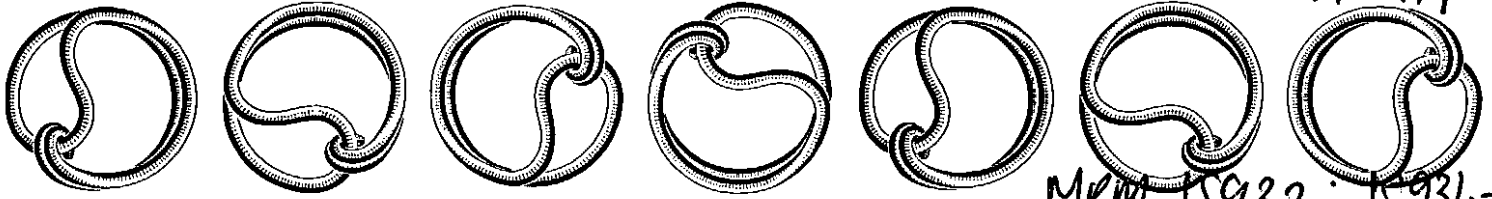


2nd copy. Revision of [unclear]

Event ERM373
Source SRM12974



MRM 0932, 0934-6
MRM 0977-78.

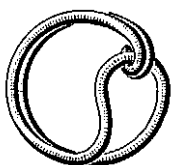
**An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 2) on Land at
Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood, Reading,
Berkshire.**

NGR SU 7135 6598

Project No. 1958

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA
(with a contribution by Luke Barber)**

January 2005



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

**An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 2) on Land at
Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood, Reading,
Berkshire.**

NGR SU 7135 6598

Project No. 1958

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA
(with a contribution by Luke Barber)**

January 2005

**Archaeology South-East
1 West Street
Ditchling
East Sussex
BN6 8TS**

**Tel: 01273 845497
Fax: 01273 844187
email: fau-ucl@btconnect.com
website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk**

Summary

Seventy-two evaluation trenches were excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 1440m, providing a 7% sample of the evaluated area. Archaeological deposits including ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes were identified and recorded in thirty-one of trenches. Material ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval period was encountered. The earliest ceramic assemblages were dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age but the majority of pottery was from the Late Iron Age to the Early Romano-British era. There was also evidence of later Romano-British, possible Anglo-Saxon, and medieval activity. There was some indication of the post-medieval occupation known from cartographic sources.

Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

UCL Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, Archaeology South East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England, Archaeology South East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of UCL Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Results: Area A**
- 5.0 Results: Area B**
- 6.0 The Finds and Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Acknowledgements**

SMR Summary Sheet

Figures

- Figure 1: Site Location Plan**
- Figure 2: Trench Location Plan**
- Figure 3: Trenches T1, T3 and T4: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 4: Trenches T8, T9, T10 and T12: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 5: Trenches T13, T14 and T15: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 6: Trenches T17, T18 and T19: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 7: Trenches T20 and T21: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 8: Trenches T22 and T23: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 9: Trenches T24, T27 and T28: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 10: Trenches T30, T31, T32, and T36: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 11: Trenches T37, T38 and T39: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 12: Trenches T40 and T43: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 13: Trenches T44 and T44: Plans and Sections**
- Figure 14: Proposed Development Plan**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by Bovis Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development on land at Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood, Reading, Berkshire (NGR SU 7135 6598) (Fig. 1).

1.2 The site of the proposed development lies some 8 kilometres to the south of Reading, to the south of the village of Spencer's Wood, and at heights varying between *c.*57mAOD and *c.*61mAOD. The site is bounded to the east by the Basingstoke Road (the B3349), and to the west by Beech Hill Road. The southern boundary is with Lamb's Lane, a builder's yard entered from Lamb's Lane and a property called *Springfields* accessed by a lane from Basingstoke Road. The northern boundary is with properties fronting onto both Basingstoke Road and Beech Hill Road. According to the British Geological Survey (1:50,000-scale map sheet no. 268), the underlying geology of the site comprises London Clay.

1.3 Planning permission for this proposed development has been granted by Wokingham District Council for the construction of 121 new dwellings with associated access roads, car parking and services (Planning ref. F/2004/0991). However owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation with the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record (Wokingham District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) A planning condition (Condition 19) was attached to the consent requiring that:

No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority... The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.4 The first stage of the archaeological programme was the production of *An Archaeological Impact Assessment* by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) in August 2003.¹ This report considered the archaeological potential of the site based on previous archaeological discoveries in the general area, and at the site itself (see below). A recommendation was made that the site should be archaeologically evaluated by trial trenching prior to the commencement of development.

¹ C. Cowan. *Land at Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood, County of Berkshire. An Archaeological Impact Assessment*. Unpub. Museum of London Archaeology Service Report (August 2003)

1.5 To that end, a Brief for the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching was issued by Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record in September 2004. The stated aims of the evaluation were:

- i) *To determine the general nature of the remains present.*
- ii) *To determine or confirm the approximate date range of the remains by means of artefactual or other evidence.*
- iii) *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.*
- iv) *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.*
- v) *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- vi) *To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.*
- vii) *To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.*
- viii) *To allow recommendations for any further mitigation works to be carried out.*

1.6 In accordance with the terms of the Brief, a Specification or Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was produced by Neville Hall of Archaeology South-East. This document outlined a strategy for the archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches. This Specification was compiled in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2001). This document was submitted to and duly approved by Fiona MacDonald of the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record before the evaluation commenced on site.

1.7 The on-site archaeological work was carried out by a team comprised of Simon Stevens (Senior Field Officer), Jim Stephenson, Neil Griffin (Field Officers), and Liz Chambers, Sidney Jeffries, Clive Meaton and Mike Pritchard (Archaeological Assistants) during November and early December 2004. The project was managed by Neville Hall (Projects Manager) and by Luke Barber (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Although there has been comparatively little published archaeological work within the general area, recent archaeological work has been undertaken in Spencer's Wood, including limited investigation of the site itself. A geophysical survey was undertaken which included the site and subsequently an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust. Two trial trenches were excavated within the boundaries of the site (Fig. 2) as part of a larger evaluation project. A ditch dated to the post-medieval or modern period was the only feature encountered.²
- 2.2 A fuller appreciation of the archaeological background to the site is given elsewhere.³ To summarise, the estimated potential for the survival of archaeological remains period-by-period was given as:

Prehistoric	High
Romano-British	Moderate
Medieval	Low
Post-Medieval	High

- 2.3 Hence, the overall potential for the survival of archaeological deposits was considered to be good.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A pattern of seventy-two trial trenches to a cumulative length of 1440m was produced by Neville Hall of Archaeology South East and was approved by Fiona MacDonald of the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record prior to the commencement of work (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 The locations of all of the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services. The trenches were then excavated by a 15 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.
- 3.3 The excavation was taken down to the top of the 'natural' deposits or to that of any significant archaeological deposit whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*

-
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 All deposits were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by means of Temporary Bench Marks set up with reference to data given on a Topographical Survey of the site supplied by Bovis Homes Limited (Drawing No. S3476/1). The values were derived from an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located at No. 4 Basingstoke Road (value 58.46m AOD).
- 3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Ditchling, and will be offered to a suitable local museum, in this case Reading Museum, in due course.
- 4.0 **RESULTS: AREA A (Fig. 2)**
- 4.1 The field designated as *Area A* was located immediately to the west of Basingstoke Road. It was separated from *Area B* by a line of trees and bushes. The area was under pasture and appeared relatively flat and even. Thirty six evaluation trenches, each 20m in length, were located in *Area A*. After recording, all of the trenches were mechanically backfilled and compacted.
- 4.2 Trench T1 was excavated to a depth of 310mm (57.39m AOD) at the southern end to 300mm (57.32m AOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The overburden consisted of a mid-brown humic topsoil (Context 1), which became lighter in colour closer to the surface of the 'natural'
- 4.3 The lighter coloured material was given a separate context number (Context 163), although no clear boundary was usually established between it and Context 1. This system of recording was subsequently used for all of the trenches in *Area A*; layers of overburden were remarkably similar over the entire *Area*. The underlying 'natural' London Clay consisted of a gravelly clay varying in colour between orange and grey, with occasional patches of manganese oxide and areas of gleying.
- 4.4 A spread of material was noted at the southern end of the Trench T1 (Fig. 3). The light greyish brown deposit (Context 166) was <5mm in thickness and of uncertain extent. Material dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age was recovered from the deposit. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.5 Trench T2 was excavated to a depth of 280mm (57.75m AOD) at the eastern end and to 340mm (57.48m AOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
-

- 4.6** Trench **T3** was excavated to a depth of 380mm (57.30mAOD) at the southern end and to 480mm (57.17mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified (Fig. 3). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.7** Cut **190** was a flat-bottomed gully, which ran across the trench from south-west to north-east. It was 700mm wide and 120mm deep (Fig. 3, Section 1). No datable evidence was recovered from the single light brownish grey silty clay fill (Context **191**). The other two features ran east to west across the trench. Cut **171** was a 1.19m wide, and 660mm deep ditch with a 'v' shaped profile (Fig. 3, Section 2). Medieval material was recovered from the single mid-grey silty clay fill (Context **172**). Cut **176** was a flat-bottomed gully, which was 900mm wide and 300mm deep (Fig 3, Section 3). Romano-British material was recovered from the brownish grey fill (Context **173**). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential.
- 4.8** Trench **T4** was excavated to a depth of 290mm (57.26mAOD) at the eastern end and to 350mm (57.38mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified (Fig. 3). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.9** Cut **158** was 700mm wide, 130mm deep, and comprised a flat-bottomed gully (Fig. 3, Section 4), which ran from south-west to north-east across the trench. The fill was a light brownish grey silty clay (Context **159**). A stake-hole (Cut **160**) was located close to the gully **158**. The fill was a mid-grey silty clay (Context **161**). A second gully with a more irregular profile (Cut **164**) ran parallel to gully **158**, although the exact extent of this feature could not be ascertained. Gully **164** was 550mm wide and 220mm deep (Fig. 3, Section 5). The fill was a light grey slightly sandy silty clay (Context **165**).
- 4.10** The other feature was a 420mm wide, 100mm deep, flat-bottomed gully (Cut **154**) (Fig. 3, Section 6). The fill was a light grey silty clay (Context **155**). The feature terminated in the trench, with a possible stake-hole (Cut **156**) at the terminus. The fill of the stake-hole, Context **157**, was indistinguishable from Context **155**. No datable material was recovered from any of the features in the trench.
- 4.11** Trench **T5** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (57.32mAOD) at the eastern end and to 360mm (57.18mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.12** Trench **T6** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (57.54mAOD) at the southern end and to 320mm (57.62mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features

were observed, however a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

- 4.13** Trench **T7** was excavated to a depth of 310mm (57.46mAOD) at the eastern end and to 250mm (57.73mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.14** Trench **T8** was excavated to a depth of 290mm (57.56mAOD) at the southern end and to 330mm (57.53mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A post-hole was encountered and excavated (Fig. 4). Cut **56** had a diameter of 650mm and a depth of 150mm (Fig. 4, Section 1). There were two fills; the uppermost comprised a light greyish-brown silty clay (Context **58**), which overlay a mid-dark yellow silty clay (Context **57**). The post-pipe was assigned the Context number **59**, but was not recorded in section. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Context **58**, and samples for analysis of environmental potential were taken from both of the fills. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.15** Trench **T9** was excavated to a depth of 320mm (57.48mAOD) at the eastern end and to 350mm (57.64mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A short stretch of gully was encountered and excavated, although its exact extent was not ascertained (Fig. 4). Cut **177** appeared to run east to west across the trench. It was 500mm wide and 60mm deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). No dating evidence was recovered from the mid-grey silty clay fill (Context **178**). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.16** Trench **T10** was excavated to a depth of 470mm (57.36mAOD) at the southern end and to 400mm (57.38mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A flat-bottomed ditch was encountered running east to west across the trench (Fig. 4). Cut **184** was 1.6m wide, and 410mm deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). An assemblage of Medieval material was recovered from the mid-grey silty clay fill (Context **185**). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.17** Trench **T11** was excavated to a depth of 460mm (57.14mAOD) at the eastern end and to 490mm (57.49mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed, although a small group of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.18** Trench **T12** was excavated to a depth of 600mm (57.66mAOD) at the eastern end and to 320mm (57.84mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A flat-bottomed ditch was encountered running north to south across the trench at the eastern end (Fig. 4). Cut **167** was 2.2m wide and 360mm deep (Fig. 4, Section 4). No datable

artefacts were recovered from the orangey grey silty clay fill (Context 168), or from the overburden.

