Land off High Street

Shafton, Barnsley

South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Contents

Summary

An archaeological evaluation at High Street, Shafton, has confirmed the presence of a series of ditches forming part of an extensive system of land division, incorporating a double-ditched linear feature and a sub-rectangular enclosure. Pottery recovered from these ditches suggests they were open during the Romano-British period. Within the enclosure, numerous discrete features were identified, including a four-post structure, a possible rectangular structure and several large pits. A metalled surface had been laid close to the putative entrance to this enclosure. A round house, defined by a curvilinear gully and deposit of stones, was partially exposed to the west of the enclosure. Evidence was also found for coal extraction, with the remains of bell pits, along with more recent shafts, identified in the southern and eastern parts of the site.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS undertook an archaeological evaluation at the request of Mr Martyn Jones of Ben Bailey Homes Ltd, at land off High Street, Shafton, South Yorkshire (Fig. 1). This was undertaken prior to a planning application relating to a proposed residential development on the site (Application No. B/99/0930/HR). The site is located immediately west of High Street, in the village of Shafton, approximately 7km north east of Barnsley.

1.2 The application area covers approximately 10ha and is centred on NGR SE 392107 (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by Shafton High Street to the east and by housing to the north and south, while open fields extend to the west. The river Dearne flows in an easterly direction approximately 4km to the south of the site.

1.3 The application area is situated on gently undulating ground between roughly 73m and 80m OD. The land slopes gently down from east to west in the eastern half of the site before rising up to a plateau in the west, which then drops away to the western and southern site boundaries. The 1:50000 Geological Survey Map Sheet 87 shows the site to lie on undifferentiated Middle Coal Measures clays and mudstones, with a thin sandstone east to west across the site. The Shafton Coal seam outcrops along the southern boundary of the site.

1.4 A total of sixteen evaluation trenches were excavated on the site in order to determine the survival and extent of any below ground archaeological deposits. The trenches were of variable dimensions, but covered a total area of 1.38ha. The work was undertaken between 27th September and 18th October 1999. At the time of the evaluation, the site was under cereal stubble and the remnants of a root crop.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The site lies within an area in which crop marks indicate the presence of later prehistoric/Romano-British field systems, although no crop marks were identified within the application area. It was also suspected that evidence for early industrial activity, such as the remains of bell pits, may be found on the site.

2.2 A gradiometer survey was therefore undertaken, which revealed several intersecting linear magnetic anomalies. These are indicative of infilled ditches forming enclosures and a possible trackway. Discrete isolated anomalies were suggestive of pits or areas of burning. A large area of magnetic disturbance on the eastern edge of the site was thought to be caused by activities associated with coal extraction (Webb and Whittingham 1999).

2.3 A geotechnical survey commissioned by the client determined that the natural ground comprised a firm to stiff orange brown/mottled grey silty/sandy clay with mudstone lithorelicts overlying a grey/brown fine grained, thinly bedded, moderately to highly weathered weak mudstone.

Thin coal horizons were also present in the eastern and central part of the site. Information provided by the Coal Authority suggested that five mine entries are located either in or within 20m of the application area (Joynes Pike and Associates Ltd 1999).

2.4 Following the requirement for further works, a project design was drawn up by Archaeological Services WYAS, in agreement with the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This document is included in this report as Appendix V.

3. Methodology

3.1 The boundaries of the sixteen evaluation trenches were laid out with a robotic 600 series Geodimeter system (Fig. 2). A mechanical excavator, fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, removed the topsoil from the trenches, and any underlying modern deposits, under direct archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was halted at the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural. All archaeological features were excavated, the majority by hand, although the judicious use of mechanical excavation equipment was employed when deemed appropriate.

3.2 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all material revealed during the course of the excavation. The on-site recording was undertaken in compliance with the standard Archaeological Services WYAS method (Boucher 1995). All 120 recorded contexts are presented in Appendix II. All trenches were planned by hand, at a scale of 1:50. Representative sections of excavated features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All sections and plans included spot-heights to Ordnance Datum in meters. An inventory of this primary archive data is presented in Appendix I.

3.3 All non-modern artefacts were collected, cleaned and labelled, and are held by Archaeological Services WYAS, in controlled environments where necessary. A catalogue of these is presented in Appendix III. Soil samples of up to 30 litres in volume were taken when appropriate, particularly of primary ditch fills and discrete features, and are catalogued in Appendix IV.

4. Stratigraphic Record

4.1 Trench A (Figs 3-9)

4.1.1 Trench A was the largest trench excavated, with an area of 20m by 20m, and was situated on land sloping gently down to the east. It was located in order to investigate the possible intersection of three linear anomalies which appeared to define the north west corner of an enclosure, and to determine whether any discrete features were present, either inside or outside the possible enclosure. Beneath approximately 0.40m of topsoil, the undisturbed natural clay with degraded sandstone was identified, into which numerous linear and discrete features had been cut. Ploughing

furrows which crossed the trench in a north east/south west direction partially truncated a number of these features.

4.1.2 An north east/south west orientated ditch 117/137 extended from the eastern limit of excavation for 9.25m, before terminating in the central part of the trench, where it turned slightly to the south. This was between 0.75-2.10m wide with a maximum depth of 0.47m, and had a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay 118/138, which contained moderate amounts of small sandstone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking. This deposit also contained a small ferrous object, and two sherds of pottery of Romano-British (or possibly medieval) date. A probable continuation of this feature was excavated as ditch 106/107 in Trench B (see 4.2.3 below).

4.1.3 An east/west orientated linear feature 123/125, which extended for 9.41m from the western limit of excavation, also terminated in the central part of the trench. It varied in width between 0.90-1.00m, with a U-shaped profile, and had a maximum depth of 0.32m. It was filled by 124/126, a mid orange brown silty clay deposit, with moderate inclusions of medium sandstones, some of which had been heat-affected. A total of nine sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this ditch.

4.1.4 A north/south running ditch 119/121 extended for 12.86m from the southern limit of excavation, before terminating to the south of ditch 123/125. It had a U-shaped profile and was 0.75-1.23m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.42m. It was filled by a single deposit 120/122, a mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of large sandstone fragments, many of which were heat-affected. A total of 30 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from these deposits, the majority of which were from cut 119 at the southern limit of excavation. Fourteen very degraded sherds were also recovered from the surface of this ditch, and are probably late Iron Age or early Romano-British in date. These three ditches define the north west corner of a sub-rectangular enclosure. The fact that the ditches all terminated, rather than intersecting, indicates that there may have been an entranceway into the enclosure at this point.

4.1.5 In the immediate vicinity of ditch terminals 121 and 125, a 4.5m by 3.3m area was covered with a 0.20m deep deposit 139, consisting of small rounded stones, many of which were heat-affected. This layer 139 was located in a hollow, which ran in a roughly north/south direction, between these two ditch terminals. The natural clay below this hollow was very disturbed, and it is probable that this area had been degraded by natural attrition due to concentrated human, or animal, passage. Deposit 139 probably represents a metalled surface, which was deliberately laid in order to stabilise the area. The stony layer partly overlay ditch fills 122 and 126, indicating that these portions of the ditches had been filled before this surface was laid.

4.1.6 Close to the northern limit of layer 139, an alignment of sandstone blocks, 141, had been laid on top of the metalled surface. The blocks were sub-rectangular and were up to 0.59m by 0.32m by 0.11m. One stone

(SF 02) had a circular hole cut into its upper face (Plate 1). This hole had a diameter of 0.05m, and was up to 0.04m deep. This may have acted as a pivot hole for a structure associated with the possible entranceway.

4.1.7 Within the enclosure, a large number of discrete features were identified. A probable four-post structure was defined by post-holes 127, 129, 131 and 133. They were all sub-circular in plan, with U-shaped profiles, and had diameters of between 0.22-0.28m and depths of 0.10-0.17m. They were filled by deposits of mid greyish brown sandy clay, which contained occasional small and medium sandstone inclusions.

4.1.8 A possible rectangular structure was identified, comprising six large post-holes, 142, 148, 164, 166, 168 and 181, which were sub-rectangular or sub-oval shape in plan. These features had lengths of 0.50-0.60m, widths of 0.35-0.48m, and depths of 0.13-0.32m. They had generally steep sides with flat bases, although there was a degree of variability in their profiles. With the exception of feature 142, the post-holes were all filled with single deposits of light to mid orange brown sandy silt, with moderate inclusions of small sandstone fragments and occasional large sandstone blocks, which may have been post-packing material. Within post-hole 142, however, two fills were evident, with a central deposit 170, a dark yellow brown sandy clay, surrounded by 143, a light orange brown sandy silt, which contained large packing stones. This would suggest that a wooden post has rotted *in situ*, leaving 170 within a discernible post-pipe, surrounded by packing material 143.

4.1.9 A total of seven additional post- and stake-holes were identified, which had no obvious structural function. Post-holes 156 and 171 had regular U-shaped profiles, with diameters of 0.22-0.40m and depths of 0.17-0.18m. They were both filled with single deposits of mid orange brown sandy silt, with occasional small inclusions of sandstone. A total of five possible stake-holes were excavated, and recorded as features 135, 150, 152, 154 and 173. They had diameters of 0.09-0.15m, and depths of 0.07-0.16m, with generally tapering sides and concave bases. They were filled by deposits of mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional small inclusions of sandstone.

4.1.10 A total of six pits of varying dimensions were also located within the enclosure. Pit 144 was sub-oval in plan, 1.13m long and 1.02m wide, with an irregular U-shaped profile and a maximum depth of 0.34m. It had been disturbed by root action on the western side. It was filled by a single deposit of mid orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate amounts of heat-affected sandstone and charcoal, concentrated towards the base of the feature. Pit 146 was also sub-oval in plan, with a length of 0.82m and a width of 0.58m. It was U-shaped in profile and up to 0.28m deep. Its single fill of mid orange brown sandy silt contained occasional inclusions of medium sandstone fragments. Pit 158 was sub-rectangular in plan, and was 0.60m long, 0.50m wide and 0.48m deep. It had vertical sides, except to the south east, where the edge was stepped, and a flat base. Pit 158 was filled by a mid orange brown sandy

silt, which contained frequent very large angular sandstone blocks, some of which were heat-affected.

4.1.11 To the north of this, pit 160 was sub-oval in plan, with a length of 0.92m, a width of 0.50m and a depth of 0.08m. It had a very irregular, shallow U-shaped profile, and was filled by a mid reddish brown sandy silt, which contained moderate inclusions of small heat-affected sandstones. Immediately to the east, pit 162 was also sub-oval in plan, with an irregular U-shaped profile. It was 1.35m long, 0.75m wide, and 0.12m deep, and filled by dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small, heat-affected sandstone fragments.

4.1.12 Pit 175 was sub-rectangular in plan, 1.63m long and 1.00m wide. It had a U-shaped profile, and a maximum depth of 0.31m. A post-hole 177 was located immediately to the south of pit 175, with a diameter of 0.20m and a depth of 0.16m. A second post-hole 179 was situated within the northern end of pit 175, and had a diameter of 0.13m and a depth of 0.08m. It is not clear what purpose these post-holes served, but they appear to be associated with the large pit. All three features were filled by a mid reddish brown sandy silt with very occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments.

4.1.13 Features were also identified outside the enclosure. A large sub-circular pit 183 was identified near the southern limit of excavation. It had a maximum diameter of 1.71m, and was 0.39m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Its fill was very dark reddish brown silty clay, with moderate inclusions of small sandstone fragments and occasional charcoal flecking.

4.1.14 To the north, a curvilinear gully 188 extended for 4.45m. It was 0.80m wide and 0.31m deep, and filled by a mid orange brown sandy silt. This gully defined part of a sub-circular structure, which appeared to have an embellished entrance to the south east. A 7.7m long curvilinear deposit 215 consisting of stone and clay, appeared to continue the line of gully 188, and this may be the remains of a collapsed stone wall. A possible post-hole 217 was associated with the entrance to the structure. It was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile, and had a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.14m. It was filled by a mid reddish brown sandy clay, with occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments. A total of five flat sandstones, described as 216, were situated at this possible entrance, and may be the remains of a flagged surface. Within the structure, a sub-circular pit 185 was identified. It had a diameter of 0.66m and a depth of 0.16m, with a U-shaped profile. Its primary fill 187 was a very dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of burnt sandstone flecks and occasional medium fragments of sandstone. Above this, deposit 186 was a dark orange brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of large charcoal fragments and flecks of orange clay, which may have been burnt daub. This pit may have been used to dump material from a hearth, as no *in situ* burning was observed.

4.2 Trench B (Fig. 10)

4.2.1 Trench B was 10m by 10m, with a 3m by 3m extension at the south west corner, and was situated on land that rises gently to the west. It was located in order to investigate the possible intersection of two linear anomalies, which defined the north east corner of the sub-rectangular enclosure, and a field drain identified by the gradiometer survey. Approximately 0.35m of topsoil were removed, exposing the undisturbed sandy clay natural. Two linear features and a modern field drain were cut into this natural geology.

4.2.2 Ditch cut 103 extended in a north/south direction through the trench. It had a U-shaped profile, and was 2.24m wide and 0.70m deep. The primary fill 104 was a homogenous pale blue grey clay, with occasional inclusions of small fragments of sandstone and coal. This suggests that the ditch was probably waterlogged at some point. Deposit 104 contained ten sherds of Romano-British pottery, probably dating to the 1st-2nd century AD. Above this, deposit 102 was a mid yellow brown clayey silt, which contained occasional medium fragments of sandstone. The final fill, 101, was a dark yellow brown silty clay, with occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments and coal. A small copper (Cu) alloy object was recovered from this deposit. A 0.20m wide field drain of modern origin cut this ditch. Ditch 103 probably represents the same feature as ditch 197 excavated in Trench J (see 4.10.3 below).

4.2.3 In the south west corner of the trench a curvilinear feature 106/107 was observed running in a roughly north west/south east direction for 2.95m, before terminating. It was between 0.76-0.98m wide, with a U-shaped profile and had a maximum depth of 0.30m. Ditch 106/107 was filled by 105/108, a deposit of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small inclusions of sandstone and coal. This feature is probably a continuation of ditch 117/137 excavated in Trench A (see 4.1.2 above). These two ditches define the north east corner of the enclosure investigated in Trench A, and continue beyond the enclosure to form part of the larger system of land division identified on the site.

4.3 Trench C (Fig. 11)

4.3.1 This trench was 15m by 10m, and was located on land that rises gently to the north. It was positioned in order to investigate the possible intersection of two ditch features identified by the gradiometer survey. A total of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil were removed above the natural geology of clay with degraded sandstone, into which two linear features had been cut. These features were partially truncated by ploughing furrows which were orientated in a north west/south east direction.

4.3.2 Ditch 209 extended in a north east/south west direction, with a total of 12.75m visible in this trench. It was 0.89m wide and 0.24m deep, with a U-shaped profile. This was filled by deposit 210, a light reddish brown silty clay, which contained occasional inclusions of small sandstone

fragments. A north-easterly continuation of this feature was excavated as ditch 207 in Trench D (see 4.4.3 below).

4.3.3 Ditch 211 was slightly curvilinear in plan, extending in a roughly north west/south east direction for 2.25m from the southern limit of excavation, before terminating 0.40m to the south of ditch 209. It was 0.85m wide and 0.24m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It was filled by 212, a deposit of mid orange brown clayey sand, with moderate inclusions of small sandstone fragments. These two features form part of a larger system of land division identified on the site.

4.4 Trench D (Fig. 12)

4.4.1 Trench D was 10m by 10m, situated on gently sloping land, which falls away to the south, and was excavated in order to investigate the possible intersection of two ditch features identified by the gradiometer survey. A total of 0.50m of topsoil was removed above the natural clay and degraded sandstone fragments. Two linear features and a large discrete feature were identified cut into the natural. These features had been partially truncated by ploughing furrows, which were orientated in a north west/south east direction.

4.4.2 Linear feature 204 crossed the trench in an east/west direction, and was 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The basal deposit, 205, was a mid orange grey sandy clay deposit with occasional small sandstone fragments. Above this was deposit 206, a mid grey orange sandy clay, with moderate inclusions of small pieces of sandstone and occasional large sandstone fragments. An easterly continuation of this feature was excavated as ditch 190 in Trench E (see 4.5.2 below).

4.4.3 Feature 204 was cut by a ditch 207, which extended for 5.25m in a roughly north/south direction from the southern limit of excavation. This was 1.75m wide and 0.18m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. Ditch 207 was filled by deposit 208, a mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate sandstone flecking. It is likely that ditch 207 is a continuation of ditch 209, excavated in Trench C (see 4.3.2 above). The fact that feature 207 did not continue to the north suggests that the feature deliberately terminated at this point, spatially respecting the course of ditch 204. This indicates that ditch 204 was a visible landscape feature at the time ditch 207 was first excavated. These features form part of a larger system of land division which was identified on this site.

