NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

EVALUATION REPORT

STATION ROAD, SNETTISHAM

1991

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

at

STATION ROAD/ STRICKLAND AVENUE, SNETTISHAM

July 1991

by Myk Flitcroft

Illustrations by Hoste Spalding and Steven Ashley

Artefact photography By David Wicks

Frontispiece: Recording the northern Kiln

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Location: Station Road/Strickland Avenue, Snettisham

Grid Reference: TF 6778 3355 - TF 6803 3383

Dates of Work: 16-30 July 1991

SMR Numbers 28450 1516, 1517, 1523, 24056 24057, 24058, 24637, 24582

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 1991 the Norfolk Archaeological Unit was contracted to carry out an evaluation on the site of proposed residential development in the area bounded by Station Road and Strickland Avenue, Snettisham (Figure 1). The work was funded by the developers Wagg, Jex & Co. Ltd.

1.2 The area consists of a three-armed field of some 10.5 hectares (Figure 2), and at the time of the evaluation was subdivided under a variety of crops.

1.3 The existing archaeological information for this area contained in the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record consists of stray finds of Roman metalwork or coins from five separate locations (SMR 1516,1517,1523,24058,24582), and Medieval or later finds from a further three (SMR 24056,24057,24637). Immediately east of the development site a Roman jewellery hoard was found (SMR 1517). Cropmarks of probable Romano-British field systems have been located to the west and south-west of the area (SMR 1515,18236), and evidence for settlement and industrial activity of this period has also been recovered.

1.4 During construction of the Snettisham bypass in 1989-90 topsoil removal was monitored in the area immediately west of the evaluation area; this produced no stratified material other than a recent brick structure. Topsoil finds consisted of Post-Medieval pottery and a Medieval token (all SMR 25751).

1.5 In view of the widespread Romano-British finds in the Snettisham area and the artefacts recovered from the site, the evaluation was planned to define the extent and nature of any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation was undertaken according to the brief set by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Section (Appendix 1) and within the Method Statement approved by them (Appendix 2).

1.6 Three trenches, totalling 630m in length, and between 1.5m and 1.9m wide were excavated by machine (See Figure 2). The trenches were located to sample the whole field available and constituted approximately 1.2% of the total area. In all the trenches mechanical excavation continued until natural sand or archaeological deposits were recognised. The sand was generally between 0.6 and 0.9m below the ground surface.

1.7 In several parts of the site a zone of mixed topsoil and natural sand was recorded above the clean natural, and two solid kilns survived at a depth of 0.45m. Within the scope of the


Heacham
HEACHAM
Draper's Hole
Beach Farm
Summerhill
Old Brickworks
Mount Pleasant
Old Chalk Pits
Round O
Eaton Farm
Eaton
Roman & Mediaeval Pottery found AD 1953
Heacham Bottom Farm
Heacham Bottom Cottages
Dunston Drove
Ken Hill Wood
Ken Hill
Iron Age Gold Torcs found AD 1948-1949
Norton Hill
The Belts
Old Hall
Snettisham
The Lodge
Manor Farm
Park Farm
Sixpenny Hole
Lodge Hill Farm
Lodge Hill Plantation
SNETTISHAM
Southgate
Watch Tower (Remains of)
Snettisham Common
Locke Hill Farm
Locke Farm
Station
ROMAN VILLA (Site of)
Park House Farm
Romano-British Pottery & Coins found AD 1950
Anglo-Saxon Pottery found AD 1950
Paper Hall Farm
The Ings
Ingoldisthorpe
Manor House (Hotel)
School
Old Hall
Hall
Hall Farm
INGOLDISTHORPE
Life Wood
The Decoy
37
36
35
34
33
32
TF
67
68
69
Fig.1

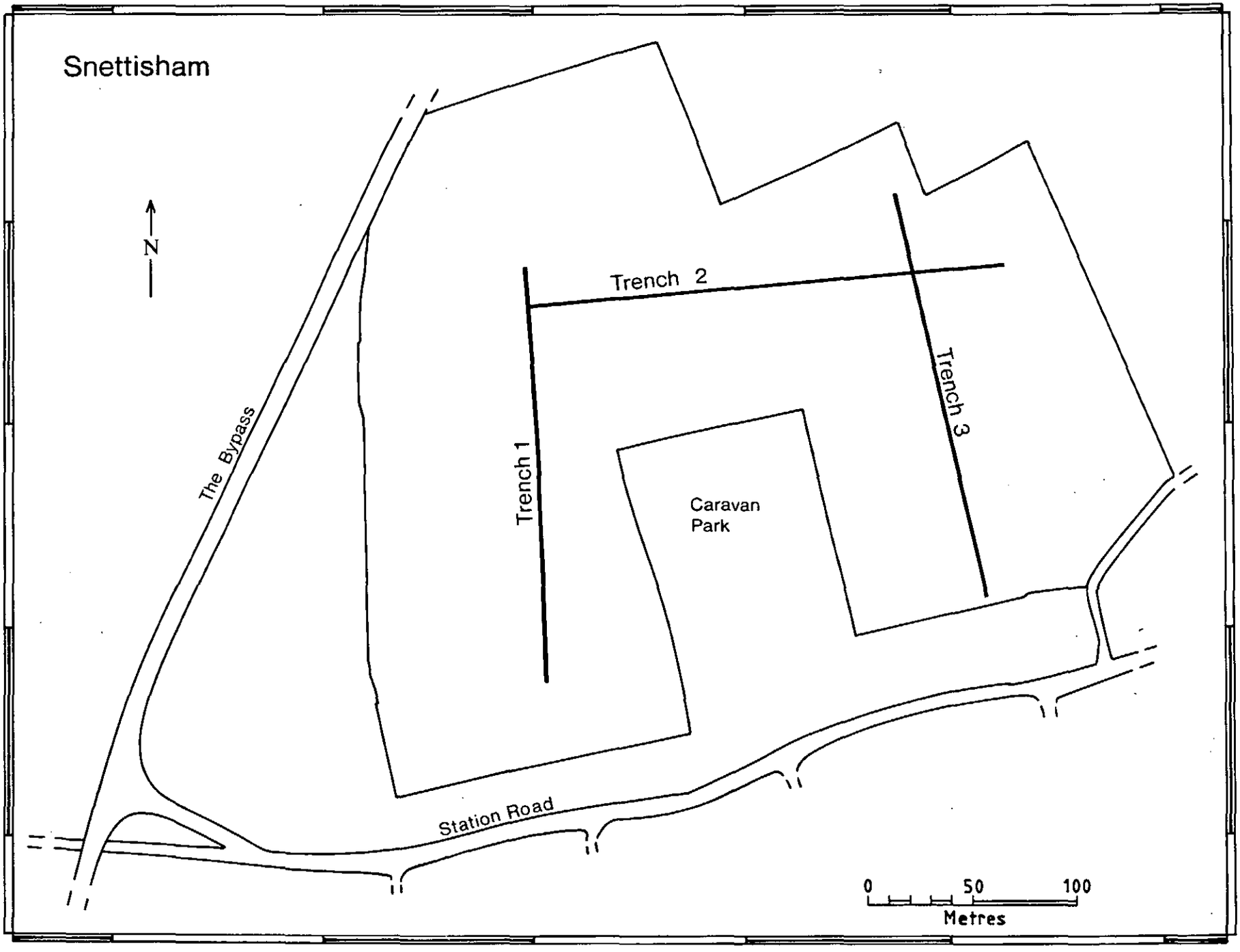

Snettisham
N
The Bypass
Trench 1
Trench 2
Trench 3
Caravan Park
Station Road
0
50
100
Metres
338
337
336
335
TF
676
677
678
679
680
681

Fig. 2

evaluation it was decided unfeasible to attempt identification of archaeological features at this level, and machining was continued to the level of the undisturbed natural sand. Topsoil finds were recorded in 50m units to allow an assessment of the relative concentration of unstratified material across the site. Pieces of animal bone were seen throughout the evaluation area, but unstratified bone was not generally collected as it was considered likely to be fairly modern.

