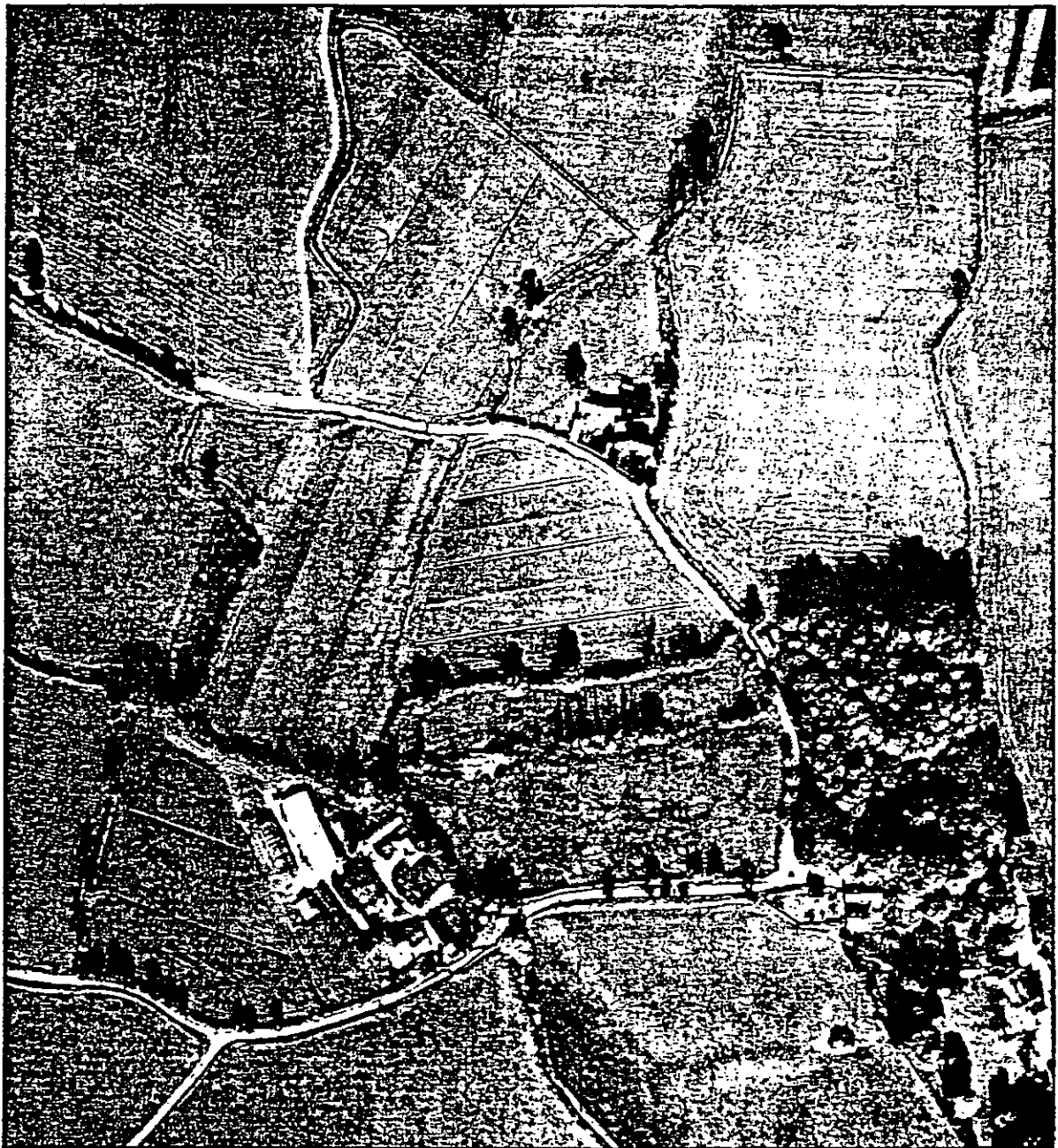


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R990 1 of 2

Land to the West and South-west of Bishops Stortford



An Initial Evaluation



Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

S2710

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

LAND TO THE WEST AND SOUTH-WEST OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

AN INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

by Hester Cooper-Reade

NOVEMBER 1992

The Seed Warehouse
Maidenhead Yard, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 IPX
Tel.: (0992) 558170

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INTRODUCTION

During late September and October 1992 the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust carried out a four-week Initial Evaluation of land to the west and south-west of Bishop's Stortford, in the parish of Thorley (NGR 470203 / 486187) (Fig. 1). The work was carried out for Countryside Properties PLC, in response to proposals for residential development of the area.

The following report outlines the results of the Initial Evaluation. The trenches which contained archaeological features are described by site, isolated trenches with one or two features (principally ditches) are described under the heading 'Miscellaneous Trenches'. The report concludes with a comment on each of the sites.

TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A total of c.59 hectares was evaluated in an area bounded by Hadham Road (B1004) to the north and the main Sawbridgeworth to Bishop's Stortford road (A1184) to the south-east. Thorley Lane bisects the area and forms part of its eastern boundary. The proposed road corridors cross Butler's Hall Lane, Brook Lane and Church Lane. Roman Stane Street (A120) is located 1.4 km to the north and central Bishop's Stortford c.2.6 km to the south-west (Fig. 1).

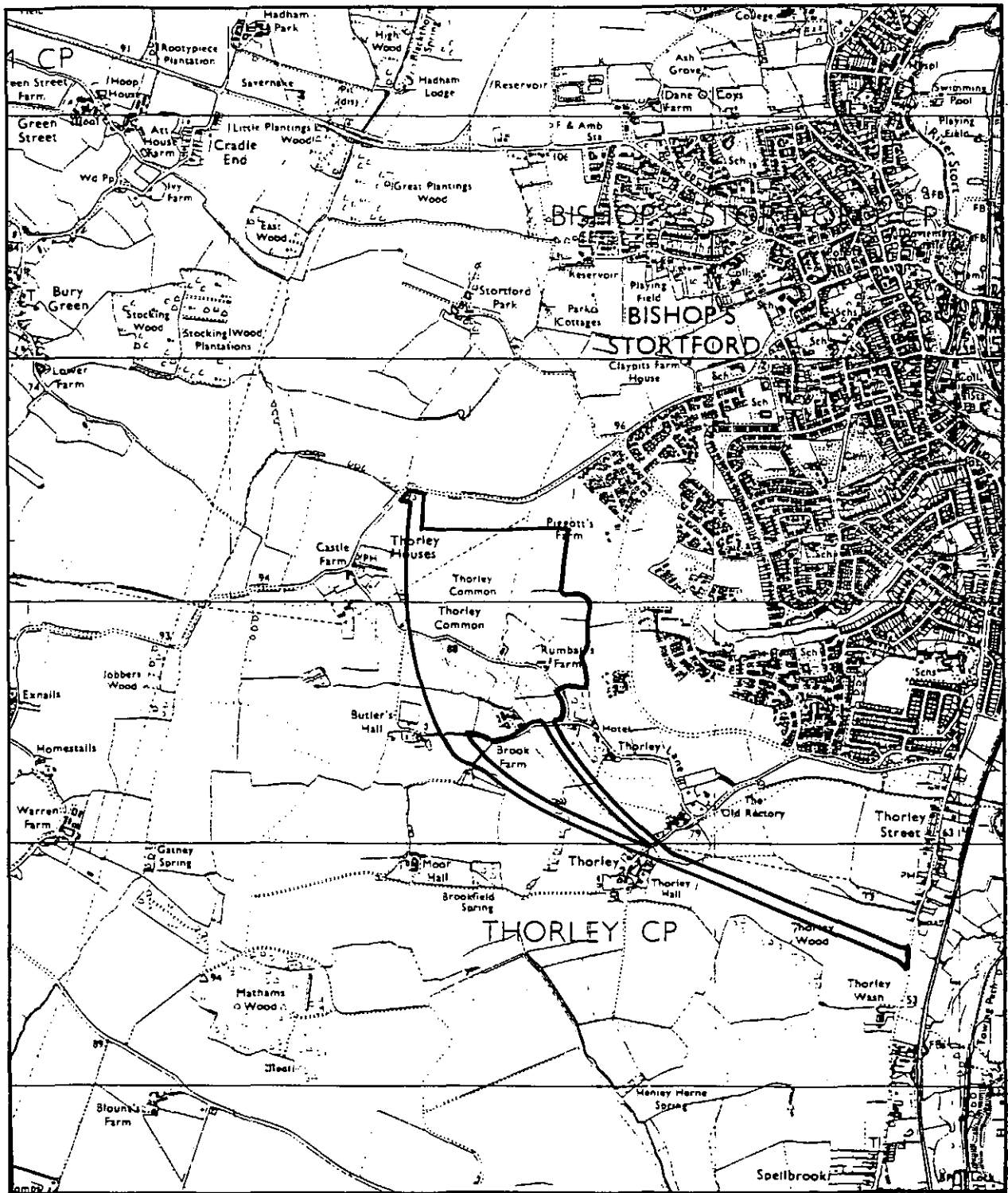


Figure 1: Site Location (1:25,000)

The solid geology of the area comprises a narrow band of Woolwich and Reading Beds, overlain by Pleistocene gravel. These beds cross the River Stort from east to west; to the north is chalk, and to the south is London clay. The parish of Thorley lies on the London clay.

In the area of proposed development, the soils derive from the chalky boulder clay lying above the London clay, and mostly belong to the Hanslope series (Thomasson, 1969). They are generally slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, but there are some slowly permeable non-calcareous soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983). Occasional stones, mainly broken or rolled flints, are always present (Thomasson, 1969). Towards the base of the Stort valley in the south-eastern sector of the development area, the soils belong to the Melford series and comprise argillic (clay-enriched subsoil) brown earth on flinty gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

The principal land usage is arable (winter cereals), although there is some grassland. There is only one large area of woodland in the vicinity, Thorley Wood, which is south of the road corridor. A small area of woodland is located at the base of the steep east-facing slope, east of St James's church and Thorley Hall.

The development area is situated between the 95 m and 55 m contours on the gentler, eastern slope of the Stort valley.

The terrain is flat in the far north of the area (immediately south of Hadham Road), otherwise it is gently sloping; southwards towards 'The Brook' in the north-west of the area, eastwards towards the base of the Stort valley at the south-eastern end of the area. The canalised River Stort is located c.400 m east of the south-eastern end of the proposed road corridor.

Several watercourses cross the area, all are tributaries of the Stort, which flows from north to south. 'The Brook' valley is small and runs east/west across the development area, behind Brook Farm, and then north/south towards the hamlet of Spellbrook, where it joins the Stort. This valley is relatively shallow until it passes, on its north/south alignment, to the west of St James's church. Here the valley rises steeply towards the church and Thorley Hall which are located on a small plateau on the 85 m contour.

Another small stream flows east/west along the base of a small valley to the north of Thorley Wood, and a third stream flows to the south of Thorley wood crossing the main Sawbridgeworth to Bishop's Stortford road at Thorley Wash, close to the low-lying (55 m OD) south-eastern end of the proposed road corridor.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The heavy loams of the Hanslope Association are often poorly drained, especially where the plateau is most level (Thomasson, 1969). At the time of Enclosure (19th century) the pattern of settlement on these soils was dispersed and included isolated moated farmsteads. Small areas of subdivided common arable were intermixed with numerous hedged closes held 'in severalty', and blocks of woodland. No Inclosure Award was made for the parish of Thorley, but there were common fields when the Tithe Commutation Award was made (Page, 1912). Thorley Common lay in the north-east of the parish and was located in the northern sector of the development area (the large field between Hadham Road and Thorley Lane). Amongst the other blocks of common land, Harris Common, south-east of Butler's Hall, is traversed by the road corridor.

Thorley was recorded in Domesday Book as Torlei. The place-name probably means a 'thorn clearing or wood' (Gover et al, 1970). Place names containing 'leah'/'lei' are common on the Hanslope soils and suggest the survival of large tracts of wildwood into the Saxon period (Rackham, 1976). However, despite the heavy, ill-drained soil and the high incidence of place names containing the 'leah' element, fieldwork in north-west Essex has shown that settlement on these soils was

already well-established by the end of the Iron Age (Williamson, 1984)

There is a high incidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement along both the Ash (to the west) and the Stort (to the east) valleys.

The first known archaeological evidence from the Thorley area dates to the Bronze Age. Several individual finds of later Bronze Age axes have been recorded (Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monument Record (SMR) Nos. 2124-26). One of these axes (SMR No. 2126) was found north of St James's church in a field to be crossed by the proposed road corridor. The Herts and Essex Observer of 1912 reports that 'prehistoric remains' were found in a gravel pit at Thorley Hill (TL 489196). Excavation close to this site, during the building of the housing estate to the north of Thorley Lane, revealed six late Bronze Age (c.7th century BC) pits and a boundary ditch (Ellcock, 1968).

Approximately 1 km south-east of the south-eastern extremity of the development area, and on the opposite side of the river, lies the defended enclosure of Wallbury (TL 492172, Essex). This is one of a string of defended enclosures on the plateau overlooking the Stort and is thought to date from the Iron Age.

Bishop's Stortford is located on Roman Stane Street, mid-way between St Albans and Colchester. Roman remains have been found in various parts of the modern town, although it is likely that the main Roman settlement centred on Cannons Close and the Meads (TL 493222), c.3.5 km north-east of the proposed area of development (Orton, 1976).

In the immediate vicinity of the development area, Roman finds, including coins and pottery, have been found at several locations (SMR Nos 6537, 6539, 6549, 6550). Three broadly contemporary (3rd/4th century) occupation sites (SMR Nos. 1090, 1526, 4852) are also known. One of these (SMR No. 1526) is located north-west of Thorley Wood close to the proposed road corridor. The site was revealed during deep ploughing in 1954 and comprised a number of rectangular buildings, some with associated mortar floors. Pottery (mostly 4th century), coins and a large amount of roof tile were found (East Herts. Archaeol. Soc. Newsletter 4, 1954). The other two sites were north and east of the development area. One (SMR No. 1090, Ellcock, 1968) included the remnants of a flint and mortar wall.

The known medieval archaeology of the immediate area is focused around Thorley church, although a pre-15th century moated enclosure is recorded south of Castle Farm (SMR No. 2836, TL 464200). Aerial photography indicates a possible deserted medieval village north of St James's church (SMR No.

1020, Aerial Photograph No. 3751). The cropmarks comprise two or three large rectilinear enclosures. It is possible that these represent the original position of Thorley Hall. The present-day Hall (SMR No. 4237) has late 13th-century/early 14th-century origins and stands in a moated enclosure (SMR 2777) three sides of which survive. St James's church (SMR No. 4349) dates from the early 13th century. Late medieval pottery was found during grave-digging in the churchyard (SMR No. 2786).

METHODS OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Initial Evaluation was designed to locate substantial archaeological features within the proposed area of development, and it was carried out by trial trenching. Trenches were c.30 m long and c.2 m wide and were cut at c.30 m intervals using a mechanical excavator (360°). The depth of the trenches was limited to the base of the topsoil.

A total of 272 trenches were cut (Fig. 2). Overhead power lines, buried services, areas inaccessible to the machinery, woodlands, footpaths and field boundaries meant that not all the proposed trenches could be cut.

All the features in each trench were recorded, but only those features which produced finds were given context numbers (the number used in the text relates to the fill of the feature and

its finds). Limited investigation of the features was undertaken (primarily to determine that they were manmade and, if possible, to obtain dating evidence). Complete profiles were rarely obtained.

