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**BERWICK PONDS FARM,
RAINHAM, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

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HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
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BERWICK PONDS FARM, RAINHAM, ESSEX
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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BERWICK PONDS FARM, RAINHAM, ESSEX AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During June 2001, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Berwick Ponds Farm, Rainham, Essex (centred on NGR: TQ 5550 8385). The evaluation revealed archaeological features across parts of the site, dating from the middle and late Iron Age, and a larger number of Romano-British features, probably associated with a farmstead settlement on the gravel terrace of the river Thames. The south-western corner of the site revealed few archaeological features, suggesting that this area was the hinterland of the settlement, where one would expect the field systems to have been.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During June 2001, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Berwick Ponds Farm, Rainham, Essex (centred on NGR: TQ 5550 8385) (Figs.1-2) (London Borough of Havering). The evaluation was commissioned by RJD Ltd prior to proposed redevelopment of the site. It is proposed to create an agricultural reservoir, following removal of the underlying mineral deposits. English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) have advised Havering Borough Council of the need for archaeological evaluation of the site prior to redevelopment.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted according to a brief issued by EH GLAAS (dated 11/09/00) in addition to *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998) 3 - 5 with particular reference to No 5: *Evaluations*. It also adhered to the specification issued by HAT (dated 14/09/00) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 1999). The aims of the study were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

A previous aerial photographic assessment and fieldwalking survey were carried out by HAT in 1999 (Murray, 1999). After receiving this report, EH GLAAS required further archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching.

1.3 Specific objectives of the evaluation were to seek to define:

- the extent, nature and significance of the possible features identified by aerial photography.
- the evidence for agricultural activity, including food cultivation, processing, and storage.
- the evidence for burial practice and ritual.
- the evidence for industrial activity such as metal working and textile production.
- areas within the site where there is a potential for the preservation of environmental and organic remains.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated to the immediate north-east of Berwick ponds farm, Rainham, Essex (London Borough of Havering). It lies on the Thames gravel terrace (some 4.5 km north-east of the river), above and to the north of a small tributary stream of the river Ingrebourne that feeds Berwick Pond to the south-west. The site presently comprises up to c.9 hectares of arable land (with a small area of mounded earth and woodland/scrub in the extreme north-western part of the site), and is bounded to the west and north by Berwick Pond Road, whilst Berwick Ponds Farm is adjacent to the south. The site consists mainly of one large arable field though the proposed reservoir crosses an established hedge line and track to continue into an adjacent field to the east.

3 SITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological potential of the site stems from the possible presence of archaeological features identified as cropmarks within the site by the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record. These comprise several ring ditches and a possible enclosure of prehistoric date. In addition, the site lies within an area of known archaeological potential; the extensive documented manorial site of Berwick Manor lies some 300 m to the south, whilst an important early Saxon cemetery was excavated earlier this century at Gerpins Pit (some 350 m to the east of the site). In addition, a number of other sites and finds of prehistoric date are recorded from the general vicinity. Late Bronze/Early Iron Age field systems and settlement sites are known locally at Rainham, Upminster and Aveley. HAT recently excavated a large late Bronze Age settlement site on the western side of the river Ingrebourne at Scott and Albyns Farm, South Hornchurch. Roman activity is known from a number of earlier sites locally, suggesting continuity of occupation (though shifting) on the Thames terraces of East London/Essex; at Moor Hall Farm, Rainham, a late pre-Roman Iron Age defended site was overlain by Roman field ditches, and Roman

occupation is also known to overly Iron Age features at Manor Farm and Hunts Hill Farm, Upminster (MoLAS 2000). All of these latter sites appear to have been of relatively high status

3.2 During late April 1999 HAT carried out an air photographic assessment, and an archaeological fieldwalking survey of the site (Murray, 1999). The results are summarised below:

3.3 Aerial photographs revealed probable archaeological features in the northern part of the site. Some of these features were interpreted as possibly relating to a relict prehistoric landscape. Principal amongst the features were at least three possible ring ditches, linear ditches and possible enclosures.

3.4 The field walking survey revealed diffuse scatters of burnt flint, struck flint and pottery, generally in the central sector of the site. Burnt flint is usually indicative of hearths and the struck flint, which included tools, was not inconsistent with settlement. The struck flint was composed of more than one industry and occurred in small quantities, perhaps indicative of seasonal unenclosed settlement. The lack of prehistoric pottery on the site was not surprising given its fragility in a ploughsoil environment, though an isolated sherd of possible middle Iron Age pottery and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. The fieldwalking finds were recovered generally to the south of the cropmarks, thought perhaps indicative of settlement features adjacent to funerary monuments.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the EH GLAAS brief and HAT specification, and adhered to *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998) 3 - 5 with particular reference to No 5: *Evaluations*. The project was also conducted according to Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 1999).

4.2 Forty five (2 m x 30 m) trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig.2). The overburden was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision, thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for residual finds and a metal detector was used to scan trenches and spoil heaps.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs.3-12

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

6.1 Trench 1

Sample Section: (0.00 = 15.80m OAD)

0.00 – 0.36 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, sandy loam with occasional flint pebbles.
0.36 – 0.42 m	L1001 Subsoil. Moderately uncompact, light orange-brown sandy silt and flint gravel.
0.42 m+	L1002 Natural drift. Terrace deposits of light orange/brown sand and flint gravel.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.2 Trench 2

Sample Section (0.00 = 16.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.6 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.6 – 0.77 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.77 m+	L1002 Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.3 Trench 3

Sample Section (0.00 = 16.30m AOD):

0.00 – 0.30 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.46 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.46 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified. An area of recent disturbance was noted at the north-western end of the trench.

6.4 Trench 4

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.75m AOD):

0.00 – 0.50m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50 – 0.67m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.67m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.5 Trench 5

Sample Section (0.00 = 16.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.57 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.57 – 0.77 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.77 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified. The deposits increased to a depth of 1.05m below existing towards the northern end of the trench.

6.6 Trench 6 Fig.3

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.70m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.55 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Thirteen modern plough furrows were recorded running across the trench at varying alignments. Five of these were excavated (F1107, F1109, F1111, F1113 & F1115) and yielded no finds. All were shallow and narrow. A small tree-root hollow was also investigated at the extreme northern end of the trench. No further archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

6.7 Trench 7 Fig.3

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.55m AOD):

0.00 – 0.31 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.31 – 0.51 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.51 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Five features were revealed including two ditch termini, one linear ditch and two probable post holes.

F1089 was a circular post hole with a slightly rounded base, and a diameter of 0.31m and a depth of 0.23m. It was filled by L1090, a light greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1087 to the west was a N/S aligned, slightly irregular, ditch terminus with steeply sloping sides and an uneven concave base. It measured 1.80m+ x 1.35m x 0.35m deep and continued beyond the trench to the south. It was filled by L1088, a light brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Located in the centre of the trench F1085 was a circular post hole with a flat base and a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.24m. It was also filled by a light brown sandy silt containing no finds.

F1083 was an NE/SW aligned, linear ditch with gently sloping sides and a broad flattish base. It measured 2.0m+ x 0.8m x 0.15m deep. It was filled by L1084 a light brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1063 at the western end of the trench was a regular ditch terminal, semi-circular in plan and aligned N/S. It exhibited steeply sloping sides and a broad uneven concave base. It measured 1.7m+ x 2.3m x 0.69m deep, and was filled with a light brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered (L1064).

6.8 Trench 8 Fig.3

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.85m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.51m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.51m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A number of features were revealed, including a ditch and several post holes.

F1045 was a slightly irregular, N-S aligned ditch, located towards the eastern end of the trench. It exhibited steeply sloping sides and a rounded concave base. It was traced for a length of 1.8m +, was 0.17m wide and 0.43m deep. It was filled by L1046, a dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles. Finds from the deposit comprise pottery sherds (3g; mid 1st – early 2nd century).

F1047 was a small circular pit, with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.6 m diameter and 0.45 m deep. It was slightly disturbed by adjacent tree-rooting (F1049), and contained L1048, a dark greyish brown sandy silt which yielded sherds of Roman and residual middle Iron Age pottery (12g).

F1051 was a shallow, sub-semi-circular pit or possible ditch terminal. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.1m+ x 0.65m x 0.2m deep, and contained L1052, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded a single post-mediaeval creamware sherd (1g).

F1053 was a very shallow post hole, with near vertical sides and a flat base, with a diameter of 0.24m and a depth of 0.08m. It was filled by L1054, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1055 was a shallow circular pit or post hole, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.1m deep, filled with a dark greyish brown, silty sand which yielded no finds (L1056). F1055 was disturbed by tree-rooting (F1057) to the south-west.

F1059 was a small shallow pit with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.55m x 0.35m x 0.14m deep, and contained L1060, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1061 was a small circular post hole with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.4m x 0.15m deep, and was filled with L1062, a dark greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

6.9 Trench 9 Fig.4

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.75m AOD):

0.00 – 0.48m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 – 0.62m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.62m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Several features were excavated in this trench including ditches, pits and postholes. Also noted were three distinct areas of root disturbance (F1023, 1039 & 1043).

F1041 was a deep post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.40m in diameter and 0.39m deep. It was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (L1042) containing no finds.

F1037 was a narrow gully, aligned roughly E-W, with steep, near-vertical sides and a flattish base. It was 0.44m wide and 0.42m deep, and contained L1038, a dark greyish brown sandy silt. Finds from the deposit comprise pottery sherds (2g; mid 1st-early 2nd century).

Another, more shallow gully, F1035, ran broadly parallel to F1037 for a length of 1m before terminating. It measured 0.32m x 0.14m deep, and was filled with L1036, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Two post holes (F1031 and F1033) had similar dimensions of 0.25m x 0.3m deep and similar fills (L1032 & 1034) of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Both exhibited near-vertical sides and concave bases. No finds were recovered from either post hole.

Another pair of post holes (F1027 and F1029) were directly adjacent. Both had similar profiles with vertical sides and slightly rounded bases and a sub-circular plan. F1027 had a diameter of 0.35m and was 0.14m deep. F1029 measured 0.29m in diameter and was 0.19m deep. Both features were filled by a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (L1028 & L1030). No finds were recovered.

F1025 was a small shallow sub-circular pit with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It measured 0.56m in diameter and 0.12m deep, and contained L1026, a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered from the fill.

F1021 was an L-shaped shallow gully aligned E/W. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a flattish base, and was 1.3m+ x 0.5m x 0.12m deep. It was filled by L1022, a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered.

F1003 was a shallow sub-circular pit, with gently sloping sides and a rounded concave base. It had a diameter of 0.56m and a depth of 0.12m and was filled by L1020, a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered.

6.10 Trench 10 Fig.4

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.75m AOD):

0.00 – 0.59m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.59 – 0.75m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.75m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A number of linear features, pits and post holes were revealed within the trench.

F1018 was a shallow gully with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 4.4m x 0.4m x 0.12m deep. It was filled by L1019, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds. F1018 cut the fill of Pit F1016, adjacent.

F1016 was irregular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.98m x 0.85m x 0.28m deep. It was filled with L1017, a dark greyish brown silty sand which revealed some 94g of mediaeval (mid 11th-mid 12th century) pottery, and animal bone (28g).

F1012, a large irregular pit whose limits lay beyond the trench edge, had very steep sides and a flat base. It measured 3.35m x 2.0m+ x 0.24m deep, and contained L1013, a dark

greyish brown silty sand which contained animal bone (19g), shell (5g), an iron nail (17g) and burnt flint (49g).

F1014 was a deep post hole, cut through the fill of F1012 (L1013). It was circular in plan, with vertical sides (0.52m in diameter and 0.92m+ deep). It was filled with L1015, virtually indistinguishable from L1013. The deposit contained a single Roman pottery sherd (17g) and possible early Saxon pottery (17g), in addition to burnt flint (1g).

F1010 was an irregular pit, with steeply sloping sides, an uneven profile and rounded base. It measured 1.95m x 1m+ x 0.45m+ deep, and contained L1011, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1008 was a shallow, N-S aligned, ditch running the width of the trench. It had an asymmetric profile with gently sloping sides and a rounded, slightly concave base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.0m x 0.33m deep). It was filled by L1009, a dark greyish brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

F1006 was a shallow curvilinear gully with a rounded U-shaped profile (dimensions 2.3m x 0.4m x 0.15m deep). It contained L1007, a mid greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1004 was a circular post hole with vertical sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 0.4m x 0.25m deep). It was filled by L1005, a dark greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

6.11 Trench 11 Fig.5

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.80m AOD):

0.00 – 0.50m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50 – 0.59 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.59 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Several features were revealed including three substantial ditches.

E/W aligned ditch F1213 was partially revealed within the trench. It was steeply sloping and slightly irregular with a rounded base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.86m+ x 0.62m deep). It was filled by L1214, a light greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

F1215 was a small, elongated pit with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (dimensions 1.25m x 0.75m x 0.32m deep). It contained L1216, a light greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1217 was a substantial, E/W aligned, ditch with a slightly asymmetrical profile, steeply sloping sides and a broad flat base (2.0m+ x 2.1m x 0.55m deep). It contained L1218, a light greyish brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

F1219 was another substantial, E/W aligned, ditch with a similar yet more regular profile to F1217 (dimensions 2.0m+ x 2.4m x 0.71m deep). It contained two distinct fills: Primary fill L1221 was a mid greyish brown silty sand. Upper fill L1220 was a light greyish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from either deposit.

F1222 was an irregular ovoid pit, partially revealed within the trench. It exhibited steeply sloping, slightly convex sides and a rounded base (dimensions 1.2m x 1m x 0.48m deep). It contained L1223, a light greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1224 was an ovoid post hole, exhibiting vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.48m x 0.36m x 0.28m deep). It was filled by L1225, a light greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

6.12 Trench 12 Fig.5

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.30m AOD):

0.00 – 0.60 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.60 – 0.80 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.80 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description This trench contained several features including gullies, a pit and a number of post holes. A number of modern plough furrows were also recorded. The overburden deepened towards the eastern end of the trench. Some 114g of residual middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from subsoil, L1001.

Two, WNW/ESE aligned, parallel gullies (F1077 and F1077) were located at the western end of the trench. F1077 was slightly irregular in plan with fairly steep sides and a rounded concave base (dimensions 6.1m+ x 0.8m x 0.16m deep). It contained L1078, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded Roman pottery (6g; mid 1st century – AD70). F1079 was again irregular in plan and narrowed considerably at its western end. In profile it was V-shaped with a rounded base (dimensions 7.0m+ x 0.55m x 0.24m deep). It was filled by L1080, a mid brown sandy silt which yielded largely undiagnostic Roman pottery (5g) and fired clay (1g). A small ovoid post hole, F1081, was cut into the western end of F1079. The latter had near vertical to vertical sides and a concave base (dimensions 0.37m x 0.28m x 0.24m deep). It was filled by L1082, a mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravel which yielded no finds.

Pit F1075 was sub-semi-circular in plan and continued beyond the trench to the south. It had slightly concave steeply sloping sides (dimensions 2.2m x 1.2m+ x 1.1m deep), and

contained L1076, a dark brown sandy silt which yielded Roman pottery (38g mid 1st century- AD70), daub (333g) and struck flint (20g).

A cluster of four, shallow, possible post holes was recorded towards the eastern end of the trench (F1067, 1069, 1071 & 1073). The most substantial (F1067) cut two adjacent postholes (F1069 & 1071). The former was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.4m x 0.23m deep). The fills of the post holes were identical mid greyish brown sandy silts. The fill of F1067 (L1068) revealed Roman pottery (16g; mid 1st – early 2nd century). The other post holes yielded no finds.

F1065 was a narrow, slightly irregular ditch, aligned WSW-ENE. It had gently sloping sides with an imperceptible break onto a rounded base (dimensions 7.8m+ x 0.9m x 0.29m deep). It contained L1066, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded middle Iron Age pottery (11g) and daub (24g).

6.13 Trench 13 Fig.6

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.31m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.31 – 0.48m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A single ditch was revealed within this trench. In addition, two modern pipes traversed the trench and an area of modern truncation was noted at the western end.

