

Site 5

Site 5 was excavated in order to examine the point at which the proposed Pumping Mam route intersects with a system of triple-ditched cropmarks, 'Norton Three Dikes', SMR 3000 13. The site is situated at SE 8087 7072 (fig 10). The elevation is c 23.5m AOD. The geology is glacial sands and gravels, with overlying soils of the Landbeach Association.

The modern topsoil (context 60), and a 'subsoil' layer (context 61), was removed by machine from 2m wide trench, 23m in length.

Excavation Results

Three parallel, north-south linear features were revealed, ditch cut segments 80, 95 and 102. All three were cut into the silty sand natural.

Ditch cut segment 95 (figs 12 and 13) was the most western of the three ditches. The width at the top was 3.6m. The rounded-V profile gave a depth of 0.70m. There were seven fills, contexts 78, 81, 82, 91, 92, 93 and 94.

Context 94 was a light olive brown sandy silt situated at the base of the western edge of the cut. Context 92 was similar to 94, and was situated at the base of the eastern edge of the ditch. Context 91, comprising a brown silty clay loam, occupied the centre of the base of the cut, above 92 and 94. 94 was also overlain by context 93, a deposit of pale brown fine sandy silt, present along the western edge of the cut.

Context 82 stratigraphically overlies both 91 and 93, and comprised a brown clayey silt. 82 did not occupy the full width of the cut, being absent along the western edge. The upper fill of the ditch, context 78, was above 81, and existed as a brown fine sandy silt.

The central of the three ditch cut segments, ditch cut segment 80 (figs 12 and 13), was situated c 3m east of 95 and 3.5m west of 102. The width at the top was 3.2m. The broad-U profile had a depth of 0.7m, and was slightly deeper along the western edge. There were nine fills, contexts 79, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 90.

Context 87 was situated at the base of the western edge of the ditch and consisted of brownish yellow sandy silt. A gravelly deposit of brownish yellow silty sand, context 86, was above 87. There were no finds.

The central and eastern part of the base of the ditch was filled by context 90, a pale brown fine sandy silt. Context 89 overlies 90 and comprised a light olive brown fine sandy silt. 89 became shallower at its eastern end, where it was covered by context 88, a pale brown silty medium sand.

Context 85 was situated above 87, near the base of the ditch, and existed as a light yellowish brown silty fine sand. Context 84, a deposit of light olive brown silty sand, occurred above 85.

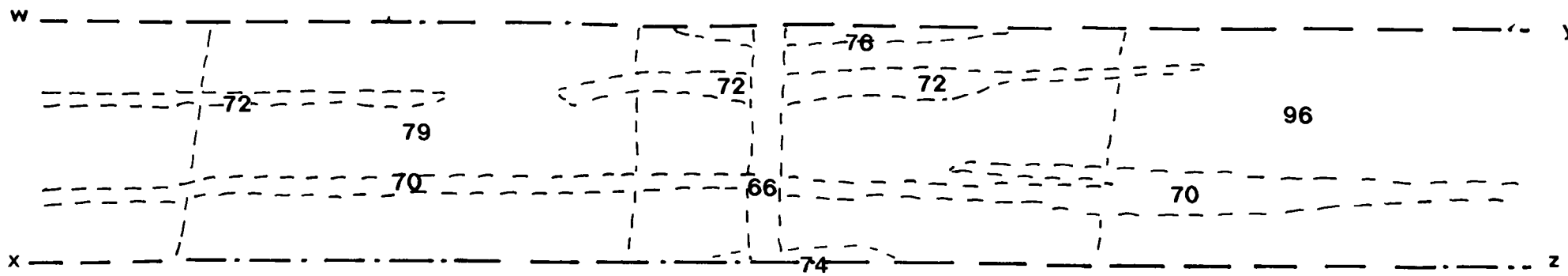
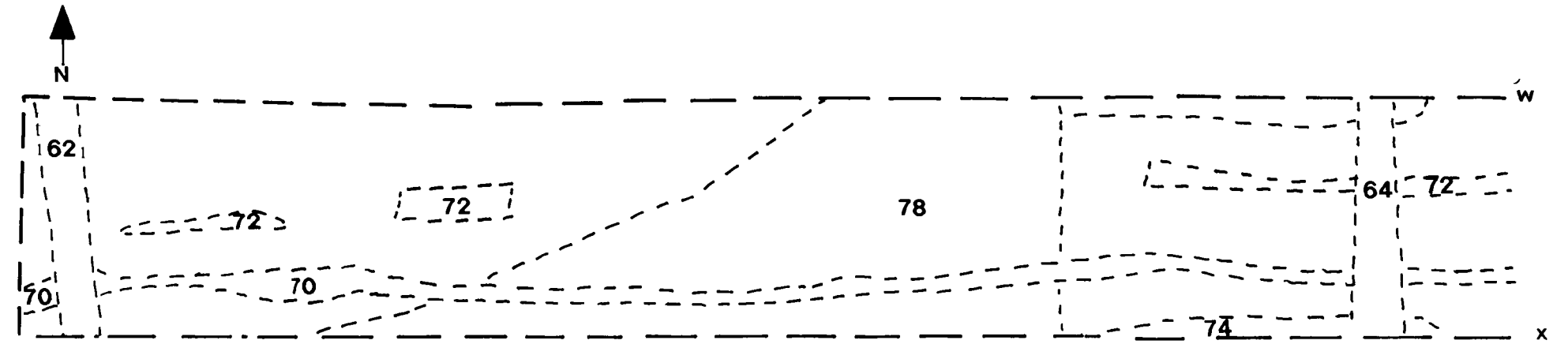


Figure 11 – Site 5, pre-excavation Plan

84 and 88 were covered by context 83, a light yellowish brown silty medium sand with moderate gravel content. A brown sandy silt, context 79, filled the top of the ditch segment.

The eastern ditch segment, ditch cut segment 102 (figs 12 and 14), was situated 3.5m east of the 80. 102 had a width at the top of 3.5m. The broad, rounded profile had a depth of 0.60m. There were six fills, contexts 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 101.

The base of the ditch was filled by context 101, a greyish brown silty sand. Above 101, along the western edge of the ditch, was context 100, with context 99 along the eastern edge. 99 and 100 both consisted of light yellowish brown silty sands. Context 98 overlay 99 and 100, and comprised a light yellowish brown sandy silt. A lens of light grey silty sand, context 97, occupied a concavity in the upper surface of 98. Finally, the entire upper part of the ditch was filled by context 96, a brown fine sandy silt.

The upper fills (contexts 78, 79 and 96) of the ditch cut segments were cut by a series of east-west aligned plough furrows, cuts 71, 73, 75 and 77 (fig 11). These plough furrows were filled with similar light yellowish brown sandy silts, contexts 70, 72, 74 and 76. Context 70, the fill of 71, contained a rimsherd from a Romano-British vessel. The plough furrows were overlain by context 61, a 0.2m deep deposit of brown fine sandy silt. 61 was present over the full width and breadth of the trench, and was cut by a series of modern field drains (contexts 62/63, 64/65, 66/67 and 68/69). The modern ploughsoil, context 60, covered the entire trench above 61.

It can be seen from the narrative above that the three ditch cut segments were filled by a variety of sands and silts, doubtless derived from the erosion of the sandy silt natural deposits into which they were cut.

The central segment was the only one to have a suggestion of a re-cut. Contexts 84 and 85 may represent the fills of a re-cut excavated into contexts 86, 87, 88 and 90. Equally, context 88 might represent a re-cut into contexts 89 and 90. This is only a tentative interpretation, the arrangement of the fills may simply reflect the manner in which the ditch naturally silted up.

It is noteworthy that the top of each cut is filled by similar deposits of brown sandy silt, contexts 78, 79 and 96. Subsequent to the deposition of these three contexts, a phase of ploughing took place, represented by furrow cuts 71, 73, 75 and 77, after, or perhaps during, which built up the 'subsoil' layer, context 61. Modern intensive arable cultivation is indicated by the present ploughsoil, context 60, and the modern system of field drains, cuts 63, 65, 67 and 69.

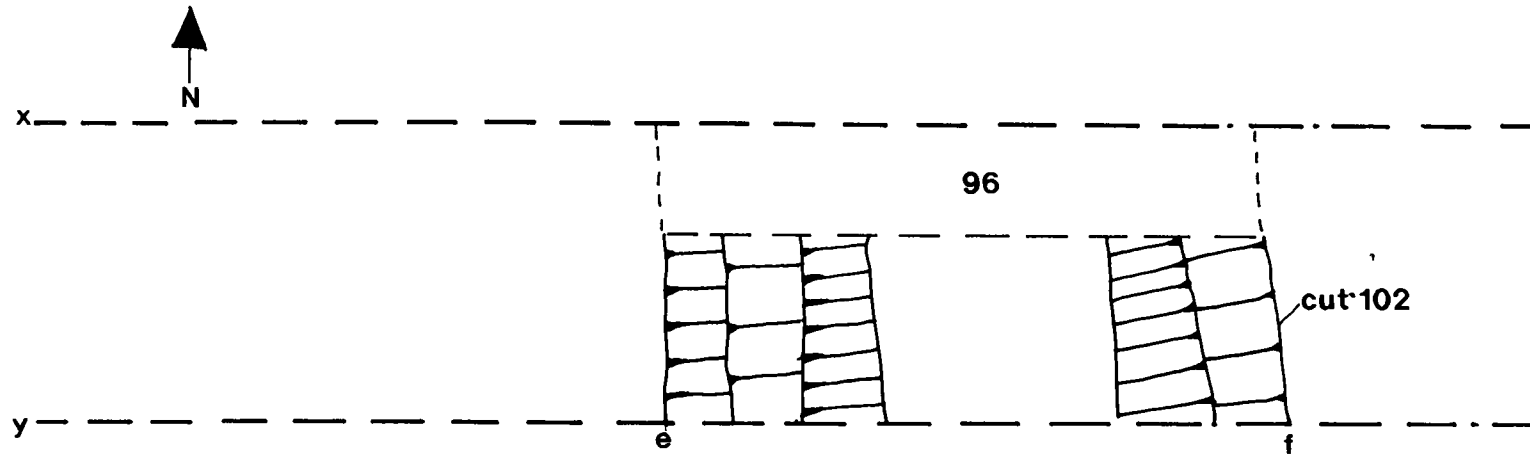
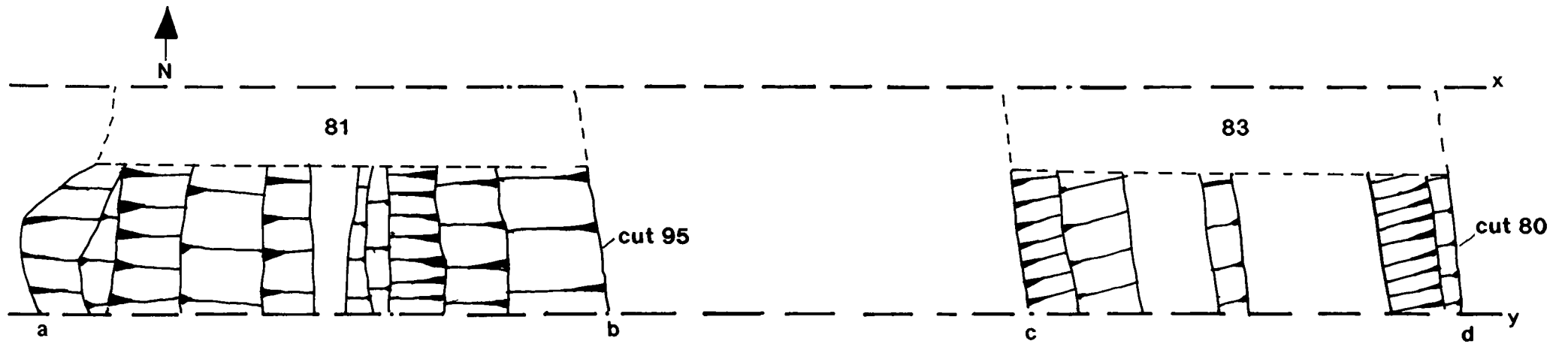
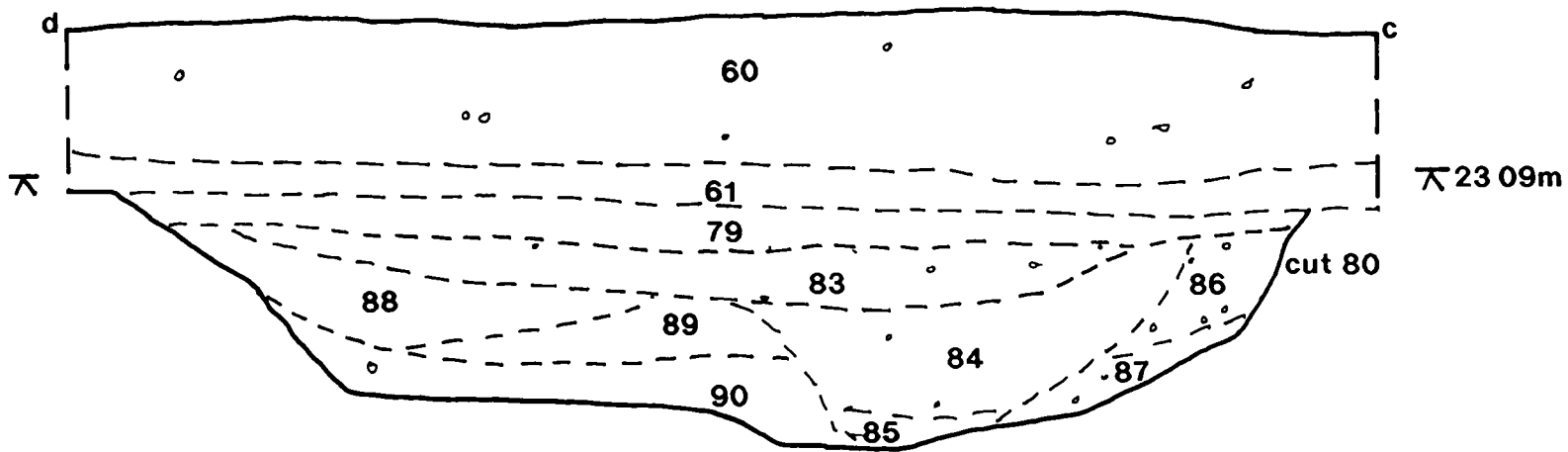


