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Northern Archaeological Associates

A1 MOTORWAY: WALSHFORD TO DISHFORTH
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY & TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

FOR

BULLEN AND PARTNERS

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A1 MOTORWAY: WALSHFORD TO DISHFORTH

EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the results of a programme of trial trenching undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates for Bullen and Partners (Design Consultants to the Department of Transport) as part of an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a new motorway on the western side of the existing A1 dual-carriageway between Walshford and Dishforth in North Yorkshire. The trenches were located on the section of the A1 west of Boroughbridge (Fig. 1) and the work was undertaken throughout March 1993.

The programme of work was undertaken in order to verify the results of geophysical and fieldwalking surveys undertaken in accordance with a specification drawn up jointly by North Yorkshire County Council and English Heritage. It was not possible, however, due to constraints on access, to undertake work in two other areas identified for evaluation, (Fields 7 and 89), prior to construction commencing. These areas were evaluated after topsoil stripping under an extended watching brief condition.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Project background

The programme of trial excavation was related to the construction of a new dual 3 lane motorway at the western side of the existing dual 2 lane all-purpose A1 between Walshford and Dishforth, with new motorway junctions with the A59 and A6055 at Allerton Moor and Boroughbridge. A brief for a Stage II Archaeological Evaluation drawn up jointly by North Yorkshire County Council and English Heritage was issued by Bullen and Partners acting as Design Consultants to the Department of Transport in December 1993. Northern Archaeological Associates undertook fieldwalking and geophysical surveys in those areas specified in the brief between the end of January and the beginning of March 1993. (The results of the rapid and intensive fieldwalking survey undertaken as part of this Stage II Archaeological Evaluation are presented in NAA Report 93/17). The subsequent programme of trial excavation work undertaken during March was intended to refine and enhance the results of geophysical and fieldwalking surveys in order to determine the extent and importance of the archaeology so that an appropriate mitigation strategy could be designed for the sites identified.

2.2 Trial trenching

A total of eight trial trenches were excavated in Fields 73, 74, 76, 77, 79 and 2000 on the eastern and western side of the existing A1 (Fig. 2). The location of the trenches

was determined by the need to test the results of the geophysical surveys which had been undertaken in advance in each of these fields (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, Reports 93/14 and 93/31). The results of these surveys are summarised in section 3 below.

2.3 Archaeological background

An archaeological assessment of the route consisting of a desktop study and rapid field survey was undertaken by M. Griffiths & Associates in 1991. The assessment examined all available published and unpublished archaeological records, aerial photographs, Ordnance Survey and other cartographic evidence. A rapid fieldwalking survey was also undertaken for most of the fields within the route corridor.

Although important prehistoric sites occurred in the area, the assessment indicated that there was very little recorded archaeology along or immediately adjacent to the route corridor. The field survey confirmed this general conclusion and indicated that there was likely to be no archaeological interest of sufficient importance to warrant changing the proposed route. Out of some 120 fields affected by development, 14 warranted further evaluation. Further archaeological work was required as part of a staged programme of investigations to evaluate the nature and importance of the cropmark site and flint scatters, and to recommend measures or further works to mitigate the effects of the road improvements on the archaeology where necessary. A number of arable fields which had not been accessible required rapid fieldwalking to establish their archaeological status.

3.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

The areas identified for geophysical survey were specified in the brief for the Stage II Archaeological Evaluation. The survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford using a Geoscan FM36 fluxgate gradiometer logging 800 readings for each 20m grid square. The display options provided in the survey reports (GSB 93/14 & 93/31) included X-Y plots and dot-density plots, together with a diagrammatic interpretation of the anomalies in each field.

3.1 Field 7

Field 7 was situated to the west of the A1, 0.5km north of the village of Walshford. The field was under a young cereal crop and was surveyed using a gradiometer.

A cropmark of a possible rectilinear field system/settlement was rectified and plotted during the assessment stage by M. Griffiths and Associates and the gradiometer survey area covered the eastern part of the cropmark. The only significant anomaly recorded was a slightly curved stretch of ditch measuring approximately 100m x 3m running towards the south-east corner of the field. The position of this ditch can be correlated with the southernmost ditch illustrated on the rectified plot of the cropmark. No further anomalies were recorded, although the proximity of the A1 may have effected the instrumentation during the survey of the eastern side of the area.

3.2 Field 73

Field 73 was separated from Field 76 to the north by a dismantled railway line. Two survey areas were investigated within the field. The first ran parallel, and adjacent to the western side of the A1 and was within the proposed corridor. The second was further to the west and was designed to establish the southern extent of the fort first located in Field 76.

The clearest anomalies at the northern end of the eastern survey area were probably caused by former ridge and furrow. A concentration of pit-type anomalies was present in the central part of the survey and a linear anomaly ran in a north to south direction. In the second survey area, to the west, the strongest readings came from pit-type anomalies, although the south-east corner of the fort defences were also detected, although as a much weaker anomaly.

3.3 Field 74

Field 74 was situated to the east of the A1 and immediately to the west of the field in which two of the Devil's Arrows standing stones are located. The field was under a young cereal crop and two contiguous areas, measuring approximately 1.5 hectares were surveyed.

The principal anomalies included a number of rectilinear ditches which appeared to converge on a point at the approximate centre of the survey area, and several discrete 'pits'. The significance of these features was enhanced by their proximity to the Devil's Arrows, and the 'pits' in particular produced readings comparable to the standing stones in the adjacent field. It is possible that these 'pits' could be intimately associated with the megalithic monument. Towards the northern end of the survey area a trackway aligned east - west was thought to represent an extension of the Roman road identified in Field 76 to the west.

3.4 Field 76

Field 76 was situated to the west of the A1 and immediately north of a dismantled railway. The field was under a young cereal crop and an area of 2.3ha, parallel to the existing A1, was surveyed initially. This survey identified the corner of very regular double-ditched enclosure which was interpreted as the north-east corner of a Roman fort. A second area to the west measuring approximately 1.9ha was subsequently surveyed in order to map the extent of the Roman fort. This indicated that the fort was linked by a short road to an east-west road which led to a crossing of the River Ure. The area between the fort and the road appeared to contain a significant number of anomalies which were interpreted as evidence of extra-mural settlement. Although they decreased slightly, these anomalies extended to the east of the fort into the area affected by the road corridor. In this area the survey identified part of the Roman road, a series of discrete pit type features and an outwork ditch, aligned north-south. The linear ditch was approximately 140 metres long and 3m wide and ran towards the River Ure - although the ditch was not plotted in field 77 to the north. The orientation of the linear ditch was noticeably different from that of the enclosure. Further linear ditches may also have been present but these were less well-defined.

3.5 Field 77

Field 77 was situated to the west of the A1 immediately south of the River Ure. The field was under pasture with visible ridge and furrow earthworks and an area of approximately 0.85 hectares was surveyed.

At the south-east corner of the field the survey identified a series of equi-distant anomalies represent ridge and furrow earthworks. No further anomalies could be identified. A large ferrous anomaly in the north-east corner of the survey area is likely to have been caused by the modern bridge abutment over the River Ure.

3.6 Field 2000

Field 2000 was situated to the south of Bar Lane between the east side of the A1 and Bar House. The principal anomalies were two ditch-like features which may have related to former field boundaries.

4.0 TRIAL TRENCHING

4.1 Background

On the basis of the results of the geophysical survey it was recommended that trial trenching was undertaken in fields 7, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78/79, and 2000. The aim of the work was to evaluate potential archaeological features identified as geophysical anomalies lying within the road corridor, in order to establish

- a) the depth at which archaeological features survived
- b) how easily features could be recognised
- c) the nature and density of features not identified by the geophysical survey
- d) the maximum depth of the archaeology
- e) the potential for palaeoenvironmental sampling

This information was required in order that the need for further excavation could be fully assessed and, where this was demonstrated, so that an appropriate excavation strategy could be developed, including accurate cost and timetable estimates.

With the exception of field 76 a single trench was required in each of the fields listed above to evaluate possible features identified by geophysical survey. In field 76 three trenches were required to determine the full extent of archaeology within the corridor. In field 77 the trial trench was undertaken to establish whether features were masked by alluvial deposits.

