

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title Goole-Dickleburgh Road Improvement	Details Rep of Fieldwork in Norfolk & Suffolk
Road Number	Date February 1993
Contractor Suffolk Archaeological Unit	
County Norfolk & Suffolk	
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NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report of Fieldwork in Norfolk and Suffolk
on the
Scole - Dickleburgh Road Improvement

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Norfolk Archaeological Unit

and

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February 1993

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PART ONE

Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Report of Fieldwork in Norfolk on the
Scole-Dickleburgh Road Improvement

1992-93

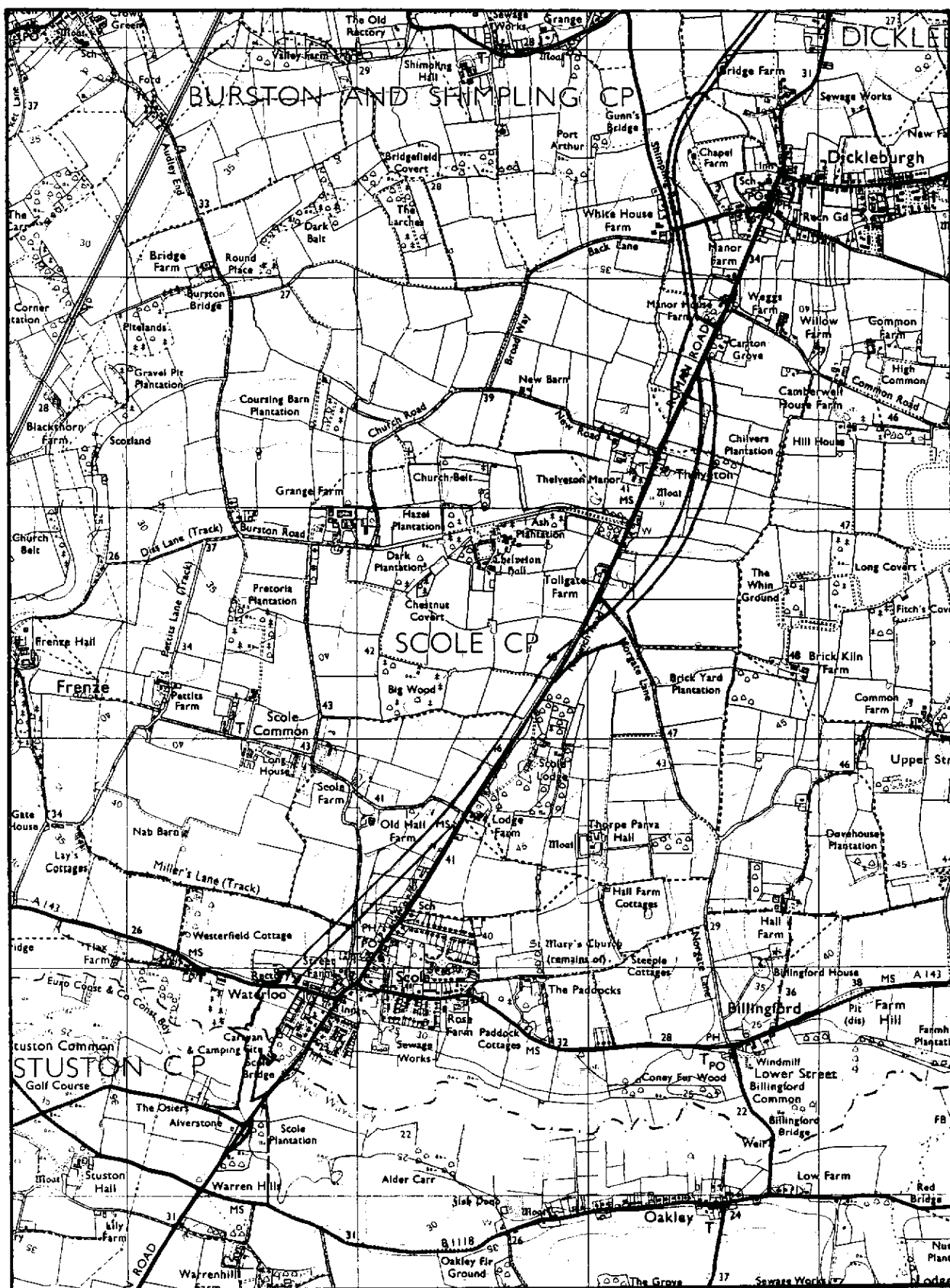


Figure 1

Location: Scole - Dickleburgh Proposed Improvement

Grid Ref: TM 146785 - 165818

Dates of Work: October - December 1992

SMR Nos: 1007; 1008; 7943; 7947; 7964; 9866;
 11032; 11033; 23353; 23354

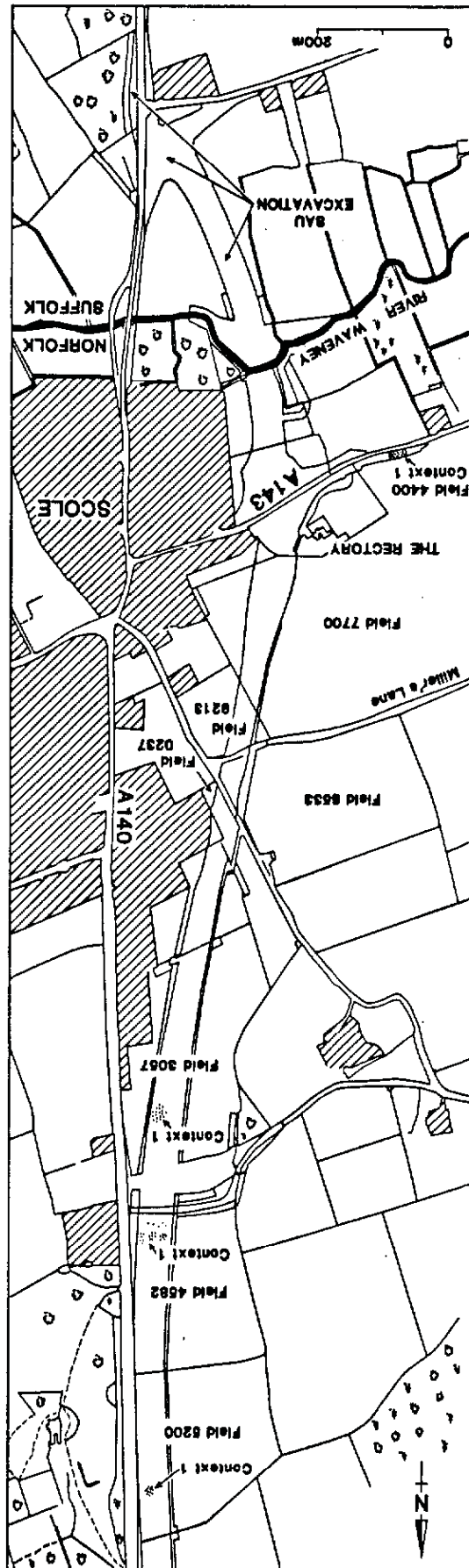
Summary

Fieldwork carried out by staff of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit on the line of the proposed Bypass in Norfolk revealed four small spreads of medieval and later material, presumably indicating areas of occupation, and spreads of burnt flint. No features were discovered which clearly relate to ancient landscape organisation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarizes the results of archaeological fieldwork undertaken by staff of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit on the proposed route of the A140 Road Improvement on behalf of the Department of Transport.
- 1.2 This work followed an Evaluation Report (Emery 1992) which identified known archaeological sites/material and drew attention to areas where evidence of archaeological sites or features should be sought.

