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PRESTON ST. MARY, PSM 003 & PSM 008

Report No. 96/15

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1. SUMMARY

Four trenches were excavated as part of the programme of archaeological investigations associated with filming an episode of The Time Team television programme at Priory Farm, Preston St. Mary, Suffolk. Three of the trenches were excavated in the field known as Old Ley (PSM 003), and the other in the adjacent Walnut Tree Field to the north-east (PSM 008). The position of the trenches was governed by the preliminary results of a geophysical, magnetometer, survey carried out as part of the archaeological investigations.

Although limited, the excavations revealed a complex series of ditches and associated archaeological features suggesting that the site had been occupied from at least the early 1st century through into the 4th century.

The orientations of the ditches suggested that at least two, possibly three, different alignments were represented, indicating that major reorganisation of the landscape had occurred during the period of occupation. The same alignments were picked up as residual traces in the present landscape during a field boundary survey carried out as part of the archaeological investigations.

Other features identified included pits, post-holes, shallow sinuous ditches/slots a metalled surface, possibly associated with a building, and a hearth or oven.

The artifactual evidence recovered from the four trenches included ceramic finds dating from the 1st to 4th centuries along with small quantities of Roman tile and animal bone. The small finds were predominantly metallic, almost all were located by metal detector and included seventeen Roman coins, of which four were silver. Other metallic Roman small finds included six copper alloy brooches, a copper alloy scoop fragment, a copper alloy mirror fragment and a lead weight. A number of iron finds, predominantly nails, were also recovered, the majority from the fill of a single pit. The only non-metallic small find was a possible stone hone fragment.

2. INTRODUCTION

An episode of the archaeology based television series The Time Team was filmed at Priory Farm in Preston St Mary Parish, Suffolk.

Originally identified in the 1970's in a field immediately south of the field known as Old Ley by the owner, Adrian Thorpe, the Roman site PSM 003 and PSM 008 (centred on TM 9384 5110), was known only through thorough surface surveys (fieldwalking and metal detecting), which suggested occupation from the Late Iron Age to the end of the fourth century. The previous finds did not include evidence of buildings such as roofing tiles but the quantity of coins, brooches and other objects and the presence of non-local ceramics suggested a moderate affluence. The distribution of artefacts apparently covered the whole of Old Ley and extended a small distance into adjoining fields, particularly Walnut Tree Field to the north (PSM 008), (Fig. 1).

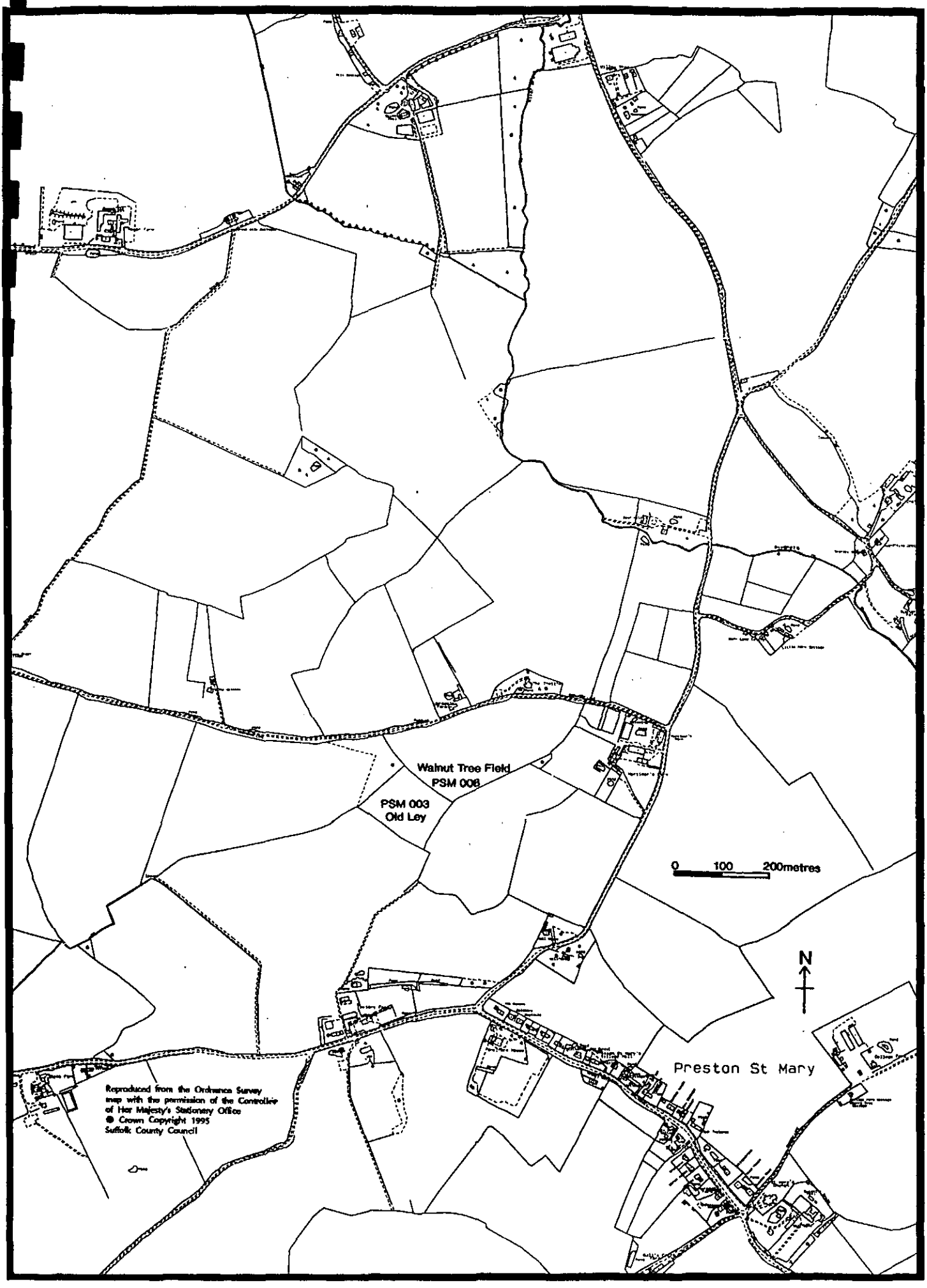


Fig.1 1:10000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site

Topographically the site lay on relatively level ground at *c.*81 metres OD at the head of a small, now dry, north-north-east facing tributary to the larger valley of the River Brett running approximately north-west to south-east some 1 kilometre to the east. The local drift geology comprises heavy glacial clays with common erratics.

The aim of the programme was to gather as much information as possible about the site in the three days available. To facilitate this a wide variety of experience and expertise was gathered together with access to a variety of techniques.

The excavation of a number of trial-trenches was to be included as an integral part of the archaeological investigations, the position of which would be governed by the preliminary results of a geophysical, magnetometer, survey carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford.

The excavation of the trial-trenches was carried out, under the supervision of an archaeologist from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Division, by members of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History's Field Group and other experienced volunteers.

The archaeological fieldwork and filming associated with the television programme was carried out on the 28th, 29th and 30th of August 1995.

3. METHOD

3.1 PSM 003

The locations for the trenches excavated in Old Ley field were governed by the preliminary results recovered during the geophysical, magnetometer, survey. Prior to their excavation the exact position for the trenches were marked out by the Royal Commission Survey Team (Fig. 2).

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide ditching bucket, to give a good clean cut. The topsoil was removed down to the surface of the underlying naturally occurring clay subsoil or, where stratified deposits were revealed (Trenches 3 & 4), down to the surface of the first archaeological layer encountered.

The surface of the trenches were cleaned manually to help define the edges of features cut into the surface of the subsoil. The upcast spoil and the surface of the trenches were subjected to a metal detector search and a visual examination for unstratified finds which may have worked their way into the plough zone from the underlying archaeological deposits.

The features revealed in the trenches were partially excavated and planned at a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 3, 1:100 scale reduction), with the excavated sections drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig 5). The only exception to this procedure was Trench 4 where, after manual cleaning and the collection of surface finds, a surface plan was drawn with the

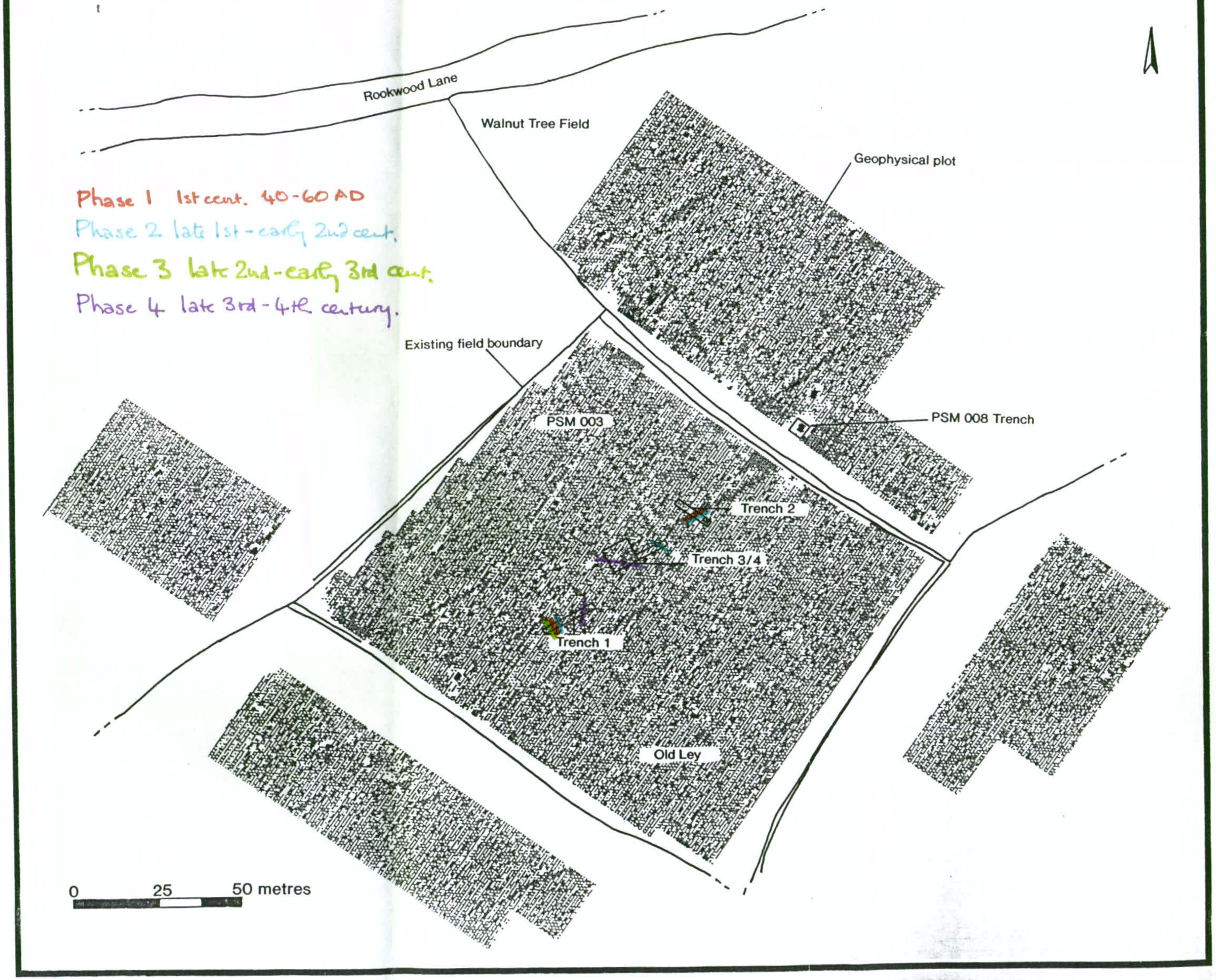


Fig. 2 1:1250 scale plan showing the location of the excavated trenches superimposed on the geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot

