



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
STANLEY MAIN, SKIPWITH

REPORT

May 1998

On behalf of:

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SUMMARY

Within the study area (Fig.2, Griffiths 1997) excavation trenches were sited near the village of Skipwith (SE 65750,38480) and further south on the edge of Skipwith Common. In total thirteen separate interventions were opened which covered three sectors. Sectors were defined according to their land-use. Sector 1 (Int1, Int2) immediately adjacent to the Common was situated on arable land which carried a moderately damp sandy soil; Sector 2 (Int3, Int11, Int12) was on a fragile, unstable dry sandy soil, which was periodically liable to windblow; and finally Sector 3 (Int4-Int10, Int13) crossed fields of permanent pasture which were affected by poor drainage.

Cropmark patterns in the light sandy soils suggested exploitation in the area since at least the late Iron Age in Sector 1 and Sector 2 (Griffiths 1997), although recent geophysical survey in Sector 1 (Int14) and Sector 3 had failed to locate any archaeological features.

The excavation sample was therefore designed:

- to evaluate the cropmark features, in particular to investigate irregularities in the cropmark map
- to investigate the presence of suspected archaeological remains near St Helen's Church, Skipwith and the manorial moated site to the south
- to assess the character of archaeological remains in different terrains
- to assess the survival and nature of different deposit types (archaeological, geological or vegetational features)

A total area of approximately 3612m² was investigated. All the interventions apart from Int7, Int8, and Int10 produced deposits of significance although no archaeological features were present within Int4, Int7-Int10 and Int13. 'Spot finds' recovered from the excavated features identified two principal episodes of archaeological activity within the study area which covered the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, 1st Century BC to 2nd Century AD (Int1, Int3) and the Medieval and later period, from the 12th Century AD forward (Int1-Int6, Int11 and Int12).

A former burial mound (truncated square barrow) was investigated in Int1. Int3 contained a valuable archaeological strata, a significant Late Medieval buried soil horizon covered by a succession of windblown sand; smaller interventions around St Helen's church (Int5, Int6) produced a relatively large quantity of finds which suggested major changes in the landscape during the post-Medieval period. The only rich organic deposits, a layer of peat, came from deposits near the Southfield Drain (SE 65735,38185) discovered in Int9 and Int13.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the results of the archaeological investigations at Skipwith undertaken on behalf of Mike Griffiths & Associates for RJB Mining (UK) Ltd. The investigations form part of a multi-disciplinary approach designed to investigate the development of the natural, archaeological and historical landscape at Skipwith. Fieldwork was carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists from late January until late March 1998.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The interventions were situated on low-lying ground between the 4m and 11m contour, the highest point located on Int3 (10.47m AOD) and the lowest on Int10 (4.90m AOD). Across the flat landscape a network of managed drainage channels cut the gentle surface gradients which had been dug since the late seventeenth century to improve wet ground conditions. Within the study area sandy subsoils of post-glacial aeolian origin predominate which currently support an agricultural regime based upon cereal and root crop cultivation, ideally suited to the light warm sandy soils.

Immediately south of the study area one piece of relic heath land (Skipwith Common) supports a diversity of wildlife and contains features of archaeological, historical and geological interest. Given its present condition it is unlikely the Common has been managed since at least the Second World War when an airfield was constructed on its NW edge (Riccall airfield). In the study area a number of small coniferous plantations have been established since at least the turn of the century, but it is noticeable that some of the older trees have outgrown their purchase on the soft sandy ground and are liable to collapse or subside.

The geological character of the area is uniform and consists of a sandy subsoil which overlies a heavy clay, although the depth of deposit may vary. The surface deposits are generally well drained although perched watertables exist within less than 0.50m of the subsoil surface. It is assumed that the sand within the area is highly acid, though it is likely that this has been counter-acted by recent chemical farming in the fields.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Archaeological work consisting of small scale excavations over a wide area were carried out in order to assess the reliability of the cropmark evidence in locating archaeological remains and to assess the likely impact of mining subsidence, caused by the proposed exploitation of the Stanley Main seam, upon the archaeological strata.

As a result of the relatively high watertable and the general low lying aspect of the study area it was anticipated that some archaeological deposits could be waterlogged and may contain highly significant remains, consisting of preserved organic material.

2.0 STRATEGY

2.1 EXCAVATION STRATEGY

The investigations were carried out in order to identify and map all features or archaeological horizons (surfaces), and where necessary to sample excavate selected features sufficient to characterise the deposits, and where possible to establish their function, date and sequence.

Selected features were identified by their form, but it was often necessary to excavate similar feature types (eg. ditches) at intervals along the larger interventions in order to assess the variation in the preservation of environmental remains, the height of perched watertables and the character of the local subsoil. Where necessary, in order to confirm the absence of buried soil surfaces, sondages were dug to various depths through the subsoil surface. Where excavated features were cut below the watertable only the backfill standing above the level of the water was removed to reduce the risk of collapse in confined working areas from inherently unstable sandy subsoils.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

A strategy for the recovery of environmental samples was adopted for each intervention following on-site discussion with Dr Stephen Carter (Headland Archaeology) and the consultant archaeologist.

The potential for any site based study of the environmental history is limited by the nature of the soils and the character of the archaeological remains. All the sectors were on glacial sands and the soils were moderately free draining and acid. In general these conditions will have caused the loss of nearly all osteological and molluscan evidence but local conditions of waterlogging or otherwise anaerobic conditions may preserve entomological or botanical data. The data sources for environmental archaeology which were likely to exist were therefore the buried deposits and the biological and chemically stable materials that they contain (eg. carbonised plant macro fossils, pollen), and the waterlogged deposits.

The sampling programme consisted of four specific elements designed to investigate the formation of the deposits and assess the potential for the study of the environmental history.

- Pedological (micromorphological) study of the modern and buried soils to provide information relating to the status of the soils at the time of burial and which should also be able to detect and characterise some aspects of previous phases of land use and soil accumulation.

Soil micromorphology samples were removed from the backfill of the square barrow ditch (F25) (Int1) to investigate the character of the laminated deposit and on Int 3 boxes were removed at selected intervals through the deep soil profile and across the buried soil.

- Pollen analysis. The micromorphology samples were sub-sampled for the study of their pollen content.
- Detailed flotation of selected deposits to recover carbonised cereal grains and weed seeds to provide interpretable evidence of environment and economy and to help characterise deposits of dubious archaeological character.

Samples were taken from the backfill of features enclosed by the square barrow (F43, F46) (Int1).

- To assess the survival of preserved biological remains from selected waterlogged deposits.

Bulk soil samples were removed from the backfill of features in different interventions (Int1, Int2, Int3, Int6, Int9) which covered a range of terrains and conditions, both wet and dry.

The samples sent for analysis are given below (Table 1):

Table 1 Samples for environmental analysis

	BULK SOIL SAMPLES	FLOTATION	MICROMORPHOLOGY SAMPLES
Int1	F19 1042 F20 1115 (eq.1111)	F43 1112 F46 1116	F25 1099
Int2	F2 1002 1010		
Int3	F2 1072 1073		1001 1002
Int9	1003		

3.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

Interventions were established within working areas identified by the consultant archaeologist and varied in size according to the specification (Appendix 1). The interventions are listed below (Table 2).

Boundaries of working areas were marked with protective barrier fencing and the interventions opened either by machine or were hand-dug, exceptionally a combined approach was adopted on Int6. General excavation procedure followed the methodology defined by the consultant.

Additional trenches within the working areas were only established after discussion with the consultant. In Sector 2 two smaller trenches (Int11, Int12) were hand-dug north of Int3 to test the presence of a buried soil and to measure the accumulation of wind blown sand. At the west end of Int1 (Sector 1) the trench was extended slightly to enclose the square barrow. Small square pilot trenches in Sector 3 were extended into larger trenches to confirm the presence/ absence of any features within the working area.

In each intervention the soil or backfill removed from the various parent deposits (turf, topsoil, subsoil, feature fills) were banked in separate soil pounds which were later returned in sequence during re-instatement in order to maintain the integrity of the soil profile.

Table 2 Intervention List

INTERVENTION	DESCRIPTION	SIZE (m ²)	DATES	ORIGINATOR
1	Excavation	1751.35m ²	Feb-March 1998	AJ Copp
2	Excavation	160.00m ²	Feb-March 1998	AJ Copp
3	Excavation	1440.00m ²	Jan-Feb 1998	AJ Copp
4	Excavation	16.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
5	Excavation	36.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
6	Excavation	18.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
7	Excavation	12.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
8	Excavation	12.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
9	Excavation	14.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
10	Excavation	120.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
11	Excavation	24.00m ²	February 1998	AJ Copp
12	Excavation	8.00m ²	February 1998	AJ Copp
13	Excavation	1.00m ²	March 1998	AJ Copp
14	Magnetometer survey	1ha	October 1997	M Whittingham WYAS

3.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A site grid was established at each intervention, it was located on the National Grid of the Ordnance Survey from survey stations provided by RJB Mining. For convenience the first two digits of the full National Grid Reference were removed from both the Easting and Northing co-ordinate (ie. 469000,438000 became 9000,8000). All grid references expressed in the report follow this protocol.

3.2 SAMPLE EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Records of excavation were made using a set of operating principles and known as the *Field Research Procedure* (Carver 1990). The structure, content and format of the written and drawn record of all interventions is given below (Table 3).

For recording purposes each intervention was considered to be a different excavation with features labelled consecutively from F1 and contexts from C1000. The definition of features and contexts occurred on the surface of archaeological horizons defined beneath the ploughsoil (eg. Int3) and against the surface of the subsoil (eg. Int1 etc.). Each horizon was labelled and the features/ contexts drawn in plan (1:50). Features excavated were recorded on pro-forma cards and a drawn record made of the section (1:10) and shape of the cut (hachure plan, 1:20). A compendium of the drawn record is illustrated below (Appendix 2) and an abstract of the record cards is provided for each intervention (see below).

Features were excavated following a pre-defined information recovery level (Table 4). Apart from the interior of the square barrow which was subject to careful investigation, features were dug at Level C Recovery and this included where appropriate additional dry sieving of backfills. Features enclosed by the barrow ditch were exceptionally dug at Level D Recovery.

Table 3 Structure and content of archive

YOO		INDEX TO FIELD FILE	Site:STM98	
CODE		DESCRIPTION	RECORD	FORMAT
		Indices		
YO1		Index of notebooks		
YO2		Index of contexts	X	A4
YO3		Index of features	X	A4
YO4		Index of structures		
YO5		Index of drawings	X	A4
YO6	.0	Index of photographs	X	A4
	.1	Index of film processing	X	A4
YO7	.0	Index of finds		
	.1	Index of finds by context	X	A4
	.2	Index of finds by grid square		
	.3	Sample Register	X	A4
	.4	Artefact Register		
	.5	Finds Storage Register		
YO8		Index of geophysical data files		
YO9	.0	Index of survey stations	X	A4
	.1	Index of co-ordinate files	X	A4
	.2	Index of topographic files		
YO10		Index of interventions	X	A4
Y1		Notebooks	X	A4
		Contexts		
Y2	.0	Context Record	290	A4
	.1	Skeleton Record		
	.2	Coffin Record		
	.3	Masonry Record		
	.4	Timber Record		
		Features		
Y3	.0	Feature Record	139	A4
	.1	Auger Record		
Y4		Structure Record		
		Site drawing		
Y5	.0	Legend		
	.1	Plans	55	A4 / A1
	.2	Maps		
	.3	Sections	44	A4 / A1
		Photographs		
Y6	.0	Black and white negatives		
	.1	Colour negatives		
	.2	Colour slides	262	35mm;M/ F
	.3	Colour enprints		
	.4	Black and white prints	226	35mm;M/ F
		Finds		
Y7	.0	Finds Location Record		
	.1	Artefact Record		
Y8		Record of geophysical data files		

Table 4 Data Recovery Levels

LEVEL	OPERATION	FIND	COMPONENT	CONTEXT	FEATURE	STRUCTURE
A	Machining	<i>Plot 2-D</i>	(not recovered)	<i>Outline plan</i>	<i>Outline plan</i>	<i>Outline plan</i>
	Field walking	<i>Plot 2-D</i>	(not recovered)	(not recovered)	Inferred from density plot	Inferred from density plot
	Geophysics	(not recovered)	(not recovered)	(not recovered)	Inferred from density plot	Inferred from density plot
	Topographics	(not recovered)	(not recovered)	(not recovered)	Inferred from map	Inferred from map
B	Shovel scraping (definition)	<i>Plot 2-D</i>	(not recovered)	<i>Short description, outline plan</i>	<i>Short description, outline plan</i>	<i>Short description, outline plan</i>
	Shovel excavation	Recover by context	Optional sampling	<i>Short description, outline plan</i>	<i>Short description, plan and profile</i>	<i>Short description, plan and profile, photograph (post-exc)</i>
	Coarse trowelling (definition)	<i>Plot 2-D</i>	(not recovered)	<i>Description, outline plan</i>	<i>Description, outline plan</i>	<i>Description, outline plan</i>
C	Excavation	Recover by context. Optional sieving	Optional sampling	<i>Full description, outline plan</i>	<i>Full description, plan, section, photograph (post-exc)</i>	<i>Full description, plan, section, photograph (post-exc)</i>
	Fine trowelling (definition)	<i>Plot 3-D</i>	(not recovered)	<i>Full description, outline plan, photograph</i>	<i>Full description, detailed plan, photograph</i>	<i>Full description, detailed plan, photograph</i>
D	Excavation	<i>Plot 3-D. Sample sieving</i>	Selective sampling	<i>Full description, outline plan, section, photograph (pre-exc)</i>	<i>Full description, detailed plan, section, photograph (pre/ post exc)</i>	<i>Full description, detailed plan, section, photograph (by phase)</i>
E	Detailed excavation	<i>Plot 3-D. Describe attitude. Sieve all</i>	<i>Keep all</i>	(as LEVEL D) Optional colour plan/ section	(as LEVEL D) Full photographic record	(as LEVEL D) Full photographic record
F	Block removal for controlled dissection	(as above) <i>Photograph and draw in situ</i>	<i>Keep all</i>	(as LEVEL E) Full photographic record	(as LEVEL E)	(as LEVEL E)

Table 5 Watertable depths in Sectors 1, 2 and 3

INT	AV. DEPTH PLOUGH SOIL	AV. DEPTH BLOWN SAND	THICK- -NESS BURED SOIL	DEPTH OF WATERTABLE	MAX DEPTH EXCAVATED (AOD)
SECTOR 1					
1 A	0.37m	na	na	na	1.12m, F27 @7.92m
B	0.39m	na	na	na	0.83m, F9 @8.32m
C	0.39m	na	na	0.76m, F42 sondage @8.37m	1.00m, F42 @8.13m
D	0.39m	na	na	0.67m, F20 @8.59m	0.88m, F20 @8.42m
E	0.40m	na	na	na	0.61m, F44 @8.66m
F	0.40m	na	na	0.70m, F37 @8.34m; 0.64m, F40 @8.58m	0.93m, F40 @8.35m
2	0.33m	na	na	na	1.06m, F2 @6.58m
SECTOR 2					
3 A	0.33m	0.12m	0.04m	0.99m, sondage @8.58m	1.04m, sondage @8.53m
B	0.34m	0.17m	0.05m	1.31m, F2 @8.18m	1.52m, F2 @7.96m
C	0.34m	0.25m	0.11m	na	na
D	0.34m	0.30m	0.14m	1.63m F16 @8.29m	1.68m, F16 @8.24m
E	0.35m	0.25m	0.10m	na	
F	0.34m	0.26m	0.08m	1.05m, F26 @9.32m	1.31m, F26 @9.05m
11	0.30m	0.25m	0.15m	na	na
12	0.28m	na	na	na	0.46m, sondage @9.64m
SECTOR 3					
4	0.25m	0.30m	na	0.54m, 1002 @7.13m	na
5	0.72m	na	na	0.72m, 1001 @6.41m	1.12m, F1 @6.01m
6	0.69m	na	na	1.82m, F1 @5.80m	1.89m, F1 @5.73m
7	(0.30m)	na	na	0.03m, 1001 @4.87m	na
8	0.24m	na	na	0.62m, sondage @4.26m	0.63m, sondage @4.25m
9	0.33m	redeposited subsoil 0.11m	peat 0.20m	0.62m, 1003 @4.30m	0.72m, sondage A @4.18m
10	0.30m	na	na	(flooded by spring water)	na
13	0.25m	na	na	0.27m, 1002 @4.50m	na

4.0 SECTOR 1 (Intervention 1 and Intervention 2)

4.1 INTERVENTION 1 (Table 6)

4.1.1 Introduction

A trench 180m x 8m (1440m²) was excavated 196m SW of the Adamson Farm just beyond Skipwith Common (NGR SE 64451,37816) (Fig.1). It was later extended to enclose the square barrow at the west end to cover a total area of 1751m².

Ploughsoil (C1000), 0.30-0.47m thick (Table 5), was removed by machine from the entire length of the trench using a tracked 360° excavator and the surface was shovel scraped. Beneath the silty, dark ploughsoil was a uniform orange-yellow sand subsoil (1051-1056) covered by patches of hard-pan.

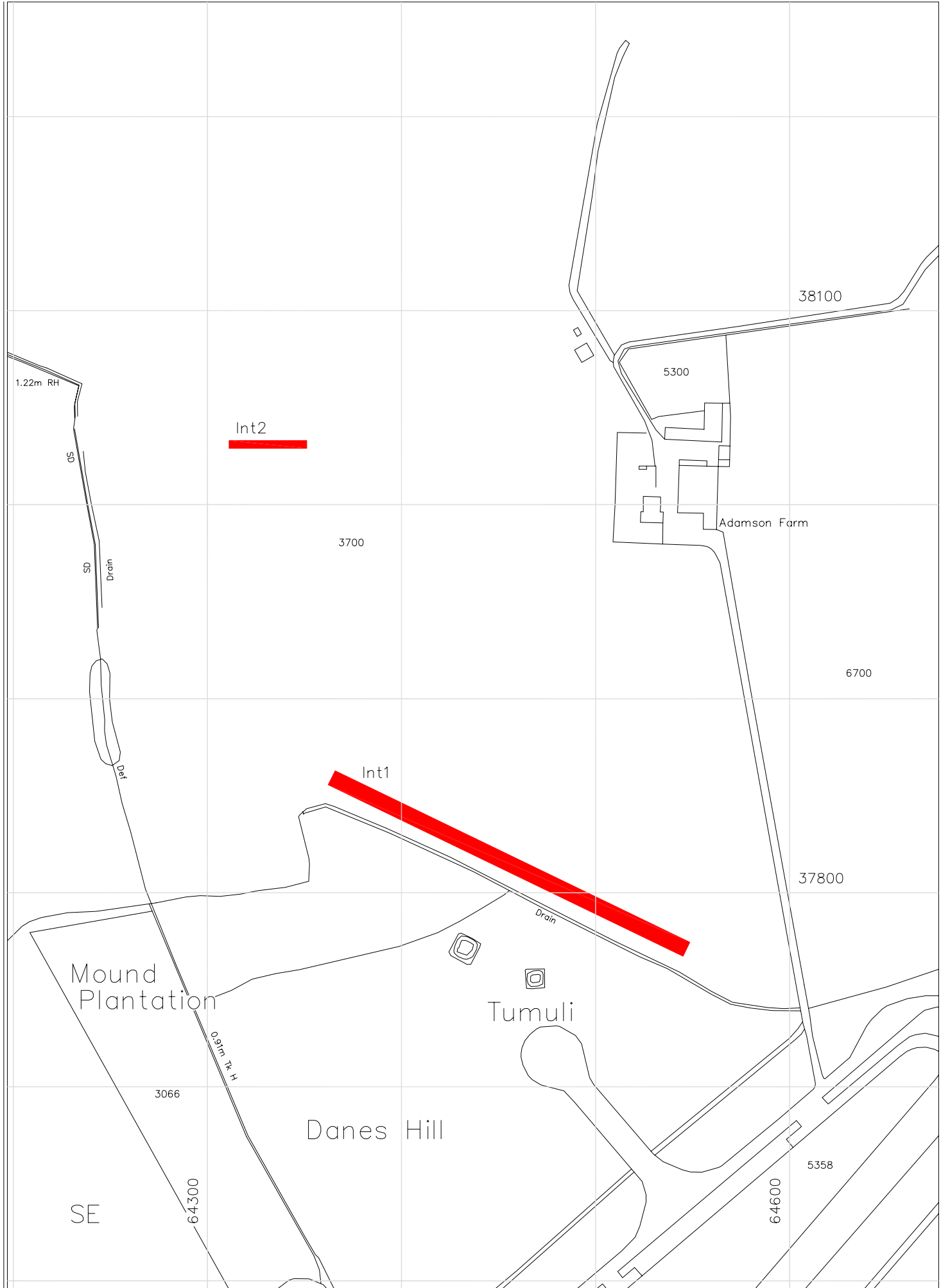
Six planning modules (A-F) each 30m long were hand cleaned. A variety of features were mapped at Horizon 2, the subsoil surface, (Figs.2-7) which included spreads of charcoal rich deposits and linear ditches, and at the west end segments of the square barrow. A sample of the different feature types were selected for excavation or further surface cleaning and photographic recording.

