NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 636

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Alpha Business Park, Mundford Road, Thetford, Norfolk

Gary L. Trimble

Contents

List of Figures

Local Authority No.076759

Location:	Alpha Business Park, Mundford Road, Thetford, Norfolk
Grid Ref:	TL 8610 8450
SMR No:	30258 THD
Date of work:	10th to 28th September 2001

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken upon an area of land off Mundford Road, Thetford in advance of redevelopment for a new business park. Previous archaeological work (in the form of fieldwalking and metal detecting) had identified artefact scatters in numerous areas of the site whilst a geophysical survey had identified several linear anomalies. In addition, a possible ring-ditch had been noted on an aerial photograph.

Sixty-six evaluation trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed development. Archaeological features were recorded in ten trenches located to the north-east of the site, including ditches, pits several post-holes and a drying or malting oven. Dating evidence was generally sparse although most features activity probably related to agricultural activity during the Roman period (indicated by the prevalence of ditches associated with land division). There is a possibility, however, that a few features may have originated in the Bronze Age (the possible ring ditch visible on an aerial photograph proved to be a natural anomaly). Severe plough damage was apparent although the degree of resultant truncation varied across the site.

1.0 Introduction

In September 2001 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on land off Mundford Road, Thetford, Norfolk (Fig.1). The work was undertaken by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) and funded by Crown Estates.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: 16/02/01/ARJH), supplemented by a Method Statement prepared by the NAU (NAU Ref: MS/Eval/1185).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site comprises an area of *c.*17.81ha of arable land situated in south-west Norfolk, located on the eastern side of the Little Ouse River Valley along the north-western edge of Thetford (approximately 800m from the river). It is bounded to the north and west by the A11 Thetford bypass, to the south-west by a railway line, to the south by an existing industrial estate and to the east by the A134 Mundford Road.

The underlying geology is Upper chalk overlain by Quaternary outwash gravels at the east side of the site with Breck sands to the west. The overlying soils for the area are composed of brown rendzinas of the Newmarket 1 Association and argillic brown sands of the Worlington Association.

The site is located on one of the high points along the edge of the valley and generally slopes towards the west. Surface elevations across the area typically range between 30m and 50m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The development area lies within a landscape of high archaeological potential. Immediately to the east a major Iron Age/Romano-British settlement identified from aerial photographs was excavated

in 1980-82 in advance of the Fison Way industrial estate development (Gregory 1992). A hoard of late Romano-British gold and silver objects know as the 'Thetford Treasure' was found just to the south of the main crop-mark site at Fison Way (Johns and Potter 1983). Other finds recorded in the area immediately surrounding the site include Neolithic worked flint, Early Bronze Age pottery, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval metalwork and coins, as well as Early Saxon and post-medieval burials. Three Roman coins, a medieval lead seal and a post-medieval bucket have been found within the confines of the development site.

Immediately to the south ten Early Saxon burials were excavated in 1989-1990 (Penn and Andrews 2000), accompanied by amber beads and an iron brooch. A flint arrowhead of Early Bronze Age date, Bronze Age pottery, a Roman coin and a Late Saxon dress fitting were also found. A medieval hearth was excavated, contemporary finds including two bronze brooches and a buckle.

In 1991 an archaeological evaluation in advance of tree-planting along the south-eastern boundary of the proposed development area was carried out by the NAU (Andrews 1991). A 300m long trench was excavated along the line of the proposed tree plantation with a 30m stretch at the south-western end widened to 7m. No subsurface archaeological features were exposed within the trench. Artefactual material recovered from the topsoil consisted of two flint flakes, a sherd of Grimston ware, a Late Saxon hooked tag and a probable medieval belt fitting.

The site has been subjected to two stages of non-invasive archaeological evaluation consisting of a magnetometer survey carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (Gater 1992) and a fieldwalking and metal detecting survey undertaken by the NAU (Bates 1994).

A large proportion of the site was not suitable for magnetic investigation due to interference from a radio transmitter. In unaffected parts of the site, the magnetometer survey identified three areas of potential archaeological interest. Three linear anomalies were recorded to the north. Three small linears and a number of smaller possible pit anomalies were identified in the south-eastern part of the site together with a third area of anomalies possibly representing burnt deposits from small scale industrial activity, a pit infilled with rubbish or the presence of a building.

The field survey defined a number of surface artefact concentrations across the site. Worked flint was dispersed randomly across the area with one dispersed low-density concentration located to the east. Two concentrations of burnt flint were identified in the north-east and central-east areas of the site. The second of these concentrations appears to be associated with a possible burnt area anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. A large concentration of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was identified along the north-east side of the site immediately opposite the Fison Way enclosure. Concentrations of medieval material were recorded within the central and south-western parts of the site. The central area also contained a number of dispersed post-medieval accumulations.

Following completion of the field survey, a circular crop-mark feature was identified within the development area (Norfolk AP Collection TL8684 K & L).

Discoveries in the vicinity therefore indicate that the proposed development area has the potential to contain a range of archaeological evidence in the form of artefactual materials and subsurface features dating from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to post-medieval periods.

4.0 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Sixty-six trenches (each measuring 25m x 1.80m) were excavated in order to provide a 2% sample of the area of the proposed development (Fig.2).

Informed by the results of earlier work, some evaluation trenches were positioned in order to target artefact concentrations and geophysical anomalies.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the NAU's *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Environmental samples were taken from selected features in order to provide an assessment of the potential survival of plant macrofossils and pollens in relation to contemporary environment and economy.

5.0 Results

Ten of the evaluation trenches contained archaeological features (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 20). They were all located to the north-east of the area of evaluation either on the plateau which formed the highest part of the site (at *c.*51.60m OD) or on the upper slopes close to the plateau edge. No archaeological remains were apparent in trenches lying below a height of 46.50m OD. The archaeological features comprised linear ditches, pits, a drying oven and several post-holes. Also of interest was the presence of a relict periglacial landscape surviving as patterned ground resulting from the annual cycle of freeze and thaw. Evidence of this was present in most trenches with the exception of those located at the top of the slope to the north-east.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 & 5)

Trench 1 was aligned south-west to north-east and was positioned over a north-to-south linear geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m, removing a mid brown loamy topsoil, sealing the geologically natural sand and gravel which was truncated by modern plough marks.

Located to the east end of the trench was a south-west to north-east orientated linear ditch [607] which measured 1.00m in width and 0.55m in depth. It had a steep sided, tapered profile with a concave base (Fig.5) and was filled by single deposit of light to mid brown silty sand (608) including frequent quantities of flint fragments. Four sherds of Roman pottery with a date range between the 1st and 4th centuries AD were recovered from the fill in addition to a single sherd of residual Bronze Age pottery. There was no apparent evidence within the trench of any feature which may have resulted in the geophysical anomaly.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 3, 6 & 7)

Trench 2 was aligned north-to-south. The topsoil comprised a mid brown loam (0.40m deep) lying directly above natural sand and gravel. To the south of the trench the natural surface sloped downward to form a hollow which was filled by a mid brown silty sand subsoil measuring 0.30m in thickness. Features recorded in this trench included a broad and shallow ditch and an oven.

The ditch [628] was situated to the south of the trench and measured 1.30m in width and 0.24m in depth. The sides were gradually sloping whilst the base was generally flat though undulating (Fig.7). It was filled by a single deposit of mid brown silty sand (629) which included small quantities of flint fragments of varying sizes. No artefacts were recovered from the fill.

Located at the extreme southern end of the trench was the surviving base of a clay-built oven [683], sub-rectangular in plan with a north-south orientation. It measured 2.20m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.20m in maximum depth. The cut had a flat though irregular base (Fig.7) and was filled by a single deposit of hard yellow/orange clay (684) some of which had been scorched to a reddish orange colour. The clay almost certainly represents the collapsed superstructure of the oven after abandonment. There was very limited evidence of the unlined base and sides being effected by heat, perhaps suggesting that the oven was only operational for a short period. Charcoal and/or ash was rare and only occurred in a small patch at the base of the southern end of the oven (686). Environmental sampling of this deposit identified charred macrofossils characteristic of cereal processing waste which was probably used as the fuel source (Fryer this report). This would indicate that the surviving part of the oven probably forms the flue or stokehole area with the chamber having been destroyed. The lack of pottery wasters would suggest that the feature served as an oven for the drying of foodstuffs or for malting rather than as a pottery kiln. The feature contained no artefacts although several sherds of Roman pottery datable to between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD were retrieved from the overlying subsoil.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs 3, 8 & 9)

Trench 3 was aligned east-to-west and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m removing a mid brown loam topsoil which lay above geologically natural sands and gravels incorporating occasional patches of clay.

A single ditch [612] was recorded. Orientated north-to-south, it measured 1.30m in maximum width and 0.80m in depth. The sides tapered to a narrow, rounded base (Fig.9). It was filled by a primary deposit of mid brown silty sand (613) measuring 0.30m in depth and a secondary deposit of light to mid brown clayey sand (614) measuring 0.50m in thickness. The ditch remains undated as it produced no artefacts. A bulk environmental sample taken from (613) was largely sterile apart from several unidentified cereal grains.

5.4 Trench 6 (Figs 3, 10 & 11)

Trench 6 was orientated north-to-south. A dark reddish brown loam topsoil (606) 0.30m thick was removed by machine along with a 0.15m depth of reddish brown sandy subsoil. The natural comprised a yellowish brown gravelly sand. Two gullies and a single ditch were recorded.

Ditch [672] lay to the south of the trench and was aligned east-to-west. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.24m in depth at the west side of the trench tapering to a width and depth of 0.75m and 0.11m respectively at the east. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile (Fig.11) and was filled by a single deposit of greyish brown loam (671) from which a single sherd of Roman pottery dating to the 2nd century and several struck flints including a piercer were recovered.

Positioned centrally within the trench were two gullies ([662] and [663]). In plan they appeared to lie parallel, *c.*1.00m apart, although a section (Fig.11) indicates that they formed a recut ditched feature. The relationship between the two could not be established. The southernmost gully [662] was *c.*0.70m wide and 0.30m deep whilst the other was 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep. Gully [663] contained a primary deposit of yellowish grey sand (661), sealed by a secondary deposit of mid brown sand (660) which also formed the entire fill of [662].

5.5 Trench 7 (Figs 3, 12 & 13)

Trench 7 was orientated east-to-west and was positioned over a north-to-south linear geophysical anomaly. A dark greyish brown loam topsoil measuring 0.50m in depth was machine excavated down to the geologically natural sand.

Two parallel ditches ([609] and [599]) orientated on an approximate north-to-south alignment were recorded at the eastern end of the trench. It is likely that [609] reflects the geophysical anomaly (although it was not identified in Trench 5 to the north which was also positioned to target the feature).

Ditch [609] measured 4.70m in maximum width and 0.67m in maximum depth. The deepest part of the ditch, located to the eastern side was offset to the centre (Fig.13). The base sloped very gently to the west before a sharp break of slope to form a steep side. To the east the side was more gradually sloped. The primary fill comprised a light grey sand (610) which measured 0.20m in depth. This was sealed by a secondary fill of mid brown sand (611) also measuring 0.20m in depth which was in turn sealed by an upper fill of dark reddish brown silty sand (615) measuring 0.40m in depth. Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill (611) – the latest form of which has been dated to the 5th century AD. Several residual pieces of worked flint were also recovered as well as a single piece of ceramic building material.

Located 2.75m to the east of ditch [609] was ditch [599] which measured 3.30m in width and 0.63m in maximum depth. It had a flat base with gradually sloping sides (Fig.13). The primary fill (600) consisted of a mid brown silty sand measuring 0.20m in depth. This was sealed by a secondary fill of dark brown clayey silt (601) with a depth of 0.35m. The upper fill (602) formed a shallow, horizontal deposit of orangey brown sand measuring 0.15m in thickness. Seventeen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill (601) all of which dated to the late 2nd to 3rd century AD or later though the absence of any later Roman forms would suggest a late 2nd or 3rd century date for the ditch. Fourteen sherds of residual worked flint and a small quantity of animal bone were also recovered. A bulk environmental sample taken from the primary fill (600) contained grains of wheat and glume bases of spelt wheat.

The severity of plough truncation indicates that these ditches would originally have been of considerable proportions suggesting a function other than as field boundaries. Although they lie in close proximity and are orientated on a similar alignment, the dating evidence suggests that they are not contemporary features with the western most ditch [609] being the later of the two (possibly by as much as two centuries). The ditches respect the edge of the plateau following the north to south contour. To the west and south-west the ground slopes away gradually to the valley floor.

5.6 Trench 8 (Figs 3, 14 & 15)

Trench 8 was aligned east-to-west and located on sloping ground with the plateau edge lying to the east. It was positioned over linear geophysical anomaly which would appear to mark the line of a ditch. The mid to dark brown loam topsoil averaged 0.40m in depth excepting to the west where it was considerably deeper (measuring 0.65m in depth). This variation in topsoil depth is due to colluvial processes as the western end of the trench is positioned on flat ground to the base of a slope. Archaeological features in this trench included a ditch, a pit or ditch terminus and a single post-hole. A further cut feature was identified in section only.

Ditch [638] was orientated south-east to north-west and measured 1.20m in width and 0.50m in depth. In profile, it had a flat base and steeply sloping sides (Fig.15). Five fills were identified with approximately 50% of each deposit made up of various sizes of flint nodules and fragments. The lower fills ((679), (680) and (681)) comprised light grey sands measuring a total depth of 0.40m. Above was a light reddish brown sand (682) whilst the upper fill (637) comprised a mid grey sand incorporating a small quantity of charcoal fragments. Two sherds of undiagnostic Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the ditch. Fill (679) was bulk sampled to assess its environmental potential though it proved to be sterile.

Sealing the ditch was a 0.20m thick layer of very dark grey silt (625) containing a high proportion of burnt flint fragments (Fig.15). It occurred to the western end of the trench measuring 3.00m in extent east-to-west and covering its full width. The origins of this layer are uncertain though it was almost certainly not an *in situ* deposit, as indicated by the lack of evidence for burnt or scorched soil beneath it. Rather it would appear to represent a dump of 'potboilers' which is perhaps indicative of habitation nearby.

To the extreme west of the trench was a shallow ditch terminus or an elongated pit [622]. Orientated north-to-south, it measured 1.10m in width, 0.36m in depth and was visible for an extent of 1.48m before continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the north. It was filled by a single deposit of dark brownish grey silt (621) from which a single sherd of indeterminate Iron Age pottery and a piece of struck flint was recovered. In profile, it had gradual to steeply sloping sides and a flat though irregular base (Fig.15).

Immediately to the east of [622] was a post-hole, small pit or gully [627], visible only in section. Bowl-shaped in profile (Fig.15), it was filled by a single deposit of dark brownish grey silt (626). No artefacts were recovered from the fill.

Located immediately to the west of [622] was post-hole [624]. Sub-circular in shape, it measured 0.47m in maximum diameter and 0.16m in depth with a steep sided concave profile (Fig.15). It was filled by a single deposit of dark brownish grey silt (623). No artefacts were recovered from the fill.

Although dating evidence was sparse from features in this trench it is possible that they all date to the prehistoric period. It would seem that the considerable depth of topsoil to the west of the trench had preserved features in this area.

5.7 Trench 9 (Figs 3, 16 & 17)

Trench 9 was aligned east-to-west. A dark brownish grey loam topsoil measuring 0.35m in depth was removed by machine. The topsoil overlay a yellow gravelly sand geological natural. Features recorded in this trench included two pits and two linear gullies one of which was possibly structural. A Late Saxon (11th century) stirrup terminal was recovered by metal detector from the topsoil (Fig.26).

Pit [639] was located to the west end of the trench. It was amorphous though roughly circular in shape measuring 1.30m in maximum diameter and 0.28m in depth. In profile, it had steep sides with a flat base though this became irregular and slightly higher to the east (Fig.17). The primary fill (640) consisted of a very dark, almost black sand from which twelve struck flints and small

quantities of fired clay and burnt bone were recovered. To the east of the pit was a secondary fill of light brown sand (642). The upper fill (641) was of a pale yellow sand from which a further 10 struck flints were recovered. This deposit was sampled for the extraction of plant macrofossils the results of which showed the presence of cereal grains and a wide range of wild flora (Fryer, this report).

Located toward the east end of the trench was a north-to-south orientated linear gully [647] which traversed the full width of the trench. Measuring 0.70m in width and 0.14m in depth it had a shallow concave profile (Fig.17). It was filled by a single deposit of dark brown silty sand (648).

Situated at the extreme eastern end of the trench was a probable pit [635] of which only the western edge measuring 1.25m north-to-south and 0.43m east-to-west was revealed within the evaluation trench. It had a depth of 0.57m. The feature may represent the terminus of a substantial ditch (Fig.17). It had been truncated by the probable structural gully [633]. The primary ditch/pit fill comprised a light brown silty sand (646) 0.15m deep. This was sealed by a mid brownish grey silty sand (645) measuring 0.10m in depth. The upper fill was a light brown silty sand (636) which measured 0.27m in depth. Six sherds of Roman pottery of 2nd century AD date were recovered from the feature. Several pieces of residual struck flint were also present.

