

**Studley House,
Hemsworth**

Archaeological Evaluation

October 1996



**West Yorkshire
Archaeology Service**

Studley House, Hemsworth (HSH 96)

Archaeological Evaluation

by Charlie Morris and Antony Francis

Contents

1. Summary
2. Introduction
3. Method
4. Results of Excavation
5. Discussion
6. Conclusion

Acknowledgements

References

1. Summary

Client

PM Saxton
Saxton and Ward
116-118 Golden Smithy House
Golden Smithies Lane
Wrath-upon-Dearne
Rotherham
S63 7EP

Project Supervision

Project Management: Colm Maloney BA MIFA
Excavation Supervisors: Charlie Morris BA
Antony Francis BSc

Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits, in order that an informed planning decision could be made about future development of the site.

Results and Conclusion

Archaeological features were concentrated along the east side of the site, in trenches 5, 9, 10, 16, 18, 31 and 32. A number of ditches and pits was identified, some corresponding with similar features identified in an excavation in 1994. The interpretation of the 1994 excavation that the southeast part of the site was used for industrial activity was confirmed. The little dating evidence recovered suggested a Roman date for features in trenches 10 and 16.

The rest of the site was archaeologically sterile.

2. Introduction

The large, irregular-shaped site lay to the north, east and south of Marsh Whin Farm. The site was centred at SE 440 140. The northern part of the site was cut by Royd Moor Lane; the eastern part of the site lay along the Hemsworth bypass.

Excavations prior to the construction of the bypass (Morris 1995) identified a number of features of archaeological interest. The northernmost site, Site A, revealed the entrance to a ditched enclosure as well as stake and post-holes, small pits and gulleys. The relatively large amount of second to third century Roman pottery recovered from the site suggested a domestic nature for the site, or the proximity of a domestic settlement.

The southernmost site, Site C, revealed the corner of a ditched enclosure with post-holes and small and large pits. One of the features yielded slag fragments and locally-produced pottery dating from the second to fourth century AD.

The geology of the site consisted of clay subsoil overlying Coal Measure shales.

3. Method

Archaeological work took place for two weeks in each of the months of April and September 1996, in advance of coal opencasting. Thirty three trenches were excavated by machine using a wide, toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were generally 50m long and 2m wide. Archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and recorded to normal archaeological standards.

4. Results of Excavation

Note: only those trenches containing archaeological deposits are described here.

Trench 5

The north part of Trench 5 was dominated by two ditches running almost parallel with the trench, both returning east or terminating in a butt end to form a possible entrance, perhaps to an enclosure. One of the ditches was recut. A number of pits occupied the central part of the trench, while the south part showed no evidence of archaeological activity.

Ditch 5005 occupied the north part of the trench. It was 0.40m deep and had two fills consisting of mid brownish grey silty clays (5007, 5006). Its south end terminated in a butt end, but was truncated by a ditch (5003) running NW-SE whose south end returned east. Ditch 5003 was 0.50m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with brownish grey silty clay (5004).

The north end of a NE-SW running ditch (5008) also appeared to terminate in a butt end, although in the limited exposure it was impossible to be certain that the ditch did not return east to run parallel with ditch 5003 here. The ditch was 0.75m deep with steep, straight sides

and a flat base. It was filled with a grey-orange clay (5009).

A number of pits were located along the east side of ditch 5008. A circular, 0.54m diameter pit (5011) was 0.17m deep. It had a shallowly curved profile and was filled with pale grey silty clay (5010). A 1.2m diameter circular pit (5012) was 0.5m deep and filled with a succession of merging pale grey to white clays (5016,5017,5018,5022). Pit 5012, which may have been a natural feature, was cut to the south by an irregular-shaped pit (5013), 0.70m in diameter and 0.32m deep. Pit 5013 was filled with grey clays (5014,5015) with occasional small stones. South of this, a roughly circular 1.5m diameter pit (5000) was 0.5m deep. Its sides sloped steeply to a flat base, and it was filled with light grey silty sandy clay (5001) and mid-brown orange silty clay (5002). No finds were recovered from Trench 5.

Trench 9

The east end of Trench 9 was occupied by three roughly circular pits along the south edge of the trench. The shallowness of the pits and the nature of their fills suggested they may have been natural features. However, their close proximity and their location in a line may indicate they were archaeological in nature.

The easternmost of the pits (9000) was 0.12m deep with shallow sides. It was filled with mottled orange, grey and dark brown clay (9001). The central of the pits (9002) was only 0.09m deep with shallow sides. It was filled with mottled orange-grey clay (9003). The westernmost pit (9004) also had shallow sides and was 0.15m deep. It was filled with mottled orange, grey and dark brown clay (9005). No finds were recovered from Trench 9.

Trench 10

The north part of Trench 10 was occupied by four ditches. Two of these, running N-S, terminated in butt ends which seemed to form a 2m wide entrance, perhaps to an enclosure. The southern of these ditches cut two parallel E-W running ditches.

The northernmost ditch (10001) ran N-S along the west edge of the trench from the northwest corner. Ditch 10001 was 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep and its south end terminated in a butt end. It had steep sides and a rounded base and was filled with orange-grey silty clay (10000) from which Roman pottery was recovered. South of this, a ditch (10002) ran roughly NW-SE, its north end also terminating in a butt end. Its sides sloped steeply to a rounded base. The ditch was 1.0m wide and 0.4m deep. Its upper fill (10008) consisted of mid-brown clay silt with moderate sandstone fragments, its lower fill (10009) consisted of yellow brown clay silt with occasional sandstone fragments. Roman pottery - including mortaria sherds - were recovered from the upper fill.

Ditch 10002 cut two E-W running ditches. The northern of these ditches (10003) was 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep. Its irregular profile consisted of a south edge the upper part of which sloped shallowly with an abrupt break of slope to form the vertical lower part. The north edge was vertical. The base of the ditch sloped to the north and contained a semicircular depression suggestive of a butt end. The ditch was filled with a succession of clay silts (10004,10005, 10006,10007) varying in colour from black to brownish yellow.

The southern of the ditches (10011) cut by ditch 10002 was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Its sides sloped shallowly to a rounded base. The ditch was filled with dark brown silty clay

(10010) with frequent coal flecks.

Trench 16

The south part of Trench 16 was occupied by a ditch (16008) running roughly N-S, curving slightly to the west. This substantial ditch was 1.6m wide and 1.0m deep. Its sides sloped steeply to a basal drainage gully. The upper fill of the ditch consisted of a grey-brown mottled clay (16009) with occasional reddened stone and charcoal flecks. Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit. Orange-grey mottled clay lay along the north and south edges of the ditch (16011 and 16010 respectively), and the basal gully was filled with grey-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks (16012).

