



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Event 13892

61110 - R2

61111 - Mad

60812 - 1A

61115 - Section

61113 - pm

**Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford**

**Planning Application: ~~N15711/031/96~~ N/57/1031/96**

**NGR: TF 07896 46479**

**Site Code: SBL 99 LCNCC**

**LCNCC Museum Accession No. : 98.99**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Trenching**

**Report for**

**R. Blackbourn**

**on behalf of**

**Farming Investment Company**

**LAS Report No. 371  
November 1999**

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## **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

## **Excavation**

35 of the proposed 37 trenches were opened (Fig. 2), Trenches 3 and 4 remaining unexcavated due to their proximity to overhead power lines. The trenches, each measuring 20m x 1.8m, were dug using a toothless ditching bucket, supervised by an archaeologist (Pl. 3). This provided a c1.5% sample of the total development area of 8.84ha.

Archaeological recording was be carried out by a team of five experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director. Each trench was machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. The trenches were then hand cleaned to reveal features in plan. Carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

A full written and photographic record was made of the site, including trench plans at a scale of 1:50 and section drawings at 1:10. A plan of each trench was made with section drawings of one side. In addition, further plans and sections were made of individual features. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation covering each feature together with general site shots. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

Archaeological features were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in this report text and illustrations in bold type (see Appendix 2 for summary of all contexts). Context numbers were only assigned to natural features where those features exhibited a relationship with archaeological features.

## **Results**

After consultation with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, it was agreed that only trenches containing archaeological features should be described in this report. All other trenches contained either 100% natural features, or no features whatsoever. A summary of these is contained in Table 1, below.

**Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford**  
**Archaeological Evaluation Trenching**  
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**Summary**

*In May 1999 a total of 37 trial trenches were opened on land adjacent to Bonemill Lane, Sleaford. Many of these contained post medieval or modern drainage ditches, some with ceramic land drains inserted. One larger bore waste pipe, dated to the Victorian era was also identified.*

*Earlier dateable archaeological remains were present in two of the trenches. One corner of what was probably an Iron Age enclosure ditch was excavated in Trench 2 with further Iron Age and Roman features present in Trench 21. These remains may well be related to similar features excavated across the railway tracks, to the west of the site.*

**The Site** (Fig. 1, Pls. 1 & 2)

The development site comprised a triangular piece of land 8.84ha in extent, located between the railway and the new course of the River Slea (Pls. 1 & 2). The field was under cultivation, having been recently ploughed. Cropmarks have been recorded on aerial photographs on land to the west of this site which proved, on excavation, to include an Iron Age enclosure, and the potential for further remains was considered to be high.

**Archaeological Background**

Archaeological excavations on the east side of Sleaford have identified late Iron Age and Roman settlement remains. The proposed development lies within an area of extensive cropmarks which represent further prehistoric/Romano-British settlement sites and associated field systems. An enclosure complex has been recorded on the parcel of land lying immediately west of the proposed development and next to the A153. It was considered possible that associated remains may be present within the proposed development site.

**Previous Archaeological Work**

A desk-based assessment covering this area was carried out in 1996 (Tann 1996) and fieldwalking (Williams 1998) and geophysical survey (Johnson 1998) were completed in 1998. The fieldwalking results were largely negative but the geophysical survey revealed two areas of enhanced magnetism with weak linear anomalies in the northern part of the site which it was thought may represent ditches or gullies of archaeological origin. The lack of Roman finds from the fieldwalking suggested a possible Iron Age date for any archaeological remains. Pottery of this date does not survive well in ploughsoil and its absence does not, therefore necessarily mean an absence of archaeological remains.

**Table 1. Summary of Features Within Trial Trenches**

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Features Present</b>	<b>Described Below?</b>
1	Gully 105	Yes
2	Ditch 203, gullies 209, 211, treeboles 205, 208, 224	Yes
3	Unexcavated	No
4	Unexcavated	No
5	Ditch 505	Yes
6	Land drains, natural features	No
7	Land drain, natural features	No
8	Land drains, natural features	No
9	Gully 904, treebole 906	Yes
10	Ditches 1006, 1009, gullies 1004, 1011, drain 1008	Yes
11	Land drain, natural features	No
12	Land drain, natural features	No
13	Land drain, natural feature	No
14	Gully 1404	Yes
15	Ditch 1504	Yes
16	Ditches 1609, 1611, gullies 1604, 1606	Yes
17	Ditches 1704, 1706, 1708, 1710, 1712, 1715	Yes
18	Land drain, natural features	No
19	Ditch 1905	Yes
20	Land drain, natural features	No
21	Ditches 2104, 2108, 2110, gully 2106	Yes
22	Ditches 2204, 2207, gully 2209	Yes
23	Land drain, natural features	No
24	Land drain, natural features	No
25	Natural features	No
26	Natural features	No
27	Ditch 2703	Yes
28	Natural features	No
29	Ditch 2904	Yes
30	Ditch 3005	Yes
31	Ditches 3104, 3106, 3108, drain 3111, pipe trench 3113	Yes
32	Ditch 3203, curvilinear 3207, treebole 3205	Yes
33	Ditches 3303, 3305, 3307,	Yes
34	Ditches 3404, 3407, 3409, drain 3406	Yes
35	Modern animal burial 3505, natural features	No
36	Pit 3603, ditch 3611, drains 3605, 3608	Yes
37	Land drains, natural features	No

A full written and photographic record, together with original site drawings of all trenches is available as part of the site archive.

*Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Pl. 4)*

Beneath the 0.30m thick topsoil, **101**, was a deposit of light brown subsoil, **106**. This 0.05m thick silty layer was cut by gully **105**, 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep (Fig. 23a, Pl. 5). Aligned east-west, it contained two fills. The primary fill was **104**, a 0.10m thick deposit of grey-brown sandy silt containing frequent small rounded stones. Overlying this was **103**, a layer of mid brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick. No finds were recovered from this feature which probably represents a shallow drainage ditch.

Below the subsoil was the natural, **102**, a yellow sand and gravel with patches of grey clay.

*Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Pls. 6 & 11)*

Below **201**, the 0.30m deep topsoil was an intermittent 0.05m thick layer of orange brown subsoil, **225**, below which was the natural sand and gravel, **202**.

Ditch **203** (Fig. 23b, Pls. 7, 8 & 9) was situated in the approximate centre of the trench, aligned NW-SE and curving north through the northern half of the trench. It was, on average, 1.40m wide and 0.45m deep and contained four fills. At the base of the cut was **216**, a deposit of light brown silty sand with an average depth of 0.14m. No finds were recovered from this context which was also recorded as **219**. Above this was **215**, a layer of grey brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick which contained occasional rounded stones. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from this fill, which was also recorded as **218**. Overlying both **215** and **216** was **214**, a gritty sandy deposit which was 0.15m to 0.20m thick. No finds were recovered from this context which may represent slumped-in bank material. The uppermost fill of the ditch was **204**, a brown sandy silt layer with an average depth of 0.24m. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery and animal bone was present in this context, which was also recorded as **213**.

Cutting **203** in the approximate centre of the trench was gully **209** (Figs. 23b & 23c, Pl. 8), a NE-SW feature 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep. This probable drain cut contained one fill, **210**, a brown silty sand containing occasional small stones. No finds were present in this context.

Ditch **203** cut through two natural features, **205** (Pl. 9) and **208**. Treebole **205** was 0.20m deep and approximately 0.50m in diameter. It contained two fills, the lower of which was **217**, a light brown sandy silt with an average depth of 0.10m. Overlying this was **206**, a dark brown sandy silt containing occasional gravel.

Treebole **208** was irregular in shape and contained two fills. At the base of the cut was a deposit of yellow brown silty gravel, **220**. It had an average depth of 0.10m and was overlaid by **207**, a mid brown sandy silt with an average depth of 0.45m.

At the south end of the trench was an east-west aligned linear feature, **211** (Pl. 10). It was c1.00m wide, 0.25m deep and contained three fills. The earliest of these was **222**, a 0.25m thick deposit of brown silty gravel above which was **221**, a layer of mid brown silty sand with an average depth of 0.10m. The upper fill of this feature was **212**, a deposit of dark brown silt with a maximum depth of 0.30m. No finds were

recovered from this feature.

Linear feature **211** cut treebole **224**, although this relationship was only visible in the baulk section and, hence, does not appear on the plan. This irregular feature contained one fill, **223**, a 0.25m deep deposit of light brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

*Trench 5 (Fig. 5, Pl. 12)*

Below the 0.30m thick topsoil, **501** was the natural sand and gravel, **502**. Cut into the natural and aligned roughly east-west was ditch **505** (Pl. 13). It was 1.70m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.45m. It contained two fills, the lower of which, **504**, was a 0.07m thick layer of grey brown silty sand containing a high percentage of gravel. Overlying this was **503**, a dark brown silty sand containing occasional rounded stones and from which a small quantity of Roman tile was recovered.

*Trench 9 (Fig. 6, Pl. 14)*

Underlying **901**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was the natural sand and gravel, **902**. Cut through this material at the southern end of the trench was a NE-SW aligned gully, **904** (Pl. 15). It was 0.38m wide, 0.13m deep and was filled by **903**, a grey brown silty sand containing occasional rounded stones. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Gully **904** cut through the northern edge of a treebole, **906**. This irregular natural feature contained **905**, a grey brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones and some evidence for the removal of roots by burning.

*Trench 10 (Fig. 7, Pl. 16)*

Beneath the 0.30m deep topsoil, **1001** was **1003**, an intermittent layer of mid brown subsoil with an average depth of 0.05m, and through which all the archaeological features were cut. This layer was above the natural sand and gravel, **1002**.

At the east end of the trench was a north-south aligned ditch, **1009** (Pl. 17). It was 0.90m wide, 0.29m deep and contained one fill, **1010**, a dark grey brown sandy silt containing no finds.

0.40m west of **1009**, and following the same alignment was gully **1011**. This feature was 0.50m wide, 0.28m deep and was filled by **1012**, a dark brown sandy silt containing occasional small, rounded stones.

Approximately 2.75m west of **1011** was ditch **1006** (Pl. 18). Following the same alignment as **1011**, this ditch was 1.20m wide and 0.53m deep. It was filled by **1007**, a loose dark grey sandy silt deposit from which an iron nail was recovered. This feature was cut by a north-south aligned modern drain, **1008**.

0.40m west of **1006** and on a similar alignment was another gully, **1004**. It was 0.66m wide, 0.18m deep and contained a single dark grey brown sandy silt fill, **1005**.

*Trench 14 (Fig. 8, Pl. 19)*

Below the 0.30m thick topsoil, **1401**, was the yellow sand and gravel natural, **1402**. Cutting this layer towards the west end of the trench was a NW-SE aligned gully, **1404** (Pl. 20). It was 0.40m wide, 0.17m deep and contained **1403**, a grey brown silty sand deposit containing occasional small rounded stones.

*Trench 15 (Fig. 9, Pl. 21)*

Underlying the 0.30m thick topsoil, **1501**, was a 0.20m deep layer of dark grey brown subsoil, **1503**. This layer sealed both the natural sand and gravel, **1502**, and the archaeological horizon.

One ditch, **1504** (Fig. 24a, Pl. 22), was located at the north end of the trench. This NW-SE aligned feature was 1.00m wide, 0.30m deep and contained one fill, **1505**, a deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

*Trench 16 (Fig. 10, Pl. 23)*

Beneath **1601**, the 0.30m deep topsoil was a 0.10m thick layer of grey brown subsoil, **1603**. This deposit was above the natural yellow sand and gravel, **1602**, and was cut by the archaeological features present in the trench.

At the north end of the trench, aligned east-west was a shallow gully, **1604** (Pl. 24). It was 0.40m wide with a depth of 0.09m, probably the result of truncation. It was filled by **1605**, a mid grey brown sandy silt containing small quantities of rounded stone.

Adjacent to, and just south of **1604** was a second gully, **1606** (Pl. 24). This feature was 0.61m wide and 0.13m deep, again, probably the result of truncation. It contained a single fill, **1607**, a grey brown sandy silt with small rounded stone inclusions.

The relationship between **1604** and **1606** could not be established because of an area of lateral root disturbance between the two features. This disturbance was allocated a context number, **1608**, to aid recording.

Just north of the centre of the trench, and aligned east-west was ditch **1609** (Pl. 25). It was, on average, 2.00m wide, 0.27m deep and contained one fill, **1610**, a mid grey brown sandy silt containing small sub angular stones. No finds were present in this deposit.

At the southern end of the trench was another east-west aligned ditch, **1611** (Pl. 26). It was 1.50m wide, 0.20m deep and contained one fill, **1612**, a mid grey brown sandy silt containing a small percentage of rounded stones.

*Trench 17 (Fig. 11, Pl. 27)*

Underlying the 0.30m thick topsoil, **1701**, was **1703**, a 0.15m thick layer of grey brown subsoil which was above the heavily tree-disturbed natural sand and gravel, **1702**.

At the eastern end of the trench was a NE-SW aligned gully, **1704** (Pl. 28). It was 0.62m wide, 0.22m deep and contained a single dark grey sandy silt fill, **1705**.

Approximately 4.40m west of **1704** was ditch **1715** (Fig. 24b, Pl. 29). This ditch remnant was aligned north-south and had one fill, **1716**, a mid grey brown silty sand containing small quantities of rounded stone. It was heavily truncated by ditch **1706** (Fig. 24b, Pls. 29 & 30), which was 1.05m wide, 0.35m deep and contained **1707**, a dark grey brown sandy silt fill.

1.00m west of **1706**, and following a similar alignment was ditch **1708** (Fig. 24c, Pls. 30 & 31). It was 1.50m wide, 0.53m deep and contained one fill, **1709**, a deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt containing small, sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered from this context.

Gully **1710** (Pl. 32) was 0.55m wide, 0.20m deep and was located 1.00m to the west of **1708**. Following a NE-SW alignment, this linear feature contained one fill, **1711**, a dark grey sandy silt.

At the west end of the trench was ditch **1712** (Pl. 33). It was in excess of 1.30m wide, its western edge being beyond the limits of the trench. It had a maximum depth of 0.41m and contained two fills. At the base of the cut was a dark grey primary silting deposit, **1714**. This 0.05m thick deposit contained frequent small rounded stone and was below **1713**, a 0.36 deep layer of mid grey brown sandy silt from which a small quantity of animal bone was recovered.

*Trench 19 (Fig. 12, Pl. 34)*

Underlying the 0.30m thick topsoil, **1901**, was an undulating layer of grey brown subsoil, **1903**, which had a maximum depth of 0.15m. Below this was the yellow sand and gravel natural, **1902**.

At the southern end of the trench, aligned NW-SE and cutting **1903**, was ditch **1905** (Fig. 24d, Pl. 35). This drainage feature was 1.50m wide, 0.40m deep and contained a single fill, **1904**, which comprised of a dark grey brown silty sand containing small rounded stones which increased in density with depth.

*Trench 21 (Fig. 13, Pl. 36)*

Below **2101**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was a 0.10m deep deposit of grey brown subsoil, **2103**, which was, in turn, overlying the natural sand and gravel, **2102**.

At the north end of the trench was a slightly curving linear ditch, **2104** (Pl. 37). Aligned east-west, it was in excess of 2.05m wide, its northern edge being beyond the limits of the trench, and 0.17m deep. It contained one fill, **2105**, a dark grey brown silty sand from which Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Terminating against the southern edge of **2104** was gully **2106** (Fig. 24e, Pl. 38). It was 0.80m wide, 0.19m deep and aligned north-south. It contained **2107**, a dark brown grey silty sand from which Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery along with a small quantity of animal bone were recovered.

Aligned NW-SE, some 4.50m south of **2104** was ditch **2108** (Pl. 39). This 1.25m wide, 0.29m deep feature contained two fills, the lower of which was a 0.10m thick deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt, **2112**. Above this was **2109**, a slightly paler sandy silt containing occasional small stones.

1.00m south of **2108** and aligned east-west was a shallow linear feature, **2110** (Pl. 40). It was 0.92m wide, 0.09m deep and probably represents a truncated plough furrow. It contained one fill, **2111**, a dark grey brown silty sand from which one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

*Trench 22 (Fig. 14, Pl. 41)*

Below the 0.30m thick topsoil, **2201**, was a patchy 0.15m deep deposit of mid brown subsoil, **2203**, which appeared within a natural depression. Underlying this material was the natural sand and gravel, **2202**.

Approximately 3.00m from the west end of the trench was ditch **2204** (Pl. 42). This north-south aligned feature was 1.00m wide, 0.45m deep and contained two fills. At the base of the cut was **2206**, a 0.15m deep layer of dark grey brown sandy silt containing occasional small stones. Overlying this was **2205**, a layer of mid grey brown sandy silt with a depth of 0.30m.

2.00m east of **2204** was gully **2209**. Only a very small remnant of this feature, which contained a dark grey silty fill, **2210**, survived truncation by ditch **2207** (Pl. 43). The latter feature was 1.75m wide, 0.28m deep and contained **2208**, a deposit of mid grey brown silty sand.

*Trench 27 (Fig. 15, Pl. 44)*

Underlying **2701**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was the natural sand and gravel, **2702**. Cutting this material, located 4.50m from the eastern end of the trench was a NW-SE aligned ditch, **2703** (Fig. 25a). It was 1.70m wide, 0.34m deep and contained one fill, **2704**, a dark grey brown silty sand containing frequent small rounded stones.

*Trench 29 (Fig. 16, Pl. 45)*

Beneath the 0.30m deep topsoil, **2901**, was a 0.10m thick deposit of mid brown subsoil, **2903**, which was, in turn, overlying **2902**, the yellow sand and gravel natural.

