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BROMPTON, SHROPSHIRE
Excavations 1990
SITE NARRATIVES AND
POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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BROMPTON, SHROPSHIRE
Excavations 1990
SITE NARRATIVES AND
POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN FEATURES

by
A.E. Jones

OFFA'S DYKE

by
J. Sterenberg and S. Richardson

RESEARCH DESIGN

by
I.M. Ferris

with contributions by
L. Bevan, J. Evans, R.W. Heath, and A.B. Woodward

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux (Manager), Peter Leach or Iain Ferris (Assistant Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 021 414 5513

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BROMPTON, SHROPSHIRE

Excavations 1990

PART I: THE SITE NARRATIVES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1: The excavation

This report describes the results of archaeological excavations at Brompton, Shropshire (Figure 1A), undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) for a period of 12 weeks, between October 1990 and January 1991. The project was commissioned by Shropshire County Council Highways and Transport Department, in advance of a road widening scheme which affects the existing A489 Shrewsbury to Newtown road, west of the Blue Bell Inn crossroads (B4385) (Figure 1C). The roadworks involve widening on both sides of a length of 0.6 km of the existing carriageway which bisects three Roman marching-camps (SA 1211, SA 1212, SA ¹²¹³~~4160~~), a Roman fort and ⁴³¹⁹*viciis* at Pentrehyling to the west (SA 1214), and a stretch of Offa's Dyke (SA 1000) (Figure 2).

1.2: Aims and arrangement of report

This report conforms to the guidelines set out by English Heritage in *The Management of Archaeology Projects* (1989), its principal aims being:

- (1) To set the project within its archaeological and topographic context, and to summarise excavation aims and methodology (Section 1.0).
- (2) To present illustrated narrative accounts of the stratigraphic and structural history of the excavations at Brompton (Sections 2.0–7.0) and Offa's Dyke (Section 8.0).
- (3) To quantify the excavation archive, and assess the potential information-value of the archive and finds (Sections 9.0–11.0).
- (4) To propose a post-excavation programme to carry the project to completion and publication (Section 12.0).

A guide to project records and a summary of the environmental sample-processing methods are contained in Part III. Part IV contains a costing for the post-excavation programme.

1.3: The site and its setting (Figures 1B, 1C)

Brompton (centred on NGR SO 2493) is located 30km southwest of Shrewsbury, and 4.5km southeast of Montgomery. The site is strategically placed 1.5km west of the confluence of two rivers, to control access along the valley of the River Caebitra to the east, and along the River Camlad, south to the Stretton Gap. The River Severn lies to the north. The Roman marching-camps and fort occupy a plateau on the 150m contour; south of the A489 the ground slopes gently southwards towards the River Caebitra (Figure 2).

Most of the evidence for the earliest, prehistoric exploitation of the area surrounding the site is derived from aerial photographs. A group of circular cropmarks probably represent ploughed-out barrows, dating to the Bronze Age (Figure 2); these sites frequently cluster on low-lying gravel terraces (Watson Forthcoming). A double (possibly triple) ring-ditch (SA 1210), is located northwest of Brompton Hall. A second, less distinct cropmark (SA 4146), representing a circular ring-ditch, approximately 20m across, is located inside the southwest angle of Pentrehyling fort, but lies outside the area recently excavated.

The Roman fort at Pentrehyling and the marching-camps were also first identified from the air, as cropmarks, by J.K. St. Joseph (1969 ¹²¹¹ and 1973). The line of the fort's encircling ditch, ¹²¹² rampart and southern annexe are not visible as earthworks on the ground, and the continuation of the defences into areas of pasture has only

become apparent from subsequent geophysical survey and trial trenching (Allen 1986 and 1988). The cropmarks define a fort measuring externally approximately 180m (west-east) by 150m (north-south). The position of the east and west gates has been located (Allen 1986, Figure 1).

Selective excavation at Pentrehyling fort has been conducted on a seasonal basis since 1978; later, the excavation team, led by John Allen, adopted the name 'Central Marches Archaeological Research Group' (CMARG). This project was initially intended to date and establish the fort layout. During twelve summer seasons, work has been concentrated within the southeast angle of the fort interior, with additional selective trenching of the fort defences (Allen 1986, 1988, 1991a-c).

The threatened stretch of Offa's Dyke does not survive as a distinct earthwork above ground. It was trenched in March 1989 by Dr David Hill as part of the Offa's Dyke Research Project based at Manchester University. For an introduction to the present excavation and a discussion of the archaeological results, see Section 8.0 of this report.

1.4: The evaluation (Figure 2) ¹⁰⁰⁰ May 1989.

In summer 1989 BUFAU and CMARG undertook a joint evaluation of Pentrehyling fort, the marching camps and surrounding area, on behalf of Shropshire County Council, to evaluate the presence, survival and archaeological significance of the area threatened by road widening; for the evaluation research design see Watson 1989.

The results of the evaluation, in combination with the evidence from previous excavations by CMARG, indicated the high archaeological potential of four of the seven areas evaluated (designated A-D during the evaluation, and corresponding to Trenches I-IV respectively during the excavation). The evaluation confirmed the survival of structures within the fort, and a vicus was located east of the fort. The ditched eastern defences of two marching-camps (SA 1211 and SA 1212) were excavated and defined in relation to later features associated with Pentrehyling fort (Cane and Allen 1989).

~~1989~~ 1990?

1.5: Method

Excavation was confined to narrow areas, approximately 3-4m wide, within the widened road corridor, both to the north and south of the existing carriageway, which continued in use throughout the excavation (Figure 2). Trenches I and II were excavated to define the threatened parts of the southern and eastern defences, and to provide an understanding of the fort layout at its southeast angle. The character and eastwards extent of the vicus were defined in Trenches I, II and III. The marching camp defences were sampled in Trench III, to the east of the vicus, and in Trench IV, south of the modern road. ^{of 1214.} ^{1211 1212.} ⁴⁴⁸²

The whole of Trenches III and IV, and the easternmost part of Trench I, lie within a Scheduled Area (SAM 308). The most distinct marching-camp, cropmark features, and the eastern western part of the vicus, are within SAM 308, but the fort area is excluded from this protection. ⁴⁴⁸²

In all trenches, between 0.30m to 0.70m of ploughsoil, between the existing road hedge and the fenced extent of the widened road corridor, was removed by JCB under archaeological supervision. The machined surface was cleaned to permit the definition of archaeological features from their upper horizons prior to planning and either total excavation or sampling, in accordance with the research brief (Watson 1989a). In Trench II, where previous work by CMARG immediately to the south suggested the preservation of intact, significant strata under the plough headland, road bank and hedge, the total area was to be fully excavated. Excavation in Trenches I, III and IV was restricted to the sampling of a maximum of 30% of the archaeological deposits.

The entire hedgeline in Trenches II, III and IV, and along the easternmost 20m of Trench I, was machine-stripped and the area then cleaned by hand, in an attempt to define and record features under the former hedgeline. No excavation was possible close to the in-use carriageway for safety reasons.

A sampling strategy for the recovery of environmental evidence was devised in consultation with Lisa Moffett of the Archaeobotanical Laboratory, Department of Plant Biology, Birmingham University. This involved the selective sampling of artifactually

^{4482.4} ~~4482.4~~ - extra mixed sett 2
VICUS see Cane & Allen p 7 assoc with metal
1.55km. silver/lead

rich deposits from well-sealed features, including ditches and pits but excluding beam-slots. For a discussion of the processing methodology see Section 17.0. Additionally, samples for possible metallic-residue analysis were taken, but not processed, from most industrial features in the vicus.

Contexts (four digit numbers) and features (three digit numbers) were recorded in a single sequence per trench, the first digit corresponding to the trench number in each case. Numbers allocated during the evaluation are given in square brackets, when referred to in the text below.

1.6: The archaeological results

Following an initial appraisal of the excavation results it has been possible to define elements of seven major periods of activity. Further in-depth analysis of the records, and the input from specialist reports will, doubtless, permit the refinement of this provisional sequence which is defined as follows:

- Period 1: Prehistoric features. 4481
- Period 2: The marching-camps. 1211, 1212
- Period 3: Pentrehyling fort. 1214.
- 3A: Initial fort layout.
- 3B: Later activity.
- Period 4: The vicus. This is contemporary with Period 3A. 4212
- Period 5: Later occupation of the fort.
- Period 6: Other features.

It has been possible to complement this stratigraphic phasing by spot-dating of the pottery. A preliminary assessment has been made of the results of environmental sampling. The larger-scale excavation results have been integrated, where appropriate, with the information obtained from the BUFAU evaluation trenches.

2.0: PERIOD 1: PREHISTORIC FEATURES (Figure 4)

2.1: The archaeological results 4481

The earliest identifiable features comprise two shallow pits (F106, F107), cut into the natural gravel at the western end of Trench I, and sealed beneath the front face of the Period 3 fort rampart (F101). F106 was a flat-based, oval pit 0.60m deep, and filled with a light brown clay silt (1020). To the southeast of F106 was a roughly oval, irregular cut (F107) with a lip on its eastern side, backfilled with a similar material to 1020 (1021), sealed by a dark grey, clay silt, flecked with charcoal (1040). A large number of decorated sherds of Late Neolithic pottery, possibly belonging to a single vessel, was recovered from these features, including sherds which preserved possible traces of charred food-residues. No other excavated features could be assigned to this period.

2.2: Discussion

These small pits, preserved beneath the fort rampart, possibly served a ritual purpose. A quantity of worked flint flakes recovered from the topsoil nearby may indicate a concentration of prehistoric activity in this area.

2.3: The finds (By A.B. Woodward)

The pottery recovered is Late Neolithic in date, being sherds of a Peterborough Ware bowl of the Mortlake Style. Ten struck flint flakes, none of which exhibits signs of retouch, were recovered from the ploughsoil.

2.4: Environmental evidence (By R. Heath)

Samples from F106 and F107 were processed, and found to contain only a small quantity of wood charcoal fragments, too small even for species identification. There may not be sufficient material for C14 dating.

3.0: PERIOD 2.

THE MARCHING CAMPS (Figures 5, 6)

3.1: The archaeological results ^{1211, 1212}

The earliest evidence of Roman activity is represented by ditches (F310, F401) following approximately a common north-south alignment. The eastern ditch (F401) was V-shaped in profile, tapering outwards towards the top, and survived to a depth of 1.80m below modern ground level. The fills suggested a gradual infilling, rather than deliberate backfilling. The western ditch (F310) had a roughly V-shaped profile and survived to a depth of 0.50m below the modern topsoil. The ditch was gradually infilled after abandonment. A third shallow ditch (F305), of V-shaped profile, was located west of F310, again aligned north-south. Roadside ditches (F304, F311), ⁴³¹⁸ associated with the fort, cut F305 and F310. No environmental evidence or artifacts were recovered from the lengths of the Period 2 features sampled.

3.2: Discussion ^{1211 1212}

The position and alignment of F310 and F401 correlates with cropmarks previously identified as representing the western defensive ditches of two distinct marching-camps (SA 1211, SA 1212), and were military in profile. Two of the ditches (F305 and F310) ¹²¹¹ pre-date the southern, road-flanking ditch ⁽⁴³¹⁸⁾ probably dug contemporaneously with the laying-out of the fort to the west.

Cropmarks do not provide a precise parallel for F305, possibly associated with the third, and easternmost, marching-camp ^(SA 1213) ~~(SA 4169)~~ recognised from a cropmark delimiting its southeast corner (not illustrated). ^{4169 is a} ~~in SO 29 SE~~ ^{run ditch.}

The marching-camps may have been constructed during the Scapulan campaigns of 48-51 AD but could be somewhat later in date. These single-ditched enclosures may have been occupied briefly by an advancing army, and probably relate to three separate military campaigns. The lack of any internal features associated with the marching-camp ditches is unsurprising given the nature of the camps' transitory occupation.

4.0: PERIODS 3A/B:

PENTREHYLING FORT. ¹²¹⁴

4.1: The archaeological results (Figures 7, 8)

4.1.1: Introduction

This narrative description of features associated with the fort utilises the evidence from both Trenches I and II, located approximately 8m apart, and respectively north and south of the modern road. The regularity of the layout of structures in this area of the fort has enabled the definition of structures which formerly extended into both trenches, but which have not survived to the same extent on each side of the road, as a result of heavy ploughing or root disturbance. Feature survival was generally better in Trench II: in the centre of Trench I the ploughsoil was shallower than elsewhere, and the few surviving features here were heavily truncated.

Period 3 has been subdivided. Period 3A, late 1st century/early 2nd century in date, includes the establishment of the fort, the laying out of the defences, the ⁴³¹⁸ contemporary internal structures and the external road. Period 3B, later fort activity, is represented by a number of pits.

A long abandonment occurred before the recutting of the fort defences and possible reoccupation of the interior in Period 5 (see below).

4.1.2: Period 3A

The Defences (Figure 8)

Parts of the eastern and southern fort defensive circuit were defined and sampled during the excavation. The line of the eastern defensive circuit was perpendicular to Trenches I and II, and comprised a single ditch (F122/F231), aligned north-south, separated by a 1m-wide berm from the rampart (F154/ F208) to the rear. The ditch was 2.20m deep, a maximum of 7m wide, and with a gently-sloping profile, tapering outwards (less steeply to the east) towards the top, with a distinct cleaning slot along the base. A 1m-wide section of the ditch was excavated in Trench I, but its excavation in Trench II was confined to the removal of the upper 0.70m of fills because of the proximity of the road.

In the Trench I section, the earliest fill of the ditch (in the cleaning slot), was a mid-grey clay silt (1073), sealed by further silts (1072), and a buff-brown silty gravel (1074) derived from the collapse of the ditch sides. The remaining hollow was filled with gradual accumulations of mid-brown gravelly clay silts (1055, 1049). There was no evidence for the deliberate backfilling or recutting of the ditch. The fills contained pottery with a *terminus* in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

The base of the eastern rampart (F154/F208), up to 6m wide, survived in Trenches I and II to a maximum height of 0.15m. The rampart was composed of mottled buff-orange, stone-free, silt clay (2011), which contained patches of decayed turf, and immediately overlay natural gravel. Only one associated feature survived, this being a straight-sided post-hole (F207), 0.20m in diameter, sealed beneath collapsed rampart make-up material, possibly part of the former revetment to the front of the rampart.

The southern defensive circuit was defined in Trench I for a length of 40m, west of the southwest corner of the fort defences, following an approximately west–east alignment. The southern rampart (F101), approximately 1m inside the ditch, survived to a maximum height of 0.20m. The rampart material was similar to that encountered to the east, being a soft, stone-free, buff-brown silt clay (1002, 1012) containing patches of decayed turf in the centre. A massive post-pit (F105), cut into natural gravel, defined the front face of the rampart, and was partially sealed beneath slumped rampart material. The post-hole contained a post-pipe 0.20m wide, filled with buff-brown silt clay (1019). The rear face of the rampart was defined by a shallow, flat-bottomed, post-hole (F151), 0.20m deep.

The ditch butt-ended in a terminal to the east, partly within the excavated area. This sector of the ditch was totally recut in Period 5 (see Section 6.0).

A trench (F109, F115), 0.30m wide and 8m long, was cut at the rear of the southern rampart and followed its alignment. The vertical-sided trench, 0.20m deep, contained a grey silt (1016) overlain by a soft charcoal fill (1017). The fills contained litharge, smithing slag and hearth-

bottom. This trench was cut at its northern end by a linear feature (F117) which continued the alignment of F109, but was only visible for a length of 2m inside the excavated area. This feature contained a collapse of angular stone fragments (1026) set in a mottled green-red clay (1023), the debris from stoved-in ovens or hearths set into the rear face of the rampart, as was standard Roman military practice.

A poorly defined, 2m-wide, ditch (F116), aligned north–south and located at the western end of Trench I, may be contemporary with the initial refurbishment of the fort defences. This feature corresponds approximately with the position and alignment of a cropmark interpreted as representing the western arm of the southern fort annexe (Figure 2), but its projected junction with the fort ditch was beyond the area of excavation. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills.

Internal features (Figure 8)

The eastern *intervallum* road (F128/F217) was set back 2m from the rear face of the rampart and followed its alignment. In Trench I the cambered upper surface, 5m wide, was composed of small, rounded, compact gravel (1057); in Trench II only the coarser angular stone make-up (2018) survived extensive root disturbance. Two further roads (F218 and F230), also part of the original fort layout, were identified in Trenches I and II.