4.4.4 To the north of this intersection, a large sub-oval feature 219 was identified, which was 2.5m long and 2.2m wide. It had a very irregular shape in profile, with a maximum depth of 0.25m. It was filled by deposit 220, a mid brown grey sandy clay, which contained occasional small sandstone fragments. Feature 219 may have been a shallow pit, although the irregular nature of the 'cut' suggests that it may have been a naturally formed hollow, rather than an anthropogenic feature.

4.5 Trench E (Fig. 13)

4.5.1 This trench was 10m by 2m, positioned on land which rises very gently to the north, and was located in order to investigate an area of magnetic disturbance. Approximately 0.40m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil were removed, below which natural clay with degraded sandstone was observed. No material was identified which may have been responsible for the magnetic disturbance in the area, but a linear feature was seen crossing the trench in a north east/south west direction.

4.5.2 This feature 190 was 1.75m wide with a maximum depth of 0.42m, and had an irregular U-shaped profile. It was filled by four deposits of sandy clay, which varied from pale grey to greyish orange in colour. The primary fill, 193, was very similar to the natural into which the ditch had been cut, and contained occasional inclusions of small fragments of sandstone. This deposit was probably formed by the slumping of material back into the cut soon after the ditch was first dug. This may indicate the presence of a bank on the northern side of 190. Above this, deposit 191 was a homogenous pale grey clay, indicative of waterlogged conditions, which contained moderate inclusions of large charcoal fragments. This deposit may have been formed during a period of stabilisation within the feature. Above this deposits 192 and 194 also consisted mainly of redeposited natural, with occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments. This ditch is probably a continuation of ditch 204, which was excavated in Trench D (see 4.4.3 above), thus was part of a more complex pattern of land division evident across this site.

4.6 Trench F (Fig. 14)

4.6.1 Trench F was 5m by 5m, and was located on moderately sloping ground, which drops away to the south. It was positioned in order to investigate a possible terminus of a ditch-type feature identified by the gradiometer survey. Approximately 0.30m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil were removed above the natural clay with degraded sandstone geology. A linear feature extended in a roughly east/west direction across the trench.

4.6.2 A section excavated through this feature, 213, determined that it was 1.15m wide and 0.39m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brown orange sandy silt, which contained moderate inclusions of small sandstone fragments. This ditch probably represents an easterly continuation of ditch 111, the northernmost element of the double-ditched feature investigated in Trench I (see 4.9.2 below). Increased truncation on the higher ground to the west of Trench F may account for the lack of a geophysical response in this area.

4.7 Trench G (Fig. 15)

4.7.1 This trench was 25m by 4m, situated on land which rises moderately down to the north west, and was positioned in order to investigate two possible discrete archaeological features identified by the gradiometer survey. Below 0.30m of topsoil, two large sub-circular features were partially exposed, cut into the natural degraded sandstone and clay geology.

4.7.2 Feature 200 was at least 4.2m long and 3.5m wide, and was only observed in plan. It was filled by a mid orange brown sandy silt, which contained frequent inclusions of small pieces of sandstone, some of which appeared to have been burnt, and small fragments of coal.

4.7.3 Feature 202 was at least 5.0m long and 4.3m wide. A sondage was dug through part of this feature with a mechanical excavator, revealing that it was over 1.0m deep, with a moderately sloping southern edge. It was filled by deposit 203, a dark grey brown sandy silt with flecks of blue grey clay and moderate inclusions of coal fragments. This deposit contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery. To the south of the feature was an arc of disturbed natural, which was up to 5.56m wide. A small slot was excavated through this, which demonstrated that the area of staining penetrated no deeper than 0.15m, and was probably caused by trampling around the edge of feature 202.

4.7.4 The Shafton Coal seam is known to outcrop close to this point, and these features are interpreted as the remains of bell pits, which were excavated in order to extract coal from shallow seams during the medieval and post-medieval periods. As this type of feature is prone to collapse, no further excavation was carried out in this trench, in agreement with the South Yorkshire SMR.

4.8 Trench H (Fig. 16)

4.8.1 Trench H was 10m by 10m, and was located on land which rises gently to the north east. It was excavated in order to elucidate the nature of a possible linear feature identified by the gradiometer survey. Below 0.40m of topsoil, the edge of a large feature was observed cut into the natural clay in the northern corner of the trench. The feature was filled by coal waste, with two sub-triangular pockets of redeposited natural identified at the north eastern limit of excavation. The Shafton Coal seam is known to outcrop close to this point, and it was evident that these deposits related to coal extraction in the vicinity. It was therefore decided, in agreement with the South Yorkshire SMR, that no further excavation should be carried out in this trench.

4.9 Trench I (Fig. 17)

4.9.1 This trench was 15m by 4m, situated at the top of a south east/north west running ridge of high ground, with the land dropping away moderately to the north east and steeply to the south west. It was positioned in order to investigate two parallel linear anomalies, identified by the gradiometer survey, which extend for at least 75m. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.40m, below which was a very fragmented sandstone natural, into which several archaeological features had been cut.

4.9.2 Ditch 109 crossed the trench in a roughly east/west direction, and had a U-shaped profile. It had excavated dimensions of 0.90m wide and 0.48m deep, and was filled by a deposit of dark orange brown sandy silt, which contained frequent inclusions of large sandstone fragments. Parallel to this and 3.75m to the north, ditch 111 was 1.45m wide and 0.68m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of mid orange

brown sandy silt, which also contained frequent large sandstone inclusions. This is likely to be the same feature as ditch 213 excavated in Trench F (see 4.6.2 above). These two ditches represent the truncated remains of parallel linear anomalies identified by the gradiometer survey. The concentration of sandstone fragments in the fills of these ditches may derive from ploughed-out banks associated with these features.

4.9.3 To the north of ditch 111, two sub-rectangular discrete features were also observed. Pit 113 was 0.58m long and 0.43m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.20m. It had near vertical sides and a generally flat base, and was filled with a mid orange brown silty clay, with occasional sandstone inclusions. Pit 115 was 0.52m long by 0.48m wide, with a depth of 0.33m. It had vertical sides and a flat base, and was filled by a dark reddish brown clay silt, with moderate sandstone inclusions. These two pits were orientated differently to the double-ditched feature, and therefore may represent a different phase of activity on the site, although it is possible that the features are contemporaneous. It is not clear what purpose these pits served, although they could have been structural post-pits, as suggested by their regular sub-rectangular shape and box-like profiles. An irregular linear feature was observed in the northern end of this trench. It was filled with a very clean sandy deposit, and is likely to be of natural, rather than anthropological, origin.

4.10 Trench J (Fig. 18)

4.10.1 Trench J was 10m by 10m, located on land that gently slopes down to the south, and was positioned in order to investigate the intersection of two probable ditches, and their immediate vicinity. Below approximately 0.40m of topsoil and 0.05m of subsoil, two linear features were seen cut into the clay and sandstone natural. These two features represent the remains of ditches which defined the south east corner of the sub-rectangular enclosure investigated in Trench A. A furrow crossed the trench in a roughly north/south direction, partially truncating the top of these ditches.

4.10.2 Ditch 195 ran in a north east/south west direction from the western limit of excavation, for a total of 4.05m. It was 1.13m wide and 0.23m deep at this point, with a U-shaped profile. The ditch was filled with a single deposit 196, a dark greyish brown silty clay, with moderate inclusions of small sandstone fragments and pieces of coal.

4.10.3 Ditch 195 was cut by ditch 197, which extended in a north west/south east direction through the length of the trench. This feature also had a U-shaped profile, but was 2.00m wide and 0.71m deep. Feature 197 was filled by 199, a deposit of mid greyish orange sandy clay which contained occasional small sandstone fragments. Above this lay 198, a light greyish brown silty clay, with occasional inclusions of medium sandstone fragments and coal. This deposit contained two fragments of possible mortar, a small piece of oxidised daub, originally described as pottery, and a stone flake, which may have been worked. Ditch 197 is probably a southern continuation of ditch 103 excavated in Trench B (see 4.2.2 above).

4.10.4 While ditch 195 was stratigraphically earlier that ditch 197, this only relates to the final episode of infilling of these features. It is clear that ditch 195 did not continue to the east of ditch 197. Additionally, the shallow nature of ditch 195 suggests that it deliberately terminated at the point at which it intersected with ditch 197. As it is evident that ditch 195 spatially respected the line of ditch 197, this north/south running feature, or a precursor to it on the same alignment, must have predated, or been laid out at the same time as, the enclosure ditch 195.

4.11 Trench K (Fig. 19)

4.11.1 This trench was 20m by 2m, situated on an area of high ground, which slopes down moderately to the west. It was excavated in order to investigate an area of magnetic disturbance, thought to relate to coal extraction. The desktop study also indicated a mine shaft entrance in this location (Joynes Pike and Associates Ltd 1999). Below 0.35m of topsoil, the edge of a large feature was seen cutting the natural clay in the north east end of the trench. This feature continued to the north, south and west of the limits of excavation. It was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt, which contained fragments of degraded sandstone and flecks of coal. Three 0.6m wide linear features ran in a roughly north west/south east direction across the trench, cutting the large feature, and were filled with sandstone fragments and coal waste. It was clear that these features related to the disused mine shaft and, in agreement with the South Yorkshire SMR, no further excavation was carried out in this trench.

4.12 Trench L (Fig. 20)

4.12.1 Trench L was 20m by 2m, located on relatively high ground which slopes moderately down to the south and west, and was also excavated in order to investigate this area of magnetic disturbance. Below 0.35m of topsoil part of a large feature was seen cut into the natural clay, in the south eastern end of the trench. This feature continued to the north, east and west of the limits of excavation, and was filled by a mid orange brown sandy clay, similar to that seen in Trench K. Across the central part of the trench, a 13.1m wide band of coal waste was cut into this deposit. It was evident that these deposits related to the coal extraction in the vicinity and, in agreement with the South Yorkshire SMR, no further excavation was carried out in this trench.

4.13 Trench M

4.13.1 Trench M was 20m by 2m, and situated at roughly 76.5m OD on land which rises gently to the north and east, as a control trench in an area not covered by the gradiometer survey. Approximately 0.35m of topsoil overlay the undisturbed natural, which consisted of degraded sandstone and clay. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

4.14 Trench N (Fig. 21)

4.14.1 This trench was 20m by 2m, and was situated on land sloping gently down to the south east. It was positioned in order to investigate an isolated

dipolar anomaly, which was interpreted as a possible bell pit. Approximately 0.30m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlay the natural sandy clay. The only features observed in this trench were north east/south west running shallow ploughing furrows, resulting from medieval or post-medieval 'ridge and furrow' cultivation, and relatively modern field drains. The only discrete feature observed was an irregular hollow filled with topsoil, probably caused by root damage. It is therefore likely that the magnetic anomaly observed in this area was caused by ferrous material in the topsoil, as was suggested by the geophysical survey.

4.15 Trench O

4.15.1 Trench O was 10m by 2m, located on land which rises gently to the south west at a height of roughly 77.7m OD. It was excavated in order to investigate two positive, isolated magnetic anomalies. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.40m, revealing a 0.20m deep subsoil, which was primarily composed of degraded sandstone and sand. This overlay the natural sandstone bedrock, which was very fragmentary at this point, and showed evidence of severe root penetration. No archaeological features were identified, and it is probable that the magnetic anomalies located in this area were caused by the damage to the bedrock by recent agricultural practices.

4.16 Trench P

4.16.1 This trench was 20m by 2m, positioned on top of a low mound at roughly 77.9m OD, with the ground falling away in all directions except to the south, where it rises slightly before sloping down again. The trench was located in order to investigate any isolated features and any evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing regimes. Approximately 0.45m of topsoil were removed before a very degraded sandstone natural was revealed. No archaeological features were identified in this trench. As this trench was located at the highest part of this field, it is probable that any features that once existed have been removed by modern ploughing. The fact that no remains of ploughing furrows were present, despite their identification in other nearby trenches, adds credence to this postulation.

5. Artefactual Record

5.1 Cu alloy

5.1.1 A cylindrical Cu alloy bead (SF 01) was recovered from deposit 101. It had a diameter of 13.55mm and a depth of 9.05mm. Its central hole was 5.80mm wide, and it weighed 4g. The outer surfaces of the artefact were badly corroded, but there is a limited potential for further identification of the object.

5.2 Ferrous material

5.2.1 A possible ferrous object was recovered from deposit 118, that weighed less than 1g. A post-excavation examination of the object indicates that

it is a naturally formed fragment of ironstone, therefore the item has no archaeological potential.

5.3 Mortar

5.3.1 Two fragments of possible mortar weighing 9g were recovered from deposit 198. A post-excavation examination indicates that these are natural fragments of sandstone, and so the objects have no archaeological potential.

5.4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

5.4.1 A total of four body sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from unstratified contexts at Shafton. These artefacts probably derive from manuring of fields during the medieval period, and so are of limited archaeological potential.

5.4.2 A sherd of post-medieval pottery, weighing 32g, was recovered from the surface of deposit 203, the fill of a probable bell pit. Further ceramic analysis may enable a *terminus post quem* to be established for the backfilling of this feature.

5.5 Romano-British pottery

5.5.1 The Romano-British pottery resulting from this evaluation was examined by Dr Jerry Evans on 20th October 1999. An assessment of this material is presented below, along with a discussion of the potential for further study of the assemblage. A full catalogue of the assemblage is presented in Appendix VI.

5.5.2 The 48 sherds of Roman pottery from this site do not allow a great deal to be determined about it. The only closely datable material is the BB1 acute lattice decorated sherd from context 120, which is of Hadrianic-Antonine date. Some of the greyware sherds are probably South Yorkshire products, and may therefore be 2nd century or later. The oxidised flagon neck is likely to be later 1st or 2nd century, as is the grog tempered greyware. Overall, therefore, a later 1st-2nd century date range seems likely to encompass this material. No samian or finewares were recovered, although the flagon is a slightly unusual find on a basic level rural site. The sources of supply here clearly differ somewhat from those on West Yorkshire rural sites.

5.5.3 The national research framework for the study of Romano-British pottery identifies pottery from rural sites as being 'highly significant for our understanding of the Romano-British economy and 'Romanization" (Willis 1997: 15), and the northern regional research framework (Evans and Willis 1997: 22, 25) emphasises the particular need for data from rural sites in the northern region. These sites represent the living conditions of the vast majority of the Romano-British population, and their consumption patterns, and as such an adequate sample need full examination and publication. The pottery from this site could be particularly useful as it might be compared with other recently excavated sites in West Yorkshire, particularly if a larger assemblage is recovered.

Few rural sites have been excavated in South Yorkshire, and relatively little is known about rural pottery supply and usage in this region.

5.6 Stone

5.6.1 Two worked sandstone blocks were amongst the line of stones described as context 141. SF 02 was sub-rectangular, with dimensions of 0.26m by 0.21m by 0.11m (Plate 1). A circular hole had been cut into the upper surface of the stone, which had a diameter of 0.05m and a depth of 0.04m. It is possible that this acted as a pivot-hole, associated with a superstructure, and it may be significant that this was located close to the putative entrance to the sub-rectangular enclosure. A second stone within this alignment SF 03 was 0.59m long and 0.32m wide, with a depth of 0.11m. It had several linear tool marks on its lower face, and may have been used as a sharpening stone.

5.6.2 A flake of possibly worked stone, which resembled a chert scraper, was recovered from deposit 198. It was crescent-shaped, with a maximum length of 39mm, a width of 21mm, a depth of 0.08mm and weighed 5g. Further analysis may determine whether this was an anthropogenically modified artefact or a natural fragment of stone.

5.6.3 A sub-angular fragment of stone, which weighed 10g, was recovered from an unstratified context and resembled a fragment of lava quern. A geological analysis of this object may determine whether this was a fragment of imported quern stone.

6. Environmental Record

6.1 A total of 35 environmental samples were taken from 33 different contexts during the evaluation. Of these, 33 were sampled for General Biological Analysis (GBA), one was a sample of molluscs and one was a large fragment of charcoal, which may be suitable for radiometric analysis. These are currently stored by Archaeological Services WYAS, in controlled conditions where appropriate.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of several ditches forming an extensive system of land division on the site. This includes a double-ditched feature, which extended across the application area in a roughly east/west direction. These features are commonly interpreted as trackways, although they can also function as major land boundaries (Riley 1980: 23), with appended ditches which further subdivide the land. These features are usually described as 'later prehistoric or Romano-British' in date, and recent excavation has suggested that while they may originate in the Iron Age, they can continue to be respected and redefined throughout the Romano-British period (Howell 1997). The ceramic evidence from Shafton suggests that at least some of these ditches were open during the Romano-British period, although this does not preclude an earlier origin for this landscape.

