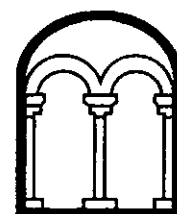
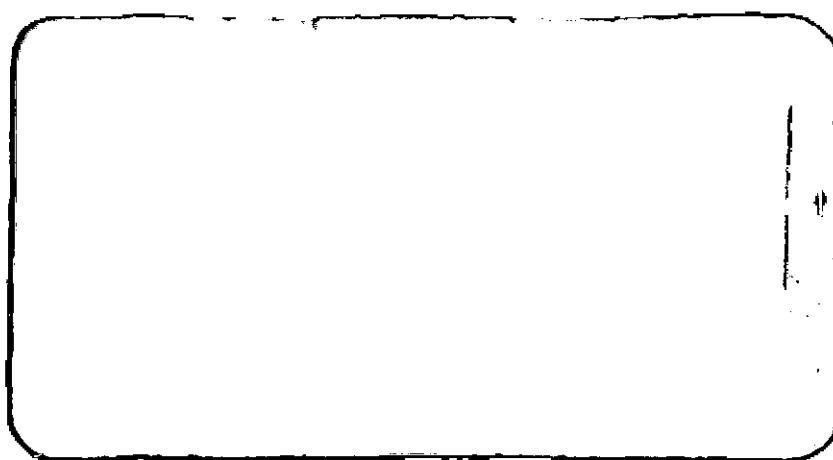


Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service

ERD215

HER 1/309
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BCAS

**LAND ADJACENT TO
6 STRATFORD ROAD SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AND UPDATED
PROJECT DESIGN**

Document 1999/45
Project SRS554

17th November 1999

Produced for:
Mrs. E Mansion
57 Northfield Road
Waltham Cross
Hertfordshire, EN8 7RF



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the brief. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was managed by Martin Wilson and the report was prepared by Antony Walsh, Martin Wilson and Drew Shotliff. Archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Antony Walsh, James Pixley, Jeremy Stone, Julian Watters and Rob Edwards). The artefact assemblage was processed and analysed by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Supervisor). The drawings were produced by Joan Lightning.

BCAS would like to thank the client Mrs E Mansion and the architect Mr David Wiltshire, for their assistance during the work.

17th November 1999

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Key terms

Throughout this Project Design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CAO	County Archaeological Officer
BCAS	Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
Client	Mrs Eileen Mansion, 57 Northfield Road, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7RF
Brief	Document: <i>Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire</i>
Project Design	<i>Project Design For Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis And Publication Of Land Adjacent To 6 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, Document 1999/22 Project SRS554, 4th May 1999</i>
HER	Historic Environment Record, held by Bedfordshire County Council



Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between June 6th and July 14th 1999, during a barn conversion on land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire. The site is close to a Romano-British settlement and adjacent to the purported course of a Roman road. During the groundwork, human skeletal remains were exposed. Subsequent investigations, largely confined to construction trenches, revealed the development area to be situated within an inhumation cemetery that probably dates to the early Romano-British period. Thirteen individual graves were recorded. Where identifiable, orientation was generally NE-SW. A small assemblage (25 sherds) of pottery was recovered, ranging in date from early-middle Iron Age to post-medieval. The size of the cemetery could not be fully ascertained, but it is believed to extend beyond the development area.

The results of the fieldwork have made a useful contribution to knowledge of the southern hinterland of the Romano-British settlement of Sandy. They have confirmed the presence of a probable early Roman-British cemetery, first recorded c. 1900, between Roman Sandy and site of the ford over an un-named minor tributary of the River Ivel.

The small size of the recovered data-sets and the very poor condition of the finds assemblage, in particular the human bone, preclude further analysis beyond that presented in this report. Summaries of the findings will be published in South Midlands Archaeology and in Britannia. The site archive will be placed in Bedford Museum under accession number 1999/250.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Purpose of the report*

This report presents an assessment of the results of a watching brief during development work on land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road, Sandy. Following the introductory first section, section 2 examines how the recovered data can address the original aims and objectives. Section 3 describes the nature of the investigations. Section 4 describes the results and assesses the analytical potential of each part of the recovered data. The final section presents summary conclusions and details the publication and archiving proposals.

1.2 *Project background*

Planning permission was granted by Mid Bedfordshire District Council (41/98/1156) for a barn conversion with access and double garage on land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road, Sandy.

A condition attached to the permission, required the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation during the development, and a *Brief* detailing the archaeological requirements was issued by the CAO. BCAS were subsequently commissioned by the Client to carry out an archaeological watching brief.

1.3 *Site location*

The site (Figure 1) is located 1.75km south-east of Sandy town centre at a height of c.30m OD, TL 1823 4786. The geology is Lower Greensand.

1.4 *The archaeological background*

The site lies close to the line of a Roman road between Godmanchester and Baldock. A number of roadside burials have been recorded south of the Roman settlement of Sandy (HER 11309). A small cemetery was observed in the vicinity c.1900, during the construction of the track that is now Stratford Road¹.

¹ Johnston. D, 'The Roman Settlement at Sandy, Bedfordshire', *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* vol 9 p.41, 1974



2. RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 *Original aims and objectives*

The research aims and specific objectives of the archaeological investigation were set out in detail in Section 4 of the *Brief*. The site was considered to have the potential to address English Heritage-defined nationally important research topics:

- the transition between late Iron Age and Roman periods;
- the end of the Roman period;
- towns and their hinterland.

The specific objectives of the investigation included:

1. establishing a plan of the archaeological deposits;
2. establishing the date range of any archaeological deposits;
3. establishing the nature and character of any archaeological deposits;
4. establishing the relationship of the site to other contemporary sites in the area, particularly the Roman settlement at Sandy to the north;
5. recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
6. recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

2.2 *Updated aims and objectives*

Following completion of the fieldwork it is now possible to assess to what extent the original aims and objectives can be met in the light of the recovered data-sets.

In summary, aspects of the relationship between the Romano-British town of Sandy and its hinterland can be explored. However, none of the recovered data is relevant to the study of the transitional periods at the beginning or end of the Roman period.

Objectives 1-4 were clearly met; the results are detailed below. The recovered artefacts will make a minor contribution to understanding of the distribution of ceramics within the county. No evidence was recovered for local environmental conditions in the past.



3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 *Limits of investigation.*

The methodology is detailed in Section 2 of the *Project Design*. Observations within the barn, were confined to the foundation pits and trenches required by the construction design. Elsewhere observations and investigations were largely limited to drainage excavations.

Following the discovery of burials beneath the barn, two test pits (Fig. 3, Trenches 15 and 16) were excavated beyond the building to the south and east, in order to determine both the extent of the cemetery and the depth to the archaeology. The test pits were dug, under archaeological supervision, by a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket. During drainage works, Trench 17 (Fig. 2) was excavated to expose the extent of burial [105].

BCAS were not advised of changes to the construction schedule with regard to certain drainage trench excavations and the excavation of the access road, thus the archaeological sensitivity of these areas remains unknown.

3.2 *Recording methodology*

Throughout the Watching Brief investigations, the following standards for archaeological work were adhered to: *BCAS Procedures Manual, Vol 1: Fieldwork* (1997); and the *Code of Conduct* (1986) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1994) of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The photographic record comprises digital images.



4. RESULTS

4.1 The site archive

The site archive comprises:

Contexts	63
Plan sheets	2
Section sheets	5
Digital images	34
Processed soil samples	4
Human bone	1 box
Miscellaneous finds	1 box

It is currently stored at St Mary's Church Archaeology Centre, Bedford.

4.2 Romano-British cemetery

The most significant element of the structural data-set is represented by elements of a Romano-British cemetery. A total of 16 graves was identified in eight of the excavated trenches (Figs. 2 and 3; Table 1 and 2). The majority were recorded within or adjacent to the barn. A further 3 were located towards the southern limit of the development area. The recorded observations suggest that the cemetery is organised in rows running parallel to the course of present-day Stratford Road. The postulated maximum extent of burial activity may be as great as 37m north-west to south-east and 20m north-east to south-west. However, the density of burials within that area remains uncertain.

4.2.1 Characteristics of the graves

The graves had been cut into the undisturbed natural geological sand (7). They were encountered between 0.5m and 0.8m below the present ground surface. The boundaries of the grave cuts were often indeterminable, due to the similarity of grave fills with the surrounding natural geology. Occasionally they were quite clearly visible (Plate 1).

Human remains	Grave Cut	Trench	Section
105	103	17	11
108	106	19	n/a
111	109	18	13
120	10	3	3
121	12	3	3
122	20	4	4
123	23	4	1
124	30	5	8
125	50	11	7
126	64	15	5
127	66	15	6
128	82	4	9, 10
129	84	17	9

Table 1 Graves with Skeletal Remains



Grave Cut	Trench	Section
53	11	7
70	16	n/a
93	4	10

Table 2 Graves with no Visible Skeletal Remains

In nearly all cases, skeletal remains were only partly visible in either section or plan (*ante*. 3.1 p.8). For reasons of health and safety beneath the building, where concrete and rubble overlay sand, it was agreed with the CAO that the full excavation of each burial would not be necessary.

Elsewhere on the site, however, it was agreed that any burials encountered would be fully excavated, thus Trench 17 was extended to fully expose Grave [103].

The orientation of each skeleton, where ascertainable, was approximately north-east to south-west, with the head to the south-west (Figs 3 and 4). Due to the porous structure and acidity of the sand only the most durable, heavier bones survived, but even these were in extremely poor condition. There was no evidence for the use of coffins. The posture of skeleton [105] in Trench 17 (Fig.4), with its hands across its body and its feet close together, suggested that the corpse may have been shrouded.

Two periods of burial were observed in Trench 3 (Section 3). The fill of grave [12] was clearly cut by the excavation of grave [10]. The presence of bone in the lower fill of grave [20], might indicate the disturbance of earlier burials in the area of Trench 4.

4.2.2 Dating

Close dating of the cemetery is limited. Grave goods were not found. Pottery recovered from the fill of the graves dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. (*post*. 4.4).

4.3 Post-medieval deposits

A pit and three postholes were investigated in three trenches (Table 3). These features were probably post-medieval or modern in date and possibly relate to local horticultural use of the site.

Feature	Feature Type	Trench	Section
40	Pit	10	2
68	Posthole	15	6
80	Posthole	4	9
86	Posthole	4	10

Table 3 Post-medieval features

The topsoil on the site varied in depth from a minimum of 0.2m in Trench 17 up to a maximum of 0.8m in Trench 2, (Figs 2 & 3).



The variable depth of soil is probably due to a combination of factors:

- The site lies on land that slopes away to the south; the increased depth of soil may be the product of slope erosion.
- The use of the site for local horticultural needs may have resulted in an increased depth of topsoil.
- Soil movement seems to have occurred during the construction of the barn. Topsoil might have been spread over the site during the levelling up of the barn floor.

A remnant of topsoil (5), up to 0.15m in depth, was visible in the trenches inside the barn (Figs. 5 - 8; 11 - 12). This was below make-up layers (2) and (3) laid down for the concrete floor of the barn (1).

A skull fragment, recovered from the topsoil, is believed to have been redeposited during the construction of the present barn in the 1980s. (Fig. 6 Trench 10, Section 2).

4.4 Finds

4.4.1 Introduction

The fieldwork produced a small assemblage that comprised fragmentary human remains, animal bone and pottery (Table 4). Material collected was processed in accordance with the *Brief and Project Design*, and was examined to ascertain its nature, condition, and where possible, date.

