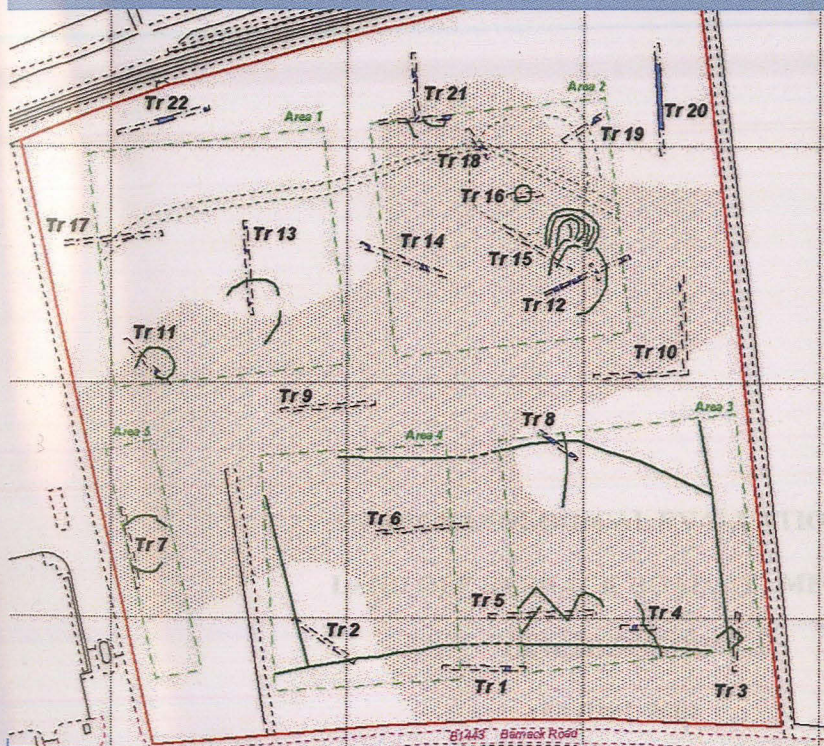




Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation at
land off Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire
August 2004



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September 2004



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Lincolnshire County Council

19 MAR 2010

Support Services

ELI 10511
SU 13090/1.
PRN 39044-48.

STAMFORD LAND OFF BARNACK ROAD

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
LAND OFF BARNACK ROAD, STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
AUGUST 2004

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STAMFORD LAND OFF BARNACK ROAD

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STAMFORD LAND OFF BARNACK ROAD

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Land off Barnack Road Stamford
Short description (250 words maximum)	Twenty two trial trenches were excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The evaluation revealed evidence limited Iron Age activity, industrial activity possibly dating to the Roman period, although at low intensity and medieval agriculture
Project type	Archaeological Trial Evaluation
Previous work	Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey
Future work	Unknown
Monument type and period	Iron Age ditches / Romano-British industrial activity
Significant finds	
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Lincolnshire
Site address	Land off Barnack Road Stamford
Easting	504220
Northing	307110
Height OD	23m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	CgMs Consulting and Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	
Project Design originator	Mike Dawson MA MIFA
Director/Supervisor	Steve Morris / Michael Webster
Project Manager	Adam Yates BA AIFA
Sponsor or funding body	
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	23/08/04
End date	03/09/04
ARCHIVES	
	Accession Code :
Physical	
Paper	
Digital	

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
LAND OFF BARNACK ROAD, STAMFORD,**

LINCOLNSHIRE

AUGUST 2004

ABSTRACT

Twenty two trial trenches were excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The evaluation revealed limited Iron Age activity, industrial activity possibly dating to the Roman period, although at low intensity and evidence for medieval agriculture.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation comprising twenty two machine excavated trenches was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in August 2004 at land off Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire (Fig1), centred on NGR TF 0422 0711. The work, following on from desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting prior to the determination of planning applications relating to the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate a series of geophysical anomalies, characterise the archaeological potential of the site, and to determine the extent, use and date of any archaeological remains present. The extent of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs (Dawson 2004).

This document comprises a factual report detailing the results of the excavation. It does not include analysis of samples taken during the evaluation or the results of scientific dating.

2 BACKGROUND

The development site lies on the south-eastern outskirts of Stamford, Lincolnshire, south of the River Welland and to the north of Barnack Road. The area of investigation covered approximately 8ha in a gently undulating arable field lying at approximately 23m aOD, defined by field boundaries to the east, the railway line to the north, modern light industrial development to the west and the north, and by Barnack Road to the south.

The soils of the area comprise well drained coarse loams of the Sutton 1 association (SSEW 1983). Drift geology of Alluvium and River Terrace Gravels overlies the solid geology of Inferior Oolite (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>).

Desk-based assessment undertaken as part of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment identified significant human activity in the area dating from the Neolithic period onwards (Dawson 2003). Geophysical survey of the application area detected a series of linear and curvilinear anomalies provisionally interpreted as ring ditches (Wragg 2001).

3 METHODOLOGY

Twenty-two trenches of varying lengths were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision (Fig 2). All trenches were opened in the positions specified in the WSI with the exceptions of Trench 1, which was moved northwards to avoid heavy undergrowth, and Trench 3, which was moved northwards to avoid overhead power lines. At the request of Lincolnshire County Council, Trench 12 was expanded to try and identify the extent of archaeological remains present.

The base and an appropriate section of each trench were cleaned by hand and planned at a scale of 1:50. All archaeological features were sample excavated, in order to ascertain their nature, date and degree of preservation. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number and the details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Section drawings were made of all archaeological features and soil profiles at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20.

Levels were taken along the top and base of each trench, with the heights related to Ordnance Datum. Trench locations were related to the National Grid.

A photographic record was made of the excavation, using both 35mm black and white negative and colour transparency films. The spoil from the trenches was scanned with a metal detector to maximise find recovery.

All works were carried out accordance with the IFA *Code of Conduct* (1995, revised 2000) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1994, revised 1999). All procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines. All works were carried out according to the provisions of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

The site was visited by Jane Cowgill (Specialist Consultant) who commented upon the potential industrial activity identified on site.

4 RESULTS

Features of potential archaeological interest were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-14, and 17-22 which are discussed further below (Figs 2-7). Trenches devoid of features of archaeological interest are not described. The archaeological activity identified fell into two broad phases; a series of linear features of prehistoric date and a number of isolated discrete features of Roman date.

Generally, a similar sequence of naturally deposited layers was recorded in each trench. The basal gravels undulated across the site, and were encountered from immediately below the subsoil to a depth of at least 1.2m. Mid orange-brown alluvial silty clay occurred intermittently across the site overlain by subsoil and plough soil. The prehistoric features were generally cut into the gravels and overlain by the alluvium; the Roman features were cut from within the alluvium.

Table 1: Ordnance Survey heights of principal deposits by Trench (metres)

Trench		Gravels	Alluvium	Plough soil / subsoil
1	Context No	104	103	101 102
	Top aOD	21.88	22.05	22.51
2	Context No	203		201 202
	Top aOD	22.78		23.27
3	Context No	304	303	301 302
	Top aOD	21.13	21.52	22.42
4	Context No	404	403	401 402
	Top aOD	21.35	21.51	21.92
5	Context No	506	503	501 502
	Top aOD	21.62	21.77	22.15
6	Context No	604	603	601 602
	Top aOD	21.61	21.77	22.35
7	Context No	704	703	701 702
	Top aOD	22.07	22.18	22.60
8	Context No	803		801 802
	Top aOD	21.25		21.66
9	Context No	904	903	901 902
	Top aOD	21.11	21.56	21.99
10	Context No	1004	1003	1001 1002
	Top aOD	20.09	20.43	20.90

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11	Context No	1103	1108	1101 1102
	Top aOD	21.26	21.43	21.86
12	Context No	1204	1203	1201 1202
	Top aOD	20.08	20.39	21.08
13	Context No	1303		1301 1302
	Top aOD	20.70		21.23
14	Context No	1404	1403	1401 1402
	Top aOD	20.53	20.59	21.08
15	Context No	1504	1503	1501 1502
	Top aOD	20.36	20.67	21.22
16	Context No	1604	1603	1601 1602
	Top aOD	20.16	20.32	20.77
17	Context No	1708	1703	1701 1702
	Top aOD	20.86	21.02	21.56
18	Context No	1804	1803	1801 1802
	Top aOD	20.21	20.37	20.91
19	Context No	1903		1901 1902
	Top aOD	19.95		20.37
20	Context No	2003		2001 2002
	Top aOD	18.39		18.98
21	Context No	2104	2103	2101 2102
	Top aOD	20.27	20.43	20.90
22	Context No	2203		2201 2202
	Top aOD	20.10		20.42

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

Two features were present, both cutting gravel (104) and underlying alluvium (103).

