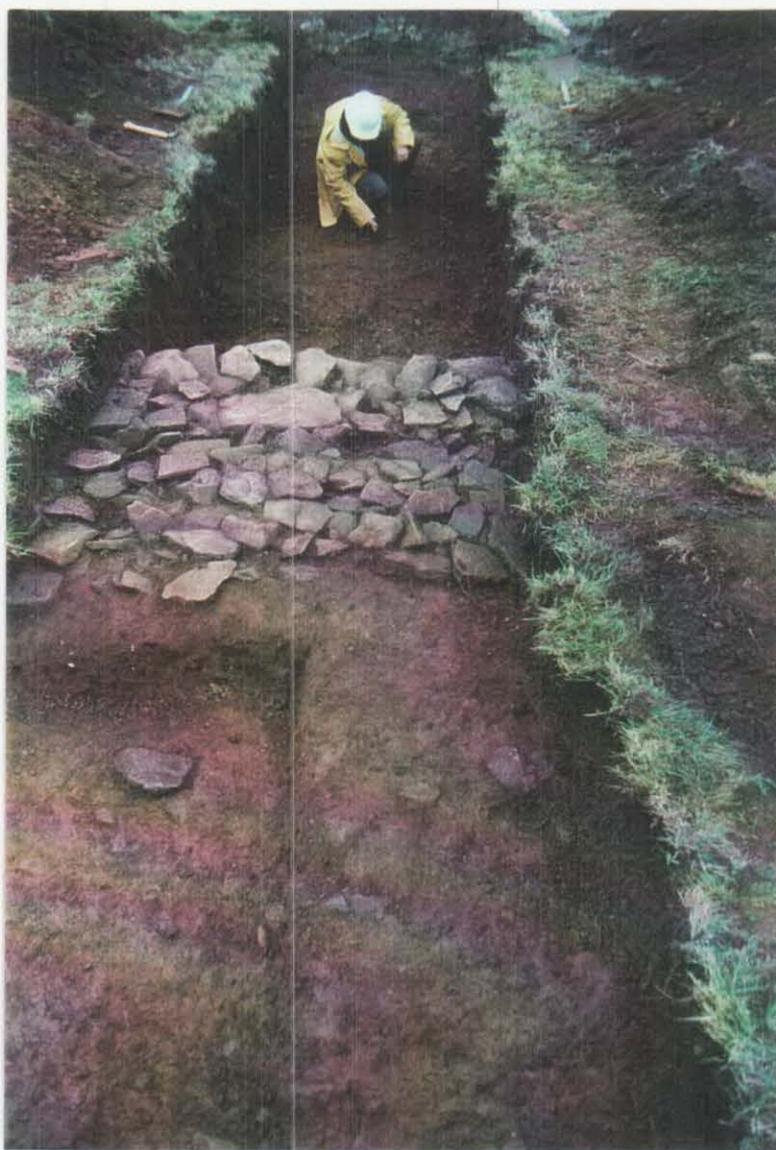


**Land off Cossham Street, Mangotsfield,  
South Gloucestershire.**

**Archaeological Evaluation Project**

(South Gloucestershire SMR 11,017)



On behalf of  
Bryant Homes (Southwest) Limited

Adrian H. H. Parry MA  
**Avon Archaeological Unit**  
Bristol. March 1997



## ABSTRACT

This report details the results of a two-staged archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Avon Archaeological Unit between December 1996 and March 1997 on the site of the former playing field attached to the Lower School site at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield (now demolished). The evaluation exercise (SGSMR 11017) was commissioned in advance of the submission of a detailed planning application by Bryant Homes (Southwest) Ltd. In this respect, the project, which was funded by the proposed developer, was carried out in accordance with Central Government PPG16 and local authority guidelines.

Forty six trenches were opened within the proposed development footprint. The cuttings were sited in such a way as to examine possible subterranean archaeological features indicated by a preceding stage of geophysical survey and to sample a representative area of the site omitted by the survey.

A series of rectilinear geophysical anomalies located at the northern end of the site were shown by the evaluation exercise to be the boundary ditches of two Romano-British enclosures. The parallel linear feature sampled towards the southern end of the site was confirmed as the remains of a double-ditched feature, possibly the remains of a trackway. Other buried features of archaeological significance, interpreted as the remains of occupation layers, metalled surfaces, ditches, banks, gullies, pits and postholes were recorded over a wide area of the site. The distribution of archaeology was not uniform however, with the greatest density of features occurring in a zone of activity orientated southwest-northeast across the northern half of the site.

The range and condition of the artefactual evidence, and the discovery of a sarcophagus burial suggests that the development footprint lay close to or within the focus of a wider area of Roman-British settlement now known to extend beyond the development site (Hume forthcoming). A small but significant quantity of metallic slag and ferrous ore recovered from Romano-British layers and deposits indicates that Iron working was carried out on the site.

Evidence for earlier archaeological activity on the site, possibly dating as far back as the late Neolithic or Bronze Age, is attested by a small assemblage of flint artefacts. The nature of the activity (i.e whether it reflects settlement or more transitory occupation) is at present unclear.

The remains of a stone wall, interpreted as a previously unrecorded field boundary, and evidence of landscaping associated with the construction of the school were also recorded during the evaluation.

In view of the wide distribution and density of important Prehistoric and Romano-British remains revealed during the project it is suggested that further detailed archaeological investigation and recording is undertaken on the site in advance of future development.

## PROJECT OUTLINE

The evaluation project was undertaken by means of trial archaeological excavation. The objectives of the work were:

- i) to determine the extent to which archaeological stratigraphy survived on the site and, if so, to characterise the extent, nature, date and importance of such activity
- ii) to define the extent to which archaeological remains on the site may be affected by the proposed development
- iii) to provide information which would, if necessary, enable any subsequent stages of archaeological investigation to be targetted and designed in accordance with the nature of the surviving evidence.

Forty six trial excavation trenches were sited with a view to targetting geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological significance and providing a representative sample of archaeological features and deposits in areas not covered by geophysical prospection.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator. Further cleaning and excavation was carried out by hand.

Post-excavation work involved preparing an archive for the project, organisation of a specialist contribution, and the preparation of this report.

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\* The following abbreviations are used throughout the report:

O.D.	Ordnance Datum
c.	Circa
m.	metres
max.	maximum
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
<	greater than
>	less than

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The development site under discussion in this report is the former playing field of the now demolished Mangotsfield Lower School, Cossham Street, Bristol (NGR ST668763). The site, which was formerly within the county of Avon, now lies within the District of South Gloucestershire.
- 1.2 The development footprint forms part of the wider Emersons Green Village Development and as such is designated Hamlet XIII. The proposed developer, Bryant Homes (South West) Limited commissioned and funded the archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3 The project was initiated on the basis of results gathered during a preceding stage of geophysical survey (see 3.2 below). On the basis of that evidence, the South Gloucestershire Archaeological Officer recommended that a programme of trial excavation should be undertaken to examine (a) a specified area of the development footprint where the geophysical data indicated the presence of subterranean features of possible archaeological origin and (b) a representative area of the site not covered by the survey. The work was designed to assess the archaeological significance and importance of those feature in advance of proposed residential development on the site.
- 1.4 The objective of the archaeological programme was to establish the extent to which archaeological remains survived on the site and, if so, to determine their character, quality and extent within the assessment area. the evaluation was designed to recover a sample of archaeological information which would allow the Local Planning Authority and Bryant Homes (Southwest) Ltd to make informed and practical decisions concerning the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the site, and if necessary to provide the basis for future strategies to either conserve and/or record any significant archaeological remains which were identified during the project. The evaluation therefore complied with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990) guidelines issued by the South Gloucestershire Archaeological Officer and County Structure Plan policies inherited in April 1996 from the now defunct County of Avon.
- 1.5 The archaeological evaluation also monitored geotechnical test pitting and bore hole excavation carried out by Structural Soils Ltd, Bristol (Appendix 3).
- 1.6 The archaeological recording system used throughout the evaluation was based on, and cross referenced to, Ordnance Survey maps and detailed plans provided by Bryant Homes (Southwest) Ltd.
- 1.7 The fieldwork, was carried out in two stages between 16th December 1996 and March 4th 1997. This was followed by three weeks of post-site analysis, archive work and report preparation.
- 1.8 All archaeological finds were marked with the Bristol Museum Accession Number (87/1996). Further analysis of the ceramic assemblage from the site was undertaken by Rod Burchill of Bristol Post-Excavation Services.
- 1.9 The project archive, which includes all site records, drawings and photographs (South Gloucestershire SMR 11,017) will ultimately be deposited with the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery for long term storage under accession number BRSMG 87/1996.

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 2.1 Thanks are due to Barry Cummins, Land Manager of Bryant Homes (South West) Limited for assisting with the arrangement of the fieldwork and to South Gloucestershire Council for allowing access to the site.
- 2.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by the writer and Field Archaeologists Andrea Cox, Rob Curtis, Raymond Ducker, Andrew Hall, Tim Haines, Lynn Hume, Stewart Rowden, Dan Stansbie and Donna Yorkston.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

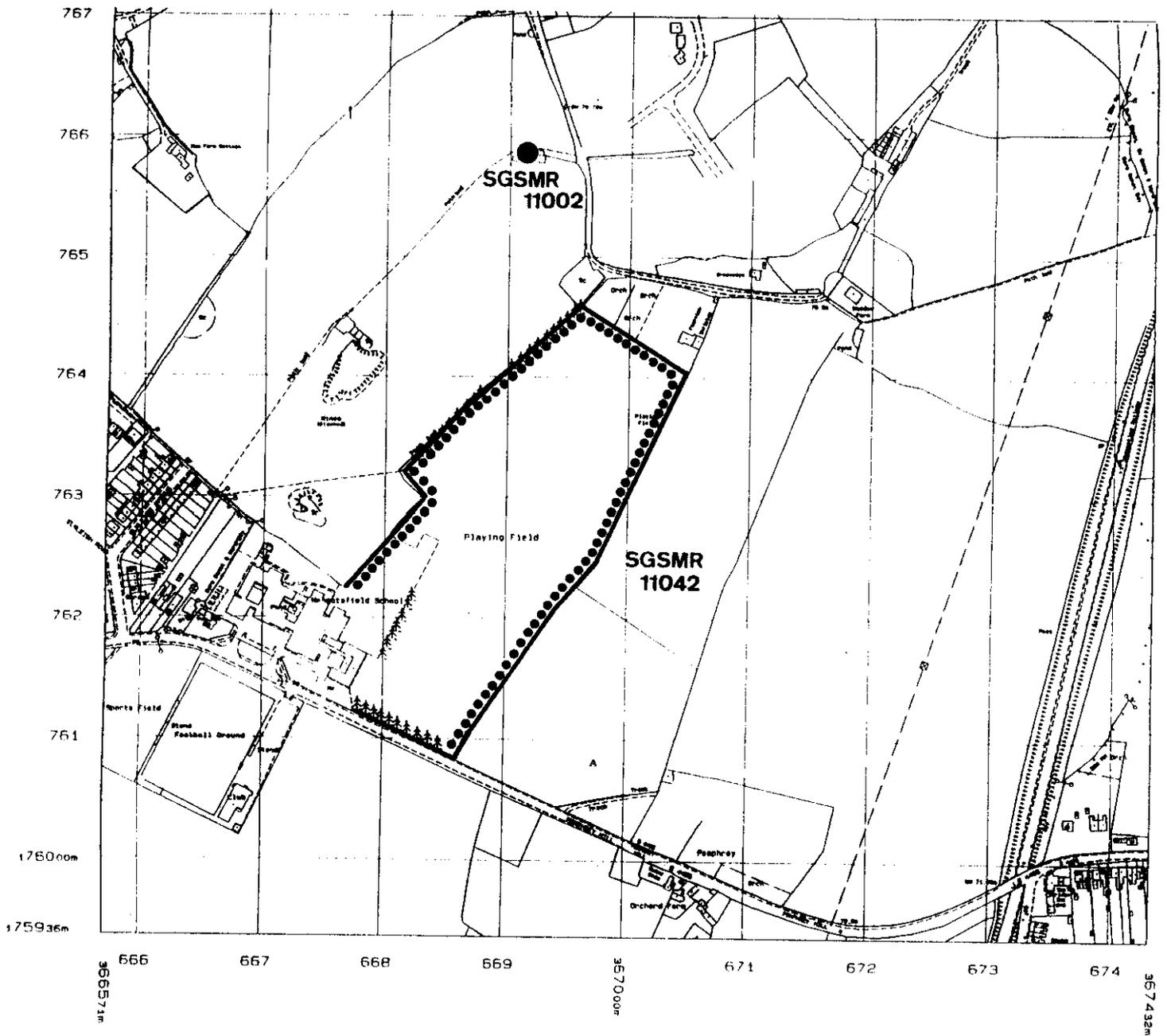
- 3.1 Documentary and cartographic sources for this area of South Gloucestershire are scant. It was not surprising therefore that a desktop survey (AAU 1996) commissioned and funded by Bryant Homes (Southwest) Ltd prior to the evaluation identified little of archaeological or historical interest within the development footprint.
- 3.2 A geophysical survey, covering 50% of the study area, was carried out at the same time as the desktop study by Geoquest Associates (AAU 1996). This survey, also commissioned and funded by the proposed developer, revealed a number of rectilinear and curvilinear positive anomalies reflecting the presence of possible subterranean soil features. A series of large enclosure ditches which lay on a different orientation to, and therefore probably predated, modern land divisions were identified at the northern end of the site. Parallel negative soil features located further south were interpreted as the remains of a double ditched trackway,
- 3.3 In the absence of documentary evidence, the possibility that the linear features identified by the geophysical survey may have been of medieval or Roman origin was supported by archaeological evidence recorded at the site of nearby Church Farm (SGSMR 1102: Fig 1; Hume 1996). Here excavation work recovered evidence of early medieval (11th-12th century) and Romano-British activity, including building remains (medieval), soil features (rock-cut ditches), pottery, coins, metalwork and other finds, from beneath the ruins of the later farm buildings.
- 3.4 During the evaluation, archaeological fieldwork carried out on adjacent land (SGSMR 11,042; Hume 1997 forthcoming) recorded further evidence of Romano-British activity and important prehistoric occupation, some of which could be morphologically and artefactually associated with the remains preserved within Hamlet XIII.

## **4 GEOLOGY TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDUSE**

- 4.1 The solid geology underlying the site is shown on the 1:50000 British Geological Survey Map (Solid and Drift); 1967) to consist of Upper Coal Series, Pennant Series of the Upper Coal Measures (Carboniferous), and Mercia Mudstones (Triassic). In general, the geology is extremely varied and complex, giving rise to poor friable stony soils which tend to dry on higher ground yet retain water in lower lying zones.
- 4.2 The terrain of the development footprint, at the time of the evaluation, consisted of predominantly level grassland at a mean elevation of 78m above O.D.

