



INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A30 Trunk road Honiton to Exeter Improvement	Details Archaeological Evaluation, Part 1: Blackhorse, Sowton
Road Number A30	Date December 1994
Exeter museums Contractor Archaeological Field Unit	
County Devonshire	
OS Reference SX 991	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 0 Colour 4	

**A30 TRUNK ROAD
HONITON TO EXETER IMPROVEMENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
PART 1: BLACKHORSE, SOWTON**

by

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Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit

Report No. 94.101

December 1994

Preface

This report is one of a series of six describing the results of archaeological investigations along the proposed route of the A30 Trunk Road Honiton to Exeter Improvement Scheme in east Devon. The fieldwork was undertaken by Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU) between June and December 1994. The project was funded by the Highways Agency.

A preliminary archaeological assessment of the published route had been prepared in 1991 (EMAFU Report No. 91.22). At a meeting on 31 March 1994 representatives of interested parties (the Highways Agency, Acer Consultants, EMAFU, Devon County Archaeological Service and English Heritage) discussed the archaeological implications of the scheme. It was agreed to bring the level of archaeological assessment in line with recent guidelines laid out in the Department of Transport's document: *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Vol. II* (1993).

A Scoping Statement was subsequently produced by EMAFU identifying the archaeological requirements as follows: an update/review of the 1991 assessment; an assessment of existing borehole/trial-pit data; the implementation of a geophysical survey; evaluation excavations; field survey and fabric recording; fieldwalking; palaeoenvironmental sampling and dating.

The geophysical survey was carried out by Oxford Archaeotechnics and will be produced as a separate report.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation excavation undertaken in November 1994 at the site of a prehistoric enclosure at Blackhorse, Sowton.

1.1. Location (Figs 1-2)

The site (SX97769331) lies wholly within the proposed construction corridor in a field immediately to the south of the existing A30, opposite the Blackhorse Garage and between the A30/M5 interchange and Clyst Honiton. It is located on the south-east slopes of the Clyst Valley, at a height of approximately 30m OD. The sandy soils (Bridgnorth Series) overlie Permian and Triassic Dawlish Sandstone.

1.2 Background

This site was identified from aerial photographs taken in 1984 by F.M. Griffith as a rectangular enclosure. The enclosed area measured approximately 42 x 37m. Three north-south linear features were also recorded as cropmarks in the same area, running through the enclosure on a different alignment.

2. THE EXCAVATION

2.1 Method (Figs 3-4)

Seven trenches were excavated on the site. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were situated to determine the level of survival of the enclosure ditch and any features within the enclosure itself. Trenches 5 and 7 were excavated across the linear features which were seen from the aerial photographs to cut across the enclosure. All the trenches were mechanically excavated to a depth of *c.* 0.5m as far as the level of the weathering sandstone bedrock. Above this level, no archaeological stratification survived due to ploughing.

2.2 Results

2.2.1 *The enclosure ditch*

The enclosure ditch (706) was exposed in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6 (Fig. 4). It was fully excavated in Trenches 1 and 6 (Fig. 10), and plotted in Trenches 2 and 4 (Fig. 6).

Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

This trench was positioned at the north side of the enclosure. The ditch was found to have an open V-shaped profile with a flattened base, 0.2m wide. The width of the ditch at its widest point was 2.7m, and the base of the ditch was 1.85m below the existing ground level (cut 1.1m into the sandstone bedrock). The ditch fills were sealed by *c.* 0.75m of topsoil and the underlying soil horizon (700, 745). No remnants of bank survived above the level of the bedrock.

Trench 6 (Figs 9-10)

Trench 6 was excavated across the eastern entrance to the enclosure. The ditch terminus to the north was exposed for a distance of 5.5m. Only *c.* 0.5m of the tip of the ditch terminus to the south (780) was exposed at the southern edge of the trench.

The northern ditch terminus was 3.4m wide and had a depth of c. 1.8m below the surface of topsoil (cut c. 1.1m into the sandstone bedrock). Its flattened base was between 0.2-0.3m wide. The lowest 0.5m of fills (738-41, 705) were derived from weathering of the ditch sides and the bank. Above this was a soil development (736) representing a period of stabilization after the initial weathering had taken place. There was also evidence of occupation debris having been thrown into the ditch (e.g. burnt stones and abundant charcoal within context 737), which has been sampled for future radiocarbon dating and charred macrofossil analysis. The upper fills consisted of slighted bank material and soil (735 and 704) deposited during the final phases of the earthwork (Fig. 10, section 9). No bank survived above the level of the bedrock.

The retrieval of 30 prehistoric sherds from the ditch (23 from upper fill 704, and 7 from the primary fill 705) suggest that the enclosure dates to the middle Iron Age (see Appendix 1). The pottery has been sent to P. Bidwell (Tyne and Wear Museums) for analysis. The pottery from the upper fill is thought to be Glastonbury Ware.

No evidence was found to indicate the existence or position of a gate at the entrance, except for the remnants of a possible post-hole (781) 0.5m from the northern ditch terminus. No corresponding feature was exposed on the southern side of the entrance. A disturbed surface (799), leading through the entrance and into the enclosure, consisted of scattered slabs of sandstone (up to 0.25 x 0.15 x 0.03m in size) and grit, which were not encountered anywhere else on the site.

Trenches 2 and 4 (Fig. 6)

In Trench 2 the eastern edge of the enclosure ditch was defined and plotted. In Trench 4 the upper 0.2m of fill was removed to determine the width of the ditch at its highest level, which was 4.1m.

2.2.2 Possible structures within the enclosure

Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

To the south of the enclosure ditch in Trench 1, a linear feature (769) orientated north-south, was recorded for a distance of 6.5m. At its northern end (5m from the ditch) the feature bifurcated at right angles to the main alignment of the trench, and another westward extension was recorded 1.5m south of this.

Although not fully excavated, the varying profiles (V-shaped and U-shaped) of the feature suggest that it was not of natural origin, and it may have been a post-trench. It was between 0.3 and 0.5m deep. It was filled with concreted red sand (768). No finds or charcoal were recovered. At its southern end this feature was cut by a ditch (770).

Trenches 2 and 3 (Figs 6-7)

The western edge of a north-south linear feature (774) was exposed 1.3m from the eastern side of Trench 3. It contained the same red concreted material mentioned above (775). Eight stakeholes (785), all c. 0.2m deep and orientated north-south, were cut into this feature over a distance of 1m. There were also three larger stakeholes (786-8), c. 0.15m in diameter, orientated east-west over a distance of 0.75m. A fragment of charcoal was recovered from one stakehole (787). No other finds were recovered from the area and the fill (775) into

which the stakeholes were cut was not excavated. At the eastern end of Trench 2 there was a possible continuation of this feature (791), although it was only seen crossing the south-eastern corner of the trench.

Trench 6 (Fig. 9)

The southern end of an apparent structure (800) was represented by two slots (717, 725) and one post-trench (716) located 4m inside the enclosure. These features were between 0.4 and 0.6m wide, and c. 0.4m deep, with steep V-shaped profiles. Post-trench (716) contained three post-holes (801-3). The fills consisted of red concreted sand, with no finds or charcoal.

At its southern corner, the structure cut into an earlier linear feature (742) which was also filled with red concreted sand (743). This feature extended southward beyond the edge of the excavation area. The edges of two pits (752, 750) were also exposed at the western end of the trench. They contained stony fills (753, 751), which may have been packing material for posts, but no other finds. The diameter of the pits could not be determined within the very limited area exposed. Their position, and possibly that of the linear feature (742), suggest that either they pre-date the main ditch and form part of an earlier enclosure, or that the pits represent part of a contemporary inner entrance/gate.

2.2.3 Ditch in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 (Figs 5-7)

Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

A ditch (770) was found to cut the linear feature (769) in Trench 1 (described above in 3.2). The ditch had been disturbed by animal burrowing. Although it appears in plan (Fig. 4) that this feature may have some connection with ditch (772) (see below) it differs significantly in profile, being a shallow U shape. It measured approximately 0.5m wide and 0.13m deep.

Trenches 3 and 4 (Figs 6-7)

An asymmetrical ditch (772) was located in Trench 4, 8m east of the enclosure ditch. This feature continued northward and was seen to turn in a north-easterly direction in Trench 3, where it cut two earlier features, a pit (776) and the linear feature (774; see 3.2). The ditch was between 1.1m and 1.4m wide. Its western side was 0.1m deeper than the eastern side. It may represent a post-trench or palisade slot for an earlier enclosure, or a sub-division of the main enclosed area. No finds were recovered from this feature, but charcoal was extracted for future radiocarbon dating if required.

2.2.4 Curvilinear ditch in Trench 6 (Fig. 9)

Cutting across the north-east corner of Trench 6 was a curvilinear ditch (747), 1m wide and 0.35m deep. No finds or charcoal were recovered from this ditch, and no stratigraphic relationship with any other feature could be demonstrated.

2.2.5 Possible field boundaries (Figs 4, 8-9)

Two ditches (793, 795) in Trench 5, and another ditch (796) in Trench 7 were plotted (Fig. 4). These features probably represent field boundaries which post-date the enclosure. The widest ditch in Trench 5 (795) was parallel (and similar) to the post-medieval ditch in Trench 6 (701).