The central portions of three timber buildings (Structures 1–3) were identified within Trenches I and II, each originally extending to the north and south beyond the areas excavated. The long axes of these buildings were aligned in conformity with the eastern defences and occupied *insulae* defined by the internal roads. These structures survived only in the form of severely truncated beam-slots cut through natural gravel. No floors, associated contemporary surfaces or deposits had survived. No finds were recovered from any of the beam-slots.

The easternmost building (Structure 1) was located in an *insula* bounded by F128/F217 to the east, and by F218 to the west. The outer walls of this timber building, 9.50m wide, were formed of

straight-sided beam-slots, 0.30m wide and up to 0.20m deep. The east wall was formed by F123/F213, the west wall (F215) only surviving to the south. A verandah parallel with, and to the west of, F215, would originally have extended along the whole of the excavated length of the building. It was defined on the inside by a beam-slot (F125) which only survived in Trench I.

The building was divided internally across its width by further beam-slots (F124 and F212), of similar dimensions, each being interrupted to form centrally-placed doorways. A third internal division (F211), parallel with F212 to the north, further defined an east-west passage, 1m wide, across the building. South of F211, the structure was divided longitudinally by a beam-slot (F224) 0.30m wide, but there was no trace of corresponding divisions to the north in Trenches I or II. Two shallow post-holes (F126 and F233) were excavated at the junctions between external and internal beam-slots (junction of F123 with F124 and of F224 with F211 respectively). A post-hole (F216) lined-up with the projected continuation of the internal division formed by F211.

The beam-slots all contained a similar dark brown clay soil; there was no evidence for a decayed timber beam within the fills. The structure was cut in places by a Period 6 gully (F118/F120).

A road (F218), west of Structure 1, survived to a width of 3m in Trench II, but there was no evidence of its presumed continuation across Trench I. The uppermost surface, surviving only in patches, was formed of closely-set gravel (2019) and overlay a coarse make-up layer (2039) which was cut to the west by a V-shaped ditch of regular profile (F220).

Two back-to-back timber buildings (Structures 2 and 3) lay to the west of the road F218.

Structure 2, 6m wide, was defined by 0.20m-deep beam-slots. The west wall, formed by a beam-slot, was excavated in Trenches I and II (F133/F225). The east wall (F250), and the outer wall of a parallel verandah 1.5m to the east (F249), only survived in Trench II.

The structure was divided internally across its width by a single beam-slot (F248), 0.30m wide, which joined F250 to the east. This slot terminated with a small post-hole (F247), forming a possible entranceway 0.70m wide, east of F225. No internal divisions were visible within this building in Trench I. A single post-hole (F219) was dug to the west of the roadside ditch (F220). Two stake-holes (F119 and F132) inside Structure 2 may have supported internal partitions.

Structure 3, defined by two parallel beam-slots 8m apart, was located 1m west of Structure 2. The east wall was defined by a single beam-slot (F134/F226), 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep, which survived in Trenches I and II. The western wall of this structure could only be defined in Trench I (F135). No evidence for internal divisions or an external verandah were noted.

Structures 2 and 3 were cut by gullies associated with Period 6 activity (F118/F120 and F136 to the north; F228 to the south).

A band of gravelly soil (2061), west of Structure 3, may represent the make-up layer for a metalled road west of Structure 3, damaged by ploughing. This layer was sealed by, and was probably contemporary with, a well-worn road surface (F230) formed of compacted small pebbles (2032), aligned perpendicular to the east fort defences. The projected continuation of this road in Trench I was cleaned, but the surfaces and associated make-up here had been ploughed out.

The northeast corner of a fourth timber building (Structure 4) was defined, flanking the western edge of the road F230, and respecting its orientation. The excavated corner of Structure 4 was formed by the junction of two beam slots (F236, F242), of rectangular section, and up to 0.10m deep. A post-hole (F243), 0.10m in diameter and packed with flat angular sandstone blocks (2052), was cut into F242, and may be part of the original construction. A flat-based hearth (F235), 0.30m wide, was set inside the northwest angle of this building.

South of Structure 4, excavation was hampered by the stumps of a group of mature oak trees. A

further area, 70m in length, to the south of the road (Trench II) was cleaned, but was found to be devoid of any further contemporary features.

In Trench I, cleaning of the extensive area between Structure 3 and the southern defences revealed only three heavily truncated post-holes (F103, F113, F114), which could not be related to any structure. The area of a former CMARG trench here was not re-excavated.

External features (Figure 9) 4318

Two parallel ditches, 8m apart, first located as cropmarks (SA 4318) on the north side of the modern road, leading out from the fort's west gate were also previously examined during the evaluation (Trenches 1 and 7: Cane and Allen 1989). Sections across the northern ditch (F311) in 1990 exposed a V-shaped profile with regular, steep-sides, 0.70m in depth and 1.50m wide. The ditch was backfilled with dark brown gravelly clay silt (3020). The southern ditch (F304) was found to be similar in size and shape. The fills of these features contained pottery with a *terminus* in the late 1st/early 2nd century

4.1.3: Period 3B

This period is marked by the excavation of pits and other features to the rear of the southern rampart. Other features within the fort interior have been assigned to this period on the basis of the recorded stratigraphy, but they cannot be directly related to activity in the rampart area.

A flat-based, circular pit (F112), with a diameter of 3.50m, was cut into the inner face of the partially collapsed southern rampart (F101). A band of charcoal (1110), which was tipped into the bowl of the feature from the west, was probably associated with extensive spreads of charcoal (1032) to the rear of the rampart. The fills contained quantities of smithing slag and hearth-bottom.

The eastern defensive ditch (F122) may have been still visible as a hollow during this period; its upper fill (1049) contained fragments of litharge, possibly derived from contemporary metal-processing activity within the fort.

A band of fine, stone-free, buff-yellow silt clay (1066) accumulated over the eastern *intervallum* road (F128) increasing in depth to the east. This silt was cut by a narrow ditch of V-profile (F131), dug on the eastern edge of the road and respecting its alignment. An oval pit (F121) was dug into the silt (1066) to the east of the ditch. The pit measured 2m by 2m in plan and was backfilled with lenses of buff silt clay flecked with charcoal (1044–1048). A further pit (F130) to the west was cut into the natural gravel in the area of Structure 2 and measured 1m by 2m. It contained an orange-red, gravelly silt clay (1059).

A 1m-wide, steep-sided, flat-based gully (F127), located east of F130, respected the alignment of the Period 3A structures. The gully backfill was a very stony, silt clay (1056).

Other features, possibly associated with this period, were exposed in Trench II. A flat-based, oval pit (F246), measuring 1.50m in diameter, was cut into the natural subsoil, within the area formerly occupied by Structure 3. This feature was linked to a shallow gully (F253) of U-shaped profile, curving away to the northeast, and was cut by a Period 6 gully (F228). Two amorphous features (F240, F241), were dug through the road F230, and a pit (F234) was cut into the western edge of the road surface. A shallow, linear gully (F237), following an approximate north–south alignment, was cut into the upper stony make-up (2061) of another road (F257).

Two parallel, vertical-sided, linear gullies (F239, F244), aligned approximately east–west, contained a quantity of smithing slag and patches of burnt clay. These features were probably associated with a smithing hearth beyond the area of excavation, and were cut by a flat-based gully (F252), aligned approximately north–south.

4.2: Discussion

4.2.1: Period 3A

Some time after the abandonment of the latest marching camp, a fort was laid out 200m to the west, at Pentrehyling. The layout of excavated internal buildings conforms to a standard military pattern. The dating evidence indicates a *terminus* for this period in the late 1st/early 2nd century.

The re-establishment of a military occupation here was a response to the need for a more permanent base in the area, either to exploit the strategic value of the site for military purposes, or as a centre to control the exploitation of nearby mineral resources.

The central portions of three large timber buildings were investigated within the *praetentura*. The location, alignment and arrangement of Structures 1–2 conform with the layout of barrack blocks within an auxiliary fort. Each barrack block was usually L-shaped, with the wider part of the building (here lying mainly to the south of Trench II), adjacent to the *intervallum* space, housing the officer's quarters. The narrower part of each block, partly exposed in Trenches I and II, was usually, as here, divided into housing a total of 80 men. A verandah would have run the complete length of the front of each building, ending flush with the projecting front wall of the often free-standing officer's quarters.

Structure 3 was not internally divided in the manner of the barrack blocks, and may be interpreted as a store by analogy with other narrow timber buildings similarly located adjoining roads close to fort entrances. Structure 4, flanking the south *intervallum* road, immediately east of the south gate, may be interpreted as a small guard-chamber, with an internal hearth. The lack of evidence for the rotting *in situ* of horizontal timber beams may suggest that the buildings were systematically dismantled, at the time of the evacuation of the fort.

Lengths of the *intervallum* roads (F217 and F230) flanking the eastern and southern defensive circuits were also defined.

Only the base of the rampart survived on both the eastern and southern circuits, and no evidence of horizontal revetting survived the plough. The core of the rampart was retained to the front and rear by timber uprights: the post-hole for the front support retains the traces of a massive timber, 0.20m across, which had rotted *in situ*.

Ovens or hearths had been set into the rampart rear and slighted, presumably at the time of the abandonment of the fort.

4.2.2: Period 3B

This period is difficult to define and interpret at this preliminary stage of analysis, being characterised by the apparently random digging of industrial features within the fort. Quantities of smithing slag, hearth-bottom and litharge were recovered from the fills of these features.

The few datable artefacts recovered from features of this period provide a *terminus* in the late 1st/early 2nd century. This activity may have extended in time beyond the abandonment of the fort. Elsewhere the abandonment is represented by the silting-up of the eastern defensive ditch (F122), and the building-up of silt over the east *intervallum* road (F128), subsequently cut by a drainage ditch (F131) and a pit (F121) during later activity. However, some elements of the original fort layout evidently survived, as seen by the alignment of the ditch F131 and the vertical-sided cut F127.

4.3: The finds (By J. Evans) Period 3A/3B.

This part of the site produced the smallest quantity of pottery (165 sherds), most of which was very abraded. The assemblage included white colour-coated flagons, jars, rusticated beakers and occasional mica-dusted beakers, all of which indicated a late 1st to early 2nd century *terminus post quem*. The absence of all but a few fragmentary sherds of Black Burnished Ware, retrieved from cleaning layers, suggested that activity ceased some time around 120 A.D.

4.4: Environmental evidence (By R. Heath) Period 3A/3B.

Five samples from the Period 3 fort features were processed. Wood charcoal was retrieved from all samples (of F105, F122, F234, F252) but after initial sorting no other forms of carbonised material were identified.

5.0: PERIOD 4.

THE VICUS

5.1: The archaeological results (Figures 9A/B, 10)

5.1.1: Introduction 4482

Areas within the *vicus* associated with, and to the east of, Pentrehyling fort, were sampled in three separate trenches. The ^{West} eastern extent of this zone was examined in Trenches I and II, separated by the existing A489 road. The ^{east} westernmost part was defined in Trench III. The area between Trenches I and III was not available for excavation. A maximum excavated sample of 30% of the features was required by the research design; this sample size was increased to 50% in view of the importance of the individual features uncovered, and the greater potential value of the information to be derived from more extensive excavation of the group as a whole.

5.1.2: Industrial features

Occupation of the *vicus* was characterised by a zone containing a dense concentration of hearth-pits, tanks, pits and gullies, all probably associated with metalworking. An 8m-wide band, immediately east of the eastern defensive circuit of the fort, was devoid of features.

East of this open area was a road or yard surface (F209), surviving under the former hedgeline. This surface was formed of small pebbles set in brown clay silt (2012), and was cut by a gully (F202).

^{1989 Trench 5}
Two irregular-shaped hearth-pits (F145/[F13], [F5] were identified during the evaluation in the west of the *vicus* (Cane and Allen 1989; Trench 5). The first (F145/[F13]) was a steep-sided, oval pit dug into natural gravel. Part of the original burnt, red clay lining (1087), 0.10m thick, survived *in situ* to the north. The fills (1086–1088, 1098) contained a total of 0.283 kg of smithing slag and hearth-bottom material, charcoal and gravel. This hearth-pit was connected to two gulleys ([F8] and F147) leading-off to the south and southeast. The latter may have been connected to another, wider gully (F202) excavated to the south and conforming in position and alignment with F147. The second hearth-pit [F5] was located 3m east of F145. This bowl-shaped feature,

measuring 2m across, contained a piece of litharge. It was connected to two gullies ([F11], [F14]) leading-off to the north and southeast. Two small, flat-based post-holes ([F6] and [F7]) dug nearby may have been associated with the hearth-pits.

¹⁹⁹⁰
A roughly circular, vertical-sided and 1.50m-deep cut (F142), east of [F5], containing smithing slag and hearth-bottom, was cut by a flat-based, shallow-sided, curving gully (F150). This gully joined the eastern hearth-pit [F5], via a narrow gully [F11] which broadened and deepened to the southwest. It was filled with a dark brown silt clay (1079, 1085).

¹⁹⁹⁰
In Trench II to the south, a circular pit (F206) contained a layer of charcoal-rich silt (2034), possibly associated with metal-processing activity.

East of gully F150, two vertical-sided pits or tanks (F144, F148), 2m apart, were similar in both profile and depth. Both were roughly oval in plan and were excavated to a depth of 2m. Neither was bottomed for reasons of safety. The fills (1083, 1084, 1095, 1099, 1101; and 1104, 1106 respectively) of these features contained quantities of charcoal, smithing slag and hearth-bottom. The western tank (F144) may have originally linked with the gully F150 to the west. A butt-ended, shallow gully (F143), aligned north-south, may have formerly joined with one of the adjacent tanks. A shallow, steep-sided pit (F141), 1.50m in diameter, was located east of F143, but its function could not be determined during excavation.

Two further hearth-pits (F139, F140) were located at the eastern end of Trench I. The larger (F139) was flat-based with irregular, steep sides, and measured 3m in diameter and 0.80m in depth. The fills (1076, 1090–1094) contained charcoal, hearth-bottom, and smithing slag (12.415 kg). A curvilinear gully (F138), aligned approximately north-south, was probably originally joined to this feature. It deepened away from F139, possibly to assist run-off from the hearth-pit. The smaller hearth-pit (F140) was located 0.50m southwest of F139. This was an inverted, conical bowl 1.50m across and 0.60m deep, probably originally joined to a shallow

gully (F149) to the north, aligned approximately north-south. The fills contained 0.4969 kg of smithing slag and hearth-bottom, concentrated in the upper fills. A small, circular, flat-based post-hole (F146), southeast of F140, was sealed by the upper fill of F140.

Two gullies (F300, F312), aligned northeast-southwest, were exposed in the western end of Trench III. The wide, flat-based gully F300 was cut by the narrower gully F312, which continued the line of the former to the west. The fill (3001) of the earlier gully contained glass, litharge and smithing slag.

A large, oval pit (F301), measuring 4.50m in width, was connected to a shallow-sided, flat-based, curvilinear gully (F302), aligned northwest-southeast. The pit was irregular-sided with a flat base. The fills (3010-3012) contained a coin with a *terminus* in the late 1st/early 2nd century, glass, iron nails and 2.842 kg of smithing slag.

East of F301, was a roughly circular, flat-based pit (F306), measuring 4m in diameter. The fills contained glass and lead scrap. It was cut to the northeast by a deep, irregularly-shaped cut (F308) filled with charcoal (3019).

A roughly circular, shallow pit (F303) was exposed to the south of the northern baulk. Two shallow scoops, each measuring 1m across, were cut into the irregularly shaped base of the pit.

East of the main zone of industrial activity two shallow ditches (F307, F309), with U-shaped profile, set 33m apart and aligned north-south, may have delimited boundaries and marked the furthest extent of the *vicus*. The eastern ditch (F309) was cut by the northern roadside ditch F304. F311.

5.1.3: Structure 5

Part of a timber building of beam-slot construction (Structure 5) was exposed at the eastern end of Trench II, in an area heavily disturbed by hedge-roots. The west wall of this structure was formed by a beam-slot (F201), 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep, aligned parallel with the east fort defences, and joined by a

perpendicular internal division (F200) to the east. Two shallow post-holes (F204 and F203) were cut within F201. A small, shallow post-hole (F205), west of Structure 5, may have been associated with it, but otherwise this was the only building identifiable in the excavated area of the *vicus*; other scattered post-holes and stake-holes were probably associated with nearby industrial features.

5.2: Discussion ~~4378~~ 4482 .

These discoveries relate to an industrial zone or *vicus* laid out to the south of the road leading out of the fort's east gate. The settlement probably extended approximately 100m east of the fort: its southern extent is untested and the continuation of this zone north of the road is not known. There was no evidence of a similar settlement west of the fort within the area excavated along the new roadline.

