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INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A11 ~~Archaeological Assessment~~ Brent Dutch	Details Interim Report
Road Number A11	Date 1992.
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Excavations at Brent Ditch

TL51454753 - an Interim Report

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1992

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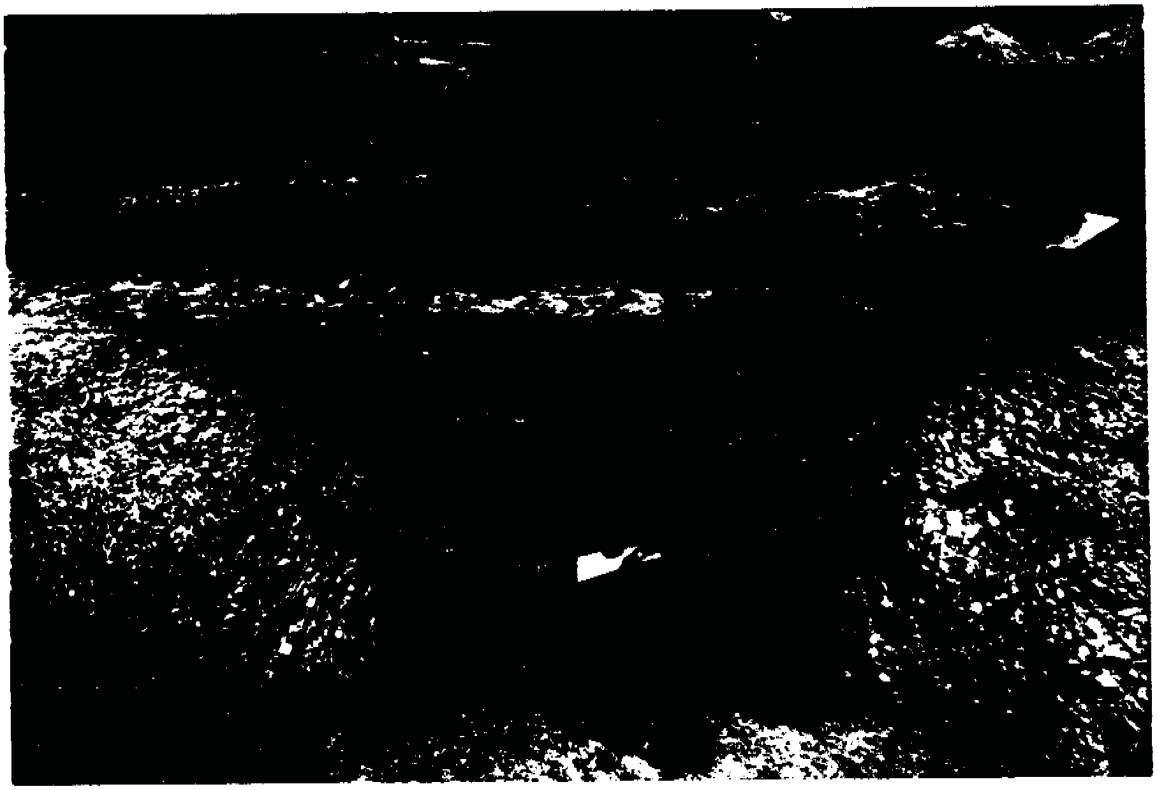


Report no. 68 *Recording Excavated Section of Brent Ditch (Section 4, Trench B)*

cambridgeshire archaeology

Summary

Two sections were excavated at Brent Ditch (TL 5145/4753) in advance of the destruction of a considerable segment due to road-widening activities. At this point the monument, presumed to be Anglo-Saxon, survives as a shallow linear depression running across cultivated land. Excavation revealed that the monument was much more substantial than previously thought. No bank has survived in this area though the ditch is well preserved. Its original profile was similar to those of Devil's Dyke and Fleam Dyke: exceptionally steep-sided and flat-bottomed. It had silted naturally with no signs of re-cutting and had consequently lost its sharp defensive profile quite soon after construction. Post-medieval cultivation has accounted for further accumulation of silts and its present shallow profile. Five Roman coins recovered from the basal fills (together with a fragment of human pelvis) indicate a post-2nd century date of construction.

Contents

Introduction

This excavation was one of a series of investigations carried out in advance of the A11 road widening scheme. It was preceded by excavations at Worsted Street (Roman road) and Fleam Dyke (Anglo-Saxon earthwork). The roadworks in this area will cause considerable damage to a 100 metre segment of the monument, and so the programme of work described below was recommended by the County Archaeology Office. The segment examined is adjacent to, and to the north of the present A11 (Fig. 1), on the Pampisford Hall estate (TL 5145/4753). Work was funded by English Heritage and was carried out by a team from Cambridgeshire Archaeology in August 1992.

Background

The Brent Ditch is one of the monuments known as the 'Cambridgeshire Dykes', a series of four linear earthworks which traverse the chalk plain of south Cambridgeshire. Each of the earthworks is comprised of a single bank and ditch running in a north-westerly to south-easterly direction. They are of varying length and size and, with the exception of Brent Ditch, have been dated by artefacts sealed in a buried land surface beneath the banks to the late or post-Roman period. They cross known Roman roads and the Icknield Way zone. Traditionally, they are thought to be East Anglian defences built as a response to Mercian aggression in the mid-7th century.

Cyril Fox carried out excavations during the 1920 s at Devil's Dyke, Fleam Dyke and Bran Ditch but does not seem to have dug at Brent Ditch. He noted that there was no definite bank, but a series of ridges which swapped sides intermittently along the length of the monument (Fox 1923). He also mentioned that a 450 yard portion of the ditch had been destroyed to the north-west of Pampisford Hall. A section of the ditch 400 yards south-east of the hall was exposed by a gas pipeline in 1968 (Taylor 1968). The section revealed that the ditch was 2 m deep, flat-bottomed and had gently sloping sides. Its fill was mostly comprised of a dark brown loam with chalky lumps, though a lens of sand and gravel was apparent near to the surface. A small remnant of the bank had survived on the north-east side (less than 1 m in height) and this sealed a buried soil. A small undated pit or ditch had been cut through the buried soil. No artefacts were noted either in the buried soil or in the ditch fill. No samples were taken for soil micromorphology or molluscan analysis.

Geology and Topography

Brent Ditch survives as an earthwork for nearly 4 km. The northern end at 30 m O.D. has been cut through the glacial sands and gravels which cap the middle chalk. It crosses a band of middle chalk before rising up to 80 m at its northern terminal at Abington Park. There it abuts a spur of boulder clay.

Status and Present Condition

Most of Brent Ditch has been designated a scheduled ancient monument (Camb. S.A.M. 2). The northern portion is covered by the mature trees of a 19th century arboretum. The southern portion, south of the A11, is similarly tree covered, though with much smaller species. The unscheduled section is under cultivation and runs from the A11 north-west towards the arboretum (Fig 1). Here the ditch is apparent as a slight linear depression (0.5 m deep), which is flanked by two low undulating ridges. Where the monument is tree-covered the ditch survives to a greater depth, though there are no obvious traces of a bank.

