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Consultancy

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Excavation

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Remote Sensing

Specialist Finds Analysis

Environmental Analysis

Vocational Training

Human Remains Analysis

Watching Brief

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UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

**A6 GREAT GLEN BYPASS,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**Archaeological trial trenching,
supervised topsoil stripping,
salvage recording and
excavation, 2001**

**Post-excavation assessment
and updated research design**



Leicestershire
County Council

Historic Environment Record

SLE: 666
ELE: 4864 MLE 1841 (IA/Roman)
MLE: 1604 (village)
16693 (Iron Age)
9470 (Roman)
16694 (prehist-funit)

GREAT GLEN

Checked by _____

Supervisor..... date.....

Project Manager..... date.....



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 713.03
July 2002

**A6 Great Glen Bypass Leicestershire:
archaeological trial trenching,
supervised topsoil stripping, salvage recording and excavation, 2001
post-excavation assessment and updated research design**

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**A6 GREAT GLEN BYPASS LEICESTERSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING,
SUPERVISED TOPSOIL STRIPPING, SALVAGE RECORDING AND
EXCAVATION, 2001
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN**

by Josh Williams and Lucie Dingwall

**with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Megan Brickley Marina Ciaraldi, Annette
Hancocks and Emily Murray**

1.0 SUMMARY

A programme of trial trenching, supervised topsoil stripping, salvage recording and excavation was carried out along the proposed route of the A6 Great Glen bypass in Leicestershire, (SP 465299 297323) in February, May and June 2001. The work was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU), under commission from Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Highways Agency. A staged archaeological assessment of the route of the bypass had previously been carried out by BUFAU, which identified five fields requiring further archaeological investigation by trial trenching, in order to allow the formulation of a mitigation strategy in advance of construction of the road. Due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the subsequent suspension of the trial trenching programme in February 2001, the trial trenching and mitigation stages were carried out as a continuous, uninterrupted programme, in order to ensure that construction was not delayed. This report describes the results of the trial trenching, topsoil stripping and salvage recording, and provides a preliminary post-excavation assessment of the results of the excavation in Field 19C.

The trial trenching focused on potential Medieval remains in the area around the Shrunken Medieval Village of Great Glen (Fields 17C and 17D) and possible archaeological features identified by geophysical survey and the recovery of Iron Age and Roman pot sherds from fieldwalking in Fields 17F, 19B and 19C. As a result of the trial trenching, more extensive topsoil stripping was carried out in fields 17D, 17F, 19B and 19C, and additionally in two topographically-significant fields, 9B and 10, in order to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains. No significant archaeological features were identified in fields 9B, 10, 17F and 19B. Heavily-disturbed remnants of outlying field boundaries and other minor features associated with the Shrunken Medieval Village were sample-excavated and recorded in Field 17D (NGR SP 466303 296503). Topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation in Field 19C (NGR SP 466597 296597) revealed the truncated remains of a Romano-British settlement, consisting of an enclosure ditch, of which only the southernmost part lay within the line of the bypass, and associated occupation remains both within and outside the enclosure, including pits, cobbled surfaces, the remains of a probable house and two burials. A probable annexe enclosure lay to the south of the main enclosure. Linear ditches, both stratigraphically earlier and later than the main enclosure ditch were also identified. Although a small amount of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the site, the pottery indicates an approximate date in the late 2nd/3rd century AD for the main settlement activity.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in advance of the construction of the A6 Great Glen bypass in Leicestershire (SP 465299 297323) by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) during February, May and June 2001, under commission from Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Highways Agency. Due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the subsequent suspension of the trial trenching programme in February 2001, the trial trenching and mitigation stages (i.e. the supervised topsoil stripping, salvage recording and excavation) were carried out as a continuous, uninterrupted programme, in order to ensure that construction was not delayed. This report presents the results of the trial trenching, topsoil stripping and salvage recording, and provides a post-excavation assessment of the results of the excavation in Field 19C, together with a programme of work for bringing the site to publication. The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by BUFAU, in consultation with Leicestershire County Council, Museums Arts and Records Service (BUFAU 2001).

3.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The route of the new bypass lies to the southeast of Leicester (Fig. 1), and commences just outside Oadby, where the proposed route of the bypass leaves the line of the original A6. The route then runs across ridge-and-furrow grassland and crosses the floodplain of the River Sence to the southwest of Great Glen village. It then rises to a high point at Great Glen Park before descending through fields to cross the Carlton Curlieu Brook immediately before rejoining the line of the A6. The Study Area for the archaeological assessment and mitigation consists of the landtake for the construction of the bypass.

The surface soil in the area is boulder clay, and the underlying Lias stratum is exposed in the valleys of the Sence and its tributary. There are small patches of gravel and the river valleys contain small stretches of alluvium (Lee and McKinley 1964).

4.0 BACKGROUND

Prior to the trial trenching, supervised topsoil stripping, salvage recording and excavation described in this report, a systematic archaeological assessment was carried out by BUFAU along the route of the bypass in 2000, in accordance with national guidelines and procedures for road schemes (Department of Transport 1993). The aims of the assessment were:

- to identify and determine the survival and significance of archaeological remains within the route of the bypass
- to identify areas of unknown potential requiring further investigation
- to determine the need for any further archaeological work ahead of construction

The first stage consisted of a desk-based assessment and walkover survey (Watt 2000), which indicated the likely effects of the proposed road scheme on the archaeology of the area. The Study Area, defined by the landtake for construction of

the bypass, lies within a Medieval landscape which is evident from the extent of ridge-and-furrow in the area, and from the Shrunken Medieval Village earthworks that lie around Great Glen and other settlements in the area, such as Burton Overy. A more detailed archaeological and historical background can be found in the assessment report (Watt 2000). This assessment established that, apart from the possible Shrunken Medieval Settlement at Great Glen, current knowledge of the archaeology along the route of the bypass was very limited. As a result, specific areas threatened with partial destruction were identified, and recommendations were made for further archaeological assessment in areas of unknown potential (Fig. 2).

The second stage of assessment (Williams 2000) consisted of:

- Fieldwalking of all arable land within the projected fence line of the bypass route. This was a non-intensive survey, focused on surface artefact collection
- Detailed measured EDM survey in specific areas directly disturbed by the road. This focused on well-preserved ridge-and-furrow and the Shrunken Medieval Village earthworks
- Aerial photograph interpretation and rectified plotting of the area around the Shrunken Medieval Village of Great Glen
- Geophysical scanning of all the land within the projected fence line of the road, with 25% of the scanned area subjected to detailed geophysical survey. This work targeted areas showing anomalies, or areas deemed to be of high potential
- Archaeological augering across alluvial areas in the two river valleys, identifying any dateable organic deposits, palaeosols, or occupation levels. This also included sampling to test for palaeoenvironmental potential

The field survey targeted five fields for trial trenching (Fig. 2), comprising the area around the Shrunken Medieval Settlement of Great Glen (Fields 17C and 17D) and possible archaeological features identified by geophysical survey and the recovery of Iron Age and Roman pot sherds from fieldwalking in Fields 17F, 19B and 19C. The results of the trial trenching are described in section 5.

As a result of the trial trenching, more extensive, archaeologically-supervised topsoil stripping, with a contingency for salvage recording, was carried out in fields 17D, 17F, 19B and 19C in order to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains. In addition, topsoil stripping was carried out in Fields 9B and 10 (Figs. 2 and 3), in order to test areas of the landscape that appeared to be archaeologically blank, thus ensuring that this was a true reflection of the archaeological potential, and not due to the lack of response of particular archaeological features to non-intrusive techniques. Fields 9B and 10 were selected for testing as they were located on either side of a plateau, a topographic location that is known to have been favourable to past human settlement. The results of the topsoil stripping are described in section 6.

More extensive topsoil stripping and excavation was carried out in Field 19C, as the initial topsoil stripping revealed significant archaeological remains dating to the Romano-British period, which required a wider area excavation. The results of this excavation are described in section 7.

5.0 TRIAL TRENCHING

5.1 Aims

The aim of the trial trenching was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains in advance of the road scheme, in order to identify areas that required further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the road scheme.

5.2 Methodology

A total of 11 trenches (Figs 4-6), all of which were 2m wide, were excavated in the five fields (17C, 17D, 17F, 19B and 19C). Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated in Field 17C, with the aim of locating possible palaeochannels highlighted by the aerial photograph assessment (Williams 2000). Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were excavated in field 17D. Trenches 3 and 4 were centred on possible linear features identified by the aerial photograph assessment and Trench 5 was positioned over a possible causeway identified by the aerial photograph assessment and the earthwork survey (Williams 2000). Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated on the crest of a hill in Field 17F and centred on the area where a sherd of Iron Age pottery was discovered during the fieldwalking (Williams 2000). Trenches 8 and 9 were located in Field 19B, in order to test possible pits identified by the geophysical survey (Williams 2000), and to locate any features to the east of these anomalies, beyond the detailed survey sample area. Trenches 10 and 11 were centred on linear and curvilinear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey in Field 19C, and a concentration of Roman pottery in this area.

Topsoil was mechanically removed under archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket, to the level of undisturbed archaeological deposits, or to the natural subsoil. The trenches were cleaned, where necessary, by hand. Base plans were prepared at a scale of 1:50, and individual plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. All plans were related to the OS National Grid, and all section heights were related to OS datum level. A representative sample of all archaeological deposits was excavated. Recording was by means of BUFAU pre-printed *pro-formas* for contexts and features (see Appendix 1 for trench descriptions). A complete photographic record was maintained with monochrome prints and colour slides, and all finds were kept and processed. Twenty litre soil samples were taken from dateable features for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

The IFA 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation' and the 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland' (LMARS 1997) were followed during trial trenching.

5.3 Results

In each trench the natural subsoil was overlain by a subsoil/topsoil horizon, which in turn was overlain by topsoil. Detailed results of each trench are given in Appendix 1.

Field 17C (Fig. 4 - Trenches 1 and 2)

Field 17C was covered with a crop stubble at the time of the fieldwork. Trenches 1 and 2 were both excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and both were 30m in length. No archaeological deposits were located in either trench.

Field 17D (Fig. 4 - Trenches 3, 4 and 5)

Field 17D was covered with a crop stubble at the time of the fieldwork. Trench 3 was excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and was 70m in length. Cutting the subsoil was a circular feature (F131), approximately 1.96m in diameter, and two north-south aligned linear features (F132 and F133), all of which contained Medieval pottery and animal bone.

Trench 4 was excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and was 30m in length. A large linear feature (F140) containing Medieval pottery and animal bone ran north-south across the trench.

Trench 5 was split into two trenches either side of an overhead cable. Both trenches were excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and were 20m in length. No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Field 17F (Fig. 5 - Trenches 6 and 7)

Field 17F was a cropped field at the time of the fieldwork. Trench 6 was excavated on a north-south alignment and was 40m in length. No archaeological deposits were identified in the trench.

Trench 7 was excavated on an east-west alignment and was 30m in length. A sub-circular feature (F170), 1.25m in diameter and 0.05m deep, was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. The fill (1704) contained large sub-angular stones, some of which were burnt, and one piece of Iron Age pottery. This feature was interpreted as a potential Iron Age hearth.

Field 19B (Fig. 5 - Trenches 8 and 9)

Field 19B was pasture at the time of the fieldwork and contained ridge-and-furrow. Trench 8 was excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and was 40m in length, and Trench 9 was excavated on a northeast-southwest alignment and was 30m in length.

No archaeological deposits were recorded within Trench 8, and a curvilinear feature (F190), 0.45m wide and 0.25m in depth, and filled with a mid-brown/grey silt (1903), was recorded in the north end of Trench 9. No finds were recovered from this feature, which was probably of natural origin.