- 4.19** Trench **T13** was excavated to a depth of 370mm (57.75mAOD) at the southern end and to 330mm (57.72mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A ditch with a roughly 'u' shaped profile was encountered (Fig. 5). Cut **79** was 1.55m wide and 390mm deep (Fig 5, Section 1). No datable artefacts were recovered from the light orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **80**). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.20** Trench **T14** was excavated to a depth of 500mm (57.50mAOD) at the eastern end and also to 500mm (57.75mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Two parallel ditches ran across the trench from south-east to north-west (Fig. 5). Cut **169** was a 1.7m wide, 340mm deep, flat-bottomed ditch (Fig. 5, Section 2). No datable artefacts were recovered from the dark orangey grey fill (Context **170**). Cut **174** was a 1.7m wide, 380mm deep 'v' shaped ditch (Fig. 5, Section 3). No datable artefacts were recovered from the dark orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **175**), or from the overburden.
- 4.21** Trench **T15** was excavated to a depth of 410mm (57.65mAOD) at the southern end and to 530mm (57.59mOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were excavated and recorded, and a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.22** Cut **179** was a 1.6m wide, 350mm deep ditch, with a 'v' shaped bottom running east to west across the trench (Fig. 5, Section 4). Two sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from the dark orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **180**). Cut **181** was a pit (or possibly a ditch terminal), which lay partly under the eastern baulk of the trench. It was 850mm wide and 500mm deep (Fig. 5, Section 5). There were two distinct fills, comprising Context **182**, a dark orangey grey silty clay, which might represent a re-cut, and Context **183**, a dark grey silty clay. Late 3rd to 4th century material was recovered from both fills. A sample for analysis of environmental potential was taken from Context **182**.
- 4.23** Towards the northern end of the trench there was a recut ditch. Cut **188** was a 360mm deep flat-bottomed ditch (Fig. 5, Section 6). No datable artefacts were recovered from the orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **189**). The ditch was truncated by a 'u' shaped gully, Cut **186** (Fig. 5, Section 6). The fill was a dark grey silty clay (Context **187**) from which 3rd to 4th century Romano-British material was recovered.
- 4.24** Trench **T16** was excavated to a depth of 370mm (57.56mAOD) at the eastern end, and to 460mm (57.75mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological

features were identified despite cleaning of a 'suspicious' area in the central part of the trench. There was heavy modern disturbance at the western end of the trench. A small group of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

- 4.25** Trench **T17** was excavated to a depth of 280mm (57.88mAOD) at the southern end and to 390mm (57.92mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified, and one pottery sherd and one piece of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.26** Cut **128** was a 1.4m wide, 250mm deep flat-bottomed ditch that ran across the trench from south-east to north-west (Fig. 6, Section 1). The fill was a mid-brownish grey silty clay (Context **129**). Cut **140** was a curving gully, which ran under the eastern baulk of the trench (Fig. 6, Section 2). It was a 640mm wide, 160mm deep flat-bottomed gully. The fill was a light brownish grey silty clay (Context **141**). No datable material was recovered from either of these features, although fired clay was found in Context **141**. A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential. The other feature was Cut **144**, which was a feature of unknown extent, shape or date, and which lay under the western baulk of the trench. This was not recorded in section. The visible fill was a dark greyish brown silty clay (Context **145**).
- 4.27** Trench **T18** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (57.79mAOD) at the eastern end and to 390mm (57.95mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Four archaeological features were identified (Fig. 6). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.28** Cut **142**, a 2.3m wide, 460mm deep flat-bottomed ditch ran north to south across the trench. There were two distinct fills (Fig. 6, Section 3). The uppermost was Context **143**, a dark grey silty clay from which pottery of possible Early Anglo-Saxon date was recovered. A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential. The lower fill was Context **162** a brownish orange silty clay, apparently the result of silting, from which no datable finds were recovered.
- 4.29** Two intercutting linear features were recorded close to the eastern end of the trench, both running from north to south. Cut **126** was a 610mm wide, 230mm deep gully with a 'v' shaped profile (Fig. 6, Section 4). The fill was a light grey silty clay (Context **127**). The feature truncated a ditch, Cut **132**, which was more than 1m wide and 300mm deep (Fig. 6, Section 4). The fill was a light grey silty clay (Context **133**). No datable evidence was recovered from either of the features.
- 4.30** The other feature was a small post-hole at the eastern end of the trench. Cut **138** had a diameter of 250mm and a depth of 150mm (Fig. 6, Section 5). The fill was a dark grey silty clay, Context **139**, from which iron-working slag was recovered.

-
- 4.31** Trench **T19** was excavated to a depth of 390mm (57.91mAOD) at the southern end and to 510mm (57.85mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A shallow, flat-bottomed gully was identified running broadly east to west across the trench (Fig. 6). Cut **130** was 400mm wide and 90mm deep (Fig. 6, Section 6). No datable artefacts were recovered from the grey silty clay fill (Context **131**). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.32** Trench **T20** was excavated to a depth of 560mm (57.57mAOD) at the eastern end and to 390mm (57.98mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There had been heavy modern truncation, but four archaeological features were identified (Fig. 6). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.33** Cut **146** (370mm wide and 230mm deep) and Cut **148** (380mm wide and 200mm deep) might form part of the same shallow gully (Fig. 7, Sections 1 and 2), running broadly from south-west to north-east. The fills were both light brownish grey silty clays (Contexts **147** and **149** respectively). A single struck flint was recovered from Context **149**, but no firmly datable material was recovered from the gully as a whole.
- 4.34** Cut **150** appeared to be a length of 40mm wide, 160mm deep round-bottomed gully running from east to west (Fig 7, Section 3). The fill was a light brownish grey silty clay (Context **151**). The other feature was Cut **152**, a 900mm wide, <10mm deep possible pit or natural depression (Fig 7, Section 4). The fill was mid-greyish brown silty clay (Context **153**). No datable artefacts were recovered from either of the features.
- 4.35** Trench **T21** was excavated to a depth of 400mm (57.86mAOD) at the southern end and to 360mm (57.77mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three sections were excavated through a feature/features of uncertain extent (Fig. 7). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.36** It was possible to excavate a section across the full width of the apparently curvilinear feature. Cut **192** was 2.9m wide and 650mm deep (Fig 7, Section 5). The fill was a dark grey silty clay (Context **193**). The other two sections excavated in the trench may represent other parts of the same ditch, but were given separate context numbers as this was far from certain (Fig 7, Sections 6 and 7). Cuts **194** and **197** contained main fills similar in colour and texture to Context **193** (Contexts **195** and **198** respectively). There was also a more gravelly context at the base of Cut **194** (Context **196**). Pottery dating from the 3rd to 4th century AD was recovered from Contexts **193**, **195** and **198**. Two sherds of apparently intrusive Medieval pottery were recovered from Context **196**.
- 4.37** Trench **T22** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (57.94mAOD) at the eastern end and to 460mm (58.07mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was
-

encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Five archaeological features were identified (Fig. 8). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

- 4.38** The easternmost feature was an undated flat-bottomed gully (Cut **136**), which ran north to south across the trench. It was 350mm wide and 120mm deep (Fig 8, Section 1). Further to the west, two of the remaining features contained Iron Age pottery. Cut **105** was a 500mm wide, 230mm deep 'u' shaped gully (Fig. 8, Section 2), which ran parallel to Cut **136**. The fill was an orangey grey clayey silt (Context **106**). The other datable feature was Cut **107**, an 800mm wide, 100mm deep possible pit or ditch terminal (Fig 8, Section 3). A substantial assemblage of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the orangey grey clayey silt fill (Context **108**), and a sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential.
- 4.39** Cut **107** truncated an earlier, but otherwise undated feature, Cut **117**, which ran broadly north to south across the trench but on a slightly different orientation to Cuts **136** and **105**. Cut **117** was 400mm wide and 380mm deep with a 'v' shaped profile (Fig. 8, Section 3). The fill was an orangey grey clayey silt (Context **118**). The other feature, Cut **134**, was an undated post-hole, with a diameter of 520mm and a depth of 130mm (Fig 8, Section 4). The fill was an orangey grey silty clay (Context **135**).
- 4.40** Trench **T23** was excavated to a depth of 430mm (58.07mAOD) at the southern end and to 440mm (58.07mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Seven archaeological features were identified of which five were excavated (Fig. 8). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.41** There were two intercutting, broadly flat-bottomed gullies at the northern end of the trench, and both running from north-west to south-east across it. Cut **91** lay partially under the northern baulk and was 110mm deep (Fig 8, Section 5). Fired clay and fire-cracked flint were recovered from the light greyish brown silty clay fill (Context **92**). It was truncated by Cut **84**, an 800mm wide, 200mm deep gully (Fig. 8, Section 5). No dating evidence was recovered from the light brownish grey silty clay fill (Context **83**). A sample was taken for the recovery of datable evidence, but produced only fire-cracked flint.
- 4.42** None of the other features in the trench produced any dating evidence. Cut **103** was a 400mm wide, 90mm deep flat-bottomed gully, which ran broadly east to west and terminated in the trench (Fig 8, Section 6). The fill was a yellowish brown sandy clay (Context **104**). Cut **111** was a flat-bottomed gully that ran east to west across the trench. It was 370mm wide and 90mm deep (Fig. 8, Section 7). The fill was a greyish brown silty clay (Context **112**).
- 4.43** The other excavated feature was Cut **113**. It lay partially under the western baulk of the trench, and was of uncertain extent and shape, but 100mm deep (Fig. 8, Section 8). The fill was a mauve brown silty clay with a high concentration of manganese oxide (Context **114**), suggesting that the feature

may have been geological in origin. The unexcavated features were small post-holes/stake holes (Cuts 115 and 116) (Fig. 8).

- 4.44** Trench **T24** was excavated to a depth of 410mm (58.17mAOD) at the eastern end and to 330mm (58.10mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Four archaeological features were identified (Fig. 9). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.45** Cut **101** was a 500mm wide, 100mm deep flat-bottomed gully that ran north-west to south-east across the trench (Fig. 9, Section 1). The fill was an orangey grey silty clay (Context 102). Another gully, Cut **95** ran on a slightly different orientation across the trench before terminating. It was 380mm wide and 130mm deep with a flattened 'v' shaped profile (Fig. 9, Section 2). The fill was an orangey grey silty clay (Context 96).
- 4.46** The other two features were shallow post-holes. Cut **99** had a diameter of 440mm and a depth of 50mm (Fig 9, Section 3). The other was Cut **97**, which had a diameter of 280mm and a depth of 70mm (Fig. 9, Section 4). Both of the fills were orangey grey silty clays (Contexts **100** and **98** respectively). No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features in the trench, although a fragment of iron-working slag was recovered from Context **98**.
- 4.47** Trench **T25** was excavated to a depth of 240mm (58.16mAOD) at the southern end and to 290mm (58.16mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.48** Trench **T26** was excavated to a depth of 570mm (58.24mAOD) at the southern end and to 460mm (58.26mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.49** Trench **T27** was excavated to a depth of 500mm (58.07mAOD) at the eastern end and to 280mm (58.35mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Two archaeological features were identified (Fig. 9). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 4.50** Cut **85** was a slightly curving 'u' shaped gully that ran north to south across the trench. It was 450mm wide and 200mm deep (Fig. 9, Section 5). The fill was an orangey grey clayey silt (Context **86**). The other feature was a flat-bottomed gully, Cut **87**, which ran on a broadly similar alignment and terminated in the trench. It was 670mm wide and 220mm deep (Fig. 9, Section 6). The fill was a light greyish orange silty clay (Context **88**). No datable artefacts were recovered from either of the features.
- 4.51** Trench **T28** was excavated to a depth of 460mm (58.29mAOD) at the southern end and to 730mm (58.15mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological

features were identified (Fig. 9). A fragment of brick was recovered from the overburden.

- 4.52** Cut 124 was a substantial pit with a diameter of 1.2m and a depth of 360mm (Fig. 9, Section 7). No datable artefacts were recovered from the orangey grey silty clay fill (Context 125). Three linear features ran across the trench from south-west to north-east at the northern end (Fig. 9). Cut 122 was a 320mm wide, 180mm deep 'u' shaped gully (Fig. 9, Section 8). Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the light brownish grey fill (Context 123).
- 4.53** The other feature was a ditch, Cut 119, the exact dimensions of which could not be ascertained with certainty. It was at least 1.5m and at least 500mm deep (Fig. 9, Section 9). There were two fills, Context 120, a grey silty clay, and Context 121, a light greyish brown silty clay. It is possible that Context 121 represents the slight remains of a ditch truncated/recut by Context 120. An assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery and fire-cracked flint was recovered from Context 120.
- 4.54** Trench T29 was excavated to a depth of 430mm (58.30mAOD) at the eastern end and to 640mm (58.21mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and one sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.55** Trench T30 was excavated to a depth of 660mm (58.08mAOD) at the eastern end and to 290mm (58.53mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. One archaeological feature was identified (Fig. 10). Cut 77 was an 800mm wide, 110mm deep flat-bottomed gully, which ran from south-west to north-east across the trench (Fig. 10, Section 1). No artefacts were recovered from the bluish grey silty clay fill (Context 78). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.56** Trench T31 was excavated to a depth of 370mm (58.26mAOD) at the southern end and to 560mm (58.31mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified (Fig. 10). One fragment of fired clay was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.57** Two shallow, flat-bottomed ditches ran from south-east to north-west across the trench. Cut 93 was 1.0m wide and 100mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 2). The fill was a reddish grey silty clay (Context 94). It truncated an earlier ditch, Cut 89, which was >1.2m wide and 200mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 2). The fill was a pinkish grey silty clay (Context 90).
- 4.58** Cut 93 was truncated by a flat-bottomed ditch, which ran from south-west to north-east across the trench. Cut 109 was 800mm wide and 300mm deep (Fig.

10, Section 3). The fill was a grey silty clay (Context 110). No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features in the trench.

- 4.59** Trench T32 was excavated to a depth of 450mm (58.67mAOD) at the southern end and to 340mm (58.67mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Two archaeological features were identified (Fig. 10). A fragment of brick was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.60** Cut 75 was a substantial ditch that ran from east to west across the trench. It was 1.9m wide and 360mm deep (Fig 10, Section 4). Post-medieval material was recovered from the bluish grey silty clay fill (Context 76). A undated gully ran parallel to it. Cut 81 was flat-bottomed and 420mm wide and 80mm deep (Fig 10, Section 5). The fill was a bluish orange silty clay (Context 82).
- 4.61** Trench T33 was excavated to a depth of 540mm (58.31mAOD) at the eastern end and to 580mm (58.66mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There were problems with flooding of the trench, but no archaeological features were observed and one small piece of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.62** Trench T34 was excavated to a depth of 370mm (58.93mAOD) at the southern end and to 360mm (58.82mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There were problems with flooding but no archaeological features were observed although post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.63** Trench T35 was excavated to a depth of 390mm (58.69mAOD) at the eastern end and to 660mm (58.68mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There were problems with flooding, but no archaeological features were observed although a group of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.64** Trench T36 was excavated to a depth of 630mm (58.67mAOD) at the southern end and to 390mm (59.03mAOD) end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There were problems with flooding, but a number of post-medieval features were identified (Cuts 71, 73 and 74) although none were excavated (Fig. 10). Post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden and from the surface of Cut 71, from a brownish grey silty clay deposit (Context 72).