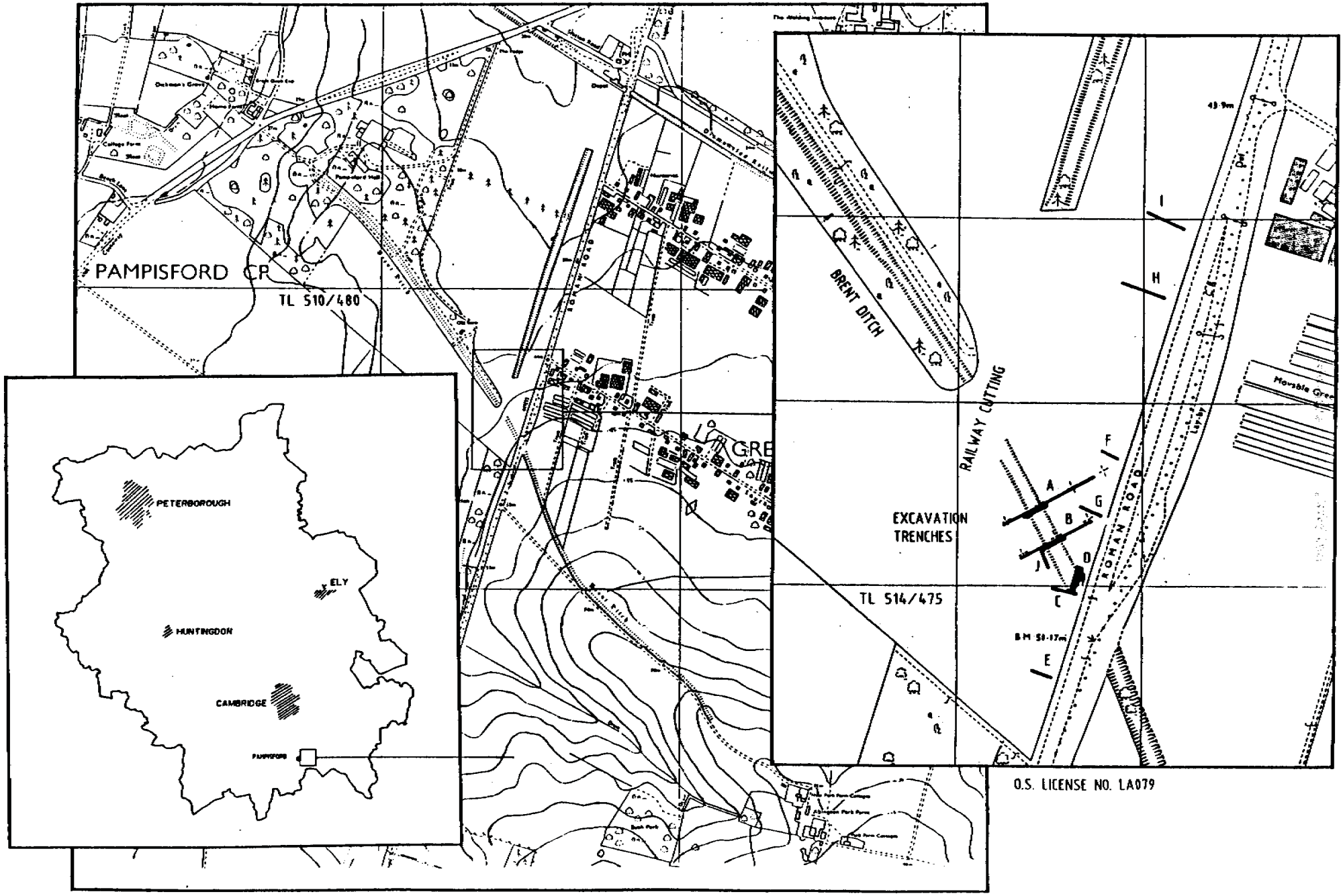


FIG. 1 SITE LOCATION PLAN

Project Aims

The road widening scheme will have a severe effect on the portion of the monument adjacent to the present A11. Although a section of the monument has been recorded, this was not a result of controlled excavation and consequently did not provide us with the desired quality of information. The other Cambridgeshire Dykes have been subject to systematic excavations over a seventy year period. Brent Ditch has largely been ignored and consequently little is known, though a great deal is assumed, about its nature and origin. The project described below was designed to provide the following information.

i) To firmly date the monument.

ii) To obtain a profile of the ditch and to determine the nature of the fill. Particular regard will be paid to the examination of re-cuts, cleaning out and deliberate back-filling.

iii) To determine the side on which the bank stood (in the light of the confusion caused by Fox's observations) and to determine its state of preservation.

iv) To examine the possibility that the main bank and ditch was preceded by an earlier structure. This was hinted at in Taylor's section which showed a small pre-bank ditch. Excavations at Bran Ditch showed that the main structure was preceded by three small linear ditches. These are more suggestive of prehistoric earthworks such as the Mile Ditches on Therfield Heath, and so seem to indicate Anglo-Saxon respect for former land divisions.

v) To provide, through environmental analysis (chiefly molluscan analysis and soil micromorphology), an indication of the neighbouring land use. This will be used in comparison with results obtained from the analysis of Fleam Dyke and Worsted Street.

vi) To determine the relationship of the earthwork to the Roman Road and investigate the possibility of original gaps or gateways at this point.

vii) To provide information which will lead to the determination of the history of the monument, its original and subsequent roles and its impact on the local landscape.

Methods

Two complete sections were investigated to lessen the possibility of results being biased by the recovery of unrepresentative information from a single section. Topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator over the ditch and in trenches either side (Fig.2). Wide steps were dug in the upper ditch deposits in order that hand dug sections could be excavated and to create sufficient space for photography.

The hand dug sections in both trenches were excavated from just below the modern ploughsoil to the base of the ditch. Silts were removed in plan by mattock and trowel and dry sieved with 5mm meshes to recover small artefacts. Artefacts encountered in situ were levelled and tied into the site grid. The positions of the most significant artefacts were projected on to the drawing of the adjacent section.

Soil samples for molluscan analysis (2 Kg dry weight) were taken in a column from the ploughsoil to the base of the ditch avoiding fill interfaces (Fig. 5). Macrobotanical samples were only to be taken if concentrations of charred material were encountered; none were. The oxidised nature of the ditch deposits ensured that there was no chance of encountering ancient preserved organics or fossil pollen. The absence of a remnant of bank or buried soil meant that there was no opportunity for soil micromorphological analysis.