Field 19C (Fig. 6 - Trenches 10 and 11)

Trench 10 was excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and was 40m in length, and Trench 11 was excavated on a northeast-southwest alignment and was also 40m

in length. Two linear features (F200 and F201), 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep, and filled with a mid-brown clayey sand (2003 and 2004), were recorded running north-south in Trench 10. Animal bone and four abraded sherds of greyware Roman pottery were recovered from the latter feature (F201). No archaeological deposits were recorded within Trench 11.

6.0 SUPERVISED TOPSOIL STRIPPING AND SALAVGE RECORDING

6.1 Aims

The aim of the supervised topsoil stripping was to further investigate areas of archaeological potential identified by the trial trenching, and, if remains were identified, to excavate and provide a detailed record of any archaeological features identified.

6.2 Methodology

Fields 9B, 10, 17D, 17F, 19B and 19C were targeted for supervised topsoil stripping (Figs. 3-6). Two areas, each 20m x 20m in size, were stripped in Fields 9B and 10 respectively, on either side of a plateau, a topographical location known to have been favourable to human settlement. A 40m x 40m area was stripped in Field 17D, around the Medieval features identified in Trenches 3 and 4. A 20m x 20m area was stripped in Field 17F, to further investigate the area around the potential Iron Age feature located in Trench 7, and a 20m x 20m area was also stripped in Field 19B, around the undated curvilinear feature identified in Trench 9. A 40m x 10m area was stripped in Field 19C, to investigate the linear features recorded in Trench 10. This area was subsequently extended, following the discovery of significant archaeological remains, and is described further in section 7.

Topsoil was mechanically removed under archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket, to the level of undisturbed archaeological deposits, or to the natural subsoil. Areas with significant archaeological deposits were defined and hand-cleaned as necessary, and any features and deposits identified were hand-excavated to a level allowing for adequate understanding of the structural record and stratigraphic relationships of deposits, and the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual samples for analysis. A 50% sample of the fills of discrete features (eg pits and postholes) was excavated, and up to 10% of the fills from linear features (eg ditches/gullies, paths/tracks) was excavated, as agreed with LMARS. Base plans were prepared at a scale of 1:100, where archaeological features were identified, and individual plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. All plans were related to the OS National Grid, and all section heights were related to OS datum level. Recording was by means of BUFAU pre-printed *pro-formas* for contexts and features. A complete photographic record was maintained with monochrome prints and colour slides, and all finds were kept and processed. Twenty litre soil samples were taken from dateable features for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

The IFA 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation' and the 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland' (LMARS 1997) were followed during the excavations.

6.3 Results

In each area the natural subsoil was exposed. This was overlain by a subsoil/topsoil horizon which was in turn overlain by topsoil. Detailed descriptions are given in Appendix 1.

Fields 9B and 10 (Fig. 3)

The two 20m x 20m areas in Fields 9B and 10 were stripped down to the natural subsoil. No archaeological deposits were observed within the areas.

Field 17D (Figs. 4 and 7)

The 40m x 40m area in field 17D was stripped down to the natural subsoil. The subsoil in this area had been heavily disturbed in the post-war period by deep ploughing and subsoil busting, and was criss-crossed by plough furrows and land drains so although features were identified, they were difficult to define and date.

At the west end of the area lay a curvilinear ditch (F136/F138). This was U-shaped in profile and extended beyond the west and north edges of the excavation. To the east of this ditch was a second ditch (F132) which was also U-shaped in profile and curved from the south edge of the excavation, terminating 16m from the western baulk. Eight metres to the east of this ditch was a small pit (F131) which had a bowl-shaped profile. All of these features contained small quantities of Medieval pottery, but the edges were very indistinct and disturbed, so definitive phasing cannot be assigned.

The curvilinear ditch (F136/F138) was cut on its eastern side by a north-south aligned, linear ditch (F133/F137/F140), U-shaped in profile, which extended beyond the northern and southern edges of the excavation. In the northeastern corner of the stripped area was another curvilinear ditch (F139), with a bowl-shaped profile, extending beyond the northern and eastern edges of the excavation. To the east of this ditch was a rough, cobbled surface (F134), approximately 2.25m x 1.9m across and 0.2m deep. All of these features contained quantities of Post-Medieval pottery. Three scoops (F135, F141 and F142) were also excavated within the stripped area, but they contained no finds and appeared to be of natural origin.

None of the features excavated in Field 17D had sufficient stratigraphic integrity to merit a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling.

Field 17F (Fig. 5)

The 20m x 20m area in Field 17F was stripped down to the natural subsoil. No further archaeological features were observed within the area, other than the potential hearth (F170) identified during trial trenching.

Field 19B (Fig. 5)

Topsoil was removed from the 20m x 20m area in Field 19B, to reveal the natural subsoil. The potential curvilinear feature observed in the trial trench (F190) proved to be of natural origin, and no archaeological remains were identified.

Field 19C (Fig. 6)

Topsoil was removed over a 40m x 10m area in Field 19C onto the natural subsoil. The linear feature observed in the trial trench (F201) proved to be a large enclosure ditch running northeast-southwest, and turning to the southeast. Other associated linear and discrete features were identified, and following consultation with the client and the county archaeological advisor, it was deemed necessary to establish the extent of the archaeological remains, and to carry out a detailed programme of excavation and recording. Topsoil was removed across the entire width of the landtake for the road, forming an open area measuring 75m x 45m. The results of this excavation are discussed in section 7.

7.0 EXCAVATION IN FIELD 19C

7.1 Updated Aims

The aim of the excavation was to provide a detailed record of the archaeological remains identified. In particular, the chronology, layout and economy of the Romano-British settlement were to be investigated and set within the appropriate regional and national context. Other aspects to be investigated included evidence for changes in settlement layout, the evidence for buildings, and evidence for associated surrounding features, such as field systems, where located within the excavation area, which could provide a broader context for the settlement remains. Investigation of the site economy, principally by analysis of the pottery, other finds, and charred plant remains was also a priority.

7.2 Updated Methodology

Following the topsoil stripping, a base plan was prepared at a scale of 1:100 using a Total Station EDM. Excavation and recording was carried out according to the methodology outlined in section 6.2. The sampling strategy for linear features targeted ditch intersections and terminals, and this strategy was reviewed by means of regular monitoring meetings during the excavation. Contexts were numbered sequentially from 2000 onwards, and cut features were numbered sequentially from F200 onwards. A group of volunteer metal detector users was employed to scan the stripped area and the spoil heaps for metal artefacts.

7.3 Results (Fig. 8)

The results from the excavation have been provisionally divided into three phases, defined according to the finds spot-dating and stratigraphic data, as follows:

<i>Phase 1</i>	<i>Iron Age</i>
<i>Phase 2</i>	<i>Romano-British</i>
<i>Phase 3</i>	<i>Medieval/Post-Medieval</i>

Where more than one section was excavated through a feature mentioned in the text, it has been assigned the following prefixes: LD (linear ditch, greater than 0.50m wide) or CD (curvilinear ditch, greater than 0.50m wide). Where feature numbers are mentioned in the text they appear as bold font on the figures.

The geology underlying the subsoil consisted of a mixed yellow orange clay with bands of red-brown gravel (2002). Overlying this was a mid-brown silty clay subsoil (2001) and a dark brown clayey silt topsoil (2000). The ground towards the southern end of the excavation area was heavily disturbed by deep ploughing, making identification of features virtually impossible. The site was also criss-crossed by Post-Medieval land drains, which caused a considerable amount of disturbance and obliterated several critical stratigraphic relationships.

Phase 1 - Iron Age

One pit (F213, Fig. 10, S2), containing sherds of Iron Age pottery, was cut by a large Roman ditch (CD2) on the western side of the site. Directly to the west of this pit, and probably contemporary with it, was a second pit (F202), which was also cut by the Roman ditch, and contained no dating material. A number of residual sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from later features.

Phase 2 - Romano-British

The earliest ditch on the site was a wide curvilinear ditch (CD2, Fig. 10, S6), which bisected the site from northeast to southwest, and turned towards the northwest, extending beyond the edge of the excavation. This had a U-shaped profile and was at its deepest towards the northwestern end, where it reached approximately 1m in depth. Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill.

The northeastern corner of this ditch was cut by the southern part of an enclosure ditch (CD3, Fig. 10, S5). The ditch enclosed an area approximately 35m across, but as the southeastern and northwestern arms continued beyond the northeastern edge of the excavation, it was not possible to establish the complete dimensions or shape of the enclosure. That part of it exposed in the excavation area formed a U-shape in plan. The enclosure ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and had been recut at least once (Fig. 10, S5).

A number of features lay within this enclosure, including a narrow, curvilinear ditch (CD5) forming a U-shape, the terminals of which were truncated by a later ditch (LD1) and a plough furrow. CD5 was a maximum of 0.4m in depth and contained 17 sherds of unabraded Romano-British pottery. Within the interior of this U-shaped ditch were three probable beam slots (F207, F215 and F216) and one shallow, circular pit (F220). F215 contained seven sherds of Romano-British pottery, whilst F207 and F216 contained sherds of Iron Age pottery. However, all of these potential beam slots are likely to relate to buildings associated with the Roman enclosure.

To the north of the U-shaped ditch (CD5) was a small curvilinear ditch (CD4) which extended beyond the northeastern edge of the excavation and was cut by a pit (F219). Two other small pits (F209 and F211) were located to the west of CD5.

Lying within the enclosure ditch, parallel to the northwestern arm, was a shallow linear ditch (F237) with a bowl-shaped profile, which contained three sherds of Romano-British pottery. This ditch continued beyond the northwest limit of the excavation and cut the earlier ditch (CD2). However, the intersection of these two ditches with the later linear ditch (LD1) was heavily disturbed by modern land drains, and it was not possible to establish the stratigraphic relationship between F237 and either the linear ditch (LD1) or the enclosure ditch (CD3). F237 was cut on the southeast side by a small shallow, oval-shaped pit (F223).

In the narrow space between the enclosure ditch and the parallel ditch (F237), two graves (F224 and F251) were located. The former, aligned northeast-southwest, was approximately 0.4m deep and contained a virtually-complete adult skeleton (HB1), lying on its back, with its head at the northeastern end of the grave. Lying over the chest area of the skeleton was a wide-mouthed storage jar of probable 2nd/3rd-century date, which was complete but broken. The fill of this jar contained several iron nails. Part of a folded beaker, also of 2nd/3rd century date, was recovered from the foot of the grave, and a well-preserved iron knife blade lay across the pelvis. Iron coffin nails and hobnails were also recovered from the grave. The second burial (F251) lay 3m to the southwest of this burial, and on the same alignment. It was extremely shallow, and only the pelvic area of the skeleton (HB2) survived, as the rest of the grave had been cut and removed by a Medieval plough furrow to the north, and by Post-Medieval ploughing to the south. Due to the truncation and shallowness of the grave, it was impossible to discern whether the burial was within the fill of ditch CD2 or whether it was cut into the top of it.

The southeastern arm of the enclosure ditch (CD3) was cut by a large pit (F235), approximately 0.5m deep, containing Romano-British pottery, and a small gully (F229), which extended beyond the northeastern edge of the excavation. Outside the enclosure ditch to the southeast was a large, roughly-cobbled stone surface (F227, Fig. 9) which had been disturbed by ploughing. A relatively large number of sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the surface, and from a sondage excavated through it, and it was cut by a small hearth (F236). To the east of the stone surface was either the terminal of a linear feature, or part of a pit (F250), which extended beyond the edge of the excavation.

Extending westwards from the southwest corner of this enclosure ditch, and stratigraphically contemporary with it, was another curvilinear ditch (CD1, Fig. 10, S1), which turned to the southwest and terminated in the southwest corner of the site. This ditch also had steep sides and a flat base, and was 0.45m deep. Six sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill. Within the L-shape formed by this ditch were two gullies (F238 and F243), also forming L-shapes on a similar alignment, the latter of which cut the earliest ditch on the site (CD2). Both gullies contained a small quantity of Romano-British pottery. Close by were two pits (F206 and F244) which contained no dating material.

