9 Future Mitigation Work

Subject to the agreement of the North Yorkshire Heritage and Environment Section Archaeologist, it is proposed that Stage 1 of the proposed extraction, in the south-western corner of the site, is preceded by an archaeological Strip and Record exercise to expose and plan the archaeology to inform follow-on archaeological excavations. This would be a continuation of the practice carried out on the sites to the south up to 2006, but in this case would constitute only the initial approach in what would be an iterative strategy that would be adapted and developed in consultation with the North Yorkshire Heritage and Environment Section Archaeologist to determine the most appropriate archaeological approach for successive stages of extraction in the light of what archaeology had been found in previous archaeological work (see Appendix 6).

Strategy and Methodology

The 'strip, record and excavate' strategy employed in the previous work at Newbridge Quarry (1999-2006) is proposed for investigating the archaeology of the Stage 1 area of the New Hambleton Farm extension area. A proposed Written Scheme of Investigation for Stage 1 is included as Appendix 6. This strategy is appropriate for an large 3.1 hectare area where discrete features, of unknown number and extent, have been found during the trial trenching, in addition to the more visible linear boundaries and trackway. The proposed strategy will provide the baseline approach, to be modified for subsequent stages in the light of the results of the Stage 1 work. Such regular review of the project's results, against the stated aims and objectives, taking the project forward in an iterative manner, is the essence of English Heritage's good practice (MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide 2008, 2.5.2; PPN3, 3.1.1-2), allowing flexibility within a project to take account of new and unexpected discoveries, rather than persist with a project design which becomes less and less appropriate as the project progresses.

The iterative process will see the Stage 1 archaeological mitigation commence in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation which will have within it facility for modification at the discretion of monitoring archaeologist from the North Yorkshire Heritage and Environment section. Such modifications and the results of the interim assessment reports at the end of the fieldwork will provide the substance for review in the preparation of the Stage 2 Written Scheme of Investigation, which will need to be agreed prior to that next stage of work commencing. Changes in approach may not be radical, but could involve changes to the sample size, in terms of the percentage of each feature actually excavated and the volume of soil recovered for environmental analysis or the employment of other appropriate scientific methods. It is conceivable that the extent of the unenclosed element of the site, as represented by unenclosed features, may actually extend into the eastern part of the site, in a way that presently it is not perceived to, so requiring some work to be carried out in advance of Stage 3 and the eastern areas of Stages 4 and 5. The iterative approach will

allow for this to be addressed, without necessarily including the wholesale monitoring of those areas.

Thus, archaeological deliverables for each stage of work will include a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared before commences and an interim assessment report carried out after the work is completed. The latter will inform the Written Scheme of the next stage of work. The assessment report arising from the final stage will include a review of all previous assessments and a proposal for post excavation analysis and reporting. Summary reports should prepared for regional and period archaeological journals and newsletters, as appropriate, in order that the broad findings of the site are made available to other researchers in timely fashion, without having to await the production of a final report.

It is likely that the results of the archaeological work will warrant publication, either in an appropriate journal or as a stand alone monograph, subject to their nature and significance. Whether the results of the northern extension site are published separately or together with the result of the 1999-2006 work has yet to be decided. As such a publication report will be designed for a limited academic and informed public audience, the possibility of other public engagement opportunities might be explored at all stages of the project in order to bring the discoveries of the site to the widest possible audience. Such opportunities might include open days or site tours if the findings in any of the stages merits it, but only if Health and Safety matters did not preclude such an initiative. Otherwise findings might be brought to wider public attention through press releases or a dedicated web page. Any publicity of the site could only be contemplated, so long as it did not compromise the security of the site or jeopardise the recovery of important remains.