RESULTS

Ten sites were recognised (Fig. 3). With the exception of Sites 4, 8 and 10, all date to the prehistoric periods (Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age). Site 4 dates to the Roman period (3rd/4th century), Site 8 is Roman or medieval, and Site 10 dates to the late pre Roman Iron Age.

In some places brown clay deposits were encountered which may overlies, or obscure, archaeological features. These deposits have been interpreted as colluvium and Figure 3 denotes the areas where they occur. As a result of trench depth restrictions these areas have only been partially evaluated.

SITE 1

TRENCH NUMBERS: 5-17, 20-21, 26-28, 66-67, 95-111, 113-115
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES: 40
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES: 134

AREA: 600 x 240 m

DATE: Prehistoric

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Figs. 4-5

TRENCH 5

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4

Description: Tr. 5 contained 2 ditches, a ?post hole, and part of a sub-rectangular pit.

The northernmost linear feature, on an E/W alignment, is a recently infilled field ditch. It was also encountered in Tr. 8. The second ditch is 0.40 m wide and aligned NW/SE.

The small sub-circular feature is probably a post hole (diameter 0.50 m, depth 0.10 m).

Part of the sub-rectangular pit (depth >0.25 m) was located in the south-western corner of the trench.

With the exception of the northern ditch, all the features contain brown clay.

TRENCH 6

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Struck flint (0026)

Description: Tr. 6 contained 3 linear features, and a layer of mid-brown clay.

The southernmost ditch, aligned E/W, is a continuation of the field ditch also seen in Trs. 3 and 9. It cuts a narrow linear gully (width 0.50 m, depth 0.20 m), aligned WNW/ESE. A small slot-like feature (0026, width 0.50 m, depth 0.20 m) with a slightly tapered, rounded end, also on a WNW/ESE alignment, was

recorded in the northern sector of the trench. A piece of struck flint comprising a waste flake was retrieved from the fill (brown clay).

An irregular layer of brown silty clay at the northern end of the trench may fill a small natural hollow.

TRENCH 7

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Very chalky mid-yellowish-brown clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 7 contained 3 features, all filled with mid-orangish-brown clay.

A ditch or gully, aligned E/W, is broad (width 0.90 m) and shallow (depth 0.10 m).

The other features were at the northern end of the trench. One, a crescent-shaped feature may be natural: its edges were difficult to define and its shape is irregular. The third feature is more likely manmade; its western end was visible and it appears to be a sub-rectangular or linear, slot (width 0.70 m, depth >0.12 m).

TRENCH 8

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Very chalky mid-yellowish-brown clay
Features: 5
Finds: Pottery (0001, 0009, 0019)
Struck flint (0001)

Description: Tr. 8 contained 3 ditches, a small sub-circular pit or post hole, and an irregularly-shaped feature.

One of the ditches is a continuation of the infilled field ditch encountered in Tr. 5. The other two ditches (0001, 0009) are 0.50 m wide, aligned WNW/ESE, and approximately 7 m apart. Both contained small fragments of flint-gritted pottery; the northern feature (0001) also contained struck flint comprising two waste flakes.

Pottery was also found during the investigation of the irregularly-shaped feature (0019) at the southern

end of the trench. This feature probably represents several intercutting post holes.

TRENCH 9

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Very chalky mid-yellowish-brown clay
Features: 3
Finds: Struck flint (0028, 0030)

Description: Tr. 9 contained 2 linear features, and a small sub-circular pit or post hole.

The southernmost linear feature is a continuation of the infilled field ditch also seen in Trs. 3 and 6.

The second ditch (0028, width 1.20 m) is apparently curvilinear.

The pit or post hole (0030) is 1 m wide and >0.18 m deep. Both 0028 and 0030 produced struck flint comprising waste flakes, and both are filled with brown charcoal-flecked clay.

TRENCH 10

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Very chalky mid-yellowish-brown clay
Features: 6
Finds: Slag (0003)
Pottery (0007)
Iron nail (0007)

Description: Tr. 10 contained 2 ditches, 2 ?post holes, a small sub-circular pit, and a layer of brown clay.

The northernmost ditch is aligned NW/SE; it measures 1.40 m at its widest point and is >0.10 m deep. The second ditch is on a NE/SW alignment. It has a slightly irregular outline, ranging in width from 0.50-1.20 m, and is filled with a brown clay. Both features curve slightly towards each other and it is possible that they form a single, circular enclosure ditch.

Finds from the two ?post holes indicate that they are of a later date than the majority of features assigned to Site 1. The smaller post hole (0003, diameter 0.20 m, depth 0.10 m) contains mid-greyish-brown clay from which a small piece of slag was retrieved. The ?post hole to the north (0.50 x 0.50 m, depth 0.07 m) is a slightly irregular kidney-shaped feature. It is filled with grey clay which contained

pottery (a undiagnostic base sherd) and an iron nail.

TRENCH 12

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 6
Finds: Pottery (0022)
Struck flint (0024)

Description: Tr. 12 contained 3 ditches, a sub-circular pit, and 2 ?post holes.

The northernmost ditch (0024, width 0.70 m) is aligned NE/SW, and is filled with brown clay. Struck flint comprising a waste flake was retrieved during the investigation of this feature.

The other two ditches appear to cut, or be cut by, a third feature. One of these ditches is aligned E/W, the other slightly more ENE/WSW; both are 1.20 m wide and are filled with a similar brown clay. A small fragment of flint-gritted pottery was retrieved from the fill of the southernmost of these features (0022). The remaining features were all in the southern end of the trench.

TRENCH 13

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 7
Finds: Pottery (0011)
Daub/very abraded pottery (0017)

Description: Tr. 13 contained 5 ditches, a small slot-like feature, and a sub-rectangular pit or ditch terminal. Four of the ditches are fairly narrow (0.50-0.70 m); the fifth is much wider (2 m).

The two southern ditches are 8 m apart and roughly parallel (aligned NW/SE). Both are >0.25 m deep and filled with brown charcoal-flecked clay. The southernmost ditch (0011) contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery.

Two of the remaining linear features are also fairly narrow and roughly parallel; they are 12 m apart, and aligned ENE/WSW. The northernmost feature is filled with dark grey/brown clay and is 0.10 m deep: it may represent a continuation of the southernmost ditch/gully in Tr. 15. The other ditch is filled with

brown clay and is >0.10 m deep.

The largest ditch is aligned NW/SW; it is >0.30 m deep, and is filled with brown clay.

The sub-rectangular pit or ditch terminal (0017, width 0.60 m, depth >0.30 m) is filled with brown clay, in which a fragment of daub (or very abraded pottery) was found.

The small slot-like feature (length 2 m, width 0.40 m, depth >0.25 m) contains brown clay.

TRENCH 14

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 5
Finds: Pottery (0005)
Daub/very abraded pottery (0034)
Struck flint (0034)

Description: Tr. 14 contained 2 ditches, 2 sub-rectangular features or ditch terminals, and a large feature or layer. The southernmost ditch is aligned E/W and is 1.70 m wide, the other (length >6 m, width 1.10 m) is aligned N/S and was located in the far north-eastern segment of the trench.

The large layer of brown clay (0005) recorded in the central/southern portion of Tr. 14 comprises the fill of a feature 9.50 m long/wide and >0.18 m deep. Part of the northern and southern edges were visible in the trench; they are straight and aligned approximately E/W. A rim sherd of Roman pottery was found during the investigation of this feature.

The southern of the two sub-rectangular features / ditch terminals (0034, width 1.50 m) is filled with mid-orangish-brown clay and contained a struck flint (waste flake) and a fragment of daub. The second sub-rectangular feature (width 1.80 m) is slightly more irregular in shape and is filled with mid-brown clay. Each feature is >0.20 m deep.

TRENCH 15

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Pottery (0032)

Description: Tr. 15 contained 3 ditches, and a post hole or small pit.

The southernmost ditch (0032, width 0.50 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned NW/SE, and may be a continuation of the northernmost ditch in Tr. 13. It is filled with mid-orangish-brown clay which contained three fragments of flint-gritted pottery.

The two other ditches are aligned NW/SE, 1 m apart, and terminated within the trench. Each is filled with brown clay and each is >0.25 m deep. The southernmost of these two ditches is 0.80 m wide; the northernmost slightly narrower (0.50 m).

The sub-circular pit or post hole (diameter 0.60 m, depth 0.15 m) is filled with a mid-orangish-brown clay.

TRENCH 16

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay/mid-brown clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 16 contained a sub-circular pit, and a sub-rectangular pit or ditch terminal.

Both features were located in the northern half of the trench, and both contain brown clay. It was difficult to define the outline of the sub-rectangular pit, or ditch terminal, because it was only partially revealed within the trench.

The pit was likewise difficult to define but it is 1.80 m wide and appears to be sub-circular in shape.

The subsoil in the central and southern sectors of the trench comprises a deposit of mid-brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 17

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil in this trench was a deposit of mid-brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 20

Dimensions: 20 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 20 contained a ditch and a small ovoid feature.

Both features were in the northern end of the trench and contain a brown clay. The ditch (width 0.90 m, depth >0.22 m) is aligned E/W. The ovoid feature (length 0.60 m, width 0.40 m, depth 0.25 m) may represent a post hole.

TRENCH 21

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 21 contained 2 small sub-circular pits, and a small sub-rectangular feature. All the features were in the northern end of the trench.

The two sub-circular pits are approximately 1 m wide and contain brown clay.

The small sub-rectangular feature (length 1 m, width 0.50 m, depth 0.20 m) was difficult to define and may have been formed naturally.

TRENCH 26

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: ?
Finds: Struck flint (0036)

Description: The subsoil in Tr. 26 is a deposit of brown chalk-flecked clay (0036) and may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features. A piece of struck flint comprising a waste flake was found in this trench.

TRENCH 27

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing patches of brown clay.
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0053)

Description: Tr. 27 contained 2 ditches, one of which intercuts with a sub-circular pit.

Only the northern edge of the southernmost feature (width >0.80 m, depth >0.30 m) was visible. This feature is linear, aligned E/W, and contains brown clay.

The second ditch (0053, width 2 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned ESE/WWW and several very small fragments of flint-gritted pottery were retrieved from its mid-brown clay fill. A bulge along the southern edge of this feature indicates the presence of an adjoining feature, the sub-circular pit. The relationship between these two features could not be ascertained.

TRENCH 28

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Struck flint (0045)
Pottery (0047)

Description: Tr. 28 contained a sub-circular pit, a small sub-rectangular, slot-like, feature, and 2 larger sub-rectangular features, one of which may be a ditch terminal. The northernmost feature, a sub-

circular pit (width 3 m, depth >0.25 m) contains brown clay.

The small sub-rectangular, slot-like, feature (0047, length 1.40, width 0.50 m, depth >0.30 m) contains mid-orangish brown clay, which produced some very small fragments of flint-gritted pottery.

To the south of the slot is a larger sub-rectangular feature (0045, length 4 m, width >0.60 m, depth >0.30 m) which appears to taper towards its southern end. It is filled with mid-brown clay which produced a piece of struck flint.

The southernmost feature is either a sub-circular pit or the terminal of a small ditch (width 1.50 m, depth 0.30 m). It contains mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 66

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay, mid-brown/orangish-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 66 contained a sub-circular feature (width 1.80 m, depth 0.23 m) filled with mid-brown clay. The subsoil in the central and southern areas of the trench is a deposit of mid-brown, slightly orangish-brown, clay comparable to that recorded within Tr. 26, to the east. This deposit may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 67

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay, mid-brown/orangish-brown clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 67 contained 2 irregularly-shaped features, and a sub-circular pit or ditch terminal. The deposit of brown clay recorded in the central and southern sectors of Tr. 66 was also observed in the northern sector of Tr. 67.

The irregular shape of the northernmost feature (length >1.60 m, width 1 m) may be the result of two intercutting features: a linear slot-like feature to the north and a sub-circular pit to the south. The

southernmost feature may be natural, possibly a tree-hole. It is very shallow (0.10 m) and is filled with a calcareous brown clay.

The sub-circular pit or ditch terminal (width 1 m, depth >0.21 m) contains a mid-orangish-brown clay.

TRENCH 95

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay.
Features: 3
Finds: Struck flint (0055)

Description: Tr. 95 contained a ditch and 2 ?pits.

The ditch (length >14 m, width 1.20 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned NNE/SSW and contains a light brown clay.

The northernmost ?pit appears to be cut by the NNE/SSW aligned ditch; it is >0.25 m deep and contains a mid-brown clay.

The southernmost pit (0055) has a slightly irregular edge and narrows towards the eastern trench edge. A waste flake was retrieved from its fill (mid-brown clay).

TRENCH 96

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 7
Finds: Pottery (0057, 0061)

Description: Tr. 96 contained 5 linear features (ditches and gullies), and 2 sub-circular pits.

The northernmost of the linear features (0061, length >4 m, width >0.30 m, depth >0.40 m) is the terminal of what appeared to be a N/S aligned ditch. It is filled with mid-brown clay which produced a sherd of prehistoric pottery.

The ditch (width 1.50 m, depth >0.20 m) recorded in the central section of the trench is aligned NW/SE and contains mid-brown calcareous clay. It probably represents the continuation of a ditch also observed in Trs. 98 and 99.

The smaller of the sub-circular pits (width 0.90 m, depth 0.12 m) was located against the western trench-

edge and also contains mid-brown calcareous clay.

The larger sub-circular pit (width 3.80 m wide, depth >0.30 m) contains mid-brown clay. It appears to cut a narrow ditch (width 0.50 m) which contains calcareous brown clay.

Two other features intercut with this ditch. The southernmost feature (0057) appears to have a rounded end and contained several very small pieces of flint-gritted pottery.

TRENCH 97

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.42 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 5

Description: Tr. 97 contained 2 ditches, a slightly irregularly-shaped pit, a small ovoid ?post hole, and an area of ?features in the southern end of the trench.

The narrower, most northerly, ditch (width 0.30 m, depth 0.10 m) is aligned ENE/WSW and contains brown clay.

The second ditch (width 2 m, depth >0.15 m) is aligned E/W, and contains calcareous brown clay.

The slightly irregularly-shaped pit and the small ovoid feature are located immediately to the south of the E/W ditch. The larger feature (width 2.70 m, depth >0.20 m) contains light brown clay. The ovoid feature (length 0.70 m, width 0.50 m, depth 0.18 m) contains mid-brown clay.

The irregular clay-filled feature (depth >0.20 m) in the southern end of the trench may have been caused by animal burrowing or tree root disturbance; alternatively it may represent several intercutting features.

TRENCH 98

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.39 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 6
Finds: Struck flint (0063)
Pottery (0064)

Description: Tr. 98 contained 4 ditches, a sub-circular pit, and an area of brown clay. All the ditches

are on slightly differing alignments.

The northernmost ditch (width >0.50 m, depth >0.12 m) is aligned E/W, and contains light brown clay.

An area of brown clay to the south (width 6.60 m) may represent another E/W aligned ditch or, more likely, a large hollow.

The northern of the two central ditches (width 1.10 m) contains mid-brown clay. It probably represents a continuation of the ditch seen in Trs. 96 and 99. The southern of the two central ditches (width 1 m, depth >0.25 m) is aligned ENE/WSW and contains mid-brown clay.

To the south, the fourth ditch/gully (width 0.50 m, depth 0.20 m) is aligned NNW/SSE and contains mid-brown clay.

The sub-circular pit (0064, depth >0.20 m) in the far southern end of the trench contains mid-brown clay, which produced a fragment of prehistoric pottery. The relationship between this feature and the NNW/SSE aligned ditch could not be defined.