A large linear ditch (LD1) ran across the site from northwest to southeast. It continued beyond the edge of excavation to the northwest, but disappeared towards the edge of the excavation in the southeast, where the ground was heavily disturbed by deep ploughing. The ditch was approximately 0.45m deep, with a U-shaped profile, and contained a few sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was the latest ditch on the site, cutting the enclosure ditch (CD3, Fig. 10, S3) and the U-shaped ditch within it (CD5), as well as the earliest ditch on the site (CD2, Fig. 10, S4), and was in turn cut by a small pit (F232) at the southeastern end.

Phase 3 – Medieval/Post-Medieval

Later Medieval or early Post-Medieval features were present in the form of linear furrows, aligned north-south, relating to Medieval and early Post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow open field cultivation. These furrow features disturbed earlier features, and were in turn disturbed by Post-Medieval and modern land drains.

8.0 ASSESSMENTS

The following assessments are based on the records, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains relating to all the intrusive fieldwork carried out along the route of the bypass, including the evaluation trenches, the topsoil stripping, salvage recording in Field 17D, and the excavation in Field 19C.

8.1 Quantifications

Tables 1-2 quantify the archive.

<i>Record</i>	<i>Evaluation and Salvage Recording</i>	<i>Excavation</i>
Contexts	36	70
Features	19	52
Colour Slide	45	110
Black and white prints	45	70
Drawings	16	51
Env. samples	1	1
Survey	1	6

Table 1: Quantification of paper archive

Material Type	Quantity
Ceramic: tile	24
Ceramic: brick	2
Fired clay/daub	5
Building stone	3
Prehistoric pottery	22
Romano-British pottery	285
Medieval pottery	73
Post-Medieval pottery	19
Undated pottery	3
Clay pipe	1
Coins	1
Iron Nails	57
Copper alloy	17
Lead	7
Industrial waste	7
Bottle glass	1
Flint	77
Other stone	1
Animal bone	9113g
Shell	45
Charcoal	15
Miscellaneous	1

Table 2: Quantification of finds archive, by find type, from evaluation, salvage recording and excavation

8.2 Factual data and statement of potential

8.2.1 Pottery by Annette Hancocks

8.2.1.1 Introduction

The pottery was quantified by count and weight. A total of 400 sherds of pottery (5204g) was recovered from the trial trenching, topsoil stripping, salvage recording and excavation along the line of the road (Table 3). The pottery was rapidly scanned, assigned to a ceramic period and spot-dated to provide a *terminus post quem*. The percentage of pottery recovered for each ceramic phase is as follows: Late Iron Age (6%), Roman (71%), Medieval (18%), Post-Medieval (4%) and indeterminate (1%). This material does not include finds recovered during the fieldwalking phase of this project, which have been reported on separately (Hancocks in Williams 2000).

8.2.1.2 Iron Age pottery

Factual summary

Twenty two sherds (103g) of probable late Iron Age pottery were recovered from ten contexts. In addition, two sherds of possible Iron Age pottery were recovered during

fieldwalking. These are undiagnostic body sherds and derive from Fields 9B (X.A5.2001) and 17F (X.A9.2001).

The range and variety of fabrics present are relatively limited, and include Cheshire Plain Briquetage. Two rim forms were recognised amongst the pottery. No sherd abrasion was noticed during the initial scan of the material, with medium-sized sherds surviving. The material is in very good condition and does not pose any long-term storage problems.

Statement of potential

The Iron Age pottery from Field 19C should be subject to further analysis. The work will enable relative chronology to be applied to the stratigraphic sequence. It may also provide evidence for the status of the settlement and its economic, social and cultural position at local, regional and national level.

Recommendations

The pottery has been quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and minimum number of rims and EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents). The material will be fully catalogued by fabric, using Knight (1998), and identified by phase or sub-phase, where necessary, for publication. The material will be cross-referenced to the LMARS/ULAS type fabric series, where relevant.

8.2.1.3 Romano-British pottery

Factual summary

Two hundred and eighty five sherds (4355g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered from 37 contexts during trial trenching, topsoil stripping and excavation, of which 11% was recovered from ploughsoil and cleaning layers. The majority of the Roman pottery (85%) derived from the excavations in Field 19C.

In addition, nine sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during fieldwalking. Four of these sherds derived from Field 19C (X.A12.2001), and comprised a single Lower Nene Valley colour-coated flanged-rim bowl of late 3rd/4th-century date and three greyware fragments. Two of the sherds, including a samian fragment, were recovered from Field 13D (X.A7.2001) and a further three greyware sherds from Field 19E (X.A14.2001.)

At least 61 diagnostic and dateable rim and base angles were recognised from the excavated material, which principally dated to the late 2nd/3rd century AD. The range and variety of this material comprised greyware and shell-tempered ware of local and regionally traded origin, mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill, and Lower Nene Valley and Oxfordshire Colour-coats. It also included a small amount of imported ware, such as samian and amphorae.

Of the locally-produced greywares, forms such as bead and flange bowls and everted-rim jars were identified. Regionally-traded wares recognised amongst the assemblage include an Oxfordshire colour-coat hemispherical bowl of 3rd/4th-century date, an

indented folded beaker, and a dog dish copy, both dating to the 2nd/3rd century and both in a Lower Nene Valley colour-coat fabric. A small quantity of Black-burnished ware pottery was identified. One form observed was a dog dish bowl of 2nd/3rd-century date.

None of the diagnostic forms were decorated. Overall the Roman assemblage demonstrated little abrasion, although weathering was evident. This material does not pose any long-term storage problems.

Statement of potential

The Roman pottery from Field 19C should be subject to further analysis. The work will aim to examine the chronological development and economy of the site. The pottery is the principle source of dating evidence for the site. The national research framework for the study of Romano-British pottery identifies pottery from rural sites as being 'highly significant for our understanding of the Romano-British economy and 'Romanization'' (Willis 1997, 15). The East Midlands and East Anglia research framework (Martin and Wallace 1997, 42 and 44, 3.4.3) emphasises some areas that could potentially be addressed with this assemblage, such as providing information for work on the kiln sites at Ravenstone in the northwest of the County, and attempting to further refine the 'style' and 'trade' zones discernible in Leicestershire and Rutland (Martin and Wallace 1997, 49).

Recommendations

The pottery assemblage should be fully quantified by sherd count and weight, minimum number of rims and EVEs. The pottery should be fully recorded by fabric and form and cross-referenced to the LMARS Roman pottery type fabric series.

8.2.1.4 Medieval pottery

Factual summary

Seventy three sherds (617g) of Medieval pottery were recovered from 17 contexts, of which 30 were recovered from ploughsoil and cleaning layers, and the rest from disturbed contexts during salvage recording of the Shrunken Medieval Village in Field 17D. In addition, 75 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from six of the twelve fields subjected to fieldwalking (Hancocks in Williams 2000), and it is likely that this material is a result of manuring scatters associated with the fields of the Shrunken Medieval Village.

This material principally dated to the 12th/13th century AD. At least seven diagnostic and dateable rim and base angles were recognised. The range and variety of this material comprised green-glazed wares, sandy wares with splashed glaze and strap decoration. A sandy stamped rim sherd of possible Saxo-Norman date and a rim sherd with a pie-crust flute band below the rim was observed. Overall the Medieval assemblage demonstrated little abrasion, although weathering was evident. This material does not pose any long-term storage problems.

Statement of potential

The potential of this material to enhance the overall dating evidence is poor because of the dispersed and residual nature of the material.

Recommendations

It is recommended that no further work be undertaken on the Medieval pottery assemblage.

8.2.1.5 Post-Medieval pottery

Factual summary

Nineteen sherds (127g) of Post-Medieval pottery were recovered from 13 contexts, of which 16 were recovered from ploughsoil and cleaning layers. During the fieldwalking stage, 540 sherds of Post-Medieval pottery and 15 clay pipe stems were recovered from all twelve fields walked. This blanket coverage of material is likely to be the result of manuring regimes employed during the Post-Medieval period. Most of the recognised assemblage dates to the 18th/19th century AD. Small quantities of trailed slipware, Blackware and Stoneware were observed. Overall the Post-Medieval assemblage demonstrated little abrasion, although weathering was evident. This material does not pose any long-term storage problems.

Statement of potential

The potential of this assemblage to enhance the overall dating evidence is poor because of the dispersed and residual nature of the material.

Recommendations

It is recommended that no further work be undertaken on the Post-Medieval pottery assemblage.

Field 19B

X.A27.2001	Evaluation		Excavation	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	2	1	-	-
Roman	-	-	-	-
Medieval	1	14	-	-
Post-Medieval	4	45	-	-
Indet.	1	2	-	-
Total	8	62g	-	-

Field 17F

X.A28.2001	Evaluation		Excavation	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	1	3	-	-
Roman	-	-	-	-
Medieval	12	88	-	-
Post-Medieval	7	49	-	-
Indet.	-	-	-	-
Total	20	140g	-	-

Field 17D

X.A30.2001	Evaluation		Excavation	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	1	3	-	-
Roman	2	2	-	-
Medieval	41	267	18	238
Post-Medieval	1	1	4	27
Indet.	-	-	-	-
Total	45	273g	22	265g

Field 19C

X.A31.2001	Evaluation		Excavation	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	3	19	15	77
Roman	6	44	277	4309
Medieval	1	10	-	-
Post-Medieval	1	2	2	3
Indet.	-	-	-	-
Total	11	75g	294	4389g

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by site

8.2.2 Human bone from excavations in Field 19C by Megan Brickley

Factual summary

Two individuals were recovered from the excavation in Field 19C. Neither of the skeletons excavated is complete. HB1 (F224) is between 50% and 75% complete and HB2 (F251) is very partial, with less than 25% of the skeleton present.

Statement of potential

In both HB1 and HB2 the bone is very fragmented and, as a result, it will not be possible to obtain any metric data. However, the surface of the bone is largely complete (Weathering Stage 2, Behrensmeyer 1978). The surface condition of the bone means that if pathology was present on the bones it could be recorded. The partial nature of the skeletons would make differential diagnosis of any pathology recorded difficult.

In both instances skeletal elements are present that would allow determination of sex of the individual. However, it is unlikely that these individuals will be able to be assigned to an age category other than adult.

The burials are interesting in two respects. Firstly, they appear to fit in the category of Romano-British burial at 'other' rural settlements recently discussed by Esmonde Cleary (2000). Burials such as those excavated from Great Glen are poorly represented in archaeological reports and this lack of information means that, at present, knowledge regarding this category of burial is incomplete (*ibid.* 128-132).

The second feature that is of interest in this case is the grave goods associated with HB1. Although a summary account, there are no reports of grave goods associated with 'other' rural burials in Esmonde Cleary (2000).

Recommendations

The small number and relatively poor condition of the burials will limit the amount of biological information obtainable. However, it is apparent that clear recording of this type of burial is needed, in order to improve knowledge of burial practice in Roman Britain. Therefore, it is recommended that basic skeletal recording is undertaken and information derived from analysis is placed within the main site report.

8.2.3 Worked Flint by Lynne Bevan

Factual summary

A total of 69 items of humanly-worked flint, weighing 425g, was recovered during trial trenching in three fields (17D, 17F and 19B) and the excavation of the Roman settlement in Field 19C. None of the flint originated from prehistoric features and most of it was found in small groups of two or three pieces in Roman contexts or in unstratified deposits. Table 4 (below) shows the occurrence of flint by field. Therefore, for purposes of discussion, these four small assemblages have been treated as a single assemblage.

