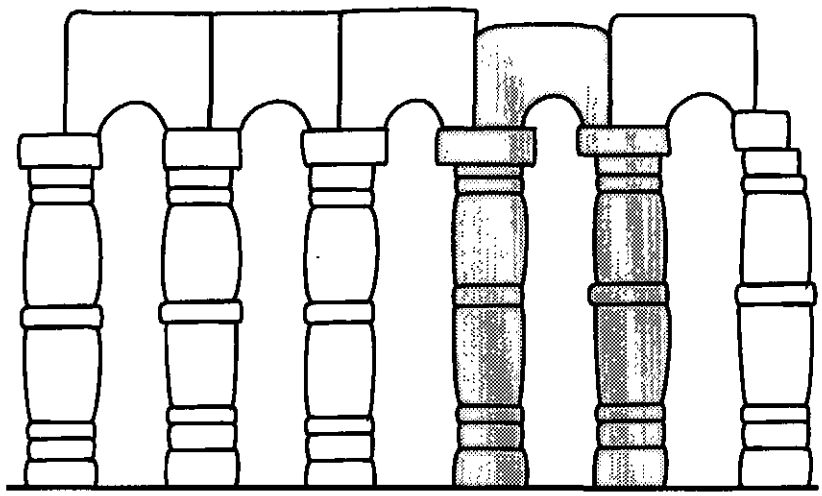

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGY

A43 TOWCESTER TO M40 DUALLING PROJECT
SOIL DISPOSAL AND LANDSCAPING AREAS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT AREA G (PIMLICO), SYRESHAM
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 2001

A43 TOWCESTER TO M40 DUALLING PROJECT SOIL DISPOSAL AND LANDSCAPING AREAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT AREA G (PIMLICO), SYRESHAM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the south of the A43 near Pimlico, Syresham, Northamptonshire on land designated for soil disposal in connection with the A43 road dualling scheme. The evaluation identified two key areas of human activity. The first of these was focused on a possible sub-angular enclosure dating to the Iron Age. The second was associated with an early to mid Roman agricultural landscape, and included evidence for small-scale pottery production and iron smelting. Medieval ridge-and-furrow was observed. Much of the area covered by the evaluation produced no archaeological remains of any kind.

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the construction programme for the A43 Towcester to M40 dual carriageway, Walters Construction Ltd have proposed to use an area of approximately 15.5 ha, lying between Biddlesden Road, Syresham and Whitfield, Northamptonshire, for permanent soil storage (site centred on NGR SP 4623 2405; Fig 1). This area is identified as Area G in the mitigation strategy, and comprises two separate parts, Area G (East) and Area G (West). Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of field evaluation in advance of the proposed development in order to assess the likely impact of proposals upon any archaeological remains.

The archaeological programme is being carried out in accordance with a scheme of mitigation approved by Northamptonshire Heritage. An initial Desk-Based Assessment (NA 2001a) was followed by geophysical survey covering a 10% sample of the site (NA 2001b). Following this, Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation, which is the subject of this report.

The trenching strategy was informed by the results of the desk-based and geophysical surveys, and covered about 1% of the application area. A total of 32 trenches were

opened, with a total length of 795m. Trenches 1-7 were located in Area G (West) (Fig. 2); Trenches 8-32 were located in Area G (East) (Fig. 3). The work was undertaken during April 2001.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying geology in the area covered by the evaluation is Blisworth Limestone, with Upper Estuarine Series sands, silts and clays on the lower ground. The land in Area G (East) is moderately undulating with a general slope from the north down towards a stream known as The Brook, which is a tributary of the River Great Ouse. The land in Area G (West) has a moderately steep gradient from the south-west down to The Brook, at the point where the stream changes from a south-easterly to an easterly course. This land was under arable cultivation the time of the evaluation, while Area G (East) was predominantly pasture. For the purposes of this report, the individual fields are labelled A, B, C, D and E (Figs. 1, 2 and 3).

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The only surface feature of archaeological interest visible was a small area (0.3 ha.) of medieval ridge-and-furrow, which survived as upstanding earthworks in the south-east corner of Field B. The earthworks had been substantially eroded by The Brook and had suffered moderate disturbance from modern agricultural activity. Medieval ridge-and-furrow also survives in the copse, immediately to the south of Area G (West).

Light scatters of flints, and medieval, Roman and unidentifiable pottery were recovered during surface collecting in the fields immediately north of the evaluation in connection with fieldwork in advance of road construction (Audouy and Sharman 1993, Fields 3, 5 & 6).

3 METHODOLOGY

A total of thirty-two trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 2 & 3). All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and

subsoil stockpiled separately, adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation was stopped at the top of archaeological deposits, or at the natural stratum where no archaeology was encountered. Trenches were numbered in a sequence from 1 to 32.

The trenches were cleaned by hand and those containing archaeological remains were planned at a scale of 1:50. All identified archaeological features were excavated, by up to 50% of their content, in order to ascertain their nature, date and degree of preservation. Each cut or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number, which started at 01 for each trench (e.g. 12/02, trench 12, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets and section drawings were made, at a scale of 1:10, of all archaeological features. Sections of buried soil profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:50. The trenches were levelled top and bottom at either end, and in the centre, and all major features were levelled, with heights being reduced to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record was made of all trenches and features, using monochrome negative and colour positive film.

The location and details of the trenches have been summarised in Appendix 1. The results from each trench are summarised in Appendix 2.

4 RESULTS

4.1 TRIAL EXCAVATION

Of the 32 trenches, 15 produced no archaeology whatsoever (Trenches 1-3, 7, 13-16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 32). Of these, four had been positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies (Trenches 1, 3, 16 and 27). Excavation showed these anomalies to be natural formations. Of the remainder, evidence for human activity was limited to medieval ridge-and-furrow in Trenches 8, 12, 17, 20, 21, 26 and 30, and post-medieval to modern activity in Trenches 8 and 28. The only trenches to produce evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the area were Trenches 4-6, 9-11, 22, 23, 29 and 31.

Trenches 4 – 6. The trenches were positioned to investigate a rectangular feature revealed by the geophysical survey, tentatively interpreted as the foundations of a building. Excavation revealed that much of the signal was caused by discreet variations in the natural, which alternated between outcrops of limestone and a

reddish brown clay. However, part of the geophysical anomaly proved to be a possible Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, approximately 10-15m square with a south-facing entrance.

The rounded terminal on the eastern side of the entrance to the enclosure was recorded in Trench 4 (Fig. 4; F12). The cut was 1.2m wide, 1.0m deep and extended 1.4m into the trench. It had steeply sloping, almost vertical sides and a flat base that was slightly stepped up at the terminal. It contained bone fragments, burnt rounded cobbles and pottery dating to the Iron Age. The terminal cut a small, undated oval pit (F13) on its northern edge. Part of the northern circuit of the enclosure (F16) was uncovered in Trench 5. The ditch was 1.0m wide, 1.0m deep, had steeply sloping, almost vertical sides and a broad concave base. It produced a similar assemblage of finds to those found at the terminal. The remainder of the enclosure lay beyond the limits of excavation, but can be interpreted from the geophysical survey. The evaluation failed to reveal any internal features.

Trench 6 contained a circular posthole (F21), 0.24m deep with a diameter of 0.40m, and a shallow linear gully (F20). The gully was aligned E-W, was 0.6m wide and 0.17m deep, and the fill contained pottery of Iron Age date. Both features were cut into a buried soil horizon (F19), that extended across the entire trench and was at least 0.21m thick. The base of a truncated vessel (SF 1) was found embedded in this deposit. There appears to be no physical association between these features and those found in Trenches 4 and 5.

Trench 9. The trench was situated on an area of level ground at the base of the south-facing slope in Field B, on the north bank of 'The Brook'. This level area lay immediately to the south of the medieval ridge-and-furrow, which survived as upstanding earthworks in this corner of the field. The absence of a headland and the truncation of the earthworks suggests a certain degree of erosion, perhaps by flooding. Excavation revealed a buried soil horizon (Fig. 8; F33) that was up to 0.62m thick at the E end of the trench, and extended c.18m to the west before petering out. The deposit contained charcoal flecks and produced a single sherd of Roman pottery. It was buried by up to 0.70m of colluvium (F32).

Trench 10. The most substantial feature in Trench 10 was a ditch (Fig. 5; F43) that crossed the trench at its northern end on an east-west alignment. The ditch was 1.3m wide, 0.45m deep and was largely filled with a mid yellowish brown silty clay

(10/28). In the east facing section there was a tip deposit (10/27) containing charcoal flecks, bone fragments and Roman pottery. The ditch may be contemporary with ditch F47 in Trench 11 (below), forming part of the northern circuit of an enclosure.

In the central area of the trench there was a complex sequence of shallow gullies, many of which contained sizeable quantities of Roman pottery. The earliest of these (F38) was linear (aligned north-south), 7.8m long and had rounded terminals and a shallow concave profile. It was approximately 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep. It had two fills, which in addition to the pottery also produced an unidentified iron strip and a bone pin (SFs 3 and 4). This feature was heavily truncated along its entire western edge by an almost identical gully (F37), the single fill of which contained a number of iron objects, a bone pin, an intaglio and some nails (SF 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10). In turn, the western edge of gully F37 was partly cut by a curvilinear gully (F36), 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep, which formed an arc extending beyond the western limit of excavation. Near to this point F36 was cut by a further gully (F39). This feature was roughly curvilinear, forming a slightly obtuse angle, and also extended beyond the trench edge. It was between 0.5m and 0.8m wide and 0.20m deep, and contained large quantities of Roman pottery.

Partly overlying the earliest gully (F38) and extending beyond the eastern trench edge, was a thin layer of mid brown silty clay (F42) containing Roman pottery and bone. This was tentatively interpreted as a rudimentary surface or a trample deposit. There were the remnants of two further features (F40 and 41), both of which survived as thin heavily truncated deposits with no clear edges. Their form and purpose is unknown.

Trench 11. The trench was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly, running on a NE-SW alignment, detected by the geophysical survey. Excavation revealed a ditch (F47) with a U-shaped profile, 1.25m wide and 0.58m deep. This feature may be associated with a similar ditch (F43) found at the north end of Trench 10, and together they may form part of an enclosure. On either side of the ditch section (Fig. 6) there were shallow remnant cuts (11/06, 11/08), suggesting an earlier phase (or phases) of the ditch. A piece of vessel glass was found in 11/05.

Trench 22. With the exception of a furrow (F81) at the western end of the trench, the only archaeological feature was the terminal of a linear gully (Fig. 6; F80), 0.50m wide and 0.19m deep, that was aligned NW-SE and extended c.3m from the southern

limit of excavation. The fill produced bone and slag fragments, and pottery sherds of Roman date.

Trench 23. The geophysical survey indicated two roughly parallel linear features, aligned east-west and approximately 30m apart, and at least three discreet anomalies aligned in a row, with a spacing of about 10-15m between them. The trench was positioned to investigate the linear features and the most westerly of the discrete anomalies. The northernmost linear feature (Fig. 7; F87) was a shallow gully, between 0.44 and 0.59m wide (wider at western end) and 0.23m deep. The fill 23/08 produced 12 sherds of Roman pottery. The southernmost linear anomaly (F85) was a more substantial feature, a ditch 2.4m wide and 0.49m deep, with a light greyish brown clay fill containing sherds of Roman pottery and bone. All the features were cut into a buried soil horizon (F88), that extended across the entire trench and was at least 0.1m thick.

On the southern edge of the ditch there were the remains of a heavily truncated pottery kiln (F84). This comprised a shallow circular cut, c.0.8m in diameter, filled with a deposit of charcoal, Roman pottery sherds and the fragments of several kiln bars. The surrounding natural substrate into which the kiln was cut was scorched red.

The discrete anomaly was shown to be an iron smelting furnace (F86). This consisted of a circular cut with a diameter of c.0.8m and depth of 0.12m, with a black fill of charcoal and two large fragments of slag (soil sample 4). This was cut by a roughly circular raking pit, c.0.6m in diameter and 0.17m deep, which contained charcoal flecks, burnt clay fragments and slag (soil sample 3).

