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**Rossington Colliery Spoil Heap  
Coal Recovery and Restoration Scheme  
South Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Report no. 2291

January 2012

Client: SKM Enviros



# Rossington Colliery Spoil Heap Coal Recovery and Restoration Scheme South Yorkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### *Summary*

*An archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of 22 trial trenches, was carried out in advance of the determination of a planning application for a coal recovery and restoration scheme which includes land around Rossington Grange Farm. The evaluation revealed a number of ditches interpreted as forming two enclosures and an associated field system thus confirming the cropmark evidence and the results of the geophysical survey. Preliminary analysis of the pottery assemblage suggests occupation of the site dating from the pre-Roman Iron Age to 4th century AD. The presence of two circular, undated, features also identified as both cropmarks and magnetic anomalies has also been confirmed as has a former course of the River Torne. All the trenches targeted on apparently 'blank' areas (as indicated by both the cropmark evidence and the magnetic data) were devoid of archaeological features suggesting the non-intrusive surveys give an accurate assessment of the extent of the archaeological resource on this site. Nevertheless, further evaluation trenching may be required to confirm the overall archaeological potential of the site and to help determine the level of mitigation that would be appropriate should the planning application be granted.*



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## Report Information

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## 1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by SKM Enviros, on behalf of their client, RecyCoal Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land around Rossington Grange Farm, South Yorkshire which will be affected by the proposed coal recovery and restoration scheme (see Fig. 1). The scheme of work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design submitted (December 2011) to, and approved by, Andrew Lines of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), archaeological advisors to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

### Site location and topography

The overall site covers approximately 112.5 hectares including part of the former Rossington Main Colliery (particularly the spoil heap), and is located to the south-west of New Rossington, near Doncaster (see Fig. 1). The archaeological surveys covered the 50 hectares (approximate) of arable farmland to the south of the spoil heap. The River Torne borders the survey area to the south and west with the spoil heap to the north and agricultural land to the east (with New Rossington lying further to the east). The land covered by the archaeological surveys is centred at SK 605 975 and is situated between approximately 5m and 10m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

### Soils, geology and land-use

The underlying bedrock comprises sandstone of the Nottingham Castle Formation. Superficial deposits of peat and alluvium are prevalent close to the River Torne with river terrace sand and gravels immediately beyond the floodplain (see Fig. 4). The soils are classified in the Wick 1 soil association being described as deep, well-drained, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel.

## 2 Archaeological and Historical Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment was produced prior to the commencement of the current fieldwork (SKM Enviros 2011) to accompany the Planning Application for the proposed development. This established that there are cropmarks indicative of enclosures, field systems and trackways across the southern part of the site which are presumed to date to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. These cropmarks also extend eastwards leading to the conclusion that *'there is the potential for unknown archaeological deposits ..... to exist below ground within the site boundary'* (SKM Enviros 2011).

Recently an archaeological evaluation comprising a geophysical (magnetometer) survey and fieldwalking was carried out for the same survey area. The magnetometer survey has identified a series of linear anomalies in the central part of the study area (fields within the southern part of the application site) which together form a system of land division and enclosure dating probably to the later Iron Age or early post-Roman period, confirming and

enhancing the cropmark evidence. A weak circular anomaly, possibly the remains of a round barrow, suggests earlier, Bronze Age, activity on the site. This central part of the site was considered to have a medium to high archaeological potential and informed the approach to this investigation. Numerous other anomalies due to geological variation, alluvial deposits and former river channels, land drains, 19th century field boundaries and modern activity were also identified across the study area. The fieldwalking found very little material of archaeological potential with only a handful of flints and two possible fragments of Roman grey ware being recovered. The overwhelming majority of the assemblage comprised fragments of clay land drain and modern pottery.

### **3 Aims and Objectives**

The aim this phase of the evaluation was to provide detailed information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, date, depth of burial and degree of survival of any archaeological features or deposits present within the area. As these features maybe affected by the proposed development, this stage of trial trenching was intended to provide sufficient information to enable the archaeological potential of the site to be assessed and the planning application to be determined.

To achieve this aim, 22 trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). The trenches covered an area of 1175m<sup>2</sup>, each trench located in order to answer specific questions and to provide as much archaeological information with minimum ground disturbance. The distribution of trenches was designed to focus on the areas of greatest archaeological potential, but also incorporated areas that appeared blank in the geophysical survey in order to test the findings of the earlier survey work.

### **4 Methodology**

All excavation was undertaken in line with the IfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2008a), and in compliance within the English Heritage MoRPHE *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

Twenty two trenches, covering an area of 1175m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated targeting cropmarks, geophysical anomalies and apparently 'blank' areas (Fig. 3) in order to assess the site archaeological potential. The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The stripping was carried out in level spits down to the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural. The resulting surface and any exposed archaeological features were then cleaned by hand, as required, and manually excavated. A sample of 10% of linear features was excavated. All feature intersections and all ditch termini were investigated. Discrete features: pits, post-



holes and other discrete features were half-sectioned to determine and record their form with a minimum sample of 50% of discrete features in each area.

All archaeological features were recorded in accordance with ASWYAS standard methodology (ASWYAS 2008). A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the work was made. The excavation limits were recorded using electronic survey equipment with larger scale hand drawn plans of features at 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Sections of linear and discrete features were drawn at 1:10. All sections, plans and elevations include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places and survey. Tie-in information was undertaken during the course of the evaluation and was fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASWYAS 2011) which was approved by Andrew Lines of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) prior to the commencement of the works.

All artefacts recovered were retained and removed from the site for assessment and analysis, and where appropriate, finds were recorded three dimensionally. Non-modern artefacts were collected from the excavated topsoil and subsoil. Finds material have been stored in controlled environments, where appropriate. All artefacts recovered have been retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work. Any required conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.

No specialist assessment of artefacts (with the exception of the animal bones and the pottery which has been spot dated) or environmental samples has been undertaken at this stage. Full assessment of all material will be undertaken at the conclusion of the evaluation.

A soil-sampling programme was undertaken during the course of the investigation for the identification and recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. At least 30 litres of soil were sampled from the primary fill of each feature. Andrew Lines of SYAS and Andrew Hammon of English Heritage were consulted for advice on a sampling strategy for the possible waterlogged deposits in Trench 14. Following this consultation, three column samples were taken from Trench 14 from a machine excavated slot through what appears to be a former course of the River Torne.

The site archive contains all the information gathered during the archaeological evaluation and it is indexed in Appendix 1. The archive is currently held at ASWYAS headquarters and archive deposition will be arranged at the conclusion of the project and after consultation with the recipient museum.

## **5 Results**

A summary of the results from each trench, including trench dimensions, the archaeological features and finds identified, is presented in Table 1 below. Trenches devoid of archaeological features are not described further.

Context numbers stated in the text and tables, for example [103], in square parentheses indicate cut features whilst context numbers, for example (104) quoted in rounded parentheses indicate feature fills.

Table 1. Summary of trenches

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Dimension (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m) Average</b>	<b>Topsoil (m) Average</b>	<b>Subsoil (m) Average</b>	<b>Cropmarks</b>	<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	<b>Summary of archaeological remains present</b>
1	25 x 2	0.60	0.35	0.30	No evidence	Magnetic anomalies	Residual fragments of building material probably related to structure shown on the first edition mapping of 1854. Also fragments of modern glazed wares and disarticulated animal bones
2	25 x 2	0.50	0.35	0.12	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
3	25 x 2	0.55	0.35	0.20	Enclosure ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Two linear ditches [105, 103] parallel to each other. Fragments of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery
4	25 x 2	0.65	0.40	0.25	Boundary ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [174], post-hole [176] and gully [178]. Fragments of Romano-British pottery
5	25 x 2	0.68	0.30	0.55	No evidence	Variable magnetic anomalies	No archaeology
6	25 x 2	0.55	0.35	0.37	Boundary ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [119], maybe hedgerow. Fragment of modern ceramic building material (made from clay - CBM) and fragment of metal
7	25 x 2	0.55	0.30	0.50	Boundary ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [113], post-hole [116]
8	25 x 2	0.50	0.25	0.25	Boundary ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Two parallel ditches [128, 131] and a furrow [126]
9	25 x 2	0.55	0.35	0.20	No evidence	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [161] and ditch terminus [167] maybe part of a small enclosure. Two post-holes [163, 165]

10	25 x 2	0.55	0.35	0.25	No evidence	Magnetic anomalies	Geological feature
11	25 x 2	0.50	0.30	0.45	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
12	25 x 2	0.60	0.30	0.15	Ring ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Two ditches [136, 139] maybe segments of the same ring ditch. Fragment of Romano-British lug (handle) from the sub-soil
13	25 x 2	0.55	0.33	0.22	Ring ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Two ditches [153, 156] maybe segments of the same ring ditch. Pit [158]
14	25 x 2	0.55	0.45	0.45	No evidence	Magnetic anomalies	Post-hole [183]. Former course of the River Torne. Wood fragments with cutting marks.
15	25 x 2	0.40	0.30	n/a	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
16	25 x 2	0.68	0.35	0.40	No evidence	Magnetic anomalies	No archaeology
17	25 x 2	0.60	0.30	0.20	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
18	25 x 2	0.50	0.35	0.35	Linear ditch	Suspected linear anomaly	Linear ditch [143], animal burial [123], ditch terminus [146] and post-hole [148]. Fragments of Romano-British pottery (one of which is a fragment of stamped mortarium) and articulated sheep skeleton
19	25 x 2	0.55	0.30	0.25	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
20	5 x 5	0.70	0.35	0.25	Linear ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [120]. Fragments of Romano-British pottery
21	10 x 10	0.65	0.40	0.25	No evidence	No evidence	No archaeology
22	10 x 10	0.50	0.40	n/a	Enclosure ditch	Magnetic enhancement	Linear ditch [173], pit [151] containing a metal bucket. Fragments of Iron Age pottery, a possible flint blade and unstratified CBM

## Stratigraphy

Dark brown, loamy, silt plough-soil covered the site to an average depth of 0.35m. The minimum depth was recorded in Trench 8 with 0.25m and the maximum depth was recorded in Trench 14 with 0.45. The sub-soil comprised mid yellowish brown silty sand up to an average of 0.27m in depth with a minimum depth of 0.12m in Trench 2 and a maximum depth of 0.50m in Trench 7. No subsoil was present in Trenches 14, 15 and 19 where a deposit of alluvial clay was identified beneath the topsoil. These three trenches were located on the floodplain of the River Torne.

### ***Trench 3*** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 5; Plate 1 and Plate 2)

This trench was orientated north/south and was positioned to investigate an enclosure ditch identified as a cropmark and a magnetic anomaly. Removal of the plough-soil and sub-soil exposed two linear features cutting the natural sands and gravels. The two, parallel, U-shaped ditches, orientated east/west and approximately 2m apart, were revealed in the central area of the trench (Fig. 5; S2 and S3). The northern ditch [105] was 2.70m wide and 0.90m deep and contained four fills, 106 to 109. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the primary fill (107) and Romano-British pottery was recovered from the final fill (109). The southern, smaller, ditch [103] (1.80m wide and 0.22m deep) contained only a single fill (104), comprising mid yellowish brown silty sand. These two ditches appear to form the northern side of the southern of the two enclosures (see Fig. 3).

### ***Trench 4*** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 6; Plates 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Trench 4 was orientated north/south and targeted one of the main field boundary ditches identified as a cropmark and was also revealed during geophysical survey. Removal of the plough-soil and sub-soil revealed a number of archaeological features cutting the natural sands and gravels. One ditch (Fig. 6; S.37), one gully (Fig. 6; S.39) and a truncated post-hole were identified. The U-shaped ditch [174] at the southern end of the trench, orientated east/west, was 3.10m wide and 0.44m deep and contained two fills; a light yellowish brown mottled silty sand primary fill (175) and a light yellowish brown silty sand final fill (182) from which Roman pottery and burnt stones were recovered. This was the feature previously identified as a cropmark and as the magnetic anomaly. A U-shaped post-hole [176], at the northern end of the trench, was truncated and only partially exposed. It was 0.10m deep and contained a single fill (177) comprising mid brown silty sand. The U-shaped gully [178] at the northern end of the trench was orientated north-east/south-west and was 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep and contained mid brown silty sand single fill (179).

### ***Trench 6*** ( see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 7; Plate 7 and Plate 8)

This north/south orientated trench targeted a linear anomaly identified from cropmark evidence and during the geophysical survey. Following the removal of the plough-soil and sub-soil a shallow, and not too convincing, U-shaped irregular linear feature [119] running

east/west across the trench (see Fig. 7; S.7) was identified. The linear feature was 2.95m wide and 0.55m deep and contained two fills; a mid reddish brown silty sand final fill (117) and a dark reddish brown silty sand primary fill (118). A fragment of modern CBM and a fragment of metal were recovered from fill 118. The shallow irregular profile combined with the finds suggests the feature may be a former, relatively recent, field boundary (hedgerow).

**Trench 7** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 8; Plates 9, 10, 11 and 12)

The excavation of this east/west trench, located to investigate a linear anomaly possibly associated with the field system and identified as a cropmark and confirmed by the geophysical survey, revealed a ditch and a post-hole (see Fig. 8; S.5 and S.6). The irregular U-shaped ditch 113, orientated north/south, was 2.20m wide and 0.44m deep. It contained a mid reddish brown silty sand upper fill (111) and a light reddish brown silty sand primary fill (112). The partially exposed U-shaped post-hole [116] was 0.50m wide, 0.27m deep and contained two fills, a light reddish brown silty sand natural slump (114) and a light reddish brown silty sand primary fill (115).