Trench	Context	Context type	Feature	Human bone	Pottery	Animal bone	Other finds
				wgt	sherd:wgt	frag:wgt	
01	5	Topsoil	5	154	4:22		fe nail (18g), roof tile (2g), vessel
03	11	Grave backfill	10	344	1:3	2:1	
	13	Grave backfill	12	95			
04	24	Grave backfill	23	141			
	83	Grave backfill	82	580			
	85	Grave backfill	84	15			
	87	Post hole fill	86		1:28	6:13	
	92	Grave backfill	93	51			
	94	Post packing	86	108			
05	31	Grave backfill	30	30			
10	41	Pit fill	40			11:105	
11	52	Grave backfill	50	40			
	54	Grave backfill	53	19	2:21	1:22	
15	60	Topsoil	60		2:65		vessel glass (4g)
	61	Subsoil	61		2:28		
	65	Grave backfill	66	205	2:5		
17	101	Subsoil	101		7:39	5:5	clay pipe (3g)
	105	Human skeleton	103	450			
	104	Grave backfill	103	3	2:12		
18	110	Grave backfill	109	2	2:13		
Total				2237	25:236	25:146	

Table 4 Finds Assemblage by Trench and Context (weight in grammes)



4.4.2 Pottery

A total of 25 sherds, weighing 236g was recovered. The material was examined by context and fourteen fabric types identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Ceramic Type Series, held by BCAS (Table 5).

Ware	Common name	Sherd No.
Early-middle Iron Age (c. 650-350BC)		
Type F	Non-specific Iron Age	2
Type F04	Organic	1
Type F19	Sand and Organic	2
Type F28	Fine sand	1
'Belgic' Iron Age (c. 50BC-100AD)		
Type F09	Sand and Grog	1
Roman (c. 100-300AD)		
Type R01A	Samian (central Gaul)	2
Type R06C	Fine greyware	2
Type R07C	Gritty blackware	1
Type R10A	Buff gritty	1
Type R13	Shell tempered	5
Type R22A	Hadham Oxidised ware	1
Post-medieval (c. 1500-1700)		
Type P	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	3
Type P01	Glazed Red Earthenware (fine)	2
Type P03	Black-glazed Earthenware	1

Table 5 Pottery Type Series

The assemblage is of mixed date, ranging from the early Iron Age to post-medieval periods, the latter represented mainly by unstratified sherds deriving from topsoil and subsoil. Sherds associated with burials were recovered from the backfill of the graves; none represent grave goods. Vessels in early-middle Iron Age fabrics are likely to be residual, while the presence of Roman material and a single 'Belgic' Iron Age sherd indicates that the burials are of probable early Roman date.

Recognisable forms are restricted to a shell tempered jar with undercut rim and a Samian ware *mortarium* fragment, recovered from subsoil (101) and Grave [109] respectively. Roman vessels are predominantly coarsewares of local manufacture; shell tempered sherds may be products of the Lodge Farm kilns at Harrold, north Bedfordshire.² Regional and continental imports are attested respectively by sherds from Hadham, Hertfordshire and from Central Gaul.

The majority of the assemblage is abraded, and shell tempered sherds are extensively leached.

Other than providing contextual dating information and adding to knowledge of the distribution of ceramic types within the county, the pottery assemblage has no further analytical potential.

² Brown, A., 1994, 'A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing site at Harrold, Bedfordshire', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* Vol 21, 19-107.



4.4.3 Human bone

The skeletal remains (total weight 2.2kg) (Table 4) are very fragmentary and poorly preserved. Their condition is the result of acidity of the sandy soil, whilst the piecemeal nature of investigation certainly contributed to the low quantity of material recovered. Surviving fragments are restricted to the more durable bones of the skull, legs and to a lesser extent the arms. Two incomplete molars were recovered from Grave [103]. The bone is friable and the ends of most long bones have become detached from the shafts.

Several individuals are represented, and all identifiable fragments appear to be those of adults. The greatest quantities derive from Graves [103] and [82] which yielded 453g and 580g of bone respectively.

Given the very poor condition of the material, no further analysis is warranted.

4.4.4 Animal bone

Diagnostic fragments of animal bone (total weight 146g) (Table 4), comprise the teeth of cattle and sheep/goat, and an incomplete cow metacarpal. A number of undiagnostic fragments recovered from the mixed backfill of Graves [10] and [53] may be either human or animal in origin, although their fragmentary nature makes this impossible to determine. As with the human remains, the animal bone is very poorly preserved and does not merit further analysis.

4.4.5 Soil samples

A total of four soil samples were taken (Table 6) and processed in accordance with the *Procedures Manual*.

Trench	Context	Context type	Feature	Sample	Vol. (l)
11	52	Grave backfill	50	1	8
11	54	Grave backfill	53	2	8
17	104	Grave backfill	103	3	8
4	87	Post hole fill	86	4	8

Table 6 Soil Samples

The sample flots were dominated by the roots (<6mm thick) of modern rhizomes, which had penetrated the majority of the cut features and even some of the human bone itself. Occasional small fragments of wood charcoal were also present. The small size of the assemblage and the extensive modern disturbance precluded further analysis.



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 *Summary of results*

The watching brief addressed most of the objectives set in the *Brief* (Section 4), particularly with regard to the presence, nature and condition of the archaeology on the site.

Most of the archaeological evidence is associated with an extensive cemetery beneath the site. Sixteen possible graves and thirteen inhumations were recorded. Skeletal remains were in relatively poor condition, mainly due to the acidic and porous nature of the local geology.

Dating material for the burials is restricted. The apparent absence of grave goods may reflect either the true practice, or limited visibility in each foundation trench. The ceramics recovered from the backfill of some of the graves suggest that the burials date to the early Romano-British period.

The boundaries of the cemetery could not be established, although it is believed that it extends northwards below the present Stratford Road, and is likely to continue beneath the adjacent property to the west (No.6 Stratford Road). Burials were observed early this century during the digging up of the track, now Stratford road, and in the adjoining farmyard³. The present owner informed the archaeologists of occasional finds of bones in his garden, and recalls a skull being discovered in the 1980s, during the construction of the barn. Archaeology was not visible during the removal of a hedge alongside the road, the depth of soil disturbance being fairly minimal.

It is possible that the cemetery may have originally respected the 30m contour. If this was the case, then it would be delimited by the natural fall of the ground to the south and south-east, to the flood plain of the Ivel Valley. The present site is restricted to the east by a recent hedgerow, and to the south, the escarpment is concealed by made up ground.

5.2 *Significance and analytical potential*

The cemetery is undoubtedly the same as that discovered earlier this century, whilst the farm yard referred to is most probably the adjacent property of 6 Stratford Road.

The evidence so far indicates a spatial arrangement of inhumations in rows, which seems to suggest that it is not simply a group of roadside burials. The site then, has implications for the nature and extent of the Romano-British settlement at Sandy, assuming of course that it was not associated with an entirely separate settlement.

³ Johnston, D.E. 'The Roman Settlement at Sandy, Bedfordshire' *Beds Arch. J* 1974, 41; HER 11309
Land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road, Sandy
Archaeological Watching Brief: Assessment of Results and Updated Project Design 14



The size and status of the Roman settlement at Sandy has been the subject of much inference since the 17th century⁴. To date, there have been several archaeological windows, but with one exception, the majority of these have been sporadic, restricted and small scale. Excavations at the modern cemetery to the south-east of the present town⁵, produced sufficient evidence to reinforce the hypothesis that the Roman settlement was concentrated at the junction of five roads⁶. The discovery of artefacts across a wider area however, are thought to indicate a linear and dispersed pattern of settlement⁷, whilst the recent cemetery discovery, which lies approximately one kilometre from the main focus of settlement adds weight to this theory. Linear patterns of settlement along main routeways and roads are not uncommon in the region, such as those already cited by Dawson, at Baldock, Hertfordshire and Frilford, Berkshire⁸. Furthermore it is not uncommon for a settlement to have more than one cemetery, although the reasons for this probably varied from settlement to settlement. One simple explanation could be relocation⁹, due to lack of space, but less understood reasons such as settlement shift, religion and status of the individual, cannot be precluded.

The discovery of a cemetery at this point along Stratford Road now questions the whereabouts of the Roman Road, especially in view of the earlier discoveries of burials beneath the road. Further circumstantial evidence leads to the belief that it deviates from its postulated course¹⁰. The Roman road (Route 22 from London) was located in section some 180m further along the present road in at The Bungalow, although excavation at Stratford, c.350m to the south, had failed to locate it. During the recent investigations, which involved trenching alongside the road, there were no signs of a Roman Road, whilst a local informant claimed that it was common knowledge of the local farmers that it lies a short distance away in fields to the east.

The present record does not warrant further analysis. A summary of the results and their significance will be published in an appropriate outlet.

⁴ *vide, ibid*, 37

⁵ *c.f. ibid*, Dawson, M, 'The Roman Town of Sandy, Bedfordshire' in A.E.Brown, *Roman Small Towns of Eastern England and Beyond*, 1995 (Oxford)

⁶ Johnston, D. E 1974, p, 35

⁷ Dawson, M, 1995, 168

⁸ *c.f.* Dawson, M, 1995, 168

⁹ *vide.* Esmond Clearly, S, 'Extra-Mural Areas of Romano-British Towns' *BAR British Series* 169, 1987

¹⁰ Johnston, D.E, *The Viatores: Roman Roads in the South East Midlands*, 1964 (London)



