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# Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Pineham Barn, Upton, Northamptonshire

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*

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Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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# Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Pineham Barn, Upton, Northamptonshire

NGR SP 714 585

Site Code: UPN 00

By

Simon Buteux and Laurence Jones

With contributions by Umberto Albarella, Lynne Bevan, Marina Ciaraldi and Annette Hancocks

Client:

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
The Manor, South Street
Normanton-on Trent
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG23 6RQ

*For further information please contact:*
Simon Buteux, Iain Ferris or Gwilym Hughes (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

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## 1.0 Non-technical summary

*Thirty archaeological trial trenches were excavated within an area of 65 hectares of agricultural land proposed for development at Pineham Barn, Upton, near Northampton (NGR SP 7140 5850, Figs 1 & 2). The purpose of the trenches was to test for the survival of significant archaeological remains within the area, and to provide an indication of the importance, date and extent of such remains. Previous archaeological work on the site - which comprised a desk-top assessment of existing archaeological knowledge, systematic surface collection of pottery and other artefacts, and geophysical survey – suggested that the remains of two settlements survived within the site, one apparently of Middle to Late Iron Age date and the other of Roman date. With the exception of a possible discrete group of pits, perhaps of Roman date, the remainder of the site did not appear to contain significant archaeological remains.*

*These conclusions were borne out by the trial trenching. About half of the trial trenches were targeted on the two suspected settlements and the possible pit cluster. The remainder were distributed in apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas throughout the site to test for the survival of hitherto unsuspected remains. The existence of the two settlements and the pit cluster was confirmed, and information was gained on their character, date, likely extent, quality of survival, significance and archaeological potential. In the other areas of the site all the trenches proved to be archaeological sterile.*

*Both the settlements are farmsteads, and appear to have relatively well-defined boundaries. The Middle to Late Iron Age settlement (Fig. 3) comprised a series of rectilinear enclosures, some of which contained the remains of roundhouses. There were also numerous pits. The Romano-British settlement (Fig. 4) was somewhat different in character, consisting of a tight cluster of enclosures with associated trackways. Direct evidence of buildings was in this case absent, but this is probably a reflection of the small-scale nature of the excavations. Both settlements were probably occupied over a considerable period of time and their plans are likely to represent several phases of development.*

*The remains are relatively well preserved, with a central hearth being reported from one of the roundhouses of the Iron Age settlement in an earlier investigation, and a road or yard surface being uncovered within the Roman settlement in the present investigations. A programme of sampling for charred plant remains indicated a good potential for future excavations to provide evidence of the economy of the settlements and the character of the surrounding landscape. Animal bones were preserved on the Roman settlement.*

*It is concluded that the settlements are of local and county archaeological importance and, as such, an archaeological mitigation strategy of the kind suggested in paragraph 30 of PPG16 (DoE 1990) may be applicable in this situation. This could involve excavation and a watching brief during development, though the final decision on any mitigation strategy must rest with Northamptonshire Heritage in discussion with JSAC on behalf of the client. The evaluation and earlier investigations provide sufficient information for a well-informed and focused programme of archaeological investigations to be designed.*

## 2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching at Pineham Barn, Upton, Northamptonshire. The work followed a desk-based assessment (JSAC 1998), surface finds collection (JSAC forthcoming) and geophysical survey (GSB 1999) of the site. The evaluation was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and was undertaken in January and February 2000 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in accordance with a specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC 1999).

The specification was approved by Northamptonshire Heritage (Northamptonshire County Council) and on 27th January 2000 a site visit was made by Myk Flitcroft, Planning Officer (Archaeology) of Northamptonshire Heritage, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

Arrangements for the deposition of the finds and paper archive have been made with Northampton Museum.

### *2.1 Planning background*

The evaluation excavation and the preceeding archaeological investigations were carried out in advance of proposed development of the site, all archaeological work being carried out on behalf of Holmes Antill acting for ProLogis Kingspark. An application for development has been made (ref: 98/1010).

### *2.2 Site location and description*

The site (centred on NGR SP 7140 5850) is located just beyond the southwestern fringe of Northampton, with the M1 motorway to the south, the River Nene to the north and the village of Kislingbury to the northwest (Fig. 1). The site covers an area of approximately 65 hectares, and comprises eight fields (Fig. 2). The southern boundary is formed by a tributary of the River Nene and the land is relatively low lying, at 65-70m above Ordnance Datum.

The low-lying fields in the south and east of the site (Nos 3, 6, 7 & 8), adjacent to the stream, have historically been meadow (JSAC 1998) and are largely still used for this purpose today, although Field 7 and the northwestern part of Field 8 were ploughed at the time of the evaluation. From the meadowland by the stream, the land slopes up gently to the north and west to a low summit in the vicinity of the now demolished Pineham Barn, before sloping down again northwards towards the River Nene. This higher ground, Fields 1, 2, 4 and 5, is arable, and at the time of the evaluation had been ploughed, with oil seed rape planted in Fields 1 and 2. In the medieval period these fields would have formed part of the East Field of Kislingbury (JSAC 1998).

The division between the meadow and arable land corresponds fairly closely with the edge of the floodplain (see Figure 2), and this line also approximately marks the division between the two principal soil types, and the corresponding underlying geology, found on the site. The soils of the arable fields in the northern part of the site are of the Wick 1 association (541r) and consist of coarse loamy and sandy soils locally over gravel, which overlie a parent geology of river terrace drift. The meadowland adjacent to the stream, in

the southern and eastern part of the site, consist of stoneless clayey soils of the Fladbury 1 (813b) association overlying river alluvium (SSEW 1983).

## 3.0 Archaeological background

Prior to the evaluation excavation which is the subject of this report, a desk-based assessment of the site was carried out (JSAC 1998), followed by geophysical survey (GSB 1999) and surface finds collection (JSAC forthcoming).

### *3.1 Desk-based assessment*

The desk-based assessment, carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, highlighted a number of archaeological features and findspots within and close to the site. In Field 1, aerial photography had revealed cropmarked features of part of an enclosure, linear ditches and a ring ditch (SMR 5092; Fig. 2). Although full details are not available at the time of writing, an evaluation excavation of these features was carried out in 1989 by M. Shaw. Two ring ditches, 16m in diameter, were partially excavated and were identified as the eaves-drip gullies of Iron Age roundhouses, one of which also contained a central stone-lined hearth. Excavation of a large linear feature, however, revealed that it was in fact geological in origin. Further ring ditches and linear features were identified by magnetometer survey. On the basis of the morphology of the features and the ceramic evidence, the complex was interpreted as a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement comprising roundhouses within rectilinear enclosures.

Immediately to the east of this settlement a pottery scatter (SMR 5086; Fig. 2) was identified, producing both Iron Age and Romano-British sherds. Further east again, in Field 2, a Roman pottery scatter (SMR 5091; Fig. 2) appeared to be associated with cropmarks indicative of enclosures and trackways, suggesting a Romano-British settlement. No other direct evidence of remains of the prehistoric or Roman periods within the bounds of the development site was forthcoming from the desk-based assessment, with the exception of a report of a Roman coin discovered by metal detector, apparently in Field 3 (SMR 6603; Fig. 2).

Discoveries and excavations outside the bounds of the proposed development site, however, suggested that the two settlements identified within the site, should be seen as part of a densely occupied Iron Age and Romano-British landscape, comprising numerous farmsteads distributed amongst a complex of trackways and fields. Along the western edge of the site, aerial photographs revealed cropmarks of ditches and a possible pit alignment, which are likely to continue into the site. It is tempting to associate these features with the Iron Age settlement (SMR 5092) identified in Field 1 (pit alignments are generally interpreted as land boundaries of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date). Another Romano-British settlement site has been identified and excavated 200m to the south of the proposed development site (SMR 1477).

No direct evidence for occupation of the development site in periods preceding the Iron Age or following the Roman period was forthcoming from the desk-based assessment. However, a flint scatter, likely to date from the Neolithic period or Bronze Age, was observed during fieldwalking immediately to the north of the site (SMR 5090; Fig. 2), and other finds of these periods have been recorded in the vicinity.

No Saxon sites are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, but sub-Roman activity is known from the area of Hunsbury hillfort, to the east of the site. At Upton, to the north of the site, excavations in 1965 during road improvements to the A45, to the west of Upton church, revealed, in addition to pits and ditches of Iron Age date, the remains of a Saxon timber building destroyed by fire and interpreted as a weaving shed dating to the late 6th to early 7th centuries AD (Jackson *et al.* 1969).

The village of Upton is now deserted, probably in large measure as a consequence of the building of the late 17th-early 19th century Upton Hall and its landscaped park. In the medieval period the land forming the proposed development site lay within Kislingbury parish, and would have been part of the parish's East Field. Medieval activity within the site is therefore likely to be agricultural in character. A hoard of medieval coins was recovered by metal detector from a location 50m southeast of the site (SMR 8444; Fig. 2).

*3.2 Geophysical survey*

A magnetometer survey of the site was carried out by GSB Prospection (GSB 1999). The survey comprised an initial scan of the whole site, along traverses spaced at intervals of approximately 10m, and areas producing significant variations to the background readings were marked out for subsequent detailed survey. Four such areas were identified (see Figure 2).

The area in Field 1 (Figs 2 & 3) corresponded with the Iron Age settlement identified from aerial photography and subsequently evaluated by excavation in 1989 (see Section 3.1, above). From north to south, detailed survey revealed a clear ring ditch within a three-sided rectilinear enclosure, apparently open on its western side. At the northeast and southeast corners of this enclosure are further ditches which appear to form two small D-shaped enclosures; the southeast D-shaped enclosure appears to post-date the rectilinear enclosure. A smaller, square enclosure appears to be appended to the southern boundary of the northern rectilinear enclosure. This square enclosure contains one clear ring ditch and a possible partial ring ditch, as well as numerous pit-type anomalies. To the south of the two conjoined rectilinear enclosures is a third, small sub-rectangular enclosure with a number of associated ditches which appear to form a series of irregular enclosures. A broad, curving negative anomaly which appears to underlie these ditches was considered to be possibly geological in origin; to its east is a cluster of pit-type anomalies.

The area in Field 2 (Figs 2 & 4) corresponded with the Romano-British settlement first identified from cropmark aerial photographic evidence and a Romano-British pottery scatter. The detailed magnetometer survey revealed a complex of enclosures and trackways but lacking the ring ditches apparent at the settlement in Field 1. One trackway, entering the complex of enclosures from the east, appears to widen out in the main enclosure area and funnel into a small sub-rectangular enclosure. Amongst the enclosures are numerous, pit-type anomalies, indicative of pits, hearths or other burnt/fired material. The detailed magnetometer survey in Field 2 did not encompass the full extent of the settlement, with anomalies clearly continuing beyond the bounds of the survey, especially to the east and to the south.

Two smaller areas of detailed survey were carried out in Fields 4 and 5 (Figs 2 and 5). The survey in Field 4 revealed a series of weak positive and negative trends, considered likely to be geological in origin, together with a few pit-type responses in the southwest corner, interpreted as possibly of archaeological interest. The survey in Field 5 revealed a series of weak linear trends orientated northwest-southeast and considered likely to be due to modern ploughing.

The geophysical survey report concluded that the different character of the two settlements in Fields 1 and 2 could indicate separate phases of settlement.

*3.3 Surface finds collection*

Full details of the results of the fieldwalking undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC forthcoming) concurrently with the geophysical survey are not available at the time of writing. However, preliminary field plots and a list of finds indentifications have been provided, upon which this summary is based.

Extensive fieldwalking on a 50m x 50m grid was carried out over the whole site, with the exception of the areas of unploughed meadow (Fields 3, 6, 7 and 8 [part]). Intensive fieldwalking on a 20m x 20m grid corresponded exactly with the detailed geophysical survey areas in Fields 1 and 2, and approximately with the detailed geophysical survey areas in Fields 4 and 5.

Twenty-eight finds were recovered, 12 of which are of post-medieval or modern date. A flint flake and a worked flint, possibly a small scraper, were recovered from the intensive fieldwalking/detailed geophysics area in Field 1. These may relate to the flint scatter recorded immediately to the north (SMR 5090), just outside the proposed development site. No Iron Age pottery was recovered from this area.

Three sherds of Romano-British pottery (including the possible lid of a Nene Valley Colour Coat vessel with incised decoration and a large fragment of calcite gritted ware) and a tile fragment were recovered from the intensive fieldwalking/detailed geophysics area in Field 2. Three further sherds of Romano-British pottery (including a greyware sherd and a calcite gritted sherd) and a tile fragment were found along the southern edge of Field 2 during the extensive fieldwalking. This confirms the impression from the geophysical survey that the Romano-British settlement is likely to extend some distance southwards of the area covered by the detailed magnetometer survey. A very abraded sherd of Late Iron Age scored ware was also recovered from this area. Two Romano-British tile fragments were recovered from the extreme eastern end of Field 2, and a calcite gritted sherd from the extreme western end.

Interestingly, two sherds of Romano-British pottery, including a large greyware sherd, were recovered during the extensive fieldwalking of Field 4, immediately to the west of the possible pit-type anomalies recorded by the detailed magnetometer survey in this field. In general the surface collection exercise served to reinforce the evidence that the settlement in Field 2 was essentially Romano-British in character and is probably somewhat more extensive than the area covered by the detailed geophysical survey. It also strengthened the possibility that the pit-type anomalies in Field 4 are archaeological rather rather than geological in origin, and suggested that they might be Roman in date.

## 4.0 Aims and methods

### *4.1 Aims*

The aims of the evaluation, as stated in the specification (JSAC 1999), were:

- to establish the accuracy of the geophysical survey in identifying features;
- to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding its suitability for development.
- to assess the nature, date, density, extent, function and state of preservation of archaeological remains identified;
- to assess their potential for answering questions about the development of land use in the region; and
- where remains are of sufficient importance, to determine the best method by which these remains can be preserved by record or *in situ.*

In order to achieve these aims thirty trenches were excavated, each 2m wide and measuring between 20m and 100m in length (Fig. 2). Six trenches (Nos 1-2 & 4-7) were located to investigate the geophysical anomalies believed to relate to the suspected Iron Age settlement in Field 1, and areas on the immediate periphery of the survey area. Two further trenches (Nos 8 & 9) were located to test whether the features recorded by geophysics in Field 1 continued into the western end of Field 2.

Nine trenches (Nos 11 & 13-20) were located to investigate the geophysical anomalies believed to relate to the suspected Romano-British settlement in Field 2, and areas on the immediate periphery of the survey area. Three further trenches (Nos 10, 12 & 21) were located to investage the apparently blank area in the western half of Field 2 between the two settlements.

Two trenches (Nos 22 & 26 respectively) were located to investigate the pit-type geophysical anomalies in Field 4 and the possible anomalies in Field 5.

The remainder of the trenches were fairly evenly distributed throughout the rest of the area proposed for development and were speculative in nature. Those in Fields 3, 6 and 8 had the additional aim of testing for alluvation in the floodplain of the stream.

### *4.2 Methods*

The positions of the trenches were surveyed in using a Total Station EDM. The trenches were then mechanically opened using a 360-degree excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under constant archaeological supervision. The topsoil/ploughsoil was removed to the depth at which archaeological features first appeared (generally the interface with the underlying subsoil) or, in the absence of visible archaeological features, to the top of the natural subsoil. In trenches where alluvial or colluvial deposits underlay the topsoil, the surface of the alluvium or colluvium was first mechanically cleaned in order to test for the presence of archaeological features before all or a sample of the alluvium/colluvium was carefully removed to test for archaeological features within or beneath these deposits. Due to a high watertable and consequent flooding of some of the trenches, in practice the possibility of excavating the alluvial

deposits in particular was very limited, and small sondages were all that were generally achievable.

