

(W0097)



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**Wooperton Quarry: Phase 1, Fourth strip
Assessment report**

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September 1999

Client: RMC Aggregates (Northern) Ltd



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Summary

RMC Aggregates (Northern) Ltd began to work a new quarry to the east of Wooperton, Northumberland in May 1997. The site had been identified as of potential archaeological interest by Northumberland County Council and all ground disturbance required archaeological monitoring. During the first three topsoil strips of Phase 1 of the quarry development, archaeological features were identified comprising pit alignments and ditches. Some of the pits contained Roman and Bronze Age pottery. It seems increasingly likely that a previously unknown Roman military site exists within the area of the quarry.

The Fourth strip revealed a continuation of features seen in previous years including a pit/post-hole alignment seen in the south western end of the strip and a series of narrow slots and cuts elsewhere. The line of pits and other linear features seen previously in the north-eastern quarter of the trench continued in the same alignment as before. The identification of an area of cobbling, probably representing a preserved part of the road, would tend to suggest that many of these features were associated with the construction or use of the road.

In previous years some areas of the site produced significant numbers of pottery sherds. In this strip, however, no pottery was recovered from well-defined features. In part this is thought to be due to the fact that, being on a small ridge, parts of the site have been badly truncated by the plough but there is every reason to believe that this reflects a real spatial trend in pottery deposition.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site location and topography

The site is located 350 m to the east of the village of Wooperton at NGR NU 049 204. The quarry development comprises two fields which cover 26.5 ha and are bounded to the southwest by the A697 and to the southeast by the B6346 and a minor road. There is considerable topographical relief within the site. A comparatively flat and broad ridge runs down the centre of each field aligned northwest to southeast. The ground slopes steeply down towards the A697 to the southwest, dropping 14 m over a distance of 100 m. Phase 1 of the quarry is located at the east edge of the site and was up to recently under pasture. The geology of the area comprises a deep sequence of fluvoglacial sediments of gravels and sand down to fine sand and silt.

1.2 Area investigated (Fig. 1)

The previous three seasons work investigated an area of 11010 m² (Dalland 1997a, 1997b, 1998). The fourth strip, the subject of this report, was between 13 m and 14 m wide and 210 m long giving an approximate area of 2950 m².

1.3 Previous archaeological work

The supposed line of a Roman Road, the *Devil's Causeway* runs across the middle of the extraction area (Wright 1938, 1940). The line is well established to the north and the south of Wooperton but it had never been recorded close to the quarry site.

A series of cropmarks has been seen in the southwestern part of the area of the development, some of which were believed to be caused by human activity in the past. In particular a possible ring ditch in the southern corner of the area was believed to be of considerable interest.

On the basis of these cropmarks the site was the subject of evaluations by Oxford Archaeological Associates (Johnson 1994) and West Yorkshire Archaeological Services WYAS (1996). The OAA evaluation consisted of geophysical survey and test pitting while the WYAS investigation consisted of trial trenching designed to investigate features identified in the southwest corner by OAA. With the exception of a ditch identified in both evaluations and a hearth identified in the 1994 investigation no archaeological features were identified in the trenching and most of the cropmarks seen previously were therefore attributed to geological processes, mainly ice wedges.

The cropmark photographs and the previous geophysical survey of the site did not indicate that there would be any archaeological features in the area affected by Phase 1 of the development. However, during the archaeological investigation of the previous three strips, a number of features of archaeological interest were identified and subsequently excavated.

2. Method

The work was carried out according to the specifications set out in the project design of 15/04/97 approved by Northumberland County Council Archaeology Section.

The topsoil was removed by a 360° tracked excavator with a six-foot toothless bucket. The topsoil stripping was overseen by the author. During this watching brief several archaeological features were noted. At the start of the excavation, the areas where features had been noted were cleaned by hand and all features were planned at 1:50. All pits were then half sectioned and the sections drawn at 1:10 and described. Colour transparencies and black and white prints were taken of all sections. The pits were all fully excavated while 10% of all linear features were excavated, these were then emptied in order to maximise finds recovery. Samples for ecofactual/environmental remains were taken from contexts which were likely to contain such remains.

3. Excavated features

Like Strip 3 most features were concentrated in two areas: these were the south area which contained a pit alignment, two linear features and individual pits. The other main concentration of features was in the north area which contained, two large quarry pits, linear features, individual pits and a cobbled surface probably representing the remains of *The Devils Causeway*. The central area of the site is characterised by a dip in the topography, which in the previous strip had been devoid of features. Four small features were identified in this area during this season; a pit, two stake holes and a very ephemeral linear feature.

3.1 The south area (Fig. 2)

The south area covered some 850 m² which was cleaned by hand. The pit alignment previously recorded in the south end of strip 2 and 3 continued across strip 4; a further eight pits were identified (F318-F332). The pits in the alignment were generally sub-oval in shape and aligned approximately southeast-northwest. They were spaced out at a distance of 2 m centre to centre, on average, although this spacing is not constant. There is a gap of 4 m between F326 and F328 and a gap of 1.5 m between F328 and F330. It is possible that F328 is not actually a part of the alignment as it is smaller and more circular than the others. If this is the case then a gap of 5 m exists between F326 and F330.

Two gullies were identified as forming the extensions of similar features identified in Strip 3. Gully F338 measured 3.85 m north to south and it forms the northern extent of gully F151. Gully F340 lay to the north of F338 and at 90° to it and measured 8.8 m east to west. It forms the western extent of gully F217.

