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TEMPVS REPARATVM
Archaeological and Historical Associates Limited

29 BEAUMONT STREET
OXFORD OX1 2NP

TEL: 0865 311046
FAX: 0865 311047

REPORT ON EVALUATION WORK AT:

**BESTHORPE QUARRY
BESTHORPE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

(TR 31052ODC - NONEBE 92)

ON BEHALF OF:

**Redland Aggregates Ltd
Redland Head Office
Bradgate House
Groby
Leicestershire
LE6 0FA**

In connection with: an application for mineral aggregate extraction

PREPARED BY:

R Bourn BA Cert Archaeol (Oxon) AIFA

in collaboration with;

J Symonds BA Cert Archaeol (Oxon) AIFA

J R Hunn BA PhD AIFA

Tempvs Reparatum Archaeological and Historical Associates Limited

**Status of document: Report on field evaluation to provide the basis for the
formulation of a programme of archaeological work to be included within a Section
106 agreement**

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NGR SK 813 632). The evaluation was designed to ensure that provision was made for the appropriate management of archaeological deposits within the application area.

1.3.2

The present report on the results of the trial trenching represents only one element of the full programme of field evaluation in the light of which and in conjunction with which it was conducted. The other elements comprise:

1. An analysis of the cropmark evidence of the site as revealed by air photographs (TR 31052ODB)
2. An analysis of the historical landscape of the area as revealed in published sources of all kinds (Howlett 1992)
3. A programme of fieldwalking (TR 31052ODD)
4. Geophysical survey (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992)
5. Coring and borehole survey (Grattan 1992a; 1992b)
6. Electro-Magnetic Conductivity Survey (Raines and Greenwood 1992)
7. Contour survey and earthwork survey (Merrony 1992a; 1992b)

1.3.3

This report presents the geological and archaeological context of the area, the strategy underlying the archaeological trial trenching and the detailed findings from the two principal areas where these trial excavations took place, ie near Ferry Lane Farm (in the south-east of the application area) and the grassland to the south of Mons Pool (in the northern part of the application area). Detailed context descriptions and specialist reports on Samian Ware, Romano-British pottery, worked flint and fauna are presented as appendices.

2.0 LOCATION AND LANDFORM

2.1 General context

2.1.1

The application area lies within the flood plain of the River Trent. The Trent meanders within 80 metres to the west and a tributary arm (The Fleet) runs parallel within 200 metres to the east. Another stream flows south-north through the centre of the application area, draining into the abandoned quarry pits to the north (Fig 1).

2.2 Geology and soils

2.2.1 The drift geology of the application area consists of mainly Pleistocene and Holocene river terrace deposits. These gravels directly overlie eroded Triassic Keuper Marl (1:63360 Ollerton Geological Map Sheet 113 published by the British Geological Survey (Grattan 1992a; 1992b; Raines and Greenwood 1992)).

2.2.2 Much of the area is covered by heavy clay alluvium. However, in the south-eastern corner, near Ferry Lane Farm, the pleistocene gravels are sufficiently elevated to form a gravel 'island' within the general alluvial cover. The northern area of permanent pasture covers a large and considerably elevated sand dune (Fig 2)(Grattan 1992a; 1992b).

2.2.3 The soils are gleyic brown earths (Arrow Series 543) and pelo-alluvial gleys over river gravels (Fladbury 2 813c) (Whimster 1989, 77).

2.3 Topography

2.3.1 The terrain is generally flat with the majority of the site lying between 6 – 7.4 m OD. However, the elevated sandy area to the north rises to 9.9 m OD (Fig 2).

2.4 Current land use

2.4.1 Present land-use is predominantly arable. At the time of the evaluation the crops being grown were oil seed rape, winter wheat and potatoes. A large pasture field is located in the north. There are two areas which have pre-existing permission for aggregate extraction (these were excluded from the evaluation) (Fig 4). The land classification is grade 3 (Sheet 113 Agricultural Classification, 1974 MAFF).

3.0 **KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGY**

3.1 The known archaeology of the application area

3.1.1 Aerial photography by the RCHM(E) and CUCAP have revealed an extensive spread of cropmarks on the land beside Ferry Lane Farm (CUCAP CJO 33, 19 July 1979). These cropmarks occupy the low-lying gravel island surrounded by flood-borne alluvium. The true extent of this cropmark complex was thought to be masked by this alluvium. The complex was interpreted by the RCHM(E) as a 'developed, polyfocal complex' consisting of enclosures, major and minor interlocking lanes or driveways and represents a 'village like settlement' of late pre-Roman Iron Age/Romano-British date (Whimster 1989, 77) (Fig 3).

3.1.2 The high ground in the area of permanent pasture contains fairly well-preserved ridge and furrow just to the south of Mons Pool.

3.1.3 For the purposes of the evaluation the application area has been divided into three zones:

1. Ferry Lane Farm.
2. The grassland to the south of Mons Pool
3. The remainder of the arable land.

3.2 The known archaeology of the surrounds of the application area

3.2.1 The application area lies within the RCHM(E) Trent Valley aerial photographic survey (Whimster 1989). This is a 15km strip of the flood plain from Newark-on-Trent in the south to Normanton-on-Trent to the north. The survey area possesses a well documented history of aerial photography since the 1940's. During this time a high density of farmsteads, linear boundaries and lanes have been recorded (Whimster 1989; RCHM(E) 1960, 56-7).

3.2.2 Whimster (1989, 84) has identified three types of cropmark system, of which Ferry Lane Farm falls into the third category:-

"a third form in which numerous small sub-rectangular enclosures lie closely packed along the margins of linear ditches and trackways, as if reflecting the development of orderly and quite extensive 'villages'".

3.2.3 Except for the villa complex at Cromwell and the Roman town of Crococolana (South Collingham), very little is known about the cropmarks in the survey area. None of them has been excavated and so, consequently their period, character, function and state of preservation is largely unknown. To date the large complexes have been assumed to belong to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

3.2.4 The micro-topography of the survey area appears to have been the prime factor in the location of settlements. The majority lie on gravel islands surrounded by clay alluvium. Until recently (Grattan 1992a; 1992b), little was known about the geomorphology of the region in the prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman periods, thereby limiting our understanding of the settlement pattern.

4.0 STRATEGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The strategy for the evaluation trenching was formulated in the light of a re-examination of the aerial photographic record (TR 31052ODB) and the results of field-walking previously conducted on the site (TR 31052ODD).

4.1.2 In conjunction with the County Archaeologist it was decided that trenching should concentrate on two parts of the application area:

1. Ferry Lane Farm, identified as an archaeological site from air photographs (Fig 3) and confirmed by field-walking
2. The grassland to the south of Mons Pool, considered to be an area of archaeological potential in the light of known adjacent sites and previous stray finds of Roman pottery.

4.1.3 The location of the evaluation trenches was to be determined in the light of geophysical survey conducted in the above areas in accordance with a programme agreed with the County Archaeologist and after consultation with the County Archaeologist (Fig 4).

4.1.4 A range of trenches of different dimensions (see below) was to be opened by machine and then further excavated by hand for the purposes of:

1. determining the quality of preservation, the dating and the extent of the above sites
2. investigating any features of potential archaeological significance indicated by the geophysical survey
3. elucidating the relationship between archaeological sites and the gravel and alluvial deposits of the flood plain
4. obtaining samples of alluvium and organic deposits for sedimentological analysis.

4.1.5 The programme of evaluation trenching was to be conducted in conjunction with Coring and Borehole survey, Electro-Magnetic Conductivity survey and Contour and Earthwork survey, all conducted according to the specifications agreed with the County Archaeologist (see above).

4.2 Ferry Lane Farm

Introduction

- 4.2.1 The major aim of the evaluation of the cropmark complex was to determine the period(s), character, extent and quality of preservation of the archaeological deposits. A number of techniques were employed in pursuit of this.

Fieldwalking

- 4.2.2 A programme of systematic fieldwalking was carried out during January 1992, the methodology and results of which are reported elsewhere (TR 31052ODD).

- 4.2.3 Most of the material of any great antiquity was recovered on or about the known cropmark complex as known from air photographs and centred on Ferry Lane Farm. A moderate number of worked flints were recovered deriving from the earlier rather than the later prehistoric period; more significant was the considerable density of Romano-British pottery indicating 2nd to 4th century settlement activity.

Geophysical Survey

- 4.2.4 A geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford.

- 4.2.5 Seven areas of the Ferry Lane Farm site were surveyed magnetically (Areas A-G) and one was surveyed with resistivity. These eight survey areas varied in size and were laid out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in accordance with a sampling strategy devised previously with Tempvs Reparatum (Figs 4, 5). The full results and technical data of this survey area can be found in Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992.

- 4.2.6 The geophysical survey was successful in fulfilling the aims of the original brief. There was good correlation with the aerial photographic evidence at Ferry Lane Farm where the majority of the cropmarks were detected magnetically in spite of some slight discrepancies in the precise location of the cropmarks (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992, Figure 2). The survey confirmed the likely extent of the site and that it consisted of a wide variety of features which together create a complex of enclosures arranged round a series of lanes/droeways on a east-west orientation.

Evaluation pits and trenches

- 4.2.7 On completion of the geophysical survey, the programme of evaluation pitting and trenching was instigated in accordance with the aims stated above (the only qualification being that due to the extraction of deposits adjacent to the site, the extraction of samples of alluvium and organic deposits for sedimentological analysis proved to be unnecessary).

- 4.2.8 In order to comply with the evaluation brief three 5 x 5 m and one 12.5 x 2 m evaluation trenches were excavated within the cropmark complex. Their precise location was based on the aerial photographic evidence and the geophysical survey. This was subsequently approved by the County Archaeologist.
- 4.2.9 Area 1 (5 x 5 m) was located so as to clip the edge of a driveway and a possible domestic area identified within geophysical Area B. After being gridded up into 1 metre square boxes, all surface material was systematically collected. The topsoil was then removed by hand and sieved through a 1 cm mesh. All material recovered was recorded within each metre square. The sides and subsoil surface were then cleaned using hoes and shovels. All features were investigated by either quarter, half or total sampling, sieved, recorded on contexts sheets, photographed, planned at 1:20 and sections drawn at 1:10.
- 4.2.10 Area 2 (5 x 5 m) was located in an area of archaeological activity which had been indistinct on the aerial photographs. However, geophysical survey (Area D) clearly indicated enclosures and internal features. As with area 1, the area was gridded up and all surface material systematically collected. The topsoil was removed by hand and a 20% sample was sieved. All archaeological features revealed after cleaning were investigated as in area 1.
- 4.2.11 Area 3 (5 x 5 m) was located to investigate ditches on the aerial photograph plots towards the southern periphery of the site. These were not covered by geophysical survey. The topsoil was removed by hand and machine (JCB with a 1.5 m wide toothless ditching bucket). Due to technical difficulties none of the topsoil was sieved. Again, all archaeological features revealed after cleaning were investigated as in Area 1.
- 4.2.12 Area 4 (12.5 x 2 m) was located so as to intersect a major east-west driveway identified on aerial photographic plots and in geophysical survey Area A. The topsoil was removed by machine and the sub-soil surface cleaned by hand. The driveway was partially excavated (its size prevented total excavation) and two further features were totally excavated. All features were recorded as in Area 1.
- 4.2.13 Five evaluation trenches were located around the periphery of the cropmarks. The purpose of these was to establish the extent of the site. All five were machine dug after which the sides and the floor were cleaned by hand. Trenches 1, 4, and 5 were 100 x 2 m whilst Trenches 2 and 3 were 50 x 2 m. All archaeological features revealed were recorded as before. The trenches were photographed, planned at 1:100 and all geological information was recorded.

4.3 The grassland to the south of Mons Pool

Introduction

- 4.3.1 The elevated sandy grassland area to the south of Mons Pool is under pasture and contains upstanding ridge and furrow. A suspected Roman site lay immediately to the north of the application area (now destroyed by gravel extraction). However, the present land-use has masked any archaeology located within the grassfield. Consequently the aim of the evaluation in this area was to determine the presence or absence of archaeology. If any archaeology was discovered, a further aim was to provide evidence for its morphology, extent and period.

Geophysical Survey

- 4.3.2 An area of approximately 3 ha was 'scanned' using a magnetometer (Fig 6). This revealed a concentration of anomalies in the area of prominent ridge and furrow. Two 40 x 40 m blocks (H and I) were surveyed in more detail, one of which (H) was interpreted as containing an enclosure (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992).

Evaluation Trenching

- 4.3.3 Two 100 x 2 m evaluation trenches were located so as to cross survey areas H and I. The particular purpose of these was to:

1. determine the nature and characteristics of the enclosure and the magnetic anomalies.
2. check the limits of the magnetic anomalies.
3. elucidate the geomorphology of the sand dune.

- 4.3.4 All archaeological features revealed were excavated and recorded as at Ferry Lane Farm.

- 4.3.5 A further trench (8) was located in the south of the grassfield (Fig 4). The aim of this was to investigate the geomorphology and provide information on the environmental evidence. The trench was machine dug in two sections, 35 x 2 m and 45 x 2 m. The intention was to obtain a complete section through the sand dune. Due to the instability of the sides this was not possible. The longer section was cleaned by hand and all archaeological features investigated as before.

4.4 The Remaining Arable Land

- 4.4.1 Aerial photography and the fieldwaking programme (TR 31052ODD) produced no evidence of archaeological deposits in the remainder of the arable land. No evaluation work was carried out in this area during this phase of the programme.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 For the evaluation pits and trenches the application area was divided into four areas and eight trenches. Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 were placed within the Ferry Lane Farm cropmarks. Trenches 1-5 were located around the periphery of the cropmarks. Trenches 6 and 7 were located to the south of Mons Pool and Trench 8 was located to the south of the sand dune in the grassfield (Fig 4). Detailed context description is included as Appendix 1.

5.2 Ferry Lane Farm

Summary of results

5.2.1 Area 1 (5 x 5 m) was located within in Geophysical Survey Area B (Fig 7). Fifteen contexts were identified ([001]-[015]) which were well preserved (Fig 8).

5.2.2 Area 2 (5 x 5 m) was located with Geophysical Survey Area D (Fig 9). Twenty-one contexts were identified ([016]-[030], [033], [034], [036]-[038], [050]) all of which were well preserved.

5.2.3 Area 3 (5 x 5 m) was located towards the southern periphery of the cropmark complex. Ten contexts were identified ([031], [032], [035], [039]-[042], [046], [048], [049]) which were moderately well preserved (Fig 11).

5.2.4 Area 4 (12.5 x 2 m) was located within Geophysical Survey Area A (Fig 12). Three context were identified ([043]-[045]) all of which were well preserved (Fig 13).

5.2.5 Trench 1 (100 x 2 m) was located on the western periphery of the cropmark complex, 30 m beyond the main east-west trackway identified on the aerial photograph plots and in Geophysical Survey Area F. Two contexts ([401], [402]) were identified (Fig 13).

5.2.6 Trench 2 (50 x 2 m) was located on the north-western periphery of the the cropmark complex some 30 m beyond a trackway identified on the aerial photographic plots and in Geophysical Survey Area E. Four contexts were identified ([501], [902]-[904]) (Fig 13).

5.2.7 Trench 3 (50 x 2 m) was located beyond the north-west periphery of the cropmark complex. One context was identified ([701]). No archaeological features were identified (Fig 11).

5.2.8 Trench 4 (100 x 2 m) was located on the northern periphery of the cropmark complex some 20-30 m beyond linear features identified on the photograph plots and in Geophysical Survey

Area G. eight contexts were identified ([801], [803], [805], [807], [808], [810], [811]) (Fig 13).

5.2.9 Trench 5 (100 x 2 m) was located on the south-west periphery of the cropmark complex. Five contexts were identified ([301]-[305]) (Fig 13).

5.2.10 As stated in the methodology, the aims of the evaluation of the Ferry Lane Farm site were to establish the period, character, extent and quality of preservation of the archaeological deposits indicated by the cropmarks.

The extent

5.2.11 The site as plotted by the RCHM(E) is well defined, however, further cropmarks have recently (1984) begun to show up to the NW and NE of the main plot. At present these have not been plotted as they are too faint for confident interpretation (Whimster 1989, 77). Consequently, it was important to establish the true extent of the site. This was firmly established by evaluation trenching carried out in the light of the results from fieldwalking and geophysical survey.

5.2.12 Evaluation trenching around the periphery of the cropmark complex (Trenches 1-5) confirmed the initial interpretation of the extent. Apart from the occasional linear ditch (generally poorly preserved), no significant features were found. The trenching also demonstrated that the alluvium, which was not as deep as expected, was not obscuring any archaeology.

5.2.13 All three techniques employed complement each other and have confirmed the initial interpretation of the extent of the cropmark site. A few minor amendments to the linear features on the periphery have been necessary but the extent has been clearly established.

Period, character and quality of preservation

5.2.14 Prior to this evaluation the Ferry Lane Farm site was known to be of Romano-British date, however, the origins, the length of occupation and function were unknown (Whimster 1989, 77). The presence of large quantities of material on the surface clearly indicates that plough damage has occurred, but the extent of this damage was also unknown. One of the purposes of the valuation trenching was to determine the period, character and quality of preservation of the archaeological deposits

5.2.15 The evaluation trenches (Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4) were located within the cropmark complex itself. These were excavated so as to establish the period, phasing, function and preservation of the archaeological features already detected by the non-intrusive techniques.

5.2.16 Due to the small sample size (0.11% of the cropmark complex) it has not been possible to phase the site in detail, however, two periods have been identified. Area 2 was placed so as to locate an enclosure with internal features detected in geophysical survey Area D. An assemblage (sherds) of late pre-Roman

Iron Age pottery was recovered from the internal features. The other three areas all produced varying quantities of 2nd to 4th century A.D. pottery (Appendix 2). It is therefore possible to conclude that the site has at least two phases, late Iron Age and Romano-British (2nd to 4th century A.D.). On the present evidence, the Iron Age activity would appear to focus on the enclosures located towards the western periphery of the site, however, this is not conclusive.

5.2.17

The small sample size also prevented a meaningful interpretation of the function of the site. The predominance of domestic cooking wares in Areas 1 - 4, the baked clay triangular loom-weight (?thatch weight) and the burnt and fire cracked pebbles from Area 2 are strongly indicative of the predominance of domestic activity. Unfortunately, the acidic nature of the soil means that preservation of bone is poor, consequently it has not been possible to collect much in the way of faunal data (Appendix 4). It is reasonable to assume that a wide range of activities (eg. domestic, agricultural and possibly trade).

5.2.18

As stated earlier, the presence of pottery, tile and gravel on the field surface indicates that plough damage has/is occurring. It was therefore important to establish the degree of preservation of the archaeological features. This varied across the site. The central area (Areas 1 and 4) contained the most substantial features (ditches/droeways over 1m in depth). Towards the periphery (Areas 2 and 3) features were less deep and less clearly defined but they were still moderately to well preserved. The archaeological deposits as a whole can therefore be said to be well preserved. No structures were identified, however, bearing in mind the small size of each area, this is not entirely surprising.

5.2.19

The pottery assemblage (386 sherds) was well preserved in all areas. No complete vessels were recovered but few sherds showed signs of abrasion (only 4 %). The assemblage ranged from the late Iron Age (21 %) through to Roman Britain.

5.2.20

The Iron Age pottery is comparable with material from Dragonby.