# Figure 1

## Site Location Plan



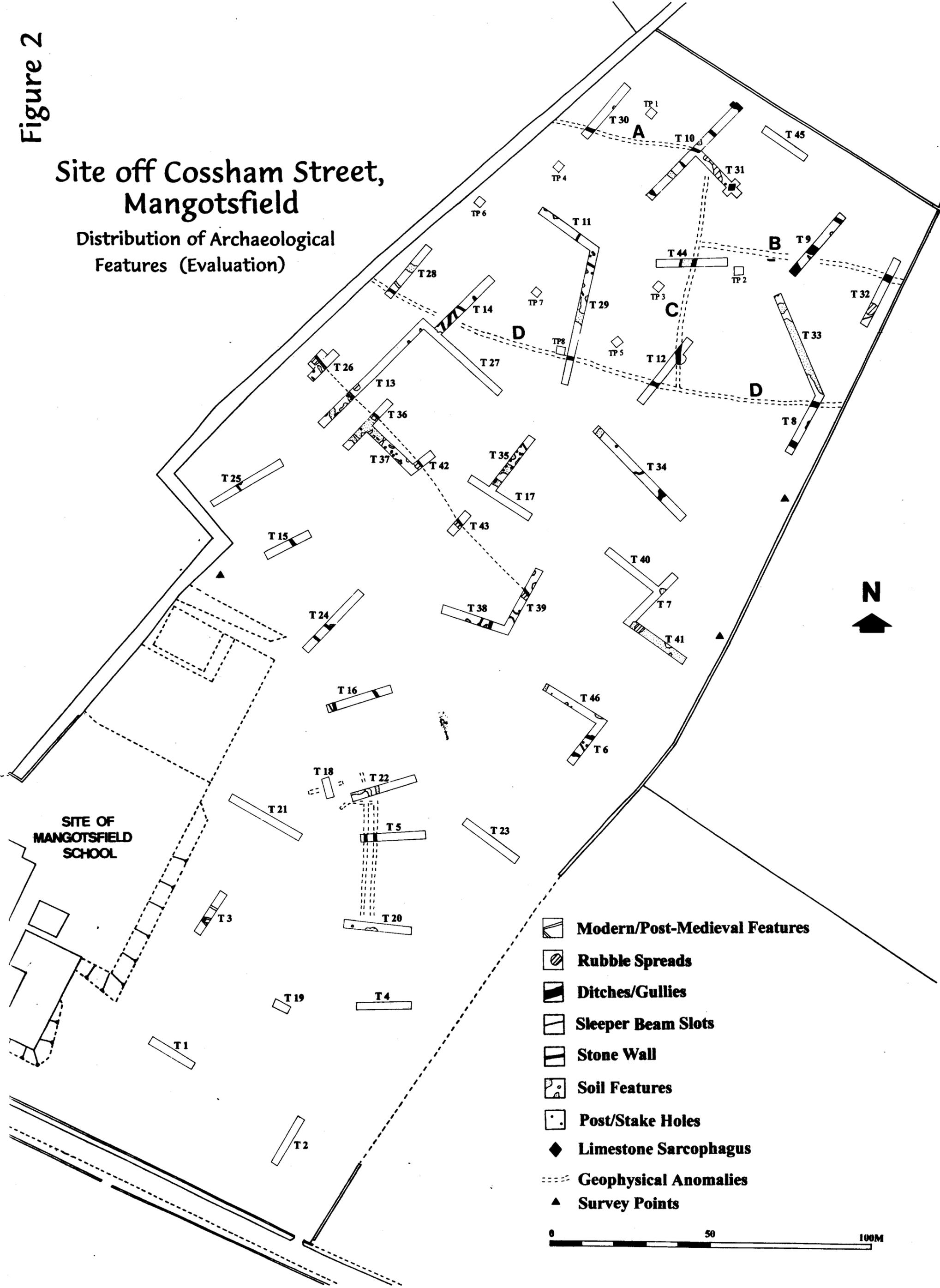
Scale 1:5000

SGSMR 11017

Figure 2

# Site off Cossham Street, Mangotsfield

Distribution of Archaeological  
Features (Evaluation)



## 5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 During the first stage of the evaluation programme, 18 trenches (covering a total distance of c. 300m) were opened within the 5ha site, in order to target potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey, and to sample remaining areas not covered by the survey. During the second stage of the evaluation, a further 28 trenches (covering a total distance of c. 600m) were opened in order to further define the extent, character and quality of the archaeological remains identified and recorded during the first stage.
- 5.2 The trenches were opened by a JCB mechanical excavator with a 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket, supplied by Farmtrac of Yate.
- 5.3 The trenches, which were of differing length, were excavated to various depths between 0.25m and 1.50m below the existing ground surface in order to remove recent overburden, topsoil and subsoil layers. Where trenches were excavated to a depth exceeding 1.20m, they were stepped and fenced in compliance with health and safety regulations. Archaeologically significant features, structures and deposits revealed by machine excavation were subsequently cleaned and investigated by hand where possible. On some occasions however, due to inclement weather conditions and the number of trenches excavated, the locating and recording of suspected archaeological features was deemed of greater importance than detailed cleaning and excavation.
- 5.4 Archaeologically significant features, structures and deposits were recorded on standard archaeological context sheets, scaled photographs and archaeological section and plan drawings at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. Archaeological finds were bagged and marked with the relevant SMR and museum accession numbers.
- 5.5 Double-bagged environmental soil samples were taken where appropriate - these are referred to in section 6.
- 5.6 The precise locations of the evaluation trenches were surveyed and related to Ordnance Survey maps and plans of the area. In addition, the heights above Ordnance Datum of archaeological features, structures and deposits were related to a levelled plan provided by Bryant Homes (Southwest) Ltd.
- 5.7 Each of the 46 trenches was given its own set of sequential context numbers beginning at 00. Each context number was prefixed by the number of the trench e.g. the topsoil layer in trench 13 was numbered 1300, the subsoil layer, where present, 1301, etc.
- 5.8 Upon completion of the archaeological fieldwork, all of the trenches were backfilled for safety purposes and the site left tidy.

## 6 DETAILED SITE OBSERVATIONS

### Notes

- 1) Trench dimensions are given in the order: length x width x depth.
- 2) For the purposes of this section of the report each of the enclosure ditches identified during the geophysical survey has been distinguished by a separate letter from A-D (see Fig. 2).

### *Stage I: Evaluation Trenches 1-18*

6.1 **Trench 1**  
14m x 1.6m x < 1.20m  
Fig. 2

6.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated through a layer of topsoil (0.25m thick), and a modern make up layer (0.85m thick) consisting of poorly consolidated sandstone rubble and industrial waste. The dump layer sealed a thin, well stratified layer of dark grey clayey silt containing fragmented coal, charcoal, occasional lime mortar, glass and sherds of modern pottery. Underlying this deposit was a slightly contaminated layer of reddish-brown sandy clay interpreted as the natural substrate.

6.1.2 This stratigraphic sequence confirmed, to some extent, the findings of the geophysical survey for this part of the development site, in as much as it appeared to reflect the dumping of material associated with the construction of the school and the landscaping of the playing field.

6.2 **Trench 2**  
14m x 1.6m x < 1m  
Fig. 2

6.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded in this trench, and therefore its interpretation, was similar to that recorded in Trench 1 above.

6.3 **Trench 3**  
14m x 1.6m x < 1.50m  
Fig. 2

6.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded within this trench and therefore to a large extent, its interpretation, was similar to that recorded in Trenches 1 & 2 above. In this case, however, the stratified modern occupation horizon exposed in the base of the trench (77.37m above O.D.) sealed two closely spaced stone packed field drains (Plate 6). These in turn were cut into a layer of contaminated yellow clay, interpreted as the natural substrate. No features or finds predating the modern period were recorded in this trench.

- 6.4        **Trench 4**  
14.45m x 1.60m x < 1.0m  
Fig. 2
- 6.4.1      This trench contained a layer of topsoil 0.35m thick, an underlying deposit of dumped material similar to that recorded in Trenches 1-3 and a soil layer consisting either of undisturbed subsoil or contaminated natural clay (0.17m thick). The undisturbed natural substrate, a clean yellowish-brown sandy clay, was recorded at a depth of 1m below ground level (77.43m above O.D). No evidence of pre-modern archaeological activity was recorded.
- 6.5        **Trench 5**  
16.60m x 1.60m x < 0.78m  
Figure 14; Plate 5
- 6.5.1      This trench was located with a view to sampling the parallel linear feature at the southern end of the site, which the geophysical survey had identified as a possible double-ditched trackway. Two morphologically similar rock cut ditches (1.50m wide and 0.45m deep), located 2m apart, were indeed excavated and recorded, but not securely dated. These ditches, the stony fills of which contained small quantities of metallic slag and ferrous ore, were sealed by a thin layer of topsoil.
- 6.5.2      A deeper stratigraphy was recorded at the eastern end of the trench, where the remnants of a subsoil layer were recorded above a layer of yellowish-red clay substrate.
- 6.6        **Trench 6**  
14.60m x 1.60m x < 0.90m  
Fig. 2
- 6.6.1      The removal of c. 0.35m of topsoil and c. 0.25m of subsoil from this trench exposed a variety of buried soil deposits (some of them intercut) filling features in the surface of the natural sandstone substrate. The surface morphology and composition of these soil features suggested that they were of archaeological significance and not just geological variations. A narrow gully, stone filled postholes, and remnants of possible occupation layers all appeared to be represented, although these could not be dated or properly characterised without further excavation. The remains of a possible metalled surface, again undated, were also recorded
- 6.7        **Trench 7**  
23.50m x 1.60m x 0.65m  
Fig. 2
- 6.7.1      This trench was excavated through a layer of topsoil (0.35m thick) and a thin layer of subsoil (0.25m thick) in order to expose the natural sandstone substrate. Evidence of possible archaeological activity was confined to a single soil feature recorded in the base of the trench. This subrectangular deposit, consisting of reddish-brown clayey silt loam can possibly be interpreted as part of a pit, or the terminus of, a linear feature orientated north south.

- 6.8 **Trench 8**  
21.50m x 1.6m x < 1.10m  
Figs 2 & 12
- 6.8.1 Three archaeologically significant features, cut into naturally occurring sandstone, and sealed only by topsoil, were recorded in this trench.
- 6.8.1.1 Linear cut 803 (1.80m wide, 0.50m deep), the dark, loamy fill of which (802) contained Romano-British pottery (Plate 26), hypocaust tile, building rubble, clinker and flint, was interpreted as a segment of enclosure ditch D. This ditch (Plate 7) appeared to have truncated an earlier undated feature filled by context 810. Significantly, one piece of limestone rubble, which is not native to the Mangotsfield area, was recovered from fill 802. This may reflect the importation of a higher quality building stone to supplement the use of locally occurring sandstone. Fill 803, was sampled for future environmental analysis.
- 6.8.1.2 Feature 805, a root disturbed pit or ditch terminal located at the opposite (southwestern) end of Trench 8, was not recorded during the geophysical survey. It contained two fills (804 and 808), neither of which contained any archaeologically significant finds.
- 6.8.1.3 A small, rock cut, stone filled feature (807), which appeared to extend beyond the trench to the southeast, was interpreted as a shallow scoop or the remains of a truncated posthole. No dating evidence was recovered during its excavation.
- 6.9 **Trench 9**  
31.80m x 1.60m x < 1m  
Figs 2 & 11
- 6.9.1 This trench, which was excavated through a topsoil layer 0.40m thick and an intermittent layer of subsoil 0.10m thick, contained several archaeologically significant features cut into the underlying natural substrate. In the absence of any artefactual evidence however, none of these features could be dated.
- 6.9.1.1 Contexts 909 and 911, which appeared not only to be morphologically similar, but were also filled with the same light coloured material (redeposited natural sandy clay and fragmented sandstone) represented broad, steep sided features of indeterminate function. Both features were cut into a layer of well consolidated, densely packed subangular sandstone (905) containing pockets of reddish-brown clayey silt. It was unclear whether this layer was archaeological in origin (i.e. some form of metallurgy or the remains of a bank) or a natural feature.
- 6.9.1.2 A ditch segment (917) orientated northwest-southeast was recorded towards the northeastern end of the trench. This feature (1.60m wide, 0.50m deep) which presented a U-shaped profile, contained a single fine yellowish-red silty clay fill (916) with fragmented charcoal, sandstone and red clay inclusions.
- 6.9.1.3 Context 924 may have represented the terminal of a small shallow gully. Context 923 was a small, unexcavated deposit of gritty, yellowish brown sandy clay containing sparse charcoal and fragmented sandstone.
- 6.9.2 Enclosure ditch A did not appear to be preserved at its suspected location within Trench 9.

6.10 **Trench 10**  
35.60m x 1.60m x < 0.90m  
Figs 2 & 8

- 6.10.1 Trench 10 was mechanically excavated through a layer of topsoil c. 0.33m thick and a layer of subsoil c. 0.20m thick, exposing natural bedded sandstone and what appeared to be the remnants of a possible occupation layer (1019/1020). This layer consisted of a medium clayey silt loam containing sparse sandstone rubble.
- 6.10.2 Layer 1019/1020 was cut by ditch segment 1016, which because of its character, stratigraphic position and location (no dating evidence was available), was interpreted as part of enclosure ditch A (see Fig.2). This feature, which contained three distinct fills (1008, 1009 and 1011), appeared to have been cut by a later feature containing fill 1010.
- 6.10.3 A narrower linear feature (1021), with a more square cut profile and a stonier fill was located to the north of enclosure ditch 1016. The orientation and relative stratigraphic positions of the two features suggested that they were not of the same date.
- 6.10.4 At the southwestern end of the trench, where the stratigraphy was deeper and more complex, the severely truncated remains of another possible linear feature (1014) were recorded in section.
- 6.10.5 At the opposite end of the trench, the truncated remains of a rubble-filled feature, sealed only by topsoil, were recorded as context 1018. This feature, which may have represented one of the small geophysical anomalies recorded at this location, was insufficiently exposed within the trench for its character and extent to be properly assessed.
- 6.10.6 In common with the other archaeologically significant features recorded within this trench, cuts 1014 and 1018 did not contain any artefactual dating evidence.

6.11 **Trench 11**  
19.40m x 1.65m x < 0.51m  
Fig. 2

- 6.11.1 This trench was sited with a view to sampling the area of the proposed development site formerly occupied by the larger of the two enclosures marked on Figure 2.
- 6.11.2 The simple stratigraphy recorded within this trench, comprised topsoil (c.0.30m thick), subsoil (c. 0.21m thick) and naturally occurring brashy, weathered sandstone.
- 6.11.3 Three small archaeologically significant soil features, including a possible gully on a northeast-southwest orientation, were sealed by the subsoil layer. None of the features were excavated and could not therefore be securely dated. However, the presence of small quantities of metallic slag in the surface of the features and the location of the trench within the larger of the two enclosures at the northern end of the site suggested that they were Romano-British, or later, in date.

- 6.12 **Trench 12**  
29m x 1.6 x 0.80m  
Figs 2 & 12
- 6.12.1 This trench contained a segment (Cut 1206; Plate 13) of the Romano-British enclosure ditch (marked as D on Fig. 2) also preserved within trenches 8, 28 & 29. The siting of the trench also appeared to show that enclosure ditch C (represented by cuts 1204 and 1207), joined enclosure ditch D to form two separate compounds.
- 6.12.2 Cut 1206 (1.20m wide, 0.45m deep) contained two fills (1202 & 1205). Primary fill 1202 consisted mainly of redeposited naturally weathered sandstone and clay. secondary fill 1205 was more silty and less stony. It also contained charcoal flecks and sherds of Romano-British pottery.
- 6.12.3 A similar sequence of deposition was recorded in cuts 1204 and 1207 (Plate 22), except that the upper fill in this case (a darker, more humic, clayey silt loam) contained a significantly higher quantity and range of artefactual material. This assemblage included Romano-British pottery sherds (Plate 29), building rubble, vesicular metallic slag, iron nails, shell fragments and a fragment of heat affected lead. This deposit was environmentally sampled for future analysis.
- 6.12.4 No other features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded in this trench.
- 6.13 **Trench 13**  
19.80m x 1.60m x 1.45m  
Figs. 2 & 13
- 6.13.1 The complex nature of the archaeological stratigraphy recorded within this, and adjacent trenches, especially in the absence of secure dating evidence, made interpretation difficult. The following description outlines the main phases of activity as they are currently understood.
- 6.13.2 The most recent remains of archaeological significance were the foundations of a drystone wall (1304; Plate 4) butted by a rubble spread (presumably derived from the demolition of the wall). The foundations, which were roughly coursed, comprised a core of medium to large subangular sandstone slabs faced on both sides. The wall was sealed by a thin layer of subsoil, overlain in turn by topsoil. A secure date for the wall, which was also recorded in trenches 26, 37, 42, 43 & 39, was not obtained through selective excavation, although its stratigraphic position would appear to indicate that it is later rather than earlier. Moreover, walls of similar character and dimensions could, at the time of the evaluation, still be seen forming the northern and eastern boundaries of the development site. The function of the wall as a post medieval/modern boundary division is also reinforced by the fact that a direct continuation of its course to the southeast of trench 39, would take it up to an otherwise unexplained kink in the field boundary wall separating Hamlets XII and XIII.
- 6.13.3 Wall 1304 sat on top of context 1312 a clean deposit of fine reddish-brown clayey silt. Whether 1312 represented an earlier bank or the remnants of a truncated soil layer sealed and protected by wall 1304 is unclear. The relatively soft and friable nature of 1312 would however appear to support the latter interpretation.

- 6.13.4 Context 1312 filled context 1324, a shallow depression in the base of the trench and sealed a small subcircular feature (1326), interpreted as a stone filled post or stakehole. Context 1326 was cut into a layer of natural yellow clay (see paragraph below).
- 6.13.5 The stratigraphic sequences either side of wall 1304 differed markedly. To the southwest, there appeared to be the remains of a former occupation horizon (302) which appeared to postdate two distinct phases of archaeological activity (Plates 2 & 17). The later of these two phases consisted of a number of soil features (1310, 1319 1320) cut into a layer of redeposited natural clay (1329). The earlier phase was represented by soil features of a similar character (1315, 1317 & 1327) cut directly into natural yellow clay (1332). Context 303, a friable yellowish-red clayey silt containing fragmented sandstone and ferrous material filled features 1310, 1319 and 1320 but appeared to seal features 1315 and 1317. Selective excavation did not provide secure dating evidence for either of the two phases of activity or enable any of the clay cut soil features (which were quite shallow) to be properly characterised.
- 6.13.6 To the northeast of wall 1304, the subsoil layer was much thicker, and layer 1302 appeared to peter out. The most noticeable stratigraphic feature was 1305/1308, a well consolidated layer of densely packed, compacted sandstone rubble (some of which appeared to have been worked) and ironstone. Despite being archaeologically sterile, the character of 1305/1308 indicated that it was more likely to have been laid down as metalling or some other form of hardstanding rather than being a naturally occurring feature. Context 1333, a layer of dark red sandy silt containing occasional fragmented sandstone appeared to represent the underlying geology in this part of the trench. There was no evidence of the archaeologically significant occupation horizon - represented by soil features cut into natural and redeposited yellow clay - recorded on the other side of the wall.
- 6.13.7 During Stage II of the evaluation, Trench 13 was extended 25m to the northeast (as far as Trench 27). This exercise yielded little in the way of new information, showing only that layer 1302 made a reappearance in the stratigraphic sequence, only to peter out again towards the northeastern end of the trench. A closer examination of layer 1302, before it gave way to natural bedded sandstone, did however demonstrate that it was cut by what appeared to be the terminal of a narrow, rubble filled curvilinear feature of indeterminate date.
- 6.13.8 Small quantities of vesicular slag, a burnt flint artefact, several fragments of limestone and a chamfered sharpening stone (all of which were unstratified) were recovered from Trench 13 during its excavation.
- 6.14 **Trench 14**  
23.80m 1.60m x 0.80m  
Figs 2 & 9
- 6.14.1 A dense concentration of archaeologically significant features, sealed by topsoil and a subsoil layer of variable thickness, were recorded at the southwestern end of this trench (Plate 15). These features, none of which could be securely dated, appeared to reflect more than one phase of activity. The rest of the trench, which extended into the larger of the two Romano-British enclosures, contained, surprisingly, fewer features of archaeological interest. Having said that however, the location of the southern boundary ditch within trench 14 was not precisely

determined and the natural sandstone substrate lay much closer to the surface within the enclosure (i.e there may have been more truncation of archaeological features and deposits).

