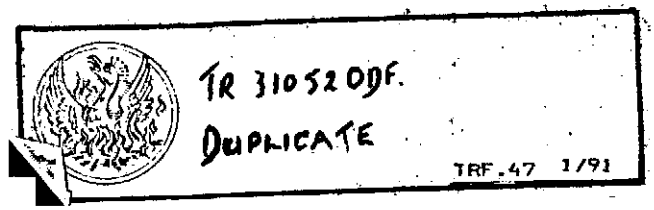
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DUPLICATE
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see also Dr 172

Trenches (6, 7,) 9-15
+ Area 5, 6, 7
Mons Pool end.

(E526)

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TEMPVS REPARATVM

Archaeological and Historical Associates

REPORT ON EVALUATION WORK AT:

BESTHORPE QUARRY
BESTHORPE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(TR 31052ODF – 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:

J R Hunn BA PhD AIFA

Tempvs Reparatvm 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

15 March 1993

TEMPVS REPARATVM
Archaeological and Historical Associates Limited

29 BEAUMONT STREET
OXFORD OX1 2NP

TEL: 0865 311046
FAX: 0865 311047

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TRP 91 10/92

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

LIST OF FIGURES

1.0 PROLEGOMENA

1.1 Personal and organisational qualifications

1.1.1 Tempvs Reparatvm Ltd. is involved with various aspects of the nation's heritage. Since its formal incorporation in July 1988, it has undertaken work for a wide range of clients, including Charles Church Developments PLC, Mobil Oil Company, Thames Water Ltd, Laing Homes, and Twigden Homes Ltd. Tempvs Reparatvm are archaeological consultants to Redland Aggregates Ltd and are their preferred archaeological contractors. Tempvs Repartvm also publishes British Archaeological Reports and other books and pamphlets on archaeological and historical subjects.

1.1.2 Jonathan R Hunn is Projects Manager of the Archaeological Field Services Department. Before joining the company in June 1992 he worked for various local and national archaeological organisations in his capacity as Field Officer and Project Manager, including post-excavation management. He has an extensive knowledge of multi-period sites covering a wide range of soils and terrain. His specialist interest is in the multi-period nature of landscape change.

1.2 The commission

1.2.1 This element of the field evaluation, commissioned by Redland Aggregates Ltd, was undertaken by Tempvs Reparatvm between 9 November and 4 December 1992.

1.2.2 J R Hunn directed site activities and was assisted by M Coxah as site supervisor. A further four senior archaeological technicians (all of 'supervisor' experience and expertise) made up the field team.

1.2.3 The specifications for the archaeological evaluation of the site were determined after consultation with the County Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire, M Bishop, by Dr C E Howlett for Tempvs Reparatvm.

1.3 In connection with the present commission

1.3.1 The archaeological work hereupon reported represents work supplementary to the field evaluation of the whole application area (Phase 1) undertaken between February and mid-April 1992 and reported upon in detail in Tempvs Reparatvm document **TR 31052ODC**. This report following should be read in the light of **TR 31052ODC**.

1.3.2 In the light of the results of the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation undertaken in Spring 1992, it was decided that supplementary evaluation work should be carried out in the area of a large field of permanent grassland lying in the north of the application area, to the south of Mons Pool and to the south of the unmade (un-named) track demarcating the northern boundary of the application area.

1.3.3 This further evaluation (Phase 2) was to consist of a) geophysical survey and b) trial trenching of a suspected Romano-British site. The

specifications for b) were formulated in the light of the results from a) (Fig 6).

1.3.4 This report presents the geological and archaeological context of the second phase of evaluation, the strategy underlying the archaeological trial trenching and the detailed findings. Presented as appendices are: detailed trench and context description, comparative finds recovery tables, archaeological object catalogue, pottery report, an assessment of the pottery from the accumulated material from Mons Pool held at Newark Museum, samian stamp report, flint report, bone report, soils and environmental background analysis.

2.0 LOCATION AND LANDFORM

2.1 Site location

2.1.1 The National Grid Reference for the area of this second phase of the evaluation is SK 816 633.

2.2 Topography, geology and land–use of the application area

2.2.1 The application area as a whole 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). The NGR of the application area (centred) is SK 817 630.

2.2.2 The terrain of the application area as a whole is generally flat, mostly lying between 6 and 7.4 m OD.

2.2.3 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).

2.2.4 Much of the application 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. Sand dunes, of possibly post Bronze Age deposition, lie in the north–east of the application area. west !

2.2.5 The soils of the application area are gleyic brown earths (Arrow Series 543) and pelo–alluvial gleys over river gravels (Fladbury 2 813c) (Whimster 1989, 77).

2.2.6 Present land–use in the application area is predominantly arable, although the northern field (the subject of the Phase 2 evaluation) is under permanent pasture.

2.3 Topography, geology and land-use of the Phase 2 evaluation site

2.3.1 The evaluation site encompasses a large and considerably elevated sand dune which rises to 9.9 m OD at it highest point (Grattan 1992a; 1992b) and a generally level area of alluvium at around 6.3 m OD (Fig 2). At the time of the evaluation the site was set down to pasture.

3.0 KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 The known archaeology of the surrounds of the Phase 2 evaluation area

3.1.1 The Phase 2 evaluation area lies within the RCHM(E) Trent Valley aerial photographic survey (Whimster 1989). This is a 15 km strip of the flood plain from Newark-on-Trent in the south to Normanton-on-Trent to the north which 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).

3.1.2 The first phase of the evaluation of the application area confirmed the aerial photographic evidence for and interpretation of a Romano-British settlement at Ferry Lane Farm, which lay partly within the application area. This site lies some 700 m south-east of the Phse 2 evaluation area.

3.1.3 About 100 m north of the Phase 2 evaluation area, but outside the application area, a large quantity of ceramic material finds have suggested the presence of a Romano-British occupation site near Mons Pool.

3.2 The known archaeology of the Phase 2 evaluation area before trial trenching

3.2.1 The results of aerial photography carried out over the application area have been referred to elsewhere (TR 31052ODC). The photographs showed evidence of 'ridge and furrow' cultivation in the evaluation area but did not suggest the presence of any other remains. Observation on site revealed the presence of fairly well preserved 'ridge and furrow'.

3.2.2 The geophysical survey of the Phase 2 evaluation site (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992b) suggested that there was a wealth of archaeological features to be found on the highest ground in the survey area. In particular around NGR SK 8133 6348, an area of some 2 ha largely within the northern part of the site, revealed evidence for anomalies similar to those obtained in the previous geophysical survey carried out at Ferry Lane Farm (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992a). The anomalies were interpreted as a series of field boundaries, trackways, enclosures, pits and possibly kilns. Further it was suggested that a presumed increase in soil depth over part of the survey area might have resulted in a loss in archaeological detail at the edgs of the site.

4.0 STRATEGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The strategy for the evaluation trenching reported upon here was formulated in the light of the earlier phase of field evaluation of the application area undertaken in February, March and April 1992 (**TR 31052ODC**).

4.1.2 The location of the evaluation trenches was determined in the light of geophysical survey conducted in the evaluation area in accordance with a programme agreed with the County Archaeologist and after consultation with the County Archaeologist (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992b).

4.1.3 The general purpose of the evaluation trenching was to further investigate the probable settlement as identified by geophyscial survey with the following objectives:

1. determining the quality of preservation of the site
2. determining the date of archaeological features present
3. determining the depth of archaeological features present
4. determining the character of archaeological features present
5. determining the extent of archaeological features present

4.2 Trenches

4.2.1 A range of trenches of different dimensions was opened by machine and further excavated by hand.

4.2.2 Two trenches, T6 and T7, had been excavated as part of the earlier phase of evaluation and reported on in **TR 31052ODC**. A further six linear evaluation trenches (T9 to T14) and three evaluation areas (A5 to A7) were specified. Following early results and discussions in the field with the County Archaeologist, an additional linear trench was excavated (T15) (**Fig 4**).

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeology proved to be more complicated than that revealed by the geophysical survey. However, in broad terms the survey provided a sufficiently accurate forecast for the presence/absence of archaeological features to be determined on most of the site with the exception of the eastern edge.

5.1.2 On the eastern side of the evaluation site (**Figs 4 5 6**) the deposit of alluvium appears to have been sufficiently thick (1.2 m) to have

prevented the detection of a major N–S boundary alignment ([1045] [1047] [1049]). Indeed, the archaeology of all but the western end of Trench 12 (ie the archaeology is lying at a depth of greater than 1 m) is mostly invisible on the geophysical plot. This observation is supported by the evidence to the north in Trench 10. Here, the presence of probably post–medieval alluvium has inhibited the detection of another N–S boundary ditch. To the south in Trench 13 there is a broad correlation between the geophysical survey and the archaeology even though there was approximately 0.8 m of alluvium overlying several ditch cuts ([1205] [1207] [1209]).

5.1.3 The site is composed, almost entirely, of ditch or gully alignments. To judge by the surviving remnants of these ditches and the apparent absence of any associated banks it seems likely that some degree of truncation has taken place on the site. This was probably caused by the combined effects of continued ploughing and wind erosion. This has resulted in the obliteration of the archaeology in the north–west corner of the field (**Fig 6**).

5.1.4 Both Trench 6 and Trench 9 were devoid of archaeology and the organic layer (topsoil) was relatively thin (0.15 m to 0.25 m). In contrast, Trenches 7, 10, 11, 12, the northern half of Trench 15, A5, A6, and A7 had approximately one metre of overburden (medieval cultivation soil and alluvium). These apparently protecting layers of soil and alluvium were the product of a continual process over a long period of time.

5.1.5 How soon after the abandonment of the Romano–British settlement did the site become cultivated is not known. Nevertheless, the clearing and subsequent ploughing of the area resulted in the removal of the vegetation layer thereby exposing the light sandy soils to the effects of wind erosion. Before this had advanced very far those areas on the eastern slopes had been partially truncated by ploughing. However, the eastern side of the dune appears to have experienced the combined effects of wind deposition (sand particles) and alluvium (silty clay particles). These deposits sometimes appear quite distinct while in other situations they seem quite mixed.

5.2 Medieval cultivation soil

5.2.1 'Medieval cultivation soil' can be seen on **Fig 8**, [1013]; **Figs 11,12**, [1059]; **Fig 18**, [1089]; **Fig 16**, [1149]; **Fig 20**, [1169].

5.3 Alluvium

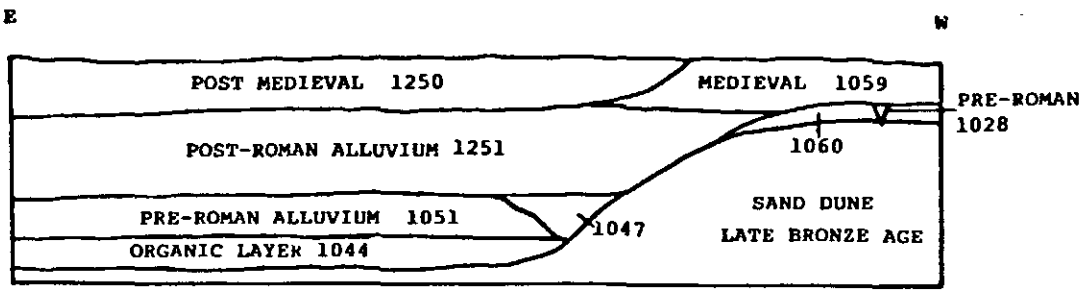
5.3.1 Alluvium deposits can be seen in **Fig 13**, T14, [1201], [1202], [1203], [1213], [1219], [1221]; **Fig 11**, T12, [1250], [1251]; **Fig 14**, T10, [1253], [1251], [1250]; **Fig 12**, T12, [1058].

5.3.2 It is not always possible to to distinguish between post–Roman and post–medieval alluvium. However it has been possible to make a distinction on **Fig 12** T12 where [1058] distinguishes a post–medieval accumulation. On **Fig 12**, T12 also distinguishes between the post–Roman alluvium ([1251]) and the post–medieval alluvium ([1250]). The most distinctive section of the alluvium was seen in Trench 10 **Fig 8.** . Here there is a pre–Roman alluvium ([1253]); a post–Roman

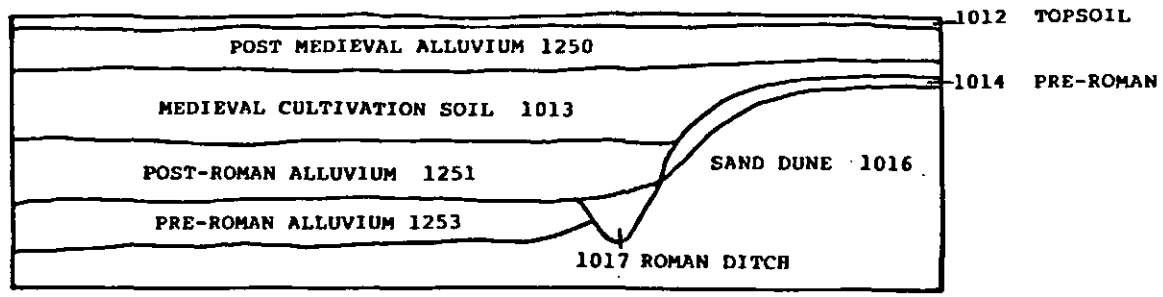
alluvium (1251) and a post–medieval alluvium ([1250]). Old land surfaces or possible pre–Roman deposits were distinguished in Trench 12 Fig 12, [1060] and Trench 10, Fig 8, [1014]; both these layers post–dated the sand dune. Trench 14, Fig 13, [1213] was a 'natural' deposit of silt. This may have been associated with [1051] in Trench 12 (Fig 12). Both [1213] (pink clay) and [1051] (brownish yellow silty clay definitely pre–date the Roman activity and post–date the sand dune ([1016] in T10; [1222] in T14).

5.3.3 The following schematic diagrams demonstrate these relationships.

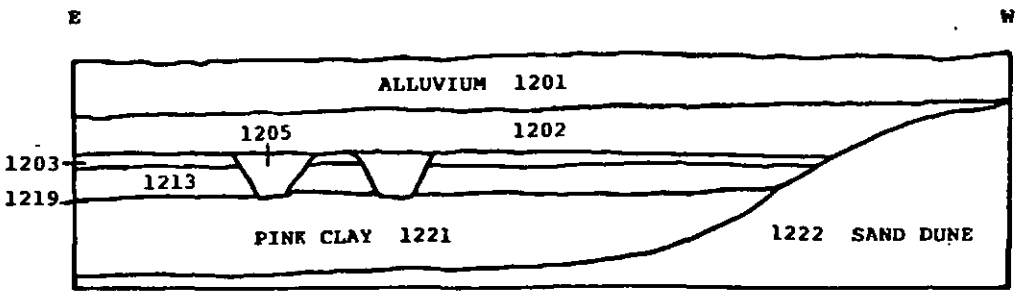
Schematic diagram of Trench 12 showing the relationship of deposits to the sand dune.



Schematic diagram of Trench 10 showing the relationship of the principal deposits to the sand dune.



Schematic diagram of Trench 14 showing the relationship of deposits to the sand dune.



5.3.3 The only other areas that evidence for the presence of alluvium was towards the western end of Trench 11 and at the eastern end of Trench 13. There was no sign of any alluvium in A5, A6, A7, Trench 9 or Trench 15.

5.4 The plan

5.4.1 The evaluation site (Fig 2), in its present form, lies between the 6.4 m and 9.4 m contour above OD and covers an area of approxiametly 225 m north/south x 125 m east/west ie. 2.8 ha (7 acres).

5.4.2 There is an indication of at least ten ditched enclosures varying in size from 750 sq m to 6000 sq m (1.5 acres). They appear to be confined to the northerly end of the sandy peninsula that lies close to and parallel with the River Trent less than 400 m to the west.

5.4.3 The plan of the site would seem to suggest a small collection of enclosures and droveways surrounding, or in the vicinity of, small rural dwellings.

5.4.4 No structural evidence for any building has been located nor has the presence of rubbish pits or wells been discovered. Roman tile and human skull fragments from Trench 15 alone indicate immediate human presence.

5.5 The finds

5.5.1 Table 1 in Appendix 2 shows the provenance and quantity of the ceramic and faunal material. It also offers, as a means of comparison, a method of comparing the relative concentration of pottery and bone material.

5.5.2 Table 2 in Appendix 2 is a summary of Table 1 which shows a comparison between the different Trench/Area excavations. For example, it shows that both Trench 12 and Area 6 had almost the same amount of work carried out on their stratified deposits yet Area 6 had almost double the quantity of ceramic evidence present. In terms of simple percentages the quantity of stratified pottery from each Trench/Area would be as follows:

A6 (34%); A5 (23.2%); A& (20.1%); Trench 12 (17.6%); Trench 10 (4.8%); Trench 14 (0.3 %).

5.5.3 When a comparison is made between the ratio of pottery to soil excavated, the following pattern emerges (the smaller the figure the less the volume of soil):

A5 – 1: 0.00070
A6 – 1: 0.00085
A7 – 1: 0.00157
T12 – 1: 0.00165
T10 – 1: 0.00259
T14 – 1: 0.00862

5.5.4 It can be seen that Area 5 has, in fact, the greatest concentration of stratified pottery on the site, more than double that of Area 7. These

figures tentatively suggest that there is a fall–off of the discard pattern from north to south. However, if a comparison is made between different Trenches/Areas and unstratified pottery, the picture is not quite so simple with Trench 15 containing 18.5% of the total pottery recovered. That is more than Area 5 with 12.2%

5.5.5 In order of the ratio of unstratified ceramics per cubic metre volume of soil excavated the pattern is as follows:

T15 – 1: 0.01109
A6 – 1: 0.01685
A7 – 1: 0.02520
A5 – 1: 0.03373
T10 – 1: 0.04740
T12 – 1: 0.05123
T14 – 1: 1.49062
T11 – 1: 7.12500

5.5.6 The most probable interpretation of these figures is that the central, more deeply buried area of the site contains the principal archaeological deposits. The fall–off in terms of the discard pattern is also to the east and west. The western periphery of the site has been eroded by soil loss while the eastern side has been more prone to flooding and hence alluvium build–up.

5.5.7 Table 3 is a simple illustration of the presence/absence of small finds (archaeological objects) from the settlement site. There is nothing unusual about the assemblage. The evidence indicates that there is potential to reveal meaningful data on the material standards of living of the inhabitants of the settlement.

5.5.8 The principal datable assemblage consists of Romano–British pottery with a few residual Iron Age sherds. Grey wares predominate with a smattering of samian and finer wares. The presence of some early Flavian samian in context, also the Trajanic potter's stamp on a Drag 18/31, indicate that the site was occupied at some point in the early Roman period. The majority of the pottery is broadly dated to the third century and the virtual absence of very late Roman assemblages points to the 3rd–early 4th centuries as the period of greatest activity on the site (see Appendices 4 and 6).

5.5.9 Of the five coins recovered, the four legible range in date from the late third to early fourth century, consistent with the pottery evidence above (see Appendix 3).

5.5.10 The small finds recovered were mainly utilitarian objects of iron although there was a single cosmetic item (tweezers) and a fragment of a dress brooch (see Appendix 3).

5.5.11 The acidic nature of the site is an important factor in the evaluation of its material assemblage. At Besthorpe there is a particular bias in favour of larger animal bones (ox/horse, sheep and pig). The fragmentry nature of the human skull and apparent lack of any other human bones is also further confirmation that the bone record will be distorted in favour of larger specimens (see Appendix 8).

5.5.12 A further implication is that the potential for the recovery of environmental data from the site is fairly limited. Unless, there are supporting data?

deep features, such as wells, there is little prospect of exposing waterlogged material. The recovery of carbonised material would help, to some extent, to redress the faunal imbalance (see Appendix 9).

5.5.13 The faunal remains were unremarkable and reveal more about the level of preservation on the site rather than anything about its economy.

5.5.14 In summary the finds were consistent with the interpretation of the site as a group of Romano–British smallholdings situated adjacent to the River Trent.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 General

6.1.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the following aspects of the site:

1. the quality of preservation
2. date of features
3. depth of features
4. character of features
5. extent of features

6.1.2 A total of 1647 sq metres was excavated.

6.1.3 The evaluation was able to answer all five of the above questions. These may be summarised as follows:

1. poor
2. Romano–British (1st – 4th centuries AD)
3. ranging from 0.1 to 1.1 m below visible cut – overburden varied according to location but could range from 0.2 to 1.0 m deep
4. ditch or gully type features
5. 28125 sq metres (2.8 ha or 7 acres)

6.1.4 Some 6.7% of the site has been sampled by trial trench or area excavation. On this basis it is possible to have some confidence in the nature of the surviving evidence.

6.1.5 Trial trenching has been able to show the relation of the archaeological features to the superficial geological deposits. They reveal that the alluvium does indeed mask some of the easternmost ditches up to the 6.6 m contour line. Nevertheless, it seems most probable that the settlement itself was confined to the ground above the 6.4 m contour. East of this line it is possible that some ditch alignments may exist as has been demonstrated in Trench 14. However, for the great majority of linear features that may be datable, most are likely to be located above the 6.4 m contour.

6.1.6 The area excavations (A5–A7) show that the site appears to consist of almost entirely linear features (ditches, gullys). The dark amorphous soils of the medieval cultivation horizon are too disturbed and loose to have retained any meaningful stratigraphy. The fragmentry human

skull found in Trench 15 reinforces the impression that the overlying soils have been re-sorted by both aeolian and human agencies.

