

**Dale Lane, Land North of Field Lane and Land at the
junction of Doncaster Road and Field Lane, South Elmsall
West Yorkshire**

Draft Publication Design

Summary

Excavations at six sites in South Elmsall between 1997 and 1999 have revealed evidence for human activity dating from the Middle Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The purpose of this report is to outline how the results from these investigations can be combined into a single publication report.



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Report Information

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) have undertaken archaeological excavations in six areas located between Doncaster Road and Field Lane in South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, from 1997 to 1999 (Figs 1 and 2; Table 1). The excavations revealed evidence for human activity dating from the Middle Bronze Age though to the Late Iron Age/Roman-British period. Some evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was also recorded.

The purpose of this report is to outline how the results of the separate investigations can be combined into a single publication report. It provides a summary of the results from each of the areas investigated and an outline of the phasing of the remains based the preliminary post-excavation analysis. A summary of the completed artefactual and environmental analysis is presented along with recommendations for further work. The potential areas of research for the publication are outlined, along with the different options for the structure of the final report. It concludes with an outline of the the graphical and illustration requirements.

Table 1: Summary of the archaeological investigations at South Elmsall

Project Name	Site Code	Dates of Investigation	Type	Report Type	Report Reference
Dale Lane	SEL 97	March 1997	Excavation	Excavation	Burgess 1998
Field Lane Area A	FLA 97	April 1997	Evaluation	Evaluation	O'Neill 1997
Field Lane Area B	FLB 98	September 1997	Excavation	Assessment	O'Neill 1998
Field Lane Area C	FLC 98	November - December 1997	Excavation	Assessment	McNaught 1998
Field Lane Area D	FLD 98	November 1997 – January 1998	Excavation	Assessment	Howell 1998
Junction of Doncaster Road and Field Lane ('Doncaster Road')	DRE 99	June – August 1999	Excavation	Assessment	Grassam 2008

Site location, topography, soils and geology

The village of South Elmsall is located approximately 19km north-west of Doncaster and 17km south-east of Wakefield. The sites are located to the north-east of the village, centred on NGR SE 484 119 (Fig. 1). They are bounded by Doncaster Road to the north-east and Field Lane to the south (Fig. 2).

The land falls away gradually from approximately 65m AOD in the west to 45m AOD in the east.

The drift geology in the area comprises Lower Magnesian Limestone (British Geological Survey 1976). The soils are of Aberford association, described as a shallow, locally brashy well drained calcareous fine loamy soil (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 Summary of the stratigraphic information by site

The following section provides a site by site summary of the results of the excavations.

The Dale Lane Site (Burgess 1998)

The Dale Lane site (SEL) was the most northerly of the sites excavated and revealed an irregular ditched sub-rectangular enclosure (Context Groups 200, 300 and 500). This cut a large pit (4005) and a short section of gully (4010), which are associated with an earlier and undated period of activity. Gully 4022 lay 2m west of 4010 and, as it had similar dimensions, it maybe part of the same feature. This supposition is supported by the similarities between the mollusc samples obtained from gullies 4010, 4022 and pit 4005.

The enclosure appears to have been dug in a single phase and a radiocarbon date from the primary fill provided a date of cal. 349-109 BC. This date is largely supported by the pottery dating, although some of the assemblage could date to the Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods. There was no evidence to indicate when this enclosure went out of use, however the mollusc assemblage indicates that the ditches had been allowed to silt up gradually.

Its unusual shape, particularly on its western side, may indicate it was deliberately trying to avoid pre-existing obstacles which could not be moved. Alternatively, its shape may have had a practical function. The enclosure narrows to the north, possibly towards an entranceway, and thus its purpose maybe for corralling or controlling livestock. An internal curvilinear gully (700), located in the south-west of the enclosure may represent a sub-division. A possible entranceway to the enclosure, represented by a significant narrowing in the width of the ditch, was located in the south-eastern corner near this gully. Circumstantial evidence for a bank is provided by the presence of large limestone fragments recovered from the fill, although no tip lines were observed in the excavated sections so it is not clear whether it was internal or external.

Apart from possible Phase I pit (4035) and gully 700, no other internal features were identified. The environmental evidence from the mollusc assemblage suggests the surrounding landscape was grassland and cultivated land, supporting the notion that the enclosure is associated with pastoral activity. Limited charred plant remains were recovered, perhaps indicating that little cereal processing or occupation occurred in the immediate vicinity.

A group of four pits (400) were located in the south of the site. Three were located outside of the enclosure and one was positioned inside, leading to speculation that they were not directly associated with the enclosure. Whether they pre-dated or post-dated the enclosure is

not certain. Their close proximity and similar dimensions hint at a similar function, however this is not borne out by the mollusc assemblage which shows that three pits were rapidly backfilled while the fourth was allowed to silt up slowly. The latter also contained articulated human remains comprising a right arm and fragments of cranium, likely part of a primary inhumation.

Field Lane Area A (O'Neill 1997)

The evaluation consisted of three trial trenches, located to the north of Field Lane. These yielded no archaeological remains. No further excavation was undertaken in this area.

Field Lane Area B (O'Neill 1998)

The main feature identified in Field Lane Area B (FLB) was the north-east corner of an enclosure (ditches 065, 1300 and 264; Figs 4 and 5) (the north-western part, including 1300, was exposed in Area D). The enclosure ditch appears to have constructed in two phases, with the north (ditch 065) and west (1300) ditches pre-dating the eastern ditch (264). A radiocarbon date suggests the enclosure dates to cal. 349-107 BC, contemporary with the enclosure at the Dale Lane site. This date is supported by the pottery. An internal bank is attested by the distance between the northern ditch and internal gully (066). The enclosure was appended to a north-south ditch (075/132), which formed part of an extensive field system mapped through aerial photography and geophysical survey.

Within the enclosure there was evidence that activity was segregated through the use of internal boundaries (076 and 066). One internal enclosed area lay in the north-eastern part of the site and contained a cluster of 22 post-holes (Group 367), none of which could be resolved into discrete structures. A four-post structure (112/372) was located within another sub-enclosure in the south eastern corner of the excavation site. This structure may have been a raised granary, although it is possible that it formed part of a larger structure which extended beyond the limit of the excavation. Two further clusters of post-holes (761 and 376) were recorded towards the south western end of the main enclosure in addition to six pits of various sizes. Finds from the features located within the enclosure include animal bone, slag, Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, ferrous nails, fragments of quern and heat affected stone, indicative of occupation.

A number of features lay in the west of this enclosure, including 19 post-holes (351) aligned north to south with a pit (137) positioned at the northern end. This is thought to represent an earlier version of the eastern boundary of the enclosure which was later replaced by 264, and possibly controlled access between the two enclosures. A cluster of 18 post-holes and three pits (group 368) lay to the east of 351, containing pottery and flint. An additional pit containing the partial remains of an articulated cow skeleton (127) was also identified in this

enclosure. A second pit, which similarly contained a part of cow skeleton, was recorded to the north.

A second linear feature (366; Fig. 4) ran parallel to ditches 264 and 075/132, approximately 43m to the west. Two further boundaries were recorded to the north (Fig. 4). They ran on a different alignment compared to the boundaries to the south, with one ditch (077) aligned in a north-west to south-east direction and the second (078) on a north-east to south west axis. The latter comprised at least three segments, all of which varied greatly in size and depth, suggesting they had been cut at different times. The ditches contained a large quantity of slag, animal bone and a copper alloy object.

Field Lane Area C (McNaught 1998)

The investigation at Field Lane Area C (FLC) revealed two phases of a enclosure and a cobbled area (Fig. 6). The earliest phase of activity was represented by east-west ditch 30002 and north-south ditch 30003. Ditch segments 30004 and 30005 formed the northern extent of 30003. East-west ditch 30006 and north-south ditch 30007 are also assigned to this phase.

Ditch 30001 cut through the fill of 30002 before turning at approximately 90° and continuing northwards and therefore relates to a second phase of activity. The recut of 30004 may also date to this period of activity, along with feature group 30008, located at the western end of ditch 30002. Few features were recorded within these enclosures and they are thus are thought to have been associated with livestock, rather than human occupation.

A crouched inhumation (30010) lay to the north of ditch 30006. It was incomplete, with only a leg and a foot present, and a radiocarbon analysis produced a date of cal. 169 BC – AD 51. A further three pits (Group 30011) were recorded to the north of inhumation 30010 and ditch segment 30005.

Cobbling 30009 in the east of the site represented the most intensive area of activity on the site. The earliest phase was represented by layers of trampled earth (3169, 3223, 3188 and 3221). 3188 contained a very small quantity of metalworking slag, suggesting some industrial activity prior to the laying of the cobbles. Eight separate cobbled areas (3144, 3163, 3181-5 and 3193) formed a fragmentary surface covering 400m². They produced a significant amount of animal bone, and it is possible that the cobbles represent a butchery area. A radiocarbon date from the cobbled area dates it the Late Iron Age/Romano-British (cal. 42 BC – AD 77), and thus could be contemporary with the burial to the north-west.

The cobbles were sealed by a layer of grey silt (3162, 3044 and 3126). The silt layer produced comparatively large quantities of metalworking debris, including hammerscale, suggesting smithing was undertaken. It is possible that butchery was replaced by iron working. The area was then cut by nine pits and post-holes, which could not be resolved into

a discrete structure. It is not clear whether these were associated with the metal working phase or post-dated it. The area had also been disturbed by modern activity.

A further five trial trenches were opened to the east of the main excavation area. These revealed fragments of ditches which may indicate the field system continued beyond the limits of the excavation.

Field Lane Area D (Howell 1998)

Four trenches were excavated within Field Lane Area D (Fig. 7). Trench I, the most northerly area excavated (not shown on Fig. 7), contained no archaeological remains while a single undated pit was recorded in Trench II.