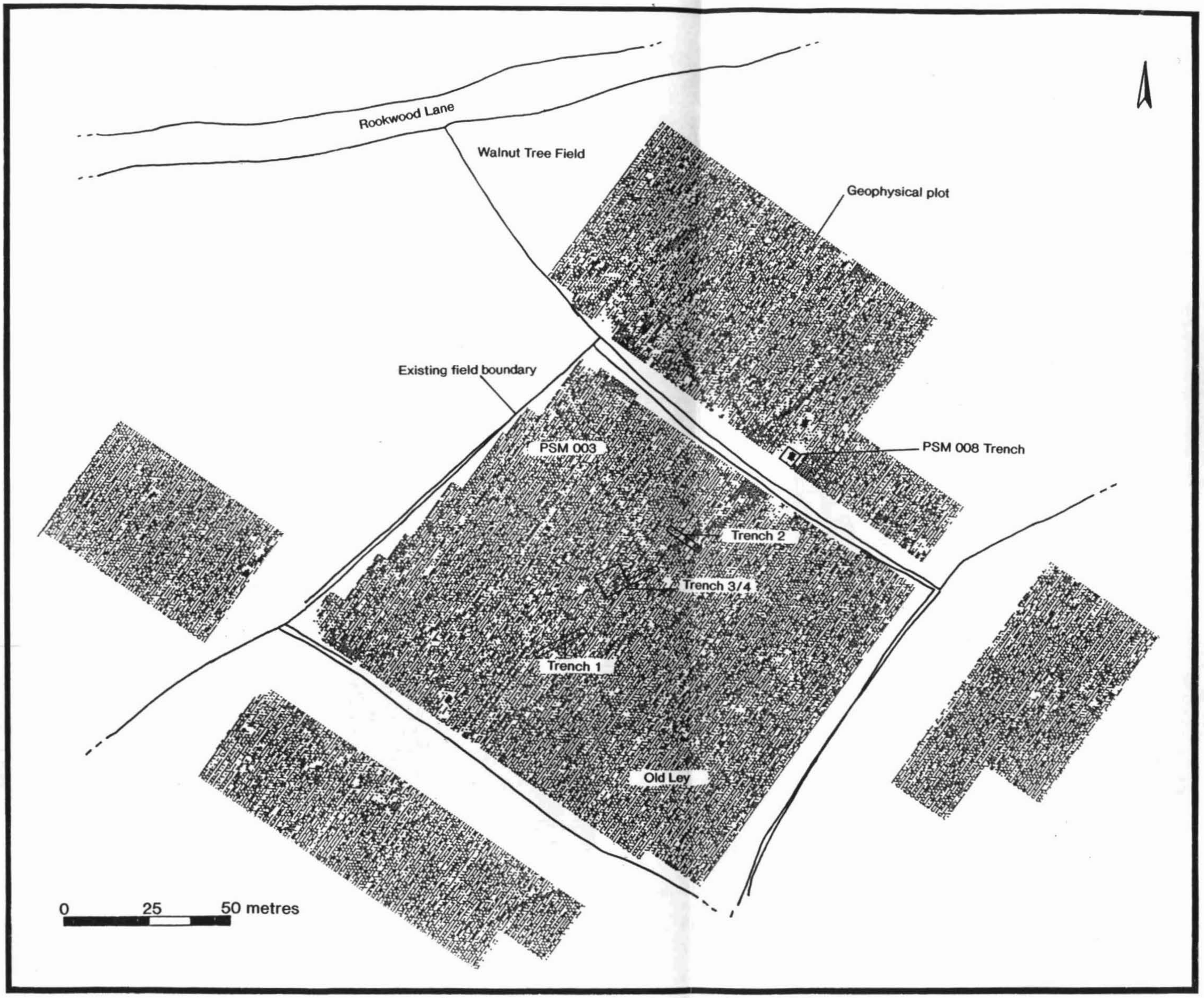


Fig. 2 1:1250 scale plan showing the location of the excavated trenches superimposed on the geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot

features remaining unexcavated. Where necessary more detailed plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 (Fig. 4, 1:20 reduced plan and section).

A temporary benchmark was set up on the edge of the field to facilitate the levelling of the section strings.

All the finds recovered from the excavated features and topsoil were retained for dating purposes (Appendices II & III), with a degree of on site analysis and reconstruction carried out for inclusion in the television programme.

A number of bulk samples were taken for environmental analysis (Appendix IV).

A photographic record was also made, both colour slide and monochrome print, now held in the Suffolk County Council Photographic Archive, Shire Hall Bury St. Edmunds under the codes DJS 21-41, for the colour slides, and DJZ 4-11, DMA 1-8, DMB 5-10, for the monochrome prints.

4.1 PSM 008

The presence of a major geophysical anomaly located in Walnut Tree Field (TM 9392 5112), during the magnetometer survey prompted the excavation of a single trench accurately positioned by the Royal Commission Survey Team to encompass the whole feature (Fig. 2). The topsoil was mechanically removed by the JCB down to the underlying naturally occurring subsoil, revealing the feature cut into its surface.

A half section was excavated through the feature, which was recorded as a 1:10 scale plan (Fig. 6, 1:20 scale reduction), with a 1:20 scale section drawing (Fig. 6).

A metal detector survey was carried out over the surface of the trench and the upcast spoil. All the finds recovered from the excavated section were retained for dating purpose (Appendices II & III). The surrounding surface of the recently ploughed field was also surveyed using the metal detector (Fig. 7, Appendices II & III).

A photographic record was also made, both colour slide and monochrome prints, and is now held in the Suffolk County Council Photographic Archive, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds under the codes DJS 42-45, for the colour slides, and DJZ 12, DMA 9-12, DMB 1-4, 11-12 & DMC 1-8, for the monochrome prints.

4. RESULTS

The preliminary geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot revealed a complex series of ditches with some associated, more discrete, anomalies (Fig. 2). The highest concentration of features appeared to lie in the north corner of Old Ley field and carrying on beyond the existing field boundary into the south-west end of Walnut Tree Field. Many of the linear features could be followed for considerable distances, but did become fainter away from the central area which is likely to represent focus of the occupation on the site. The features almost certainly continue but are not as easily

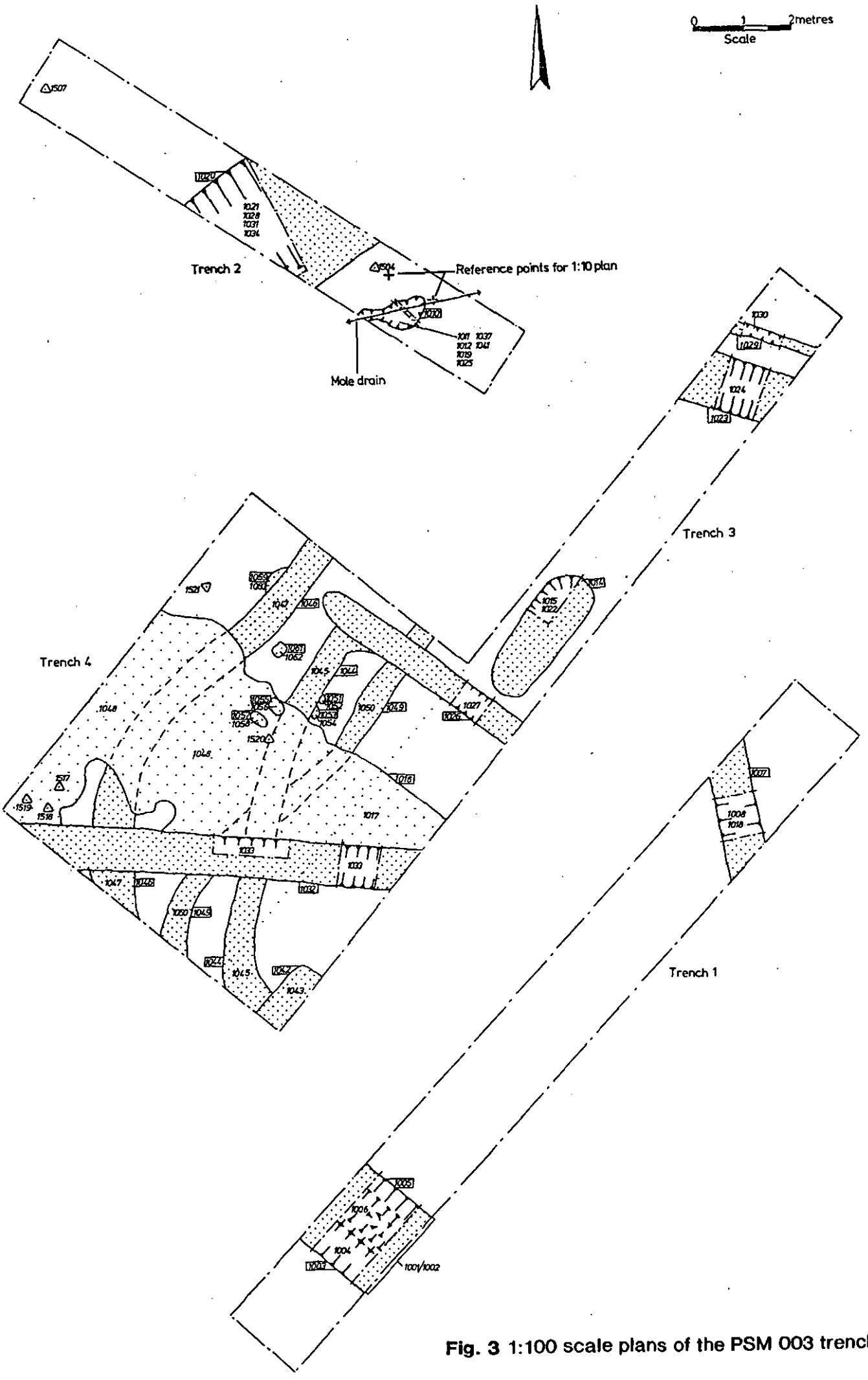


Fig. 3 1:100 scale plans of the PSM 003 trenches

detected by the magnetometer, this is probably due to the differences in their fills with the inclusion of less material derived directly from the occupation area.

4.1 PSM 003

A series of four trenches were opened, although the fourth was in reality a box extension of the third trench and for the purposes of this report they will be considered as one. Features were identified in all the trenches with the highest concentration recorded in adjoining trenches 3 and 4.

Trench 1: (17.4 metres x 1.5 metres, 26.1 square metres) This trench was positioned towards the southern end of the field to cut across a north-west to south-east orientated linear feature identified on the preliminary geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot (Fig. 2).

The topsoil was found to be a uniform 0.25 metres in depth over a 0.05 metre thick mixed layer of clay subsoil and topsoil which in turn lay on the naturally occurring stiff chalky yellow/grey clay subsoil.

The surface of the subsoil exhibited a degree of plough damage, although the more widely spaced linear disturbances caused by the insertion of mole drains had caused damage to a greater depth than the more numerous plough furrows.

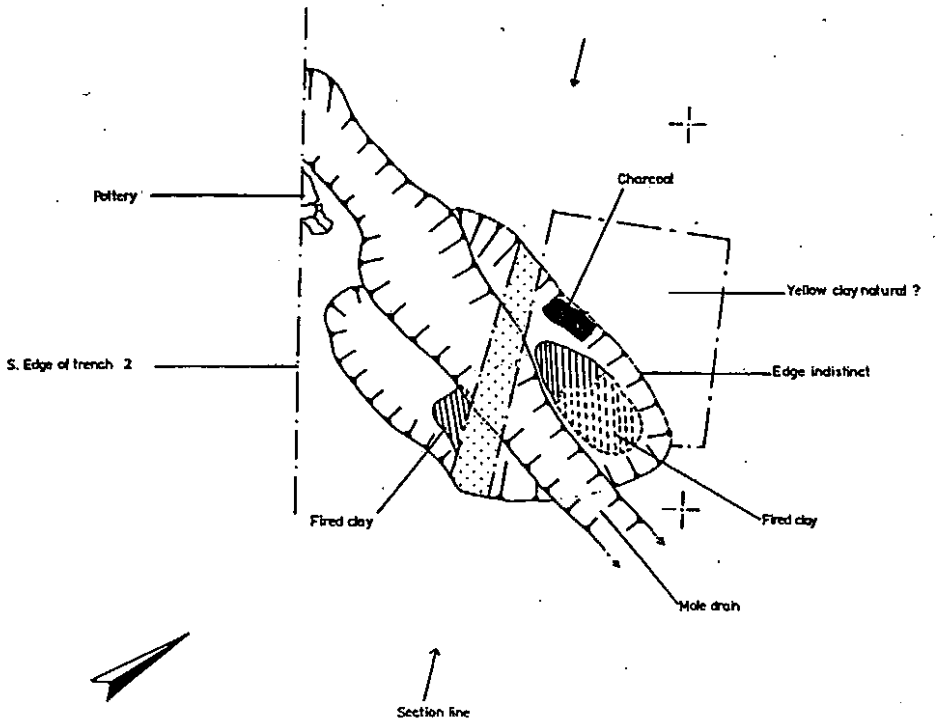
The manual cleaning of the trench surface revealed two ditches, *1001* and *1007*, (Figs. 3 & 5, Appendix I), the former of which, on excavation, was found to comprise two components *1003* and *1005* which, together, coincided with the linear anomaly on the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 2).

Unstratified finds recovered from Trench 1 included sherds of 1st to 4th century Roman grey coarse wares, two sherds of late mid-late 2nd century samian ware and fragments of Roman tile.

The north-west to south-east orientated ditch *1001*, was excavated as a single feature for a depth of 0.2 metres before a ridge of natural yellow clay was encountered through the centre of the feature parallel to its edges. The finds up to this point had been retained under the fill number *1002* and included sherds of 1st to 2nd century Roman grey coarse wares with single sherds of white coarse ware and Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware, both late 2nd to 3rd century, and a mid to late 2nd century samian ware sherd.