1.8 The removal of topsoil was monitored to recover artefactual evidence, and all spoilheaps were metal-detected. All features revealed were recorded and planned using standardised NAU procedures. A list of the 245 contexts recorded, and the full paper archive are retained by the Norfolk Archeological Unit.

2. THE TOPSOIL METAL DETECTOR SURVEY.

2.1 It proved impossible to conduct a survey of the whole field because of the growing crops, but the topsoil removed during excavation of the Trenches and the subsoil features were systematically detected.

2.2 The metal detector survey produced few finds. These consisted of seven pieces of scrap lead scattered over the whole site, a Gallic-type bow brooch of first century date from the southern end of Trench 1 (Plate 1), a fragment of a Romano-British enamelled brooch 90m south of the crossing of Trenches 2 and 3, Medieval or later buckles from 120m east along Trench 2 and the southern 50m of Trench 3, and ten coins.

2.3 The six Roman coins range in date from a Trajan as (98-117AD) to a coin of Constantine I (320-323AD); the post-Roman items consist of two post-medieval jettons, a 1724 George Halfpenny, and a 1861 Victoria Penny. A list of the small finds is included in Appendix 3.

2.4 The majority of the detector finds came from the topsoil spoil heaps or the topsoil edges of the Trenches; the only stratified detector find was a Faustina sestertius from the uppermost fill of Ditch [51] in Trench 1.

Plate 1 (overleaf). Gallic-type brooch from topsoil survey. (Magnification X3)

3. TRENCH 1. (Figure 3)

3.1 This western Trench as aligned north-south to the west of the caravan park.

3.2 After removal of the topsoil and mixed topsoil-natural deposits (Contexts 1,2,5,10) fourteen ditches were visible. These were aligned roughly east-west with the exceptions of four ditches which ran more northwest-southeast, and another two which ran southwest-northeast. At the southern end of Trench 1 Ditch [28] ran north from the trench edge to a corner at 22mN where it turned west to continue as Ditch [36].

3.3 Sections were excavated through nine of the ditches. Generally they were found to survive to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.4m with a single fill of dark grey-brown loam; the larger ditches had a greater number of filling layers. All the features sectioned produced Romano-British pottery in reasonable quantities.

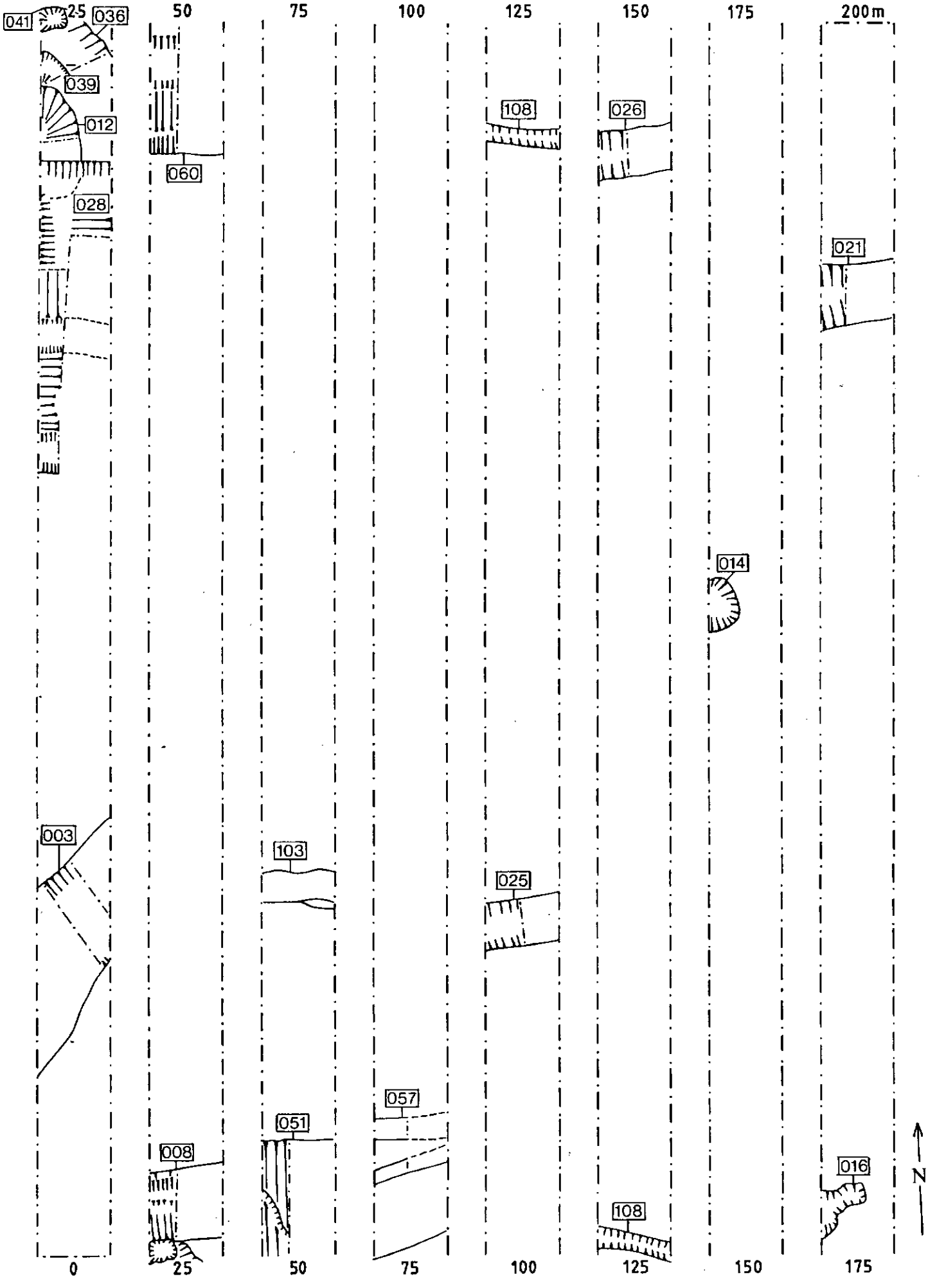
3.4 The only area which showed any stratification of features in Trench 1 was the area between 15mN and 25mN. Here the earliest features were the Ditches [28 & 36], turning from the north to the northwest. This feature was filled with a thin layer of primary silt overlain by thicker layers of brown loam. Ditch [8] was stratigraphically equally early, but any direct relationship between this feature and Ditches [28 & 36] was masked by the later Pit [12]. Ditch [8] contained a single fill of sandy silt.

3.5 Cut into the top of the backfill of [28/36] were two small pits. Pit [41] had a single fill of sandy loam; Pit [12] contained a sandy lower fill overlain by a bowled burnt clay hearth. This hearth was sealed by a brown sandy fill.

3.6 A linear feature composed of packed chalk pebbles (62) was recorded at 76mN running across the trench. This feature measured 1.2m in width and directly overlay clean natural sand. Running parallel to this feature were two narrow gullies which could be seen in section. No dateable finds were recovered from the chalk feature, but the gully-fills produced sherds of Romano-British pottery. A similar, though more fragmentary, feature was recorded in Trench 3 (193) and it seems likely that these are two sections across a deliberately constructed footpath, apparently dating to the Roman period.

3.7 The unstratified topsoil finds from this Trench consisted mainly of Romano-British ceramics, though Late Saxon, Medieval, and Post-medieval material was present in small quantities. Finds came from the whole length of the Trench, but were particularly concentrated in the southern 40m.

3.8 The pottery comprised locally produced grey and reduced wares (some of which were certainly produced on the site), colour-coated vessels from the Lower Nene valley around Peterborough, and samian imported from central France. The types of pottery found were a typical mix of storage and transportation vessels (amphorae and large storage jars), food preparation types (jars and bowls, and 'Mortaria' (mixing bowls), and table wares (dishes and beakers).



TRENCH 1 1:100 Fig. 3

3.9 Large quantities of tap slag were recovered from the topsoil of this Trench. This was again particularly concentrated in the southern 50m (Context 1) and was largely absent from the northern and eastern parts of the evaluation area. Although this material could not be directly dated, it is almost certainly Romano-British, given the overwhelming bias of the ceramic evidence. Two fragments of a badly-worn circular quern were also found in the trench a little further north.