Immediately following the machine cleaning of the surfaces within each trench (when feature visibility is frequently best), a record was made of all potential archaeological features and deposits within the trench using a 'Trench Record' *pro forma*. These cards enable a systematic pre-excavation record of all relevant details to be made, together with a measured sketch of all features and deposits at 1:100. Visible archaeological features are numbered and tagged on the ground and a decision is made on the strategy for sampling features and potential features within the trench.

Subsequent sample excavation was carried out by hand. Discrete archaeological features, such as pits, were half or quarter sectioned. A sufficient length of linear features, such as ditches, was excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, date and function. All deposits encountered were described fully on individual *pro-forma* context and feature recording cards. A drawn record was made of all features, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 in plan and 1:20 or 1:10 in profile, as appropriate. A full monochrome print and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout. Soil samples of 10, 15 and 20 litres were taken from appropriate contexts for subsequent flotation to recover charred plant remains. Finds, including animal bone, were retained by individual context.

## 5.0 Summary of results

The ploughsoil and topsoil varied in depth between 0.25m and 0.35m. The underlying natural subsoil, in Fields 1, 2, 4 and 5, was mainly sandy clays or sand and gravels. The natural subsoil in the lower lying fields within the floodplain comprised mainly alluvial silts or silty clays, between 0.30m and 0.70m thick, overlying silty sands. Fields 3, 6 and part of Field 8 were waterlogged, which hampered the excavations here.

### *5.1 The Iron Age settlement (Field 1)*

The magnetometer survey of this settlement (Fig. 3) suggested that it comprised a series of square and sub-rectangular enclosures, some of which contain ring gullies, together with numerous pit-type anomalies (see Section 3.2 above). Three trenches (Nos 4, 5 and 6) were excavated within the area of the magnetometer survey in order to verify and investigate the geophysical anomalies. Trench 4 (Fig. 6) was excavated across the ring gully in the centre of the northmost enclosure and across one arm of this three-sided enclosure. The ring gully (F41 & F42) was V-shaped in profile, about 0.80m wide and varied in depth from 0.30m to 0.47m. Three sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from its fill. The enclosure ditch (F44) was 3.64m wide, 0.70m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. Three episodes of silting appeared to be represented in the fill of the ditch but no finds were recovered. Other features encountered within Trench 4 were a shallow oval pit (F40) and the terminal of a shallow gully (F43).

Trench 5 (Fig. 7) examined the eastern arm of a square enclosure abutting the one described above, a curvilinear ditch within the enclosure (possibly a partial ring gully) and an apparently blank area to the east of the enclosure. The curvilinear ditch (F50) was 1.35m wide and 0.45m deep with steep sides and a narrow rounded base; its fill contained Iron Age pottery. The geophysical anomaly representing the eastern arm of the enclosure

(Fig. 3) proved to represent a sequence of ditch re-cuts. The principal ditch (F51) was at least 2.4m wide and 1.0m deep and contained Iron Age pottery in its fill. It was re-cut on three occasions (F55, F53 and F52), the second of these re-cuts also containing Iron Age pottery. Two curvilinear gullies (F56 and F57), which were not picked up by the magnetometer survey, were exposed to the west and east of the enclosure boundary; that to the west of the enclosure boundary was cut by the last re-cut of the enclosure ditch.

Trench 6 (Fig. 8) was positioned across an area of the settlement which the geophysical survey suggested consisted of a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures containing pit-type anomalies. The two enclosure boundaries across which the trench was located (F60 to the west and F63 to the east) proved to be substantial ditches, both producing Iron Age pottery from their fills. Between these two ditches was another ditch or an elongated pit (F61) - the latter interpretation suggested by the geophysical survey – containing Iron Age pottery in its fill. Adjacent to it was an oval post-hole or small pit (F62), again producing Iron Age pottery.

Three trenches (Nos 1, 2 and 7) were positioned on the periphery of the geophysical survey area (Fig. 3). Trench 1 revealed only a narrow, shallow and undated linear gully. Trench 2 (Fig. 6) revealed the terminal of a curvilinear gully (F20) and a very substantial ditch, 6.8m wide, containing Iron Age pottery; this ditch could not be bottomed due to the high watertable. Trench 7 (Fig. 3) revealed only a furrow containing a fragment of post-medieval clay pipe.

*5.2 The Romano-British settlement (Field 2)*

The magnetometer survey of this settlement (Fig. 4) indicated that is comprised a cluster of conjoined enclosures, with internal divisions and features, and associated trackways (see Section 3.2 above). Five trenches (Nos 11, 13, 15, 16 & 17) were excavated within the area of the geophysical survey. Trench 11 was positioned across a series of linear and curvilinear features at the western end of the area. A series of linear ditches, gullies and furrows, was revealed (Fig. 9). These ranged in size from a ditch 4.70m wide and 0.7m deep (F110) to a gulley 0.40m wide and only 0.16m deep (F114). Roman pottery, and some animal bone, was recovered from many of these features. A small oval pit or post-hole (F111) was also uncovered. Some of the excavated features (ditches F112, F113, F116 and F117) appear to correspond with linear or curvilinear geophysical anomalies. Other features were either too small to register as anomalies or lay beyond the limit of the survey.

Trench 13 was situated in the centre of the geophysical survey area. The trench revealed eight linear ditches of various shapes, sizes and orientations (Fig. 10). Many of these ditches produced Roman pottery and animal bone from their fills.. The most significant feature in this trench, however, was a cobbled surface (F144), 7.0m wide and at least 0.3m thick. It sealed part of two ditches (F135 and F139), both containing Roman pottery and one with abundant animal bone, and was cut by two further ditches (F136 and F137) and a small pit (F138), two of these features also containing Roman pottery. The cobbled surface was sealed by silty clay (13009) which was in turn cut by two furrows (F140 & F141), both containing Roman and post-medieval pottery. These furrows form part of a set with similar furrows in the trench (F130 and F134), the spacing and fills of which suggest they are medieval or post-medieval furrows, relating to ridge-and-furrow open field cultivation. This interpretation is strengthened by evidence for similarly spaced and

aligned furrows in other trenches and by the 'ploughing trends' indicated by the geophysical survey. Some of the ditches excavated in Trench 13 correspond with geophysical anomalies indicative of enclosure boundaries (F132, F135 and F139) but other features within the trench, including the cobbled surface, do not appear to have been registered by the survey.

Trench 15 (Fig. 11) was positioned across geophysical anomalies indicative of an enclosure in the northern part of the survey area. Towards the northern end of the trench were three parallel ditches (F152, F153 and F156) and two shallow gullies (F155 and F157), all running east-west, which appear to represent repeated redefinitions of the northern boundary of the enclosure. Two of the ditches produced Roman pottery. Another similarly aligned gulley (F154) was encountered towards the centre of the enclosure, while a ditch at the southern end of the trench (F150) appears to correspond with the southern boundary of the enclosure. A furrow cutting diagonally across the trench was similar in appearance and orientation to furrows encountered in other trenches, where they are dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Trench 16 was positioned across a geophysical anomaly at the eastern side of the survey area. A linear archaeological feature was recorded here but could not be excavated due to the high watertable.

Trench 17 (Fig.11) was located in the northwest corner of the survey area. A ditch containing Roman pottery (F170), situated towards the northwestern end of the trench, clearly corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly. Other features within the trench included only an undated small pit or ditch terminal (F171), possible root disturbance (F172 & F173) and a probable cultivation furrow (F174).

Several evaluation trenches (Nos 14, 18, 19 & 20) were distributed around the periphery of the geophysical survey area and were designed to test for the continuation of archaeological features beyond this area. Trench 14 produced evidence for only a single, undated, linear ditch, similar in character to ditches sampled within the geophysical area. Trench 18 (Fig. 12), situated to the south of the of the geophysical survey area, contained a somewhat denser concentration of archaeological features, including undated linear ditches (F182 & F183) and a gully (F181) which seem to represent a continuation of geophysical anomalies recorded to the north. The trench was also crossed by five regularly spaced cultivation furrows on a similar alignment to those encountered in other trenches. Trenches 19 and 20 were both situated within the floodplain (see Fig. 2). In Trench 19 an alluvial deposit 0.30m deep was encountered and excavated; no archaeological features were detected cut into, within or below this deposit. In Trench 20 a similar alluvial deposit was revealed, although this could not be excavated due to the high watertable.

*5.3 The pit cluster (Field 4)*

A small area of detailed magnetometer survey in Field 4 (Fig. 5) revealed a number of pit-type anomalies in the southwest corner of the area. These were investigated in Trench 22 (Fig. 13). Two shallow pits with gently sloping sides (F221 & F222) and a deeper pit with steeply sloping sides (F223) were revealed and sample excavated. They corresponded closely with the geophysical anomalies. Both Roman and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the shallow pits and Iron Age pottery from the deeper pit.

*5.4 Other areas*

Trench 26 (Fig. 5) was located to investigate two weak linear positive geophysical anomalies revealed in the small area of detailed magnetometer survey in Field 5. The only archaeological feature uncovered was a ditch terminal or shallow pit (F260) containing pottery of indeterminate date, fired clay, bone and charcoal.

Three trenches (Nos 10, 12 and 21) were excavated to test for the presence of archaeological remains in the apparently 'blank' half of Field 2 between the Iron Age and Romano-British settlements. No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 10, and in Trench 12 the only feature was an irregular hollow, probably a tree bowl. In Trench 21, however, a linear ditch (F213), at least 1.2m wide and 0.50m deep, was uncovered, and possibly represents a continuation of an anomaly suggestive of a ditched trackway, running westwards from the Romano-British settlement to the east. A second ditch (F212), 2.40m wide and 0.92m deep, on the same alignment cuts F213 and may represent a later redefinition of this ditch.

Five further trenches (Nos 3, 23, 24, 29 & 30) were excavated in apparently 'blank' areas of the higher ground, above the floodplain, in Fields 1, 4 and 7. A narrow linear gulley, which was undated, and three irregular features, considered likely to be root disturbance were exposed in Trench 3, Field 4 (Fig. 3). In Trench 23, Field 4, an undated linear ditch and two undated linear gullies, all orientated northwest-southeast, were uncovered, together with cultivation furrows, the ditch of a post-medieval field boundary and associated post-holes. No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 24, also in Field 4. In Trench 29, on the edge of the floodplain in Field 7, a single, undated, north-south orientated ditch was uncovered. Trench 30, in Field 1 to the west of the Iron Age settlement, revealed a shallow, east-west orientated linear feature containing Roman pottery sherds and fired clay (Fig. 3).

Three trenches (Nos 25, 27 and 28) were excavated in the meadows (Fields 8, 6 and 3) within the floodplain. All three trenches contained alluvial silts, varying in depth between 0.5m and 0.7m. Excavation was severely hampered by the high water table in all three trenches but it was possible to record the surface of the alluvial silts in all cases. The alluvial silts were excavated entirely by machine in Trench 25, revealing a subsoil of yellow sand with patches of gravel, devoid of archaeological features. Two possible linear features were recorded in the surface of the alluvium in Trench 27, and a single linear feature, associated with a modern timber post, in Trench 28. In Trenches 27 and 28 it was only possible to machine dig small sondages through the alluvium, revealing an underlying sand similar to that encountered in Trench 25.

## 6.0 The finds

*6.1 The flint (by Lynne Bevan)*

A total of 14 pieces of humanly-struck flint were recovered, all of which were residual from Roman and post-Roman contexts. The raw material used was a good quality flint, ranging in colour from light brown to dark grey, the majority of which was de-corticated. When present, the thin, compated cortex was characteristic of flint pebbles from secondary sources, probably surface deposits or river gravels in the proximity of the site.

The only tentative dating among this small collection, which was mainly composed of short, broad flakes, was a small broken blade fragment with possible utilisation along one side suggestive of a Later Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date (Trench 11, F110) and a retouched flake with signs of pressure-flaking characteristic of the Neolithic period (Trench 13, F140). One other retouched flake was identified (Trench 15, F152) and a flake which had been utilised, possibly for a scraping function (Trench 13, F141), but neither of these was datable. The remaining flakes came from the following features: F135 x 3 (Trench 13), F152 x 2 (Trench 15), F170 (Trench 17), F212 (Trench 21), F221 x 2 and F222 (Trench 22). With the exception of two flakes from Trench 22, in Field 4, it is noteworthy that all the worked flints were recovered from trenches excavated on, or in close proximity to, the Romano-British settlement in Field 2 (Trenches 11, 13, 15, 17 and 21).

The general shapes and sizes of the flakes are suggestive of a later prehistoric date, from the Later Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age, although some flint usage during the Iron Age is equally possible, but this small, unstratified sample does not suggest occupation of any longevity. Due to the circumstances of recovery the assemblage cannot be regarded as a cohesive group and might have been generated by several separate knapping episodes during prehistory.

*6.2 The pottery (by Annette Hancocks)*

The pottery assemblage consisted of 335 sherds of stratified Mid/Late Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, weighing 3375g. The material was scanned for large diagnostic sherds and a *terminus post quem* was assigned for each context. The size of the assemblage is comparable to that recovered from a similar evaluation exercise undertaken at Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire (Thomas 1998). Details of the quantities of material recovered appear in Table 1. The range and variety of fabrics recognised are typical of the Northamptonshire region with Mid/Late Iron Age, late $1^{st}/2^{nd}$ and later $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ century material.

6.2.1 Iron Age

The Iron Age assemblage comprised 126 sherds (593g) and derived primarily from Trenches 5 and 6, excavated to investigate the Iron Age settlement in Field 1. Lesser quantities of pottery were recovered from the other trenches targeted on this settlement (Trenches 2 and 4) and from the two trenches (8 & 9) situated at the extreme western end of Field 2, adjacent to the settlement. The only other location to produce Iron Age pottery were the pits investigated by Trench 22 in Field 4. No identifiable Iron Age pottery was recovered from the Romano-British settlement in Field 2.

There was limited diagnostic material, but typical Mid/Late Iron Age ovoid and globular jar forms were recovered from Trench 5, F52 (5006) and F51 (5010), and a typical strap handle from F50 (5003). Within Trench 6 the only diagnostic piece recovered consisted of a large globular, neckless jar from F63 (6010). The remaining Iron Age sherds recovered were body sherds with no decoration or diagnostic value, such as scored ware.

6.2.2 Romano-British

A small but significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the evaluation. The material comprised some 193 sherds (2417g). The material derived primarily from Trenches 13 and 15, with smaller quantities from Trenches 11, 17 and 22. With the exception of Trench 22, which was located to investigate the pit-type geophysical anomalies in Field 4, all these trenches were targeted on the Romano-British settlement in Field 2. No identifiable Romano-British pottery was recovered from the Iron Age settlement in Field 1.

Typical 2nd-4th century pottery of the Lower Nene Valley tradition was recognised during spot-dating. These comprised Lower Nene Valley mortaria, greyware BB1 copies and Lower Nene Valley colour-coat copies of flanged bowls, as well as a Lower Nene Valley greyware deep dish/bowl. In addition, small quantities of residual samian were noted. A single sherd of a barbotine decorated imported fineware beaker, possibly Central Gaulish Black-slipped ware, was recovered from Trench 17 (17007).