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Oxford Archaeotechnics after the excavation was completed. The main ditch was plotted to the south, east and north (partially) of the enclosure, but was obscured in the northern and western part of the enclosure by increased archaeological activity, particularly in the region of features 769, 770, 772 and 774. There was the suggestion of another possible entrance on the southern side of the enclosure. The presence of the curved ditch (747) was confirmed. Additionally a linear feature was recorded, parallel to the main ditch and crossing the line of the entrance, in the vicinity of the structure (800).

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation at Blackhorse has demonstrated the survival of significant archaeological deposits within a relatively complex site. The main enclosure appears to date to the Iron Age, but it is possible that an earlier enclosure ditch encompassed a smaller area. The site lies entirely within the road corridor land intake boundary and will be destroyed by the new trunk road. A full area (rescue) excavation is required in advance of construction in order to record the complete sequence of the site, and to determine the interrelationships of the features.

The following specific points should be addressed:

- (i) Determination and recording of the overall plan, date, function and character of the main enclosure ditch(es) and of the other linear features and possible structures within them.
- (ii) Determination of any separate sequences of re-cutting within the main enclosure ditch; these have not been defined as yet, although indirect evidence exists in the form of variations of ditch fills between trenches. This will require controlled stratigraphic excavation over pre-determined lengths of the ditch, such as the southern terminal.
- (iii) Location and recording of any other internal and external features not already identified by the evaluation excavation.
- (iv) Establishment of stratigraphic relationships between the different elements within the site. Consideration should be given to the use of palaeoenvironmental or artefactual dating evidence where appropriate. Particular reference is drawn to the following:
 - (i) the internal curvilinear ditch and the larger main enclosure ditch;
 - (ii) the putative post-trench structures and the ditch sequences;
 - (iii) the post-holes and pits inside the entrance and the ditch terminals.
- (v) Determination and recording of the plan, function and nature of the curvilinear feature outside the northern ditch terminal in Trench 6.
- (vi) Sample excavation and recording of sufficient length of the linear feature in Trench 7, and the eastern linear feature in Trench 5, to determine their date, function and character.

Are these "significant" deposits sufficient to justify full area rescue excavation?

Will the archaeological features be "destroyed" or covered by the road works? True.

- (vii) Determination of a strategy for palaeoenvironmental sampling to achieve these research aims.

4.1 Palaeoenvironmental deposits

At Blackhorse the sandstone bedrock is slightly acidic, aerobic and well-drained. This reduces the potential survival of waterlogged remains and pollen. The palaeoenvironmental scope at the site is probably limited to the recovery of charred organic matter. The environmental sampling strategy should therefore aim for the bulk sampling of features within the enclosure, and the ditch fills, for the purposes of charred macrofossil analysis and radiocarbon dating.

APPENDIX 1: FINDS CATALOGUE by G. Langman

Context Comments

- 700 10 pot sherds: 1 sherd Iron Age, 7 sherds South Somerset coarsewares (17C/18C), 1 sherd Frechen stoneware (17C/18C), 1 sherd 19C English stoneware.
1 clay pipe stem
1 lithic: flint flake
Slag: 40gms
- 701 Small Find No. 400: 4 fragments of Fe from two objects
- 704 23 pot sherds: 23 sherds prehistoric - Middle Iron Age (Glastonbury Ware)
2 lithics: 1 flint flake, 1 flint awl
5 charcoal flecks
1 geological find
- 705 7 pot sherds: 7 sherds prehistoric - Iron Age (all one vessel)
- Unstrat. 5 pot sherds: 3 sherds South Somerset coarsewares (L17C/18C), 1 sherd Bristol/Staffs slipware (18C), 1 sherd Transfer Print (after 1780)
1 lithic: flint flake
Small Find No. 401: 1 Fe horseshoe fragment - post-medieval?
Small Find No. 402: 1 copper alloy button - post-medieval?

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>700 Topsoil in Trenches 1-7. Reddish-brown 5YR 4/3 clayey sand loam, friable, occ small sandstone frags.</p> | <p>704 Upper fill of enclosing ditch 706 in Trench 6; contained Glastonbury ware. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable, occ moderate sub-angular sandstone frags, occ charcoal frags.</p> |
| <p>701 Fill of 702, a post-medieval ditch in Trench 6. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable, stoneless (<1%), occ charcoal frags.</p> | <p>705 Primary ditch fill of 706 in Trench 6, representing the initial weathering of the ditch sides and bank. Reddish-yellow silty sand, friable, occ sub-rounded stones, occ charcoal frags.</p> |
| <p>702 Post-medieval ditch cut in Trench 6. Probably associated with a bank on the west which has now been ploughed out. Contains 701. W: 2.5m, D: 0.25m.</p> | <p>706 Enclosing ditch cut exposed in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6; encloses an area c. 42 x 37m. The ditch is smooth, V-shaped with a width of between 2.7m and 3.4m (but c. 4.1m in Trench 4) and is cut into the natural some 1.1m (the base is c. 1.8-1.9m below present turf level). The ditch had a flattened base</p> |
| <p>703 Weathering sandstone bedrock present in every trench. Red to yellowish-red 10YR 4/8 - 5YR 5/8 sand, friable, rare sandstone frags.</p> | |

- between 0.2-0.3m wide. Contains contexts 704, 705, 735-741, 756-762.
- 710 Pit cut in Trench 6 cut into weathering bedrock 703; roughly rectangular. The cut for this pit cuts the edge of 742/3, a similar but unexcavated feature to 800 within the enclosure. Contains contexts 711-713. L: 1.8m, W: 1m, D: 0.3m.
- 711 Tertiary fill of 710. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/6 sand, some silt present, friable, occ charcoal frags, occ large flat angular stones <0.5m.
- 712 Primary fill of 710. Yellowish-brown 10YR 5/4 silty sand, friable, occ charcoal flecks, stoneless.
- 713 Secondary fill of 710. Brownish-yellow 10YR 6/8 silty sand, friable, occ large flat angular sandstones, occ charcoal flecks.
- 714 Flat-bottomed, shallow pit cut into natural in Trench 6. Diam: 0.68m, D: c. 0.2m. No post-pipe or post-packing present. Contained context 715.
- 715 Pit fill. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 slightly silty sand, friable, clean, occ small ww stones.
- 716 Post-trench cut into natural 703; continuous with 717, 725. Contained three post-impressions 801-3. Probably formed a rectangular building of which the southern end was exposed in Trench 6. The western face of this ditch is steeper than the eastern, suggesting posts had been put into this trench and packed tight up to the western or inside edge. Contains 744. This context forms, with 725 and 717, generic context 800. W: 0.3-0.5m, D: 0.4m.
- 717 Post-trench cut into natural 703 in Trench 6; continuous with 716 and 725. Only exposed for a short distance, c. 0.2m, it forms the opposite parallel to post-trench 716. Like 716, the eastern face of the trench was steeper than the western external face. Contained context 746. With 725, 716 forms generic context 800. W: 0.5m, D: 0.5m.
- 718 Secondary fill of 719. Orange-brown sand, friable, occ medium-sized sub-angular stones, occ charcoal flecks.
- 719 Primary fill of 720. Reddish-brown sand, friable, occ medium sub-angular stones, occ charcoal flecks.
- 720 Flat-bottomed pit cut. Diam: 0.35m, D: 0.17m. Contains 718 and 719. It has been cut partially into the natural, 703, and into the fill of 725.
- 721 Fill of 722. Orange-brown sand, friable, occ sub-rounded stones.
- 722 Flat bottomed pit, circular. Diam: 0.3m, D: 0.08m. Cut into the fill of post-trench 725; later cut by 720. Contains 721.
- 723 Fill of post-trench 725 possibly infilling the position left by rotted timbers/posts. orange-brown silty sand, friable, occ medium sub-angular stones.
- 724 Fill of post-trench 725; probably packing material for posts. Red 2.5YR 4/6 sand, very compact, harder than the natural 703; stoneless; occ worm-casts.
- 725 Post-trench cut; contains 723, 724; cut into natural 703. The northern face is steeper than the southern face. Continuous with 716 and 717. Forms with 717 and 716 the southern part of a rectangular structure, generic number 800. W: 0.4m, D: 0.46.
- 726 Lens of soil overlying junction of 725 and 716. Red 2.5YR 4/6 silty sand, friable, occ small charcoal flecks.
- 729 Pit cut, small, U-shaped in profile, D: 0.05m. Partially removed by JCB during topsoil stripping and exposed against the edge of trench so diameter could not be determined. Contained context 730.
- 730 Fill of 729. Yellowish-red, clayey sand, friable, occ small sandstone frags.
- 735 Slumped bank material within 706 in Trench 6. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/8 sand, friable, occ small charcoal frags, occ small ww pebbles.
- 736 Soil development within enclosure ditch 706 in Trench 6, representing a stabilisation horizon over the initial weathering fills derived from the ditch sides and bank represented by fills 705, 738-741. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 sand, friable, occ rare angular stones, occ small charcoal frags.