A feature (16001/16003) in the north of the trench filled with yellow silty clays (16002, 16004, 16005) appeared to be an animal burrow. Near to this, a 0.13m deep oval pit (16006) was filled with yellow grey silty clay (16007).

Trench 18

Trench 18 contained two ditches and a pit.

In the north part of the trench, a ditch (18011) ran NW-SE. It was 1.05m deep, its SW edge sloping shallowly at the top, becoming much steeper lower down. Its base was flat. Its NE edge, beyond the east section of the trench, was not exposed. Ditch 18011 contained three fills: the upper fill (18012) consisted of grey-brown silty sand; the central fill (18013) consisted of grey-brown sandy clay; and the basal fill (18014) of grey-orange clay. All the fills contained moderate small sandstone fragments and iron panning.

A feature identified as a possible pit (18009) was most likely to have been simply the continuation of the southwest edge of ditch 18011. Despite careful excavation, no difference between the fills of the features was evident, although there was a greater concentration of reddened medium-sized stones and some iron slag in the area of the possible pit.

In the south part of the trench, a ditch (18004) ran E-W. This ditch was 0.5m deep with fairly shallowly sloping sides and a V-shaped base. Its two fills consisted of yellow-brown silty sandy clay (18006) overlying a primary fill of yellow-orange sandy clay (18005). Both fills contained occasional reddened sandstone.

Further south, an irregular pit (18000) with shallowly-sloping sides was 0.3m deep. Its three fills consisted of yellow-brown silty sand (18001) and sandy clay (18002), both containing reddened sandstone fragments and charcoal, and a basal fill of yellow-orange sandy clay (18003) containing iron slag. Parts of the base of the feature were discoloured pink - presumably heat-affected.

Trench 31

The very shallow NE-SW running features (31000-31002) regularly spaced at 11m apart and filled with brown clay (31003-31005) were the remains of ridge and furrow.

In the south part of the trench a 0.9m deep ditch (31006) ran N-S. The upper edges of this ditch were shallow, especially on the north side. Further down, the edges sloped almost vertically to a rounded base. The upper fill of the ditch consisted of grey-brown silty clay

(31007) with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. The lower fill consisted of orange-grey clay (31008) with occasional sandstone fragments.

Trench 32

The features in Trench 32 were concentrated in the south part of the trench. They consisted of two pits containing much iron slag, and a ditch running E-W which cut one of the pits. A very shallow E-W running feature (32005) filled with brown sandy clay (32004) was probably the remains of ridge and furrow.

The E-W running ditch (32003) was 0.45m deep with fairly steep sides and a rounded base. Its single fill (32001) consisted of grey-orange sandy clay with occasional iron slag pieces. The ditch cut the north edge of a circular pit (32002). This pit was 0.30m deep with vertical sides. Its upper fill (32000) consisted of a rusty brown material marbled with light grey sandy clay; much iron slag was recovered from this fill. The lower fill of the pit, a lens of orange-grey sandy clay, lay along the south edge of the pit. Both features were cut by a modern field drain.

A smaller pit (32007) was located to the south of this. This pit was an irregular rectangle in plan. The south part of the pit was very shallow, with a flat base occasionally reddened by heat; the north part was 0.30m deep with steep sides and a rounded profile. The single fill (32008) of the pit consisted of grey silty sand with frequent coal and much iron slag, especially in the deeper north part of the feature.

5. Discussion

The trenches will be discussed from north to south rather than in their numerical order, so that associated features can be considered together. The order of discussion, therefore, will be *Trenches 5 and 31*, *Trench 9*, *Trenches 10 and 16*, and *Trenches 18 and 32*. An attempt will also be made to link the information obtained from this evaluation with that from the excavation in 1994 (C.Morris, 1995). In the 1994 excavation, Site A was located just to the east of Trench 5 and Site C just to the east of Trench 18.

Trenches 5 and 31

In the north part of Trench 5 the south end of ditch 5005 terminated in a butt end. This butt end seemed to form a 2m wide entrance way with the north end of ditch 5008, which either also formed a butt end or returned east beyond the limits of excavation here. At a later date, this entrance way seems to have been modified when ditch 5003 was cut through the fill of ditch 5005. Ditch 5003 was narrower than ditch 5005 and returned east, respecting the line of the possible eastward return of ditch 5008.

There was no indication as to the use of the pits along the east side of ditch 5008. Pit 5012 may have been a natural feature.

The regularly spaced, shallow features in Trench 31 were the remains of ridge and furrow. Ditch 31006, however, may have been a field boundary.

In the 1994 excavation, the major features in Site A consisted of two parallel ditches - M571 and M570 - running E-W, and two ditches - M573 and M572 - on the same N-S line, perhaps

forming an entrance way between them. Site A was c.25m east of Trench 5 and c.40m northeast of Trench 31, so any attempt to link these ditches with those revealed during the present work is problematical. However, some comparisons can be made. Ditch M572 was on approximately the same line as ditch 31006, although its profile was different, ditch M572 being shallower with a flat base. It is possible therefore that ditch M572 was the continuation NE of ditch 31006. Similarly, ditch M571 was on approximately the same line as the eastward return of ditch 5003 and the possible eastward return of ditch 5008. Of these two, the profile and the depth of ditch M571 were more similar to those of ditch 5008 than those of ditch 5003. Therefore ditch M571 may be the continuation east of the possible eastward return of ditch 5008.

Trench 9

The pits in Trench 9 were likely to have been natural features. However, their proximity and alignment hints that they may have been archaeological in nature.

Trenches 10 and 16

It was difficult to relate the features in Trenches 10 and 16. In Trench 10, the butt ends of ditches 10001 and 10003 seemed to form a 5m wide entrance. This arrangement post-dated two parallel E-W ditches, 10003 and 10011. In Trench 16, ditch 16008 ran roughly parallel to ditches 10001 and 10003, perhaps suggesting that it was part of the same field system. Ditch 16008 was certainly a substantial field boundary.

Feature 16001/16003 was an animal burrow.

Trenches 18 and 32

In the south parts of the trenches, ditch 18004 was the same as ditch 32003, perhaps a field boundary or a ditch marking the southern extent of the enclosure identified in Site C of the 1994 excavation. The finds of significant amounts of iron slag in pits 32002 and 32007 indicates that these features were certainly associated with some kind of industrial activity, perhaps iron smelting or iron working. No slag was recovered from pit 18000, but the presence of heat-affected stones seems to indicate this pit too was associated with such activity. Iron slag and heat-affected stones were also recovered from pit 18009 further north. These features confirm the interpretation of the 1994 excavation that some sort of industrial activity was taking place in this area.