A shallow scoop [106] at the west end of the trench protruded from the northern section. It was 0.42m wide, 0.45m long and 0.12m deep, with a shallow concave profile. The single fill (105) of loose pale grey brown silty clay produced fragments of Iron Age pottery. This may represent the butt end of a linear or part of small pit or post hole.

Towards the east end of the trench was a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditch [109], although this had been heavily truncated on its eastern side by recut [108]. The surviving portion of [109] was 0.75m wide, 0.2m deep, with straight sides to a flat base. The single fill (110) was fine mixed orange brown silty sand containing small stone. Recut [108] was 1.72m wide, 0.54m deep, with irregular sides, steeper to the east, to a concave base. The single fill (107) was pale brown-red

silty sand with occasional small gravel fragments. Neither ditch produced any finds, both fills would suggest alluviation rather than deliberate backfilling.

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig 3, Fig 7 sections 1 and 2)

Two small pits or post holes were present in this trench, all cutting gravel (201) and overlain by subsoil (202), no alluvium was present. The features did not suggest a clear alignment.

Pit / posthole [205] was circular in plan, concave in profile, 0.55m across and 0.14m deep. The single fill (204) was mid orange-brown silty clay with a few gravel fragments. No finds were produced.

Pit / posthole [207] was circular in plan, concave in profile, 0.26m across and 0.08m deep. The single fill (206) was light yellow-brown silty sand with a few gravel fragments. No finds were produced.

Pit / posthole [209] was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.68m x 0.74m, with irregular sides to a flattish base 0.27m deep. The profile was suggestive of a post hole, with a central depression forming a post pipe. The single fill (208) was mid orange-brown silty sand with a few gravel fragments. No finds were produced.

4.3 Trench 4 (Fig 3)

A shallow north-south aligned ditch [406] crossed the trench, cut into gravel (404) and overlain by alluvium (403). It was 1.48m wide, 0.4m deep, with irregular sides to a flattish base. The single fill of pale red-brown silty clay (405) produced no finds.

4.4 Trench 5

One feature of archaeological interest was present, a small posthole [505] to the west end of the trench cutting gravel (506) and overlain by alluvium (503). The posthole was circular in plan, 0.28m in diameter with straight sides to a flat base 0.1m deep. The single fill (504) of light yellow-grey silty sand contained rare charcoal flecks but produced no finds.

A sinuous linear [507] to the east of [505] was of probable natural origin. Its edges were unclear and it was filled with re-deposited natural.

4.5 Trench 6 (Fig 3, Fig 7 section 2)

A single feature protruded from the northern section at the west end of the trench, cutting gravel (604) and underlying alluvium (603). The visible part of the feature [606] was semi-circular in plan, 0.9m wide, 0.5m long, with sharp straight sides to a flat base 0.25m deep. The single fill (605) of mid-orange brown silty loam contained some gravel and limestone fragments, some of which showed signs of burning. Iron Age pottery and burnt bone were recovered. This feature may represent part of a small pit or posthole or the butt end of a linear feature.

4.6 Trench 8 (Fig 3)

The butt end of a substantial ditch protruded from the northern section at the east end of the trench, cutting gravel (803) and underlying subsoil (802), no alluvium was present. One sherd of Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the upper surface of (803). The visible part of the feature [806] was 2.3m wide, 1.7m long with an irregular rounded terminal. It had irregular sides and base, 0.62m deep. The single fill (805) of mid red-brown silty clay contained very occasional flint gravel fragments and probably derived from alluviation. Prehistoric pottery was recovered.

A palaeochannel [811/817] filled with alluvial silty clays crossed the trench on an east-west alignment. This corresponds with an east-west linear identified during the geophysical survey.

4.7 Trench 10 (Fig 4)

Two features of archaeological interest were present, both cutting gravel (1004) and underlying alluvium (1003).

Mid-way along the east-west arm of the trench, the butt end of a ditch [1007] protruded from the southern section. It was 1.8m long on a north-west to south-east alignment, 1.10m wide with an irregular terminal. It was 0.4m deep with straight sides to a flat base and contained with two fills. The primary fill was mid brown-orange sandy silt (1006) overlain by mid-dark brown-grey silty sand. Both fills were clean and homogenous, deriving from alluviation, neither produced any finds.

Towards the northern end of the north-south arm of the trench was a small pit [1009]. This was circular in plan, 0.7m in diameter, concave in profile and 0.23m deep. The single fill (1008) of mid grey-brown silty sand produced no finds.

4.8 Trench 11 (Fig 4)

Two features of archaeological interest were present cut into gravel (1103) and the underlying subsoil (1102). These were located on a raised area of gravel within the trench where the alluvium (1108) was absent.

North-south aligned ditch [1105] was 0.48m wide, with a shallow concave profile 0.11m deep. The single fill (1104) of mid orange-brown silty sand was clean and homogenous, probably derived from alluviation. No finds were recovered.

Posthole [1107] was circular in plan 0.3m across, with near vertical sides to a flat base 0.08m deep. The single fill (1106) of pale grey-brown sandy silty clay produced no finds.

4.9 Trench 12 (Fig 4, Fig 7 sections 3-6)

A number of archaeological features were present within this trench. Eight north-south aligned ditches and one ditch terminal/pit cut gravel (1204) and underlay alluvium (1203) and were of prehistoric date. One pit cut alluvium (1203) and was of possible Roman date.

Ditch [1210] was 1.1m wide with shallow sides to a flat base 0.35m deep. The single fill (1209) of mid brown silty sand contained few small gravel fragments but no finds. Ditch [1210] was truncated to the west by ditch [1208]. This was 1.61m wide with straight sides to a slightly concave base. The single fill (1207) of mid brown-orange sandy silt contained a few gravel fragments but no finds.

Ditch [1212] was 1.21m wide, with a shallow concave profile 0.17m deep. The single fill (1211) of mid brown sandy silt with a few gravel inclusions produced no finds.

Protruding from the southern section was the butt end of a linear feature or part of pit [1220]. This was semi-circular in plan, 0.88m wide, 0.42m long, with a concave profile 0.19m deep. The single fill (1219) of mid orange-brown sandy silt with gravel produced no finds.

Ditch [1214] was 0.85m wide with irregular sides to a concave base 0.3m deep. The single fill (1213) of loose brown silty sand with rare gravel fragments produced no finds.

Ditch [1216] was 1.5m wide, with irregular sides and base 0.2m deep. The single fill (1215) of mid orange brown silty sand produced no finds.

Ditch [1218] was 1.02m wide, U-shaped in profile 0.4m deep. It contained four fills, the lowest of which (1227) was orange-brown sandy silt. This was overlain by orange grey silty clay sand (1226),

orange brown silty sand (1225) and grey-orange-brown silty clay sand (1217). This last was restricted to the western edge of the ditch and may be the fill of a recut. Iron Age pottery was recovered from (1226).