4.1.2 Excavation Results (Figs.8-9)

Across Int1 were a series of land drains which ran either north (west end) or NE (east end). At the west end the drains stood proud of the subsoil surface (eg. F22, F23) and had been struck by the plough or subsoiler (Plate 1). None of the drains were excavated although in the course of investigating the square barrow it was necessary to dismantle F22. F22 was a horse-shoe drain with associated sole plates (late eighteenth century date). It could not be confirmed that all the drains at the west end were of this type.

Spreads of dark brown sand which contained dense concentrations of charcoal covered Int1 at Horizon 2 (Plate 2). The spreads were particularly extensive at the west end in Modules B to C (eg. 1013, 1014, 1015, 1019, 1021, 1031, 1029, 1033 and 1034), but they were more localised elsewhere. In general their shape was irregular in outline and where they intersected features of archaeological interest (eg. F10, F20, F33) they were consistently stratigraphically earlier. Three features were excavated F44 (1095), F45 (1037) and F29 (1036), although the latter was initially treated as a potential grave. A sondage F42 was later cut through F29 to confirm contact with the subsoil and to evaluate context 1035 which surrounded it. All three spreads were shallow deposits which varied in depth from 0.15m (F45) to 0.25m (F29, F44), indeed the cut for F45 was barely observed, the backfill apparently lying over an undulating subsoil surface.

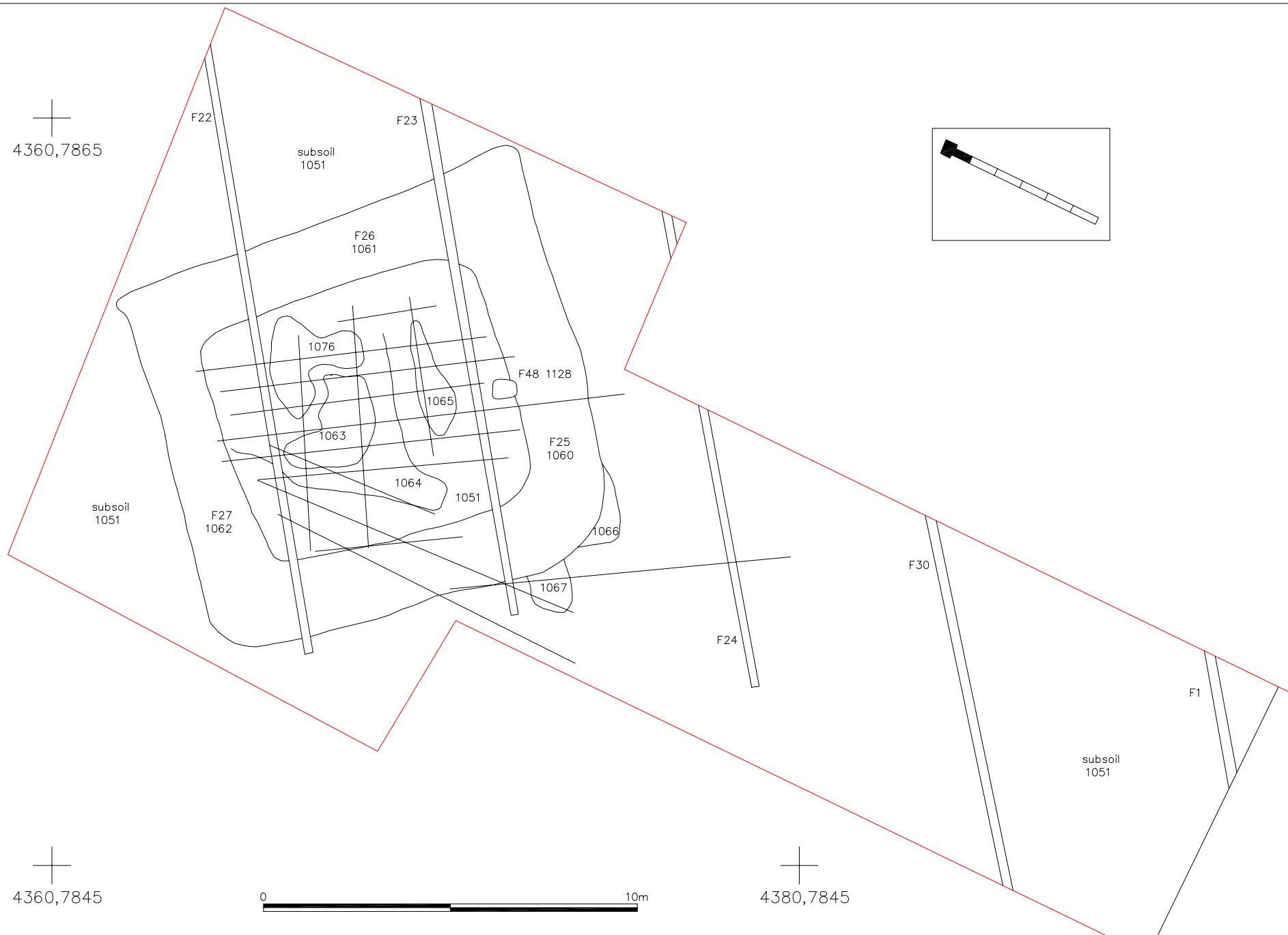
Two other features were treated as potential graves. F19 (Module D) was the butt-end of a small gully, 0.40m deep, which just touched the north edge of Int1. It contained a mottled dark brown



