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ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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WYAS

**Barnsdale Bar Quarry,  
North Yorkshire  
Western Extension, 1996**

Archaeological Evaluation

*April 1997*

CLIENT  
BFI Waste Systems/Quarry Products

WYAS R 445

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West Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
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WYAS R445, 4 April 1997

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## 1. Summary

### *Client*

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### *Objectives*

To determine the relationship between ditches now known to have been open during the post medieval period with other features on the site and to determine the nature and date of a possible small ditched enclosure and other possible archaeological features identified by fluxgate gradiometer survey near the southern edge of the 1996 Western Extension to Barnsdale Bar Quarry, on behalf of BFI Waste Systems/Quarry Products.

### *Method*

Two linear trenches were excavated by machine in order to examine ditch intersections, and a third, larger, trench was stripped in order to examine the small ditched enclosure and any associated features.

### *Conclusion*

In the two smaller trenches ditches were identified aligned from north-west to south-east and belonging to a phase of enclosure previously shown to have been open during the post-medieval period. However, no north-east to south-west aligned ditches could be clearly identified, and hence no intersections could be excavated to recover phasing evidence. In one trench a possible linear feature on the correct alignment was observed in section cut entirely within the subsoil and hence not distinguishable in plan.

In the third, larger trench the ditches forming two sides of the small enclosure identified by gradiometer survey were located and excavated, including a probable entrance on the eastern side. Several short linear features of unknown function were investigated within the enclosure. No dating evidence was recovered other than a single worked flint from one of the internal features, and a possible waste flake from the southern enclosure ditch. Several natural features were also examined. The western and northern sides of the trench revealed increasing depths of subsoil and clays within the head of a dry valley running to the north, within which it was not possible to define archaeological features in plan. These deposits were therefore removed within the trench down to limestone, and it was likely that some smaller features may have been lost as a result. This will have included the other two sides of the possible enclosure which the gradiometer survey showed to be located within the parts of the trench most seriously affected by this problem. The ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure was shown to have been cut from the top of the subsoil.

## **2. Introduction**

2.1 BFI Waste Systems/Quarry Products commissioned West Yorkshire Archaeology Service to undertake excavation in advance of topsoil stripping of a western extension to Barnsdale Bar Quarry, North Yorkshire, in order to fulfil the requirements of the planning permission. The excavation of 3 trenches took place between 1/10/96 and 11/10/96 with up to four archaeologists on site.

2.2 The area of the western quarry extension is located immediately to the west of the existing quarry, bounded to the south by the North Yorkshire/South Yorkshire County boundary, to the west by the A1 road corridor, and to the north by Crab Tree Lane. The trenches were located towards the southern and eastern sides of this area, where the ground sloped down gradually to the west and north into a dry valley. The area containing the trenches was centred at SE 510143 (Fig. 1).

2.3 The underlying geology comprises Magnesian Limestone overlain by 0.3m of topsoil. A red/brown subsoil of possible glacial origin occurs in patches over the limestone and filling natural features. A dry valley running down from south to north ran along the western side of the quarry extension area along the line of a geological fault (Boucher, 1996).

## **3. Archaeological Background**

3.1 The site and the surrounding area have been shown to be of archaeological importance. Excavations to the north and east of Windhill Plantation were carried out by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (Abramson, 1989) and the East Riding Archaeological Research Committee (Simpson, 1990-91). These excavations produced evidence of a multi-phase ditched enclosure system and two individual burials which were not directly associated with the ditches. The presence of a number of pot sherds in the ditch segments and the position and orientation of the skeletons indicated a possible date in the prehistoric or at least pre-Christian period.

3.2 Nine evaluation trenches were excavated in 1993 by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service to the south-west of Windhill Plantation (Webb, 1993), extending southwards to cover the area immediately to the east of the 1996 trenches. Archaeological features were restricted to the southern part of this area, and produced evidence of three phases of agricultural field systems and a single possible Christian inhumation adjacent to a ditch. Finds from the excavation were scarce and the pottery recovered ranged in date from Iron Age or of Iron Age tradition, to the late Roman period.

3.3 In 1995 an excavation and watching brief were conducted during topsoil stripping of the southern part of the area of the 1993 investigation (Fig. 1), immediately to the east of the area of the 1996 excavation (Brown & Morris 1997). This provided further information about the sequence of field ditches, and in addition several pits were excavated which produced a small assemblage of Iron Age or Iron Age tradition pottery. Field walking and a gradiometer survey were carried out in the adjacent field to the west immediately after the watching brief was completed (Webb, 1995). The field walking produced a concentration of worked flint of probable

Neolithic date to the south while the gradiometer survey revealed evidence of a possible field system continuing to the west into the area of the 1996 excavation.

## **4. Methodology**

4.1 Two linear trenches and a larger rectangular trench were positioned with respect to the possible archaeological anomalies indicated by the gradiometer survey (Fig. 1). Trench A was positioned to reveal the intersection between anomalies J and K (Webb, 1995; Fig. 3) and to determine whether an isolated response near anomaly K was archaeological in origin. Trench B was positioned to reveal the intersection between ditches F and J. Trench C, the larger trench, was positioned to reveal a possible small ditched enclosure (O) and associated pits.

4.2 The three trenches were machine stripped by a tracked, back-acting excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, down to the surface of limestone bedrock or disturbed limestone. In areas where there were substantial subsoil deposits, particularly Trench C, this was done in two stages in case archaeological features were visible cutting the subsoil. Any potential features were cleaned and excavated manually and recorded in accordance with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Site Recording Manual (Boucher, 1995). In this report the context number for the cut of a feature has been indicated by the letter 'F' preceding the number in the text. Main feature numbers, given to ditches where more than one segment was excavated, are prefixed by the letter M.

## **5. Results**

### **5.1 Trench A (Fig. 1)**

Trench A measured 58m by 4.5m and was orientated north-east to south-west along linear anomaly (K) indicated by the gradiometer survey (Webb, 1995; Fig. 3) in order to observe its intersection with two north-west to south-east aligned linear anomalies (J) and also to reveal an isolated anomaly to the north-east. The trench was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to the top of limestone at a depth of 0.3m up-slope to the north-east, deepening to 0.7m downslope to the south-west. The more southerly of the two north-west to south-east aligned anomalies was identified as ditch F107 towards the south-western end of the trench, and another ditch F109 was identified slightly to the north-east, which corresponded with the line of a parallel anomaly detected by the gradiometer survey to the south-east of the trench but not shown continuing so far to the north-west. The north-easterly of the two expected north-west to south-east aligned features was not identified within the trench, and may have only been cut into subsoil.

The expected north-east to south-west aligned anomaly was not detected within the trench, so a further small area measuring 10m by 6m was stripped to the south-east of the main trench following the line of ditch F109. Ditch F109 cut progressively less into the limestone as it continued to the South-east. No additional features were detected cutting limestone in this area, although it was possible that they may have been cut exclusively into the overlying subsoil, consequently making it impossible to identify.