**Trench 8** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 9; Plate 13 and Plate 14)

Trench 8 was orientated north/south and targeted a possible boundary ditch identified as a cropmark and later confirmed by the geophysical survey. Two ditches [128 and 131] were exposed following machining (see Fig. 9; S.13 and S.14). The two U-shaped, parallel, ditches, orientated east/west, were approximately 3m apart. The southern ditch [131] was 1.5m wide and 0.30m deep. It contained two fills, a light yellowish brown sand secondary fill (132) and a light brownish yellow sand, primary fill (133). Ditch 128 was 1.85m wide, 0.45m deep and contained two fills, a light orangey brown sand upper fill (129) and a light reddish brown primary fill (130). No finds were recovered from either feature. A modern plough furrow was also present.

**Trench 9** (see Fig. 2, Fig.3 and Fig. 10; Plates 15, 16, 17 and 18)

This trench was orientated east/west and was positioned to investigate a possible small enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. A linear ditch, two post-holes and a ditch terminus cut into the natural sands and gravel were identified (see Fig. 10; S.29, S.30, S.31 and S.32). Ditch 161, orientated north/south was U-shaped, 1.03m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a mid yellowish brown single fill (160). The two U-shaped post-holes, located equidistantly between the ditch and the ditch terminal, almost in the centre of the trench, were approximately 0.60m apart. Post-hole 163 was 0.30m wide, 0.15m deep and contained a single light yellowish brown silty sand fill (162). Post-hole 165 was 0.50m wide, 0.20m deep and it contained a light yellowish brown silty sand single fill (164). An irregular U-shaped ditch terminus (167), located at the eastern end of the trench, was 1m wide and 0.30m deep and it contained a light yellowish brown sand, single fill (166). No artefacts were recovered from any of these features.

**Trench 12** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig.11; Plates 19, 20, 21 and 22)

Trench 12 was located across a possible ring ditch (round barrow) identified as a cropmark and tentatively identified by the geophysical survey. The excavation identified two U-shaped, parallel ditches orientated north/south and approximately 9.50m apart (see Fig. 11; S.20 and S.22). The eastern ditch [139] was 1.65m wide and 0.46m deep and contained one fill (138 - light reddish brown sand). It had been re-cut by a later terminus or pit [142], 1.70m wide and 0.70m deep. This feature contained two fills, a mid reddish brown silty sand upper fill (140) and a light reddish brown sand primary fill (141). The western ditch [136] was 2.20m wide, 0.45m deep and contained only one light greyish brown silty sand primary fill (135). A fragment of Roman grey ware pottery was found in the subsoil in the western end of the trench 1m west of ditch 136. No other finds identified in the archaeological features.

**Trench 13** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 12; Plates 23, 24, 25 and 26)

This east/west orientated trench was also located to investigate a possible ring ditch (round barrow) identified as a cropmark and tentatively identified by the geophysical survey. Removal of plough-soil and sub-soil revealed two parallel ditches orientated north/south and approximately 14.5m apart with a possible pit between the two trenches (see Fig. 12; S.26, S.27 and S.28). Ditch 156 was 1m wide but very shallow being only 0.10m deep and was located at the western end of the trench. It contained a mid orangey brown gravelly sand single fill (157). The U-shaped ditch 153, located in the eastern end of the trench was 1.20m wide, 0.40 m deep and contained two fills, a light brownish yellow sand, primary fill (154) and a mid reddish brown silty sand secondary fill (155). A U-shaped pit [158], 1.50m wide and 0.45m deep, had a dark reddish brown gravelly sand fill (159) and was partially exposed between the two ditches. No archaeological finds were recovered from any features in this trench.

**Trench 14** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig.13; Plate 27 and Plate 28)

Trench 14 was orientated north/south and it was positioned to investigate a probable former river channel, identified through the geophysical survey. The excavation of the trench revealed the silted up former channel of the River Torne and a single post-hole south of the channel (see Fig. 13, S.41). The U-shaped post-hole [183] was 0.35m wide, 0.20m deep and it contained *in situ* fragments of a wooden post (184). Two unstratified fragments of wood presenting cutting marks were retained. Two column samples were taken from a machine excavated section across the former river channel (see Section 7 below for more information on the results of the soil samples).

**Trench 18** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 14; Plates 29, 30 and 31)

This north/south trench was positioned to investigate whether a linear ditch type anomaly, partially identified by the geophysical survey, continued beyond the extent recorded by the magnetic survey as the cropmark evidence suggests. Machine excavation of the plough-soil

and sub-soil revealed a U-shaped linear ditch cut by a sheep burial, a U-shaped post-hole and a possible ditch terminus (see Fig. 14; S.17, S.18, S.23 and S.24). Ditch 143 (1.07m wide and 0.15m deep) was orientated north-east/south-west and contained two fills, a single light reddish brown fill (144) cut by a sheep burial [123], and a mid reddish brown silty sand (145). To the north of the ditch a post-hole [148] and ditch terminus [146] were identified approximately 2.50m apart. The ditch terminus was 1.15m wide and 0.10m deep. The post-hole contained one single mid greyish brown fill (149). The ditch terminus contained a single light reddish brown sand fill (147). Romano-British grey ware fragments and a fragment of mortarium (bowl shaped vessel) approximately dated to the 2nd-4th century AD were recovered from ditch 143.

**Trench 20** (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 15; Plate 32)

Trench 20 targeted a possible entrance into the enclosure complex (identified from cropmark evidence and through the geophysical survey). The excavation identified a U-shaped linear ditch [120] running approximately east/west, 2.25m wide and 0.27m deep (see Fig. 15; S.10). The ditch contained only one single light brownish yellow silty sand fill (121) in which sixteen fragments of Romano-British pottery approximately dated to the 2nd-4th century AD were identified.

**Trench 22** (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 16; Plates 34, 35 and 36)

Trench 22 was located to target the southern ditch of the enclosure and part of the internal area of the enclosure (identified through cropmark evidence) to determine whether there were discrete features not identified by the geophysical survey. A large ditch 2.55m wide and 0.78m deep [173] containing five fills was identified, 168 to 172 inclusive. Fragments of Late Iron Age pottery and a fragmented flint, possible blade were found in the top fill (168) of the ditch. This ditch was located 0.20m from a pit [151] which contained a crushed metal bucket *in situ*. The rest of the trench was characterized by up-cast natural sand indicating the location of an early modern sand pit shown on the first edition mapping of 1854 and identified as "Sand Pit".

## **Artefact Record**

### **Pottery Spot Dating by Ruth Leary**

A total of sixty sherds of Iron Age/Romano-British pottery were recovered during the archaeological evaluation (see Plates 37, 38, 39 and 40). The pottery assemblage ranges from Pre-Roman Iron Age/Conquest period to the mid 4th century AD.

An archive catalogue is included as Table 2 below. A full assessment of this assemblage and any other pottery recovered during any further trial trenching will be undertaken at the conclusion of the evaluation.



## **Metalwork**

Two metal objects were recovered during the evaluation; an iron nail from ditch 119 (fill 118) in Trench 6 and a metal bucket from pit 151 in Trench 22. A full assessment of these and any other metal objects recovered during any further trial trenching will be undertaken at the conclusion of the evaluation.

## **Flint**

A single stroke flint fragment (possible blade fragment) was recovered from the tertiary fill (168) of the enclosure ditch 173 in Trench 22. A full assessment of this and any other flint objects recovered during any further trial trenching will be undertaken at the conclusion of the evaluation.

## **7 Environmental Record**

### **Soil samples**

During the evaluation, a programme of soil-sampling was undertaken for the identification and recovery of carbonised and water logged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. A total of 22 samples, of a minimum of 30 litres, were collected from archaeological features for gross bulk analysis (GBA). These samples, listed in Appendix 2, will be processed at the conclusion of the evaluation, together with any others taken during any further trial trenching, using an Ankara style water flotation system (French 1971). Where necessary, the flot samples will be analysed by appropriate specialists.

Two column samples from the former river course in Trench 14 were also taken. These may be subject to further analysis by an appropriate specialist, if required.

### **Animal bone by Jane Richardson**

Sheep limb bones and a partial dog/fox skeleton were recovered from a deposit of re-deposited topsoil (110) in Trench 1.

In pit 123 in Trench 18 a near-complete sheep skeleton was retrieved (see Plate 31). The skull, mandibles, fore and hind-limbs, ribs and vertebrae are present, representing a large, well-preserved skeleton that may be relatively recent in date. Further assessment would be required to confirm this. A full assessment of this and any other animal bone recovered during any further trial trenching will be undertaken at the conclusion of the evaluation.

Table 2. Pottery catalogue

Trench	Context	Count	Description	Spot date	Comments
1	110	6	Rim and bodysherds of modern glazed wares	Modern	
3	107	5	CTB1 rim, body and base sherds of cordoned neck jar with upright, flat rather triangular rim	Late PRIA/Con quest period	
3	108	2	CTB1 body sherds		Probably same as above
3	108	3	Fired clay scraps		
Between 3 and 18	100	1	MH incomplete rim sherd of multi-reeled hammerhead mortarium. At least 6 faint reeds	mid 3rd- mid 4 <sup>th</sup>	Unstratified finds recovered from the surface of the field in the area between Trench 3 and Trench 18
Between 3 and 18	100	1	GRB1 undiagnostic bodysherd	RB 2nd – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Unstratified finds recovered from the surface of the field in the area between Trench 3 and Trench 18
6	116	1	Scrap of CBM	Modern	
12	102	6	Fine hard grey ware, HSM RE? 3 ribbed lug. The lug has been pushed through and smoothed on inside	3rd, optimum mid 3rd- mid 4 <sup>th</sup>	The grey ware is very fine quite unlike South Yorkshire grey ware and this vessel is unlikely to have been made there. It is more like a Holme-on-Spalding fabric in which case a mid-3rd century date is likely
18	122	1	GRB6 undiagnostic bodysherd	RB 2nd – 4 <sup>th</sup>	

18	122	1	GRB6 undiagnostic bodysherd	RB 2nd – 4 <sup>th</sup>	
18	124	1	RBB1 base of dish/bowl with linear burnish outside and inside	120+	
18	124	3	GRB1 bodysherds of closed vessel	RB 2nd – 4 <sup>th</sup>	
18	124	1	GRB1 rim and bodysherd of small wide-mouthed jar with everted rim	mid 2nd- mid 4 <sup>th</sup>	
18	124	1	MH? Rim and bodysherd bead and flange mortarium	140-80	Stamped, preliminary identification as Sarrius. In a cream ware which compares with Mancetter-Hartshill rather than the Rossington mortarium fabric. No trit grits on this sherd and no obvious haematite inclusions as described for fabric 2 for a white fabric possibly made at Rossington in Buckland et al 2001, 41. If not Sarrius then likely to be a contemporary potter's stamp
18	124	2	CTB2 bodysherds of closed vessel	Late 1st- 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sandy brown ware with moderate subrounded quartz and sparse shell. Not Dales ware and probably a late early shelly ware
20	121	1	PM	Post Med	
20	121	3	RBR1 base of jar	M2	Fine surface cracking suggests local manufacture
20	121	3	RBB1 bodysherds of jar with acute burnish lattice	M-L2	
20	121	1	RBB1 rim Gillam 1976 nos MB3-4 3-4	M-L2	
20	121	1	GTA10 base of jar	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
20	121	1	GRB1 undiagnostic bodysherd	RB	

				2nd - 4 <sup>th</sup>	
20	121	1	GRB1 bodysherds of jar with acute burnish lattice	mid-late 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
20	121 surface	2	RBB1 Bodysherds of jar	mid-late 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burnt matter outside
20	121 surface	1	RBB1 incomplete rim rim sherd Gillam 1976 no 3	mid 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burnt matter all over rim
20	121 surface	2	GRB6 bodysherds of closed vessel	mid 2nd- mid 4 <sup>th</sup>	
20	121 surface	1	GRB1 darkgrey/ black rim and bodysherd of small wide-mouthed, shouldered jar with everted rim, burnished inside rim and on body	mid 2nd- mid 4 <sup>th</sup>	

## 9 Discussion and Conclusions

The trial trenching undertaken in the fields surrounding Rossington Grange Farm has revealed linear and discrete features (ditches, pits and post-holes) in half of the 22 trenches which were opened in this preliminary stage of the evaluation. These features confirm the presence of at least two enclosures with a surrounding field system. This activity is located on slightly elevated ground just beyond the floodplain of the River Torne. The presence of two circular features (possible round barrows) has also been confirmed. Overall the trenching corroborates the air photography and the results and interpretation of the previous non-intrusive works (desk-based assessment (SKM Enviro 2011)) and geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2011) undertaken earlier in the year.

All the major linear ditch features exposed during the evaluation had previously been identified by either the geophysical survey or were evident as cropmarks or had been located by both techniques. Trenches located in areas where no anomalies of archaeological potential were identified by the geophysical survey (Trenches 2, 11, 15, 19 and 21) have proved to be devoid of archaeological features or deposits, with the exception of Trench 18 where a linear ditch [143] was present. However, the feature did manifest as a cropmark indicating that the combined evidence of the cropmarks and geophysical survey provides a reliable indication of the main areas of archaeological activity on the site. In addition the evaluation has also revealed a number of discrete features, such as pits and post-holes, which were too small or too badly truncated by ploughing to be identified by non-intrusive methods.