- 737 Dumped ditch fill within 736 in the enclosure ditch 706 in Trench 6. This context contained freq burnt stone. This context has been dumped after the weathering of the sides and bank had to a large degree stopped. The matrix was identical to that of the overlying context 736 so this context may be regarded as part of 736. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable, abundant small to large frags of charcoal.
- 738 Fill of 706, representing weathering/slumping of rampart material. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/8 clay sand, friable, stoneless.
- 739 Fill of 706 in Trench 6 derived from weathering of ditch sides and bank. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/6 clayey sand, friable, occ small ww stones, heavily manganese stained.
- 740 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 6, derived from weathering of the outer edge of the ditch. Red 2.5YR 5/8 clay sand, friable, stoneless <1%, occ charcoal frags.
- 741 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 6, derived from weathering of inside edge of ditch 706. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/8 clay sand, friable, stoneless, occ charcoal frags.
- 742 Linear cut containing 743, probably continuous with 717, 716, 725 as part of the post-trenches inside the enclosure's entrance. Unexcavated.
- 743 Fill of 742. Red 2.5YR 4/6 sand, very compact (?concreted) with occ worm-casts.
- 744 Fill of post-trench 716. Red 2.5YR 4/6 sand, concreted, occ soft pockets of grey sand.
- 745 Lower soil horizon, B horizon of the field; underlies the topsoil 500 and overlies all archaeological features. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 clayey sand, friable, freq charcoal frags, common small-medium sandstone frags.
- 746 Fill of post-trench 717. Red 2.5YR 4/6 concreted sand, occ small angular sandstone frags.
- 747 Curvilinear ditch in the north-east corner of Trench 6. Contains fill 748. W: c. 1m, D: 0.35m.
- 748 Fill of 747. Brown/dark-brown 7.5YR 4/4 silty sand, friable, rare charcoal frags, occ small ww stones.
- 750 Pit/post-pit cut in Trench 6, only the eastern edge of which was exposed against the western edge of excavation. This pit lies across the line of the entrance into the enclosure, so may represent an entrance structure associated with the enclosure. Possibly associated with 752. Dimensions of this pit were not ascertainable. Contained context 751.
- 751 Fill of pit 750; probably represents post-packing. Yellowish-red matrix, 5YR 4/8, silty sand, very abundant compacted angular stones.
- 752 Pit/post-pit cut in Trench 6 c. 1m north of 750, partially exposed in western edge of excavation. May be associated with an entrance structure with 750 since it lies across the entrance line into the enclosure. Contains 753. Dimensions not ascertainable.
- 753 Fill of 752; the stony character of the fill suggests it is packing for a post. Yellowish-red matrix 5YR 4/8, silty sand, very abundant 5YR 4/8, silty sand, friable, loose, very abundant angular small to medium stones.
- 754 Unexcavated feature, the fill of which, 755, was identical to 716, 717 and 725 which continue west and southward from the junction of 717 and 725. Represents another post-trench similar to 716, 717, 725.
- 755 Fill of 754. Red 2.5YR 4/8 clayey compacted sand, friable, occ small sandstone frags.
- 756 Upper fill of enclosing ditch 706 in Trench 1. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 clayey sand, friable, occ angular sandstone frags.
- 757 Soil development over the weathering-derived fills 758-762 within 706 in Trench 1. Yellowish-red 5YR 5/8 slightly clayey sand, friable, occ small stones, burnt clay and rare charcoal.
- 758 Fill of 706 in Trench 6 derived from weathering of ditch and bank. Red 2.5YR 4/8 sand, friable, stoneless, occ worm-casts.
- 759 Fill of 706 in Trench 6 derived from weathering of ditch sides and bank. Red

- 2.5YR 5/8.
- 760 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of ditch sides and bank. Red 2.5YR 4/8 clayey sand, friable, stoneless <1% occ small sandstone frags.
- 761 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of ditch sides and bank. Red 2.5YR 4/6 sand, friable, stoneless <1%.
- 762 Primary fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of bank and ditch sides. Red 2.5YR 4/8 sand, friable, stoneless <1%.
- 763 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1. Probable infilling when ditch less stabilised. Shape of fill suggests it had been dumped.
- 764 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of ditch sides. Red 2.5YR 4/8 silty clayey sand, friable, occ rare sandstone frags.
- 765 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of bank and ditch sides. Red 2.5YR 4/8 clayey sand, friable, very slightly plastic.
- 766 Ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of bank and ditch sides. Red 2.5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable, stoneless.
- 767 Laminated lower ditch fill of 706 in Trench 1 derived from weathering of ditch sides. Red 2.5 YR 4/6 silty sand, friable, stoneless.
- 768 Fill of post-trench 769 in Trench 1, compacted, concreted fill similar to fills of 717, 716 and 725 in Trench 6. Probable packing material concreted *in situ*. Red 2.5Y 4/6, compacted, occ small sandstone frags.
- 769 Linear cut in Trench 1. Similar in profile to post-trenches 800 in Trench 6 and may represent structure. Contains 768.
- 770 Disturbed linear ditch cut in Trench 1. Disturbed by animal burrowing; shallow U-shaped profile. Not comparable to any other feature on site. W: 0.55m, D: 0.15m.
- 771 Ditch fill of 770 in Trench 1. Ditch cuts across linear feature 768/9. No finds.
- 772 Ditch cut in Trenches 3 and 4. Stepped in profile with western side 0.26m deeper. Cut 0.2m into natural on east and 0.4m on west. Possibly functioned as earlier palisade ditch pre-dating rectangular enclosure (706), but no packing or post impressions in base. Contained fill 773.
- 773 Ditch fill of 772 in Trenches 3 and 4. Yellow-red 5YR 5/8 silty sand, friable, occ small angular sandstone frags, occ charcoal frags.
- 774 Linear cut in Trench 3. Only the western edge was exposed. Contains 775, a concreted red sand, similar to fills in 800 (Trench 6) and in 769 (Trench 1). Cut by series of stakeholes 785-7. Also contains 784 (packing for stakes).
- 775 Fill of 774 in Trench 3. Red 2.5YR 4/6 concreted sand cut by stakeholes 785-7.
- 776 Pit cut in Trench 3. Partially exposed flat-bottomed, cut 0.8m into subsoil. Cuts earlier feature 774/5. Cut by curvilinear feature 772/3.
- 777 Pit fill in 776 in Trench 3. Yellow-red 5YR 5/8 silty sand, friable, common small angular sandstone frags.
- 778 Ditch fill of 780 in Trench 6. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable, occ moderate sub-angular stones, occ charcoal frags.
- 779 Stakehole cut into base of 772 in Trench 3.
- 780 Ditch terminus, Trench 6. Probable southern ditch terminus. Contains 778.
- 781 Post-hole (unexcavated) in Trench 6. May be associated with entrance to enclosure.
- 782 Fill of stakehole 779 in Trench 3. Pale brown, silty sand, friable, very soft, stoneless.
- 783 Layer in trench 3, infilling depression over 784. Overlies the southern part of fill 777.
- 784 Fill within 774 in Trench 3. Packing material around stakeholes 785-88. Yellowish-red 5YR 4/8 silty sand, friable matrix; abundant small to medium angular and sub-angular stones (sandstone).
- 785 Group of eight stakeholes in Trench 3 cut into 775.

- 786 Stakehole cut in Trench 3 cut into 775.
- 787 Stakehole cut in Trench 3 cut into 775.
- 788 Stakehole cut in Trench 3 cut into 703.
- 789 Stakehole fill in Trench 3 cut into base of 772.
- 790 Generic for fills of 785 in Trench 3. Pale brown, silty sand, friable, very soft, stoneless.
- 791 Linear ditch cut in Trench 2.
- 792 Ditch fill/linear fill in Trench 2. Identical to fills of 800 (Trench 6) and 769 (Trench 1).
- 793 Ditch cut in Trench 5. Plotted but not excavated.
- 794 Ditch fill of 793 in Trench 5.
- 795 Ditch cut in Trench 5. Part of linear feature shown on aerial photograph. Runs parallel to 701/2; if related, post-medieval in date. Plotted but not excavated.
- 796 Ditch cut in Trench 7 for linear feature, probably field division. Plotted but unexcavated; shown on aerial photograph.
- 797 Ditch fill of 795 in Trench 5.
- 798 Ditch fill of 796. Plotted but not excavated.
- 799 Surface debris in Trench 6, consisting of scattered/disturbed sandstone and grit laid down as a surface for the entrance.
- 800 Generic for square post-trenches (717, 716, 725).
- 801 Post-hole impression in base of 716 in Trench 6, associated with 802, 803.
- 802 Post impression in base of 716 in Trench 6.
- 803 Post impression in base of 716 in Trench 6.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation excavations were commissioned and funded by the Highways Agency (HA). The project was administered by R. Park and B. Lewis (HA), R.H. Veevers and C.R. Wilson (Acer Consultants Ltd, consulting engineers) and P.J. Weddell (EMAFU). Advice on archaeological matters was provided throughout by F.M. Griffith (Devon County Archaeological Service). R. Iles (English Heritage) advised on the Scoping Statement. T. Johnson (Oxford Archaeotechnics, geophysical survey consultants) provided invaluable assistance and information. The fieldwork was carried out with the kind permission of the landowner Mr Willmington of Sowton Village. The supervisor S.J. Reed was assisted by S. Blackmore, T. Dixon, A. Ellis, N. Goodwin, E. Jones, G. Kendall, P. Manning, S. Ottery, A. Sage, S. Sage and G. Young. The site was surveyed by J. Bedford. The illustrations were prepared by T. Ives and T. Dixon. The report was edited by S.D. Turton.

