

13227

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
UNIT Report No.  
855.

EVALUATION EXCAVATIONS  
AT  
CHURCH WOE  
BURGH CASTLE 1993

## NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

### Summary report on Evaluation Excavations

at Church Loke, Burgh Castle

for churchyard extensions

(Site 13227 Contexts 10-19)

1 Work was carried out by NAU on behalf of the Parish Council on Monday 18th October 1993, as indicated by the Brief and Method Statement.

2 Three trenches A,B and C, were excavated by machine in the proposed new churchyard extension (Fig 1). Each trench was 1.6metres in width.

3 After machine excavation, each trench was cleaned by hand and all features planned. All were sample-excavated to establish their character and recover any dating material. A metal-detector survey was carried out on the spoil and the excavated surfaces.

#### 4 Trench A:

(1) Natural subsoil was a mottled ginger-brown sand; this lay below an overburden (Context 19) 1.10m(south)-1.30m(north) deep. This was composed of a dark brown-black ploughsoil (25-30cms deep) and a mid-dark brown sandy loam, almost stoneless, containing no cultural material.

(2) Several linear features were seen, cutting the subsoil, and were sectioned in places.

Context 10: Possibly natural, narrow E-W feature, cut by Context 11, but not continuing to the east of Context 11. Fill of light grey sand grading down to a paler grey sand; feature not bottomed ? No finds. Section No 5.

Context 11: N-S ditch(es), sectioned in three places. Fill of mid- dark grey sand (pale at base).

Sections 6 and 7 showed that this feature was two shallow ditches, probably truncated. One ditch only was seen in Section 4. Finds: three fragments of lava (?quern) were found on the surface of Context 11

Context 12: possible NW-SE feature. Fill of grey sand. Not excavated, relationship to Context 11 not known; edges not completely visible.

Context 13: SW-NE ditch(es), sectioned in three places, Sections 1,2 and 3. Fill of grey sand (with some paler sand at base, Section 1). Possibly two intercutting ditches.

#### 5 Trench B:

- (1) Overburden as Trench A (from 1.15m(south) - 1.40m(north)).
- (2) Context 14: NW-SE ditch. Fill, pale-grey sand. Section 1. No finds.

#### 6 Trench C:

- (1) Overburden as Trench A (from .90m(south)-1.00m(north)). Finds, SF 1 and 2, two bronze ?buttons, one ?medieval, one ?post- medieval.
- (2) Context 15: E-W ditch. Fill, dark brown sandy loam, some charcoal fleck. Section 2. Finds, two sherds; one 3/4th cent. Roman, rim, colour-coated, combed decoration, burnt externally, ?Much Hadham; one body sherd, grey fabric, hard sandy, wheelmade. ? late Saxon Thetford-type ware.

Context 16: E-W ditch. Fill, dark brown sandy loam, some charcoal fleck. Section 1. No finds.

Contexts 17, 18 and 19: Three small post/stake holes?, fill, dark brown/black loam. No finds. Depths 4cm, 12cm and 8cm respectively.

