

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT
CADBURY LIMITED, SOMERDALE, KEYNSHAM.**

July 1995



On Behalf of Cadbury Limited

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in June and July 1995 by the Avon Archaeological Unit on behalf of Fuller Peiser Property Consultants, agents to Cadbury Limited, in advance of proposed commercial, residential and industrial development at the Somerdale Factory, Keynsham. The evaluation exercise (Avon SMR 10539) was carried out prior to the determination of a planning application, as suggested by Central Government Note 16 (DoE 1990) and Avon County Council Structure Plan (Third Alteration) Policy BE4a. The evaluation exercise was undertaken by means of geophysical survey (remote sensing), trial excavation and mechanical testpitting.

Fourteen archaeological trial trenches and five testpits were opened in three zones (Areas A, B and C) within the assessment area. Ten of the trenches revealed significant and stratified archaeological features, deposits and finds which indicated activity in the area during the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.

The earliest archaeological features identified were located within areas A and B to the front of the factory complex. The features included a large number of postholes and stakeholes, which indicated a period of activity (occupation) of probable prehistoric date. Several associated ditches and pits were also recorded within the trenches. The eastern and southern sides of a rectilinear enclosure of unknown date, which appears to extend into the area of the existing Fry Club and its car parking, were also identified.

To the rear of the factory, in Area C, an undisturbed buried land surface was recorded which appears to have been open and in use as undeveloped pasturage up until the 1920's. The buried land surface indicated the possibility that archaeological remains may be preserved beneath that surface in a zone adjacent to the rear of the modern factory although beyond that zone, in the area nearer to the river Avon, it appears to be sealed by very considerable deposits of made-ground (up to 3m deep) which are related to the construction of the factory.

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The following abbreviations have been used throughout the report:

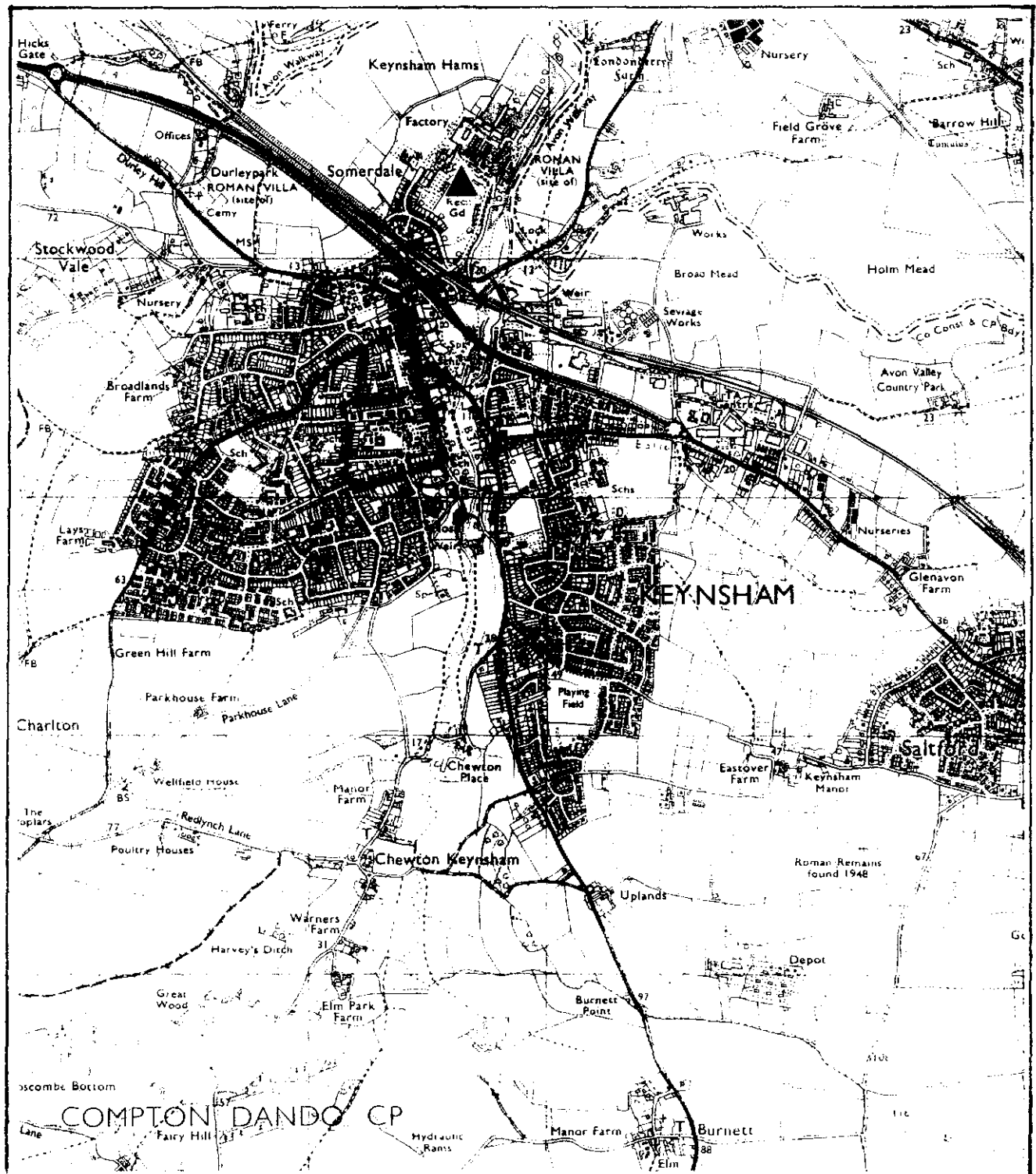
ASMR	Avon Sites and Monuments Record
A.O.D.	Above Ordnance Datum
c.	circa
eg.	for example
m	metres
NB.	Note well
NGR	National Grid Reference
O.S.	Ordnance Survey
>	greater than
<	less than

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1 INTRODUCTION

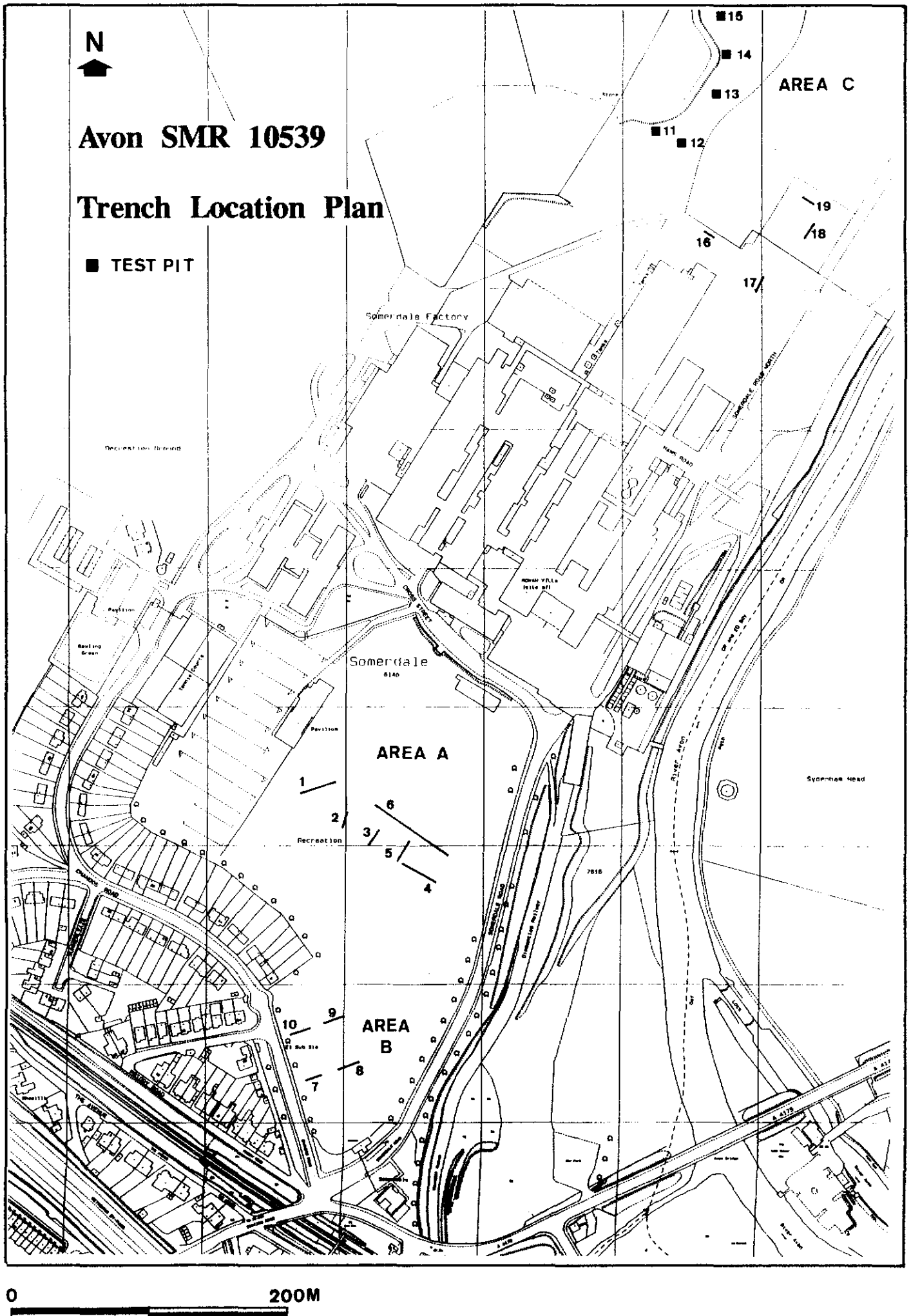
- 1.1 This archaeological evaluation exercise was undertaken within the grounds of Cadbury Limited, Somerdale, Keynsham (NGR ST 65436950, figures 1 and 2), in advance of possible commercial, industrial and residential development.
- 1.2 In accordance with Avon County Planning Policy BE4a and Central Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, the County Archaeological Officer recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken within the proposed development footprint, in order to clarify the archaeological implications of any future development.
- 1.3 The objective of the archaeological programme was to establish the extent to which archaeological remains survived on the site and, if so, to determine their character, quality and extent within the assessment areas. The evaluation was designed to recover a sample of archaeological information which would allow the Local Planning Authority and the developer to make informed and practical decisions concerning the archaeological implications of any future development on the site, and if necessary to provide the basis for future strategies to conserve and record any significant archaeological remains which were identified during the project.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the writers, Ros Jackson, Jens Samuel, Dan Stansbie, Matt Wright and Richard Wykes. Andrew Young was responsible for overall project management. The evaluation, which commenced on 12 June 1995, consisted of four weeks of fieldwork followed by three weeks of post-site analysis, archiving and report preparation.
- 1.5 All artwork produced within this report was prepared by Lynn Hume.
- 1.6 The archaeological project was wholly funded by Cadbury Limited, Somerdale.