6.2.3 Conclusions

Overall, the assemblage recovered from the evaluation suggests that, should larger-scale excavation be carried out on the site, the resulting ceramic assemblage should provide excellent comparative data to complement, for example, the excavations of Jackson at Upton (Jackson *et. al.* 1969) and recent work undertaken by BUFAU at Covert Farm, Crick and Grange Park, Courteenhall. The site is some two miles from Hunsbury Hillfort and Dunston, both of which have good comparative pottery assemblages. This will enable the assemblage to be analysed at both local and regional level.

| Trench | Context | Feature | Enviro | Spot Date | Pottery | | Bone | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Sample | | No | Wgt | Wgt | |
| 2 | 2003 | F21 | | M/LIA | 15 | 35 | | |
| 4 | 4006 | F42 | 3 | M/LIA | 3 | 11 | | |
| 5 | 5003 | F50 | 1 | M/LIA | 20 | 259 | | |
| 5 | 5006 | F52 | | M/LIA | 7 | 14 | | |
| 5 | 5010 | F51 | 2 | M/LIA | 28 | 85 | | Slag (46g) |
| 6 | 6002 | F63 | | M/LIA | 9 | 32 | | |
| 6 | 6003 | F61 | | M/LIA | 14 | 27 | | |
| 6 | 6005 | F60 | | M/LIA | 7 | 52 | | |
| 6 | 6007 | F62 | | M/LIA | 9 | 13 | | |
| 6 | 6010 | F63 | 4 | M/LIA | 5 | 46 | | |
| 7 | 7002 | F70 | | PM | | | | 1 Clay pipe bowl |
| 8 | 8003 | F80 | | PM | 1 | 17 | | |
| 8 | 8004 | F81 | | M/LIA | 1 | 2 | | |
| 9 | 9005 | F91 | | ?B | 1 | 1 | 1g | |
| 11 | 11002 | F117 | | 2ND century | 6 | 59 | 29g | |
| 11 | 11005 | F116 | | Roman | 1 | 7 | | |
| 11 | 11006 | F112 | | Roman | 1 | 22 | 13g | |
| 11 | 11012 | F110 | 5 | 2ND century | 14 | 152 | <1g | 1mm residue 1x flint and pottery |
| 13 | 13007 | F140 | | PM | 2 | 75 | | 1 Flint, 1 residual Roman |
| 13 | 13008 | F135 | 7 | 2ND century | 17 | 117 | 1049g | 1 Flints/1mm residue flint<br>1 Samian |
| 13 | 13009 | | | 2ND century | 3 | 91 | 20g | 1 Mortaria |
| 13 | 13010 | F144 | | 2ND century | 4 | 116 | | |
| 13 | 13011 | F136 | | 2ND century | 3 | 33 | 106g | |
| 13 | 13012 | F144 | | Late 3rd/4th century | 27 | 280 | 237g | 1 Samian, 1 Fe nail |
| 13 | 13013 | F141 | | PM (residual L3rd/4th century) | 5 | 150 | 28g | 3 residual Roman<br>1 Flint |
| 13 | 13014 | F139 | | L2nd/3rd century | 18 | 371 | 70g | 1 Samian |
| 13 | 13015 | F132 | | 2nd century | 2 | 55 | | |
| 13 | 13016 | F131 | | | | | 71g | |
| 13 | 13017 | F133 | | Indet | 1 | 21 | 289g | |
| 13 | 13018 | F137 | | Indet | 1 | 4 | | |
| 13 | 13019 | F141 | | | | | 11g | |
| 13 | 13020 | F138 | | Roman | 1 | 35 | 73g | |
| 13 | 13021 | F144 | | Roman | 1 | <1 | | |
| 13 | 13024 | F142 | | Roman | 1 | 7 | | |
| 15 | 15004 | F153 | | | | | 52g | |
| 15 | 15005 | F152 | 8 | L3rd/4th century | 45 | 386 | 87g | 1 Flint |
| 15 | 15012 | F150 | | 2nd Century | 8 | 187 | 70g | |
| 15 | 15013 | F152 | | | | | 41g | 1 Flint |
| 15 | 15014 | F156 | | 2nd century | 5 | 61 | 244g | |
| 17 | 17000 | | | L3rd/4th century | 1 | 134 | | |
| 17 | 17007 | F170 | 6 | L2nd/3rd century | 15 | 182 | 23g | 1mm residue 1x flint, pot and fired clay (29g) |
| 21 | 21008 | F212 | | Indet | 2 | 1 | | 1 Flint |
| 22 | 22002 | F223 | | M/LIA | 8 | 17 | | |
| 22 | 22003 | F221 | 9 | L1st/2nd century | 11 | 116 | | 1 Samian<br>1mm residue flint |
| 22 | 22004 | F222 | | Indet | 2 | 2 | | 1 Flint, 1 PM vessel glass |
| 23 | 23008 | F236 | | | | | | 2 tile |
| 23 | 23009 | F230 | | | | | | 1 PM vessel glass |
| 26 | 26002 | F260 | | Indet | 2 | 10 | 9g | Fired clay (9g) |
| 30 | 30002 | F300 | | Roman | 4 | 6 | | Fired clay (8g) |
| | U/S | | | | 4 | 83 | | |

KEY: M/LIA – middle/late Iron Age; ?B – possibly Belgic; Roman – of Roman date; PM – Post-medieval; Indet – Indeterminate. All other dates referred to are AD

## Table 1: Finds quantification

*6.3 The plant remains (by Marina Ciaraldi)*

During the evaluation nine soil samples were collected in order to assess the preservation of the biological remains. The sampling strategy was designed by the site supervisor and the samples were later processed using a standard bucket flotation. The samples come from Middle/Late Iron Age and Romano-British levels and the preliminary identifications of the charred plant remains are presented in Table 2.

6.3.1 Middle/Late Iron Age

Four samples were collected from Middle/Late Iron Age contexts. Only two samples (Trench 4, F42/4006 and Trench 6, F63/6010) produced a few charred plant remains but the concentration of seeds per litre of soil is very low. Due to the small size of the plant assemblage little can be inferred about the agrarian practices on site. Such a dearth of plant remains is common on other Iron Age sites in the Central and West Midlands and therefore little can be said about the agricultural practices of the region in this period (De Moulins forthcoming).

Due to this general low density of charred plant remains, it is suggested that if further work is to be carried out on the Iron Age settlement in Field 1, larger samples (40-50 litres) should be collected.

6.3.2 Romano-British

The information derived from the five samples dated to the Romano-British period is more significant. All the samples derived from the Romano British settlement in Field 2, with the exception of a single sample from the pit group investigated by Trench 22 in Field 4. Despite the fact that all the samples contained charred plant remains, only two assemblages (Trench 11, F110/11002 and Trench 17, F170/17007) were large enough to justify further investigation. These two samples derived from two adjacent trenches within the Romano-British settlement in Field 2.

Roman sites in the West and Central Midlands are well documented and a number of plant assemblages from this period have been thoroughly studied (De Moulins forthcoming). However, the two samples from Upton do not seem to follow the general pattern seen at other Roman sites in the region (De Moulins forthcoming). Whereas most of these sites have a high concentration of cereal grains and chaff, at Upton weeds predominate.

Again, it is suggested that larger soil samples be collected in any future excavations.

6.3.3 Charcoal

Only two samples (Trench 6, F63/6010 and Trench 17, F170/17007) had enough charcoal to be considered for further analysis. They are from the two different periods and can therefore be important as they might highlight differences in the management and composition of the woodlands between the two periods.

6.3.4 Conclusions

The evaluation has demonstrated that, in the event of larger scale excavations taking place at the site, such excavations will have a potential to produce botanical remains which can shed light on the economy of the settlements, agricultural change from the Iron Age to the Roman period and, through comparison with other excavation sites in the Northampton area, variation in land use. The charcoal remains would offer the potential to study changes in woodland composition and management through time. However, in order to achieve these aims, larger samples – of the order of 40 to 50 litres – would need to be taken.

| Sample Number | Trench | Feature | Context | Volume processed | Seed Volume | Provisional date (pottery) | | Charcoal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tr5 | F50 | 5003 | 10 | | M/LIA | No plant remains | N/A |
| 2 | Tr5 | F51 | 5010 | 10 | | M/LIA | No plant remains | N/A |
| 3 | Tr4 | F42 | 4006 | 12 | 0.83 | M/LIA | *Hordeum vulgare (grain and chaff), Triticum cf. Spelta (grain and chaff), Cereals, Avena sp., Compositae, Gramineae* | X |
| 4 | Tr6 | F63 | 6010 | 12 | 0.67 | M/LIA | *Hordeum vulgare (grains), Triticum spelta (glume bases), Triticum sp., Lolium sp., Carex sp.* | XX |
| 5 | Tr11 | F110 | 11012 | 12 | 5.00 | 2nd AD | *Triticum spelta (glume bases), Triticum cf.aestivum, Cereals, Hordeum vulgare (grain and chaff), Vicia/Lathyrus, Plantago sp., Trifolium/Medicago/Melilotus,Gramineae, Compositae, Veronica sp., Carex sp.,* | X |
| 6 | Tr17 | F170 | 17007 | 20 | 3.60 | 2nd/3rd AD | *Triticum spelta (grain and chaff), Triticum sp., Cereals, Hordeum vulgare (only chaff), Vicia/Lathyrus/Pea, Plantago sp., Montia fontana, Gramineae, Hordeum sp., Rumex acetosella, Chenopodium sp. ,Compositae, Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena sp., Solanum cf. Dulcamara, Cyperus sp., Carex sp.* | XX |
| 7 | Tr13 | F135 | 13008 | 20 | 0.35 | 2nd AD | *Hordeum vulgare, Cereals, Gramineae, Compositae* | X |
| 8 | Tr15 | F152 | 15005 | 20 | 0.45 | L3rd/4th AD | *Cereals, Triticum spelta (chaff only), Raphanus sp., Galium sp., Carex sp., Compositae* | X |
| 9 | Tr22 | F221 | 22003 | 15 | 1.33 | L1st/2nd AD | *Triticum sp., Hordeum vulgare (only grains), Cereals, Vicia/Lathyrus, Gramineae, Veronica sp.* | X |

**Table 2: Plant remains**

*6.4 The animal bone (by Umberto Albarella)*

A small assemblage of animal bones was retrieved from the evaluation. Most of the bone come from fills of ditches (mainly linear ditches) dated to the Roman period. The preservation of the bone surface is fair and fragmentation is from medium to high, partly because of excavation damage. Gnawing marks by scavengers have been observed on a number of bones and this suggests that some (or all) of the material is not in a primary deposit. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones have been noted with teeth predominant over post-cranial bones. The density of bone fragments per volume of soil is difficult to assess. However four samples of 20 litres were taken for flotation and the residues from two of these samples produced a few bone fragments. This may be indicative – considering the small volume – of a fairly high density of bone fragments in the excavated soil. No bones of small vertebrates were retrieved from the samples.

Due to the context from which the bones derive and the likelihood that they are not in a primary deposit, it is unlikely that the animal bone assemblage can be related to any specific activities undertaken on site. However, the assemblage, particularly if a substantial part of it can be dated to the 2nd century or to any other tight chronological period, may provide useful information about the general use of the animals at a local as well as a regional level. To achieve this result it will be essential to retrieve a much more substantial number of bones in any future large-scale excavations. Intensive excavation and sampling (wet coarse sieving) of the features producing the highest density of bone and the best-dated contexts is recommended. Further excavation at Upton may also provide a chance to compare this assemblage with others from Roman sites in the area.

*6.5 The other finds (by Annette Hancocks)*

6.5.1 Clay pipe

A single, plain clay pipe bowl was recovered from Trench 7, F70 (7002). This post-medieval piece is the only datable evidence from this trench.

6.5.2 Fired clay

Small quantities of fired clay were recovered from Trenches 26 and 30, F260 (26002) and F300 (30002) respectively. Both these trenches lie outside the principal settlement foci. In addition a single piece was retrieved during wet-sieving from Trench 17, F170 (17007), sample 6, within the Romano-British settlement in Field 2. None of this material is diagnostic.

6.5.3 Iron nail

A single iron nail was retrieved from Trench 13, (13012) within the Romano-British settlement. This was associated with a residual sherd of samian and a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery of late 3rd/4th century date.

6.5.4 Slag

A single piece of slag weighing 46g was recovered from F51 (5010) in the Iron Age settlement. It was associated with an ovoid/globular jar of Middle Iron Age date.

6.5.5 Ceramic tile

Two fragments of modern tile were recovered from Trench 23, (23008), outside the main settlement foci. These are not diagnostic pieces.

6.5.6 Glass

Two fragments of post-medieval vessel glass were recognised from Trenches 22 and 23, F222 (22004) and F230 (23009), outside the main settlement foci. The former comprised a blue/green rim fragment from a modern bottle, with the latter consisting of a dark green fragment from a bottle, also modern in appearance.

## 7.0 Discussion

The evaluation excavation together with the preceding geophysical survey and fieldwalking provide a clear picture of the nature, significance and quality of the archaeological remains within the proposed development site. Two distinct settlements have been recognised, one of Mid to Late Iron Age date and the other Romano-British. The chronological distinction between the two settlements is particularly clear: no Iron Age pottery was recognised from the Romano-British settlement and no Roman pottery from the Iron Age settlement.

*7.1 The spatial extent of archaeological occupation*

The spatial extent of both settlements is also relatively well defined. Both the geophysical survey and trial trenching indicate that the western boundary of the Iron Age settlement in Field 1 has been established. However, the geophysics and the results from Trench 2 suggest that the settlement may continue some distance to the south, and perhaps the pit of probable Iron Age date excavated in Trench 22 in Field 4 may lie on the periphery of the settlement. Nevertheless, it is likely that the density of occupation is much lower in this zone. The results from Trenches 8 and 9, along the western boundary of Field 2, indicate that while some linear boundary features may be present, the settlement does not extend beyond this point.

The geophysical and trial trenching results indicate that the western boundary of the Romano-British settlement is unlikely to extend much more than about 20m beyond the geophysical survey area. To the south, the results from Trench 18 in particular, suggest that some occupation continues southwards of the geophysical survey area, perhaps as far as the boundary with Field 5, but the density of features appears to fall off in this zone. To the east, the two trenches excavated beyond the geophysical survey area (Trenches 19 & 20) were both archaeological sterile and it is likely that the settlement was confined to the higher ground above the edge of the floodplain (see Fig. 2).

With the exception of the pit cluster in Field 4, which may lie on the periphery of the Iron Age settlement, none of the trenches excavated outside the areas of the two settlements produced results of archaeological significance. Whilst this does not rule out the possibility of other archaeological remains surviving within the area of the proposed development, there is no positive evidence for this with the exception, perhaps, of the low quantities of worked flint – probably indicative of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity in the

vicinity - discovered during fieldwalking and, residual in Roman period contexts, during the trial trenching of the Romano-British settlement.