Sealing the pit/ditch [635] were two gullies ([633] and [643]) which together appear to have formed the south-east corner of a possible structure, perhaps acting as post-bedding trenches or beam-slots. The east-to-west gully [633] joined the north-to-south orientated element [643]. Gully [633] measured 3.28m in length and 1.13m in maximum width narrowing to 0.65m to the west. It was filled with a single deposit of mid to dark brown silty sand (634). Gully [643] was only partially revealed within the extreme east end of the evaluation trench with visible measurements of 1.62m in length and 0.92m in width. It was filled by a single deposit of mid to dark brown silty sand (644) which was identical to (634) (the fill of gully [633]). The only finds from the gullies were two sherds of residual undiagnostic Bronze Age pottery recovered from fill (634). The stratigraphic relationship between the gullies and underlying pit indicates a post-2nd century AD date.

5.7 Trench 12 (Figs 3, 18 & 19)

Trench 12 was orientated north-to-south. A 0.40m depth of dark brown loam topsoil was removed by machine. The topsoil overlay a pale yellow brown gravelly sand. Archaeological features recorded in this trench included a pit, two linear features and two shallow features filled with burnt material which are difficult to interpret.

Located to the north end of the trench was linear ditch [596]. Aligned east-to-west it measured 1.12m in width and 0.25m in depth. It had a shallow concave profile (Fig.19) and was filled by a single deposit of light brown sand (595) from which a single piece of struck flint was recovered.

Situated 3.50m to the south was another ditch [598]. Orientated on an approximate east-to-west alignment, it measured 0.95m in width and 0.14m in depth and had a shallow concave profile (Fig.19). It was filled by a single deposit of light brownish grey sandy silt (597). The feature contained no artefacts.

Ditch [598] truncated a very shallow amorphous shaped feature [604] measuring just 0.04m in depth. It was only partially revealed in the evaluation trench measuring 0.55m east to west and 0.40m north to south. It was filled by a single fill of mid to dark brown sandy silt (603) which contained fragments of very poorly preserved animal bone and a fragment of burnt flint.

Pit [579] was located 2.60m to the south of ditch [598] and was only partly revealed within the evaluation trench. It measured 1.55m north to south and 1.30m east-to-west continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the east. It had a depth of 0.55m. In profile the pit was steep sided with a flat base (Fig.19) and was filled by a single deposit of dark brown sand (580) which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery with a date range between the late 1st century and 4th century AD.

At the southern end of the trench were two features which were both filled with very dark grey ashy deposits incorporating a high quantity of burnt flint or 'potboilers'. Feature [588] survived as a very shallow cut (*c.*0.07m in depth). Only the extreme western side of the cut was visible within the evaluation trench. It appeared to be straight edged in plan whilst the profile showed it to have a flat base and steep sides (Fig.19). Located immediately to the west of [588] was a small circular feature [606] which measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. In profile it had a tapered

base with steep sides (Fig.19). The function of each of these features is difficult to interpret though [606] may represent a post-hole.

5.8 Trench 13 (Figs 3, 20 & 21)

Trench 13 was aligned east-to-west. A dark grey sand topsoil measuring 0.40m was machine excavated down to the gravelly sand geological natural. Three linear archaeological features were recorded. A Colchester type brooch dating to the 1st century AD was recovered by metal-detector from the topsoil (Fig.25).

Ditch [616] was located at the west end of the trench. Orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, it measured 2.05m in width and 0.40m in depth. It had a shallow, concave profile (Fig.21) and was filled with a primary deposit of light brown sand (618) and an upper fill of mid brown sand (617). No artefacts were recovered from the ditch. It is possible that this ditch was a southward continuation of one of the two ditches [609] or [599]] recorded in Trench 7.

Situated 4.50m to the east of [616] and on a similar alignment was ditch [619] which measured 1.35m in width and 0.40m in depth. It had a bowl-shaped base with a steep slope to the west side and a gradual slope to the east (Fig.21). It was filled by a single deposit of light orangey brown sand (620) from which three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. All the sherds had a date range between the late 1st century and 4th century AD. The fill also contained several pieces of struck flint.

Linear gully [630] was located to the east end of the trench. Orientated north-to-south, it measured 0.45m in width and 0.17m in depth. The gully had a concave, bowl-shaped profile (Fig.21) and was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand (631). No artefacts were recovered from it.

5.9 Trench 20 (Figs 3, 22 & 23)

Trench 20 was orientated north-to-south. A dark brown loam 0..35m in depth was removed by machine. The natural comprised a light grey silty clay. Three linear features were identified in Trench 20, all orientated on a similar east-to-west alignment.

Ditch [589] was situated at the southern end of the trench and measured 1.50m in width and 0.45m in depth. It had a narrow tapered base with gradually sloping sides (Fig.23) and was filled by a single deposit of mid brown silty clay (590) from which two sherds of probably residual Bronze Age pottery were recovered.

Located centrally within the trench was ditch [591] which measured 1.27m in width and 0.45m in depth. It had an irregular, undulating base with a vertical north side and gradually sloped southern side (Fig.23). The fill comprised a single deposit of mid brown sandy clay (592) which contained five sherds of residual Bronze Age pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery with a date range between the late 1st century and 4th century AD. Several pieces of struck flint were also recovered. A bulk environmental sample taken from deposit (592) for assessment included rachis internodes of wheat and spikelet forks of spelt wheat.

Adjacent to ditch [591] was a broad shallow ditch [593] which measured 3.10m in width and 0.42m in depth. It had a flat base with irregular gradually sloping sides (Fig.23) and was filled by a single deposit of mid brown sandy clay (594) from which a single sherd of Roman pottery with a date range between the mid 1st century and mid 2nd century AD was recovered.

5.10 Trenches 42 and 62 (Fig.24)

5.10.1 Periglacial features

Pliestocene periglacial features are still visible as surface markings in certain areas of lowland Britain. When viewed from the air, the non-sorted patterned ground phenomena of the East Anglian chalklands are some of the most dramatic in Britain. Patterns include regular nets with diameters of 5-10m on low gradient hill crests and plateau areas. These grade into elongated doughnut or garland-patterns on gentle slopes and into stripes where the gradient is between 2° and 6°. Stripe widths are commonly between 5m and 7m. Such patterned ground occurs where frost-weathered chalk is overlain by a thin layer of aeolian sand. At Thetford, however, chalky till rather than weathered chalk underlies this sand.

It is possible to mistake patterned ground features for archaeological features especially when viewed in narrow trenches since in plan and section they can resemble linear 'cultural' features. Most evaluation trenches located on the gradual and very gentle slopes to the south-west of the site at Mundford Road showed evidence of patterned ground. To confirm that these features were indeed the result of periglacial freeze and thaw activity several were sample excavated. The lowest lying area of the site was to the south-west lying at around 32.00m. Here the ground was on a very gentle slope. Evaluation trenches revealed a patterned ground system with stripes orientated on a general east-to-west alignment parallel with the direction of slope.

In Trench 62 a section across one of these stripes [691] was excavated by machine (Fig.24). It revealed a classic 'V'-shaped profile measuring 3.16m in width and 1.20m in depth. It was filled by clean pale coarse sand incorporating a high proportion of large flint nodules. The stripe lay above cryoturbated chalky till with tongues extending upwards in to the sandier sediment above and pockets of sand penetrating downwards into the chalk substrate. The profile of the feature, together with the nature of the fill and the cryoturbation structures beneath all conform to published descriptions of patterned ground phenomena *e.g.* (Ballantyne and Harris 1994).

Patterned ground within the central area of the site was located on more steeply sloping ground than that which lay to the west. Here, the features were smaller and were orientated at differing alignments within each trench. This is probably due to the presence of what has been described above as elongated doughnut-shaped or garland-shaped patterns which are to be expected on gradual slopes. In Trench 42 (which lay at a height of 39.20m OD) a sondage was excavated across one of the features [692]. The feature comprised a shallow depression with a tapered gully-like feature at its centre (Fig.24). It measured 2.70m in total width and 0.55m in total depth and was filled by a pale coarse sand. The feature lay above a cryoturbated chalky till.

6.0 The Finds

The total finds assemblage is summarised in Appendix 2. Faunal remains are described in section 7.0 alongside other environmental evidence.

6.1 Worked Flint (Appendix 3)

6.1.1 Summary

One hundred and eighteen pieces of struck flint were recovered from the site. The material was found in the topsoil and within the fills of excavated features most of which probably dated to the Romano-British period. An additional 144 pieces of burnt flint (weighing 2.039kg) were also retrieved. The assemblage is summarised in Table 1.

6.1.2 Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context on a *pro forma* recording sheet. The material was classified by category and type (Appendix 3) with quantification of complete, corticated, edge damaged, patinated and burnt pieces being recorded. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. Unmodified burnt flint was counted and weighed and was discarded. The recorded information was input into an ACCESS database for assessment.

6.1.3 The Assemblage

Most of the flint is mid to dark grey in colour, some pieces being slightly mottled but a high proportion being very dark grey (almost black) in colour. Most is dense and slightly glossy in appearance.

Cortex, where present, is generally creamy white in colour and chalky in appearance. It is either thin or of medium thickness although a few pieces have a very thick cortex similar to that mined from Grimes Graves. Such flint is also occasionally found on the surface in Breckland (Healy 1991). Much of the assemblage probably represents broken lumps and nodules which were available in the vicinity of the site. The presence of some pieces which were clearly struck from already patinated material further demonstrates the utilisation of surface collected flint as a raw material for knapping.

A small multi-platform flake core on a nodule fragment (from the topsoil (504)), a squat single platform flake core (Trench 13, (577)) and two thermal fragments used as cores (from topsoil (525) and the fill of the clay ?oven (684)) are present. A flake from the edge of a core platform was also found in the topsoil (503).

Most of the assemblage consists of unmodified flakes, mainly small to medium in size. These include many hard hammer struck pieces, some of these being broad or squat in shape. However, several blade-like flakes are also present and eight pieces are classified as true blades. Also of note are a few pieces which were probably struck by soft hammer. These include a small blade from (601) (fill of ditch [599]), a blade fragment from (611) (fill of ditch [609]), a fairly large thin ovate flake from topsoil (511) and a possible trimming flake from subsoil (632). Some of these are patinated a distinctive opaque light grey in colour.

Category	Type	Number
core trimming piece	flake	1
core	single flake	1
core	multi-platform flake core	1
core	fragment	2
struck fragment	misc. struck fragment	1
flake	flake	67
flake	blade-like flake	9
flake	Broad flake	3
flake	spall	6
flake	chip	1
blade	blade	8
scraper	end scraper	3
scraper	side scraper	1
scraper	end/side scraper	1
scraper	flake scraper	1
arrowhead	barbed and tanged	1
piercer	piercer	3
piercer	spurred piece	1
retouched blade	retouched blade	1
retouched flake	retouched flake	1
utilised flake	utilised flake	5
non-struck piece	burnt	144

Table 1: The flint

Cortex present	46
Patinated	14
Edge damaged	14
Complete	84

Table 2: cortication and condition of flint
(as % by number of complete assemblage)

Seven scrapers were found. These include: a scraper on a flake (641) (pit [639]) which has been retouched along its distal edge and at its proximal end (removing the bulb and platform) to for a sub-triangular shape; an end scraper (611) (ditch [609]) with fine very steep neat retouch of its proximal edge; a small 'horseshoe'-shaped scraper (501) (topsoil); a broad flake with its short right side retouched (510) (topsoil); a fairly large hard hammer struck flake (645) (?pit [635]) with its thick distal part steeply and neatly retouched and a battered; and abraded thick cortical flake (513) (topsoil), possibly thermal, with steep coarse retouch truncating its distal edge.

An arrowhead (SF1) was found in (615) (ditch [609]). This is a small 'barbed and tanged' example on smooth almost black flint. It can best be described as an unbarbed or vestigial barbed 'Sutton a.' type (Green 1984); the barbs do not protrude downwards beyond the highest point of the tang. It has been retouched steeply around all its edges and on both faces. The retouch is quite abrupt and does not extend over either surface. The piece is of later Bronze Age date.

Three piercers and a spurred piece were recovered. The piercers include one on an irregular thermal fragment with retouch along one side of a protruding point (509) (pit [639]), one on a broad, quite thick, flake from a hammerstone with retouch to a protruding point at its distal end and one small thin flake. possibly struck by soft hammer, which has a fine point with signs of utilisation. A battered and slightly burnt hard hammer struck flake fragment from topsoil (520) is retouched along its left side to form irregular protruding 'spurs'.

Single retouched flakes and blades were recovered as well as four utilised flakes.

6.1.4 Distribution

Twenty-three pieces of struck flint were recovered from Trench 7, from the fills of two Roman ditches [609] and [599].

Ten struck flints and seventy-five burnt fragments came from Trench 8. The burnt flint and five flakes were from (625), a layer containing sherds of prehistoric pottery and interpreted as a dump of occupation debris which sealed a ditch. It was noted that most of the struck flint from this deposit was quite sharp. A single blade was found in a ditch or pit which contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery. The other flint from the trench was from the topsoil.

Nineteen struck flints and nine burnt fragments were found in Trench 9 most coming from pit [639] which contained pottery of 1st to 4th century AD date. The fills contained a piercer (509) and two scrapers (641) and (645).

A utilised flake and a burnt fragment were found in an undated ditch [598] in Trench 12 and fourteen burnt fragments came from a small sub-circular feature [606] in the same trench.

Fifteen struck and three burnt flints were found in Trench 13. Six flakes (various) came from ditch [577] (no dating) and 5 struck flints (including hard hammer struck and small thick flakes) and three burnt fragments from ditch [619] , which contained 1st to 4th-century pottery.

Fourteen struck flints were found in Trench 20; these included three flakes (one utilised) from a large feature [576] (no dating) and four and six struck pieces respectively from ditches [592] and [593] both of which contained Romano-British pottery.

With the exception of a core fragment and a flake from Trench 25 and four small pieces from Trench 39, all of the flint was recovered from the two northernmost fields covered by the evaluation. Thirty-seven pieces were recovered from unstratified contexts during machining or from the spoil heaps. The flint was concentrated to the north-east of this area where almost all of the excavated features were located.

6.1.5 Discussion

Possible prehistoric activity was recorded within Trench 8 and the flint from that trench may be contemporary. The burnt flint probably represents domestic activity and much of the struck material was quite sharp suggesting that it may have been in its original context.

In many cases the flint was clearly residual. The concentration of flint in the north-east area is probably partly due to the accumulation of material in the fills of abandoned features but is also representative of the activity which was taking place on the hill top to the east (Gregory 1992).

The residual nature of most of the flint is demonstrated by its mixed character; even where there were several flints from a feature or area there were no distinctive groups of material and probably 'earlier' soft hammer struck pieces were present alongside irregularly worked flint typical of a later prehistoric context.

6.2 Pottery

Small assemblages of prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman pottery were recovered. The latter is summarised in Appendix 6.

6.2.1 Prehistoric Pottery (Appendix 4)

Nineteen sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 0.298kg were recovered from seven contexts. The majority of the fragments are of probable Bronze Age date (15 sherds, 0.019kg), two were of probable Iron Age date (0.002kg), one was transitional Iron Age/Roman (0.276kg) and one was undiagnostic prehistoric (0.001kg). The prehistoric pottery is summarised in Appendix 4.

All of the Bronze Age sherds are small and abraded. No decorated or diagnostic sherds were present. The pottery was identified by fabric which was characterised by the presence of flint, sand and grog in variable proportions. The pottery could not be more closely identified.

The two sherds of Iron Age pottery were found within the fills of ditch [591] and ditch/pit [622]. One was of sandy fabric the other (a small rim sherd) contained calcined flint. The rim has a flattened top and is slightly everted. Neither of the sherds are closely datable.

6.2.3 Roman Pottery (Appendix 5)

6.2.3.1 Summary

A small assemblage was retrieved from this area of exceptional archaeological interest. The Roman pottery consists mostly of locally produced coarse wares (Micaceous grey ware, Sandy grey ware, Visible relict grey ware and Micaceous red ware) although some material has been imported from the surrounding region (Nene Valley oxidised mortaria originating near Peterborough and Hadham oxidised red ware from the Hadham kilns in Hertsfordshire).

This assemblage spans a period of 400 hundred years from the mid-late 1st to the 4th century AD. It would appear to have been deposited by people of limited means, a situation which contrasts sharply with the wealth demonstrated at the adjacent site of Fison Way.

Although small this assemblage indicates that further work in this area could provide important evidence for Roman life on the fringes of a large high status site.

