



ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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WYAS

**Hemsworth Bypass**

**Hemsworth**

**West Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Excavations 1994-95*

*Report No. 1415*

C L I E N T

Wakefield MDC Transport and Highways Division

# **Hemsworth Bypass**

## **Hemsworth**

### **West Yorkshire**

## **Archaeological Excavations 1994-95**

### **Contents**

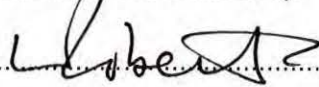
1. Introduction
2. Method of excavation
3. Excavation results, Site C
4. Excavation results, Site A
5. Roman pottery report
6. Environmental sample results
7. Geophysical survey
8. Discussion

Acknowledgements

Note.

This document was prepared in 1996 as an archive report to be used in the derivation of a publication text contributing to a synthetic volume on Romano-British sites in West Yorkshire. That volume has now been abandoned and this account is now belatedly issued in the Archaeological Services WYAS report series for submission to the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record.

Authorised for distribution by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was commissioned by Wakefield Transport and Highways Division, to carry out an archaeological excavation of two sites, (Sites A and C), to the east of March Whim Farm, grid reference SE 4385 1410 (Fig. 1). The work was carried out between the 28th November 1994 and 21st January 1995 in advance of the proposed construction of the new Hemsworth Bypass. The excavation followed a geophysical survey of the area carried out in 1989 and the excavation site locations, positioned centrally to the proposed road corridor, were based on these results. Site A measured 20m by 30m and lay on gradually sloping ground running downhill from south to north. Its northern limit lay immediately to the south of Royd Moor Lane. Site C measured 40m by 30m and lay on flat ground, positioned 150m to the south of Site A (see Fig. 1). Access to Site A was via Royd Moor Lane and Site C via the landowners field which was under arable crop.

## **2. Method of excavation**

- 2.1 Both sites (A and C) were stripped of topsoil using a Hymac excavator equipped with a large toothless bucket. Machining progressed down to various deposits of natural soil including clay and occasional outcrops of bedrock. This was considered to be the first archaeological horizon as some potential features were visible before manual cleaning commenced.
- 2.2 Following the mechanical removal of topsoil all excavation was carried out by hand. A sample of archaeological features were excavated all of which were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation including drawn, photographic and written records. A number of environmental soil samples were also taken.
- 2.3 References to archaeological features in the text are abbreviated, e.g. Feature 9 becomes (F009). Some of the larger features such as ditches where more than one area or segment was excavated were allocated major feature numbers e.g. Ditch 72 becomes (M072).

### **3. Excavation Results: Site C**

#### **3.1 Site C (Figs 2-6)**

- 3.1.1 After the removal of topsoil and hand cleaning of this 30m by 40m trench, it became apparent that a number of archaeological features were present, the clearest being three ditches. These consisted of two butt-ended east-west orientated ditches, positioned fairly centrally, running the entire length of the site. A smaller north-south running ditch, which ran under the southern baulk formed a right angle with the east-west ditches and was also positioned fairly centrally. The terminals of the three ditches were confined to a small area positioned to the middle of the site (Fig. 2a).
- 3.1.2 Situated in the south-western part of the site, and enclosed by two of the ditches, were ten features ranging from small post-holes to more substantial pits. To the north of the main east-west ditches were three features. The north-eastern part of the site appeared to be barren of archaeological features, and was made up of various types of natural material. The south-western part of the site, enclosed by two ditches, was also barren of discrete features, apart from a single butt-ended linear feature.
- 3.1.3 A modern land drain ran across the site from near the south-east corner to approximately half way up the western baulk. This drain had cut through the M072/073/074 ditch intersection and a feature (F070) to the north of the ditches.

#### **3.2 Ditches (Figs 2 and 3)**

- 3.2.1 The three ditches comprised two oriented east-west, major feature numbers (M072 and M074) and one north-south (M073) all of which terminated in the central region of the site. At this point a modern land drain had partially cut the ditches and was contained within a cinder filled cut approximately 0.2m wide, the plastic pipe clearly visible at the base.

##### Ditch M072

- 3.2.2 The earliest of the ditches (M072) ran from the western baulk to its butt-end 22.1m to the east. Two segments were excavated, one close to the western baulk (F013) and the other at the butt-end (F035). The profile was basically U-shaped with a steep regular edge to the north and a steep but slightly less

regular edge to the south. Five fills were identified: a dark reddish brown clay loam with a few inclusions of stone (019); a mixed blue and orange clay with some stone inclusions (014); a light grey silty clay with some stone inclusions (015), a small lens of dark grey clay with ironstone inclusions (018); and the primary fill, a light grey silty clay with few inclusions (016) (Fig 3, S.8).

- 3.2.3 Excavation of the segment to the east (F035) revealed the terminal, which had a profile of gently sloping edges, becoming steeper to the base (Fig. 3, S.55). Due to intrusion by a modern plastic land drain, which bisected the fills of this feature, excavation halted at a depth of 0.7m. Three fills were recognised: an orange brown sandy clay with inclusions of small sandstone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (032); a dark brown sandy clay containing small sandstone fragments and a few charcoal flecks (023); and a pale yellow brown sandy clay containing an abundance of angular sandstone fragments (047) (Fig. 3, S.55). At this point the ditch curved slightly to the south perhaps suggesting a contemporary phase with the north-south ditch (M073) the terminus of which was situated 1m to the south.

#### Ditch M073

- 3.2.4 The exposed length of this stretch of the ditch (M073) was 11.5m with a width ranging from 0.9m to 1.2m. Close to the southern limit of excavation a 1.5m segment (F004) was excavated. Here the ditch had a width of 1.02m and a depth of 0.48m. The profile was steep sided with regular edges and the base was relatively flat. Two fills were identified: a brown sandy clay with frequent sandstone inclusions (033) and a yellow brown sandy clay with frequent sandstone inclusions (012) (Fig. 3, S.6). The terminal of the ditch was clearly visible in plan and the excavation of a 0.5m segment (F029) revealed a profile of gently sloping edges cutting the natural bedrock. Here the ditch dimensions were 1m wide and 0.15m deep, sloping more deeply to the south. A single fill was recognised, a yellow brown sandy clay containing occasional sandstone fragments (028) (Fig. 3, S.19).

#### Ditch M074

- 3.2.5 The east-west running ditch (M074) ran from the eastern baulk 18m westwards to a re-cut terminal-end which had cut the upper fill (023) of segment (F035) a component of ditch (M072). This demonstrated that ditch M074 formed part of a later phase than M072. Close to the eastern limits of the ditch a 1.5m segment

of M074 was excavated (F002). Here the ditch was 1.4m wide and 0.52m deep. The profile was of a near vertical cut along the northern edge breaking to form a gently sloping base southwards. The southern edge was initially steep, flattening out before dropping gently to the base. The two fills identified were a brown grey sandy silt and clay with few inclusions (001) and a dark grey clay silt with few stone and charcoal inclusions (020) (Fig. 3, S.5).

- 3.2.6 At the west end of ditch M074 the terminal-end and its re-cut was excavated which revealed the initial cut of the ditch (F031) and a secondary re-cut (F026). The first of these (F031) contained a single fill (030), an orange brown sandy clay with moderate stone and sandstone inclusions. This had been partly cut away by the land drain along the northern edge but enough of the cut had survived to interpret this area. The terminal-end (F031) had cut the upper fill (032) of segment (F035) and the adjacent end of M072 which shows that ditch M072 pre-dated ditch M074. The ditch dimensions at F031 were 1.02m wide and 0.52m deep. The east-west profile, clearly visible in section (though partly cut away by the land drain) revealed a gently sloping edge to the west before becoming more gradual down to a fairly flat base. Only 1.08m remained of this earlier ditch at which point it had been completely cut away by ditch F026 to the east. This later ditch (F026) was clearly visible in plan, wider to the north than F031, though the southern edge respected the original cut alignment of F031. Only a short length (0.4m) of this part of the ditch was excavated due to time limitations, but it was established that the east-west profile was initially steep-sided becoming more gradual, though the depth to the base was not seen at this point. A single fill was recognised, a brown sandy clay (027) containing frequent angular sandstone fragments up to 0.15m long (Fig. 3, S17).

### **3.3 Discrete features** (Figs 2, 4 and 5)

Larger features F008, F009, F034, F040, F061, F070 and F075

- 3.3.1 As mentioned above, a series of ten features, four large (1.9m -5.2m long) and six small were present in the south-western part of the site. Of the four larger features two, having similar morphology, were possibly be contemporary (F009 and F040). Both were short linear features, F009 having a slight curve. Feature F040 was 5.2m long and up to 1.24m wide. Excavation of a half section showed it to have a depth of 0.44m and a profile of near vertical sides to the north with a more broken irregular edge to the south. Five fills were identified:



a grey brown clay silt containing few stones and charcoal flecks (041); a yellow orange sandy clay with few inclusions slumping steeply from the north (051); a light grey silt with ironstone staining slumping in from the south (042), and the primary fill (043), a brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions and iron panning slumping gently from the south (Fig. 4, S.26). The northern edge of the cut was fairly regular but the southern side was much more broken suggesting damage perhaps from human and animal activity as well as root and plough action. It may have been that this feature originally had a more regular rectangular shape but there was no evidence of finds or any indication as to the function of the feature from the fills.