Site Location Plan

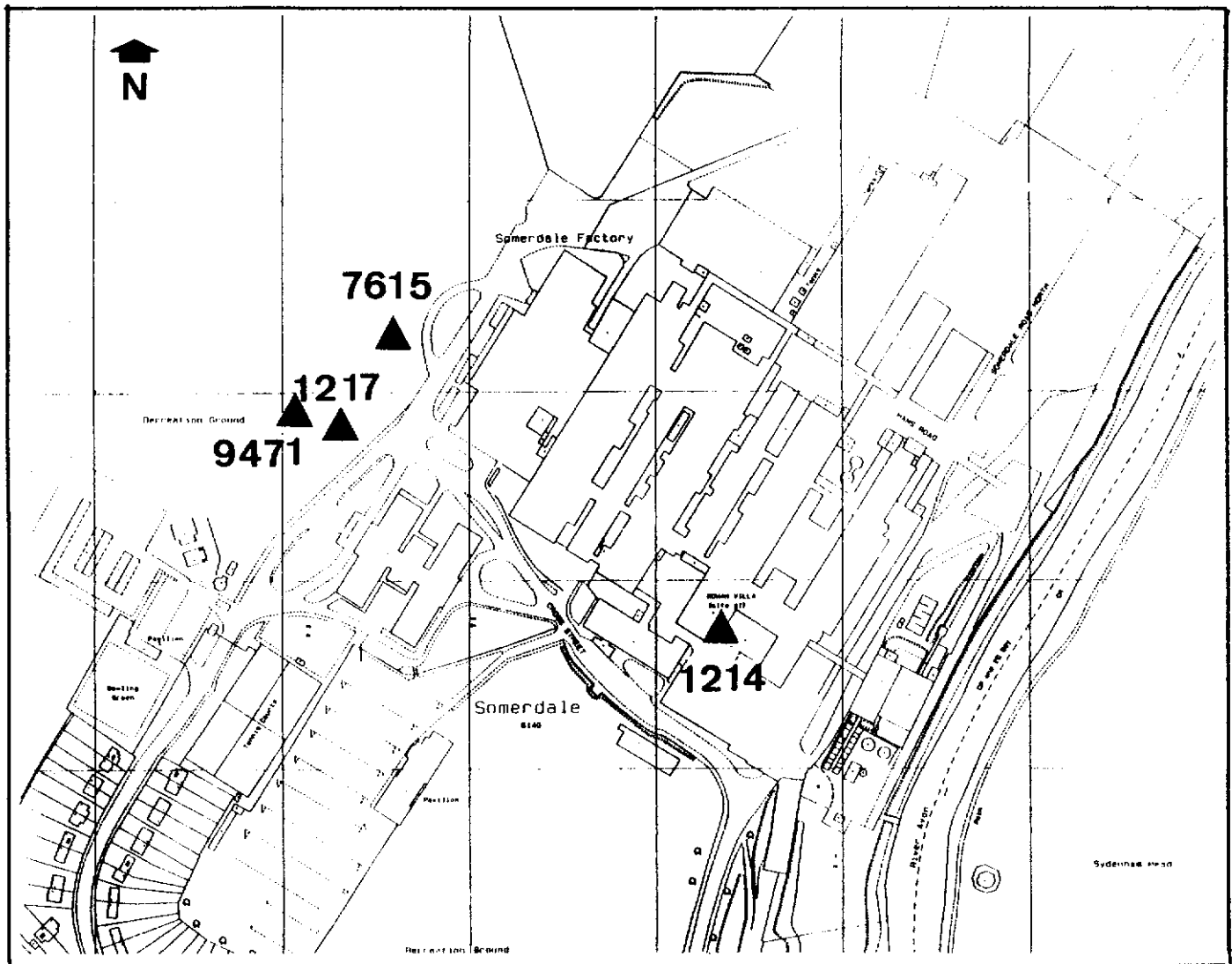


Scale 1:25,000

Figure 2



Archaeological Sites ▲



Avon SMR 1214 : Romano-British building
well, burials and ?temple

Avon SMR 1217 : Romano-British road

Avon SMR 7615 : Romano-British buildings, road
and occupation debris

Avon SMR 9471 : Romano-British buildings, road
and occupation debris

2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1

The survey area (figures 1 and 2) is bounded by Chandos Road, Somerdale Road and the Cadbury Somerdale factory. Four archaeological sites recorded in the Avon County Sites and Monuments Record are located within the assessment area (figure 3) and a further eight sites are situated in the vicinity:

- ASMR 1214 - Romano-British building, well, burials and ?temple at Somerdale
- ASMR 1217 - Romano-British road at Somerdale
- ASMR 1218 - Romano-British pottery and occupation debris, Chandos Road
- ASMR 1219 - Romano-British burial, Station Road
- ASMR 7200 - Watching brief at Keynsham
- ASMR 7615 - Romano-British buildings, road and occupation debris at Somerdale
- ASMR 9383 - Somerdale chocolate factory
- ASMR 9384 - Former railway siding at Somerdale
- ASMR 9403 - Commemorative stone at Hams
- ASMR 9471 - Romano-British buildings, road and occupation debris at Somerdale
- ASMR 9706 - Roman settlement ?*Traiectus*
- ASMR 9733 - Relocated Romano-British building at Somerdale
- ASMR 9427 - Site of post-medieval farm, Chandos Road

2.2

The proposed development site is situated in an area where previous archaeological investigation has identified remains reflecting a major Romano-British settlement. Keynsham has recently been identified as the possible site of *Traiectus*, a former settlement recorded in the Antonine Itinerary, a Roman document of the 3rd or 4th century AD (Browne 1991). The Romano-British settlement at Keynsham appears extensive, as is indicated by the widespread location of sites known to possess preserved Roman structures and deposits. Column fragments and high quality imported materials retrieved on several of the sites indicate that the settlement contained some buildings of higher status and fragments of statues and ritual vessels found in the 1920s suggest that a temple may also have been present. There was an internal road system, as indicated from evidence recorded on at least two of the SMR sites, and evidence of bronze-working has also been found. The Romano-British occupation in the area had a very long span, pottery dating from the 1st century through to the 4th century was found in an archaeological evaluation in 1993 (Hume 1993).

2.3

In 1994, an aerial photographic survey produced evidence (as lush and parched vegetation marks) of

further potential archaeological structures and deposits within and surrounding the survey area (figure 4).

3 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDUSE

3.1 The geology underlying the site is shown on the 1:50 000 British Geological Survey Sheet 265 (solid and Drift) for the Bristol District (1967). It indicates that:-

- i) excavation area A is underlain by Second Terrace Gravels.
- ii) excavation area B is underlain by White Lias and Blue Lias Limestone.
- iii) excavation area C is partly underlain by Keuper Marl (Trenches 16 and 17) and partly by Alluvium (Testpits 11-15 and Trenches 18 and 19).

3.2 The topography of the site also varied between the differing locations:-

- i) excavation area A sloped moderately steeply from southeast to northwest (21.32m -18.17m A.O.D). The underlying terrace gravels dropped more steeply over the same distance (approximately 100m: 20.73m - 17.57m A.O.D.).
- ii) excavation area B declined from south to north (25.92m - 24.66m A.O.D.) and
- iii) excavation area C declined gradually from north to south (13.80m - 12.77m A.O.D.).

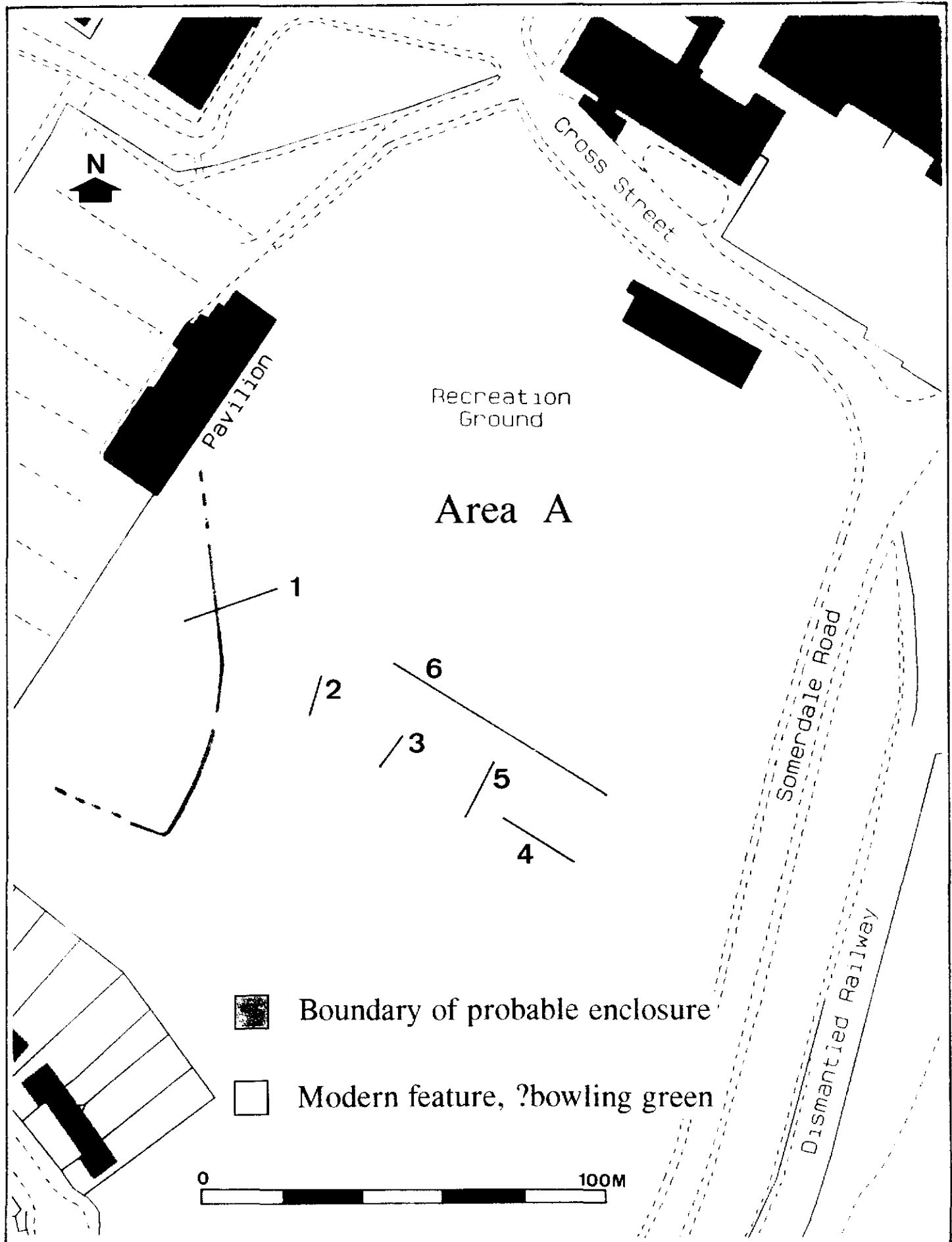
3.3 Areas A and B were in use as recreation areas (sportsfields) at the time of excavation. Area C comprised unused waste ground (testpits 11-15) and a concreted storage compound (trenches 16-19).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 For the purposes of the evaluation, fourteen trenches of varying length (4-64m) and five testpits (c.3m in length), each being 1.5m wide, were excavated at three separate locations (areas A; B; C) within the grounds of the Cadbury factory (figure 2).

4.2 The evaluation trenches were opened by machine using a JCB supplied by Farmtrac, Yate. This consisted of the machine excavation of the topsoil overburden and some subsoil to depths varying between 0.25m and 1.3m, in order to expose archaeologically significant features and deposits which were subsequently cleaned and excavated by hand. The archaeological testpits in Area C (figure 2, nos. 11-15) were entirely excavated

Figure 4



by machine and were backfilled immediately after recording.