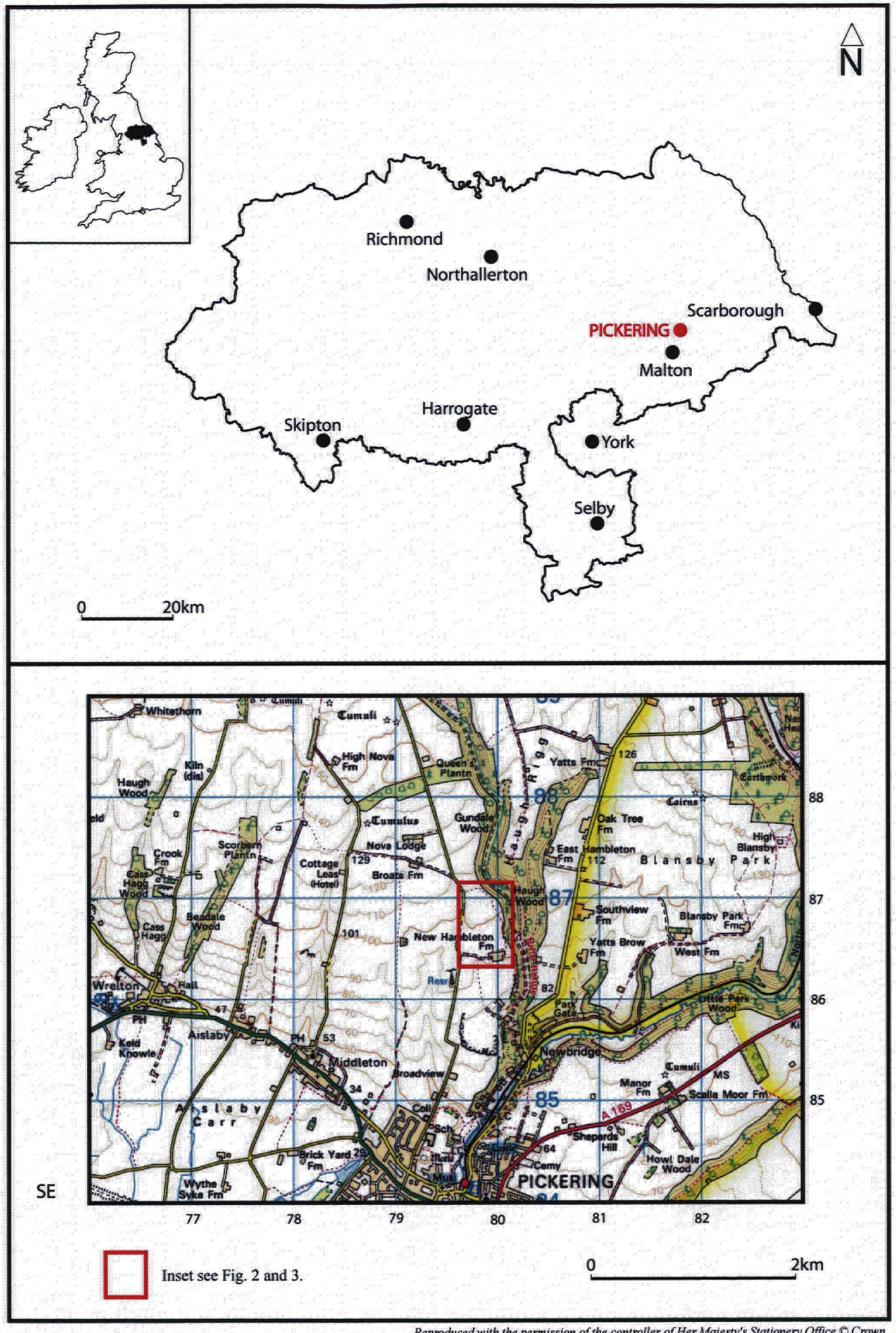


Fig. 1. Site location

Fig. 2. Grey-scale plot of geophysical survey data and trial trench locations with proposed mineral extraction stages (1-5) (1:2500 @ A4)