- 3.3.2 A similar linear feature (F009) lay 3m to the east of F040 and was possibly associated as it seemed to form an alignment curving distinctly to the north. Feature F009 was linear and curving in plan with a length of 4.6m, a width of 1.26m and a depth of 0.58m. Excavation of half section revealed a basically U-shaped profile with a steep regular edge to the north and a much gentler one to the south which, like F040, was more broken than the northern edge perhaps suffering similar damage. Two fills were identified: a reddish brown silty clay containing sandstone and occasional charcoal inclusions (011) that yielded three slag fragments and three pottery fragments (SF 2000); and the primary fill, a bluish grey silty clay containing occasional sandstone and charcoal fragments (010) (Fig. 4, S.11). The pottery fragments from fill (011) are not of a typical form found on similar sites in West Yorkshire and have been identified as handmade ware probably of local origin (see pottery report). The pottery and slag represents the only stratified finds from Site C.
- 3.3.3 A further feature (F070) to the north of ditch M073 may have been associated with F040 and F009, perhaps forming a broken curved pit alignment. The position of F070 was aligned roughly with F009 to the south, and had a similar shape though slightly smaller. Its plan was irregular but with fairly regular edges and dimensions of 3.02m long, 0.9m wide and a maximum depth of 0.4m. Excavation of a half section revealed it to have possessed a U-shaped profile with a flat base and broken edges, probably caused by root action and/or agricultural damage. The modern land drain that partially truncated the ditch intersection had also cut this feature.



3.3.3 A sub-circular feature (F061) was situated 0.3m south of F009 and had dimensions of 1.9m long, 1.6m wide and a depth of 0.54m. Its profile was broken and gently sloping becoming steeper along the northern edge, coming down onto a flat base. A depression was observed centrally in the base of the feature giving it a stepped profile. A total of four fills were recognised: a reddened mixture of clay and sand with some sandstone inclusions (058); a yellow brown sand and clay with sandstone inclusions (059); a yellow brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions (065), and a primary fill of light yellow sand with few inclusions slumping in gently from the north (060) (Fig. 4, S.32). This feature had similarities to a larger pit F034, 15m to the north-east. This large oval shaped pit had dimensions of 3.8m long, 1.95m wide and 0.53m deep. A half section revealed a steep-sided southern edge forming a bowl shaped base and a more gradually sloping edge to the north. A distinct depression was visible in its eastern side but there was no suggestion as to its function. Two fills were identified in the form of a red brown sand and clay with some small sandstone inclusions (017), and a pale yellow brown sandy silt containing frequent small sandstone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks (033) (Fig. 6, S.20). The similarities between the two pits (F034 and F061) was particularly evident from their seemingly identical upper fills. The main difference between the two features was the size with F034 being larger. There was no indication as to the function of these pits as no finds were recovered from the fills. It is possible that the two pits may have been in-filled at the same time.

3.3.4 A single butt-ended linear feature (F075) was recognised just to the south-east of the intersection of ditches (M073 and M074). The dimensions were 3.02m long, 0.62m wide with a depth of 0.25m. Half section excavation revealed a steep sided profile with a fairly flat base. A single fill was recognised (076) a brown sandy silt containing some small angular sandstone fragments and no finds gave any indication as to the function of this feature. Excavation of this feature was rapid due to its late discovery and was only recorded in plan.

#### Bell Pit (F008)

3.3.5 This large pit (F008) was found in the south-western part of the site and is thought to be of later date than the rest of the features. In plan this pit was initially visible as a sub-circular feature filled with very small coal fragments mixed with a dark clay (007), with a distinct lighter fill occupying the centre

(005). Excavation of a half section of the feature revealed a deposit of stones (021) at the base of fill (005). At this point the entire fill (005) was removed to reveal a circular dump of large ironstone fragments that ranged in size from 0.10m to 0.35m. It was not clear if the horizon between stones (021) and fill (007) below represented a cut feature so this was regarded as a possible separate feature (F006). Below cut F006, fill (007) continued down, eventually changing very slightly to a more mixed grey clay with small coal flecks (022). A small deposit of yellow clay (066) was also seen to lie above (022). At a depth of 0.85m excavation halted and the feature was augured. This revealed that the pit was still occupied by a grey silty fill to a depth of 3.85m, in addition to the 0.85m excavated, giving a total depth of 4.65m (Fig. 5, S.9). This suggests that this feature (F008) represents a bell pit used to extract coal and was probably backfilled with the spoil from its original excavation.

Small features (F037, F038, F046, F050, F052, F053, F062)

- 3.3.6 The smaller features in this region of the site were mostly shallow though some of the depth may have been lost through ploughing. To the south of linear feature F040 lay a line of three sub-rectangular features, aligned east to west. These were (F053) 1.06m long, 0.66m wide and 0.17m deep (Fig. 4, S.29), feature F046, 1.38m long, 0.47m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig. 4, S.23) and feature F037, 0.90m long, 0.44m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 4, S.25). No finds were recovered from the fills of these features.
- 3.3.7 Situated between features F040 and F009 was a small shallow circular feature (F050). This formed an alignment with three features to the south (F037, F052 and F058). The southernmost of these (F038) was a circular post-hole with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.24m. The profile was bowl-shaped with initially steep sides. A single fill (039) was recognised which contained some charcoal fragments, frequent stones, some large which were likely to have represented post-packing (Fig. 4, S.22). Situated 1m to the north of this feature lay a small pit (F052) which was sub-oval in plan with dimensions of 1.8m long, 1.24m wide and a depth of 0.35m. The excavation of a half section revealed a profile of a gently sloping broken edge to the north and a steeper more even edge to the south and a flat base. The three fills recognised (055, 056 and 057) all contained few inclusions and produced no finds (Fig. 4, S.27). Feature F037, 0.60m to the north, also formed an east-west alignment with

features (F046 and F053) as previously mentioned suggesting the existence of some kind of structure in this area.

- 3.3.8 In the north-west part of the site was a sub-circular feature (F062). Excavation of a half section revealed this to be a substantial re-cut post-hole with dimensions of 1.4m long, 1.22m wide and 0.40m deep. The northern edge was initially gently sloping, becoming steeper, forming a bowl shaped base where the first post would have been housed. The southern edge was gently sloping then a flat base was formed for a distance before dropping gently to the base. Two fills of the first phase of the post-hole were a grey brown sandy silt containing some substantial fragments of sandstone (068), which represented the post-packing, and a mixed orange grey clay with some sandstone fragments present (069), again likely remnants of post-packing. The secondary position of the post could be seen where fill 064, a grey brown sandy silt with few inclusions, occupied the feature (Fig. 6, S.31).

### **3.4 Phasing and Discussion**

- 3.4.1 The only stratified pottery from Site C was recovered from the upper fill (011) of F009, so using finds to date features has not been possible.
- 3.4.2 The evidence suggests that the east-west ditch (M072) was contemporary with the north-south ditch (M073), forming an enclosed area represented by the south-west quadrant of the site. Due to the proximity of the ditch terminals, a small entrance would have been present at the north-eastern corner of the enclosure represented by a gap of 0.8m. The later re-cut ditch M074 may have been open at the same time as ditches M073 and M072, which were excavated at a later date adding a further enclosed area, represented by the south-east quadrant of the site. A single shallow butt-ended feature was recognised here F075, but there was no indication as to its function. The re-cut (F026 of M074) suggests a possible corner entrance to the enclosed area, represented by the south-eastern part of the site, ditch M072 having been backfilled.
- 3.4.2 The small area of the site does not give any indication as to the course of the ditches or if they are part of a larger enclosed area. Evidence of banking from the ditches encircling the enclosure from the inside or outside perimeter is not conclusive. The linear feature (F070) was clearly visible, situated 0.5m to the north of ditch (M072) with no evidence of being sealed by any remnants of

banking. Situated just over 1m to the south of this ditch was a butt-ended linear feature (F009) and again there was no evidence of sealing by an embankment. The sections of the ditch segments do not suggest that banking material was filled in from one side or the other when the site became redundant and the fills are fairly regularly distributed with little evidence of slumping from either side. It is assumed that some form of embankment was present but has been lost through ploughing and possibly levelled at some time to suit more recent agricultural practices.

- 3.4.3 It appears that some of the features in the south-west part of the site were probably contemporary, especially the small post-holes and small features which seemed to form alignments and may suggest a structure. It may be that a possible fence line existed post-dating ditch M072 formed by F040, F050, F009 and F072, initially running east-west turning to a north-south alignment. The isolated re-cut post-hole (F062) does not clearly fit into a phasing category with other features but may relate to pit F070, forming a fence line. The same could be said of the small features F053, F046, F037, F052 and F038, the first three of these run east-west with the remaining two running north-south.
- 3.4.4 Similarities were also recognised between two pits, F061, situated in the south-west region of the site, and F034 to the north. Although some distance apart, and separated by the ditches, the upper fills seemed to be identical, suggesting that the pits served a common function and were perhaps contemporary. As no finds were recovered and the fills of these features contained few inclusions the function of the two pits is uncertain.
- 3.4.5 Pit F008 appeared to be a bell pit used to extract coal and it seems likely that this was later than the other features in this area of the site. As no finds were recovered from the fills this date remains speculative.
- 3.4.6 The fact that features were present north of the ditches proves that activity had occurred outside the enclosed area and suggests the presence of at least one structure represented by the large re-cut post-hole (F062). The ditches excavated on site may only form part of a sub-enclosure of a much larger network of ditched enclosures.