At the eastern end of the trench, aligned east-west, was ditch **2904** (Pl. 46). It was 0.62m wide, 0.23m deep and contained a single fill, **2905**, a dark grey brown sandy silt with iron panning at its base. No finds were collected from this context.

*Trench 30 (Fig. 17, Pl. 47)*

Below the 0.30m deep topsoil, **3001**, was **3006**, an intermittent subsoil deposit. This material, a red brown clay silt, had an average depth of 0.05m and was above the natural sand and gravel, **3002**.



Running east-west down the length of the trench was ditch **3005** (Fig. 25b, Pl. 48). It was 2.00m wide, 0.50-0.60m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill was **3004**, an orange brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick containing medieval pottery. Above this was **3003**, a very dark grey sandy silt from which quantities of post medieval/modern pottery, brick, tile, glass and animal bone were recovered. This material appears to emanate from a large bore ceramic pipe situated at the east end of the trench within what appear to be the remains of a limestone culvert. It is likely that this pipe and stone are later additions to an existing drainage ditch which channeled waste into the River Slea.

*Trench 31 (Fig. 18, Pl. 49)*

Underlying the 0.30m thick topsoil, **3101**, was **3103**, an intermittent 0.05m thick layer of mid brown silty clay subsoil. This context was above the natural sand and gravel, **3102**.

Approximately 8.00m from the south end of the trench was a SW-NE aligned ditch, **3104** (Fig. 25c, Pl. 50). This 'v'-cut feature was 0.60m wide, 0.28m deep and contained one fill, a dark grey brown clay loam, **3105**, containing small stones and knots of clay. This feature was much disturbed by tree roots and a modern land drain.

1.50m north of **3104**, and following a similar alignment was ditch **3106** (Fig. 25d, Pl. 51). It was 0.80m wide, 0.28m deep and contained a single dark grey brown silty clay fill, **3107**. This ditch was disturbed by tree roots and cut by both a modern land drain and ditch **3108**.

Ditch **3108** was situated c.6.40m from the northern end of the trench. Aligned east-west, it cut both a natural feature which, in turn, cut ditch **3106**, and ditch **3111**. The feature exhibited two fills, an orange brown sandy silt, **3109** and a dark grey brown sandy silt, **3110**. It remained unexcavated as the same feature had already been recorded in Trench 30 as ditch **3005**.

Drainage ditch **3111** was situated at the north end of the trench. It was 1.45m wide and was aligned NE-SW, angling sharply east. Waterlogging prevented full excavation of this feature, although cursory examination suggested it to be very shallow, c.0.10m deep. It contained one fill, **3112**, a red brown silty clay from which no finds were recovered. A land drain, **3113/3114** was cut through the centre of this feature, following the same NE-SW course.

*Trench 32 (Fig. 19, Pl. 52)*

Beneath the 0.30m thick topsoil, **3201**, was **3202**, the natural sand and gravel.

6.40m from the north end of the trench was ditch **3203** (Pl. 53). It was aligned east-west with a width of 0.80m and a depth of 0.08m, probably the result of truncation by deep ploughing. It was filled by **3204**, a mid grey sandy silt containing occasional small stones. The ditch was disturbed on the eastern side of the trench by tree root activity, recorded as **3205/3206**.

At the north end of the trench was a curving linear feature, **3207** (Fig. 25e). It was 0.65m wide, 0.33m deep and aligned east-west, curving north before continuing beyond the limits of the trench. **3207** contained two fills; at the base of the cut was a primary silting deposit, **3209**. Above this 0.11m thick deposit was **3208**, a 0.22m deep layer of grey sandy silt from which one piece of animal bone was recovered.

*Trench 33 (Fig. 20, Pl. 54)*

Underlying **3301**, the 0.30m deep topsoil was the sand and gravel natural, **3302**.

Approximately 7.50m from the east end of the trench was ditch **3303** (Fig. 26a). This NW-SE aligned feature was 1.00m wide, 0.40m deep and contained one fill, a dark grey brown silty sand, **3304**.

Cutting the eastern edge of ditch **3303** was the terminus of a NE-SW aligned ditch, **3305** (Fig. 26b, Pl. 55). It was 0.54m wide, 0.30m deep and contained **3306**, a dark grey brown silty sand fill.

At the extreme east end of the trench the western edge of ditch **3307** was visible. Most of this NE-SW aligned feature was beyond the trench limits, although a single dark grey silty fill, **3308**, was recorded.

*Trench 34 (Fig. 21, Pl. 56)*

Below the 0.30m deep topsoil, **3401**, was **3403**, a layer of orange brown subsoil with an average depth of 0.14m. This material was directly above the sand and gravel natural, **3402**. One piece of struck flint was recovered from the topsoil in the vicinity of this trench.

At the western end of the trench was a NE-SW aligned ditch, **3409** (Pls. 57 & 58). It was in excess of 2.70m wide, its north-western edge being beyond the limits of the trench. It contained one fill, **3410**, a 0.30m deep deposit of orange grey silty sand which contained occasional gravels.

**3409** was cut by north-south aligned ditch **3407** (Pl. 58). It was 1.60m wide, 0.31m deep and contained a single fill, **3408**, a layer of mid orange grey silty sand, and sealed by the subsoil, **3403**.

Just east of the centre of the trench was a NE-SW aligned ditch, **3404** (Pl. 59). It was 1.79m wide, 0.20m deep and contained one fill, a deposit of orange grey silty sand, **3405**. Cut through the centre of this feature, on the same alignment was a modern field drain, **3406**.

*Trench 36 (Fig. 22, Pl. 60)*

Underlying **3601**, the 0.30m thick topsoil was **3602**, the sand and gravel natural into which all the archaeological features were cut.

At the west end of the trench was a sub-rectangular pit, **3603** (Pl. 61). It was This probably fairly modern feature contained one fill, **3604**, a grey brown silty sand. The pit was cut by a modern land drain, recorded as **3605/3606**.

West of the centre of the trench was a NW-SE aligned ditch, **3611** (Fig. 26c, Pl. 62). It was 1.76m wide, 0.40m deep and contained two fills, the earliest of which was **3610**, a 0.15m thick mottled grey and orange brown silty sand from which a small quantity of tile was recovered. Overlying this primary fill was **3610**, a layer of mid red brown silty sand. Quantities of animal bone and tile were recovered from this 0.25m deep deposit. A modern land drain, **3608/3607**, which followed a similar alignment, cut this feature.

### **Discussion**

The evaluation trenching on the site revealed little material which may be regarded as significant from an archaeological perspective. Many of the trenches were archaeologically inert with all features of natural origin. This was particularly evident adjacent to the river where the action of riverside trees, both in antiquity and currently, has disturbed the underlying geology creating large patches of heavy blue-grey clay brought up from depth.

The two fields which comprised the evaluation area show many phases of drainage, most heading toward the river itself and including at least one main sewer, probably dated to the Victorian era. Many of the apparently older drainage ditches have been redug to incorporate ceramic field drain pipes suggesting that the problems of draining this low lying area persist.

Iron Age features were recorded in two of the trenches. At the extreme north end of the site, adjacent to Bonemill Lane, features in Trench 2 appear to suggest the presence of an enclosure, probably square or rectangular in shape. The extent of this remains unclear although the fact that it appears only in one trench indicates it is either relatively small or it extends across the road. This may be related to similar features recorded across the railway tracks. Trench 21 also revealed at least one Iron Age ditch containing some unusual ceramics (see Appendix 1). Again, this seems not to extend much further into the evaluation area, the suggestion being that the archaeology continues under, or has been destroyed by the railway lines.

In conclusion, the potential impact of any development planned for the site appears to be relatively minor with only the two aforementioned areas being of any archaeological interest.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Kate Orr for her input during the evaluation trenching, Jane Young for her analysis of the post medieval pottery and to Maggi Darling for her work on the Iron Age ceramics. The site was dug by the author assisted by Sue Farr, Tobin Rayner, Liz Davis, Jeremy Mordue, Peter Barnes, Darren Pullen, Rene Mouraille and David Bower. All plans and sections in this report were drawn by Sue Farr. This report was collated and published by Jane Frost and edited by Naomi Field.

Rob Armour-Chelu  
November 1999

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## REPORT 52 ON THE POTTERY FROM SLEAFORD BONEMILL LANE, SBL99

for LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

26 October 1999

### QUANTITY AND CONDITION

Just 20 sherds weighing 310g from three contexts, 213, 2105 and 2107, the first two containing just single sherds. The 18 sherds from Context 2107 represent 9 vessels. Most of the sherds were abraded and fragmentary. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived according to the guidelines of *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*, the archive including sherd count and weight. A copy of the archive database is attached (Appendix 1).

### CONTENT AND DISCUSSION

Nine sherds can be loosely classified as wheel-thrown GREY, undifferentiated sand-tempered reduced wares, although all would fit fabrics known from the late Iron Age and early Roman period. All sherds appear likely to come from cordoned vessels, which first appear in the late Iron Age.

A single vessel from 2107 appears to be a square-sectioned leg with a defined foot, presumably from a vessel and is in a coarse gritty fabric with flint and occasional shell inclusions. No parallels are known for this type of leg on a vessel. It is not burnt from cooking, but is a hard-fired dark grey fabric with oxidized red-brown surfaces. The fragments should be drawn to facilitate necessary further research.

The remaining ten sherds are various shell-gritted, with some more chalky than usual. Two of the shell-gritted sherds contained punctate brachiopods, common in Oxford Clay, and usually appearing in shell-gritted fabrics from this area of Lincoln southwards. Chalky fabrics are well known from the Bourne area. Most of the shell-gritted sherds appear to be hand-made, although a base from 2107 could be wheel-thrown. One or two of a few amorphous clay-fired lumps may be very degraded pottery, the fabrics varying.

Little can be deduced from such a small group, mostly body sherds lacking diagnostic features. An Iron Age date is suggested, probably in the later Iron Age, with the possibility that the dating may slip into the Roman period, consistent with the continued use of wheel-thrown Iron Age vessels. The curiosity of the group is the vessel leg with defined foot, of which no other example is known, and this would benefit from further research.

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Manuf+	Vess	Draw?	DNo	Details	Links	Shs	Weight
213	SHCM	-	HM	-	-	-	BS COM FINE-MED SHELL;BRACH;BURNT EXT	-	1	13
213	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	IA	-	-	-
2105	SHSF?	JB	HM?	-	-	-	THIN WALL UPR TRIANG RIM FRAG;BURNT/SOOT	-	1	2
2105	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	IA	-	-	-
2107	COAR	-	HM	1	D	1	SQ SECT LEG/FOOT;DKGRY;RB SURFS;SPARSE SHELL	-	4	178
2107	SHCM	-	HM?	-	-	-	BS MED SHELL;BRACH;RB SURFS	-	1	6
2107	SHCM?	-	HM?	-	-	-	BS MED SHELL ?CHALK;DKGRY SURFS	-	1	5
2107	SHCM?	JB	WM?	1	-	-	BASE/BS/CHALK;RB EXT CORTEX;LTGRY CHALKY	-	3	61
2107	GREY	JB	WM	-	-	-	CORDONED BS;IA TYPE	-	1	6
2107	GREY	JB	WM	1	-	-	BS SOFT W RB CORTEX;CARINATED?	-	4	8
2107	GREY	-	WM	2	-	-	BSS SOFT W RB CORTEX	-	2	15
2107	GREY	BJ	WM	1	-	-	BSS SOFT W RB INT CORTEX;CORDONED	-	2	16
2107	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	LIA-?EROM	-	-	-
									20	310

## Lindsey Archaeological Services

## SBL99-Trial Trenches

Context	Type	Description	Finds
<b>TR1</b>			
101	L	Topsoil	
102	L	Natural	
103	F	Fill of 105	
104	F	Fill of 105	
105	C	Gully	
106	L	Subsoil deposit	
<b>TR2</b>			
201	L	Topsoil	
202	L	Natural	
203	C	Ditch	
204	F	Fill of 203	Animal bone
205	C	Treebole	
206	F	Fill of 205	
207	F	Fill of 208	
208	C	Treebole	
209	C	Gully	
210	F	Fill of 209	
211	C	Gully	
212	F	Fill of 211	
213	F	Fill of 203	Iron Age pot, animal bone
214	F	Fill of 203	
215	F	Fill of 203	
216	F	Fill of 203	
217	F	Fill of 205	
218	F	Fill of 203	Animal bone
219	F	Fill of 203	
220	F	Fill of 208	
221	F	Fill of 211	
222	F	Fill of 211	
223	F	Fill of 224	
224	C	Treebole	
225	L	Subsoil deposit	
<b>TR5</b>			
501	L	Topsoil	
502	L	Natural	
503	F	Fill of 505	Tile
504	F	Fill of 505	
505	C	Ditch	
<b>TR6</b>			
601	L	Topsoil	
602	L	Natural	
<b>TR7</b>			
701	L	Topsoil	
702	L	Natural	
<b>TR8</b>			
801	L	Topsoil	
802	L	Natural	
<b>TR9</b>			
901	L	Topsoil	
902	L	Natural	
903	F	Fill of 904	
904	C	Gully	
905	F	Fill of 906	
906	C	Treebole	
<b>TR10</b>			
1001	L	Topsoil	

**Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford (SBL 99; Accn No. 98.99)**

**Contents of Site Archive**

142 x Context Sheets

7 x Context Registers

3 x Drawing Registers

97 x Site Drawings on 8 Drawing Sheets

57 x Inked Drawings on 26 Sheets

1 Box of Finds

Photographic Negatives:

LAS Film No. 99/25: Negs 1-33

LAS Film No. 99/26: Negs 26-36

LAS Film No. 99/27: Negs 1-26

LAS Film No. 99/28: Negs 1-34

LAS Film No. 99/29: Negs 13-36

LAS Film No. 99/33: Negs 1-32

LAS Film No. 99/36: Negs 1-35

LAS Film No. 99/37: Negs 1-35



1002	L	Natural	
1003	L	Subsoil deposit	
1004	C	Gully	
1005	F	Fill of 1004	
1006	C	Ditch	
1007	F	Fill of 1006	
1008	C/F	Modern drain	
1009	C	Ditch	
1010	F	Fill of 1009	
1011	C	Gully	
1012	F	Fill of 1011	
<b>TR11</b>			
1101	L	Topsoil	
1103	L	Natural	
<b>TR12</b>			
1201	L	Topsoil	
1202	L	Natural	
<b>TR13</b>			
1301	L	Topsoil	
1302	L	Natural	
<b>TR14</b>			
1401	L	Topsoil	
1402	L	Natural	
1403	F	Fill of 1404	
1404	C	Gully	
<b>TR15</b>			
1501	L	Topsoil	
1502	L	Natural	
1503	L	Subsoil deposit	
1504	C	Ditch	
1505	F	Fill of 1504	
<b>TR16</b>			
1601	L	Topsoil	
1602	L	Natural	
1603	L	Subsoil deposit	
1604	C	Gully	
1605	F	Fill of 1604	
1606	C	Gully	
1607	F	Fill of 1606	
1608	C/F	Root disturbance	
1609	C	Ditch	
1610	F	Fill of 1609	
1611	C	Ditch	
1612	F	Fill of 1611	
<b>TR17</b>			
1701	L	Topsoil	
1702	L	Natural	
1703	L	Subsoil deposit	
1704	C	Ditch	
1705	F	Fill of 1704	
1706	C	Ditch	
1707	F	Fill of 1706	
1708	C	Ditch	
1709	F	Fill of 1708	
1710	C	Ditch	
1711	F	Fill of 1710	
1712	C	Ditch	
1713	F	Fill of 1712	Animal bone

1714	F	Fill of 1712	
1715	C	Ditch	
1716	F	Fill of 1715	
<b>TR18</b>			
1801	L	Topsoil	
1802	L	Natural	
<b>TR19</b>			
1901	L	Topsoil	
1902	L	Natural	
1903	L	Subsoil deposit	
1904	F	Fill of 1905	
1905	C	Ditch	
<b>TR20</b>			
2101	L	Topsoil	
2102	L	Natural	
<b>TR21</b>			
2101	L	Topsoil	
2102	L	Natural	
2103	L	Subsoil deposit	
2104	C	Ditch	
2105	F	Fill of 2104	Iron Age pot, animal bone
2106	C	Gully	
2107	F	Fill of 2106	Iron Age pot
2108	C	Ditch	
2109	F	Fill of 2108	
2110	C	Ditch	
2111	F	Fill of 2110	Pot
2112	F	Fill of 2108	
<b>TR22</b>			
2201	L	Topsoil	
2202	L	Natural	
2203	L	Subsoil deposit	
2204	C	Ditch	
2205	F	Fill of 2204	
2206	F	Fill of 2204	
2207	C	Ditch	
2208	F	Fill of 2207	
2209	C	Gully	
2210	F	Fill of 2209	
<b>TR23</b>			
2301	L	Topsoil	
2302	L	Natural	
<b>TR24</b>			
2401	L	Topsoil	
2402	L	Natural	
<b>TR25</b>			
2501	L	Topsoil	
2502	L	Natural	
2503	L	Subsoil deposit	
<b>TR26</b>			
2601	L	Topsoil	
2602	L	Natural	
2603	L	Subsoil deposit	
<b>TR27</b>			
2701	L	Topsoil	
2702	L	Natural	
2703	C	Ditch	
2704	F	Fill of 2703	

