the presence of a 'round' enclosure be dismissed.

**7.2** The presence of earlier pottery, possibly from the later Bronze Age, also occurs on the site. The low density of finds of this period may not provide conclusive evidence for contemporaneous deposits within the evaluation area and this material may be residual here. Nevertheless its presence, even if

derived from occupation nearby, does raise the potential importance of the site.

**7.3** Other deposits, principally a linear feature observed in Trenches 1 and 2, may be of Medieval or later date.

**7.4** A shallow, but variable, deposit of hillwash has been identified across the site which seals the earlier phases of activity and which is cut by the latest (post-Medieval) features. This material is likely to date to the seventeenth century or later and may have developed as a result of arable agricultural activity on this sloping ground as is known to have occurred in the nineteenth century when the land parcel was part of Treneere Lower Field (see Cox *et al*, Fig. 2). The presence of this material directly above the earliest phases of activity on the site suggests that some erosion of earlier features may have occurred, but the survival of in situ pottery vessels in the surface of subsoil features (e.g. F504 and 527) indicates that the effects of ploughing have not been substantially destructive.

**7.5** The palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic potential of the site is considered to be moderately high. Several fills of features of later Iron Age / Romano-British date contain moderate amounts of charcoal which may provide data useful in the assessment of local contemporaneous vegetation. Samples of charcoal-rich deposits, from suitable contexts in Trench 5, have been retained, but not analysed in detail. No other macrobotanical remains were noted in the excavated deposits. The relatively high acidity of local soils will not have allowed the survival of terrestrial mollusca. Pollen is likely to be well-preserved and although the presence of palaeosols has not been confirmed from the present investigation it is possible that this source of good palynological data could exist elsewhere on the site. Animal bone is virtually non-existent within the excavated sample. Only context 104 contains a small quantity of burnt bone. It should be noted, however, that the earlier discoveries of artefacts made in the adjacent cemetery included "some cow

*bones lying in an ancient trench*": the survival of animal bone, and hence some potential for analysis of this aspect of the site's palaeoeconomy, cannot be discounted.

**7.6** Full design details of the proposed sports hall have not been reviewed, but it is possible to make some general comments about the potential impacts of the development of the site. The presence of the post-Medieval hillwash may provide some limited buffer of protection to the archaeological deposits in areas where only minimal soil disturbance is anticipated, e.g. areas of car parking, site access route etc. In the case of terracing or ground disturbance in excess of c. 400mm below existing levels, or where tree planting is proposed, damage to in situ archaeological deposits should be anticipated. While there appears to be a general thickening of the hillwash deposits towards the east and north-east of the site this may not be constant.

## **8. REFERENCES**

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Quinnell, H, 1986 "Cornwall during the Iron Age and the Roman period" *Cornish Archaeol.* 25 111 - 135

Threipland, L H, 1956 An excavation at St Mawgan-in-Pydar, North Cornwall" *Archaeol J.* 131, 33 - 81