STM98 Sector 1 Location of interventions Scale 1:2500 Figure 1

+

4360,7865



+

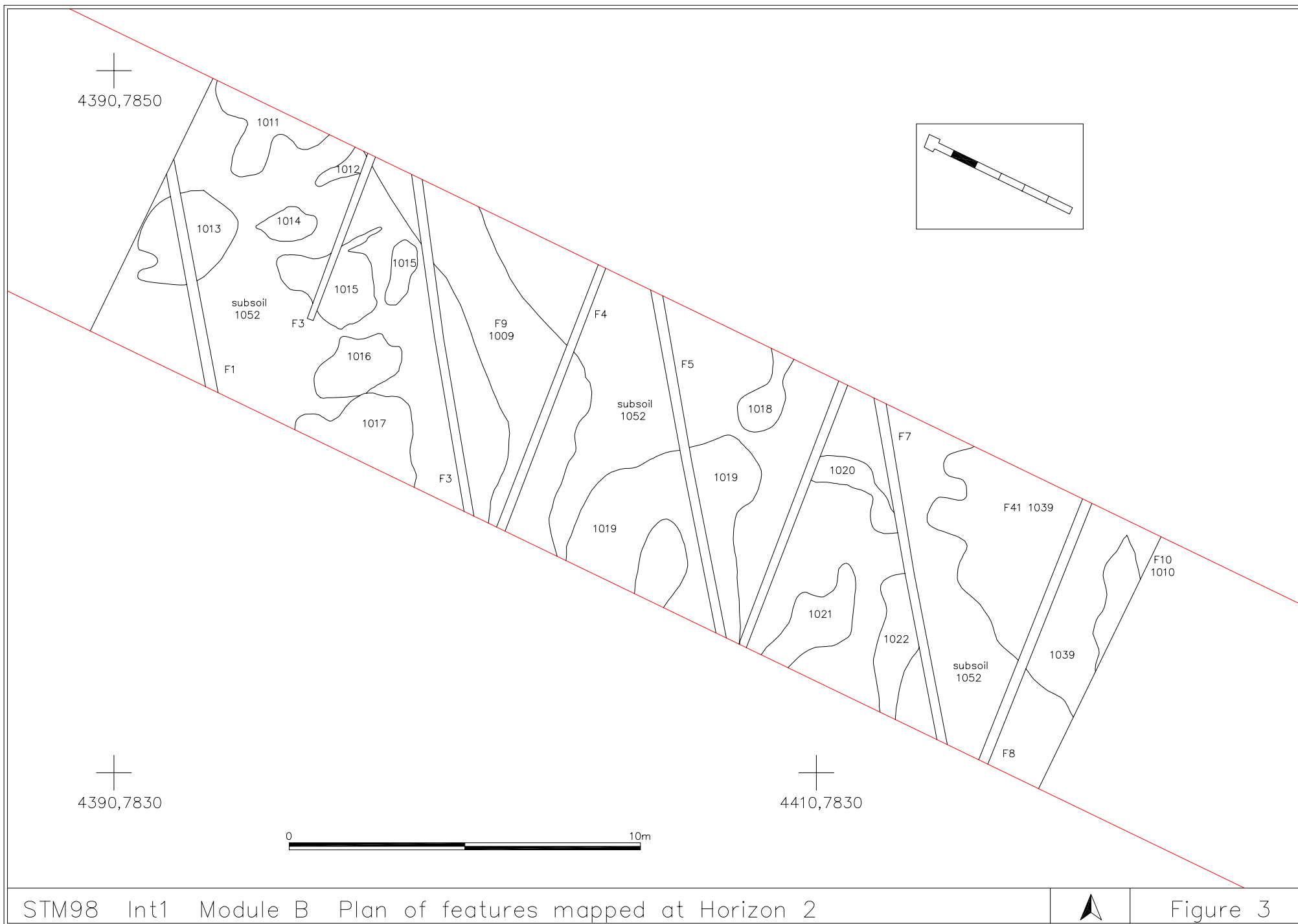
4360,7845

0 10m

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4380,7845





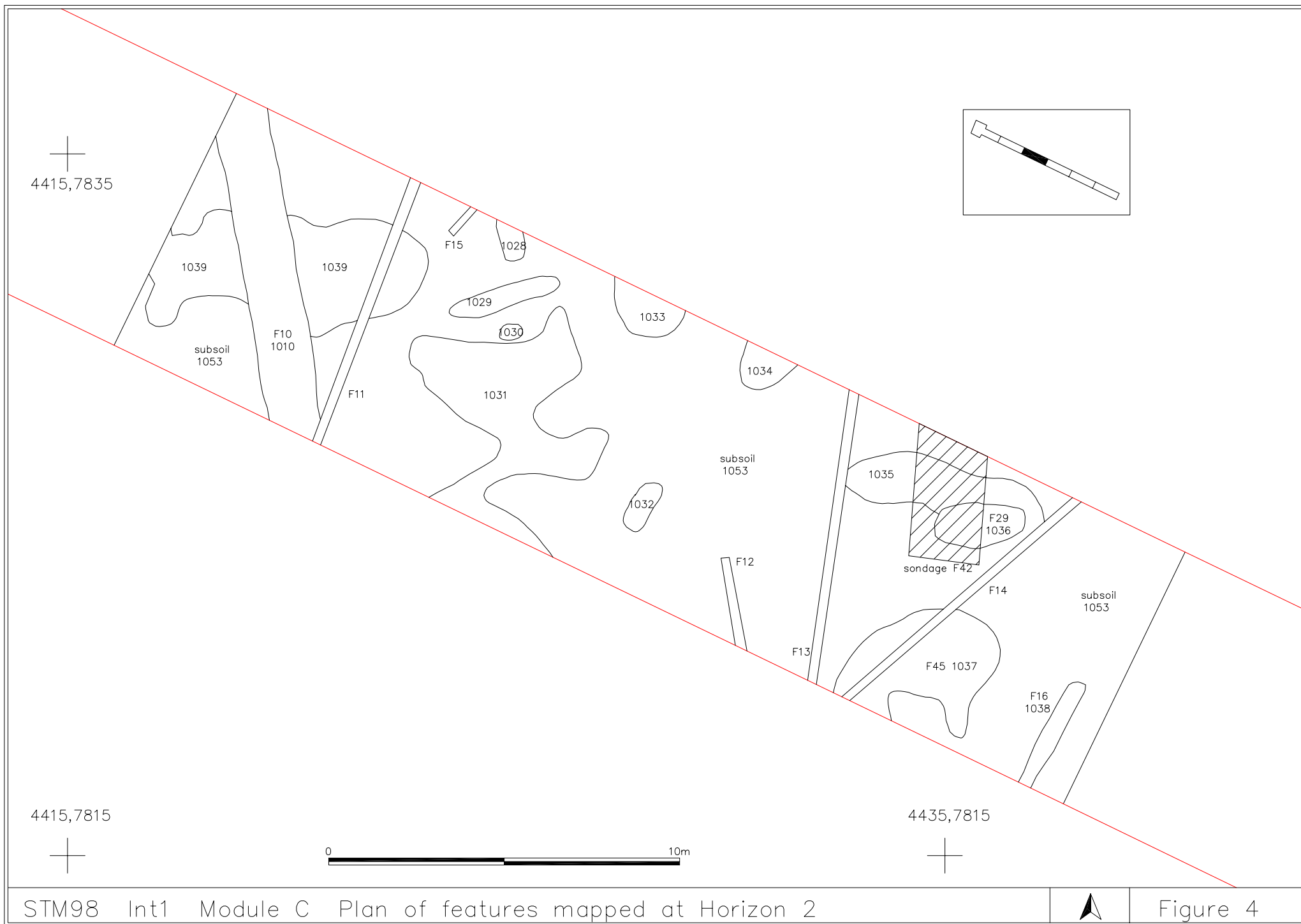
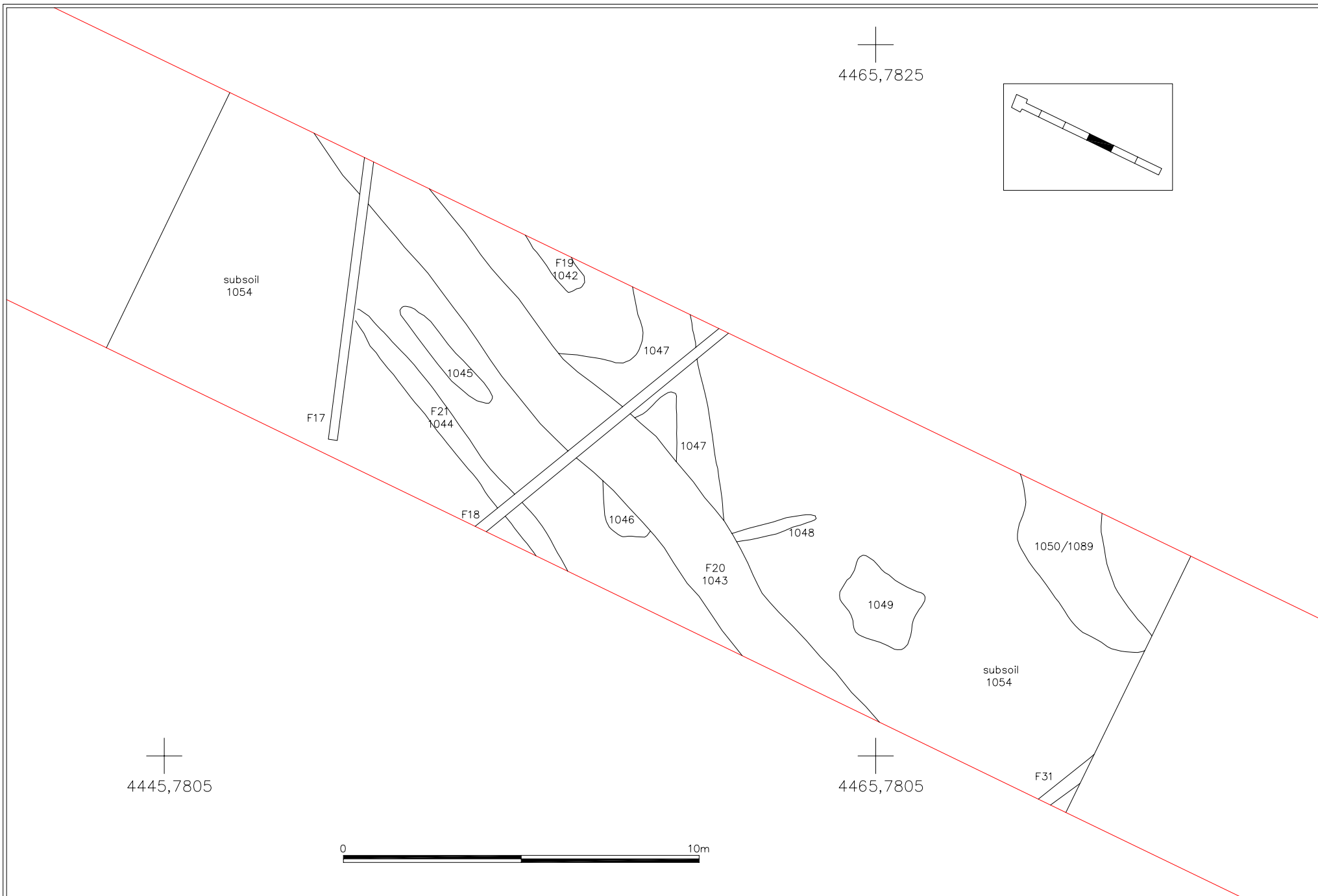
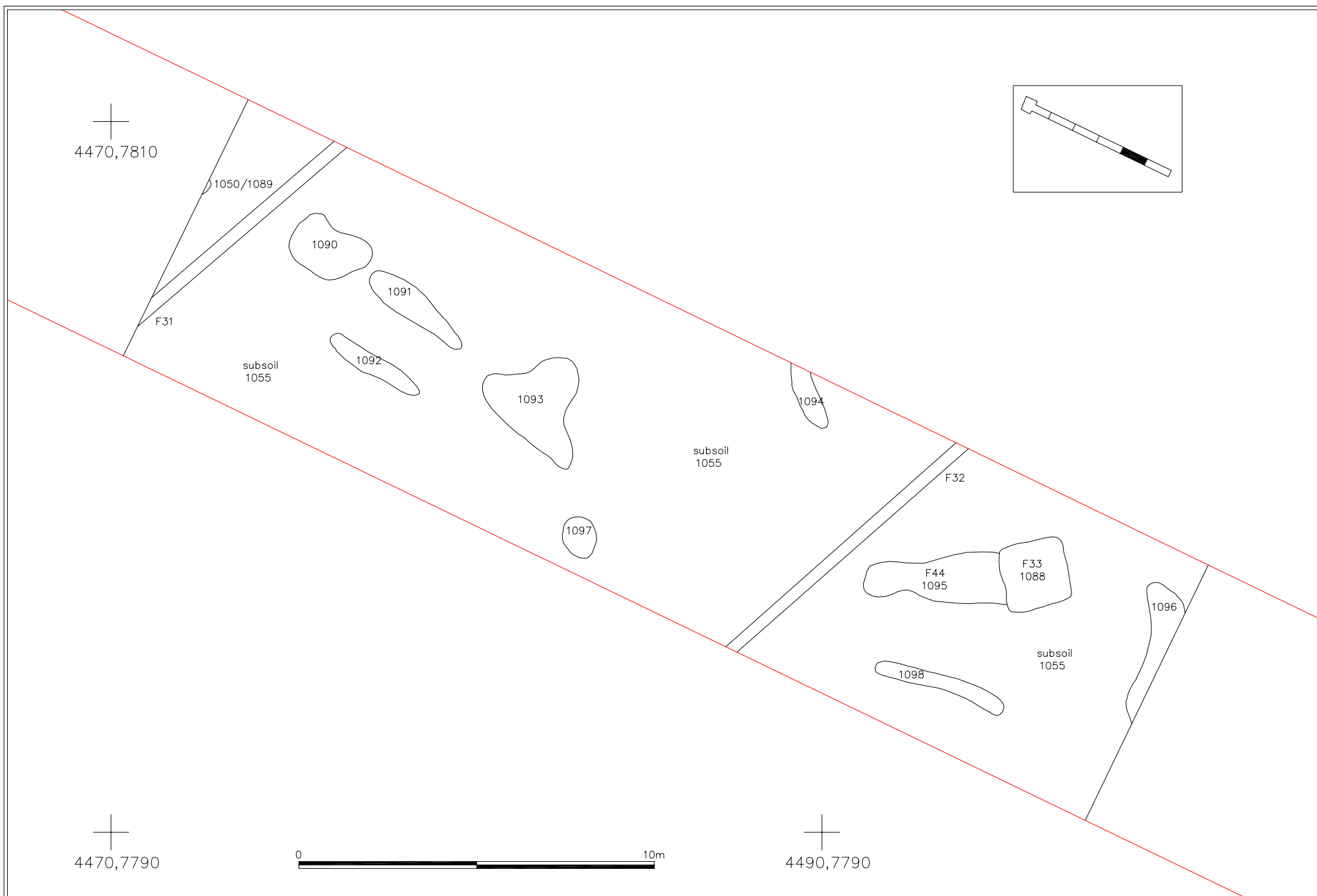
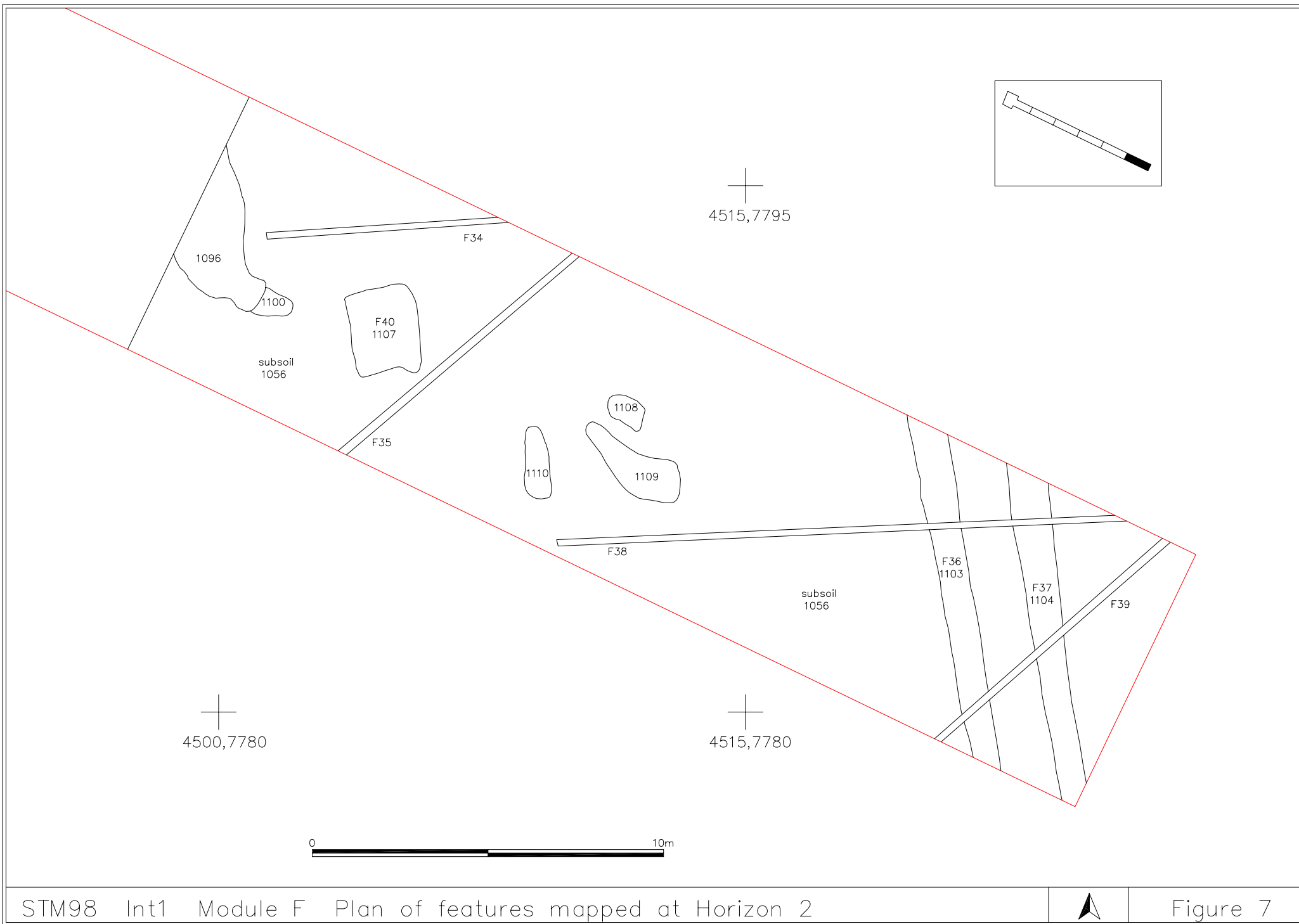
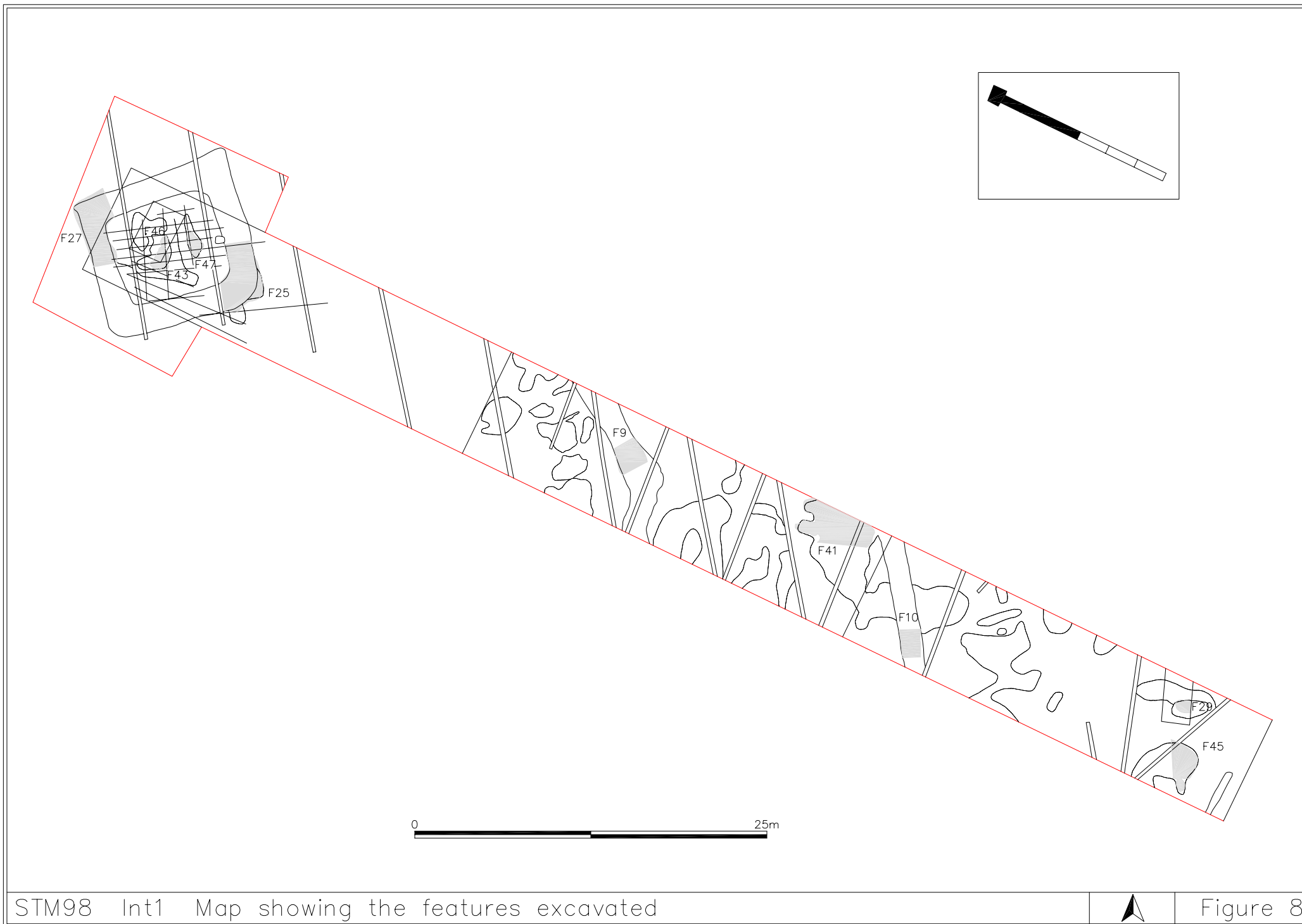


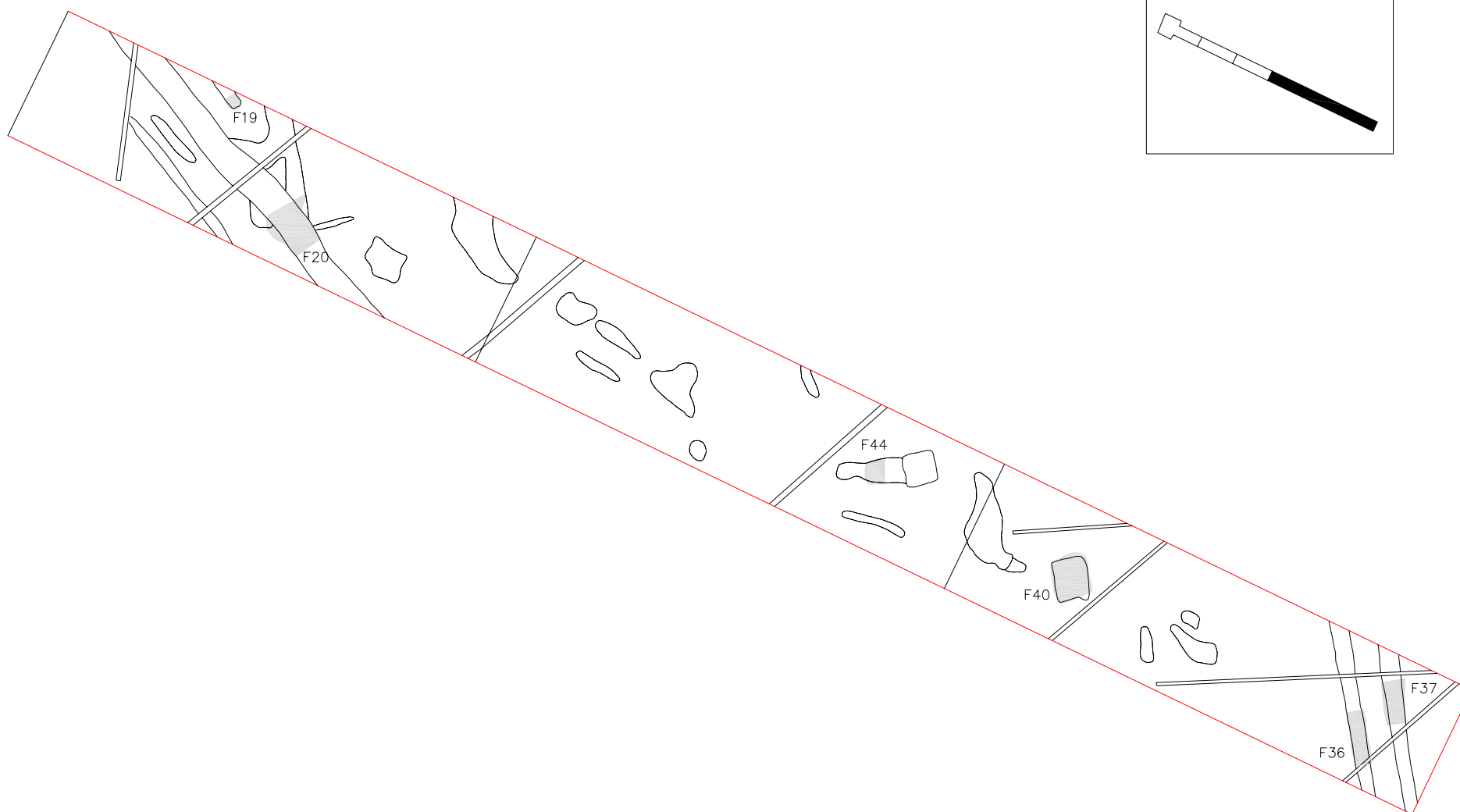
Figure 4











STM98 Int1 Map showing the features excavated



Figure 9

sandy backfill which contained small lumps of hard-pan subsoil, but analysis of the bulk soil sample indicated it was sterile (Appendix 3). F40 was one of a pair of large square pits with F33, located at the east end of Int1. It contained a single backfill (1107) of variable character which included a band of yellow sand, situated in the middle of the deposit, it also contained lumps of hard-pan subsoil. The excavated pit was relatively large, 1.00m x 1.80m with steep cut sides and a flat base. Neither feature contained any evidence of burial or organic material whether bone or sand stain silhouettes, although it is not known whether the burial conditions were too acid for organic survival.

Other types of spread were noted on the Horizon 2 surface which consisted of patches of clean pale brown sand (eg. 1039, 1017). Originally these were considered to be the remnants of an ancient podsolised soil which had survived in pockets within the subsoil. Often they were surrounded by a darker brown 'halo' of coarse sand (Plate 3). Excavation of a segment through 1039 (F41) indicated a natural geological origin for its formation. The excavated surface was dramatically irregular and was composed of the same brown hard-pan subsoil visible around the perimeter (Plate 4). It is possible that the localised patches of hard-pan have contributed to the formation of these pale sandy spreads.

Apart from F9, a broad curvilinear ditch, the other ditches and gullies mapped at Horizon 2 were straight and all appeared to run out from the Common. The broader ditches (F9 and F20, and possibly including gully F19) followed a NW-SE alignment whereas the gullies (F36 and F37) and smaller ditch (F10) were aligned NNW-SSE. It may be significant that at the east end the gullies follow a different alignment from the modern field drains suggesting perhaps a different function.

F9 a ditch of U-shaped profile contained a single backfill (1009), it was 1.55m wide, 0.40m deep and the floor was broad (0.20-0.30m) and flat. 1009 was a uniform deposit of silty sand mottled by flecks of iron oxide near the surface. Thorough dry sieving of the backfill produced no finds.

As excavated F20 varied in width from 2.00-2.50m but it could not be completely investigated since a relatively high watertable had flooded the lower levels. Prospective augering from a depth of 0.40m indicated a further 0.20m of backfill still in the ditch. The upper fill (1043), 0.22m thick, consisted of a dark brown silty sand deposit, charcoal rich, which covered a paler dark grey fill (1111) thoroughly disturbed by a thick and vigorous root mantle. No organic preservation was present within 1115 (equivalent to 1111), (Appendix 3). A small sherd of glazed china was recovered from 1043.

F10 was a shallow ditch 0.33m deep, 1.60m wide with a flat floor 0.30-0.40m wide. It contained a single deposit (1010), a dark grey silty sand mixed with occasional lenses of clean orange sand. A few undiagnostic sherds of pottery (? tile/ land drain) and a small piece of abraded china were recovered. Cut into the backfill and lying on the floor of the ditch was a land drain of circular profile, F28 (19th Century or later) which had been buried tight against the eastern edge. The backfill (1084) contained a fragment of china.

The two smaller gullies (F36, F37) at the eastern end of Int1 ran parallel to each other. F36 was smaller, 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep, it contained a dark brown silty sand fill (1103) faintly mottled with flecks of iron oxide. F37 (1.15m x 0.30m) contained a waterlogged primary fill, a pale brown sand (1114), 0.07m thick, covered by a silty sand fill (1104). Finds were recovered from 1103 alone and they included tile, china, clay-pipe stem and brown glazed pottery, all of post-medieval date.

THE SQUARE BARROW

At the west end of Int1 were the remains of a plough damaged square barrow without a central burial or suspected burial pit, although a small scatter of cremated bone (Appendix 4) recovered immediately beneath the ploughsoil suggested a different type of burial in the vicinity (Fig.10). During the investigations of Int1 the trench was extended around the barrow in order to confirm its identity, to define its extent and character, and to locate and investigate the burial rite.

The enclosed area of the barrow covered approximately 56m² and it was surrounded by a continuous quarry ditch, although no barrow make-up or bank material survived either side of the ditch. On the south side the corners of the ditch appeared more rounded but in general the barrow was symmetrical in shape. The north and south sides were slightly longer, 7.60m compared to the other sides which measured 6.90m.

Two opposite segments of the ditch were excavated, F25 and F27 (4.50 and 5.00m long respectively), to achieve a profile N-S and E-W through the barrow. As excavated the ditch was 1.70m wide and slightly deeper on the west side, 0.70m (F27), compared to 0.60m on the east side (F25).

At Horizon 2 the enclosed area contained swirls of locally discoloured sand which were difficult to interpret, but these were investigated to locate the cut of the burial pit. Toward the centre of the barrow, but on the north side of the enclosed area, a study area 2.50 x 3.50m was subject to intense excavation. This area had already produced the two small concentrations of cremated bone and contained swirling dirty brown deposits which included in its make-up lumps of charcoal and lenses of silt (1063, 1076). Within this area the surface was lowered in a series of consecutive spits to a depth where features were either defined or until the clean subsoil (1051, 1064) was reached. In total three spits were removed from the study area to a total depth of 0.20m. The spit four surface was declared clear of any archaeological features with clean pale yellow sandy subsoil across the entire enclosed area.