These gullies, along with F222 and F154 also identified in Strip 3, appear to be part of a contemporary group of structures. They were all on roughly the same east-west alignment, 11 to 12 m long with F154, F222 and F151 having right angle spurs at one end. These four gullies are arranged along three east-west lines 9 to 10 m apart. In Strip 3, roman pottery of Flavian date was recovered from the fills of the three gullies to the south, supporting the proposal that the gullies are roughly contemporary, although no pottery was recovered from F217. It is thought possible that these linear features could represent beam slots from a large rectangular building.

In addition to the features described above, the south area contained some twenty three pits. These were generally small and had sandy and gravelly fills with few inclusions.

Pit F334 was situated to the north of the pit alignment. It was 0.58 m x 0.44 m across and 0.13 m deep. The fill contained flecks of charcoal and two prehistoric flint flakes.

A group of eighteen small pits (F342 - F379) were identified, although there was no discernable pattern to their distribution. The fills of these were all uniform and sterile so no

date or function could be ascribed to them. The possibility exists that a number of them may in fact be animal burrows.

The remaining unexcavated half of pit F334 was finished this season and numbered (F404). It became clear that this had been under-excavated in the previous season. Below the level reached last season there were two redeposited natural fills, presumably washed in some time after the pit was cut. It measured 1.70 m by 1.50 m and 0.94 m deep.

3.4 The central area (Fig 3)

In previous seasons the central area has contained very little; no features were identified last year, while in Strip 2 four isolated pits were identified although none could be dated. This season four undated features were excavated. Both F398 and F400 were small post / stake holes, the fills of which contained some inclusions of charcoal. F402 was an ephemeral gully it was 2.00 m long by 0.35 m wide and 0.07 m deep at maximum. F394 was a pit 1.90 m long by c 0.60 m wide and 0.30 m deep

3.3 The north area (Figs. 4 & 5)

The north area covered approximately 1600 m² of which 1000 m² was cleaned by hand. It contained three linear features, two large pits, several smaller pits and a cobbled surface which is thought likely to be the base of the Roman road (The Devils Causeway).

The cobbled surface (F418) identified at the north-eastern end of the site was made up of sub-rounded stones measuring between 0.05 m and 0.20 m in diameter. These formed a single layer laid directly on to the subsoil. Although this only survived in patches a general north - south trend could be ascertained. The poor survival of this feature in previous strips must be due to the combined effects of a shallow topsoil over parts of the site and ploughing. During topsoiling in the immediate environs of the surface a large quantity of stone was noted in the topsoil, presumably the disturbed remains of the surface.

This cobbled surface lay to the south-west of the previously suspected line of the road which was defined by parallel gullies found at the north-east end of the site in the previous two strips. The continuation of these gullies were not identified in this strip as they lay outwith the strip.

Two large oval cuts F413 and F417 were located to the south of the cobbled area (Figure 4). These two pits were aligned north to south and were in line with the ditch F48 seen in Strip 1 which continued into a large oval pit F118 in Strip 2 and the two oval pits F266 and F269 in Strip 3. Pit F413 measured 3.40 m long by 1.57 m wide and 0.54 m deep while F417 was 5.45m long by 2.90 m wide and 0.77 m deep.

Like last season the two pits had a very clean fill, the possibility remains that these may be quarry pits for road metalling.

The continuation of the linear feature F292 identified in Strip 3 was noted in this strip and identified as F415 (Figure 5). It was aligned north-east to south-west, it was 11.6 m long by 0.40 m wide and 0.10 m to 0.20 m deep. It is on a parallel alignment 2.8 m to the north-west of F113/F300 which were identified in previous strips.

A small linear feature (F420) was identified just to the north of F415. Aligned north to south it was 2.6 m long by 0.58 m wide and 0.35 m deep.

Although F300 and F314 were seen to run into this strip from the previous one they were not identified, they may simply have terminated just on the edge of this strip or they could easily have been truncated during machine stripping as they were very shallow.

In addition to the features described above, the north area contained a further 2 pits. F408 and F391 were adjacent. F408 was oval in plan and measured 1.4 m by 1.7 m and 0.4 m deep. F391 was smaller measuring 0.79 m by 0.70 m and 0.21 m deep, the base of this appeared to be scorched from *in situ* burning. Also, animal burrows leading from this feature were full of charcoal.

3.3 Results

With regard to the project design of 15/04/97, the following results were achieved:

The continuation of the pit alignment at the south-western end of the site which was excavated in Strips 2 and 3 was once again identified and appears to run into the next proposed strip. No evidence of the second alignment was recorded. The fills of these pits were sterile so no dating evidence was recovered.

In the southern area the continuation of two of the gullies from the last strip were identified on a roughly east-west alignment. The gullies were at first interpreted as representing the beam slots of buildings, although the lack of another side to the proposed structures may lead to some problems with this explanation. With the identification of F340 there appears to be two sides to part of the proposed structures.

Because Strip 4 did not extend far enough to the north-east it was not possible to locate the continuations of the two ditches along the projected line of *The Devil's Causeway* that have been exposed within previous strips. In this strip a cobbled surface was identified at the north-east end of the trench. This lies immediately to the south-west of the previously identified ditches. This has been interpreted as the base of *The Devil's Causeway*. A continuation of the large pits interpreted as quarry pits was identified. The configuration of the pits, in a row

parallel with the projected line of *Devil's Causeway* may suggest that the pits were quarried in connection with the construction of the Roman road.

The continuation of F300 which branched off at right-angles from the *Devil's Causeway* quarry pits was not identified despite it appearing to run in to this strip from the results of last season. The continuation of F292 (F415) which lay some 14 m to the north of F300 was identified. It ran about half way across the strip before it ended.