7.2 The sub-rectangular enclosure identified within this field system appeared to define an area which was set aside for special purposes. A four-post structure was located within the enclosure, and while these are traditionally interpreted as grain-stores, they may also have been used to keep straw or other foodstuffs dry and protected from animals (Gent 1983). A possible rectangular structure was defined by six large post-holes, although it is not possible to suggest a function for this feature. A similar structure was identified at the late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site excavated at Stile Hill, Colton, to the east of Leeds (Ian Roberts pers. comm.). The concentration of pits, many containing heat-affected material, would indicate a degree of 'domestic' activity in the vicinity. Enclosures of this type are common features among the field systems of South Yorkshire and beyond. The function of these enclosures is not always clear, but they are often thought to be defining areas for inhabitation or other special purposes (Riley 1980: 27).

7.3 It is outside this enclosure, however, that tangible evidence for settlement activity was identified. The partially exposed sub-circular structure appears to be part of a round house defined by a gully and possible collapsed stone wall. This architectural tradition is primarily associated with Bronze Age and Iron Age structures, although there is evidence to suggest that round houses were also constructed in the Romano-British period (Wilson 1997). Further work may elucidate the nature and chronology of this settlement activity at Shafton.

7.4 The results of the trial excavations have demonstrated the validity and usefulness of employing geophysical (magnetic) survey as a method of identifying areas of possible archaeological interest on large 'greenfield' sites. The results have also validated the strategy for excavating large areas, rather than concentrating on numerous smaller trenches, and of investigating areas outside a perceived central enclosure. This approach has led directly to the identification of the postulated round house.

7.5 The results have also highlighted some of the limitations of gradiometer survey, particularly that small, isolated features, which are often indicative of domestic activity, are very difficult to identify and accurately interpret. At least one of the larger pits in Trench A, however, was identified and interpreted from the survey data. A second problem is the variable nature of the geology and depth of sub-soil across the site. This has resulted in some features being readily apparent as strong magnetic anomalies in one part of the site, whereas in different areas of the site the features are extremely weak, making them very faint, and therefore difficult to interpret, or undetectable. This point is demonstrated in Trenches F and I, where the identified discontinuous magnetic anomalies have been shown through excavation to be continuous. Additionally, in Trench E excavation has revealed a ditch crossing through the middle of the trench, which cannot be seen in the gradiometer data. In this latter case, the non-detection is almost certainly due to the ditch infill material being very similar to the surrounding natural; there will therefore be no magnetic contrast between the fills and the natural clay.

7.6 Finally, evidence was found for extensive coal extraction within the application area. The remains of two bell pits were located in the southern part of the site, close to the point at which the Shafton Coal seam outcrops. These features are often associated with medieval mining, but this method of extraction continued into the post-medieval period (Crossley 1990: 204). The remains of more recent coal extraction were also found in the southern and eastern part of the site, and this probably relates to mine shafts of a more recent date.

Acknowledgements

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Report

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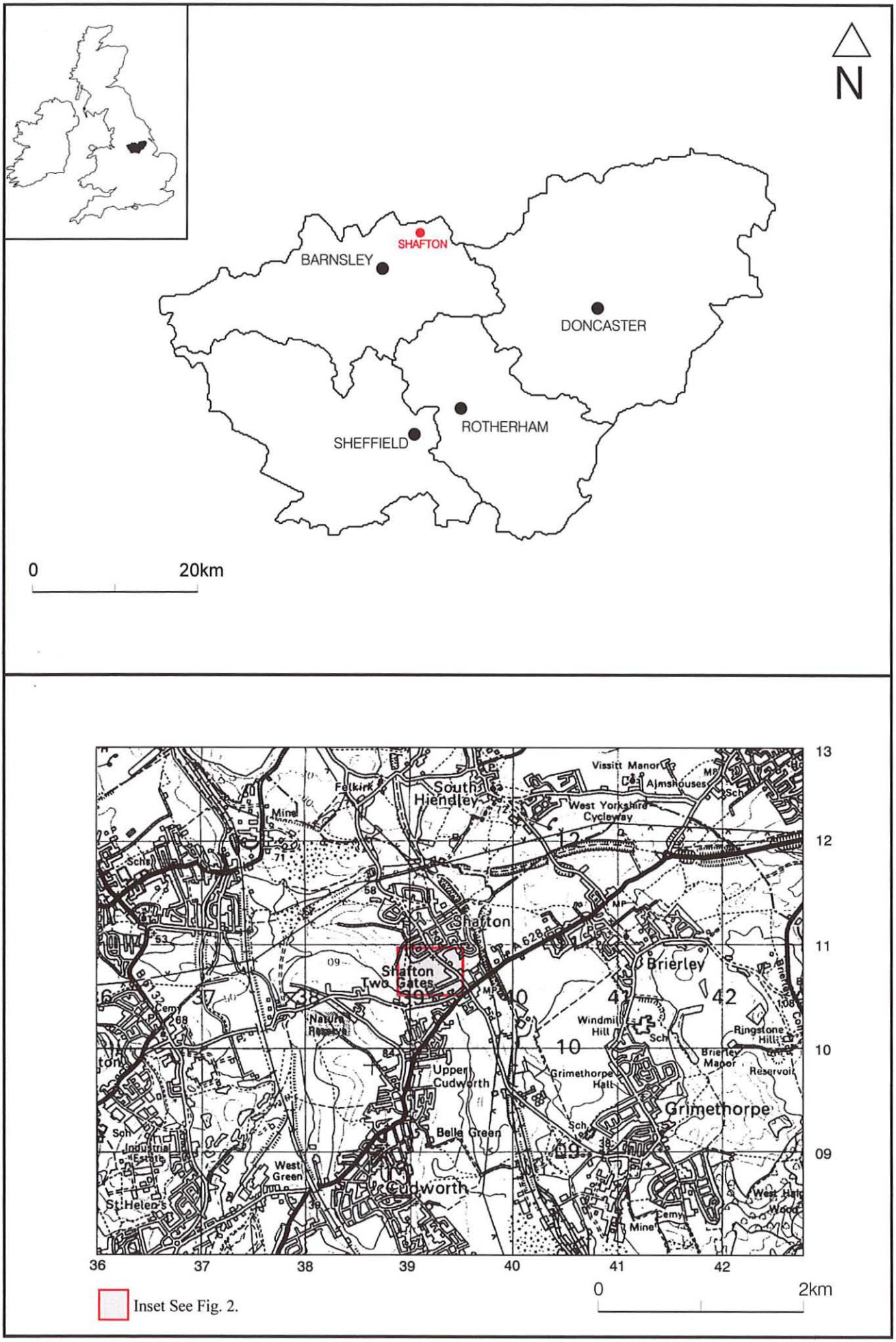


Fig. 1. Site Location

Fig. 2. Trench location showing greyscale gradiometer data (1:2500)

