SST3683

PN. 951

THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

A5 Weeford-Fazeley Road Improvement, Staffordshire

Trial-Trenching 2002

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 951
January 2003

Staffordshire County Council
Historic Environment Record
Entered by SB on 10/7/03
Source(UID) ST3683
Event(UID) ST729
Monument(UID)
GIS feature Yes
PRNo. 50331-44
Parish Boxfile "Multi Parish 4"
Associated records ?? 02063/05150/ 03623/ 0680

A5 Weeford-Fazeley Road Improvement, Staffordshire
Trial-Trenching 2002

by
Helen Martin and Charlotte Neilson

with contributions by Marina Ciaraldi, C. J. Evans, Annette Hancocks and Maurice Hopper

illustrations by Nigel Dodds, Bryony Ryder and John Halstead

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

22 Trench 27, selected sections
23 Trench 31, location

southeasterly sloping land between Hints and Hints Hill. The principal land uses are agriculture (mainly arable), woodland and quarrying (W. S. Atkins, 1993). The preferred route runs parallel to the present A5 Watling Street Roman road, an area of high archaeological potential.

3.0:BACKGROUND

The impact of the A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvement Scheme on known and potential archaeological remains has been partially evaluated as part of a staged cultural heritage assessment undertaken by BUFAU in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (Volume 11). The results of this work are summarised within an Environmental Statement (Highways Agency 2002) and detailed in a BUFAU report (Williams and Hancocks 2002). Assessment work completed so far comprises:

- a desk-based assessment, taking into account information from the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record, and a preliminary walkover survey of the line of the preferred route (Highways Agency 2002 Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2A)

- an aerial photographic assessment carried out in April 2001 by CgMs Consulting, under commission from BUFAU (Highways Agency 2002 Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2B). This identified nine areas of archaeological interest, of which only seven appear be directly affected by the preferred route (Site 2 - SMR 3623; Site 8 - SMR 2063; Site 15 - SMR 2064; Sites 16/17/18 - SMR 1414-1416 and south of Field 13).

- a programme of fieldwalking (Williams and Hancocks 2002). The fields covered were 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 (all arable fields along the route, Williams and Hancocks 2002). No significant quantities of finds were recovered or concentrations of artifacts were recorded.

- geophysical survey of approximately 65% of the preferred route (Highways Agency 2002 Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2C). A rapid scan had been carried out in 14 fields, and areas of detailed survey in Fields 15, 16, 13, 10, 3 and 2 (Figs. 2C.1A-2C.1C Highways Agency 2002 Volume 2). Three sites were identified which may contain significant archaeological features (Field 10, Field 15 and Field 16). Two of these had already been identified during the aerial photographic assessment (Site 8, Field 15 and Site 10, Field 16).

4.0:AIMS

4.1:Trial-trenching (Fig. 2)

Previous stages of archaeological assessment (Highways Agency 2002) identified a number of areas of possible archaeological potential along the western part of the route that could be affected by the preferred route. The general aim of the trial-trenching was to evaluate the archaeological potential of these areas in order to establish the need for any mitigation, and the nature and extent of the mitigation. More specifically the aims were:

- to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and features in areas of potential
- to define the nature, extent, character, date and significance of surviving deposits and features
- to enable artifacts to be recovered and paleo-environmental samples to be taken
- to allow the formulation of a mitigation strategy for further archaeological work, or for preservation, as appropriate

The site-specific objectives are outlined in Section 7.0 below.

4.2:Sample topsoil stripping/salvage recording (Fig. 2)

Due to a number of factors, including the nature of the soils and the type of land-use, assessment did not reveal areas of archaeological potential that could be specifically targeted by trial-trenching in the eastern half of the preferred route. The general aim of the sample topsoil stripping was to evaluate this part of the route in advance of construction, in an attempt to eliminate the risk of finding extensive and significant archaeological sites at a late stage during construction which could lead to costly delays and design changes. More specifically the aims were:

- to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features in the eastern part of the preferred route, where other assessment techniques have proved to be unsuccessful in locating potential archaeological sites, and trial-trenches cannot be targeted at specific locations.
- to define the nature, extent, character and significance of surviving deposits and features (if any), through rapid recording following the topsoil stripping. The success of this strategy depends on stripping sufficiently large areas to provide an adequate sample of the landscape, and to detect the types of archaeological sites that are not easily identified by aerial photography and within narrow trial trenches, such as sites with no linear features, and sites with more ephemeral remains.
- to provide information to allow the formulation of a mitigation strategy for further archaeological work, or for preservation, as appropriate.

5.0:METHODOLOGY

5.1:Trial-trenching (Fig. 2)

Twenty four trial-trenches covering a total area of approximately 2385 square metres, were excavated at agreed locations along the route. The majority of the trenches were 50m in length and 1.8m wide, except where specified in Section 7.0 below. Some of the trenches were located to investigate cropmarked features, others to test anomalies of potential archaeological origin detected by the geophysical survey. The remaining trenches were located to test areas for which no archaeological information was available, in areas adjoining cropmarked features and geophysical anomalies.

The trial-trenches were located using an EDM total station. A JCB or a 360degree mechanical excavator, both with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket, were used to remove topsoil and/or modern overburden, under archaeological supervision, down to the subsoil surface or to the top of the uppermost horizon of archaeological deposits. Soil from machine excavation was stored at the side of each trial-trench. The subsoil surface or deposits so exposed were hand cleaned, where necessary, and subsequent sample excavation was carried out by hand. Discrete archaeological features, such as pits, were half sectioned. A sufficient length of linear features, such as ditches and gullies, was excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, to recover datable artifacts and palaeoenvironmental samples for analysis.

20 litre soil samples were collected from a representative sample of datable features and their potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis was assessed. The sampling policy followed the broad guidelines in the BUFAU 'Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling'. Recovered finds were cleaned and marked, and remedial conservation work was undertaken where necessary.

Recording was by means of pre-printed *pro-forma* record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), and monochrome print and colour slide photography.

5.2 Sample topsoil stripping/recording (Fig. 2)

The Written Scheme of Investigation (BUFAU 2002) made provision for eight sample transects, each measuring 50m x 15m, to be excavated across the estimated extent of the land-take at each location. This would cover a total of 6000 square metres, which is approximately a 5% sample of the eastern half of the route, given an average land-take corridor of 50m. Not all the sample areas could be accessed. Trench T30 was removed from the evaluation programme as it was located in an area that had been quarried-out. Trench T29 could not be fully investigated because of adverse weather. Permission for trench T32 was not granted because of crops.

This work was undertaken in two stages. Stage 1 comprised removal of overburden under archaeological control, planning of any archaeological features present, followed by a review meeting with Staffordshire County Council. Where archaeological features and deposits were identified during Stage 1, further work was undertaken (Stage 2). This comprised hand-excavation and recording of archaeological features and deposits,

in accordance with a sampling strategy detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation and which was agreed with the Council.

5.3: Recording and sampling methodology

Twenty litre soil samples would be collected from a representative sample of datable features and their potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis assessed. The sampling policy followed the broad guidelines in the BUFAU 'Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling'. Recovered finds were cleaned and marked, and remedial conservation work undertaken where necessary.

Recording was be by means of pre-printed *pro-forma* record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), and monochrome print and colour slide photography.

6.0: RESULTS (Fig. 2)

The results are described by site number, following the assessment, and then by trench. A selection of the recorded features has been illustrated.

6.1: Site 2 (Trenches 1-2, Figs. 3-4) by Helen Martin

Aims and location

Trenches 1 and 2 were orientated approximately northwest-southeast and each measured 50m by 1.8m. Trench 1 was located to investigate a sub-rectangular cropmarked feature and Trench 2 was positioned to intercept any features outside the enclosure, within part of the preferred route. Trench 1 was re-located slightly to avoid an overhead power line. 03623

Description

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 was the light yellow/brown natural sand (1000) with a wide band of red/brown clay located within the southeastern half of the trench (1002), together comprising the subsoil. Sealing these deposits was a layer of dark brown silty topsoil (1000a). No archaeological deposits or features were observed in this trench, and no finds were collected.

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 2 was a light yellow/brown natural sand with bands and patches of red/brown clay and degraded sandstone (2000), comprising the subsoil, which was cut by three features. Towards the centre of the trench was a possible pit (F201, Fig. 4.S.1), measuring 0.9m wide by 0.25m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It was backfilled with light red/brown silty-sand (2002), with substantial charcoal flecking throughout. In the southeast of the trench was a small pit or post-hole (F203, S.2), 0.4m wide by 0.15 m deep, with a U-shaped profile. This feature was also backfilled with a red/brown silty sand (2004). In the northwest of Trench 2 was an east-west aligned ditch (F200, S.3), measuring 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep, with a 50331

rounded profile. It contained a mid red/brown silty-sand (2003). Layer 2000 and the backfilled features were sealed by a layer of dark brown silty topsoil (2000a).

Interpretation

The broader linear cropmarked feature intercepted by Trench 1 corresponded with the position and alignment of the wide band of red/brown clay encountered in the southeastern half of the trench. The wide part of the cropmarked feature must therefore be geological in origin, although the narrower part of the cropmarked feature (outside the preferred route), may be anthropogenic in origin. Bands of red/brown clay are a characteristic of the natural subsoil in the area and were encountered in some of the trenches further to the east (Site 8, notably Trenches 5 and 6, see below).

Of the three features encountered in Trench 2, only feature F200 produced dating evidence (a sherd of early post-medieval pottery). Pit F201 and feature F203 may be contemporary with ditch F200 (the fills of all three were very similar), although a Roman date is also possible.

In contrast with the trenches within Site 8 to the east (see below) there was no b-soil horizon (or colluvium) within Trenches 1-2, therefore any shallow features here could have been scoured-out by plough truncation.

6.2: Site 8 (Trenches 3-10 and 24, Figs. 5-11) by Helen Martin

Trench 3 (Figs. 6-7)

Aim

Trench 3, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated approximately northwest-southeast to investigate a northeast-southwest aligned linear cropmarked feature.

Description

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 was the light brown natural sand (3002) with areas of degraded sandstone, which had been cut by a number of features including ditches and a post-hole.

At the southeastern end of Trench 3 was a group of northeast-southwest aligned ditches. The southernmost ditch of this group (F300), cut to a V-shaped profile, measured 1.3m wide by 0.25m deep. The earliest of the of three ditches to the northwest of ditch F300 was feature F301 (Fig. 7.S.1), which measured 1m wide by 0.4m deep, and also had a V-shaped profile. It was cut on its western edge by a second ditch (F302, S.1), measuring 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep, and which had a U-shaped profile. The latest of the three ditches was feature F303 (S.1), which measured 1.4m wide by 0.4m deep, and was U-shaped in profile. The fills of all four ditches were generally mid brown to red silty sands with charcoal flecking, while the upper fill of ditch F301, consisting of reddish clayey sand with a high percentage of rounded stones (3004), was different.

At the northwestern end of the trench was a small post-hole (F306) with a U-shaped profile, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.14m deep. It contained a light brown sandy fill mixed with a substantial quantity of carbonised wood and charcoal (3010). Towards the centre of the trench was a wide, fairly flat band of white quartz-like stone (F304) mixed with dark red sand (3008). This measured approximately 6.5m in width and overlay the natural subsoil (3002). Cut into the top of feature F304 was a square, shallow cut (F305), measuring only 0.05m in depth, which contained a solid red clay sand fill (3009). A compacted yellow/brown silty-sand (3001) sealed the backfilled features in Trench 3, and was overlain by the topsoil (3000). No datable artifacts were collected.

Interpretation

The three ditches observed in the southeastern end of the trench may correspond with the northeast-southwest cropmarked feature, also recorded in Trench 8 (see below) and were likely to have been a continuation of a series of three ditches observed in Trench 8 (see below). Likewise, ditch F300 was probably the continuation of a ditch recorded in Trench 8. The ditches could have defined field or plot boundaries. The substantial amount of carbonised wood and charcoal recovered from the fill of post-hole F306 suggests the *in situ* burning of a post. Interpretation of this feature is difficult in isolation. Feature F304 may be an ice-wedge or other naturally-formed deposit. 50332

Trench 4 (Figs. 6-7)

Aim

Trench 4, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated roughly northwest-southeast, and was located within an area proposed for landscaping to the north of the preferred route, to investigate two parallel, roughly north-south aligned linear cropmarked features.

Description

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 4 was a yellow to light brown natural sand with pink mottling (4002), the subsoil, which was cut by a number of features. At the southeastern end of the trench was an oval shaped pit or ditch butt-end (F401), with a semi-circular profile, measuring 1.5m wide by 0.4m deep. To the northwest was a north-south aligned ditch (F402), semi-circular in profile, and measuring 1m wide by 0.2m deep. Both of these features contained single fills of soft yellow sand with charcoal flecking. Adjoining feature F402 was a very shallow, crescent-shaped feature (F403), measuring 0.6m long by 0.2m wide by 0.04m deep, filled with a markedly charcoal-rich silty-sand (4005). A narrow, northwest-southeast aligned gully (F404) was recorded towards the northwestern end of the trench, and measured 0.4m wide by 0.29m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base, and was backfilled with darkish brown/red silty-sand with a mix of reddish brown clayey-sand (4006) with charcoal flecking. Adjoining gully F404 was a large pit with a squared profile (F405, Fig. 7.S.2), measuring 1.07m wide by 0.82 deep, which was backfilled with similar material to feature F404. Also recorded in the trench was a circular pit (F406), measuring 0.5m in diameter by 0.08m deep, which was backfilled with a light brown sand packed with small rounded stones (4008). A compacted yellow to light brown silty-sand (4001)

sealed all the features and the subsoil in this trench, and was overlain by the topsoil (4000). No datable artifacts were collected.

Interpretation

Features F402 and F404 roughly correspond with the position of the cropmarked ditches, but not with their alignment. Crescent-shaped feature F403 is unusual and difficult to interpret, although the substantial amount of charcoal within the fills may suggest burning *in situ*. The circular stone-filled feature F406 was one of a number of similar features encountered elsewhere during the evaluation (see below). The stone fragments found within the backfill could derive from post-packing.

Trench 5 (Figs. 6-7)

Aim

Trench 5, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated east-west, and joined Trench 6, together forming a T-shape. It was positioned to examine linear cropmarked features and geophysical anomalies.

Description

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 5 was a yellow to mid brown natural sand (5000), the subsoil. A number of features were recorded, cutting the subsoil. At the western end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (F503), measuring 0.5m diameter by 0.10m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. The feature was backfilled with sandy soil with a substantial quantity of carbonised wood and charcoal (F503, Plate 1). A small stakehole (F502), 0.10m deep by 0.10m wide, was also recorded nearby.

The earliest of the feature group recorded in the east of the trench was a pit (F507), measuring 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep, with a semi-circular profile, which had been cut by a north-south aligned ditch (F508) which measured around 2m in width, but was unexcavated. This ditch was in turn cut by three features, two comprising post-holes or pits (F504, F505), the third pit (F506, Fig. 6.S.3) represented by a U-shaped cut backfilled with stone fragments (5009). At the eastern end of the trench was a northwest-southeast aligned feature (F509). It was irregular in profile, and was backfilled with red/brown clay (5012). A compact, yellow to brown silty-sand b-soil horizon (5001), recorded below the topsoil (5000a), sealed the backfilled features in the trench.

Interpretation

Pit or posthole F503 contained a substantial amount of carbonised wood and charcoal. This could indicate *in situ* burning. North-south aligned ditch F508 probably corresponded with the similarly aligned cropmarked feature, although the parallel cropmarked feature was not found. Ditch F508 may have been previously identified as a geophysical anomaly. The irregular morphology of feature F509 may suggest a geological origin.

The feature group in the east of the trench may represent structures such as a fence, drying-frames or possibly even an agricultural outbuilding. These features post-date ditch F508, suggesting at least two phases of activity here, although no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 6 (Figs. 6-8)

Aim

Trench 6, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated approximately north-south and was positioned to examine linear geophysical anomalies, and also to determine if further archaeological features could be identified outside the bounds of the identified cropmarked features.

Description

The earliest layer in Trench 6 was a mixed yellow/brown natural sand in the southern half of the trench, and a redder more compacted sandy material with degraded sandstone in the northern half of the trench (6001/6002). These deposits together comprised the natural subsoil. A mixed clayey layer (6004), up to 0.8m deep, extended over the northern half of the trench, sealing the natural sand (6001). Clay layer 6004 had been cut by a number of features. The largest of these was a sub circular pit (F602, Fig. 7.S.4) with a rounded profile, measuring 1.3m wide by 0.35m deep. To the south of pit F602 was an east-west aligned ditch (F603, Fig. 7.S.5), with a U-shaped profile, measuring 0.6m wide by 0.45m deep, which had been cut by a U-shaped posthole (F606, S.5, not illustrated on Fig. 6), measuring 0.17m in diameter by 0.65m deep. Immediately to the north of ditch F603 were two pits or ditch terminals (F605 and F604), not fully exposed, the largest of which measured 1.1m wide by 0.2m deep. A further ditch (F607, S.5), measuring 0.6m wide by 0.2m deep, ran parallel to ditch F603. All of these features were backfilled with clayey-sand, flecked with charcoal, while the backfills of ditch F603 and post-hole F606 (S.5) were particularly charcoal-rich. Towards the centre of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (F600) with a V-shaped profile, measuring 1.7m wide by 0.55m deep (Plate 2). The brown/red sandy fill (6003) produced two small abraded sherds of Roman pottery, and three sherds of prehistoric pottery. In the south of the trench was a sub-circular pit or post-hole (F608). It had a U-shaped profile and was 0.55m wide by 0.31m deep. A compacted yellow/brown b-soil horizon (6000) sealed the features in this trench, and was overlain by the topsoil (6000a).

Interpretation

Ditch F600, aligned east-west, may have represented a boundary parallel to Watling Street. Most of the ditches encountered in the evaluation were cut north-south, representing boundary divisions running at a right angle to the Roman road. Clay layer 6004 in the north of the trench may not be an anthropogenic feature. Curiously, it coincided with a lush green cropmarked feature, visible at eye level. The pits and ditches in the north of the trench suggested a focus of fairly intensive activity, perhaps connected with agricultural/livestock processes. Ditch F603 may correspond with a linear geophysical anomaly.

Trench 7 (Figs. 6-7 and 9)

Aim

Trench 7, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated east-west, and was positioned within an area proposed for landscaping in order to intercept any archaeological features associated with the adjoining cropmarked feature complex located to the north.

Description

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 7 was a light red-brown natural sand (7003) which was cut by a number of features. At the eastern end of the trench was a large, north-south aligned ditch (F706) measuring 1.5m wide by 0.75m deep. It was backfilled with a dark brown silty-sand (7010) with numerous stone inclusions. To the west of feature F706 was a shallow pit (F700, Plate 3), measuring 1m wide by 0.08m deep, with a basal fill comprising a layer of flat, rounded stones (7004).

Towards the centre of the trench were two circular, shallow pits or post-holes with U-shaped profiles (F702, F701). Feature F701 measured 0.92m wide by 0.10m deep, and contained a single fill of light brown silty sand (7005) whilst feature F702 measured 0.48m wide by 0.18m deep, and contained a noticeably darker brown/black sandy-silt (7006) with stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. Two pits (F703-4) were recorded nearby. Pit F703 (Fig. 7.S.6) measured approximately 0.64m deep by 1.4m wide, was circular in plan, with a U-shaped profile and steeply-sloping sides. The second pit (F704, Plate 4, S.7), measured 1.52m wide by 0.6m deep, and was oval in plan with a flat, squared base and steeply-sloping sides in profile. Both pits were backfilled with brown silty-sand (7007-8), with a few stone inclusions. At the western end of the trench was a roughly east-west aligned ditch (F705), measuring 0.8m wide by 0.48m deep. It was backfilled with a similar fill (7009) to other features recorded within the trench. A layer of disturbed ground (7011), overlying the natural, extended over the western half of the trench. An orange/brown silty sand subsoil (7002) sealed all the features and layer 7011 in Trench 7, and was in turn overlain by the topsoil (7000). No datable finds were collected.