Trench 29. The trench was situated in a wide, deeply incised natural depression in the side of the valley, which sloped from the north down towards The Brook. Excavation uncovered a spring that rapidly flooded the entire southern half of the trench. It also revealed a buried soil horizon (F108), which was 0.26m thick at the southern end of the trench and extended c.12m to the north before petering out. The deposit consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with orangey brown mottles and charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 31. On the basis of the results of the geophysical survey, this trench was positioned to investigate an amorphous linear anomaly, running on a NW-SE alignment near to the base of the slope. This was shown to be a natural depression in

the topography of the valley side. However, the remnants of a buried soil horizon (Fig. 8; F116) survived in the base of this depression, at the western end of the trench. This deposit, which was 0.21m thick and extended c.12m to the east before petering out, was identical to that found in Trench 29, and contained charcoal flecks and snail shells (soil sample 1). It was buried beneath 1.6m of colluvium, the upper component of which (F114) produced bone fragments and a sherd of Roman pottery.

As noted above, medieval ridge-and-furrow was recorded in Trenches 8, 12, 17, 20, 21, 26 and 30 (F30, 51, 65, 74, 77, 98 and 112 respectively). In all cases the furrows were aligned north-south and ran downslope. Where more than one furrow occurred in a trench, they were spaced approximately 7m to 9m apart. A section through the earthworks in Field B (Trench 8) is shown in Figure 8.

4.2 *THE POTTERY (APPENDIX 3)*

A total of 1098 sherds (118 kg) of pottery was recovered, almost all dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

The pottery came from nine trenches. Trenches 4, 5 and 6 yielded a total of 96 sherds of grog-tempered and shelly wares provisionally dated to the middle Iron Age (4th-2nd centuries BC). Forty-four of these sherds came from a single vessel in Trench 6 (context 602). A further two sherds of possible Iron Age pot came from Trench 11 (context 1107).

Roman pottery came from Trenches 9, 10, 11, 22, 23 and 31. Most of the material (860 sherds) came from Trench 10, with smaller amounts from Trench 11 (32 sherds), Trench 22 (12 sherds) and Trench 23 (91 sherds). Trenches 9 and 31 yielded only a sherd each from a buried soil (F33) and colluvium (F114).

The assemblage appears to date from the later 1st century through to the 3rd century. On the whole there is no indication of continuity of occupation between the Iron Age and the 1st century AD on the basis of the pottery.

The assemblage comprised local grog-tempered wares with a few imported wares of Central Gaulish Samian, colour-coated ware, Dorset Black Burnished ware, Oxfordshire white ware and Nene Valley ware. On the whole this indicates a site of modest status.

Of note is a probable dump of kiln waste from the pottery kiln (F84) in Trench 23. This comprised sherds of grog-tempered jars.

4.3 *THE OTHER FINDS*

Kiln bars

Ten fragments of kiln bars, weighing 651g, were recovered. No complete bars were reconstructable, although three fragments joined to make a 22 cm length of bar. This was roughly rectangular in section with maximum dimensions of about 45 mm x 33 mm. The bar tapered slightly. Context 2302.

The kiln bars came from a feature interpreted as a pottery kiln (F84) also containing waste pottery (Section 4.3 and Appendix 3). The kiln was heavily truncated and the kiln bars fragments appeared to form a dump of material, rather than *in situ* collapse of the structure.

Intaglio

A small red jasper oval intaglio, 12mm long, 8mm wide and up to 4mm thick. The stone was convex on both surfaces, but most strongly on the reverse. Engraved in the surface was a standing figure leaning on a column with the right hand, and holding a bowl out with the left. The head of the figure is poorly preserved but it would appear to be helmeted or wreathed. The figure is probably Ceres the goddess of the harvest, although it could equally be a Genius. Although dating the piece is difficult, the use of red jasper was most popular in the second and third centuries (Zienkiewicz J D 1987). SF 2, Context 1012.

Bone pins

Bone pin. Shaft only, 35mm long and broken both ends, surface abraded. Probable Iron Age. SF 4, Context 1041.

Bone pin. Shaft only, 50mm long, tapering towards one end and slightly flattened the other end, surface abraded. Probable Iron Age. SF 5, Context 1012.

Lead object

Lead. A flat, roughly square undiagnostic piece 25mm x 34mm x 8mm thick, one edge chamfered. SF 9, Context 1023.

Iron objects

Seven of these were nails; four were unidentifiable strips and two were functional items, described below.

A strip 25mm wide formed an oval with an internal diameter of 90mm x 40mm, thicker at 8mm and slightly squared at one end, rounded and 4mm thick at the other end. From the upper edge of each long side the strip had a near central triangular extension giving the strip a width of 41mm. It may have functioned as a band or collar over a wooden shaft. SF 3, Context 1041.

Hob nails. Four iron hob nails. Typically Roman. SF 12, Context Trench 10.

A shaft and curved prong. The shaft was 90mm long x 17mm wide x 2mm thick. It was bent at right angles and swept upward into the 700mm square-sectioned prong, which straightened and tapered towards the point. It was of possible agricultural use. SF 19, Context 1019.

Iron Slag

A total weight of 19.3kg of slag was recovered from five separate contexts. The material indicates that iron smelting was carried out, while it is possible that smithing was also practised. Tap slag and furnace bottom slag came from a feature in Trench 23 identified as a smelting furnace (F86). Other slags were secondary deposits in Roman gullies [1040] and [2203]. The slag from 1204, a furrow, could be of later date although in the context of the Roman iron-working identified, it is also likely to be Roman.

Contexts 1039, 2202 and 2310 contained large fragments of **tap slag** from a smelting furnace, total weight 7.5kg. On some of the material from 2310 patches of fired clay from the furnace lining were adhering to the tap slag. Context 2306 contained two large fragments (total weight 10.3kg) from a **furnace bottom**, with a flat under surface and a concave upper surface resulting from a preferential accumulation of slag around the sides of the furnace. Some fired clay furnace lining still adhered to the outer edge in places. Context 1204 contained a single "cake", weighing 1.5kg, which is either a large **smithing hearth bottom** or part of a further **furnace bottom**.

Glass

Glass. Fragment of a yellow glass base with a foot rim, 15mm high, with diagonal moulding in light relief just above the rim, probably Roman. SF 18, Context 1106.

Flint

End scraper, Neolithic to early Bronze Age. SF 17, Context 1301.

4.4 THE ANIMAL BONE

Method

One hundred and forty-nine fragments of animal bone from nineteen contexts were scanned to gain an overview of the species present, the state of preservation, to discover any evidence for butchery and to assess the potential for further analysis.

Results

Fragmentation and surface abrasion was fairly heavy, consisting largely of old breaks and other taphonomic degradation to the bone. These factors rendered only 22.8%of the assemblage identifiable to species level. A small amount of canid gnawing was noted. Two examples of butchery were observed, one indicative of chopping and one of filleting. Further possible evidence for butchery was obscured by the high degree of surface abrasion. One neonatal Ovicaprid was noted.

Table 2. Summary of species by context.

Context	*Equus*	*Bos*	*Ovicaprid*	Large ungulate	Small ungulate	*Avis* indet.	Indet.	*Cuniculus*
4/04			4	1			7	
4/07			7	1			11	
5/02				1	6	1		
5/05							1	
6/02		2					14	
10/04				1				
10/08	1	3	1	13	2		6	
10/11			3	4	1		8	

Context	*Equus*	*Bos*	*Ovicaprid*	Large ungulate	Small ungulate	*Avis* indet.	Indet.	*Cuniculus*
10/12			1	3	1		1	
10/28				2				
10/30			2				7	
10/39				1	1			
11/03				3			3	
15/05			2	3				
22/02		1					3	
23/04			1					
23/08		3					8	1
31/02	1	1						

Conclusion

The material appears to be fairly typical of domestic assemblages of the Iron Age and Roman periods although the absence of pig is unusual (a level of between 2-22% would be expected (Wilson and Robinson 1983). Due to the poor state of preservation and the small size of the assemblage potential for further analysis is limited.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Method

Four ten litre samples were taken and processed using a 'siraf' tank fitted with a 500 micron mesh float sieve. The size of the samples reflected the limited volume of suitable deposits on the site. The resulting floats were then examined with a microscope at 10x magnification.

Results

Small quantities of charred plant remains were noted. Snails were absent apart from *Cecilioides* (a burrowing species).

Sample 1 (Context 31/04) Buried soil

Two charred seeds of *chenopodium album* (Fat Hen) were recovered.

Sample 2 (Context 10/12) Gully fill

Twelve cereal type grains were noted. These included four barley grains; one possible spelt (*Triticum spelta*) grain, one indeterminate wheat *(Triticum* sp) and a wheat/barley grain. A fragment of oat/rye (*Avena sativa/Secale cereale*) and four indeterminate fragments were also noted. A single glume base fragment (chaff) of an indeterminate wheat species was also present. Four *chenopodium album* and a *rumex* sp. were observed. Preservation was moderate with most examples exhibiting abrasion and fragmentation. Deposition appears to have been accidental or the result of waste disposal.

Sample 3 (Context 23/10). Fill of rake-out pit of iron smelting furnace F86

Four *chenopodium album* seeds were noted.

Sample 4 (Context 23/06). Fill of Iron smelting furnace F86

Sterile

Potential for further analysis

Only one of the four samples (Sample 2) contained any charred material for analysis. This was from a gully containing Roman pottery, but its value is limited by the small quantity and poor preservation of the material.

5 *DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS*

Overall results

The evaluation found clear evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation in three of the fields examined. This confirmed some of the interpretations of the geophysical survey, although generally the results were unexpected. In particular, the Iron Age enclosure in Field A was of a different form to the pattern geophysical anomalies, perhaps mostly due to variations in the surrounding natural substrate. In addition, the weak geophysical readings around Trenches 11 (Field C) and 23 (Field D), can now be seen to be the result of archaeological, rather than geological, features. The other non-archaeological variations in Fields B and D were shown to have been correctly identified, although a further linear feature in Trench 21 was shown to be a plough-furrow rather than a ditch.

Iron Age

The Iron Age occupation was focused on a probable small enclosure found in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 with an external nearby gully. This was situated on a gentle north-facing slope. In conjunction with the geophysical survey results, it can be suggested that the enclosure was sub-rectangular, about 15 m across, and with a south-facing entrance. No internal features were found.

The enclosure ditch was about 1 m deep and relatively narrow. The associated pottery can be dated to the middle Iron Age. The absence of identifiable ditch recutting and the limited number of features in these trenches suggests a relatively brief occupation.

The absence of similar enclosures in the geophysical reconnaissance, and the similar lack of features in Trench 7 would suggest that the settlement here was quite limited (up to 0.25 ha), but a wider diffuse occupation cannot be ruled out, particularly if features comprised a scatter of pits and post-holes rather than ditches.

Roman

Occupation dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD was found in Trenches 10, 11, 22 and 23 sited on the upper part of a south-facing slope. The features comprised mostly shallow ditches, gullies and pits. The intercutting nature of the features in Trench 10 suggests some depth to the chronology in this area. This trench yielded most of the Roman pottery recovered (860 sherds). Trenches 11, 22 and 23 contained fewer features and smaller quantities of pottery. The pottery kiln and iron smelting furnace in Trench 23 are of particular note, indicating associated industrial activity.

The overall layout of the occupation is unclear, although a small settlement in area of Trench 10 and a pattern of associated enclosures with pottery and iron production across the northern part of Fields C and D, over an area of about 5 ha, may be envisaged.

There was no indication of buildings in stone or brick, nor of the use of tiles. The pottery assemblage suggests a site of modest status, although attention can be drawn to the range of other artefacts which include a jasper intaglio, bone pins, and fragments of lead and vessel glass.

Environmental and economic indicators

The information from the animal bone and soil samples was meagre. Animal bone from the usual range of domestic species was present, although generally degraded and only a small percentage of bones were identifiable. There was little charred material present in the samples and no useful molluscs.

Conclusions

The evaluation has confirmed the presence of Iron Age and Roman occupation in this area. While the sites are unremarkable in themselves, they do provide a useful addition to the growing body of evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement in this part of Northamptonshire. The association of early Roman settlement with pottery and iron production is of particular interest.