5.0 RESULTS: AREA B (Fig. 2)

- 5.1** The field designated as *Area B* was located in the western half of the site immediately to the east of Beech Hill Road. The area was under pasture with a slight slope upwards towards Beech Hill Road, which appeared to be more pronounced at the north-western corner of the site. Thirty-six evaluation

trenches, each of 20m in length, were located in *Area B*. After recording, all of the trenches were mechanically backfilled and compacted.

- 5.2** Trench **T37** was excavated to a depth of 460mm (57.83mAOD) at the eastern end and to 300mm (58.51mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified (Fig. 11). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.3** Cut **39** was a 570mm wide, 320mm deep 'v' shaped gully, which ran broadly south-west to north-east across the trench (Fig. 11, Section 1). Pottery of probable Early Iron Age date was recovered from the orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **40**). A wider flat-bottomed ditch, Cut **35**, ran south to north across the trench at the eastern end. It was 2.4m wide and 190mm wide (Fig. 11, Section 2). An assemblage of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material was recovered from the orangey grey clayey silt fill (Context **36**).
- 5.4** The ditch **35** was truncated by a pit with a diameter of 600mm and a depth of 270mm, Cut **37** (Fig. 11, Section 3). Late Iron Age material was recovered from the light grey clayey silt fill (Context **38**). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential. The pit **37** truncated a ditch of uncertain extent and date exposed against the northern baulk of the trench (Cut **42**). This feature was not recorded in section, and in turn truncated the ditch Cut **35**. The fill was a greyish orange clayey silt (Context **43**).
- 5.5** Trench **T38** was excavated to a depth of 430mm (58.27mAOD) at the eastern end and to 360mm (58.56mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Three archaeological features were identified (Fig. 11). Artefacts were also recovered from the overburden.
- 5.6** Cut **52** was a substantial ditch running east to west across the trench. It was 1.5m wide and 400mm deep with a flat bottom (Fig. 11, Section 4). One sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the dark grey silty clay fill (Context **53**). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential. At the opposite end of the trench there were two intercutting features, apparently on a similar alignment.
- 5.7** Cut **46** was a 1.8m wide, 630mm deep ditch with an irregular profile (Fig. 11, Section 5). The main fill was an orangey grey silty clay (Context **47**), with a patch of light greyish orange material (Context **49**). The ditch truncated a shallow gully, Cut **4**. This was 330mm deep with two distinct fills (Fig. 11, Section 5). The uppermost, Context **5** was a brownish grey silty clay from which a sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential. The lower fill was Context **48**, a light grey silty clay. Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material was recovered from both of the features (from Contexts **5**, **47** and **48**).
- 5.8** Trench **T39** was excavated to a depth of 460mm (58.23mAOD) at the southern end and to 390mm (59.03mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Two archaeological

features were identified (Fig. 11). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.

- 5.9** Cut 21 was a 560mm wide, 80mm deep flat-bottomed gully that ran east to west across the trench (Fig. 11, Section 6). A piece of iron-working slag was recovered from the dark orangey grey silty clay fill (Context 22). The other feature was a substantial pit, Cut 8, which had a diameter of 2.8m and a depth of 600mm (Fig. 11, Section 7). An assemblage of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material was recovered from the light orangey grey fill (Context 9). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential.
- 5.10** Trench T40 was excavated to a depth of 600mm (58.90mAOD) at the eastern end and to 660mm (59.57mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A complex group of archaeological features was identified of which four were excavated and recorded (Fig. 12). Artefacts were also recovered from the overburden.
- 5.11** A pair of intercutting gullies ran south-east to north-west across the trench. Cut 6 was a 900mm wide, 120mm deep flat-bottomed gully (Fig. 11, Section 1). Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the light greyish brown silty clay fill (Context 7). It truncated a 120mm deep flat-bottomed gully (Cut 2) (Fig. 11, Section 1). Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the mid-greyish brown silty clay fill (Context 3). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential.
- 5.12** Cut 10 was a 400mm wide, 50mm deep gully that ran north to south across the trench from south to north (Fig. 11, Section 2). The fill was light greyish brown silty clay (Context 11). It was truncated by two intercutting post-holes (Fig. 11, Section 3). Cut 12 had a diameter of 250mm and a depth of 100mm. The fill was a light greyish brown silty clay (Context 13). It truncated Cut 14, which was 150mm in diameter and 40mm deep (Fig. 11, Section 3). The fill was an orangey brown silty clay (Context 15). No datable artefacts were recovered from any of these features, although a piece of burnt clay came from Context 15.
- 5.13** The other excavated feature was a further post-hole, Cut 16. It had a diameter of 200mm and a depth of 130mm (Fig. 12, Section 4). No datable artefacts were recovered from the mid-greyish brown silty clay fill (Context 17). Three small post-holes/stakeholes were left unexcavated (Cuts 18, 19 and 20) (Fig. 12). The other unexcavated features were more irregular in plan (Cuts 29, 30 and 31) (Fig. 12). Hand cleaning of Cut 25 produced a small piece of iron-working slag from a mid-greyish brown deposit (Context 26).
- 5.14** Similar hand cleaning of the surface of Cut 23 resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Late Iron Age to Romano-British material, from the visible mid-greyish brown deposit (Context 24) (Fig. 12). A section was excavated through this ditch in Trench T44 (Cut 27).

-
- 5.15** Trench **T41** was excavated to a depth of 430mm (59.47mAOD) at the southern end and to 420mm (59.68mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.16** Trench **T42** was excavated to a depth of 500mm (58.52mAOD) at the eastern end and to 520mm (59.02mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and one piece of struck flint was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.17** Trench **T43** was excavated to a depth of 590mm (59.04mAOD) at the southern end and to 630mm (59.43mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. A group of archaeological features was identified, of which five were excavated and recorded (Fig. 12). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.18** Cut **50** was a ditch, which ran east to west across the trench. It was 1.5m wide and 560mm deep with a flattened 'v' shape in profile (Fig. 12, Section 5). Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material was recovered from the orangey grey silty clay fill (Context **51**). A sample was taken for analysis of environmental potential.
- 5.19** Ditch **50** truncated a small pit or ditch terminal (Cut **60**), which ran under the western baulk of the trench. It was 700mm wide and 170mm deep (Fig. 12, Section 5). A small piece of struck flint was recovered from the orangey grey fill (Context **59**). Cut **69** was a flat-bottomed gully that ran east to west across the trench before being truncated by an unexcavated ditch (Cut **65**) (Fig. 12). Cut **69** was 500mm in length and 90mm deep (Fig. 12, Section 6). No datable artefacts were recovered from the orangey grey sandy silt fill (Context **70**). The unexcavated ?pit, Cut **67** was also truncated by Cut **65** (Fig. 12).
- 5.20** The other excavated features were a pair of elongated post-holes (Fig. 12). Cut **61** had a diameter of 300mm and a depth of 140mm (Fig. 12, Section 7). A small quantity of fired clay was recovered from the orangey grey clayey silt fill (Context **62**). It truncated Cut **63**, which was 90mm deep (Fig. 12, Section 7). No datable artefacts were recovered from the orangey grey clayey silt fill (Context **64**).
- 5.21** Trench **T44** was excavated to a depth of 580mm (59.15mAOD) at the eastern end and to 570mm (59.80mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Two archaeological features were identified (Fig. 13). No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.22** Cut **27** was a 2.6m wide, 680mm deep ditch that ran across the trench from south to north. There were three distinct fills (Fig. 13, Section 1). The uppermost was Context **28**, a dark grey silty clay from which an assemblage of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material was recovered. A sample was

taken for analysis of environmental potential. Underlying this was Context 34, which was a dark orange silty clay from which Early Romano-British material was recovered. Context 41 was similar in colour and texture, and contained fire-cracked flint. The other feature was Cut 54, an undated post-hole which had a diameter of 350mm and a depth of 60mm (Fig. 13, Section 2). The fill was a bluish grey silty clay (Context 55).

- 5.23** Trench T45 was excavated to a depth of 480mm (59.76mAOD) at the southern end and to 430mm (60.04mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. One archaeological feature was identified. Cut 32 was a 1m wide, 450mm deep 'v' shaped ditch (Fig 13, Section 3). Early Roman-British pottery was recovered from the brownish grey silty clay fill (Context 33). Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.24** No archaeological features were encountered in the remaining evaluation trenches excavated at the site, which are described in full below.
- 5.25** Trench T46 was excavated to a depth of 350mm (59.77mAOD) at the eastern end and to 420mm (60.26mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.26** Trench T47 was excavated to a depth of 390mm (59.25mAOD) at the southern end and to 420mm (59.80mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.27** Trench T48 was excavated to a depth of 480mm (59.71mAOD) at the eastern end and to 480mm (60.04mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.28** Trench T49 was excavated to a depth of 550mm (59.93mAOD) at the southern end and to 450mm (60.23mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material and fire-cracked flint were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.29** Trench T50 was excavated to a depth of 500mm (60.03mAOD) at the eastern end and to 550mm (60.46mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.30** Trench T51 was excavated to a depth of 470mm (60.27mAOD) at the southern end and to 560mm (60.42mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.

- 5.31** Trench **T52** was excavated to a depth of 690mm (59.68mAOD) at the southern end and to 550mm (60.27mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.32** Trench **T53** was excavated to a depth of 440mm (60.06mAOD) at the southern end and to 400mm (60.31mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.33** Trench **T54** was excavated to a depth of 550mm (60.10mAOD) at the eastern end and to 620mm (60.67mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.34** Trench **T55** was excavated to a depth of 470mm (59.02mAOD) at the southern end and to 290mm (59.33mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. There was a strong petrochemical smell and evidence of blue staining to the surface of the 'natural' and the trench was not closely investigated on grounds of safety. Hence, no archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.35** Trench **T56** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (59.91mAOD) at the eastern end and to 600mm (60.34mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.36** Trench **T57** was excavated to a depth of 360mm (60.52mAOD) at the southern end and to 480mm (60.83mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.37** Trench **T58** was excavated to a depth of 230mm (59.99mAOD) at the eastern end and to 350mm (60.07mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and a piece of post-medieval glass was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.38** Trench **T59** was excavated to a depth of 320mm (59.88mAOD) at the southern end and to 460mm (59.60mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

-
- 5.39** Trench **T60** was excavated to a depth of 340mm (59.43mAOD) at the eastern end and to 310mm (60.31mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.40** Trench **T61** was excavated to a depth of 490mm (59.81mAOD) at the southern end and to 490mm (60.32mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.41** Trench **T62** was excavated to a depth of 410mm (60.23mAOD) at the eastern end and to 480mm (60.67mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and fragments of post-medieval brick and ironwork were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.42** Trench **T63** was excavated to a depth of 260mm (60.75mAOD) at the southern end and to 470mm (60.61mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.43** Trench **T64** was excavated to a depth of 280mm (60.37mAOD) at the southern end and to 400mm (60.12mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.44** Trench **T65** was excavated to a depth of 370mm (59.84mAOD) at the eastern end and to 370mm (60.49mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.45** Trench **T66** was excavated to a depth of 440mm (60.26mAOD) at the southern end and to 210mm (60.75mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.46** Trench **T67** was excavated to a depth of 260mm (60.59mAOD) at the eastern end and to 420mm (60.86mOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.47** Trench **T68** was excavated to a depth of 260mm (60.53mOD) at the eastern end and to 290mm (61.03mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
-

-
- 5.48** Trench **T69** was excavated to a depth of 310mm (60.83mAOD) at the southern end and to 390mm (61.00mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.49** Trench **T70** was excavated to a depth of 700mm (60.83mAOD) at the eastern end and to 410mm (61.20mAOD) at the western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.50** Trench **T71** was excavated to a depth of 450mm (61.00mAOD) at the southern end and to 350mm (61.26mAOD) at the northern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.51** Trench **T72** was excavated to a depth of 460mm (59.81mAOD) at the south-eastern end and to 410mm (60.21mAOD) at the north-western end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. No archaeological features were observed and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.