*7.2 Quality of preservation of the archaeological remains*

The trial trenching has indicated that the geophysical survey results provide a good guide to the overall plans of the two settlements. The correlation between geophysical anomalies and archaeological features excavated in the trial trenches was frequently very good. However, as expected, the trial trenching indicated that slighter features, such as insubstantial gullies, small pits and post holes were not registered by the magnetometer surveys. Furthermore, major linear anomalies such as the enclosure boundaries were frequently revealed by excavation to be relatively complex, sometimes involving several phases of recutting. Therefore, it can be concluded that the density and complexity of the features comprising the two settlements is greater than is suggested by the geophysical survey alone. In addition, the trial excavations have shown that some depth of stratigraphy does survive on the Romano-British settlement. This was particularly apparent in the results from Trench 13, excavated at the centre of the settlement, where a relatively complex stratigraphic sequence, including a cobbled surface, was revealed.

A factor which has probably contributed to both the preservation and destruction of archaeological deposits is medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, the effects of which were archaeologically detectable, particularly at the Romano-British settlement. Here, preservation of 'positive' archaeological features, such as the cobbled surface, is likely under former ridges, while greater truncation has been caused by the furrows. It may have been this effect which contributed to the survival of a central hearth within one of the ring ditches of the Iron Age settlement, reported from an earlier trial excavation.

To complement the relatively good survival of archaeological features and deposits, the evaluation has indicated relatively good survival of charred plant remains and, at the Romano-British settlement, animal bone. However, charred plant remains were sparse in the samples from the Iron Age settlement, and animal bone was virtually absent.

*7.3 Nature of the settlements and archaeological potential*

The two settlements at Pineham Barn, Upton, are of a type that are relatively well known both in the Northampton area and further afield. Both may be interpreted as enclosed rural farmsteads. The potential of the settlements for future archaeological research is enchanced by several factors:

- The relatively good stratigraphic preservation, which offers a good opportunity for understanding the development of both settlements through time.

- The potential for reconstruction of the economy and environment of the settlements if environmental sampling is undertaken of a sufficiently large scale.
- The opportunity to compare and contrast the character of settlement in the Iron Age and Roman periods through the excavation of two adjacent settlements of distinct periods, uncomplicated by problems of residuality, using a single sampling strategy which will enable reliable quantitative comparison.

- The possibility of setting the results of excavation in a local and regional context, in relation to research aims recently delineated for Northamptonshire (Kidd 1999). Of particular interest is the proximity of the site to Hunsbury hillfort. Hunsbury is generally considered to be the highest status site in the Upper Nene Valley, performing such specialised functions as 'craft manufacturing, storage, defence and perhaps the regulation of external trade' (Kidd 1999, 15). Pineham Barn, Upton, on the the other hand, is a typical enclosed farmstead near the other end of the social scale. Its excavation would offer the opportunity, primarily through comparisons of material culture, to explore the relationship between such a farmstead and the nearby regional centre.

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## Appendix: Detailed results of trial trenching

**Trench 1** (Fig.3)

*Aim*: speculative trench.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 20m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (1001) consisted of a brownish yellow sand and gravel. This was overlain by 0.30m of ploughsoil (1000).

*Features*:

F10 - linear gulley, 0.18m wide and 0.14m deep, aligned NE-SW. Filled with brown silty sand (1001).

*Interpretation*: the date of the linear gulley was not determined due to lack of datable finds.

**Trench 2** (Fig. 6)

*Aim*:speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*:: the natural subsoil (2001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. This was overlain by 0.30m of ploughsoil (2000).

*Features*:

F20 - curvilinear gulley terminal, 0.38m wide and 0.30m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (2004).

F21 - linear negative feature, 6.80m wide and at least 0.50m deep, orientated east-west. Filled with a grey silty sand and gravel (2003) containing Iron Age pottery. Not fully excavated due to high water table.

*Interpretation*: the date of the linear gulley was not determined due to lack of datable finds. The upper fill of the large negative linear feature contained Iron Age pottery. The nature of the fill and size of this feature may suggest it is of geological origin.

**Trench 3** (Fig. 3)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (3001) consisted of a brownish yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (3000).

*Features*:

F30 - linear gulley, 0.20m wide and at least 0.20m deep, aligned NW-SE with vertical sides. Filled with a brown silty sand (3002). Not fully excavated due to high water table.

F31 - irregular negative feature, 0.22m wide and 0.26m deep. Filled with brown silty sand (3003).

F32 - circular negative feature, 0.25m in diameter and 0.30m deep, with an irregular profile. Filled with brown silty sand (3004).

F33 - circular negative feature, 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with brown silty sand (3005).

*Interpretation*: absence of finds, nature of fills and irregular shape of these features suggests tree root disturbance.

**Trench 4** (Fig. 6)

*Aim*: to investigate linear and circular geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (4001) consisted of a brownish yellow sand and gravel with patches of reddish brown sand (4002 and 4003). This was overlain by 0.30m of ploughsoil (4000).

*Features*:

F40 - oval pit, 1.00m wide and 0.23m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a yellowish brown silty sand (4008).

F41 - curvilinear ditch, 0.80m wide and 0.47m deep, orientated NE-SW with a 'V'- shaped profile. Filled with a greyish brown clayey sandy silt (4007).

F42 - curvilinear ditch, 0.75m wide and 0.30m deep, aligned east-west with a 'V'- shaped profile. Filled with a greyish brown clayey sandy silt (4006) containing Iron Age pottery.

F43 - linear gully terminal, 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep, orientated NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown sandy silty clay (4005).

F44 – linear ditch, 3.64m wide and 0.70m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. It contained a primary fill (4010) of yellowish brown sandy clay silt, a secondary fill of brown sandy clay silt (4009) and a final fill of sandy silty clay (4004).

*Interpretation*: the two curvilinear ditches F41 and F42 correspond with a circular geophysical anomaly. This may be interpreted as a penannular ring ditch of Iron Age date. The linear ditch corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as an enclosure ditch, which may also date to the Iron Age period, although no finds were recovered.

**Trench 5** (Fig. 7)

*Aim*: to investigate linear and semi-circular geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (5001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay with patches of reddish brown sand (5004). Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (5000).

*Features*:

F50 - curvilinear ditch, 1.35m wide and 0.45m deep, aligned north-south with steep sides and a narrow rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown clayey sandy silt (5003) containing Iron Age pottery.

F54 - linear ditch, at least 0.50m wide and 0.48m deep, orientated NW-SE. It had been partly cut by later ditches. It was filled with a brown sandy clay (5011).

F51 - linear ditch, at least 2.40m wide and 1.00m deep, aligned NW-SE. It cut ditch F54 and was filled with greyish brown sandy clay (5010) containing Iron Age pottery, overlain by yellowish brown clayey sand (5009). Not fully excavated due to high water table.

F55 - linear ditch, at least 1.00m wide and 0.58m deep, aligned NW-SE. It cut ditches F51 and F55 and was filled with brown sandy clay (5007).

F53 - linear ditch, at least 1.65m wide and 0.62m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a flat base. It cut ditches F55 and F51 and was filled with greyish brown sandy clay (5010), containing Iron Age pottery, overlain by yellowish brown clayey sand (5009).

F52 - linear ditch, 1.60m wide and 0.74m deep, orientated NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. It cut F53 and F51 and was filled with a grey silty sandy clay (5006).

F56 - curving ditch, at least 0.56m wide and 0.60m deep, with a 'V'- shaped profile. It was cut by ditch F55 and was filled with a brown silty sandy clay (5008).

F57 - curvilinear gully, 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep, with a 'V'-shaped profile aligned NE-SW.

*Interpretation*: curvilinear Iron Age ditch F50 corresponds with a semi-circular geophysical anomaly which may represent a penannular ring ditch. Ditch F56 may also be part of an Iron Age ring ditch. The linear ditch with several wide recuts, one containing Iron Age pottery, corresponds with one arm of a square geophysical anomaly interpreted as an enclosure ditch.

**Trench 6** (Fig. 8)

*Aim*: to investigate linear and amorphous geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (6001) consisted of a yellowish brown sand and gravel with patches of yellow clay. Above this was 0.25m of ploughsoil (6000).

*Features*:

F60 - linear ditch, 4.00m wide and at least 0.75m deep, aligned NW-SE. Filled with a dark brown sandy silt (6006) overlain by gravelly sandy silt (6005) containing Iron Age pottery. Not fully excavated due to high water table.

F61 - linear ditch or elongated pit, 1.90m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated north-south with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (6003) containing Iron Age pottery.

F62 - oval post-hole or small pit, 0.48m wide and 0.40m deep, filled with a grey sandy silt (6007) containing Iron Age pottery.

F63 - linear ditch, 2.70m wide and 0.80m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a primary fill of light brown silty sand (6011). Above this was a dark grey clay silt (6010) containing Iron Age pottery. This was overlain by light brown silty sand (6009), above which was a brown sandy silt (6008). It had a final fill of light brown sandy silt (6002).

*Interpretation*: ditches F60 and F63 correspond with linear geophysical anomalies and date to the Iron Age period. Another feature of Iron Age date (F61) corresponds with a pit-like geophysical response.

**Trench 7** (Fig.3)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 30m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (7001) consisted of a brownish yellow sandy clay. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (7000).

*Features*:

F70 - linear furrow, at least 1.90m wide and 0.46m deep, aligned SE-NW and extending beyond the trench edge. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (7002) containing a fragment of clay pipe.

*Interpretation*: possibly a post-medieval furrow, related to post-medieval agricultural land use.

**Trench 8** (Fig.8)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (8002) consisted of a yellowish brown sandy clay. This was overlain by a brown sandy silty clay (8001), 0.20m deep, which sealed archaeological features. Above this was 0.25m of ploughsoil (8000).

*Features*:

F80 - linear ditch, 2.68m wide and 0.72m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown silty clay (8003) containing post-medieval pottery.

F81 - linear ditch, 4.90m wide and 0.64m deep, aligned east-west with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Filled with a primary fill of brown silty clay (8005) and a final fill of light brown sandy silty clay (8004) containing a sherd of possible Belgic pottery.

*Interpretation*: ditch F80 appears to be of post-medieval date, function uncertain. Ditch F81, possibly of Iron Age date, may be a continuation of a linear geophysical anomaly in Field 1 which appears to run east towards Field 2.

**Trench 9** (Fig. 8)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (9002) consisted of a yellowish brown sandy clay, disturbed in places by tree roots from the adjacent field boundary. This was overlain by a brown sandy silty clay (9001), 0.35m deep at the north end of the trench but becoming shallower towards the south. This sealed an archaeological feature. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (6000).

*Features*:

F91 - linear ditch, 2.40m wide and 0.45m deep, aligned east-west with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown sandy silty clay (9003) with a lens of dark brown sandy silt (9005) containing a sherd of possible Belgic pottery.

*Interpretation*: the ditch F91, possibly of late Iron Age/Belgic date, may be a continuation of a linear geophysical anomaly in Field 1 which appears to run east towards Field 2.

**Trench 10** (Not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 100m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (10001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay disturbed by a tree bowl. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (10000).

*Features*:

No archaeological features recorded.

**Trench 11** (Fig. 9)

*Aim*: to investigate several curvilinear geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (11001) consisted of a yellowish brown sandy clay with patches of sand and gravel. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (11000).

*Features*:

F110 - linear ditch, 4.70m wide and 0.70m deep, orientated north-south with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with greyish brown sandy clay silt (11012) containing Roman pottery.

F111 - oval pit or small post-hole, 0.34m wide, 0.44m long and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a sandy silty clay (11007).

F112 - linear ditch, 1.00m wide and 0.34m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark silty clay (11006) containing a sherd of Roman pottery

F113 - linear ditch, 0.73m wide and 0.20m deep, orientated NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown clayey sandy silt (11008).

F114 - linear gully, 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown clay-silt (11003).

F115 - linear ditch, 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep, orientated NE-SW with steep sides and a rounded base. It cut gully F114 and was filled with a dark brown clay-silt (11004).

F116 - curvilinear ditch terminal, 0.70m wide and 0.21m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown clay-silt (11005) containing a sherd of Roman pottery.

F117 – linear ditch, at least 1.02m wide and 0.65m deep; extends beyond edge of trench orientated east-west. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (11002) containing Roman pottery.

*Unexcavated contexts*:

11009 - dark brown clay-silt, 0.40m wide, aligned NE-SW.

11010 - dark brown clay silt, 1.40m wide, aligned NW-SE.

*Interpretation*: ditches F112, F113, F116 and F117 appear to correspond with linear or curvilinear geophysical anomalies. Other features recorded here, but not identified on the geophysical survey, are either to small to register as anomalies or beyond the limit of the survey. All features here probably date to the Romano-British period. The function of these features is uncertain.

**Trench 12** (Fig.4)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (12001) consisted of a yellowish brown sand and gravel. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (12000).

*Features*:

F120 - irregular sub-circular hollow, 1.20m wide and 0.22m deep, containing a greyish brown sand.

*Interpretation*: sub-cicular hollow F120 is probably a tree bowl.

**Trench 13** (Fig. 10)

*Aim*: to investigate several linear and curvilinear geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 40m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (13001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay. Partly overlying this was a cobbled surface F144 (13010, 13012, 13021, 13023, and 13025). This was sealed by a dark grey sandy silty clay (13009). Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (13000).

*Features*:

F130 - linear furrow, 2.40m wide and 0.22m, aligned north-south with a gently sloping profile. Filled with a brown clayey sandy silt (13006).

F131 - linear ditch terminal, 1.62m wide and 0.35m deep, orientated NE-SW with steep sides and slightly a convex base. Filled with a primary fill of dark brown sandy clay-silt (13016) and a brown clay-silt (13005).

F132 - linear ditch, at least 0.53m wide and 0.33m deep; extends beyond edge of trench. It is aligned east-west and cuts F131. Filled with a dark brown silty clay (13015) containing Roman pottery.

F133 - linear ditch, at least 1.10m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated NE-SW with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown clay-silt (13017).

F134 - linear furrow, 3.0m wide and at least 0.24m deep, aligned north-south and cutting F132 and F133. Filled with a brown clayey sandy silt (13003).

F135 - linear ditch, at least 1.60m wide and 0.80m deep, aligned north-south. Filled with a dark grey clay-silt (13008) containing Roman pottery. Not fully excavated due to high water table.

F136 - linear ditch, 0.80m wide and 0.38m deep, orientated north-south with a 'V'- shaped profile. It cuts a cobbled surface (F144) and layer 13009. It was filled with a dark grey clay silt (13011) containing Roman pottery.

F137 - linear ditch, 1.08m wide and 0.38m deep, orientated north-south with a 'V'- shaped profile. It cuts a cobbled surface (F144), small pit (F138) and layer 13009. It was filled with a dark brown clay silt (13018).

F138 - small pit or post-hole, at least 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m deep. Filled with a grey clay-silt (1320) and Roman pottery.

F139 - linear ditch, at least 0.52m wide and 0.50m deep, aligned east-west. Filled with a primary fill of grey silty clay (13014) containing Roman pottery and a light brown sandy silty clay (13022) containing a large amounts of stones.

F140 - linear furrow, 5.55m wide and 0.40m deep, orientated north-south with gently sloping profile. It cuts ditch F135 and layer 13009. It was filled with a light brown sandy silt (13007) containing Roman and post-medieval pottery.

F141 - linear furrow, 4.60m wide and 0.40m deep, orientated north-south with a gently sloping profile. Cuts F144 and layer 13009. Filled with a light brown sandy silt (13013) containing Roman and post-medieval pottery and a brown clay-silt (13019).

F142 - curvilinear gully, 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with brown clayey silty sand (13024) containing Roman pottery.