The isolated magnetic anomaly near the north-eastern end of the trench could not be identified after stripping, and may also have represented a feature cut exclusively in subsoil.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
F107	Linear ditch orientated northwest-southeast, crossing trench near its south-western end. Irregular shallow U profile. More than 5m long, 1.7m wide, 0.47m deep. Contained one fill, 108. (Fig 8 section 3)
108	single fill of F107 consisting of a mid reddish brown firm silty sand with frequent small to medium sized limestone fragments. Sealed by subsoil layer 112.
F109	Linear ditch orientated northwest-southeast. Wide, shallow U profile. Observed length 15m, continuing to the north-west and south-east. Width 2.40m, depth 0.52m. Mostly cut through limestone at the north-western side of the trench, and progressively more into subsoil to the south-east. Contained one fill, 110. (Fig 8 section 4)
110	Single fill of F109 consisting of a light yellowish brown loose silty sand, with frequent large limestone fragments towards the base, and occasional small limestone fragments throughout the rest of the deposit. Frequent charcoal flecks were observed towards the top of the deposit. Sealed by subsoil 112.
111	Ploughsoil over Trench A. Dark brown loose silty sand with frequent small to medium angular limestone fragments. Between 0.3m and 0.4m thick.
112	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown firm silty sand with occasional limestone flecks. Between 0.05m and 0.20m thick.

## 5.2 Trench B (Figs 3 and 7)

Trench B measured 21.5m by up to 5.0m and was oriented north-east to south-west. It was positioned to reveal the intersection between a north-west to south-east aligned linear anomaly (J) and a north-east to south-west aligned linear anomaly (F) indicated by the gradiometer survey (Webb, 1995; Fig. 3). The trench was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to the top of disturbed limestone at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.60m. The north-west to south-east aligned anomaly was identified as a ditch F101 crossing the trench. No north-east to south-west aligned feature was identified within the original trench, so an additional area 7m long by 5m wide was stripped south-eastwards along the line of ditch F101. At the southern end of this additional area ditch F101 was cut exclusively in subsoil, and could only be identified in section. A possible north-east to south-west aligned feature F103 was identified in section in the sides of the trench extension. It was cut entirely in subsoil and disturbed and degraded limestone, and hence not observed in plan.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	Ploughsoil over Trench B. Dark brown loose silty sand with occasional small fragments of limestone. Between 0.3m and 0.5m thick.
F101	Linear ditch orientated north-west to south-east. Irregular shallow V profile. Observed length 7.0m, continuing to the north-west and south-east, more than 1.6m wide, more than 0.6m deep. The upper part of the sides were indistinguishable due to being cut through subsoil, but lenses of burnt material in the fill showed that it had been cut through the subsoil. Towards the south-eastern end of the trench extension the feature was entirely cut into subsoil and was therefore totally truncated by machine, although it was identified in section in the south-eastern side of the trench. Contained two fills 106 and 102. (Fig 7 section 5)
102	Upper fill of F101, above 106, concentrated towards the upper north-eastern side. Mid reddish brown loose fine sand with very frequent small to large limestone fragments and occasional small lenses of

ash and charcoal mostly concentrated in a shallow tipping line across the width of, and near the top of, the deposit. More than 1.3m wide and more than 0.45m thick.

- 106 Primary fill of F101, below 102, concentrated in the base and south-western side of the cut. Dark brown firm fine sand, with moderate small to medium limestone fragments. At least 1.2m wide and up to 0.4m thick.
- F103 Observed in section, probably crossing the southern trench extension orientated north-east to south-west. Cut entirely in subsoil and disturbed and degraded limestone, and hence not observed in plan. Shallow U shaped profile. Length uncertain, width 1.4m, depth 0.45m. Subsoil layer 105 was only observed to the north-west of this feature, and appeared to be contiguous with its fill 104. To the south-east the disturbed and degraded limestone layer overlying bedrock was much thicker, and perhaps represented the remnant of a hedge bank on that side of the ditch. Contained one fill, 104.
- 104 Single fill of F103 consisting of a dark brown friable silty sand with rare small limestone fragments <25mm concentrated at the margins. Apparently contiguous with subsoil layer 105 to the North-west, elsewhere sealed directly by ploughsoil 100.
- 105 Subsoil layer observed throughout the main trench except up-slope at the extreme north-eastern end of the trench, and thickening downslope to the south-west, and south-eastwards in the trench extension as far as feature F103, appearing to be contiguous with its fill 104. Mid reddish brown loose fine sand with occasional small fragments of limestone. Up to 0.55m thick. Generally above degraded limestone and sealed by ploughsoil 100.

### 5.3 Trench C (Figs 2, 5 and 6)

Trench C measured 36m by 32m, orientated east to west. It was positioned to reveal a possible small enclosure (O) and associated pit-like anomalies identified by the gradiometer survey (Webb, 1995; Fig. 3). Having ascertained that the whole area was protected by subsoil deposits, up to 0.4m of topsoil was removed by bulldozer, and the disturbed top of the subsoil removed by tracked excavator. The western and northern sides of the trench revealed increasing depths of subsoil and clays within the head of the dry valley running to the north, within which it was not possible to define archaeological features in plan. These deposits were therefore removed within the trench down to limestone, and it was likely that some smaller features may have been lost as a result, including the northern and western sides of the possible enclosure, which the gradiometer survey showed to be located within the parts of the trench most seriously affected by this problem. The northern edge of the trench was cleaned to test for truncated features. None were noted. In addition a short section 157 at the northern end of the western trench edge was cleaned and recorded to provide a record of the soil profile within the head of the dry valley running diagonally across the trench.

Context	Description
157	A 2.2m long section cleaned down to base of palaeochannel running down south-east to north-west across the trench. This was its deepest observed point. Filled to a depth of 0.7m with a very firm purplish brown clay containing large lenses of very firm orange brown sand. No potential organic deposits were present. The base of the palaeochannel was formed of very degraded limestone, cut by a series of parallel linear channels or faults, oriented north-west to south-east, filled with similar clay. These were seen in the edges of feature F147 to cut c.0.4m into the top of the limestone.

In order to test the full range of features revealed cutting the limestone, and to determine which were likely to be archaeological in nature, a sample of three natural hollows, F113, F119 and F129, were excavated, all towards the southern side of the trench.



<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
F113	Irregular sub-oval natural hollow with irregular profile, orientated east-west. Measured 1.42m by 0.89m by 0.21m deep. Contained one fill, 114.
114	Single fill of F113 consisting of a mid reddish brown friable slightly clayey sand. No inclusions noted.
F119	Natural hollow cut by ditch segment F117. Irregularly shaped with an irregular profile. Its southern edge was 0.5m to the south of the southern side of ditch segment F117, and a 0.5m segment was excavated. It was up to 0.40m deep. Contained one fill, 120.
120	Single fill of F119 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt. No inclusions were noted. Cut by ditch segment F117.
F129	Sub-circular feature of probable natural origin with a rather irregular U shaped profile. 0.7m long, 0.6m wide and up to 0.35m deep. Contained one fill, 130.
130	Single fill of F129 consisting of a mid brown firm sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular small to large limestone.