6. FIGURES AND PLATES

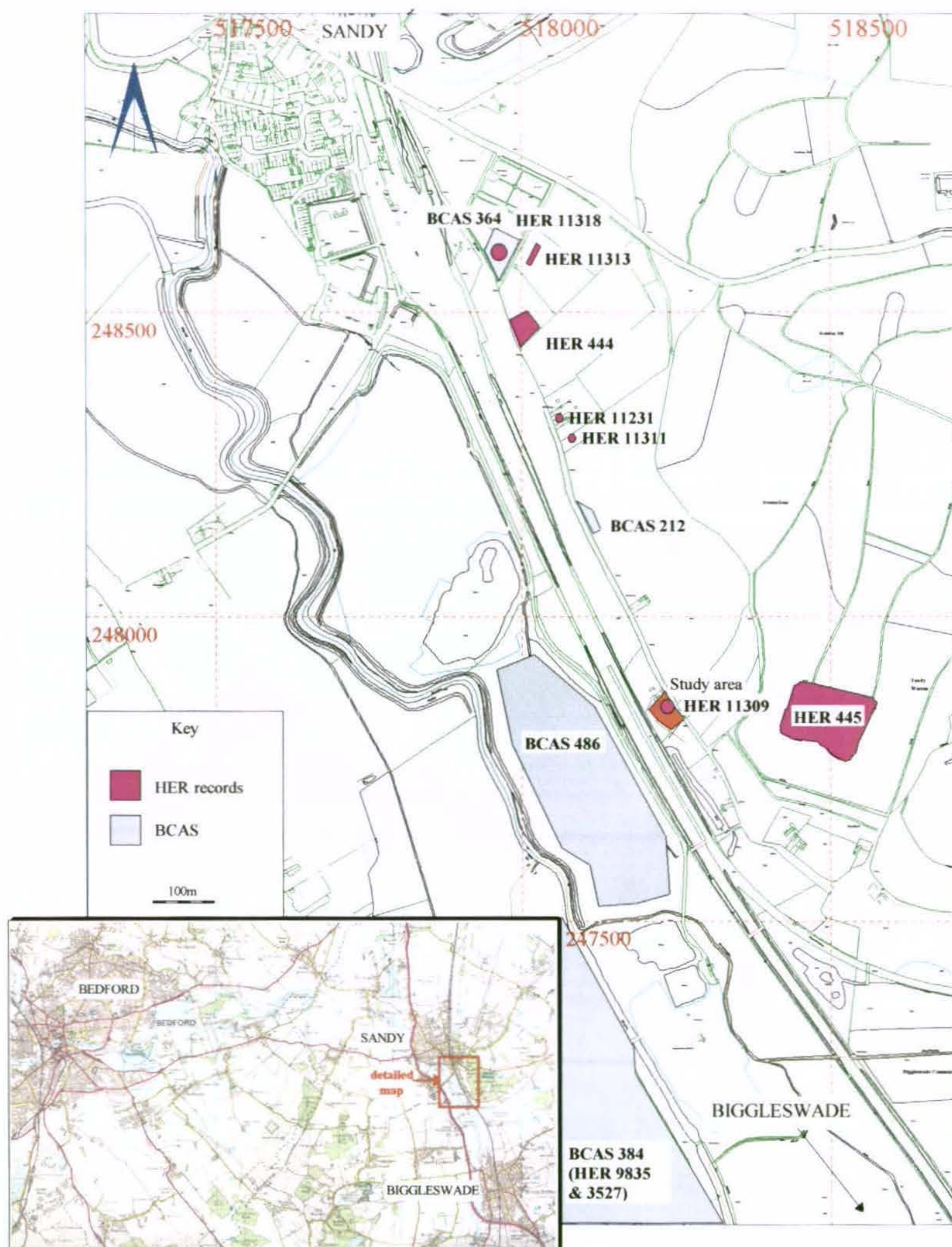


Fig. 1: Location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

Land adjacent to 6, Stratford Road, Sandy
Archaeological Watching Brief

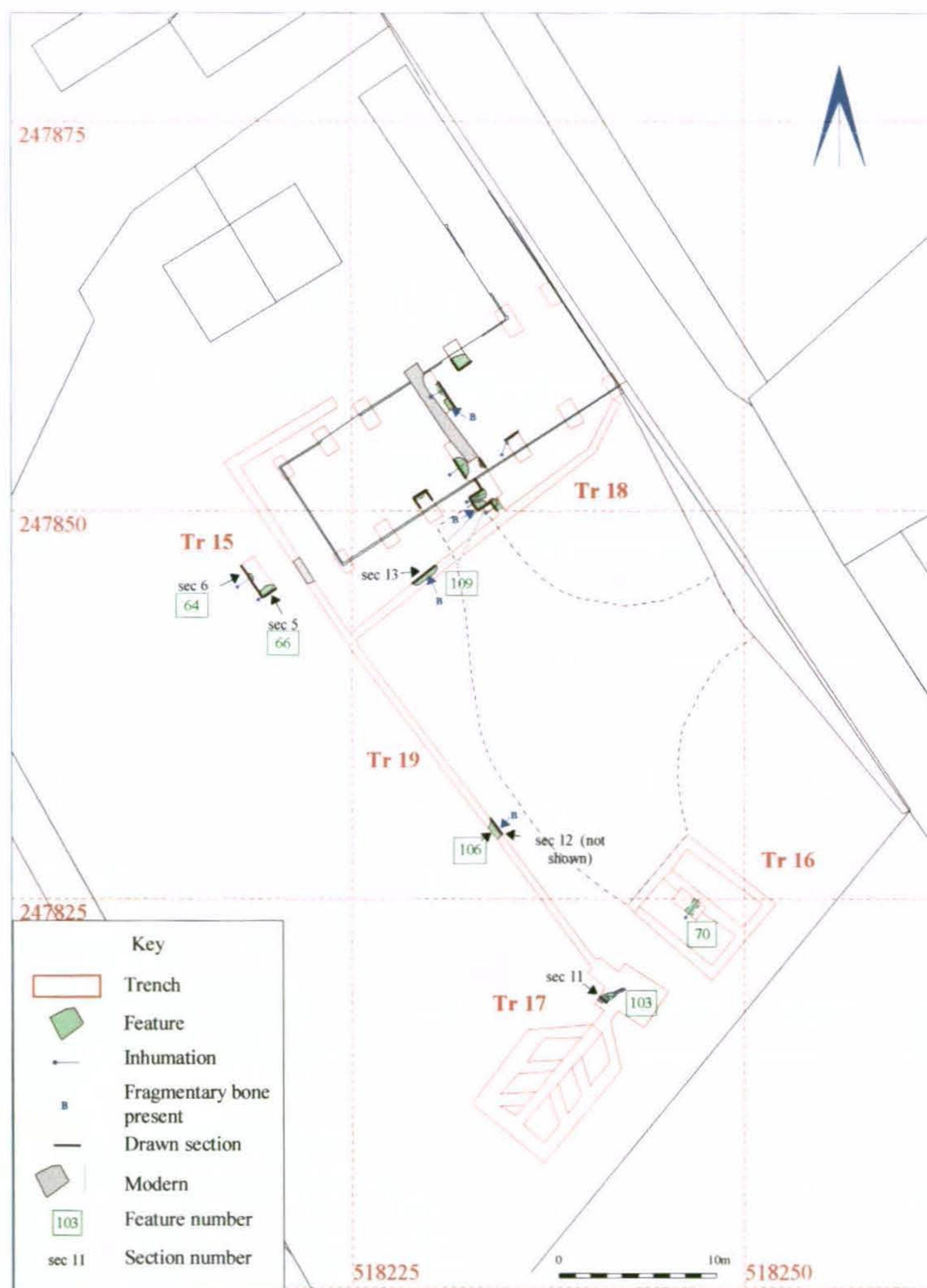


Fig. 2: Location of external trenches.

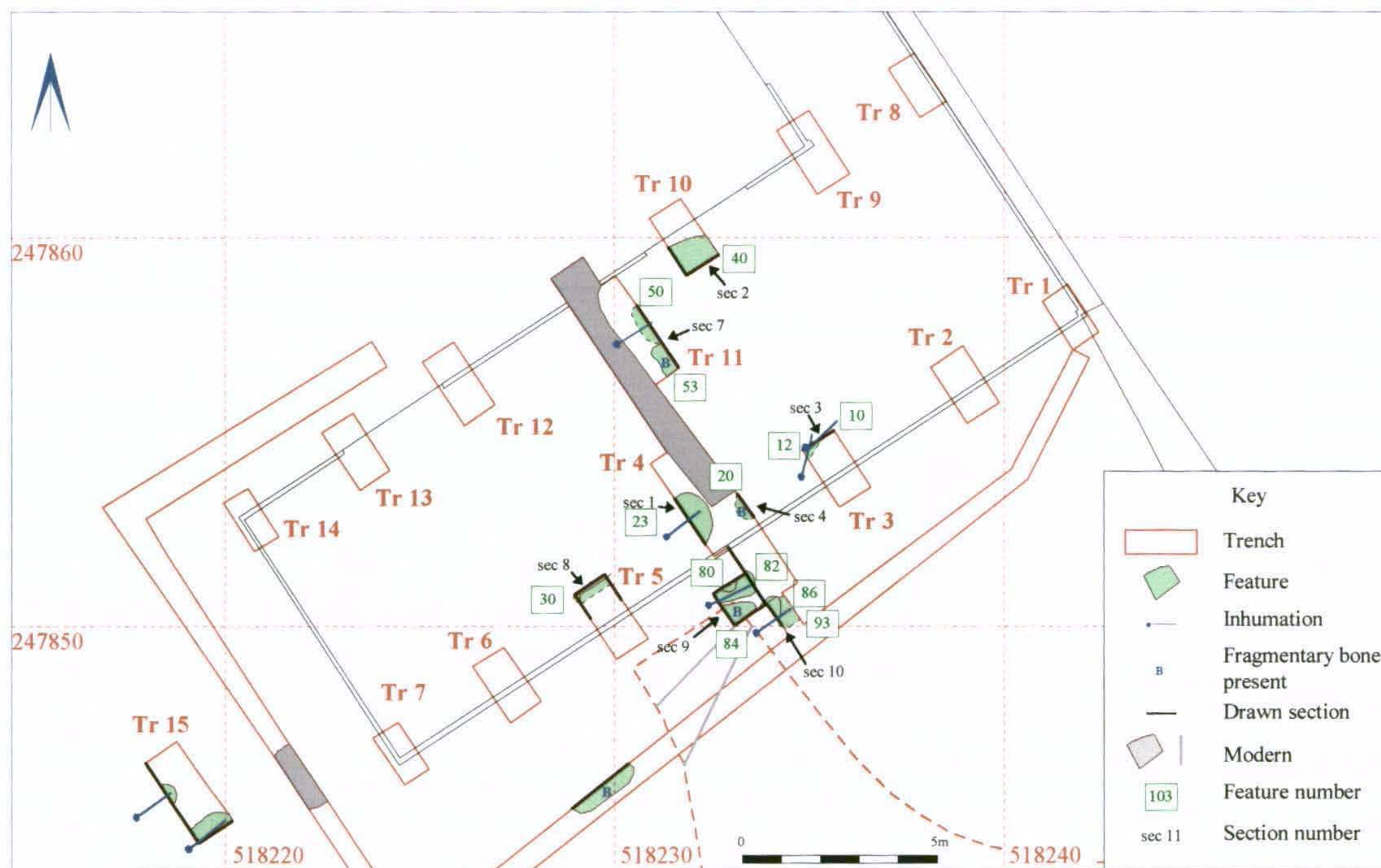


Fig. 3: Location of trenches within existing barn.