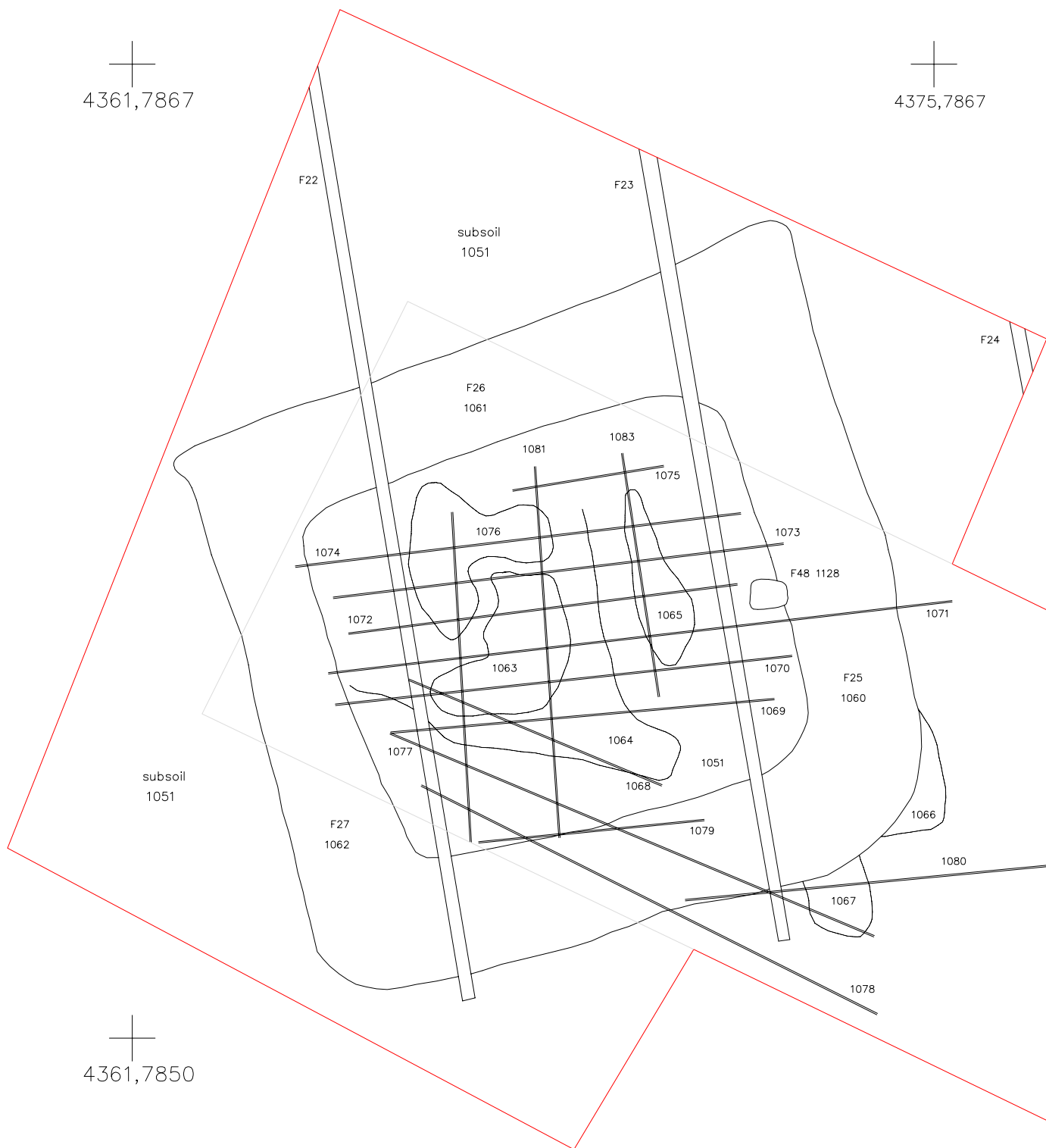
Two small features were excavated within the study area but at different spits (Fig.11). F43 (1112) near the centre of the enclosed area was defined on the spit two surface, it contained a concentration of charcoal and was directly beneath the locus of cremated bone. F46 (1116) defined at spit three abutted F43 and it also contained charcoal. Both features were shallow and irregular, both contained a stiff dark brown sandy fill and much charcoal debris but neither produced any additional fragments of cremated bone to suggest they were associated with the original burial.

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The absence of any scorched sand associated with these features also indicates that they were not part of the cremation ritual. F43 and F46 both appear to be vegetation features, similar to spreads of dark sand and charcoal observed and investigated elsewhere along the trench. (*Results of the analysis of the charred remains retrieved from the flotation have not yet been received*). F47 a narrow, irregular feature on the eastern side of the enclosed area was also of natural origin.

THE BARROW QUARRY DITCH (F25, F27) (Fig.11)

At Horizon 2 and before the full extent of the barrow had been defined in the extended area segments of the continuous quarry ditch were described as F25 (east), F26 (north) or F27 (west).

The ditch was U-shaped and it appears from the profile that during construction the inner edge was cut slightly more steeply. The floor of the ditch was even and from the bottom it contained a sequence of deposits characterised by a variety of coloured sands from different parent material.

An initial accumulation of primary fill from the ditch sides, 0.12m thick, consisted of relatively clean sand (orange-yellow) mixed with distinct swirls of brown silty sand (1121, 1127). The unusual turbulent shape of this deposit suggested it had accumulated either under waterlogged conditions which was fluctuating rapidly, or as a result of being 'puddled' by animals. This was covered by a layer (1120, 1126) of darker brown 'humic' sand, 0.10m thick which contained flecks of charcoal. Overlying this was a pale brown deposit of cleaner sand (1119, 1125), 0.12m thick, probably an erosion product from the barrow make-up or collapsed ditch sides which was covered by further bands of dark humic sand (1118, 1124).

The backfill sequence on the east side (F25) was more difficult to read since it had been disturbed by burrowing animals, however similar lenses of pale yellow sand and humic brown sand were also reported in the backfill (1099 and within 1060). Analysis of the micromorphology samples from F25 suggest that ditch in-filling was rapid and occurred under waterlogged conditions (Carter 1998). The presence of unstructured organic debris and the absence of clear sorting in the sand fraction indicate that the backfill derived from collapsing ditch edges, incorporating the local soil and subsoil horizons. At the time the ditch was dug it appears that the local soil was a waterlogged peat.

The final ditch fill contained a well structured dark brown-grey soil, 0.25m thick (1060, 1062, 1117, 1122, 1123) which probably included the remains of remnant make-up since the upper portion of 1060 (F25) also included small lumps of hard-pan subsoil (0.06m dia.).

Although all deposits from F27 were also sieved no finds were recovered from the primary ditch fills, only the upper fill (1117, 1060 and 1062) produced material. The mixed assemblage included a small quantity of Roman grey wares (2nd Century), a few lumps of slag, a heavily patinated flint flake and two fragments of modern tile/ land drain.

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• cremated bone

section B

study area

F27

section A

F46

F43

F47

A1

F25

B1

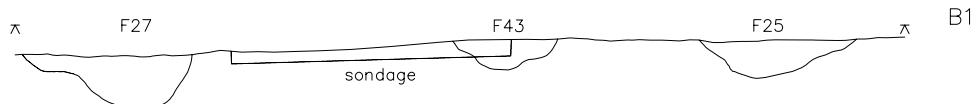
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section A



section B
(projected)



4.1.3 Conclusion

Except for the square barrow structure there were few convincing archaeological features from Int1. The majority of the features consist of amorphous spreads of superficial deposits from natural geological or vegetational anomalies, the latter perhaps associated with land clearance or management of the Common.

Most of the other ditches had a relatively shallow, broad profile and significantly none contained the primary silts or backfill pattern observed within the square barrow ditch. Finds recovered from ditches F10/ 28 and F20 and the gully F36 suggest a late 19th Century or 20th Century date for their construction and their position suggest that they may have been large drainage ditches cut to drain the Common. Alternatively the larger features could have been dug as part of a defensive system around Riccall Airfield (? Anti-glider ditches).

It is likely that F10 must have been open or partly visible as an earthwork when the circular land drain (F28) was installed along its inner edge.

Following heavy periods of rain all the excavated features were temporarily waterlogged, but standing water was consistent in F20, F37, F40 and F42 under all conditions. In these features the surface of the watertable varied in depth between 0.64-0.76m beneath the ground surface (Table 5). Interestingly the perched watertable only appeared at the eastern end of Int1 and was absent from Modules A and B, even within deep features cut to a depth of 1.12m (eg. F27).

Table 6 Intervention 1: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Ploughsoil		1000
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1011
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1012
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1013
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1014
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1015
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1016
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1017
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1018
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1019
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1020

	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1021
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1022
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1028
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1029
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1030
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1031
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1032
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1033
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1034
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1035
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1045
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1046
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1047
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1048
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1049
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1050
		Subsoil		1051
		Subsoil		1052
		Subsoil		1053
		Subsoil		1054
		Subsoil		1055
		Subsoil		1056
	Hor2	Iron oxide	Not excavated	1063
	Hor2	?Spread	Not excavated	1064
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1066
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1067
	Hor2	Subsoiler (E-W)	Not excavated	1068
	Hor2	Subsoiler (E-W)	Not excavated	1069
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1070
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1071
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1072
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1073

	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1074
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NE-SW)	Not excavated	1075
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1076
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NW-SE)	Not excavated	1077
	Hor2	Subsoiler (NW-SE)	Not excavated	1078
	Hor2	Subsoiler	Not excavated	1079
	Hor2	Subsoiler	Not excavated	1080
	Hor2	Subsoiler	Not excavated	1081
	Hor2	Subsoiler	Not excavated	1082
	Hor2	Subsoiler	Not excavated	1083
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1089
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1090
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1091
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1092
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1093
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1094
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1096
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1097
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1098
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1108
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1109
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1110
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1113
	Hor2	Spread	Not excavated	1100
1	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1001
2	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1002
3	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1003
4	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1004
5	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1005
6	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1006
7	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1007
8	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1008

9	Hor2	Ditch	U-Shaped 0.40x1.55	1009	fine silty sand deposit, predominantly 10YR7/ 1 with some variation in colour and some flecks of mineral staining
10	Hor2	Ditch	U-shaped 0.33x1.60	1010	fine silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 1 contained irregular bands of clean orange sand with flecks of charcoal throughout
11	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1023	
12	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1024	
13	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1025	
14	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1026	
15	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1027	
16	Hor2	Gully	Not excavated	1038	
17	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1040	
18	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1041	
19	Hor2	Gully	U-shaped 0.40x0.70	1042	silty sand deposit, 10YR2/ 2 with mineral staining near the top and contained lumps of redeposited sandy yellow subsoil
20	Hor2	Ditch (not completely excavated)	Scoop, 0.40x2.50	1043 1111 1115	upper fill, silty sand deposit, 10YR 2/ 1 with much charcoal and root disturbance lower fill, silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 1 again with root disturbance allocated to auger sample probably equivalent to 1111, waterlogged
21	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1044	
22	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1057	
23	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1058	
24	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1059	
25	Hor2	Ditch	U-shaped 0.60x2.00	1060 1099	upper fill, silty sand deposit, 5YR3/ 1 with laminated layers of sandy silt containing flecks of charcoal and isolated patches of redeposited subsoil lower fill, silty sand deposit, 10YR7/ 1 containing laminated layers of silty sand and charcoal flecks
26	Hor2	Ditch	Not excavated	1061	

27	Hor2	Ditch	U-shaped 0.70x1.70	<p>1062 upper fill, fine sandy silt deposit, 10YR3/ 2 with root and plough disturbance (equivalent to 1117,1122,1123)</p> <p>1117 upper fill, fine silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2 identified for sieving, being the lower division of 1062 (equivalent to 1062,1122,1123)</p> <p>1118 centre fill, fine silty sand deposit contained a number of distinct laminated layers of various colours</p> <p>1119 centre fill, fine sand deposit, 7.5YR 6/ 3 (equivalent to 1125), variegated in colour and relatively well compacted</p> <p>1120 centre fill, silty sand deposit, 7.5YR4/ 3, restricted to the northern end of the excavated area</p> <p>1121 lower fill, silty sand deposit, 7.5YR4/ 2, containing swirls of clean sand (7.5YR6/ 4)(equivalent to 1062,1117,1123)</p> <p>1122 upper fill, fine sandy silt deposit, 10YR3/ 2 (equivalent to 1062, 1117, 1123)</p> <p>1123 upper fill, fine sandy silt deposit, 10YR 3/ 2 (equivalent to 1062,1117,1122)</p> <p>1124 centre fill, fine silty sand deposit, 10YR 4/ 2 (equivalent to 1118)</p> <p>1125 centre fill, fine sand deposit, 7.5YR6/ 3 (equivalent to 1119)</p> <p>1126 centre fill, silty sand deposit 10YR3/ 2, a dark 'humic' deposit compacted against the cut of the ditch</p> <p>1127 lower fill, silty sand deposit 7.5YR4/ 3, contains clods of redeposited clay subsoil against cut of the ditch (equivalent to 1121)</p>
28	In F10	Field drain	Square-shaped 0.20x0.80	1084 fine silty sand deposit 10YR3/ 1, contained lumps of redeposited subsoil near the base
29	Hor2	Scoop	0.25x1.10	1036 silty sand deposit, 7.5YR2.5/ 1, containing flecks of charcoal
30	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1085
31	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1086
32	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1087
33	Hor2	Pit	Not excavated	1088
34	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1101
35	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1102
36	Hor 2	Gully	U-shaped 0.18x1.00	1103 sandy silt deposit, 10YR2/ 2, ceramic
37	Hor2	Gully	U-shaped 0.30x1.15	<p>1104 upper fill, silty sand deposit, 7.5YR4/ 2</p> <p>1114 lower fill, sand deposit, 10YR6/ 3, waterlogged</p>
38	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1105
39	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1106

40	Hor2	Pit	U-shaped 0.50x1.00x1.80	1107	silty sand deposit, 10YR 3/ 2, variable colour containing irregular bands of clean yellow sand, waterlogged
41	Hor2	Geological	Irregular 0.45x5.50	1039	fine sand deposit, 10YR6/ 3, lying over an uneven bed of hard panned sand
42	Hor2	Sondage	Rectangular 0.95x2.00x3.00		not allocated a context, excavated to confirm the identity of F29
43	Hor2	Pit	U-shaped 0.20x0.90x1.54	1112	silty sand deposit, predominantly 10YR2/ 1, heterogeneous in character and heavily disturbed by burrowing. Contained quantity of charcoal
44	Hor2	Scoop	U-shaped 0.20x1.42	1095	fine silty sand deposit, 10YR 2/ 1
45	Hor2	Scoop	Scoop 0.15x2.70dia	1037	silty sand deposit, 2.5Y2/ 0, homogenous character but contained much charcoal
46	Hor2	Scoop	U-shaped 0.70x0.50x0.85	1116	silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 1, much disturbed by burrows
47	Hor2	Bush pit	V-shaped, 0.40x0.40x2.00	1065	silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 1, contained flecks of mineral staining throughout

4.2 INTERVENTION 2 (Table 7)

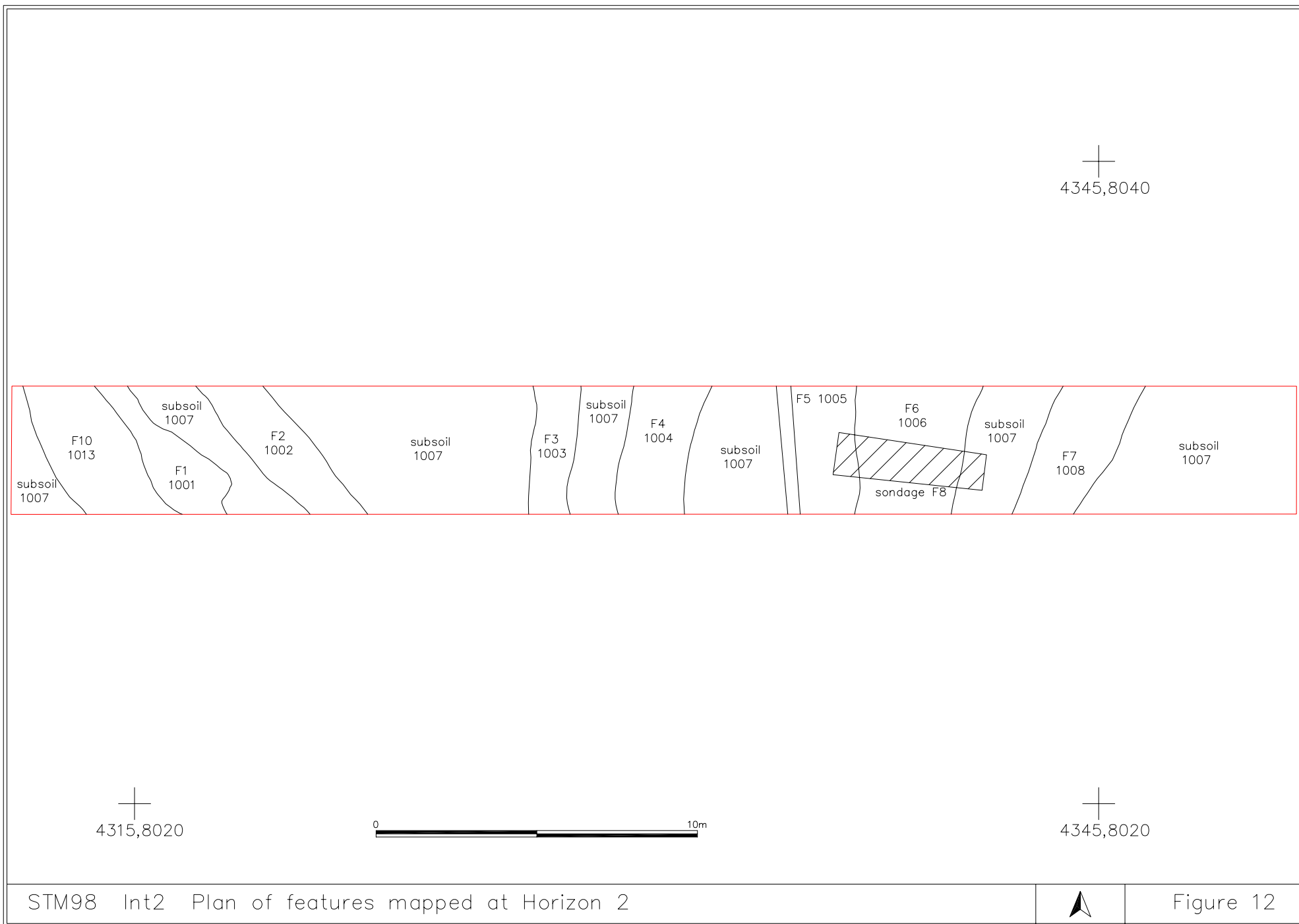
4.2.1 Introduction

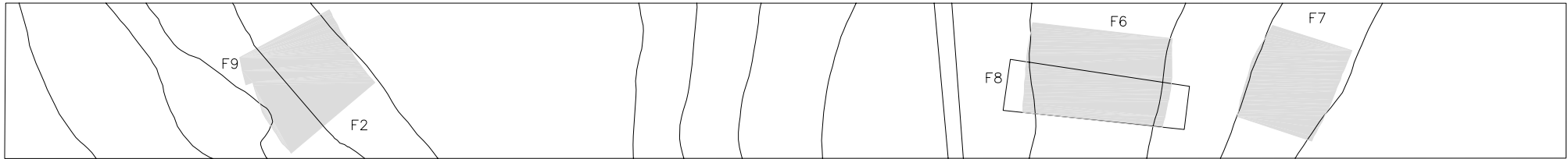
A trench 40m x 4m (160m²) situated 193m west of the Adamson Farm was opened by machine (Fig.1). Int2 (SE 64348,38026) lay south of the working area identified by the consultant where it was offset 4.00m to avoid contact with a large man-hole cover.