Linear anomaly G on the gradiometer survey, which formed the southern side of the possible enclosure, was identified as ditch M128 running across the southern side of the trench from west to east for 28.7m, terminating near the south-eastern corner of the trench. Four segments were hand excavated across it. It had a U shaped profile and was up to 1.2m wide and 0.53m deep. At the rounded eastern terminal it was cut to a depth of 0.46m into limestone, but to the west it was cut through increasing thickness of subsoil, so that at the western edge of the trench, where it could be identified in section cutting through the subsoil, of an observed depth of 0.52m, only the basal 0.15m was cut into limestone, indicating the likely extent of truncation of features towards the western and northern sides of the trench. A single struck flint flake was recovered from the fill of this ditch.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
M128	East-west aligned linear ditch running westwards from a rounded eastern terminal and continuing beyond the trench to the west. U-shaped profile. Observed length 28.7m, width up to 1.20m, depth up to 0.53m. Excavated segments F115, F117, F121, F126.
155	Overall fill of ditch M128. See segment fills 116, 118, 122, 123 and 127 for description.
F115	Segment of ditch M128. Linear, orientated east-west, with a U shaped profile. Segment length 2.0m, ditch 1.0m wide and 0.32m deep. Contained one fill, 116.
116	Single fill of F115 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt, with occasional angular and sub-angular limestone fragments 10-25mm, mainly concentrated towards the centre of the ditch.
F117	Segment of ditch M128. Linear, orientated east-west, with an irregular U shaped profile. Segment length 2.0m, ditch width 1.0m, depth 0.35m. Contained one fill 118. It cut natural hollow fill 120 to the south.
118	Single fill of F117 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small and medium limestone fragments.
F121	Segment excavated at rounded eastern terminal of ditch M128. U shaped profile. Segment length 1.13m, ditch width 1.32m, depth 0.46m. Contained two fills, 122 and 123. (Fig 6)

- 122 Primary fill of segment F121 against its southern side. Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt, with moderate angular and sub-angular limestone 10-45mm. Up to 0.70m wide and 0.46m thick sloping down to the north.
- 123 Secondary fill of segment F121 against its northern side. Mid orange brown firm sandy silt with occasional small limestone fragments <15mm. Up to 0.80m wide and 0.46m thick.
- F126 Segment of ditch M128 excavated beyond western side of trench from the top of subsoil deposits elsewhere machined away in order to test machine truncation. Segment was linear, with a U shaped profile, and was 2.00m long, 1.22m wide and 0.54m deep, of which the upper 0.4m was cut through subsoil. Contained one fill 127. (Fig 5 section 12)
- 127 Single fill of F126 consisting of a mid reddish brown firm sandy silt with rare sub-rounded ironstone lumps <100mm and rare small charcoal flecks <3mm.

The eastern side of possible enclosure 'O' was formed by two lengths of north to south aligned rock cut ditch. The southern length, M151, was 12.0m long and had a slight 'dog-leg' to the east towards its northern end. It had a shallow U-shaped profile, and was up to 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep at the southern end, becoming much narrower and shallower to the north, perhaps as a result of truncation. Three segments were hand excavated across this feature. A probable small post-hole, F135, was identified within the ditch at the point where it 'dog-legged'.

**Context Description**

- M151 North-south orientated ditch with a slight 'dog-leg' to the east near its northern end. Overall length was 12.0m. Generally between 1.0m and 1.4m wide except at the 'dog-leg' where it narrowed to 0.6m, and the northern 1.8m which was 0.35m wide. It generally had a shallow U shaped profile. It was 0.4m deep at the southern end, reducing to 0.08m deep at the northern end. It was excavated in 3 segments: F124 at the southern terminal, F133 in the curve of the 'dog-leg', and F153 at the northern terminal. Posthole 135 was located within the western side of the ditch within segment F133. Contain one overall fill, 152.
- 152 Overall fill of ditch M151. Mid orange brown firm sandy silt containing varying amounts of sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Excavated in fill segments 125, 134 and 154.
- F124 Segment excavated at rounded southern terminal of ditch M151. Generally a flat-based U profile, although the southern end sloped gradually. Segment length 2.0m, ditch width 1.4m, depth up to 0.4m. Contained one fill, 125. (Fig 5 section 11)
- 125 Single fill of F124 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt with moderate small to medium limestone fragments.
- F133 Segment excavated across curving section of ditch M151. Curved slightly from south to north to North-east. Fairly parallel sides and a broad U profile. Segment length 2.0m, width between 0.7m and 0.9m, depth up to 0.35m. Relationship with probable post-hole F135 not determined. Contained one fill, 134.
- 134 Single fill of F133 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt with frequent small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments.
- F135 Possible post-hole located within north-western side of ditch segment F133 at the apex of the curve in the ditch. Sub-square in plan, with very steep or vertical sides and a rounded base. 0.3m in diameter and 0.3m deep. Relationship with ditch segment F133 not determined. Contained one fill, 136.
- 136 Single fill of F235 consisting of a mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small flecks of limestone.

F153 Segment at rounded northern terminal of ditch M151. Orientated north-south. Shallow U profile. Segment length 0.8m, width 0.35m, depth 0.08m. Contained one fill, 154.

154 Single fill of F153 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt. No inclusions noted.

A further short ditch M149 continued the line of this ditch to the north. It was 7.6m long and up to 1.25m wide and 0.35m deep, again narrowing and becoming shallower to the north. At its northern end it was extremely shallow, but appeared to terminate rather than having been lost due to truncation. A possible post-hole was identified within the southern terminal.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
M149	North-south orientated ditch. 7.62m long. The northern 5.0m was uniformly c.0.4m wide and up to 0.20m deep with a shallow, flat-based U profile and a rounded northern terminal (segment F144). At the southern end it widened to between 1.0m and 1.25m wide and up to 0.35m deep with a shallow U profile. It had a fairly square southern terminal (segment F142), with the extreme southern point being formed by a circular possible posthole, 0.25m in diameter and 0.17m deep with a flat-based V profile. Overall fill, 150.
150	Overall fill of ditch M149. Mid orange brown firm sandy silt. No inclusions noted. Excavated as segment fills 143 and 145.
F142	Segment excavated at rounded southern terminal of ditch F149. Shallow U-shaped profile. Segment length 1.5m, width 1.25m, depth 0.35m. Contained one fill, 143. (Fig 5 section 24)
143	Mid orange brown firm sandy silt. No inclusions noted.
F144	Segment excavated at rounded northern terminal of ditch F149. Shallow U shaped profile. Segment length 0.85m. Over-excavated for much of its length into an underlying natural hollow. Where edges determined it was 0.45m wide and uncertainly up to 0.20m deep. Contained two fills, 145 and 146.
145	Fill of F144 consisting of a mid orange brown firm sandy silt. No inclusions noted.
146	Part of fill of a natural hollow mistakenly excavated with ditch segment F144. Mid brown firm silty clay. No inclusions noted.

There was a gap 2.0m wide at the south-eastern corner of the probable enclosure between the eastern terminal of ditch M128 and the southern terminal of ditch M151. A 1m gap separated the northern end of M151 from the southern end of M149. Either might have represented entrances into the enclosure.

