

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A27 Patching Junction Improvements	Details Trenching
Road Number A27	Date 1993
South Eastern Contractor Archaeological Services	
County West Sussex	
OS Reference TQ 75	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double sided A3 3 Colour 0	

A27 PATCHING JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

TRIAL TRENCHING

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with a contribution by Greg Priestley-Bell

(Project no. 1993/133)

Stage 2.

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A27 PATCHING JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

TRIAL TRENCHING

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 South Eastern Archaeological Services (a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London) was commissioned by Peter Fraenkel and Partners to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land required for the A27 Patching Junction improvement.
- 1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with recommendations made in the South Eastern Archaeological Services report (Stage 3) prepared on behalf of Peter Fraenkel and Partners by Chris Place BA, in order to complete the Stage 2 archaeological assessment.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was conducted on 7th, 8th and 9th March 1994.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Sites and Monuments Record held by West Sussex County Council has three entries suggesting human activity from the Iron Age to the Romano-British (RB) period in the area. A fourth entry is for a post-medieval (19th century). The sites are:
 - PRN 2090. Iron Age sherds and burnt flint. TQ 08700 06100
 - PRN 2135. Clapham brickworks, first mentioned in 1731 but only shown by the OS in 1875 - 6. TQ 09400 05900.
 - PRN 4488. Roman 'corn drying kiln' and occupation. Possible settlement. TQ 08800 05700.
 - PRN 4491. Layer of burnt flint. Found at 1m below ground level TQ 08600 05200.
 - 2.2 The South Eastern Archaeological Services Stage 1 report concluded that the A27 may have cut through an extensive prehistoric and Romano-British settlement which may have extended both sides of the existing road. In addition there are further unsubstantiated reports of archaeological remains close to the road on Ecclesden Common and in a field to the east of Patching pond. Unfortunately these are not referenced.
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- 2.3 The report also noted the possible medieval origins of Patching Pond, and the possibility of associated medieval buildings and structures. Such features may well be down stream of the dam and the report rightly notes that the scheme may have a severe effect on such features.
- 2.4 The report also noted that the area has a high archaeological potential in general. In addition to the above periods, it notes the potential for early medieval remains.
- 2.5 Little is known about the archaeology of the area. There appears to have been no previous systematic fieldwork, and the one excavation remains unpublished. However, it is worthy of note that PRN 4491 was found at a depth of 1m below present ground level. This suggests the possibility of a buried prehistoric surface which may be well preserved.
- 2.6 Fieldwork carried out of South Eastern Archaeological Services during January and February 1993 located a number of areas of archaeological interest (based on geophysical survey and surface artefact collection). These areas occurred in the following quadrants.

TQ	07925 05675
	07925 05660
	09075 05600
	09100 05625
	09050 05525
	09075 05525
	09150 05500
	09175 05500
	09200 05500

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 In order to investigate the archaeological potential of the quadrants listed above, seven 20m trenches and two 10m by 10m test-pits were planned, one investigation in each quadrant (figs. 1 and 2). The interventions were made with a JCB 3CX fitted with a 5ft-toothless bucket.
- 3.2 Excavation was undertaken to the depth of the 'natural' subsoil or to the top of any identifiable archaeological features, whichever was the highest.
- 3.3 All deposits were examined for archaeological finds and features and all such discoveries were recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 3.4 Plans showing the location of the trenches and test-pits, and the position of all archaeological features within them were drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 3.5 It was found that two trenches could not be excavated, as they lay outside the boundaries of the area of works. In addition an extra trench, Trench J was excavated.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Trench A (TQ 09200 05500, Fig. 1) was excavated by machine to a length of 20m and a depth of 350mm at which orangey brown, silty clay ('natural') was encountered. The topsoil was founded to consist of mid brown silty clay with angular and rounded flint. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.
 - 4.2 Trench B (TQ 09175 05500) was excavated by machine to a length of 20m and a depth of 360mm at which depth natural was encountered. The topsoil was similar to that in Trench A. No archaeological features were observed, although four struck flint flakes and one flint 'thumbnail' scraper were recovered from the topsoil.
 - 4.3 For Trench C (TQ 09150 05500), see below.
 - 4.4 Trench D (TQ 09025 05525) and Trench E (TQ 09050 05525) were not excavated as they were found to lie outside the area of works.
 - 4.5 Trench F (TQ 09075 05600) was excavated by machine to a length of 20m and a depth of 260mm at which the natural was encountered. The topsoil was similar to that encountered in Trench A. A possible feature with a diameter of 300mm was observed in the natural, possibly a post-hole, and one struck flint flake and one core were recovered from the topsoil.
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- 4.6 Trench G (TQ 09100 05625) was excavated by machine to a length of 20m and a depth of 230mm at which natural was encountered. The topsoil was similar to that removed from Trench A. No archaeological features were observed, although one struck flint flake and one scraper were recovered from the topsoil.
- 4.7 Test-Pit H (TQ 07650 05650) was excavated by machine to an area of 10m by 10m and to a maximum depth of 320mm, at which natural was encountered. The topsoil was found to be a dark brown silty clay with angular flint fragments. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.
- 4.8 Trench I (07650 05625, and see Fig 2) was excavated to an area of 10m by 10m and to a maximum depth of 330mm at which natural was encountered. The topsoil was found to be similar to that removed from Test Pit H. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.
- 4.9 For Trench J (09150 05500), see below.