Preliminary spot dating of the pottery assemblage recovered during the evaluation suggests that the majority of the features relating to the enclosures appears to date from the Romano-British period. However, pre-Roman Iron Age pottery was recovered from the sections excavated across the large ditches defining the enclosures, possibly suggesting two chronological phases of activity. The lack of any finds from the ditches forming the field system area limits dating opportunities at this time. However, the orientation of the boundary ditches respecting the orientation of the enclosure, would suggest an association between the two areas.

The presence of discrete features (pits and post-holes) combined with the type and form of the pottery strongly suggests the presence of human occupation either within, or close, to the two enclosures (indicated from Trenches 3, 4, 18, 20 and 22) identified.

The evaluation has confirmed the presence of two circular features identified in Trenches 12 and 13, although they remain enigmatic. At this interim stage there is no evidence of associated burials, suggesting that the features could be interpreted as Late Neolithic or Bronze Age round barrows which have been ploughed out. Furthermore no datable material was recovered from the ditch fills to aid dating.

In conclusion three areas of archaeological activity have been identified by the evaluation. South of Rossington Grange Farm. Trenches 3, 4, 18, 20, 22 contain ditches and discrete

features forming a small complex of enclosures with a pottery assemblage suggesting occupation dating from the pre-Roman Iron Age through to the 4th century AD. Ditches forming an outlying system of fields (to the east of and possibly contemporaneous with the enclosures) have been sampled in Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9. The third area covers the two circular features sampled in Trenches 12 and 13 of currently unknown date or function. The evaluation has also identified areas of low potential, including the land to the north of Grange Lane and on the floodplain of the River Torne.

The evaluation trenching has successfully defined the broad areas of archaeological activity on this site. During this it has confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and indicating that, taken together, the cropmarks and magnetic anomalies do give a reliable indication of the main areas of potential. Additional trenching may be required in order to more closely define the extent, and confirm the importance of the archaeological resource.

**Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive**

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Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Context register sheets	4
		Daily record sheets	13
		Trench sheets	22
		Drawing register sheets	4
		Small drawing sheets	24
		Levels sheets	13
		Sample register sheets	1
		Forms B	6
		Small finds register sheets	1
		Digital photo register sheets	5
		Colour films	3
		B&W films	3
		Film ID sheets	3
		Risk assessment	1
		Project Design	1
		Context sheets (nos. 100-187)	188

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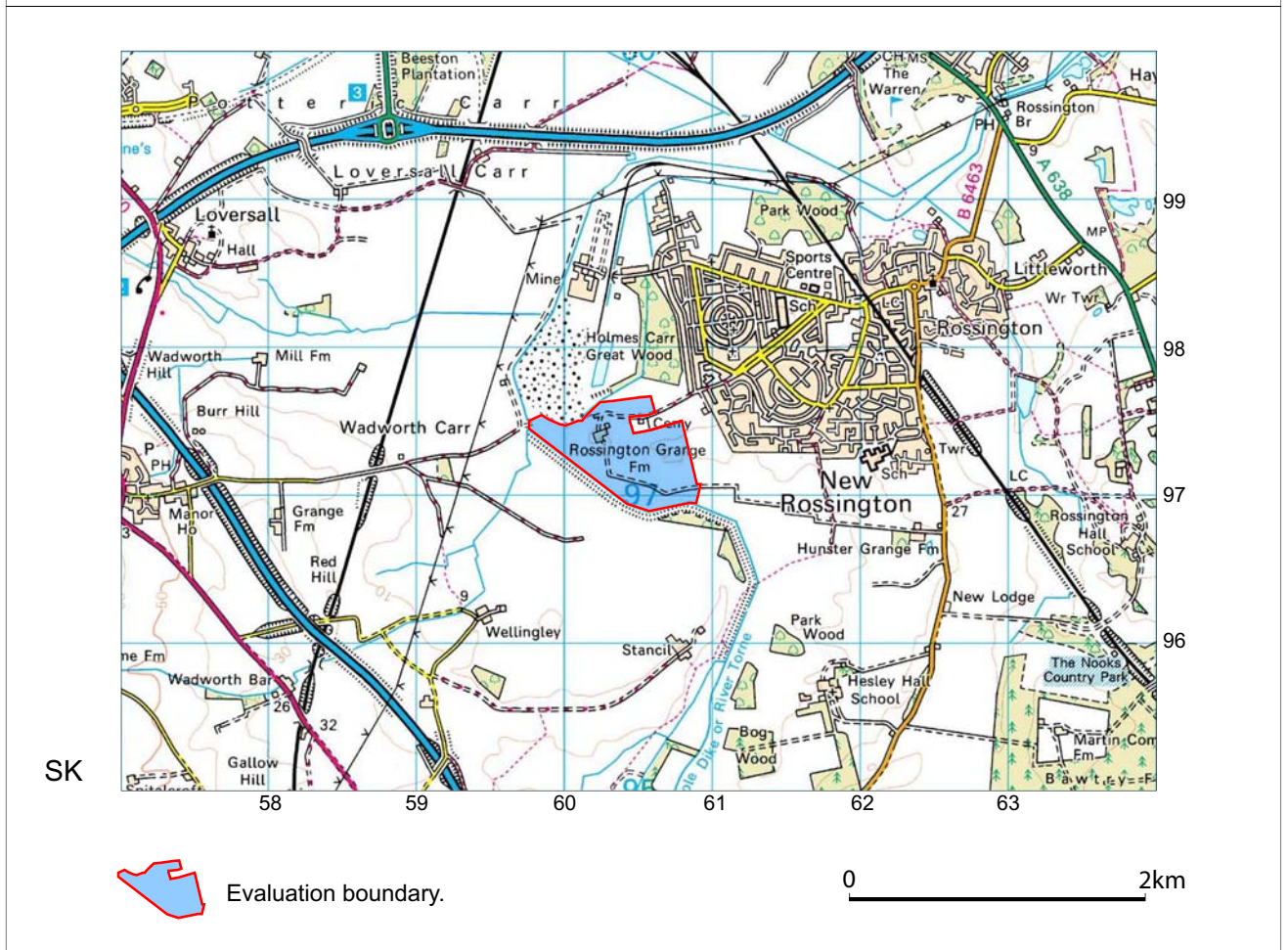
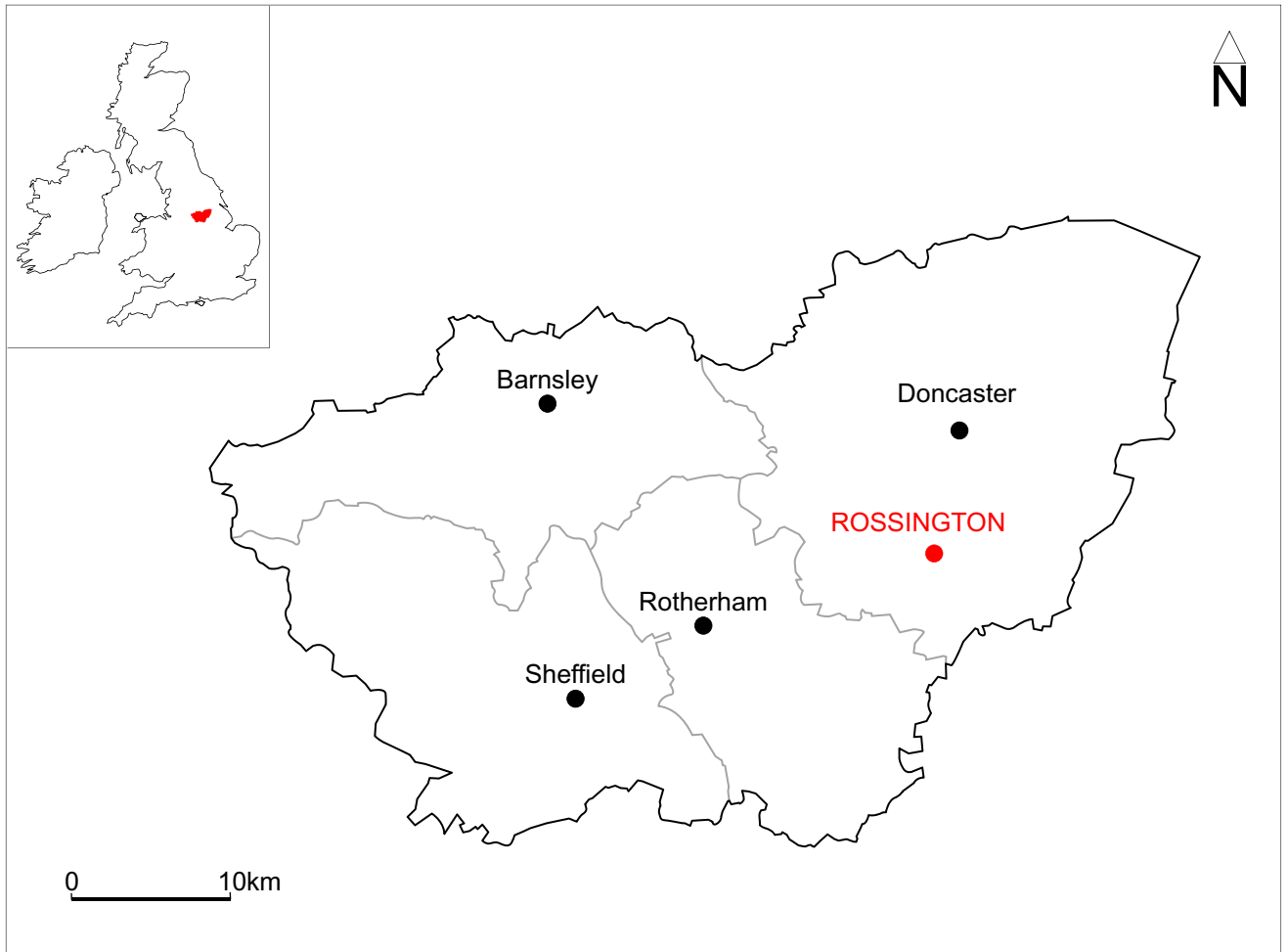