TRENCH 99

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 99 contained 2 ditches, one of which is very irregular, and a sub-circular pit. The subsoil in the northern 10 m of the trench comprises a deposit of brown clay, which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features. The sub-circular feature (width 1.20 m, depth >0.25 m) contains dark brown clay.

The two ditches are aligned NW/SE. The northern ditch (width 1 m, depth >0.20 m) contains dark brown clay. The southern ditch has a very irregular edge and may be natural.

The area of tree roots at the southern end of the trench may indicate the position of a hedge and an infilled ditch. The same infilled ditch was also observed in Trs. 101 and 103.

TRENCH 100

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.45 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 9
Finds: Struck flint (0068)
Pottery (0070)

Description: Tr. 100 contained a ditch/gully, 2 sub-circular features, 3 small sub-rectangular, or slot-like, features, and 3 irregularly-shaped features, two of which may be natural.

The ditch/gully (0070) is narrow (0.50 m) and aligned NW/SE. Eight sherds and 15 fragments of prehistoric pottery were retrieved from its fill (mid-brown clay).

One of the sub-circular features (0068, width 2 m, depth >0.35 m) is located immediately to the south of the gully. It contains dark brown clay which produced a piece of struck flint. The second sub-circular feature (length >1 m, width >1 m, depth >0.20 m) contains mid-brown clay.

The sub-rectangular pits/linear gullies are similar in shape (0.80 - 1.30 m wide, >0.20 m deep) and are filled with brown clay.

The larger of the irregularly-shaped features (immediately north of the gully) may represent several intercutting pits; it is 2 m wide and roughly sub-circular in shape.

The remaining two features were difficult to define and may be natural.

TRENCH 101

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 7

Description: Tr. 101 contained 4 ditches, 2 sub-rectangular features, and an irregularly shaped feature.

Two of the ditches are 0.60 m wide and aligned N/S, each contains brown clay. The northern of these intercuts with one of the sub-rectangular features (possibly the terminus of an E/W aligned ditch); the southern is cut by a slightly curving, irregularly-shaped feature which was difficult to define and may be natural.

The E/W aligned ditch, traversing the central sector of the trench, was also observed in Trs. 99 and 103.

It is a relatively recently infilled field boundary.

The other sub-rectangular feature (length 3.40 m, width 1 m, depth >0.25 m) contains mid-brown clay.

The ditch (width 1.20 m, depth >0.20 m) at the southern end of the trench is aligned ENE/WSW and also contains mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 102

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 6
Finds Pottery (0072)

Description: Tr. 102 contained 3 ditches, a post hole, a sub-circular pit, and an irregular crescent-shaped feature.

One of the ditches (width >0.60 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned N/S, and contains mid-brown clay.

The central ditch (width 1.20 m) is aligned NE/SW, and filled with mid-brown clay.

The third ditch (0072, width 0.50 m, depth 0.26 m) is aligned NW/SE, and contains dark brown, charcoal-flecked clay, in which a sherd of prehistoric pottery was found.

The post hole and sub-circular pit are located to the north of the ditches. The post hole (length 0.50 m, width 0.30 m, depth 0.21 m) contains mid-brown clay. The sub-circular pit (width 1.90 m, depth >0.20 m deep) contains mid-brown clay. Despite its irregular shape, the crescent-shaped feature has clearly defined sides; it is >0.18 m deep and contains a brown clay.

TRENCH 103

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 103 contained an E/W aligned ditch. This feature is a continuation of the recently infilled field boundary also seen in Trs. 99 and 101.

The subsoil in this trench is a deposit of mid-brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 104

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 5

Description: Tr. 104 contained a ditch, 3 slot-like features, and a slightly irregular ditch terminal or pit.

The E/W aligned ditch (width 2 m) contains charcoal-flecked calcareous clay.

All three of the slot-like features are similar in shape; they are c.3 m long and contain a brown calcareous clay.

The ditch terminal or pit has a slightly irregular edge, and may represent several intercutting features.

At its widest point this feature measures 1.70 m. It contains calcareous brown clay.

TRENCH 105

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Fired clay (0083)

Description: Tr. 105 contained 2 ditches, a sub-circular pit, and a ?post hole.

Only the southern edge of the northernmost ditch was visible; it appeared to be aligned slightly ENE/WSW, and contains a light brown clay which produced 12 small fragments of fired clay.

The second ditch (width 1 m, depth >0.18 m) contains mid-brown clay.

The sub-circular pit (width c.2 m, depth >0.20 m) contains mid-brown clay.

The ?post hole (width 1 m, depth c.0.20 m) contains brown clay.

TRENCHES 106-108

Dimensions 25-30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34-0.40 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil recorded in Trs. 106-108 is a deposit of mid-brown clay which may overlie, or

obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 109

Dimensions: 20 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Brown clay
Features: 1
Finds: Pottery, glazed (0087)

Description: Tr. 109 contained an NW/SE aligned ditch. The same ditch was also observed in Tr. 110.

Medieval or post-medieval pottery was retrieved from its fill.

The brown clay subsoil in this trench may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 110

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr 110 contained the same NW/SE aligned ditch as was observed in Tr. 109.

The brown clay subsoil in this trench may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 111

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 111 contained a ditch, a small sub-rectangular feature, and an irregular, elliptical-shaped pit. The ditch (width 2.30 m) was fairly difficult to define, but it is aligned E/W, and contains mid-brown clay.

The small sub-rectangular feature (1 x 0.30 m, depth >0.23 m) contains mid-brown clay.

Despite its irregular shape, the southernmost feature was well defined; it is 2 m long with tapering ends, and contains mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 113

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.28 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing
patches of brown clay
Features: 0

Description: There were no features in this trench.

TRENCH 114

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 6
Finds: Pottery (0089)

Description: Tr. 114 contained 2-3 ditches, a small sub-rectangular pit, and 2 narrow slot-like features.

The northernmost ditch (0089, width 1.30 m, depth >0.18 m), aligned E/W, contains mid-greyish-brown clay which produced some very small fragments of flint-gritted pottery.

To the south, a narrower ditch (width, 0.50 m, depth >0.18 m), aligned NW/SE, contains mid-brown clay.

Another ?ditch (width c.3 m) was difficult to define, it appeared to be aligned E/W and contains orangish-brown clay.

The pit (width 0.80 m, depth 0.20 m) contains a mid-brown clay

The northernmost slot-like feature (3 x 0.50 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned N/S and contains mid-brown clay.

The other linear slot (width 1.60 m) is aligned ENE/WSW and contains calcareous mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 115

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4

Description: Tr. 115 contained 3 ditches, one of which appeared to be intercut by a sub-circular pit.

The northernmost ditch (width 2.20 m) is aligned NNE/SSW, and contains mid-brown clay.

The remaining two ditches are 4 m apart and aligned E/W, each contains mid-brown clay. The southern of these two ditches is 3 m wide; the northern is narrower (width 2 m) and appears to intercut with a sub-

circular pit on its northern edge.

TRENCH 116

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m

Depth: 0.38 m

Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay, containing
patches of brown, slightly orange, clay.

Features: 2

Description: Tr. 116 contained a small slot-like ditch, and a sub-circular pit. Both features were hard to define and may be natural. The linear slot (length >3 m, width 0.50 m) contains brown clay. The sub-circular feature (width 1.50 m, depth >0.18 m) contains a reddish-brown clay.

TRENCH 117

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m

Depth: 0.38 m

Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown clay, mid-brown clay

Features: 3

Description: Tr. 117 contained a ditch, and 2 sub-circular pits. All the features were in the northern end of the trench. The southern two-thirds of the trench contained a deposit of brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features. Only the southern edge of the ditch (depth >0.20 m), aligned E/W, was present in the trench; it contains light brown clay.

The sub-circular features are both 1 m wide and contain mid-brown clay.

SITE 2

TRENCH NUMBERS: 155, 161-162, 167-169, 171-172
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 8
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 23

AREA: 160 x 100 m

DATE: Prehistoric (probably Iron Age)

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 6

TRENCH 155

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 10+
Finds: Pottery (0149, 0151, 0153, 0155)
Flint (0149, 0151, 0153)
Animal bone (0153)

Description: Tr. 155 contained 4 sub-circular pits, 2 ditches, a post hole, an area of burning, a linear slot-like feature, a sub-rectangular feature, and an area of undefined features in the south of the trench.

Three of the sub-circular features were located along the eastern edge of the trench. The northern of these features (width 1.20 m) contains brown clay. The central feature (width >0.70 m) also contains brown clay and is cut along its northern edge by the linear slot (0151). The southern feature (0153, width 1.60 m) is filled with a very dark-grey loamy clay containing charcoal and ash deposits. This feature contains a high density of prehistoric pottery (35 sherds) and animal bone.

The fourth sub-circular pit (1.90 m wide) contains orangish-brown clay and appeared to cut the gully/ditch (0149, width 0.56 m, depth 0.30 m) aligned NNW/SSE. The latter contains mid-brown clay-loam. Limited investigation of this feature produced eleven sherds and seven very small fragments of prehistoric pottery and some struck flint.

The patch of burning (length 0.35 m, width 0.25 m) cuts an E/W aligned ditch that contains an orangish brown calcareous clay similar to the natural subsoil. The edges of the E/W ditch were hard to define and it is possible that it is a natural feature. This ditch is also cut by the linear slot (0151) and the second ditch (0149).

The linear slot (0151, width 1.60 m), which appeared to cut one of the sub-circular pits to the south, in addition to the E/W aligned ditch to the north, is filled with dark grey clay-loam which contains charcoal and ash deposits. Three sherds of prehistoric pottery and a fragment of burnt flint were found lying on the surface of this feature.

The post hole (length 0.25 m, width 0.12 m, depth 0.20 m) contains brown clay.

The sub-rectangular feature (0155, length 1.25 m, width 0.50 m, depth 0.08 m) contains a brown clay in which early prehistoric pottery was found.

TRENCH 161

Dimensions: 28 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing patches of brown calcereous clay.
Features: 6
Finds: Pottery (0159, 0163, 0165, 0167)
Struck flint (0159, 0161)
Burnt flint (0163)
Animal bone (0159)
Iron object (0159)

Description: Tr. 161 contained 3 post holes, a sub-circular pit and 2 ditches.

The northern post hole (0167, length 0.18, width 0.15 m, depth 0.15 m) is filled with dark brown clay which produced prehistoric pottery. The other two post holes are both roughly the same size, and both cut the eastern edge of the sub-circular pit. The one to the north (0163, length 0.35, width 0.22 m, depth 0.17 m) is filled with mid-brown calcareous clay which contained five pieces of struck flint. The one to the south (0163) is slightly larger (length 0.45, width 0.22 m, depth 0.13 m) and contains dark grey clay-loam with small fragments of charcoal and burnt flint. Prehistoric pottery was also found within this feature. The sub-circular pit (0165, width 1.10 m, depth 0.09 m) contains brown clay in which two sherds of prehistoric pottery were found.

The two ditches are 8.50 m apart and both aligned NE/SW. The southernmost ditch (0159, width 0.70 m, depth 0.24 m) contains mid-brown clay. Only the southern edge of the northern ditch was visible; it appeared to be wider than the other ditch and also contains mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 162

Dimensions: 32 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Yellowish brown clacareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 162 contained a ditch (width 0.90 m, depth >0.18 m), aligned NE/SW and filled with brown clay. An additional, sub-circular feature appeared to intercut with the northern edge of the ditch. The former was difficult to define and may be natural.

TRENCH 167

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.31 m
Subsoil: Yellowish brown calcareous clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 167 contained 2 ditches.

The ditch (width 0.70 m, depth 0.16-0.22 m) aligned N/S, running down the centre of the trench, contains brown clay. The second ditch (width 0.60 m) is aligned E/W and is possibly a continuation of the ditch in Tr. 171. It is apparently cut by the N/S ditch.

TRENCH 168

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.36 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay/brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 168 contained a ditch. This feature is a continuation of the N/S aligned ditch observed in Tr. 167. The southern extent of this ditch is obscured by a deposit of brown clay which covered all but the far northern end of the trench.

TRENCH 169

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 169 contained a ditch (width 2.10 m), aligned E/W and filled with mid-orangish brown clay loam. This ditch is a relatively recently infilled field boundary.

The subsoil recorded in Tr. 169 is a deposit of brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, earlier archaeological features.

TRENCH 171

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Yellowish brown calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2
Finds: Burnt flint (0169)

Description: Tr. 171 contained a ditch, and a small pit.

The ditch (0169, width 0.80 m) is aligned slightly WNW/ESE and contains a dark-reddish brown clay which produced two fragments of burnt flint. The pit (length 1.50 m, width 1.10 m, depth >0.20 m) contains brown clay.

TRENCH 172

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 172 contained a ditch (width 1 m, depth 0.25 m) aligned NW/SE and filled with brown clay.

SITE 3

TRENCH NUMBERS:- 141-142, 145-148, 151-153, 157, 159, 165, 170
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 13
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 23

AREA:- 200 x 100 m

DATE:- Prehistoric/Roman

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Figs. 7-8

TRENCH 141

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2
Finds: Pottery, glazed (0139)
Slag (0139)

Description: Tr. 141 contained 2 ditches.

The northern, wider ditch (width 2.50 m) is a relatively recently infilled field boundary. It contains dark brown clay loam which produced sherds of glazed pottery (medieval or post-medieval) and slag. The second ditch (width 0.75 m, depth >0.10 m) is aligned ENE/WSW and contains brown clay.

TRENCH 142

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brown clay
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil recorded in Tr. 142 is a deposit of brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 145

Dimensions: 31 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Dark yellowish-brown, calcareous clay containing
large areas of orangish-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 145 contained a linear feature (width >0.50 m, depth >0.14 m), aligned NNE/SSW, and filled with brown clay.

TRENCH 146

Dimensions: 32 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0141)

Description: Tr. 146 contained 2 ditches, and a large, apparently linear, area of brown clay.

The northern ditch (0141, width >3.30 m, depth 0.22 m) is aligned E/W and contains orangish-brown clay.

One rim sherd (?Iron Age) and seven very small fragments of pottery were found during the investigation of this feature.

The second ditch (width 2.70 m) is a recently infilled field boundary and contained several pieces of modern brick.

To the south, the large area of brown clay (width 8.50 m, depth >0.15 m) is either a small infilled hollow, or an extremely wide ditch.

TRENCH 147

Dimensions: 32 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 4

Description: Tr. 147 contained 2-3 ditches, and a post hole or small pit.

The ditches are all fairly narrow and aligned E/W. The northernmost ditch was hard to define and may be a natural feature. Each of the remaining ditches is 0.90 m wide and contains brown clay. The southernmost

ditch is shallow (0.08 m); the northern ditch is deeper (>0.20 m).

The post hole or small pit (width 1.20 m, depth >0.20 m) contains mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 148

Dimensions: 28 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 148 contained a ditch (width 1.20 m, depth >0.20 m) aligned NE/SW, and filled with brown clay.

TRENCH 151

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2
Finds: Brick, ?modern (0143)

Description: Tr. 151 contained 2 narrow ditches.

Both ditches are filled with greyish-brown clay. The northern ditch (width 0.35 m) is aligned slightly ENE/WSW; the southern (0143, width 0.50 m, depth >0.18 m) is aligned NW/SE. The latter contained some pieces of brick (possibly modern).