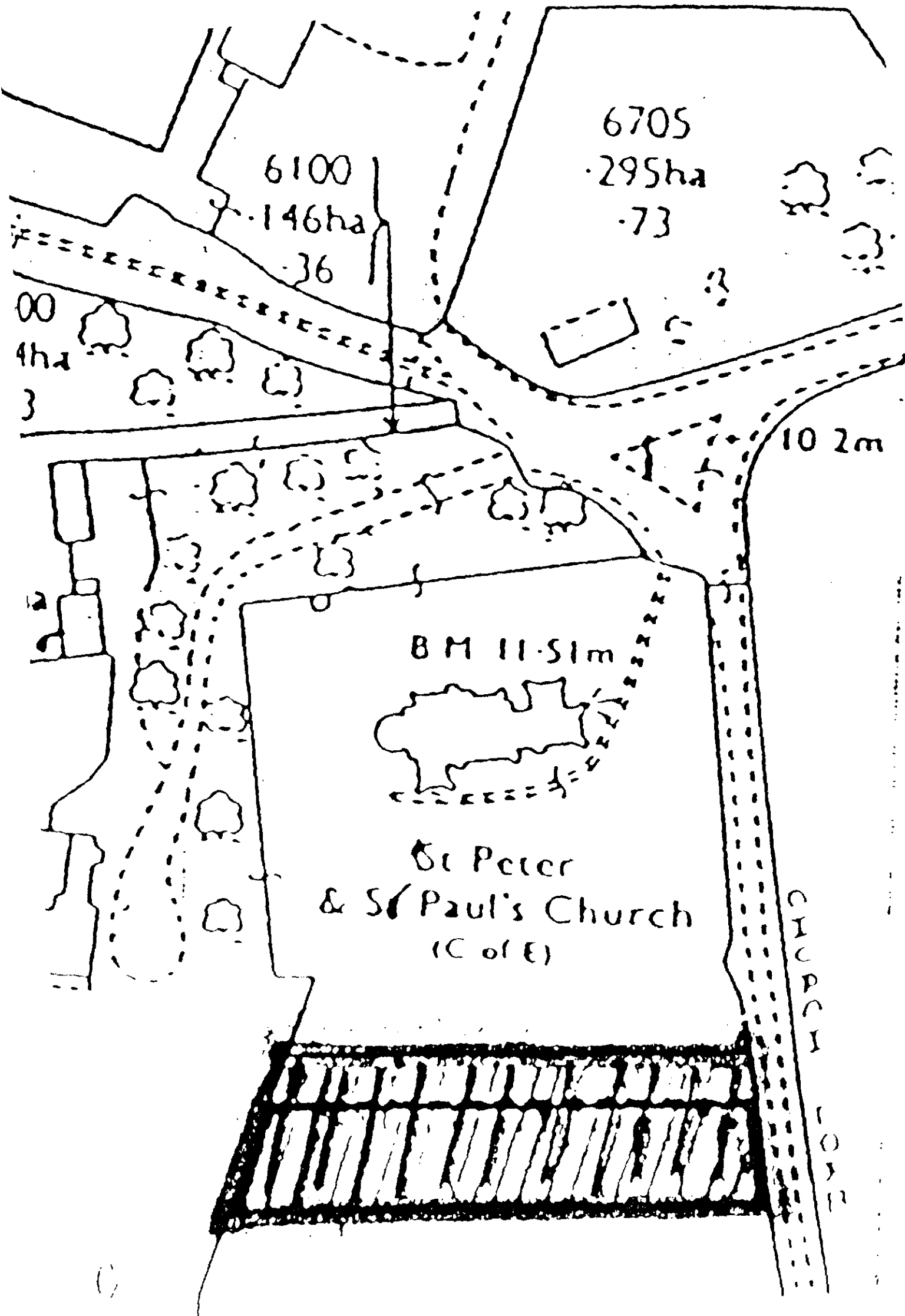
These lay in a patch of Boulder Clay.

7 Context 19 was the topsoil/overburden.

8 Although the ditches represent some activity here, the finds were too few and of uncertain association with the excavated features to be of much help in dating. It is anyway likely that these features are much truncated, to judge from the shallowness of Contexts 15 and 16 in particular.

9 The writer is especially grateful to Peter Rillings for his metal-detector survey, and to D. Gurney and A. Rogerson for identifying pottery and finds.