Interpretation

Trench 7 contained features with darker fills, a higher silt content, and of a generally larger-size than those encountered elsewhere during the evaluation. Ditch F706 in the east of the trench was only partially exposed, and was probably originally wider than other ditches interpreted as boundaries during this evaluation. Instead, it may have defined part of one side of an enclosure. Likewise, the two pits F703 and F704, again only partially exposed, were likely to have been of a considerable size. Their function is not known. The stone lining of feature F700 perhaps suggests that this feature had some form of specialised function, perhaps connected with agriculture or small-scale industry. East-west aligned ditch F705 could have formed the northern limit of an enclosure, although it would have formed a much more insubstantial enclosure ditch than feature F706. Disturbed layer 7011 probably represents considerable activity here.

The feature concentrations recorded within the trench, and the location of substantial ditches and a number of other features suggests that this area was a farmstead or other rural focus of activity.

Trench 8 (Figs. 6 and 10)

Aim

Trench 8 which measured 15m square, was located to test the possible eastwards continuation of a cropmarked pit alignment.

Description

The earliest layer encountered was a yellow/brown natural sand (8002), which was cut by a number of ditches. In the northwest of the trench were three shallow parallel ditches F800, F803, F804 (Fig. 10.S.1), aligned northeast-southwest, the largest of which was feature F800, which measured a maximum of 0.95m in width. The relationship between the ditches could not be ascertained. A further ditch (F805, F810), following the same alignment, was recorded in the centre of the trench. It measured 1.75m wide by 0.25m deep. An orange/brown sandy b-soil horizon (8001) sealed the ditches in Trench 8, and was overlain by topsoil (8000).

Interpretation

Trench 8 appeared to have been subjected to a considerable amount of post-medieval and modern activity. This included the digging of pits (F812 and F806, not illustrated or described in detail), which produced later post-medieval brick and pottery (see Table 1 for finds details), and the laying of a modern cable (F811, not illustrated or described in detail). No evidence for the continuation of the cropmarked pit alignment was observed, although a number of ditches were revealed. The three ditches in the northwestern corner of the trench probably continued the line of the three ditches found in Trench 3 (F301-F303, see above). Ditch F805/F810 was probably also recorded within that trench (as feature F300). The location and curving alignment of the ditches identified in Trench 8 suggests that the features could have formed a right-angle with the recorded cropmarked pit alignment. Other right-angled junctions are recorded within cropmarked pit alignments in the near vicinity. Features F301-F303 could have formed a re-cut segmented ditch, and it is not impossible that the cropmarked pit alignment could have been a segmented ditch also.

02063

Trench 9 (Figs. 6 and 10)

Aim

Trench 9 which measured 50m by 1.8m was orientated northeast-southwest. It was located to intercept any archaeological features recorded outside the presently-recorded cropmarked features.

Description

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 9 was the yellow/brown natural sand (9001) into which a number of features had been cut. Towards the southwest of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F904) with a bowl shaped profile, measuring 1.5m wide by 0.4m deep. It was cut by two post-holes (F900, F901), which had similar dimensions, measuring up to 0.4m diameter and 0.2m deep, and like the ditch, they were backfilled with brown silty-sand (9003, 9004, 9007), flecked with charcoal.

Towards the centre of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (F902.02). It had a V-shaped profile, and measured 0.5m wide by 0.23m deep. The ditch terminal (F902.01) was U-shaped in profile, measuring 0.15m wide by 0.6m deep. Both features were backfilled with a light brown sandy soil (9005, 9009) with charcoal flecks. At the northeastern end of the trench was a large circular pit (F903, Fig. 10.S.2), measuring 0.7m in diameter by 0.45m deep, with an irregular profile. Adjacent was a shallow curvilinear feature (F906), measuring 0.4m wide by 0.05m deep. Both features contained sandy fills (9006, 9011), although only feature F906 produced charcoal flecks. A compact yellow/brown silty sand subsoil (9001) sealed the features in Trench 9, and was recorded beneath the topsoil (9000). A brick fragment from backfill layer 9007 in ditch F901 was the only datable find.

Interpretation

The post-holes could represent part of a fence or outbuilding. The function of the pits is not known.

Trench 10 (Fig. 10)

Aim

Trench 10, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated northeast-southwest. It was located to test if any archaeological features could be identified beyond the recorded complex of cropmarked features.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 10 was the light red/yellow natural sand (10002) into which a circular, shallow pit (F1000, Fig. 10.S.3), measuring 0.84m by 0.3m had been cut. The pit was U-shaped in profile. The pit had been sealed by a light brown/yellow silty sand b-soil horizon (10001), recorded below the topsoil (10000). No datable finds were collected from this trench.

Pit F1000 is one of a number of such pits found in other areas of the evaluation and in the absence of finds or of associated features it is not easily interpreted. It is notable that this trench was located towards the eastern part of the field, where the density of archaeological features was reduced.

Trench 24 (Figs. 2, 10-11)

Aim

Trench 24, measuring 50m by 1.8m was orientated roughly east-west, and was located to examine linear and pit-like geophysical anomalies.

Description

The earliest layer encountered in Trench 24 was a light yellow/brown natural sand (24002), cut by a number of features. At the eastern end of the trench was a circular post-hole (F2400), and two small stake-holes (F2401, F2402). Post-hole F2400 measured 0.3m diameter by 0.2m deep, and was distinctly rectilinear in profile. Stakeholes F2401 and F2402, measuring approximately 0.15m in diameter and 0.07m deep, and were slightly pointed in profile. All three features were filled with a light brown sand (24003, 24004, 24005). Three north-south aligned ditches (F2403, Fig. 10.S.4; F2404, F2407), were also located in this trench. All three measured up to 1m in width. Two (F2404, F2407), were shallow and semi-circular in profile, and the third (F2403) was deeper, measuring 0.4m deep, and was V-shaped in profile. It was backfilled with light brown sands (24006, 24007, 24007). Between ditches F2407 and F2404 were two adjoining oval post-holes (F2406, F2405), packed with small rounded stones (24008, 24009). They were of similar dimensions, measuring up to 0.5m wide by 0.05m deep. They were bowl-shaped in profile. A compacted yellow/brown b-horizon soil (24002) sealed the features in Trench 24, and was overlain by the topsoil (24000). No datable finds were collected from this trench.

Interpretation

The north-south ditches probably formed boundaries, defining individual plots or fields. The post-hole and stake-hole group could have formed a small structure, perhaps associated with crop processing. The two post-rests were probably associated, perhaps together forming a drying rack. The two pit-like geophysical anomalies in Trench 24 were found to correspond to large irregular patches of naturally-degraded sandstone.

6.3: SITE 15 (Trenches 11-16) by Charlotte Neilson, Figs. 12-14

Trench 11 (Fig. 14)

Aim

Trench 11 measured 50m by 1.8m, and was orientated approximately southeast-northwest. It was located to investigate a cropmarked feature running diagonally across the southeastern end of the trench, and also to test for the possible continuation of a complex of cropmarked features, recorded to the north.

Description

The earliest deposit in this trench was a light brown/red natural sand (11002), cut by up to five archaeological, or possible archaeological features. Approximately midway along the trench was a post-hole (F1100), measuring 0.10m deep and 0.22m in diameter, with a bowl-shaped profile. It was backfilled with a mid-dark brown silty-sand with frequent charcoal flecking (11003). To the west was a possible feature (F1101), proved by hand-excavation to be a natural patch of clay.

Post-hole F1102 and pit F1103 (Fig. 14.S.1) were located towards the eastern end of the trench, the former cutting the latter. Feature F1103 measured 0.85m in diameter, 0.35m in depth, and had steeply-sloping edges and a flattened base. It was backfilled with a light yellow/brown silty-sand with dark brown mottling and frequent flecks of charcoal (11006). Feature F1102 had a bowl-shaped profile, measuring 1.8m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. It was backfilled with dark grey/brown silty-sand with frequent charcoal flecking (11005). A further post-hole (F1104) was located in the west of the trench. It was 0.46m in diameter, 0.20m deep and had regular, steeply sloping edges with a flat base. It was backfilled with a mottled grey/brown silty sand (11007), containing occasional small stones. A layer of mid-light brown silty-sand b-horizon soil (11001) sealed the features in Trench 11, and was overlain by the topsoil (11000). No datable artifacts were recovered from this trench. 50334

Interpretation

Although two features, a post-hole and a pit were located in the east of the trench, the cropmarked ditch was not located, nor were any other ditched features found within the trench. It is possible that the features found within the trench could be peripheral to the focus of activity within the cropmarked feature complex to the north, outside the road corridor. Alternatively, the features found could relate to activity closer to the Roman road frontage.

Trench 12 (Figs. 13-14)

Aim

Trench 12 measured 50m by 1.8m and was aligned approximately north-south. It was located to investigate the possible eastward continuation of the cropmarked feature also tested by Trench 11 (see above).

Description

The earliest deposit in this trench was an orange/red mottled natural sand (12002) with occasional patches of pink clay. Six features were recorded within this trench, all cutting the natural sand. The only feature in Trench 12, which contained any artifactual evidence was ditch F1203 (Fig. 14.S.2), from which one sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered. This ditch was aligned approximately east-west. It measured 1.10m wide, 0.32m deep, and was U-shaped in profile. It was backfilled with a light brown/cream coloured silty-sand (12006), with occasional charcoal flecking. At the southernmost end of the trench was a post-hole (F1200), measuring 0.2m wide and

0.2m deep. It had a bowl-shaped profile and was backfilled with a mid-brown silty-sand (12003) with mottled patches and charcoal flecking. Nearby was pit F1201, which was oval in plan, with gently sloping edges and a rounded base. It measured 0.14m in depth and had a diameter of 0.8m. The backfills of features F1201 and F1203 were similar. Approximately midway along the trench was a plough-furrow (F1202, not illustrated). The natural sand and backfilled features F1200-F1203 were sealed by a b-horizon brown/orange silty-sand soil (12001). This layer was cut by two features, a pit (F1204, not illustrated), and a small pit (F1205, not illustrated), which are both presumed to be modern. Backfilled features F1204-5 and layer 12001 were sealed by the topsoil (12000).

Interpretation

Ditch F1203 followed the approximate alignment and position of the cropmarked feature, although it could not be identified within Trench 11 to the west (see above). The undated pits and post-holes also recorded within the trench may be either prehistoric or Roman in date.

Trench 13 (Fig. 14)

Aim

Trench 13 measured 20m by 1.8m and was aligned approximately southeast-northwest. It was located to test for the possible southward continuation within the preferred route of the cropmarked feature complex presently recorded to the north.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer recorded within this trench was a light brown/red natural sand (13002), into which three possible features had been cut. At the eastern end of the trench was pit F1300, which was irregular in shape, possibly because of disturbance by animal burrowing. The feature measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.10m in depth and was backfilled with a light brown silty sand (13003) with charcoal flecking throughout. Approximately midway along the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (F1301, Fig. 14.S.3) adjoining a post-hole (F1302, S.3). The relationship between the two features could not be determined. The alignment of the ditch suggests that it may have been cut roughly parallel with Watling Street, although no datable artifacts were recovered from any of the features identified within this trench. Layer 13002 and the backfilled features were sealed by the topsoil (1300).

Trench 14

Aim

Trench 14 measured 50m by 1.8m and was aligned approximately northeast-southwest. It was located to test the possible southward continuation of the cropmarked feature complex recorded to the north of the preferred route, and to test a possible cropmarked ditch (also intercepted by Trench 15).

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer in this trench was a red, orange and light brown natural sand (14002), which was sealed by an orange/brown silty-sand b-horizon soil (14001), sealed by the topsoil (1400). There were no features, or possible features, found in this trench, and no datable finds were collected. The cropmarked ditch was not located within Trenches 11 or 15.

Trench 15 (Figs. 13-14)

Aims:

Trench 15 measured 41.75m by 1.8m and was aligned approximately east-west. This trench was shortened to avoid overhead power lines which unfortunately roughly coincided with a linear cropmarked feature which for this reason could not be investigated. 50335

Description

The earliest layer in Trench 15 was a yellow/light brown and red natural sand (15002), into which five post-holes (F1500, F1501, F1503, Fig. 14.S.4; F1504) and one small pit (F1505) had been cut. The post-holes averaged 0.35m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. All were circular in plan, except feature F1500 which was oval. Post-holes F1500 to F1504 were all filled with a similar deposit (15003 to 15007), a mid-brown silty sand containing charcoal flecks. In addition there was a small pit (F1505, S.5), located between post-holes F1501 and F1502. The pit measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.2m in depth and had a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a compact cream-coloured deposit (15008), with frequent small stone inclusions throughout and occasional charcoal flecking. The natural sand and the backfilled features in this trench were sealed by a yellowish/brown silty sand b-horizon soil (15001), recorded below the modern topsoil (1500). No datable artifacts were recovered from the trench.

Interpretation

Six features (F1500-F1505) were found, which would have been situated to the west of the linear cropmark and may have been associated. It is difficult to determine the function of the post-holes within the trial-trench, although they could have formed part of an outhouse, an agricultural building, or a fence.

Trench 16

Aim 50336

Trench 16 measured 50m by 1.8m and was aligned approximately east-west. It was located to investigate a north-south cropmarked feature, and also to investigate whether the cropmark complex recorded to the north extended southwards into the preferred route.

Description

The earliest deposit in Trench 16 was a layer of orange sand with patches of gravel (16002). This trench was more disturbed than the other trenches in this field, and it also contained a modern drainage pipe (F1601) and a tree bowl (F1604), none of which is described in detail. North-south aligned ditch F1600, located at the western end of the trench, measured 2.7m wide and 0.40m deep, with a gently sloping edges and a rounded base. The ditch was located at the western end of the trench. It was backfilled with orange/light brown sand (16004). Two post-holes (F1602-3) were also located, one on either side of the ditch. The post-holes averaged 0.25m in diameter, and both were 0.2m deep. The features were bowl-shaped in profile. The backfills of the two features (16006 and 16007) were a very similar orange/light brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal flecks. Layer 16002 and the backfilled features were sealed by a layer of grey/brown silty sand b-horizon soil (16001), recorded below the topsoil (16000). No finds were recovered from this trench.

Interpretation

The north-south cropmarked feature was found in this trench (F1600) and may represent a former field boundary or an extension of the cropmarked feature complex to the north of the trench.

6.4: North of Field 13 (Trenches 17-19) by Helen Martin (Figs. 15 and 17)

Trenches 17-18

Aims

Trenches 17 and 18, both measuring 50m by 1.8m, were orientated east-west and north-south, respectively, investigated an 'island' of shallow soil which lies to the south of a number of cropmarked features and more generally, to identify and characterise any archaeological features within this area.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer encountered in Trenches 17-18 was the red/brown natural sand (17002/18002) which was overlain by a band of yellow/brown compact b-horizon soil (17001/18001), recorded below the topsoil (1700/1800). No archaeological features or deposits were detected in these trenches, and no finds were collected. Any features originally located within Trench 17, which was sited on a fairly steep west-facing slope, could have been eroded down-slope. The h-horizon soil in both trenches was shallow, and may not have provided much protection from plough disturbance, as is suggested by the plough scars recorded cutting the natural subsoil in both trenches. No datable finds were recovered from these trenches.

Trench 19 (Figs. 16-17)

Aim

Trench 19, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated east-west, and was located for the same general aims as Trenches 17-18.

Description

50337

The earliest layer encountered in the trench was a red/brown natural sand (19002), cut by a number of features. In the eastern half of the trench was a circular, U-shaped pit (F1900), measuring 1.4m wide by 0.2m deep, and a sub-rectangular, U-shaped pit (F1901), measuring 0.5m wide by 0.15m deep. Both were backfilled with a dark brown silty-sand (19003-4). Towards the centre of the trench were two further post-holes. One (F1902) had a U-shaped profile, and measured 0.35m wide by 0.27m deep, and the second feature (F1904) measured 0.65m wide by 0.07m deep, with sloping sides. The fill of F1902 was very charcoal-rich (19005). In the western half of the trench was a curvilinear ditch (F1906, Fig. 16.S.1), measuring 0.7m deep by 0.19m deep. It was cut to a stepped profile on its northern side, and was backfilled with dark brown silty-sand with charcoal flecking throughout (19010). Nearby was a steep-sided, U-shaped pit (F1905, S.2), measuring 1m wide by 0.2m deep. A narrow band of light brown/orange sandy b-horizon soil (19001) sealed the features in Trench 19, and was overlain by the topsoil (1900). No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

Interpretation

Trench 19 was the only one of the three trenches in this area to contain archaeological features, possibly because it was located on a natural plateau, which may have been a favourable location for settlement or activity, or because the deeper b-horizon soil here could have provided effective protection from plough truncation. Post-hole F1902 may have been burnt *in situ.*

6.5: Site 16/17/18 (Trenches 20-23, Figs. 15-16) by Helen Martin

Trench 20 (Fig. 15)

Aim

Trench 20, measuring 30m by 6m, was orientated east-west and was located to test the possible southwards continuation of a cropmarked pit-alignment.

Description

50338

The earliest layer encountered in the trench was the pale yellow/orange natural sand (20000). In the western half of the trench were two pits. Pit F2001 (Fig. 16.S.3), was sub-oval in plan, and was cut to a tapered profile. It measured 1.4m wide by 0.6m deep. It was backfilled with fine red sand (20003) overlain by a light brown sand (20004) with occasional streaks of charcoal. Pit F2000 (S.4) measured 1.10m wide by 0.2m deep, was sub-circular in plan. It was backfilled with a silty mid-brown sand

(20002), with very occasional flecks of charcoal. In the eastern half of the trench was a north-south aligned ditch (F2002), measuring 1.5m wide by 0.4m deep, cut to an irregular profile. It was similar in fill to pit F2001. A yellow/brown compact sandy b-horizon soil (20001) sealed the backfilled features in Trench 20 and was overlain by the topsoil (20000). Pit F2000 contained three sherds of prehistoric (possibly Late Iron Age) and Roman pottery. No other datable finds were collected from the trench.

Interpretation

Pit F2001 was the only evidence for the L-shaped cropmarked pit alignment, no other possible pits were detected within the trench. It is not clear if the associated pottery, very small in quantity, was in a primary context, or if it merely represented residual material. Ditch F2002 was irregularly-shaped which could suggest a natural origin, or prolonged weathering of the feature, although this is the less likely alternative.

Trench 21

Aim

Trench 21measuring 50m by 1.8 m, were orientated approximately north-south. The trench was located to test the possible southward continuation of cropmarked features recorded to the north of the preferred route.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer encountered in the trench was the natural pale yellow/brown natural sand with gravel (21000), which was cut by two features. Ditch F2100 was aligned east-west, and measured 0.65m wide by 0.28m deep, and had a V-shaped profile. It was backfilled with loose mid brown, silty-sand (21003). This feature may be interpreted as a field or plot boundary cut parallel with Watling Street. Pit F2101 was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 0.6m wide by 0.5m deep, and had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (21004) was similar to the ditch fill. A yellow/brown compacted sandy b-horizon soil (21001) sealed all the features in Trench 21, and was overlain by the topsoil (2000). No finds were collected from this trench.