Significantly, ditch 32003 cut pit 32002. If the ditch was in fact part of the enclosure identified in Site C, then this indicates that industrial activity was taking place in this area prior to the construction of the enclosure. The fact that the area of industrial activity identified in Site C appeared to be bounded by the enclosure ditches also suggests that this activity continued after the enclosure was constructed. Indeed, the construction of the enclosure may have been to mark out this area of industrial activity, to formalise the area in which the industrial activity was already taking place.

It was difficult to relate the ditches in Trenches 18 and 32 with those in Site C. However, ditch M072 may have turned northwest to form ditch 18011. The profile of ditch 18011 was in fact remarkably similar to that of ditch M072, with its shallowly sloping edges at the top of its profile, becoming much sharper lower down, and its flat base. An explanation of why the ditch might change direction in this way, however, is more problematical.

6. Conclusion

Archaeological features were concentrated along the east side of the site. The rest of the site was archaeologically sterile.

In Trench 5 two ditches terminating in butt ends appeared to form an entrance way which was modified at a later date. The eastward return of a ditch in Trench 5, and the deep ditch in nearby Trench 31, seemed to correspond to ditches identified in Site A to the east, excavated in 1994.

In Trench 10 two ditches forming a 5m wide entrance post-dated two parallel E-W ditches. A possible boundary ditch in Trench 16 may have been part of the same field system.

Ditches identified in Trenches 18 and 32 may have been part of the enclosure identified in Site C excavated in 1994, although one of the ditches was on a different alignment. The presence of pits containing iron slag and heat-affected stone confirmed the interpretation made in 1994 that this area was used for industrial activity. This activity may have pre-dated the enclosure, but continued after the enclosure was constructed.

Acknowledgements

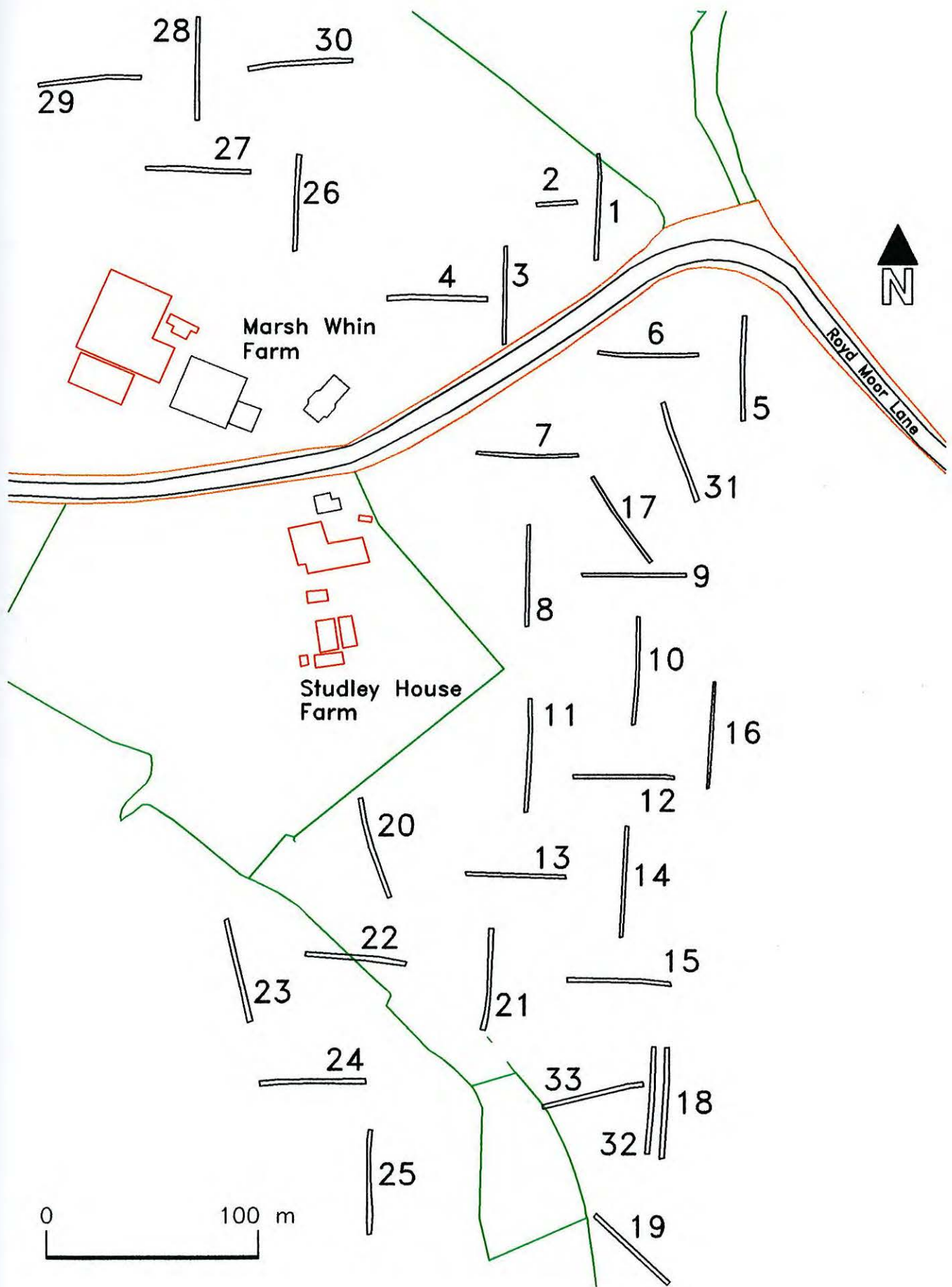
Report: A.Francis BSc

Fieldwork: A.Bailey
K.Brown BA
A.Francis BSc
A.Hunter-Blair
P.McNaught
C.Morris BA
P.Robinson BA
J.Sleap
K.Speight

Illustrations: H.Boyd

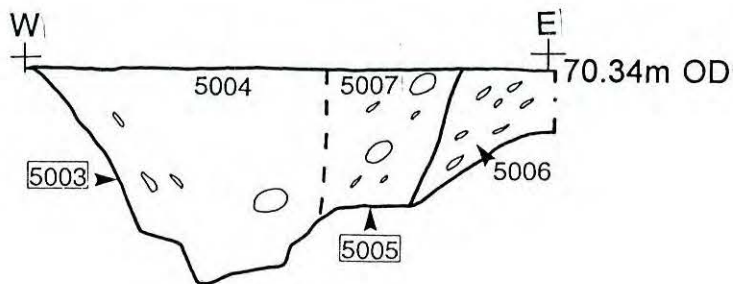
References

Morris, C., 1995, *Archaeological Excavations at Hemsworth*, unpublished WYAS report.