5.2.21

The Romano-British pottery assemblage (Appendices 2 and 3) ranged in date from the later second century to the end of the fourth century; a small proportion derived from the late second to early third centuries with the majority coming from the fourth and late fourth century. Imported pottery formed 3 % of the total and consisted of Central and Eastern Gaulish Samian as well as amphorae from Baetica, Spain and Italy. Pottery from British potteries consisted of BB1 (Dorset) (1.3 %) and fine wares from Oxfordshire (1.5 %). Pottery from kilns in the neighbouring regions was represented by Nene Valley ware (11 %), Dales ware, South Midlands shell-tempered wares, Mancetter Hartshill wares and pottery from Swanpool and the Newton on Trent and Lea kilns. The majority the assemblage consisted of locally-produced grey wares.

- 5.2.22 Due to the acidic nature of the soil, bone preservation was poor. 85 bone fragments were recovered, 45% were teeth, 6% were identifiable bones and 51% were unidentifiable. The major east-west driveway [043] excavated in area 4 accounted for 80% of all bone (Appendix 4). These figures are typical of the Trent Valley where bone preservation is generally poor (Harman 1987, 87). However, due to the lack of excavation within the wider area (Whimster 1989, 86) the significance of the potential of the Ferry Lane Farm faunal sample is greatly increased.

5.3 The grassland to the south of Mons Pool

Summary of Results

- 5.3.1 Trench 6 (100 x 2 m) was located across the highest part of the sand dune clipping Geophysical Survey Area I parallel to the field road which forms the boundary of the application area (Fig 4). Five contexts were identified ([114], [122]–[125]) (Fig 15).
- 5.3.2 Trench 7 (100 x 2 m) was located across Geophysical Survey Area I and between Areas I and H, parallel to the field road (Fig 4). Twenty-two contexts were identified ([100]–[113], [115], [117]–[121], [126], [127]) which were moderately to well preserved (Figs 16, 17, 18).
- 5.3.3 Trench 8 was dug in two sections, 35 x 2 m and 45 x 2 m, and was excavated to investigate the buried palaeosol identified by University of Sheffield Archaeological Services in the southern area of the grass field (Fig 4). Four contexts were identified ([206]–[209]) all of which were poorly preserved (Figs 12, 14).

Discussion

- 5.3.4 The aims of the evaluation of the grassland to the south of Mons Pool was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and if any were discovered, their morphology, extent and period.
- 5.3.5 Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated so as to determine the date and morphology of the archaeology detected in the Geophysical Survey Area H. Both Trenches produced large quantities of Romano-British pottery (Appendices 2 and 3).
- 5.3.6 A concentration of features was revealed in the north-western end of Trench 7. These produced a large quantity (604 sherds) of Romano-British pottery of the 2nd to 4th century and included a number of Central Gaulish stamped Samian Ware sherds.
- 5.3.7 The pottery assemblage was very similar to that at Ferry Lane Farm. Imported wares (Samian) constituted 0.75% of the whole. Pottery from British kilns (7%) included BB1, Nene Valley, Derbyshire and Dales wares, as well as Mancetter Hartshill products and Parisi type pottery.

- 5.3.8 Both Trenches 6 and 7 produced significantly more identifiable bone than at Ferry Lane Farm and have the potential for providing a good source of economic data (Appendix 4).
- 5.3.9 Due to the small size of the trenches (2m wide) it is not possible to assess the morphology of the site. It is only possible to say that a concentration of well preserved Romano-British features of unknown character, function and extent were located. The N-S orientation of the ditches suggests that this site is most probably associated with the suspected Roman site at Mons Pool.
- 5.3.10 350 m to the south, Trench 8 revealed a small number of possible post-holes and a paleochannel. The nature, period and extent of this archaeology is not certain.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 In the 'Emerging Past', Whimster (1989, 86-7) proposed that a programme of small scale excavation of selected sites identified in the RCHM(E) survey of the Trent Valley. The aims of this programme would be to test the quality of preservation, the date and the nature of the cropmarks, whether further deposits are being masked by alluvium and colluvium and the relationship between archaeological deposits on the micro-topography both now and in the past. Whimster also proposes that a programme of systematic fieldwalking should be undertaken in order to assess the quality of the surface evidence. The archaeological evaluation of the proposed extension to Besthorpe quarry has, co-incidentally, answered these questions.

6.1.2 The application area was found to contain two sites, the Ferry Lane Farm cropmark complex and the hitherto unknown site to the south of Mons Pool.

6.2 Ferry Lane Farm

6.2.1 Systematic fieldwalking confirmed the existence of an extensive Romano-British settlement at Ferry Lane Farm. Large quantities of material on the field surface indicated that there was active plough damage occurring. The scatter of RB material was almost exclusively over the cropmarks with a sharp decrease towards the periphery.

6.2.2 Geophysical survey and evaluation trenches have partially answered some of the questions raised by Whimster. The cropmarks do appear to represent the true extent of the settlement. A few minor alterations have had to be made to the linear features at the periphery (Fig 5).

6.2.3 As expected, the cropmarks proved to be of Romano-British date, preceded by a late pre-Roman Iron Age phase. This is not untypical of sites within the civitas of the Coritani to which the site belongs (O'Brien 1978, 10; Whitwell 1982, 164). The quality of preservation was generally very high especially in the centre of the cropmarks. Plough damage has obviously occurred but the whole site appears to be covered by a layer of sand c. 0.2-0.3m deep. This means that the archaeology is generally c. 0.4-0.5 below the surface and is out of reach of all but the deepest of ploughing. This layer of sand has been observed elsewhere in the Trent Valley (eg Hemington - Lockington) and has been interpreted as a flood horizon or ploughwash (Clay 1985, 20).

6.2.4 The precise function of the site has not yet been established. There is clear evidence of domestic activity (section 5.3.2) whilst the morphology of the cropmarks (eg. enclosures and droveways) is indicative of agricultural activity. Its location on a low lying gravel island possibly surrounded by channels of the Trent (Appendix 7) raises interesting questions in relation to its function. It lies within the sphere of influence of the Roman town of Crocolana and the villa complex at Cromwell (Whitwell 1982, 89). What was the relationship of Ferry Lane Farm to the villa? It has been suggested elsewhere (O'Brien 1978, 10) that such settlements were either replaced by villas or were the homes of the workers on the villa estate. A similar pattern has been noted at the Lockington villa 28 miles to the south (Clay 1985, 25). This presupposes a river crossing (? a ford) being located at this point. A quantity of imported pottery (including Central Gaulish Samian ware) was recovered during the evaluation and is suggestive of a trading role. On the present evidence it is not possible to substantiate either of these propositions.

6.2.5 No significant archaeological deposits were found to be masked by alluvium or colluvium on the periphery of the cropmarks.

6.3 Mons Pool

6.3.1 Due to the limited nature of the archaeological work in this area it is difficult to come to any firm conclusion. The site lies just to the south of Mons Pool where a suspected Roman site was located (now destroyed). Geophysical survey and evaluation trenches revealed archaeological deposits on the higher ground on the sand dune. These were of Romano-British date (2nd - 4th century AD) and, although the area had been ploughed in the medieval period (as evidenced by extant ridge and furrow), were well preserved. It was not possible to confidently establish the morphology and extent of the site (see Appendix 5).

6.3.2 On the present evidence the site can be said to be broadly contemporary with Ferry Lane Farm. It is not possible to say whether they were connected in any way, however, it is almost surely associated with the Romano-British site long suspected to have existed to the north of the application area at Mons Pool.

6.4 General

6.4.1

The application area contains two archaeological sites of high potential. Both have provided useful insights into the archaeology of the Trent Valley. There has previously been little in the way of excavation in this region and little is known of its detail. This heightens the potential of the Ferry Lane Farm and Mons Pool sites to elucidate the chronology and development of settlement in the Trent Valley.

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FIGURES



 Application area



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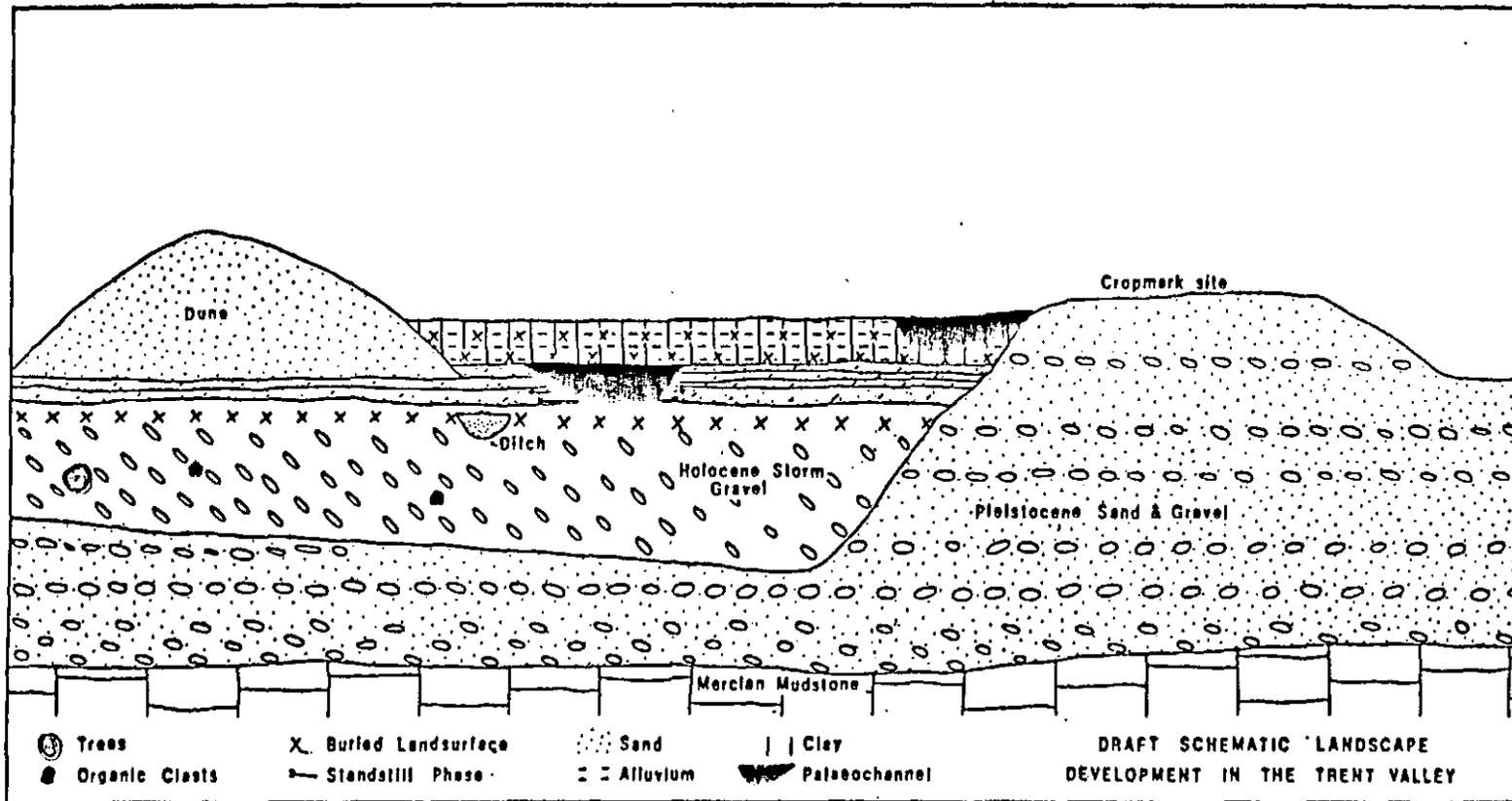
Title
**Location of
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Scale **1:50000** Plan No
Fig 1

Date Revised
 Drawn **RB** Surveyed

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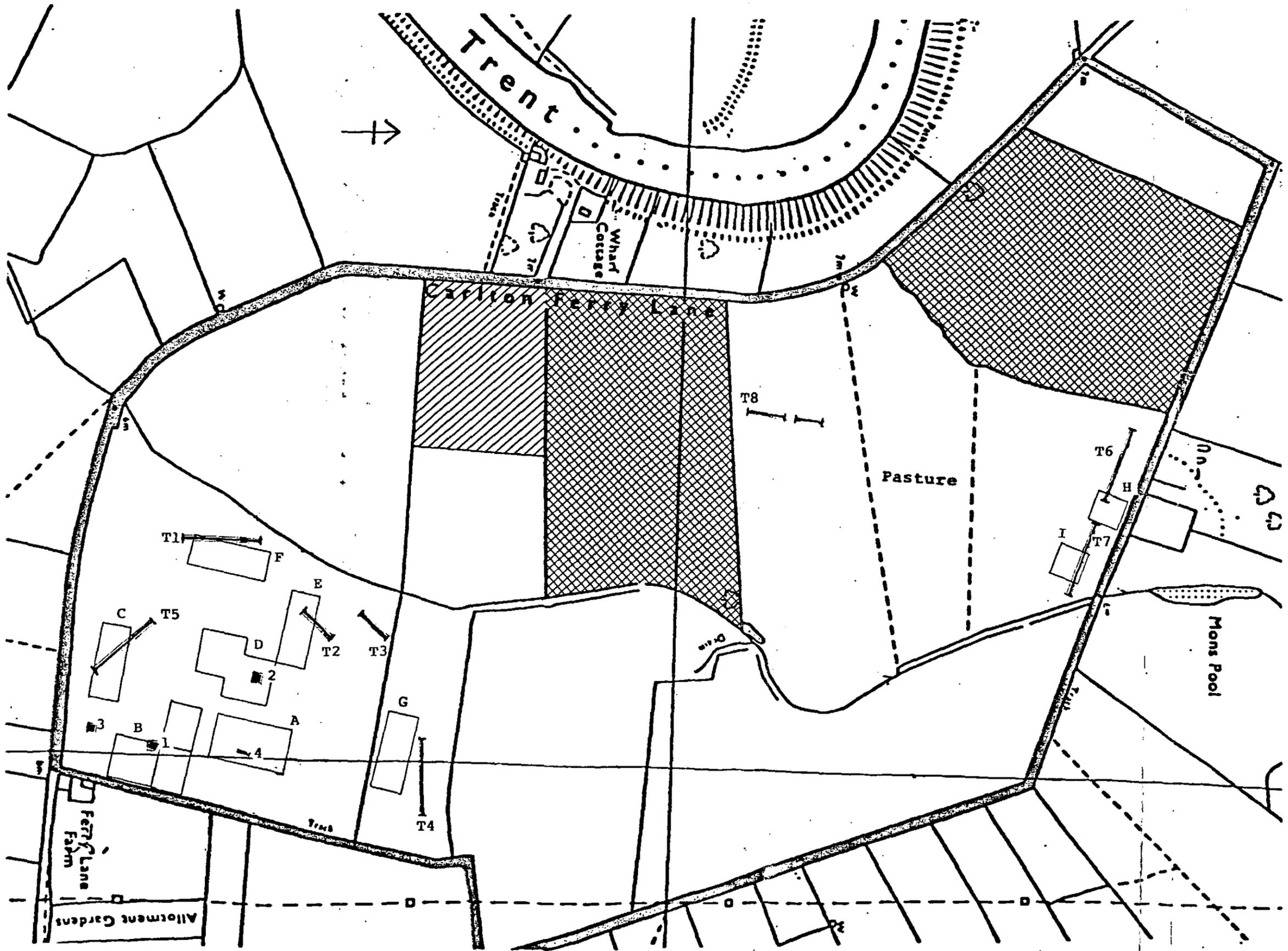
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Location		BESTHORPE NEWARK NOTINGHAMSHIRE	
Title		Geological Stratigraphy	
Scale	Schematic	Plan No	Fig 2
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J. Grattan		Surveyed	
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- Application area
- Areas of geophysical survey
- Areas excavated
- Trenches excavated
- Aggregate extracted
- Topsoil stripped

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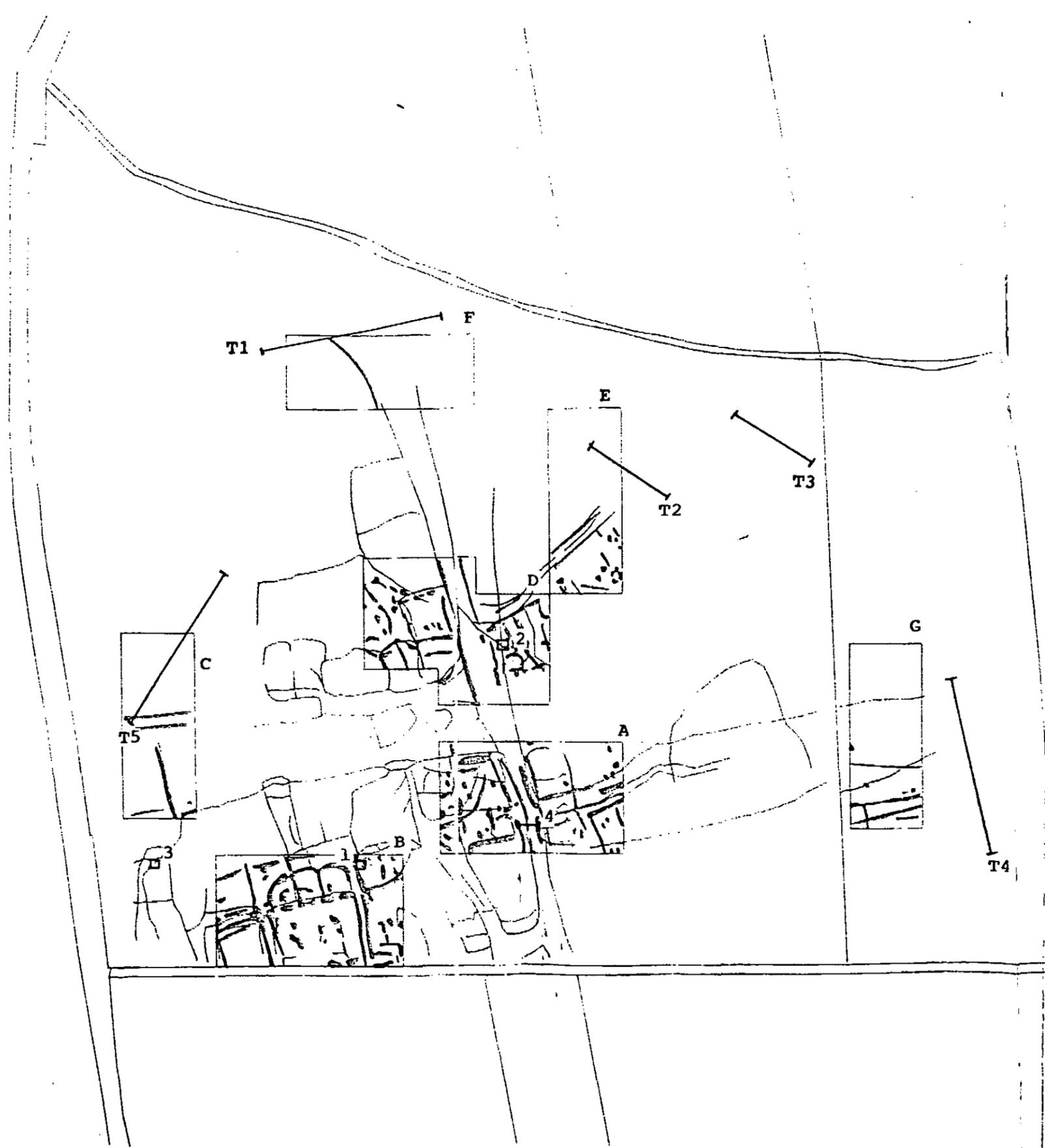
Location of evaluation trenches