F144 - cobbled surface, 7.00m wide and at least 0.30m thick, aligned north-south with a slight camber. It sealed part of ditches F135 and F139. It was cut by furrows F140 and F141 and ditches F136, F137 and small pit F138. It was made of 13010, 13012, 13023 and 13025. It was sealed by layers 13009 and 13007.

F145 - linear ditch, at least 0.75m wide and 0.50m deep, aligned NE-SW with a ceramic land drain laid at the base. Cuts furrow F141 and ditch F139. Filled with brown silty sandy clay (13026)

*Interpretation*: linear furrows F130, F134, F140, and F141 have similar profiles and fills, are regularly spaced and on similar alignments to furrow features in Trenches 15, 17 and 18. It is probable that these features are associated with post-medieval/medieval agricultural practices, probably ridge-and-furrow open field cultivation. Ditch F145 appears to be of recent origin. All other features recorded appear to date to the Romano-British period. Ditches F132, F135 and F139 correspond to geophysical anomalies which are interpreted as enclosure ditches. The cobbled surface may be a yard or possibly a road surface.

**Trench 14** (Fig. 4)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 30m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (14002) consisted of a yellowish brown sandy clay. This was overlain by a brown silty clay (14001), which was cut by an archaeological feature. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (14000).

*Features*:

F143 - linear ditch, 1.00m wide and 0.48m deep, aligned north-south with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a dark brown sandy clay-silt (14004).

*Interpretation*: possibly a continuation of a linear feature recorded by the geophysical survey to the south.

**Trench 15** (Fig. 11)

*Aim*: to examine two linear geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (15001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay. This was overlain, at the north end of the trench, by a brown silty clay (15001). Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (15000).

*Features*:

F150 - linear ditch, 1.20m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown silty clay (15012) containing Roman pottery.

F151 - linear furrow, 1.70m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned north-south with a gently sloping profile. Filled with a brown clay silt (15011).

F152 - linear ditch, 1.70m wide and 0.80m deep, aligned east-west with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a light brown silty clay (15013) which was overlain by a grey clay silt (15005) containing Roman pottery.

F153 - linear ditch, 1.80m wide and 0.70m deep, which cuts 15005. Orientated east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Cut by a modern land drain and filled with a grey clay-silt (15004).

F154 - linear ditch, 0.65m wide and 0.32m deep, aligned east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a brown silty sandy clay (15010).

F155 - linear gully, 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep, orientated east-west with a rounded profile. Filled with a grey clay-silt (15012). Sealed by 15005.

F156 - linear ditch, 1.00m wide and 0.54m deep, aligned east-west with a rounded profile. Filled with a grey silty clay (15014), containing Roman pottery, which was overlain by 15005.

F157 - linear gully, 0.38m wide and 0.10m deep, orientated east-west with a rounded profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (15006).

*Interpretation*: furrow F151 appears to be similar to features in Trenches 13, 17 and 18, interpreted as possible furrows associated with ridge-and-furrow cultivation, and is on a similar alignment. Linear ditches dating to the Romano-British period, F150, F152 and F156, correspond with two linear geophysical anomalies interpreted as representing enclosure ditches. Other undated linear features may also date to this period.

**Trench 16** (Fig. 4)

*Aim*: to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 20m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (16002) consisted of a yellow silty sand. This was overlain by a brown sandy silt (14001), 0.30m thick, which was cut by an archaeological feature. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (14000).

*Unexcavated context*:

16003 - dark brown sandy silty clay, 1.50m wide, aligned NW-SE. Not excavated due to high water table.

*Interpretation*: a linear geophysical anomaly appears much larger than the context recorded here, although it is on a similar alignment. Layer 16001 appeared to be an alluvial deposit below the water table.

**Trench 17** (Fig.11)

*Aim*: to examine two linear geophysical anomalies.

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (17001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay with occasional shallow hollows containing silty sands (17005, 17008-10). Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (17000) containing a sherd of Roman pottery.
*Features*:

F170 - linear ditch, 1.48m wide and 0.48m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a dark brown clayey silty sand (17007) containing Roman pottery.

F171 - small pit or ditch terminal, 0.80m wide and 0.24m deep, which extends beyond the edge of the trench. It had steep sides and a rounded base and was filled with a brown sandy silt (17004).

F172 - linear negative feature, 0.70m wide and 0.50m deep, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a rounded slightly irregular base. Filled with a brown sandy silt (17011). Appears to merge with F173.

F173 - linear negative feature, 1.00m wide and 0.16m deep, aligned NW-SE with a vertical south side and a gently sloping north side and a flat base. Filled with a brown sandy silt (17002). Appears to merge with F172.

F174 - linear furrow, 1.90m wide and 0.15m deep, orientated north-south with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown silty sandy clay (17003).

*Unexcavated contexts*:

17006 - brown sandy silty clay, 1.00m wide.

17012 - brown silty sandy clay, 2.00m wide, aligned north-south.

*Interpretation*: linear ditch F170 corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly. This ditch dates to the Romano-British period. All other features were not dated. However, F172 and F173 may be interpreted as tree root disturbance. Furrow F174 and context 17012 are probably related to ridge-and-furrow cultivation and are similar to features recorded in Trenches 13, 15, and 18.

**Trench 18** (Fig.12)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (18001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (18000).

*Features*:

F180 - linear furrow, 1.45m wide and 0.15m deep, orientated NW-SE with gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with a dark brown silty sand and gravel (18003).

F181 - curvilinear negative feature, 1.70m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned north-south with gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with a brown sandy clay-silt (18004).

F182 - linear ditch, 0.94m wide and 0.40m deep, orientated NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown clay-silt (18007).

F183 - linear ditch, 2.15m wide and 0.60m deep, aligned NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown silty sand (18002).

F184 - post-hole, 0.28m in diameter and 0.20m deep. Filled with a brown silty clay.

*Unexcavated contexts*:

18005 - brown silty sand, 4.5m wide, aligned NW-SE.

18006 - brown silty clay, 3.3m wide, orientated NW-SE

18008 - brown silty clay, at least 3.3m wide, aligned NW-SE and extending beyond the end of the trench.

18010 - brown sandy silt, at least 3.2m wide, orientated NW-SE and extending beyond the end of the trench.

*Interpretation*: furrow F180 and contexts 18003, 18005, 18006, 18008 and 18010 are regularly spaced and are on similar alignments to furrow features in Trenches 13, 15 and 17. These features are probably associated with post-medieval/medieval ridge-and-furrow open field cultivation. Undated linear ditches F182 and F183 may be continuations of north-south aligned features indicated by linear geophysical anomalies.

**Trench 19** (Fig. 4)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 30m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (19002) consisted of a yellow clayey sand. This was overlain by a brown silty clay (19001), 0.30m thick. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (19000).

*Features*:

No archaeological features were recorded.

*Interpretation*: layer 19001 appeared to be an alluvial deposit below the water table.

**Trench 20** (Fig. 4)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 30m long.

*Stratigraphy*: machine excavation was halted at a brown silty clay (20001), which was similar to layer 19001 in Trench 19. This was not removed due to the high water table in this area. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (20000).

*Features*:

No archaeological features were recorded, although several possible narrow linear features were investigated. These proved to be modern plough furrows.

*Interpretation*: layer 20001 appeared to be an alluvial deposit below the water table.

**Trench 21** (Fig. 12)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (21002) consisted of a yellowish brown sand and gravel. This was overlain by a yellowish brown clayey sandy silt (21001) up to 0.20m thick, which sealed archaeological features. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (21000).

*Features*:

F211 - small pit or ditch terminal, 0.88m wide and 0.16m deep, with steep sides and a flat base extending beyond the edge of the trench. Filled with a brown sandy silt (21006).

F212 - linear ditch, 2.40m wide and 0.92m deep, aligned east-west and cutting F213. It had steeply sloping sides and a narrow rounded base. Filled with a primary fill of grey clayey silty sand (21009). Above this was a grey sandy silt (21008) containing two small sherds of pottery of indeterminate date. The final fill was a greyish brown sandy silt (21007).

F213 - linear ditch, at least 1.20m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated east-west with a stepped base. Filled with a primary fill of grey clay-silt (21011), which was overlain by a grey sandy silt (21010).

*Interpretation*: linear ditches F212 and F213 may be the continuation of a feature represented by an east-west aligned geophysical anomaly, suggestive of a droveway.

**Trench 22** (Fig. 13)

*Aim*: to examine three pit-like geophysical anomalies

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (22001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel with patches of yellow clay. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (22000).

*Features*:

F220 - irregular negative feature, 1.20m wide and 0.50m deep, irregular profile. Filled with brown silty sand (22005).

F221 - shallow pit, 5.50m wide and 0.45m deep, extending beyond the edges of the trench. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Filled with a brown silty sand (22003) containing Roman pottery.

F222 - shallow pit, 5.05m wide and 0.36m deep, extending beyond the edge of excavations. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (22004) containing pottery of indeterminate date, post-medieval pottery and glass.

F223 - pit, 4.20m wide and 0.84m deep, extending beyond edges of trench. It had a steeply sloping east side and a flat base. Filled with brown sandy silt (22002) containing Iron Age pottery.

*Interpretation*: irregular feature F220 is almost certainly a tree bowl. The other three negative features correspond closely with the geophysical anomalies. They appear to be large pits dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

**Trench 23** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench 2m wide and 100m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (23001) consisted of a yellowish brown sandy clay. This was cut by a former field boundary ditch containing modern pottery. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (23000).

*Features*:

F230 - circular post-hole, 0.45m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with a 'V'- shaped profile. Filled with dark grey sandy silt (23009) containing post-medieval pottery and glass.

F231 - linear ditch, 1.00m wide and 0.60m deep, aligned NW-SE with a 'U'- shaped profile. Filled with a brown sandy clay silt (23006).

F232 - linear furrow, 2.00m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned NW-SE with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a light brown sandy clay silt (23012).

F233 - circular post-hole, 0.40m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with a 'U'- shaped profile. Filled with dark brown silty clay (23011) containing post-medieval pottery and glass.

F234 - linear gulley, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, orientated NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown sandy silty clay (23003).

F235 - linear gully, 0.51m wide and 0.10m deep, orientated NW-SE with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown sandy silty clay (23006).

F236 linear furrow, 2.70m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned NW- SE with a gently sloping profile. Filled with a brown sandy clay-silt (23008) containing post-medieval tile fragments.

*Unexcavated contexts*:

23009 - dark brown sandy silty clay with extensive tree root disturbance, 2m wide, aligned north-south and containing modern pottery (former field boundary).

23002 - brown sandy clay-silt, 3m wide, orientated NW-SE.

23004 - brown sandy clay silt, 2m wide, orientated NW-SE.

23005 - brown sandy clay silt, 2m wide, orientated NW-SE.

*Interpretation*: the spacing, alignment and fills of F232, F236, 23002, 23004 and 23005 suggests that these furrows may be associated with ridge-and-furrow cultivation dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods. Features F230 and F233 appear to be post-medieval, associated with a former field boundary. Linear ditch F231 and gullies F234 and F235 are of uncertain date and function.

**Trench 24** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 100m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (24002) consisted of a yellow sandy clay with a few slight natural hollows containing greyish brown silty clay (24003-5). This was overlain by a yellowish brown sandy silty clay (24001), 0.30m thick. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (24000).

*Features*:

No archaeological features were recorded.

**Trench 25** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil at the northwest end of the trench consisted of a yellow sandy clay (25002) with two natural hollows containing blue-grey silty clays (25003 and 25005). At the southeast end of the trench the natural was a yellow sand with patches of gravel (25005). Here the natural sloped steeply to the south towards the brook. This was overlain by a brown sandy silt (25001), 0.50m deep. Above 25002 and 25001 was 0.30m of ploughsoil/topsoil.

*Features*: No archaeological features recorded.

*Interpretation*: layer 25001 appeared to be an alluvial deposit below the water table.

**Trench 26** (Fig. 4)

*Aim*: to investigate two weak linear positive geophysical anomalies

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (26001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (26000).

*Features*:

F260 - ditch terminal or shallow pit, 0.65m wide and 0.30m deep, extending beyond the south edge of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. Filled with a dark brown sandy silty clay (22005) containing lumps of charcoal, fired clay and pottery of an indeterminate date.

*Interpretation*: feature F260 appears to correspond with one of the geophysical anomalies aligned NE-SW.

**Trench 27** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 100m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (27002) was encountered in a machine dug sondage below the water table, at the southeast end of the trench. It consisted of a yellowish brown sand. This was overlain by a yellowish brown sandy silt (27001), 0.70m thick, through which was cut two possible features. Above this was 0.30m of topsoil (27000).

*Unexcavated contexts*:

27003 - dark brown sandy clay-silt, 0.50m wide, extending beyond the north-east edge of the trench. Not excavated due to high water table.

27004 - greyish brown sandy clay-silt, 1.80m wide, aligned east-west. Excavation abandoned due to high water table.

*Interpretation*: layer 27001 is an alluvial deposit.

**Trench 28** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 100m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (28002) was encountered in a machine dug sondage below the water table, near southeast end of the trench. It consisted of a yellow sand. This was overlain by an orange brown sandy silt with grey mottling (28001), 0.70m thick, through which was cut one possible feature. Above this was 0.25m of topsoil (27000).

*Unexcavated contexts*:

28003 - greyish brown silty clay, 0.50m wide, aligned east-west. A large wooden fence post was found in the topsoil above 28003. Not excavated due to high water table.

*Interpretation*: layer 28001 is an alluvial deposit. Context 28003 appears to be the fill of a modern feature.

**Trench 29** (not illustrated)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (29002) consisted of a yellow sandy clay. This was overlain by a greyish brown sandy clay-silt (29001), 0.30m thick, through which an archaeological feature was cut. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (29000).

*Features*:

F290 - linear ditch, 1.34m wide and 0.25m deep, orientated north-south with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a brown clay-silt (29003).

*Interpretation*: layer 29001 appeared to be an alluvial deposit. Ditch F290 was not dated.

**Trench 30** (Fig. 3)

*Aim*: speculative

*Method*: machine excavated trench, 2m wide and 50m long.

*Stratigraphy*: the natural subsoil (30001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (30000).

*Features*:

F300 - linear negative feature, 2.20m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned east-west with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy clay (30002) containing Roman pottery.

*Interpretation*: feature F300 may be of Romano-British date or possibly a medieval or post-medieval furrow containing residual pottery, related to post-medieval agricultural land use.