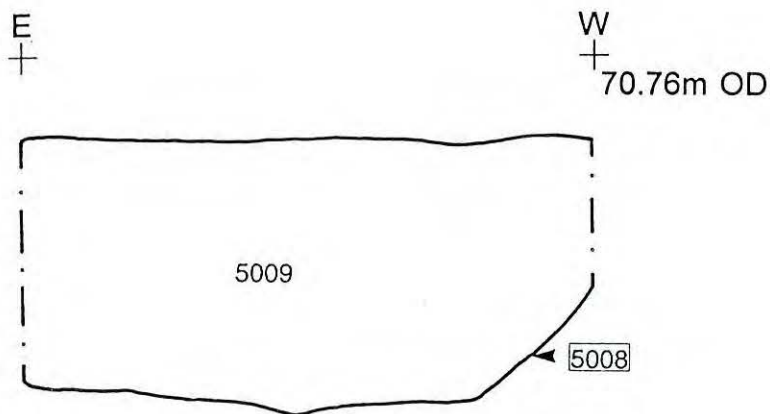


Trench location plan .

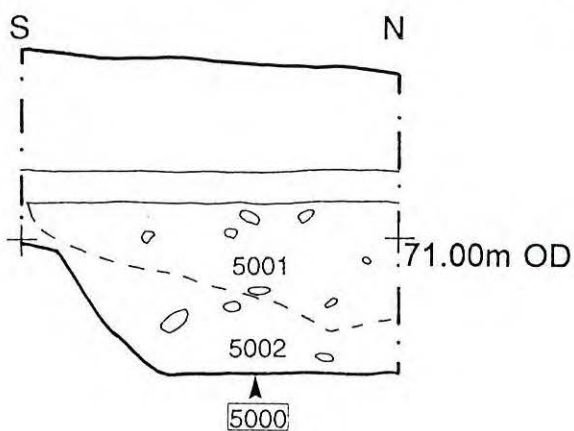
Trench 5
Section 3



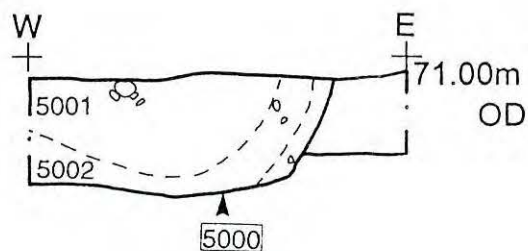
Section 5



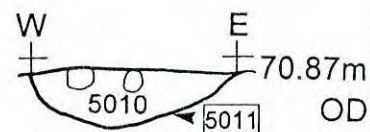
Section 6



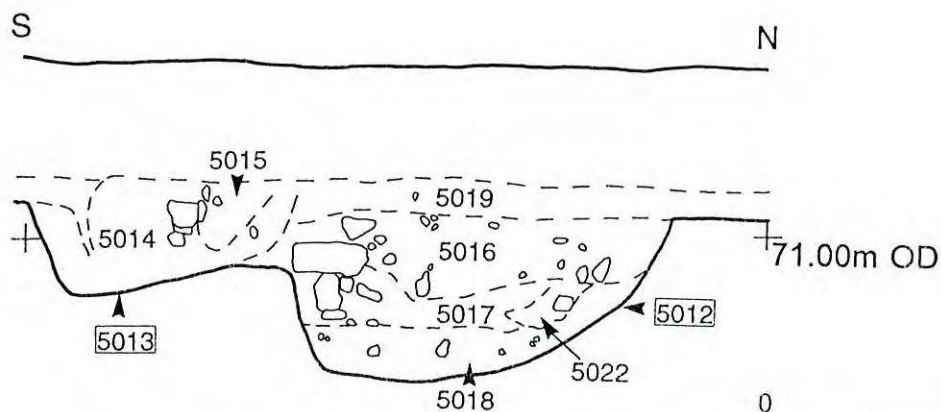
Section 7



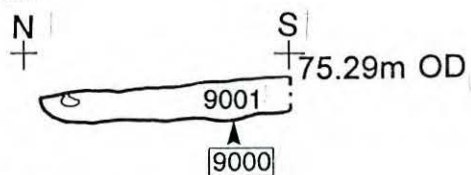
Section 9



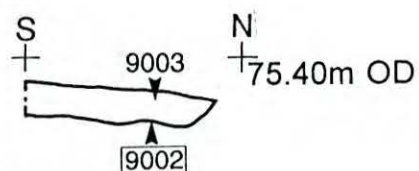
Section 16



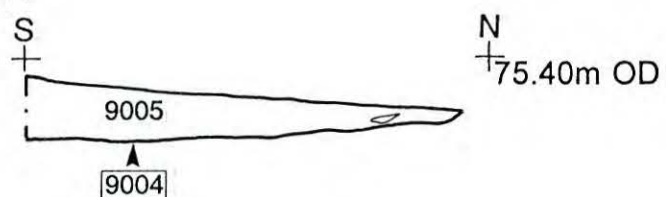
Trench 9
Section 12



Section 13

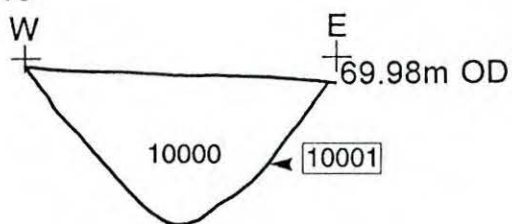