5 DETAILED RESULTS OF TRENCHES C AND J

- 5.1 Trench C (09150 05500, Fig. 3) was excavated by machine to a length of 20m and a depth of 400mm. The topsoil was found to be similar to that removed from Trench A. The Trench contained five archaeological features, four linear and one sub-circular (Fig. 4). A sample of three of the features was excavated to ascertain their character and state of preservation (Fig 5), and all were found to contain large quantities of fire-cracked flint.
- 5.2 Trench J (09150 05500) was excavated to determine the limit of the archaeological activity. Its position was agreed in consultation with the site engineers and was excavated to a total length of 31.5m from east to west, and 37m north to south (see Fig 3) and to a maximum depth of 400mm. The topsoil was found to be similar to that removed from Trench A. A continuous layer of burnt (fire-cracked) flint was found at the base of the topsoil. Beneath that a total of 38 archaeological features were encountered of varying character, and the topsoil contained three flint flakes and one flint scraper. The features were not excavated, but a preliminary examination of the fills revealed high densities of fire-cracked flint, struck flints, charcoal and traces of pottery.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation identified an area measuring approximately 50m by 50m lying to the north of a slight valley and to the south of the present A27 road. The valley and the road define the area of surviving archaeological remains on the north and south sides. The absence of features in Trenches A and B establishes the east limit of the site. The western edge of surviving remains is defined effectively by the concrete road running to Potlands Farm. The land beyond the

west of the road has been dug away to make a level area for horse training and it is probable that this will have removed all remains.

- 6.2 The evaluation identified a number of small enclosures, which may have surrounded buildings or areas of particular activity. The very large quantities of fire-cracked flint, which appeared in continuous sheets in Trench J, may suggest either a prolonged period of usage, or some specialised, perhaps industrial process. No evidence has yet been found, however, for pottery manufacture, salt-making or metal-working.
- 6.3 The fire-cracked flint contained a significant proportion of material with discernible flake scars and crests, suggesting that the majority of the waste material was used to produce 'pot-boilers'. This factor probably accounts for the high proportion (6:19) of modified flint artefacts to debitage. The relatively small amount of material recovered makes a typological assessment difficult. However, the absence of blades and soft-hammer flakes together with minimal platform preparation and tool modification suggests a Neolithic or Bronze Age date.
- 6.4 The density of archaeological features located in the assessment trenches suggests that the site has considerable potential value. The Patching site lies in an area of clay soils lying between Clay-with-Flint soils on the lower slopes of the South Downs and the Rendzina soils developed on the Highdown chalk outlier. Relatively little is known of prehistoric sites in that area between the South Downs and Coastal Plain, though excavations in the 1930s and 1940s at nearby prehistoric enclosure at Highdown Hill to the south have identified one centre of considerable wealth and importance. That enclosure was constructed in the Middle Bronze Age and Ellison (1981) has suggested that during the Late Bronze Age it had a function in the redistributive networks in southern Britain.
- 6.5 The Potlands Farm site is an area of considerable archaeological interest and measures should be taken, if possible, either to ensure its preservation in situ, or its excavation before road construction.