## **4. Excavation results: Site A**

### **4.1 Site A (Figs 7-9)**

4.1 This 10m by 40m trench was situated 150m to the north of Site C on ground sloping slightly downhill from south to north. After the removal of topsoil and hand cleaning it became apparent that an abundance of archaeological features were present. The most obvious of these were four ditches, two aligned east-west and two north-south. Three gulleys, two of which curved slightly, were also seen within the enclosed area of the ditches, as were two smaller features one of which was partly concealed by the eastern baulk.

4.2 Towards the northern end of the site a number of features were observed and excavated, including several stake and post-holes, a small pit, a shallow grey filled feature and a narrow curved gully. As with Site C some intrusion by modern land drains had occurred which became visible during the excavation of one of the ditch segments.

### **4.2 Ditches (Figs 7 and 8)**

#### Ditches M570 and M571

4.2.1 Two east-west aligned ditches (M570 and M571) appear to be the earliest linear features, running parallel with one another 22.5m apart across the entire 10m width of the site. A 1.5m segment (F503 of M570) was excavated in a central position. The ditch here was 1.15m wide and 0.5m deep. The profile was U-shaped with steep sides, more vertical along the northern edge and a fairly flat base sloping gently to the north. Three fills were recognised: a light grey brown clay silt containing small sandstone flecks and occasional larger fragments (500); a light grey clay silt containing small sandstone flecks and occasional larger fragments seen to slump slightly from the south (501); and a light yellow silty clay with few small sandstone inclusions (502), slumping fairly steeply from the north and only occupying the southern side of the ditch. No finds were recovered from the fills of this ditch segment (Fig. 8, S.34).

#### Ditches M572 and M573

4.2.2 Of the two north-south ditches, M572 ran from the south-west corner of the site, where it had cut M570, to a terminal-end 12.9m to the north. A segment was excavated at the intersection of ditches (M570 and M572), close to the



south-west corner of the site. This revealed that the north-south ditch (F514) was 1.14m wide and 0.67m deep at this point, possessing a steep-sided profile with regular edges and a flat base. Four fills were identified: a mottled grey and orange clay silt with a few inclusions of small sandstone fragments (515); a mottled grey and red silty clay containing occasional small stone fragments and a single pottery sherd (511); a grey clay silt slumping quite steeply from either side, containing sub-angular sandstone fragments (512), and the primary fill (513), a grey clay silt containing water worn stones. The section of this segment (Fig. 8, S.41) suggests that the ditch may have been re-cut or cleaned out due to the presence of the U-shaped horizon between fills 511 and 512.

- 4.2.3 The excavated segment of the east-west ditch (F516) had a width of 1m and a depth of 0.35m, with a similar profile to segment F503, 1.5m to the east. It contained a single fill, a mottled grey and orange silty clay containing occasional sandstone fragments (515).
- 4.2.4 Excavation revealed that ditch F514 had cut the fills of ditch F516 proving that F514) was the later of the two ditches (M570 pre-dated M572).
- 4.2.5 Ditch M573 ran on the same alignment as M573, interrupted by a 2.5m gap, probably an entranceway. It then continued 9.5m to the intersection with ditch M571, where a further segment was excavated. Segment F565 revealed this north-south ditch to have a width of 0.98m and a depth of 0.52m at this point. Its profile was steep-sided, becoming more vertical along the western edge and becoming more gradual along the eastern edge, forming a bowl-shaped base. The east-west part of the ditch segment (F564) was 1.2m wide and 0.64m deep. The profile was of gradually sloping sides along the southern edge, becoming marginally steeper towards the base, which was slightly rounded. The northern edge was near vertical (Fig. 8, S.52). Even after careful excavation no distinction could be made between the two fills present in the ditches. It was therefore assumed that the ditches were back-filled with the same material and so were contemporaneous for at least a time before their demise. It seems more likely that the east-west ditches M570 and M571 were contemporary and M572 and M573 were excavated at a later date. Both the ditches curve slightly towards the entrance suggesting both were heading for the same point during their excavation. The two fills recognised in the excavated segment of F564 were a grey silty clay containing moderate sub-angular sandstone fragments



(506) and a grey and brown flecked silty clay with frequent small ironstone inclusions (563) (Fig. 8, S.53). These two fills produced a total of 26 pottery sherds of Roman date.

4.2.6 A further 1.5m segment (F531) of this east-west ditch was excavated directly along the eastern baulk it had a width of 1.9m and a depth of 0.8m with a U-shaped base. Excavation was limited here due to the intrusion by a modern plastic land drain but the total depth of the ditch was established along the eastern baulk. A total of four fills were recorded: a light grey silty clay containing some medium sized sandstone fragments ironstone flecks and two pottery sherds (528); a light grey silty clay containing frequent ironstone flecks (529); a mixed grey and orange silty clay containing occasional charcoal and ironstone flecks (530), and the primary fill (535), a light grey and orange flecked silty clay containing few charcoal and ironstone flecks (Fig. 8, S.40).

4.2.7 The 2.5m gap between ditches M572 and M573 possibly represents the entrance of a ditched enclosure. A fairly large number of mostly large water worn stones had been placed at this entrance, presumably to act as a hard surface, and appeared to be present within a cut feature (F560). The stones were set into a yellow clay and penetrated to a depth of 0.2m. It was not clear if F560 was an actual cut feature or if the constant weight of traffic in and out of the enclosure had compressed the stones and clay (559) down to the depth of 0.2m.

4.2.8 Although not regarded as a ditch, gulley F558 ran east-west 8.5m from the eastern baulk and cut through the end of ditch M573, terminating 1m to the west of it. At this point it had also cut the fill of post-hole (F556). Excavation of a 1.5m segment of gulley F558 revealed it to have a width of 0.8m and a depth of 0.2m. Its profile was U-shaped with gently sloping sides. It contained a single fill (557), a mottled grey and orange clay silt with a few small sandstone and ironstone inclusions that yielded no finds (Fig. 9, S.49). It seems likely that this gulley formed an enclosed area with ditch M572 with the remaining ditches (M570, M571 and M573) being redundant and backfilled.

### **4.3 Other features (Figs 7 - 9)**

4.3.1 A shallow sub-rectangular feature (F540) was present immediately to the north-east of the junction of ditches M570 and M572 and its profile was included in

the section (Fig. 8, S.41), which also includes the ditch (F514). The function of this feature is not clear.

- 4.3.2 The post-hole (F556) whose upper fill (555) had been cut by gulley (F558) was sub-rectangular in shape with dimensions of 0.92m long, 0.64m wide and 0.28m deep. Its profile was vertical sided with a flat base. A single fill was recorded, an orange yellow silty clay containing some large sandstone fragments and water worn stones (555), likely post-packing to support a vertical timber at the entrance.
- 4.3.3 To the east of ditch (M572) two curved linear gulleys were seen in plan with similar dimensions and shape. The most southerly of these was (F561) which ran from beneath the eastern baulk to a point 5m to the west. The excavation of a 1.7m long segment from the eastern baulk, revealed the ditch to be 0.42m wide and 0.13m deep at this point and to have a steep side profile on its south side, whilst having a slightly more gradual gradient to its north side, with an even flat base. Its single fill (562) consisted of a mottled orange and grey clay silt with few stone inclusions (Fig. 9, S.51). Two sherds of pottery were also recovered.
- 4.3.4 A short distance to the north a similar curved gulley (F554) was seen, partly concealed by the eastern baulk. Its exposed dimensions were 4.5m long and 0.7m wide. The excavation of a 1m segment revealed an even U-shaped profile with a fairly flat base. Its single fill (536) consisted of a grey brown clay silt with frequent small ironstone inclusions (Fig. 9, S.42). A large rim sherd of Roman mortaria was recovered from the fill.
- 4.3.5 Interpretation of the two gulleys is difficult as they were only partially visible within the area of the site. Their contemporaneity and function is unknown. The presence of the Roman mortaria within the fill (536) of gulley F554 gives a possible date of this feature. Feature F539 lay 2.5m to the north of gulley F558 and was partially concealed under the eastern baulk. Half section excavation revealed the shape was irregular with dimensions of 2m long, 1m wide (to the baulk) and a depth of 0.25m. The grey silty clay fill (538) contained few inclusions and no finds were recovered (Fig. 9, S.39).