6.2.3.2 Introduction

A total of fifty-nine Romano-British sherds (weighing 0.833kg) were recovered during this evaluation. Nine separate fabrics and several vessel types were identified including narrow, medium and wide mouthed jars and a single mortarium.

Fabric	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (kg)	Vessel Types	Percentage of weight (%)
Micaceous grey ware	30	0.395	4.13,4/5, 5.4	47.42
Sandy grey ware	19	0.190	4.5.3	22.81
Nene Valley oxidised mortaria	1	0.115	7.9.1	13.81
Visible clay relict grey ware	2	0.052	2.1.2	6.24
Micaceous red ware	2	0.024		2.88
Pakenham colour coat	1	0.021		2.52
Miscellaneous oxidised ware	1	0.015		1.80
Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions	2	0.011		1.32
Hadham oxidised red ware	1	0.010		1.20
Total	**59**	**0.833**		**100.00**

Table 1. Pottery listed in descending order of percentage of weight

6.2.3.3 Methodology

The pottery was assessed using the recording procedure described in the *NAU Pottery Recording Manual*. All sherds were identified by fabric and form, then counted and weighed to the nearest

whole gramme. Data was recorded on an NAU standard *pro forma* and inputted into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. All percentages are of weight unless otherwise stated. The pottery and paper archive is currently held by the NAU.

6.2.3.4 The Fabrics

Hadham oxidised red ware (HORW)

Description: Harden and Green 1978, 170, 174, n33: Tomber and Dore 1998, 151

Micaceous grey ware (MicaGW)

Waveney industry products, the main characteristic of which is that they are very micaceous.

Description: Tomber and Dore 1998, 184

Micaceous red ware (MicaRedW)

Mis-fired local grey wares.

Miscellaneous oxidised ware (MiscOW)

Unsourced, but probably locally produced. Quite hard pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) wheel thrown fabric with a smooth texture and fine fracture. It contains occasional sparse grog inclusions and also abundant mica inclusions, which are probably natural contaminants of the clay, although fabrics vary and are probably locally, made.

Nene Valley white ware mortaria (NVWWM)

Produced in the upper Nene Valley these mortaria are produced in a fine white fabric with trituration grits made from slag.

Description: Tomber and Dore 1998, 120

Pakenham colour coat ware (PakeCC)

Pale orange-brown fabrics, commonly decorated with a thin matt brown slip. The vessels are based on the traditions of the Lower Rhineland, Colchester and the Nene Valley.

Description: Lyons and Tester, forthcoming

Sandy grey ware (SGW)

Locally produced grey wares, the main characteristic of which is that they are very sandy.

Description: Andrews 1985, 92

Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions (SGW+)

This is a hard very dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) fabric with a harsh texture and irregular fracture. It contains abundant medium (0.25-0.5 mm) rounded sand and sparse coarse and very coarse (larger than 1 mm) angular flint inclusions. Occasional sherds contain some very coarse white flint inclusions that have a range of between 3-5mm. This fabric also has abundant amounts of mica that is probably a natural contaminant of the clay.

Visible clay relict grey ware (VGW)

This fabric is produced in the Waveney Valley and are very similar to MicaGW, however it also contains clay relict inclusions.

Description: Lyons 2000, 213

6.2.3.5 The Forms

2.1.2	Narrow mouthed jar with out turned rim with an undercut rim. Ashill: 16
4	Medium mouthed jars miscellaneous or indeterminate.
4.5.3	Medium mouthed jar with a short neck, rolled severely undercut rim and globular body. Scole: 127, 198
4.13	Medium mouthed jar, rounded body and simple everted rim. Scole: 5

5	Wide mouthed Jars, miscellaneous.
5.4.	Wide mouthed rounded jar with a reverse 'S' profile and one or two grooves mid body. Scole: 6, 40, 62, 66, 73, 92, 122
7.9.1	Mortarium with slightly angled reeded rim, usually with three grooves, the bead is substantial and often square in section. NV: 102

6.2.3.6 Discussion

This is a relatively small assemblage of Romano-British pottery, much of which is quite severely abraded. A significant amount of the material was unstratified (35.05%), while the remainder was retrieved from ditches (40.95%), pits (9.00%) and the flue of an oven (3.00%). The condition of the pottery is consistent with being weathered, which suggests that it had been deposited into middens before finally settling within these features.

Roman pottery was recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 20 – all of which are on the western edge of the area examined during this evaluation. This clearly suggests that the Roman activity was restricted to the plateau which forms the highest part of the area of evaluation.

Some transitional (Iron Age to Romano-British) pottery was identified but the majority is standard Roman material produced in the later part of the 1st century AD and afterwards. The presence of Pakenham colour coated material and Hadham oxidised red ware demonstrates that the assemblage, although small, spans the majority of the Roman period. The types of pottery found, both in fabric and form, mainly indicate kitchen detritus. Much was sooted suggesting that it had been used over an open fire. However, the absence of high status material such as amphorae, samian and other fine ware imports suggests that the people that deposited this pottery were neither exceptionally poor nor of an obviously high status.

This evaluation assemblage spans such a long period of time, reflecting the activities of the ordinary native population on the edge of a high status religious site. The Fison Way assemblage provides an important local context.

6.3 Small Finds (Appendix 7)

6.3.1 Summary

Eighteen Small Finds were recovered from the site. The assemblage consists of twelve copper alloy objects, two iron, three lead and one of flint. A summary of the finds is given in Appendix 7.

6.3.2 Copper alloy

This group includes three Roman coins (SF5, 8 and 9); one ?4th-century Barbarous radiate and two illegible. Other Roman finds include the shaft of a pin (SF3) and a Colchester-type brooch (SF6). Also recovered were a Late Saxon stirrup terminal (SF4) and a very small medieval D-shaped buckle (SF17). Three other coins include one of post medieval date (SF7) and two modern examples (SF14 and 15). One undated fragment of scrap sheet was also recovered (SF12). All were unstratified metal detected finds.

6.3.2.1 Brooch (Fig.25)

The Colchester-type one-piece brooch (SF6; Hull's type 90; Hull forthcoming) is in good condition and can be dated to the 1st century AD. Although now misshapen, with the spring, pin and most of the catchplate missing, the surviving bow is styled in a typical British form, in one strong continuous curve with a forward facing hook. Decoration consists of a rope pattern bordered by a vertical channel that runs the full length of the bow. This brooch has very small wings that are folded over at the end to aid the placement of the (missing) spring. This type of brooch is relatively rare in Norfolk, although a fairly good parallel was retrieved from Brooke (Hattatt 2000, fig 155, no. 1456).

6.3.2.2 Stirrup Terminal (Fig.26)

Part of a copper alloy stirrup terminal (SF4) with simple engraved linear decoration has been broken at its (?) projecting ledge revealing its hollow back (which would have enclosed the diagonal

arms of the lower part of the stirrup). Engraved linear decoration comprises five lines down the front (almost converging at the base) and on either side a line following the contour of the edges.

These objects and their apparent confined distribution to the eastern counties of England are discussed by Williams (1997a) following the discovery of a complete iron stirrup at Chalgrove, Oxon, which has a pair of copper alloy zoomorphic stirrup terminals, shoulder collars and a stirrup-strap mount still attached.

As with the contemporary stirrup-strap mounts (Williams 1997b), stirrup terminals are likely to date to a period centring on the second half of the 11th century. The shape and extant decoration on the Alpha Business Park mount may be compared to two illustrated examples (Williams 1997a, fig. 4g & 4h).

Although there is no direct evidence for Late Saxon activity on this site, the recovery of this object is not surprising, given both the nature of the find and the evidence elsewhere of Late Saxon occupation in and around Thetford.

6.3.3 Iron

Two iron artefacts consist of an unidentified strip that broadens out at one end to a possible broken loop type terminal (SF11) and a fragment of strip (SF18) with an *in situ* rivet at one end.

6.3.4 Lead

Two untrimmed shot/musket balls (SF10 and 16) were recovered.

6.3.6 Other Metal Objects

The majority of the forty-five metal artefacts recovered are not worthy of special treatment or recording as they are of late 19th to 20th century date. The assemblage consists of various buttons, scrap material, bullets, shotgun cartridge caps, nails and miscellaneous sheet and rod fragments recovered from many contexts.

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 Ceramic building material and fired clay

Four fragments of Roman and post-medieval brick and tile (0.282kg) came from contexts (517), (539), (578) and (611). Two pieces of fired clay were recovered (8g, contexts (640) and (646)).

6.4.2 Glass

A fragment of vivid green post-medieval bottle was retrieved (10g, context (517)).

6.4.3 Metal Working Debris

Two pieces of undiagnostic slag, probably associated with the smelting process, were collected (0.018kg, contexts (601) and (608)). No other evidence for metalworking was recovered from the site.

7.0 The Environmental Evidence

7.1 Faunal Remains (Appendix 8)

7.1.1 Summary

A total of 0.820kg of faunal remains was recovered. All of the remains were hand collected; no environmental samples were examined.

7.1.2 Methodology

The assemblage was scanned for basic information. Identifiable species were recorded as were any butchering marks, ages of the animals and the condition of the bones. All of the information

was recorded on *pro forma* sheets, including weights and quantities for each context. A table giving a summary of the information recorded is presented in Appendix 8.

7.1.3 Results and conclusions

7.1.3.1 Prehistoric

Pit [639] in Trench 9 may date to the prehistoric period and contained 0.006kg of bone which appears to be the remains of a sheep/goat tooth. The bone was in very poor condition, as is common with bone of this date.

7.1.3.2 Roman

Most of the remains date to the Roman period and indicate butchering and food waste. Cattle dominated; most of this bone had been butchered by chopping and included butchered juvenile remains. A single (butchered) sheep/goat bone was recovered. All of the bone was in fairly poor condition with soft, porous surfaces.

6.1.3.3 Modern

A modern deposit (584) contained two fragments of chopped cattle mandible.

7.2 Plant Macrofossils (Appendix 9)

7.2.1 Introduction

Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossils were taken from pits, ditches and a possible oven across and six were submitted for assessment.

7.2.2 Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 9. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All recorded plant macrofossils were preserved by charring. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots and seeds/fruits, were present throughout.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Possible flint flakes were noted in sample 2 but no further artefacts or ecofacts were recorded.

7.2.3 Results of assessment

7.2.3.1 Cereals and other food plants

Cereal grains and/or chaff were present at a low density in all but sample 2 (679). Preservation was variable and some grains, most notably those in sample 6 (686), were puffed and distorted as a result of high temperatures during charring. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded with wheat being predominant. Glume bases and spikelet forks of spelt wheat (T. spelta) were noted in samples 1, 5 and 6 ((640), (592) and (686)). 'Drop form' grains typical of spelt were also present in sample 1. A single cotyledon fragment of an indeterminate large pulse (pea/bean) was recovered from sample 6.

7.2.3.2 Wild flora

Seeds/fruits of common weed plants were noted at low to moderate densities in samples 1, 5 and 6. Taxa included orache (*Atriplex* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet from sample 5 was the only example of a wetland plant macrofossil.

7.2.3.3 Other plant macrofossils

Charcoal fragments were moderately common in all samples. Heather (Ericaceae) stem fragments were also common in all but sample 2. A small indeterminate tuber fragment was noted in sample 1.

7.2.3.4 Other remains

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probably residues of the combustion of organic materials, including cereal grains, at very high temperatures. Other materials noted included bone fragments, pieces of burnt or fired clay and burnt stone. The small fragments of coal noted in samples 1, 2 and 4 are possibly derived from recent agricultural procedures including steam ploughing.

7.2.4 Discussion

The assemblage from sample 1 (pit [639]) contains a low density of cereal grains, chaff and segetal weed seeds and may be derived from a small deposit of cereal processing debris. Dating evidence for this feature was very sparse but the composition of the plant macrofossil assemblage is consistent with a late prehistoric or Roman date. Sample 6 was taken from the chamber of drying/malting oven [683]. Although preservation of the material was poor, the grains which were present did not appear to be germinated and detached sprout fragments or grain embryos were not noted. It is perhaps unlikely therefore that the assemblage is derived from malting waste. However, cereal processing waste (including occasional grains) was frequently used as fuel for kilns and ovens and was a tradable commodity during the Roman period.

The remaining assemblages contain insufficient material to be conclusively interpreted.

7.2.5 Conclusions

In conclusion, samples 1 and 6 both appear to contain a low density of charred cereal processing debris. However, the circumstances of deposition are different, sample 1 being derived from dumped refuse and sample 6 possibly indicating the use of processing waste as fuel.

The above data is the result of rapid scan assessment of only six small samples, taken at random from a large series of excavated trenches. If future excavation work is to be conducted within this area, the potential for plant macrofossil preservation and interpretation would appear to be high, especially given the proximity of this site to the Fison Way excavations of 1980 – 1982 (Gregory, 1992).

8.0 Conclusions

Archaeological features and/or deposits were recorded in ten trenches located to the north-east of the evaluation area. Prehistoric activity largely took the form of unstratified and residual flints within Roman cut features. A total of nineteen sherds of prehistoric – mainly Bronze Age – pottery was recovered though again most or all of these sherds were residual in Roman features. This pattern mirrors the Fison Way excavations to the east where substantial quantities of struck flint and occasional sherds of prehistoric pottery were found in Roman features (Gregory 1992). There, it was suggested that the abraded material was incorporated into the features from the contemporary Roman surface and topsoil rather than from earlier features. This would also seem to be the case at Mundford Road. The only possible prehistoric features were those located in Trench 8 (consisting of a ditch, pit and post-hole) and a single pit in Trench 9. In Trench 8 pit [622] contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery whilst ditch [638] produced two sherds of Bronze Age pottery. Given the degree to which residual flints and prehistoric pottery occurred in the Roman features, the dating of these features on the basis of the artefacts is tenuous. However, the total lack of later finds, the differing orientation of the ditch in comparison to the Roman ditches on the site and the observation that the worked flints from the ditch and the overlying dump of 'potboilers' are unabraded strongly suggest that these features were indeed prehistoric. The pit in Trench 9 produced a considerable quantity of worked flint (twenty-two pieces). Its general morphology (being very similar to numerous other recorded prehistoric pits in East Anglia) and the nature of its fill hint at a prehistoric date.

The distribution of worked flint and 'potboilers' as recorded during the field walking survey (Bates 1994) exhibited a pattern in which most of the finished or partially finished tools were found to the east side of the site. This area lies closest to Fison Way where isolated features of prehistoric date were excavated. Taken together, the sum of information points to likely prehistoric activity on the higher ground to the north-east of the evaluation area. The nature of this activity is difficult to determine though Gregory (1992) suggests that prehistoric activity in the Breckland - based on his excavations at Fison Way - was intermittent and insubstantial, involving the discard of struck flint and pottery, but seldom involving the digging of subsoil features. It has also been suggested that much of the excessively well drained Breckland may have been unsuitable for sustained prehistoric cultivation and may have served as pasture, hunting ground and a source of raw materials for communities whose more permanent settlements may have lain nearby (Healy 1984).

In view of these interpretations the importance of properly investigating and dating any possible prehistoric subsurface features is highlighted - in particular the ditch within Trench 8 - though unfortunately many features may have been destroyed or badly truncated by ploughing.

All other recorded features would appear to be of Roman date. Ditches produced pottery ranging in date between the 1st and 5th centuries AD though several remain undated. With the exception of excepting the ditch recorded in Trench 1, however, all were orientated on north-to-south and east-to-west alignments suggesting a rectilinear fieldsystem (Fig.3). There was very little evidence in the evaluation area of activity contemporary with the high status ritual site of Fison way which dates from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD. Indeed, the limited dating evidence for Mundford Road points to a mid to late Roman date thus post-dating the Fison Way site. It is possibly contemporary with the late Roman temple which lies *c.*100m west of features recorded during the present work. The nature of the features and finds recorded during the evaluation gives no indication of ritual activity. Indeed without prior knowledge of the existence of the high status sites lying in very close proximity, interpretations would suggest a field system associated with a farmstead with some industrial and/or domestic activity taking place as evidenced by the drying or malting oven. Although there appears to be a hiatus in ritual activity in the mid Roman period at Fison Way, the area must have retained its ritual significance throughout the Roman period in some form. The site at Mundford Road may therefore have the potential to shed light on the nature of activity on the periphery of a very important high status ritual site. At present it is difficult to determine exactly what this activity was though certainly agricultural activity is apparent.