6.1.7 The evidence recovered from the evaluation work suggests that the site has undergone some dramatic alterations during its depositional history. The causes of change may be listed as follows:

(these are all post sand dune deposition)

1. human occupation
2. abandonment of settlement
3. flooding along its eastern margins
4. cultivation (ridge and furrow)
5. soil erosion
6. continued build up of alluvium
7. abandonment of cultivation
8. implementation of pastoral farming

6.1.8 It is one thing to make simple observations on the probable sequence of events but quite another to account for the reasons behind human decision making. It has been said that 'archaeologists never recover an entire settlement pattern as it is observed by ethnographers and geographers' (Rowse 1972, 97). This is particularly true of the site under present consideration.

6.1.9 The material assemblage was modest, but enough to suggest that this small community was by no means isolated from the outside world. This is hardly surprising since it was located on one of the great arterial waterways of the East Midlands.

6.2 Summary

6.2.1 The site consists of a small irregular cluster of variably-sized enclosures probably associated with small rural dwellings. These would appear to date from the 1st to fourth century AD. Its location on a sand dune promontory with low lying ground adjacent to the River Trent make it an interesting example of marginal settlement. Its apparent abandonment at the end of the Roman period and subsequent cultivation in the Middle Ages is a graphic illustration of the results of changing land use pressures over time.

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FIGURES

Fig. 1a

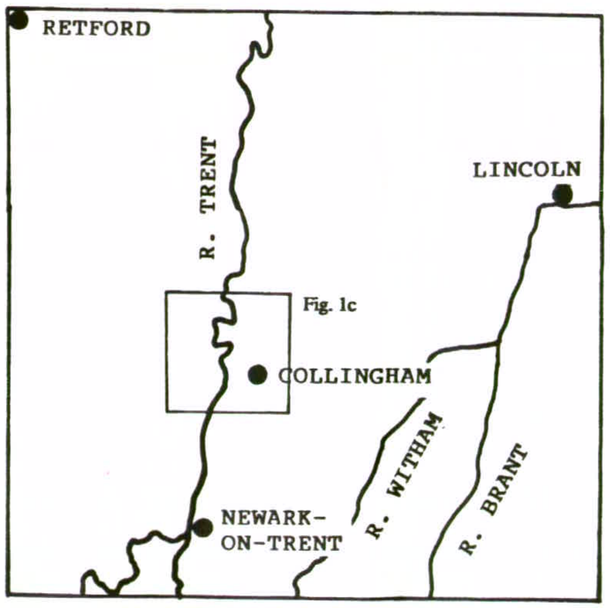

Fig. 1b

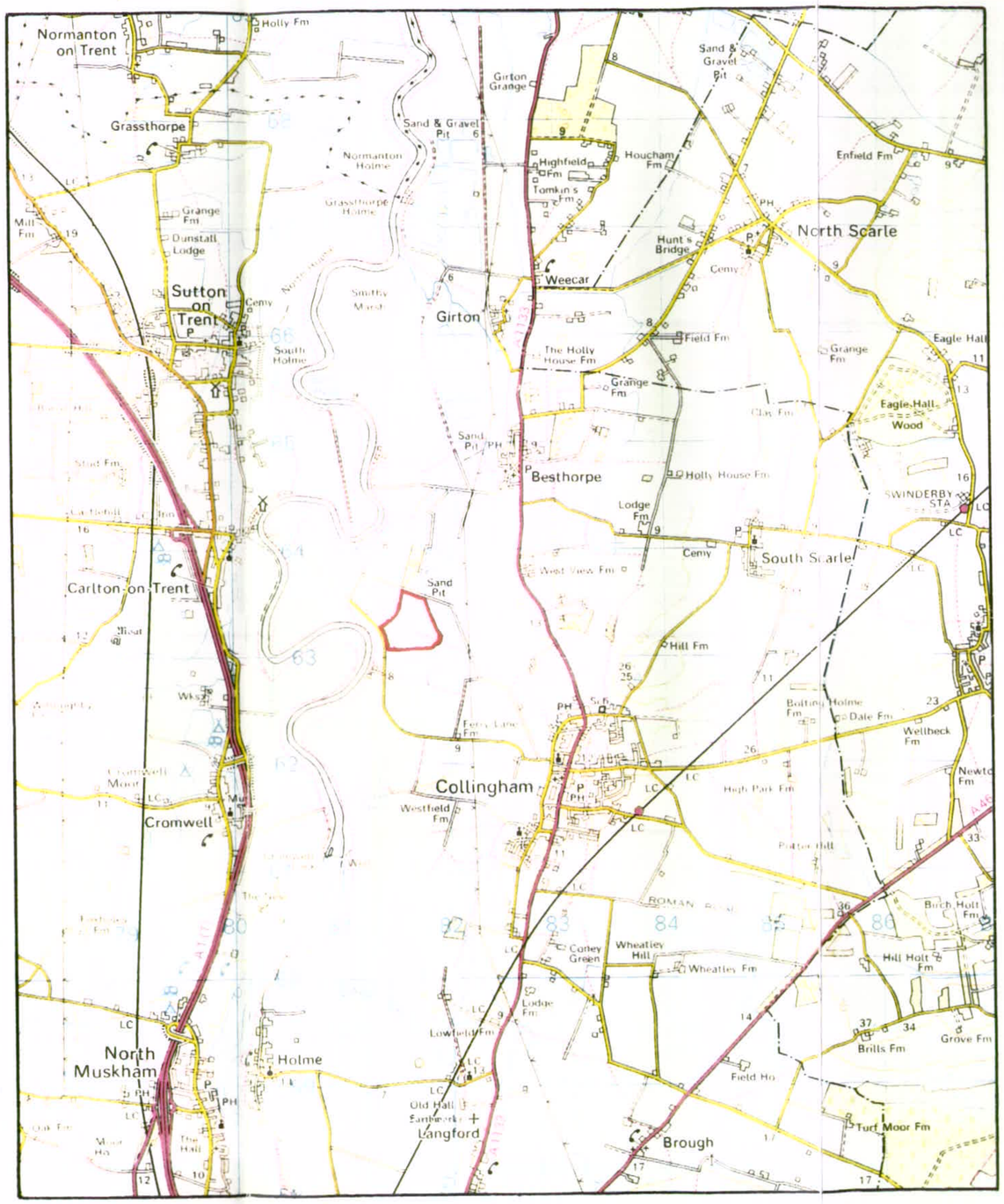

Fig. 1c

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NEWARK
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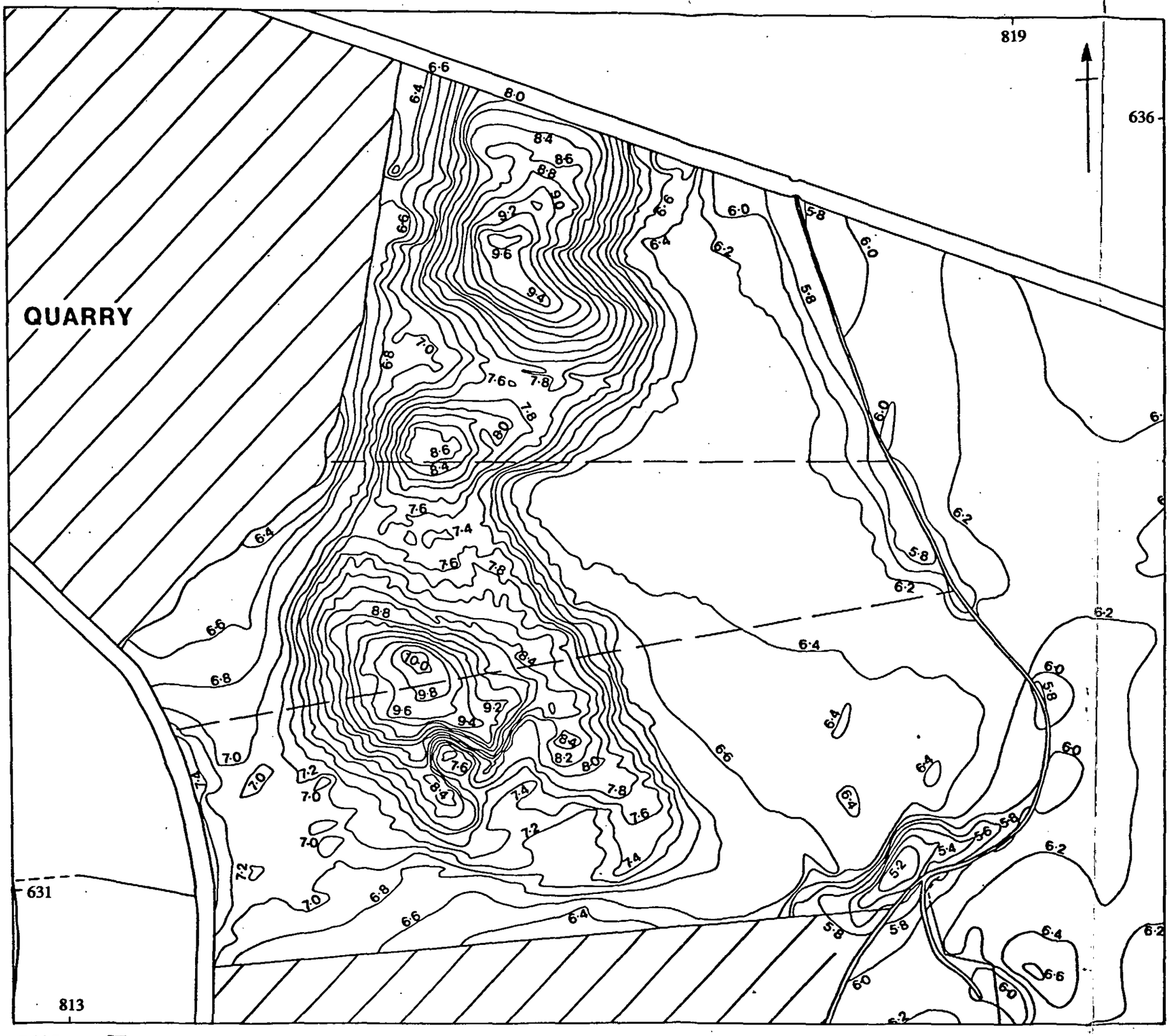

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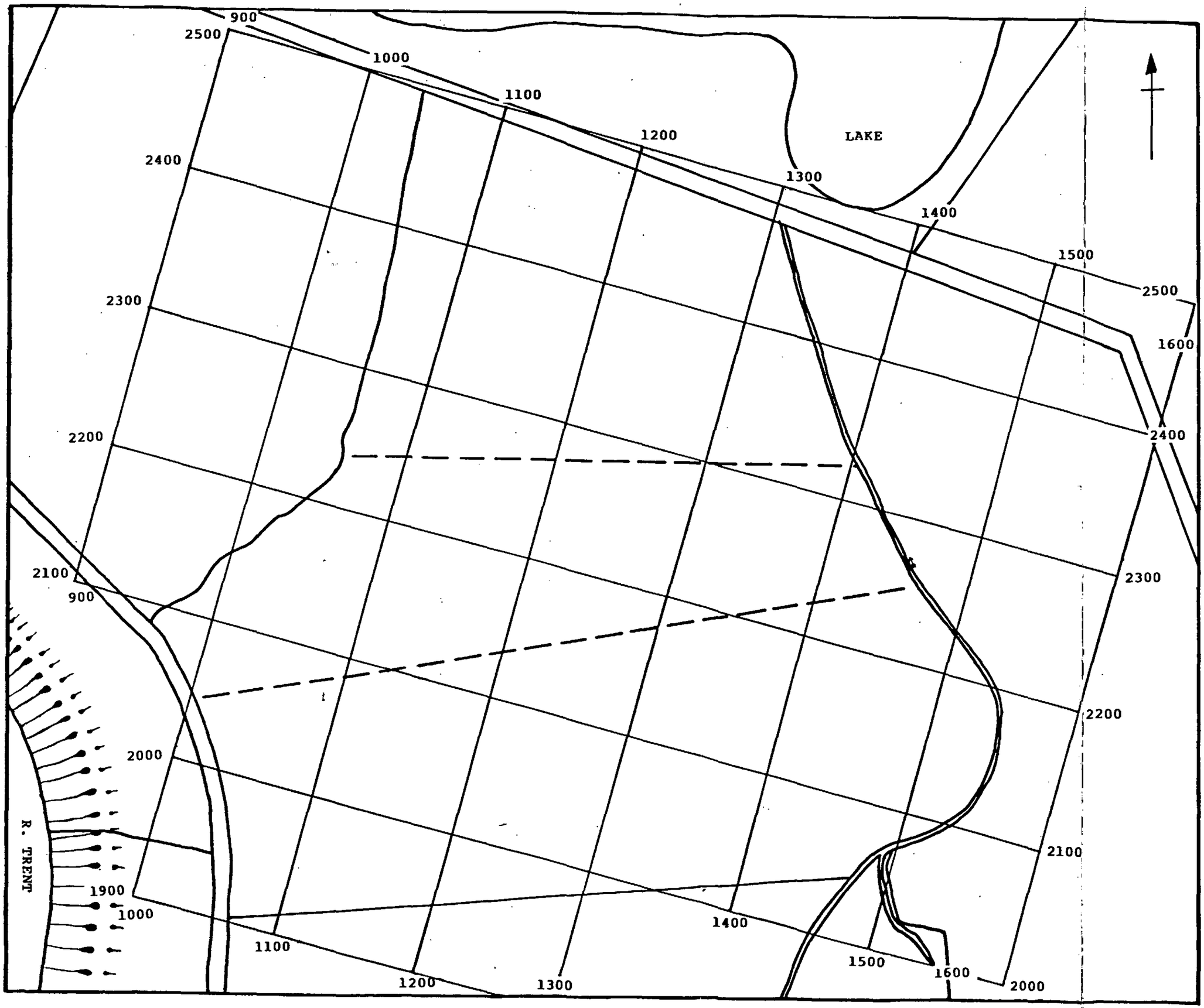

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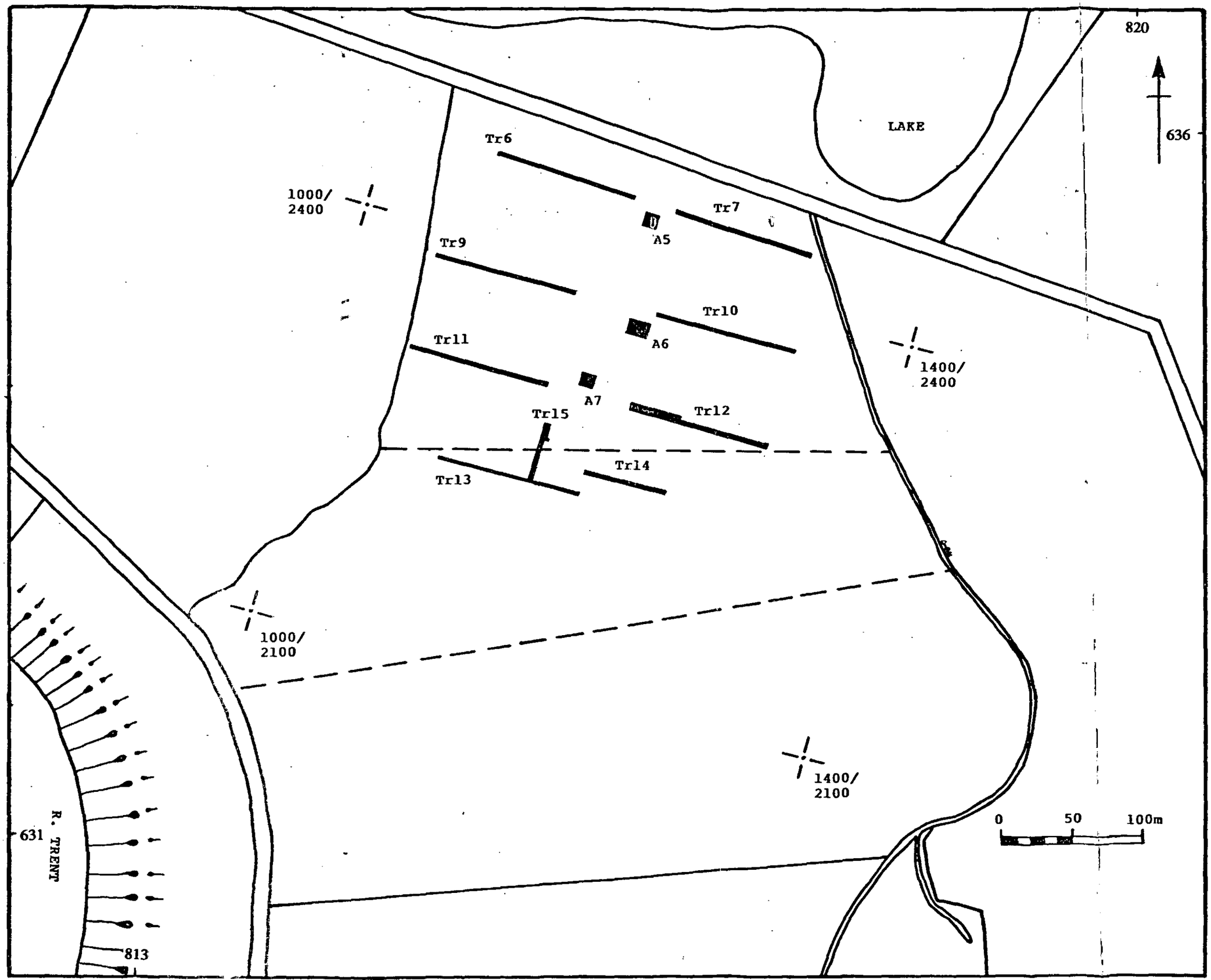

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BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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Trench layout

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Fig. 4
Project No: TR31052

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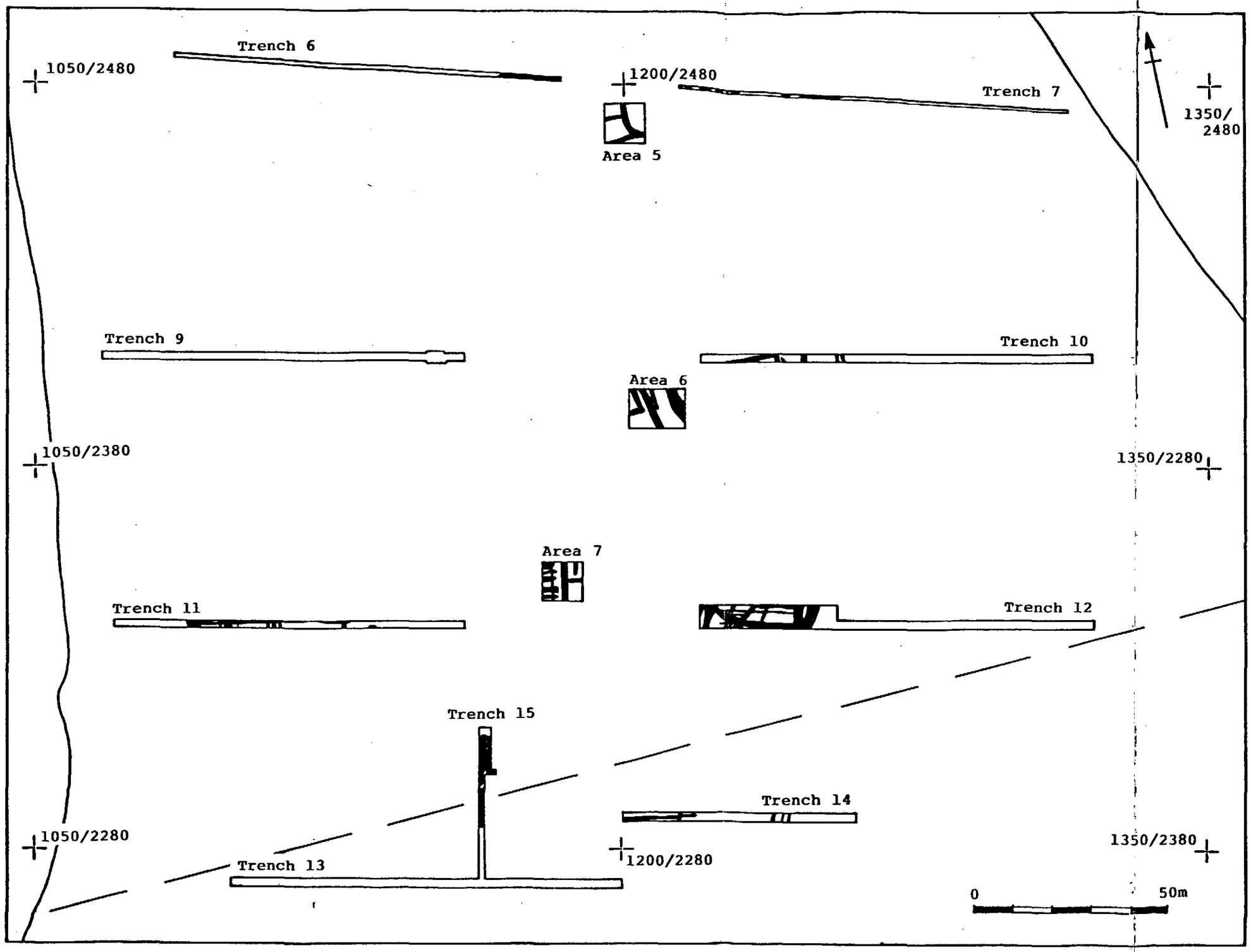