The natural ridge, however, suggested that, although the fill had appeared homogenous, two features or two phases of a single feature may be represented. From this point on, therefore, the fills north and south of the natural ridge were re-numbered and excavated separately. The cut for southern component was numbered *1003* with fill *1004*, while the cut for the northern component was numbered *1005* with fill *1006*.

The southern ditch component *1003*, was *c.*0.9 metres wide with a depth of 0.4 metres and had a fill *1004*, comprising layers of grey/orange and grey/green clay with an



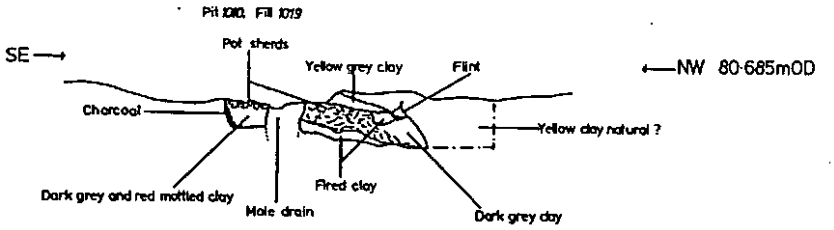


Fig. 4 1:20 scale plan and section of hearth/kiln feature, PSM 003 1010

indeterminate relationship with *1005* to the north. The finds which could be attributed to *1004* alone included miscellaneous sherds of Roman grey coarse wares dating to no earlier than the late 1st century and a single sherd of red colour-coated ware dating from the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries.

The northern ditch component *1005*, was *c.*1.2 metres wide with a depth of 0.36 metres and had a fill *1006*, consisting of homogenous grey/green clay which appeared continuous with the upper fill (*1004*), of *1003* to the south. The finds, which could be attributed to *1006* alone, included miscellaneous sherds of Roman grey coarse wares including a profile from a micaceous vessel (form 5.4), dating no earlier than the early 2nd century.

Ditch *1007*, orientated north to south across the northern end of the trench, was 1 metre in wide and 0.26 metres deep with a fill (*1008*), comprising a lower fill of yellow/green clay and an upper layer of charcoal rich grey clay (Sample *1018*). The sparse finds recovered from the excavated section included three sherds of Roman grog tempered grey coarse ware tentatively dated to the 1st century. Although not recognised on the initial geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot it did become visible on a later version, after further enhancement of the data.

Trench 2: (11 metres x 1.5 metres, 16.5 square metres) This trench was positioned towards the north of the field to cut across a north-east to south-west orientated linear feature identified on the preliminary geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot, while also investigating a more discrete anomaly to the south-east (Fig. 2).

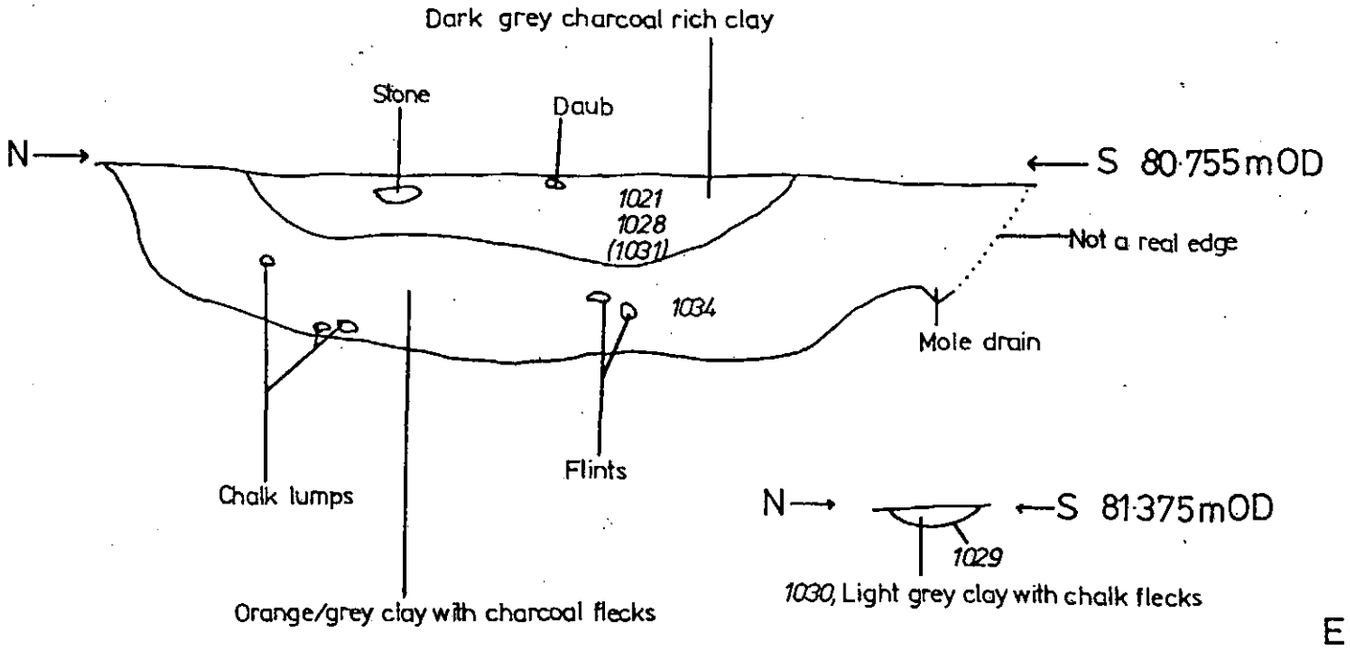
The topsoil was found to be a uniform 0.25 metres in depth over a 0.1 metre layer of mixed clay subsoil and topsoil which in turn lay on the naturally occurring stiff chalky yellow/grey clay subsoil.

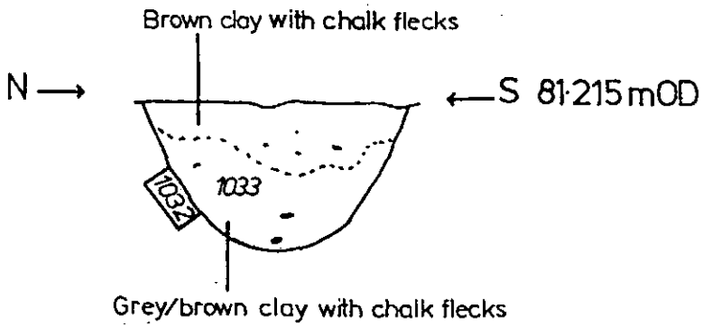
The surface of the subsoil showed signs of plough damage and, as in Trench 1, the deeper disruptions appeared to be caused by the more widely spaced mole drains.

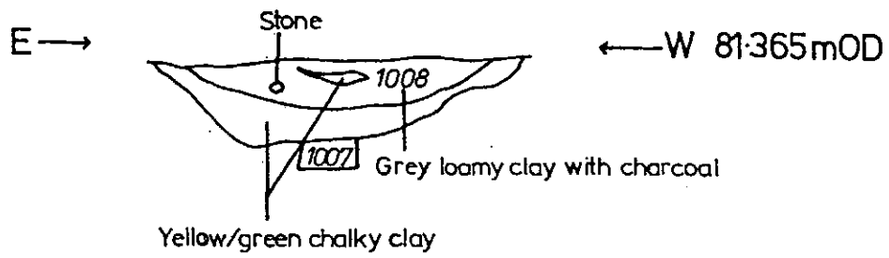
A ditch (*1020*), and a hearth or kiln (*1010*), identified during the machining, were confirmed by the manual cleaning as being the only two features present in the trench, (Figs. 3, 4 & 5, Appendix I), coinciding with the two anomalies visible on the geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot (Fig. 2). Both features had been damaged by the insertion of mole drains.

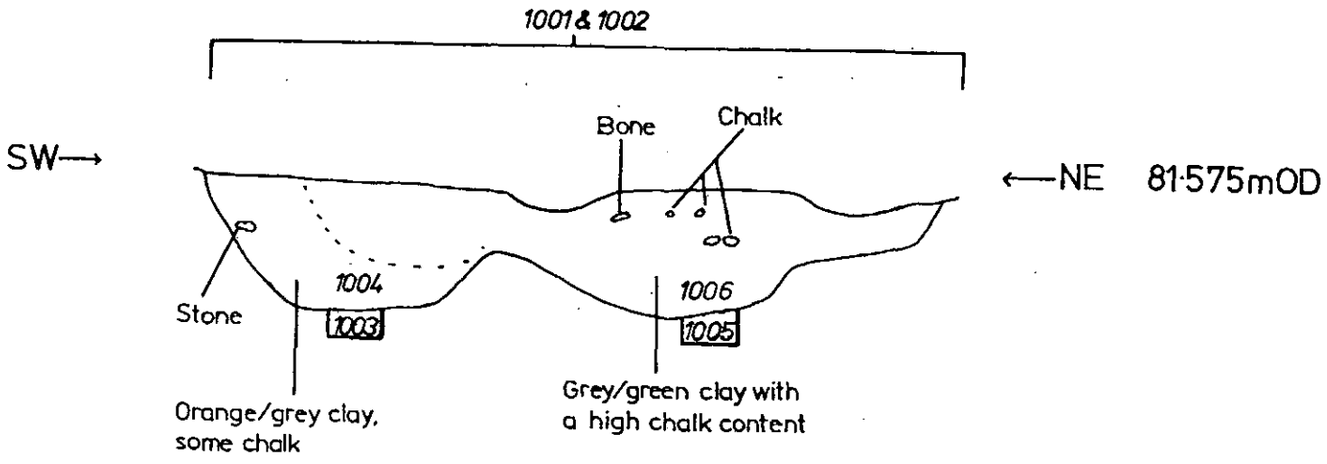
The unstratified finds recovered from Trench 2, (*1009*), included miscellaneous sherds of Roman grey coarse wares dating to no earlier than the late 1st century, single sherds from a white coarse ware mortarium and a samian ware bowl, both of 2nd century date, along with fragments of Roman tile. Spot-find *1507*, a silver coin (siliqua), of 4th century date (AD 364-378), was located by the metal detector in the intervening 0.1 metre thick layer of mixing between the topsoil and the naturally occurring clay subsoil (Fig. 3).

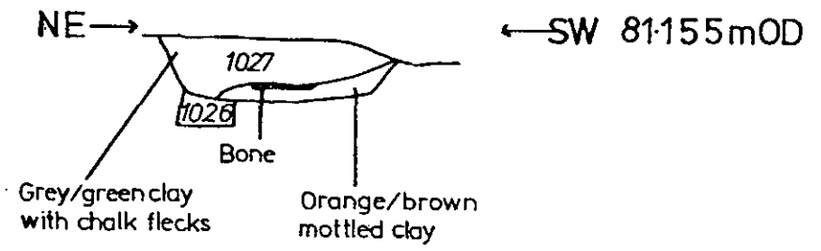
Ditch *1020* was 3 metres wide with a depth of 0.55 metres and orientated from the north-east to south-west across the trench. The excavated section revealed an upper

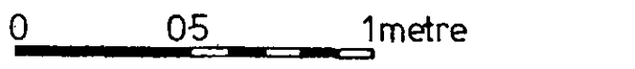


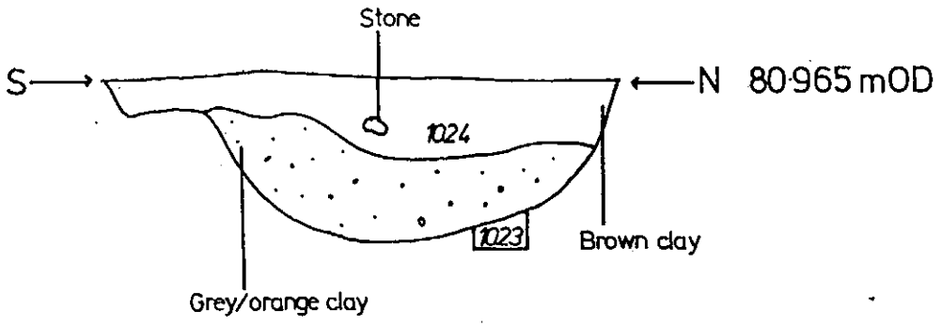












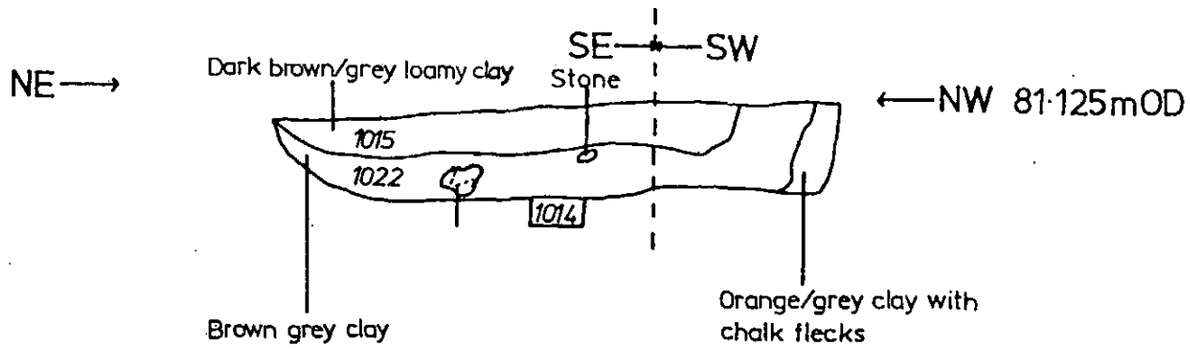


Fig. 5 1:20 scale section drawings of features in the PSM 003 trenches

central fill (*1021*, *1028* & sample *1031*), comprising dark grey charcoal rich clay and a lower fill (*1034*), consisting of orange grey clay with charcoal flecks. The finds recovered from the excavated section included sherds of predominantly 1st and early 2nd century, Roman grey coarse wares, a single sherd from a white coarse ware mortarium and a fragment of Roman tile, all from *1021* and *1028*, along with a number of grey coarse ware sherds, dating predominantly to the 1st century, from *1034*.