Section 14

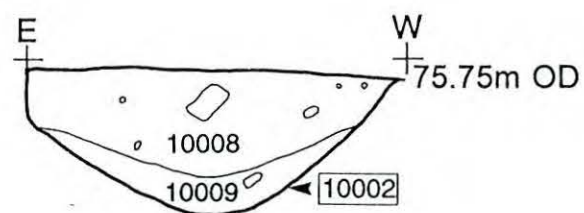


Trench 10

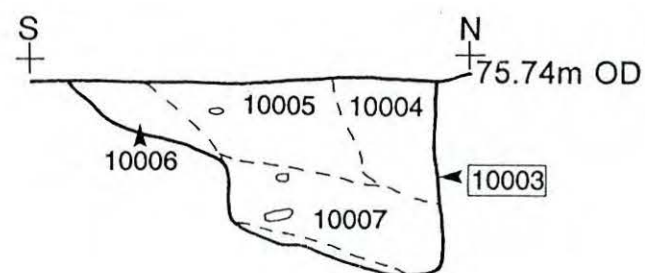
Section 19



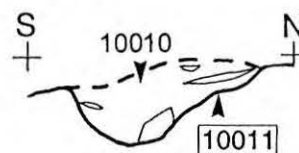
Section 21



Section 22

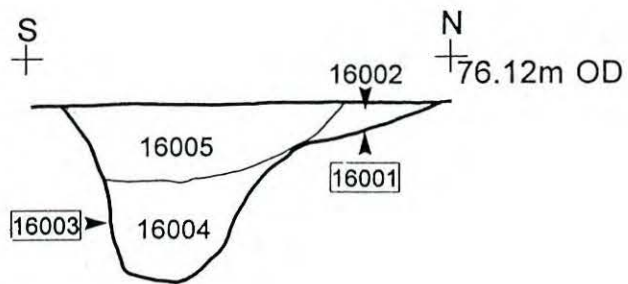


Section 51

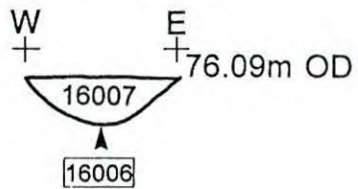


Trench 16

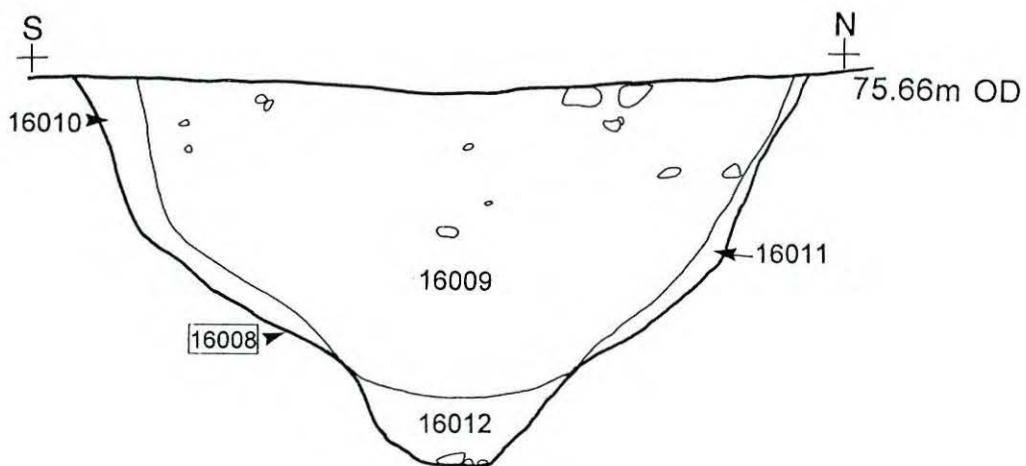
Section 23



Section 24



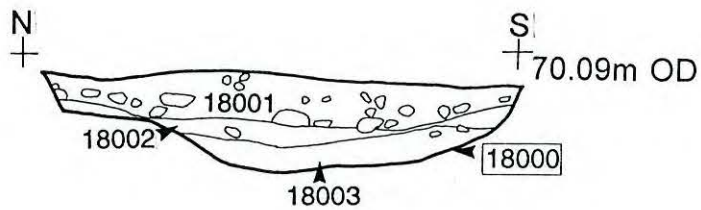
Section 26



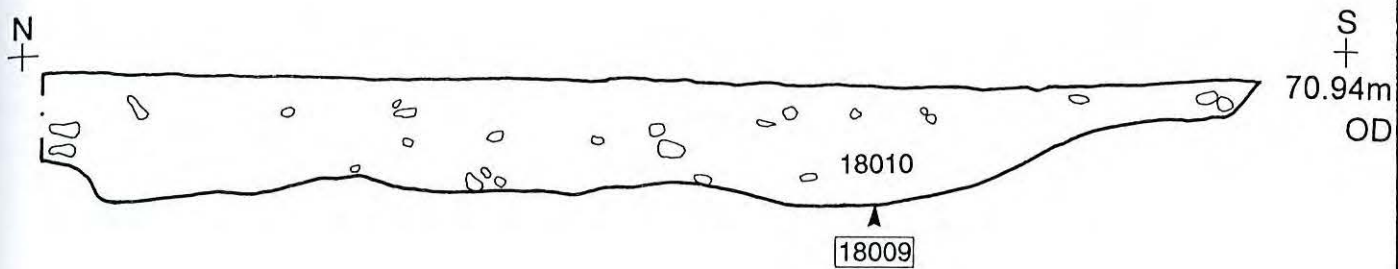
0 1m

Trench 18

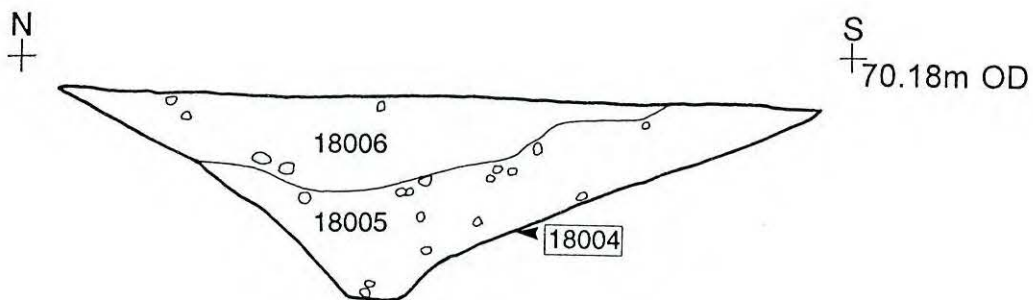