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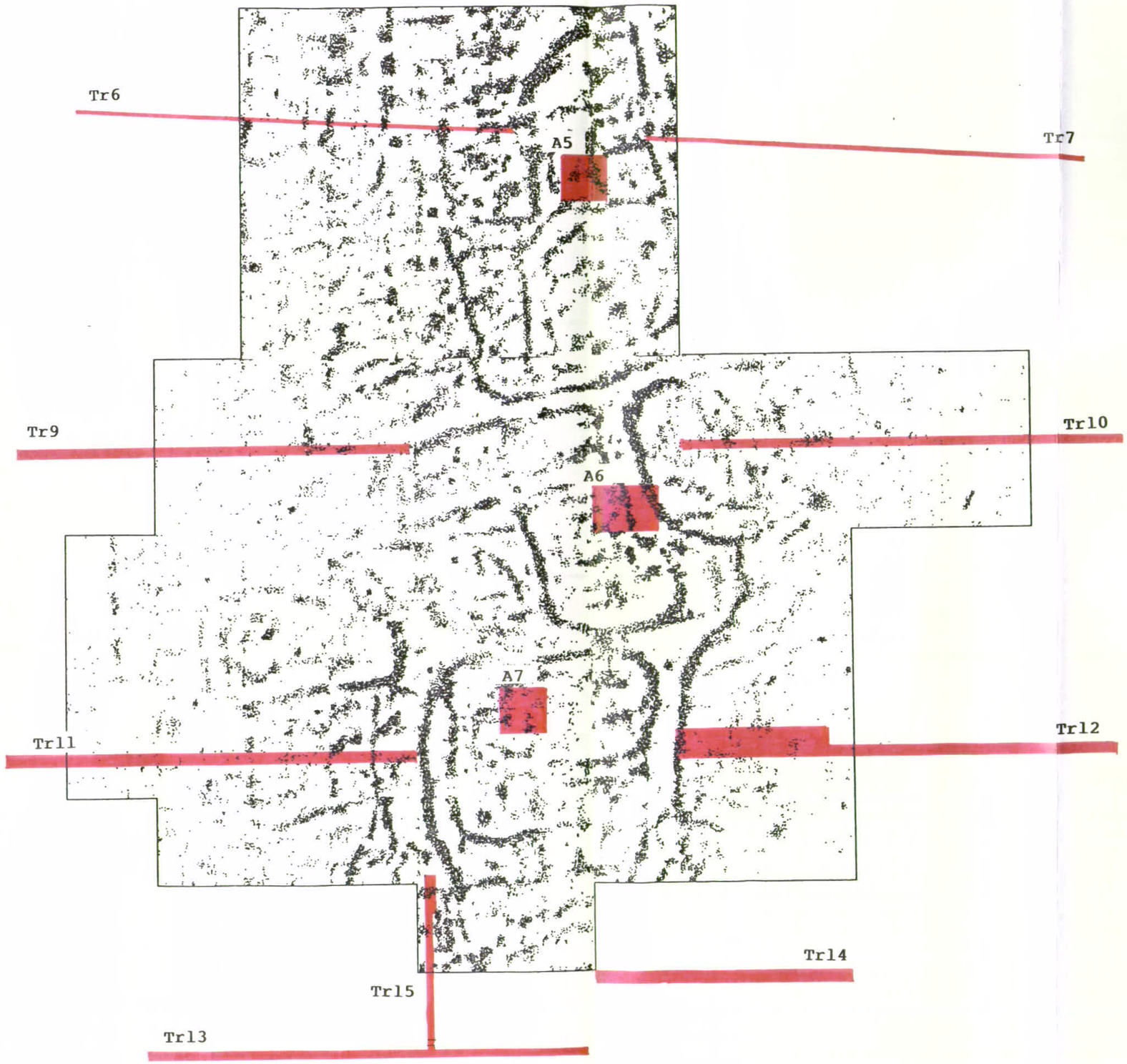

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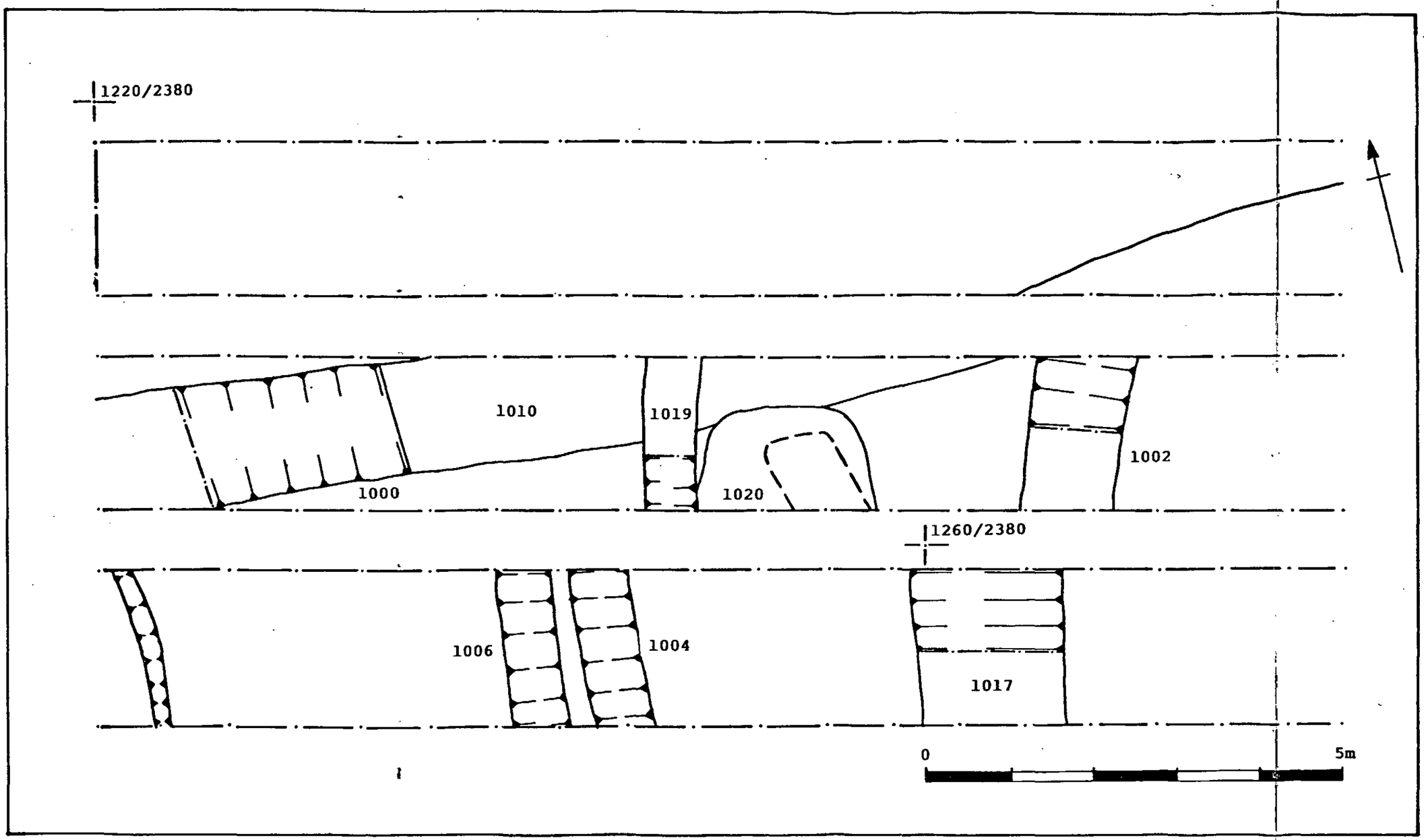
Drawn by:		

Project No: TR31052



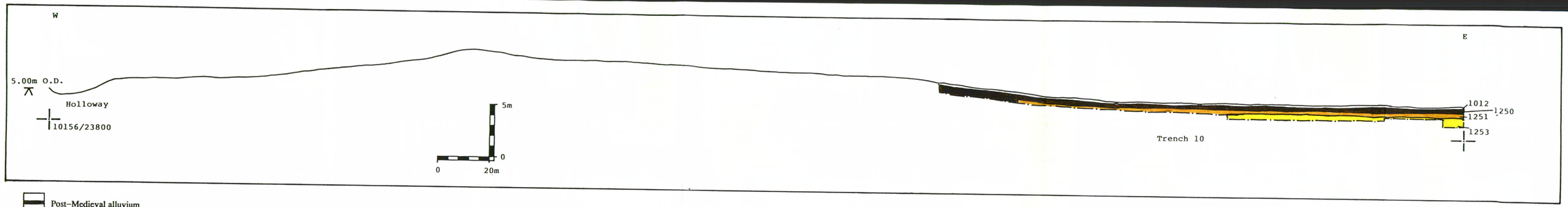
KEY

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Trench 10: plan

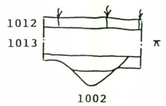
Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No: Fig. 7
Project No: TR31052



Post–Medieval alluvium

Post–Roman alluvium

Pre–Roman alluvium



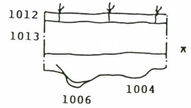
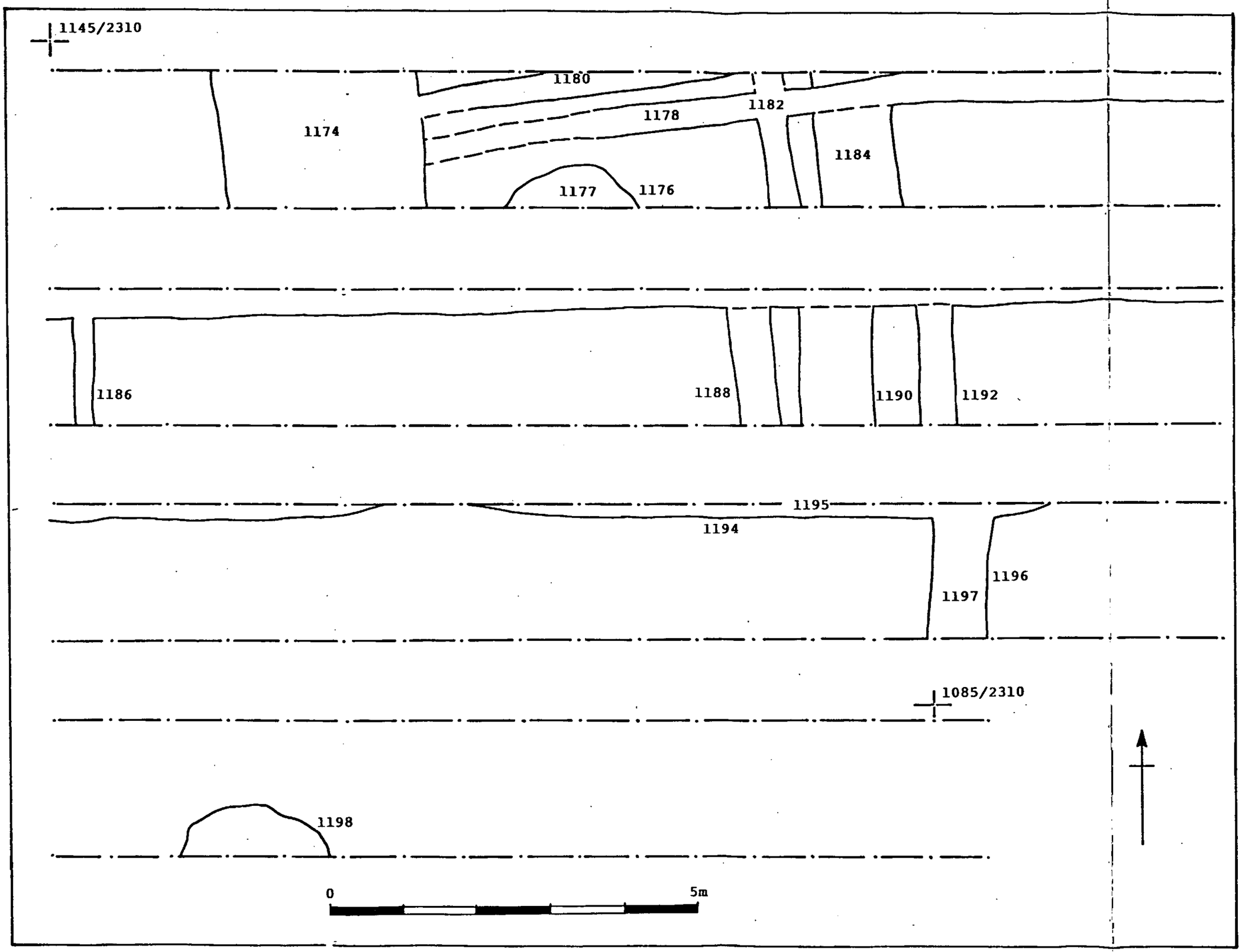


Fig. 8 Profile across sand dune showing section of trench 10 (vertical axis 1:20, horizontal 1:800) and sections of excavated features (1:50)



KEY

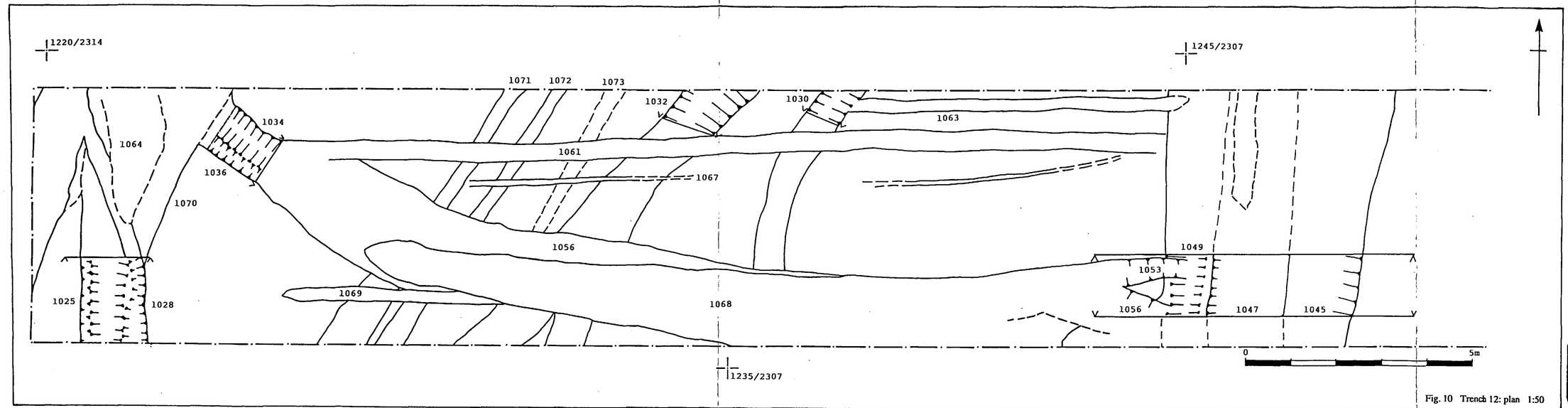
TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Trench 11: plan

Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No: Fig. 9

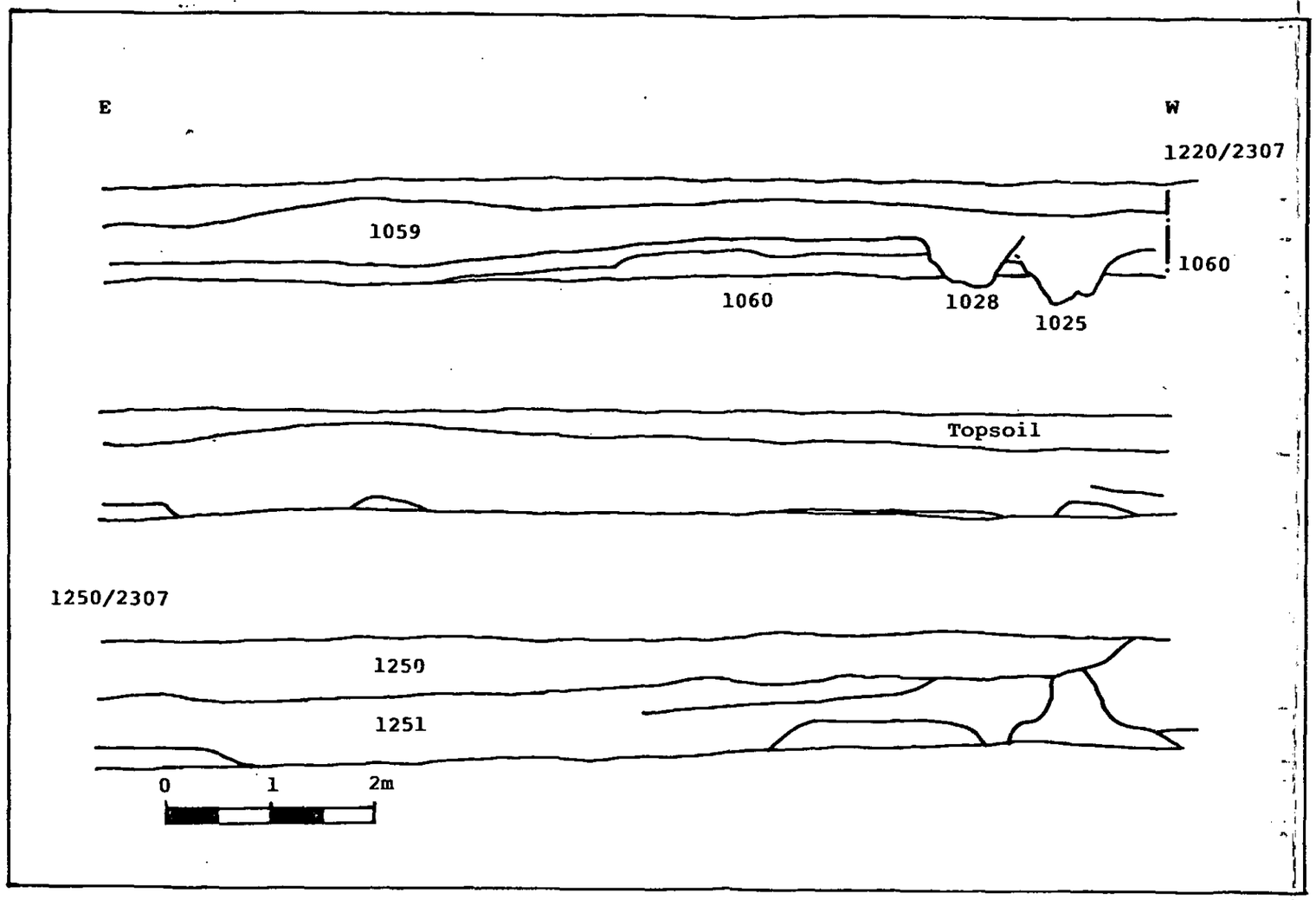
Project No: TR31052



TEMPVS REPARATVM

Project No: TR 31052

Fig. 10 Trench 12: plan 1:50



KEY

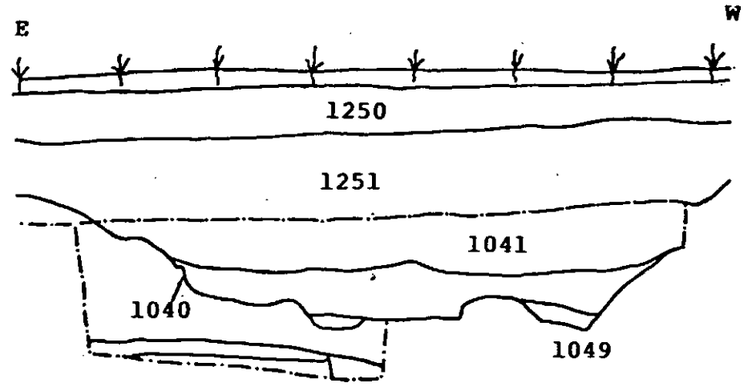
TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

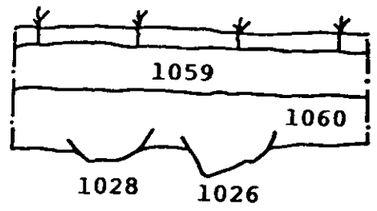
Title:
Trench 12: section

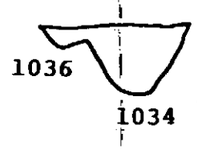
Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No:
Fig. 11

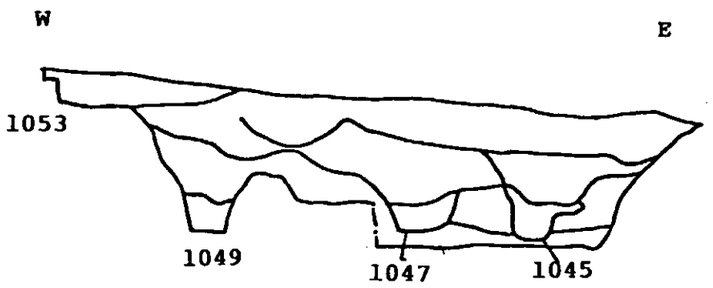
Project No: TR31052



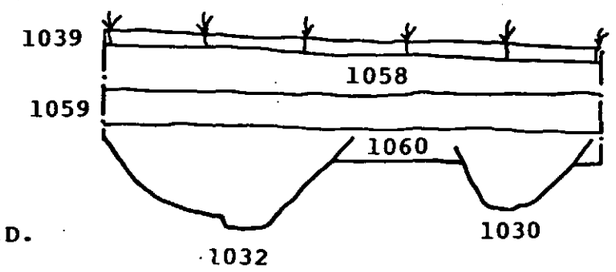
π 4.40m O.D.