Of particular interest are the substantial parallel ditches recorded in Trench 7. Although these were not contemporary features, their dimensions suggest a function other than field boundaries. They lie very close to the edge of the plateau, orientated parallel to the plateau edge. It is feasible that these substantial ditches served to enclose the Roman settlement and/or ritual site lying to the east at different times. This hypothesis is supported by the observation that (with the exception of the field boundary ditches in Trench 20) no archaeological features of Roman date were located to the west of the ditches.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by John Ames, Sarah Bates, Kenneth Penn, Richard Sims, Kerry Tyler and Danney Voisey. The project was managed by Gary Trimble. The worked flint was characterised by Sarah Bates. The prehistoric pottery was identified by Sarah Percival and the Roman pottery by Alice Lyons. The post-Roman pottery was studied by Richenda Goffin. Val Fryer examined the environmental samples. The animal bone report was by Julie Curl. Julia Huddle commented on the Late Saxon stirrup terminal whilst Alice Lyons reported on the Roman brooch. Roman coins were identified by Stephen Ashley. Site illustrations were prepared by Gary Trimble and David Dobson. Artefact illustrations were by David Dobson. Site surveying was by David Robertson and John Ames. The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot. The report was written and compiled by Gary Trimble and edited by Liz Popescu. The work was funded by Crown Estates.

Bibliography

Andrews, G.,	1985	'The Coarse Wares', in Hinchliffe, J and Sparey Green, C, *Excavations at Brancaster*, East Anglian Archaeology 23, 89-126
Andrews. G.,	1991	*Evaluation Report at Mundford Road, Thetford*, Norfolk Archaeological Unit Client Report 81 (unpublished)
Ballantyne, C, K., & Harris, C.,	1994	*The Periglaciation of Britain* (Cambridge University Press)
Bates, S.,	1994	Report on a Field Survey at Mundford Road, Thetford. Norfolk Archaeological Unit Client Report 85 (Unpublished)
Gater, J.,	1992	*Report on a Geophysical Survey at Mundford Road, Thetford*, Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, Report No 92/42
Green, S.,	1984	'Flint Arrowheads: Typology and Interpretation', *The Newsletter of the Lithic Studies Society* No. 5
Gregory T.,	1977	*The Enclosure at Ashill*, East Anglian Archaeology 5
Gregory, T.,	1992	*Excavations in Thetford,1980-82, Fison Way, Volume 1*, East Anglian Archaeology 53
Harden and Green	1978	'A Late Roman Grave-Group from the Minories, Aldgate' in Bird et al, *Collectanea Londiniensia,* London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Special Paper no 2, London
Hattatt R.,	2000	*A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches* (Oxbow)
Hull MR.,	forthcoming	*Corpus of Roman Brooches* M. R., Hull
Healy, F.,	1984	'Farming and field monuments: the Neolithic in Norfolk', in Barringer, C., (ed), *Aspects of East Anglian prehistory (twenty years after Rainbird Clarke),* (Norwich: Geo Books)
Healy, F.,	1991	'Lithics and Pre-Iron Age Pottery' in Silvester, R., *The Fenland Project Number 4: The Wissey Embayment and the Fen Causeway, Norfolk*, East Anglian Archaeology 52
Johns, C., and Potter, T.W.,	1983	*The Thetford Treasure* (British Museum Publications)
Lyons A.,	2000	'The Pottery', in Bates. S, 'Excavations at Quidney Farm, Saham Toney, Norfolk', *Britannia* XXXI, 211-222
Lyons A L., and Tester C.,	forthcoming	'The Roman Pottery' in Ashwin, T., and Tester, A., (eds), *The A140 Road Improvement Scheme*, East Anglian Archaeology
Penn, K., and Andrews, P.,	2000	'An Early Saxon Cemetery at Brunel Way, Thetford. Norfolk Archaeology', *Norfolk Archaeology* 43(3)
Stace, C.,	1997	*New Flora of the British Isles* (second edition)
Tomber, R and Dore J.,	1998	*The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook*, MoLAS monograph 2
Williams, D.,	1997a	'Stirrup Terminals', *Finds Research Group 700-1700*, Datasheet 24
Williams, D.,	1997b	'Late Saxon stirrup-strap mounts, A classification and catalogue', *CBA Research Report* 111

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Trench No.	Category	Description/interpretation
500.		Deposit	Unstratified
501.	1.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
502.	2.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
503.	3.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
504.	4.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
505.	5.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
506.	6.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
507.	7.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
508.	8.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
509.	9.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
510.	10.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
511.	11.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
512.	12.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
513.	13.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
514.	14.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
515.	15.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
516.	16.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
517.	17.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
518.	18.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
519.	19.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
520.	20.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
521.	21.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
522.	22.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
523.	23.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
524.	24.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
525.	25.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
526.	26.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
527.	27.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
528.	28.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
529.	29.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
530.	30.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
531.	31.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
532.	32.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
533.	33.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
534.	34.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
535.	35.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
536.	36.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
537.	37.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
538.	38.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
539.	39.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
540.	40.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
541.	41.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
542.	42.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
543.	43.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
544.	44.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
545.	45.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
546.	46.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
547.	47.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
548.	48.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
549.	49.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
550.	50.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified

Context No.	Trench No.	Category	Description/interpretation
551.	51.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
552.	52.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
553.	53.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
554.	54.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
555.	55.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
556.	56.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
557.	57.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
558.	58.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
559.	59.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
560.	60.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
561.	61.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
562.	62.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
563.	63.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
564.	64.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
565.	65.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
566.	66.	Deposit	Topsoil/ unstratified
567.	31,32	Cut	Circular cut of modern ditch
568.	31,32	Deposit	Fill of [571]
569.	30,31,32	Deposit	Fill of [571]
570.	30,31,32	Deposit	Fill of [571]
571.	37	Cut	Linear feature
572.	37	Deposit	Dark brown silty sand
573.	37	Cut	Circular feature
574.	37	Deposit	Fill of [573]
575.	37	Deposit	Chalk deposit/layer
576.	20	Deposit	Finds from large feature crossing centre of trench
577.	13	Deposit	Finds from vicinity of small ditch at east end of trench
578.	9	Deposit	Finds from fill of feature at east end of trench
579.	12	Cut	Pit
580.	12	Deposit	Fill of [579]
581.	6	Deposit	Fill of shallow ditch
582.	16	Cut	Huge pit
583.	16	Deposit	Fill of [582]
584.	16	Deposit	Fill of [582]
585.	1	Cut	?Ditch, north end of trench
586.	1	Deposit	Fill of [585]
587.	12	Deposit	Burnt fill of [588]
588.	12	Cut	Circular cut
589.	20	Cut	East-west linear ditch
590.	20	Deposit	Fill of [589]
591.	20	Cut	East-west linear ditch
592.	20	Deposit	Fill of [591]
593.	20	Cut	East-west linear ditch
594.	20	Deposit	Fill of [593]
595.	12	Deposit	Fill of [596]
596.	12	Cut	Linear feature
597.	12	Deposit	Fill of [598]
598.	12	Cut	Linear feature
599.	7	Cut	Linear ditch
600.	7	Deposit	Fill of [599]
601.	7	Deposit	Fill of [599]
602.	7	Deposit	Fill of [599]

Context No.	Trench No.	Category	Description/interpretation
603.	12	Deposit	Fill of [604]
604.	12	Cut	Shallow feature
605.	12	Deposit	Fill of [606]
606.	12	Cut	Small circular cut
607.		Cut	Linear ditch
608.		Deposit	Fill of [607]
609.	7	Cut	Linear ditch
610.	7	Deposit	Fill of [609]
611.	7	Deposit	Fill of [609]
612.	3	Cut	Linear ditch
613.	3	Deposit	Fill of [612]
614.	3	Deposit	Fill of [612]
615.	7	Deposit	Fill of [609]
616.	13	Cut	Ditch
617.	13	Deposit	Fill of [616]
618.	13	Deposit	Fill of [616]
619.	13	Cut	Ditch
620.	13	Deposit	Fill of [619]
621.	8	Deposit	Fill of [622]
622.	8	Cut	Linear feature/pit
623.	8	Deposit	Fill of [624]
624.	8	Cut	Post hole
625.	8	Deposit	Burnt layer
626.	8	Deposit	Fill of [627]
627.	8	Cut	Linear feature
628.	2	Cut	Linear ditch
629.	2	Deposit	Fill of [628]
630.	13	Cut	Gully
631.	13	Deposit	Fill of [630]
632.	2	Deposit	Subsoil overburden
633.	9	Cut	Linear ditch/gully
634.	9	Deposit	Fill of [633]
635.	9	Cut	?Pit
636.	9	Deposit	Fill of [635]
637.	8	Deposit	Fill of [638]
638.	8	Cut	Linear feature
639.	9	Cut	Pit
640.	9	Deposit	Fill of [639]
641.	9	Deposit	Fill of [639]
642.	9	Deposit	Fill of [639]
643.	9	Cut	Linear ditch
644.	9	Deposit	Fill of [643]
645.	9	Deposit	Fill of [635]
646.	9	Deposit	Fill of [635]
647.	9	Cut	Linear ditch/gully
648.	9	Deposit	Fill of [647]
649.	42	Deposit	Ploughsoil
650.	42	Deposit	Subsoil
651.	42	Deposit	Glacial fill in "stripe"
652.	42	Deposit	Glacial fill in "stripe"
653.	42	Deposit	Glacial fill in "stripe"
654.	42	Deposit	Glacial fill in "stripe"
655.	42	Deposit	Glacial fill in "stripe"
656.	42	Deposit	Glacial deposit

Context No.	Trench No.	Category	Description/interpretation
657.	42	Deposit	Natural- glacial chalk drift
658.	6	Deposit	Topsoil
659.	6	Deposit	Subsoil
660.	6	Deposit	Fill of [
661.	6	Deposit	Fill of [
662.	6	Cut	Ditch
663.	6	Cut	Ditch
664.	6	Deposit	Topsoil
665.	6	Deposit	Subsoil
666.	6	Deposit	Fill of [667]
667.	6	Cut	Ditch
668.	6	Deposit	Topsoil
669.	6	Deposit	Subsoil
670.	6	Deposit	Subsoil
671.	6	Deposit	Fill of [672]
672.	6	Cut	Ditch
673.	62	Deposit	Topsoil
674.	62	Deposit	Subsoil, top of glacial stripe
675.	62	Deposit	Pale sand layer of glacial stripe
676.	62	Deposit	Lens of red sand in glacial stripe
677.	62	Deposit	Lens of sand in glacial stripe
678.	62	Deposit	Lower fill of glacial stripe
679.	8	Deposit	Fill of [638]
680.	8	Deposit	Fill of [638]
681.	8	Deposit	Fill of [638]
682.	8	Deposit	Fill of [638]
683.	3	Cut	Oven
684.	3	Deposit	Clay superstructure
685.	3	Cut	Hearth
686.	3	Deposit	Fill of [684]
687.	3	Cut	Chamber/flue
688.	3	Deposit	Fill of [686]
689.	3	Cut	Feature in baulk section
690.	3	Deposit	Fill of [688]

Appendix 2: Finds Summary

Context No.	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
501	FLINT	1	-
502	POT	4	66
502	FLINT	3	-
503	POT	5	20
504	FLINT	3	-
505	SF2	1	-
507	POT	1	6
507	SF3	1	-
508	FLINT	4	-
509	POT	8	30
509	SF4	1	-
509	FLINT	3	-
510	FLINT	1	-
511	FLINT	2	-
512	SF5	1	-
513	SF6	1	-
513	SF7	1	-
513	FLINT	4	-
514	SF8	1	-
514	SF9	1	-
516	RPOT	1	118
516	FLINT	1	-
517	POT	1	14
517	PCBM	1	6
517	BOTT	1	10
520	FLINT	1	-
521	SF10	1	-
521	FLINT	3	-
524	SF11	1	-
525	FLINT	2	-
539	PCBM	1	38
539	FLINT	5	-
544	SF12	1	-
546	MPOT	1	6
546	SF13	1	-
546	SF18	1	-
555	SF14	1	-
559	SF15	1	-
561	SF16	1	-
563	MPOT	1	16
564	MPOT	1	6
565	SF17	1	-
576	FLINT	3	-
577	FLINT	8	-
578	RPOT	1	32
578	RCBM	1	34
578	FLINT	2	-
580	RPOT	2	296
580	ABONE	-	336
581	RPOT	3	60
581	FLINT	5	22
584	ABONE	-	44
586	RPOT	1	10

Context No.	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
590	PREPOT	2	6
592	POT	7	6
592	FLINT	4	-
594	POT	1	4
594	FLINT	6	-
595	FLINT	1	20
597	FLINT	2	26
587	FLINT	38	910
601	RPOT	17	248
601	MWD	1	6
601	FLINT	14	-
601	ABONE	-	278
603	ABONE	-	110
605	FLINT	14	126
608	PREPOT/ RPOT	4	26
608	MWD	1	12
611	RPOT	3	56
611	RCBM	1	204
611	FLINT	10	-
611	ABONE	-	32
620	POT	3	8
620	FLINT	8	18
621	POT	1	4
621	FLINT	1	-
625	FLINT	80	785
632	RPOT	5	102
632	FLINT	4	24
634	PREPOT	2	6
636	RPOT	2	16
636	FLINT	1	-
637	PREPOT	2	8
640	FCLAY	1	4
640	FLINT	12	88
640	ABONE	-	6
641	RPOT	1	8
641	FLINT	10	22
645	FLINT	1	-
646	RPOT	4	46
646	FCLAY	1	4
646	FLINT	1	-
666	RPOT	1	6
666	FLINT	5	12
666	ABONE	-	14
679	PREPOT	1	6
684	FLINT	1	-
690	RPOT	1	28

Key:

PREPOT	Prehistoric pottery
RPOT	Roman pottery
MPOT	Medieval pottery (Late Saxon-medieval)
RCBM	Roman ceramic building material
PCBM	Post medieval ceramic building material
FCLAY	Fired clay
MWD	Metal working debris
ABONE	Animal bone
BOTT	Post-medieval bottle glass
FLINT	

Appendix 3: Worked Flint

Context	Category	Type	No
501	scpf	end/side scraper	1
502	flak	flake	2
502	cutf	ut.flake	1
503	flak	flake	2
503	corf	flake	1
503	unsk	burnt	1
503	cutf	ut.flake	1
504	flak	flake	1
504	core	multi-platform flake core	1
504	flak	blade-like	1
508	flak	flake	3
508	flak	broad	1
509	flak	flake	1
509	unsk	fragment	0
509	pecr	piercer	1
510	scpf	side scraper	1
511	flak	flake	2
513	blad	blade	1
513	scpf	end scraper	1
513	flak	flake	2
516	flak	flake	1
520	pecr	spurred piece	1
521	blad	blade	1
521	unsk	fragment	0
525	flak	flake	1
525	core	fragment	1
539	flak	flake	1
539	flak	chip	1
539	flak	blade-like	1
539	stfr	fragment	1
539	unsk	fragment	0
576	cutf	ut.flake	1
576	flak	flake	1
576	flak	blade-like	1
577	unsk	fragment	0
577	flak	flake	5
577	core	single platform flake core	1
578	flak	flake	2
581	flak	flake	1
581	unsk	burnt	1

Context	Category	Type	No
581	flak	blade-like	3
587	unsk	burnt	38
592	flak	blade-like	2
592	pecr	piercer	1
592	flak	flake	1
594	flak	spall	3
594	flak	flake	3
595	unsk	burnt	1
597	cutf	ut.flake	1
597	unsk	burnt	1
601	retf	ret.flake	1
601	unsk	fragment	0
601	flak	flake	8
601	flak	spall	1
601	blad	blade	2
601	flak	broad	1
605	unsk	burnt	14
611	flak	broad	1
611	scpf	end scraper	1
611	blad	blade	3
611	retb	ret.blade	1
611	flak	flake	4
615	arwf	barbed and tanged	1
620	flak	spall	1
620	unsk	burnt	3
620	flak	flake	4
621	blad	blade	1
625	flak	flake	4
625	flak	blade-like	1
625	unsk	burnt	75
632	flak	flake	3
632	scpf	end scraper	1
636	flak	flake	1
640	flak	flake	3
640	unsk	fragment	0
640	unsk	burnt	7
641	flak	spall	1
641	unsk	burnt	2
641	flak	flake	7
641	scpf	flake scraper	1

Context	Category	Type	No
645	scpf	end scraper	1
646	flak	flake	1
666	flak	flake	3

Context	Category	Type	No
666	pecr	piercer	1
666	unsk	burnt	1
684	core	fragment	1

Key:

arwf	Arrowhead
blad	Blade
core	Core
corf	Core trimming piece
cutf	Utilised flake
dent	Denticulate
flak	Flake
hams	Hammerstone
pecr	Piercer
retb	Retouched blade
retf	Retouched flake
scpf	Scraper
unsk	Non-struck piece
stfr	Struck fragment