Three short linear features were excavated within the probable enclosure. F131 was located towards the south-western corner of the trench. It was rather irregular in shape, orientated north-west to south-east, and was 2.0m long and 0.8m wide. It had a rather irregular profile, and the base was penetrated by four equally spaced small holes, which could have been post settings. However, it was possible that the feature was natural in origin.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
F131	Irregularly shaped oval cut orientated northwest-southeast, with a rather irregular flat-based V profile. The base was cut by a line of four equally spaced small circular holes, the one at the eastern end very regular in form, the others less so. Overall the feature was 2.00m long, up to 0.80m wide, and up to 0.43m deep. Uncertain whether this feature was natural or man-made. Contained one fill, 132.

132 Single fill of F131 consisting of a mid, slightly reddish brown very firm silty sand, with rare angular grit 3-4mm.

A short east-west aligned linear feature F137 with rounded terminals was located towards the north-eastern corner of the trench. It was 2.6m long with a U-shaped profile. Sections at each terminal revealed either post settings (F139 and F140) or the ends of a deeper slot cut through the base of the feature. The rock-cut sides of these deeper cuts were very fresh, showing none of the limestone degradation present in the natural hollows, and strongly suggested that it was a man-made feature.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
F137	Short linear cut with rounded ends, aligned east-west. 2.6m long, up to 0.7m wide and up to 0.3m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Sectioned at either terminal, both of which showed a deeper cut in the base (F139 and F140), either post-holes or either end of a deeper slot. Contained one fill, 138.
138	Single fill of F137 consisting of a light orange brown very firm fine silty sand. No inclusions were noted. Sealed fills 141 (F139) and 156 (F140).
F139	Rounded eastern side of posthole or slot terminal in base of eastern end of slot F137. U shaped profile with very steep or vertical sides and a rounded base. More than 0.27m long east-west, 0.28m wide and 0.24m deep. The sides were un-degraded bedded limestone, showing that it was not a solution hollow. Contained one fill, 141.
141	Single fill of F139 consisting of a dark reddish brown very firm clay with traces of green, yellow and blue clays. No inclusions noted.
F140	Rounded western side of posthole or slot terminal in base of western end of slot F137. U shaped profile with very steep or vertical sides and a rounded base. More than 0.50m long east-west by up to 0.50m wide, narrower towards base, by 0.41m deep. The sides were un-degraded bedded limestone, showing that it was not a solution hollow. Contained one fill, 156.
156	Single fill of F140, similar to fill 141.

A third short linear feature F147 with rather tapering ends was located towards the north-western corner of the trench. It was 5.05m long and up to 0.88m wide with an asymmetrical U-shaped profile. A worked flint was recovered from the fill 148.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
F147	Elongated oval feature aligned east-west, with an asymmetrical U shaped profile, with a near vertical southern side and an irregular steep sloping northern side. It was 5.05m long, up to 0.88m wide and 0.54m deep. A 0.7m segment was excavated near the centre of the feature. Contained one fill, 148. (Fig 5 section 30)
148	Single fill of F147 consisting of a mid orange brown very firm silty sand. No inclusions were noted. The lower 0.15m was a dark reddish brown clay similar to that seen filling possible postholes F139 and F140. A worked flint was recovered from 0.15m below the surface of this deposit.

Other than the two flints no dating evidence was recovered from any feature within this trench.

## 6. Discussion.

Where linear features were revealed in the trenches they correlated well with those identified by the gradiometer survey. Features expected from the gradiometer survey but not found during excavation may have been entirely cut within the subsoil and hence very difficult or impossible to detect. Even where an attempt was made to excavate a known, regular feature, ditch F148, through subsoil, extreme difficulty was encountered attempting to identify the edges of the cut, which were distinguished mainly by a slight change in compaction of the deposits, rather than any significant colour or textural differences.

From the gradiometer survey, ditch F101, observed in Trench B, and ditch F109, observed in Trench A, were both part of the same feature excavated as ditch M321 further to the South-east in 1995 (Brown & Morris, 1997) which was shown by radiocarbon dating to have been open during the post medieval period. Both ditches F101 and F109 contained patches of charcoal and burnt material similar to those observed within the fill of M321 and thought to possibly represent burning of a hedge line.

Ditch F107 in Trench A ran parallel to ditch F109, and on the gradiometer plot ran closely parallel to it for a distance of at least 100m, suggesting that the features were associated with one another and broadly contemporary in date.

In Trench B, although no direct relationship between ditch F101 and possible north-east to south-west aligned ditch F103 was recovered, fill 104 in ditch F103 appeared to be contiguous with subsoil layer 105, and ditch F101 cut layer 105, implying that ditch F101 must have cut, and therefore been later than, ditch F103.

The southern and eastern sides of the small enclosure suggested by the gradiometer survey within Trench C were identified and excavated, although the eastern side, ditches M149 and M151, was very shallow and probably rather truncated, suggesting that the ditches on the northern and western sides may also have been rather slight and cut entirely within the increasing depths of subsoil present within the north-western half of the trench, and hence not identifiable in plan. Ditch M128, forming the southern side of the enclosure, could be seen from the gradiometer survey to be the eastern end of a long field boundary ditch, to which the rest of the enclosure appeared to have been added, and hence its more substantial character could be explained by its different primary function. The two possible 'entrances' into the enclosure observed, at its south-eastern corner and in the middle of its eastern side, were both very narrow and their function is doubtful.

The three short linear features excavated within the enclosure, F131, F137 and F147, could not be definitely associated with it, possibly being of a completely different period. Since the trench continued little beyond the area of the enclosure the apparent restriction of their distribution to its interior, and hence spatial association to it, might have been false. Their function was not determined, and it was rather uncertain whether F131 was a man-made or natural in origin.

No evidence was recovered from any feature in Trench C to suggest a date or function for the enclosure. The only finds recovered, two worked flints, might easily have been residual material,

since the trench lay within the area of a concentration of worked flint observed during field-walking (Webb, 1995). The absence of pottery or animal bones suggests that the features did not have a domestic function. However, truncation of the subsoil during stripping might have removed any slighter traces of occupation.

## 7. Conclusion.

Evidence from the 1993 excavations, 1995 watching brief and the geophysical survey suggests that the site formed part of an area of ditched enclosures of a multi-phased, multi-period agricultural landscape, ranging in age from the late prehistoric to the post-medieval periods (Brown & Morris, forthcoming). The ditches observed in Trenches A and B were shown in the 1995 watching brief to have gone out of use in the post-medieval period. The trenches failed to locate expected north-east to south-west aligned features, and hence no evidence for the relative phasing of the features could be determined. In one trench a possible linear feature on the correct alignment was observed in section cut entirely within the subsoil and hence not distinguishable in plan. It could be shown to probably pre-date the north-west to south-east aligned ditches, although no direct relationship could be established.

In Trench C the ditches forming two sides of the small enclosure identified by gradiometer survey were located and excavated, including a possible entrance on the eastern side, and correlated well with the magnetic anomalies. Several short linear features of unknown function were investigated within the enclosure. No evidence of function or dating was recovered other than a single worked flint from one of the internal features, and a possible waste flake from the southern enclosure ditch. The western and northern sides of the trench revealed increasing depths of subsoil and clays within the head of a dry valley running to the north, within which it was not possible to define archaeological features in plan. These deposits were therefore removed within the trench down to limestone, and it was likely that some smaller features may have been lost as a result, including the supposed other two sides of the possible enclosure which the gradiometer survey showed to be located within the parts of the trench most seriously affected by this problem. The ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure was, however, shown to have been cut from the top of the subsoil.