- 6.14.2 Context 1412, a rubble spread interpreted as a layer of building debris, appeared to be cut by linear feature 1410 and curvilinear feature 1409.
- 6.14.3 A slightly irregular linear feature (1405) with a possible stakehole cut into its western side, was shown by excavation to be a shallow gully either contemporaneous with, or postdating, context 412.
- 6.14.4 Feature 1405 appeared to cut through a possible stone bank (1406) and truncate linear feature 1414. the latter, on the basis of its character, dimensions and orientation, appeared to be contemporaneous with feature 1410.
- 6.14.5 Context 1413 represented an unexcavated linear soil feature which lay on a different orientation to the other linear features recorded within this trench. Context 1416, a subrectangular stone filled deposit, lay adjacent to feature 1413. The exact relationship between the two features could not be determined, however, without excavation.
- 6.14.6 Context 1411, a curvilinear soil feature, was shown by excavation to be the possible terminal of a shallow gully or ditch extending beyond the trench. No artefactual evidence was recovered, however, to date the deposition of its fill.

6.15 **Trench 15**  
19.10m x 1.6m x < 0.46m  
Fig. 2

- 6.15.1 Two features of archaeological significance were recorded in this trench. The first was a square brick structure (0.70m x 0.70m x 0.30m) filling a foundation trench cut from just below the base of the topsoil. The second was a narrow linear soil feature observed in the surface of the sandstone substrate. The brick structure (two more of which were recorded in Trench 27) was interpreted as a modern soakaway, the linear feature an earlier ditch or gully, another segment of which was recorded in Trench 25.

6.16 **Trench 16**  
19.40m x 1.6m x 1.10m  
Figs 2 & 6

- 6.16.1 Three different phases of archaeological activity were identified and recorded within this trench. No artefactual evidence was recovered, however, to date any of the phases.
- 6.16.2 The most recent phase of activity was represented by context 1607, a linear soil feature (1.80m wide) located at the northeastern end of the trench. This was shown to be the dark, loamy fill of a shallow ditch (1606; Plate 18), one side of which contained a tipped or tumbled deposit of sandstone rubble. A lower fill or possibly the fill of an earlier feature was represented by a lighter coloured deposit given context number 1608.

6.16.3 Ditch 1607, which was cut from the base of the topsoil, postdated a homogeneous orange-brown soil layer (1609). This layer in turn, sealed two earlier features (1603 & 1604) located at the opposite end of the trench.

6.16.4 Cut 1604 represented a shallow gully with a V-shaped profile. This feature (1m wide, 0.40m deep) contained a single fill consisting of reddish-yellow sandy clay with occasional charcoal and sandstone inclusions.

6.16.5 Context 1603 represented the stony fill of a narrow, very shallow feature, interpreted as a possible beam slot.

6.16.6 Features 1607 and 1603 were both cut into clean natural yellow clay.

6.17 **Trench 17**  
18.80m x 1.60m x < 1.07m  
Fig 2

6.17.1 The simple stratigraphy recorded within this trench comprised a topsoil horizon (0.27m thick), a thin layer of dark reddish-brown clayey subsoil (0.13m thick) and a thick layer of archaeologically sterile sandy clay with fragmented sandstone inclusions. The natural substrate recorded in the base of the trench consisted of bedded sandstone. No archaeologically significant features or finds were recorded.

6.18 **Trench 18**  
8m x 1.6m x < 0.30m  
Fig. 2

6.18.1 This trench contained a thin layer of topsoil (0.24m thick) overlying weathered and bedded naturally occurring sandstone. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

### ***Stage II: Evaluation Trenches 19-46***

6.19 **Trench 19**  
5m x 1.6m x < 1.50m  
Fig. 2

6.19.1 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence to that observed in trench 4 was recorded within this trench. A layer of topsoil (0.50m thick) sealed a modern make up layer (1m thick) which, upon removal, exposed naturally occurring yellow sandy clay. No archaeologically significant finds or features were recorded.

6.20 **Trench 20**  
20m x 1.60m x < 0.27m  
Fig. 2

6.20.1 Two archaeologically significant deposits were recorded in the surface of natural weathered sandstone exposed within the base this trench. The first was a small

subcircular feature, possibly representing the fill of a posthole, the second, an irregular soil spread containing modern pottery. There were no physical traces of the double-ditched feature recorded in Trench 5. An unstratified flint nodule and two pieces of fragmented limestone (not local to this area) were recovered from the base of the trench during cleaning.

6.21 **Trench 21**  
24.60m x 1.60m x < 0.48m  
Fig. 2

6.21.1 Mechanical excavation of this trench exposed naturally occurring bedded sandstone beneath a thin covering of topsoil and subsoil. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

6.22 **Trench 22**  
19.2m x 1.60m x < 0.80m  
Fig. 2

6.22.1 Three soil features, two of them linear in form, were recorded in the western half of this trench. Modern artefactual material was observed in the top of these features, but without further investigation it was difficult to ascertain whether this was contamination from an overlying layer or intrinsic dating evidence. The possibility cannot be excluded therefore that these features (which differed in character) may have been a continuation of the possible trackway recorded in Trench 5.

6.22.2 In the eastern half of the trench, where the archaeological stratigraphy was either deeper or better preserved, an orange-brown soil layer, similar in character to 1609, was recorded. How this layer related to the soil features in the western half of the trench could not, however, be determined without further excavation.

6.23 **Trench 23**  
20m x 1.6m x < 1.20m  
Fig. 2

6.23.1 Detailed recording of this trench was prevented by waterlogging. A cursory examination, carried out immediately after the trench was opened, registered a topsoil horizon, a thick layer of lighter clayey subsoil and a homogeneous layer of pale brown sandy clay. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

6.24 **Trench 24**  
26.40m x 1.60m x 1.20m  
Fig. 2

6.24.1 The archaeological features recorded towards the southwestern end of this trench appeared to correspond directly with ditches 1604 & 1607 and layer 1609 recorded in Trench 16 (see above). In this instance, however, the suspected continuation of ditch 1607 was found to contain a mixture of postmedieval and Romano-British pottery. The earlier ditch contained occasional sandstone rubble but no diagnostic dating evidence. The rest of the trench could not be recorded due to waterlogging.

6.25        **Trench 25**  
20m x 1.6m x < 0.50m  
Fig. 2

6.25.1      The only archaeologically significant feature identified and recorded in this trench was a linear soil deposit comparable in character to the fill of the shallow gully excavated in Trench 15.

6.26        **Trench 26**  
10m x < 3m x < 1.25m  
Fig. 5

6.26.1      The archaeological stratigraphy recorded within this trench was broadly comparable to that present in trench 13 (see above). There was therefore a similar horizon of archaeological activity comparable to that recorded in the base of Trench 13 (i.e a dense concentration of sealed features and truncated occupation layers preserved as soil marks in the surface of the yellow clay substrate). Excavation of one of these soil features (2606; Plate 5) showed it to be the fill of a well defined, steep sided cut (0.80m wide, 0.40m deep) containing significant residues within the feature suggests that it is Romano-British, or later, in date. Trench 26 also contained a further segment of the previously unrecorded boundary wall (2602) described in 6.13 above.

6.27        **Trench 27**  
25m x 1.60m x < 0.40m  
Fig. 2

6.27.1      No features of archaeological significance were identified or recorded in this trench apart from two square brick structures, interpreted as modern soakaways (see also the description for Trench 15 above). The trench was excavated to the top of the natural substrate which comprised bedded sandstone and clay.

6.28        **Trench 28**  
19.30m x 1.6m x < 0.50m  
Fig. 2

6.28.1      Several archaeologically significant features were recorded in this trench.

6.28.1.1    A linear soil feature located at the southwestern end of the trench was interpreted, on the basis of its character and surface dimensions as a segment of the Romano-British enclosure ditch marked as D on Fig. 2). A band of soil and rubble on the northern side of this feature may have represented the ploughed out remains of an associated stone bank.

6.28.1.2    An extensive deposit of reddish-brown fine clayey silt loam overlying naturally occurring clay in the middle of the trench (cf. Layer 4405 in trench 44 below) was interpreted as a former occupation layer of indeterminate date.

- 6.29 **Trench 29**  
36.40m x 1.60m x < 0.40m  
Figs 2 & 7
- 6.29.1 This trench was intended to provide a further sample of any surviving archaeological remains preserved within the area of the site formerly occupied by the larger of the two Romano-British enclosures.
- 6.29.2 A variety of small, archaeologically significant, soil features, sealed by a layer of subsoil, were recorded in the base of the trench. These included an excavated posthole (2904), three other suspected postholes (2905, 2924 & 2910), a probable ditch or gully (2926; Plate 11) and several miscellaneous other features which extended beyond the trench (2911, 2913, 2914 & 2920). A large soil spread comprising several different, interrelated deposits (2915, 2918, 2919 & 2920) was recorded towards the middle of the trench. This soil spread, on the basis of its composition and inclusions (charcoal, red clay flecks and fragmented sandstone), was interpreted as the remains of a former occupation horizon.
- 6.29.3 A segment of the ditch (marked as D on Fig.2), which formed the southern boundary of both Romano-British enclosures was recorded as context 2917. A rectilinear rubble feature (2929), running through the middle of 2917, was interpreted as the remains of a later structure (wall or drain) not recorded in the other excavated segments of enclosure ditch D.
- 6.29.4 Context 2916 appeared to represent the truncated remains of a soil layer predating context 2917. Context 2925 was interpreted as the fill of a possible posthole contemporaneous with, or postdating, context 2917.
- 6.29.5 A fragment of Romano-British roof tile was recovered during the cleaning of features recorded in the base of the trench.
- 6.30 **Trench 30**  
20m x 1.60m x < 0.95m  
Fig. 10: Section 1
- 6.30.1 Trench 30 contained a segment of ditch A (Fig. 2) which formed the northern boundary of the larger of the two Romano-British enclosures. This ditch segment (3007) appeared to postdate context 3008, a root disturbed layer of dark reddish-brown silty clay, fragmented natural sandstone and sandstone rubble. One of the ditch fills (3003) contained two sherds of Romano-British Severn Valley mortaria (Plate 28) and two small pieces of limestone.
- 6.30.2 A small excavated feature (3006), interpreted as a possible posthole, was cut into the surface of layer 3008). No other archaeologically significant features or finds were recorded in this trench
- 6.31 **Trench 31**  
19.40m x 4.80 x < 0.70m  
Figs 2 & 3
- 6.31.1 The machining of the southwestern end of this trench exposed a limestone sarcophagus (3109; Plate 9) sealed by topsoil and a thin layer of subsoil. Its location within the trench placed it just outside the northern boundary of the larger of the two Roman-British enclosures.

6.31.1.1 The sarcophagus (1.45 long, 0.80m wide), despite being preserved at a depth of only 0.45m below ground level, had suffered surprisingly little damage from ploughing or other agricultural activity.

6.31.1.2 Excavation carried out around the sarcophagus showed that it was constructed from a single piece of well dressed limestone capped by two cambered limestone slabs. There was no obvious indication of a grave cut in layer 3102, which contained Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd-4th centuries A.D and vesicular metallic slag.

6.31.1.3 A cursory examination of the interior of the sarcophagus showed that it contained part of a disturbed skeleton (namely the skull and a displaced rib). The rest of the skeleton and any associated grave goods, if still present, were obscured by an accumulation of soil which appeared to have entered the sarcophagus through a gap between the two limestone capping slabs. Once its contents had been briefly assessed, the sarcophagus was resealed and the part of the trench containing it immediately backfilled.

6.31.2 Other archaeologically significant features recorded in the base of this trench included the truncated remains of a possible curvilinear wall foundation (3105), a large posthole with the post packing still preserved in-situ (3103; Plate 8), a rubble filled deposit (3107) and several soil spreads (3102, 3106, 3108 & 3110). All of these features, like the sarcophagus described above, were sealed only by a layer of topsoil and a thin layer of subsoil. Contexts 3106 and 3107 contained Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries A.D. Context 3108 contained a piece of vesicular slag.

6.32 **Trench 32**  
20m x 1.6m x <0.90m  
Fig. 10: Section 3

6.32.1 Three features of archaeological significance, sealed by topsoil and a thin layer of subsoil, were recorded in the base of this trench.

6.32.1.1 A rock cut segment of ditch C (Fig. 2; Plate 12), which formed the northern boundary of the smaller of the two Romano-British enclosures, was recorded towards the northeastern end of the trench. Sherds of 2nd/3rd century A.D. Romano-British pottery, iron nails, a fragment of bronze and a fragment of lead were recovered from this feature during excavation.

6.32.1.2 A dark reddish-brown soil deposit, which contained a narrow curvilinear band of sandstone rubble, was recorded at the opposite end of the trench. a very narrow, shallow rectilinear feature, tentatively interpreted as a beam slot, was located adjacent to it. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these two features.

6.33 **Trench 33**  
40m x 1.60m x < 1.20m  
Fig. 2

6.33.1 This trench was located within the area of the development footprint formerly occupied by the smaller of the two Romano-British enclosures. It was not surprising therefore that an extensive horizon of archaeological deposits, possibly

representing more than one phase of activity, was recorded in the base of the trench (Plate 15). One of these deposits, a dark, loamy oval-shaped deposit filled with significant quantities of sandstone rubble (Fig 10: Section 7; Plate 23), was shown by excavation to be the fill (3303) of a relatively deep feature, interpreted as a possible quarry pit.

**6.34 Trench 34**  
44.40m x 1.60m x < 1m  
Fig. 2

6.34.1 A small number of shallow, archaeologically significant soil features, all of which were cut into natural sandstone and sealed by subsoil, were recorded at regular intervals along the base of this trench. The majority of the features, which for the most part appeared to be linear in form, were filled with alternating deposits of redeposited fragmented sandstone and finer siltier material (e.g Fig.10: Section 4). The only stratified dating evidence recovered from this trench was a flint blade/end scraper characteristic of the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period (Plate 24) and a small abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery. These finds were recorded from the fills (3403 & 3402 respectively) of a recut feature excavated at the northwestern end of the trench (Fig. 10: Section 5).

**6.35 Trench 35**  
16m x 1.60m x < 0.61m  
Fig. 2

6.35.1 Two horizons of archaeological activity, neither of which was securely dated, appeared to be represented in this trench.

6.35.1.1 A layer of reddish-brown clayey silt loam, sealed by subsoil, was recorded in the southwestern half of the trench. Several soil features, distinguishable by their colour, texture and inclusions, were recorded in the surface of this layer. These could not be easily characterised due to their limited exposure within the trench, but were interpreted as possible postholes and a ditch or gully.

6.35.1.2 In the northeastern half of the trench, where the natural geology changed from fragmented sandstone to yellow clay, a more dense concentration of soil features was recorded. One of these features, interpreted as a ditch or gully, appeared to be grouped spatially with two small, subcircular features interpreted as possible postholes.

**6.36 Trench 36**  
20m x 1.6m x < 1.20m  
Figure 4

6.36.1 Trench 36 appeared to contain a similar stratigraphic sequence to those already recorded in trenches 13 and 26 (see 6.13 & 6.26 above).

6.36.1.1 As in the above mentioned trenches, the earliest traces of archaeologically significant activity were preserved as a complex arrangement of densely packed dark reddish-brown/reddish brown soil deposits (3607-3618) recorded in the surface of the natural clay substrate. The character and interrelationship of these

deposits, some of which appeared to be irregular in plan, was difficult to assess given their limited exposure within the trench. Excavation of one of the more linear deposits (3613) demonstrated that it filled a steep-sided feature (3631; Plate 16) containing a possible posthole. Archaeologically significant finds recovered from context 3613 comprised a small leaf-shaped flint arrowhead (Plate 24) and a fragment of vesicular slag. The possible remains of a clay bank associated with feature 3631 were recorded in section.

6.36.2 Trench 36 also contained part of the same stone boundary wall (in this case given context number 3632) recorded in Trenches 13 and 26.

6.37 **Trench 37**  
29.80m x 1.6m x < 1.20m  
Figs 2 & 4

6.37.1 The same horizon of archaeological activity preserved in the base of trench 36 appeared to extend into Trench 37, where soil features of similar character were recorded as contexts 3711-3715 (Plate 19).