Although no ceramics were recovered this year, the alignment of the features and the continuation of some of them from Strip 3 suggests that it is likely that most of the features uncovered in this strip are roughly contemporary with those uncovered in the previous three strips. Because finds from Strip 4 were so few in number it was decided that 100% of all linear features was to be excavated for finds recovery. No extra finds were encountered so the lack of pottery in Strip 4 must be considered as a real spatial trend.

As with the previous seasons the featureless gap between the north and south areas has decreased as work has progressed across the site. This season a few ephemeral features were found in the centre of the site although they are undated, and as such they cannot be ascribed to the Roman settlement. In previous seasons the density of features has increased as if the quarry is advancing from the outer edges towards the centre of a settlement. However, this season the density of features decreased relative to the previous season, they also seemed to become more ephemeral than before. This is contradictory to what would normally be expected. The quarry is moving on to more level ground which in general favours human activity and would lead to more archaeological remains being present. The paucity of features may be because this area of the site was not heavily settled, although it may be due to truncation by ploughing on the higher ground. This may account for the more ephemeral nature of the features recovered this season.

4. Artefact record

Unlike last season where over 160 pot sherds were recovered along with a range of other material very little was recovered. Three flakes of flint were found, two came from F334 a small pit at the south-eastern end of the site. The other came from the top soil above the proposed surface of the Devils Causeway.

Given the quantity of pottery from last season it is slightly surprising to have none from this years excavation. There also appeared to be a lack of pottery recovered from the western half of the structures formed by F222/151/217 with only three sherds recovered from F151 and none from F217. The distribution pattern emerging from the last strip, together with the fact that 100% of all gullies in Strip 4 were excavated specifically for finds recovery, indicates that the lack of finds must be seen as real rather than a product of the excavation strategy.

5. Environmental record

Bulk samples were collected from twelve deposits considered to have a high potential for the preservation of carbonised plant remains. These samples were processed and assessed by Dr. T G Holden and M Hastie (see Appendix 3).

6. Storage and Curation

The written, drawn and photographic records are currently held by Headland Archaeology, as are the finds and environmental material. Where appropriate these materials are stored in controlled environments. It is anticipated that the site archive, including finds, will be deposited at the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne following the completion of post-excavation analysis.

7. Statement of Potential

7.1 The excavated features

The features investigated this season seem to indicate that the site as identified by the previous seasons work continues across the quarry application area.

7.2 Potential for Artefactual Analysis

The artefacts from this seasons excavation can be dealt with quickly and will add to the prehistoric material recovered from the site in the previous excavations.

7.3 Potential for Environmental Analysis

The charcoal-rich pits will provide sufficient material for radiocarbon dating.

7.4 Dating

Dating material was obtained from 6 different contexts.

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Acknowledgements

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APPENDIX I

Context Summary

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
317	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 318
318	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.36 m long by 0.32 m wide and 0.09 m deep
319	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 320
320	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.6 m long by 0.33 m wide and 0.11 m deep
321	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 322
322	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.72 m long by 0.44 m wide and 0.10 m deep
323	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 324
324	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.70 m long by 0.30 m wide and 0.10 m deep
325	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 326
326	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.48 m long by 0.30 m wide and 0.09 m deep
327	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 328
328	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Circular pit 0.34 m by 0.33 m and 0.08 m deep
329	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 330
330	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.47 m long by 0.36 m wide and 0.11 m deep
331	Deposit	Dark brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 332
332	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub oval pit 0.75 m long by 0.40 m wide and 0.12 m deep
333	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	Charcoal flecks	Fill of pit 334
334	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub circular pit 0.58 m long by 0.44 m wide and 0.13 m deep
335	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of pit 336

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
336	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Sub circular pit 0.50 m long by 0.46 m wide and 0.09 m deep
337	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of slot feature 338
338	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of slot feature which forms part of 151 from last season
339	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of slot feature 340
340	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of slot feature which forms part of 260 from last season
341	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 342
342	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub-oval feature 0.42 m long by 0.27 m wide and 0.11 m deep
343	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 344
344	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.30 m long by 0.29 m wide and 0.17 m deep
345	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Upper fill of 347
346	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Ssand	-----	Primary fill of 347
347	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub-oval feature 0.40 m long by 0.30 m wide and 0.17 m deep
348	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Upper fill of 350
349	Deposit	Light brownish Yellow	Sand	-----	Primary fill of 350
350	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub-oval feature 0.83 m long by 0.38 m wide and 0.17 m deep
351	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Upper fill of 353
352	Deposit	Light brownish Yellow	coarse sand and small gravel	-----	Primary fill of 353
353	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of Figure of 8 shaped feature 0.70 m long and 0.18 m deep
354	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 355

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
355	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub circular feature 0.47 m long by 0.40 m wide and 0.15 m deep
356	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 357
357	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 0.76 m long by 0.24 m deep. May be a burrow
358	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 359
359	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 1.00 m long by 0.50 m wide and 0.11 m deep.
360	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 361
361	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 0.25 m long by 0.20 m wide and 0.04 m deep.
362	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 361
363	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.34 m long by 0.32 m wide and 0.12 m deep.
364	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 365 and 366
365	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub circular feature 0.37 m long by 0.40 m wide and 0.18 m deep.
366	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.40 m long by 0.37 m wide and 0.18 m deep.
367	Deposit	Mid brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 378
368	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 369
369	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub circular feature 0.66 m long by 0.62 m wide and 0.23 m deep.
370	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sand	-----	Fill of 371
371	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub circular feature 0.23 m long by 0.20 m wide and 0.03 m deep.
372	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sandy gravel	-----	Fill of 373
373	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.28 m long by 0.28 m wide and 0.11 m deep.