<b>TR28</b>			
2801	L	Topsoil	
2802	L	Natural	
<b>TR29</b>			
2901	L	Topsoil	
2902	L	Natural	
2903	L	Subsoil deposit	
2904	C	Ditch	
2905	F	Fill of 2904	
<b>TR30</b>			
3001	L	Topsoil	
3002	L	Natural	
3003	F	Fill of 3005	Pot, tile, brick, animal bone, glass
3004	F	Fill of 3005	Tile
3005	C	Ditch	
3006	L	Subsoil deposit (intermittent)	
<b>TR31</b>			
3101	L	Topsoil	
3102	L	Natural	
3103	L	Subsoil deposit	
3104	C	Ditch	
3105	F	Fill of 3104	
3106	C	Ditch	
3107	F	Fill of 3106	
3108	C	Ditch	
3109	F	Fill of 3108	
3110	F	Fill of 3108	
3111	C	Drainage channel	
3112	F	Fill of 3111	
3113	C	Pipe trench	
3114	F	Fill and pipe within 3113	
<b>TR32</b>			
3201	L	Topsoil	
3202	L	Natural	
3203	C	Ditch	
3204	F	Fill of 3203	
3205	C	Treebole	
3206	F	Fill of 3205	
3207	C	Curvilinear feature	
3208	F	Fill of 3207	Animal bone
3209	F	Fill of 3207	
<b>TR33</b>			
3301	L	Topsoil	
3302	L	Natural	
3303	C	Ditch	
3304	F	Fill of 3303	
3305	C	Ditch	
3306	F	Fill of 3305	
3307	C	Ditch	
3308	F	Fill of 3307	
<b>TR34</b>			
3401	L	Topsoil	Flint
3402	L	Natural	
3403	L	Subsoil deposit	
3404	C	Ditch	
3405	F	Fill of 3404	
3406	C/F	Modern drain	
3407	C	Ditch	

## Lindsey Archaeological Services

## SBL99-Trial Trenches

3408	F	Fill of 3407	
3409	C	Ditch	
3410	F	Fill of 3409	
<b>TR35</b>			
3501	L	Topsoil	
3502	L	Natural	
3503	F	Fill of 3505	
3504	L	Subsoil deposit	Pot
3505	C	Modern animal burial	
<b>TR36</b>			
3601	L	Topsoil	
3602	L	Natural	
3603	C	Pit	
3604	F	Fill of 3603	
3605	C	Drain	
3606	F	Fill of 3605	
3607	F	Fill of 3608	
3608	C	Drain	
3609	F	Fill of 3611	Tile
3610	F	Fill of 3611	Tile, brick, animal bone, shell
3611	C	Ditch	
<b>TR37</b>			
3701	L	Topsoil	
3702	L	Natural	

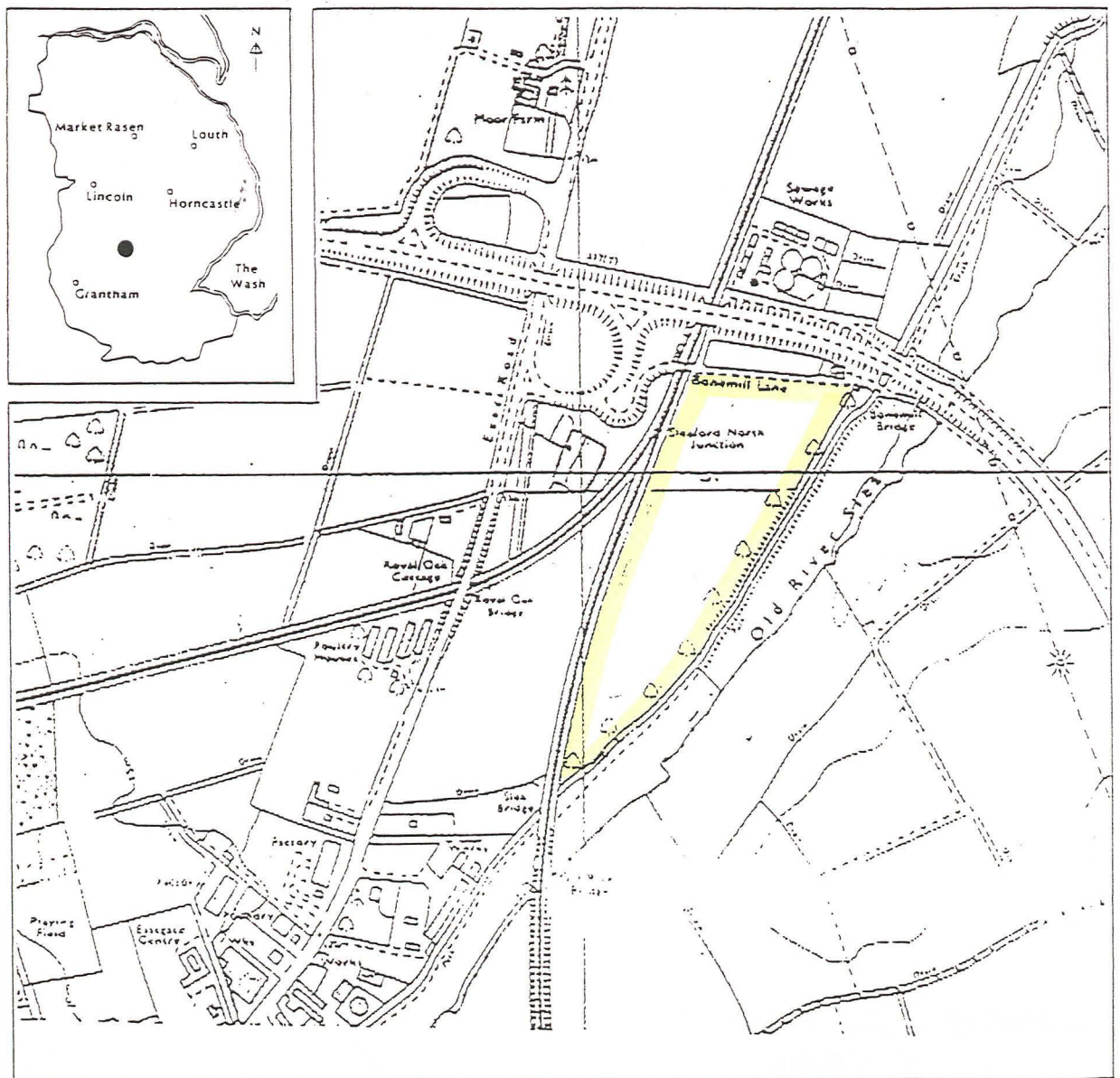
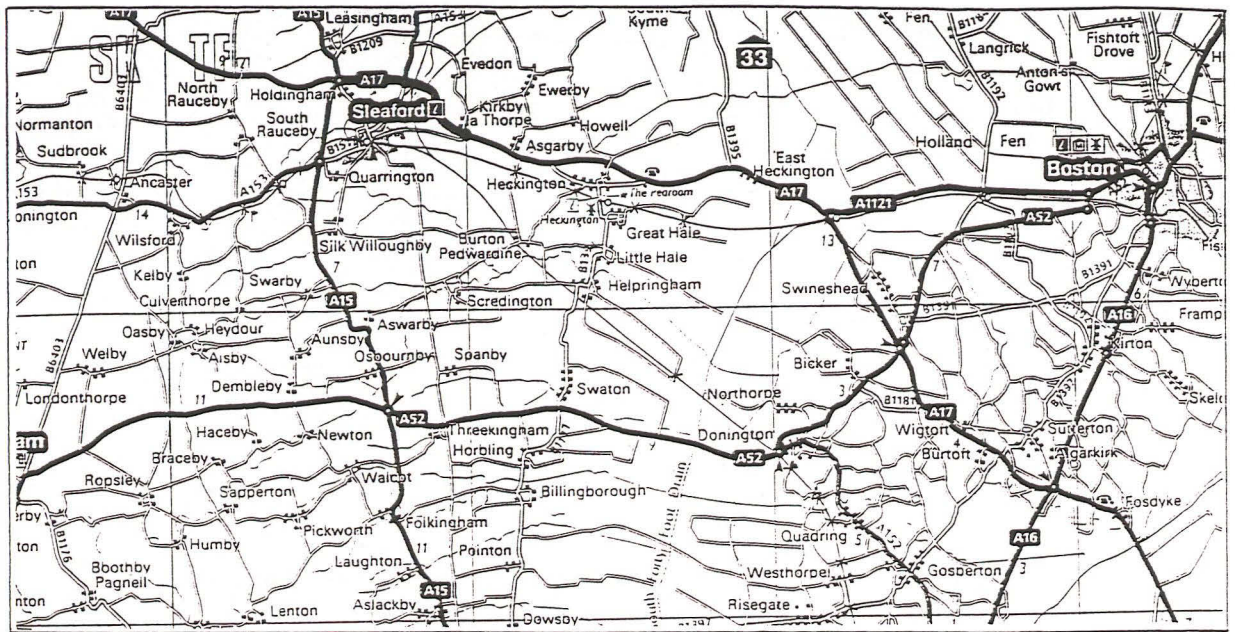


Fig. 1 Bonemill Lane, Sleaford, site location. Reproduced from OS 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown Copyright. LAS license no. AL50424A (reduced scale).

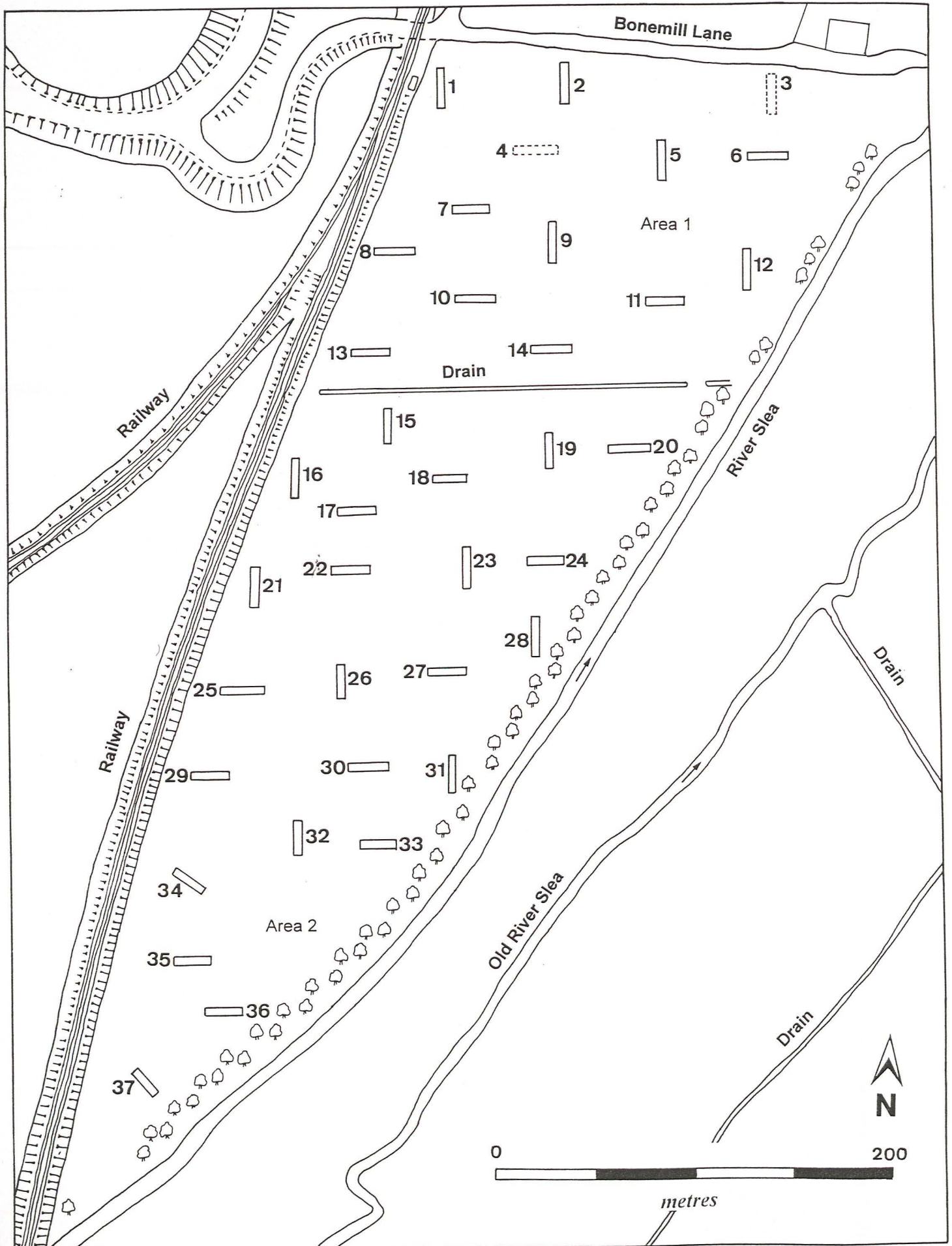
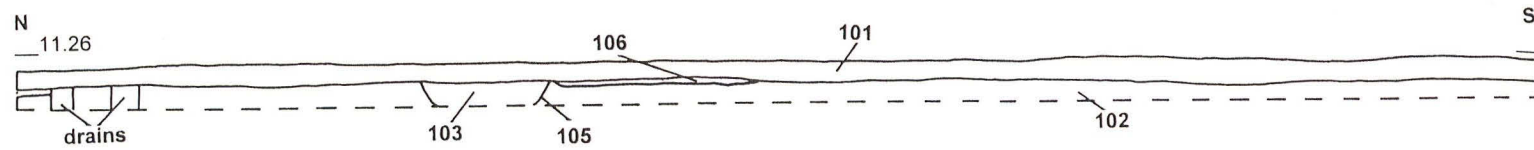
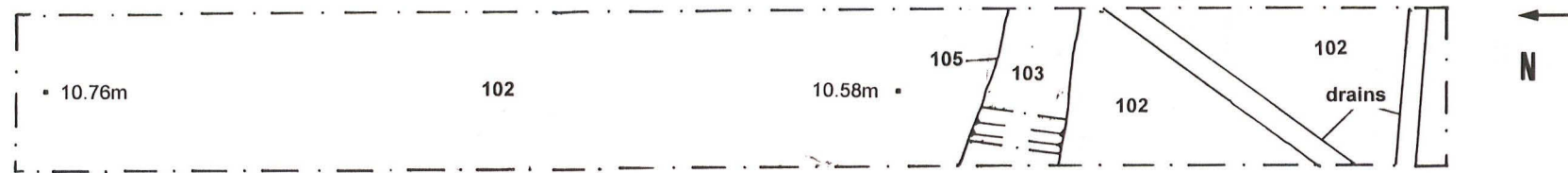
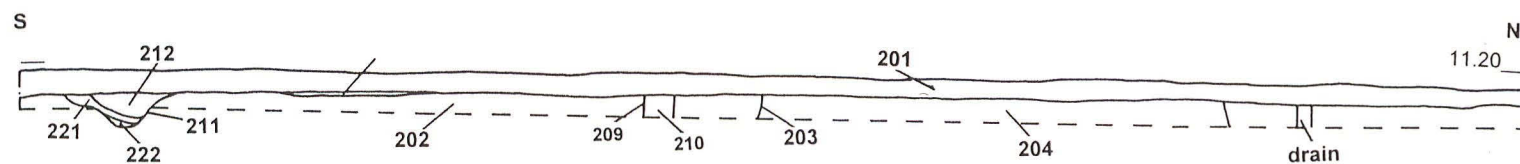
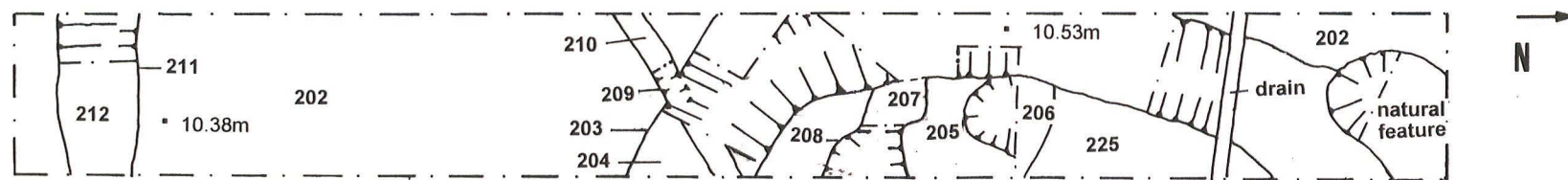


Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches.



metres

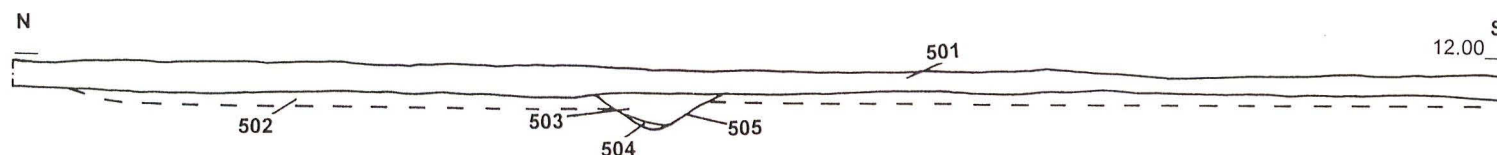
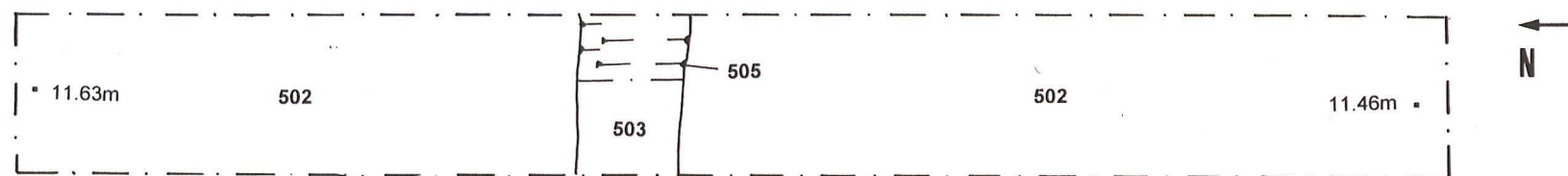
Fig. 3 Plan and west facing section, Trench 1.



metres

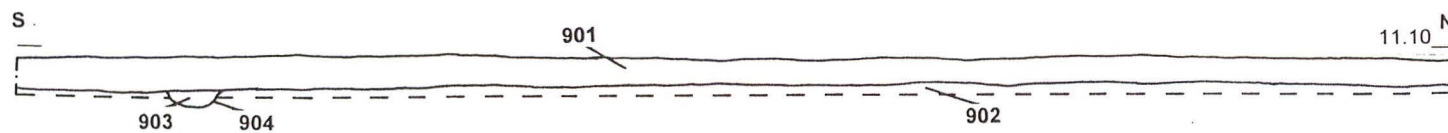
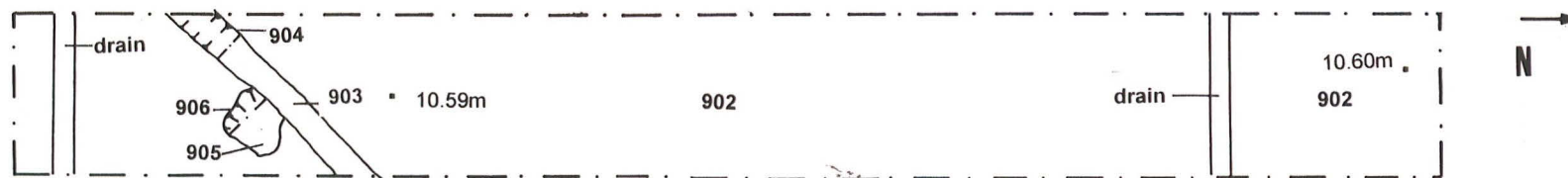
Fig. 4 Plan and east facing section, Trench 2.