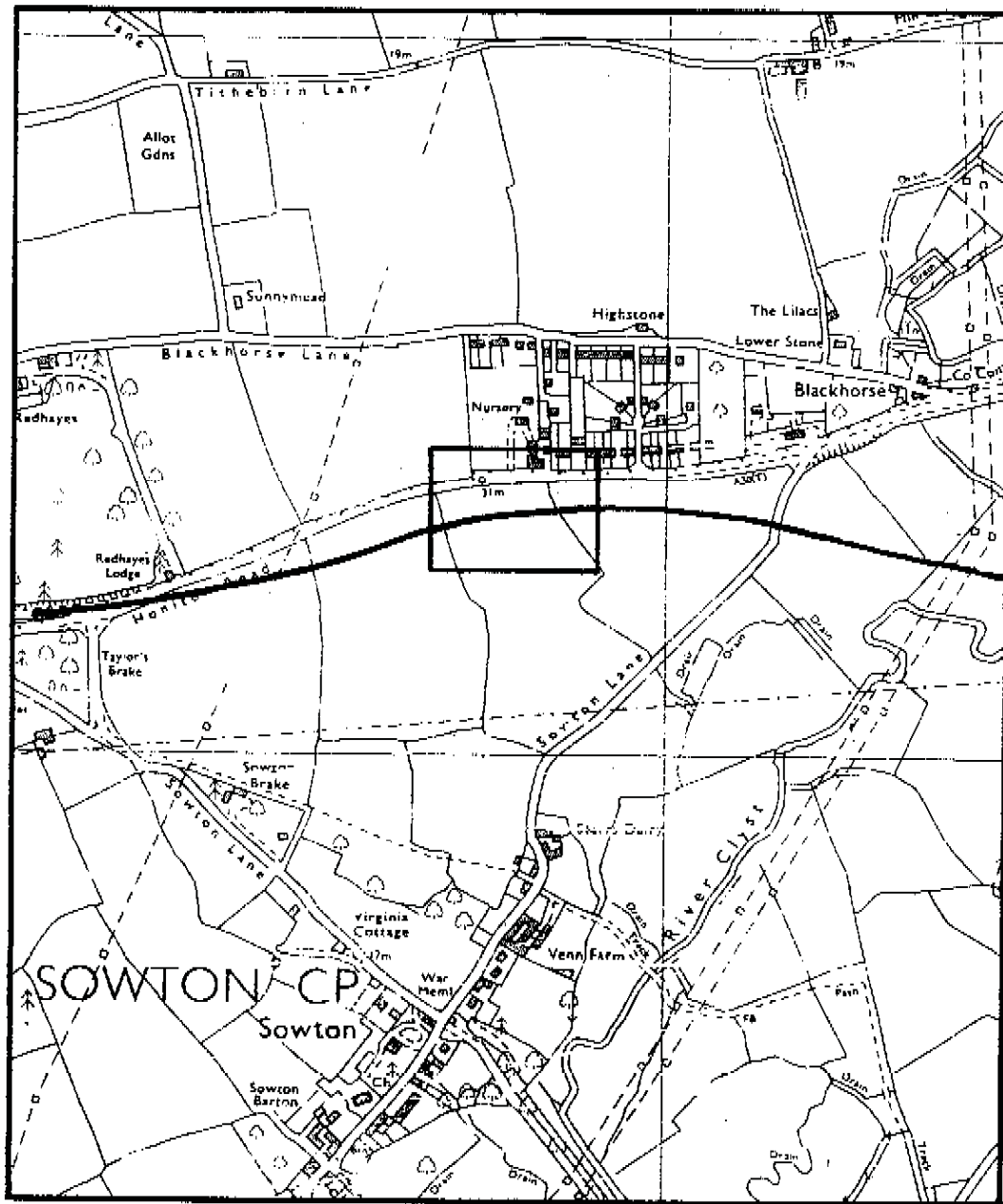


Fig. 2 Location of site. Scale 1:10,000.

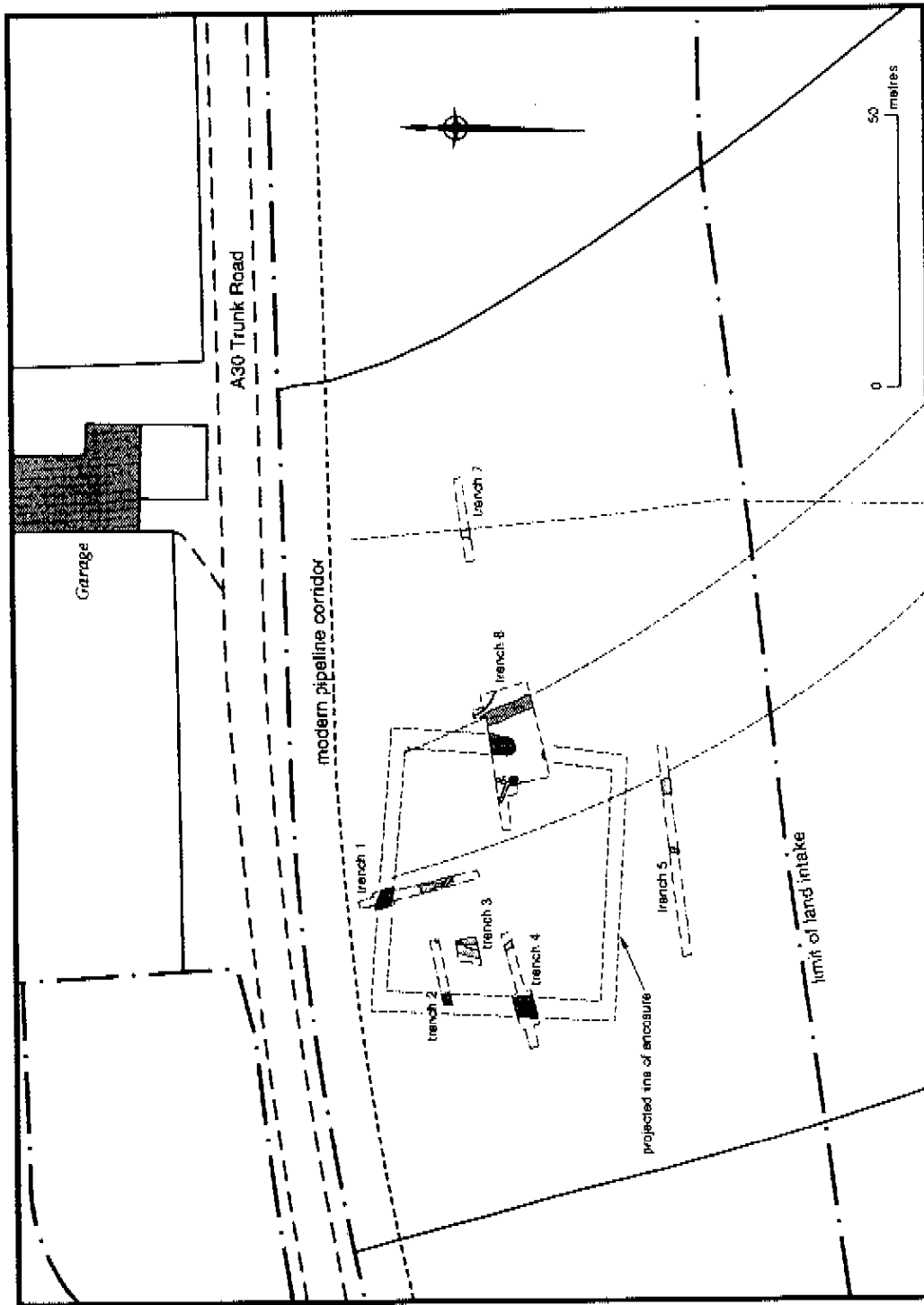


Fig. 3 Plan of trenches, with excavated features shown in relation to cropmarks (dashed lines).