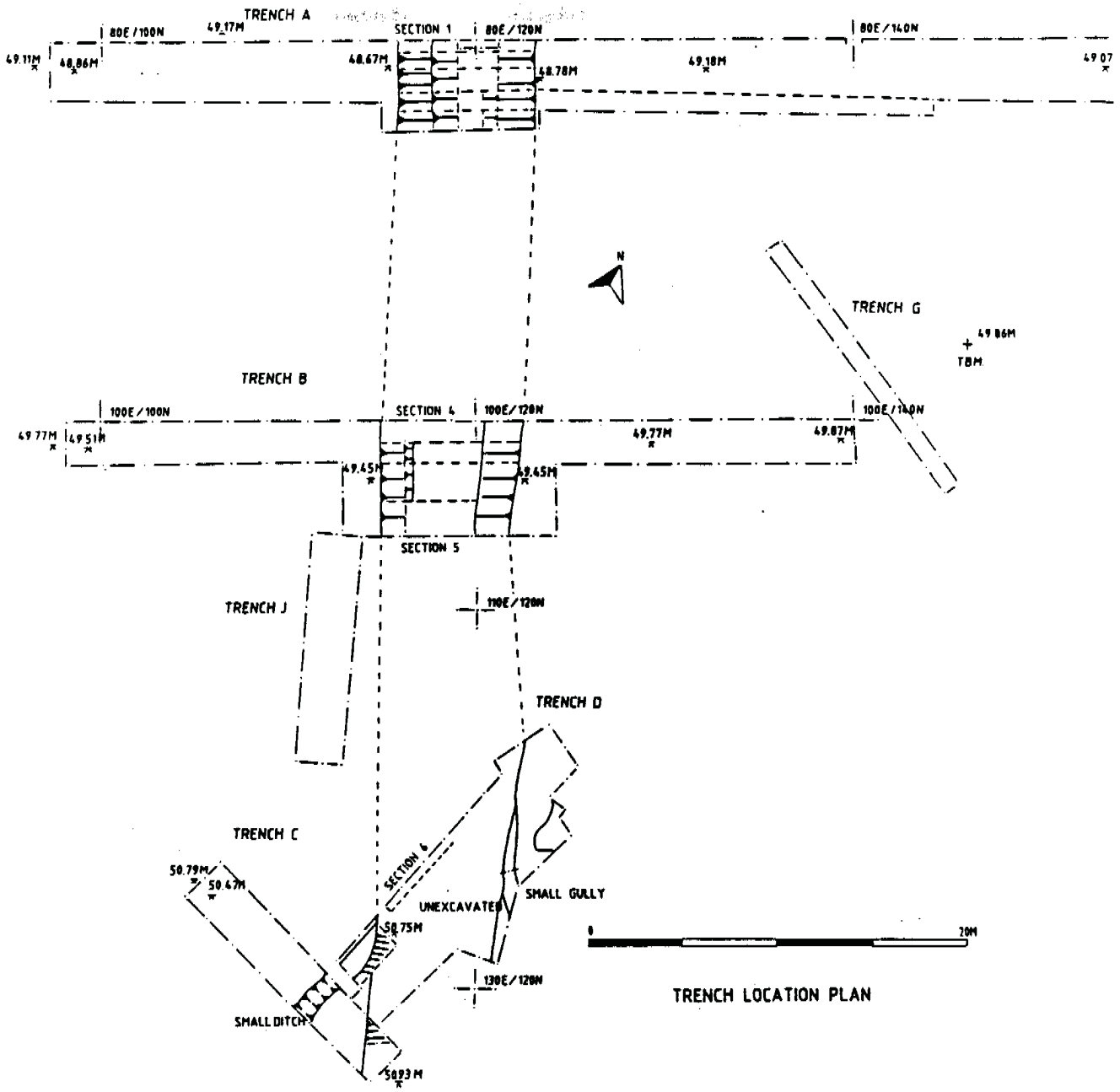


FIG.2

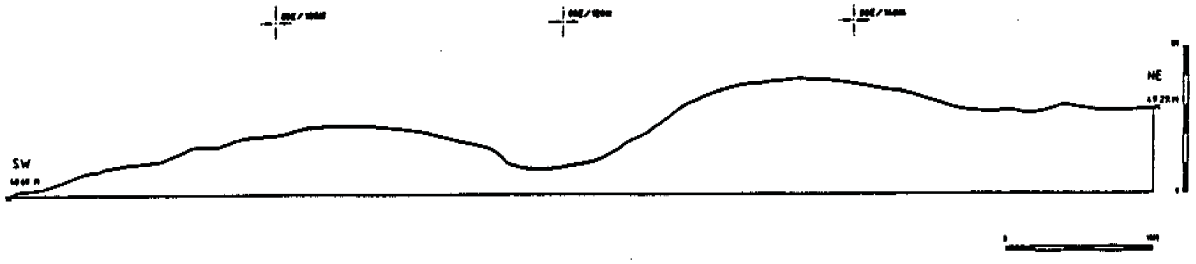


FIG. 3 PRE-EXCAVATION PROFILE OF BRENT DITCH.
EXAGGERATED VERTICAL SCALE HIGHLIGHTS NATURAL RIDGE TO NE.

Results

Trench A

The position of this trench was chosen in order to investigate the position at which the slight ridge on the north-east side of the ditch (possible bank remnant) was at its most pronounced. The trench ran south-west to north-east, at right-angles to the line of Brent Ditch. Over the width of the ditch, and a little to each side, the trench was expanded to allow for a wide-stepped section. This also allowed a good length of the ditch edge to be examined for post holes and palisade trenches. The composite section (made up of two sections separated by a 1m step) is discussed below. A trial trench across the slight ridge at the north-east edge of the ditch proved that it was of natural chalk and not a remnant of bank (Fig. 2).

Section 1 (Fig. 4)

The modern ploughsoil ([1]) directly overlay natural chalk. Regular deep ploughing score lines (up to 5 cm deep) were visible on the surface of the chalk. Ploughsoil had accumulated in the top of the depression caused by the ditch and had become compacted (Fill [2]). This layer contained claypipe stems, modern glass and a very abraded Romano-British potsherd. Fill [3] seemed to be similarly derived and contained similar modern inclusions. Deep plough score lines were apparent at its surface. Fills [4] and [14] were essentially similar and very distinct, being much less chalk-flecked than the other ditch fills. Overall these fills seem to result from deliberate rapid in-filling rather than a slow accumulation of weathered-in or ploughed-in silts. Fills [11] and [15] are fine chalk rubble tip lines. A clay pipe stem and small fragment of willow pattern pottery indicate that the above fills were not deposited before the earlier 19th century.

Fill [5] was much less compact than surrounding deposits and probably represents an area disturbed by animal burrows. Discrete burrow holes were evident in both sections down to the level of the early chalk weathering fills. Fills [8], [10] and [12] again seem to have derived from slowly accumulating silts. The presence of clay pipe stems suggest a post 16th century date. A large piece of iron was recovered from fill [10] and this would have provided a much more secure date for deposition (*terminus post quem*), being less prone to animal or earthworm displacement. However, it remains unidentified and undated. Contexts [16] and [13] define the natural stabilisation of the ditch and seal the rapidly accumulated chalk rubble weathering fills. The later chalk rubble layers become progressively more silty, whereas the earliest layer ([27]) is comprised solely of large loose lumps of chalk. As observed at Overton Down experimental earthwork (Dimbleby 1966), seasonal silting bands are visible in the lower fills; coarser chalk lumps represent winter silting, finer lumps and flecks result from summer weathering. These bands are less easily separated towards the top where they become thinner and more compact. There is no difference in the amount of chalk rubble fill on either side of the ditch which suggests that it derives from erosion of the ditch edge rather than from a bank. The bank was either absent or stabilised before its eroded material reached the ditch edge.

The section showed that the original ditch survived to a depth of 2.8 m. It had steep sides, a flat base 2.5 m wide, and the present width at the top is 7 m.

Trench B

A single section, 1.5 m wide, was dug from the base of the ploughsoil to the bottom of the ditch. Both of the resulting composite sections (Sections 4 & 5) were recorded. Overall, the fills encountered were analogous to those observed in Section 1, however, slight differences were noted. A brief description of the section follows, with corresponding Section 1 context numbers also given.

Section 4 (Fig. 5)

Context [101] is the modern ploughsoil and [102] fairly recent compacted ploughsoil silts. [103] is probably similarly, though less recently derived, and contains glass, post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stems. These fills correspond to [1], [2] and [3] of Section 1, respectively. Fill [105] corresponds to [4] and contains small fragments of post-medieval pottery and a brick (or field drain fragment). Fills [106] and [109] were not apparent in Section 1. Both contained larger and more frequent chalk lump inclusions than other deposits, with the exception of those of early pre-stabilisation material. These fills, separated from the quickly-accumulating pre-stabilisation material by very slowly-accumulating rain-washed silts, must be the result of deliberate in-filling rather than natural erosion. It is possible that they derive from the slighting of the bank, though there is not sufficient material to suggest that anything but a part, or remnant of the bank was deposited in the ditch. [129] was a very loose fill amongst quite compact deposits and may have resulted from tree root or animal disturbance. Fill [110] corresponds to fill [108] and seals the chalky initial weathering fills.

The section revealed that the ditch retained the shape noted in Section 1 but was approximately 40 cm shallower. The possibility that the lessening depth of the ditch as it approached the road was indicative of a causeway was tested by Section 6.