The limit of Trench III was determined by a palisade enclosure 40012 (Fig. 8). It was sub-rectangular, measuring 60m by 45m, with 'porched' entrance ways to the north and south east. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the enclosure gave a date of cal. 1516 – 1407 BC (Middle Bronze Age). The enclosure truncated the most southerly post-hole of alignment 40013, suggesting that the post-hole was part of a structure which pre-dated the enclosure. The alignment comprised four post-holes, one of which produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery.

The enclosure was cut by the ditched trackway 40006 and 40007, which ran on a north-south alignment across Area III, and continued southwards into Area IV. 40006 cut post-hole 4275, which formed part of sub-circular post-hole structure 40014. The structure comprised ten post-holes, with a central post and a south-easterly facing elongated entrance. A second slightly smaller sub-circular building lay to the south west of this (40015). It had a porched entrance facing to the east and a section of an eaves-drip gully was present on the southern side. Both structures produced several sherds of pottery, thought to be Iron Age, while radiocarbon analysis produced a date of cal. 799 -673 BC. A third cluster of post-holes lay to the east of 40015, although no obvious structural plan could be discerned.

The ditched trackway was investigated more thoroughly in Area IV, south of Area III (Fig. 9). This produced several fragments of animal bone, along with a sherd of Iron Age or Romano-British pot. At the south of the trench, 40006 was observed to turn 90° to continue to the west. The direction which 40007 took at the southern end of the trench could not be determined due to the presence of a tree.

Ditches 40001 and 40017 ran east west across the south of the trench. 40001 may have formed the eastern return of 40007 and it contained animal bone, an iron nail and pottery. 40001, 40006, and 40017 flanked hollow way 40005, which was seen to continue both to the east and west beyond the excavation. Three grave cuts (40004) were recorded at the point where 40006 turned to the west, between the two trackway ditches. All were orientated north south and contained at least four individuals. SK4086 was radiocarbon dated to cal. 340-35 BC while SK4117 dated to cal. 362-105 BC.

A segmented linear feature (40003) lay to the east of the ditched trackway. It was orientated north-south, and thus ran parallel to a segmented boundary recorded in 130m to the west in Area B (366). A post-pit and two double post-holes (40018) lay to the west of 40003, close to the southern limit of the excavation.

The western end of the Area IV was occupied by the eastern extent of the enclosure investigated in FLB (065 and 264). The ditch was labelled 40000 in Area D, and it ran on a north-south axis, before turning through 90° to continue on an east-west orientation. A number of internal features were recorded within Area IV, including pit group 40008, the largest of which (4062) contained a significant quantity of pottery, animal bone, beehive querns, metal artefacts and charred cereal grain. The querns appear to have been deliberately broken and so they may represent votive deposition. A second pit in this group (4122) contained pieces of hammerscale, although no slag was recovered from this area of the site. To the south lay post-hole group 40009 while a second group (40010) lay to the north. None of the post-holes obviously formed a structure and none produced any artefacts. One of the internal pits was radiocarbon dated to cal. 167-1 BC.

A number of large amorphous features in Area III are interpreted as quarry pits. Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the top and subsoil surrounding these features.

Doncaster Road (Grassam 2008)

Three areas were investigated at the Doncaster Road site (DRE; Figs 2, 11 and 12). Area T contained a segmented linear feature (3000-3002) and intercutting pits (3003). Area V contained two ditches arranged into an 'L' shape, thus representing a corner of an enclosure (4000 and 4001). An additional linear feature 4002 may represent a continuation of 4000 on a north-south axis.

The main area of investigation (Area W) contained two ditches which formed a large enclosure (Fig 11). The north-east to south-west boundary comprised 11 segments (5001-5002, 5004, 5006-13), while a second ditch ran broadly east west (5003). Ditch 5005 was located at the eastern end of 5003 and ran on a north-south axis. The northern end of the main segmented boundary ran parallel to a linear post arrangement (8003), comprising 28 post-holes, which possibly pre-dates the parallel ditch segments. The northern most post-hole was dated to cal. 409-385 BC.

A number of features were recorded on the west and east side of the segmented boundary. Three sub-circular post-built structures were located on the west side (6001, 6002 and 6003) and were aligned on a north-east-south-west arrangement, parallel with the boundary. 6002 was radiocarbon dated to cal. 1294 – 1006 BC, while 6003, the most southern structure, was dated to cal. 1686-1526 BC. A fence line, comprising 41 post-holes, enclosed the rear of

6003, while linear post-hole arrangement 8002 formed a possible windbreak around the northern side of the entrance to 6001. A fourth possible circular post-built structure (6004) was located on the eastern side of the segmented boundary.

A total of 24 post-built structures were identified, comprising nineteen four-post and five two-post structures (7001 to 7024). Except for four two-post structures (7020 to 7023), all were located within the area defined by the field boundaries. A sherd of Iron Age type pottery was recovered from 7001, and 7003 was dated to the Early Iron Age by radiocarbon dating (cal 918-799 BC). The five two-post structures varied in length from 0.5m to 1.6m and were aligned either west-east or north-south. They were identified on either side of the main north-south boundary.

A series of medieval or post-medieval quarry pits were recorded in the east of the site.

Finds from the site comprised pottery, the fabric of which is of 'Iron Age' type, animal bone and slag.

3 Summary of the stratigraphic evidence by phase

Based on the post-excavation work already undertaken, five phases of activity have been identified (although this does not currently take account of the earlier prehistoric evidence likely to be represented by the flint assemblage). Further post-excavation analysis of the evidence from all of the excavation sites may result in the refinement of the phasing and could possibly provide dating for those features which have yet to be assigned to a phase.

The following is a summary of the phasing of the landscape based on the available dating evidence.

Middle to Late Bronze Age

The results of the radiocarbon dating analysis suggest that the roundhouse structures identified at DRE (6002 and 6003) are Middle to Late Bronze Age in date, with 6003 pre-dating 6002. Given the proximity and the similarities in plan, it seems likely that 6001 (and wind break 8002) are broadly the same date. Other features which maybe tentatively assigned to this phase due to their relationship with roundhouses 6001, 6002 and 6003 are fence line 8001 and the four two-post structures located by the structures.

The palisade enclosure (FLD) is included in this phase due to the radiocarbon dating (cal. 1516 – 1407 BC). The pottery from this feature suggested it was of a later date, however as seen at DRE, there is some evidence that the fabric was a long-lived variety. If confirmed, this date indicates that the post arrangement which is cut by the palisade enclosure must be from an earlier phase of activity.

Earlier Iron Age

Rectilinear post-hole structure 7002 at DRE was dated to the Early Iron Age (cal. 896-807 BC). 7002 was part of a complex of rectilinear structures which produced sparse diagnostic finds and shared few stratigraphic relationships. Given their physical relationship, however, it seems plausible that all are associated with the same phase of activity. The relationship between this group of features and the roundhouses is not clear.

The radiocarbon dating analysis of the sub-circular/roundhouse structure 40015 located in the palisade enclosure FLD indicates that it also dates to the Early Iron Age period (cal. 799 -673 BC). It is likely that the neighbouring roundhouse 40014 is of a similar date. The relationship between the roundhouses and the palisade enclosure is not clear, however, as the latter is dated to the Middle Bronze Age period, and it is possible that the enclosure had fallen out of use before the roundhouses were established.

Later Iron Age

The evidence from the South Elmsall excavations suggests that the use of the landscape intensified during later Iron Age period. The linear post-hole arrangement 8003 at DRE has been radiocarbon dated to cal. 409-385 cal BC 918-799, which in turn may also indicate that the enclosure ditch, which it runs parallel to, is also Iron Age in date. This is relevant as it may assist in dating the field systems identified in the northern part of the FLB as the slag assemblage from both DRE and FLB were sufficiently similar to allow Jane Cowgill to suggest that they possibly relate to the same industry.

The burials located along the double ditched trackway, which ran through FLD, are dated to cal. 340-35 BC to cal. 362-105 BC). Their association with the trackway may mean these are contemporary features. This date ties in well with that established for the enclosure immediately east of the trackway, excavated in FLB and FLD (cal. 349-107 BC). This enclosure produced good evidence for it being a focus for a settlement, containing pits (including one radiocarbon dated to cal. 167-1 BC), post-holes, internal divisions and a possible rectilinear post-hole structure. The irregular shaped enclosure at SEL is also assigned to this general phase of activity based on radiocarbon dating (cal. 349-109 BC).

Late Iron Age and Romano-British period

Features assigned to this phase were only encountered in FLC. Although the remains discussed here overlap with the previous phase, it is reported separately as it extends into the Late Iron Age to Romano-British transition period.

A cobbled surface in FLC provided a date of cal. 42 BC to cal. AD 77. This surface overlaid an earlier deposit and was sealed by a later silt layer. The cobbled surface may have formed a butchery or carcase preparation area, while the later silt deposit contained evidence for metal-working. It is not presently clear when the metal working began or how long it lasted.

Hammerscale was found in isolation in a pit within the main enclosure found in Area B and D, and it is therefore tempting to see a direct association between the two areas.

The relationship between the cobbled area and the enclosures immediately to the west has yet to be established. No slag was recovered from the ditch sections and so it is possible that they are associated with an earlier phase of activity. It is also not clear whether the partial remains of an articulated skeleton, dated to cal. 169 BC to cal. AD 51, recovered from a pit located in the north of the site is associated with the enclosures or the cobbled area.

Medieval and Post-medieval

A number of possible quarry pits were recorded across the excavation area. They produced a mixed assemblage of medieval and post-medieval finds. The artefacts from these features possess only limited potential towards a better understanding of the medieval land use around South Elmsall.

4 Summary of the artefact and environmental analysis

A summary of the status of the specialists reports is presented in Table 2. Much of the required analysis of the artefact and environment evidence has already been carried out.

The following sections outline the level of reporting already completed and the potential for further work.