6.37.2 Context 3707, an undated layer of fine reddish-brown clayey silt loam, which was cut by excavated postholes 3703 and 3706 (Plate 14), appeared to stratigraphically postdate contexts 3711-3715. The relationship of layer 3707 to layer 3719, which also appeared to contain archaeologically significant soil features (3717 & 3718) was not, however, determined.

6.37.3 Context 3720 was interpreted as part of the same rubble spread recorded as 4203 in Trench 42 (see 6.42 below).

6.38 **Trench 38**  
14.60m x 1.60m x < 0.40m  
Fig. 2

6.38.1 Four negative soil features of possible archaeological significance, including a linear feature orientated southwest-northeast, were recorded in the base of this shallow trench. These features, which were not excavated, were sealed by a thin layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil.

6.39 **Trench 39**  
21.8m x 1.60 x < 0.58m  
Fig. 2

6.39.1 A variety of archaeologically significant features and deposits, which appeared to reflect more than one phase of activity, were recorded in the base of this trench. These included two possible gullies and a posthole located at the southwestern end of the trench; the severely truncated remains of a wall and associated rubble spread occupying the central part of the trench, and an extensive soil feature (partly rectilinear in form) cut into natural clay at the northeastern end of the trench. No artefactual evidence was recovered during the cleaning of this trench to date these features. The wall remains and associated rubble spread did, however appear to be located along the line of the boundary wall recorded in Trenches 13, 26 and 37.

- 6.40        **Trench 40**  
20m x 1.60m x < 0.50m  
Fig. 2
- 6.40.1      The only evidence for possible archaeological activity recorded here was a shallow curvilinear feature which appeared to extend beyond the trench to the southwest. The single fill of this feature, a clean deposit of reddish-brown fine sandy clay loam, did not contain any datable archaeological finds. The feature, which was cut into an archaeologically sterile fine sandy clay was sealed by a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil.
- 6.41        **Trench 41**  
19.60m x 1.60m x 0.65m  
Fig. 2
- 6.41.1      Mechanical excavation of the upper soil horizon within this trench exposed a homogeneous layer of dark reddish-brown silty clay loam and occasional fragmented sandstone. This layer, which contained outcrops of naturally occurring sandstone, appeared to be archaeologically sterile.
- 6.41.2      Evidence for archaeological activity at this level was represented by a slightly irregular linear soil feature (1.20m wide) and adjacent stone spread (max. width 2.8m) recorded on a southwest-northeast orientation at the northwestern end of the trench. These two features, which were not excavated, were interpreted as the truncated remains of a possible ditch and bank (date unknown). No other archaeologically significant features or finds were recorded.
- 6.42        **Trench 42**  
6.60m x 1.60m x < 0.74m  
Figs 2 & 4
- 6.42.1      This trench contained a (narrower) segment of the previously unrecorded boundary wall also preserved in trenches 13, 26, 36 & 39. Although not properly investigated or recorded due to time constraints, the archaeological stratigraphy predating the wall appeared to be broadly similar to that recorded in the above mentioned trenches.
- 6.43        **Trench 43**  
7.40m x 1.6m x < 0.66m  
Figs 2 & 5
- 6.43.1      This trench was opened across the suspected route of the stone boundary wall already recorded in trenches 13, 26, 36, 39 and 42. The segment of the wall cleaned and recorded here had the same dimensions as the narrower stretch of wall preserved in trench 42. No other archaeological investigation was carried out in this trench due to time constraints, but the depth of stratigraphy appeared to be similar to that preserved in the trenches mentioned above.
- 6.44        **Trench 44**  
20.50m x 1.60m x < 0.85m  
Fig. 4: Section 6; Fig 5
- 6.44.1      This trench was sited with a view to sampling both of the enclosures recorded at the northern end of the site. The removal of topsoil and subsoil at either end of

the trench exposed undisturbed fragmented sandstone. The central segment of the trench, however, was found to contain several features of archaeological significance.

- 6.44.1.1 Enclosure ditch C (Fig. 2), also sampled by trench 12, was defined by a shallow gently sloping cut (4403; Plate 20), containing fills 4402, 4406 & 4407. Romano-British pottery, building rubble and two iron nails were recovered from this feature during excavation.
- 6.44.1.2 Enclosure ditch C appeared to cut through an earlier, reddish brown soil layer (4405) which, during excavation, was found to contain a worked flint. Layer 4405 in turn sealed a charcoal-flecked linear feature of indeterminate date. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.
- 6.45 **Trench 45**  
15m x 1.6m x < 0.35m  
Fig. 2
- 6.45.1 This trench was excavated through a topsoil layer 0.25m thick and a thin layer of subsoil. No archaeologically significant features or finds were recorded in the underlying natural substrate.
- 6.46 **Trench 46**  
21.40m x 1.60m x < 0.90m  
Fig. 10: Section 2
- 6.46.1 The removal of the topsoil and subsoil layers from this trench exposed several small archaeologically significant deposits in the surface of the natural substrate. These deposits, which varied in shape and composition, were evenly distributed across the basis of the trench. A linear soil feature located at the northwestern end of the trench, was shown by excavation to be the fill a deep, vertical sided cut (4612) which extended beyond the trench. A pottery sherd recovered from the surface of this feature has been dated to the late Iron Age.

## 7 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

### Figure 2

- 7.1 The evaluation exercise confirmed the existence of extensive subterranean archaeological remains of Romano-British date on the site. In broad terms the physical remains reflect a series of ditched rectilinear enclosures located towards the northern end of the site and a possible trackway further south. Associated negative features comprising ditches, gullies and postholes were also revealed which indicate the presence of related timber structures and subordinate enclosures or demarcations. The associated artefactual assemblage, in conjunction with the presence of a sarcophagus burial sited close to a boundary ditch, highlights the proximity of a settlement focus. Little in the way of a contemporary Romano-British ground surface of related layers were preserved and it is clear that the site has undergone significant erosion since that period. The degree of truncation is highlighted by the sarcophagus burial which is preserved very close to the surface. Despite this, substantial ditches and smaller negative features were preserved across much of the site, the greatest concentration situated in a wide zone crossing the northern half of the study area, close to or within the group of enclosures.
- 7.2 The density of the physical remains (ditches, gullies, pits, postholes, rubble spreads and metalled surfaces) in the northern half of the study area indicates that part of the site lies adjacent to, or within the focus of an area of settled occupation and is not merely part of an outlying field system. This is supported by a significant number of postholes and gullies/slots which indicate the presence of associated timber structures.
- 7.3 This interpretation of the physical evidence is supported by the range, quality and condition of archaeological artefacts (Romano-British pottery, building stone, roof and hypocaust tile, iron nails and other metalwork) recovered from the enclosure ditches. Overall the ceramic assemblage dates the construction of the enclosures and the associated activity to the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D
- 7.4 The discovery of a limestone sarcophagus burial adjacent to the larger of the two enclosures is a good indication that at least one of the occupants of the Romano-British settlement had significant social status.
- 7.5 The recovery of small but significant quantities of slag (both tap and bottom slag - McDonnell 1993) from stratified Romano-British contexts suggests that ironworking was carried out on the site during the period of Romano-British occupation. This is not surprising, given the range and quantity of naturally occurring ferrous ores on the site. However, despite the generally low incidence of animal bone, the basis of the settlement's economy would most likely have been mixed agriculture.
- 7.6 The recovery of a small, but significant assemblage of flint artefacts from the site reflects prehistoric activity on the site (the leaf shaped arrowhead suggests as far back as the Neolithic period) although the precise character, date and extent of that activity remains unclear. Stratified ceramic evidence from an adjacent site (Hume forthcoming) has been dated by Dr Anne Woodward to the later Early Bronze Age and is suggested to represent evidence of settlement, as opposed to funerary activity. It is possible that activity may have extended into the study area.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation work has revealed previously unknown archaeological remains associated with Romano-British activity on the site, principally during the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. The nature of that activity is characterised by the cultural assemblage and lesser physical remains which, collectively, indicate a domestic rural settlement including timber structures and probably more substantial masonry buildings, set within a managed agricultural landscape.
- 8.2 The archaeological remains on the site have suffered significant erosion, probably due to centuries of agriculture, and are preserved in the main as negative features and associated deposits. Nonetheless, the evaluation evidence indicates that they are sufficiently well preserved to provide a detailed picture of the nature and organisation of Romano-British activity on the site. The evaluation evidence does not indicate a high status (i.e. Villa type) Romano-British site. The physical remains and artefacts are more indicative of a fairly standard rural settlement of the period comprising a nucleus of buildings with associated agricultural enclosures bounded by ditches.
- 8.3 The evidence of possible small scale ironworking or smelting activity is of some significance. This is a poorly understood aspect of Roman studies and a priority for future research.

## 9 CONTRACTOR'S ADVICE

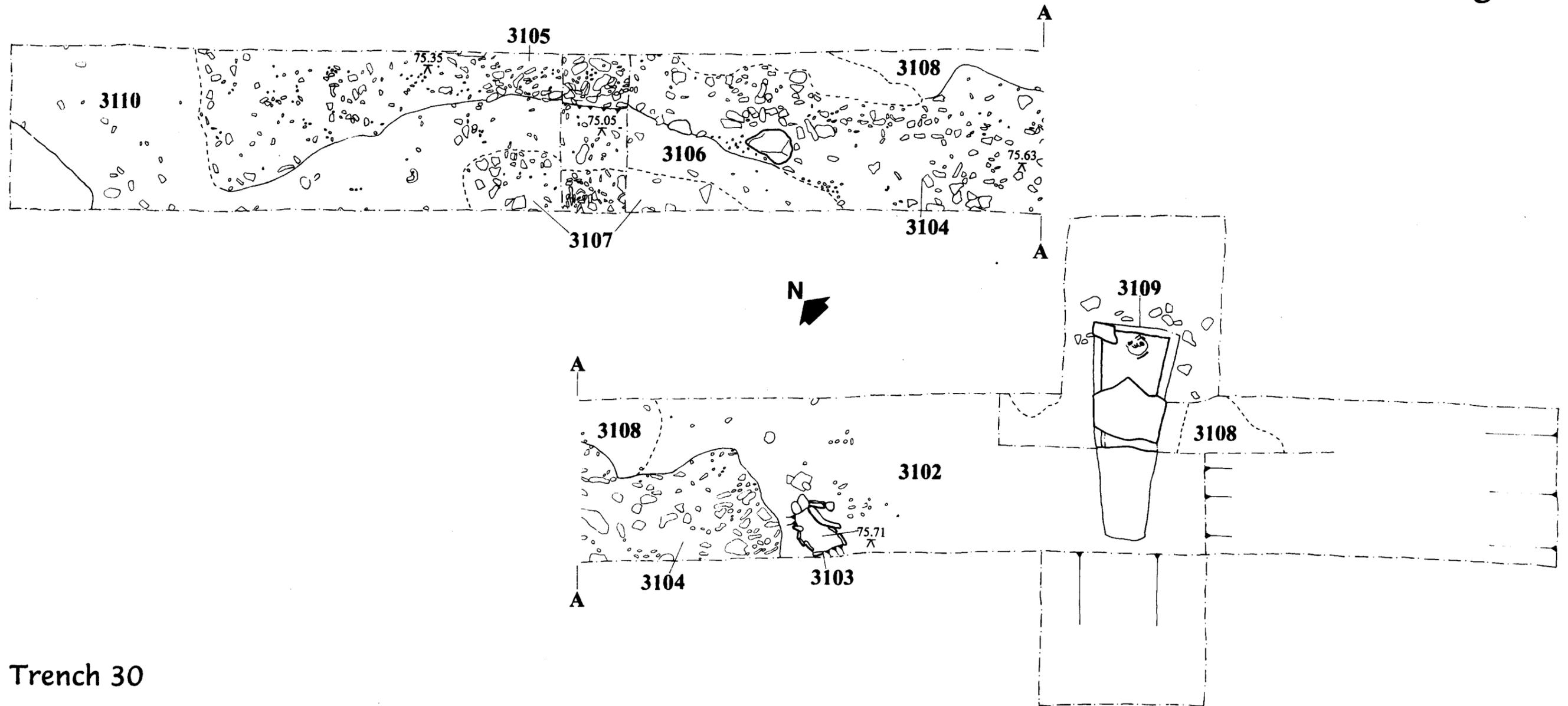
by Andrew C. Young

- 9.1 As it is currently understood the proposed residential development scheme is likely to have a significant impact upon the archaeological remains which are preserved on the site.
- 9.2 The Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990; Archaeology and Planning) recognises the importance of the archaeological resource and the need, where development is proposed, to make provision for preservation in-situ (should the remains merit such) or for an appropriate programme of archaeological recording of remains of lesser quality in advance of development and their destruction.
- 9.3 Where nationally important remains are involved there is a clear preference in favour of their physical preservation in-situ. A similar approach is adopted by English Heritage (HBMCE 1991) and is expressed in relevant County and District strategic planning policies.
- 9.4 The special importance of human remains is acknowledged in the former Avon County Council Archaeological Guidance Note 3, *Archaeology, Human Remains and Burial Grounds* (Appendix 4). The document reiterates guidelines set out in PPG16 (DoE 1990) where preservation *in situ* is identified as the preferred archaeological option and the need, where that is not feasible, for the respectful and proper excavation and treatment of human remains where such remains have been identified.
- 9.5 The Romano-British remains which have been identified on the Cossham Street site are not considered to be of sufficient national importance to justify preservation in-situ at the expense of future development. They are, however, of significant regional and local importance as they lie in an area where existing evidence for the pattern and nature of rural settlement of that period is very rare indeed.
- 9.6 Accordingly, it is suggested that a further programme of archaeological work is necessary on the site in advance of future development to more fully investigate the Romano-British activity which has been identified. The principal objective of future work should be to fully **characterise** and date that activity, and any evidence of earlier settlement or activity, and ensure the preservation of a sample of the physical remains *by record* in advance of destruction for re-interpretation by future generations.
- 9.7 To achieve the above objective it is suggested that further archaeological investigation on the site should include selective area excavation of a sample area of approximately 100m x 50m. If *preservation by record* is chosen as an appropriate mitigation strategy then the evaluation evidence indicates that excavation work should be directed to examine the ditched enclosures and areas adjacent in detail, thereby targeting the zone with the greatest likelihood of recovering detailed evidence of domestic or agricultural structures, further possible burials and high quality artefactual remains.

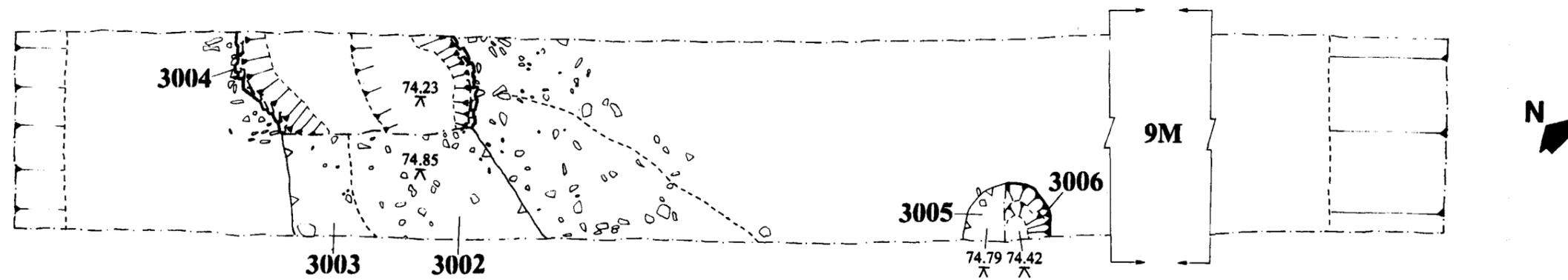
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Trench 31