F1293 was a N/S aligned ditch with a regular rounded U-shaped profile (measuring 2.0m+ x 1.14m x 0.33m deep). It was filled with a single homogeneous deposit, comprising a mid to dark brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered (L1294).

6.14 Trench 14

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.25m AOD):

0.00 – 0.4m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.48m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.15 Trench 15 Fig.6

Sample Section 1 (0.00 = 15.45m AOD):

0.00 – 0.32 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.32 – 0.48 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A single ditch terminal was revealed in the trench. In addition several modern plough furrows were investigated (F1301, F1303, F1305 & F1307).

N/S aligned ditch terminal, F1309, was located at the western end of the trench. It exhibited a regular U-shaped profile with a flattish base (dimensions 1.75m+ x 1.0m x 0.2m deep). It was filled by L1310, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.16 Trench 16

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.90m AOD):

0.00 – 0.25 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.4 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified. The overburden deepened towards the eastern end of the trench.

6.17 Trench 17

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.50m AOD):

0.00 – 0.45 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.45 – 0.65 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.65 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.18 Trench 18

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.47m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.47m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.47m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.19 Trench 19 Fig.6

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.20m AOD):

0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.45 – 0.60m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.60m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Three post holes and the terminals of two gullies were revealed within the trench. An area of tree-root disturbance was recorded at the eastern end of the trench.

F1093 was a small, shallow, circular post hole with steep, concave sides and a rounded base (measuring 0.32m x 0.11m deep). It contained a single deposit of mid greyish brown sandy silt (L1094) which yielded no finds.

F1095 was a shallow sub-circular, steep-sided and flat-based posthole (dimensions 0.5m x 0.39m x 0.14m deep). It contained an orange/brown silty sand which yielded no finds (L1096).

F1097 was a sub-circular posthole with near vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.32m x 0.24m x 0.17m deep). It contained L1098, a light brown silty sand containing no finds.

F1099 was a N/S aligned narrow parallel sided gully terminal, with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base (dimensions 0.7m+ x 0.41m 0.26m deep). It was filled by L1100, a light brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Parallel to F1099 was F1101, a similar narrow gully terminal with a slightly steeper profile (dimensions 0.4m+ x 0.32m x 0.24m deep). It was filled by L1102, a light brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.20 Trench 20 Fig.6

Sample Section 1 (0.00 = 15.10m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.50 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Trench 20 contained numerous post holes, a ditch and gully.

A group of six pits or post holes were located towards the eastern end of the trench. The most substantial was F1091. Roughly circular in plan, it had near vertical sides and a flat

base (dimensions 0.73m x 0.7m x 0.68m deep). It contained L1092, a dark greyish brown silty sand. Recovered finds comprise animal bone (6g), two fragments of lava quern (SF1; 94g & SF2; 119g), and an iron object (13g).

F1129 was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.8m x 0.7m x 0.2m deep). It contained L1130, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1131 was ovoid in plan with gently sloping sides and a narrow rounded base (dimensions 0.8m x 0.48m x 0.2m deep). It contained L1132, a dark greyish brown silty sand from which animal bone (3g) was recovered, in addition to a lead weight (SF6; 739g).

F1133 was circular in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.5m x 0.37m deep). It contained L1134, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1135 was sub-circular in plan, with near vertical sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.45m x 0.51m x 0.37m deep). It was filled by L1136, a dark greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

F1137 was circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 0.47m x 0.48m x 0.25m deep). It contained L1138, a dark greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

F1139 was a slightly irregular, N/S aligned, ditch traversing the trench. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a broad flattish base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.0m x 0.12m deep). It contained L1140, a mid greyish brown silty sand from which Roman and residual middle Iron Age pottery (47g) was recovered, in addition to fired clay (11g).

F1141 was an E/W aligned, narrow linear gully, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (dimensions 1.65m+ x 0.5m x 0.15m deep). It contained L1142, a mid greyish brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

F1143 was a shallow, possible post hole, partially revealed within the trench. It was semi-circular in plan, where seen, with gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 0.19m+ x 0.25m x 0.07m deep). It contained L1144, a dark greyish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered.

F1127 was a small, circular post hole with vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.28m x 0.1m deep). It was filled by L1128, a mid greyish brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

6.21 Trench 21 Fig.7

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.50m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description This trench contained several features including two substantial ditches, gullies and pits.

F1103 was an E/W aligned ditch, with gently sloping sides and a narrow flattish base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.93m x 0.25m deep). It contained L1104, a dark brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1105 was an E/W aligned, broad gully which tapered in width to the west. It exhibited a V-shaped profile and a narrow flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.79m x 0.39m deep). It was filled by L1106, a dark brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

F1117 was a NW/SE aligned gully with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.43m x 0.11m deep). It contained L1118, a light brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1119 was an E/W aligned ditch with a V-shaped profile and a narrow flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.2m x 0.47m deep). It contained L1120, a mid to light brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

F1121 was a SW/NE aligned, slightly irregular sided broad gully/ditch, with a U-shaped profile and a rounded base (dimensions 4.8m+ x 0.85m x 0.28m deep). It was filled by L1122, a dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of daub. Fired clay (775g) was recovered from the feature. Two small pits were cut into the SE edge of F1121 (F1123 & F1125).

Of these pits, F1123 was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping side and a rounded base (dimensions 0.8m x 0.6m x 0.32m deep). It contained L1124, a light greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1125 was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.66m x 0.23m deep). It contained L1126, a dark greyish brown silt which yielded no finds.

6.22 Trench 22 Fig.7

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.75m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.70m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.7m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description This trench contained numerous features including pits, post holes, ditches and gullies. Also noted was some tree-root disturbance in the central part of the trench and several recent plough furrows.

F1175 was an E/W aligned ditch terminal with steeply sloping irregular sides and a concave base (dimensions 1.4m+ x 1.3m x 0.35m deep). It contained L1176, a dark greyish brown sandy silt containing animal bone (61g). F1175 cut adjacent ditch F1177.

F1177 was a similarly aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.9m+ x 0.6m x 0.3m deep). It was filled by L1178, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

F1173 was a small irregular ovoid post hole with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.39m x 0.3m x 0.1m deep). It contained L1174, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1171 was a narrow gully, or possibly a deep modern plough furrow. It had a V-shaped profile and traversed the trench on an E/W alignment (dimensions 0.25m x 0.1m deep). It was filled by L1172, a mid greyish sandy silt which yielded middle Iron Age pottery sherds (29g).

F1169 was an E/W aligned, ditch terminal with moderately steep sides and a broad rounded base (dimensions 2.0m x 1.12m x 0.4m deep). It contained L1170, a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt which yielded finds including a single middle Iron Age pottery sherd (7g), daub (125g), animal bone (18g) and burnt flint (7g).

F1167 was a sub-semi-circular pit which ran into the western edge of the trench. It had steep sides breaking gradually onto a flattish base (dimensions 1.8m x 0.4m x 0.26m deep). It contained L1168, a mid greyish brown sandy silt from which a single Roman pottery sherd (7g) was recovered.

Post Hole F1165 was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flattish base (dimensions 0.55m x 0.47m x 0.2m deep). Its fill (L1166) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Post Hole F1163 was circular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.3m x 0.26m). It was filled by L1163, a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered.

Ditch F1161 was aligned E/W, with gently sloping sides and a broad flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.87m x 0.3m deep). It contained L1162, a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt which yielded Roman pottery (3g).

F1179 was a small circular post hole with vertical sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.3m x 0.27m deep). It was filled by L1180, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Ditch F1159 was aligned roughly E/W and exhibited moderately steep sides and a broad flattish base (dimensions 2.1m+ x 1.2m x 0.3m deep). It contained L1160, a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt which yielded Roman and residual middle Iron Age pottery (6g). F1159 cut the fill of adjacent small pit F1157.

Pit F1157 was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.8m x 0.6m x 0.2m deep). It was filled by L1158, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds. F1157 was also cut by adjacent pit F1155.

F1155 was sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (dimensions 0.65m x 0.6m x 0.17m deep). It contained L1156, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Small pit F1151 was partially disturbed by adjacent tree-root disturbance (F1153). Roughly ovoid in plan, it had moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.14m deep). It was filled by L1152, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Post Hole F1149 was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.5m x 0.24m deep). It contained L1150, a dark greyish brown sandy silt from which pottery sherds (11g; early to mid 2nd century) and tile (24g) were recovered.

F1147 was a small circular post hole with vertical sides and a flattish base (dimensions 0.27m x 0.11m deep). It contained L1148, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Small pit F1145 was circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base (dimensions 0.6m x 0.14m deep). The fill (L1146) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt, though no finds were recovered.

6.23 Trench 23 Fig.8

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.10m AOD):

0.00 – 0.42m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.42 - 0.55m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description The trench contained two substantial ditches and two gullies.

Aligned roughly E/W, ditch F1313 was quite substantial, with a broad U-shaped profile (dimensions 2.0m+ x 3.0m x 0.83m deep). It was flanked on its northern edge by a small natural depression (not thought to be of archaeological origin). It contained two distinct deposits. The basal fill was L1314, a dark greyish brown silty sand, overlain by L1315, a light greyish brown silty sand. Middle Iron Age pottery (103g) was recovered from L1314.

F1316 was another substantial E/W aligned ditch with an asymmetric profile and a rounded base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.6m x 0.82m deep). It was filled by L1317, a light greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

F1316 cut Gully 1318 to the south. F1318 had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base, and was aligned roughly NE/SW (dimensions 12.9m+ x 0.7m x 0.2m deep). It contained L1319, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds. It was cut by F1320.

F1320 ran roughly E/W and had a similar profile to F1318 (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.8m x 0.22m deep). It contained L1321, a light greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

6.24 Trench 24 Fig.8

Sample Section (0.00 = 15.10m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.48 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description The trench contained a ditch and a pit. Some tree-root disturbance was also noted towards the centre and south of the trench.

Ditch F1337 was aligned roughly E/W, exhibiting parallel sides and a shallow U-shaped profile (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.7m x 0.2m deep). It was filled by L1338, a mid greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

Adjacent pit F1339 was sub-circular in plan with a shallow rounded profile (dimensions 0.7m x 0.5m x 0.12m deep). Its fill (L1340) was a dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

6.25 Trench 25 Fig.8

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.75m AOD):

0.00 – 0.32 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.32 – 0.52m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.52 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A single ditch was located towards the northern end of the trench. Several areas of modern plough furrowing and tree-root disturbance were noted throughout the trench.

Ditch F1341 was aligned E/W, and exhibited steep sides and a broad flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.2m x 0.38m deep). It contained L1342, a mid greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

6.26 Trench 26 Fig.9

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.95m AOD)

0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.45 – 0.60m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.60m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Several features were revealed including a ditch, post holes and pits. Extensive tree-root disturbance was also noted in the trench.

Pit F1226 was circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.9m x 0.28m deep). It was filled by L1227, a mid greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

Gully terminal F1228 had a rounded end and parallel sides, and was aligned roughly E/W (dimensions 0.55m+ x 0.5m x 0.3m deep). Its sides were gently sloping onto a rounded base. It was filled by L1229, a mid greyish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered.

Parallel and adjacent to F1228 was a more substantial gully terminal F1230, which was similar in plan and profile (dimensions 0.76m+ x 0.7m x 0.33m deep). It contained L1231, a mid greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

To the north a row of three small pits or post holes were recorded (F1232, 1234 & 1236). All were very shallow and had similar fills which contained no finds. They may be associated with root disturbance.

Small pit F1238 had a circular plan and gently sloping concave sides breaking imperceptibly onto a rounded base (dimensions 0.38m x 0.39m x 0.17m deep). It contained L1239, a mid greyish brown silty sand which yielded no finds.

Post Hole F1240 was circular in plan with vertical sides and an uneven base (dimensions 0.17m x 0.18m x 0.4m deep). It was filled by L1241, a mid greyish brown silty sand which contained no finds.

Pit F1242 was sub-circular in plan and partially revealed within the trench. It had near vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.39m x 0.33m x 0.24m deep). It contained L1243, a mid greyish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered.

F1244 was a small, root-disturbed pit, sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.28m x 0.3m x 0.18m deep). It was filled by L1245, a dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal. Roman pottery (4g) was recovered from this deposit.

Ditch F1246 was E/W aligned with parallel sides and a steep asymmetrical stepped profile with a flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.6m x 0.5m deep). It contained L1247, a dark greyish brown silty sand. First-century AD pottery sherds (18g) were recovered from the deposit, in addition to struck flint (2g) and a coal fragment (<1g).

6.27 Trench 27

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.70m AOD):

0.00 – 0.44m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.44 – 0.59m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.59m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Two probable pits and a ditch terminal were revealed in this trench, in addition to extensive root disturbance.

Probable pit F1200 was semi-circular in plan where revealed within the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 0.6m+ x 1.35m x 0.32m deep). It contained two distinct deposits. Basal fill L1202 (a dark grey silt) was overlain by L1201, a mid greyish brown sandy silt containing pottery sherds (79g; mid 1st-early 2nd century) and tile (14g).

Shallow pit F1198 was sub-rectangular in plan and partially revealed within the trench. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.55m+ x 0.95m x 0.14m deep).

It contained L1199 a light brown sandy silt which yielded pottery sherds (77g; c.20BC – AD70).

Probable ditch terminal F1196 was aligned E/W, exhibiting a shallow, moderately sloping profile and a broad uneven base (dimensions 1.60m+ x 1.7m x 0.25m deep). It was filled by L1197, a light greyish brown sandy silt which contained pottery sherds (69g; possibly middle Iron Age) and struck flint (8g).

6.28 Trench 28 Fig.9

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.70m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 - 0.48 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Features included pits, post holes, ditches and gullies. A number of modern plough furrows (e.g. F1259) and areas of root disturbance were noted.

Posthole F1261 was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.3m x 0.36m x 0.13m deep). It contained F1262, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Small pit F1257 was sub-circular in plan with irregular edges and gently sloping sides onto an uneven base (dimensions 0.6m x 0.6m x 0.13m deep). It was filled by L1258, a mid greyish brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

Pit F1255 was irregular and sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (dimensions 0.9m x 0.8m x 0.1m deep). It contained L1256, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded finds including pottery sherds (121g; middle Iron Age) and brick (14g).

F1253 was a slightly irregular gully with a U-shaped plan, steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 1.5m x 0.3m x 0.22m deep). It was filled by L1254, a dark greyish brown sandy silt containing pottery sherds (18g; mid 1st – early 2nd century), brick (26g) and struck flint (2g).

F1251 was a WNW/ESE aligned, broad, linear gully, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base (traced for a length of 6.0m+, it was 0.7m wide and 0.19m deep). Its fill (L1252) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Running roughly parallel with F1251 was F1249, a slightly shallow broad gully with a similar profile (dimensions 4.0m+ x 0.6m x 0.09m deep). It contained L1250, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

6.29 Trench 29 Fig.10

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.80m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 - 0.53 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.53 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A large pit and ditch terminal were present, in addition to two small parallel linear features.

Pit F1205 was sub-ovoid in plan, 0.72m x 0.45m x 0.10m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a single homogeneous deposit of uncompact, light greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

F1211 was a large pit or ditch terminal, partially revealed within the trench and aligned E/W. It was 1.12m+ long, 1.05m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled with a light greyish brown, uncompact silty sand. No finds were recovered.

Two parallel narrow linear features were recorded within the trench (F1207 & 1209). They may represent ploughmarks. F1207 was traced for 2.3m+, was 0.22m wide and 0.09m deep. It exhibited moderately steep sides and concave base, and was filled with a light greyish brown, uncompact silty sand with moderate flint pebbles. No finds were recovered. Adjacent feature F1209 was very similar in size, profile and fill. No finds were made.

6.30 Trench 30

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.25m AOD):

0.00 – 0.36 m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.36 - 0.54 m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.54 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.31 Trench 31

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.85m AOD):

0.00 – 0.48m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 - 0.66m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.66m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.32 Trench 32

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.48m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48 - 0.55m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55 m+ L1002. Natural drift.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.33 Trench 33

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.50m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50 – 0.68m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.68m+ L1002. Natural drift.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.34 Trench 34

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.25m AOD):

0.00 – 0.30 m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.30 - 0.39m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.39m+ L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.35 Trench 35 Fig.10

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.50m AOD):

0.00 – 0.43m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.43 – 0.55m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55m+ L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Three ditches, a gully and several post holes were revealed.