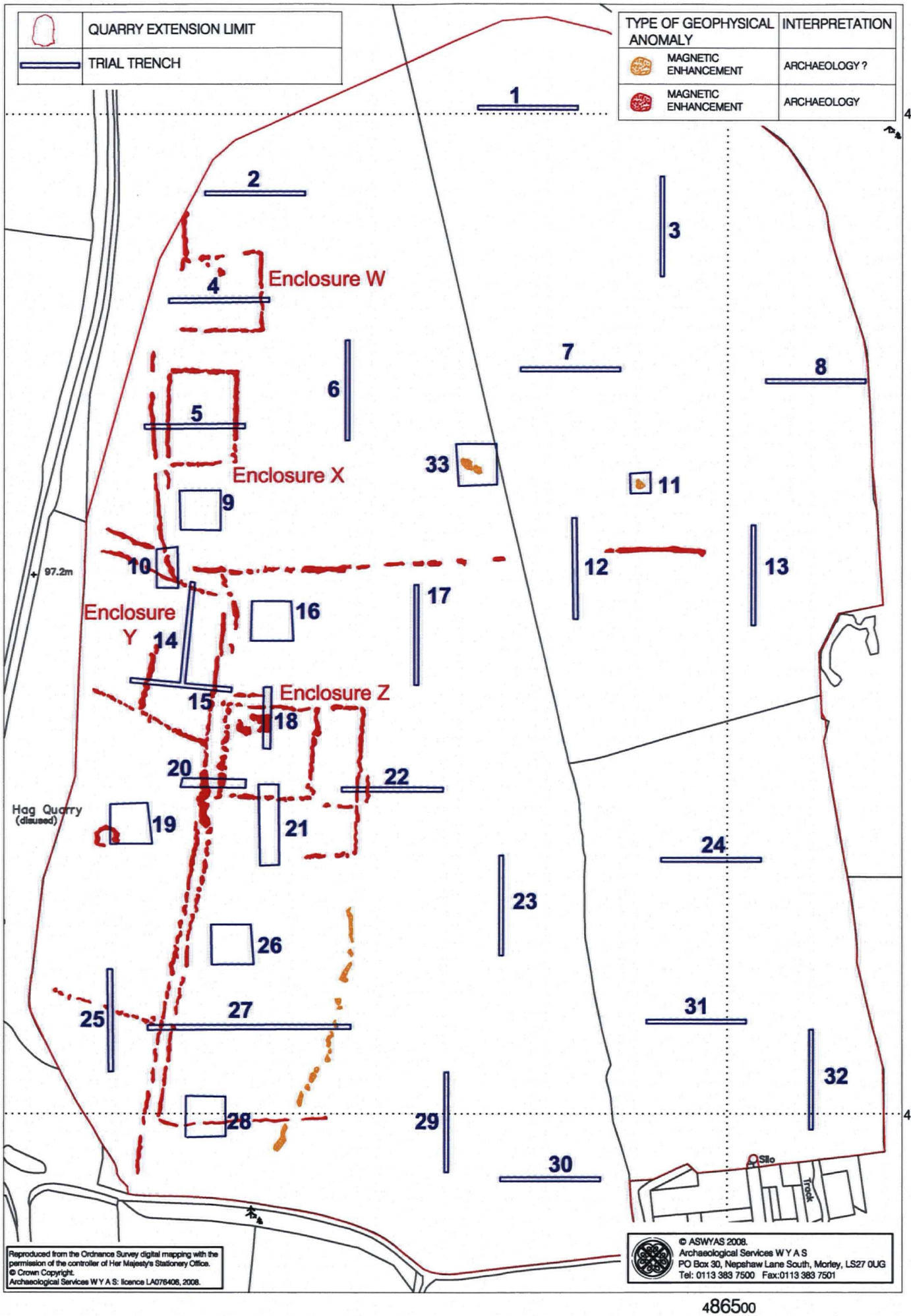


Fig. 3. Trench location plan with respect to interpretive geophysical survey data (1:2500 @ A4)