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
374	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sandy gravel	-----	Fill of 375
375	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.25 m long by 0.23 m wide and 0.05 m deep.
376	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sandy gravel	-----	Fill of 377
377	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 0.40 m long by 0.30 m wide and 0.16 m deep.
378	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 0.32 m long by 0.26 m wide and 0.07 m deep.
379	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 380
380	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.26 m long by 0.24 m wide and 0.08 m deep.
381	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 382, which is a rabbit burrow
382	Burrow	-----	-----	-----	Rabbit burrow
383	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 384, which is a rabbit burrow
384	Burrow	-----	-----	-----	Rabbit burrow
385	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 386
386	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature
387	not used				
388	Burrow	-----	-----	Charcoal	Rabbit burrow
389	Deposit	Light grey	Loamy sand	Charcoal	Fill of 390
390	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.53 m x 0.52 m wide and 0.15 m deep
391	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.79 m x 0.70 m wide and 0.21 m deep
392	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Loamy sand	Charcoal	Fill of 391

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
393	Deposit	Light brown	Sandy silt loam	-----	Fill of 394
394	Cut	-----	Loamy sand	-----	Cut of "banana" shaped feature 1.90 m long by 0.72 m wide and 0.30 m deep
395	Deposit	Light reddish brown	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 396
396	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.30 m x 0.25 m wide and 0.12 m deep
397	Deposit	Dark brownish grey	Charcoal	Fill of 398	
398	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.25 m x 0.20 m wide and 0.10 m deep
399	Deposit	Dark brownish black	Charcoal	Fill of 400	
400	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.28 m x 0.20 m wide and 0.20 m deep
401	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 402
402	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of linear slot feature 2.00 m long by 0.35 m wide and 0.07 m deep
403	Deposit	Light brownish pink	Silt loam	-----	Fill of 404 (under 238)
404	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub circular feature 1.70 m x 1.50 m and 0.94 m deep
405	Deposit	mid brownish yellow	Coarse sand and small gravel	-----	Fill of 404
406	Deposit	Light brownish red	Loamy sand	-----	Fill of 407
407	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature 0.90 m long by 0.76 m wide and 0.22 m deep
408	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of sub oval feature
409	Deposit	Reddish brown	Sand	-----	Fill of 408
410	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of circular feature 0.52 m x 0.50 m and 0.12 m deep
411	Deposit	Mid brown	Sand	-----	Fill of 410

Context	Type	Colour	Texture	Inclusions	Comments
412	Deposit	Light brownish red	Sandy silt loam	-----	Fill of 413
413	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of large oval feature 3.40 m long by 1.57 m wide and 0.54 m deep
414	Deposit	Light greyish red	Sandy silt loam	-----	Fill of 415
415	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of linear slot, this is a continuation of 292 from last season
416	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sandy silt loam	-----	Fill of 417
417	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of large oval feature 5.45 m long by 2.90 m wide and 0.77 m deep
418	Deposit	-----	-----	-----	Cobble surface, possibly the remains of the Devils Causeway
419	Deposit	Mid reddish brown	Sandy loam	-----	Fill of 420
420	Cut	-----	-----	-----	Cut of linear feature 2.6 m long by 0.58 m wide and 0.35 m deep

APPENDIX 2

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Film no	colour slide	B & W print	comments
1	1	1	South-west end of trench with pit alignment
	2	2	South-west end of trench with pit alignment
	3	3	Pits 334 - 336 in alignment
	4	4	Pits 320 - 332 in alignment
	5	5	Pits 330 - 318 in alignment
	6	6	Section of pits 318 & 320 in alignment
	7	7	Section of pits 322 & 324 in alignment
	8	8	Section of pit 326 in alignment
	9	9	Section of pits 328 - 322 in alignment
	10	10	Section of pit 334 in alignment
	11	11	Section of pit 336 in alignment
	12	12	Pits 320 - 332 in pit alignment fully excavated
	13	13	Pits 330 - 318 in pit alignment fully excavated
	14	14	Pit 334 in pit alignment fully excavated
	15	15	Pit 336 in pit alignment fully excavated
	16	16	Pit 318 in pit alignment fully excavated
	17	17	Section through slot 337
	18	18	Cut of slot 340 section B
	19	19	Cut of slot 340 section A
	20	20	Cut of slot 340 section C
	21	21	Cut of slot 340 section D
	22	22	Slot 340 in plan
B&W# 2	1	23	Section through Pits 342, 345, 348 and 348
	2	24	Plan of Pits 342, 345, 348 and 348
	3	25	section through pits 353 & 354
	4	26	Section of pit 368

	5	27	Pits 364, 378, & 379
	6	28	Section of pit 364
	7	29	Pit 356
	8-9	30-31	pits 360 & 362
	10	32	Pit 358
	11-12	33-34	Possible post hole in pit 404
	13	35	section of 359
	14	36	Pits 368 & 370
	15	37	361
C/S # 2	16	2	350
	17	3	Post exc 369
	18	4	Post exc 377
	19	5	Post exc 344, 346 & 349
	20	6	Post exc 342
	21	7	post exc 356
	22	8	Post exc 364
	23	9	Post exc of 367 & 380
	24	10	Post exc 353
	25	11	Post exc 371, 373 & 379
	26	12	Post exc 355 & 386
	27	13	Pre exc 388
	28	14	Section of pit 392
	29	15	Plan of 389 pre exc
	30	16	Section of 396
	31	17	Section of 394
	32	18	Section of 394
	33	19	Plan of 394
	34	20	Section of pit 404
	35	21	Section of pit 404
	36	22	Section 398 & 400
	37	23	plan of gully 401