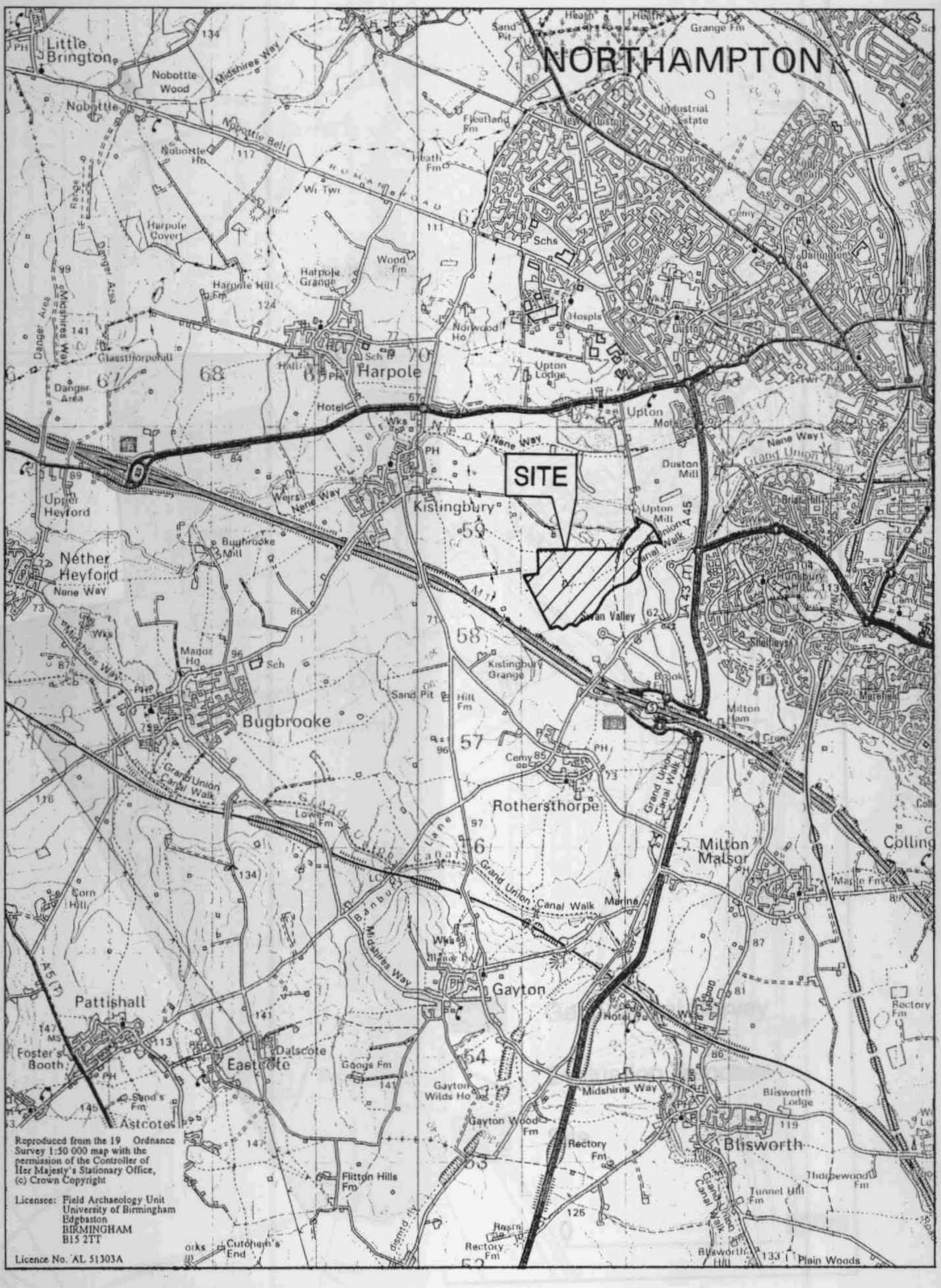





Fig.1


SMR 5090
SMR 6603
Trench 28
Field 3
Field 2
Trench 14
Trench 19
Trench 21
Trench 15
Trench 17
Trench 20
Trench 16
Trench 7
Trench 4
Trench 8
Trench 11
Trench 13
Trench 5
Trench 10
SMR 5091
SMR 5092
Field 6
Trench 27
Trench 6
Trench 9
Trench 12
Trench 18
Trench 26
Trench 30
Trench 1
Trench 2
SMR 5086
Field 5
SMR 8444
Field 1
Trench 25
Trench 24
Trench 3
Trench 23
Extent of Floodplain
Trench 22
Field 4
Field 8
Trench 29
Field 7
SMR 1477
Geophysical Survey
Evaluation Trenches
Site
0
200m

Figure 2

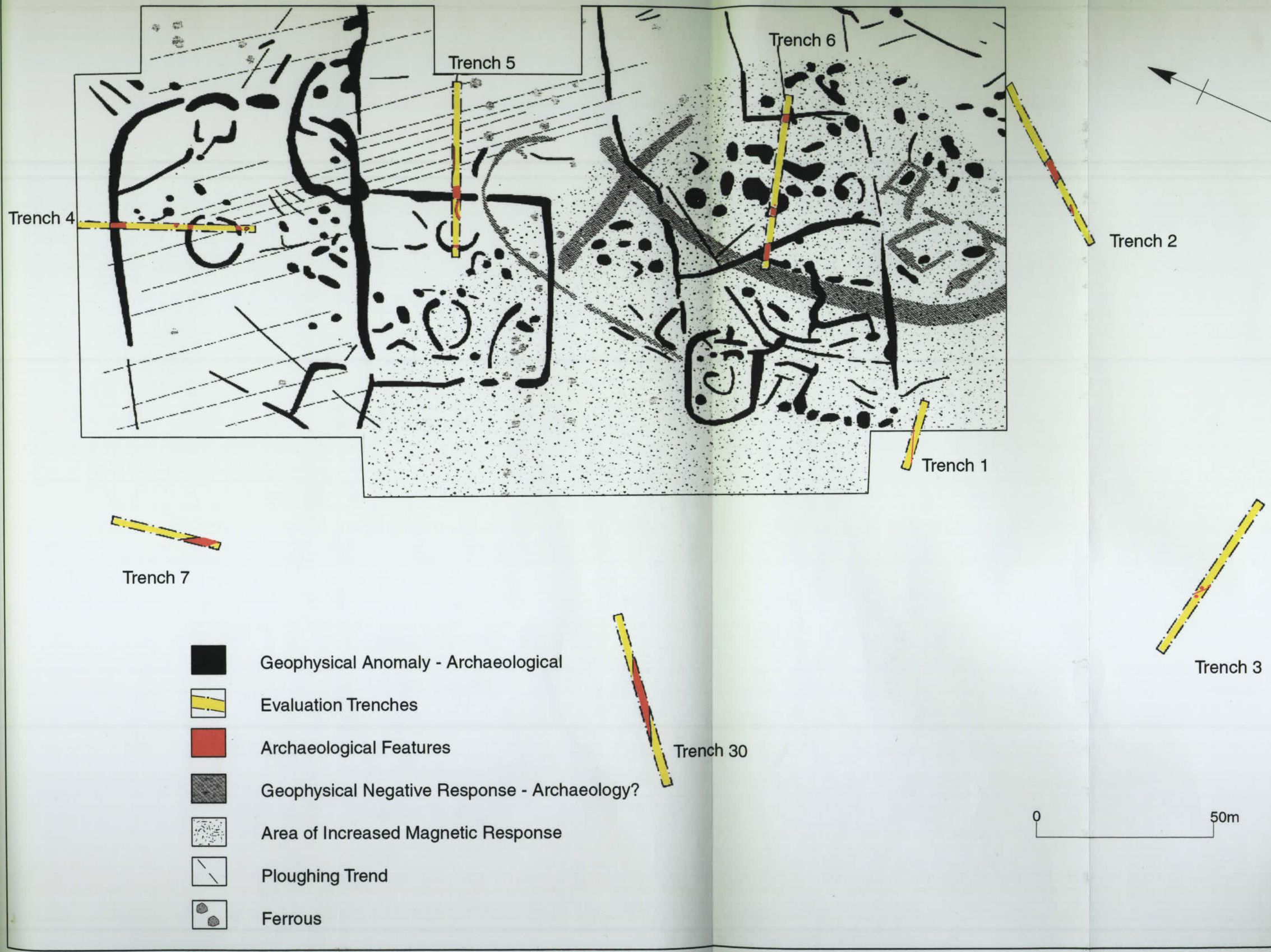
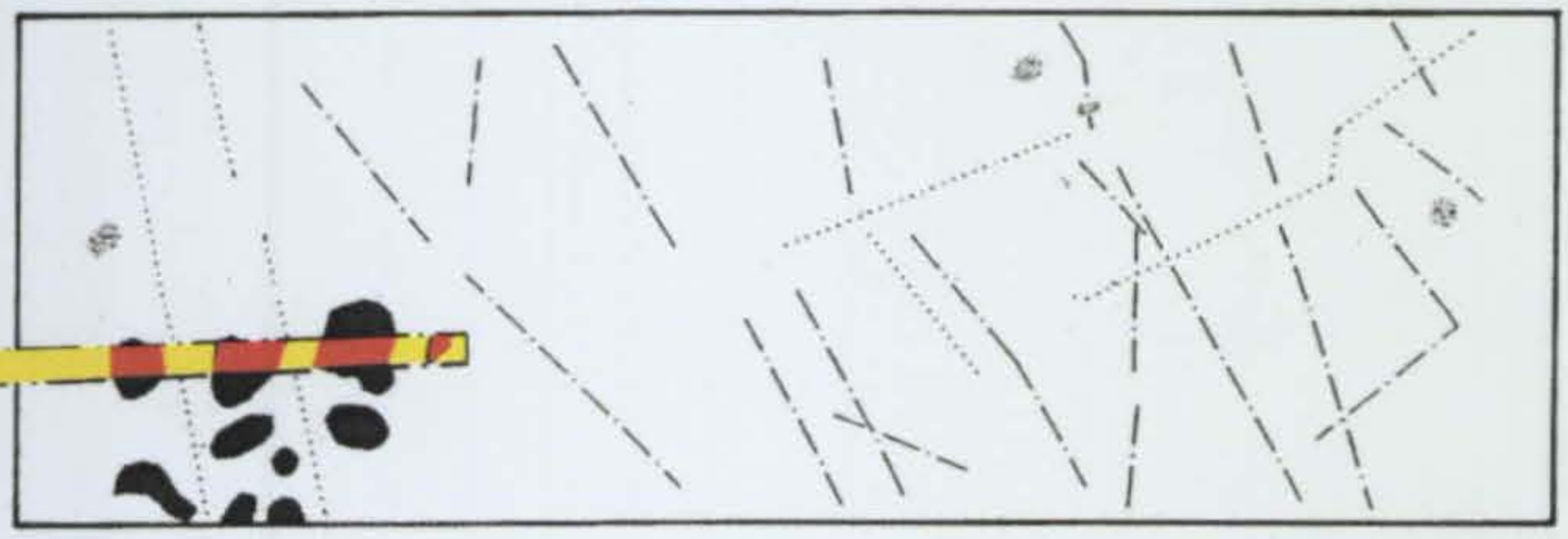



Figure 3: Field 1, trench plan and geophysical survey


Figure 4: Field 2, trench plan and geophysical survey

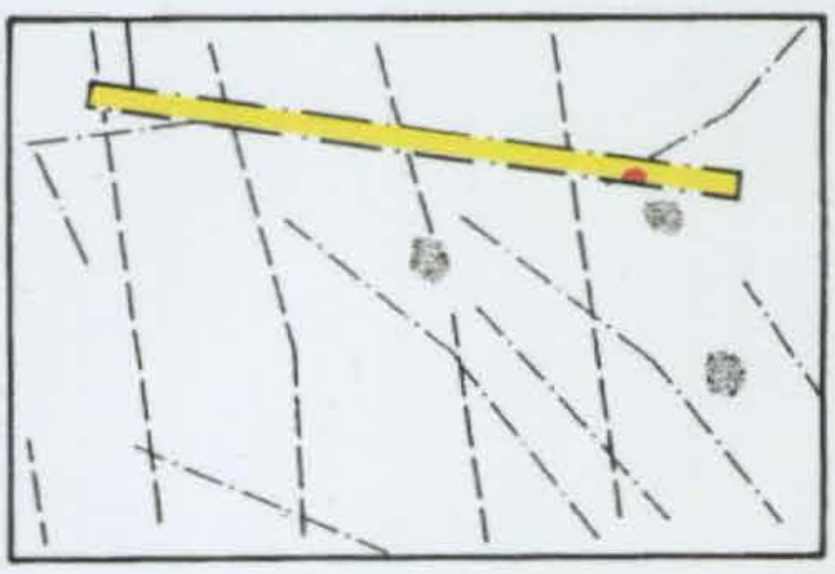
Field 4



Trench 22

Field 5

Trench 26



Geophysical anomaly

Evaluation Trenches

Archaeological features

Ploughing Trend

Ferrous

Linear Trend - Negative

0 50m

Figure 5: Fields 4 &5 trench plan and geophysical survey

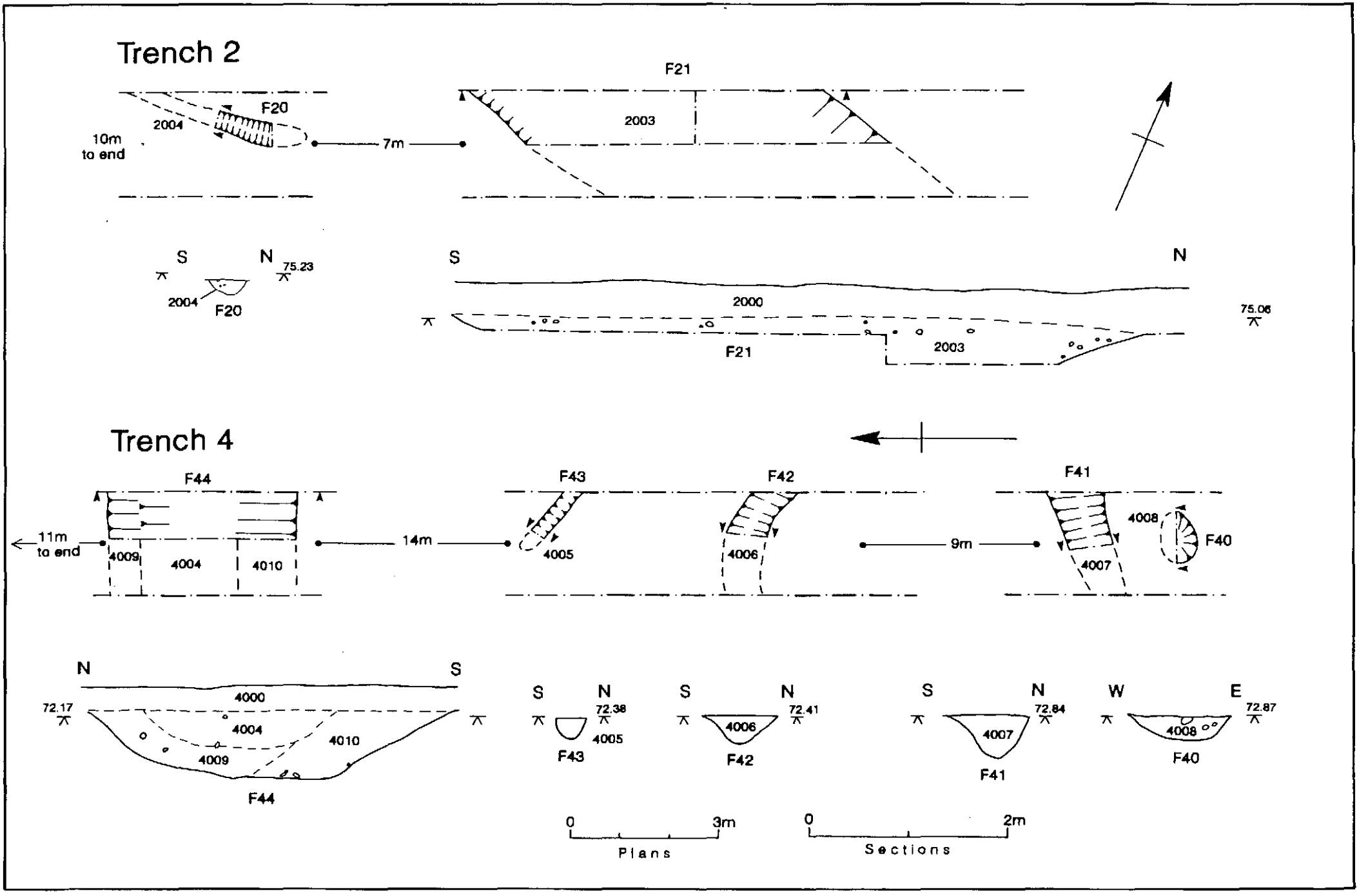

Trench 2
F21
F20
2004
10m
to end
7m
2003
S
N
75.23
2004
F20
S
N
2000
75.06
F21
2003
Trench 4
F44
F43
F42
F41
11m
to end
14m
9m
4009
4004
4010
4005
4006
4007
4008
F40
N
S
72.17
4000
4004
4010
4009
F44
S
N
72.38
4005
F43
S
N
72.41
4006
F42
S
N
72.84
4007
F41
W
E
72.87
4008
F40
0
3m
Plans
0
2m
Sections