Figure 12 – Site 5, Plans of cuts 80 95 and 102

N-Facing Section cut 80



N-Facing Section cut 95

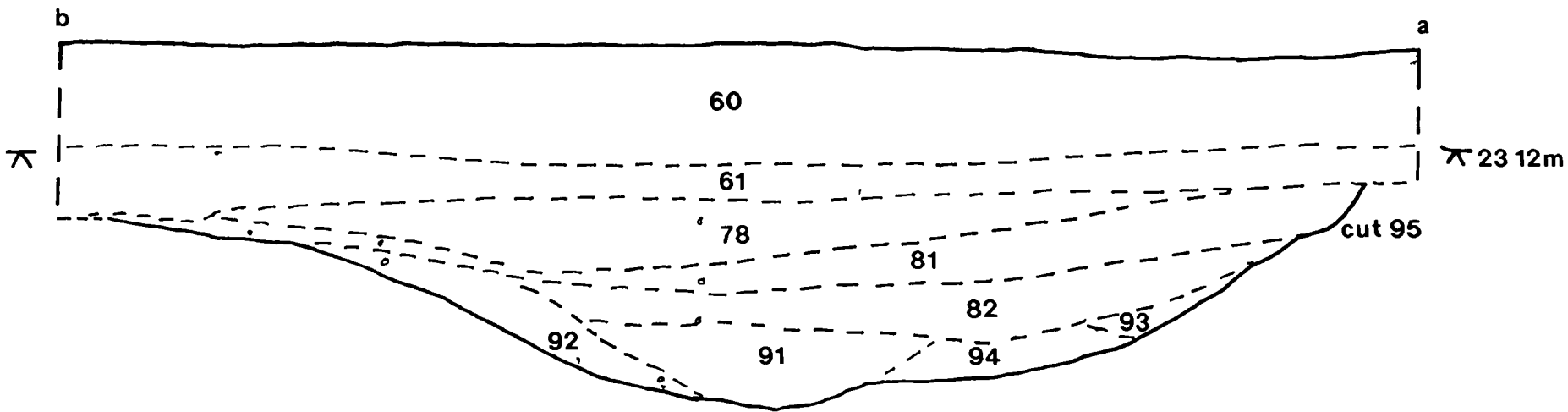


Figure 13 - Site 5, Sections of cuts 80 and 95

N-Facing Section cut 102

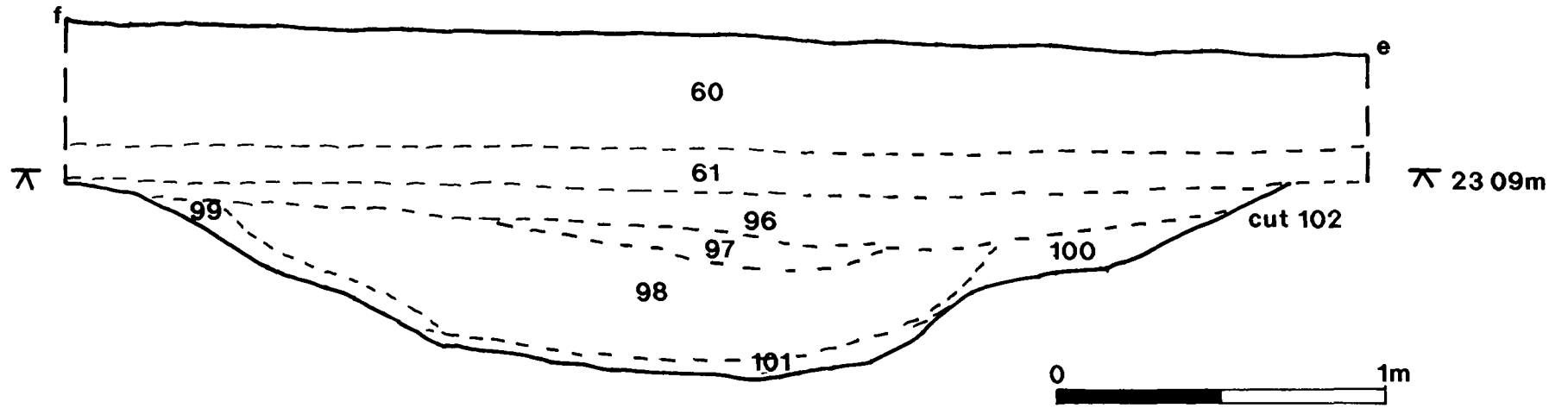


Figure 14 – Site 5, Section of cut 102

Site 6

The purpose of Site 6 was to examine the intersection of the Proposed Pumping Main corridor with a NNW-SSE aligned double-ditched cropmark, SMR 3409. This feature was believed to represent a trackway of Romano-British date (Robinson, no 375), whose line closely followed the enclosure-era field boundary (no longer present).

The site was situated at SE 8068 7065 (fig 10), at an elevation of c 24m AOD. The underlying geology consisted of glacial sands and gravels, with accompanying soils of the Landbeach Association.

A covering of modern ploughsoil was removed by machine from a trench 2m in width and 15m in length.

Excavation Results

A linear feature, linear cut segment 49, was revealed at the western end of the trench, with a number of deposits and a further linear feature, linear cut segment 56, being situated in the central and eastern sector.

Linear cut segment 49 (figs 15 and 16) was 2.6m wide at the top, and had a broad flat-based-V profile with an excavated depth of 0.5m. The single fill was a dark yellowish brown silty sandy loam, context 48.

49 was not fully excavated due to the presence of a later, piped cut, linear cut segment 59 (figs 15 and 16), cutting obliquely across it on a NW-SE alignment. 59 was 0.70m wide. The sides of the cut were vertical, with a depth exceeding 0.50m. The very dark greyish brown sandy silty loam fill (context 58), was excavated to the depth at which a ceramic drainage pipe was encountered.

49 cut into a deposit of yellowish brown medium sand, context 54. This deposit extended for a distance of 7m eastwards, becoming shallower to the east. The maximum depth was 0.25m.

54 overlay context 53 at its eastern end. 53 was a reddish brown layer of fe-panned gravelly silty sand. 54 also overlay two linear deposits, contexts 55 and 56. 55 was a dark yellowish brown sand. 56 was the fill of a shallow linear feature, linear cut segment 57 (figs 15 and 16), which had a width of 0.6m and a broad-U profile with a depth of 0.10m. 56 existed as a brown silty sand, and contained finds of brick fragments and a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment.

Context 52 partly overlaid the eastern end of 54, and comprised a shallow deposit of brown silty medium sand. Stratigraphically above 52, was context 51, a 0.15m deep deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand. A deposit of yellowish silty sand, context 50, was situated above 52.

The modern ploughsoil, context 47, overlay 50, and also 48 and 58, the fills of the linear cut segments at the eastern end of the trench

It can be seen that the excavation showed evidence of two parallel ditches, but this did not represent the Romano-British trackway that was anticipated

The western linear feature, context 49, would appear to represent the ditch of the former enclosure-era field boundary. The later field drain, cut 59, was apparently installed in the 1960s

It is unlikely that the eastern linear feature, context 57, represents anything more than a drainage gully, dated to the post medieval period by the finds from its fill, context 56. The deposition of contexts 54, 52, 51 and 50, over 56, seemingly represents the creation of a ploughing lynchet against the former hedge line

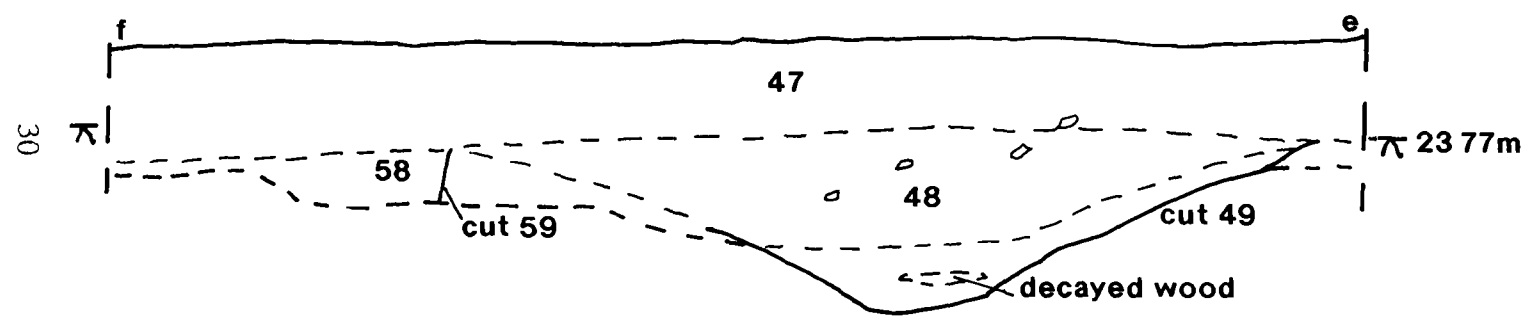
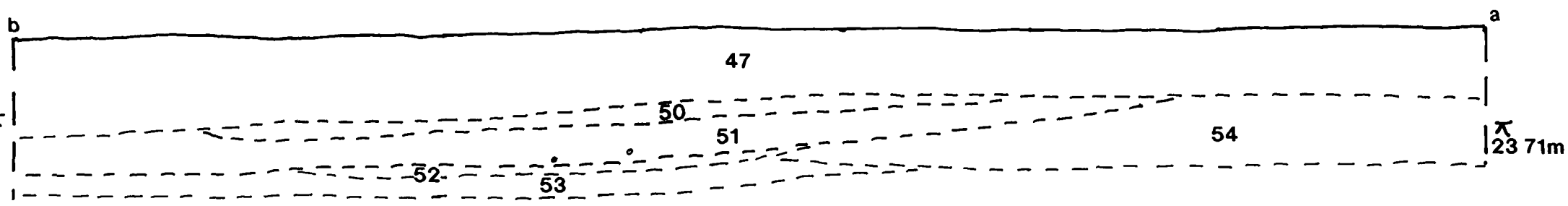
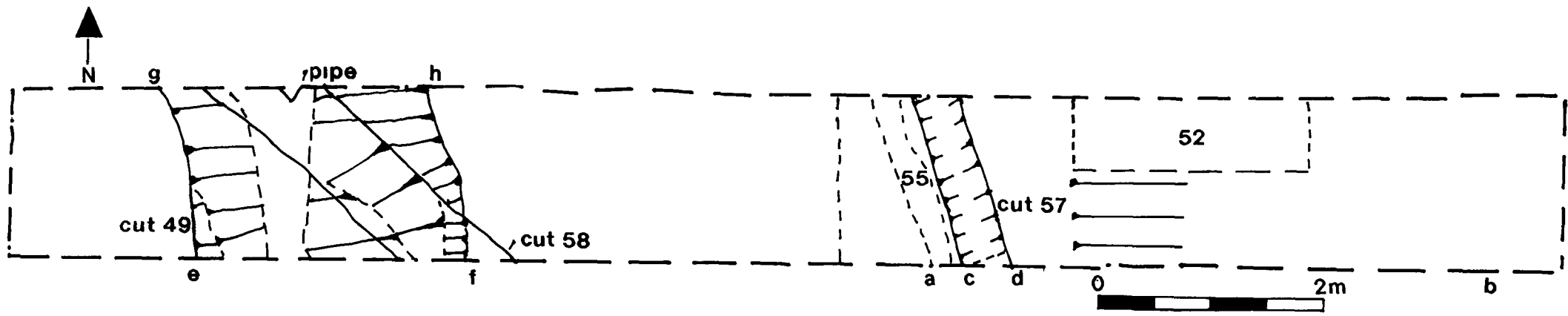
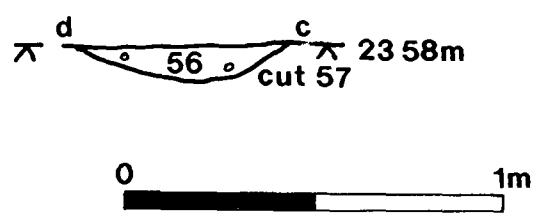