3.10 The major features in Trench 1 were sectioned and the artefact assemblages collected from these features were exclusively Romano-British in date, with a close correlation with the topsoil sample.

3.11 The features located in Trench 1 consisted of a series of field boundary and enclosure ditches dateable to the Roman period. The southern part of the Trench contained a concentration of features and finds suggesting more intensive occupation in this area. The quantities of slag and pottery in the topsoil may indicate a high degree of plough-damage to the original deposits, though truncated features do still survive.

4. TRENCH 2. (Figure 4)

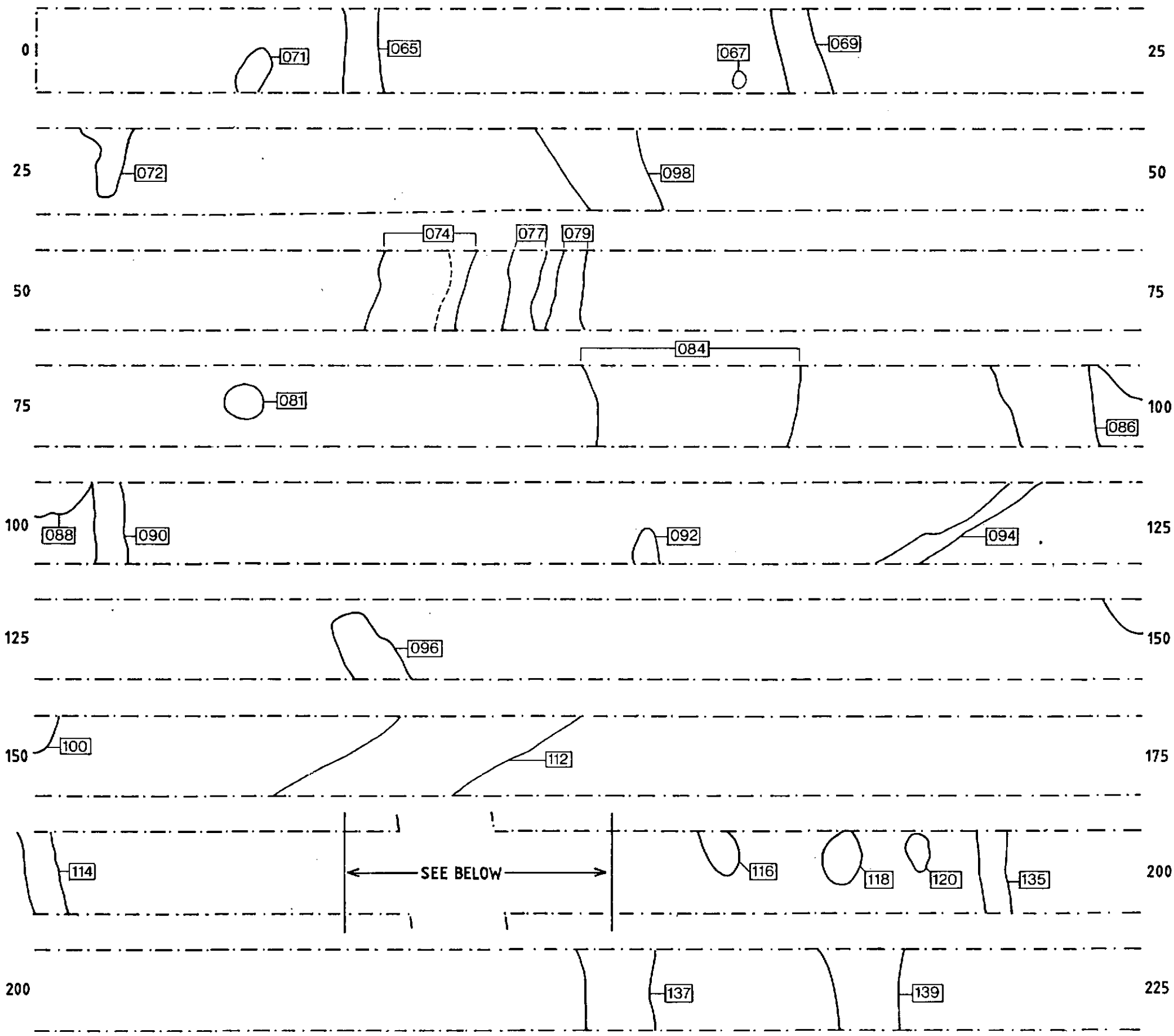
4.1 This Trench was 230m in length and extended east from Trench 1 30m south of the northern end of this Trench.

4.2 After removal of the topsoil (Contexts 20,29,35,45,47) in this Trench large numbers of features were seen. These included sixteen ditches aligned north-south and ten individual pits. Two pottery kilns were seen between 180mE and 185mE and the area of the trench was extended to fully excavate these features. The kilns themselves are described separately. An east-west grave aligned north-south was noted at 6mE.

4.3 The grave [185] was located over the backfilled pit [210] and consisted of a slight cut, of which only the eastern half was visible, containing an extended inhumation (187) probably of an immature adult measuring 1.14m from ankle to collar. The skeleton had been damaged during machining as the grave had not been deeply cut into the natural, but it appeared that the skeleton was incomplete as only two fragments of skull were recovered. No grave goods were present and it is uncertain to which period the inhumation dates, though the overwhelming bias of finds from the area (and the site as a whole) make it most likely to be a Romano-British burial.

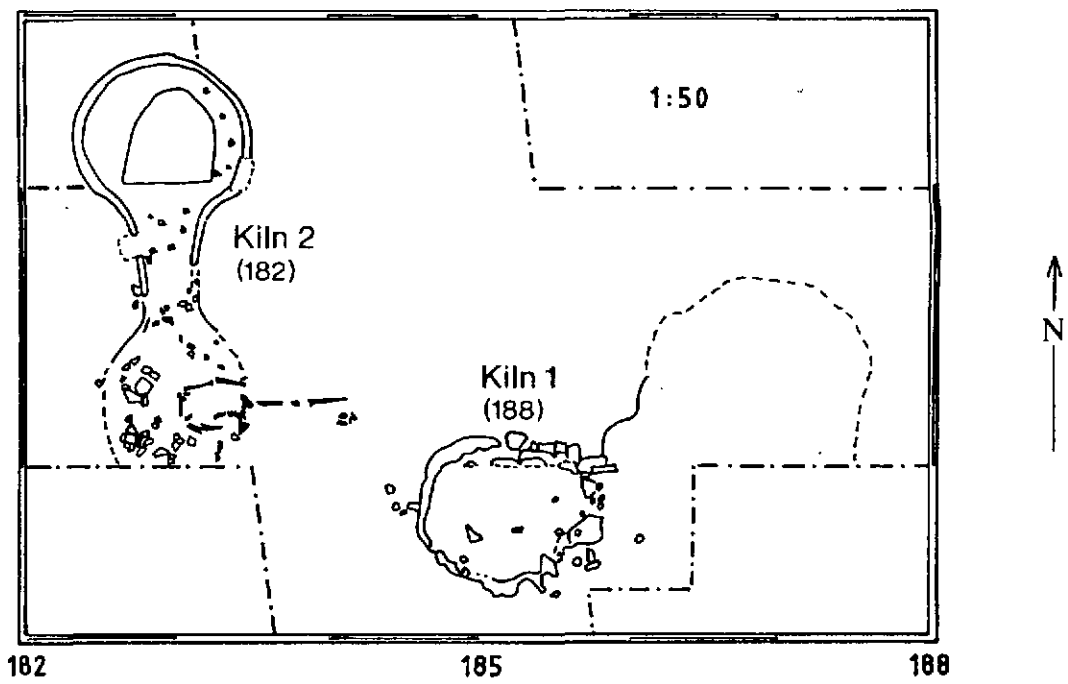
4.4 Sufficient material was collected from the surfaces of the ditches and pits to allow them to be dated to the Roman period, and it was decided that sectioning them would not produce pertinent information.