Ditch [1222] was 0.98m wide with a shallow U-shaped profile 0.26m deep. The single fill (1221) of mid / pale orange-brown sandy silt produced no finds.

Ditch [1224] was only partly contained within the extreme eastern end of the trench. The visible part was 0.5m wide, with straight side to a flat base 0.3m deep. The single fill (1223) of mid orange brown silty sand produced no finds.

These ditches are all of probable prehistoric date and may be those identified as a penannular ditch like anomaly during the geophysical survey. The fills are all indicative of infilling through alluviation, and as such the density of the features may reflect attempts to maintain the integrity of a ring ditch against a background of inundation and silting.

A circular pit [1206] 0.95m diameter was cut into alluvium (1203). This had an irregular profile and was 0.28m deep. The single fill (1205) of mixed reddish brown silty sand contained frequent charcoal fragments, some burnt stone and slag. The alluvium (1203) round the edges and base of this feature was baked hard through heat action, indicating burning *in-situ*. The trench was extended to the north and south around this feature to try and detect any associated remains but none were present within the excavated area. No diagnostic dating material was recovered, although given that the underlying alluvium was post Iron Age and an abraded fragment of Samian ware was recovered from the overlying subsoil in the vicinity of the feature, a Roman date is proposed.

4.10 Trench 13 (Fig 4, Fig 7 section 7)

Four features of archaeological interest were located within this trench, all cut into gravel (1303) and underlying subsoil (1302).

East-west aligned ditch [1305] terminated within the trench, protruding from the eastern section. It was 0.6m wide, 1.1m long with a rounded terminal and U-shaped profile, 0.3m deep. The single fill (1304) of mid orange brown silty clay contained a few small gravel fragments but no finds.

Possible ditch terminal or pit [1311] protruded from the eastern section. The visible portion was irregular in plan, measuring 0.6m x 0.5m, with a shallow U-shaped profile 0.17m deep. The single fill (1310) of orange brown sandy silt contained no finds.

Ditch [1314] crossed the trench aligned east-west. It was 1.2m wide, with a shallow U-shaped profile 0.34m deep. The primary fill (1313) was mid orange-brown sandy silt with a few flint gravel fragments, overlain by mid orange-brown silty sand with few gravel fragments (1312).

Posthole [1307] was circular in plan, 0.45m across, concave in profile, 0.25m deep. The single fill (1306) of orange brown silty sand contained occasional ironstone fragments.

4.11 Trench 14 (Fig 5, Fig 7 sections 8-9)

Four features of archaeological interest were located within this trench, all cut into gravel (1404) and underlying alluvium (1403), with the exception of [1407], which occurred in an area where the alluvium was absent, and underlay the subsoil (1402).

Ditch [1407] was curvilinear in profile, 0.9m wide, it was U-shaped in profile with slightly irregular sides, 0.34m deep. The primary fill (1406) of friable pale orange grey sandy silt was overlain by mid orange brown silty sandy clay (1405). No finds were recovered.

Pit or ditch terminal [1409] protruded from the southern section. The visible part was semi-circular in plan, 0.82m wide, with a shallow U-shaped profile 0.3m deep. The single fill (1408) of friable mid orange brown silty sand contained a few gravel fragments.

Ditch [1411] crossed the trench on a north-east to southwest alignment. It was 1.02m wide with straight sides to a flat base. The primary fill (1414) of mid orange-brown sandy silt was overlain by mid grey-brown silty sand (1410).

Ditch [1413] crossed the trench aligned north-south. It was 0.5m wide with a shallow concave profile 0.09m deep. The single fill (1412) of orange-brown sandy silt contained occasional large ironstone fragments.

4.12 Trench 15

No archaeological features were present within this trench, although a spread of stoney material (1505) was encountered at the east end of the trench between the plough soil and subsoil.

4.13 Trench 17 (Fig 5, Fig 7 section 10)

Five postholes were present within this trench, all underlying alluvium (1703) and cutting gravel (1708).

Posthole [1716] was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.55m x 0.65m, with sloping sides to a flat base, 0.09m deep. The single fill (1715) was dark yellow-brown sandy silt.

Posthole [1705] was circular in plan, 0.24m in diameter, with sharply sloping sides to a concave base 0.35m deep. Primary fill (1711) of yellow-brown sandy silt was overlain by red-brown silty sandy clay (1704). The morphology of (1704) is suggestive of a post pipe, from which Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Posthole [1710] was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.38m x 0.42m, with an off-centred U-shaped profile, 0.19m deep. The single fill (1709) was dark yellow-brown clay silt.

Posthole [1714] was circular, 0.55m across, with sloping sides to a concave base, 0.23m deep. The single fill (1713) was dark yellow brown sandy silt with occasional gravel.

Posthole [1707] was circular, 0.35m across, with sloping sides to a flattish base, 0.15m deep. The primary fill (1712) was grey-brown sandy silt overlain by the secondary fill (1706) of dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel.

4.14 Trench 18 (Fig 5)

Two features of potential archaeological interest were present within this trench, both underlying alluvium (1803) and cutting gravel (1804).

Ditch [1806] cut across the trench aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.98m wide, with a shallow concave profile 0.13m deep. The single fill (1805) was mid orange brown sandy silt. This feature was very ephemeral, possibly indicating a natural origin or a high degree of truncation.

Possible posthole [1808] was ovoid in plan, 0.56m x 0.44m, concave in profile, 0.1m deep. The single fill (1807) was mid red brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone fragments. Again, this feature was very ephemeral, possibly indicating a high degree of truncation.

4.15 Trench 19 (Fig 5, Fig 7 section 11)

Two possible features of potential archaeological interest were present within this trench, both underlying subsoil (1902) and cutting gravel (1903). There was no alluvium in this trench. Both these features were described as pits, although they did not produce finds, and their irregular nature may indicate a natural origin.

Pit [1906] was irregular in plan, 1.4m across, with a concave profile 0.4m deep. The single fill (1907) was red-brown sandy silt. It was truncated to the east by large sub-circular pit [1905]. This was 3.65m across with irregular sides and base, 0.4m deep. The single fill was red-brown sandy silt (1904).

4.16 Trench 20 (Fig 6)

No features of potential archaeological interest was present within this trench. Towards the north end of the trench the gravel shelved off sharply and the depth of alluvium (2003/2005) increased, possibly indicating the presence of a substantial palaeochannel [2006].

4.17 Trench 21 (Fig 6, Fig 7 section 12)

Six features of potential archaeological interest were located within this trench. A ditch, gully and ditch terminal / pit in the east – west aligned arm of the trench cut into gravel (2104) and underlay alluvium (2103). In the north – south arm of the trench two ditch terminals and a pit cut gravel (2104) and were underlying subsoil (2102). These were located in the central part of the north- south part of the trench where the alluvium (2103) narrowed and became negligible. No finds were recovered.

The possible ditch terminal / pit [2107], was sub-rectangular, 1.2m wide with near vertical sloping sides to a slightly concave base 0.4m deep. The trench section possibly cuts the feature obliquely. The primary fill (2115) of loose dark brownish orange silty sand was overlain by pale greyish yellow silty sand (2106). The upper fill (2105) was a firm mid orange brown sandy silt.

A possibly curvilinear ditch [2109] cut across the ditch aligned approximately north-south. The feature was broad, 2.9m wide, with a shallow concave profile 0.2m deep, on to a gently undulating base. The fill (2108) was mid orange brown silty clay sand, with a moderate number of small to moderate sized stone and occasional charcoal flecks. This may correspond with a curvilinear feature identified during the geophysical survey.

Ditch terminal [2111] extended from the west section of the trench, with a slight curve to the south. The ditch was between 0.95m to 1.05m wide with a broad U-shaped profile, 0.35m deep, with a rounded terminal. The fill [2110] was mottled mid grey purplish brown and pale to mid orange brown silty sand.