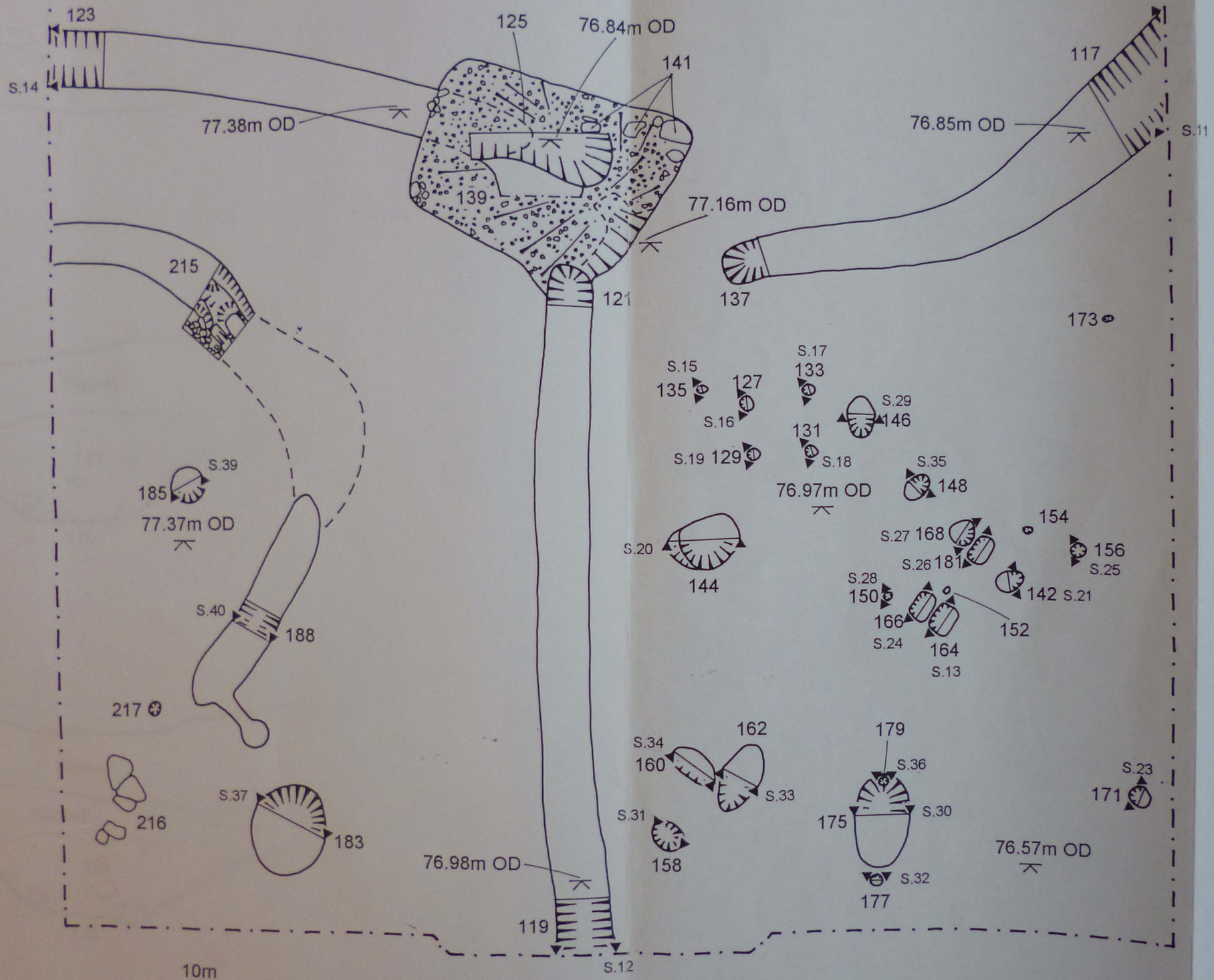


Fig. 3. Plan of Trench A

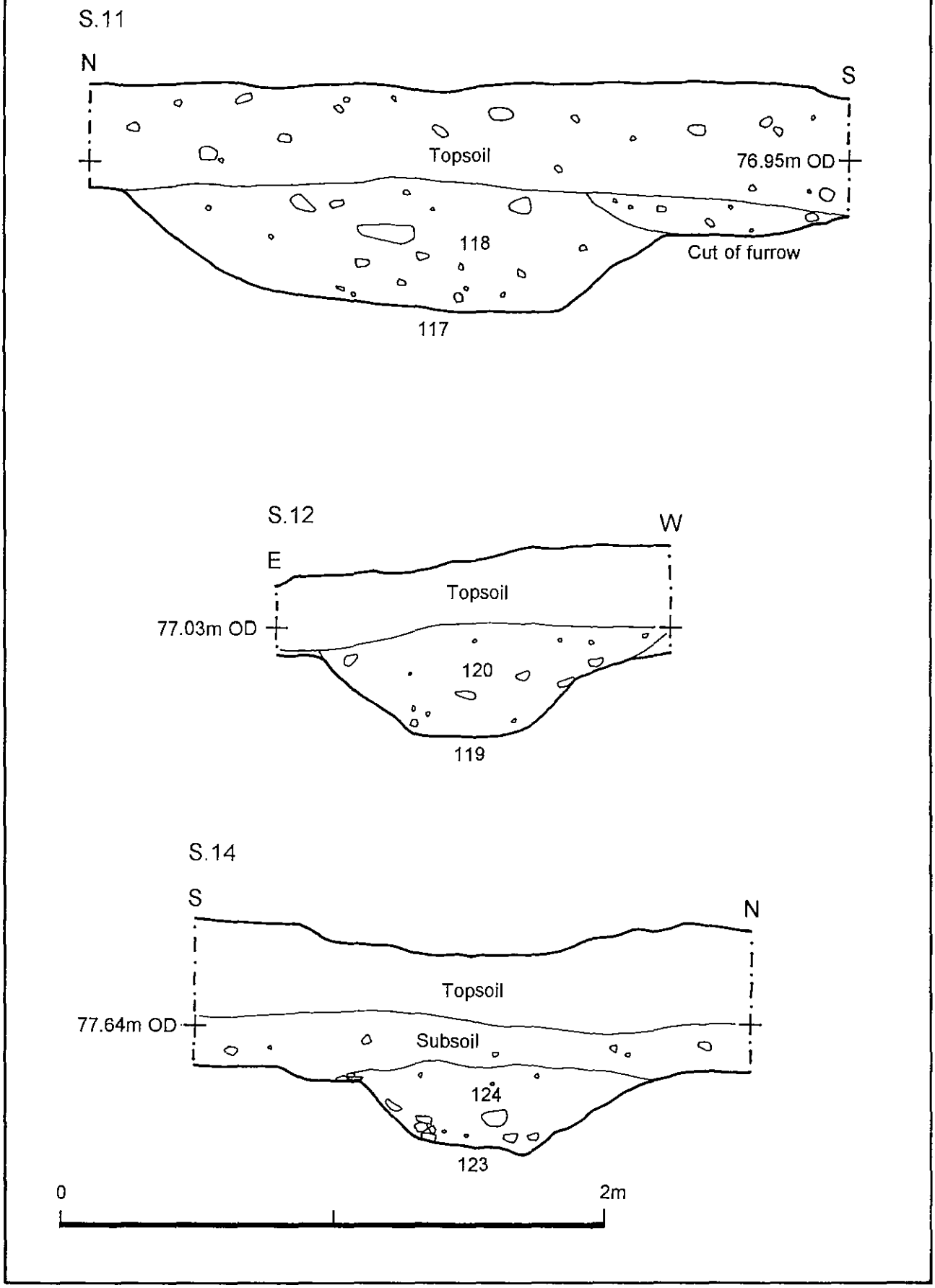


Fig. 4. Trench A ditch sections

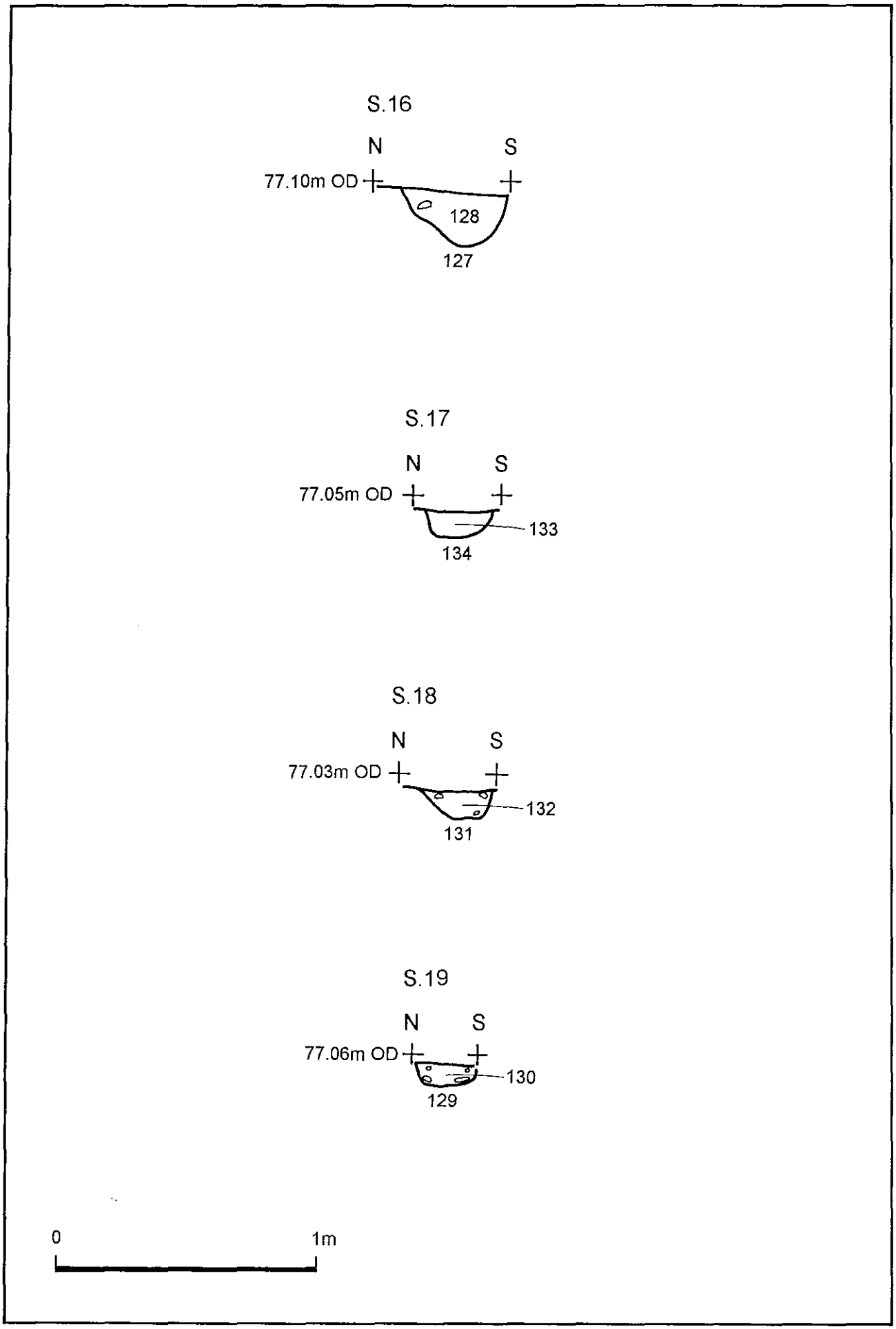


Fig. 5. Trench A, four post structure sections

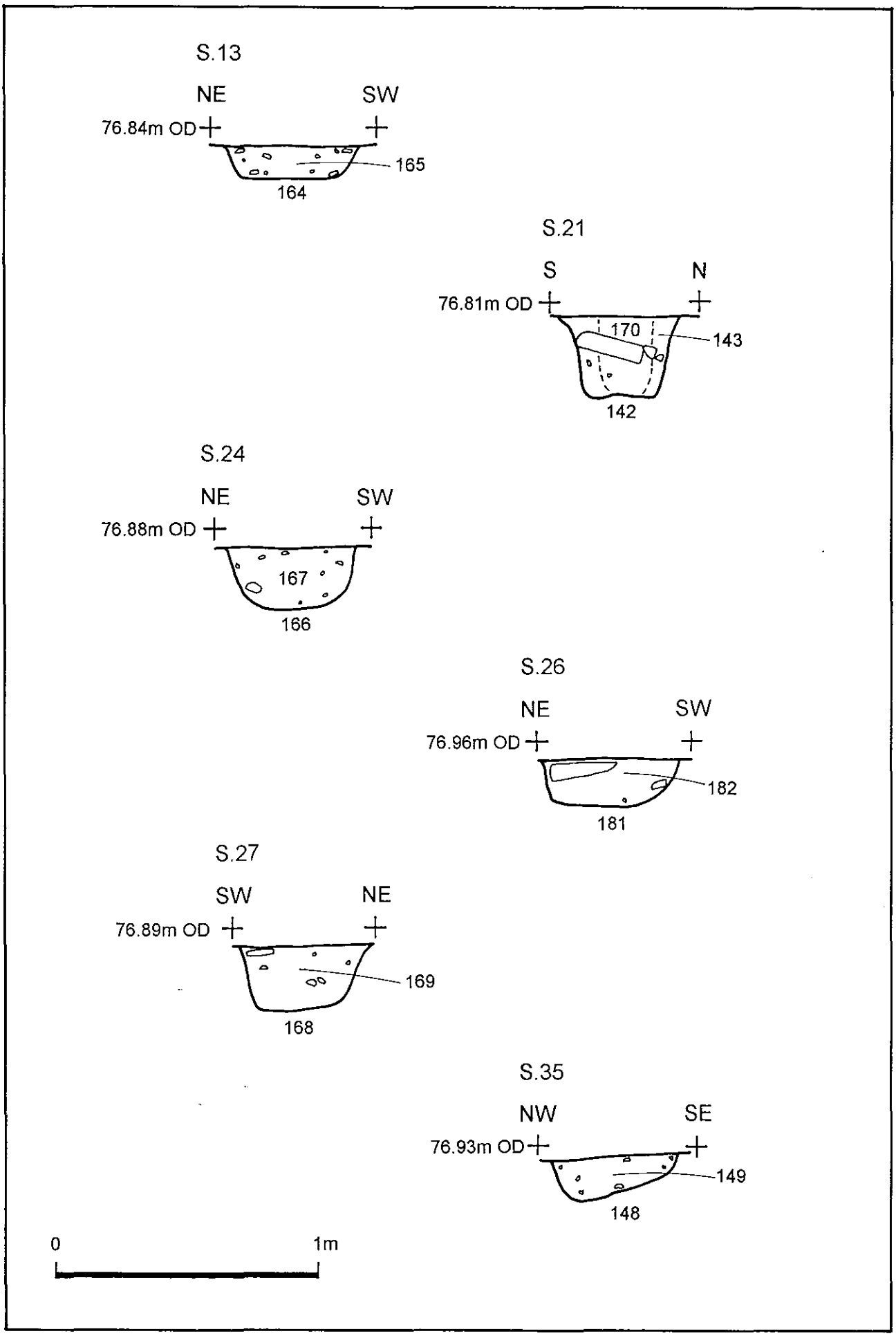


Fig. 6. Trench A, rectangular structure sections

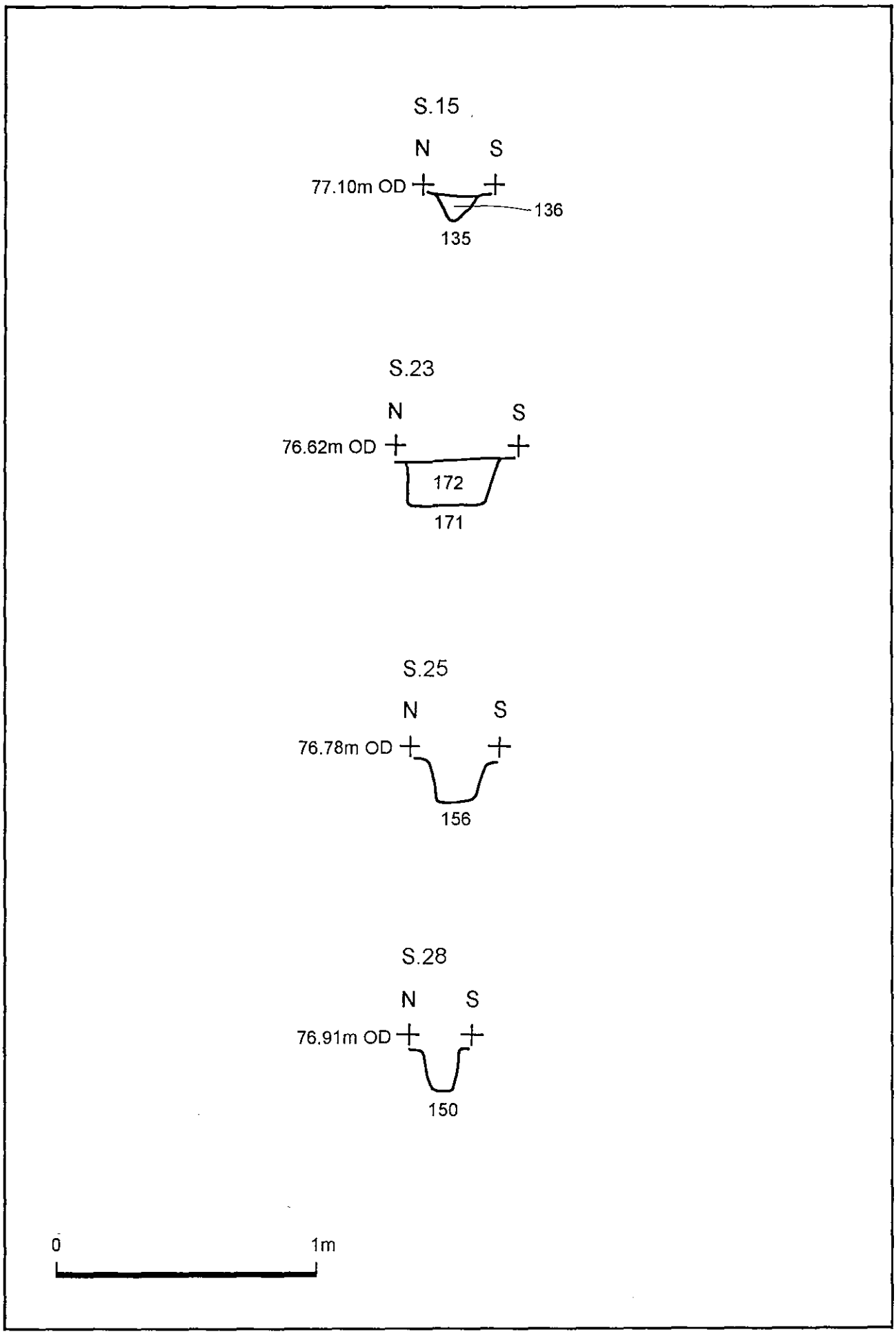


Fig. 7. Trench A, post and stake hole sections

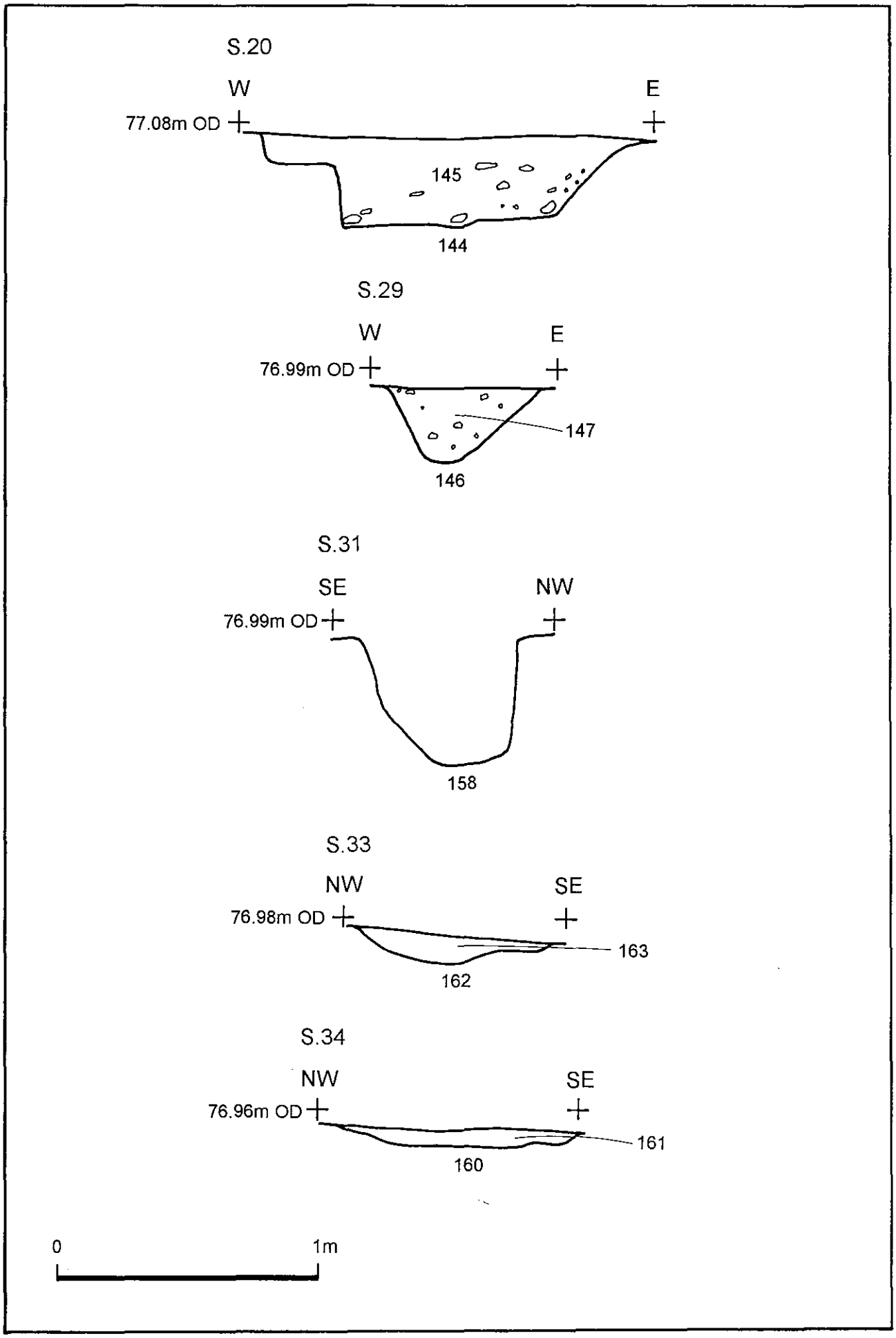


Fig. 8. Trench A, pit sections

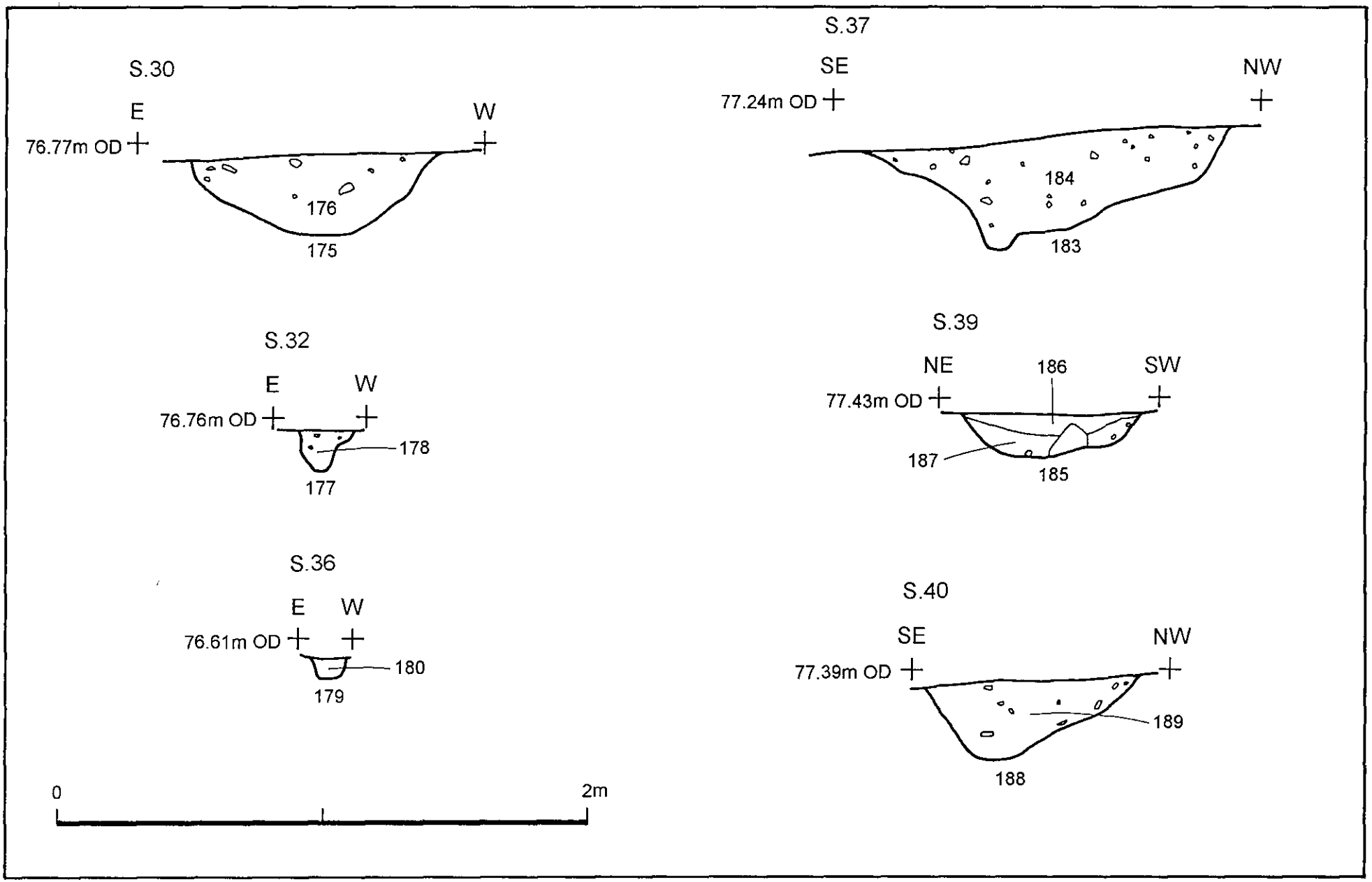


Fig. 9. Trench A, pit and associated post hole sections and external features sections