The dating evidence recovered suggests that the *vicus* was broadly contemporary in date with the first occupation of the fort, and ended in the early 2nd century. The evidence indicates a single period of activity, though within the area of excavation there was no surviving horizontal stratigraphy, except within the individual features.

The spatial density and form of the individual pits excavated, and the quantities of smithing slag and hearth-bottom recovered, suggest that this area was a zone of intensive metal-processing activity, conducted either by a civilian community to serve the needs of the military, or alternatively undertaken by military personnel, in which case the term '*vicus*' is here a misnomer.

The majority of the hearth-pits were probably originally lined with clay (part of the lining survived only in F145), and were joined to gulleys, which dipped slightly away from the features perhaps to assist the flow of liquid or molten metal. Two deep, vertical-sided pits (F144 and F148) may have served as water-tanks, originally being lined with vertically-set timber planks.

Until further analysis of the smithing slags and site records for this area is undertaken, further speculation on the nature of the complex activity represented here is not worthwhile.

5.3: The finds (By J. Evans)

The *vicus* produced the largest quantity of pottery (579 sherds) although, again, it was very abraded. The assemblage indicated that the *vicus* was broadly contemporary with the fort. The range of forms included rusticated and butt beakers, flanged-rim bowls, white colour-coated flagons and jars. The fine wares included characteristically late-1st/early-2nd-century types such as eggshell and mica-dusted wares. No Black Burnished Ware was present, again suggesting a *terminus ante quem* of c.120 A.D.

5.4: Environmental evidence (By R. Heath)

Twenty three samples from *vicus* features were processed, including those from hearth-pits (F139, F140, F141, F145, F206, F301, F303 and F306), from possible quenching tanks (F144, F148), from gullies (F142, F150, F202, F300 and F302) and ditches (F304, F305, F309 and F311). Large quantities of wood charcoal came from the pits and gullies. During the initial sorting of the flots, however, evidence of other types of carbonised organic material was sparse; only F139, F145, F304 and F309 produced any carbonised cereal and even here the quantities recovered – one cereal grain per feature – were too small to be significant. A number of samples were tested for metallic residues, and hammer-scale was found to be present in F142, F300, F301 and F304; further similar testing could usefully be carried out on the other samples.

6.0: PERIOD 5.

1214

LATER OCCUPATION OF THE FORT

6.1: The archaeological results (Figures 7, 11)

The next discernible event after the end of Period 3B activity was the re-excavation of part of the (incomplete) southern defensive ditch dug in Period 3A. The re-dug southern defensive ditch was exposed for a length of 40m at the western end of Trench I. Three sections were excavated across its line to define the ditch profile, the sequence of fills, and to investigate a possible ditch terminal revealed in plan to the south.

The ditch (F102) was fully re-excavated in this area, presumably following the line of the Period 3A defensive ditch; none of the fills of the earlier ditch survived. Steep-sided in profile with a distinct cleaning-slot at the base, the ditch measured 3m in depth from the top of the modern ploughsoil. The ditch ended in a butt-ended terminal, just inside the southern limit of Trench I.

The three sections cut across the ditch revealed a consistent sequence of backfills. The cleaning slot was filled with buff-grey silts (1028, 1011, 1029) containing pottery with a *terminus* in the late 3rd/early 4th century, sealed by a collapse of the ditch sides (1037) caused by weathering and erosion. A finds-rich deposit of charcoal-stained, dark brown clay silt (1005, 1010, 1035, 1036) was then dumped into the now partially backfilled ditch hollow. This dump contained glass, litharge, fragments of a spindle-whorl, a shale bracelet, nails, and also pottery with a *terminus* in the late 3rd/early 4th century. This material was overlain by a light brown silt clay (1009, 1008/9, 1034/38), from which was recovered (in 1009) an inscribed silver spoon of 4th-century form, a bronze coin of Constantius II (337–341), and pottery with a *terminus* in the late 3rd/early 4th century. A repaired sherd of Black Burnished Ware was also recovered. The remaining hollow in the ditch was then infilled with further silts (1003, 1007, 1037), containing pottery of a similar later Roman date.

6.2: Discussion

The total re-excavation of this sector of the fort's defensive ditch was followed by its infilling with artefacts suggesting nearby occupation of some form. The southern annexe could also have been defended or redefended in this period, though there is as yet no evidence for this. The dating evidence, in particular the coin and the silver spoon, may hint at a very late date for this activity. It is possible that the western annexe ditch (F116) was dug or re-excavated during this period.

This period has been distinguished from the later activity within the fort (Period 3B) because of the absence of later artefacts from features there.

6.3: The finds (By J. Evans.)

The later ditch recut produced a higher quantity of pottery than the total relating to all earlier activity in the fort (301 sherds). The main dating evidence, apart from the silver spoon and bronze coin, was provided by diagnostically late-3rd- and 4th-century Black Burnished Ware, including cooking pots with splayed rims and obtuse cross-hatch burnish, a flanged dish and/or bowls, and a plain-rimmed dish with plain, rather than pattern, burnish. Little, if any, residual material was noted either from early activity of Period 3 or indicative of any other activity on the site between Periods 3 and 5.

6.4: Environmental evidence (By R. Heath.)

Five samples from the backfilled ditch recut (F102) were processed. Two samples (1028, 1029) produced no flint, while the others produced only wood charcoal.

7.0: PERIOD 6.

OTHER FEATURES (Figure 7)

7.1: The archaeological results

A shallow, slightly curviform gully (F228) was dug into natural gravel, in the centre of Trench II. Further narrow gullies (F136, F118, F120), roughly parallel to F228, were exposed in Trench I. All these features cut elements of the Period 3A and Period 3B activity. These features may be provisionally interpreted as field boundaries.

Two stone wall-footings (F253, F254: not illustrated), were located at the western end of Trench II. The footings formed an external wall (F253), aligned west-east, joined by an internal partition (F254) to the south.

7.2: Discussion

The ill-defined gullies, which post-date Period 3B, may be an ephemeral manifestation of late, possibly Roman activity, within the fort interior. However, because of their alignment with the modern A489 road, it is preferable to interpret them as medieval or later field-boundary or

drainage ditches. The stone-footed structure uncovered in Trench II may be post-medieval in date, possibly associated with the turnpike road; there is no parallel for such construction in the Roman period nor associated finds to provide a reliable date.

7.3: The finds (By V. Buteux.)

Thirty post-medieval pot sherds, mainly 18th–19th century, a few fragments of 19th–20th century glass bottles and a stamped clay pipe bowl were found in the ploughsoil in Trenches I–IV, this material doubtless representing episodes of field manuring with household waste and rubbish.

8.00: OFFA'S DYKE

1000/93

8.1: Introduction

In late November 1990, as part of the extensive archaeological investigation of the A489 road-widening scheme, excavation was undertaken on part of Offa's Dyke (SA 1000), north of the Blue Bell Inn (NGR. SO 251933) (Figure 12). The main aims of the excavation were to examine and, if possible, fully excavate the ditch fills in sequence, to excavate by hand any surviving bank and buried soil deposits, and to identify and excavate any Roman marching-camp features, belonging to SA 1212 and SA 4119, sealed by the bank make-up.

8.2: The archaeological results

In order to accomplish this, an area 40m by 10m was stripped by JCB down to the level of archaeological deposits (Figure 13). The topsoil varied in depth, from 0.06m over the remains of the bank to 0.50m elsewhere. The topsoil (1000) contained no significant finds.

The exposed surface was cleaned to reveal the edges of the backfilled trench excavated in March 1989, and four small, modern tree pits, which were quickly excavated. No further cuts could be observed. It was decided to open, by machine, a trench 1.50m in depth, along the northern edge of

the stripped area, in order to see the bank and ditch sequence in section, the remainder of the machine trench and bank to be excavated by hand.

After initial cleaning, the make-up (1015–1019) of the bank (F4) could be seen in section (Figure 15). To the west of the bank no features were evident. However, to the east of the bank the cut of a large feature (F1) could be seen. This feature was then excavated by hand, along the line of the machine trench. This cut represented one of a number of negative features post-dating the dyke. In all, three quarry pits (F1, F5, F6) were found to the eastern side of the bank. F1, the latest of the pits, was, when excavated 4.80m in diameter, funnel-shaped, with a flat circular base 1.50m in diameter. It lay to the east of F5 and F6, its backfill consisting of a 0.20m-thick layer of redeposited natural clay (1014), from which came a small sherd of 18th–19th-century stoneware, overlain by a 0.20m-thick deposit of yellow-buff silt clay (1013). The main fill of F1, overlying 1013, was a 1.20m-thick deposit of clean olive silt (1010), seen in both north and south sections. Sealing 1010 was a 0.30m-deposit of clean orange silt and various thin layers of gravel and silt (1003, 1004, 1005, 1009) slumping into the eastern side of the now partially backfilled pit.

Finally, a 0.40m–0.80m-thick layer of silt (1002), overlain by a 0.50m layer of compacted orange-brown silt (1001), had been used as a levelling deposit, perhaps after slumping of the backfills proper. Further gradual slumping of the topsoil into the backfilled pits was traced on the surface (Figure 13). Of the earlier pits, F5 was excavated only to a depth of 0.20m to define its upper edges. The other pit (F6) was, like F1, funnel shaped. Driven into its base was a thin, 0.36m-long wooden stake, sealed by a layer of redeposited blue-grey natural clay (1014). Sealing this layer was a 0.10m-thick deposit of brown-grey silt (1028), above which a 1.0m-thick deposit of light brown silt (1026) was seen to be both sealing F5 and slumping into F6. Above 1026 a layer of light brown silt gravel (1025), containing a sherd of 18th–19th-century black-glazed pot, and a deposit of brown silt gravel containing a

high amount of charcoal (1024), had been used as levelling deposits. Sealing F5, and overlying the lip of F6, was a 0.10m-thick deposit of blue-green silt (1006) which produced a large collection of broken clay pipes including five intact bowls, six broken bowls, and 69 pieces of pipe stem, several of which were stamped.

Cut into the uppermost fills of F6 (1024, 1006) was a linear land drain (F3) running north–south across the site. Excavation of the drain revealed it to be triangular in shape, approximately 0.25m in width and 0.30m in depth, filled with large angular pieces of grey sandstone and fragments of roof tile (1027). No cut for the insertion of the drain could be seen in either section, and it seems likely that the drain was in place before it was sealed by a deposit of grey-brown silt gravel (1023) containing a few sherds of glazed pot.

The features to the east of the bank had effectively destroyed any surviving deposits or edges of the original Offa's Dyke ditch, and no trace could be seen in the excavated sections. It is also likely that the eastern face of the bank may have been destroyed in the quarrying operation, hence the near vertical face seen in section and the lack of any revetted turf deposits.

However, a portion of the bank (F4) did survive intact. The bank, 5.50m in width and 1.0m in height was recorded in section (Figure 15), and also excavated in plan (Figure 14).

Excavation of a 2.0m-wide strip of the bank revealed it to be built of a series of silt/gravel deposits, sitting on a possible buried soil (1019) directly over the natural subsoil (1020). A possible buried turf layer (1018) was sampled to test for pollen. Above this 'old soil' was a 0.10m-thick deposit of gravel (1017), overlain by two layers of silt (1016, 1015) providing the main bulk of the bank make-up. No finds were recovered from any of the excavated bank material.

Finally an 0.80m-deep deposit of loam/silt (1021) had been used to level the area to the west of the bank. This deposit had been heavily disturbed by root activity and contained finds from the 18th century.

8.3: Discussion

The excavation revealed evidence, primarily in the form of three large quarry pits, that intensive use of the area for sand quarrying had taken place between the 17th and 18th centuries, and had destroyed any remains of the Offa's Dyke ditch and the original eastern face of the bank. Although a section of the bank survived, it had also suffered from demolition, the top of the bank being flattened either by hand or by the plough. Documentary evidence for this process is discussed below (see Section 8.5.2).

8.4: The finds (by V. Buteux)

A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery (47 sherds) and clay pipes came from the Offa's Dyke trench, the majority of this material being 18th–19th century in date. The earliest sherd, from the backfill of quarry pit F1, was from a Westerwald tankard or jug, perhaps of the 17th–18th century. A group of clay pipe bowls and stems from 1010 includes a number of stamped pieces whose identification should allow a close date to be established for the quarrying activity here.

8.5: The historical background

(By S. Richardson)

8.5.1: Introduction

In the light of the discovery of intensive post-medieval activity that had affected the excavated stretch of Offa's Dyke at Brompton, it was decided to undertake an evaluation of available documentary and cartographic sources relevant to the area and which might illuminate the interpretation of the excavated evidence.

Previous to the BUFAU excavation, the dyke at Brompton had been subject to two surveys and two excavations.

Fox surveyed the area as part of his general survey (Fox 1929, 1–61; Fox, 1955), and the dyke has changed little since his description written in the late 1920s. Immediately to the north of Brompton Hall, Fox described the dyke as being very well marked, the ditch being ploughed-in to some extent. He noted the almost total destruction of the dyke between the Hall and the Caebitra brook, with the bank and ditch

resuming as a substantial earthwork through Mellington Wood and the grounds of Mellington Hall.

The dyke at Brompton was next studied by Frank Noble in 1983 (Noble 1983, 75). He felt that the dyke north of the motte-and-bailey castle at Brompton must have been a substantial earthwork to make up for the weakness of the Norman fortress. He recommended an excavation across the line the dyke should have followed in the paddock at Brompton Hall as a preliminary to the investigation of there having been an original crossing point between the Hall and the Caebitra. No evidence of this came to light during the BUFAU excavation.

An excavation in the paddock at Brompton Hall was undertaken by David Hill in 1989, adjacent to the section excavated by BUFAU (Hill, unpublished). Here the dyke bank was recorded, with the structure surviving to a height of 1m and with an original width of c.5.5m. Some evidence of turf revetments was recovered. The ditch was not sectioned due to its presence having been established slightly to the south at the Blue Bell Inn (Hill 1986, 150–153). The BUFAU excavation showed that the dyke had been badly damaged by later features; however, a section of the bank, 1.00m high, was uncovered and sampled.

8.5.2: Documentation

The post-medieval era, especially the 18th and 19th centuries, is of particular interest for the Brompton area as it is at this time that the destruction of Offa's Dyke at Brompton Hall seems to have taken place.

The first map of the area is the Rocque map of c1750 on which Brompton is named as 'Bromton'; Brompton Hall is not marked although the nearby Mellington Hall is recorded. Offa's Dyke is named as the 'Devil's Ditch' and is shown running undamaged through the Brompton area, although the scale and orientation of the map mean that this should not, perhaps, be taken at face value.

The next map is part of an estate survey of 1761, described as "a map of the Messuages and Tenementes late M. Mason situate in the Western

part of the Parish of Churchstoke", surveyed by William Hole Jnr. Unfortunately, Brompton Hall lay on the eastern extreme of the map and so is not marked, nor is the line of the dyke. However, the motte-and-bailey castle nearby is clearly shown. The dyke in the Chirbury area is visible on another map from the same series, with both ditch and bank appearing to survive well.

In 1804 William Davies had a survey undertaken of his estates at Brompton. The draft survey shows the dyke as a broken line running along its present course until it meets Brompton Hall where it stops. The motte also appeared marked on this survey. This draft was then used to draw up a beautifully-executed map of the Davies estate. Offa's Dyke being called the 'Off Ditch'. The paddock at Brompton Hall, where the BUFAU excavation took place, appears to have been some sort of garden or parkland at this time. There were a large number of trees along the western edge of the paddock, possibly to form a windbreak, with another curved clump of trees running across the line of the BUFAU trench. A path, of which the impression is still visible today, runs from southwest to northeast across the field. The dyke in this area is not shown at all.

One could therefore suppose that all traces of Offa's Dyke at Brompton Hall had long disappeared were it not for a draft survey for the First Edition Ordnance Survey Field Map drawn in 1816. The dyke is here shown passing through the paddock at Brompton Hall as a visible field monument. The implications of this are discussed below. The dyke cannot be seen on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Field Map of the area due to a reduction in scale from the draft. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map also shows no dyke at Brompton Hall.

The last piece of cartographical evidence considered is a map based on the tithe maps of 1839 showing field names in Brompton and Rhiston townships, with the paddock at Brompton Hall then known as the Lawn.

8.5.3: Discussion

With the above evidence in mind, a framework for the destruction of the dyke can be suggested.