- 6.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Luke Barber (incorporating comments by Malcolm Lyne).
- 6.1** The evaluation produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery (Table 1). On the whole the assemblage is in good condition with sherds exhibiting fresh edges suggesting they have not in the main been subjected to repeated redeposition. Sherd size varies from small to large.
- 6.2** The earliest pottery from the site consists of a few sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date. These are dominated by wares tempered with chalk, sand, organics and alluvial grits and occasionally glauconitic sand. The vast majority of the pottery from the site is of Late Iron Age to very early Roman (probably 0/20 – 60 AD) though most could be placed in a pre-conquest bracket. Flint, grog and flint and flint and iron oxide tempered wares dominate though sand tempered wares are also present. Most vessels appear to be quite crude jars and heavy storage jars with simple bead or out-turned rims of Silchester types, however, other vessels are present too. There are sherds from a copy of a Gallo-Belgic platter in black sand tempered ware (Context 36) and abraded ?Terra Rubra sherds from Contexts 5 and 58.
- 6.3** There is a notable gap in the evaluation ceramic sequence between the mid/late 1st century and the 3rd century. There are a number of small groups of 3rd- to 4th- century material. These consist of late Alice Holt and Thames Valley wares as well as other sandy wares. In addition there are a few sherds of Oxfordshire red colour coat (a Dr 38 bowl copy) from Context 193. The late Roman material is present in smaller quantities than the Late Iron Age material and is slightly more abraded on the whole. Although there are four sherds of fine sand tempered possible Early Anglo-Saxon material (Context 143) it is not until the later Medieval period that more activity is suggested by the ceramics.
- 6.4** There are a number of small groups of probable 14th- century date, which contain cooking pots and jugs in Surrey whitewares and other local sand tempered fabrics (Context 185). Although these sherds are large, they are often abraded, or at least adversely affected by the acidic ground conditions. The latest material from the site consists of a spread of post-medieval sherds from the overburden/unstratified deposits. These include glazed red earthenwares, Borderware, slipware, English stoneware and china and probably relate to manuring during the 17th to 19th centuries.

Archaeology South-East
Spencer's Wood, Berkshire.

Context	Pottery No/g	CBM No/g	B. Clay No/g	FCF No/g	Other No/g	Spot Date
T6 us	1/16				C pipe 1/6	-
T10 us	1/21					-
T11 us	1/24	1/122		1/26	Glass 1/6	-
T15 us	1/24	2/96				-
T16 us	2/50					-
T17 us	1/6			1/64		-
T28 us		1/152				-
T29 us	1/9					-
T30 us	1/6					-
T31 us			1/22			-
T32 us		1/50				-
T33 us				1/36		-
T34 us	1/8	1/48			Glass 1/8	-
T35 us	12/800					-
T36 us	1/36	2/1126	6/408			-
T38 us	3/112	1/518				-
T39 us	1/54				Flint 1/38	-
T40 us	4/61	1/8		1/28		-
T41 us					Flint 1/168 Glass 1/10	-
T42 us					Flint 1/8	-
T45 us	3/174					-
T46 us	1/40				Glass 1/6	-
T48 us	2/60					-
T49 us				1/34	Flint 1/90 Glass 1/12	-
T51 us	2/12					-
T52 us	2/25					-
T54 us	1/6					-
T57 us	1/6			1/16		-
T58 us					Glass 1/94	-
T61 us	1/8					-
T62 us		2/96			Iron 1/34	-
T68 us	1/13				Glass 1/8	-
T70 us	1/22					-
T72 us	2/1				Glass 1/14	-
3	30/286			52/1882		LIA to early RB
3 + 7	37/164	1/256	2/68			LIA to early RB
5	188/3616		13/942	15/720	Flint 1/10	LIA to early RB
7	2/48					LIA

Archaeology South-East
Spencer's Wood, Berkshire.

Context	Pottery No/g	CBM No/g	B. Clay No/g	FCF No/g	Other No/g	Spot Date
15			1/22			
22					Slag 1/200	
24	21/190			1/6		LIA to early RB
26					Slag 1/8	
28	150/1556		3/210	2/142	Stone 2/40 Flint 1/56	LIA to early RB
33	4/10					Early RB
34	17/210			5/250		Early RB
36	15/244		11/742	6/454	Stone 2/1142	LIA to early RB
38	1/36	1/864	11/232		Charcoal 1/22	LIA
40	4/48					?MIA
41				2/86		
47	18/128			22/1116	Slag 9/280	LIA to early RB
48	79/935		1/70	35/1718	Flint 1/1 Slag 1/154	LIA – Early RB
51	8/274		1/80	4/608	Flint 1/10	LIA to early RB
53	1/12					LIA
58	2/1					LIA
60					Flint 1/1	
62			6/6			
72		6/1462				Med/PM
76		4/334		1/76	C pipe 1/6	Post-med
92			1/4	1/30		-
98					Slag 1/94	
106	2/146					MIA-LIA
108	65/508					MIA-LIA
120	18/88			22/498		LIA
123	37/508					LIA to early RB
139					Slag 2/10	
141			3/222			
143	4/38		2/234		Bone 2 / 4 Slag 3/643	?early Saxon
149					Flint 1 / 2	
166	41/710	1/22			Slag 13/998	MIA/LIA
172	5/90	10/164				C14th
173	1/20		3 / 4		Flint 1/356 Slag 4/278	C1st

Context	Pottery No/g	CBM No/g	B. Clay No/g	FCF No/g	Other No/g	Spot Date
180	2/32					'medieval'
182	2/24					Late C3rd – 4th
183	10/92				Slag 1/44	Late C3rd – 4th
185	54/466	7/688	3/460		Stone 1/404	C14th
187	36/536		1 / 4		Flint 3/122	C3rd – 4th
193	25/350					Late C3rd – 4th
195	14/168					C3rd – 4th
196	2/30					C14th
198	3/20					?C3rd – 4th

Table 1: Finds Quantification

- 6.5** A small assemblage of tile was recovered from the evaluation. Although a few undiagnostic pieces from Context 3/7 may be of Roman date, most fragments appear to be from Medieval or post-medieval peg tiles. These are either in Medieval contexts or unstratified in the overburden. The assemblage of burnt clay is dominated by amorphous lumps. Some pieces exhibit smoothed surfaces suggesting they are either bits of daub or other artefacts. Indeed, a rectangular 'brick', measuring 175 x 84 x 32mm was recovered from Context 38 and parts of a possible ?triangular loomweight from Context 5. Most burnt clay relates to Late Iron Age deposits though later material is also present.
- 6.6** Only one metal object was recovered: a post-medieval nail from Trench 62 (unstratified). The lack of metalwork is likely to be the result of the acidic ground conditions. A small assemblage of slag was also recovered. The assemblage is mainly composed of natural iron concretion (bog-ore) and iron-working slag undiagnostic of process. The slag appears in contexts of different dates and no large concentrations are apparent.
- 6.7** A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered. The raw material is mainly good quality black downland nodules, often with cortex remaining. Although a number of hard hammer flakes and shattered pieces are present there are also a number of soft hammer flakes, including the remains of two blades (Contexts 48 and 149) suggesting a Mesolithic element is represented in the assemblage. In addition there is a single platform blade core from Context 28 and a retouched flake from Trench 39 (unstratified).
- 6.8** The small assemblage of stone from the site consists mainly of fine-grained sandstones. Two worked pieces are present – fragments of upper (Context 9) and lower (Context 36) stones from rotary querns.
- 6.9** The other categories of find are represented by only very small quantities of material. These include two clay pipe stems (later 17th to early 18th century) and

a small assemblage of late 18th- to early 20th- century glass fragments from unstratified contexts. In addition there is one fragment of burnt bone from Context 143. The lack of bone is undoubtedly due to the acidic nature of the subsoil.

6.10 Fifteen environmental samples were taken during the evaluation. These are listed below in Table 2.

Context No.	Sample Size (litres)	Sub-Sample Size
3	35	14
5	35	14
9	35	14
28	35	14
38	35	14
51	35	14
53	42	21
57	7	7
58	7	7
84	35	14
108	21	7
141	14	7
143	35	14
173	35	14
182	14	7

Table 2: Environmental Samples

6.11 The larger samples were subjected to a sub-sampling policy for the purpose of assessment. A 40 to 50% sub-sample was processed for these samples with a view to processing the remainder of the sample if the results from the sub-sample merited it. In the event none of the sub-samples showed a high potential for environmental/economic remains. The smaller samples (i.e. 7 litres or less) were processed in full for assessment. All samples were processed using bucket flotation. The flot from each sample/ sub-sample was caught on a 250-micron sieve with the residue being retained on a 1mm mesh. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological/environmental interest with the remaining stones etc being discarded. The results of this sorting are given in Table 3 below. The dried flots were also scanned by eye, and with the help of a microscope (x20 magnification) where necessary, to assess the presence/absence and quality of archaeobotanical remains (seeds) and charcoal (Table 3) and thus the potential of the current site for addressing environmental and economic questions regarding the site's occupation.

Context	Date	Modern Roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Residue
3	LIA to early RB	**/**	*** to 12mm	-	Pot 3/4g FCF 10/134g
5	LIA to early RB	***	** to 7mm	* cereal	Pot 5/24g FCF 7/68g B. clay 13/88g Sandstone 1/80g
9	LIA to early RB	***	*/** to 18mm	-	Pot 2/2g FCF 2/48g
28	LIA to early RB	**/**	** to 10mm	* cereal?	-
38	LIA	***	* to 2mm	-	B. clay 3/10g
51	LIA to early RB	**/**	* to 6mm	-	W. flint 1/2g
53	LIA	***	-	-	-
57	LIA	***	* to 2mm	-	FCF 3/48g
58	LIA	**/**	* to 2mm	-	B. clay 25/608g
84	?	**/**	* to 10mm	-	FCF 1/14g
108	MIA - LIA	**	-	-	-
141	?	**/**	* to 4mm	-	-
143	?early Saxon	**/**	* to 2mm	-	FCF 1/2g
173	C1st	**	**/** to 30mm	-	FCF 3/44g Iron concretion 20/182g
182	Late C3rd - 4th	**	* to 8mm	* modern	B. clay 4/25g

Key : - : None * : Very Low ** : Low *** : Moderate **** : High (frequency)
(Wild - non-cultivated plants)

Table 3: Results of Environmental Samples: Flots and Residues

- 6.12** The flots from the samples (Table 3) do not contain large amounts of charcoal and that which is present is generally of a small size and in poor to moderate condition. Without exception the flots appear to contain very few seeds. However, a few cereals are present (Context 5) suggesting that the site does have some potential for holding data on the site's economy. Modern contamination on site from roots etc appears to be moderate to high.
- 6.13** The residues from the samples contain low quantities of pottery and fire-cracked flint but little else of interest. No bone or shell material was evident, however, this is almost certainly the result of acidic ground conditions and cannot be seen to be representative of the site's dietary intake.
- 6.14** The current assemblage of finds and environmental data is considered to hold some potential for further study, particularly if further Stage 2 excavation works uncover further assemblages. At present only the pottery is considered to be worth further analysis and this should be considered if no Stage 2 works occur at the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 An archaeological evaluation by mechanically excavated trenches was shown to be appropriate, and proved that a range of archaeological remains survives at the site. Archaeological deposits including ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes were identified and recorded in thirty-one of the seventy-two trenches.
- 7.2 It should be also noted that it is possible that further archaeological features not detected in the trenches during the evaluation might have 'weathered out' in time. Hence it must be accepted that in an evaluation of this duration, on this type of geology, it is possible that the trenches contained further undetected features.
- 7.3 The recovered finds assemblages suggest a broad date range of activity at the site, potentially starting as early as the Mesolithic, with limited evidence of Middle Iron Age occupation. There were clear indications of occupation in the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period, further Romano-British activity, possible Anglo-Saxon remains, later Medieval material and much evidence of post-medieval utilisation of the site.
- 7.4 There was a clear concentration of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British features in *Area B* corresponding to the part of the site evaluated by Trenches **T37, T38, T39, T40, T43, T44** and **T45** (Fig. 2). The deposits appear to represent the remains of an enclosure or enclosures positioned on higher ground, with the quality and quantity of the finds assemblages and presence of pits and post-holes suggesting domestic activity. This part of the site also produced environmental evidence considered to be of some potential.
- 7.5 Interpretation of the features encountered in *Area A* is more problematic. Again there is clear evidence of land division, but over a longer period of time with assemblages of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British, Medieval and post-medieval material in the ditches and gullies. In addition, the features were encountered over a much wider area (Fig. 2). Trenches with no features were recorded, but most were on the periphery of the evaluated area (e.g. Trenches **T2, T6, T11** and **T16**).
- 7.6 There is perhaps a partially discernible pattern of east to west and south-east to north-west division of the area, but dating evidence was often absent. There are broadly definable patterns with the later Romano-British pottery recovered solely from Trenches **T15** and **T21**, with the Medieval material found for the most part in Trenches **T3, T10** and **T15**. The possible Anglo-Saxon material was limited to a single feature in Trench **T18**. However the Middle to Late Iron Age material was recovered from Trenches **T1, T22** and **T23** offering a less obvious spatial concentration, and this is also true of the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British material from *Area A*, encountered in Trenches **T3** and **T28**. However the large number of undated features is a handicap to any meaningful interpretation.

- 7.7 What can be said with certainty, is that there is clear evidence of post-medieval truncation in the area evaluated by Trenches **T29, T30, T31, T32, T33, T34, T35** and **T36** which corresponds to cartographic evidence of occupation from the eighteenth century.⁴ No features of antiquity were encountered in any of the trenches (in addition Trench **T26** contained no features and those in Trench **T27** remain undated). In addition, as the majority of Trenches excavated in *Area B* contained no significant archaeological deposits, it is clear, based on currently available evidence, that a large portion of the western half of the site as a whole is archaeologically sterile.
- 7.8 However, in conclusion, it should be stated that the evaluation uncovered remains of activity spanning a considerable period. There was clear evidence of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British occupation in *Area B*, and more widespread evidence of activity dating from prehistory through to the post-medieval period in *Area A*. The quantity of features and their character (i.e., ditches and gullies, and also pits and post-holes) suggests that numerous other features survive in the vicinity of the trenches, and are likely to be subject to damage or destruction during the redevelopment of the site.
- 7.9 Figure 14 of this report shows the extent and nature of the proposed residential development at the site. As has already been noted there is a definite area of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British settlement activity concentrated in *Area B*, and centred on trenches **T37-45**. It is suggested that this area of concentrated settlement activity could be further investigated by an open area excavation that takes into account the potential impact and extent of the proposed housing construction, though at the time of writing the depth and nature of foundations is not known. Areas that are designated for landscaping could be excluded from this consideration with archaeology being preserved *in situ*.
- 7.10 Similar considerations could also apply to *Area A*, though here the extent of the suggested area of excavation is more problematical. As has already been noted there is evidence for multi-period activity dispersed over much of this area, with particular concentrations relating to specific periods concentrated in specific areas. The extent of this second potential excavation area could be determined by comparison with the proposed development plan (Fig. 14), with this concentrated on areas where there is likely to be the greatest potential impact on the archaeology such as from housing foundations, but excluded for example from areas proposed for landscaping and other areas where post medieval truncation is known to have already taken place (as with trenches **T29-36**), as well as peripheral areas where no archaeological potential was detected.