Appendix 4: Prehistoric Pottery

Ctxt	Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt (g)	Abraded	Comment	Spot date	Feature	Feature type	Trench
509	flint, sand and grog	U	6	14	Y		BA	us	us	9
580	transitional	D	1	276		wiped storage jar	TRANS	579	pit	12
590	grog	U	2	1	Y	very abraded	BA	589	ditch	20
592	grog	U	4	1	Y	very abraded	BA	591	ditch	20
592	sandy	U	1	1	Y	very abraded	IA	591	ditch	20
608	flint and sand	U	1	1	Y	very abraded	BA	607	ditch	1
621	flint	R	1	1		type A1 flat-topped	IA	622	ditch/pit	8
634	flint, sand and grog	U	1	1	Y		BA	633	gully	9
637	flint and sand	U	1	1	Y		?	638	ditch	8
679	flint, sand and grog	U	1	1	Y	very abraded	BA	638	ditch	8
			19	**298**						

Appendix 5: Romano-British Pottery

Ctxt	Cut No.	Date	Feature	Fabric	Vessel Type	Qty	Wt (g)	Diamr	%	Decoration	Abrasion	Sooting
586	607	LC1-C4	DITCH	MicaGW		1	9			Grooved	YY	
608	607	(PRE)LC1-C4	DITCH	SGW		1	8				Y	
608	607	(PRE)LC1-C4	DITCH	SGW+		2	11				Y	
690	689	LC1-C4	OVEN FLUE	MicaGW		1	25				YY	
632		LC1-C3	SUBSOIL	MicaGW		3	5				Y	
632		LC1-C3	SUBSOIL	MicaGW		1	21			Single groove	Y	
632		LC1-C3	SUBSOIL	MicaGW		1	74				Y	
666	667	?C2	DITCH	MicaGW		1	4			Single groove		
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	PakeCC		1	21				Y	

Ctxt	Cut No.	Date	Feature	Fabric	Vessel Type	Qty	Wt (g)	Diamr	%	Decoration	Abrasion	Sooting
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MiscOW		1	15				YY	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaRedW		1	18			Burnished	Y	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaGW	5.4	1	23	16	6		Y	Y
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaGW	4.13	1	4	14	5		Y	Y
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaGW		1	2				Y	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaGW		1	21				Y	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	MicaGW		1	9			Coarse Rouletting	Y	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	SGW		1	28				Y	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	SGW		1	5			Burnished	YY	
601	599	LC2-C3+	DITCH	SGW		7	99			Parallel grooves		
611	609	C3	DITCH	MicaGW	5.4	1	15	22	7		Y	
611	609	C4	DITCH	MicaGW		1	23			Folded	Y	
611	609	C5	DITCH	MicaGW	FLAT	1	16				Y	
636	635	LC2+	PIT	SGW	4.5.3	1	10	14	6		Y	Y
636	635	LC2+	PIT	SGW		1	2					
646	635	?EC2	PIT	SGW	FLAT	1	16				Y	
646	635	?EC2	PIT	SGW		1	3				Y	
646	635	?EC2	PIT	MicaGW		2	24				Y	
641	639	LC1-C4	PIT	MicaGW		1	5				Y	
580	579	(PRE)LC1-C4	PIT	MicaGW		1	15					
620	619	LC1-C4	DITCH	MicaGW		3	7				Y	Y
592	591	(PRE)LC1-C4	DITCH	MicaGW		1	2				Y	
594	593	MC1-MC2	DITCH	SGW		1	1				YY	
502		?LC1-MC2	U/S	MicaGW		1	3				Y	
502		?LC1-MC2	U/S	MicaGW		1	22			Fingernail incised	Y	
502		?LC1-MC2	U/S	MicaGW		1	32			External Burnish	Y	
502		?LC1-MC2	U/S	SGW		1	7				Y	
503		LC1-C4	U/S	MicaGW	4OR5	1	1				Y	F
507		LC1-C4	U/S	SGW		1	4				YYY	
509		(PRE)LC1-C4	U/S	MicaGW		1	4				YYY	
509		(PRE)LC1-C4	U/S	SGW		1	4				YY	
516		C2-C4	U/S	NVOM	7.9.1	1	115	28	14		YYY	
517		LC3	U/S	HORW		1	10				YY	
564		LC1-C4	U/S	SGW		1	3				YY	
578		LC1-C3	U/S	MicaGW	FLAT&GROOVE	1	29			Rilled	YY	
581		C2-C3	U/S	VGW	2.1.2	1	7	10	13		Y	Y
581		C2-C3	U/S	VGW		1	45				Y	
581		C2-C3	U/S	MicaRedW		1	6				Y	

Appendix 6: Post-Roman Pottery

Context	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No	Condition	ENV	Wt (g)	Fabric Date Range	Comments	Overall Date Range
546	M	GRIM	BODY		1	A	1	2			L12th-14th C
563	M	GRIM	JUG		1	A	1	16		Abraded handle fragment	L12th-14th C

Pottery fabric codes:

GRIM - Grimston Glazed ware

Appendix 7: Small Finds

Small find No.	Context No.	Qty	Period	Material	Description	Comments
1	615	1	PREH	Flint	Arrowhead	Barbed and tanged
2	505	1	PMED	Copper alloy	Key	Ornate watch winder handle
3	507	1	RB	Copper alloy	Pin	Shaft only
4	509	1	LSAX	Copper alloy	Stirrup	Terminal
5	512	1	RB	Copper alloy	Coin	Illegible
6	513	1	RB	Copper alloy	Brooch	Colchester type 1st century AD
7	513	1		Copper alloy	Coin	
8	514	1	RB	Copper alloy	Coin	Illegible
9	514	1	RB	Copper alloy	Coin	Barbarious radiate ?4th century
10	521	1	PMED	Lead	Shot	With casting jet
11	524	1		Iron	Artefact	
12	544	1		Copper alloy	Artefact	Scrap
13	546	1		Lead	Artefact	Disc
14	555	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Coin	Q. Elizabeth II penny d.1967
15	559	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Coin	Q. Elizabeth II ten pence d.1969
16	561	1	PMED	Lead	Shot	
17	565	1	MED	Copper alloy	Buckle	D-shaped
18	546	1		Iron	Strip	
N/A	502	1		Copper/tin alloy	Button	
N/A	502	1		? alloy	Button	
N/A	506	1	MOD	Lead	Bullet	Head
N/A	506	3		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	506	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Bullet	Case
N/A	507	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Cartridge	Cap
N/A	507	1		Copper alloy	Button	
N/A	507	1		Copper/tin alloy	Button	
N/A	507	1		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	509	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Cartridge	Cap
N/A	512	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Eyelet	
N/A	512	1		Copper alloy	Rod	Section
N/A	513	1		Copper/tin alloy	Button	
N/A	514	1		Copper alloy	Button	
N/A	514	2		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	516	1		Iron	Nail	
N/A	517	1		Copper alloy	Rod	Section
N/A	521	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Screw	
N/A	521	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Button	
N/A	524	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Button	

Small find No.	Context No.	Qty	Period	Material	Description	Comments
N/A	524	1		Copper alloy	Sheet	Fragment
N/A	524	1		Iron	Rod	Section
N/A	535	1	MOD	? alloy	Button	
N/A	535	1		Copper/tin alloy	Button	
N/A	539	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Cartridge	Cap
N/A	539	1		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	543	1		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	544	1		Copper alloy	Strip	
N/A	561	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Nail	
N/A	561	1	MOD	Copper alloy	Washer	
N/A	561	1		Iron	Nail	
N/A	561	1	MOD	Lead	Bullet	Head
N/A	561	1		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	563	1		Iron	Nail	
N/A	563	1		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	565	1		Lead	Strip	
N/A	566	4		Lead	Scrap	
N/A	594	2		Iron	Nails	

Appendix 8: Faunal Remains

Ctxt	Wt (g)	Qty	Species	Comments
580	336	35	Cattle	X6, Chopped scapula + mandible frags. Juvenile. Calculus on all teeth.
580			Large mammal	X29, probably same cow.
584	44	2	Cattle	X2, mandible fragments
601	278	10	Cattle	X2, metapodial fragment and chopped humerus.
601			Large mammal	X8, probably cattle fragments.
603	110	20	Large mammal	X20, large mammal shaft fragments, poor condition.
611	32	1	Large mammal	X1.
640	6	20+	Sheep/goat?	X20+ tooth fragments, very poor condition. ?Prehistoric date.
666	14	1	Sheep/goat	X1, chopped tibia.

Appendix 9: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Context No.	640	679	600	613	592	686
Cereals and other food plants						
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		x	x	x	xx
Large Fabaceae indet.						xcotyfg
Hordeum sp. (grains)			x			xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)	x					xcf
(glume bases)			x			x
(rachis internodes)	x				x	x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x					x
(spikelet forks)					x	
Herbs						
Atriplex sp.	x					x
Bromus sp.	x				x	
Chenopodium album L.	xx					x
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love	x					x
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	xsil					x
Rumex sp.	x					x
R. acetosella L.	xcf					
Silene sp.	x					
Wetland plants						
Carex sp.					x	
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	x					
Charred root/rhizome/stem			x			
Ericacaeae indet. (stem)	xx		x	x	x	xxx
Indet.seeds					x	
Indet.tuber frags.	x					
Other material						
Black porous 'cokey'material	x			x	x	xxx
Black tarry material	x	x				xx
Bone		x	xxb			xb
Burnt/fired clay						xx
Burnt stone						x
Small coal frags.	x	x		x		
Sample volume (litres)	7	9	11	10	9.5	4.5
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx 100+ specimens