- 4.3.6 To the north of ditch M571 several more features were recognised, including post and stake-holes, a small circular pit and a narrow slightly curved butt-ended gully.
- 4.3.7 A short distance to the north of ditch segment F531 lay a sub-circular pit F534, with a diameter of 1m and a depth of 0.13m. It possessed a steep-sided profile with a flat base. Although shallow three fills were seen, a mixed mottled grey, red and orange sandy clay containing frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks and reddened small sandstone fragments (532), a mixed red and grey sandy clay containing an abundance of flat angular sandstone fragments(537), and the primary fill consisting of a mixed red and yellowish grey sandy clay containing a few charcoal inclusions (533) (Fig. 9, S.38). The function of this feature is not clear but the upper fill was not grey as was characteristic of many of the other features. No finds were recovered from the fills of this feature.
- 4.3.7 Situated 3m to the south of pit F534 was an irregular shaped grey filled feature (F567), 1.3 m long and 1m wide, partly concealed by the eastern baulk. Excavation showed it to have a shallow depth of 0.1m. The profile was of very gently sloping sides with a flat base to the south and three slight depressions to the north. The single fill (566), a grey clay silt, contained few small stone inclusions and two blackened pottery sherds (Fig. 7).
- 4.3.8 The remaining features were all situated at the northern end of the site, possibly relating to one another. A butt-ended slightly curved gully (F553) in this area was 4.4m long and 0.32m wide. A 1m segment positioned centrally revealed a it to have a depth of 0.13m. Its profile was steep sided with a flattish base and two fills were recognised: a grey brown silty clay containing a few small stones, charcoal flecks and four fired clay fragments (552), and a grey silty clay containing small ironstone flecks and few sub-angular sandstone fragments (548) (Fig. 9, S.43).
- 4.3.9 Close to the north-eastern corner of the site and situated 1.5m from the northern end of gully F553 were three post-holes (F509, F510 and F525). Post-hole F509 had cut 522 the fill of F510 and the two features formed a figure of eight shape in plan. The initial half section excavation of the two features revealed that F509 contained a post pipe where the vertical timber would have been situated which was regarded as a separate feature (F527). The circular post-pipe

had a diameter of 0.3m and a depth of 0.15m, with steep sides and flat base. The single fill (504) a bluish grey sandy clay contained frequent charcoal flecks and some angular sandstone fragments and an abundance of pottery, 64 sherds in all. The outer post-hole cut (F509) had a diameter of 0.55m and a depth of 0.3m. The profile ranged from vertical sides to the east and south with the western side being initially vertical then becoming more gradual. Two fills were identified: a mixed blue grey and orange silty clay containing an abundance of large sandstone fragments (507), containing a Roman tile which represented post-packing and total of 23 Roman pottery sherds, and the primary fill (521), which was similar to the upper fill (507) but contained less frequent stones and only a single slag fragment. The second post-hole (F510), though partly cut away by F509, was sub-circular with a length of 0.7m, a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.23m. The profile was of steeply sloping sides to the west and more gradual to the north-east leading to a rounded base. Two fills were recognised: a yellowish grey silty clay which contained a broken slab of sandstone at its base (508) and a mixed blue grey and brown orange silty clay containing some charcoal flecks and angular sandstone fragments (522). There was no evidence of a post-pipe in this post-hole though it was thought the sandstone slab at the base of fill (508) may have represented a post-pad adding a third phase of posts. The sequence of these would have been a vertical post housed within post-hole (F510), followed by backfilling represented by fill (522). A stone slab, as seen at the base of fill (508), may then have been placed on top of fill 522 acting as a post-pad. The weight of the structure may then have forced the slab to sink 8cm into fill (522). The final phase would have been the excavation of post-hole F509, which partially cut away 522, before the vertical post was put in place and packed with stone and the tile fragment seen in fill 507. Once the post had rotted away all that remained was the post-pipe (F527) and its fill (504) (Fig. 9, S.35).

- 4.3.10 A further four stake and post-holes were confined to a small area 2.5m west of gully F553. These consisted of a circular post-hole F551, which had a diameter of 0.45m and a depth of 0.12m. The profile was of gently sloping sides with a small depression positioned centrally at the base, perhaps representing the location of a sharpened stake (Fig. 9, S.45). Immediately to the south-west of this feature lay two small inter-cutting stake holes (F549 and F546) of which F549 was the earlier. Both contained grey clay silt charcoal rich fills (547 and 544) (Fig. 9, S.44). A few centimetres to the east of the two stake-

holes a further one was present (F543) which was 0.23m long, 0.13 wide and 0.1m deep with a steep to vertical sided profile and a flat base (Fig. 9, S.46).

4.3.11 Interpretation of the gully and stake/post-holes in this northern part of the site is difficult as no definite alignments can be made within the confines of the site. Some kind of structure must have been present as quite substantial timbers are implied by some of the features. The post-pipe F527 within post-hole F509 had a width of 0.3m, which represents a substantial post even if the post was slightly smaller than the post-pipe. The substantial post packing also suggests the necessity to support a larger timber. The smaller stake-holes may represent an attachment to a main structure.

#### **4.4 Phasing and Discussion**

4.4.1 The earliest ditches were M570 situated at the southern end of the site and ditch M571 which was parallel to it 22.5m to the north. The southern ditch (M570) had been backfilled prior to the excavation of M572, the north-south running ditch, as this clearly cuts the fills of M570, as seen in the excavation of segment (F514 and F516). This north-south stretch of the ditch seemed to be contemporary with the other north-south ditch (M573), the gap between them forming an entrance (F560) approximately 2m wide made up of a surface of large water worn stones (F560). The reason for this is because both ditches (M572 and M573) turn slightly heading towards the entrance, suggesting that they were excavated simultaneously both focussing upon a common point.

4.4.2 The excavation of respective segments (F565 and F564) where ditches M573 and M571 intersected suggests that both were in use and open at the same time, though M571 was initially excavated first forming a parallel alignment with M570 to the south as previously mentioned. The reason for this is that during the excavation of the segment of the ditch intersection both sets of fills from the east-west (F564) and north-south (F565) ditches were identical, suggesting both ditches were backfilled at the same period though F564 was somewhat deeper.

4.4.3 An east-west gully (F558) was seen to cut the upper fill of ditch (M573) at the butt-end by the entrance, which suggests M573 had been abandoned and backfilled prior to the excavation of the gully. It is not clear at this phase if the gully formed a sub-enclosure with ditch M572, or if this had also been abandoned and backfilled. However, there was evidence that the ditch had been



re-cut, visible in segment F514, which suggests it may have been open longer than the northern stretch of the ditch M573 in which no re-cut was visible.

- 4.4.4 Interpretation of phasing of the remaining features on Site A is largely unclear. The two curved gulleys (F554 and F561) to the east of ditch M572 are similar in shape and size but it is impossible to say if they are contemporary with one another, though it can probably be assumed that their function was the same. Both features contained Roman pottery in their fills but not in large quantities.
- 4.4.5 The remaining features to the north of ditch M571 consisted of small pits, stake and post-holes and a single slightly curved gulley may be contemporary with one another, apart from the inter cutting post-holes, but it cannot be said where they fit in with the phasing of the enclosure ditches. It would, however, appear that the structure or structures associated with the post and stake-holes consist of more than one phase of activity, as shown by the re-cuts of post-holes F509 and F510, and the re-cuts of stake-holes F546 and F549. This implies that the structures underwent repair or rebuild and would have been in use for some period of time.

## **5. Roman Pottery** by Jeremy Evans

- 5.1 There are some 86 or 87 sherds of Roman pottery from this site, weighing 1149g. The condition of most of the sherds is poor, their being badly eroded, a result, apparently, of their burial conditions. The sherds would seem to represent some 14-16 vessels, the vast majority sandy greywares, probably all from the South Yorkshire industry. Small quantities of BB1 and calcite gritted ware are present and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria. There are no fineware or amphora sherds.
- 5.2 Both Mancetter mortaria rims are reeded hammerheads of 3rd to mid-4<sup>th</sup> century date, most of the South Yorkshire material would also be consistent with a 3rd-century date, but the flange rimmed bowl is more likely Hadrianic-Antonine and the bead-rimmed grog-tempered jar rimsherd and the other handmade bodysherd are more likely of 1st to 2nd-century date than later. Overall a later 2nd or 3rd-century range might adequately cover the collection, although it is too small to be dated with great precision.



5.3 The collection is really too small to determine much about the site, although the lack of finewares and amphorae is consistent with a low status rural site. The functional range represented by rimsherds, two mortaria, a bowl (or perhaps two), a constricted-necked jar, a jar and three wide-mouthed jars, is not one dominated by jars in the way that rural sites generally are, although the prevalence of wide-mouthed jars is probably related to these being a principal produce of the South Yorkshire kilns which seem to have had a near monopoly on coarseware supply in the region at this period.

## Roman Pottery Catalogue

Feature	Context	Description
009	11 SF2000	Three sherds of handmade calcite gritted ware. 68g
	505	A BB1? abraded bodysherd. 2g Hadrianic or later
509	507	A handmade, friable, soft organically tempered piece of fired clay, possibly a bowl rim but more probably related to the other fired clay from the site. 7g
509	507	Three rimsherds, a bodysherd and a base sherd from a flange rimmed bowl in South Yorkshire ware. Probably Hadrianic-Antonine; cf Cregeen (1957), fig. 2, nos 70-5. 47g Three rimsherds of a wide-mouthed jar and three base sherds possibly from the same vessel, cf Buckland and Dolby (1980), fig. 7, no. 198. The same vessel as in context 504 above. Later 2nd to 3rd century. 530g A rim of a wide mouthed jar in South Yorkshire ware with a bifid beaded rim; cf Cregeen (1957), fig. 4, no. 149
514	511	A burnt? orange South Yorkshire bodysherd. 6g
527	504	Two joining rimsherds, a base and 31 bodysherds in badly abraded, brownish-grey South Yorkshire fabric. The form is a wide-mouthed jar, cf Buckland and Dolby (1980) fig. 7, no. 198. The same vessel is found in context 507. 331g
531	528	A BB1 bodysherd. Hadrianic or later. 4g
543	541	A ?BB1 abraded bodysherd. Hadrianic or later.
567	566	Two South Yorkshire greyware abraded bodysherds. 69g
554	536	A reeded hammerhead Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, 3rd to mid-4th century. 188g
561	562	A handmade reduced bodysherd with occasional calcite voids and some moderate sand temper. Not East Yorkshire calcite gritted ware. Perhaps 1st or 2nd century. 26g A wide-mouthed South Yorkshire jar, surfaces abraded. Cf Cregeen (1957), fig. 4, no. 159.
564/565	506	A mancetter-Hartshill reeded hammerhead mortarium, 3rd to mid-4th century. Three rim fragments and twelve bodysherds from a cordoned-shouldered constricted necked jar with a rising everted rim, probably a South Yorkshire product. 81g A handmade reduced grey grog tempered bead rim jar. 31g A reduced wheelmade simple base and a bodysherd possibly from the same vessel. Perhaps South Yorkshire.