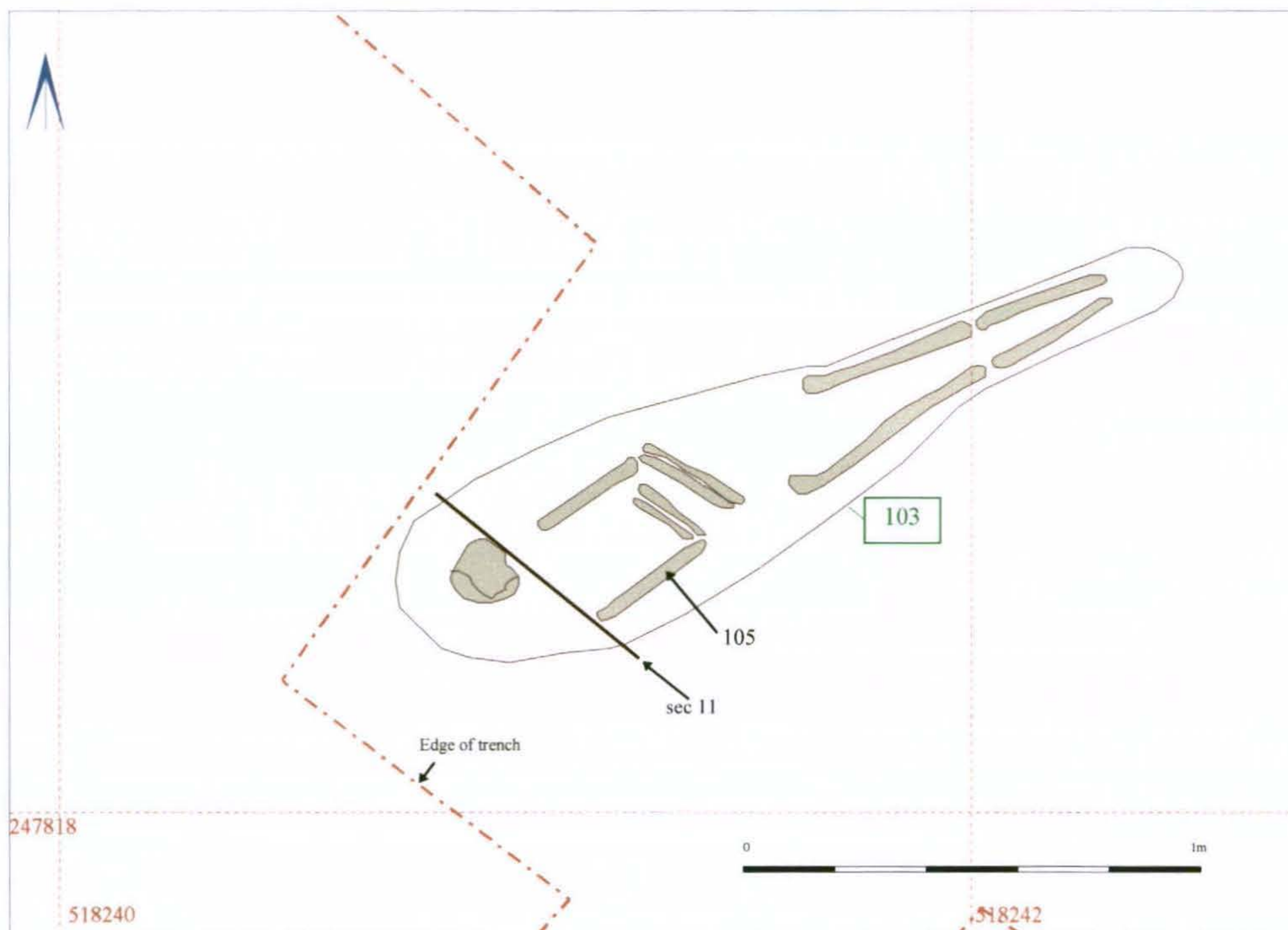
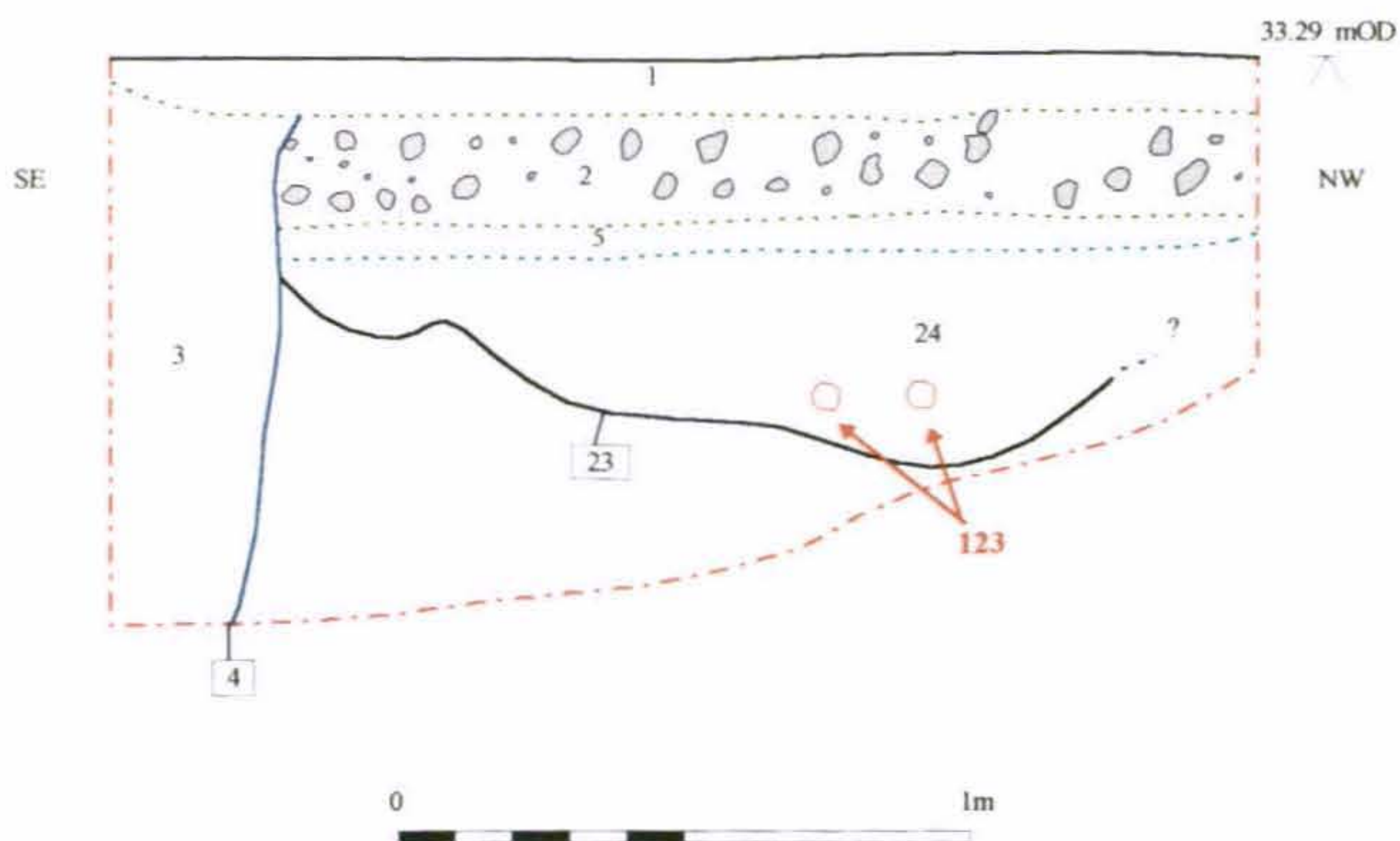
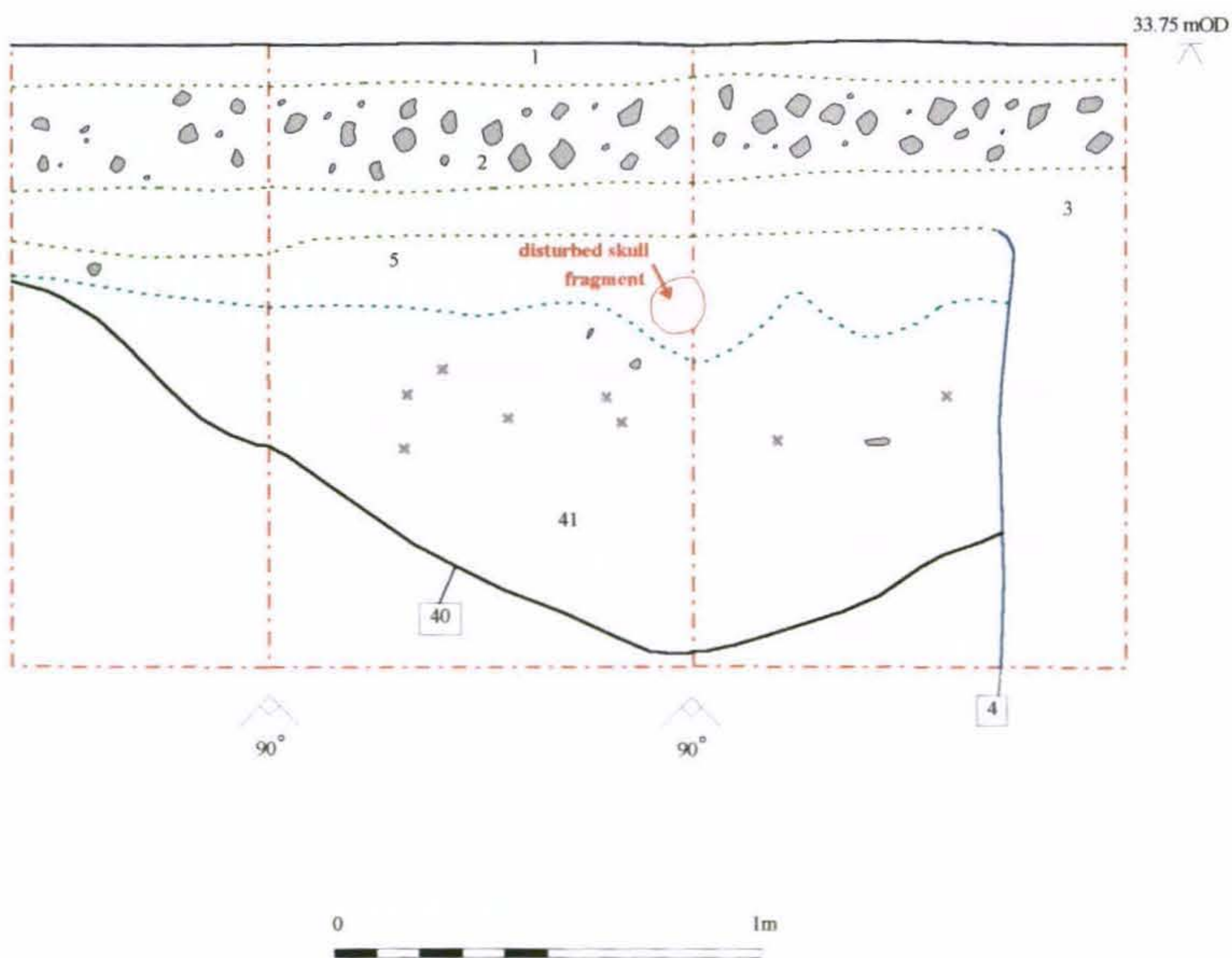


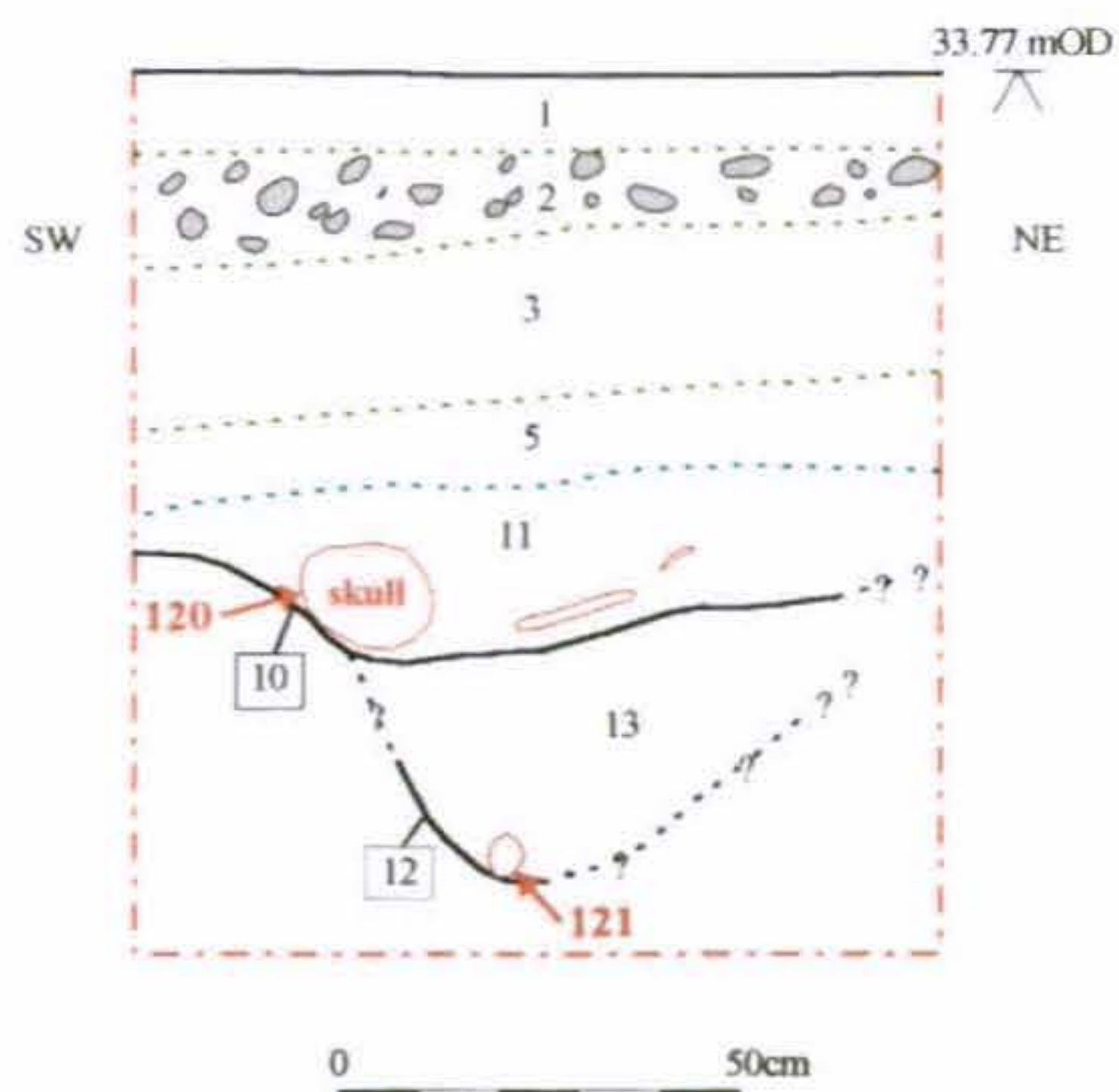
Fig. 4: Plan of Grave [103], trench 17.