*metres*

Fig. 5 Plan and west facing section, Trench 5.



*metres*

Fig. 6 Plan and east facing section, Trench 9.

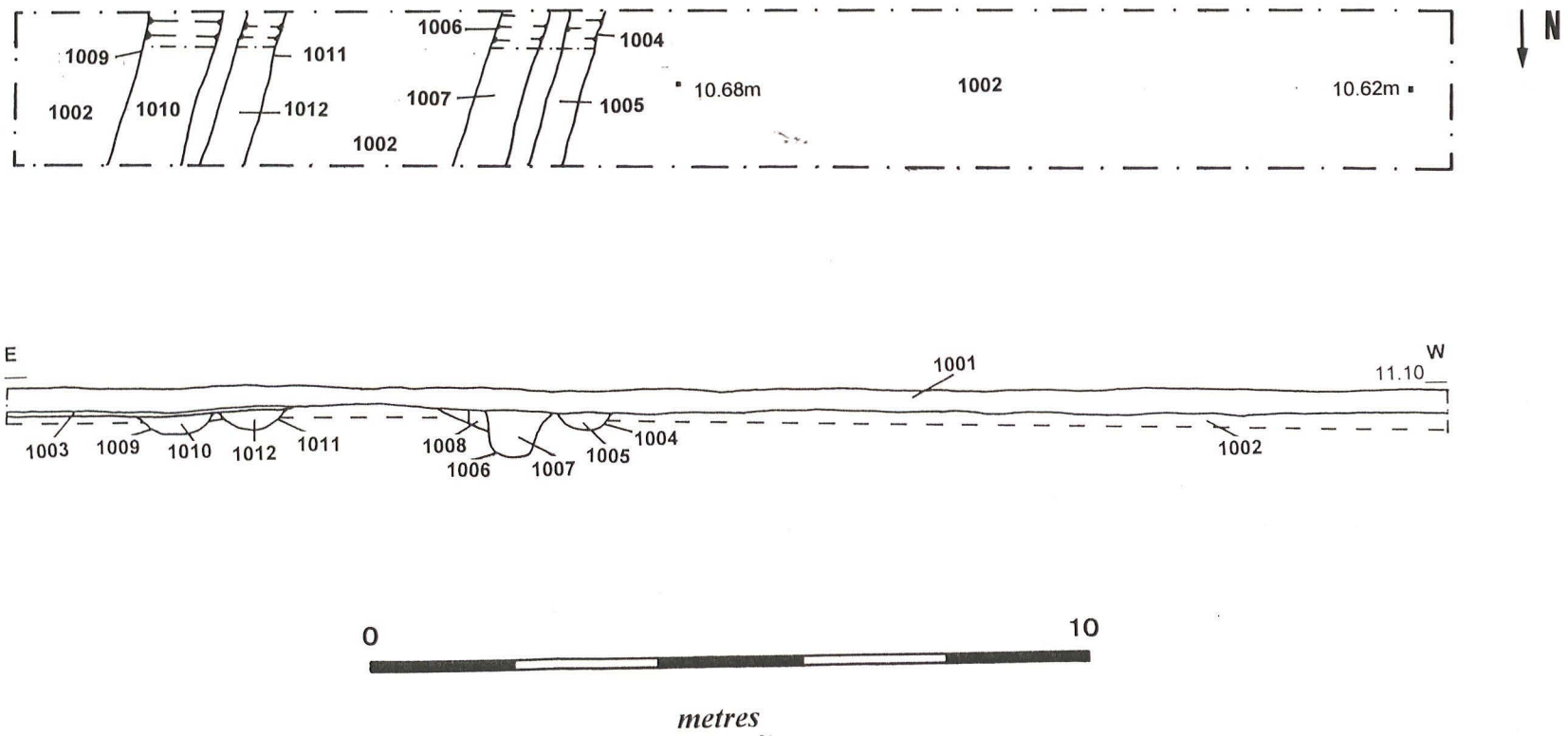
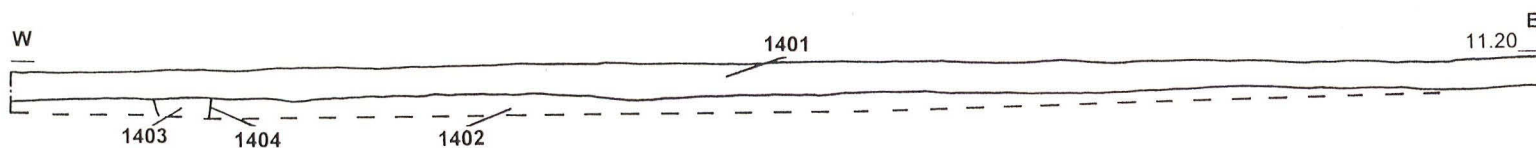
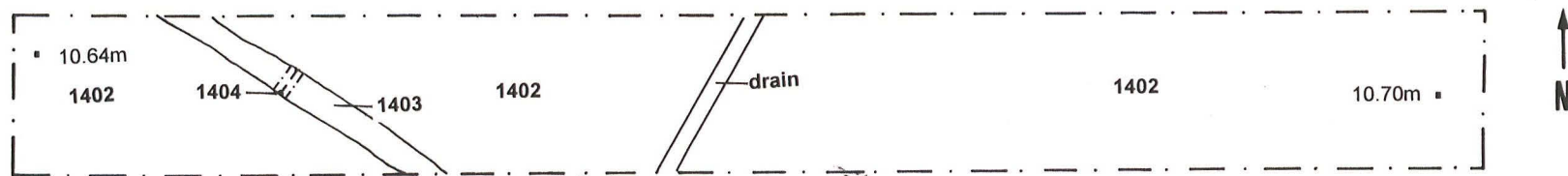


Fig. 7 Plan and north facing section, Trench 10.



metres

Fig. 8 Plan and south facing section, Trench 14.

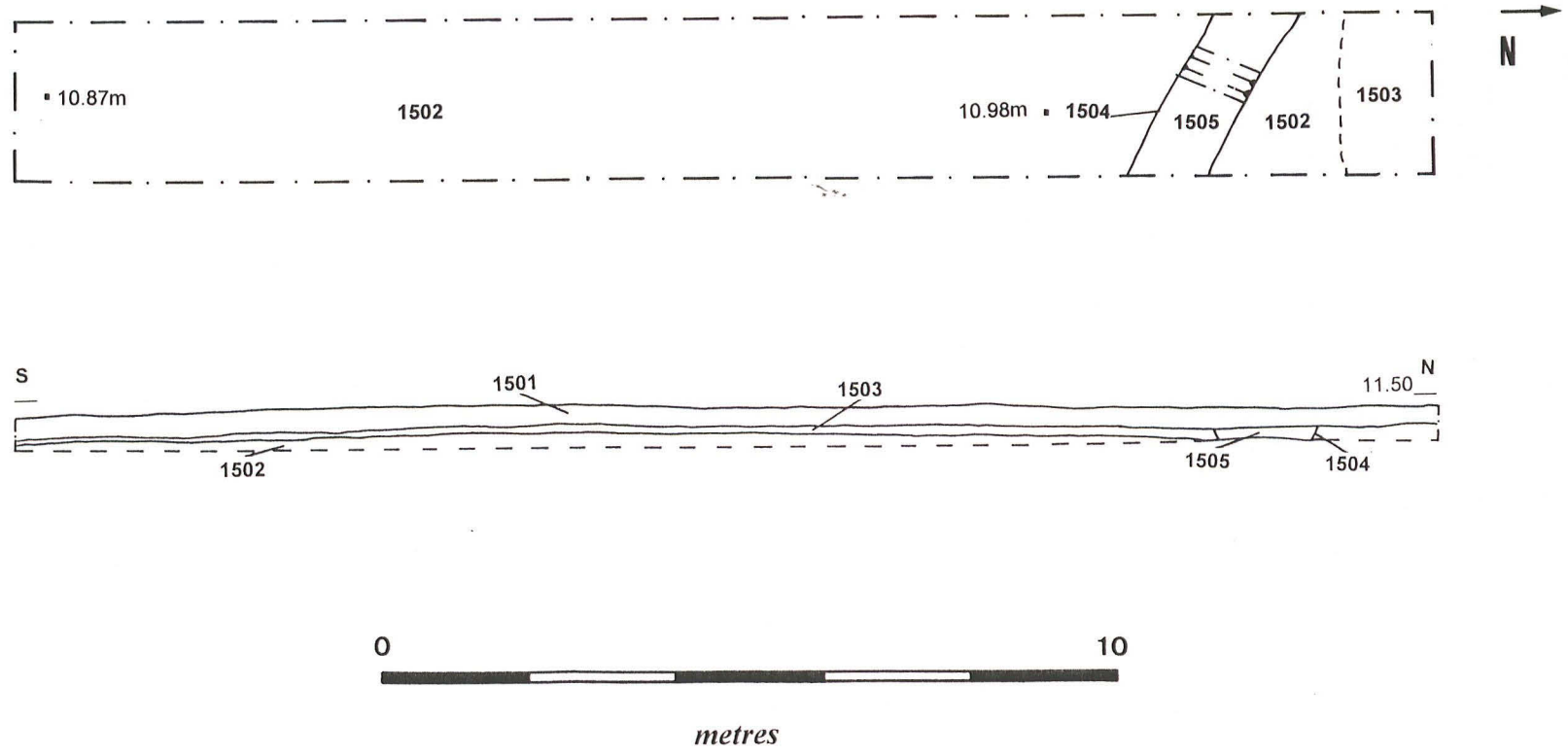


Fig. 9 Plan and east facing section, Trench 15.

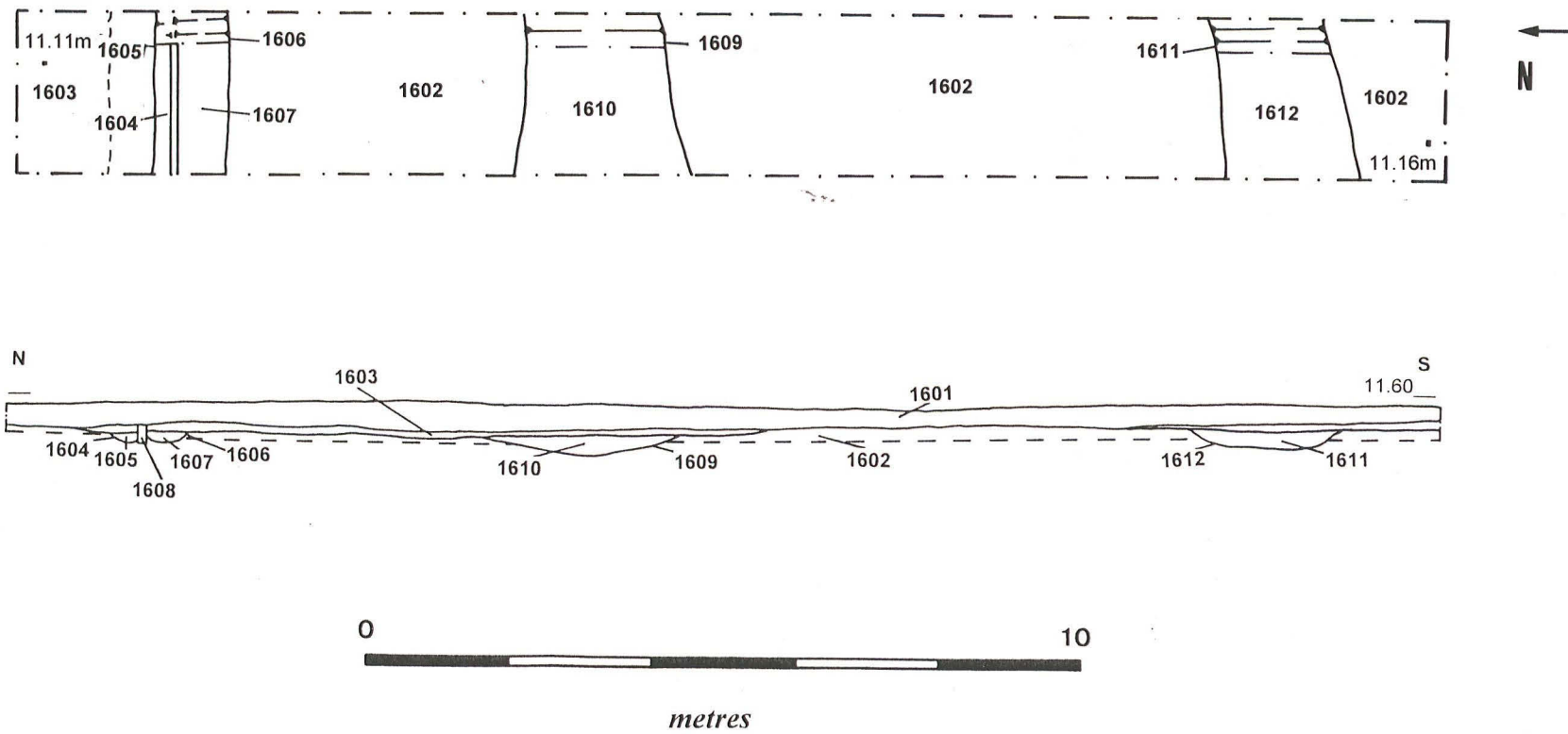
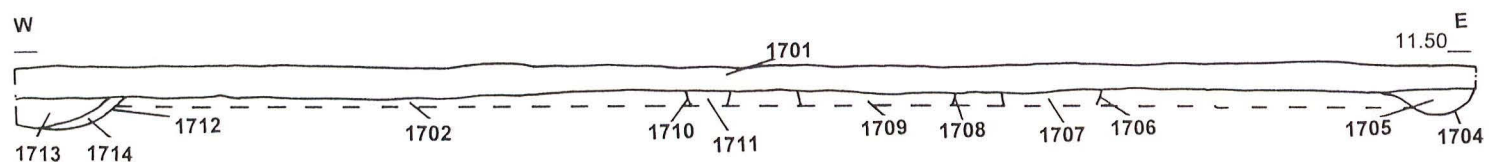
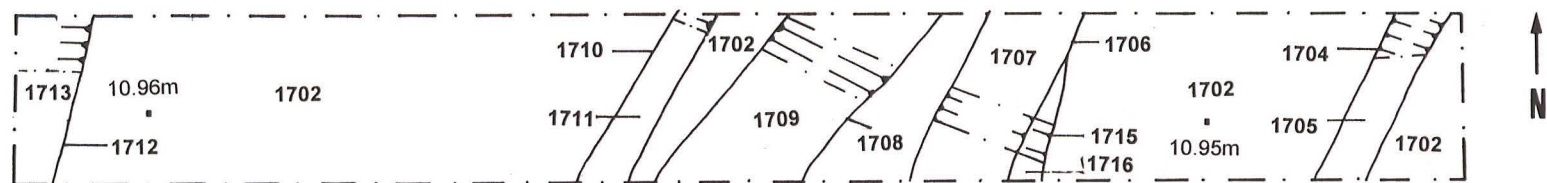
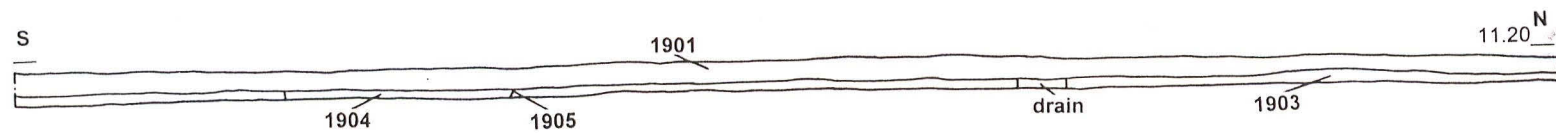


Fig.10 Plan and west facing section, Trench 16.



metres

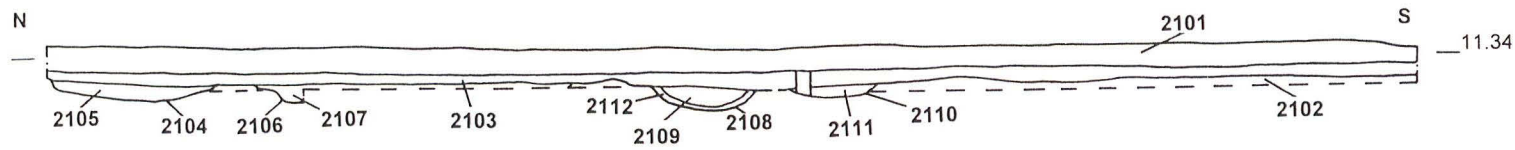
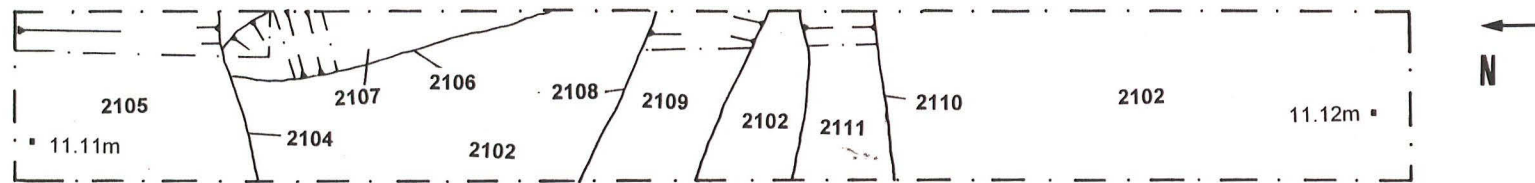
Fig.11 Plan and south facing section, Trench 17.



