

Contents.

Figure List.

Introduction.

Results.

Discussion.

Figure List.

Figure 1: Location Plan.

Figure 2: Earthwork Plan.

Figure 3: Location of Features.

Yorkshire Water Coneysthorpe to East Ness Pipe Line:

Sheep Walk, Location Plan.

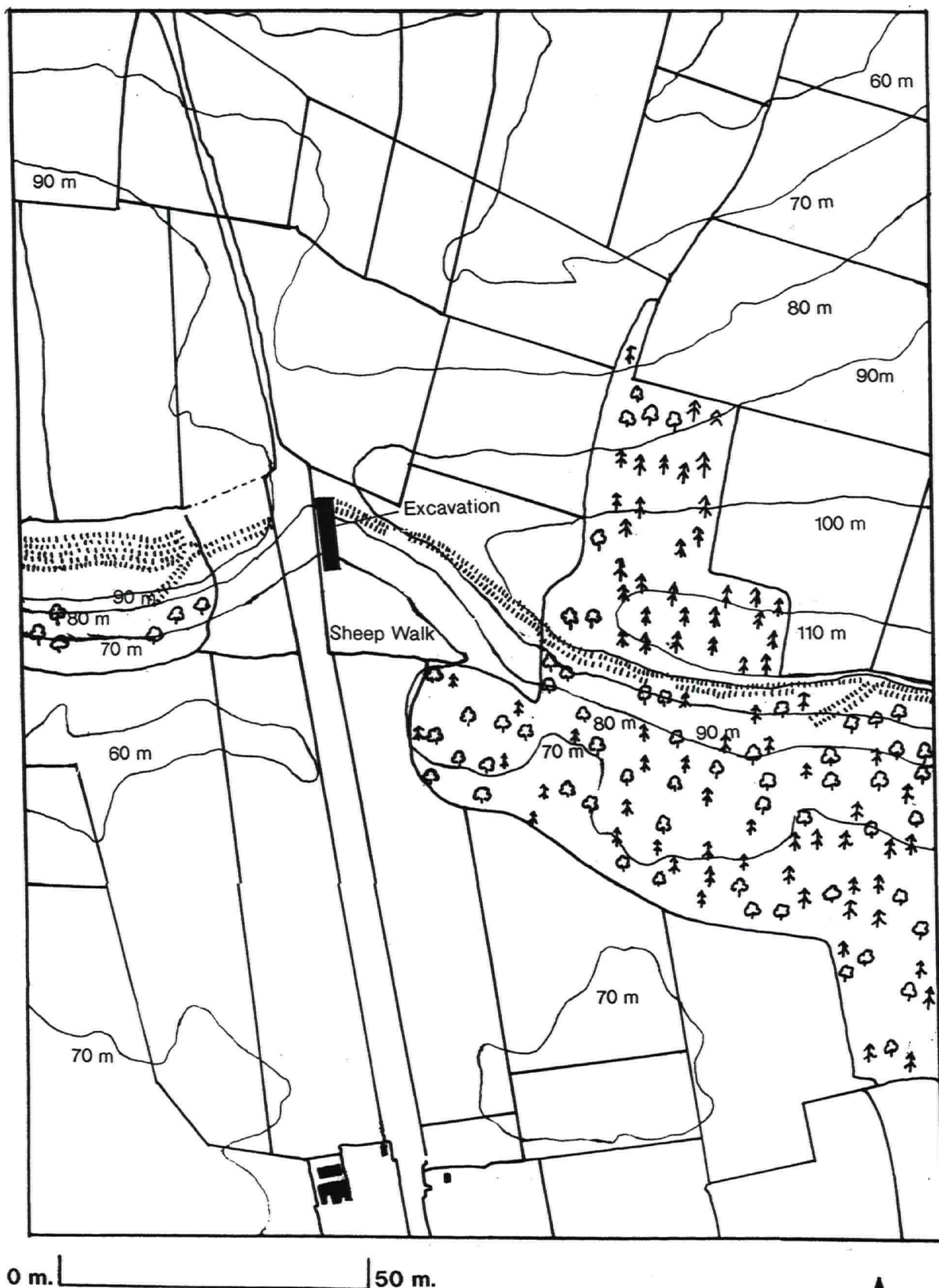


Figure 1

Yokshire Water Coneysthorpe to East Ness Pipeline: Sheep Walk
Earthworks Survey.