Adjacent to the [2111], 1m to its south side another ditch [2114] terminated, projecting from the east side of the trench. The ditch profile was also similar with a width of 1.1m with a broad U-shaped cut, 0.4m deep and a rounded terminal. The ditch had two fills; primary fill of mid purplish brown silty sand (2113) overlain by mid orange brown silty sand (2112).

A circular pit [2117] had a shallow concave profile 0.14m deep, with a diameter of 0.8m. The fill (2116) was orange brown silty sand.

Gully [2119] aligned north-east to south-west, had a shallow concave profile 0.45m wide and 0.11m deep. The gully shallows out and becomes negligible to the north-east. The fill (2118) was orange brown sandy silt.

4.18 Trench 22 (Fig 6)

Two possible features of potential archaeological interest were present within this trench, both underlying subsoil (2202) and cutting gravel (2203). There was no alluvium in this trench. One feature was a ditch terminal the other was the remains of a modern track. No finds were recovered.

Ditch terminal [2205] extended from the south section of the trench. The ditch was 0.8m wide with a shallow concave profile, 0.14m deep and a rounded terminal. The fill [2204] was a mid to pale grey brown silty clay sand.

A 7m wide spread of limestone rubble [2206] aligned approximately north – south across the trench rubble was the remains of a recent track. The track consists of a roughly level surface of angular limestone blocks and fragments 0.1m to 0.3m in size. This section of track is aligned with a surviving broad, linear boundary extending from the south side of the field, which is marked as a track on modern Ordnance Survey plans.

5 FINDS

5.1 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 27 sherds, weighing 103g, of handmade pottery can be ascribed to the Iron Age.

Three contexts (105, 803, 1226 and 1704) produced only one or two sherds, while a small assemblage of 22 sherds, weighing 76g, came from context 605, the fill of ditch terminal [606].

The assemblage from context (605) comprises sherds in three fabric groups:

Fabric 1: moderately hard paste, containing small pellets of grog, used for the finer decorated wares.

Fabric 2: very soft, containing numerous irregular voids of leached inclusions, most probably crushed shell.

Fabric 3: hard sandy fabric containing sparse fine quartz grains, represented only by plain body sherds.

With the exception of Fabric 2 (see below), the pottery typically has a black core with either black surfaces or oxidised red to orange surfaces.

The sherds in Fabric 1 all have black surfaces, and have been burnished. They include a fine, thin-walled everted rim from a small bowl, with a finely incised line (probably multiple lines) encircling the upper body. A similar body sherd is also decorated with multiple finely incised lines apparently forming part of a geometric pattern.

The sherds in Fabric 2 are probably from a single vessel. The fabric is oxidised, light brown in colour throughout. The upper body directly below a plain upright rim is decorated with short, vertical incisions. A body sherd is decorated with similar oblique incisions.

It is difficult to ascribe a definitive date to this assemblage given its small size. However, the presence of decorated vessels, including a finely made burnished bowl with incised decoration forming a geometric pattern, is more appropriate to the earlier Iron Age than the middle Iron Age, although a late Iron Age date is also a possibility.

5.2 Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

An undiagnostic sherd of Samian ware recovered from subsoil (1202) in Trench 12 and an abraded greyware body sherd from subsoil deposits (502) overlying Trench 5. In addition, a further two undiagnostic greyware bodysherds, which may be of Roman date were recovered from subsoil deposits (101) and (1001) overlying Trenches 1 and 10 (*pers comm.* Paul Blinkhorn).

5.3 Medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 26 sherds with a total weight of 243g. Where possible, the material was related to the coding system and chronology of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit type-series, as follows:

ST: Stamford ware, c. AD900-1200. 3 sherds, 14g.

DST: Developed Stamford Ware, mid 12th – early 13th century. 4 sherds, 33g.

STANLY: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, 13th – 14th century. 9 sherds, 65g.

BOUA: Bourne 'A' Ware, 13th - 14th century, 2 sherds, 29g.

POTT: Potter Hanworth Ware. 13th – 14th century, 2 sherds, 39g.

BOU: Bourne 'D' Ware: c. 1450-1637, 1 sherd, 23g.

CIST: Cistercian ware. Late 15th – 17th century, 1 sherd, 7g.

FREC: Frechen stoneware. c. 1550-1700, 1 sherd, 8g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem.

All the ware types are well known in the region, and indicate that pottery from the site derives from sources in both Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. Most of the post-Roman pottery was redeposited in the plough soil and subsoil, but the range of ware types present indicates that there was activity at the site throughout the medieval period.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Trench	Context	RB		ST		DST		STANLY		BOUA		POTT		BOU		CIST		FREC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	102	1?	5			2	5													U/S
3	302			1	5															U/S
4	402					1	8	3	25											U/S
5	502	1	4																	U/S
7	702													1	23	1	7			U/S
10	1001	1?	16					4	27											U/S
12	1202			2	9			2	13											13thC
13	1302											2	39							U/S
14	1402									2	29									U/S
15	1502					1	20													U/S
17	1702																	1	8	U/S
	Total	3	25	3	14	4	33	9	65	2	29	2	39	1	23	1	7	1	8	

5.4 Animal Bone by Karen Deighton

Methodology

Approximately 800g of animal bone hand recovered from the excavation were scanned to establish the species present, the state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work. Identifiable bones were noted. Hand collected bones had previously been washed.

Preservation was extremely poor due to acidic soil conditions. A high frequency of fragmentation and heavy surface abrasion were observed. These factors limited identification and obliterated any potential evidence for butchery and canid gnawing. Indeterminate burnt bone fragments were noted from context 605.

Taxonomic distribution

Table 3: Identifiable bones by context

Context	Bos	Large ungulate	Indet	Total
102	1	2		3
401		1		1
605	1		4	5
1202	1			1
1702	1			1
1706	1			
Total	5	3	4	11

Trenches 3 and 13 produced indeterminate bone fragments only.

Discussion

Only eleven bone fragments were recovered and of these only five could be speciated with any certainty, therefore there is no potential for further work at this stage. The low recovery rate and poor preservation would suggest that unless improved preservational conditions are encountered during subsequent excavations the scope of future work would also be limited.

5.5 Ironworking debris by Andy Chapman

A total of 6.45kg of ironworking debris was recovered. Just under 1.0kg comprised small quantities of material from contexts in trenches 1, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 17. The remaining 5.5kg came from trench

12.

Fill (1205) of shallow pit [1206], contained 1.5kg of small rounded fragments of roasted iron ore. These are typically around 30-40mm in diameter, and a majority are magnetic. They varied in colour from dark red/purple to dark grey, suggesting that they are probably pieces of partially reduced ore from the bottom of the furnace (English Heritage 2001, 10). The recovered materials therefore clearly indicate the presence of an iron smelting furnace next to Trench 12, with a sparser scatter of related debris present in many other trenches. A further piece of roasted iron ore came from Trench 17, while the others all contained small pieces of tap slag.

The alluvium (1203) underlying the pit was scorched and baked hard, suggesting that it was the slag tapping pit for an adjacent iron smelting furnace for which all other evidence had been destroyed. A further 3.9kg of tap slag was recovered from the alluvium (1203) in the vicinity of pit [1206].

5.6 Worked flint by Andy Chapman

Three flints were recovered: two from the subsoil in Trench 13 and one from context (1005). They are all undiagnostic flakes.

5.7 Environmental assessment by Karen Deighton

Methodology

Two samples were hand collected from the fill (1205) of pit [1206] of 20 litres and 10 respectively. Both were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and analysed using a microscope (10x magnification).

Results

Large quantities of wood charcoal were present in the flots, however, no other class of ecofact was noted. This was probably fuel associated with metal working as slag was observed in the coarse residue. A selection of the charcoal fragments would be large enough for further identification, which would provide an insight into industrial activity at the site.