Fig. 1. Site location



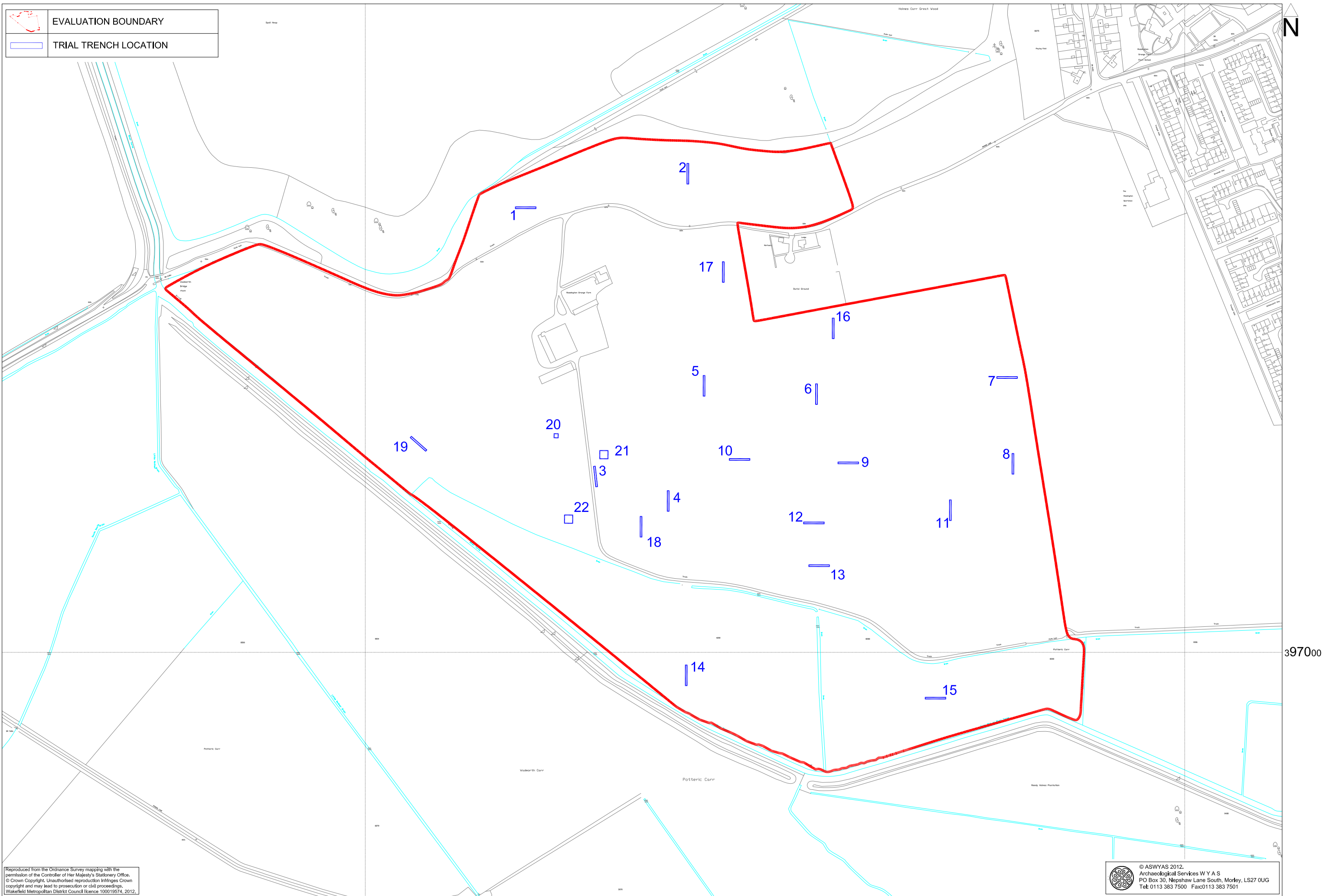
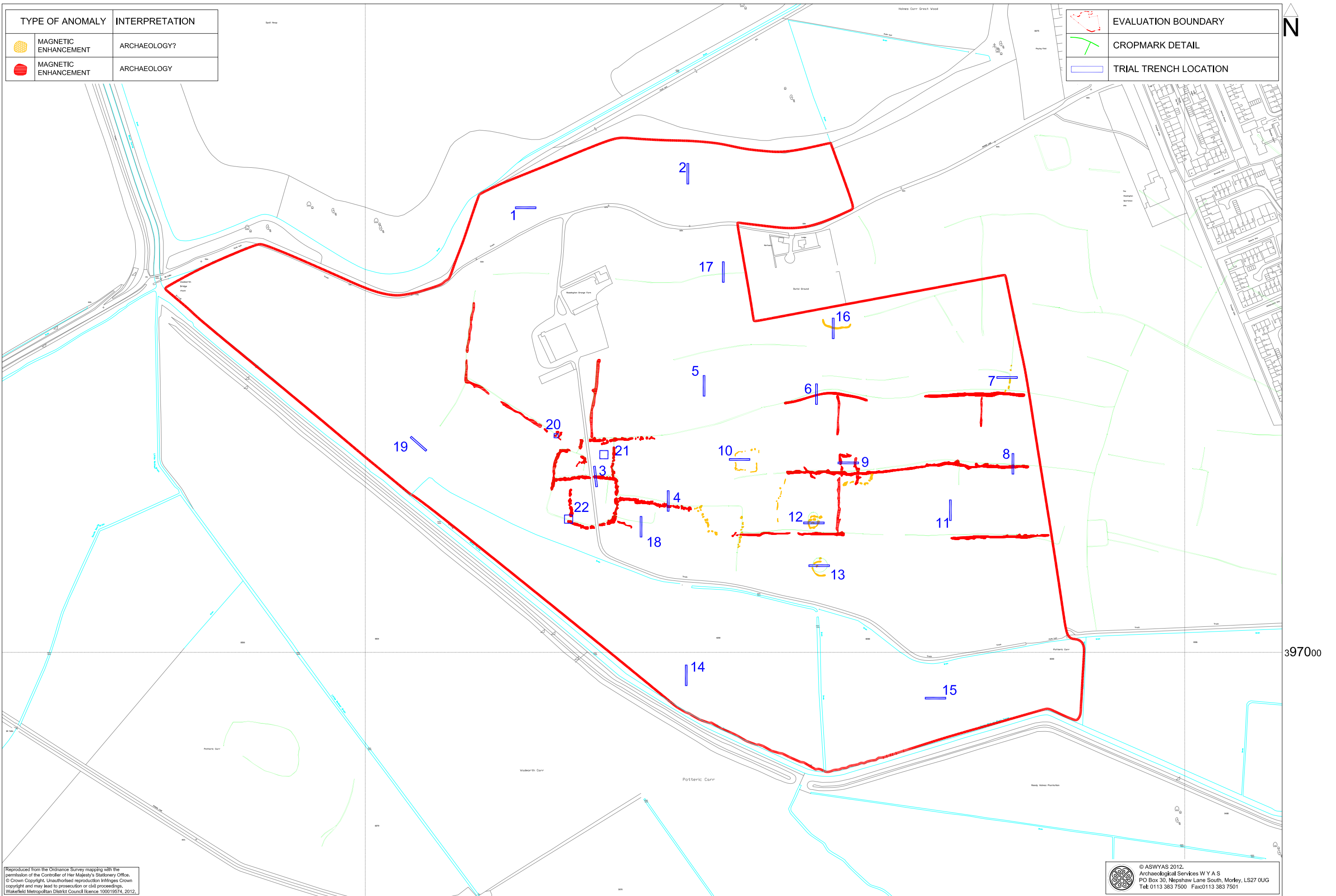


Fig. 2. Trial trench location (1:4000 @ A3)



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 Archaeological Services W Y A S  
 PO Box 30, Nephshaw Lane South, Morley, LS27 0UG  
 Tel: 0113 383 7500 Fax: 0113 383 7501

Fig. 3. Archaeological interpretation of magnetometer data and cropmark detail (1:4000 @ A3)

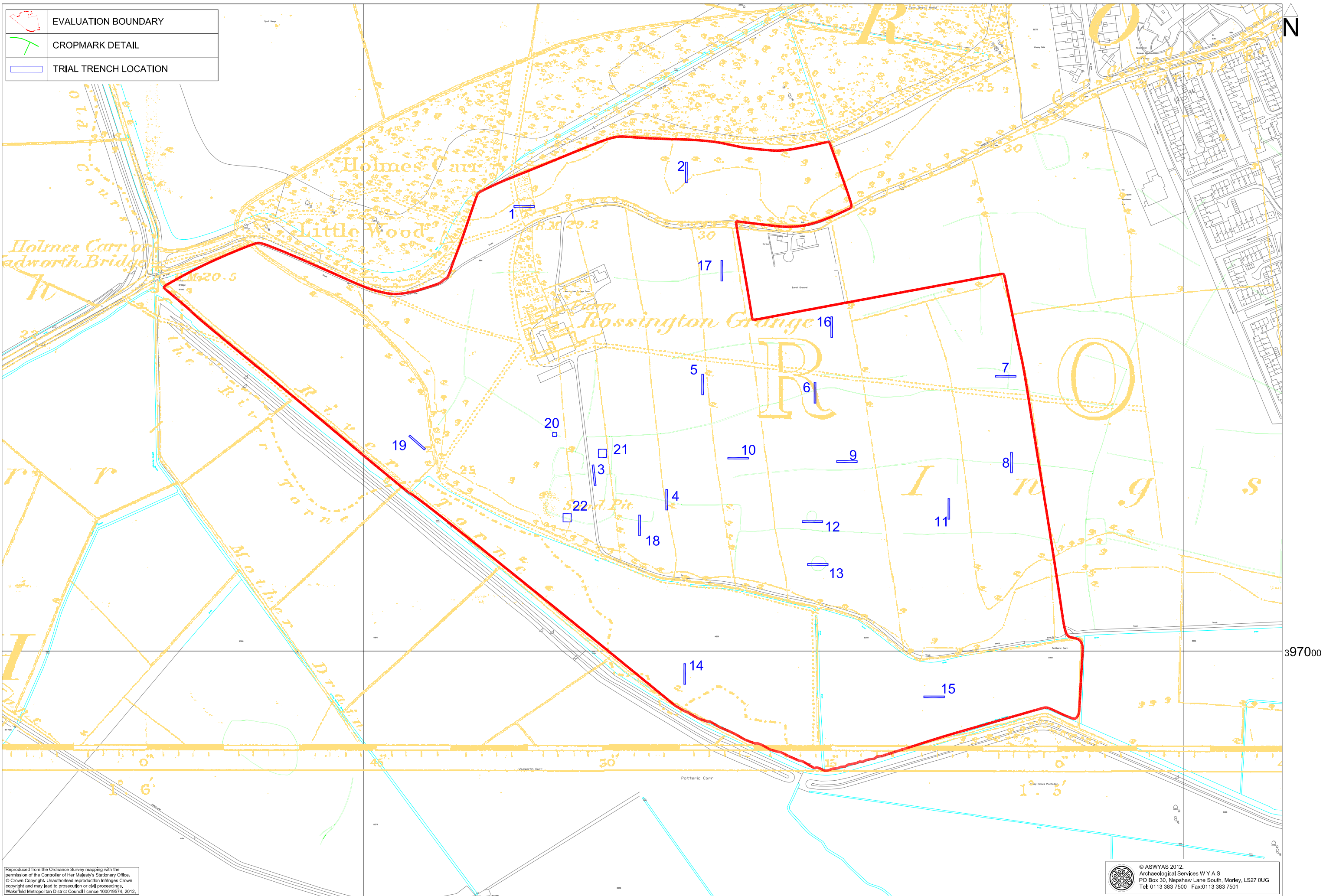


Fig. 4. Site location showing first edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1854 and cropmark detail (1:4000 @ A3)

