

# Babraham Research Centre Access Roadway

An Archaeological Evaluation



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# **Babraham Research Centre - Access Roadway**

## **Report on the 2005 Trenching Evaluation**

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### Summary

*An archaeological evaluation carried out along the proposed course of the new access road to the Babraham Research Campus in June-July 2005 encountered unstratified Late Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age worked flint within the topsoil layers. No corresponding in situ features were located, although 'background' scatters evident within the vicinity of Trenches 6 and 7 suggested an area of prehistoric activity. A large post-glacial hollow located towards the southern end of Trench 5 may also have been a source for this flint. Redeposited Neolithic – Medieval pottery and prehistoric flint was recovered from this by means of sample square excavation. Towards the middle of the evaluation area (Trench 7), four shallow 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD linear features were identified, perhaps elements of a Romano-British field system. At the southern end of the roadway a number of post-medieval features, some of which may have been associated with the foundations of the former Georgian house (or still earlier Tudor Hall) were encountered close to the present-day Babraham Hall.*

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## **Introduction**

From the 25<sup>th</sup> June to the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2005 a team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Proposed Development Area (PDA) on land at the Babraham Research Campus, Cambridgeshire (centred NGR 5130/5040). The site was investigated to evaluate the potential of surviving archaeology within the confines of the proposed road corridor running north-west from the front of Babraham Hall to the A1307 and roundabout located adjacent to a current lay-by. This investigation was commissioned on behalf of Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd .

The lower portion of the site is predominantly parkland under grass and the northern section running towards the A1307 is under arable cultivation. The underlying geology is Middle Chalk (British Geological Survey 1989).

### *Historical and Archaeological Background*

A small but significant amount of archaeological work has been undertaken within the grounds of the Babraham Institute since 1993. The results of these investigations are more fully described in a recent desktop assessment by the CAU which suggested the likelihood of encountering remains from the Prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods across the entire 23 hectare Babraham Research campus (Hall 2003).

Although there has been little evidence of any Prehistoric activity within the grounds of the campus, finds being limited to a Neolithic arrow head and a few blades, the countryside around Babraham is rich in prehistoric monuments and sites (Hall 2003). Within this area prehistoric presence has been seen to correlate well with the availability of natural resources on chalk and river gravels (Evans 2002). The prehistoric route of the Icknield Way runs north to south through the environs of the Institute although the precise location is not known.

Evidence for Romano-British settlement within the campus area is represented by a thin scattering of potsherds and the occasional metal detector find. Evidence for Romano-British occupation in the wider environs is good with the walled Roman town at Great Chesterford only four miles due south of Babraham and an extensive system of agrarian field boundaries and farmsteads located south of Cambridge (Hall 2003). Babraham is also situated at the crossing point of the River Granta by the road from Great Chesterford and is also very close to the intersection of this road and Worstead Street, another Roman Road coming from Cambridge.

Excavations were undertaken in 2004 prior to the construction of the new 'Minerva' building and these located an area of hitherto unknown early Saxon settlement (Wills 2004). Archaeological monitoring of a water main immediately adjacent to the southern road area (150m north of Babraham Hall) revealed a single inhumation, possibly Anglo-Saxon in date and a series of pits containing pottery from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Hatton 1997). These remains are thought to relate to the original settlement at Babraham, the latter was moved to the current location following landscaping of the surrounding parkland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The church of St Peter, located south of Babraham Hall was also associated with the original settlement.



Figure 1. Site Location Plan

It is unknown exactly where the original 'Baberham Place' of AD 1576 was located prior to its demolition in 1766-7, although a recent paper in PCAS offers a good probable reconstruction of the early house and gardens (Taylor 2004). The small Georgian house that replaced it in 1770 was demolished in 1832-3 and the current 'Babraham Hall' was built in 1833-7 (Butcher 1954). The Gardens were thought to have been re-established on a 16<sup>th</sup> century plan in 1864, although references to this probably refer to decorative beds rather than the full original scheme.

### *Methodology*

The proposed roadway development cuts across the Campus from Babraham Hall in the south to the A1307 in the north – western corner, therefore enabling a series of trenches to sample a good section across the estate. The principal objective was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and their character (e.g. degree of preservation and chronological range). To accomplish this, 365m of trenching were cut.

Trenches were excavated using a 360° wheeled excavator with a 2.10m wide toothless ditching bucket in order to remove turf or plough soil and subsoil down to the required level. Due to a high occurrence of live services criss-crossing the site each trench footprint was scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool. Trench location was enabled through a global positioning system (GPS) and machine excavation was directed by an experienced archaeologist.

Cut features were sampled by hand after which each trench was planned at a scale of 1: 50 and recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. The CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed throughout. Features were photographed using an Olympus digital camera and the photographs entered onto an electronic database. Trench bases and spoil heaps were metal-detected where features had been identified.

In order to estimate any potential damage of deposits through agricultural practises, or to find traces of activity not normally seen in deeply stratified deposits (e.g. flint knapping), it was decided to bucket-sample and sieve the excavated topsoil. This was accomplished by collecting 90 litres of topsoil from locations at the middle and at either end of each trench and then passing this through a 5mm mesh sieve. The artefacts were then logged and processed. Spoil heaps and trench bases were also metal-detected to recover chance metal finds.

### *Trench 5 – Sample Squares*

A strategy of sample squares involved the opening up of a 14m by 7m box at the southern end of Trench 5 in order to test densities and stratification of artefacts within the probable solution hollow. These comprised 1m square sondages cut into the deposit in a 'chequerboard' pattern (fig. 6). Finds from each square were then collected by excavated spit (0.10m thick) and processed, the resultant artefacts being categorised and densities analysed.