4.5 The topsoil finds from this Trench again were almost exclusively Romano-British in date, and similar to the assemblage from Trench 1. They included many pieces of kiln support and waste products from the kilns which unsurprisingly were concentrated in the eastern part of the trench around the kilns themselves. A small concentration of Roman tiles was found in the westernmost 50m of topsoil.



TRENCH 2 1:100

Fig. 4



4.6 Trench 2 contained large numbers of field and enclosure ditches apparently dated to the Roman period; one area of particular note was located in which pottery was produced and fired over some time.

5. TRENCH 3. (Figure 5)

5.1 This Trench was 200m in length and was positioned to gain additional information about the pottery kiln [188] and evaluate the significance of the inhumation [185]. It extended 160m south of Trench 2 from the point 184mE, and 38m north.

5.2 The topsoil was removed to the top of undisturbed natural sand (Contexts 101,47,63,82), and features revealed recorded in plan. In this Trench further ditches and pits were recorded, as well as a more dense concentration of features extending from 25mS to 39mS of the crossing of the two Trenches.

5.3 North of the crossing of Trenches 2 and 3 further ditches were recorded beneath the topsoil (101). Ditch [127] was located immediately north of kiln [182] and was aligned east-west, but curved round to the southeast. The recovery of pieces of kiln bar from its backfill suggests that it may be an enclosure ditch associated with that kiln. The ditch cut a single earlier post hole.

5.4 North of this was a 5m wide ditch [124] and four smaller ditches. Ditch [126] was aligned north-south and cut the backfills of two small pits or post-holes. The southern end of [126] was located immediately north of the ditch [124], but it was stratigraphically unrelated in the evaluation Trench.

5.5 An individual ditch was recorded running diagonally across the Trench from northwest to southeast in the area south of the kilns; further south between 25m and 39m a series of intercutting pits was recorded and sectioned. (Figure 6).

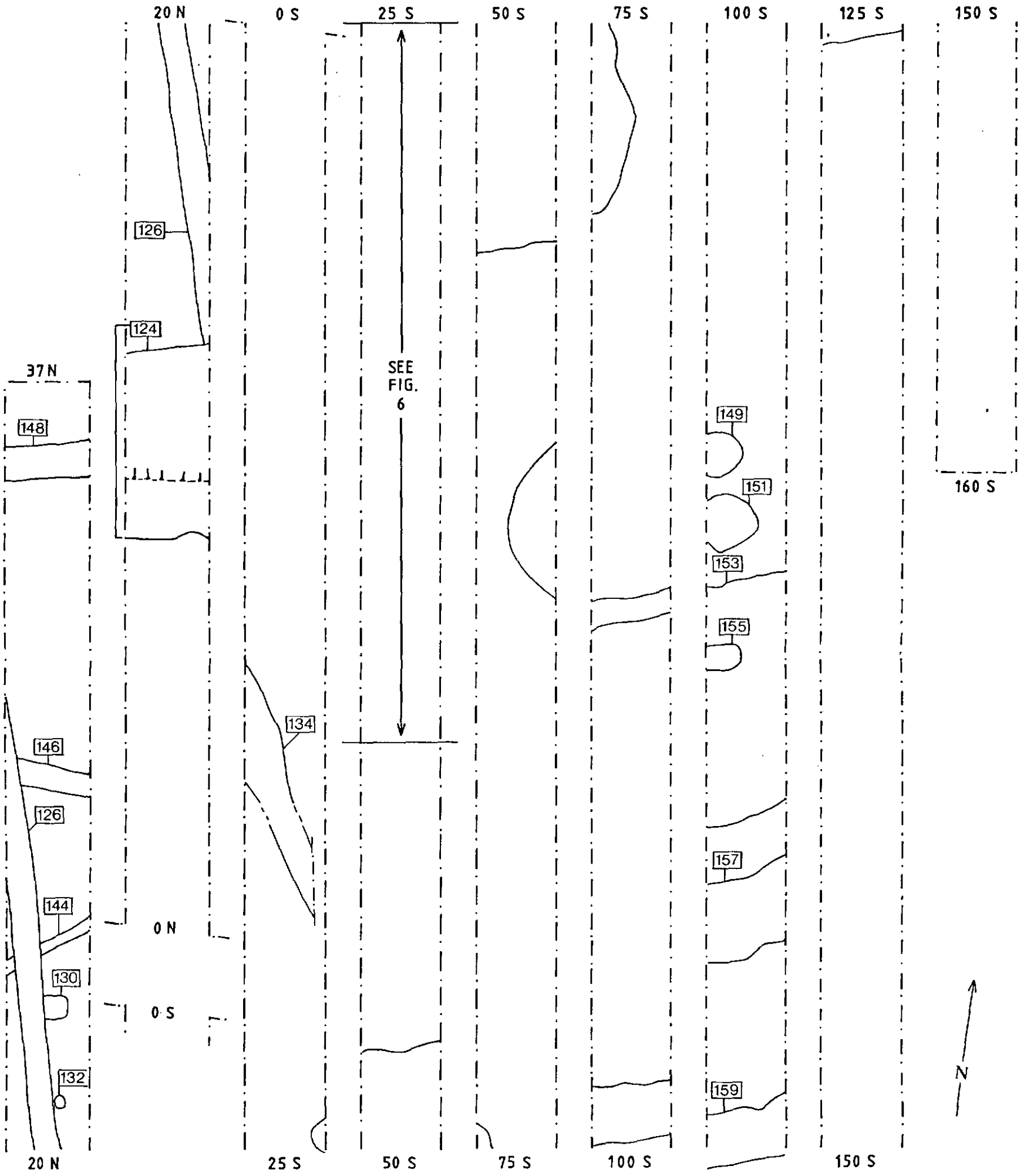
5.6 The earliest features of this group were cut into a disturbed subsoil from which oyster shell and sherds of Romano-British reduced coarse pottery were recovered and consisted of three steep-sided pits backfilled with brown loam.

5.7 These pits were later cut by hearths centred at 27.5mS, 32.5mS and 33.5-35mS. The southernmost hearth showed two layers of burnt clay, the others had a single phase of use. Cutting the hearth layer (168) and the pit backfill was an oval pit; this feature was stratigraphically the latest feature in this group.

5.8 The detailed interpretation of this group of features is impossible because of the limited area excavated, but in general terms they must be seen as a series of industrial-processing hearths, possibly associated with the preparation of the local ironstones for smelting, or for pottery production.

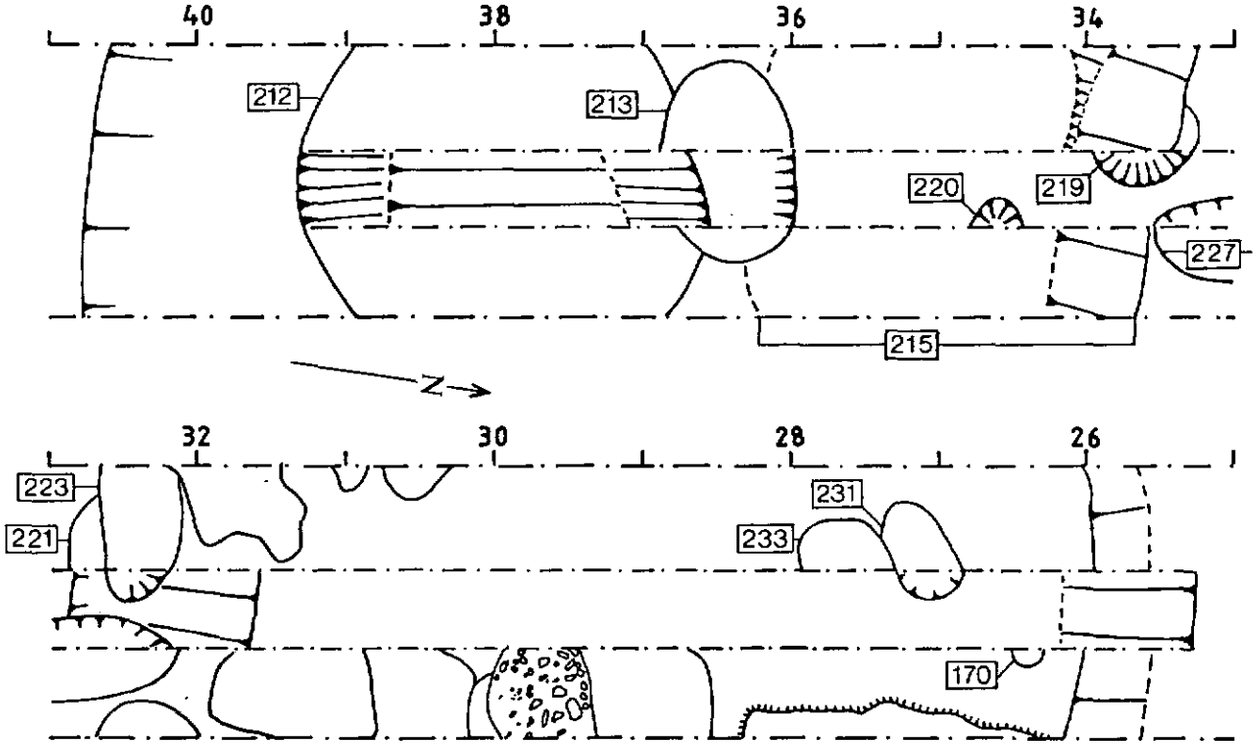
5.9 Between 40mS and 47mS a broad bank of gravel (202) was seen. This is visible on the surface of the field as a low ridge running east-west parallel to the field edge. In the Trench it