6 DISCUSSION

Prehistoric features

The development area produced evidence for a number of archaeological features, consisting of largely linear and curvilinear ditches, and a distribution of pits and postholes. Iron Age pottery was recovered from only two of the ditches, a posthole and a pit, although it is likely that most of these features are of a similar date, due to their comparable stratigraphic positions, morphology and fills. The limited dating material and structural evidence suggests that these features are likely to be too late to relate to funerary activity, and are more likely related to settlement or agricultural activity, although the scarcity of artefactual material would argue against any intensive occupation.

The main archaeological activity in the evaluation was a series of eight north-south aligned ditches and one ditch terminal identified in Trench 12. These may relate to the penannular ditch like anomaly shown on the geophysical survey. No other related features occur in this trench, but the general shallowness of these ditches suggest truncation has occurred that would have removed less substantial features. A ditch in Trench 21 may also relate to a ring ditch anomaly identified from the geophysical survey.

The pits and postholes located across the site were generally shallow features with no concentrations to show any pattern of a settlement, however, Trenches 2 and 17 did contain three and five pits /postholes respectively, suggesting some level of occupation may have occurred.

Alluvial deposition

At some period post-dating the prehistoric period activity, alluviation occurred across the development area. This was observed in many of the trenches across the central part of the site and the south east corner and sealed many of the prehistoric features, although not all. The alluviation doubtless relates to flooding from the River Welland located to the north of the site and appears to have occurred prior to the Roman occupation, assuming a Roman date for pit [1206].

Roman features

The pit encountered in Trench 12 [1206] probably a pit for hot tapped slag, where the hot waste material from a furnace is collected, suggest that the furnace had been close by (Jane Cowgill *pers comm.*, Chapman above). Remains of furnaces rarely survive as they are usually clay structures that are constructed at ground level, which when eroded may leave only a pink stain on the ground surface from the burnt clay of the structure. (Archaeometallurgy English Heritage, 2001). Cleaning around

the pit revealed no staining, nor did the extension either side of the trench.

The only other evidence of Roman activity was the recovery of a few pottery sherds.

Medieval activity

A moderate number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The range of ware types present indicate that there was activity at the site throughout the medieval period, probably agricultural.

Post-medieval activity

The post-medieval archaeological evidence comes from the remains a recent track. This is a continuation of a surviving broad, linear boundary extending from the south side of the field, marked as a track on recent Ordnance Survey plans.

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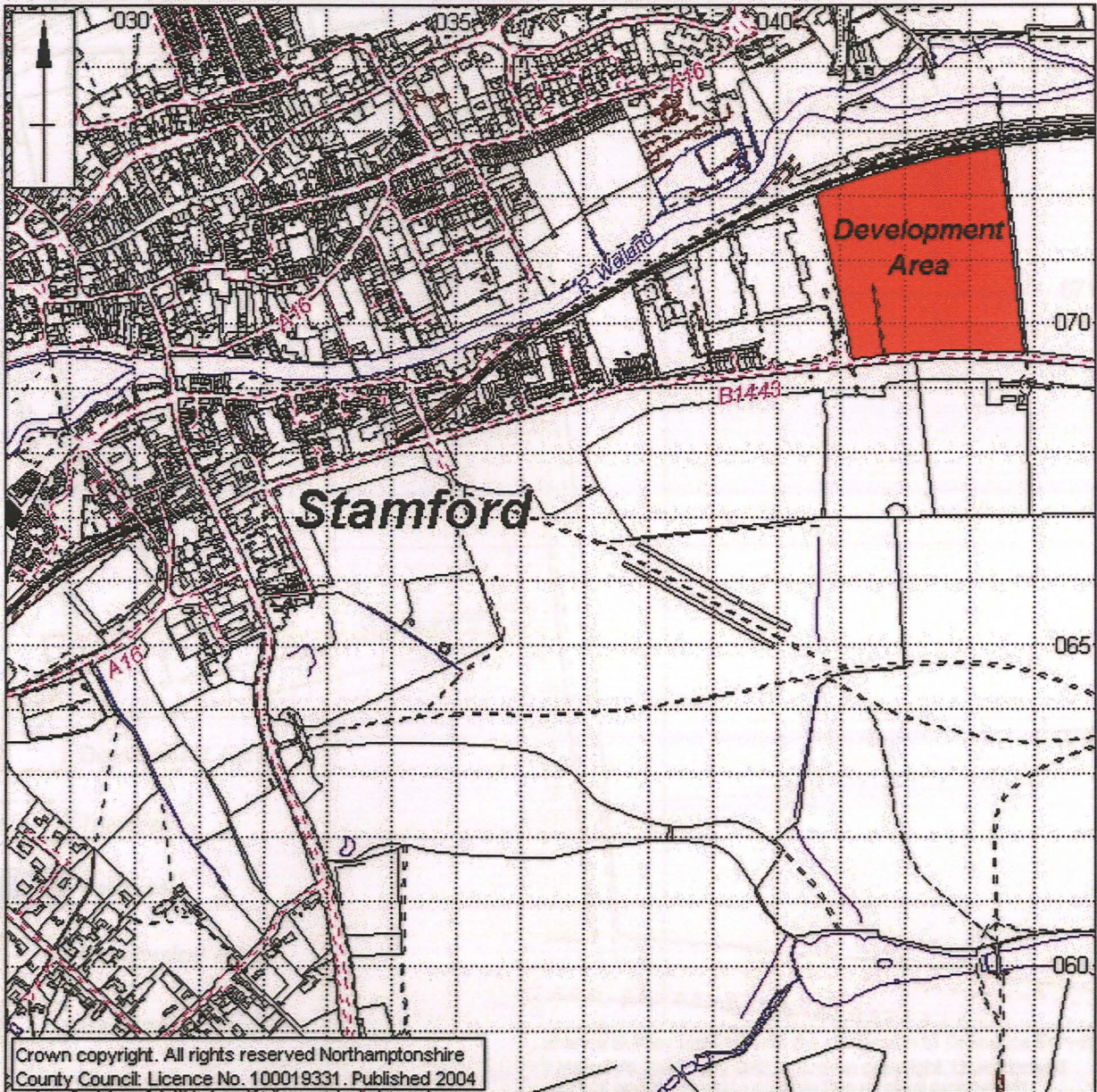
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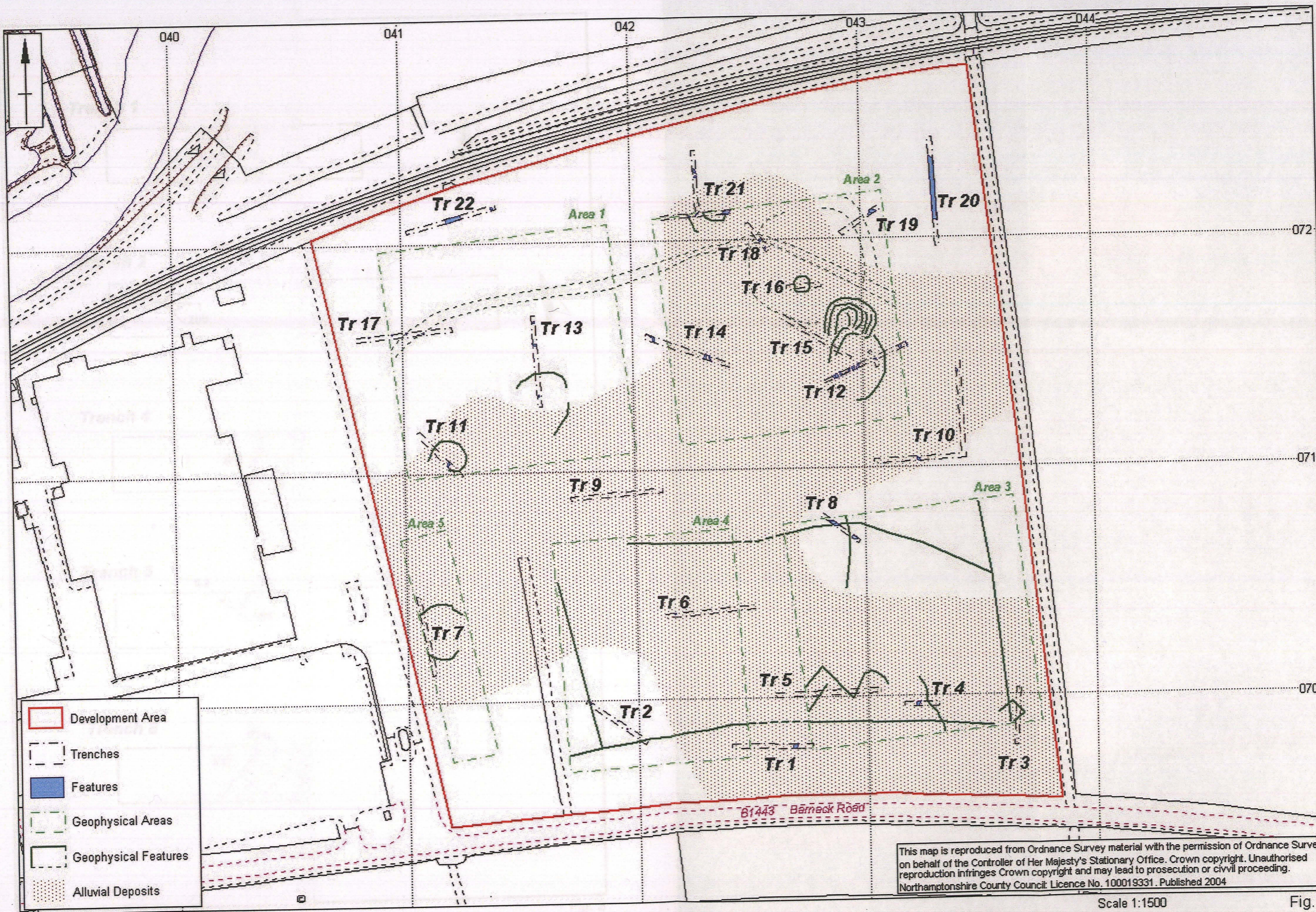
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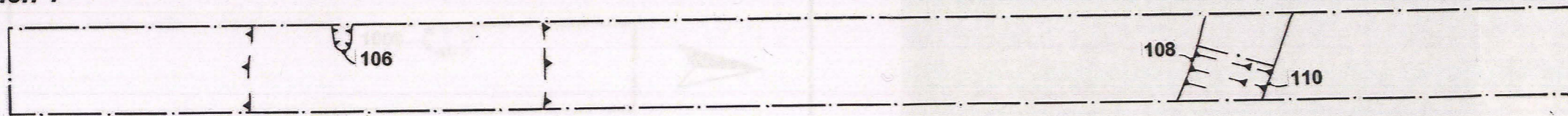
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Fig. 1