Figure 2: The Bypass, South



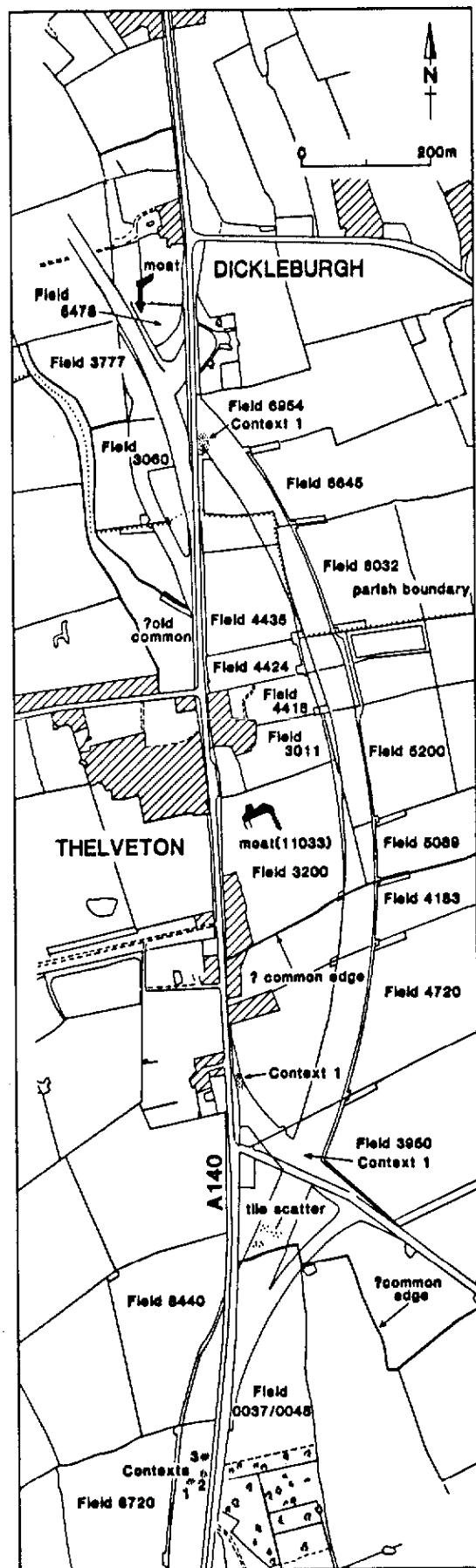


Figure 3: The Bypass; North

2. METHOD

- 2.1 The field survey followed the requirements of the Brief and the Method Statement (see Emery 1992, Appendices).
- 2.2 The route of the Bypass was fieldwalked and then searched by metal-detector at varying levels of intensity. The fieldwalking was done in 20-25 m. grids for recording, with transects 2-3 m. apart. The result of this was used as a guide to the need for further fieldwalking and/or metal-detector search.
- 2.3 This work was carried out in two phases, October - November 1992 and December 1992 - January 1993, as determined by the condition of each field and its crop. Some fields were 'set-aside' and were largely stubble, otherwise walking was carried out some time after ploughing, when the surface was adequately weathered (and usually in young winter cereal).
- 2.4 Finds were located to the 20-25 m. grid, with any significant finds being more precisely located.

3. SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS.

NB: RB denotes 'Romano-British'
PB denotes 'pot-boiler'

3.1 Site 1 (Field 4400, west of the Rectory)

(Winter cereal, washed, good).
Finds along the north side of the A143 include a few burnt flints ('pot boilers') and twelve sherds of RB pottery, reflecting the existence of the known (scheduled) site south of the A143 (Sites 1007 and 9866), or perhaps some RB occupation here, to the north and north-west.
A concentration of twenty-two medieval sherds, some quite large and unabraded, indicates a discrete medieval occupation site (Context I) next to the A143. Also found was a bronze thimble, possible medieval.

3.2 Site 2 Field 6101, The Rectory garden.

Very overgrown. Detected, but no finds.