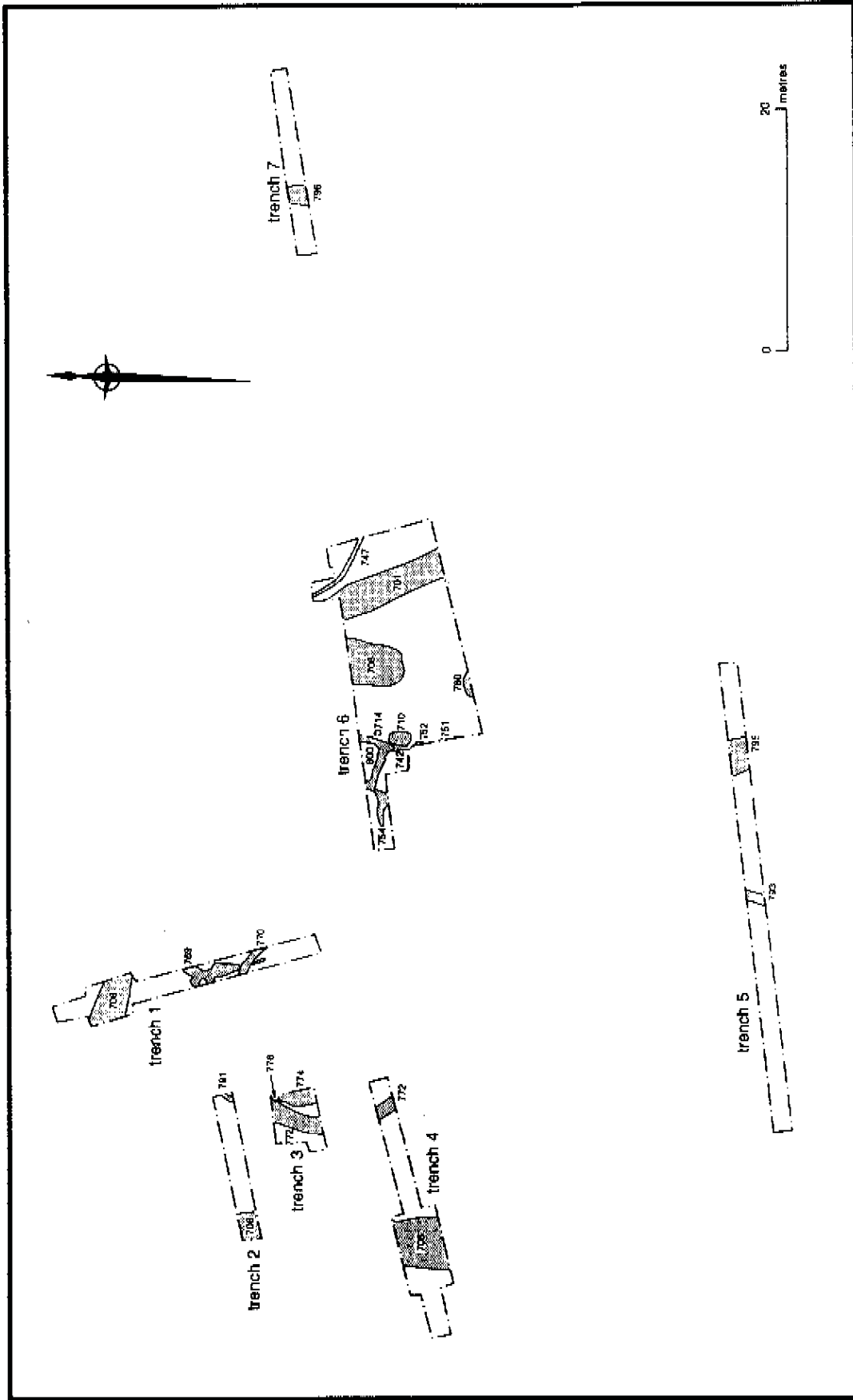


Fig. 4 Plan of trenches.

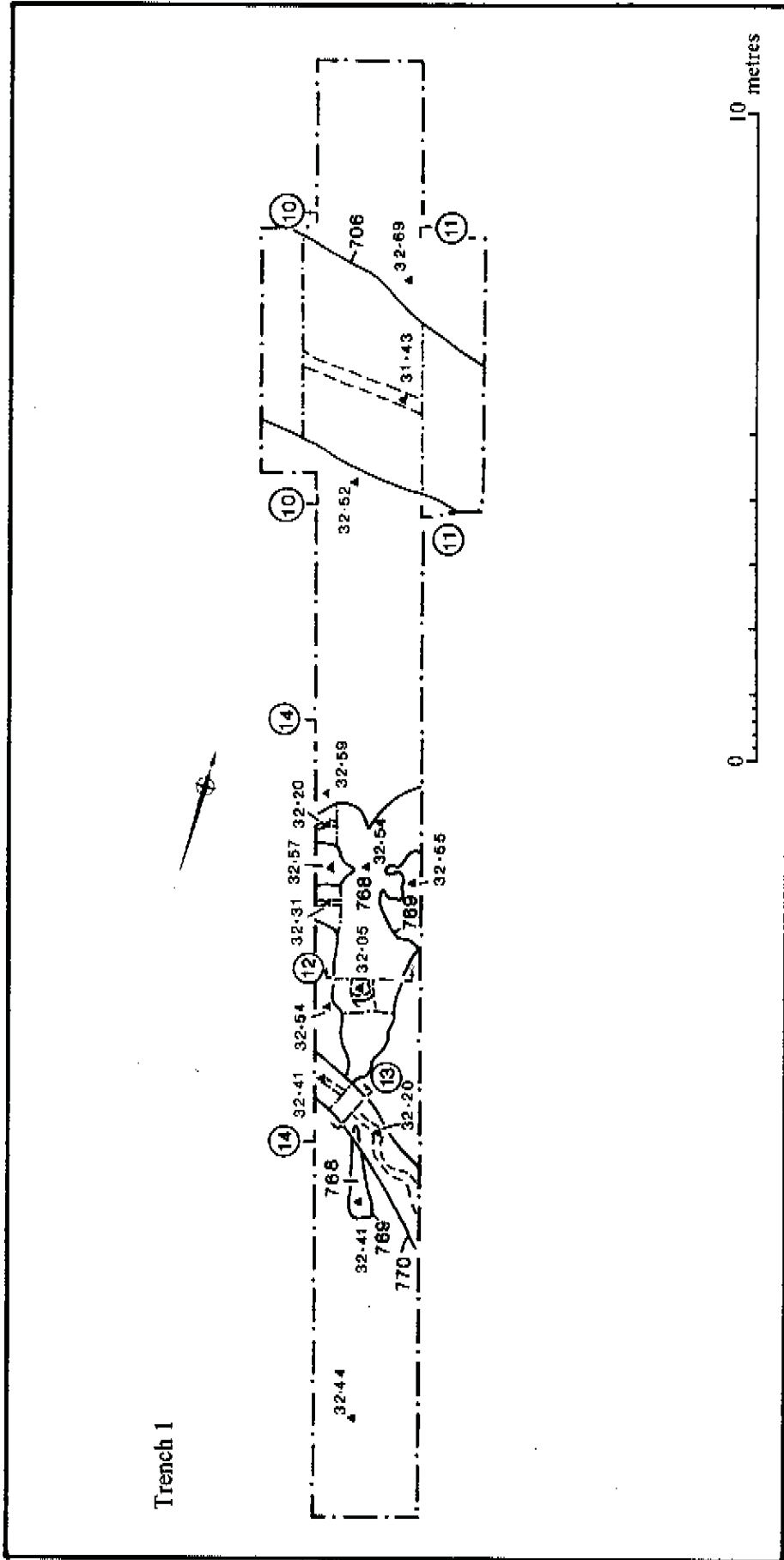


Fig. 5 Plan of Trench 1.

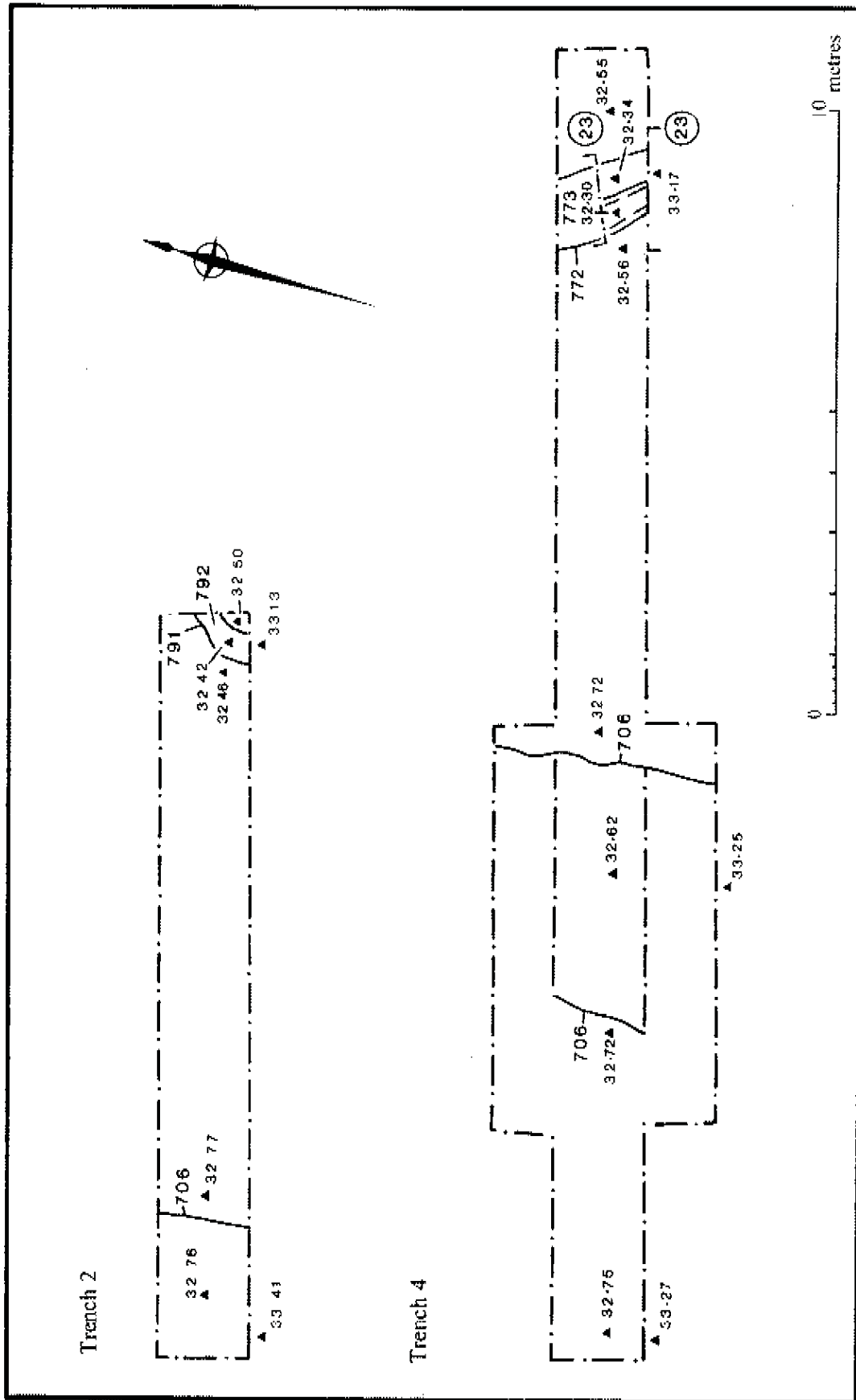


Fig. 6 Plan of Trenches 2 and 4.