50339

Trench 22 (Fig. 16)

Aim

Trench 22, measuring 50m by 1.8m, was orientated east-west. It was located to test the archaeological potential of part of the preferred route which was located to the south of a complex of cropmarked features.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer encountered in this trench was the natural pale yellow/brown sand with gravel (22002) into which two pits or post-holes had been cut. Midway along the trench was a sub-circular pit (F2201), measuring 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep, with a slightly irregular profile. It was backfilled with light orange silty-sand (22004), with

occasional charcoal flecks. Towards the eastern end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (F2200, Fig. 16.S.5), measuring 1.56m wide by 0.15m deep, with a rounded profile. It was backfilled with densely-packed, rounded stones, mixed with brown silty sand (22003). This stone fill could represent packing around a timber upright. A yellow/brown compact sandy b-horizon soil (22001) which sealed layer 22002 and the backfilled features in this trench, and was overlain by the topsoil (22000). No finds were collected from this trench.

Trench 23

Trench 23, measuring 50m by 1.8 m, were orientated north-south. It was located to test the archaeological potential of an area located to the south of a complex of cropmarked features.

Description and interpretation

The earliest layer in Trench 23 was the pale yellow/brown sand with gravel (23002). In the north of the trench this layer was cut by an east-west aligned ditch (F2301), possibly a field boundary, measuring 1.10m wide by 0.3m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Layer 23002 and the backfilled ditch were sealed by a yellow/brown compact sandy b-horizon soil (23001), recorded beneath the topsoil (23000). No finds were collected from this trench.

6.6: Trenches 25-28 (Fig. 18)

Trench 25 by Mary Duncan

Aims

Trench 25 was located towards the eastern limit of the preferred route. This trench was on a north-facing incline. It measured 50m by 15m and was on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was located within an area of ridge and furrow identified by aerial photography in order to establish if the earthworks had masked earlier archaeological deposits.

Results

This trench exposed a layer of compact red/brown sandy clay (25002), the natural subsoil. Sealing this was a b-horizon subsoil comprising compact brown mixed sand, clay and silt (25001) measuring 0.2m in depth. Cut into this layer were a series of linear features (not numbered), aligned northwest-southeast. These were 1m wide and 0.3m deep. These were better preserved towards the northern end of the trench. A ceramic field drain 0.2m wide and 0.5m deep aligned northeast-southwest cut the parallel linear features. A large square cut feature 11m across was visible against the western edge of the trench. It was covered with plastic sheeting, and was assumed to be modern. Layer 25001 and the backfilled linear features were sealed by the topsoil (25000).

Interpretation

The parallel linear features may be interpreted as the remains of ridge and furrow, identified in the aerial photography survey. No earlier archaeological deposits were identified within the area of this trench, and no finds were collected.

Trench 26 (Figs. 19-20) by Mary Duncan

Aims

Trench 26 was located to the northwest of Trench 25. This trench was on a slightly raised plateau. The trench measured 50m by 15m and was on a north-south alignment. The trench was located in an area of ridge and furrow, identified by aerial photography, to establish if the earthworks masked any earlier archaeological deposits.

Results

This trench exposed the natural subsoil, which comprised a compact red/brown sandy clay (26002). Cutting this horizon was a scatter of ten circular or sub-circular pits (e.g. Fig. 20, S.1-2), and an animal burrow (F2615). The majority of the pits were circular in plan, and measured between 0.5-1m in diameter. They had U-shaped profiles and measured between 0.15m and 0.6m in depth. The pits were generally better preserved towards the northern part of the trench. The pits fills were similar. They comprised a primary deposit of compact brown silt and clay, similar to the surrounding natural subsoil, and an upper fill of compact grey clay and silt with charcoal flecking (Fig. 19 S.1-2). A single sherd of probable Neolithic pottery was recovered from the upper fill of pit F2602. Ovoid pit F2614 cut circular pit F2613 (S.3). Pit F2614 measured 1.7m in length, and was 0.65m wide. It had a U-shaped profile, and measured 0.5m in depth.

To the north of the pit group was a southwest-northeast aligned ditch (F2600), and its re-cut (F2601). The earlier ditch was 2m wide and 0.5m deep, and had a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a light brown compact clay and silt with charcoal throughout (S.4). The re-cut (F2601) was 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep, and had a U-shaped profile. No dating evidence was retrieved from these ditches.

The pits and ditches were sealed by a layer of compact brown mixed sand-clay-silt (26001), a b-horizon soil. Cut into this layer was a series of parallel linear features, probably relating to the ridge and furrow identified by aerial photography. A layer of topsoil (26000) 0.3m deep, sealed layer 26001.

Interpretation

No clear pattern could be discerned in the pit layout, although they were laid out in pairs, with the exception of intercutting features F2613-4. It is not known if the ditches were associated with the pit group, nor is it possible to prove on present evidence that the pits were contemporary, although the fills were undoubtedly similar. The sherd of probable Neolithic pottery from feature F2602 was the only dating evidence obtained. Like the pits, both ditches were sealed beneath the b-horizon soil. The ditches followed the approximate alignment of the Roman road, as did the ridge and furrow.

Trench 27 (Figs. 21-22) by Helen Martin

Aims and location

Trench 27, which measured 50m x 15m, was located to test the archaeological potential of an area for which no archaeological information was available. It was aligned approximately north-south.

Description

50344

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 27 was the natural red/brown clay subsoil interspersed with pockets and seams of naturally occurring sand (27002) which had been cut by a number of ditches, pits and post-holes.

The main excavated features were two curvilinear ditches, together probably forming a roughly circular structure, although the northern part of its circumference lay slightly outside the area excavated. The diameter of the circle was approximately 13m, measured from the outside of the ditch. An entry-gap measuring approximately 4m wide was located in the east of the structure. The northern entrance terminal was slightly out-turned (F2701, S.1), while its southern counterpart was rounded and enlarged (F2702, S.2).

The southern part of the circular structure (F2702, S.2; F2718, F2724, S.3) cut the southern terminal of a mainly north-south aligned curvilinear ditch (F2723, F2700) recorded within the circular structure, but not outside it. This internal feature measured 0.8m in width, and 0.3m in depth, and was cut to a U-shaped profile. It was filled with silty-clay with substantial quantities of heat shattered stones and large lumps of charcoal (27004). Oval pit F2719 adjoined the northern terminal of feature F2700. Pit F2719 measured 0.7m in width, 1.3m in length, and 0.3m in depth. It was filled with silty-clay densely packed with heat shattered stone with large lumps of charcoal and animal bone (27025). The southern ditch of the circular structure was cut to a V-shaped profile, and measured 0.9m wide by 0.6m deep. It was filled with silty-clay which produced heat shattered stones, charcoal lumps and animal bone. Terminal F2702 was filled with a larger quantity of heat-shattered stone.

The northern part of the circular structure (F2705, F2701, S.1) was also cut to a V-shaped profile, and measured 0.95m in width and 0.6m in depth. It was filled with silty-clay densely packed throughout with heat shattered stone (27010). Ditch segment F2705 had been cut by oval pit F2706 (S.4), measuring 0.4m wide by 0.8m long by 0.3m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Pit F2706 was filled with orange sandy-clay with some heat shattered stone and charcoal.

Towards the entrance was a U-shaped gully (F2712, F2711, F2716), its two terminals (F2711, F2716) slightly offset to the south from the entrance terminals to the circular structure. The internal gully was cut a U-shaped profile, and measured an average of 0.6m in width, and 0.2m in depth. It was filled with sandy-clay (27017, 27018). Terminal F2716 contained heat fractured stone and charcoal. Pit F2713 (S.5) inside the

entrance may have been a gate-post, and a further pit (F2714) was located adjoining the internal gully. Bother were filled with a quantity of heat shattered stone.

To the southeast of the circular structure was the southwestern terminal of a southwest-northeast aligned ditch (F2708, S.6; F2722), and a scatter of post-holes and a pit. Ditch F2708, was cut to a rounded profile, and measured 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep. It was filled with red sandy-clay with charcoal flecking throughout (27014). Ditch F2708 had been cut by two small post-holes (F2707, S.6 and F2722). Both post-holes were filled with a grey/brown silty-clay with high concentrations of charcoal (27013 and 27028). To the north of ditch F2708 was a sub-oval pit (F2703). To the south of ditch F2708 were two shallow, sub-circular post-holes (F2704 and F2721).

To the south of the circular structure, and probably unassociated with it, were two further circular post-holes (F2715, S.7; F2715), their fills also containing substantial quantities of heat shattered stone.

The natural subsoil (27002) and the backfilled features were sealed by a brown clayey-silt b-horizon subsoil (27001), cut by a number of west-east aligned field drains. Above was the topsoil (2700).

Feature F2700 contained two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Feature F2701 contained a loomweight fragment and a piece of fired clay, interpreted as wattling. Features F2713 and F2716 contained nine sherds and one sherd of Iron Age pottery, respectively. Small fragments of animal bone were recovered from features F2702, F2705, F2713-4, F2717-9 and F2722.

Interpretation

The circular, ditched-defined feature may be interpreted as the remains of a hut. Internal pit F2713, as is noted above, probably formed a gate-post. The other internal features are more difficult to interpret. Curvilinear feature F2700, F2723 was probably associated with the use of the structure, since it did not extend outside it, although feature F2723 was cut by the circular structure ditch. The large quantity of heat shattered stone within the feature fills is of particular interest. This material could have derived from a domestic hearth, a feature not located within the area investigated, or from the clearance of an earlier feature such as a burnt mound. The features identified could have formed part of an unenclosed settlement, although it is also possible that the enclosure ditch lay outside the area excavated.

Trench 28 by Helen Martin

Aims and location

Trench 28, which measured 50m x 15m, was located in order to investigate the archaeological potential of an area for which no archaeological information was available. The trench was cut roughly north-south.

Description and interpretation

The natural red/brown clay, interspersed with pockets and seams of natural sand (28002) was exposed by machining. Overlying the natural clay was a layer of brown clayey silt b-horizon subsoil (28001), cut by a number of southwest-northeast aligned field drains. The natural subsoil (28001) and the field drains were sealed by dark brown clayey silt ploughsoil (28000). No features of archaeological interest were identified, and no finds were collected.

The upper horizon of the natural clay appeared to have been subjected to considerable plough disturbance which could have scoured-out any shallow archaeological features here. It is possible that this location, being sited on a slope, could have been unfavourable for settlement, despite being relatively well-drained.

6.7: Trench 31 (Fig. 23) by Charlotte Neilson

Aims

The aim of this trench was to evaluate the extent of any past human settlement on Hints Hill, which may have been a favourable location for settlement. The trench was 15m by 50m and was orientated approximately east-west.

Description and interpretation

The natural subsoil was a pink gravel (31000), tested in a box section. Above was topsoil (31001). No archaeological, or possible archaeological features were identified, and no finds were recovered.

6.8: Finds summary by Annette Hancocks

The finds are summarised in Table 1 and below.

TABLE 1: Finds Summary

	Prehist. Pottery	*Roman Pottery*	*Post-Med Pottery*	*Tile*	*Brick*	*Animal Bone*	*Clay Pipe*	*Iron Nails*	*Other Iron*	*Copper Alloy*	*Stone*	*Charcoal*
Area 2												
Tr. 1-2	No finds											
Area 8												
Tr. 3												
3000	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3007	-	-	-	1	-	4g	-	-	-	-	-	-
3009	-	-	1	-	-	1g	-	-	-	-	6	-
Tr. 4	No finds											
Tr. 5												
5004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tr. 6												
6003	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tr. 7	No finds											
Tr. 8												
8009	-	-	1	1	18	<1g	11	1	2	2	-	1
Tr. 9												
9007	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tr. 10	No finds											
Tr. 24	No finds											
Site 15												
Tr. 11	No finds											
Tr. 12	No finds											
12006	1											
Tr. 13	No finds											
Tr. 14	No finds											
Tr. 15	No finds											
Tr. 16	No finds											
North of Field 13												
Tr. 17	No finds											
Tr. 18	No finds											
Tr. 19	No finds											
Site 16/17/18												
Tr. 20												
20002	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U/S	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tr. 21												
U/S	-	-	-	--	-	-	--	-	-	-	1	-
Tr. 22	No finds											
Tr. 23	No finds											
Tr. 31	No finds											

Pottery spot dates by C. J. Evans and Annette Hancocks

Tr. 6 6003: Roman?
Tr. 12 12006 (F1203): Bronze Age
Tr. 20 20002: Early prehistoric / Bronze Age.
Tr. 20 U/S: Late Iron Age/Roman with early prehistoric

Trench 26

F2602, 26003 – A single sherd (18g) of probable Neolithic pottery was recovered from this Trench. The fragment was tempered with very large, coarse inclusions of calcite and ironstone.

Trench 27

F2700, 27004 – Two sherds (12g) of probable Late Iron Age date were recovered from this layer. One of the sherds was diagnostic and comprised a globular jar with rounded direct upright rim. This is typically of a late Iron Age date and a rare find for this part of Staffordshire.

F2701, 27005 – Two pieces (29g) of diagnostic fired clay were recovered from this layer. One fragment was probably a finger-moulded piece of loomweight, whilst the second fragment may represent wattling.

F2713, 27019 – Nine sherds (4g) of pottery, all from the same vessel were recovered from this layer. The character and nature of the pottery fabric would suggest that these might be of Iron Age date.

F2718, 27024 – Five sherds (17g) of pottery, in the same fabric, were recognised from this layer. No diagnostic sherds were observed, but it would appear that the fabric is characteristically Iron Age in date.

F2716, 27022 – One sherd (10g) of undiagnostic pottery was recovered from this deposit. This piece appears to be characteristically Iron Age.

Animal bone by Emma Hancox

TABLE 2: Animal bone from Trench 27

Feature/context	*Count*	*Quantity (g)*	*Countable elements*		*Description*
			No.	*Species*	
F2702, 27007	c.100	-	4	Cow	Mostly tiny frags
F2705, 27010	26	28	1	Sheep/Goat	Mostly tiny frags
F2713, 27019	9	6	0		Tiny frags
F2714, 27020	3	16	0		Tiny frags
F2717, 27023	25	180	0		Tiny frags
F2718, 27024	23	15	0		Tiny frags
F2719, 27025	5	31	0		Tiny frags
F2722, 27028	2	2	0		Tiny frags

A small amount of animal bone was hand collected from eight features in Trench 27. Samples were taken for bulk sieving from the following contexts; 27004, 27005, 27006, 27007, 27014, 27021. These had not been processed when this summary was written. In each context the bone was extremely fragmented and in poor condition. There were only five countable elements, one ovid and four bovid bones. No butchery, pathology, gnawing or burning was noted.

This assemblage is too small and fragmented to be of any archaeological potential. Providing that the samples for bulk sieving do not produce any notable material, no further work is recommended.

6.9: Charred plant remains by Marian Ciaraldi and Maurice Hopper

Thirteen samples were collected by the excavator, during trial-trenching (Table 3 and below). The samples were processed by manual flotation.

The soil samples were processed and the flots scanned in order to establish:

- the preservation of organic remains
- the potential of the plant assemblage in understanding the site economy
- the potential of reconstructing the palaeoenvironment of the site

The flots were recovered on a 0.5mm mesh, they were then let to dry and scanned under a low-power stereomicroscope. The residues were collected on a 1mm mesh, which were then dried and quickly scanned by eye. The seeds were identified with the help of Marina Ciaraldi.

The flots were rather small and were scanned in their entirety. The plant remains observed in the samples were mostly modern, uncharred seeds, apart from a single charred seed of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata* L.) from F705/7009. Three features F603/6006, F900/9003 and F201, were charcoal-rich while sample F2000/20002 contained a few fragments of coal. The lack of charred plant remains observed in the processed samples suggests that organic remains are overall poorly preserved in the deposits excavated.

TABLE 3: Charred plant remains

Sample N.	*Trench*	*Feature/ context*	*Type of context*	*Dating*	*Vol. processed (L.)*	*Notes*
1	20	F2000/20002	Small Pit	Iron Age Pot	10	Contained modern seeds of *Chenopodium album*
2	6	F600/6003	Ditch	Roman Pot	10	Contained modern seeds of *Polygonum, Chenopodium album* and *Stellaria media.* Abundant intrusions of modern organic
3	7	F704/7008	Large Pit	N/A	20	Contained modern seeds of *Chenopodium album* and some fragment of insects. Fragments of coal
4	7	F705/7009	Linear	N/A	20	Contained a charred seed of *Plantago lanceolata.* It also contained modern seeds of *Chenopdium album*
5	6	F603/6006	Pit	N/A	20	No seeds were recovered. Charcoal rich
6	6	F602/6005	Linear	N/A	20	No seeds were recovered
7	3	F303/3007	Linear		20	Contained modern seeds. *Rubus sp. Chenopodium album, Polygonum*
8	9	F900/9003	Post hole	N/A	5	Contained modern seeds of *Chenopodium album.* Charcoal rich
9	2	F201		N/A	10	Contained no seeds. Charcoal-rich, abundant intrusions of modern organic material

Further samples were collected from Trench 26 (possible early prehistoric) and Trench 27 (Iron Age/late Iron Age) The soil matrix was very clayey and had to be treated with sodium hydrogen carbonate before processing. Ten litres of soil were processed by manual flotation. The flots were recovered on 0.5 mesh, dried and later scanned under a microscope. The residue was recovered on a 1mm mesh and sorted by eye.

The only sample from Trench 26 (F2614/26026) did not contain any charred remains. The three samples from Trench 27 (F2702/27007, F2703/27006 and F2701/27005) contained very fragmented charcoal. A single spelt (Triticum spelta L.) seed was observed in sample F2702/27007.

On the basis of the samples examined, it would seem that preservation of the organic remains on the site is rather poor and that the potential of the biological material is low. It is therefore recommended that, in future excavations, sampling is kept to a minimum by targeting features which are either important for the understanding of the site or which present clear signs of preservation by charring or waterlogging.

7.0: DISCUSSION

The trial-trenching in the western half of the preferred route has established the presence of archaeological deposits and features, the majority of which are likely to represent settlements, probably in the form of farmsteads, outlying field systems and associated agricultural activities such as arable production and animal husbandry, and possibly even rural industry. Moreover, the evaluation also established a correspondence between a number of the archaeological features and the cropmarked features and geophysical anomalies located within the evaluation area. Some at least of the scattered and undated pits identified could form part of pit alignments not presently mapped by aerial photography. These features are very significant as few have been excavated. and they are consequently poorly-understood.

Very little dating evidence was recovered from the trial-trenches. The limited artifact assemblage indicates human activity in the area from perhaps as early as the Bronze Age through to the Roman period, and the form and alignment of many of the linear features indicates a Roman or prehistoric date for most of the features identified. The evidence for a palimpsest landscape is supported by the recovery of Roman pottery from an east-west aligned ditch (F600) at Site 8 (T6), perhaps even suggesting a sequence in which an older Iron Age field pattern of north-south aligned fields was superseded by an east-west alignment during the Roman period, perhaps imposed by the creation of the A5/Watling Street during the latter half of the first century AD.

The results indicate an extensive and organised use of the landscape in the pre-Roman and Roman periods. The preferred route transects this landscape, and a comprehensive programme of archaeological recording is necessary in order to be able to fully understand changes in landscape use, particularly in relation to distance from the Roman town of Wall, appoximately 6km to the west. As a military and possible administrative centre, as well as an official '*mansio*' site, Wall would have required a constant supply of grain and other foodstuffs, as well as fodder and fuel from the farms in the vicinity.

Potential changes in the use of the landscape in relation to the transition from gravel to clay soils also need to be examined. It is noticeable that further east along the preferred route (Trenches 17-19 and 20-23) the archaeological evidence for activity is markedly less concentrated than in the west of the evaluated area. One of the reasons for this could have been that the soils further to the east were less productive, and in this regard it may be significant that in the present day, the land here needs constant irrigation during the summer months, even after periods of rain.