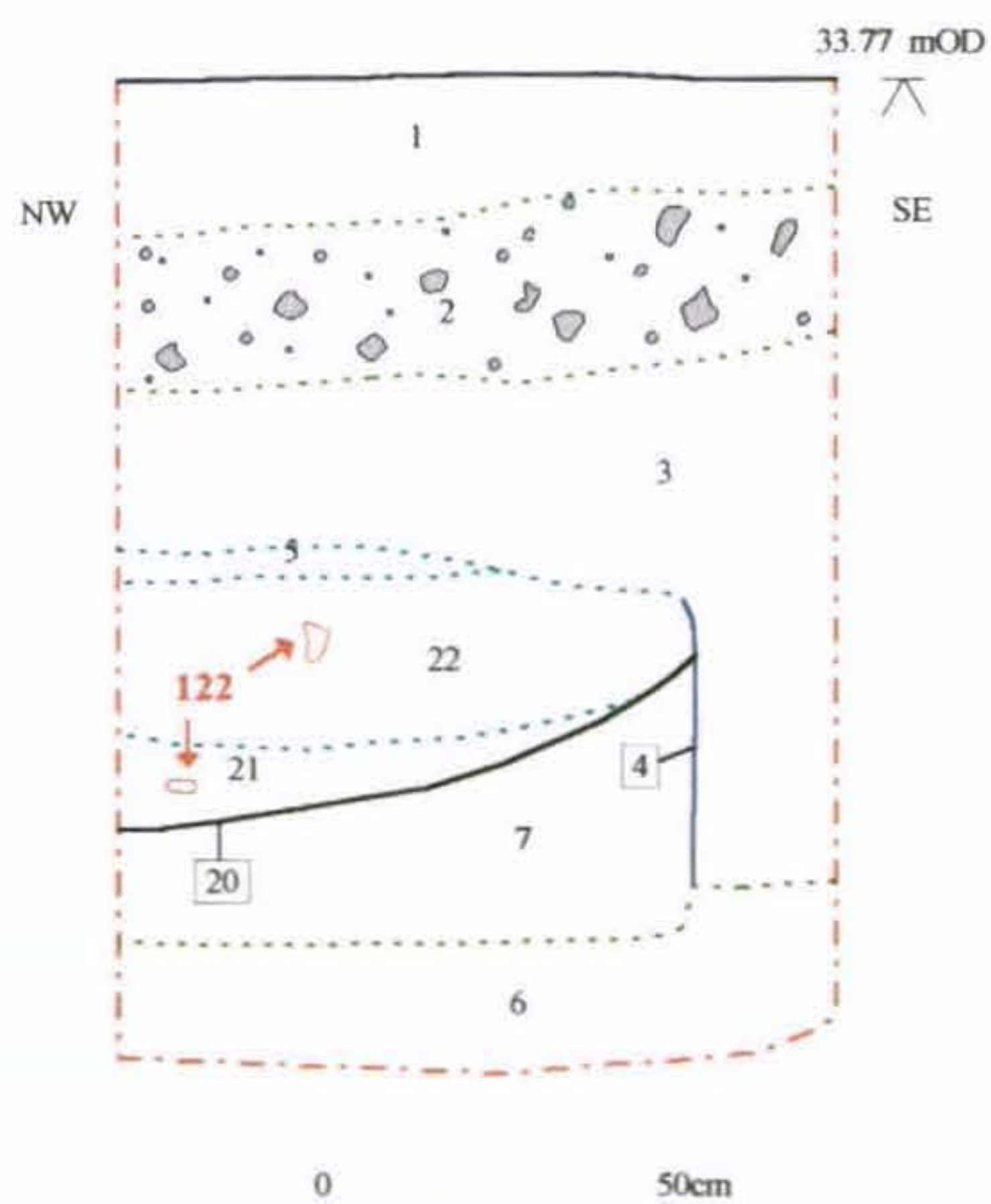
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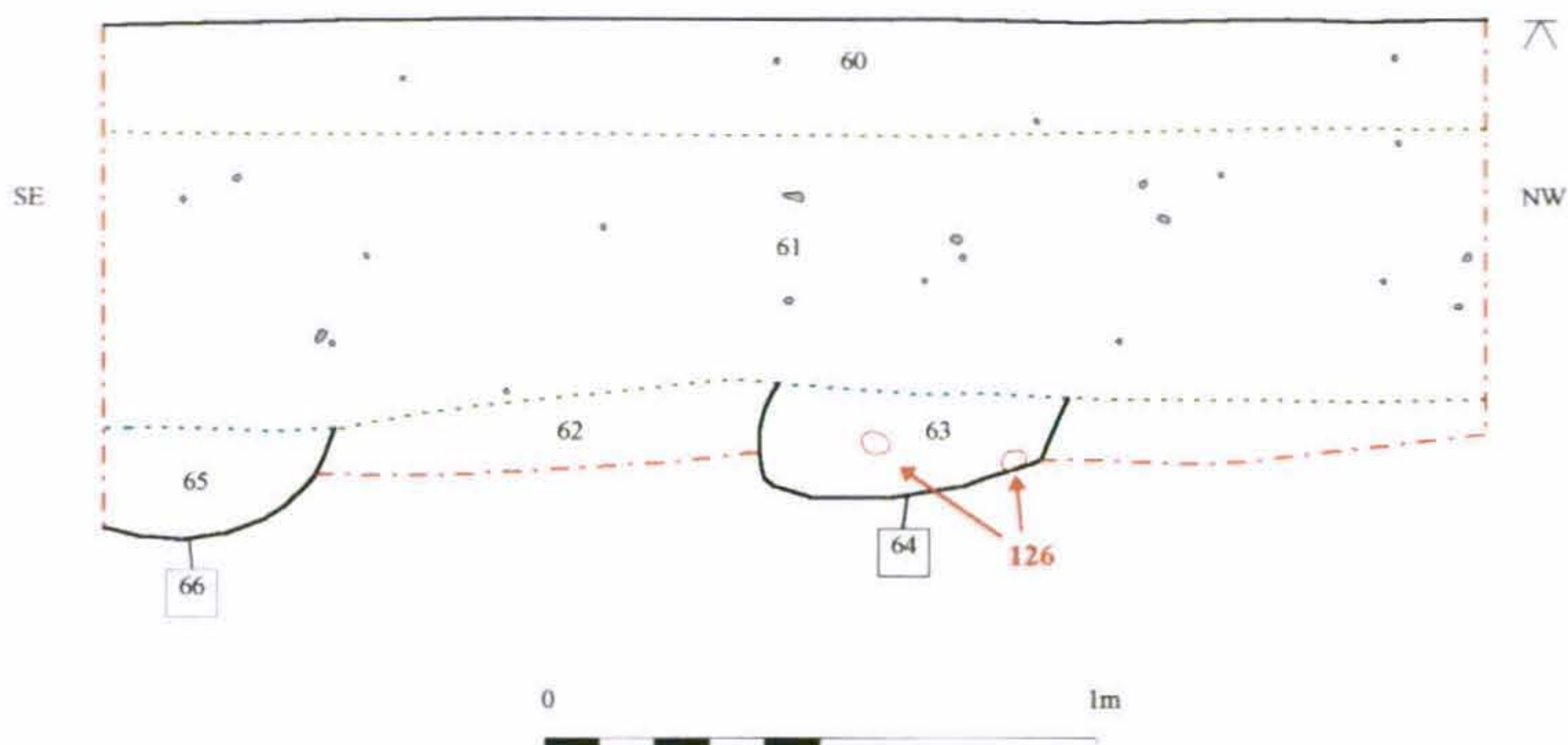
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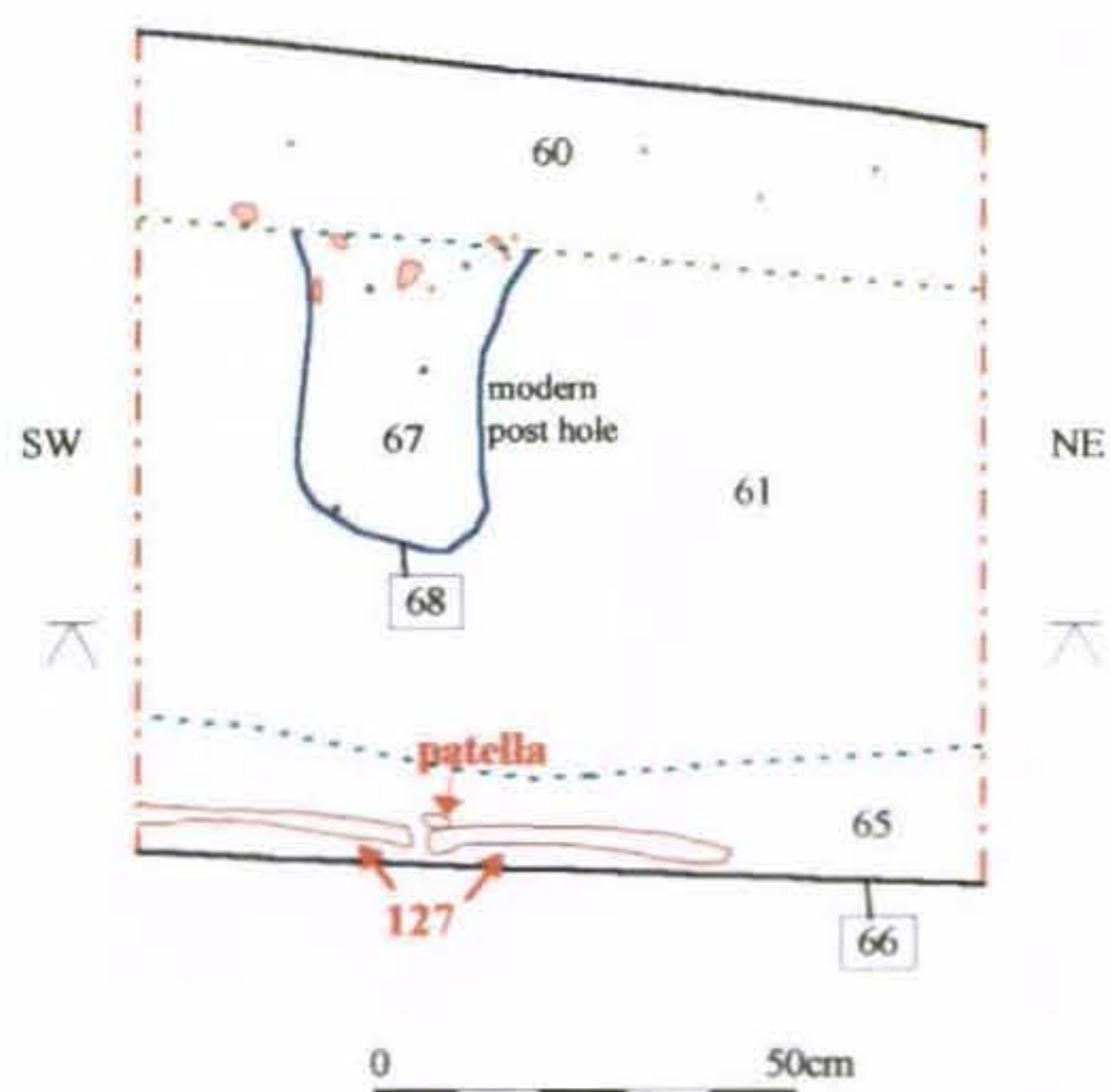
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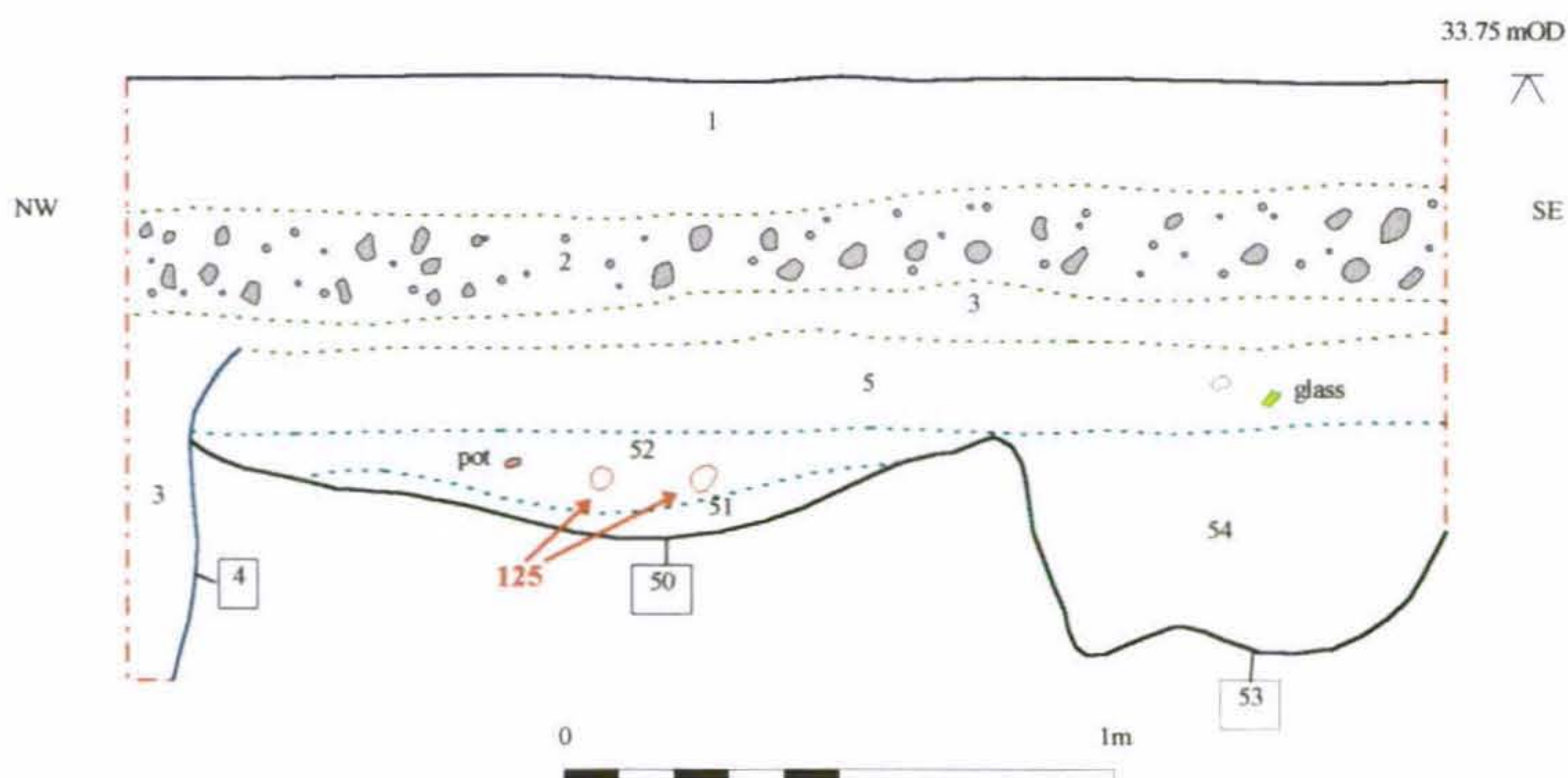
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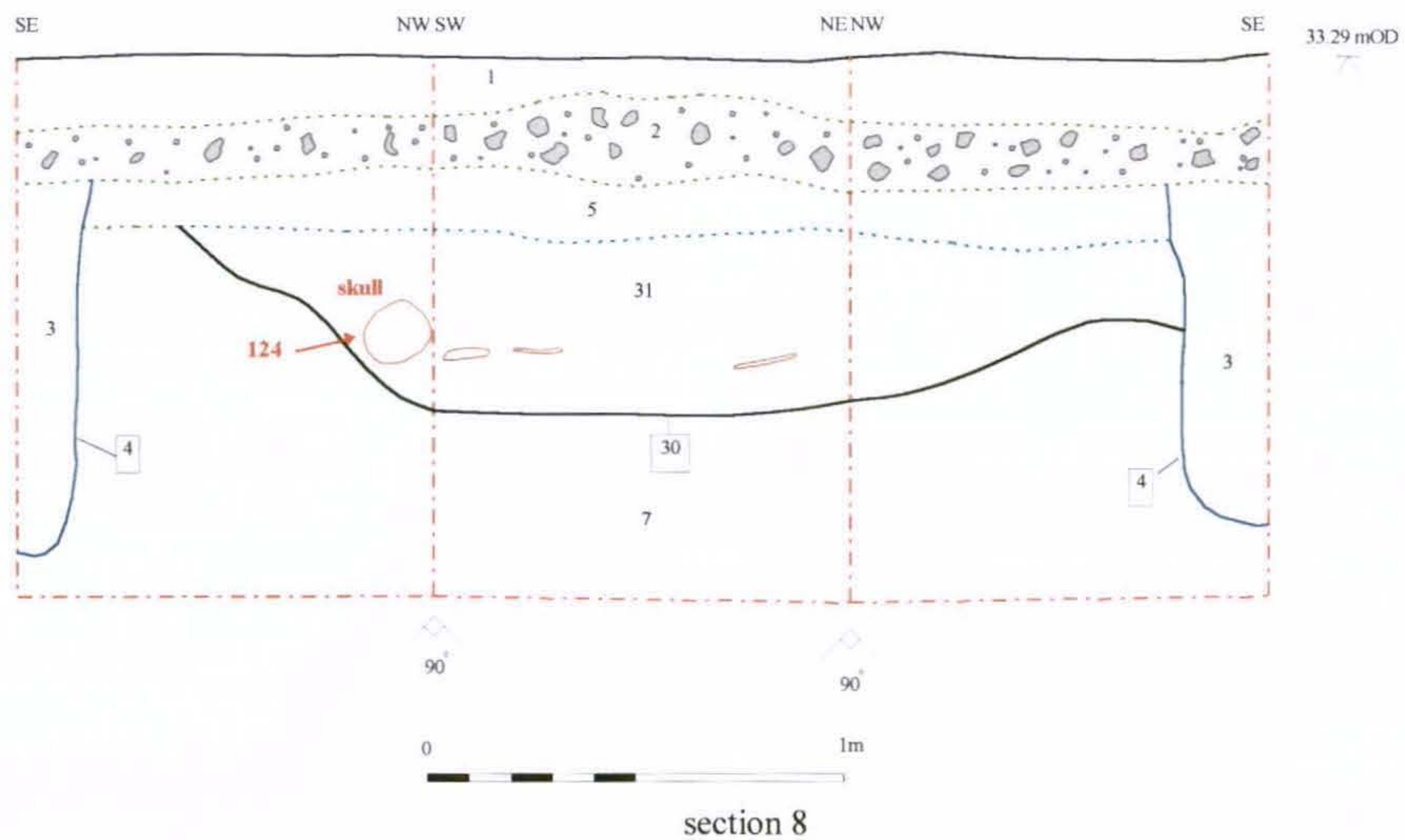
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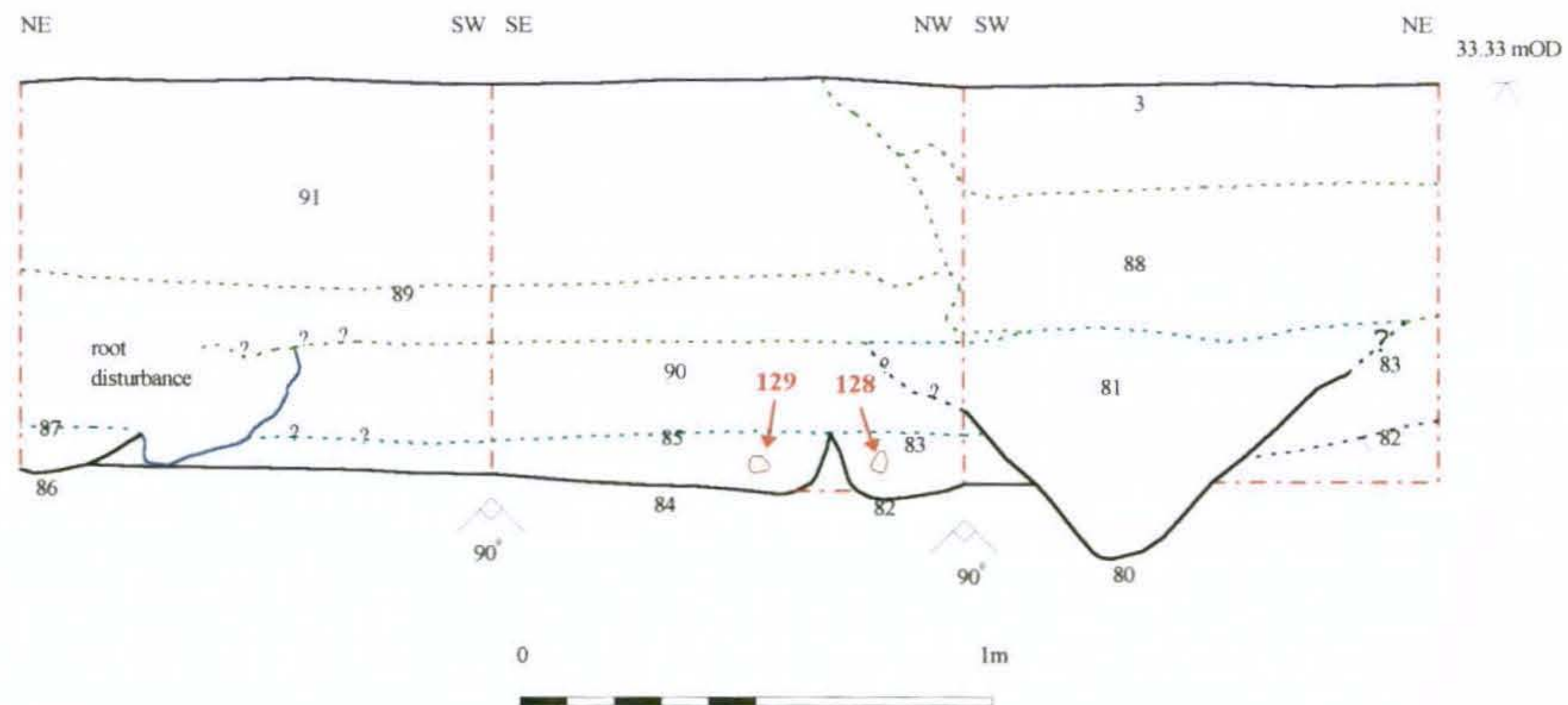