The composition of the total assemblage was as follows; one core (Trenches 8/9, unstratified), a core fragment (Trench 7, unstratified), four scrapers (1703, 2018, Trench 7, Trenches 8/9, unstratified x 2), one blade (2018), one retouched blade (Trenches 6/7, unstratified), 14 other retouched items, a notched flake (Trench 7, unstratified), an unretouched blade (1804), 10 struck chunks and 35 unretouched flakes. The only post-prehistoric item recovered was a sub-rectangular gunflint, weighing 2g (Trench 5, unstratified). This has not been included in the quantification.

Field No (contexts).	Total flints/weight (g)	Tools/waste (cores, flakes and chunks)
17D (1307, 1703, Trenches 4 and 5, u/s)	5/23g + 1 gunflint	1 scraper, 1 retouched flake/3 flakes
17F (Trenches 6 and 7, u/s)	22/152g	1 scraper, 1 retouched blade, 7 retouched flakes, 1 notched flake/1 core fragment, 10 flakes, 1 chunk
19B (1804, Trenches 8 and 9, u/s)	22/131g	1 blade, 1 scraper, 3 retouched flakes/1 core, 11 flakes, 5 chunks
19C (2004, 2011, 2018, 2029, 2035, 2036, 2065, Trench 11, u/s)	20/119g	1 scraper, 1 retouched blade, 3 retouched flakes/11 flakes, 4 chunks
Totals:	69/425g	22 tools/47 waste

Table 4: Occurrence of Flint by Field

Raw Material

The raw material was of a fairly good quality gravel flint, ranging in colour from light to dark brown and medium grey. There were also a few recorticated and burnt fragments in the assemblage. When present, the cortex was thin and compacted and characteristic of gravel flint from a secondary source, probably local river pebbles.

The only core in the collection, a mixed blade/flake core (Trenches 8/9, unstratified, 19B), had been worked to the point of exhaustion, which is indicative of resource stress and that good quality flint was at a premium.

Discussion and dating

Despite a general lack of chronologically-diagnostic material, the potentially earliest item in the assemblage was an unretouched blade (1804, Field 19B) which is of probable Later Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. An exhausted core designed for the production of narrow flakes and blades (Trenches 8/9, unstratified, Field 19B) is of Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, as is a small, hinge-fractured fragment from another flake core (Trench 7, unstratified, Field 17F).

The generally broad shape of most of the flakes is also strongly suggestive of a later prehistoric, probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, date (Pitts 1978). However, due to the scattered nature of deposition, contemporaneity cannot be assumed among any elements of the assemblage.

The four scrapers, two of which are ovoid in form, might be of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date. One occurred in each of the four fields. While their presence attests to home-based activities in the general area (Schofield 1987), the organisation and intensity of settlement cannot be reconstructed from such a small sample.

Statement of potential

Based upon the available evidence, this small assemblage probably resulted from several episodes of low-density human activity during later prehistory in the four fields studied, rather than from settlement of any duration during any particular chronological period.

Recommendations

Due to the small size and unstratified nature of the flint assemblage no further work is recommended.

8.2.4 Small Finds by Lynne Bevan

8.2.4.1 Copper Alloy Items

Copper alloy items were all recovered from the excavation area in Field 19C by metal detectorists working under archaeological supervision, and their positions recorded in three dimensions in relation to the OS National Grid. They comprised a Roman coin, probably an *antoninianus*, of the Empress Salonina, wife of Gallienus, dated to AD 260-268 (MD2), two fragments of rivetted sheet (MD8) and several small fragments of plate (MD1).

8.2.4.2 Iron Objects

All of the iron objects were recovered from Field 19C, apart from two fragments of plate recovered from the topsoil in Field 19B (Trench 9) during trial trenching.

The iron objects were in a poor state of preservation and the majority of them were very corroded. Identifiable objects comprised two knives, one of which is almost complete, and which was recovered from a burial (HB1/F224). In general form this knife conforms to Manning's common Type 18b (Manning 1985, 116-117, Figure 29, Plate 55:Q57-58). Examples of this type of knife from London 'may be early in date', but outside London, this type of knife is 'likely to date from considerably later in the Roman period' (ibid., 117). The second knife, recovered from one of the ditches (CD3), consisted of a broken blade of uncertain form. A corroded tapering fitting, possibly a ferrule (MD7), was recovered by a metal detectorist.

A total of 59 nails was recovered from Field 19C (see Table 5). Nearly half of the nails, many of which were fragmentary, came from inside a pot contained in a Roman burial (F224, 2036), suggesting a ritualistic function. The use of nails for magico-religious purposes has been discussed by Dungworth, who, quoting Black (1986, 223), suggests that nails might have been 'deliberately added to burials, perhaps as a means of 'fixing' the dead' (Dungworth 1997, 153). Dungworth also suggests that

'Roman nails could have symbolic associations and may have been a focus for intercessions between the natural world and the Otherworld' (1997, 153). There are many examples of nails being deliberately placed in vessels for purposes of protection or enchantment from more recent times, examples including witch bottles and Bellarmine jugs (Merrifield 1987).

Object	Quantity	Context/Feature or Metal Detector Find
Knife	1	2035/F224
Knife	1	2042/F228
Ferrule?	1	MD7
Nails	2	2012
Nails	7	2035
Nails	23	2036/F224
Nails	7	2042
Nails	2	2045
Nails	2	2046
Nails	1	2048
Nails	3	2049
Nails	12	U/S

Table 5: Iron Objects recovered from excavations in Field 19C

The nails also included eight hobnails from Roman footwear (Manning 1985, Fig. 32:10, 133,136), five of which were recovered from ditch fills (2042/CD3 and 2045/CD5), and three from unstratified contexts. Although many of the other nails also originated from Roman contexts, including graves, they appeared to belong to the most common category of Roman nails, often used for fixing timber (Manning 1985, Types 1A and 1B, Fig. 32,133-135).

Catalogue

1. Knife, with S-shaped outline and an unusual, spatulate handle. The tip is broken. Length: 203mm, width (at blade): 27mm, width (at handle): 6mm, thickness: 2mm-8mm. 2035, F224.
2. Knife blade, broken. Length: 139mm, width: 22mm, thickness: 5mm. F228, 2042.

Recommendations

Illustration is recommended for the more complete knife blade, which is a fine example of its type.

Conservation by Annette Hancocks

The knife from F224 has been fully conserved by Helen Wilmott of the Conservation Centre at Salisbury. The condition, upon excavation, necessitated immediate conservation to prevent further deterioration. The knife was covered with a thin layer of soil and corrosion products. X-ray treatment, revealed that there is little metallic core remaining towards the tip of the blade. As part of the treatment soil and corrosion

products were removed from the surface of the knife using airbrasion with aluminium oxide Grade 3. The tip of the blade was re-attached with Paraloid B72 acrylic adhesive. The object has been packed with silica gel. This should be monitored and changed when necessary. Iron objects should be stored in conditions of 15% relative humidity or less.

8.2.4.3 Slag

Six small fragments of slag, weighing 229g, were recovered, of which one came from a machining layer in Field 17D, and the rest from Field 19C. Of the latter group, one, which weighed 4g and appeared to be smithing slag, was a metal detector find (MD4) and the others derived from a pit (F209/2010) and a ditch (CD3).

8.2.4.4 Lead Objects

Six lead items were recovered from the excavation area in Field 19C by metal detectors. The only recognisable objects were a small conical weight (MD6) and half of a perforated circular, washer-shaped object which might have been a second weight (MD5). The other items comprised a roughly-circular fragment, with damaged edges, that might have been a bung or a piece of caulking (MD3), and three fragments of lead sheet (unstratified).

While the shape of the conical weight could be indicative of either a Roman or post-Roman date, its actual weight (55g) is suggestive of a Roman origin, since it is just over 48.5 scruples, approximately two Roman ounces. The second possible weight (originally roughly 70g) translates into 62 scruples, approximately two and a half Roman ounces.

1. Lead weight. Conical, with a small circular depression on the base. Height: 22mm, diameter at base: 20mm, weight: 55g. MD6, unstratified.
2. Washer-shaped circular object, with central perforation, only half of which survives. Height: 10-14mm, diameter: 27mm, thickness: 10mm. MD5, unstratified.

Recommendations

Illustration is recommended for the conical lead weight.

8.2.5 Animal bone by Emily Murray

Factual summary

Quantity, provenance and phasing

A total of c.8.5 kg of animal bones was recovered from the trial trenching, and from salvage recording and excavations in Fields 17D and 19C. The majority of the bones derived from ditch fills. Most (88%) of the assemblage was recovered from Field 19C, and the remaining 12% from Field 17D. The potential of the assemblage from Field 17D is not discussed in this assessment, as the bones were not recovered from securely-stratified contexts, but the quantifications are provided in Table 6. 'Whole

earth' or bulk samples were also taken from Field 19C, but the samples processed as part of the assessment (see Ciaraldi below) did not yield any animal bones.

Preservation

The bones were generally well-preserved, although the cortices of most of the specimens were corroded or etched to some degree, indicating their exposure to acidic soils. Evidence of carnivore gnawing was also common, suggesting that the material had not been buried immediately when it was discarded, while signs of butchery were infrequent.

Methods of analysis

The methods of analysis employed follow a modified version of Davis (Davis 1992; Albarella and Davis 1994). This system considers a selection of anatomical elements as countable, while the presence of non-countable specimens of interest are also noted.

	Field 19C Phase 2 (Romano- British)	Field 19C Unphas ed	Field 17D	Total
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	20	5	3	28
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	16	2	2	20
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	2	-	1	3
Equid (<i>Equus</i> sp.)	5	1	1	7
Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	*	1	-	1
Goose (<i>Anser</i> sp.)	-	-	1	1
Total	43	9	8	60

Table 6: Animal bones: number of countable elements recorded by species and phase. Species represented by non-countable elements only are denoted by '**'

Range and frequency

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse; red deer and goose were the species represented in the assemblage (Table 6). Cattle were the most common species, followed by sheep/goat, although the latter were principally represented by loose teeth from the fill of F228. No positive goat bones were noted, but the caprine material included a pair of ewe horncores. Red deer was represented by an antler fragment (Phase 2) and radius (unphased), and, given the relatively large size of the latter, it is probable that it is from a stag. Only one mild pathology was noted: a horse astragalus had accessory bony growth, or exostoses, on its ventral side.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended for this small assemblage.

8.2.6 Charred plant remains from excavations in Field 19C by Marina Ciaraldi

Factual summary

Soil samples of a standard size of 20 litres were taken from the main datable features after consultation with the BUFAU environmental supervisor, following the BUFAU guidelines (Ciaraldi 2001) and the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (2002). The soil samples were very clayey and contained little organic component. Four samples, collected from significant contexts, were processed in order to assess the preservation of plant remains and their potential for providing information on the economy of the site.

The soil samples were processed with a York flotation machine and, due to their clayey matrix, they were pre-treated with a solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate. The flots (light fraction) were recovered on a 0.5mm sieve and the residue (heavy fraction) on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye, whereas the flots were sorted under a low-power stereomicroscope.

Samples No.	Area	Feature/Context	Volume processed (litres)	Type of context
1	19C	F204/2007	20	LD1 Ditch fill (Roman)
3	19C	F214/2017	20	CD3 Ditch fill (Roman)
7	19C	F224/2035	20	Grave fill (Roman)
12	19C	F236/2051	20	Hearth (Roman)

Table 7: Soil samples processed and assessed

Statement of potential

The samples chosen for this assessment were selected either from contexts that were deemed to be critical for dating purposes or which were most likely to contain charred plant remains. However, none of the four samples processed (Table 7) produced plant remains, other than a few fragments of charcoal. This suggests that the preservation of plant remains and other organic remains from the site is very poor.

Recommendations

It is not recommended that the remaining soil samples should be processed, or that any further work should be carried out on the processed samples.