A number of linear features (ditches or land drains) crossed Int2 at Horizon 2, the subsoil surface (Fig.12). In addition to the three features which were excavated (F2, F6 and F7) a narrow sondage (F8) was cut beneath F6 in order to test the local geological strata and to confirm contact with the base of the excavated feature.

4.2.2 Excavation Results (Fig.13)

Situated at the west end of Int2 (the lowest point in the trench) F2 was a U-shaped ditch, aligned NW-SE, 0.65m deep and 2.80m wide, with a broad flat floor over 0.50m wide. The backfill (1002, 1010, 1012) was stiffer than deposits on Int1 and contained a variable clay component which reflected the local subsoil conditions, its upper fill (1002) was mottled throughout with flecks of iron oxide. On the western side of the ditch a circular land drain was discovered but could not be traced on either side beyond the excavated segment.





F6 was a shallow scooped feature aligned north-south, 3.60m wide but only 0.10m deep, it was possibly a furrow, although it was an isolated example. F6 contained the total finds assemblage from Int2 - an abraded sherd of Roman grey ware, an undiagnostic lump of brick/ tile and a large iron nail.

Further east F7 a U-shaped ditch with a rounded profile, 0.35m deep and 2.00m wide was aligned NNE-SSW and appeared to converge toward F2 at a distance beyond the southern edge of Int2.

None of the excavated features, including the sondage, reached the watertable (Table 5), although the deepest cut did contain a saturated fill at a depth 1.06m beneath the surface. Bulk soil samples from F2 (1002, 1010) were analysed for their organic content but were found to be sterile, although 1002 did contain some charcoal (Appendix 3).

Table 7 Intervention 2: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Ploughsoil		1000
1	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1001
2	Hor2	Ditch	U-shaped 0.65x2.80	1002 upper fill, clay silt deposit, 10YR5/ 2, with small flecks of mineral staining throughout, traces of charcoal and isolated clods of blue clay 1012 centre fill, heavy sandy clay deposit, 10YR5/ 2 1010 lower fill, heavy clayey sand deposit, 10YR 5/ 6, contained small pebbles and charcoal flecks
3	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1003
4	Hor2	Ditch	Not excavated	1004
5	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1005
6	Hor2	Furrow	Scoop 0.10x3.60	1006 silt sand deposit, 10YR3/ 3, fill streaked with flecks of mineral staining throughout
7	Hor2	Ditch	U-shaped 0.35x2.00	1008 soft sand deposit, 10YR 4/ 4
8	Hor2	Sondage	Rectangular 0.70x1.00x5.00	1009 silty sand subsoil, 10YR4/ 4, containing clay bands
9	Hor2	Land drain	Not excavated	1011
10	Hor2	Ditch	Not excavated	1013

5.0 SECTOR 2 (Intervention 3, Intervention 11, Intervention 12)

5.1 INTERVENTION 3 (Table 8)

5.1.1 Introduction

A trench 180m x 8m whose long axis was east-west was opened by machine approximately 360m north of St Helen's Church, Skipwith (Fig.14). Int3 (SE 65787,38868) was situated parallel to an old field boundary which had recently been ploughed-out to create a single large field, combining parcels 0024 and 8474. Additionally two smaller trenches (Int11 and Int12) were later hand dug just north of Int3 in order to investigate the potential variation in the depth of the soil profile. Dry sieving of selected deposits did produce a small datable pottery assemblage which provided a basic chronological framework for major episodes of activity recorded on site.

Ploughsoil (1000) and later a similar depth of sterile re-deposited sand (1001) were mechanically removed using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Beneath 1001 (later identified as a layer of windblown sand) were the remains of a truncated buried soil surface (1002) called Horizon 2. Selected areas of the buried soil were finely cleaned by hand (Fig.15) but a 2.00m wide corridor along the north edge of Int3 was removed onto the succeeding subsoil surface (Horizon 3). Features were defined on the surface of Horizon 2 or at Horizon 3 against the soft smooth sandy subsoil (1003) (Figs.16-21). For planning purposes Int3 was also divided into six planning modules (A-F).

Preliminary experimental geophysical line survey carried out on the surface of 1001 at the west end (Horizon 11) and over 1002 the east end (Horizon 2) did not succeed in predicting the pattern of features later mapped at Horizon 2 and Horizon 3 (Appendix 5).

5.1.2 Excavation Results (Fig.22)

Three ditches were excavated approximately 60m apart and each crossed Int3 on slightly different alignments - F2 in a N-S direction, F16 NW-SE and F26 NNE-SSW. F2 and F16 were each associated with a parallel ditch to the east (F3 and F17 respectively), but F26 was situated at the junction of a number linear features. Both F16 and F17 appeared to cut the buried soil surface.

F2 was the largest feature investigated during the fieldwork although it could not be completely excavated because of the high watertable, as excavated it was 3.20m wide and 0.90m deep. Its latest backfill included a pale grey-brown silty sand fill (1062) on the shoulders of the ditch, covered by a sequence of deposits which contained flecks of iron oxide staining (1047) and patches of clean yellow sand (1057). These were finally sealed by the latest fill (1005) similar in colour and texture to the buried soil but thoroughly mottled by iron oxide flecks. Beneath the watertable bulk soil samples were retrieved at two depths using the auger, recorded as 1072 and 1073 respectively, although both

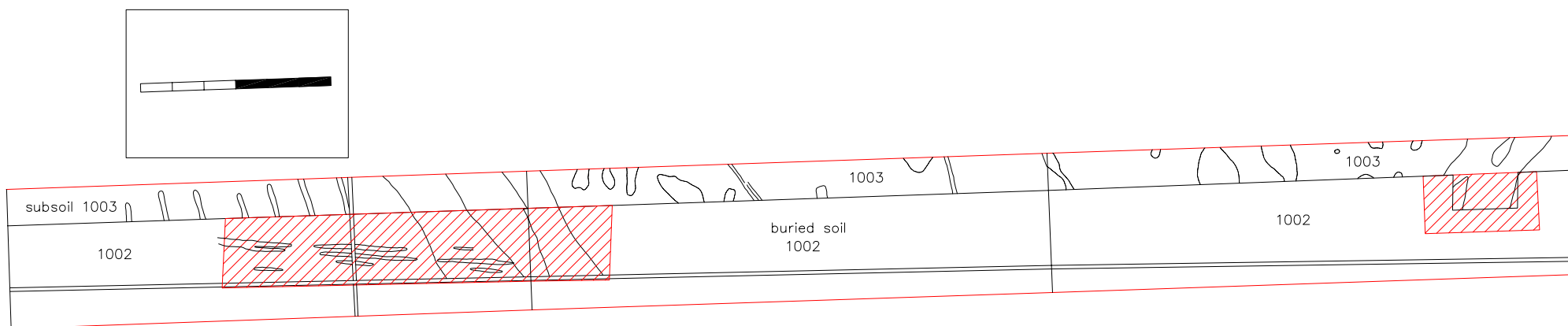
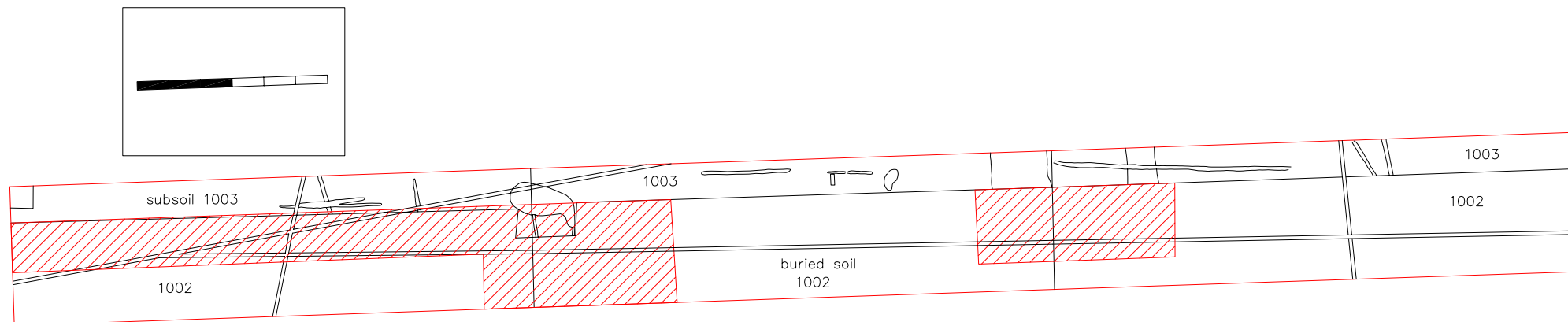


STM98 Sector 2 Location of interventions

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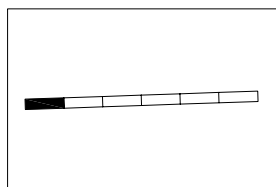
Figure 14



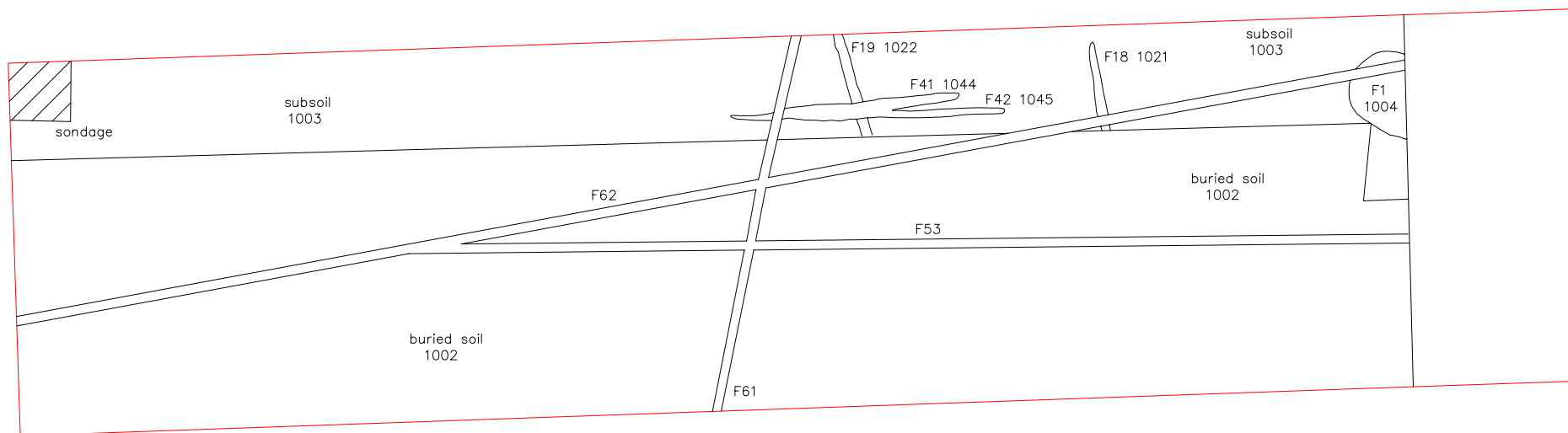
STM98 Int3 Map showing areas of buried soil hand cleaned



Figure 15



5730,8875

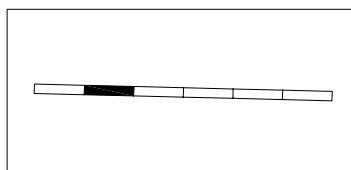


5710,8855

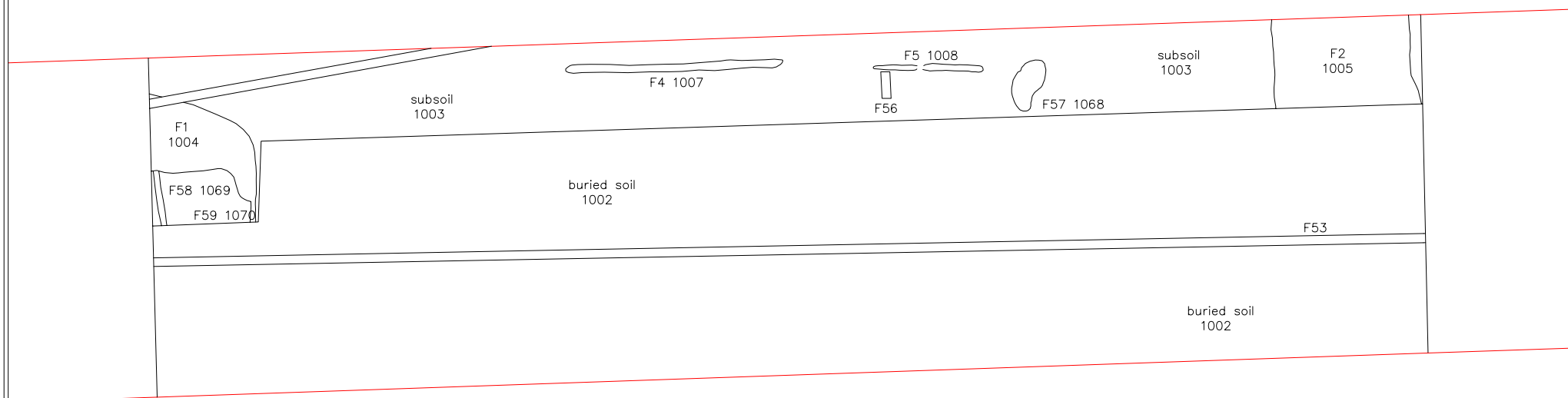
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5730,8855