Reference

- Ellison, A.B. 1981 'Towards a Socioeconomic Model for the Middle Bronze Age in Southern England', in I. Hodder, G. Isaac and N. Hammond (eds.), *Pattern of the Past: Studies in Honour of David Clarke*.
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Appendix: FLINTWORK by Greg Priestley-Bell

The assemblage consists of predominately two types of flint. Firstly, a variegated light brown/light grey slightly coarse-grained material with many inclusions composing the remaining 30%.

Approximately 20% of the total assemblage is patinated, the remainder being in fairly fresh but not mint condition. Although some slight edge damage is apparent on artefacts recovered from the topsoil, no obvious plough damage is present.

Areas of pebble cortex, heavy patination and thermal fracturing are present on the majority of the worked flint and it appears that the raw material used is derived from the sub-angular gravels and rounded pebbles that occur naturally in the sub-soil.

Waste Flakes

All the waste flakes are of hard-hammer manufacture with unprepared platforms and represent debitage associated with a flaking industry.

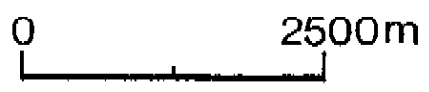
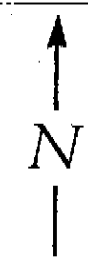
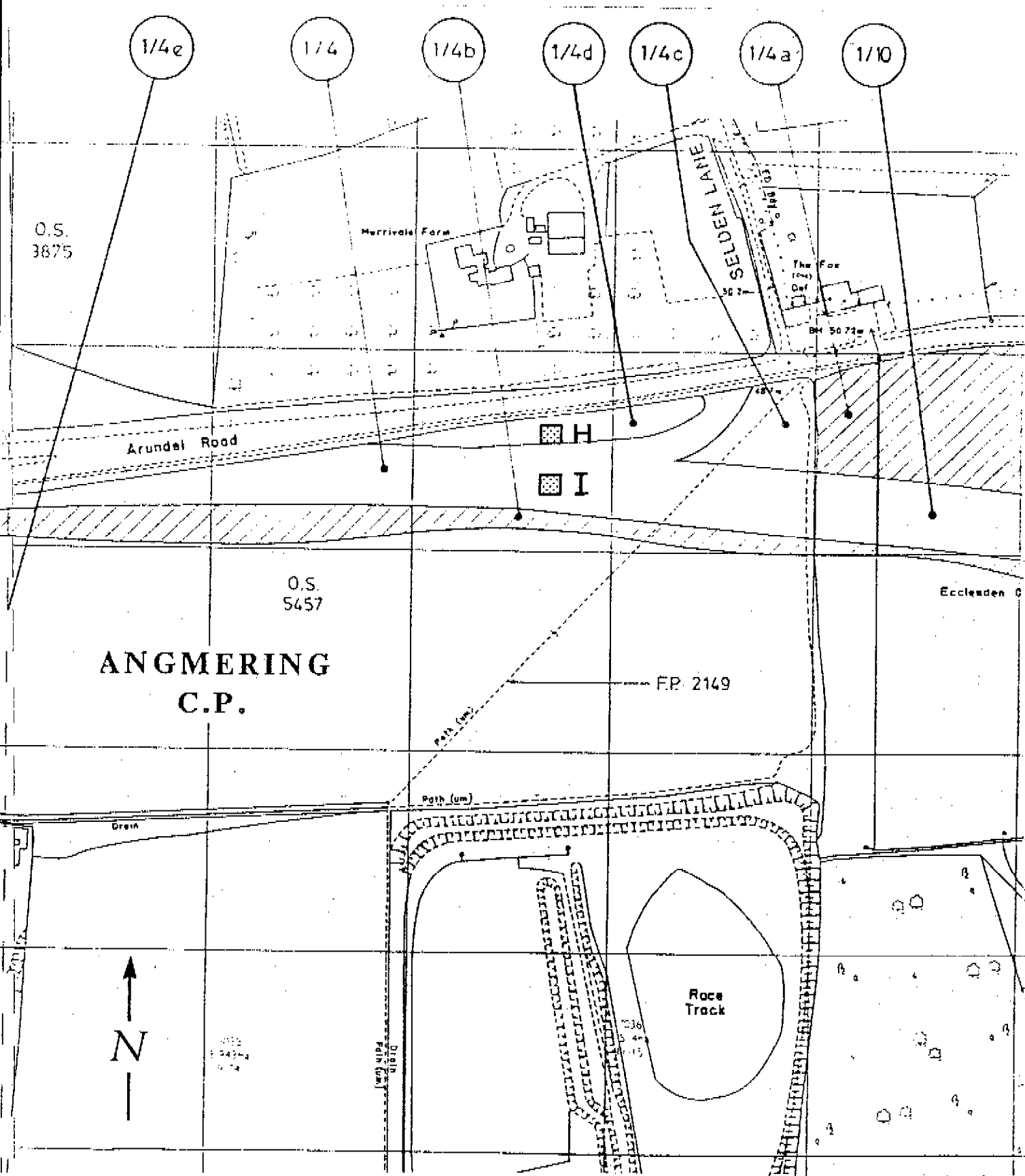
Flake Tools and Core