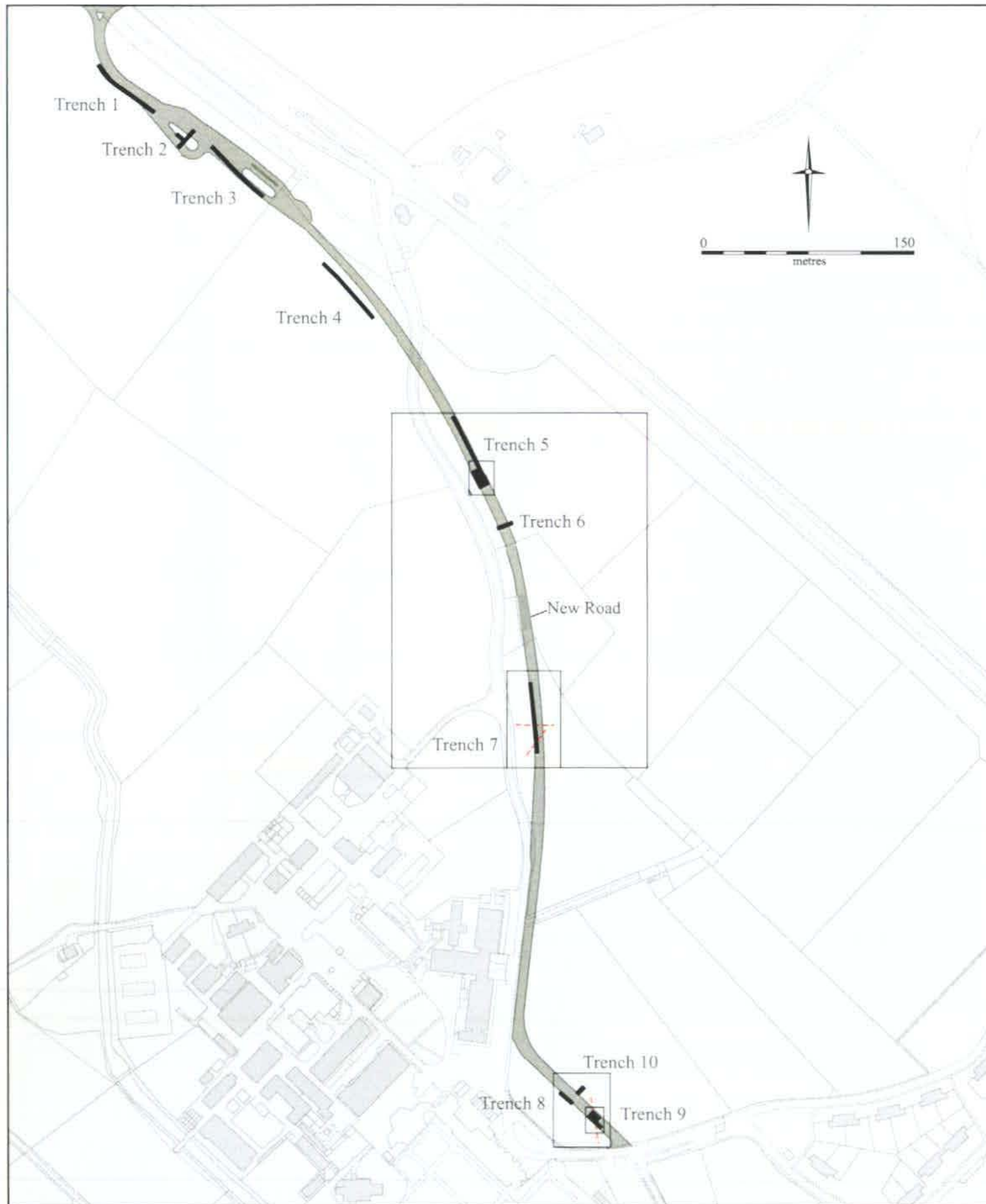


Figure 2. Trench location plan



The southern end of Trench 5 was expanded to 7m by 12m which allowed the excavation of 25 squares. The squares were recorded along the X-axis as 1 – 5 and along the Y-axis as A – M; this gave A1 to M5 coordinates. The deposit bearing the worked flint and other finds was only 0.15m thick at its maximum, thus it was decided to collect all artefacts by square rather than subdividing these into further spits.

## Results and Discussion

### *Bucket Sampling*

This exercise largely confirmed the agrarian history of the Babraham Estate by demonstrating the presence of regular small quantities of highly abraded fragments of post-medieval ceramic building materials (brick and tile) along with occasional potsherds and used nails. These types of finds are suggestive of ‘manuring,’ where small quantities of rubble and rubbish are accumulated into muck heaps and then transferred to the fields as fertiliser. This ‘background clutter’ was found within the spoil of many of the trenches tested. In particular there was a wide distribution of pegtile, perhaps a result of the frequent rebuilding episodes of Babraham Hall and the demolition of various outhouses and farm buildings in the early 20th century (Hall 2003).