*metres*

Fig.12 Plan and east facing section, Trench 19.





*metres*

Fig.13 Plan and west facing section, Trench 21.

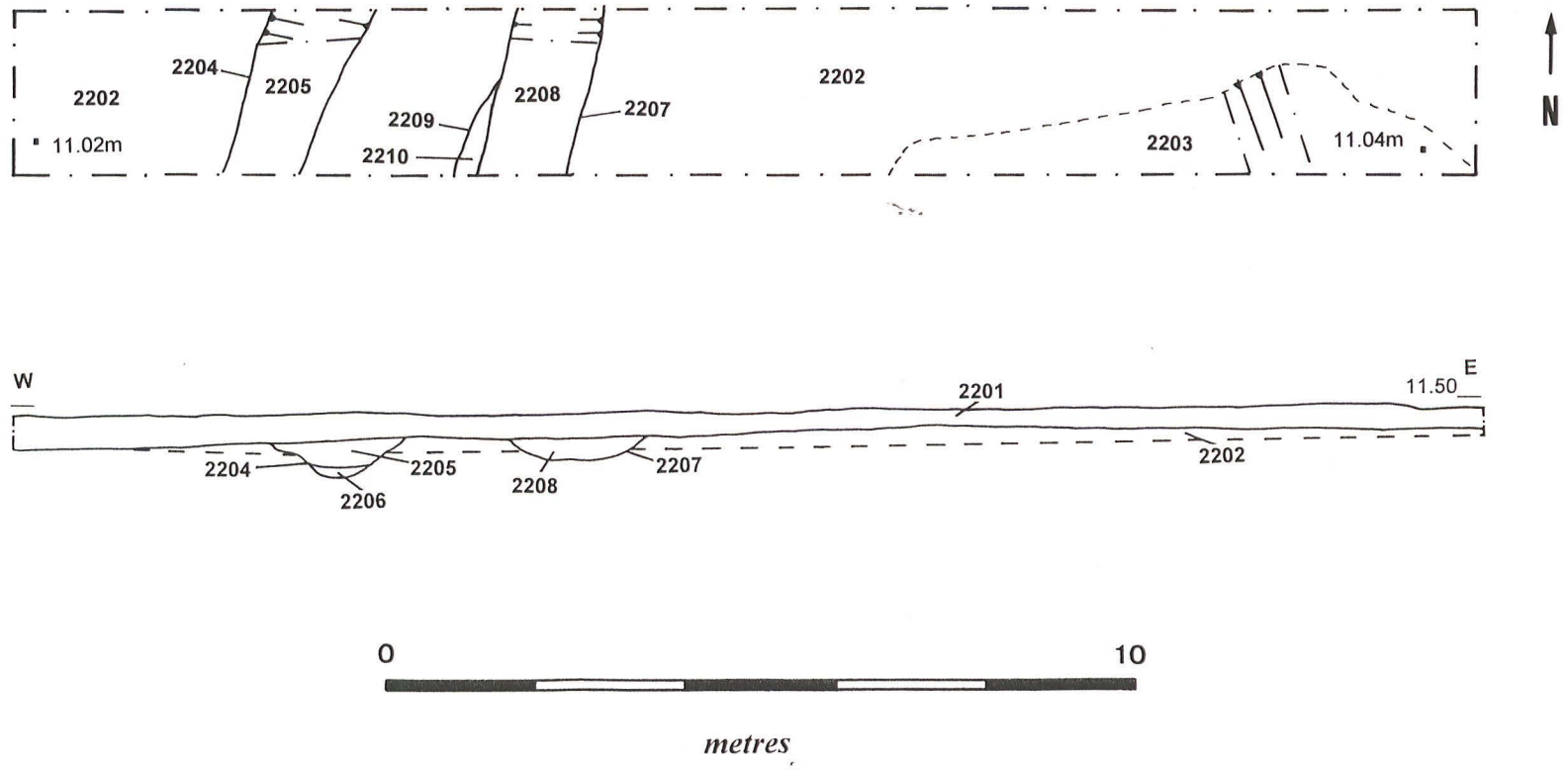
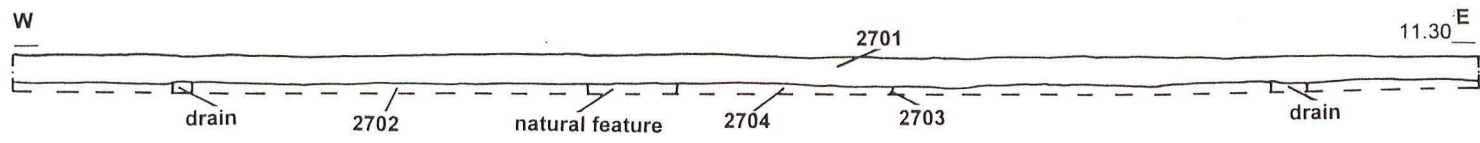
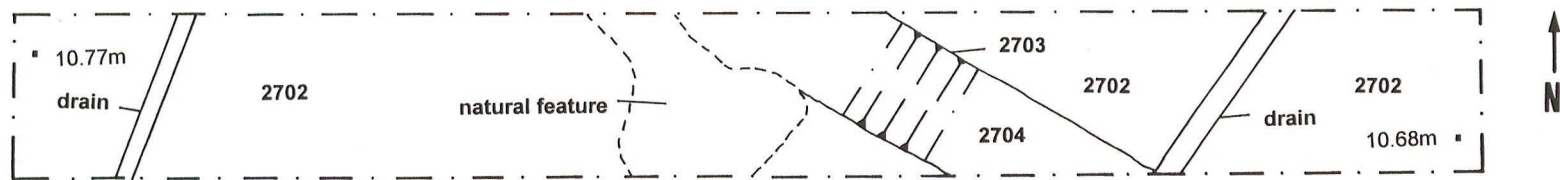
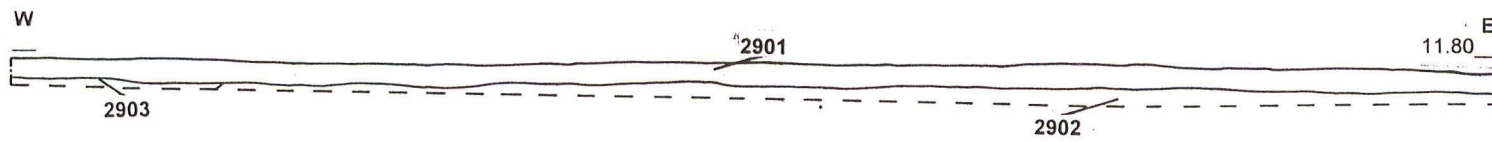
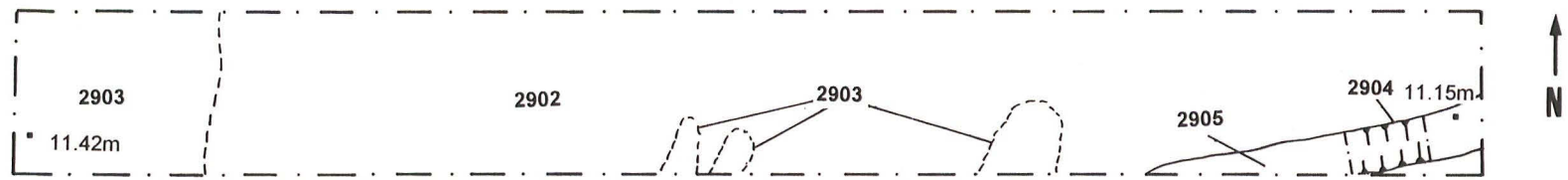


Fig.14 Plan and south facing section, Trench 22.



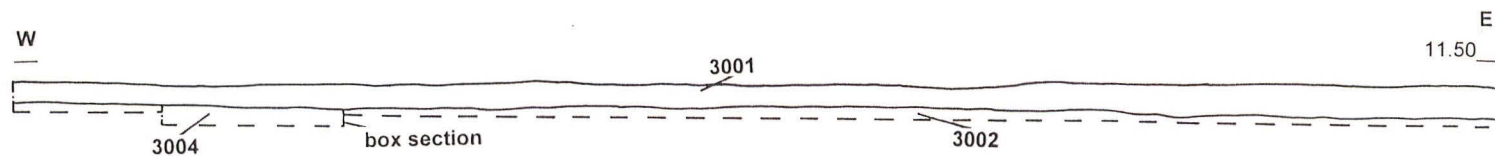
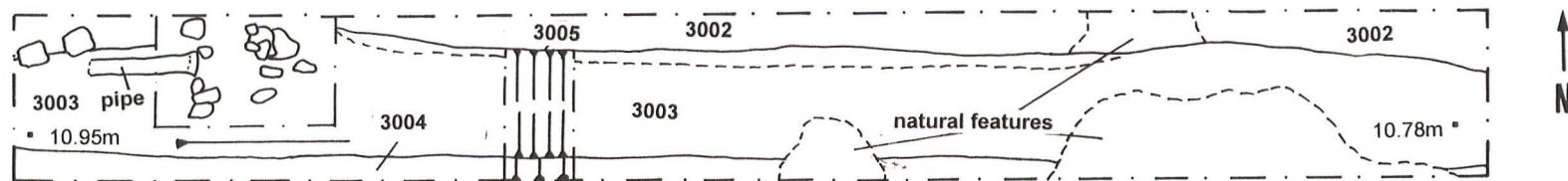
metres

Fig.15 Plan and south facing section, Trench 27.



*metres*

Fig.16 Plan and south facing section, Trench 29.



metres

Fig.17 Plan and south facing section, Trench 30.

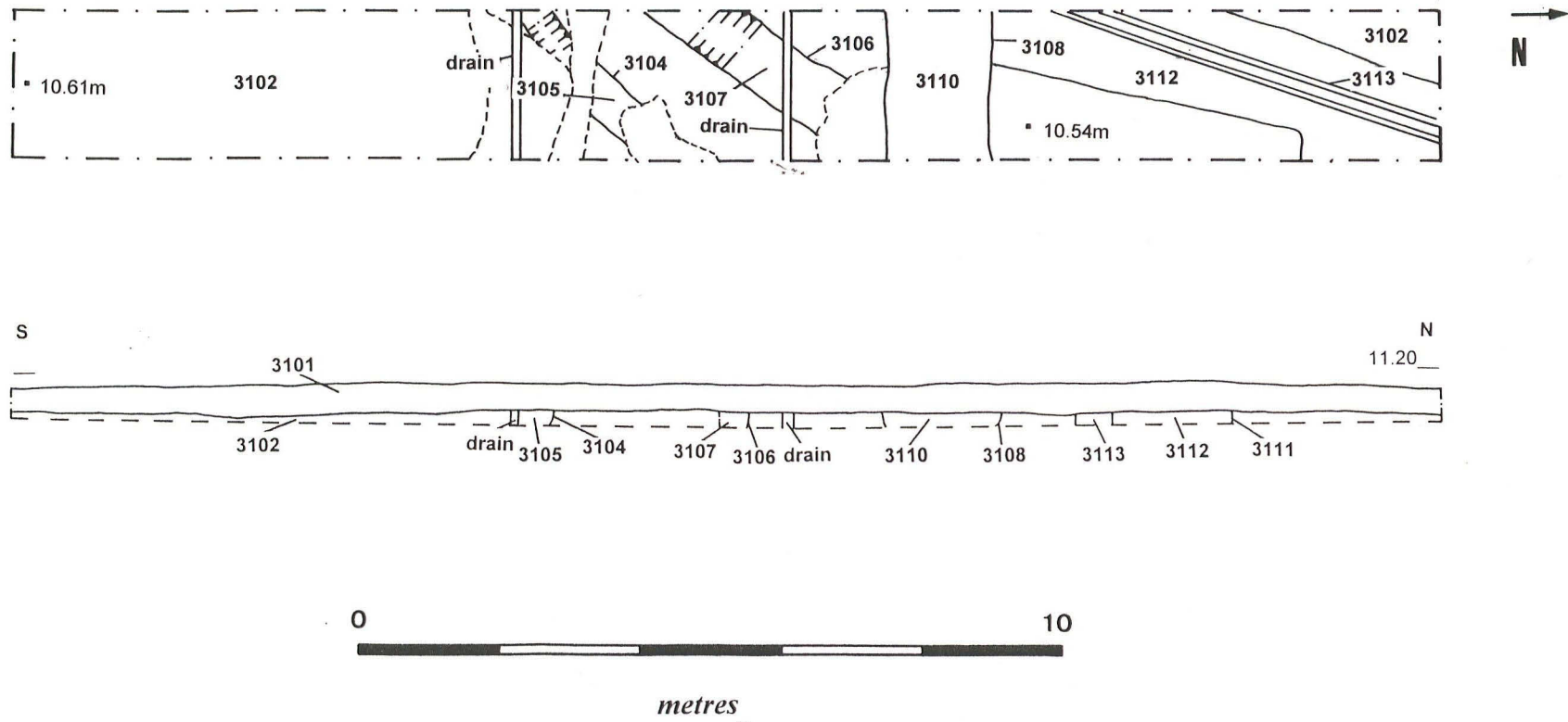


Fig.18 Plan and east facing section, Trench 31.

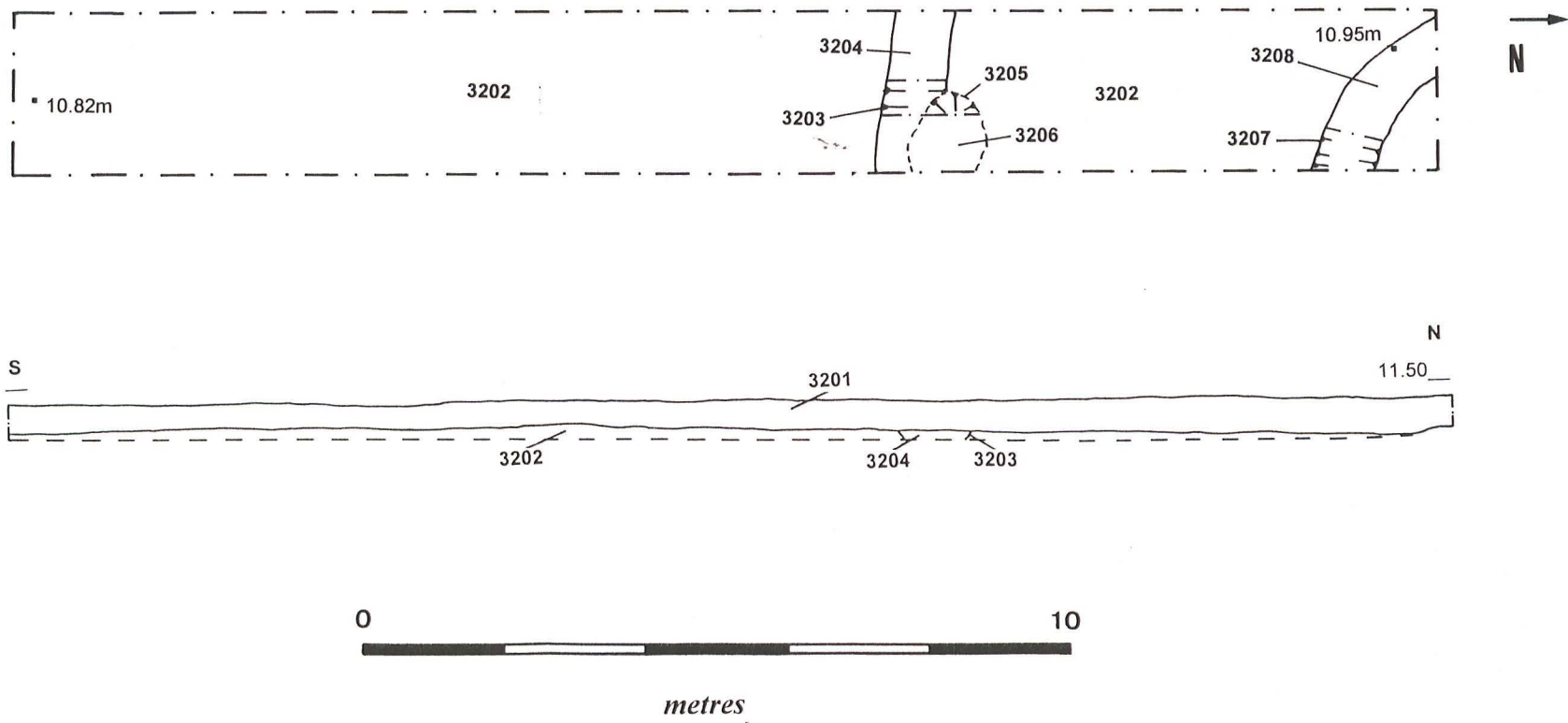
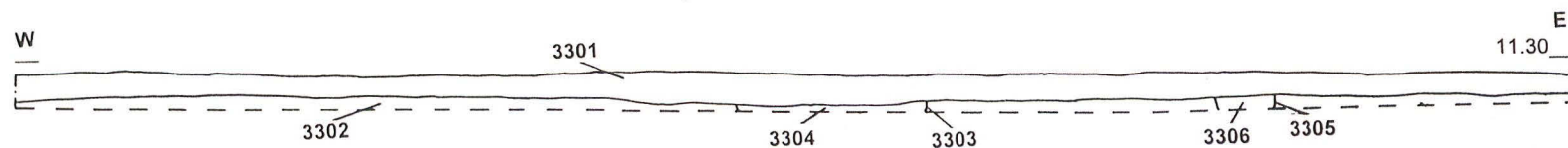
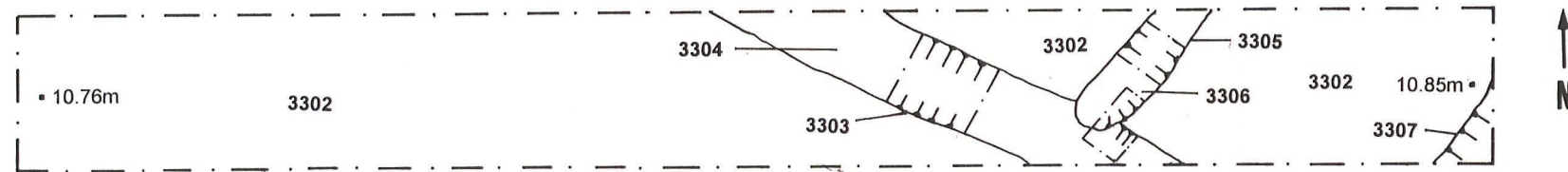


Fig.19 Plan and east facing section, Trench 32.