# PENZANCE CRICKET GROUND

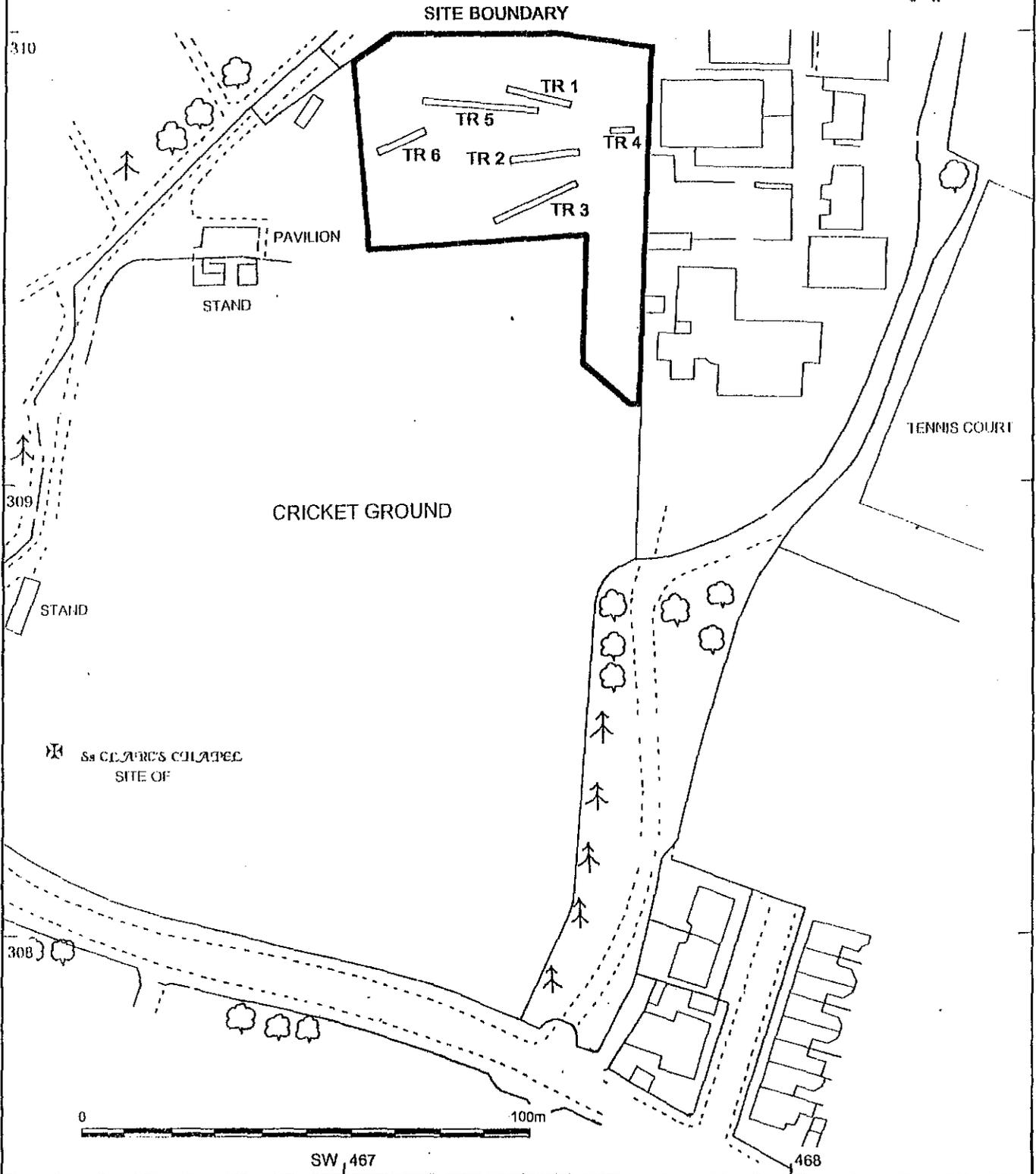


FIG 1 : SITE AND TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

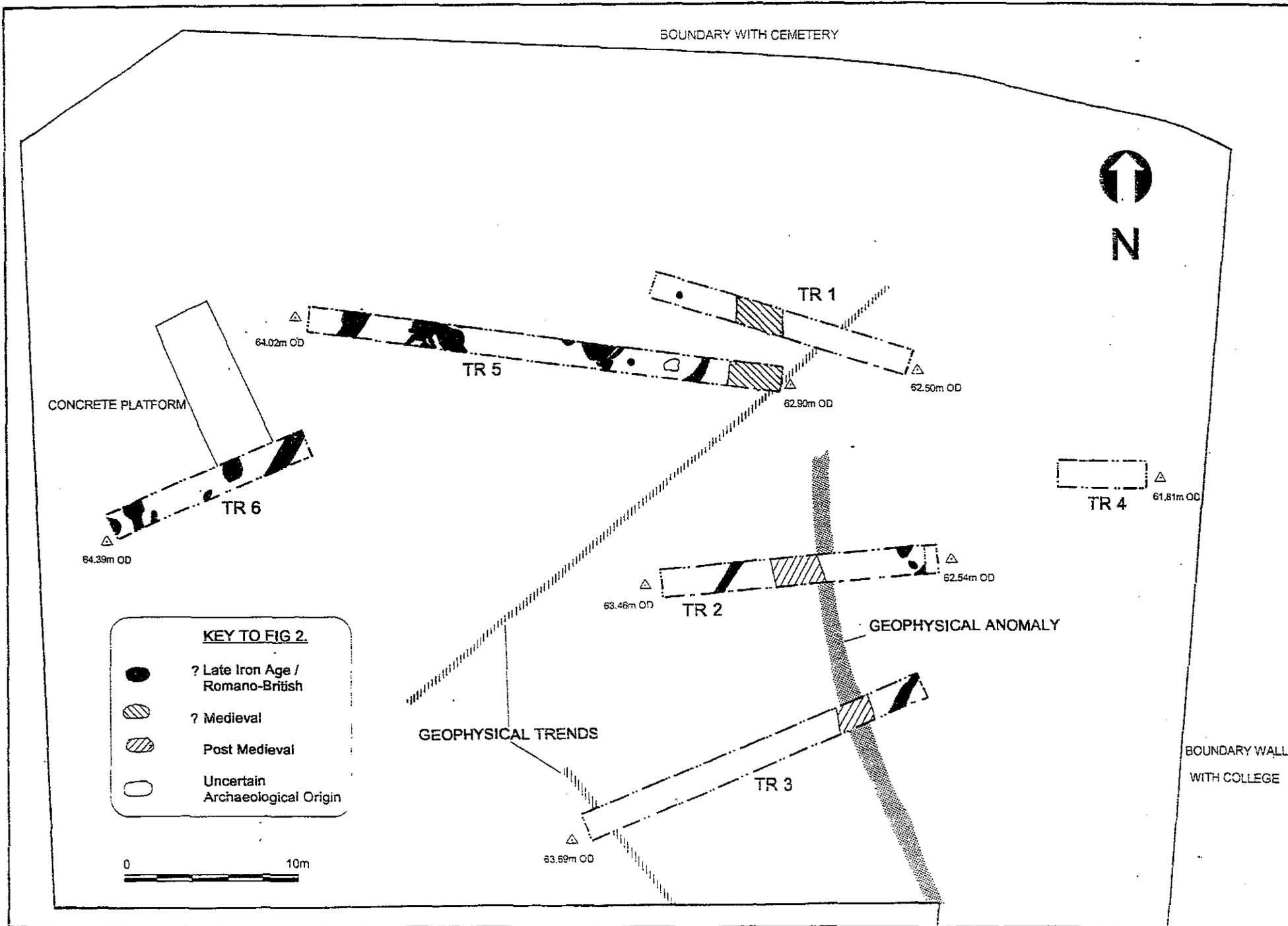
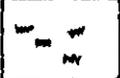
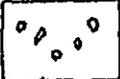
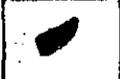
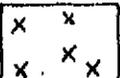


FIG 2 : DENSITY OF SUBSOIL FEATURES WITHIN EXCAVATED TRENCHES

	EDGE OF EXCAVATED AREA
	SECTION LINE
	TOPSOIL
	CHARCOAL
	SLATE
	BLUE ALVIN STONE
	BURNT STONE
	DEGRADED STONE / ORANGE CLAY
	ROSE-COLOURED GRANITE
	LEVEL ( TO OS DATUM )