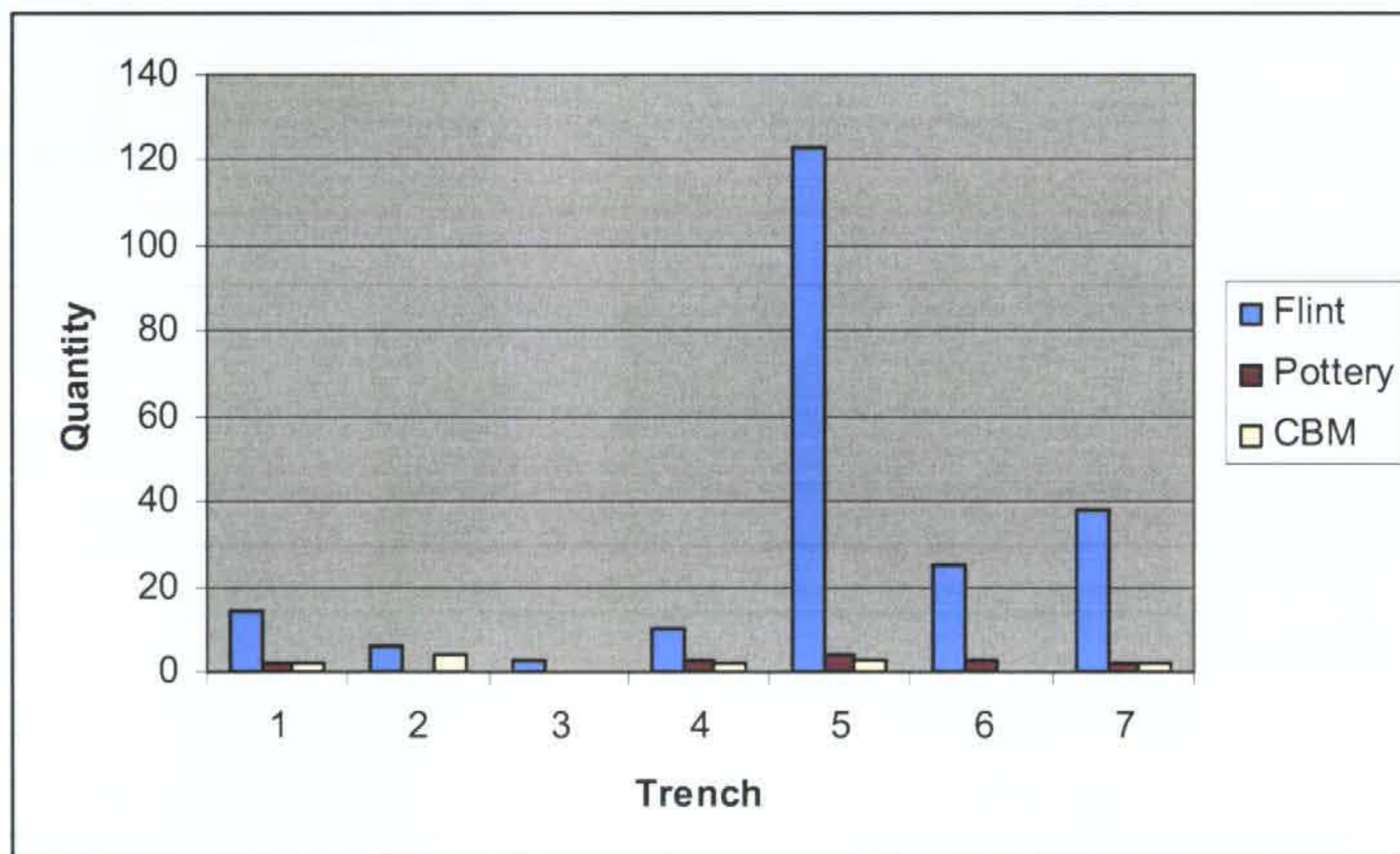


Figure 3 – Material recovered from bucket samples

The bucket sampling strategy did however show a marked bias towards the presence of worked flint, particularly from the spoil of Trench 5, which produced a total of 123 pieces. As this trench was otherwise devoid of cut features, attention was drawn to the presence of a large post-glacial hollow situated towards the southern end. Cleaning