Important feature concentrations were identified within T26 and T27 in the east of the preferred route. In both cases the archaeological features were sealed and protected from plough disturbance by a b-horizon soil, which has ensured that the features could not be detected by aerial photography. Within both trenches the archaeological features did not appear to be associated with a ditched enclosure. At Trench 26 the remains comprised scattered, but apparently paired pits, one containing a single sherd of Neolithic pottery. Although only one sherd was recovered, it was unabraded, and therefore suggests contemporary activity in the near vicinity. No coherent structure could be discerned. At Trench 27 were the well-preserved remains of a hut circle, with

a number of associated features, datable to the Iron Age, and possibly to the Late Iron Age in particular. The feature fills were characterised by a high quantity of heat shattered stone. This presumably derived from a domestic hearth, or the clearance of a nearby burnt mound, a feature typically dated to the Bronze Age.

In normal circumstances, archaeological projects tend to look at an area that is fairly close to the line of a Roman road. In this case the preferred route is some distance to the north of the Roman road, so it affords the opportunity to examine archaeological sites along a band at a slight remove from the Roman road. Further investigation would elucidate the wider context of the archaeology and perhaps provide sufficient dating material for a more secure chronological sequence to be established.

The field pattern shows little change from the date of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The only two trenches where ditch features may possibly correlate with former field boundaries are trenches 21 and 23. This correlation is based on alignment and position, rather than on the character of the ditch fills.

As noted above, Trenches T29 and T32 could not be investigated. Trench T30 was deleted, because it was located in an area which was quarried out.

8.0: IMPLICATIONS

Trenches T29 and T32 could not be investigated. These trenches remain to be excavated when access can be arranged. The results of trial-trenching at T29 and T32 may indicate a requirement for mitigation fieldwork, which may include area excavation and/or salvage recording and post-excavation analysis. The nature, extent and timescale required for an appropriate mitigation response (if any) in relation to these unexcavated trenches cannot presently be quantified.

The results of the trial trenching along the preferred route indicate that although there is nothing requiring preservation *in situ* that would be likely to affect construction design issues, there are areas with significant surviving archaeological features that require further archaeological recording in mitigation.

The following mitigation strategy is based on the land affected according to existing scheme design. If other areas are to be brought into the scheme due to landscaping, provision of lay bys or service areas, works compounds etc, then these areas may need to be subject to additional trial trenching and mitigation works. Of particular importance in this respect is the potential Roman signal station identified in Fields 14 and 16 during the aerial photograph assessment, as this may require preservation *in situ* and should therefore be excluded from any construction-related disturbance.

The trial-trenches have enabled the definition of areas that will require topsoil stripping, mapping and archaeological excavation in advance of construction. This strategy will consist of overburden (topsoil and b-horizon soil, where appropriate), stripping using a 360 degree excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, rapid mapping of archaeological features exposed, and excavation of areas where features are concentrated, according to sampling levels to be agreed with the employer and the county council archaeological advisor. Excavation of

these areas will provide a detailed record of the surviving archaeological remains with the aim of investigating the chronology, layout and economy of the farmsteads, and of setting them within the appropriate regional and national context. Other aspects to be investigated will include evidence for changes in settlement layout, the evidence for buildings, and evidence for associated surrounding features, such as field systems, where located within the excavated area, which could provide a broader context for the settlement remains. Investigation of the site economy, principally by analysis of the pottery, other finds and charred plant remains will also be a priority.

Areas that will require mapping, salvage recording and/or excavation are:

- Site 8
  A concentration of archaeological features was recorded in the trial-trenches at this site which will require area excavation to understand more about the relationships between the features identified in the trial-trenches, and also to test relationships with any associated settlements and other, outlying, features, such as field boundaries. The topsoil stripping area should consist of the landtake for the road between T6 in the east of Field 15 up to the western field boundary, and from the eastern field boundary of Field 16 to the western end of T24. Detailed area excavation should focus on the area between T6 and T9.

- Site 15
  Overburden stripping at this site should encompass the landtake for the road in the centre of the field to the west of Bucks Head Farm, where a range of ditches, pits and post-holes was identified during trial-trenching. Site 15 will require area excavations to understand more about the relationships between the features identified in the trial-trenches, and also to test relationships with any associated settlements and other, outlying, features, such as field boundaries. Detailed area excavation should focus on two areas: the area between the eastern end of T11 and the eastern end of T13, and the area between the western end of T15 and the eastern end of T16.

- Site 16/17/18
  Numerous pits and ditches were recorded at this site, one of which contained fragments of Bronze Age pottery. The area for topsoil stripping should consist of the landtake for the road from the eastern boundary of Field 12 to the western end of T20. Concentrated excavation should focus on the northern part of the landtake. Site 16/17/18 will require area excavations to understand more about tbe relationships between the features identified in the trial-trenches, and also to test relationships with any associated settlements and other, outlying, features, such as field boundaries.

- Trenches T26-7
  A pit scatter of possible Neolithic date was recorded in Trench T26. Trench T27 contained a well-preserved hut circle, with associated features, probably dating to the Iron Age. Both feature groups are important for our understanding of the pre-Roman landscape. Equally, they demonstrate that the b-horizon subsoil may mask extensive features from detection by aerial photography and/or geophysical survey. Areas ajoining Trenches T26-T27 should be subject

to detailed excavation. The purpose of area excavation adjoining both of Trenches T26-T27would be to locate evidence for additional occupation sites, and to place the settlement evidence in the context of any outlying features, such as field boundaries.

The trial-trenching programme also identified areas in the eastern and western halves of the route where, although some surviving archaeological features were identified, the level of preservation was not sufficient to justify detailed excavation in advance of construction. However, these areas will still require mitigation in the form of a watching brief during overburden removal, to be carried out using a 360 degree excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, with a contingency for archaeological recording should extensive remains be uncovered at the overburden-stripping stage.

Areas that require a watching brief with contingency for archaeological recording are:

- Site 2
  The portion of the cropmarked feature that extended into the trial trenches proved to be geological in origin, but it is possible that the narrower part of the feature, to the east, may be anthropogenic in origin, and there may be other archaeological features associated with this. A watching brief should therefore be carried out during any ground disturbance activities in the field containing the cropmarked feature.

- AP05 - south of Field 13
  No archaeological features were revealed in T17 and T18, possibly due to slope erosion and plough truncation, but an undated ditch was recorded in T19. This trench lay on a natural plateau, and there may be other features, associated with the ditch, lying on this plateau. A watching brief should be carried out over the area of the landtake for the road eastward from T18 to the field boundary.

- Between eastern end of preferred route, and Trench 28 (excluding zones identified for area excavation). As demonstrated by the results in Trenches 26-7 the archaeological potential of this area is high. Removal of overburden should be undertaken with a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with contingency provision for further detailed excavation outside the known, evaluated feature concentrations, within this eastern part of the route.

It will not be possible to finalise a detailed mitigation strategy for the eastern part of the route until all the sample topsoil stripping areas have been completed. T31 did not reveal any archaeological features, and there will be no requirement for further excavation in advance of construction in Field 9.

A sufficient time allowance should be provided in advance of road construction groundworks to enable the detailed archaeological investigations, including additional excavations, to be completed before construction commences. A further time allowance for additional salvage recording should be provided in respect of any necessary salvage recording during the watching brief, to be maintained during initial ground clearance works.

It should be noted that both prehistoric and Roman features are identified at the interface between the base of the b-horizon soil and the natural subsoil. Therefore, removal of overburden to permit detailed excavation and salvage recording should include the topsoil and the b-horizon soil in its entirety (where appropriate), to permit archaeological features to be identified and recorded. It is possible that archaeological features and deposits could also be identified within, or cutting into the upper horizon of the b-soil deposit within localised areas.

A time and cost contingency for unanticipated archaeology should be also provided for when preparing a detailed scheme of proposed mitigation work.

An agreed programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting would be required to bring the results of field investigations to publication in a recognised archaeological journal. Summary publication in a popular leaflet may also be appropriate.

9.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was sponsored by Weeks Consulting Limited. Thanks are due to Steve McQuade of that company, to Malcolm Powles of Owen Williams and the landowners and agents for their assistance. The fieldwork was monitored by Chris Wardle for Staffordshire County Council. The fieldwork was supervised by Helen Martin, Mary Duncan and Charlotte Neilson, assisted by Andy Rudge, Kate Bain, Emma Hancox, Andy Walsh, Phil Mann, Keith Hinton, Helena Biek, Richard Cherrington, Steve Williams and Melissa Conway. The project was co-managed by Lucie Dingwall and Alex Jones, who edited this report. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds and John Halstead and the environmental samples were processed by Maurice Hopper with advice from Marina Ciaraldi. Annette Hancocks compiled the finds summaries.

10.0: REFERENCES

W. S. Atkins 1993 *A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement: Stage 2 Environmental Report.*

BUFAU 2002 *A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvements, Staffordshire, Archaeological Evaluation 2002: Trial Trenching and Sample Topsoil Stripping/Recording Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Highways Agency 2002 *A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvements: Environmental Statement, Volumes 1 and 2.*

Williams, J. and Hancocks, A. 2002 *A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvements: Cultural Heritage - Fieldwalking.*

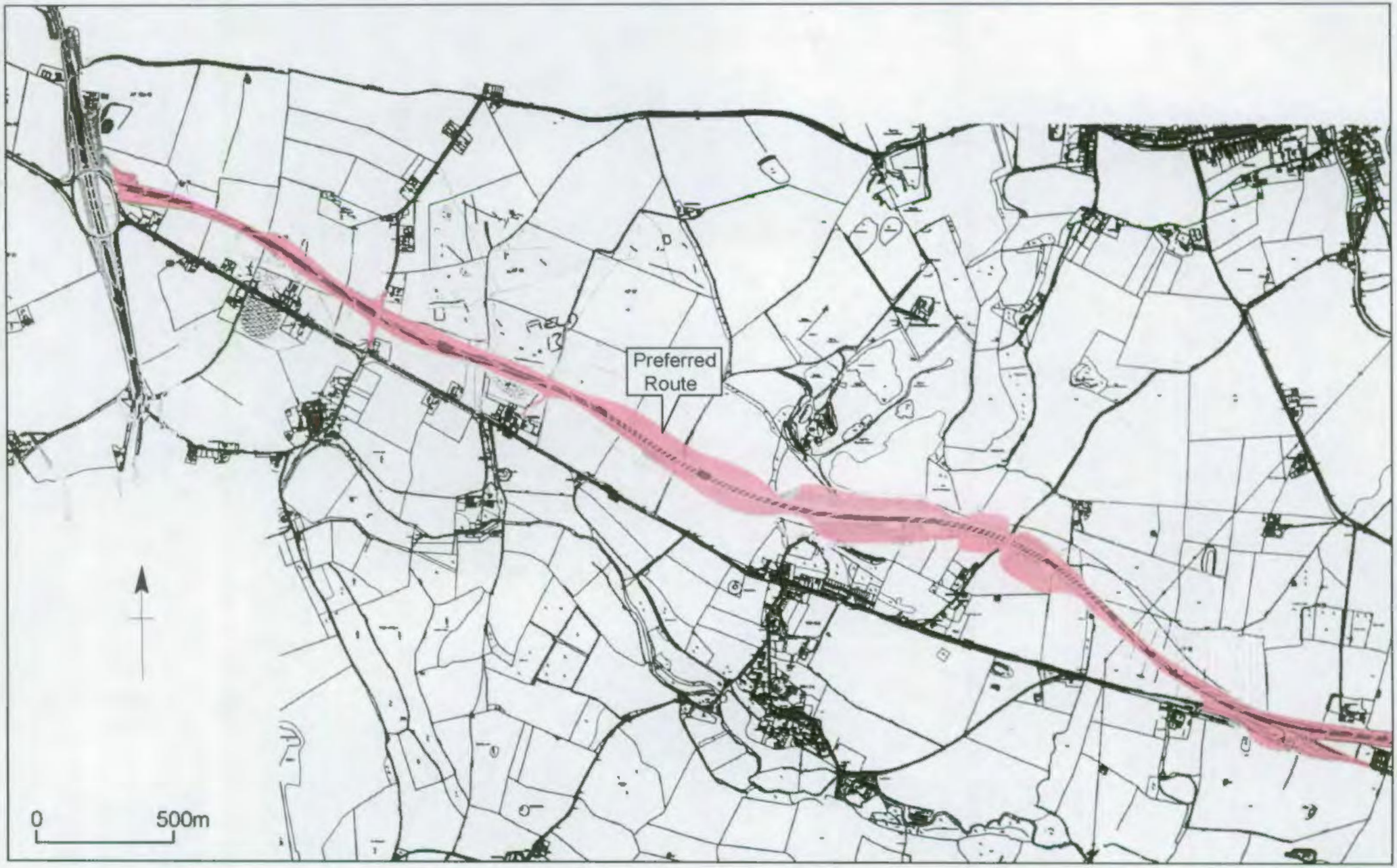

Fig.1

Site 2
Site 8
Site 15
Site 16/17/18
Field 13
Preferred route
Trench
T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6
T7
T8
T9
T10
T11
T12
T13
T14
T15
T16
T17
T18
T19
T20
T21
T22
T23
T24
A38
A5
0
300m
T28
T31
T27
T25
T26
A5
0
300m

Fig.2

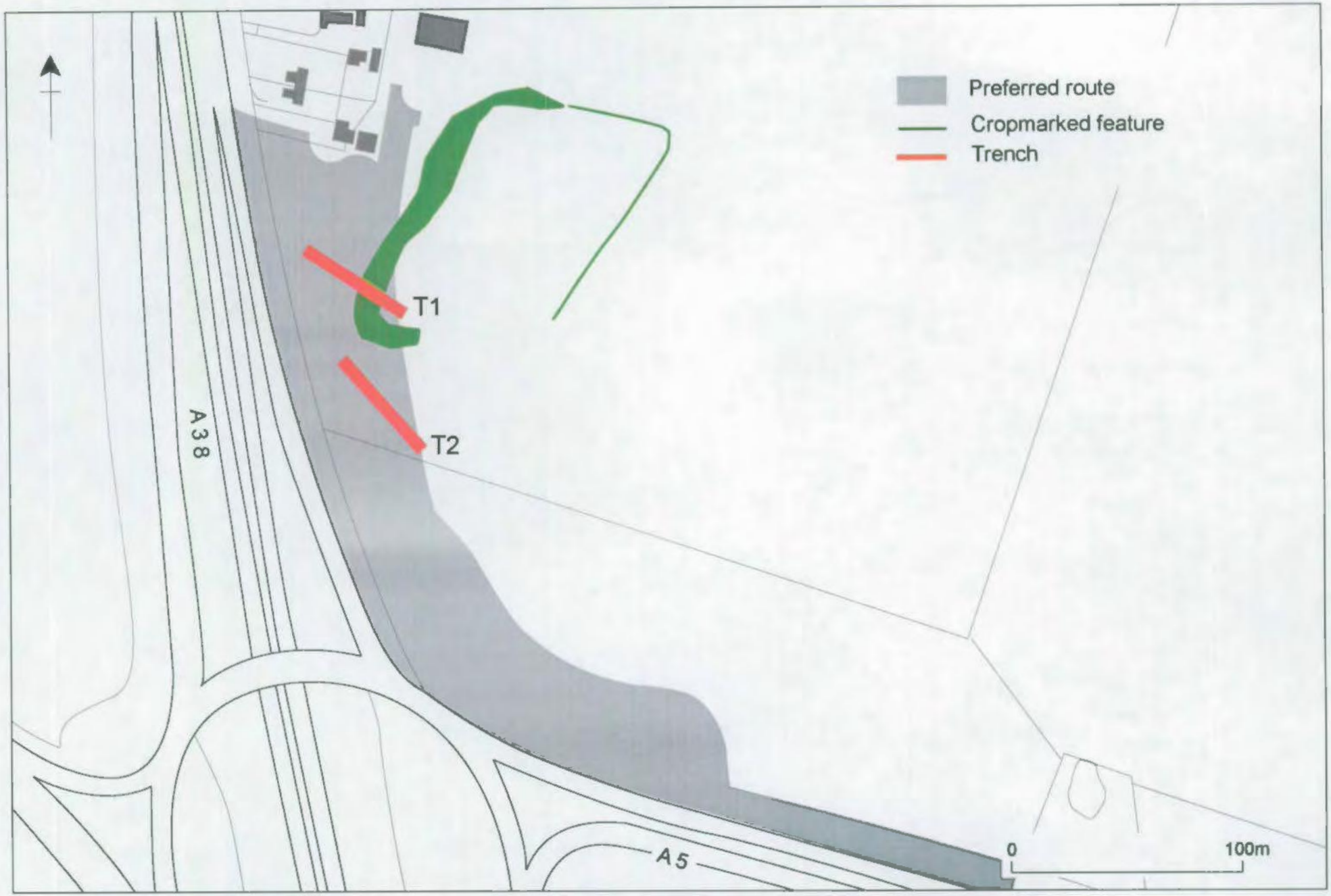
Preferred route
Cropmarked feature
Trench
T1
T2
A38
A5
0
100m

Fig.3

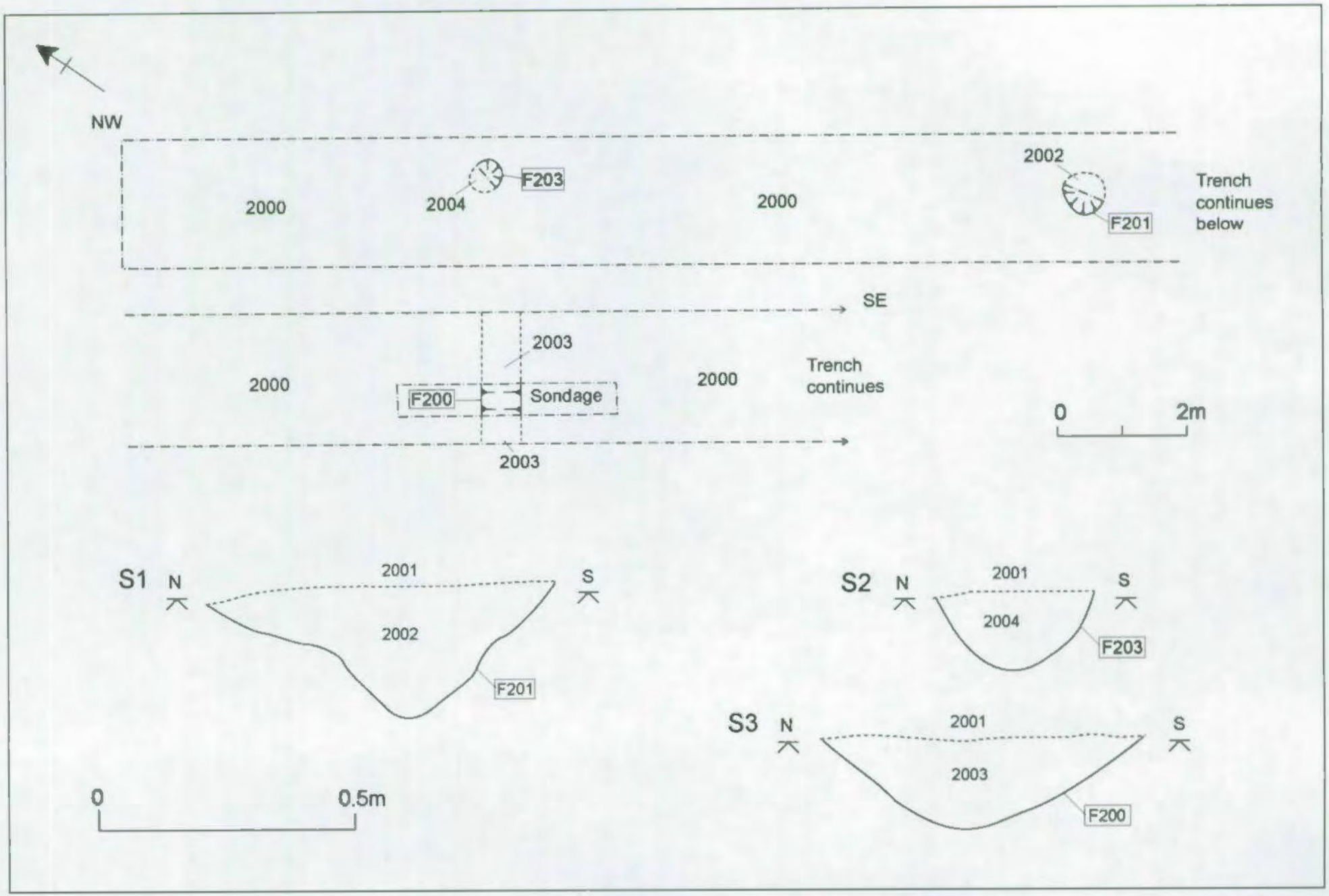
NW
2000
2004
F203
2000
2002
F201
Trench continues below
SE
2003
2000
F200
Sondage
2000
Trench continues
2003
0
2m
S1
N
2001
S
2002
F201
S2
N
2001
S
2004
F203
S3
N
2001
S
2003
F200
0
0.5m