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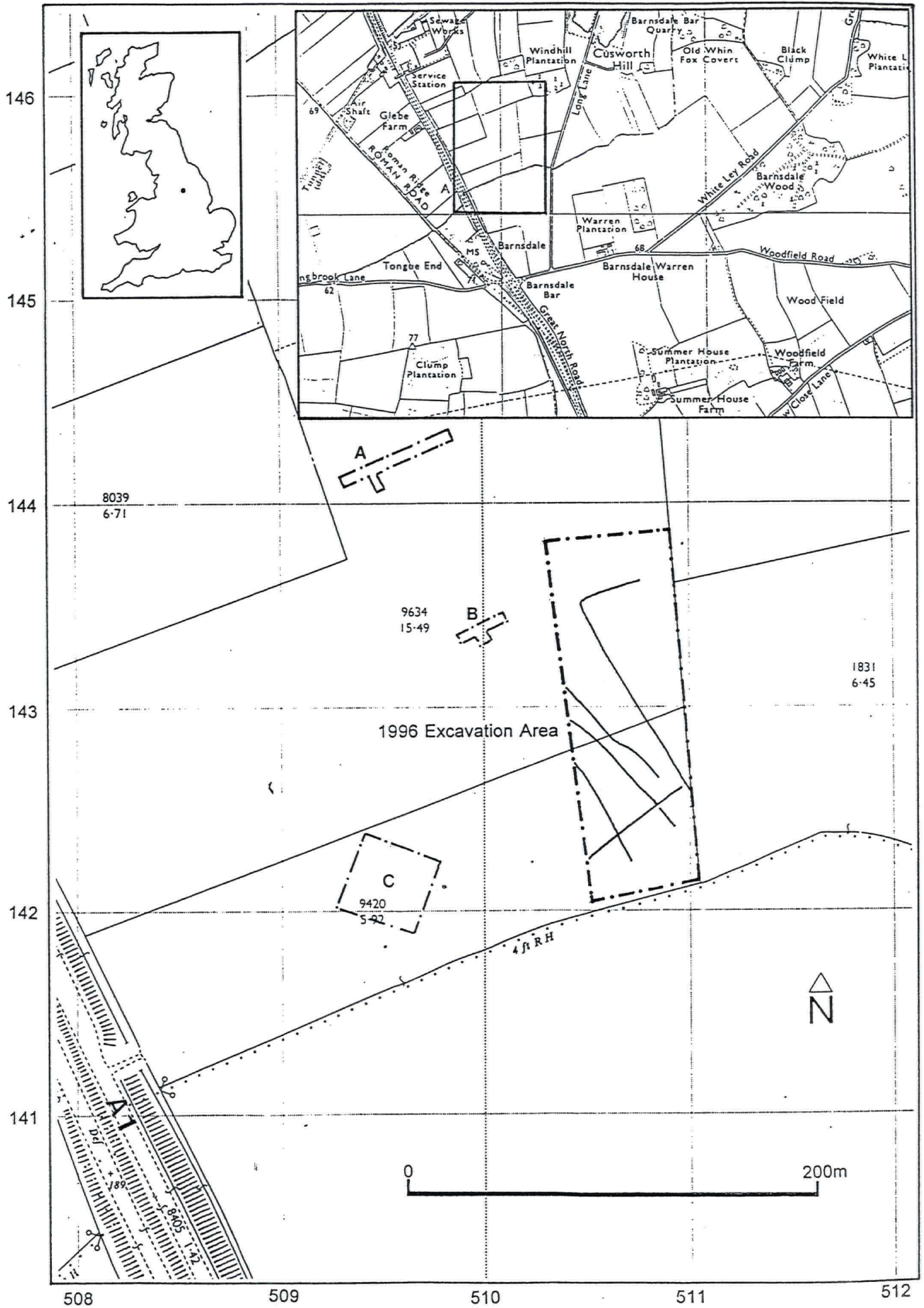


Figure 1: Site location plan, showing location with respect to earlier 1996 Excavation Area<sup>1</sup>



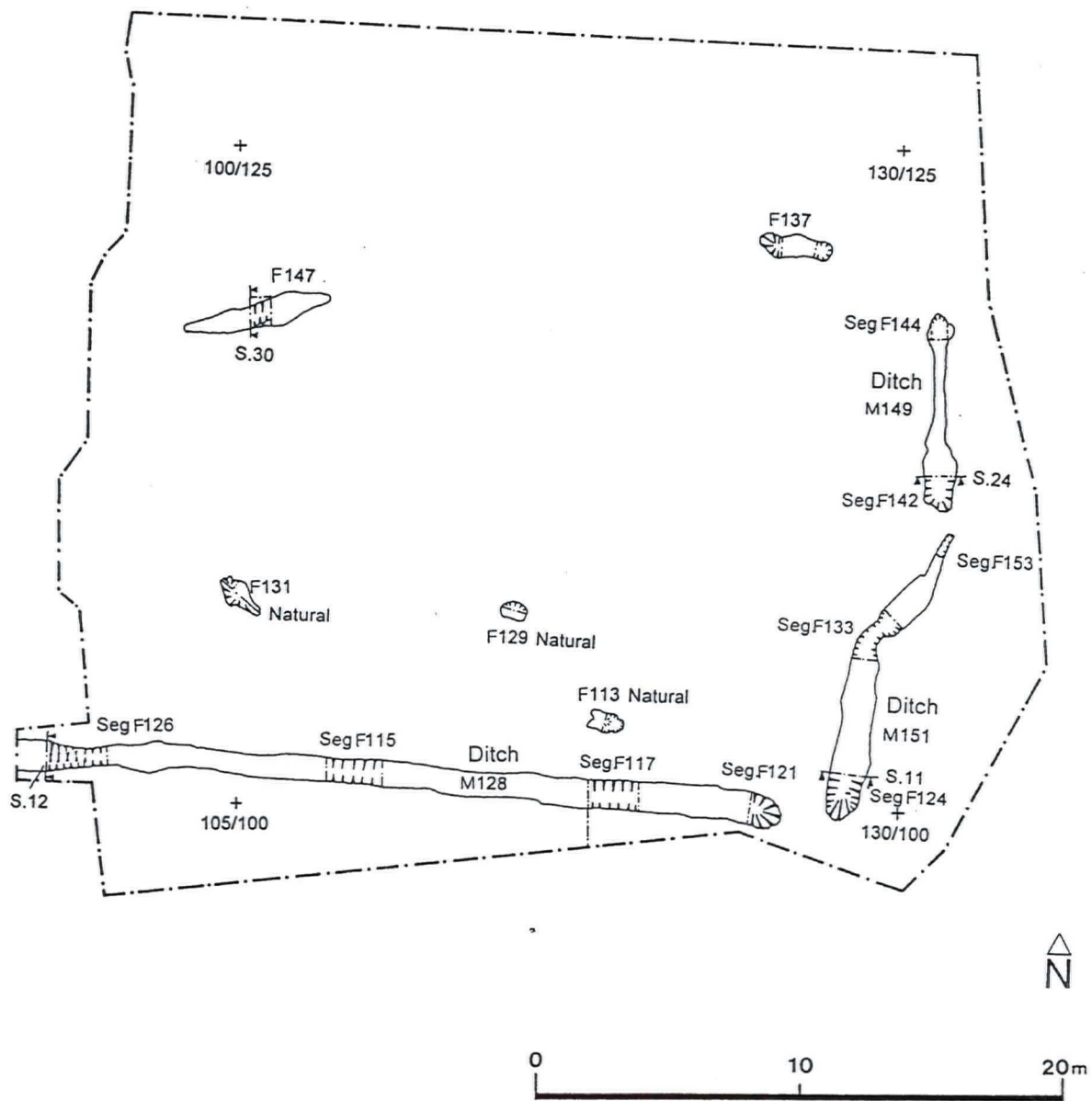


Figure 2: Trench C showing part of supposed enclosure 'O'