*metres*

Fig.20 Plan and south facing section, Trench 33.



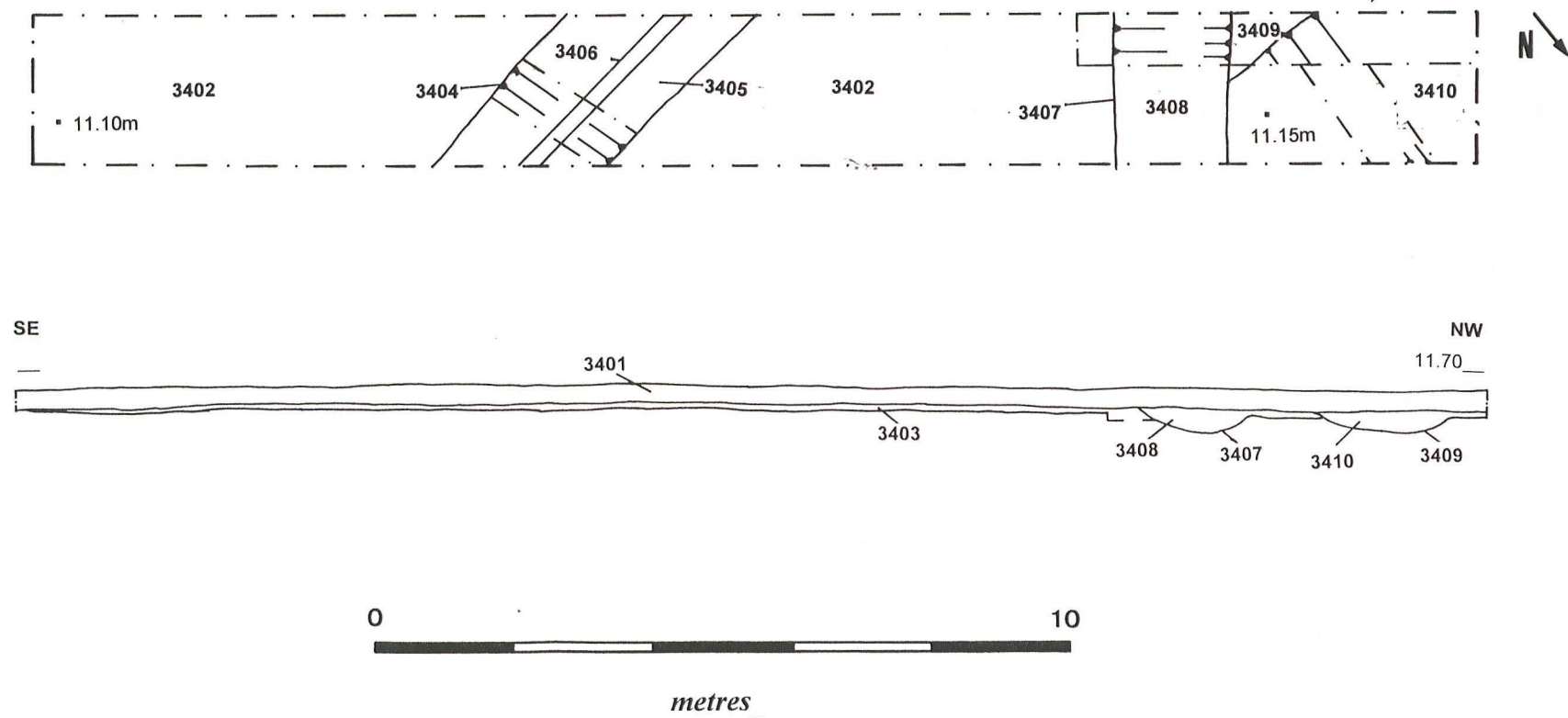
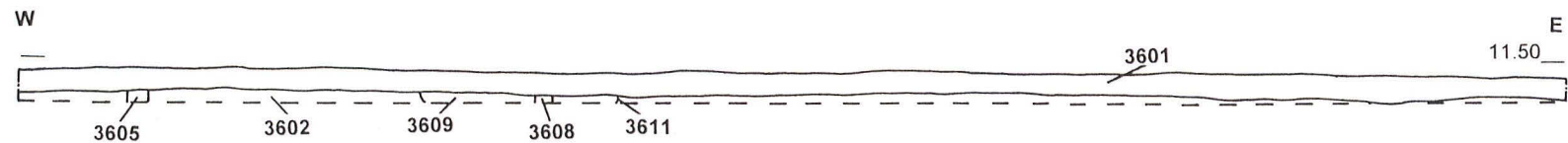
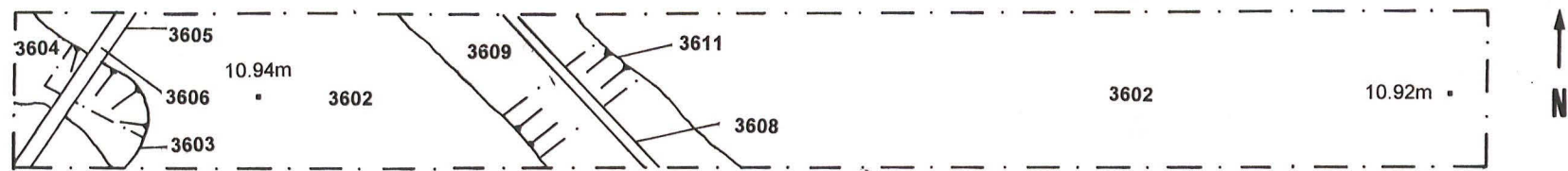


Fig.21 Plan and north-east facing section, Trench 34.



*metres*

Fig.22 Plan and south facing section, Trench 36.

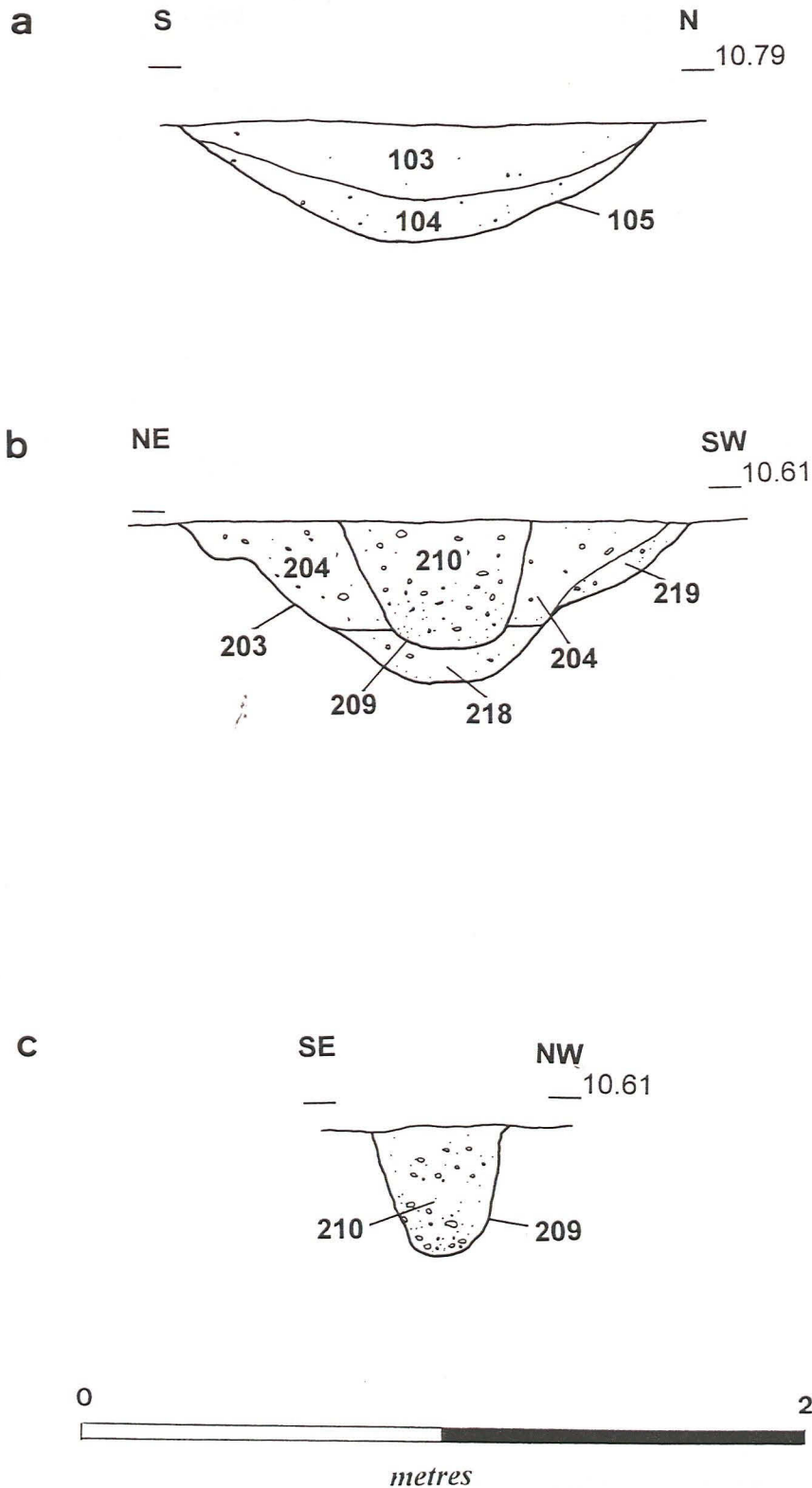


Fig.23a) Ditch 105, east facing section b) Ditch 203/gully 209, north-west facing section c) Gully 209, north-east facing section.

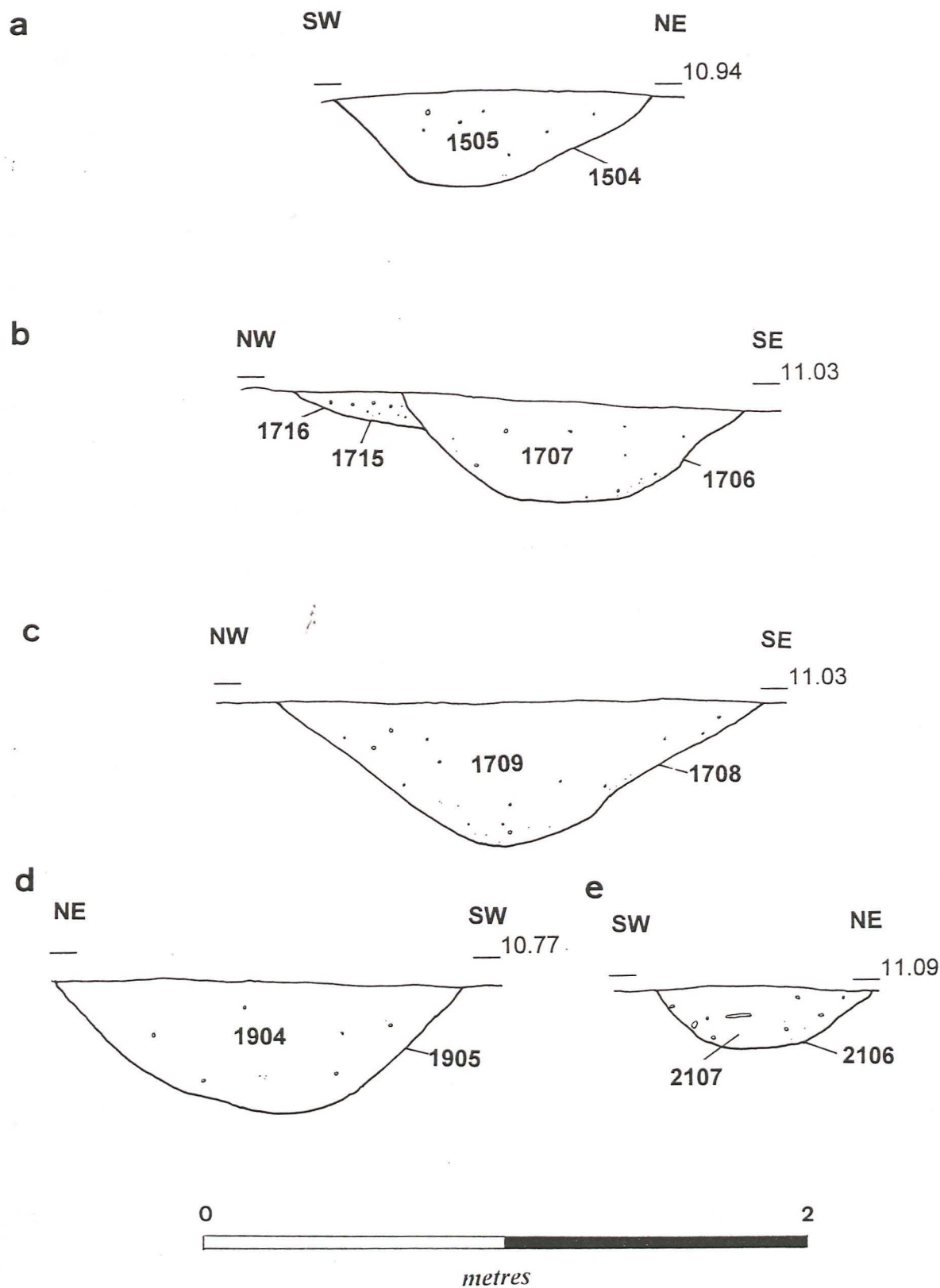


Fig.24a) Ditch 1504, south-east facing section b) Ditches 1706/1715, south-west facing section c) Ditch 1708, south-west facing section d) Ditch 1905, north-west facing section e) Gully 2106, south-east facing section.

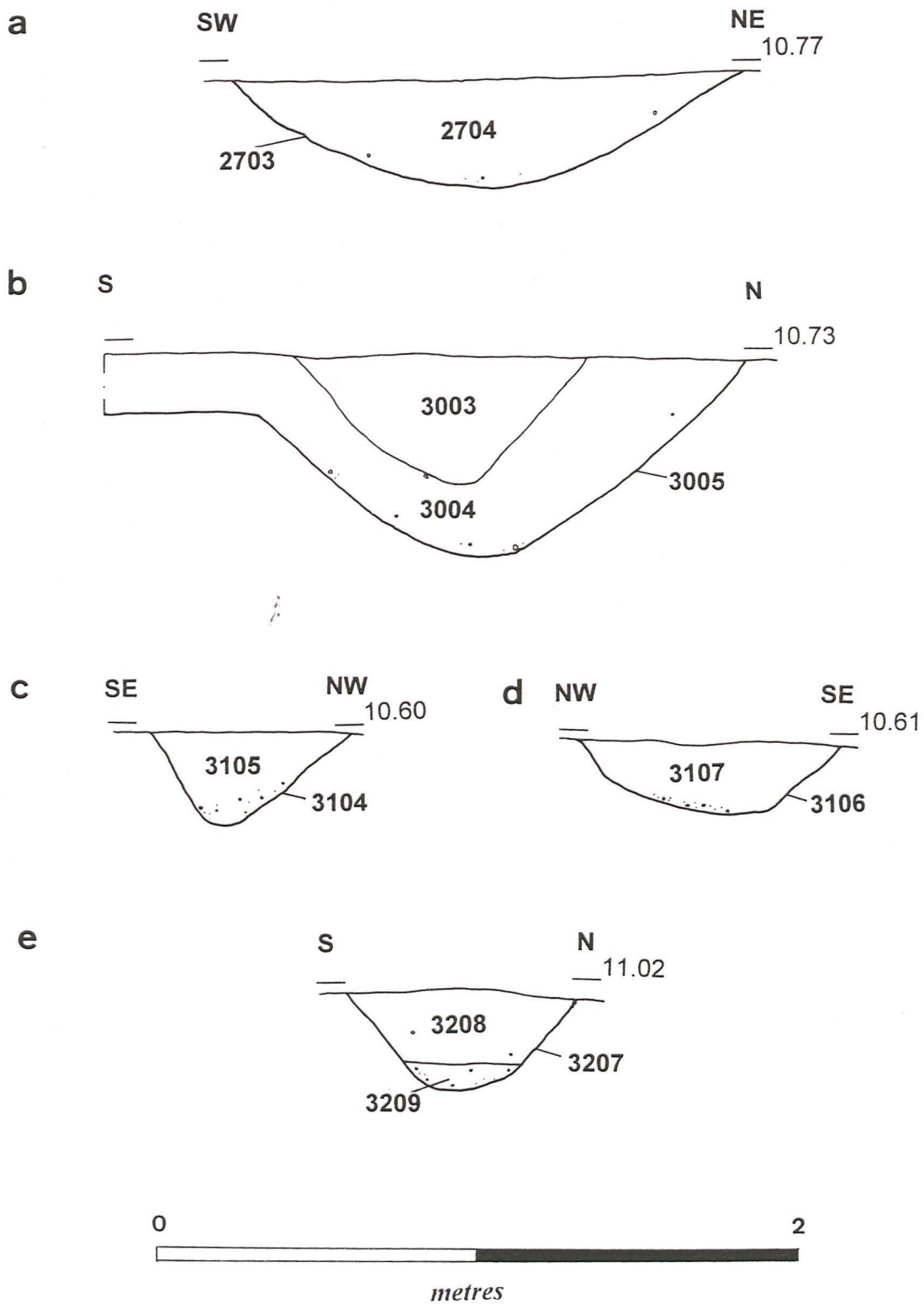


Fig.25a) Ditch 2703, south-east facing section b) Ditch 3005, east facing section c) Ditch 3104, north-east facing section d) Ditch 3106, south-west facing section e) Gully 3207, east facing section.

