



M3/22

# **PHOENIX CONSULTING**

*Archaeological Consultancy*

## **Archaeological Strip, Map and Record**

**Concrete Products Factory  
Manor Farm  
Baston  
Lincolnshire**

*On behalf of*

**Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd**

*Fieldwork & reporting carried out by The Heritage Network Ltd*

*Doc Ref:* PC170d

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

*Status:*

For presentation to curatorial authority

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SOURCE

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36537 Roman



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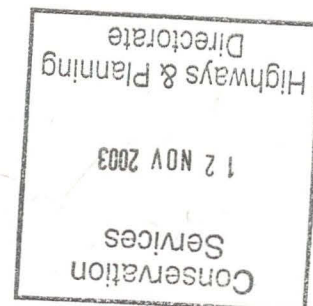
Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd

Doc Ref: PC170d

Prepared by:  
C Turner BSc

29<sup>th</sup> October 2003

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## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders and Mark Winter under the supervision of Chris Turner and Direction of Andy Richmond. Illustrations were prepared by Chris Turner and Karin Semmelmann, and the report was edited by Andy Richmond.

Phoenix Consulting would like to express its thanks to the Works Manager and staff of Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

Site name and address:	Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm, Baston Fen		
County:	Lincolnshire	District:	South Lincs
Village/town:	Baston	Parish:	Baston
Planning reference:	SO1/0534/7	NGR:	TF 12325 14450
Client name and address:	Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd		
Nature of work:	New stockyard	Previous land use:	Scrubland
Size of affected area:	c. 0.5 ha	Size of area investigated:	c. 0.35 ha
Site Code:	PC170	Other reference:	HN334
Organisation:	Phoenix Consulting	Site Director:	Andy Richmond
Type of work:	Monitoring & recording	Curating museum:	Lincolnshire Co. Museum
Start of work	27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2003	Finish of work	4 <sup>th</sup> September, 2003
Related SMR Nos.:	n/a	Periods represented:	RB/PM/Mod
Previous summaries/reports:			

**Synopsis:** In response to a condition on the planning permission for the westward extension of an existing stockyard at the Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm, Baston, Lincs, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to carry out an archaeological Strip and Record exercise as part of the groundworks. A broadly rectangular area c.135m x 26m was investigated.

A clear chronology of land use emerged beginning with a period of tree clearance prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, when a series of three intercutting drainage ditches running broadly east west was established. The lack of occupation debris or evidence for structures suggests these were for land management, and are not indicative of settlement on the site.

During the late post-medieval period, a fence line, aligned northeast to southwest, demonstrates that the field systems were on a different orientation at this period. Running parallel to this fence line was a ceramic land drain.

More recently, the area has been intensively ploughed as part of a larger field, before being abandoned and reverting to scrub.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd*, as part of an archaeological Strip and Record exercise required at the Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm, Baston Fen, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The scope of the works was defined in a written scheme of investigation prepared by *Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd*. (ref. PC 170c) and approved by the local curatorial authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
- 1.3 The factory complex is located 1.5km to the east of Baston cross roads, approximately 0.5km beyond the settlement. It is sited to the south of the Baston Outgang Road and is set back from the road. The factory is bordered to the south and west by Manor Pit Quarry, to the east by Baston Leisure Park and to the northeast by business units. The rectangular stockyard extension lies adjacent to the western boundary of the existing stockyard area.
- 1.4 The site covered approximately 0.75 ha, centred on OS grid reference TF 12325 14450, at a height of c.5m AOD. At the time of the investigations, the northern half of the site, approximately 45m in length, was used informally for storage of miscellaneous articles associated with the factory. The southern 33m had been used to store sand, and an area of scrubland lay between the two.
- 1.5 Topsoil had been partially removed from the areas of scrubland but this has not exposed the natural in all places.
- 1.6 The present project involved monitoring of the topsoil strip with the aim of identifying and investigating any exposed archaeological features or deposits.



## 2 Site Background

### **GEO-TECHNICAL**

- 2.1 The site lies on a sand and river gravel terrace situated approximately 4km west of the fen peatlands.
- 2.2 The overburden was a dark brown sandy silt c.0.40m in depth. Some patches had been stained with spilled concrete dyes. In places the dyes had leached through the overburden to the subsoil.

### **PREVIOUS WORK**

- 2.3 No known archaeological sites lie within the limits of the affected area. However, a series of cropmarks, identified from aerial photography of the surrounding area, indicated that there was a potential for archaeological features from the prehistoric through to post-medieval period to be uncovered in the course of the groundworks.
- 2.4 In 2001, an area approximately 40m long and 25m wide, at the southern end of the site, was investigated, as it had been stripped on its topsoil. Preliminary investigation identified a possible archaeological pit.
- 2.5 A geophysical survey of the site was carried out on the site in 2001 by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett, 2001). The results of the fluxgate magnetometer survey suggested the presence of potential archaeological features, including linears and small groups of pits.