KEY FOR PLANS AND SECTIONS : FIGS 3-10

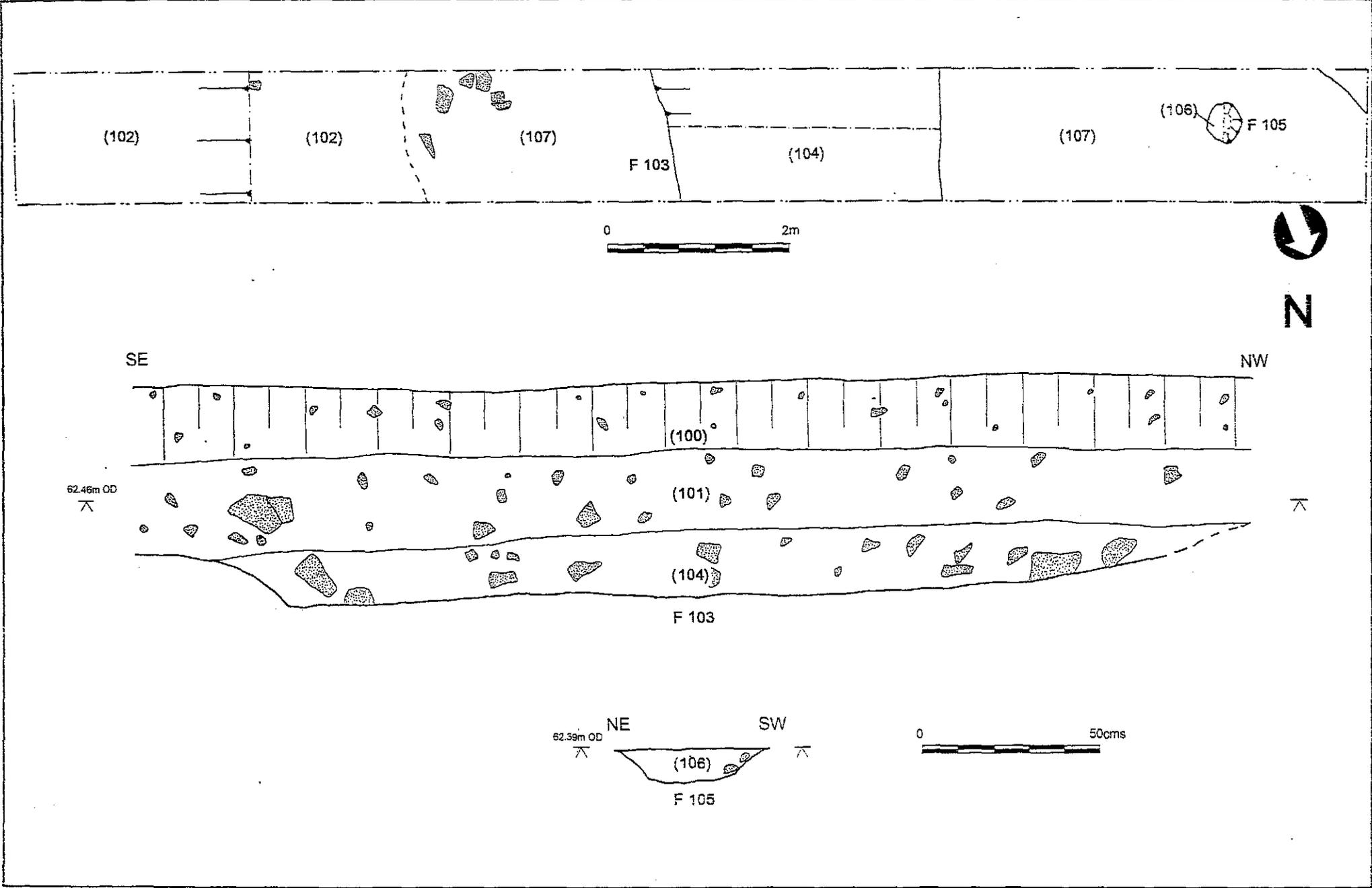


FIG 3 : PLAN AND SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 1

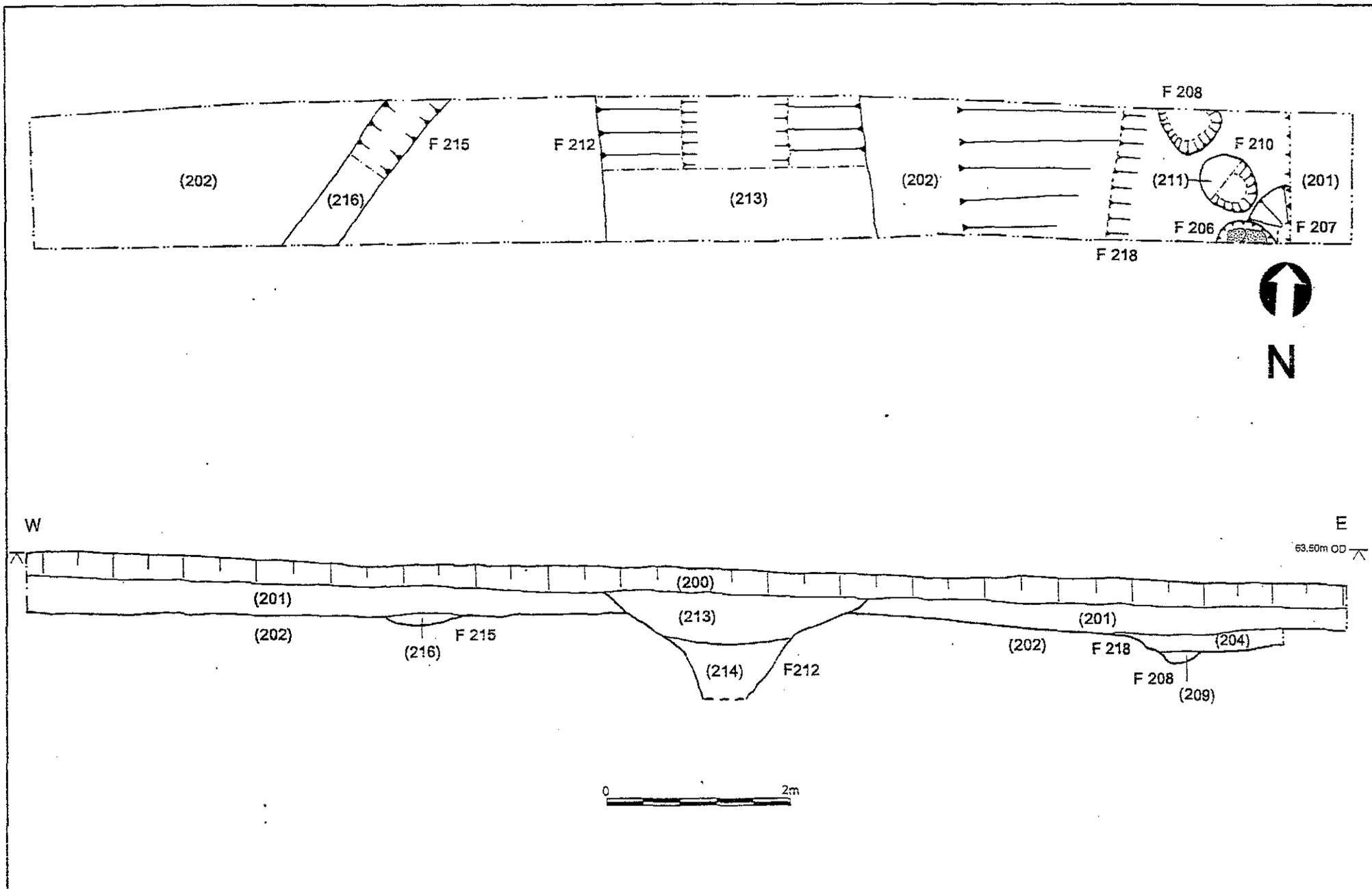