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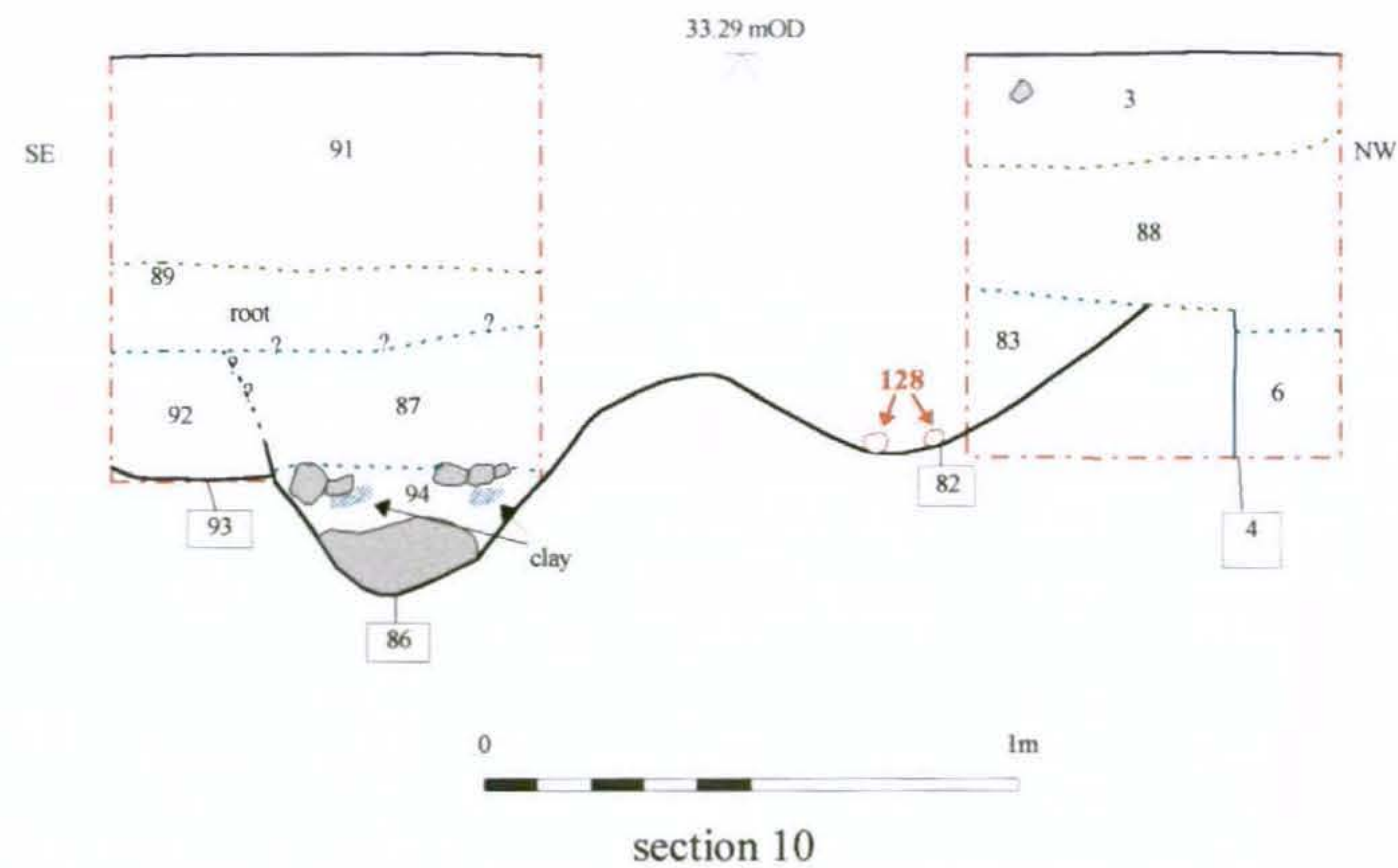