The archaeology here survives directly under modern topsoil, or topsoil and a thin layer of subsoil. It is vulnerable to destruction by earthmoving and, potentially, by continued agricultural use. The proposals to bury the remains under up to 3 m of overburden excavated from the new A43 should result in the preservation of the archaeological deposits for the foreseeable future.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology

A service of Northamptonshire County Council

2nd July 2001

A1. Summary of Trench Details

Trench No.	Field	Length (m)	Alignment	Objective	Depth of archaeology below ground level (m)
1	A	25	E-W	Targeting amorphous geophysical anomalies	No archaeology
2	A	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
3	A	25	N-S	Targeting amorphous geophysical anomalies	No archaeology
4	A	25	N-S	Targeting linear and amorphous geophysical anomalies	0.28
5	A	25	E-W	Targeting linear and amorphous geophysical anomalies	0.34
6	A	20	N-S	Targeting discreet and linear geophysical anomalies	0.32
7	A	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
8	B	25	E-W	Targeting discreet geophysical anomaly	Surface
9	B	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.88
10	C	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	0.29
11	C	15	NW-SE	Targeting linear geophysical anomaly	0.33
12	C	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.45
13	C	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
14	C	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
15	C	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
16	D	30	N-S	Targeting linear geophysical anomaly	No archaeology
17	D	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	0.31
18	D	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
19	D	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
20	D	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.31
21	D	15	NE-SW	Targeting linear geophysical anomaly	0.28
22	D	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.28
23	D	40	N-S	Targeting discreet and linear geophysical anomalies	0.33
24	D	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
25	D	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
26	E	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.31

Trench No.	Field	Length (m)	Alignment	Objective	Depth of archaeology below ground level (m)
27	E	25	N-S	Targeting amorphous geophysical anomaly	No archaeology
28	E	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology
29	E	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	0.68
30	E	25	E-W	Targeting blank area	0.22
31	E	25	E-W	Targeting amorphous linear geophysical anomaly	0.87
32	E	25	N-S	Targeting blank area	No archaeology

A2. Table of Contexts and Features

Abbreviations

Cardinal Points (e.g. N-S, north to south)
L.o.E. Limit of excavation
Context [**] identifies the cut
All measurements in metres (m) or millimetres (mm)

Artefact Types

P pottery; **F** flint; **B** bone; **S** slag; **G** glass; SF small find

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
1	1	Ploughsoil	1/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.27m thick.	No archaeology	
	2	Subsoil	1/02	Mid orangey brown clay, 0.27m thick.		
	3	Natural	1/03	Mid orangey brown clay with areas of greyish blue clay. Occ. flint nodules and limestone pebble and cobble inclusions.		
2	4	Ploughsoil	2/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.21m thick.	No archaeology	
	5	Subsoil	2/02	Mid orangey brown clay, 0.30m thick.		
	6	Natural	2/03	Mid orangey brown clay with areas of greyish blue clay. Occ. flint nodules and limestone pebble and cobble inclusions.		
3	7	Ploughsoil	3/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.26m thick.	No archaeology	
	8	Subsoil	3/02	Mid orangey brown clay, 0.34m thick.		
	9	Natural	3/03	Mid orangey brown clay with areas of greyish blue clay. Occ. flint nodules and limestone pebble and cobble inclusions.		
4	10	Ploughsoil	4/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.28m thick.		
	11	Natural	4/02	Angular limestone pebbles and cobbles in a reddish brown clay matrix.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	12	Ditch terminal	4/03, 4/04, 4/05, 4/06, 4/07, [4/08]	Terminal rounded, slope c.80° to vertical, base roughly flat. 1.2m wide, 1.0m deep and extends 1.4m into trench from E L.o.E. Filled by a mid brown silt 4/03, which overlies 4/04, a dark greyish brown silt containing IA? pot sherds, bone fragments and small burnt cobbles. Underlying 4/04 were two tip deposits, a mid yellowish brown sandy clay (4/05) lying against the N side of the cut, a mid-dark brown sandy silt (4/06) against the S side. The primary fill 4/07 was very similar to 4/04 but had a higher clay content and became sandy near the base of the cut. It contained IA? pottery and bone fragments.	Probable terminal of a sub-angular enclosure visible on geophysical survey. The entrance to the enclosure faces south; the terminal is on the east side of the entrance. Probably associated with **16**.	**P, B**
	13	Pit/posthole	4/09, [4/10]	Shallow oval cut, long axis SSE-NNW, and concave profile. 0.51+ x 0.32 x 0.09m. Filled by a mid reddish brown silty clay.	Cut by **12**	
5	**14**	Ploughsoil	5/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.		
	15	Natural	5/07	Angular limestone pebbles and cobbles in a reddish brown clay matrix. Central area of trench comprises clay component only.	Variations in the natural account for some of the anomalies observed in the geophysical survey.	

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	16	Curvilinear ditch	5/02, 5/04, 5/05, 5/06, [5/03]	Curvilinear cut, aligned roughly WSW-ENE (interior edge to south). U-shaped profile with slope c.80° to vertical and broad concave base. c.8.0+ x 1.0 x 1.0m. Cut became shallower to E. Filled by 5/02, a mid brown clay silt (0.75m thick) containing IA? pottery and bone. This overlay 5/05, a mid-dark brown clay silt (0.15m thick) with charcoal flecks, IA? pottery and bone. The primary fill 5/06 was a yellowish brown silty clay, 0.08m thick. In the W section, 5/02 overlay 5/04, an orangey brown silty clay, 0.11m thick.	Section of sub-angular enclosure ditch visible on geophysical survey. Probably associated with **12**.	**P, B**
6	**17**	Ploughsoil	6/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.32m thick.		
	18	Natural	6/09	Reddish brown clay with occ. angular limestone pebbles and cobbles.	Machined to natural at N end of trench only. See **19** below.	
	19	Buried soil	6/02	Mid reddish brown silty clay, c.0.21m thick (in section) at N end of trench.	Features **20** and **21** were cut into this layer, suggesting a buried soil horizon.	**P** (SF1)
	20	Linear gully	6/03, [6/04]	Linear cut, aligned E-W, concave profile. 2.0+ x 0.6 x 0.17m. Filled by a mid greyish brown silt with charcoal flecks and Roman potsherds.		**P**
	21	Posthole	6/05, 6/06, 6/07, [6/08]	Circular cut, dia. c.0.4m, 0.24m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Upper fill 6/05 a mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.08m thick. Overlies 6/06, a light greyish blue clay, 0.09m thick, which dips to the W and contains two ang. limestone cobbles. Primary fill 6/07 (0.07m thick) similar to 6/05 but contains small flecks of blue clay.		
7	**22**	Ploughsoil	7/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.29m thick.	No archaeology	**F**
	23	Subsoil	7/02	Mid orangey brown clay, 0.28m thick.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	24	Natural	7/05	Mid yellowish brown clay with areas of greyish blue clay. Occ. flint nodules and limestone pebble and cobble inclusions.		
	25	Tree hole	7/03, [7/04]	An irregular semi-circular cut (as excavated), at least 3m E-W, extending c.1.5m across width of trench. Mixed fill with core of re-deposited natural.		
8	**26**	Topsoil	8/01	Mid greyish brown silt, 0.23m thick.		
	27	Subsoil	8/02	Mid brown clay silt, 0.21m thick.		
	28	Natural	8/04	Angular limestone pebbles and cobbles in a mid brown silty clay matrix.		
	29	Modern bonfire	8/03	A deposit, c.0.3m thick, of charcoal, scorched red soil and unburnt wood fragments. Extends c.4m E-W in centre of trench and visible in N and S sections. Grassed over.	Visible as discreet anomaly in geophysical survey.	
	30	Ridge & furrow	8/05	Three ridges visible in section as upstanding earthworks. Aligned N-S. Furrows spaced at c.2m, 11m and 21m from E end of trench		
9	**31**	Topsoil	9/01	Mid greyish brown silt, 0.23m thick.		
	32	Subsoil/ colluvium	9/02	Mid brown clay silt, 0.70m thick.		
	33	Buried soil	9/03	Light greyish brown silty clay with fine-coarse ang. to sub-ang. limestone pebbles, charcoal flecks and a single pot sherd. 0.62m thick at E end of trench, and extends c.18m westwards before petering out.		**P**
	34	Natural	9/04	Light yellowish brown clay with fine-medium angular limestone pebbles.		
10	**35**	Topsoil	10/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m thick.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	36	Curvilinear gully	10/02, [10/03]	Curvilinear cut, rounded terminal to SW, arcs to NW, extends beyond W L.o.E. Shallow concave profile. 4.0+ x c.0.4 x 0.08m. Filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and Roman pottery sherds. (10/02 same as 10/14 and 10/37).	Cut continues as [10/15] and [10/38]. Cuts **37** and **40**. Cut by **39**.	**P** (SF8)
	37	Linear gully	10/04, [10/05]	Linear cut, aligned N-S, rounded terminals at both ends. Shallow concave profile. 7.7 x c.0.7 x 0.16m. Filled with a dark greyish brown clay silt with charcoal flecks, Roman pottery and bone fragments. (10/04 same as 10/12, 10/21, 10/30 and 10/39).	Cut continues as [10/13], [10/22], [10/31] and [10/40]. Cut by **36**, cuts **38**. (Soil sample 2, 10/12)	**P, B** (SF2,5,6 7 and 10)
	38	Linear gully	10/06, [10/07]	Roughly linear cut, aligned N-S, rounded terminals at both ends. Shallow concave profile. 7.8 x c.0.7 x 0.15m. Heavily truncated on W side by **37**. Filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, bone fragments, iron objects and Roman pottery sherds. (10/06 same as 10/10, 10/32, 10/33 and 10/47). Centre section of cut has a lower fill (10/11, 10/25 and 10/41), a mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.03m thick.	Cut continues as [10/18], [10/34], [10/42] and [10/44]. Cut by **37**.	**P, B** (SF3,4)
	39	Curvilinear gully	10/08, [10/09]	Curvilinear cut, both ends extend beyond W L.o.E. Degree of curve almost forms a right angle. Broad U-shaped profile. 4.0+ x (0.5-0.8) x 0.20m. Filled with a dark greyish brown clay silt containing bone fragments, an iron nail, a piece of lead and large quantities of Roman pottery sherds. (10/08 same as 10/19 and 10/23).	Cut continues as [10/20] and [10/24]	**P, B** (SF9,11)

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	40	Type unknown	10/35, [10/36]	Remnants of a heavily truncated feature, cut by **36**. Extends beyond W L.o.E. Consists of a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.05m thick. Cut indeterminate.		
	41	Type unknown	10/45, [10/46]	Remnants of a heavily truncated feature, cut by **39**. Extends beyond W L.o.E. Consists of a mid brown silty clay, 0.14m thick. Cut indeterminate.	Possibly associated with **42**.	**P**
	42	Layer/ floor?	10/48	An indeterminate layer running c.10m down the E side of the trench, adjacent to **38**. Extends beyond the E L.o.E. Consists of a mid brown silty clay, c. 0.05m thick, containing occ. Roman pottery sherds and bone fragments.	Overlies eastern margin of **38**.	**P, B**
	43	Ditch	10/27, 10/28, [10/29]	Linear cut, aligned E-W, slope c.45°, base flat. 2.0+ x 1.3 x 0.45m. Filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay (10/28), gleyed near base. Several limestone cobbles embedded in fill near surface. A dump deposit (10/27) occurs in east facing section, consisting of a dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, bone fragments and sherds of Roman pottery.	Possibly associated with **47**, forming the northern circuit of a possible enclosure ditch.	**P, B**
	44	Natural	10/30	Mid yellowish brown clay, becoming lighter and calcareous in centre of trench. Large patch of greyish blue clay at S end.		
11	**45**	Topsoil	11/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.33m thick.		
	46	Natural	11/02	Varying mid yellowish brown and greyish blue clay. Predominately the latter in centre of trench.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	47	Ditch	11/03, [11/04], 11/05, 11/06, [11/07], 11/08 [11/09]	Linear cut [11/04] aligned NE-SW, U-shaped profile with steeply concave slope (gentler on NW side) and concave base. 2.0+ x 1.25 x 0.58m. Filled by a mid-dark greyish brown clay silt (11/03), with charcoal flecks, Roman pottery sherds and bone fragments. Remnant cuts of earlier phase(s) of ditch survive on either side of feature ([11/06], [11/08]). A piece of glass was found in 11/05, although this may be intrusive.	Visible as a linear anomaly on the geophysical survey. Possibly associated with **43**, forming the eastern circuit of a possible enclosure ditch.	**P, B,G?**
12	**48**	Topsoil	12/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.26m thick.		
	49	Subsoil	12/02	Mid brown silty clay, 0.19m thick.		
	50	Natural	12/03	Light yellowish brown calcareous clay with fine-medium angular limestone pebbles. Changes to a light reddish brown clay at W end of trench.		
	51	Furrows	12/04	Two furrows visible in base of trench at c.1m and 8m from E end. Consist of two parallel bands of mid brown silty clay, aligned N-S and running downslope. c.1.2m wide and 0.12m deep.		**S**
13	**52**	Topsoil	13/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	No archaeology	**F**
	53	Subsoil	13/02	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.31m thick.		
	54	Natural	13/03	Light yellowish brown clay with fine-medium ang. limestone pebbles.		
14	**55**	Topsoil	14/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.28m thick.	No archaeology	
	56	Subsoil/ colluvium	14/02	Mid brown silty clay, between 0.80m and 1.10m thick. Thickest at E end.		
	57	Natural	14/03	Light yellowish brown clay with fine-medium ang. limestone pebbles. Outcrop of broken laminated limestone in centre of trench.		
15	**58**	Topsoil	15/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.31m thick.	No archaeology	