Figure 3



Trench 30



Sandstone



Sealed Cut



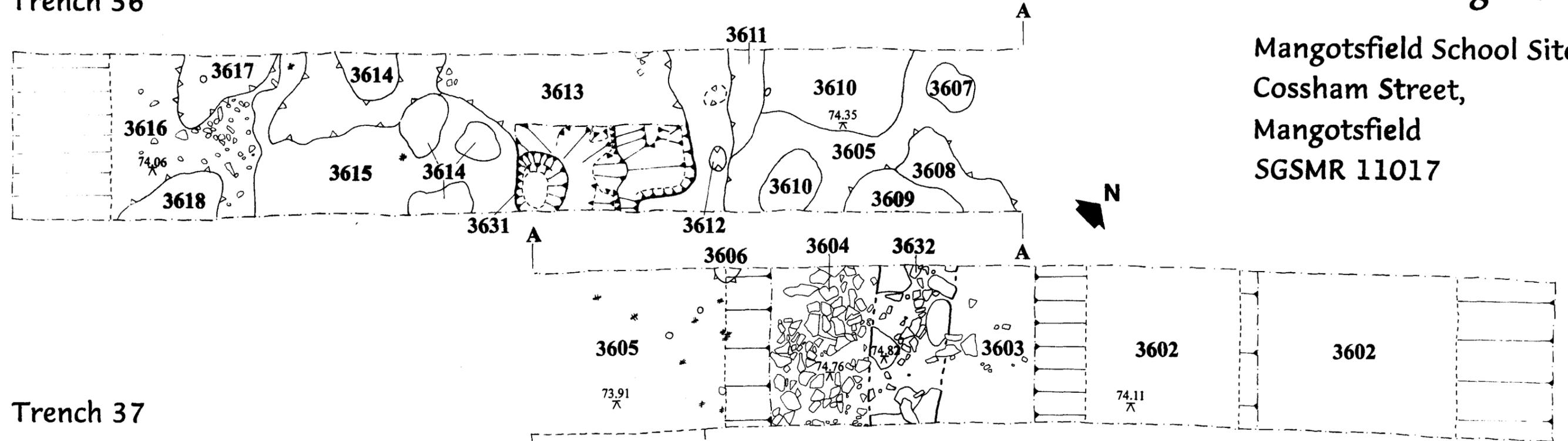
Rock Cut Feature

Mangotsfield School Site, Cossham Street,  
Mangotsfield - SGSMR 11017

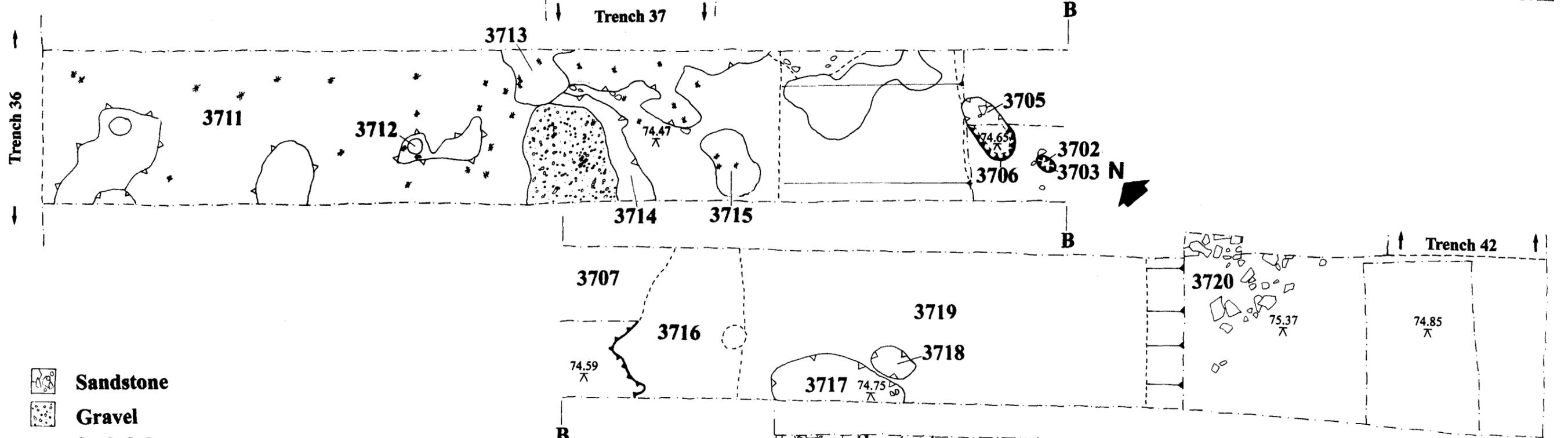
Figure 4

Mangotsfield School Site,  
Cossham Street,  
Mangotsfield  
SGSMR 11017

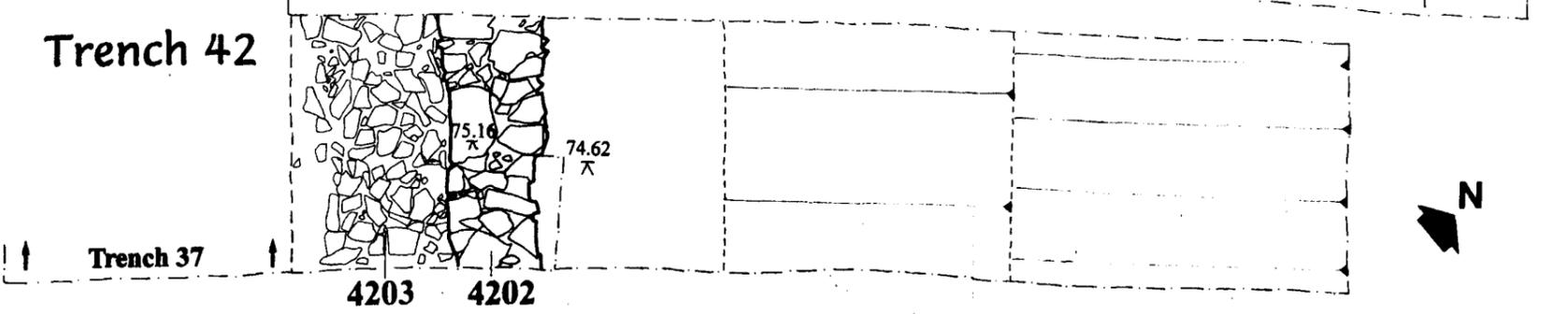
Trench 36



Trench 37



Trench 42



-  Sandstone
-  Gravel
-  Sealed Cut
-  Charcoal



Figure 5

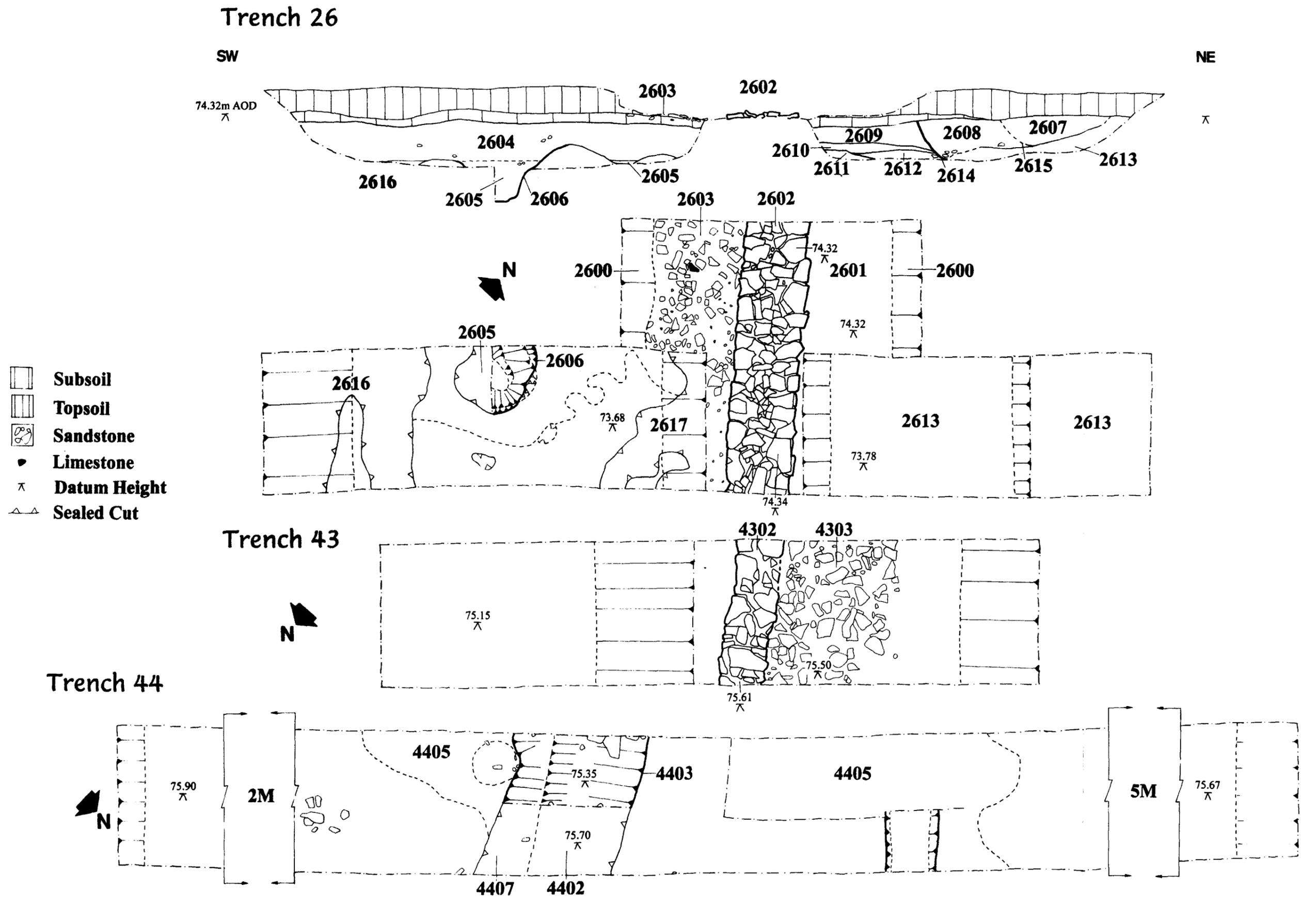
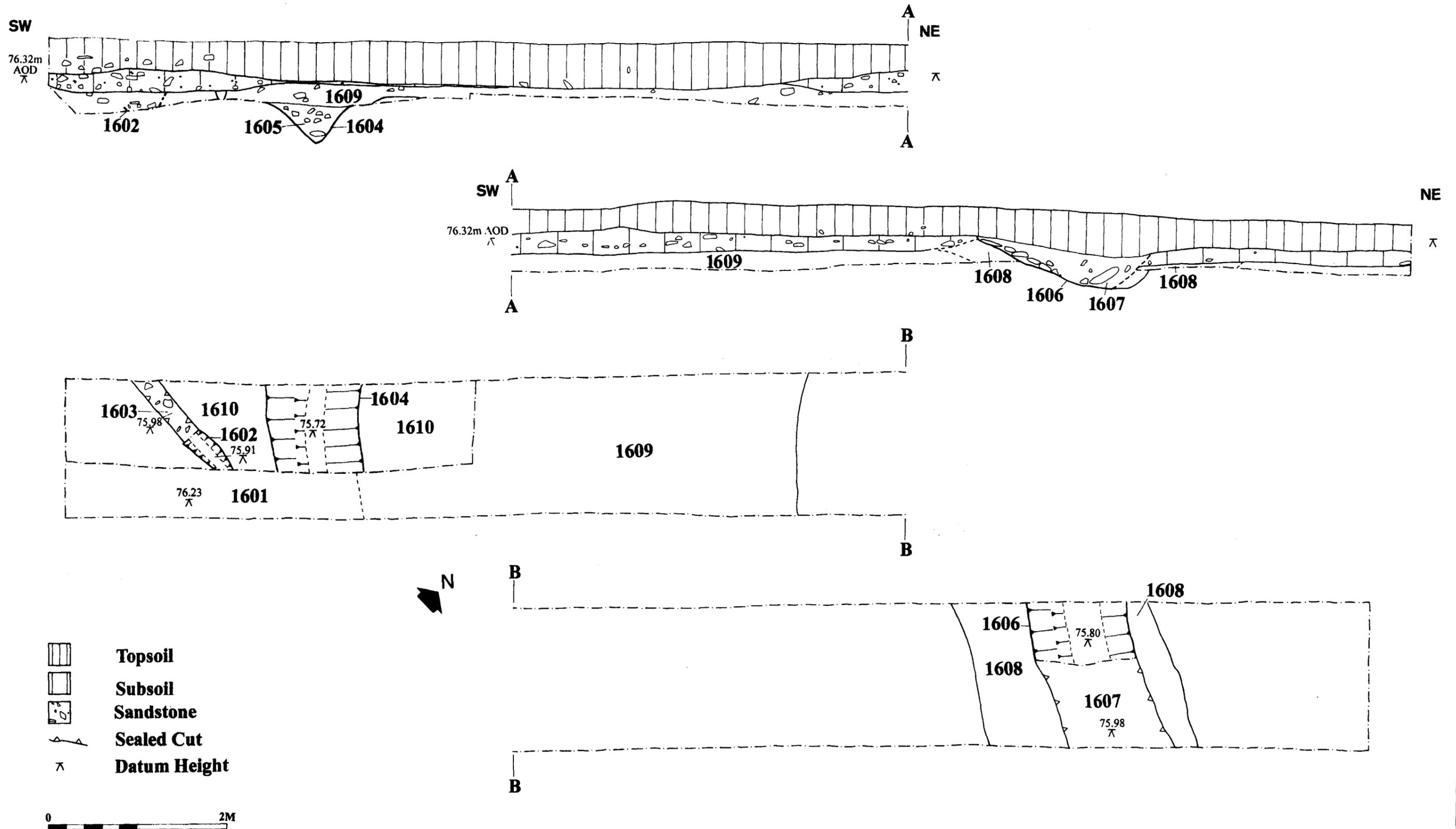