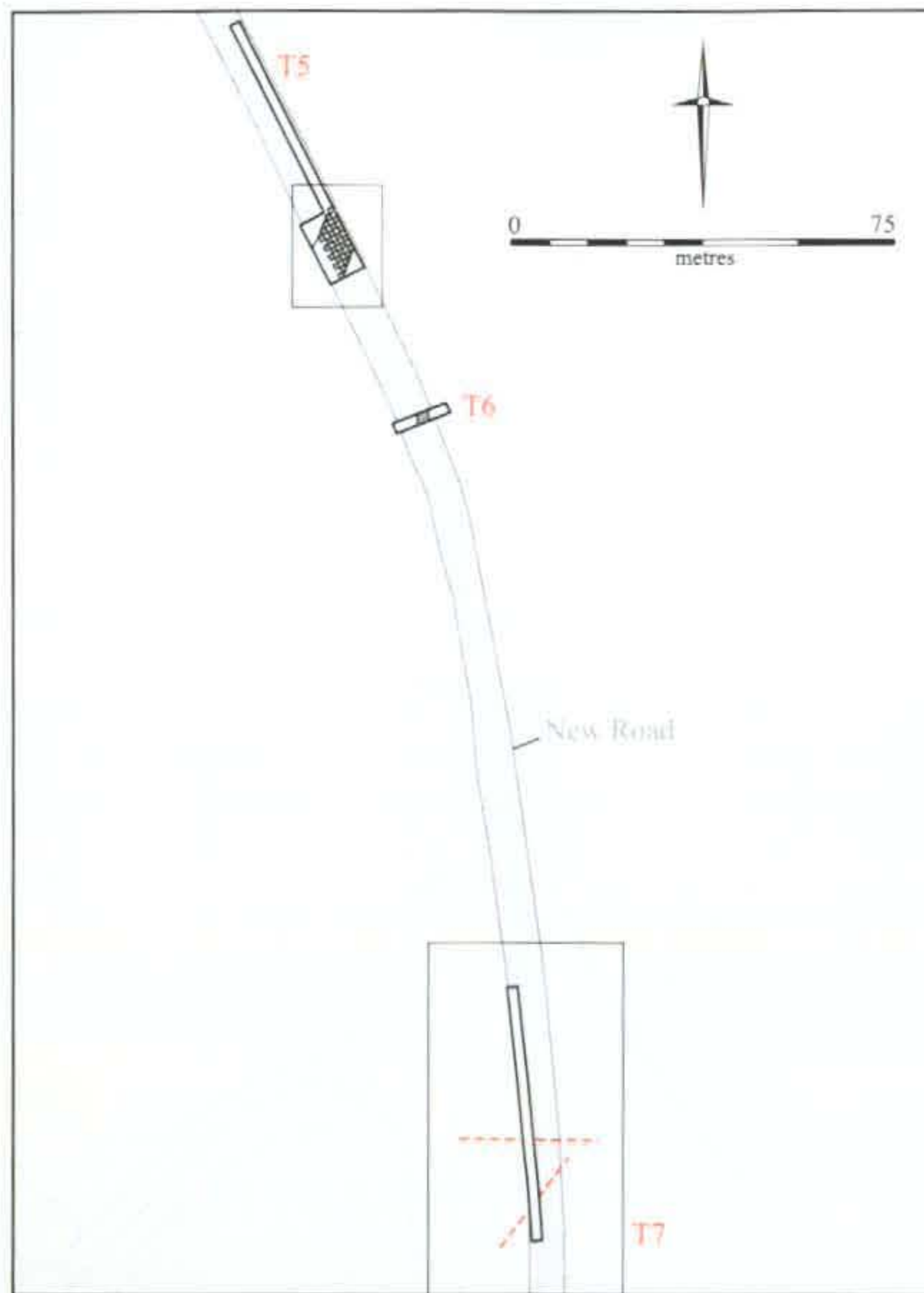


Figure 4. Plan of Trenches 5-7

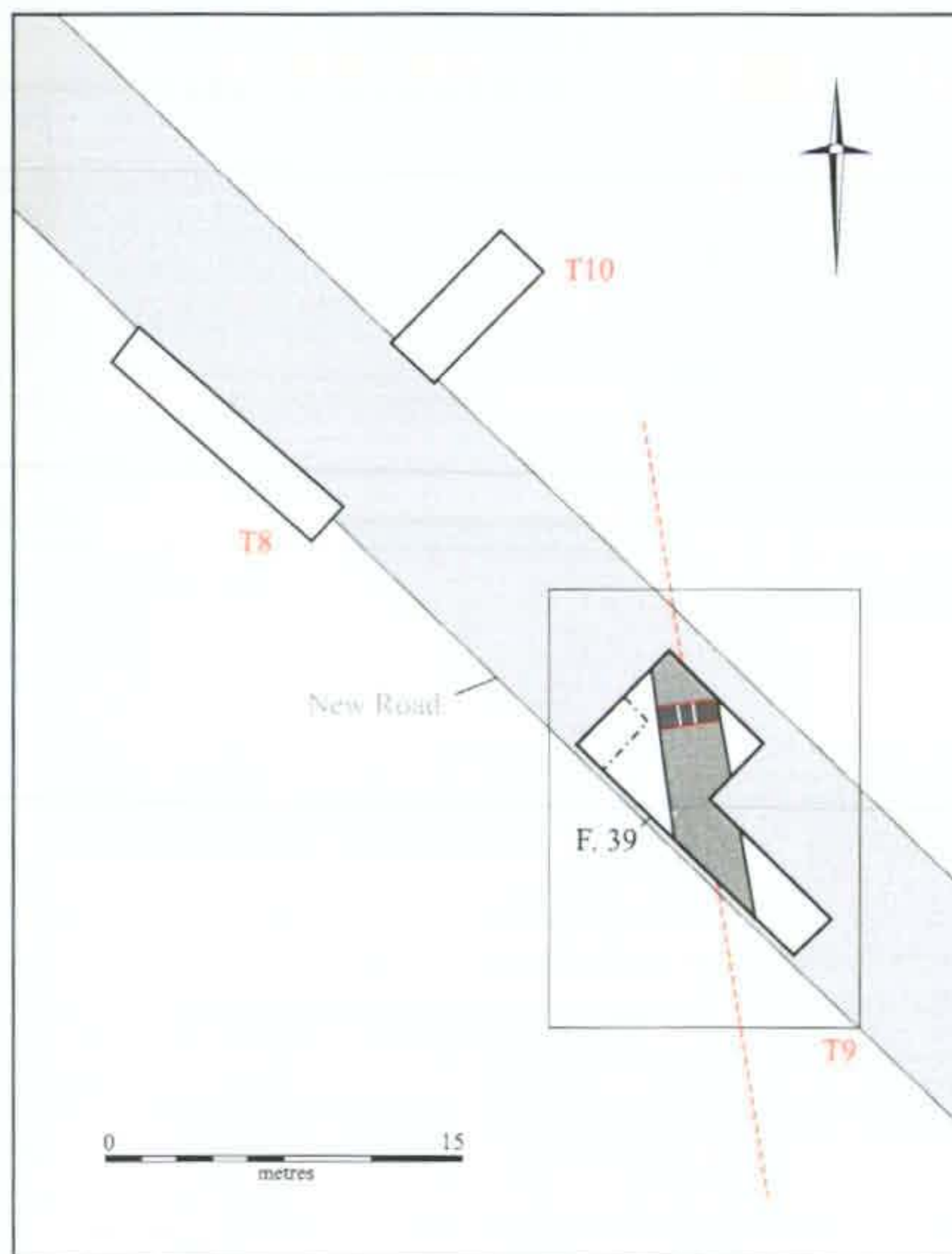


Figure 5. Plan of Trenches 8-10

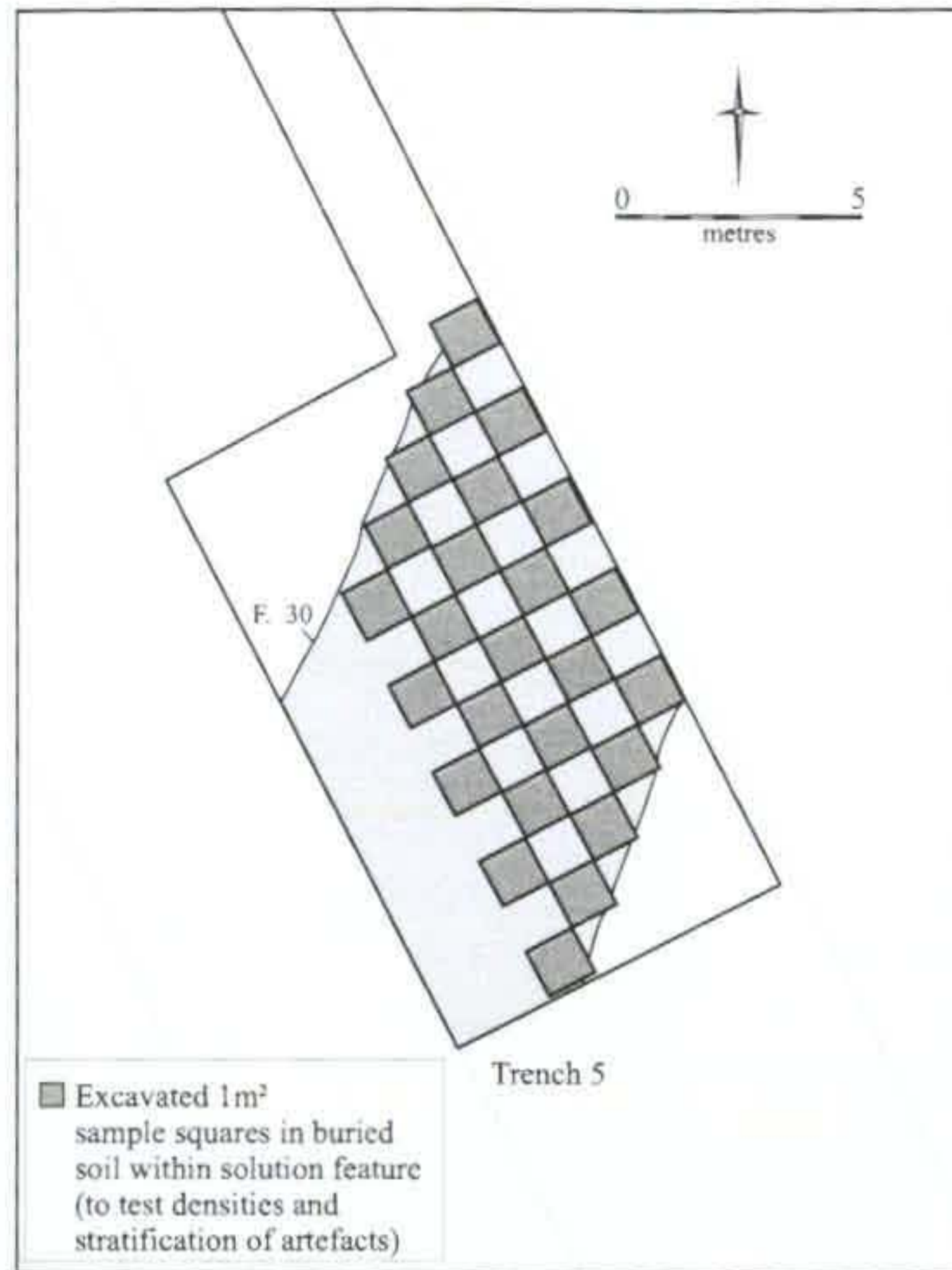


Figure 6. Plan of Trench 5

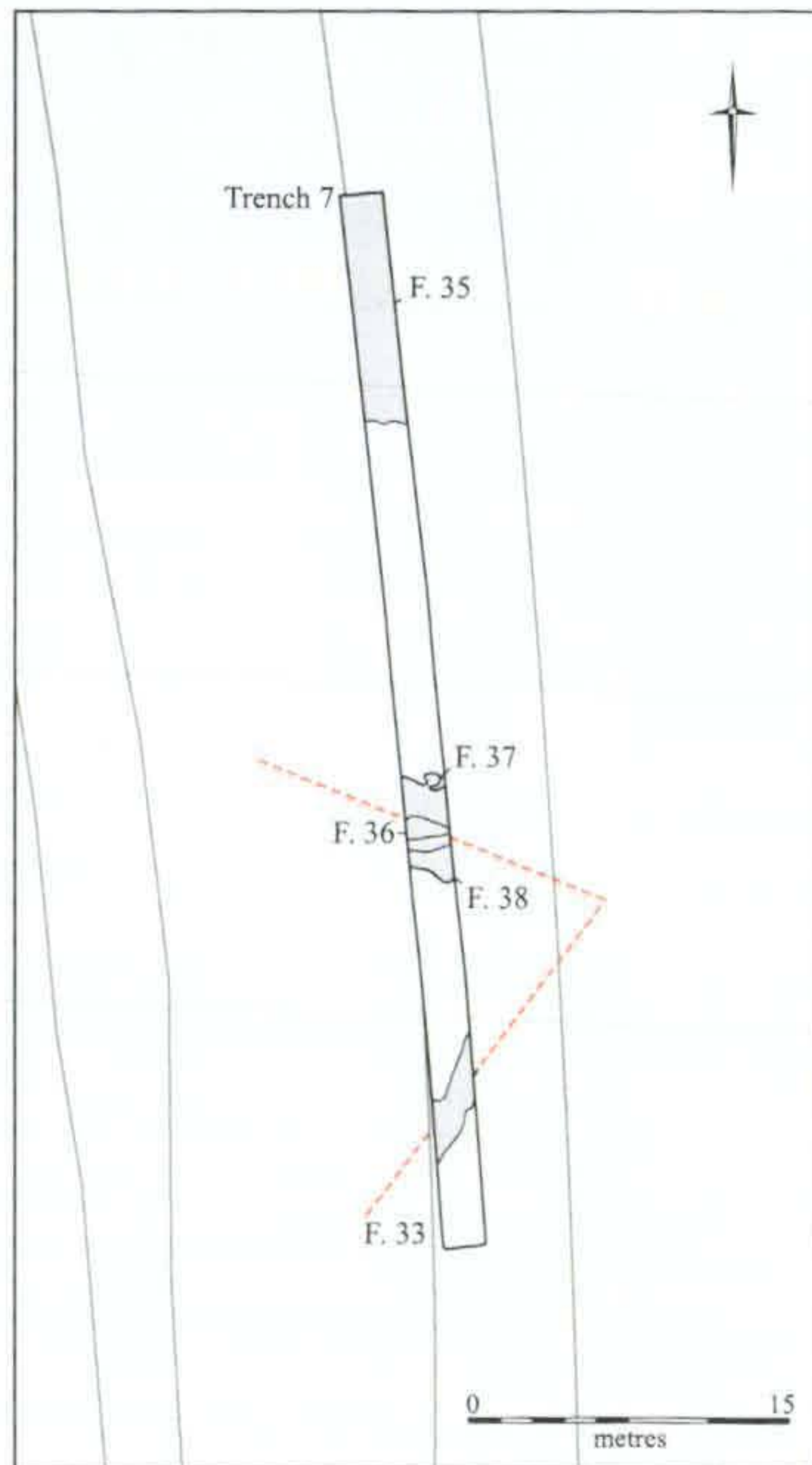


Figure 7. Plan of Trench 7

across this feature produced a further 13 worked flints. This indicated a possible source for the unstratified worked flint in the topsoil, probably ploughed out from this and similar nearby features. Using this evidence it was decided to initiate a mitigation strategy to gather as much information as possible from the buried soil prior to the road construction works.

### *Sample Squares*

The excavation of 25 sample squares (fig. 6) produced in total 150 pieces of worked flint, 27 sherds of pottery and three fragments of animal bone. The solution hollow was roughly aligned ENE-WSW, and where visible in the base of the trench appeared to be roughly oval-shaped in plan, measuring 12.5m across. The finds were derived from a buried colluvial soil averaging approximately 15cm thick within a depression overlying a deposit derived from post glacial silting episodes. The buried soil was a mid red-brown fine sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments and small gravel inclusions. The natural deposit here was a light yellow-brown silty sand with occasional small angular flints and chalk flecks. These had accumulated within a fissured periglacial hollow eroded into the underlying chalk.

That this material appears to have collected through colluviation is demonstrated by the diverse typology and dating of the flint and potsherds recovered from the buried soil. These show no evidence for a secure stratigraphic sequence. The only possible exception to this being the material found in Square J4 which contained the highest flint density and also the most substantial potsherd assemblage, both of which are dated to the Early Neolithic period.