4.2 Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated using a 360 degree excavator with a toothless bucket. The soil was removed down to the first significant archaeological deposit and further cleaning was undertaken by hand. Each feature within a trench was

recorded and a sample of the features were excavated and recorded in greater detail. Soil samples were taken for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

4.3 Excavation results

The following list provides a concordance between trench number and field number:

Trial Trench	Field
1	77
2	76
3	76
4	76
5	73
6	74
7	2000
8	79

4.3.1 Field 77 - Trial Trench 1

Trial Trench 1 was located in Field 77 and was a machine-dug pit measuring approximately 5m by 5m and originally excavated to a depth of about 2.5m. Immediately below the turf and topsoil horizon was a shallow depression (104) filled with a dark grey silty clay (102 and 103). An homogenous buff-coloured silty clay (108) extended below the depth of the water table. Feature 104 was probably associated with the prominent ridge and furrow system visible as an earthwork to the east and west of the trial trench.

For health and safety reasons the trench was backfilled to a depth of 0.8m before its sides were cleaned and recorded. Although there was definite evidence of alluvial build up, no evidence was found that this masked archaeological features.

4.3.2 Field 76 - Trial Trench 2

This field was of particular archaeological significance due to the discovery by geophysical survey of a previously unknown Roman fort immediately to the west of the motorway corridor. Three trial trenches were excavated in this field (TT2, TT3 TT4), each measuring approximately 40m long x 4m wide. These trenches were intended to investigate anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and to determine whether the density of archaeological features varied across the corridor. Trial trench 2 was the most northerly of three trial trenches.

Archaeological deposits were first observed in trench 2 at a depth of approximately 0.60m below the present ground surface at which point several linear features and a double posthole alignment were identified. Posthole group 204-219 formed the eastern alignment and posthole group 223-238 the western alignment of a double row, c. 2m apart, and together probably forming a section of a box rampart aligned in a north to south direction. Seven metres to the east of the box rampart deposits 200 and 221 were probably the fills of ditch 222, running parallel to the rampart postholes.

The depth of overburden was significantly greater in the northern part of the field and this was probably due to the slope of the field towards the river. Ten metres of the trench at its western end were abandoned due to waterlogging caused by seepage from the trench sides.

4.3.3 Field 76 - Trial Trench 3

Trial trench 3 was located 70m north of trial trench 2 and 51m south of trial trench 4. Nineteen features were provisionally identified as belonging to the Roman period including 4 pits that contained iron working debris, (contexts 312, 318, 321 and 353). Slag from these features consisted of a ferrous residue with iron objects fused together in a block. There were also the remains of a hearth (350), an animal burial (343) and a substantial ditch (327). Parallel to, and west of, this latter ditch was a double post hole alignment (of nine posts) spaced approximately 1.0 - 1.2m apart. They appeared to be a southern extension of the alignment identified in trench 2.

At the far western end of the trench a series of recut and intercutting ditches was recorded. The earliest in the sequence appeared to be ditch 310 and sherds of Roman courseware pottery were recovered from the fill 309. This ditch appeared to form the northern side of the roadway identified in the geophysical survey. The two north to south orientated ditches cutting ditch 310 were probably post-Roman.

4.3.4 Field 76 - Trial Trench 4

Trial Trench 4 was situated at the southern end of Field 76. Three roughly circular pits (406, 410 and 415) all contained burnt debris and may have been rubbish pits associated with activity outside the Roman fort, which lay about 40m to the west of the trench. A small number of other features were investigated but all of these turned out to be natural stony patches. At the west end of the trench a thick layer up to 0.4m deep was recorded overlying the natural subsoil. No finds were recovered from it but it appeared to be a possible dump deposit.

All the excavated features within trench 4 were no more than 0.4m deep, and it possible that this indicates truncation perhaps by medieval ploughing. This may explain the relative sparseness of archaeology compared with trenches 2 and 3 further downslope.

4.3.5 Field 73 - Trial Trench 5

Trial trench 5, situated in Field 73, was positioned close to the existing A1 and aligned north-south because space was restricted as a result of refencing following the removal of the eastern hedgerow along the base of the embankment. A curvilinear ditch was recorded cutting diagonally north-east to south-west across the trench. Two sondages (506 and 510) were excavated across it and the second produced Roman pottery and a Roman silvered strap buckle. Two medieval plough furrows (502 and 508), and three modern field drains were also recorded within the trench. All of the features were cut into a dense, compacted silty clay. The plough furrows at the northern end of the

trench were on the same alignment as visible ridge and furrow earthworks elsewhere in the field.

4.3.6 Field 74 - Trial Trench 6

Trial Trench 6 was located in the south-west corner of Field 74, immediately to the east of the A1 and to the north of Bar Lane. Two of the standing stones known as the Devil's Arrows were situated in the adjacent field to the east.

A wide shallow feature with amorphous edges (609,610) was recorded at the western end of the trench and a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill. The feature was aligned north to south and contained a small pit towards its southern end. It was overlain by a later ditch (605) which formed a modern field boundary and was removed in the 1960's. This later feature was cut into a layer of sandy silt 0.4m deep (601) which overlay and filled the earliest features. Where this layer was removed elsewhere in the trench no archaeological features were encountered above natural sand.

4.3.7 Field 2000 - Trial Trench 7

Trial Trench 7 was located in Field 2000 to the south of Bar Lane, and to the west of Bar House. The trench contained evidence of a series of ditches, some of which matched the geophysical plot, together with traces of a metalled surface flanked by ditches which was interpreted as being a Roman road.

A spread of cobbles (711) 4.5m wide and extending across the full width of the trench, was flanked to north and south by two parallel ditches (713 and 703 respectively). The cobble surface was lain directly over the natural subsoil (712), although an area of subsidence suggested that it could overlay other features. Some cobbles were set into the surface of the northern ditch 713 and others formed part of its fill (714) indicating that the ditch was broadly contemporary with the surface. Flanking ditches are typical of Roman roads and samian pottery from immediately above its surface, indicated that it may have been relatively short-lived. A rectilinear slot (705), aligned at right-angles to the road may have formed part of a Roman roadside structure although no corroborative artefactual evidence or associated surfaces were found.

4.3.8 Trial Trench 8

Trench 8 was situated in Field 79 north of the River Ure, and south of Skelton Lane. The trench was cut through a pasture field which contained remnants of ridge and furrow. The earliest recorded feature consisted of a ditch (822) aligned north to south and some 6m in length. The feature extended southwards beyond the trench. Its fill contained several fragments of Iron Age pottery and it was sealed by a layer of sandy silt (823) which contained Samian and Iron Age pottery. All the other features observed within the trench cut into this layer. These included a hearth (805) with an associated group of small pits, and two ditches, (804 and 808), which were aligned east to west. The hearth and ditches cut into 823 have been tentatively dated to the Roman period.

5.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In Field 77 neither the geophysical survey nor the subsequent trial trench produced any evidence for archaeological remains and it is likely that the road corridor does not have a significant impact in this area. The northern extent of the archaeological remains identified in Field 76 to the south has not, however, been fully mapped and it is possible that they may extend slightly into this area.

The evidence from the geophysical survey and trial trenching in Field 76 suggests that the road corridor will cross an area of intensive extra-mural activity, possibly settlement, associated with the adjacent fort. The greatest concentration of features occurred in trench 3. To the north the density of features decreased towards the river, while to the south fewer features were recorded possibly as a result of plough truncation. The plough soil was quite deep (between 0.6-0.7m) and it was felt that archaeological features could have been masked from the geophysical survey. It is considered that ground preparation activities, prior to the construction of the embankment, would have a major adverse impact here.

In Field 73 to the south of 76 the geophysical survey identified relatively few anomalies and although the trial trench did locate part of a large Roman ditch no other features relating to this period were identified. The plough truncation identified to the north may also have affected deposits here, with archaeology surviving mainly in the hollows associated with the extant ridge and furrow. Despite this, because of the proximity of the area to the fort, it is considered that ground preparation activities, prior to the construction of the embankment, would have a major adverse impact.

In Field 74 to the east of the present A1 the major geophysical anomalies lay outside area to be affected by development. Trial trenching in the south-west corner of the field recorded two small, possibly prehistoric features, but these did not appear to be associated with any other significant deposits or features. The impact of road construction in this area on archaeological remains is therefore relatively minor.