Ditch F1194 was aligned N/S and had a slightly asymmetrical profile with moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.94m x 0.29m deep). It was filled by L1195, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Running roughly parallel was F1192, a broad shallow gully with a flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 0.53m x 0.08m deep). It contained L1193, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Post Hole F1203 was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.3m x 0.27m x 0.14m deep). It contained L1204, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Posthole F1190 was ovoid in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.16m deep). It contained L1191, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

Post Hole F1188 was sub-circular in plan with a similar profile to F1190 (dimensions 0.58m x 0.5m x 0.16m deep). It was filled by L1189, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Two small intercutting possible post holes (F1185 & 1187) were excavated. Their relationship was not defined as their fills were indistinguishable, both comprising light grey, uncompact sandy silts with moderate inclusions of flint gravel (L1186 & L1248 respectively).

F1183 was a N/S aligned ditch with moderately sloping parallel sides and a flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1.3m x 0.36m deep). It contained L1184, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded finds comprising pottery sherds (107g; mid to late 1st century).

Parallel and directly adjacent was F1181, a steep parallel-sided ditch with a narrow flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 1m x 0.51m deep). It contained L1182, a mid greyish brown silty sand containing a single, undiagnostic Roman pottery sherd (4g) and struck flint (4g).

6.36 Trench 36 Fig.10

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.35m AOD):

0.00 – 0.46m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.46 - 0.53m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.53m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Several ditches and a small pit were revealed. An area of tree root disturbance was noted at the eastern end of the trench.

N/S aligned ditch terminal F1335 had a rounded terminal, steeply sloping sides and an uneven base (dimensions 1.95m+ x 1.13m x 0.15m deep). It contained L1336, a light greyish brown sandy silt containing late Iron Age pottery (108g).

Parallel to F1335 was F1333, a narrow ditch terminal with a rounded end, steeply sloping sides and a flattish base (dimensions 1.75m+ x 0.6m x 0.15m deep). It was filled by L1334, a light greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

F1331 was a parallel-sided, N/S aligned, shallow ditch with a flattened U-shaped profile and a rounded base (dimensions 2m+ x 1m x 0.16m deep). It contained L1332, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which yielded no finds.

N/S aligned ditch F1328 had parallel sides, a stepped asymmetrical profile and a narrow flat base (dimensions 2m+ x 1.2m x 0.43m deep). It contained two distinct fills. The basal deposit (L1330) consisted of a dark greyish brown silt overlain by L1329 (the latter a mid greyish brown sandy silt). L1330 contained some 630g of late 1st century BC to early-mid 1st century AD pottery, all from the same vessel of a type usually associated with funerary use, and uncommon in Essex.

Directly adjacent and parallel was Ditch F1326. It exhibited a slightly asymmetrical profile and a broad uneven base (dimensions 2m+ x 1m x 0.18m deep). It was filled by L1327, a light greyish brown, uncompact, sandy silt with moderate flint pebble gravel which produced no finds.

F1324 was a similarly aligned, narrow ditch with a moderately sloping profile and flattish base (dimensions 2m x 0.8m x 0.14m deep). It contained a light greyish brown sandy silt (L1325) which produced no finds.

Small pit F1322 was ovoid in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (dimensions 0.6m x 0.4m x 0.34m deep). It was filled by L1323, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.37 Trench 37 Fig.11

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.05m AOD):

0.00 – 0.32m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.32 - 0.48m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Four ditches, several post holes and a pit were revealed in addition to areas of tree-root disturbance (F1273 & F1295).

Curving irregular gully, F1291, had an uneven profile and base (dimensions 1.2m+ x 0.85m x 0.21m deep). It contained L1292, a light brown sandy silt which produced finds including a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery (5g) and fired clay fragments (16g).

E/W aligned, parallel-sided ditch F1289 had a slightly asymmetrical U-shaped profile (dimensions 2m+ x 1.05m x 0.49m deep). It contained a light brown sandy silt (L1290) which contained 2nd century pottery sherds (98g).

Post Hole F1287 was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.61m x 0.51m x 0.4m deep). It contained L1288, a light brown sandy silt which produced a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery (6g).

Ditch F1285 was aligned E/W with parallel sides and a gently sloping profile. It exhibited a broad flat base (dimensions 2.0m+ x 2.8m x 0.49m deep). The ditch was filled with a light brown sandy silt (L1286), containing 2nd century pottery (205g) and brick (125g).

Post Hole F1283 was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.7m x 0.66m x 0.29m deep). It was filled by L1284, a light brown sandy silt which produced no finds.

Post Hole F1281 was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.6m x 0.42m x 0.11m deep). It contained L1282, a light brown sandy silt which produced no finds.

Post Hole F1279 was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.4m+ x 0.4m x 0.32m deep). It was filled by L1280, a light brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

SW/NE aligned ditch, F1277, had parallel sides and a rounded V-profile (dimension 4.0m+ x 0.87m x 0.4m deep). It contained L1278, a light brown sandy silt which yielded undiagnostic Roman pottery sherds (40g).

E/W aligned ditch terminal F1275 exhibited a rounded end and a very shallow gently sloping profile (dimensions 1.03m+ x 0.65m x 0.14m deep). It was filled by L1276, a light brown sandy silt which produced undiagnostic Roman pottery (29g).

Roughly aligned E/W, Ditch F1271 had parallel, near vertical sides and a broad flat base (dimensions 2m+ x 1m x 0.3m deep). It contained L1272, a light brown sandy silt which produced pottery sherds (259g; mid to late 1st to early 2nd century AD), brick (67g), tile (705g), a copper alloy object (SF3; 30g), an iron nail and a fragment of worked stone (SF5; 161g).

6.30 Trench 38 Fig.11

Sample Section (0.00 = 14.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.37 – 0.41m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.41m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description The trench contained two substantial pits and two postholes.

Post Hole F1269 was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (diameter 0.5m, 0.15 m deep). It was filled by L1270, a mid brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Post Hole F1267 was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.4 m x 0.14 m deep). It was filled by L1268, a mid brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

Pit F1265 was semi-circular in plan and partially revealed within the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and the base was not fully exposed within the trench limits (dimensions 1.6m x 0.5m+ x 0.4m+ deep). A single deposit filled the feature, a mid brown sandy silt which yielded no finds (L1266).

Curvilinear pit F1263 continued beyond the western and northern trench edge. It had steeply sloping sides and a flattish base (dimensions 2.8m+ x 0.8m+ x 0.5 m deep), and was filled by L1264, a mid brown sandy silt. Finds from the deposit comprise fired clay (53g) and burnt flint (24g).

6.39 Trench 39 Fig.12

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.50m AOD):

0.00 – 0.50m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50 - 0.71m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.71m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Two ditches and a gully were excavated within the trench. The overburden became slightly shallower towards the northern end of the trench.

E/W aligned ditch F1357 had parallel sides and a flattened U-shaped profile (dimensions 2.0m+ x 3.5m x 0.75m deep). It was filled by two distinct deposits. The basal deposit comprised a very dark grey silty clay (L1359). This was overlain by L1358, a dark grey clayey sand. Finds recovered from L1359 comprise Roman and residual early/middle Iron Age pottery sherds (39g), and animal bone (211g).

E-W aligned ditch terminal F1355 was irregular in plan with moderately sloping sides and an uneven rounded base (dimensions 2.2m+ x 2.7m x 0.4m deep). It was filled by a mid to light grey sandy silt (L1356) which produced pottery sherds (286g: late 1st – late 2nd century) and brick/tile (187g).

Curvilinear gully F1353 had fairly steep sides and a rounded base (dimensions 5.0m+ x 0.5m x 0.15m deep). It contained L1354, a mid grey sandy silt which produced no finds.

6.40 Trench 40 Fig.12

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.10m AOD):

0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.34 – 0.48m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description A single N/S aligned parallel sided ditch (F1360) traversed the trench. It exhibited an elongated U-shaped profile with a flattish base and moderately steep sides (dimensions 2m+ x 0.85m x 0.3m deep). It was filled by L1361, a dark grey/orange silty sand with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered.

6.41 Trench 41

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.77m AOD):

0.00 – 0.29m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.29 – 0.36m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.36m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.42 Trench 42

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.50m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.4m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.4m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.43 Trench 43

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.30m AOD):

0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.47m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.47m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.44 Trench 44

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.44m AOD):

0.00 – 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.35m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.35 m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified

6.45 Trench 45 Fig.12

Sample Section (0.00 = 13.76m AOD):

0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.56m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.56m+	L1002. Natural drift. As Trench 1.

Description Several ditches, two pits and a single post hole were revealed within the trench. An unstratified, pierced coin was recovered from the trench.

Ditch F1347 traversed the trench from NE/SW. It had a V-shaped profile with a narrow rounded base (dimensions 2m+ x 0.78m x 0.32m deep), and was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt (L1347) which produced no finds.

Ditch F1349 was parallel, though tapering slightly to the NE. It had moderately sloping sides and a broad flat base (dimensions 2m+ x 1.58m x 0.15m deep). It contained L1350, a mid greyish brown sandy silt which produced brick (290g).

Pit F1311 showed evidence of root disturbance, was roughly ovoid in plan and continued beyond the trench to the north. It had a stepped asymmetrical profile and a rounded base (dimensions 1.25m x 0.85m x 0.25m deep). It was filled by L1312, a light greyish brown sandy silt which produced no finds.

Large, shallow irregular feature F1297 (dimensions 7m x 2m x 0.14m deep) was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt (L1298). A considerable quantity of later 3rd-4th century pottery was recovered from the deposit (2337g), in addition to tile (2771g) and an iron nail (11g).

Underlying F1297 was F1299, an ovoid pit with steep sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.82m x 0.72m x 0.3m deep). It was filled by L1300, a dark greyish brown sandy silt which produced mid 3rd-4th century pottery (447g).

Small sub-circular pit or post hole F1345 had gently sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions 0.56m x 0.5m x 0.08m deep). It contained L1346, a light greyish brown sandy silt which produced no finds.

Ditch F1351 was only partially revealed, continuing beyond the trench to the east. It was aligned NE/SW, and exhibited a gently sloping western edge with a break mid-slope and a rounded base (dimensions 2m+ x 2.2m+ x 0.22m deep). Its fill (L1352) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors significantly hindered the recognition and characterisation of archaeological features on the site.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Between 0.35 – 1.05m of topsoil and subsoil sealed the underlying natural gravels. The overburden was an average of 0.45m in depth across the site. A number of features of generally prehistoric to Roman date cut the natural gravels and were sealed by the subsoil.

8.2 Archaeological features were largely concentrated in the north eastern part of the site, with some continuation into the south eastern corner.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The evaluation revealed multi-period archaeological features across the site, principally concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site.

9.2 The features relate to agricultural exploitation and domestic occupation for the middle Iron Age, late pre-Roman Iron Age and the Roman period. Two features are tentatively dated to the early Saxon and mediaeval periods (Trench 10 Post Hole 1014 and Pit 1016), though the pottery styles are undiagnostic.

9.3 The middle Iron Age material is generally small and abraded. It occurs in greatest concentration in the eastern part of the site, though the features in Trench 23 (ditches and gullies) in the central part of the site, appears to date solely to the middle Iron Age. Late Iron Age features are more infrequent, also occurring in the eastern part of the site (Trench 36). By far the greatest, datable activity on the site, is of the Roman period, with a concentration of mid to late 1st century to middle 2nd century features in the north eastern and eastern part of the site. This distribution is also co-incident with the broadly dated 'Roman' contexts in this part of the site. The only securely-dated later Roman (mid to late 3rd-4th century) are located in the extreme south eastern part of the site.

9.4 The archaeological features suggest a continuity of exploitation of the Thames terraces from the late prehistoric period into the Roman period, a pattern observed locally on a number of other sites (for instance close by at Moor Hall Farm and also Hunts Hill and Manor Farms, Upminster). It is probable that the focus of the site lies on the crested, north eastern part (possibly beyond the site), and that the run-off of features to the south and west represents the hinterland and field systems of the settlement. What is noteworthy is the general correspondence between some of the cropmark evidence and the identified archaeological features, especially in the north eastern part of the site, where we see a number of enclosures. Some of the more regular cropmarks (for instance the 'ring-ditches' in Trenches 4 & 5) did not reflect buried archaeological features, however, nor did a number of the linear cropmarks.

9.5 It is difficult to suggest issues of status on the site, though there is a paucity of finewares and continental imports in both the earlier and later Roman period. The archaeological evidence would tend to suggest limited small-scale middle Iron Age and late Iron Age occupation, superseded by greater early Roman occupation of the north eastern part of the site, perhaps extending downhill in the later Roman period (indeed there is a strong late Roman assemblage in Trench 45 in the extreme south east).

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Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
U/S	U/S	-	45	Unstratified						SF4 Pierced Coin (<1g)
1001	-	-	-	Subsoil			tile 1971			
1001	-	-	12	Subsoil	MIA	114				
1012	1013	-	10	Pit fill				19		Shell (5g) Fe nail (17g) Burnt flint (49g)
1014	1015	-	10	Post-hole fill	5 th to 7 th C AD	18				Burnt flint (1g)
1016	1017	-	10	Pit fill	Mid 11 th to mid 12 th C AD	94		28		
1023	1024	-	9	Gully/root fill	Roman	4				
1037	1038	-	9	?Post trench fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	2				
1041	1042	-	9	Post-hole fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	3				
1045	1046	-	8	Ditch fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	3				
1047	1048	-	8	Post-hole fill	Mid 1 st to at least AD70	12				
1051	1052	-	8	Pit fill	Mid 18 th to 19 th C AD	1				
1061	1062	-	8	Post-hole fill	Roman	14				
1065	1066	-	12	Ditch fill	MIA	11	daub 24			
1067	1068	-	12	Post-hole fill	Roman (mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD)	16				
1075	1076	-	12	Pit fill	Mid 1 st to at least AD70	38	daub 333		20	
1077	1078	-	12	Ditch fill	Mid 1 st to at least AD70	6				
1079	1080	-	12	Ditch fill	Roman	5	fired clay 1			
1091	1092	-	20	Pit/Post-hole fill				6		SF1 Lava quern (94g) SF2 Lava quern (119g) Fe (13g)
1121	1122	-	21	Ditch fill			fired clay 775			
1131	1132	-	20	Pit fill				3		SF6 Pb weight (739g)
1139	1140	-	20	Ditch fill	Mid 1 st to early/mid 2 nd C	47	fired clay 11			
1149	1150	-	22	?Pit fill	Early to mid 2 nd C AD	11	?tile 24			
1159	1160	-	22	Ditch fill	Roman	6				

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
1161	1162	-	22	Ditch fill	Roman	3				
1167	1168	-	22	?fill	Roman	7				
1169	1170	-	22	Ditch fill	MIA	7	?daub 125	18		Burnt flint (7g)
1171	1172	-	22	?Plough rut fill	MIA	29				
1175	1176	-	22	Ditch fill				61		
1181	1182	-	35	Ditch fill	Roman	4			4	
1183	1184	-	35	Ditch fill	Mid 1 st to at least AD70	107				
1196	1197	-	27	Ditch fill	MIA+?	69			8	
1198	1199	-	27	Ditch/Pit fill	c20BC to cAD70	77				
1200	1201	-	27	Ditch/Pit fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	79	?tile 14			
1244	1245	-	26	Pit fill	Roman	4				
1246	1247	-	26	Ditch fill	Mid 1 st to cAD70	18			2	Coal (<1g)
1253	1254	1	28	?fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	16	fired clay <1			
1253	1254	2	28	?fill	Mid 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	18	CBM 26		2	
1255	1256	-	28	?Pit fill	MIA	121	CBM 14			
1263	1264	-	38	Pit fill			fired clay 53			Burnt flint (24g)
1271	1272	-	37	Ditch fill	Mid/late 1 st to early 2 nd C AD	254	brick 67 tile 705			SF3 Cu alloy object (30g) Fe nail (3g) SF5 Worked stone (161g)
1275	1276	-	37	Ditch fill	Roman	29				
1277	1278	-	37	Ditch fill	Roman	40				
1285	1286	-	37	Ditch fill	Early 2 nd C AD	205	brick 125			
1287	1288	-	37	Linear?Ditch fill	Roman	6				
1289	1290	-	37	Ditch fill	cAD100 to AD155/160	98				
1291	1292	-	37	Ditch/?Pit fill	MIA	5	fired clay 16			
1297	1298	-	45	Truncated feature fill	Later 3 rd to 4 th C AD	2337	tile 2771			Fe nail (11g)
1297	1298	1	45	Truncated feature fill	3 rd to 4 th C AD	84.25	tile 406 CBM 9			Burnt flint (41g)
1297	1298	2	45	Truncated feature fill	Late 3 rd to 4 th C AD	757	tile 5555			
1299	1300	-	45	Pit fill	Mid 3 rd to 4 th C AD	447				
1313	1314	-	23	Ditch fill	MIA	103				

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
				(lower)						
1328	1330	-	36	Ditch fill (basal)	Late 1 st C BC to early/mid 1 st C AD	630				
1335	1336	-	36	Ditch fill	LIA	108				
1349	1350	-	45	Ditch fill			brick 290			
1355	1356	-	39	Ditch fill	Late 1 st to late 2 nd C AD	286	CBM/pot 187			
1357	1359	-	39	Ditch fill (lower)	Roman	39		211		

NB The pottery dates in *italics* are insecure dates.

Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

A. R. Fawcett BA, MA

Introduction

This report provides dating evidence for each context that contained pottery at Berwick Ponds Farm, Rainham. Dating is based (where possible) on both the identification of form and fabric. The report also contains a brief summary of the results of analysis.

Methodology

Quantification is by sherd count and weight per fabric. A summary of the results are presented below. The assemblage from each context was given a brief macroscopic examination. No detailed fabric description of any of the material and no detailed comparison with other material of a similar nature has been attempted. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd, however, where appropriate a date range and comments about the condition of the majority of pottery are made. Fabric and form keys are provided below to ease reference. The fabric key utilises codes that relate to the national system (Tomber & Dore 1998). Many of the fabrics extend into Essex. For convenience therefore codes in brackets (where possible) relate to the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987).

Fabric Key

COL WH	Colchester white ware (COLB)
HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware (HADOX)
UNS OX	Unsources oxidised ware (RED)
UNS BW	Black surfaced or 'Romanising' grey ware (BSW)
HAD RE 1	Hadham reduced category 1 (HAD)
HGW RE C	Highgate Wood reduced ware category C (HGW)
NKT RE	North Kent reduced ware (NKG)
RET RE	Rettendon reduced ware (RET)
UNS FR	Unsources fine sandy grey wares (GRF)
UNS RE	Sandy grey ware (GRS)
UNS ST	Unsources storage jar fabric (STOR)
SOB GT	Grog tempered fabrics (GROG)
UNS GC	Unsources grog and calcite ware (-)
NKT SH	North Kent shell tempered ware (SHELL)
SEX SH	South Essex shell tempered ware (SHELL)
UNS FG	Unsources flint and grog tempered ware (-)

All other fabrics as written. *Italics* denotes an uncertain identification or date.

Form Key

B = dish, C = bowl, D = mortaria, G = jar.

Ceramic Catalogue

CONTEXT	CERAMIC LISTING	DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
1046 TT8	1x SEX SH (3g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	
1048 TT8	1x UNS BW (8g) 1x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (4g)	Mid 1st to at least AD70	The UNS BW contains abundant flint. The MIA sherd contains large angular flint.
1052 TT8	1x Creamware (1g)	Mid 18th to 19th C AD	
1062 TT8	1x UNS BW (14g)	Roman	
1024 TT9	1x UNS BW (4g)	Roman	
1038 TT9	1x SEX SH (2g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	
1041 TT9	1x SEX SH (3g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	
1015 TT10	1x SEX SH (<1g) 7x Organic and shell tempered ware (17g)	5th to 7th C AD	In the absence of form this fabric could conceivably be Iron Age, but no other fabric on the site is comparable.
1017 TT10	3x UNS SH - G lid seat <i>see comments</i> - (94g)	Mid 11th to mid 12th C AD	No parallel has been readily identified for the oxidised jar form. The fabric is composed of abundant shell, limestone and sparse grog. The form appears to have more in common with early medieval types.
1001 TT12	1x Flint & sand tempered ware - MIA - (114g)	MIA	
1066 TT12	4x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (11g)	MIA	Some shell is present in this fabric.
1068 TT12	1x UNS OX (5g) 1x UNS BW (11g)	Roman (mid 1st to early 2nd C AD)	Both of these sherds contain abundant flint.
1076 TT12	1x UNS BW (8g) 1x SOB GT - G mid 1st to late 1st C AD - (28g) 1x SEX SH (2g)	Mid 1st to at least AD70	Cordons are present on the jar form just below the rim.
1078 TT12	1x UNS FR (3g) 1x SOB GT - mid 1st to late 1st C AD (3g)	Mid 1st to at least AD70	

1080 TT12	1x UNS BW (1g) 1x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (4g) 1x Fired clay (1g)	Roman	There is no difference in the quality of the two sherds.
1140 TT20	2x UNS BW (10g) 1x UNS ST (26g) 1x Flint and sand tempered fabric - MIA - (11g) 2x Fired clay (11g)	Mid 1st to early/mid 2nd C	The UNS BW are an earlier version of this fabric. The <i>prehistoric</i> sherd appears also to contain grog. It may represent a local variation of Late Iron Age production.
1150 TT22	1x HGW RE C - c AD60 to c AD180 - (6g) 1x UNS FR (5g)	Early to mid 2nd C AD	The Highgate Wood sherd is more likely to have been imported around the early to mid 2 nd century AD. The UNS FR sherd has a white slip similar to Highgate products. At this stage that source cannot be ruled out.
1160 TT22	1x UNS BW (4g) 1x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (2g)	Roman	There is little difference in the quality of these sherds. The <i>prehistoric</i> sherd is smaller and more abraded, but this may simply be due to the lower fired fabric.
1162 TT22	1x UNS BW (3g)	Roman	
1168 TT22	1x UNS BW (7g)	Roman	
1170 TT22	1x Organic and sand tempered ware - MIA - (7g)	MIA	
1172 TT22	1x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (29g)	MIA	This sherd also contains common shell although principally it is dominated by flint.
1314 TT23	1x UNS OX (7g) 4x UNS ST (30g) 5x Middle Iron-Age vegetable wiped ware (66g)	MIA	The MIA sherds are all belong to the same globular vessel with an upright rim. The surface of the vessel has been wiped with grass and finger tips. The vessel is quite fine with a flat rim. Parallels are noted e.g. at Mucking and Heybridge area (Brown 1997, 32).
1245 TT26	1x UNS BW (4g)	Roman	
1247 TT26	3x UNS BW (13g) 1x UNS FG (5g)	Mid 1st to c AD70	The Romanising sherds contain flint.

1197 TT27	1x UNS BW (18g) 7x Flint and sand tempered ware – MIA - (51g)	MIA+?	The UNS BW contains grog and flint and is probably no later than AD70. It may be a transitional sherd to the Late Iron Age. The MIA sherds have a row of stabbed impressions
1199 TT27	8x UNS GC (77g)	c 20BC to c AD70	The fabric is quite loose and the sherd probably represents a storage jar.
1201 TT27	3x UNS BW (13g) 4x UNS RE - L - (45g) 2x SEX SH (21g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	The Romanising sherds are on the point of vitrification.
1254 TT28 Seg 1	2x SEX SH - G mid 1st to early 2nd C AD - (16g) 2x Fired clay (<1g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	The SEX SH is vesiculated.
1254 TT28 Seg 2	1x SEX SH - C/G mid 1st to early 2nd C AD - (18g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	The sherd is vesiculated.
1256 TT28	8x Flint and sand tempered ware – MIA - (121g)	MIA	The remains of a finger impression is present on one sherd.
1182 TT35	1x UNS BW (4g)	Roman	
1184 TT35	2x UNS BW (58g) 3x SOB GT - G mid 1st to late 1st C AD - (29g) 2x SEX SH (19g) 1x Flint and sand tempered ware – MIA - (1g)	Mid 1st to at least AD70	An everted jar rim is present in SOB GT. The MIA sherd is very small and abraded.
1330 TT36	33x SOB GT - G late 1st BC to early/mid 1st C AD - (630g)	Late 1st C BC to early/mid 1st C AD	All the sherds derive from one jar. It has an everted rim on a tall narrow neck above a rounded body with two sets of cordons. The type fits into category B3-5 (Thompson 1982, 155-157). This type is commonly used for burials although it is not common in Essex.
1336 TT36	8x Sand tempered hand-made ware - LIA - (108g)	Late Iron Age	None of the sherds display significant abrasion.
1272 TT37	3x UNS OX (27g) 4x UNS BW - G24 2nd to 4th C AD - (40g) 11x UNS RE - G20 c AD60 to early 2nd C AD - (158g) 3x SEX SH - G - (34g)	Mid/late 1st to early 2nd C AD	One shell-tempered ware has an everted rim. The three oxidised sherds are in a Romanising fabric.
1276 TT37	1x UNS OX (9g) 2x UNS RE (20g)	Roman	

1278 TT37	1x UNS BW (5g) 3x UNS RE (35g)	Roman	
1286 TT37	1x UNS BW - G25 2nd to early 4th C AD - (26g) 7x SEX SH (172g) 1x Flint and sand tempered ware - LIA- (7g)	Early 2nd C AD	All the SEX SH sherds are vesiculated although virtually a whole base is present. The Late Iron Age sherd is intrusive.
1288 TT37	1x UNS RE (6g)	Roman	
1290 TT37	1x COL WH (MO) - D mid 1st to AD200 - (52g) 4x UNS BW (23g) 1x NKT RE - B early 2nd C AD to c AD155 - (15g) 2x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (8g)	c AD100 to AD155/160	The mortaria flange does not have a direct parallel although the the bead is clearly a Colchester style. The North Kent ware is only a tentative identification. The fabric does not appear to be Essex in origin but has more in common with Kentish fabrics. The form style originated in the early 2nd C AD. The MIA sherd is small and abraded.
1292 TT37	1x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (5g)	MIA	
1356 TT39	2x UNS BW (40g) 3x NKT SH - G late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (174g) 10x Flint and sand tempered ware - MIA - (72g)	Late 1st to late 2nd C AD	The NKT SH ware sherds are tentatively identified at this stage. Nevertheless many aspects of the fabric on initial analysis are comparable. Similarly two forms are close to 572 and 575 identified in London (Davies <i>et al</i> 1994, 102-105). The MIA sherds are quite well fired. One flat top rim is present. They are all hand made.
1359 TT39	1x UNS OX (25g) 2x Flint and shell tempered ware - EIA to MIA - (14g)	Roman	Both of the prehistoric sherds are in poor condition.
1001 TT45	2x RET RE - later 3rd to 4th C AD - (84g) 6x UNS RE - C dropped and pointed flange later 3rd to 4th C - (134g) 3x UNS ST (155g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	These flanged bowl types are similar to those (by form) produced at Moulsham Street, Chelmsford.

1298 TT45	1x HAD OX - c AD270 to 4th C AD - (2g) 25x UNS BW - G 2nd to 4th C - (327g) 1x HAD RE 1 (4g) 5x UNS FR (45g) 34x UNS RE - C flanged 3rd to 4th C AD; G bifid 3rd to 4th C AD; G36 3rd to 4th C AD - (738g) 16x UNS ST (1221g)	Later 3rd to 4th C AD	A number of the storage jar sherds are large and display a typical stabbing pattern around the shoulder. Large, although sparse, flint is present in a number of sherds. Across all the categories of unsourced coarsewares sparse large flint is noted frequently. The UNS BW sherds contain some jar forms
1298 TT45 seg 1	1x UNS OX (8g) 1x UNS BW (15g) 2x UNS RE (21g) 1x UNS ST - G36 3rd to 4th C AD - (40g) 1x Creamware - mid 18th to 19th C AD - (0.25g)	3rd to 4th C AD	The storage jar is not narrow necked although the rim form is similar. The creamware sherd is nothing more than a flake and is intrusive.
1298 TT45 seg 2	1x HAD OX - c AD270 to 4th C AD - (5g) 15x UNS BW (179g) 1x HAD RE 1 (6g) 29x UNS RE - E later 2nd to 4th C AD - (379g) 5x UNS ST (187g) 1x Creamware - mid 18th to 19th C AD (<1g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	The storage jar fabric contains flint suggesting a local source. A large percentage of the sandy grey wares and Romanising fabrics also contain sparse (often large) crushed flint.
1300 TT45	1x UNS BW (21g) 7x UNS RE - C 2 x flanged mid 3rd to 4th C AD; G lid seat late 2nd to 4th C AD - (426g)	Mid 3rd to 4th C AD	The flanged bowl is two thirds complete and is in very good condition.

Results and Discussion

A total of 375 sherds (weighing 6784g) were recovered during the trial trenches at Berwick Pond Farm, Rainham, Essex. Not including storage jar fabrics the average sherd weight is 15g which is quite large.

Middle Iron Age (MIA)

This period accounts for 10% of the assemblage. Generally the MIA assemblage is small and mostly abraded, but a number of trenches contained MIA contexts (Trenches 12, 22, 27, 28 and 37), and Tr. 23 contained only Middle Iron Age features. The latter contained the finest ceramic data for this period with the occurrence of a flat rimmed, globular vessel. The remaining sherds are small and abraded, and residual occurring in Roman contexts. The tempering (flint and sand) is typical of the area and period. Only the sherds

from Tr.23 depart from the norm with the presence of organics. The latter are especially noticeable on the wiped surfaces. A row of stamped impressions comprise the only decoration (on a sherd from 1199 in Tr.27). All the sherds are handmade.

Late Iron Age (LIA)

Only Tr.36 contained LIA sherds . The sherds were derived from two contexts, principally 1330. All the sherds (average sherds weight 20g) from 1330 join to form a tall, narrow necked jar with a rounded body. This vessel is normally associated with burials and stylistically it is not common in Essex (Thompson 1982, 155).

Early Roman Period (Mid 1st to mid 2nd Century AD)

This phase of Roman activity accounts for the principal ceramic evidence, and occurred in many of the trenches on the eastern side of the site (Trenches 8 - 10, 12, 20, 22, 26 - 28, 35, 37 & 39). The most prolific features were recorded in Tr. 37 and 39. There is a complete absence of continental imports and Romano-British finewares in this period, and the assemblage is dominated by jars. The exception is a mortaria rim from Colchester and an undiagnostic Highgate Wood beaker sherd. Apart from the two sherds from Greater London and Colchester, the only other regional imports are a few sherds from the North Kent industry. The remaining assemblage comprises local coarsewares, Romanising, sandy grey ware and shell tempered fabrics. The majority of these were probably produced in the Thurrock and Grays area. The presence of sparse to common flint and shell/calcite in many of the examples of this early period is probably testament to this. The assemblage has more in common with the ceramic tradition of Essex than London. Not all of the SEX SH sherds can be securely aligned with the industry. A more detailed examination may reveal other sources for this tradition (Davies *et al* 1994, 101-106).

Late Roman Period (Mid/late 3rd to 4th century AD)

The only Late Roman contexts were recorded in Tr.45. All of the contexts contained ceramic forms and fabrics that are typical of the later years of the Roman occupation. However, there are again no Romano-British finewares or continental imports. Similarly none of the larger rural, nucleated industries are present e.g. the late shell tempered wares of Harrold, Bedfordshire. The exception are two sherds of Hadham oxidised ware whose kilns were located to the north-west, just over the Essex border, in Hertfordshire. The remaining fabrics were all locally-produced (as in the early Roman period). Rettendon *type* ware being the only local product. The form assemblage is divided between flanged bowls (with pointed or turned down flanges), bifid rimmed jars, later lid seated versions, Moulsham Street *style* jars and an example of a bowl-jar. This is the best preserved assemblage recovered during the evaluation.