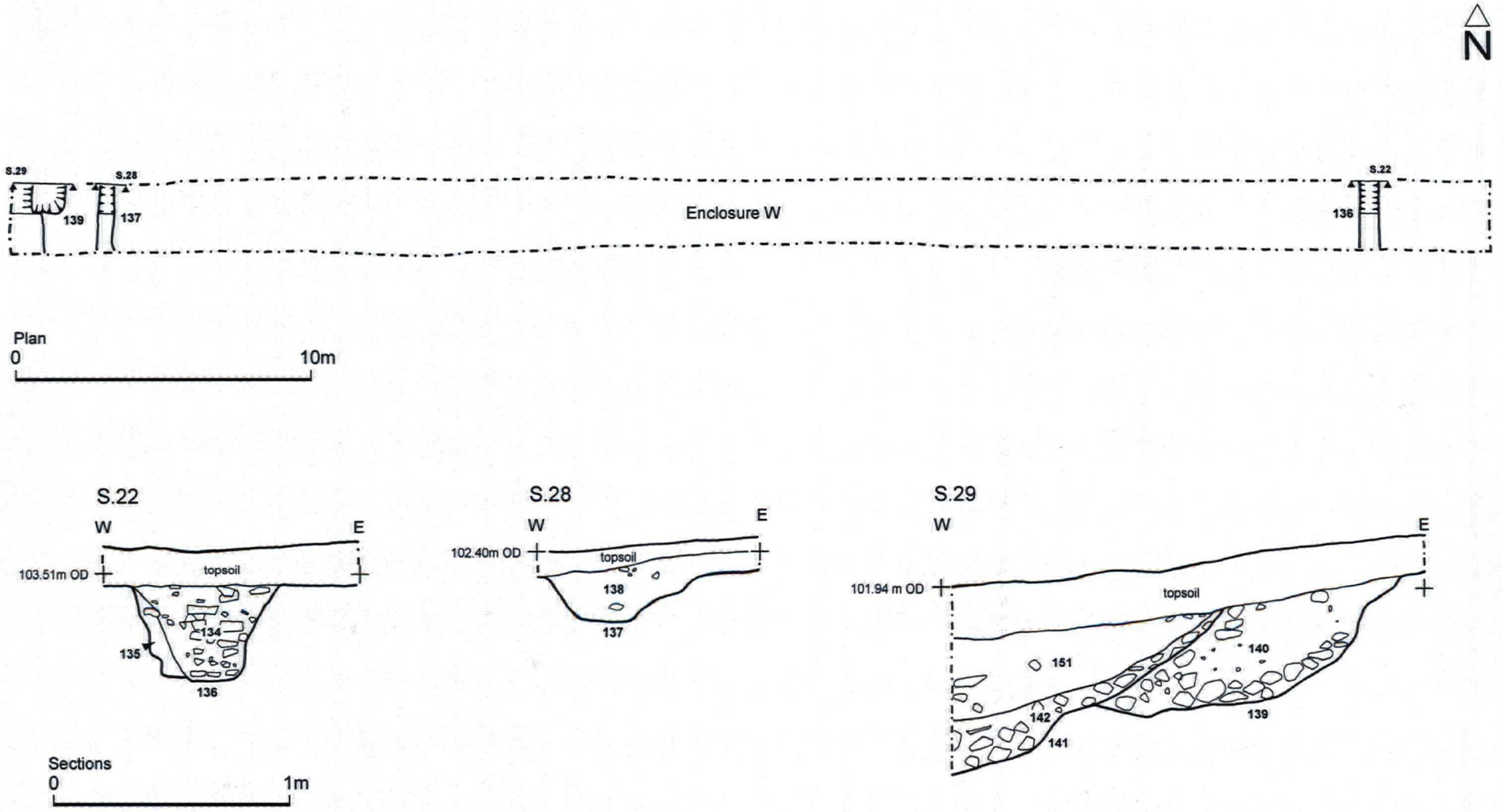


Fig. 4. Trench 4 plan and sections

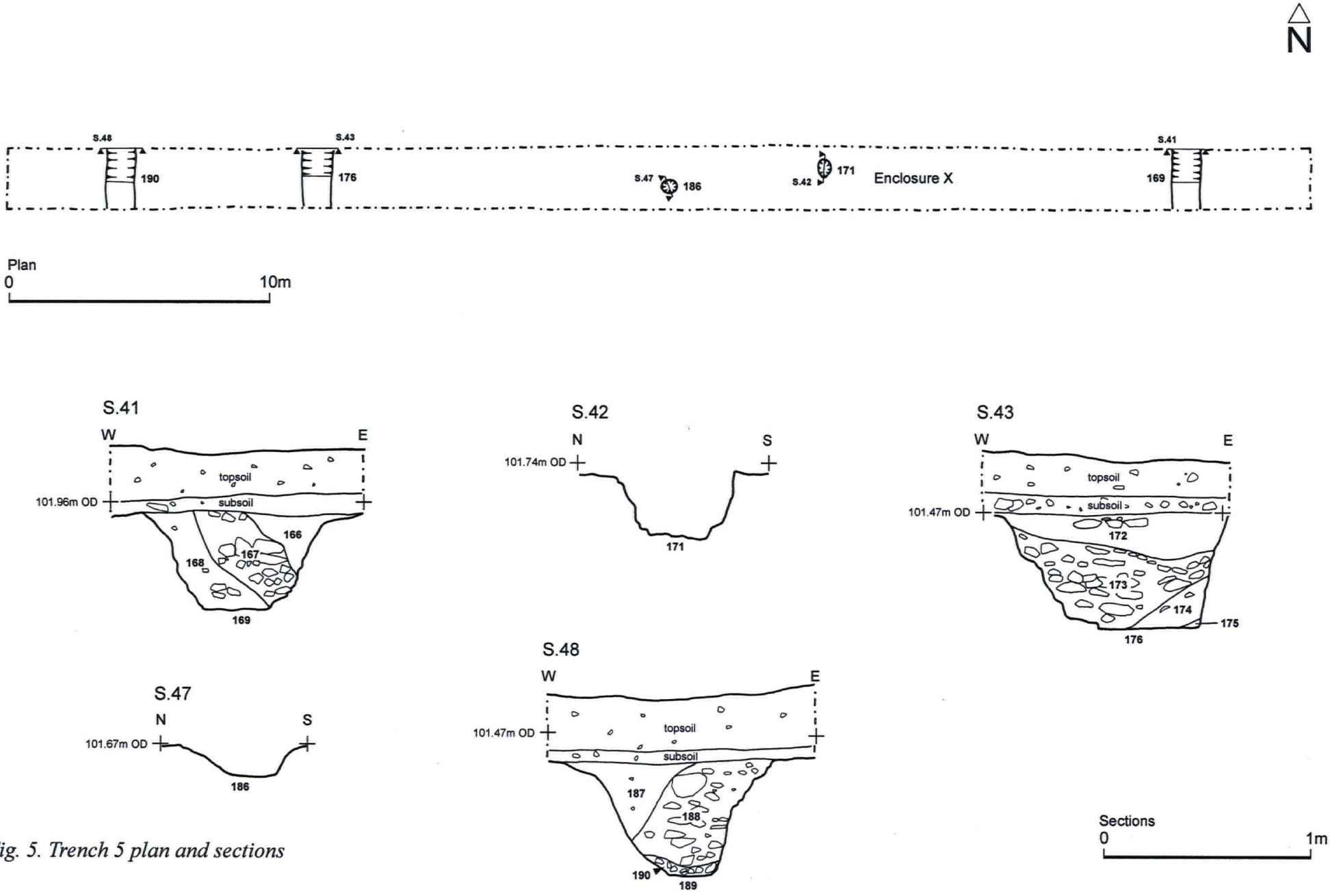
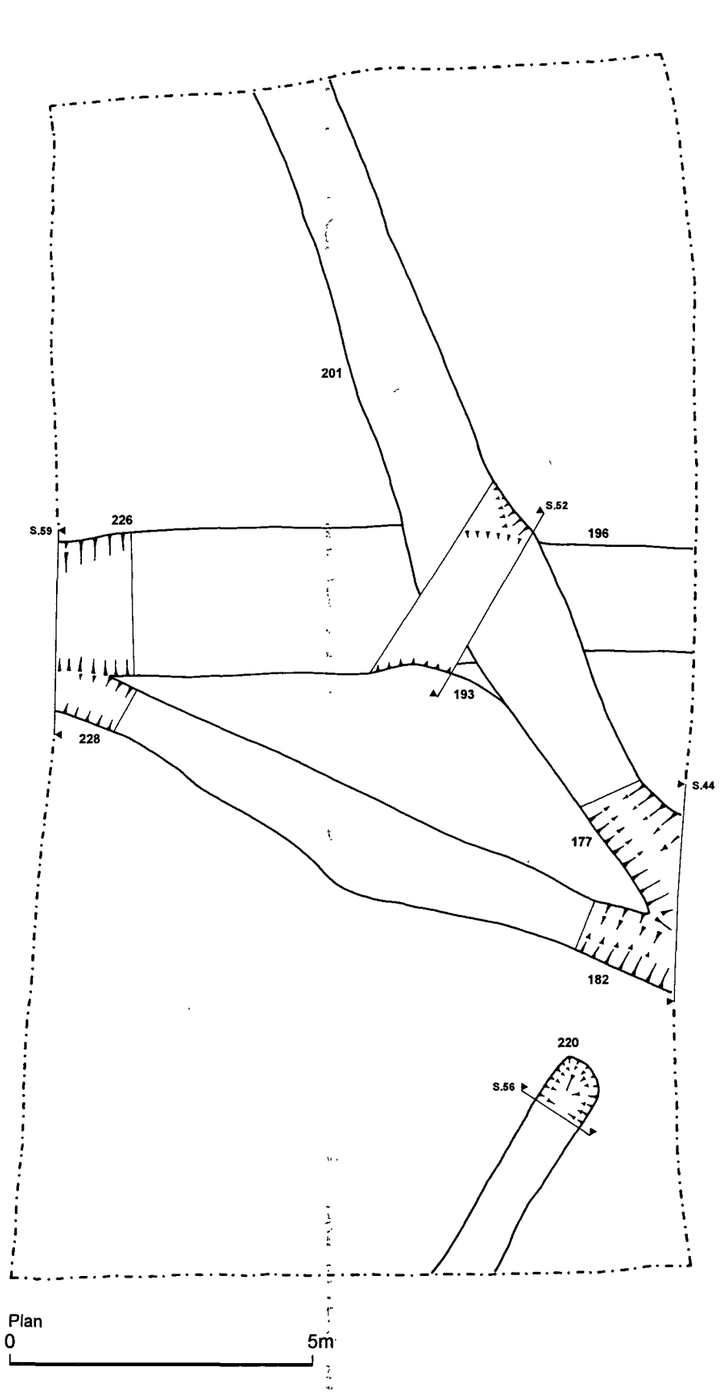