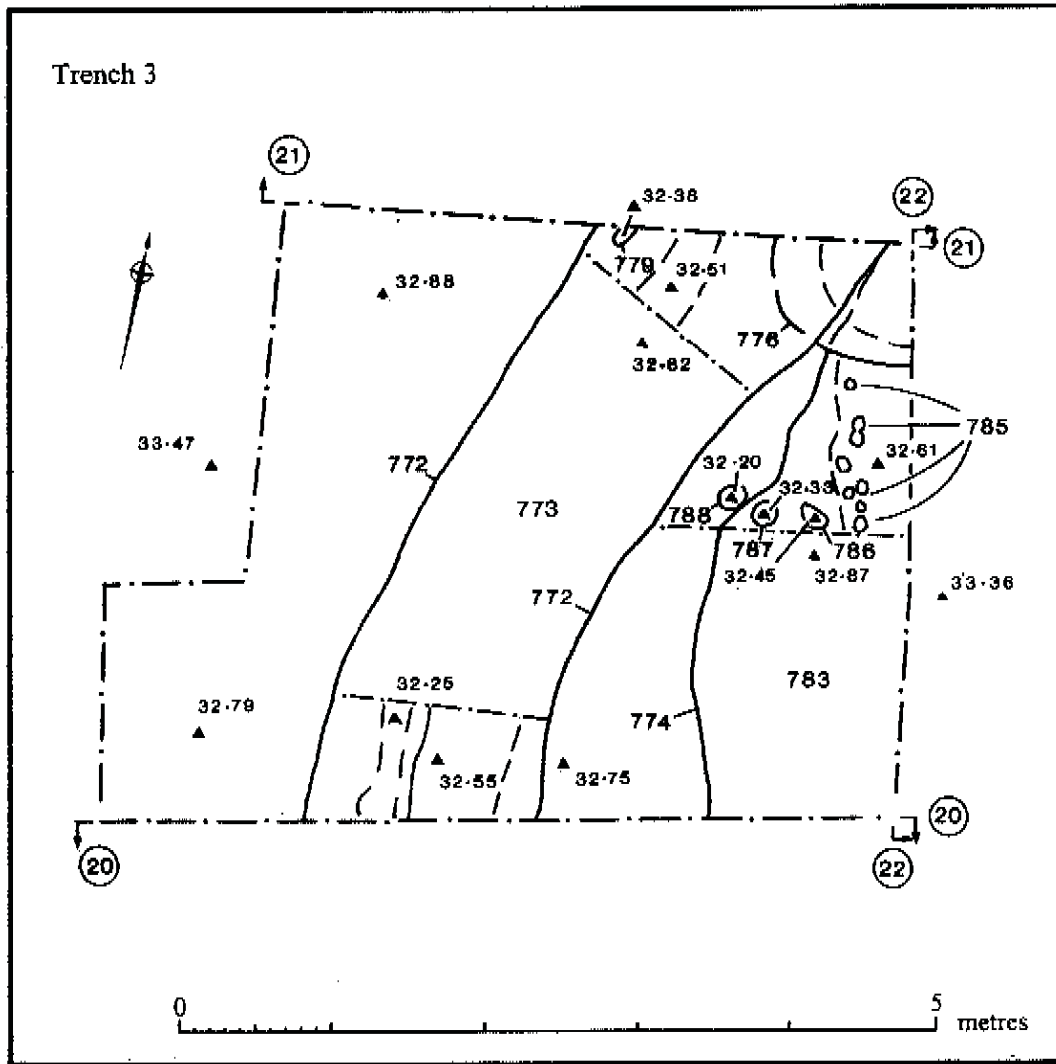


Fig. 7 Plan of Trench 3.

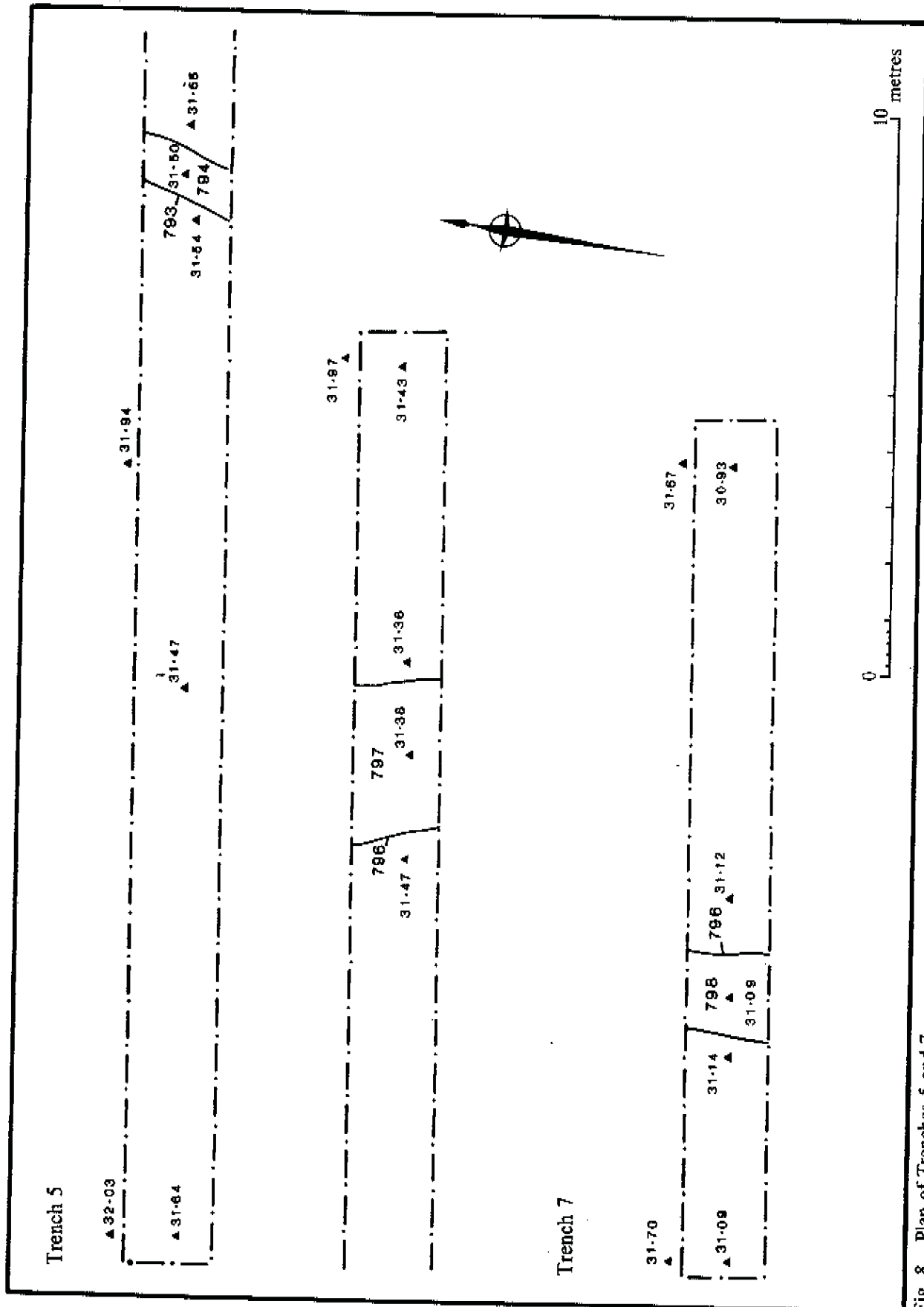


Fig. 8 Plan of Trenches 5 and 7.