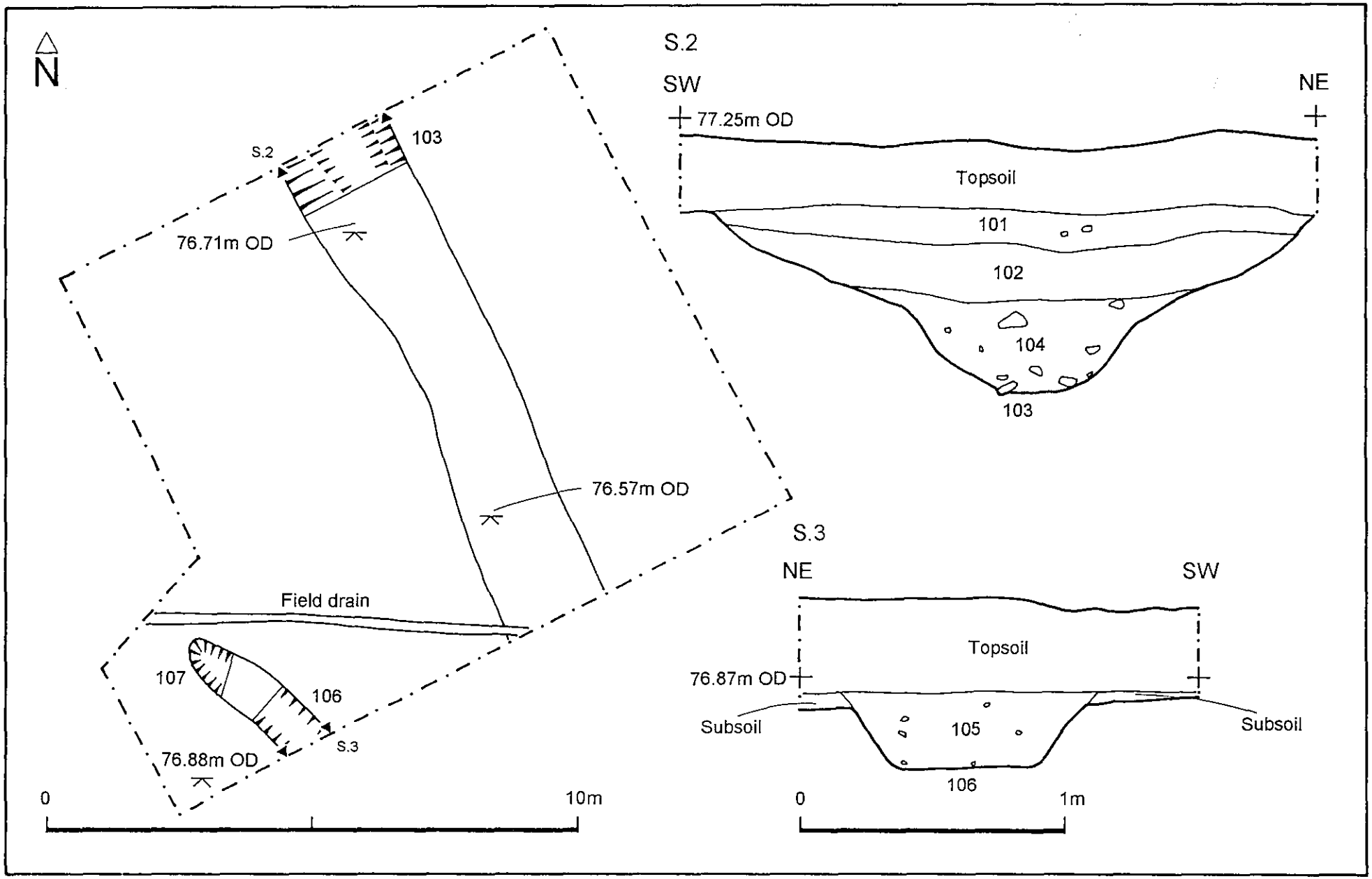


Fig. 10. Plan of Trench B and ditch sections

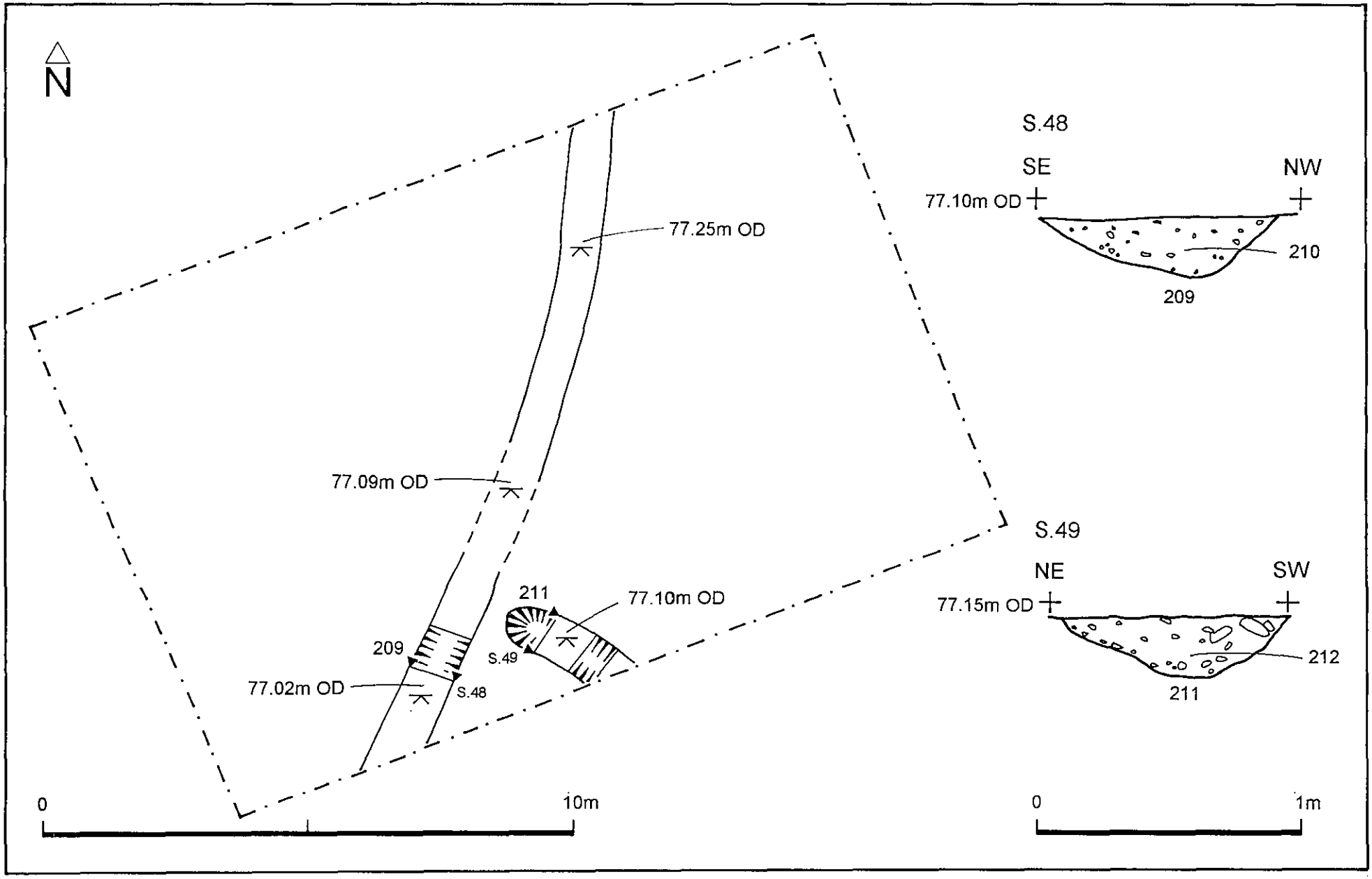


Fig. 11. Plan of Trench C and ditch sections

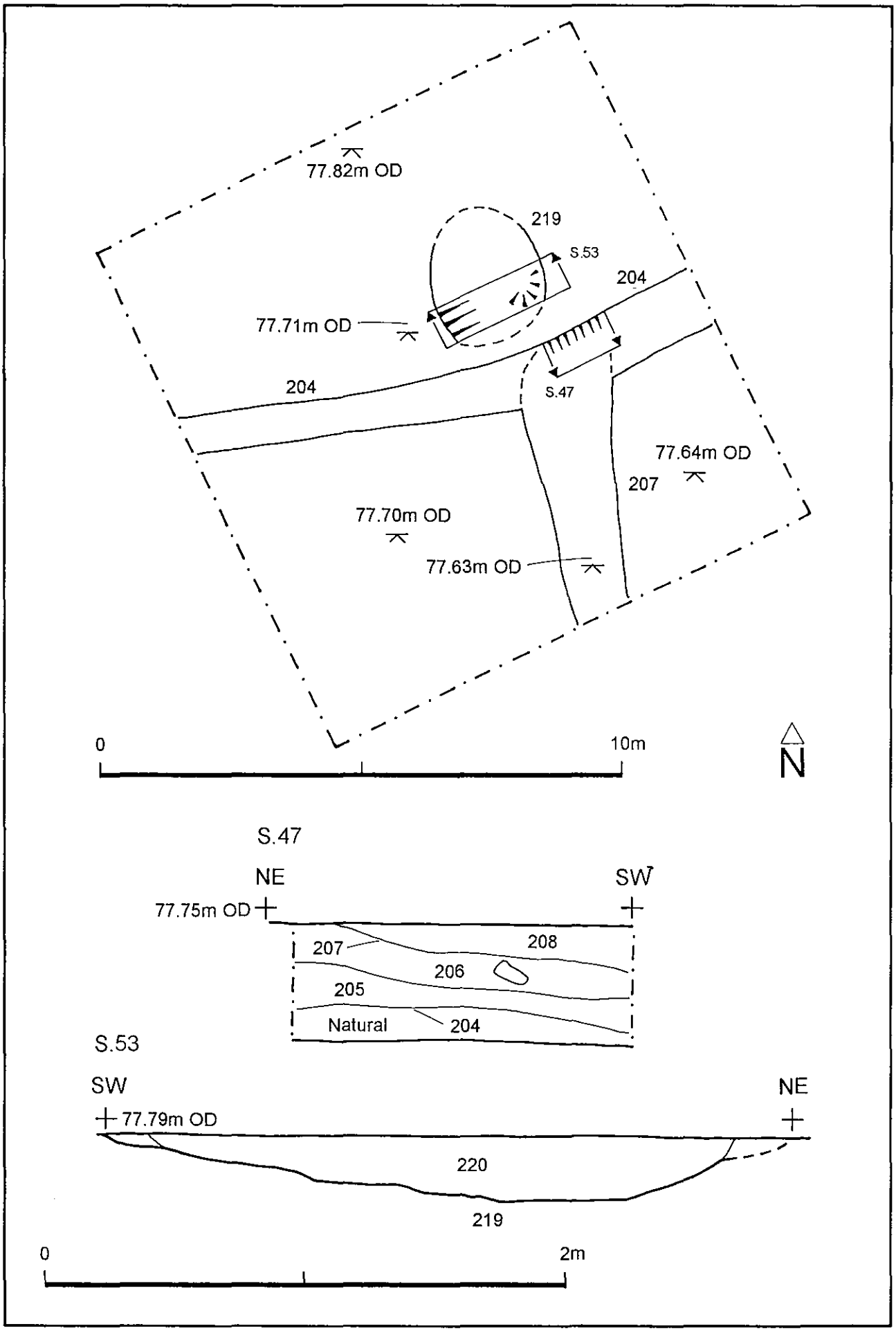


Fig. 12. Plan of Trench D and ditch sections

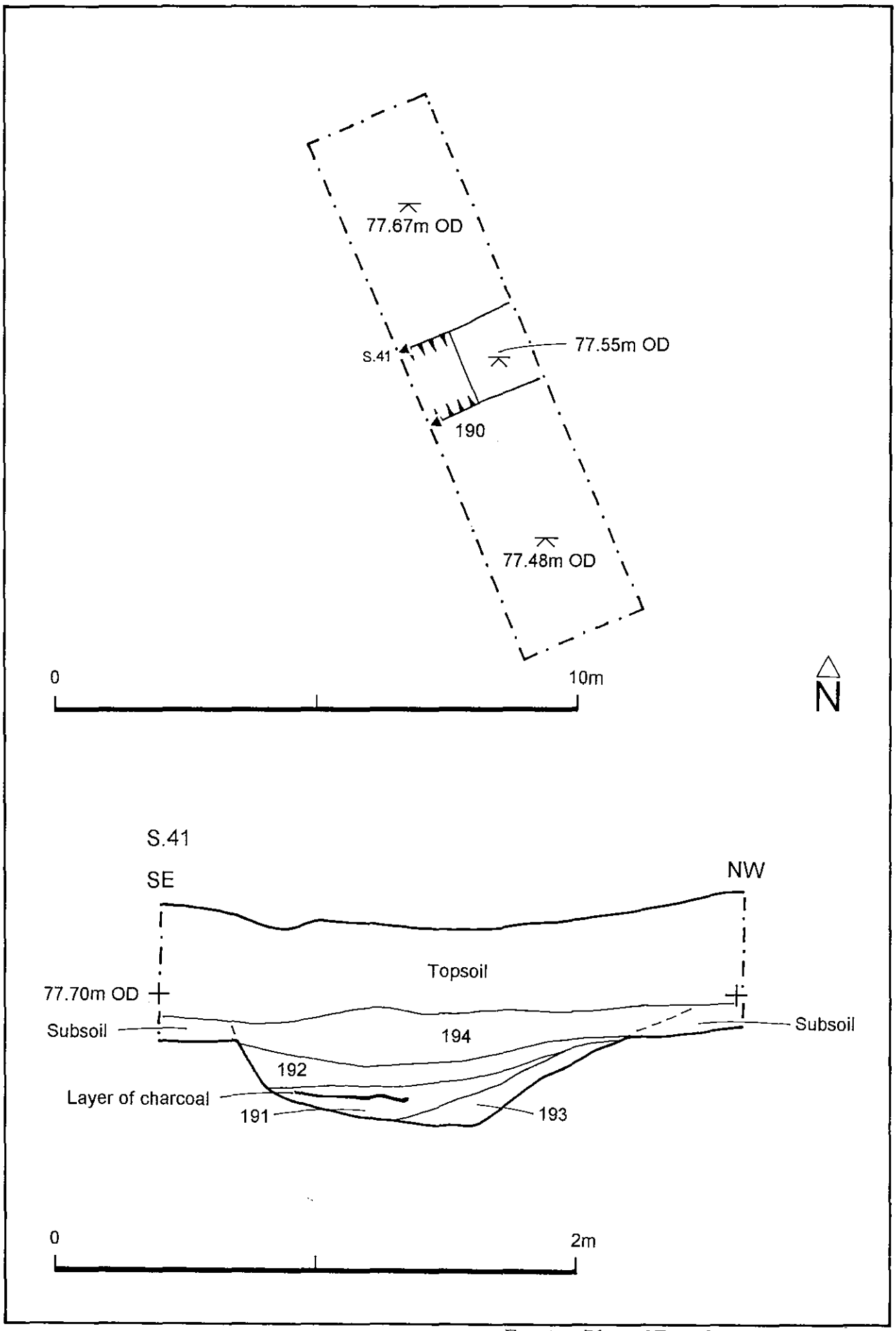
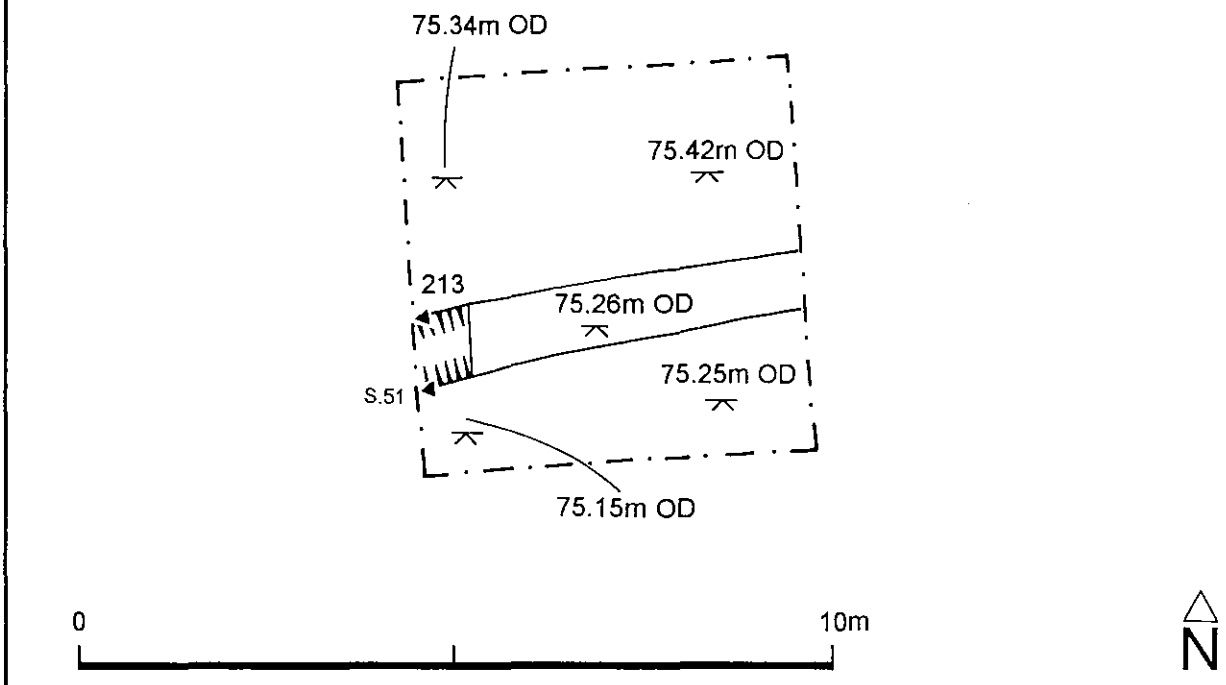