- 4.3 Archaeologically significant features and deposits were recorded on standard archaeological context sheets, photographically and in archaeological section drawings and plans drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively (unless stated otherwise). Archaeological finds recovered were subsequently washed and bagged after analysis, and marked with the appropriate Bristol City Museum Accession Number (BRSMG 31/1995). The site records, drawings, photographs and finds were temporarily deposited at the premises of the Avon Archaeological Unit, 325, Fishponds Road, Bristol as part of the site archive of Avon SMR 10539. The project archive will ultimately be deposited for long term storage with the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under its accession number BRSMG 31/1995. A microfiche copy of the archive will be deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR).
- 4.4 The precise location of the fourteen evaluation trenches and five testpits was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area. In addition, archaeological features and deposits were related to a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark.
- 4.5 The evaluation trenches and testpits were identified numerically from 1-19 and are described in detail below (section 5). The context numbers assigned to each trench are numbered sequentially and are prefixed by the number of the trench.
- 4.6 After the evaluation exercise was completed, all trenches were backfilled and consolidated.
- 4.7 A geophysical survey (remote sensing) was undertaken at three locations (total area 1.5 hectares) to the front of the factory complex (Area A). These areas were assessed as they are designated as carparking and wetland landscaping within the proposed development. The purpose of the geophysical survey was to assess for major subsurface archaeological remains in areas located outside the footprint of the proposed commercial buildings, by the most cost effective means.

AREA A

5.1

Trench 1

Figure 5

(24.5m x 1.5m x c.0.6m)

5.1.1

Trench 1 was excavated through a greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (context 100, maximum thickness 0.11m) and a dark brown clay loam subsoil (context 101, maximum thickness 0.14m) in order to reveal the underlying archaeological features and deposits. Several soil features were revealed within Trench 1, the majority of which consisted of postholes and stakeholes. A rectilinear ditch, identified during aerial photographic survey as a lush vegetation mark, was also revealed within the trench.

5.1.2

A ditch (104), orientated north-south, with a steep V-shaped profile cut into the underlying natural river gravels (context 102), was recorded within Trench 1. The ditch contained a single, sandy clay fill (105) with gravel inclusions, from which no dating evidence was retrieved. Evidence from aerial photographic survey and geophysical remote sensing indicated that the ditch (104) represented an enclosure boundary. The ditch was observed to curve southwestwards beyond Trench 1, extending for a distance of c.60m before turning to run northwestwards thereafter (figure 4).

5.1.3

Several postholes and stakeholes were revealed within the area defined by ditch 104, in the west of Trench 1. A linear arrangement of two adjacent pairs of stakeholes (contexts 107 and 108) was aligned north-south parallel to ditch 104. Each of the four stakeholes had a steep V-shaped profile cut into the underlying river gravels (102) and contained a brown silty clay fill with few inclusions. Several single postholes (contexts 106; 109; 111; 112) and one double posthole (context 110) were also recorded in the vicinity. The postholes shared a similar steep, U-shaped profile and were filled by a brown silty clay. No particular organisation could be attributed the postholes within the confines of the evaluation trench and no dating evidence was retrieved from the features.

5.1.4

A single, undated stakehole (context 103) was revealed outside the area defined by ditch 104, in the east of Trench 1. The stakehole had a steep V-shaped profile and was filled by a homogeneous brown silty clay similar to that contained within the postholes and stakeholes located in the west of the trench (section 5.1.3 above).

5.2 **Trench 2**
 Figure 5
 (8.5m x 1.5m x c.1.9m)

5.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated through a series of deposits in order to expose the underlying archaeological features and deposits. The trench revealed a greyish brown silty loam topsoil and turf layer (context 200, maximum thickness 0.25m), which overlay a deep horizon of dark yellowish brown silty clay loam subsoil (context 201, maximum thickness 0.70m). A dark yellowish brown deposit of slightly sandy clay loam (context 202, maximum thickness c.0.35m) was sealed beneath the subsoil (201) and overlay layer 203 (maximum thickness 0.12m), a lens of river gravels which sealed the archaeological stratigraphy in the base of the trench.

5.2.2 A layer of limestone brash (contexts 216 and 217) underlay the river gravels (203) in the base of Trench 2. The southwestern side of an extensive feature (cut 207) of indeterminate function was cut through the limestone brash (216) in the southwest of the trench. The form and overall dimensions of cut 207 were not determined as it extended beyond the limits of the excavated section to the north, east and west. Cut feature 207 was filled by a series of deposits (208; 218; 209; 210; 211) which are described in detail below (section 5.2.3).

5.2.3 The uppermost deposit within cut 207 consisted of a dark brown silty clay (layer 208). A single sherd of Romano-British pottery and a fragment of daub with wood impressions were retrieved from this layer (208). Deposit 208 overlay a layer of river gravels (context 218), which had been deposited as a lens of varying thickness (0.04m-0.15m). A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was retrieved from the layer (218). Underlying gravel layer 218 was a brown deposit of very sandy clay (layer 209) of varying thickness (0.08m-0.22m). To the southwest, layer 209 sealed the sand and gravel substratum (context 219) which defined the base of cut feature 207. Two deposits (contexts 210 and 211), which occupied adjacent hollows in the base of the cut (207) were sealed by layer 209 in the northeast of the excavated section. Layer 210 consisted of a discrete deposit of pale yellow-green clay. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was pressed into the surface of the deposit (210). Layer 211, which was located to the immediate east of clay deposit 210, comprised a brown sandy clay which differed only slightly in character from the layer (209) which sealed it. Layer 211 contained a significant quantity of fine grits and was strongly stained with smears of charcoal. No dating evidence

was retrieved from this layer.

- 5.2.4 The eastern terminal of a probable gully (cut 212) which extended beyond Trench 2 to the west for an unknown distance, was sealed beneath the river gravels (203) in the centre of the trench. The gully (212) had a steep U-shaped profile and was cut through layer 208, the uppermost fill of cut 207. Gully 212 was backfilled with a mix of dark brown sandy clay and abundant limestone fragments (fill 213). The homogeneous silty clay fill (215) of a small bowl-shaped pit (cut 214) was partially truncated by gully 212 on its southwestern side. Pit 214 was sealed by layer 208 and was cut through gravel deposit 218. No dating evidence was retrieved during the excavation of these features.
- 5.2.5 An undated, subcircular posthole (cut 205) was partially exposed under the southwest baulk of Trench 2. The posthole (205) had a wide U-shaped profile cut through limestone brash 217 and contained a homogeneous silty clay fill (206).

5.3 **Trench 3**
Figures 6 and 7, Photograph A
(10.20m x 1.5m x c.0.7m)

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated through a series of archaeologically sterile deposits (contexts 300; 301; 302) in order to reveal underlying archaeological features and deposits. Layer 300, which consisted of a greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (maximum thickness 0.10m) sealed a layer of dark brown clay loam subsoil (context 301, maximum thickness 0.15m). Underlying the subsoil and extending throughout the trench, layer 302 (maximum thickness c.0.12m), comprised a thin band of river gravels. Several archaeological soil features were revealed within Trench 3, the majority of which were sealed beneath gravel deposit 302. A single, unexcavated soil feature (context 310) appeared in section to have been cut through gravel deposit 302, whilst a modern cut (304) containing a deposit of ash and clinker (305) was exposed beneath the topsoil (300) at the southwestern end of the trench. Cut 304 formed part of a rectilinear feature, which was also partially exposed in Trench 5 (context 520) and identified during aerial photographic survey and geophysical remote sensing (figure 4).
- 5.3.2 A number of single postholes (cuts 311 and 317) and paired posthole arrangements (cuts 306 and 308; 321 and 323) were sealed by gravel deposit 302 in the base of Trench 3. The postholes shared a moderately steep, U-shaped profile cut into the underlying natural river

gravels (context 303) at varying depths (0.09m-0.30m). The postholes contained a similar strong brown sandy clay fill (contexts 312; 318; 307; 309; 322; 324 respectively). The postholes provided no dating evidence and no definitive spatial organisation could be discerned within the limits of the trench.

- 5.3.3 Several small, unexcavated archaeological soil features (contexts 313; 314; 315; 316; 319; 320) interpreted as probable stakeholes, were sealed beneath gravel deposit 302. The soil features, which were circular in plan, comprised a strong brown sandy clay similar to that filling the postholes identified within the trench (section 5.3.2 above) and are suggested to be broadly contemporary features.

5.4 **Trench 4**
Figure 2
(19.5m x 1.5m x c.0.5m)

- 5.4.1 Trench 4 was excavated through a greyish brown silty loam topsoil and turf layer (context 400, maximum thickness 0.15m) and a dark brown silty clay loam subsoil (context 401, maximum thickness 0.12m). Underlying the subsoil (401) and extending throughout the trench, layer 402 (maximum thickness 0.10m) which comprised a band of river gravels interspersed with subangular fragmentary limestone in a brown clay loam soil matrix. Layer 402 sealed the natural gravels and brashy limestone substratum (context 403) in the base of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within Trench 4.

5.5 **Trench 5**
Figures 6 and 7
(15.5m x 1.5m x 1.75m)

- 5.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated through a series of archaeologically sterile deposits in order to reveal underlying archaeological stratigraphy. Layer 500 (maximum thickness 0.38m), which consisted of a greyish brown silty loam topsoil and turf layer, sealed a dark brown clay loam subsoil (context 501, maximum thickness 0.36m). Underlying the subsoil (501) and extending throughout Trench 5, layer 502 (maximum thickness 0.22m) comprised a deep band of river gravels interspersed with fragmentary limestone nodules. Several archaeological features and deposits were identified within the trench, a number of which were sealed by the river gravels (502). Three unexcavated soil features (contexts 516; 518; 519) appeared in section to have been cut through river gravels (502). A probable gravel extraction pit (cut

508) and a modern cut (520) filled with ash and clinker, which formed part of a rectilinear feature also exposed within Trench 3 (section 5.3.1 above), were sealed by the turf and topsoil (500) in the southwest of the trench.