⁴ *ibid.* Fig. 4

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

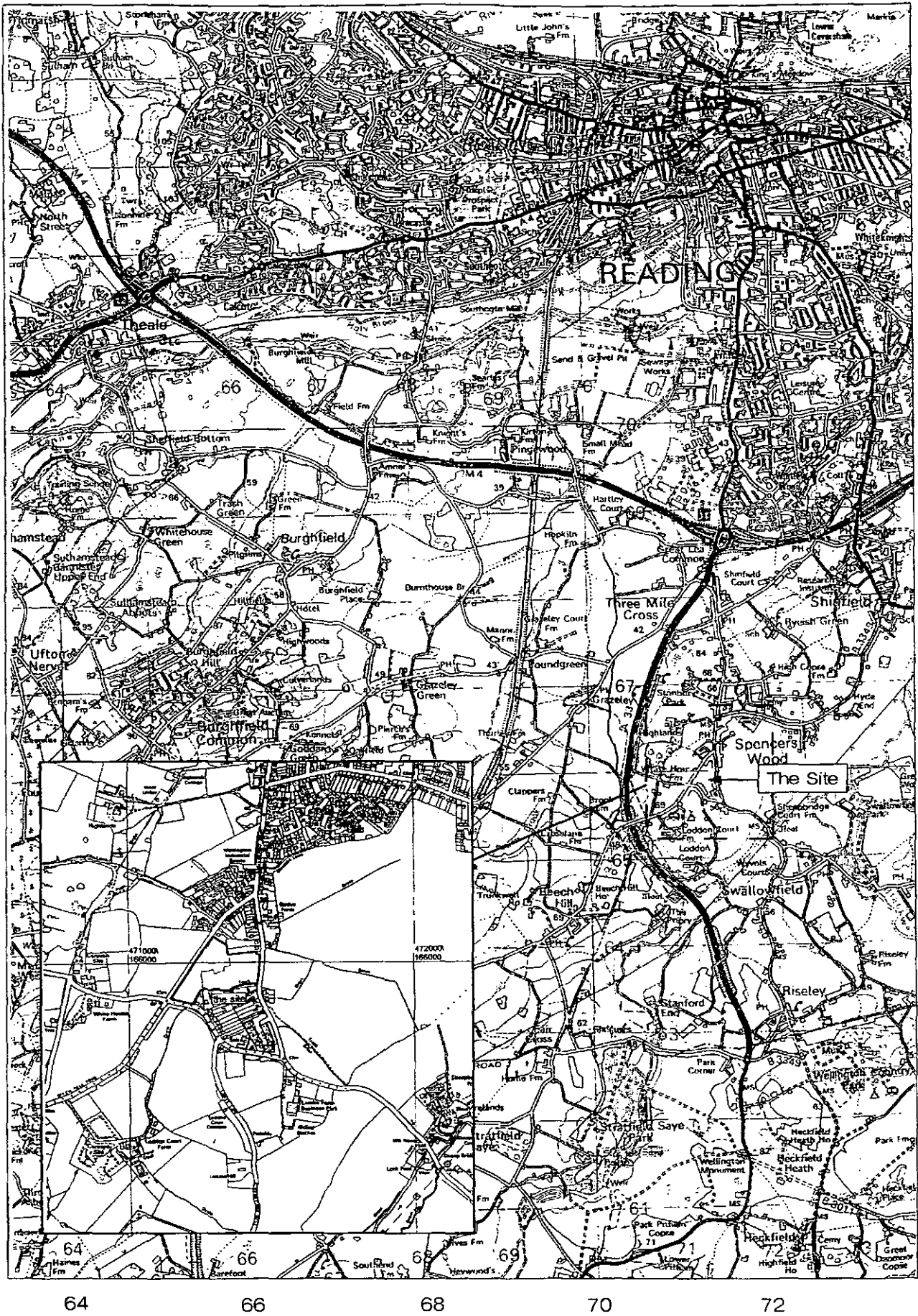
- 8.1** The input of Fiona Macdonald of Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record is gratefully acknowledged.

Archaeology South-East
Spencer's Wood, Berkshire.

SMR Summary Sheet

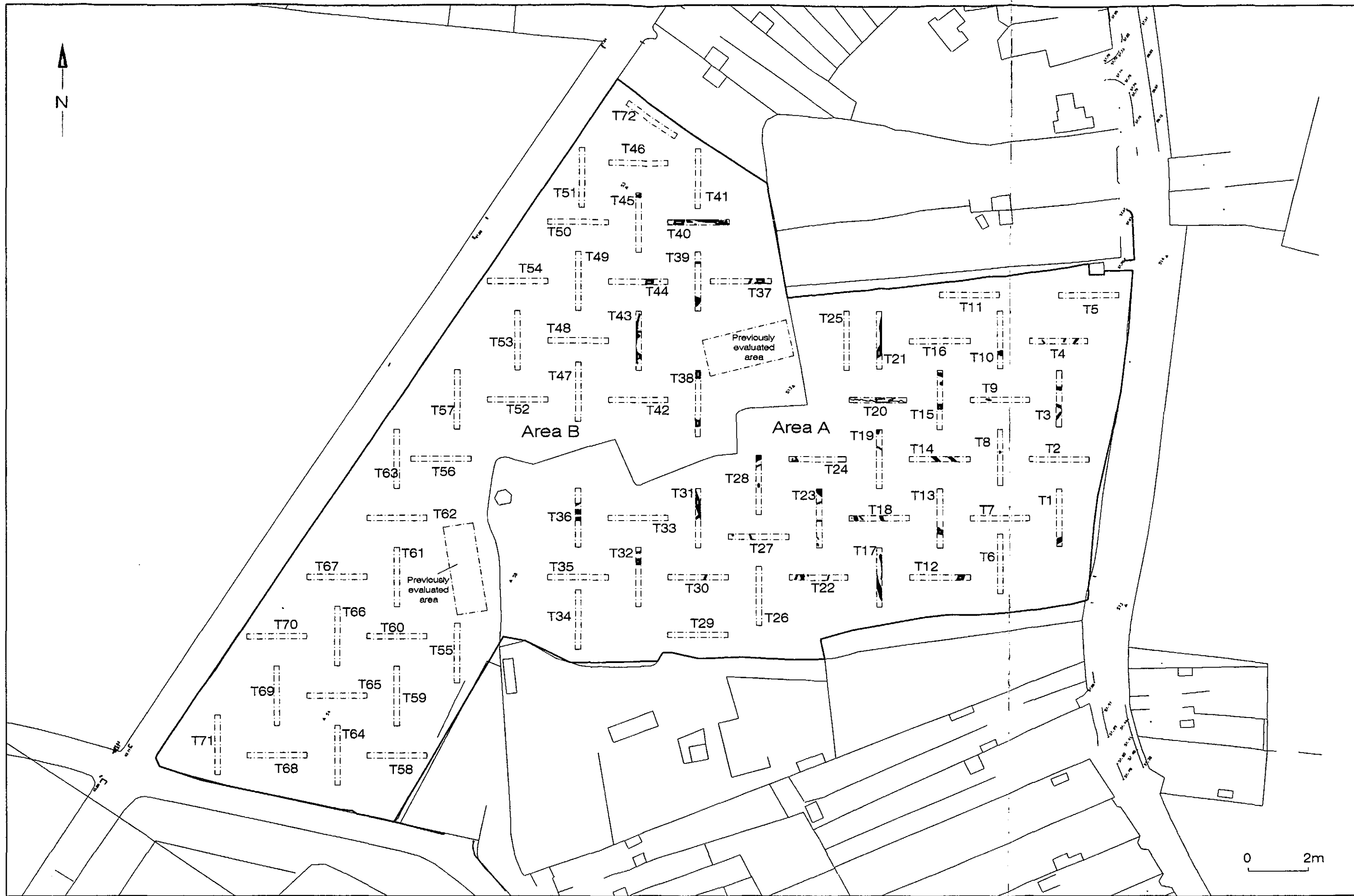
Site Code	SWR 04					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood					
County, District &/or Borough	Wokingham District, Berkshire					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	SU 7135 6598					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	1958					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <input type="checkbox"/>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Nov. 2004 – Dec. 2004	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Bovis Homes					
Project Manager(s)	Neville Hall/Luke Barber					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA <input type="checkbox"/>	RB <input type="checkbox"/>
	AS ? <input type="checkbox"/>	MED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PM <input type="checkbox"/>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Seventy-two evaluation trenches were excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 1440m, providing a 7% sample of the evaluated area. Archaeological deposits including ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes were identified and recorded in thirty-one of trenches. Material ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval period was encountered. The earliest ceramic assemblages were dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age but the majority of pottery was from the Late Iron Age to the Early Romano-British era. There was also evidence of later Romano-British, possible Anglo-Saxon, and Medieval activity. There was some indication of the post-medieval occupation known from cartographic sources.</i></p>						