Fig. 13. Plan of Trench E and ditch section



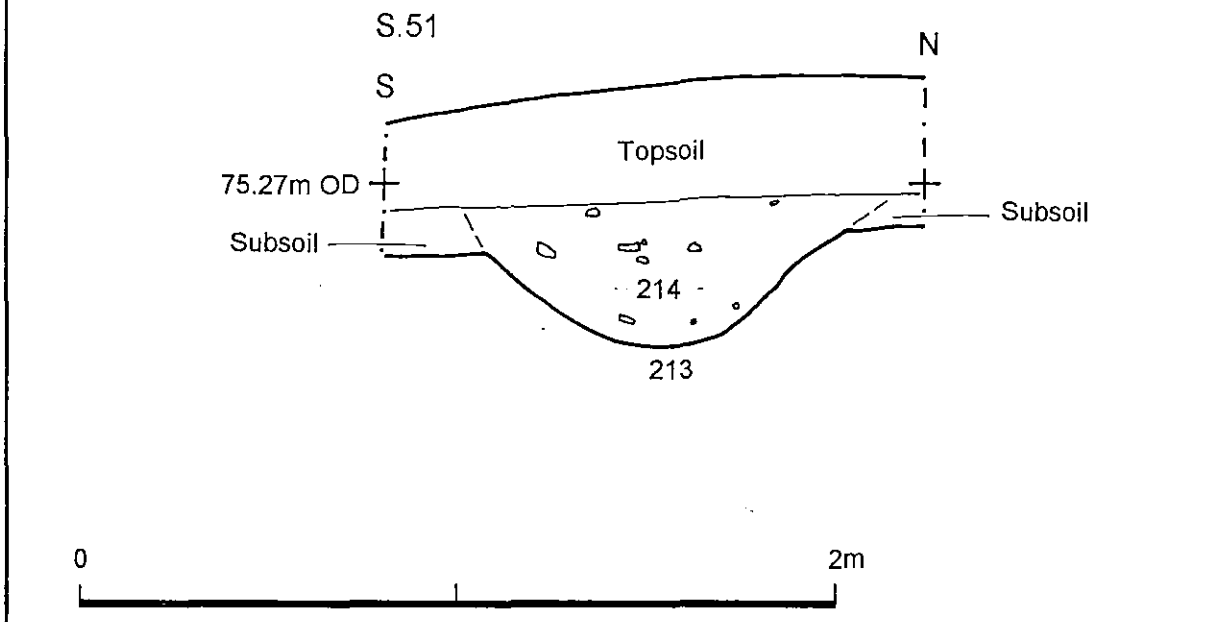


Fig. 14. Plan of Trench F and ditch section

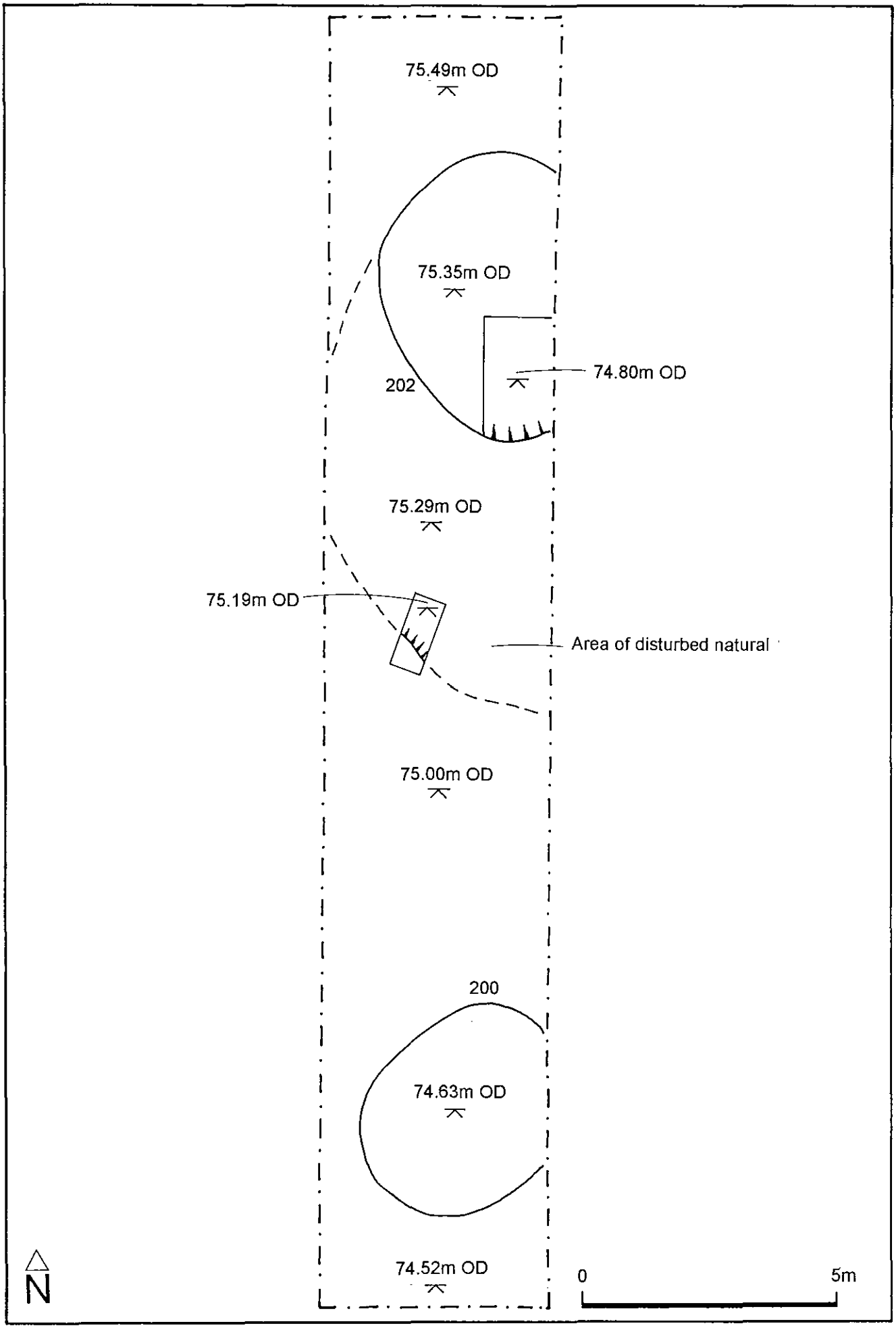


Fig. 15. Plan of Trench G

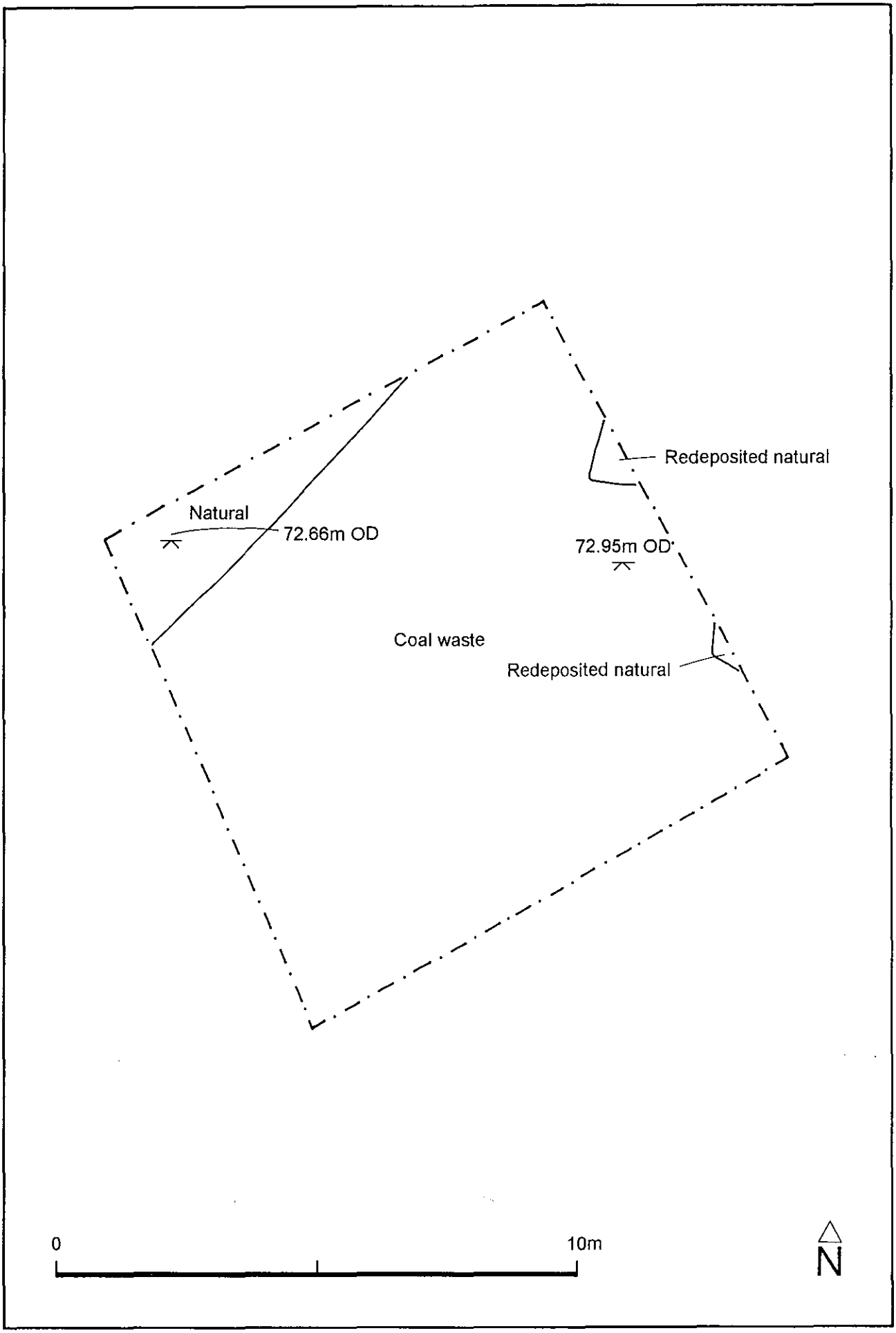


Fig. 16. Plan of Trench H

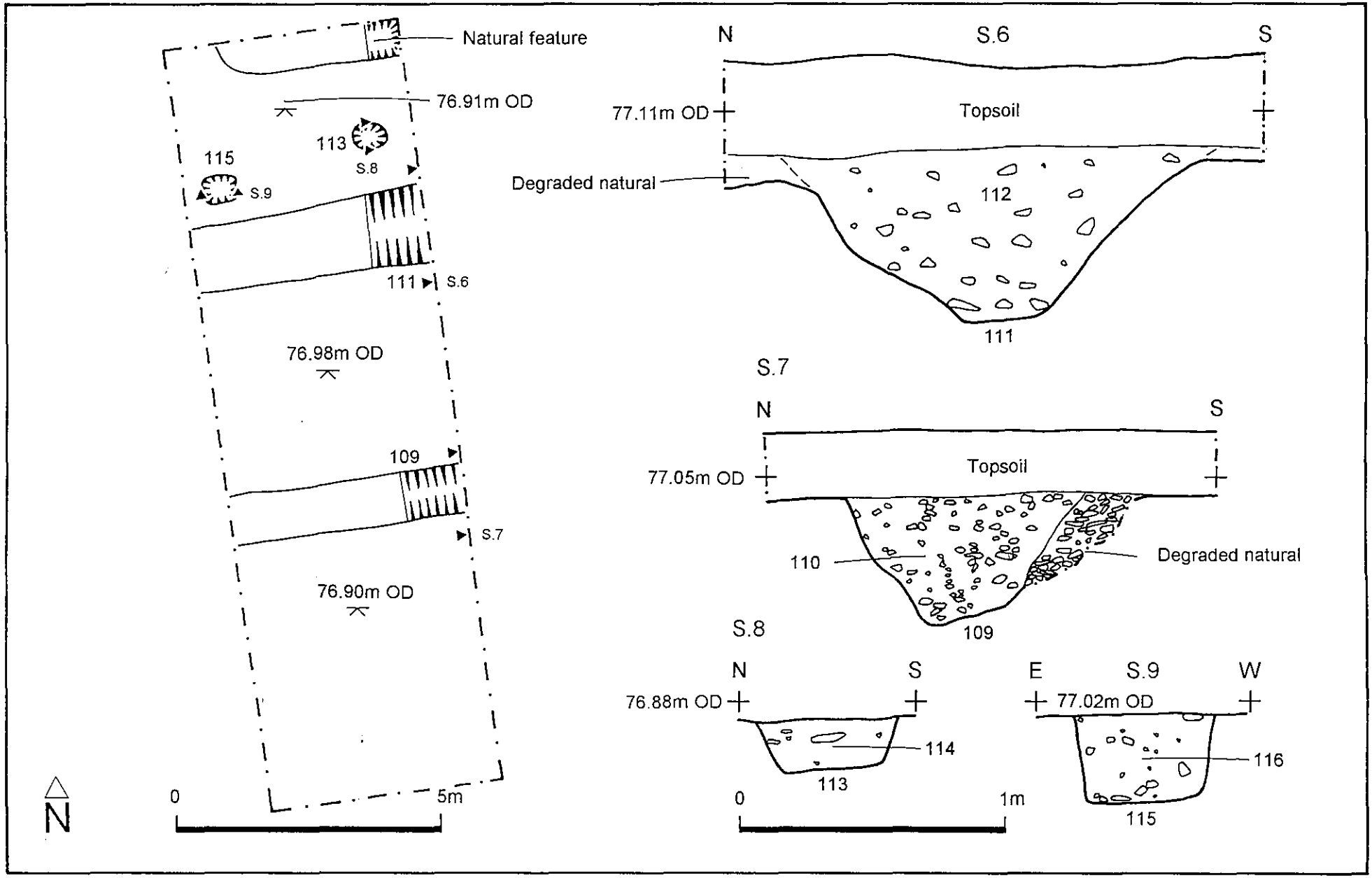


Fig. 17. Plan of Trench I, ditch and post hole sections

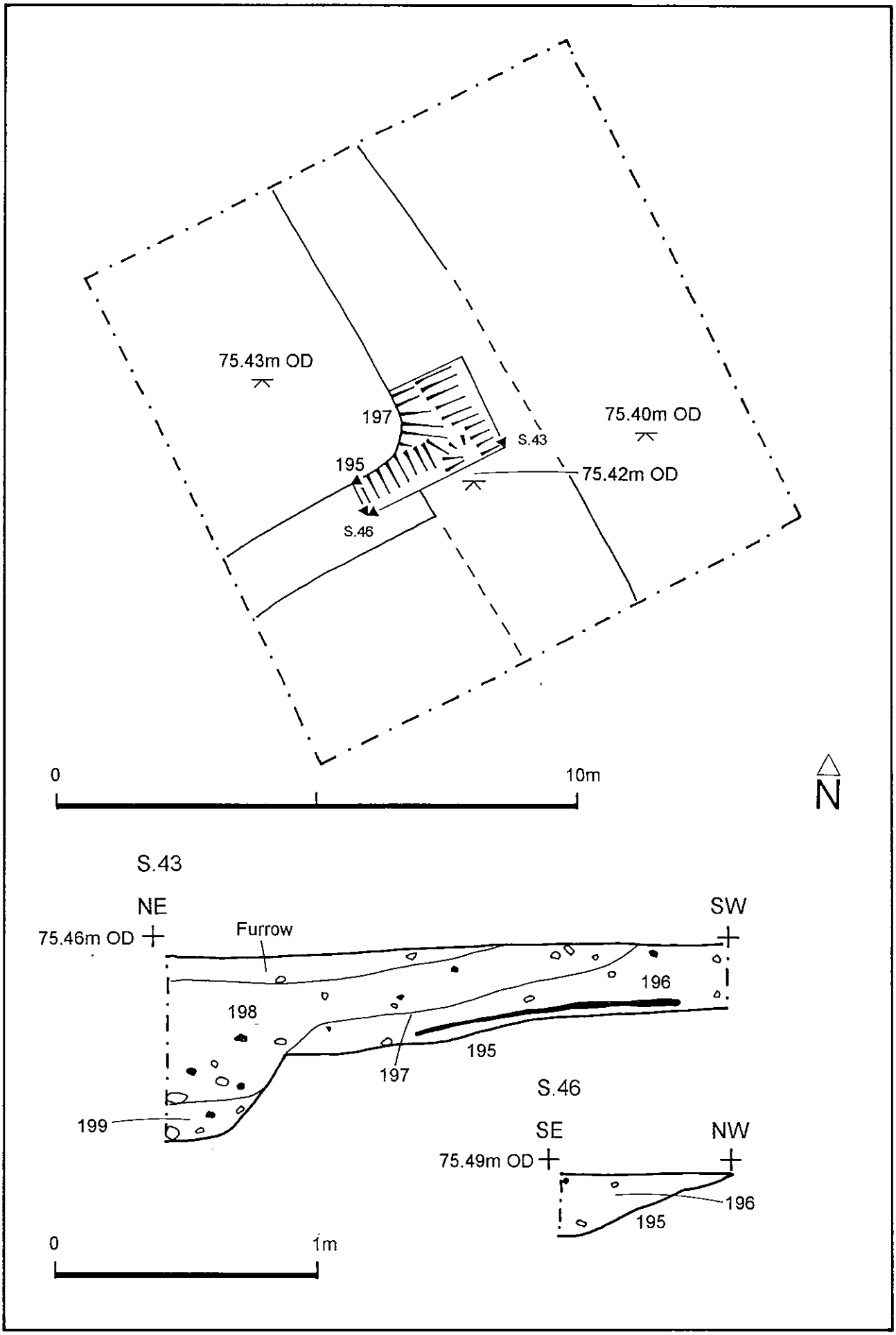


Fig. 18. Plan of Trench J and ditch sections

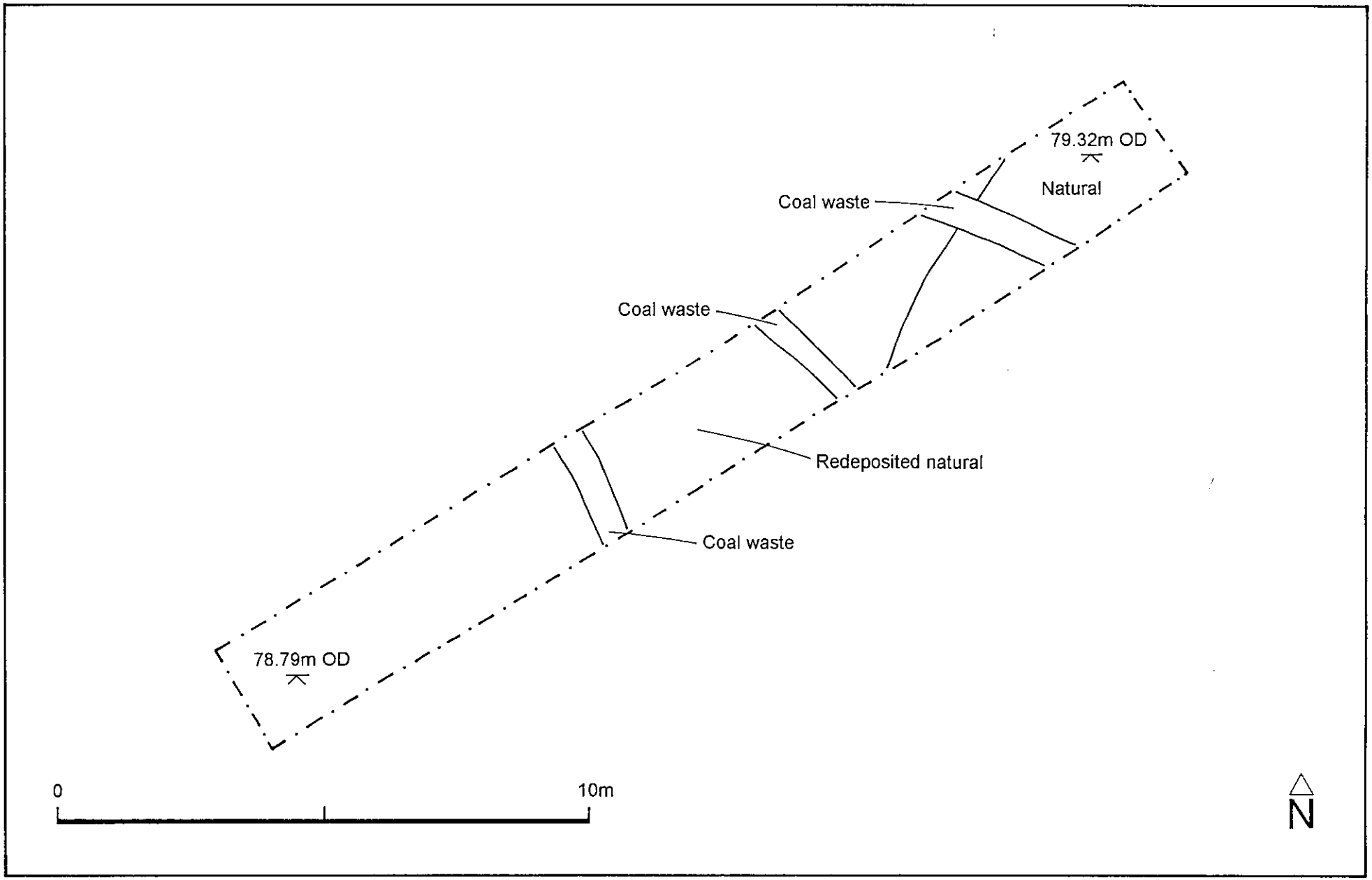


Fig. 19. Plan of Trench K

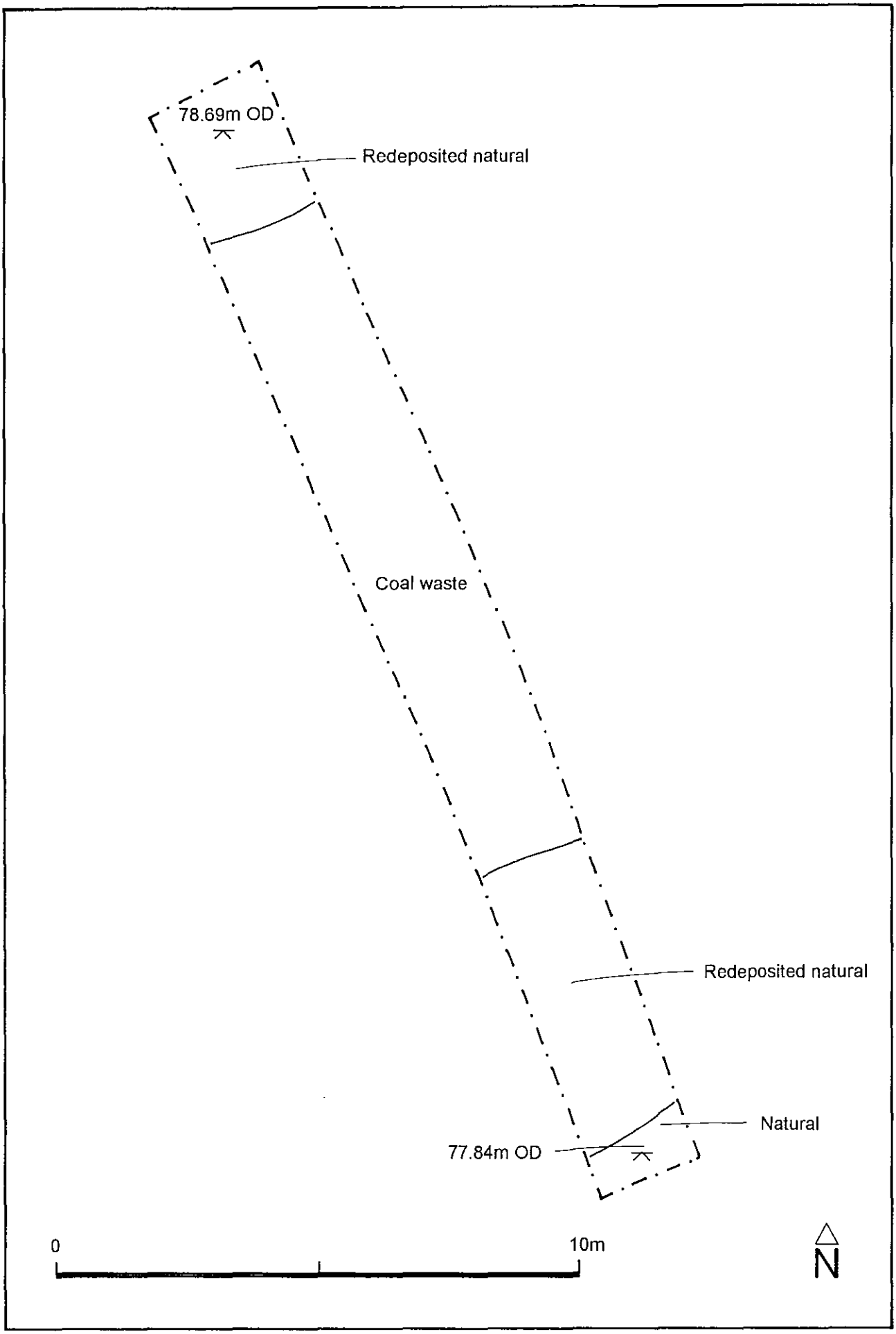


Fig. 20. Plan of Trench L