Table 2: Summary of specialist report status

Specialist Reports	FLB	FLC	FLD	DRE99	SEL (reports in the excavation report)
Animal Bone	Y	Y	Y	y	y
Human Bone	-	Y	Y	-	y
Flint	Y	Y	Y	Y	y
Pottery	Y	Y	Y	Y	y (x 3)
(Prehist/RB)					
Pottery (Med/PM)	Y	Y	Y	Y	n (but only 2 sherds)
Cu alloy objects	n	-	N	-	-
Fe Objects	n	n	N	-	-
Pb object	n ¹	-	-	-	-
Metal working and fired clay*	Y	Y	Y	Y	y
Spindle Whorl	-	Y	-	-	-
Clay pipe	-	-	n ²	-	-
Quern/Stone Report **	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Geological Report for stone objects	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Shell	-	-	n ³	-	-
Mollusc	n	n	N	-	y
Charred plants, etc	Y	Y	Y	Y	y
Radiometric Dating	Y	Y	Y	Y (7 samples)	y
TL dating	n	n	N	n	-

Y = combined report exists; y = separate report exists; n = no report found; - = no report required

1: probably post-med; 2: Three fragments; 3: In FLD, shell looked like post-med

* Combined for Field Lane and Doncaster Rd; ** First draft of Quern report

Animal Bone

A combined animal bone has been completed for the Field Lane sites, however the DRE and SEL reports are separate. It will be necessary for the reports to be revisited and combined into a single final report. The quality of the animal bone was poor and most sites did not produce enough material appropriate for analysis, however this situation should be improved by combining the assemblage. This will provide an opportunity to compare the pattern of animal husbandry across the area as a whole and how it changed over time.

Human Bone

The combined report for the Field Lane sites was prepared by Helen Start while the skeleton from SEL was reported on by Andrea Burgess. The reports are structured differently, with more detailed analysis and discussion offered the individuals recovered Field Lane site. This is probably due to the comparative states of the assemblage; few conclusions could be drawn about the SEL skeleton given that the assemblage comprised of an arm and some fragments of skull. The differences in the style of the reporting are probably not so relevant. It is

unlikely that any further information would be obtained by having the complete human bone assemblage re-examined.

Flint

The flint from all of the South Elmsall sites was reported on by Heidi Taylor. The reports could be easily integrated by the publication report author and then verified by the specialist. However, as stated in the Field Lane and DRE flint reports, there is a possibility that some of the flint represents later prehistoric flint working. At the time the reports were prepared, little research had been undertaken into this. However subsequent work by Young and Humphreys (1999 and 2003) has begun to highlight the evidence for this activity and it maybe possible to identify its use in a primary context at South Elmsall.

The total assemblage of flint from all of the sites comprises just 45 pieces. As such, it is probably of a lower priority compared to other research issues.

Pottery

The prehistoric and Romano-British remains from the Field Lane sites were reported on by G. Robbins, while Chris Cumberpatch analysed the medieval and post-medieval assemblage from this site. The entire pottery assemblage from DRE was analysed by Chris Cumberpatch. The pottery from SEL was examined and reported on by three different specialists (P. Beswick, Dr S. Elsdon and V. Rigby).

The pottery would benefit from being re-examined as a single assemblage (e.g. Vyner 2008). The combined pottery assemblage from the South Elmsall sites comprises 198 sherds, weighing over 1.4kg. The prehistoric to Romano-British pottery consists of 142 sherds (approximately 800g). Re-analysis of the prehistoric and Romano-British pottery may assist in refining the dating of the assemblage and associated features.

Metal Objects

A small assemblage of objects made from copper alloy, iron and lead were recovered (14 fragments). All have been X-rayed and conserved, although no post-excavation analysis has been undertaken. Analysis may assist in dating these objects, which may in turn provide more information about the chronology of the site (e.g. nail fragment in the ditched trackway at FLD). They may also be associated with the metal working industry, attested by the slag. Some objects, such as the lead object, maybe fairly modern in date, so it maybe appropriate to submit just those finds from a prehistoric context.

Metal working and fired clay

A combined report for the metal working remains has already been prepared for the Field Lane and DRE sites by Jane Cowgill. The assemblage from SEL comprised 16 fragments of slag (675g) from three contexts. It was analysed by Dr G McDonnell. Although the assemblage from here is small, it would be beneficial to have the analysis and discussion

incorporated into the report from the other South Elmsall sites as it has the potential to assist in understanding the distribution of activities across the landscape. It is recommended that the Dale Lane assemblage is sent to Jane Cowgill in order to complete the analysis.

Spindle Whorl

Just one spindle whorl was recovered from the excavations and has been fully reported on. No further specialist work is necessary

Clay Pipe

Three fragments of clay pipe were recovered from the excavations at Field Lane D. There is little research potential for this assemblage and no further analysis should be undertaken.

Quern and Stone

A report of the 66 quern fragments from a single pit at FLD has been prepared by D. H. Heslop, along with a description of two rubbing stones and a possible saddle quern fragment from the other Field Lane sites. However, a note attached to the report states that this was a first draft and the specialist was awaiting further information about the context which these querns were found in and about other finds. It is not clear whether the reference to other finds relate to that found in the same feature or other stone/querns from other features. The letter also says that the Mr Heslop has comments about the illustrations, which he will send along with copies of the drawings at a later date. There is no record of these arriving.

The discussion section in the report also states that it is in draft form. No evidence for a finished version of this report has been located.

The original quern report dates to the April 1999. The discovery of such a significant quantity of querns from a single feature, some of which appear to have been deliberately broken, is an important find. In 1999, no other example was known from northern England. The querns need to be adequately reported. If the old report has not or can not be completed, then a new one needs to be commissioned.

Geological Report for Stone Objects

A report detailing the material used for the stone objects has been completed. No further analysis is recommended.

Shell

A button made from mother-of-pearl was recovered from an unstratified context at FLD. It is likely post-medieval in date. It has little research potential and so it is recommended that no analysis is undertaken.

Mollusc

Analysis of the mollusc assemblage was undertaken at the SEL site. The aim of this analysis was to address whether the variation in the size or composition of the snail assemblages allow the features to be classified into chronological groups with distinct faunas; how the features became silted up (rapidly or slowly) and what was the nature of the landscape immediately around the feature. The analysis was able to address these research questions, although in isolation it contributes little towards the final publication report.

Mollusc samples have been obtained from soil samples taken from the Field Lane and DRE sites, although they have not been analysed. The assemblage as a whole has the potential to address the same research issues as those outlined for the SEL, but for the wider landscape. As some feature groups have been radiocarbon dated, it maybe possible to assign phasing to other features based on similarities in the mollusc assemblage. It may also be possible to reconstruct the wider environment through this analysis and possibly address how it changed over time. It is recommended that a selection of samples from dated contexts be submitted for analysis.

Charred Plants/Archaeobotanical analysis

An archaeobotanical report has been completed by Dr Ruth Young for the Field Lane sites. An assessment was undertaken for the biological remains from DRE site by Dr Jane Richardson and Dr Ruth Young, although there is no evidence the publication report has been completed. Dr T. Holden of Headland Archaeology Ltd reported on the small assemblage of charred plant remains from SEL.

It is important that the analysis is completed for the DRE and that it, along with the SEL material, is incorporated into a single report along with the Field Lane assemblage. The assessment from DRE suggested that little charred plant remains were present in the features.

Radiometric Dating

AMS dates have been obtained from a variety of features across the site where it was deemed appropriate. Additional radiometric dating may assist in phasing more the features recorded during the excavations and furthering our understanding of the development of the landscape over time.

5 Statement of potential and recommendations for final reporting

The excavations have revealed a multi-phased landscape in use from the Middle Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period. The following section outlines the research themes which might be considered for the publication of these sites.

The post-excavation analysis for the publication report could address some of the site specific questions highlighted within the individual assessment reports, such as the function of the four-post structures at DRE and the date of the palisade enclosure at FLD.

The main purpose of any further post-excavation analysis for the publication report will principally be for the purpose of integrating the evidence from each site. This would not only allow for a greater understanding of the phasing of the archaeological features identified, but would also allow the evidence to be better understood within a wider landscape context. Aerial photographs of crop marks and the evidence from geophysical surveys from the area will play a key role in understanding the setting of the sites within the immediate landscape. An important part of the analysis will be to compare the evidence from South Elmsall with that outlined in recent publications from the region (e.g. Roberts *et. al.* 2008; Brown *et. al.* 2007; Roberts 2005, Roberts *et. al.* 2001). The evidence from ongoing excavations in the immediate vicinity, such as Barnsdale Bar and the Hemsworth Bypass, should also be taken into consideration. This should allow for a greater understanding of the significance of the remains from the South Elmsall sites and contribute to the continuing research into West Yorkshire during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

The focus of the publication report should be on the development of the South Elmsall area from the Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period, exploring the possible reasons why changes in the use of the landscape occurred. It should also examine the significance of the creation of boundaries within the landscape, in particular the reasons why they become more visible in the archaeological record from the Iron Age.

The publication report should present a brief overview of the landscape at South Elmsall in the earlier prehistoric period, including the evidence for activity in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods from the excavation sites (e.g. from the residual worked flint).

There is an opportunity to explore the issues of continuity and change within the landscape, such as why some boundaries and enclosures are reworked. Another issue will be to examine when the features eventually fall out of use and how the focus of activity moved over time.

By combining the analysis of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence, it may be possible to determine how different areas were exploited. It will also be important to consider why specific areas were selected for this purpose, and what relationship existed between the different areas of activity. Specifically, it will be interesting to further consider the relationship between the butchery activity at FLC with the evidence for metal working, as both appear to have occurred within the same area.

Of particular regional significance is the evidence for metalworking identified at FLC, as little is known about the nature of this activity in West Yorkshire during the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

The South Elmsall sites also have the potential to explore burial practices and ritual activity in the late Iron Age. The partial remains of skeletons were found in pits at SEL and FLC, while four crouched inhumations appear to have been placed with care by the trackway at FLD. The osteological analysis of the human remains may also provide evidence towards a better understanding of the lifestyles of the inhabitants of this area during the later prehistoric period.

The publication report will also be able to consider the evidence for possible ritual activity from South Elmsall. During the excavations, two cattle skeletons were identified in pits and there is an opportunity to review the incidence of structured animal deposits and explore other explanations. Also of significance in this respect is the pit in the main enclosure (FLB and D) which contained a large quantity of finds, including querns which may have been deliberately broken.