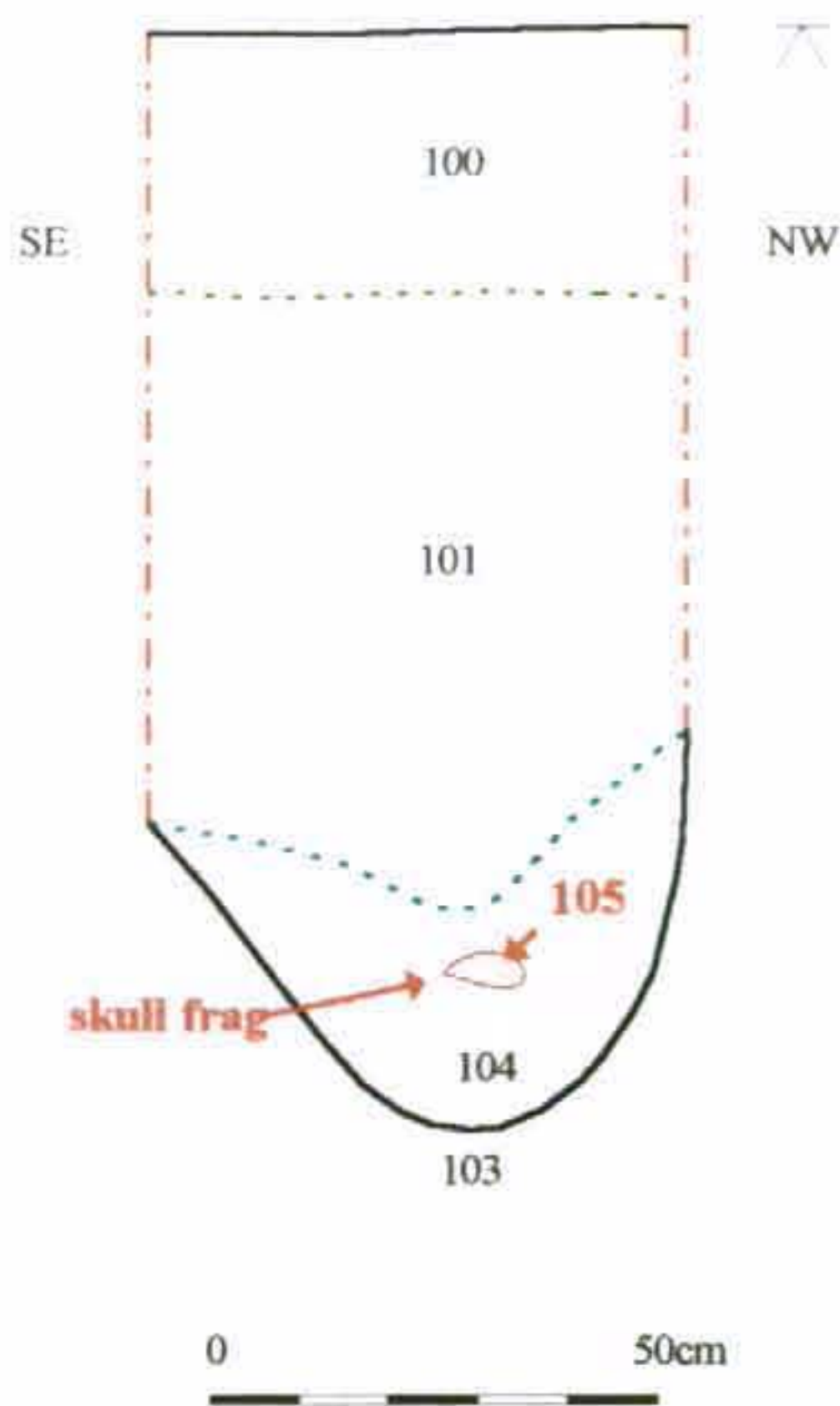
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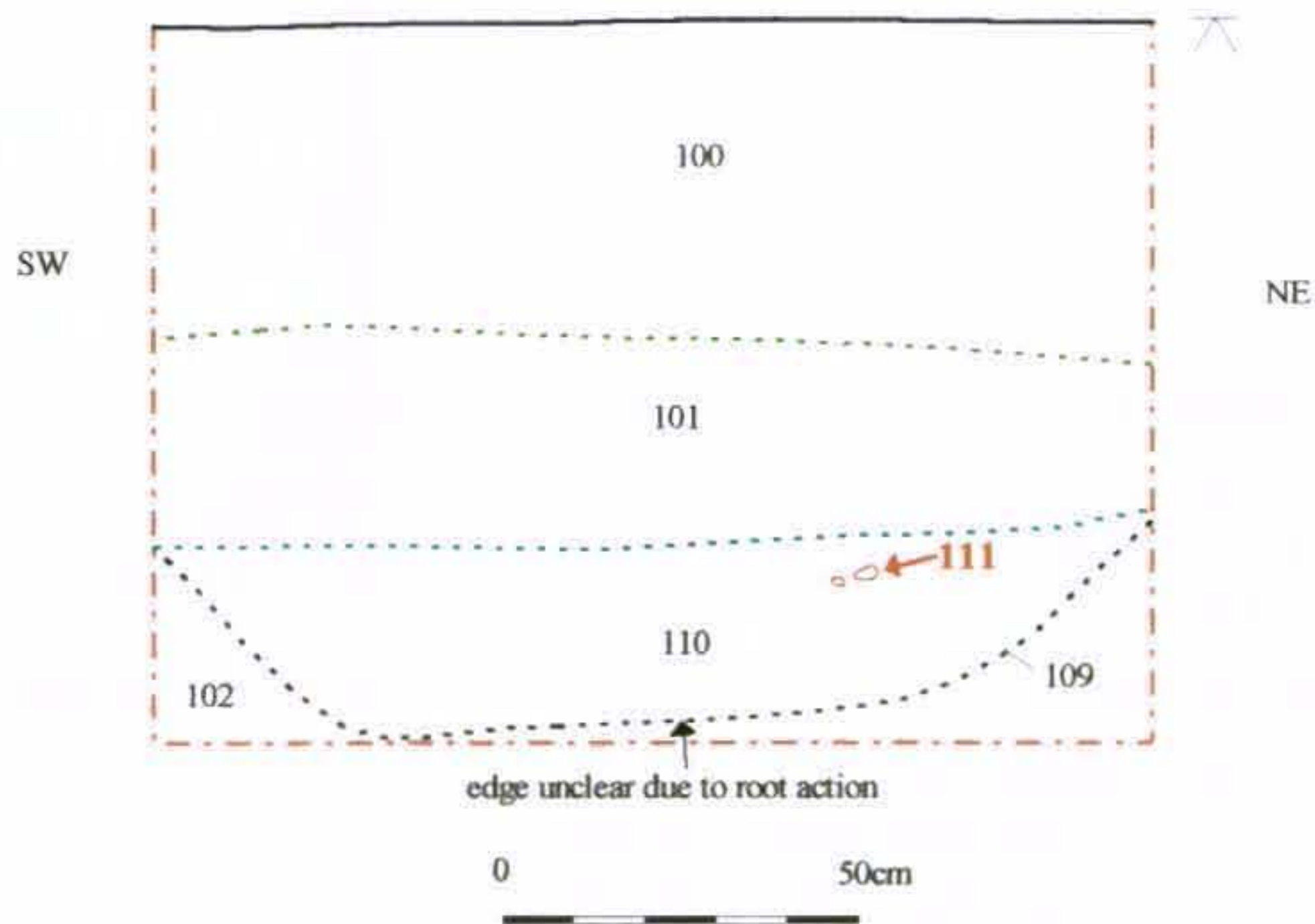