In Field 2000 the geophysical survey revealed limited evidence of linear archaeological anomalies towards the southern end of the area. The subsequent trial trench identified a section of Roman road, aligned east to west, with flanking ditches and possible road side development to the north. The road corridor affects a triangular area in this field and archaeological remains will be affected only towards the apex of this area. The corridor will cut the earlier road at 90 degrees, and although some archaeology will be affected, this will only be over a limited area.

North of the River Ure in Field 79 geophysics revealed evidence of an early field system apparently predating the existing ridge and furrow. The trial trench revealed a significant number of prehistoric and Roman features with associated pottery and other finds suggesting that the features were associated with settlement activity. Ground preparation works associated with construction of the surcharges, embankment and drain will severely damage or destroy these remains.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 In Field 77 a watching brief should be undertaken during topsoil stripping and any archaeological remains revealed should be recorded in advance of construction.
- 6.2 In Field 76 archaeological deposits should remain in-situ and the starter layer should be placed directly over the existing topsoil. At least one metre of fill material should be in place before the contractor is allowed to traffic the area. Full excavation of a 20m wide strip on the western edge of the corridor should be undertaken due to disturbance of archaeological remains by a deep large diameter motorway surface water drain.
- 6.3 In Field 73 archaeological deposits should remain in-situ and the starter layer should be placed directly over the existing topsoil. At least one metre of fill material should be in place before the contractor is allowed to traffic the area. Due to the relatively low density of archaeological remains a watching brief should be conducted during the construction of a deep large diameter drain in a 20m wide strip on the western side of the corridor. In order to allow sufficient time for the investigation of any remains uncovered, the main contractor should not have access to the stripped area for a further period of 5 days.
- 6.4 In Field 74, due to the relatively low density of archaeological remains recorded during trial trenching, a watching brief should be conducted during topsoil stripping. In order to allow sufficient time for the further investigation of any remains uncovered, the main contractor should not have access to the stripped area for a further period of 3 days.
- 6.5 In Field 2000, due to the relatively low density of archaeological remains recorded during trial trenching, a watching brief should be conducted during topsoil stripping. In order to allow sufficient time for the further investigation of any remains uncovered, the main contractor should not have access to the stripped area for a further period of 3 days.
- 6.6 In Field 79 excavation should take place within the areas of the surcharge embankments for the River Ure Bridge north abutment and the Langthorpe Bridge south abutment together with a linking corridor 10m wide inside the western motorway boundary fence. These areas will be disturbed during topsoil stripping, instrumentation installation, piling and drain construction. In the area between the surcharge embankments and on land required for an access route and working space the topsoil should be left in-situ and the main contractor should not be allowed to traffic the area until a minimum thickness of 0.6m of granular material has been placed.
- 6.7 Due to difficulties over access in Fields 7 and 89 preventing further evaluation through trial trenching, topsoil excavation in these area should be subject to a watching brief. In the event that archaeological remains are encountered the main contractor should not have access to the stripped area for a period of up to eight weeks to allow sufficient time for these to be excavated and recorded.

APPENDIX I

TRIAL TRENCH CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

TRIAL TRENCH 1 - FIELD 77

MEDIEVAL

Cut 104

This feature was visible in the east and west facing section of Trial Trench 1. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.35m deep, the width was more than 5m as neither top edge of this cut was visible in section. 104 cut into the natural and was a medieval plough furrow, part of a ridge and furrow system that could be seen on the surface of the field. It was filled by 102 and 103.

Fill 103

This primary fill of 104, sealed by 102, consisted of a compact dark grey silty clay. There were no finds.

Fill 102

The upper fill of 104, which sealed 103, consisted of a compact dark grey, and dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained occasional small rectangular lenses of yellowish brown sand.

MODERN

Cut 107

A land drain cut not discernible in section. It was filled by 106 and 105.

Fill 106

Ceramic land drain still in use.

Fill 105

The backfill of 107.

Layer 101

Topsoil.

TRIAL TRENCH 2 - FIELD 76

ROMAN BOX RAMPART

2 parallel post pit alignments, Groups 203 and 239, ran north to south across the width of Trial Trench 2. Each one contained a well defined post pipe. None were excavated.

GROUP 203

Pit 207

Unexcavated post pit, filled by 206.

Fill 206

Consisted of a mixed dark grey and yellowish brown clay, roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 1.1m. This was the upper unexcavated fill of 207.

Cut 205

This was the post pipe for cut 207. It was oval shaped, 0.42m long east to west and 0.22m wide north to south. It was filled by 204.

Fill 204

Consisted of a compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal fragments and flecks. It also contained occasional burnt stone large enough to be post packing. This was the upper unexcavated fill of cut 205.

Pit 211

Post pit, filled by 210.

Fill 210

Fill description as for 206. It was roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 1.06m. This was the upper unexcavated fill of pit 211.

Cut 209

Post pipe for cut 211, filled by 208.

Fill 208

This was the upper backfill of post pipe 209, it was roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 0.3m. Fill description as for 204.

Pit 215

Post pit, unexcavated and filled by 214.

Fill 214

The fill of 215 was sub circular with a diameter of 0.82m. Description as for 206. This was the upper unexcavated fill of pit 215.

Cut 213

Post pipe for 215, filled by 212.

Fill 212

The fill of post pipe 213 was oval shaped, measured 0.38m long north to south and 0.18m wide east to W. Fill description as for 204. This was the upper unexcavated backfill of post pipe 213.

Pit 219

Post pit, unexcavated and filled by 218.

Fill 218

The fill of 219 measured 1.28m wide east to west and merged with fill 214, the fill of post pit 215. Fill description as for 206. This was the unexcavated upper fill.

Cut 217

Post pipe for post pit 219 and filled by 216.

Fill 216

This was the fill of 217, it was oval shaped and measured 0.4m long north to south and 0.22m wide east to west. Fill description as for 204. This was the upper unexcavated fill of post pipe 217.

GROUP 239

Pit 226

Post pit, filled by 225.

Fill 225

The fill of 226 was sub circular in shape. Approximately one third of this feature was outside the limit of excavation, but what was visible measured 0.9m in diameter. Fill description as for 206. This was the unexcavated upper fill of pit 226.

Cut 224

Post pipe for post pit 226, filled by 223.

Fill 223

This was the fill of 224 and it measured 0.22m in diameter with an estimated one half of the feature outside the limit of excavation. Fill description as for 204, and the unexcavated upper fill of post pipe 224.

Pit 230

Post pit filled by 229.

Fill 229

The fill of 230 measured 0.74m in diameter. See 206 for a general fill description. This was the upper unexcavated fill of pit 230.

Cut 228

Post pipe for the post pit 230, and filled by 227.

Fill 227

This measured 0.26m in diameter, see fill 204 for a general description of post pipe fills. This was the upper unexcavated upper fill of post pipe 228.

Pit 234

Post pit.

Fill 233

The fill of 234 measured 0.54m in diameter, the edge of the fill to the south east was indistinct. Fill description as for 206. This was the upper unexcavated fill of pit 234.

Cut 232

The post pipe for the post pit 234, and filled by 231.

Fill 231

The fill of 232 was roughly oval shaped, 0.22m long east to west and 0.18m wide. Fill description as for 204. This was the upper unexcavated fill.

Pit 238

Post pit filled by 237.

Fill 237

This fill of 238 was sub rectangular in shape, the edge of the fill being indistinct along the east side. Its length was more than 1m long east to west, and more than 0.84m long north to south, with a proportion of the fill outside the limit of excavation. Fill description as for 206. This was the upper unexcavated fill of pit 238.

Cut 236

Post pipe filled by 235.

Fill 235

This fill of post pipe 236 was roughly oval shaped and measured 0.26m long and 0.18m wide. Fill description as for 204. This was the upper unexcavated fill of post pipe 236.

OTHER FEATURES

Cut 222

This was a linear ditch which ran north to south across the full width of Trial Trench 2. It measured 1.6m wide 0.8m deep. The sides were straight and steep and it had a concave base. It was filled by 220 and 221.

Fill 221

The primary fill of 222, sealed by 220, consisted of a very compact blue grey slightly sandy clay. It measured 0.26m thick.

Fill 220

Consisted of a very compact yellow brown slightly sandy clay. It measured 0.52m thick, was the upper fill of 222 and sealed 221.

Cut 241

An unexcavated linear feature which ran north to south across the full width of the trial trench. It was filled by 240.

Fill 240

The top fill of 241 consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy clay and measured 0.6m wide.