- 5.5.2 A number of postholes (cuts 506; 511; 513) of varying depth (0.11m-0.22m) were sealed by gravel deposit 502 in the base of Trench 5. The postholes shared a moderately steep, U-shaped profile and were cut into the underlying gravels and brashy limestone substratum (context 515). They contained a similar brown sandy clay loam fill (contexts 507; 512; 514 respectively). A parallel arrangement of two subrectangular slabs of burnt limestone and pennant sandstone was set into the upper surface of the fill (514) of posthole 513. This was interpreted as a possible postpad, possibly used to repair the structure at this location. Two unexcavated soil features (contexts 517; 521) which consisted of small subcircular areas of brown loamy soil, were interpreted as probable postholes or stakeholes. None of the postholes produced any dating evidence and no alignments could be discerned from their exposure within the trench.
- 5.5.3 An irregular pit (cut 503, depth 0.38m), which was sealed by gravel deposit 502, was partially revealed beneath the southeastern baulk of Trench 5. Pit 503 contained two redeposited fills (contexts 504; 505). A fragment of a 13th century pottery strap handle was retrieved from the upper fill (504), probably dating its backfilling to the medieval period.
- 5.5.4 A number of other soil features (contexts 516; 518; 519), which were sealed by the subsoil (501), appeared in section to have been cut through gravel deposit 502. Context 516, which consisted of a subcircular area of dark brown clay loam, was interpreted as a probable posthole. Context 518 appeared in plan as an irregular curvilinear area of mixed brown sandy clay and pure sand, which possibly represented a line of intercutting postholes or stakeholes. Soil feature 519, which consisted of an area of dark brown clay loam, extended beyond the northwestern baulk of the evaluation trench. In section, the feature had a steep-sided profile and was interpreted as the terminal of a possible ditch, which continued westwards beyond the trench for an unknown distance.
- 5.5.5 An extensive, irregular feature (cut 508) interpreted as a gravel extraction pit, was excavated through the subsoil (501) in the southwest of Trench 5. The pit (508) was only partially excavated to reveal a steep sided cut of unknown depth (>0.78m). It contained two redeposited fills (contexts 509; 510). Sherds of 15th

century pottery were retrieved from its upper fill (509) dating the backfilling of the pit to the early post-medieval period.

5.6 **Trench 6**
 Figure 8, Photograph B
 (64.4m x 1.5m x 1.6m)

- 5.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated through a series of archaeologically sterile deposits in order to expose the underlying archaeological stratigraphy. The trench was sealed by a dark greyish brown silty sandy loam topsoil and turf layer (context 600, maximum thickness c.0.20m), which overlay a dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil of varying depth (context 654, thickness 0.07m-0.37m). Underlying the subsoil (654) and declining markedly from southeast to northwest (20.38m -18.65m A.O.D.respectively), context 601 (maximum thickness 0.30m) consisted of a strong lens of river gravels interspersed with fragmentary limestone. (NB. A single ?modern feature (cut 650) was recorded in the extreme southeast of the trench. All other archaeological features and deposits identified within Trench 6 were located in its northwestern half). The majority of these features were represented by a complex of postholes and stakeholes. Although it was possible to suggest a number of alignments for these features no individual structures could be clearly distinguished.
- 5.6.2 A rectangular feature (cut 650) of unknown function was partially exposed in the extreme southeast of Trench 6. The feature (650) was cut through gravel deposit 601 and contained a sandy fill (651) with blocky limestone inclusions.
- 5.6.3 The northwestern side of an extensive cut feature (605) interpreted as a probable extraction pit, was partially excavated in the centre of Trench 6. The side of the pit, which was cut through gravel deposit 601, appeared to drop near-vertically for c.0.70m to a step in the natural gravels (context 602) before falling away again for an unknown depth. No dating evidence was retrieved from the pit fills (contexts 606 and 655).
- 5.6.4 Several single postholes (cuts 603; 619; 627; 634) and two double posthole arrangements (contexts 607 and 642; 609 and 637 plus postholes 637 and 642) were sealed beneath the river gravels (601) in the northwestern half of the trench. The posthole cuts were subcircular in plan with deep U-shaped profiles cut through the natural sand and gravel substratum (602) at a similar depth (c. 0.20m). The postholes contained

similar dark brown sandy silty clay fills (contexts 604; 620; 628; 635; 608; 642; 610; 637 respectively) suggesting that the features were broadly contemporary. Some of the postholes (eg. cut 627) produced evidence of limestone packing, however, no dating evidence was retrieved from any of the fills. The shallow remnant of a probable posthole (cut 629, depth 0.03m) was also identified.

- 5.6.5 A number of undated stakeholes (cuts 611; 613; 623; 625) were also sealed by river gravels (601) in the northwest of Trench 6. The stakeholes had a similar construction with steep V-shaped profiles cut into the natural sand and gravel substratum (602). Two of the stakeholes (cuts 611 and 613) contained a deposit (fills 612 and 614 respectively) texturally similar to that filling the postholes recorded at this location (section 5.6.4 above). Stakeholes 623 and 625 were cut through the fill (622) of shallow scour 621 and contained a similar strong brown, gritty sandy clay (fills 624 and 626 respectively).
- 5.6.6 A number of unexcavated soil features were recorded within the northwestern half of the trench. The sub-circular form and uniformity of size (c. 0.20m in diameter) of these soil features suggested that these also represented postholes (contexts 630; 631; 632; 633; 638; 649). A small bulbous linear feature (context 641) was interpreted as a probable double post-hole arrangement, because of its similarity in plan to other such features identified within the trench (section 5.6.4 above). Several probable stakeholes were also indicated by smaller circular soil marks c.0.12m in diameter (contexts 636; 639; 640; 643; 644; 645; 646; 647; 648; 652; 653). These soil features were composed of a dark brown sandy silty clay very similar in character to the fills recorded within the majority of features excavated at this location (sections 5.6.4/5 above).
- 5.6.7 A subrectangular cut (617), orientated north-south, was located adjacent to unexcavated soil feature 641, in the northwest of Trench 6. The cut (617) had a steep V-shaped profile cut into the underlying sand and gravel substratum (602) and contained a dark brown sandy silty clay deposit (fill 618) similar in character to the adjacent soil feature 641. Its orientation and subrectangular form suggested that it (641) and cut 617 may have represented the disturbed remnants of what was originally a more extensive feature.
- 5.6.8 The rounded terminal of a linear feature (cut 615) was revealed just inside the baulk in the northwest of Trench 6. Feature 615 had a moderately steep-sided profile in section and was cut through gravel deposit

601. The feature was only partially excavated due to its limited exposure within the trench. Cut 615 contained a single, dark brown loamy fill (616) from which no dating evidence was retrieved.

AREA B

5.7 Trench 7, Photograph G Figure 2 (13.3m x 1.5m x 0.3m)

5.7.1 Trench 7 was excavated through a very dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (context 700, maximum thickness 0.18m) and a stony, dark brown silty clay loam subsoil (context 701, maximum thickness 0.12m), in order to reveal the underlying bedded limestone substratum (context 702) in the base of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the trench. However, two linear grooves, interpreted as possible plough scars, were etched into the surface of the limestone substratum (702) in the southwest of the trench.

5.8 Trench 8 Figure 9, Photographs C and D (15.1m x 1.5m x 0.74m)

5.8.1 Trench 8 was excavated through a dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (context 800, maximum thickness 0.17m) and a dark brown silty clay loam subsoil with fragmentary limestone inclusions (context 802, maximum thickness 0.19m). A thin lens of ash and clinker (context 801, maximum thickness 0.03m), which extended for a distance of c.5m, was sealed beneath the topsoil (800) in the northeastern end of the trench. Several archaeological soil features were sealed beneath the subsoil (802) and cut into the underlying limestone brash and bedded limestone substrata (contexts 803 and 804 respectively) in the base of the trench.

5.8.2 A number of subcircular postholes (cuts 810; 818; 812) and a single stakehole (cut 816) were recorded within Trench 8. Postholes 810 and 818 were of a similar depth (0.18m) and shared a moderately steep U-shaped profile. The postholes contained a similar dark brown silty clay fill (contexts 811 and 819 respectively). Posthole 812, which survived to only a shallow depth (c.0.06m), was bowl-shaped in profile. Stakehole 816 was oval in plan with a steep V-shaped profile. Posthole 812 and stakehole 816 shared a similar strong brown silty clay fill (contexts 813 and 817 respectively). No significant alignment could be observed

between the features and no dating evidence was retrieved during their excavation.

5.8.3 A subrectangular pit (cut 807) of unknown function was recorded in the northeast of Trench 8. The sides of the pit (807) sloped gradually before dropping steeply to a rounded base in the centre of the cut. Pit 807 contained two fills, a lower homogeneous silty deposit (context 809, maximum depth 0.16m) and an upper, deeply concave, redeposited fill (context 808, maximum thickness 0.18m), which comprised a mix of silty clay, gravel and limestone fragments. A second pit (cut 814, depth 0.09m) of shallow depth, was partially exposed beneath the northwest baulk of the excavation trench. Pit 814 had a slightly irregular bowl-shaped profile and contained a single fill (815). No dating evidence was retrieved during the excavation of these features.

5.8.4 The eastern terminal of a curvilinear gully (cut 805), which extended beyond the trench to the west, was recorded in the extreme northeast of Trench 8. Gully 805 had a wide U-shaped profile cut into the underlying limestone brash substratum (context 803). The gully (805) was filled with a mixed deposit (fill 806) of silty clay with inclusions of fragmentary limestone and redeposited olive brown clay nodules, from which no dating evidence was retrieved.

5.9 **Trench 9**
Figure 9, Photographs E and F
(14.6m x 1.5m x 0.75m)

5.9.1 Trench 9 was excavated through a dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (context 900, maximum thickness 0.17m) and a dark brown, stony, silty clay loam subsoil (context 901, maximum thickness 0.13m) in order to reveal the underlying archaeological features and deposits. A modern rectangular feature (cut 905), which partially truncated fill 906 of ditch 907, extended beyond the baulk in the southwest of the trench. Cut 905 contained a mixed deposit of modern debris and dark humic loamy soil (fill 904), which was similar in texture to the topsoil layer (900).

5.9.2 The northwestern terminal of a ditch, which extended beyond the trench to the southeast, was excavated in two sections (cuts 913 and 919). The ditch terminal was gently rounded in plan and had a moderately steep U-shaped profile cut into the underlying limestone brash substratum (context 902). It contained a homogeneous sandy clay fill (contexts 912 and 918 respectively). No dating evidence was retrieved during the excavation of this feature.

- 5.9.3 A north-south orientated ditch (cut 907), which extended beyond the trench in both directions, was located in the southwestern end of Trench 9. The ditch had a steep V-shaped profile cut into the underlying limestone brash and bedded limestone substrata (contexts 902 and 903 respectively). No dating evidence was retrieved from the homogeneous sandy clay fill (context 906) of the ditch.
- 5.9.4 The northern edge of a substantial, irregular cut (917), interpreted as a gravel extraction pit, was partially excavated in the northeastern end of Trench 9. Pit 917 appeared to have a 'stepped' side which was cut through the limestone brash and bedded limestone substrata (contexts 902 and 903 respectively) before dropping vertically for an unknown depth. No dating evidence was retrieved from its three fills (contexts 914; 915; 916) with which to date the backfilling of the pit. The western edge of the pit (cut 918) was partially exposed within a second section investigated briefly at the close of the evaluation exercise. The pit extended beyond the trench to the east and south for an unknown distance.
- 5.9.5 Two rectangular postholes (cuts 908 and 910) were recorded within Trench 9. The postholes shared a similar construction with vertical sides and a flat base cut into the limestone brash substratum (902). Small subangular fragments of limestone were used as post-packing around the sides of the postholes, which were filled with relatively loose silty clay (fills 909 and 911 respectively). No dating evidence was retrieved during the excavation of these features.
- 5.10 **Trench 10**
Figure 9, Photograph H
(11.1m x 1.5m x 0.45m)
- 5.10.1 Trench 10 was excavated through a dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and turf layer (context 1000, maximum thickness 0.15m), which directly sealed the limestone brash (context 1003) and bedded limestone (context 1004) substrata in the greater part of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits revealed were confined to the south and west of the trench. No distinct subsoil layer was revealed, however, remnants of a stony layer, a few centimetres in depth, could be observed in section sealed beneath the topsoil (1000), at isolated locations throughout the trench.
- 5.10.2 An irregular, rectilinear layer of pale grey ash (context 1001, maximum thickness 0.09m) was sealed by topsoil 1000 and overlay the brashy limestone

substratum (1003) in the southwest of Trench 10. Layer 1001 may have been more extensive originally, as patchy remnants of the layer were observed in section in the north and east of the trench. Layer 1001 appeared to butt cobble surface 1002 in the extreme west of the trench suggesting that these features may have been broadly contemporary.