Scale: 1:5000

Drawn: RB

Fig. 4

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LEGEND

- Areas excavated
- ┌─┐ Trenches excavated
- ~~~~~ Cropmarks
- ~~~~~ Magnetic anomalies



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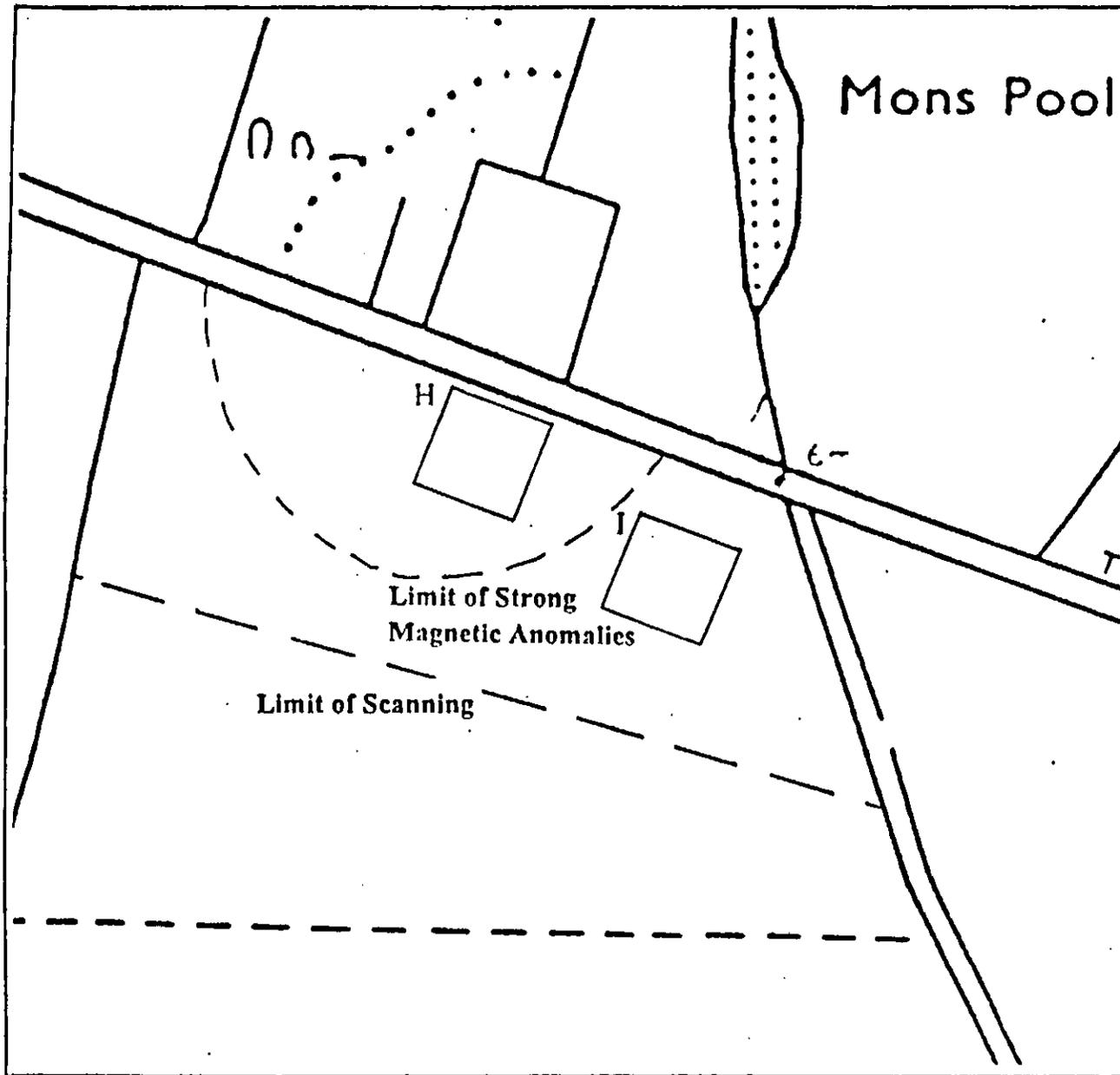
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Title: **Comparison of
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and cropmarks**

Scale: **1:2500** Plan No: **Fig. 5**

Date: _____ Revised: _____
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Location
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Location of magnetic
scanning and survey
areas H and I

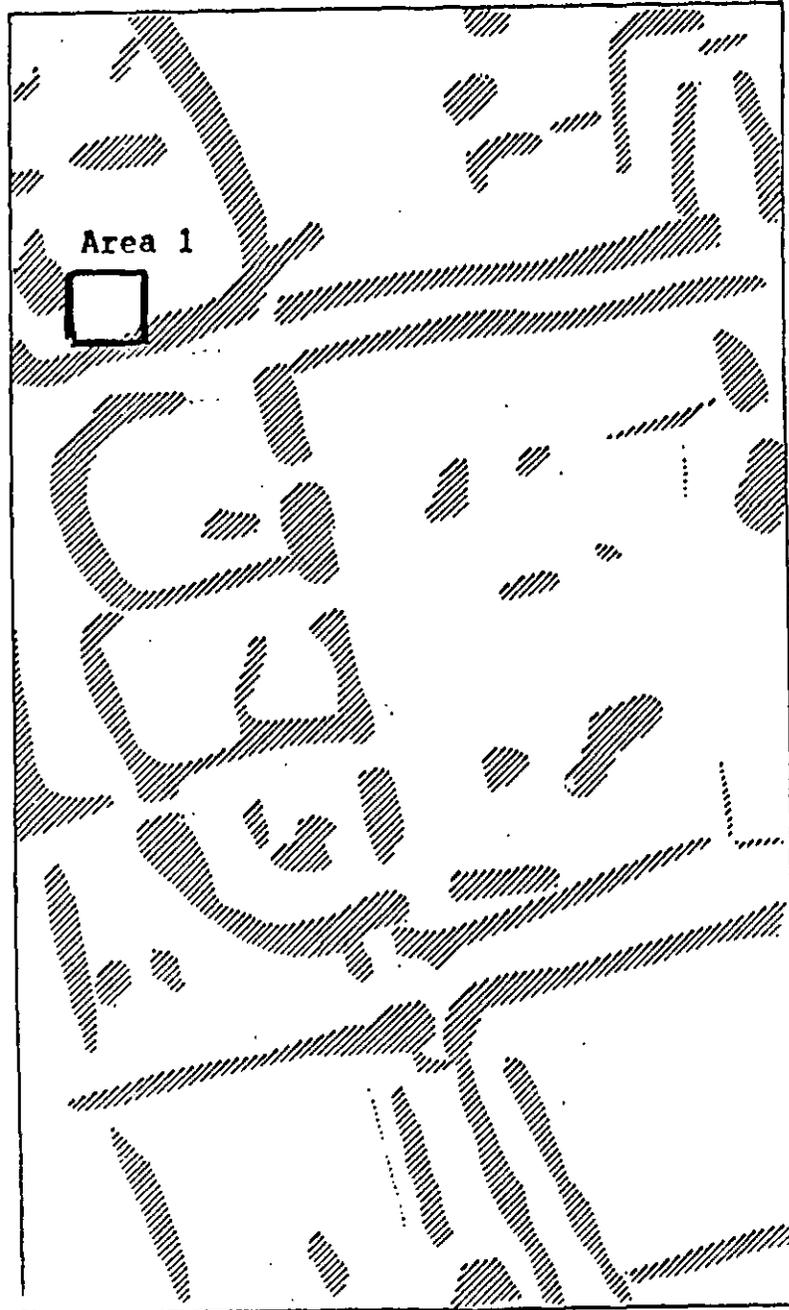
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Plan No
Fig. 6

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Survey Area B



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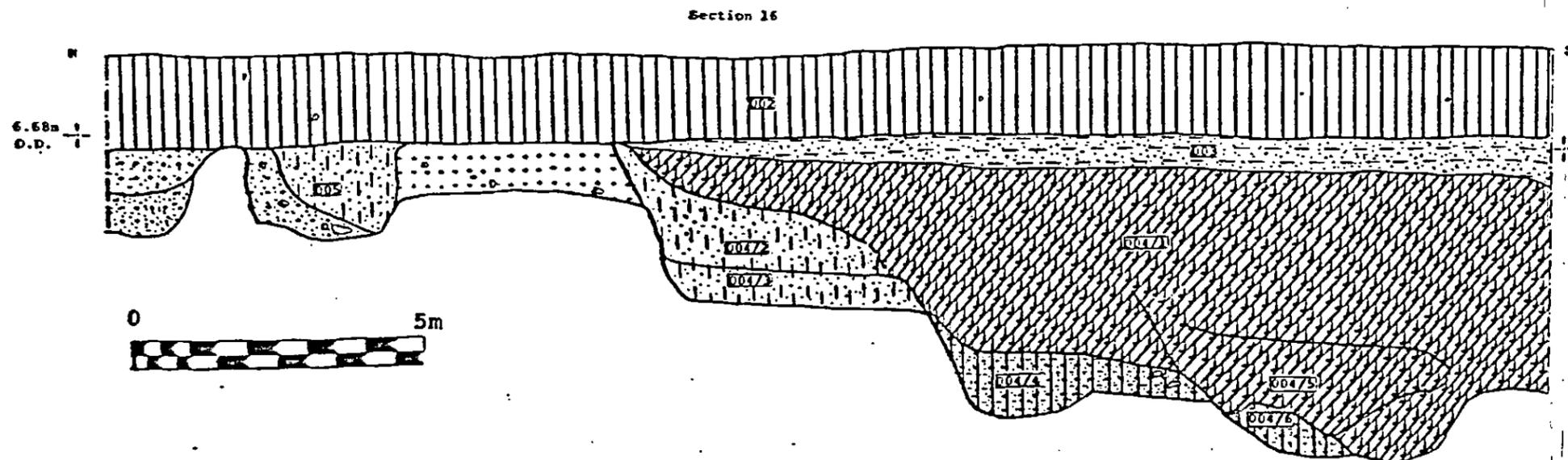
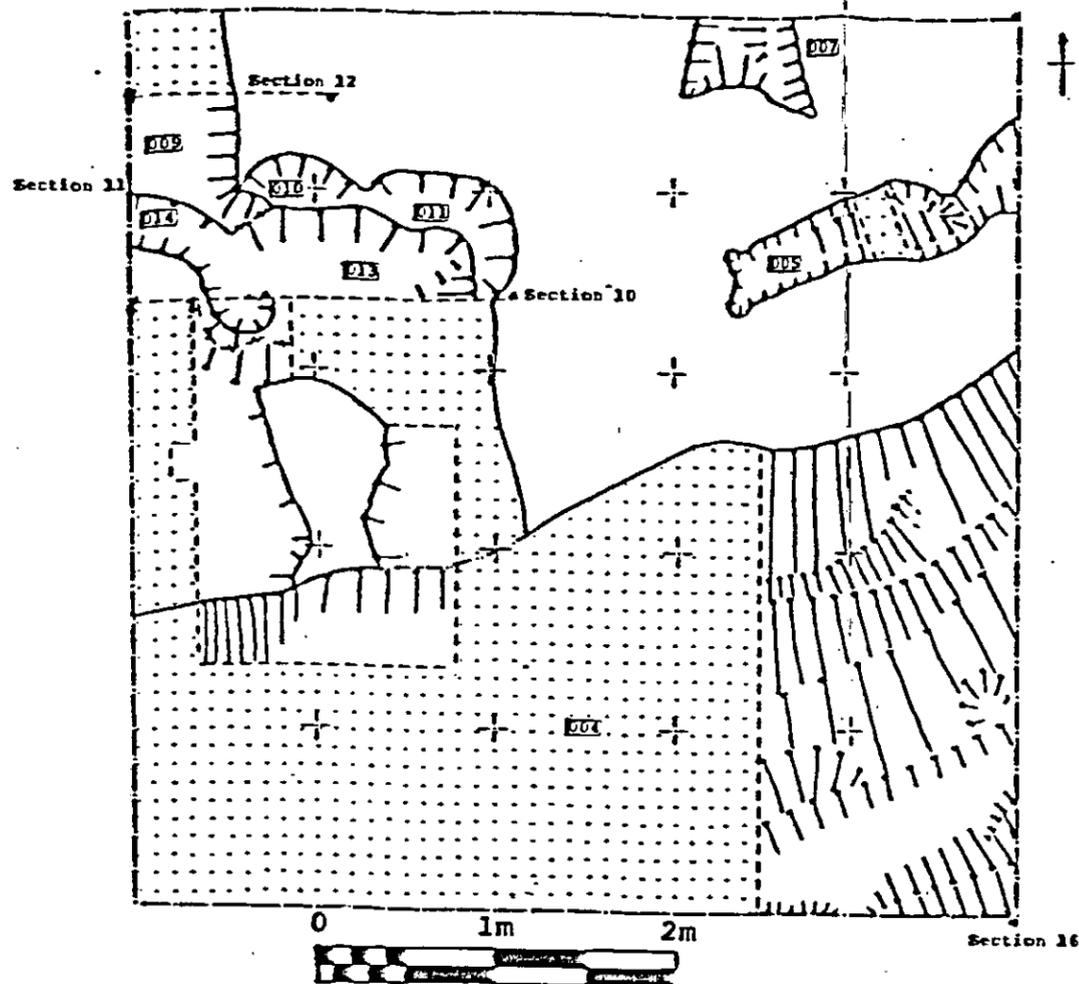
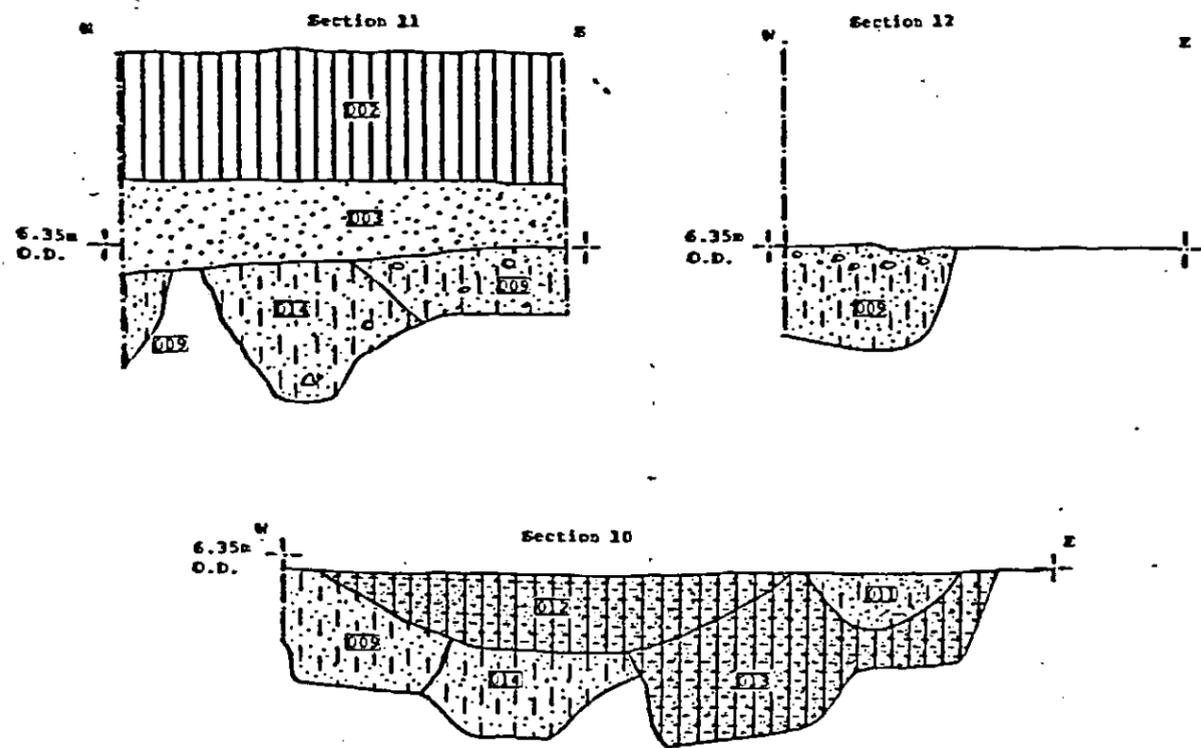
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Title
**Area 1 and
survey area B**

Scale	Plan No
Date	Revised
Drawn	Surveyed

Fig. 7

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Location
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Site
**Area 1,
plan and sections**

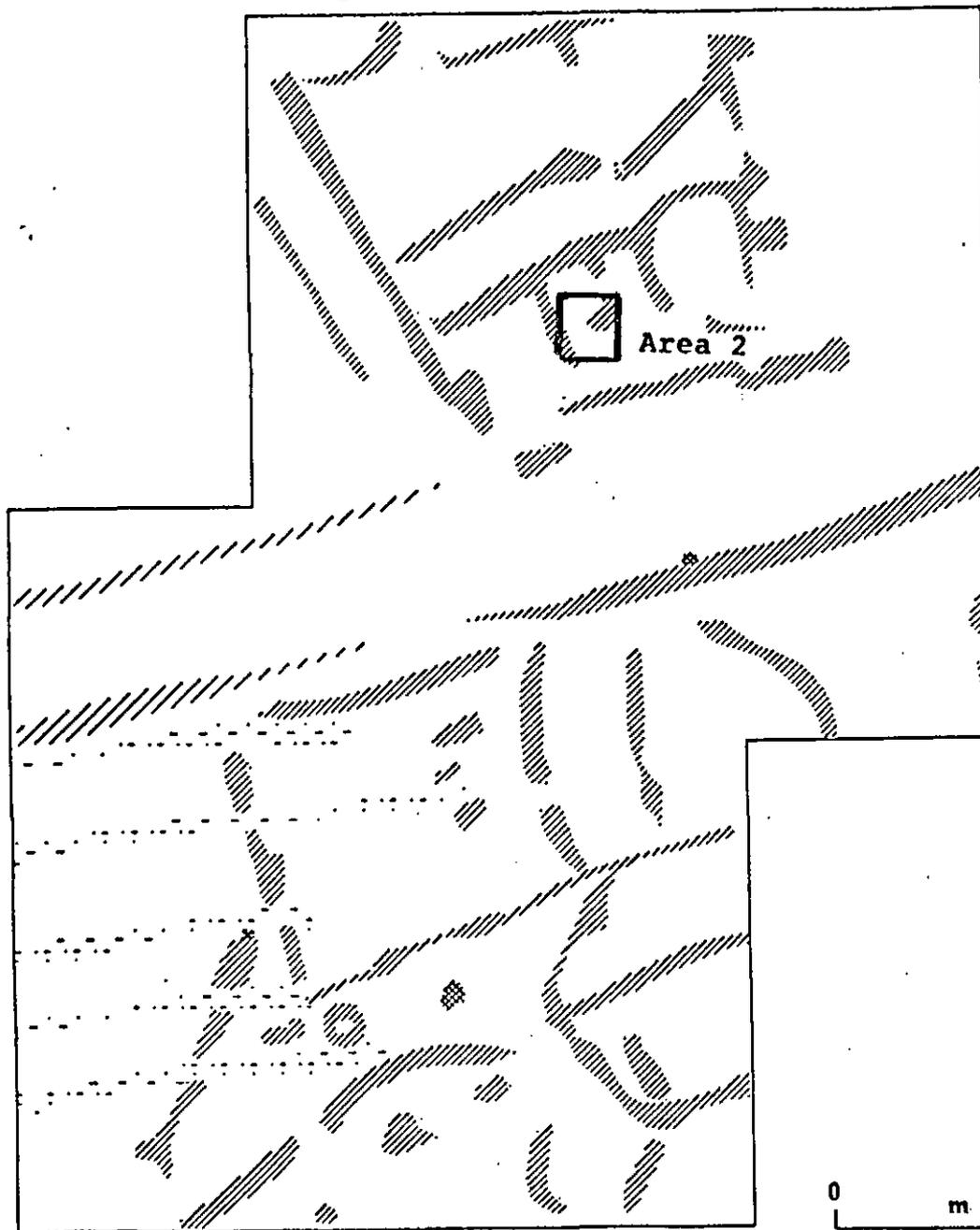
Scale **1:40 1:20** Plan No.