3.3 Site 3 (Field 7700, north-east of the Rectory).

(Set-aside stubble and grass, washed surface where visible).

Besides a flint flake, a sherd of RB pottery and eight sherds of medieval pottery, most finds were sherds of post-medieval pottery and tile, probably derived from nearby occupation at Scole.

Small Finds

Medieval belt mount, ?buckle-plate.

Coin, farthing of George II 1727-60.

Button, post-medieval.

Also found were a few pieces of bronze sheet, probably post-medieval, and fragments of lead.

3.4 Site 4 (Field 9213)

(Set aside stubble, poor visibility, detected).

Finds were two RB sherds, two post-medieval sherds, and a lead lump.

3.5 Site 5 (Field 8533)

(Set-aside stubble, washed surface, detected).

The only finds made were two lumps of lead.

NB Fields 9213 (Site 4) and 8533 (Site 5) lie either side of Millers Lane, a narrow and deep 'green lane', probably of some antiquity but now much overgrown.

3.6 Site 6 (Field 0237)

(Grassy stubble, poor visibility, detected only).

No finds.

3.7 Site 7 (Field east of Field 0237)

(Washed stubble, surface very good).

Finds were a thin scatter of flint flakes and 'potboilers', two sherds of medieval pottery and a few post-medieval sherds.

3.8 Site 8 (Field 3057)

(Grass and stubble, washed, visible surface good). Fieldwork recovered the occasional flint flake or scrapers (eight in total) and a small spread of potboilers (= Context I). Other finds were a RB sherd and a thin scatter of medieval and post-medieval sherds, mostly abraded. This pottery was concentrated towards the northern part of the field, possibly connected with the undated crop marks here, to the immediate west of the A140 (SMR 7964).

Small Finds

A late post-medieval mount.

Also found were a few post-medieval objects, clay pipe stem, a lump of lead and a fragment of bronze sheet.

3.9 Site 9 (Field 4582)

(Ploughed, washed, visibility fair-good). Most finds from this field were late post-medieval potsherds, tile etc. However, at the southern end of the road line were found a few (ten) medieval pot sherds (Context I).

3.10 Site 10 (Field 5200 west)

(Stubble, well-washed, surface very good). Fieldwalking recovered just three flint flakes and a spread of 'potboilers' (Context I) a few metres from a marked depression (= old pit/spring). There was also a thin scatter of post-medieval pottery and tile with the occasional medieval sherd.

3.11 Site 11 (Field 6720)

(Winter cereal, well washed, good - very good). This field produced seven flints (including three scrapers) and three spreads of 'potboilers' (Contexts I-3).

3.12 Site 12 (Field 8440)

(Ploughed and washed, surface fair - good). The only finds were a few pieces of modern tile and pottery.

3.13 Site 13 (Fields 0037-0048)

(East of A140, south of Norgate Lane; winter barley, washed, surface fair - good). Remarkably few finds were made in this large field, and these were three sherds of late med-post medieval pottery and fragments of modern tile.

3.14 Site 14 (Field 3950)

(Oilseed rape plants, surface good).
Finds were three flint flakes and a 'potboiler' spread
(Context I); also found were a few fragments of post-
medieval tile and recent pottery.

3.15 Site 15 (Field 1364)

(Winter cereal, washed, good - very good).
Almost nothing was found in this field (2 flint flakes
and fragments of modern tile) except for a concentration
of (33) medieval sherds (12th - 13th century?) next to
the A140, nearly opposite Tollgate Farm (Context I).
There were also three later medieval sherds, indicating
a fairly short span of occupation on this site.

3.16 Site 16 (Field 1566-4270)

(Winter cereal, washed, very good).
Very little was found in this field; finds were two
flint flakes, three post-medieval sherds and fragments
of tile.

3.17 Site 17 (Field 4183)

(Winter cereal, washed, good - very good).
Finds were few; 1 flint flake, two 'potboilers' and a
thin scatter (10) of medieval and later sherds. Also
post-medieval tile fragments.

3.18 Site 18 (Field 3200)

(Winter cereal, washed, good - very good).
Finds were one RB sherd, a fragment of lava quern and
four medieval sherds, possibly derived from the moated
site (Site 11033) 100 metres to the west.

Small Finds

Buckle, 13th century
Buckle, 16th century

3.19 Site 19 (Field 3011)

(Winter cereal, washed, good - very good).
Finds: three medieval and one post-medieval sherd.

3.20 Site 20 (Field 5089)

(Freshly ploughed, little washed; poor - fair).
Occasional post-medieval finds.

3.27 Site 27 (Field 3060)

(Winter cereal, washed, fair).

Finds: two flint flakes, seven medieval-late-medieval sherds.

Small find

Coin, Groat, Elizabeth I

Vessel rim, bronze, medieval.

3.28 Site 28 (Field 3777)

(Permanent grass; detected).

Finds: none

3.29 Site 29 (Field 5473)

(Permanent grass, detected).

Finds: none

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 The route of the projected road bypasses the present A140, which itself perpetuates the line of the Roman road.

4.2 The Roman road made a major river crossing at Scole before climbing up to the Boulder Clay plateau. Fieldwork seems to confirm that Roman settlement was probably confined to the area of the river crossing and the settlement there.

4.3 No material of Anglo-Saxon date was found, although scatters of medieval pottery may suggest small settlements, probably no more than farms, alongside the Roman road in four places (Sites 1, 9, 15 and 26).

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are pleased to acknowledge the co-operation and help of the landowners along the road line, principally Sir Rupert Mann, and the help and advice of his farm manager Alan Harris, at Grange Farm, Thelveton. We are especially grateful for permission to carry out our work in advance of any road construction work.

The writer is pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Tony Frost, who carried out most of the fieldwork, and Dennis Jordan and Michael Noble, who detected selected areas.