The flake tools consist of one utilised flake, three side-scrapers and one end-scraper, all of which are made on hard-hammer flakes. Steep retouch is used on one lateral edge of the side-scrapers, while both steep and shallow retouch is present on the end-scraper. The utilised flake shows three discreet areas of use-wear forming shallow notches. The core is single platform with short invasive flake scars produced by hard-hammer percussion.

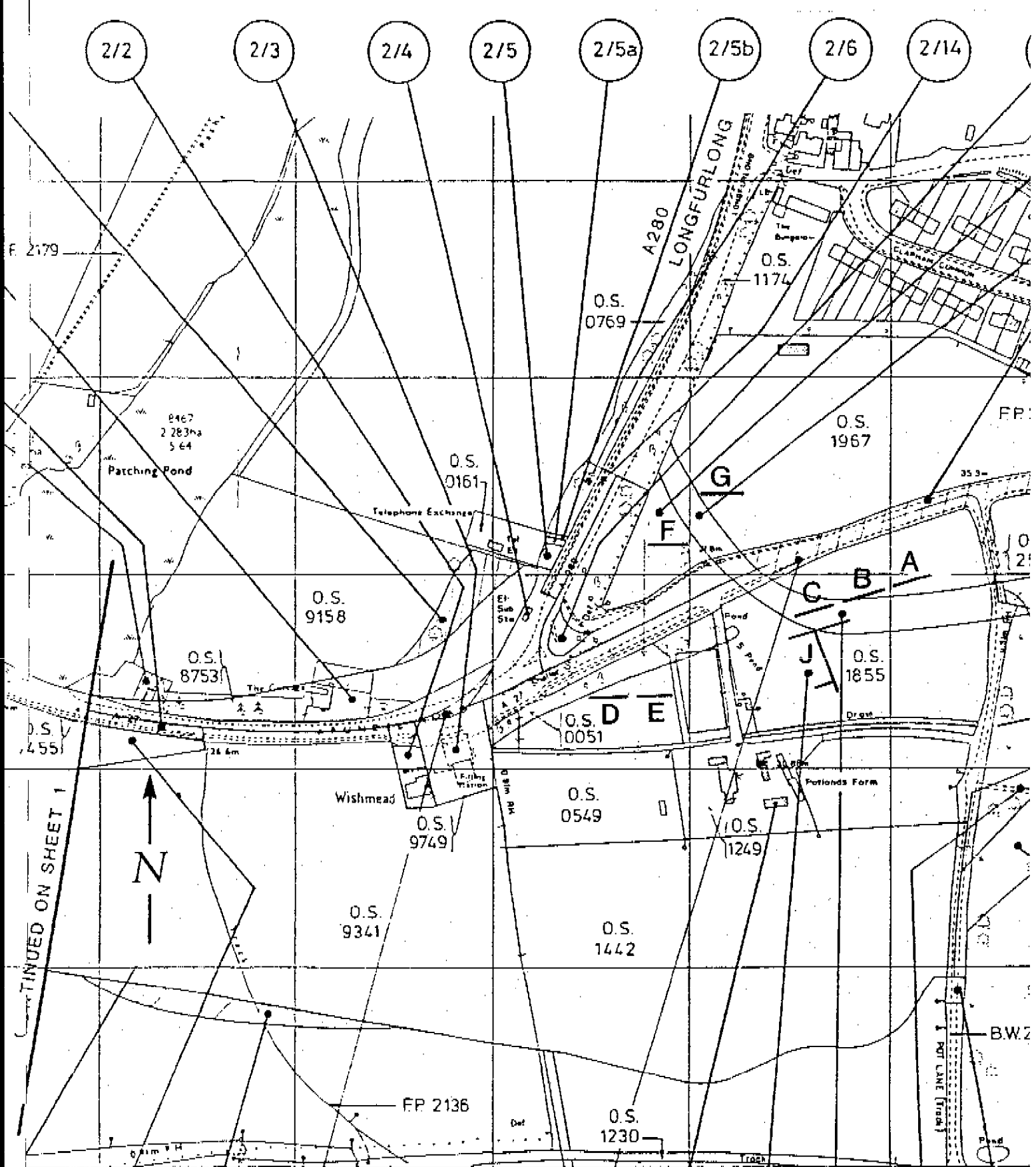
TABLE 1

Frequencies for flint artefact categories (by trench and context)

Trial Trench	Context	End Scraper	Side Scraper	Utilised Flake	Core	Waste Flake	Total
B	1	1	-	-	-	4	5
C	1	-	1	-	-	4	5