## 6. Environmental Sampling Results

6.1 The environmental samples were processed by running them through a nest of sieves of mesh sizes 4mm, 1mm and 0.25mm. The remaining residues were then analysed and any finds or ecofacts were extracted.

Sample	Context	Description	Contents
11	515	Fill of F514	Frequent tiny charcoal fragments, 15 larger fragments, 12 fragments of burnt bone 3mm-20mm
12	511	Fill of F564	Frequent small charcoal flecks, 18 larger fragments 5mm-20mm, 12 fragments of burnt bone 3mm-15mm
7	508	Fill of F510	Very occasional small charcoal flecks 3mm-5mm
5	504	Fill of F527	Very occasional small charcoal flecks 2mm-4mm
6	507	Fill of F509	Very occasional small charcoal flecks 1mm-3mm

## 7. Geophysical survey

7.1 Once the excavation of the site was completed it was decided that a further targeted geophysical survey might show the extent of the ditch and the enclosures they formed around the excavated sites. This work was carried out on the 24th, 27th and 28th of March 1995. This work consisted of the surveying of approximately two hectares immediately surrounding Sites A and C.

7.2 The results were somewhat disappointing and none of the ditches encountered during excavation were visible on the geophysical plots surrounding either site. The survey results surrounding Site A clearly show the modern land drains, one of which ran across the site, and others to the south-west. During the excavation of Site A it was noted that the fill of the modern land drains was largely made up of a cindery material, its porous nature presumably to assist in the soaking away of water. It may also be noted that this material may have contained an iron content as it appeared to be waste from an industrial process. It may be assumed that this drain backfill was high in iron content as the strong signals from the gradiometer suggest this. Immediately to the north of Site A is an area visible on the geophysical plot as an area of high magnetic activity. This may represent the position the cindery drain backfill was dumped, the residue

leaving this high magnetic response. The public footpath situated to the north of the site was also clearly visible. It may be that the extreme weather conditions during the survey, including sleet and strong winds affected the sensitivity of the gradiometers and that only the strongest signals caused by the modern features were picked up.

## **8. Discussion**

- 8.1 The excavation of Site C successfully located part of an enclosure, consisting of three ditches, as well as isolated features within and outside the enclosed area. Successful phasing of the ditches was accomplished by excavation, though interpretation of some of the isolated features was uncertain. The south-western part of the site contained ten features consisting of post-holes, small and large pits, butt-ended linear features, and a probable bell-pit used to extract coal. In the northern region of the site only three features were visible consisting of a large oval shaped pit stained red at the surface by possible burning, a large re-cut post-hole and a butt-ended linear feature. The evidence from the excavation suggests that this part of the enclosure was not associated with domestic activity due to the lack of finds. In a domestic area it would be likely that a larger concentration of pottery, animal bone and other artefacts would have been present. The only stratified finds from this site were three slag fragments and three sherds of locally handmade pottery ranging from 2nd to 4th century in date. It could be that some of the features were used for industrial processes though there was no definite indication as to what.
  
- 8.2 The excavation of Site A revealed four ditches, two terminating to form a possible. A variety of isolated features were also recognised ranging from stake and post-holes to small pits and narrow curved gulleys. Excavation successfully established the phasing of the ditches (see 4.4) though interpretation of the other features was difficult within the confines of the site. Several stake and post-holes, some of which had been re-cut, and a narrow gully were seen at the northern end of the site but these did not form a definite identifiable structure though were obviously part of one. The fact that some of these features had been re-cut suggests that the site was in use for a period of time. An abundance of pottery was recovered especially from the post-holes, dated as Roman from 2nd to 3rd century AD. The remaining significant features consisted of three gulleys, one linear and two curving. Again interpretation of these was not totally clear but the linear gulleys appear to have formed a sub-enclosure as it

respected the entrance to the enclosure. A fairly substantial post-hole was also present at the western end of this feature, which perhaps formed a gate post at the entrance. The remaining two gulleys (F554 and F561) were narrow and curved with similar dimensions, which suggests their function may have been the same. The pottery recovered from the gulleys included a 4th-century mortaria rim (F554) and two bodysherds of 1st and 2nd century material from (F561).

- 8.3 The feature revealed on Sites A and C appear to be Roman in date, the pottery finds suggesting a long occupation from the late 1st to 4th century AD, although to some extent this reflects the limitations in the pottery dating. It is not possible to accurately phase the two sites together as, resolution apart, so little dating evidence was recovered from Site C. The fact that finds were more abundant on Site A suggests that the function may have been of a more domestic nature whilst the area of Site C was perhaps concerned with agricultural/industrial activity.

### **Acknowledgements**

Excavation Report	Charlie Morris BA
Pottery Report	Jeremy Evans BA PhD
Illustration	Mike Fossick HFDA MAAIS
Fieldwork	Anthony Francis BSc Richard Holbrey BSc Brendan Derham BSc MA CChem FRSC Karen Brown BA Paul Wheelhouse BA Kathy Speight Charlie Morris BA

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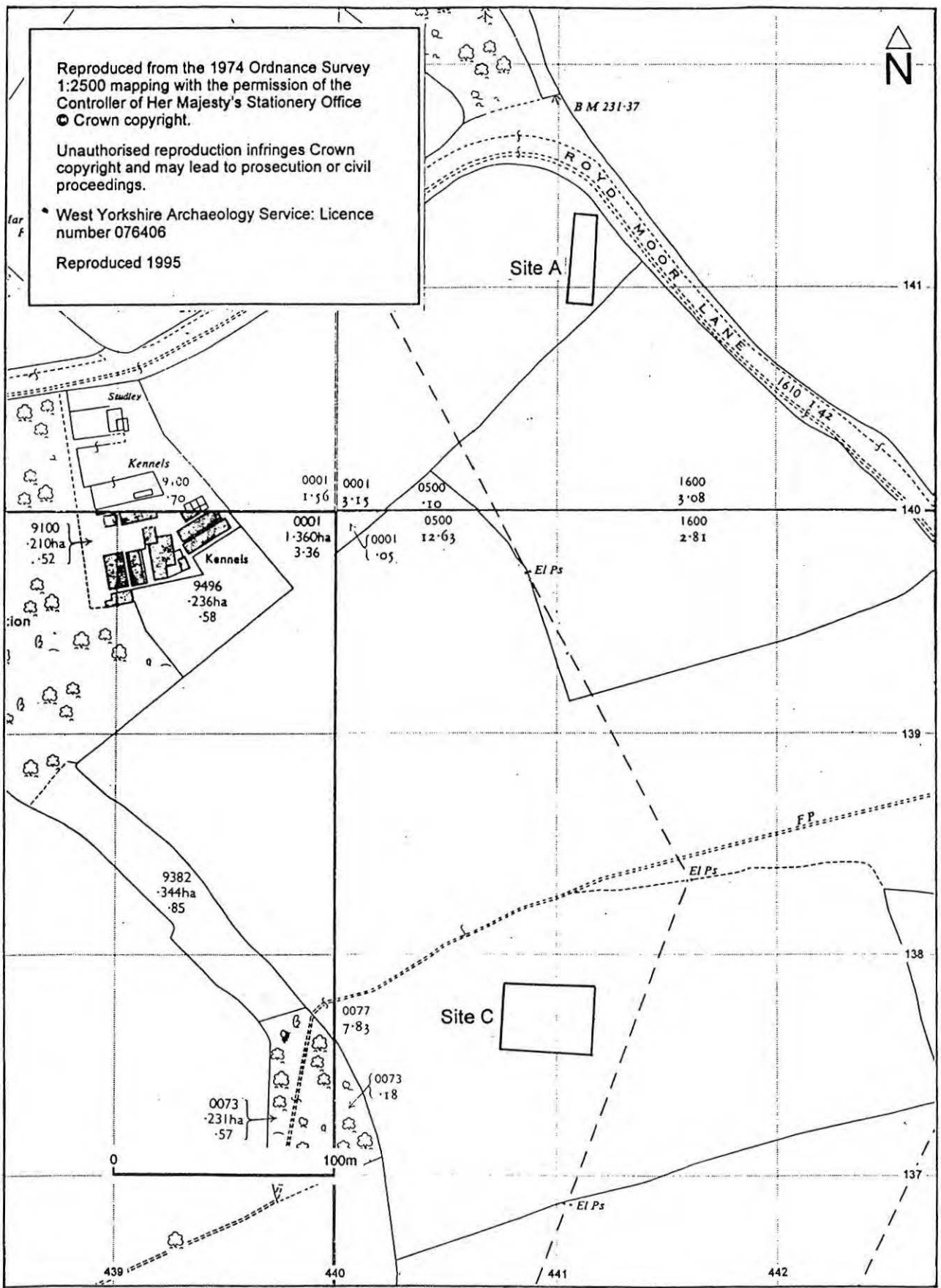