Finds were examined by staff of the Norfolk Museums Service (Sue Margeson and John Davies) and the maps are by Steven Ashley.

PART TWO

Suffolk Archaeological Unit

Report of Evaluation Excavation in Suffolk on the
Scole-Dickleburgh Road Improvement

1992-93

Summary

Excavation was carried out by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit on the Suffolk side of the River Waveney to find the limits of Roman activity and to investigate its character. This work revealed several ditches of Roman date.

Al40 Scole Dickleburgh road improvement, Suffolk section
Additional Archaeological evaluation report

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Description of the trenches
3. The finds
4. Interpretation
5. Discussion
6. Appendix: Enviromental work

Figures:

1. Plan : Trench Locations
2. Plan: Trench 7
3. Plan: Trench 8
4. Plan and section: Trench 9
5. Plan: Areas of Roman Stratigraphy

1. Introduction

This evaluation was undertaken with two objectives.

- A) To investigate further and delimit the Roman archaeological deposits in the southern half of field 5449 (SUS005) along the western side of the present A140 trunk road.
- B) To evaluate the strip of land east of the A140 opposite the Old Bury Road which had a high potential for further Roman deposits because of its position alongside the former Roman road (A140) and proximity to the Roman settlement at Scole.

A series of machine excavated trenches were cut in both areas. These are labelled 7 - 15 on Figure 1 which also shows the trenches from the earlier survey.

2. Description of trenches (Figure 2)

Trench 7

This trench was 58m long, 2.3m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of .8m. The upper .40m - .45m of this was ploughsoil which overlaid a very dark flinty loam over the eastern 15m of trench which was .3m in depth, and a light brown loam and sand in the remainder of the trench. Work on the eastern part of this trench was hampered by a particularly high watertable which was more or less level with the base of the trench. Described from east to west the trench revealed 4m of sand and gravel (191) with two distinct areas of sand (189;190). This material is all likely to have been natural. 191 was then cut by a dark brown loam (183) which appeared to be part of a north-south linear feature at least 8m wide. 183 was in turn cut by 184, a darker brown loam, 2m wide and on a similar alignment. 184 may also have cut clay layer 185, which extended for a further 7m to the west although this was not clear. 185 was cut by a loam filled linear feature, 188, which had a north-east to south-west axis. 185 was also cut by a larger loam filled linear feature, 187; it was approximately 2m wide, and entered the trench at an acute east-west angle running for 23m. Both 187 and 185 appeared to cut a brown loamy sand, 186, which was probably natural, and turned up at the western end of the trench with a bright orange sand and gravel layer (193) which was also probably natural, in between.

Trench 8

This trench was 60m in length, 2.3m wide and excavated to a depth of about .6m. The sections largely showed a

dark loamy topsoil with a thin layer of a light brown sandy subsoil below.

Described from east to west in plan the first 2m exposed was yellow clay (208) which may have been natural. 208 was cut by layer 209 which like successive layers 210, 211 and 212 was aligned on a north to south axis. They consisted of a light brown silty clay (209), a mid brown clay loam with chalk (210), a mid brown loam (211) and a dark brown loam (212). These layers probably all belonged to a single feature which was approximately 6m wide. 212 cut a linear feature, 214, a light brown, clay loam, which was 1m wide and ran diagonally from north-east to south-west across the trench for about 8m. 212 and 214 both cut layer 213, a mid brown and orange sand with gravel, and 214 also cut 215, a light brown loam. Both 213 and 215 appeared to be natural as did 219, an orange/yellow sand with gravel which covered the final 14m of trench. Three patches of yellow clay, 216, 217 and 218 appeared within 215.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was 20m long and 2.3m wide and up to .5m deep. The section was almost entirely made up of ploughsoil. Along the base of the trench only 2m at the eastern end appeared to have been disturbed. 196 was a layer of brown, sandy loam which cut bright orange sand. The bright orange sand 199 was interleaved with flinty brown sand, 200; these layers extending across 9m of trench gave way to 202, a layer of reddy brown sand with a gritty upper layer. A section through this layer was excavated by machine (Figure 4), which revealed an irregular shape over bright orange sand but it was felt this was a natural phenomenon and that 202, 201 and 200 were all natural and that 196 was the only archaeological disturbance within this trench.

Trench 10

Trench 10 (not illustrated) was 60m long and situated west of trench 9. The ploughsoil overlaid a thick deposit of reddy brown subsoil some of which had been disturbed, possibly by subsoiling. There was no evidence for any archaeological features anywhere in the trench.

Trench 11-15

These trenches were all dug by mechanical excavator using a 1m bucket in the heavily wooded area east of the A140.

The evidence from these trenches was fairly consistent. It indicated a dark brown sandy topsoil over a reddish brown subsoil, the combined depth of these layers ranged between .6m and .8m as the topsoil was uneven ranging between .2m and .4m compared with a fairly consistent .4m layer of the reddish brown subsoil. Root disturbance was extensive throughout the trenches and extended in places below the subsoil. The subsoil overlay silt and clay. A shallow ditch, 1m wide, running north to south crossed trench 13 and may have been detected in trench 14 although here it was very insubstantial. The brown soil in all these trenches was quite damp and the bottom .1m of trenches 14 and 15 became waterlogged after being left open for a short period.

3. The Finds

The trial trenching produced a small number of finds from the machine stripping and the limited cleaning which followed in damp conditions. The base of the trenches was also metal detected.

The finds from the trenches

<u>Trench 7</u>			
<u>Features</u>	<u>Pottery</u> (nos. shards)	<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Tile</u> (nos. pieces)
184	3	2nd Century +	
185	1	Roman	
187	8	3rd/4th Century	2
<u>Trench 8</u>			
211	2	Roman	
212			
2		Late Roman	1
215	1	Roman	2
<u>Trench 11</u>			
178	2	1 Roman, 1 Iron Age	1

6 fragments of fired clay were also recovered from feature 187 in trench 7, and 100 pottery sherds of

generally 2nd to 3rd century date were also recovered from the spoil heaps of trenches 7 and 8.