C	7	-	-	-	-	7	7
F	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
G	1	-	1	-	-	1	2
J	1	-	1	-	-	2	3
J	43	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total		1	3	1	1	19	25



Site A27 Patching Junction Improvements		
Title Trench Location Plan		
Date Mar 1994	Ref. 1993/133	Drawing No. Fig. 1



Continued on sheet 1



Site A27 Patching Junction Improvements		
Title Trench Location Plan		
Date Mar 1994	Ref. 1993/133	Drawing No. Fig. 2

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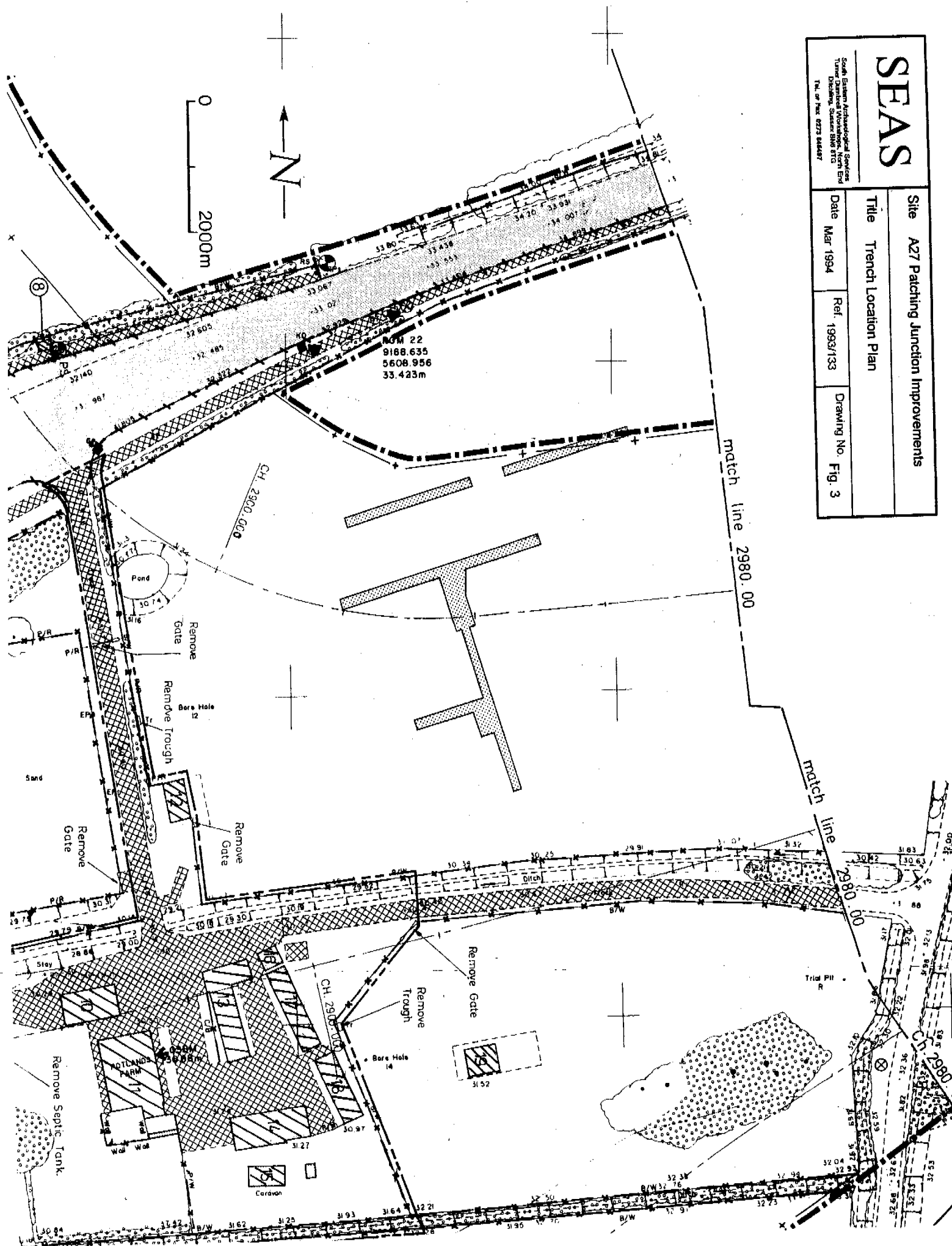
Saudi Eastern Archaeological Services
Turner / Darwazah Associates, North End
Dickinson, Sussex BN10 8TG
Tel. or Fax. 0273 355457