TRENCH 152

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2
Finds: Pottery (0145)
Slag (0147)

Description: Tr. 152 contained two ditches. Each of the ditches is aligned NE/SW, and each is filled with mid-brown clay. Four sherds of Roman pottery were found during the investigation of the northern ditch (0147, width 0.50 m, depth 0.25 m), and a piece of slag was found during the investigation of the southern ditch (0145, width 1 m, depth 0.16 m).

TRENCH 153

Dimensions: 31 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 153 contained a ditch (width 0.90 m, depth 0.26 m), aligned NNE/SSW, and filled with brown clay.

Trench 157

Dimensions: 32 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 157 contained 2 ditches.

Each of the ditches (widths 0.90 m) is aligned NE/SW, and each contains mid-orangish brown clay. The northern ditch is only 0.07 m deep; the southern ditch is deeper (>0.20 m).

TRENCH 159

Dimension: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2
Finds: Pottery (0157)

Description: Tr. 159 contained 2 ditches.

The northern ditch (0157, width 0.90 m, depth >0.22 m) is aligned E/W and is filled with brownish grey clay, which produced prehistoric pottery. The southern ditch (width 0.65 m, depth 0.18 m, length >8.50 m) is aligned NNE/SSW, and also contains brownish grey clay.

TRENCH 165

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 165 contained 2 ditches, both aligned NE/SW.

The narrower, northern ditch (width 0.50 m, depth >0.23 m) is filled with mid-brown clay; the southern ditch (width 1.80 m, depth >0.16 m) contains orangish-brown clay.

TRENCH 170

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 170 contained a ditch (width 0.70 m, depth >0.14 m), aligned NW/SE, and filled with mid-brown clay.

SITE 4

TRENCH NUMBERS:- 118-128, 132, 135, 138
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 16
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 42

AREA:- 380 x 120 m

DATE:- Roman

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Figs. 9-10

TRENCH 118

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Brown clay
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil recorded in Tr. 118 comprises a deposit of brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 119

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 7
Finds: Pottery (0105, 0106, 0108)
Animal bone (0108)
Building materials (tile) (0108)

Description: Tr. 119 contained 2 ditches, 3 pits, a narrow linear slot, and an inhumation.

The ditch terminal (width 0.90 m, depth >0.15 m) is aligned E/W, and intercuts along its southern edge with one of the pits (width >0.50 m). The relationship between these two features could not be ascertained, both are filled with mid-brown clay.

The second ditch (0106, width 3 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned ESE/WW and is filled with dark brown clay loam. Ten sherds of Roman pottery (2nd- 3rd/4th centuries) were found during the investigation of this

feature.

South of the second ditch, and on the same alignment, is a narrow linear slot (width 0.30 m, depth 0.30 m) filled with mid grey silty clay.

The pit (width 1 m, depth >0.20 m), located against the eastern edge of the trench, is filled with mid brown clay.

At the north end of the trench was a very large pit (0108, width >8 m, depth >0.15 m) filled with dark greyish-brown clay loam. Limited investigation of this feature produced a large quantity of Roman pottery (including Samian) and animal bone.

The inhumation comprised the skeleton of a child or young adult. This feature was not excavated.

TRENCH 120

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.43 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 2
Finds: Pottery (0110, 0112)

Description: Tr. 120 contained a ditch, and a layer of mid-grey clay-loam.

The ditch (0110, width 0.80 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned ESE/WW and is filled with dark grey silty loam, which produced a sherd of Roman pottery.

The layer of clay-loam (0112) covered the central and southern sectors of the trench; a rim sherd (Roman) was found during the investigation of this layer.

TRENCH 121

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 5
Finds: Pottery (0113, 0115)
Animal bone (0117)

Description: Tr. 121 contained 3 ditches and 2 linear slots.

The northernmost feature (0113, length >2.40 m, width >0.40 m, depth >0.20 m) was only partially revealed within the trench; it is apparently a ditch, aligned N/S, and contains very dark grey clay-loam with ash

and charcoal. Over 14 sherds of Roman pottery (1st/2nd century) were found during the investigation of this feature.

Another of the ditches (width 2 m, depth >0.10 m) is aligned E/W, and contains mid-brown clay.

The third ditch (0117, width 1.60 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned NW/SE, and contains dark greyish-brown clay-loam. This feature contains a high density of animal bone and some human bone (an articulated human skeleton was observed in the top fill).

Roman pottery was also found in the northern slot (0115, width 0.80 m), the north-eastern end of which was visible within the trench. This feature contains brown charcoal-flecked clay.

The second slot (length 3 m, width 0.50 m, depth >0.15 m) is also filled with brown charcoal-flecked clay.

TRENCH 122

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 122 contained 3 ditches.

The largest, northern ditch (width 2.10 m, depth >0.15 m) is aligned E/W, and contains mid-brown clay. To the south, is a narrower ditch (width 0.40 m, depth >0.30 m), aligned NW/SE and filled with dark brown clay-loam. The third ditch (width 0.65 m, depth >0.16 m) is also aligned NW/SE; it contains dark brown charcoal-flecked clay.

TRENCH 123

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.43 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Pottery (0119, 0121, 0123, 0125)
Animal bone (0123)
Iron key (0121)
Building materials (0119)

Description: Tr. 123 contained a ditch, a linear slot, a post hole, and a layer of mid-greyish-brown sandy clay.

The ditch (0119, width 5.40 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned ESE/WW, and is filled with a dark greyish-brown

silty clay. A large quantity of Roman pottery (13 sherds) was recovered during limited investigation of this feature.

The linear slot (0121, 1.50 x >0.50 m, depth >0.18 m) has a slightly irregular outline. It is filled with a mid-grey clay-loam which produced six sherds of Roman pottery and an iron key.

The post hole (0123, diameter 0.50 m, depth 0.25 m) is filled with a dark brown clay-loam which contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a few fragments of animal bone.

A sherd of pottery was found during the investigation of the layer of sandy clay (0125) at the northern end of the trench.

TRENCH 124

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.25 - 0.45 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: 1
Finds: Pottery, Roman (0127)
Pottery, medieval (0128)

Description: Tr. 124 contained a large pit (0128, width >6 m) filled with a dark brown clay-loam. A sherd of glazed, medieval pottery was found during the investigation of this feature. The subsoil (0127) recorded in Tr. 124 is mid-brown clay. It contained a sherd of Roman pottery and may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

TRENCH 125

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0130)

Description: Tr. 125 contained a large pit, and 2 slightly irregular, linear features.

The large pit (width 4 m, depth >0.20 m) is roughly sub-circular in shape and contained charcoal-flecked mid-brown clay.

The southernmost of the linear features (0130, width 0.90 m, depth >0.12 m) is slightly asymmetrical in shape and is either a pit, or a ditch terminal. It is filled with dark brown clay-loam which produced a

sherd of Roman pottery.

The second linear feature (width 0.50 m, depth c.0.25 m) is slightly crescent-shaped and is filled with light-brown clay.

TRENCH 126

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Brown clay
Features: ?
Finds: Pottery (0185)

Description: The subsoil recorded in Tr. 126 is a layer of brown clay which may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features. A sherd of Samian (Roman) pottery and two small fragments of undiagnostic pottery were found during the investigation of this layer.

TRENCH 127

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 - 0.50 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Pottery (0132, 0133)
Animal bone (0133)

Description: Tr. 127 contained 1 or 2 pits, a linear or sub-rectangular feature, and a metalled surface. The northern pit (width 2 m, depth >0.25 m) has a slightly irregular outline and is filled with a mid-brown clay.

Southwards, the second pit (2 x 1.50 m, depth >0.20 m) is ovoid in shape and is filled with a dark yellowish brown clay, only slightly darker than the natural subsoil. This feature may be natural.

The linear, or sub-rectangular, feature (length >5 m) is filled with a dark grey clay-loam. Its southern edge appears to be overlain by the layer (0133) over the metalled surface.

Layer 0133 (thickness c.0.25 m) comprises dark greyish-brown silty clay and appeared to be filling a hollow above a metalled surface. The topsoil above this layer is 0.50 m thick and fills the top of the hollow. Five sherds of Roman pottery and some large pieces of animal bone were found during the investigation of this layer. The metalled surface below layer 0133 consists of rounded flint pebbles

(size 30-50mm) and represents either a trackway or a yard.

TRENCH 128

Dimensions: 20 x 2 m
Depth: 0.36 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0135)
Animal bone (0135)
Slag (0137)

Description: Tr. 128 contained 3 ditches.

The northern ditch (0135, width 1.30 m, depth >0.50 m) is aligned NW/SE and filled with a mottled grey and brown clay. A sherd of prehistoric pottery was found during the investigation of this feature.

To the south, the ditch aligned E/W (width 1.20 m, depth 0.12 m) contains mid-brown clay. This feature may be natural.

The southernmost ditch (0137, width 4.20 m, depth >0.35 m) is aligned NE/SW and is filled with a silty brown clay containing patches of burnt material and slag.

TRENCH 129

Dimensions: 22 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown calcareous clay
Features: 3

Description: Tr. 129 contained a post-hole, an area of undefined feature/s, a pit and a ditch.

The post hole (length 0.60 m, width 0.48 m, depth 0.10 m) contains mid brown clay with charcoal; its northern edge appeared to cut an area of undefined feature/s.

The pit (length 1.65 m, width 0.70 m) contains orangish-brown clay.

The ditch (width 2.20 m) is aligned ENE/WSW and contains orangish brown clay.

TRENCH 132

Dimensions: 32 x 2
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0101)
Struck flint (0098)
Animal bone (0101)
Slag (0101)
Oyster shell (0101)
Building materials, daub (0101)

Description: Tr. 132 contained 3 ditches.

The two ditches located at the north end of the trench intercut. One is aligned ENE/WSW and contains dark brown, slightly sandy, clay (0098, width 1 m); the other is aligned NW/SE and contains mid-brown clay (width 0.70). The relationship between the two ditches could not be established. Two pieces of struck flint were found during the investigation of ditch 0098.

The third ditch (0101, width 3.50 m) is shallow (0.08 m). It is aligned NE/SW, and is filled with mid-brown clay which produced 17 sherds of Roman pottery (3rd/4th century), animal bone, slag, oyster shell and daub.

TRENCH 135

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 4 (1 modern)
Finds: Pottery (0103)

Description: Tr. 135 contained 2 ditches, a slightly irregularly-shaped feature, and a modern land drain.

The NNE/SSW aligned ditch (0103, width 0.70, depth >0.20 m) at the northern end of the trench, appeared to cut an E/W aligned ditch (width 0.40 m). Each feature contains mid-orangish-brown clay. Four very small fragments of flint-gritted pottery were found during the investigation of ditch 0103.

The slightly irregularly-shaped feature (width 1 m, depth 0.18 m) may be a ditch terminal or a pit. It is filled with mid-orangish-brown clay.

TRENCH 138

Dimensions: 31 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay
Features: 2
Finds: Struck flint (0093)

Description: Tr. 138 contained a ditch, and a slot-like feature.

The ditch (0093, width 0.70 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned NE/SW and contains brown clay. A piece of struck flint was found during the investigation of this feature.

The small slot (width 0.40 m, depth 0.33 m) is aligned NE/SW and contains brown clay. This feature may be natural.

Trenches 217 and 219 are south of Thorley Lane.

TRENCH 217

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.38 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Building materials, daub (0182)

Description: Tr. 217 contained 2 ditches, the terminal of a small linear feature, and a small pit or post hole.

The ditch (width 1.20 m) at the northern end of the trench is a continuation of the recently infilled, E/W aligned, field boundary also observed in Tr. 219.

The second ditch (width 1.10 m, depth >0.26 m) is aligned NNW/SSE, and contains mid-brown calcareous clay.

The small linear feature with a rounded end (width 0.60, depth >0.16 m) was hard to define and may be natural. It is filled with orangish-brown clay.

The post hole or pit (0182, 0.50 x 0.80, depth 0.15 m) is filled with a greyish-brown clay which contains a concentration of daub fragments.

TRENCH 219

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Mid-brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Building materials, tile (0180 - post-medieval)

Description: Tr. 219 contained 3 ditches.

The northernmost ditch (0180) is a continuation of the recently infilled field boundary, also observed in Tr. 217.

Immediately south of ditch 0180, is a ditch (width 2 m, depth >0.35 m) aligned NNE/SSW and containing brown calcareous clay.

The southern ditch (width 0.77 m, depth 0.40 m) is aligned E/W and contains brown clay.

SITE 5

TRENCH NUMBERS:- 59, 62-65, 73-79

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 12

TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 26

AREA:- 360 x 60 m

DATE:- ?Prehistoric/Roman

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Figs. 11-13

TRENCH 59

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m

Depth: 0.35 m

Subsoil: Brownish-grey calcareous clay

Features: 1

Finds: Pottery (0038)

Struck flint (0038)

Burnt flint (0038)

Description: Tr. 59 contained a shallow ditch (0038, width 1.50 m, depth 0.08 m); it is aligned E/W and contains brown clay. A piece of burnt flint and a waste flake were found during the investigation of this feature.

TRENCH 62

Dimensions: 27 x 2 m

Depth: 0.29 m

Subsoil: Brownish-grey calcareous clay

Features: 1

Finds: Pottery (0043)

Struck flint (0043)

Description: Tr. 62 contained a ditch (0043, width 1 m); it is aligned NW/SE and contained brown clay. A sherd of ?Iron Age pottery and a struck flint were found during the investigation of this feature.

TRENCH 63

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.29 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 2

Description: Tr. 63 contained two ditches, both aligned E/W.

The northern ditch (width 1.10 m, depth >0.20 m) is filled with brown clay. The southern ditch was recently infilled and is a continuation of an already existing field boundary that terminates c.5 m west of the trench.

TRENCH 64

Dimensions: 17 x 2 m
Depth: 0.29 m
Subsoil: Light brownish-grey clay containing fragments of tile
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil in Tr. 64 contained fragments of brick and tile; it is a fairly recent deposit (Roman/post-Roman) and may overlie earlier features.

TRENCH 65

Dimensions: 28 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Light brownish-grey clay containing fragments of tile
Features: ?
Finds: Pottery (0037)

Description: The subsoil (0037) in Tr. 65 is comparable to that in Tr. 64. It contained fragments of brick and tile, and a sherd of Roman/medieval pottery, and may overlie earlier features.

TRENCH 73

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 73 contained an E/W aligned ditch, a recently infilled field boundary.

TRENCH 74

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.29 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 74 contained a sub-circular pit (width 2.10 m) filled with mid-brown silty clay.

TRENCH 75

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.29 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 4

Description: Tr. 75 contained 2 ditches, and 2 sub-circular pits.

The southernmost ditch (width 0.80 m, depth >0.15 m) is aligned ENE/WSW, and contains brown clay.

The second ditch (width 0.65 m, depth >0.10 m) was fairly difficult to define and could be natural. It is aligned WNW/ESE, and contains orangish-brown clay.

The larger, northern pit (width 1.60 m, depth >0.10 m) is filled with brown clay.

The southern pit (width 1 m, depth >0.12 m) is filled with mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 76

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.27 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 9

Description: Tr. 76 contained 3 small post holes, 3 ditches, and 3 pits.

The three post holes were all the same size (diameters 0.20 m, depths >0.20 m) and roughly aligned. Each

is filled with brown clay. Two of the post holes were in the southern sector of the trench, 1 m apart; the other is further to the north.

The two northernmost ditches are on the same alignment, NE/SW, and are 0.90 m wide. The southern of these two ditches contains brown clay, the northern brownish-orange sandy clay.

The third ditch (width 1 m) was difficult to define and may be a natural feature. It is aligned NW/SE and contains orangish-brown clay. This feature intercut with one of the subcircular pits (width >0.50 m); this, likewise, was difficult to define and may be natural.