6 Options for the format of the publication report

Option 1

The challenge with this project is to present the evidence from five separate excavations in a coherent and accessible way. The earlier reports have been compiled by different authors, so it will be important that those interpretations offered by these authors is adequately referenced throughout the text. One way to achieve this is to present a summary of each site individually, similar to that provided earlier in this document (Summary of the Stratigraphic Evidence by Site). Each section could be referenced to the original report author. This could then be followed by the specialist reports, and conclude with a discussion which provides a chronological overview of the site, addressing the research themes set out above. Any interpretations drawn from the original reports should be referenced clearly.

The report could be structured thus:

- Introduction: Background to the South Elmsall projects, who commissioned, when excavated, etc (approx 200 words)
- Site descriptions and past use, geology, soils and topography (approx 350 words)
- Archaeological and Historical Background (approx 300 words)
- Methodology: How excavated, guidelines, etc (approx 300 words)
- Results of the excavation: Dale Lane, Field Lane A to D and Doncaster Road individually (approx 2500 words)
- Artefact Reports: Pottery, flint, etc (word count determined by specialists. Rough estimate is 6000 words)

- Environmental Reports: Charred plant remains, etc (again, very approximate guess is 5000 words).
- Discussion: Development of the site overtime. How, why and when it changed, etc (see 'Potential Research Themes section above'. Highlight those conclusions drawn by the authors of the earlier reports. (approx 3000 words)

Total estimated word count: 17,650

Option 2

Another option is to present the site chronologically from the outset. This approach relies on additional post-excavation analysis successfully phasing more of the landscape. At the moment, parts of it have been assigned to a phase, although others remain assigned to a 'prehistoric' date.

The report could be structured thus:

- Introduction (as before) (approx 200 words)
- Site descriptions, geology, soils and topography (350 words)
- Archaeological and Historical Background (approx 300 words)
- Methodology (as before) (approx 300 words)
- Results of the excavation by phase: Outline the remains in phase order, including those which are assigned a 'prehistoric/Romano-British' date. Reference the earlier reports as necessary (approx 2,500 words)
- Artefact Reports: Pottery, flint, etc (word count determined by specialists. Rough estimate is 6000 words)
- Environmental Reports: Charred plant remains, etc (again, very approximate guess is 5000 words).
- Discussion: Development of the site overtime. How, why and when it changed, etc (see 'Research Themes section above'. Highlight those conclusions drawn by the authors of the earlier reports. (approx 3000 words)

Total estimated word count: 17,650

7 Graphics and illustration requirements

Site Plans and sections

The plans and sections for Dale Lane and Field Lane Areas A and B were hand drawn and no digital versions have been located. The plans included in the Assessment Reports for Field Lane Area C and D were also hand drawn, but are also available as CAD files, although these contain little detail (e.g. hachures). The location of the original hand drawn plans has yet to be established. The plans for Doncaster Road have been illustrated recently for the assessment report.

The publication report will require a figure which shows the location of all the excavated areas. A digital version of this has already been produced (see Fig. 2). Individual site plans will also need to be presented. The plans included in this report have been scanned and scaled down to fit onto either an A3 or A4 sheet. They will need amending for publication purposes. No digital plans of the skeletons have been located and these may need to be produced using the original site plans.

Section drawings have been included in the Dale Lane and Doncaster Road reports and can be reproduced for the publication report. No sections have been found for the Field Lane or Doncaster Road sites, and it maybe necessary to go back to the primary archive to find the original drawings. Only a sample of sections will be needed to be included in the publication report.

Recommendations for final reporting

The following section is a summary of the figures which could be included in the final publication report.

Option 1

Fig. 1. Site location plan, showing other sites mentioned in the text

Fig. 2 Geology map, showing rivers, etc

Fig. 3. Detailed site location map, showing position of all South Elmsall sites excavated, with cropmark data and geophysical anomalies

Figs 4 to 7. Plans and sections of SEL

Figs 8 to 12. Plans and sections of FLB

Figs 13 to 17. Plans (including detail of the skelton) and sections of FLC

Figs 18 to 24. Plans (including details of the three skeletons) and sections of FLD

Figs 25 to 33. Plans and sections of DRE

Figs 33 +. Finds illustrations

Option 2

Fig. 1. Site location plan, showing other sites mentioned in the text

Fig. 2 Geology map, showing rivers, etc

Fig. 3. Detailed site location map, showing position of all South Elmsall sites excavated, with cropmark data and geophysical anomalies

Figs 4 to 9. Plans and sections of Middle to Late Bronze Age features (DRE roundhouses and FLD palisade enclosure)

Figs 10 to 16. Plans and sections of Earlier Iron Age features (DRE rectilinear post-hole structures, FLD roundhouses)

Figs 17 to 25. Plans and sections of Later Iron Age features (DRE linear post-hole arrangement and segmented ditch, FLB and FLD enclosure and internal features, FLD burials and double ditched trackway, SEL enclosure and internal features)

Figs 26 to 30. Plans and sections of Late Iron Age and Romano-British features (FLC cobble surface and burial)

Figs 31 +. Finds illustrations

Finds Illustrations

Pottery

An illustration of a pottery sherd is reproduced in the Dale Lane report. No illustration requests were included in the Doncaster Road report.

The prehistoric/RB pottery report for Field Lane sites requests nine sherds of pottery for illustration. However, if the report is redone by another specialist, there is a chance that the requirements alter.

- Field Lane Area C SF303 Feature 004, Context 3040 fill of N-S ditch
- Field Lane Area D SF417, SF421, SF452, SF423, and SF420 Feature 4062 Context 4063
- Field Lane Area D SF426 Feature 4062 Context 4129
- Field Lane Area D SF433 Feature 4062 Context 4190
- Field Lane Area D SF441 Feature 4238 Context 4239

Quern

The Quern/Stone report highlights nine fragments of quern for illustration. It is not presently clear whether these have been drawn.

Quern	Catalogue Number of fragment	Illust'd
A	37,38	Y
B	18,19,20,21,22,23	Y
C	35	Y
D	25,26	
E	31,32,33,34,36	Y
F	1,2,3,4,9	Y
G	17	
H	5,6,8,10,11,12,13	Y
I	7,14,15,16	Y
J	39,40,43,44,45,48,49,50,52,54	Y
K	41,42,46,47,51,53,55	Y
L	24,27,28,29,30	

Metal finds

No analysis has yet been undertaken on this assemblage so no requests for illustrations have been made. This will be determined by the specialist. It maybe that the material has no significance so does not require illustrating

Spindle Whorl

The spindle whorl report by Penelope Walton Rogers refers to an illustration of the object.

Flint

No requests for flint illustrations have been made. Given the small size of the assemblage and limited number of tools within it, there is little need for any to be drawn.

Photographs

Black and white and colour photographs from all of the sites are located within the archive. A small selection of pictures for DRE were scanned during the production of the assessment report. A part of the post-excavation process will be to examine and select a selection of approximately 15 photographs of the relevant features and areas for the publication report.

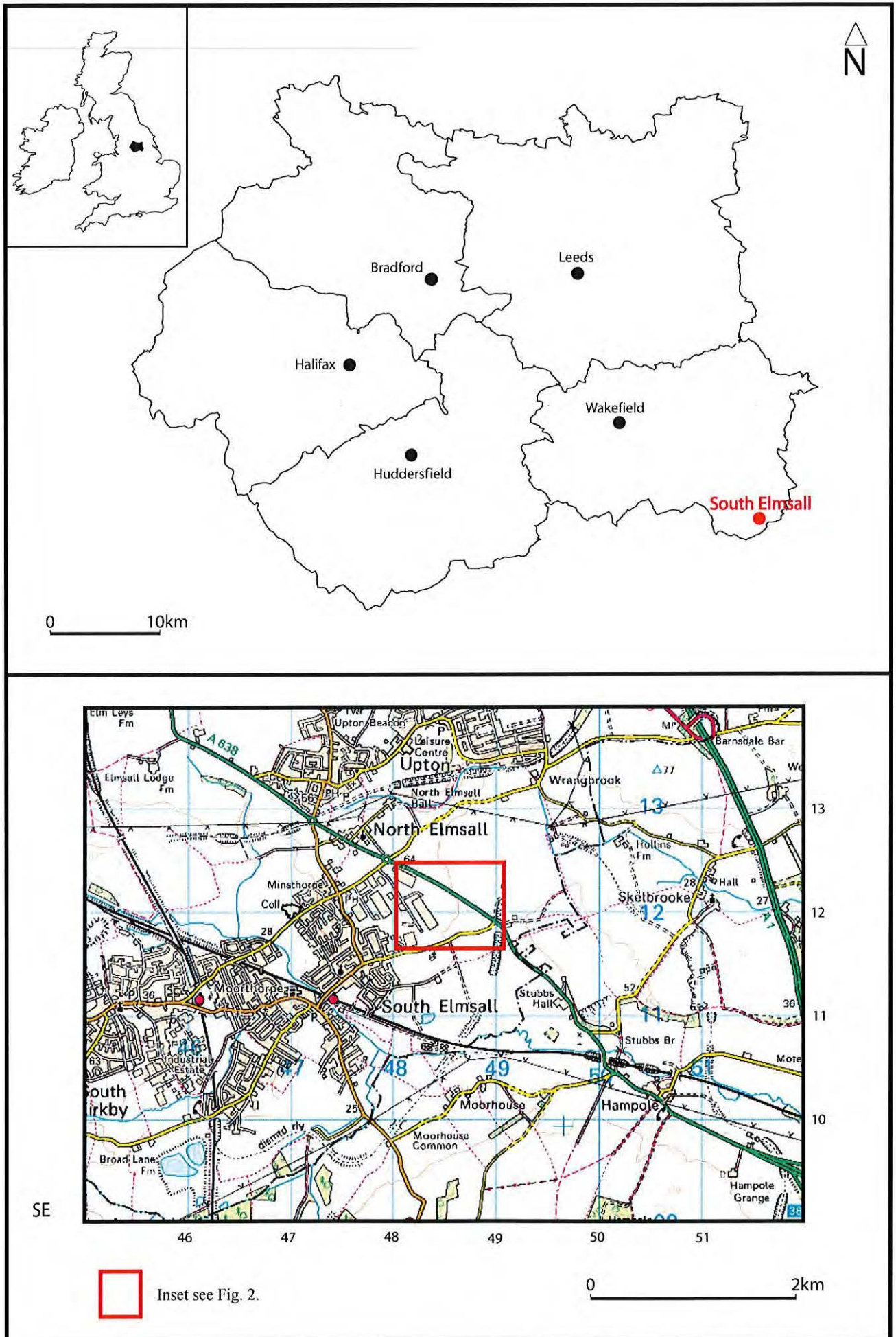


Fig. 1. Site location



Fig 2. Detailed site location plan (1:5000 scale)