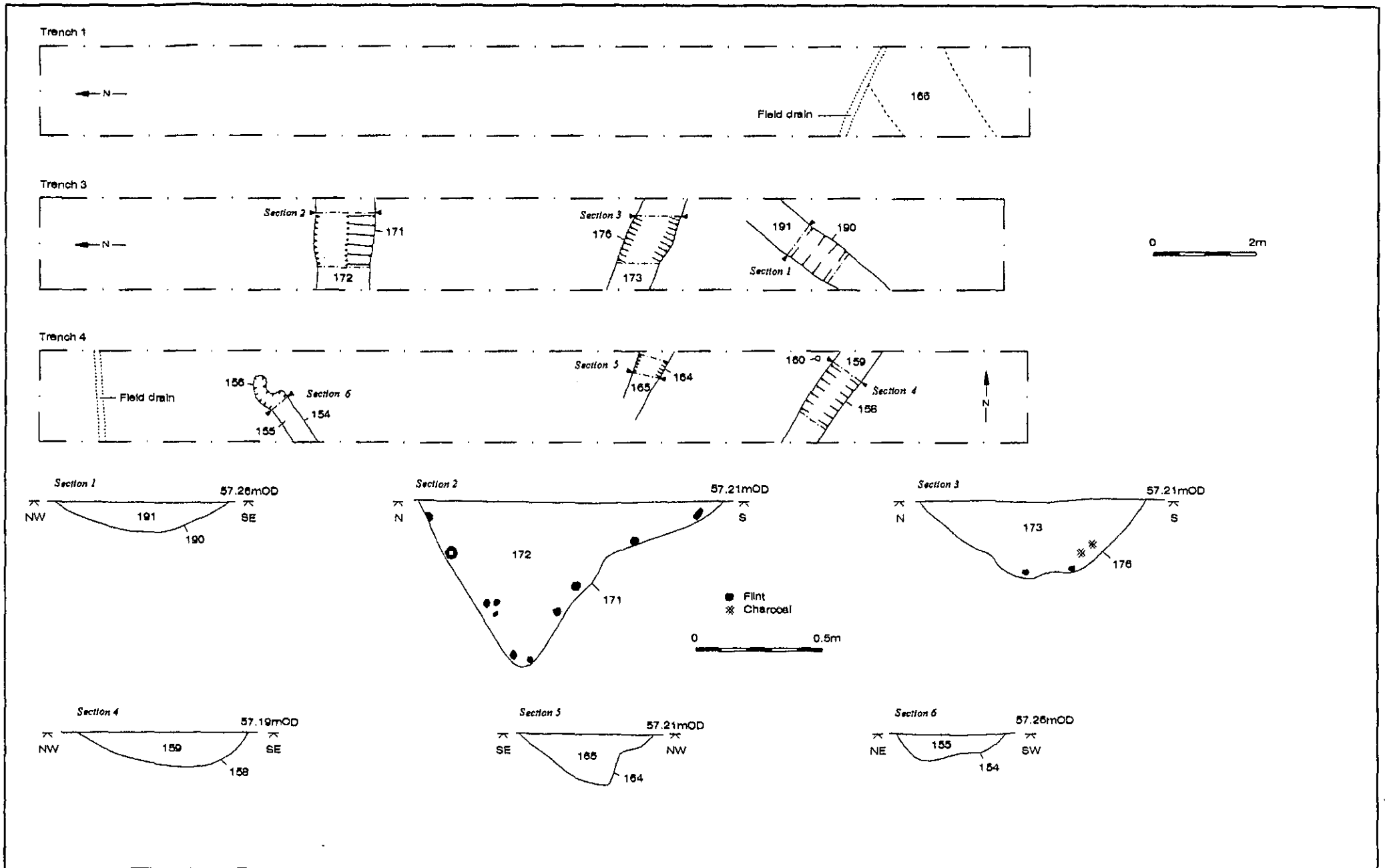
74
72
70
68
66
64
62



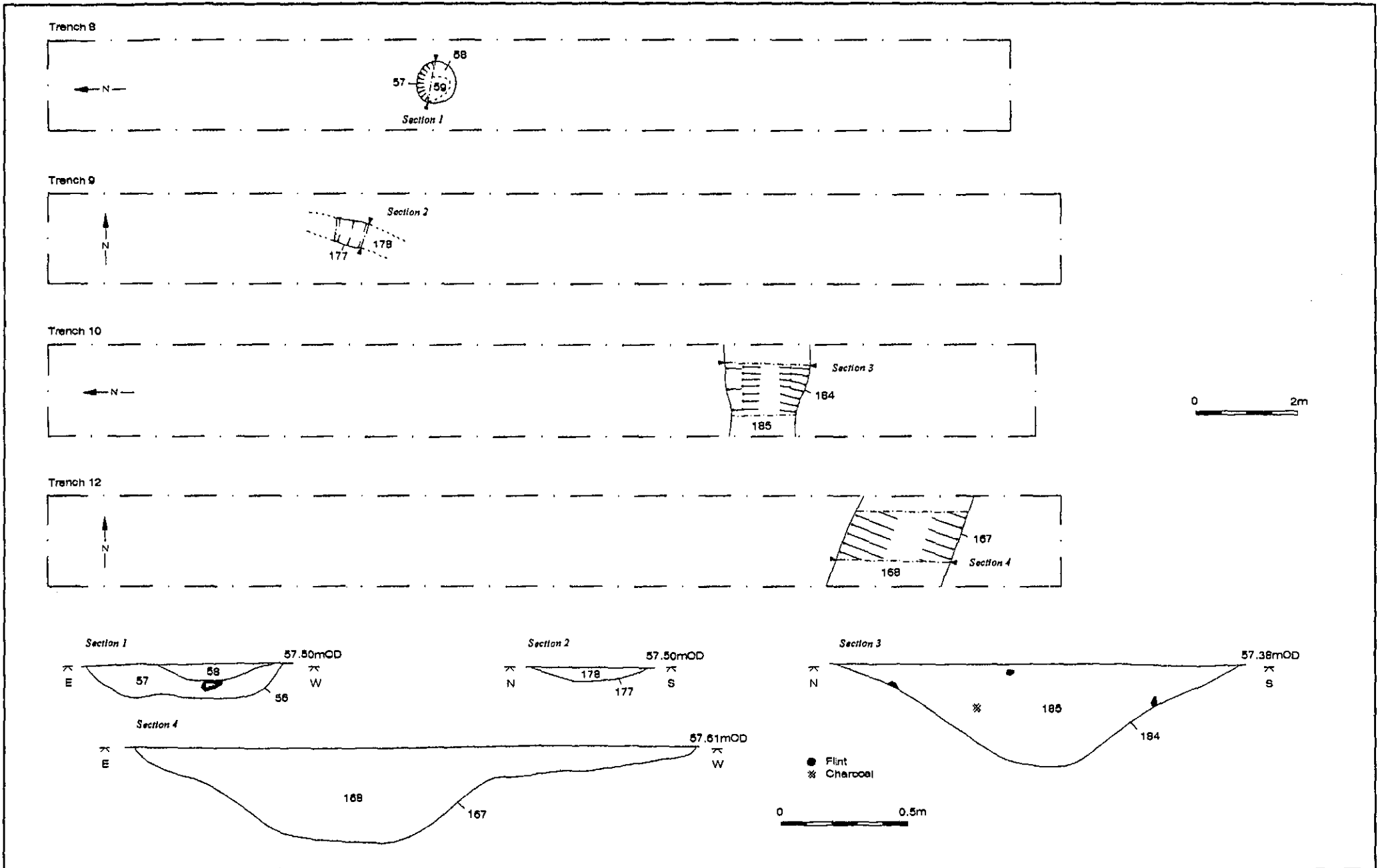
○ ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading		Fig. 1
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Site Location Plan		

Reproduced from the Ordnance Surveys 1:25000 & 1:1250 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

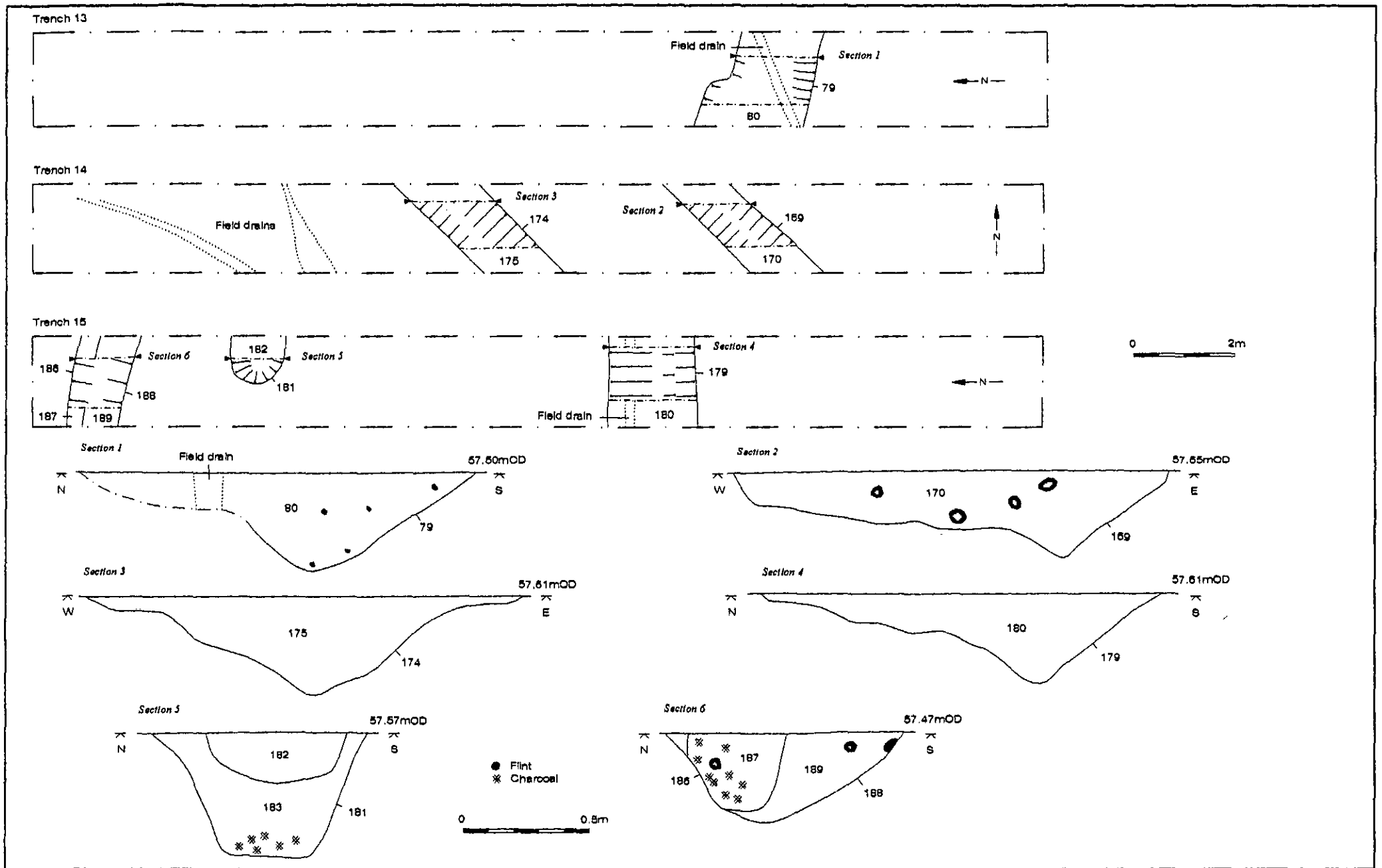




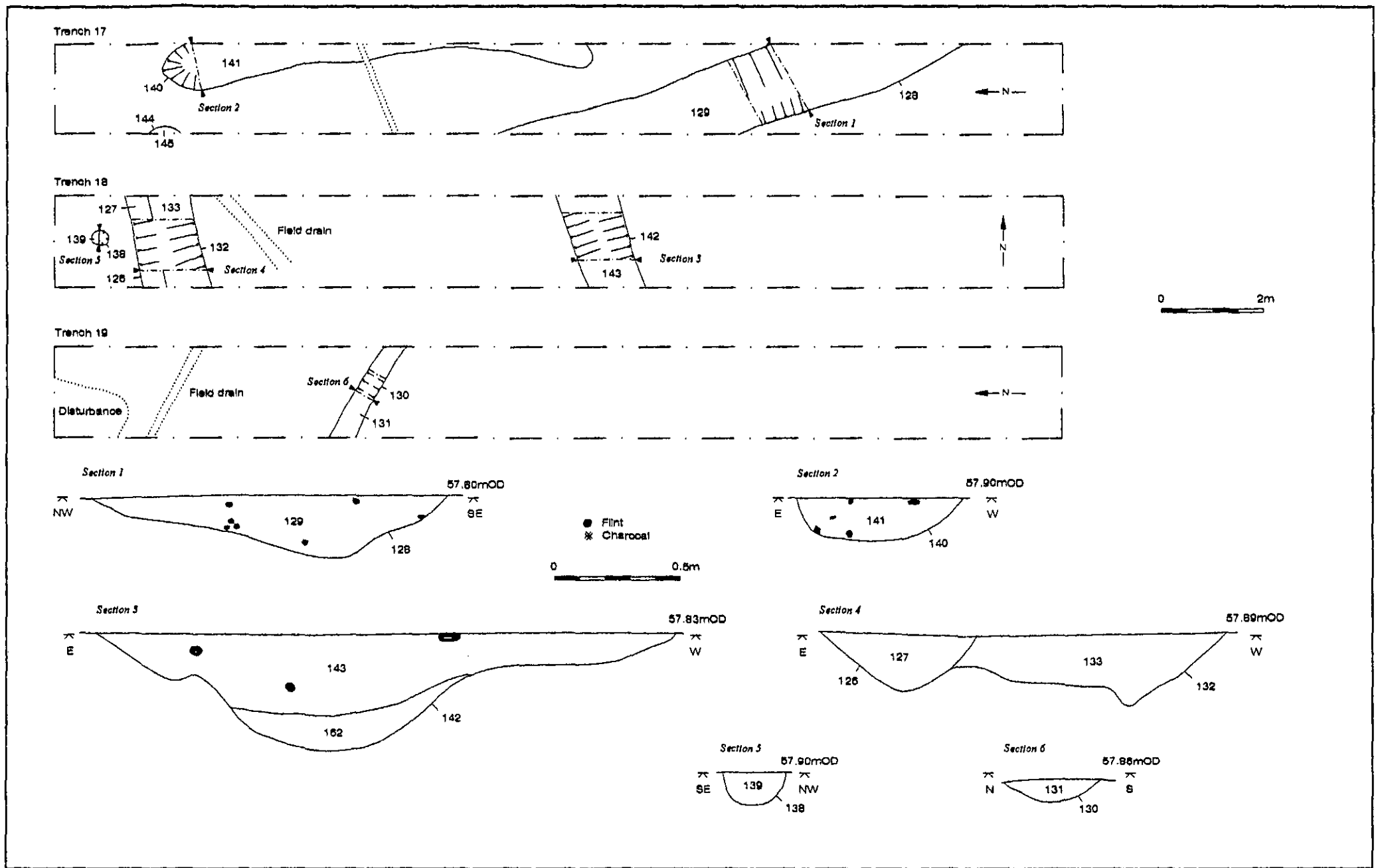
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading		Fig. 3
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 1, 3 and 4: Plans and Sections		



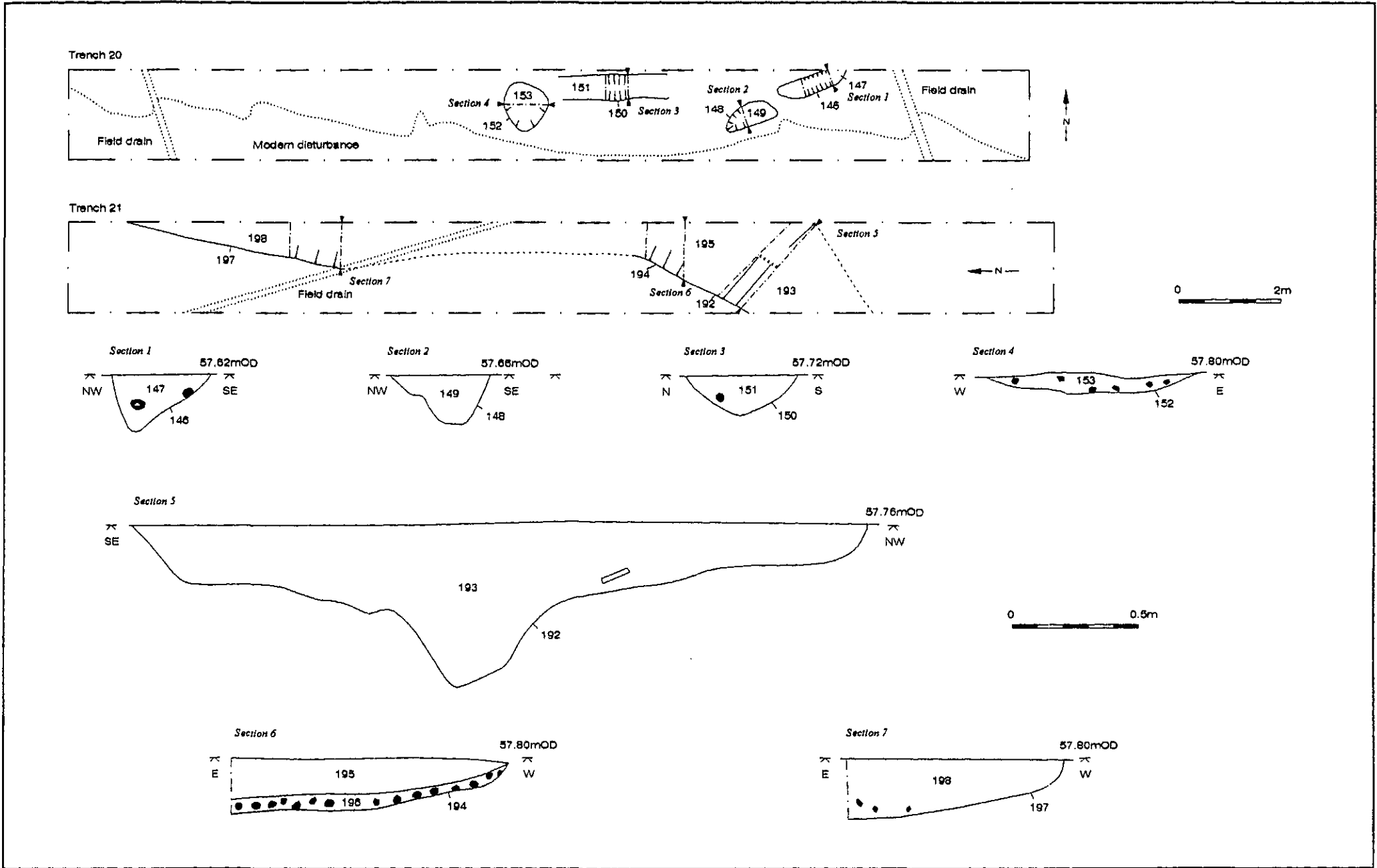
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 4
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 8, 9, 10 and 12: Plans and Sections	