The pit at the northern end of the trench was only partially revealed and, consequently, its exact outline could not be ascertained.

The pit at the southern end of the trench is a modern feature; it contains bottle glass and modern brick.

TRENCH 77

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay containing
patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 77 contained a ditch (width 1.20 m, depth >0.20 m). It is aligned E/W and is filled with mid-brown clay.

TRENCH 78

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Burnt flint (0074)
Building materials, tile (0076)

Description: Tr. 78 contained 3 ditches.

The northernmost ditch (0074, width 1 m, depth >0.20 m) is aligned ENE/WSW, and contains brownish-grey clay. A lump of burnt flint was found during the investigation of this feature.

The E/W aligned ditch (width 0.80 m, depth >0.25 m) also contains brownish-grey clay.

The third ditch (0076) was only partially visible in the far south-western corner of the trench. It is

aligned NNW/SSE and contains mid-brown clay. A fragment of tile (medieval/post-medieval) was found during the investigation of this feature.

TRENCH 79

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Iron nail (0078)

Description: Tr. 79 contained 2 small pits or post holes, and a ditch.

The northern pit/post hole (width 0.60) was difficult to define and may be a natural feature.

The second pit/post hole (0078, 0.40 x 0.25 m) is an irregular, kidney-shape, and contained a modern iron nail.

The ditch was only partially visible, it appeared to be aligned NE/SW, and contains brown clay

SITE 6

TRENCH NUMBER:- 180
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 1
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 3

AREA:- 50 x 50 m

DATE:- Earlier prehistoric (?Bronze Age)

Trench Description

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 14

TRENCH 180

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0175)

Description: Tr. 180 contained a sub-rectangular feature, and 2 ditches.

The sub-rectangular feature (2.40 x 0.80 m) is filled with a mid-brown clay. The northern ditch (width 0.90 m, depth 0.22 m) terminated within the trench. It is aligned ENE/WSW and contains mid-brown clay.

The second ditch (0175, width 1.20 m, depth >0.30 m) is aligned SSE/NNW and contains mid-brown clay.

Three sherds of ?Bronze Age (1500 BC) pottery were found during the investigation of this feature.

(R990)

2 of 2

SITE 7

TRENCH NUMBER:- 244
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 1
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 3

AREA:- 50 X 20 m (haul road)

DATE:- ?Prehistoric

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 14

TRENCH 244

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.34 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay
Features: 4
Finds: Daub or abraded pottery (0198)

Description: Tr. 244 contained 3 ditches, and a slot-like feature.

The ditch located towards the NNW end of the trench is a relatively recently infilled, field boundary. It is aligned NE/SW and is filled with dark grey loam containing fragments of modern brick and tile.

The other two ditches are c.3 m apart and aligned ENE/WSW. Each is 0.80 m wide and filled with brown clay. The northernmost of these two ditches (0198) produced a fragment of daub (or very abraded pottery).

The slot-like feature (width 0.60 m) is very shallow (0.05 m) and may be natural. There were several large flint nodules within its fill (compact orangish-brown clay).

SITE 8

TRENCH NUMBER:- 237
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 1
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 6

AREA:- 60 X 20 m (road corridor)

DATE:- Roman/medieval

Trench Description

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 14

TRENCH 237

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.40 m
Subsoil: Mid-brown clay
Features: 6
Finds: Pottery (0187, 0189, 0195)
Animal bone (0187, 0193, 0195)
Iron nail (0193)
Slag (0189, 0191)
Building materials, daub (0191, 0193)
Oyster shell (0195)

Description: Tr. 237 contained 4 ditches, and 2 pits.

Three of the ditches are aligned NNE/SSW. The westernmost ditch (0191, width 0.80 m) is filled with a dark brownish-grey clay which contains patches of burnt clay and pieces of slag. Some small fragments of daub were also found in this feature. Ditch 0187 (width 1 m), 6 m to the east, is also filled with a dark brownish-grey clay. No evidence of metalworking (e.g., slag, burnt areas) was found during the investigation of this feature; however it did contain three sherds of Roman or medieval pottery and animal bone. The easternmost of these three ditches (0195, width 1 m) intercut with the fourth ditch. The latter was only partially visible, but is aligned E/W and contains brown clay. Nine sherds of pottery, animal bone and oyster shell were found during the investigation of ditch 0195.

The sub-rectangular pit (0193, length 1.80 m, width 1 m, depth >0.10 m) located towards the western end of the trench is filled with a soil comparable to that in ditch 0191. Animal bone, daub, and an iron nail were found during the investigation of this feature. The second pit (0189, width 1 m) is filled with dark

brownish grey clay and lumps of slag. A Roman or medieval rim sherd was found during the investigation of this feature.

SITE 9

TRENCH NUMBERS:- 248, 250-252
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 4
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 13

AREA:- 180 x 40 m

DATE:- Prehistoric

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 15

TRENCH 248

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.33 m
Subsoil: Yellowish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 6

Description: Tr. 248 contained 2 ?ditches, 2 irregularly-shaped features, a ?pit, and an area of mid-orangish-brown clay. All the features in Tr. 248 contain orangish-brown clay.

Each of the ?ditches is aligned ENE/WSW. The most northerly ditch (width 0.90-1.25 m, depth 0.14 m) is shallow and widens towards the WSW. The second ?ditch was hard to define and intercut with one of the irregularly-shaped features. The latter feature may represent several intercutting features.

The other irregular feature (width 1.20 m, depth >0.26) was roughly crescent-shaped; it may represent a ditch terminal.

The ?pit at the ESE end of the trench was hard to define but appeared to be at least 1.70 m in diameter.

TRENCH 250

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Light orangish-brown calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Cremation (0203)

Description: Tr. 250 contained 2 small ?pits and a cremation.

The western ?pit (width 0.80 m, depth >0.18 m) was only partially visible in the trench. It is filled with brown clay, but has indistinct edges and may be natural.

The second pit (1.35 x 0.80 m, depth >0.20 m), located against the northern edge of the trench, is roughly sub-rectangular in shape and is, likewise, filled with brown clay.

The cremation was contained in a small ovoid pit (0.44 x 0.33 m, depth 0.08 m) and had suffered some plough damage. There was no evidence that the cremated remains were contained in a funerary urn.

TRENCH 251

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay containing patches of orangish-brown clay
Features: 4

Description: Tr. 251 contained a ?ditch, a ?pit, and 2 ?post holes. All the features were filled with brown clay.

The ?ditch (width 1-1.20 m, depth >0.14 m) is slightly asymmetrical and may be curved. It was hard to define and may be natural.

The ?pit (width 1.70 m, depth >0.10 m) is roughly sub-circular in shape. This feature may also be natural.

The ?post holes are aligned SE/NW and are 6.50 m apart. The south-eastern post hole is slightly larger (length 0.65 m, width 0.55 m, depth 0.10 m) than the other which is 0.40 m in diameter (depth >0.18 m).

TRENCH 252

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Brown calcareous clay containing patches of
orangish-brown clay
Features: ?

Description: The subsoil recorded in Tr. 252 contains patches of orangish-brown clay. Within the scope of the investigations, it could not be determined whether any of these areas represented archaeological features.

SITE 10

TRENCH NUMBERS:- 259-263
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRENCHES:- 5
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEATURES:- 7

AREA:- 240 x 40 m

DATE:- Late pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA)

Trench Descriptions

To be read in conjunction with Fig. 16

TRENCH 259

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.35 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 259 contained a ditch (width 1 m, depth >0.30 m) aligned NE/SW and filled with mid-brownish-orange clay.

TRENCH 260

Dimensions: 29 x 2 m
Depth: 0.37 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 3
Finds: Pottery (0205)

Description: Tr. 260 contained 2 ditches and a post hole.

The ditch at the north-western end of the trench (0205, width 2.80 m, depth 0.34 m) is aligned NE/SW and contains mid-orangish-brown clay. A sherd of ?Roman pottery was found during the investigation of this feature.

The other ditch (width >2.20 m) was only partially visible within the trench but it appeared to be aligned NE/SW and is also filled with mid-orangish-brown clay.

The post hole (diameter 0.40 m, depth 0.11 m) contains a brownish-orange clay.

TRENCH 261

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.32 m
Subsoil: Brown clay containing patches of yellow
 calcareous clay
Features: 1

Description: Tr. 261 contained a linear feature with a rounded end, probably a ditch terminal (width 0.60 m, depth 0.12 m). It contains a brown, charcoal-flecked clay.

TRENCH 262

Dimensions: 15 x 2 m
Depth: 0.36 m
Subsoil: Brownish-yellow calcareous clay
Features: 0

Description: There were no features in this trench.

TRENCH 263

Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Depth: 0.30 m
Subsoil: Yellow calcareous clay
Features: 2
Finds: Pottery (0207)
Animal bone (0207)
Building materials, tile (0209)

Description: Tr. 263 contained a ditch, and another linear feature.

Each of the features is aligned NE/SW, and each contains mid-brown loamy clay.

The ditch (0207, width 3.20 m, depth >0.24 m) contained five sherds of pottery, at least one of which dates to the late pre-Roman Iron Age period.

The other linear feature (0209, width 4 m) is very shallow (0.07m) and may represent a layer of topsoil filling a slight hollow. A tile fragment was found during the investigation of this feature.

MISCELLANEOUS TRENCHES

Not illustrated

TRENCH 3

Tr. 3 contained a recently infilled field ditch. A continuation of this ditch was observed in Tr. 9.

TRENCH 23

Tr. 23 contained a ditch 0.70 m wide and aligned NE/SW

TRENCH 30

Tr. 30 contained a ditch 1.30 m wide and aligned E/W and a small sub-rectangular pit (length 2 m, width 0.80 m, depth 0.20 m). A third feature is probably natural.

TRENCH 38

Tr. 38 contained a ditch terminal (width 1.10 m) filled with a calcareous brown clay only slightly darker than the surrounding subsoil. This feature may be natural.

TRENCH 41

Tr. 41 contained a ditch 3 m wide and aligned NW/SE. A small, slot-like, feature is probably natural.

TRENCH 46

Tr. 46 contained a ditch (width 0.70 m), aligned NE/SW. A probable continuation of this ditch was

observed in Tr. 56.

Trench 53

Tr. 53 contained a ditch (width c.3 m), aligned NE/SW.

TRENCH 56

Tr. 56 contained a ditch (width 2.50 m), aligned NE/SW. A probable continuation of this ditch was observed in Tr. 46.

TRENCH 90

Tr. 90 contained a ditch (width 1.50 m), aligned E/W.

TRENCH 201

Tr. 201 contained a recently infilled field ditch, the course of which could be readily traced on the ground-surface.

TRENCH 257

Tr. 257 contained an infilled ditch on the same alignment as an adjacent hedge.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The sites found indicate that the density of settlement in the area was relatively high during prehistoric and Roman times. None of the prehistoric sites could be securely dated, but they likely date to the Bronze Age or early Iron Age. Evidence for Bronze Age occupation has been found to the east of the proposed development (Ellcock, 1968), and a late Bronze Age axe (SMR No. 2126) was found close to Thorley church and within the proposed road corridor.

Site 1 covers a large area (600 x 240 m) and extends beyond the northern limits of the proposed development. It is located on a plateau close to the edge of a gentle south-facing slope. Sites 3 and 5-7 are indicative of a continuation of prehistoric activity southwards, towards base of the small valley containing 'The Brook'. It is unlikely that Site 1 represents a single phase settlement. Site 2 may be a later shift of Site 1. Most of the features assigned to Site 3, and the northern half of Site 5, are ditches and it is likely that they represent stock enclosures and boundaries, some of which are probably associated with Site 1.

Site 9 is located on a plateau between the steep west-facing slope, west of St James's church, and the gentler east-facing slopes of the Stort valley. Evidence for Bronze Age occupation (Ellcock, 1968) has been found to the north-east,

on the same plateau.

No evidence was found for the Roman ?villa (SMR No. 1526) which was located to the south of the road corridor on level ground to the north of Thorley wood. Site 10 is on sloping ground, south of the ?villa, and may represent earlier (late pre-Roman Iron Age) occupation of the site.

Comparable in date to the other known Roman sites in the area (SMR Nos. 1090, 1526, 4852), Site 4 appears to date principally to the 3rd/4th centuries. The range of features indicated by the trial trenching suggests that Site 4 is a small settlement or farmstead. Some of the ditches assigned to Site 3 may be associated with Site 4. Site 8, 620 m south-east of Site 1, may also be Roman. The high incidence of slag within Tr. 237 is indicative of metalworking, which requires water: Site 8 is close to a small brook.

SITE 1

Site 1 (NGR TL 471203) is characterised by three areas (Trs. 5-16, 95-102 and 114-115) with a particularly high density of features. The mean and average number of features per trench was three; although some trenches contained as many as six-nine features.

A broad range of features is present, including post holes and pits. The predominant features are linear gullies and ditches. The larger ditches are commonly aligned east/west or north-west/south-east.

Although minimal investigation of features was undertaken, 30 (22%) features produced finds. Prehistoric pottery was found in significant quantities and is largely well preserved. Struck flint was also found.

The subsoil in two small areas of the site (Tr 26 together with part of Trs. 66 and 67, and Trs. 106-108) is a brown or mid-brown clay. These are probably colluvial, or rain-washed, deposits infilling natural hollows. These layers may post-date the site and could, therefore, overlie, or obscure, earlier features.

SITE 2

The nucleus of site 2 (TL 470201) covered a relatively small area, but the density of features is high. In addition, there are several areas of intercutting features, some of which could not be properly defined at this stage of the investigation. The average number of features per trench was three, although 70% of the features were in two trenches: Trs. 155 and 161 contained at least 17 features including post

holes and pits. Many of the features recorded in these two trenches contain evidence of substantial burning, and most contain flecks of charcoal.

The finds comprise large sherds of flint-gritted pottery and animal bone, and were retrieved from ten (37%) of the features.

The other trenches within this site contained ditches (typically one feature per trench). The north/south ditch in Trs. 167 and 168 was over 70 m long. This is one of the few ditches, assigned to either Site 1 or 2, that is aligned north/south.

Site 2 may be associated with Site 1, however the features are different in character, containing less leached fills with a larger quantity of hard-fired pottery and animal bone. The pottery indicates that Site 2 is later in date than Site 1.

The features, including the post holes, are well preserved: usually to a depth of 0.20 m or greater.

SITE 3

Site 3 (TL 469200) comprises a relatively large area with a fairly low density of features. Typically there were one or two ditches in each trench. On average there were two features per trench. The subsoil in Tr. 142 may overlie, or obscure, archaeological features.

Pottery was found in small quantities and is generally comparable to that found within Site 1. One of the ditches contained Roman pottery (Tr. 152, Feature 0147) and three of the ditches (Trs. 141, 146, 151) were infilled during the post-medieval or modern period.

Most of the ditches probably represent boundaries, or stock enclosures. They were usually 1 m wide and aligned either east/west, north-east/south-west, north-west/south-east, or north-north-east/south-south-west.

The preservation of the features was generally good, with only limited plough damage. Most of the features contain fairly leached brown clays with little evidence of organic content.

SITE 4

Site 4 (TL 468199) is dated to the Roman period and probably represents a small settlement or farmstead. A wide range of features is present, including pits, ditches, post holes, a metalled surface and inhumations. Large quantities of animal bone and pottery were observed and there are concentrations of pottery lying on the ground-surface. There is also evidence of small-scale industrial activity (slag). Trs. 119 and 121 contained inhumations; one of which is in the top fill of a ditch. The inhumation found in Tr. 119 is contained in a separate grave cut.