Cut 243

An unexcavated feature which also ran across the full width of the trial trench north to south. It was filled by 242.

Fill 242

The west edge of this fill was clearly defined but the east edge was indistinct. Here it merged with the fill of another unexcavated feature, 245. The maximum width of this spread was 5.3m. The fill comprised of a grey sandy clay, and was the upper deposit.

Cut 245

An unexcavated feature which ran across the trial trench at an oblique angle, and was filled by 244.

Fill 244

The top fill of 245 consisted of a grey sandy clay. The west edge of this fill merged with fill 243.

Layer 202

This layer overlay all features, about 0.4m in depth was removed during machining.

Layer 201

A layer of topsoil that was removed during machining and was 0.3m deep.

TRIAL TRENCH 3 - FIELD 76

ROMANO BRITISH

Cut 306

This ditch ran east for 1.6m from the west limit of excavation and was then cut by ditch 304. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep, the sides and base were concave. It was filled by 305.

Fill 305

The fill of 306 consisted of a moderately compact orange brown sandy silt. It contained occasional large stones (0.2m across) and occasional smaller stones 1.5m across. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit.

Cut 310

This was a shallow ditch which was visible in the trench for 3.4m running east to west from the south limit of excavation. It was cut by ditch 308. It was 0.25m deep and more than 0.9m wide, the sides sloped gently and the base was concave. It was filled by 309.

Fill 309

The fill of ditch 310 consisted of a moderately compact grey orange brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stones 0.2m across. It also contained occasional stones 0.01m across and sherds of Roman rough cast ware.

Cut 312

This feature was a rectangular cut with square corners, vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.52m deep, 0.91m wide and more than 1m long as it entered the north baulk. It was filled by 319 and 311.

Fill 319

The primary fill of 312, sealed by 311, consisted of a moderately compact dark brown silt with fragments of charcoal up to 0.02m wide. It also contained sandstone fragments and pebbles up to 0.05m wide. Iron slag was also recovered from this context which was 0.25m thick.

Fill 311

The upper fill of 312, which sealed 319, consisted of a moderately compact medium brown sandy silt with charcoal fragments up to 0.01m wide. It also contained crushed sandstone flecks and occasional sandstone fragments up to 0.04m wide. Its depth was 0.22m and flint, iron slag and burnt stone came from this deposit.

Cut 314

This ditch ran north to south across the full width of Trial Trench 3. It measured 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by 313 and 330.

Fill 330

The primary fill of 314, sealed by 313, consisted of a moderately compact dark greyish brown sandy silt. It contained fragments and flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of sandstone 0.01m wide. It was 0.45m deep.

Fill 313

The upper fill of 314, which sealed 330, consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy silt. It contained frequent fragments and flecks of charcoal up to 0.03m wide. This fill also contained fragments of sandstone and some pottery.

Cut 318

This was a sub rectangular pit with rounded corners and steep, sometimes vertical sides with a slightly concave base. It measured 1.35m long 0.7m wide and 0.46m deep. It was filled by 317.

Fill 317

Consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with 0.03m wide patches of sand. It also contained crushed sandstone and charcoal fragments. A large amount of iron slag and iron work was recovered from 317.

Cut 321

This was a rectangular pit with rounded corners, vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.37m deep, 1.05m wide and 2m long. It was filled by 320.

Fill 320

The fill of 321 consisted of a moderately compact mottled greyish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional small sandstone fragments and pebbles up to 0.02m wide. This fill also contained slag and iron work, mainly near the bottom of the pit.

Cut 327

This feature was a substantial ditch which ran north to south across the full width of Trial Trench 3. It measured 2.4m wide, and its depth was not known as it was only partially excavated. It was filled by 335 and 326.

Fill 335

The primary fill of 327, which sealed 326, consisted of a moderately compact light greyish brown sandy silt with clay. There were occasional stone fragments up to 0.1m wide and Roman pottery. This was the primary fill of ditch 327.

Fill 326

The upper fill of ditch 327, which sealed 335, consisted of a moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.05m wide and some larger stones up to 0.3m wide. Finds were confined to a few flint fragments.

Cut 343

This feature was an irregularly shaped sub rectangular pit which contained an animal burial. It measured 0.4m deep, 1.8m long and more than 1.1m wide as it extended under the south baulk. The sides were fairly steep and the base flat. The top of the cut was difficult to follow until about 0.1m below the ground surface. It was filled by animal skeleton 348 and fill 342.

Skeleton 348

This articulated animal burial has been tentatively identified as a horse. It consisted of 4 limbs and a head but no torso.

Fill 342

The fill of burial 343 consisted of a moderately compact grey brown sandy silt. About 20% of the fill was made up of stones up to 0.25m wide and occasional stone fragments 0.01m to 0.02m wide.

Cut 353

This feature was not excavated. It was oval shaped and measured 0.8m long and 0.46m wide. It was filled by 344.

Fill 344

The unexcavated upper fill of 353 consisted of a dark greyish brown material similar to that found in pits 312, 318, and 321 and which contained iron slag.

Layer 350

This layer consisted of surviving fragments of a hard orange brown fired clay base of a horse shoe shaped hearth or oven. It contained Roman floor tiles and was constructed over ditch 314.

Layer 346

This was a layer of debris around hearth 350 consisting of a loose mottled dark greyish brown ash, silt and sand. There were also frequent patches of charcoal and occasional patches of burnt clay. It measured 0.1m thick and 0.6m long.

Layer 347

This layer of debris around hearth 350 consisted of a moderately compact mottled dark greyish brown silt and sand. It contained ash, and fragments and flecks of charcoal.

Cut 352

This was a number ascribed to the continuation of ditch 306. It was filled by 351.

Fill 351

The backfill of ditch 352 and the same context as fill 305.

POST ROMAN

Cut 308

This ditch ran north to south across the full width of Trial Trench 3, it measured 0.5m deep and 0.9m wide. It had steep sides and a rounded base and cut ditch 310. It in turn was cut by ditch 304 and filled with 307.

Fill 307

The fill of 308 consisted of a moderately compact grey orange brown sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.01m wide.

Cut 323

This was a shallow sub circular pit 0.08m deep and 0.57m in diameter with sides that were both steep and gently sloping. It had a concave base and allocated to the Post Roman period because the shallowness could indicate this was a post hole cut from a later ground level. It was filled by 322.

Fill 322

Consisted of a moderately compact light brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles up to 0.09m wide.

Cut 332

This was a sub circular pit with a diameter of 0.34m and 0.12m deep. The sides were almost vertical and the base was flat. Again this feature may have been a truncated post hole that was cut from a later ground surface. It was filled by 331.

Fill 331

Consisted of a moderately compact light brown silt with pebbles up to 0.1m wide.

POST MEDIEVAL/MODERN

Cut 304

This ditch ran north to south across the full width of Trial Trench 3. It measured 0.19m deep, 0.66m wide and had steep sides and a concave base. It was cut from beneath the topsoil and therefore had been truncated during machining, so its true depth was nearer 0.5m. It cut ditch 308 and was filled by 303.

Fill 303

Consisted of a moderately compact light greyish brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles under 0.1m wide.

Cut 339

This shallow circular pit measured 0.27m deep and 0.26m in diameter with vertical sides and a concave base. It was probably cut from a higher ground surface and was filled by 338.

Fill 338

Consisted of a moderately compact brown silt with occasional sandstone fragments up to 0.02m wide.

DATE UNKNOWN

Cut 316

This was a sub circular pit not well defined by excavation. It measured 0.2m deep and 0.4m in diameter with steep sides. It was filled by 315.

Fill 315

The fill of 316 consisted of a moderately compact light orange brown sandy silt with 30% pebbles up to 0.15m wide.

Cut 334

This small sub circular pit was more than 0.01m deep. It was 0.18m in diameter with vertical sides and therefore too narrow to excavate fully. This was probably a stake hole. It was filled by 333.

Fill 333

Consisted of a soft light brown silt with occasional sandstone fragments.

Cut 337

A small sub circular cut which measured 0.04m deep and 0.03m in diameter with steep sides and a rounded base.

This was probably another stake hole. It was filled by 336.

Fill 336

Consisted of a moderately compact brown silt with occasional sandstone fragments no greater than 0.02m wide.

Cut 341

This was a narrow rectangular cut with square corners which was not excavated. It was filled by 340.