Other

Some trenches contained contexts that can only be defined as Roman (Tr. 8 - 9, 12, 22, 26, 35 & 37). These contain undiagnostic 'long-lived' coarsewares (mostly single sherds). Within Tr.10 two contexts (1015, 1017), may represent the Saxon and early Medieval periods (see catalogue notes above). Tr. 8 Context 1052 contained post-medieval pottery.

A number of stray Roman finds are documented as occurring around Rainham (Timby 1997, 101), in addition to a possible enclosed site at Rainham football ground dated to the early/middle Iron-Age (Timby 1997, 98). The nearby site of Moor Hall Farm revealed a number of 4th century Roman enclosures (Eddy 1980, 46) and settlement throughout the Roman era has been noted at Orsett 'Cock' to the east of Rainham. Similarly to the east again a string of kiln sites are known at Thurrock and Mucking (Swan 1984). The ceramic assemblage from Berwick Pond certainly reflects a low status rural site. Nevertheless two half sections of *tegulae* from Tr.45 may be suggestive of something more elevated. The proximity of the Thames and the storage jar fabrics (especially those from north Kent) may be indicative of some other kind of activity focused on transport or trade.

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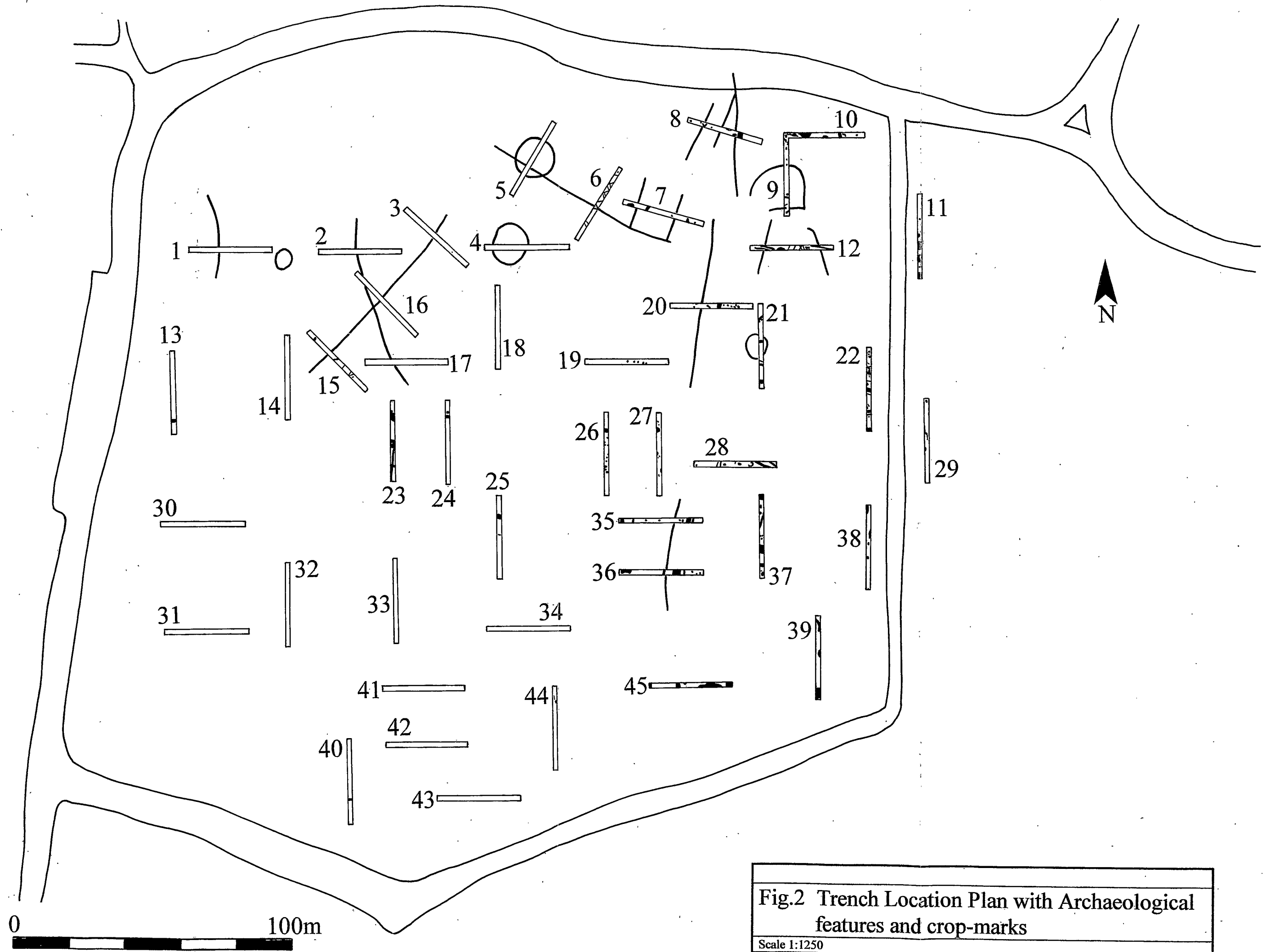
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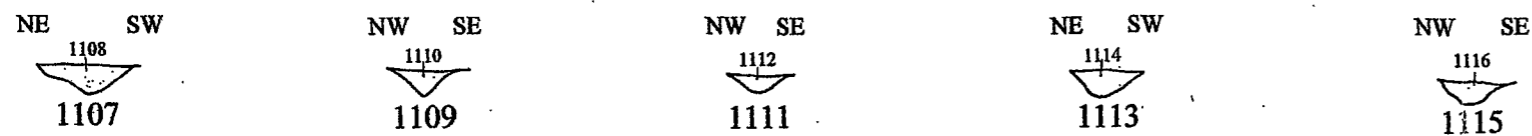
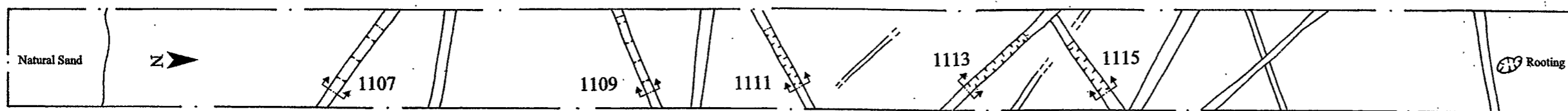
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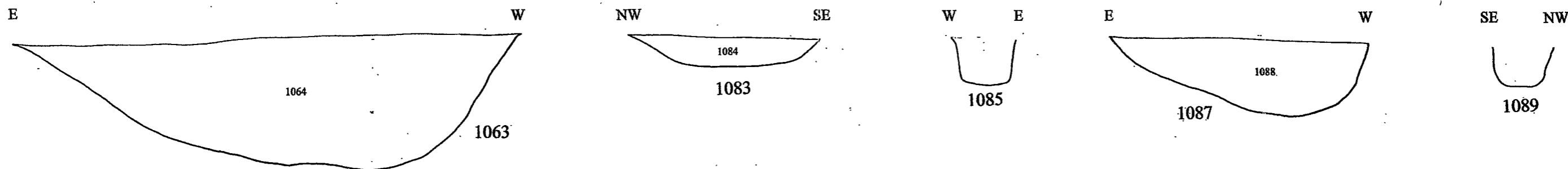
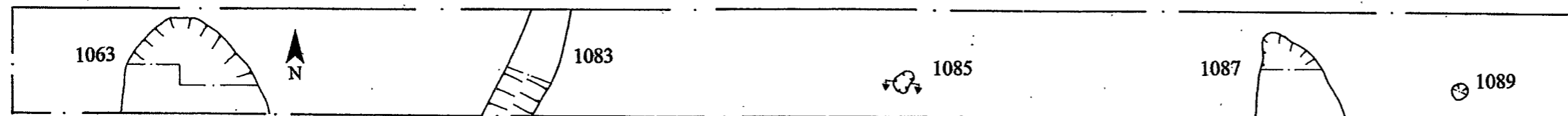
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Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
 Scale 1:25000



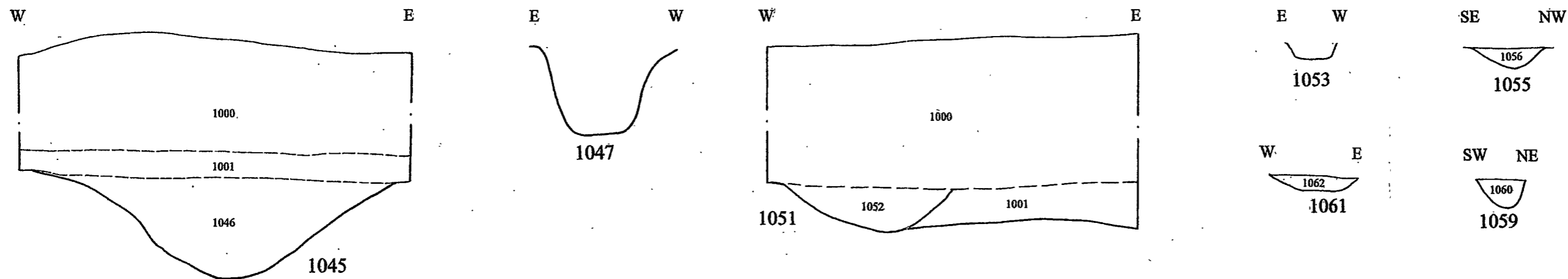
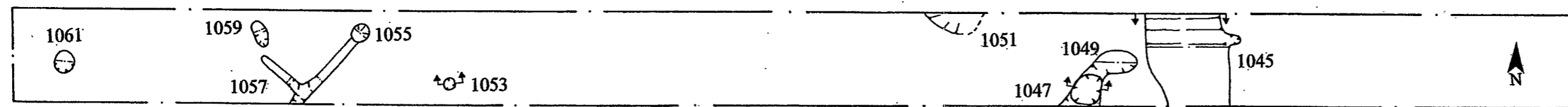
Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 8



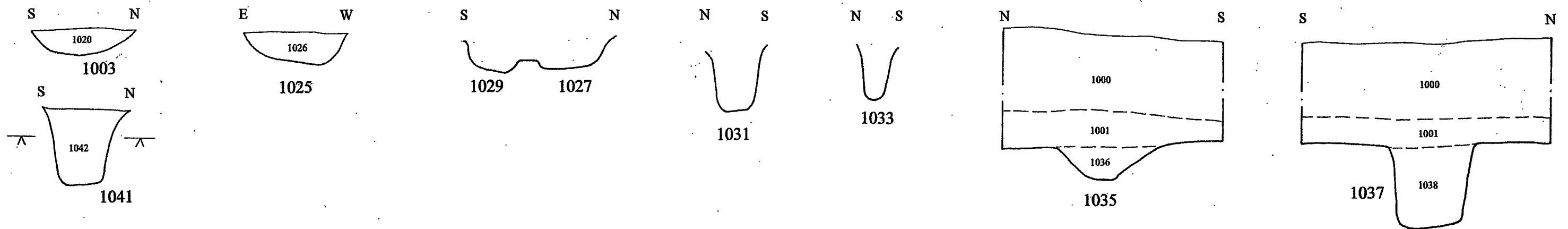
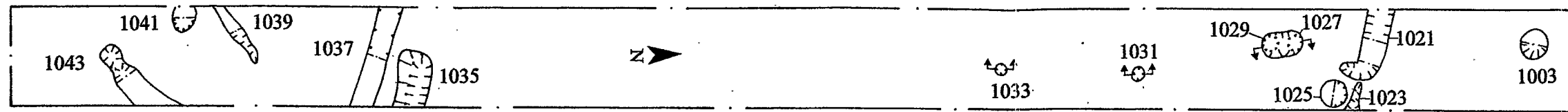
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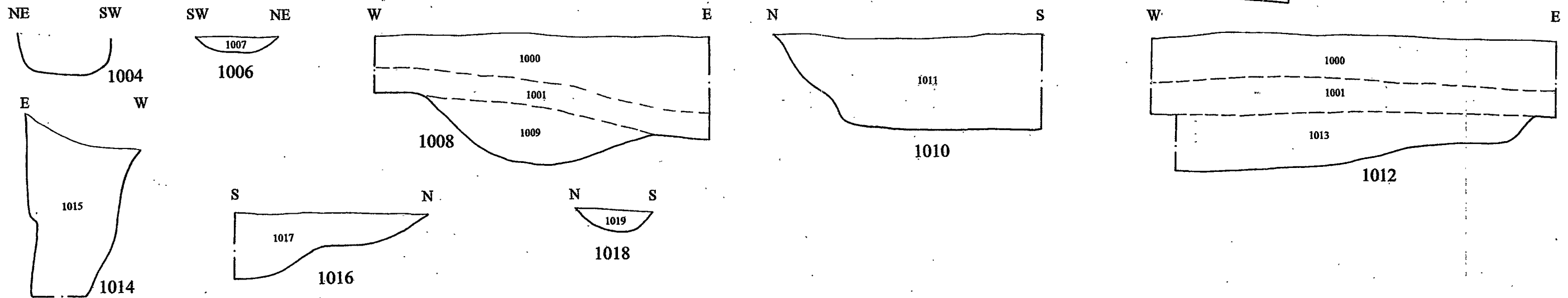
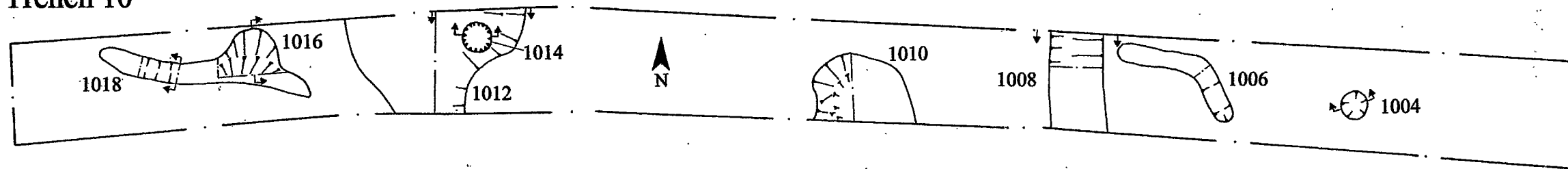
Fig.3 Plans and Sections for trenches 6, 7 & 8