The only trench without features was Tr. 118, however, the brown clay subsoil in this trench may overlie earlier features.

The density of features is greater towards the western half of the site. Tr. 119 contained seven features; other trenches typically contained three or four features. On average there were three features per trench.

There are areas of intercutting features, but most are cut straight into the natural subsoil. Some of the features are large, in excess of 8 m in diameter. Tr. 127 contained a thick layer of topsoil, infilling a hollow above the metalled surface which was found in the southern sector of this trench.

It is unclear whether this surface is a trackway or a yard.

Although the depth of stratigraphy is generally shallow, the likelihood of earlier features existing below the ones that were readily recognised could not be assessed within the scope of this investigation.

The preservation of the features is good; most are in excess of 0.20 m deep. The preservation of pottery and bone is also good, and many of the features have a high organic content.

SITE 5

Site 5 (TL 475197) covers a relatively large area. Apart from concentrations of features in Trs. 75-76 (11 features) and Trs. 78-79 (five features), most of the trenches contained a low density of features (one or two per trench). The average number of features per trench is two. Five (19%) of the features produced finds. With the exception of features in Trs. 74-76 and Tr. 79, all the features represent ditches. It is possible that some of the features are natural hollows.

Only two features produced pottery. The ditch in Tr. 59 contained Roman pottery, that in Tr. 62 Iron Age pottery. Ditches in Trs. 63 and 73 had been infilled fairly recently. Modern features were located in Trs. 76 and 79.

The subsoil observed Trs. 64-65 is a Roman/post-Roman deposit and could overlie earlier features.

The preservation of the features is generally good, although some are truncated by ploughing. Most of the features contain fairly leached soils with little evidence of organic material.

SITE 6

Site 6 (TL 471196) covered a relatively small area and features were only recorded in one trench (180). The presence of a small sub-rectangular pit, in addition to the ditches, may indicate that the features represent an occupation site, rather than elements of a prehistoric field system.

SITE 7

Site 7 (TL 473194) is distinguished by two linear features, neither of which could be dated. A third feature is probably natural, and it is unlikely that this site is extensive.

SITE 8

Site 8 (TL 479193) was only recorded in one trench (237), however the density of features is high (6). All the features that were investigated (no excavation of the easternmost ditch was undertaken) contained finds and three contained slag, suggesting that some form of metalworking was taking place on the site.

The pottery comprises a hard flint-gritted fabric which could not be precisely dated. A rim fragment indicates that the site is more likely to date to the Roman period.

SITE 9

Site 9 (TL 476191) is located close to the find of a late Bronze Axe (SMR No. 2126). None of the features could, however, be dated; although their leached fills would suggest a prehistoric date. The cremation is suggestive of a cemetery.

The site is truncated by ploughing. Many of the features are hard to define and it is possible that some may be natural.

SITE 10

Site 10 (TL 482189) is located close to, and may be associated with, the known Roman ?villa site (SMR No. 1526).

With the exception of two small ovoid features in Trs. 260 and 261, all the features are ditches. They probably represent enclosure and boundary ditches on the periphery of a larger site. The pottery found indicates that some of the ditches may date to the late pre-Roman Iron Age period and are, therefore, earlier in date than the Roman ?villa site which is dated to the 4th century.

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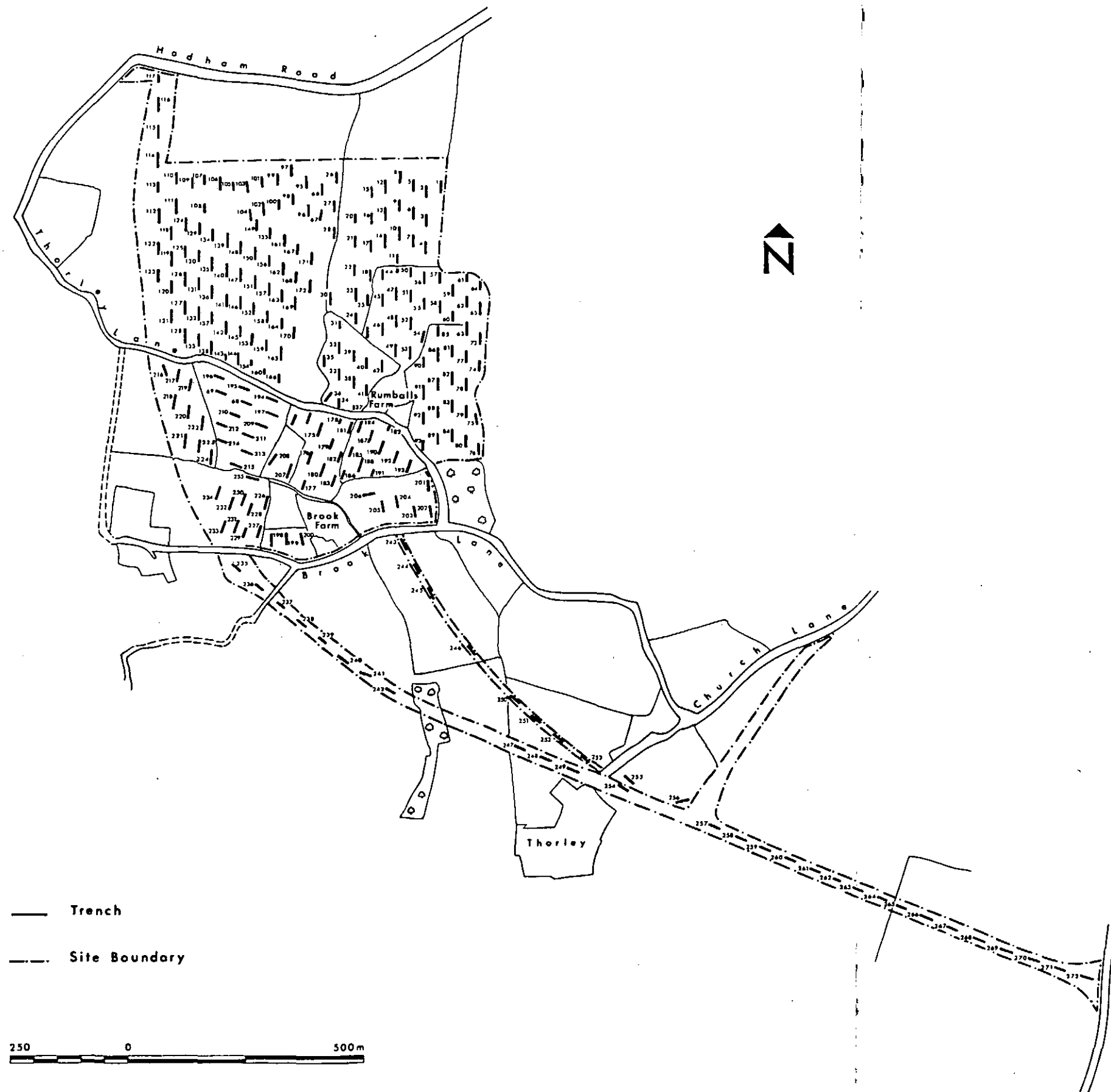


Figure 2 Trench Location Plan

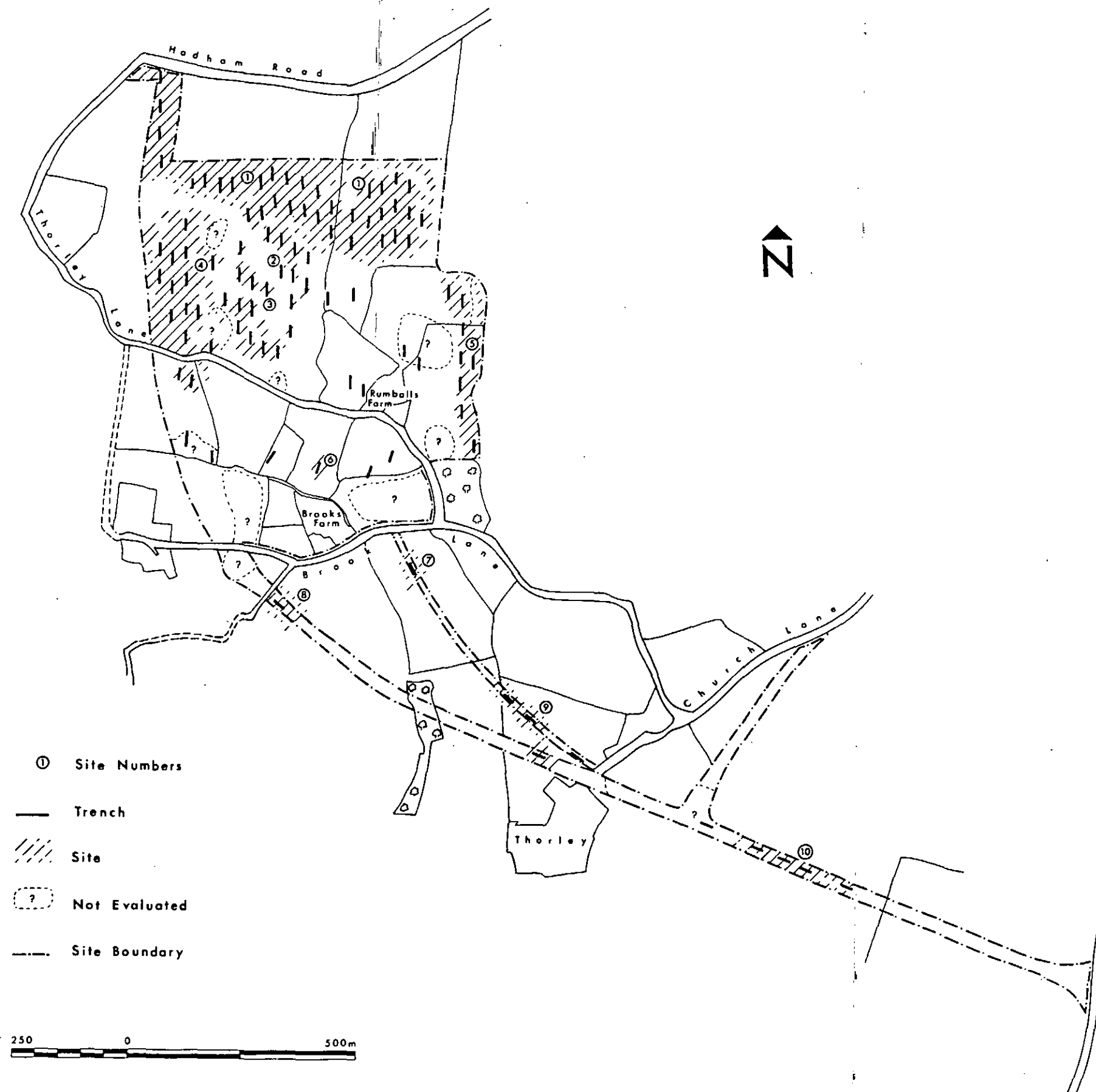


Figure 3: Location Plan of Sites 1-10 and single trenches containing 1-2 features.

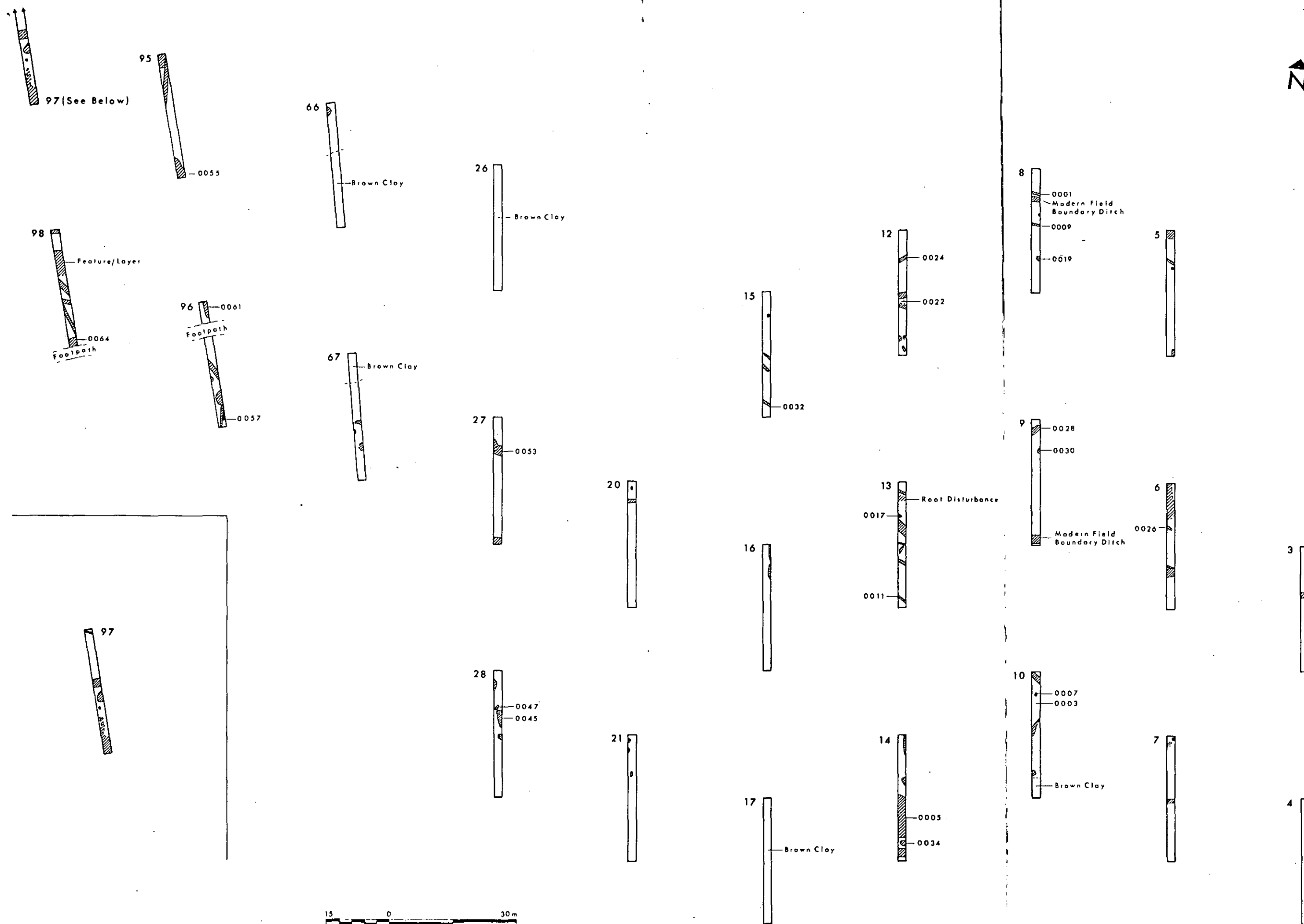
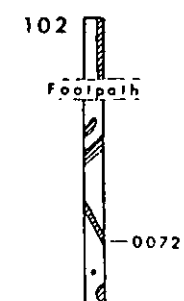
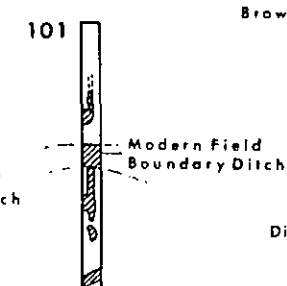
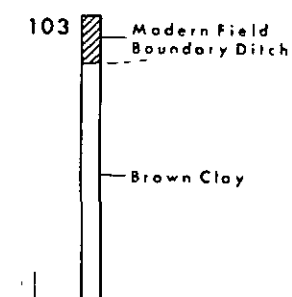
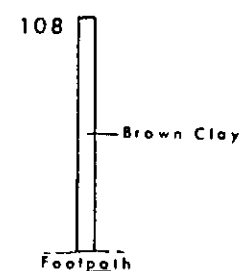
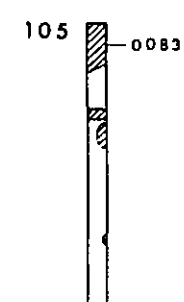
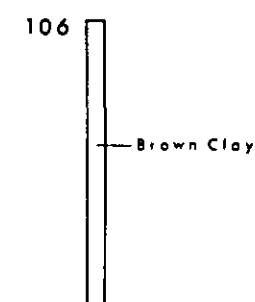
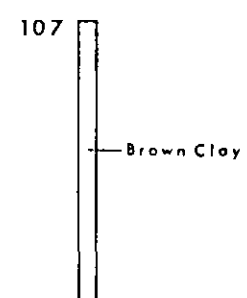
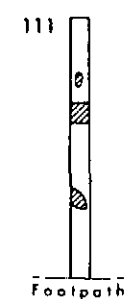
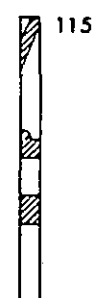
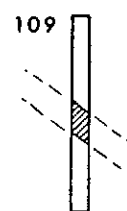
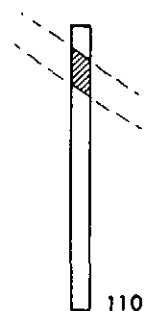
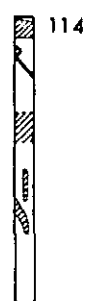