The fact that the paddock was known as the Lawn in 1839 points to a levelling of Offa's Dyke when Brompton Hall was originally built in the 17th century to make parkland or gardens. This would account for its omission from the maps of the period 1761–1816. However, the motives of the surveyors and cartographers who drew up the maps must be taken into consideration. Offa's Dyke would have been of little interest to them apart from the stretches which formed boundaries between fields and properties; however, the draughtsman who produced the drawn-up version of the 1804 survey for William Davies does seem to have been interested in antiquities, as he recorded not only Offa's Dyke but also a prehistoric barrow close to Brompton Hall. This makes the reappearance of the dyke in the paddock at the hall on the 1816 survey all the more puzzling. A feature in the landscape as large as the dyke ditch would have needed a vast amount of soil to fill it completely. The settling of the infill and compaction of the fills may have made the line of the ditch apparent again after a number of years, and the surveyor could have used this line to indicate where the bank previously ran.

From the 18th century onwards the paddock was used as a combination of parkland and pasture, and perhaps also as a garden in the earliest stages after the construction of Brompton Hall. Early road improvements at the crossroads may have caused some damage to the dyke; the Turnpike Trustees minutes for 1768 and 1789 record road improvements and widening in these years (Lavender 1951, 62–67) but these are unlikely to relate to any of the features recorded during the excavation. An agreement dating from 1860 between the Rev. R.J. Davies and some local timber merchants states that all the trees on the Brompton estate were to be sold, apart from:

'2 ash trees no. 19 and 20 and one oak growing on the lawn at Brompton.'

The agreement continues:

'The Rev. R.J. Davies or his agent shall appoint proper places on the premises for making sawpits for the conversion of timber ... and shall appoint proper roads for conveying the same'

Again, it is possible that these tree-cutting activities caused damage on the Lawns, although sawpits are generally of a very different shape to the features recorded during the excavation, and would in any case probably have been located in the field immediately to the east of Brompton Hall, a field known as Sawpit Field. The Brompton Estate Accounts do not shed any further light on the matter; neither do the Gardener's Accounts for 1832 to 1834.

In conclusion, Offa's Dyke at Brompton Hall was probably originally roughly levelled in the 17th century when the Hall was built, perhaps with traces of the bank surviving into the early 19th century. The line of the ditch of the dyke may have been visible for a longer period of time due to the sinking of the infill. The local landowner of the time would only have been interested in the earthwork in terms of the money he could make from its dismemberment. No

doubt Offa's Dyke at Brompton went the same way as the stretch J. Earle saw being demolished at Knighton in 1857 by two 'men of the spade'. After an impassioned plea by Earle to consider the fact that their ancestors would not be pleased by the disappearance of such a 'fine old national monument', the men replied:

'I suppose they won't Sir, but it cost we a great deal of money, and we must make the most of it' (Earle 1857, 196–209)

The power of the spade in the 17th century finally triumphed where the Welsh hordes had failed in the 8th.

8.6: Environmental evidence (By R. Heath)

Three samples, giving a total weight of 30kg were flotted. Fragments of carbonised rootlets and twigs were recovered. No further carbonised material was recovered from the samples. No further work is recommended.

PART II: POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

9.0: THE ARCHIVE

Contents of archive

The excavation: Trenches I–IV (Fort, *vicus* and marching camps.)

	Tr.1	Tr.II	Tr.III	Tr.IV	Total
Contexts	114	69	22	6	211
Features	54	58	13	5	130
Plans/sections (A1 and A4: all trenches)					170
Monochrome prints: all trenches					352
Colour prints: all trenches					100
Colour slides: all trenches					374

The excavation: Offa's Dyke

Contexts	28
Features	5
Plans/sections	11
Monochrome prints	45
Colour slides	67

The evaluation (1989)*

Contexts	11
Features	5
Plans/sections	13
Monochrome prints	66
Colour slides	50

*excludes records from trenches excavated by CMARG.

10.0: ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHIVE: Nature and quality of the archive

The paper archive and the finds archive are listed in detail elsewhere (Sections 9.0 and 11.0 respectively) and here will be discussed mainly from the point of view of their potential research value. For much of the material this value is site-specific only, but where a wider significance is apparent this should be set against the period framework of research possibilities outlined in Section 12.0.

When discussing the material it must be remembered that the areas available for excavation were limited and were dictated purely by the extent of the expected disturbance from the road-widening scheme. Therefore, though a nearly complete section, west–east, across the interior and defences of Pentrehyling Fort was uncovered, this was in such a position as to include a large part of the *intervallum* space. Ploughing had very seriously damaged the archaeological horizons, and indeed virtually no vertical stratigraphy survived, even in those areas under hedgelines and in areas of plough headlands. Negative features were generally truncated. Soil conditions generally were such that virtually no animal bone, which must have been present at one time, survived, while metalwork was retrieved in a poor condition. Excavation in the *vicus* was much more productive both in terms of survival, due to the generally greater depth and density of negative features here, and in terms of the quantity of finds recovered. The excavation across Offa's Dyke revealed it to have been severely disturbed in the later-post-medieval period.

The information in the archive must be viewed against this background. The information relating to the marching-camps, the first period of Pentrehyling Fort and Offa's Dyke is more-or-less of a site-specific value only, though the pottery from the fort, of course, has a wider potential value. The information relating to the prehistoric activity, the *vicus* and the later

occupation of Pentrehyling Fort has both a site-specific and a wider value. Of the finds, only the prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery, the Roman glass, the coins, and the metalworking residues can justify study beyond the level of standard cataloguing.

11.0: THE FINDS

11.1: Prehistoric finds

See Section 2.3 above

11.2: The Roman pottery (by J. Evans)

11.2.1: Quantity and types represented

Table 1 Roman pottery:
quantity of pottery by sherd count

Ware Group	Evaluation	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Native Wares	-	-	24	-
Coarse Wares (R)	22	32	192	6
Coarse Wares (OX)	16	87	182	154
Mortaria	-	17	13	12
Amphorae	-	8	97	5
Samian	5	-	52	13
BBI	-	7	-	94
Other	3	14	19	17
Total Pottery	46	165	579	301

TOTAL POTTERY RECOVERED=1091 sherds

Key: R = reduced OX = oxidised

11.2.2: Recommended pottery analysis procedure

Fabric and Form Sorting

The pottery will be sorted by context and the following information will be recorded:

A Fabric – Sherds will be allocated fabric numbers based on the Clwyd/Powys fabric series.

B Form/Decoration – Each fabric group within a context will be divided into decorated and undecorated body sherds, rims, handles and bases. Each category will be recorded on the pottery analysis sheets using a specific form number or code. In addition, the general form type will be noted for rims, for example ‘jar’, ‘dish’ or, where necessary, ‘uncertain’.

C Quantity – The pottery will be quantified by sherd count and weight, noting both the diameter and the percentage of the diameter extant so that estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs) can be recorded. This will facilitate accurate comparison between Brompton and other assemblages.

D Comments – Any additional information relating to manufacture (for example the presence of manufacturers’ stamps), use (for example sorting patterns, wear-marks and residues), or post-depositional history (for example, abrasion) will be noted.

Data Entry

The information recorded on the Pottery Analysis Sheets will be entered onto a computer data base.

Specialist Reports

External specialists will be asked to record the pottery using the method described above. They will be asked to provide information regarding the date and source of the material, information they feel might relate to the function or status of the site, and any worthwhile comparisons between this and other assemblages.

Illustration

As the assemblage is small, only sherds intended for publication will be illustrated (estimate, 45 sherds).

Production of the Pottery Research Archive

The archive will consist of:

A Pottery Analysis sheets arranged in context order

- B** Computer print-outs of information by fabric, form, phase, context type, etc.
- C** Quantification of the assemblage by fabric, form, phase, context type, etc.
- D** The fabric typology, including information on manufacture, vessel types and function, source, distribution and dating, and, if relevant, distribution and dating within the sites.

The Pottery Report

Information relating to the date and function of individual periods will be integrated into the period discussions. The pottery report will include a brief description of the methodology and the quality of the assemblage; discussion of the fabrics and forms present including more detailed fabric descriptions for the less-well-published wares; comparisons between the period assemblages; and a more general discussion of the Brompton assemblage in its regional context.

11.2.3: Discussion

A brief assessment of the Romano-British pottery showed the assemblages from Pentrehyling Fort and the *vicus* to be broadly contemporary, while material from the re-cut ditch F102 represented a later phase of activity. As with most assemblages, more detailed analysis of the Brompton pottery would add useful data to the regional and national database. This would be of particular value when faced with the dearth of useful quantitative data from military sites, as noted in the recent assessment of the current state of Romano-British pottery studies (Fulford and Huddleston 1989). Although the contemporary assemblages from the fort and *vicus* are small, comparison between them would benefit the study of patterns of use and supply in relation to different site functions. Publication of the assemblages would also contribute towards our understanding of the wider military supply patterns in the region, particularly when studied alongside similar and contemporary assemblages such as those from Caersws (Britnell, 1989), Brithdir (White 1978), Forden Gaer (Crew 1980), Caerhun, Castel Collen and Brecon Gaer

(Simpson 1963). Comparison could also be made with known production sites, for example, the legionary kilns at Gloucester (Rawes 1972), Holt (Grimes 1930) and, most obviously, Wroxeter, the importance of which has been discussed elsewhere (Darling 1977). Any study of the Brompton assemblage would, of course, have to take into account the material from the CMARG excavations on the site, and the broad nature of the assemblage.

11.3: Post-medieval pottery (By V. Buteux)

A total of 77 sherds was recovered; 30 from the ploughsoil of Trenches I–IV, 47 from the area of Offa's Dyke. No further work is recommended on either of these groups.

11.4: Clay pipes

A group of clay pipe bowls and stems, some stamped, were recovered from features cut into Offa's Dyke.

11.5: Metalwork and related finds Coins

Four bronze coins were found, three from features in the *vicus* and one from the recut of ditch F102. All require full cleaning, identification, reporting and conservation.

Objects of silver

An inscribed 4th-century silver spoon was found in the backfill of ditch F102. It is unusual to have such an object recovered during controlled excavation, in association with other finds, and therefore it is of some importance. The spoon is being reported on by Catherine Johns of the British Museum. Conservation of this object will be necessary.

Objects of copper alloy

Twelve objects or fragments of objects were recovered including a brooch, bracelet fragments, two studs, and part of a military strap-end. Most of the material is in poor condition but full reporting is nevertheless recommended.

Objects of iron

In addition to nails (202), hobnails (54) and staples (4), 58 iron objects or possible objects were recovered. These included blade or blade fragments, ferrules, an ox-shoe, a figure-of-eight link, and a hook; in addition there are in this total 24 amorphous lumps of corroded iron that need to be X-rayed before they can be identified.

This is not a large, important or idiosyncratic group of ironwork but it should still be reported on as a matter of record.

Objects of lead

A lead weight was recovered from a *vicus* feature, along with a number of pieces of folded lead sheet.

Metal-processing waste

The largest group of material came from features in the *vicus*, from which were recovered 30.807kg of iron smithing slag and hearth-bottom, 2.130kg of litharge, and a few pieces of bronze slag. Inside the fort were excavated 4.998kg of iron smithing slag and hearth-bottom 2.895kg of litharge, and pieces of bronze slag. All of this material should be examined and reported on.

11.6: Glass

A total of 54 pieces of vessel glass was recovered from the excavations; seven were post-medieval finds from the ploughsoil, the rest being Roman. The majority were from large square bottles but fragments from a narrow-necked flask and two thin-walled beakers were also present. This material would all appear to be 1st–2nd century in date. It should be fully reported on, along with seven glass or glass-paste beads.

11.7: Stone

One fragment of a quernstone and an abraded, stone mould, the latter from the *vicus*, were recovered, both of which should be reported on.

12.0: POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

12.1: Introduction

The basic information recovered from the excavations at Brompton has been summarised and assessed above. While for the purposes of post-excavation analysis and reporting this material must be further scrutinised, the level and extent of this scrutiny beyond site-specific needs must also be identified. In order to achieve this, a period-based framework of discussion is presented below, suggesting possible options for wider research into certain aspects of the Brompton archive.

12.2: Prehistoric Period

Aerial photography has revealed elements of the prehistoric landscape in the area around Brompton (for plots of these features see Allen 1986, Fig.1), including a ring-ditch (SA 1210) to the northwest of Brompton Hall Farm and another circular feature, probably another ring-ditch, in the southwest corner of Pentrehyling Fort. One or two of the, as yet undated, linear cropmarks may also be prehistoric. There are also a number of stray finds of prehistoric material recorded from the area by Lily Chitty, including a 'small stone celt' said to have been found in the vicinity of Offa's Dyke at Brompton Hall.

The two prehistoric features excavated in 1990, close to the second proposed ring-ditch, add another dimension to this picture, in that the pottery recovered from one of these pits was of a Late Neolithic date. The quantity of Neolithic material from Shropshire and the Marches is small (Stanford 1982; Carver Forthcoming), and includes stray finds of axes along routeways, occasional potsherds from hillforts, and, most importantly, pottery recovered from excavations at Bromfield and Sharpstones Hill. No complete or near-complete Peterborough Ware vessel has previously come from the area.

Full study of the Brompton pot, its parallels and significance, will be required, along with an analysis of the possible food residues on the inner base of the vessel. Publication of the prehistoric evidence should be in the form of a short article for the County Transactions.

12.3: Roman Period

The complex of Roman camps and the fort at Brompton were first revealed by aerial photography (St. Joseph 1969; 1973), and have been subsequently examined through archaeological excavation (Allen 1986, 1988, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c; Cane and Allen 1989), which has also identified the existence of a *vicus*.

There can be no doubt that the marching-camps represent the earliest military activity here, albeit on a transient level, and must belong to the sequence of campaigns against the Welsh tribes undertaken between 48 and 78 A.D. (Jarrett 1969). At least 13 years of this period saw military actions and manoeuvres in Wales, and to tie down any of the Brompton camps to a specific campaign cannot be done on present evidence; discussion of this nature is, in any case, fraught with the danger of speculation being taken for fact.

It is still generally true to say that the establishment of a more permanent, dense network of forts and fortresses in Wales did not take place until the Flavian period (Jarrett 1969), though a number of fort sites of a certain, or probable, pre-Flavian date are known (Jarrett 1969; Davies 1980). This earlier pattern is not yet coherent and its full extent must await further archaeological work. The full Flavian network changed little until the Hadrianic period which saw a series of reductions of garrison (reflected in fort sizes and layout) and abandonments, reflecting both the development of Romanised ways, or at least a fading antipathy towards them, amongst the Welsh tribes and the pressing needs of the military command in the North. More dramatic changes took place in the Antonine period, as a result of the intensification of the earlier noted trends, and as a consequence the nature of the small, retained network of military establishments changed also.

Post-Antonine activity at military sites is patchily reflected in the archaeological record (Wheeler 1923; Simpson 1962, 1963; Jarrett 1969; Davies 1974; Crew 1980; Britnell 1989) and 3rd–4th-century activity, of a generally, as yet, ill defined nature, has been identified at sites such as Brecon Gaer, Caerhun, Caernarvon

(Segontium), Caersws, Castell Collen and Forden Gaer To this list can now be added Brompton.

Many of the auxiliary forts had a *vicus* in association, as is the case at Brompton, but the Welsh *vici* seem to have been a specialised form of settlement (Davies 1974; Sommer 1984; Davies 1990), generally chronologically tight and of a nature and function very different to the large, later military *vici* of Northern England. The Welsh *vici* (Sommer 1984; Jones 1984) seem to have been performing an economic role, often related to metalworking (Kelly 1978; Manning 1979; Davies 1984). The fact that at many sites, probably including Brompton, the *vicus* was abandoned at the same time as the fort suggests that the *vicus* was not only dependent on the fort but also under direct military control. The economic role of the army is now a subject of intensive academic debate, and it has been argued that while the army, at both legionary and auxiliary bases, certainly carried out an extensive range of manufacturing activities, these were probably of a specialised and short term nature (Von Petrikovits 1975; Breeze 1984; Hurst 1985; Jones 1990). However, evidence for forts being used, sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently, as intensive manufacturing sites and supply bases is now being produced by excavation, as at Corbridge (Hanson et al 1979) and Binchester (Ferris and Jones, Forthcoming). This is in addition to the well-known, large military works-depots known at Holt (Grimes 1930) and Grimescar (Purdy and Manby 1973), or sites probably almost exclusively concerned with filling military contracts, such as ?Heronbridge (Hartley 1954), Walton-le-Dale (Frere 1984), Wilderspool (CEU 1986) and Worcester (Mundy 1989). The economic role of the Welsh *vici* should be viewed against this hierarchy of sites.