Hearth or kiln *1010*, had been particularly badly disrupted by a east to west orientated mole drain (Fig. 4). The first impressions were that *1010* was the base of a pit with the large quantity of pottery and lumps of burnt clay included as part of the fill. On excavation, however, the burnt clay appeared to be structural and was only fired red on its upper surface, suggesting *in situ* burning. The disruption caused by the mole drain meant that the overall dimensions of the feature could not be ascertained, it was not clear whether the full extent of *1010* lay within the confines of the trench or continued on under its southern edge.

The majority of the fill above the structural clay comprised red/brown clay (*1019* & sample *1025*), and included a large quantity of pottery identified as being from cordonned vessels of mid 1st century date. The majority of the pottery was heavily burnt and included large adjoining sherds of a butt beaker (*1037*), under which a further soil sample (*1041*), was taken. Further finds from the hearth included burnt grey coarse ware pottery of 1st century date (*1011*), and a charcoal sample (*1012*), recovered during machining.

Trenches 3 & 4: (18.5 x 1.5 metres + 5.5 x 8.5 metres, 74.5 square metres) The initial JCB bucket width trench was positioned towards the centre of the field cutting across a north-west to south-east orientated linear feature and adjacent amorphous area, thought possibly to represent a building, both identified on the preliminary geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot (Fig. 2).

The topsoil was a uniform 0.25 metres deep over the whole trench and lay on a 0.1 metre thick layer of mixed subsoil and topsoil which in turn, for the majority of the trench, overlay the naturally occurring chalky clay subsoil. In one area, however, which was later expanded, horizontal stratigraphy was encountered.

A degree of plough damage was visible although, as in the previously excavated trenches, the insertion of mole drains had caused the deepest damage to the underlying archaeological deposits.

The features revealed in the trench included six ditches *1023*, *1026*, *1032*, *1044*, *1046* & *1049*, a very shallow slot *1029*, two pits *1014* & *1042*, six post-holes *1051*, *1053*, *1055*, *1057*, *1059* & *1061*, and a crudely metalled surface *1016*, (Figs. 3 & 5).

A significant quantity of unstratified finds (*1013* & *1038*), were recovered from the upcast spoil including grey coarse wares of 1st to 4th century date, a sherd of black burnished ware of the late 2nd to 3rd century, five amphora sherds, a base sherd from a red coarse ware bowl and tile fragments. Unstratified metal detector finds included

three silver denarii *1510, 1521 & 1522* of the 1st and second centuries, nine copper alloy coins *1511, 1513, 1515, 1516,1517, 1518, 1525, 1526 & 1527* of predominantly 3rd and 4th century date, two copper alloy brooches *1514 & 1524*, a lead weight *1520* and a iron knife *1523*.

The majority of the features identified in Trench 4 remained unexcavated with only the finds recovered during surface cleaning, the provenance for which cannot be certain, available for dating. Consequently, the dates attributed to the features based on this limited information must be treated with caution.

Ditch *1023* was 1.1 metres wide and 0.5 metres in depth with a rounded profile and was orientated north-west to south-east across the northern end of Trench 3, coinciding with a linear anomaly visible on the geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot. The fill (*1024*), comprised layers of brown and orange/grey clay. The finds recovered from the excavated section included a single sherd of 1st century samian Ware, a number of sherds from various grey coarse ware vessels of predominantly 1st century date and rim fragments from a white ware flagon of late 1st or 2nd century date.

Immediately to the north of and parallel with *1023* a slot or gully (1029), was identified. On excavation this feature was found to be only 0.2 metres wide and 0.04 metres deep. The fill of *1029* comprised light grey clay with chalk flecks from which only a few tiny Roman pottery fragments were recovered. It was thought likely that *1023* and *1029* were related, with the latter possibly representing the line of a hedge adjacent to and contemporary with the ditch.

To the south-west of *1023* an elongated oval shaped feature *1014*, was identified. After surface cleaning it became apparent that the whole of the 2.8 metre long by 1 metre wide feature was represented within the confines of Trench 3. The north-west quadrant was excavated to its full depth of 0.28 metres, the fill *1015 & 1022*, comprised layers of brown grey clay. The finds recovered included sherds of grey coarse ware, one of which was a jar rim of late 1st to 2nd century date and Roman tile fragments.

Immediately to the south-west of pit *1014* a north-west to south-east orientated ditch *1026*, was identified running across Trench 3 and on, towards the north-west, into Trench 4 before butt ending after a total observed length of 4.8 metres. The ditch was 0.6 metres wide and only 0.2 metres, deep in the excavated section, with a fill *1027*, of grey/green and orange/brown clay. Stratigraphically ditch *1026* was found to cut both ditches/slots *1044 & 1049* with the butt end falling short of and appearing to respect the edge of ditch/slot *1046* to the north-west. The finds recovered included a white coarse ware flagon base and various grey coarse ware sherds all of 1st or 2nd century date.

At a point 2 metres south-west of ditch *1026*, in Trench 3, horizontal stratigraphy was encountered in the form of a crudely metalled surface (*1016*), and associated loamy clay (*1017*), which appeared as a matrix between the flint cobbles and continued as a layer above. When Trench 4 was opened to the north-west it became clear that the

metalled surface continued for at least another 5.5 metres in that direction and carried on under the edge of the excavation. In Trench 4 the equivalent layer to *1017* was numbered *1048*. Stratigraphically the metalled surface was cut by ditch *1032* but itself overlay ditches/slots *1044*, *1046* & *1049* while post-holes *1055* & *1057* were either contemporary with or cutting the surface. This surface appeared to coincide with the amorphous anomaly visible on the geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot.

Many of the unstratified finds from Trench 4 (*1038*), were almost certainly derived from layer *1048*. The finds which could definitely be attributed to *1017* and *1048* included two grey coarse ware sherds of 2nd to 4th century date, fifteen amphora sherds, two rim sherds, one from a mortarium, of red coarse ware, both of late Roman date, and a single sherd of late Roman, late 3rd to 4th century shell tempered ware. Metal detector spot-finds recovered from layer *1048* included two copper alloy coins (*1517* & *1518*), and two lead objects (*1519* & *1520*), the latter of which was a cylindrical weight.

To the south of and cutting the metalled surface an east to west orientated ditch (*1032*), was identified running for an observed length of 8 metres right through both Trenches 3 & 4. The ditch was found to be 0.8 metres wide and 0.4 metres in depth with a rounded profile and fill (*1033*), of predominantly grey and brown clay with some charcoal. Stratigraphically *1032* was found to cut all features with which it had a relationship. The finds recovered from the excavated sections included two sherds of 2nd century samian ware, two red colour-coated sherds of mid to late 2nd to early 3rd century date, a single sherd of late 3rd to 4th century shell tempered ware and a number of sherds of 3rd century grey coarse wares.

South of ditch *1032*, at the southern end of Trench 3, the northern side of a feature of indeterminate size and type was identified (*1042*), and was recorded cutting ditch/slot *1044* to the west. The fill *1043*, comprising light grey charcoal flecked clay, remained unexcavated with the only find recovered from the surface being a single sherd of Roman grey coarse ware.

The 0.25 metre wide and 0.1 metre deep ditch/slot *1044* could be followed for *c.*8 metres in an approximately north to south direction. Although running comparatively straight within the confines of the excavated area, *1044* did appear to be curving towards the south-east at a point *c.*1 metre from the south-western edge of Trench 3. The feature also appeared to turn at its northern end, in this case more sharply, towards the east where it was cut by the butt end of *1026*. Ditch/slot *1044* remained unexcavated with the exception of a small test section on the edge of *1032* to ascertain its relationship with *1049* which it appeared to cut. Stratigraphically *1044* was itself cut by the ditches and feature *1026*, *1032* & 1043, respectively, and ran under the metalled surface *1016* which appeared to have subsided into the underlying ditch/slot fill *1045*. The only features possibly cut by *1044* were two small post-holes *1051* & *1053*. The finds recovered from the surface of the dark grey silty clay fill (*1045*), of *1044* included two sherds of 1st or 2nd century grey coarse ware and Roman tile fragments.

Ditch/slot *1049* was 0.25 metres wide and 0.15 metres deep, measured in the side of *1032*, and was similar in character to the cutting feature *1044*. This feature ran right across Trench 4 for a distance of *c.*8.4 metres in a slightly sinuous manner. Although orientated approximately north-east to south-west the southern end exhibited a distinct curve towards the south mirroring the adjacent ditch/slot *1044*.

Stratigraphically *1049* was cut by ditches *1026*, *1032*, & *1044* and was overlain by the metalled surface *1016*. No finds were recovered from the surface of the orange brown silty clay fill *1050*, of *1049*.

Ditch/slot *1046* was 0.7 metres wide with an indeterminate depth and ran for an observed length of *c.*9 metres across Trench 4 in a sinuous manner. For the most part *1046* was orientated approximately north-east to south-west although, similarly to *1044* & *1049*, curved distinctly southwards towards the southern edge of the trench. Stratigraphically *1046* cut post-hole *1059*, but was itself cut by ditch *1032* and was overlain by the metalled surface *1016*, which had subsided into its mid brown silty clay fill (*1047*). Surface finds tentatively attributed to fill *1047* included a grey coarse ware base sherd of possible 3rd or 4th century date and a large rim sherd from a mortarium dated to the late 2nd century plus, which may have been part of the same vessel represented in *1048*, the layer associated with the metalled surface.

A group of six possible post-holes were identified all within the confines of Trench 4. They were not arranged in any formal pattern and did not appear to represent a single structure. Post-holes *1051* & *1053* were cut by the eastern side of ditch/slot *1044* while *1059* was cut by the western side of *1046*. Post-hole was isolated, cutting the natural clay subsoil surface and both *1055* & *1057* appeared to cut the metalled surface *1016* and associated layer *1048*. No finds were recovered from the fill of the post-holes which remained unexcavated.