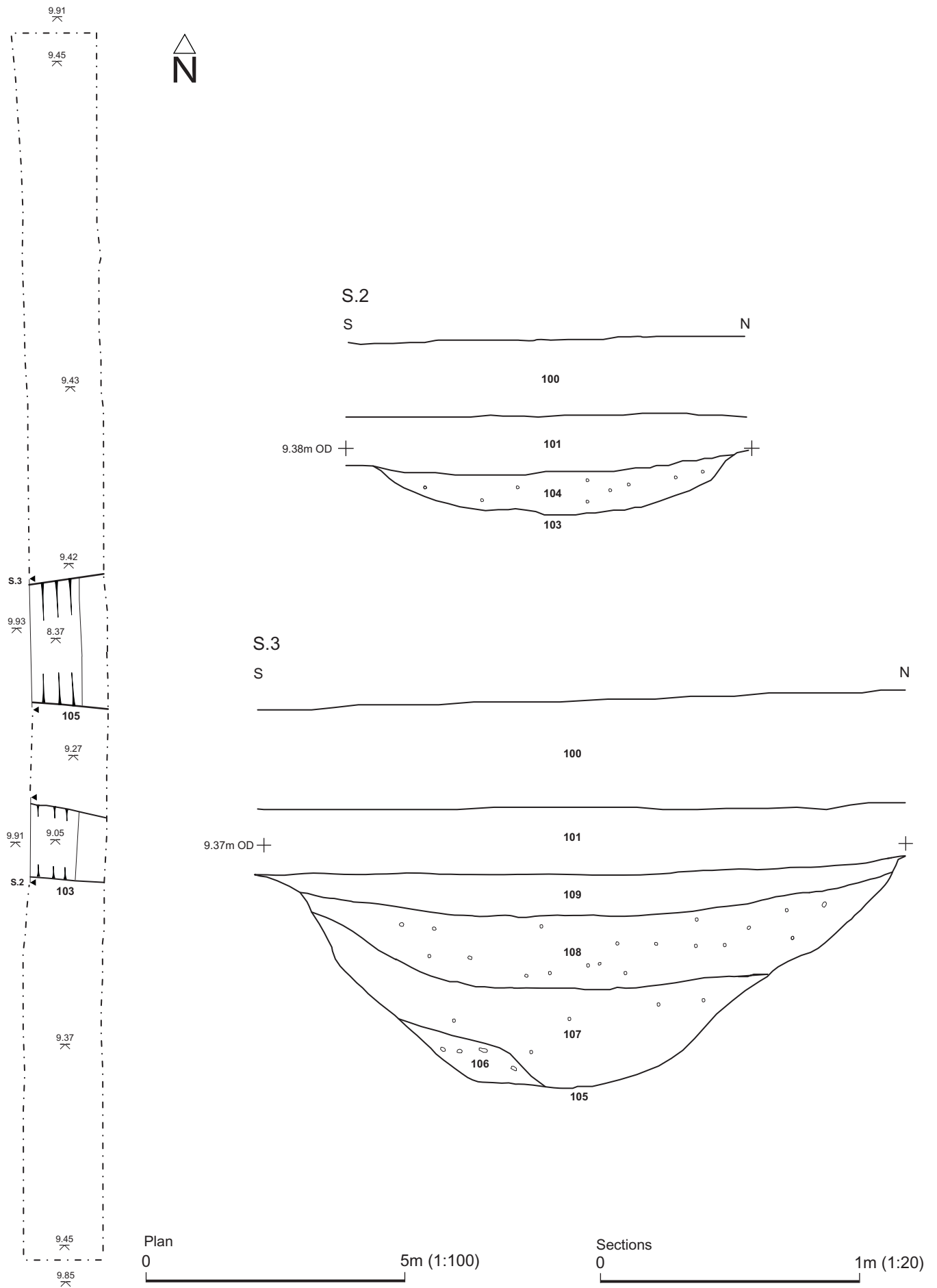


Fig. 5. Trench 3, plan and sections

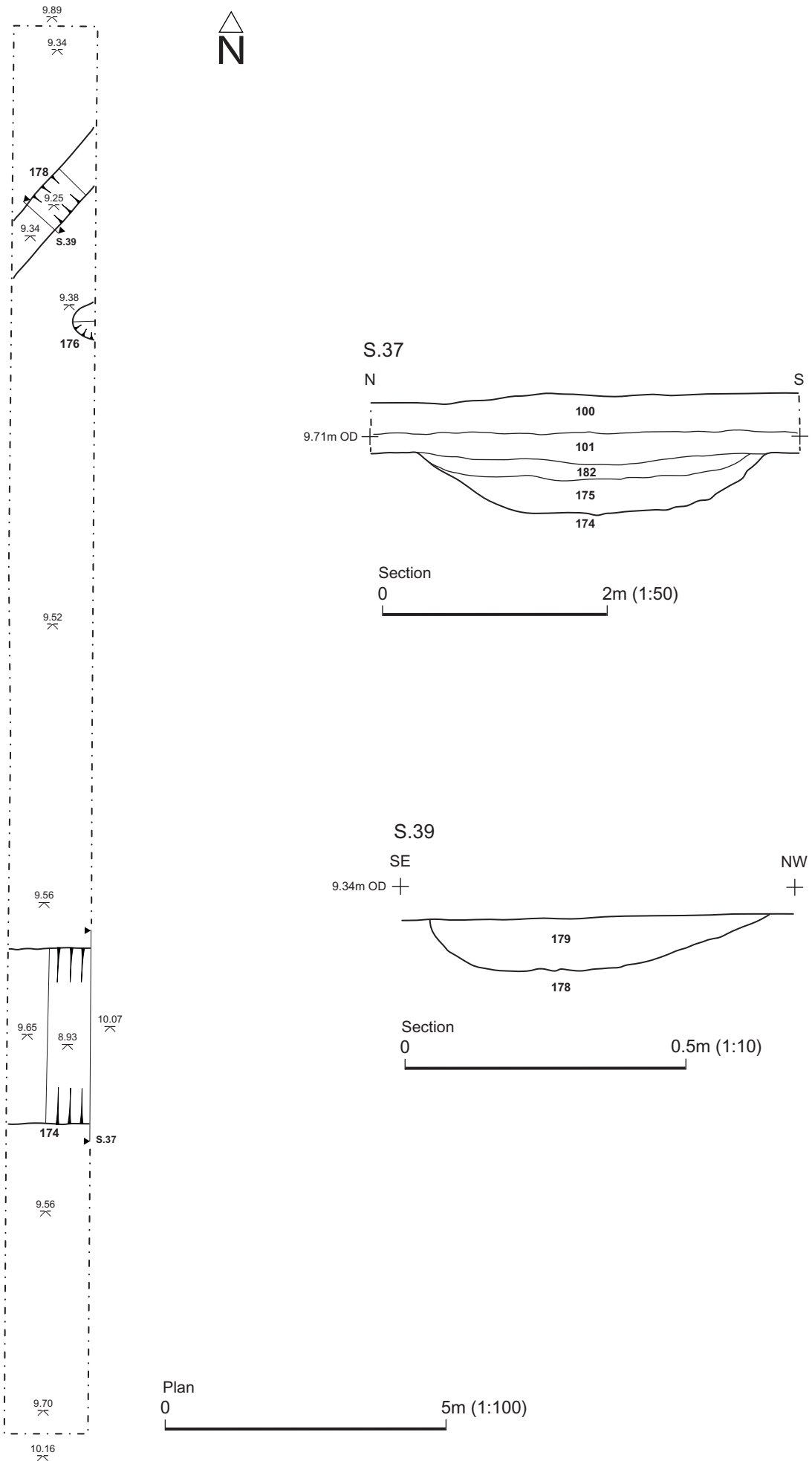


Fig. 6. Trench 4, plan and sections

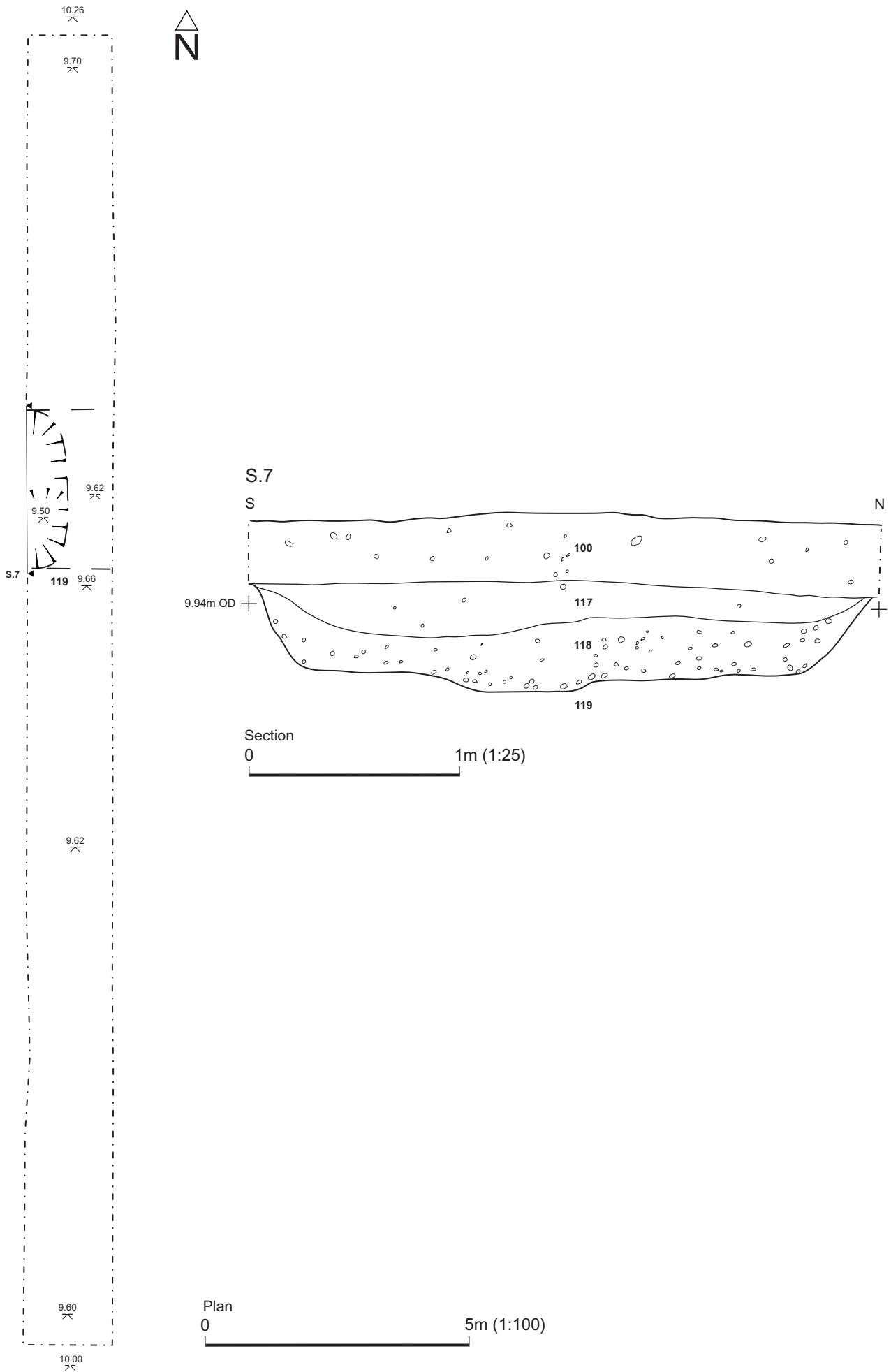
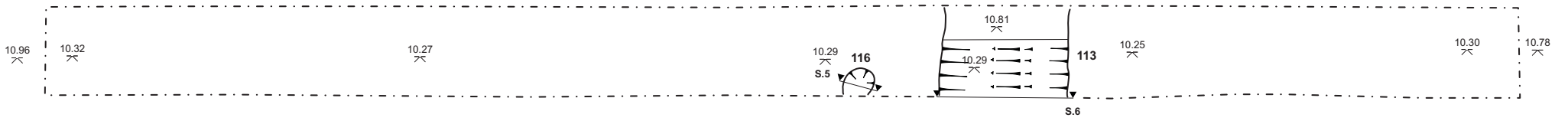
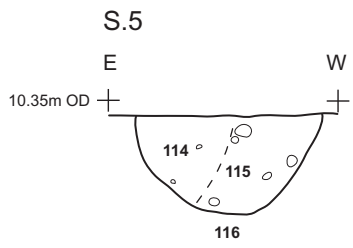


Fig. 7. Trench 6, plan and section



Plan  
0 5m (1:100)



Sections  
0 1m (1:20)

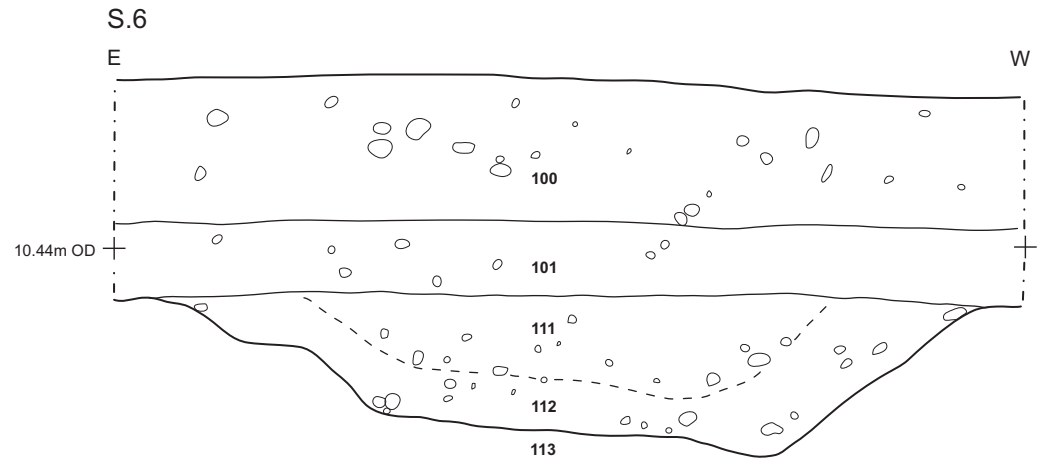


Fig. 8. Trench 7, plan and sections



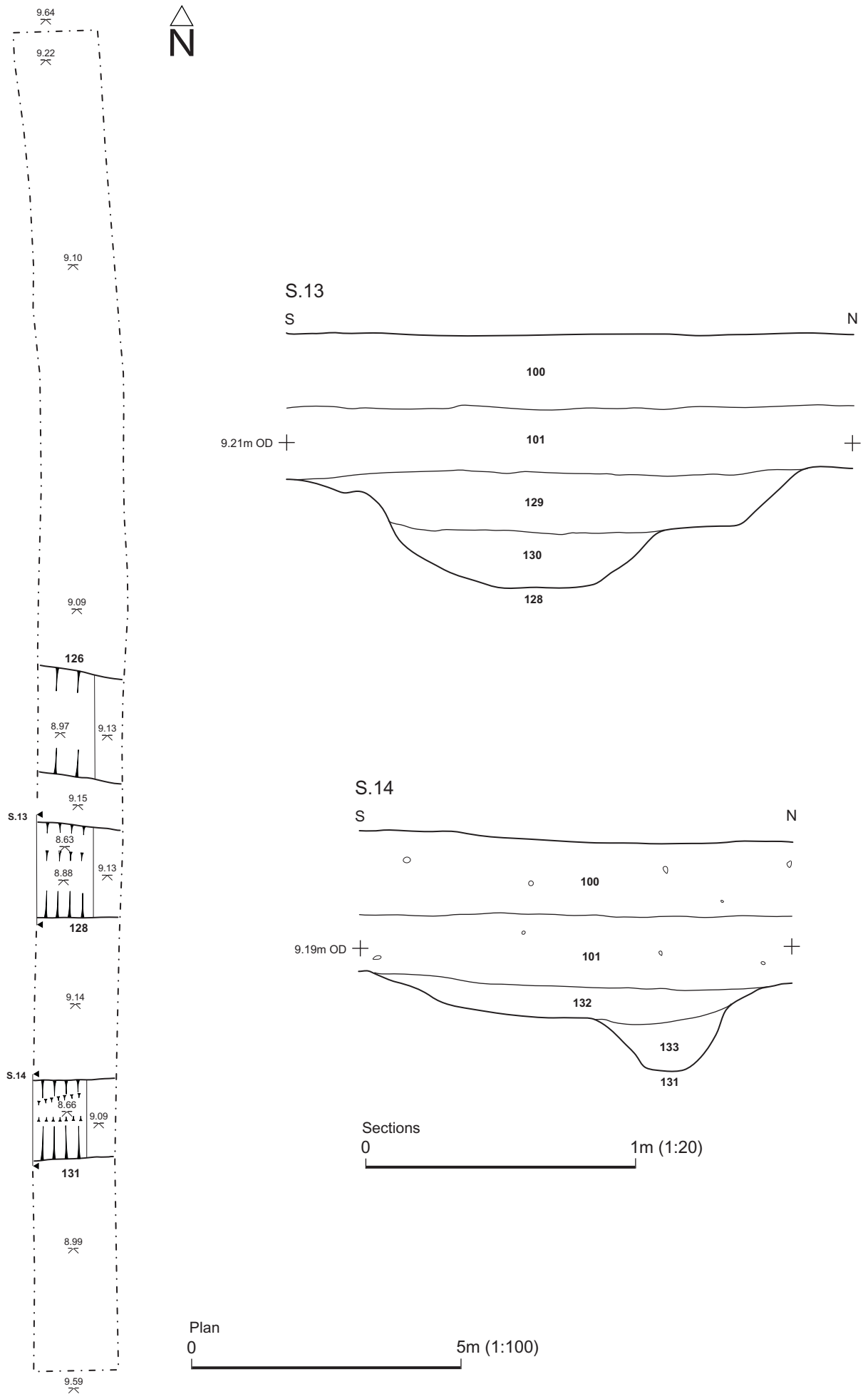
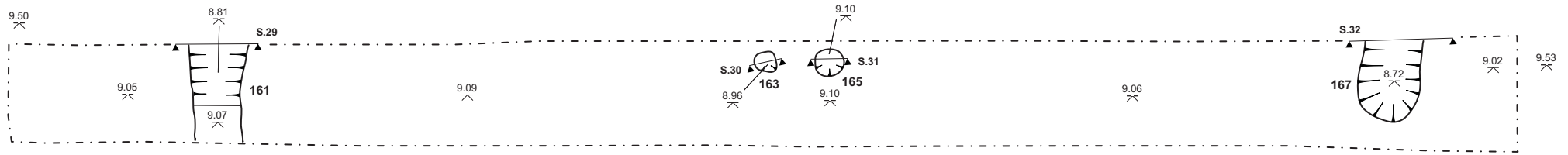