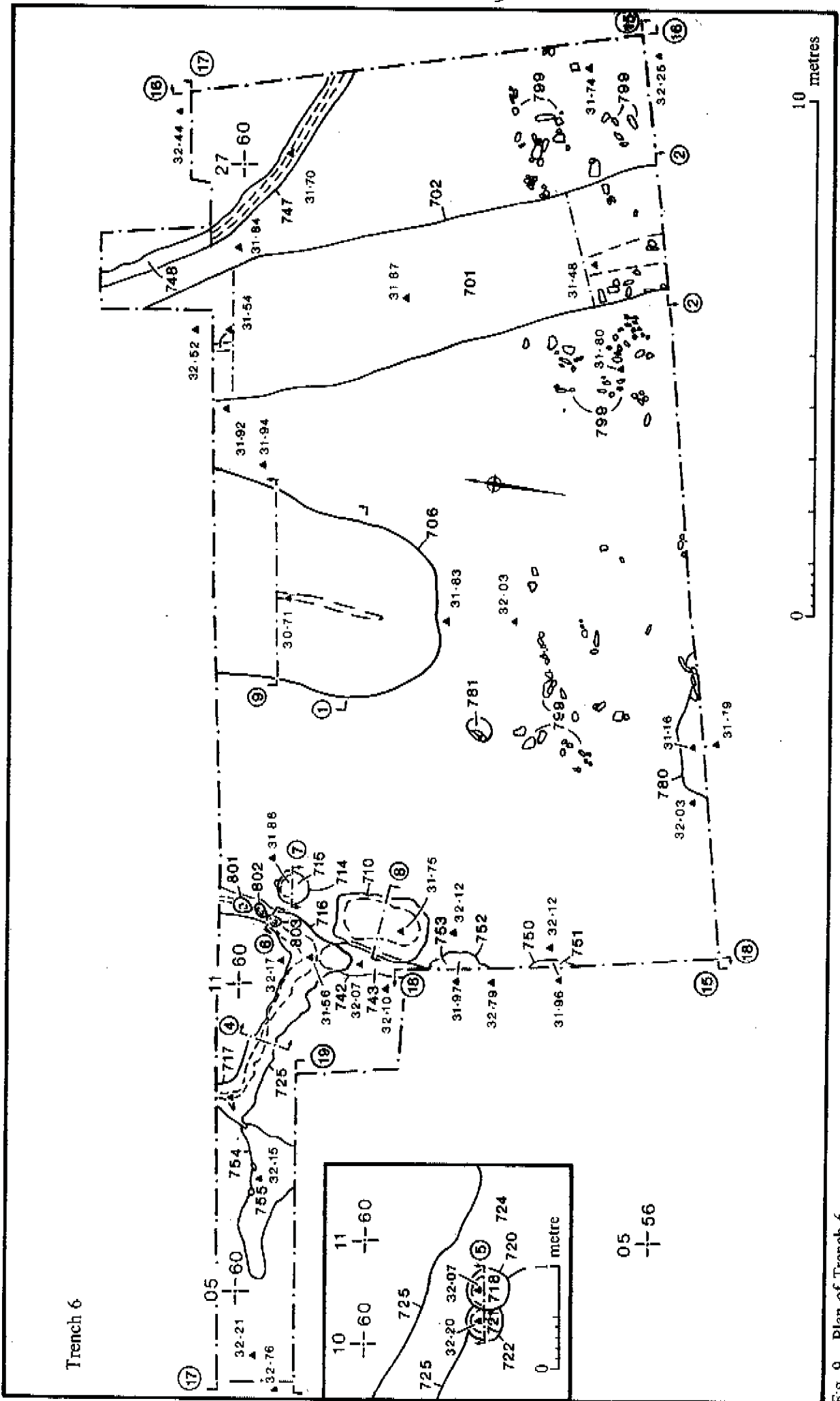
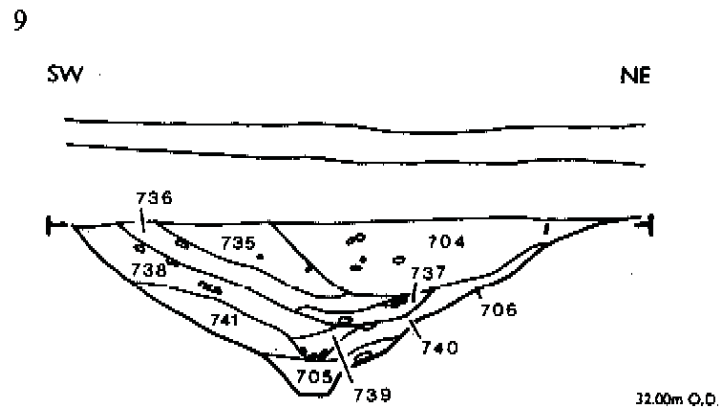
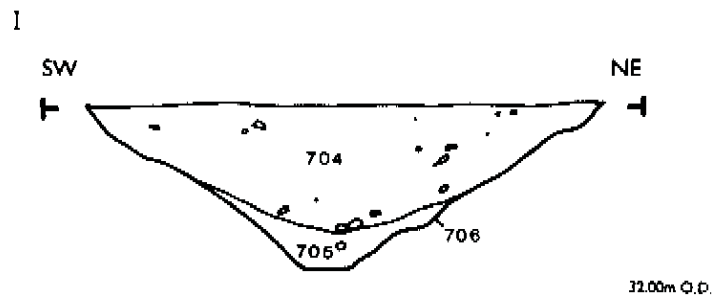


Fig. 9 Plan of Trench 6.

Sections: Trench 6



Sections: Trench 1

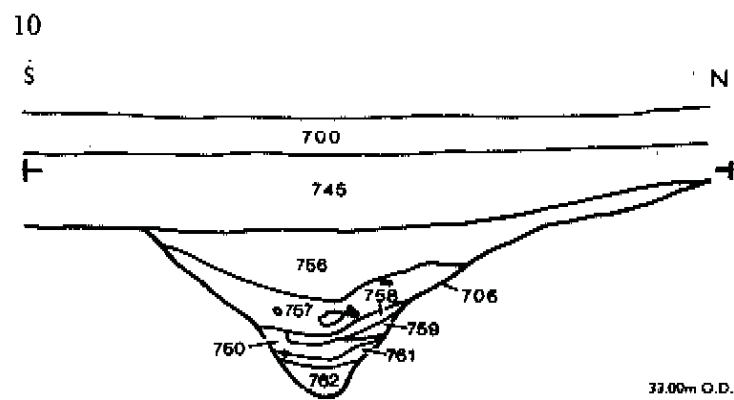
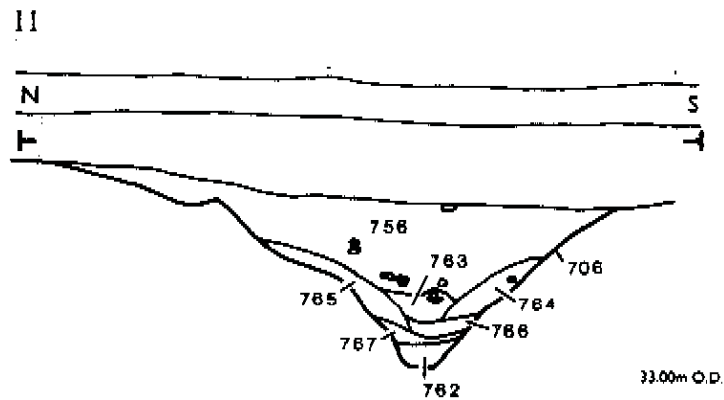
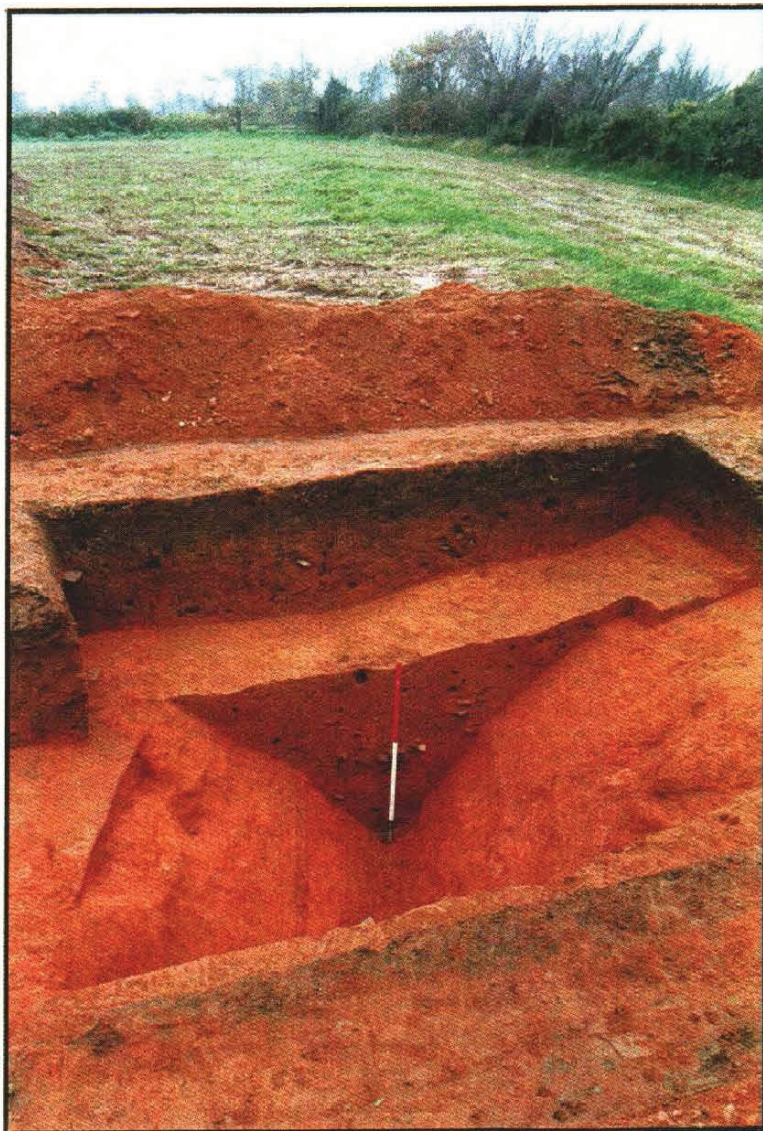


Fig. 10 Sections 1, 9, 10, 11 across enclosure ditch 706.