Date **Fig. 8**

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Survey area D.



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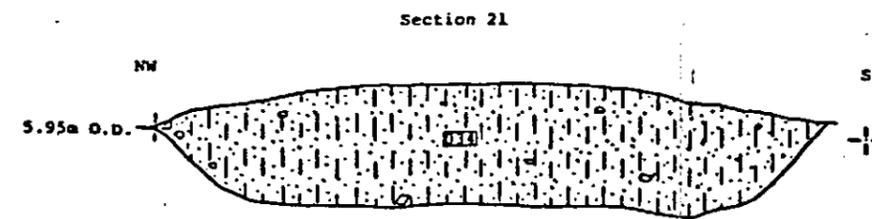
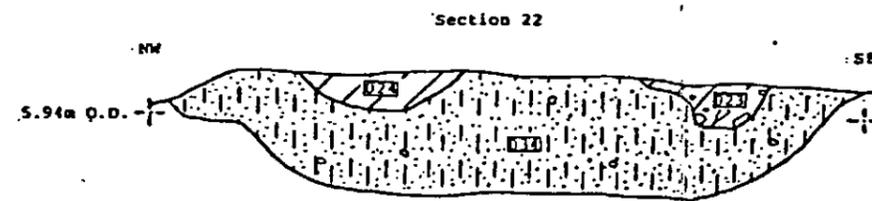
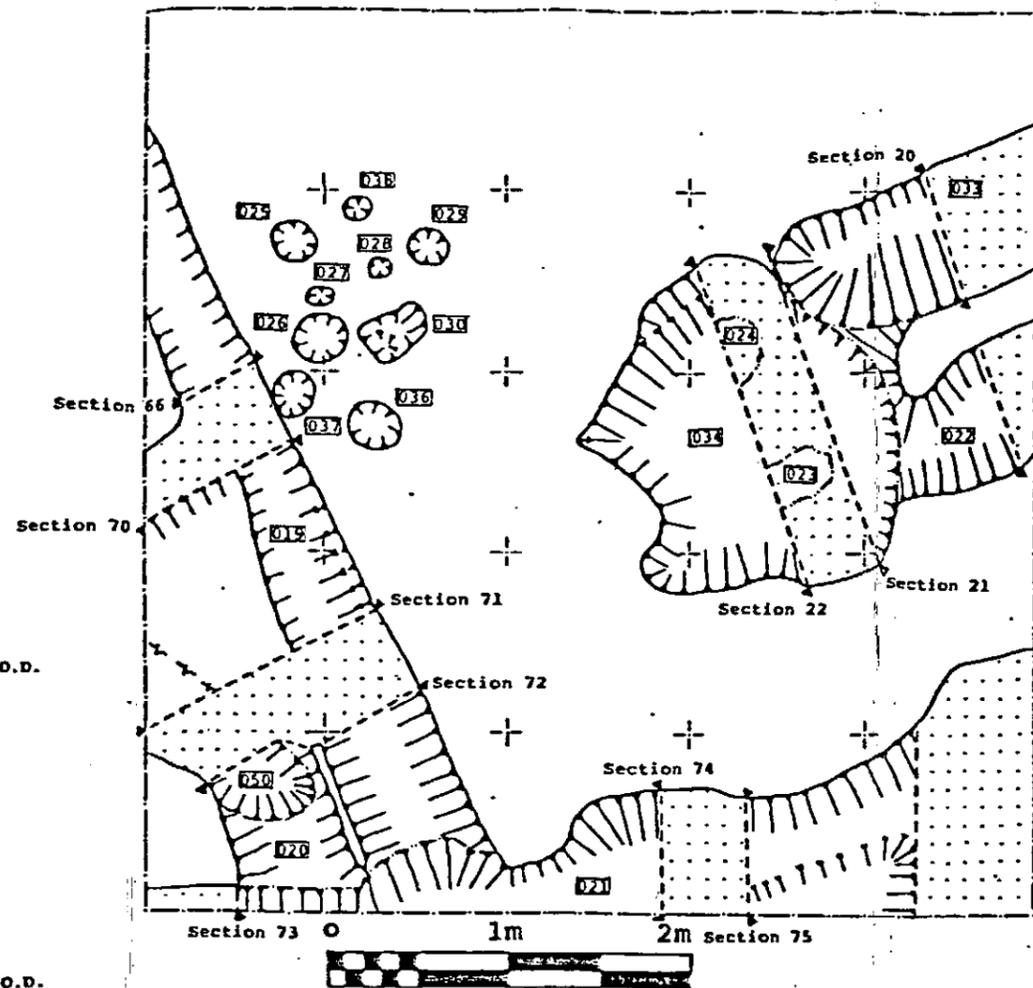
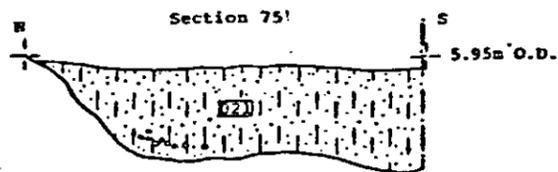
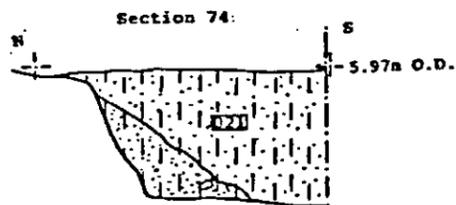
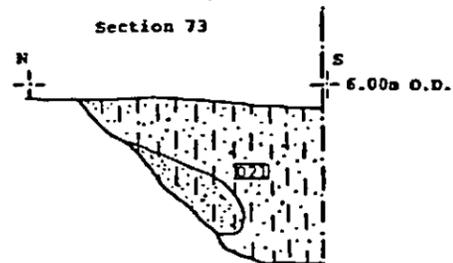
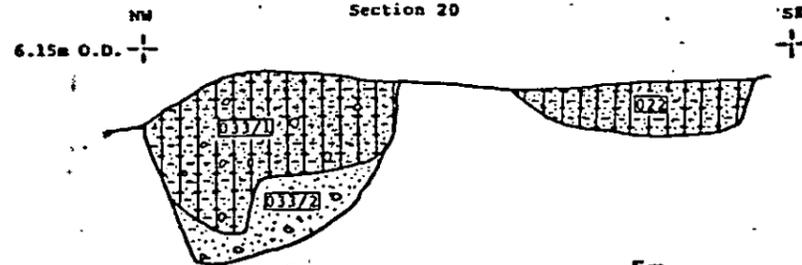
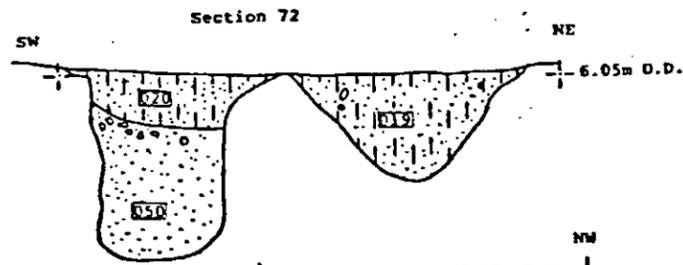
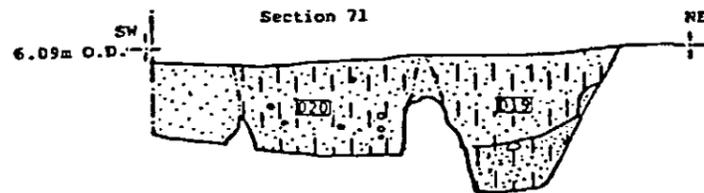
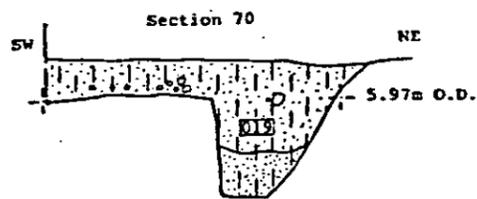
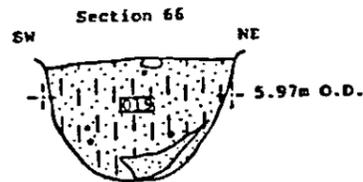
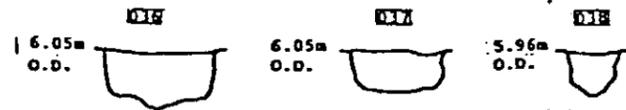
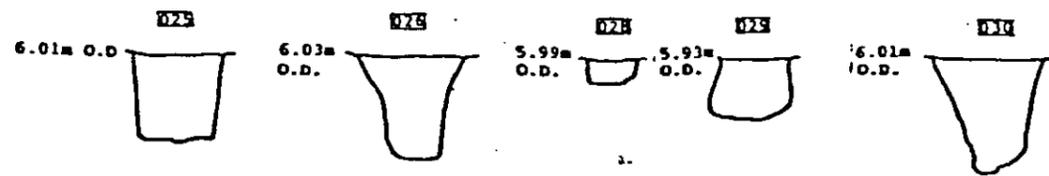
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Title **Area 2 and
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Drawn	Surveyed

Fig. 9

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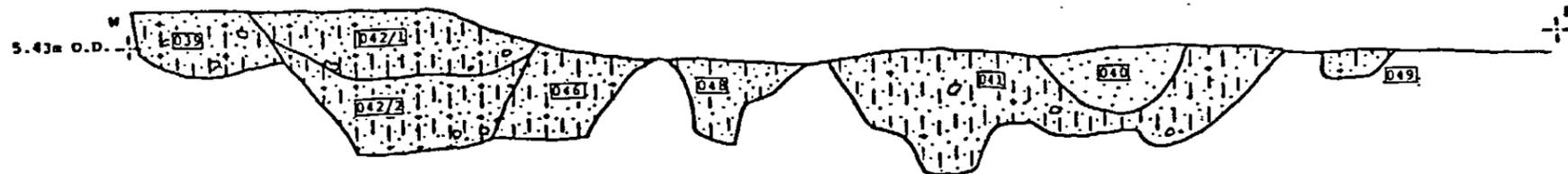
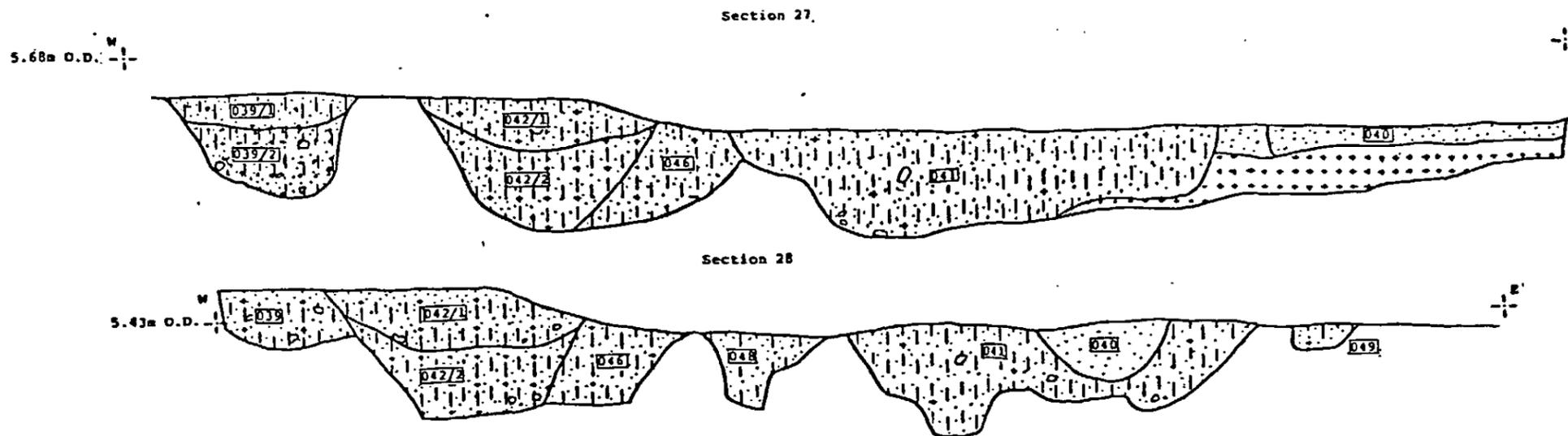
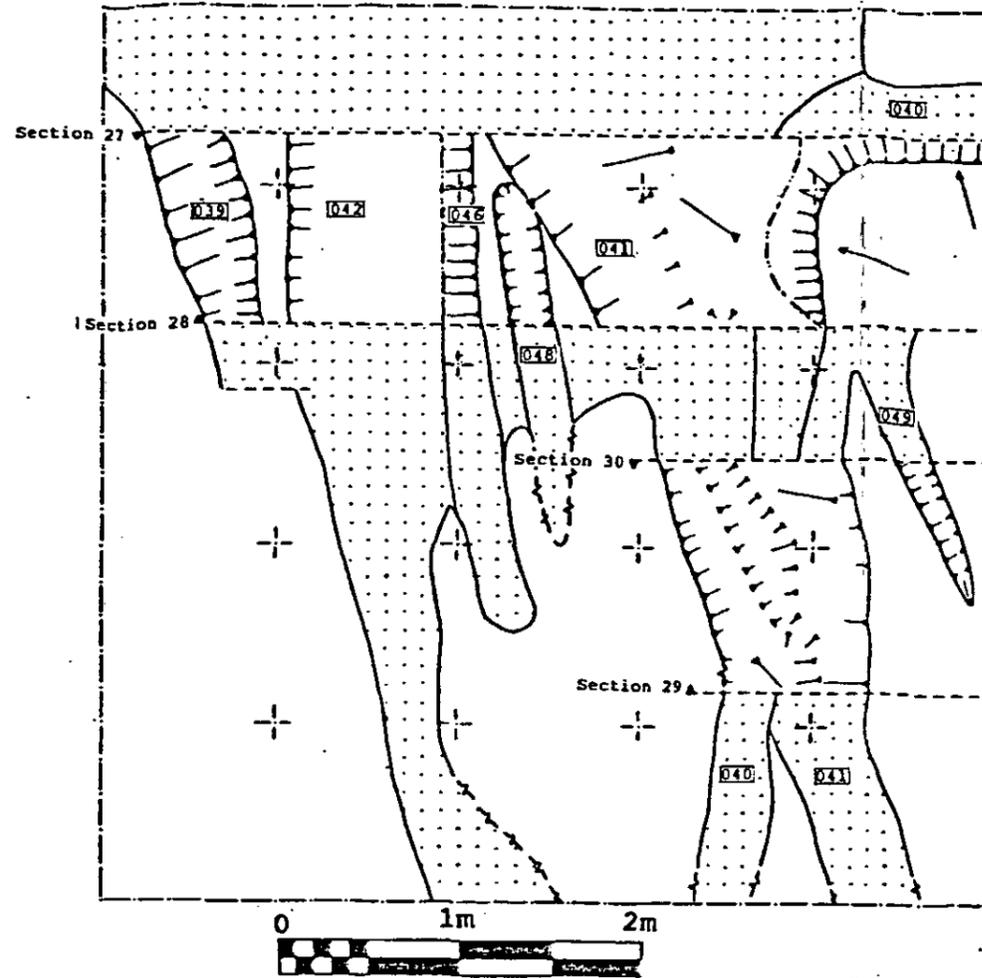
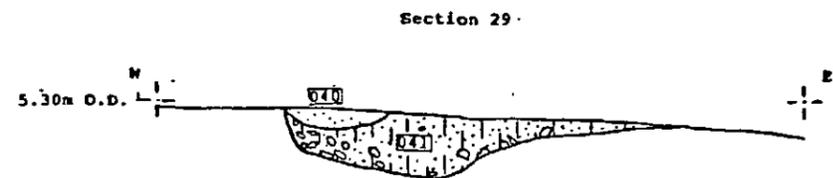
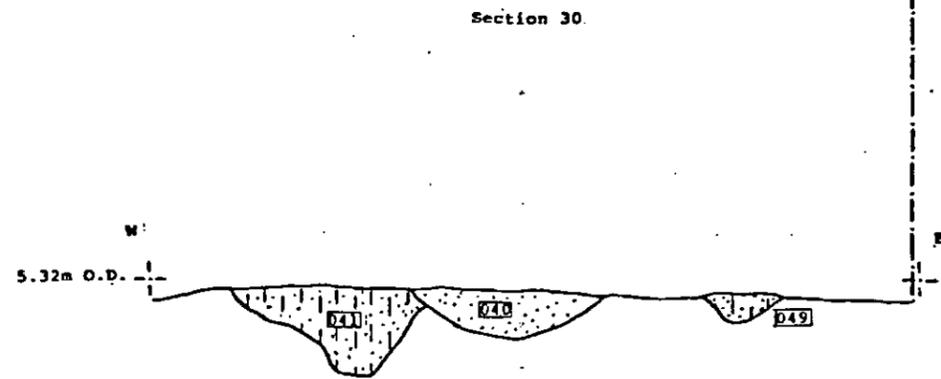
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Scale: 1:40 1:20 Plan No: **Fig. 10**