9.0 ARCHIVE STATEMENT

The finds archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service (LMARS) after publication of the final report, subject to the issue of ownership of finds being formalised. The finds archive comprises:

Fieldwalking: 1 box
Evaluation and Excavation: 8 boxes
Total: 9 boxes

The archive remains stable, and although the iron knife has been conserved and consolidated, periodic monitoring will be required. All material has been packaged in accordance with LMARS guidelines.

10.0 UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN FOR EXCAVATIONS IN FIELD 19C

The earliest evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site comes from the flint assemblage found in the ploughsoil/subsoil and in Roman contexts. Although the presence of this material attests to some level of activity in the area in the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods, the dispersed nature and small size of the assemblage means that it has little potential to contribute towards the further understanding of these periods in the region.

The excavation revealed the remains of an enclosed Romano-British settlement, which is clearly part of a more extensive site extending to the north. Initial spot-dating of the finds indicates that most of the activity at the site dates to around the late 2nd/3rd century AD. However, two ditches, one earlier than, and one later than, the main enclosure, were also recorded, and a few fragments of Iron Age pottery were recovered from post-holes cut by the enclosure ditch. This evidence suggests that there was some form of activity at the site prior to the establishment of the main enclosure, and also once the enclosure ditch had gone out of use. The earlier ditch may have been a field boundary, perhaps part of a wider system of land division in the area. It could also represent an earlier enclosure, albeit a comparatively large one with sparse interior settlement remains. The later, linear ditch is probably a field boundary ditch, possibly associated with a shift in settlement focus or a more general reorganisation of the landscape.

The main phase of activity identified on the site is represented by the enclosure itself and features associated with it. Only the southernmost part of the enclosure lay within the line of the bypass, and contained a concentration of features indicative of settlement activity, including pits, and a gully enclosing a set of beam-slots, probably representing the remains of a building. The cobbled surface just outside the enclosure is likely to be a work surface. The adjoining enclosure to the south contained a much less dense concentration of features, and may have functioned as an annexe to the main enclosure.

The graves revealed during the excavation are very important in terms of research potential. Burials within rural Romano-British settlements are poorly understood, partly because they have not been included in excavation reports in a particularly accessible way, making research more difficult (M. Brickley pers. comm.). The position of the burials at Great Glen is significant - they lie close to the corner of the enclosure ditch, within an area which appears to have been sub-divided by another ditch (F237), and are aligned with both ditches. Burials within bounded enclosures and in close association with boundary features is a recurrent theme of burial practice on rural Romano-British sites, and in Roman Britain in general (Esmonde-Cleary 2000, 137). The location of one of the burials (F251) within the earliest ditch on the site is also significant. The association of burials with 'deceased' features is also a recurrent theme which is well-attested at other Roman sites, for example Owlesbury

in Hampshire, where burials were located close to, or within the fills of earlier Roman enclosure ditches (Pearce 1999, 156), and Lankhills in Hampshire, where burials were placed in the original boundary ditch before the cemetery expanded beyond the boundary (Esmonde-Cleary 2000, 138). Analysis of the skeletal remains and the grave goods from the Great Glen burials, in conjunction with comparative study of their character, will contribute important new information to the study of Romano-British rural burial practices.

The paucity of animal bones and charred plant remains from the site means that the pottery will be the main source of information regarding the economy of the site. The detailed analysis of the pottery will be able to investigate the chronological development of the site, its economy and its social and cultural setting at local, regional and national levels. The presence of Roman culinary vessels such as *mortaria* (grinding bowls), roof tile, and the burial practices at the site suggest a relatively high degree of Romanisation, which would accord with the proximity of the site to the major Roman town of *Ratae Corieltavorum* (Leicester).

The site at Great Glen will be studied in its local, regional and national context and will be compared with other Romano-British sites in Leicestershire and the East Midlands, such as Normanton-le-Heath, Leicestershire (Thorpe *et. al.* 1994), Empingham and other sites in Rutland (Cooper 2000), Ashby, Leicestershire (Jones and Dingwall 2002) and Oakham, Rutland (Ellis *et. al.* 1997; Nichol 2001).

The research priorities of the project are:

- 1 - to characterise the site in terms of dating and function.
- 2 - to define the morphology of the settlement remains, and to determine their development, layout and chronology.
- 3 - to examine the pottery chronology in relation to other published Iron Age and Romano-British sites in Leicestershire and the East Midlands.
- 4 - to investigate the settlement economy and status at a local regional and national level.
- 5 - to fully analyse the skeletons and grave goods from the burials and examine the context and meaning of their occurrence within a rural Romano-British settlement, a category of burial practice which is poorly-understood.

11.0 PROPOSED PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

A short summary of this report will be prepared for inclusion in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. It is proposed that the final report is published as part of a monograph on recent excavations by BUFAU on rural Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites in Leicestershire. The volume will also include reports on excavations carried out by BUFAU at Glenfield, Oakham, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Melton Mowbray, and will form part of the BUFAU monograph series published by British Archaeological Reports (BAR).

The suggested layout of the Great Glen section of the report is as follows:

ROMAN SETTLEMENT AND BURIALS AT GREAT GLEN. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE GREAT GLEN BYPASS, 2001.

By Josh Williams and Lucie Dingwall

with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Megan Brickley, Marina Ciaraldi, Annette Hancocks and Emily Murray

Summary (400w)

Introduction, aims and methodology, archaeological setting (2000w)

Structural Results: period review- an illustrated account outlining main features and site characteristics. (3000w, 2 plates)

Specialist Reports: Prehistoric and Romano-British ceramics by Annette Hancocks (2500w, 2 tables).

Human Bone by Megan Brickley(1500w, 1 plate)

Small finds by Lynne Bevan (500w)

Flint summary by Lynne Bevan (500w)

Charred plant remains summary by Marina Ciaraldi(250w)

Animal bone summary by Emily Murray(300w)

Discussion (2500 w)

Figures

1. Site Location
2. Area investigated
3. Detailed site Plan
4. Sections of excavated features
5. - 7. Pottery
8. Small finds

12.0 PROPOSED POST-EXCAVATION TASK LIST

1	Overall project management	LD	2 days
2	Organisation of site archive	KM	1 day
3	Pottery recording/revise phasing	AH	5 days
4	Update phasing/Harris matrices/Data entry	JW	1 day
5	Prepare detailed site plans/sections: roughs	JW	1 day
6	Prepare first draft of phased site narrative	JW	2 days
7	Co-ordination of specialists	AH	0.5 day
8	Preparation of IA and RB pottery report	AH	5 days
9	Consultation with AW on pottery report	AW	1 day
10	Preparation of human bone report	MB	2 days
11	Library research and text integration	JW	1 day
12	Preparation of site illustrations	ND	3 days
13	Preparation of finds illustrations	ND	3 days
14	Integration and editing of 1st draft report	LD	2 days
15	Amendments to text	JW	1 day
16	Corrections to figures	ND	0.5 days
17	Proof reading	AW	1 day

18	Deposit archive and finds	KM	1 day
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KEY: LD - Lucie Dingwall, project manager, KM - Karen Muldoon, archives/records officer, AH - Annette Hancocks, post-excavation manager, JW - Josh Williams, author, MB - Megan Brickley, human bone specialist, ND - Nigel Dodds, illustrator, AW - Ann Woodward, editor.

Table 8: Post-excavation task list

13.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The fieldwork was directed by Josh Williams, with the assistance of Ioannis Altsitzoglou, Sabina Belim, Bob Bracken, Melissa Conway, Richard Cuttler, Lucie Dingwall, Mary Duncan, Lucy Griffin, Emma Hancox, Roy Krakowicz, Richard Lee, Helen Martin, Erica Macey, Emily Murray, Andy Rudge and Sarah Watt, and the project was managed by Lucie Dingwall. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds, the report was edited by Iain Ferris, and Annette Hancocks was the finds manager. The project was sponsored by Mott MacDonald, on behalf of the Highways Agency, and was monitored by Anne Graf on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. The help and advice of Anne Graf during the project is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are due to Steve Coker, John Webber and Rod Powell of Mott MacDonald, and to Andy Daws of the Highways Agency for their assistance throughout the project, and to Brian Watts and Adrian Morley of Skanska for their assistance whilst on-site. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who carried out the metal detector survey.

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APPENDIX 1: TRIAL TRENCH AND TOPSOIL STRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Trial Trenching

Field 17C

Trench No.		1		Orientation		NW-SE
Length	30m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	95.48	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1100	0.35m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey sandy silt				
1101	0.2m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Dark yellow-brown clayey sandy silt				
1102		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish brown silty clay and reddish brown silty clay				

Trench No.		2		Orientation		NW-SE
Length	30m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	95.73	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1200	0.35m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey sandy silt				
1201	0.15m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Dark yellow-brown clayey sandy silt				
1202		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish brown silty clay and reddish brown silty clay				

Field 17D

Trench No.		3		Orientation		NW-SE
Length	70m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	97.21	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1300	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark grey-brown clayey sandy silt				
1301	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Yellow-brown clayey silt				
1302		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish grey-brown silty clay with patches of dispersed pebbles				

Trench No.		4		Orientation		NW-SE
Length	30m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	97.63	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1400	0.35m	Topsoil - Dark grey-brown clayey sandy silt				
1401	0.2m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Orange-brown clayey silt				
1402		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish grey-brown silty clay and red-brown silty clay				

Trench No.		5a		Orientation		NW-SE
Length	20m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	96.91	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1500	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey silt				
1501	0.15m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Yellowish brown silty clay				
1502		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish grey-brown silty clay				

Trench No.		5b		Orientation		NW-SE	
Length	20m		Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	96.84	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
1503	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey silt					
1504	0.15m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Yellow-brown silty clay					
1505		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish grey-brown silty clay					

Field 17F

Trench No.		6		Orientation		N-S	
Length	40m		Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	105.75	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
1600	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey silt					
1601	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid-light brown silty clay					
1602		Natural Subsoil - Yellow-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles					

Trench No.		7		Orientation		E-W	
Length	30m		Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	106.12	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
1700	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey silt					
1701	0.08m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid-light brown silty clay					
1702		Natural Subsoil - Yellow-brown silty clay with patches of yellowish sands					

Field 19B

Trench No.		8		Orientation		NW-SE	
Length	40m		Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	113.67	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
1800	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy silt					
1801	0.3m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Light brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles					
1802		Natural Subsoil - Light brown-orange silty clay with abundant pebbles					

Trench No.		9		Orientation		NE-SW	
Length	30m		Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	113.67	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
1900	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy silt					
1901	0.3m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Light brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles					
1902		Natural Subsoil - Light brown-orange silty clay with abundant pebbles					

Field 19C

Trench No.		10		Orientation		NW-SE	
Length	40m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	105.67		
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
2000	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy clayey silt					
2001	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid brown clayey silt					
2002		Natural Subsoil - Yellow-orange clay with stones and patches of gravel					

Trench No.		11		Orientation		NE-SW	
Length	40m	Width	2m	Height A.O.D.	104.33		
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description					
2100	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy clayey silt					
2101	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid brown clayey silt					
2102		Natural Subsoil - Yellow-orange clay with stones and patches of gravel					

Topsoil Strip

Field 9B

Length	20m	Width	20m	Height A.O.D.	122.36m	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
2200	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey sandy silt				
2201		Natural Subsoil - Reddish brown gravel with patches of yellowish brown clay				

Field 10

Length	20m	Width	20m	Height A.O.D.	123.53	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
2300	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey sandy silt.				
2301		Natural Subsoil - Reddish brown gravel with patches of yellowish brown clay				

Field 17D

Length	40m	Width	40m	Height A.O.D.	97.21	
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description				
1300	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark grey-brown clayey sandy silt				
1301	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Yellow-brown clayey silt				
1302		Natural Subsoil - Yellowish brown clay with dispersed reddish brown gravel.				