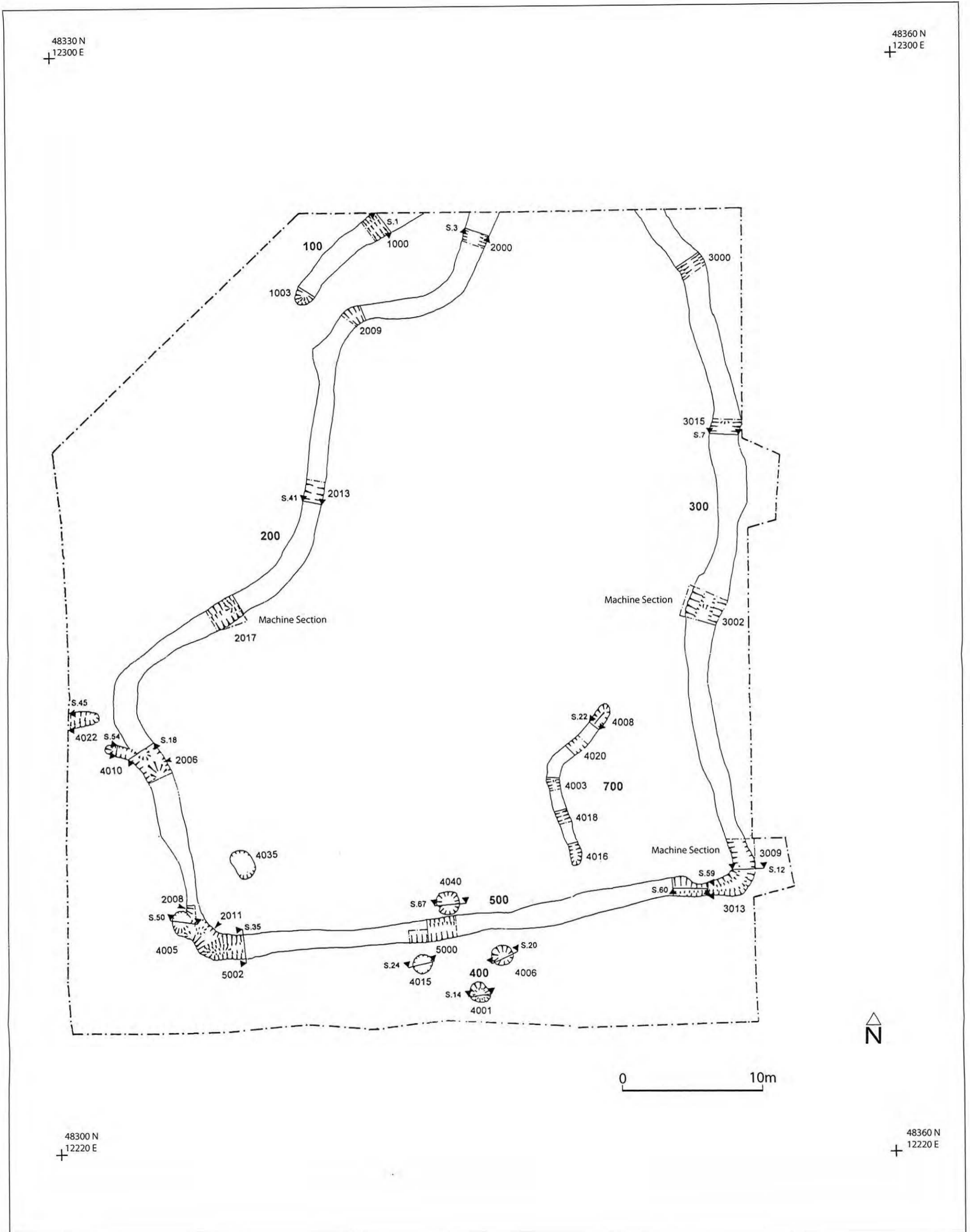


Fig. 3. Dale Lane (SEL) trench plan (Scale 1:250)

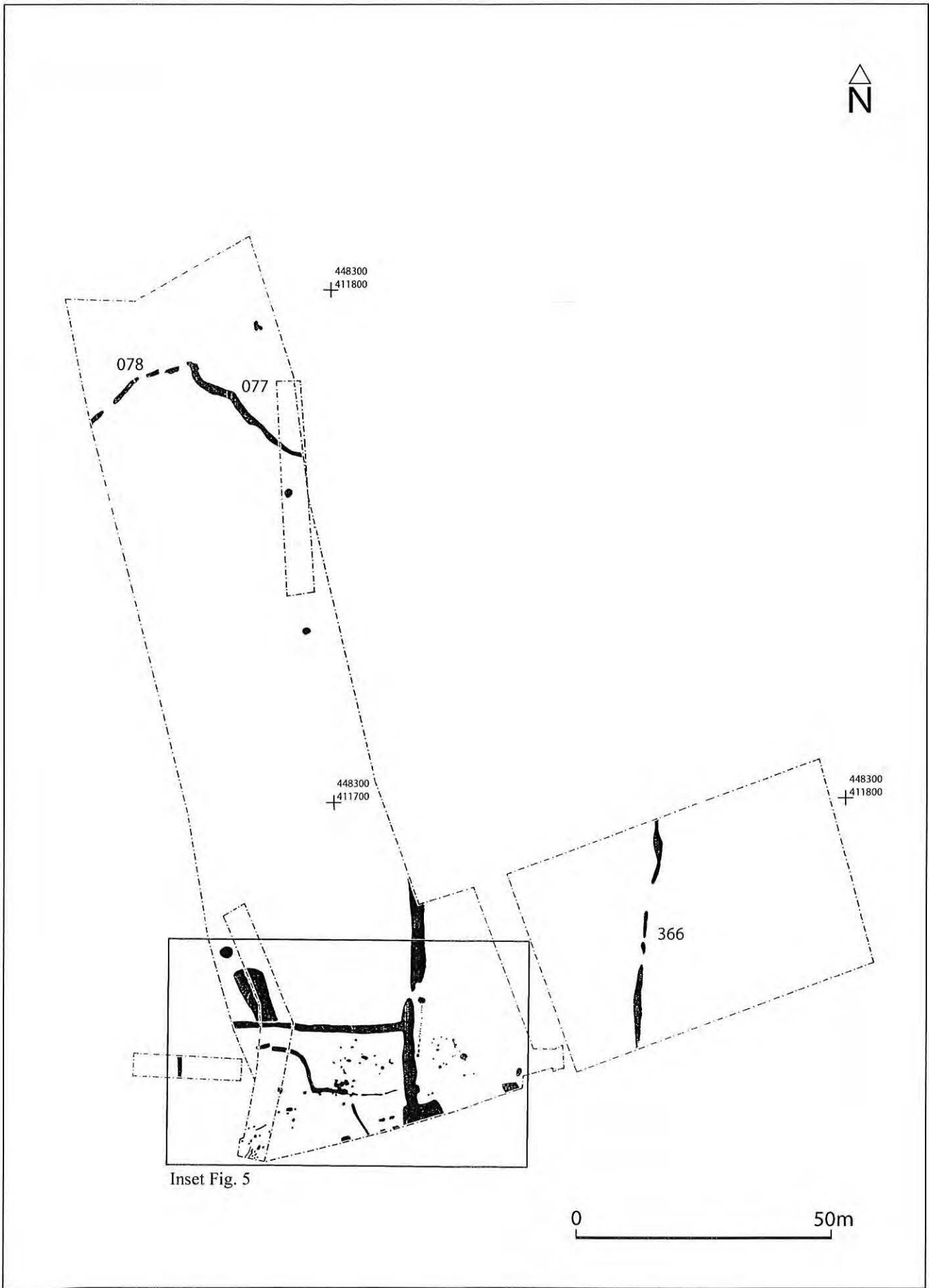


Fig. 4 Field Lane B (FLB) trench plan (Scale 1:1000)