Trench	Square	Acc. No.	Amount	Weight (g)	Type	Date
5	D2	<80>	1	4	PT	Indeterminate: R-B
5	E1	<83>	2	11	PT	Coarse Grey - Jug Rim 14thC
5	E3	<85>	3	10	PT	Indeterminate: R-B?
5	E5	<88>	4	17	PT	R-B 2nd - 4th
5	G3	<93>	2	17	PT	(i) R-B / (ii) Uncertain - Neolithic?
5	I3	<106>	2	5	PT	R-B, mid 1st - 2ndC
5	I5	<108>	1	7	PT	Early Neolithic
5	J2	<111>	1	5	PT	Indeterminate: R-B
5	J4	<114>	9	43	PT	Early Neolithic
5	M5	<119>	1	2	PT	Indeterminate: R-B

Table 1 – Mixed potsherd assemblage from Test Squares

### *Prehistoric*

Over the whole course of the evaluation exercise a total of 350 pieces of worked or burnt flint were recovered. As explained above, the results from bucket sampling and

test square excavation placed the primary location for evidence of prehistoric activity around Trench 5 with a 'background' scatter evident around Trenches 6 and 7. Unfortunately no prehistoric features were identified within any of the evaluation trenches and so it seems that the flint-work derived from plough damaged layers represents an agglomeration of Late Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age material (Appendix 1). As there are few tools represented within the collection it seems unlikely that there is settlement occupation nearby. Rather the evidence suggests occasional knapping and tool use related to seasonal activities.

### *Romano - British*

Four features were identified as being of Romano-British origin, all of which were seen in Trench 7 (fig. 7). Feature **F.33** was a shallow linear cut of U-shaped profile that measured 1.63m in width by 0.20m deep and was aligned NE-SW. It was filled by [711], a mid greyish brown sandy silt with common small to medium sized flint fragments and occasional small peagrit and gravel. From this deposit were retrieved four pieces of animal bone, three potsherds dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and an iron buckle and nail. This feature was interpreted as an early Romano-British enclosure ditch.

Feature **F.36** was linear in plan with a cut measuring 2.54m in width and 0.45m deep which was aligned E-W and had concave sides with gradual breaks of slope leading to a flat undulating base. It was filled by [704], a mid brown friable silts with occasional small to medium sized gravel inclusions and moderate quantities of small rounded chalk fragments. Towards the top of this fill 48 pieces of animal bone were recovered along with four burnt stones and 11 potsherds dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The latter feature was identified as a possible boundary ditch of the mid to late Romano-British period which had silted up over time and towards the end of its existence had been used to dispose of domestic rubbish. Along the northern edge of this feature two possible pit features were identified, **F.37** and **F.38**, both of which were irregular in profile. These measured 0.25m in depth but in plan could not be fully explored within the trench confines. They had been filled with deposits the same as [704], suggesting that these features were open at the same time as **F.36** and could have been created through plant or animal disturbance. No finds recovered from these features.

A possible fifth feature, **F.35**, was identified in Trench 7 as a band of subsoil measuring up to 0.50m thick and of some 12 meters or more in width. This consisted of a light brown silt with inclusions of occasional medium-sized stones and rare peagrit. The basal deposit was an uneven layer of loose orange brown sandy silt with rare inclusions of peagrit and small stones. The edges of the feature were concave and uneven with an undulating base which in places appeared to have been subjected to disturbance from burrowing animals. Whilst cleaning over the surface of this feature four potsherds of Romano-British date were recovered from the upper subsoil although excavation of this failed to reveal any other finds.

The above feature proved difficult to interpret. Although it appeared to have been extant during the Romano-British period there was little evidence that it was man-made. The character of the basal deposit suggested a periglacial origin, perhaps a

palaeo-channel. However the wide edges of the feature and localised nature of the basal fill suggested prolonged exposure and erosion of the original sides leaving the irregular dished profile noted through excavation. It appears therefore that this feature was visible in the Romano-British period, either as a hollow or a linear depression. As such this may have affected the spatial arrangement of nearby features, or else have been utilised in some way. The two other ditches are thought to represent elements of a Romano-British field system, albeit perhaps peripheral to any settlement.

### *Post-medieval*

With the exception of small fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) recovered from the bucket sampling there were only two cut features of archaeological interest of that period. The first was **F.34**, a ditch, excavated in Trench 4. This produced two post-medieval potsherds and a piece of pegtile. This was interpreted as a field boundary ditch which can be recognised on the Old Series Ordnance Survey Map of 1837 and again, more clearly, on the later Ordnance Survey Map of 1901. On the latter it can be seen to be aligned on the Cambridge Lodge building, from which it runs down the hillside in a south-westerly direction before terminating at the Mill Leat.

The second feature, **F.39**, was in Trench 9, which was expanded from a 2m by 10m trench to a 5m by 5m box to get a full profile. The cut, [710], was 2.52m in width by 0.85m deep, had a V-shaped profile and was linear in plan, being aligned north to south, although it appeared to curve towards the west. The feature was interpreted as a ditch filled in four separate episodes; Fills [707] to [709] appeared to have been deposited in short succession and consisted of loose dark brown silt with large quantities of gravel, chalk fragments and stone inclusions. Fill [709] was a compacted basal deposit of fine light orange-brown silt. It was interpreted as having been dug to delineate the outer edge of the D-shaped coach turning circle seen in front of the Hall on the 1837 Ordnance Survey Map (Hall, 2003).

Considerable quantities of ceramic building materials were recovered from fill [708], predominantly fragments of peg-tile (2118g) and brick (792g), as well as some shards of bottle glass. This feature was interesting as it provided a chance to offer some stratigraphical relationship to the overlying layers of debris seen across this area, despite there being little in the way of dating available.

Peg-tile is difficult to date accurately as it saw widespread use from the medieval period onwards, however Babraham Hall is (at least currently) roofed in slate suggesting that this peg-tile derives either from the demolished Tudor Hall, the Georgian house, or else from one of the other outbuildings.

The brick fragments suggested a hand-made fabric of coarse sandy clay with moderate flint temper, fired hard to a reddish brown colour. Where measurable surfaces existed, the widths of the fragments were between 64mm and 70mm (2 ½ to 2 ¾ inches) thick. This suggests that they are not earlier than the Restoration, being thinner than those of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brunskill 1997). Most likely they were derived a little from the demolished Georgian house, especially as the traces of white friable sandy lime mortar adhering to the fragments suggest that these not unused waste from a new building episode.