The metal detection finds:

<u>Trench 7</u>	
<u>Feature</u>	<u>Description</u>
183	Coin 318-324 Constans
184	Iron key, Roman
184	Bronze fitting, Roman ?
184	Iron nail shaft
187	Coin 270-273
193	Bronze buckle fragment

4. Interpretation

Trench 7

This trench contained at least 5 archaeological features: contexts 183, 184, 187, 188 and 185, all of which produced Roman finds. The principal elements were undoubtedly the large north to south ditch (?) 183 and the broadly east to west ditch 187. Each produced a coin, from the 4th and 3rd century respectively. A significant amount of an apparently undisturbed dark flint soil was removed during machining over the eastern 15m of trench.

Trench 8

Two archaeological features were clearly exposed. Contexts 209, 210, 211 and 212, are judged to be layers or recuts of a single feature, (probably the continuation of feature 183 from trench 7) and the much smaller diagonal ditch 214. The dark soil present in trench 7 was absent here suggesting a poorer level of preservation below the ploughsoil.

Trench 9

Feature 196 was probably the only disturbance in this trench, only one side was exposed but it may represent the further continuation of ditch 183 from trench 7 although this is speculative and it produced no datable material. The feature lay directly below the ploughsoil.

Trenches 11-15

Trenches 11-15 east of A140 were dug into largely undisturbed ground, except for ^{the} network of roots from the Scolle plantation. The small number of Roman finds seen in the trench spoil and the discovery of a solitary Roman ditch is explained by its position adjoining the Roman road and does not suggest there are significant archaeological remains in this area.

5. Discussion

Trenches 7-9 and trench 1a from the earlier evaluation give a good indication of the extents of Roman features in this area and of the state of preservation of the archaeological layers. The dark soil horizon revealed in the sections may be of special interest as the survival of late Roman layers associated with rural settlements is fairly erratic due to intensive agricultural practice.

On the basis of this Figure 5 shows two areas, the largest area marks the projected limit of the main Roman features, with the smaller area showing the extent of the dark soil horizon below the ploughsoil. These areas cover approximately 2,600 square metres and 1,800 square metres respectively.

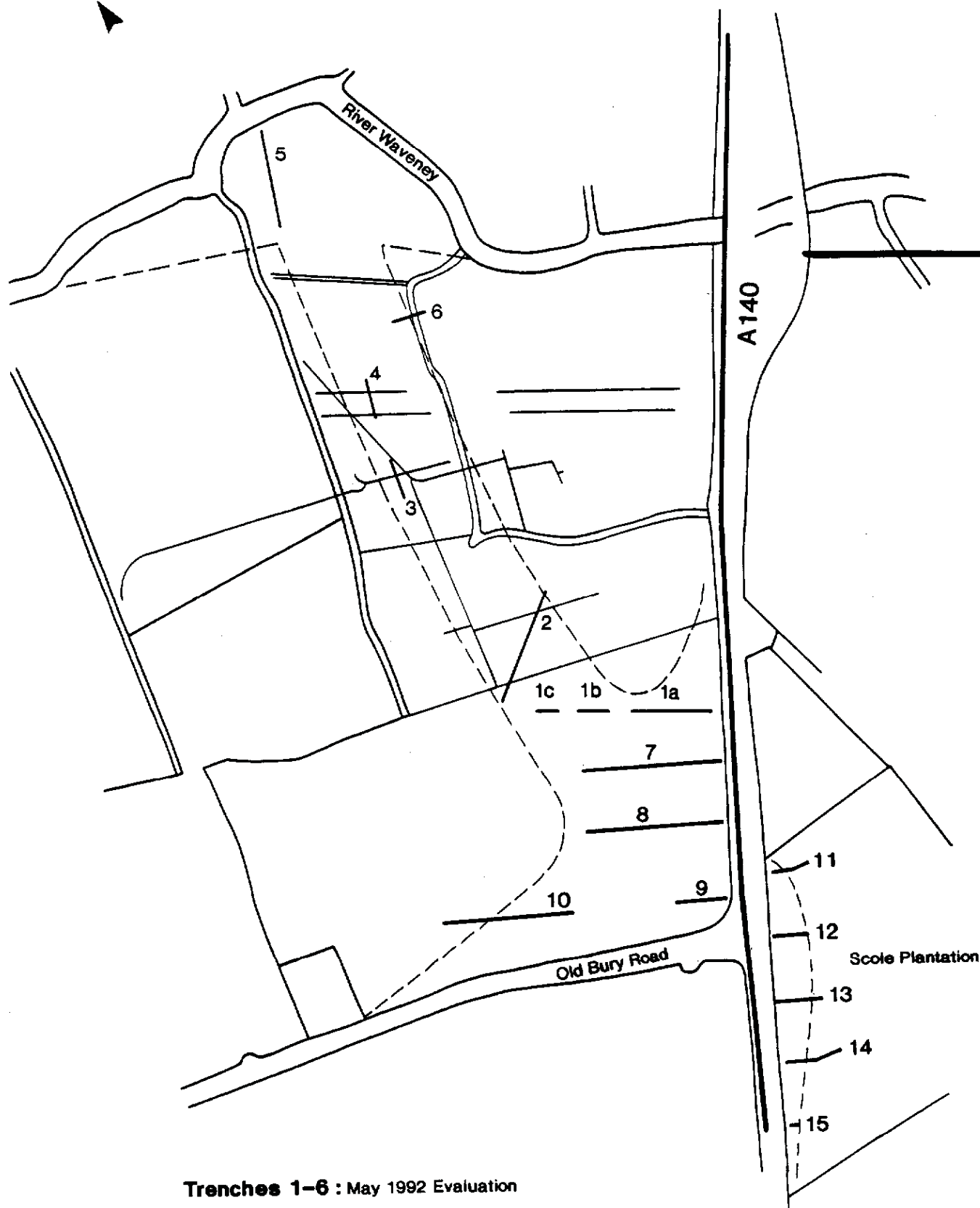
Based on the results from the two evaluations carried out in the southern area of the field it is recommended that an area of 2,600 square metres be excavated prior to destruction.