Plate 1 View of site prior to excavation. Looking east.



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Plate 2 Enclosure ditch 706 in Trench 1, fully excavated. Looking west.
(Scale: 1m).

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Plate 3 Linear feature 769 exposed in plan in Trench 1. Looking south.
(Scale: 1m).



Plate 4 Curvilinear feature 772 exposed in plan in Trench 3. Looking east. (Scale: 1m).



Plate 5 View of eastern half of Trench 6, showing ditch terminus and post-medieval ditch 702 on the right. Looking north.

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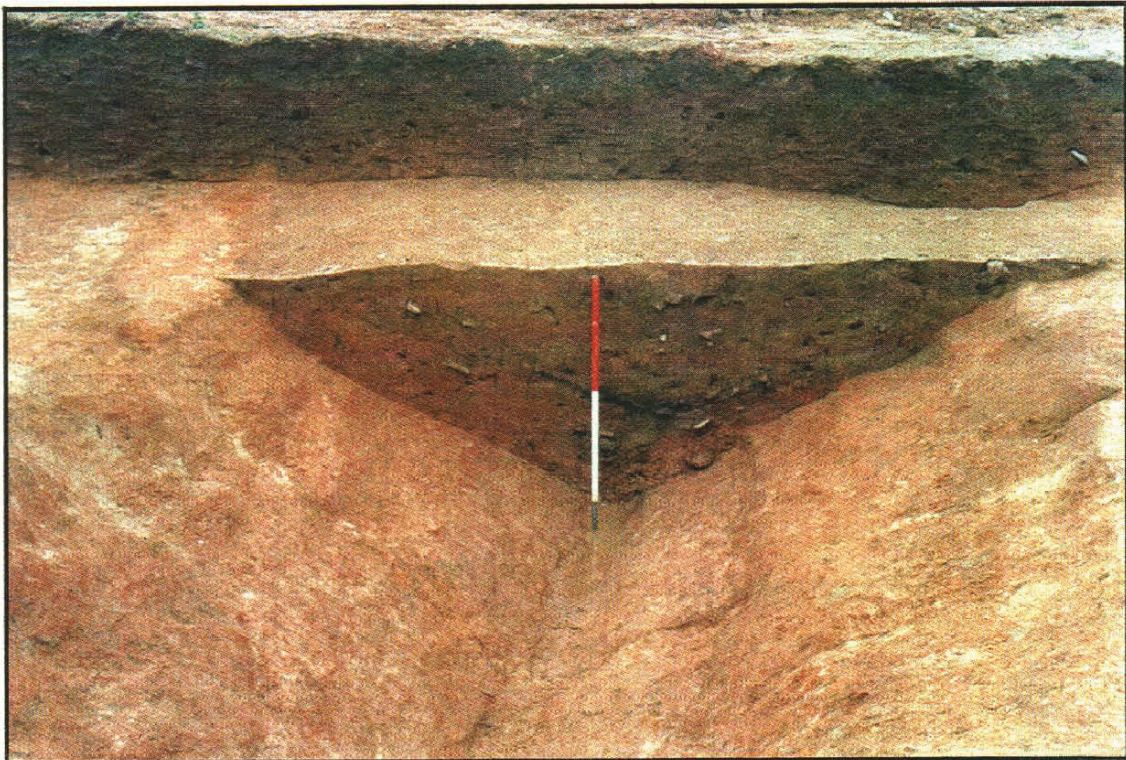
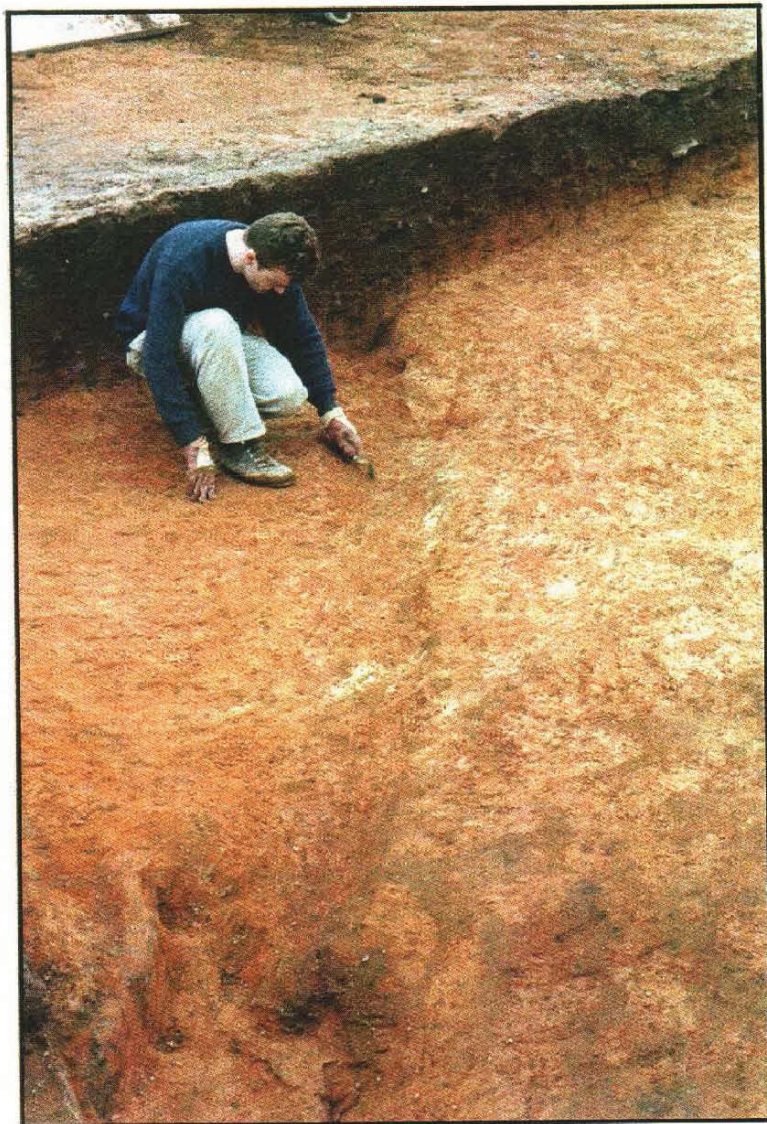


Plate 6 Detail of section across ditch terminus 706. Looking north. (Scale: 1m).



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Plate 7 Curving ditch 747 in north-east corner of Trench 6, fully excavated. Looking east.

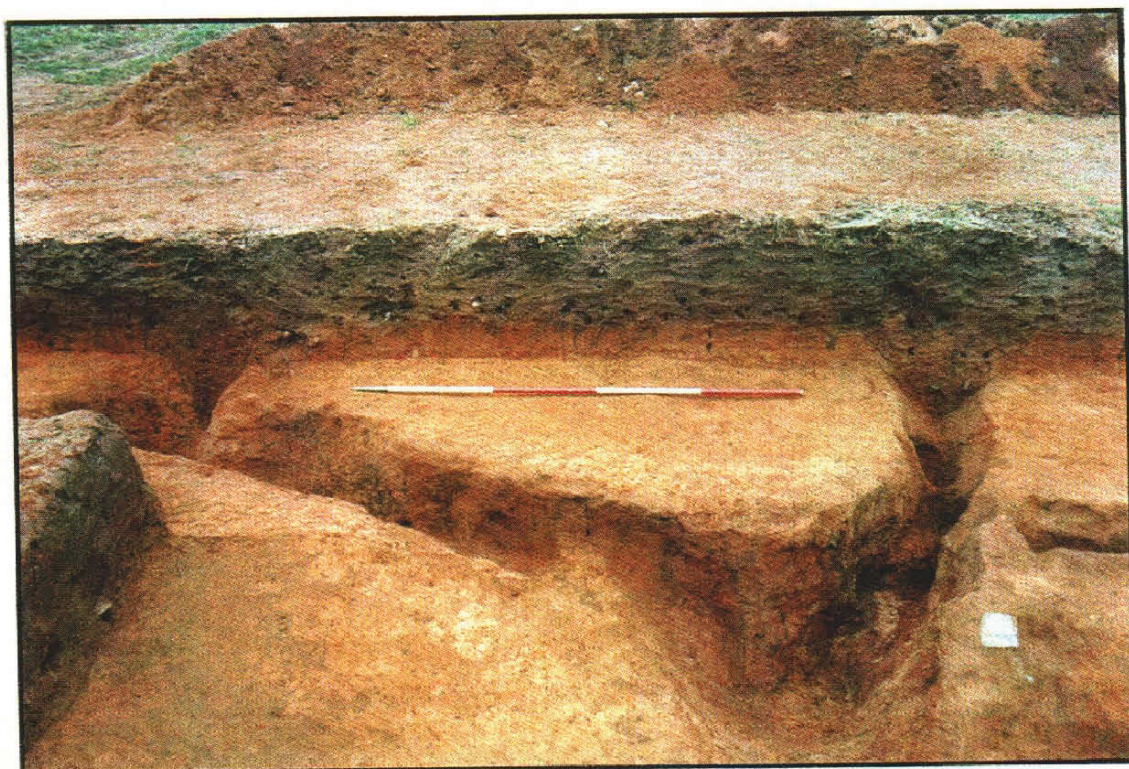


Plate 8 Post trench and slots of structure 800 in Trench 6, fully excavated. Looking north. (Scale: 2m).