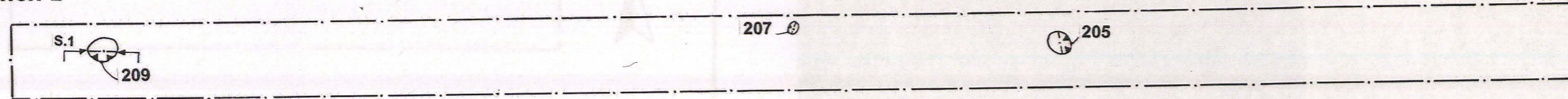


Trench 10

Trench 1



Trench 2



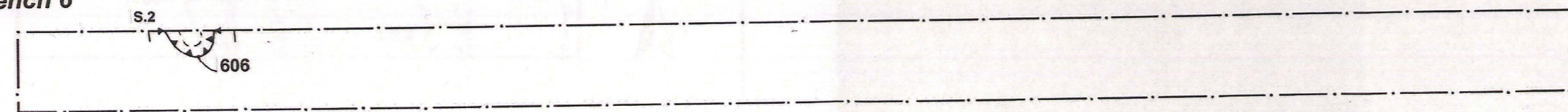
Trench 11

Trench 4



Trench 12

Trench 6



Trench 13

Trench 8

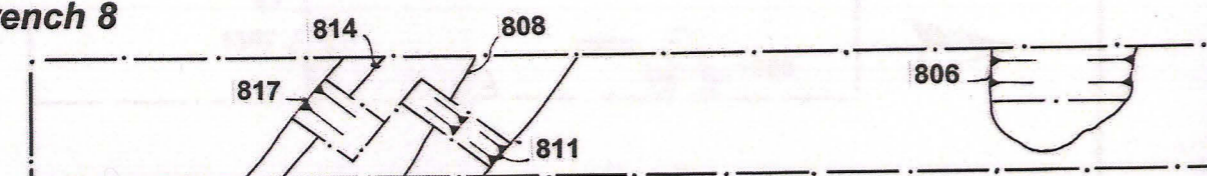
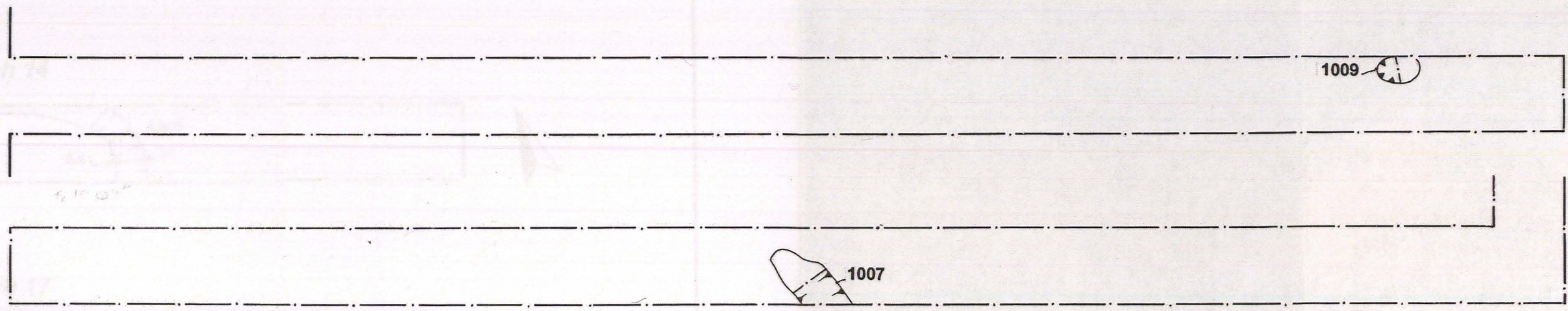
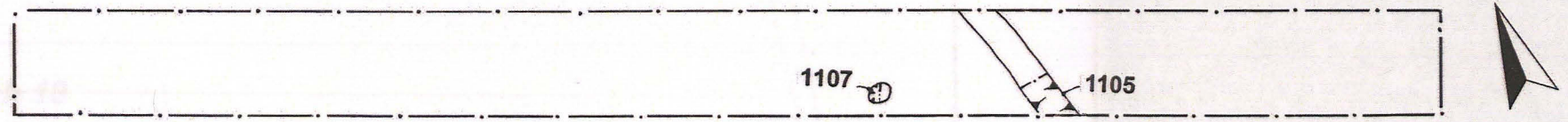