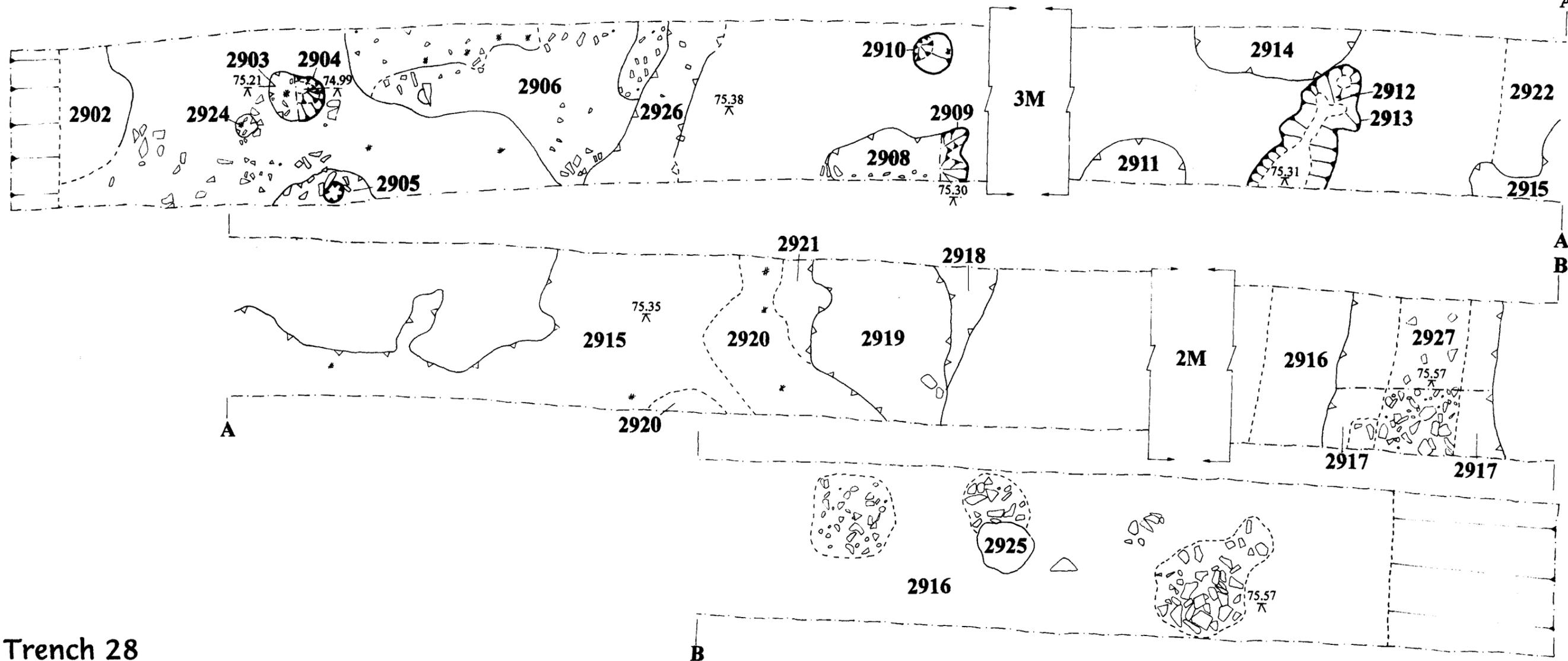
Figure 6

Trench 16

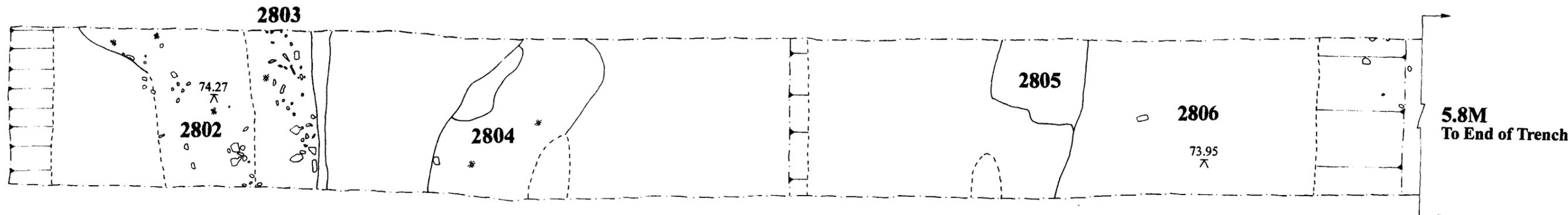


Trench 29

Figure 7



Trench 28

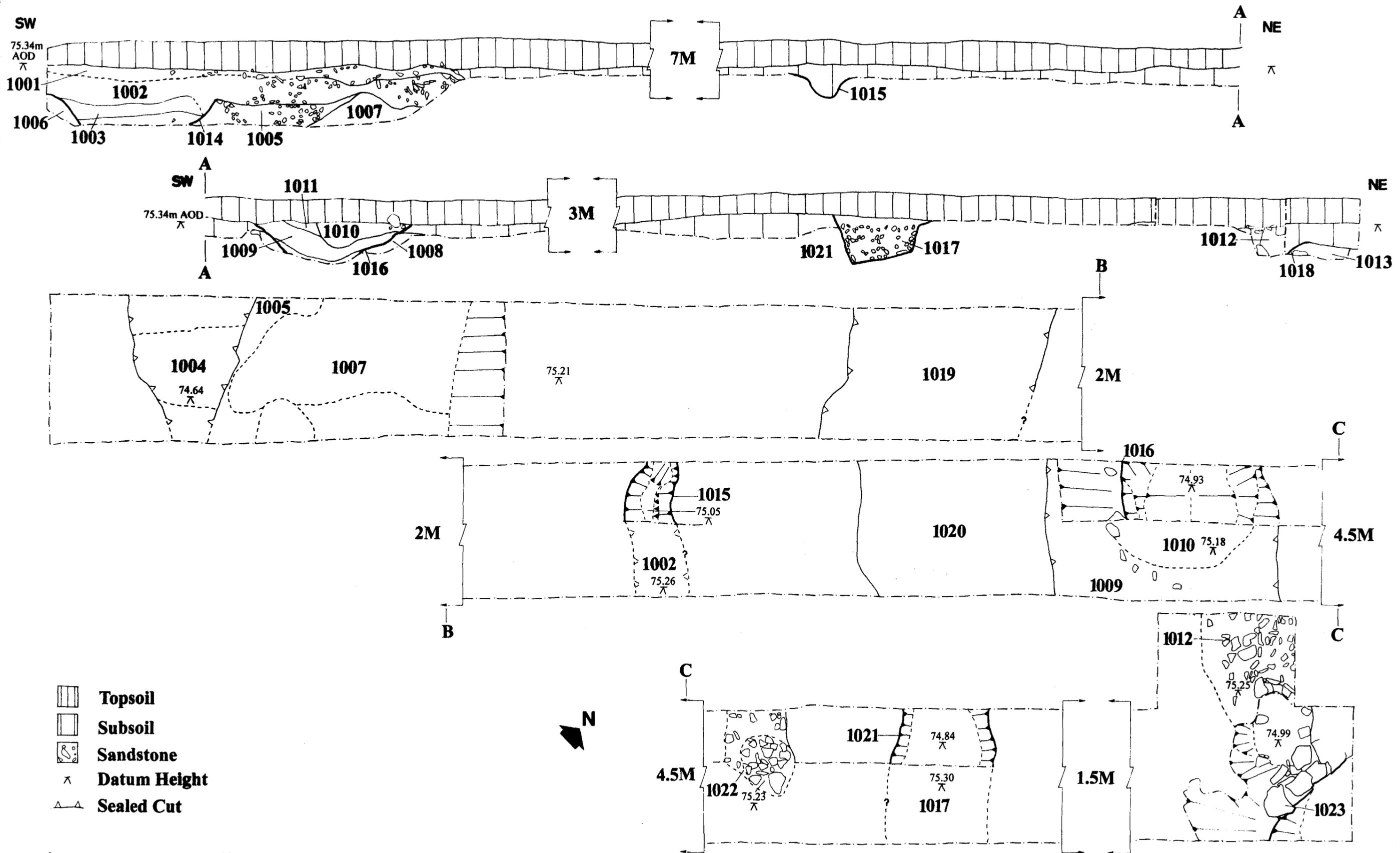


-  Sandstone
-  Charcoal
-  Sealed Cut

Mangotsfield School Site, Cossham Street,  
Mangotsfield - SGSMR 11017

# Trench 10

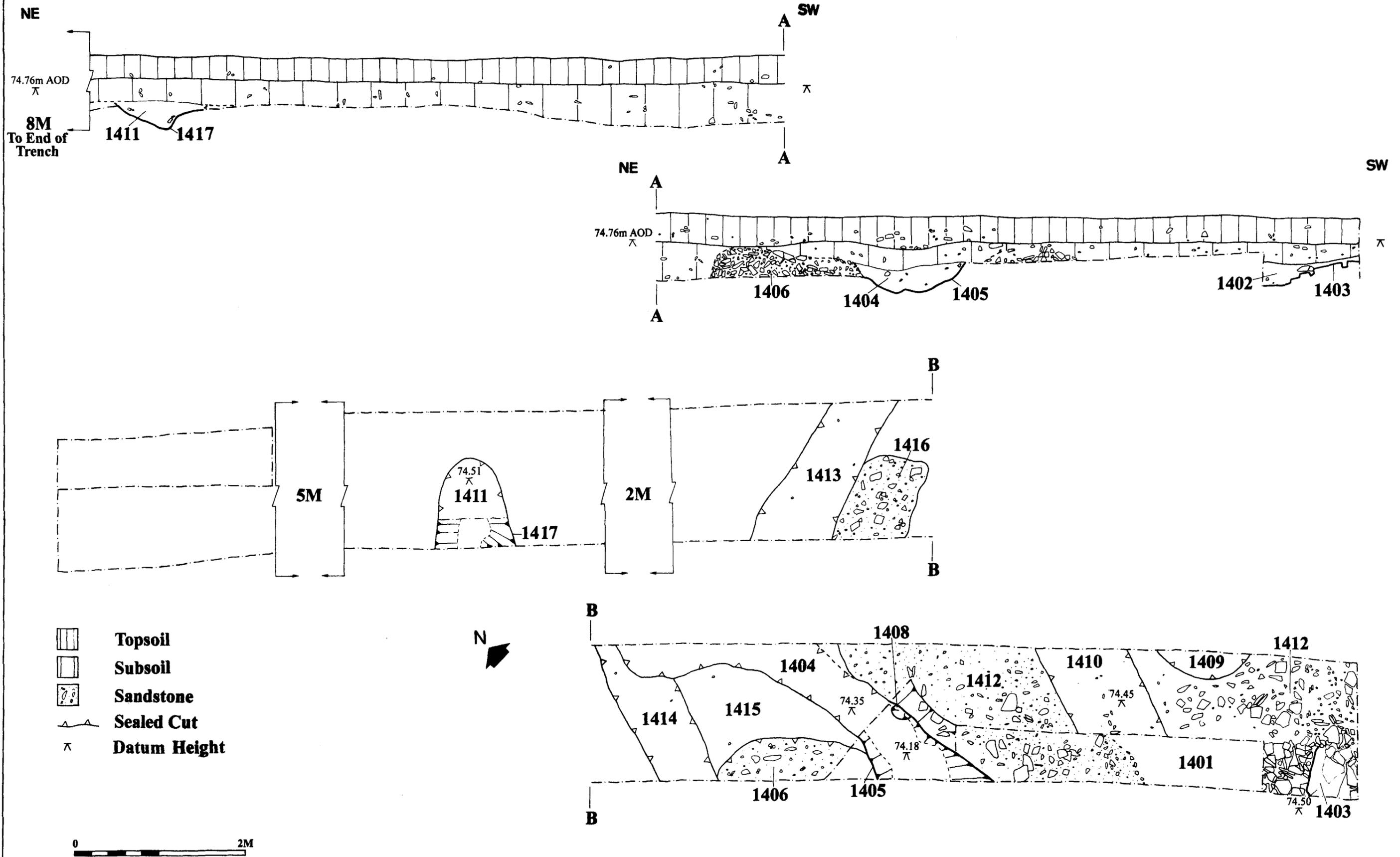
# Figure 8



Mangotsfield School Site, Cossham Street, Mangotsfield - SGSMR11017

# Trench 14

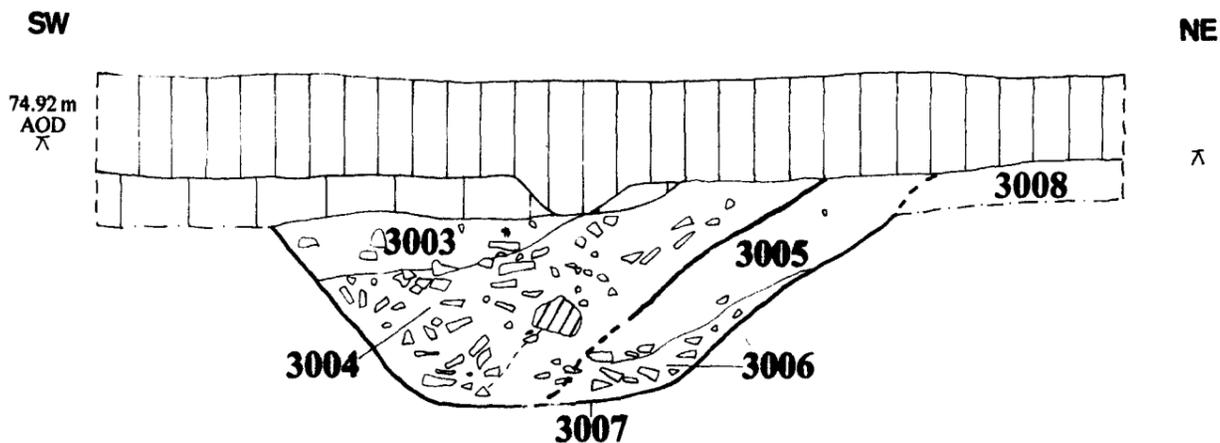
# Figure 9



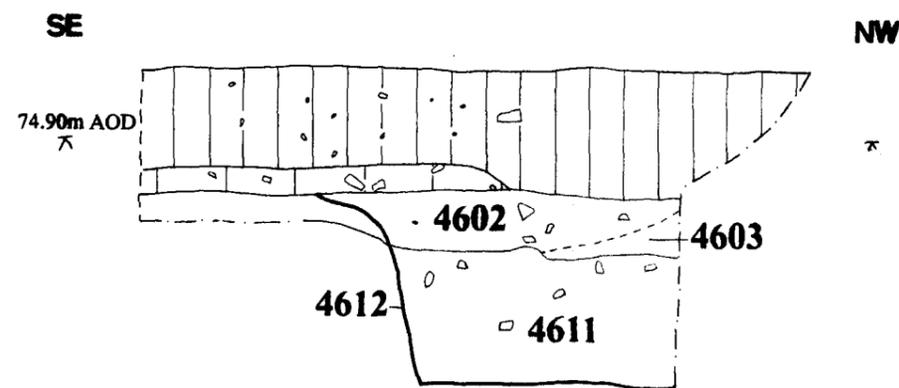
Mangotsfield School Site, Cossham Street, Mangotsfield - SGSMR 11017