FIG 4 : PLAN AND LONG SECTION THROUGH TRENCH 2

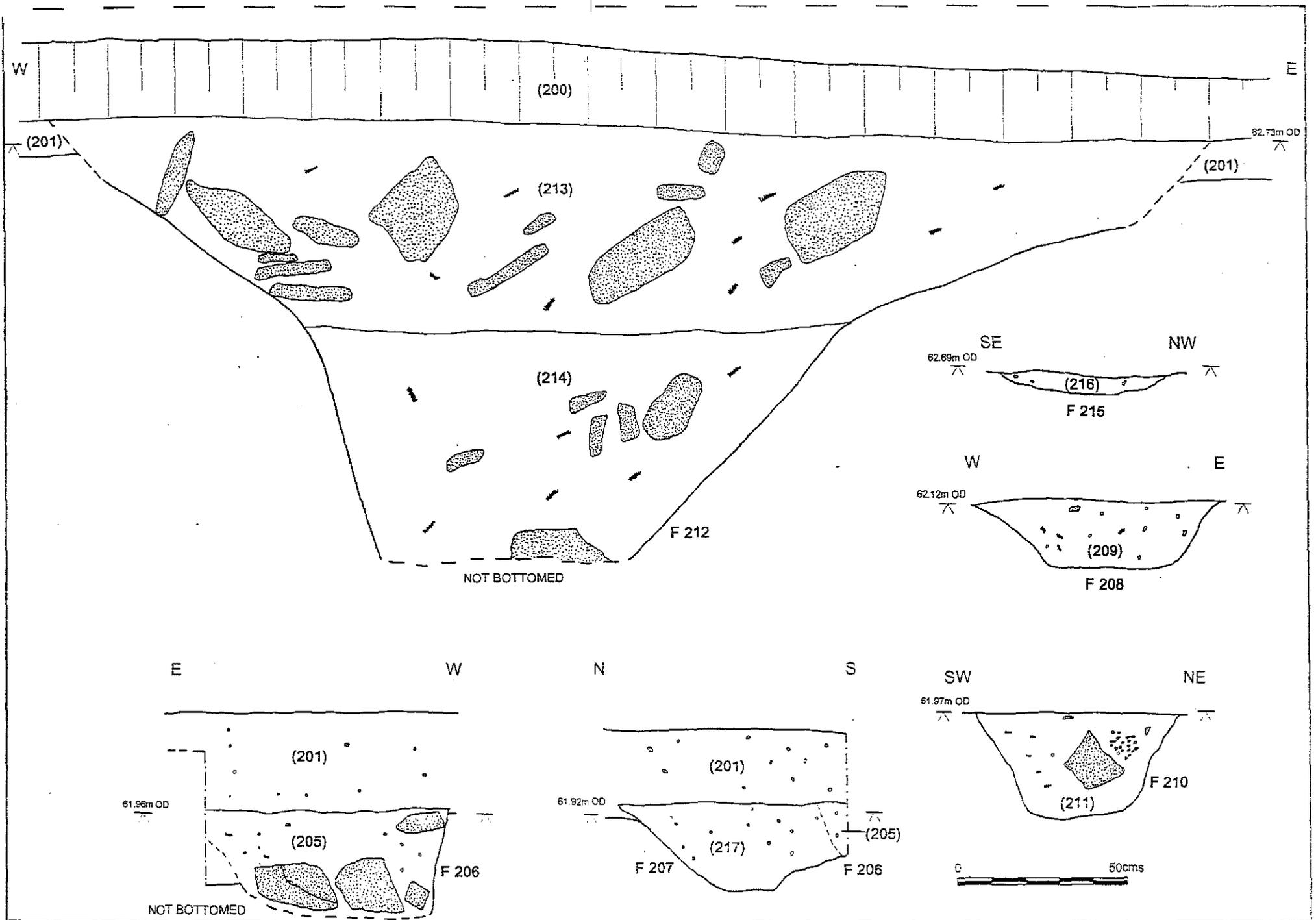


FIG 5 : SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 2

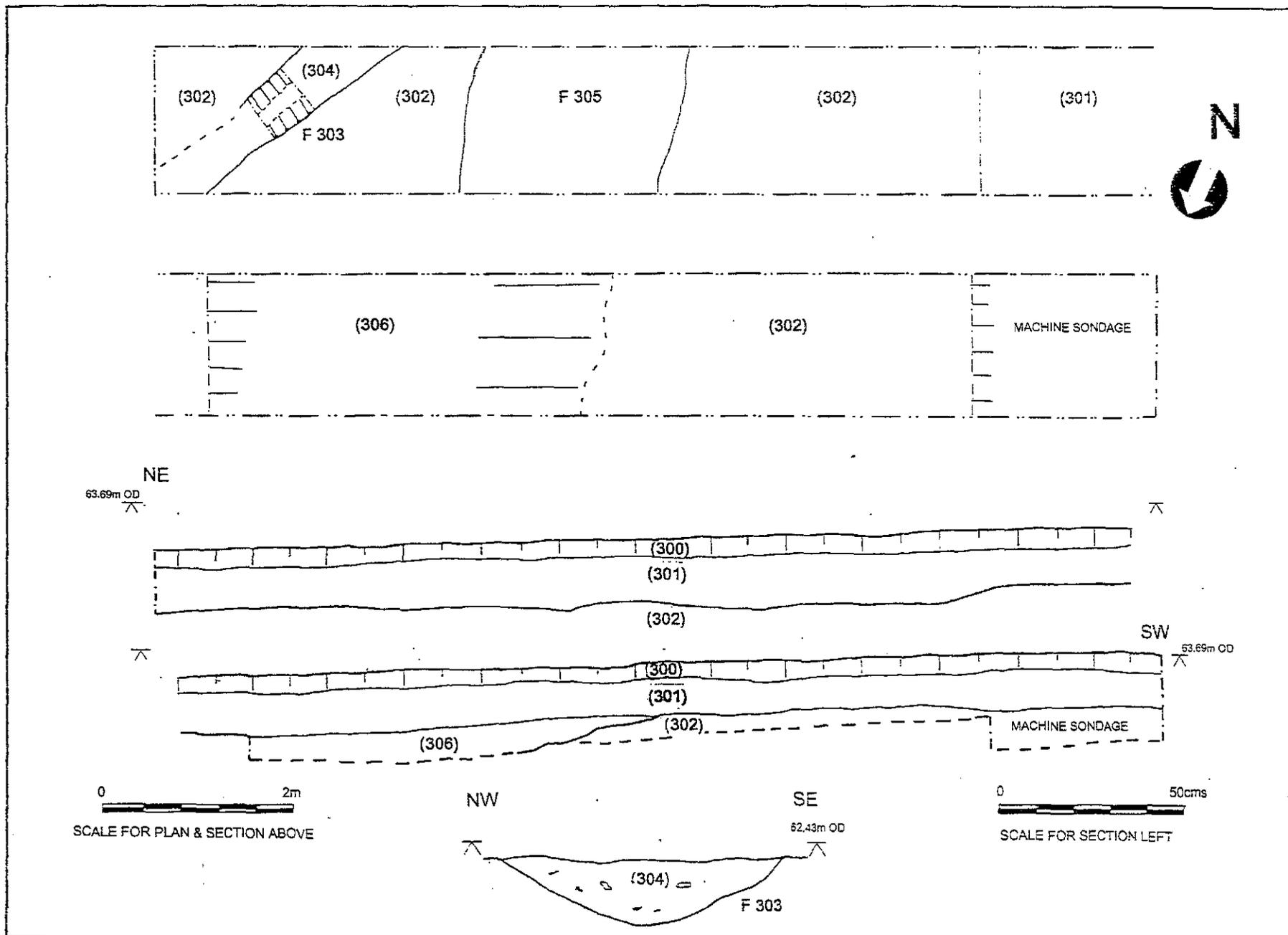