Field 17F

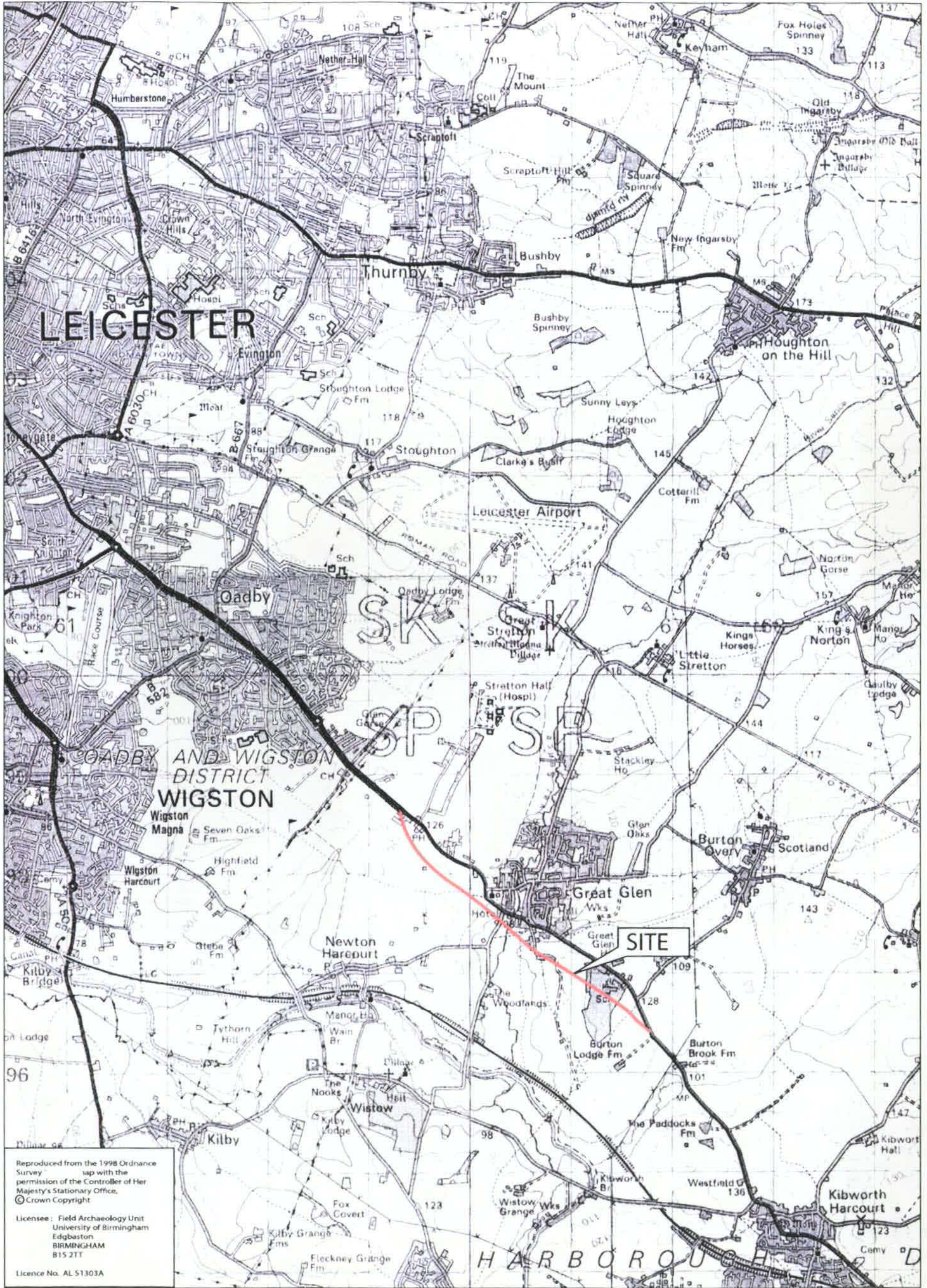
Length	20m	Width	20m	Height A.O.D.	106.12
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description			
1700	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown clayey silt			
1701	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid-light brown silty clay			
1702		Natural Subsoil - Brownish yellow clay			

Field 19B

Length	20m	Width	20m	Height A.O.D.	113.67
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description			
1900	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy silt			
1901	0.3m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Light brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles			
1902		Natural Subsoil - Brownish red gravel			

Field 19C

Length	40m	Width	10m	Height A.O.D.	105.67
Context/Feature No.	Depth	Description			
2000	0.3m	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy clayey silt			
2001	0.1m	Topsoil/Subsoil Horizon - Mid brown silty clay			
2002		Natural Subsoil - Yellow-orange clay with stones and patches of gravel			