Figure 10

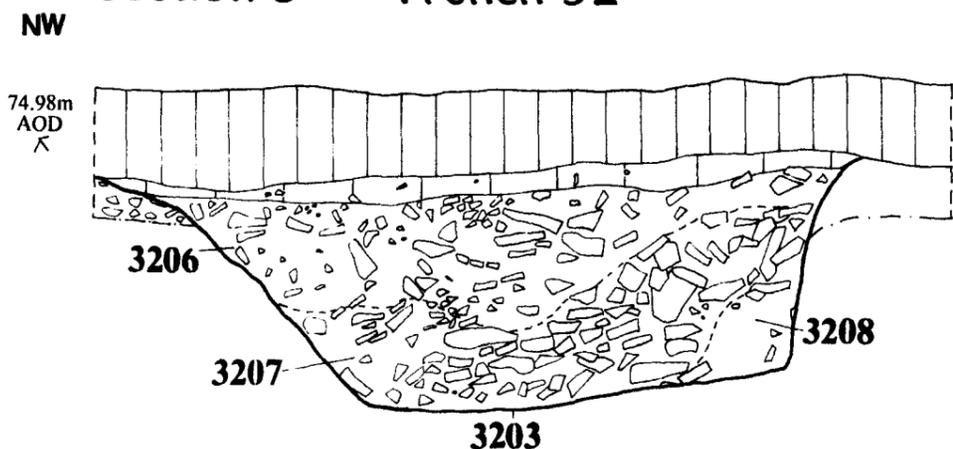
Section 1 Trench 30



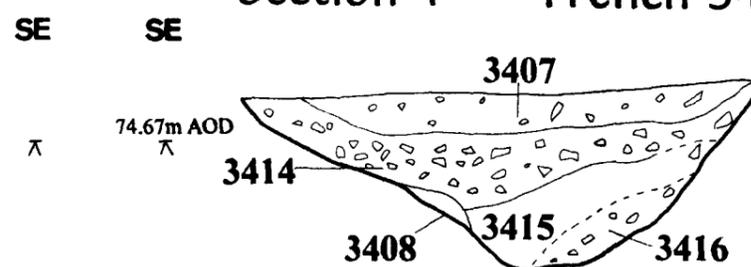
Section 2 Trench 46



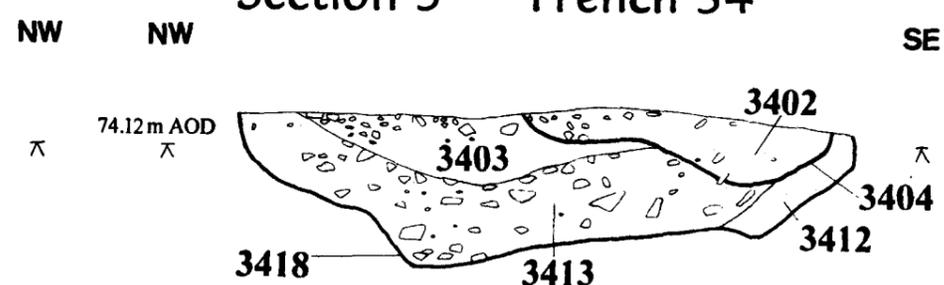
Section 3 Trench 32



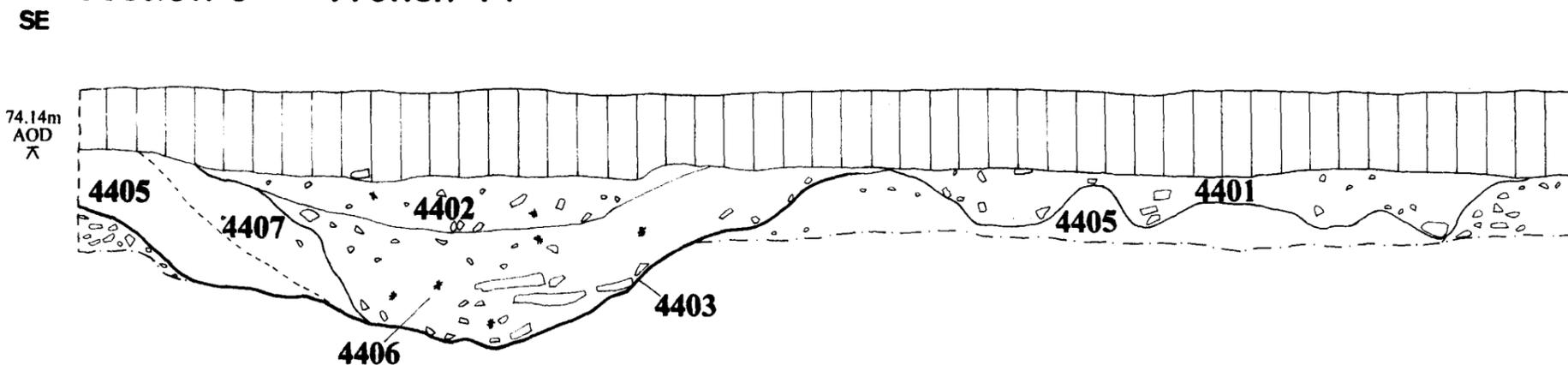
Section 4 Trench 34



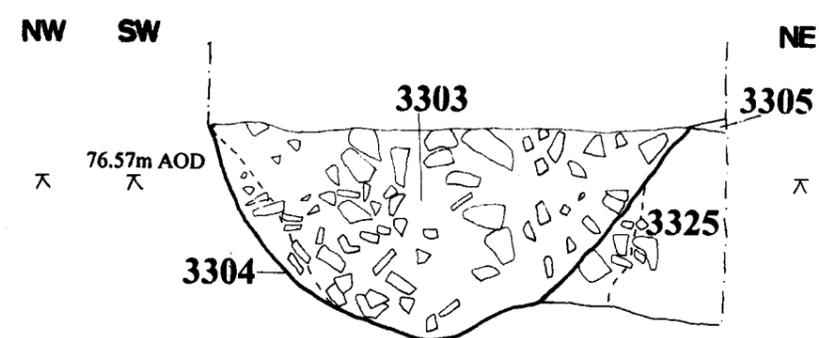
Section 5 Trench 34



Section 6 Trench 44



Section 7 Trench 33

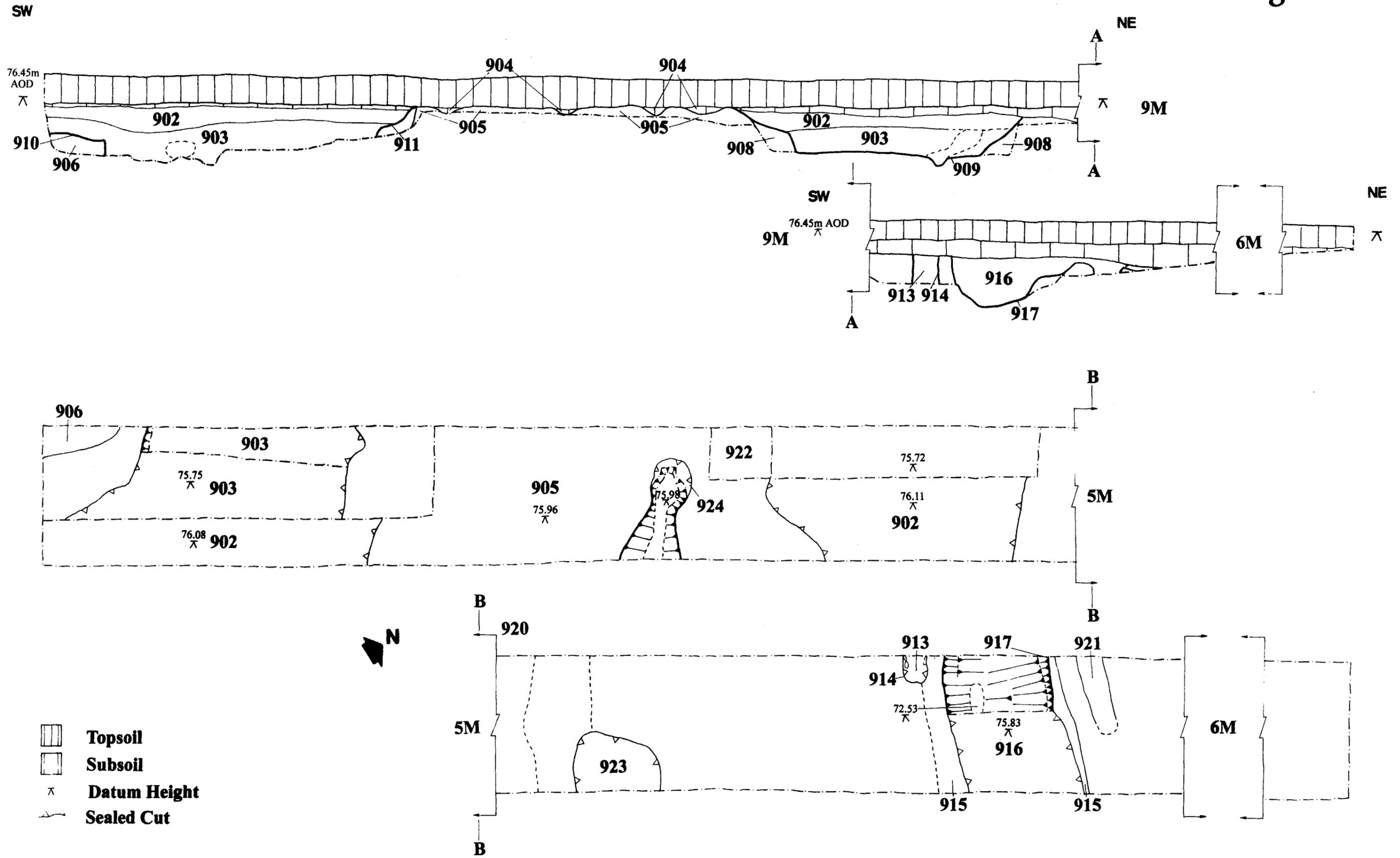


- |   |         |   |              |   |          |
|---|---------|---|--------------|---|----------|
|  | Topsoil |  | Sandstone    |  | Charcoal |
|  | Subsoil |  | Datum Height |  | Root     |



Trench 9

Figure 11



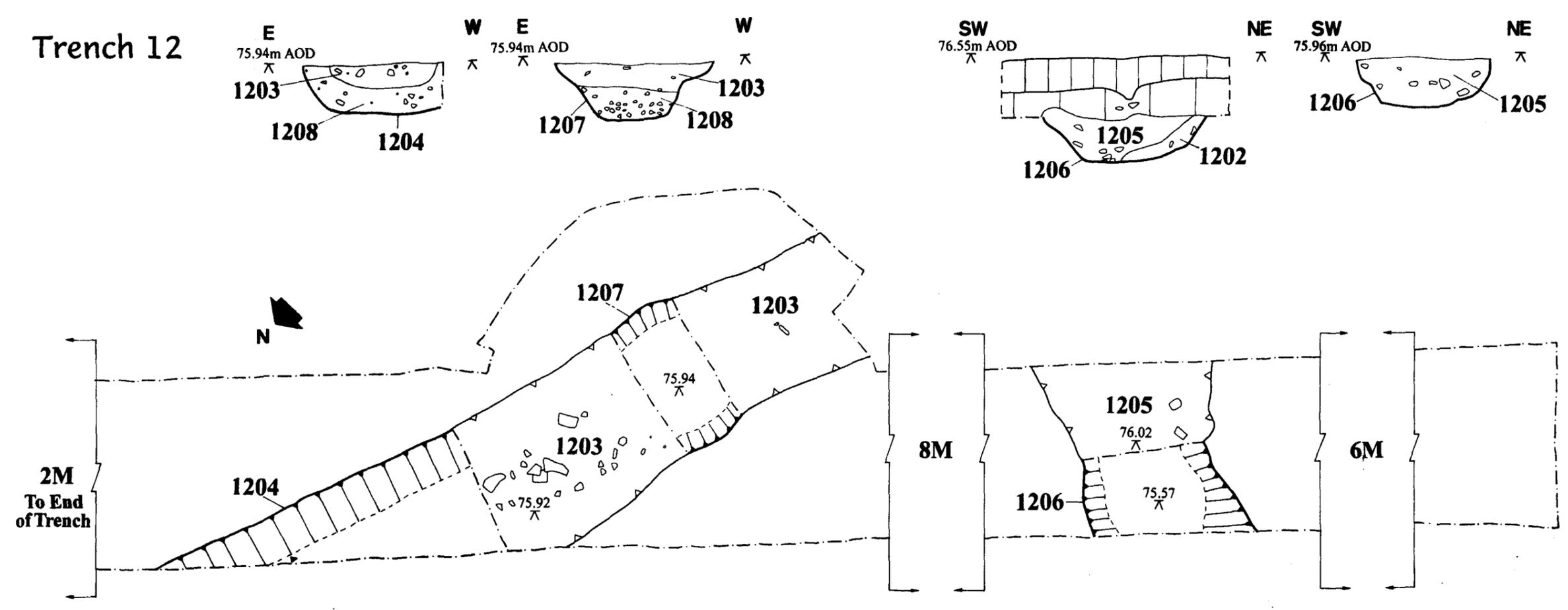
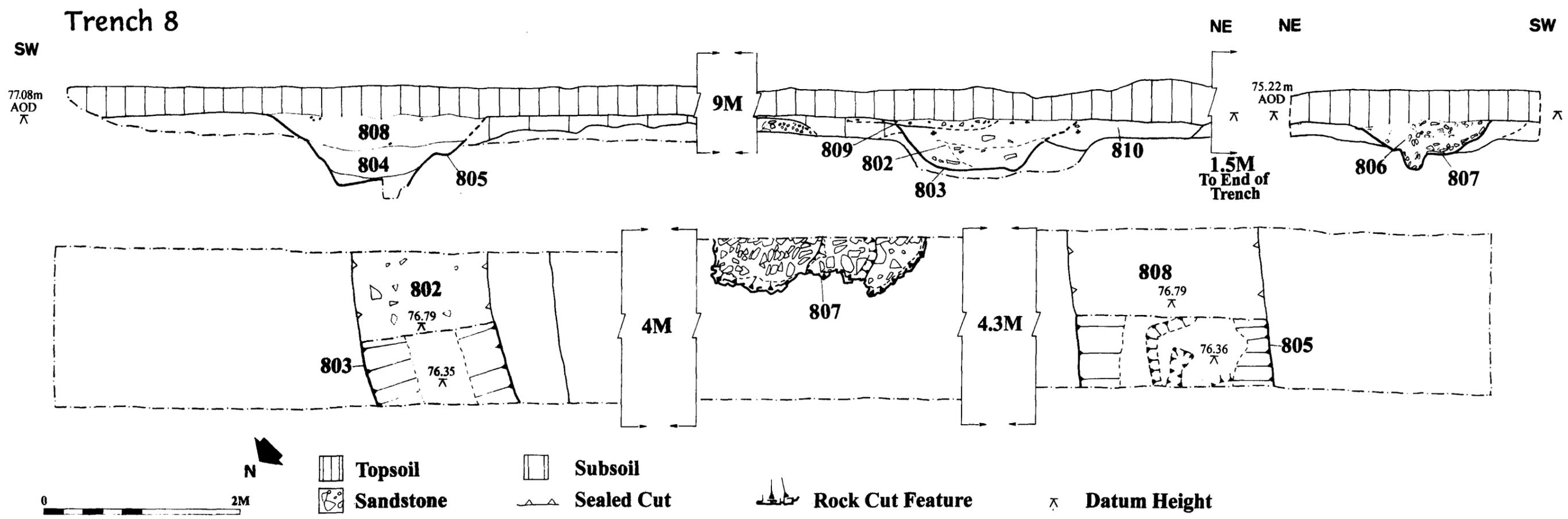
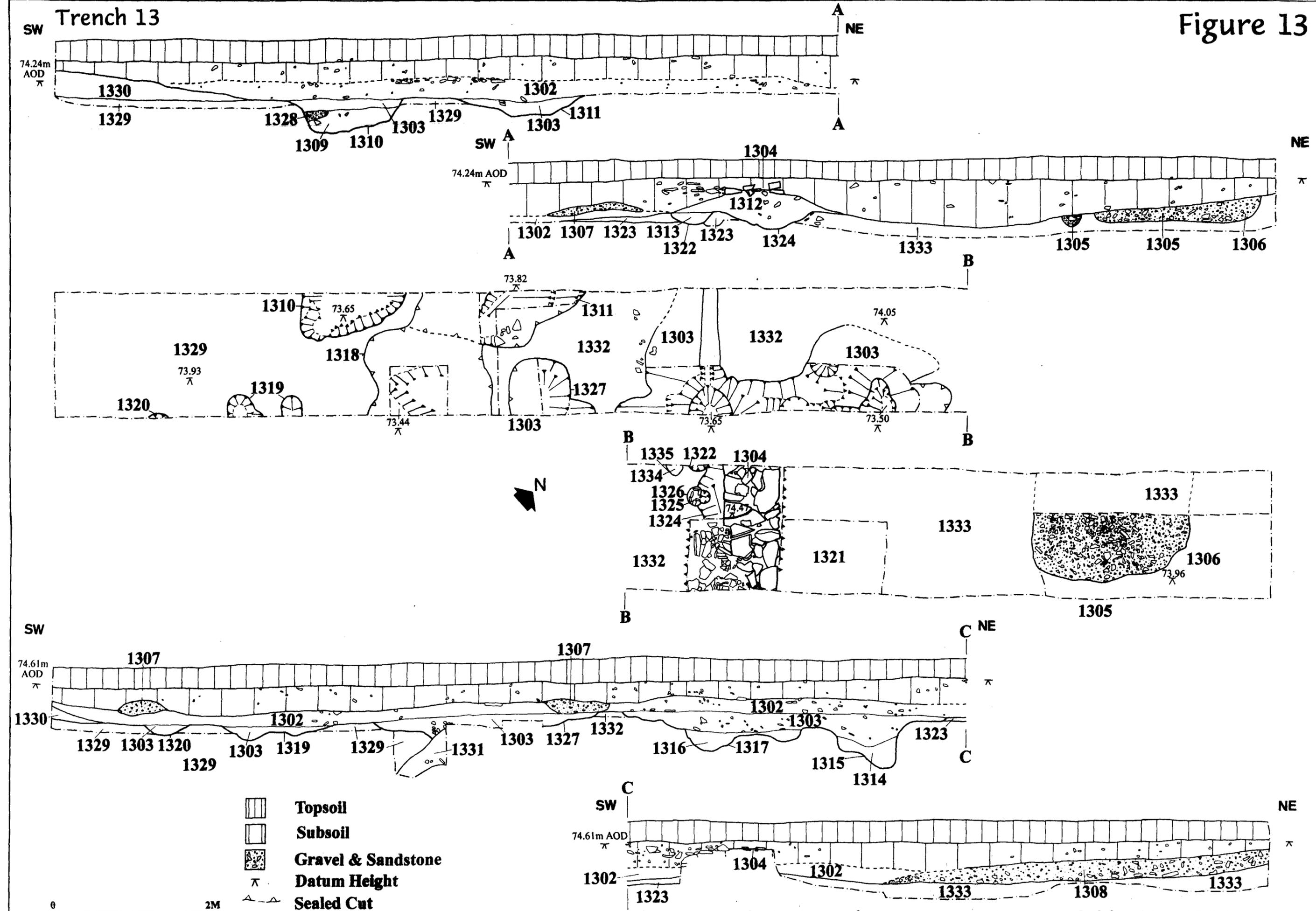


Figure 12

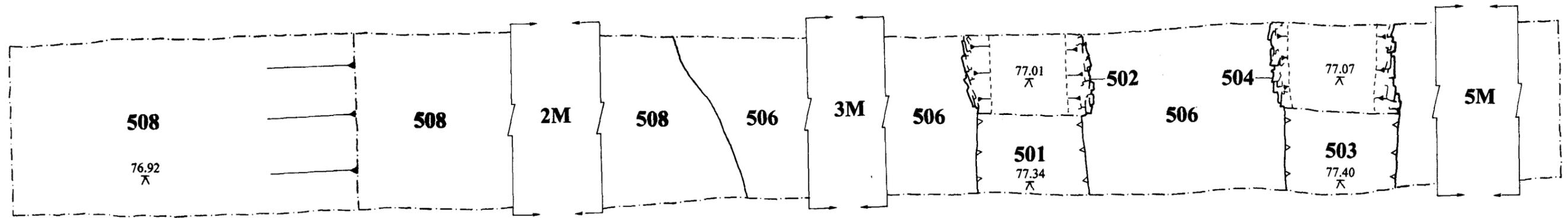
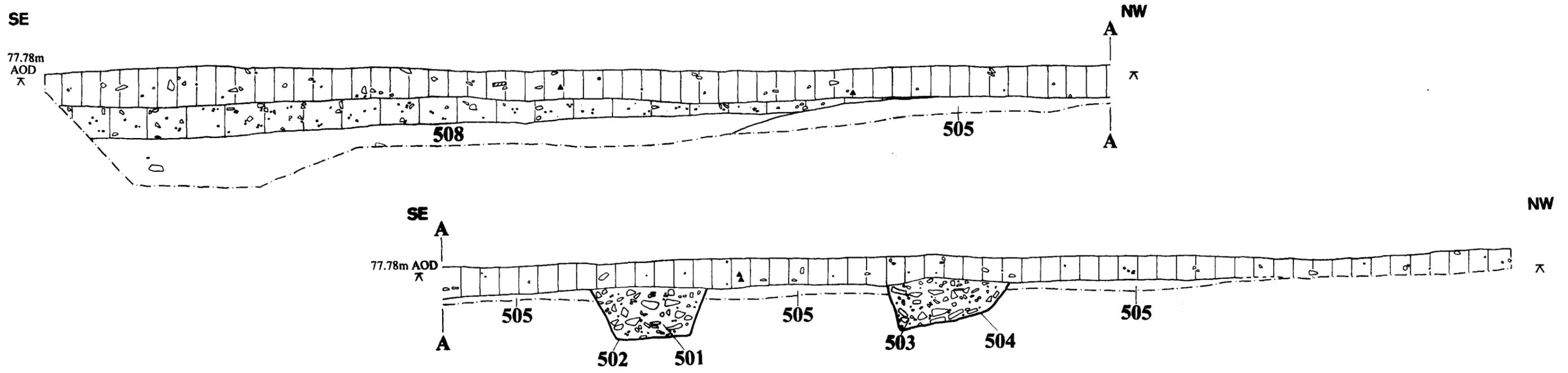
Figure 13



Mangotsfield School Site, Cossham Street, Mangotsfield - SGSMR11017

Figure 14

Trench 5



- Topsoil
- Subsoil
- Sandstone
- Coal
- Rock Cut Feature
- Pottery
- Clay Tobacco Pipe
- Datum Height
- Sealed Cut



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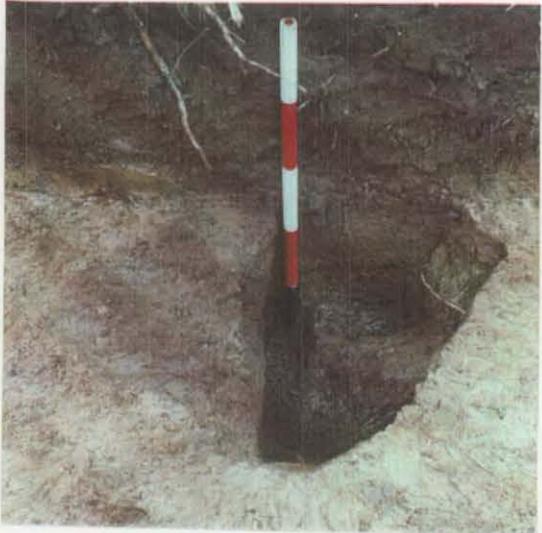
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## APPENDIX 1

### General Finds Report

The artefactual assemblage recovered from the Hamlet XIII site (SGSMR 11017) mainly comprised ceramic material, a separate assessment of which can be found in Appendix 2. The rest of the assemblage comprised flint artefacts, metalwork, slag, glass, clay pipe fragments and worked stone.