5760,8875

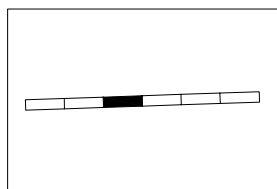


5740,8860

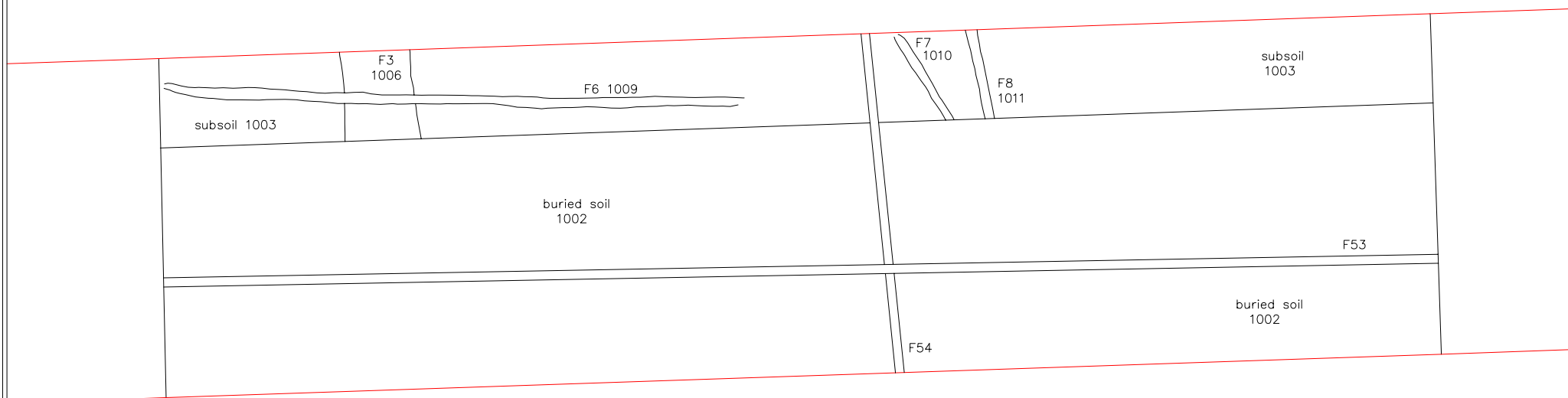
5760,8860

0 10m





5790,8875

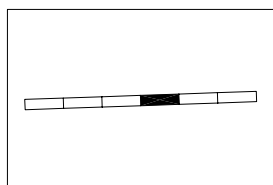


5770,8860

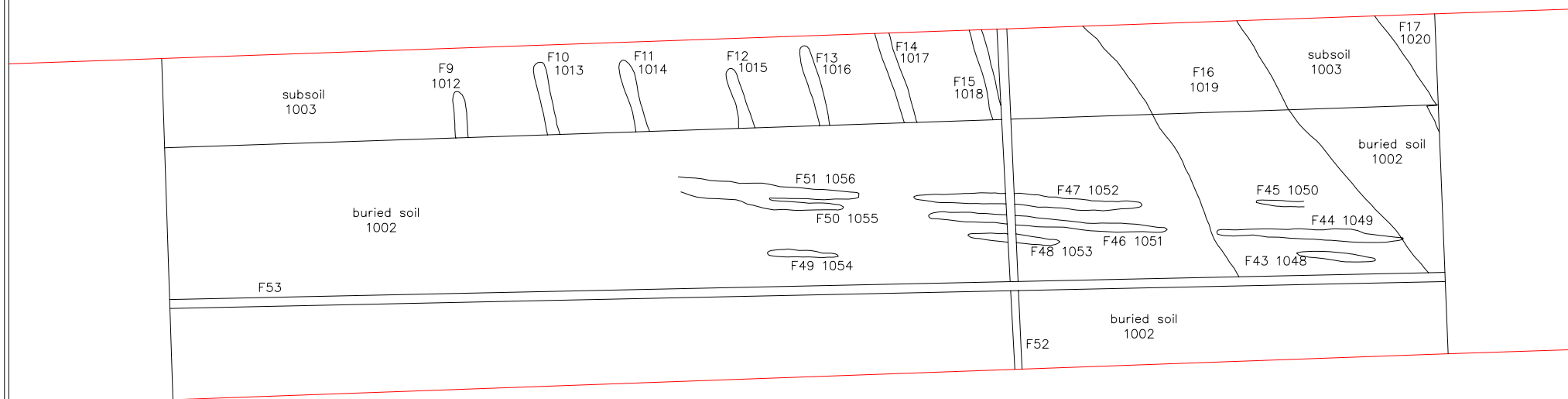
5790,8860

0 10m





5820,8880

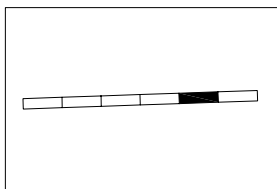


5800,8860

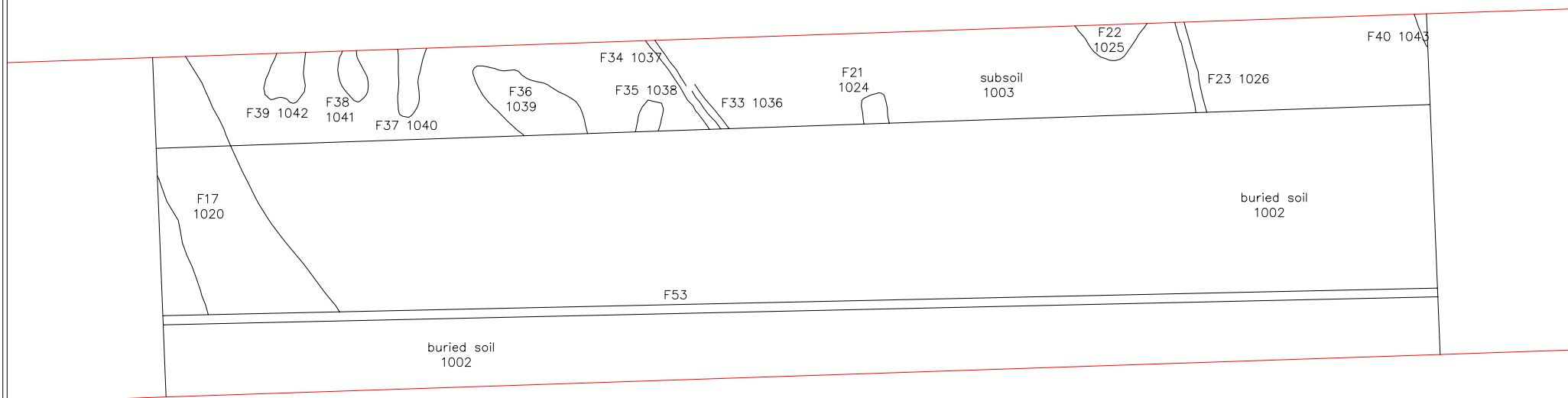
0 10m

5820,8860





5850,8880

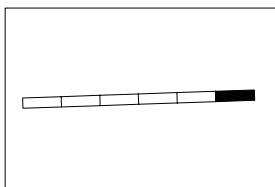


5830,8860

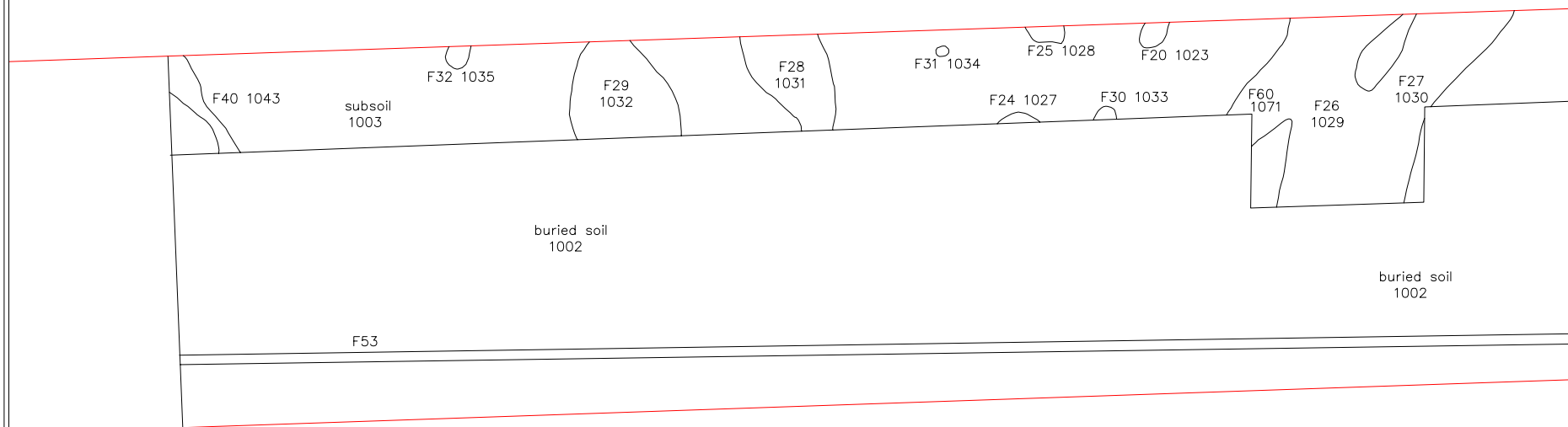
0 10m

5850,8860





5880,8880

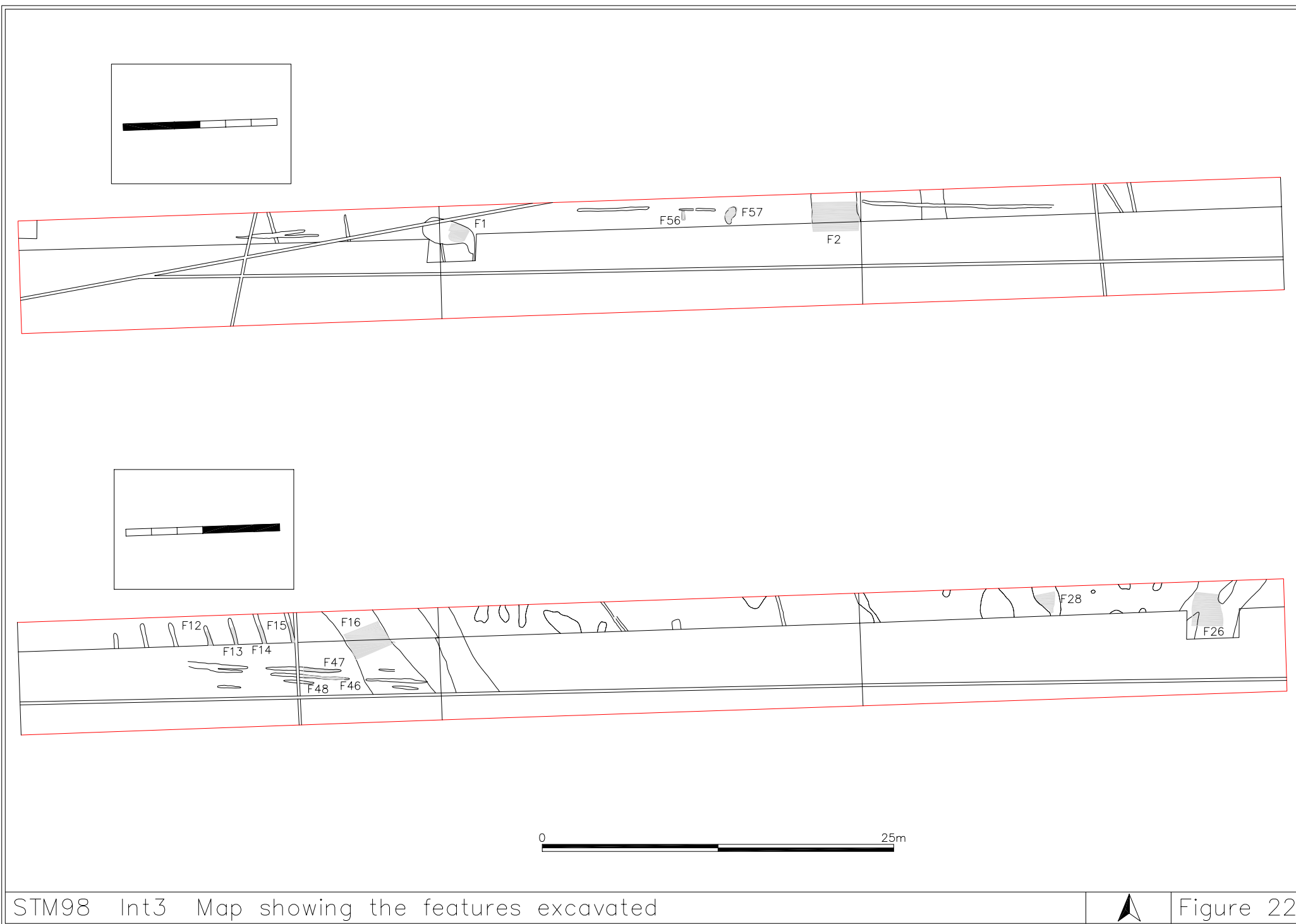


5860,8865

5880,8865

0 10m





samples were sterile (Appendix 3).

F16 was over 3.00m wide and 1.00m deep which in its later backfill stage had been re-cut into a smaller gully (F55). The primary fill of F16 consisted of an unusual brown silty clay deposit (1060), 0.10m thick, which was sealed by a discoloured sandy fill (1058), 0.38m thick, presumably from the collapsing ditch sides. Both 1058 and 1060 were saturated with water percolating out from the sides of the ditch. 1046 a discoloured grey-brown sand was thoroughly mottled and together with 1058 contained an unusually stony component made up of a small quantity of unburnt broken pebbles (c.0.20m dia.). F55, a gully 0.70m wide and 0.50m deep cut 1046, contained a deposit of silty sand (1059) which included thin bands of clean yellow laminated sand. The ditch and gully were finally sealed by a silty brown fill (1019) 0.35m thick.

F26 was the latest of three features converging at this location. The ditch was 1.65m wide and 0.52m deep, although the lower half lay beneath the watertable. Under difficult working conditions caused by collapsing ditch sides a thin, brown coloured primary fill was recorded (1061), 0.05m thick, covered by a deeper deposit of darker grey silty fill (1029) over 0.45m thick.

Each ditch contained a small quantity of late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery (F2 1005, 1047; F16 1046; F26 1029) to suggest they remained open until at least the 1st-2nd Century AD. One unusual discovery was a thin flat fragment of micaceous sandstone (F16 1029) which had no parallels elsewhere on site (? Roman playing board).

Spreads of dark brown and charcoal rich deposits, similar to features on Int1, were located at the eastern end of Int3 in Modules E and F (1038-1042), (Plate 5) although F1 1007 crossed Modules A and B. F28 (1031) was a shallow, irregular scoop 0.19m deep filled with a pale grey sand and stiff pockets of charcoal. F1 was deeper but similar in character and both were identified as vegetational features, possibly shallow tree boles.

A dense cluster of small burrows (mole holes) covered the entire surface but they were particularly concentrated at the west end. The burrows were characterised by small circular stains, occasionally filled with 'halos' of distinct yellow sand or brown earth, cut vertically through the subsoil. A small group were box-sectioned (F56 1063-1067). Larger rabbit burrows contained loose discoloured sand and were irregular (eg. F57 1068).

Cultivation marks formed two discrete groups, one set aligned NW-SE and cut only the subsoil surface where they occurred either in isolation or together in groups, and a second set aligned E-W which were discovered both on the buried soil and subsoil surfaces. Where the two sets crossed each other (eg. Module A) the second set were stratigraphically later. Both sets were studied by sample excavation in Module D.

F9-F15 (NW-SE) were sealed by the buried soil (1002), they form a group of marks which appear to

be contemporary with each other and were spaced at regular intervals of 2.00m. Four were excavated (F12-F15) and were consistent as ploughmarks. F14 1017 contained one sherd of Late Medieval pottery (14-15th Century).

The E-W cultivation marks spaced 0.50-0.70m apart were investigated at Horizon 2. A swirling pattern of discoloured sand lined each mark which suggested it had been pulled directly into the furrow as the plough moved along (? windblown sand 1001). Indeed for a comparison the pattern closely resembled the marks created by the subsoiler which had more recently cut across the surface of the square barrow on Int1. The pattern of infill from the wider ploughmarks (eg. F44) also suggested they had been caused by repeat ploughing along the same furrow. Three marks were excavated (F46-F48) to show the depth of groove varied from 0.03-0.11m, although significantly none had cut into the subsoil surface. There was no independent dating evidence in the features but stratigraphically they cut the Horizon 2 surface and were cut by a late 18th Century field drain (F52) which provides a useful *terminus ante quem*.

THE BURIED SOIL

The depth of the layers within the soil profile (1000, 1001, 1002) is given below from measurements taken at the junction of each module (Table 5). Although the thickness of ploughsoil was uniform along Int3 the depth of windblown sand (1001) increased at the east end (Module D). A small increase in the depth of 1002 along the trench also matched this trend. Along the north edge of Int1 a segment of the soil profile, 26m long, was cleaned for study between Easting 5801 and 5827.

The modern cultivated soil (1000) consisted of a uniform dark grey silty sand 0.34m thick. A small finds assemblage collected during machine clearance included one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, some sherds of Medieval pottery and a larger quantity of modern glazed wares. A clear horizontal interface separated 1000 from the windblown sand.

1001 was a relatively loose, dark grey-brown silt sand, 0.12-0.30m thick. Limited surface cleaning at Horizon 1 indicated that the upper level was at least sterile of features. It contained few stones but recorded in section along either side of Int3 were horizontal lenses of laminated sand formed as a result of windblow (Plate 6). Within 1001 localised brown flecks of mottling were caused by iron oxide enrichment. Occasionally these deposits were concentrated in thin horizontal bands or hard-pans which suggested previous waterlogged conditions sited higher up the soil profile. Small kubiena boxes positioned across the interface of these components and additionally at the junction of the buried soil were taken to study their formation process. Analysis of the micromorphology samples indicates that the formation of 1001 was rapid since there was no intermediate soil development within the profile and the laminated bands of blown sand remained undisturbed (Carter 1998).

F52, the horse-shoe drain cut one of the hard-pans and provided a *terminus ante quem* for the date of its formation (Plate 7). 1001 contained a small but varied ceramic assemblage which included Roman

(2nd Century), Medieval (12-15th Century) and post Medieval pottery.

The buried soil (1002) was disturbed by a number of land drains running both N-S and E-W which stratigraphically were cut from the base of the ploughsoil but which stood slightly proud of the buried soil surface (F52, F54, F61). 1002 was a dark reddish grey silt sand, 0.04-0.11m thick and locally mottled. 1002 was a truncated A-horizon which had been enhanced by manuring (Carter 1998). It contained no finds of post medieval date but the small assemblage included native late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, Roman grey wares (2nd Century) and late Medieval pottery (14th-15th Century).

Table 8 Intervention 3: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Ploughsoil		1000 silty sand layer, 10YR4/ 1
		Redeposited sand		1001 silt sand layer, 10YR3/ 2, contains narrow lenses of cleaner pale brown sand, ?representing rapid sand accumulation. Throughout the layer were localised heavy patches of mineral staining.
		Buried soil		1002 silt sand layer, 5YR 3/ 1, homogenous character of varying thickness, the surface was mottled in localised areas
		subsoil		1003
1	Hor3	Tree pit	Irregular 0.20x1.30	1004 silty sand deposit, 10YR2/ 2
2	Hor3	Ditch	(U-shaped 0.90x3.20)	1005 upper fill, silty sand deposit, 7.5YR2.5/ 2 1057 centre fill, mottled silty sand, 10YR4/ 2 1047 lower fill, silty sand 10YR2/ 2 1062 lower fill, clean silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2 1072 auger sample 1073 auger sample (not fully excavated due to waterlogging)
3	Hor3	Ditch	Not excavated	1006
4	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1007
5	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1008
6	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1009
7	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1010
8	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1011
9	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1012
10	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1013
11	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1014
12	Hor3	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.05x0.35x1.00	1015 silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2

13	Hor3	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.07x0.28x1.14	1016 silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2
14	Hor3	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.10x0.30x1.40	1017 silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2
15	Hor3	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.10x0.25x1.50	1018 silty sand deposit 10YR3/ 2
16	Hor 2&3	Ditch	U-shaped 1.0x3.10	1019 upper fill, silty sand deposit, 5YR3/ 2, 1046 streaked by flecks of mineral staining 1058 centre fill, sand deposit, 5YR5/ 2 contains small lumps of panned sandy subsoil, wet 1060 centre fill, silty sand deposit 10YR4/ 1, mixed character contained bands of pale grey sand and small lumps of panned subsoil, wet. lower fill, silty clay deposit 10YR2/ 2, wet
17	Hor 2&3	Ditch	Not excavated	1020
18	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1021
19	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1022
20	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1023
21	Hor3	Pit	Not excavated	1024
22	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1025
23	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1026
24	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1027
25	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1028
26	Hor3	Ditch	U-shaped 0.52x1.65	1029 upper fill, silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 2 1061 lower fill, silty sand deposit, 7.5YR5/ 6, wet
27	Hor3	Ditch	Not excavated	1030
28	Hor3	Tree pit	Scoop 0.19x1.45	1031 silt sand deposit, 10YR3/ 1, fill contained charcoal and flecks of mineral staining
29	Hor3	Tree pit	Not excavated	1032
30	Hor3	Burrow	Not excavated	1033
31	Hor3	Post hole	Not excavated	1034
32	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1035
33	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1036
34	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1037
35	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1038
36	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1039
37	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1040
38	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1041
39	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1042

40	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1043	
41	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1044	
42	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1045	
43	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1048	
44	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1049	
45	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1050	
46	Hor2	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.08x0.25x1.40	1051	silt sand deposit, 10YR4/ 1, fill contained flecks of mineral staining
47	Hor2	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.11x0.28x1.30	1052	silt sand deposit 10YR4/ 1, fill contained flecks of mineral staining
48	Hor2	Plough furrow	U-shaped 0.03x0.18x0.30	1053	silt sand deposit, 10YR4/ 1, fill contained flecks of mineral staining
49	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1054	
50	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1055	
51	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1056	
52	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1074	
53	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1075	
54	Hor2	Drain	Not excavated	1076	
55	(F16)	Ditch (recut)	U-shaped 0.50x0.70	1059	silty sand deposit, 2.5YR2.5/ 2, contained thin laminated bands of sand, wet
56	Hor3	Box section (burrows)	U-shaped 0.13x0.60	1063 1064 1065 1066 1067	silty sand deposit, 10YR4/ 1
57	Hor3	Burrow	Scoop 0.12x0.60x1.20	1068	silt sand deposit, 10YR4/ 1
58	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1069	
59	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1070	
60	Hor3	Gully	Not excavated	1071	
61	Hor2	Land drain		1077	
62	Hor2	Land drain		1078	

5.2 INTERVENTION 11 (Table 9)

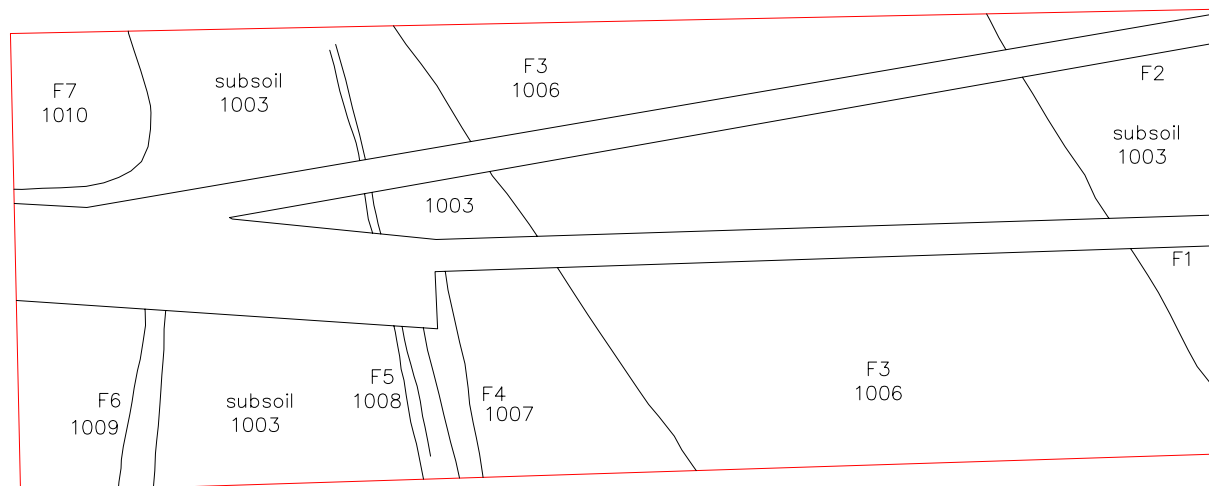
Int11 (SE 65806,38881) was a small trench 3m x 8m (24m²), 13m north of Int3 (Fig.14). It contained an equivalent soil profile which was excavated by hand (Recovery Level C) to the surface of the subsoil. At Horizon 3 the surface was mapped but the features were not investigated (Fig.23). Contexts 1001 and 1002 were thoroughly screened for finds through a dry sieve which produced a

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5801,8885

+

5812,8885



+

5812,8879

0 5m



similar finds assemblage to Int3, although 1002 which contained native late Iron-early Roman pottery, Roman and Medieval sherds also included an intrusive fragment of clay pipe.