coty = cotyledon fg = fragment sil = siliqua fragment b = burnt

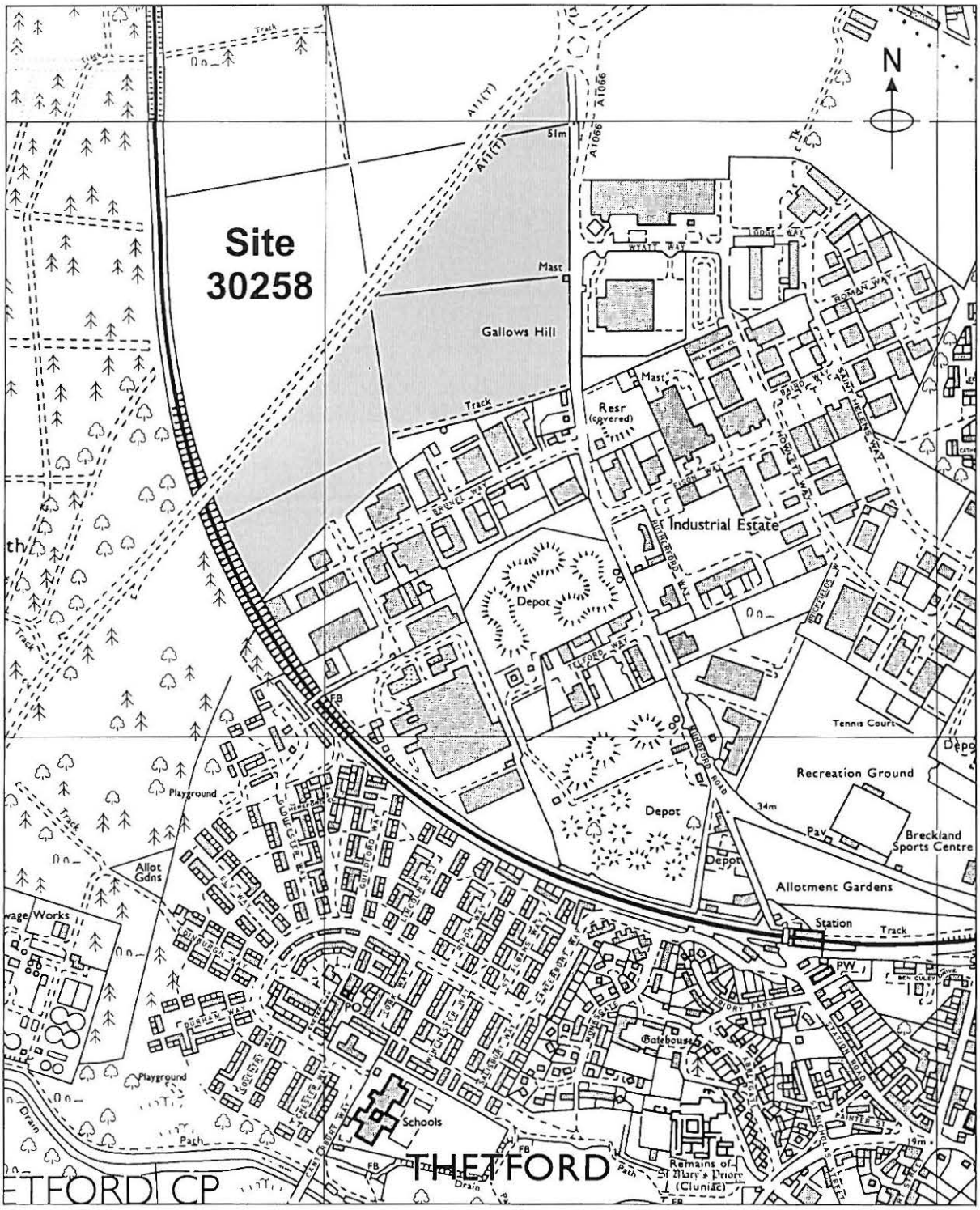


Fig. 1 Site location. Scale 1:10,000

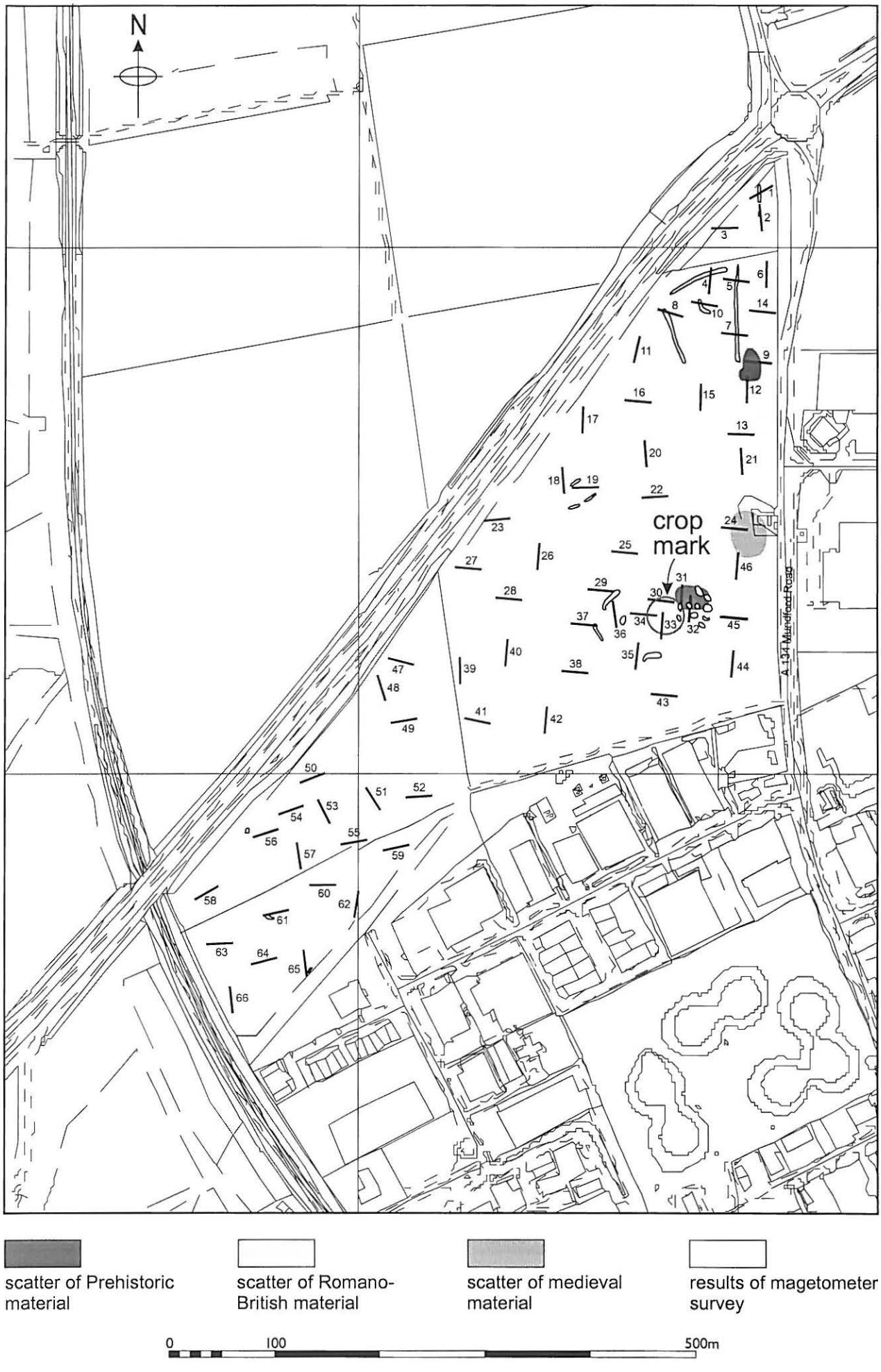


Fig. 2 Trench location. Scale 1:5000

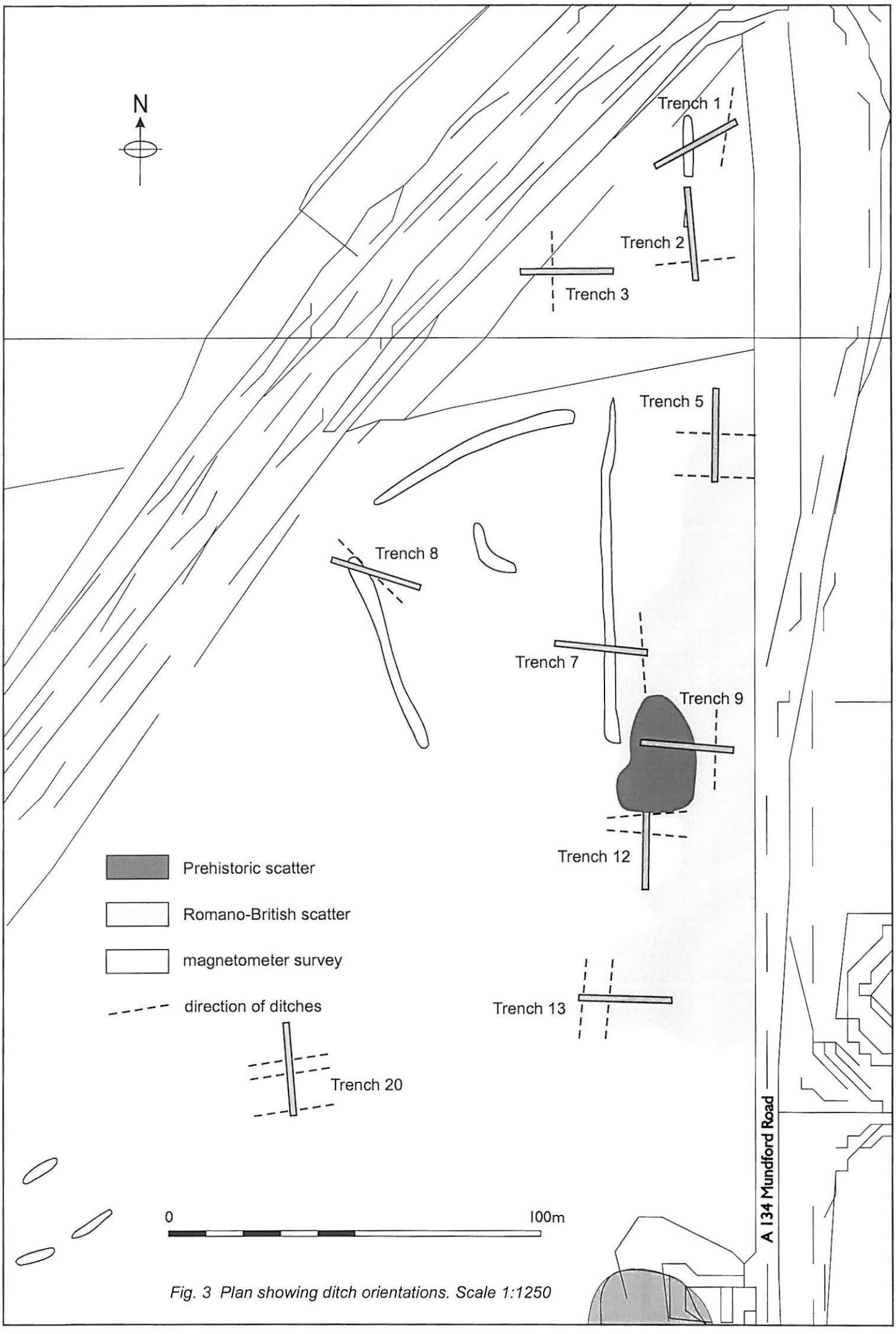


Fig. 3 Plan showing ditch orientations. Scale 1:1250

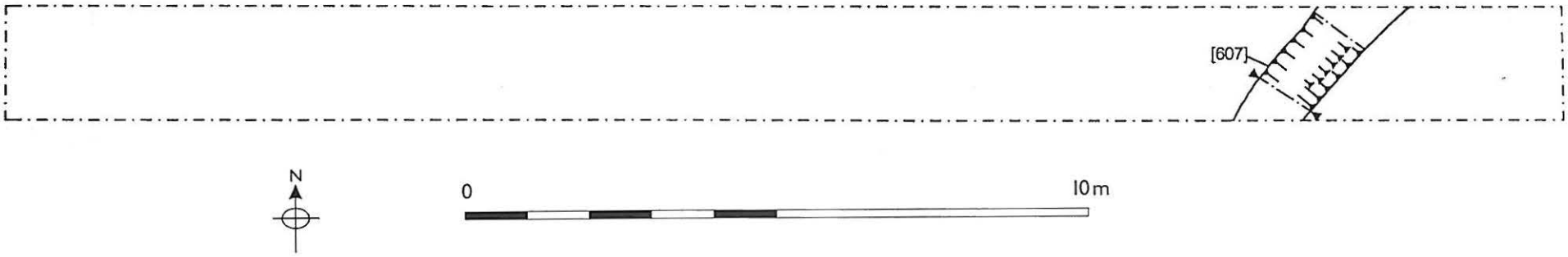


Fig. 4 Trench 1; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

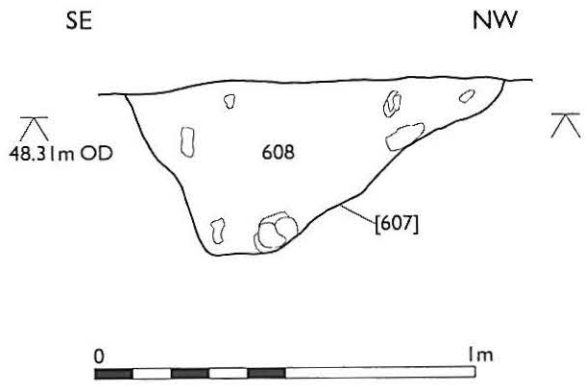


Fig. 5 Trench 1; section through ditch [607]. Scale 1:20

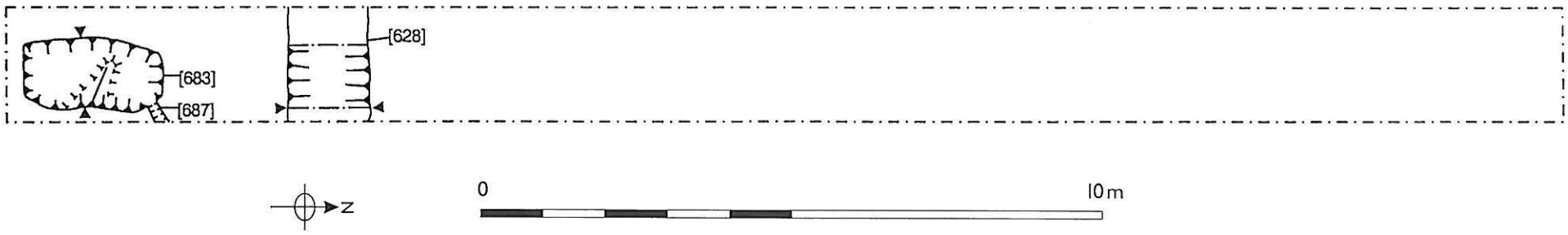


Fig. 6 Trench 2; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

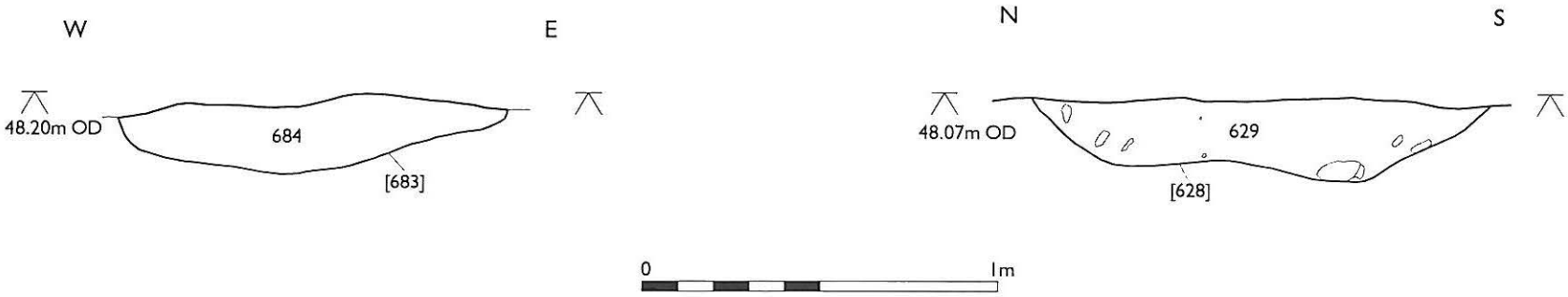


Fig. 7 Trench 2; sections. Scale 1:20

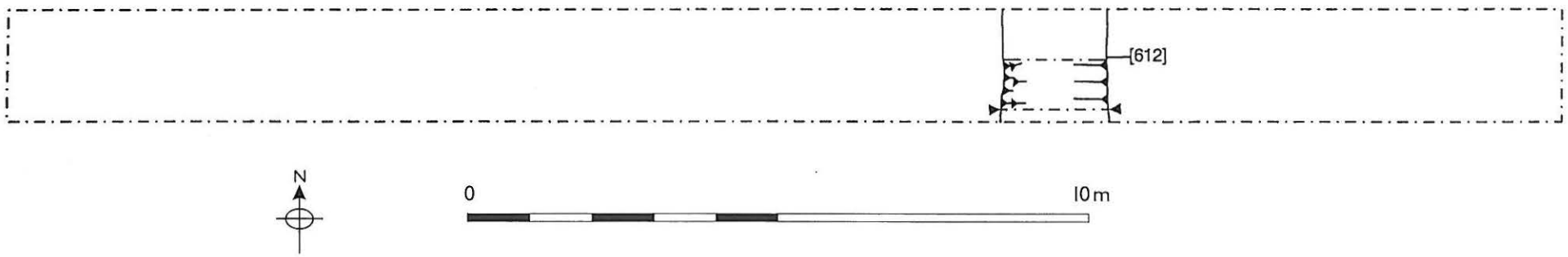


Fig. 8 Trench 3; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

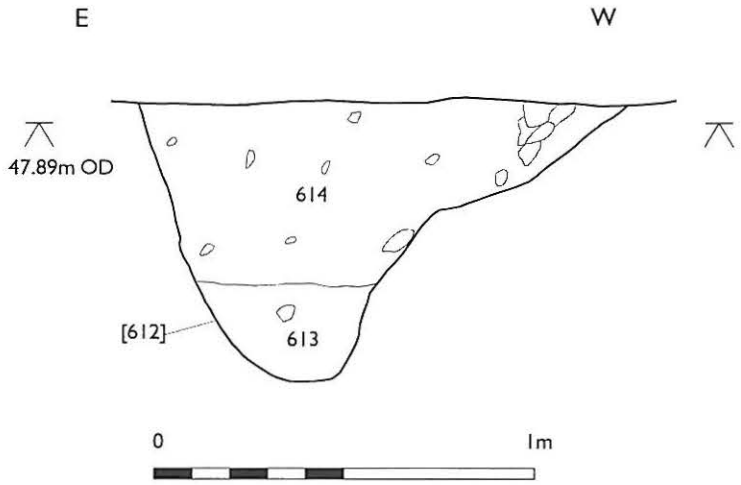