Fill 340

Consisted of a grey brown sandy silt.

Cut 345

This was an unexcavated circular pit and was filled by 354.

Fill 354

Fill of 345 (not on soil plan, no context sheet)

Layer 302

This layer extended over the whole of Trial Trench 3 and consisted of a moderately compact light brown sand and silt. It contained sandstone fragments and rounded pebbles up to 0.1m wide. Its depth was up to 0.3m and it was removed during machining. This was a possible buried topsoil or alluvial deposit.

Layer 310

This layer also extended across the whole of the trench and was also removed during machining. It consisted of a moderately compact light grey brown sandy silt with a low organic

content. There were occasional sandstone fragments and pebbles up to 0.04m wide. It was generally a topsoil with a low stone content.

TRIAL TRENCH 4 FIELD 76

ROMAN

Cut 406

This was a roughly circular bowl shaped pit which measured 0.33m deep and 0.98m in diameter. It was filled by 402 and 403.

Fill 403

The primary fill of pit 406, sealed by 402, consisted of a compact dark brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks. It also contained occasional small patches of burnt red clay and grey clay. There was a moderate amount of small rounded pebbles. The finds from this fill consisted of some small pieces of burnt bone, an iron nail and one fragment of pottery.

Fill 402

In the backfill of cut 406 was a squareish compact brick red burnt clay block 0.25m wide and 0.07m thick. There were no finds from this fill. This was the upper fill of cut 406 and sealed 403.

Cut 410

This feature was a roughly circular bowl shaped pit which measured 0.22m deep and 1.13m in diameter. It was filled by 414.

Fill 414

The fill of pit 410 consisted of a soft dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, a moderate amount of small rounded pebbles and flecks of orange sand.

Cut 411

This was a roughly oval shaped shallow flat bottomed pit, possibly overcut on its west edge. It measured 1.2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled by 405.

Fill 405

The fill of 411 consisted of a fairly soft pale greyish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional charcoal flecks, occasional yellow flecks and a moderate amount of medium sized (about 0.08m) sub angular pebbles. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of coarse hand made pottery was recovered from this context.

Cut 415

This pit extended outside the south limit of excavation but was probably a roughly circular saucer shaped pit measuring 1.66m in diameter and 0.18m deep. It was filled by 416.

Fill 416

The fill of 415 consisted of a fairly loose dark greyish brown clayey silt. It contained a moderate amount of charcoal flecks and a moderate amount of pebbles no more than 0.02m wide. There were also occasional rounded pebbles measuring 0.05m-0.2m wide. One sherd of pottery was recovered from this context. It was noted that this deposit was quite humic in character.

MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

Cut 407

This was a shallow oval shaped feature and was probably natural. It was filled by 404.

Fill 404
The fill of 407.

Layer 408
A substantial layer of natural gravel.

Cut 409
An oval shaped area of tree root activity.

Cut 412
An oval shaped natural feature.

Cut 413
A modern feature.

Cut 417
Probably a natural hollow filled by 418.

Fill 418
The sandy fill of 417.

Layer 401
This was a buried soil up to 0.4m deep which was removed during machining and consisted of a compact mid brown sandy silt.

Layer 400
This was the topsoil that was removed during machining and consisted of a compact dark brownish grey sandy silt up to 0.3m deep.

TRIAL TRENCH 5 FIELD 73

ROMAN

Cut 506
This feature was probably a curvilinear ditch a glimpse of which was obtained from a sondage 0.6m wide and 2.8m long. This ditch was probably a continuation of cut 510 which was excavated in a sondage a few metres north of 506. Ditch 506 was 0.6m deep, the one edge visible in the sondage was slightly convex and slightly stepped. The base of the ditch was flat except for a semi circular depression 0.2m wide which entered the south baulk of the sondage. The ditch was filled by 505 and 513.

Fill 513
The primary fill of ditch 506, sealed by 505, consisted of a compact dark grey clay with patches of yellow sandy clay. There were no finds.

Fill 505
The upper fill of ditch 506, sealing 513, consisted of a very compact streaky and mottled mid greyish yellow, bluish grey and pale brown clay with occasional rounded pebbles. It also contained occasional animal bone. There were no finds.

Cut 510
This was probably the same curvilinear ditch as 506 and it was partially excavated in a sondage 1m wide and 6m long. It appeared to be running south west to north-east across Trial Trench 5. It measured 0.96m deep and 2m wide where the sides started to drop steeply, but

could have been up to 5m wide if the gradual rise which was visible in the west facing section was included. The sides were stepped and the base was flat. It was cut by a modern drain, 504, and plough furrow 502. Only a narrow section of the ditch was bottomed, about 0.3m. It was filled by 509.

Fill 509

The fill of ditch 510 consisted of a very compact streaky and mottled mid greyish yellow, bluish grey and pale brown silty clay. There were occasional patches of charcoal and occasional pebbles, as well as some animal bone. The bottom 0.4m was a very compact mid bluish grey silty clay with less mottling. Finds included Roman pottery and a Roman silvered strap buckle.

MEDIEVAL

Cut 502

This was a plough furrow which ran south-west to north-east for about two thirds of the length of the trench. It was partially excavated in a sondage 1m wide and 4m long at the south end of the trial trench. It measured 0.2m deep, 3.38m wide and ran parallel to plough furrow 508. It was filled by 501.

Fill 501

The fill of 502 consisted of a compact mid orange brown silty clay with frequent black flecks of coal and/or manganese. There were occasional brick or tile fragments and sub rounded pebbles.

Cut 508

This plough furrow ran south-west to north-east in the north-west corner of the trench for about one quarter of its length. It was no more than 0.25m deep and more than 2.6m wide extending outside the limit of excavation. The edges sloped gently with a very gradual break of slope towards a base obscured by the west limit of excavation. This furrow ran parallel to furrow 502 and was filled by 507.

Fill 507

The fill of 508 consisted of a compact mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It also contained occasional reddish brown flecks, moderate reddish brown mottling and occasional rounded pebbles.

MODERN FEATURES

Cut 504

Modern field drain filled by 503.

Fill 503

Fill of 504.

Cut 511

Small shallow circular pit filled by 512.

Fill 512

Fill of 511.

Layer 500

This shallow topsoil consisted of a fairly compact dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles. The layer was removed during machining and measured no more than 0.2m deep.

TRIAL TRENCH 6 FIELD 74

POSSIBLE PREHISTORIC FEATURES

Layer 601

This layer, up to 0.4m deep, covered the whole of the trench and appeared to include 608, the fill of ditch 610. It consisted of a compact mid orange brown sandy silt, with a moderate amount of rounded and angular pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. A machine dug sondage was placed through this layer in the north-east corner of trench 6 and reached natural sand. A small sondage dug by hand recovered one piece of as yet undated pottery. How old this buried soil is depends on whether one can be convinced that ditch 610 was prehistoric - only one small potsherd was recovered from this ditch.

Cut 609

This was a shallow ditch which appeared to follow the line of a later ditch 605 that was a field boundary up to the 1960s. It was 0.45m deep, about 5m wide and the sides had a very shallow gradient. The base was flat and was filled by 608.

Fill 608

The fill of 609 consisted of a compact dark greyish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles. A small fragment of possibly prehistoric pottery was recovered from this context.

Cut 613

This pit was only partially visible as it extended outside the south limit of excavation. It measured 0.25m deep, 0.8m long east to west and more than 0.18m wide north to south. There was a sharp break of slope, the sides were straight and almost vertical, the base was not visible. It was cut into the side of ditch 609 and filled with 612.

Fill 612

The fill of pit 613 consisted of a very loose and voided mid orange brown sandy silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

MODERN

Cut 605

A shallow ditch cut from the bottom of topsoil 600 and was filled by 604.

Fill 604

Fill of 605.

Cut 603

A tree hole presumably from a tree that once formed part of the hedge line which ran alongside ditch 605. It was filled by 602.

Fill 602

Fill of 603.

Layer 611

This layer was cut by 603 and consisted of a compact mid reddish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. It was removed during machining and was up to 0.3m deep.

Layer 600

Topsoil, no description.

TRIAL TRENCH 7 FIELD 2000

Layer 700

Loosely compacted dark grey brown sandy silt, with inclusions of rounded limestone fragments <0.015m across. It was 0.28-0.3m thick and extensive over the whole trench. This topsoil layer was removed by machine.