Table 9 Intervention 11: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Ploughsoil		1000
		Redeposited sand		1001
		Buried soil		1002
		Subsoil		1003
1	Hor3	Land drain	Not excavated	1004
2	Hor3	Land drain	Not excavated	1005
3	Hor3	Ditch	Not excavated	1006
4	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1007
5	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1008
6	Hor3	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1009
7	Hor3	Bush pit	Not excavated	1010

5.3 INTERVENTION 12 (Table 10)

Int12 (SE 65807,38897) 28m north of Int3 was another small trench 4m x 2m (8m²) (Fig.14). Beneath the ploughsoil (1000) the subsoil surface was contacted at a depth of only 0.28m. The subsoil surface (Horizon 2) contained no other features apart from a series of modern ploughmarks aligned E-W which cut the subsoil (Fig.24).

Table 10 Intervention 12: Abstract from the written record

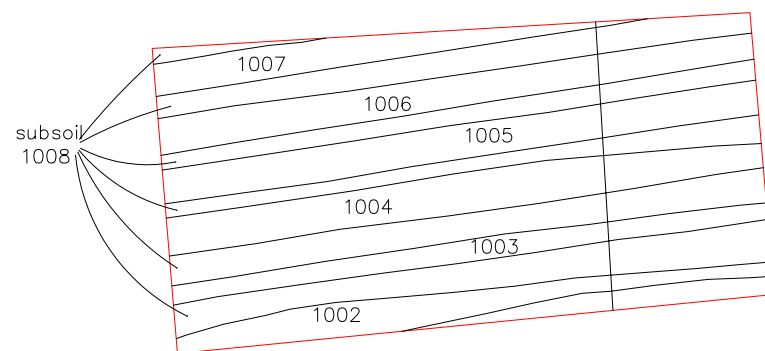
Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Ploughsoil		1000
				1001 (sieving operation at base of soil)
	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1002
	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1003

+

5802,8899

+

5812,8899



+

5812,8894

0 5m



	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1004
	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1005
	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1006
	Hor2	Plough furrow	Not excavated	1007
	Hor2	Subsoil		1008

5.4 CONCLUSION

Excavations in Sector 3 demonstrated that the distribution and quality of the archaeological strata can vary substantially within a narrow working area to the extent that it may influence the creation of the cropmark record. There were no obvious topographic features to account for the depth of soil accumulation on Int3, although practical experience during the excavation demonstrated the fragility of the sandy soils. During one particularly stormy day sheets of sand were blown across the field resulting in significant drifts within the trench (Plate 8). The axis of sand accumulation within Int3 appears to follow the E-W orientation of the trench matching the known alignment of the adjacent old field boundary. On the current evidence it is likely that repeated drifts of sand had built up against this boundary causing the burial of the soil and the successive accumulation of lenses of sand. The dating evidence suggests this occurred from at least the late Medieval period until the late 18th Century.

The earliest phase of archaeological activity (late Iron Age/ Romano-British) is represented by the ditches and smaller gullies which form part of an ancient agricultural landscape which presumably included an extensive network of field boundaries and larger ditches which probably enclosed settlement sites. From at least the later Medieval period the ground was ploughed possibly creating the conditions which lead to the significant wind erosion.

In Int3 a perched watertable was contacted at different heights in each of the three ditches excavated (F2, F16, F26) and in the base of the sondage cut against the western edge of the trench (Table 5).

6.0 SECTOR 3 (Interventions 4-10, Intervention 13)

Eight small trenches were excavated (Recovery Level C) within a corridor between St Helen's Church, Skipwith and the Southfield Drain (Fig.25).

6.1 INTERVENTION 4 (Table 11)

Int4 (SE 65720,38613) located 108m north of the church measured 2m x 8 (16m²) but contained no features. Beneath the turf and topsoil (1000, 1001 respectively) a layer of silty sand (1002) was removed above a clay subsoil (1003), the total depth of soil measuring 0.55m. 1002 was a layer of re-deposited sand, (? wind blown sand), which was mottled throughout with flecks of iron oxide. It is possible the height of 1002 was artificially raised by later agricultural activity suggested by a series of low ridges which run E-W across the field. A small quantity of late Medieval pottery (14-15th Century) was recovered from 1001 by hand excavation (Level D Recovery). Finds from 1001 included tile fragments and post-Medieval glazed pottery.

Ground conditions were wet during the excavation of 1002 with a perched water table contacted at a depth of 0.54m (Table 5).

Table 11 Intervention 4: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Redeposited sand		1002
		subsoil		1003

6.2 INTERVENTION 5 (Table 12)

An area 6m x 6m (36m²) was excavated 35m north of the church a few metres beyond the modern churchyard. Int5 (SE 65716,38540) had a deeper turf and topsoil layer (1000, 1001), approximately 0.72m deep.

1001 contained a relatively large assemblage of finds composed of broken building material 17th Century and later, (eg. tile, mortar, bricks and nails) (Appendix 6) and domestic refuse (glass, metalwork, china, clinker, pottery and animal bone) of Medieval and post Medieval date. At the base of 1001 a perched watertable was discovered at a depth of 0.72m (Table 5).



STM98 Sector 3 Location of interventions

Scale 1:2500



Figure 25

Features mapped at Horizon 2 (subsoil surface) included intersecting ditches or gullies (F1, F2, F3, F5), postholes (F6, F8) and a grave (F4), (Fig.26-27). Sample excavation of segments through ditches F1 and F2 were inconclusive due to waterlogged conditions. However, the upper fill of both ditches contained post Medieval pottery to suggest they were still open into this period. Test augering to measure the depth of the backfill within F3 also failed because of the wet conditions.

The range of features and the quantity of debris in the topsoil suggest a significant level of activity in the post Medieval period presumably associated with the periodic re-alignment of the landscape and the renovation of the church and churchyard.

Table 12 Intervention 5: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) DxWxL	Back filled With
1	Hor2	Ditch	(Scoop 0.34x2.60)	1003 upper fill, silty sand deposit, 10YR3/ 3 1011 lower fill, clay sand deposit, 10YR5/ 2, wet
2	Hor2	Ditch	(Scoop 0.18x0.70)	1004 silty clay deposit, 10YR3/ 2, wet
3	Hor2	Ditch	Not excavated	1005
4	Hor2	Grave	Not excavated	1006
5	Hor2	Ditch	Not excavated	1007
6	Hor2	Post hole?	Not excavated	1008
7	Hor2	Gully?	Not excavated	1009
8	Hor2	Post hole?	Not excavated	1010

6.3 INTERVENTION 6 (Table 13)

A trench 3m x 6m (18m²) situated 48m south of the church, between the road and the scheduled moated manor site was excavated by hand and machine. Int6 (SE 65719,38457) produced a similar deep turf/ topsoil sequence and a matching finds assemblage, although the building material contains earlier debris (see below). Beneath the turf (1000) was a topsoil (arbitrarily divided into 1001 and 1002) 0.69m deep which covered Horizon 2, the subsoil surface.

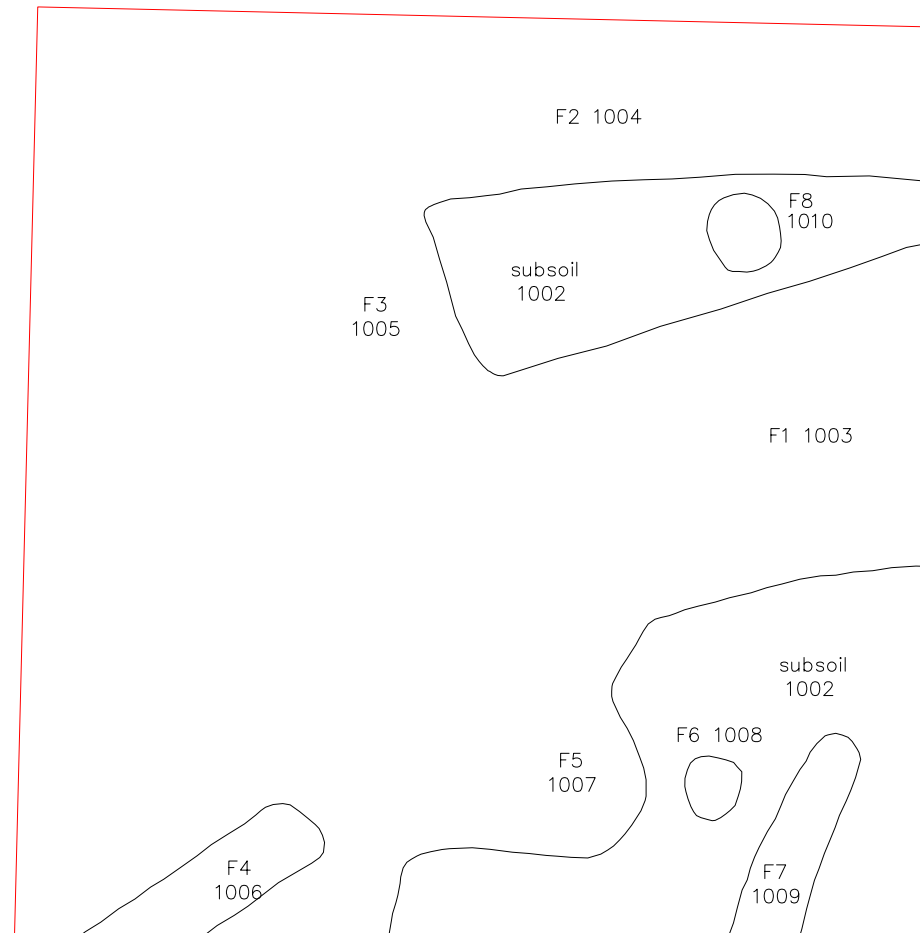
At Horizon 2 a group of miscellaneous features were recorded on the west side of the trench (F1, F2 F4), (Fig.28 and Fig.27). In the NE corner a small sondage (F3) 1.7m sq. was machine dug to investigate the character of the subsoil and the height of the local watertable. The section showed that beneath 1005 (subsoil at Horizon 2) were two distinct subsoil layers, 1006 an orange-grey clay layer (0.42m thick) which overlay 1007 a clean sand (minimum 0.72m thick), (Plate 9). Excavation stopped at a depth of 1.20m without locating water.

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5712,8544

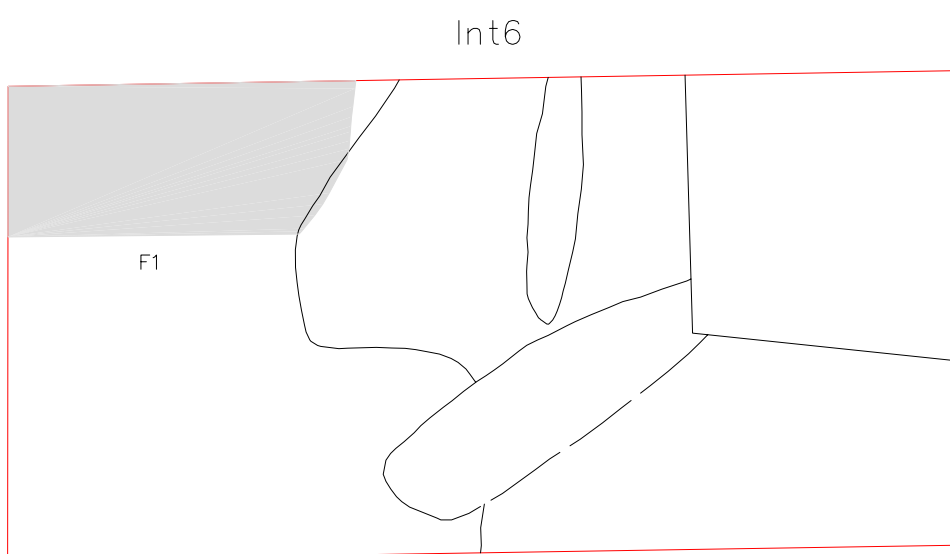
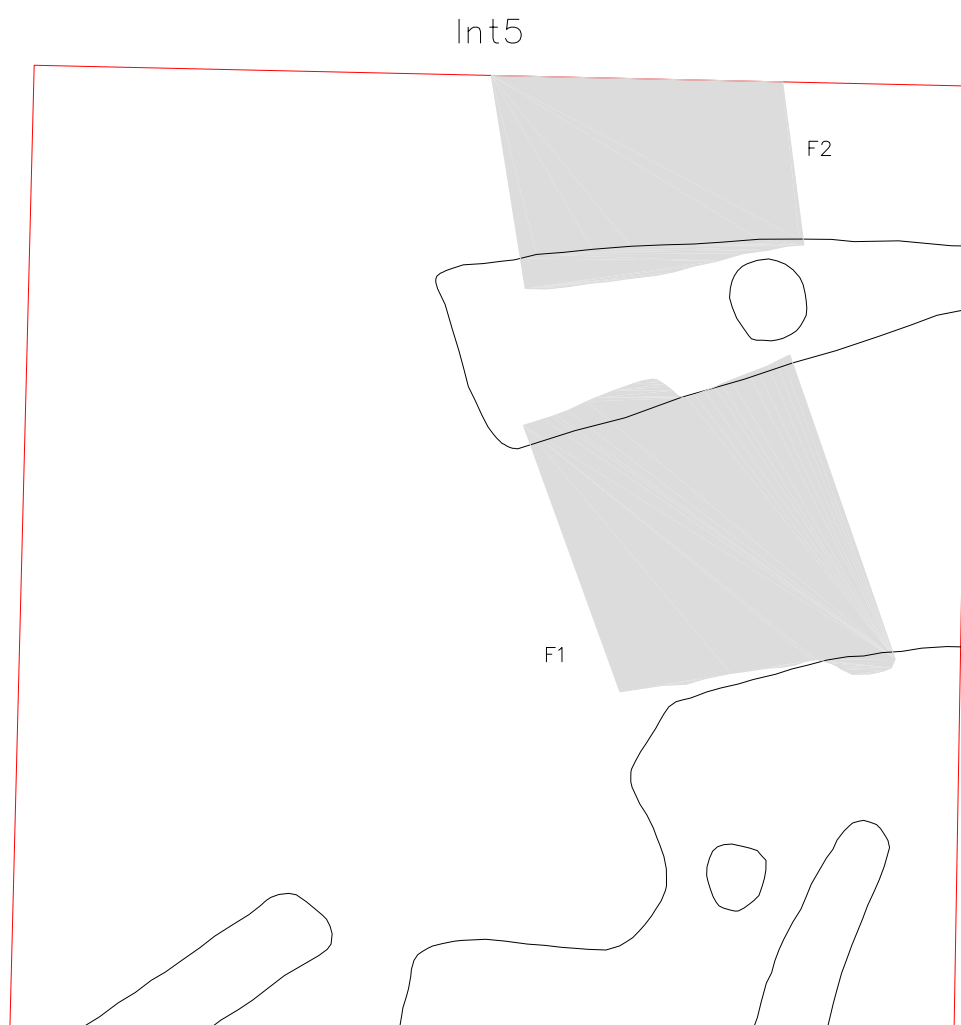
+

5723,8544



0 5m





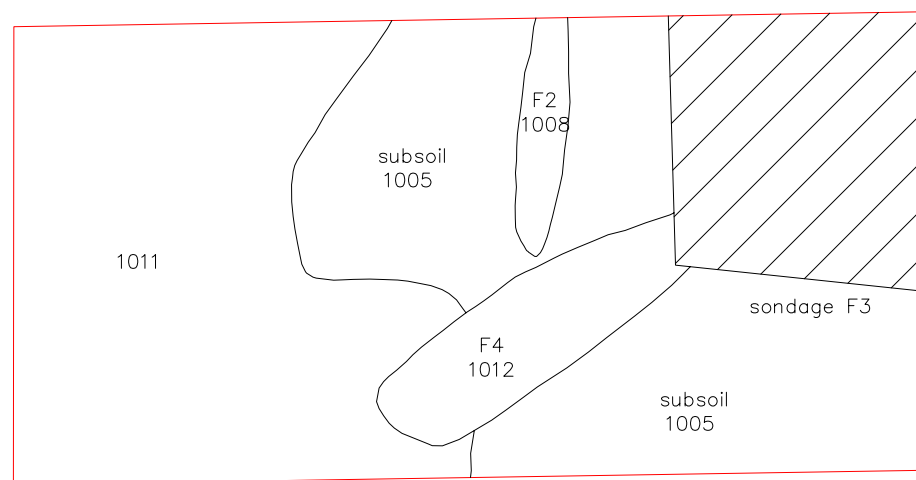
0 2m

+

5714,8460

+

5724,8460



+

5724,8454

0 5m



Excavation of a narrow segment of F1, the butt end of a ditch in the NW corner of Int6 reached the watertable at a depth of 1.82m (Table 5), the deepest point within the three Sectors. At the base of F1 was a black primary silt (1010) overlain by a sequence of sandier fills, 1009 and 1003/ 1004. 1010 and 1009 contained a small collection of pottery (tile and domestic wares) of late Medieval date (14-15th Century). The upper fill 1003/ 1004 produced a varied assemblage - building debris and domestic refuse of Medieval and post Medieval date (Appendix 6), but also included one small piece of human bone, the right femoral head of a long bone (Appendix 4).

Similarity in the depth and content of the topsoil layers from Int5 and Int6 suggest that the post Medieval landscape changes also extended to the south side of the church where the absence of any settlement evidence (anticipated on the road frontage) indicates widespread destruction of earlier occupation layers. Indeed it is possible that only the deeper features (ditches, gullies and graves) may have survived this operation.