Fig. 1 Site location plan



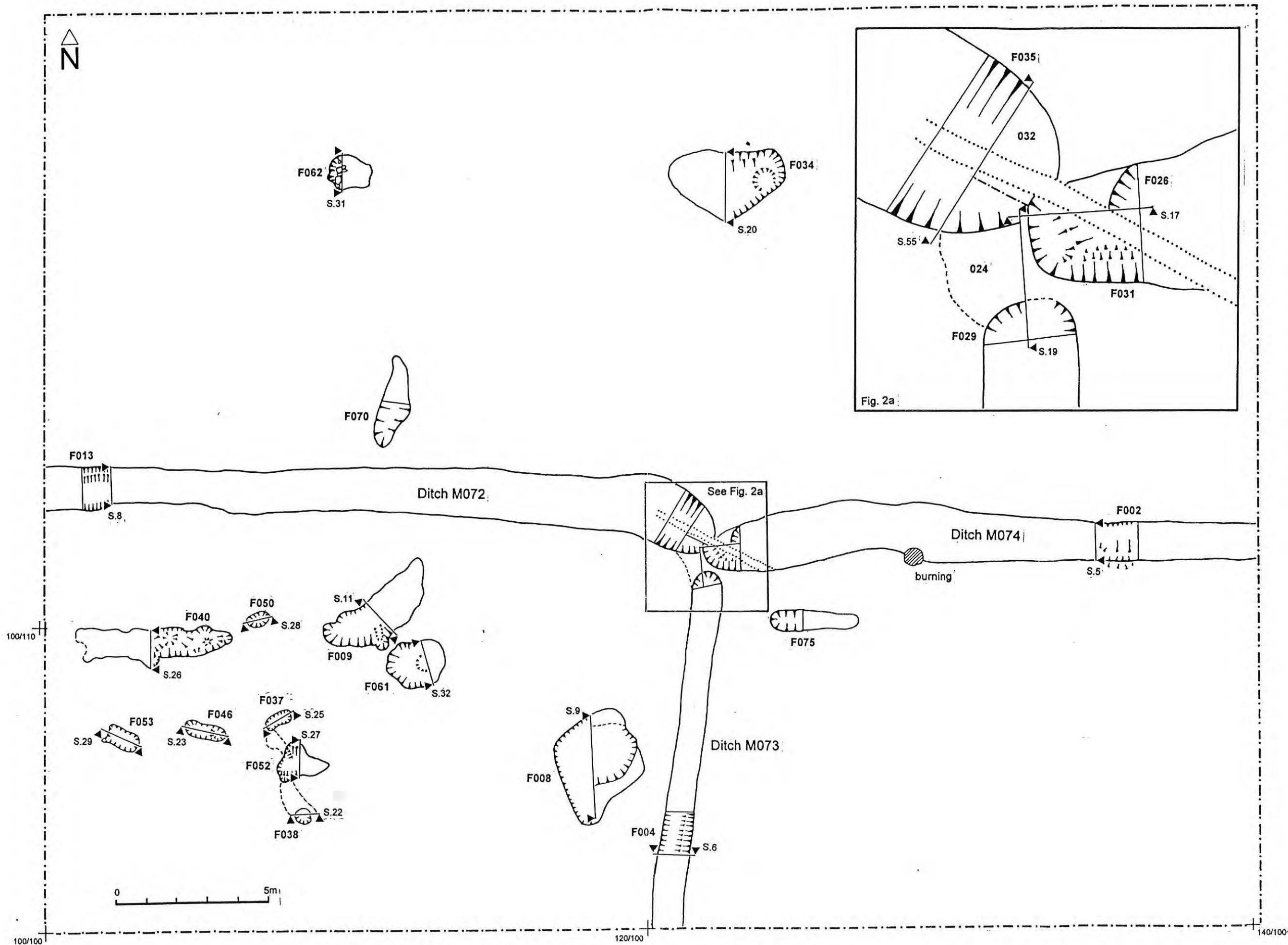


Fig. 2 and 2a Site C post excavation plan and inset of ditch intersections

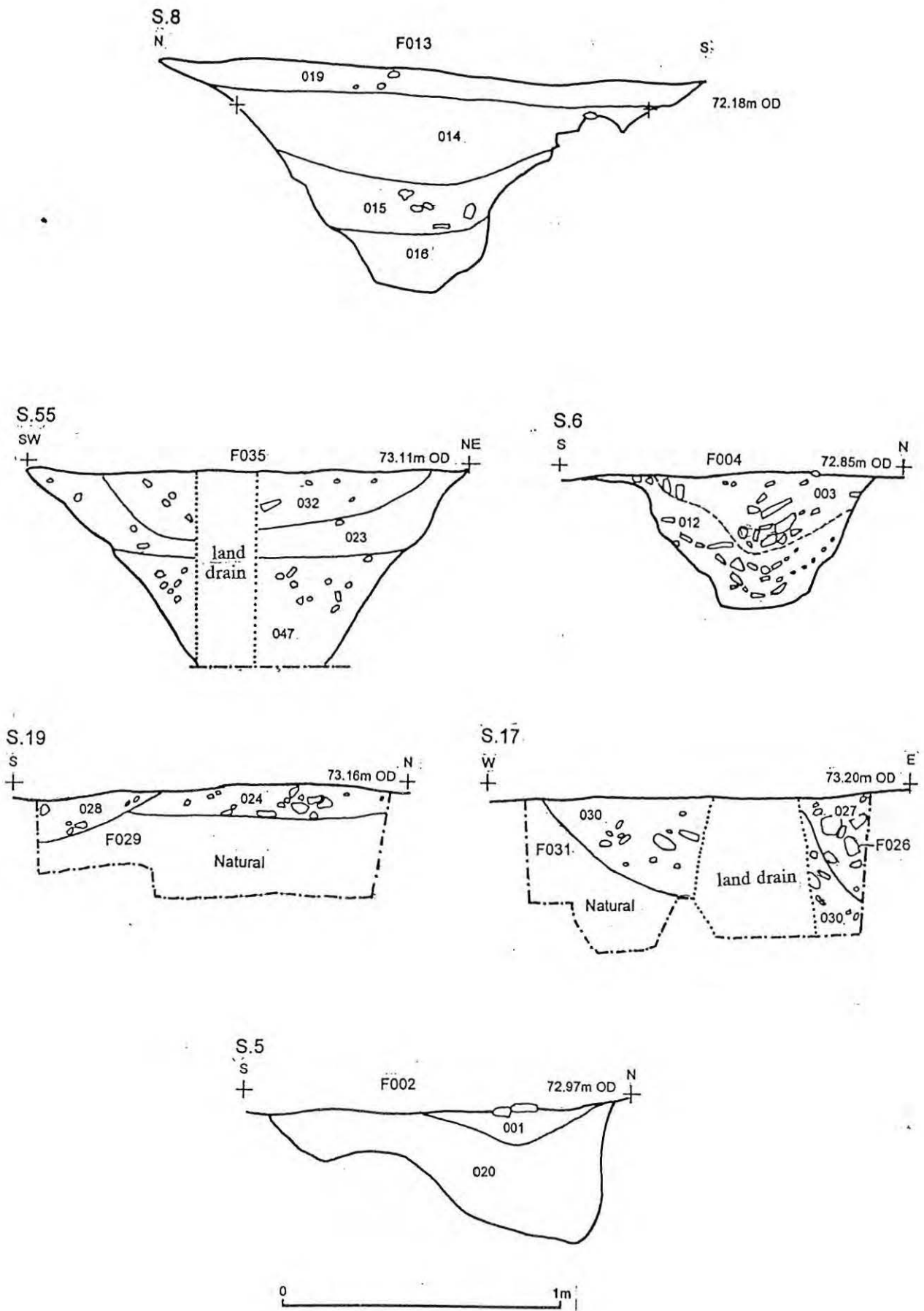


Fig. 3 Site C section drawings of ditch segments

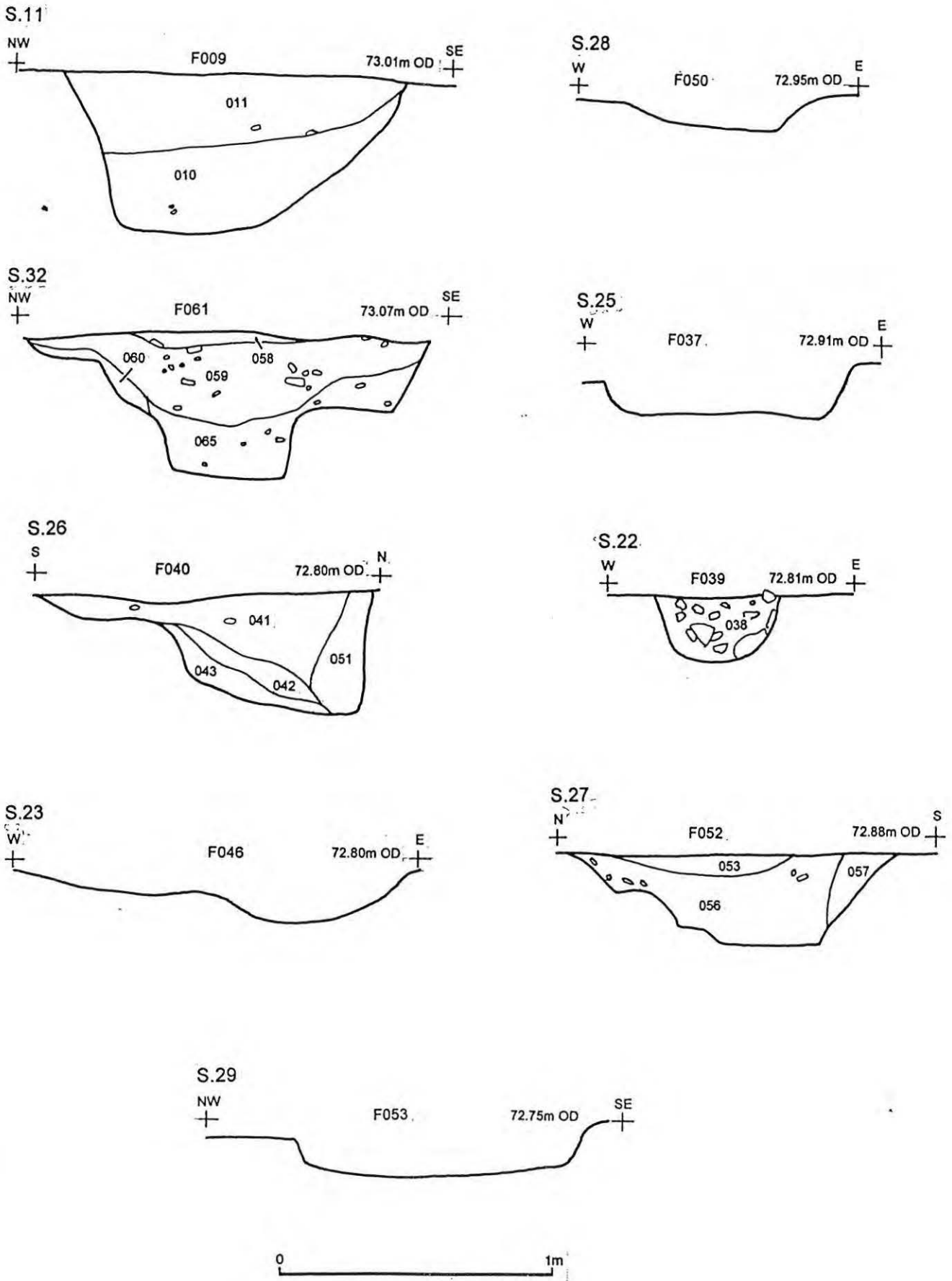


Fig. 4 Site C section and profile drawings of features south west region of site.