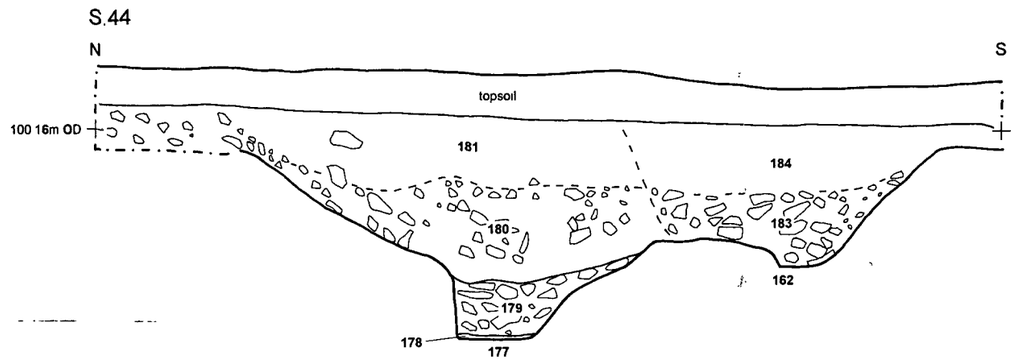
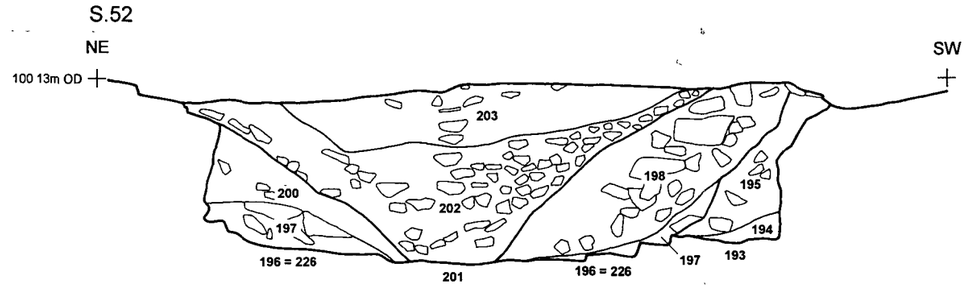
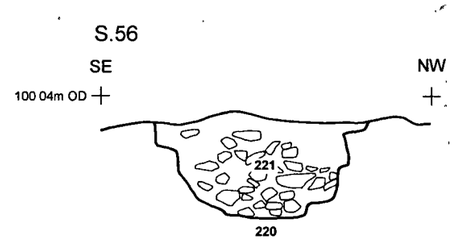