FIG 6 : PLAN AND SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 3

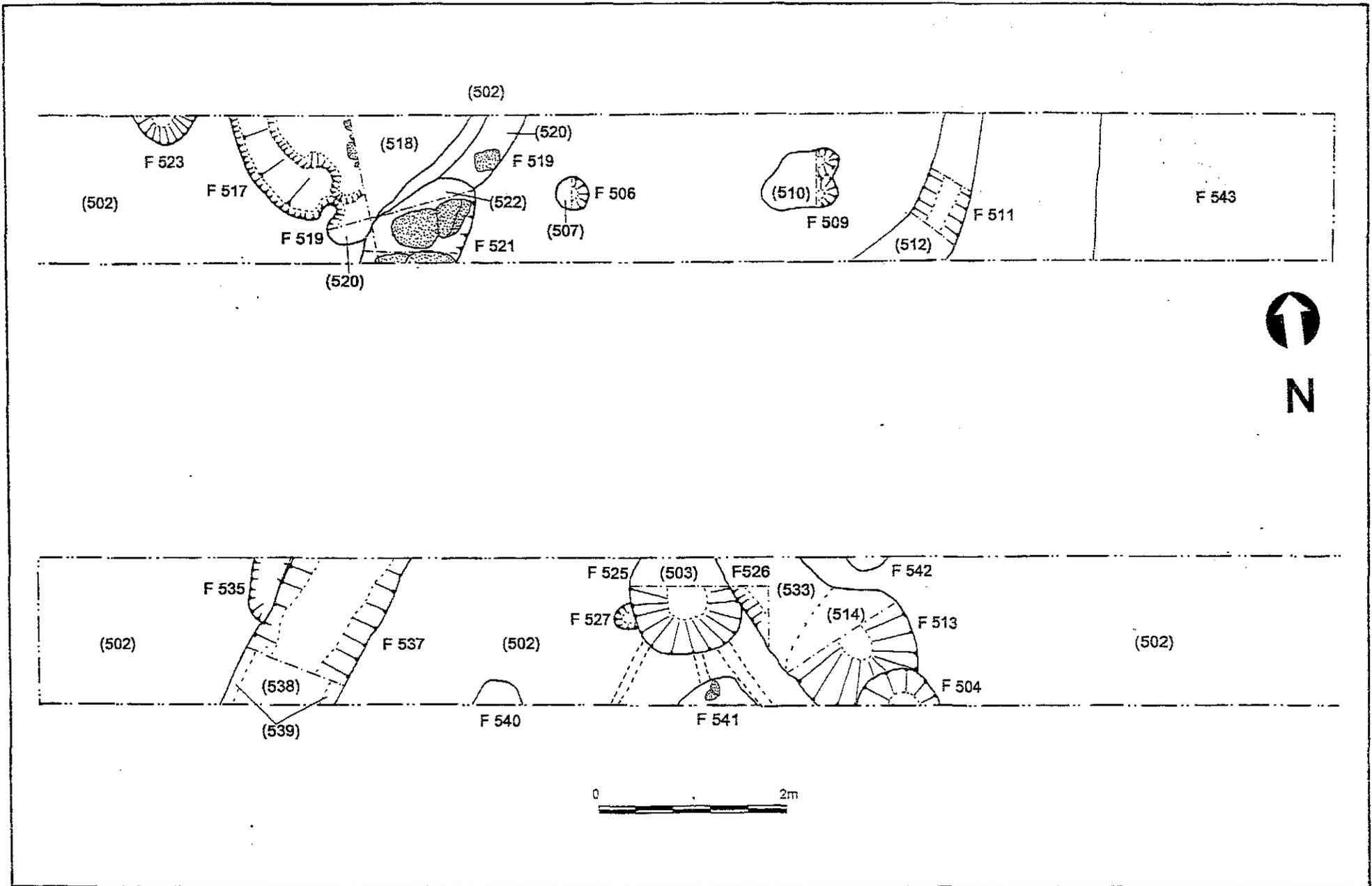


FIG 7 : PLAN OF TRENCH 5

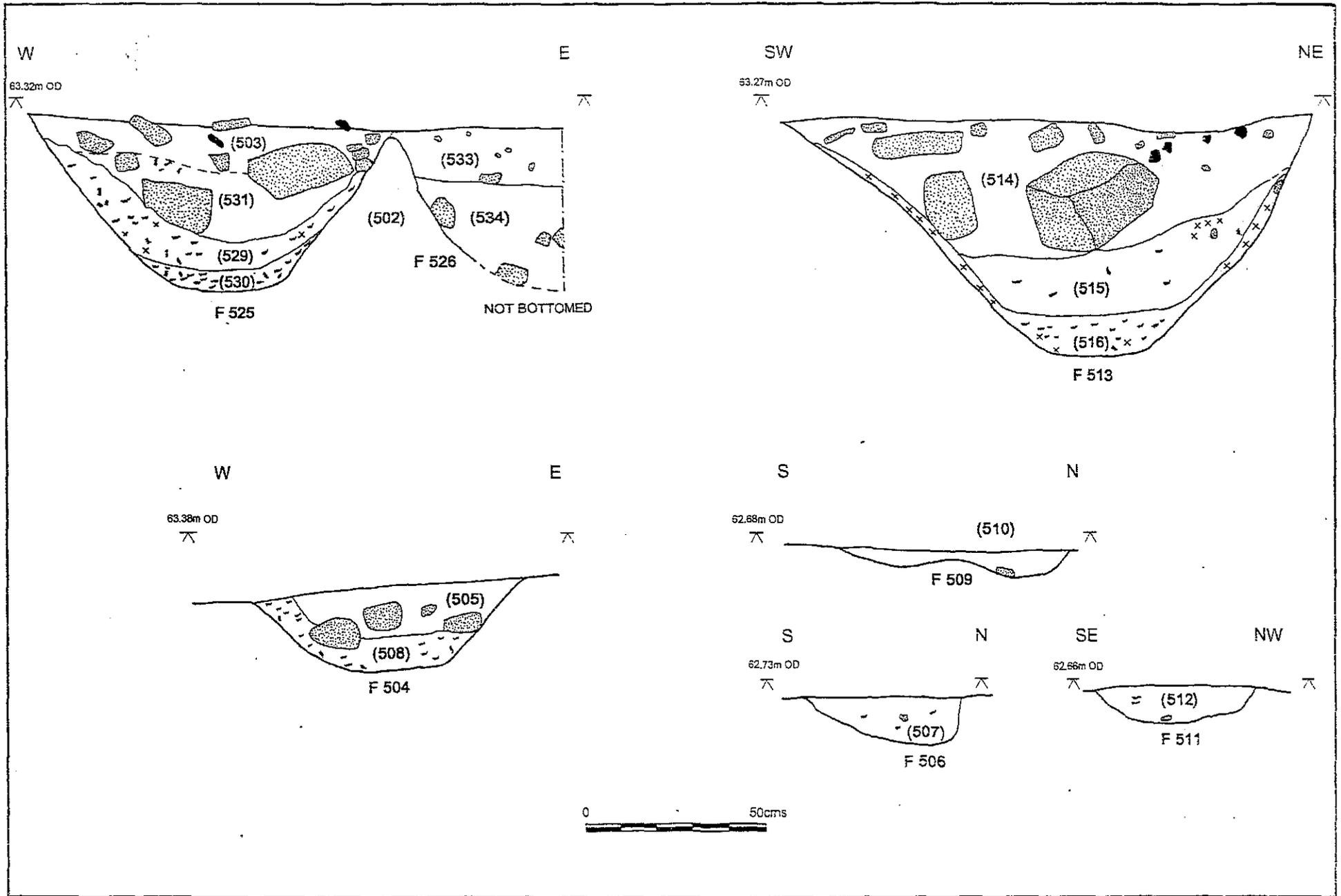