### 3 Fieldwork

#### METHODOLOGY

- 3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation, under the direction of Phoenix Consulting, and in consultation with Aggregate Industries (UK) Ltd and the Lincolnshire County Council curatorial authority.
- 3.3 Topsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° machine fitted with a toothless bucket. In order to maximise the visibility of potential archaeological features, all vehicles were restricted from running across areas until they had been investigated, recorded and released.
- 3.4 All potential archaeological features encountered were hand excavated and recorded in accordance with current professional standards, by written, drawn and photographic methods.

#### RESULTS

- 3.5 Over the course of the project, thirty-six archaeological contexts were recorded. Thirteen sections were excavated through seven archaeological features. In addition, thirty-two tree boles were identified on the site, three of which were investigated to confirm their interpretation. The layout of the tree boles demonstrated no systematic pattern of planting.
- 3.6 Group numbers were issued to features that had multiple sections excavated through them.

#### Stratigraphy

- 3.7 The stratigraphy was fairly similar across the whole site. The topsoil was a dark sandy silt with gravel inclusions, measuring approximately 0.40m in depth. The natural sandy gravels became finer and a more light yellow brown in colour towards the southern half of the site.
- 3.8 In the northern 20m or so, the natural was more changeable, with patches of clayey silts as well as the gravels. In addition, patches of modern colour dyes were visible, which had leached into the natural in this part of the site.

#### Recorded Contexts

No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
1	Cut	Section: 1m; 1.7m wide; 0.3m deep	Linear, orientated NW-SE, with irregular concave sides and flat base.	Disturbed Ditch?	Undated



No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
2	Fill	0.95m wide; 0.09m deep	Light greyish brown (2.5 YR 6/1) sandy silt with white mottles. Occasional gravel inclusions	Primary fill of linear [1]	Undated
3	Fill	1.70m wide; 0.20m deep	Dark greyish black (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Secondary fill of linear [1]	Undated
4	Fill	0.90m wide; 0.20m deep	Yellow and white mottles (10 YR 8/1 + 10YR 8/6) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Top fill of Linear [1]	Undated
5	Cut	Section: 0.7m; 0.76m wide; 0.27m deep	U shaped linear, orientated NE-SW, with steep sides and concave base	Ditch	Undated
6	Fill	0.76m wide; 0.27m deep	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) fine sandy silt. Frequent gravel inclusions towards the base	Fill of ditch [5]	Undated
7	Cut	Section: 1.10m; 0.55m wide; 0.10m deep	Butt end of linear, orientated NE-SW, concave sides, slightly concave base	Ditch terminus	Undated
8	Fill	0.55m wide; 0.10m deep	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt. Frequent gravel inclusions towards base.	Fill of ditch [7]	Undated
9	Cut	Section: 0.60m; 1.33m wide; 0.33m deep	Linear, orientated E-W, curving slightly to the south, with steep sides, flat base. Root disturbance on south side	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
10	Fill	1.33m wide; 0.33m deep	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy silt. Frequent gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [9]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
11	Cut	Section: 0.84m; 0.75m wide; 0.14m deep	Linear, orientated ENE-WSW, concave sides, flat base	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
12	Fill	0.75m wide; 0.14m deep	Dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy silt. V. Occasional charcoal flecks, occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [11]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
13	Cut	Section: 0.84m; 0.77m wide; 0.09m deep	Linear, orientated E-W, steep concave sides and base	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
14	Fill	0.77m wide; 0.09m deep	Dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy silt. Occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [13]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
15	Cut	Section: 0.84m; 1.20m wide; 0.20m deep	Butt end of ditch, orientated E-W, concave sides, flat base	Ditch terminus	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
16	Fill	1.20m wide; 0.20m deep	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks, occasional gravel inclusions.	Fill of ditch [15]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD

No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
17	Cut	Section: 1.12m; 0.43m wide; 0.50m deep	Land drain, orientated NNE-SSW across site. U shaped cut, fill grey brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt with gravel. Reddish brown clay pipe 0.08m dia, 0.31m sections	Land drain	Post Med/ Mod
18	Cut	Section: 1.07m; 1.40m wide; 0.07m depth	Shallow concave linear, caused by repeated plough activity	Plough marks	Post Med/ Mod
19	Fill	1.40m wide; 0.07m depth	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt. frequent gravel inclusions	Fill of plough marks [18]	Post Med/ Mod
20	Cut	Section: 0.60m; 0.94m wide; 0.33m deep	Linear, orientated E-W, concave sides and base	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
21	Fill	0.94m wide; 0.33m deep	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt. Moderate gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [20]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
22	Cut	Section: 0.60m; 0.89m wide; 0.24m deep	Linear, orientated ENE-WSW, concave sides, flat base	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
23	Fill	0.89m wide; 0.24m deep	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) sandy silt. Occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [22]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
24	Cut	Section: 0.70m; 0.90m wide; 0.23m deep	Ditch, orientated E-W, concave sides and flat base	Ditch	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
25	Fill	0.90m wide; 0.23m deep	Dark yellow brown (10YR 3/4) sandy silt. V. occasional charcoal flecks, occasional gravel inclusions.	Fill of ditch [24]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
26	Cut	0.41m dia; depth 0.11m	Square, part of line orientated NNE-SSW. Steep sides, flat base	Post hole	Post Med/ Mod
27	Fill	0.41m dia; depth 0.11m	Greyish brown (10YR 6/2) sandy silt. Frequent gravel inclusions. Pos. post socket in middle	Fill of post hole [26]	Post Med/ Mod
28	Cut	Section: 1m; 3.12m wide; 0.31m deep	Linear, orientated NW-SE, irregular concave sides, irregular flat base	Linear	Undated
29	Fill	0.97m wide; 0.22m deep	Dark greyish black (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Primary fill of linear [28]	Undated
30	Cut	Section: 1m; 2.67m wide; 0.15m deep	Linear, orientated NW-SE, irregular concave sides, irregular flat base	Linear	Undated
31	Fill	1.9m wide; 0.15m deep	Light greyish brown (2.5 YR 6/1) sandy silt with white mottles. Occasional gravel inclusions	Primary fill of linear [30]	Undated
32	Fill	0.87m wide; 0.17m deep	Dark greyish black (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of linear [30]	Undated



No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
33	Fill	0.44m wide; 0.08m deep	Yellow and white mottles (10 YR 8/1 + 10YR 8/6) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of linear [30]	Undated
34	Fill	0.40m wide; 0.07m deep	Light greyish brown (2.5 YR 6/1) sandy silt with white mottles. Occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of linear [28]	Undated
35	Fill	2.14m wide; 0.15m deep	Yellow and white mottles (10 YR 8/1 + 10YR 8/6) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Fill of linear [28]	Undated
36	Fill	1.9m wide; 0.24m deep	Mixed dark greyish black (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Top fill of linear [28]	Undated

### Groups

No.	Type	Contexts	Description	Date
37	Fence line	[26]; (27)	Line of 20 post holes, spaced approximately 3m apart.	Post Med/ Mod
38	Ditch	[5]; (6); [7]; (8)	Terminal a small Ditch	Undated
39	Ditch	[9]; (10); [24]; (25); [15]; (16)	Part of a system of drainage ditches. Running across site.	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
40	Ditch	[20]; (21); [11]; (12)	Part of a system of drainage ditches. Running across site.	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
41	Ditch	[22]; (23); [13]; (13)	Part of a system of drainage ditches. Running across site.	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
42	Linear	[30]; (31); [28]; (29); [1]; (2); (3); (4)	Linear that appears to be almost entirely disturbed by modern activity	Post Med/ Mod

### FINDS CONCORDANCE

- 3.9 Finds were recovered from sections across ditch group [39]. No unstratified finds were recovered from this site.

Context No.	Pottery		Animal bone	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
16	4	35	2	2
25	3	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

- 3.10 A total of 7 sherds of pottery, weighing 39g, were recovered from stratified ditch fill contexts on the present site. The assemblage was in the form of small and abraded sherds, dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

- 3.11 Three separate vessels were represented, two in unidentified shell-tempered wares, and a rim from a samian cup (Form 27). Their condition suggests that they were not in their place of primary deposition.
- 3.12 The two small fragments of animal bone are both abraded pieces of teeth. Both fragments are similar in nature and are from a herbivorous animal, e.g. bovine or sheep/goat.
- 3.13 This small assemblage indicates the possibility of Roman activity in the vicinity. However, given the condition of this material, the present site probably lay away from the core of any settlement of this period.



## 4 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1 No evidence of prehistoric activity was observed during the stripping of this area. However, a clear chronology of land use emerged.
- 4.2 There was an initial period of tree clearance prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Following this, a series of drainage ditches running broadly east west was established. Ditch group [39] was the main drainage ditch, with two other ditch groups [40] and [41] running into it. The only domestic pottery sherds recovered on the site, all came from this series of ditches. The general lack of occupation debris and evidence of structures suggests these were for land management, and not indicative of settlement on the site. Their presence does, however, suggest that there was occupation activity in the Roman period in the vicinity.
- 4.3 A later field boundary, group [37], formed by a line of 20 post holes, spaced approximately 3m apart on a northeast to southwest alignment, demonstrates that the field systems were on a different orientation at this period. Most of them were shallow and sub-square in shape. The fence line was harder to locate in the northern c.20m of the site due to the nature of the natural subsoil in this area.
- 4.4 Running parallel to this fence line, and probably contemporary, was a land drain [17] formed of extruded clay pipes 1ft. in length. This type of drain is typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ditch group [38], was also broadly on the same alignment and may represent an earlier phase of the same boundary.
- 4.5 This field division was later removed, and the ground intensively ploughed as part of a larger field. The variation in the orientation of the ploughmarks indicates that this field was arable for many seasons before turning into scrubland.
- 4.6 In recent years, factory supplies have been stored in this area, and waste from the factory has been burnt and spread over it. The mixed modern appearance of the fills observed in linear group [42] indicates that there is extensive modern disturbance in some areas.