Plate 2 overleaf. Bronze coloured beaker from Trench 3 (Magnification X2)



TRENCH 3 1 : 100

Fig. 5



TRENCH 3. 25 to 41 metres South 1:50

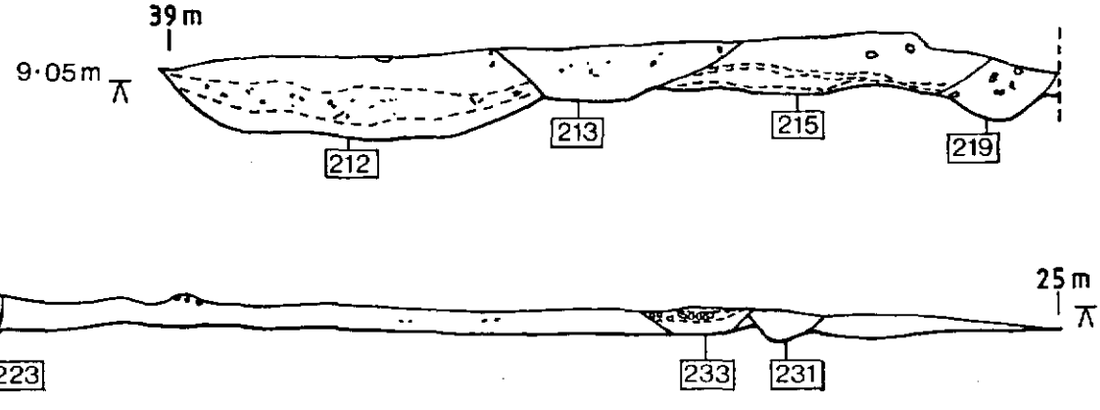


Fig. 6

survived to a maximum height of 03.m; the top of the bank was 0.6m below the current ground surface, and the base 0.9m. No finds were recovered from the parts of the bank excavated by machine, but it is suggested that this bank forms the remains of a field boundary and/or metalled track of unknown date.

5.10 South of the bank a further six ditches and five pits were recorded, though their frequency decreased with distance. At 90mS a band of chalk blocks (193) 1.1m wide and 0.1m thick was seen in the Trench sections. This feature must be seen as a continuation of the chalk feature (62) seen in Trench 1.

5.11 The unstratified ceramics in this Trench were concentrated in the area between 50m and 100m south of the crossing with Trench 2, and were similar to the types found in the other two Trenches. However it also included the base of an lustrous bronze-coloured beaker imitating a metal vessel (Plate 2) which may have been produced in the Rhineland during the second century AD. A small number of pottery wasters were recovered from the southern end of this Trench as well as the northern, and this part of the Trench also produced glazed and unglazed Medieval sherds.

5.12 Trench 3 contained further Romano-British features. These mainly consisted of boundary ditches, but the area between 25mS and 39mS preserved evidence of intensive industrial activity. The unstratified kiln wasters from the southern end of the Trench may indicate further activity in that area, but this was not proved in the evaluation.

6. THE KILNS. (Figures 7,8)

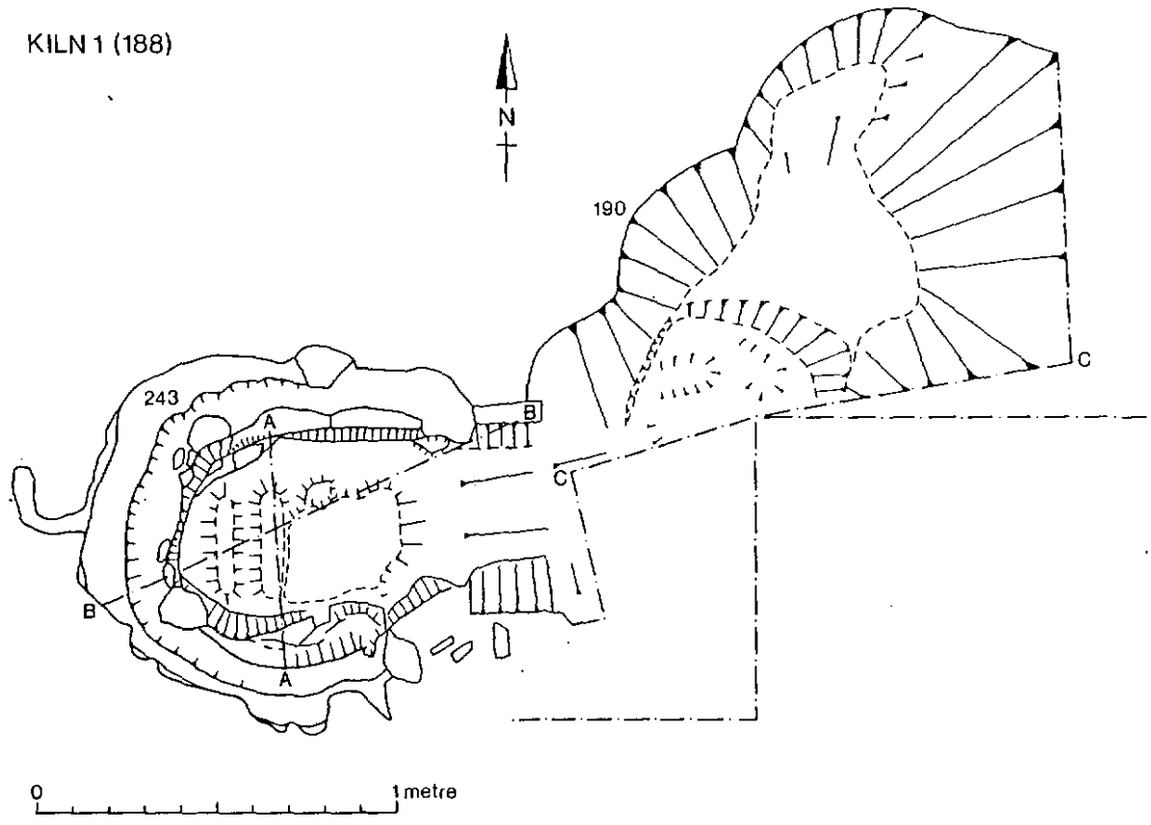
6.1 Two kilns were recorded in the area between 182mE and 185mE in Trench 2. They differed in alignment, construction, and in their artefact assemblages, and form the first stratified evidence for pottery production in this area.