FIG 8 : SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 5

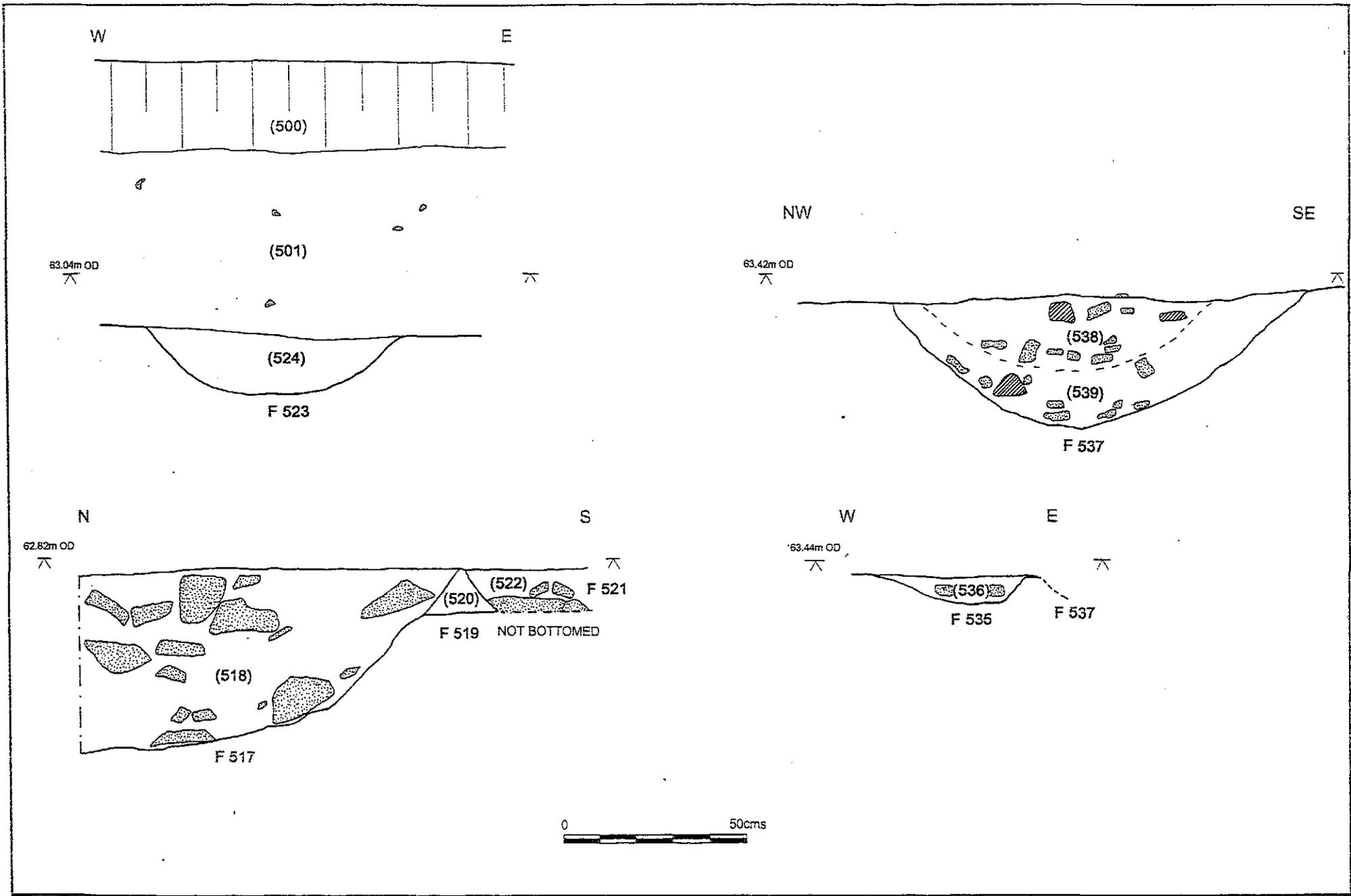


FIG 9 : SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 5

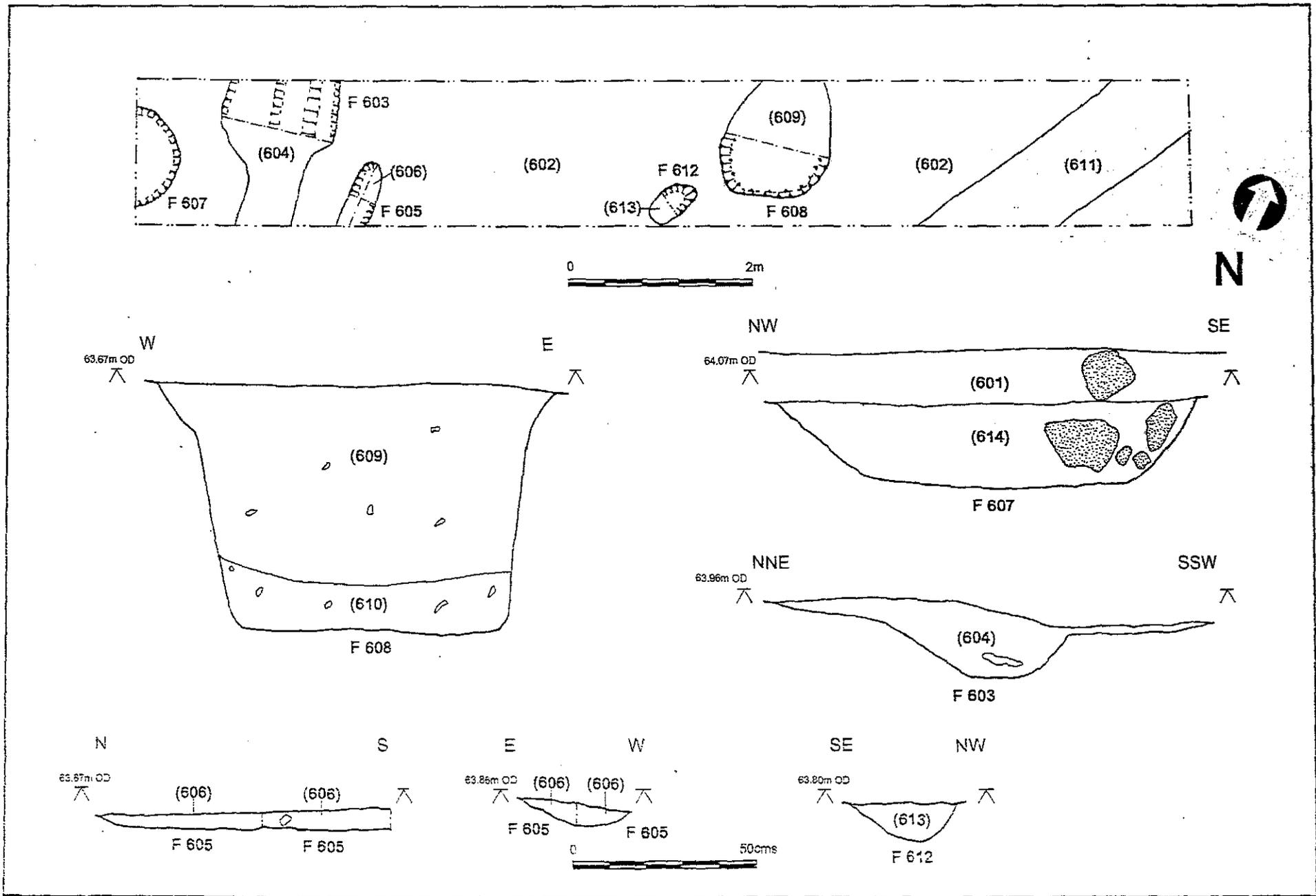