Figure 15 - Site 6, Plan and Sections



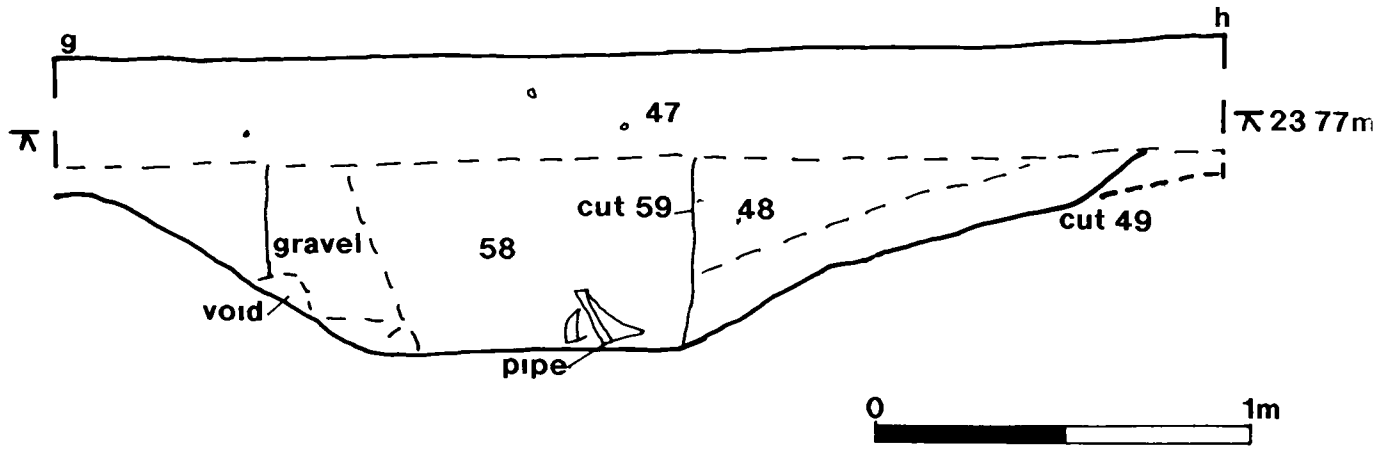


Figure 16 - Site 6, Sections of cuts 49 and 59

Site 7

Site 7 lay adjacent to a complex area of cropmarks consisting of an oval enclosure containing square-ditch and ?round barrows, plus outlying square-ditch barrows and linear features, SMR 3417. The Proposed Pumping Main route passes immediately north of the northern boundary of the oval enclosure, and although there was no evidence that archaeological features existed within the corridor, clearly the area was of great archaeological sensitivity, especially in relation to the possible occurrence of human remains. This called for the archaeological examination of the corridor at this point.

The site is situated between the following grid references, SE 8098 7041 and SE 8045 7049 (fig 10). The elevation is c 26m AOD. The geology is glacial sands and gravels, with a covering of soils of the Landbeach Association.

All archaeological operations were confined to a 10m wide corridor lying immediately south of the existing west-east farm track. The modern ploughsoil (context 103) was removed by tracked excavator using a ditching bucket. The same technique was used to remove a further c 0.6m of 'windblown' sand (context 104) to the point at which archaeological deposits were encountered. The removal of the large amount of spoil involved with the stripping of 104, and the need to incorporate spoil tips within the corridor, meant that only a 4m wide trench, immediately adjoining the track, was available for investigation. The length of the trench was c 275m.

Excavation Results

The earliest remains were those of a north-south ditch, ditch cut segment 124. This ditch had been truncated by a sinuous east-west ditch with a distinctive dark fill (context 114), excavated in three segments, contexts 122, 131, 136. 114 was cut by a later, similarly aligned ditch with a distinctive gravelly fill (context 116), this ditch was excavated in seven segments, contexts 126, 134, 159, 166, 172 and 178.

Later features comprised an east-west gully (segment cuts 109, 111 and 113), a group of postholes (contexts 140-55) and an animal burial (contexts 137-9).

Ditch cut segment 124 (figs 18 and 19) was, as stated above, the earliest feature on the site. The ditch had a north-south alignment. The exact dimensions of the ditch were not ascertained, but the width exceeded 1m and the depth 0.3m. The fill was context 123, a brown medium sand, which contained nine sherds of Iron Age type (Appendix 1).

Ditch cut segment 122 (figs 18 and 19), the westernmost segment of the first east-west ditch, cut 124. The excavated width was 1.5m. The somewhat variable broad-U profile had a depth of 0.48m. There were three fills, contexts 119, 120 and 121. The basal fill was a yellowish brown medium sand, context 121. Context 120 overlay 121 at the eastern section and existed as a dark yellowish brown medium silty sand. The uppermost fill, context 119, overlay 120 in turn, and was a very dark

greyish brown fine sandy silt 119 was cut by a later ditch cut segment, context 118, and contained sherds of Iron Age type (Appendix 1)

The central segment of the first east–west ditch was ditch cut segment 131 (figs 18 and 19), and was situated 10m east of 122. Only part of the segment lay within the excavated area, giving an excavated width of 0.8m. The profile was a rounded–U with a depth of 0.51m. There were three fills, contexts 128, 129 and 130. The basal fill, context 130, was situated along the northern edge of the cut and constituted a yellowish brown sand. There were no finds. 130 did not occur along the eastern section of the segment. Context 129 overlay 130, and existed as a yellowish brown silty sand. 130 was deepest along the southern edge of the cut. There were no finds. Context 128 filled the remainder of the segment, and consisted of a deposit of dark brown, gravelly silty sand, with no finds. 128 was cut by a later ditch, ditch cut segment 126.

Ditch cut segment 136 (fig 19) was excavated 10m east of segment 131. In plan it was assumed that the segment was of the same general form as 122 and 131, but excavation showed a flat–based deposit, context 135, with little evidence for a ditch cut. Context 135 was a 0.20m deep deposit of dark greyish brown silty fine sand. 135 contained several Iron Age sherds (Appendix 1). 135 was cut by a later ditch on the north side, ditch cut segment 134.

The later east–west ditch was excavated in seven 1m wide segments, ditch segment cuts 118, 126, 134, 159, 166, 172 and 178.

Ditch cut segment 118 (figs 18 and 19) cut into 119, the upper fill of the earlier east–west ditch segment 122, on the southern side. The width was 1.6m. The profile was a broad–U with a depth of 0.45m. The single fill consisted of context 117, a dark greyish brown gravelly silty sand. 117 contained Romano–British and medieval sherds (Appendix 1) and bone fragments.

Ditch cut segment 126 (figs 18 and 19) was situated 10m east of segment 118. The width was 1.6m. The broad–U profile had a depth of 0.5m. There were two fills, contexts 125 and 127. Context 127 was situated at the base and along the southern edge of the ditch. 127 was a yellowish brown silty sand and contained Romano–British sherds (Appendix 1) and animal bone fragments. Context 125 filled the remainder of the ditch segment and comprised a brown gravelly silty sand. 125 contained single Romano–British and medieval sherds (Appendix 1).

Ditch cut segment 134 (fig 19) was situated 10m east of segment 126. The segment was at least 1.9m wide, with the northern edge lying outside the excavated area. The broad, rounded–V profile had a depth of 0.65m. There were two fills, contexts 132 and 133. Context 133 was the basal fill, and consisted of a dark yellowish brown silty sand. 133 contained a single ?Iron Age sherd (Appendix 1). 134 overlay 133, existing as a gravelly, brown fine silty sand, which yielded no finds.