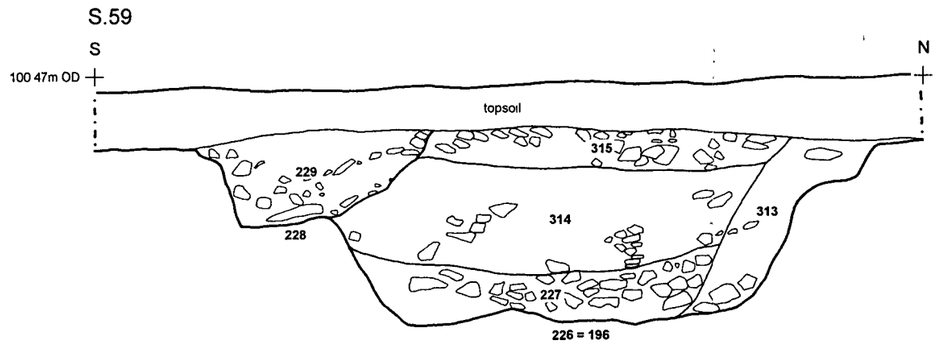
Fig. 5. Trench 5 plan and sections











Sections
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Fig. 6. Trench 10 plan and sections

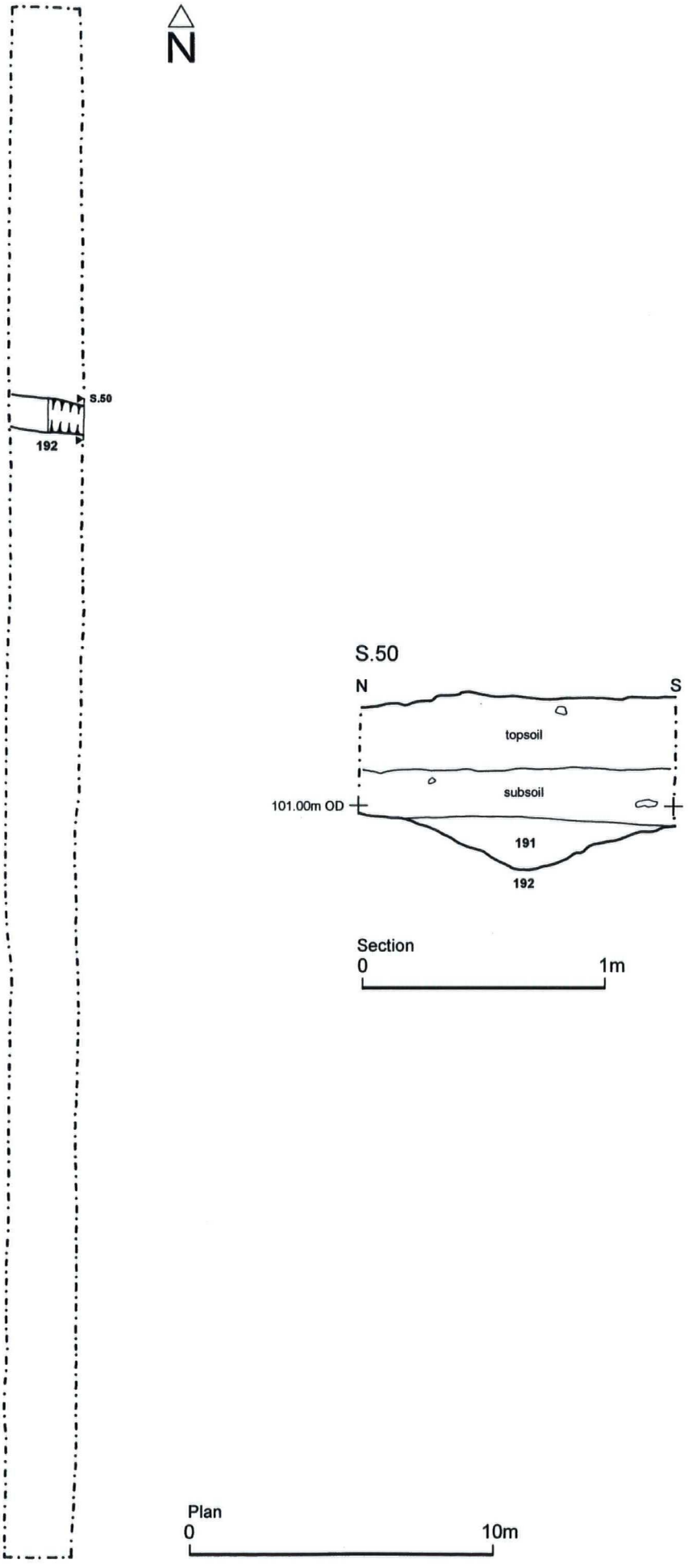

Fig. 7. Trench 12 plan and section

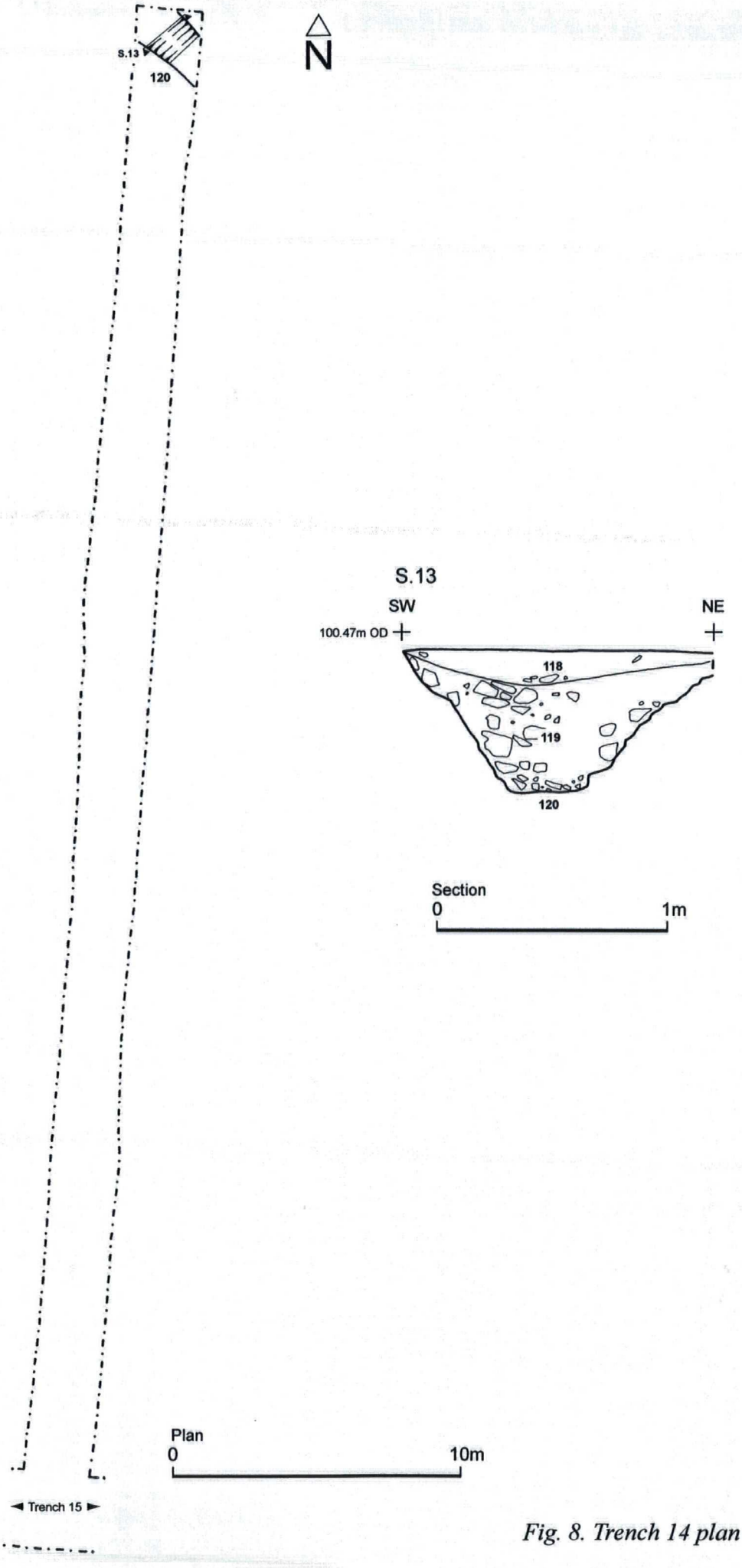

Fig. 8. Trench 14 plan and section