Section 37



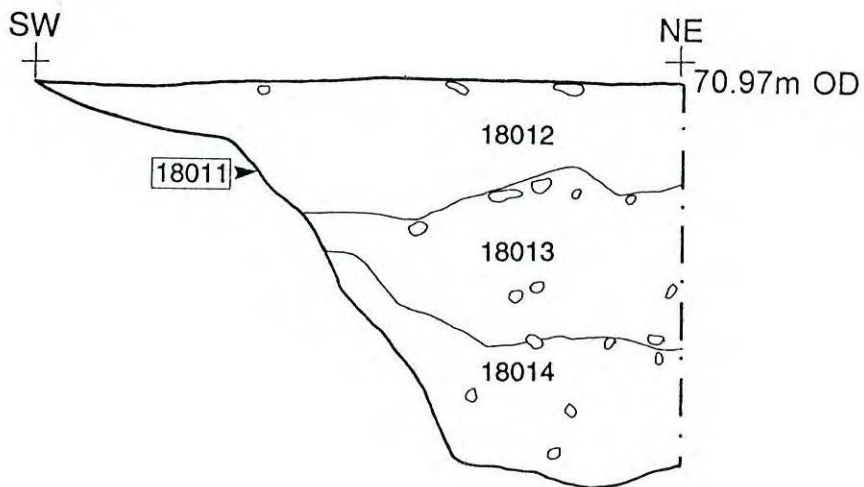
Section 39



Section 40



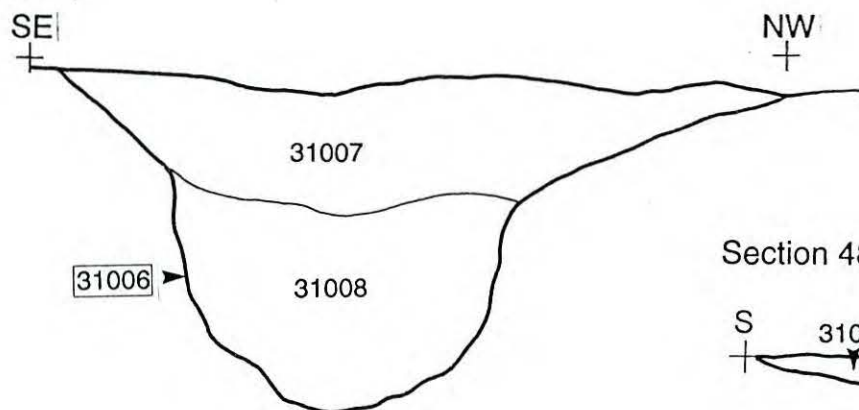
Section 41



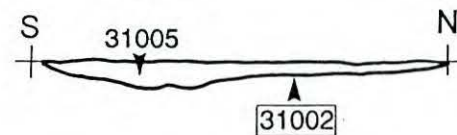
0 1m

Trench 31

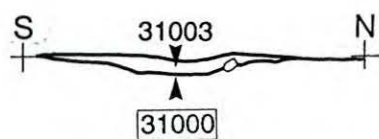
Section 42



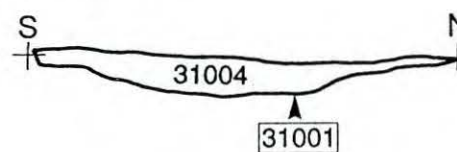
Section 48



Section 50

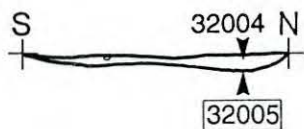


Section 49

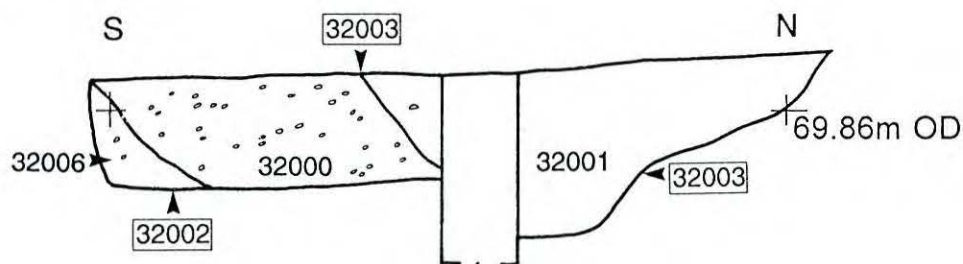


Trench 32

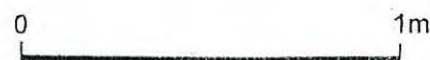
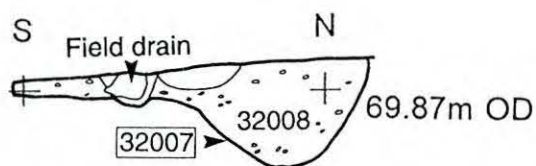
Section 31