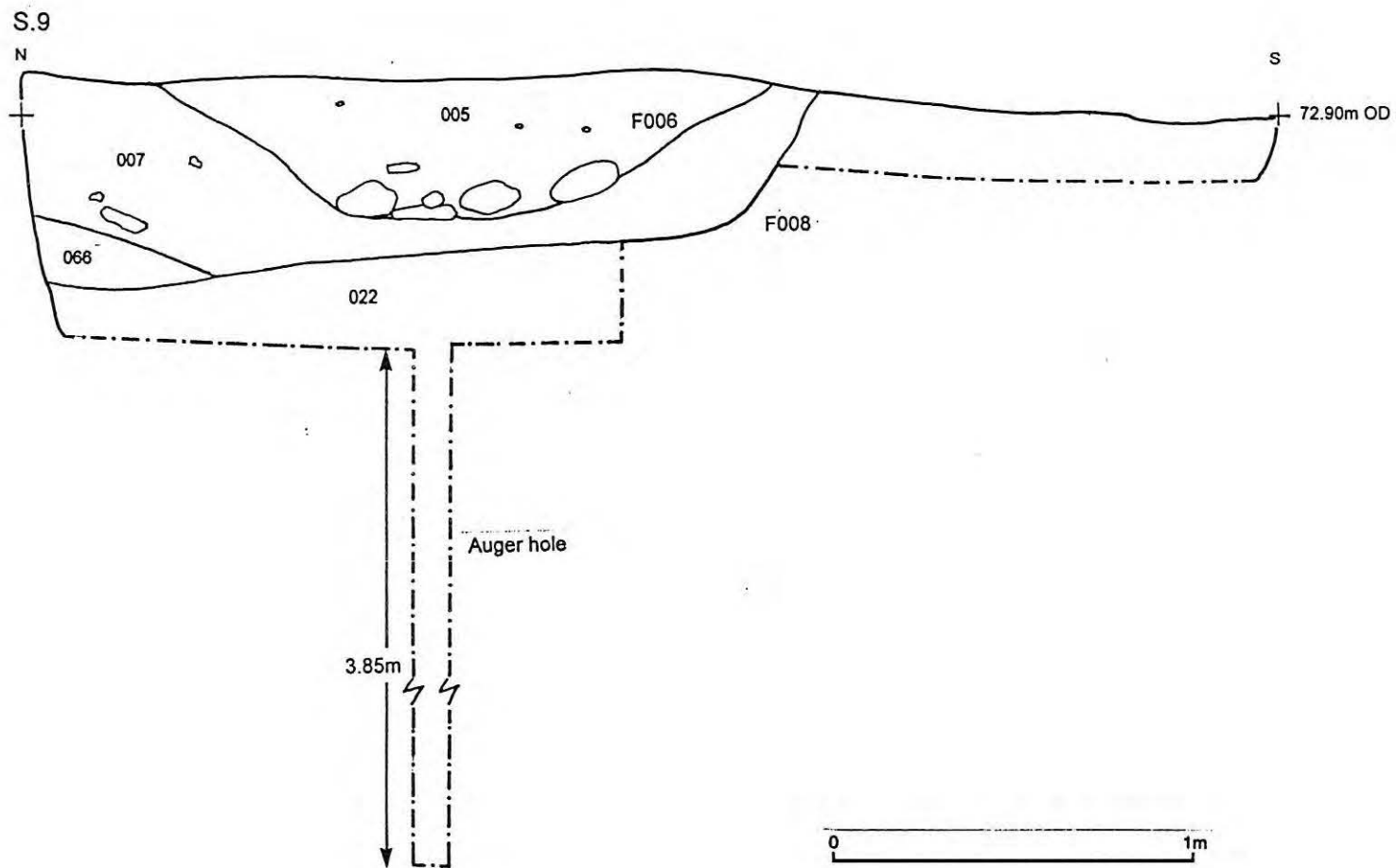


Fig. 5 Site C section drawing of 'Bell Pit'

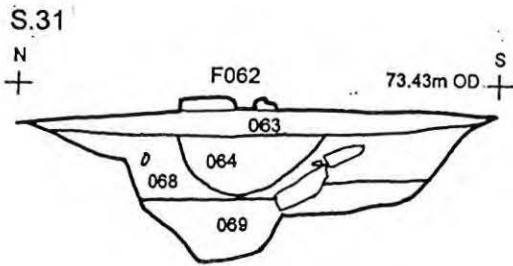
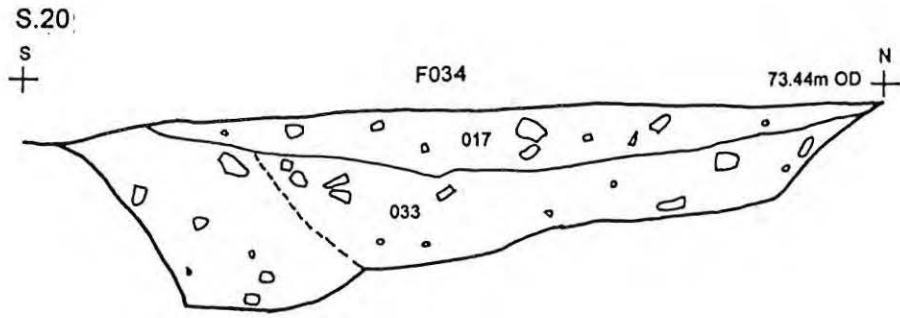


Fig. 6 Site C section drawings of features northern region of site.

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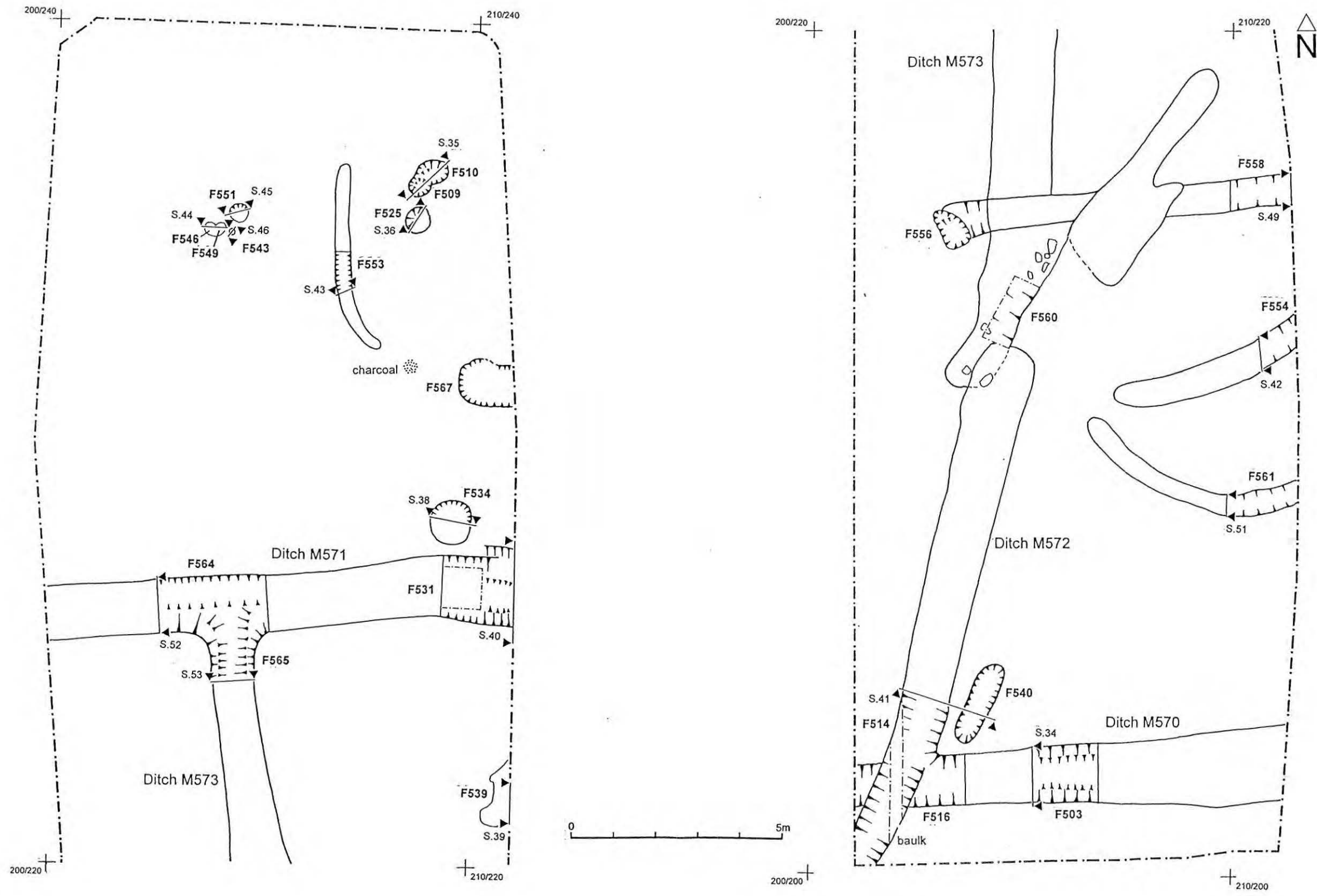