Fig. 9. Trench 8, plan and sections





Plan  
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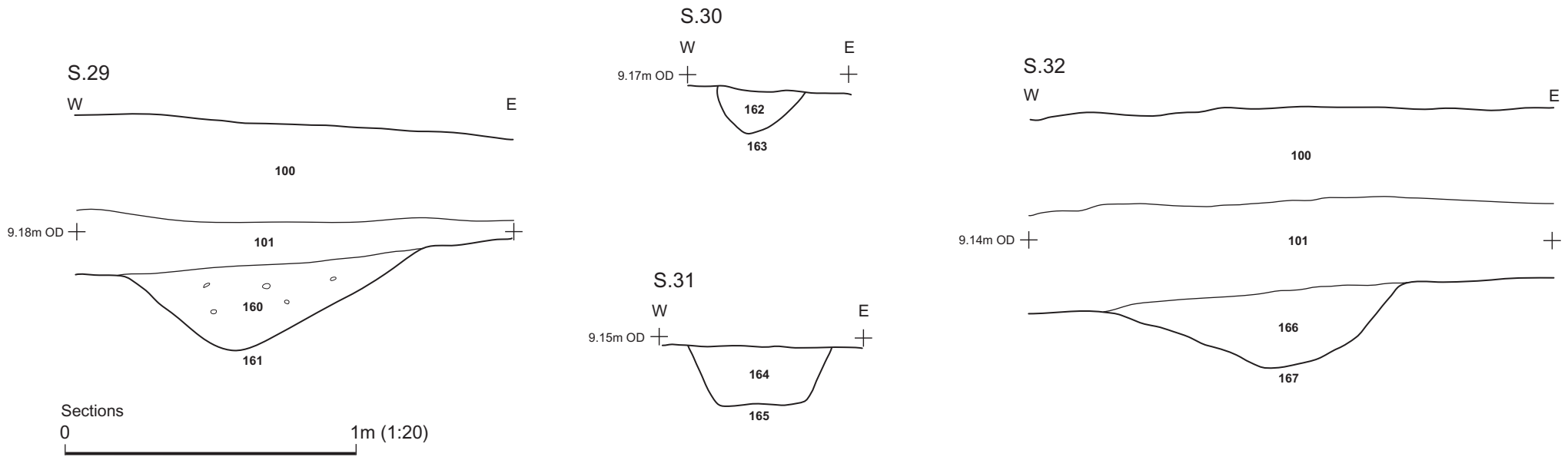
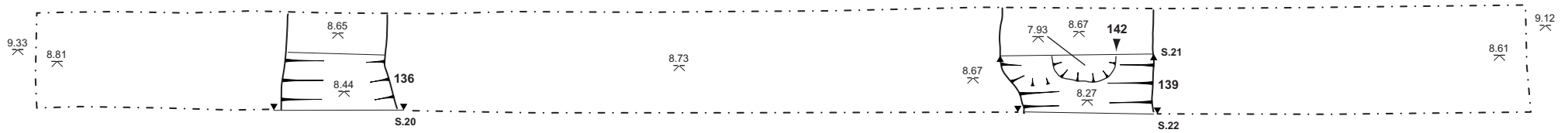
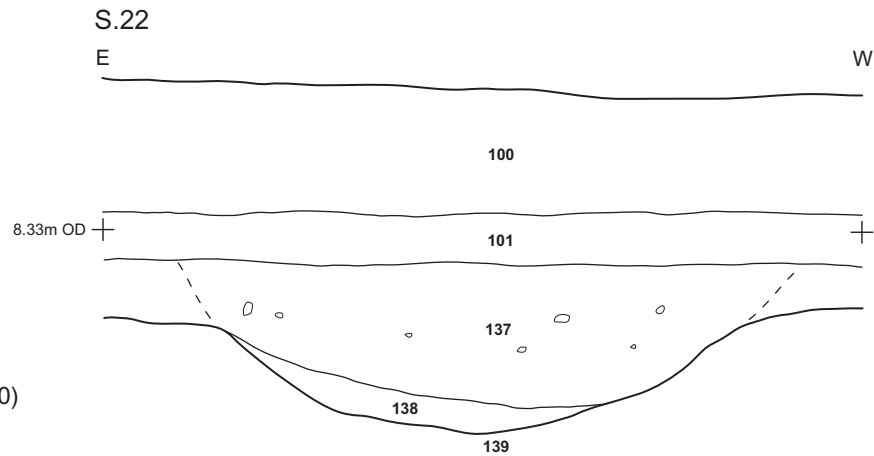
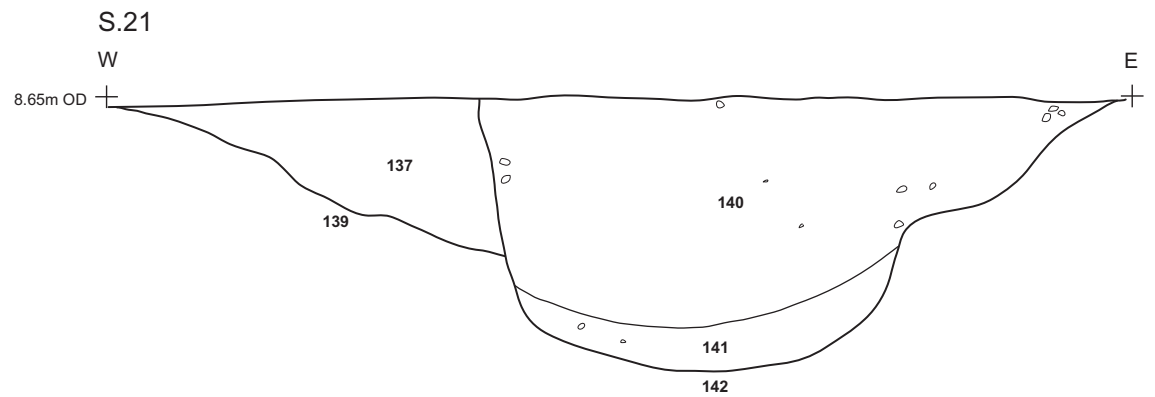
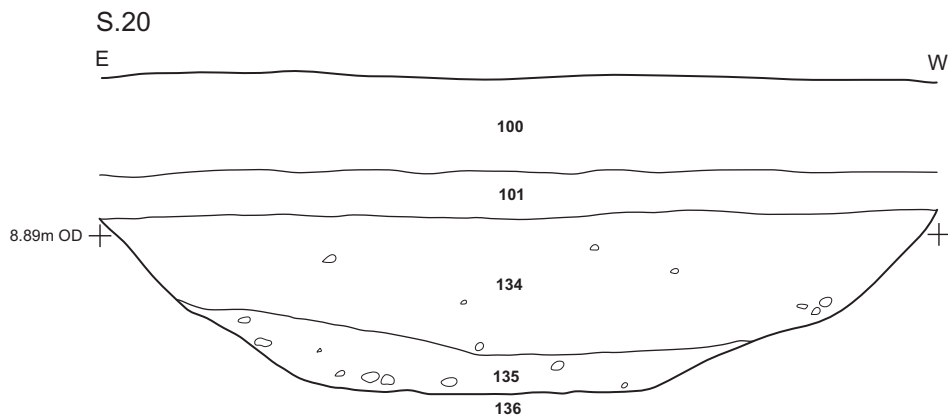


Fig. 10. Trench 9, plan and sections



Plan  
0 5m (1:100)



Sections  
0 1m (1:20)

Fig. 11. Trench 12, plan and sections

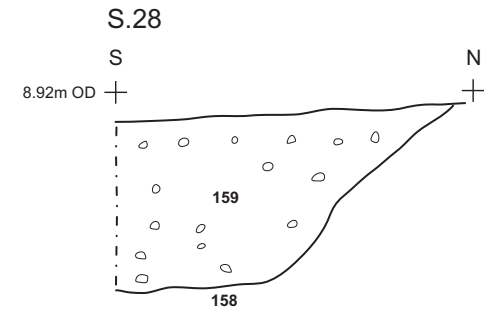
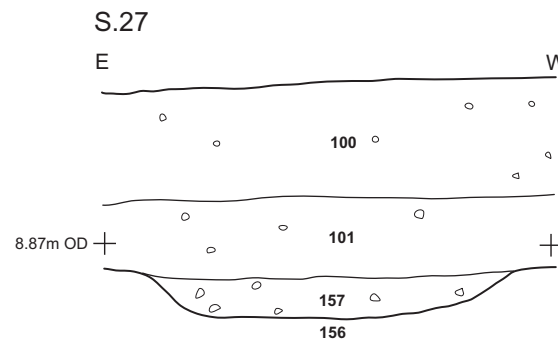
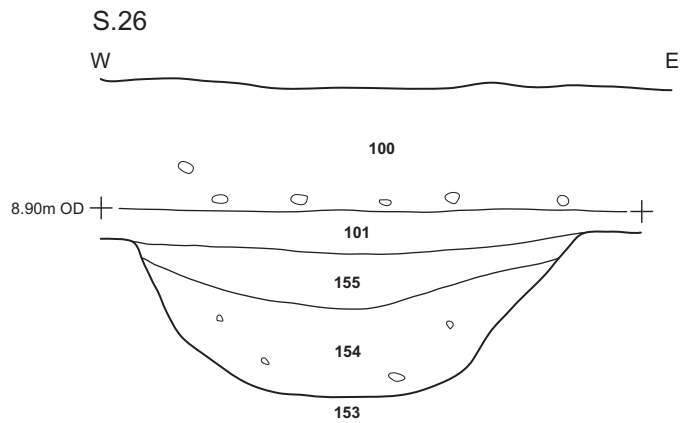
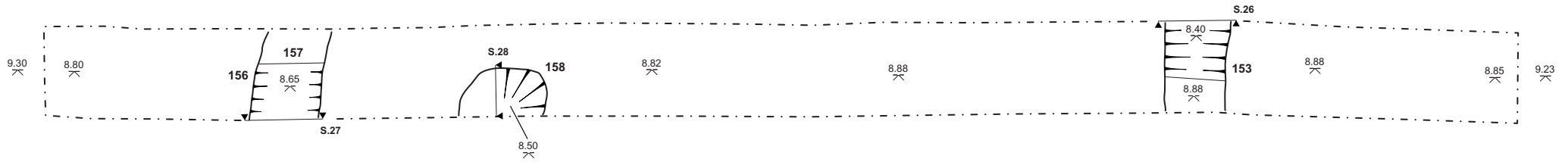