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	59	Subsoil	15/02	Mid brown clay, 0.81m thick.		
	60	Alluvium	15/03	Mid-dark greyish blue clay with orangey brown mottles and lenses of organic material.	Full depth of deposit not determined due to flooding.	
16	**61**	Topsoil	16/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	No archaeology	
	62	Subsoil	16/02	Mid brown silty clay, only present in S half of trench. 0.41m thick.		
	63	Natural	16/03	Light yellowish brown clay with fine-medium ang. limestone pebbles. Interspersed with distinct bands of greyish blue clay and angular limestone pebbles and cobbles, aligned E-W.	Variations in natural account for geophysical anomalies.	
17	**64**	Topsoil	17/01	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.27m thick.		
	65	Furrow	17/02	A linear band, c.0.8m wide, running full length of trench on a N-S alignment. No definate cut. Appears as discoloured natural.	Furrow formed by plough scrape.	
	66	Natural	17/03	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a yellowish brown clay matrix.		
18	**67**	Topsoil	18/01	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.29m thick.	No archaeology	
	68	Subsoil	18/02	Mid brown silty clay, 0.13m thick.		
	69	Natural	18/03	Light yellowish white calcareous clay with fine-med. angular limestone pebbles.		
19	**70**	Topsoil	19/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.23m thick.	No archaeology	
	71	Subsoil/ colluvium	19/02	Mid-dark brown clay silt, 0.57m thick.		
	72	Natural	19/03	Light yellowish white calcareous clay with fine-med. angular limestone pebbles. Areas of reddish brown clay in places. Occ ang. limestone cobbles.		
20	**73**	Topsoil	20/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.31m thick.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	74	Furrows	20/02	Three furrows visible in base of trench, aligned N-S and running downslope. Consist of parallel bands of mid brown clay silt, c.2.0m wide and 0.13m deep, centred at 4.6m, 13.1m and 21.7m from E end of trench.		
	75	Natural	20/03	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a light yellowish white calcareous clay matrix		
21	**76**	Topsoil	21/01	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.28m thick.		
	77	Furrow	21/02	Furrow was aligned N-S and ran downslope. Consisted of band of mid brown clay silt, c.1.5m wide and 0.15m deep.		
	78	Natural	21/03	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a light yellowish brown clay matrix		
22	**79**	Topsoil	22/01	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.28m thick.		
	80	Gully	22/02, [22/03]	NW terminal of a linear cut, aligned NW-SE. Terminal rounded, slope c.70°, base concave, U-shaped profile. 3.0+ x 0.5 x 0.19m. Filled by a mid brown silty clay, with pottery sherds, bone and slag fragments.		**P, B, S**
	81	Furrow	22/04	Furrow was aligned N-S and ran downslope. Consisted of band of mid greyish brown silty clay, c.2.0m wide and 0.13m deep.		
	82	Natural	22/05	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a reddish brown clay matrix.		
23	**83**	Topsoil	23/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.29m thick.		
	84	Pottery kiln	23/02, [23/03]	Circular cut, dia. c.0.8m, 0.14m deep, and shallow concave profile. Edge of cut scorched red. Filled with a deposit of charcoal, Roman pottery sherds and kiln bar fragments.		**P**

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	85	Ditch	23/04, [23/05]	Linear cut, aligned E-W, slope c.40°, base flat. 2.0+ x 2.4 x 0.49m. Filled with a light greyish brown clay, containing Roman pottery and bone fragments.		**P, B**
	86	Iron smelting furnace	23/06, [23/07], 23/10, [23/11]	Comprised of furnace [23/07] and raking pit [23/11]. Furnace consisted of a circular cut, dia. c.0.8m and 0.12m deep, with a steeply concave slope and flat base. Filled with a black charcoal deposit mixed with a mid greyish brown silty clay and two large pieces of iron slag. There were traces of a possible clay lining surviving in the base of the cut. The roughly circular raking pit cut the furnace on its W margin. It had a dia. c.0.6m, was 0.17m deep, and had a moderately concave slope and a flat base. Filled with a mid brown silty clay containing charcoal flecks, burnt clay fragments and slag.	Soil samples 3, 23/10; 4, 23/06.	**S**
	87	Gully	23/08, [23/09]	Linear cut, aligned E-W, slope c.45°, base flat, U-shaped profile. Between 0.44 and 0.59m wide (wider at W end) and 0.23m deep. Filled with a light greyish brown clay containing pottery sherds.		**P**
	88	Buried soil	23/12	Mid brown silty clay, c.0.1m thick.	Features **84** to **87** cut into this layer, suggesting a buried soil horizon.	
	89	Natural	23/13	Mid yellowish brown clay with occ. flint nodules and ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles.		
24	**90**	Topsoil	24/01	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.24m thick.	No archaeology	
	91	Natural	24/02	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a mid brown calcareous clay matrix.		
25	**92**	Topsoil	25/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.30m thick.	No archaeology	
	93	Subsoil	25/02	Mid-dark brown clay silt, 0.26m thick.		

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	94	Natural	25/02	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a yellowish white calcareous clay matrix. Patches of reddish brown clay in places.		
26	**95**	Topsoil	26/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.22m thick.		
	96	Subsoil	26/02	Mid brown silty clay, 0.09m thick.		
	97	Natural	26/03	Mid greyish blue clay with orangey brown mottles and patches of orangey brown sandy clay.		
	98	Furrows	26/04	Three furrows visible in base of trench, aligned N-S and running downslope. Consist of parallel bands of mid greyish brown silty clay, c.1.5m wide and 0.05m deep, centred at 7.5m, 14.1m and 21.8m from E end of trench.		
27	**99**	Topsoil	27/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.18m thick.	No archaeology	
	100	Subsoil	27/02	Mid brown silty clay, 0.08m thick.		
	101	Natural	27/03	Mid greyish blue clay with patches of orangey brown clay.		
28	**102**	Topsoil	28/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.18m thick.		
	103	Subsoil	28/02	Mid brown silty clay, between 0.14m and 0.32m thick. Thickest at S end.		
	104	Linear gully	28/03, [28/04]	Linear cut, aligned E-W, slope c.60°, base flat, U-shaped profile. 2.0+ x 0.5 x 0.22m. Filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay containing a shotgun cap and nylon string.	Modern.	
	105	Natural	28/05	Yellowish brown clay.		
29	**106**	Topsoil	29/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.26m thick.		
	107	Subsoil	29/02	Mid brown silty clay. Between 0.26m and 0.48m thick. Thickest at S end of trench.		
	108	Buried soil	29/03	Mid greyish brown silty clay with orangey brown mottles and charcoal flecks. 0.26m thick at S end; peters out at c.13m from N end of trench.	Trench was cut into a spring and flooded.	

Trench No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Context	Description	Notes	Artefact types
	109	Natural	29/04	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a mid brown clay matrix.		
30	**110**	Topsoil	30/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.22m thick.		
	111	Natural	30/02	Ang. limestone pebbles and cobbles in a light brownish white calcareous clay matrix.		
	112	Furrows	30/03	Three furrows visible in base of trench, aligned N-S and running downslope. Consist of parallel bands of fine to medium ang. limestone pebbles in a light greyish brown clay matrix. c.1.5m wide and 0.08m deep, centred at 4.1m, 12.1m and 19.1m from E end of trench.		
31	**113**	Topsoil	31/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.22m thick. Up to 0.45m thick at far W end.		**P**
	114	Subsoil/ colluvium	31/02	Mid brown silty clay, 0.85m thick.		**P, B**
	115	Colluvium	31/03	Mid brown silty clay, 0.53m thick.		
	116	Buried soil	31/04	Mid grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles and snail shells, 0.21m thick. Only occurs at W end of trench, extending c.12m eastwards before petering out.	Soil sample 1	
	117	Natural	31/05	Yellowish white calcareous clay, changing to light blue and yellow clay at W end of trench.		
32	**118**	Topsoil	32/01	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.28m thick.	No archaeology	
	119	Subsoil	32/02	Mid yellowish brown clay, 0.70m thick.		
	120	Alluvium	32/03	Mid-dark grey blue clay with orangey brown mottles.	Full depth of deposit could not be deter-mined due to flooding.	

A3 POTTERY

1 Introduction

A total of 1098 sherds (*c.*118 kg.) of pottery were recovered almost all dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. The single exception is a late medieval/post-medieval sherd from (3101). The remaining assemblage comprises a mixture of Iron Age ware, later Iron Age/early Roman native wares and Roman material proper.

Pottery was recovered from nine of the total 32 trenches excavated; a total of 32 individual contexts.

The pottery was only moderately well-preserved with an overall average sherd size of 10.5 g. This is relatively low, especially for Roman wares which tend to be more robust. There was some variability between contexts presumably reflecting the difference between material from feature fills and layers. Several joins were apparent amongst material from the same contexts.

Any conclusions reached at this stage must be regarded as provisional. No library research has been carried out in conjunction with this assessment to look for comparanda or to place the assemblage into its local or regional context.

2 Methodology

The pottery was sorted into broad fabric groups based on the nature of the inclusions macroscopically visible in the clay. The groups were quantified, by sherd count and weight for each defined context. The resulting data can be found summarised in Table 1.

3 Description

3.1 Iron Age

All the pottery recovered from Trenches 4, 5, and 6, a total of 96 sherds, appears to date to the Iron Age. A further two possible sherds occur in (1107) as residual finds. Forty-four of these sherds derive from the base of one closed vessel in Trench 6

(SF1).

Apart from the vessel in Trench 6 (602) the sherds are generally quite small (average 6.5 g) and abraded. The group includes at least six rims of which one, from (603) may have surface finger-nicking. There were no other decorated pieces.

The fabrics basically fall into two groups: grog-tempered and shelly.

Provisionally a date in the middle Iron Age (4th - 2nd century BC) might be proposed for much of this assemblage based on the rim morphology. The jar base from (602) is little less easy to date, the fabric is very soapy, with grog-tempering. The exterior is orange with a black core and interior, a feature characteristic of early prehistoric material. The walls however, are quite thin. It may thus be contemporary with the other Iron Age material.

3.2 Roman

Most of the assemblage appears to date from the later 1st century AD through to the 3rd century. The principal fabrics are grog-tempered wares accounting for 16.6% of the total assemblage and various grey and oxidised sandy wares together accounting for 4.8%. Recognisable traded wares include eight sherds of Central Gaulish samian, four sherds of Dorset black burnished ware, Oxfordshire white ware including mortaria and Nene Valley grey ware and mortaria.

The grog-tempered wares include a small number of handmade sherds, mainly large storage jars, more typical of the later Iron Age traditions, which may be continuing through into the 2nd century. These are occurring alongside softer, powdery, pink orange, white or grey grogged wares more typical of the Roman period in this area (cf. Towcester; Milton Keynes fabric 2) and which may have developed out of the earlier traditions. (NB. The white wares with grog are classified under WW (whiteware) in Table 1). The grog-tempered tradition gradually replaced the shelly wares in this region from the mid/later 2nd –3rd centuries.

Amongst the forms present in the grog-tempered fabrics are several large storage jars and smaller jars. Other vessels appear relatively rare or absent. A greater variety of forms occurs in the sandy wares including cornice-rim beakers, flat rimmed dishes,

jars, straight-sided dishes and lids.