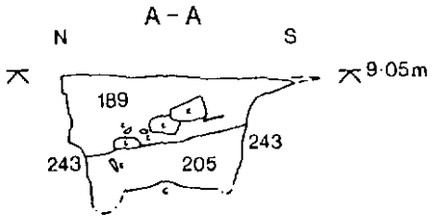
6.2 The southern kiln was aligned east-west and consisted of a smaller oval firing chamber measuring 0.80m x 0.50m internally without a well-developed flue, and had a large stoke pit to the east. (Figure 7)

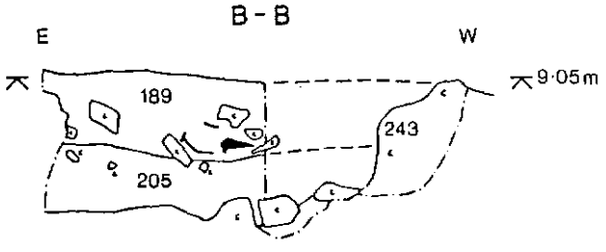
6.2.1 The initial cut for the kiln was excavated into the natural sand to a depth of 0.4m, and sloped down towards the flue and stoke pit in the east. The base consisted of three transverse ridges of burnt sandy clay created by cutting into the natural. The walls of the chamber were lined with roughly packed clay, supplemented towards the flue by prefabricated clay blocks. Further clay blocks were recovered from the backfill of the kiln. The rear wall was stepped to created a shelf 0.33m from the base of the chamber; the shelf did not continue along the sides.

6.2.2 The lack of a central pedestal implies that portable supports were used to raise the kiln load from the floor; no supports were found in situ, but large numbers of fragmentary and complete kiln bars were recovered from the backfill of this kiln and its stoke pit.

6.2.3 At the eastern end of the chamber a short flue angled down towards the stoke pit. On its southern side it was flanked


KILN 1 (188)
N
190
243
A
B
C
0
1 metre


A - A
N
S
9·05m
189
243
205
243


B - B
E
W
9·05m
189
243
205

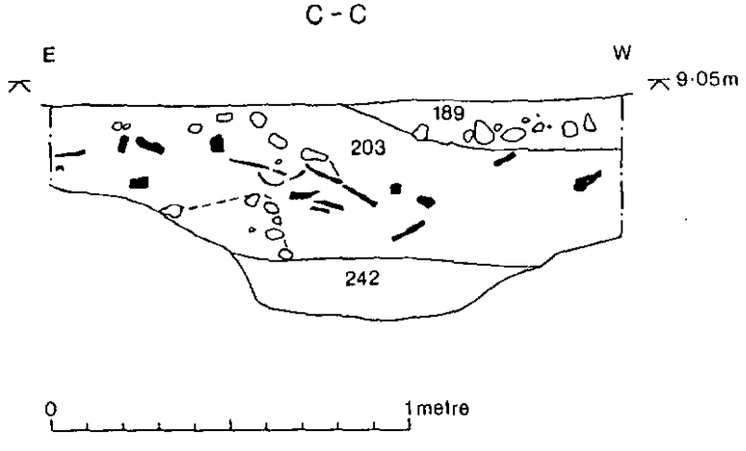

C - C
E
W
9·05m
189
203
242
0
1 metre

Fig. 7

by a rectangular clay block, the northern side was lined with clay. Part of a second clay block was found in the backfill of the kiln.

6.2.4 The stoke pit continued the slope of the flue to a maximum surviving depth of 0.59m. This formed a hollow in the base of the pit with sheer sides and an irregular base. To the northeast of this pit progressively shallower, forming two level steps leading up towards the ground surface.

6.2.5 After a period of use which resulted in the firing of the clay lining of the kiln the chamber, flue and stoke pit were backfilled with a mixture of soil, waste pottery, and pieces of kiln furniture. The lower fill of the chamber and flue consisted of a dark grey-black sandy silt, which also made up the major fill of the stoke pit. Above this a layer of lighter grey-brown sandy silt filled the upper parts of the firing chamber and flue. It could be seen that the lower fill of the kiln was packed more against the southern side of the chamber, and suggests that the kiln was backfilled from the north.

6.2.6 In the lowest parts of the stoke pit a second black silt layer was identified; this layer was darker and siltier, and may represent material deposited during the period of use of the kiln, rather than its abandonment. This layer and the main fill of the pit were sampled for environmental analysis.

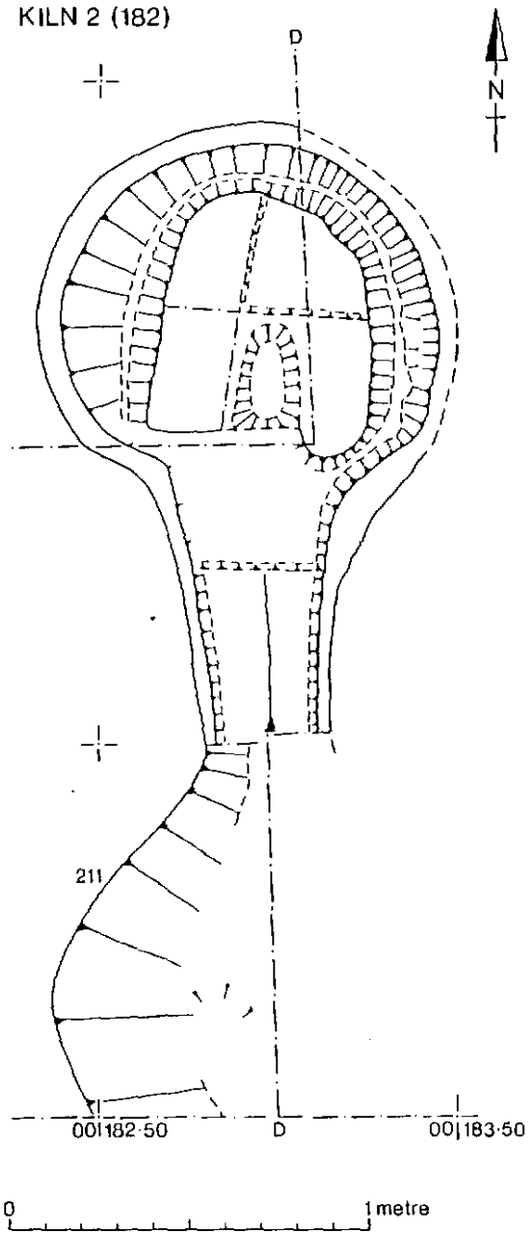
6.2.7 This kiln produced notably light grey sherds from its backfill; the fill of the stoke pit had an identical assemblage with matching breaks with material from the flue fill. Much of the assemblage must be presumed to be the products of this kiln industry, though a few sherds in dissimilar fabrics may be remains of vessels used rather than manufactured on the site.

6.2.8 The vessels recovered are of a variety of forms and decorated in a number of ways, and not surprisingly the kiln contains a high proportion of misfired wasters. The majority of vessels present are types of small cooking or serving jars (eg Figure 9.1), though flared plates and larger jars are also found. Of particular note is a grey ware bowl decorated with a band of wavy combed lines similar in shape to the imported samian type Dr 29, which was produced in the first century AD (Figure 9.3).

6.2.9 Combing is the main technique used to decorate the vessels found, either as a band of wavy lines or in straight runs, but incised lines and cross-hatching, and external rustication (or roughening) are also common.

6.2.10 A number of the sherds and fire bars have areas of a patchy coarse green 'glaze', and small patches were seen on the rear wall of the kiln itself. This deposit was not restricted to any particular form, or any zone on a vessel, and was seen to coat the breaks of individual broken sherds. Glazing of Romano-British pottery was an unusal though not unknown feature, but it is not thought that the green glaze deposit on these sherds was intentional. The lack of any coherent pattern in the occurrence and extent of the deposit suggests it was an individual accident sometime during the lifespan of the kiln.