Fig. 12. Trench 13, plan and sections

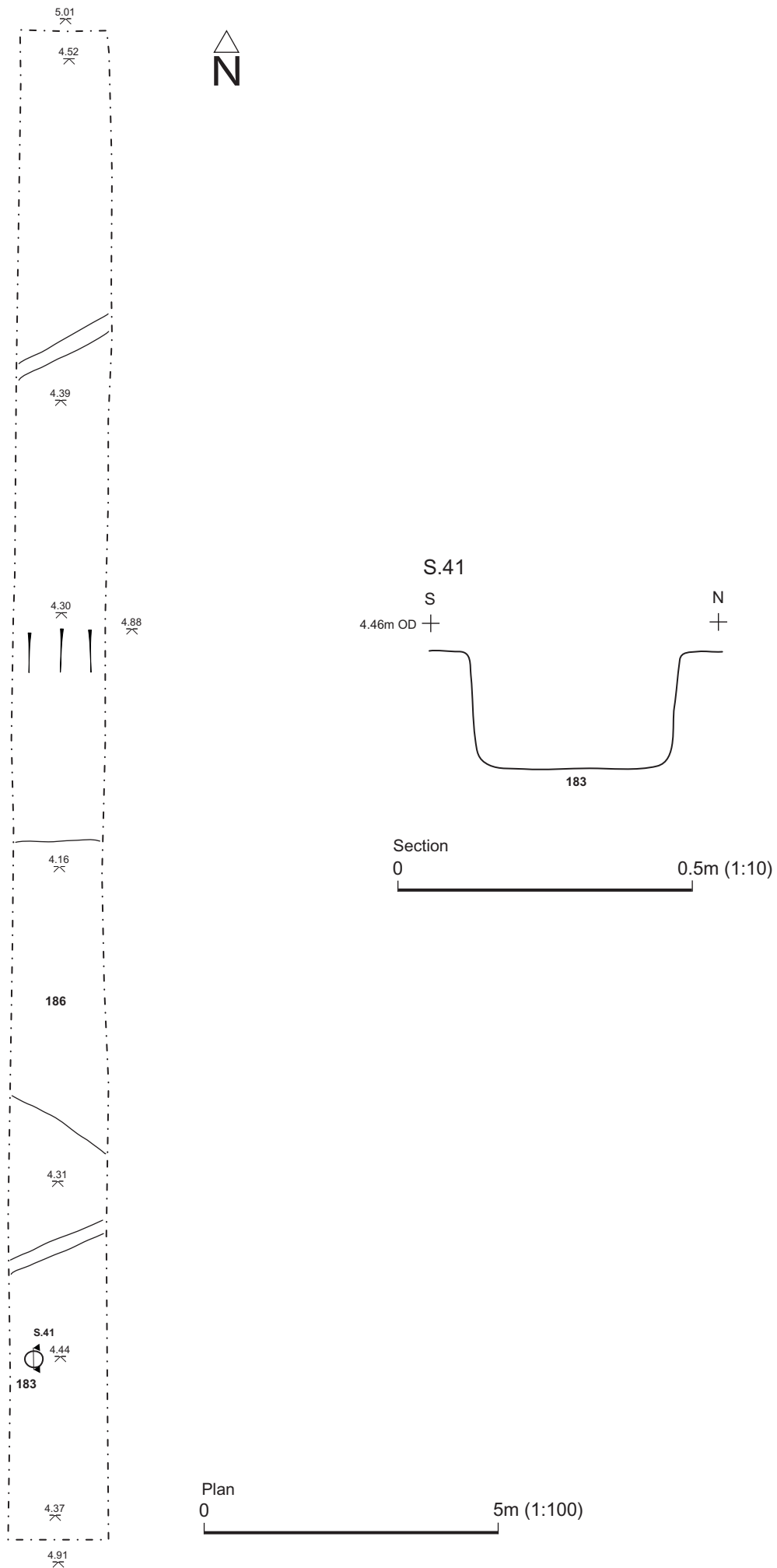


Fig. 13. Trench 14, plan and section

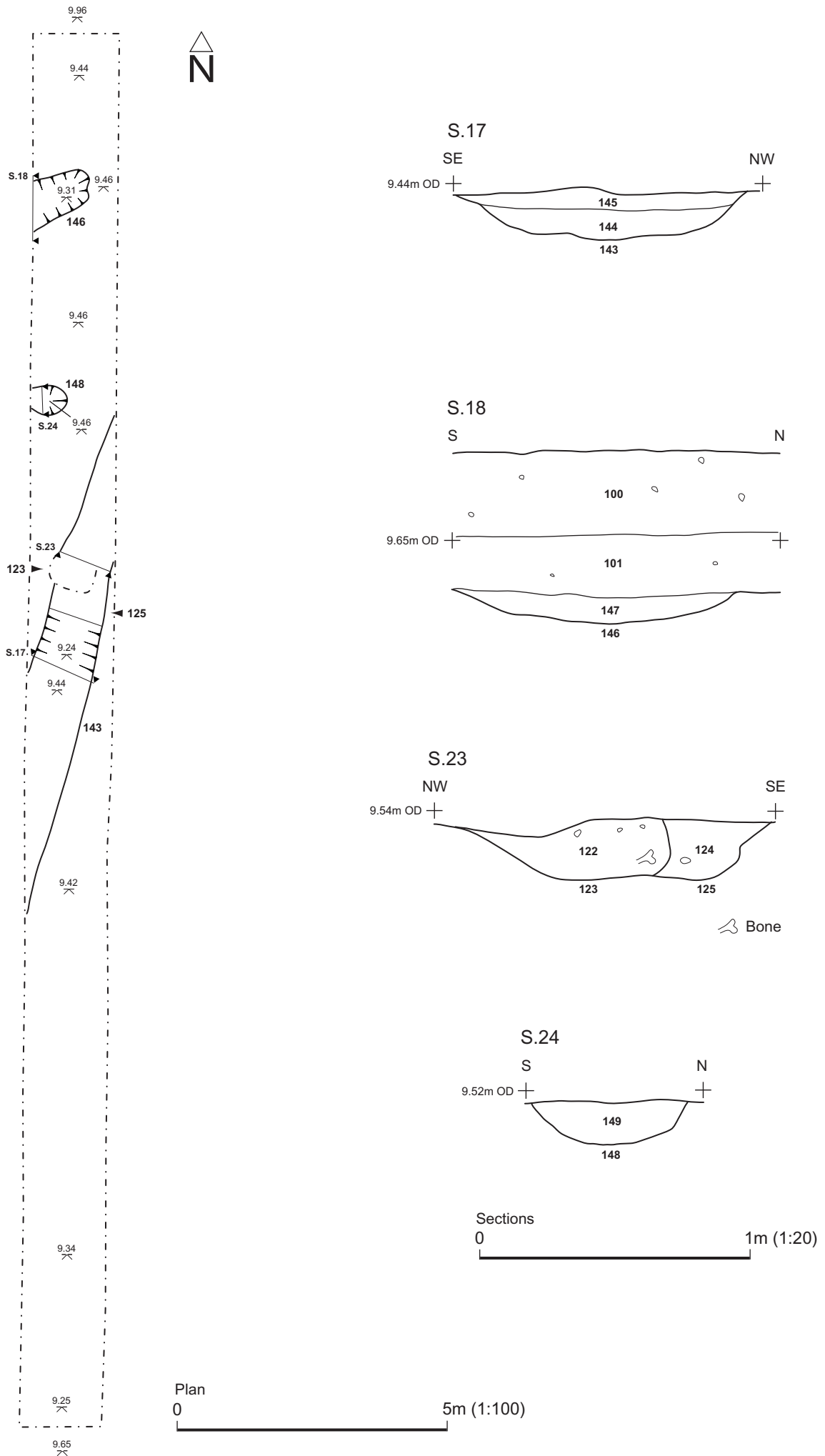
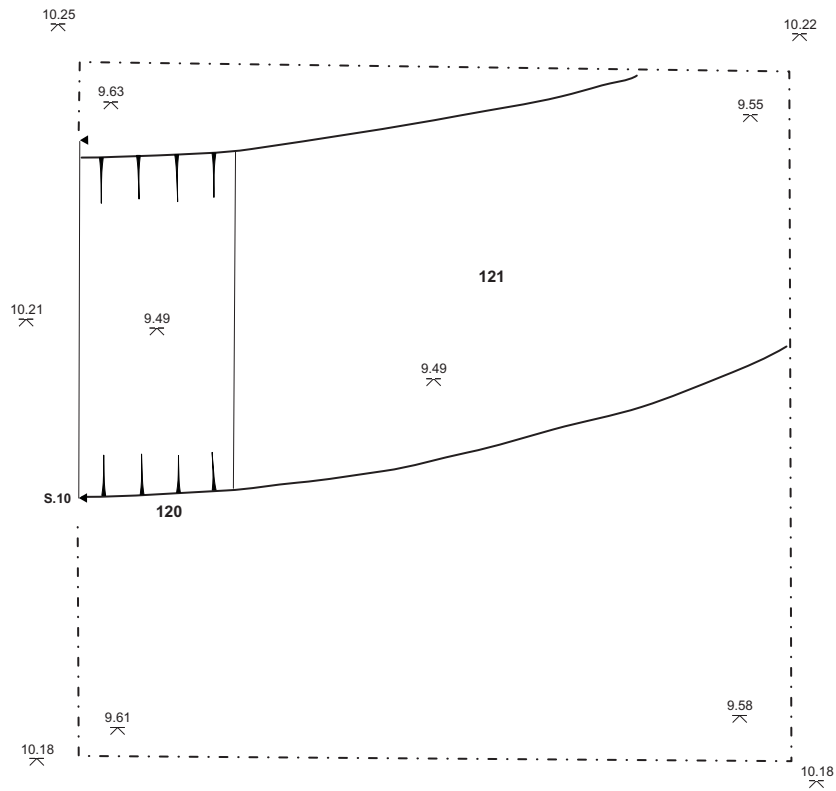
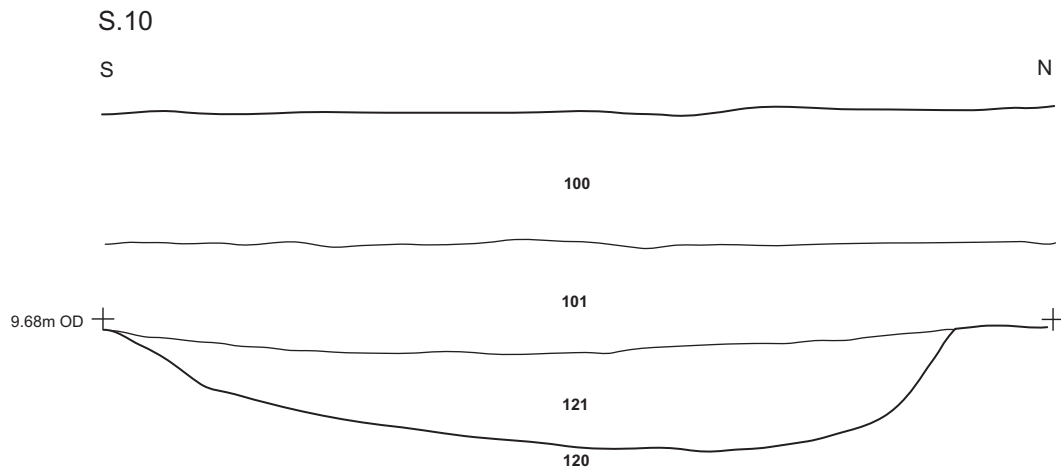


Fig. 14. Trench 18, plan and sections

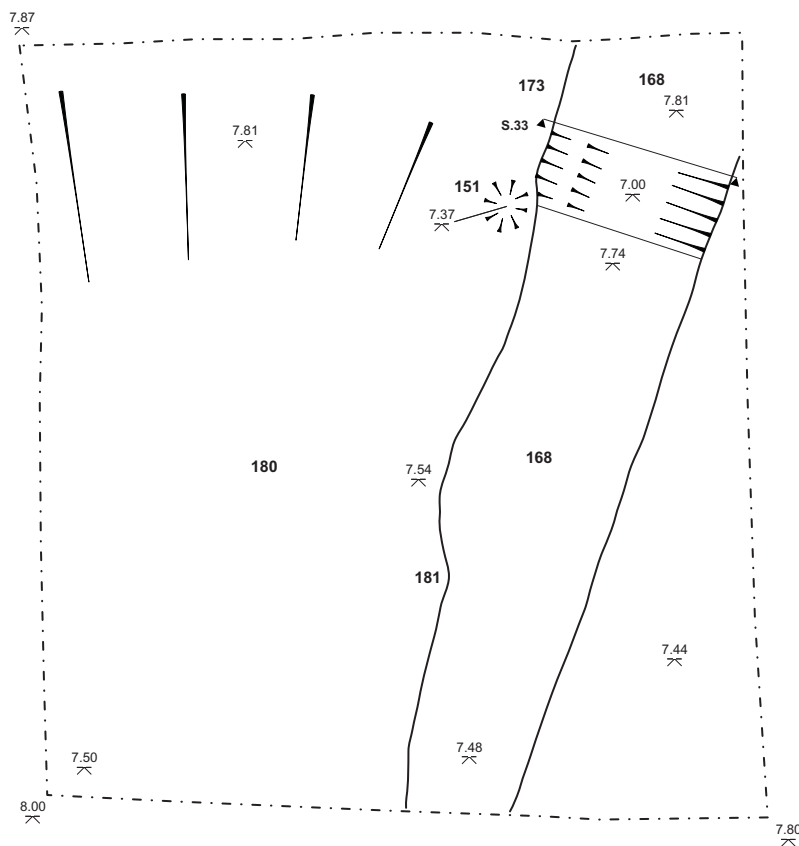


Plan  
0 2m (1:50)

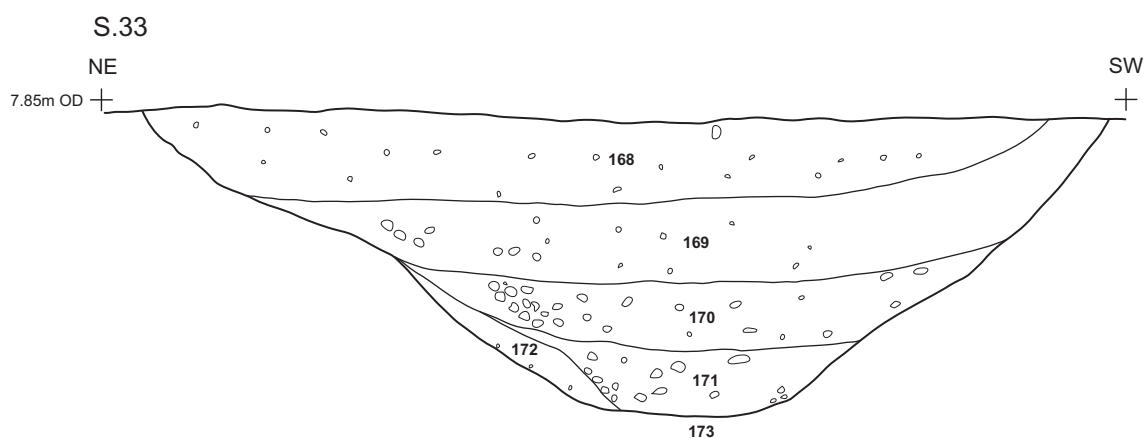


Section  
0 1m (1:20)

Fig. 15. Trench 20, plan and section



Plan  
0 5m (1:100)



Section  
0 1m (1:20)

Fig. 16. Trench 22, plan and section



*Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north, showing ditch 103 and ditch 105*