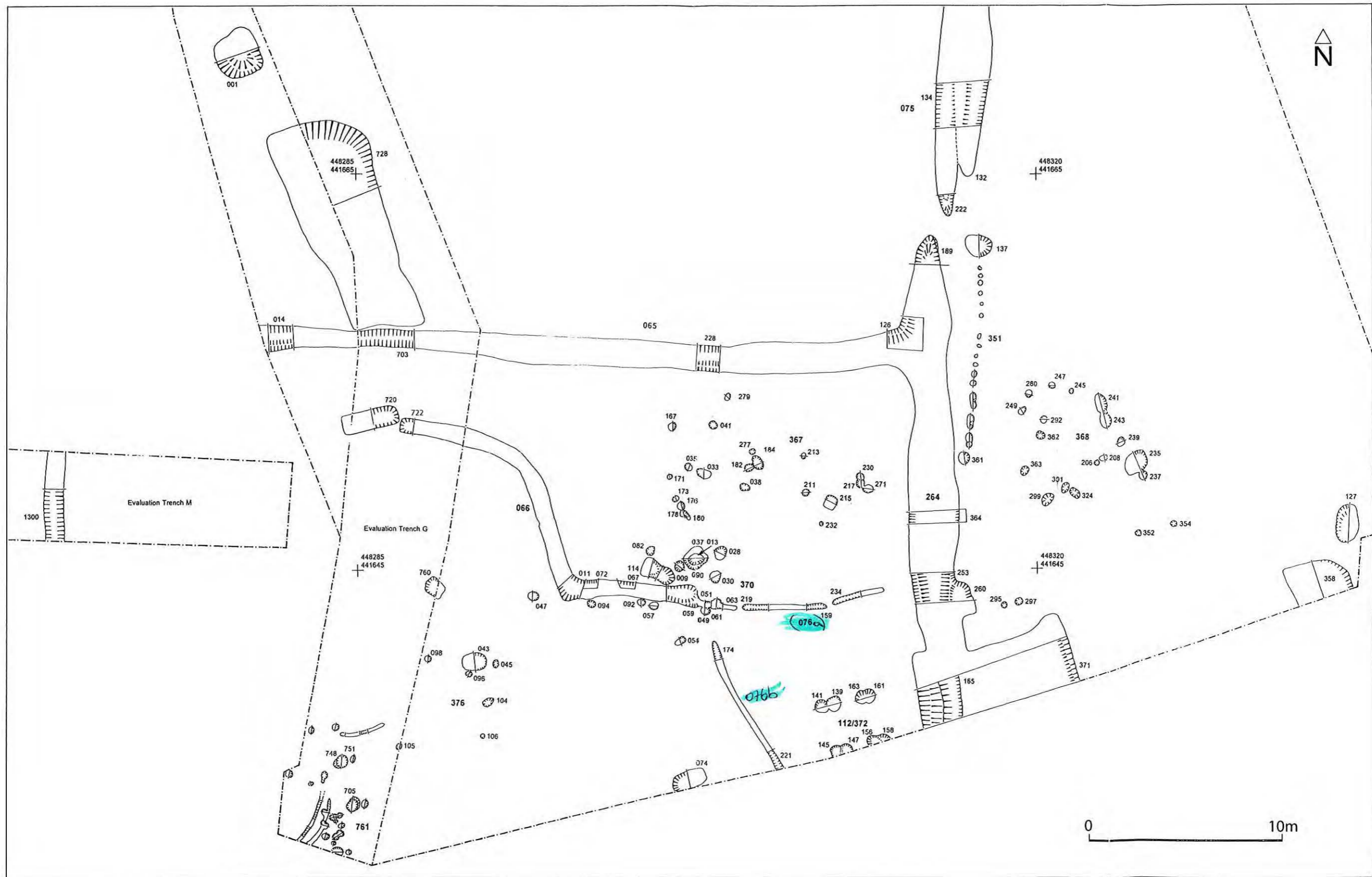


Fig. 5 FLB enclosure, associated field systems and post structures (Scale 1:200)

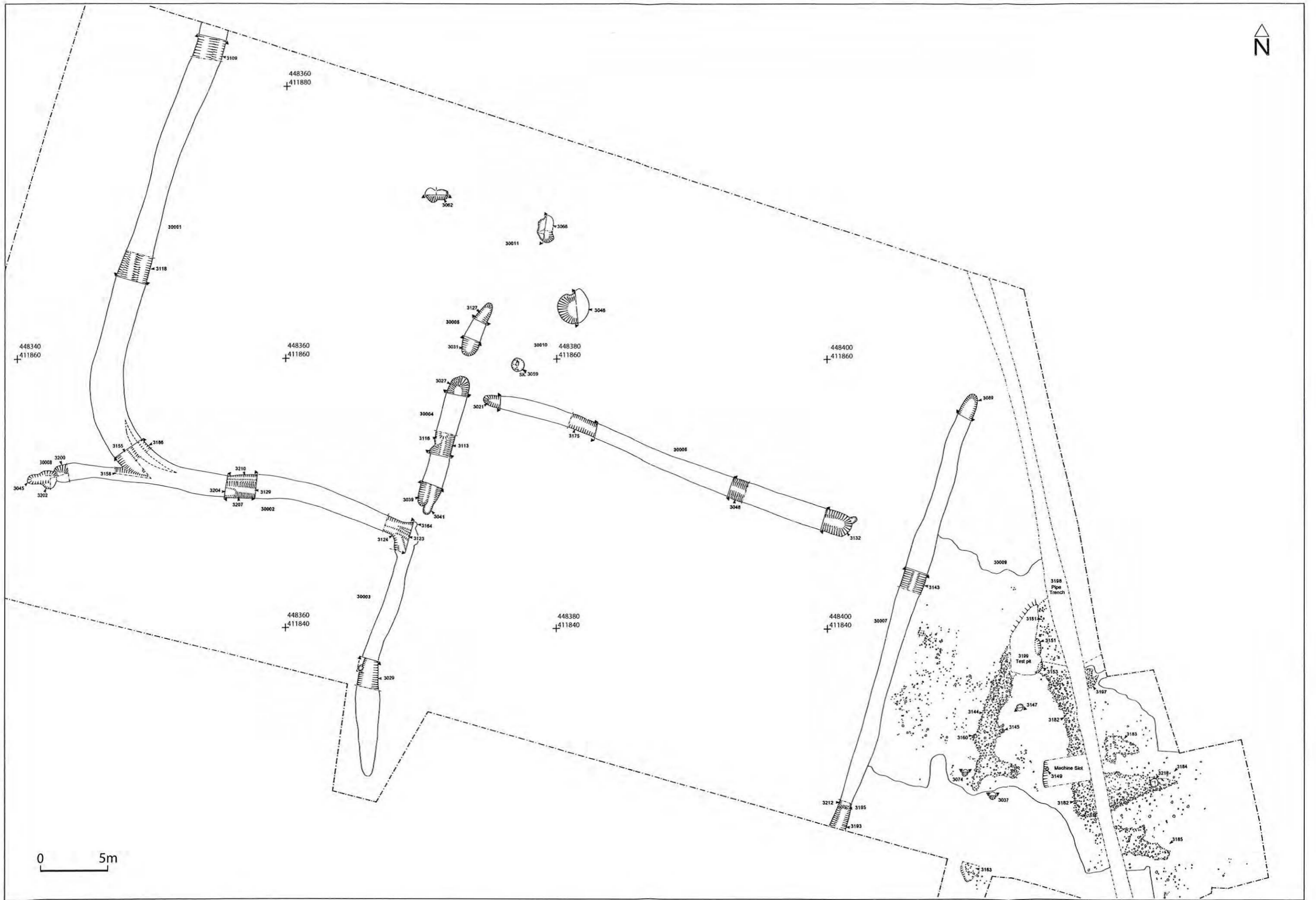


Fig. 6. Field Lane C (FLC) trench plan (Scale 1:250)

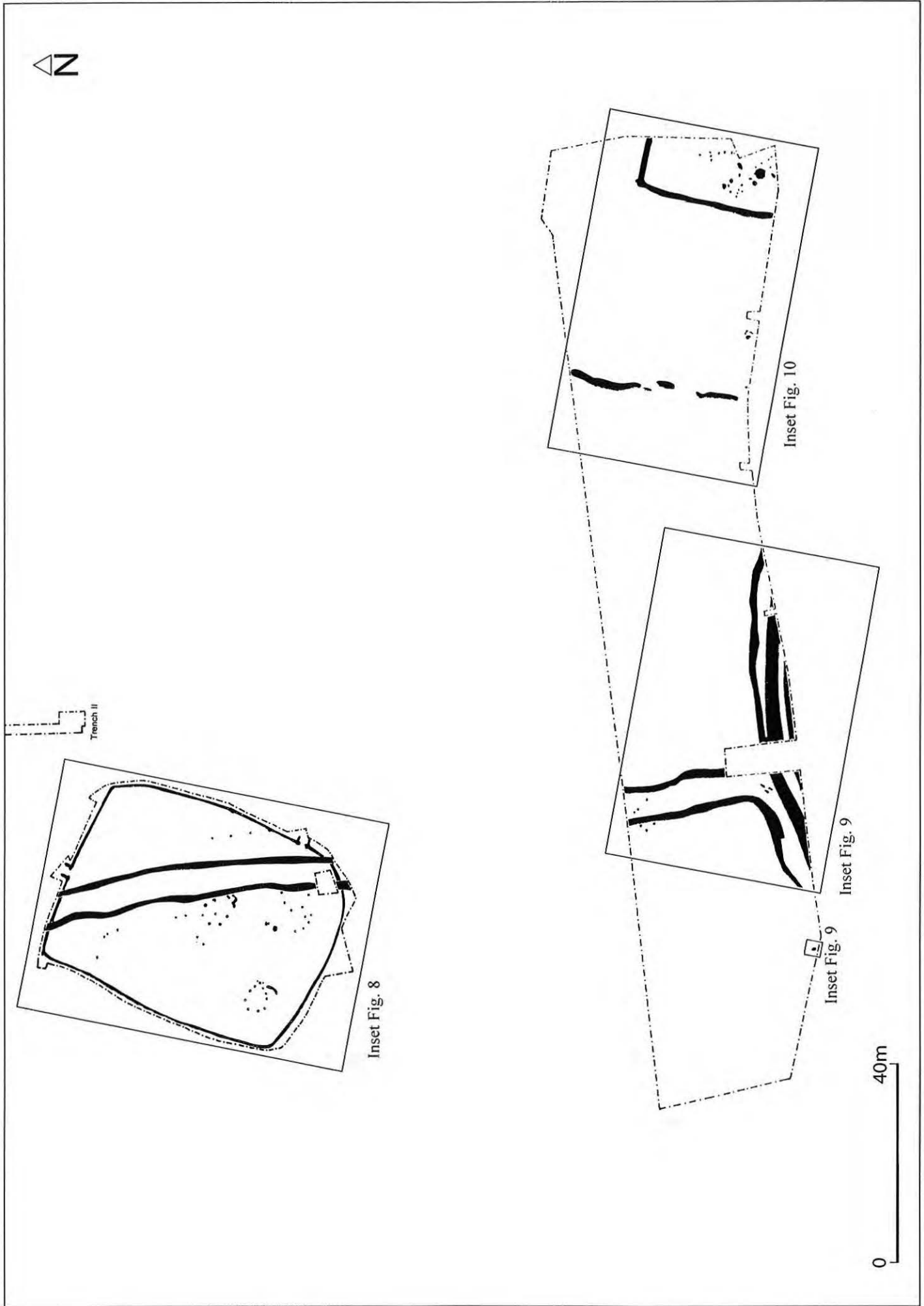


Fig. 7 Field Lane D (FLD) trench plan (Scale 1:1000)