### Conclusions

- 4.7 The work undertaken has identified several phases of land use, spanning 2000 years. From the period of tree clearance onwards the site appears to have been used for agriculture.
- 4.8 The excavation of the ditches in the Roman period indicates the importance of land drainage in this area. The relative lack of finds suggests that the area of occupation lies elsewhere. Apart from changes in orientation of the field layout, it appears that this site remained as agricultural land until the present factory was established.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT**

- 4.9 As the new stockyard area has been reduced to match the existing stockyard level, preservation in situ of the identified archaeological features and deposits has not been possible. An archaeological record has therefore been created.

**CONFIDENCE RATING**

- 4.10 The weather and ground conditions encountered in the course of the fieldwork were generally good for the identification and recording of potential features and deposits. Some areas of modern disturbance were identified, but these did not limit visibility.
- 4.11 Overall, there were no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the work that was less than High.



## 5 References

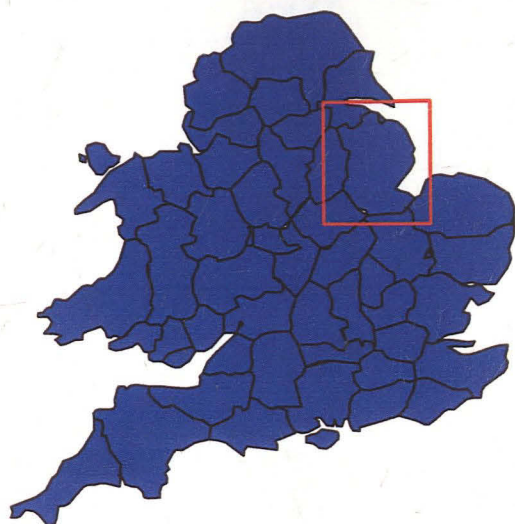
- Abramson P. 2001, Manor Farm, Baston, Lincolnshire. Project Design and Method Statement.
- Bartlett A. 2001, Concrete Products Factory, Baston, Lincolnshire: Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey.
- Richmond A. 2001, Specifications for a programme of archaeological evaluation, Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm, Baston, Lincolnshire: Report PC/170/A
- Richmond A. 2001, Specifications for an Archaeological Strip & Record Exercise, Stockyard Extension, Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm, Baston, Lincolnshire: Report PC/170/C

## 6 Illustrations

- Figure 1 ..... Site location plan
- Figure 2 ..... Site plan
- Figure 3 ..... Context group plan
- Figure 4 ..... Excavated Plans and Sections
- Figure 5 ..... Excavated Plans and Sections
- Figure 6 ..... Excavated Plans and Sections
- Figure 7 ..... Excavated Plans and Sections