Section 5 (Fig. 6)

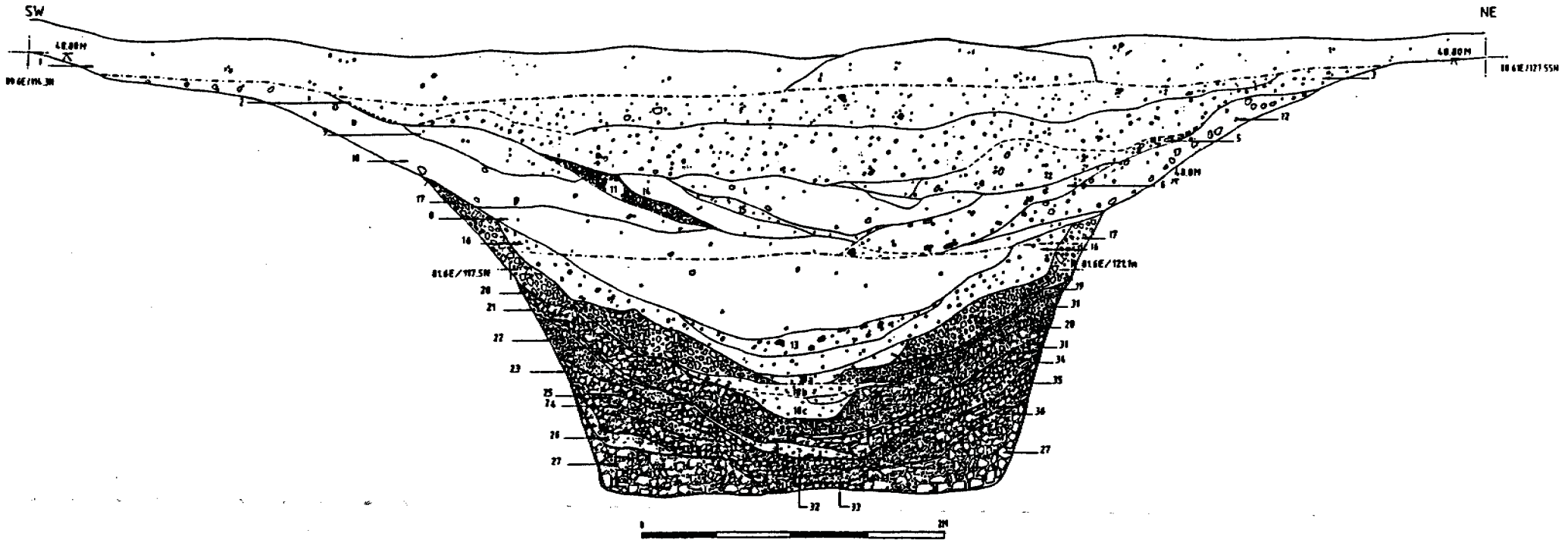
This section was, as expected, very similar to Section 4 (Fig. 5). Five coins, all probably dating to the 2nd century were found while hand digging a slot adjacent to this section. Their positions have been projected onto the section drawing. A fragment of human pelvis was also recovered. Their positions show that they were introduced into the ditch during the first few months after it had been dug.

Trenches C, D, E, F, G, H & I (Fig. 1)

Trench C was opened in order to test for the presence of road ditches or field boundaries connected with the adjacent Roman road. A narrow linear ditch [150] was encountered and excavated (Figs. 2 & 7). With the exception of two very small and abraded pot sherds, no datable material was recovered. Nevertheless, it was considered probable that this feature had a connection with the Roman road, to which it is parallel. The remaining trenches were opened to test the continuity and alignment of the ditch, and to allow for further sections from which to extract datable material. The ditch was encountered in Trench D (Fig. 2), Section 6 (Fig. 8) demonstrating that it pre-dates Brent Ditch. Unfortunately, the only feature apparent on the other side of Brent Ditch was an undated gully of differing alignment (Fig. 2). Trench G gave similarly negative results. An undated ovoid feature (post pit ?) was sectioned in Trench F, and a modern (?) gully in Trench H. Trench I also failed to pick up ditch [150].

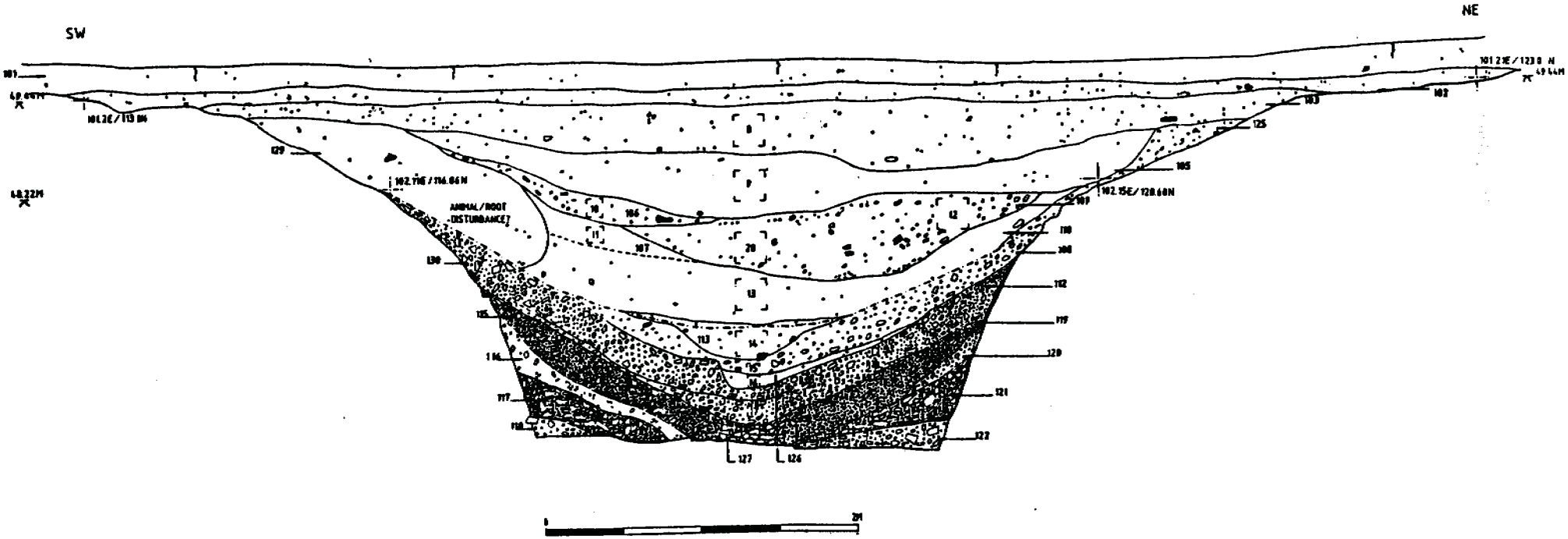
Trench J

This trench was opened to investigate the lip of Brent Ditch. It was hoped to determine whether the coins and pelvis fragments from the base of the ditch near Section 5 could have been introduced from nearby Romano-British features. No features, apart from deep plough marks were encountered.