FIG 10 : PLAN AND SECTIONS FROM TRENCH 6

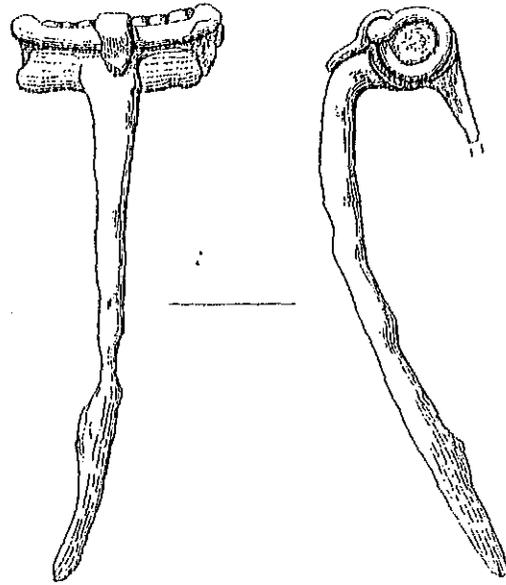


FIG 11 : Brooch SF 2 (actual size)

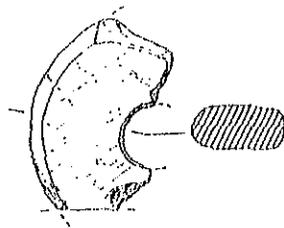