The results of the survey carried out in the Scolle plantation do not warrant further excavation although it is recommended an archaeologist be present while earth moving takes place in this area.

6. Appendix

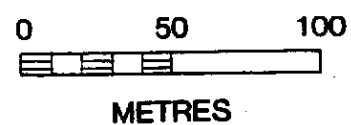
Environmental work

Samples taken in the north of the field in the earlier assessment phase have been submitted to Ms. Patricia Wiltshire for evaluation of the pollen evidence potential. The work will be completed by April 1993.



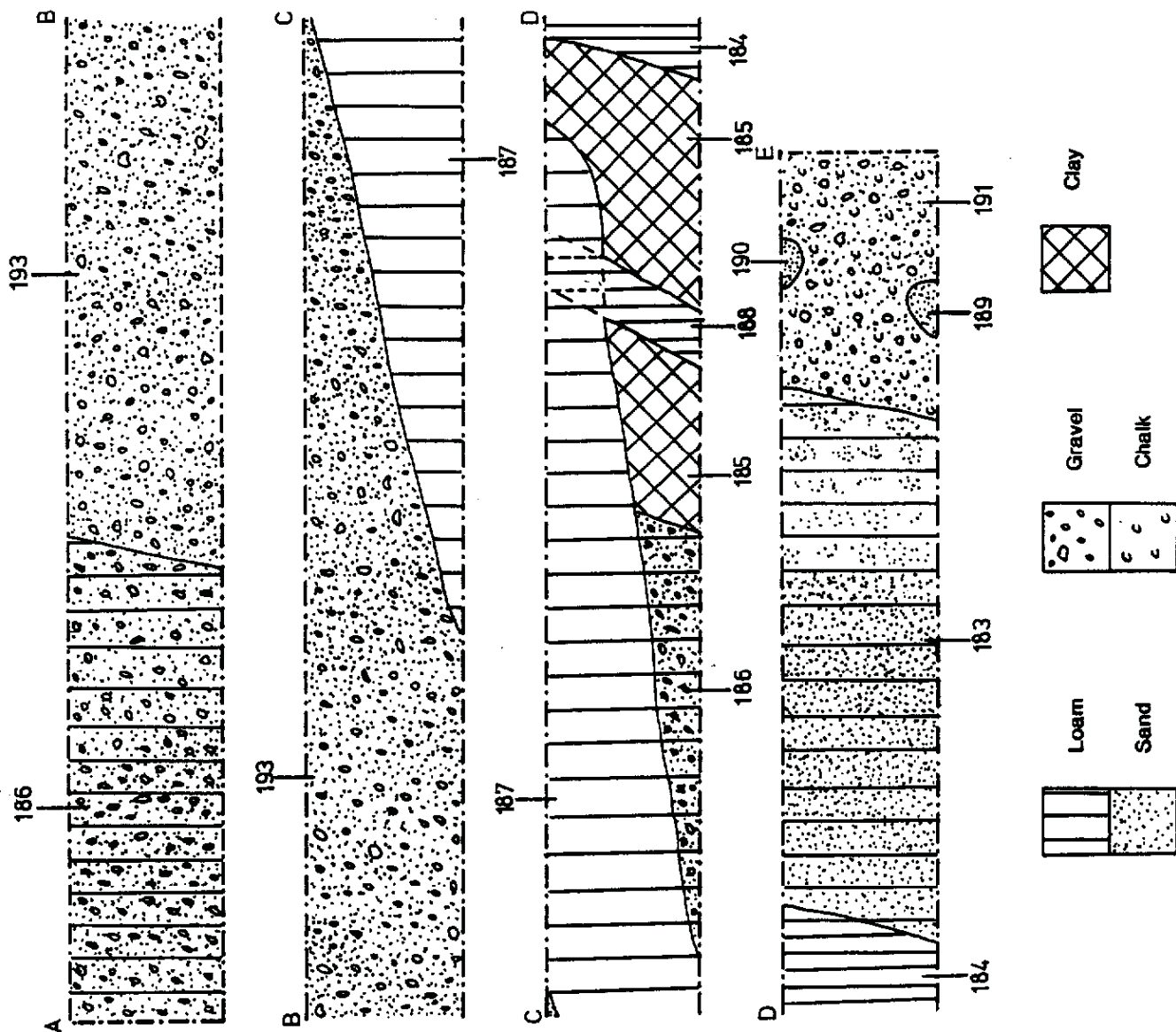
Trenches 1-6 : May 1992 Evaluation

Trenches 7-15 : January 1993 Evaluation.