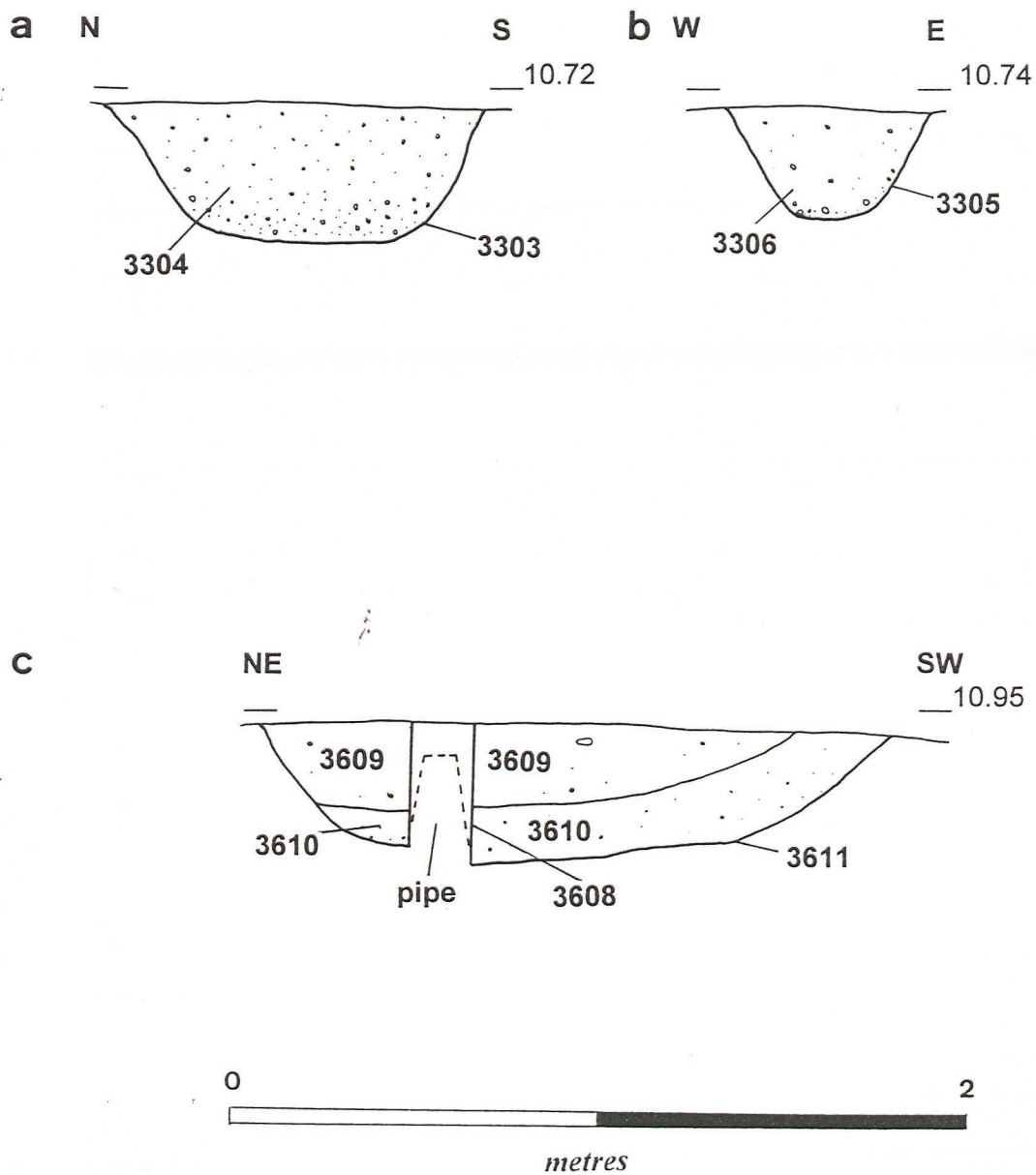


Fig.26 a) Ditch 3303, west facing section b) Ditch 3305, south facing section  
 c) Ditch 3611, north-west facing section.



**Pl. 1** General view of site, looking south.

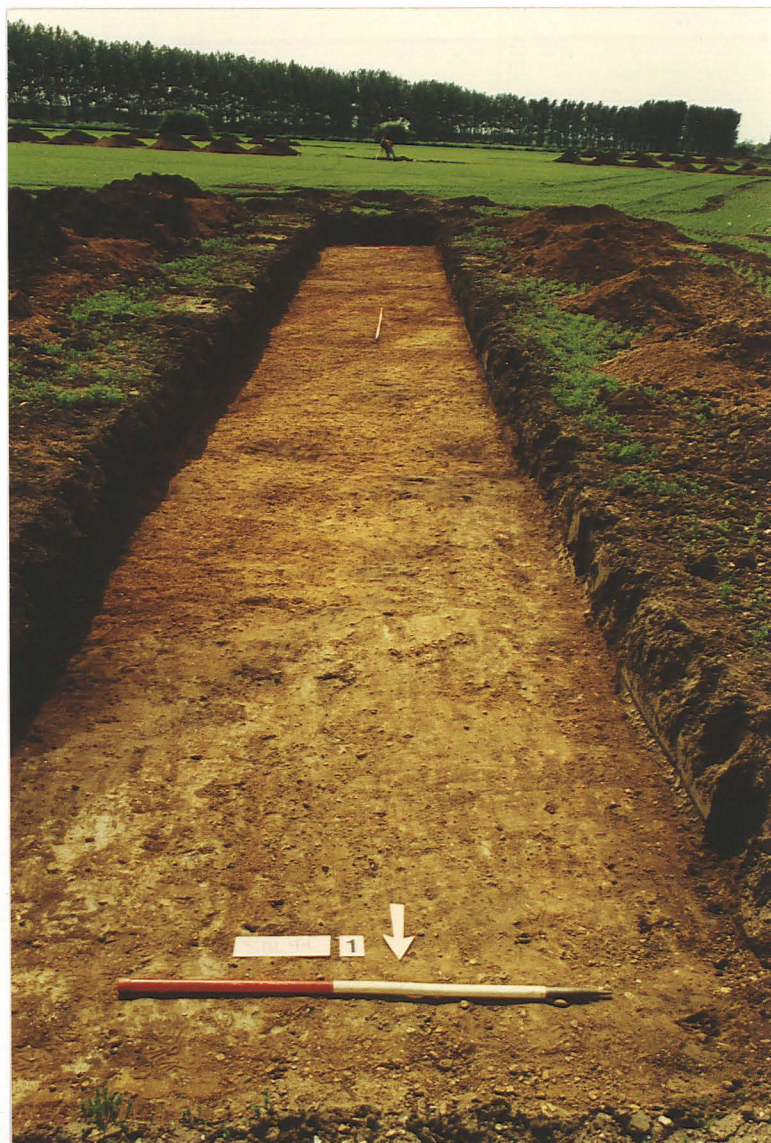
**Pl. 2** General view of site, looking south.





Pl. 3 Machine trenching in Area 2.

Pl. 4 Trench 1, looking south. Scales 2m & 1m.

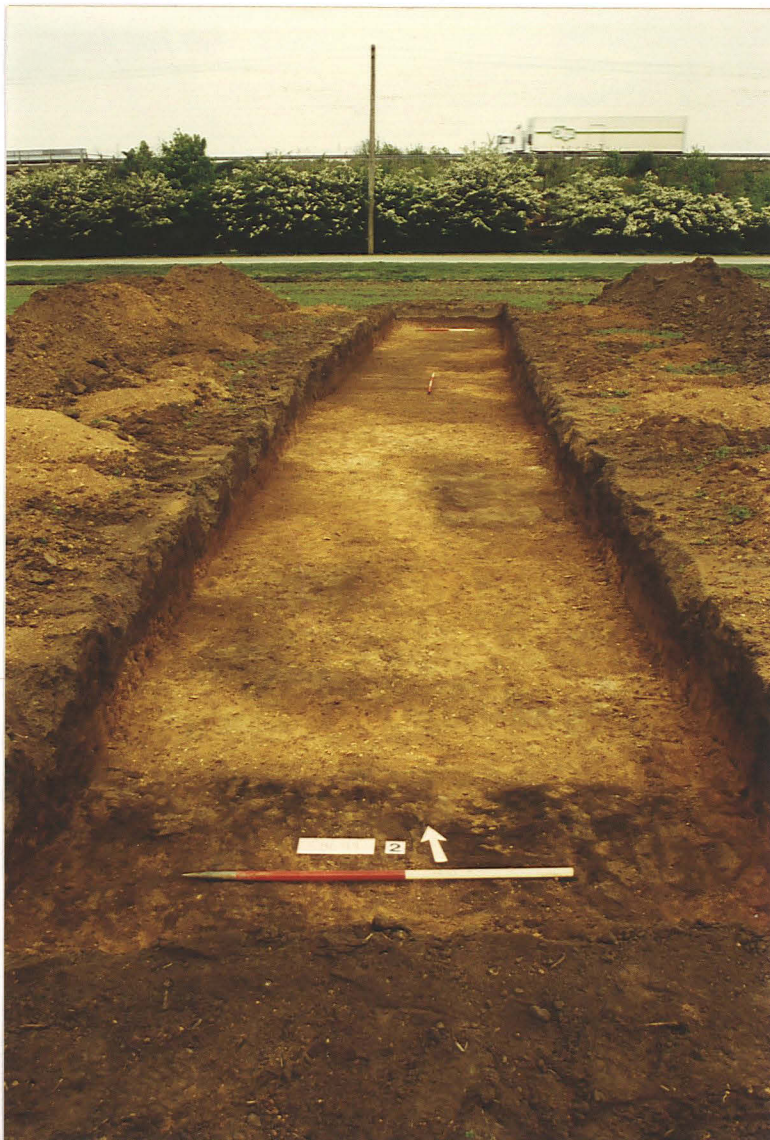






Pl. 5 Gully 105, looking west. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 6 Trench 2, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.





Pl. 7 Ditch 203, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Pl. 8 Gully 209 cutting ditch 203, looking south-west. Scales 2m, 1m & 0.3m.



Pl. 9 Treebole 205 cut by ditch 203, looking north. Scales 1m, 0.3m & 0.2m.

Pl. 10 Gully 211, looking west. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 11 Trench 2 after excavation of archaeological features, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.

Pl. 12 Trench 5, looking south. Scales 1m.



Pl. 13 Ditch 505, looking east. Scale 1m.

Pl. 14 Trench 9, looking north. Scales 2m.





Pl. 15 Gully 904 with treebole 906 to the north-east, looking north-east. Scale 0.3m.

Pl. 16 Trench 10, looking west. Scales 1m.





Pl. 17 Ditch 1009 and gully 1011, looking south. Scales 1m, 0.5m & 0.3m.

Pl. 18 Ditch 1006 and gully 1004, looking south. Scales 1m, 0.5m & 0.2m.





Pl. 19 Trench 14, looking west. Scales 2m & 1m.

Pl. 20 Gully 1404, looking north. Scales 0.5m & 0.2m.

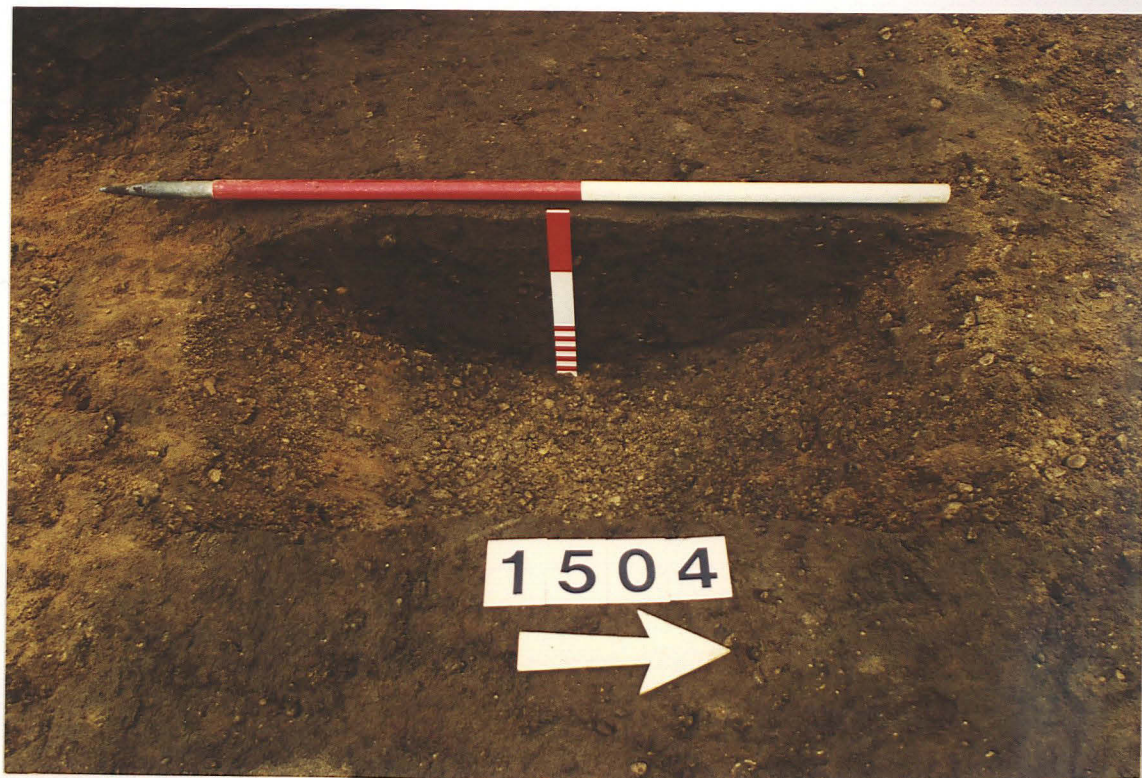






Pl. 21 Trench 15, looking south. Scales 1m.

Pl. 22 Ditch 1504, looking west. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

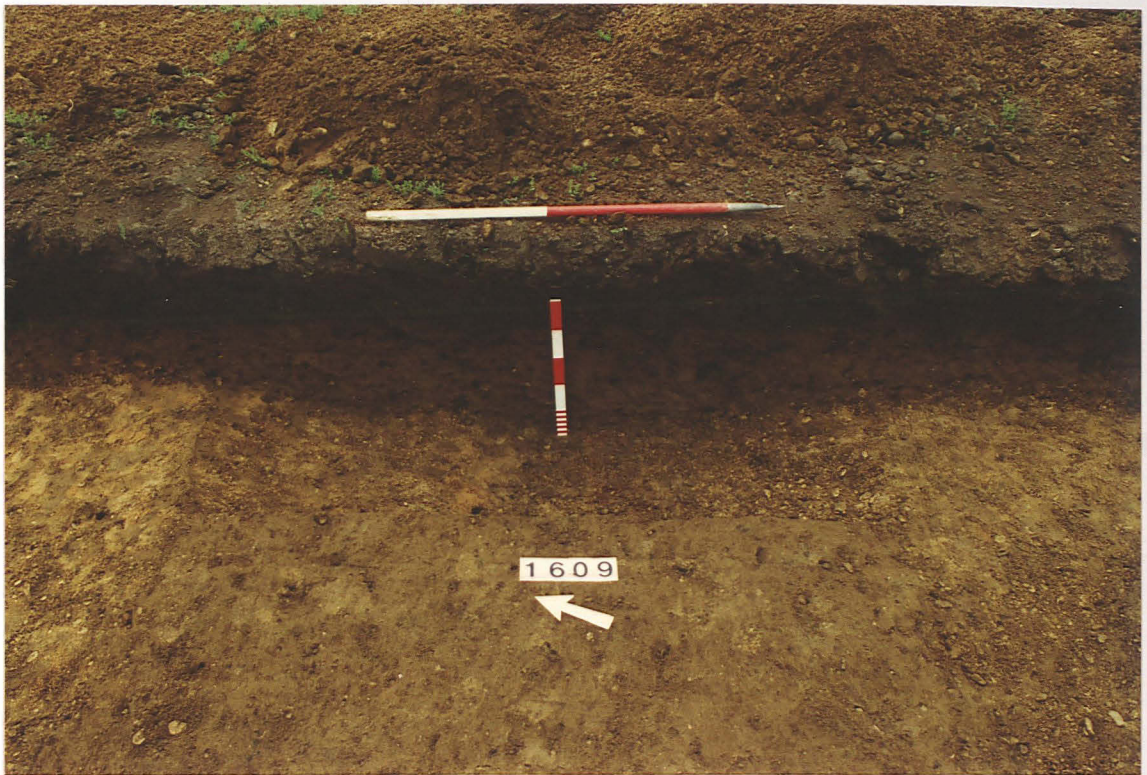




PI. 23 Trench 16, looking south. Scales 2m & 1m.