The only continental imports to the site are eight sherds of Central Gaulish samian including a cup (Dragendorff form 33) with a broken potter's stamp]TERNIF from (1004).

Amongst the other fine wares in the assemblage of uncertain provenance were three worn colour-coated sherds with moulded decoration from (1011) which may be copying samian. In addition there were two sherds of mica-slipped ware (1008), two sherds of colour-coated ware from (1012) and a sherd from a colour-coated beaker with roughcast decoration from (1008). All these sherds would be typical of the 2nd century.

Other Roman wares of note include a plain straight-sided Dorset black burnished dish (1012) and several sherds of Oxfordshire white ware including three mortarium sherds and a disk-mouthed flagon. A small number of Nene Valley wares were present, mainly grey ware, one mortarium sherd and a possible colour-coated sherd.

A particularly unusual group of material was recovered from (2302) which probably represents a dump of kiln waste. The group of 75 sherds were all white or pink wares with sparse grog-tempering. The group gave the impression of poor firing with some grey patches on some sherds. The vessels included a cordoned, necked jar, a sharply everted rim jar and some unusual grooved rims. One jar had rows of decoration comprising impressed crescents. No other wares occurred with this group to assist dating and at present it is provisionally dated to the 1st century. An adjacent context from the same trench (2304) included a sharply carinated bowl or cup in a grog- and limestone-tempered ware and a 'Belgic' grog-tempered sherd which would also be consistent with a 1st century date.

4 Discussion

The assemblage recovered from Pimlico Syresham shows occupation dating back to the middle Iron Age with reoccupation of the site from perhaps in the 1st century AD. Most of the assemblage dates to the mid-later 2nd and 3rd centuries. There does not appear to be any evidence of continuity of occupation, of the basis of the pottery assemblage, between the Iron Age and the subsequent, 1st century AD occupation.

The small amount of pottery dated provisionally to the 1st century AD is the most difficult to be certain of, both in terms of dating and whether it should be seen as discrete from the later Roman occupation. There is no evidence of occupation dating to the later Roman period (mid 3rd-4th centuries).

This is a moderately good group of associated material, which would warrant further brief reporting and publication. A small number of sherds would be worth illustrating and parallels need to be sought for the group from (2303) and the imitation samian sherds from (1011). A more detailed comparison with other local material may assist in defining the 3rd century element in the assemblage, which is a notoriously difficult period to identify in small locally based groups of material. The stratigraphic relationships suggest, for example, that the groups from gully F39 should be later than F37. The pottery does not show any very clear distinctions in term of fabric composition and there are clearly 2nd century forms present in F39. If however, a comparison is made of the sherd size between these two features there is a very big difference with the average sherd size for F37 being nearly double that form F39. This would suggest, that a considerable amount of the pottery from F39 comprises redeposited material.

The assemblage from Syresham is a fairly modest one in terms of status in that it only contains a small quantity of imports and few fine wares. The impression is that of a rural domestic assemblage where locally made storage jars and cooking wares dominate.

Table 1

Cont	IA	GROG	SHELL	SAM	FW	LNVCC	MORT	OXFWH	BB1	GREY	OXID	WW	MISC	Pmed	Tot No	Tot wt	Date
404	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	106	M-LIA
407	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	122	M-LIA
502	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	194	M-LIA
505	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	M-LIA
506	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	M-LIA
602	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	172	?IA
603	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	10	?E-MIA
903	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	Roman
1002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	13	Roman
1004	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	10	198	mid C2
1006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	7	40	C2+
1008	0	37	1	4	3	0	1	4	0	121	86	34	0	0	291	2563	mid C2-?C3
1011	0	4	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	166	11	35	0	0	225	1901	mid C2
1012	0	5	3	0	3	0	0	0	4	19	13	24	0	0	71	1210	late C2+
1014	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	18	9	0	0	49	417	mid C2+
1021	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	132	C2
1023	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	10	148	C2+ -?C3
1025	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	10	260	C2+
1027	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	8	413	late C2/C3
1028	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	6	0	11	1	0	30	366	C3
1030	0	31	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	10	21	0	0	93	1557	C3
1037	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	9	192	m-l C2
1039	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	7	0	15	10	4	0	0	41	353	C3

1045	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	Roman
1103	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7	0	0	0	28	186	C2
1107	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	44	LIA+
2202	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	68	?C1/C2
2302	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	75	734	?C1+
2304	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	62	C1
2308	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	228	C2
3101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	34	LM/Pmed
3102	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	C1
TOT	**99**	**183**	**24**	**8**	**9**	**1**	**4**	**23**	**4**	**402**	**169**	**167**	**4**	**1**	**1098**	**11766**	

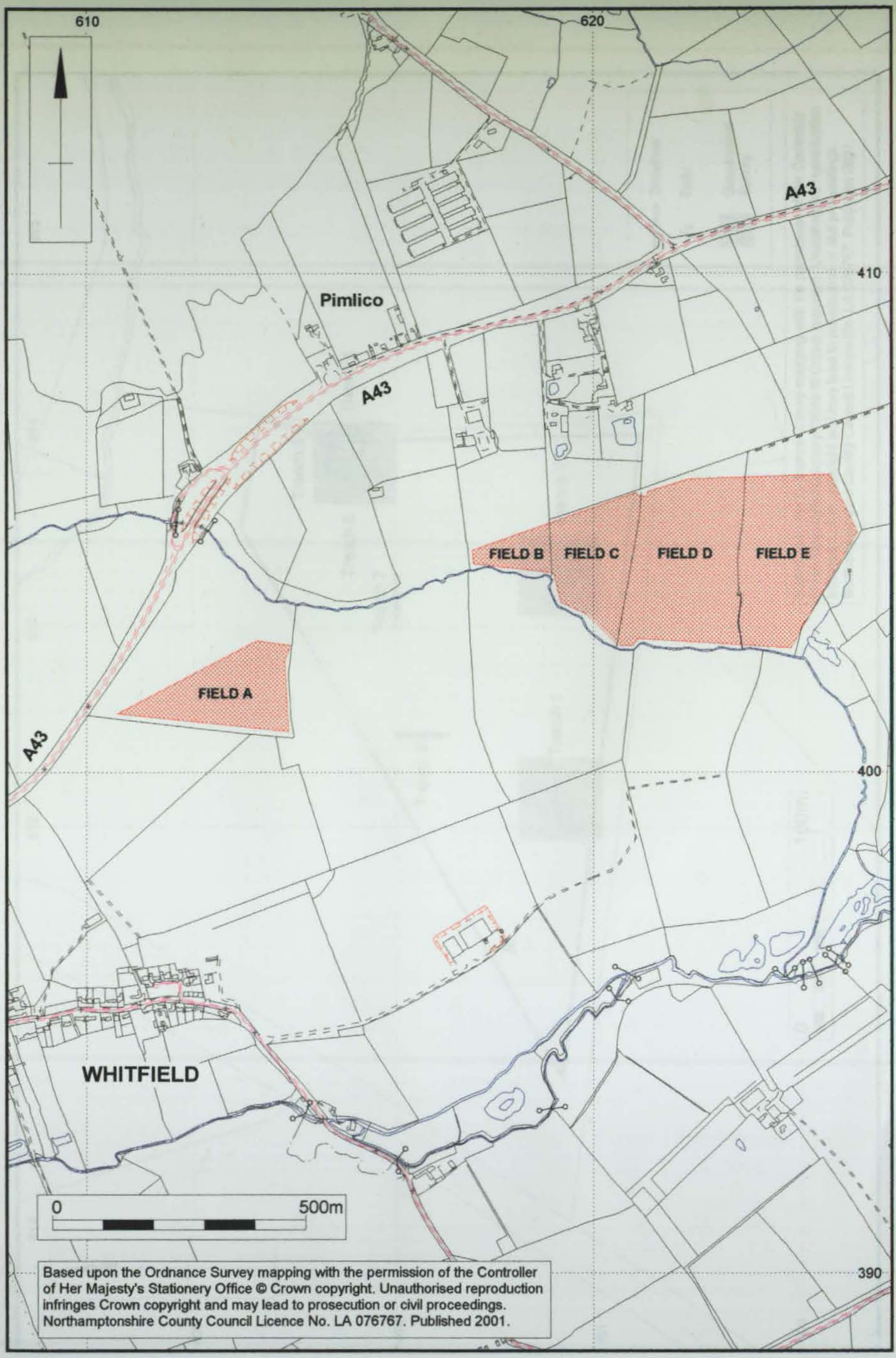

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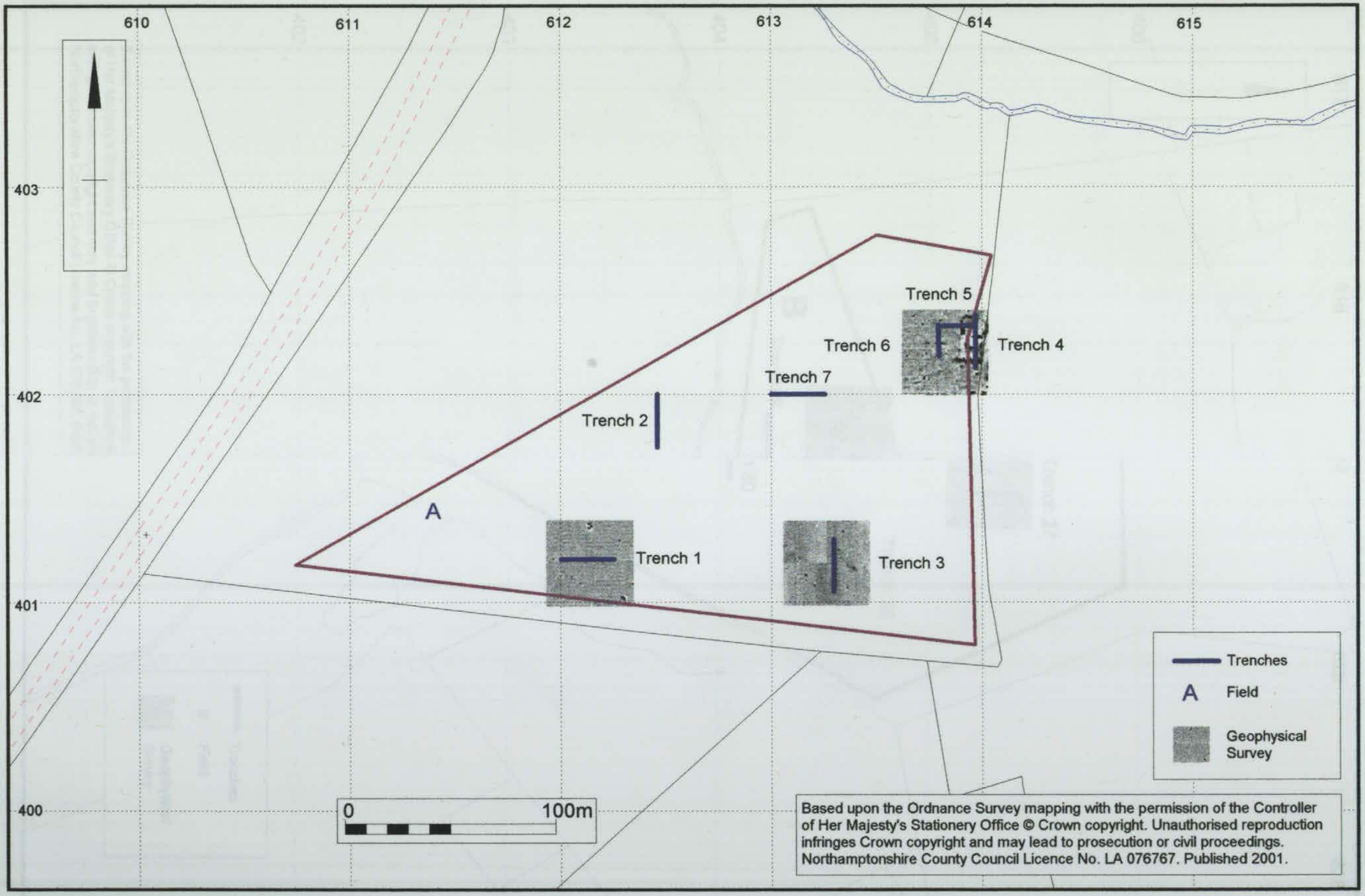
Fig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613
614
615
403
402
401
400
Trench 5
Trench 6
Trench 4
Trench 7
Trench 2
A
Trench 1
Trench 3
0
100m
Trenches
A Field
Geophysical Survey
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Fig. 2