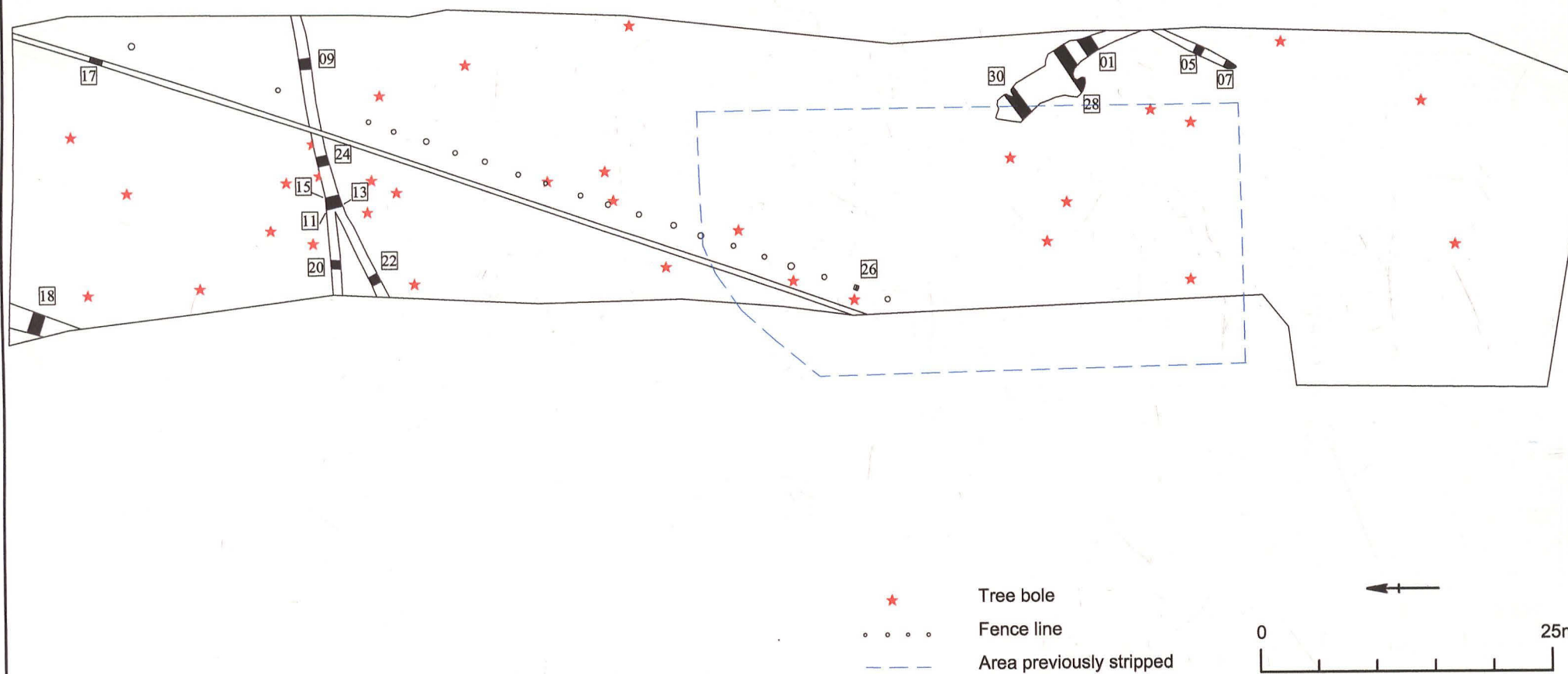
## Figures





Site Location

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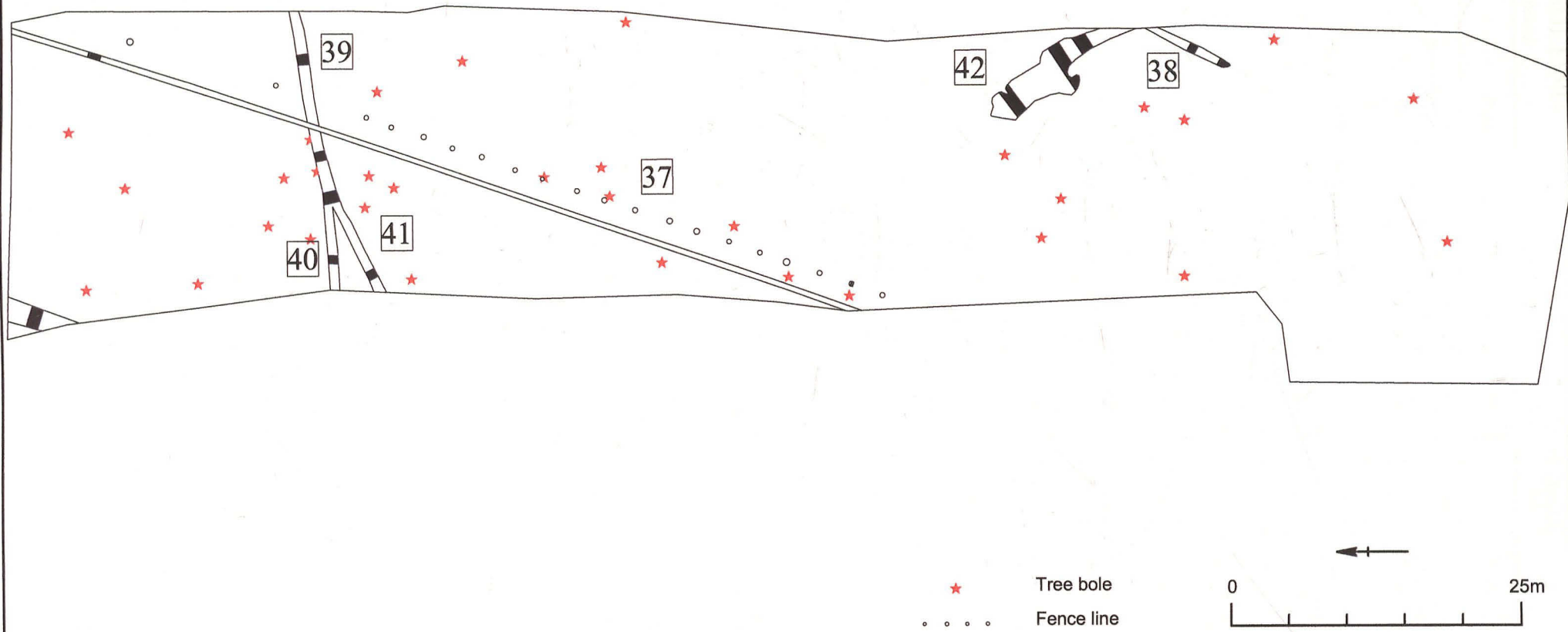