Fig.6

# Trench 5

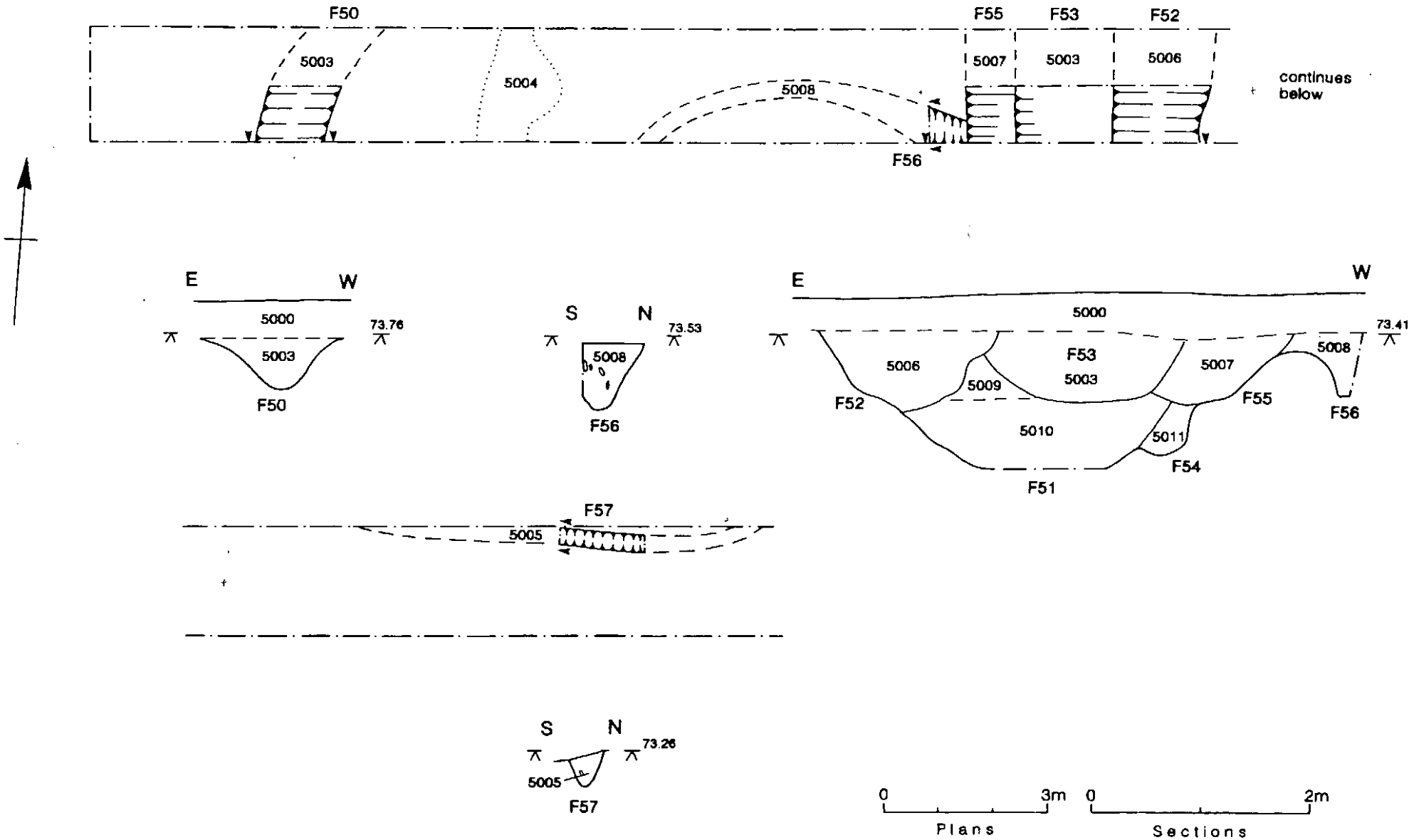



Fig.7

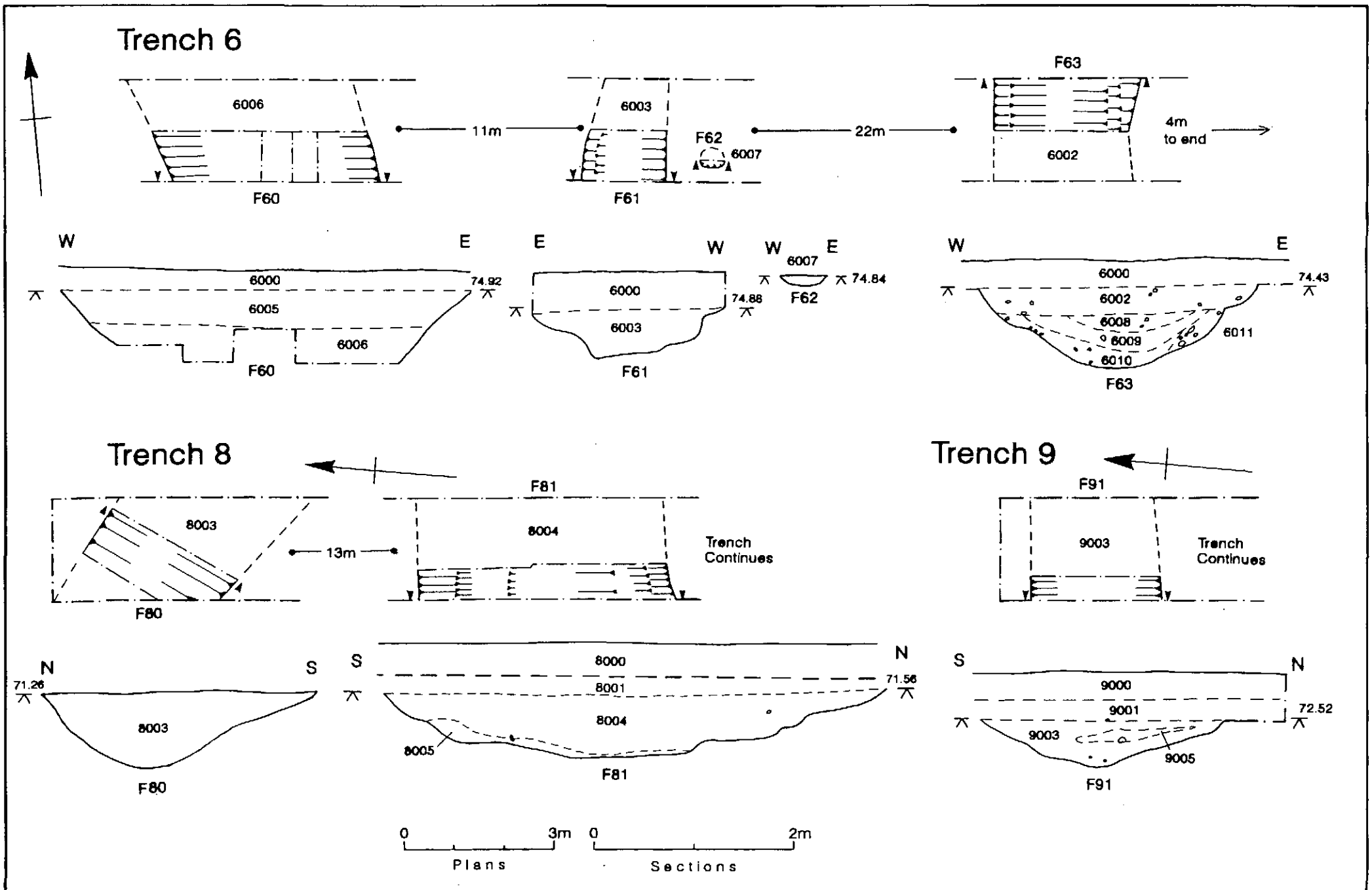

Trench 6
6006
11m
6003
F62
6007
22m
F63
4m
to end
6002
F60
F61
W
E
6000
74.92
6005
6006
74.88
74.84
6007
6008
6009
6010
6011
74.43
Trench 8
F81
8003
13m
8004
Trench
Continues
F80
N
S
71.26
8000
71.56
8001
8004
8005
Trench 9
F91
9003
9000
9001
72.52
9005
0
3m
2m
Plans
Sections

Fig.8

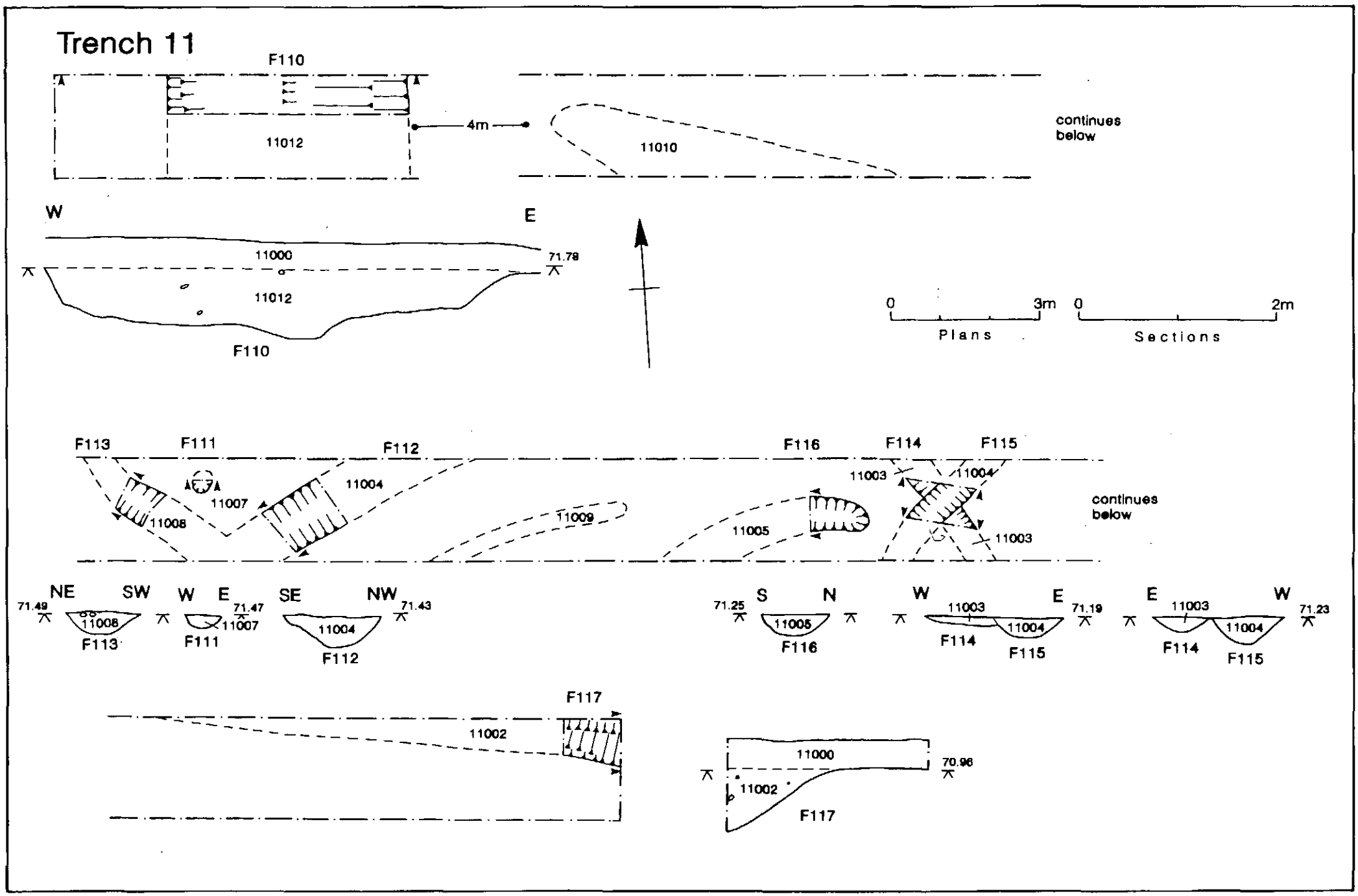

Trench 11
F110
11012
4m
11010
continues below
W
E
11000
71.78
11012
F110
0
3m
Plans
0
2m
Sections
F113
F111
F112
F116
F114
F115
11008
11007
11004
11009
11005
11003
11004
11003
continues below
NE
SW
W
E
SE
NW
71.49
71.47
71.43
11008
11007
11004
F113
F111
F112
71.25
S
N
W
E
71.19
11005
11003
11004
F116
F114
F115
E
W
11003
11004
71.23
F114
F115
F117
11002
11000
70.96
11002
F117