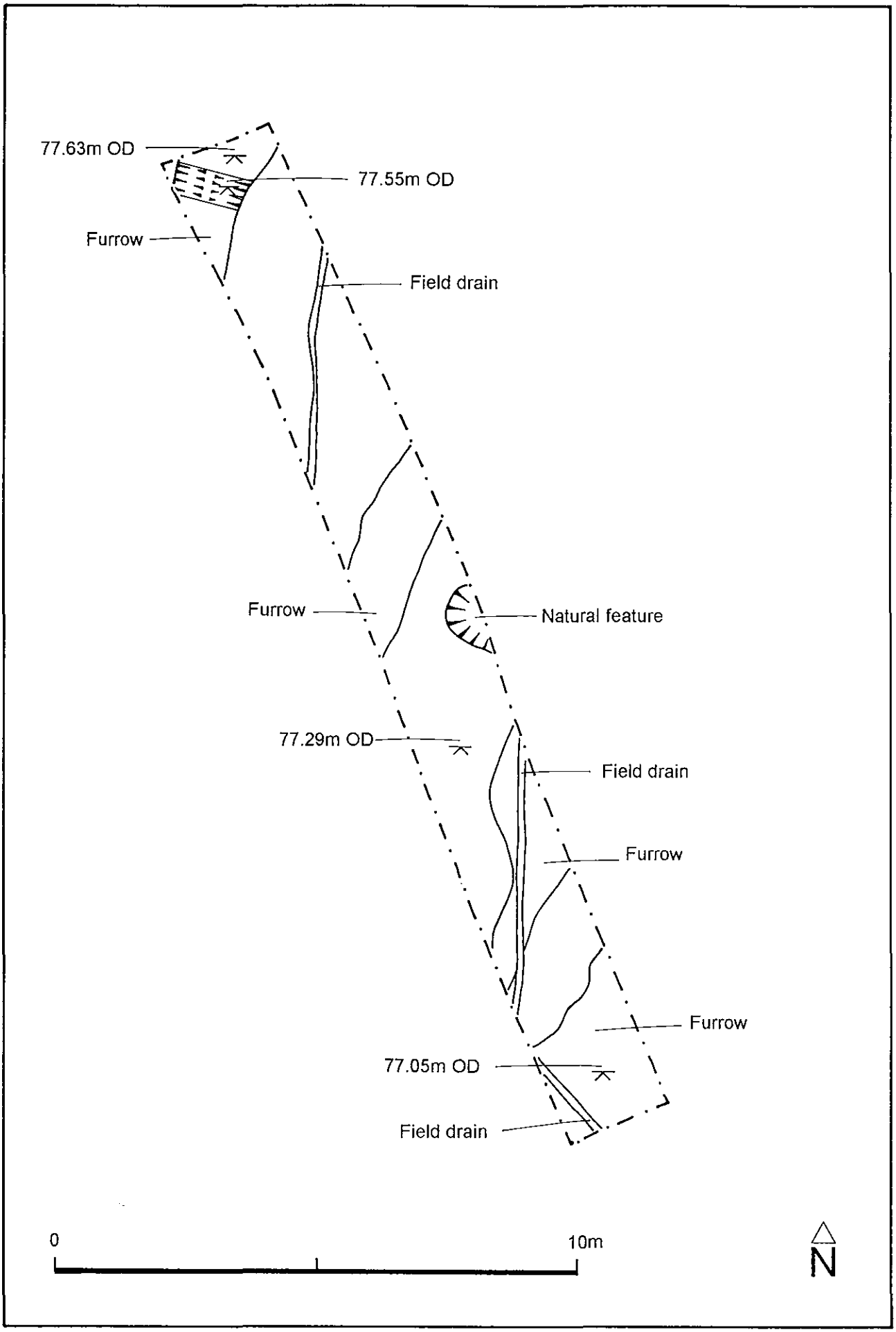


Fig. 21. Plan of Trench N

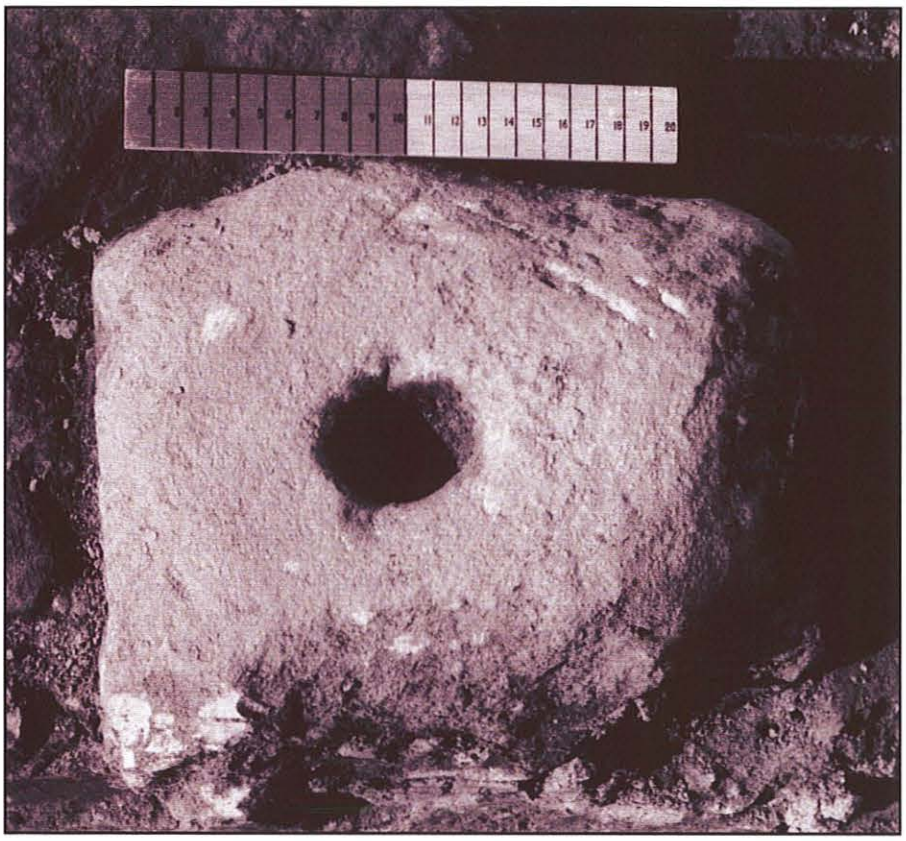


Plate 1. SF 02, Context 141

Appendix I

Inventory of Primary Archive

File No.	Contents	Quantity
01	Context registers	7
01	Trench record sheets	16
01	Context sheets* (101 - 220)	120
02	Drawing registers	6
02	Permatrace sheets	21
02	Photographic films register	1
02	Colour transparencies	4
02	Monochrome contact sheets	4
02	Associated photographic registers	8
03	Environmental samples registers	2
03	Artefacts register	1
03	Small Finds register	1
-	Large Permatrace sheets†	5