6.2.11 The dating of the products of the kiln cannot be precisely defined. The lack of dateable artefacts or ceramic


KILN 2 (182)
D
N
211
00|182·50
D
00|183·50
0
1 metre

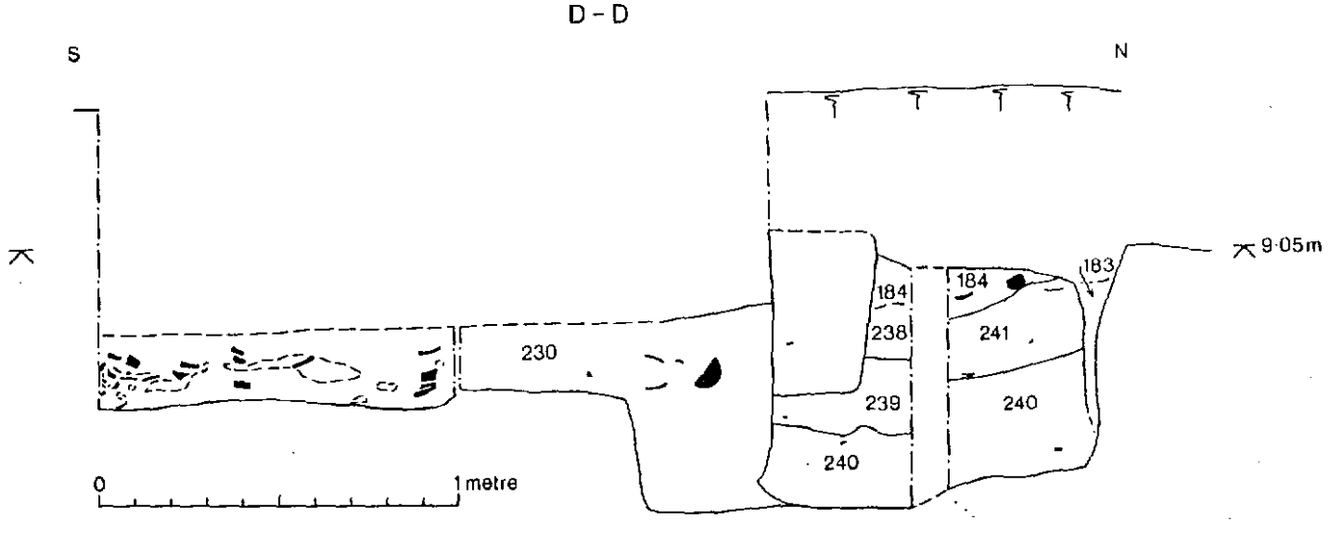

D - D
S
N
9·05m
230
184
238
239
240
183
184
241
240
0
1 metre

Fig. 8

types with more precise chronologies prevents the close definition of the age of this assemblage but the vessel types can be defined as 'Early Roman-British', and assigned to the mid first-mid second century AD; the waster vessel similar to Dr 29 may indicate the mid-late first century.

6.3 The northern kiln was aligned north-south and consisted of a roughly oval firing-chamber measuring 1.02m x 1.09m internally containing a large central pierced pedestal, a single flue to the south and a shallow stoke pit. (Figure 8)

6.3.1 The initial cut for the chamber had been excavated into the natural sand to a depth of 0.45m, and had a flat base sloping towards the south; the central part of this chamber was backfilled with layers of dark soil and yellow sand. This formed a core around which a pedestal of unfired clay was constructed; clay was also used to line the upper parts of the chamber sides. The pedestal was slightly tapering and was pierced on its southern side to aid the flow of gases during firing; the upper surface of the pedestal appears to have been originally flat, but had become damaged during use and after. The pedestal occupied around 70% of the interal area of the chamber.

6.3.2 During the subsequent use of the kiln the upper parts of the kiln wall became baked and the surfaces of the clay pedestal were fired, the upper face in particular being affected.

6.3.3 Running south from the firing chamber was a tapering flat-based flue 0.5m long, decreasing from 0.55m to 0.28m wide and surviving to a depth of 0.15m. The flue was not constructed at the level of the base of the kiln, but level with the base of the clay pedestal and the clay lining.

6.3.4 South of the flue an irregular stoke pit [211] was sectioned. Within the Trench this feature consisted of a shallow, flat-based pit 1.0m x 0.7m cut to the depth of the flue.

6.3.5 The backfill of the stoke pit, the flue, and the kiln chamber all consisted of a single layer of dark grey-black sandy silt containing large quantities of fragmentary pottery. A sample of the flue fill was kept for environmental analysis.

6.3.6 The finds from this kiln mainly consisted of sherds of a dark red/brown fabric with black surfaces; the exterior surface in particular was generally burnished. There was a larger percentage of 'foreign' fabrics included in the kiln backfill than in the stoke pit fill, but this was still a minor element.

6.3.7 Sherds in a light grey fabric not present in the later layers were recovered from the soil underlying the central pedestal. This material is similar to fabrics present in the southern kiln [188], and may be dumped waster unintentionally included during construction of this kiln.

6.3.8 The assemblage contained a similar range of types to the southern kiln, composed mainly of small to medium sized cooking and serving jars, but also included sherds of at least two beakers, one a folded beaker (eg Figure 9.4-5). There was a slightly lower proportion of obvious waster sherds and the average sherd size was considerably smaller than for the southern kiln.

6.3.9 Combing does not appear to be a widely used method of decoration in this group, but linear rustication and cordonning are both common features on the unburnished vessels, and the burnished are regularly decorated with inscribed circles. The base sherds generally showed marks of the cutting wire used to remove them from the potter's wheel.

6.3.10 Typologically, the contents of this kiln and stoke pit backfill are a little later than the southern kiln, perhaps dateable to the period from the mid second century to the third, but again the lack of diagnostic finds makes it impossible to be more precise.

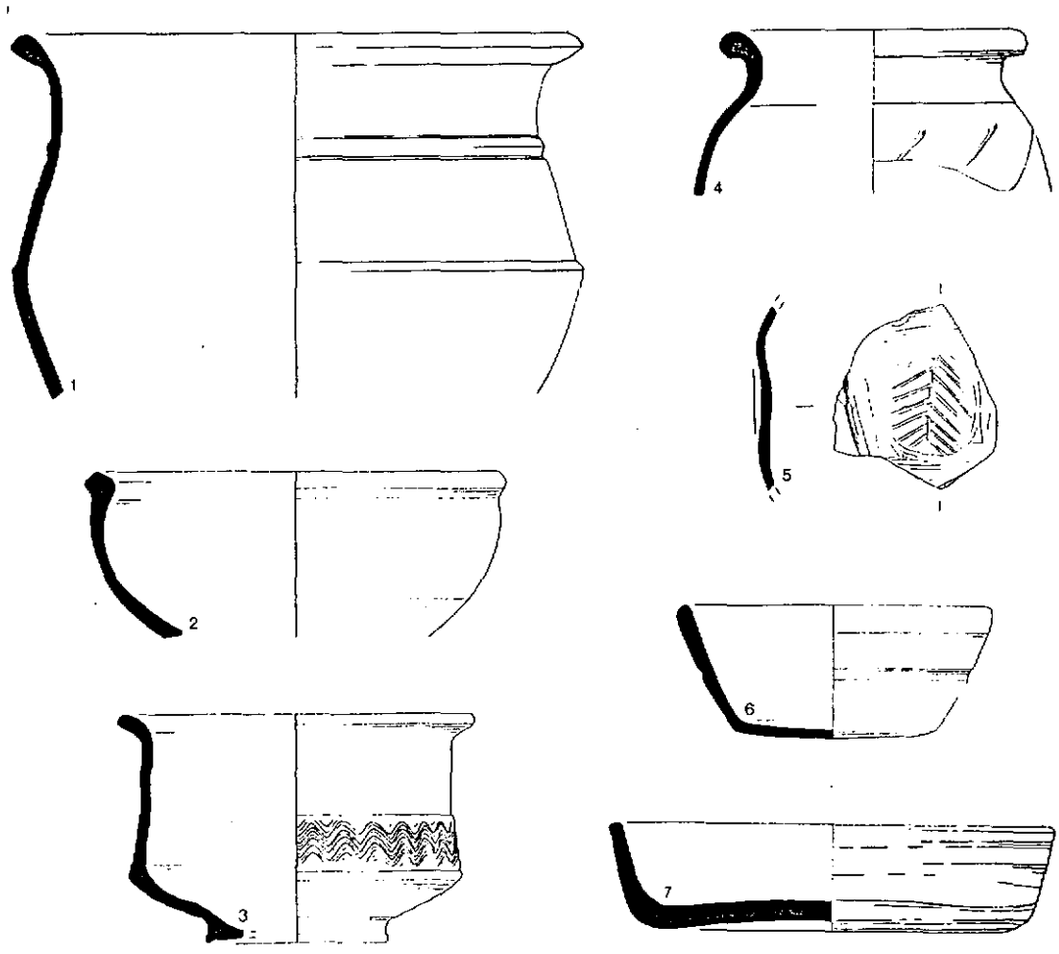


FIGURE 9. SELECTION OF POTTERY FROM THE KILNS

1-3. Material from the backfill of southern kiln [188]
All in a hard, grey fabric
1. Jar
2. Small Bowl
3. Bowl with zone of combed decoration. Similar to samian style Dr29