Fig. 3

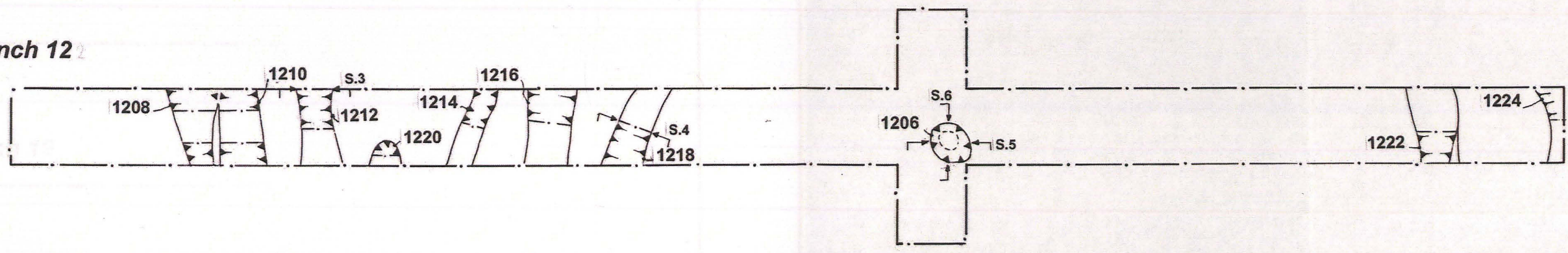
Trench 10



Trench 11



Trench 12



Trench 13

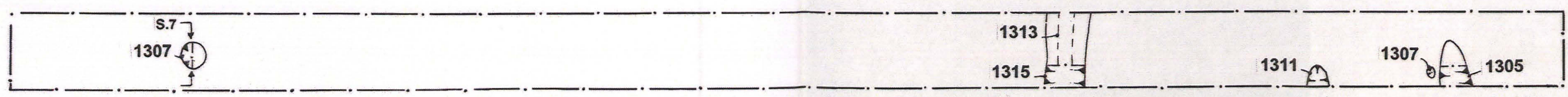
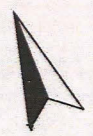
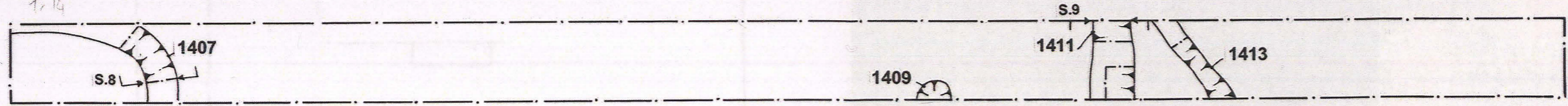
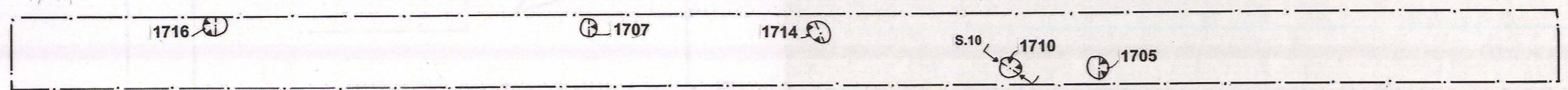


Fig. 4

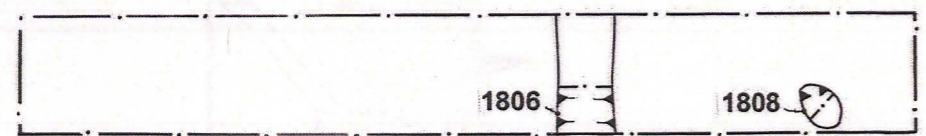
Trench 14



Trench 17



Trench 18



Trench 19

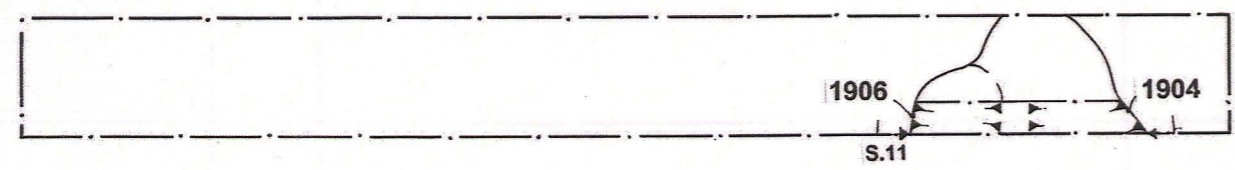


Fig. 5

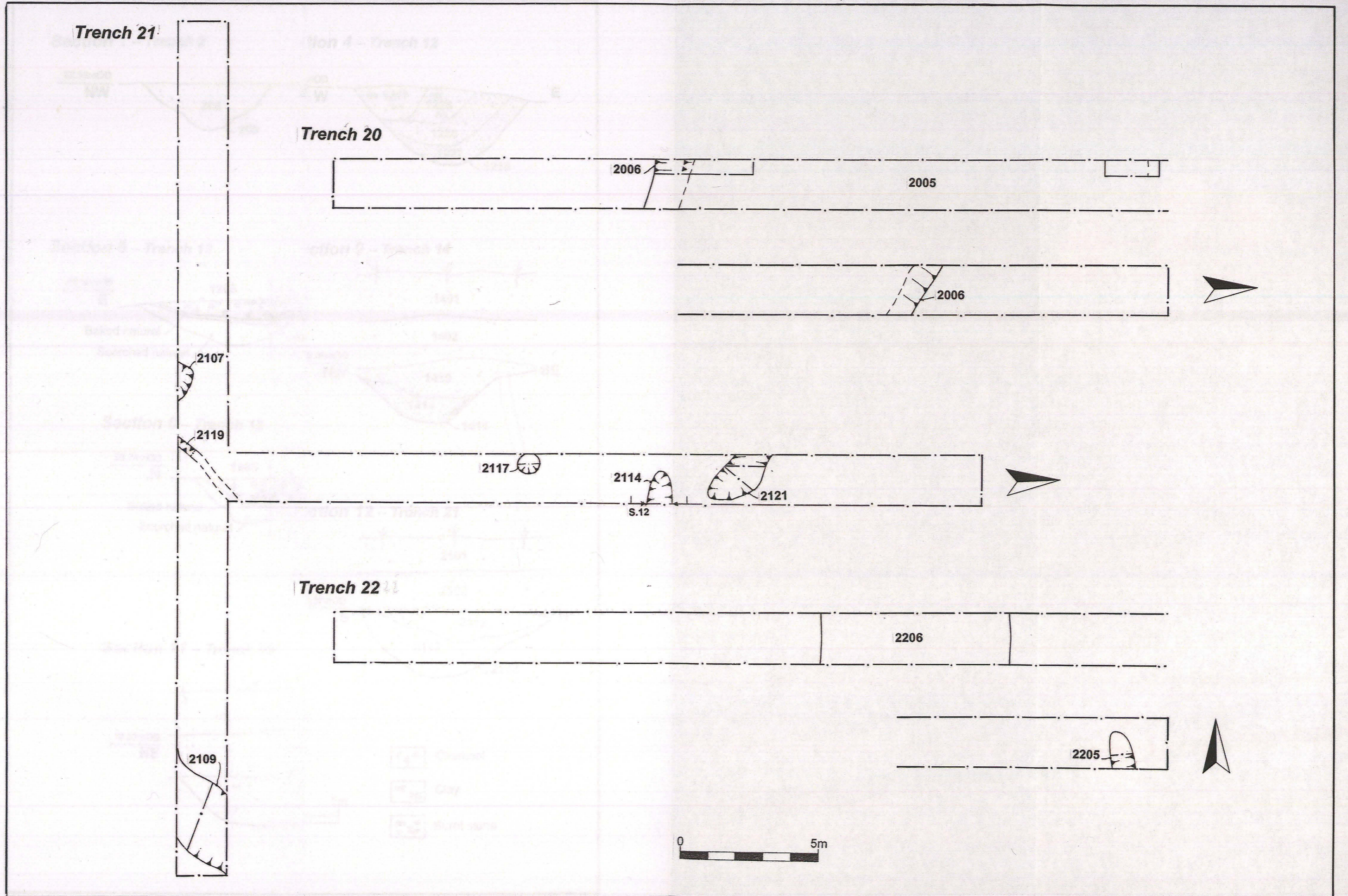
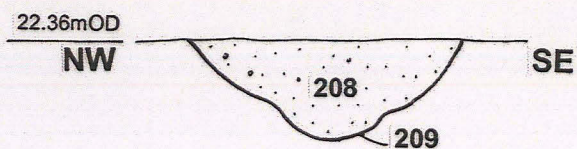
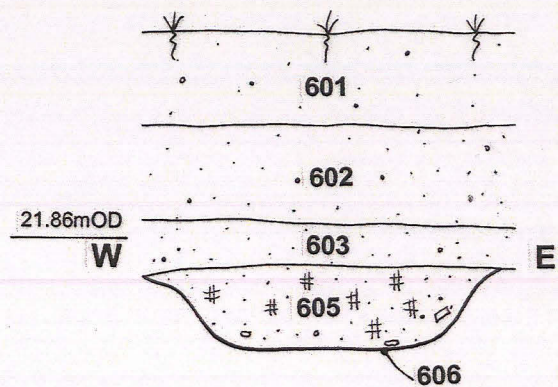