section 9





section 11



section 13

Key to Section Drawings

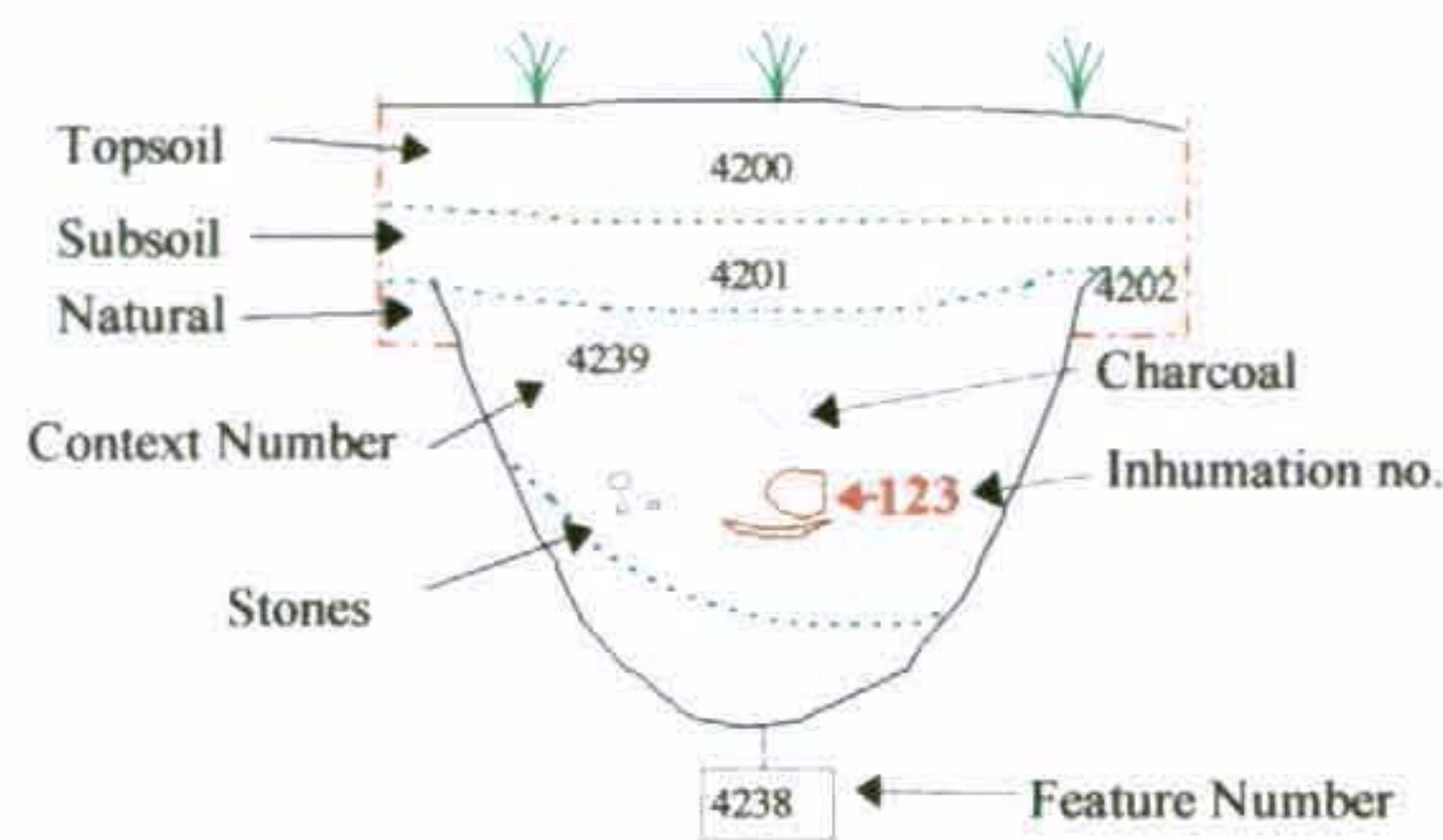




Plate 1: Trench 11, graves [50] and [53]



Plate 2: Trench 4, grave [82]

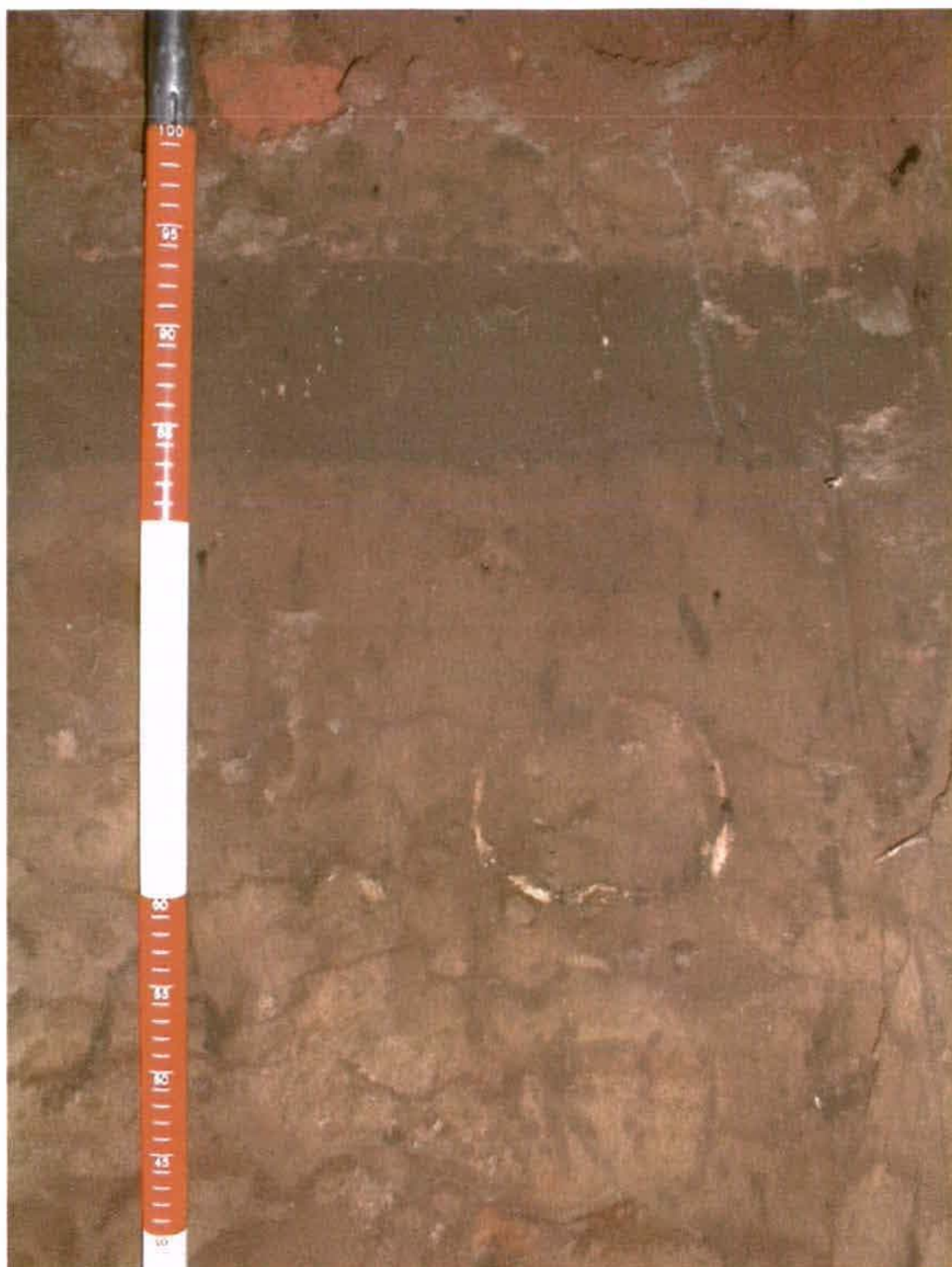


Plate 3: Trench 5, grave [30]



7. TRENCH RECORD TABLES



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.70 m. Width: 0.95 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foundation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
10	Grave	NE-SW base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.21m. Smooth sided cut with imperceptible side on NE edge. Cuts (13) and [12].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones. Grave fill with occasional iron stone fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
120	Human skeleton	. Partial view of skull and longbones in section	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Grave	NE-SW profile: concave dimensions: max depth 0.29m, min length 0.55m. Smooth sided cut to an imperceptible NE edge. Cut is very unclear against natural, probably due to root disturbance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
121	Human skeleton	. Long bones visible end on in section	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.65 m. Width: 1.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foundation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Surface	. Modern concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Modern disturbance	Red brown sand . Contains frequent building material - ie, it is hardcore.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Modern disturbance	Dimensions: max depth 0.7m. Cut of foundation trench for modern barn.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Modern disturbance	Loose light yellow sand . Backfill of barn foundation trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Modern disturbance	Dark grey black sandy silt . Original topsoil, buried at 0.65m below current ground level by modern building activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Modern disturbance	. Concrete footings of modern barn.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Natural strata	Yellow sand . Contains iron stone fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Grave	NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.82m, max depth 0.32m. Smooth sided grave cut with imperceptible break to the base. Cut by [4] on the SE side. Orientation unclear due to small scale of excavation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt . Lower fill of grave.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt occasional medium stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Human skeleton	. Fragments of bone visible in section. Presence of bone in fill (21) above, might suggest two burials or disturbance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Grave	NE-SW profile: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, max depth 0.38m. Smooth sided cut disturbed on SE side by root or animal action. NW side very difficult to distinguish.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
123	Human skeleton	. Cross-section of leg bones visible in section.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80	Posthole	Base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.54m, max depth 0.48m. Gradually sloping cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
81	Fill	Dark brown sand occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
82	Grave	NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.3m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
83	Fill	Dark brown sand . Contains yellow mottling. Difficult to distinguish from layer (90).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
128	Human skeleton	. Legbones and patella surviving, visible in plan and section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
84	Grave	NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.71m, max depth 0.13m, min length 1.m. Sharp sided grave cut on NW side to unidentifiable SE edge due to root action.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
85	Fill	Light brown grey sandy silt . Heavily disturbed by root action.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
86	Posthole	Dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.47m. Gradually sloping smooth sided cut with definite NW edge and disturbed SE edge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
87	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt . Contains pottery, frequent charcoal flecks, and clay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
94	Packing	. Large lumps of ironsone and clay used for post packing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
88	Modern disturbance	Loose light yellow sand . Disturbance from construction of modern barn. Contains much modern building rubble.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
89	Subsoil	Pinkish brown sand .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
90	Subsoil	Dark brown sand . Possible interface layer between grave fill and subsoil. Mottled.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
91	Topsoil	Dark brown grey sandy loam .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
93	Grave	NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.24m. Sides cannot be observed in section due to heavy root disturbance. Orange staining in plan may be along possible cut line - stain indicates NE - SW alignment which would tie in with evidence from other graves nearby.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
92	Fill	Light brown grey sandy silt . Cut by post hole [86].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6 STRATFORD ROAD, SANDY (SRS554)

Trench Summary



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.95 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foundation Trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
30	Grave	NE-SW profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.42m, min length 1.m. Smooth sided cut. Cut away by barn foundation trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
124	Human skeleton	. Skull and arm longbones partially visible in section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.70 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foundation Trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
40	Pit	NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.75m. Cut of pit, or possibly short section of ditch. Has smooth sides and is cut at top by foundation trench for barn. Overlain by disturbed topsoil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 3.75 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench:

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
50	Grave	NE-SW base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.41m, max depth 0.19m. Shallow cut with imperceptible break to base.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt . Lower fill of grave.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt . Upper grave fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
125	Human skeleton	. Cross section of longbones visible in section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
53	Grave	NE-SW profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.41m. Steep sided cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.50 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Test Pit

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
60	Topsoil	Dark brown loam .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
61	Subsoil	Light brown sand . Contains much bioturbation and frequent bands of groundwater percolation staining.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
62	Natural strata	Red yellow sand .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64	Grave	NE-SW profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.2m. Shallow cut into natural. Contains fill (63) and lower distal human bones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63	Fill	Dark brown sand .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Human skeleton	. Cross section of long bones visible in section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66	Grave	NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.2m, min length 1.m. Shallow cut into natural containing (65) and human lower distals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65	Fill	Dark brown sand .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
127	Human skeleton	. Legbones and patella surviving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
68	Posthole	Dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.3m. Small irregular feature cut into subsoil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
67	Fill	Dark brown loam . Fill of modern post hole.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 16

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Test Pit (below garage platform)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
70	Grave	NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m. Very unclear cut, with sides imperceptible due to root action. Unexcavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
71	Fill	Light yellow brown sand . Mottled fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 3.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Pit for septic tank

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
129	Human skeleton	. Legbones visible in plan and section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100	Topsoil	Dark brown loam .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Light brown sand .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural strata	Red yellow sand .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Grave	Sub-rectangular ENE-WSW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.45m, max length 1.85m. Cut narrows slightly towards ENE. end (feet).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Brown grey silty sand occasional flecks fired clay. Contains some pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
104	Human skeleton	Occasional flecks fired clay. Surviving bones from legs, arms and skull. Full view in plan, arms crossed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 18

Max Dimensions: Length: 37.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foul Drain, orientated NE-SW

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
109	Grave	Sub-rectangular NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.4m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Dark brown silty sand . Mottled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
111	Human skeleton	. Cross section of long bone protruding from section.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



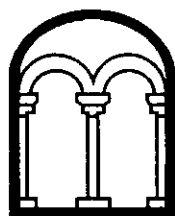
Trench: 19

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: Ref. 2:

Reason for trench: Foul Drain, orientated SE-NW.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
106	Grave	NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, min length 0.45m. Possible grave cut. NW side is less clear than SE side. Questionable alignment. Unexcavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silty sand . Contains dark mottling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Human skeleton	. Possible fragments of human skull. Slightly truncated by machine. fragmentary view in plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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