B&W# 3	1		plan of gully 401
	2	24	Section A through 401
	3	25	Section B through 401
	4	26	Post exc of 404
	5	27	½ section of 406/7
	6	28	Post exc of pit 391
	7	29	section of pit 408
	8	30	
	9	31	Plan of large pit 413
	10	32	Section of 413
	11	33	Section of 413
	12	34	Section of 413
	13	35	Plan of gully 415
	14	36	Plan of gully 415
	15	37	Plan of gully 415
Colour print #3	16	1	Section through large pit 417
	17	2	Section through large pit 417
	18	3	Section through large pit 417
	19	-----	
	20	4	Cobbled surface 418
	21	5	Cobbled surface 418
	22	6	Cobbled surface 418
	23	7	Post exc of pit 408
	24	8	Post exc of 410
	25	9	Post exc 390
	26	10	Post exc of pit 394
	27	11	
	28	12	
	29	13	Working shot cleaning 418
	30	14	General shot looking south-west along the strip

	31	15	Cobbled surface 418
	32	16	Cobbled surface 418
	34	17	Working shot planing 418
	35	18	Working shot planing 418
		19	Working shot
	36	20-21	Section of 420
	37	22-23	Section through cobbled surface 418
	38	24	Slot 415 half emptied
		25	Working shot looking north-east along the strip

APPENDIX 3

Finds list

Find no	Context	Material	Qty	Comments
1-87				See previous reports
88	416	Flint	1	Brownish grey flake with some retouch on one edge
89	333	Flint	2	1 brown and 1 blueish grey flake

APPENDIX 4

DRAWING REGISTER

Sheet No	Scale	Description
1	1:10	Sections of pit alignment and other pits at South-western end of site
2	1:50 & 1:10	Plan of pit alignment, gullies and sections of gullies at south-western end of site
3	1:50 & 1:10	Plan of pits at south-western end of site and various sections and other plans
4	1:50 & 1:10	Plans and sections of pits
5	1:50, 1:20 & 1:10	Plans and sections of pits
6	1:50 & 1:10	Plans and sections of pits
7	1:50 & 1:10	Plan and section of large pit F417 in alignment at north-eastern end of site
8	1:50 & 1:10	Plan and section of gully 415
9	1:20	2 sheets of the cobbled surface 418

Appendix 5

ASSESSMENT OF SAMPLES FROM WOOPERTON

Dr. T.G. Holden

METHOD

The six samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 300 μ m sieve and, once dry, scanned by the author using a binocular microscope (see Table 1). Residues were wet-sieved down to 1 mm and the remainder sorted by a trained technician (Table 2).

RESULTS

No finds of any note were recovered from the retents although some burnt bone was recovered (Table 2). The results from the flots are presented in Table 1. Wood charcoal was recovered from most samples. Those identified by an asterisk in Table 1 contain large enough fragments for a single entity AMS date - 6 in total. Those which also have a value of '+++' or '++++' in the charcoal 'QTY' column would, however, offer best chances of obtaining a reasonably large charcoal sample for dating purposes. Identification of the species of wood represented would need to be undertaken prior to dating.

In contrast to features in other strips no cereal grain was encountered.

POTENTIAL

In the absence of other dating evidence the charcoal-rich pits will provide sufficient material for radiocarbon dating.

Table One: Composition of Flots

Context	Flot Vol (ml)	Charcoal		Modern Plant Remains
		qty	AMS	
238	150	++++	*	
333	10	++++	*	+
337	<10			++
339a/b	<10	+		+++
339c/d	10	+		+++
358	<10			++++
389	50	+++	*	+
392	50	+		+++
397	<10	+++	*	
399	50	+++	*	++
411	10	++	*	
419	<10	+		+++

Table Two: Composition of Retents

Context	Slag	Charcoal
238		++
333		
337		
339 A+B		
339 C+D		
397		
358	+	
389		+
392		
399		+
411		
419		