4-5. Material from backfill of northern kiln [182]
Both in a slightly softer, black fabric
4. Cooking Jar with diagonal 'rusticated' decoration
5. Detail of impressed roundel with incised leaf decoration. Probably from drinking beaker

6-7. Topsoil finds from the area above the kilns
6. Small grey bowl
7. Black Dish

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The evaluation revealed widespread remains dateable to the Roman period. Ploughing has truncated the site, resulting in a zone of mixed loam and natural between the ploughsoil and the sand in many parts of the field, and features could only be located where they were cut down into undisturbed natural sand. Although features were not recognised in this layer during the evaluation this could have been due to the nature of the work.

7.2 Linear ditches, presumably forming field boundaries and enclosures were recorded in all parts of the site; remains of one chalk path (62/193) running east-west across the whole site and a possible metalled roadway were also encountered. Most, if not all, of these features can be dated to the Roman period.

7.3 Three concentrations of features and/or finds were located. In the southern 40m of Trench 1 large quantities of slage and Romano-British pottery were recovered from the topsoil (Context 1); this was mirrored by a concentration of ditches in the subsoil (Ditches [8,28,36]).

7.4 Around the crossing of Trenches 2 and 3 a second concentration of features was located (Kilns [182,188], Grave [185], Ditches [127,135]). 40m south of this in Trench 3 a third concentration of burnt features was recorded.

7.5 The kilns form the first excavated evidence for pottery production in this area during the early Roman period. The variation in their method of construction and product range suggests that the industry existed for some time, and that other kilns and associated structural remains may survive in the area around the excavated features. This industry may also be represented by the group of heat-affected deposits in the third concentration in Trench 3. The small number of pottery wasters from the southern end of this trench may indicate a second area of pottery production.

7.6 From the stratified material and the topsoil finds occupation of this site does not appear to have begun before the Roman invasion in the mid first century AD, and to have ended in the early-mid fourth century. The absence of handmade Iron Age pottery types is at variance with the evidence from the Snettisham Bypass excavation 200m south, where around 15% of the pottery was non wheel-thrown in the local Iron Age tradition, but the relatively early end-date is in accord with the local pattern.

7.7 Sufficient amounts of Late Saxon, Medieval and later material were also recovered to suggest that cultivation of this land has continued through the last millennium, but the evaluation did not locate any subsoil feature which could be clearly dated to these more recent periods.

APPENDIX 1. SITE BRIEF

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND BETWEEN STRICKLAND AVENUE AND STATION ROAD, SNETTISHAM

PLANNING APPLICATION 2/91/0591/0

SMR SITES 1516, 1517, 1523, 24056, 24057, 24058, 24637, 24582.

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Background

The proposed development is in an area of high archaeological potential, particularly for Romano-British settlement. A Roman jewellery hoard has been found nearby, and the development site itself has produced Roman coins or metalwork from at least four locations. Late Saxon or medieval and post-medieval artefacts have also been recorded from three other locations.
The area of the proposed development therefore affects eight recorded archaeological sites or findspots, and an evaluation is required to define the extent and character of archaeological deposits within the application site.

Evaluation Brief

The project design should:-

1. Gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the application site.

2. Present a strategy to assess the artefact content of the topsoil.

3. Consider if other survey techniques are appropriate.

4. Include a plan showing the proposed location and extent of any survey and trenches.

5. Examine a minimum sample of 2% by area.

6. Include projected timetable on site and numbers and grades of staff involved

7. Include an estimate of time and resources required for report production.

APPENDIX 2. METHOD STATEMENT

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND BETWEEN STRICKLAND AVENUE AND STATION ROAD, SNETTISHAM
Planning Application 2/91/0591/O

SMR SITES 1516, 1517, 1523, 24056, 24057, 24058, 24637, 24582

Method Statement for Archaeological Evaluation

1. Trial excavations will be undertaken to establish the presence/absence, probable extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological deposits.

2. Fieldwalking and metal detector survey to be undertaken prior to excavation works; topsoil removed for trial works to be metal-detected.

3. Contour survey not appropriate due to ploughed terrain. Remote sensing not appropriate.

4. Plan attached indicates location and extent of proposed cuttings.

5. Sample will be 1.23% of the site (approximately 1300 sq.m. of a field of 105,000 sq.m.). The sample is based upon a trench width of 2m. there will be two trenches each 200m in length and one trench some 250m in length. final location of the trenches will be determined by the results of the fieldwalking and metal detector survey.

6. Projected timetable on site 3 to 4 weeks. Project direction by Project Manager (Scale 5) supported by experienced excavator staff (Scale 3) and photographer and finds staff (Scale 4) as necessary.

7. Report production within 4 to 6 weeks of conclusion of excavation works. Resources subject to negotiation.

Brian S. Ayers,
Principal Field Archaeologist.

3rd June, 1991.

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND BETWEEN STRICKLAND AVENUE AND STATION ROAD, SNETTISHAM
Planning Application 2/91/0591/0

Variation from Archaeological Method Statement paras 2, 5.

2. Due to the height of the growing crop in the area of the proposed development it is unfeasible to undertake a fieldwalking and metal-detector survey prior to excavation works. Topsoil removed for trial works will be metal-detected.

5. Sample and trench dimensions will be as original Method Statement. Final location of trenches will be determined after consultation with local metal-detector users.

Myk Flitcroft,
Project Manager.

10th July 1991.

APPENDIX 3. SMALL FINDS

SF 1.	Gallic-type bow brooch. T68.1 (1) 10mN	First half 1st century
SF 2.	Sestertius. Faustina II DIANA LVCIFERA S C T68.1 (52) 49mN	161-180AD
SF 3.	Medieval or later buckle. T68.2 (36) 120mE	
SF 4.	Antoninianus. Tetricus II FIDES MILITVM T68.2 (46) 230mE	270-273AD
SF 5.	Denarius. Julia Maesa SAECVLI FELICITAS T68.3 (47) 28mS	218-222AD
SF 6.	irreg Antoninianus Tetricus II SALVS T68.2 (47) 14mS	270-290AD
SF 7.	Constantine I BEATA TRANQUILITAS .PTR Trier T68.2 (82) 88-92mS	320-323AD
SF 8.	Fragment of enamelled Romano-British brooch T68.2 (82) 88-92mS	
SF 9.	Scraps of bronze sheet T68.2 (230) 1.79mN 182.95mE	
SF 10.	unidentifiable post-medieval T68.3 (101) 10mN	
SF 11.	Half penny. George T68.1 (10) 180mN	1724
SF 12.	Scraps of Lead T68.2 (46) 230mE	
SF 13.	Penny. Victoria T68.3 (82)	1861
SF 14.	Fragment of Medieval/Post-medieval buckle T68.3 (82)	
SF 15.	Medieval/Post-medieval buckle T68.3 (82)	
SF 16.	As. Trajan T68.3 (82) 92-110mS	98-17-17AD
SF 17.	undientifiable jetton. 16th/17th century. T68.3 (82) 92-110mS	
SF 19.	Scraps of Lead T68.2 (29)	
SF 20.	Medieval/Post-medieval mount T68.3 (63)	