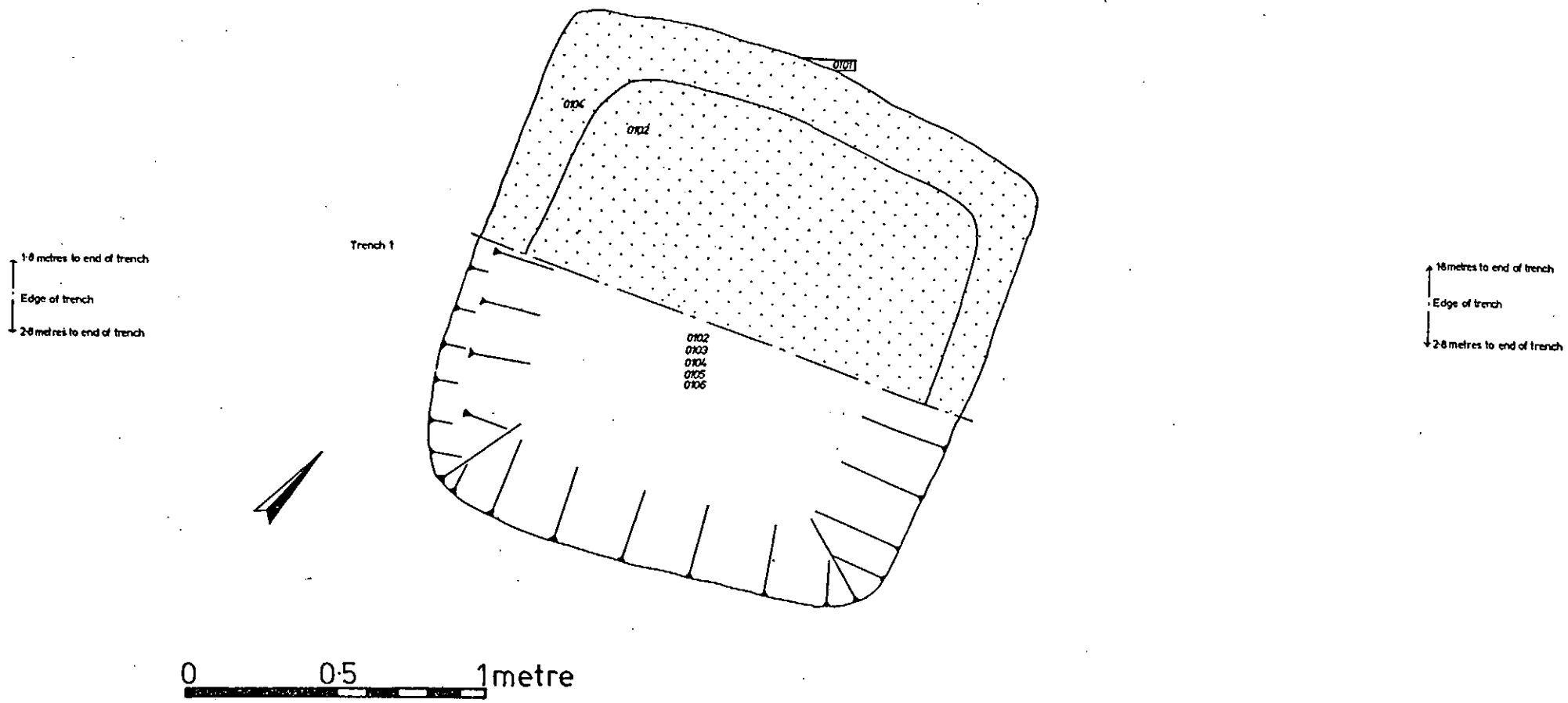
4.2 PSM 008

4.21 The excavated trench

A *c.*4.6 metres by *c.*4.8 metres trench was mechanically excavated in the area of the major anomaly identified on the preliminary geophysical, magnetometer, survey plot (Fig. 2). The 0.25 metres depth of topsoil was removed down to the underlying naturally occurring silty clay subsoil. Manual cleaning of the trench surface revealed a single sub-square feature (*101*), with sides measuring *c.* 1.8 metres (Fig. 6, Appendix I).

The surface of the naturally occurring subsoil exhibited some plough damage although, similarly to the PSM 003 trenches to the south-east, the deeper disruptions appeared to have been caused by mole drains, one of which cut right through feature *101* and was clearly visible from the surface.

Unstratified ceramic finds from the upcast spoil were limited to a single Dressel 20 amphora rim sherd and a medieval handle.



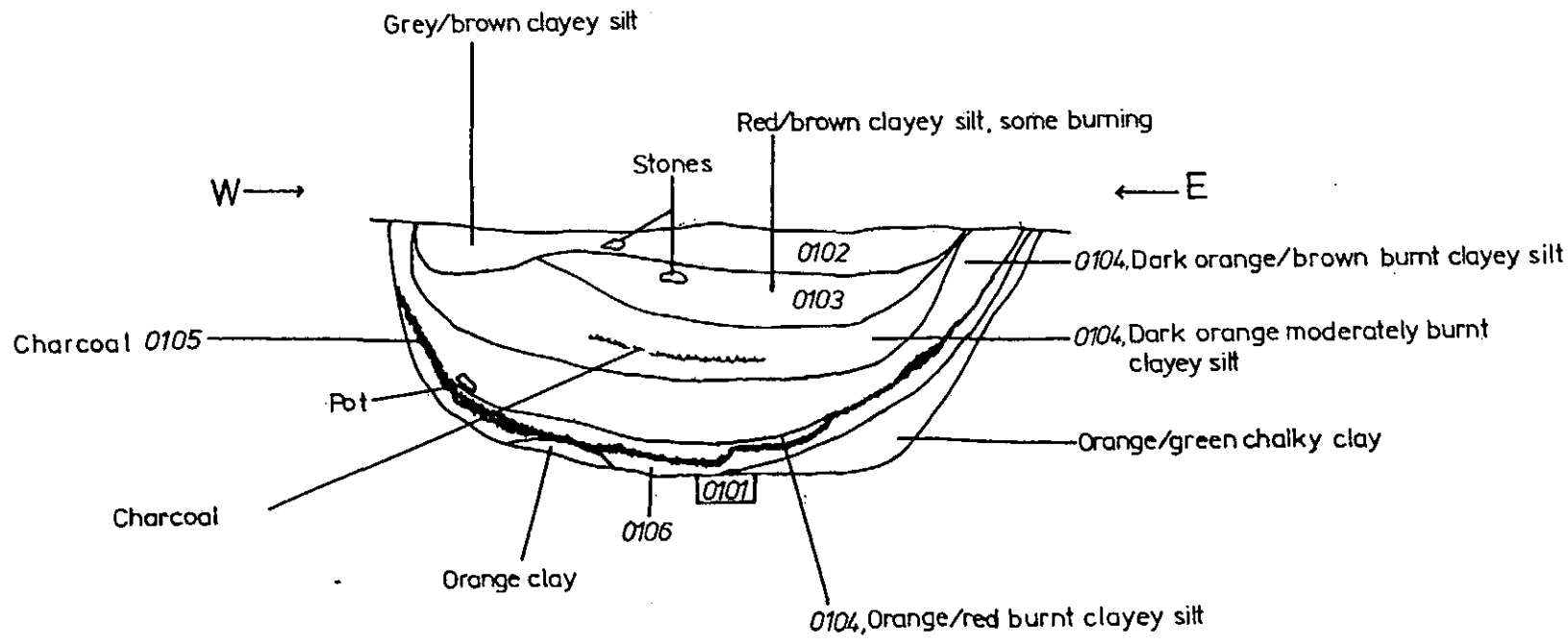


Fig. 6 1:20 scale plan and section of PSM 008 0101

From the surface feature *101* appeared to have a grey/brown fill (*102*). surrounded by a dark orange burnt outer clayey fill *104*. With the possibility that the outer clay fill *104* may represent a lining the central fill *102*, was removed first and was found to be only *c.*0.1 metres in depth. The finds recovered from this layer included a single flake from an amphora and a number of grey coarse ware sherds of 1st century date. Four iron nails (*158*, *159*, *160* & *161*), were also recovered from this layer.

After the removal of *102* it became clear that *104* did not represent a clay lining and could be removed, in sequence, along with further layers which had become visible.

Layer *103* comprised a *c.*0.1 metres thick *c.*1 metre long lens of red/brown clayey silt, directly below *102*, with some evidence for burning. The finds recovered from this layer included three sherds of grey coarse ware of probable 1st century date. Some of the large number of iron nails recovered from the excavated spoil, using the metal detector, were almost certainly derived from this layer.

Layer *104* was found to comprise three distinct, although similar, components which were all excavated together but differentiated on the section. All three components exhibited a high degree of burning and ranged in colour from dark orange/brown through to orange/red. The only finds recovered from this layer were two burnt amphora sherds and a number of iron nails located by metal detector.

The removal of layer *104* revealed what was initially thought to be a burnt wooden lining. A layer of charcoal (*105*), could be traced all the way around the pit edge and was, in some areas, composed from large discrete pieces, possibly planking, in which the wood grain was clearly visible. On cleaning, however, it became apparent that the charcoal was only a fill layer, although the possibility that it represented a structure standing above the pit which, on burning, had collapsed into the feature below cannot be ruled out.

After the removal of *105*, a patchy grey ashy clay layer (*106*), was revealed with a maximum thickness of 0.05 metres. For the most part *106* lay directly on the natural clay bottom of the feature although on the west side a thin underlying layer of orange/green chalky clay was recorded. The full excavated depth of *101* was 0.7 metres. The only finds recovered from layer *106* included a possible flake of amphora and a single sherd of Roman grey coarse ware.

4.22 Metal detector survey

At the time of the archaeological investigations Walnut Tree Field had been recently ploughed and harrowed producing ideal conditions for metal detecting. A strip *c.*100 metres wide at the southern end of the field, adjacent to its boundary with Old Ley field, was detected. A number of finds were recovered which are listed in Appendices II & III while their approximate locations are shown on Fig. 7.

The more notable finds included four Roman copper alloy coins (*150*, *156*, *163* & *164*), four Roman copper alloy brooch fragments (*151*, *152*, *153* & *154*), and a fragment of a Roman copper alloy mirror (162).

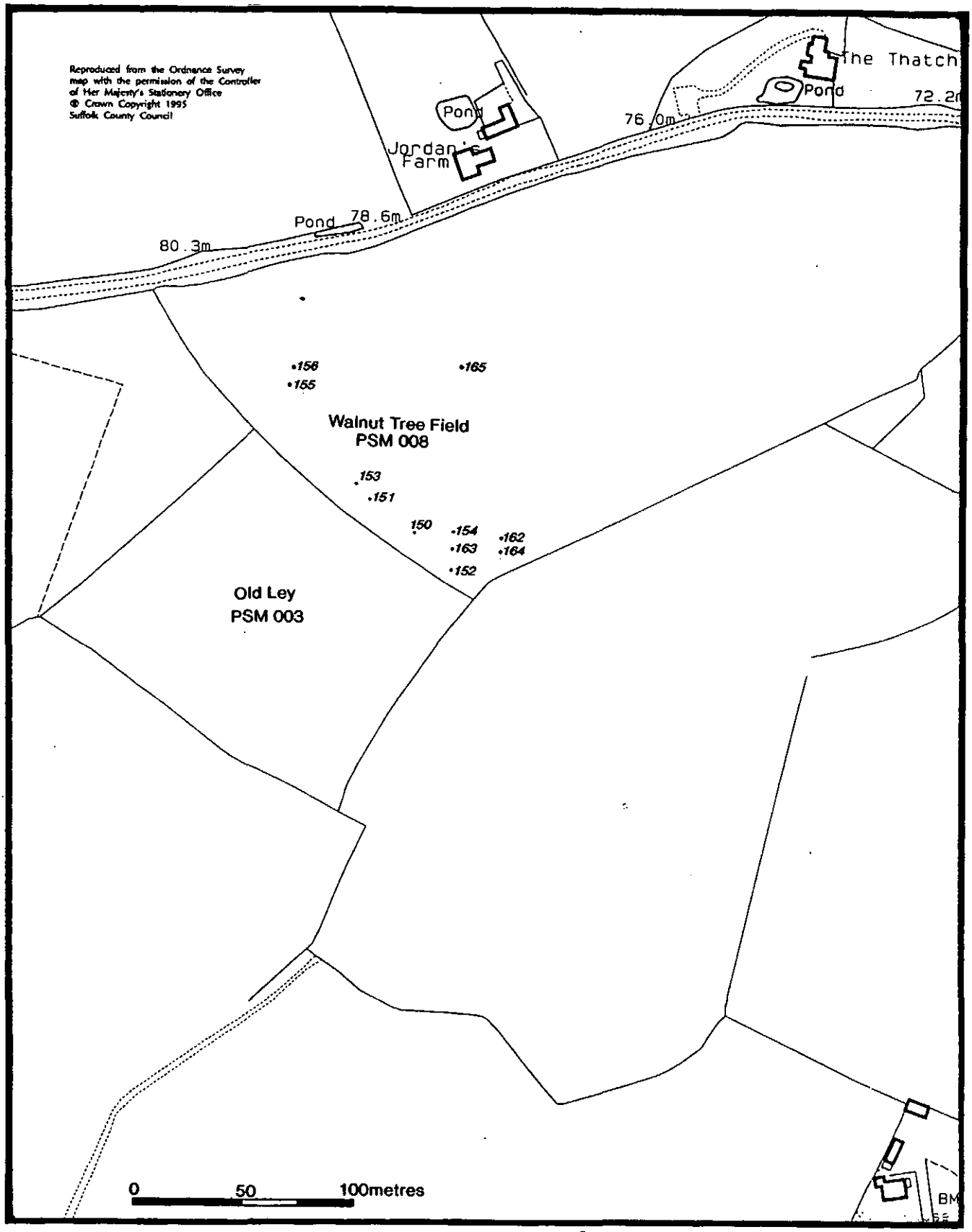


Fig. 7 1:2500 scale O.S. map extract showing the locations of the metal detector finds recovered from Walnut Tree Field (PSM 008)

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of the archaeological interpretation the sites, (PSM 003 & PSM 008), will be considered as parts of a single related complex. The results of the magnetometer survey provided evidence for this continuity by identifying linear features, clearly crossing the existing field boundaries, creating links between the two sites.