Layer 701

A firm red-brown sandy silt, a buried topsoil, with occasional rounded limestone fragments <0.015m across, occasional charcoal flecks, and some patches of manganese staining. It was 0.25-0.3m thick and covered the whole trench. This layer was excavated by machine.

Layer 712

Dense orange yellow clay that comprised the natural subsoil. The depth was not established and it extended over the whole trench.

ROMAN FEATURES

Layer 711

Layer of metalling consisting of closely-set, well-sorted, sub-rounded cobbles, from 0.04 x 0.04 x 0.04m to 0.1 x 0.1 x 0.1m in size, averaging 0.07 x 0.07 x 0.07m. The deposit was a single layer thick and its extent was >4.5m N-S and it was traced over the whole 4m width of the trench. It was truncated on the south side and near the north edge (the highest point).

Layer 710

Firm, mottled orange-brown (with occasional grey patches) silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It was 0.22m thick and 2.6m wide, extending over the whole width of the trench. Finds included samian sherds near the base.

Cut 713

A ditch, at least 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. The break of slope was gentle at the top and unknown at the bottom, whilst the one exposed side was even and flat. It was oriented E-W but appeared not to have been truncated, as part of road surface 711 survived on its lip. It was filled by 714, and cobbles from 711 were pressed into part of the cut.

Fill 714

Firm dark grey-brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded cobbles. It was >0.04m thick and >0.08m in extent. This deposit formed the fill of cut 713.

Cut 703

A curving ditch with a rounded E terminal, running to the W with a spur to the NNW before exiting the W side of the trench. The corners are rounded and it measures 2.4m in length, 0.85m in width at the level of its truncation by machine, and it survived to a depth of 0.42m. The break of slope was sharp at the top and fairly sharp at the bottom and the sides are steeply sloping and slightly irregular. The base was flat and the feature was oriented E-W, curving to NNW. It was filled by 702 and 708.

Fill 702

A compact, slightly crumbly mottled grey-brown/mid-brown (slightly) sandy (slightly) silty clay. It contained occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded stones <0.01m and occasional flecks of charcoal. It was up to 0.35m thick and 0.85m in extent. It was the secondary fill of 703.

Fill 708

A very compact, mid grey, silty clay containing occasional rounded/sub-angular stones <0.2m, mostly smaller, and occasional flecks of charcoal. It was up to 0.12m thick; the true width was not seen in section. This was the primary fill of 703 and had the appearance of having been deposited by water.

Cut 705

A rectilinear slot 5.6m long, 0.55m wide, and 0.28m deep, the S end passing into the section, whilst the north has been truncated (by machine?). The break of slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the bottom and the sides were steep. The base was flat, although slightly concave, and the feature was oriented N-S. It was filled by 704.

Fill 704

Firm, medium grey/brown silt with occasional rounded limestone fragments <0.015m across and occasional patches of yellow orange clay up to 0.01m across, as well as occasional charcoal flecks. It was 0.28m thick and 5.6m by 0.55m in extent. This was the fill of slot 705.

TRIAL TRENCH 8 FIELD 79

PREHISTORIC

Cut 822

This feature was a ditch which ran from the south baulk northwards for 6m before terminating in a butt end. The sides had varying gradients, sometimes stepped in places. The base was concave and the depth varied from 0.4m to 0.52m and the ditch measured 1.4m wide. It was filled by 821.

Fill 821

The fill of ditch 822 consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy silt, with some clay deposited near the bottom of the ditch. There were frequent charcoal flecks as well as fragments of charcoal up to 0.02m wide. There were occasional stones up to 0.2m wide. Pottery was recovered from this context, possibly prehistoric.

Layer 823

This deposit overlaid ditch 822 and extended over all of Trench 8. It consisted of a moderately compact light orange brown sandy silt with occasional yellow clayey silt streaks and patches. It also contained occasional charcoal flecks. The finds from this layer were sherds of possible Samian and some hand made pottery. All other features in Trench 8 were cut through this layer which was probably an ancient agricultural soil.

ROMANO BRITISH

Cut 804

This feature was a ditch which ran east to west across the full width of Trench 8, a distance of 4.5m. The ditch measured 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep. The sides were irregular with the south side steeper than the north and it had a flat base. It was filled by 803.

Fill 803

The fill of ditch 804 consisted of a moderately compact dark orange brown sandy silt. It contained occasional rounded stones up to 0.2m wide, frequent charcoal fragments and flecks, and occasional red coloured flecks.

Daub fragments and flint were recovered from this context.

THE HEARTH GROUP

Cut 806

This feature was the shallow cut for hearth 805 and was sub rounded in shape. It measured 1.6m long east to west and 1m wide. It was 0.08m deep with a flat base and filled by 805.

Fill 805

This hearth structure consisted of rounded and angular stones up to 0.15m wide. Some were heat shattered and they were set in a hard burnt reddish orange clay containing frequent charcoal flecks. Pottery was recovered from this context, possibly Roman.

Layer 811

This deposit was just 0.04m thick and was situated to the west of hearth 805. It measured 0.2m long north to south and 0.07m wide. It consisted of a compact mid orange brown sandy silt and contained occasional fragments and flecks of charcoal. It also contained occasional pink coloured flecks and rounded pebbles up to 0.02m wide.

Cut 813

This roughly oval shaped pit was 0.08m deep, 0.9m long east to west and 0.4m wide. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was situated 0.54m to the south west of hearth 805 and next to pit 815, thus forming a pair of features containing burnt material. It was filled by 812.

Fill 812

The fill of 813 consisted of a moderately compact orange brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional red coloured flecks.

Cut 815

This irregularly shaped oval pit was 0.25m deep, 0.8m long north to south and 0.6m wide. It had fairly steep sides and flat base and was filled by 814.

Fill 814

The fill of 815 consisted of a compact dark greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional angular stones up to 0.06m wide. One large flat sub rounded stone sat in the top of this fill, 0.16m by 0.24m.

Cut 817

This feature was a shallow, roughly circular pit measuring 0.2m deep and 0.2m in diameter. The sides sloped from 50 deg. to being under cut, perhaps the result of animal disturbance. This feature was situated 0.74m to the south east of hearth 805 and was filled by 816.

Fill 816

The fill of 817 consisted of a compact dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flecks of charcoal.

Layer 818

This small burnt deposit consisted of a compact mid pinkish brown sandy silt. It contained some clay and occasional charcoal flecks. This layer was only 0.04m thick and roughly oval shaped, being 0.5m long east to west and 0.3m wide.

Cut 820

This circular feature measured 0.25m deep and 0.15m in diameter. It had steep straight sides and a slightly pointed base. This small post hole was 0.12m away from hearth 805. The pointed profile suggests that a post was hammered in rather than wedged in place. It was filled by 819.

Fill 819

The fill of 820 consisted of a compact dark brown sandy silt. It contained frequent charcoal flecks and a moderate amount of fragments and flecks of pink material.

This completes the hearth group of features.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Cut 808

This ditch ran east to west across the full width of trench 8 at its south end. It measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep. The north side was steep whereas the south side had a more gradual slope, and the base was generally flat. Ditch 822 ran under this ditch for 0.5m. It was filled by 807.

Fill 807

The fill of 808 consisted of a moderately compact mid brown sandy silt. It contained occasional rounded and angular stones up to 0.15m wide, some of them were cracked, presumably by heat.

Layer 809

This deposit consisted of a moderately compact mid orange brown sandy silt. It contained frequent charcoal flecks and some rounded and angular stones up to 0.2m wide. This layer measured 0.1m thick, 1.1m long east to west and 1m wide. It had been damaged during machining, and it is possible that this layer was a hearth similar to hearth 805. It sat over ditch fill 807. Several small flint flakes were recovered from this context.

Cut 825

This shallow sub circular pit measured 0.14m deep and 0.4m in diameter. It had gently sloping but uneven sides and the base was concave. It may have been the remains of another hearth and was filled by 824.

Fill 824

The fill of 825 consisted of a moderately compact mid brown sandy silt with patches of orange burnt clay and fragments of charcoal.

Layer 802

This layer extended across the whole of Trench 8 and removed during machining. It consisted of a moderately compact mid orange brown sandy silt. It contained occasional sub rounded pebbles of various sizes and occasional charcoal flecks. There was a gradual change between layers 802 and that of 803 below it, the boundary being defined by the appearance of archaeological deposits. It was up to 0.35m deep.