Fig.4

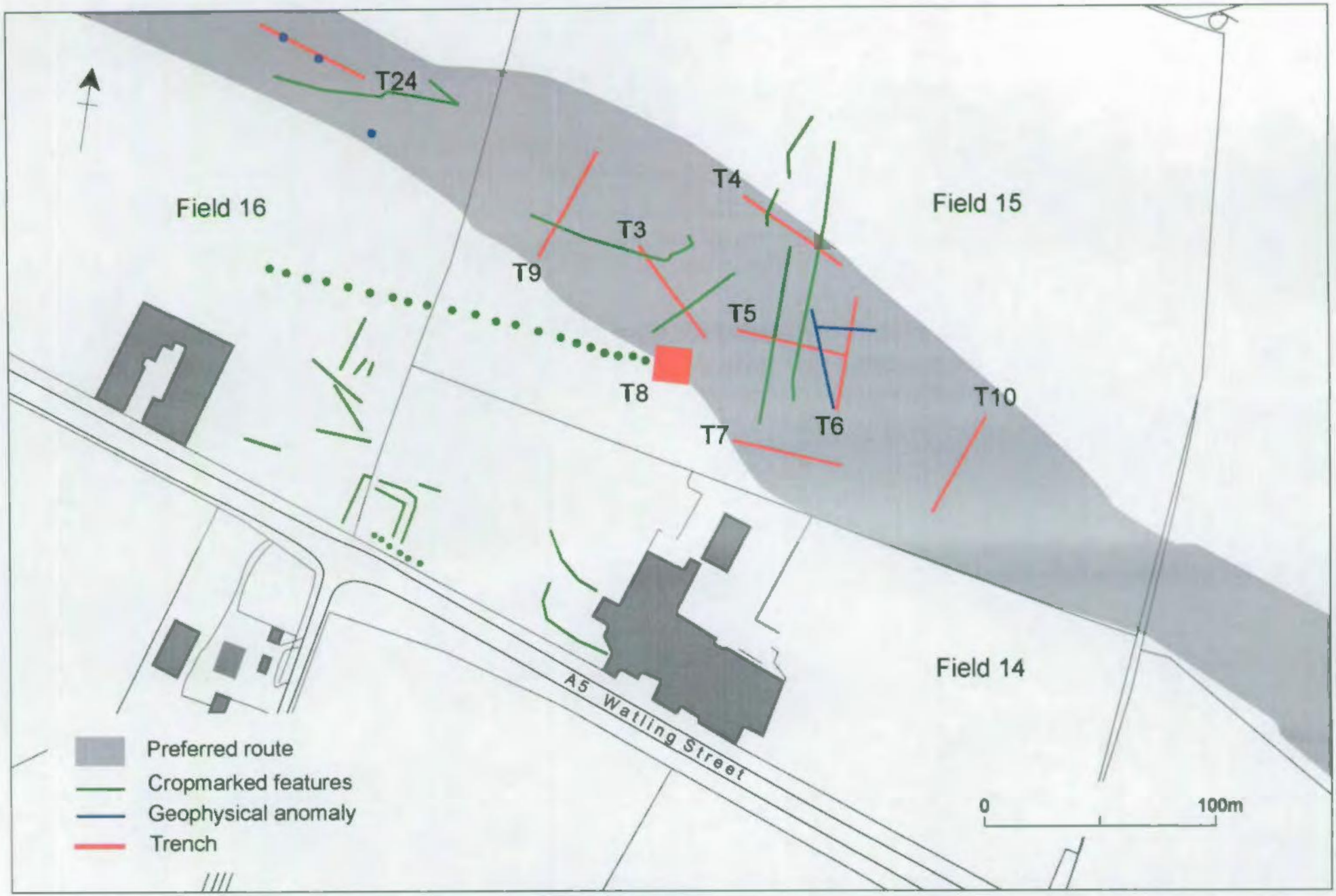
T24
Field 16
T4
Field 15
T3
T9
T5
T8
T10
T6
T7
Field 14
A5 Watling Street
Preferred route
Cropmarked features
Geophysical anomaly
Trench
0
100m

Fig.5

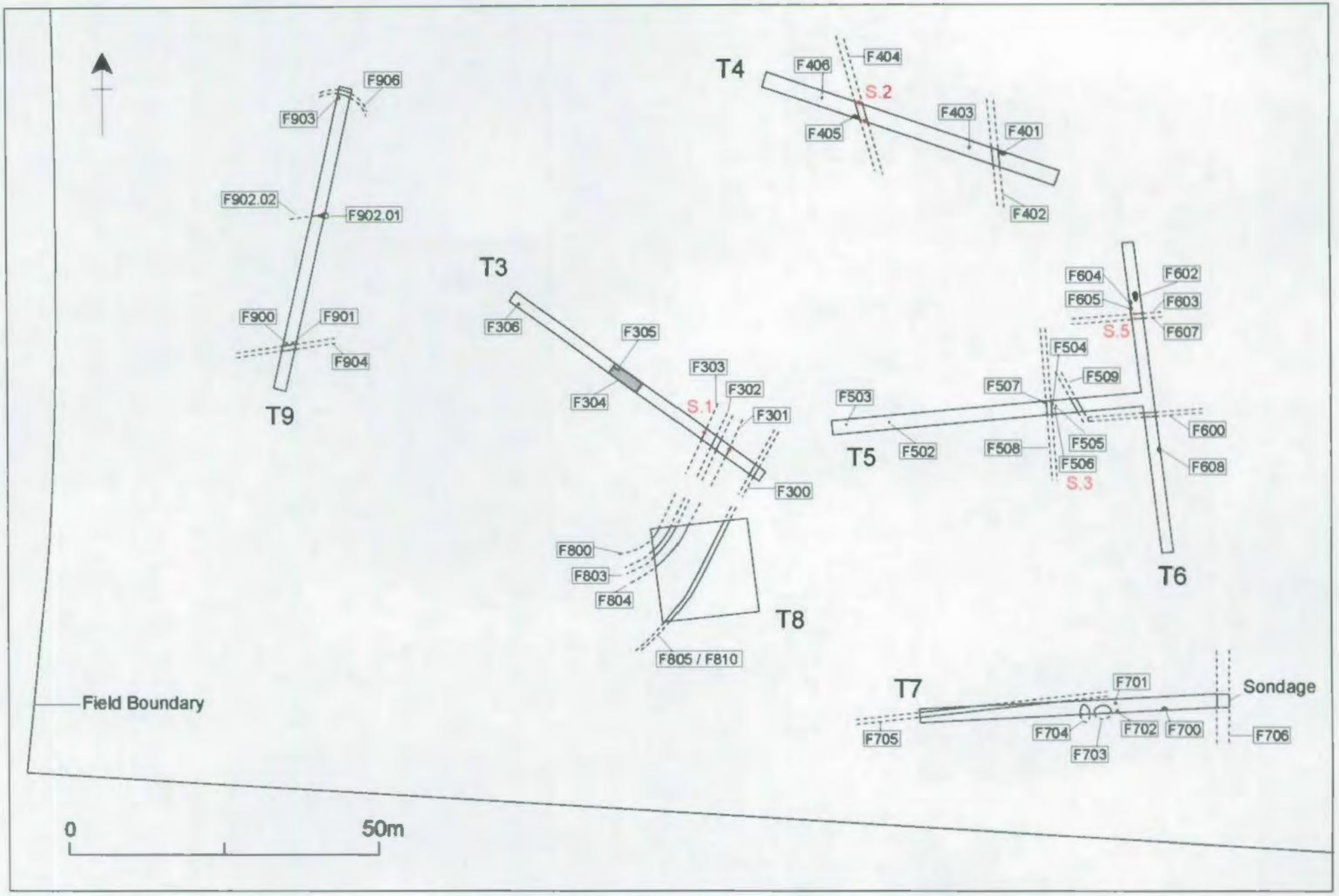
T9
F906
F903
F902.02
F902.01
F900
F901
F904
T4
F406
F404
S.2
F405
F403
F401
F402
T3
F306
F305
F303
F304
S.1
F302
F301
F300
T8
F800
F803
F804
F805 / F810
T5
F503
F502
F507
F504
F509
F508
F505
F506
S.3
T6
F604
F602
F605
F603
S.5
F607
F600
F608
T7
F701
Sondage
F705
F704
F703
F702
F700
F706
Field Boundary
0
50m

Fig.6

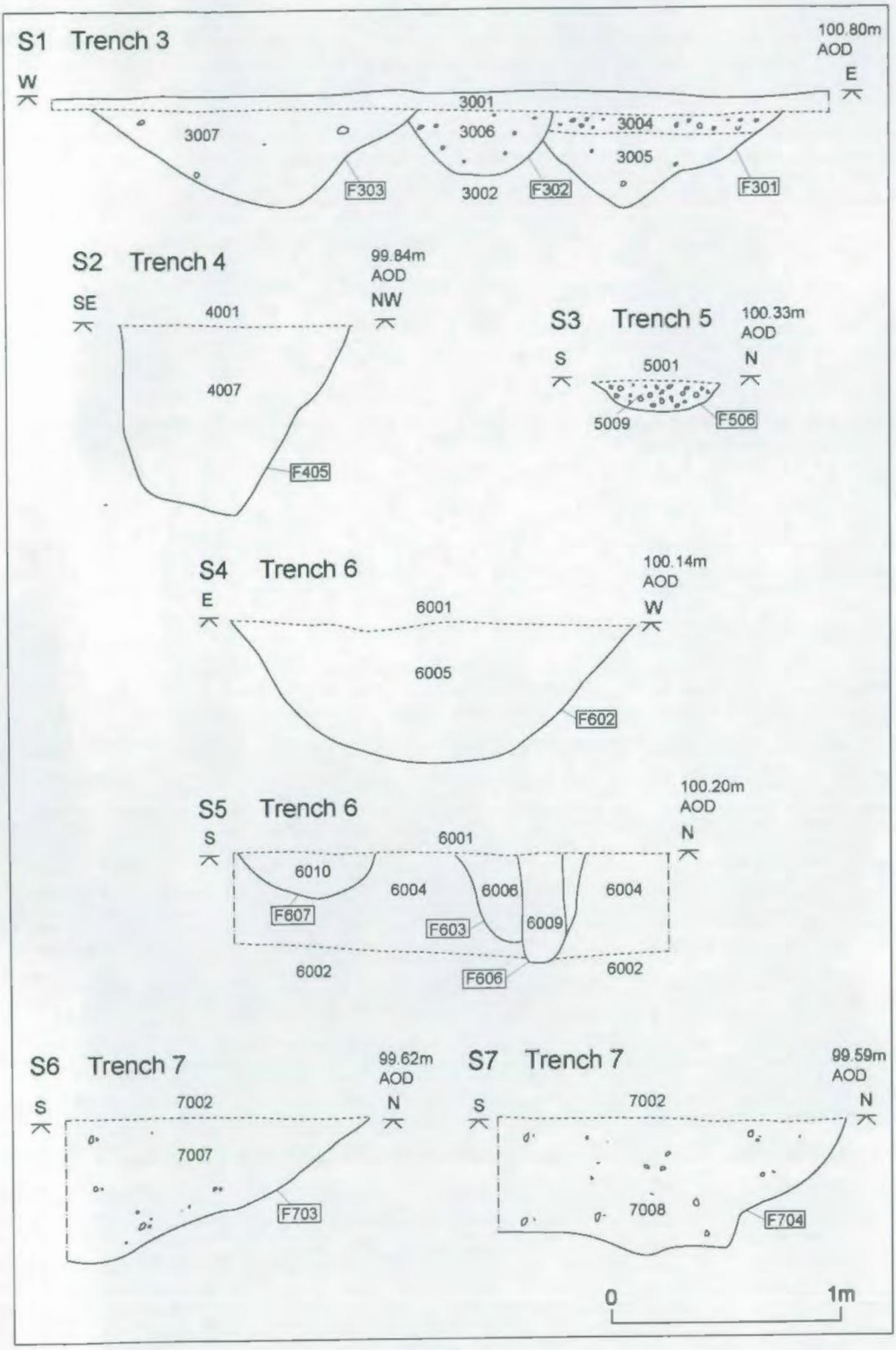
S1 Trench 3
100.80m AOD
W
E
3001
3007
3006
3004
3005
F303
3002
F302
F301
S2 Trench 4
99.84m AOD
SE
NW
4001
4007
F405
S3 Trench 5
100.33m AOD
S
N
5001
5009
F506
S4 Trench 6
100.14m AOD
E
W
6001
6005
F602
S5 Trench 6
100.20m AOD
S
N
6001
6010
6004
6006
6004
F607
F603
6009
6002
F606
6002
S6 Trench 7
99.62m AOD
S
N
7002
7007
F703
S7 Trench 7
99.59m AOD
S
N
7002
7008
F704
0
1m

Fig.7

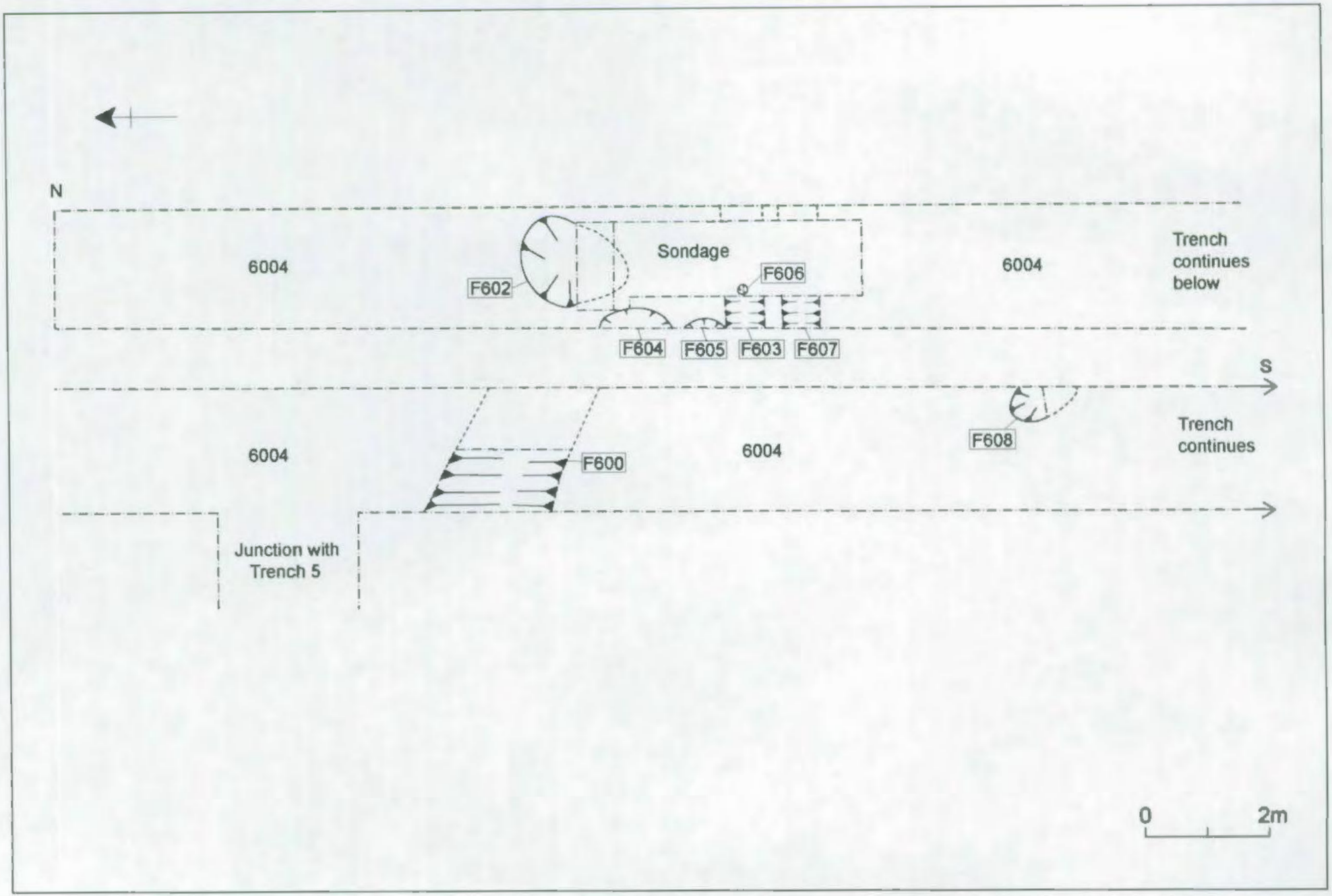
N
6004
Sondage
F602
F606
6004
Trench
continues
below
F604
F605
F603
F607
S
6004
F600
6004
F608
Trench
continues
Junction with
Trench 5
0
2m

Fig.8

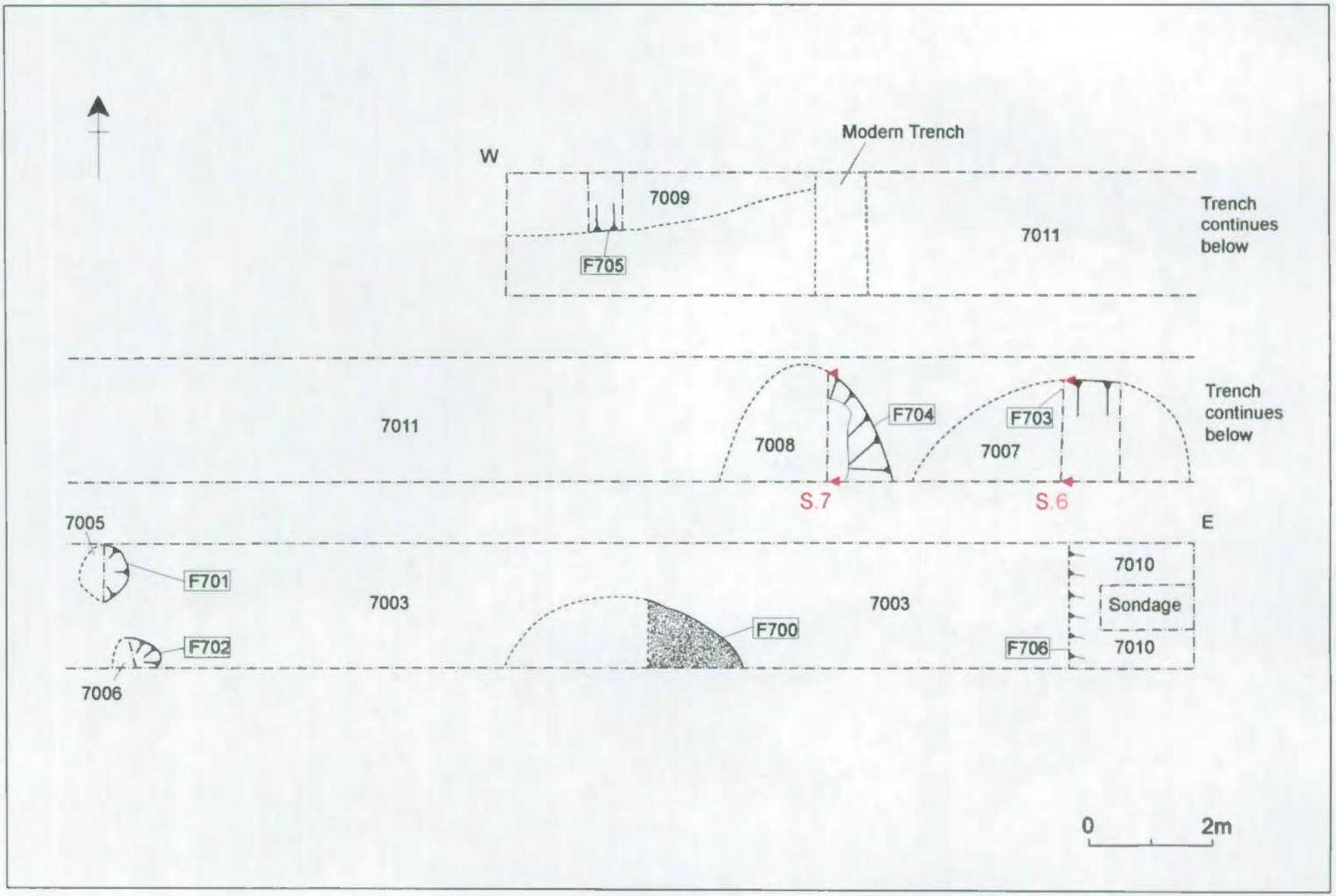
W
Modern Trench
7009
F705
7011
Trench continues below
7011
7008
F704
F703
7007
Trench continues below
S.7
S.6
E
7005
F701
7003
7003
7010
Sondage
7010
F700
F706
F702
7006
0
2m