Further economic questions are also of interest. The supply of pottery to the site at Brompton, and to other contemporary fort sites, needs to be assessed in the light of recent work on army supply networks (Darling 1977; Greene 1979; Breeze 1984; Hurst 1985). The economic impact on the local peoples, on the economy and land use, not to mention the exploitation of local raw materials and particularly the silver/lead

deposits, can also be considered as pertinent and important lines of enquiry (Hogg 1979; Stanford 1969; Manning 1975; Whittick 1982; Jones 1990). The processes of acculturation and assimilation or hegemony of the native Welsh in the vicinity of the fort/*vicus* need also to be addressed.

Thus, while full reporting on the Roman features at Brompton is recommended, in the case of the marching-camps and internal fort features of Period 3 this will be simply a matter of record. The later activity inside the fort and activity in the *vicus* deserve a deeper research and consideration with the potential for a wider significance. A full programme of research on the Roman pottery groups from all phases, the Roman glass and coins, and metalworking waste, is recommended as part of a wider economic study, while all other finds should be simply reported on in a publishable catalogue. Publication as an article in the County Journal would be most appropriate.

12.4: Offa's Dyke

The 8th-century frontier formed by Offa's Dyke was c.220km long, with the Rivers Severn and Wye forming the border where earthworks were felt unnecessary. Intensive survey of the earthwork (Fox 1955), selective excavation and sampling (Hill, Various) and theoretical and historical study (e.g. Abels 1988) provide a framework for all work on the Dyke.

|| The portion of the Dyke at Brompton was so badly disturbed and truncated that it adds little to the understanding of the earthwork as a whole. Therefore publication as a local journal article is recommended as a matter of record only, though the archaeology and documentary research do throw light on the post-medieval attitude to the Dyke.

13.0 CASCADE DIAGRAM BROMPTON POST-EXCAVATION CASCADE DIAGRAM

Stage 1	WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	STAFF
Final stratigraphic/structural analysis and preparation of material for specialists		—																	AEJ (5) IF (2)
Prepare material for specialists		—																	JE (2)
Stage 2																			
Familiarisation with fabric series/sorting Roman coarse wares by fabric			—																JE (3)
Specialists report (excluding Roman coarsewares)																			
(i) Mortaria				—															KH (4-5)
(ii) Samian				—															BD (c.2)
(iii) Amphorae				—															DW (c.4)
(iv) Glass				—															JP (0.5)
(v) Iron slag				—															GD (2)
(vi) Coins				—															ASEC (1)
(vii) Litharge				—															RI (1)
(viii) Prehistoric Pottery				—															AW (3)
(ix) Other finds				—															IF (3)
Coarse Roman pottery: sort by fabric/record/data entry					—														JE (5)
Prepare fabric/form series/coarse pottery archive						—													JE (2)
Addition of specialists material to database							—												JE (1)
Preparation of finds drawings								—											CG (3.5)
Preparation of Roman coarse pottery report/ checking finds drawings									—										JE (7)
Stage 3																			
Library research/ preparation of publication synopsis/drafting illustrations									—										AEJ (8)
Drafting texts of site reports										—									AEJ (10)
Preparation of site/ finds drawings											—								MB (26)
Checking site drawings												—							AEJ (2)
Editing draft texts/ checking drawings													—						IF (5)
Amend site/ finds drawings														—					MB (2)
Drafting report discussion																—			IF (6)
Final edit																	—		IF (2)
Liaison with publishers to publication																		—	EH (5)

NOTE: (1) Management/ administration staff are excluded throughout
(2) Number in brackets after staff initials indicates number of days worked per task

Staff IF= Iain Ferris, AEJ= Alex Jones, JE= Jane Evans, KH= Kay Hartley, BD= Brenda Dickinson, DW= David Williams, JP= Jennifer Price, GD= Gerry MacDonnell, ASECC= Simon Esmonde Cleary, RI= Ron Ixer, CG= Caroline Gait, MB= Mark Breedon, EH= Liz Hooper.

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The excavation at Offa's Dyke was supervised by Jon Sterenberg, assisted by Lucie Dingwall, Dave Etheridge, Laurence Jones, Ed Newton and Shaun Richardson. The narrative text for this site was prepared by Jon Sterenberg. Background research was undertaken by Shaun Richardson who would like to thank Richard Bennet, Anke Bruning for her help with transcription, Dr. Ian Woods of Leeds University, staff of the

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The finds were processed by Lynne Bevan and Dave Etheridge, and Russell Heath processed the environmental samples in consultation with Lisa Moffett. We would like to thank the following individual contributors to the report: Jane Evans (Roman pottery), Victoria Buteux (post-medieval finds), Ann Woodward (prehistoric pottery), Lynne Bevan (other finds), and Russell Heath (environmental samples and animal bones). Mark Breedon drew the majority of illustrations for this report, the others being the work of Ed Newton and Jon Sterenberg. The final versions of the text were prepared by Ann Humphries and the report produced by Liz Hooper.

We are grateful to Mr. M.D. Watson, County Senior Archaeologist, and Mr. T. Anderson, of the County Highways and Transport Department for their assistance and advice throughout the project.

PART III: THE APPENDIX

16.0: GUIDE TO SITE RECORDS

Recording was by means of standard BUFAU printed pro-forma sheets, plans, sections and photographs. On the Roman sites (Trenches I–IV) contexts were recorded in a single numerical sequence in each trench (starting at 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000). Features (representing all manmade 'events' such as the construction of walls, digging of pits and ditches etc.) were recorded in a separate sequence in each trench (starting at F100, F200, F300 and F400).

Offa's Dyke was treated as a separate site with contexts beginning at 1000 and features at F1.

Finds records comprise lists of finds grouped by material and catalogued in context number order.

17.0: ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSING METHODS (By R. Heath)

All flotation was conducted using a modified Siraf tank (York variant); no paraffin was used in this operation, as it was felt that any advantages in the use of this agent would be outweighed by the consequent extra handling of the flot. A 500-micron sieve was used to collect the flot.

Initial assessment was undertaken with a x10-magnification microscope and a representative sample from each flot was checked for carbonised organics. No attempt was made at this stage to distinguish between individual species represented in the carbonised remains.

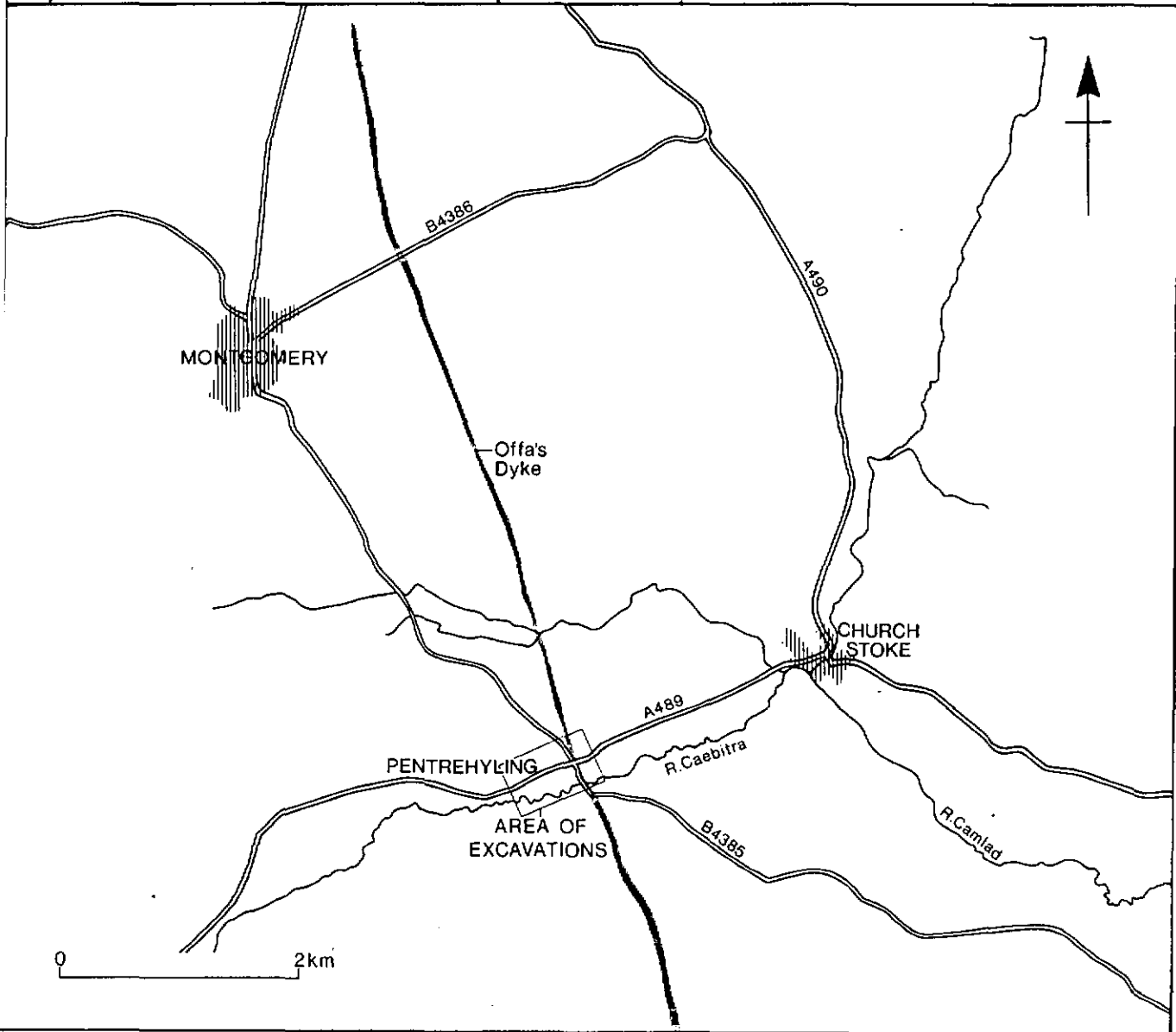
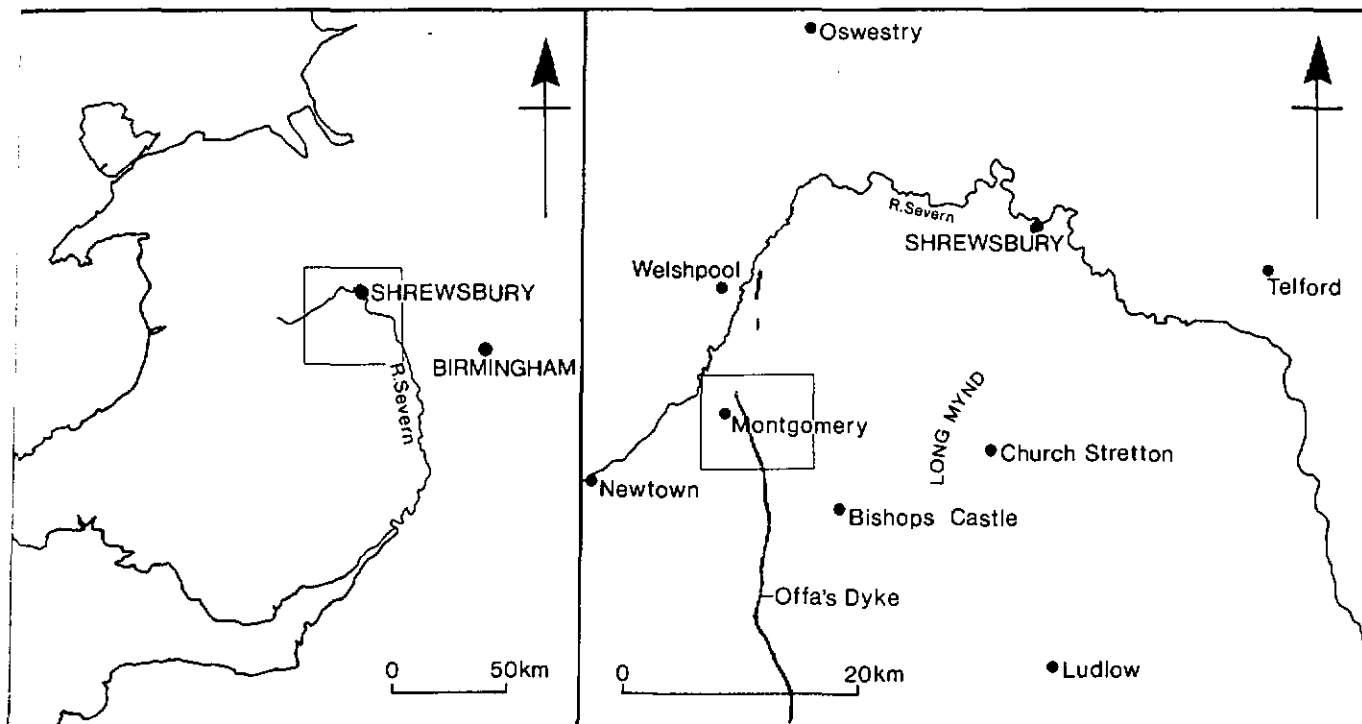
PART IV: POST-EXCAVATION COSTING

18.0: COSTINGS

Brompton Post-Excavation Costing For Financial Year 1991–1992

Staff Costs		£
Iain Ferris (Author/Editor)	3 weeks	1290
Alex Jones (Author)	5 weeks	1400
Jane Evans (Roman Pottery)	4 weeks	1540
Kay Hartley (Mortaria)	4–5 days	315
Brenda Dickinson (Samian)	12 hours	72
David Williams (Amphorae)	28 hours	290
Jennifer Price (Glass)	1 day	32
Gerry MacDonnell (Iron Slag)	2 days	138
Simon Esmonde Cleary (Coins)	1 day	No charge
Ron Ixer (Litharge)	1 day	No charge
Ann Woodward (Prehistoric Pottery)	3 days	396
Catherine Johns (Silver Spoon)	–	No charge
Iain Ferris (Other finds)	3 days	258
Caroline Gait (Senior Illustrator)	31 days	217
Mark Breedon (Assistant Illustrator)	28 days	1456
Simon Buteux (Manager)	6 days	522
Jackie Pearson (Administrator)	6 days	336
Ann Humphries (Secretary)	6 days	260
Liz Hooper (Publications Officer)	1 week	425
Francis McLaren (Food Residues Analysis)	1 day	50
Sub-Total		8997
 Expenses		
Office Costs		276
Materials		75
Travel		40
Photography		50
Sub-Total		441
 University Overheads	 of £5298	 2119
 GRAND TOTAL		 £11,557