Fig. 7 Site A post excavation plan



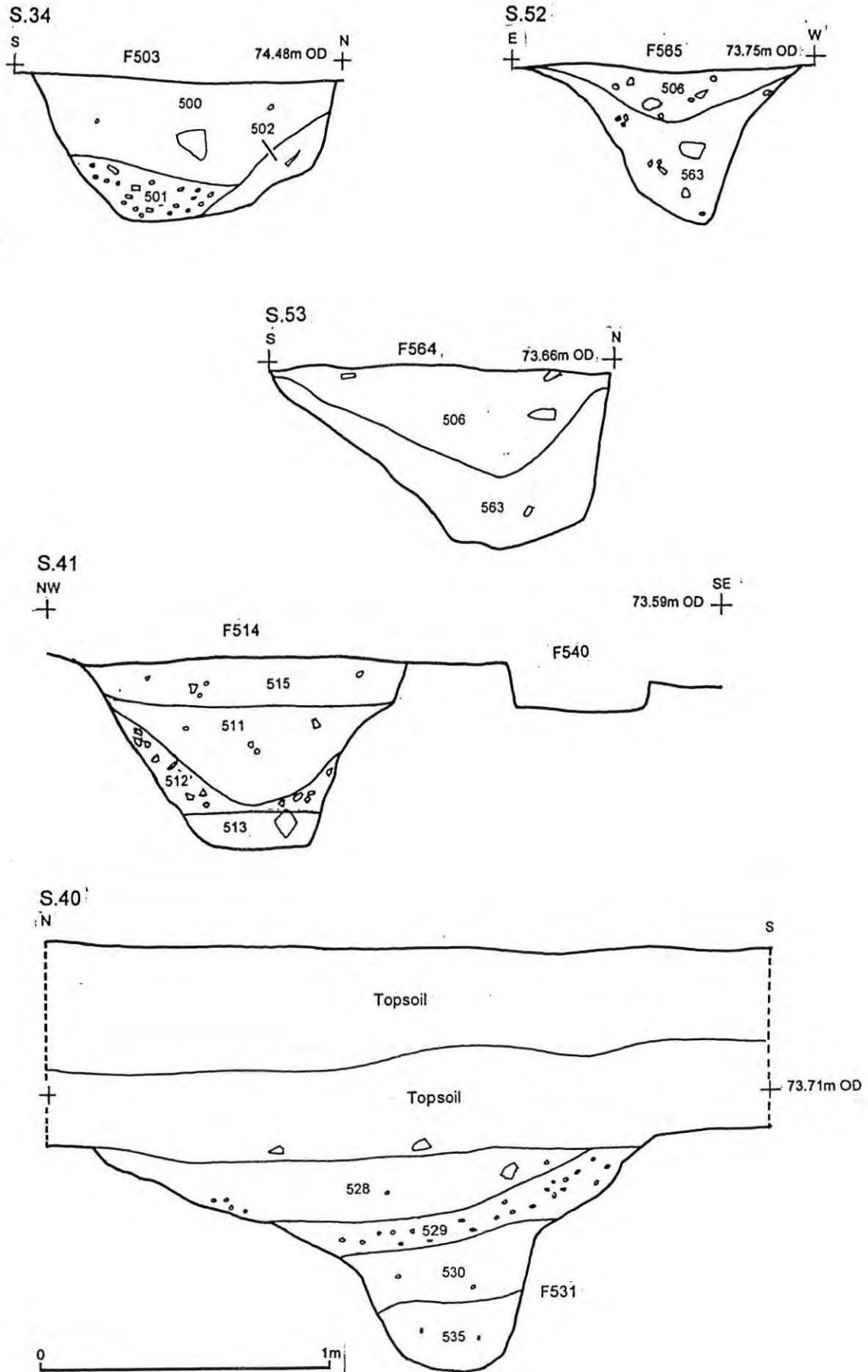


Fig. 8 Site A section drawings of ditch segments

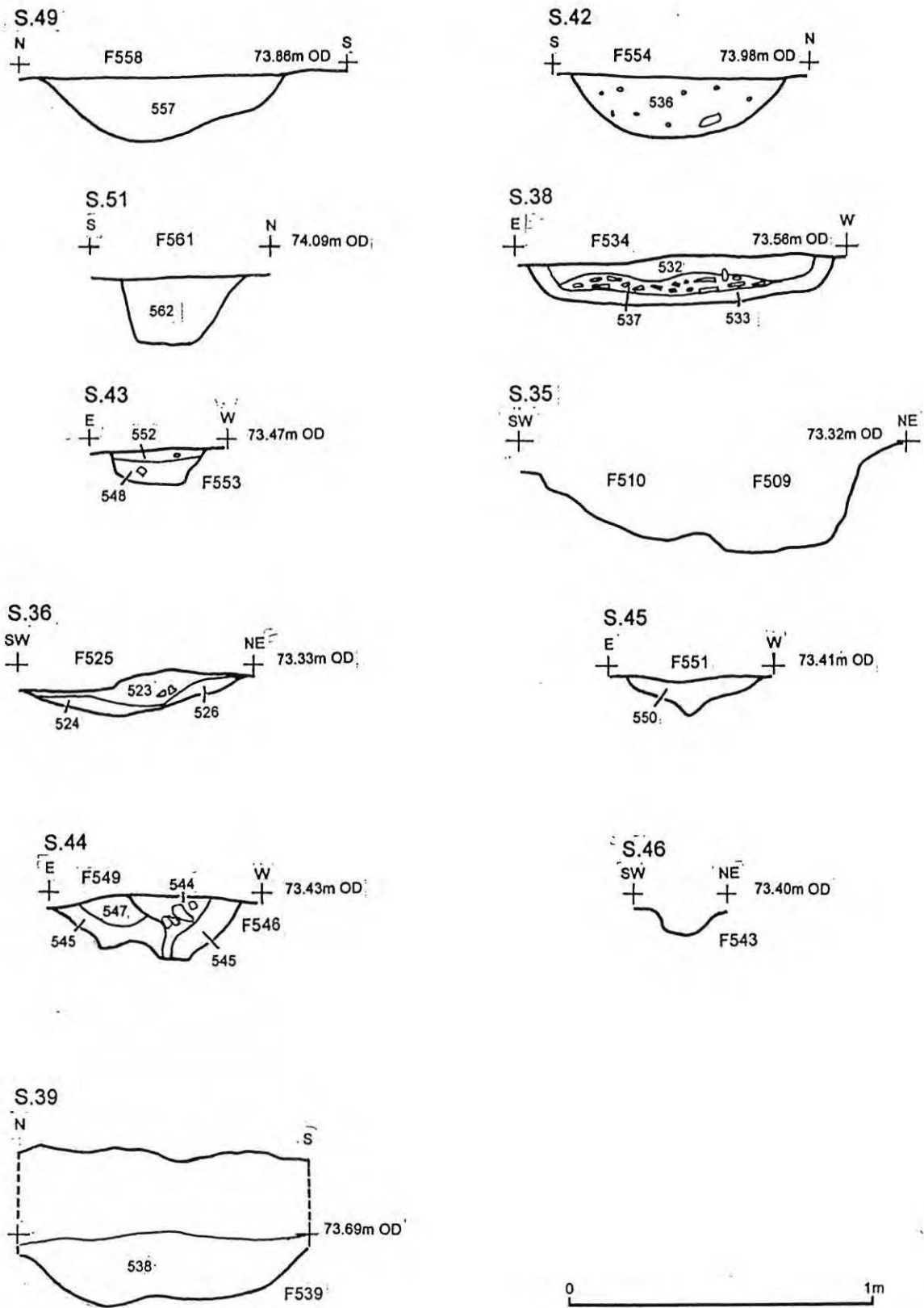


Fig. 9 Site A section and profile drawings of excavated features