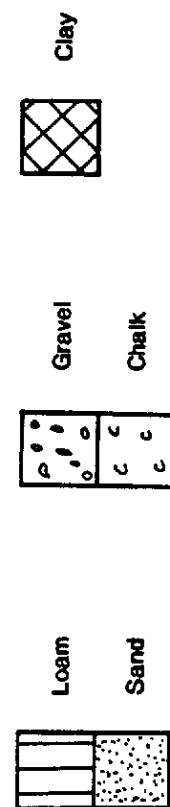
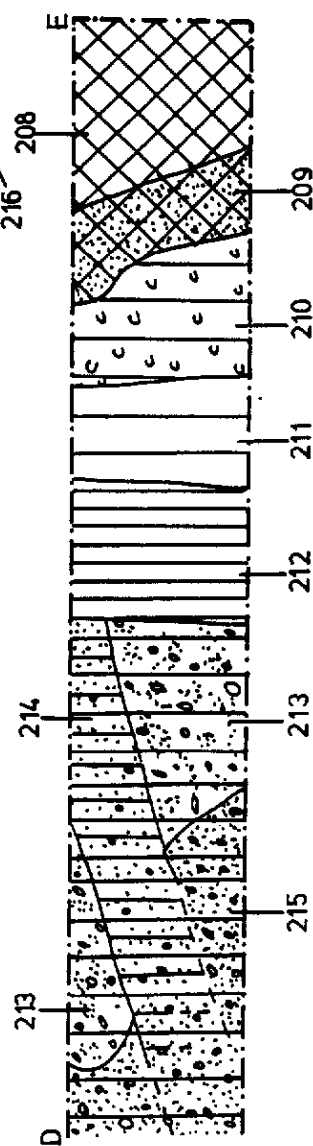
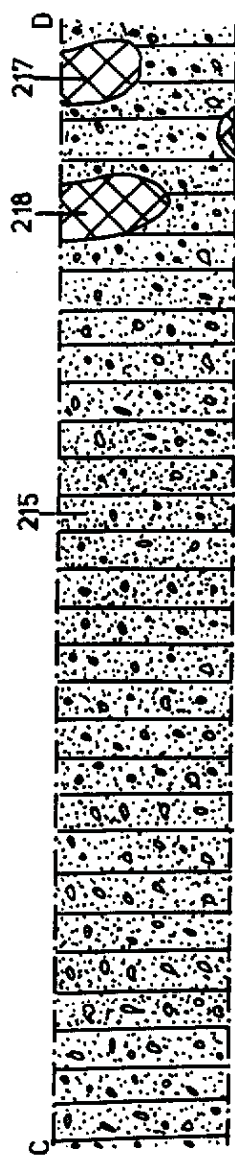
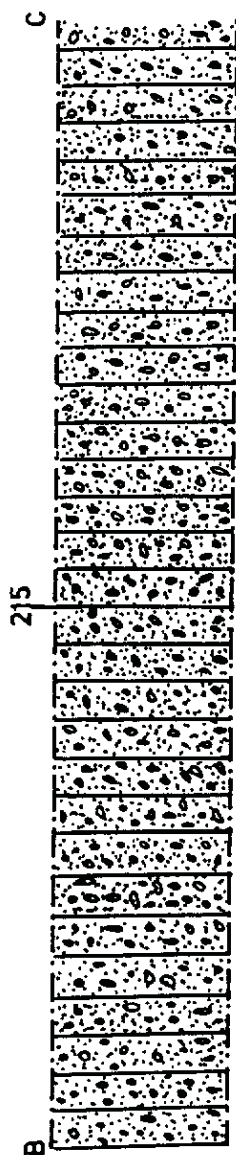
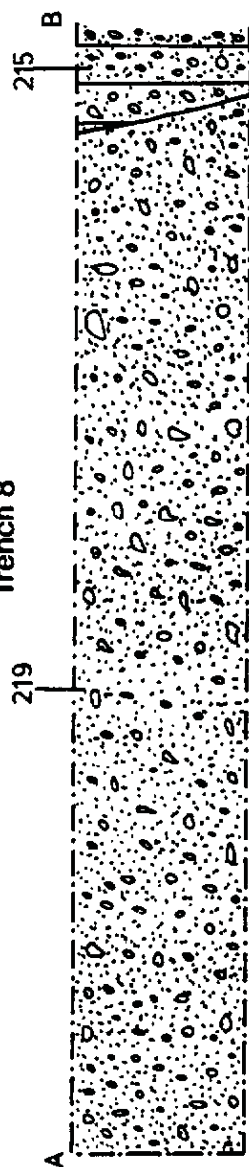
1. Location of trial trenches. Scale 1:2500.

Trench 7



2. Plan of trench 7. Scale 1:100.

Trench 8

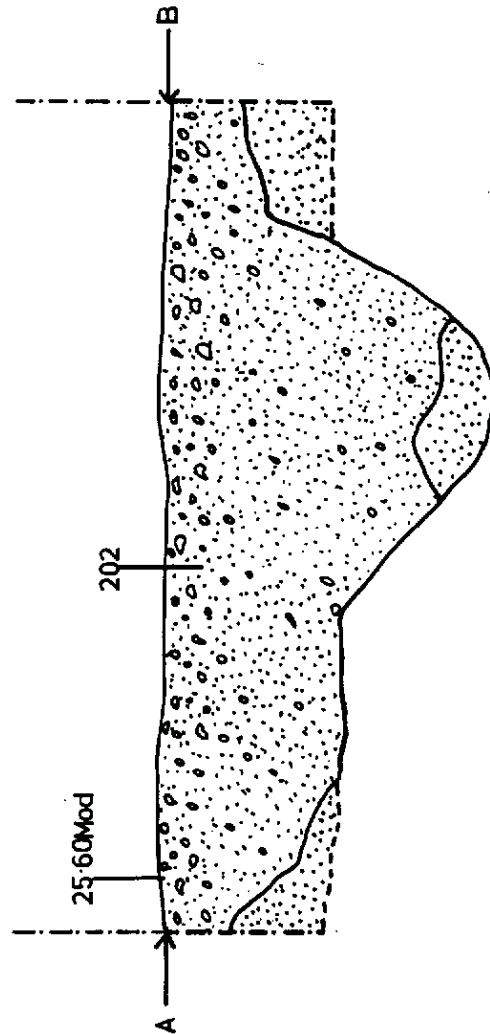
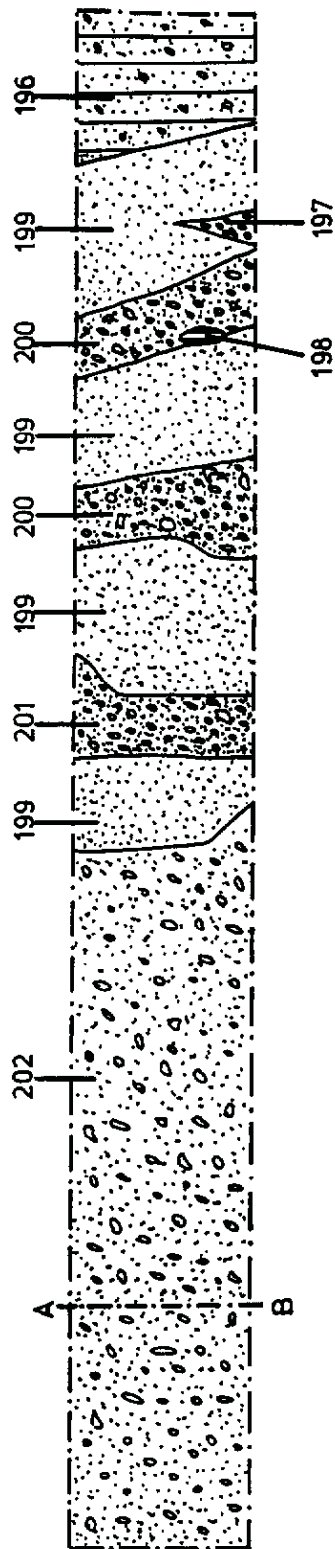