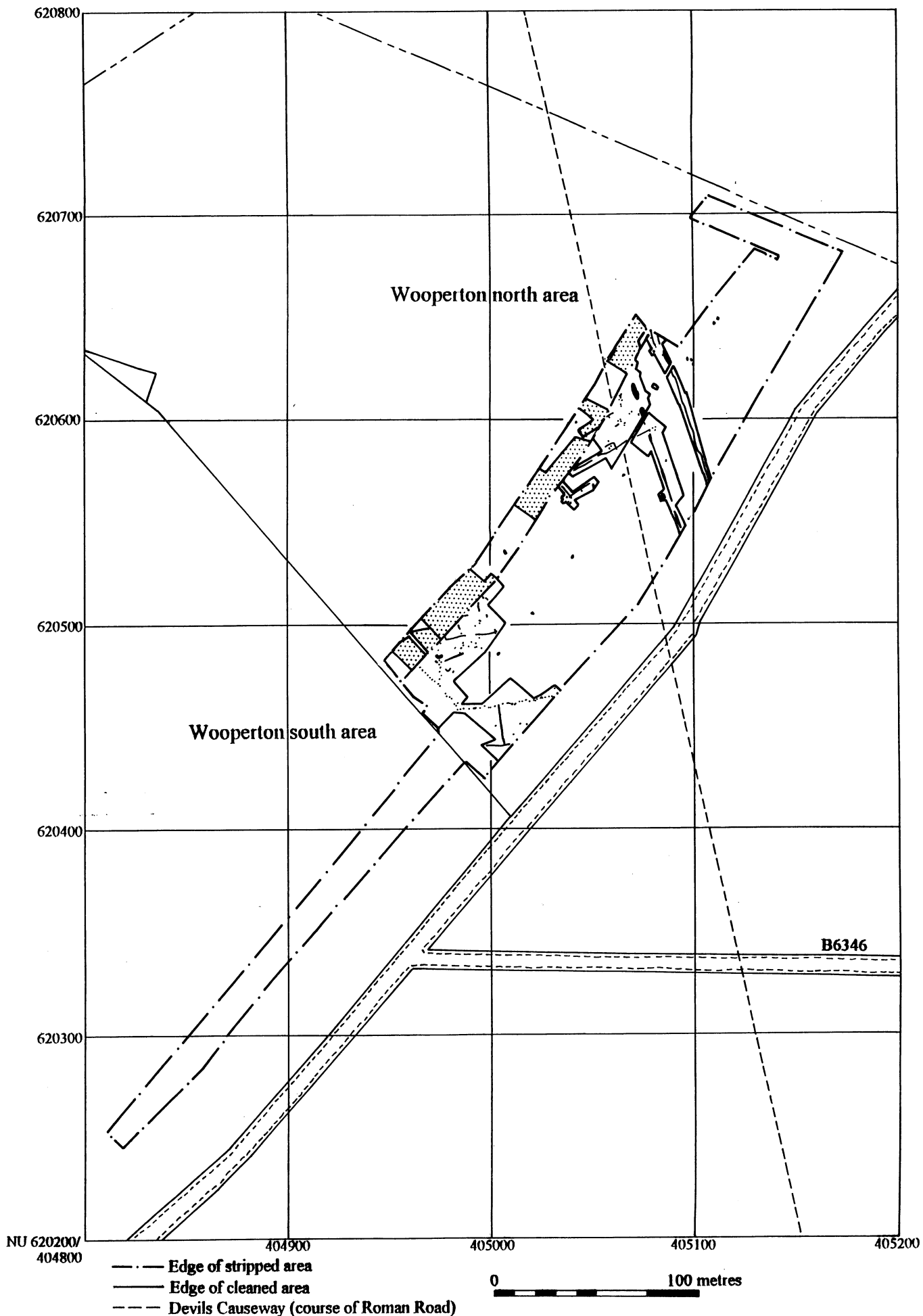


Figure 1. Wooperton Quarry: Phase 1
Strip 4 Location Plan

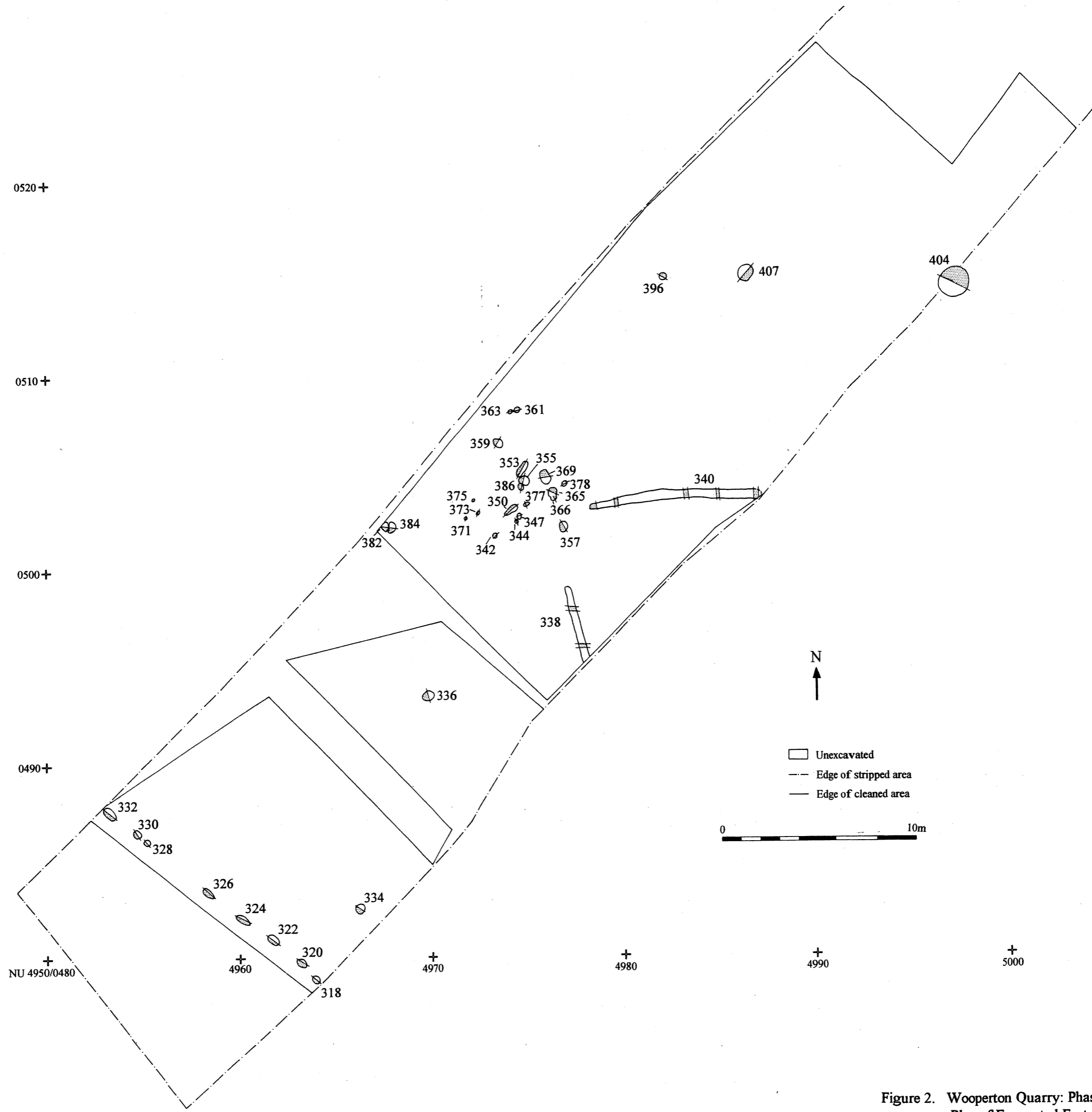


Figure 2. Wooperton Quarry: Phase 1, Strip 4
Plan of Excavated Features: South Area