Layer 801

The topsoil which was removed during machining consisted of a fairly compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles up to 0.05m wide. It was 0.2m deep.

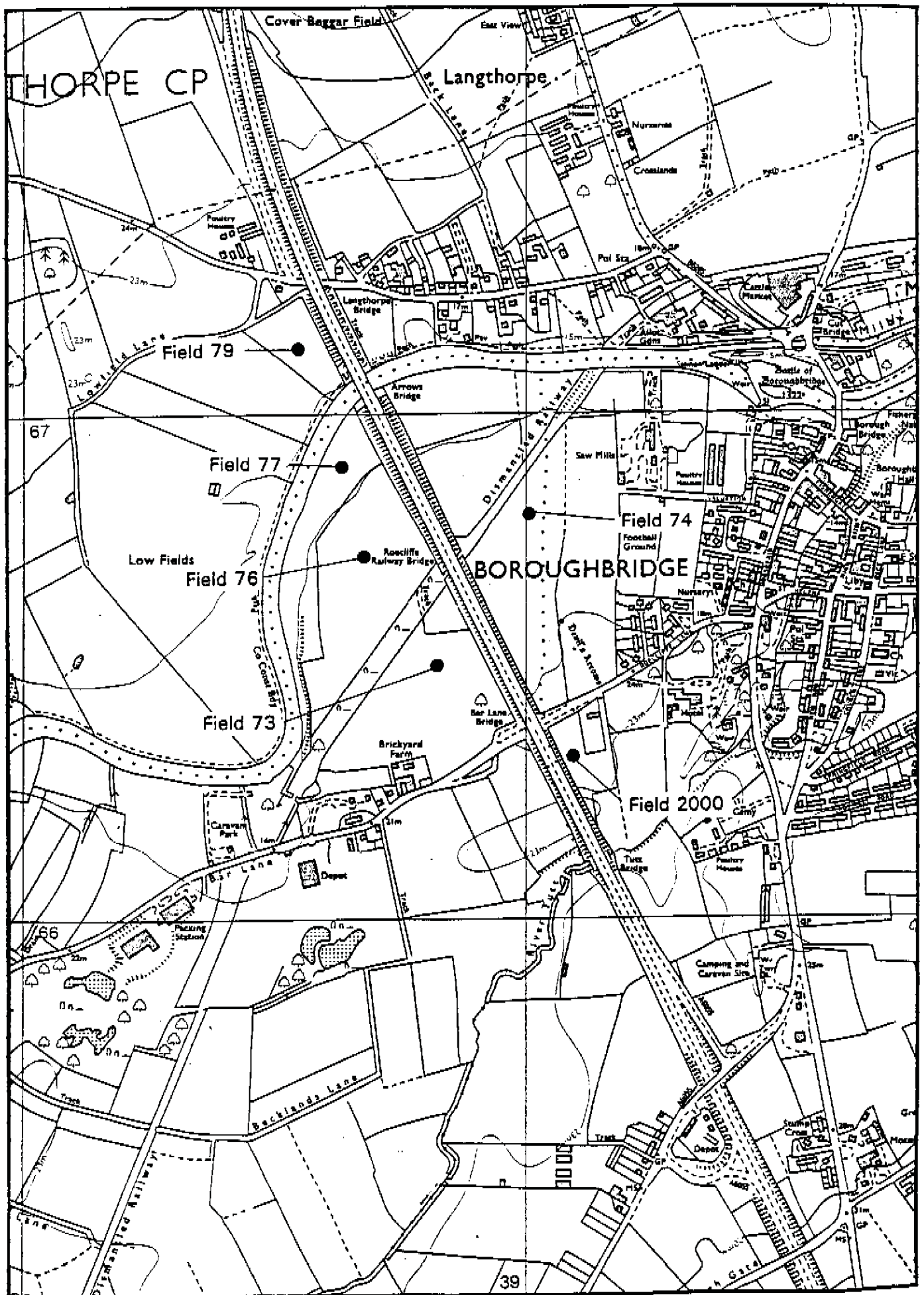


Fig. 1: Location of fields containing trial trenches

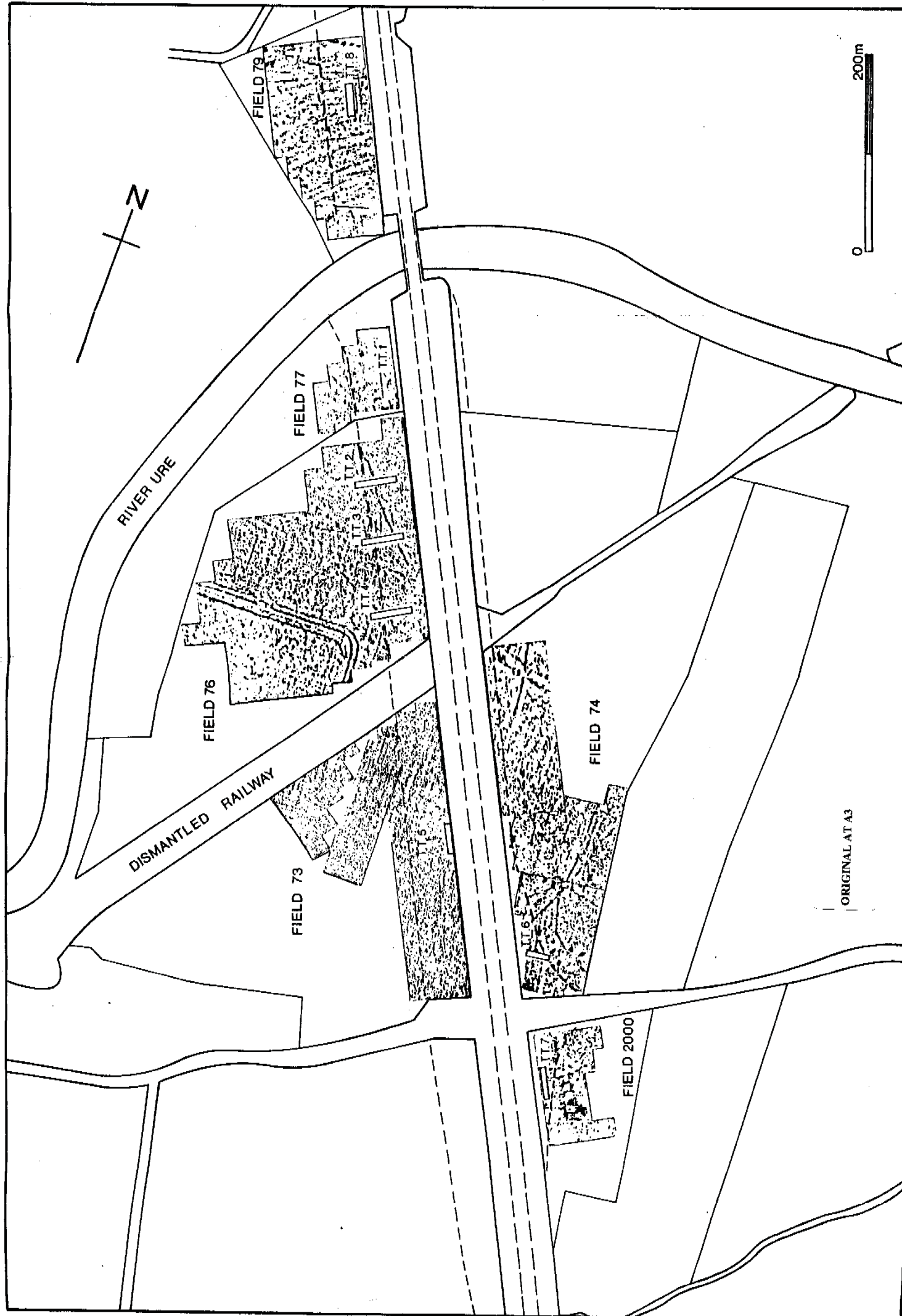


Fig. 2: Location of trial trenches and geophysical surveys

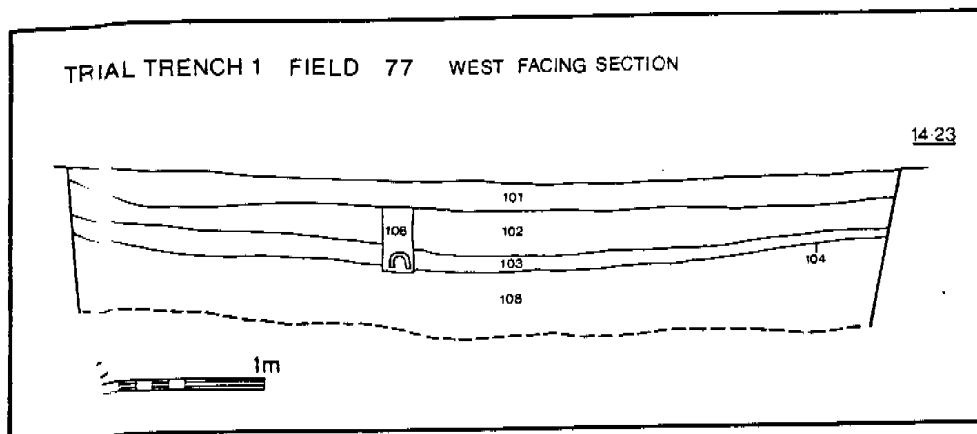
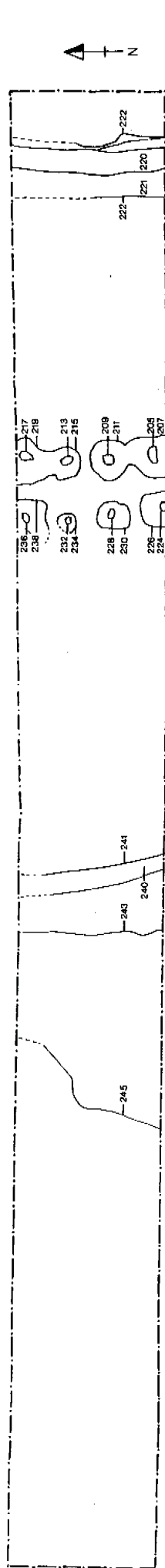
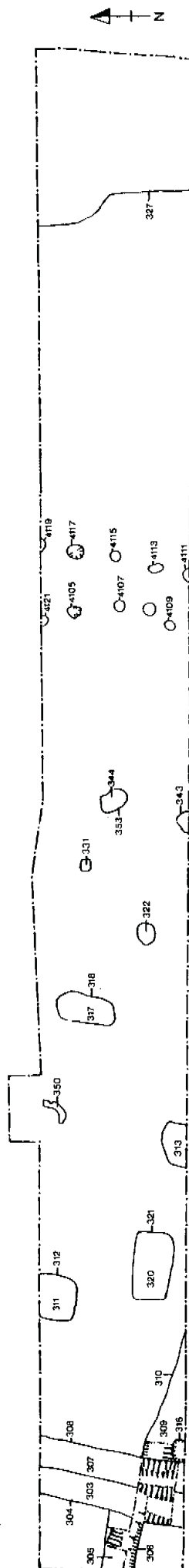


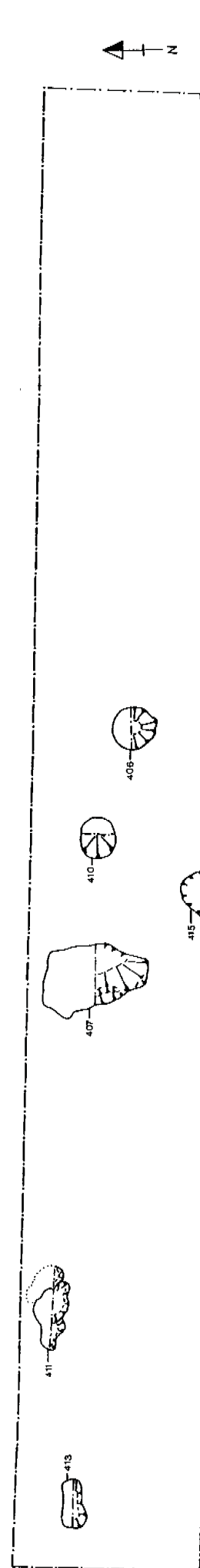