- 5.10.3 A dense spread of small, rounded limestone cobbles (context 1002) was partially exposed at the western end of Trench 10, adjacent to ash layer 1001. The cobbles appeared worn, indicating that the spread was probably laid as metalling for a path or trackway. A groove, or dip, running across its length in the approximate centre of the surface, was interpreted as a wheel rut. Dating evidence for this feature consisted of a few sherds of post-medieval pottery, fragments of brick, some nails and other unidentified iron objects.

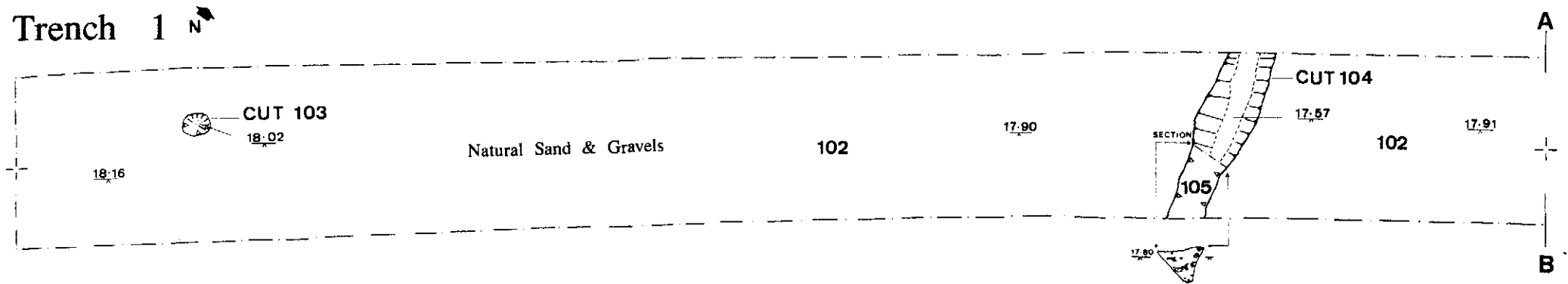
AREA C

5.11 Testpits 11-15
Figure 2

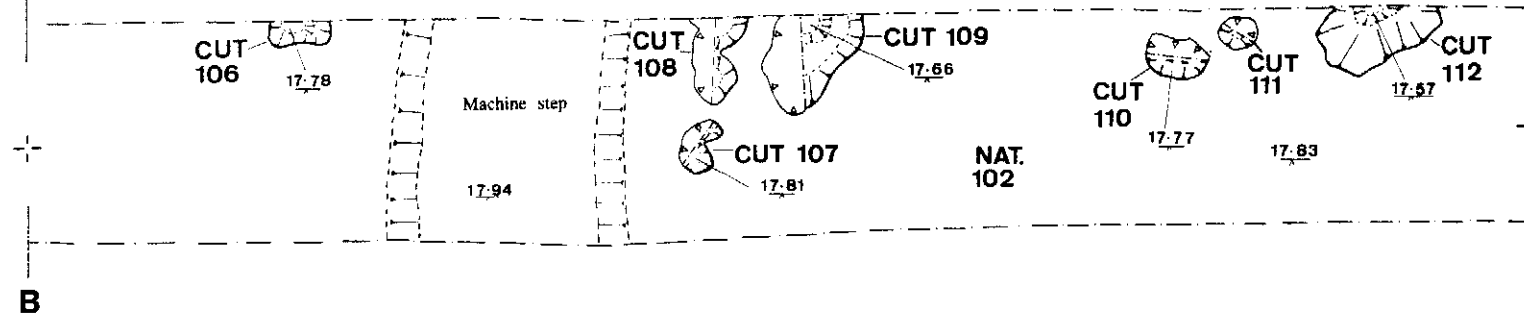
- 5.11.1 Five testpits (figure 2, testpits 11-15), each c.3m in length and 1.5m in width, were excavated by machine to varying depths (1.4m-2.5m) within an area of waste ground to the rear of the factory complex. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the testpits.
- 5.11.2 Testpits 11 and 12 were excavated through an area of made ground >2.5m in depth beneath the modern ground surface. The made ground consisted of a series of layers comprising a mix of redeposited loams, clays and gravels with random inclusions of large blocky limestone, ceramic pipes and other modern debris.
- 5.11.3 Testpit 13 was excavated through a deposit of recently dumped material (maximum thickness c.0.5m) which contained significant quantities of Roman pottery and other artefacts. This material overlay a thin layer of redeposited red and yellow clays, which in turn sealed the remnants of a modern tarmac surface. Further deposits of made ground were sealed beneath the tarmac to a depth of >1m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.11.4 Testpits 14 and 15 were excavated through a layer of modern dumped material (maximum thickness c.0.60m) which sealed a thin buried topsoil horizon. This layer directly overlay a sequence of deposits interpreted as natural substrata, comprising well consolidated layers of gravels, limestone brash and yellow-grey clays.

Figure 5

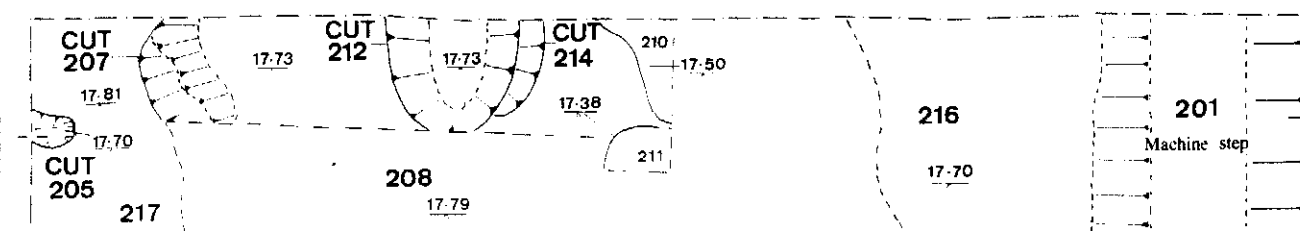
Trench 1 N



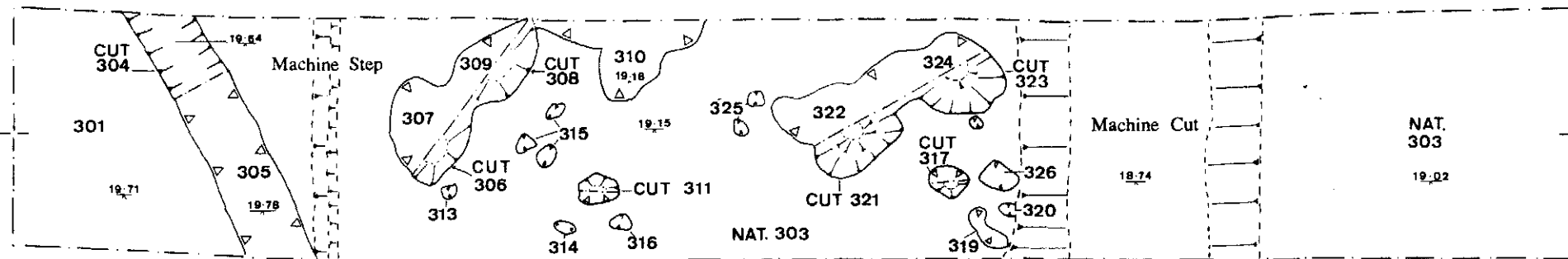
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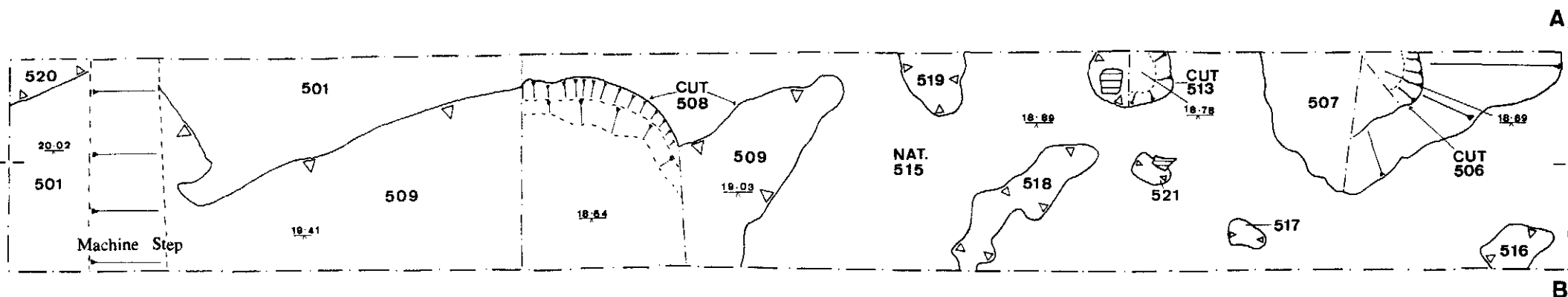
Trench 2 N



Avon SMR 10539



Trench 3 N



Trench 5 N

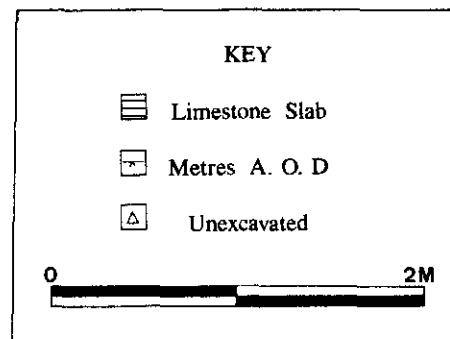
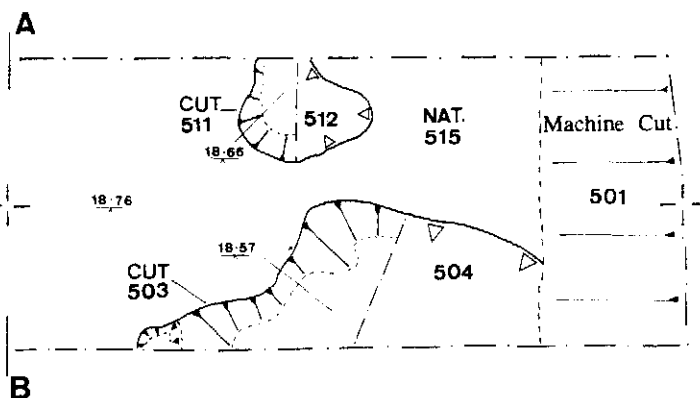
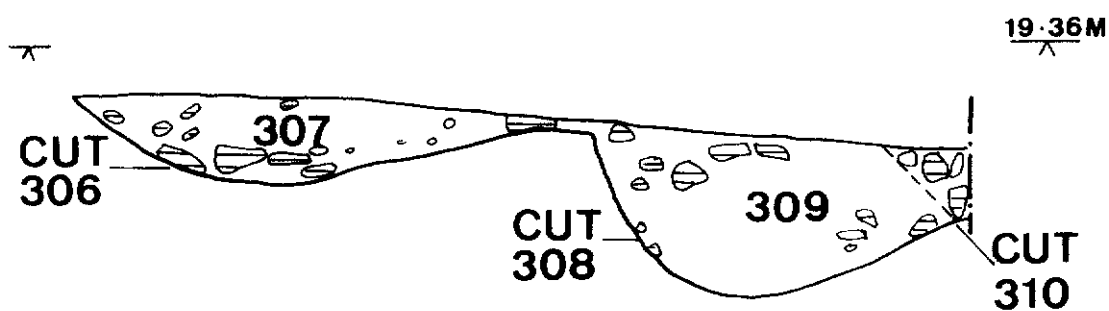