Site layout

Scale 1:500

Figure 2



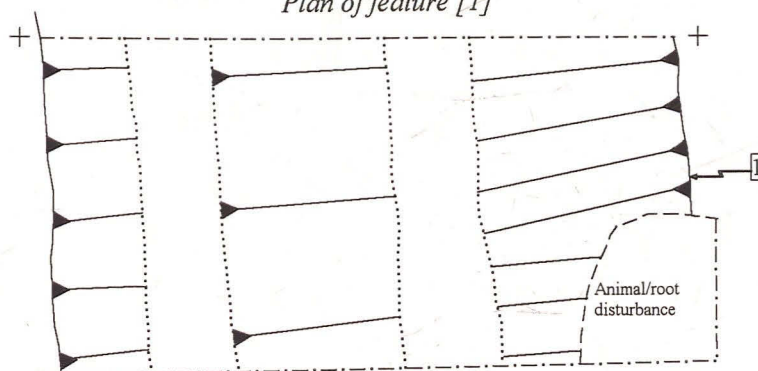


Context groups

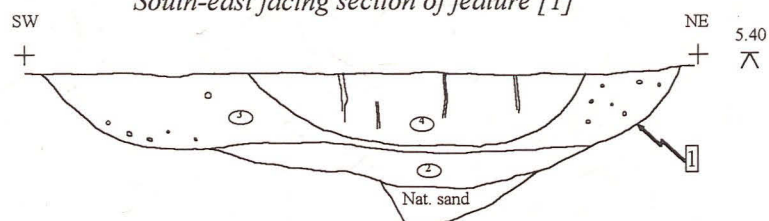
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Figure 3

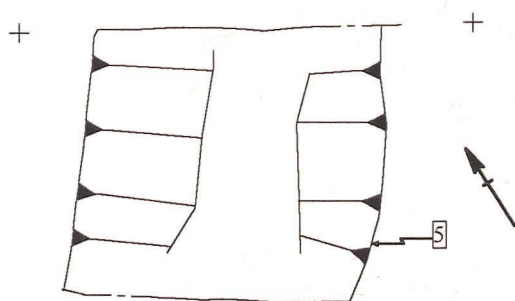
Plan of feature [1]



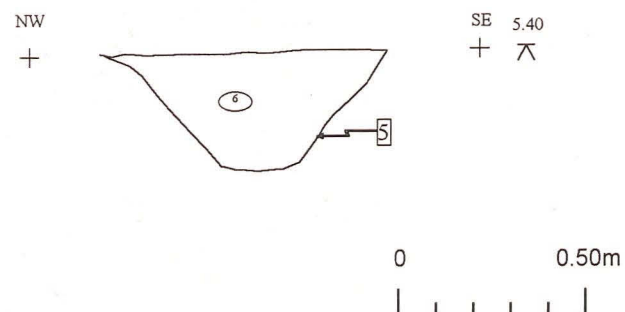
South-east facing section of feature [1]



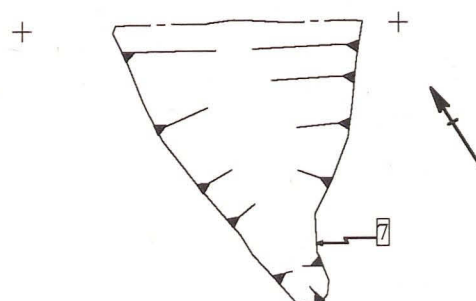
Plan of feature [5]



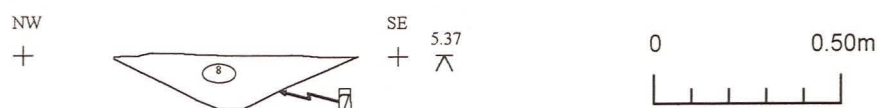
South west facing section of feature [5]



Plan of feature [7]

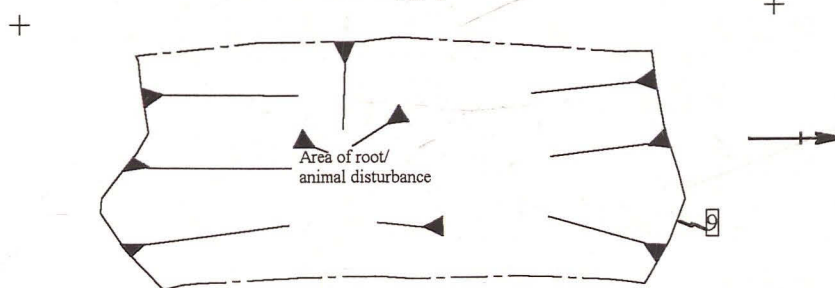


South west facing section of feature [7]

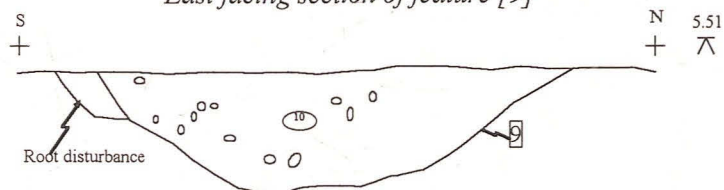




Plan of [9]