*- denotes double-sided

†- denotes stored in map chest

Appendix II

Inventory of Contexts

Context	Trench	Description
101	B	Fill of 103
102	B	Fill of 103
103	B	Cut of ditch
104	B	Fill of 103
105	B	Fill of 106
106	B	Cut of ditch
107	B	Cut of ditch
108	B	Fill of 107
109	I	Cut of ditch
110	I	Fill of 109
111	I	Cut of ditch
112	I	Fill of 111
113	I	Cut of post-hole
114	I	Fill of 113
115	I	Cut of post-hole
116	I	Fill of 115
117	A	Cut of ditch
118	A	Fill of 117
119	A	Cut of ditch
120	A	Fill of 119
121	A	Cut of ditch
122	A	Fill of 121
123	A	Cut of ditch
124	A	Fill of 123
125	A	Cut of ditch
126	A	Fill of 125
127	A	Cut of post-hole
128	A	Fill of 127
129	A	Cut of post-hole
130	A	Fill of 129
131	A	Cut of post-hole
132	A	Fill of 131
133	A	Cut of post-hole

Context	Trench	Description
134	A	Fill of 133
135	A	Cut of stake-hole
136	A	Fill of 135
137	A	Cut of ditch
138	A	Fill of 137
139	A	Metalled surface
140	A	Deposit over 139
141	A	Stone alignment
142	A	Cut of post-hole
143	A	Fill of 142
144	A	Cut of pit
145	A	Fill of 144
146	A	Cut of pit
147	A	Fill of 146
148	A	Cut of post-hole
149	A	Fill of 148
150	A	Cut of stake-hole
151	A	Fill of 150
152	A	Cut of stake-hole
153	A	Fill of 153
154	A	Cut of stake-hole
155	A	Fill of 154
156	A	Cut of post-hole
157	A	Fill of 156
158	A	Cut of post-hole
159	A	Fill of 158
160	A	Cut of pit
161	A	Fill of 160
162	A	Cut of pit
163	A	Fill of 162
164	A	Cut of pit
165	A	Fill of 164
166	A	Cut of pit
167	A	Fill of 166
168	A	Cut of post-hole
169	A	Fill of 168
170	A	Fill of 142

Context	Trench	Description
171	A	Cut of post-hole
172	A	Fill of 171
173	A	Cut of stake-hole
174	A	Fill of 173
175	A	Cut of pit
176	A	Fill of 175
177	A	Cut of post-hole
178	A	Fill of 177
179	A	Cut of post-hole
180	A	Fill of 179
181	A	Cut of pit
182	A	Fill of 181
183	A	Cut of pit
184	A	Fill of 183
185	A	Cut of hearth
186	A	Fill of 185
187	A	Fill of 185
188	A	Cut of gully
189	A	Fill of 188
190	E	Cut of ditch
191	E	Fill of 190
192	E	Fill of 190
193	E	Fill of 190
194	E	Fill of 190
195	J	Cut of ditch
196	J	Fill of 195
197	J	Cut of ditch
198	J	Fill of 197
199	J	Fill of 197
200	G	Cut of bell pit
201	G	Fill of 200
202	G	Cut of bell pit
203	G	Fill of 202
204	D	Cut of ditch
205	D	Fill of 204
206	D	Fill of 204
207	D	Cut of ditch

Context	Trench	Description
208	D	Fill of 207
209	C	Cut of ditch
210	C	Fill of 209
211	C	Cut of ditch
212	C	Fill of 211
213	F	Cut of ditch
214	F	Fill of 213
215	A	Collapsed stone wall
216	A	Stone flagging
217	A	Cut of post-hole
218	A	Fill of 217
219	D	Cut of pit
220	D	Fill of 219

Appendix III

Inventory of Artefacts

SF No.	Context	Fabric	Quantity
01	101	Cu alloy	1
02	141	Stone	1
03	141	Stone	1
-	104	Pottery	10
-	118	Fe	1
-	118	Pottery	1
-	120	Pottery	28
-	122	Pottery	2
-	126	Pottery	9
-	138	Pottery	1
-	198	Mortar	2
-	198	Pottery	1
-	198	Stone	1
-	203	Pottery	1
-	U/S	Pottery	4
-	U/S	Stone	1
-	U/S 119	Pottery	14
-	U/S Tr. A	Pottery	1

Appendix IV

Inventory of Environmental Samples

Sample No.	Context	Type
01	101	GBA
02	114	GBA
03	116	GBA
04	116	Mollusc
05	104	GBA
06	110	GBA
07	112	GBA
08	140	GBA
09	118	GBA
10	145	GBA
11	124	GBA
12	134	GBA
13	130	GBA
14	143	GBA
15	120	GBA
16	159	GBA
17	172	GBA
18	167	GBA
19	169	GBA
20	149	GBA
21	147	GBA
22	163	GBA
23	176	GBA
24	184	GBA
25	186	GBA
26	189	GBA
27	191	GBA
28	196	GBA
29	198	GBA
30	198	Charcoal
31	210	GBA
32	212	GBA
33	214	GBA

Sample No.	Context	Type
34	199	GBA
35	205	GBA

Appendix V

Archaeological Specification

High Street, Shafton, South Yorkshire

(SE 392 107 site centred)

Archaeological Evaluation

Project Design

1. Introduction

1.1 The Sites and Monuments Record of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service has prepared a Brief For Archaeological Investigation to enable a detailed evaluation proposal to be devised for the proposed development at the above site. This proposal will detail the proposed methodologies, aims and objectives, the timetable to be employed, as well as the sampling strategies and the arrangements for the deposition of the archive.

1.2 Although there are no known cropmarks on the site there are cropmarks in the surrounding fields suggestive of Romano-British occupation. A geophysical survey carried out by Archaeological Services revealed several intersecting linear magnetic anomalies which are thought are probably indicative of infilled ditches that form enclosures and a possible trackway. These anomalies are situated on the highest parts of the site. Several isolated anomalies were also identified that may also have an archaeological origin.

Responses thought to be caused by old mine workings and associated activities were also identified.

1.3 Essentially, the Project Design for the Archaeological Evaluation aims to:

> *gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits.*
>
> This will enable an assessment to be made of the potential and significance of the archaeology of the site and the impact which the proposed development will have upon this.

1.4 The present document sets out to fulfil the stated requirements for the Project Design and to give methodologies for excavation, recording and reporting. A separate Project Design will be produced for any additional excavation that may be required.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 To determine the character, condition, quality, date and importance of any archaeological remains.

2.2 To recover datable finds and environmental samples sufficient to establish the nature, date and ecofactual potential of any archaeological features or deposits.

3. Strategy

3.1 Sixteen trial trenches and small open areas shall be excavated in the relative positions indicated on the attached plan. The dimensions of each trench/area and the reasons for their position are summarised below.

Trench A (20m by 20m)

Positioned to investigate the possible intersection of the three 'ditch' anomalies which may form the corner of an enclosure (also a possible entrance) with a view to identifying any small internal features that might not be apparent from the geophysical data.

Trench B (10m by 10m)

To investigate the intersection of two possible 'ditch' features and a probable modern drain.

Trench C (15m by 10m)

To investigate the intersection of two 'ditch' features.

Trench D (10m by 10m)

To investigate the intersection of two 'ditch' features possibly forming the corner of an enclosure.

Trench E (10m by 2m)

To investigate an area of magnetic disturbance.

Trench F (5m by 5m)

To investigate the 'terminus' of a possible 'ditch' feature.

Trench G (25m by 4m)

To investigate two possible discrete archaeological features- pits/hearths?

Trench I (15m by 4m)

To investigate two possible parallel 'ditch' features- double ditched trackway?

Trench J (10m by 10m)

To investigate the intersection and immediate surround of intersecting 'ditch' features forming a corner of an enclosure.

Trench K (20m by 2m)

To investigate a probable feature associated with mining activity.

Trench L (20m by 2m)

As above.

Trench M (20m by 2m)

Control trench in an unsurveyed area.

Trench N (20m by 2m)

To evaluate a possible 'bell pit'

Trench O (10m by 2m)

To evaluate two positive, isolated magnetic anomalies

Trench P (20m by 2m)

To investigate any isolated features, including any evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing, west of the possible enclosure.

3.2 The trenches shall be opened using a Hymac equipped with a toothless ditching bucket down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. All features shall be tagged as soon as they have been identified.

3.3 Where archaeological deposits are identified, excavation will continue by hand to the natural subsoil or to the required depth of the trench, whichever is

encountered first. Excavation will normally be carried out manually, though mechanical excavation equipment may be utilised for removing deep modern intrusions, or for putting sections through major features after partial excavation, or in order to confirm the natural origin of basal deposits. This will only be done after consultation with the appropriate SMR officer.

3.4 Any archaeological features shall be excavated in a stratigraphic manner in order to achieve the aims of the evaluation. This will not involve the total excavation of features. It is anticipated that pits, post-holes or other discrete features shall be half sectioned; 0.5m segments shall be excavated through any linear features, such as ditches, adjacent to the trench edge, or across intersections in order to establish phasing.

3.5 All trenches are to be planned at 1:50 with larger scale plans of features at a scale of 1:20 as appropriate. Sections of features and sample sections of trenches are to be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Full trench sections will be drawn where appropriate (although the nature of any overburden or recent stratigraphy will only receive a written and photographic record). All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places. A full photographic record will be made (in 35mm format) in monochrome and colour transparencies.

3.6 Objects which are deemed 'small finds', e.g. metalwork, will be recorded three dimensionally to the nearest 0.01m. Electronic survey data relating to finds, trench locations and archaeological deposits will be downloaded and processed using Landscape 3.6 software and transferred to AutoCAD R14. All artefacts recovered will be retained and removed from the site for conservation and analysis. Finds will be appropriately cleaned, marked, packed, stabilised and stored. Any metalwork recovered will be X-rayed at the University of Bradford Department of Archaeological Science if it is deemed essential to achieve the aims of the evaluation. An assessment of the long term storage and conservation needs of any finds will be carried out.

3.7 Written context records will be by WYAS standard method (WYAS Site Recording Manual ed. A Boucher 1995). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers and recorded in an appropriate register. Bulk finds will be collected by context.

3.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the identification and recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material if appropriate. Where appropriate and practicable soil samples will be taken from excavated contexts, and larger samples will be taken of any rich carbonised deposits. Column sections for soil micromorphology/palynology to be taken if appropriate. Mollusc samples will be taken if they are present. If well preserved or waterlogged deposits are encountered the site would be visited by Dr Malcolm Lillie, or another suitably qualified member of staff from the Centre for Wetland Archaeology at the University of Hull. Where appropriate environmental material will be stored in controlled environments.

3.9 All finds of gold and silver shall be reported to the HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1997, after discussion with the

Client and the SMR. Any human remains will also require notification of the coroner, and will require the appropriate licence before removal. In the event of human remains being discovered, or, where excavation may be compromised by working in narrow trenches, the trenches may be widened (in consultation with SYSMR) to allow access.

4. Archive Preparation

4.1 Upon completion of the fieldwork the site archive will be prepared in accordance with the specification outlined in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2; English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3). The site archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork. The data will be quantified, ordered, indexed and be internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the completion of the fieldwork stage. A micro-film copy of the site archive shall be made.

4.2 The site records will be checked, indexed and cross-referenced as necessary. The artefacts and samples shall receive specialist assessment with regard to their potential for further analysis.

4.3 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved and security copies shall be maintained as appropriate (see above).

4.4 The site archive, including finds (subject to the landowners agreement), will be deposited with a suitable repository. To this end Archaeological Services (WYAS) will contact Doncaster Museum to agree terms for the deposition of the site archive.

5. Report Preparation

5.1 A report will be prepared that will include the following information:

i) A non-technical summary of the results of the work, an introduction, archaeological background and the aims and objectives of the work.

ii) An account of the methods and results of the evaluation, describing both the structural data and associated finds and environmental data recovered.

iii) A phased interpretation of the site (if possible), with spot dating of ceramics and other dateable artefacts, illustrated by drawings and photographs. The drawings shall include location plans of the site and trenches, with at least one section detailing the stratigraphic sequence of deposits in each trench, regardless of whether archaeological deposits are encountered, although in the absence of archaeological deposits the drawings will be schematic.

iv) Catalogues of all finds and samples recovered and assessed, including a full assessment of their potential and recommendations for any future treatment if requested.

v) An assessment of the archaeological significance of the site, in relation to other sites in the region, and recommendations for further post-excavation work that is deemed necessary, if requested.

vi) A bibliography of all sources used and cited in the report.

vii) An inventory of the primary and research archives, their locations and intended destination for long-term curation.

5.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the client (Mr Martyn Jones) and to the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record Officer (Mr Roy Sykes).

5.3 If warranted, the results will be published in an appropriate outlet, such as a local journal.

6. Contingencies

6.1 If the trenches require excavation below 1.2m then stepping or shoring may be required. Also, if the need for artificial lighting or pumping arises then a contingency to allow the hiring of this equipment will be necessary. Any additional costs will be met by the client.

6.2 If significant well preserved environmental/ecofactual remains are encountered an Environmental Archaeologist may be required for a days visit on a day-rate cost basis. Specialist involvement may also be required for scientific dating determinations (e.g. radiocarbon, dendrochronological or similar). This cost will be met by the client.

6.3 Human remains will only be removed in accordance with relevant legislation and in accordance with the conditions of a Home Office licence. Approval for exhumation, and their actual removal and analysis, would require additional time and resourcing from the client.

6.4 Finds of special or intrinsic value may require the attention of a specialist conservator and/or specialist analysis (subject to the owners consent).

7. Staff and Timetable

7.1 It is envisaged that the evaluation should be completed within a maximum of 10 working days, under the direction of a Site Supervisor with three Site Assistants.

7.2 Site staff will be ascribed once confirmation of a successful tender has been received and C.V's forwarded if requested. Any staff will have the requisite site experience. The post-excavation and reporting will be carried out by the Site Supervisor and support staff with contributions from specialists. Subject to specialist analysis, a report will be completed within 3 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

8. General

8.1 Archaeological Services (WYAS) has its own Health and Safety policy that is implemented via a Health and Safety plan based upon national guidelines (e.g. those of SCAUM), in tandem with site specific Risk Assessments. This will be forwarded on receipt of a successful tender.

8.2 Written, graphic or photographic records remains the copyright of Archaeological Services (WYAS) and is extended to the clients for the purposes of them satisfying their planning condition.

8.3 Unless the client determines otherwise, the results of the work will remain confidential until the they enter the public domain by virtue of entering the Sites and Monuments Record. However, it is expected that the results of the work can be made available to the wider archaeological community within a reasonable timescale.

8.4 The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record Office shall be given notice of the fieldwork timetable in order that they monitor the work in their capacity as 'curators of the archaeology of the county'.

8.5 Archaeological Services (WYAS) has effected appropriate insurance cover with Zurich Municipal Insurance, Park House, 57-59 Well Street, Bradford, via Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Any further enquiries should be directed to The Chief Financial Officer, Insurance Section, Wakefield MDC, PO Box 55, Newton Bar, Wakefield, WF1 2TT.

8.6 All appropriate specialists have been approached and are willing to undertake the work within the timescales and parameters set out in the specification.

Appendix VI

Catalogue of Romano-British Pottery

Context U/S from Trench A

A greyware bodysherd, Roman. Wt 7g

Context 104

Nine sherds from an oxidised sandy flagon neck with a handle scar, very eroded; also a sandy oxidised flagon footring base, not necessarily from the same vessel, probably 1st-2nd century. Wt 101g

Context 118

A sandy greyware bodysherd, exterior burnished. Roman Wt 1g

U/S from surface of 119

Fourteen small sherds and fragments in a 'soapy' handmade fabric with black core and orange-brown margins and surfaces with common shell voids c0.5-3mm. Possibly Dalesware but perhaps rather an Iron Age or early Roman fabric. Wt 15g

Context 120

A greyware wide-mouthed jar with everted rim in a reduced fabric with common large grey grog temper, fabric and form as vessel in (126), comprising four rimsherds, five bodysherds and a bodysherd with a handle stub. Perhaps 1st-2nd century. D. 18cms, RE 63%, Wt 315g

Thirteen greyware bodysherds from a single vessel, overfired, sandy greyware, possibly South Yorkshire, perhaps 2nd-4th century. Wt 145g

A BB1 jar base and three bodysherds, very burnt and eroded; also a BB1 jar bodysherd with acute lattice decoration, Hadrianic-Antonine. Wt 38g

Context 122

Two joining lower wall sherd from a wide mouthed jar(?), heavily eroded. Possibly South Yorkshire greyware. Perhaps 2nd-4th century. Wt 130g

Context 126

Jar with everted rising rim, hooked at tip in a reduced fabric with common large angular grey grog, perhaps a Lincolnshire or Derbyshire fabric. Perhaps later 1st-2nd century. D. 6cms, Re 19%, Wt 70g

Context 138

A very eroded coarse sandy bodysherd with grey interior and white core and exterior. Possibly mediaeval (or Roman). Wt 8g

Context 198

An oxidised daub fragment. Wt >1g