Figure 6

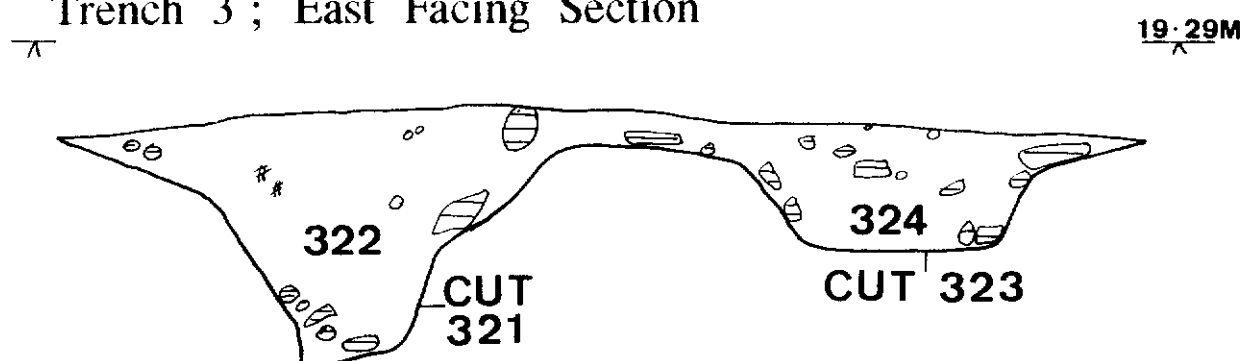
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Figure 7

Trench 3 ; North-East Facing Section



Trench 3 ; East Facing Section



Trench 5 ; North-East Facing Section

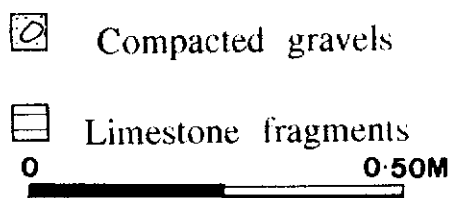
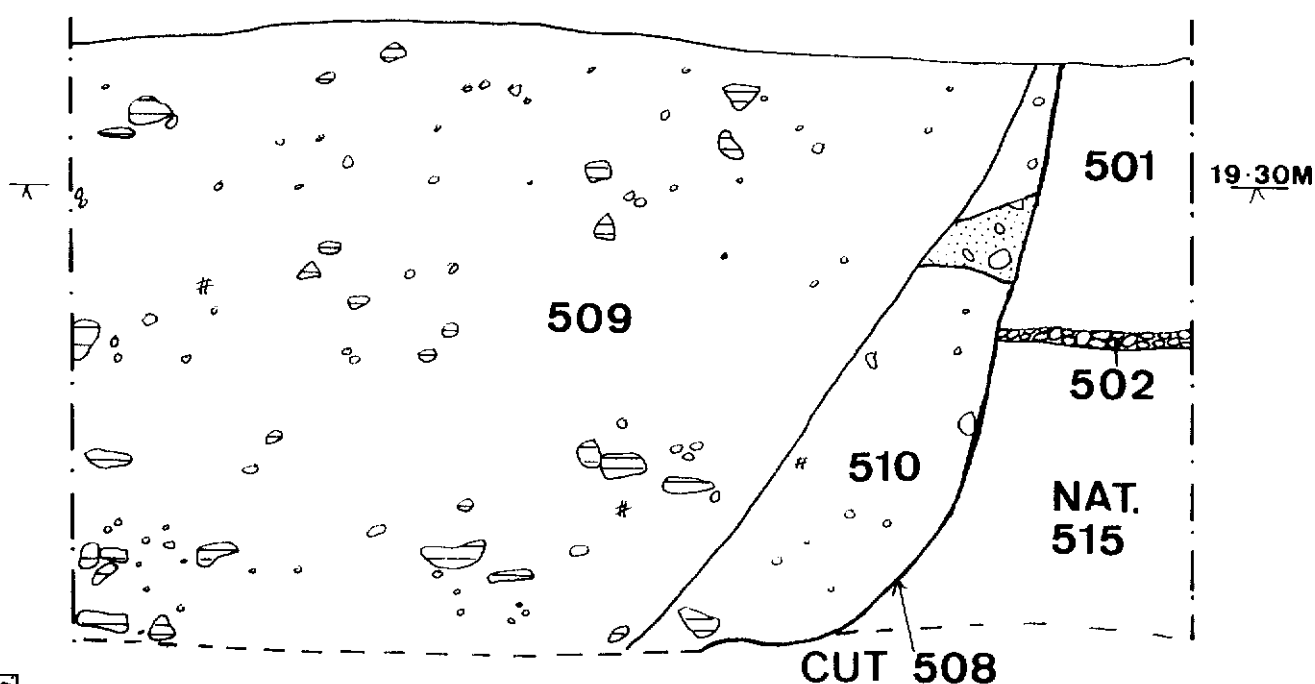
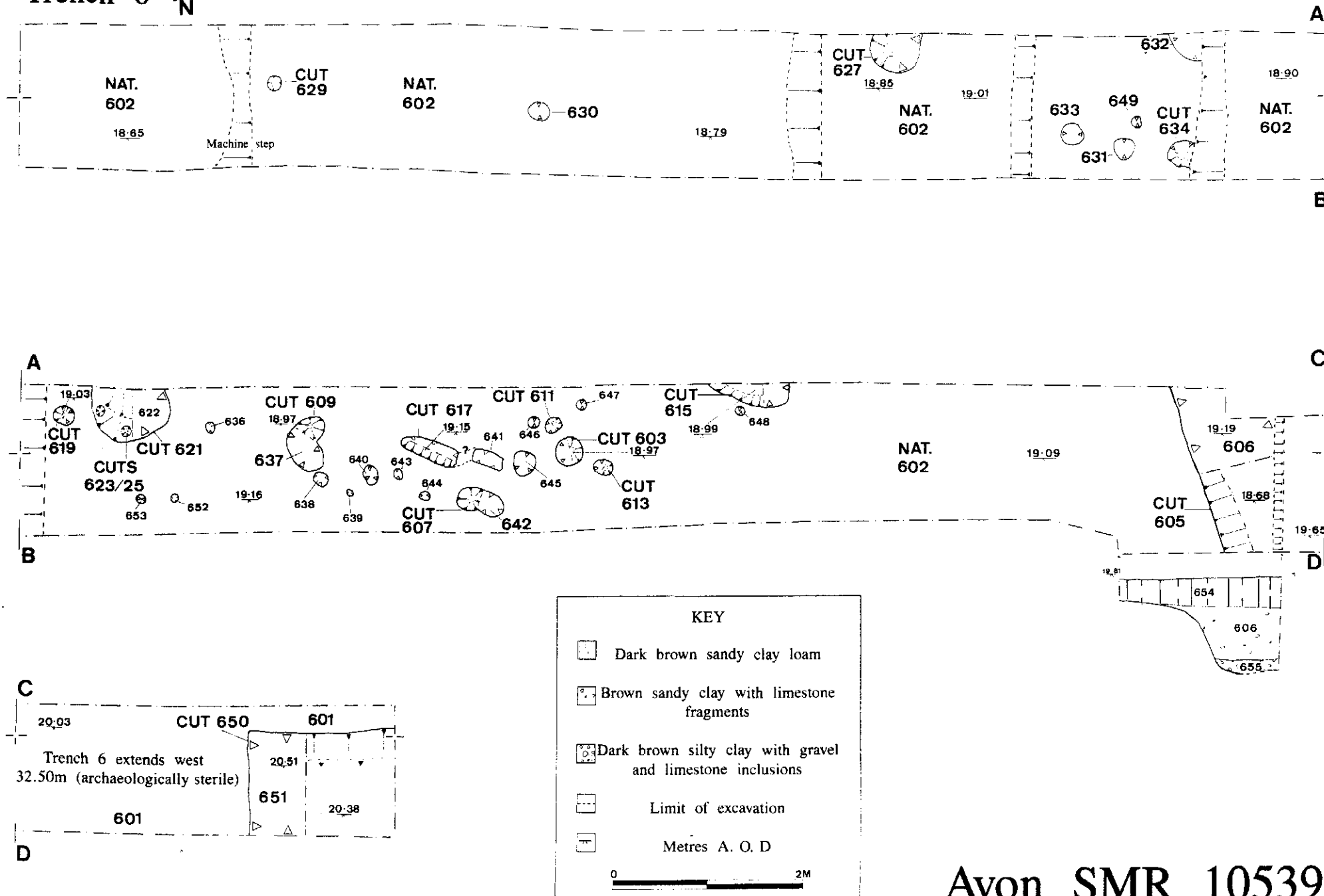


Figure 8

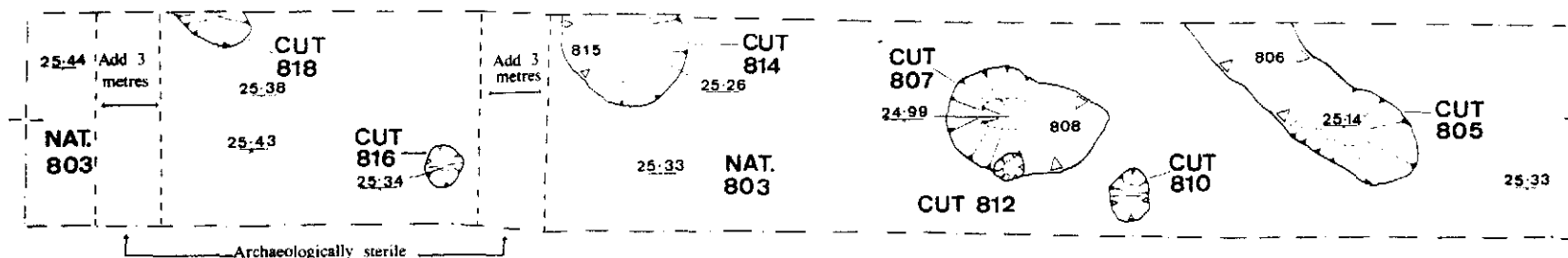
Trench 6



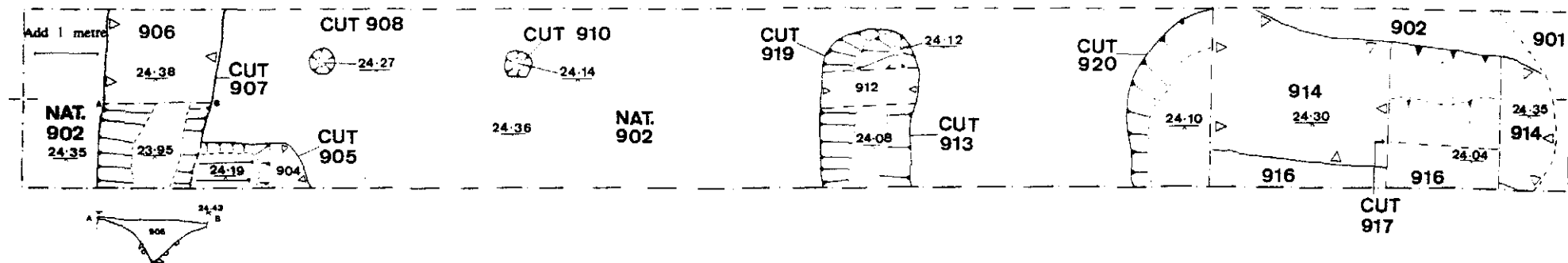
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Figure 9