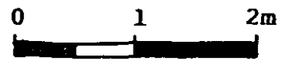






π 4.36m O.D.





KEY

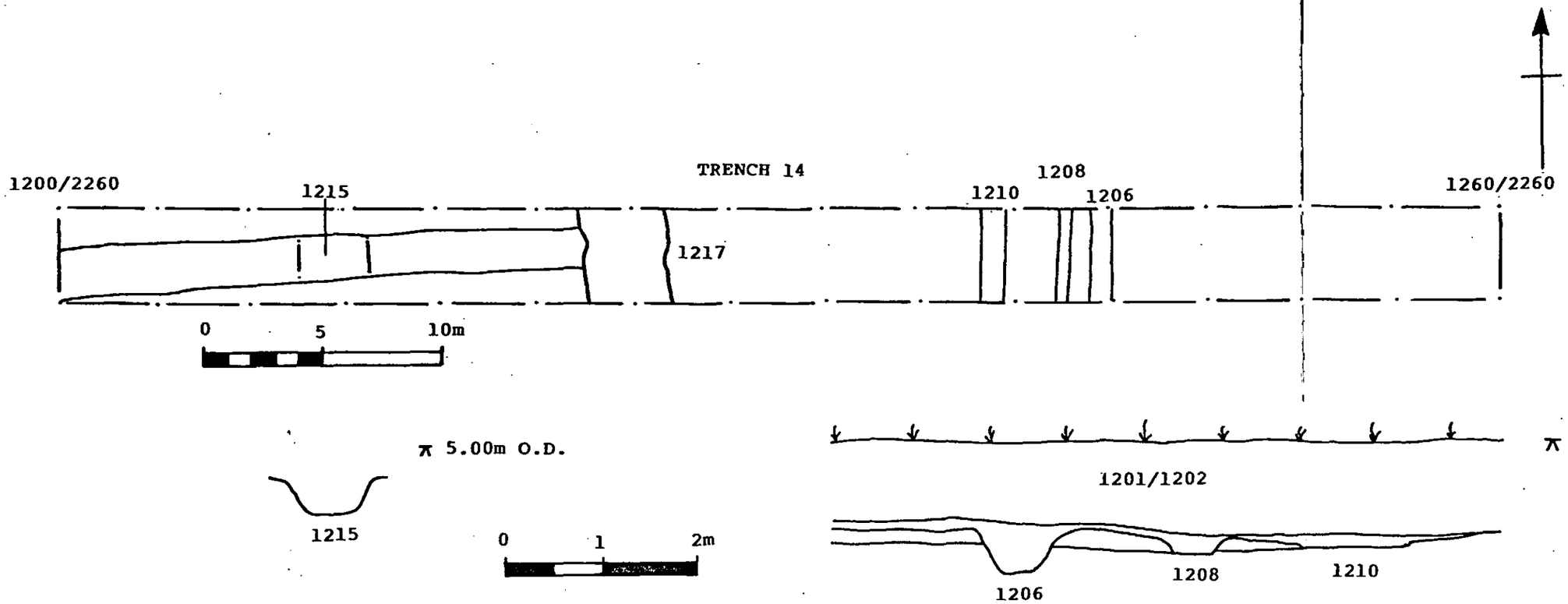
TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Trench 12:
detail of excavated sections

Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No:
Fig. 12

Project No: TR31052



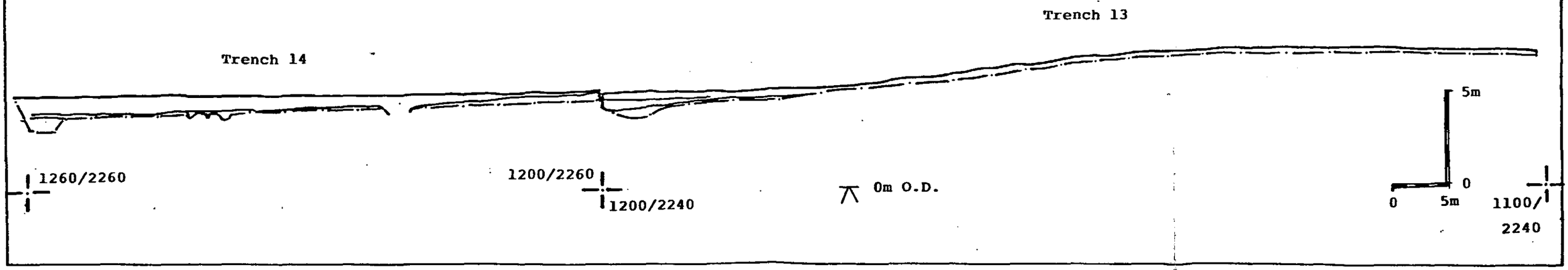
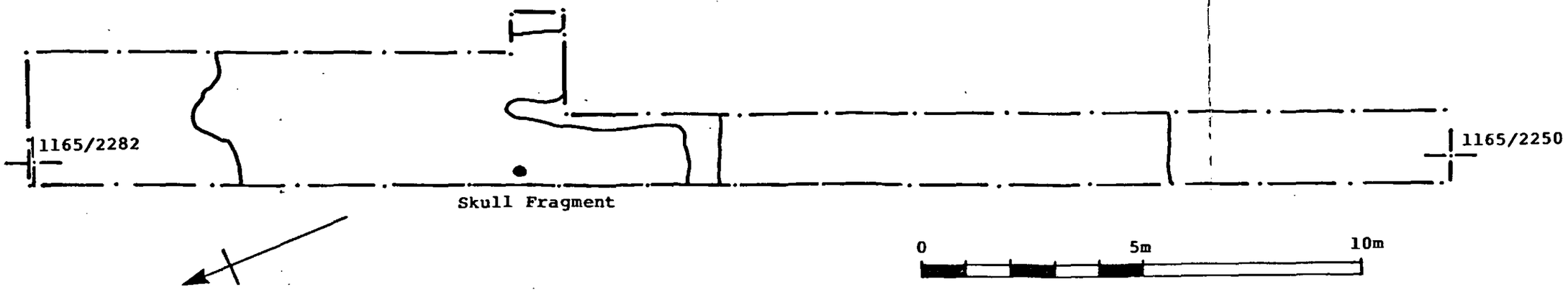


Fig. 13 Plan of Trench 14 (1:200); detail of excavated features (1:50); section of Trench 13 and 14 (vertical axis 1:200, horizontal axis 1:400)

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Project No: TR 31052



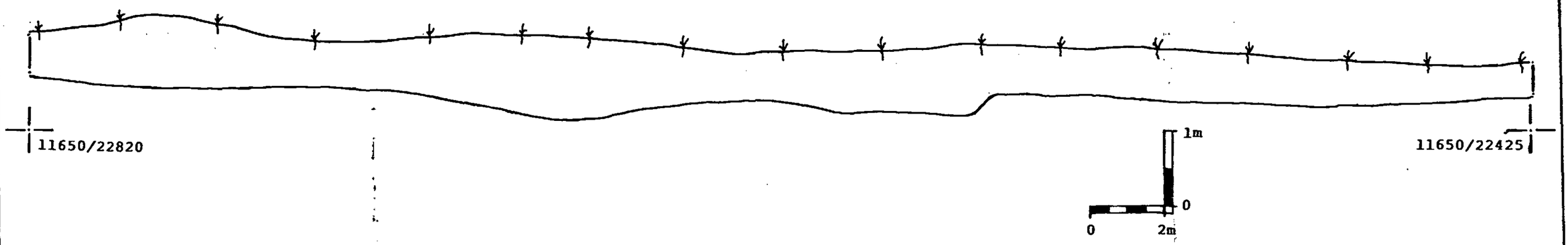
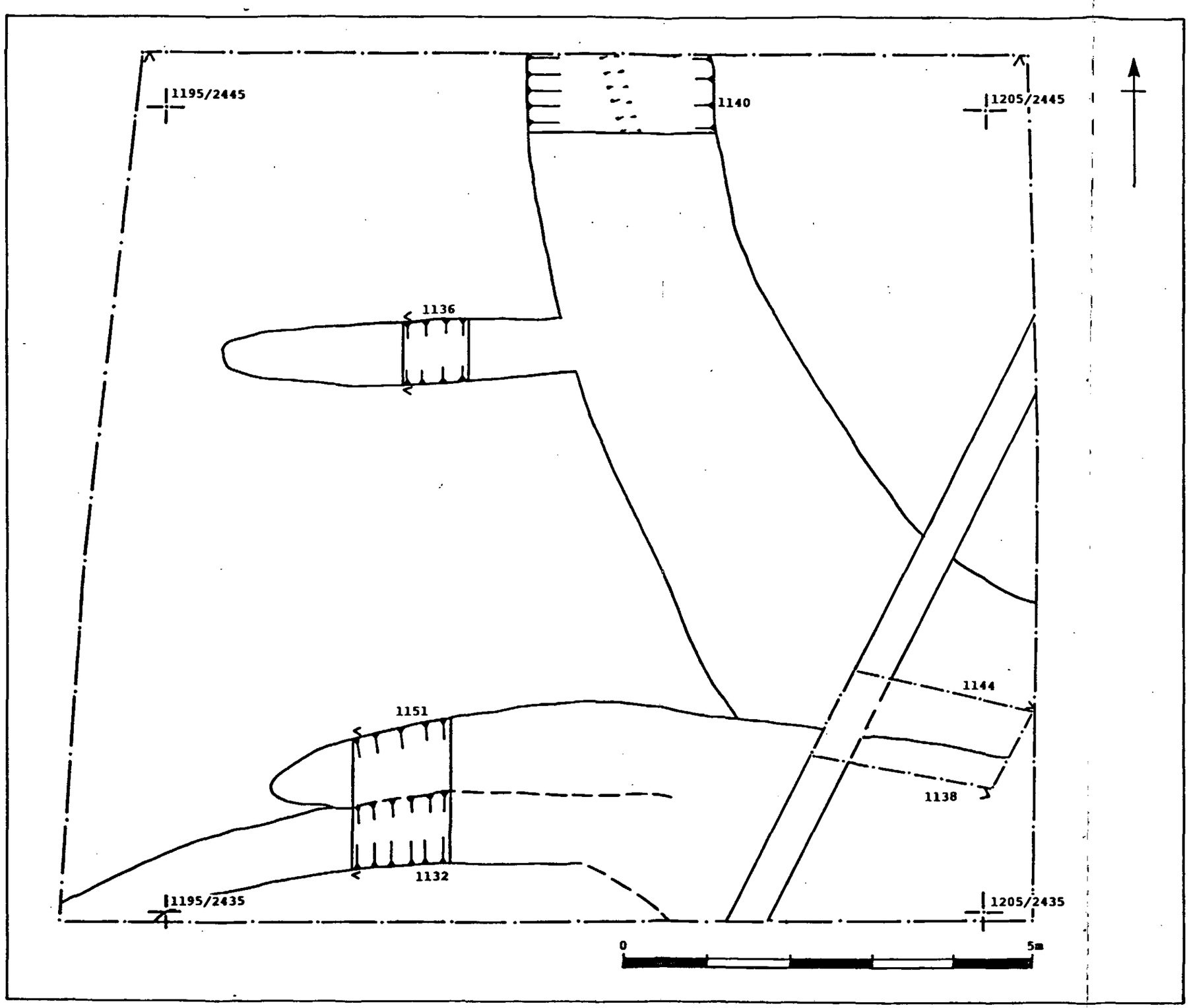


Fig. 14 Trench 15: plan (1:100) and profile (vertical axis 1:50, horizontal axis 1:100)

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Project No: TR 31052



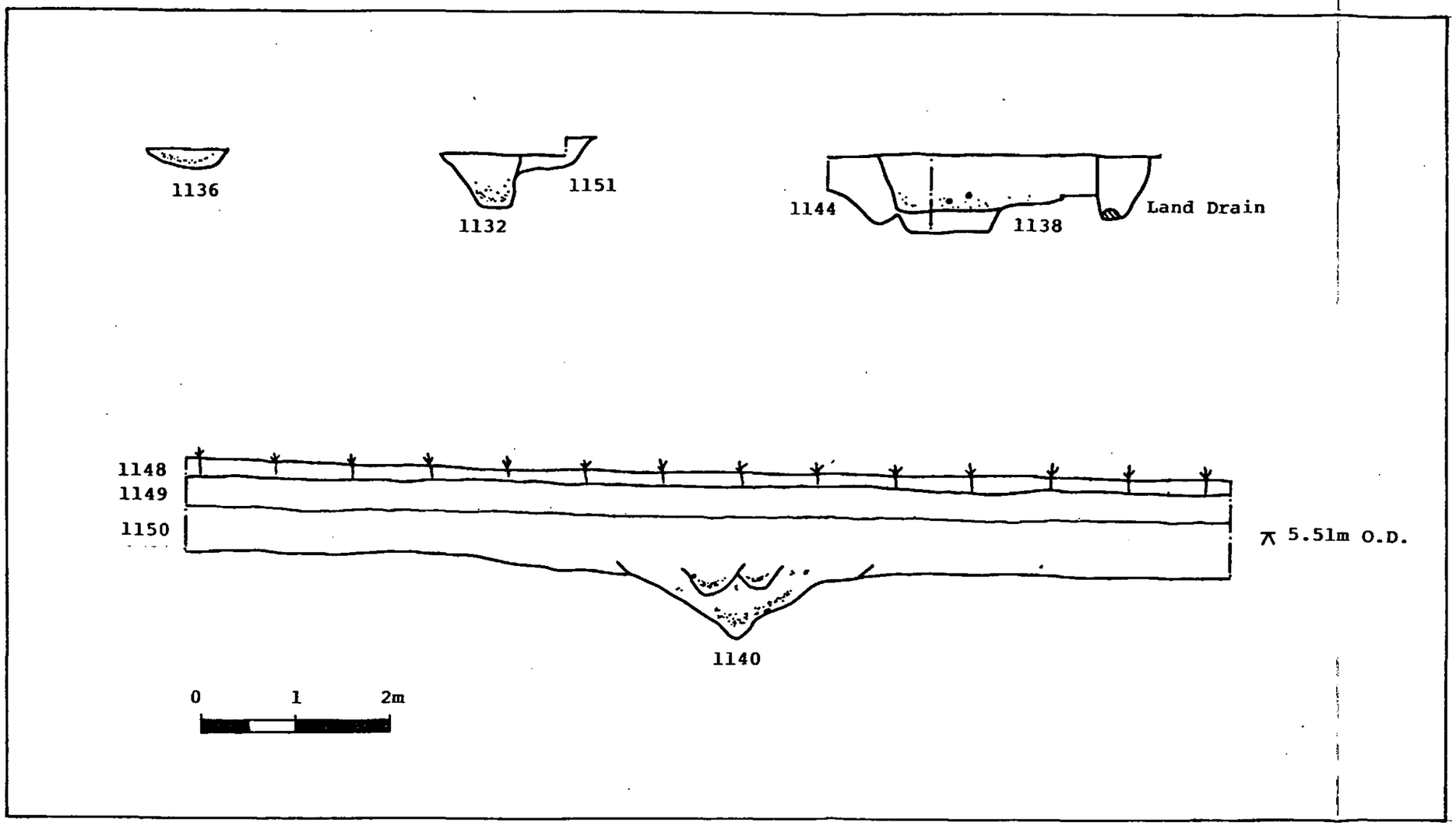
KEY

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Area 5: plan

Scale: 1:50	No: Fig. 15
Date:	
Drawn by:	
Project No: TR31052	



KEY

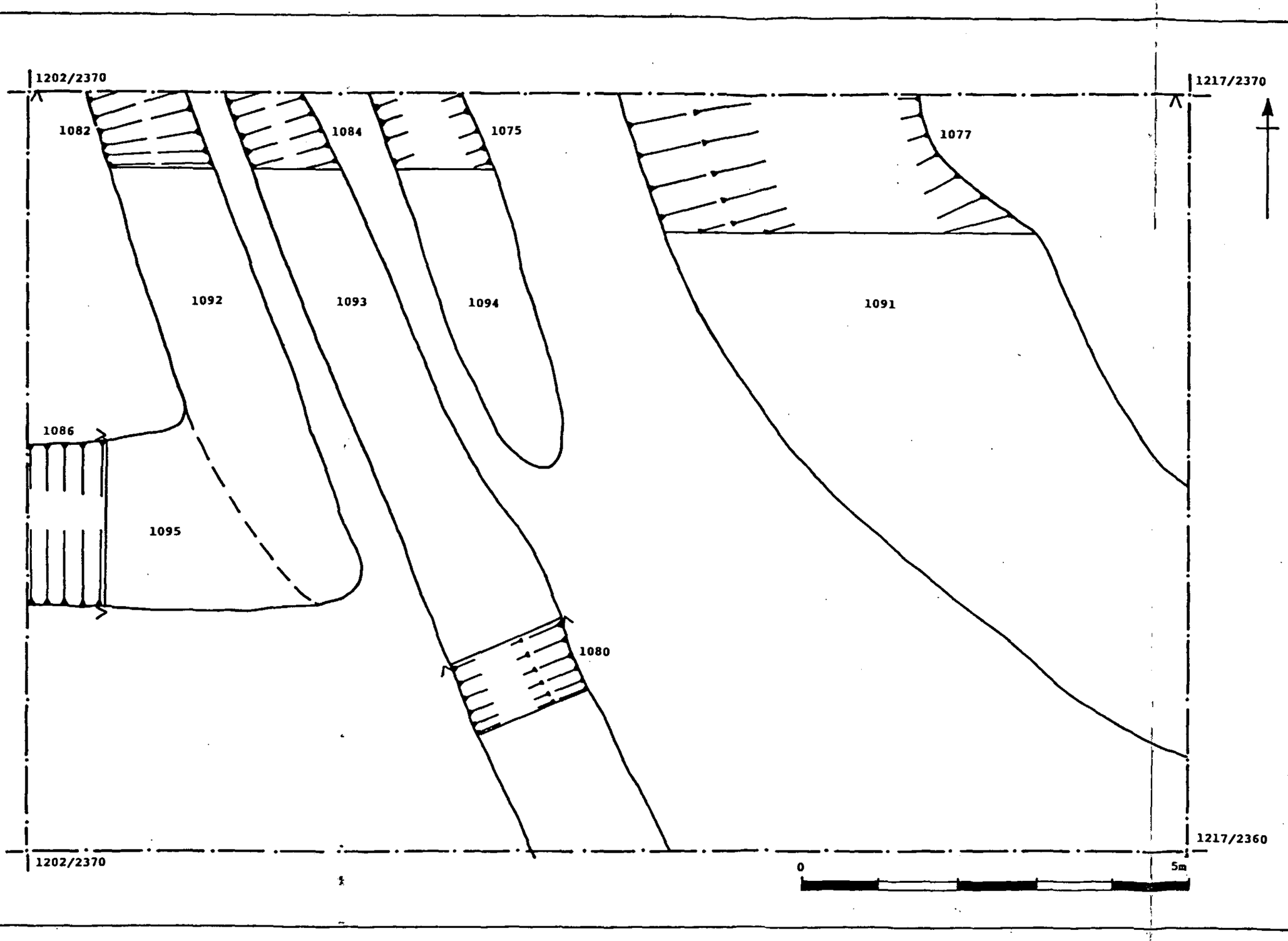
TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Area 5: sections

Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No:
Fig. 16

Project No: TR31052



KEY

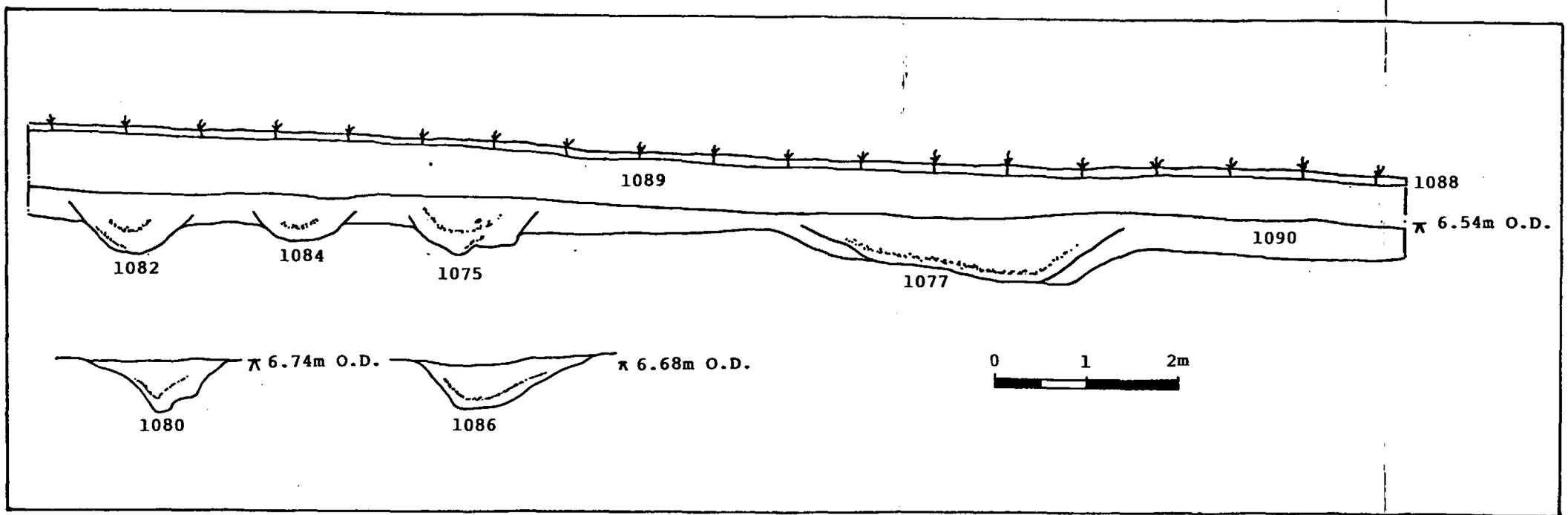
TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Area 6: plan

Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No:
Fig. 17

Project No:
TR31052



KEY

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:

BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:

Area 6: sections

Scale: 1:50

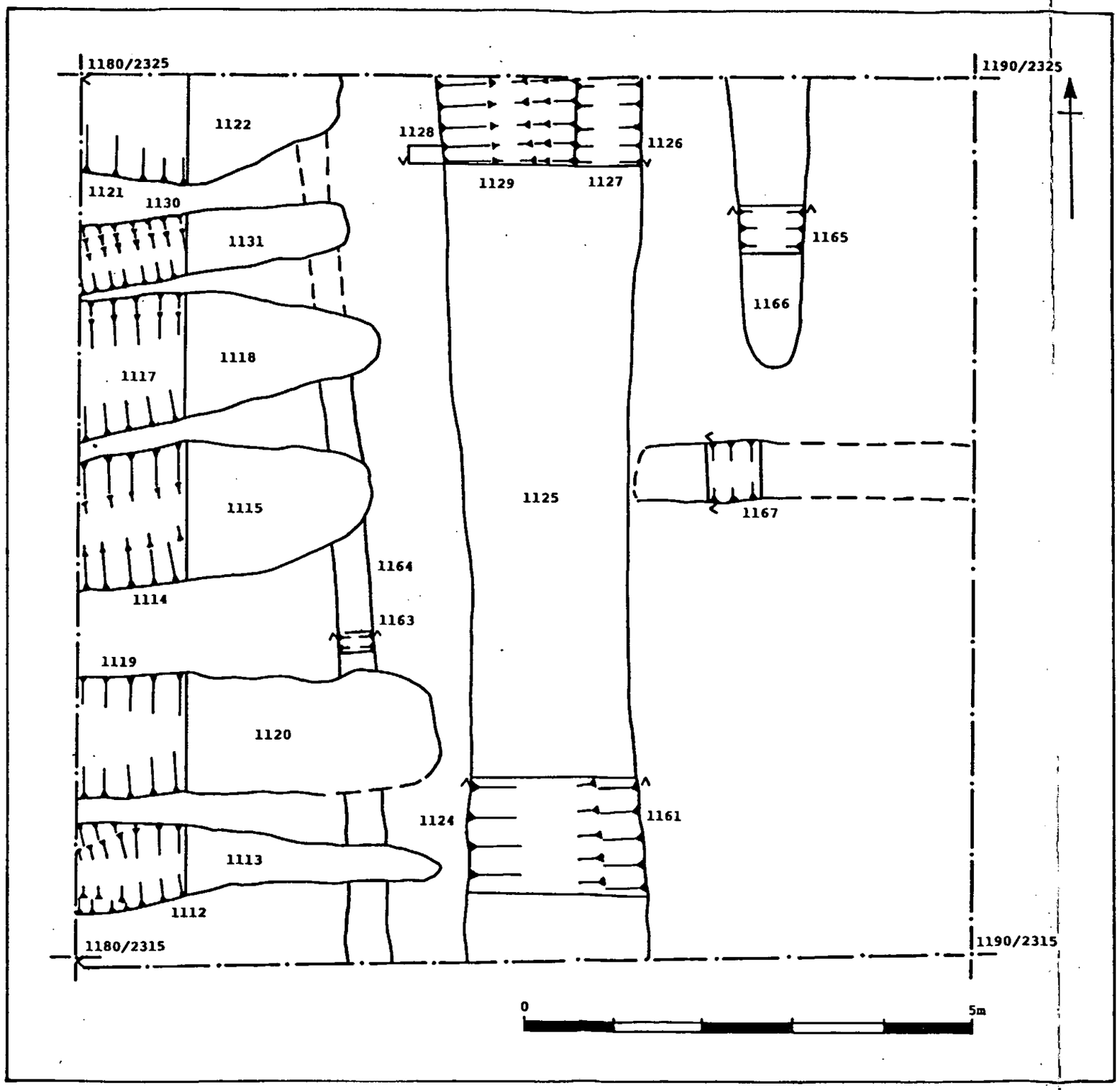
Date:

Drawn by:

No:

Fig. 18

Project No: TR31052



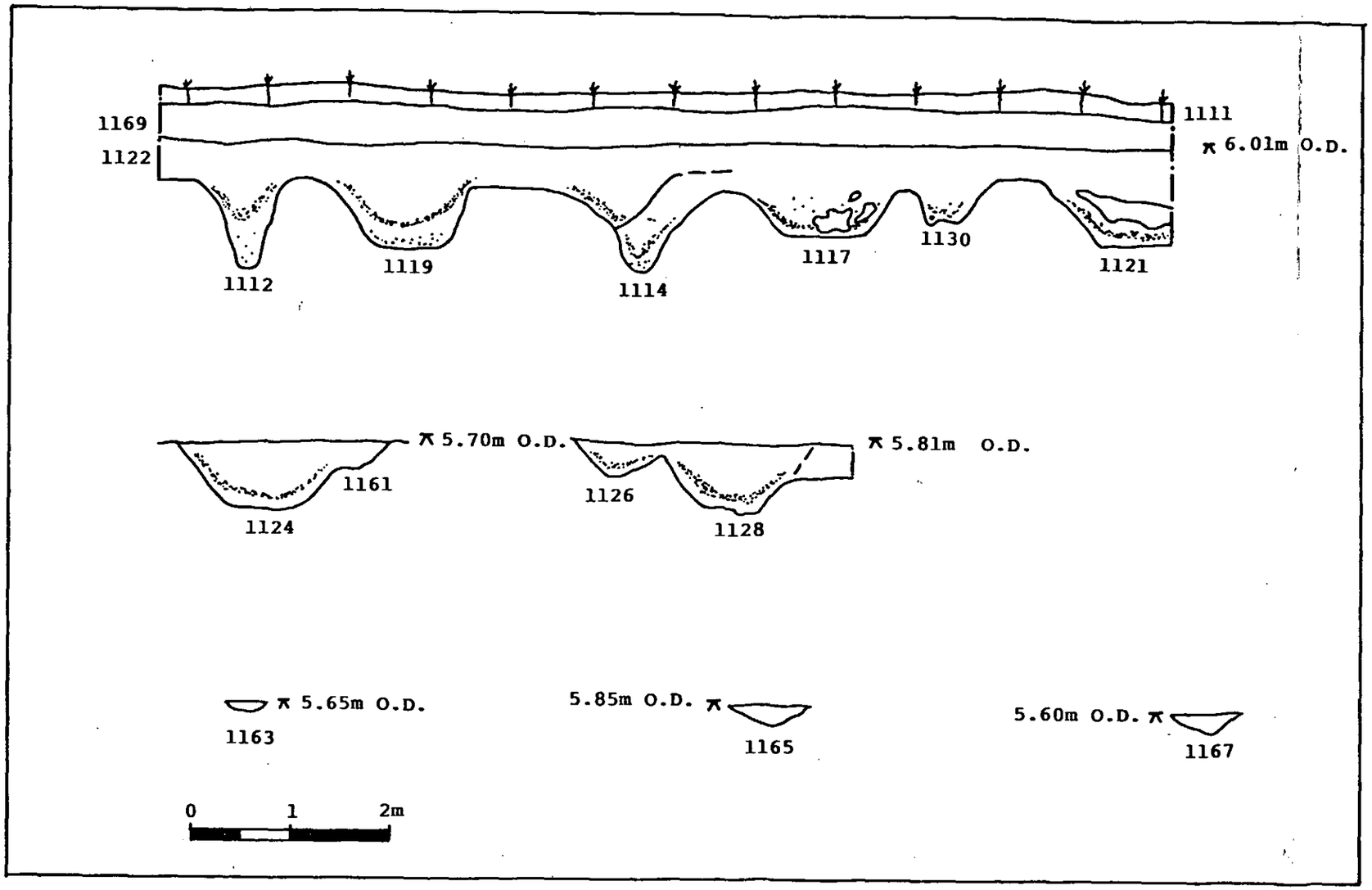
KEY

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Area 7: plan

Scale: 1:50	No: Fig. 19
Date:	
Drawn by:	
Project No: TR31052	



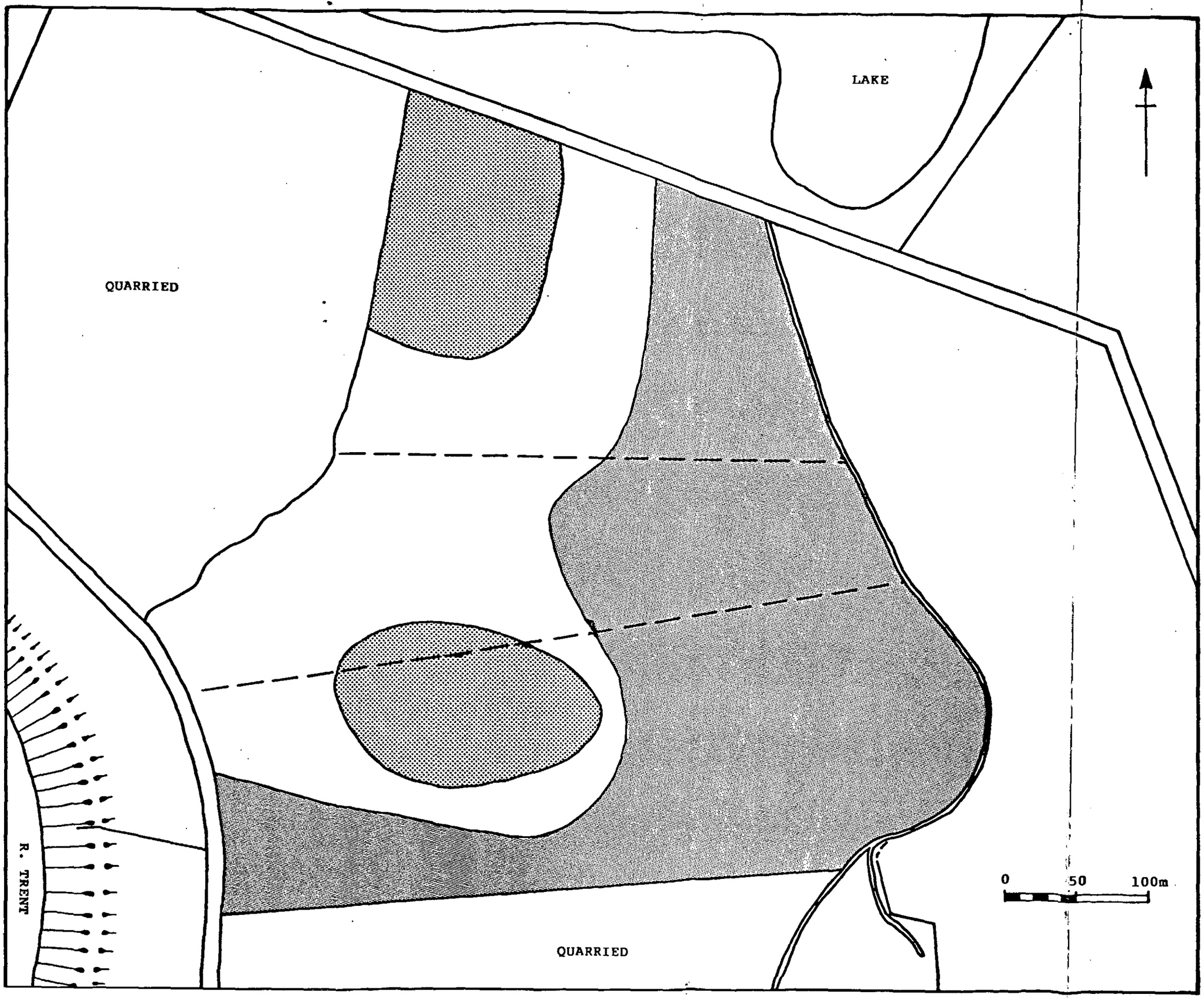
KEY

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:
BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:
Area 7: sections

Scale: 1:50
Date:
Drawn by:
No: Fig. 20
Project No: TR31052



KEY

- Deposition
- Erosion

TEMPVS REPARATVM

Location:

BESTHORPE
NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Title:

Zones of deposition and erosion

Scale: 1:2500	No: Fig. 21
Date:	
Drawn by:	
Project No: TR31052	

APPENDIX 1

DETAILED TRENCH AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTION J R Hunn

The trenches will be described in numerical order followed by a description of the small open area excavations (A5–A7). Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated earlier in the spring of 1992 but are here reproduced for convenience. The description of the orientation of the Trenches will refer to the site grid which is approximately 15 degrees off true north.

see doc 90

Trench 6

Fig: 4
Dims: 100 x 2 m
Orient: E–W
Co–ord: 1085/2457 to 1185/2451
Depth: 0.2 m of topsoil
Contexts: [114] [122]–[125]

Trench 6 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 (TR 31052ODC Fig 4). Five contexts were identified ([114] [122]–[125]) (TR 31052ODC Fig 15).

Trench 7

Fig: 4
Dims: 100 x 2 m
Orient: E–W
Co–ord: 1214/2449 to 1314/2443
Depth:
Contexts: [100]–[113] [115] [117]–[121]

Trench 7 was located across Geophysical Survey Area I and between Areas I and H, parallel to the field road (TR 31052ODC Fig 4). Twenty–two contexts were identified ([100]–[113] [115] [117]–[121] [126] [127]) which were moderately to well preserved (TR 31052ODC Figs 16 17 18).

Trench 9

Fig: 4 5 6
Dims: 100 x 1.9 m
Orientation: E – W
Co–ord: 1067/2379 to 1167/2379
Depth: 0.15 to 0.20 m
Contexts: none

This trench has an elevation difference of 2.9 m. That is from the 6.6 m contour on the east to above the 9.4 m contour on the west (see Figs 2,4). The trench was totally devoid of any distinguishing features and its thin layer of topsoil suggests that there has been a considerable degree of erosion over time. The reason for this is discussed in Section 6.

Trench 10

Fig: **4 5 6 7 8**
Dims: 100 x 1.9 m
Area: 190 sq m
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 1220/2380 to 1320/2380
Depth: 0.6 to 0.8 m
Contexts: [1000]–[1021]

[1000] Cat: Ditch segment, sub–division of ditch 1010
Orient: WNW/ESE
Co–ord: 12370/23780
Dims: 2.2 m by 1.0 m wide and 0.3 m deep
Fill(s): [1001]

[1001] Description: Loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown.
Finds: 50 gms pottery; coin of Constantine (AO 1951).

[1002] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12470/23790
Dims: 0.9 m long x 1.2 m wide (not fully excavated)
Fill(s): [1003] [1008]

[1003] Description: Loose sandy silt loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/2, Dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.208
Find(s): 4 flints; 60 gms pottery

[1008] Description: Loose sandy silt loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/3, Dark brown
Cu M: 0.087
Find(s): None

[1004] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12560/23790
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.7 m wide and 0.4 m deep
Fill(s): [1005]
Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, Dark grey
Cu M: 0.28
Find(s): 600 gms

[1006] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12550/23790
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.65 m wide x 0.6 m deep
Fill(s): [1007] [1009]

[1007] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, dark grey
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.65 m wide and 0.5 m deep
Cu M: 0.325
Finds: 85 gms

[1009] Description: Loose sandy silt loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR, dark brown
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.4 m wide and 0.1 m deep
Cu M: 0.04
Finds: none

[1010] Cat: Ditch sub–divided into [1000]
Orient: WNW–ESE
Co–ord: 12370/2370
Dims: 14 m long x 1.0 m wide and 0.3 m deep
Rel: Cut by [1019] [1020], cuts [1014] [1016]

[1017] Cat: ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Scoot: 12600/23800
Dims: 1.0 m long x 1.8 m wide, depth unknown.
Fill(s): [1018]
Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/mun:
Finds:
Note: Not fully excavated due to flooding

[1019] Cat: Modern land drain
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12570/23800
Dims: 0.6 m wide
Note: Unexcavated

[1020] Cat: Ditch terminal
Co–ord: 12585/23800
Dims: 2.2 m wide
Note: Partially examined – no data

[1021] Cat: Gully segment
Orient: N – S
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.2 m wide (depth unknown)
Note: No data

Trench 11

Fig: **4 5 6 9**
Dims: 100 x 1.9 m
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 1070/2310 to 1170/2310
Depth: approximately 1.1 m (from surface to archaeology)

[1174] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 10890/23690
Dims: 2.5 m wide, depth unknown
Fill(s): [1175]

[1175] Description: Compact sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, dark grey
Cu M: none
Finds: none
Note: unexcavated

[1176] Cat: Pit
Co-ord: 10920/23090
Dims: 1.8 m wide
Fill: [1177]

[1177] Description: 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey
Col/Mun: Fairly loose silty sand
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1178] Cat: Ditch/gully
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 1093/2309
Dims: 13 m long x 0.4 m wide
Rel: cuts [1184]
Fill(s): [1179]

[1179] Description: Loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1180] Cat: Ditch/gully
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 10930/23085
Dims: 4 m long x 0.4 m wide
Fill(s): [1181]

[1181] Description: Fairly loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/3, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1182] Cat: Ditch/gully
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 1095/2309
Dims: 2.0 m long x 0.45 m wide
Fill(s): [1183]

[1183] Description: Friable sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1184] Cat: Ditch
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 1095/2309
Dims: 2.0 m long x 1.0 m wide
Rel: Cut by [1178]
Fill(s): [1185]

[1185] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, dark grey
Cu M:

Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1186] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 11015/23090
Dims: 1.6 x 0.3 m
Fill(s): [1187]
Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/mun: 10 YR 4/4, dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1188] Cat: Ditch
Orient: N–S
Co-ord: 111060/23090
Dims: 1.8 x 0.5 m
Rel:
Fill(s): [1189]

[1189] Description: Loose sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/1, dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: Unexcavated

[1190] Cat: Ditch
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 111160/230900
Dims: 1.6 m x 1.0 m
Rel:
Fill(s): [1191]

[1191] Description: Loose sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1192] Cat: ditch/gully
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 111320/230900
Dims: 1.6 m x 0.4 m
Rel:
Fill(s):
Description: Friable sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1194] Cat: Ditch/gully (?)
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 112500/230950
Dims: 7 m long (only 0.2 m of width visible)
Rel: Cuts natural sands
Fill(s): [1195]

[1195] Description: Loose sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: Unexcavated.