Fig. 9 Trench 3; section through ditch [612]. Scale 1:20

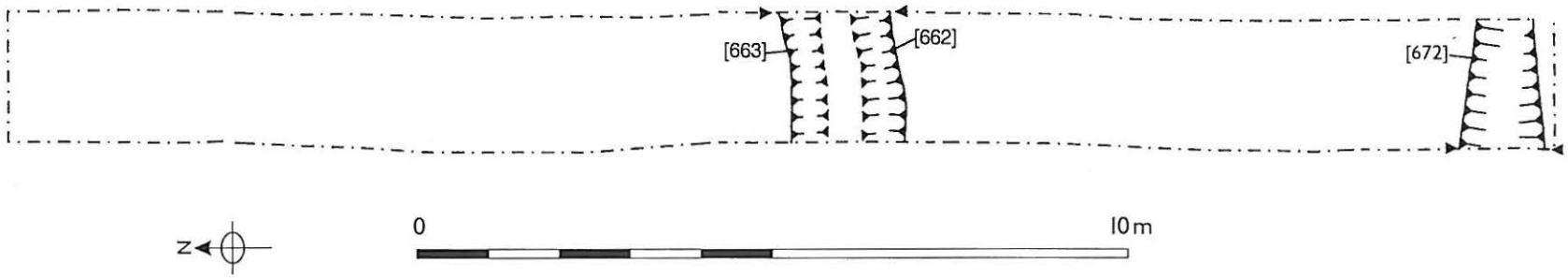


Fig. 10 Trench 6; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

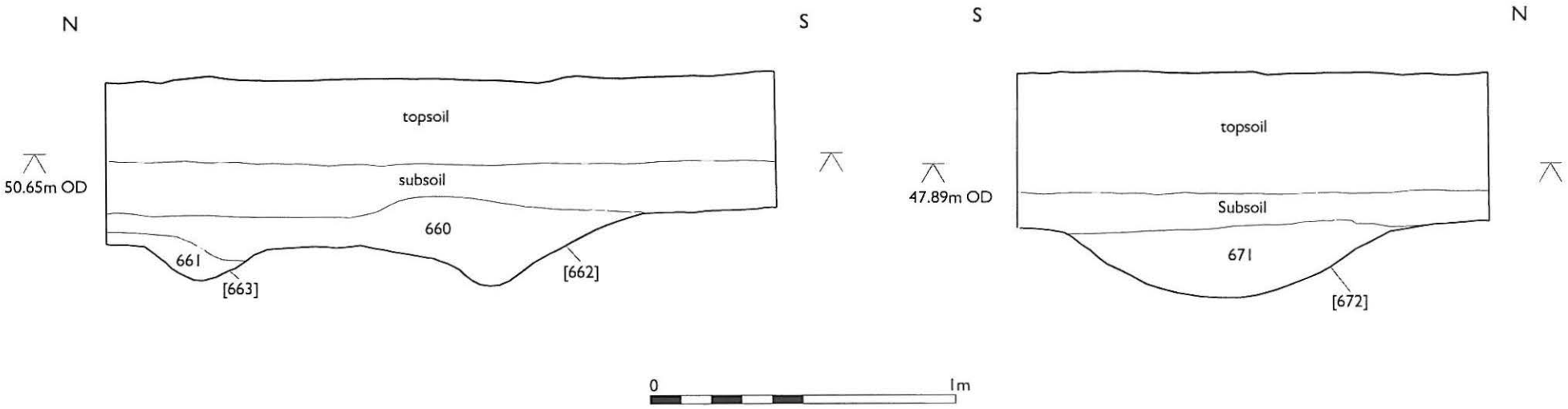


Fig. 11 Trench 6; sections. Scale 1:20

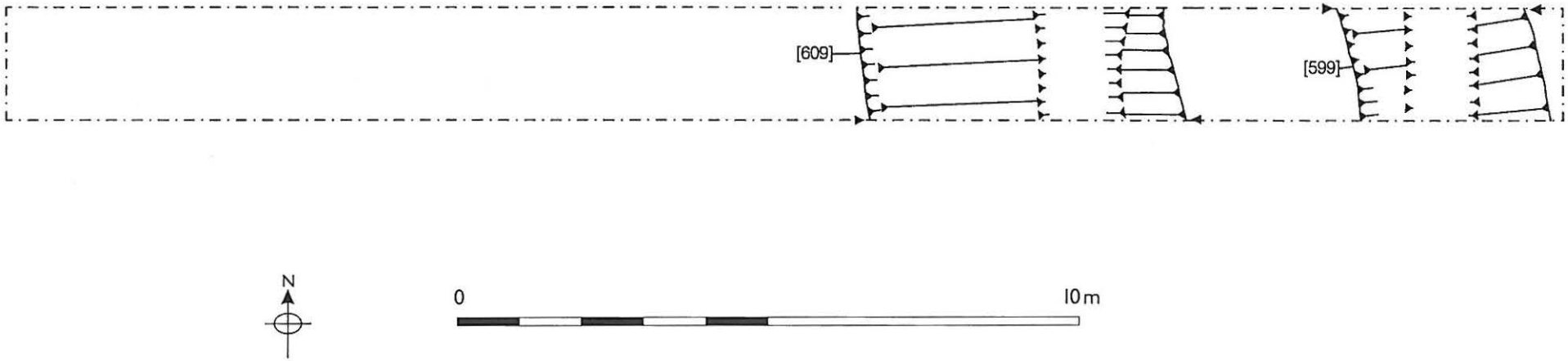


Fig. 12 Trench 7; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

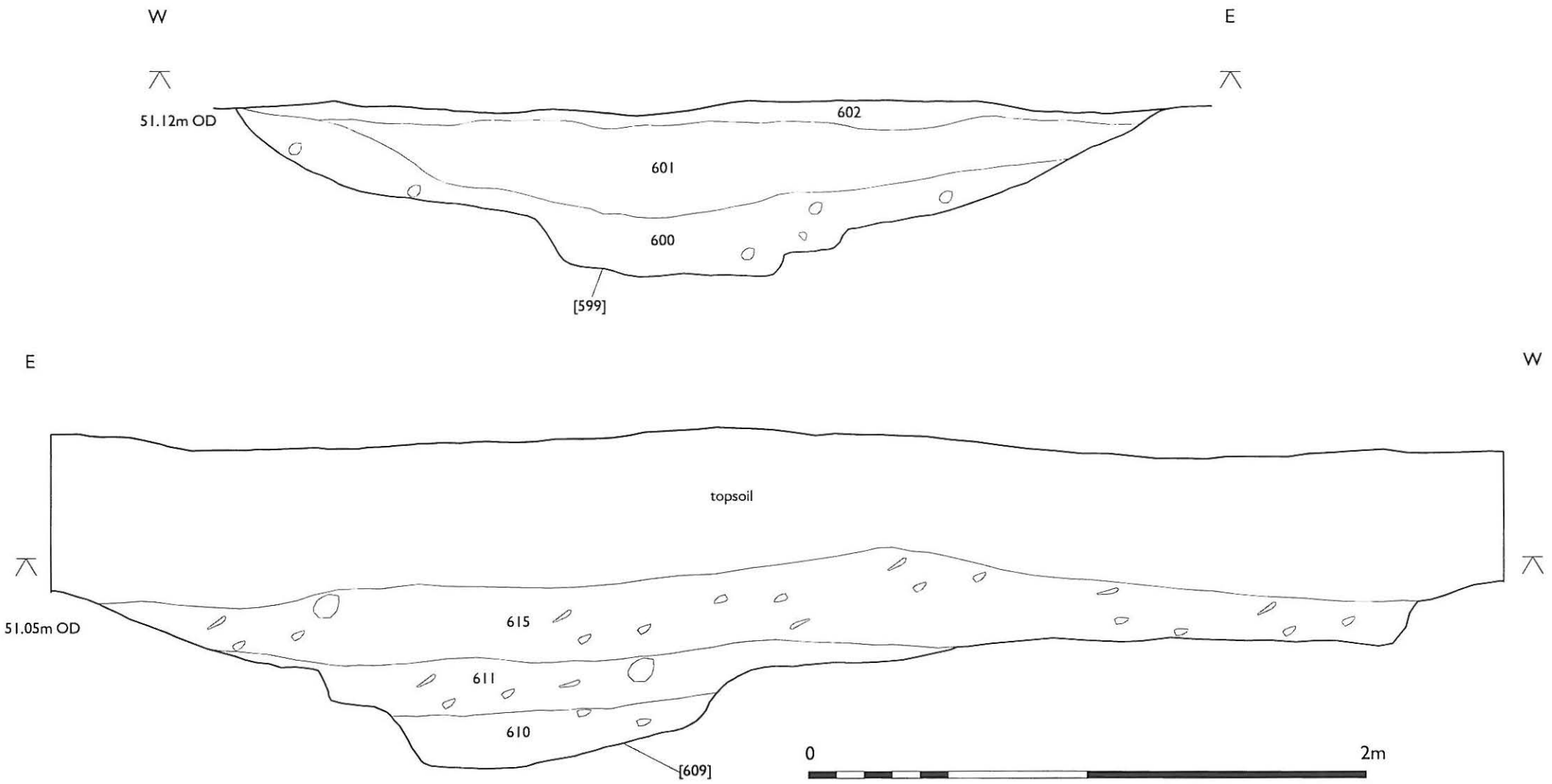


Fig. 13 Trench 7; sections. Scale 1:20

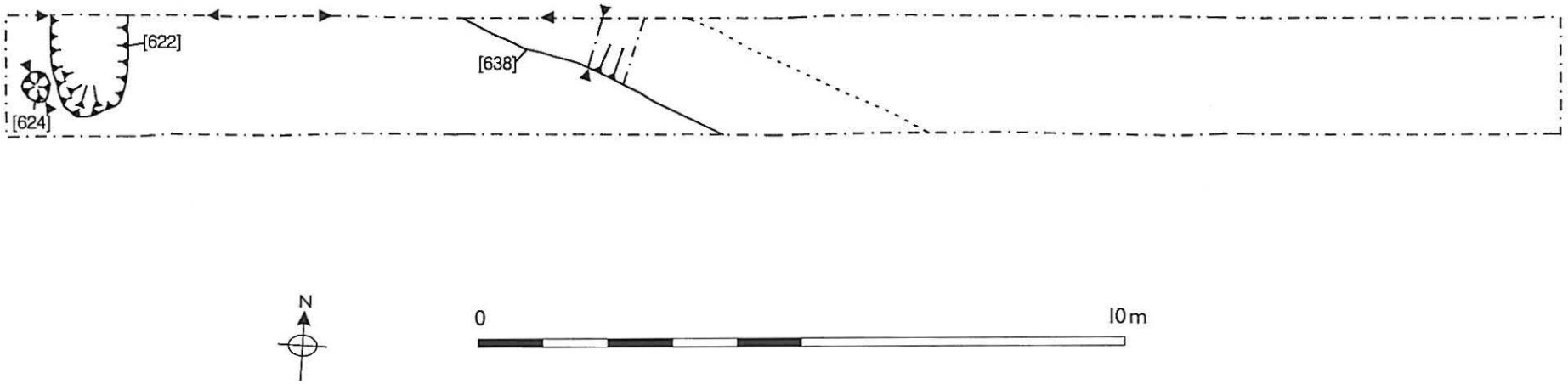


Fig. 14 Trench 8; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

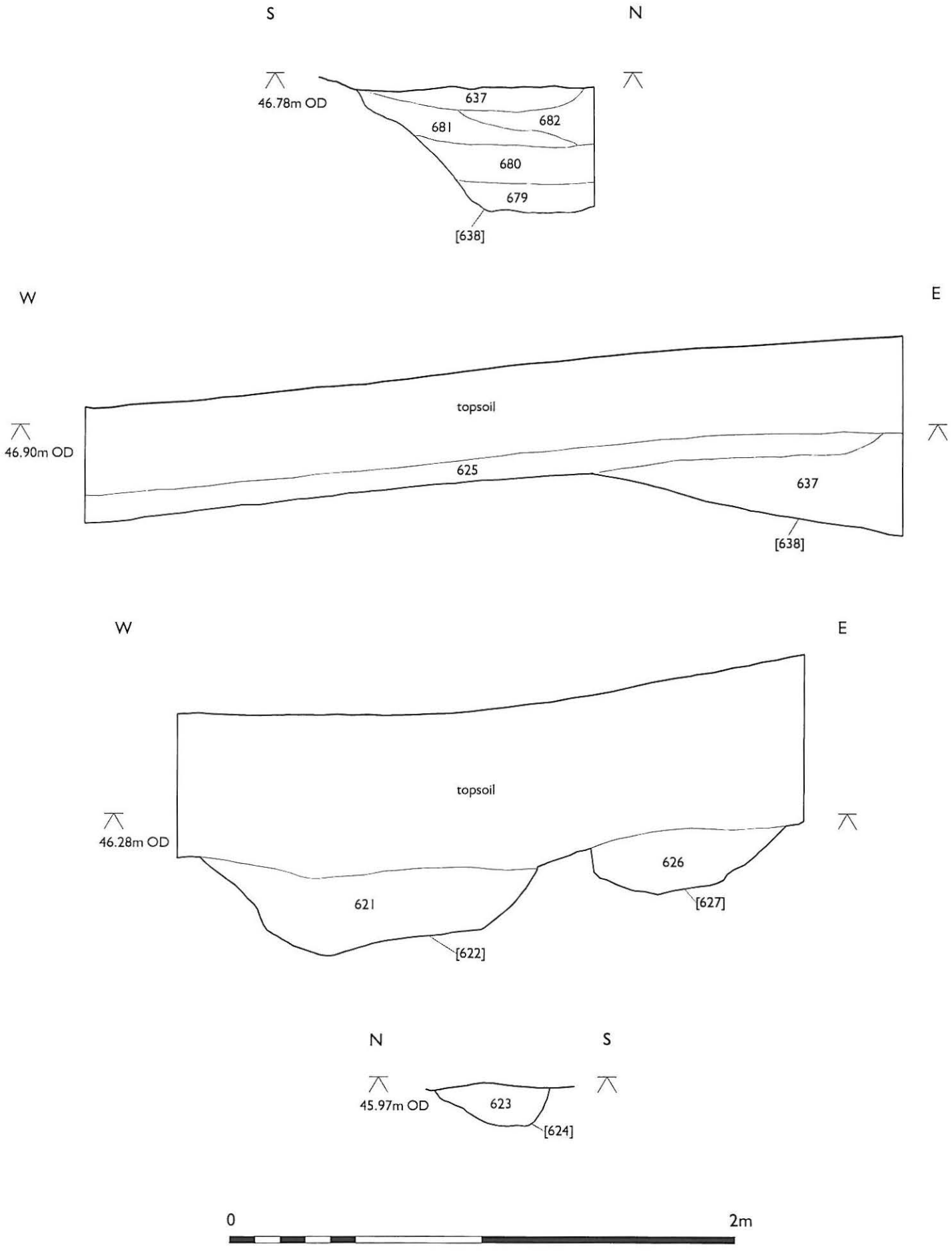


Fig. 15 Trench 8; sections. Scale 1:20

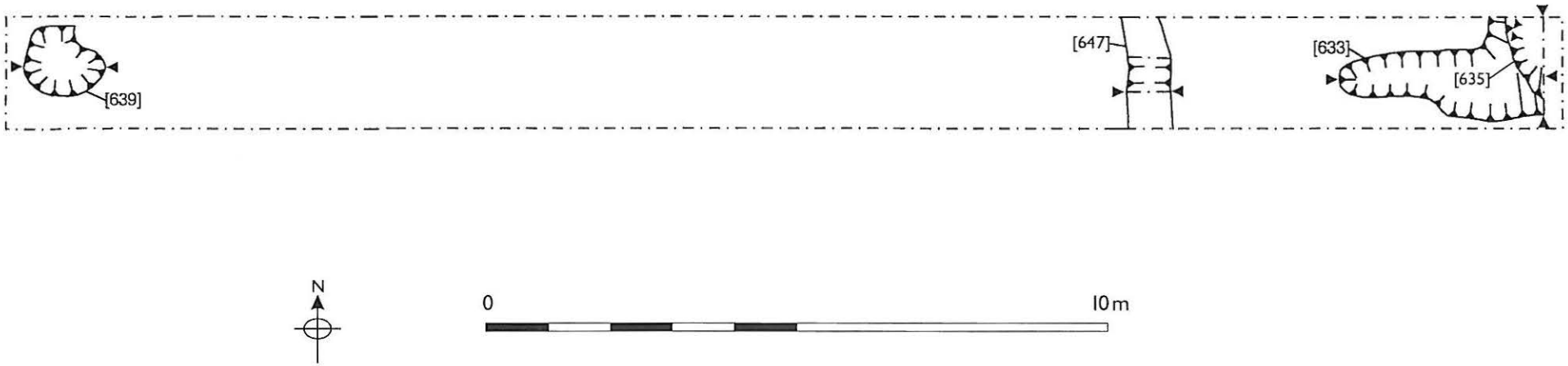


Fig. 16 Trench 9; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

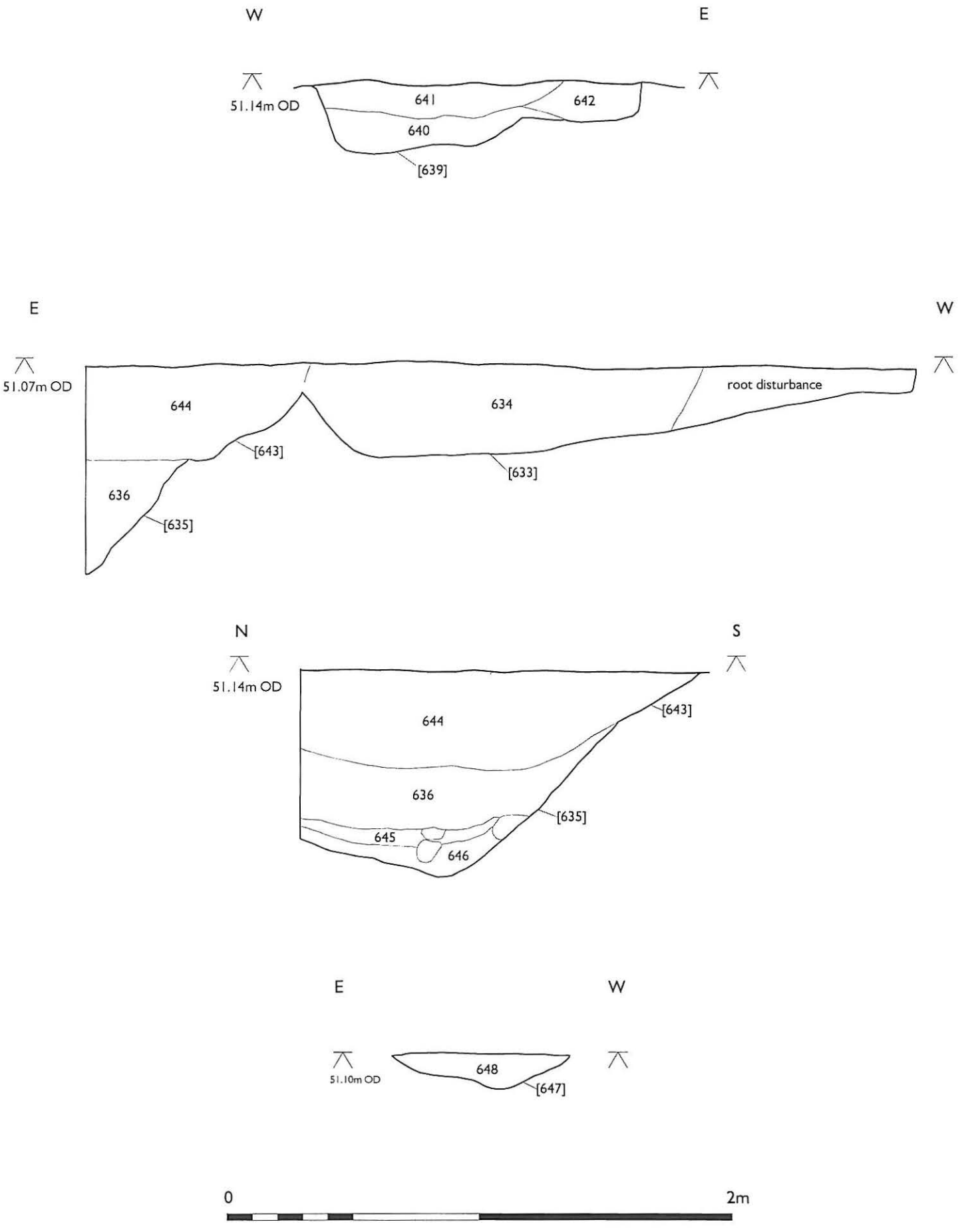


Fig. 17 Trench 9; sections. Scale. 1:20

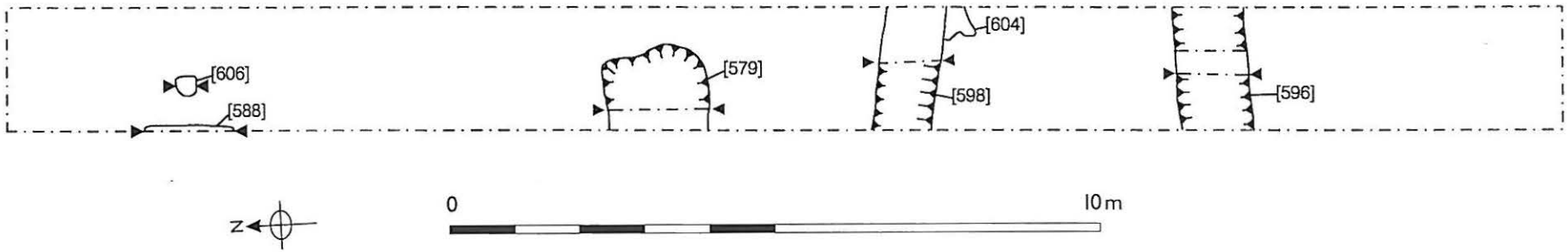
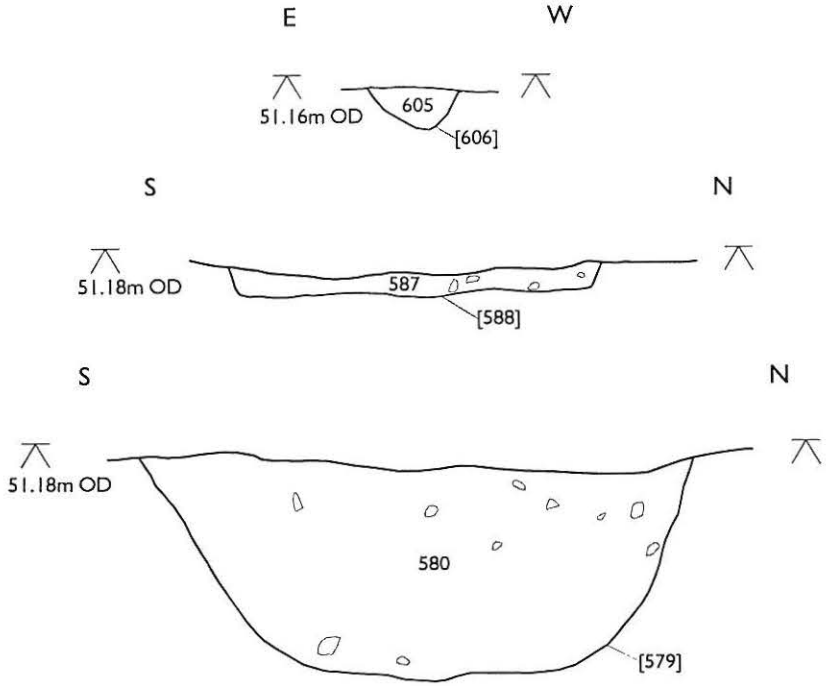