Table 13 Intervention 6: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) DxWxL	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Topsoil		1002
		Subsoil		1005
		Spread	Not excavated	1011
1	Hor2	Pit	U-shaped 1.12x2.20	1003 upper fill, homogenous sandy silt deposit, 10YR3/ 2 1004 centre fill, sandy silt deposit, 10YR3/ 2 (represents second spit of 1003) 1009 centre fill, damp mottled sandy clay silt deposit, 5YR5/ 4 1010 lower fill, wet silty clay deposit 10YR4/ 1
2	Hor2	Furrow?	Not excavated	1008
3	Hor2	Sondage	Rectangular 1.30x1.70x1.70	1006 heavy clay subsoil, 2.5Y4/ 1, damp 1007 fine sand subsoil, 10YR6/ 8, damp
4	Hor2	Natural	Not excavated	1012

6.4 INTERVENTION 7 (Table 14)

Ground conditions immediately south of the moated site were wet. A small trench 2m x 6m (12m²) was de-turved to a depth of 0.14m before further excavation work was cancelled because of the high watertable. Trial augering suggested a soil depth of c0.30m which covered a sandy clay subsoil.

A small collection of finds within the topsoil were all of post Medieval date, they included building debris (tile, brick, mortar and iron nails), pottery, china and pieces of land drain.

Table 14 Intervention 7: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Subsoil		1002 (not seen , sought by auger)

6.5 INTERVENTION 8 (Table 15)

Further south conditions had improved to the extent that surface water did not disrupt the excavations but Int8 (SE 65729,38253), a small trench 2m x 6m (12m²) contained no features. A quantity of turf and topsoil (1000, 1001) 0.24m deep covered a sterile sandy subsoil (1002), although a few faint linear stains of dark brown sand were noted at Horizon 2 to suggest the possibility of previous ploughing. No finds were recovered from the excavations.

At the west end of Int8 a small sondage 1m sq. reached the watertable measured at a depth of 0.62m (Table 5).

Table 15 Intervention 8: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Subsoil		1002

6.6 INTERVENTION 9 (Table 16) INTERVENTION 13 (Table 17)

Int9 (SE 65730,38193) was situated just north of the Southfield Drain. A trench 2m x 7m (14m²) was stripped of turf and topsoil (1000, 1001) onto an apparently sterile subsoil (1002). Further excavation of two smaller sondages A and B, each 1m sq. against either end of the trench established that 1002 was a layer of redeposited clay which overlay a deposit of peat (1003) (Fig.29).

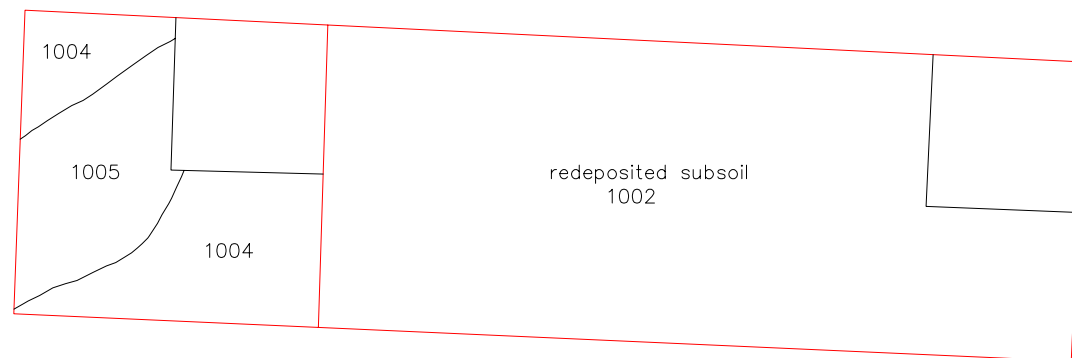
Investigation of an area 2 x 2m at the west end of Int9 confirmed that the peat was waterlogged and established that it covered a sandy subsoil (1004), (Plate 10). The watertable was reached at a depth

+

5725,8195

+

5735,8195



+

5725,8190

0 5m



of 0.62m, at the interface between 1002 and 1003. Within the peat a narrow spread of clayey sand (1005) was recorded, probably a erosion channel cutting through the peat. 1003, the only deposit of environmental value from the excavations, contained fragments of degraded woody tissue (Appendix 3).

The source of 1002 is not known but could be either the remains of material dug out of the Southfield Drain and periodically spread over the field, although there was no contamination in the overlying topsoil, or erosion products seasonally flooding over the drain.

A small trench 1m sq. was additionally cut north of Int9 to investigate the extent of the peat layer. Int13 (SE 65727,38201) contained a thinner peat layer (1002) located directly beneath a turf and topsoil (1000, 1001), it also overlay a sandy subsoil (1003). The surface of 1002 was strategically situated just above the surface of the watertable (Table 5).

Table 16 Interventions 9: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
	Hor2	Redeposited subsoil		1002 stiff, silty clay layer, 7.5YR5/ 8 1003 peat layer, 7.5YR2/ 0, a well structured waterlogged deposit 1004 a saturated sand subsoil, 10YR5/ 2 1005 clayey sand deposit, 10YR5/ 4, mottled, contained mineral staining
	Hor3	Peat		1003 peat layer, 7.5YR2/ 0, wet
	Hor4	Subsoil		1004 saturated sand subsoil, 10YR5/ 2
		Spread		1005 clayey sand deposit, 10YR5/ 4, mottled with flecks of iron oxide

Table 17 Intervention 13: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Peat		1002 (equivalent to 1003 Int9)
		Subsoil		1003 (equivalent to 1004 Int9)

6.7 INTERVENTION 10 (Table 18)

Int10 (SE 65699,38158) was positioned just beyond the Southfield Drain in an area of wet boggy land not usually ploughed. A trench 4m x 30m (120m²) was stripped mechanically of rough turf and topsoil. Quickly following the definition of the subsoil surface a small spring flooded Int10 eventually to a depth of the trench (c0.30m) and further investigation was not possible although two auger holes drilled at either end of Int10 suggested there was no equivalent peat deposit on the south side of the Drain.

Table 18 Intervention 10: Abstract from the written record

Feature	Definition	Identity	Dimensions (m) D x W x L	Backfilled With
		Turf		1000
		Topsoil		1001
		Subsoil		1002

7.0 CONCLUSION

With the exception of trenches around the church the working areas in all three sectors were positioned away from the known archaeological settlements a factor reflected by the archaeological discoveries from the interventions.

If archaeological features were contacted most of them appear to be associated with linear boundaries, presumably the fields and enclosures which surrounded settlements that were sited elsewhere in the landscape.

Significantly the excavations demonstrated that the study area contains archaeological strata of different quality. The discoveries in Int3 indicate that a greater archaeological potential survives where features have been buried beneath deep soil profiles which for example preserve evidence of ancient ploughing across old ground surfaces.

Study of the environmental potential indicates that organic preservation is poor in the majority of features even under currently wet conditions. A fluctuating watertable is probably the result of previous climatic conditions, modern ploughing regimes and the effect of extensive drainage schemes since the post-medieval period. Assessment of the deposits has demonstrated that organic preservation is likely to occur only in the deepest buried deposits within the largest features, or in exceptional situations (eg. near drainage channels).

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PLATES

Appendix 1 AREAS FOR GROUND INVESTIGATION/ EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Sector 1 Adamson's Farm

Two areas: (1) approximately 40 x 200 metres, and (2) approximately 40 x 10 metres.

Each area to be surrounded/ demarcated by posts and hazard bunting prior to site investigation commencing.

Archaeological works, including the storage of topsoil and materials, will be confined to the fenced areas.

Access to each area for machinery and site workers to be along a single route, using existing tracks wherever possible, and shortest and most direct line where no track exists. Access track to be agreed in advance and defined by bunting if so required.

Topsoil/ ploughsoil to be removed using a Hymac type machine with a flat bladed bucket.

In Int1 an area some 180 x 8 metres will be initially stripped and the ploughsoil stored immediately adjacent to the stripped area.

A second area of similar measurements may be subsequently stripped of topsoil within the working area.

Additional smaller area(s) within the fenced area may also be topsoil stripped.

In Int2 an area some 40 by 5 metres will be stripped and the ploughsoil stored immediately adjacent to the stripped area.

Stripped area(s) to be cleaned and archaeological features defined and recorded.

Small scale sampling of the archaeological features; probably in the region of 2x2 metres maximum for each sample; perhaps 30 samples in Int1 and 5 samples in Int2. These will only remove archaeological deposits, NOT the natural subsoils.

A maximum of four test pits, 3 in Int1 and 1 in Int2 will be dug through the natural subsoils to a maximum depth of 1.5 metres to determine the nature of the subsoils.

The subsoils will be kept separate from the topsoil and returned to the test pits.

All land drains will be left in place, or replaced if disturbed or damaged.

After completion of the investigation the topsoil will be returned to the open trenches and every effort made to avoid compaction of the material.

The posts and bunting will be removed.

Sector 2 North Field Belt

An area approximately 40 x 200 metres will be surrounded/ demarcated by posts and hazard bunting.

Archaeological works, including the storage of topsoil and materials, will be confined to the fenced area.

Access to the area for machinery and site workers to be along a single route, using existing tracks wherever possible, and shortest and most direct line where no track exists. Access track to be agreed in advance and defined by bunting if so required.

Topsoil/ ploughsoil to be removed using a Hymac type machine with a flat bladed bucket.

An area some 180 x 8 metres will be initially stripped and the ploughsoil stored immediately adjacent to Int3.

A second area of similar measurements may be subsequently opened within the working area.

Additional smaller area(s) within the fenced area may also be topsoil stripped.

Stripped area(s) to be cleaned and archaeological features defined and recorded.

Small scale sampling of the archaeological features; probably in the region of 2x2 metres maximum for each sample; perhaps 30 samples. These will only remove archaeological deposits, NOT the natural subsoils.

A maximum of three test pits will be dug through the natural subsoils to a maximum depth of 1.5 metres to determine the nature of the subsoils.

The subsoils will be kept separate from the topsoil and returned to the test pits.

All land drains will be left in place, or replaced if disturbed or damaged.

After completion of the investigation the topsoil will be returned the open trenches and every effort

made to avoid compaction of the material.

The posts and bunting will be removed on completion of the site works.

Sector 3 Skipwith Village

Six areas each measuring approximately 10 by 10 metres will be individually demarcated by posts and hazard bunting.

Archaeological investigation will be confined to the demarcated areas. Archaeological works, including the storage of turf, topsoil and materials, will be confined to the fenced area.

Access to the area for machinery and site workers to be along a single route, using existing tracks wherever possible, and shortest and most direct line where no track exists. Access track to be defined by bunting if so required.

Initially an area of 2x2 metres will be hand excavated within each of the six trenches (Int4-Int9) to establish the nature of the archaeological deposits and depth of any topsoil overburden.

If archaeological deposits are absent, or the overburden is considerable, the topsoil will be removed from any additional areas using a JCB with a flat bladed bucket.

Maximum area to be stripped and examined in each trench will be approximately 6x8 metres.

Stripped area(s) to be cleaned and archaeological features defined and recorded.

Small scale sampling of the archaeological features; probably in the region of 1x1 metres maximum for each sample and no more than 2 samples per trench. These samples will only remove archaeological deposits, NOT the natural subsoils.

A test pit, maximum size of 2x2 metres, will be dug through the natural subsoils to a maximum depth of 1.5 metres in each trench to determine the nature of the subsoils.

The subsoils will be kept separate from the topsoil and returned to the test pits.

All land drains will be left in place, or replaced if disturbed or damaged.

After completion of the investigation the topsoil and turf will be returned the open trenches and every effort made to avoid compaction of the material.

The posts and bunting will be removed on completion of the site works.

A hand dug and machine cut trench (Int10) will be dug to the south of the Southfield Drain to examine the nature of the natural subsoil deposits and examine the possible line of a former stream.

Posts and hazard bunting will demarcate a working area, approximately 10 x 35 metres, within which all operations will be undertaken.

The topsoil will be removed from an area approximately 4x30 metres down to the natural subsoil and stored adjacent to the stripped area. Any possible archaeological features, including a former stream channel will be examined by hand and appropriate samples recovered.

The subsoil will be then removed to a maximum depth of 1.5 metres over an area of approximately 2x30 metres, and stored separately from the topsoil.

After sampling and recording the subsoil will be returned to the excavated trench and topped off with the topsoil. Every attempt will be made to avoid compaction.

Any drains that are damaged or disturbed will be replaced.

The posts and bunting will be removed on completion of the site works.

Mike Griffiths on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates 12 January 1998

Appendix 2 THE EXCAVATED FEATURES - A DRAWN RECORD

Appendix 3 BULK SOIL SAMPLES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (Dr Tim Holden)

A number of soil samples were submitted from different interventions for analysis (see main report Table 1).

Organic preservation is very poor in all samples except 1003 (Int9). This was dominated by amorphous 'peat' together with fragments of degraded woody tissues. Preservation in this case, while not being brilliant, highlights that better preserved organic remains may survive in the vicinity. Samples such as this may include some of the more robust seeds and other identifiable elements and pollen and could therefore provide a degree of environmental data if this was required.

F2 1010 (Int2) and F19 1042 (Int1) were essentially sterile.

Samples F2 1072 1073 (Int3), F2 1002 (Int2), F20 1115 (Int1) contained flecks of charcoal but little else of environmental significance. Sample F2 1072 did however, contain a fragment of burnt bone and is the only one of these latter samples which could potentially provide enough charcoal for a radiocarbon date if required.

Appendix 4 HUMAN REMAINS FROM STANLEY MAIN, SKIPWITH

Malin Holst (University of Bradford)

A small quantity of human remains were studied, a group of cremated bone and one piece of inhumed bone.

CREMATED BONE

Four fragments of cremated bone were submitted for analysis, these come from (C1063) the central area of the Square Barrow immediately beneath the ploughsoil, Int1. They were examined in order to identify whether the remains were human and to see if it was possible to establish which part of the body was represented. The remains were initially sieved in order to determine the fragmentation of the material and the weight (Table 1).

Table 1

CONTEXT	QUANTITY	MESH SIZE	WEIGHT (g)
1063	1	4mm	0.26
1063	1	4mm	0.13
1063	2	2mm	0.09

The two smaller fragments are believed to be part of one of the larger fragments. It is difficult to distinguish cremated human bone from animal material by the microstructure of the bone, in contrast to inhumed remains (Julie Bond pers. comm.). The osteologist therefore relies mainly on the morphology of the bone in order to determine its origin. As the fragments recovered were too small for this to be carried out, they were compared with other cremated human and animal remains, and it was decided that they were more similar to the human remains.

It is possible that the bone was either a cortical fragment of a long bone diaphysis or a rib fragment, although any identification is tenuous. The colour of the remains suggest it was well burnt so that only the calcine part remained.

INHUMED BONE

One small piece of bone was studied from Int6 (C1004), this consisted of the right femoral head of an adult. The femoral head had been damaged post-mortem, but not during the excavation process, possibly by a spade type tool as the damage is relatively straight and linear. Because of the damage and the average size of the femoral head itself, it was not possible to establish the sex of the individual.

Appendix 5 GEOPHYSICAL LINE SURVEY ON INT3 (Toby Simpson BA)

5.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The survey had two clear aims; firstly, to test whether the combined depth of the ploughsoil, windblown sand and buried soil revealed during excavation was the reason for the failure of earlier magnetometer surveys to detect known cropmark features. The second was to locate archaeological remains for investigation in order to minimise the amount of destructive excavation required.

5.2 SURVEY LOCATION

A strip, 8m wide and 180m long, encompassing the entire length of intervention 3 was specified as the survey area. Eight line survey transects were then set out at one metre spacings along the length of the intervention.

5.3 MAGNETOMETER LINE SURVEY

The survey was carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer with digital storage and data transfer facilities (FM18 with ST1 sample trigger - manufactured by Geoscan Research). This instrument is capable of detecting localised distortions in the earth's magnetic field created by magnetic anomalies ranging from metal objects and structures to certain types of sub-surface soil features. Instrument readings were logged along each traverse at 1.0m intervals. The parallel traverse method (unidirectionally) was employed to ensure the capture of good quality raw data.

On the completion of the survey the data was transferred from the FM18 to a portable computer where it was checked for survey defects.

5.4 DATA PROCESSING AND PRESENTATION

The raw data was processed using Geoplot version 2.02. This involved the adjustment of any differences in the average background reading between individual survey lines as well as inconsistencies caused by instrument drift, which were removed to facilitate the clear presentation of the data set.

The processed data was transferred to Surfer version 6 in which it was prepared for presentation. The resulting classed post map images were then output on a high definition laser printer.

5.5 RESULTS

The line survey failed to detect any anomalies which were recognisable as archaeological features. The limited magnetic variation within the data strongly suggests that the archaeological features, later

identified after the excavation of the windblown sand and buried soil, were not only 'masked' by these layers but would also be very weak magnetic anomalies making them extremely difficult to locate using archeomagnetic techniques.

Appendix 6 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS FROM STANLEY MAIN, SKIPWITH (Sandra Garside-Neville)

Two boxes of material were submitted for study from a number of different Interventions.

6.1 MEDIEVAL MATERIAL

The sample was dominated by plain roof tile. Plain roof tile can either be peg or nib tile. Most of the sample was so fragmentary there was no indication of the method of suspension. However, one or two peg holes were noted. These were of the single, centrally placed type of peg hole that is typical of the York area. The fragments often had a white or cream slip, which may be an attempt to make the roof tile a more standard colour (rather than various shades due to uneven firing) or perhaps to imitate stone roofing. There was a great variety of fabrics which probably indicate a number of sources for the tile. In York there are indications that although tile was locally produced, it was also on occasion imported from Beverely.

Also there were fragments of brick, which by their measurements (a narrow width) and method of moulding (coarse sanding) are probably medieval in date. Typically in York these bricks are associated with 14th and 15th Century context. they may be 'wall tiles' which were used for infilling timber framed buildings.

6.2 POST MEDIEVAL MATERIAL

Seventeenth Century or later material comprised brick, drains, plain roofing and pan tile.

There were two examples of horseshoe field drains, along with fragments of sole plates on which to stand them. This method of drainage came into use in the late 18th Century. This type of drain was superceded by a circular form, produced by machines, by 1850.

6.3 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The bulk of the sample is medieval, with some post medieval brick and roofing. There does not appear to be any obvious Roman material, however the sample is fragmentary and abraded which makes identification during an assessment exercise difficult.

It is recommended that the sample is retained in total so that further analysis can take place. In particular, analysis of the fabrics from the city of York may indicate the various sources. It may also pick out possible Roman fragments.

CONTEXT LIST

INT	CONTEXT	FEATURE	FORMS	DATE
3	-	52	Field drains (horseshoe and sole plates)	v.late 18th early 19thC
5	1001	-	Plain, Plain(+slip), Peg, Plain(+graffiti), ?Pan, Brick, Pan	17thC +
5	1001	-	Plain, Brick(T56), Brick, Plain(overfired), Brick (indented border, B139T40)	18thC+
6	1001	-	Plain, Plain(+slip), Plain(18th+)	18thC+
6	1002	-	Plain	13-15thC
6	1003	1	Plain, Plain(+slip), Peg, ?Ridge Brick(T65), Brick(overfired T50, sanded), Brick(B115T50, sanded), Brick(B125T60), indented)	13C+
6	1003	1	Plain(+slip), Plain, Plain(silty)	13th-15thC
6	1004	1	Plain, Ridge, Drain, Plain(+slip), Brick(B113T54), Brick(T60), Brick(T52, indented, sanded), Brick(T55, sanded, overfired), Brick(T50, sanded, overfired	19thC+
6	1009	1	Plain(+slip), Plain(overfired)	13-15thC
6	1010	1	Plain, Plain(overfired)	13-15thC