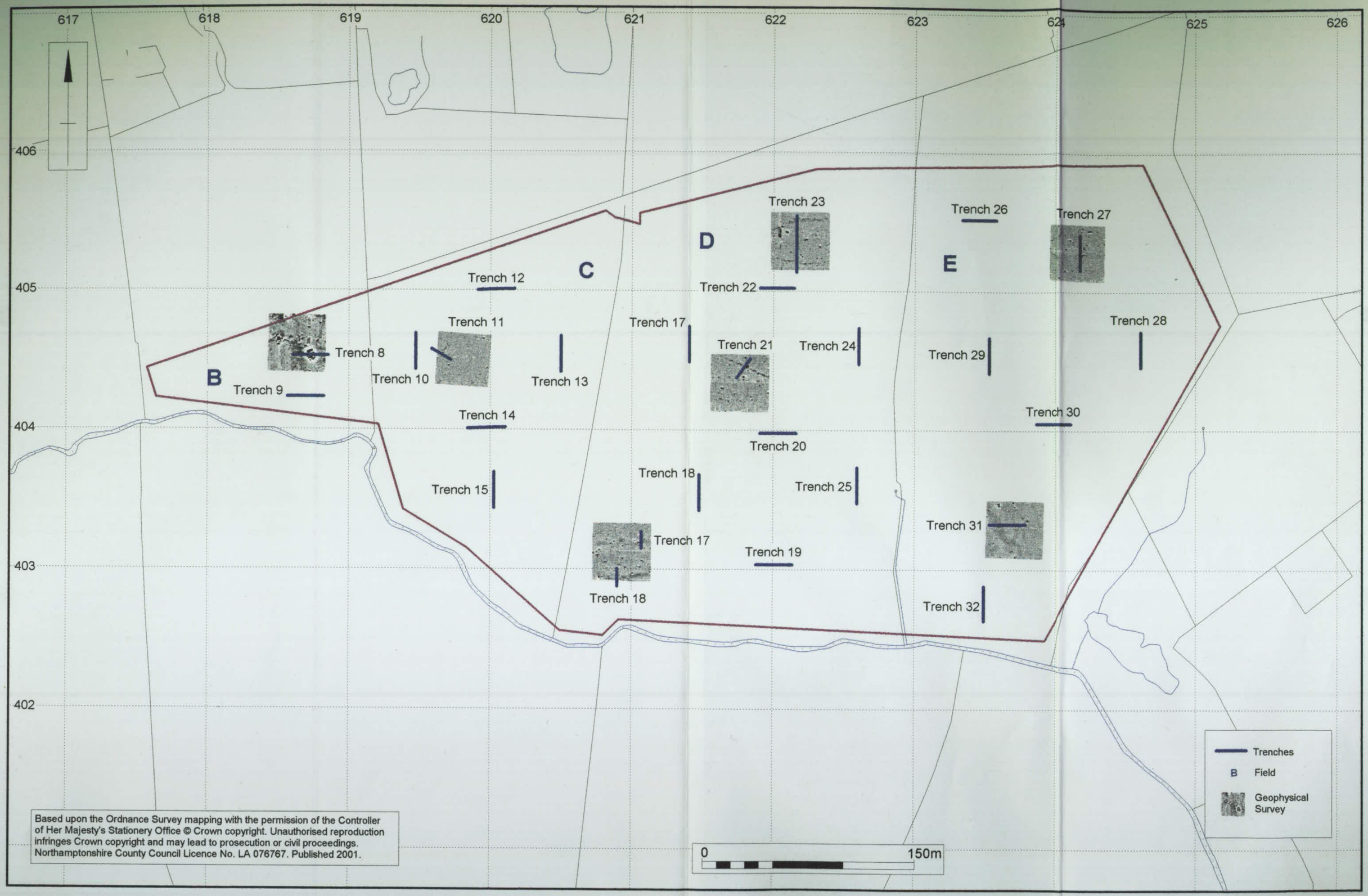
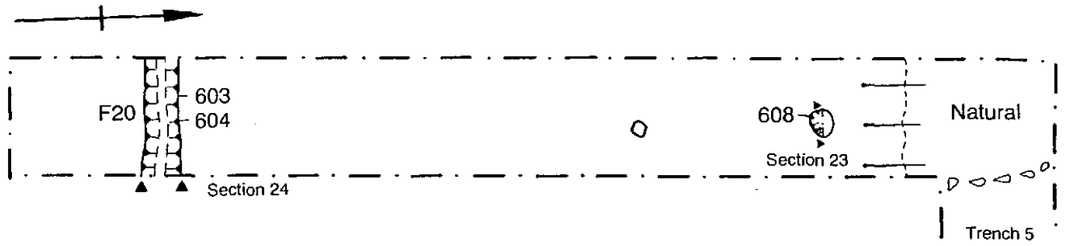
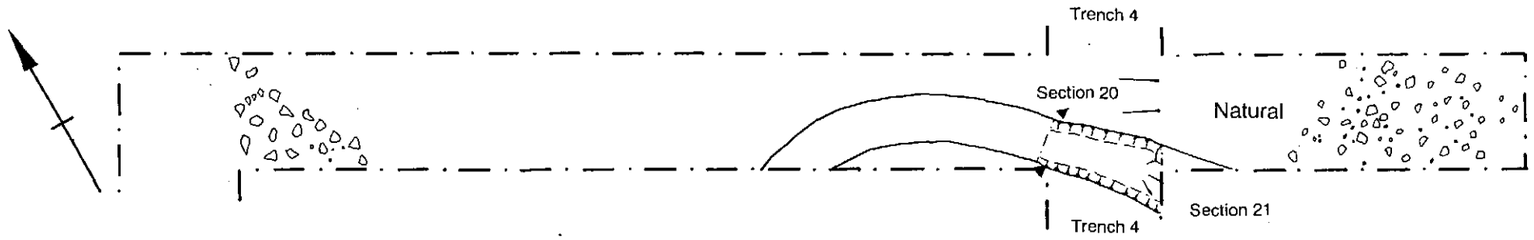