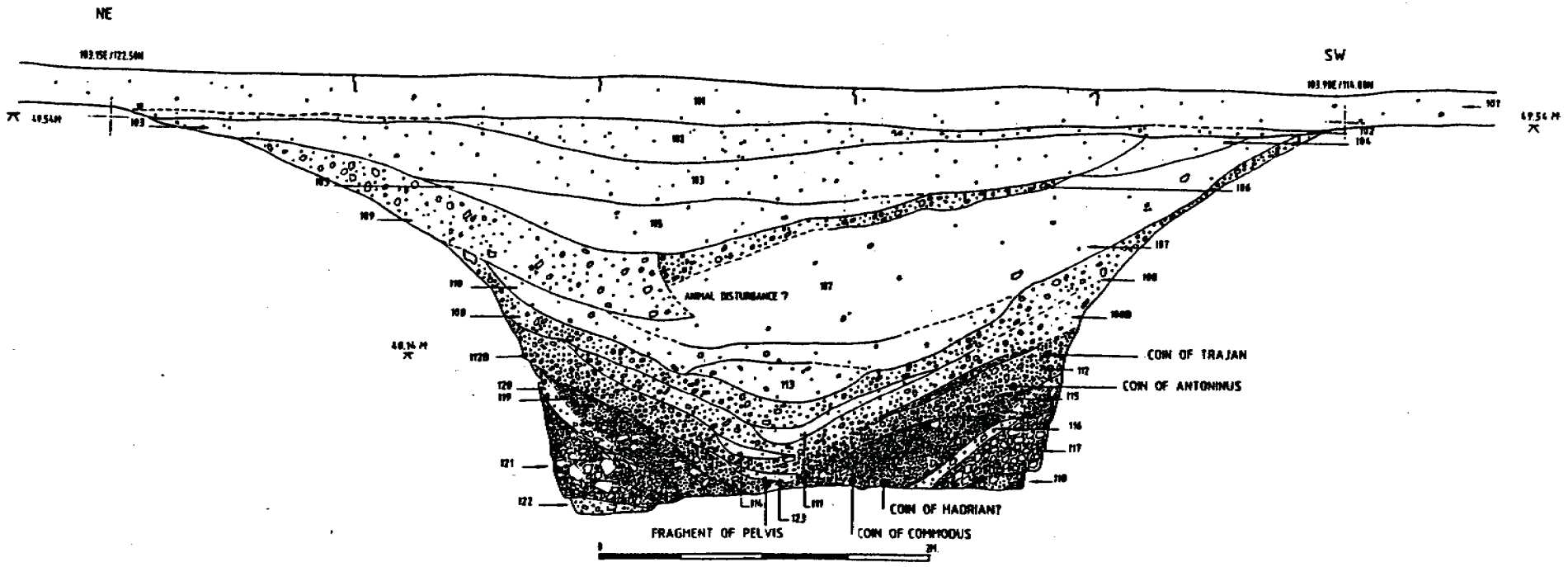
SECTION 1, TRENCH A

FIG. 4



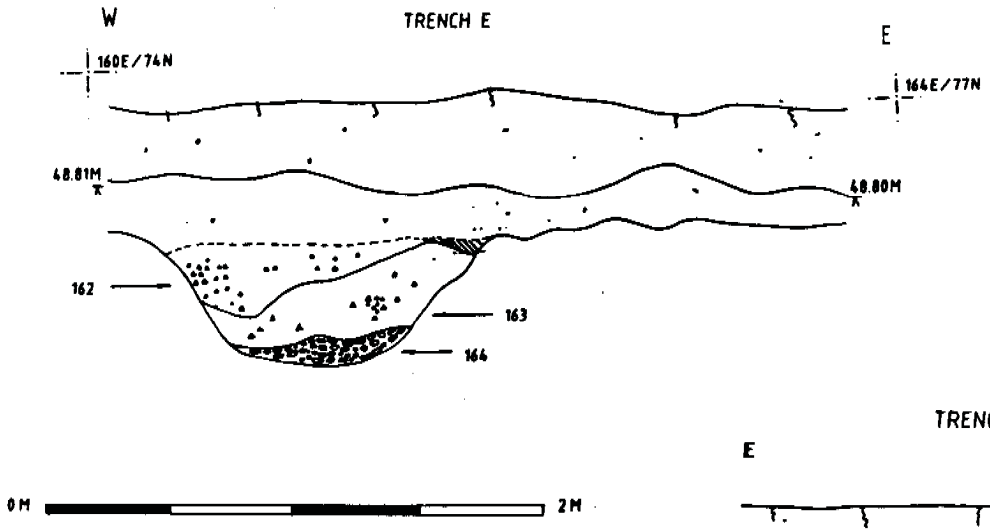
SECTION 4, TRENCH 8-LOCATION OF MOLLUSC SAMPLES

FIG.5



SECTION 5, TRENCH B

FIG.6



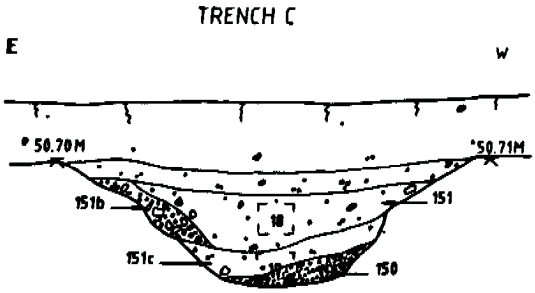


FIG.7 SECTIONS OF SMALL LINEAR DITCH

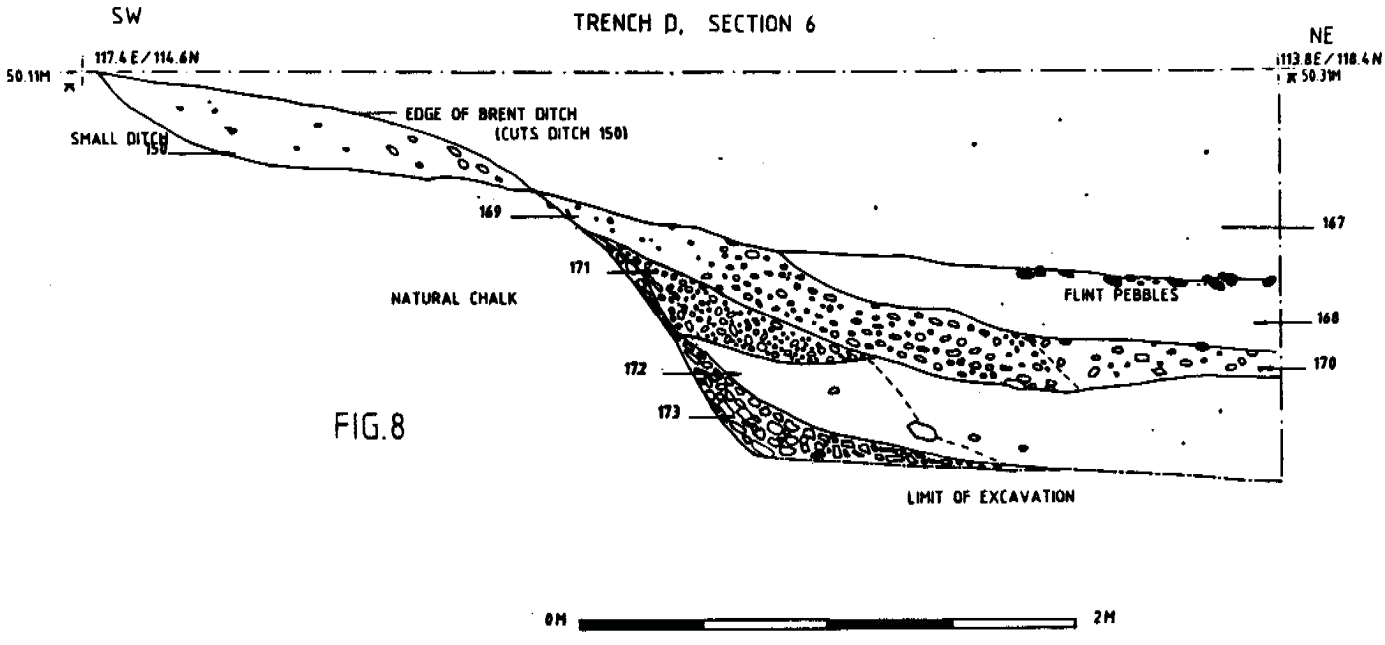


FIG.8

Molluscan Analysis

The results of the Molluscan analysis are not yet available.