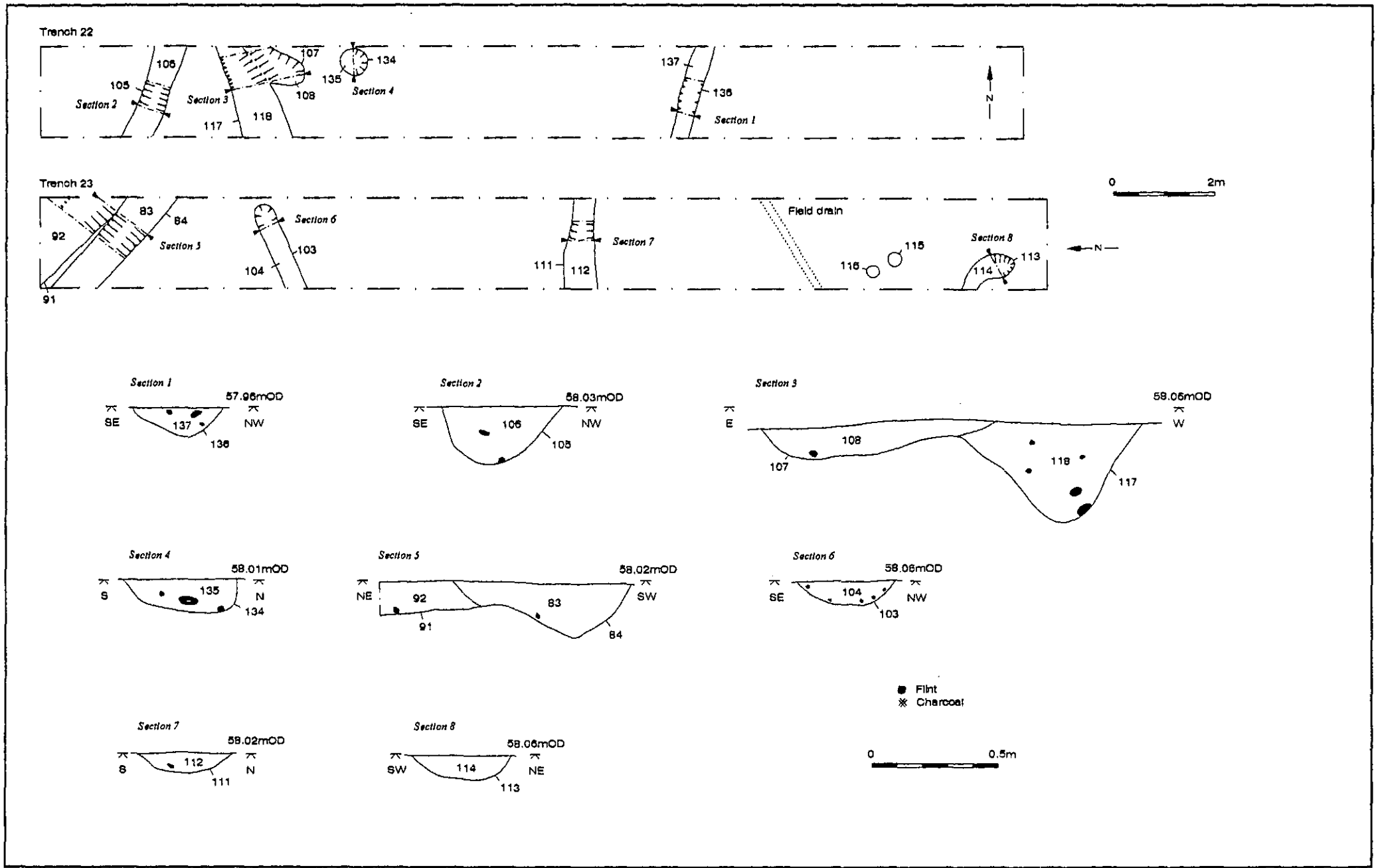
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 5
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 13, 14 and 15: Plans and Sections	



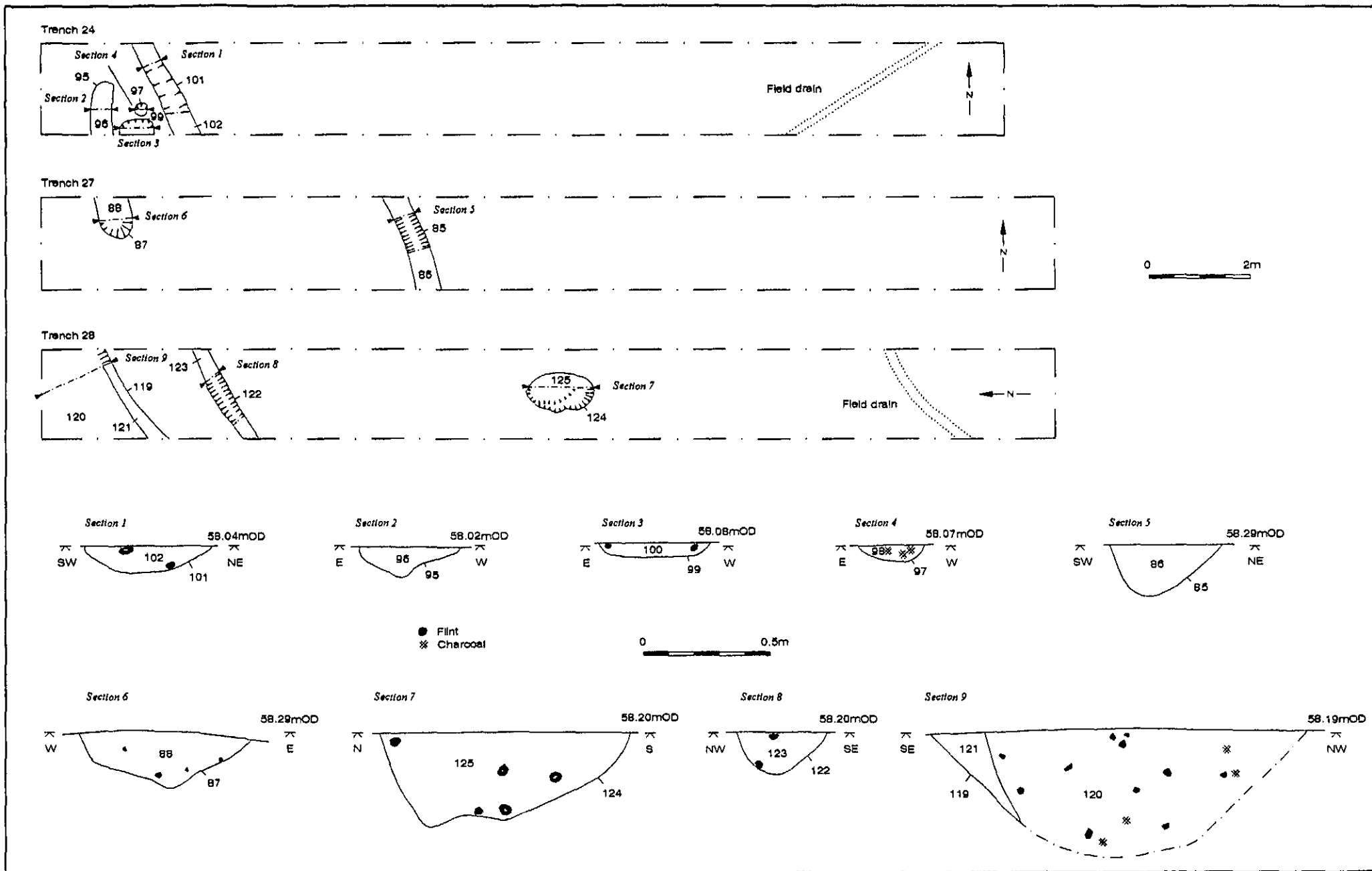
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 6
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 17, 18 and 19: Plans and Sections	



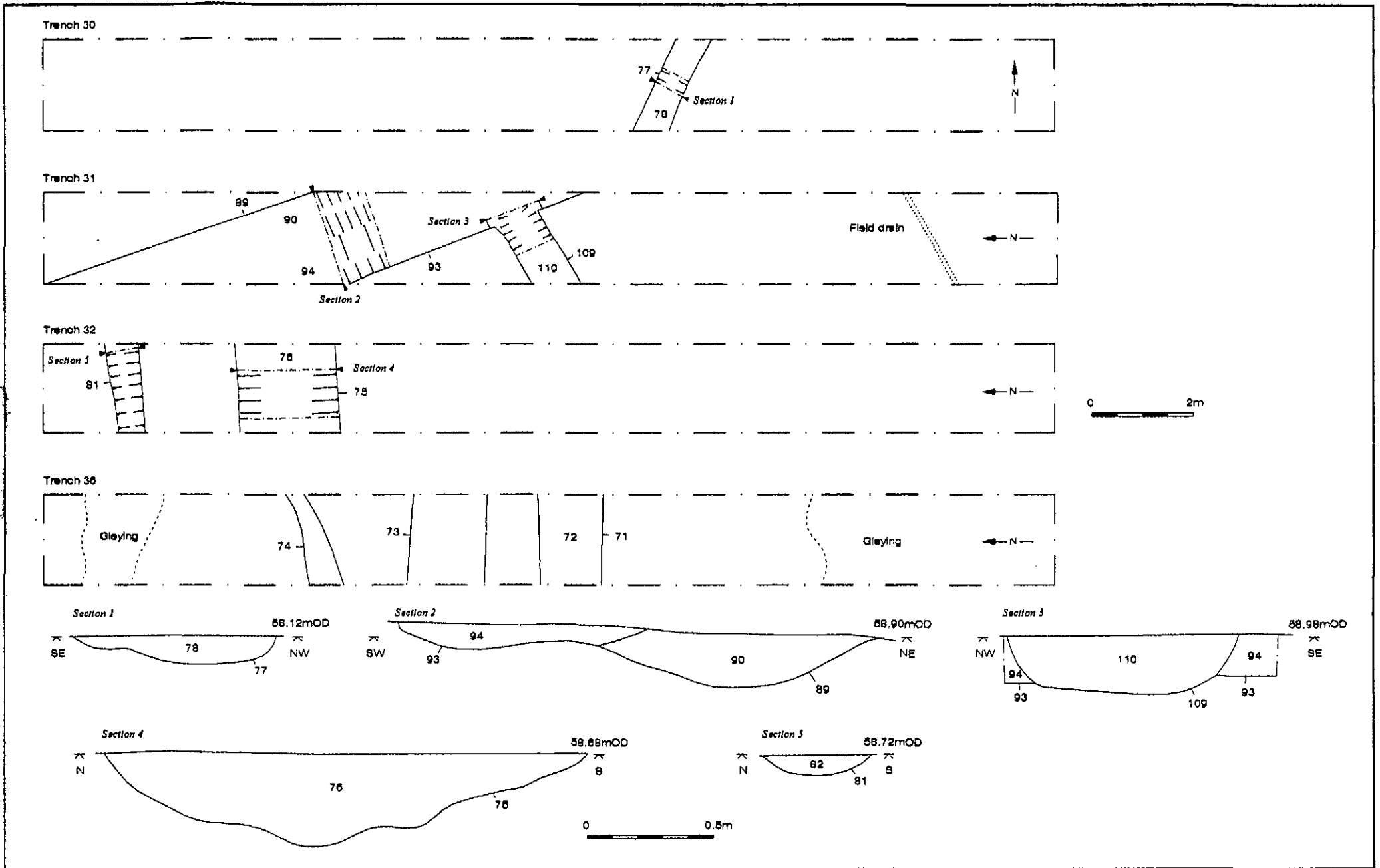
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading		Fig. 7
Ref: 1958	Jan 2006	Trenches 20 and 21: Plans and Sections		