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Fig.1



Fig.2

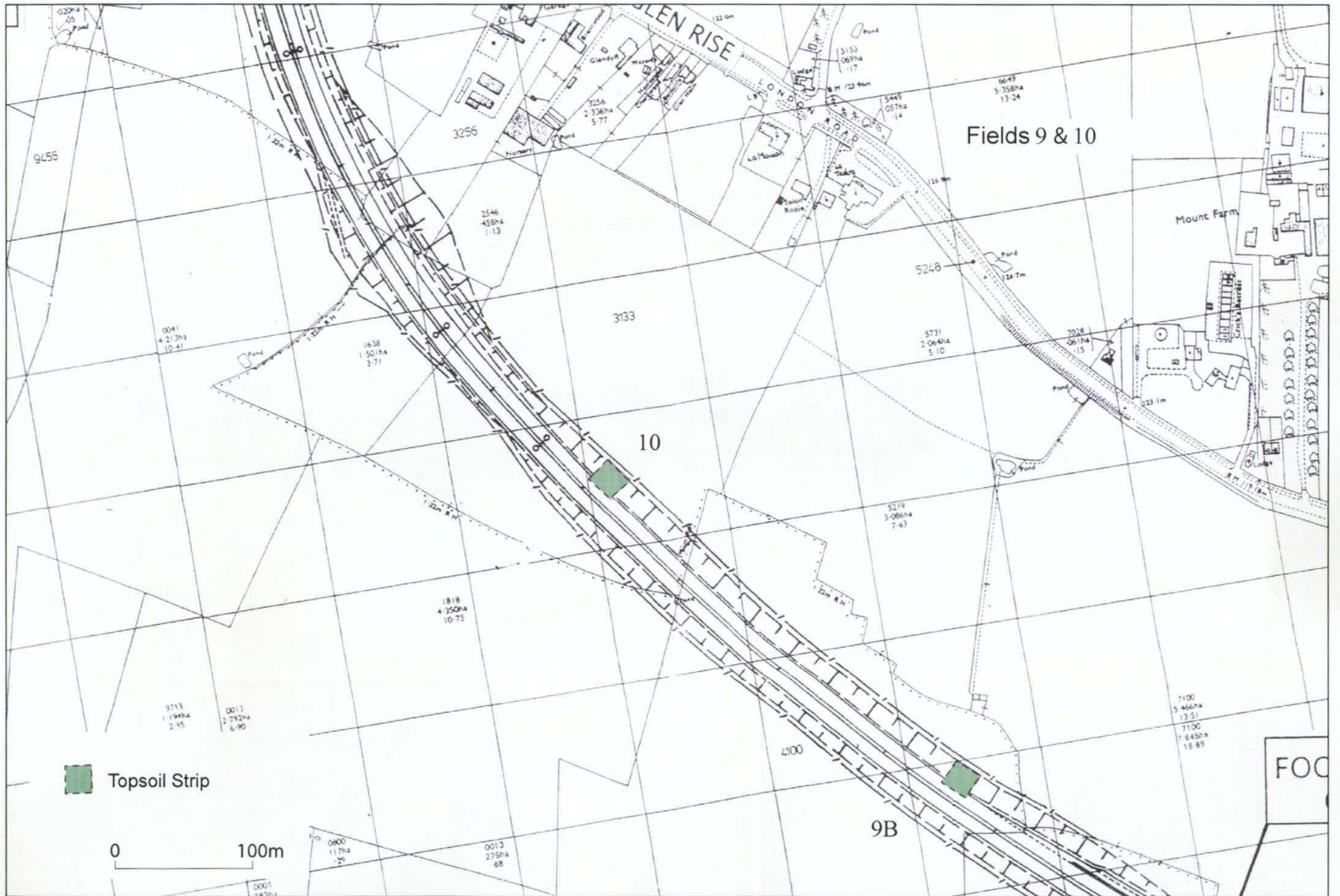


Fig.3

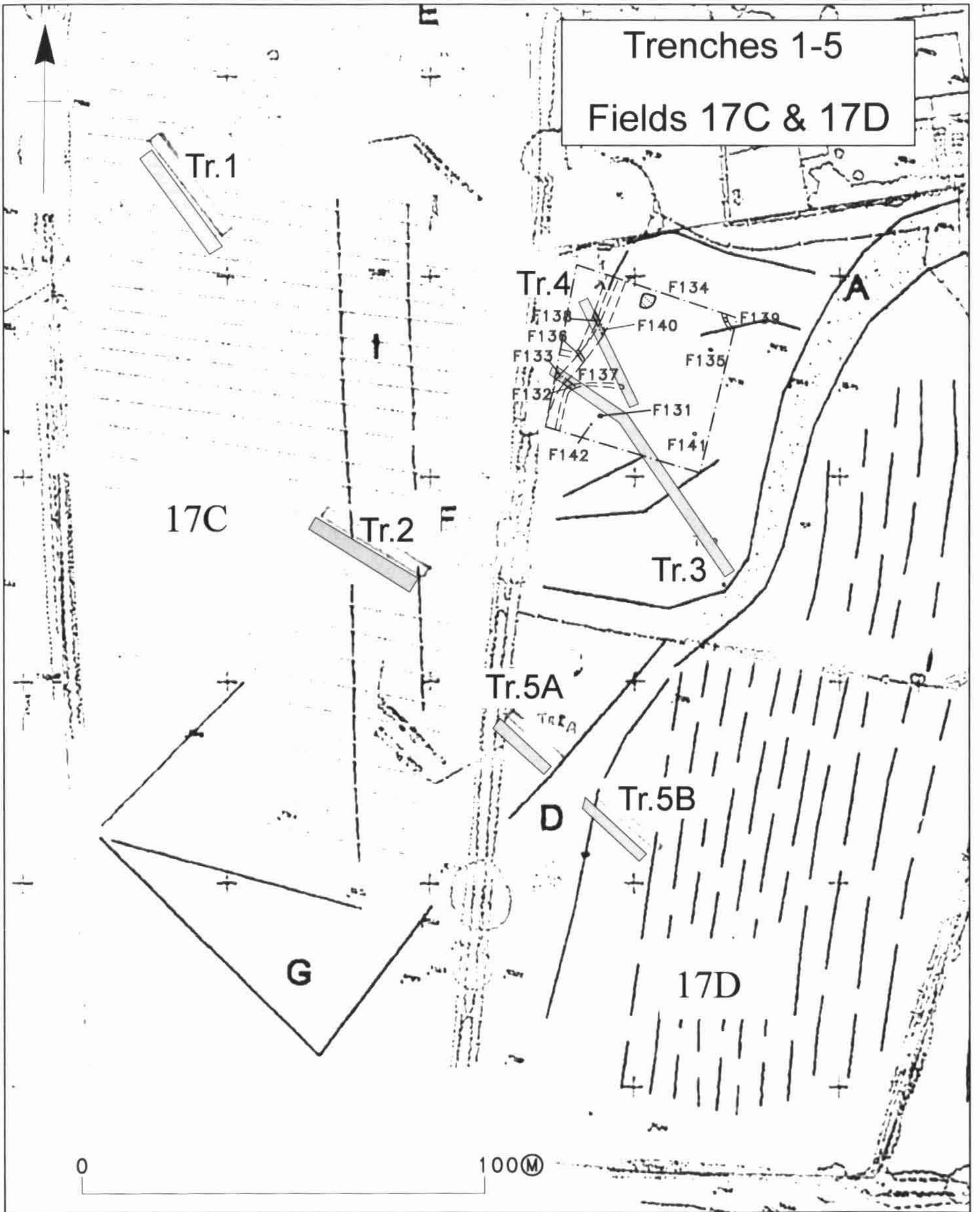


Fig.4

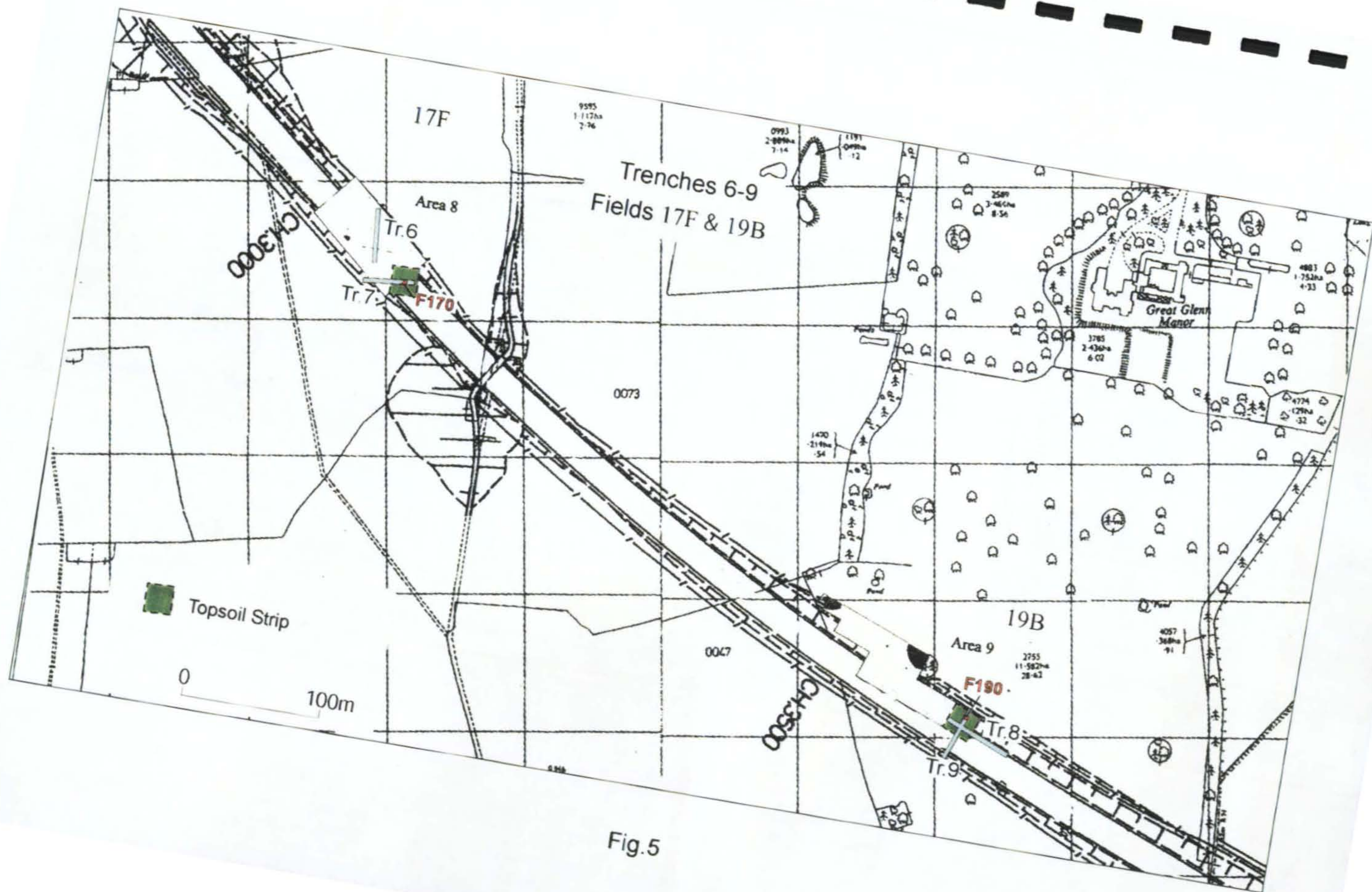


Fig. 5