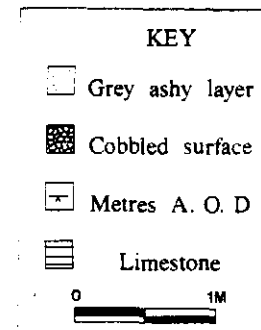
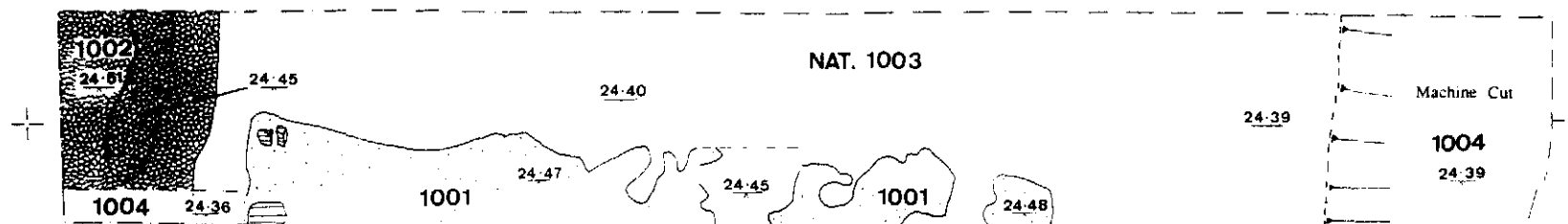
Trench 8



Trench 9



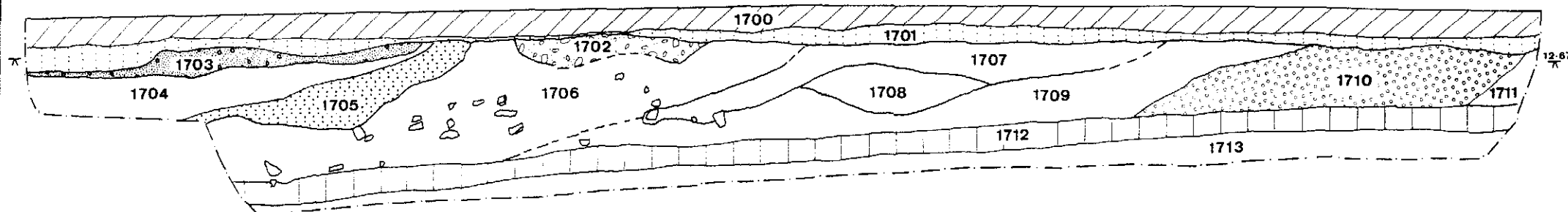
Trench 10



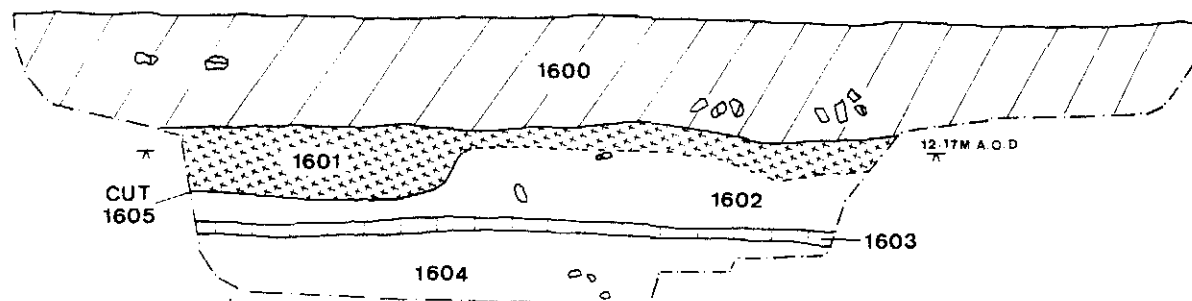
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Figure 10








Trench 17; West Facing Section



Trench 16; South Facing Section



KEY

-  Concrete & Hardcore
-  Ash & Clinker
-  Mixed laminated clays & gravels
-  Clay & limestone / gravels
-  Mixed sandy clay & ochreous flecks
-  Sandy clay & fine gravels
-  Buried soil horizon
-  Mottled blue-grey & dark brown clay

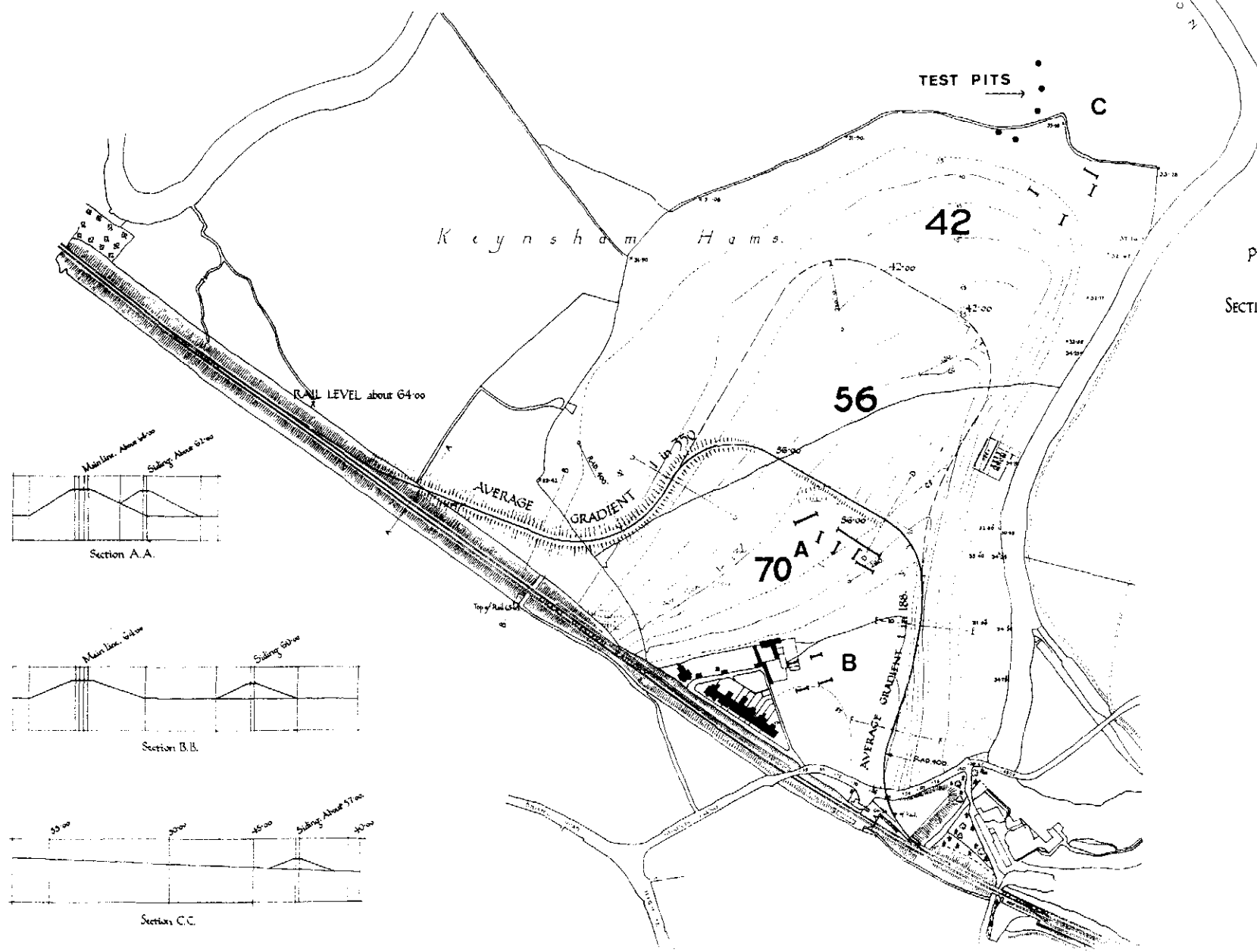
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Figure 11

KEYNSHAM

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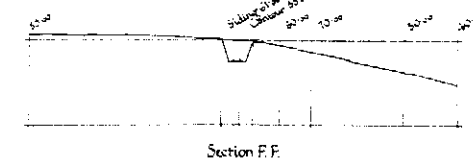
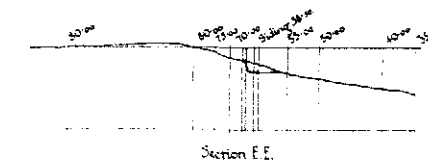
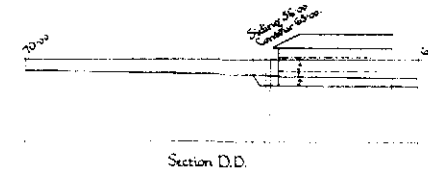


SCALES.

PLAN

SECTIONS.

DATUM: SEA LEVEL.



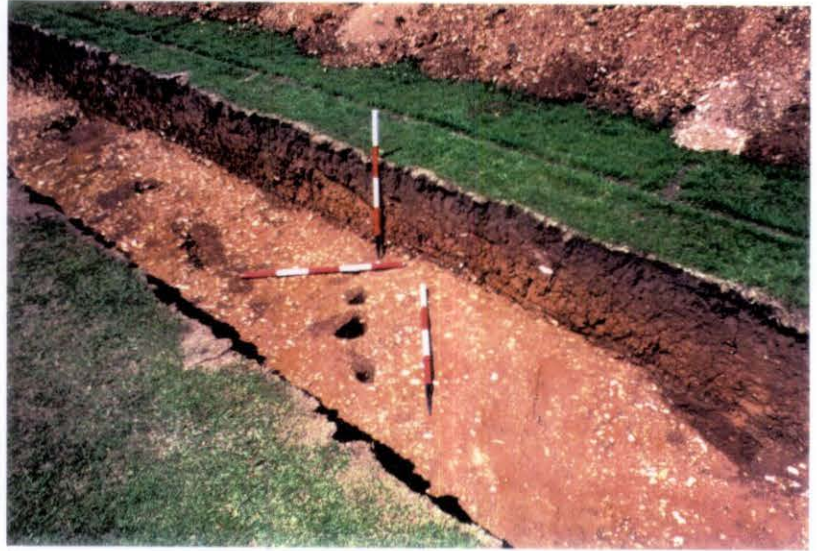
Photographs

Trench 3 (Cuts 321 & 323)



a

Trench 6 (postholes 603, 611, 613)



b



c

Trench 8 (Cut 805)



d

Trench 9 (Cut 919)



e



f

Trench 7



g

Trench 10



h

5.12 **Trenches 16-19**
 Figure 2

5.12.1 Four trenches of varying length and each 1.5m in width (figure 2, trenches 16-19) were excavated within an area formerly occupied by warehouses associated with the Cadbury factory, at the rear of the main building.