Fig. 8 Plan of the palisade enclosure and internal features (Scale 1:200)

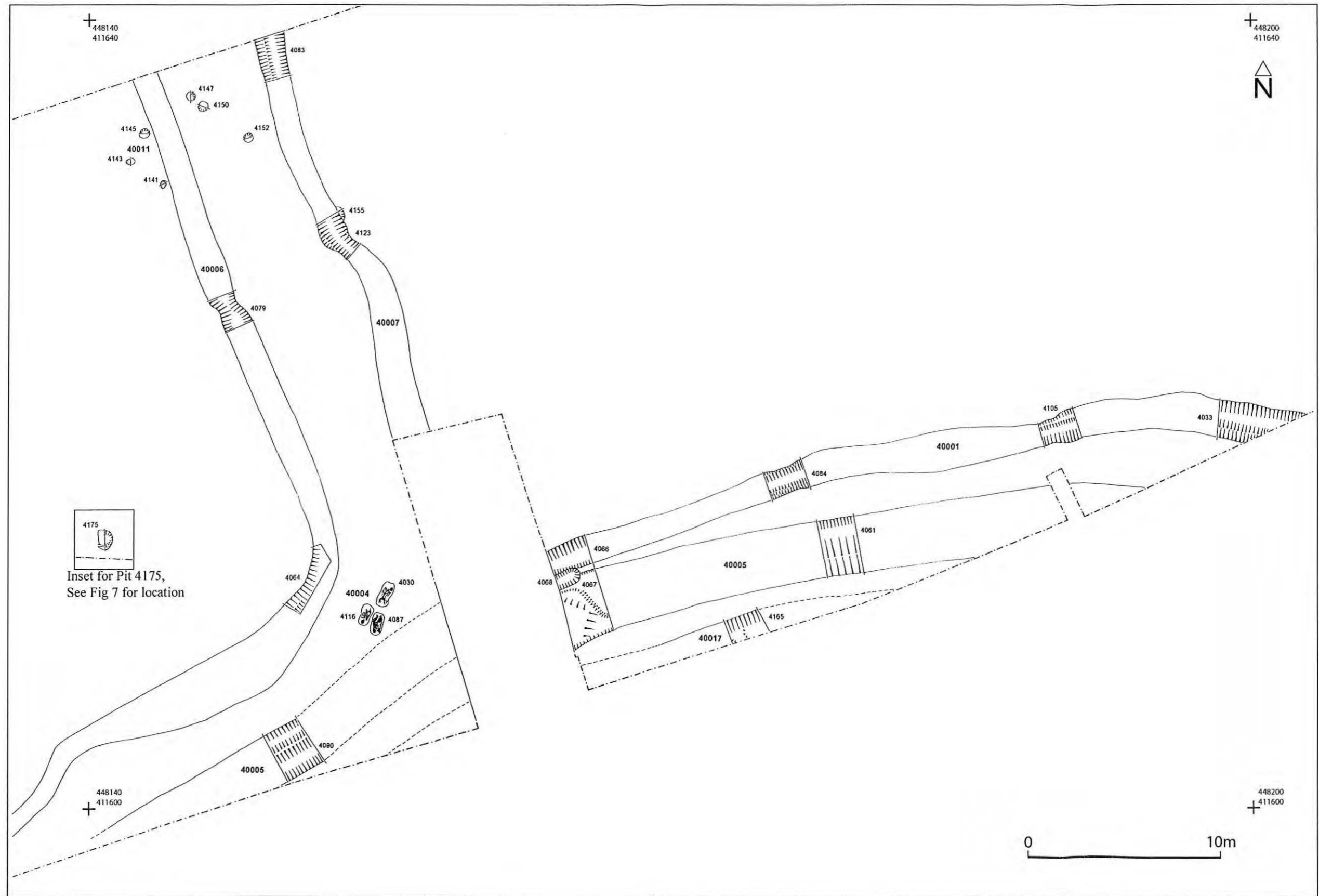


Fig. 9 Plan of the western part of FLD (Scale 1:200)

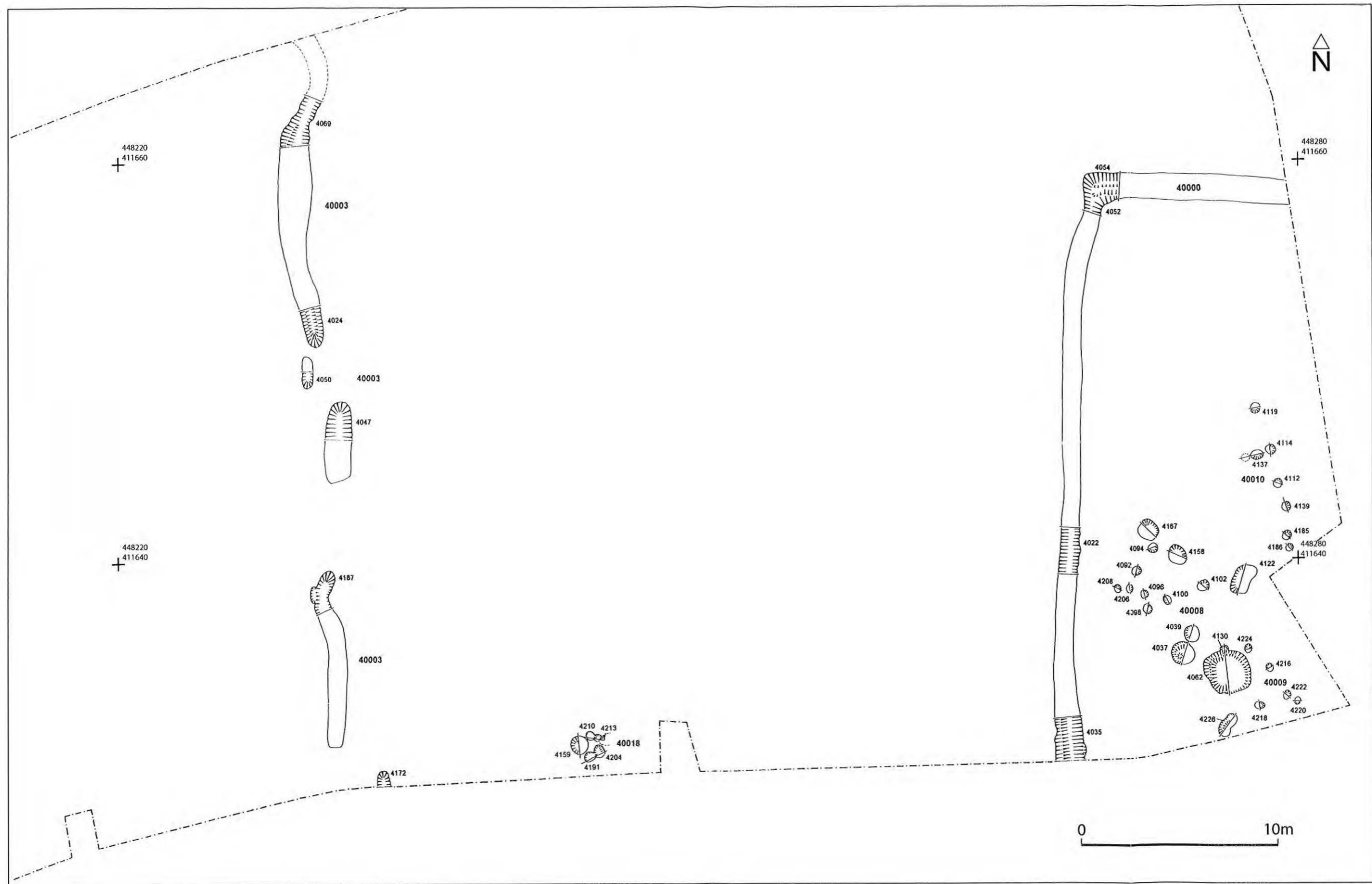


Fig. 10 Plan of the eastern part of FLD (Scale 1:200)