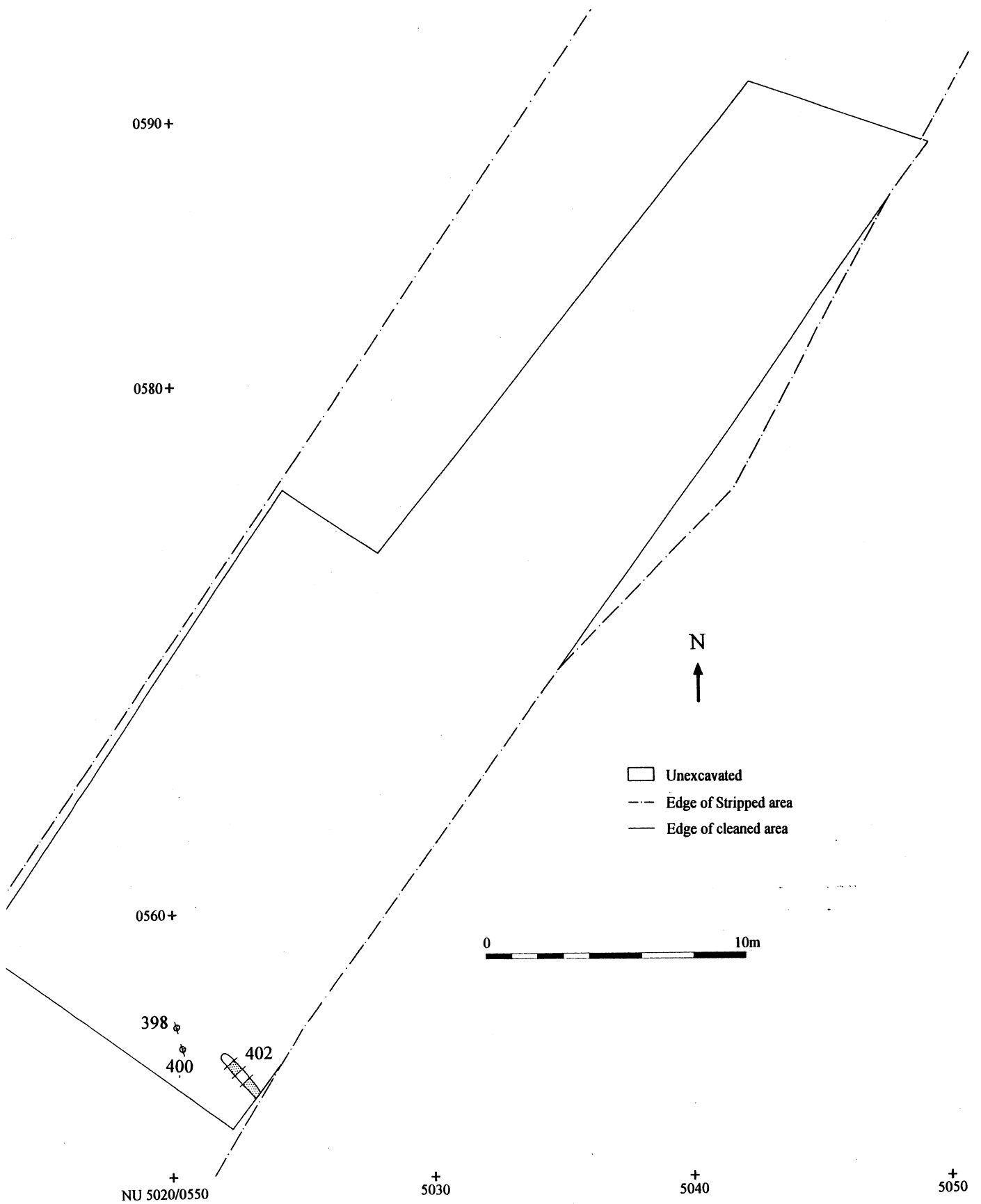


Figure 3. Wooperton Quarry: Phase 1, Strip 4
Plan of Excavated Features: Central Area