5.12.2 **Trench 16**
 Figure 10
 (6.4m x 1.5m x 1.56m)

5.12.2.1 Trench 16 was excavated through a deep layer of meshed concrete, tarmac and hardcore (context 1600, maximum thickness 0.63m), which sealed made ground (context 1601, maximum thickness 0.41m) comprising a mix of blue-grey clays and dark brown loamy clay. Layer 1601 appeared to fill a deeply concave depression (cut 1605) which was partially exposed within the northwestern end of the trench. Cut 1605 truncated the underlying deposit (context 1602) which consisted of a deep horizon of dark brown silty clay loam (maximum thickness 0.40m). Layer 1602, in turn, overlay a thin deposit of brown silty clay (context 1603, maximum thickness 0.06m). Layers 1602 and 1603 were interpreted as a buried land surface and associated soil deposits. Dating evidence retrieved from these buried deposits consisted of a few sherds of Romano-British pottery including one fragment of Samian ware. Layer 1603 sealed a natural olive brown silty clay deposit in the base of the trench.

5.12.3 **Trench 17**
 Figure 10
 (11.0m x 1.5m x 1.70m)

5.12.3.1 Trench 17 was excavated through a layer of meshed concrete and hardcore (context 1700, maximum thickness 0.17m) to reveal a sequence of deposits (contexts 1701; 1702; 1703; 1704; 1705; 1706; 1707; 1708; 1709; 1710; 1711 - for full description of these deposits, please refer to site archive: BRSMG 31/1995) forming made ground to a depth varying between 0.70m and 1.25m below the modern ground surface. Sealed beneath the made ground and declining from southwest to northeast, layer 1712 (of consistent thickness c.0.20m) comprised a very humic, dark greyish brown silty clay loam. The layer (1712), which was interpreted as an undisturbed buried land surface, contained a few small sherds of Romano-British pottery. Buried soil 1712 overlay a natural olive brown silty clay deposit (context 1713) in the base of the trench.

5.12.4 **Trenches 18 and 19**
 Figure 2
 (each c.10m x 1.5m x c.3m)

5.12.4.1 Trenches 17 and 18 were excavated through a layer of modern meshed concrete and hardcore to reveal a sequence of deposits forming made ground at a depth in excess of 3m. No archaeological features and deposits were revealed within either trench to that depth and the trenches were backfilled immediately after opening.

6 **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 **AREA A**

6.1.1 Six evaluation trenches were opened within the zone of proposed commercial development. Archaeologically significant features and deposits were identified within all of the trenches excepting Trench 4 (figure 2). The southeastern half of Trench 6, which lay parallel to Trench 4, was also devoid of any archaeological stratigraphy. The majority of the archaeological features and deposits recorded within the trenches were located at the surface of a gravel terrace which declined from southeast to northwest (20.73m -17.57m A.O.D). The archaeological features consisted largely of negative soil features - postholes, stakeholes, pits and ditches. It was not possible to determine the form or function of the individual timber structure(s) that were represented by the large number of postholes and stakeholes recorded within each trench because of their limited area of exposure.

6.1.2 A group of later extraction pits, probably of medieval date, were identified within Trenches 3, 5 and 6, although their dating is based upon a *terminus post quem* provided by small quantities of medieval pottery and they could therefore be of later date. Positive dating of the stratigraphically earlier features remains difficult although the absence of Romano-British finds in an area of known Romano-British settlement is considered to be significant. This lack of Romano-British material and the stratigraphic relationship of the features with the probable medieval pits, indicates that the undated features are of pre-medieval date and probably of prehistoric origin.

6.1.3 Several recut and paired postholes were recorded within the earliest complex of features. These indicate the likelihood that more than one phase of

structural activity is represented by this period of activity on the site. On that basis the features are more likely to represent a significant period of occupation as opposed to more transient activity.

- 6.1.4 The wider extent of a ditch recorded in Trench 1 was identified by geophysical remote sensing. The ditch appears to form part of a rectilinear enclosure which extends beyond Area A to the north and east, beneath the modern car parking and the Fry Club. The survey also defined a modern rectilinear feature which, in the evaluated area was recorded to consist of a deposit of slag and clinker contained within a narrow trench. The full extent of this feature could also be traced on the ground surface as a parchmark visible at the time of excavation. Since it is almost certainly of modern origin the feature was not considered to be archaeologically significant.

6.2 AREA B

- 6.2.1 Three of the four evaluation trenches opened within the zone of residential development produced sparse evidence of archaeological stratigraphy. The features identified consisted largely of pits of indeterminate function, gullies and a few postholes. None of the features provided any dating evidence and could not be dated typologically or relatively.

- 6.2.2 Some of the features in this area appear to relate to a building which is indicated adjacent Chandos Road on a 1921 map of the area (figure 11; courtesy of Cadbury Limited). Given the absence of dating evidence the remaining negative soil features in this area, specifically those revealed within Trenches 8 and 9, remain of potential archaeological significance and may be of either medieval, Romano-British or prehistoric origin.

6.3 AREA C

- 6.3.1 Five machine-excavated testpits and four trenches were opened within the zone of industrial development to the rear of the factory complex. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the testpits. Testpits 11 and 12 were cut through made ground to a depth in excess of 2.5m below the modern ground surface. Testpit 13 revealed a modern tarmac surface underlying recently tipped material. Made ground was revealed beneath the tarmac to a depth in excess of 1m. Testpits 14 and 15 revealed a topsoil layer sealed beneath modern tipped material. The topsoil horizon sealed a well consolidated layer of limestone brash and clays at a depth of c.0.5m.

- 6.3.2 All four of the trenches opened within area C were cut through modern meshed concrete overlying made ground. Within Trenches 18 and 19, the made ground extended to a depth in excess of 3m below the modern ground surface. An undisturbed buried land surface and associated soil deposits, which contained a few sherds of Romano-British pottery and daub, were revealed beneath the made ground (at a depth of c.0.70m) within trenches 16 and 17. Although the buried soils did not contain significant quantities of archaeological material, their proximity to known Romano-British remains and the undisturbed nature of the land surface indicates that archaeological features and deposits may survive at this level elsewhere in the vicinity.
- 6.3.3 Reference to a 1921 plan of Keynsham Hams (figure 11), commissioned by the Cadbury company in advance of the construction of the present factory, indicates that the area assessed by the both the testpits and Trenches 18 and 19 consisted of open and undeveloped pasturage at that time. The plan suggests that the ground surface in the area at that time was located at or below c.10m A.O.D. This correlates well with the information recorded by both the testpits and Trenches 18 and 19 where, in the case of the latter, the modern ground surface is now at c.13m A.O.D and underlain by up to 3m of made-ground, all of which has therefore been deposited since 1921.
- 6.4 **SUMMARY OF GEOPHYSICAL DATA (AREA A)**
- 6.4.1 The detailed results of the geophysical survey are set out in a separate report which accompanies this document.
- 6.4.2 In summary the assessment confirmed the presence and wider extent of a ditched enclosure which was assessed by trial excavation within Trench 1. The survey also confirmed the presence of a rectangular feature which evaluation demonstrated to be of modern origin. The survey failed to detect any substantial archaeological remains within the areas of the proposed car parking or wetland landscaping (except where the proposed landscaping may affect the ditched enclosure). It should be noted however, that the nature and depth of the complex negative features which were recorded at the interface of the terrace gravels within evaluation Trenches 1-6, make it unlikely that they would have been detected by the survey at the detection resolutions that were employed.

7 CONTRACTOR'S ADVICE

7.1 Area A - Zone of Proposed Commercial Development

7.1.1 Although the archaeology revealed within this area could not be dated precisely, it is certainly of pre-medieval origin (as evidenced by its relationship to medieval features, probably gravel pits, revealed in trenches 5 and 6) and complex, and appears to be distributed across the bulk of the footprint of the proposed commercial buildings.

7.1.2 The archaeology identified in the area remains of possible prehistoric or Romano-British date, although the lack of Roman finds suggests it may well be the earlier. Whatever their origin, the remains are considered to be of sufficient importance to represent a significant planning consideration if the proposed commercial development were to proceed.

7.1.3 It is our advice that the remains in this area are not of sufficient quality or national importance to justify preservation in-situ at the expense of future development. The remains are, however, considered to be of sufficient importance to justify further detailed excavation and recording in advance of any future development in order to ensure their preservation by record in advance of destruction.

7.1.4 On the basis of the geophysical data the area of proposed car parking appears to pose no significant threat to any underlying archaeology unless substantial reductions in ground levels are anticipated. Any deeper excavation of drainage and/or other related services in that area should however be monitored archaeologically.

7.1.5 As it is currently understood the area of proposed wetland landscaping may affect part of the ditched enclosure and other associated archaeological remains which are preserved at relatively shallow depth in the area adjacent to the existing Fry Club car park. If it is practicable the final proposals for the landscaping would ideally incorporate measures which enable the landscaping to proceed without disturbing the existing ground surface and thereby preserving the underlying archaeology. If this were not possible, and subject to the details of the final proposals, then a programme of archaeological recording (taking the form of either excavation or a watching brief) may be required in advance of the landscaping development in order to preserve the remains by record in advance of their destruction.

7.2 **Area B - Zone of Proposed Residential Development**

- 7.2.1 The archaeology recorded in the area of proposed residential development was patchy and could not be dated typologically or relatively.
- 7.2.2 The remains area not considered to be of sufficient quality or extent to justify preservation in-situ at the expense of future development.
- 7.2.3 If the residential development proceeds it is our advice that a limited programme of further archaeological observation and recording ("watching brief") during future construction would be the appropriate response to the quality of the archaeological remains which have been identified in the area.

7.3 **Area C - Zone of Proposed Industrial Development**

- 7.3.1 The evidence recorded to the rear of the factory suggests that the bulk of the proposed industrial footprint would be sited in areas where there are substantial deposits of modern made-ground in excess of 2.5m - 3m deep. It is anticipated that any archaeology which may still be preserved at greater depths would not be affected by future development.
- 7.3.2 As it is currently envisaged, the southwestern margin of the development would affect an area where an undisturbed buried land surface has been identified (Trenches 16 and 17). No evidence of modern activity was recovered from the buried land surface which appears to reflect an area which was open pasturage as late as 1921.
- 7.3.3 The buried land surface does not contain sufficient archaeological material to represent a deposit of particular archaeological significance in its own right. However, because of the proximity of known Roman-British remains, and because the horizon appears to be undisturbed, it is possible that archaeological remains are preserved within or beneath it elsewhere in an area roughly defined as the area to the southwest of the modern boundary fence.
- 7.3.4 Accordingly, it is advised that a further limited programme of archaeological observation and recording ("watching brief") would be appropriate during selective stages of the proposed industrial development in order to record any archaeological remains which may be exposed in that area as a consequence of initial earthmoving and groundworks, etc.

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