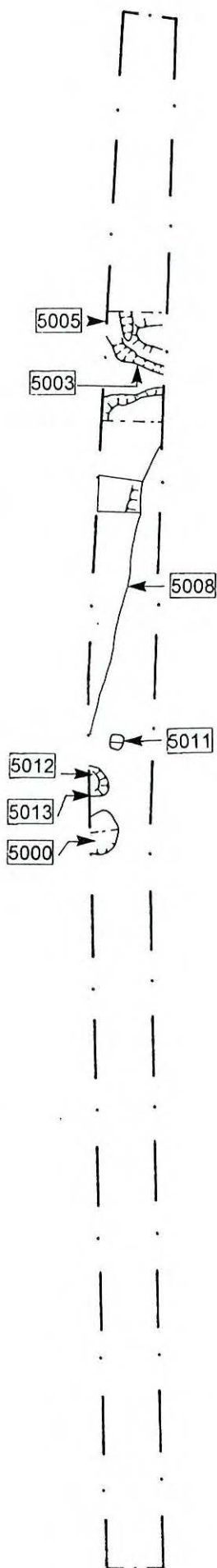
Section 32



Section 33

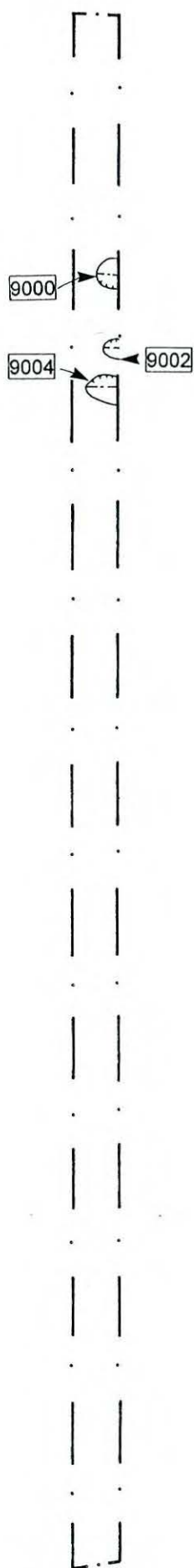


Trench 5



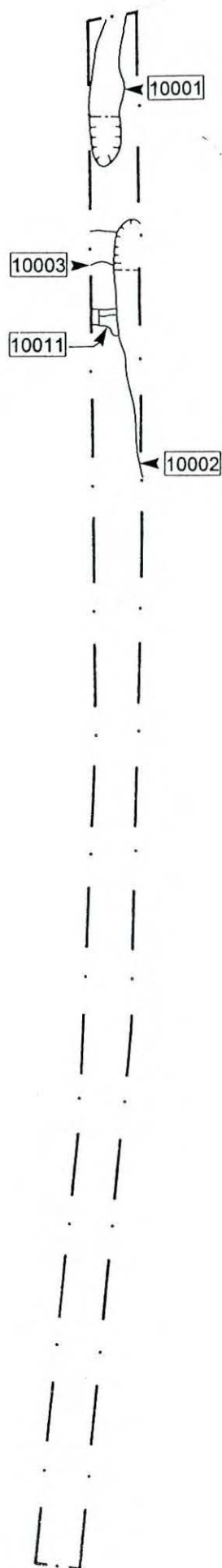
0 10m

Trench 9



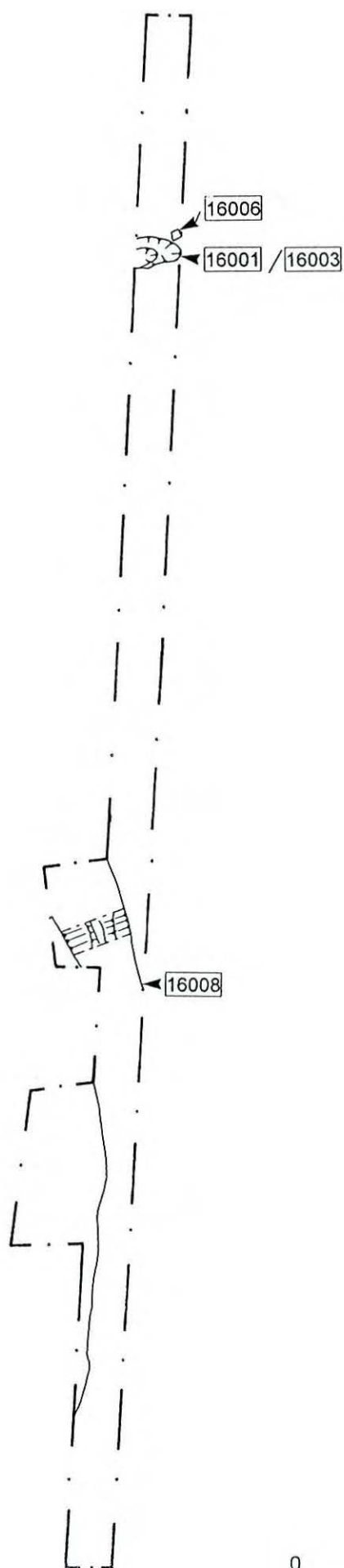
0 10m

Trench 10

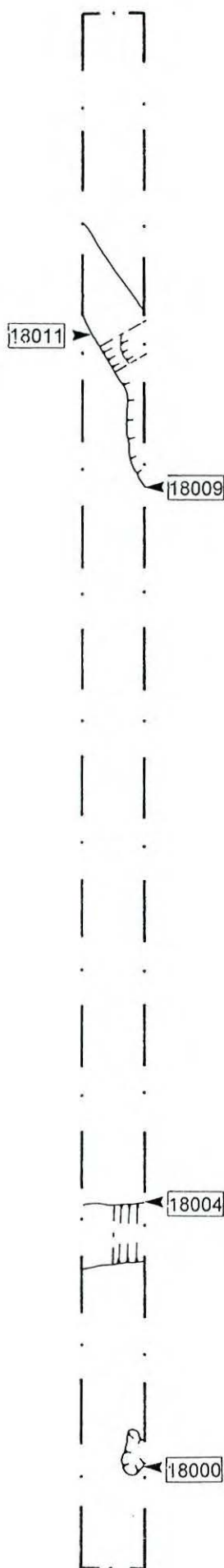


0 10m

Trench 16