K.J.Penn October 1993



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1993



TRENCH  
A

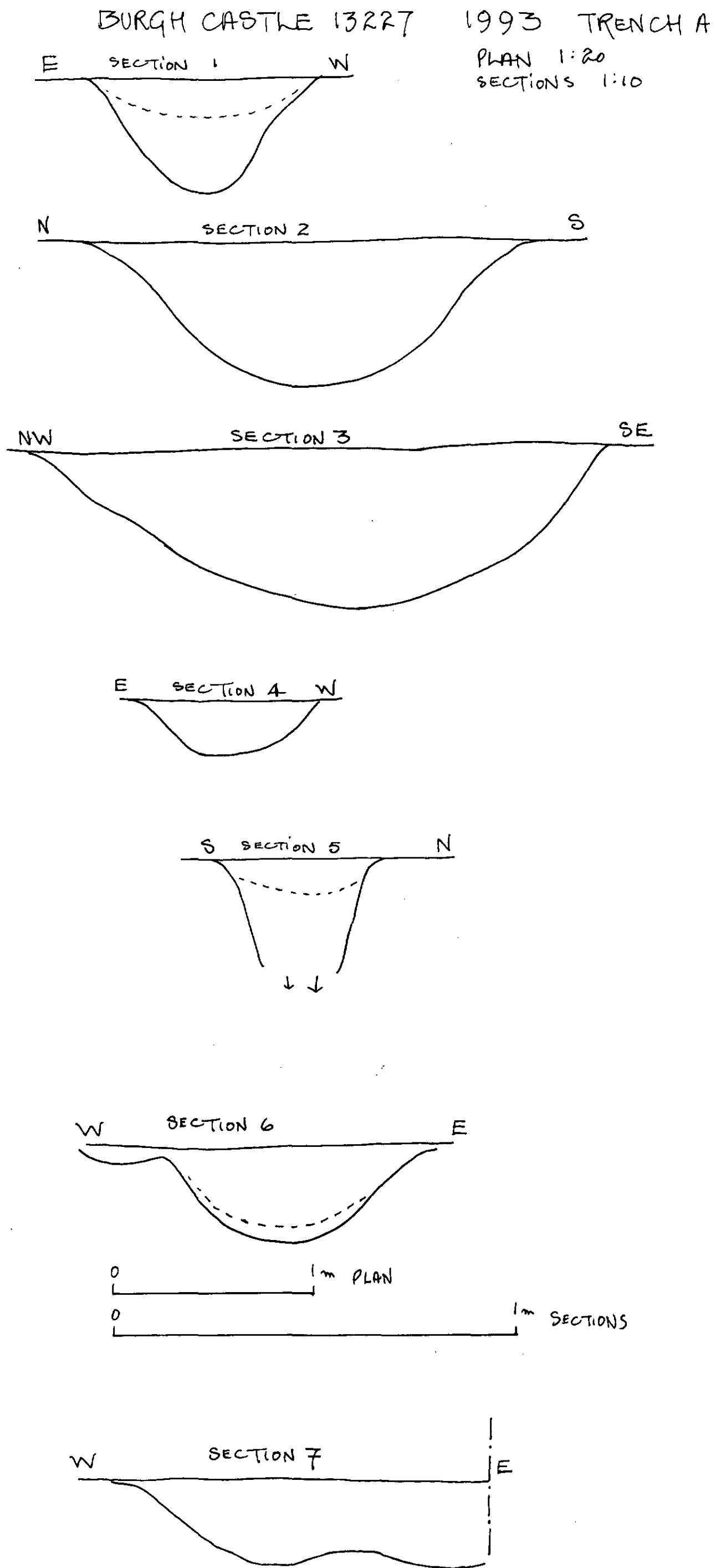
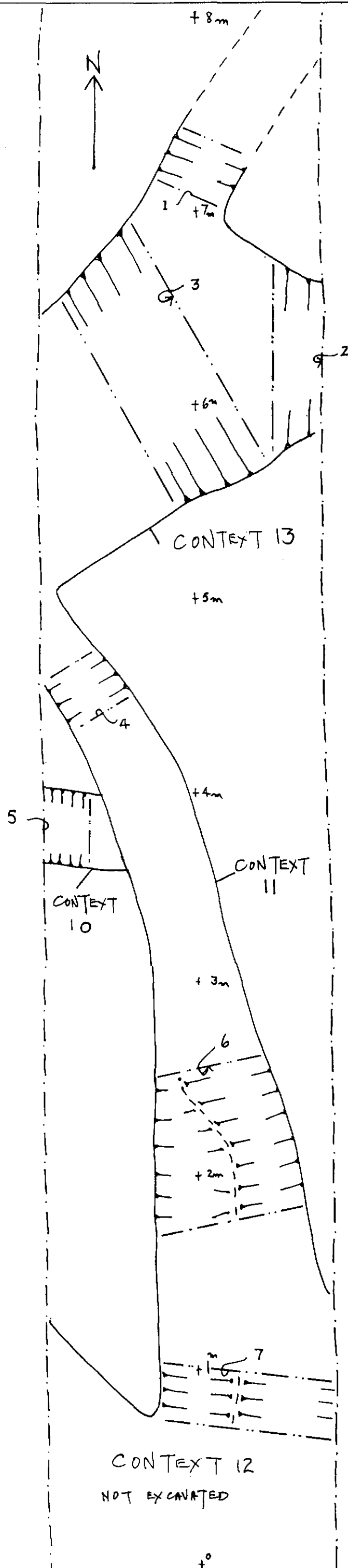


TRENCH B



TRENCH  
C

0 10 20m



SEE TEXT FOR DESCRIPTIONS

KTP