The Coins

Five coins were recovered from fills [112] and [115] near Section 5 (Fig. 6). A *dupondius* (possibly of Hadrian 117-138 A.D.), a *sestertius* of Commodus (180-192 A.D.), a *sestertius* of Antoninus (161-180 A.D.) and two *sestertii* of Trajan (98-117 A.D.). Such coins may have been in circulation up to the mid-3rd century, though the minimal wear on the later coins (of Antoninus and Commodus) suggests that these examples were taken out of circulation around the turn of the 3rd century (K. Butcher pers. comm.). The proximity of the finds and the narrow date range, compounded with the fact that the earlier coins are more worn, suggest that they came as a group from a single source. Perhaps they were lost by a traveller on the nearby Roman road, or were displaced from a hoard or grave. The fragment of human pelvis found in close proximity may add weight to the latter suggestion. They are certainly not the type of coins that we would expect to find amongst the refuse of a Romano-British settlement site.

Discussion

No traces of a bank, on either side of the ditch, remain in this area. The profile of the ditch recorded over Section 1, before excavation, shows that the ditch was dug into a natural chalk ridge (Fig. 3). The higher part of the ridge is to the north-east side of the ditch and logically this should have been used for the foundation of the bank. This conforms with the findings from Taylor's section and is consistent with the evidence for the possible slighting of a part of the bank, seen in Sections 4 and 5. If we except that there was a bank, and it was on the north-east side of the ditch, most of it must have been deliberately removed before much of the ploughed-in silts had accumulated. It is extremely likely that some of the bank was quarried away as ballast for the nearby road. This has happened to Devils Dyke at Swaffham Prior, where crossed by the Burwell road (Robinson 1992). Alternatively, the navvies constructing the nearby railway embankment during the 1840 s (Joby 1977) might have found it a tempting source of material.

No structures suggestive of an earlier construction phase or a palisade were observed.

The ditch is nearly 2.4 m deep and 7 m wide at the top, with a very regular, steep-sided, flat-bottomed profile. Together with the bank it would have formed a very effective barrier.

Ditch silting processes were seen to be similar in each section. The sequence begins with natural erosion from the exposed chalk edges and culminates with ploughed-in silts. The ditch was never cleaned out or re-cut, and consequently lost most of its defensive value a few years after construction. A sufficiently wide berm existed between the bank and ditch for the bank to stabilise before material eroding from it entered the ditch.

Roman coins collected from the earliest ditch deposits suggest a late 2nd century or early 3rd century date for construction, considerably earlier than was expected. However, there remains a possibility that these were introduced from a Romano-British deposit, disturbed by the digging of the ditch at a much later date. Therefore, this date should only be treated as a *terminus post quem* for construction. Brent Ditch could have been dug at any time in the late Roman or Anglo-Saxon period.

Unfortunately the relationship of the monument to the Roman road was not determined. The small ditch observed in Trenches C, D and E, was discontinuous and therefore is unlikely to be roadside ditch. It may be connected with the traces of undated settlement shown by cropmark evidence to the north-west of the area examined (Cambs S.M.R.).

Brent Ditch and the Cambridgeshire Dykes.

Brent ditch superficially resembles the other Cambridgeshire Dykes. All extend from low marshy ground in the north-west, across the Icknield Way zone to the boulder clays hills of the Cambridgeshire/Essex border (Fig. 9). Each one of them crosses a known Roman road (Margary 1967) and in this respect they are similar to the West Norfolk dykes (Wade-Martins 1980). They were obviously intended to impede access to East Anglia from the south-west, at a time when the Roman roads were still the main routes in use. Devils Dyke and Fleam Dyke have been dated to the very late or post-Roman period (Hope-Taylor 1973 & Wait 1991). The last phase of Bran Ditch has been dated to the Anglo-Saxon period (Lethbridge & Palmer 1929), though in this case the presence of three small ditches beneath the main bank may indicate that it had earlier origins. Further work is needed before this can be determined, though it is apparent from Lethbridge's plans that the configuration of the earlier ditches is similar to the Iron Age boundaries of Mile Ditches and Drays Ditches in Hertfordshire. The recent fieldwork at Brent Ditch has provided a post-2nd century date for construction and has demonstrated that its profile is very similar to those of the other dykes (Fig. 10). We know that the dykes existed before 903 A.D.when they are mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (Garmonsway 1954). It is tempting, therefore, despite the lack firm archaeological or historical evidence, to see them as a response to the documented aggression of Penda towards East Anglia in the first half of the 7th century. This suggests that either the dykes were built together as a network of defences, or that the East Anglian boundary was re-negotiated and reviewed several times within a very short period of time. This would have rendered previous earthworks obsolete and may, therefore, account for the lack of evidence of maintenance at Brent Ditch. However, the possibility of earlier dates of origin must also be examined.

East Anglia's early Anglo-Saxon colonisation and close links with Scandinavia in the following centuries set it apart from western Britain. The new settlers may have found it necessary to erect to defences against attack or barriers to inhibit trade and free movement from further inland. If the role of the dykes was at least part political it is possible that their lines were based on Roman, or even pre-Roman land divisions.