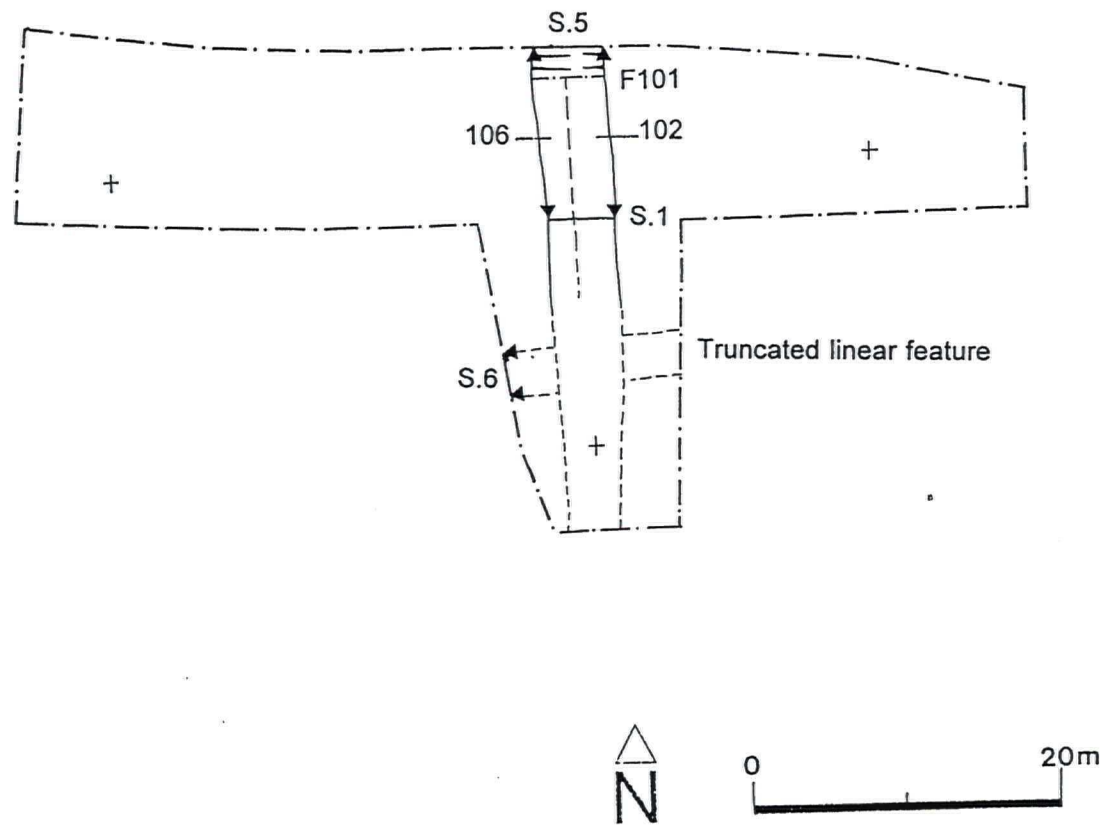


Figure 3: Trench B; post-excavation plan

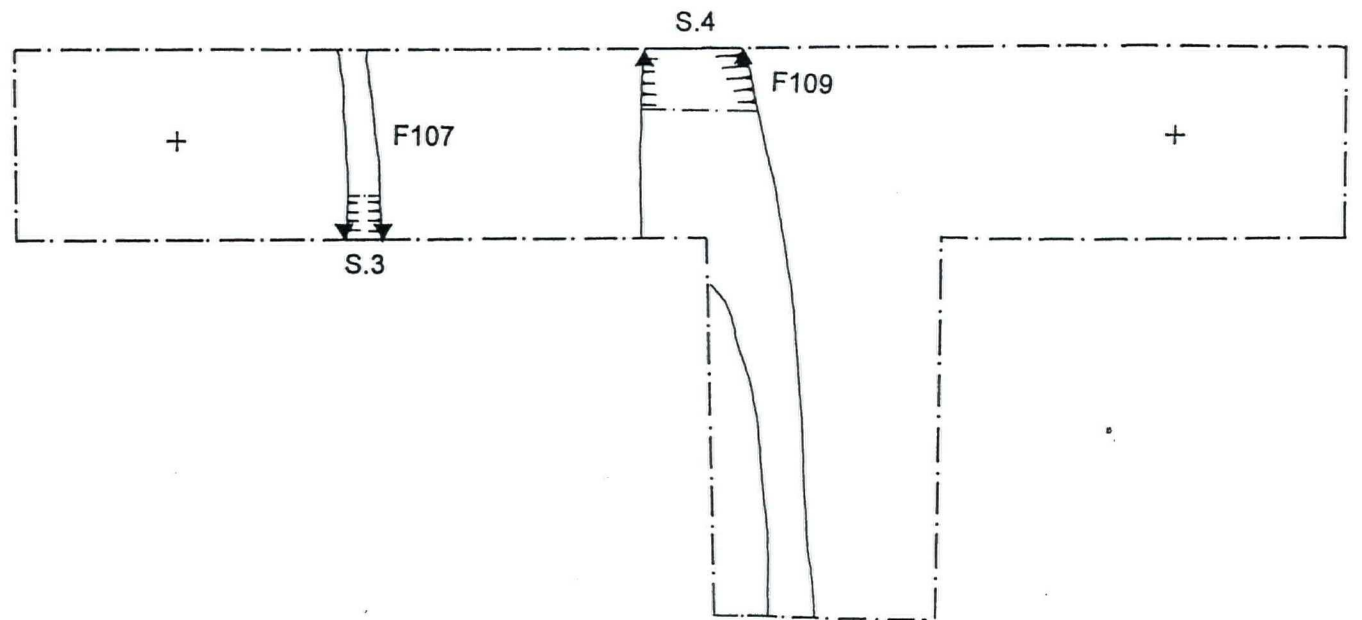


Figure 4: Trench A; post-excavation plan

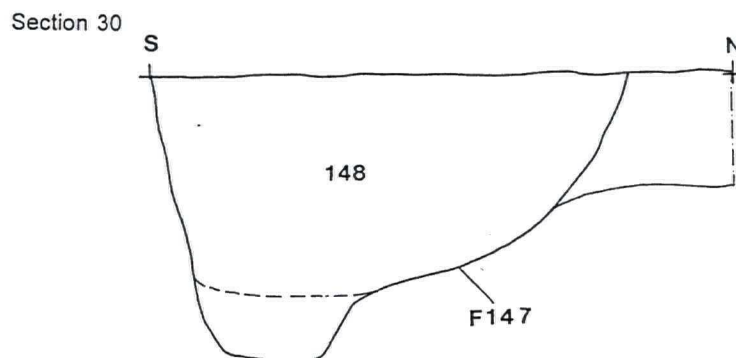
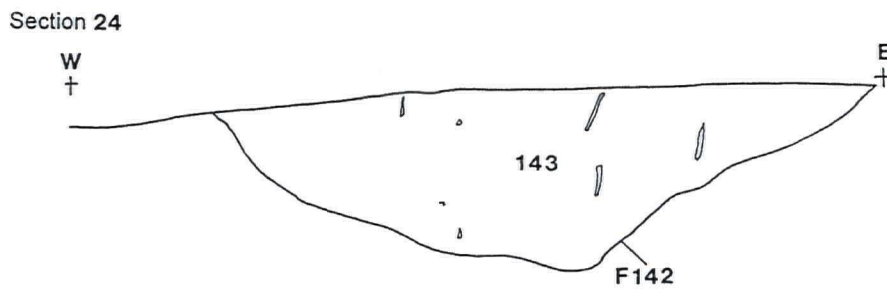