Figure 4: Site 1 (east)



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Figure 5: Site 1 (west)

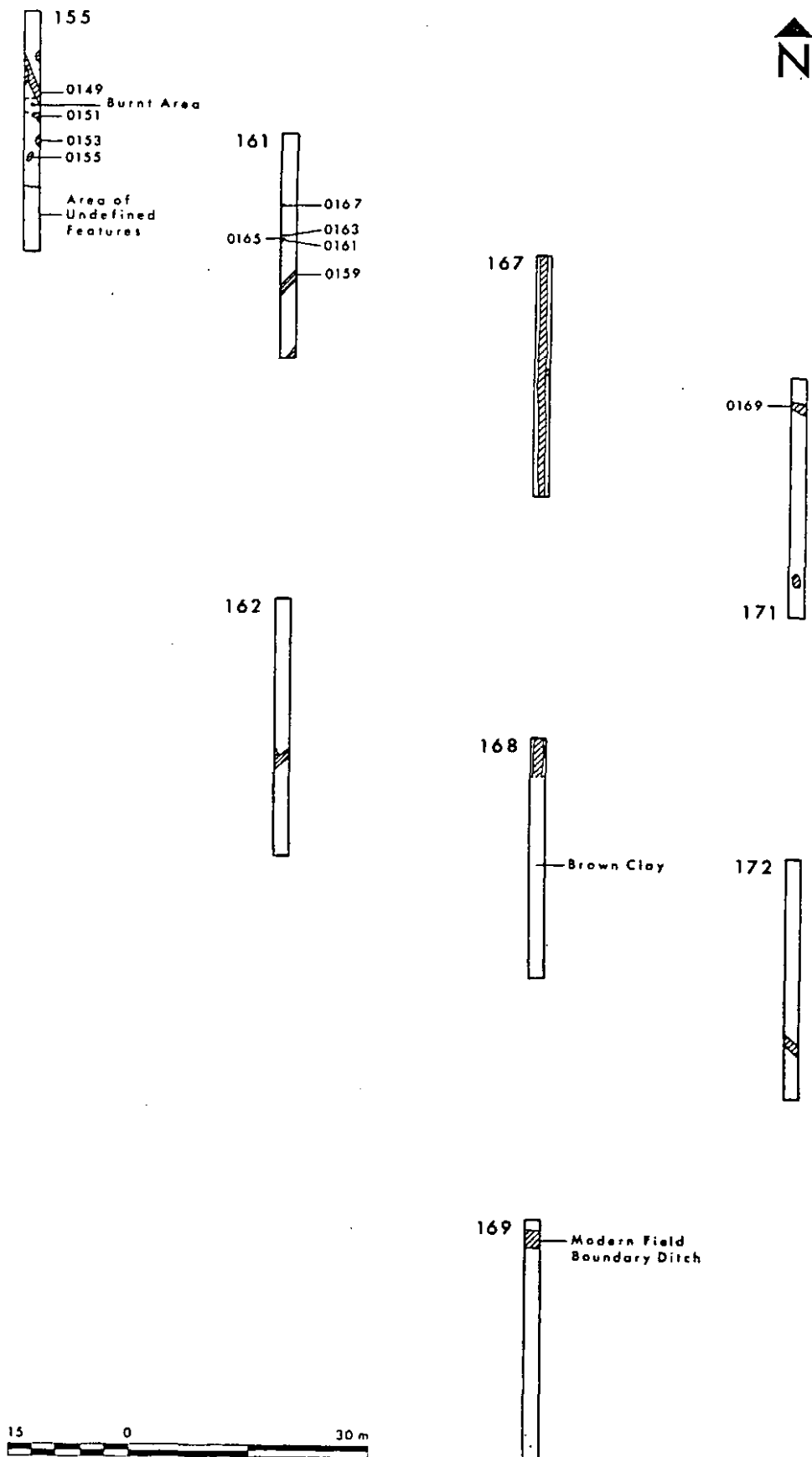


Figure 6: Site 2

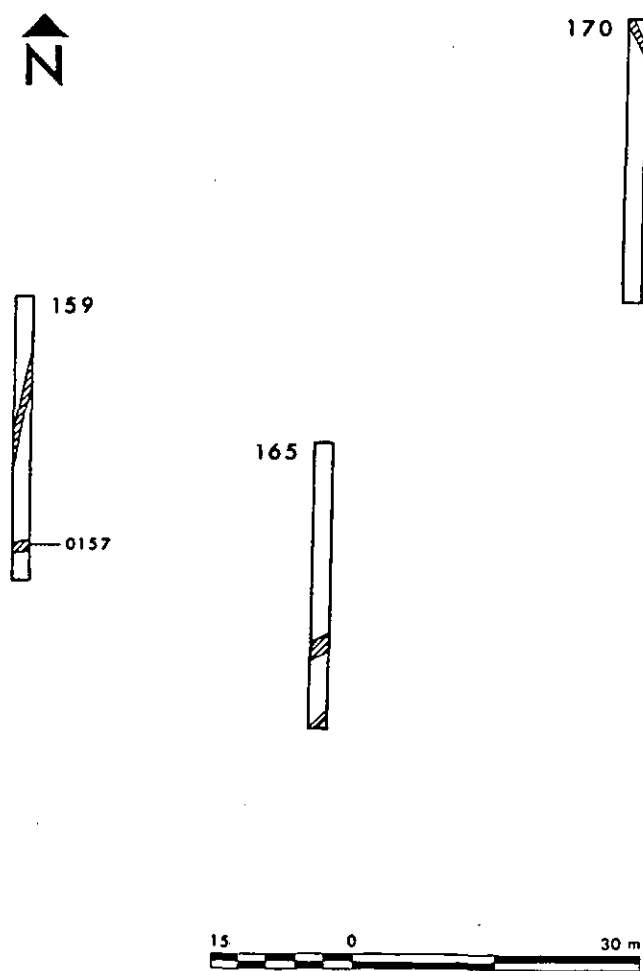


Figure 7: Site 3 (east)

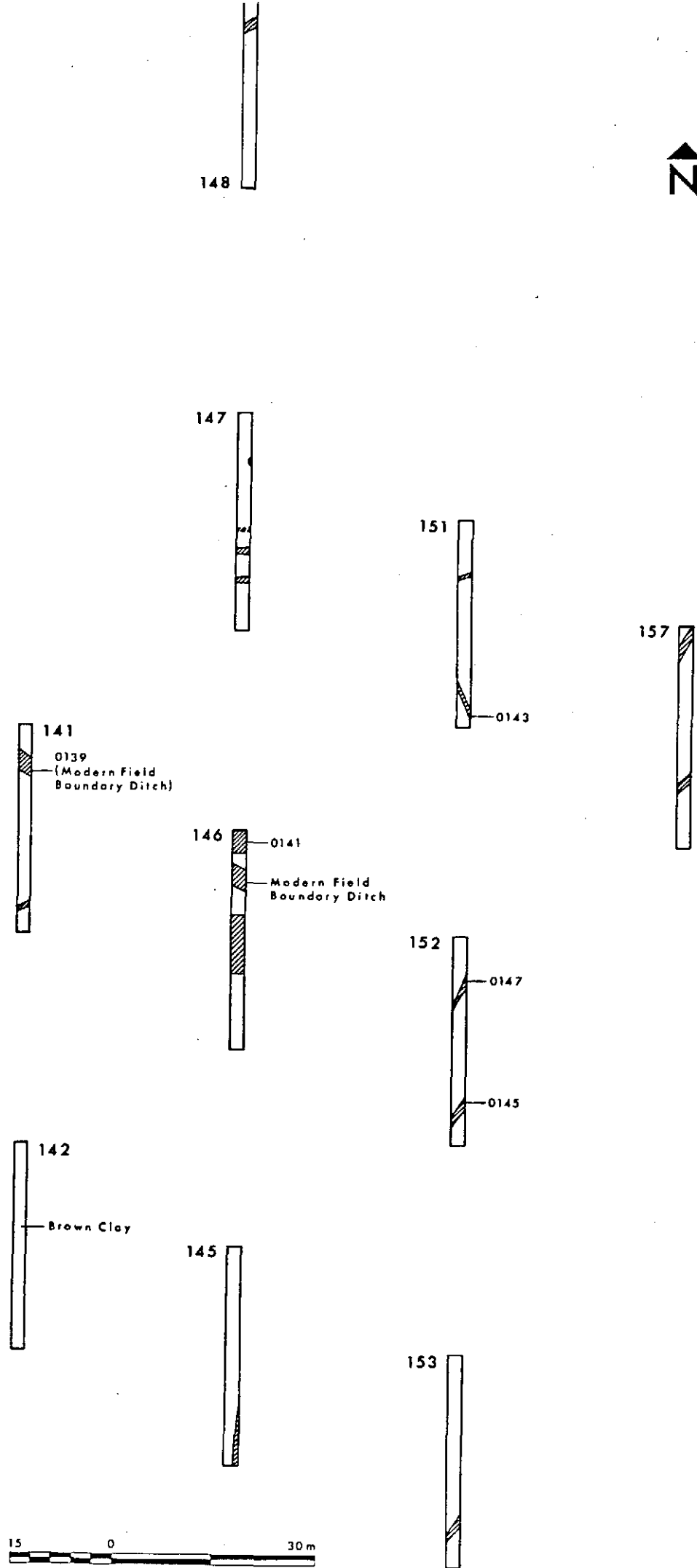


Figure 8: Site 3 (west)

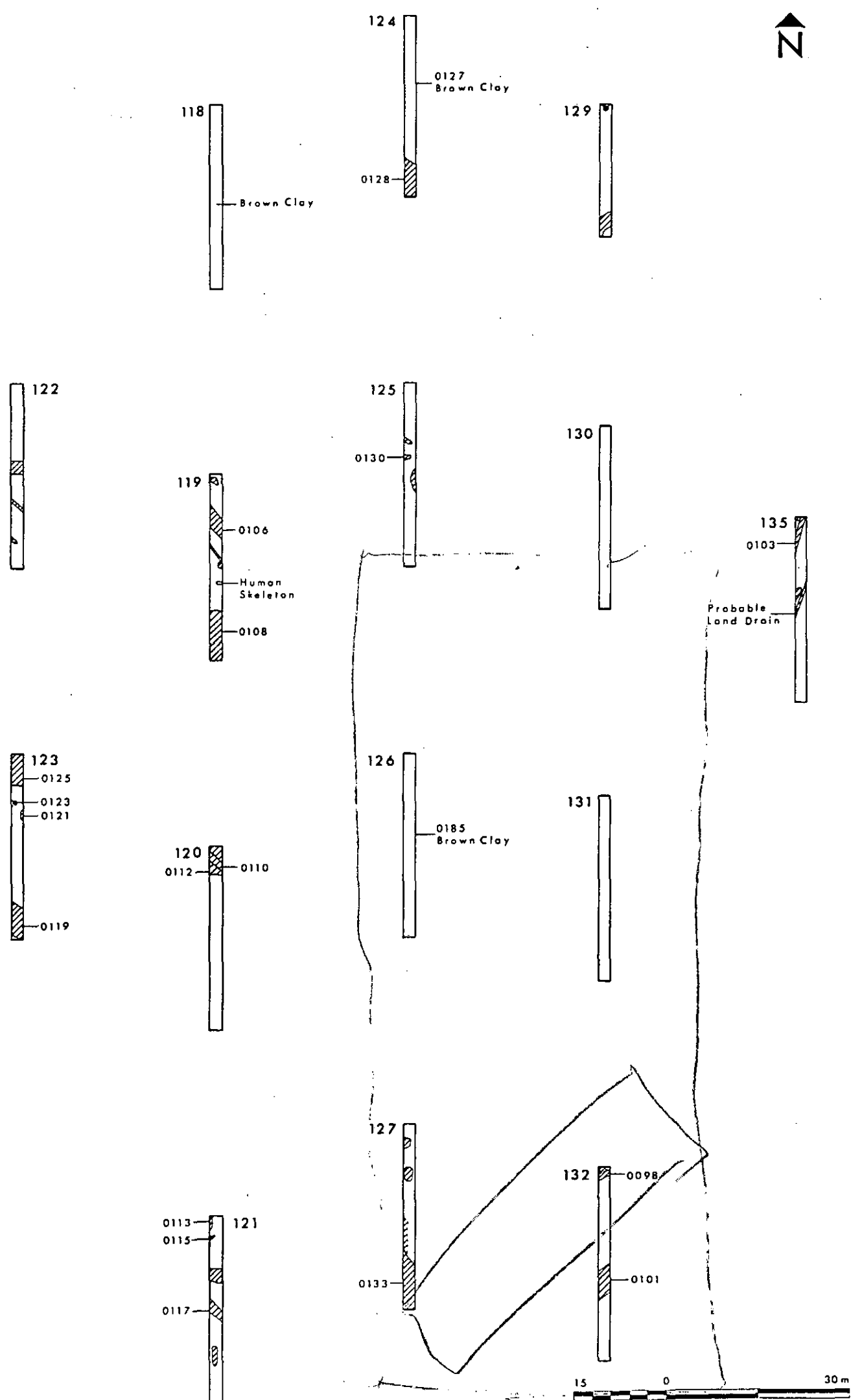


Figure 9: Site 4 (north)