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 9



Trench 10



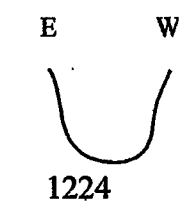
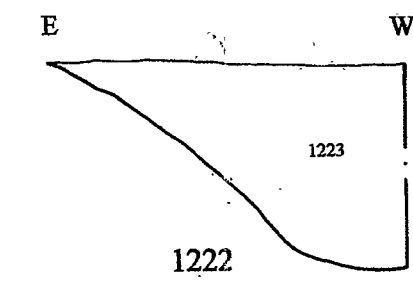
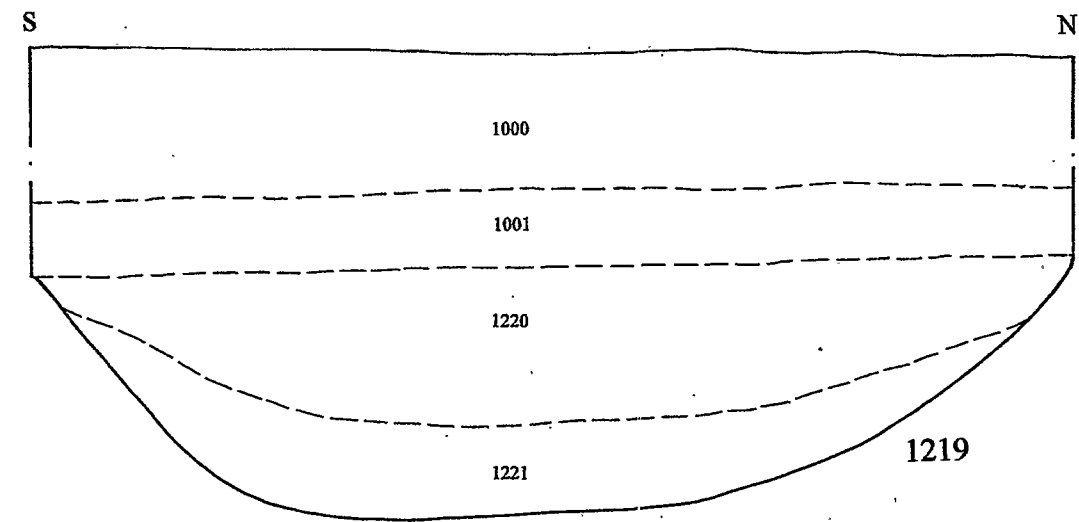
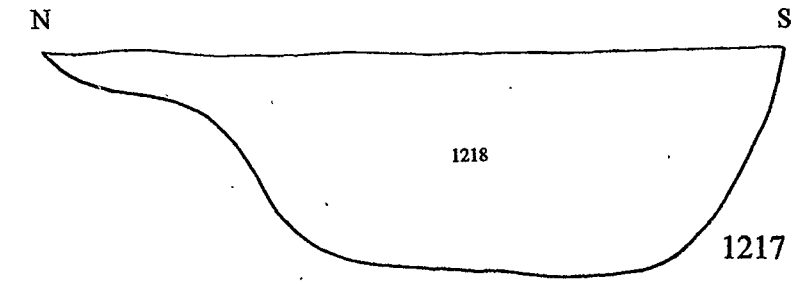
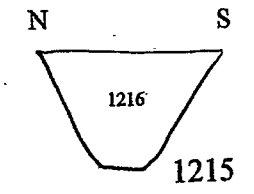
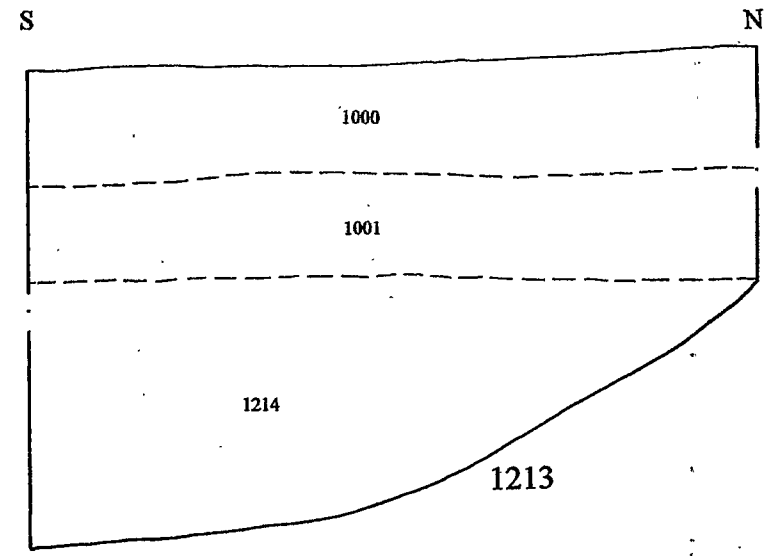
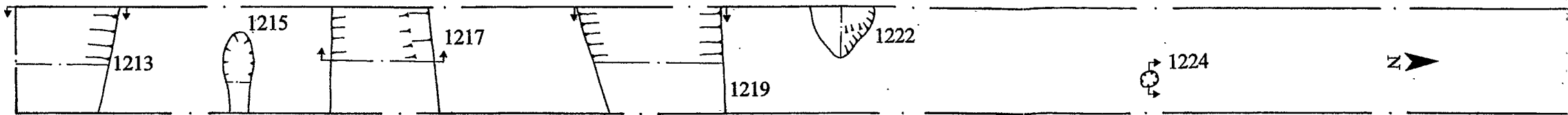
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Fig.4 Plans and Sections for
trenches 9 & 10

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 11



Trench 12

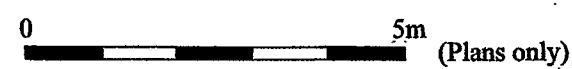
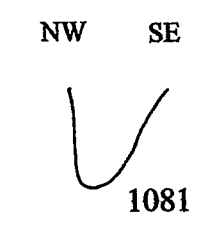
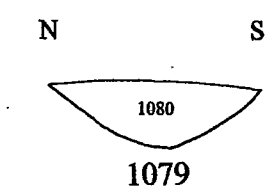
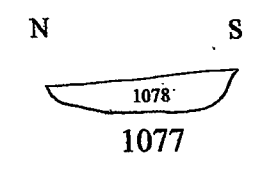
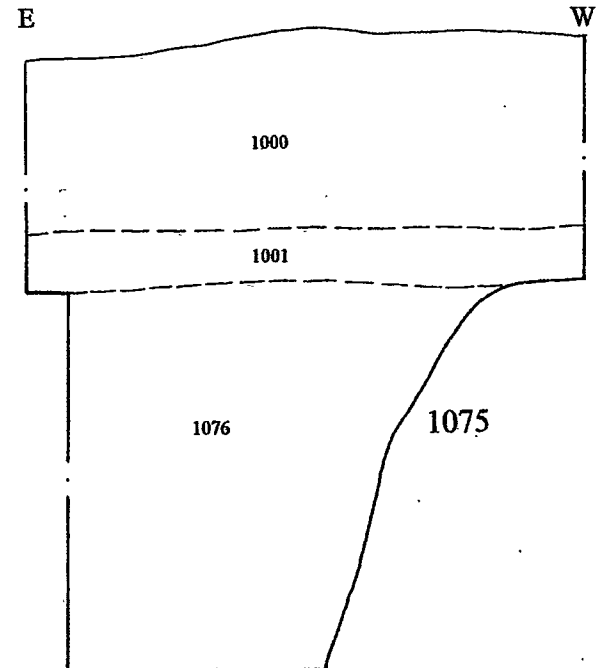
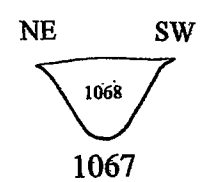
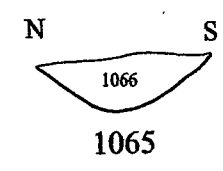
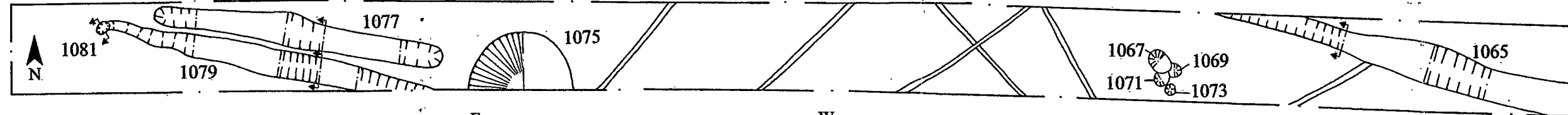
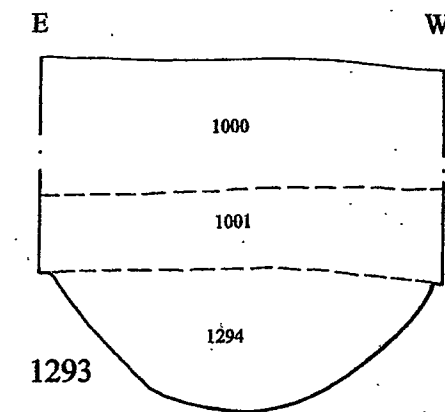
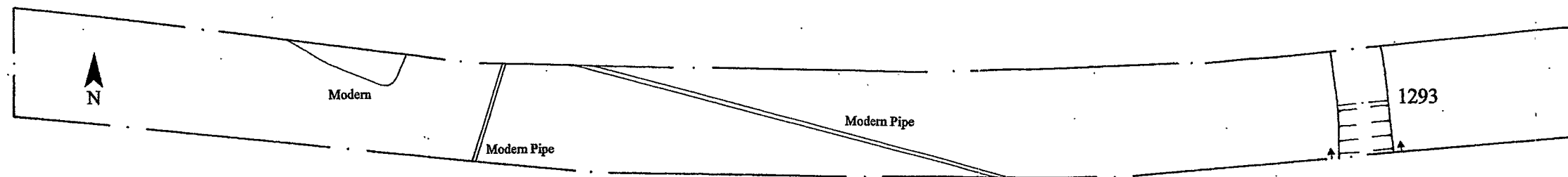
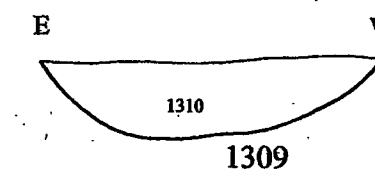
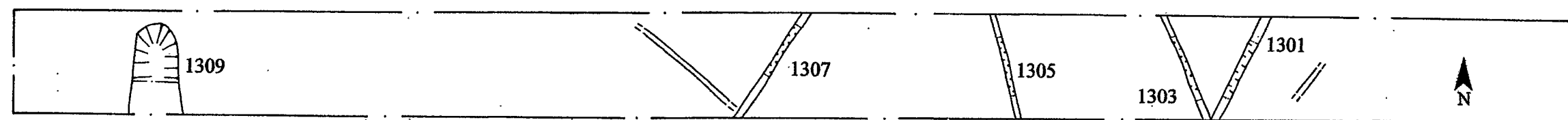


Fig.5 Plans and Sections for trenches 11 & 12
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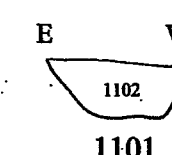
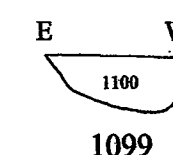
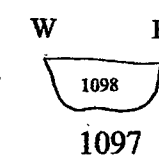
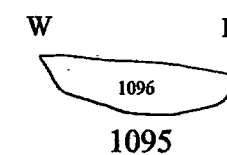
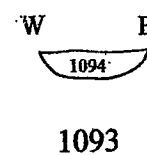
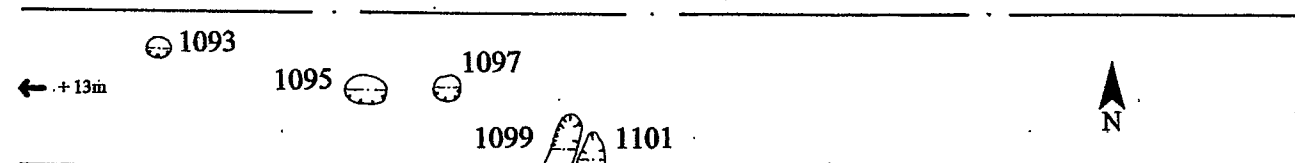
Trench 13



Trench 15



Trench 19



Trench 20

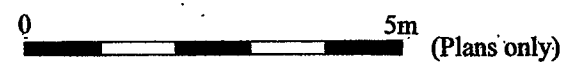
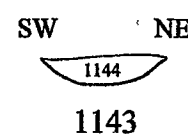
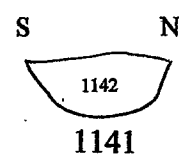
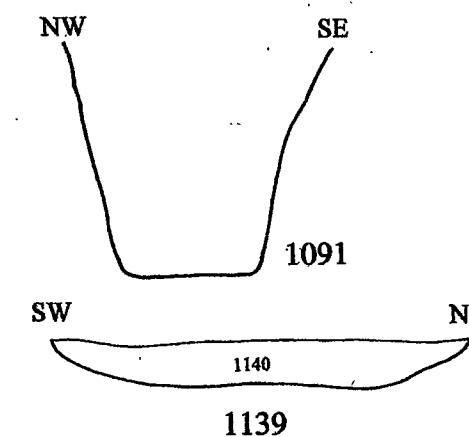
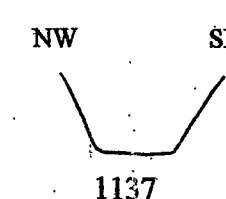
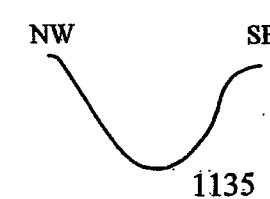
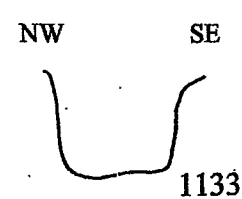
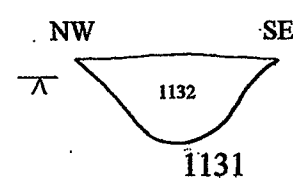
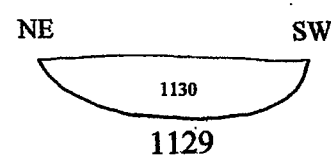
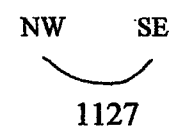
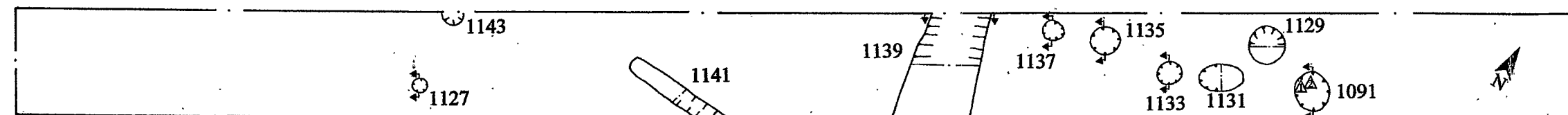
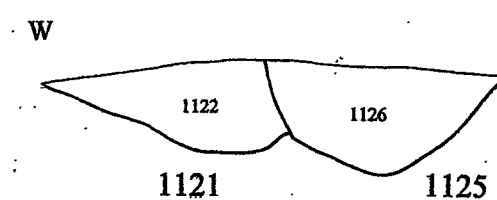
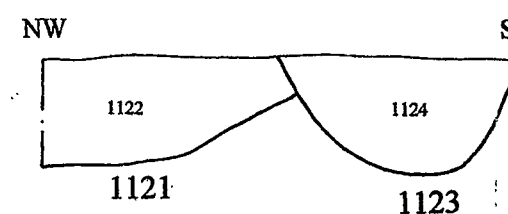
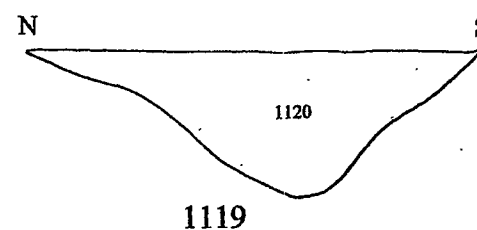
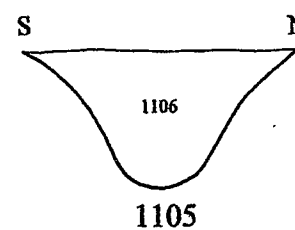
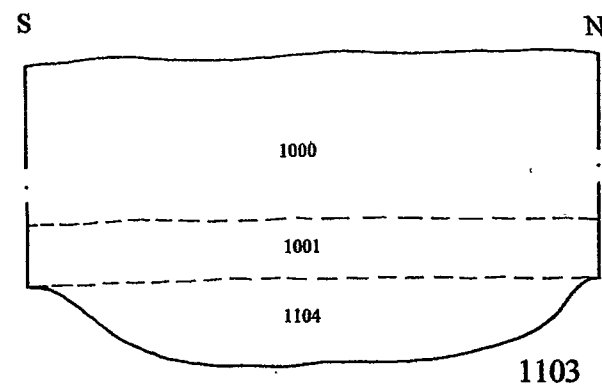
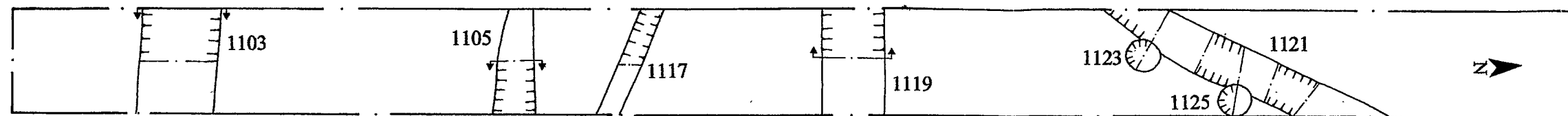


Fig.6 Plans and Sections for
trenches 13, 15, 19 & 20
Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 21