[1196] Cat: Ditch
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 112950/230850
Dims: 1.6 x 0.8 m
Rel: cuts [1194] ?
Fill(s): [1197]

[1197] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10YR 3/2, very dark grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

[1198] Cat: Pit (?)
Orient:
Co-ord: 113480/230860
Dims: 2 m x 0.8 m
Rel:
Fill(s): [1199]

[1199] Description: Sandy loam
Col/Mun: very dark brownish grey
Cu M:
Finds:
Note: unexcavated

Trench 12

Fig: **4 5 6 10 11 12**
Dims: 5.7 m wide x 35 m long and 1.9 wide x 65 m long
Area: 323 sq m
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 1220/2310 to 1320/2310
Depth: 1 m approx
Contexts: [1025]–[1060]

[1025] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord:1221/2308
Dims: 0.6 m wide x 1.9 m and 0.25 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1060]
Fill(s): [1026] [1027]

[1026] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu M: included with [1027]
Finds: 100 gms of pottery

[1027] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown

Cu M: 0.142
Finds: 300 gms of pottery

[1028] Cat: Ditch segment:
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 1222/2308
Dims: 0.5 m x 1.9 m by 0.1 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s) [1029]

[1029] Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey
Cu M: 0.0475
Finds: 100 gms

[1030] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 123750/231250
Dims: 0.8 m wide x 1.0 m long and 0.4 m deep
Rel: Cuts E–W ditch
Fill(s): [1031]

[1031] Description: Loose sandy silt loam
Col/mun: 10 YR 4/2, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.160
Finds: 100 gms

[1032] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12350/231200
Dims: 1.2 m wide x 1.05 m long by o.6 m deep
Fill(s): [1033] [1038](primary)

[1033] Description: Sandy silt loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/2, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.378
Finds: 25 gms

[1038] Description: Plastic sandy clay
Col/Mun: 7.5 YR 5/2 brown
Cu M: 0.11
Finds: none

[1036] Cat: dict segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co–ord: 122450/231150
Dims: 0.35 m wide x 1.15 m long and 0.15 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s): [1037]
Description: Loose sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, Very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.030
Finds: 0.50 gms pottery

[1040] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12450/230870
Dims: 4.8 m wide x 1.3 m long and 0.9 m deep

Rel: Cuts [1051] [1048](?) [1046](?) [1050](?)
Fill(s): [1041] [1043]

[1041] Description: Plastic silty clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 6/1, 10 YR 5/6, grey and yellowish brown
Cu M: 1.90
Finds: 1,650 gms of pottery

[1043] Description: Silty, plastic silty clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 6/1, 10 YR 5/6 , grey and yellowish brown
Cu M: 1.60
Finds: 530 gms of pottery

[1045] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 124810/230930
Dims: 0.5 m long x 0.6 m wide and 0.35 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1044] [1043](?) [1051](?)
Fill(s): [1046]
Description: Plastic silt
Col/Mun: 7.5 YR N.3 + 7.5 YR N.4 very dark grey/dark grey
Cu M: 0.07
Finds: nil

[1047] Cat: ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 230930/124750
Dims: 0.6 m wide x 0.2 m long (?) and 0.3 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1044] [1043]
Fill: [1048]
Description: slightly loose plastic silt
Col/Mun: 7.5 YR N3 + 7.5 YR N.4, very dark grey/dark grey
Finds: nil

[1049] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 124470/230870
Dims: 1.0 m x 0.74 m by 0.2 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1044]
Fill(s): [1050]
Description: Plastic silty clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 5/1, grey
Cu M: 0.11
Finds: 2 gms

[1053] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 124420/230890
Dims: 1.6 m x 0.38 m wide and 0.24 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1041]
Fill(s): [1054]
Description: Plastic silty clay
Col/mun: 10 YR 5/1, 10 YR 5/6, grey to yellow brown
Cu M: 0.115
Finds: nil

[1056] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W

Co–ord: 124420/230830
Dims: 0.6 x 0.30 m by 0. 2 m deep
Rel: [1041]
Fill(s): [1057]

[1057] Description: Sticky plastic clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 5/1, 10 YR 5/6, grey + yellow brown
Cu M: 0.03
Finds: Nil

[1061] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 122550/231180 to 124550/231180
Dims: 20 x 0.4 m
Rel: Cuts [1071] [1072] [1073] [1032] [1030] [1049]
Fill: unexcavated [1062]

[1062] Description: Sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/2, dark greyish brown

[1063] Cat: ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 12340/23128 to 124520/23128
Dims: 11.2 x 0.3 m
Rel: Cuts [1030] [1032] [1049]
Fill: unexcavated

[1064] Cat: Ditch
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 1222/2312
Dims: unknown
Rel:
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1065] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 123580/231120
Dims: 5.3 x 0.2 m
Rel:
Fill(s): unknown

[1067] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 12258/231090 to 123080/231100
Dims: 5.3 x 0.2 m
Rel:
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1068] Cat: Ditch/gully
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 122520/23100 to 12450/23070
Dims: 20.5 x 0.8 m
Rel: Cuts [1034] [1036] [1054]
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1069] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 122550/23050 to 12270/230850

Dims: 4.5 x 0.2 m
Rel: Cuts [1071] [1072]
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1070] Cat: Ditch
Orient: NNE – SSW
Co–ord: 12220/23090 to 12230/ 23130
Dims: 4 x 0.5 m
Rel: unknown
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1071] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: NE – SW
Co–ord: 122265/23074 to 12303/23131
Dims:
Rel:
Fill(s):

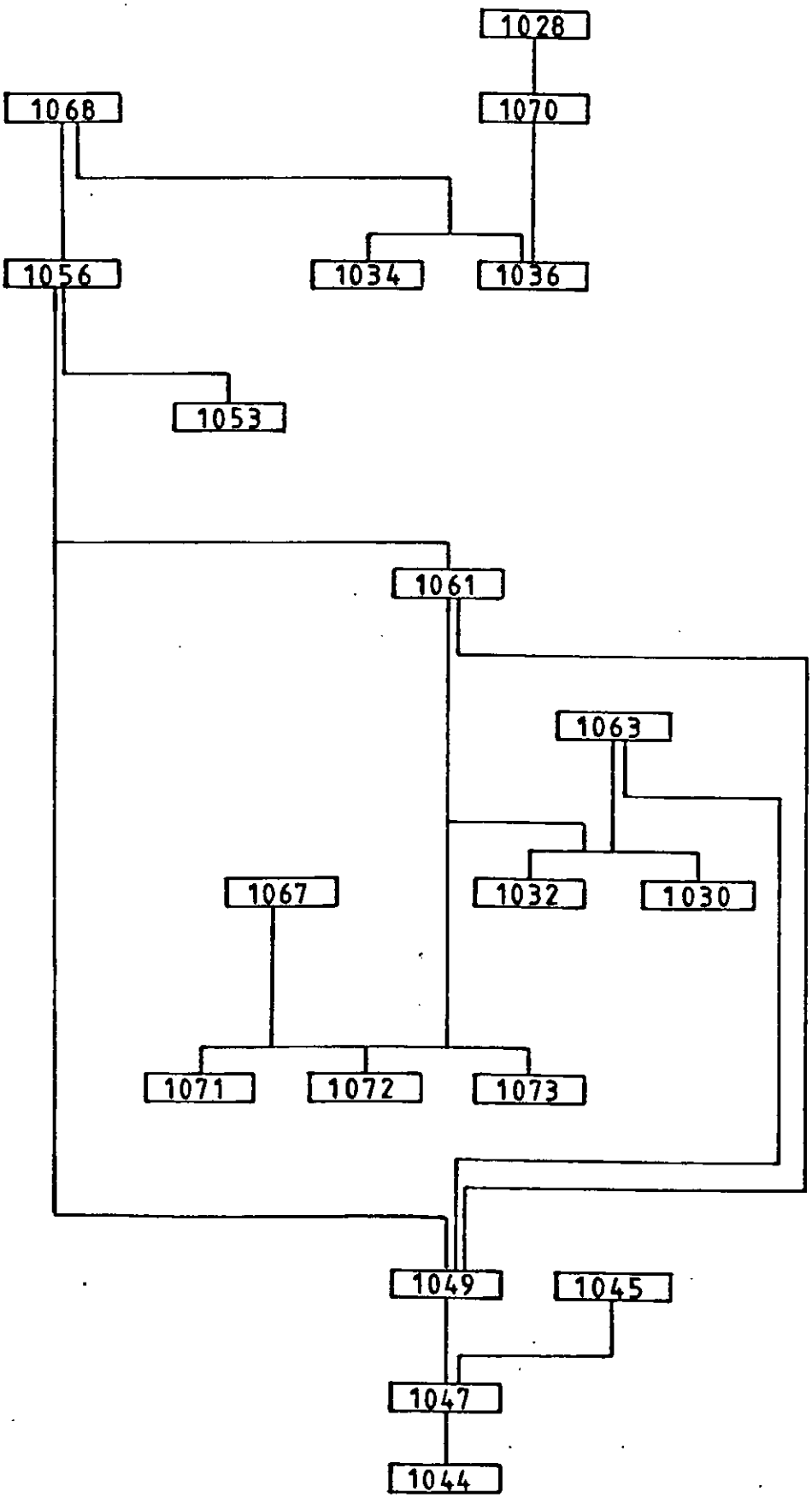
[1072] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: NE SW
Co–ord: 12274/23740 to 12320/23131
Dims: 7.3 x 0.3 m
Rel: Cut by [1061] [1067] [1068] [1034] [1053] [1036] [1069]
Fill(s): unexcavated

[1073] Cat: Gully/ditch
Orient: NE – SW
Co–ord: 12316/23102 to 123333/23320
Dims: 3.3 x 0.25 m
Rel: Cut by [1061] [1067]
Fill(s): unknown

Trench 12 Summary

Table 4 shows the principal linear features and their relationship to each other. On the present limited evidence there are at least twenty distinct elements of ditch/gully boundary activity. These may be grouped together into at least five different phases. These phases are reproduced below in diagrammatic form. It is not possible to be certain about the precise chronological sequence of these features based on such a limited area. But the trench does illustrate the comlexity of the boundary building activity and should caution against attempting to make simplistic generalisations based on such a restricted area. Accordingly, such generalisations as may be made will be reserved for the discussion section of the evaluation report.

Trench 12 Structure Matrix



Trench 13

Fig: **4 5 6**
Dims: 100 m x 1.9 m
Area: 190 sq m
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 1100/2240 to 1200/2240
Depth of overburden: 0.25 m in west to 0.5 m in east
Contexts: none
Description: Mostly clean sand except at 1177/2240 where it becomes darker and mixed with silt. At the western end at 1195/2240 there is a further change which appeared to be the edge of a silty clay deposit (alluvium).

Trench 14

Fig: **4 5 6 13**
Dims: 60 m x 1.9 m
Area: 114 sq m
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 1200/2258 to 1260/2258
Depth of overburden: 0.4 m in west to 1.0 m in east
Contexts: [1201]–[1222]

[1206] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 12435/22580
Dims: 1.0 m x 0.75 m and 0.75 m deep
Rel: Natural silt (1213)
Fill(s): [1204] [1205]

[1204] Description: Plastic silty clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 6/4; 10 YR 5/2, dark yellow brown/grey br.
Cu M: 0.281
Finds: 50 gms

[1205] Description: Sandy silt (primary ditch silting)
Col/Mun:
Finds:

[1208] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 12420/22580
Dims: 0.6 m wide
Rel: Cuts plastic clay [1213]
Fill(s): [1207]

[1207] Description: Silty clay
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/6, 10 YR 5/2, dark yellow brown/grey br.
Finds: none (not fully excavated)

[1210] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 12390/22580
Dims: 0.75 m x 0.9 m wide, depth unknown
Rel:
Fill(s): [1209]
Description: plastic silty clay

Col/Mun: 10 YR 6/4, 5/2 light yellowish brown/grey brown
Finds: none

[1215] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 12110/22590
Dims: 0.8 m wide x 1. 25 m by 0.3 m
Fill(s): [1214]

[1214] Desecription: Silty clay loam.
Col/Mun: 10 YR 5/6, Yellowish brown
Cu M: 0.150
Finds:

[1217] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 1222/2259
Dims: 3.0 m wide by 1.9 m long (ie width of trench)
Rel:
Fill(s): Cuts [1214]
Description: Not excavated

Trench 15

Fig: **4 5 6 14**
Dims: 42 x 1.9 m
Area: 76 sq m
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 1165/2285 to 1165/2284
Depth: 0.9 m on average (deeper to northern end)
Contexts: None excavated (planned only)
Description: Only the northern end of this trench contained any significant archaeology. The eastern half was either clean sand or obscured by a post–medieval enclosure boundary. By contrast, the northern end of the trench contained much disturbed soil and good quantities of pottery (5.8 kl). One interesting find was a portion of a badly damaged human skull at 116490/227120. There were no signs of any other human bones or grave–like features. This find suggest that there may have been human burials in the vicinity.

Area 5

Fig: **4 5 6 15**
Dims: 11.3 x 10.8 m
Area: 122 sq m
Co–ord: 1200/2490 (centre)
Depth: 1.05 m
Contexts: [1132]–[1153]

[1132] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 11980/24360
Dia: 1.2 m x 0.8 m by 0.58 m
Rel: Cuts 1150, 1152, 1153
Fill(s): [1133]

[1133] Description: Sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu.M: 0.288
Finds: 80 gms of pottery; 25 gms of bone; AON 1997

[1136] Cat: Gully/ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 11980/24420
Dims: 0.8 m long x 0.8 m wide by 0.2 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1150] [1153]
Fill(s): [1137]

[1137] Description: Sandy silt
Col/mun: 10 YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.010
Finds: 25 gms

[1138] Cat: Ditchs egment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 120500/243670
Dims: 1.7 m x 0.6 m wide and 0.82 m deep
Rel: Corresponds to the same ditch as that of DS [1151].
Cuts [1150] [1145] [1153]
Fill(s): [1139] [1146]

[1139] Description: Sandy loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey
Cu M: 0.612
Finds: 1200 gms

[1146] Description: Loose silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
CuM: 0.056
Finds: none

[1140] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 12000/24450
Dims: 1.0 m x 2.3 m wide and 0.6 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1150] [1153]
Fill(s): [1141] [1142] [1143]

Description:
It appears that [1141] and [1143] were recuts of this ditch segment though they could conceivably be a product of subsidence in to the underlying layers. However, against this suggestion is the 'W–shape' effect (shown in the section) that suggests that they ([1141] [1143]) were indeed real.

[1141] Description: Loose silt of possible recut of ditch segment [1140]
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey
Cu M: 0.0625
Finds: 850 gms of pottery; 25 gms of bone

[1142] Description: Primary fill of ditch segment [1140]. Loose silt.
Col/Mun: dark greyish bron
Cu M: 0.900

Finds: none

[1143] Description: Loose silty fill of possible recut of ditch segment [1140].
Col/mun: Very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.0625
Finds: none

[1144] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: ESE – WNW
Co-ord: 120450/243750
Dims: 1.4 m long x 0.7 m wide and 0.7 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1150] [1153]
Fill(s): [1145]

[1145] Description: Loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/2, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.680
Finds: 1725 gms

[1151] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 119800/243700
Dims: 1.2 m x 0.80 m by 0.15 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1150]
Fill(s): [1152]

[1152] Description: Sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/3, sandy silt
Cu M: 0.072
Finds: none

Area 5 Summary

This trench revealed at least three, possibly four different phases of activity (excluding a post-medieval land drain). The first phase was represented by ditch [1136], followed by [1140], which in turn was cut by two ditches on the southern side of the trench (represented by ditch segments [1151] and [1132]). The underlying parent material of the soil (the sand dune) is particulaly weak structured in this area. There is a broad correlation between the excavated archaeology and that of the geophysical survey.

Area 6

Fig: 4 5 6 17 18
Dia: 15 m x 10 m
Area: 150 sq m
Co-ord: 1210/2365
Depth: 0.6 m of amorphous plogh soil
Contexts: [1075]-[1100]

[1075] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co-ord: 12070/23695
Dims: 1.0 m x 1.15 m x 0.64 m deep
Rel: Cuts [1074]
Fill(s): [1076]

[1076] Description: sandy silt
Col/Mun: Very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.400
Finds: 1100 gms pot; 100 gms bone

[1077] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co–ord: 12145/23690
Dims: 1.85 m x 3.8 m x 0.74 m
Rel: Sub–division of ditch shown in geophysical survey
Fill(s): [1078] [1090]

[1078] Description: Sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 2/2, very dark brown
Cu M: 2.60
Finds: 2200 gms of pottery; 480 gms of bone

[1080] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co–ord: 12080/23620
Dims: 1.0 m x 1.6 m x 0.6 m deep
Rel: part of same ditch as Ditch Segment [1084]
Fill(s): [1081]

[1081] Description: Silty loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 2/2, very dark brown
Cu M: 0.480
Finds: 525 gms pottery; 25 gms bone

[1082] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co–ord: 12030/23700
Dims: 1.0 m x 1.27 m x 0.67 m
Rel: sub–division of ditch 1098
Fill(s): [1083]

[1083] Description: Silty loam
Col/mun: 10 YR 2/2, very dark brown
Cu M: 0.425
Finds: 925 gms pottery; 50 gms bone

[1084] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: NW – SE
Co–ord: 12050/23700
Dims: 1.0 m x 1.45 m x 0.50 m deep
Rel: sub–division of ditch [1098]
Fill(s): [1085]

[1085] Description: Silty loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 2/2, very dark brown
Cu M: 0.362
Finds: 200 gms of pottery; 100 gms of bone

[1086] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 12020/23640

Dims: 1.0 m 2.16 m x 0.5 m deep
Rel: sub–division of [1098]
Fill(s): [1087]

[1087] Description: silty loam
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Finds: 700 gms of pottery; 10 gms bone

Area 6 Summary

The four principal ditch alignments in this area are in broad agreement with the geophysical survey. There are no intercutting features so that, on stratigraphical grounds, there is no reason for them not to have been contemporary. The wider N–S alignment on the eastern side of the trench ([1077]) could be due to a conbination of recuts which were, or have become, idistinguishable in time. The broader significance of this feature will be discussed further on.

Area 7

Fig: **4 5 6 19 20**
Dims: 10 x 10.2 m
Area: 102 sq m
Co–ord: 1185/2320
Depth: 0.9 m
Contexts: [1111]–[1170]

[1112] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 118060/23160
Dims: 1.25 m x 0.50 m x 1.0 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s): [1113]

[1113] Description: Loose silty sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.250
Finds: 50 gms

[1114] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 118060/231990
Dims: 1.25 m x 1.6 m x 0.65 m deep
Rel: post dating N/S gully [1163] (DS)
Fill(s): [1115] [1116]

[1115] Description: Loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.300
Finds: none

[1116] Description: Slightly compact silty clay
Col/Mun: 2.5 YR /N4, Dark grey
Cu M: 0.350
Finds: 400 gms pottery; 5 gms bone

[1117] Cat: Ditch segment

Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 118060/232160
Dims: 1.25 x 1.5 x 0.83 m
Rel: post dates [1163]
Fill(s): [1118]

[1118] Description: Silty sand
Col/Mun: very dark grey brown
Cu M: 0.778
Finds: 400 gms

[1119] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 118060/231750
Dims: 1.25 x 1.5 x 0.92 m
Rel: Post dates N–S gully/slot of which [1163] is a segment
Fill(s): [1120]

[1120] Description: Loose silty sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.920
Finds: 530 gms of pottery

[1121] Cat: ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 118060/232450
Dims: 1.25 x 1.4 x 0.56 m
Rel:
Fill(s): [1122] [1123]

[1122] Description: Loose sand
Col/mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.262
Finds: 400 gms

[1123] Description: Silty clay
Col/Mun: dark yellowish brown
Cu M: 0.190
Finds: none

[1124] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 118520/22165
Dims: 2 m wide x 1.3 m long x 0.65 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s): [1125]

[1125] Description: Silty sand
Col/Mun 10 YR 4/3, dark yellowish brown
Cu M: 0.747
Finds: 1250 gms of pottery

[1126] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 11860/232450
Dims: 1.3 x 0.75 x 0.3 m
Rel: recut of [1124] (?)
Fill(s): [1127]

[1127] Description: Silty sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/3, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.156
Finds: 50 gms

[1128] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient:N – S
Co–ord: 118480/232450
Dims: 1.3 m x 1.3 m x 0.65 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s): [1129]

[1129] Description: Silty sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/3, Dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.549
Finds: 175 gms

[1130] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co–ord: 11860/232290
Dims: 1.2 x 0.8 x 0.35 m
Rel: post dates N/S linear slot
Fill(s): [1131]

[1131] Description: Loose sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 3/2, very dark grey brown
Cu M: 0.168
Finds: 100 gms

[1161] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 11860/23000
Dims: 1.5 x 0.5 x 0.3 m
Rel:
Fill(s): [1162]

[1162] Description: Silty sand
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/3, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.112
Finds: none

[1163] Cat: Slot segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 11830/231545
Dims: 0.25 m long x 0.4 m wide x 0.1 m deep
Rel: sub–division of [1170]
Fill(s): [1164]

[1164] Description: sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/3, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.005
Finds: 1 gm pot

[1165] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: N – S
Co–ord: 11880/23230
Dims: 0.55 m long x 0.70 m wide x 0.2 m deep

Rel:
Fill(s): [1166]

[1166] Description: Sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 Yr 4/3, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.044
Finds: none

[1167] Cat: Ditch segment
Orient: E – W
Co-ord: 11860/232050
Dims: 0.60 m long x 0.70 m wide and 0.20 m deep
Rel:
Fill(s): [1168]

[1168] Description: Sandy silt
Col/Mun: 10 YR 4/3, dark greyish brown
Cu M: 0.42
Finds: none

[1170] Cat: Gully/slot
Orient: N – S
Co-ord: 118325/232500 to 11830/23350
Dims: 10 m x 0.4 m x 0.1 m deep
Rel: Cut by [1112] [1114] [1117] [1119] [1121] [1130]
Fill(s): [1164]

Area 7 Summary

There appear to have been at least four phases of activity if we assume that the E–W ditches were broadly contemporary. It is not possible to be certain as to the chronological sequence at present except to observe that the narrow N–S slot or gully pre-dates all the E–W ditches at their eastern ends. This series of six E–W features are perhaps one of the more puzzling aspects of this area. Only a very vague indication of the archaeology of A7 was gained by the geophysical survey. The reality was, as might be expected, far more complicated and until further work is done the area will remain an enigma.