The accurate archaeological interpretation of what are effectively no more than keyhole excavations is an impossible task. The lack of meaningful stratigraphic relationships combined with the relatively small quantity of finds, which can give ambiguous spot-dates, means that all the interpretations are somewhat subjective. However, a number of observations were made and certain trends were recognised and, consequently, an attempt was made to apply a chronological framework to the activities represented in the trenches.

Overall the occupation of the site appeared to be continuous from at least the early 1st century (late Iron Age), through to the 4th century (late Roman), although the centre of activity shifted somewhat towards the south-west during this time. Changes in the alignments of the ditches suggest a reorganisation of the landscape on at least one, possibly two occasions, the most definite of which occurred in the late 3rd century.

The occupation site itself lay at the centre of a series of fields divided by ditched boundaries, possibly with hedges. The only possible building revealed in the excavated trenches did not appear to be a dwelling and was more likely to represent an outbuilding or barn.

Two soil samples, both from features excavated in Trench 2, were sent for environmental analysis (Appendix IV). The sample *1025*, from the hearth/oven *1010* did not contain any significant quantity of charred plant material. This was thought to be the result of the burning associated with the use of the oven whereby the majority of the plant material had been reduced to ash and not survived. The sample (*1031*), from the adjacent ditch (*1020*), was more productive with a high proportion of charred material surviving and consisting predominantly of a low density scatter of spelt processing waste. This was thought to indicate the presence of crop processing in the vicinity or the secondary use of the waste product, possibly as fuel. The gastropod shells present suggested an open grassland habitat in the vicinity with periodically wet conditions in the ditch. These results are consistent with what could be expected from, probably mixed, farming activity on heavy, poorly drained, clay soils.

While not representing an extremely high status site some high quality table-ware was recovered along with a few silver coins which suggests a degree of prosperity. The quantity of Roman tile recovered was small, suggesting that the roofing material used was thatch or possibly wooden shingles and has not survived as part of the archaeological record. Overall, the impression seems to be of an Iron Age farming community carrying on after the Roman conquest, becoming Romanised and reaching a moderate level of prosperity.

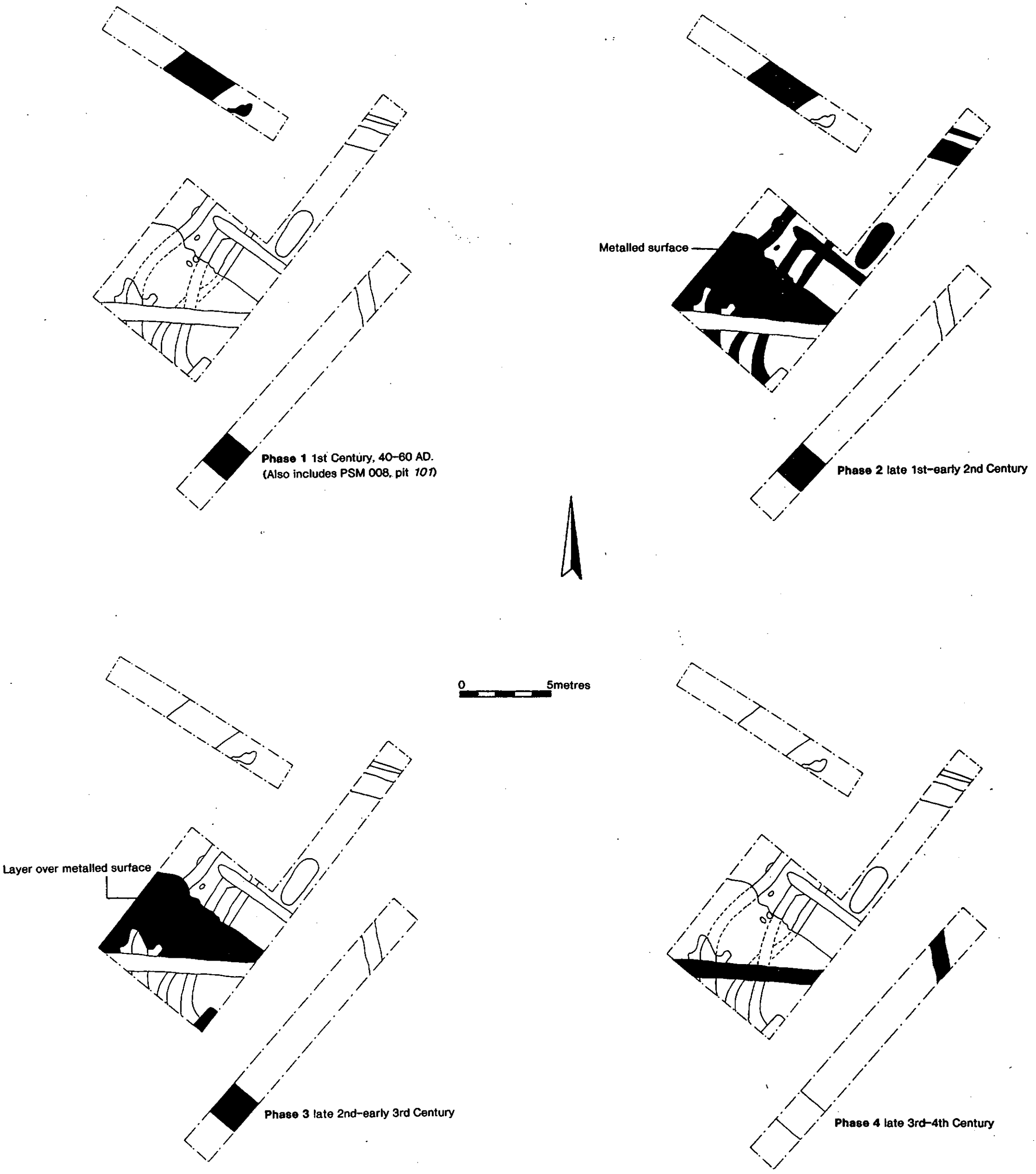


Fig. 8 1:200 scale phase plans of the features in the PSM 003 trenches

Four possible phases can tentatively be recognised and form the basis of the archaeological interpretation. With the occupation of the site thought to be continuous, some of the ditch features may have been relatively long lived, spanning more than one phase, and are included more than once in the following table and on the phase plans (Fig. 8).

Table 1. Summary of Phasing

PHASE	FEATURES		DATE
1	PSM 003,	ditches *1003/1005? 1020*, hearth/oven *1010*	1st century 40-60 AD.
2	PSM 003,	ditches *1003/1005, 1020, 1023, 1025, 1044, 1046, 1049*, pit *1014*, metalled surface *1016* slot *1029*, post-holes *1051? 1053? 1059?, 1055?, 1057? 1061?*	late1st-early 2nd century
	PSM 008,	pit *101*	
3	PSM 003,	ditches *1003/1005*, pit *1043?* layer *1017/1048* above metalled surface	late 2nd-early 3rd century
4	PSM 003	ditches *1007, 1032*	late 3rd-4th century

Phase 1: 1st century 40-60 AD

The earliest activity recorded in the excavations, dated by the pottery, was associated with the oven or hearth in Trench 2 and represents the only pre-Roman archaeology identified (Fig. 8). The adjacent north-east to south-west orientated ditch was almost certainly contemporary in use but survived into **Phase 2** and was filled by the end of the 1st century.

The hearth/oven was badly damaged by a mole drain and, consequently, its structure could not be accurately deduced. There was no evidence for any adjacent building structures which, if present, lay outside the confines of the trench with the hearth/oven in the open air.

The north-west to south-east orientated ditches *1003/1005*, in Trench 1 were probably open in the 1st century, although possibly dating to **Phase 2** rather than **Phase 1**. However, the pottery dates combined with the evidence for recutting suggest that it survived as an open feature into **Phase 3**, being finally filled by the end of the 2nd century.

Phase 2: late 1st-early 2nd century

A number of features could be attributed to this phase although the dating evidence was not extensive (Fig. 8).

Ditches *1003/1005* in Trench 1 were either excavated at this time or had survived from **Phase 1** while the final backfilling of ditch *1020* in Trench 2 occurred during this phase.

The dating evidence recovered from the PSM 008 pit *101* was scant but what there was suggested it belonged to **Phase 2**. The function of this feature could not be satisfactorily ascertained, although with only small amounts of domestic rubbish in the fill combined the presence of large quantities of burnt clay, suggested an industrial use, possibly charcoal burning. The charcoal layer itself was interpreted as the remains of a some form of superstructure from above the pit which had collapsed when burnt. The large quantity of nails recovered and the burnt clay fill may have been associated with either the structure or the industrial process it represented.

The features in Trenches 3 & 4 which were positively attributed to this phase included the north-west-west to south-east-east orientated ditch and associated slot *1023* and *1029* which may represent a minor change from the existing **Phase 1** ditch alignments. Other features attributed to **Phase 2** included a pit *1014*, ditches/slots *1025, 1044, 1046 & 1049* and metalled surface *1016*. The limited nature of the excavations meant that the function of the curving ditches/slots could not be ascertained. It was clear, however, that they were short lived, appearing to supersede one another in relatively quick succession within **Phase 2**, with a number of stratigraphic relationships between the different ditches/slots clearly visible.

The north-west to south-east orientated edge of the metalled surface (*1016*), was relatively regular and ran parallel to the **Phase 2** ditch/slot *1026*. This suggests a degree of continuity between the two with *1016* also belonging to this phase and that the associated finds recovered from the layer above (*1017 & 1048*), accumulated later, during **Phase 3**.

The metalled surface was patchy and consisted of predominantly pebble sized flints set in a silty clay matrix indistinguishable from the overlying silty clay layer from which the majority of the finds were recovered (*1017 & 1048*). The crude surface itself may represent the floor of an outbuilding or barn, with walls measuring in excess of 7 metres by 4 metres, or alternatively a yard next to a building not represented within the confines of the trench.

Post-holes *1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059 & 1061* were also tentatively assigned to this phase simply by their association with the other **Phase 2** features.

Phase 3: late 2nd-early 3rd century

The features attributed to this phase included the north-west to south-east ditches *1003/1005*, which appeared to have carried on through from the 1st century before

finally being filled during **Phase 3**, by the end of the 2nd century, along with layer (*1017/1048*), above the metalled surface *1016* and pit *1043* (Fig. 8).

The accumulation of layer *1017/1048* may have started during **Phase 2**, while the floor or yard surface (*1016*), was in use, and carried on into **Phase 3** after the underlying surface had become redundant.

Pit *1043* was left unexcavated and produced no datable surface finds, it did, however, cut the **Phase 2** ditch/slot *1044*. On this basis and the fact that *1043* appeared to be of different character to *1044*, it has tentatively been included in this phase.

Phase 4: late 3rd-4th century

Only two features were attributed to this phase, north to south orientated ditch *1007*, in Trench 1, and east to west orientated *1032* in Trenches 3 & 4 (Fig. 8). Ditch *1032* was dated to this phase by the ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section while the inclusion of ditch *1007* was based on its orientation at 90 degrees to *1032* and the similarity in the character of their fills.

The orientation of these ditches suggests a major reorganisation of field boundary alignments at this time. These features were not visible on the preliminary geophysical, magnetometer plot, with both only becoming apparent after a degree of processing and enhancement had taken place. This seems to suggest that the fill of these ditches was markedly and consistently different from that of the earlier features.

There was no evidence for any buildings attributable to this phase and they must either be located outside the confines of the trenches or have been destroyed by ploughing.

6. CONCLUSIONS

It is difficult to draw any positive conclusions from the trial-trenches which, on their own, represent no more than keyhole excavations. The results do, however, give an indication of the shear complexity of the site and when combined with the rest of the survey data some idea of its overall extent and character can be ascertained.

Overall the three days of archaeological investigations must be considered a success. It is very rare that all the types of survey employed at Preston St. Mary are available on any one site and the information gathered constitutes valuable additions to the county Sites and Monuments Record (S.M.R).