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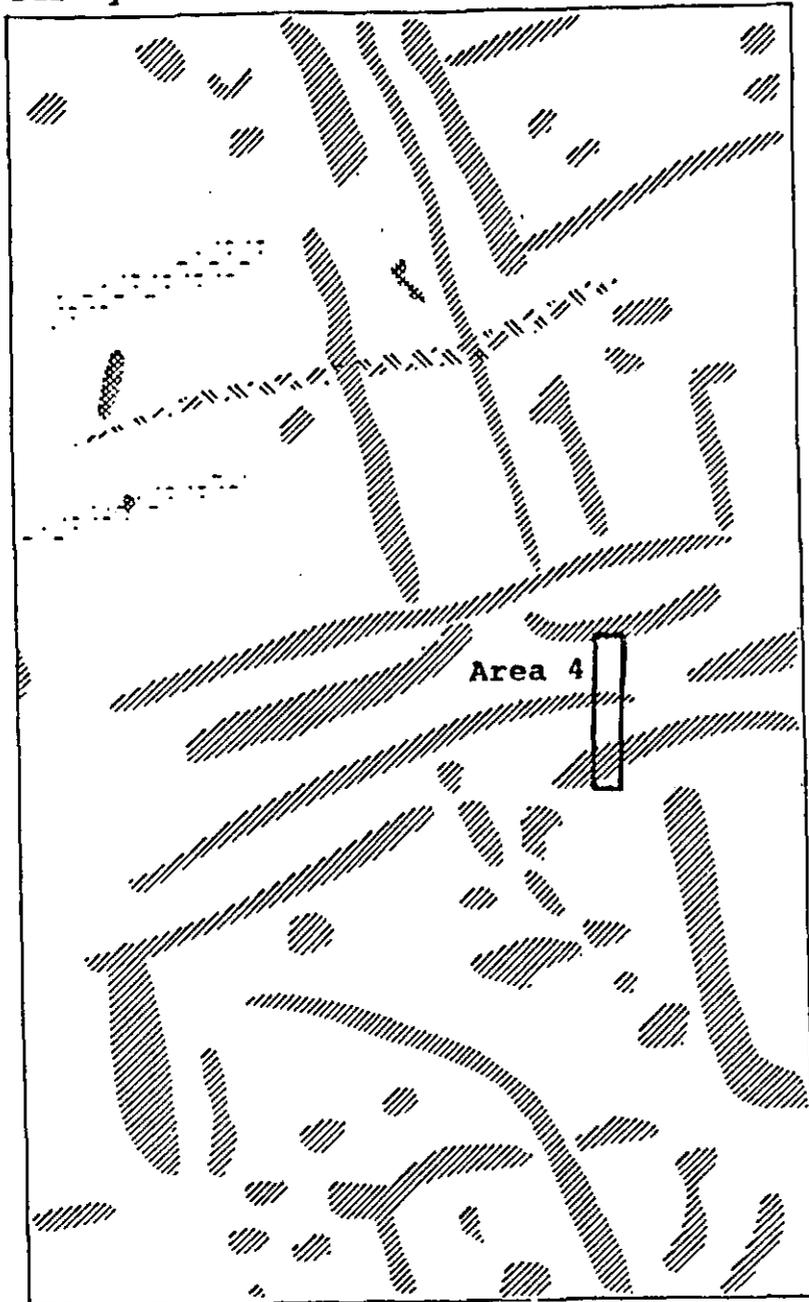
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 Date: Drawn: Fig. 11

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Survey Area A



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Title

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Scale

Plan No

Date

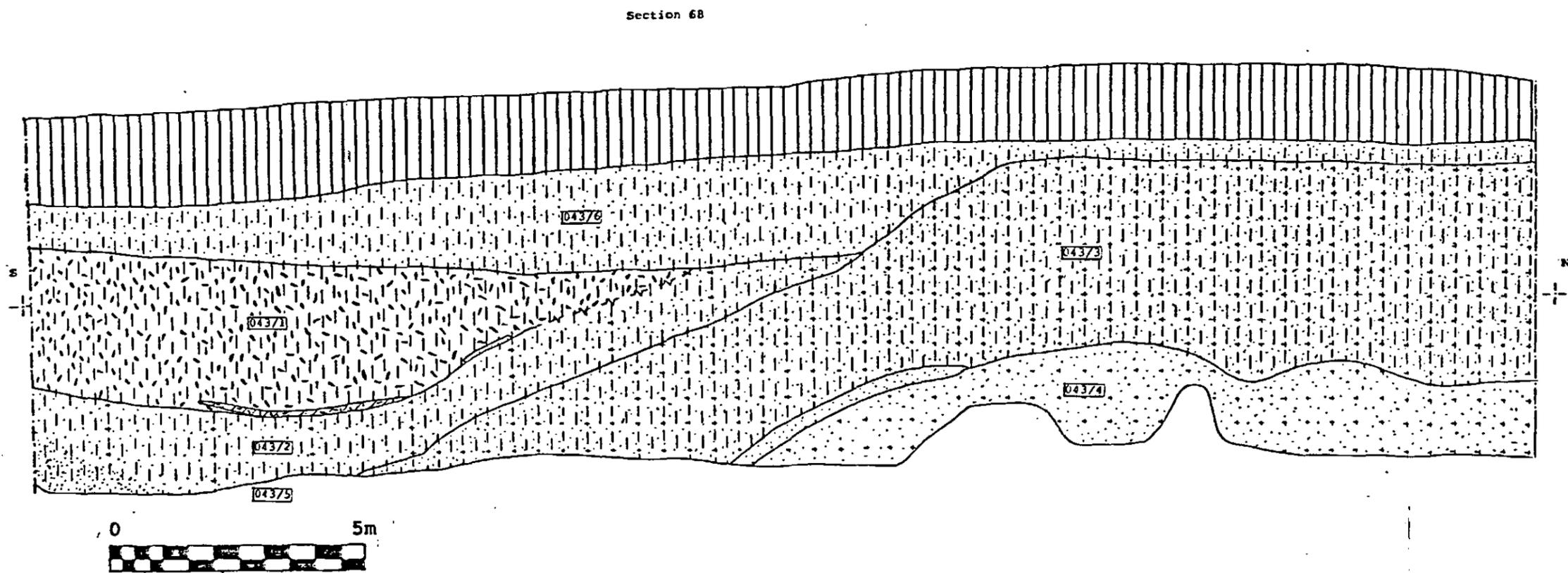
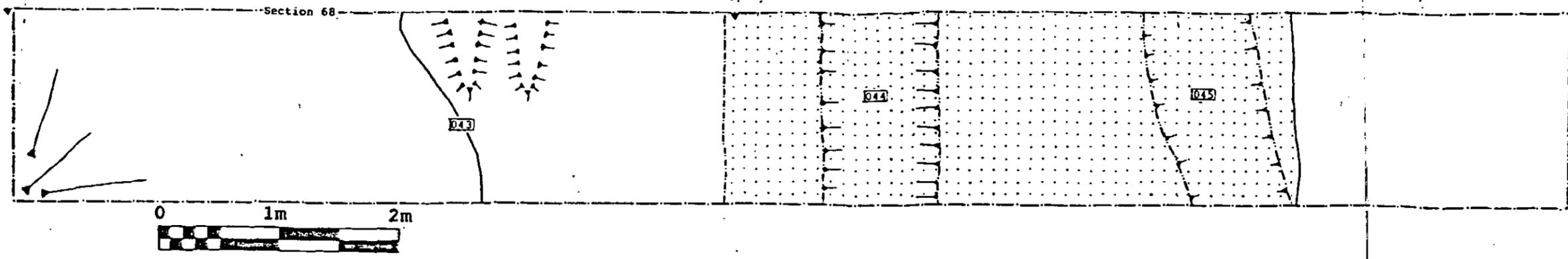
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Fig. 12

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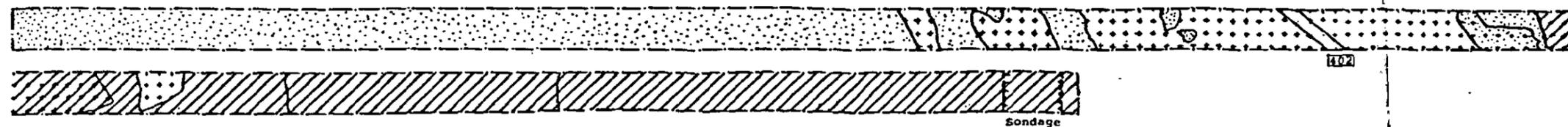
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Date: Drawn Revised

Drawn: **RB** Surveyed

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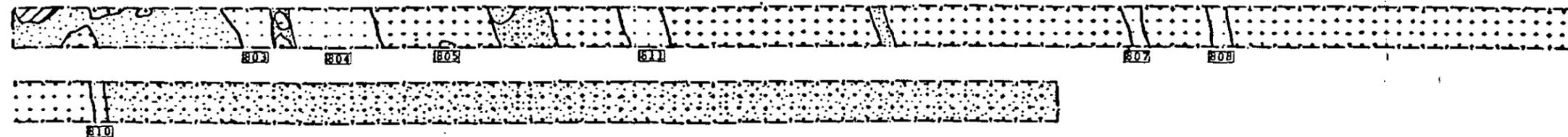
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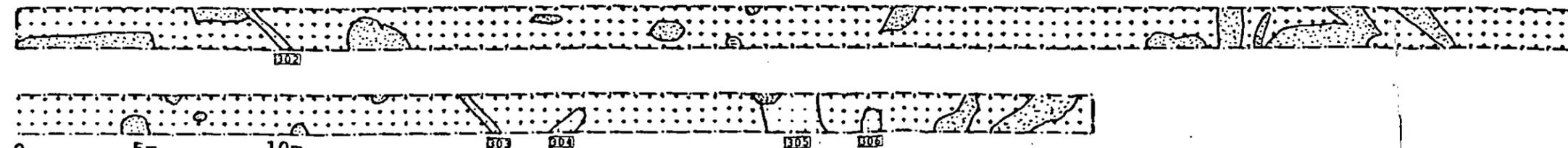
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TRENCH 4



TRENCH 5



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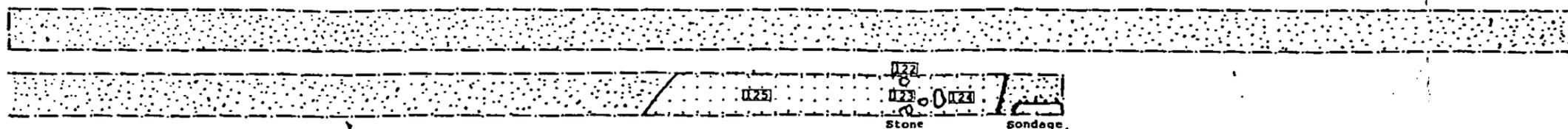


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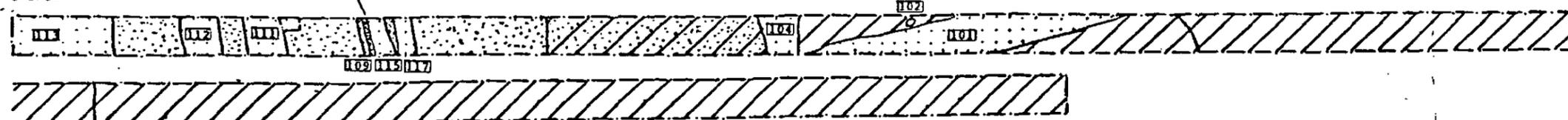
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Title		Trenches 1-5	
Scale	1:200	Plan No.	Fig. 14
Date		Drawn	RB
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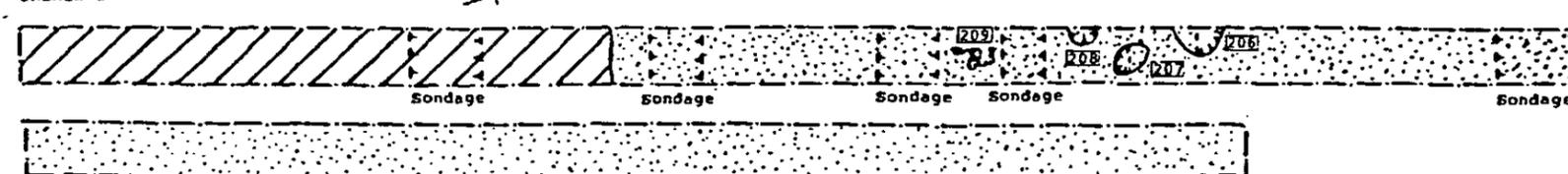
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TRENCH 7



TRENCH 8



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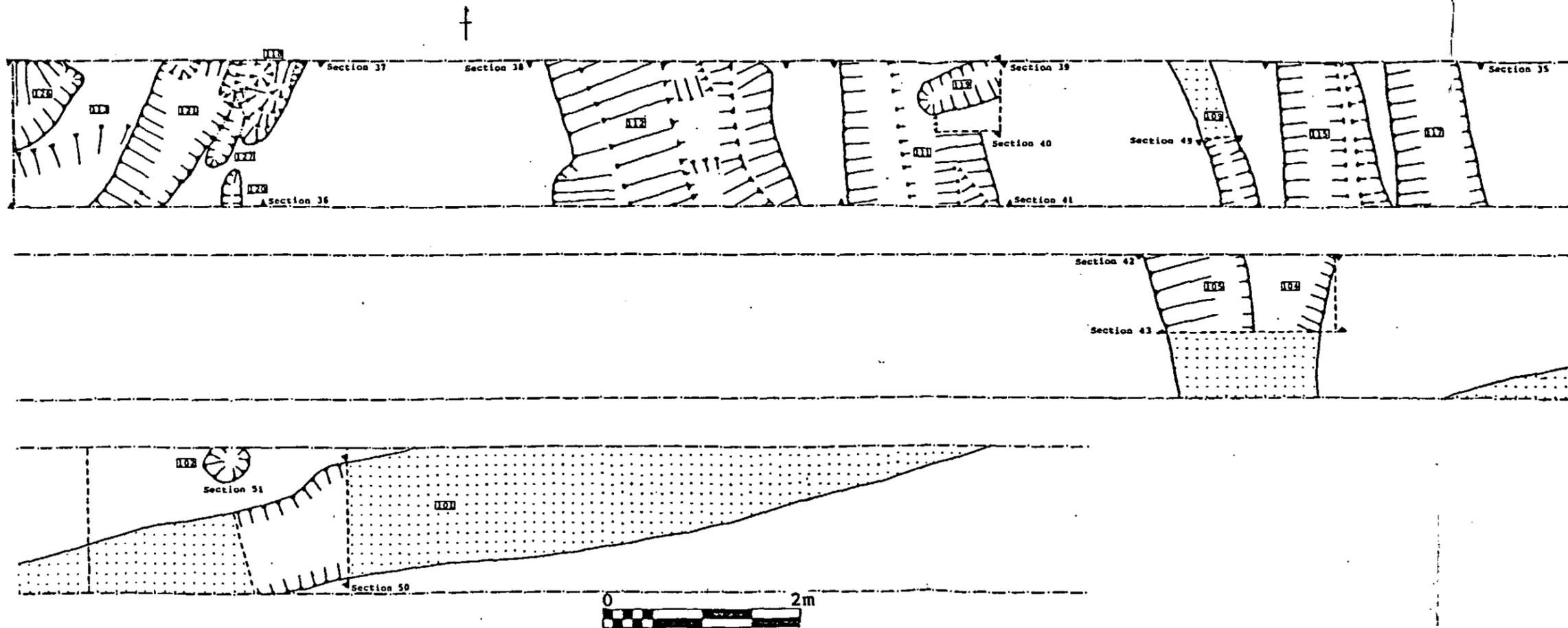
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Scale: 1:200

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Fig. 15

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Title: **Trench 7, plan**

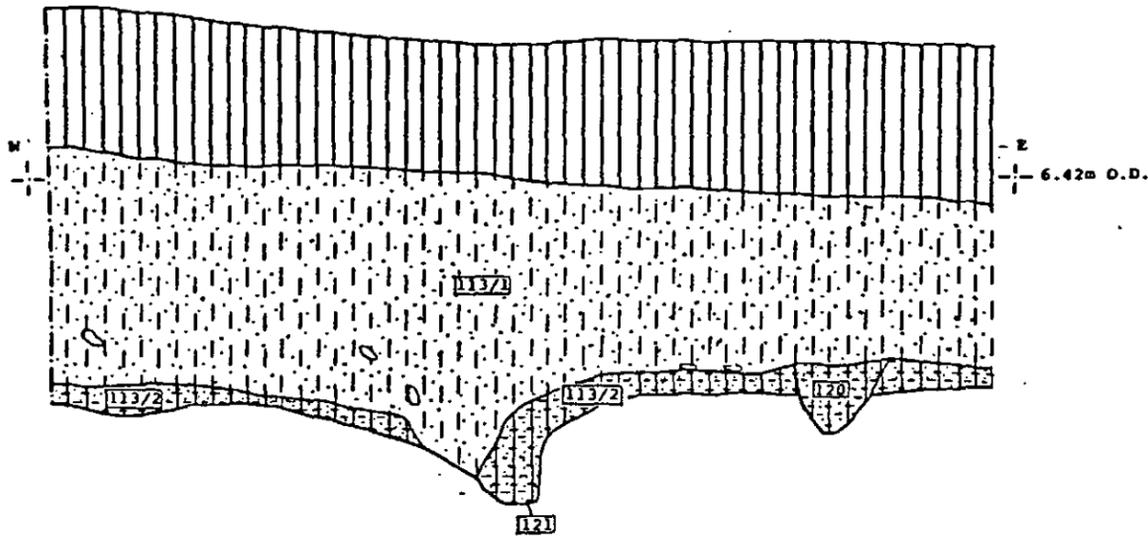
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Date: Drawn: **RB**

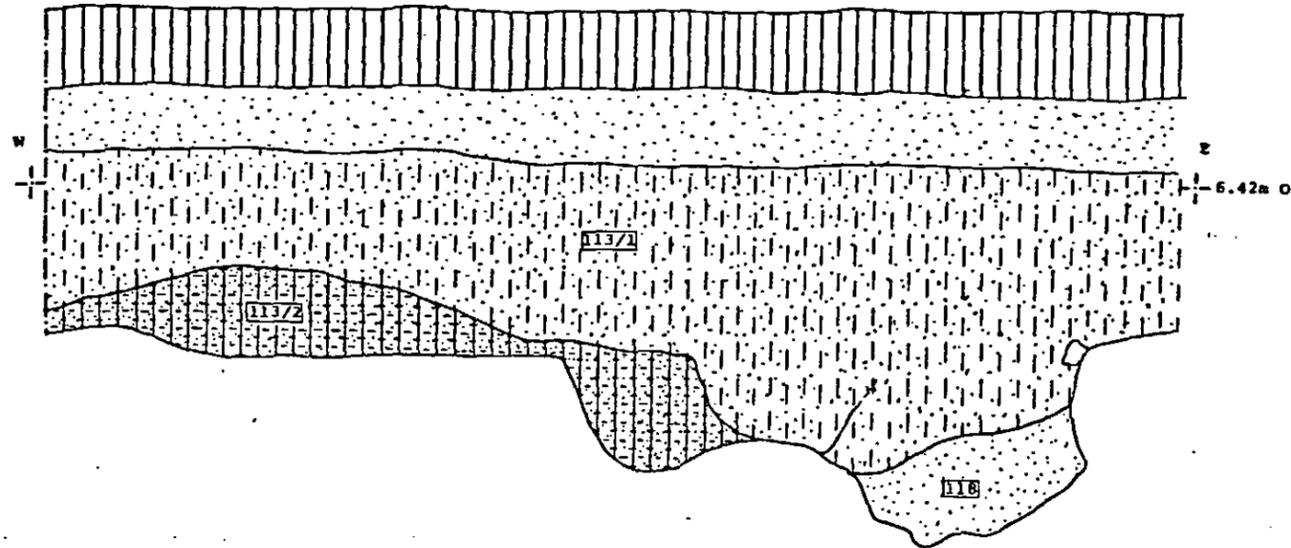
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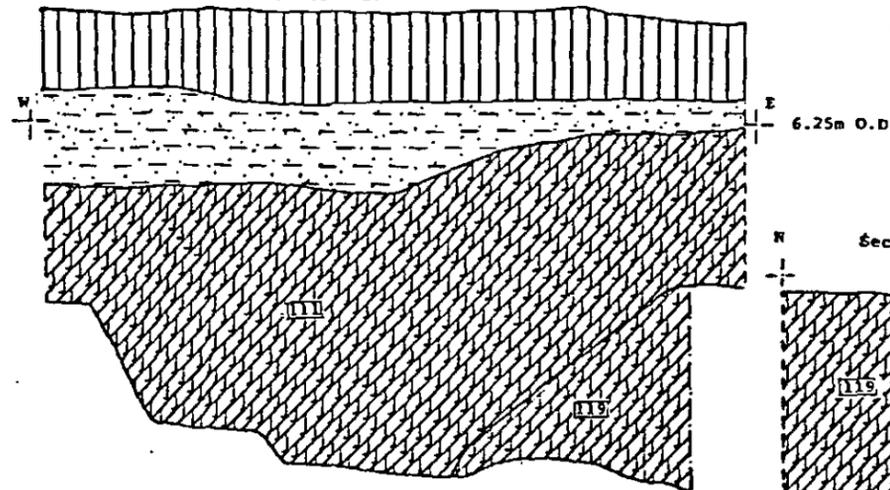
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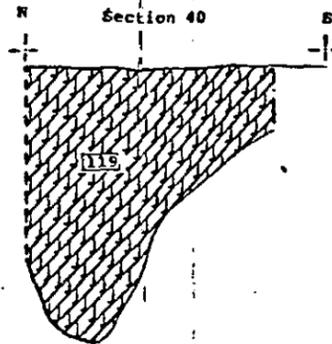
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Section 39