Fig. 18 Trench 12; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100



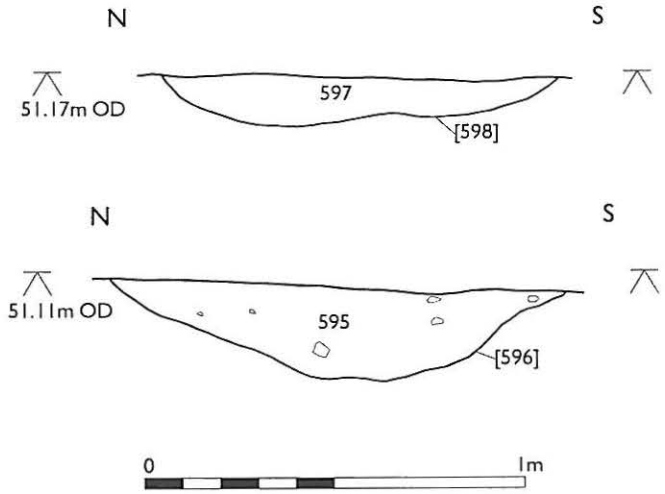


Fig. 19 Trench 12; sections. Scale. 1:20

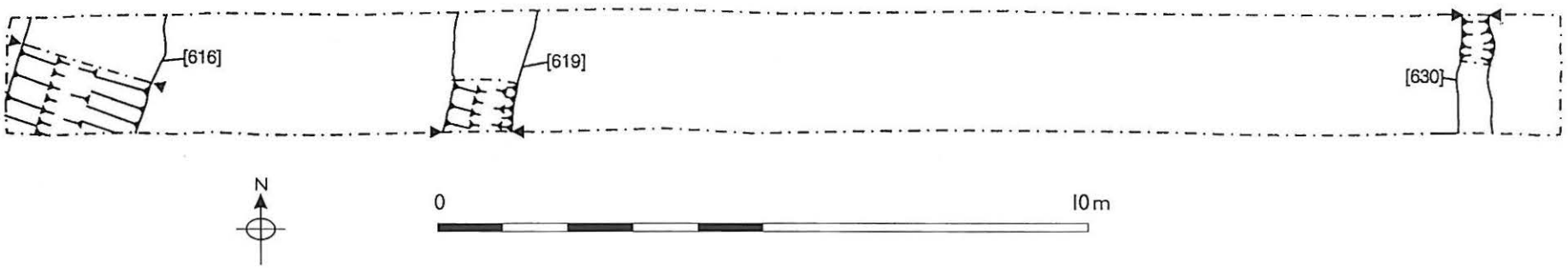
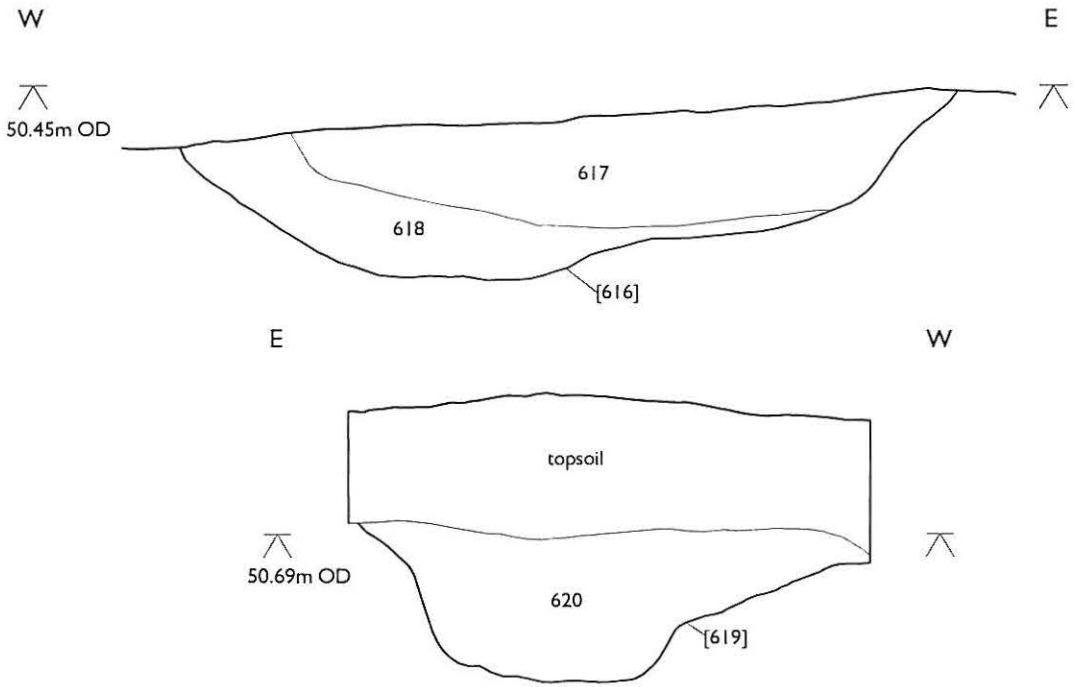


Fig. 20 Trench 13; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100



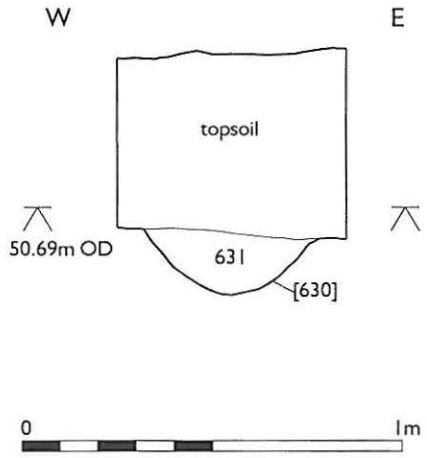


Fig. 21 Trench 13; sections. Scale. 1:20

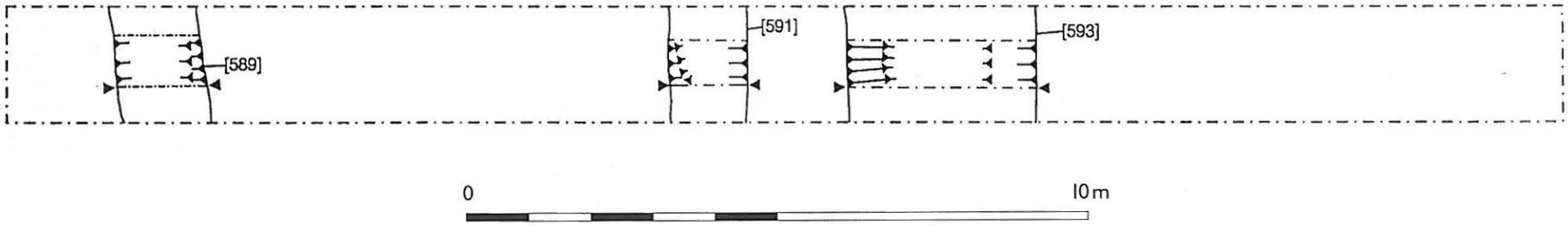


Fig. 22 Trench 20; plan of archaeological features. Scale 1:100

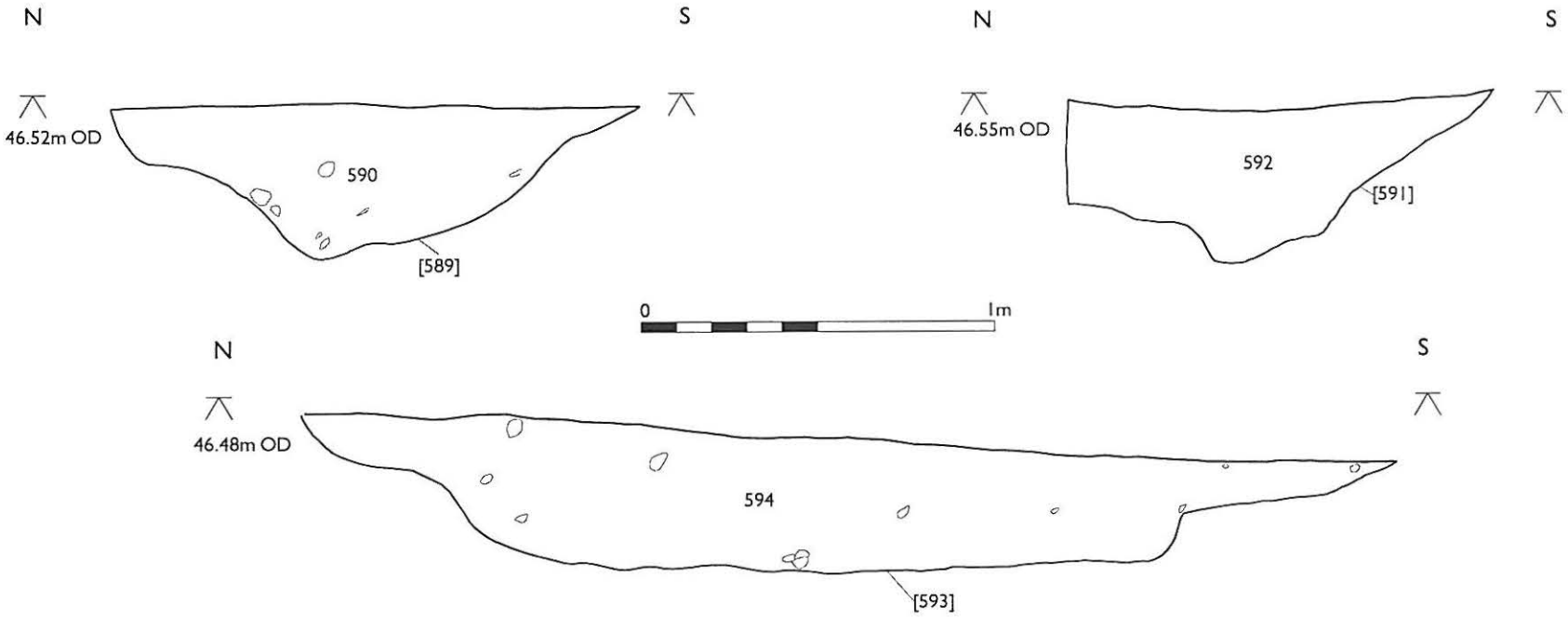


Fig. 23 Trench 20; sections. Scale. 1:20

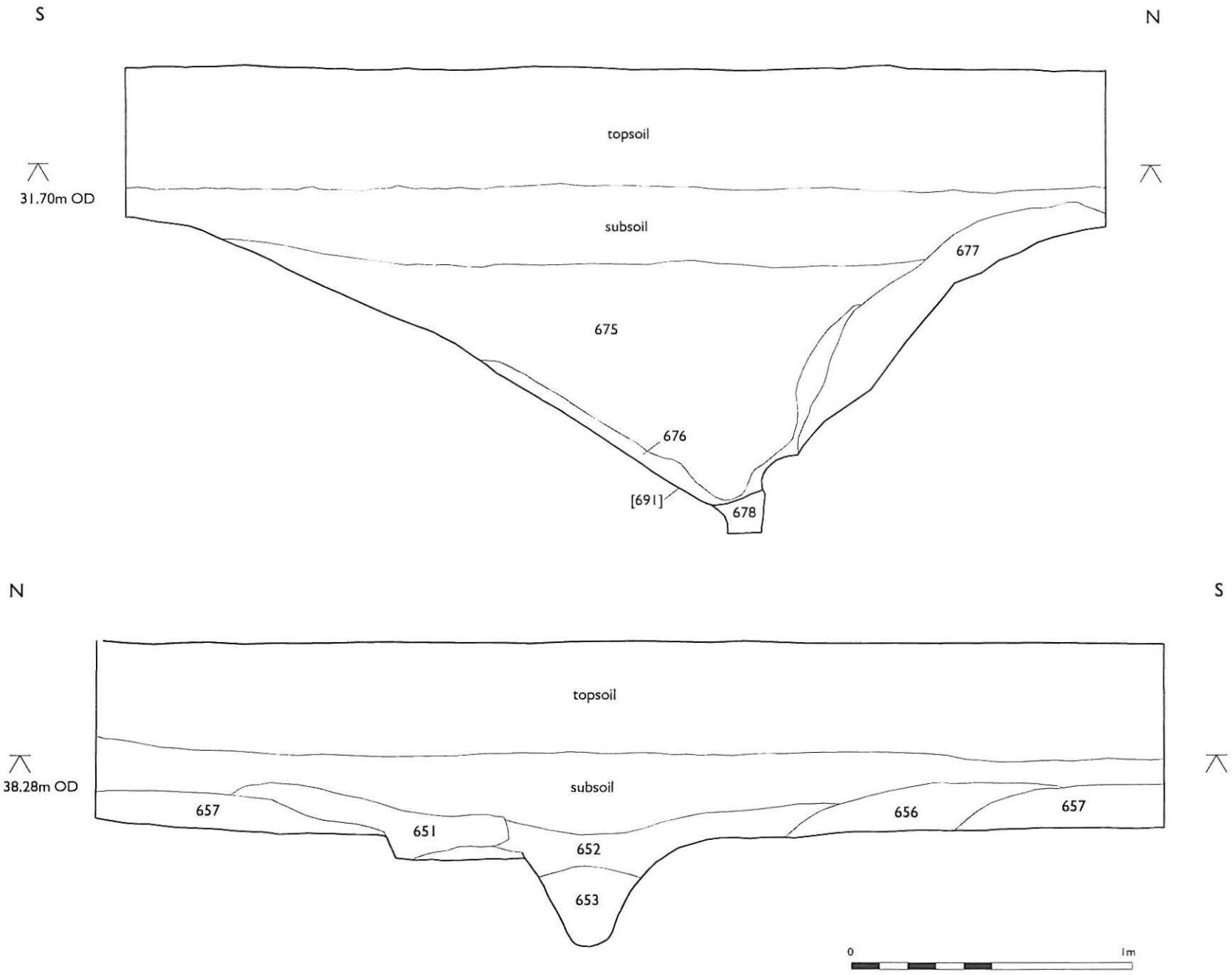


Fig. 24 Section through periglacial feature [691] in Trench 62 and [692] in Trench 42. Scale 1:20

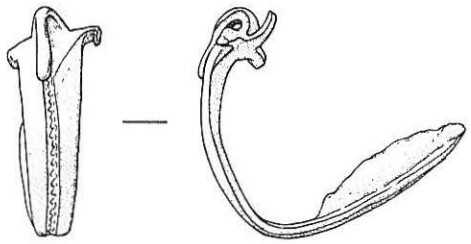


Fig. 25 Roman Colchester-type brooch (1st century AD). Scale 1:1

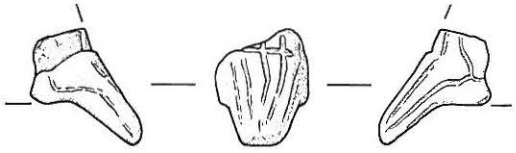


Fig. 26 Late Saxon (11th century AD) stirrup terminal. Scale 1:1