Trench 22

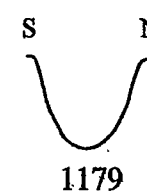
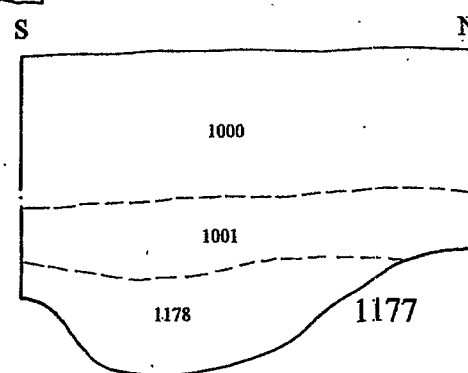
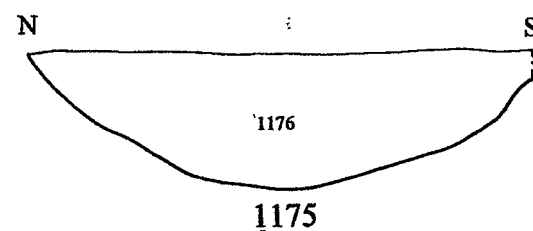
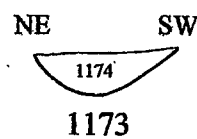
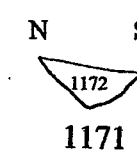
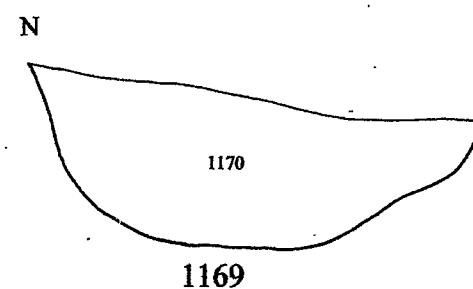
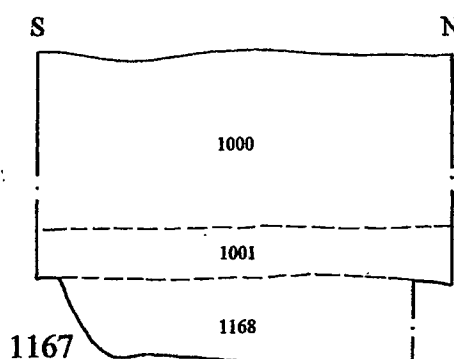
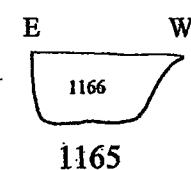
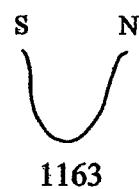
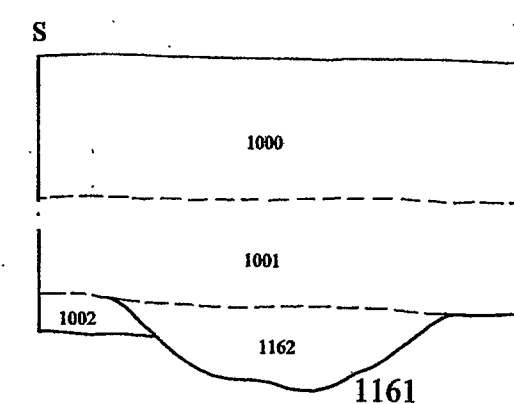
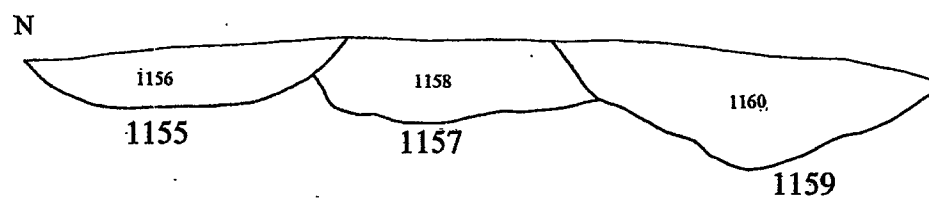
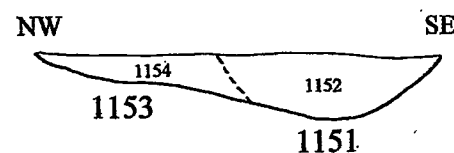
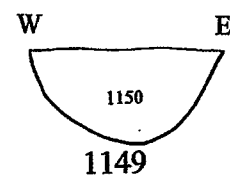
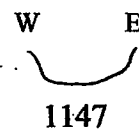
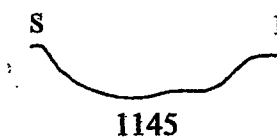
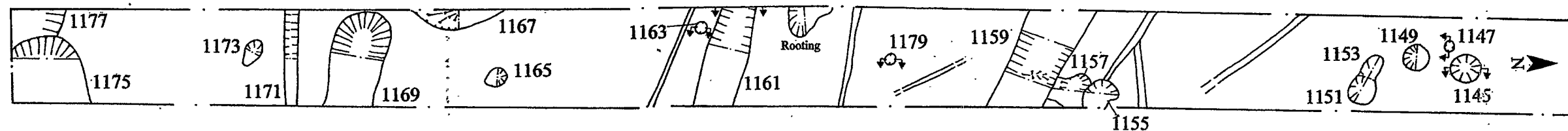
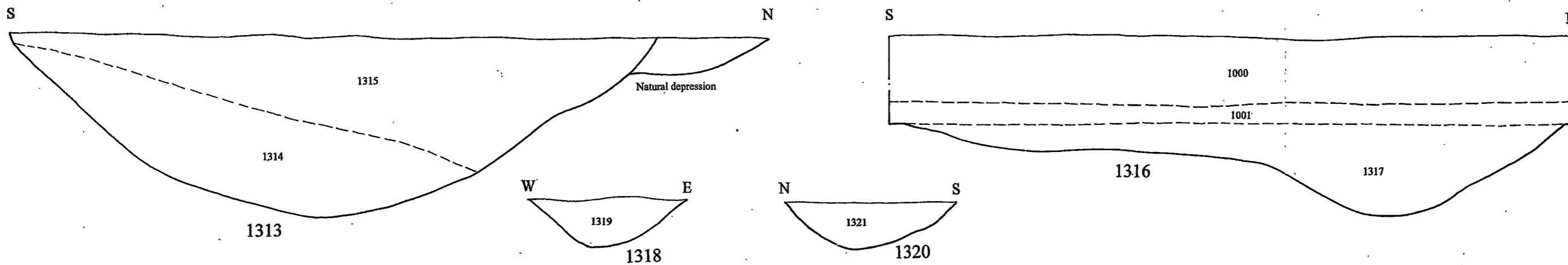
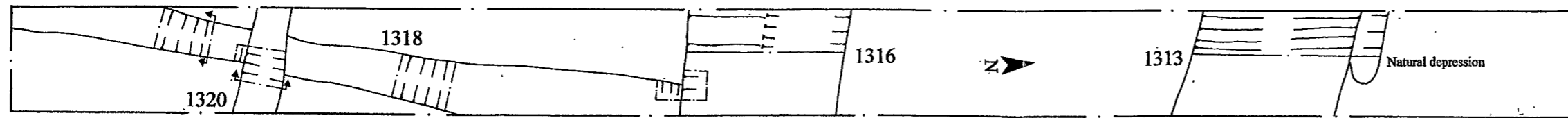


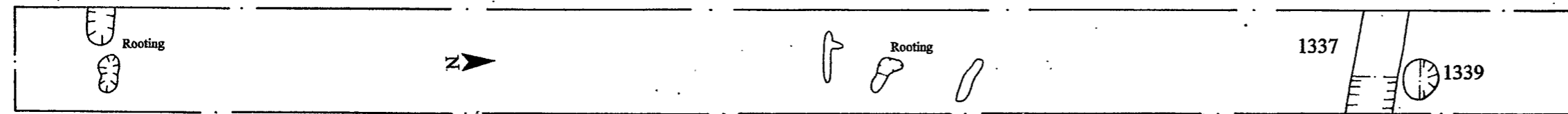
Fig.7 Plans and Sections for trenches 21 & 22

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 23



Trench 24



Trench 25

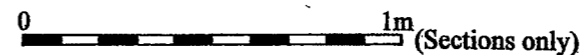
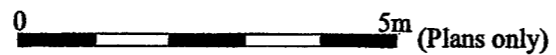
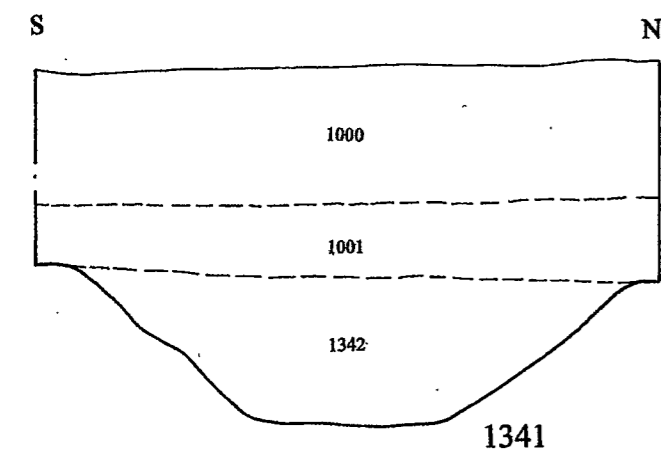
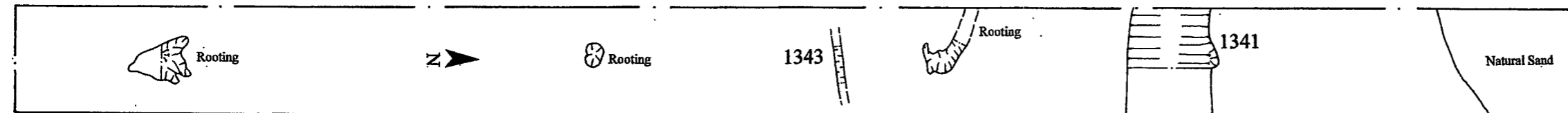
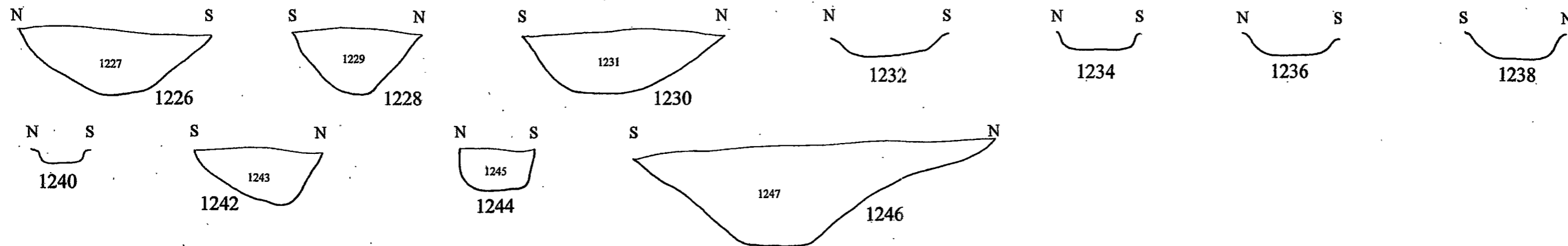
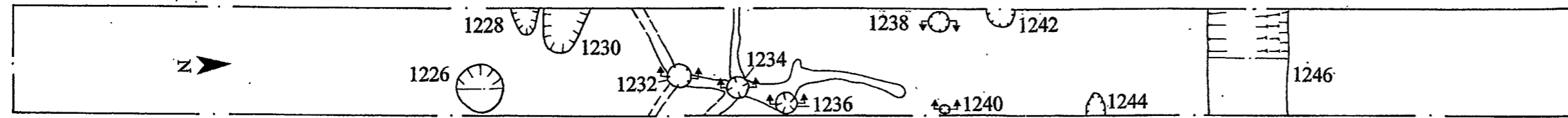


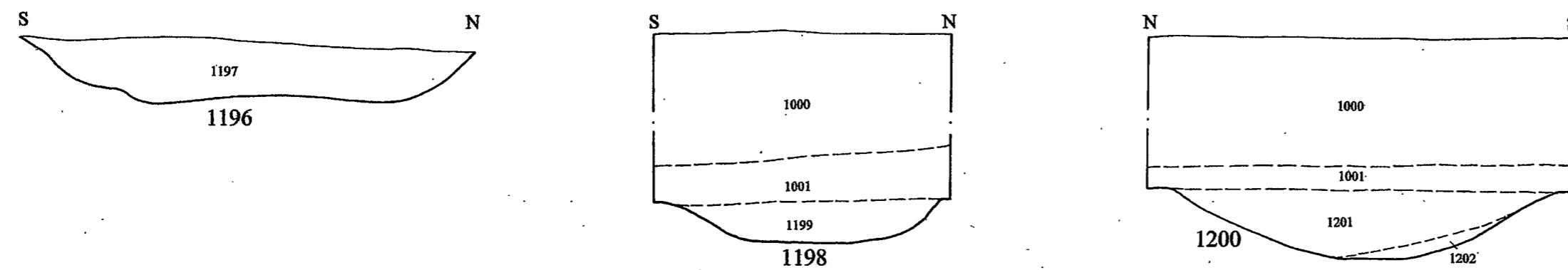
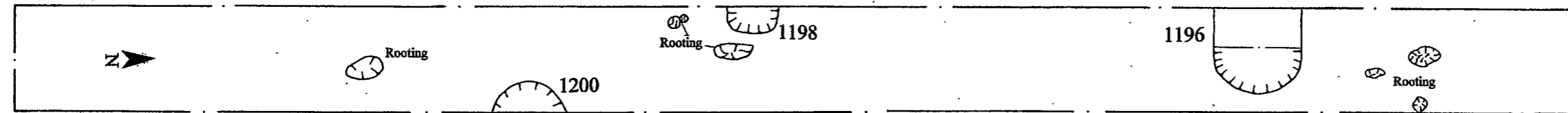
Fig.8 Plans and Sections for
trenches 23, 24 & 25

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

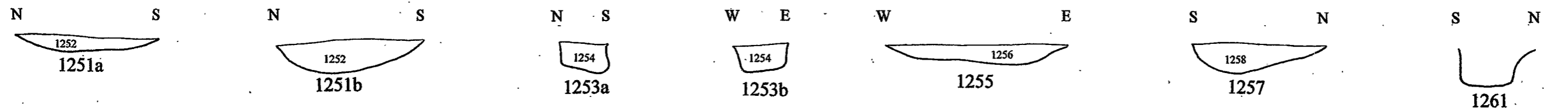
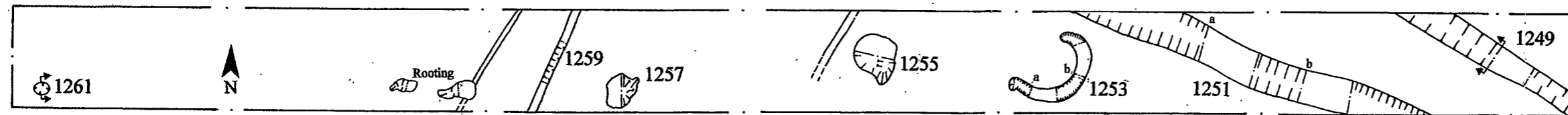
Trench 26



Trench 27



Trench 28



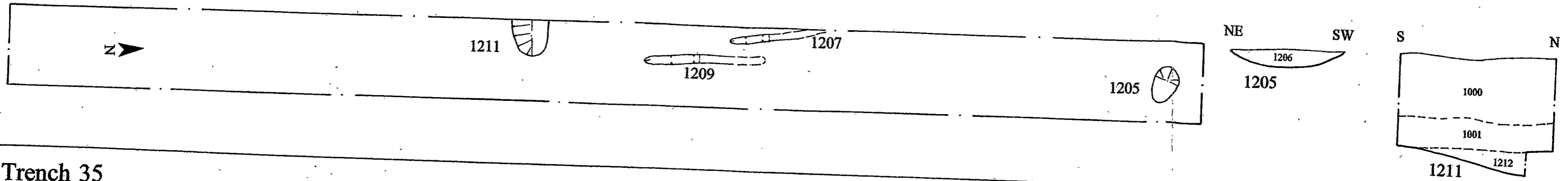
0 5m (Plans only)

0 1m (Sections only)