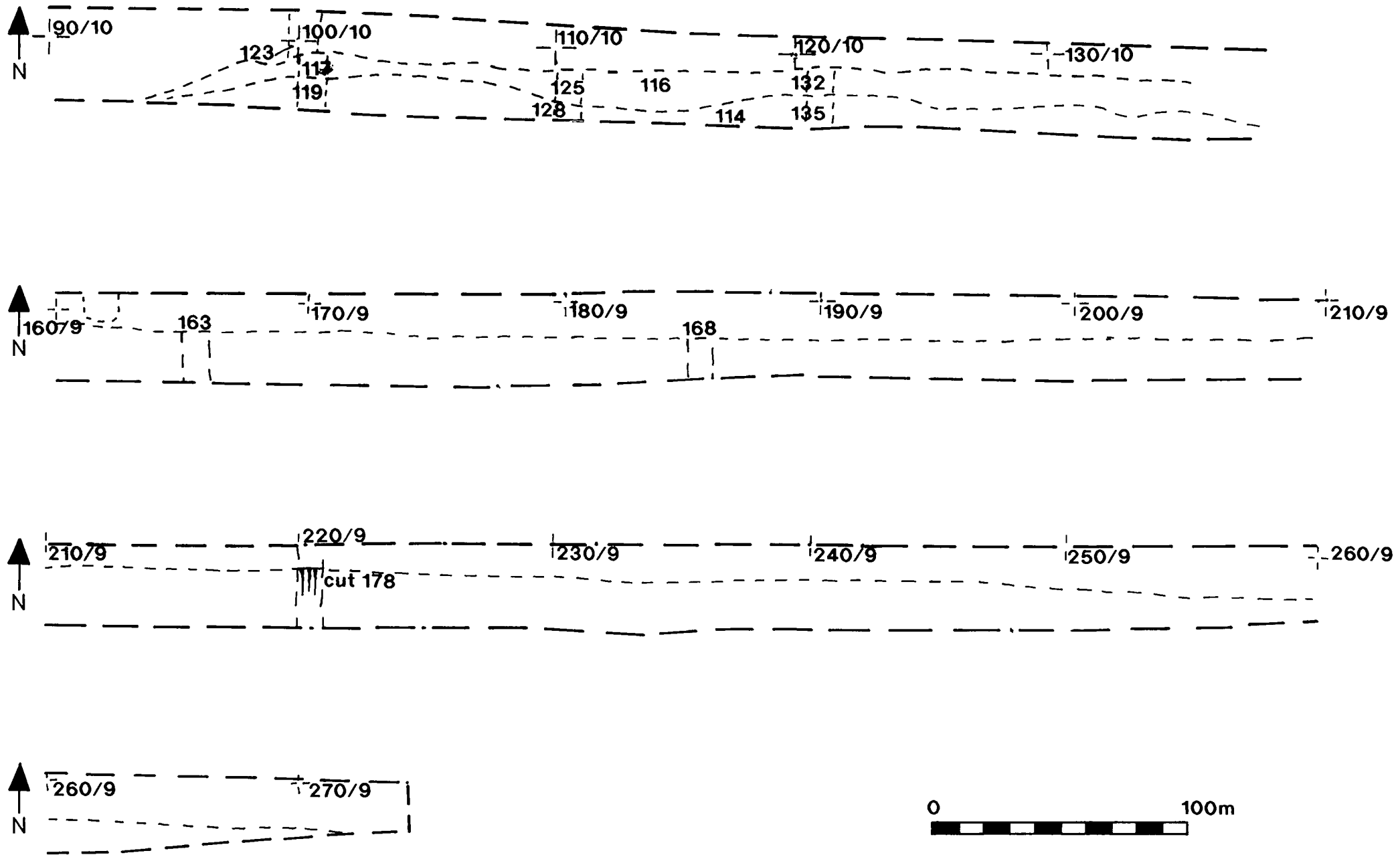


Figure 17 – Site 7 Plan of central and eastern part of trench

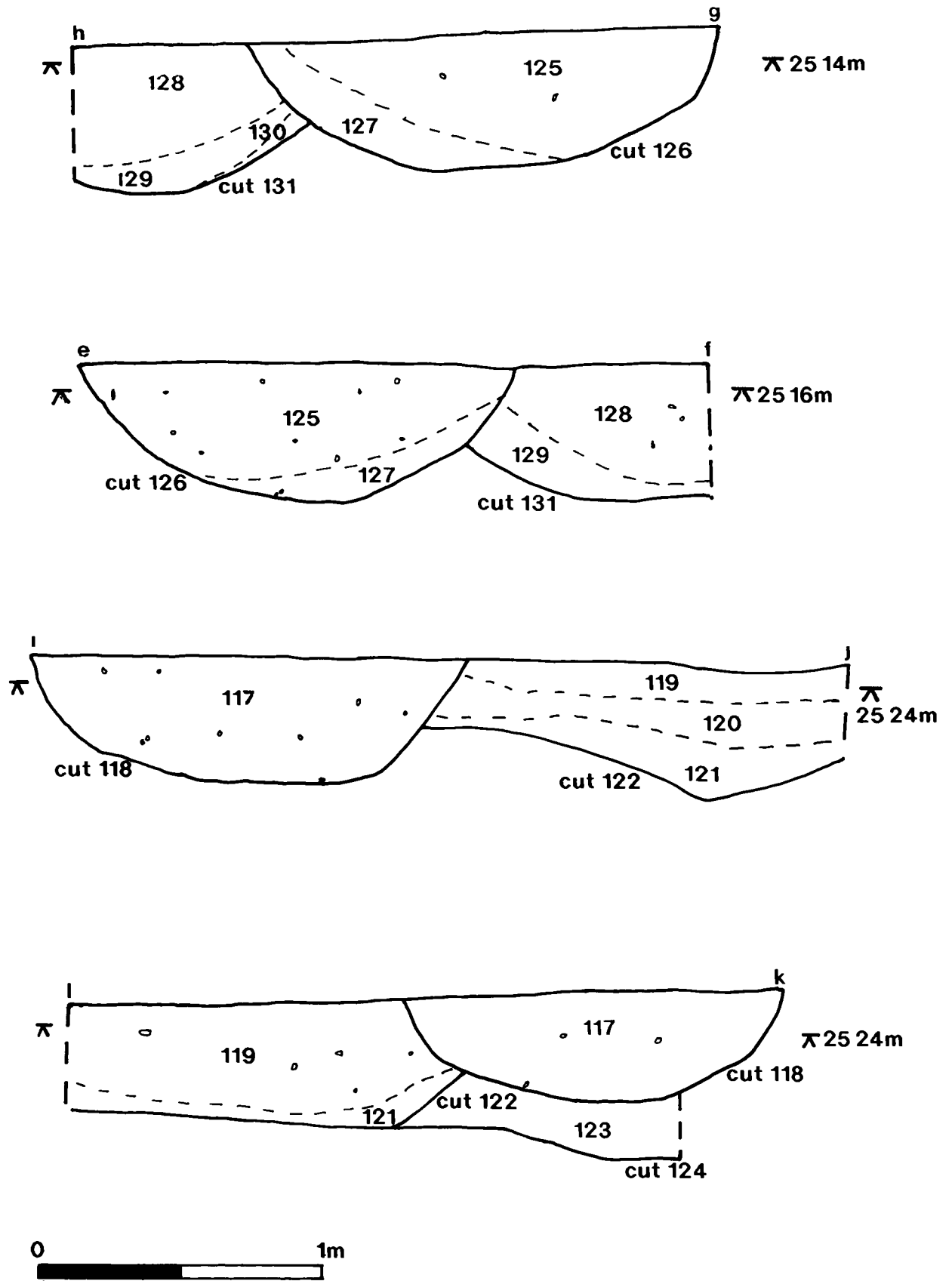
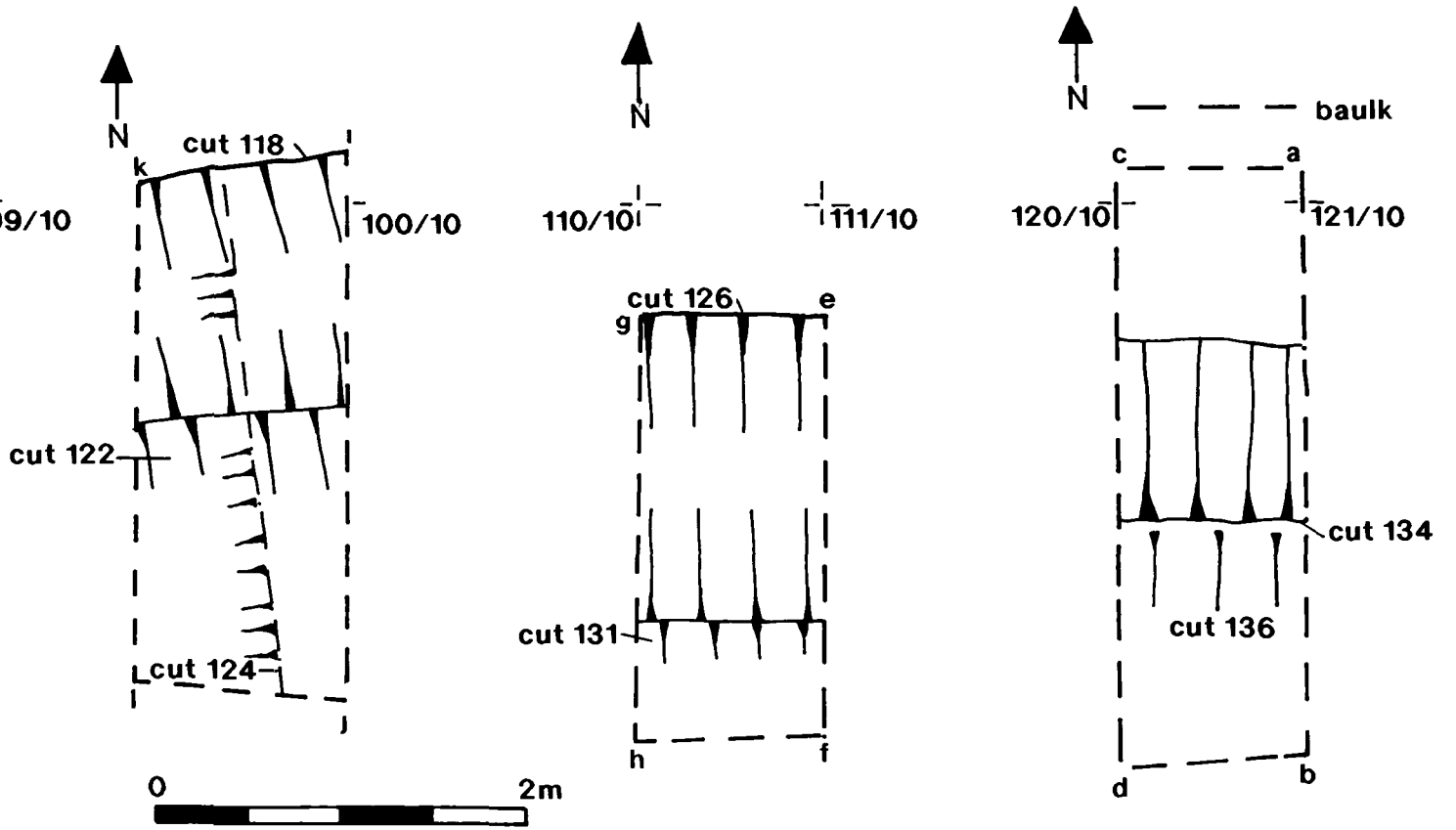
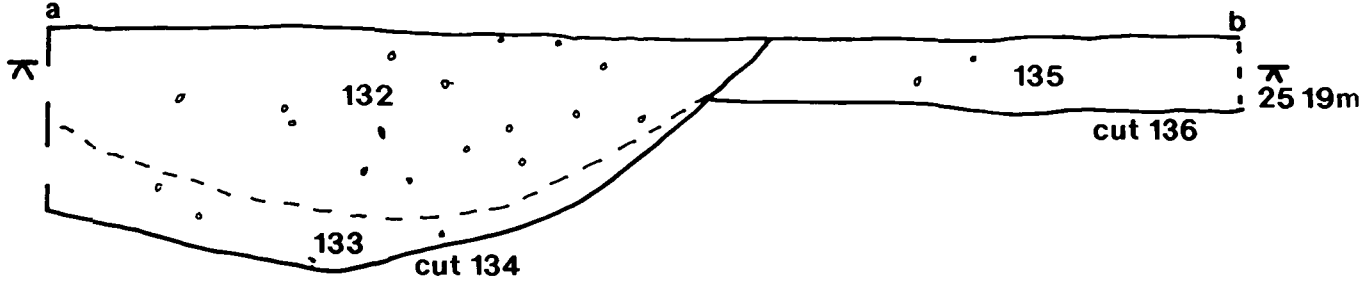


Figure 18 - Site 7, Sections of cuts 118, 122, 124, 126 and 131



W-Facing Section cut 134 & cut 136



E-Facing Section cut 134 & cut 136

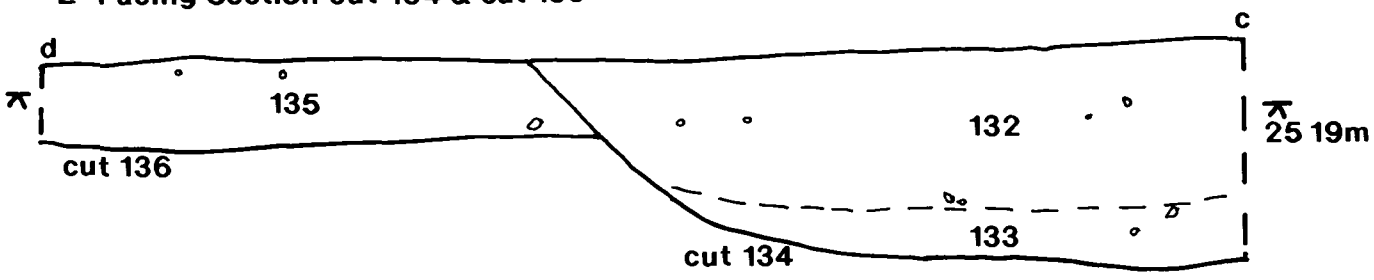
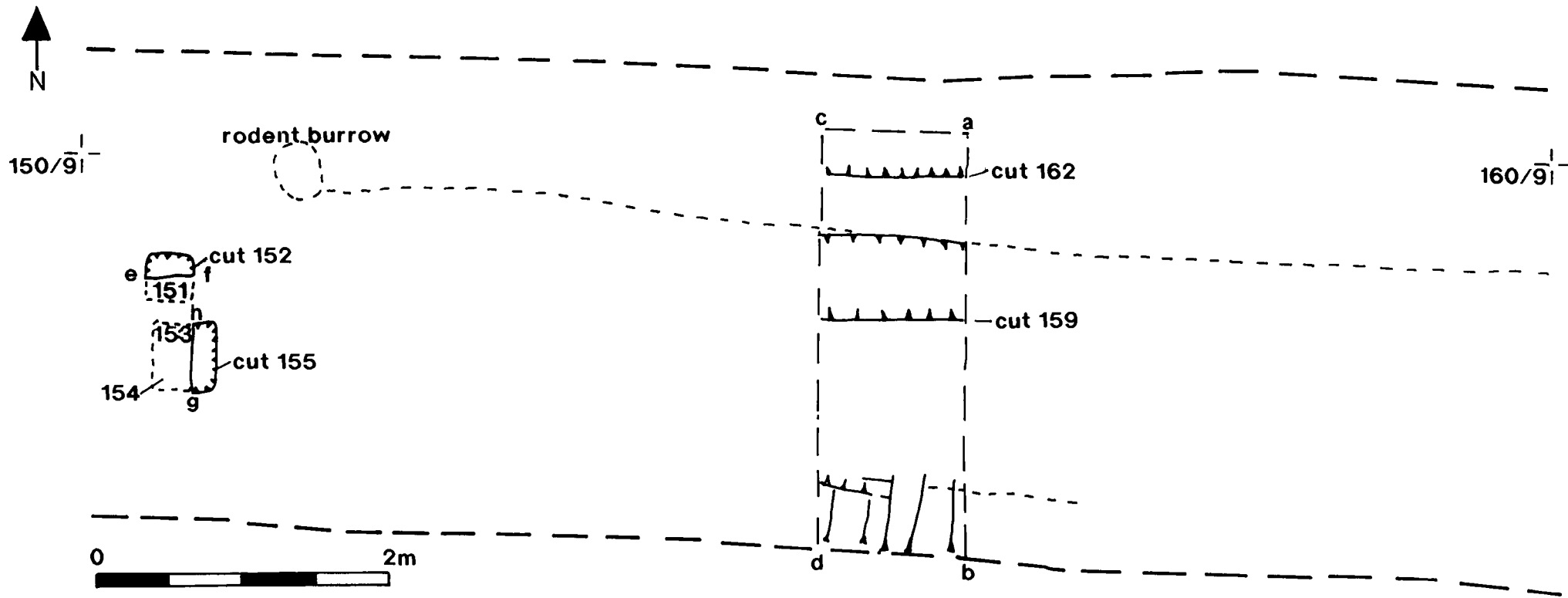
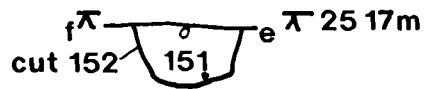


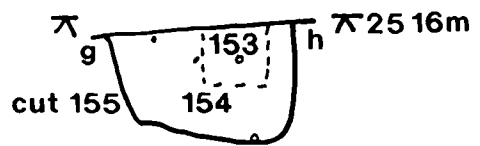
Figure 19 - Site 7, Plans of cuts 118, 124, 126, 131, 134 and 136