Fig.9

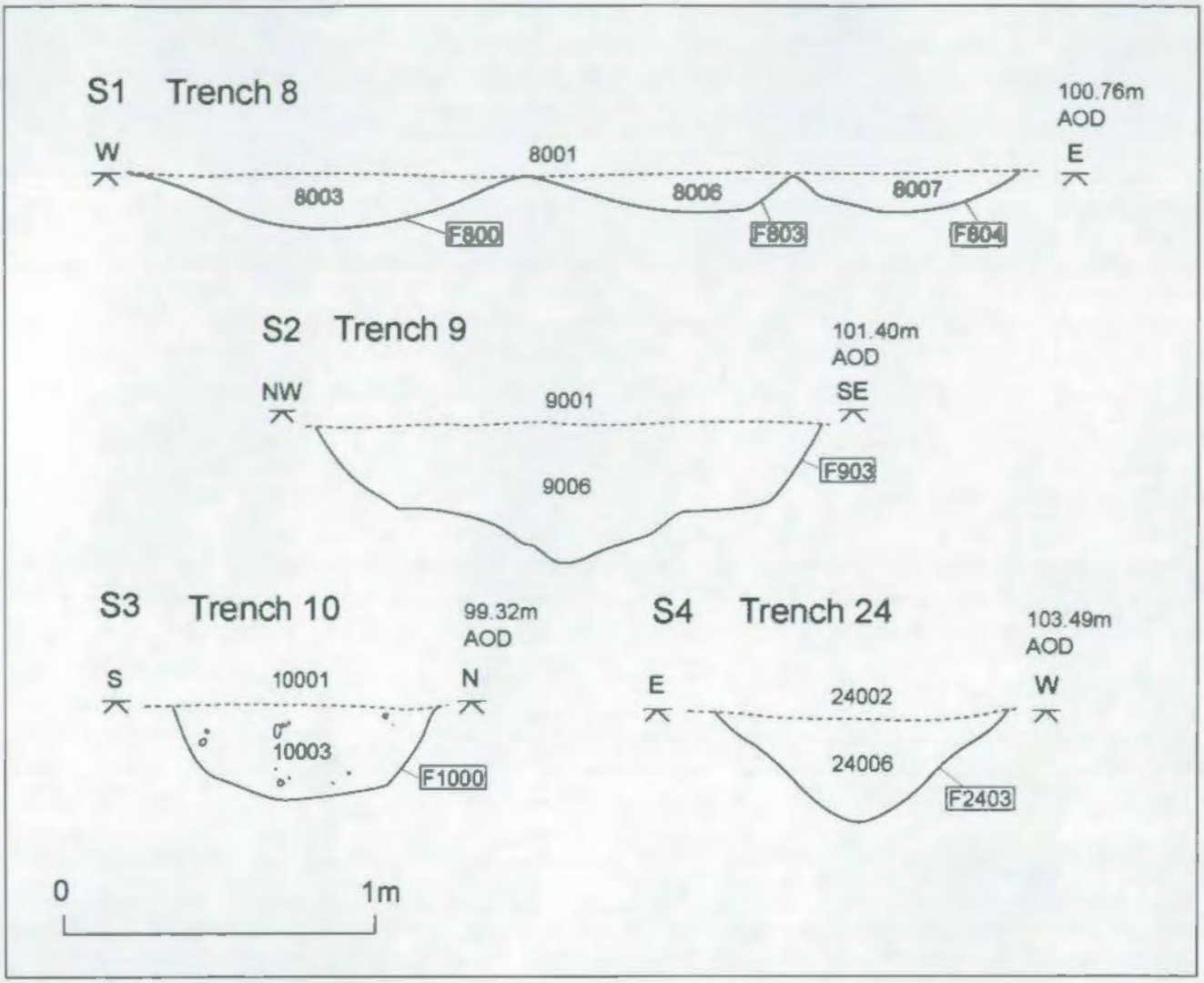
S1 Trench 8
100.76m AOD
W
E
8001
8003
8006
8007
F800
F803
F804
S2 Trench 9
101.40m AOD
NW
SE
9001
9006
F903
S3 Trench 10
99.32m AOD
S
N
10001
10003
F1000
S4 Trench 24
103.49m AOD
E
W
24002
24006
F2403
0
1m

Fig.10

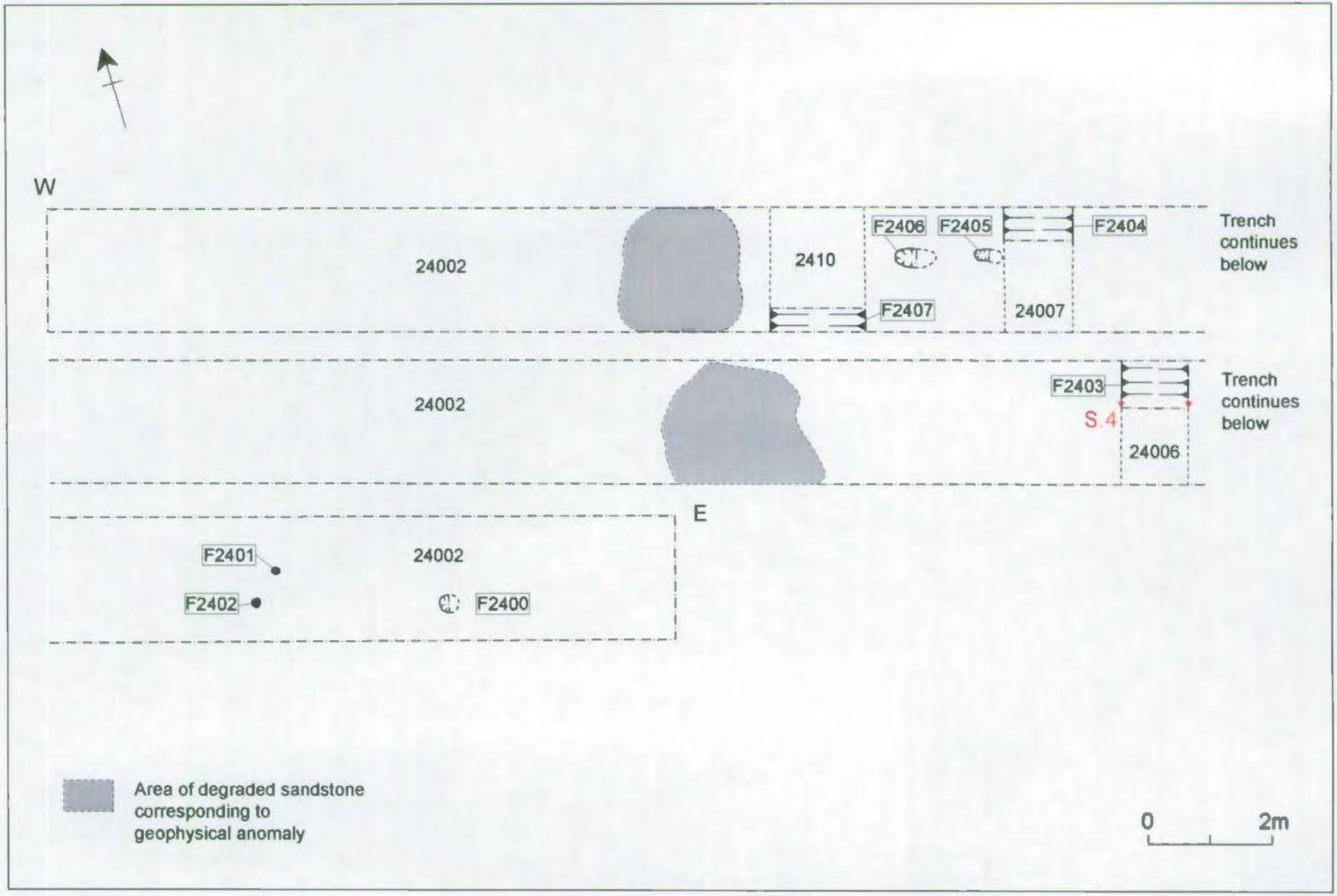
W
24002
2410
F2406
F2405
F2404
F2407
24007
Trench continues below
24002
F2403
S.4
24006
Trench continues below
E
F2401
24002
F2402
F2400
Area of degraded sandstone corresponding to geophysical anomaly
0
2m

Fig.11

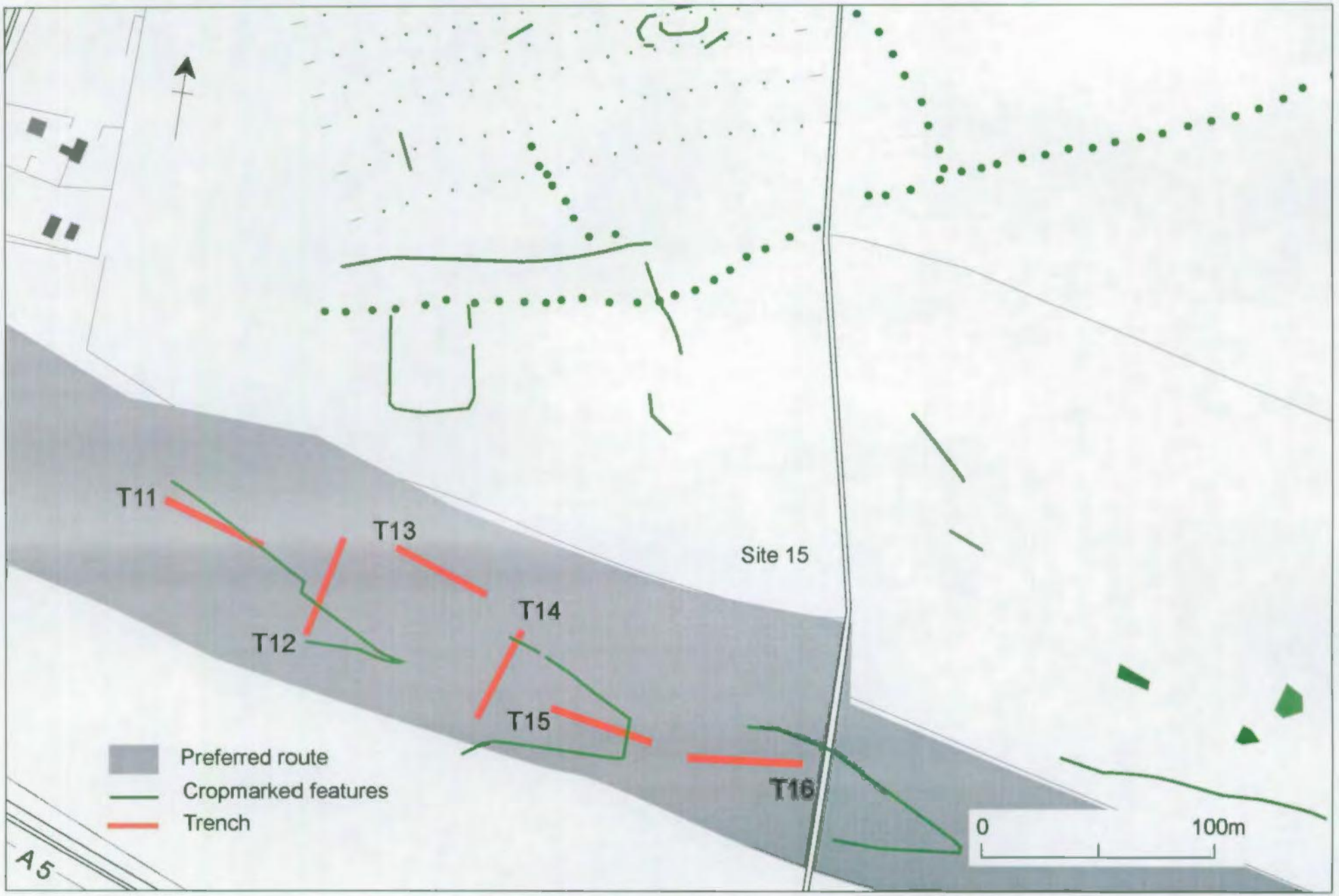
T11
T13
T12
T14
T15
T16
Site 15
Preferred route
Cropmarked features
Trench
A5
0
100m

Fig.12

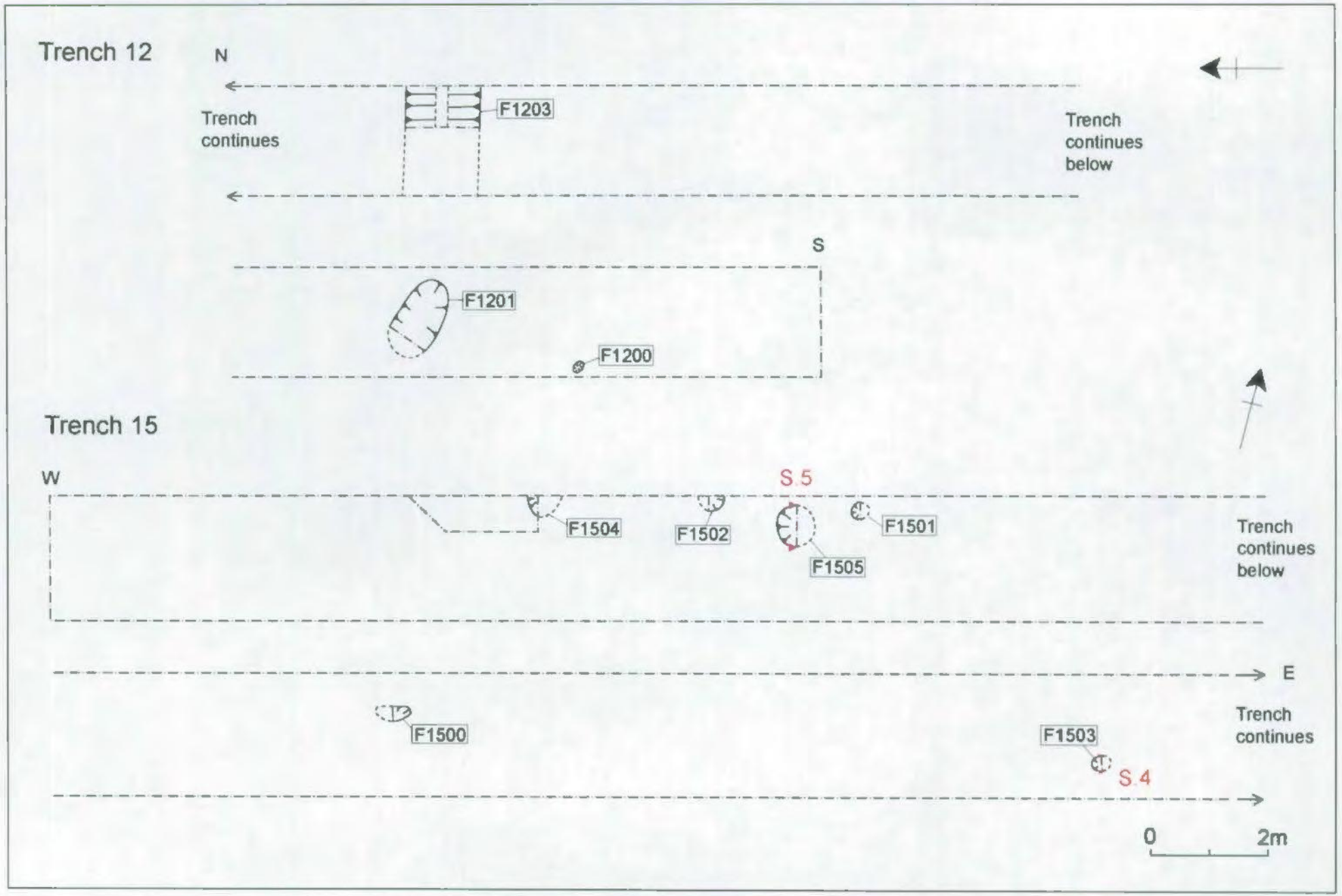
Trench 12
N
Trench continues
F1203
Trench continues below
S
F1201
F1200
Trench 15
W
S.5
F1504
F1502
F1501
F1505
Trench continues below
E
F1500
F1503
S.4
Trench continues
0
2m