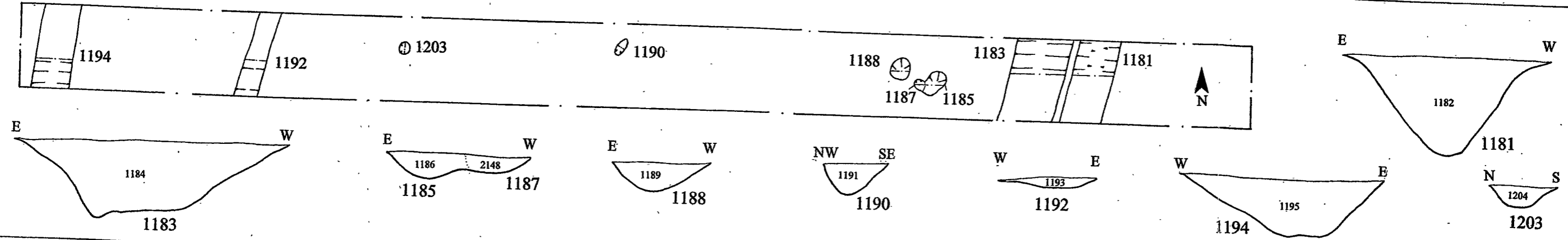
Fig.9 Plans and Sections for trenches 26, 27 & 28

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 29



Trench 35



Trench 36

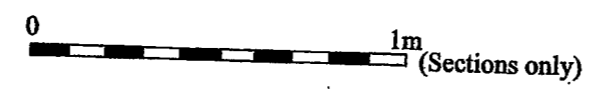
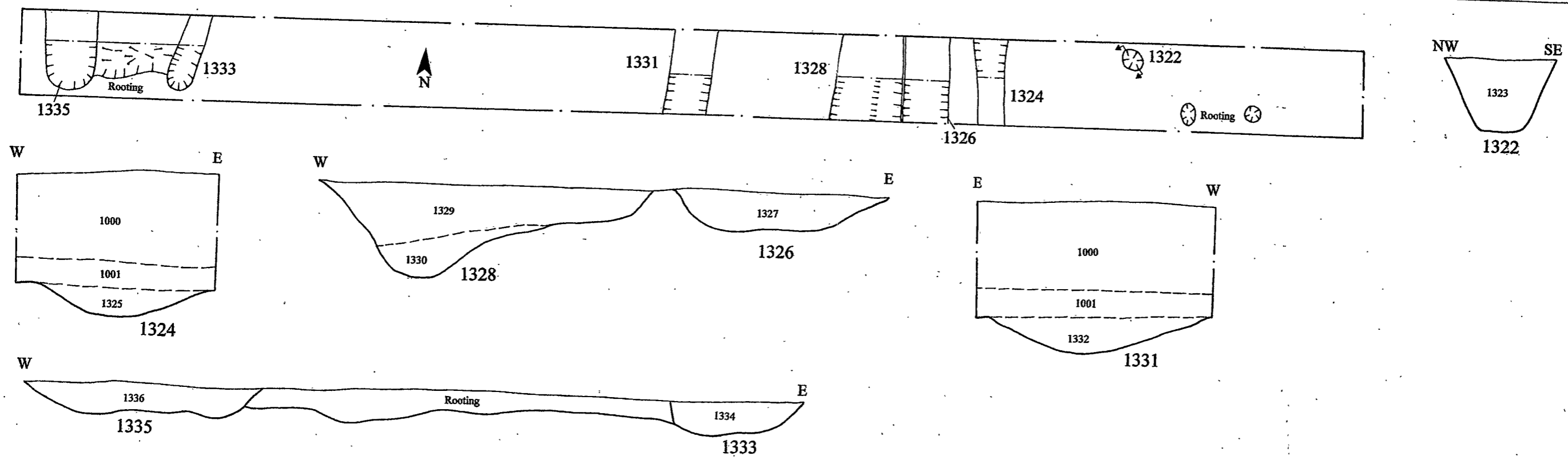
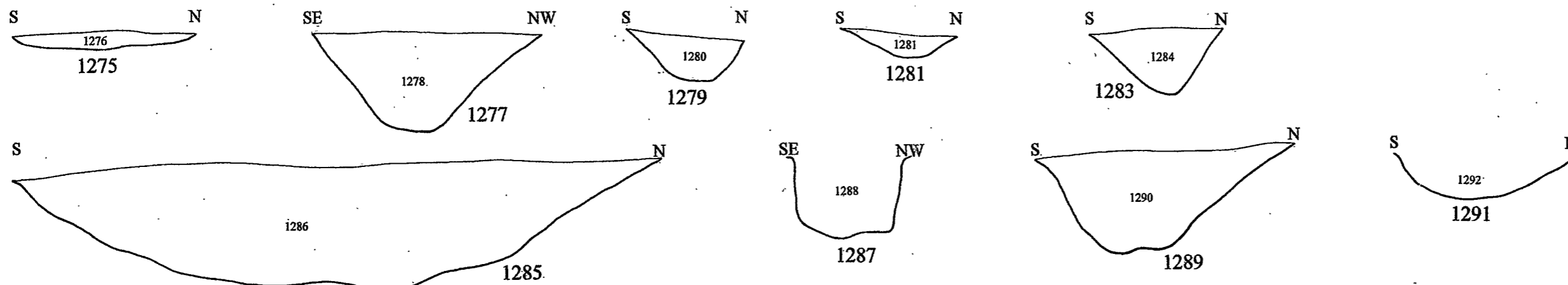
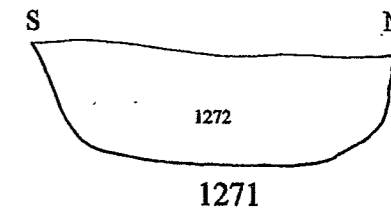
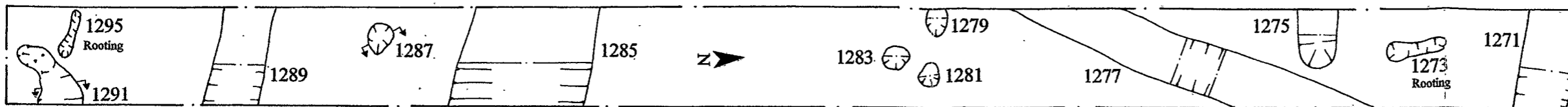


Fig.10 Plans and Sections for
trenches 29, 35 & 36
Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 37



Trench 38

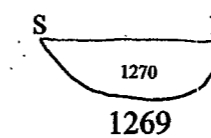
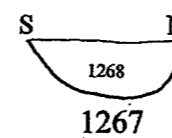
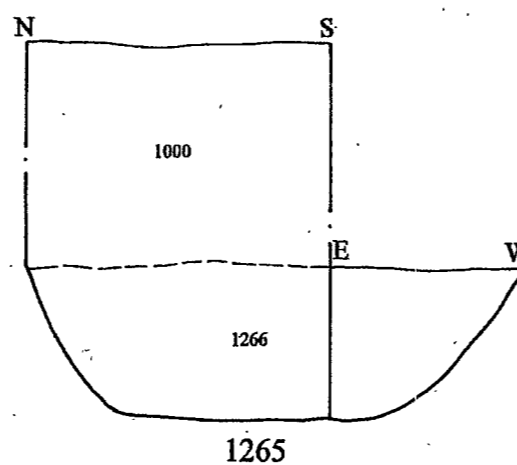
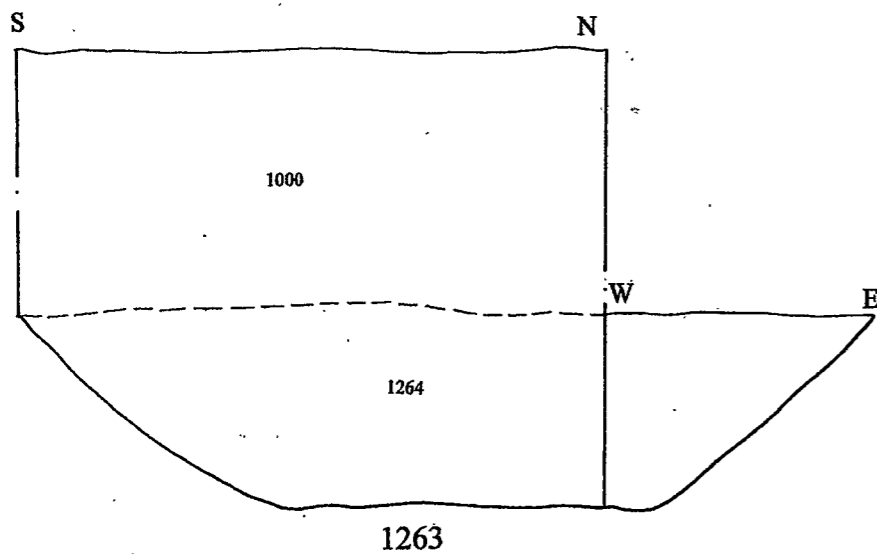
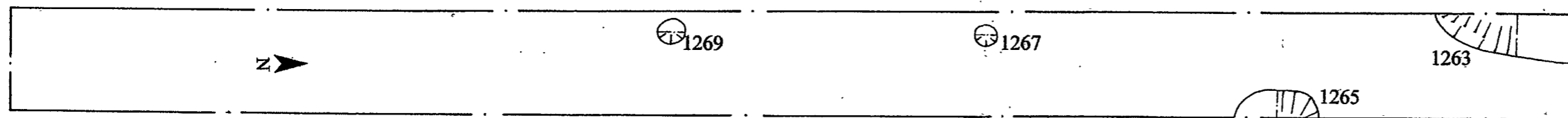
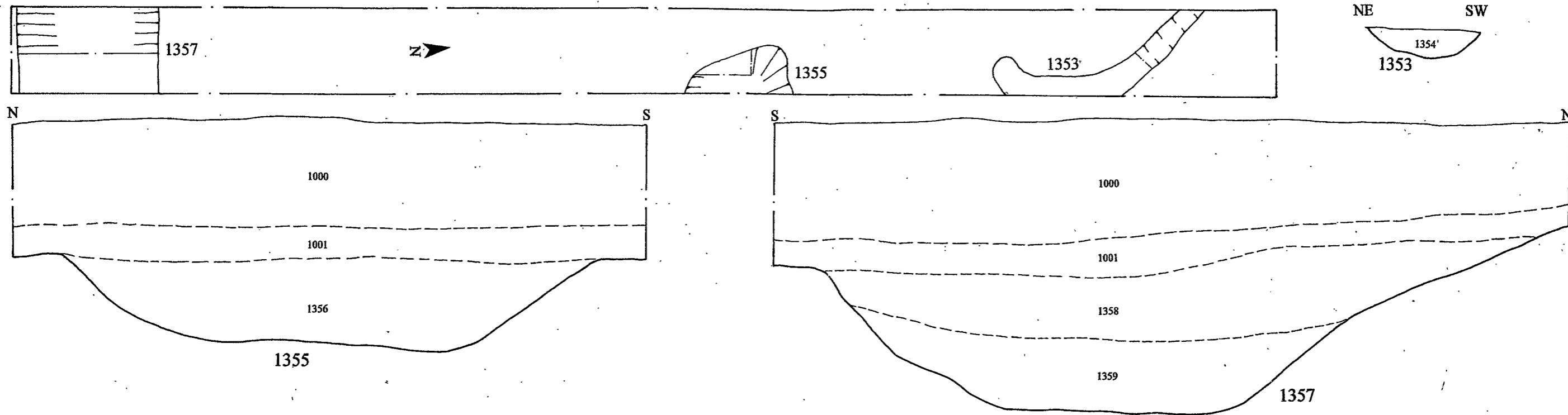
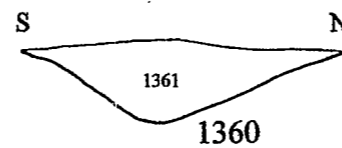
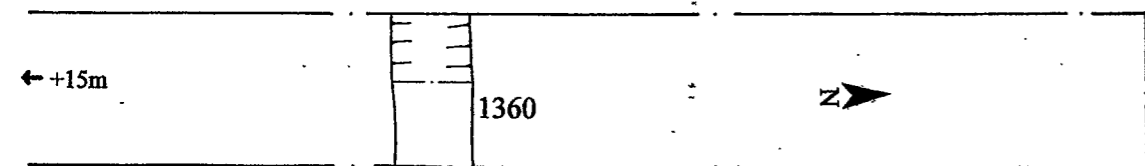


Fig.11 Plans and Sections for
trenches 37 & 38
Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

Trench 39



Trench 40



0 5m (Plans only)

0 1m (Sections only)

Trench 45

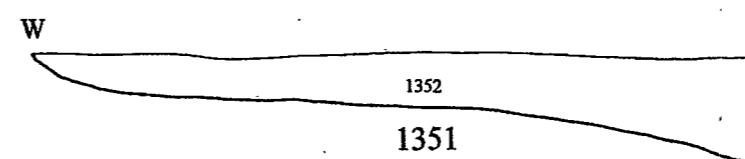
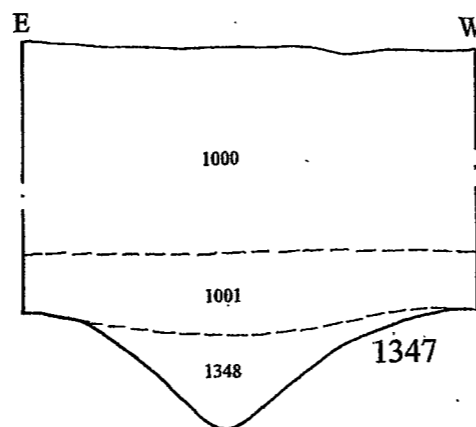
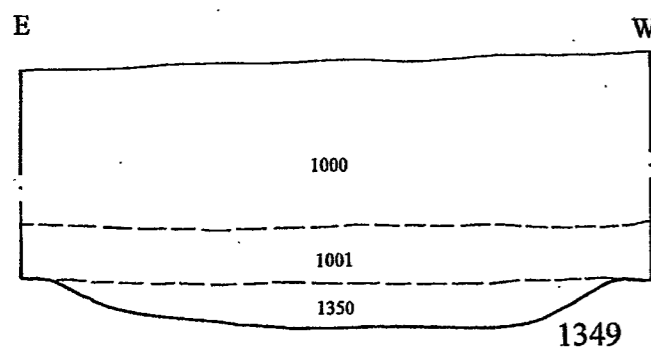
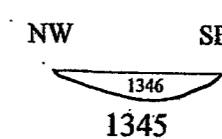
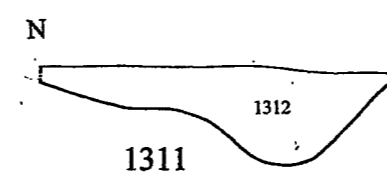
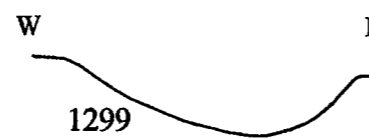
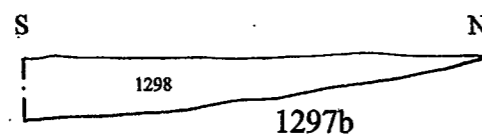
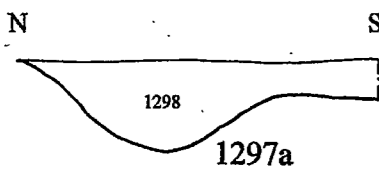
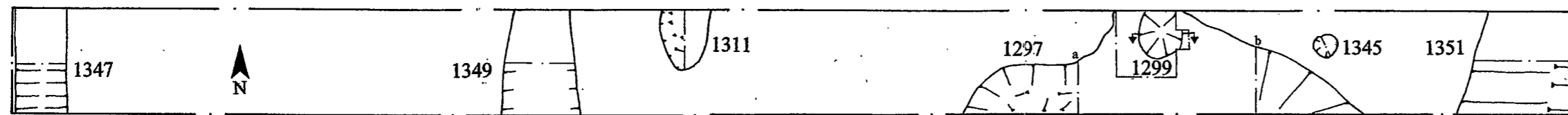


Fig.12 Plans and Sections for
trenches 39, 40 & 45

Scale Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)