Section 40



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Location: BESTHORPE NEWARK NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title: Trench 7, sections

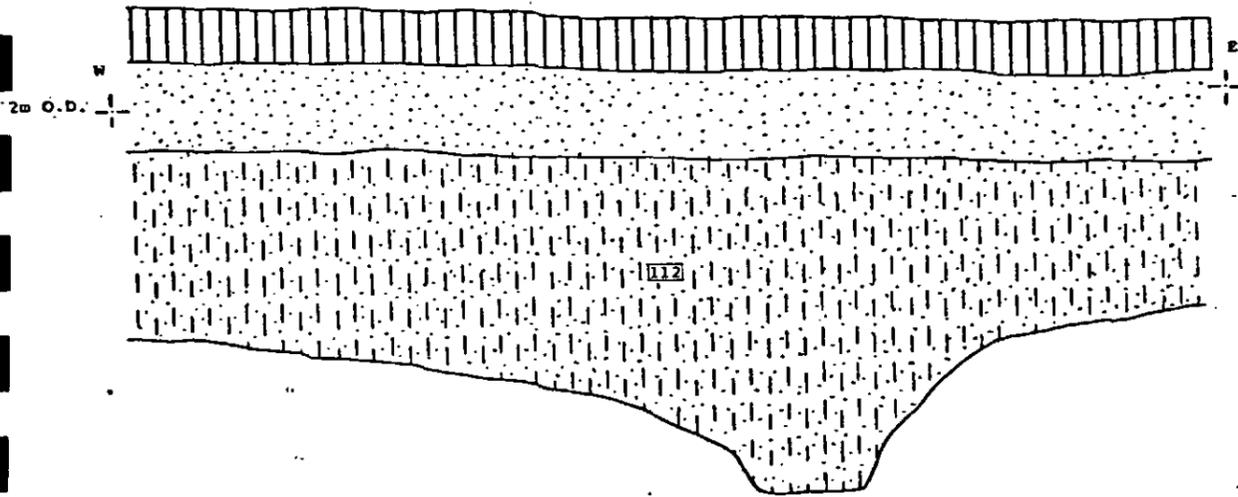
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Date: Drawn: RB, Checked:

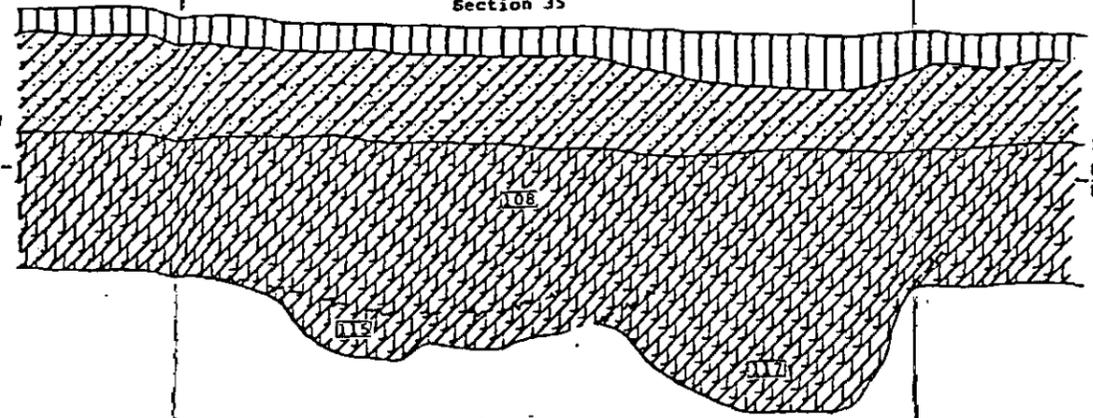
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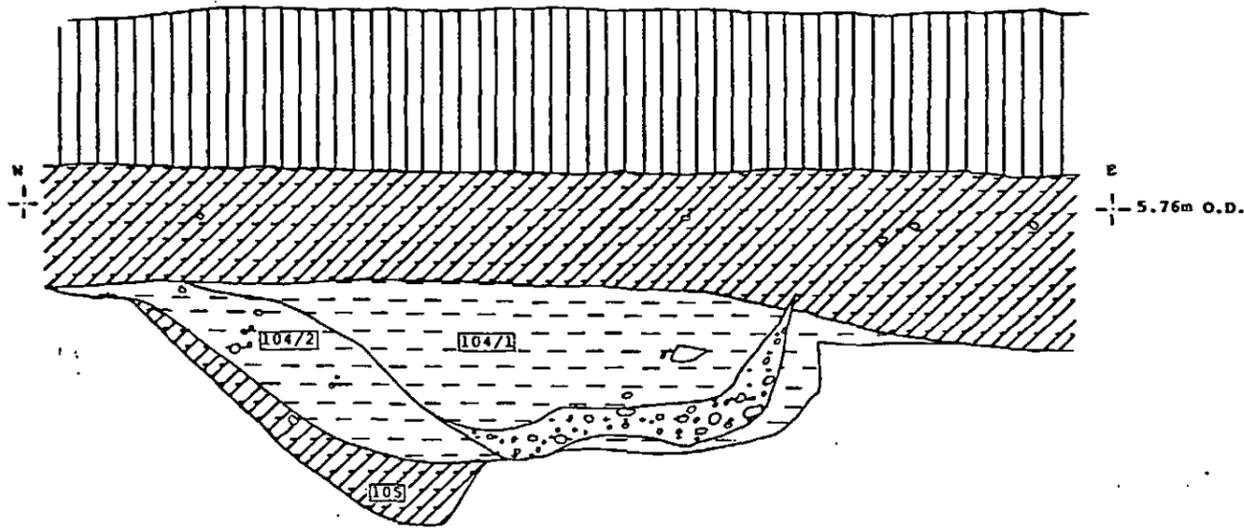
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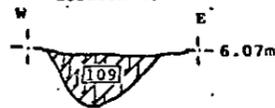
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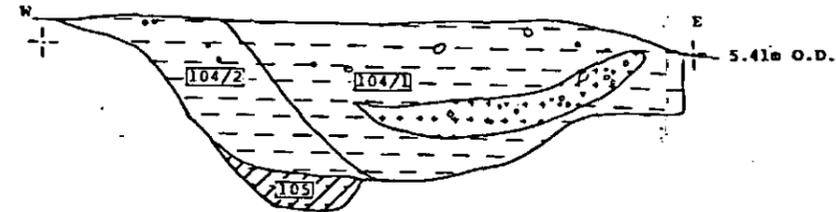
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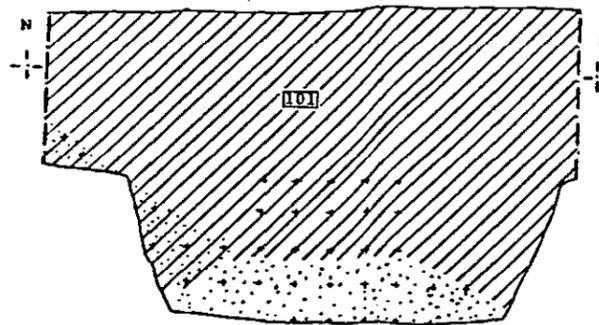
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Section 43



Section 50



Section 51



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Location

BESTHORPE
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Title

Trench 7, sections

Scale 1:20

Plan No

Fig. 18

Date

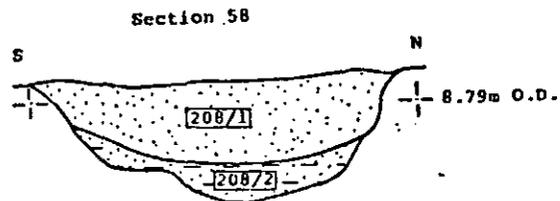
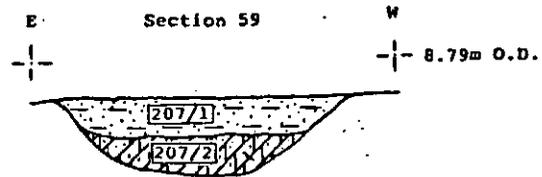
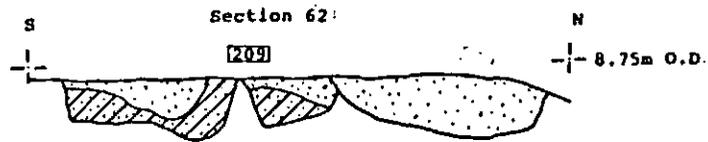
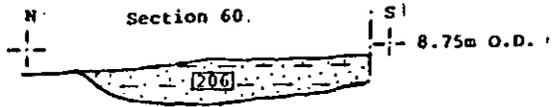
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and Historical Associates Ltd

Registered Office: 4 Cyprus Terrace

Upper Belvedere
OXFORD OX2 8AY

Central Office: 29 Beaumont Street
OXFORD OX1 2NF

Telex: (0865) 311046

Company Number: 2275357

Registered in England and Wales

Location **BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Title
Trench 8, sections

Scale **1:20** Plan No
Fig 19

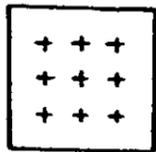
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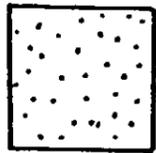
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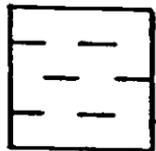
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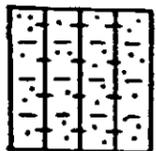
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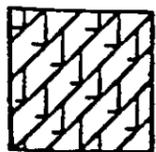
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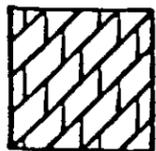
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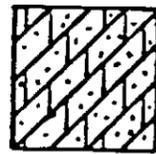
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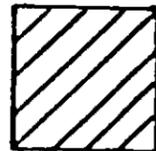
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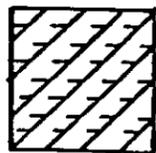
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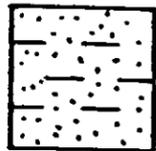
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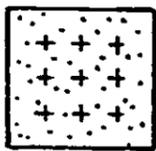
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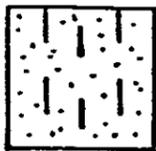
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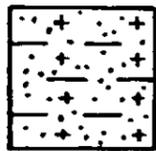
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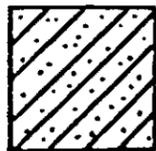
SAND & GRAVEL



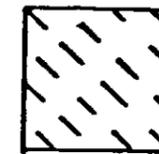
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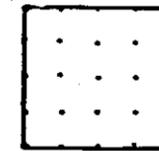
SANDY SILT & GRAVEL



SANDY CLAY



CHALK



UNEXCAVATED



STONE

BONE



CHARCOAL

LEGEND



TEMPVS REPARATVM

TEMPVS REPARATVM: Archaeological
and Historical Associates Ltd

Registered Office: 4 Cyprus Terrace
Upper Belvedere
OXFORD OX2 8AT

Central Office: 29 Beckett Street
OXFORD OX1 2EP
Tel: (01865) 212046

Company Number: 2272257
Registered in England and Wales

Location

Title

CONVENTIONS

Scale

Plan No

Date

Drawn

Fig. 2

Checked

Supvised

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Ferry Lane Farm

Area 1

Area 1 (5 x 5 m) was located within geophysical survey area B (Fig 7). Fifteen contexts were identified ([001]–[015]) which were well preserved (Fig 8).

- [001] was allocated to any material collected from within the area prior to the topsoil being removed. Artefacts recovered were recorded within each metre square.
- [002] Topsoil. This was c. 0.3 m thick and was removed by hand. This was to enable each metre square to be sieved. A small quantity of artefacts were recovered, mostly abraded Roman grey ware, modern glass and a copper alloy object (unidentified).
- [003] Thin layer of orange-brown sand lying at the interface of the topsoil and the natural gravel. Plough marks showed up as dark striations cut into this context. As with [002] this layer was sieved but did not produce any finds. After cleaning the underlying archaeology showed up as indistinct stains. [003] was interpreted as a flood horizon post dating the cropmark site.
- [004] Large U-shaped ditch with stepped sides running E-W across the southern half of area 1. It had been recut at least six times (the fill, however, was fairly homogeneous) and was nearly 2 m deep. The width was not established as its southern edge was beyond the baulk. 69 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered (2nd to 4th century AD with a few residual Iron Age sherds). No bones were recovered. The same as [015].
- [005] Shallow U-shaped gully running in a NE-SW orientation from the western baulk. Contained two fills and produced no artefacts.
- [006] After investigation [006] proved to be a natural hollow in the gravel.
- [007] Indistinct, shallow curvilinear feature running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill and produced no artefacts. This has been interpreted as a natural hollow in the gravel.
- [008] Indistinct natural sub-circular feature. Not excavated.
- [009] U-shaped ditch running in a N-S orientation from the northern baulk. Southern terminal 1.8 m from the northern baulk. Contained one fill which produced a small quantity of

Romano-British pottery. Cut by [012] and cuts [013] and [014].

- [010] An amorphous scoop, the majority of which has been cut away by context [012]. It was not possible to establish its profile. Contained one fill and produced no artefacts.
- [011] Sub-circular feature similar to [010]. Contained one fill which produced one sherd of Romano-British pottery. Cut by [012] and cuts [013].
- [012] An amorphous scoop with a rounded profile. Contained one fill which produced a fragment of a shale bracelet. Cuts [009], [011], [013], [014], and has an uncertain relationship to [015].
- [013] U-shaped feature the edges of which were very ill-defined. This could possibly have been a gully, however, the feature was too badly damaged to be certain. Contained one fill and produced no artefacts. Cut by [009], [011], [012] and cuts [014].
- [014] Flat-bottomed, curvi-linear ditch running in an E-W orientation from the western baulk before turning to the south. Contained one fill and produced no artefacts. This is the earliest feature in the NW corner of area 1. Cut by contexts [009], [012] and [013].
- [015] A partially excavated segment of [004]. See [004] for details.

Area 2

Area 2 (5 x 5 m) was located within geophysical survey area D (Fig 9). Twenty-one contexts were identified ([016]-[030], [033], [034], [036]-[038], [050]) all of which were well preserved (Fig 10).

- [016] Allocated to any material collected from the area prior to the topsoil being removed. Artefacts were recorded within each metre square.
- [017] Topsoil. This was c. 0.30 m thick and was removed by hand. This was to enable a 20% sample to be sieved. The sieved squares were 1, 7, 13, 19 and 25. Artefacts recovered included two flint flakes and a flint end scraper (Appendix 9).
- [018] A thin layer of orange-brown sand lying at the interface of the topsoil and the natural gravel. Plough-marks showed up as dark-brown striations. A 20% sample was sieved. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered. This layer was interpreted as a flood horizon.
- [019] A steep-sided, flat bottomed gully running in a NW-SE orientation from the western baulk. Three segments were excavated. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Cut by [021]. [019] forms part of an enclosure along with [020] and [021].
- [020] Steep-sided, flat bottomed gully running in a NW-SE orientation from the western baulk. Contained one fill which

produced Iron Age pottery and a quern stone fragment. Cuts [050] and cut by [021]. [020] forms part of an enclosure with [019] and [021].

- [021] Steep-sided, flat bottomed gully running in an E-W orientation across the area. Two segments were excavated which contained one fill and produced no artefacts. Cut by [019] and [020] with which it forms part of an enclosure.
- [022] Rounded shallow gully running in an E-W orientation from the eastern baulk. Contained one fill which produced one flint blade and Iron Age pottery. Cut by [034].
- [023] Circular patch of clay filling an irregular shaped depression cut into 034. Iron-Age pottery and a triangular loom-weight were recovered.
- [024] Circular patch of clay filling a rounded depression cut into [034]. No artefacts were recovered.
- [025] Post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([026]-[030], [036]-[038]).
- [026] Post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025], [027]-[030], [036]-[038]).
- [027] Shallow post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025], [026], [028-030], [036]-[038]).
- [028] Shallow post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[027], [029], [030], [036]-[038]).
- [029] Post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[028], [030], [036]-[038]).
- [030] Post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[029], [036]-[038]).
- [033] Steep-sided ditch terminal running in a NE-SW orientation from the eastern baulk. Contained two fills which produced late Iron-Age pottery and burnt and fire cracked pebbles. Cut by [034].
- [034] Sub-circular pit, fairly shallow. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Cut by [023], [024] and cuts [022] and [033].
- [036] Shallow post-hole. contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[030], [037], [038]).

- [037] : Shallow post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[030], [036], [038]).
- [038] Shallow post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Associated with an apparently random spread of post-holes ([025]-[030], [036], [037]).
- [050] Post-hole, contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Cut by [020].

Area 3

Area 3 (5 x 5 m) was located towards the southern periphery of the cropmark complex. Ten contexts were identified ([031], [032], [035], [039]-[042], [046], [048], [049]) which were moderately well preserved (Fig 11).

- [031] Allocated to any material collected from within the area prior to the topsoil being removed. Artefacts were recorded within each metre square.
- [032] Topsoil. This was c. 0.40 m thick and was removed by hand and machine. Due to technical difficulties no sieving was carried out. Finds....
- [035] Layer of orange sand lying at the interface of the topsoil and the natural gravel. This layer was interpreted as a flood horizon and was thicker here than in Areas 1 and 2 even though this lies on the higher part of the site. Romano-British pottery was recovered.
- [039] U-shaped ditch running in a N-S orientation from the north baulk terminating to the south. Contained one fill which produced Romano-British pottery. Cut by [042].
- [040] Steep-sided, flat bottomed ditch running in a N-S orientation from the southern baulk, turning to the east after 4 m. Two segments were excavated which contained one fill. Cuts [041].
- [041] Wide, rounded ditch running in a NNE-SSW orientation across the area. The profile varies in shape. Two segments were excavated which contained one fill and produced Romano-British pottery. Cut by [040].
- [042] Rounded ditch running in a N-S orientation across the area. One segment was excavated which contained two fills and produced Romano-British pottery. Cuts [039] and [046].
- [046] Rounded ditch running in a N-S orientation, terminating 3.3 m from the northern baulk. One segment was excavated which contained one fill. Mostly cut away by [042].
- [048] Short, steep sided ditch running in a N-S orientation. Terminal ends to the south and north. One segment excavated which contained one fill. Cut by [035] and cuts [041].