APPENDIX I. PSM 003, Context List and Descriptions

OP	C.TEXT	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIP	CUTS	CUTS1	CUTBY	CUYBY2
1000	1000	Trench 1	LC2+C1	U/S	Unstratified finds recovered from Trench 1				
1001	1001	Trench 1		Cut	Ditch(es), NW-SE orientated, later recognised as two (3 & 5)				
1002	1001	Trench 1	l. C2/C3	Fill	Mixed finds from upper levels of 5 & 7				
1003	1001	Trench 1		Cut	Ditch, NW-SE orientated, S component of 1001				
1004	1003	Trench 1	C2,l.C2/3?	Fill	Grey silty clay, r.ship with 1005 unclear				
1005	1001	Trench 1		Cut	Ditch, NW-SE orientated, N component of 1001				
1006	1005	Trench 1	e. C2	Fill	Grey silty clay, r.ship with 1003 unclear				
1007	1007	Trench 1		Cut	Ditch, N-S orientated				
1008	1007	Trench 1	Rom C1??	Fill	Dark grey silty clay with charcoal, sample taken (1018)				
1009	1009	Trench 2	C/2	U/S	Unstratified finds recovered from Trench 2				
1010	1010	Trench 2		Cut	Hearth/kiln, shallow or truncated, heavily subsoiled				
1011	1010	Trench 2	C1/P-Med	Fill	Finds recovered from JCB bucket scrape, all from 1010				
1012	1010	Trench 2		Fill	Charcoal sample from JCB bucket scrape, from 1010				
1013	1013	Trench 3	C1,2,3,4	U/S	Unstratified finds from Trench 3				
1014	1014	Trench 3		Cut	Pit, sub-rectangular, N-S orientated long axis				
1015	1014	Trench 3	l. C1/C2	Fill	Black clayey loam, top 5cm of 1014				
1016	1016	Trenches 3 & 4		Surface	Rough metalled surface	1044	1046	1032	1055
1017	1016	Trench 3	Mid C2/C3	Fill	Grey silty clay matrix between and overlying 1016, in T3	1044	1049	1032	1057
1018	1007	Trench 1		Sample	Black silty clay with high charcoal content, fill 1008				
1019	1010	Trench 2	mid C1	Fill	Brown clay, includes burnt clay, charcoal & high % of pot				
1020	1020	Trench 2		Cut	Ditch, NE-SW orientated				
1021	1020	Trench 2	e. C2	Fill	Black silty clay, top 10cm of ditch fill				
1022	1014	Trench 3	Roman	Fill	Black silty clay, NW quadrant of 1014				
1023	1023	Trench 3		Cut	Ditch, WNW-ESE orientated				
1024	1023	Trench 3	l. C1	Fill	Grey silty clay with chalk flecks				
1025	1010	Trench 2		Sample	Sample of charcoal rich clay fill 1019				
1026	1026	Trenches 3 & 4		Cut	Ditch/slot, NW-Se orientated, butt-ends in Trench 4	1044	1049		
1027	1026	Trenches 3 & 4	l. C1/C2	Fill	Grey silty clay	1044	1049		
1028	1020	Trench 2	C1/C2	Fill	Black silty clay, top layer of fill in ditch 1020				
1029	1029	Trench 3		Cut	Slot, WNW-SEE orientated, possibly related to 1023/1024				
1030	1029	Trench 3	Roman	Fill	Yellow/grey clay				
1031	1020	Trench 2		Sample	Soil sample from black silty clay charcoal rich layer 1028				
1032	1032	Trenches 3 & 4		Cut	Ditch, E-W orientated	1016	1046		
1033	1032	Trenches 3 & 4	l. C2-C4	Fill	Dark grey/black silty clay	1016	1046		
1034	1020	Trench 2	C1	Fill	Grey brown clay, ditch fill (primary ?), below fill 1028				

APPENDIX I. PSM 003, Context List and Descriptions

OP	C.TEXT	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIP	CUTS	CUTS1	CUTBY	CUYBY2
1035	1035	Trench 3		Cut	Plough furrow, not planned				
1036	1035	Trench 3		Fill	Test section through plough furrow 1035, not drawn				
1037	1010	Trench 3	e-mid C1	Pot	Adjoining pot sherds from fill 1019				
1038	1038	Trench 4	l. C1-C3	U/S	Unstratified finds from Trench 4				
1039	1044	Trenches 3 & 4		Cut	Ditch/slot, NE-SW orientated, later re-numbered 1044			1032	1016
1040	1044	Trenches 3 & 4	125-150	Finds	Finds from surface of 1044, possibly contaminated by 1016				
1041	1010	Trench 4		Sample	Soil from below adjoinining pottery 1037				
1042	1042	Trench 3		Cut	Pit ?				
1043	1042	Trench 3	Roman	Fill	Lt. grey charcoal flecked clay, unexcavated, surface finds	1044			
1044	1044	Trench 4		Cut	Ditch/slot, sinuous, NE-SW orientated	1049		1026	1032
1045	1044	Trench 4	C1/C2	Fill	Unexcavated dk. grey silty clay in 1044, surface finds	1049		1026	1032
1046	1046	Trench 4		Cut	Ditch, NE-SW orientated	1059		1032	1016
1047	1046	Trench 4	C3+	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, unexcavated, surface finds	1059		1032	1016
1048	1016	Trench 4	l. C3/C4	Fill	Grey silty clay matrix between and overlying 1016, in T4	1046	1044	1032	1057
1049	1049	Trench 4		Cut	Ditch/slot, NE-SW orientated, sinuous			1026	1032
1050	1049	Trench 4		Fill	Orange/brown silty clay, unexcavated, no surface finds			1026	1032
1051	1051	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole			1044	
1052	1051	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated			1044	
1053	1053	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole			1044	
1054	1053	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated			1044	
1055	1055	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole	1016			
1056	1055	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated	1016			
1057	1057	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole	1016			
1058	1057	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated	1016			
1059	1059	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole			1046	
1060	1059	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated			1046	
1061	1061	Trench 4		Cut	Post-hole				
1062	1061	Trench 4		Fill	Dark grey clay with chalk & charcoal flecks, unexcavated				
					SMALL FINDS				
1500	1000	Trench 1		Object	Detector find, Pb waste, U/S				
1501	1001	Trench 1		Object	Detector find, Pb, from fill 1002				
1502	1003	Trench 1		Object	Detector find, Fe nail ?, from fill 1004				

APPENDIX I. PSM 003, Context List and Descriptions

OP	C.TEXT	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIP	CUTS	CUTS1	CUTBY	CUYBY2
1503	1000	Trench 1	p-Med ?	Object	Detector find, Fe, U/S				
1504	1009	Trench 2		Object	Detector find, Pb, U/S				
1505	1023	Trench 3		Object	Detector find, Ae globule, from fill 1024				
1506	1020	Trench 2	Roman	Object	Detector find. Ae wire or pin, from fill 1028				
1507	1009	Trench 2	C4	Object	Detector find, Ag coin, U/S				
1508	1023	Trench 3		Object	Detector find, slag ?, from fill 1024				
1509	1038	Trench 4		Object	Whetstone ?, U/S				
1510	1038	Trench 4	C1	Object	Detector find Ag coin, U/S				
1511	1038	Trench 4		Object	Detector find, Ae ? coin, U/S				
1512	1038	Trench 4	Roman	Object	Detector find, Fe nail, U/S				
1513	1038	Trench 4	C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin, U/S				
1514	1038	Trench 4	C2?	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch, U/S				
1515	1038	Trench 4	C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin, U/S				
1516	1038	Trench 4	C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin, U/S				
1517	1048	Trench 4	C3	Object	Detector find, Ae coin, from surface 1048				
1518	1048	Trench 4	C1	Object	Detector find, Ae coin, from surface 1048				
1519	1048	Trench 4		Object	Detector find, Pb object, from surface 1048				
1520	1048	Trench 4		Object	Detector find, Pb weight, from surface 1048				
1521	1038	Trench 4	e. C2 ?	Object	Detector find, Ag coin, U/S				
1522	1038	Trench 4	C1	Object	Detector find, Ag coin				
1523	1038	Trench 4	Roman	Object	Detector find, fragment of Fe knife blade				
1524	1038	Trench 4	e-mid C1	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch fragment				
1525	1038	Trench 4	C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin				
1526	1038	Trench 4	C3-C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin				
1527	1038	Trench 4	C3-C4	Object	Detector find, Ae coin				

APPENDIX I. PSM 008, Context List and Descriptions

OP	C.TEXT	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIP
100	100			U/S	Unstratified finds from whole field
101	101	Trench 1	Roman	Cut	Pit, square with precisely cut sides and edges, little erosion
102	101	Trench 1	C1	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey silt, central fill
103	101	Trench 1	C1+?	Fill	Red brown clayey silt with some burning, layer below 102
104	101	Trench 1	Roman	Fill	Red burnt clayey silt, includes 3 distinct tips, below 103,
105	101	Trench 1		Fill	Charcoal layer, some large pieces, collapsed superstructure ?
106	101	Trench 1	Roman	Fill	Grey ashy silt layer below 105
					SMALL FINDS
150	100	U/S		Object	Detector find, Ae coin,
151	100	U/S	C1-C2	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch fragment
152	100	U/S	mid C1	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch fragment
153	100	U/S	mid C1	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch fragment
154	100	U/S	e-mid C1	Object	Detector find, Ae brooch fragment
155	100	U/S	Med ?	Object	Detector find, Ae object
156	100	U/S	l. C1-e.C2	Object	Detector find, Ae coin
157	100	U/S	p-Med	Object	Detector find, Ae thimble, not located
158	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 102
159	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 102
160	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 102
161	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 102
162	100	U/S	Roman	Object	Detector find, Ae mirror fragment
163	100	U/S	C4?	Object	Detector find, Ae coin
164	100	U/S	C3/C4??	Object	Detector find, Ae coin
165	100	U/S	p-Med?	Object	Detector find, Pb
166	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
167	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
168	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
169	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103

APPENDIX I. PSM 008, Context List and Descriptions

OP	C.TEXT	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIP
170	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
171	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
172	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
173	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
174	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
175	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
176	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
177	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
178	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
179	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
180	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
181	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103
182	101	Trench 1	Roman	Object	Fe nail, from layer 103

APPENDIX II. PSM 003, Finds Spread Sheet

OP	CONTEXT	POT_NO	POT_WT	ABONE_WT	FDCLAY_WT	TILE_WT	MOLLUSC_WT
1000	1000	40	350				
1001	1001						
1002	1001	32	380	220	30		
1003	1001						
1004	1003	19	100	220			
1005	1001						
1006	1005	25	230	100	10		10
1007	1007						
1008	1007	3	10	100	10		20
1009	1009	41	390	40		80	
1010	1010						
1011	1010	107	220	90	50	20	30
1012	1010				30		
1013	1013	36	270	190		70	50
1014	1014						
1015	1014	3	140		20	70	
1016	1016						
1017	1016	17	110	20	10	40	
1018	1007						
1019	1010	800	1880		10	30	
1020	1020						
1021	1020	84	580	180	40	10	10
1022	1014	22	100	100	170		
1023	1023						
1024	1023	129	610	130	10	20	
1025	1010						
1026	1026						
1027	1026	48	280	10	10		
1028	1020	83	670	50	60		10
1029	1029						
1030	1029	5	5	10	10		
1031	1020						
1032	1032						
1033	1032	13	140	10			
1034	1020	20	150	300	10		50
1035	1035						
1036	1035						
1037	1010	78	180				
1038	1038	72	1580	20		250	
1039	1044						
1040	1044	1	50				
1041	1010				480		
1042	1042						
1043	1042	1	10				
1044	1044						
1045	1044	21	90				
1046	1046						
1047	1046	7	160				
1048	1016	125	2100	20	310	360	
1049	1049						
1050	1049						
1051	1051						
1052	1051						
1053	1053						
1054	1053						

Weights given in grammes

APPENDIX II. PSM 003, Finds Spread Sheet

OP	CONTEXT	POT_NO	POT_WT	ABONE_WT	FDCLAY_WT	TILE_WT	MOLLUSC_WT
1055	1055						
1056	1055						
1057	1057						
1058	1057						
1059	1059						
1060	1059						
1061	1061						
1062	1061						
	Small Finds						
1500	1000						
1501	1001						
1502	1003						
1503	1000						
1504	1009						
1505	1023						
1506	1020						
1507	1009						
1508	1023						
1509	1038						
1510	1038						
1511	1038						
1512	1038						
1513	1038						
1514	1038						
1515	1038						
1516	1038						
1517	1048						
1518	1048						
1519	1048						
1520	1048						
1521	1038						
1522	1038						
1523	1038						
1524	1038						
1525	1038						
1526	1038						
1527	1038						

Weights given in grammes

APPENDIX II. PSM 003, Finds Spread Sheet

OP	CONTEXT	FEOBJ_NO	PBOBJ_NO	AEOBJ_NO	AGOBJ_N	STNEOBJ_NO	CYPIPE_NO	B.FLNT.NO
1000	1000							
1001	1001							
1002	1001							
1003	1001							
1004	1003							
1005	1001							
1006	1005							
1007	1007							
1008	1007							
1009	1009	1						
1010	1010							
1011	1010						1	
1012	1010							
1013	1013	2						
1014	1014							
1015	1014							
1016	1016							
1017	1016							
1018	1007							
1019	1010							
1020	1020							
1021	1020	1						
1022	1014							
1023	1023							
1024	1023							
1025	1010							
1026	1026							
1027	1026							
1028	1020	2						1
1029	1029							
1030	1029							
1031	1020							
1032	1032							
1033	1032							
1034	1020							
1035	1035							
1036	1035							
1037	1010							
1038	1038							
1039	1044							
1040	1044							
1041	1010							
1042	1042							
1043	1042							
1044	1044							
1045	1044							
1046	1046							
1047	1046							
1048	1016							
1049	1049							
1050	1049							
1051	1051							
1052	1051							
1053	1053							
1054	1053							

APPENDIX III Finds List and Descriptions

The identification and spot-dating of the finds was carried out by Jude Plouviez of the Conservation Division of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. All of the diagnostic ceramic finds were listed fully while only the presence of the less diagnostic fabric types are recorded.