BROMPTON Shropshire Excavations 1990



BROMPTON 1990 Excavations Location

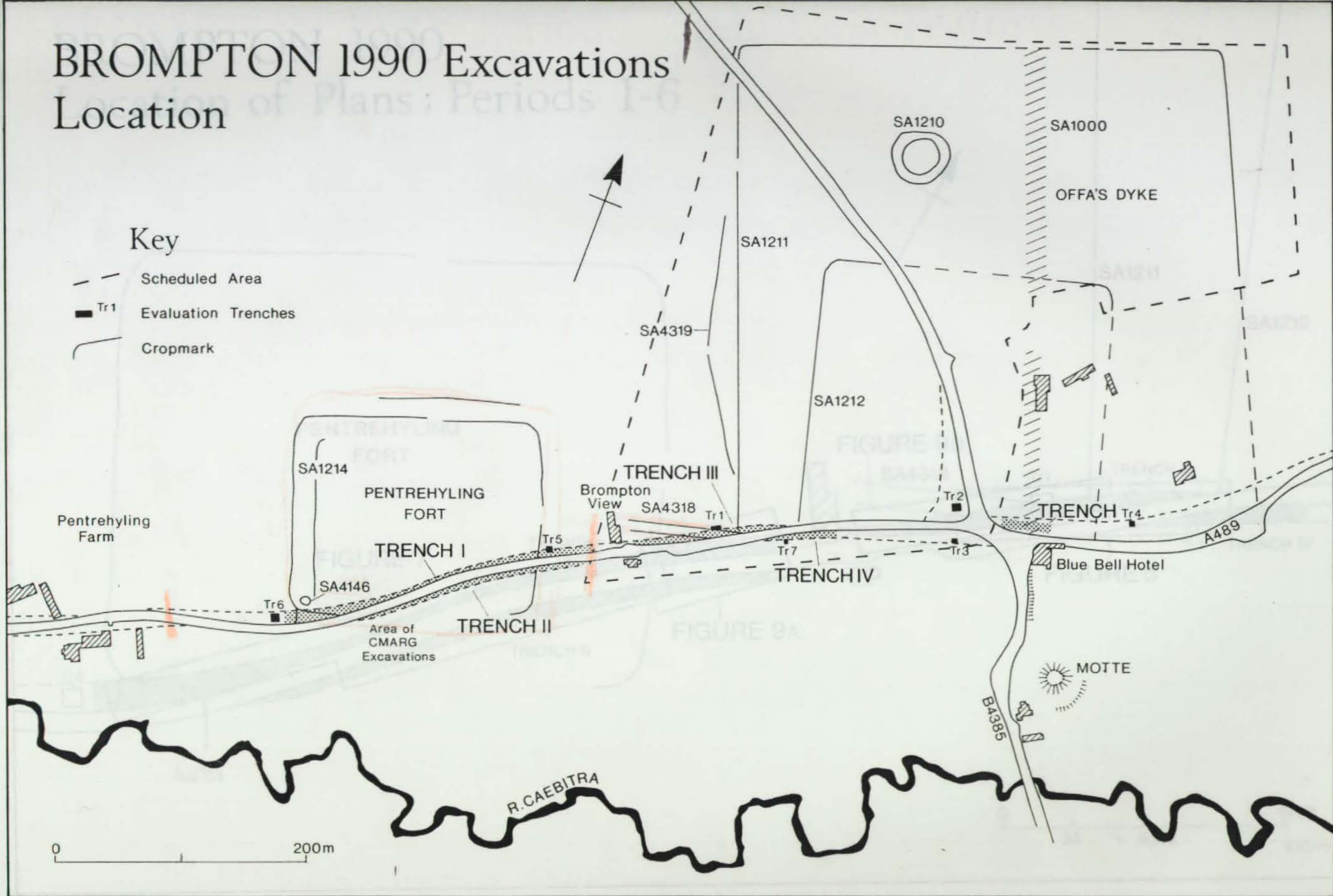


Figure 2

BROMPTON 1990

Location of Plans; Periods 1-6

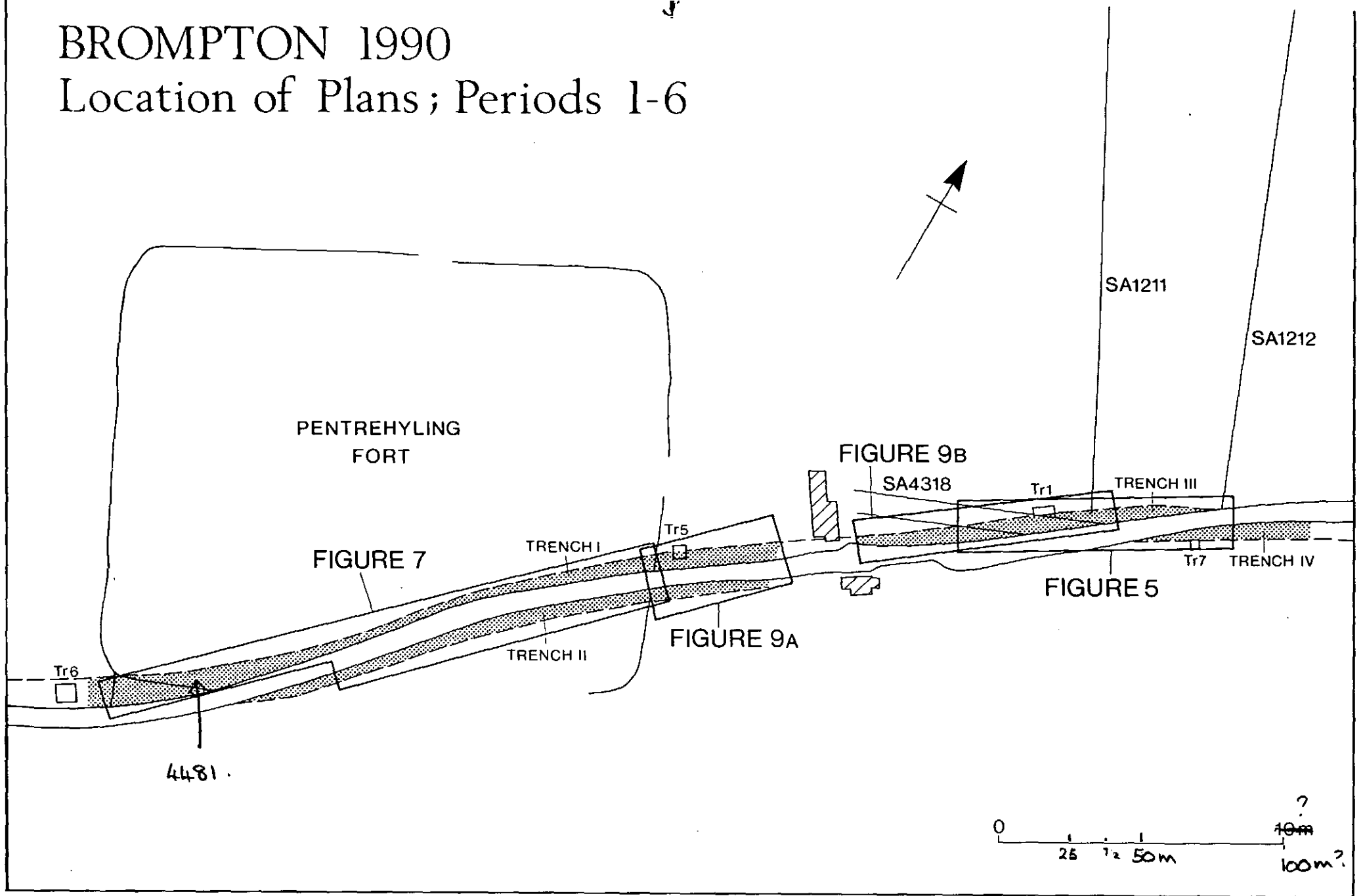


Figure 3

BROMPTON 1990 Period 1 Prehistoric Features

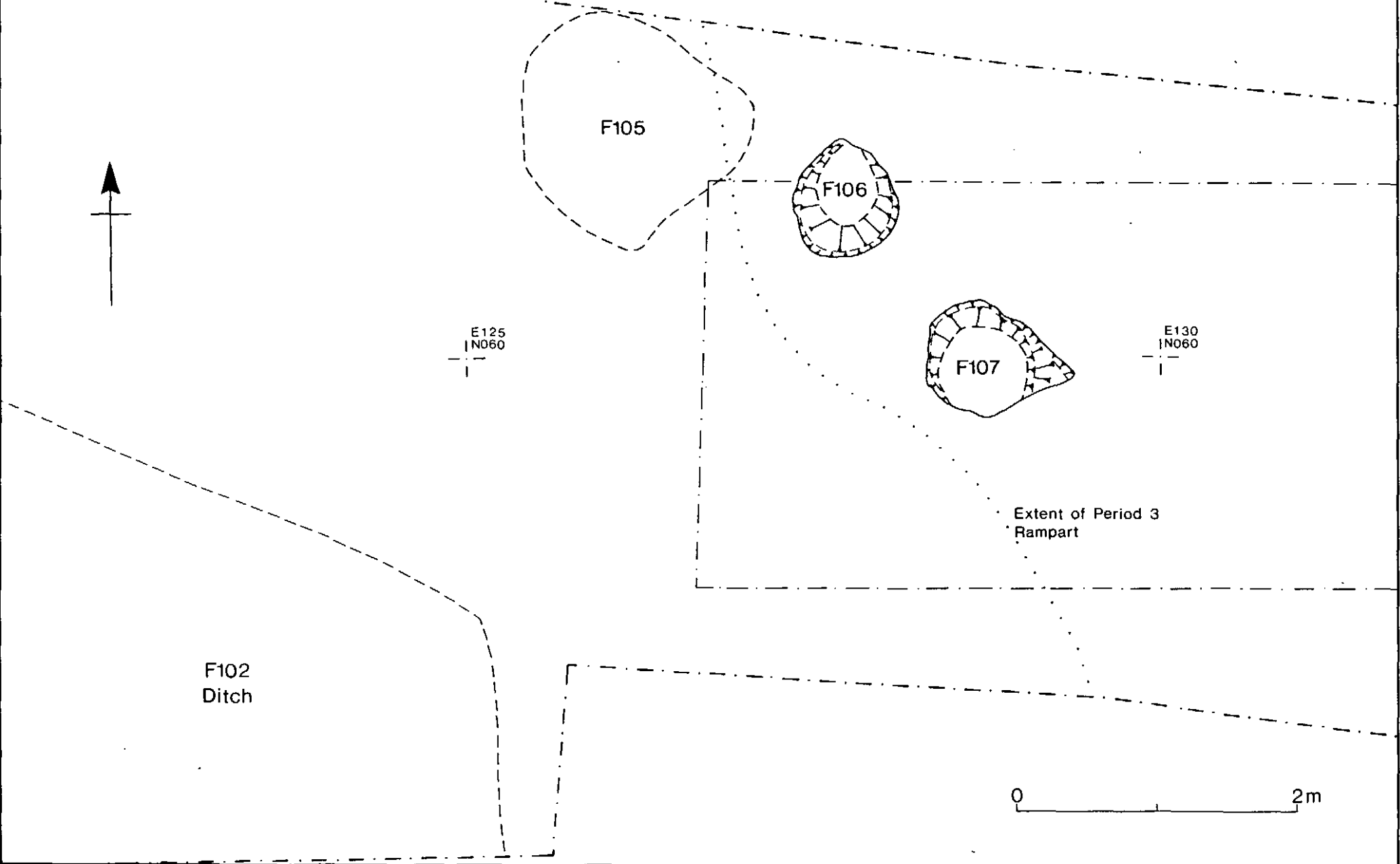


Figure 4

BROMPTON 1990 Period 2 Plan

The Marching Camps

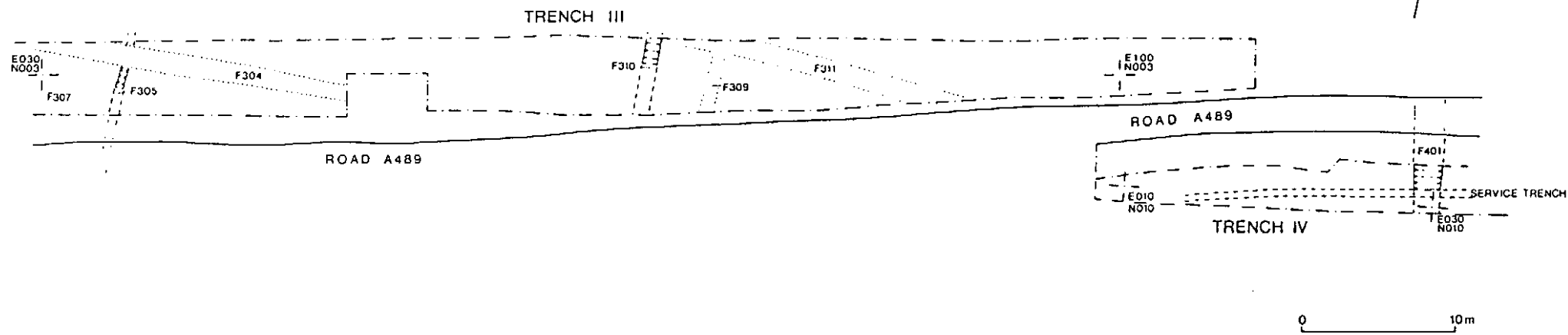


Figure 5

BROMPTON 1990 Period 6

The Marching Camps

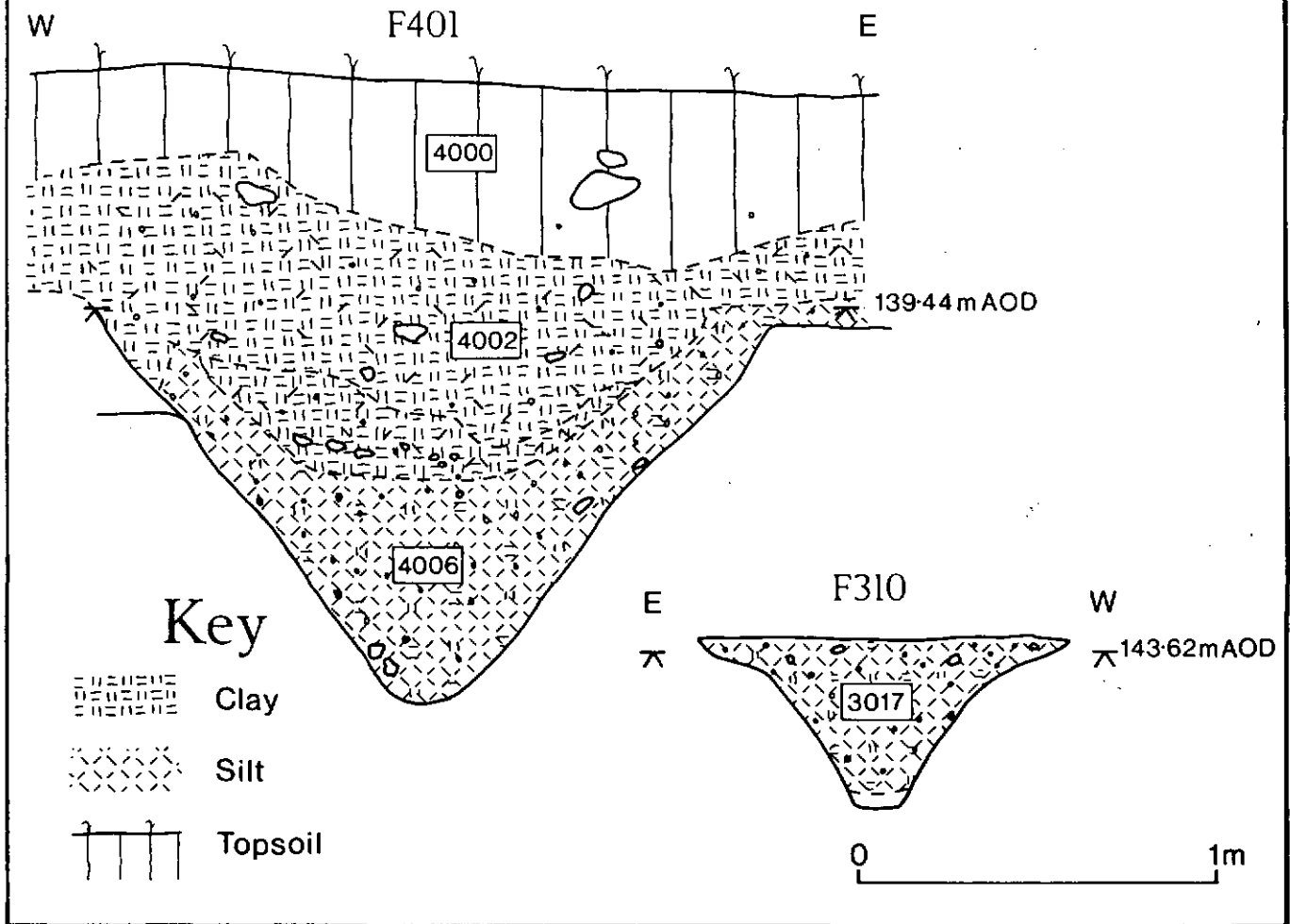


Figure 6

BROMPTON 1990 Periods 3,5 and 6 Simplified Plan

The Fort

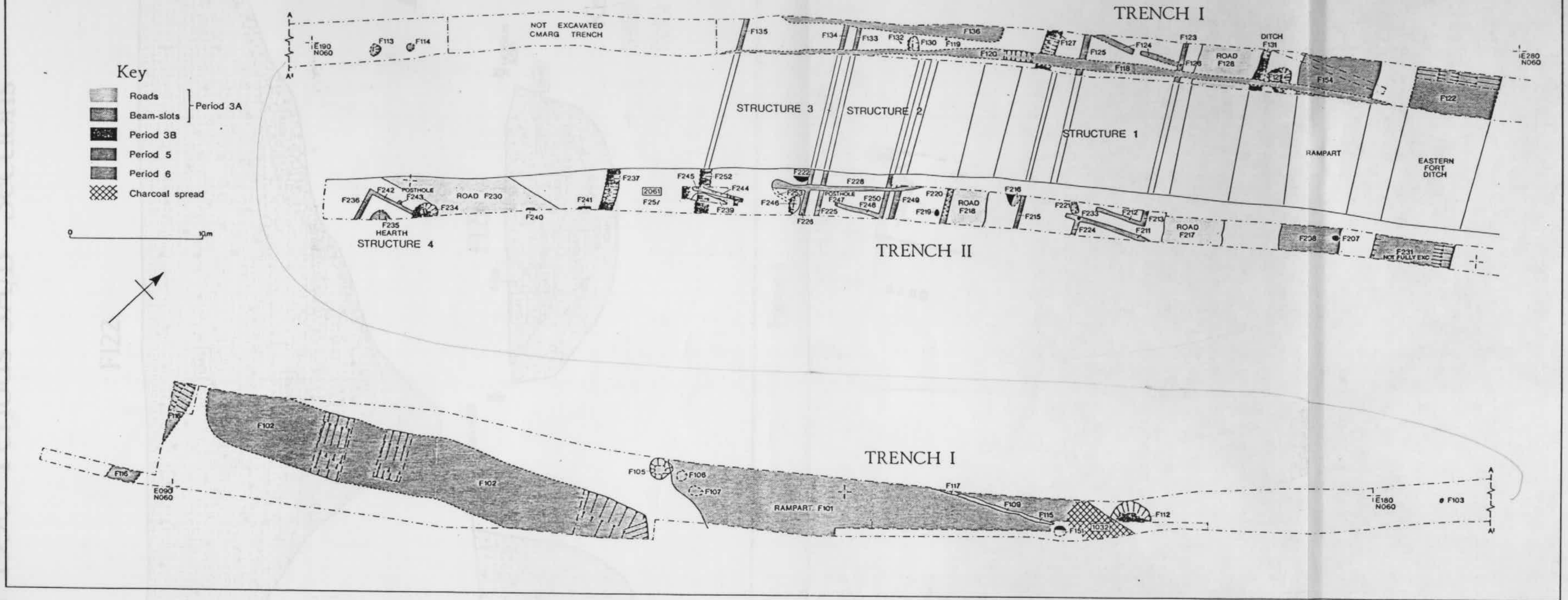


Figure 7

Trench I - 190m long
 (+ 50 = 240m long)