N-Facing Section cut 152



E-Facing Section cut 155



E-Facing Section cut 159 & cut 162

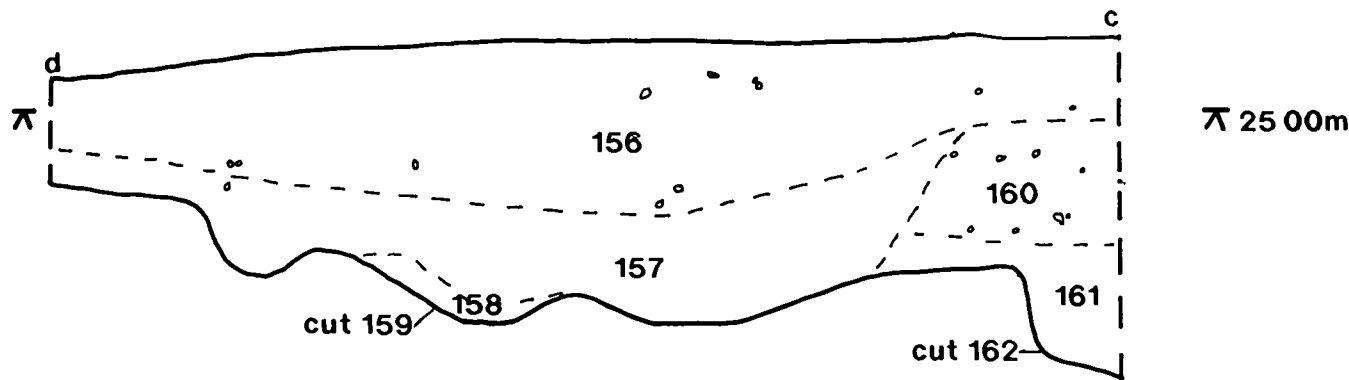


Figure 20 - Site 7, Plans of cuts 152, 155, 159 and 162

W-Facing Section cut 159 & cut 162

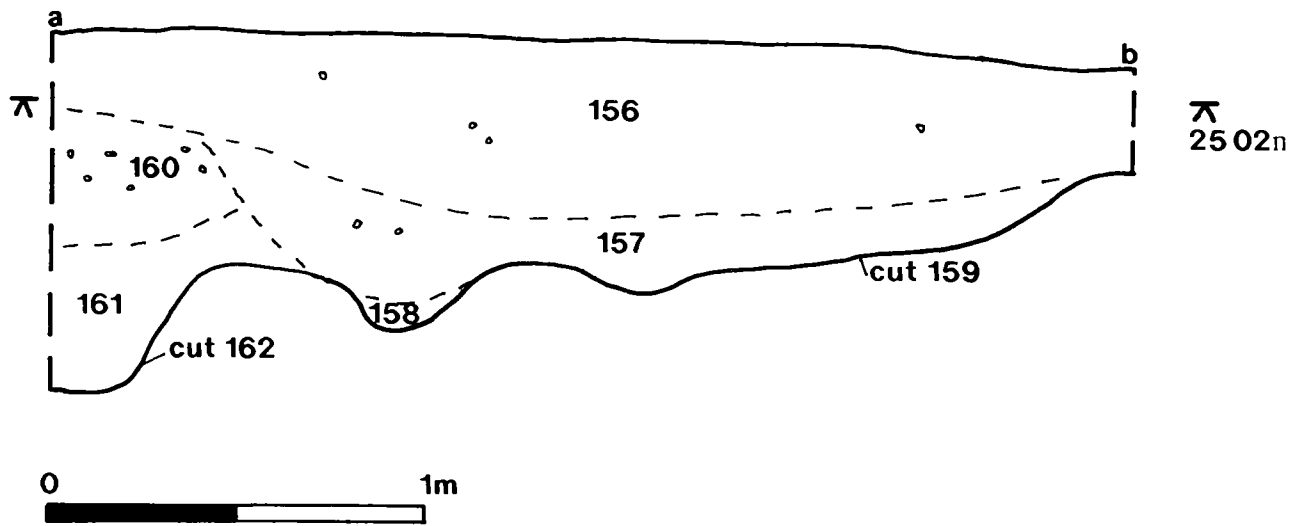


Figure 21 - Site 7, Section of cuts 159 and 162

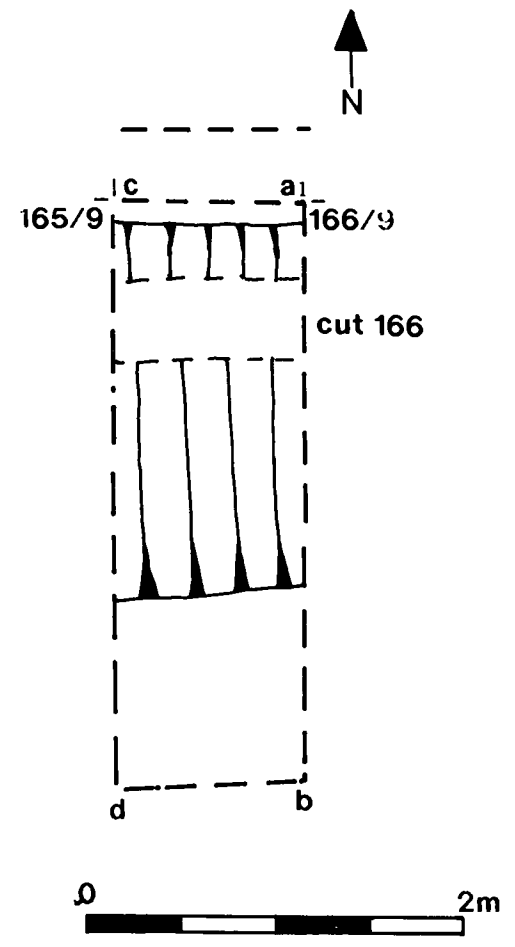
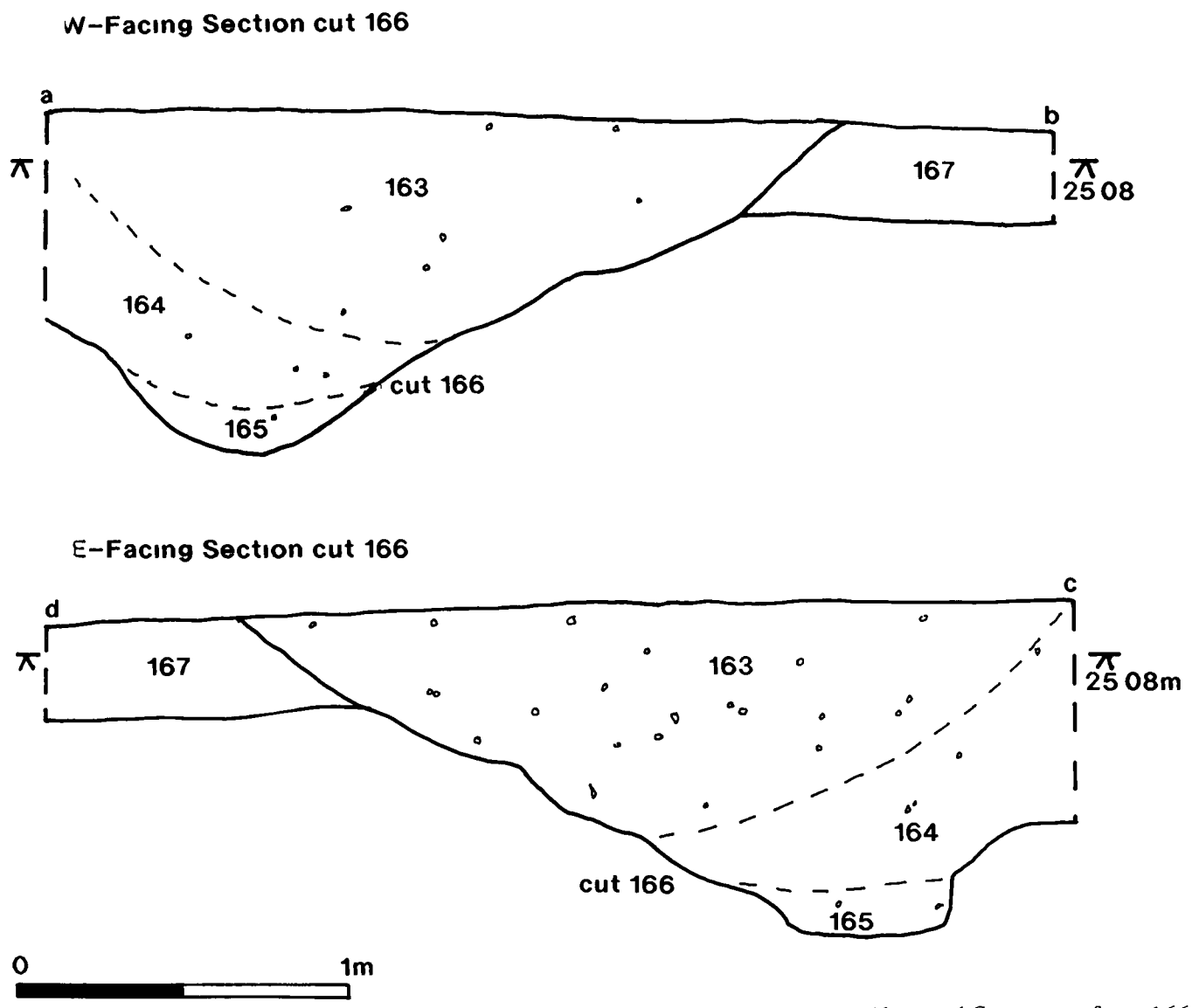


Figure 22 – Site 7, Plan and Sections of cut 166

Ditch cut segment 159 (figs 20 and 21) was situated 25m east of segment 134. Segment 159 was 2.3m wide. The profile was complex, with several east-west 'slots' in the base. The depth was 0.65m. There were three fills, contexts 156, 157 and 158. Context 158 occupied the lowest part of the segment and was a yellowish brown silty sand. Context 157 occurred above 158, and comprised a brown silty sand. A deposit of gravelly, dark yellowish brown silty sand, context 15, was above 157, and extended northwards outside the confines of the ditch. Context 156 contained several sherds, including Iron Age and Romano-British (Appendix 1).

On the northern side, segment 159 cut into the fill of an earlier ditch, ditch cut segment 162 (figs 20 and 21). Segment 162 exceeded 0.7m in width, the northern part lying outside the excavated area. The flat based-V profile gave a depth of 0.75m. Two contexts, 160 and 161, made up the fills. Context 161 occupied a 'slot' in the base of the cut and overlapped the edge to the south. Context 161 was a dark greyish brown silty sand. Context 160 overlaid 161 and existed as a brown silty sand. There were no finds.

Ditch cut segment 166 (fig 22) was situated 10m east of 159. The segment exceeded 2.5m in width, with the northern edge lying outside the excavated area. The southern edge cut into context 167, a 0.3m deep deposit of yellowish brown silty sand. Segment 166 had a rounded-V profile with a slight 'slot' in the base, giving a depth of 1.05m. There were three fills, contexts 163, 164 and 165. The basal fill, context 165, was a yellowish brown silty sand, which contained a Romano-British sherd (Appendix 1). Context 164 was situated above 165, and consisted of a dark yellowish brown silty sand that also contained a single ?Iron Age sherd (Appendix 1). Context 163 filled the upper part of the segment, and comprised a brown silty sand. Context 163 contained a Romano-British sherd (Appendix 1).

Ditch cut segment 172 (fig 23) was situated 20m east of segment 166. This segment cut into a 0.3m deep layer of yellowish brown sand, context 173. The northern edge of the segment lay outside the excavated area, giving an excavated width of 1.8m. The broad-U profile had a depth of 0.6m. There were four fills, contexts 168, 169, 170 and 171. Two yellowish brown silty sand fills were situated at the base of the cut, context 170 along the northern edge and context 171 along the southern. Context 169 overlaid 170 and 171, and was a dark yellowish brown silty sand. Context 168 was the upper fill, situated above 169, and also lapping over 173 to the south. Context 168 existed as a gravelly dark yellowish brown silty sand. There were no finds from any of these fills.

Ditch cut segment 178 (figs 23 and 24) was situated 35m east of segment 172. On the south side, 178 cut into context 179, a 0.3m deep deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand. Segment 178 was 2.15m wide. The rounded-V profile was 0.9m deep. There were four fills, contexts 174, 175, 176 and 177. Context 177 occupied the base of the ditch, and comprised a yellowish silty sand, with no finds. Overlying 177 was context 176, a yellowish brown silty sand, 176 contained a single Iron Age sherd (Appendix 1). Context 175 was situated above 176, existing as a yellowish brown silty sand. The upper fill, context 174, constituted a gravelly dark yellowish brown silty sand, and contained 2 ?Iron Age calcite-gritted sherds (Appendix 1).