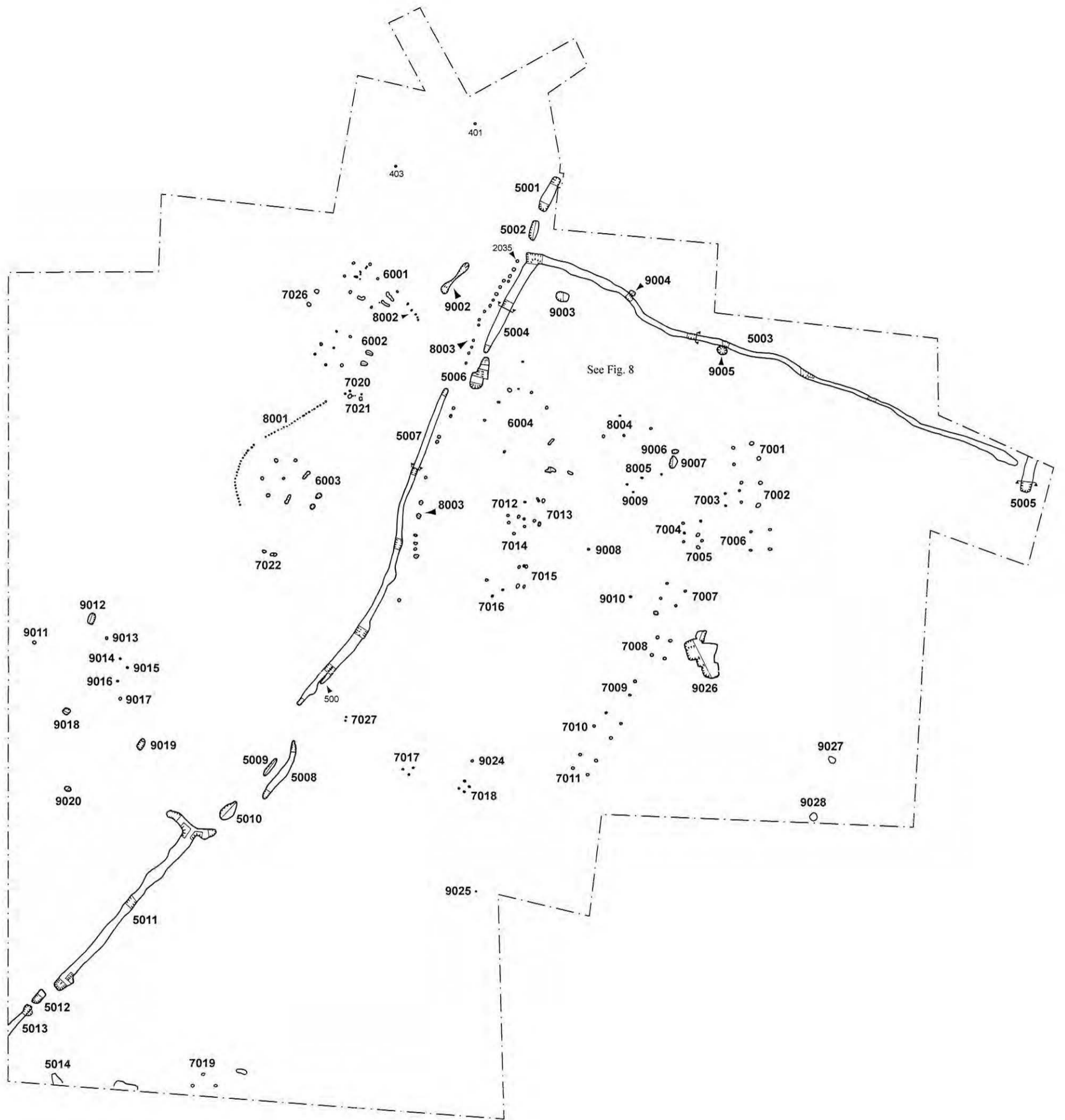
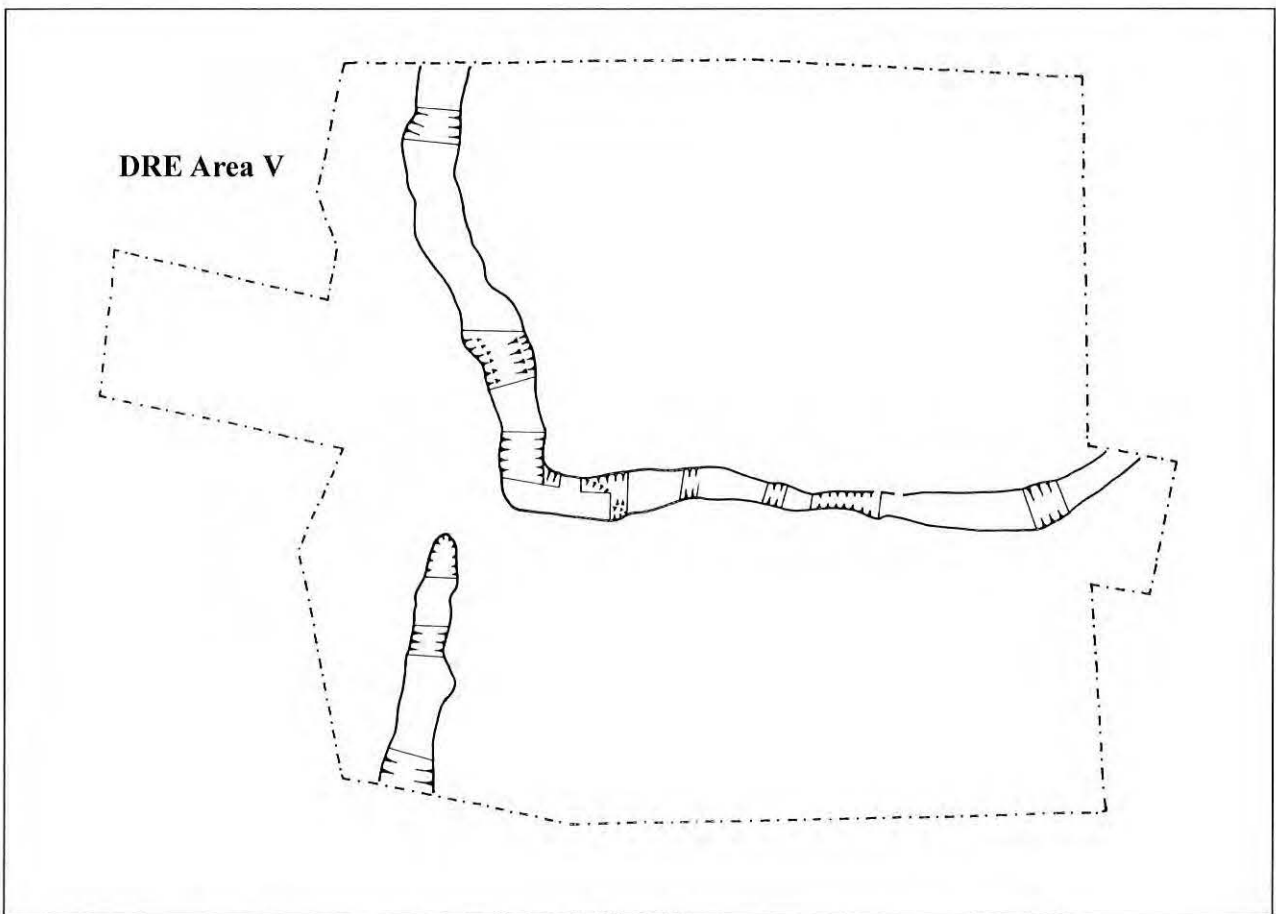
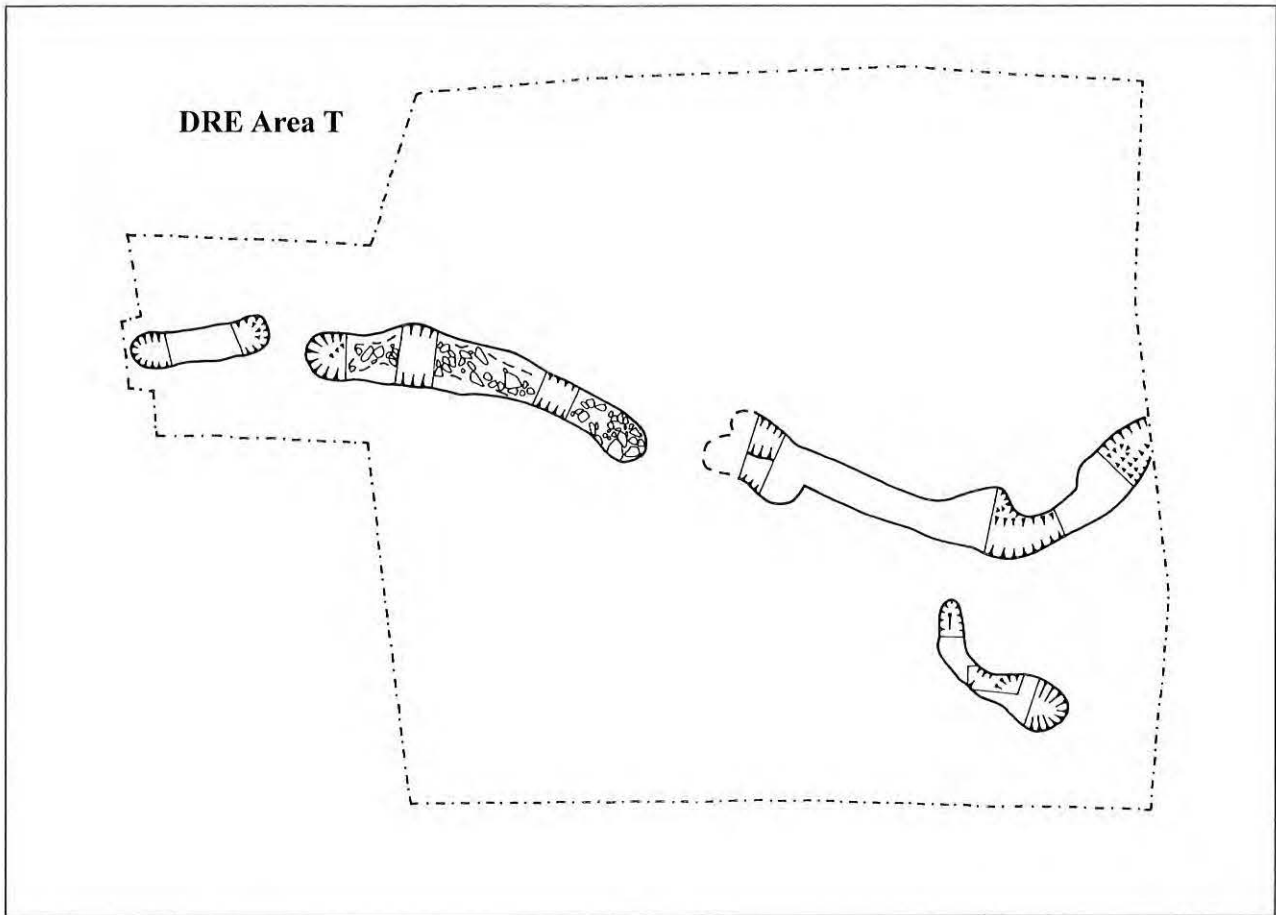


Fig. 11. Plan of Area W (Scale 1:500)





0 10m

Fig. 12 Plans of Areas T and V (Scale 1:250)

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