Fig.13

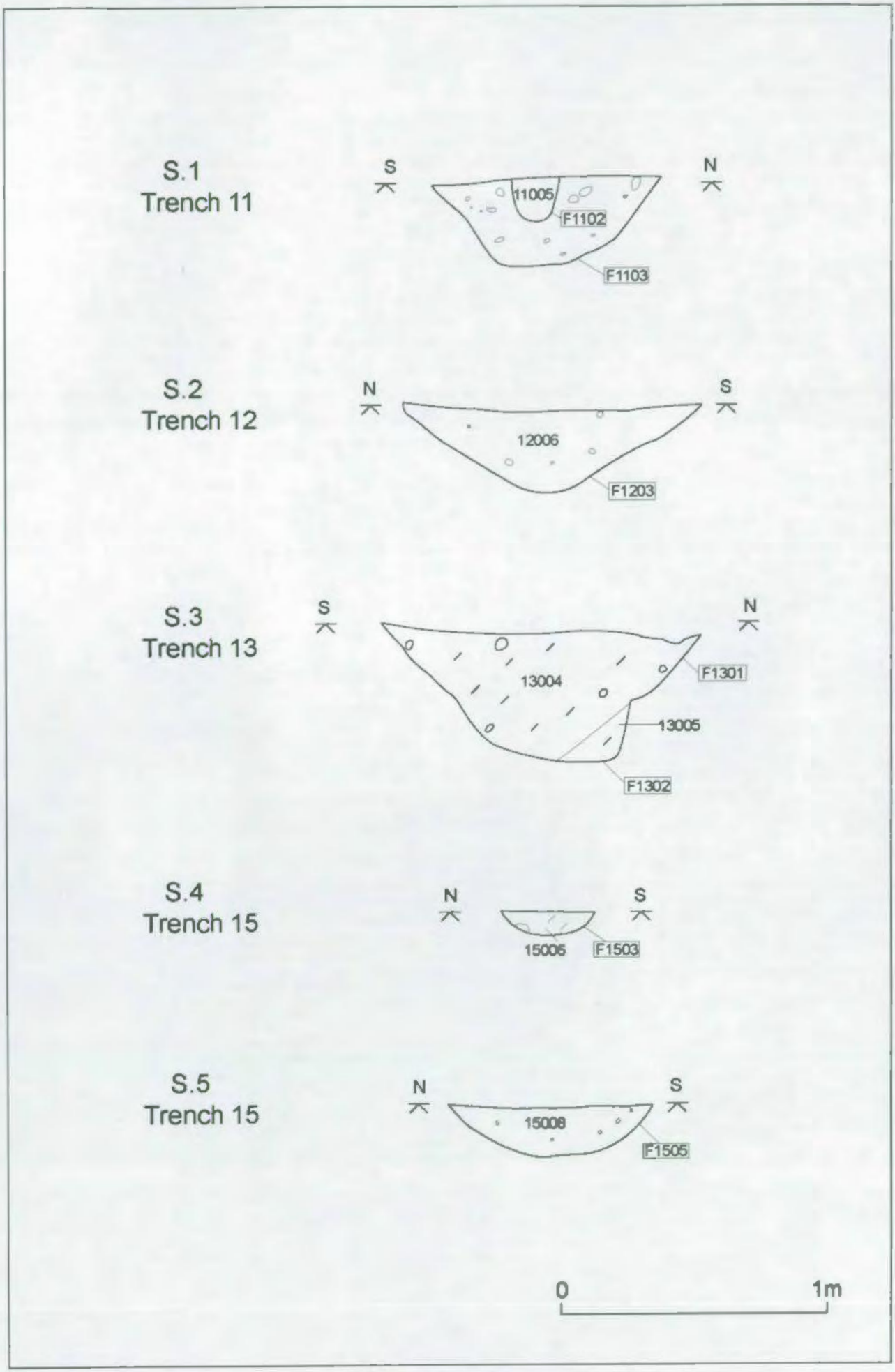
S.1
Trench 11
S
N
11005
F1102
F1103
S.2
Trench 12
N
S
12006
F1203
S.3
Trench 13
S
N
13004
F1301
13005
F1302
S.4
Trench 15
N
S
15006
F1503
S.5
Trench 15
N
S
15008
F1505
0
1m

Fig.14

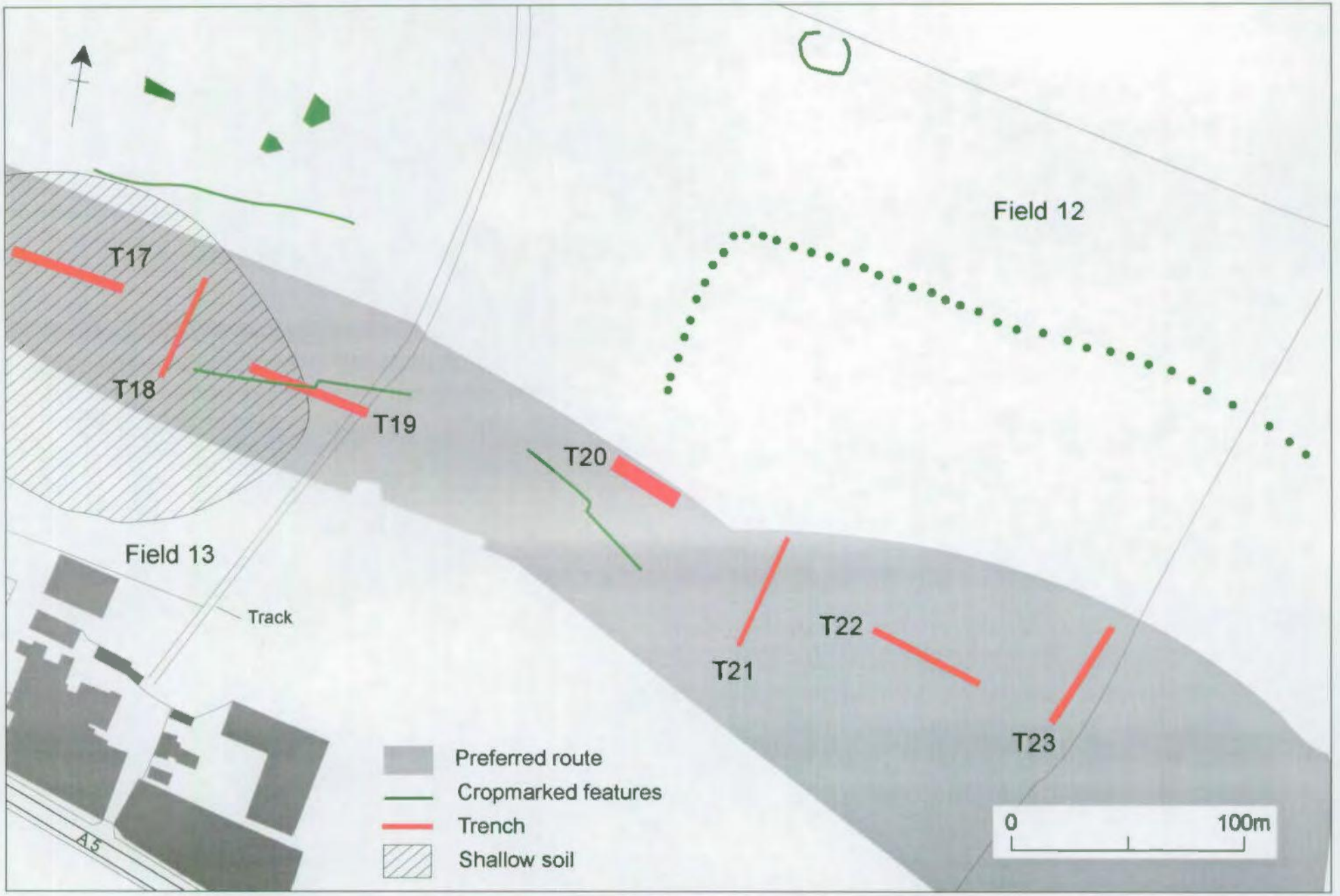
Field 12
T17
T18
T19
T20
Field 13
Track
T21
T22
T23
A5
Preferred route
Cropmarked features
Trench
Shallow soil
0
100m

Fig.15

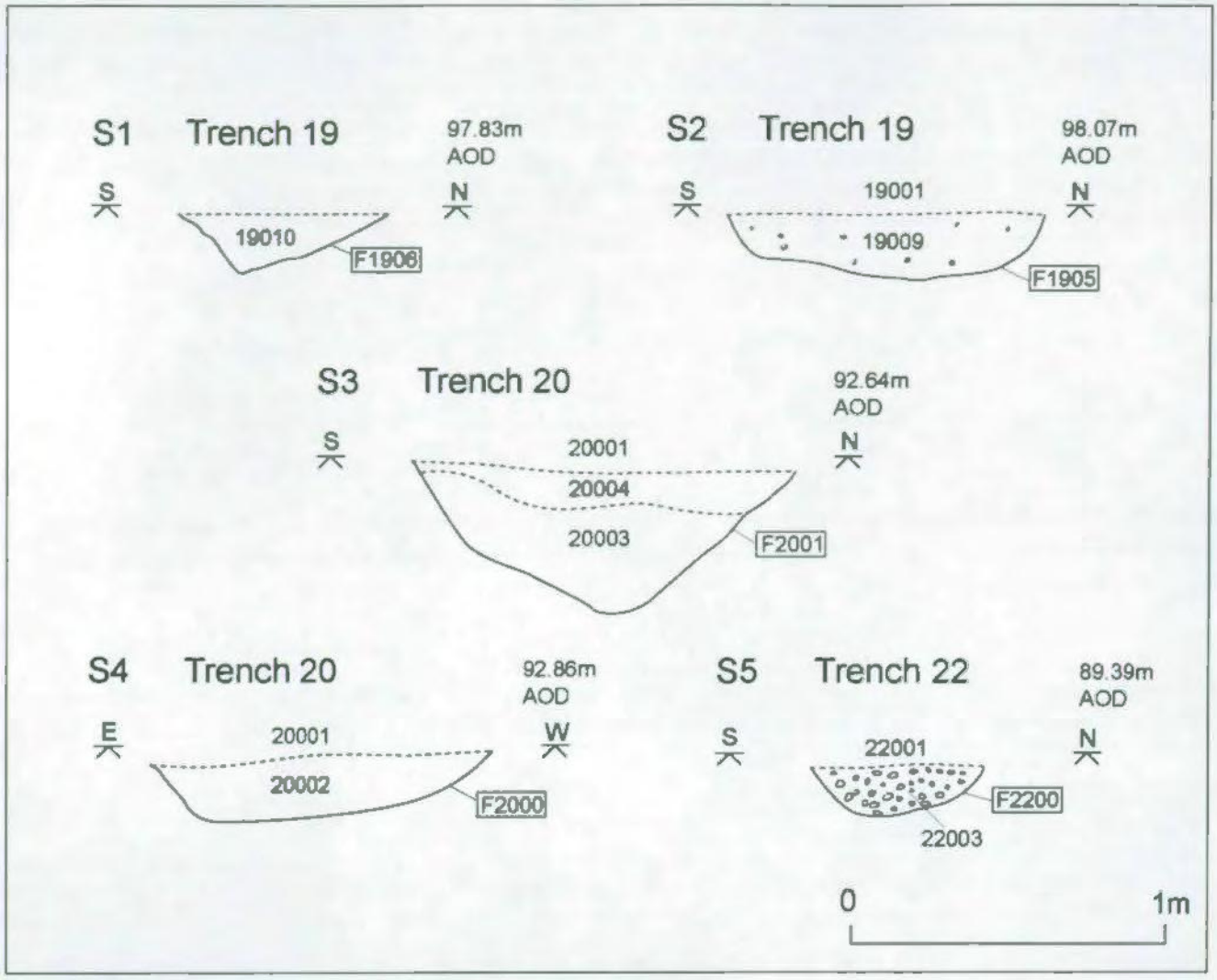
S1 Trench 19
97.83m AOD
S
N
19010
F1906
S2 Trench 19
98.07m AOD
S
N
19001
19009
F1905
S3 Trench 20
92.64m AOD
S
N
20001
20004
20003
F2001
S4 Trench 20
92.86m AOD
E
W
20001
20002
F2000
S5 Trench 22
89.39m AOD
S
N
22001
F2200
22003
0
1m

Fig.16

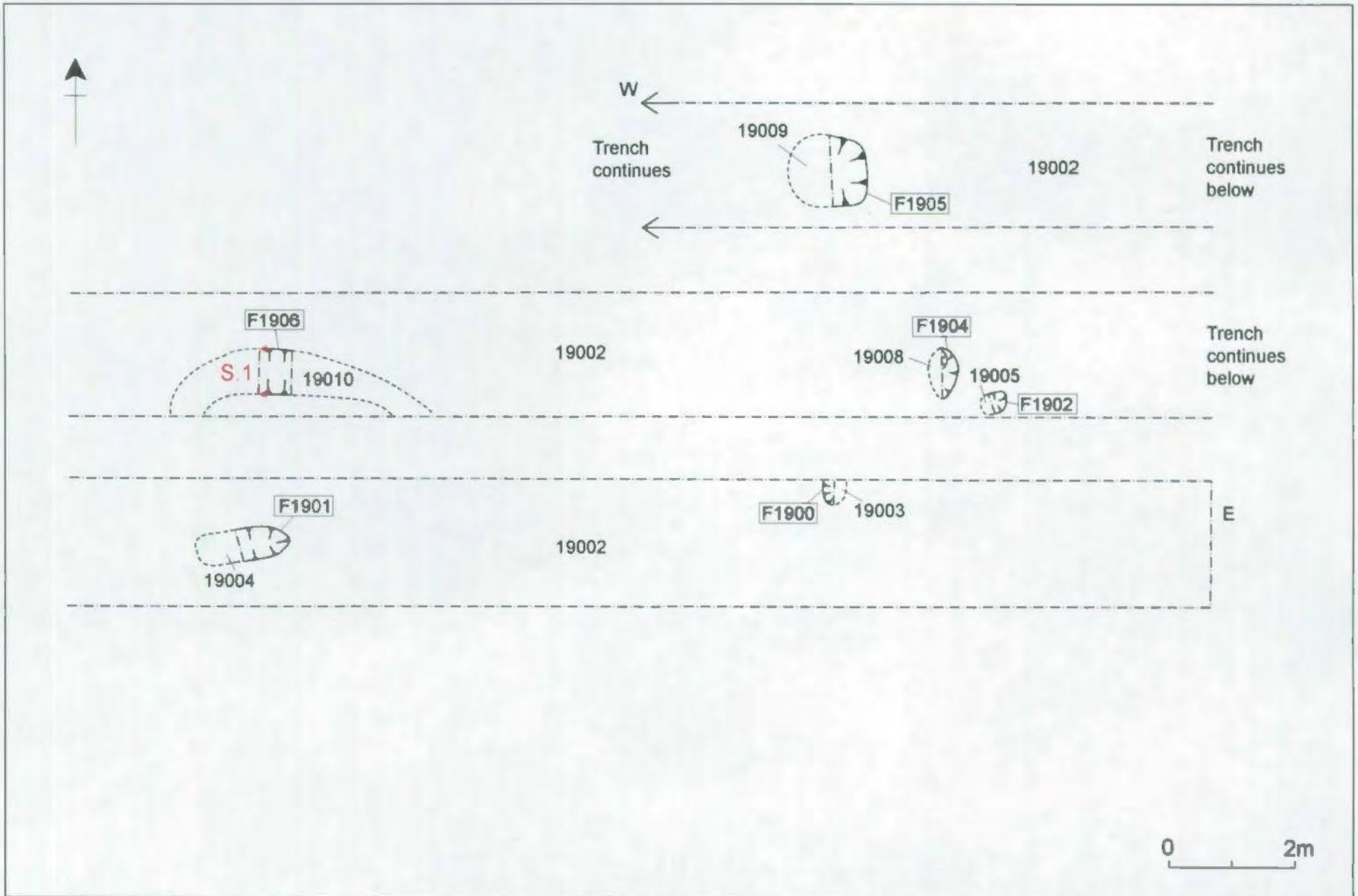
W
Trench continues
19009
F1905
19002
Trench continues below
F1906
S.1
19010
19002
F1904
19008
19005
F1902
Trench continues below
F1901
19004
19002
F1900
19003
E
0
2m

Fig.17

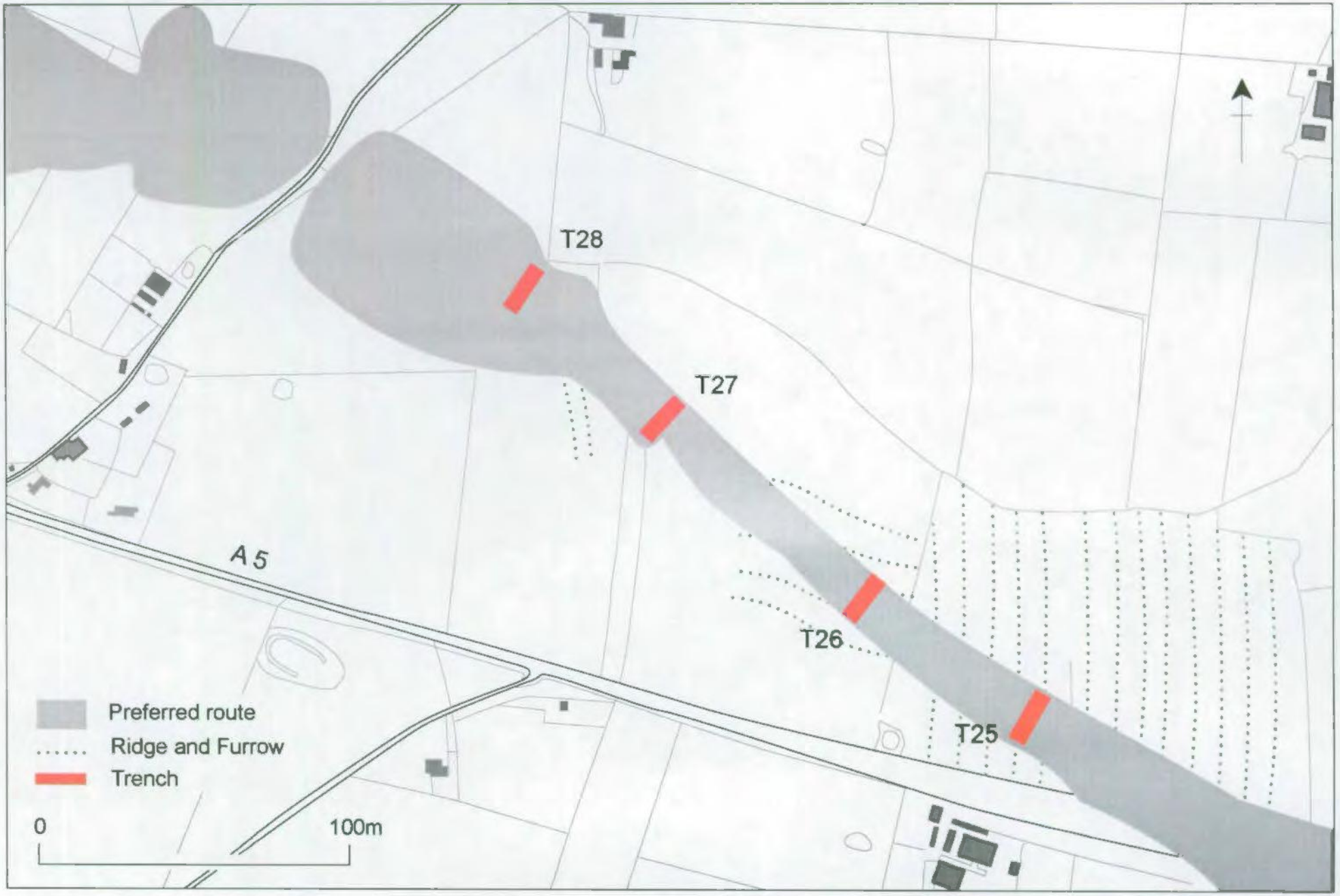
T28
T27
T26
T25
A5
Preferred route
Ridge and Furrow
Trench
0
100m