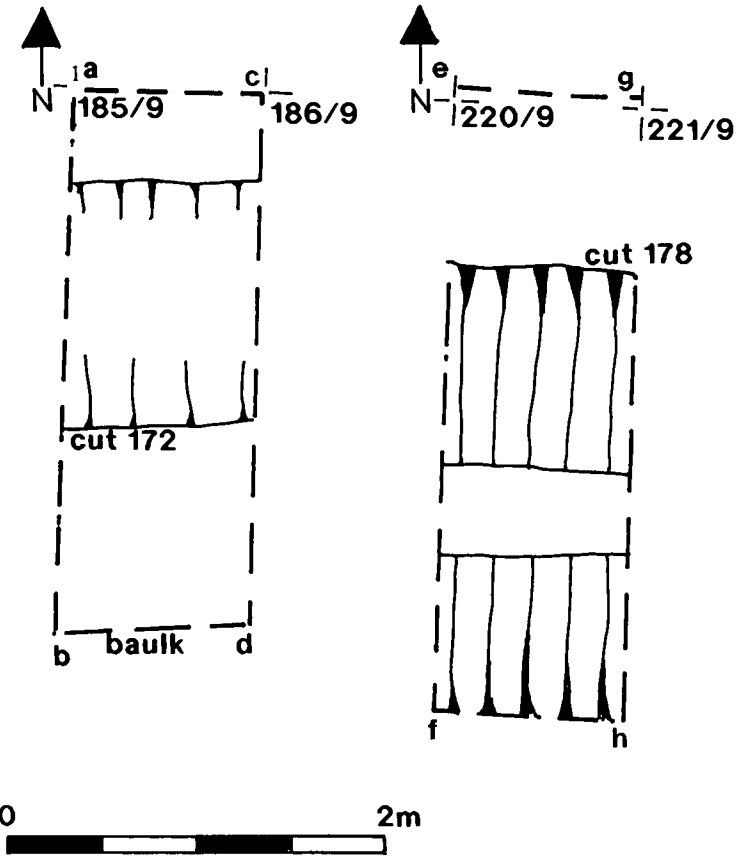
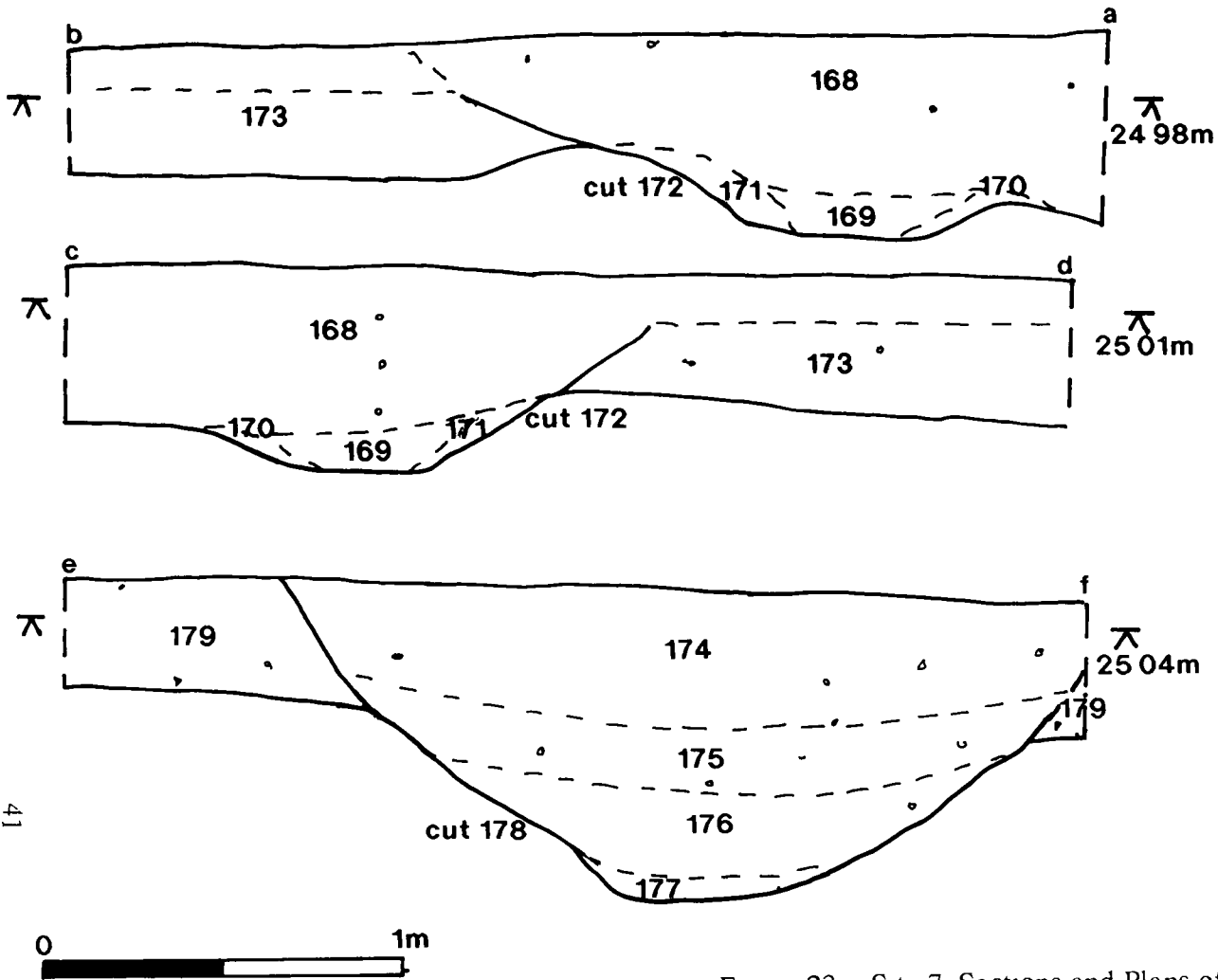


Figure 23 – Site 7, Sections and Plans of cuts 172 and 178

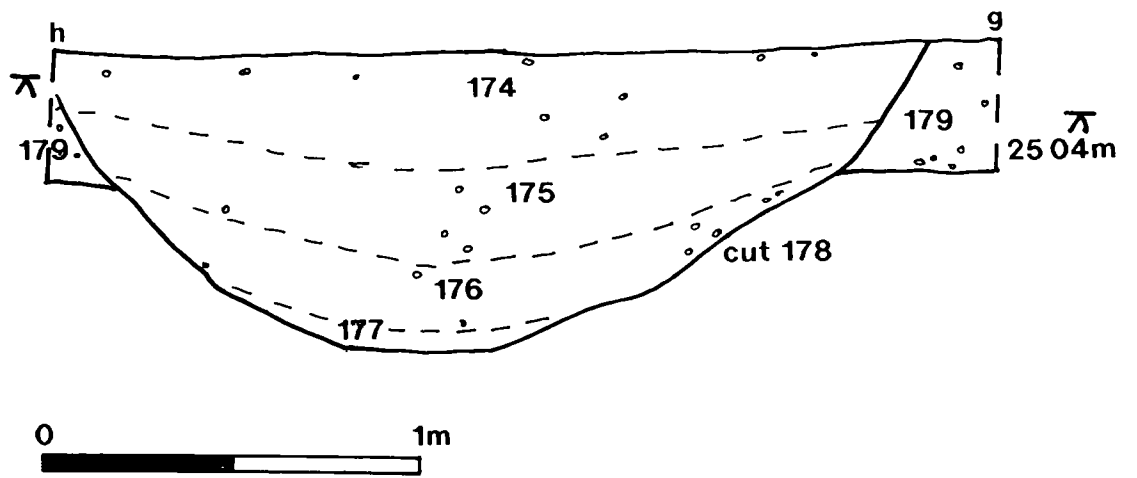


Figure 24 - Site 7, Section of cut 178

The latest phase of features comprised a shallow east-west gully at the west of the site (contexts 108-13) with an associated posthole (contexts 105-7), and a group of postholes (contexts 140-55) and an animal burial (contexts 137-9) at the centre of the site. The stratigraphic position of these features, coupled with modern finds from their fills, indicates a recent date. Accordingly, although they were fully recorded, these features will only be summarised in this report.

The east-west gully at the western part of the site was observed for a distance of c 18m from the western end of the trench, it was not possible to trace the gully further eastwards. Three segments were excavated into the gully: gully cut segments 109, 111 and 113 (figs 25 and 26). These segments cut into a deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand, context 115, similar silty sand, context 104, overlay the fills. The three segments had widths of between 0.55 and 0.75m. The profiles were U-shaped with depths of between 0.16 and 0.25m. Segments 109 and 111 were separated by a 1.2m wide interval. The fills, contexts 108, 110 and 112, were brown silty sands. 110 contained an Fe nail and 112 yielded modern sherds.

Posthole cut 107 (figs 25 and 26) was situated between the two 'terminals', segments 109 and 111. 107 cut into the dark yellowish brown silty sand, context 115. Circular in plan, the posthole had a diameter of 0.30m. The funnel-shaped profile had a depth of 0.25m. The fill was a dark greyish brown loamy sand, context 106. A group of six quartzitic pebbles, context 105, probably represented packing for the post or stake.

The group of postholes consisted of posthole cuts 140, 142, 145, 148, 150, 152 and 155 (figs 27 and 20). These postholes were cut into context 104, the dark yellowish brown silty sand deposit directly below the modern ploughsoil, context 103, this factor, and modern finds from their fills, illustrates their recent date.

The animal burial, cut 138 (fig 27), was also cut into 104, directly beneath the modern ploughsoil, context 103. 138 was situated c 7m east of the posthole group. A rounded rectangular pit (cut 138), 1.35m x 1.25m in size, had been dug to receive a sheep burial (context 137), and filled with a mixed dark yellowish brown silty loamy sand/silty sand (context 137). The stratigraphic position of the cut, and modern finds from the fill indicate a recent date.

It can be seen that a large part of the trench eastwards from a point 90m east was taken up by the two parallel east-west ditches. It is possible that the earliest of the two ditches, represented in plan by context 114, is part of the northern circuit of the oval enclosure known from cropmarks to exist south of the present farm track. An Iron Age date can be ascribed to 114 by the finds from its fill, and such a date would fit in with an enclosure of oval plan (see discussion). This ditch cut an earlier north-south aligned ditch, a prehistoric date for which is indicated by the sherds from it.

The later east-west ditch, represented in plan by context 116, does not seem to have been a replacement for the earlier ditch, as it extends for a further 120m eastwards. However, the close coincidence of the excavated trench with the alignment of these features makes it possible that 114 is present underneath the

southern baulk of the site. The paucity of finds from the later ditch does not enable a firm date to be given to it. Romano-British sherds might suggest a date in that period, but medieval sherds from the upper fills (eg contexts 117 and 156) could mean that a medieval date is to be preferred. Medieval sherds in the upper fills could represent silting into the upper part of an earlier ditch. A relatively long history for the ditch is suggested by the existence of a probable recut (segment cut 162) of ditch cut segment 159, as well as a possible recut in ditch cut segment 166 suggested by the form of fill 163. If the ditch is medieval, it could represent a subdivision of Sutton Low Field, a name to be found on OS maps referring to the surrounding area (eg OS 1958 and 1983).

A deposit of windblown sand, contexts 104/115 accumulated over these ditches. The latest finds from 104/115 are medieval sherds, so this windblown sand is perhaps of medieval date. At some point during the accumulation of 104/115, a shallow gully was dug at the eastern end of the site, this feature may relate to the parallel modern farm track. The group of modern postholes and the animal burial reflect activity during the period in the first half of this century when the area was used for pasture and horse training. The posthole group may have been associated with the north-south hedge line that formerly existed at that point forming the boundary between OS parcels 7333 and 3734.