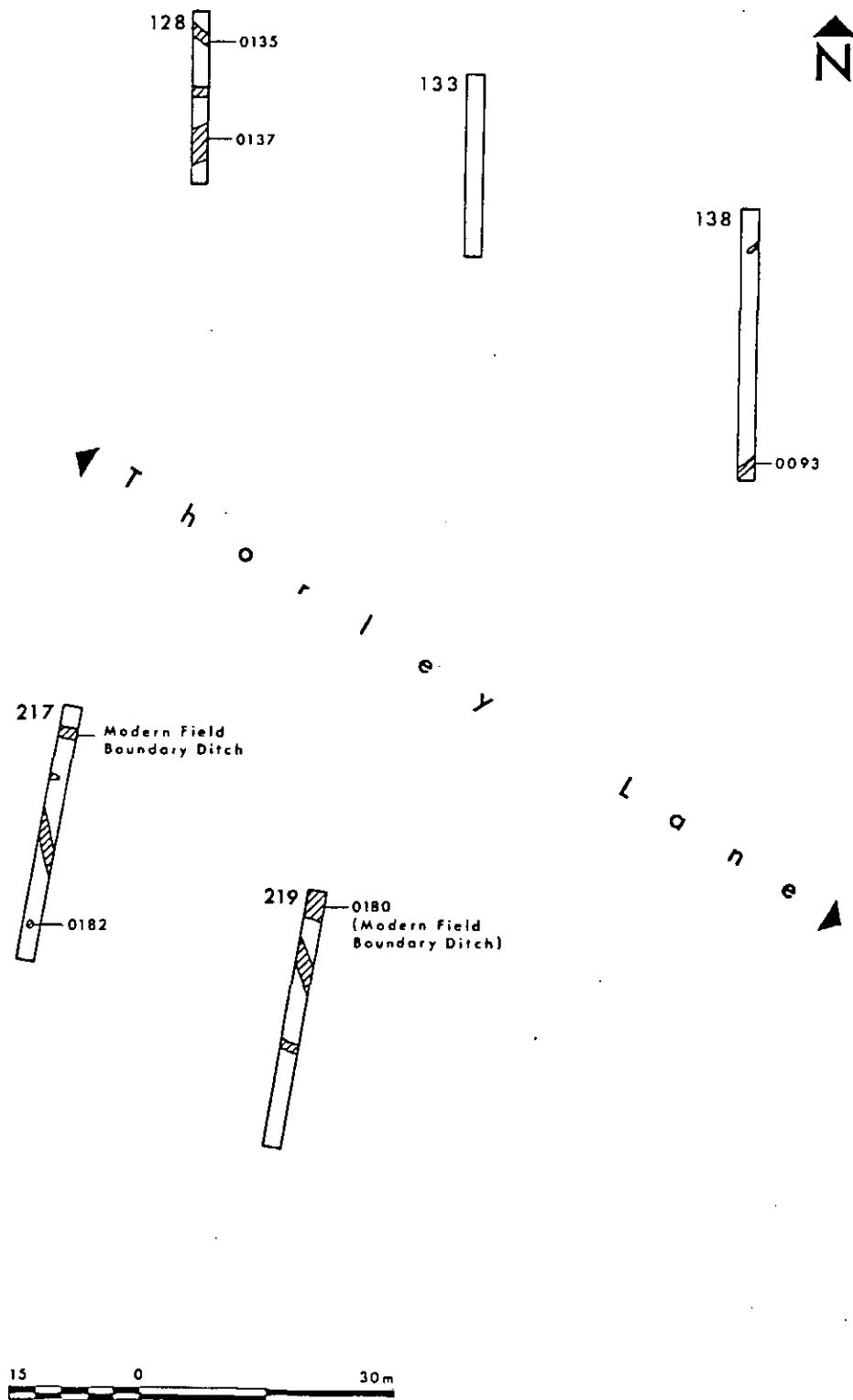


Figure 10: Site 4 (south)

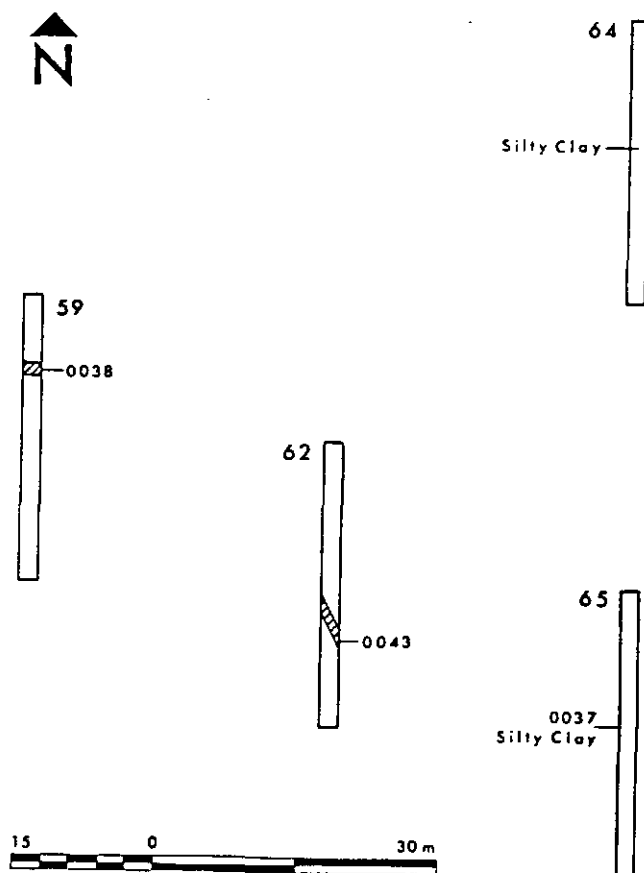


Figure 11: Site 5 (north)

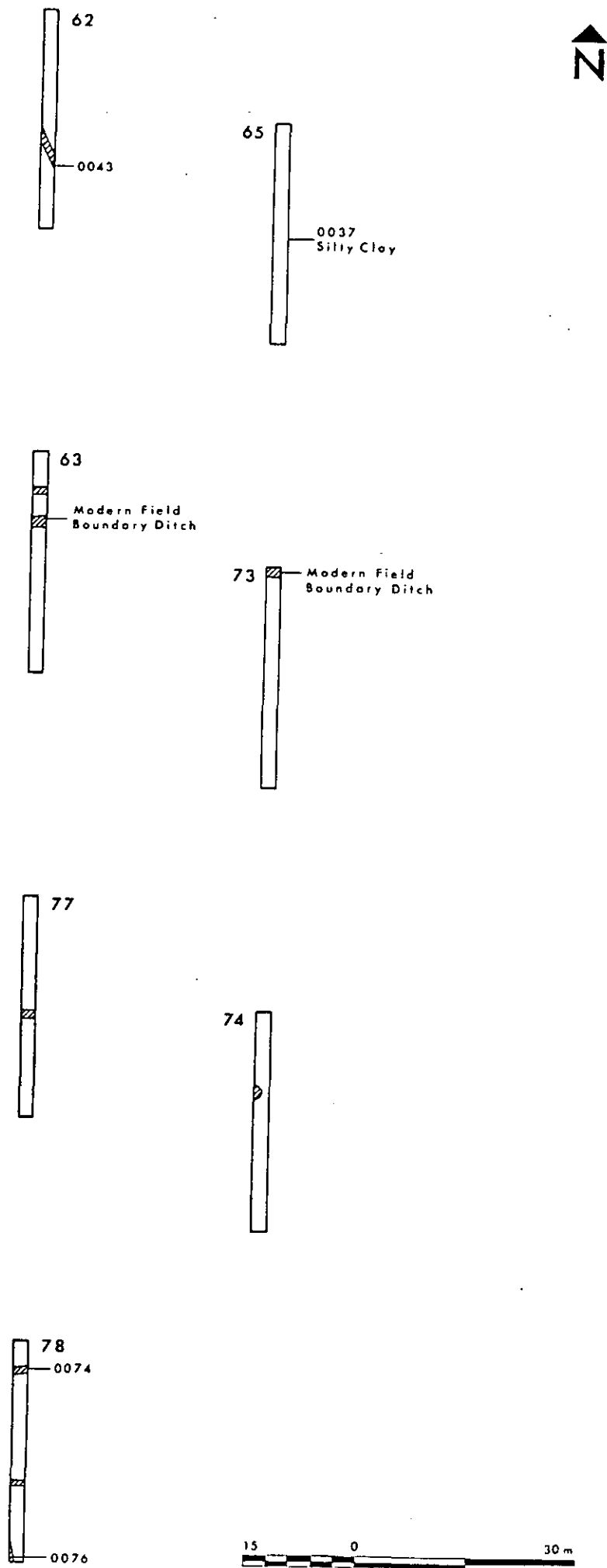


Figure 12: Site 5 (central)

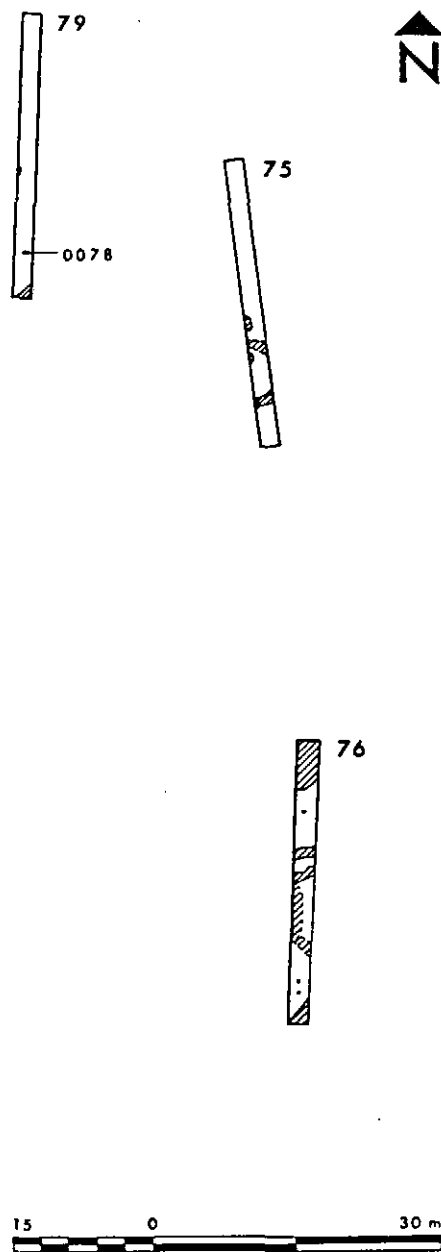


Figure 13: Site 5 (south)

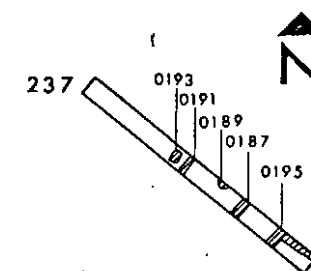
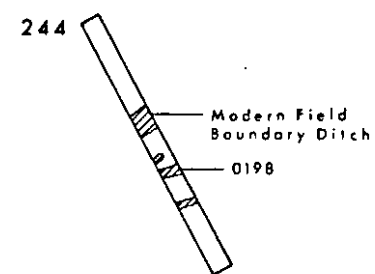
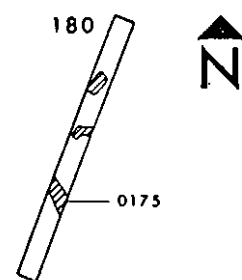


Figure 14: Sites 6-8

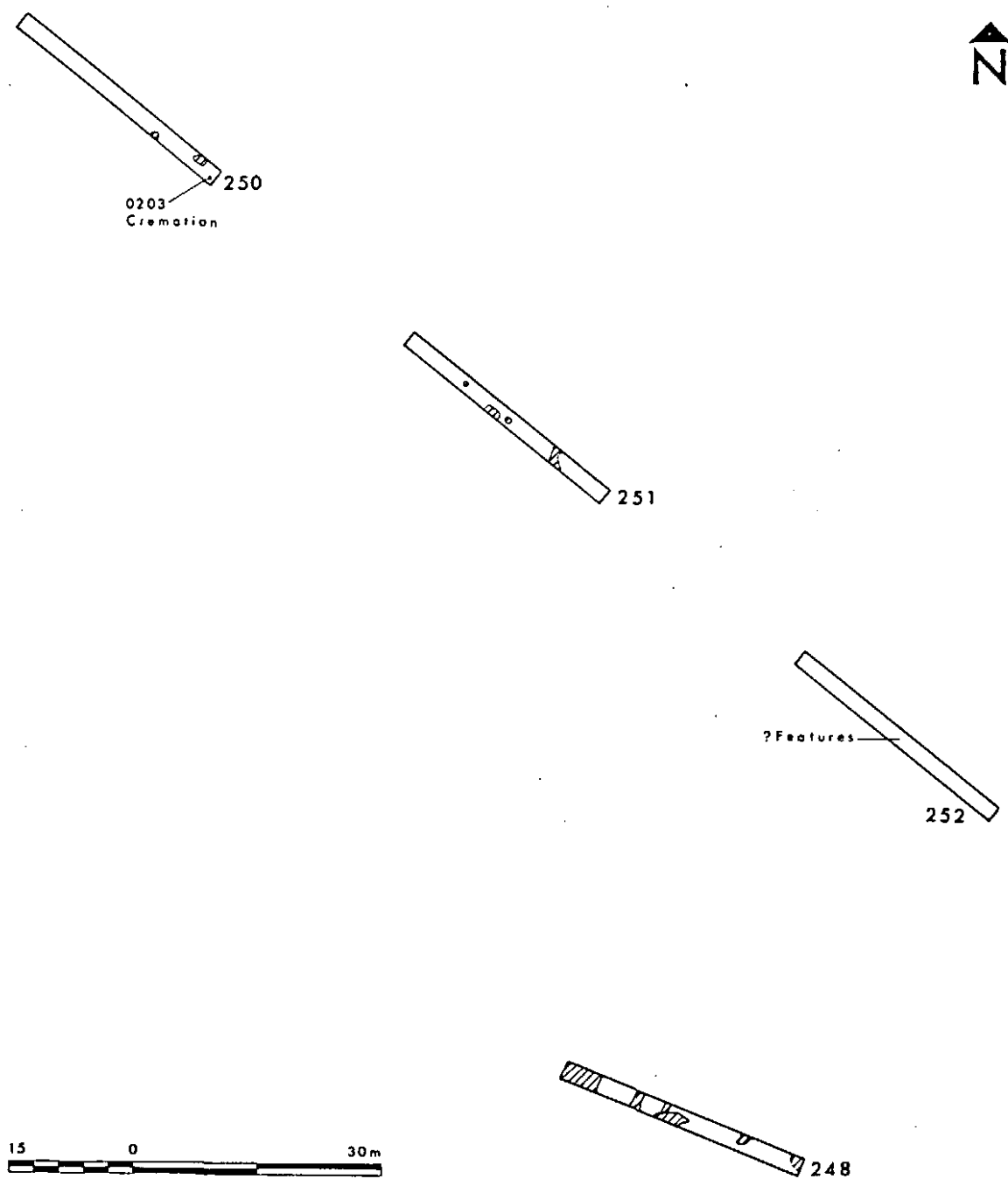


Figure 15: Site 9

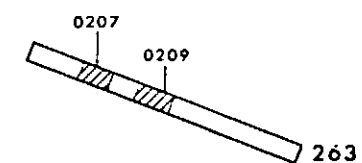
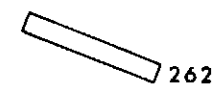
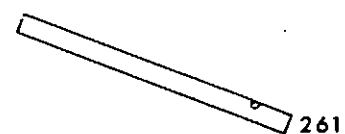
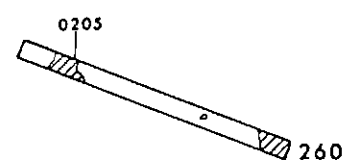
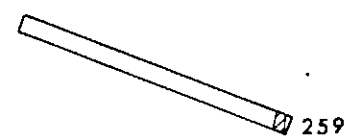


Figure 16: Site 10