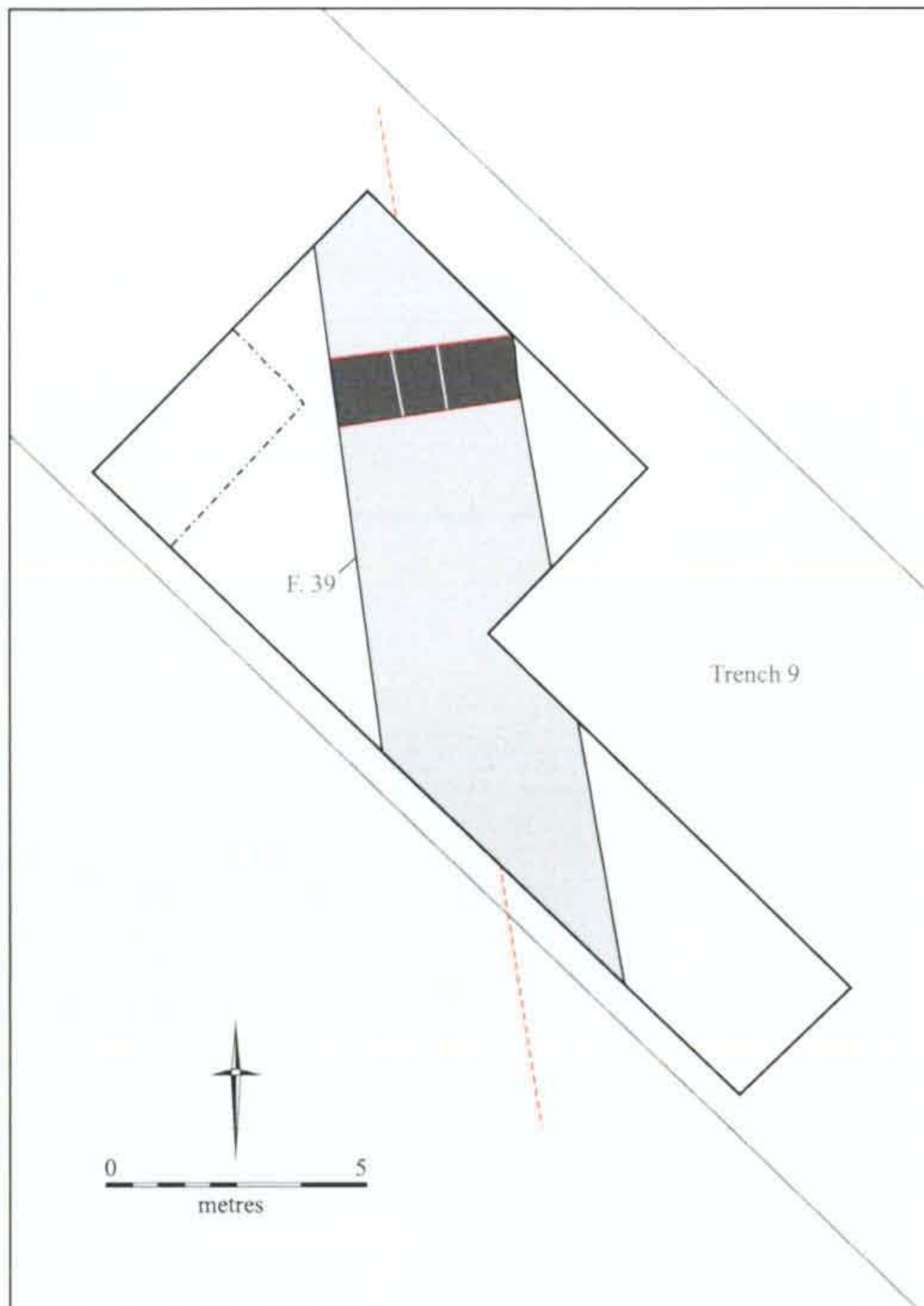


Figure 8. Plan of Trench 9

The recovered glass fragments were derived from a hand-blown cylindrical wine bottle with a high 'kick-up' base of very dark green glass, a type commonly dated to post-1760 (Biddle 2005), but pre-dating the advent of moulding technology from *circa* 1820 onwards. This seems to correspond to the tentative dating of the deposits through examination of the ceramic building materials.

Three potsherds from two different vessels were retrieved unstratified from the spoil of Trenches 8 and 10. These were of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century AD or later:

<98> (Tr.8) sherds from a deep bowl with stepped shoulder of fine red earthenware fabric with orange/green glaze (D. Hall; *pers. comm.*).

<74> (Tr.10) sherds from a large open bowl with out-turned rim, of coarse red earthenware and with small patches of orange/red glaze (D. Hall; *pers. comm.*).

Taken together there may not be much firm dating evidence for the backfilling of Feature F.39, yet it does seem likely that the ditch was backfilled with demolition material from the Georgian house after the mapping of 1837 but prior to the 1886 OS map which shows an altered arrangement. The deposits overlying this ditch may have been used to level up and remodel the drive at the front of the new house but this may have been related to the enlargement of the Hall in 1864 (Taylor 2004). However it seems that some of this building work also disturbed earlier deposits from the lifetime of the Tudor house.

Trench 10 (fig. 5) was excavated outside the development footprint in order to see whether F.39 was on a straight or curved alignment. As the ditch was not visible within the base of this trench this helped confirm the observation that this ditch was indeed curving towards the west.

## Conclusion

The trenching evaluation whilst not identifying a great quantity of *in situ* remains has illuminated areas of peripheral prehistoric and Romano-British activity which is nonetheless of some interest. Material accumulating in buried soils and relationships of those to periglacial hollows suggest a correlation between environment and activity.

The recovery of flint working debris and artefacts indicates that although the evidence for settlement is limited this should be taken into account in future works within the campus. Additionally the tentative identification of elements of a Romano-British field system can be added to the overall picture offered by previous investigations to underline the probability of settlement located within the Institute grounds.

Implementing the strategy to mitigate further work in the areas tested certainly helped characterise the nature of those areas covered, although the proposed scheme of work may need further examination when the current roadway is pulled up for replacement.



### *Acknowledgements*

The Author wishes to thank Rowland Estall of Babraham Bioscience Technologies for commissioning this project and for his help and cooperation in the field. Robin Standing of the CAU was project manager. Bryan Crossan produced the graphics. The site was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec (CAO).

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## Appendix 1: Flint - *E. Beadsmoore*

A total of 350 (<1436g) flints were recovered from the evaluation trenches; 325 (<1209g) were worked and unburnt, 14 (<49) were worked and burnt, whilst the remaining 11 (178g) were unworked but burnt. The flints were recovered from bucket sampling, 142 (<226g), test pits in trench 5, 154 (<634g), two features, 2 (58g), and finally as stray finds in Trenches 5 and 7, 52 (<518g).