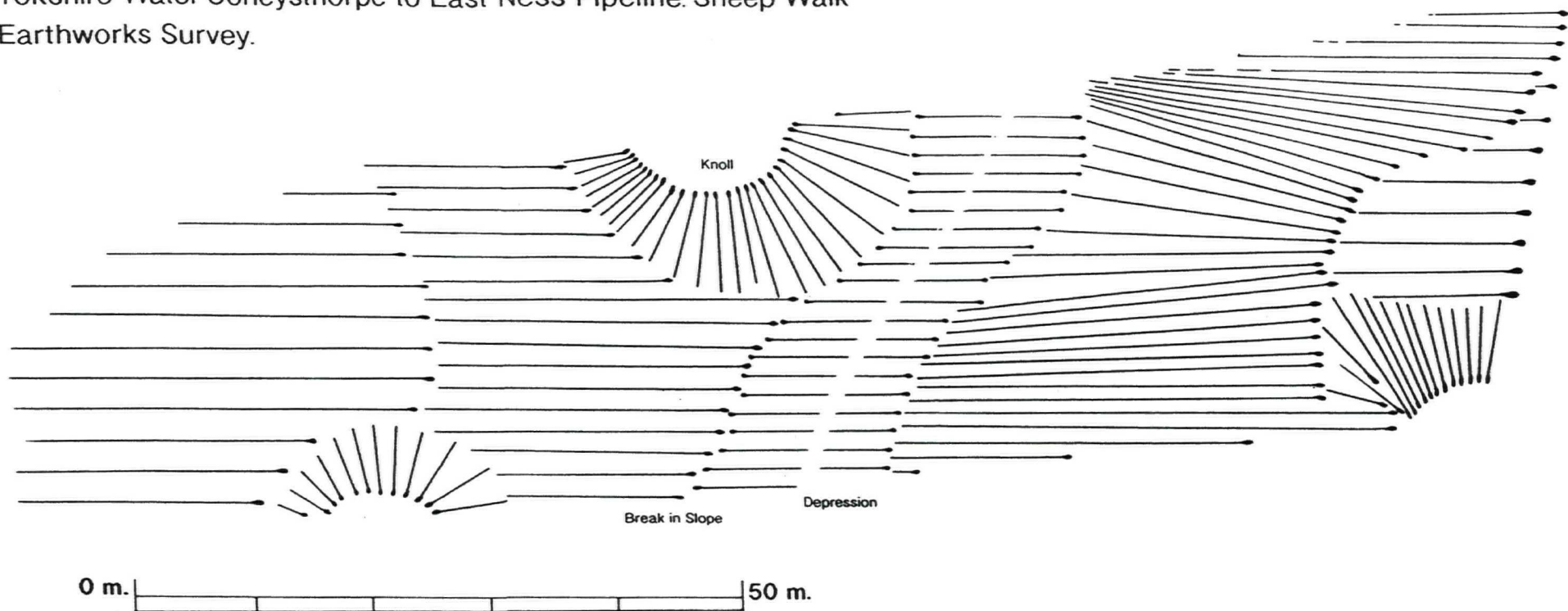


Figure 2

Yorkshire Water Coneysthorpe
to East Ness Pipeline:
Sheep Walk.
Location of Features