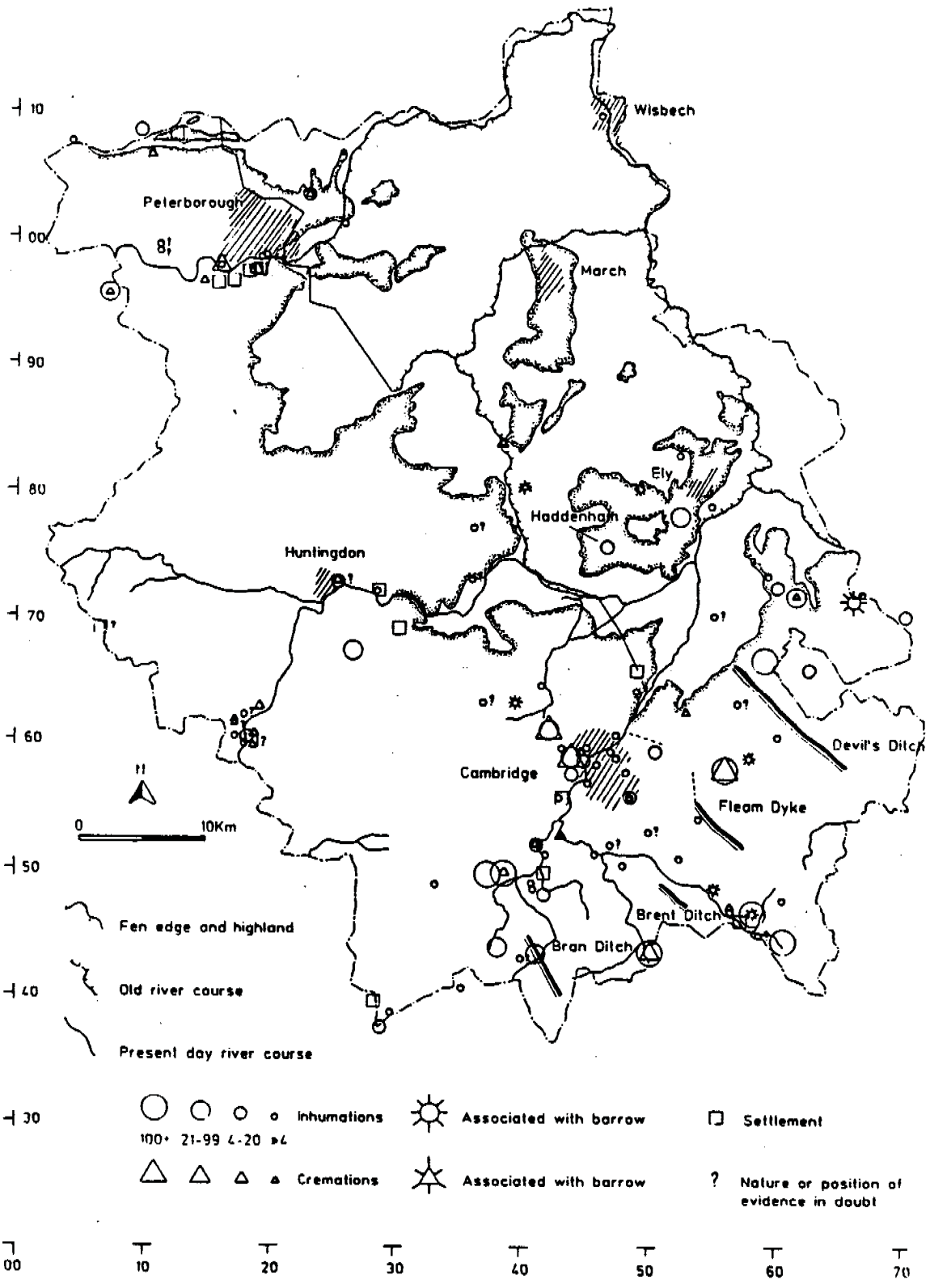


FIG.9 EARLY ANGLO-SAXON BURIALS AND SETTLEMENTS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

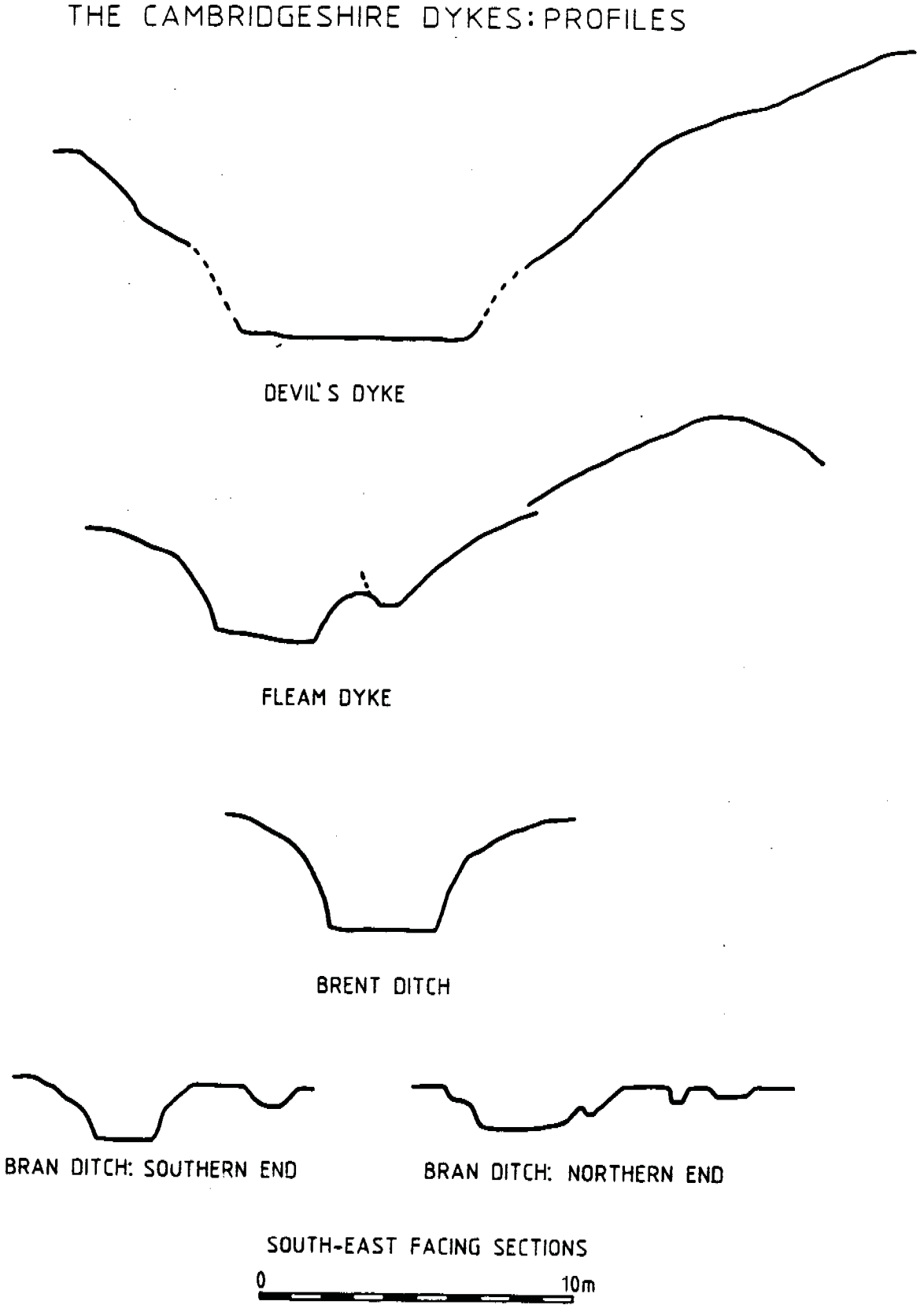

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE DYKES: PROFILES
DEVIL'S DYKE
FLEAM DYKE
BRENT DITCH
BRAN DITCH: SOUTHERN END
BRAN DITCH: NORTHERN END
SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTIONS
0
10m

FIG. 10

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Mrs A. Binney of Pampisford Hall, who gave permission to excavate well in advance of road works. Gerry Wait, who undertook the preceding projects at Worsted Street and Fleam Dyke, gave helpful advice and provided some ideas concerning the origins of this monument. Erika Guttmann, Tim Malim and Alison Taylor made helpful suggestions for the text of this report.

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Appendix A FILL CATALOGUE

Context	Colour	Consistency	Inclusions	Compaction	Above	Below	Cont by	Comments
1	7.5YR 5.4 brown	non plastic silt clay loam	stones, <10% occ flint	fairly compact	2			Modern plough soil, approx 30cm thick
2	10YR 5.3 brown	non plastic, sticky silt clay loam	chalk, approx 15-20% small flint stones, approx 10% medium subangular and subrounded flint	moderate	3, 4, 9, 11	1		Modern glass and clay pipe was found in this fill
3	10YR 5.2 grey brown	non plastic, sticky sandy clay loam	subrounded chalk lumps, approx 20% small to mod subangular flint stones, <5%	firm	4, 12	2		The boundary between 2 and 3 is scarred with plough lines, thus indicating possible contamination and disturbance. Very minimal charcoal flecks, from crop burning
4	10YR 4.3 darkish brown	non plastic, sticky silty clay loam	occ chalk mottling chalk flecks, <1% chalk lumps, <2% flint of <4cm, <2%	firm	5, 11, 12	2, 3		In comparison to nearby contexts, there are less chalk and flint inclusions in this fill. Worm and root penetration. Larger root fragments also in evidence
5	10YR 5.3 brown	non plastic, sticky silt clay loam	chalk lumps of 3-4cm in size, <25% small to medium angular flint stones, <10%	loose	6	4, 10, 11, 12		Worm action and root penetration. No finds
6	10YR 5.2 greyish brown	non plastic sandy silty loam	small subangular chalk lumps, <10% small to medium flints, <2%	fairly loose	7, 8	5, 10, 12		An amount of Med pot was recovered from this fill
7	10YR 5.2 white greyey brown	loamy sand	chalk	loose	natural	6, 8, 10		
8	10YR 5.2 grey brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small chalk flecks, <1% flint, <1%	firm	7	6, 10		Worm action evident
9	5YR 4.3 red brown	plastic, sticky silty clay loam	small subrounded chalk medium subangular flint	moderate	10	2, 11		Also includes some charcoal, but this is probably as a result of crop burning
10	7.5YR 4.3 darkish brown	silty sandy clay loam	small subangular chalk lumps, <2% small subrounded flints, <1%	loose				This fill is possibly the same as 6
11	white	friable chalk	approx 25% silt loam sand which is brown in colour, 7.5YR 4.3	loose				
12	10YR 5.2 grey brown	friable sandy silt loam	chalk flecks chalk lumps of <4cm, approx 15% flints, <5%	loose	5, 6	3		
13	10YR 5.2 grey brown	non plastic silt clay loam	chalk flecks, <1% small flint pebbles up to 10cm in size, <20%	varied	7	8		As 8, but higher flint content, including large flints
14	7.5YR 3.3 dark brown	plastic, sticky silty clay loam	small subrounded chalk lumps, approx 2% Occ fine roots	firm	8, 11	3, 4, 15		This is a virtually chalk free fill