- [049] Shallow, rounded gully running in a NNW-SSW orientation, terminating to the south. The north end was indistinct as it had been cut by [040] and [041]. One segment was excavated which contained one fill.

Area 4

Area 4 (12.5 x 2 m) was located within geophysical survey area A (Fig 12). Three contexts were identified ([043]-[045]) all of which were well preserved (Fig 13).

- [043] Very wide and deep ditch running in an E-W orientation. The southern edge was beyond the baulk. Due to its size, the ditch was only partially excavated, consequently the profile was undetermined. A 6m segment was excavated down to a depth of c 1.3 m. Six fills were identified one of which was a black humic soil containing large amounts of charcoal. At the bottom of this feature was a layer of iron-pan which was extremely hard. This was possibly caused by trampling. The ditch was interpreted as forming part of a droveway and corresponds with the major E-W droveway identified on the aerial photographs and geophysical survey. A large quantity of artefacts was recovered including large sherds of coarse ware, Samian and colour coats from Lincoln, the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire dating from the mid 3rd to 4th century A.D. Many of these were in excellent condition. Unlike in Areas 1, 2, and 3, bone was recovered from the bottom of the ditch where the higher moisture content of the fills aided preservation. The ditch was cut by [044] and [015].
- [044] Shallow rounded gully running in an E-W orientation. One fill which produced ? artefacts. Cuts [043].
- [045] Shallow, rounded gully running in an E-W orientation. One fill which produced no artefacts. Cuts [043].

Trench 1

This trench (100 x 2 m) was located on the western periphery of the cropmark complex, 30m beyond the main E-W trackway identified on the aerial photograph plots and in Geophysical Survey Area F. Two contexts ([401], [402]) were identified (Fig 13).

- [401] Topsoil. This was c. 0.4 m thick and was removed by machine. No artefacts were recovered.
- [402] Land drain running in an E-W orientation. Not excavated.

The northern half of the trench contained thick blue-grey clay. This corresponds with the paleochannel identified by J. Grattan (USAS) crossing the application area from south to north (Appendix 7).

Trench 2

This trench (50 x 2 m) was located on the north western periphery of the cropmark complex approximately 30m beyond a trackway identified on the aerial photographic plots and in Geophysical Survey Area E. Four contexts were identified ([501], [902]-[904]) (Fig 13).

- [501] Topsoil. This was c. 0.3m thick and was removed by machine. No artefacts were recovered.
- [902] Land drain running in an E-W orientation. Not excavated.
- [903] Land drain running in a NW-SE orientation. Not excavated.
- [904] Ditch running in an E-W orientation. Not excavated. This corresponds with the north-eastern ditch identified in geophysical area E.

Trench 3

This trench (50 x 2 m) was located beyond the north-west periphery of the cropmark complex. One context was identified ([701]). No archaeological features were identified (Fig 11).

- [701] Topsoil. This was c. 0.3 m thick and was removed by machine. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 4

This trench (100 x 2 m) was located on the northern periphery of the cropmark complex approximately 20-30 m beyond linear features identified on the photograph plots and in Geophysical Survey Area G. Eight contexts were identified ([801], [803], [805], [807], [808], [810], [811]) (Fig 13).

- [801] Topsoil. This was 0.5-0.6 m thick and was removed by machine. No artefacts were recovered.
- [803] Shallow gully running in a N-S orientation. Poorly preserved. Contained two fills which produced no artefacts.
- [805] Circular feature emerging from the southern baulk. Poorly preserved. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts. Interpreted as a possible post-hole.
- [807] U-shaped gully running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts.
- [808] Linear feature running parallel to [807]. Not excavated but has similar dimensions and fill to [807]. No artefacts were recovered.
- [810] Steep sided gully running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts.
- [811] Shallow U-shaped gully/depression running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts.

Trench 5

This trench (100 x 2 m) was located on the south-west periphery of the cropmark complex. Five contexts were identified ([301]-[305]) (Fig 13).

- [301] Topsoil. This was 0.3–0.4 m thick and was removed by machine. No artefacts were recovered.
- [302] Land drain running in a N–S orientation. Not excavated
- [303] Linear feature running in a N–S orientation. Unclear profile, most probably a natural feature.
- [304] Linear feature running in an E–W orientation. Very indistinct edges, most probably natural.
- [305] Three shallow rounded gullies running in NE–SW orientation. All three cuts had the same fill and produced no artefacts.

The Grassland to the South of Mons Pool

Trench 6

This trench (100 x 2 m) was located across the highest part of the sand dune clipping geophysical area I parallel to the field road which forms the boundary of the application area (Fig 4). Five contexts were identified ([114], [122]–[125]) (Fig 15).

- [114] Topsoil. This was very thin (c 0.2 m) and lay directly on top of the sand. Removed by machine. 1 coin was recovered (a debased denarius of Severus Alexander, 222–223 A.D. Identified – J. W. Hedges).
- [122] Clay filled depression, partially fired. Produced Romano-British pottery. Cuts [125].
- [123] Clay filled depression, partially fired. Produced Romano-British pottery. Cuts [125].
- [124] Clay-filled depression, partially fired. Produced Romano-British pottery and 1 tooth. Cuts [125].
- [125] Wide linear feature running in NE–SW orientation. The south eastern edge was beyond the end of the trench. Contained one fill which produced a large quantity of Romano-British pottery and 16 bone fragments, 5 of which were identifiable. Cut by [122], [123] and [124]. This feature was directly in line with the ridge and furrow and could therefore either be the base of a ridge or be a feature underneath and protected by the ridge. The width of the trench prevented proper identification.

Trench 7

This trench (100 x 2 m) was located across geophysical survey area I and between I and H, parallel to the field road (Fig 4). Twenty-two contexts were identified ([100]–[113], [115], [117]–[121], [126], [127]) which were moderately to well preserved (Figs 16, 17, 18).

- [100] Topsoil. This was very thin (c.0.2m) and contained Romano-British pottery (not retained).

- [101] Irregularly shaped ditch running in a NE-SW orientation. Two sherds of very abraded Romano-British pottery came from the moist clay fill. This was most probably a paleochannel.
- [102] Shallow depression with the same fill as 101. No artefacts recovered. Most probably natural.
- [103] Linear feature running in a N-S orientation. Very indistinct, and proved impossible to excavate. Most likely a natural stain in the sub-soil.
- [104] U-shaped ditch running in a N-S orientation. One segment excavated which contained two fills. Produced Romano-British pottery. Cuts [105].
- [105] Flat-bottomed ditch running in a N-S orientation. One segment excavated which contained two fills with Romano-British pottery. Cut by [104].
- [106] Indistinct linear feature running in a N-S orientation. When excavated no edges could be distinguished. Most probably a natural feature.
- [107] Indistinct linear feature running in a NE-SW orientation. When excavated no edges could be distinguished. Most probably a natural feature.
- [108] Latest fill of [115] and [117]. Initially [108] appeared to be a single ditch running in a N-S orientation, however, excavation revealed two parallel ditches ([115] and [117]). No cuts could be distinguished between the three contexts; produced Romano-British pottery.
- [109] Shallow rounded gully running in a NNW-SSE orientation. One segment excavated which contained one fill with Romano-British pottery and 23 fragments of unidentified bone.
- [110] Natural stain in the sub-soil. Not excavated.
- [111] Ditch with a shallow flat slot in the bottom running in a N-S orientation. One segment excavated which contained one fill with Romano-British pottery and 47 bone fragments, 7 of which were identifiable. Cuts [119].
- [112] Ditch with a shallow flat slot in the bottom running in a N-S orientation. One segment excavated which contained one fill with Romano-British pottery and 44 bone fragments, 6 of which were identifiable.
- [113] Prior to excavation this feature appeared to be a large linear feature running in a N-S orientation (Fig 15). Excavation revealed that this overlay a palimpsest of features and had no well defined cut of its own. Like [125], it was only partially revealed, it had a similar fill and was under the ridge and furrow. It is possible that [113] is the base of a ridge or a feature protected by the ridge. A large quantity of late 4th century Romano-British pottery was recovered (including 4 sherds of residual 2nd century Samian as well as some Iron Age

pottery). None of the sherds showed signs of abrasion. 65 bone fragments were recovered, 7 of which were identifiable.

- [115] U-shaped ditch running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill which produced ? finds and 11 bone fragments, 2 of which are identifiable. Below [108] and has an uncertain relationship to [117] (see [108] for more detailed description).
- [117] U-shaped ditch running in a N-S orientation. Contained one fill which produced ? finds. Below [108] and has an uncertain relationship to [115] (see [108] for more detailed description).
- [118] Steep-sided deep ditch terminal emerging from the northern baulk. A circular depression at the base of this ditch is possibly a post-hole. Contained one fill which produced Romano-British pottery. Cut by [113], possibly [121] and cuts [127].
- [119] V-shaped ditch terminal running in an E-W orientation. Terminal end to the west. Contained one fill which produced Romano-British pottery and 14 bone fragments, one of which was identifiable. Cut by [111].
- [120] Possible post-hole or terminal of a shallow gully emerging from the southern baulk. Contained one fill which produced no artefacts.
- [121] Steep-sided rounded curvilinear gully, N-SW orientation. Filled by [113]/[112].
- [126] Shallow gully only partially revealed. Possibly natural. Filled by [113]/[112].
- [127] Shallow gully running in a N-S orientation. Filled by [113], cut by [118] and [121].

Trench 8

This trench was dug in two sections, 35 x 2 m and 45 x 2 m, and was excavated so as to investigate a buried paleosol identified by USAS in the southern area of the grassfield (Fig 4). Four contexts were identified ([206]-[209]) all of which were poorly preserved (Figs 12, 14).

- [206] Sub-circular feature, possibly a post-hole. Contained one fill.
- [207] Large sub-circular feature, possibly a post-hole. Contained two fills which produced no finds.
- [208] Sub-circular feature, possibly a post-hole. Contained two fills which produced no artefacts.
- [209] Sub-circular feature, possible post/stake-hole. Contained one fill.

Two sherds of abraded grey-ware (RB) were recovered from the sand layer ([205]) through which the above features were cut.

APPENDIX 2

NONEBE92 - Besthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire

Roman Pottery Assessment Report for Tempus Reparatum
B J Davies - 17/08/92

1. Overview: This section concentrates on the total assemblage of the Roman pottery from Besthorpe reviewing the overall date range and the areas of supply. The ceramics and dating from individual Areas and Trenches are discussed under 2.1 - 2.8, and refer to Appendix 1.

The total assemblage yielded 991 sherds of pottery, 84 of which are probably Iron Age in date. A brief comparison with material from Dragonby [Elsdon & May 1987] indicates a later Iron Age date for the material. The earliest samian from the site consists of a few sherds from the early Central Gaulish kilns at Les Martres de Veyre which were operating c. AD 100-130. Whilst the bulk was manufactured at Lezoux from c. AD 120-200 with the majority dating towards the second half of the Second Century. East Gaulish samian probably manufactured at Trier from the later Second to the middle of the Third century is represented by two abraded sherds. The date of the samian reflects the date of the bulk of the coarse wares with little Second and larger amounts of later Second - early Third century pottery, with the majority dating to the Fourth and very late Fourth Century.

Wares imported from the Continent include amphora from Baetica, Spain (DR20 - Dressel 20) and one probably from Italy together with a sherd of imported mortarium and samian ware from Central and Eastern Gaul, with the samian forming c. 3% of the total. Although not large, the presence of these wares indicate that the occupants were rich enough to afford them. Pottery traded within the British Isles is represented by BB1 from Dorset, and fine wares from the Oxford kilns. Kilns manufacturing within the immediate region are represented by pottery from the Nene Valley, Derbyshire, Dales ware, South Midlands shell tempered wares, Mancetter Hartshill and Parisian type wares. Whilst closer to the site pottery is arriving from the Swanpool kilns at Lincoln (SPCC) and probably from the Newton on Trent and Lea kilns [Field & Palmer-Brown 1991 for the latter]. Nevertheless the bulk of the material consists of grey wares which are likely to have been manufactured locally.

Table 1: Incidence of fabrics from Besthorpe

No. shs	%	Fabric
1	0.10%	AMPH
13	1.31%	BB1
1	0.10%	CC
1	0.10%	CC?
9	0.91%	COAR
13	1.31%	CR
2	0.20%	DERB
2	0.20%	DR20
34	3.43%	DWSH
3	0.30%	DWSH?
6	0.60%	GFIN
673	67.91%	GREY
19	1.92%	GROG
6	0.60%	IAGR
1	0.10%	IASA
2	0.20%	MOMH
1	0.10%	MOMH?
1	0.10%	MONV
5	0.50%	MORT
23	2.32%	NVCC
1	0.10%	NVCC?
1	0.10%	NVGW?
15	1.51%	OX
6	0.60%	OX?
4	0.40%	OXRC
2	0.20%	OXWS
3	0.30%	PART

1	1.32%	DR20
42	55.26%	GREY
11	14.47%	GROG
1	1.32%	MOMH
1	1.32%	NVCC
3	3.95%	SAMCG
4	5.26%	SAMCG?
5	6.58%	SHEL
5	6.58%	VESIC

76	100.00%	TOTAL

The largest group from this area 004 (52) produced 69 sherds of predominantly grey wares but also a few sherds of a Cream ware flagon, a mortarium from Mancetter Hartshill, a beaker from the Nene Valley, together with a dish or bowl in Dorset BB1. The samian is all mid-late Second century in date but the grey and Nene Valley wares indicate a date into the Third century. Most of the grey ware forms, particularly the wide mouthed bowls (BWM), can be paralleled in assemblages from the nearby kilns at Swanpool in Lincoln and Newton on Trent. On balance because of the absence of later Roman forms, such as high bead and flange bowls and Dales ware jars an early-mid Third century date is more likely. A number of the grey wares had worn surfaces which was either due to wear by water or the soil conditions implying that the ditch was exposed for a time.

A few sherds of vesicular, shell tempered and grog tempered pottery are more reminiscent of Iron Age pottery. Similar sherds were noted in 015 (53). These fabrics are all in good condition, unlike the accompanying grey wares. They may be the result of reworked material, and although residual indicate probable occupation during the Iron Age.

Another ditch, 009 (117 & 118) produced only a few sherds of very similar material to 004, as did scoop 011 (114).

Pottery recommended for drawing (S or S? indicates stratigraphical importance; V implies that the drawing is vital for ceramic interpretation)

- AREA1,004;SF52, GREY, BFL, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-UPPER WALL WATER? WORN, -, 1
- AREA1,004;SF52, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-SHLDR WATER? WORN, -, 1
- AREA1,004;SF52, GREY, DPR, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-BASE PROF WATER? WORN, -, 1
- AREA1,004;SF52, SAMCG, 37, -, -, V, -, BS OVOLO DIVIXTUS LZ NO3, -, 1

2.2 AREA 2

Table 4: The total % of fabrics from Area 2

No. shs	%	Fabric
1	1.64%	GROG
1	1.64%	IASA
59	96.72%	VESIC

61	100.00%	TOTAL

In contrast to Area 1 all the pottery (79 shs in total) from Area 2 is Iron Age in date. Further research comparing the material to that from Dragonby [Elsdon and May op. cit.] and other Iron Age sites in the vicinity will refine the dating but a preliminary examination suggests a date towards the late Iron Age. All the pottery is in good condition and the forms are predominantly cooking pots of native tradition, but also sherds of carinated bowls and large jars. The largest group came from ditch 033 but a sherd link between 033 (108) and subsoil 018 (62) suggests redeposition of some of the material.

the deep ditch, 043. The largest assemblage came from 043 and is dated by the presence of inturned bead and flanged bowls which can be paralleled to the Swanpool kilns at Lincoln. This class of vessel consistently appears in groups dating to the very late Fourth century in Lincoln occasionally associated with coins post-dating c.AD 360, but could conceivably be arriving at much the same time at Besthorpe. The pottery appears to be fairly homogenous with little residual material, although some of the grey wares show signs of either water wear or deterioration through the soil conditions. 043/1 is dated to a similar period, whereas 043/2 lacks the later Roman pottery and dates from at least the mid Third century although some of the forms continue into the Fourth. The grey wares are mostly fresh in condition but a few are very worn. 043/4 produced a few quite fresh sherds of broadly Third to Fourth century in date but a sherd link with 043 suggest that the two activities are likely to be contemporary.

A few sherds of pottery dating from the mid Third to possibly the Fourth century were derived from 004, a shallow rounded gully.

Pottery selected for drawing

- AREA4, 043, DWSH, BFB, -, 1, S?, -, RIMS J VABR, -, 2
- AREA4, 043, DWSH, BWM, -, 1, V, -, RIM, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, DWSH, JLS, -, 1, S?, -, RIM, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, DWSH, JLS, -, 1, S?, -, RIMS, -, 3
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BIBF, -, 1, V, -, RIM-GIRTH WORN SURF, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BIBF, NOTC, 1, V, -, RIM-GIRTH NOTC ON FLANGE, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BKEV, -, 1, V, -, RIM-LWR WALL FINE VESS FRESHISH, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM LGE VESS SURF WORN ELSE FRESHISH, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-GIRTH EXT SURF PITTED, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-SHLDR SURF WORN ELSE FRESHISH, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, JNN, -, 1, S?, -, RIM, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, JUR, -, 1, S?, -, RIM, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, GREY, L, -, 1, V, -, RIMS J NOB UNUS 2 PIERCED HOLES COARSE, -, 3
- AREA4, 043, OXRC, B31, -, 1, V, -, RIM-GIRTH SURF LOST YOUNG C45 270-400, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, OXRC, B312R, ROUL, 1, S?, -, BS WORN SURF ROUL INT YOUNG C45.3 270-400, -, 1
- AREA4, 043, OXWS, F?, PA, 1, V, -, BASES J RED FAB CR SLIP RED BN PA PL? FRESH, -, 2
- AREA4, 043, SMASH, JUR, RIL, 1, S?, -, RIMS BSS BASE FRAGMENTARY, -, 27
- AREA4, 043/1, MORT, MWS, -, 1, V, -, RIM-UPPER WALL RED FAB WHT SLIP FE TRITS, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/1, NVCC, DPR, -, 1, V, -, RIM-BASE PROF LT BN FAB STRING BURNT ELSE FRESH RPNV87 4C, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, B333?, -, 1, S?, -, RIMS VAR HARDLY BIFRUC SLIGHT GROOVE, -, 2
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-GIRTH LGE VESS ABR, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-SHLDR SMALL VESS, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-SHLDR WORN SOIL?, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, BWM, -, 1, S?, -, RIMS-GIRTH J FRESHISH, -, 2
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, BWM, -, 1, V, -, RIM THICK NO NECK COARSE SEE SKETCH WATER? WORN, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, CP, -, 1, S?, -, RIMS J WORN, -, 2
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, JBK, -, 1, S?, -, RIM CF JBK334 OR BKFN ABR, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, JCUR, -, 1, S?, -, RIM-SHLDR THICK FRESHISH, -, 1
- AREA4, 043/2, GREY, JLH, -, 1, S?, -, BS HANDLE PATCHED WORN CF LEA KILNS, -, 1

2.5 TRENCH 6

Table 7: The total % of fabrics from Trench 7

No. shs	%	Fabric
1	1.61%	CR
52	83.87%	GREY
1	1.61%	MORT
1	1.61%	NVCC
3	4.84%	OX
1	1.61%	SAMCG
3	4.84%	SHEL
62	100.00%	TOTAL

The assemblage from this trench is quite small (63 sherds) but of fresh

condition. Most of the contexts (122,124) are too small to date other than to a broad Second century or later date. 125, a linear feature produced the bulk of the pottery which is dated by a Nene Valley beaker paralleled to RPNV 29-31 dating to the late Second to early Third century, which fits well with the date of the coarse wares. A stamp of the potter MASUETUS working from c. AD 150-180 provides a t.p.q. for the group. This assemblage produced an interesting group of grey wares which are high fired and of fine quality and are worthy of further research.