APPENDIX 2

FINDS: COMPARATIVE RECOVERY TABLES J R Hunn

Table 1 Ceramic Recovery Ratios

Trench 10

Context	Vol cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1000	0.462	50			1: 0.00924
1001	0.660			1951	
1003	0.208	60			1: 0.00346
1005	0.280	600			1: 0.00046
1007	0.325	85			1: 0.00382
1008	0.087				
1009	0.040				
1012	28.50				1: 0.01000
1013	38.00				
1014					
1015=1012		1500			with 1012
1250/1	57.00				
Strat	2.062	795			
Unstrat	123.50	1850			
Total	125.56	2645			1: 0.04740

Trench 11

Context	Vol cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1172	38.00	20			
	142.50				

Trench 12

Context	Vol cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1026	with 1027	100			
1027	0.142	300	1		1: 0.00035
1029	0.047	100			1: 0.00047
1031	0.160	100			1: 0.00160
1033	0.378	25			1: 0.01512
1035	0.253	75		1952	1: 0.00337
1037	0.030	50	10		1: 0.00060
1041	1.900	1650	25		1: 0.00115
1043	1.600	530	1000		1: 0.00301
1046	0.070	nil			nil
1048	0.028	nil			nil
1050	0.110	2			1: 0.00440
1054	0.115				
1057	0.030				
Strat	4.863	2932			1: 0.00165
Unstrat	317.000	3350	15		1: 0.09462
Total	321.863	6282			1: 0.05123

Trench 13

Context	Vol Cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
	57	0	0		0

Trench 14

Context	Vol Cu.M	weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1204	0.281	50			1: 0.00562
1214	0.150	none			
Total	**74.531**				**1: 1.49062**

Trench 15

Context	Vol Cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
	64.800	5840			1: 0.01109

Area 5

Context	Vol Cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1133	0.288	80	25	1997	1: 0.00360
1137	0.010	25			1: 0.00040
1139	0.612	1200			1: 0.00051
1141	0.062	850	25		1: 0.00007
1142	0.900	nil			
1143	0.062	nil			
1145	0.680	1725			1: 0.00039
1146	0.056	nil			
1152	0.072	nil			
Strat	**2.742**	**3880**			**1: 0.00079**
Unstrat	**128.142**	**nil**			
Total	**130.884**	**3880**			**1: 0.03373**

Area 6

Context	Vol Cu.M	weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1076	0.400	1100	100		1: 0.00036
1078	2.600	2200	480		1: 0.00118
1081	0.480	525	25		1: 0.00091
1083	0.425	925	50		1: 0.00045
1085	0.362	200	100		1: 0.00181
1087	0.540	700	10		1: 0.00077
1088	135.000	500			1: 0.07000
1091-5	6.000	2500	502	1954	1: 0.00240
Strat	4.807	5650	765		1: 0.00085
Unstrat	141.000	3000	502		1: 0.04700
Total	145.807	8650	1267		1: 0.01685

Area 7

Context	Vol Cu.M	Weight gms	Bone	AON	Pot to soil vol
1111	20.400	900		1953	1: 0.02266
1113	0.250	50			1: 0.00500
1115	0.300	nil			
1116	0.350	400	5		1: 0.00087
1118	0.778	400			1: 0.00194
1120	0.920	530			1: 0.00173
1122	0.262	400			1: 0.00065
1123	0.190	nil			
1125	0.747	1250			1: 0.00059
1127	0.156	50			1: 0.00312
1129	0.549	175			1: 0.00313
1131	0.168	100			1: 0.00168
1162	0.112	nil			
1164	0.005	1			1: 0.00500
1166	0.044	nil			
1168	0.420	nil			
Strat	5.281	3356			1: 0.00157
Unstrat	102.000	900			1: 0.11333
Total	107.281	4256			1: 0.02520

Table 2 Ceramics and Bone Find Ratios per Trench/Area

Location	Vol Cu.M	Ceramics	%	Bone	%	Ratio
Trench 10	125.56	2645	8.3	0		1: 0.04740
(*)	2.062	795	4.8			1: 0.00259
Trench 11	142.5	20	0.5	0		1: 7.12500
Trench 12	321.8	6282	20.0	1051	38.6	1: 0.05123
(*)	4.863	2932	17.6			1: 0.00165
Trench 13	57	0	0	0	0	0
Trench 14	74.5	50	0.15	0	0	1: 1.49062
(*)	0.431	50	0.3	0	0	1: 0.00862

Trench 15	64.8	5840	18.5	350	12.8	1: 0.01109
Area 5	130.8	3880	12.2	50	2.0	1: 0.03373
(*)	2.742	3880	23.2			1: 0.00070
Area 6	145.8	8650	27.3	1267	46.5	1: 0.01685
(*)	4.807	5650	34.0			1: 0.00085
Area 7	107.2	4256	13.5	5		1: 0.02520
(*)	5.281	3356	20.1			1: 0.00157
Total	1169.96	31623	99.9	2723		1: 0.03699
(*)	20.186	16663				1: 0.00121

Table 3 The Location of Archaeological Objects (AO) by Context (* positive presence)

Context	Flint	Bone	Iron	cu.al.	Lead	Stone	Coin	G1	G2
1001							*		
1012			*						
1035				*				*	
1039					*				
1076			*						
1088				*		*			*
1091			*						
1092			*	*			*		*
1093		*	*	*					*
1111			*	*	*	*	*		*
1116						*			*
1118			*			*			*
1122						*			*
1129						*			*
1133						*			*
1148			*						*
T.11	*								

G1 = personal adornments
G2 = utilitarian objects
(the list omits nails)

APPENDIX 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECT CATALOGUE J R Hunn

Coins

AO no.	Context	Type	Date
1951	1001	silver coin of Constantine (two soldiers with standards on reverse)	324 - 337
1956	1092	Barbarous radiate	late 3rd C.
1963	1092	Barbarous radiate (very corroded)	late 3rd C.
1974	1092	illegible	
2002	1172	silver wash; Tetricus III (badly damaged on edges)	270 - 273

Iron work

AO no.	Context	Type	Description
1962	1092	iron shaft (fragment of)	90mm x 16mm
1971	1148	pruning knife or hook	100mm long
1972	1092	stud	
1987	1088	wedge or chisel (14mm sq top, 44mm long	
1994	1093	stud	

Cu alloy

AO no.	Context	Type	Description
1952	1035	pin from Colchester type brooch	
1953	1111	cosmetic tweezers	63mm long, 5mm wide
1957	10088	stud	

Bone

AO no.	Context	Type	Description
1996	1093	pin (dress) 44mm long by 7mm at top (has two crude lines below its top)	

Lead

Four pieces of material were recovered, all of which would appear to be waste fragments.

Building material

Three fragments of tile were recovered all unstratified from Trench 15.

1. Fragment of tegula (135 mm x 12 mm) with raised side; red in colour (2.5 YR 5/6).
2. Tegula , flat with two parallel circular impressions; red (2.5 YR 5/8).
3. Boxtile fragment with stamped rolled impression; light red (2.5 YR 6/6).

Quern stones

AO no.	Context	Description
1955	1116	A base fragment of Millstone Grit (170 cm x 17 cm by 2.5 cm thick) with a 5 cm dia hole.
1995	1129	smooth sided fragment of M G.
1997	1133	" " " " "
2001	1129	2 fragments, burnt; one 3.5 cm thick
2004	1122	pink fragment of M G.
2005	1118	" " " " .

All fragments were composed of a pinkish grey millstone grit; they were uneven in grain size ranging from medium to fairly coarse grained. There were angular grains of quartz with some quartzite, felspar, lithics and occassional mica. The fragments would appear to derive from normal flat quernstones of Roman date. The most probable area of origin would be from further up the River Trent in Derbyshire.

APPENDIX 4

NEBE92 - Besthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire

Roman Pottery Assessment Report (2) for Tempus Reparatum
B J Davies 07/02/93

Introduction: The following report discusses the material excavated from Area 5-7 and Trenches 10-15, during November 1993. Reference should be made to the previous report on the Roman pottery from this site (Davies B J - 17/08/92) where the local, regional and national context of the Besthorpe material is discussed in detail. This report does not reiterate these implications but concentrates on marked differences between the two assemblages.

1. Overview: The excavation produced 969 sherds of pottery including 11 which are pre Roman, probably Iron Age, or earlier in date. The exclusively Roman pottery ranges in date from the Neronian-early Flavian period, denoted by sherds of Dragendorff 15/17 and 29 from South Gaul and early Roman Native cooking pots. Unfortunately, many of these early wares appear to be residual in third century deposits. Only a few contexts appear to be exclusively of first or early second century date (see below TABLE 1). Nevertheless, the presence of these early wares indicate that the site was occupied at some point in the early Roman period. No such evidence was found . the assemblages from the previous excavation. Another marked difference is the virtual absence of very late Roman assemblages, the exception being Context 1078, Area 6. The majority of the pottery is broadly dated to the third century, with one or two veering towards the end of this period.

Sherd joins between groups are rare, the majority occuring between sherds of an almost whole example of a Dales Ware shelly jar in Trench 12, contexts 1041, 1042, 1043. The exception is a single sherd from probably the same vessel, a large grog tempered storage jar with stabbed decoration on the shoulder from Trench 10, context 1015 and Trench 12, context 1039

TABLE 1 - Contexts dated by Area and Trench Number

(The reliability of the dating is indicated by the total number of sherds present i.e. larger groups are more closely datable than smaller ones, except in the case of samian ware. The comments are summaries of the condition of the pottery and also includes supplementary information about non-pottery finds).

AREA 5

A5,1133,ZDATE,-,M2+,-,total 8 shs
A5,1133,Comments,-,FRESHISH,-,-
A5,1137,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 sh
A5,1139,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 18 shs
A5,1139,Comments,-,FRESHISH + BM,-,-
A5,1141,ZDATE,-,M-L1,-,total 31 shs
A5,1141,Comments,-,SOME BURNT/SOOT BUT FRESHISH +BM,-,-
A5,1145,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 18 shs
A5,1145,Comments,-,MIX EARLY AND LATE FRESHISH + BM,-,-

AREA 6

A6,1076,ZDATE,-,ML3-4,-,total 39 shs
A6,1076,Comments,-,FAIR HOMOG GRP SOME BURNT + BONE CHARCOAL,-,-
A6,1078,ZDATE,-,ML4,-,total 96 shs
A6,1078,Comments,-,REDEPOS? SOME ABR SOME BURNT MIX DATES + BONE DAUB,-,-
A6,1081,ZDATE,-,M3+?,-,total 32 shs
A6,1081,Comments,-,NB OPUS SECTILE INLAY? PORPHYRY + BONE,-,-
A6,1083,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 28 shs
A6,1083,Comments,-,MIX DATES? MOST FRESHISH + BM,-,-
A6,1085,ZDATE,-,L2-3,-,total 11 shs
A6,1085,Comments,-,FRESHISH,-,-
,1087,ZDATE,-,ML2-3,-,total 22 shs
A6,1087,Comments,-,MOSTLY FREHSISH + BM,-,-
A6,1091,ZDATE,-,EM3+,-,total 44 shs
A6,1091,Comments,-,MOST FRESHISH OCC BURNT + BM,-,-

,1092,ZDATE,-,ML2+,-,total 13 shs
A6,1092,Comments,-,SOME ABR MIX DATES EARLY AND LATER SAM + MUD BRICK,-,-
A6,1093,ZDATE,-,2-3,-,total 4 shs
A6,1093,Comments,-,FRESHISH + BM,-,-
A6,1095,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 shs
A6,1095,Comments,-,PROB 3+,-,-

AREA 7

A7,1111,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 30 shs
A7,1111,Comments,-,GEN FRESH + BM TILE SIGNATURE MARK,-,-
A7,1113,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 4 shs
A7,1113,Comments,-,DAUB?,-,-
A7,1116,ZDATE,-,M-L1,-,total 7 shs
A7,1116,Comments,-,PLASTER + SHAPED CLAY DATED ON SAM,-,-
A7,1118,ZDATE,-,2-3,-,total 13 shs
A7,1118,Comments,-,MIN ABR,-,-
A7,1120,ZDATE,-,M3+,-,total 14 shs
A7,1120,Comments,-,MIN ABR,-,-
A7,1122,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 17 shs
A7,1122,Comments,-,MIN ABR SLIGHT BURNT,-,-
,1125,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 35 shs
,1125,Comments,-,MIXED ML1ST SAM PREHIST + BURNT BM,-,-
A7,1127,ZDATE,-,2-3,-,total 4 shs
A7,1127,Comments,-,MOST FRESH BOWL VABR,-,-
A7,1129,ZDATE,-,3?,-,total 12 shs
A7,1129,Comments,-,BM TEG? SIGNATURE MARK POT MOSTLY FRESH CC ABR,-,-
A7,1131,ZDATE,-,1-2,-,total 2 shs
A7,1131,Comments,-,MIXED DATES? CPN EARLY? FRESH,-,-
A7,1164,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 shs
A7,1164,Comments,-,POSS EARLY,-,-

TRENCH 10

T10,1001,ZDATE,-,1-2,-,total 5 shs
T10,1001,Comments,-,SOME V WORN + PREHIST? POT,-,-
T10,1003,ZDATE,-,1-2,-,total 8 shs
T10,1003,Comments,-,SOME V WORN + PREHIST? POT,-,-
T10,1005,ZDATE,-,2,-,total 31 shs
T10,1005,Comments,-,SMASHED VESS WATER WORN?,-,-
T10,1007,ZDATE,-,2,-,total 4 shs
T10,1007,Comments,-,DAUB/BURTN CLAY POT FRESHISH,-,-
T10,1012,ZDATE,-,M-L2,-,total 22 shs
,1012,Comments,-,V WATER WORN MIXED DATES? CPN EARLY,-,-
T10,1015,ZDATE,-,M3-E4,-,total 51 shs
T10,1015,Comments,-,SOME WORN SOME EARLY?,-,-
T10,1015,Join?,Same pot in T12,1039, 1 sherd

TRENCH 11

T11,1172,ZDATE,-,PREHISTORIC,-,total 2 shs
T11,1172,Comments,-,FRESHSIH PREHISTORIC SHS,-,-

TRENCH 12

T12,1026,ZDATE,-,2+,-,total 3 shs
T12,1026,Comments,-,FRESHISH,-,-
T12,1027,ZDATE,-,3,-,total 13 shs
T12,1027,Comments,-,MIX DATES LATER POT MORE WORN 1STC SAM CPN,-,-
T12,1029,ZDATE,-,L1-M2,-,total 12 shs
T12,1029,Comments,-,MOSTLY FRESHISH,-,-
T12,1031,ZDATE,-,M3+?,-,total 4 shs
T12,1031,Comments,-,MOST FRESHISH,-,-
T12,1033,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 shs
T12,1033,Comments,-,FRESHISH,-,-
2,1035,ZDATE,-,1-2,-,total 7 shs
T12,1035,Comments,-,FRESHISH SOME PREHIST?,-,-
T12,1037,ZDATE,-,2+,-,total 3 shs
T12,1039,ZDATE,-,ML3-4,-,total 73 shs

T12,1039,Comments,-,SOME WATER WORN SOME MIX DATE,-,-
T12,1039,Join?,Same pot in T10,1015, 1 sherd
T12,1041,ZDATE,-,L3-4,-,total 42 shs
T12,1041,Comments,-,MOST V WATER WORN,-,-
T12,1041,Join?,Same pot in T12,1042,1043
T12,1042,ZDATE,-,M3-4,-,total 32 shs
T12,1042,Comments,-,SMASHED VESS BURNT/SOOT,-,-
T12,1042,Join?,Same pot in T12,1041,1043
T12,1043,ZDATE,-,M3-4,-,total 22 shs
T12,1043,Comments,-,SOME WATER WORN,-,-
T12,1043,Join?,Same pot in T12,1041,1042
T12,1044,ZDATE,-,ML2,-,total 1 shs
T12,1044,Comments,-,SAM ONLY FRESH,-,-
T12,1050,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 shs

TRENCH 14

T14,1204,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 3 shs
T14,1204,Comments,-,QUITE WORN,-,-
T14,1207,ZDATE,-,RO,-,total 1 shs
T14,1207,Comments,-,PROB 2-4,-,-

TRENCH 15

T15,+,ZDATE,-,M-L3,-,total 113 shs
T15,+,Comments,-,MOST FRESH SOME LGE SHS AND PROFS GEN HOMOG 1SH POSS IA,-,-

2. Fabrics: Apart from a few contexts in Trenches 10 and 12, where some sherds were noticably abraded and water worn, the condition of the pottery was fairly good. In contrast, a larger number of groups from the previous excavation were abraded and worn suggestive of redeposition. Most of the fabrics present in the earlier excavation are to be found in the assemblages from this one (see TABLE 2 below). The marked differences echo the earlier date ranges and the absence of large later assemblages from the second excavation, mainly the presence of early Roman fabrics such as samian from South Gaul and the absence of late colour-coated wares from Oxfordshire, East Gaulish samian, and Derbyshire wares.

TABLE 2 - Incidence of fabrics from Besthorpe

3	0.31%	BB1
1	0.10%	BLEG?
3	0.31%	CC
21	2.17%	CR
80	8.26%	DWSH
2	0.21%	DWSH?
4	0.41%	GFIN
687	70.90%	GREY
2	0.21%	GREY?
18	1.86%	GROG
1	0.10%	GROG?
30	3.10%	IAGR
3	0.31%	IAGR?
5	0.52%	MOMH
1	0.10%	MOMH?
1	0.10%	MONV
3	0.31%	MORT
11	1.14%	NVCC
2	0.21%	NVCC?
18	1.86%	OX
3	0.31%	OX?
5	0.52%	PART
13	1.34%	SAMCG
7	0.72%	SAMCG?
6	0.62%	SAMSG
36	3.72%	SHEL
2	0.21%	SHEL?
1	0.10%	SPIR

969	100.00%	TOTAL

3. Forms: As with the fabrics which are generally earlier than those from the previous excavation, the forms reflect a dating rather than markedly functional difference between the two excavations. Late Roman forms such as high bead and flange bowls and inturned bead and flanged bowls are absent here but there is an increase in native tradition cooking pots (CPN & JB - jar/bowls). Grey wares, used for cooking, still predominate; albeit in earlier forms and the smattering of samian and finer wares reflect a fairly sophisticated rural settlement. Amphorae, although few in number, were present in the previous excavation but are absent here.

TABLE 4 - Incidence of forms

497	51.29%	Body sherds
1	0.10%	15/17
1	0.10%	18
1	0.10%	18/31
1	0.10%	29
1	0.10%	29?
1	0.10%	31 ETC
2	0.21%	31R
2	0.21%	33
2	0.21%	33?
1	0.10%	36
1	0.10%	37
2	0.21%	37?
1	0.10%	38
1	0.10%	B333
6	0.62%	B334?
1	0.10%	B428
1	0.10%	B452
2	0.21%	B?
5	0.52%	BCAR
2	0.21%	BCAR?
2	0.21%	BD
1	0.10%	BDR?
2	0.21%	BFB
1	0.10%	BFBL
11	1.14%	BFL
1	0.10%	BGR
1	0.10%	BHA?
11	1.14%	BK
4	0.41%	BK?
1	0.10%	BKCOR
1	0.10%	BKEV
1	0.10%	BKFN?
1	0.10%	BPR
1	0.10%	BPR?
3	0.31%	BR12
5	0.52%	BTR
31	3.20%	BWM
2	0.21%	BWM?
1	0.10%	C?
68	7.02%	CLSD
2	0.21%	CLSD?
18	1.86%	CP
5	0.52%	CP?
3	0.31%	CPL
9	0.93%	CPN
1	0.10%	CPN?
1	0.10%	CU15
3	0.31%	D
3	0.31%	D?
1	0.10%	DGF
2	0.21%	DPR
1	0.10%	DPR?
1	0.10%	DPRS
5	0.52%	F?