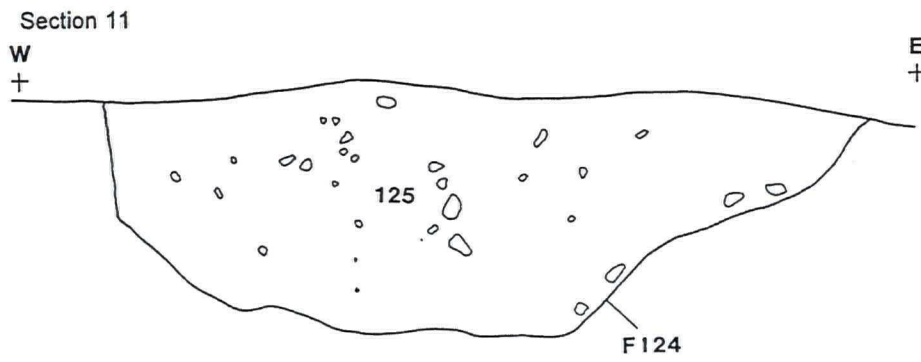
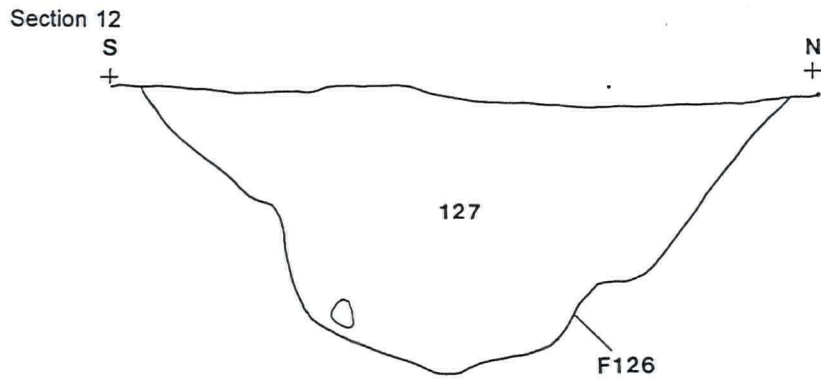


Figure 5: Trench C section of excavated features

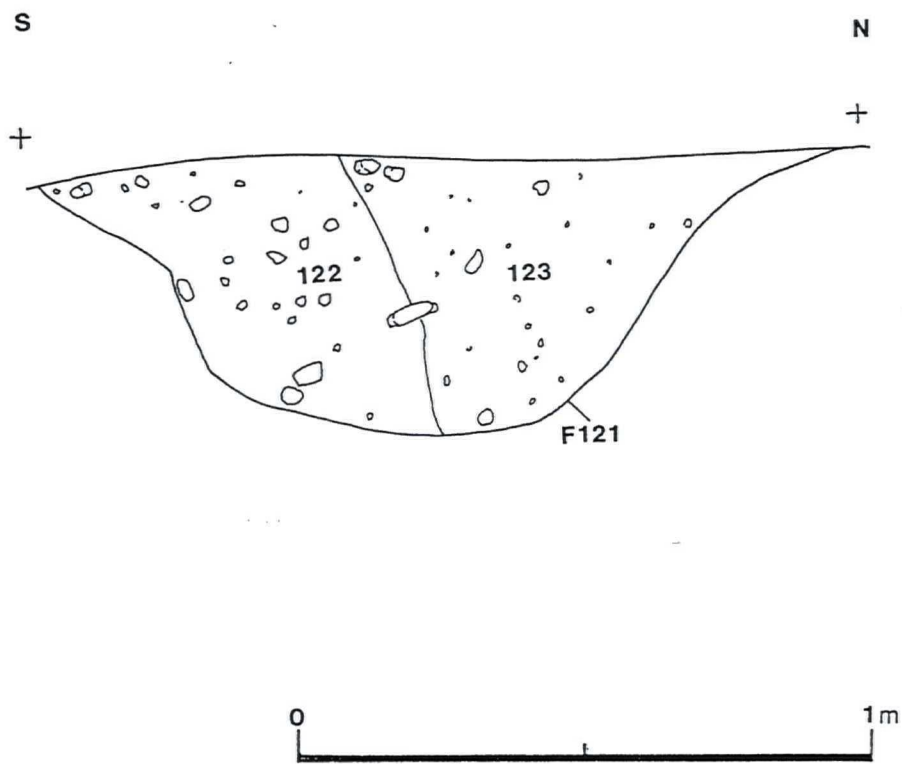
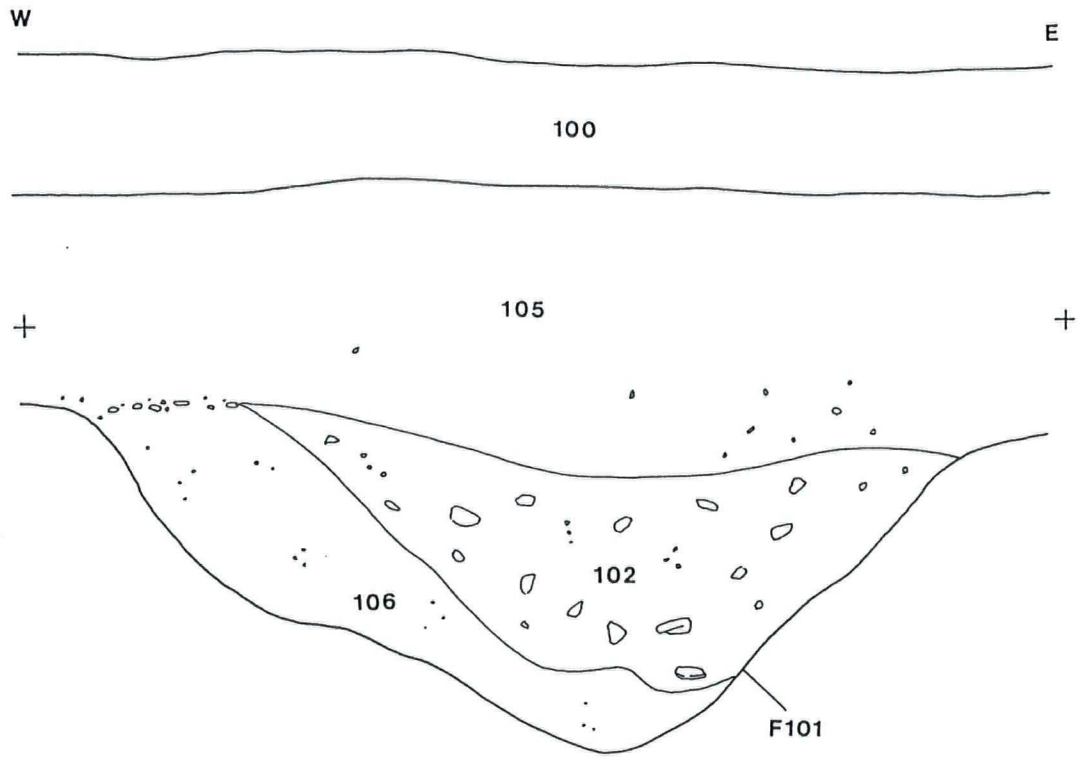