Pottery Selected for drawing

TRENCH6,125,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM THICK GRITTY ABR,-,1
 TRENCH6,125,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM THICK GRITTY,-,1
 TRENCH6,125,GREY,BWM,-,1,V,-,RIM-NECK HIGHFIRED W CALC,-,1
 TRENCH6,125,GREY,JCUR,-,1,V,-,RIM-SHLDR HIGHFIRED W CALC,-,1
 TRENCH6,125,SAMCG,31,NAME,1,V,-,FTRG STAMP MASUETUS LZ 150-180 NO10,-,1
 TRENCH6,125,SHEL,BFL,-,1,S?,-,RIM SOOTED BS,-,2

2.6 TRENCH 7

Table 8 : The total % of fabrics from Trench 7

No. shs	%	Fabric
1	0.18%	AMPH
12	2.21%	BB1
1	0.18%	CC
1	0.18%	CC?
7	1.29%	COAR
9	1.66%	CR
2	0.37%	DERB
7	1.29%	DWSH
3	0.55%	DWSH?
5	0.92%	GFIN
430	79.34%	GREY
2	0.37%	GROG
6	1.11%	IAGR
1	0.18%	MOMH
1	0.18%	MOMH?
1	0.18%	MONV
3	0.55%	MORT
9	1.66%	NVCC
1	0.18%	NVCC?
7	1.29%	OX
6	1.11%	OX?
3	0.55%	PART
1	0.18%	PART?
14	2.58%	SAMCG
2	0.37%	SAMCG?
3	0.55%	SHEL
4	0.74%	TILE

542	100.00%	TOTAL

The bulk of the pottery from the site came from this area, in particular Contexts 108; 111; 112; 113 and 115, the largest being Context 113. Medieval pottery was noted in the highest layer (100) but the variety of dates from individual contexts suggests occupation from the later Second to the late Fourth century in this part of the site. Ditches 101 and 104 produced small groups, the latter containing very worn sherds broadly dating from the mid Second century and later. A sherd of a jar or beaker - Lincoln form 334 places the date of linear feature 106 to at least the later Second century, but the form continues into the later Roman period. Another linear feature, 107, also produced pottery with worn surfaces and is dated by the samian to at least the mid-late Second century.

The top fill of u-shaped ditch (115 & 117), 108, dates from the mid-late Third to the Fourth, but not late Fourth century. A sherd of a large storage jar in a Tile fabric is similar to sherds from 115. This vessel is of particular interest as vessels of this type are frequently found in Lincoln in late groups and its distribution as far as Besthorpe is worthy of further research.

A shallow rounded gully (109) and a natural stain (110) only produced a few sherds broadly dating from the mid Second to Third century, but more likely verging towards the latter date. Sloped ditch 111 produced more datable pottery, which was on the whole fresh, dating from the late Second to the Third century, but also a few sherds of probable Iron Age date. Burning on some vessels might be the result of cooking rather than destruction. Another sloped ditch 112 produced a large assemblage of later material, at least late Third century in date and probably extending into the Fourth.

The top fill of 118 and associated Contexts, 113 produced a substantial group of very late Fourth century material similar in content to that of 043 in Area 4, including inturned bead and flange bowls. The connection between 113 and 118 is emphasised by a similar type of vessel, a grey ware curved rim jar in a dense gritty fabric appearing in both groups. Some of the vessels were clearly smashed when discarded as there are several profiles. The presence of samian ware and other earlier pottery suggests that they are residual and that the material was disturbed from earlier levels. Sherds of probable Iron Age date emphasise this likelihood.

115, the lower fills of a u-shaped ditch contained pottery of an earlier date than the upper fills suggesting that it was in use for a long period, and dates from the late Second to early Third century.

The remaining contexts from this area (116-119) only contained a few sherds of pottery broadly dating from the mid Second century and later, but which were in a fresh condition.

Amongst the pottery of particular interest from this Area is the emergence of a dense very gritty fabric with iron and grog pellets which have affinities with Trent Valley ware.

Pottery selected for drawing

TRENCH7,104,GREY,BWM,-,1,V,-,RIM-LWR WALL NO NECK TRIANG RIM CF 043/2 GRITTY AS LEA KILN NO 4
TRENCH7,108,GREY,BBR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH V WORN,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GREY,BTR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-LWR WALL VABR,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH SMALL VESS,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GREY,BWM,-,1,V,-,RIM-GIRTH COARSE V LGE VESS SQUARE RIM NO NECK,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GREY,CP,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR FINELY MADE FRESH,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GREY,JEV,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
TRENCH7,108,GROG,BTR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR + CALC TRENT VALLEY WARE?,-,1
TRENCH7,110,GREY,BWM,-,1,V,-,RIMS J MANY BSS FRAGS V FRIABLE CF TRENT VALLEY? WARE DENSE FAB
TRENCH7,111,COAR,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH VABR THICK SOME CALC,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GFIN,BKPH,-,1,V,-,RIM-SHLDR FRESH,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,BDR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH THICK FRESHISH,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM V WORN,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH THICK,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,DGR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-BASE PROF BS ABR,-,2
TRENCH7,111,GREY,DGR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-BASE PROF BS WORN,-,2
TRENCH7,111,GREY,JBK334,-,1,S?,-,RIM SOME CALC DENSE FAB,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,JBK334,-,1,V,-,BS CARIN AS LEA NO 16,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,JL,-,1,S?,-,RIM DITTO FAB LIDS,-,1
TRENCH7,111,GREY,L,BIAP,1,V,-,RIMS BS J DENSE FAB COARSE + CALC,-,3
TRENCH7,111,GREY,L,BIAP,1,V,-,RIMS J DITTO FAB OTHER LIDS,-,2
TRENCH7,111,NVCC,BKCOR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR CF RPNV32 LT BN FAB L2,-,1
TRENCH7,112,DWSH,JDW,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
TRENCH7,112,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
TRENCH7,112,GREY,JDW,-,1,S?,-,RIM FRAG,-,1
TRENCH7,112,GREY,JLS,-,1,V,-,RIM COARSE SLIGHT LS,-,1
TRENCH7,112,MOMH,MHK,-,1,S?,-,RIM,-,1
TRENCH7,112,MORT,M,-,1,S?,-,SPOUT GREYISH PALE FAB,-,1

TRENCH7,112,SAMCG,33,NAME,-,V,-,FTRG STAMP ELVILLUS LZ BURNT NO4,-,1
TRENCH7,113,BB1,CPL,-,1,S?,-,RIM BSS,-,11
TRENCH7,113,COAR,CP,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR SOME GROG,-,1
TRENCH7,113,DERB,JDBY,-,1,V,-,RIM,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,B42,-,1,S?,-,RIM FRAG,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,B?,-,1,S?,-,RIM FRAG GRITTY DENSE SOME GROG BLK SURF,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BGR,-,1,S?,-,RIM VABR NOT BB TYPE,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BGR,-,1,V,-,RIM FRESH NOT BB TYPE,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BIBF,-,1,V,-,RIMS-GIRTH,-,2
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BIBF,NOTC,1,V,-,RIM-FLANGE,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM GRITTY FAB SOME VOIDS CALC? SLIGHT WORN,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BWM,-,1,S?,-,RIM-GIRTH,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BWM,-,1,V,-,RIM FINE THIN WALLED,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,BWM,LA,1,V,-,RIM-GIRTH COARSE WORN INT LGE VESS,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,CP,-,1,S?,-,RIM FRAG GRITTY DENSE SOME GROG BLK SURF,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,CP,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR SMALL VESS,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,CP,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR SOOTED EXT,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,CP,-,1,V,-,RIM FRAG,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,CP,LA,1,S?,-,BSS BASE J WMADE SOME V WORN SMASH NO RIM,-,13
TRENCH7,113,GREY,DPR,-,1,S?,-,RIM SMALL VESS,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,J,LA,1,S?,-,BS BASAL,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JBK334,-,1,V,-,BS CF LEA NO 15 W GROOVE,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JBK334,-,1,V,-,RIM-BASE PROF,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JCUR,-,1,S?,-,RIM FRAG GRITTY DENSE SOME GROG BLK SURF,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JCUR,-,1,S?,-,RIM-SHLDR SMALL VESS BK?,-,1
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JCUR,-,1,S?,-,RIMS J - SHLDR VABR,-,2
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JCUR,-,1,V,-,RIMS-GIRTH SMASH GRITTY DENSE SOME GROG BLK SURF AS IN,118?,29
TRENCH7,113,GREY,JNN?,-,1,S?,-,RIM-NECK,-,1
TRENCH7,113,IAGR,CLSD,COL? SL,1,V,-,BS SCORED ARC OVER COL IA,-,1
TRENCH7,113,SAMCG,33,NAME,-,V,-,FTRG STAMP MARCUS LZ 160-200 NO6,-,1
TRENCH7,113,SAMCG,CU23?,NAME,-,S?,-,FTRG STAMP FRAG M(ANU) LZ NO6,-,1
TRENCH7,119,GREY,CP,-,1,V,-,RIM BE J -GIRTH V COARSE SOME VOIDS CALC TEMPER,-,2

2.7 TRENCH 8

Table 9: The total % of fabrics from Trench 8

No. shs	%	Fabric
1	100.00%	SAMCG

1	100.00%	TOTAL

Most of the sherds from this trench were too friable and undiagnostic to provide any dating evidence. However, a sherd of Central Gaulish samian suggest that there was mid-late Second century activity here at some point.

3. SUMMARY AND FURTHER RESEARCH

As noted in the field report this site is valuable because of its proximity to other Roman sites in the area, notably Cromwell villa, but also the Roman town of MARGIDUNUM. Further pottery research would entail comparison of the material from Besthorpe with these sites, especially in terms of the fabrics and forms but also any differences between the ceramic markets. As noted in 1 (above) the pottery from Besthorpe shows affinities with nearby kilns at Lea and Newton on Trent as well as with products from the kilns at Lincoln. Comparison between Besthorpe and Lincoln assemblages of the same date would highlight the differences between urban and rural settlements, and provide useful information about the hinterland of the City. The relatively high incidence of samian from Besthorpe indicates that it was a rural site of some status.

A particular interest is the incidence of Iron Age pottery in Area 2 which is worthy of further research and comparison with the Dragonby assemblages. The large assemblages from Area 4 and Area 7 should be studied in detail for comparison with the above nearby Roman sites. They would stand on their own

SHAPES:	No. of fragm.	STAMPS/WORKSHOPS:
Drag 33	- 4	Marcus, Elvillus (Lezoux)
Drag 18/31	- 1	
Drag 18/31 or 31	- 2	
Drag 31	- 2	Mansuetus (Lezoux)
Drag 32	- 1	
Drag 37	- 2 (?)	Divixtus (Lezoux)

The samian is mostly of second half of the second century, from central Gaul, most probably from Lezoux. One fragment (043/1) could be from an East Gaulish workshop.

Bibliography:

Stanfield-Simpson, J.A. Stanfield and Grace Simpson, Central Gaulish Potters, London 1958.

Oswald, F. Oswald, Index of Figure-Types on Terra Sigillata, Liverpool 1936-7.

Dating of stamps after B. Dickinson and B.R. Hartley from various excavation reports.

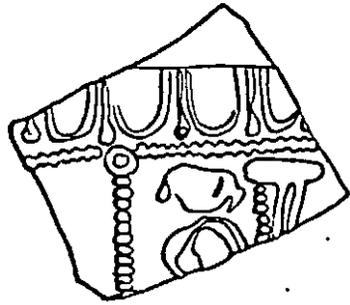


Fig. 1. Scale 1:1

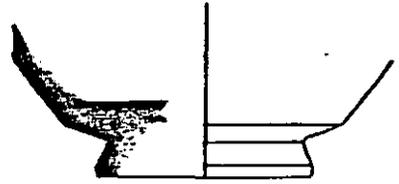


Fig. 2. Scale 1:2

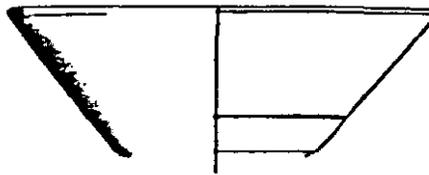


Fig. 3. Scale 1:2



Fig. 4. Scale 1:2, stamp 1:1



Fig. 5. Scale 1:1



Fig. 6. Scale 1:1

APPENDIX 4

TRENT & PEAK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Flintwork from evaluations by Tempus Reparatum by Ferry Lane Farm,
NONEBE 82

Areas 1-4 are trial trenches within field 1: object nos 28-36, 40. This material conforms with the groups already identified from field 1. The earlier group would include the blades (33,40) the plunging flake from a blade core (29) and the end-scraper (30). No. 29 has had the butt removed, possibly intentionally, and has suffered heavy edge-damage (some probably recently); the form of the core and size of the blade scars, and the truncation of the butt are all features of Mesolithic flintworking. No. 40 is white flint (not corticated) with edge-damage caused by use on both sides. The later group would include the end scraper (34) and the calcined flake (36). No. 35 is a natural, rolled, piece that has been calcined.

Trench 8 is on a sand dune that has had ridge and furrow superimposed: object nos 37-9. No. 37 is plough-bashed, no. 39 has recent edge-damage and has been burnt. The blade (39) would fit with the earlier group of field 1.

Comment

The small number of pieces precludes anything other than tentative dating and functions, but the diagnostic pieces do suggest two basic groupings from all the units investigated. Pieces indicative of such long time-spans are not uncommon from flintworking collections, but the relatively high proportion of material assignable to the earlier group (Mesolithic/Early Neolithic) is of interest since it is often later, or undiagnostic material, which swamps it. The first recommendation is to

THIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION OF THE TRUST.

Daryl Garton for T&PAT May 1992.

APPENDIX 5

Besthorpe NONEBE92

Faunal Analysis.



For:
Tempvs Reparatvm

By:
J. F. Hamshaw-Thomas M.Sc. P.I.F.A.

Besthorpe Faunal Assemblage.

The small faunal assemblage recovered consisted of 317 fragments of bone and tooth, of which only 10% were identifiable to species and element. This gave a total of 40 recorded anatomical units- table 1 (Halstaed *pers. com.*, Hamshaw-Thomas *in prep.* for methodology).

As is typical of archaeological sites in the Trent valley, ossified material is rare and poorly preserved. The material from Besthorpe exhibited a soft and highly brittle surface texture, often only held together by the surrounding matrix. This accounts for the high incidence of new breaks. As an index preservation, loose teeth (and fragments of) constituted 18% of all unidentifiable material. Compared to 3% for Mill Farm, a Romano-British site in the Ouse valley, Bedfordshire (Hamshaw-Thomas 1991).

The recorded species range is not atypical for the Romano-British period. Likewise the range of skeletal elements, including fragments of horn core, rib and vertebra in the unidentified category, shows no unusual features.

Variations in the age at death within the sample is hinted at by the presence of an unfused sheep/goat humerus, loose d4 teeth and worn posterior cusps of M3 teeth.

All the dog (*Canis familiaris*), except for the mandible are from context number 125. Associated with the recorded material were 7 lumbar vertebra, 3 thoracic vertebra and a sacrum, all from the same individual. Such anatomical consistency suggests the discrete deposition of a once complete skeleton.

The total length measurement for the complete left femur (138mm.) shows the animal to be slightly smaller than the mean for Romano-British dogs, with an estimated shoulder height of 42 cm. (Harcourt 1974). The dog mandible from context 113 is also a small individual (length of M1 being 16.5 mm.).

The goose (*Anser anser*) material could not be differentiated between truly domestic, and Greylag sub-species (Parker 1988:203). The material, all from context 111, appears to be from one individual. The goose is not an unusual find on Romano-British sites, but to survive in such a hostile depositional environment is surprising.

Surface modification by carnivores could be observed on some material but was not quantified. Only one bone, a cattle head of femur (context 112) bore possible cut marks. 2.8% of the assemblage showed signs of burning. No pathological conditions were observed.

Table 2 shows the spatial patterning of bone survival, with 85% of the identifiable material coming from trench 7. This is a direct result of variations in the sub-surface geology. Therefore the area of the site sampled by trench 7 offers most potential for future work. The sample may be maximised with the use of an on-site consolidant such as polyvinyl acetate (PVA) (Brothwell 1981:10). It is likely that areas 2, 3 and 4 will always produce material of particularly poor quality.

At present the assemblage is of limited value. However of greater significance is the potential to recover a large faunal sample from a geographical area largely devoid of such economic data.

	Sheep/ Goat	Cattle	Horse	Dog	Goose
Humerus p.		1			
Humerus d.	1	1			2
Radius p.					
Radius d.		1	1		
Ulna p.		1			1
Metacarpal p.		1			
Metacarpal d.		1			
Pelvis		1		2	
Femur p.		2		2	
Femur d.				2	
Tibia p.	1	1			2
Tibia d.	1	1			
Metatarsal p.		1			
Metatarsal d.					
Metapodial p.				1	
Metapodial d.	1			1	
Calcaneus		1			
Phalanx 1			1		
Phalanx 3		1			
Mandible				1	
M3	1	3			
d4		1			
Total	5	19	2	9	5

Table 1. Number of recorded anatomical units. Besthorpe.

	Area	context	A	B	C
1	Area 2	18	8		
2	Area 4	43/4	18	30	2
3	Area 4	43/2	6	9	1
4	Area 3	35	6		1
5	Area 3	35	2	1	1
6	Trench 7	108		11	
7	Trench 7	108		12	
8	Trench 7	110	2	9	
9	Trench 7	111	2	38	7
10	Trench 7	112	4	34	6
11	Trench 7	113	2	56	7
12	Trench 7	115			1
13	Trench 7	115		9	1
14	Trench 7	119	6	7	1
15	Trench 7	124	1		
16	Trench 7	125	2	9	5

A Tooth fragments, B Unidentifiable (excluding teeth), C Identifiable

Table 2. Spatial patterning of faunal material.

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TEMPVS REPARATVM

Archaeological and Historical Associates Limited

29 BEAUMONT STREET
OXFORD OX1 2NP

Tel: 0865 311046

Fax: 0865 311047

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