### *Bucket Samples*

The 142 flints recovered from the bucket samples are listed by type and sample point in Table 2. Over half of the total bucket sample flints were recovered from Trench 5. The 75 flints are predominantly fragments of small broken chips; potentially the by products of flint working or ploughing. Two of the only sizable, and chronologically diagnostic flakes recovered from the trench are broadly compatible with Neolithic flake production strategies.

Trench	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	tertiary blade	side scraper	end scraper	retouched and worn flake	unworked burnt chunk	Totals
1 north end	1		1							2
1 middle	1									1
1 south end	1		1	1						3
2 north end		1		1					1	3
2 east end	1							1		2
3 south end	1									1
4 north end			1							1
4 south end	7			1						8
5 north end	18	1	1	1						21
5 middle	31	2	3							36
5 south end	15		1	1						17
6 east end	14		2						1	17
7 north end	8		2							10
7 middle	6	1	3	2	1		1			14
7 south end	1	1	3			1				6
<b>Sub totals</b>	105	6	18	7	1	1	1	1	2	142

Table 2 – Flint recovered from bucket samples

Trench 6 also yielded fine, broken chips, whilst several chronologically diagnostic flakes were amongst the material recovered from Trench 7. Two of the flakes and a blade are Neolithic, although the trench also yielded two scrapers that are the products of a more unsystematic flake production/core reduction strategy, more common during the Bronze Age. The flint recovered from the remaining bucket samples are chronologically non diagnostic chips, waste flakes, and one tool; a retouched and worn flake.

### *Trench 5 Test Pits*

A total of 154 flints were recovered from 22 test pits in Trench 5; the flints are listed by type and test pit in Table 3. The material recovered from the test pits includes only three tools and consists

predominantly of the flint working waste of flake production/core reduction strategies. A Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flake knife was recovered from test pit J4, whilst G5 yielded a Neolithic end and side scraper and retouched flake.

Test pits	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	secondary blade	tertiary blade	core rejuvenation flake	single platform core	core fragment	flake knife	end and side scraper	miscellaneous retouched flake	unworked burnt chunk	Totals
A1			3	2			1							6
B2	2		1	1										4
C1			1	3										4
C3			1	1										2
D2	6		2	3		1							1	13
D4				1										1
E1			1	2										3
E3	3	3	10	4										20
E5	3	1	4	1										9
F2				1										1
F4			1	1										2
G1						1								1
G3	4	2	1	4					1					12
G5	3		4	4					1		1	1	1	15
H2	1			2										3
H4			3											3
I1			1											1
I3	1		7	4		1								13
I5	1		3				1						1	6
J2			1		1								1	3
J4	5		11	8		1		1		1			2	29
K3			3											3
<b>Sub totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>154</b>

Table 3 – Flint from Trench 5 test pits

Many of the flints are chronologically non diagnostic waste flakes; however several are the product of systematic flake production/core reduction strategies generally focused on manufacturing narrow flakes and blades. Cores were deliberately rejuvenated to extend their use life and discarded only once they were exhausted. Systematic flake production/core reduction is a feature of Neolithic flint working, furthermore, several of the narrow flakes and blades were struck from neatly isolated platforms which is characteristic of Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic assemblages. Yet other, broader but still systematically manufactured flakes are potentially later Neolithic. A few other flints recovered from the test pits are the products of more expedient and unsystematic flake production/core reduction strategies that are more likely to be Bronze Age.

*Features and Stray finds*

Two flints were recovered from two features; a residual Neolithic core rejuvenation flake was recovered from Roman feature F. 33, whilst a chronologically non diagnostic flake was recovered from F. 7B.

Features and unstratified	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	tertiary blade	core rejuvenation flake	irregular core	single platform core	opposed platform core	core fragment	miscellaneous retouched flake	edge used blade	end scraper	unworked burnt chunk	Totals
7B				1											1
33						1									1
tr 5 buried soil surface	1		7	3								1	1		13
tr 5 spoil heap	3	2	14	6			1	2	1	1	1			1	32
tr 7 spoil heap	1			1	1	1				1				2	7
<b>Sub totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>

Table 4 – Flint recovered from features and as stray finds

The remaining 52 flints were recovered as stray finds from Trenches 5 and 7. Thirteen flints were recovered from the surface of the buried soil in Trench 5, and 32 were retrieved from the spoil heaps around the trench. The material comprises flint working waste from Neolithic flake production/core reduction strategies, potentially ranging from the earlier to the later Neolithic. Although, as with the material recovered from the test pits, a couple of expediently worked potentially Bronze Age flints were also recovered. The spoil heaps of Trench 7 yielded seven flints, comprising largely chronologically non-diagnostic flint working waste but including a Neolithic core rejuvenation flake and blade.

The flint recovered from the evaluation provides evidence for archaeological activity from the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The flints are predominantly discarded flint working waste and waste flakes, with the occasional tool, all from different reduction sequences. The flints, therefore, do not form a coherent assemblage; the material was deposited at different times, the products of different flint working sequences, and was potentially moved post deposition. As the material was not recovered from archaeological features, no direct evidence for occupation exists. However, the flint does indicate prehistoric activity, in the form of flint working and tool use.

## Appendix 2: Faunal Remains - C. Swaysland

A small assemblage of animal bones numbering 65 fragments and weighing 1300 grams was recovered from a series of evaluation trenches and a small open area excavation. The condition of the bones was fair.

The animal bones were identified using the reference collection of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The assemblage was quantified using a modified version of the methodology of Serjeantson (1996), a 'zonal' approach. Results are presented by NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) only. No attempt has been made to distinguish between the remains of sheep and goat; these bones are recorded as sheep/goat.

The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from the evaluation trenches and is dated to the Romano-British period (1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century AD). A small amount of material was recovered from the open area excavation and is dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

Cattle are the most frequently represented species (seven bones); sheep/goat and horse are represented by three bones each. The majority of the bones were recovered from ditch F.36. No specimens showed evidence of pathological conditions; two bones showed evidence of carnivore gnawing.

Species	NISP
Cattle	7
Sheep/goat	3
Horse	3
Medium sized mammal	5
Large sized mammal	2

Table 5: species distribution Romano-British contexts

A buried soil horizon dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age was excavated as a series of 1m<sup>2</sup> units. Three units yielded faunal remains: G3 contained a fragmentary cattle maxillary molar, I5 a small fragment of cattle tooth and K3 a small unidentified fragment of long-bone probably from a sheep/goat sized animal.

Clearly these are very small assemblages severely limiting what conclusions may be drawn. The large proportion of cattle bones recovered from the Romano-British period is, however, typical of assemblages of this date.