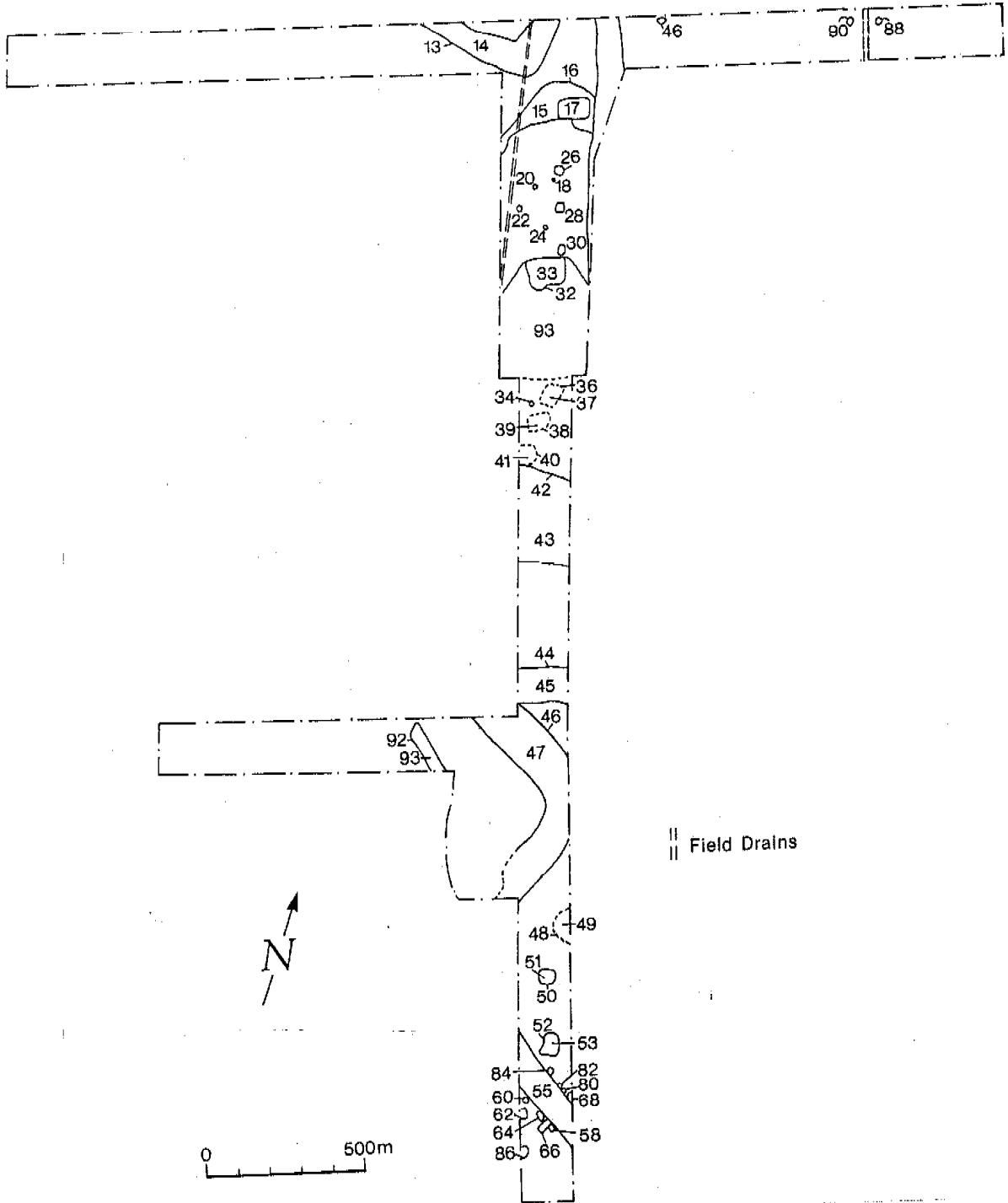
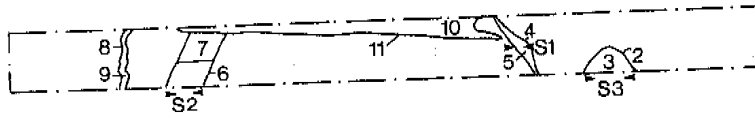
Site A27 Patching Junction Improvements