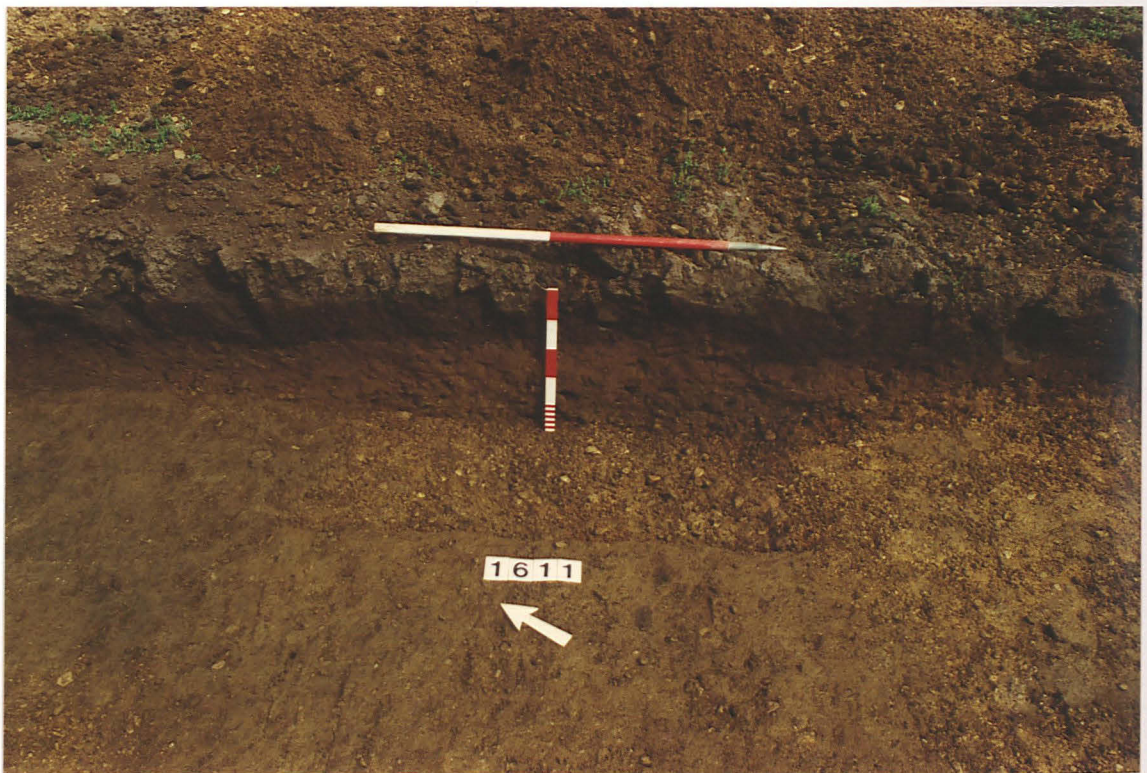
PI. 24 Gullies 1604 and 1606, looking east. Scales 1m, 0.5m & 0.2m.





Pl. 25 Ditch 1609, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

Pl. 26 Ditch 1611, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 27 Trench 17, looking east. Scales 1m.

Pl. 28 Gully 1704, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 29 Ditch 1706 with shallow, truncated remains of ditch 1715 to the east, looking south. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 30 Parallel ditches 1706 and 1708, looking north-west. Scales 1m.





Pl. 31 Ditch 1708, looking south. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

Pl. 32 Gully 1710, looking south. Scales 0.5m & 0.2m.





Pl. 33 Ditch 1712, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

Pl. 34 Trench 19, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.





Pl. 35 Ditch 1905, looking south-east. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 36 Trench 21, looking north. Scales 2m & 1m.

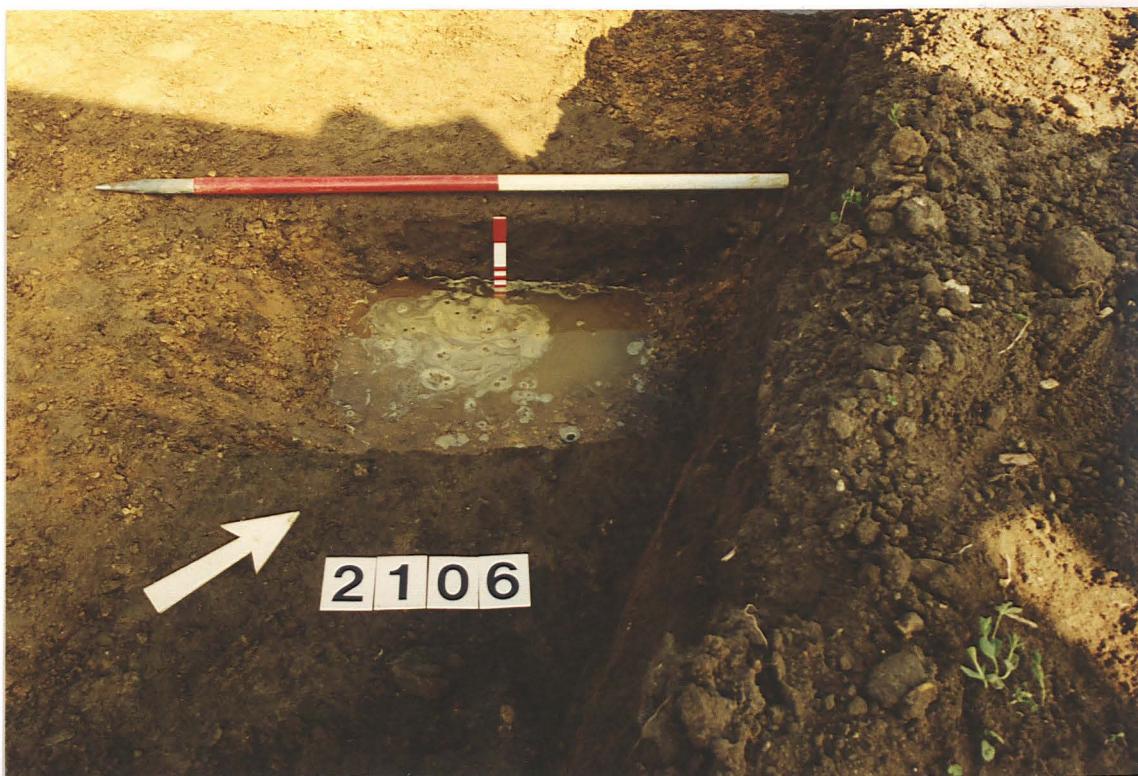






Pl. 37 Ditch 2104/2105, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

Pl. 38 Gully 2106, looking north-west. Scales 1m & 0.2m.





Pl. 39 Ditch 2108, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

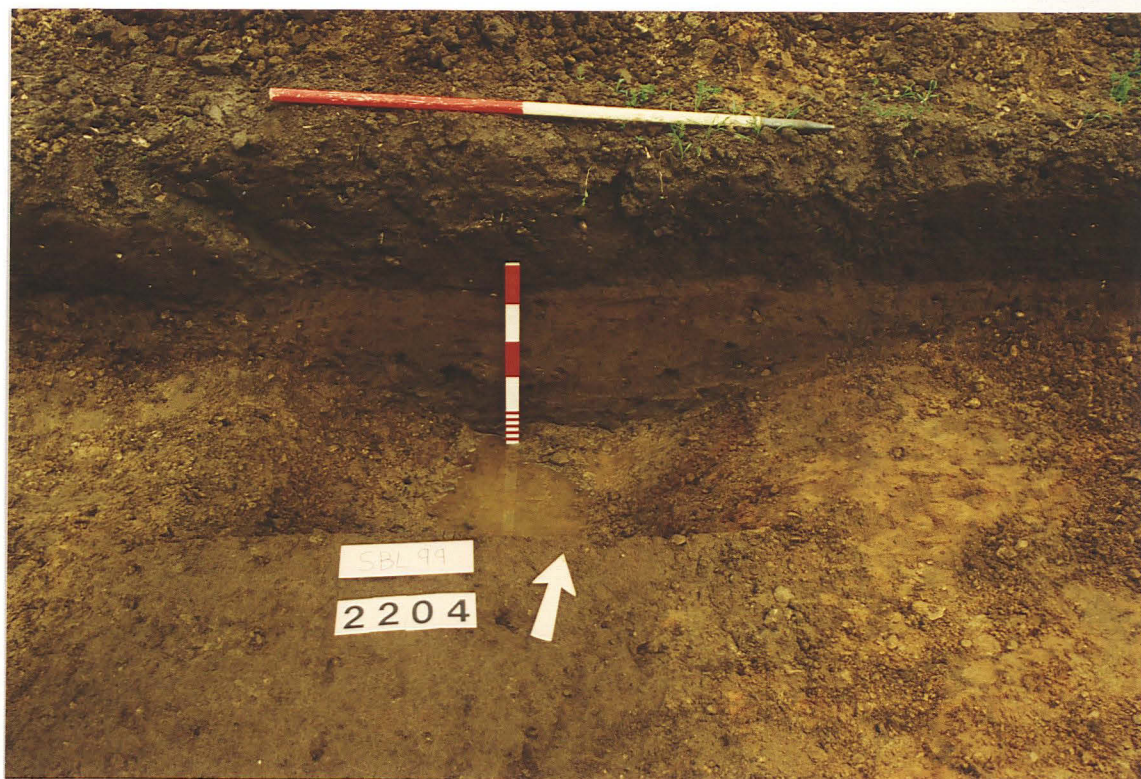
Pl. 40 Furrow 2110, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 41 Trench 22, looking east. Scale 1m.

Pl. 42 Ditch 2204, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 43 Ditch 2207, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

Pl. 44 Trench 27 (misnumbered as 21), looking west. Scales 1m.





Pl. 45 Trench 29, looking east. Scales 2m & 1m.

Pl. 46 Ditch 2904, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.2m.





Pl. 47 Trench 30 with ceramic waste pipe visible in foreground, looking east. Scales 1m.

Pl. 48 Ditch 3005 showing ceramic waste pipe and limestone wall remnant, looking north. Scales 1m & 0.5m.





Pl. 49 Trench 31, looking north. Scales 1m.

Pl. 50 Ditch 3104, looking south-west. Scales 0.5m & 0.2m.



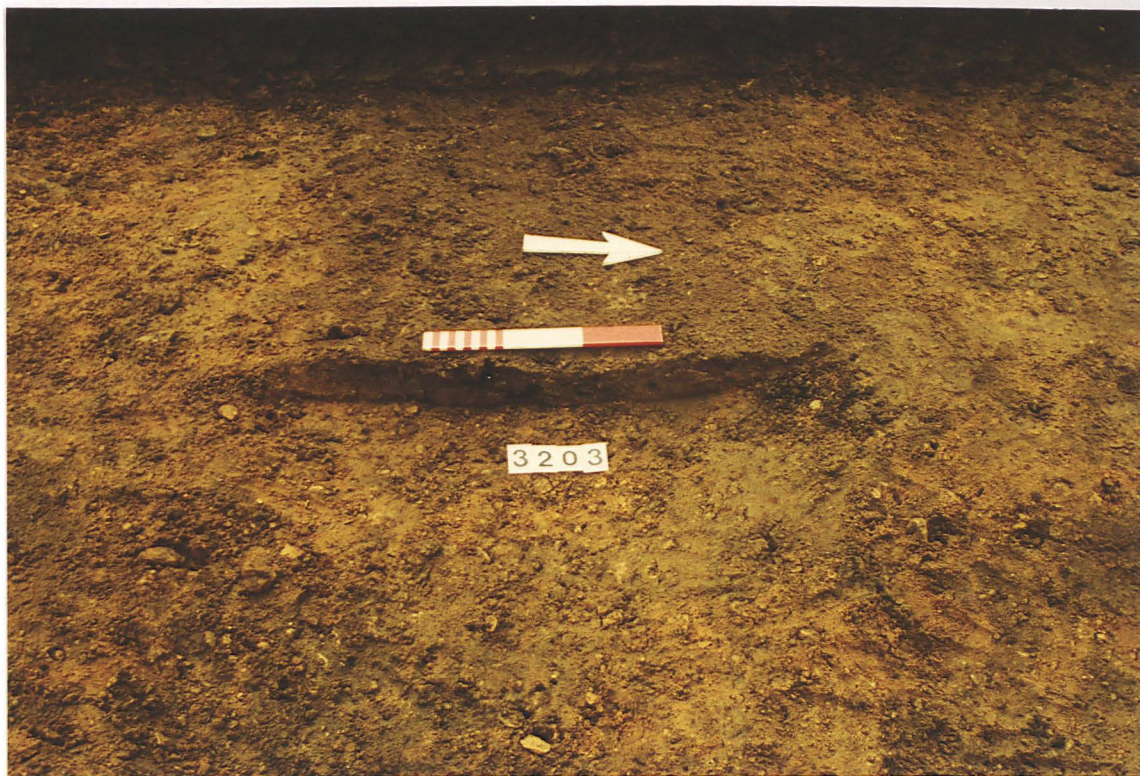


Pl. 51 Ditch 3106, looking north-east. Scales 0.5m & 0.2m.

Pl. 52 Trench 32, looking south. Scales 1m.







Pl. 53 Ditch 3203, looking west. Scale 0.3m.

Pl. 54 Trench 33, looking east. Scales 1m.

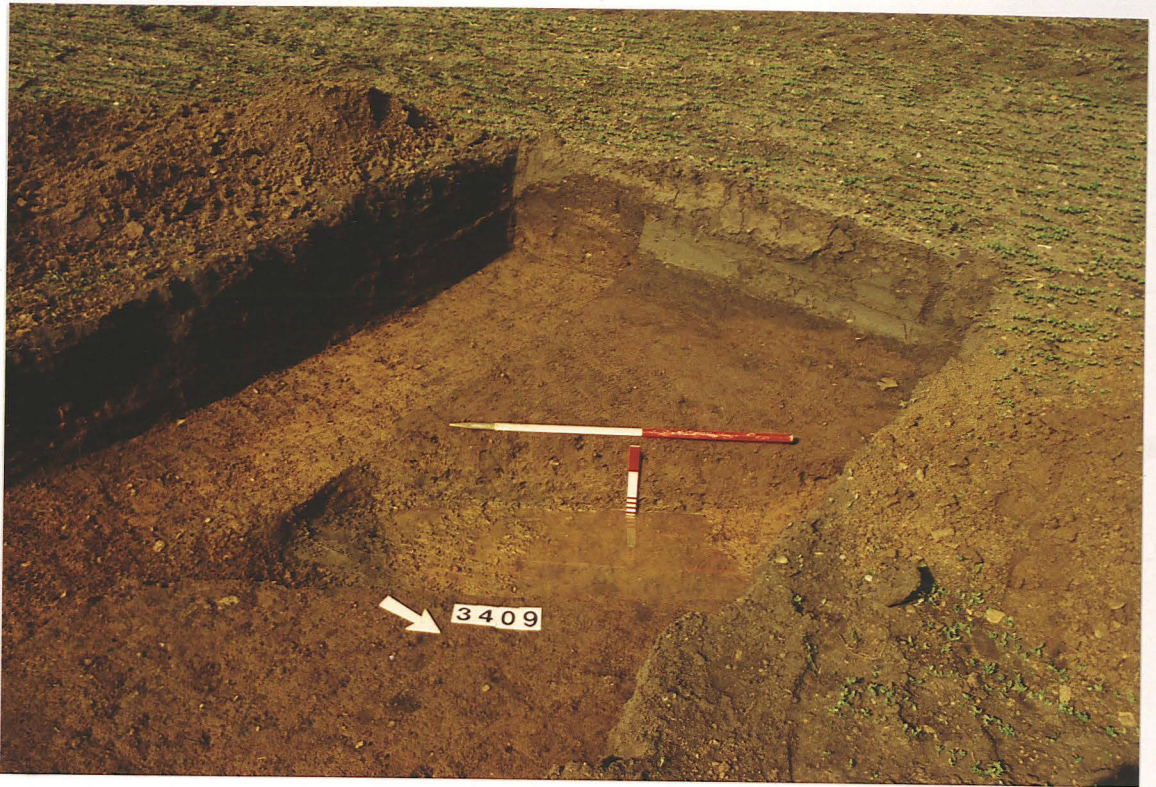




Pl. 55 Ditch 3305, looking north-east. Scale 0.5m.

Pl. 56 Trench 34, looking south-east. Scales 1m.





Pl. 57 Ditch 3409, looking south-west. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

Pl. 58 Ditches 3409 and 3407, looking south-west. Scales 1m.





PI. 59 Ditch 3404 with land drain 3406, looking south-west. Scales 1m & 0.2m.

PI. 60 Trench 36, looking west. Scales 1m.





Pl. 61 Pit 3603 with land drain 3605, looking south. Scale 1m.

Pl. 62 Ditch 3611 with land drain 3608, looking east. Scales 1m & 0.3m.