BROMPTON 1990 Periods 3A/B Sections

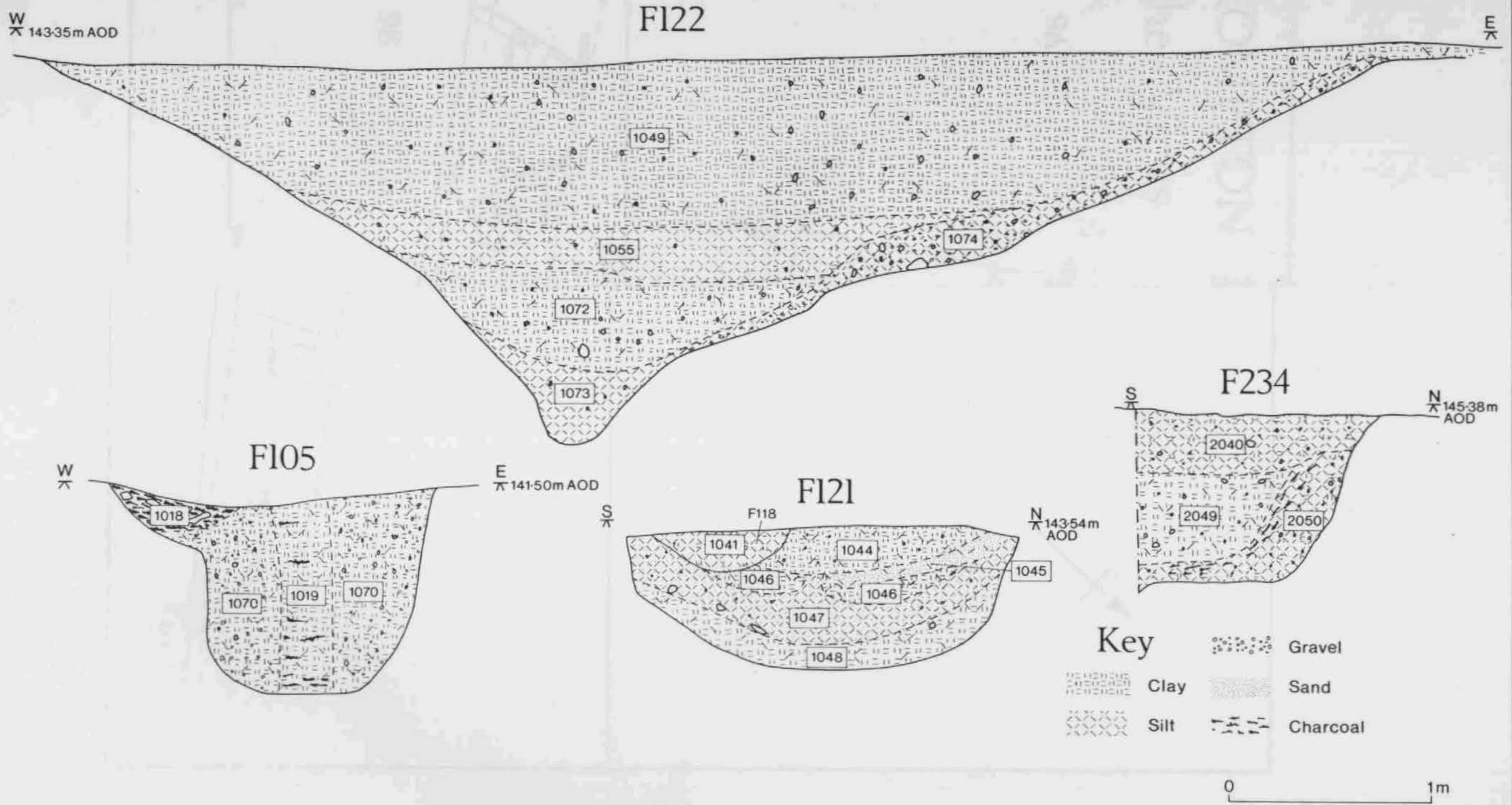
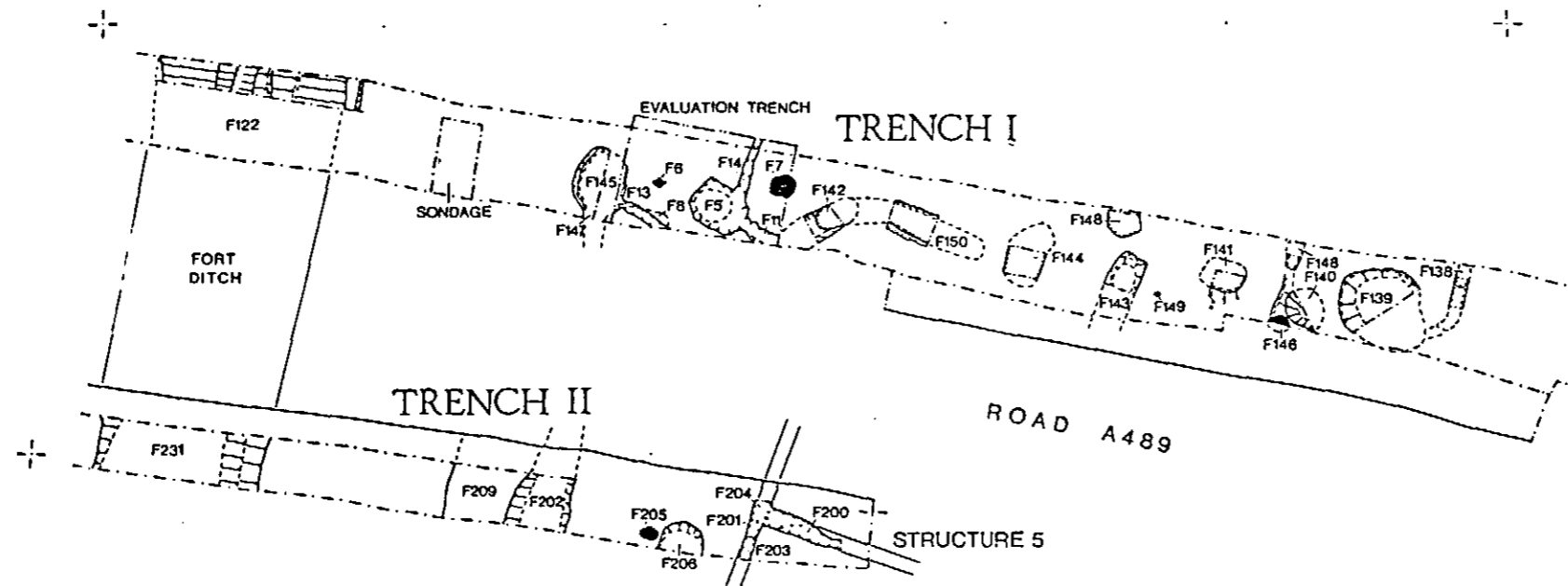


Figure 8

BROMPTON 1990 Period 4 Plan
The Vicus

9A



9B

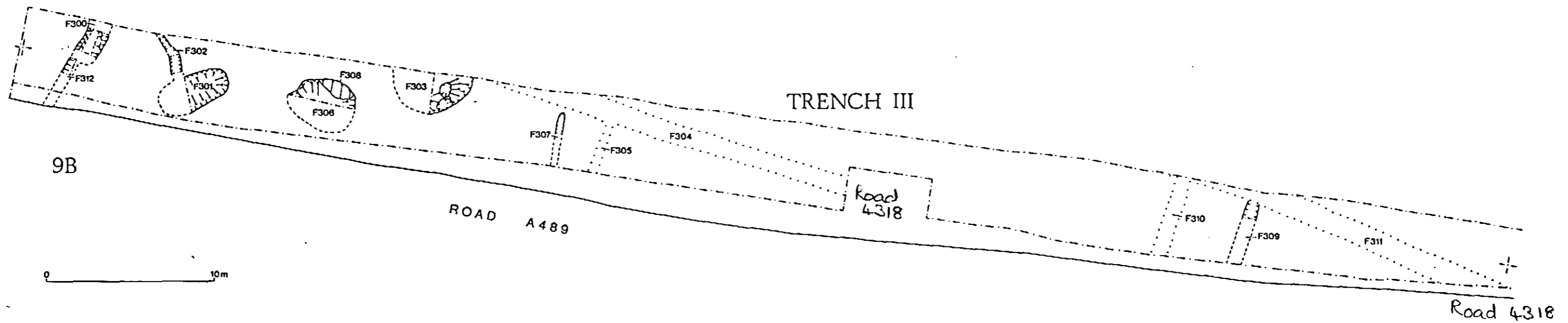


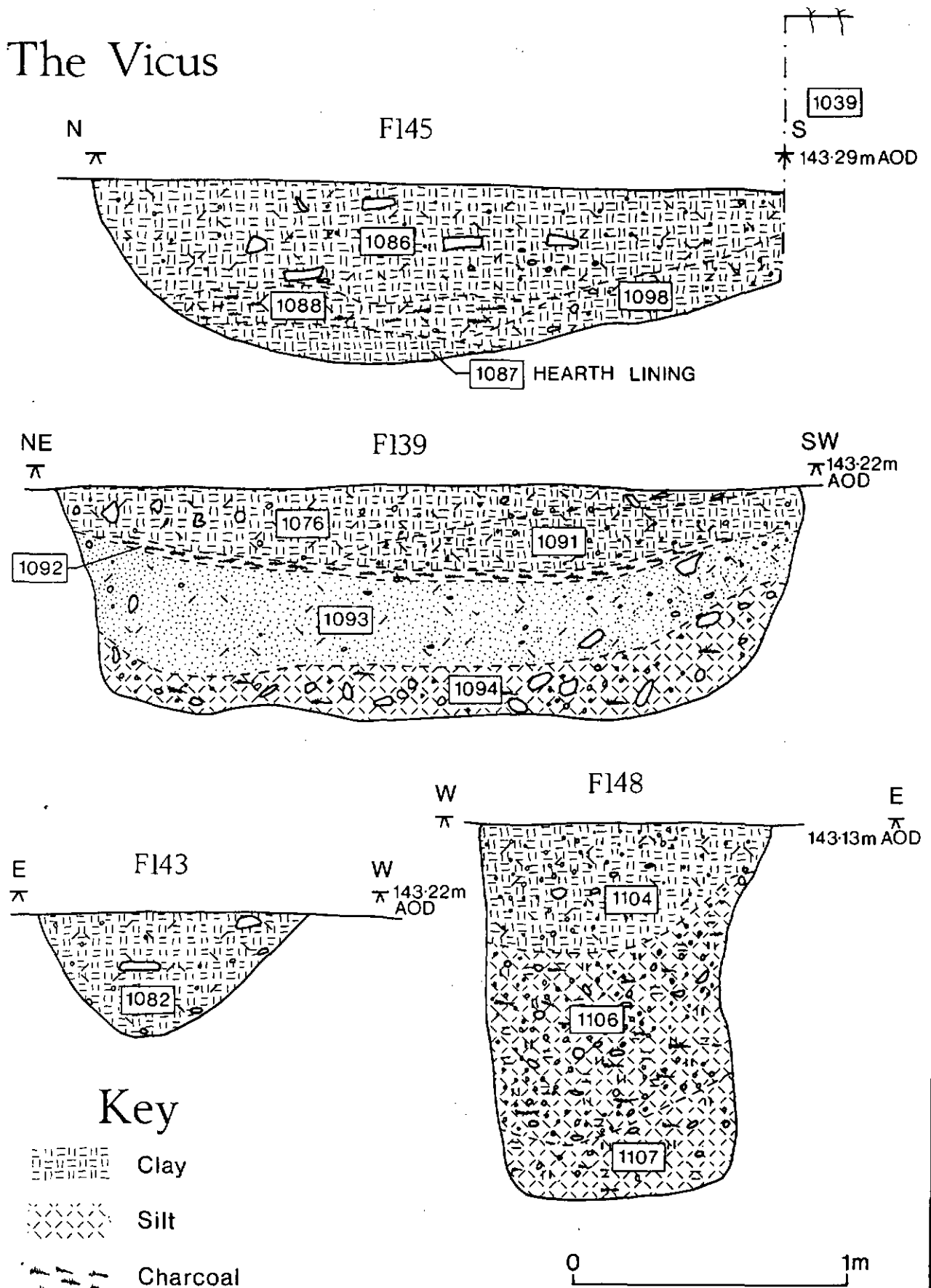
Figure 9

Trench I 50 m on Fig 9A.