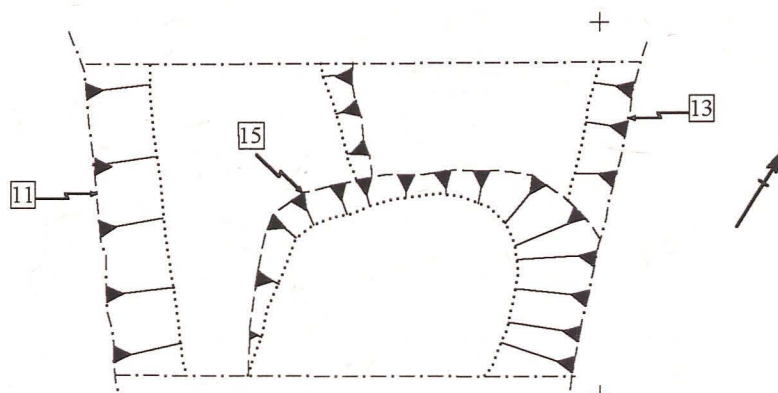


East facing section of feature [9]

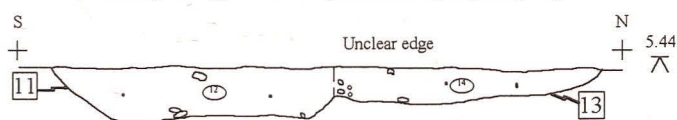


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Plan of ditch sections [11], [13], & [15]

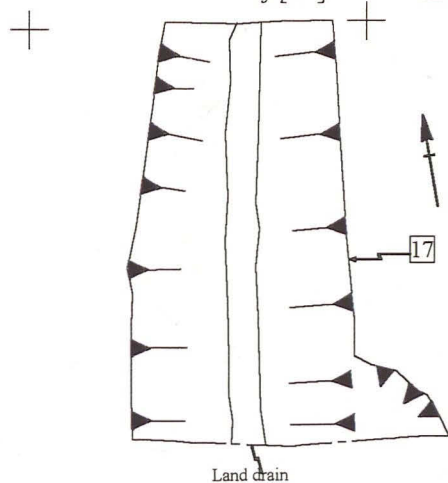


East facing section of ditches [11] & [13]

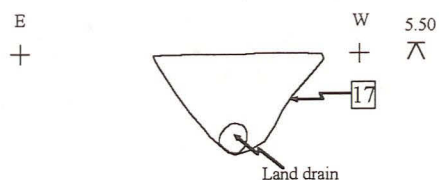


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Plan of [17]

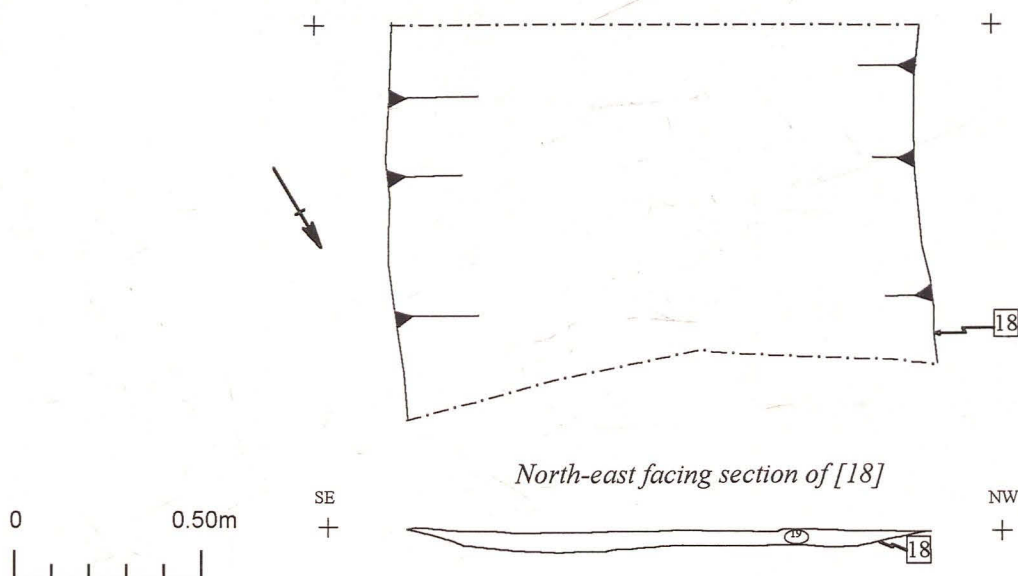


North facing section of [17]