Fig.9

# Trench 13

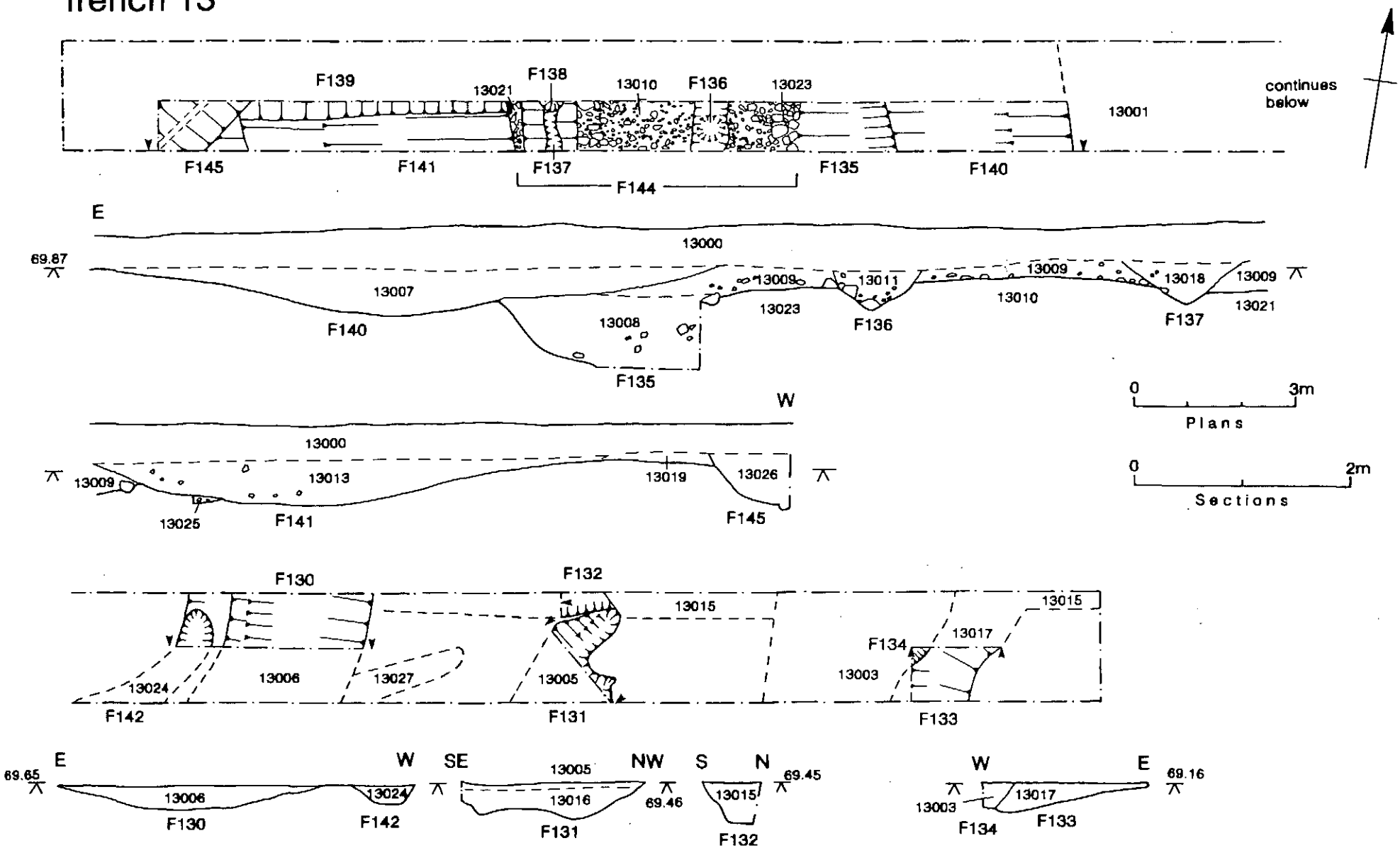



Fig.10

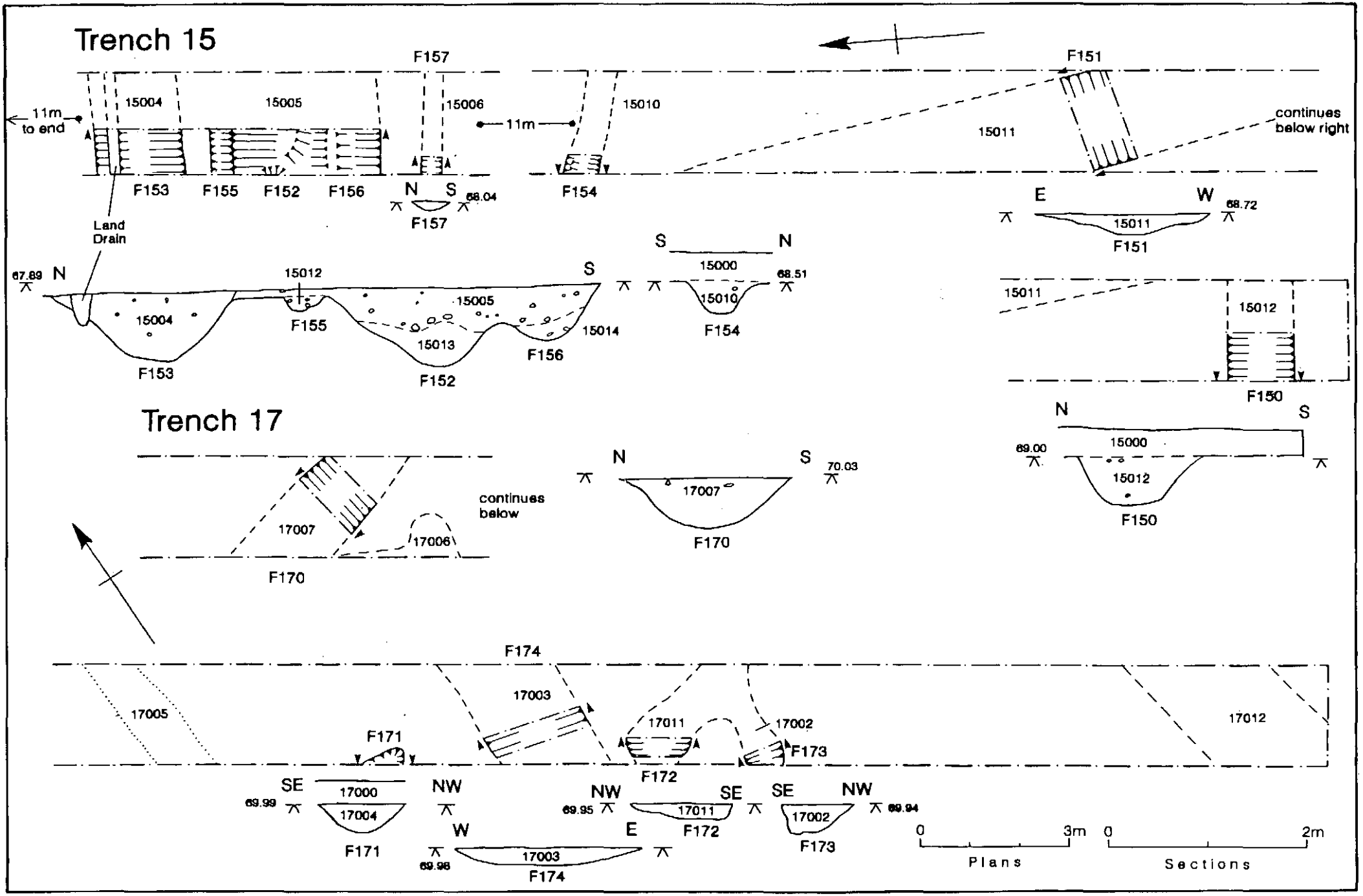

Trench 15
F157
F151
11m to end
15004
15005
15006
11m
15010
15011
continues below right
F153
F155
F152
F156
N
S
68.04
F157
F154
E
W
68.72
15011
F151
Land Drain
67.89
N
15012
S
15004
F155
15005
15013
15014
F156
F153
F152
S
N
15000
68.51
15010
F154
15011
15012
F150
Trench 17
N
S
70.03
17007
F170
continues below
17007
17006
F170
N
S
69.00
15000
15012
F150
F174
17005
17003
17011
17002
17012
F171
F172
F173
SE
NW
17000
17004
69.99
F171
W
E
69.98
17003
F174
NW
SE
69.95
17011
F172
SE
NW
17002
69.94
F173
0
3m
Plans
0
2m
Sections

Fig.11

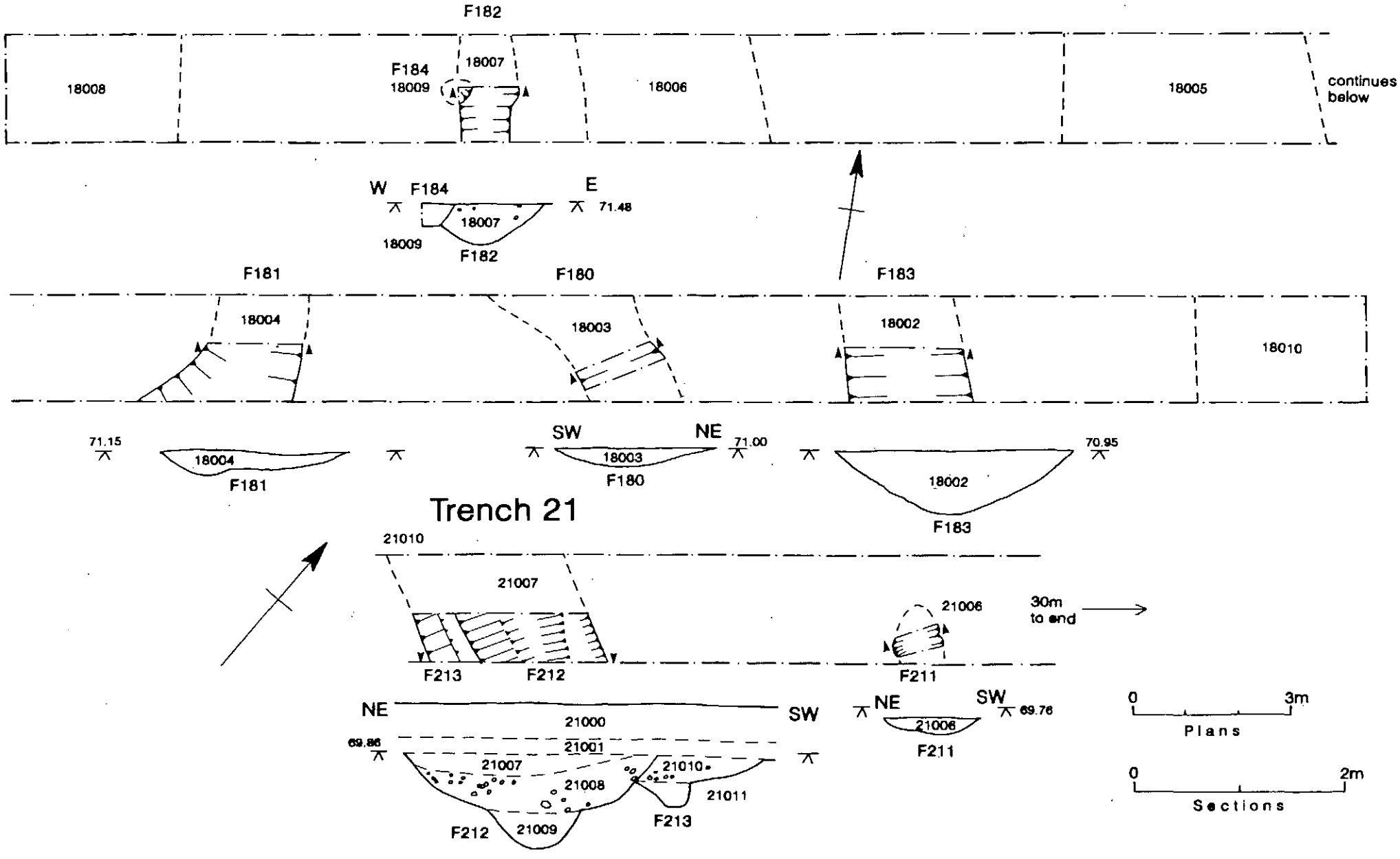

Trench 18
F182
18008
F184
18009
18007
18006
18005
continues below
W
F184
E
71.48
18007
18009
F182
F181
F180
F183
18004
18003
18002
18010
71.15
SW
NE
71.00
70.95
18004
F181
18003
F180
18002
F183
Trench 21
21010
21007
21006
30m to end
F213
F212
F211
NE
SW
21000
21001
21007
21010
21008
21011
21009
69.86
F212
F213
NE
SW
69.76
21006
F211
0
3m
Plans
0
2m
Sections

Fig.12

# Trench 22

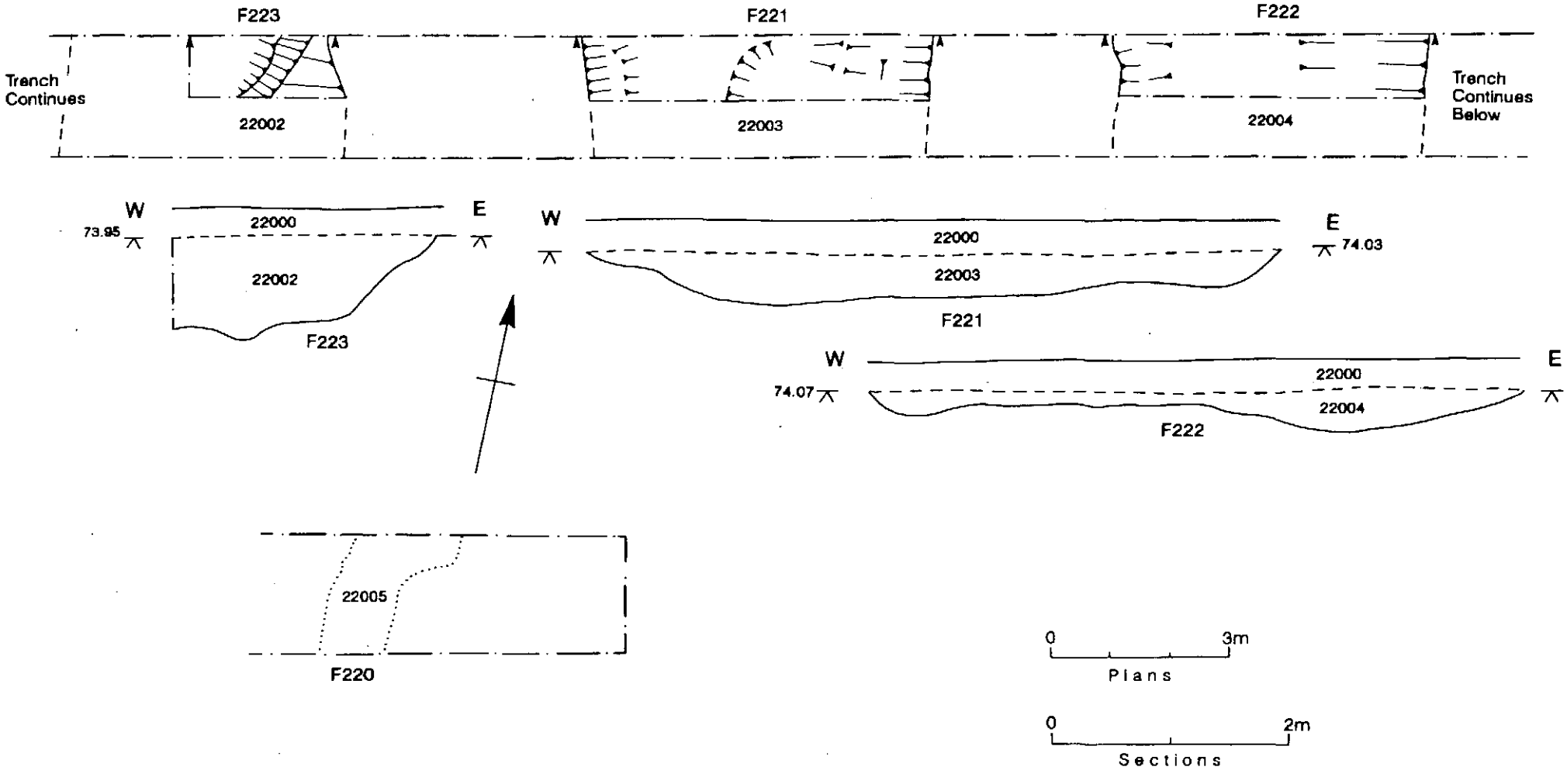



Fig.13

Founded in 1976 and drawing on the academic expertise and technical facilities of one of Britain's foremost universities, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit undertakes archaeological work throughout Britain and abroad.
The Unit offers a wide-ranging archaeological service including:

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- ◇ Desktop Assessment
- ◇ Field Evaluation
- ◇ Excavation
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- ◇ Multimedia Software Development

*For further information please contact:*
Simon Buteux BA MPhil MIFA, Iain Ferris BA MIFA or Gwilym Hughes BA MIFA
Field Archaeology Unit, The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516
Email: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk Web: http:/www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

B. U. F. A. U.