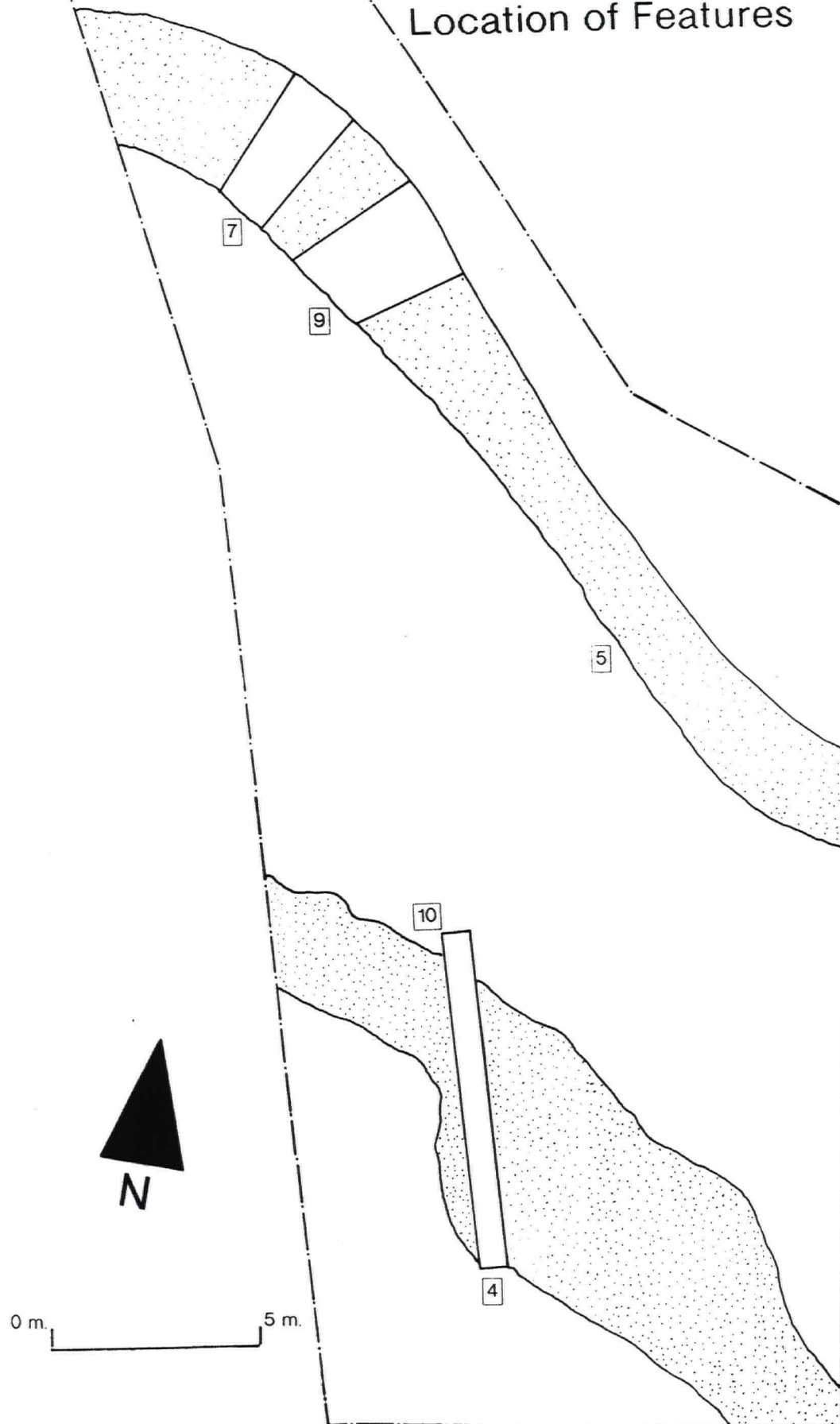


Figure 3

Sheep Walk.

Introduction.

Sheep Walk is a steep south-facing hill slope on the northern edge of the Howardian Hills between Coneysthorpe and Slingsby (SE 706 732). Towards the base of the hill a marked break in slope, which runs east-west, is suspected to be the remains of a Bronze Age boundary ditch or "dyke", Figure 3. To the east in Coneysthorpe Bank Wood and west in Slingsby Bank wood the traces of a ditch and slight bank can be observed on the same line.

Excavations in advance of Yorkshire Water's Coneysthorpe to East Ness Source Improvement were confined to a corridor some 15 metres wide, which at Sheep Walk ran parallel and to the east of the Coneysthorpe-Slingsby road. Unfortunately no conclusive evidence for the existence of a bronze age ditch and bank was recovered. However, a number of deposits were uncovered and excavated.

Results

Towards the front of the break in slope a layer of dark loose ashy material (Context 4) containing a large amount of (burnt ?) red sandstone was uncovered during stripping, Figure 2. There were no finds recovered from this area. This layer was partly covered by Yellow brown soil (Context 10) to the north and would also appear to lie on top of a similar sandy, although darker natural soil.

Beginning in a hollow, between the face of the hill and a small Knoll (Feature) a depression could be observed following the break in slope, Figure 2 and 3. On stripping this was seen to contain a dark brown clayey material (Contexts 2,3 ,6 and 8.) and certainly appeared in plan to indicate the presence of a ditch. Excavation was to show that this feature was of negligible depth, 12 to 14 centimetres in the excavated segments (Cuts 7 and 9). There was no trace of a bank associated with the feature. A small number of finds were recovered, consisting of abraded medieval pottery sherds and a piece of clay pipe.

Discussion

There is no obvious connection between Context 4 and the linear feature. Context 4 would seem to indicate an industrial process or the dumping of waste associated with an industrial process which has in turn been partly covered (Context 10) by the erosion and redeposition of soil from the hillside. The lack of finds make the deposit impossible to date. The linear feature (Cuts 5,7 and 9.) was not the expected dyke but is more likely to be natural, a result of local drainage conditions between hill-side, knoll and break in slope.

Of course it is possible that all trace of ancient remains may have been removed by later intervention. Traces of ridge and furrow were observed to the south of Sheep Walk and may have run onto the brake in slope. The construction of the road and modern dumping to the west of the site also suggests much activity in the area. There is also the possibility that in light of the steep hill slope there was no need to lay out an obvious land division at this point; but this assumption does not sit well with the break in slope.

See file for location
map.