1	0.10%	FDN
35	3.61%	J
2	0.21%	J107
4	0.41%	J?
17	1.75%	JB
1	0.10%	JBCAR?
1	0.10%	JBF
1	0.10%	JBKEV
1	0.10%	JBKFN
1	0.10%	JCR
6	0.62%	JCUR
59	6.09%	JDW
2	0.21%	JDW?
2	0.21%	JEV
3	0.31%	JHK
16	1.65%	JL
1	0.10%	JL?
34	3.51%	JNN
2	0.21%	JS
7	0.72%	L
3	0.31%	L?
1	0.10%	LBX?
8	0.82%	M
1	0.10%	MHH
1	0.10%	MRR
21	2.17%	OPEN
2	0.21%	OPEN?
969	100.00%	TOTAL

4. Vessels for illustration

A5,1133,GREY,JBF,-,-,V,-,RIM,-,1
A5,1141,GFIN,BR12,-,-,V,-,RIM FLAKED,-,1
A5,1141,IAGR,JB,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH CPN?,-,1
A5,1145,GREY,JS,-,-,V,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
A5,1145,IAGR,JCUR,-,1,V,-,RIMS J,-,2
A5,1145,SHEL,JB,-,1?,V,-,RIMS J BSS AS CPN,-,8
A6,1076,GREY,BKEV,-,-,S,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
A6,1078,NVCC,BKCOR,BAD,-,V,-,RIM CR FAB,-,1
A6,1083,GREY,BFL,BIAP,-,S,-,RIM-LWR WALL,-,1
A6,1083,GREY,DPR,BIAP,-,S,-,RIM-LWR WALL BB1 TRAD,-,1
A6,1083,IAGR,JB,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH CPN TYPE RESID?,-,1
,1087,GREY,JB,-,1,V,-,RIMS J BURNT,-,4
A7,1111,GREY,JEV,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH RILLED UNUS,-,1
A7,1120,GFIN,DGF,BWL,-,V,-,RIM-BASE SANDW SOME Q BIRFURC CF B458 VAR,-,1
A7,1125,SAMSG,15/17,-,-,S,-,RIM NEEF,-,1
A7,1125,SAMSG,29,-,-,S,-,RIM NEEF,-,1
A7,1131,GREY,CP,LA,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH BURNT SOME GROG CPN? BURN SHLDR LIP,-,1
T10,1001,GREY,JNN,BDL,1,V,-,RIMS J BN CORE BDL ON NECK,-,2
T10,1003,GREY,BCAR,-,1,V,-,RIM BSS J LT GREY V WORN,-,4
T10,1005,GREY,BWM,-,-,V,-,RIM CF B309,-,1
T10,1005,GREY,JNN,LA,1,V,-,RIMS BSS J ALMOST PROF WATER WORN,-,28
T10,1005,IAGR?,CPN,-,-,V,-,RIM BS GROG COARSE GRITTY,-,2
T10,1012,GREY,BFL,-,-,V,-,RIM-BASE PROF LGE VESS V WORN,-,1
T10,1012,GREY,CPN,-,-,V,-,RIM,-,1
T10,1015,MOMH,MHH,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH,-,1
T10,1015,OX,BPR,-,-,V,-,RIM,-,1
T12,1029,GREY,BR12,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH,-,1
T12,1033,GREY,L,-,-,V,-,RIM,-,1
T12,1037,GREY,BCAR?,-,1,V,-,RIM-GIRTH BS EVERTED RIM,-,2
T12,1039,GREY,BTR,-,1,V,-,RIMS J,-,2
T12,1039,GREY,JCUR,-,-,V,-,RIM-SHLDR,-,1
T12,1039,GROG,JL,STAB,1,V,-,RIMS BSS J AS IN,1015,5
T12,1041,GREY,FDN,-,-,V,-,RIM,-,1
2,1042,DWSH,JDW,-,1,V,-,RIMS BSS J ALMOST PROF AS IN,1041 1043,32
T15,+,GREY,BFBL,-,-,S,-,RIM-GIRTH,-,1
T15,+,GREY,BFL,-,-,S,-,RIM SLIGHT EVERT,-,1
T15,+,GREY,BGR,-,-,V,-,RIM-GIRTH BURNT,-,1

T15,+,GREY,BWM,-,-,S,-,RIM UNDERCUT INT,-,1
T15,+,GREY,BWM,SWL,-,V,-,RIM-SHLDR THICK UNDERCUT INT,-,1
T15,+,GREY,DPRS,-,-,V,-,RIM-BASE PROF,-,1
T15,+,GREY,J,-,-,S,-,BASE COMP DELIB PIERCED STRING,-,1
T15,+,GREY,JL,-,-,V,-,RIM ROLLED CF DOLIA,-,1
T15,+,GREY,JS,-,-,S,-,RIM,-,1
T15,+,MONV,MRR,-,-,S,-,RIM,-,1
T15,+,OX,B428,-,-,V,-,RIM N AFR TYPE,-,1

5. Further work: The previous report (Davies B J ibid.) stressed the importance of the site both topographically and ceramically, and the material from this second excavation confirms the recommendations. The rarity of formally excavated, or indeed aerial photography, of rural sites in this area (see C. A. Brown 1985 Mons Pool, North Collingham) emphasises the importance of the excavations at Besthorpe. In the event that no further excavations take place the material from both excavations should be placed in their stratigraphic context and viewed as one assemblage. A full pottery report should be then be compiled, including illustrations. If further excavation should take place then a preliminary report should be prepared of the expected new material and later combined with the material already excavated.

APPENDIX 5

December 1st 1993

Assessment of the pottery from the accumulated material from Mons Pool, North Collingham, held at Newark Museum by B J Davies; together with notes assembled by the same from the between course project submitted to the University of Leicester, Department of Museum Studies for the Museums Association Diploma, also held at Newark Museum by

C A Brown, 1985 on 'The pottery from Mons Pool, North Collingham' NA 28959/12

The pottery from Mons Pool was derived by surface collections (see Findspots) and divided into 3 groups:

1. Accession number 1,225.1 Romano British pottery 1973? - Divers searching for pottery in Mons Pool 1973.
2. " " 13.80 Late Iron Age and Romano British pottery 1980.
3. " " 24.83 Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age and Romano British pottery, N Sillman, 1983

There are some photographs of the Prehistoric and Roman-British pottery sherds. Group 1 pottery could not be located; Group 2 consisted of 1 very large box and Group 3 of a smaller one. The general condition of the pottery was good with some surfaces eroded by soil conditions. It is difficult to relate the sherds to the report due to the method of bag numbering and thus is time-consuming. The half day spent at the Museum was too short to do a full assessment of the pottery, however because of the discovery of the pottery report by C A Brown, some can be assessed via the report and drawings. In view of its connection with Besthorpe, and because it was apparent that more recent research has refined some of the identifications (for example the difficulty in distinguishing Dales Ware from Iron Age pottery or Romano-British clacite gritted), it would be useful to make a full recording of the pottery for comparison. This would probably take about a day to complete.

NOTES - from report by C A Brown 1985

According to a map of the sand pits dated to 1790 there was destruction of Romano British and earlier features at Mons Pool. In 1884 a larger area was disturbed, whilst in 1980 there was gravel extraction but no archaeological excavation. A map of 1869 (Poor Close, Mons Pool) shows probable farm buildings and one of 1976 shows Mons Pool as being almost circular.

Analysis: (p41) The overall types and quantity are as one would expect from an East Midlands rural site. But there are some unusual forms. Grey wares: There is a large quantity of wide mouthed bowls (BWM) (see Samuels J, 1983 p330). Lid seated jars are common but, as at Mons Pool, lids are not so frequent. Perhaps inverted dishes were used or perhaps lids were of oraganic material.

Fig.9,14 shows an unusual lid-seated vessel with a stubby rim split by an incised groove, possibly paralleled by a flange, lid-seated jar (Buckland p c & Dolby M J, 1980, p159) form the kilns at Little London, Blaxton and Cantley. Lid-seated jars are not common until the 3-4 century, although Buckland dates flanged lid-seated jars to 200-250 AD.

Mons Pool pottery are generally typical except nos 1 & 2 from Group 1. The latter are unique among East Midlands froms. None with this decoration have been located to date. The shallow dish is absent from the area in the earliest kiklns but present from the mid Second century onwards. there are only 2 in the Mons Pool group. Flat-rimmed jars (Fig8.1) are peculiar to the Dragonby kilns (Samuels J 1983 p195), although they may possilby be made elsewhere. Grey imitation samian ware seems to be coomon to the East Midlands and are present at Mons Pool (Group 2 No70).

(p42) Calcite tempered wares: (The possible origin of Dales Ware lies in the shell-gritted jars of Late Iron Age in North Lincolnshire (Loughlin 1977, p89 in Peacock, ed 1977). Dales ware is the most common calcite tempered ware at

Mons Pool and lid-seated jars the most common form in this fabric.

BB2: There is little BB2 in the East Midlands unlike the rest of Great Britain. It is scarce at Mons Pool. * The BB2 from this site has been misidentified and is in fact hand made BB1.

Colour-coated wares: Those from the East Midlands kilns are indistinguishable in the hand from those of the Nene Valley, South Carlton, Lincoln and Great Casterton. * NB Some Swan Pool colour-coated ware was noted.

Mortaria: Most porduction seems to be sporadic. The fabric of the Mons Pool mortaria is like that of mortaria from South Carlton and the Lincoln Technical College. Hammer-headed mortaria generally dated to L2-L3. * NB one of the mortaria was definitely from Mancetter Hartshill.

There was a single sherd of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery, a food vessel from Group 3 number 1 and perhaps some of the calcite tempered wares are the only Prehistoric sherds from the site. With the exception of iron Age pottery, (p43) there is a scarcity of Prehistoric pottery from the Newark and Sherwood district.

Sources and Dating: None of the pottery could be attributed to a particular kiln. The dating is difficult, however the Mons Pool pottery appears to 2-4 century with a bias towards the 3-4 centuries.

Nature of the Site: This was difficult to assess because of the lack of formal excavation. The large proportion of wide-mouthed bowls suggest a rural site typical of the East Midlands. The scarcity of samian suggests a non-villa site, but the quantity of tile indicates a building of some kind - possibly a small farmstead like that excavated by Malcolm Todd at Staunton (Todd M 1976, Romano-British Rural Settlement at Staunton, Nottinghamshire, in Transactions of the Thoroton Society, Vol79, 1976, p29-39). This site also had possible Iron Age pottery although Todd believed it to be more likely Romano-British although made in an Iron Age style. Such small farmsteads have been shown by aerial survey of the region to be much more common than villa sites.

(p44) Conclusions: The site appears, in some ways, typical of East Midlands rural settlement. Although there are many such sites in the Trent Vallley (aerial photography) few have been excavated or even field-walked. Thus Mons Pool is a valuable addition.

(p45) Further analysis could give information on sources therefore Mons Pool may become useful in filling out the distribution of pottery from known kiln sites. This information, in turn, could be of use in examining the marketing forces of Romano-British pottery, whether the distribution of types bear any relationship with settlement type or any other cultural factor. It would be useful for comparative dating with other sites.

(p46) Bibliography:

Buckland P C & Dolby M J, 1980 ' A Roman pottery kiln site at Blaxton Quarry, near Doncaster. The Archaeology of Doncaster, 1980, Vol 4 part 1 Doncaster Museum.

Gillam J P 1951, 'Dales Ware: A Distinctive Romano British Cooking Pot'. The Antiquaries Journal 1951 Vol 31 pp154-169

Peacock D P S 1977, ' Pottery & Early Commerce etc. 1977

Samuels J 1983 'The Production of Roman Pottery in the East Midlands' thesis submitted to the University of Nottingham for the Degree of Docto of Philosophy, 1983

Todd M 1968 'The Commoner Late Roman Coarse Wares of the East Midlands'. The Antiquaries Journal 1968, Vol 48 pp192-209

Wake E G 1869 'The History of Collingham and its Neighbourhood' 1869, London

Pottery notes:

DR20 amphorae in with tile 13.80.
BB1 in unprovenanced bag - bowl/dish base
Sherd No 110 Mancetter Hartshill hooked rimmed mortaria
Sherd No 70 very unusual form of Carinted lid-seated bowl Fig 6 no10 grey ware.
84 - Iron Age shelly ware native cooking pot
96-98 Orange red oxidised wares misfired?
102-106 colour-coats, mostly Nene valley, mostly plain undecorated. 2 sherds with barbotine most light brown fabric some later orange brown fabric.

29 Inturned bead and flange bowl as Swanpool

110 Painted Hammer-headed Mancetter Hartshill mortaria

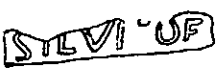
Samian:

East Gaulish nos 114-117
Rest probably Central Gaulish dr36; and rim of probable 18/31

APPENDIX 6

NONEBE 192

Context 1092, obj. no. 1954
Area: 6
Date: 17.11.92.



Base of a plate Drag 18/31, with stamp SILVI.OF, South Gaulish Silvius of La Graufesenque, Trajanic.

APPENDIX 7

NONEBE '92 Flint

A small quantity of flint was recovered, unfortunately none of the pieces is particularly diagnostic.

SF 1998 Broken blade-like flake, one edge possibly utilized.
SF 1999 Blade-like flake, one edge utilized.
SF 2000 Broken flake.

SF 1998-2000 are made from fairly good quality flint, mid brown in colour with a thin white cortex.

T 10 1003 1 blade-like flake, 1 chip, 2 unretouched flakes.
1043 Flaked lump ? Several thermal fractures, flake scars appear very fresh. Possibly worked but may be the product of natural thermal action. Pebble flint.
T 12 1037 1 burnt flint
1141 Flake, pebble flint.

Dating

Unfortunately no diagnostic pieces were recovered. However, the material would not be out of place in a Mesolithic or Neolithic context.

APPENDIX 8

Besthorpe Animal Bone Archive. (NONE BE92)

1116 A7
Small ungulate; 2 long bone burnt frags
Indet; 3 burnt fragments

1027 T12
Ovicaprid; 1 left distal epiphysis radius, broken, burnt (white)
Indet; 1 burnt rib frag

1037
c.f. Ox; 1 gonion frag of mandible, chopped
Ovic; orbit frag of skull
maxilla frag with unerupted premolar 3?
Small ungulate; 1 skull frag
2 tooth frags

1039
Ovic; 1 radius shaft
Small ungulate; 1 long bone frag
Large ungulate; 1 long bone frag, chopped

1041
Ox; 1 unworn lower molar frag
1 .. upper .. ..
1 molar frag
2 frags costal cartilage

1044
Indet; 1 frag bone ?large ung sized epiphysis - eroded

1076
Ovic; 1 midshaft and distal end right hunerus. distal articulation = 26.2mm
1 upper molar
Ox; 1 lower molar worn
1 upper molar
Large Ung; 2 skull frags
1 distal lateral condyle femur? burnt black
Small Ung; 3 long bone frags
Indet; 3 frags

1078
Ovic; 1 tibia shaft, with superficial chop marks
1 split radius shaft
1 radius shaft
Horse; 1 deciduous upper molar
Pig; 1 upper third molar, burnt, well worn.
1 condyle from mandible
Ox; 1 lower molar
1 upper deciduous molar
1 upper molar
1 left mandible in 3 frags, broken, many knifecuts along the diastema and on the buccal side
1 left calcaneum, proximally broken

1 1st phalanx, gnawed
1 broken vertebral body
1 eroded distal frag astragalus
Large ung; 1 broken distal condyle fragment of femur
1 tarsal
3 rib frags
1 mandible frag
1 condyle frag mandible
2 long bone frags
1 burnt frag, indet but lar sized
Small ung; 2 burnt long bone frags
2 long bone frags
1 vertebral spine
Indet; 12 frags

1081
Ox; 1 upper premolar
1 left calcaneum frag

1083
Ox; 1 eroded mandible frag (diastema)
Large Ung; 1 burnt rib frag
Indet; 2 frags

1085
Ox; 1 r mandible frag, modern break into pieces, with unerupted molar
Large Ung; 2 long bone frags

1087
Horse; 1 eroded lower molar frag

1091
Horse; 1 right tibia, proximal end gnawed off, distally fused, root marks across the shaft.
Ox; 1 right mandible, diastema
1 upper molar
1 scapula, glenoid and articulation only.
1 fragment metapodial shaft, modern break
1 condyle fragment mandible,
Ovicaprid; 1 left mandible frag, m1,m2,m3 very worn
Large Ung; 1 split and chopped metapodial shaft
1 long bone frag
2 skull frags
Small ung; 1 acetabulum fragment of pelvis
Indet; 5 fragments

1093
Large Ung; 1 long bone frag

1133 All very damp and crumbly
Large Ung; 1 proximal epiphysis humerus
1 distal articulation of 1st phalanx
Small ung; 1 metatarsal shaft
Indet; 2 frags

1141
c.f. Small ung; 2 split tooth frags
Indet; 1 burnt frag

1145
Ox; 1 eroded broken navicular cuboid frag
1 distal frag tibia, fused, eroded and split.

Large Ungulate is used for bone not specifically identifiable, but of a size to be ox, horse or red deer, and as the most common of the 3 is most likely to be ox

Small ungulate as above could be ovicaprid (sheep/goat), pig, or deer, but is most likely to be ovicaprid.

Table 1: Total number of bones by species/group and context

	Horse	Ox	Ovicaprid	Pig	Large Ung	Small Ung	Indet	Total
1116	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	5
1027	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	2
1037	–	1	2	–	–	3	–	6
1039	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	3
1041	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	5
1044	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
1076	–	2	2	–	3	3	3	13
1078	1	8	3	2	10	5	12	41
1081	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
1083	–	1	–	–	1	–	2	4
1085	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	3
1087	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
1091	1	5	1	–	5	1	5	18
1093	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
1133	–	–	–	–	2	1	2	5
1141	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	3
1145	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
	3	27	10	2	25	18	30	115

Table 2; Total number of bones by species/group and anatomy.

	Horse	Ox	Ovicaprid	Pig	Large Ung	Small Ung	Indet	Total
skull fr	–	–	1	–	2	1	–	4
mandible	–	6	1	1	2	–	–	10
maxilla	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
scapula	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
humerus	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2
radius	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	4
phalanx	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	2
vertebrae	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	2
ribs	–	–	–	–	4	–	1	5
costal cart.	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
pelvis	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
femur	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
tibia	1	1	1	–	1	–	–	4
metatarsal	–	1	–	–	1	1	–	3
calcaneum	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
astragalus	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
loose teeth	2	10	1	1	–	4	–	18
long bone fr	–	–	–	–	7	10	–	17
fragment	–	1	–	–	4	–	29	34
	3	27	10	2	25	18	30	115

This small collection of hand picked mammal bone is 74% identifiable to species/group level and 16% are loose teeth. This is a far greater proportion of identifiable material than in the other trial sample examined by J.F. Hamshaw-Thomas from a nearby site and it may be that this material was better preserved.

It is an unremarkable sample, fragmentary and in poor condition, composed largely of butchered debris, some of the bone was burnt. Ox (including large ungulate) and ovicaprid (including small ungulate) dominate the collection. The archive shows the bone identified from each context, the sample is too small for any further comment.

Alison Locker. 24.2.93

APPENDIX 9

THE SOILS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND TO PASTURE FIELD EVALUATION, BESTHORPE QUARRY.

by J. Rackham

The land is low lying on the floodplain of the River Trent with an area of rising ground, forming a small hill, composed of sand, presumed to be an early dune formation on the site.

The landscape includes land showing rigg and furrow evidence of medieval and later cultivation which appears to have been under pasture for some time.

Off the small hillocks the soils are derived from alluvial sediments and have clearly been subjected to many decades / centuries of fluctuating water tables, associated with seasonal changes and floods, that has gleyed the soils. Under these circumstances any alluvial stratigraphy is likely to have been obliterated, except where major disturbances have taken place, and survival of paleoenvironmental evidence is unlikely in anything except deep buried channels that have remained below the water table for most of their existence.

Upon the sand hillocks drainage is very good and survival of organics is extremely unlikely. Animal bone will survive in the soil on the hillocks but may well be severely corroded or lost altogether in the alluvial sediments. Carbonised plant remains may survive both in the sands and alluvial sediments.

Within the alluvial sediments major disturbances such as field ditches are recognised although elements of the stratigraphy above these appear to have been destroyed by fluctuating water tables. In my opinion this gives the impression of features having been cut from levels lower than was probably the case. The particle movements within the soils effectively truncating the stratigraphy, which remained intact only in the lower half of the visible section where soil water movement was less svere. This pattern was clearly visible in a ditch section in one of the southeastern trenches (Trench 14) where the visible cut showed very sharp, almost vertical edges, with no change of slope at the top of the 'visible' cut suggesting physical truncation of the upper part of the features. An apparent stratigraphy occurred in these alluvial sediments through colour change and a horizon of probable iron sulphide nodules. Both these aspects are largely if not exclusively post-depositional characters associated with water table movements and associated gleying, oxidation, salt movement and soil formation.

There is, nevertheless, a sequence of alluvial deposition which is recognisable within the visible sections from the evidence of cuts for field ditches and archaeological debris.

Probable Roman activity can be recognised at a defined point within the alluvial sequence particularly as the ground rises, and therefore has been subjected to less water movement. Any developed ground surface associated with this horizon appears to have been largely obliterated and it is difficult and probably unwise to try and follow this horizon down onto the lower ground where real depositional events become obscured by post-depositional changes. 'Natural' truncation of the field ditches make the dating of these features impossible in the absence of archaeological finds and they probably should not be related to dateable horizons found elsewhere in the trenches or on the site.

The filling of the field ditches and the covering of the 'Roman' archaeological horizon with later alluvial deposits is indicative of periods of alluviation and presumably rising river levels. The lower floodplain is likely to have been perpetually under damp pasture, except during phases of reduced flooding or dry summers. These might have been coincident with the Roman activity on the alluvium and later medieval activity contempoary with the development of rigg and furrow. Field ditches might be associated with either of these periods but could equally, in the absence of artefactual material, date to any other time during which local farmers were trying to reduce waterlogging and improve the pasture by drainage through field ditches.

On the sandy hillocks there is evidence of hillwash. Towards the lower part of the hillslope there is a probable soil horizon buried beneath hillwash from the slope above. This may be of relatively recent origin (associated with medieval cultivation) and rises towards the surface upslope. On top of the hillock no earlier ground surfaces are visible and this is clearly an erosional area from which Roman or later evidence, except negative features, has been removed. The possibility of stratified prehistoric material within the sands does, however, exist.

The paleoeconomic and environmental potential of the site is limited but the following points should be considered.

Paleoeconomic evidence in the form of bones and carbonised material are likely to survive within archaeological deposits on the sandy hillocks. The evaluation has recovered bones of cattle, sheep and pig, although the results of any soil samples colleceted have not been seen. Significant evidence of archaeological activity should be sampled including negative features, such as pits and ditches, and any horizons believed to have been buried by later alluvium or hillwash. Recovery of animal bone from the sandy deposits of the hillocks should be relatively efficient by normal excavation methods.

There seems little purpose in developing a sampling

strategy for the ditches and other features in the alluvial deposits. The bone sample will be incomplete, including only the most robust bones and teeth, and soil samples in the absence of good, well dated archaeological contexts do not warrant study, although cereal types found might assist in dating the features.

Pollen? Soil formation

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29 BEAUMONT STREET
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Tel: 0865 311046
Fax: 0865 311047

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