Fig. 6

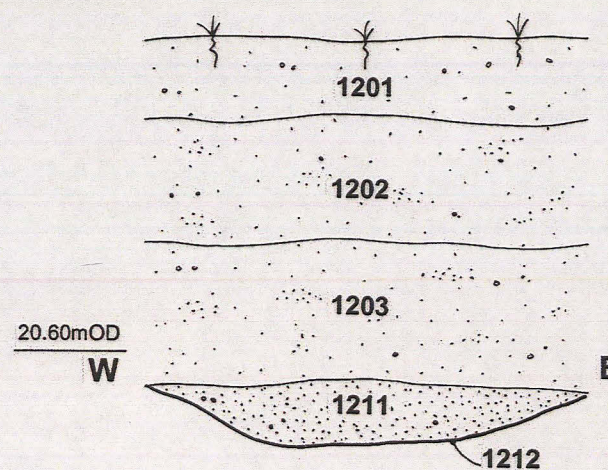
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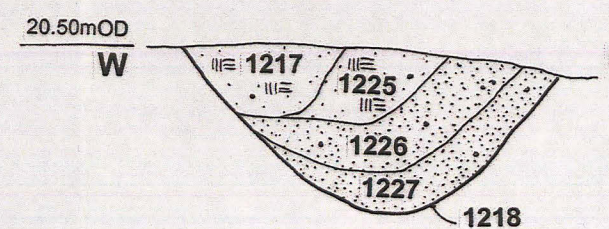
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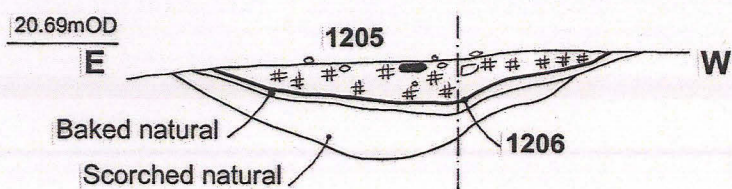
Section 3 – Trench 12



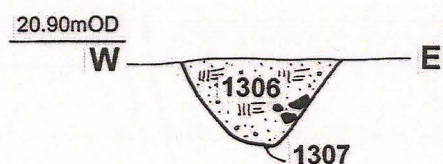
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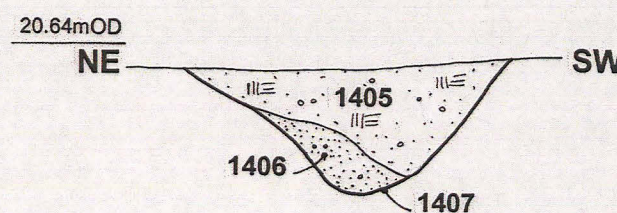
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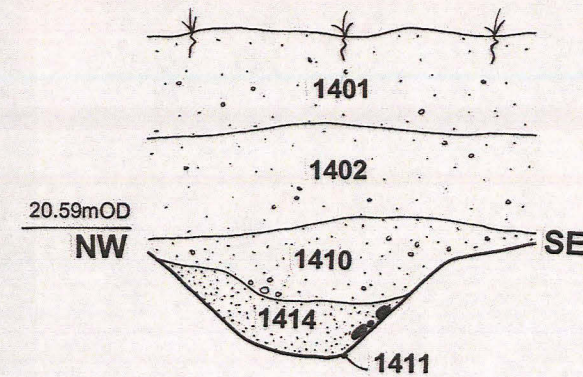
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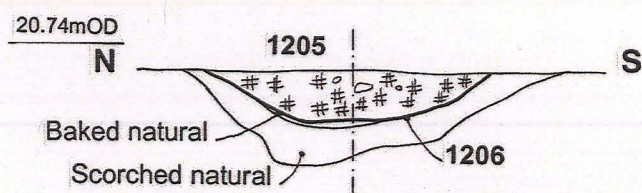
Section 8 – Trench 14



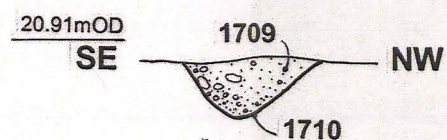
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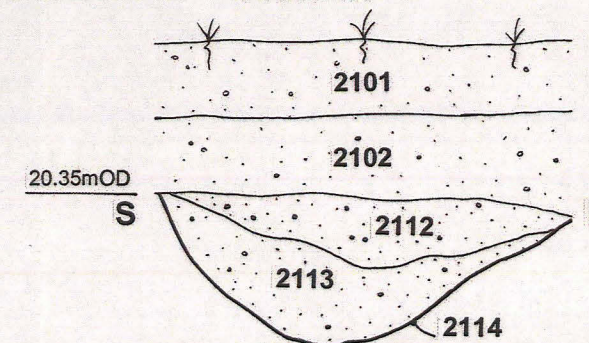
Section 6 – Trench 12



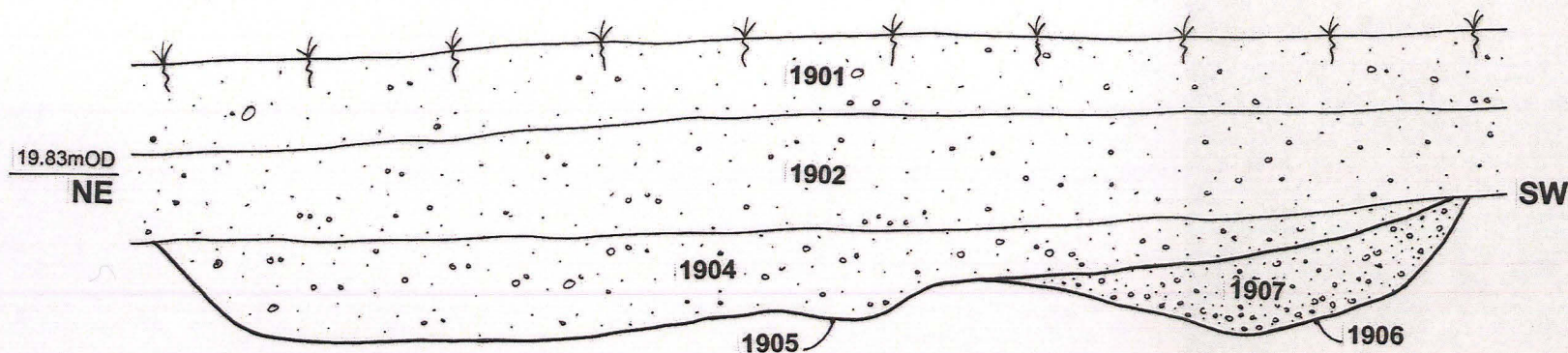
Section 10 – Trench 17



Section 12 – Trench 21



Section 11 – Trench 19






-  Charcoal
-  Clay
-  Burnt stone



Fig. 7