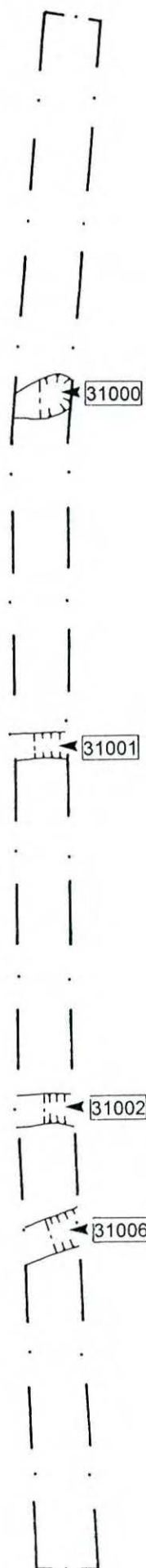


Trench 18



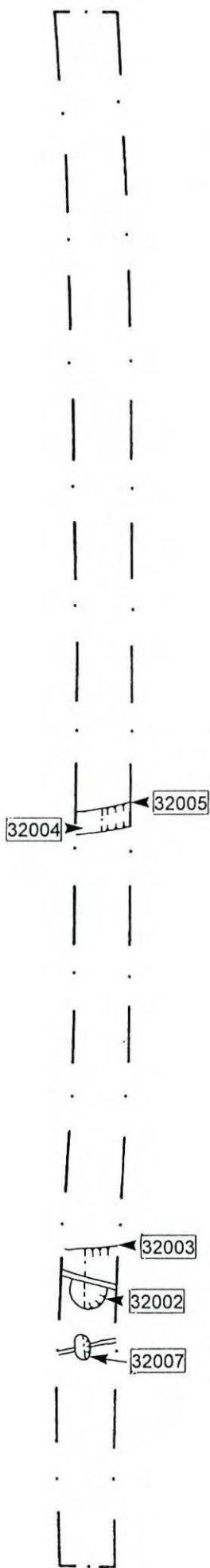
0 10m

Trench 31



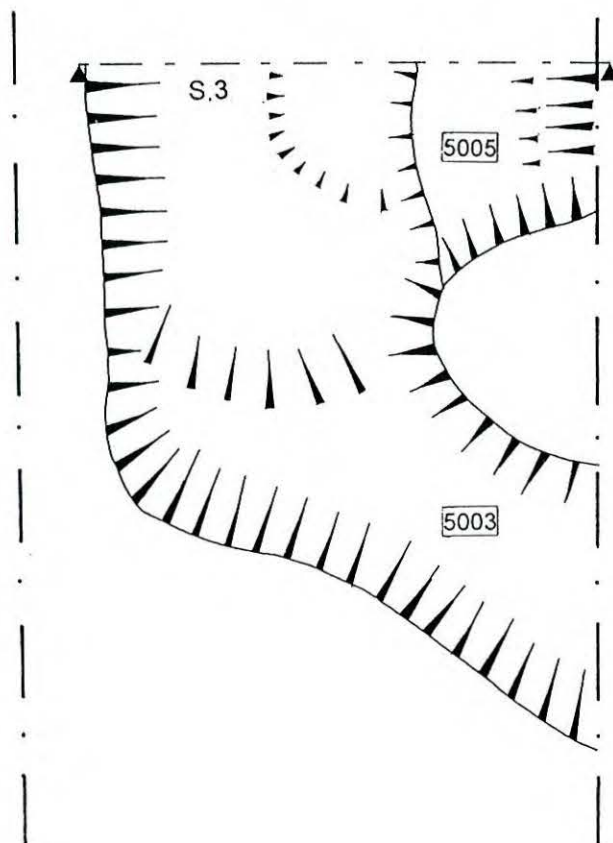
0 10m

Trench 32



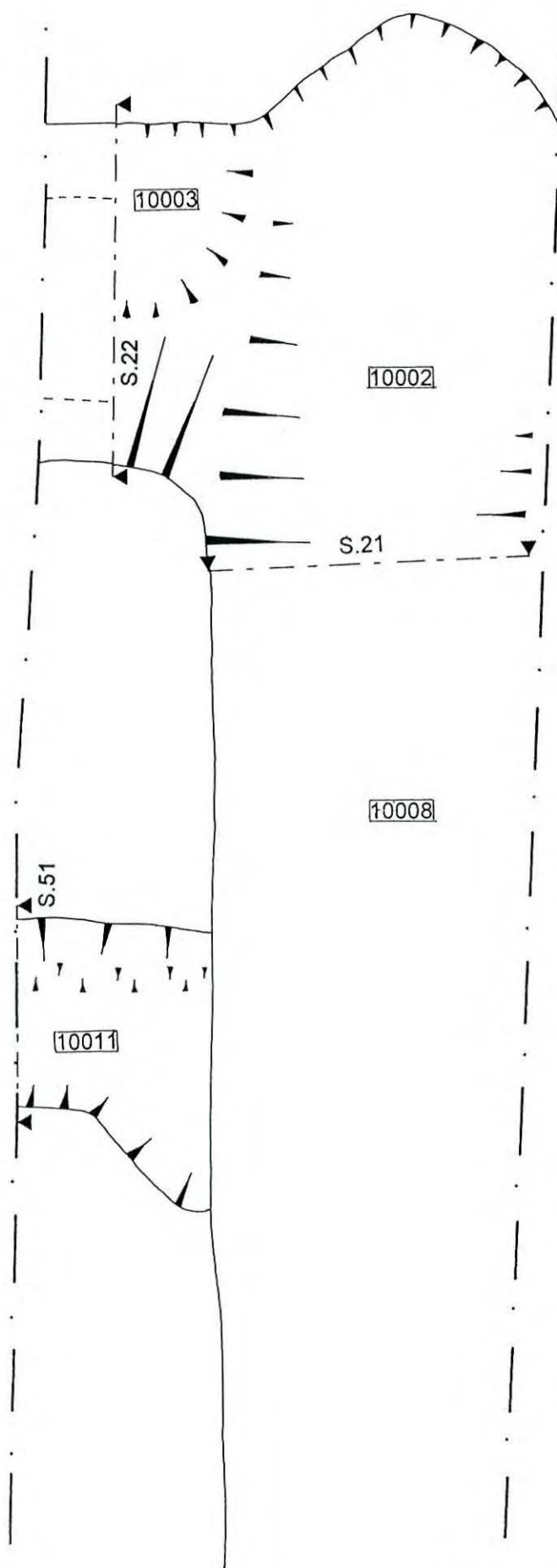
0 10m

Trench 5



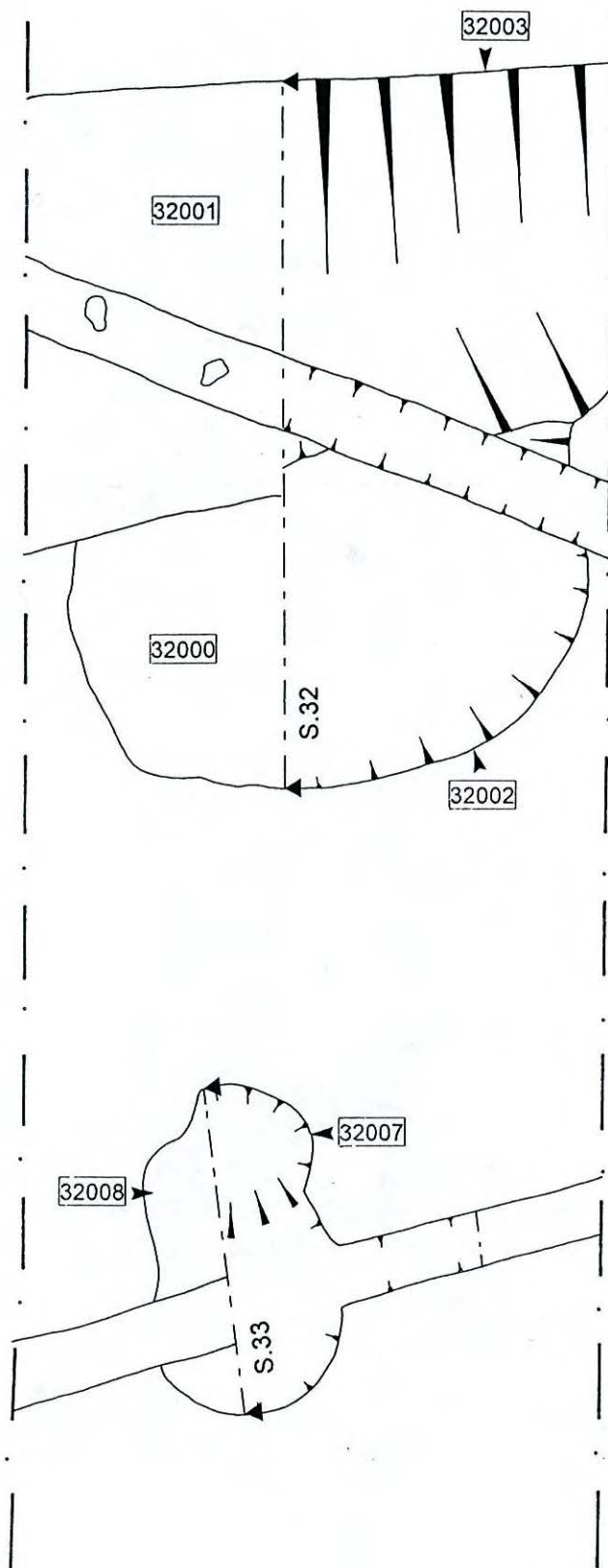
0 1m

Trench 10



0 1m

Trench 32



0 1m