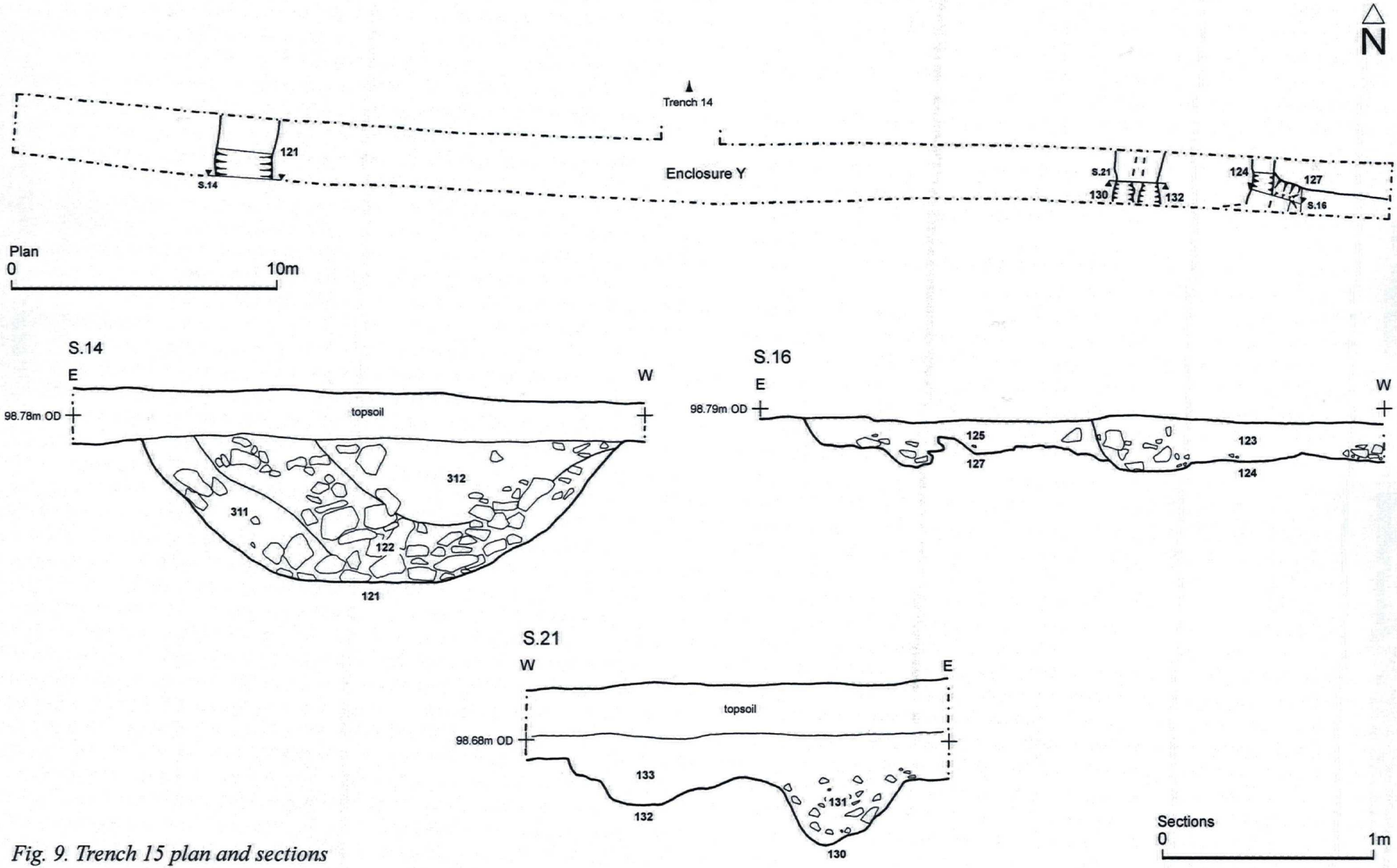

Fig. 9. Trench 15 plan and sections

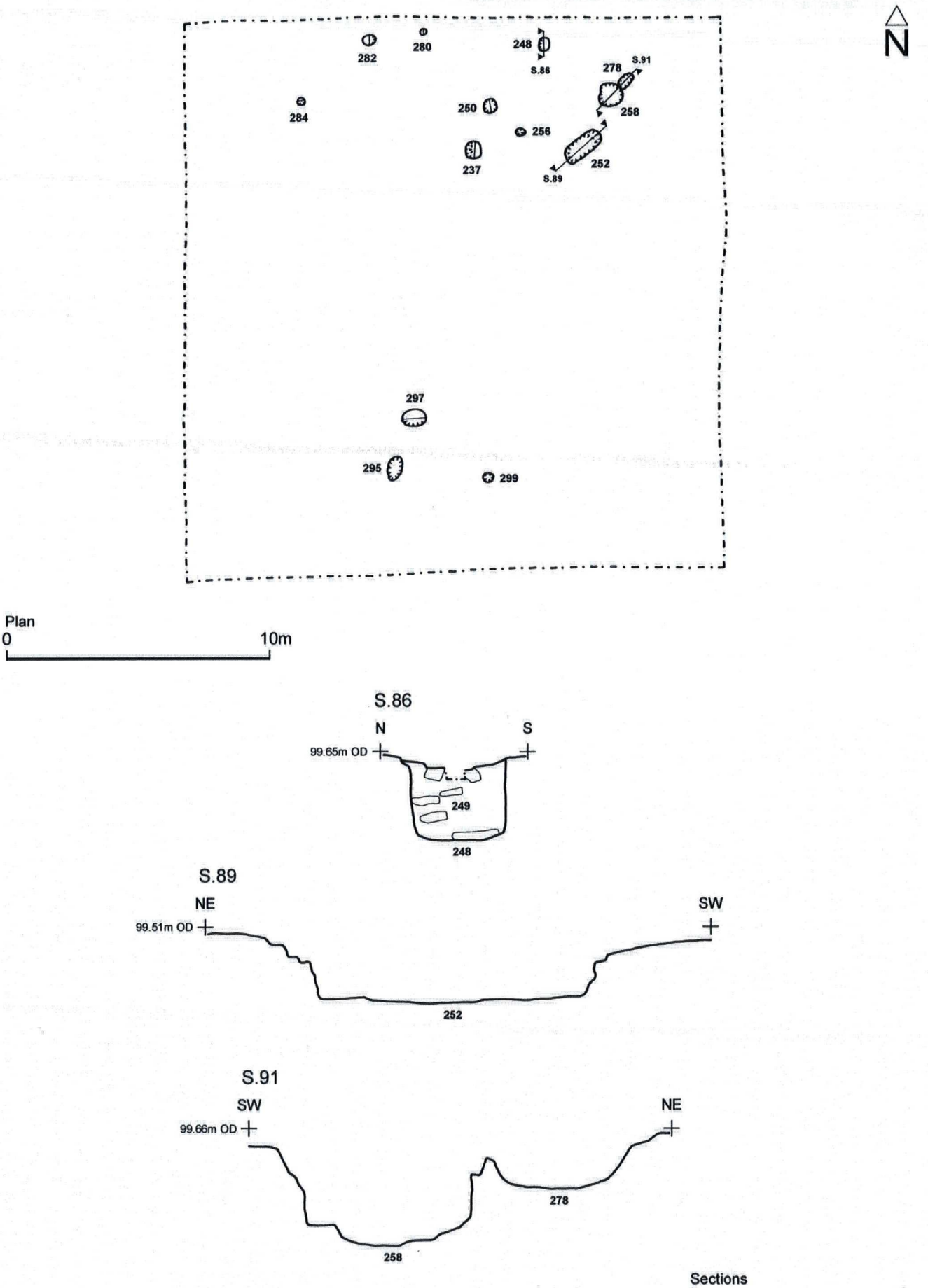

Fig. 10. Trench 16 plan and sections