3. Plan of trench 8. Scale 1:100.



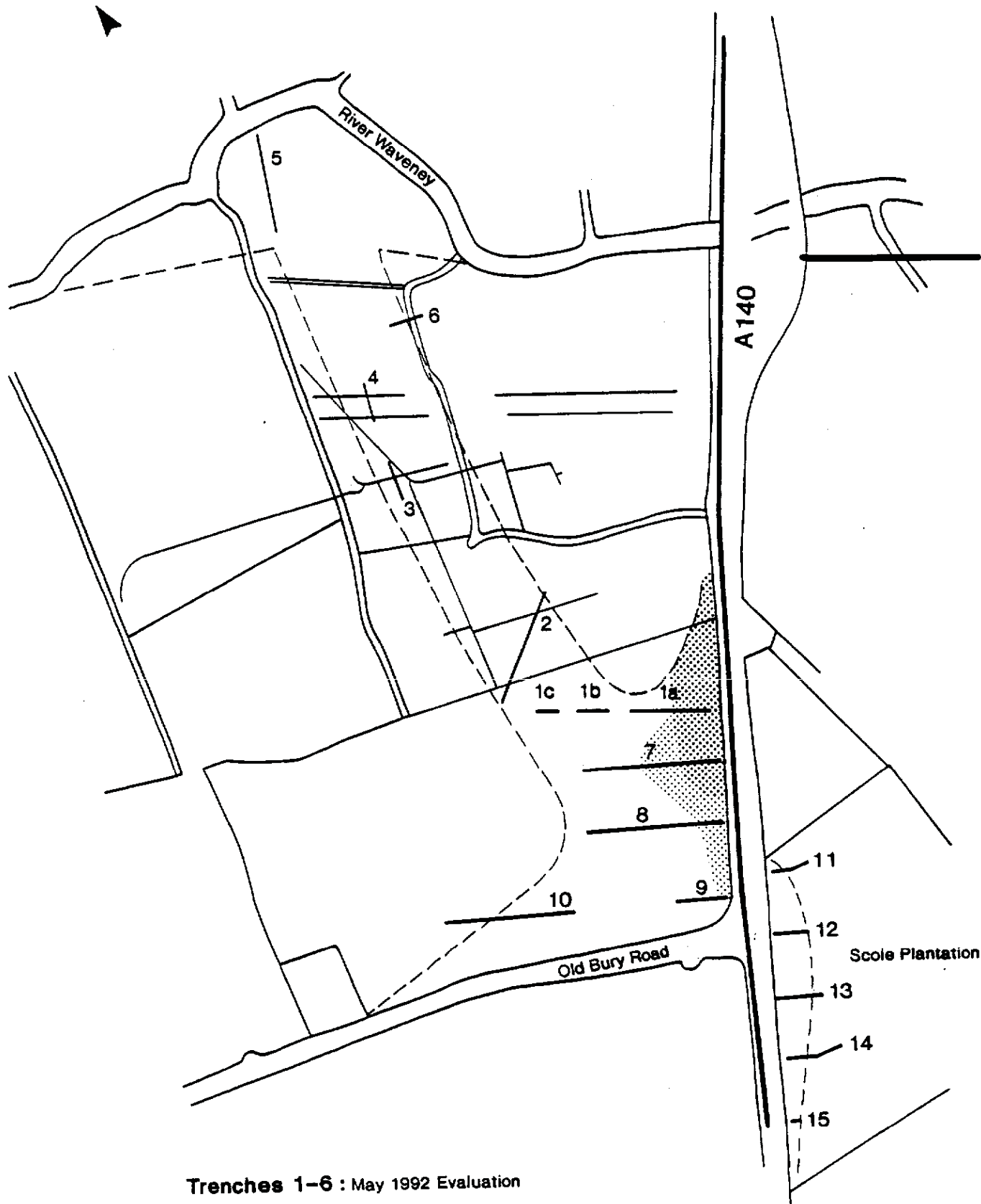


Trench 9





4. Plan of trench 9. Scale 1:100.

Section of feature 202 in trench 9. Scale 1:20.



Trenches 1-6 : May 1992 Evaluation

Trenches 7-15 : January 1993 Evaluation.

-  Dark earth layer
-  Archaeological deposits

0 50 100
METRES

5. Location of archaeological deposits. Scale 1:2500