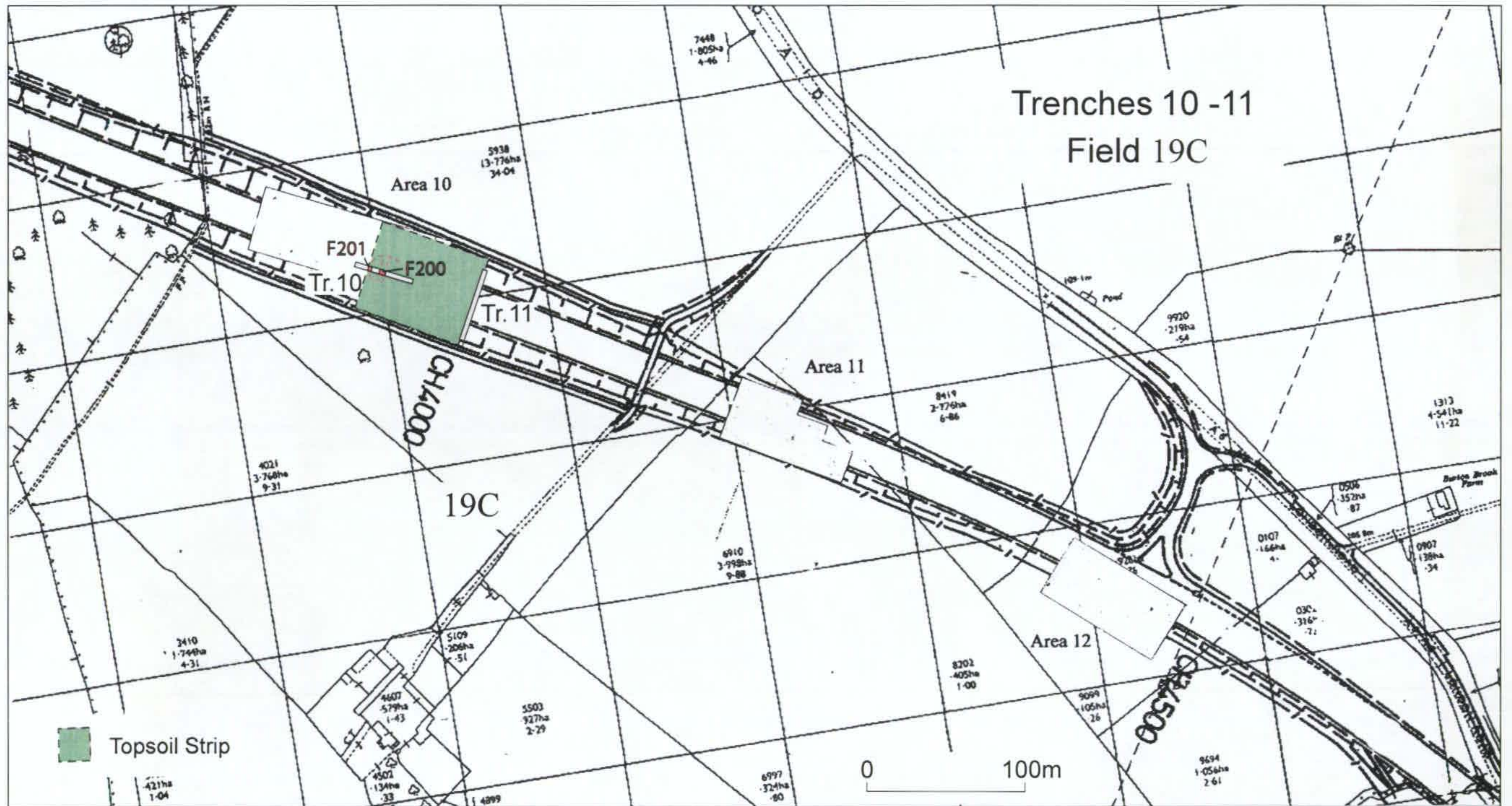


Fig.6

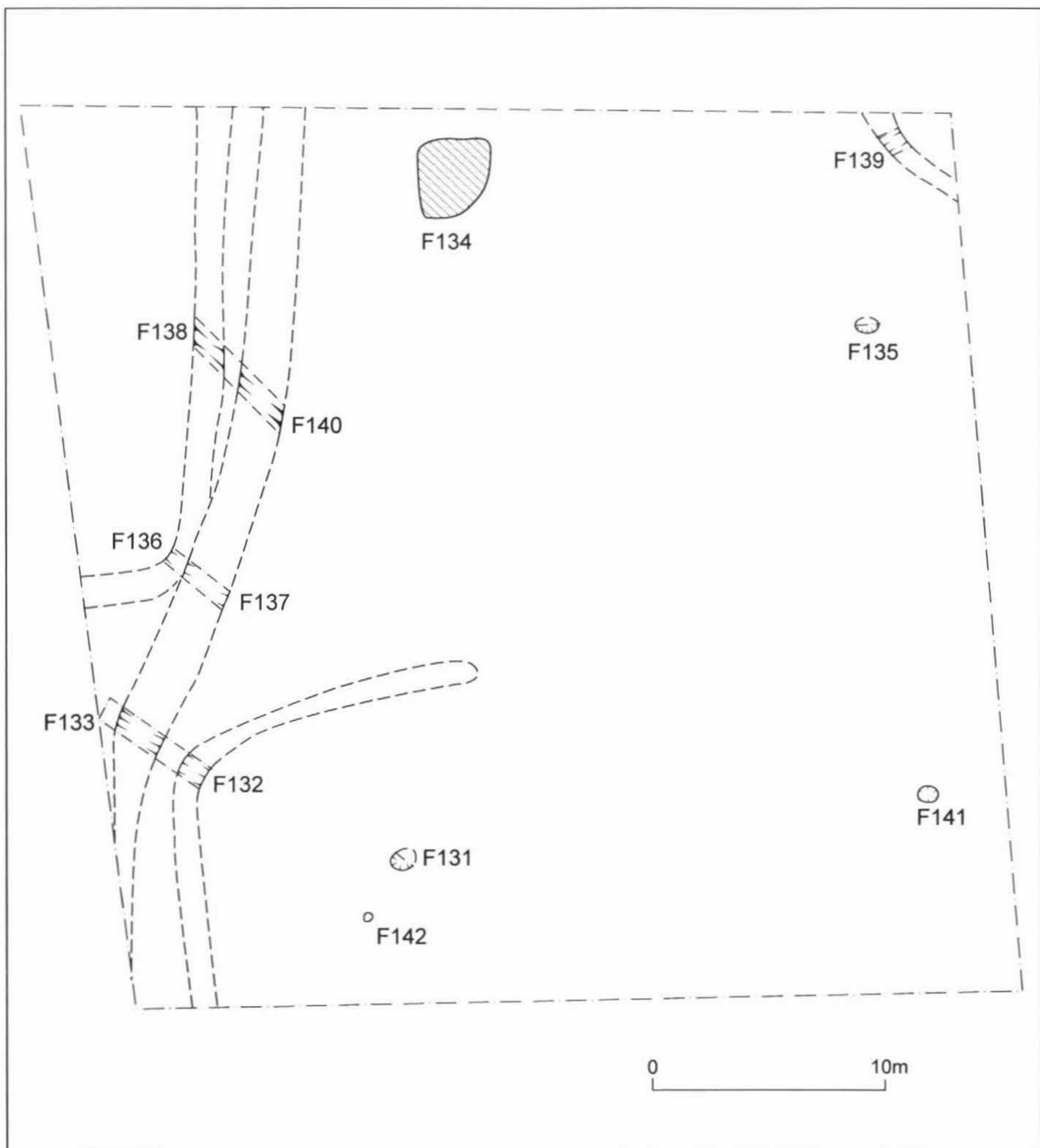


Fig.7

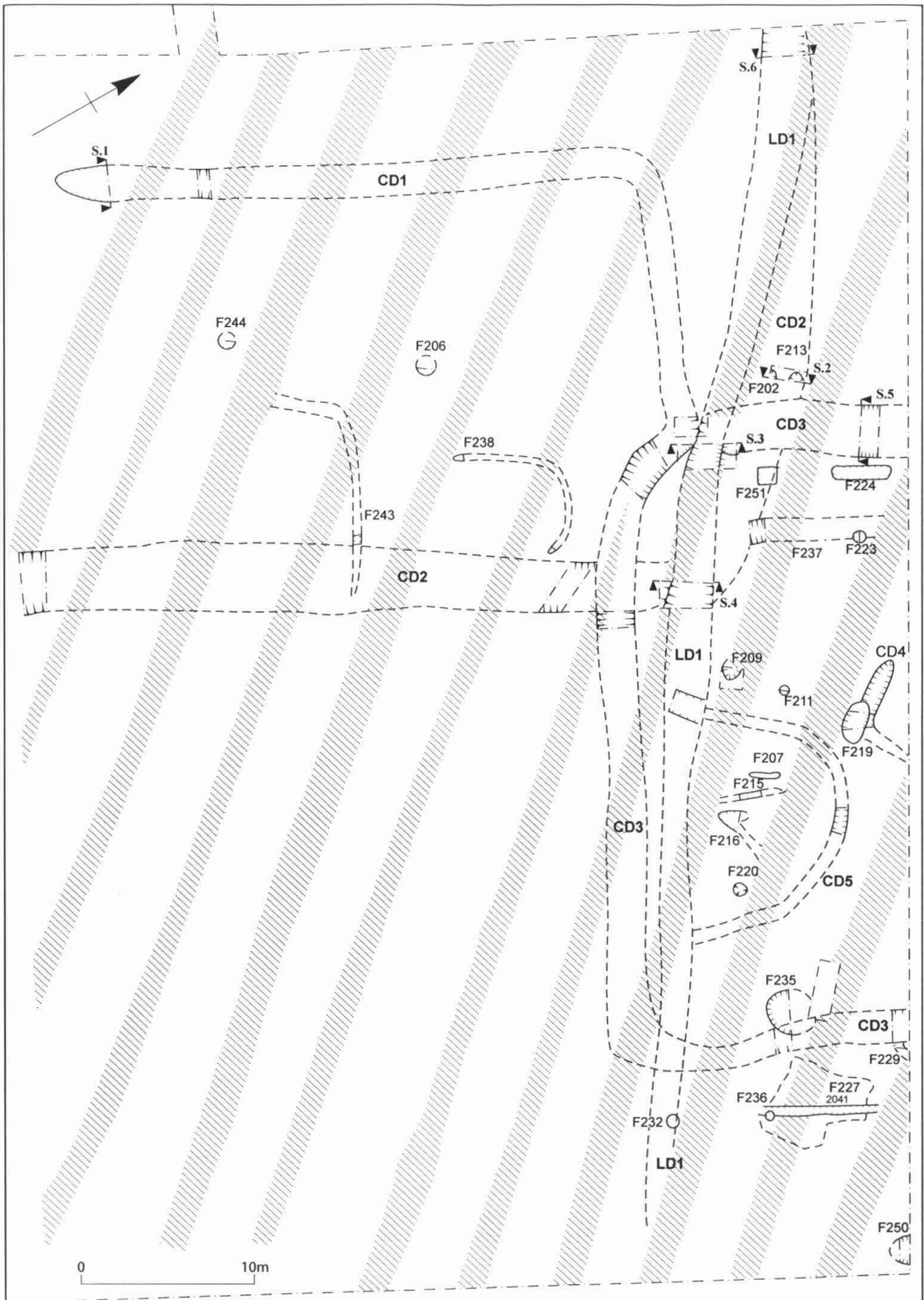


Fig.8

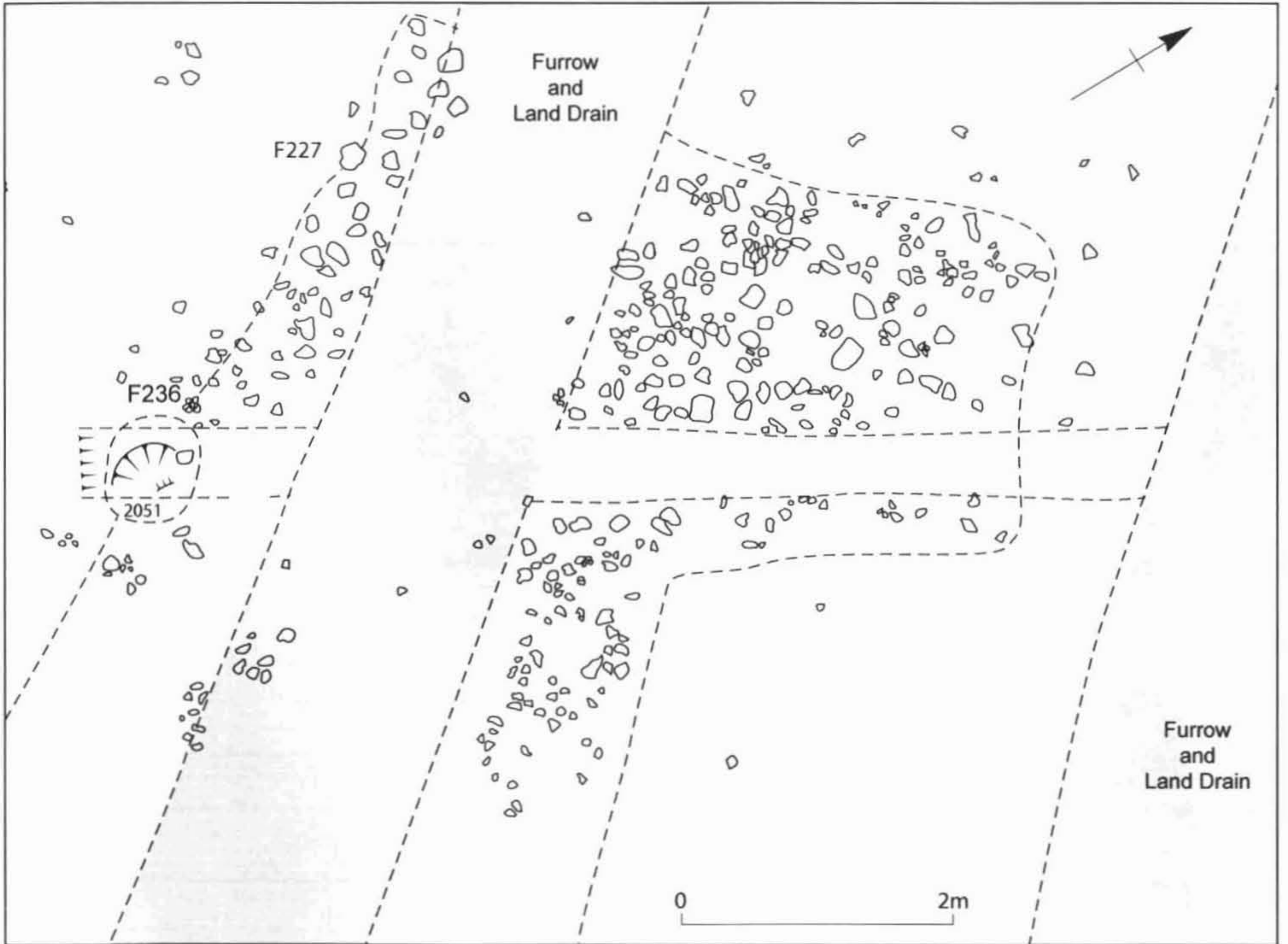


Fig.9

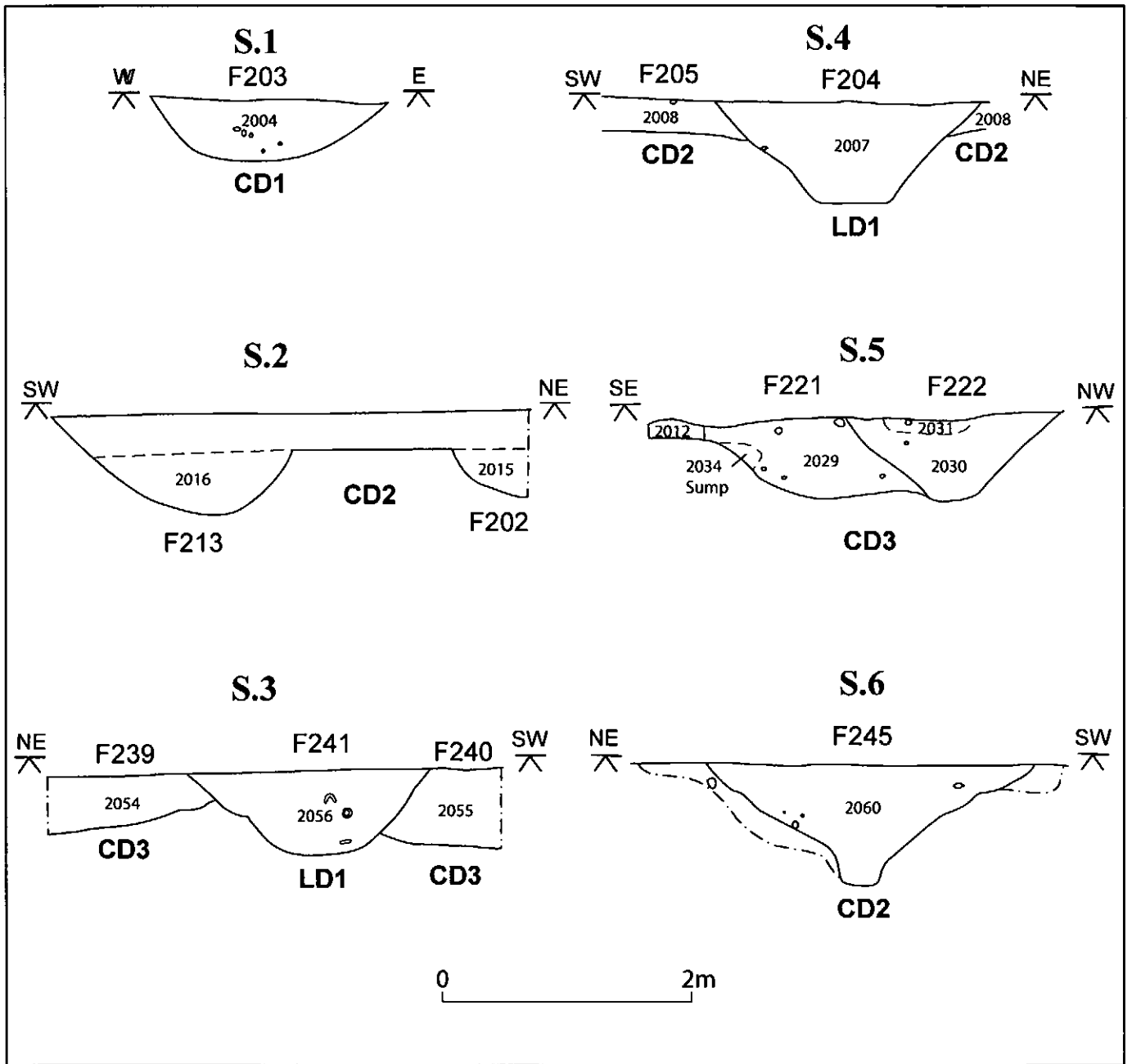


Fig.10