PSM 003: Bulk Finds

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1000	*1000*	2 sherds samian ware, 1 form 33 & 1 form 31, both Central Gaul, mid-late Antonine	mid-l. C2
		2 rim sherds grey coarse ware with high mica content (Wattisfield products), form 6.19.4	C3/C4
		A number of grey coarse ware sherds including sharply undercut rims, jar	mid C2++
		1 rim sherd, grog tempered grey ware, jar	C1
		Tile fragments	Roman
1002	*1001*	1 sherd samian ware, form 31, Central Gaul, mid-late Antonine	mid-l. C2
		1 body sherd from indented beaker ? Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware	l. C2/C3
		1 rim/spout sherd from wall sided mortarium, white coarse ware	l. C2/C3
		1 rim sherd & 4 body sherds, grog tempered grey coarse wares, form 4.14	C1-C2
		Fragments of fired clay (30 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (220 grammes)	-
1004	*1003*	1 body sherd, red colour-coated ?buff/grey coloured fine fabric	mid C2/C3
		A number of mainly body sherds, + 2 rims, grey coarse wares, some high mica content (Wattisfield products), 1 fingertip shoulder band	? l. C1/C2
		Animal bone (220 grammes)	-
1006	*1005*	1 sherd, profile, grey coarse ware, high mica content, form 5.4	e. C2+
		Misc. sherds of grey coarse wares, some grog tempered	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (100 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (1 grammes)	-

PSM 003: Bulk Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1008	*1007*	3 body sherds, grey coarse ware, grog tempered	?C1
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (100 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (20 grammes)	-
1009	*1009*	1 rim/spout, white coarse ware mortarium, (*1021*)	?C2
		1 body sherd samian ware, bowl, Central Gaul Hadrianic-Antonine	C2
		A number of grey ware sherds, some with high mica content (Wattisfield products)	l. C1/C2+
		Tile fragments (80 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (40 grammes)	-
		1 Fe nail	-
1011	*1010*	Burnt rim/body sherds, grey coarse ware? form 5.1	C1
		1 rim sherd grey coarse ware with high mica content (Wattisfield product), jar	l. C1+
		1 glazed fragment + claypipe frag. intrusive	p-med
		fragments of fired clay (50 grammes)	-
		Tile Fragments (20 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (90 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (30 grammes)	-
1012	*1010*	Fragments of fired clay (30 grammes)	-
1013	*1013*	1 rim sherd, grey coarse ware, form 6.17.5	mid C4+
		1 sherd, profile, black burnished ware? form 6.18?	l. C2/C3
		1 sherd, grey coarse ware with high mica content (Wattisfield product), form 5.1	C1
		Tile fragments (70 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (190 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (50 grammes)	-
		2 Fe nails	-
1015	*1014*	1 undercut rim sherd, grey coarse ware, jar	l. C1/C2
		Tile fragments (70 grammes)	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (20 grammes)	-
1017	*1016*	1 base grey coarse ware bowl?, dark fabric suggests the later date	mid C2 + or C3/C4
		1 rim sherd from a grey coarse ware jar	C2+
		Tile fragments (40 grammes)	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-

PSM 003: Bulk Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1017	*1016*	Animal bone (20 grammes)	-
1019	*1010*	A large number of sherds from cordonned grey coarse ware jars, all burnt	mid C1
		Fragments of fired clay (100 grammes)	-
		Tile fragments (30 grammes)	Roman
1021	*1020*	1 body sherd, grog tempered grey ware, storage vessel, form 4.	C1
		Grey coarse ware, with high mica content (Wattisfield product), form 6.18	e. C2+
		Various grey coarse ware sherds, some with high mica content (Wattisfield products), jars	C1/e.C2
		1 large spout, white coarse ware, mortarium	?l. C2
		1 tile fragment (10 grammes)	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (40 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (180 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (10 grammes)	-
		1 Fe nail	-
1022	*1014*	Various grey coarse ware sherds, mainly body sherds	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (170 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (100 grammes)	-
1024	*1023*	1 sherd, samian ware, form 18, south Gaul, Flavian	C1
		Rim fragments, white coarse ware cupped, form 1.1?	l. C1/C2
		1 rim sherd, white coarse ware, globular form 3	l. C1
		Various sherds from grey coarse ware jars, some early	mid-l. C1
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Tile fragments (20 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (130 grammes)	-
1027	*1026*	1 flagon base, white coarse ware	C1/C2
		1 rim sherd, grey coarse ware with high mica content (Wattisfield product), beaker	?
		Various grey coarse ware fragments, some with high mica content	l. C1+
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (10 grammes)	-

PSM 003: Bulk Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1028	*1020*	1 flagon handle, white coarse ware	C1/C2
		2 rim sherds, grey grog tempered coarse ware, form 4.2?	C1
		A quantity of grey coarse ware rim sherds from jars, some large	C1/C2
		1 rim sherd, everted, vegetable?/grog? tempered	?mid C1
		Fragments of fired clay (60 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (50 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (10 grammes)	-
		2 Fe nails	-
		1 burnt flint	-
1030	*1029*	Pottery fragments	Roman
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (10 grammes)	-
1033	*1032*	A number of sherds from grey coarse ware jars, small bead/flange, undercut rim, form 6.17.1?	?C3
		1 beaker base, red colour coated-ware	m. C2/e.C3
		1 indented rough cast, red colour-coated sherd	l. C2/e.C3
		1 body sherd, shell tempered fabric	l. C3/C4
		1 rim sherd, samian ware, form ?37/38	C2
		Central Gaul, Hadrianic-Antonine + 1 body sherd samian ware, Central Gaulish, unidentified form	
		Animal bone (10 grammes)	-
1034	*1020*	1 small turned buff base, coarse ware, high mica content ? (Wattisfield product)	C1/C2
		A number of Grey coarse ware sherds with grog temper, cordonned forms, butt beaker type rim	C1
		Fragments of fired clay (10 grammes)	-
		Animal bone (300 grammes)	-
		Oyster shell (50 grammes)	-
1037	*1010*	Butt beaker profile, burnt coarse ware	e.-mid C1
1038	*1038*	4 body sherds + 1 base sherd amphora	Roman
		1 rim sherd grey coarse ware, cordonned jar, high mica content (Wattisfield product)	l. C1/e. C2
		1 rim sherd, grey coarse ware, bowl, high mica content (Wattisfield product), as Drag 37	C2+
		1 rim sherd, grey coarse ware, large jar, undercut rim	mid C2+
		1 base sherd, red coarse ware bowl	C2+

PSM 003: Bulk Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1038	*1038*	1 sherd grey coarse ware, form 6.19.4, high mica content (Wattisfield product)	l. C2+
		Further grey coarse ware jar rims	C2/C3
		Tile fragments (250 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (20 grammes)	-
1040	*1044*	1 base sherd samian ware, form 18/31, Central Gaul, part base stamp	C2 125-150
1041	*1010*	Burnt clay fragments, associated with *1037*	-
1043	*1042*	1 body sherd, grey coarse ware with high mica content (Wattisfield product), dark burnished fabric	Roman
1045	*1044*	1 rim sherd + 1 body sherd, grey coarse ware, jar	C1/C2
		Tile fragments	Roman
1047	*1046*	1 large rim sherd, mortarium with quartz/flint grits, same as *1048*?	l. C2+
		1 grey coarse ware base sherd, late fabric?	?C3/C4
1048	*1016*	1 rim sherd, shell tempered, jar	l. C3/C4
		1 rim sherd and *c.* 14 body sherds, amphora, Dr.20	Roman
		1 rim + part spout sherd, red coarse ware, mortarium	?l.C2+
		1 rim sherd, red coarse ware, sloping side, flat top with thumb impressions	? late
		Fragments of fired clay (310 grammes)	-
		Tile fragments (360 grammes)	Roman
		Animal bone (20 grammes)	-

PSM 003: Small Finds

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1500	*1000*	Small lead fragment, waste?	?
1501	*1001*	Lead fragment, 8mm thick flat piece	?
1502	*1003*	Iron nail? curved shaft	?

PSM 003: Small Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1503	*1000*	Iron loop, rectangular section, strip bent round to rectangle	?p-med
1504	*1009*	Lead strip, bent, one face convex, 5mm wide?	
1505	*1023*	Bronze fragment, small shapeless blob	?
1506	*1020*	Bronze scoop, small flat damaged scoop end, long tapered bent handle	Roman
1507	*1009*	Silver coin, siliqua, **OBV.** DNVALEN/....VG, ?Valens, **REV.** wreath, VOT/-V/MVLT/X, damaged and worn	C4 364-378
1508	*1023*	Bronze fragment, shapeless blob	?
1509	*1038*	Broken stone fragment, possibly whetstone, oval section	?
1510	*1038*	Silver coin, denarius, **OBV.** ....MITAVG/GERM..., Domitian, **REV.** Minerva stg.l. holding spear, ...OSXX ENSPPP, worn	C1 81-96
1511	*1038*	Coin	Roman
1512	*1038*	Iron nail, triangular head, (Manning type II)	Roman
1513	*1038*	Copper alloy coin, Ae3, **OBV.** ....SPFAVG, ? Valens, **REV.** SR. (Mint Mark, TRP?), worn	C4 364-375
1514	*1038*	Copper alloy brooch, plate type, pin missing hinged between2 lugs, possibly iron axis bar Zoomorphic ends, prominent eyes, small ?snouts, punched 2 circle eyes and semicircle? scales. Central lozenge shaped panel, raised centre with 3 notched ribs across the middle and punched 2 circle decoration. Notched edges. Length 54.2mm (slightly bent), probably continental (*cf.* HCH 001 *1671 & 2086* for similar terminals on enamelled e.g.'s).	?C2
1515	*1038*	Copper alloy coin, Ae3, **OBV.** laur. illeg. **REV.** 2 figs, ?GE or 2V, very corroded	C4 ?330's

PSM 008: Small Finds Cont.

OP	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
169	*101*	Iron nail, complete, head diam. 16mm, shaft length 79mm	Roman
170	*101*	Iron nail, shaft only, 79mm	Roman
171	*101*	Iron nail, complete, head diam.15mm, shaft length 49mm	Roman
172	*101*	Iron nail, head diam. 11mm, shaft 40mm	Roman
173	*101*	Iron nail, head diam *c.*14mm, shaft length 39mm	Roman
174	*101*	Iron nail, head diam. 13mm, shaft length 32mm	Roman
175	*101*	Iron nail, head diam. 14mm, shaft length,17mm	Roman
176	*101*	Iron nail, head diam. 14mm, shaft length26mm	Roman
177	*101*	Iron nail, head diam 13mm, shaft length 16mm	Roman
178	*101*	Iron nail, head diam. 13mm, shaft length 40mm	Roman
179	*101*	Iron nail, good condition, head diam. 11mm, shaft length 47mm	Roman
180	*101*	Iron nail, Head diam. 11mm, shaft length43mm	Roman
181	*101*	Iron nail ? shaft fragment, 21mm long	Roman
182	*101*	Iron nail ? shaft fragment, 24mm long	Roman

APPENDIX IV

Environmental Analysis, Assessment Report

Preston St. Mary, Suffolk: Assessment of samples from Roman contexts.

Two samples were collected, from *1025*, a kiln/hearth including many pottery sherds, and *1031* an adjacent ditch/gully fill, as part of the 'Time Team' television programme. Samples of approximately 2kg were manually flotated, using a 0.5mm collecting mesh. The flots were then rapidly scanned under a binocular microscope at low power.

Both samples contained modern intrusive roots and some uncharred seeds, notable of Chenopodiacaeae.

The samples from *1025* included little charred material apart from a few charcoal flecks. It is probable, from the intense reddening associated with the feature, that temperatures were high and oxygen supply good: hence most plant material from the feature had burnt to ash, leaving little charred material.

The ditch/gully *1031* included a high proportion of charred material. This was composed of wood charcoal with relatively abundant charred glume bases of spelt (*Triticum spelta*), a few elongate grains of *T. spelta*-type, a grain of *Avena* sp. (probably wild oat) and a cypsela of *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed), a weed characteristic of clay soils. The material appeared to comprise a low-density scatter of spelt processing waste. This might indicate some crop processing and waste disposal in the vicinity, or the use of spelt processing waste as a fuel in some industrial process.

Also present were shells of *Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata, V. exentrica* and *Vertigo pygmaea* (snails characteristic of grassland/open country habitats) and one shell of *Lymnaea truncatula* (a freshwater species tolerant of dessication). The taxa present suggest an open habitat in the vicinity, with intermittently wet conditions in the ditch.

The samples in isolation do not merit more detailed analysis.

Peter Murphy. 30 August 1995.