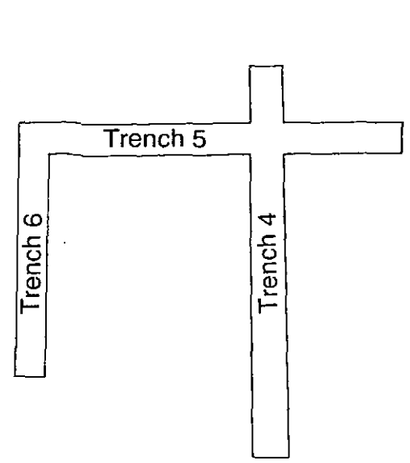
Fig 3

Plan of Trench 6



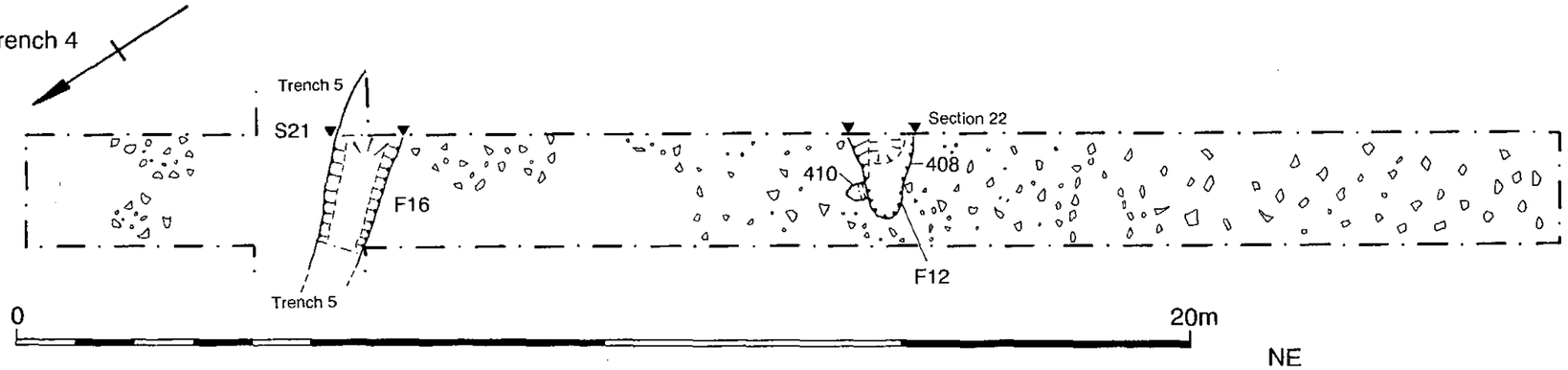
Plan of Trench 5



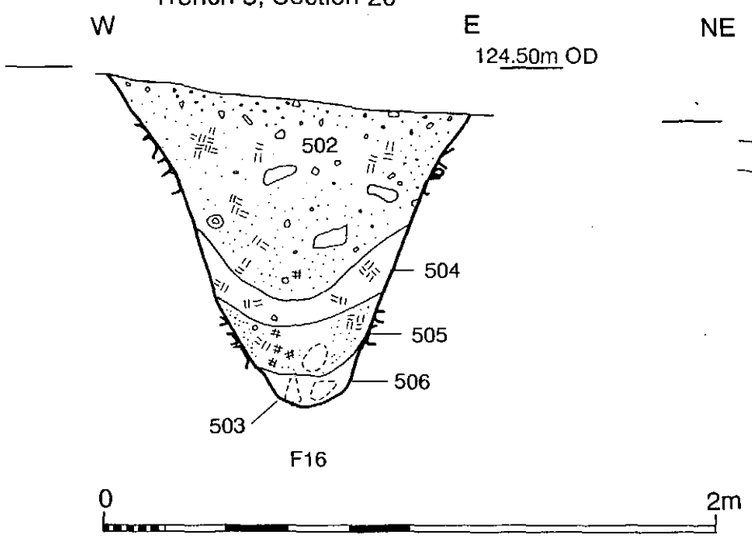


Trench Relationships

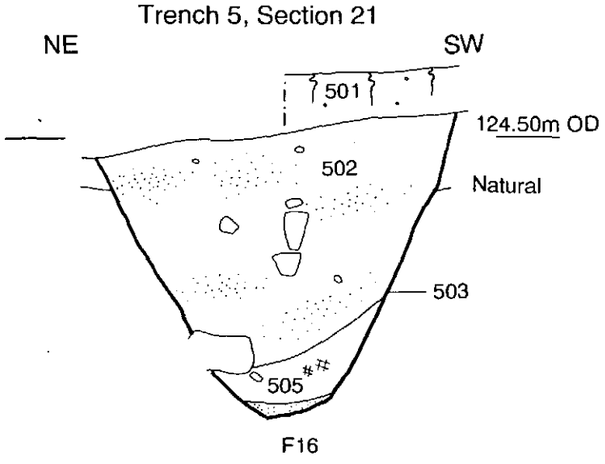
Plan of Trench 4



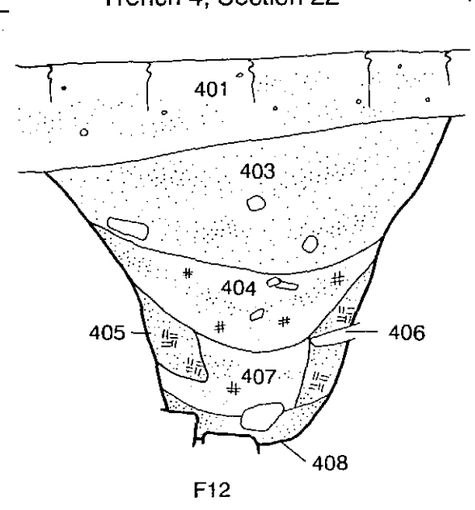
Trench 5, Section 20



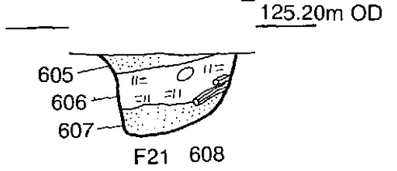
Trench 5, Section 21



Trench 4, Section 22



Trench 6, Section 23



Trench 6, Section 24

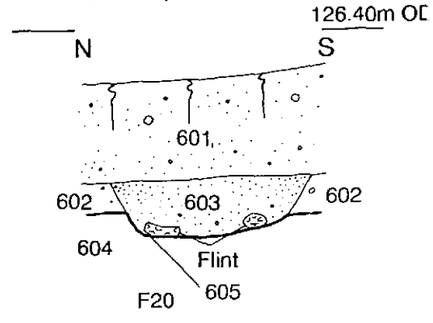
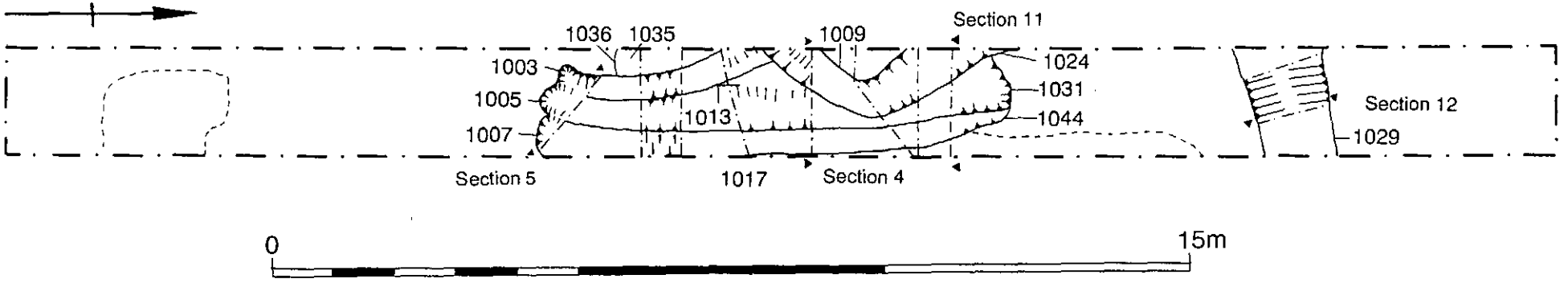


Fig 4

Plan of Trench 10



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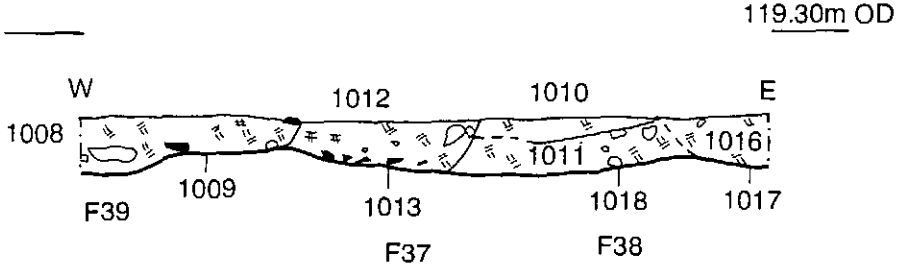
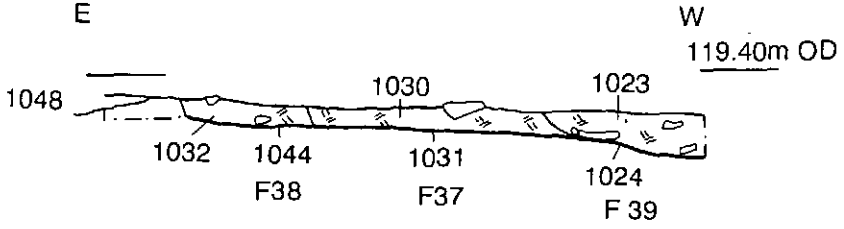
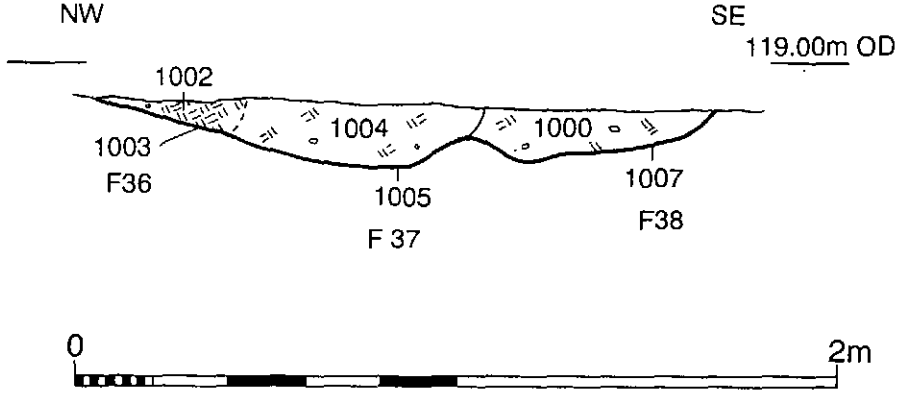


Trench 10, Section 11



Trench 10, Section 5



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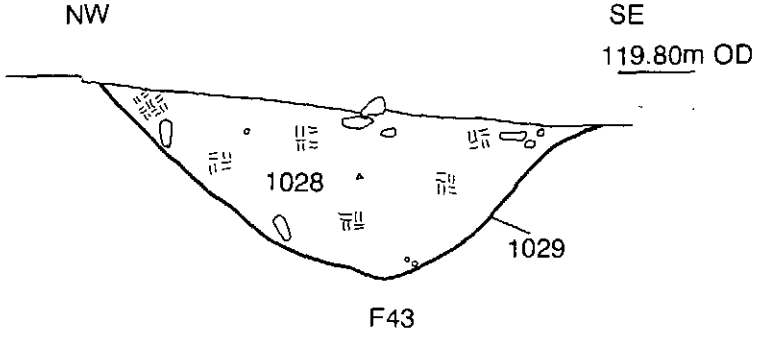
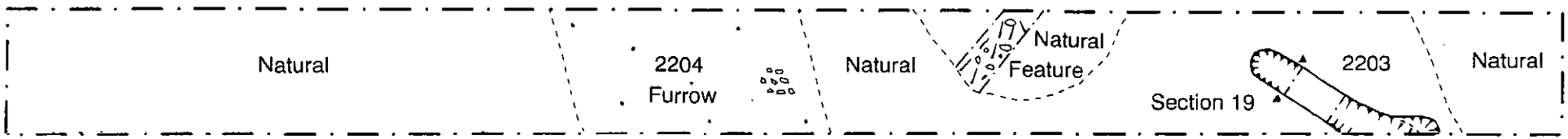
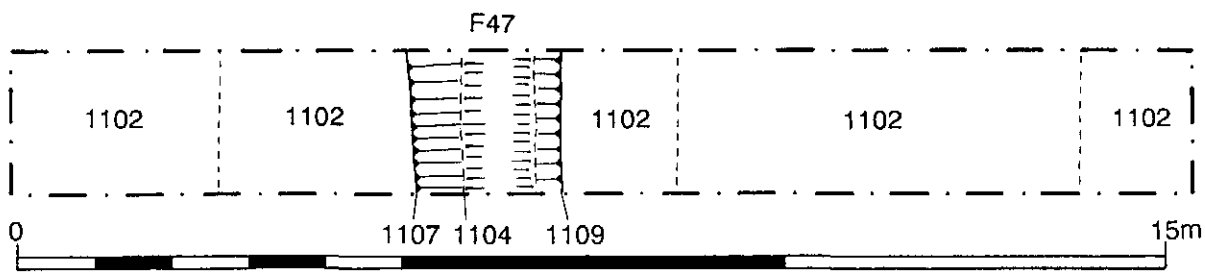


Fig 5

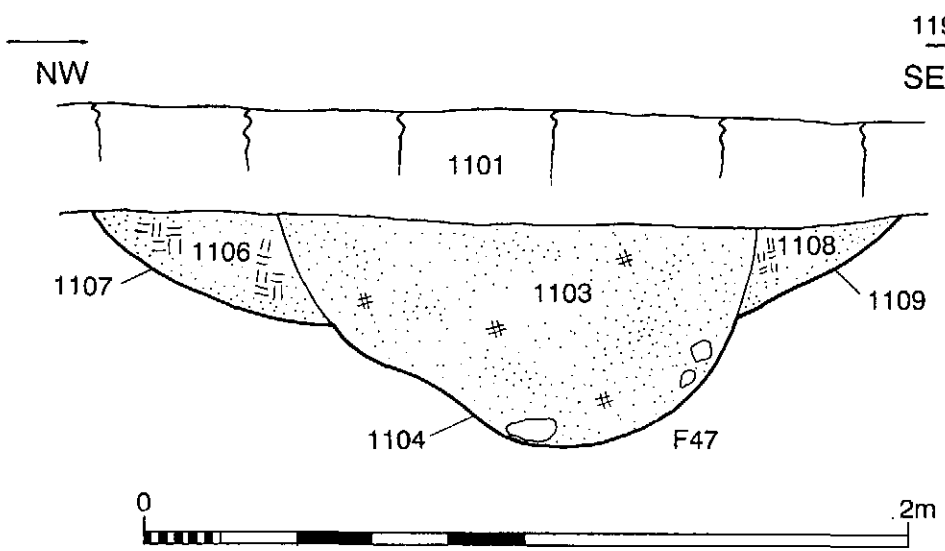
Plan of Trench 22



Plan of Trench 11



Trench 11, Section 1



Trench 22, Section 19

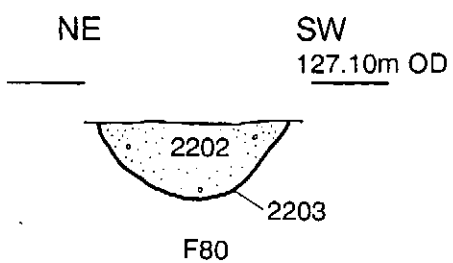
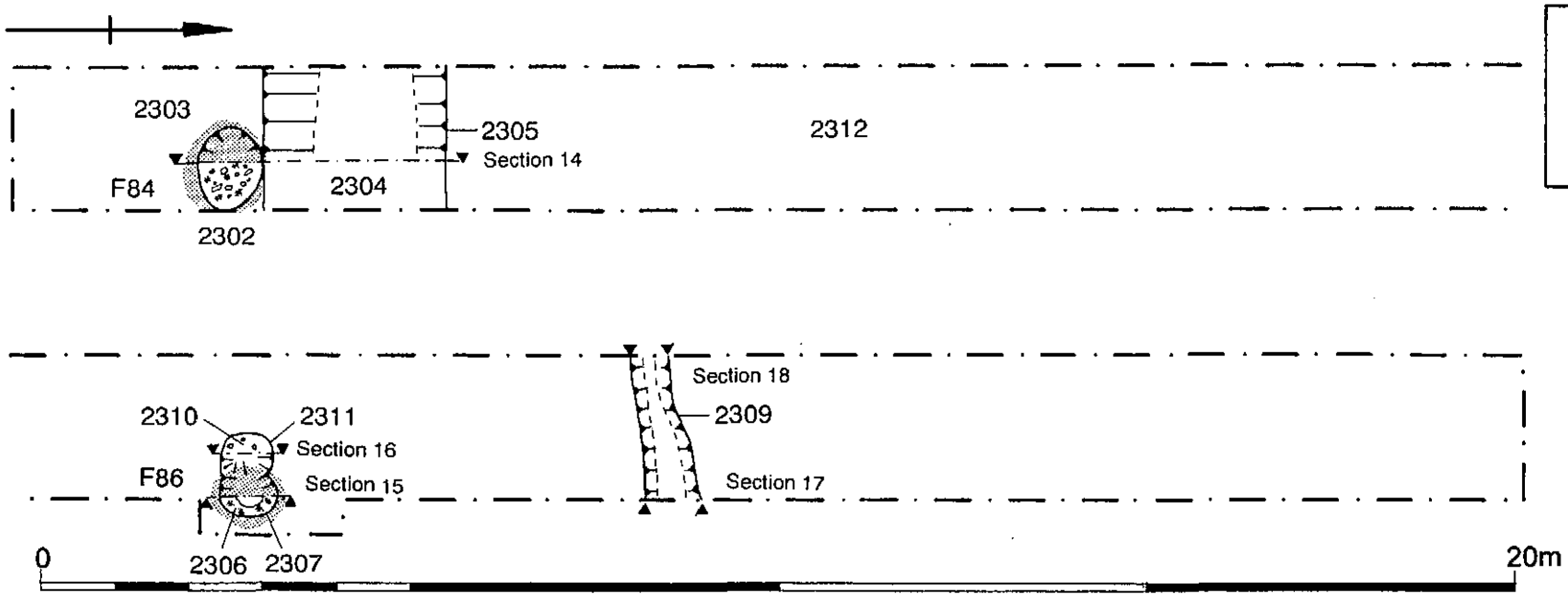
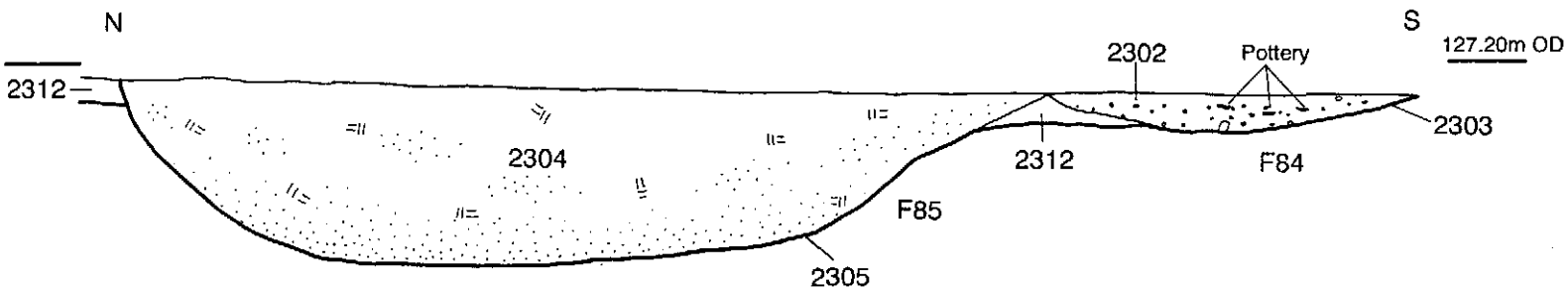