Context	Colour	Consistency	Inclusions	Compaction	Above	Below	Cont by	Comments
15	10YR 5.4 yellowish brown	plastic, sticky silty clay loam	small chalk lumps, <10%.	loose	14	4		
16	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small chalk lumps, approx 25%	loose	17	13		
17	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic, sticky silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 35%	firm	18, 19, 20	16		This is a weathering fill
18	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic sand and silt	small chalk lumps, approx 10%	firm	20, 28	16, 17		
19	10YR 6.3 pale brown	friable silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 70%	loose				
20	10YR 6.3 pale brown	friable, sticky silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 70%	loose	21. 28, 31	17, 18, 37		
21	10YR 6.3 pale brown	friable silty clay loam	chalk flecks	loose	22	20		
22	10YR 6.3 pale brown	friable silty clay loam	chalk, 40-50%	loose	23	21		
23	5Y 8.1 white	chalk	occ snail shells	very loose	24	20, 22		No silt inclusion
24	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 50%	loose	25	23		
25	5Y 8.1 white	chalk	none	very loose	26, 27	24		No silt inclusion
26	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 50%	loose	27	25		This fill sits in the S side of the ditch and is the same as 36 on the N side of the ditch.
27	5Y 8.1 white	chalk	none	very loose	natural	25, 26, 33, 35, 36		No silt inclusion. Can be seen on both the N and S sides of the ditch to be the primary fill
28	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	medium chalk lumps, approx 70%	firm	29, 30	18		
29	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 20% small flint pebbles	loose	23, 31	20, 28		

Context	Colour	Consistency	Inclusions	Compaction	Above	Below	Cont by	Comments
30	7.5YR 6.3 light brown	non plastic, sticky silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 40%	loose	31	20, 28		This fill is possibly the same as 29
31	5Y 8.1 white	chalk	none	loose	33	30		No silt inclusion
32	7.5YR 6.3 light brown	friable silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 40%	loose			31	This is a small lens which is only visible near the bottom of the section
33	7.5YR 6.3 light brown	friable silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 50%	loose	27	31		
34	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 30%	loose	35	31		This fill is possibly the same as 24
35	5Y 8.1 white	chalk	none	very loose	27, 36	33, 34		No silt inclusion
36	10YR 4.6 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 50%	loose	27	35		This fill is possibly the same as 24
37	10YR 6.3 pale brown	non plastic silty clay loam	small to medium chalk lumps, approx 70%	loose	20	19		This chalky fill is barely held together by the silt matrix within it
101	10YR 5.3 brown	slightly plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 3% small flint frags, <1%	loose	102			Topsoil extending over entire area. Gradual boundary with underlying context
102	10YR 5.2 greyish brown	slightly plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 10% small flint fragments, approx 1%	moderate	103	101		This layer is immediately below the plough soil. It extends over the entire area, and is plough disturbed. It has a gradual boundary with the underlying context
103	10YR 5.3 brown	slightly plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 10% small flint frags, <1%	moderate	104, 105	102	130	Gradual boundary with 105, but sharp boundary with 104, 106 and 109.
104	10YR 4.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 2%	loose	107	103	130	Sharp boundary with 107
105	10YR 5.4 yellowish brown	plastic, sticky silty clay loam	chalk flecks, 2% small flint fragments, <1%	moderate	106	103	130	
106	10YR 4.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks and small fragments, approx 30%	loose	107	105	130	Thin layer of chalk rubble
107	10YR 4.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam. Tends towards silty clay	chalk flecks and small fragments, 1-5% small flint fragments,<1%	moderate	108, 109	106	130	Low proportion of chalk to South, more towards centre of ditch

Context	Colour	Consistency	Inclusions	Compaction	Above	Below	Cont by	Comments
108	10YR 6.3 pale brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks and small fragments, 35%	moderate			130	
109	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam, tending towards silty clay	chalk flecks and small fragments, 25% small flint fragments, <1%	loose			130	Clear tip lines of chalk fragments, especially along the top of the deposit
110	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam, tending towards silty clay	chalk flecks and small fragments, 1-5%	moderate			130	Very similar to 107
111	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, 2%	moderate			108	Silty lens within chalk rubble 108. May be the same as 126
112	10YR 6.3 light brown	plastic silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small fragments, 50%	moderate			130	Similar to 108. Could also perhaps be divided into more contexts, and may represent a number of different events.
113	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 3% small flint fragments up to 10cm in size, 5%	moderate			130	Present in both section 4 and section 5
114	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, 1%	moderate			112	May be the same as 127
115	10YR 6.3 pale brown	sticky silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small angular fragments, approx 70%	loose			130	Probably equivalent to 119 on North side
116	10YR 7.3 very pale brown	silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small chalk fragments, 25%	loose			130	
117		chalk fragments, 80%	2% silt	loose			130	This layer is scarcely present
118	10YR 5.4 yellowish brown	sticky silt with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small fragments, 50%	moderate			130	
119	10YR 6.3 pale brown	silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small angular chalk fragments, 70%	loose			130	Probably equivalent to 115
120	10YR 7.3 very pale brown	silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small fragments of chalk, 40%	loose			130	This fill tips in to the ditch from the North side
121		small to medium fragments of chalk, 80%	chalk dust and silt, 5%	loose			130	Loose rubble tipping into the ditch from the North side
122	10YR 5.4 yellowish brown	sticky chalk dust and silt	chalk flecks and small fragments of chalk, 40%	moderate			130	

Context	Colour	Consistency	Inclusions	Compaction	Above	Below	Cont by	Comments
123	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks and small chalk fragments, 10%	moderate			130	
124	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks, 10%	moderate			112	Could relate to 127 in section 4
125	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks and small fragments of chalk, 25%	moderate			130	
126	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, 5%	moderate			139	
127	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, 5%	moderate			130	
128	10YR 6.4 light yellowish brown	plastic silty clay loam with chalk dust	chalk flecks and small chalk fragments, approx 70%	firm			130	Narrow band of compact chalk and silt at the base of the ditch
129	10YR 4.3 brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks, approx 5%	very loose			130	"Tear drop" shaped deposit seen in section 4. It is probably so loose as a result of extensive animal burrow disturbance
151	10YR 6.3 pale brown	plastic, slightly sticky silty clay loam	chalk flecks and small chalk lumps, approx 15% small to medium flint pebbles, <10%	moderate		topsoil 101	150	It is the same as 157
152	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic, slightly sticky silty clay	occ chalk fragments of <1cm in size, <1%	loose		topsoil 101	153	This fill is the same as 134
154	10YR 5.3 brown	plastic, slightly sticky silty clay	chalk fragments of <1cm in size, <0.5%	loose		topsoil 101	155	It isthe same as 152
157	10YR 6.3 pale brown	plastic silty clay loam	chalk flecks large chalk lumps, <15% small flint pebbles, <10%	moderate		topsoil 101	156	It is the same as 151