*Plate 2. Trench 3, east facing section of ditch 105*



*Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north, showing ditch 174*



*Plate 4. Trench 4, west facing section of ditch 174*





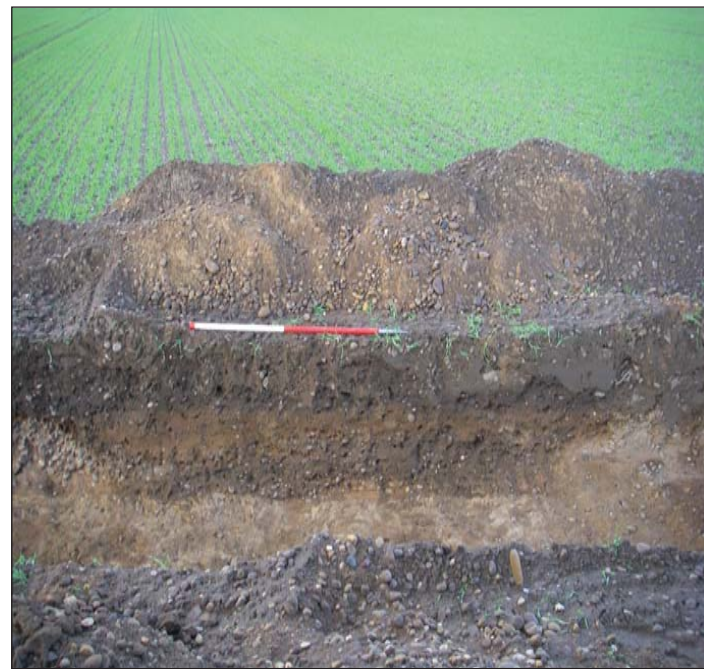
*Plate 5. Trench 4, west facing section of post-hole 176*



*Plate 6. Trench 4, north-east facing section of gully 178*



*Plate 7. Trench 6, looking south, showing ditch 119*



*Plate 8. Trench 6, east facing section of linear 119*



*Plate 9. Trench 7, looking west, showing ditch 113*



*Plate 10. Trench 7, north facing section of ditch 113*



*Plate 11. Trench 7, north facing section of post-hole 116*



*Plate 12. Trench 7, looking east, showing ditch 113*





*Plate 13. Trench 8, looking south, showing ditch 128 and ditch 131*



*Plate 14. Trench 8, east facing section of ditch 128*



*Plate 15. Trench 9, looking east, showing ditch 161*



*Plate 16. Trench 9, south facing section of ditch 161*





*Plate 17. Trench 9, south facing sections of post-holes 163 and 165*



*Plate 18. Trench 9, south facing section of terminus 167*



*Plate 19. Trench 12, looking west, showing ditch 139 and ditch 136*



*Plate 20. Trench 12, south facing section of ditch 139 and pit 142*





*Plate 21. Trench 12, north facing section of ditch 139*



*Plate 22. Trench 12, north facing section of ditch 136*



*Plate 23. Trench 13, looking east, showing ditch 156 and ditch 153*



*Plate 24. Trench 13, south facing section of ditch 153*





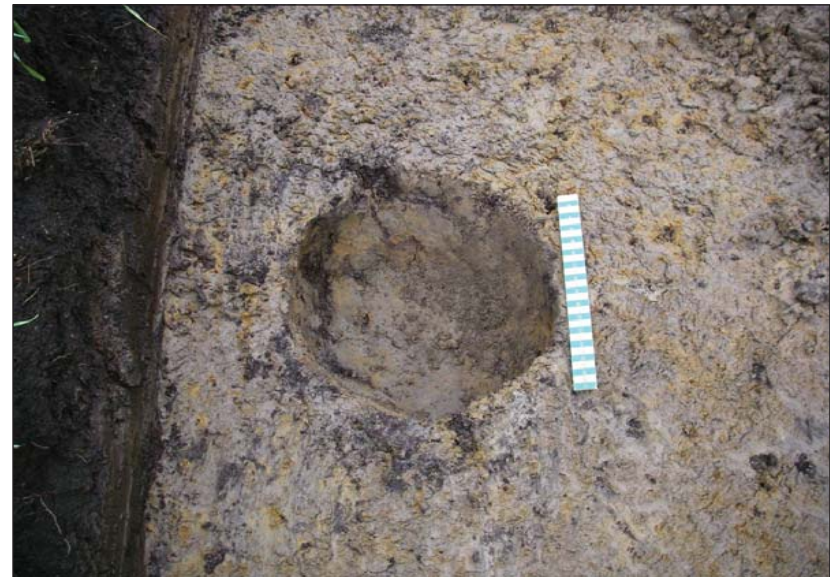
*Plate 25. Trench 13, north facing section of ditch 156*



*Plate 26. Trench 13, east facing section of pit 158*



*Plate 27. Trench 14, looking north, showing post-hole 183 and river bed*



*Plate 28. Post-hole 183, post-excavation*





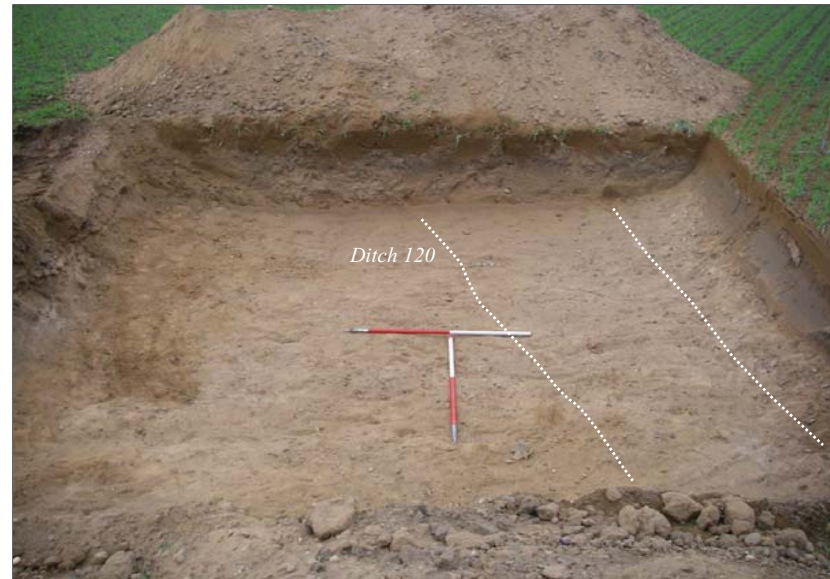
*Plate 29. Trench 18, looking south, showing terminus 146, post-hole 148 and ditch 143*



*Plate 30. Trench 18, north-east facing section of ditch 143*



*Plate 31. Trench 18, view of sheep skeleton*



*Plate 32. Trench 20 showing ditch 120*





*Plate 33. Trench 20, east facing section of ditch 120*



*Plate 34. Trench 22, looking east, showing ditch 173 and infilled sand pit*



*Plate 35. Trench 22, north-west section of ditch 173*



*Plate 36. Trench 22, pit 151 and metal bucket in situ*

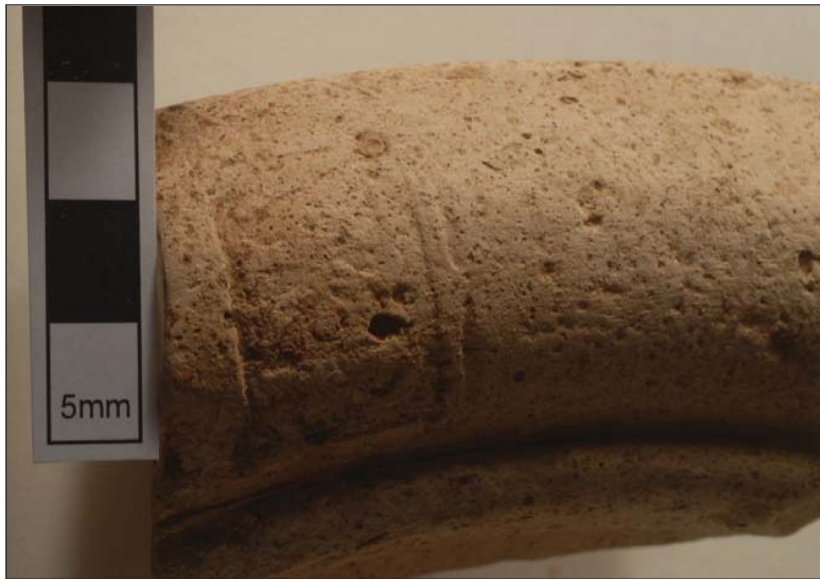




*Plate 37. Romano-British pottery from Trench 4, ditch 174*



*Plate 38. Iron Age pottery from Trench 3, ditch 105*



*Plate 39. Fragment of mortarium with stamp from Trench 18, ditch 143*



*Plate 40. Roman grey ware lug unstratified from Trench 12*

## Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100	All	Dark brown loamy silt, topsoil	
101	All	Mid yellowish brown silty sand, subsoil	
102	All	From light yellowish to pinkish brown sand, natural deposits	
103	3	Cut of E-W linear feature near enclosure ditch 105	
104	3	Mid yellowish brown silty sand, single fill of 103	
105	3	Cut of enclosure ditch	
106	3	Light yellowish brown, slump of natural in ditch 105	
107	3	Light brownish yellow sand, primary fill of ditch 105	GBA1, pottery, bones
108	3	Mid yellowish brown silty sand, secondary fill of ditch 105	
109	3	Mid orangey brown silty sand, final fill of 105	
110	1	Dark brown sandy silt, re-deposited topsoil	
111	7	Mid reddish brown silty sand, upper fill of ditch 113	
112	7	Light reddish brown silty sand, primary fill of ditch 113	GBA2
113	7	Cut of N-S boundary ditch	
114	7	Light reddish brown silty sand, slump in post-hole 116	
115	7	Light reddish brown silty sand, fill of post-hole 116	
116	7	Cut of post-hole	
117	6	Mid reddish brown silty sand, upper fill of ditch 119	
118	6	Dark reddish brown silty sand, primary fill of linear feature 119	SF1, CBM
119	6	Cut of E-W linear feature, probably a hedgerow	
120	20	Cut of E-W boundary ditch	
121	20	Light brownish yellow silty sand, Single fill of ditch 120	
122	18	Dark yellowish brown silty sand, single fill of pit 123	SK1, pottery
123	18	Cut of pit containing a sheep skeleton	
124	18	Mid reddish brown silty sand, secondary fill of ditch 125. Same as 145	Pottery
125	18	Cut of NNE-SSW boundary ditch. Same as 143	
126	8	Cut of E-W furrow	
127	8	Mid reddish brown, single fill of furrow 127	
128	8	Cut of E-W boundary ditch	

		Light orangey brown sand, upper fill of ditch 128	
129	8		
130	8	Light reddish brown sand, primary fill of ditch 128	GBA5
131	8	Cut of E-W boundary ditch	
132	8	Light yellowish brown sand, secondary fill of ditch 131	
133	8	Light brownish yellow sand, primary fill of ditch 131	GBA6
134	12	Light brown silty sand, secondary fill of ditch 136	
135	12	Light greyish brown silty sand, primary fill of ditch 136	
136	12	Cut of ring ditch	
137	12	Light brown sand, upper fill of round ditch 139	
138	12	Light reddish brown sand, primary fill of ditch 139	
139	12	Cut of ring ditch	
140	12	Mid reddish brown silty sand, upper fill of ditch terminus 142	
141	12	Light reddish brown sand, Primary fill of ditch terminus 142	GBA12
142	12	Cut of ditch terminus	
143	18	Cut of NNE-SSW ditch	
144	18	Light reddish brown, primary fill of ditch 143	GBA7
145	18	Mid reddish brown silty sand, upper fill of ditch 143	
146	18	Cut of ditch terminus	
147	18	Light reddish brown sand, single fill of ditch terminus 146	GBA8
148	18	Cut of pit/post-hole	
149	18	Mid greyish brown, single fill of post-hole 148	
150	22	Yellowish brown sandy silt, fill of pit 151	GBA13, SF2
151	22	Cut of pit	
152	15	Light brownish yellow clay, natural alluvium deposit	
153	13	Cut of ring ditch	
154	13	Light brownish yellow sand, primary fill of ditch 153	GBA14
155	13	Mid reddish brown silty sand, secondary fill of ditch 153	
156	13	Cut of ring ditch	
157	13	Mid orangey brown gravelly sand, single fill of ditch 156	GBA15
158	13	Cut of pit within ring ditch	

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159	13	Dark reddish brown gravelling sand, single fill of pit 158	GBA16
160	9	Mid yellowish brown, single fill of ditch 161	
161	9	Cut of N-S ditch	
162	9	Light yellowish brown silty sand, single fill of post-hole 163	GBA19
163	9	Cut of post-hole	
164	9	Light yellowish brown silty sand, single fill of post-hole	
165	9	Cut of possible post –hole	
166	9	Light yellowish brown sand, single fill of ditch terminus	
167	9	Cut of ditch terminus	
168	22	Yellowish brown mottled yellow silty sand, upper fill of ditch 173	Flint, pottery
169	22	Yellowish red sand, middle fill of ditch 173	Stone object
170	22	Reddish yellow mottled grey sand, tertiary fill of ditch 173	
171	22	Mid brownish grey silty sand secondary fill of ditch 173	GBA18
172	22	Mid orangey grey sand, primary fill of ditch 173	GBA17
173	22	Cut of enclosure ditch	
174	4	Cut of E-W boundary ditch	
175	4	Light yellowish brown mottled silty sand, primary fill of ditch 174	GBA20
176	4	Cut of pit/post-hole	
177	4	Mid brown silty sand, single fill of pit/post-hole 176	
178	4	Cut of badly truncated NE-SW gully	
179	4	Mid brown silty sand, single fill of gully 178	
180	22	Mid reddish brown sand, re-deposited natural and backfill of 181	
181	22	Cut of large sand pit	
182	4	Light yellowish brown silty sand, upper fill of ditch 174	Pottery, pot boilers
183	14	Cut of post-hole	
184	14	Remains of timber post inside 183	GBA21
185	14	Light greyish brown clay, fill of 183	GBA22
186	14	Dark brown peaty silt, top deposit of original river bed	Wood sample 22
187	14	Dark greyish brown mottled yellow clayey silt, secondary deposit of original river bed	Column samples 24

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