Figure 6: Trench C section of excavated feature

Section 5



Section 6

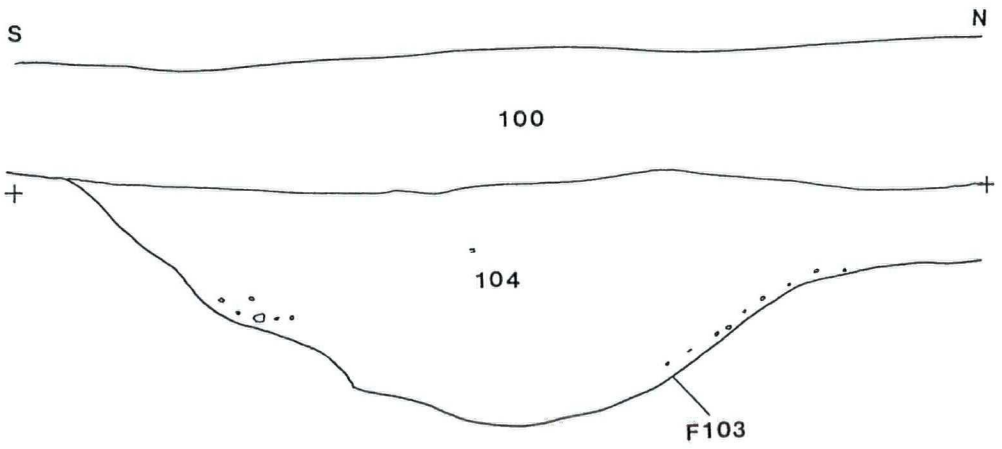
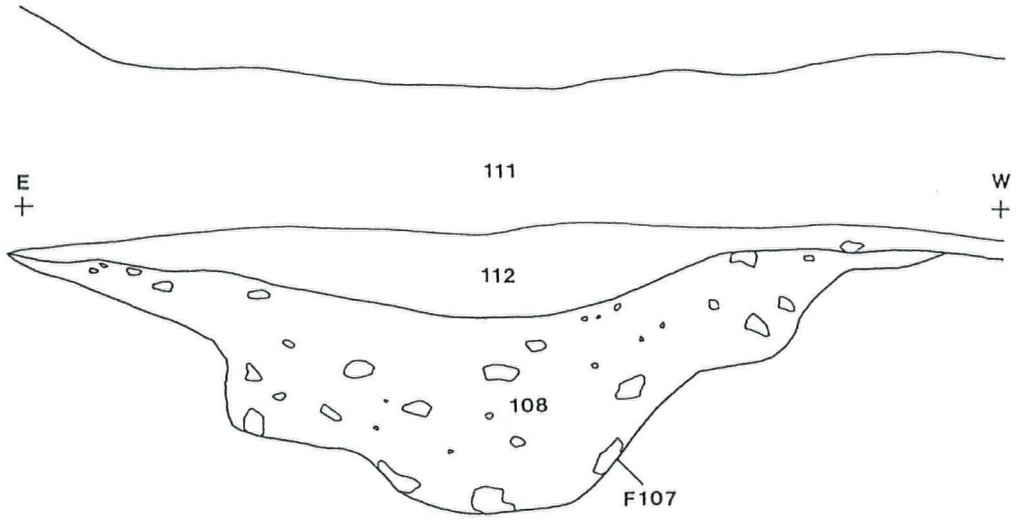


Figure 7: Trench B sections of excavated features

Section 3



Section 4

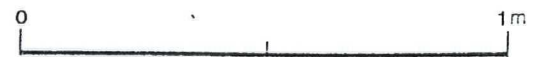
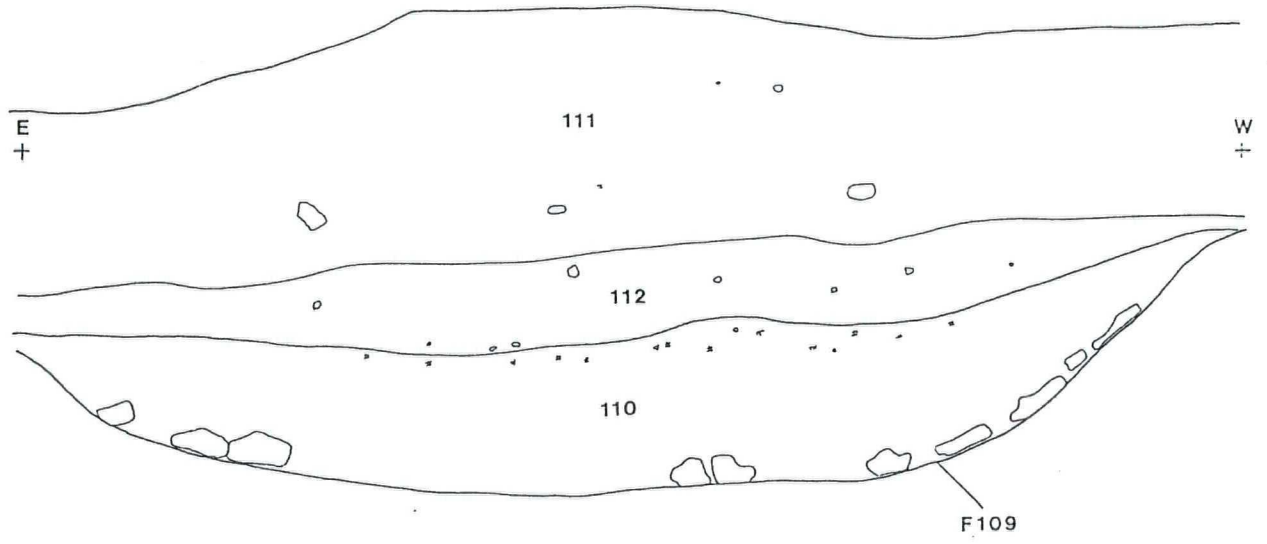


Figure 8: Trench A sections of excavated features