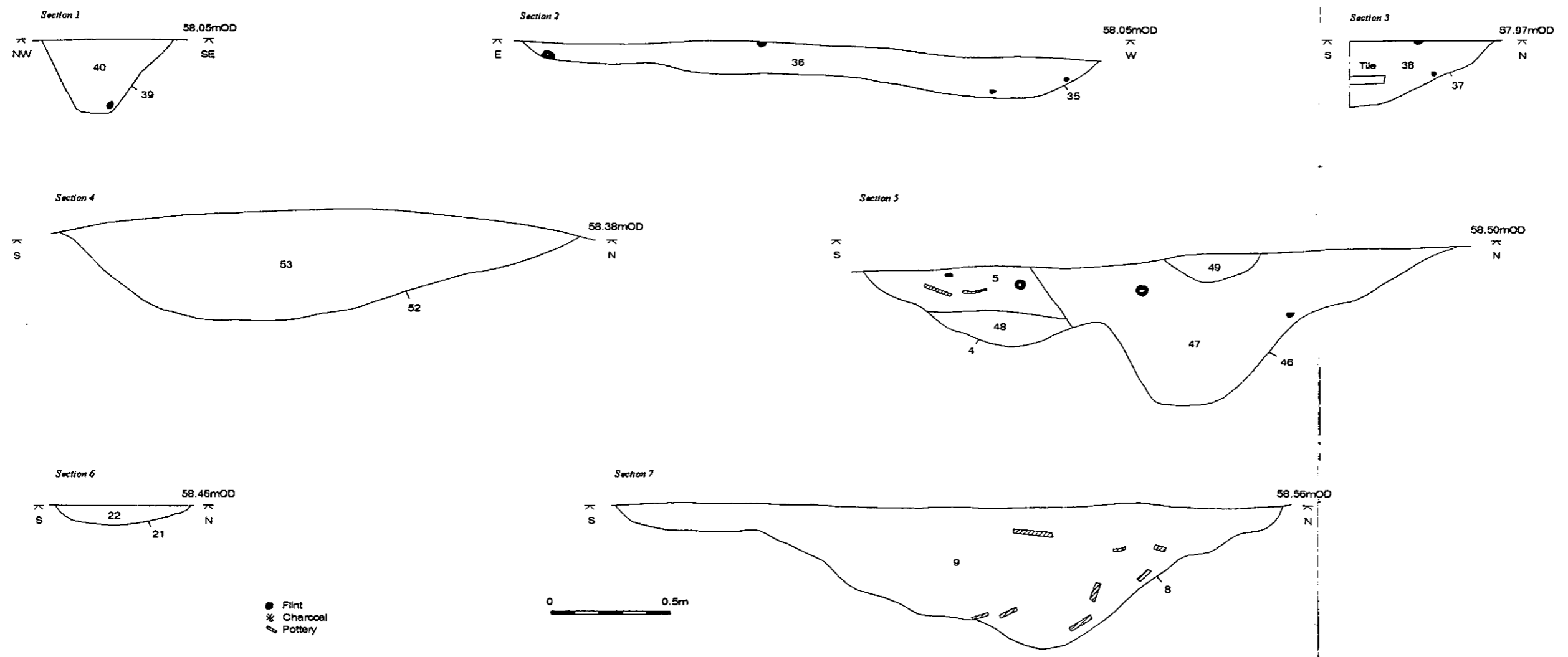
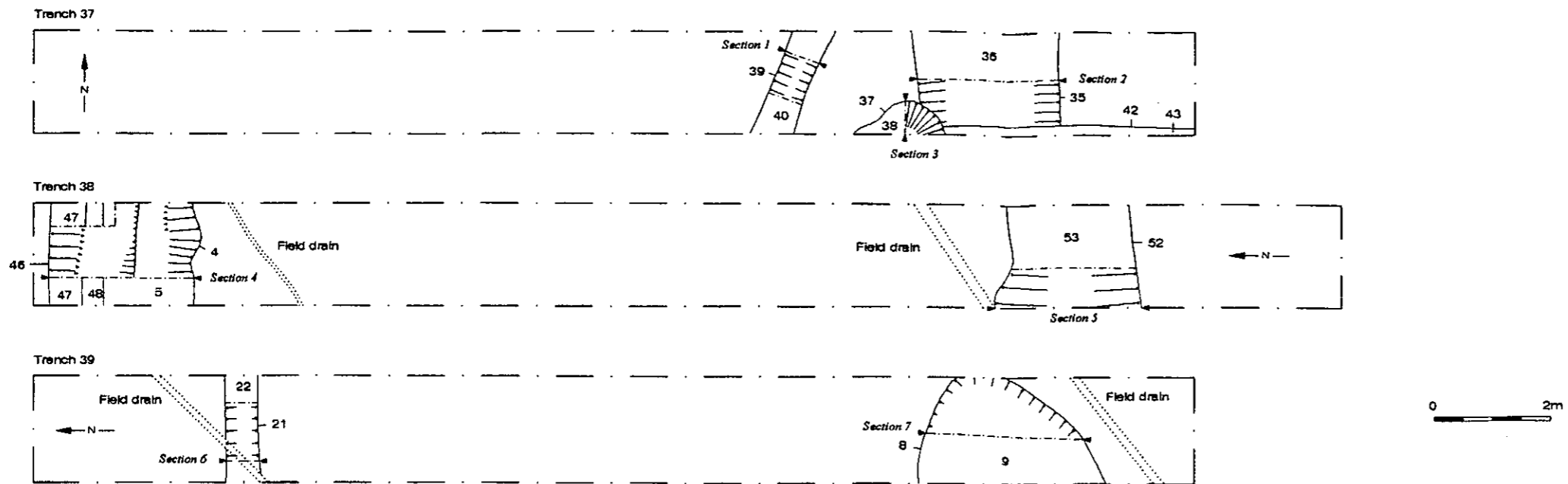
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 8
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 21, 22 and 23: Plans and Sections	

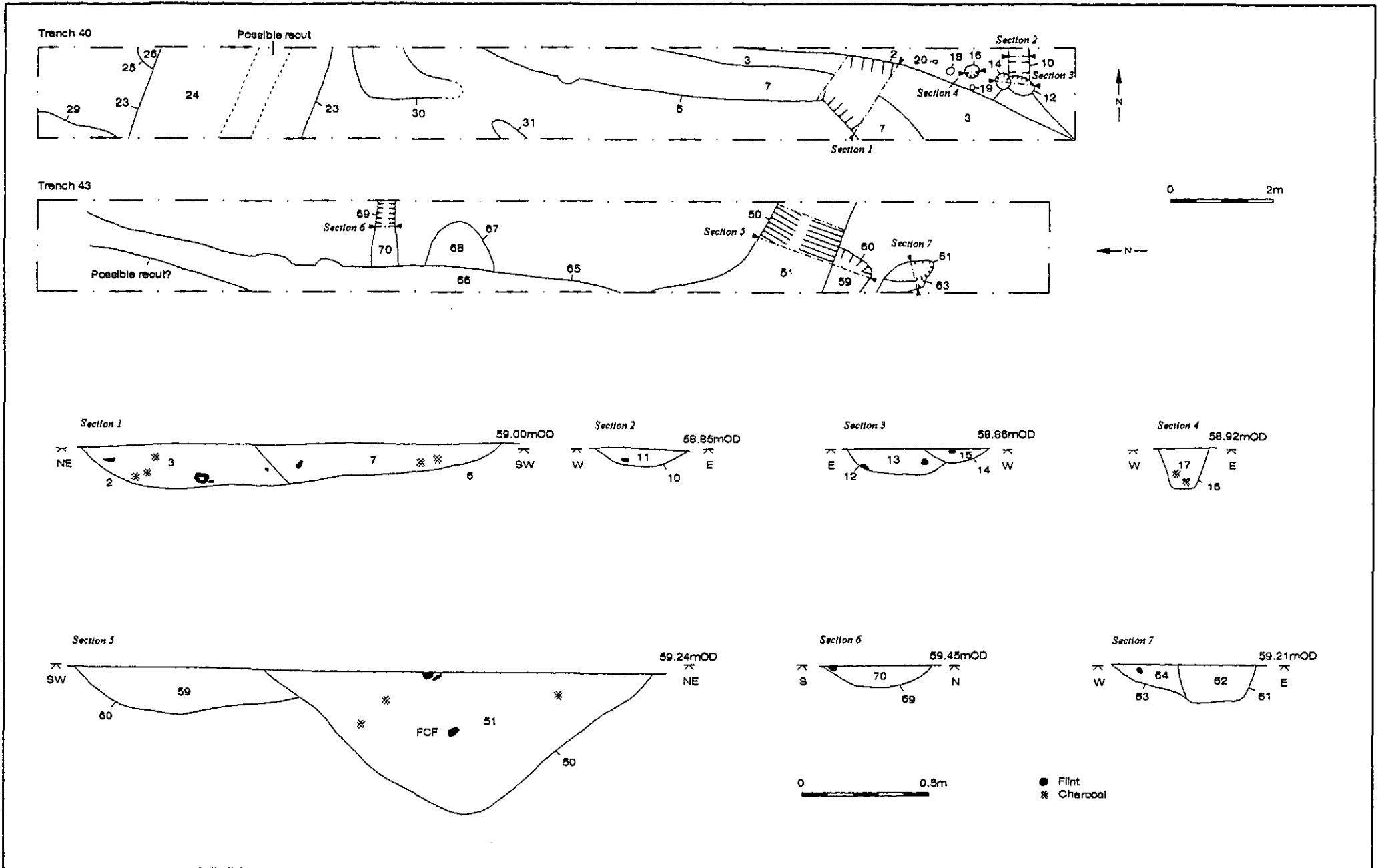


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 9
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 24, 27 and 28: Plans and Sections	

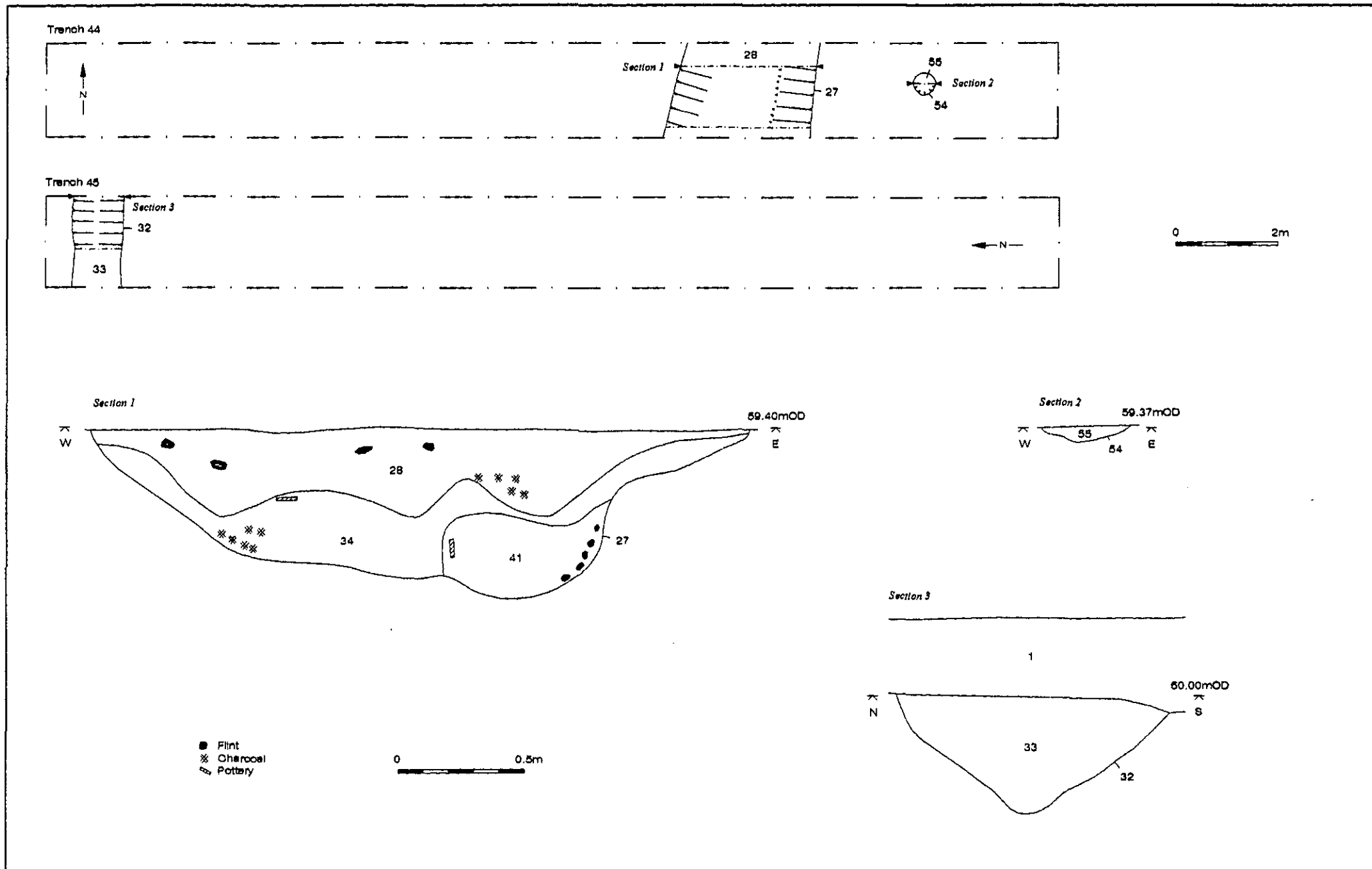


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 10
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 30, 31, 32 and 36: Plans and Sections	





© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading		Fig. 12
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 40 and 43: Plans and Sections		



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Spencers Wood, Reading	Fig. 13
Ref: 1958	Jan 2005	Trenches 44 and 45: Plans and Sections	