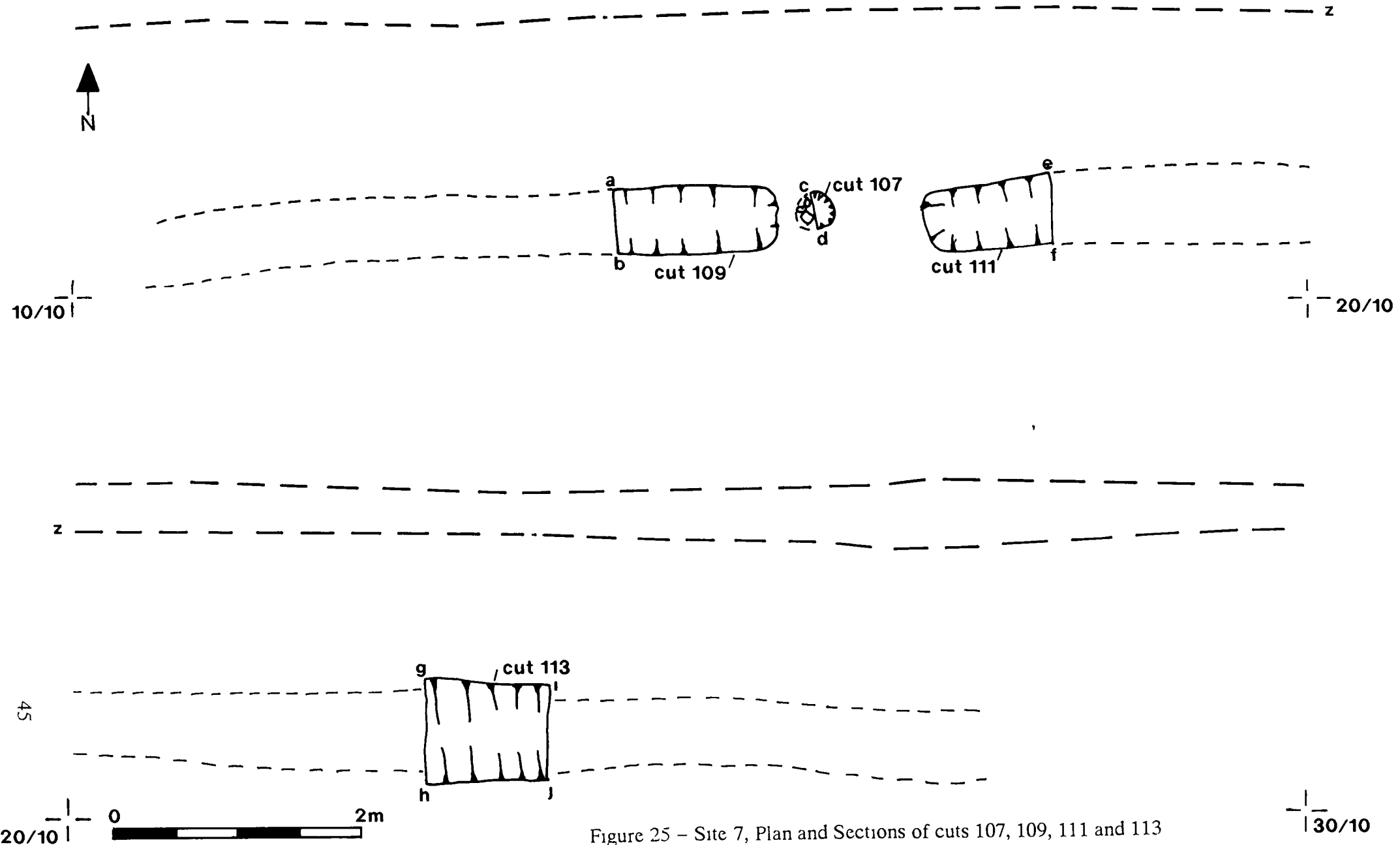


Figure 25 - Site 7, Plan and Sections of cuts 107, 109, 111 and 113

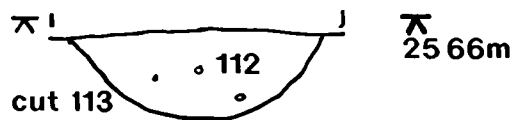
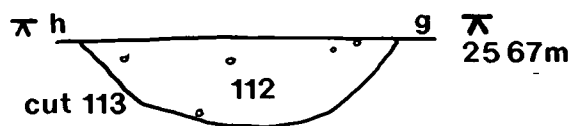
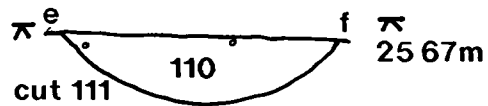
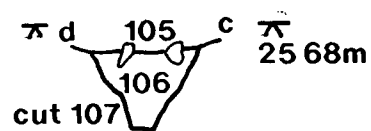
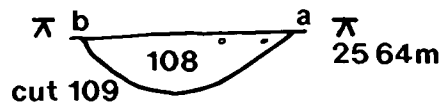


Figure 26 – Site 7, Sections of cuts 107, 109, 111 and 113

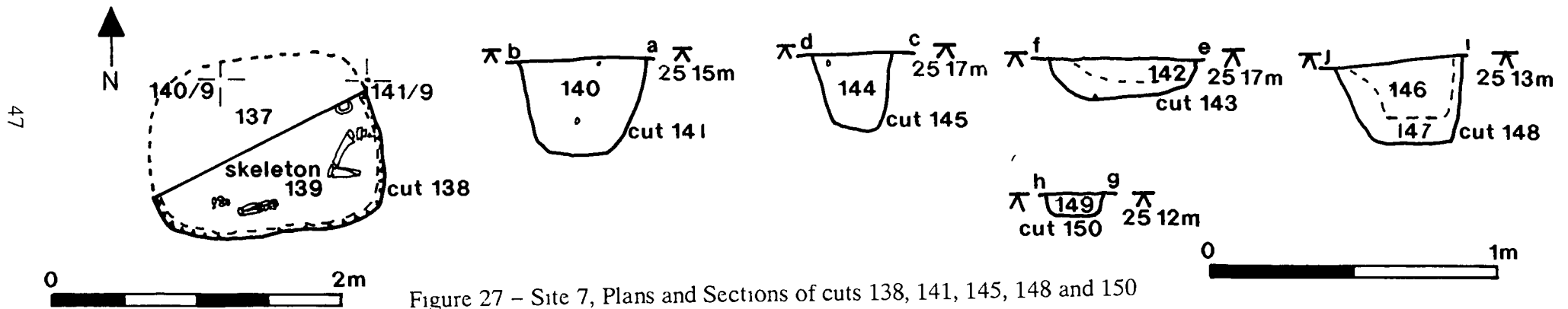
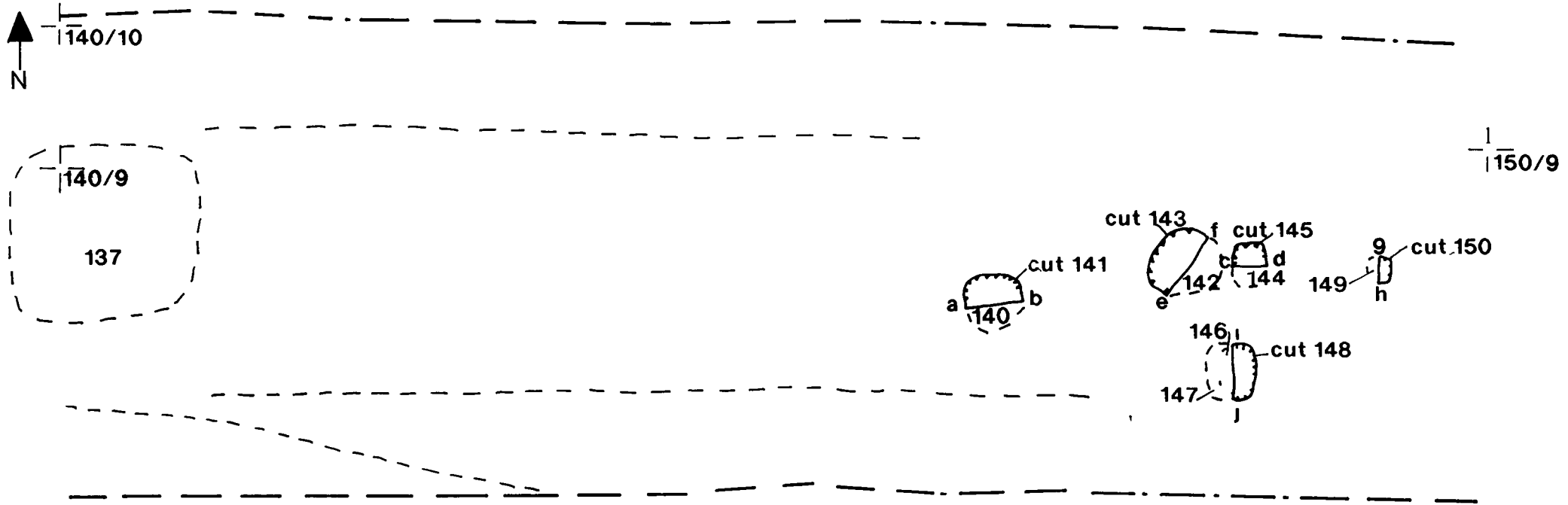


Figure 27 – Site 7, Plans and Sections of cuts 138, 141, 145, 148 and 150

Discussion

The excavations along the route of the proposed Rillington to Malton Pumping Main concentrated on a number of linear features (Sites 3–6), two roadways (Sites 1 and 2) and part of a landscape site (Site 7)

The most significant of the linear sites was Site 5, 'Norton Three Dikes'. Cropmarks from aerial photographs show this feature to run on a north–west to south–east alignment for 1.7km from the River Derwent to Norton Dike Head, immediately south of the excavated site. The triple dike then runs in a south–westerly direction onto Langton Wold, where it survives as an earthwork with three ditches and four banks. An Iron Age date has been suggested for this dike (Robinson, no 219)

The excavated part of Norton Three Dikes, under discussion here, was fairly regular in form with c 3m wide ditches of broad–U profile separated by 'berms' of the same width. The relative shallowness of the excavated ditches could reflect reduction by the ploughing process illustrated by the plough furrows of ?Roman date present on the site, presumably this process would also have removed traces of any banks that may have formerly existed. Alternatively, this shallowness may be a reflection of the position of the water table, which was encountered above the bases of the ditches.

The three double–ditched sites, Sites 3, 4 and 6 were alike in that there was sufficient difference in the form of the two ditches as to suggest a difference in date and/or function for the separate elements. At Site 4, a single linear feature was perhaps a trackway, or presumably later boundary ditch, running roughly parallel with the double ditch, before converging with the latter c 500m north of the excavated site. None of these features, or the areas between them, showed evidence for use as a trackway, although it should be said that ploughing has clearly truncated the sites and probably would have destroyed such evidence.

The double–ditched sites, Sites 3, 4 and 6, are all roughly parallel to the triple ditched site, 'Norton Three Dikes' (Site 5). However, it is difficult to ascribe these features to a single planned landscape, as the similarity of alignment is also broadly reflected in the orientation of the enclosure–era field boundaries and associated drains, eg Low Field Drain. Having stated that, the alignment of Sites 3, 4, and 6, compared to the enclosure boundaries, are sufficiently different to suggest that the cropmark sites are earlier. Presumably these sites form part of an evolving multi–period landscape, with earlier features to some extent dictating the alignment of later ones.

The lack of finds from Sites 3, 4 and 5 suggests that, when originally dug, they lay away from any habited, or even cultivated, areas. This same paucity of finds hampers their intercomparison and makes them difficult to date.

A number of excavations have been conducted on similar linear dikes in Eastern Yorkshire. The general 'model' for these dikes in Eastern Yorkshire is that they

represent Late Bronze Age or Iron Age land boundaries or droveways in a largely pastoral landscape. A Triple Dike excavated at Fimber (Mortimer 1905, 189) would appear to be of Late Bronze Age date due to the presence of bronze-casting mould fragments in the fill of a ditch cutting the bank. At Vessey Pasture, the ditch of a dike had cut through an early Bronze Age barrow, and Anglian inhumations had been inserted into the bank (Mortimer 1905, 50-2). Later excavations at the Fimber Dike (Ehrenburg and Caple 1983 and 185) suggested a number of constructional phases for the Triple Dike, the two outer ditches were of flat-based-V profile, with the central ditch being narrower and of segmented form. A Double Dike at Ripplingham (Wacher 1965) was probably also of Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, the eastern dike being interpreted as a trackway.

A double-ditched feature excavated in 1992 between Castle Howard and York Roads, Malton (Stephens 1992b) showed a disparity in form between the two elements, one element had functioned as a trackway, the other probably as a boundary ditch. Both were in use in the Romano-British period. Excavations at Low Caythorpe in 1992 revealed a complex of boundary ditches and pit alignments with a width of 100m (Cardwell and Fraser, 1992). The complexity of this Bronze Age site may have been due to sand rapidly infilling the features, necessitating their reinstatement over a number of centuries. Three linear earthworks were also excavated on the high Wolds in 1992, a Triple Dyke at Birdsall Dale showed ditches 3-4.5m wide and 1.8-2m deep (Fenton-Thomas, 1992).

The excavated remains of the linear features excavated along the route of the proposed Rillington to Malton Pumping Main are clearly of lesser size than those described above. This may be due in part to their truncation by the plough, but in the case of Sites 3, 4 and 6 there must be an element of doubt that they ever formed part of a system of dikes in the manner of the great Wold system. Sites 3, 4 and 6 remain undated and questions remain as to their function. An Iron Age date would seem appropriate for Norton Three Dikes (Site 5) as it can be demonstrated that the cropmark of this feature is physically continued as an element of the Wold system on Langton Wold.

The post-medieval roadway, Site 1, has been discussed above. It is a matter of regret that the plough damage at Site 3, the Norton-Settrington Roman Road, was too severe to allow a comparison between these two differently dated routes of communication.

The examination of the area adjacent to the landscape site, site 7, did not reveal any funerary features associated with surrounding Iron Age cemetery. Part of the reason for this is that a large proportion of the excavated area was taken up by a progression of east-west ditches. The earliest east-west ditch may have been part of the northern boundary of the oval enclosure known from cropmarks to exist immediately south of the site. This enclosure compares to a similar cropmark site at Maiden Grave Slack, Reighton (Challis and Harding 1975, 135). Another oval enclosure, associated with early Iron Age habitation, has been excavated at Catterick (Brewster and Finney, forthcoming). The Catterick site was in a similar flat 'lowland' situation to the Norton enclosure.