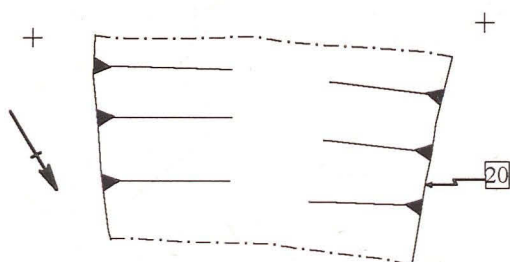


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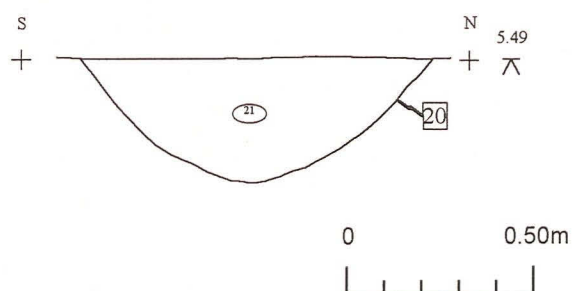
*Plan of [18]*



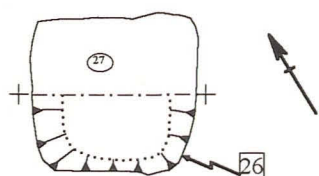
*Plan of [20]*



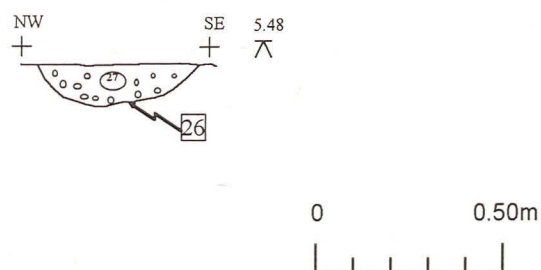
*East facing section of [20]*



*Plan of posthole [26]*

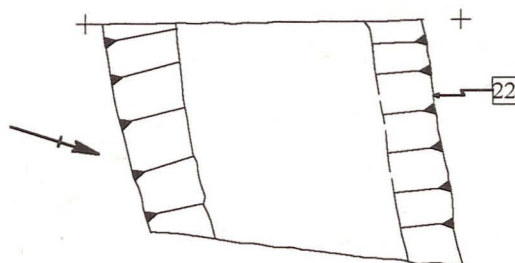


*South west facing section of posthole [26]*

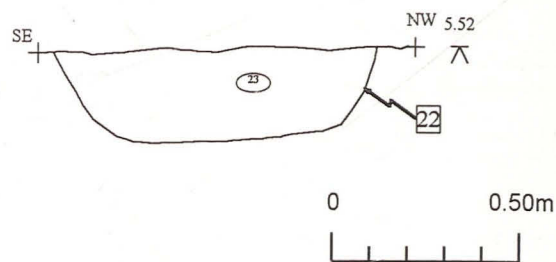




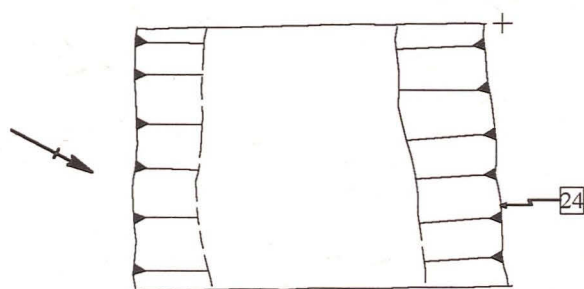
Plan of feature [22]



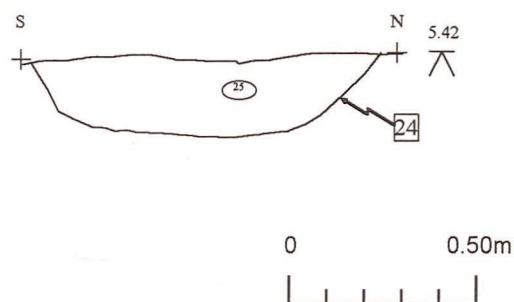
North east facing section of feature [22]



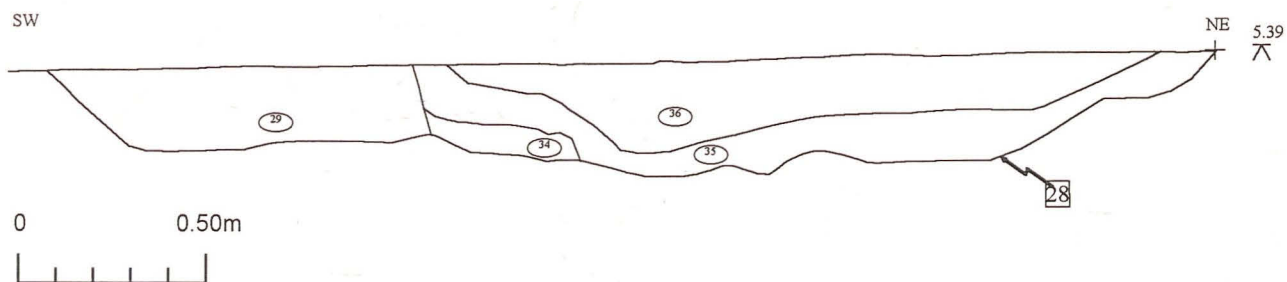
Plan of feature [24]



East facing section of feature [24]



South east facing section of cut [28]



South east facing section of cut [30]