Fig. 3: Trial trench 1, west facing section



TRIAL TRENCH 2 FIELD 76



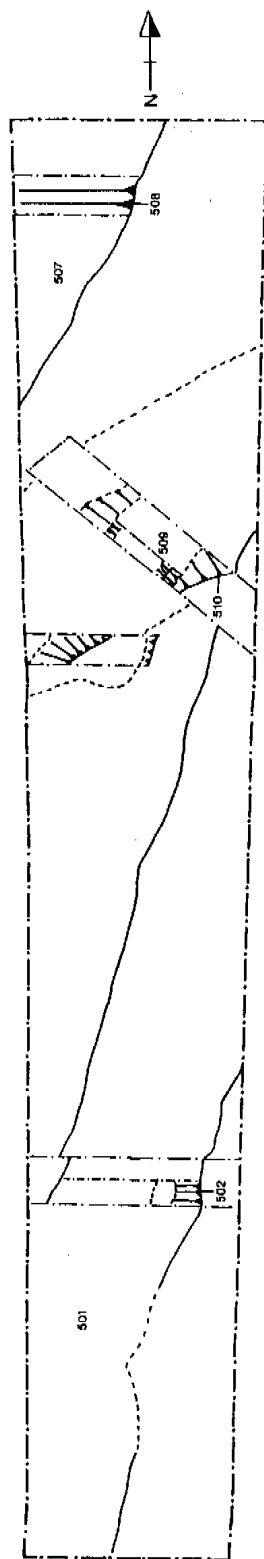
TRIAL TRENCH 3 FIELD 76



TRIAL TRENCH 4 FIELD 76

ORIGINAL AT A3

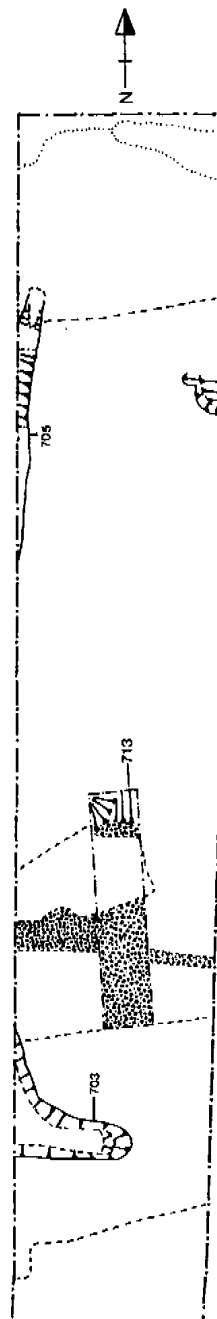
Fig. 4: Detailed plans of trial trenches 2, 3 and 4 in Field 76



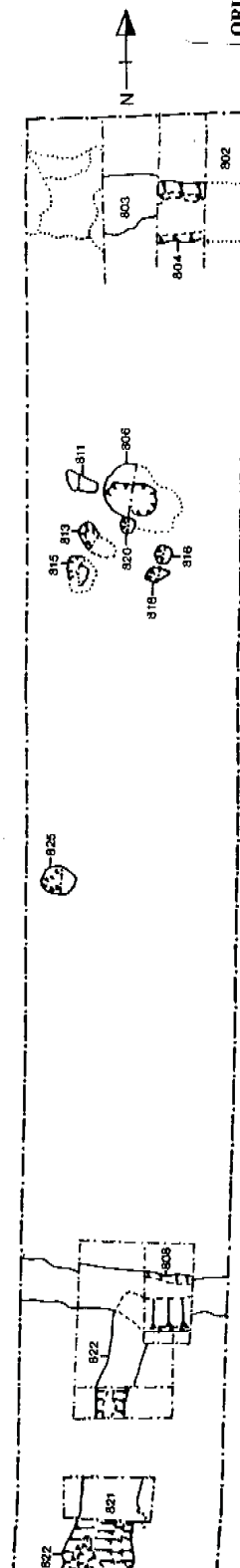
TRIAL TRENCH 5 FIELD 73



TRIAL TRENCH 6 FIELD 74



TRIAL TRENCH 7 FIELD 2000



TRIAL TRENCH 8 FIELD 79

ORIGINAL AT A3

Fig. 5: Detailed plans of trial trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8