The flint assemblage consisted of a leaf-shaped arrowhead, a blade/end scraper (possibly Neolithic), a flint core, several worked flakes and a small number of flint nodules. This assemblage was not particularly diagnostic however, as most of the flints were either unstratified, or found in association with Romano-British artefacts. Despite being residual however, this small but significant flint assemblage is indicative of some sort of prehistoric activity on the site. The recovery of a significant quantity of stratified Early Bronze Age pottery sherds from an adjacent site (SGSMR 11042) would appear to reflect settlement related, rather than transitory occupation.

The metallic assemblage from the site comprised a small quantity of iron nails, a tiny fragment of bronze and two small pieces of lead (one burnt). All of these finds were recovered from the Roman-British enclosure ditches. Small quantities of slag (tap, vesicular and bottom) and other ferrous residues were recorded over a much wider area of the site. These appeared to reflect Ironworking and smelting activity, also appearing to date to the Roman-British period.

The stone assemblage from the site comprised sandstone building rubble and fragmented roof tile (recovered from Romano-British contexts), worked stone (including a chamfered whetstone), and sparse pieces of limestone. The limestone, which was either recorded in Romano-British contexts or unstratified, probably represented the importation of a higher quality stone for building and/or other purposes).

Fragments of sheet window glass and clay pipe stems were recovered from modern layers recorded at the southern end of the site.

## APPENDIX 2

### Pottery Report by Rod Burchill, Post-Excavation Services, Bristol

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The pottery assemblage from Cossham Street, Mangotsfield was examined to identify the principal pottery types present and to provide a broad chronology for the archaeological features recorded from the site.

1.2 For the purpose of this report the two areas of excavation, XII and XIII, will be treated as a single site, however, an individual chronology of contexts has been prepared for each area.

1.3 The pottery was quantified by weight and sherd count and was scanned to identify the principal fabric types.

#### 2 THE ASSEMBLAGE

2.1 The pottery assemblage consisted of 523 sherds weighing 4.270kg. Of these 20 sherds were unstratified.

2.2 The pottery ranged in date from the Roman to the 19th century/modern period. There was a clear chronological gap in the ceramic sequence with the period between the end of the Roman occupation and the 19th century being represented only by single sherds of 14th and 16th century date.

2.3 A start date in the late-1st/early-2nd century is suggested for the assemblage with an end date for the exclusively Romano-British material sometime in the very late-3rd or early-4th century. Most of the pottery present probably dates from the 2nd and 3rd century.

2.4 The later 19th century group consisted of locally common wares including Transfer-print, white china, stoneware, redwares and other Bristol and Staffordshire products. These early-modern to modern wares are not fully discussed here but are included in the chronology of contexts.

##### **Romano-British Pottery Types**

2.5 Within the Romano-British group Severn Valley and Greywares dominated. The next most common material was locally produced native ware, mostly in a very gritty quartz tempered fabric, and Black Burnished ware in both early and late forms. Non-local imports included 1st century Severnake ware, late 3rd/4th century Oxford Colour Coated wares and a single sherd from a Nene Valley dimpled beaker. The source of a mortaria in a cream slipped, quartz gritted, orange buff fabric is unclear, however it may originate in the Upper Thames Valley. The assemblage also included very abraded sherds of grog tempered ware. It is possible that these may be Late Roman Grog Tempered ware (4th century), although, the distribution of that type is normally considered to be Hampshire eastward to Kent.

##### *2.6 Severn Valley Ware*

A range of hard, fine textured fabrics, typically brown or reddish-orange sometimes with a grey core. Typically slightly micaceous with few inclusions, the Cossham Street assemblage

include the coarse quartz gritted variant. Forms present include storage jars and wide mouth bowls. Severn Valley ware starts sometime in the first century and rises to prominence in the 2nd and 3rd century.

### 2.7 *Greywares*

Includes various reduced (grey fabrics) mostly of local production including Gloucestershire and Somerset. Forms copy those of Black Burnished ware. Late-1st to 4th century according to fabric and form.

### 2.8 *Black Burnished Ware (BB1)*

Primarily a southeast Dorset industry it is likely that BB1 was also being produced on the Somerset levels. A hard sandy dark grey or black fabric, early forms (1st/2nd century) have burnished or smoothed surfaces whilst later forms (3rd/4th century) are slipped and burnished or wiped (Tyers 1996). Forms present include: everted rim bowls, flange-rim bowls, dishes and ?beakers.

### 2.9 *Native Ware*

Miscellaneous locally made quartz gritted fabrics. Forms appear to copy BB1 types. Source unknown. All probably 2nd-4th century.

### 2.10 *Severnake Ware*

A hard, fine textured, fabric containing abundant blue-grey or pale grey grog. Form not identified but typically necked and bead-rim jars, beakers, bowls and plates. Production starts in Claudian period and continues into the early/mid-2nd century.

### 2.11 *Oxford Colour Coated*

Orange or red sandy fabric, sometimes micaceous, coated with a red to brown slip. Copies Samian forms, also mortaria with clear and coloured quartz trituration grit and bowls. Assemblage included fragments of at least one mortaria in this fabric. Date mid-3rd and 4th century.

### 2.12 *Nene Valley Ware*

Fine, well fired creamy white to pale buff fabric with chocolate-brown or black colour coat. Mid-2nd through 4th century. Assemblage includes fragment of dimpled beaker.

## 3 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The assemblage included both Romano-British and Modern period wares. The Modern (18th-20th century) wares were all recovered from the topsoil-subsoil horizon. They were not further considered as part of this report.

3.2 The Romano-British pottery ranged in date from the 1st to the 4th century, however, most of the pottery appears to date to the 2nd and 3rd century and there appears to be insufficient evidence to confirm a 4th century occupation of the site.

3.3 The Romano-British pottery types found at Cossham Street are much as would be expected for a site in the Lower Severn Valley.

3.4 Severn Valley ware and ?locally produced Greywares dominated the assemblage. Black Burnished wares, ubiquitous on west country sites, occurred across the range including both early and late forms.

3.5 Native imports included Oxford Colour Coated ware and a sherd of a Nene Valley beaker, a rare type for a west country site.

3.6 The possible identification of the grog tempered fabric as Late Roman Grog Tempered is uncertain. South Gloucestershire is well to the west of its accepted distribution range and it is possible that the fabric represented here is locally produced.

3.7 The assemblage included a large number of abraded sherds possibly suggesting secondary deposition. However, sufficient pottery appears to represent primary deposition to suggest the presence of Romano-British occupation nearby.

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Area XIII

Context	Sherd Nos	Sherd Wght gms	Date Range
202	2	10	late-1st/2nd cent
303	20	30	Modern
309	3	10	Modern
312	1	5	? (R/B pot + clay pipe)
802	14	25	2nd/3rd cent
804	4	10	2nd/3rd cent
1203	22	400	3rd/4th includes box flue tile
1205	3	45	late-2nd/4th cent
1304	2	10	? (native wares)
1400	2	5	18th century
2207	1	10	14th century
2402	3	30	? (tile)
2600	9	35	Modern
3003	2	20	late-2nd/3rd cent
3102	3	20	2nd/4th cent
3104	1	5	? (native ware)
3106	2	10	2nd/3rd cent
3107	1	5	2nd/4th
3202	5	15	2nd/3rd cent
3305	1	10	?
3403	1	5	?
4302			material not pot
4402	2	5	late-1st/2nd cent
4402/06	10	30	2nd/3rd cent
4406	6	15	2nd/3rd cent
T18 U/S	1	15	Modern

T20 U/S	1	30	R/B tile
T27 U/S	1	5	?
T29 U/S	1	30	R/B tile
T35 U/S	1	5	R/B
T36 U/S	6	25	Modern
T46 U/S	6	110	Modern
3302	2	5	? (native ware)
3402	1	5	late-3rd/4th cent
4602	1	5	? (prehist)

## APPENDIX 3

### Summary Of Geotechnical Test Pit Survey Carried out by Structural Soils Ltd, Bristol

Fig 2

#### Test Pit 1

0.90m x 0.61m x < 1m

- 1) Brown friable sandy topsoil to a depth of 0.25m
- 2) Sandy silty clay subsoil (with occasional slag) between 0.25m and 0.45m
- 3) Natural bedded sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

#### Test Pit 2

0.90m x 0.61m x < 1.70m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.30m
- 2) Sandy silty clay subsoil (with occasional fragmented sandstone) between 0.30m and 0.50m
- 3) Poorly consolidated Pennant sandstone between 0.50m and 0.90m
- 4) Lightly weathered natural bedded sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

#### Test Pit 3

0.90m x 0.61 x < 1.9m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.30m
- 2) Silty clay subsoil between 0.3m and 0.65m
- 3) Clay, gravel and sandstone between 0.65m and 1.20m
- 4) Weathered Pennant sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

#### Test Pit 4

0.90m x 0.61m x < 2.10m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.25m
- 2) Silty clay subsoil between 0.25m and 0.65m
- 3) Reddish brown fine-medium silty clay containing occasional subangular sandstone rubble (0.64m - 1m)
- 4) Fragmented angular and subangular sandstone between 1m and 1.30m
- 5) Natural thinly bedded, closely jointed sandstone

No archaeological features were recorded apart from Layer 3 which may have represented part of a former occupation horizon

Test Pit 5

0.90m x 0.61m x < 2m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.30m
- 2) Firm reddish-brown sandy clayey silt subsoil between 0.30m - 0.60m
- 3) Medium sized densely packed reddish-brown angular and subangular sandstone with occasional pockets of clay (0.60m - 1.50m)
- 4) Reddish-brown compacted weathered sandstone between 1.50m and 1.70m
- 5) Reddish-brown silty sand

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

Test Pit 6

0.90m x 0.61m x < 1.70m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.30m
- 2) Firm yellowish-brown fine sandy silty clay subsoil between 0.30m and 0.75m
- 3) Mixed reddish-brown sandstone, gravel and silty sand between 0.75m and 1.10m
- 4) Highly weathered closely jointed sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

Test Pit 7

0.90m x 0.61m x 2m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.25m
- 2) Reddish-brown sandy silty clay subsoil (with sandstone inclusions) between 0.25m and 0.90m
- 3) Highly weathered, thinly bedded sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

Test Pit 8

0.90m x 0.61m x <0.80m

- 1) Topsoil to a depth of 0.30m
- 2) Fine sandy silty clay subsoil between 0.30m - 0.45m
- 3) Densely packed medium sized sandstone and gravel between 0.45 and 0.80m
- 4) Thinly bedded natural sandstone

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded

**N.B** Seven California Bearing Ratio Pits were also excavated by Structural Soils Ltd. These however were excavated only as far as the top of the subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## AVON COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDANCE NOTE 3

## ARCHAEOLOGY, HUMAN REMAINS AND BURIAL GROUNDS

### SUMMARY

Human burials and remains, whether in burial grounds or outside, are among other things an important source of information about past human activity and society which is not available elsewhere. While this is frequently accepted in burials of sixteenth century date or earlier, the clearance of post-medieval burial grounds, along with the archaeological resource they represent, has frequently been regarded as of little archaeological importance. PPG16 and County Structure Plan Policy BE4A indicate that, unless there is good evidence of the absence of archaeological deposits and structures at the site, all groundbreaking developments in areas where human burials are known, or proposals for clearance of known cemeteries of whatever date, will require archaeological assessment prior to determination of applications, to determine their archaeological status.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The subject of human remains and burial grounds is a sensitive one, touching as it does upon very basic human concerns and fears, and this makes it a very difficult subject to deal with in planning and development.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this paper, 'human remains' is defined as 'the archaeological deposits surviving from the burial, disposal or casual disposal of human bodies, including articulated skeletons in small numbers'. Other terms used include 'burial grounds', defined as 'an area of land, possibly no longer identifiable as a unit from surface evidence, once set aside for the disposal of human remains by burial'; 'burial artefacts', defined as 'articles with which, or within which, human remains have been buried'.
- 1.3 Before dealing with the practical difficulties of planning, development and burial grounds, it is important to point out that human remains, of whatever age, are human and were once functioning individuals of our own species. This means that, whatever age the remains may be, they should be handled with respect and, as far as possible, in accordance with the religious conventions of the individuals under consideration. This is officially regarded as necessary (although in practice, never achieved) in the case of Christian burials in this country, and is increasingly the practice in other countries (especially in the case of aboriginal populations).

- 1.4 Some religious groups maintain that the dead should not be disturbed. This should be respected wherever possible, but when removal of human remains is deemed to be necessary for reasons of development in spite of these wishes, it is respectfully suggested that with appropriate safeguards, careful removal by archaeologists is preferable to machine clearance.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGY AND BURIALS**

- 2.1 For earlier periods of human activity, and especially for the prehistoric period, much information about human lives and activity is derived from the study of burials and the structures and artefacts connected with them.
- 2.2 To a certain extent, this is also true of later periods: Burials contain the remains of humans which have been subject to the societal conditions of their period of life, and this is often reflected in the skeletal material itself, or in the artefacts buried with the bodies, deliberately or otherwise.
- 2.3 Human skeletal material may contain information on pathology, such as disease, familial or occupational traits, injury or other traumas; age at death and sex, and hence population patterns; feeding and famine patterns, and detail concerning diet, medicine and other matters directly affecting the body.
- 2.4 The materials buried with the bodies, and evidence of rites or treatment of the bodies carry information about beliefs, burial practices and other matters relating to living conditions at the time of interment.
- 2.5 For the prehistoric and early Romano-British periods, goods were commonly buried with cadavers, and these may indicate the status and occupation of the persons, facts not otherwise available.
- 2.6 Christian practice was, except for burials with a special status such as priests or wealthy individuals, not to include grave goods, and this practice continued up until the eighteenth century. From that period onwards, the provision of lavishly decorated coffins and other grave furniture was more common.
- 2.7 Less is known about the burial practices of non-Christian groups in Britain, and information concerning these individuals is also preserved in the cemeteries.

## **2 CLEARANCE OF BURIAL GROUNDS AND THE LAW**

- 2.1 The law concerning the removal of burials for any purpose from a burial ground has been largely based on the Burial Act of 1857, the

Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 and the Pastoral Measure 1983. these lay out the circumstances in which it is possible to move human remains, but in each case, planning and development legislation (in most cases, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) will apply.

2.2 In effect, since 1990, it has been possible to apply archaeological programmes under planning and development legislation.

2.3 The earlier legislation still applies in cases of removal of human remains which are exempted from the planning process. This legislation is considered in detail in Garratt-Frost 1992.

### 3 CLEARANCE OF BURIAL GROUNDS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 It is now standard policy guidance that in cases where there may be an effect on the archaeological resource, applicants may reasonably be required to provide an archaeological assessment of the impact of their proposals, as laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (1990).

3.2 The same PPG lays down guidelines setting out the importance of preservation of the archaeological resource *in situ* where possible, and where not, the sequence of archaeological assessment and subsequent procedure to be followed. The procedure is explained more fully in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Third Alteration of the Avon County Structure Plan.

3.3 It is accepted that the occurrence of prehistoric or Romano-British burials (ie those made before the fifth century AD) on an application site is sufficient cause for archaeology to be a material concern, and the existence of such is routinely a flag for an archaeological programme when development of a site known to contain burials of such date is intended.

3.4 It is also increasingly the case that medieval burials (ie those made between the fifth and sixteenth centuries AD) are regarded as appropriate subjects for archaeological study, and to form a material concern in planning applications.

3.5 However, with regard to later burials (for example, those of Friends burial grounds, or urban cemeteries closed in the mid-nineteenth century) the existence of an archaeological dimension to the sites has not been commonly realised, perhaps due to the misconception that all details of post medieval burial are available in written records. This has led (for example at Bathampton in 1992, and at Bathford in 1993, both in Wansdyke District, and at Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol in 1993) to the clearance of cemeteries without adequate programmes of archaeological evaluation and recording.

- 36 Proposals for development of areas known to contain human burials invariably now include the removal of these bodies, usually for re-interment. Because of the sensitivity of the archaeological resource these sites represent, they should fall within the guidance provided by PPG16, and any proposals for developments in these areas, or for clearance of burial ground for any reason, should be subject to the normal archaeological procedures laid down in the PPG.

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Department of the Environment, *Archaeology and Planning*, Planning Policy Guidance number 16  
November 1990

Garratt-Frost 1992

Stephen Garratt-Frost Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper 11 *The Law and Burial Archaeology*