Fig.18

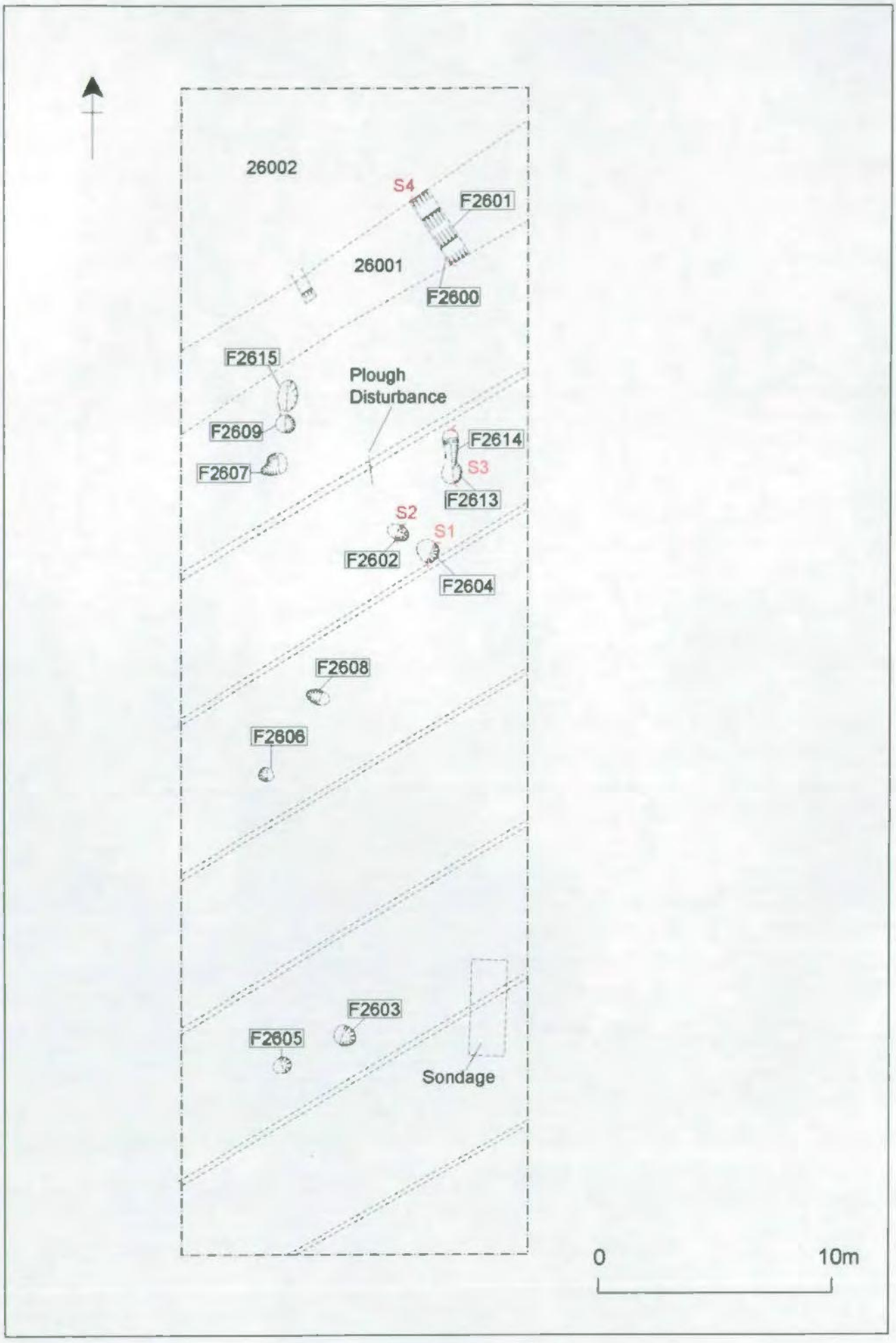
26002
S4
F2601
26001
F2600
F2615
Plough
Disturbance
F2609
F2614
F2607
S3
F2613
S2
S1
F2602
F2604
F2608
F2606
F2603
F2605
Sondage
0
10m

Fig.19

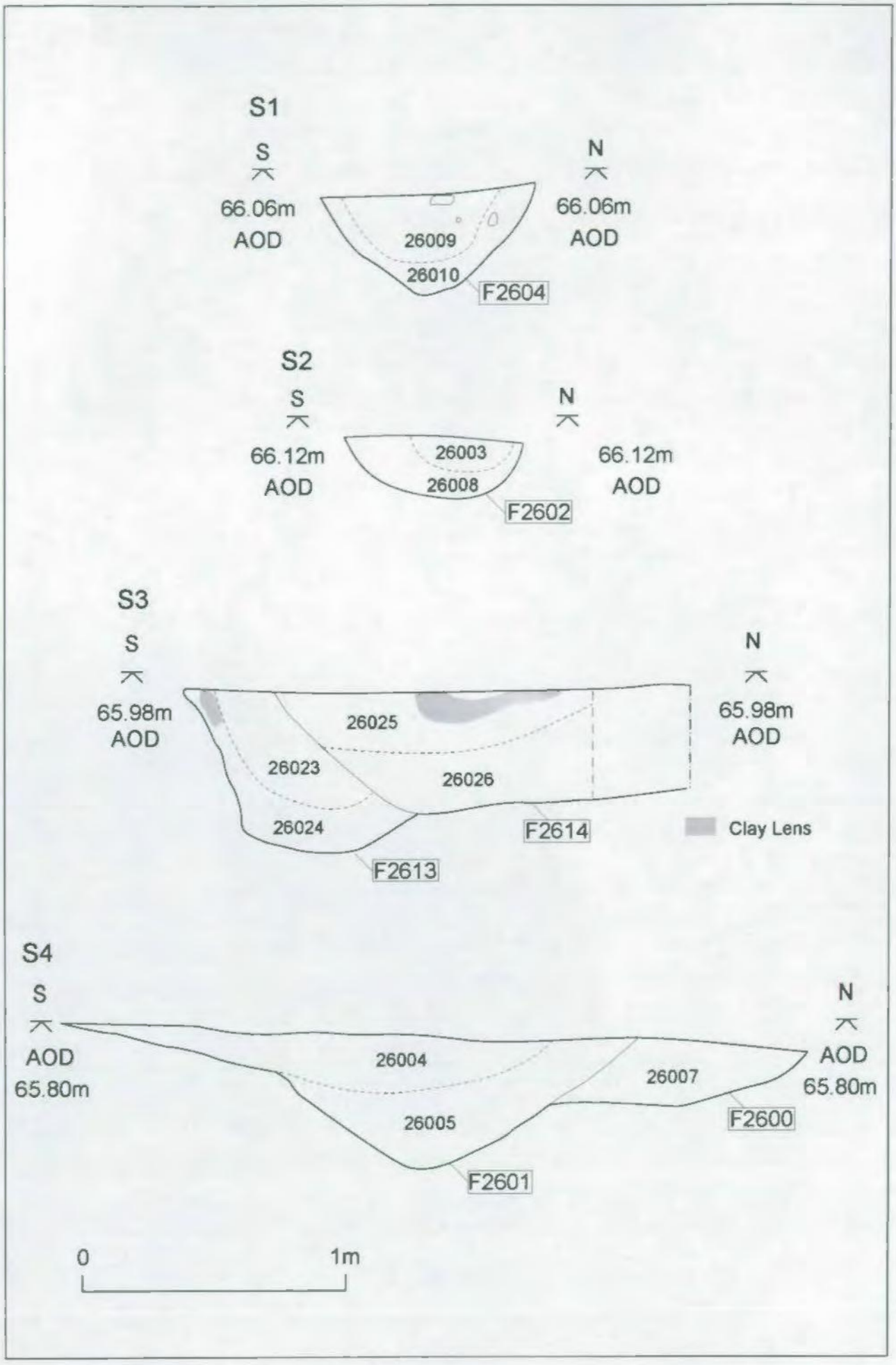
S1
S
66.06m
AOD
N
66.06m
AOD
26009
26010
F2604
S2
S
66.12m
AOD
N
66.12m
AOD
26003
26008
F2602
S3
S
65.98m
AOD
N
65.98m
AOD
26025
26023
26026
26024
F2614
F2613
Clay Lens
S4
S
AOD
65.80m
N
AOD
65.80m
26004
26007
26005
F2600
F2601
0
1m

Fig.20

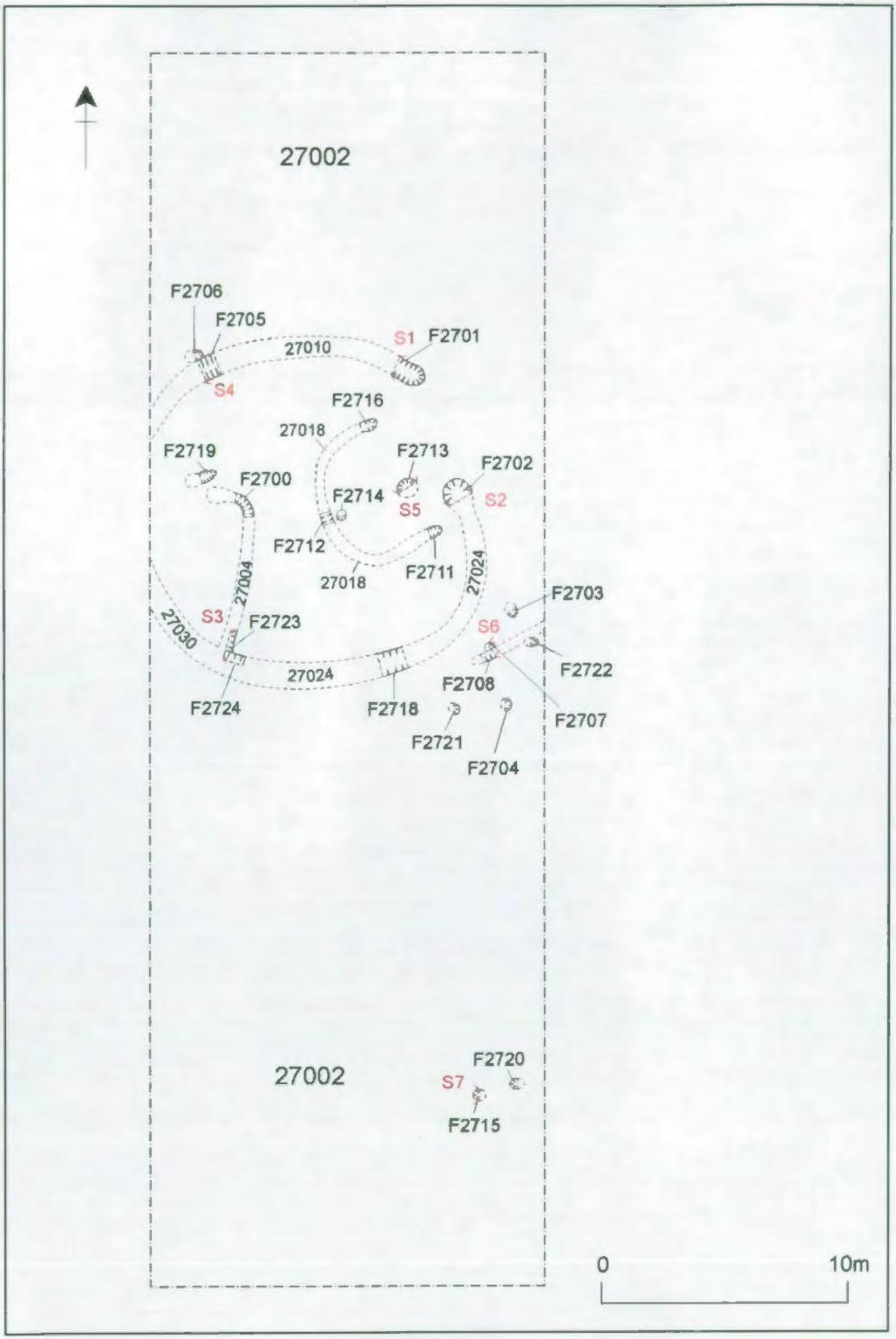
27002
F2706
F2705
S1
F2701
27010
S4
F2716
27018
F2719
F2713
F2702
F2700
F2714
S5
S2
F2712
F2711
27018
27024
27004
F2703
S3
27030
F2723
S6
F2722
27024
F2708
F2724
F2718
F2707
F2721
F2704
27002
F2720
S7
F2715
0
10m

Fig.21

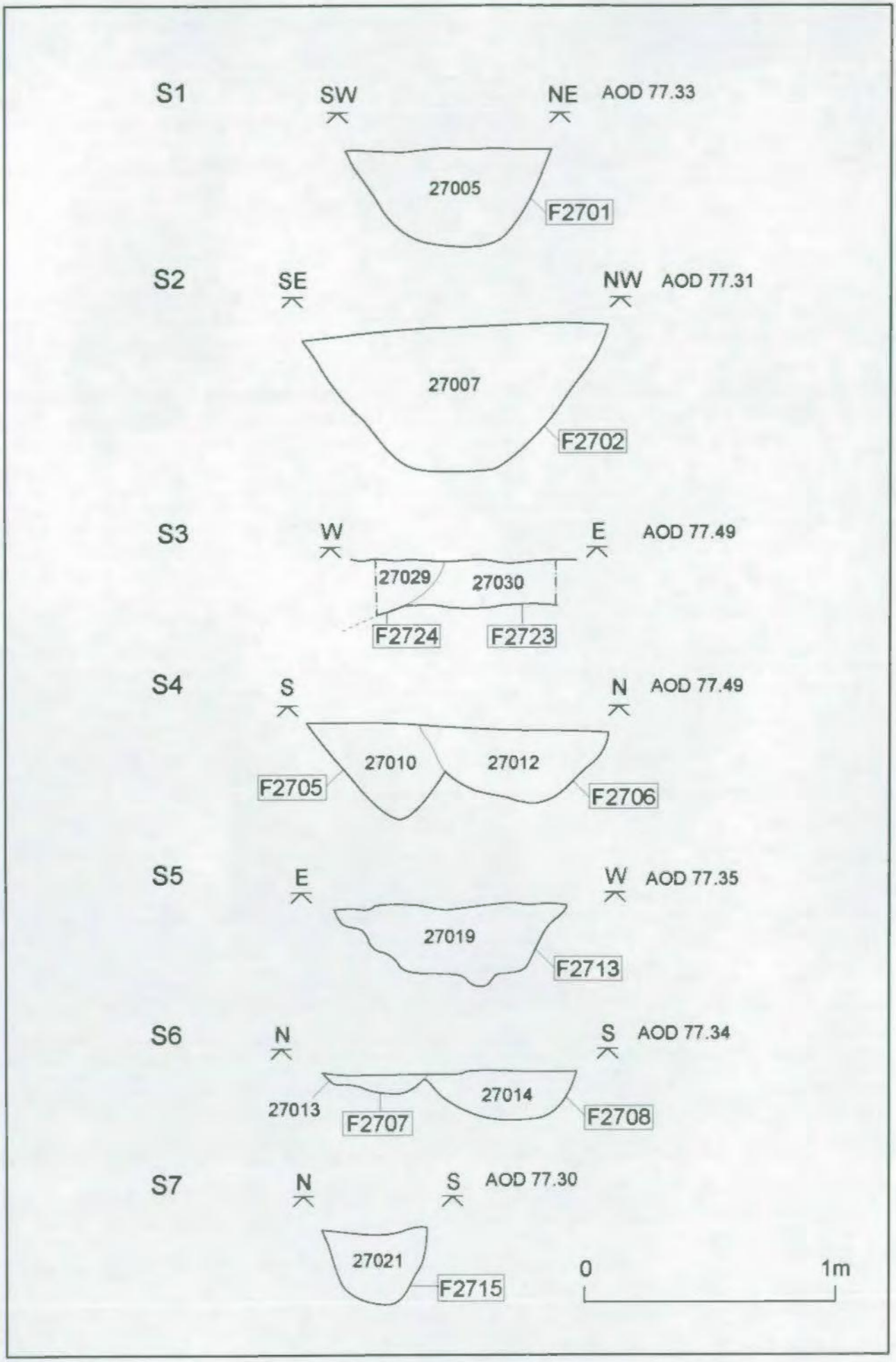
S1
SW
NE
AOD 77.33
27005
F2701
S2
SE
NW
AOD 77.31
27007
F2702
S3
W
E
AOD 77.49
27029
27030
F2724
F2723
S4
S
N
AOD 77.49
27010
27012
F2705
F2706
S5
E
W
AOD 77.35
27019
F2713
S6
N
S
AOD 77.34
27013
F2707
27014
F2708
S7
N
S
AOD 77.30
27021
F2715
0
1m

Fig.22

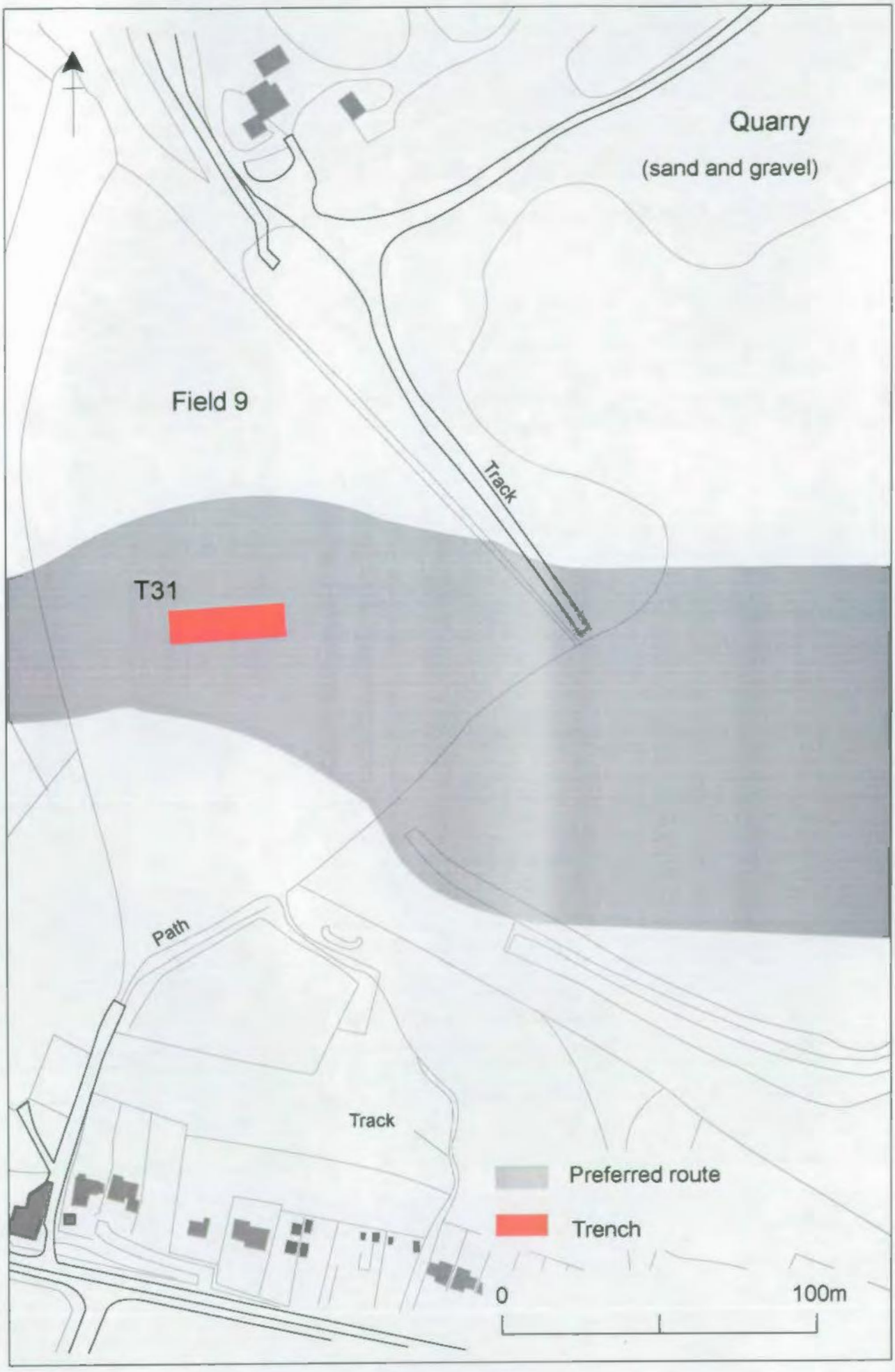
Quarry
(sand and gravel)
Field 9
Track
T31
Path
Track
Preferred route
Trench
0
100m

Fig.23

Founded in 1976 and drawing on the academic expertise and technical facilities of one of Britain's foremost universities, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit undertakes archaeological work throughout Britain and abroad.
The Unit offers a wide-ranging commercial archaeological service including:

- Consultancy
- Desktop Assessment
- Field Evaluation
- Excavation
- Urban and Landscape Survey
- GIS-based Analysis
- Documentary Research
- Display and Presentation
- Specialist Finds Analysis
- Vocational Training
- Multimedia Software Development

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux BA MPhil MIFA or Iain Ferris BA MIFA
Field Archaeology Unit, The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516
Email: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk Web: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

B. U. F. A. U.