BROMPTON 1990 Period 4

Sections

The Vicus



BROMPTON 1990 Period 5

F102 W Facing Section

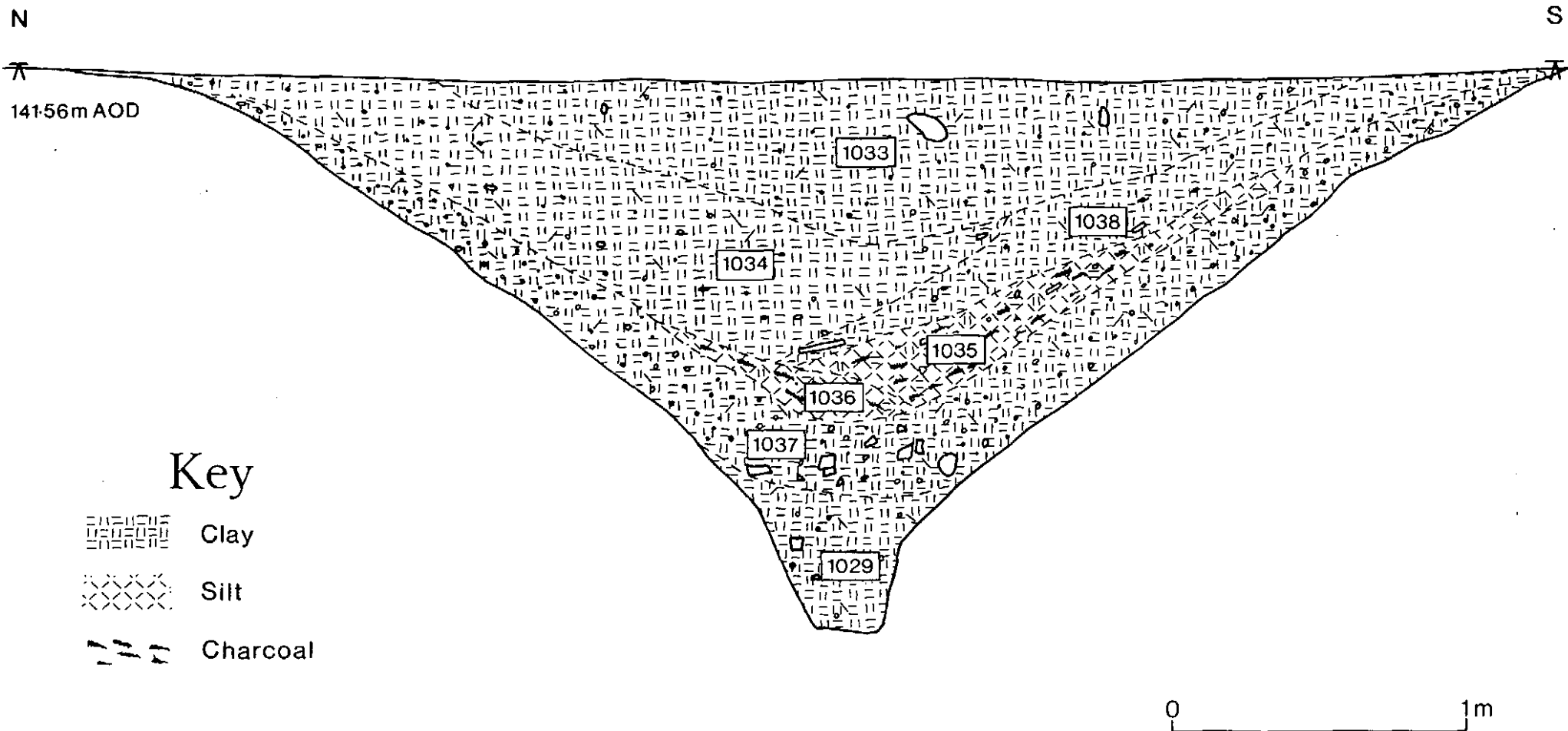


Figure 11

OFFA'S DYKE 1990

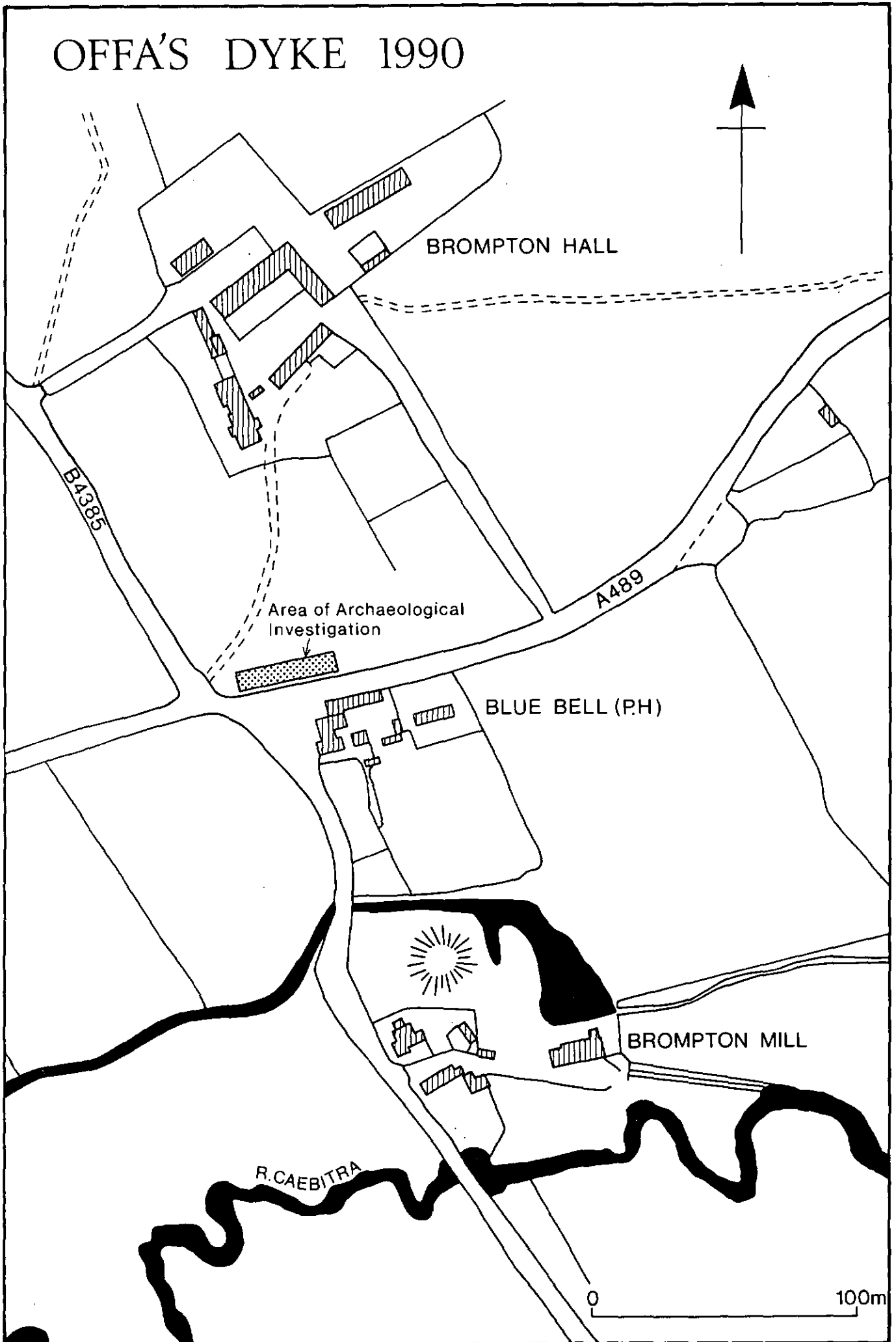


Figure 12

OFFA'S DYKE 1990 Site Plan

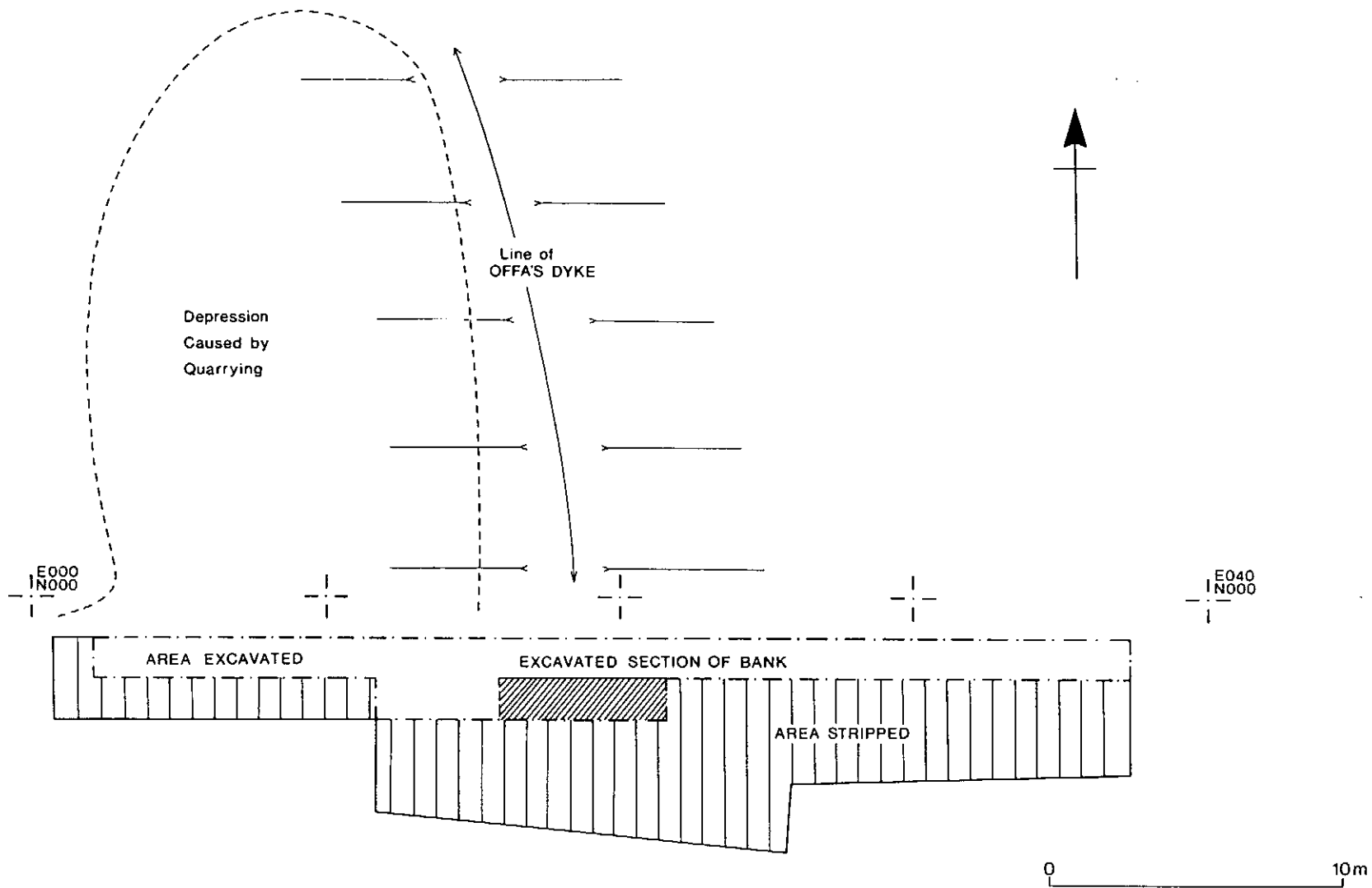
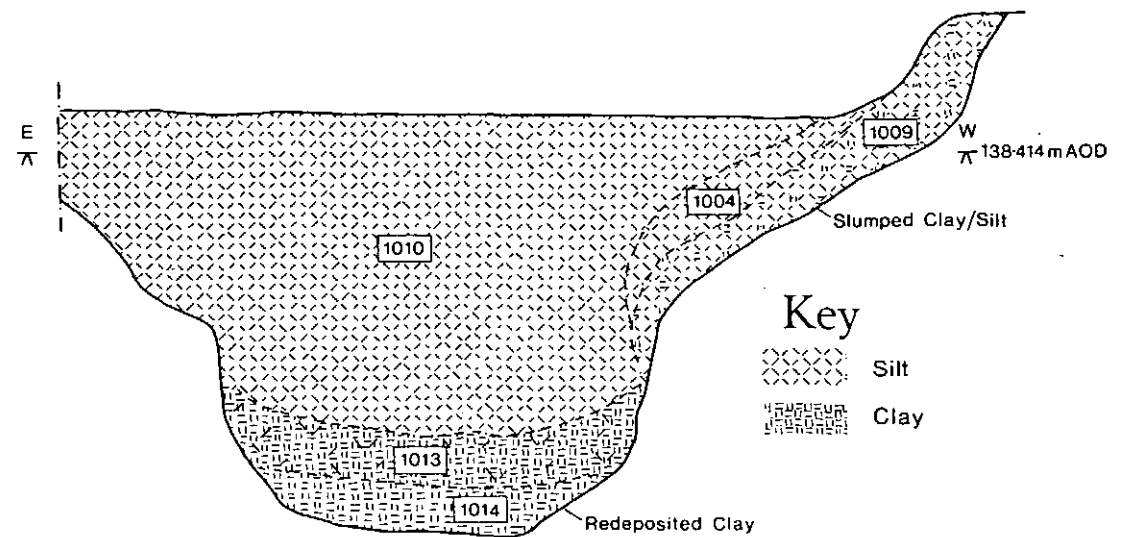
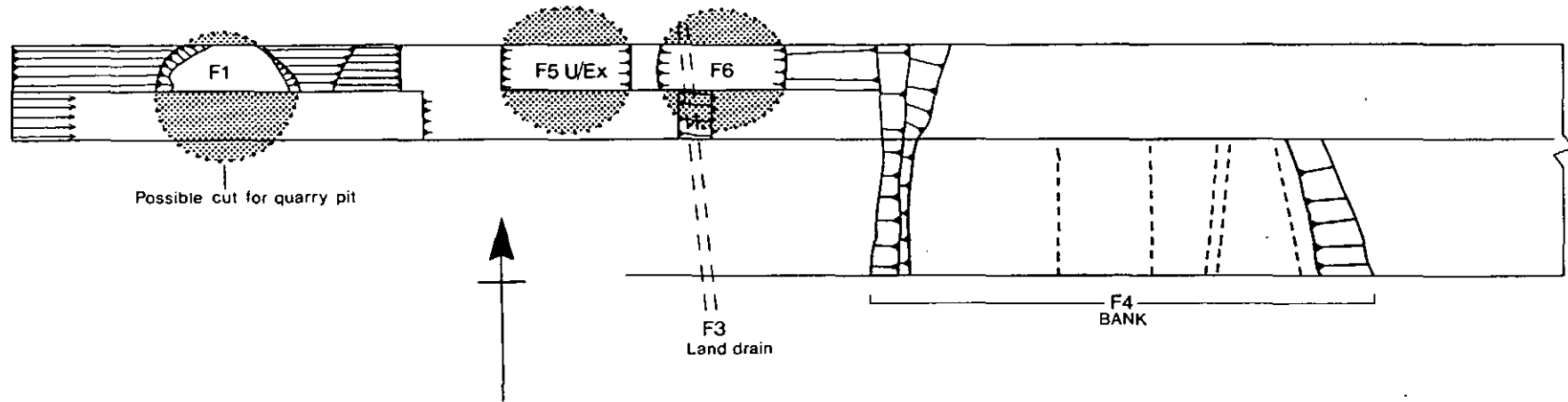


Figure 13

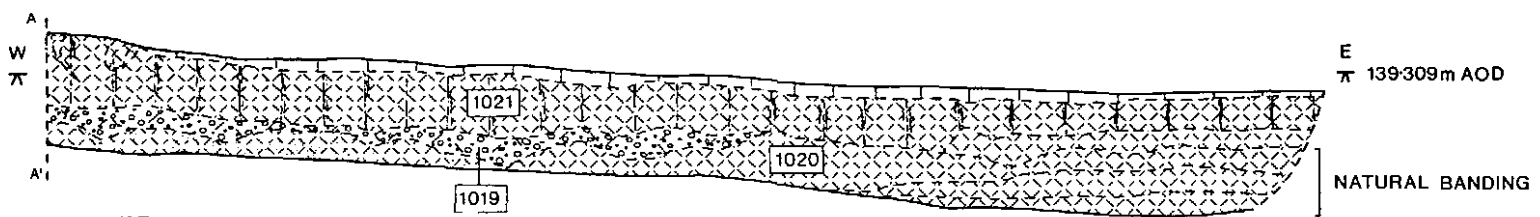
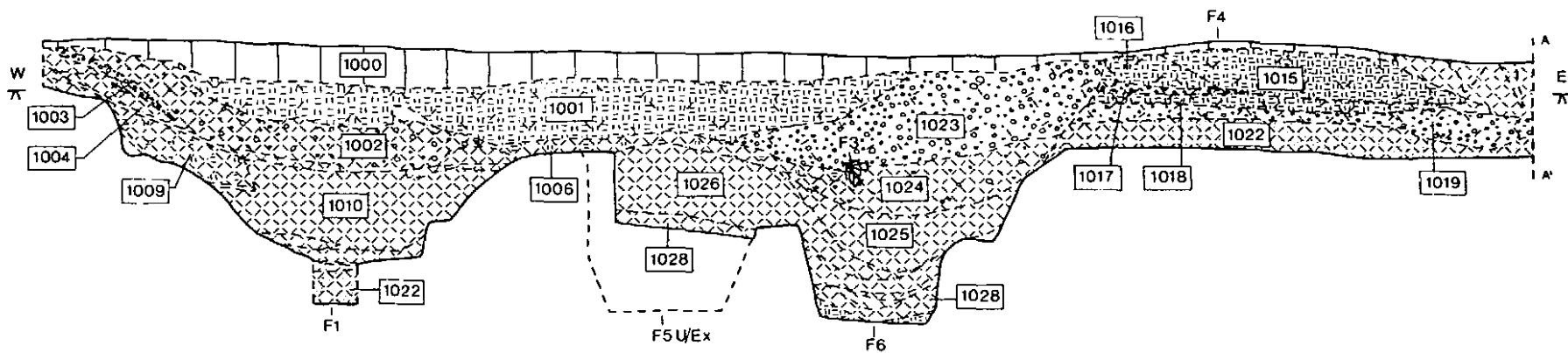
OFFA'S DYKE 1990 Excavation plan & North facing section Fl









0 5m

Figure 14

OFFA'S DYKE 1990 South facing Section



Key

- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|--------|
|  | Top soil |  | Gravel |
|  | Silt |  | Sand |
|  | Clay |  | Loam |



INTERPRETATION

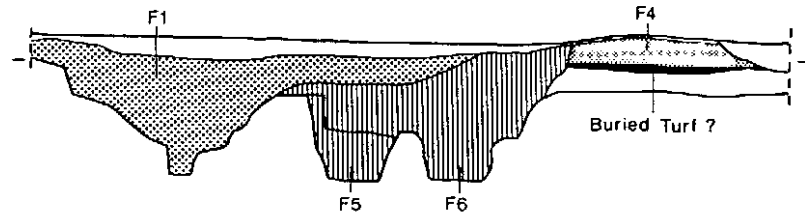


Figure 15