Conclusions

The programme of excavation along the route of the proposed Rillington to Malton Pumping Main has provided an opportunity to recover details of a number of archaeological sites known previously only as cropmarks on aerial photographs

The general paucity of finds from the excavations and, in many cases, their truncation by the plough, has hampered their interpretation. In any case it has been said that "to distinguish the earthwork boundaries of the Bronze Age from the vast complex web of boundaries, trackways and field systems is extremely difficult" (Manby, 327). Any future research on these sites would do well to examine the relationships at their junctions with other sites, and to select areas where deeper soil, or perhaps windblown sand, may have protected them from the plough.

The recovery of Iron Age pottery at Site 7 is an interesting suggestion of the potential for future research in the immediate area, particularly into the oval enclosure and its relationship with the Iron Age cemetery.

Bibliography

- Brewster, T C M and Finney, A E forthcoming *Catterick Sites 1-3, North Yorkshire*
- Cardwell, P and Fraser, R 1993 Excavations along the Caythorpe Gas Pipeline, Interim report *CBA Forum 1992*
- Challis, A J and Harding, D W 1975 *Later Prehistory from the Trent to the Tyne* BAR no 20
- Ehrenburg, M and Caple, C 1983 Excavations at Fimber, Yorkshire Interim Report on 1st Season, 1982 *YAS Prehistoric Research Section Bulletin, No 20*
- Ehrenburg, M and Caple, C 1985 Excavations at Fimber, Yorkshire Interim Report on 2nd Season, 1983 *YAS Prehistoric Research Section Bulletin, No 22*
- Fenton-Thomas, C 1993 Recent Fieldwork on the Yorkshire Wolds *CBA Forum 1992*
- Hayes, R H 1987 *North-east Yorkshire Studies* P R Wilson ed
- Manby, T G 1980 Bronze Age Settlement in Eastern Yorkshire, in Barrett, J and Bradley, R (eds) *Settlement and Society in the Later Bronze Age* BAR British Series no 83 307-370
- Mortimer, J R 1905 *Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds in East Yorkshire*
- OS 1958 6" Ordnance Survey map, sheet SE 87 SW
- OS 1960 *Geological Survey of England and Wales sheet 53, Pickering*
- OS 1983 1 10 000 Ordnance Survey map, sheet SE 87 SW
- Rigby, V 1986 The Later Prehistoric and Roman Pottery, in Powlesland, D Haughton, C and Hanson, J *Excavations at Heslerton, North Yorkshire, 1978-82* *Archaeol J* 143, 53-173
- Rigby, V 1988 *Excavations on the Yorkshire Wolds 1988* Unpublished presentation on British Museum excavations
- Robinson, J F 1978 *The Archaeology of Malton and Norton*
- SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales, sheet 1, Northern England*

Stephens, M R 1986 *Interim Report on the Excavation of Devil's Hill, Heslerton*

Stephens, M R 1992a *Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Rillington to Malton Pumping Main*

Stephens, M R 1992b *A Report on Archaeological Excavations at West Lodge 2, Castle Howard Road, Malton*

Wacher, J S 1965 Excavations at Ripplingham, East Yorkshire, 1956-7 *Yorkshire Archaeol J* 608-69

Appendix 1 – Finds catalogue

Pottery

Context	Description	Total Weight (kg)
4	1 body sherd Potter Brompton/Staxton ware 1 rim Staffs glazed ware (Fig 28 4)	0 005
48	8 body sherds, incl blue and white transfer ware	0 01
70	1 R-B run sherd from an imitation Dr 45 mortarium (Fig 28 7)	0 01
104	1 calcite-gritted sherd 2 R-B Greyware incl 1 rim 2 Potter Brompton/Staxton, 1 rim and 1 base 1 glazed jug sherd, York ware	0 01
110	1 crumb,?	
112	1 Potter Brompton/Staxton ware sherd	0 05
114	1 Bronze age sherd with twisted-cord decoration 24 Iron Age calcite-gritted body sherds 2 ?Iron Age sandy fineware 6 R-B Greyware sherds 1 Potter Brompton/Staxton ware sherd	0 015
117	2 calcite-gritted sherds 5 R-B Greyware sherds 1 R-B Crambeck base sherd 2 Potter Brompton/Staxton sherds	0 015
119	10 Iron Age calcite-gritted sherds 1 Iron Age calcite-gritted rim sherd, cable decoration 18 vesicular 'crumbs'	0 01
123	8 Iron Age calcite-gritted sherds 1 ?Iron Age sandy fineware	0 005
125	1 calcite-gritted handle sherd 1 sherd medieval Northern Gritty ware	0 01
127	6 calcite-gritted sherds incl 1 R-B rim 1 R-B Greyware sherd	0 01
133	1 ?Iron Age sherd, calcite/flint tempered	0 005
135	5 ?Iron Age calcite-gritted sherds, incl 1 rim	0 005
137	1 white-glazed earthenware sherd	0 005
156	1 calcite-gritted Iron Age rim sherd 1 R-B Greyware sherd 1 R-B decorated Samian sherd 1 crumb Potter Brompton/Staxton ware	0 01

Pottery (con)

Context	Description	Weight (kg)
163	1 R-B Greyware base sherd 2 unident crumbs	0 01
164	1 ?Iron Age sandy fine ware	0 005
165	1 R-B sherd, black-burnished type	0 005
174	2 ?Iron Age calcite-gritted sherds	0 005
176	1 ?Iron Age calcite-gritted sherd	0 005

The following discussion of the pottery is concerned with Site 5. The earliest sherd is of Bronze Age date, and is a small body sherd in a fine reddish brown fabric decorated with twisted-cord impression from context 114 (fig 28 1)

The largest number of sherds are of calcite-gritted fabrics, often 'vesicular' due to the dissolving of the inclusions by acid ground water. Calcite-gritted fabrics were produced from early Iron Age to Romano-British times, all vessels in these fabrics would be hand-made apart from wheel-finishing of the rims of the Roman vessels. Where oxidised (ie reddish brown) surfaces occur it is likely that Iron Age vessels are represented, but without any distinguishing decoration or rim form these are difficult to date. The small size of many of the sherds also hampers their identification. Calcite-gritted pottery accounted for 95% of the handmade vessels from Iron Age contexts at West Heslerton (Rigby 1986, 145). Of the identifiable 'feature' sherds, the cabled rim sherd from context 119 (fig 28 2) (paralleled at Castle Hill, Scarborough [Challis and Harding, fig 44 18], and the palisaded enclosures at Devil's Hill, Heslerton [Stephens, 1986, fig 6 11 and 12] and Catterick [Brewster and Finney, forthcoming]) and the internally bevelled sherds from contexts 135 (fig 28 3) (paralleled at Levisham Moor, Challis and Harding, fig 50 5) and 156 (fig 28 4) (Levisham Moor, *ibid* fig 50 10) are of Iron Age type. Three sherds are in a reduced fine, soft sandy fabric, reminiscent of an Iron Age fine ware fabric recognised as occurring in Eastern Yorkshire (Rigby 1988).

The curved calcite-gritted rim from context 127 (fig 28 6) is of so-called Romano-British 'signal station' type, and would have been produced locally in the 2nd/3rd century.

Other Romano-British fabrics are represented by 1st/2nd century Greyware (fig 28 5) and Crambeck parchment ware.

Medieval sherds occur in Northern Gritty ware, Potter Brompton/Staxton ware (fig 28 8) and York white ware.

Many of the sherds are small and/or abraded, suggesting that deposition during arable cultivation, being spread on fields during manuring.

Other finds

Context	Description	Weight (kg)
4	Clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl 2 coal frags 10 brick/tile frags	0 01 0 005 0 01
35	1 flint blade frag	
41	Clay tobacco pipe stem frag 6 animal bone frags 1 coal frag	0 005 0 005 0 005
43	1 animal bone frag	0 005

Other finds (con)

Context	Description	Weight (kg)
48	1 glass beer-bottle frag	0 005
	1 drain-pipe frag	0 01
56	1 clay tobacco pipe stem frag	0 005
	6 animal bone frags	0 01
	2 brick/tile frags	0 01
78	2 cattle teeth frags	0 001
82	1 cow tooth frag	0 001
110	1 Fe nail	
	1 tobacco pipe stem frag	0 005
112	1 animal bone frag	0 005
114	2 struck flint flakes, no secondary working	0 01
117	1 animal bone frag	0 005
	1 struck flint flake	0 005
119	1 flint blade, no secondary working, milky white patina	0 005
	2 burnt stone frags	0 05
123	1 animal bone frag	0 005
	1 burnt stone frag	0 01
137	1 Fe nail	0 01
	1 window glass frag	0 005

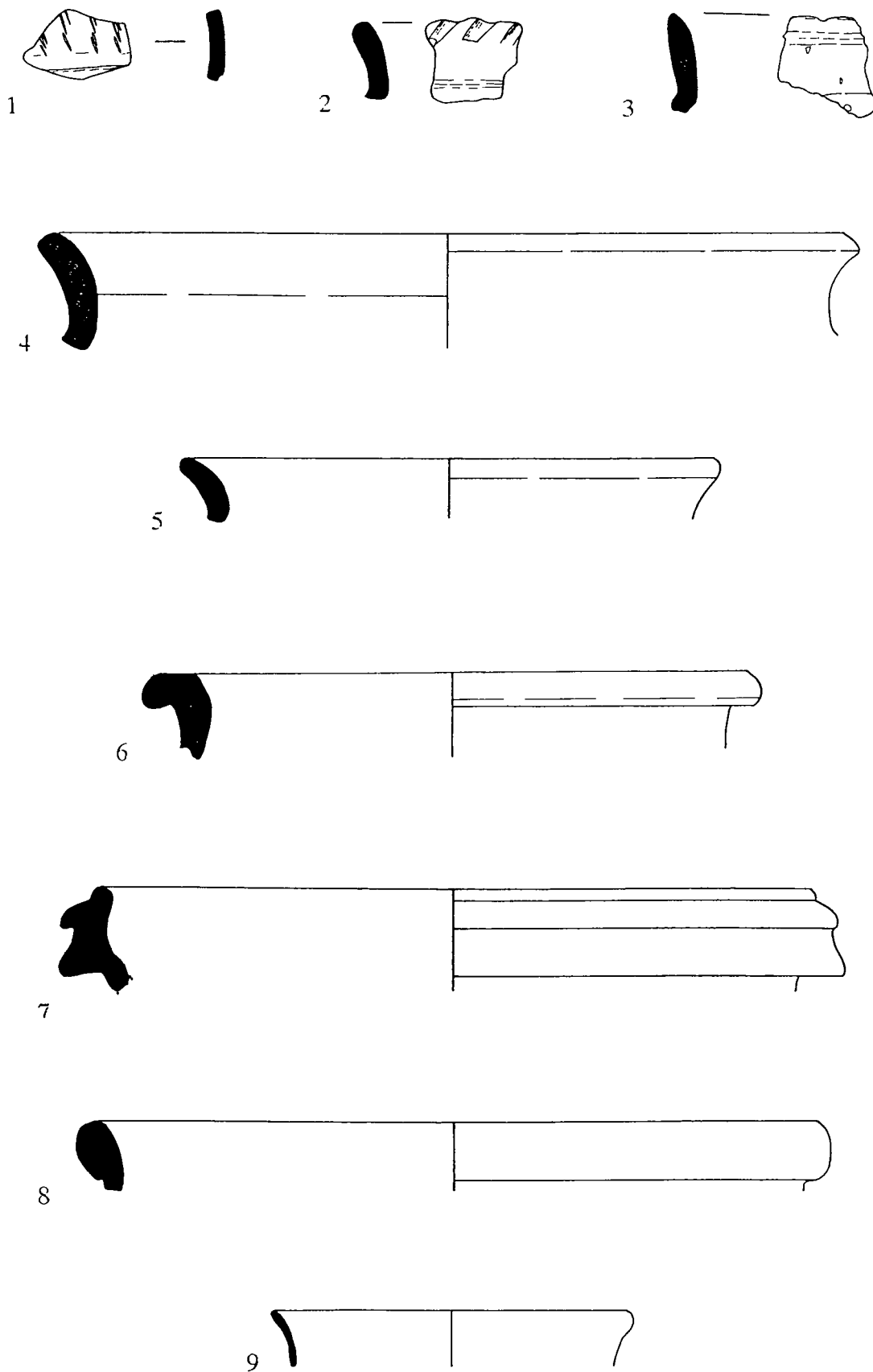


Figure 28 – Finds from contexts 4 (no 9), 70 (no 7), 104 (nos 5 & 8), 119 (no 2), 127 (no 6), 135 (no 3) and 156 (no 4) Scale 1 2