Fig 6

Plan of Trench 23



Section 14



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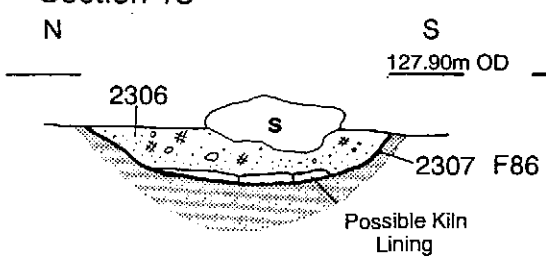

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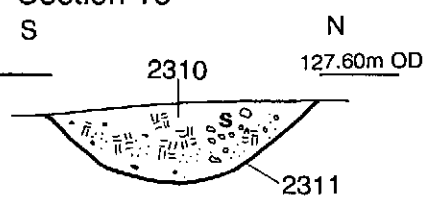

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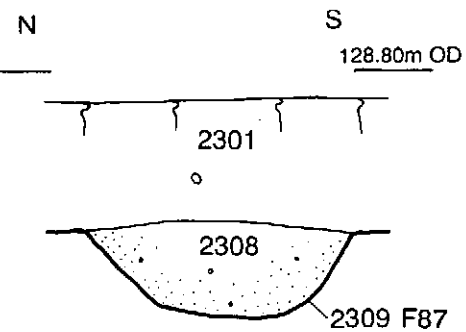


Section 18

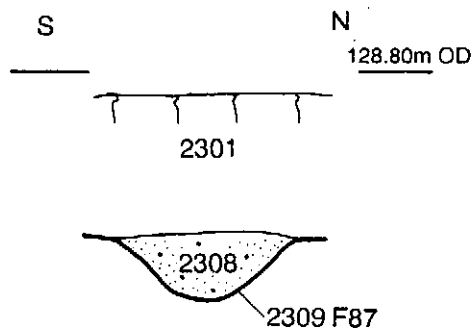
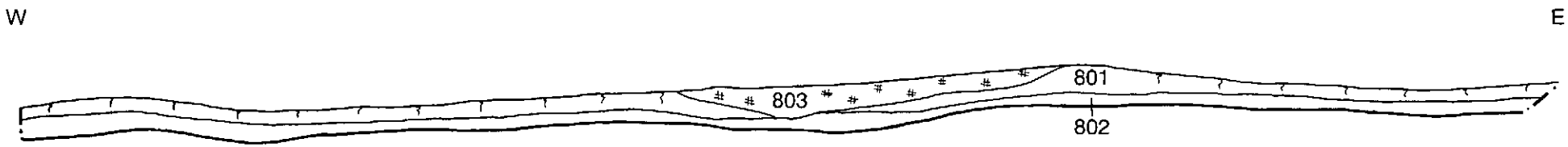
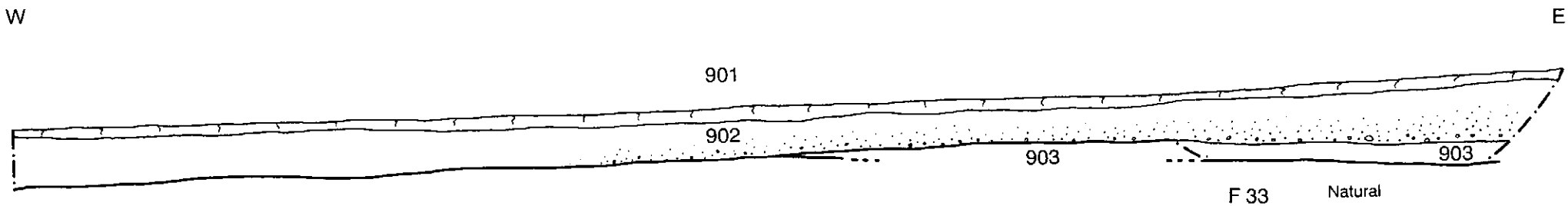


Fig 7

Trench 8, Section 25



Trench 9, Section 26



Trench 3, Section 27

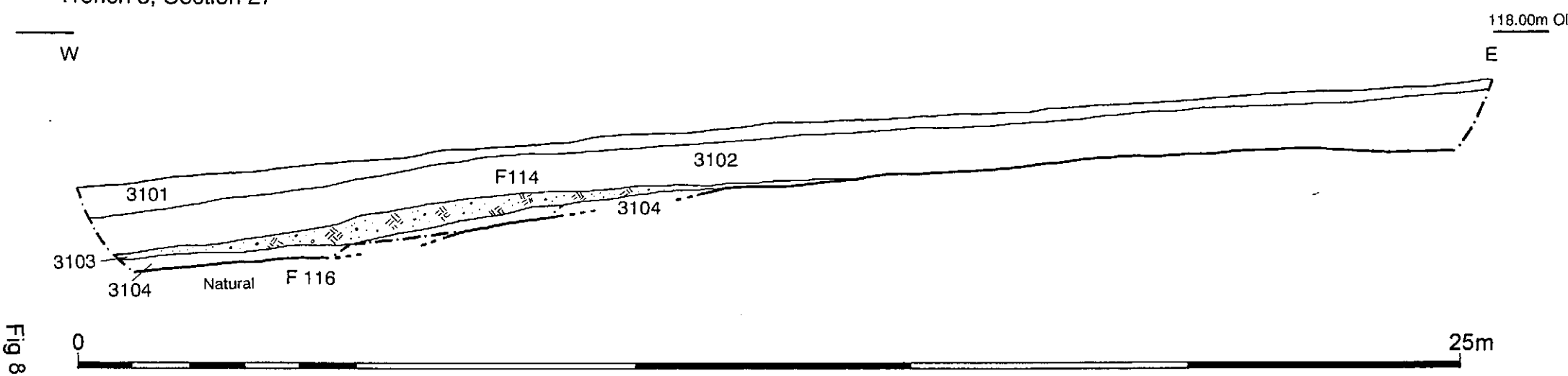
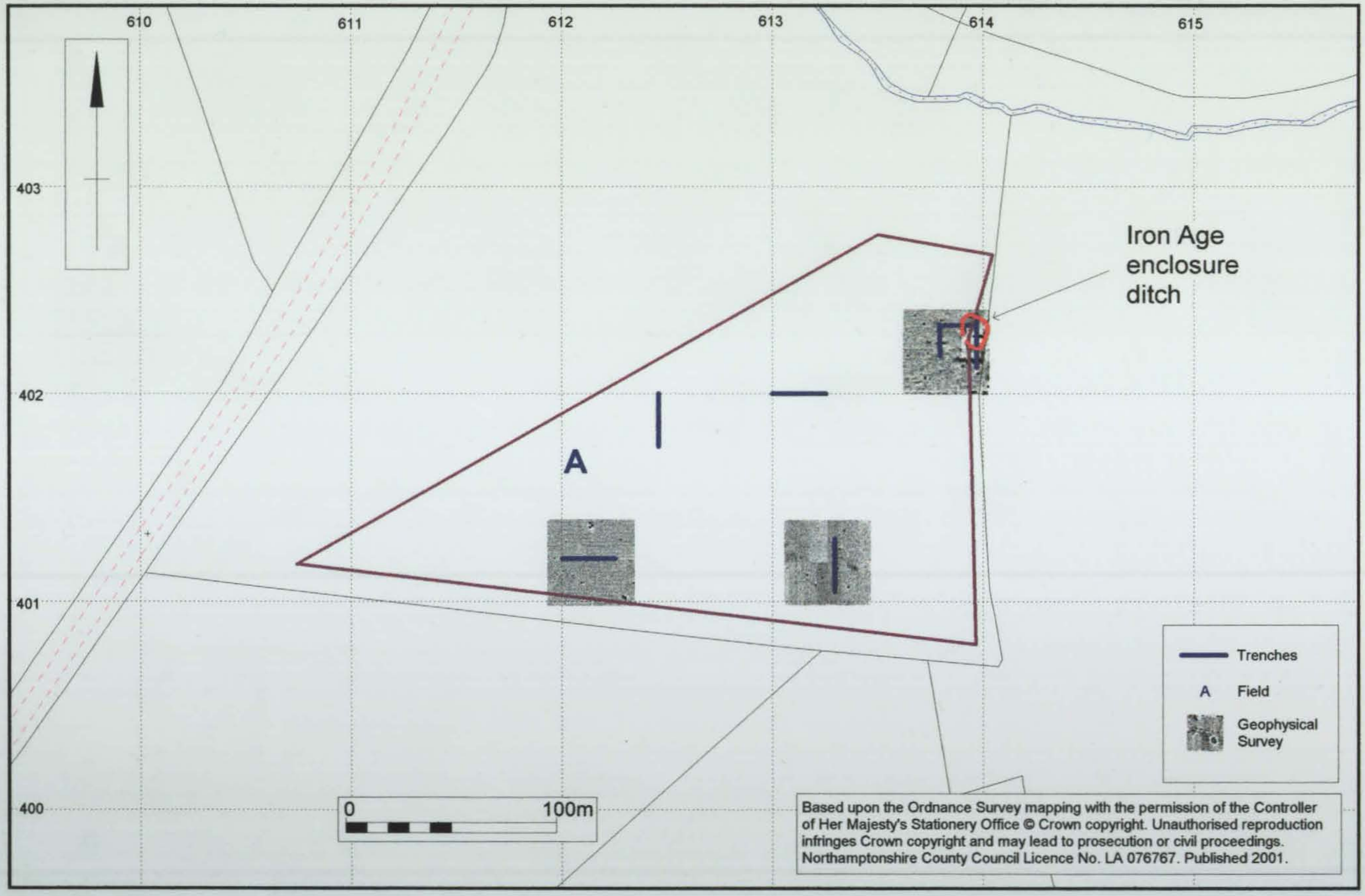


Fig 8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A
Iron Age
enclosure
ditch
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100m
Trenches
A Field
Geophysical
Survey
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Fig. 9

617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626

406 405 404 403 402

Roman Occupation

Modern Bonfire

Roman Occupation

F 47

F 43

F 36-39

B

C

D

F 87

F 86

F 85

F 84

F 80

E

Furrow

Variation in Natural Soils

0 150m

Trenches

B Field

Geophysical Survey

Fig 10

Author **Carlyle-Lancaster S.** Date **2001**

Title **A43 Towcester To M40 Dualling Project Soil Disposal And Landscaping Areas Archaeological Evaluation**

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