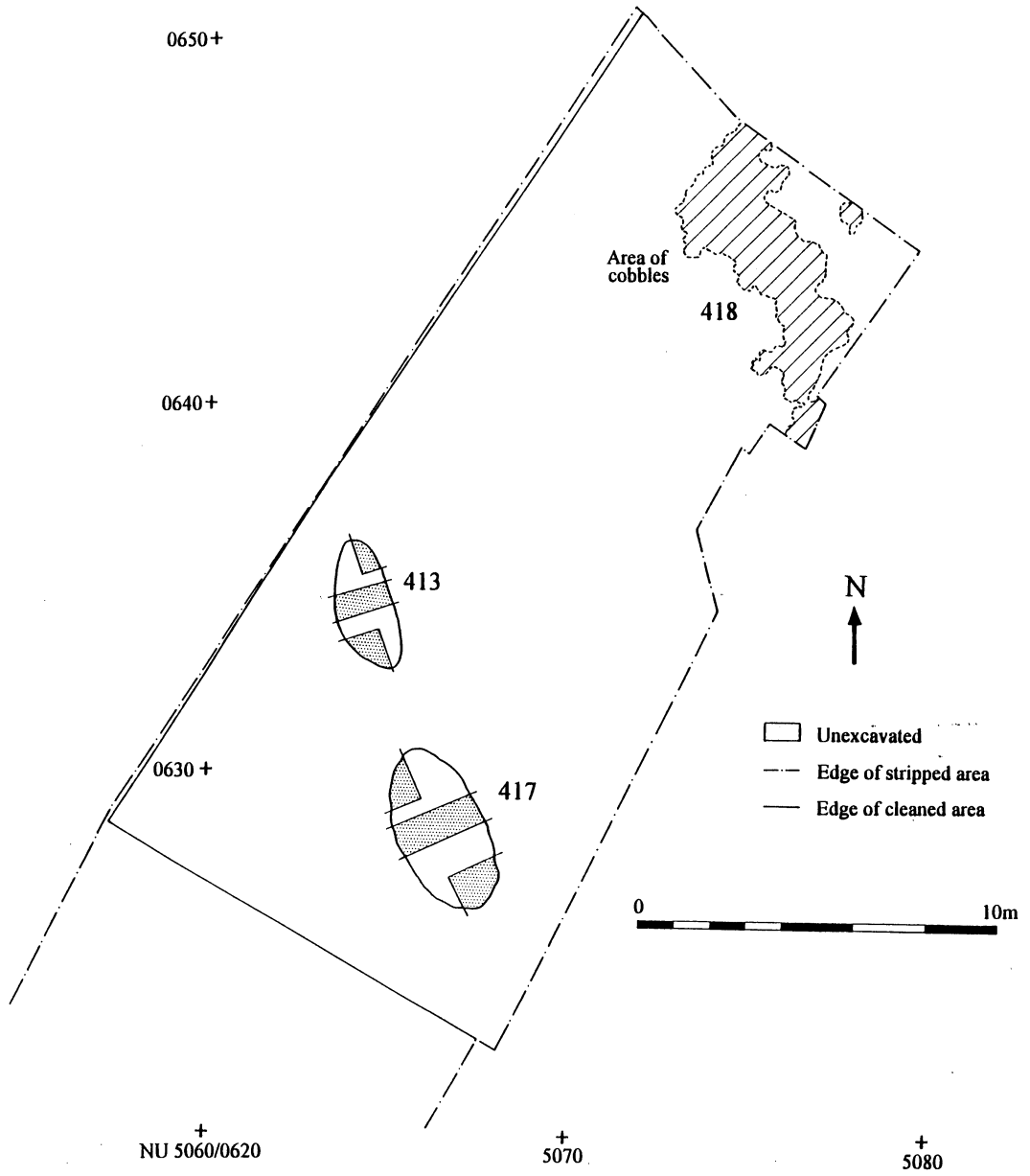


Figure 4. Wooperton Quarry:Phase 1, Strip 4
Plan of Excavated Features: North Area

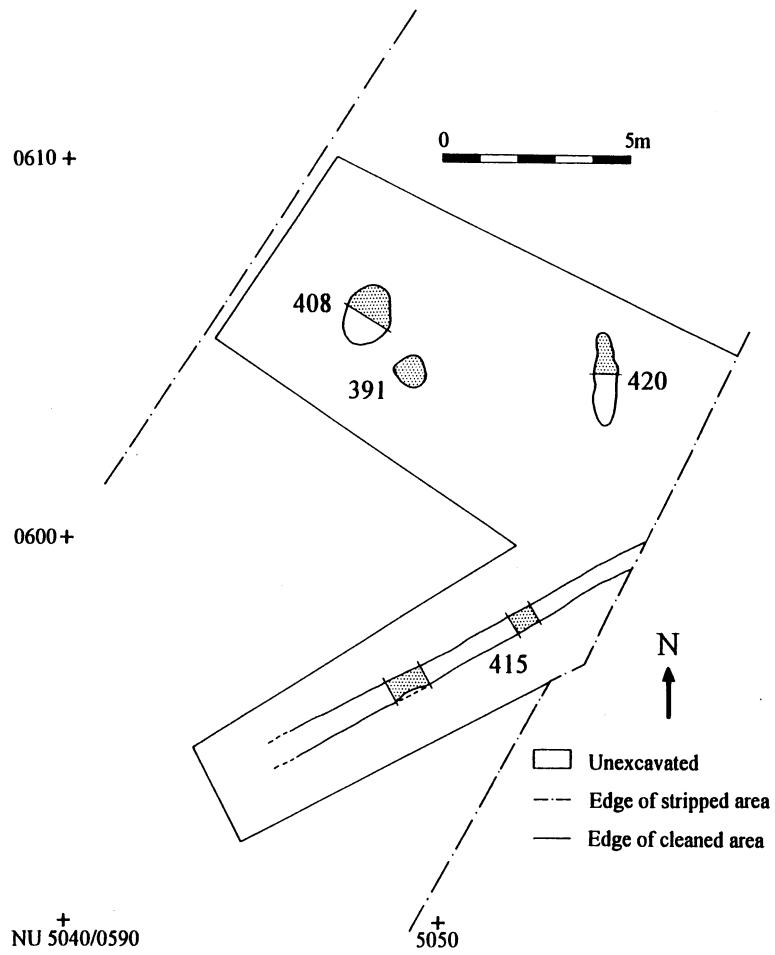


Figure 5. Wooperton Quarry: Phase 1, Strip 4
Plan of Excavated Features: North Area