FIG 12 : Stone Object SF 1 (half actual size)



PLATE 1 : GENERAL VIEW OF WEST END OF TRENCH 5 DURING EXCAVATION

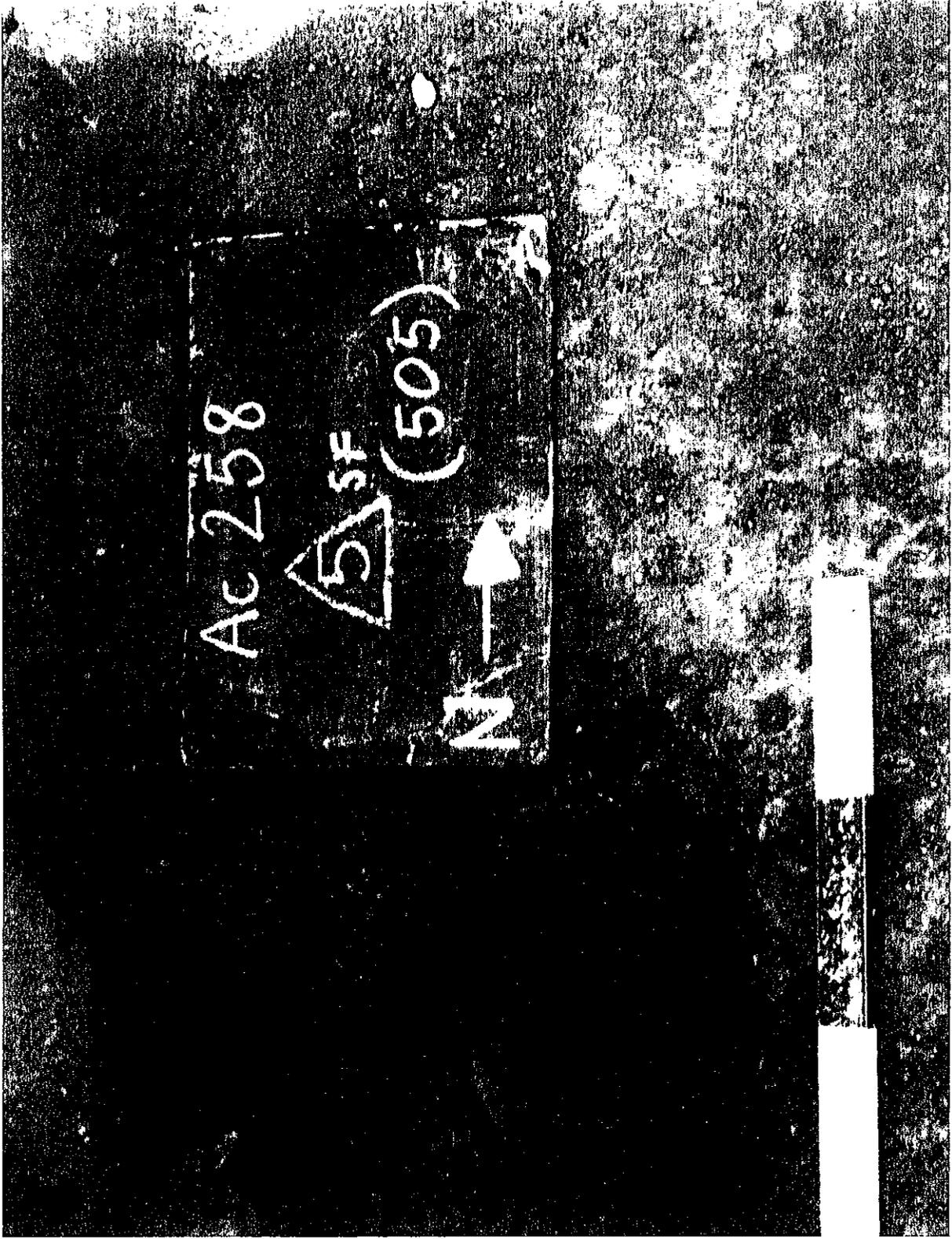


PLATE 2: IN SITU POT (SF 5) IN UPPER SURFACE OF FEATURE F504