Title Trench Location Plan

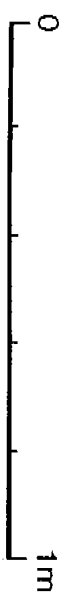
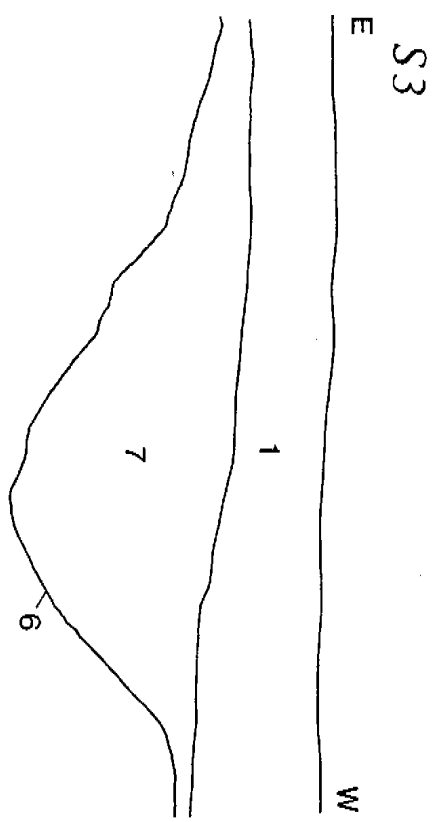
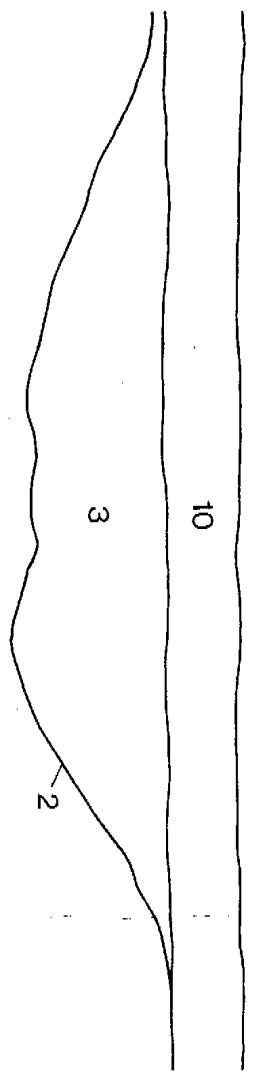
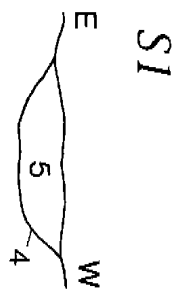
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Drawing No. Fig. 3





<h1>SEAS</h1> <p>South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditching, Sussex BN9 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 948497</p>	Site A27 Patching Junction Improvements	
	Title Plan of Trenches C and J.	
Date Mar 1994	Ref. 1993/133	Drawing No. Fig. 4



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Sothi Systems Archaeological Services Turner Churchill Overlooks, North End Dunblair, Otago 9106 5T03 Tel or Fax: 0273 846897		
Site	A27 Patching Junction Improvements	
Title	Sections of Features from Trench C	
Date	Mar 1994	Ref 1993/133
		Drawing No. Fig. 5