

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**Archaeological Recording at Heathcote
Home Farm, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Project No. 377

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**Archaeological Recording at
Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.**

by
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INTRODUCTION

The following report describes the results of archaeological fieldwork carried out at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire (Fig. 1: SP 309 633). The fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) in January 1997, prior to a proposed residential housing development. The work was commissioned by Countryside Planning and Management (CPM) on behalf of J J Gallagher Limited and conforms to a brief prepared by Warwickshire Museum.

An archaeological assessment of the land at Heathcote Home Farm was carried out by CPM in February 1995 (CPM 1995). Aerial photographs show a series of cropmarks in the west, central part of the study area which suggests the presence of a banjo enclosure (SMR no 4561). It was also considered possible that the study area might contain evidence for a deserted medieval village (SMR no. 4614). A gradiometer survey was subsequently undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (GSB 1995). Strong responses were recorded in the area of the suspected banjo enclosure and these were considered to be of archaeological origin. However, no responses of a similar magnitude were detected elsewhere within the study area.

An archaeological evaluation by BUFAU in November and December 1995 (BUFAU 1996) located possible Roman features in Trench 19 to the north of the crop-marked "banjo" enclosure. Remnants of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were identified in other parts of the study area. The "banjo" enclosure has been preserved within an open space and a 20m buffer zone is to be maintained between the enclosure and the development. However, it was felt that there was potential for further Roman archaeological deposits to survive to the north of the "banjo" enclosure.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the archaeological work was to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or features liable to be affected by the proposed development in the area immediately to the north of the 20m buffer zone around the "banjo" enclosure.

METHOD

An area of 120m x 30m was investigated. Topsoil was removed in two stages using a Hy-mac type 360 degree mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The first stage involved the removal of topsoil from two 10m wide strips. Any possible archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded. These areas were then backfilled and the topsoil was removed from the central 10m strip. Any possible archaeological deposits in this strip were then investigated and recorded.

RESULTS

Below the topsoil, 0.30m deep, was the natural compact reddish brown clay. Cutting this were five shallow linear features 3.0-4.0m wide and 0.15m deep. They were all spaced 5m apart, aligned north west- south east and were filled with an orange brown slightly silty sandy clay. These features were identified as remnants of furrows associated with medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation observed in other parts of the study area during the 1995 evaluation. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified.

DISCUSSION

It is possible that some of the features identified in Trench 19 during the evaluation may have been associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. The abraded nature of the finds recovered from these features and the fact that they were of similar depth and shape as the furrows recorded during this fieldwork may be evidence supporting this conclusion. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried by R. Burrows and L. Jones and the project was managed by G.Hughes. The project was monitored by Royston Clark on behalf of CPM and Douglas Moit on behalf of Warwickshire County Council.

REFERENCES

BUFAU 1996 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire: Trial Trenching Phase*. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit Report No.377

CPM 1995 *An archaeological assessment of the land at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa*. Countryside Planning and Management.

GSB 1995 *Report on geophysical survey at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa*. Geophysical Surveys of Bradford.

APPENDIX 1: Brief for Archaeological Work at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

APPENDIX 2: Specification for Archaeological Recording at Heathcote Home Farm, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire prepared by BUFAU.

APPENDIX 1

Brief for Archaeological Work

Location: Heathcote Home Farm, Harbury Lane/Heathcote Lane, Warwick.
Proposed: Residential development of 120 dwellings (Phase 1).

Summary

Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for residential development of 120 dwellings (Phase 1) at Heathcote Home Farm, Harbury Lane/Heathcote Lane, Warwick, Warwickshire (Ref. W951381). The proposed development lies adjacent to a known site of prehistoric settlement and some evidence of Roman activity was encountered during the archaeological field evaluation of the site.

It is likely that some archaeological deposits of interest may be disturbed or exposed by the development. It is a condition of the planning permission that, before the development commences, the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This brief sets out the requirements for that programme of archaeological works.

1. Location.

1.1 The site is centred around national grid reference SP 3120 6130, in the parish of Warwick. The total area of the current proposal (Ref. W951381) affects c. 6 hectares which is presently agricultural land.

1.2 The underlying geology of the site is 4th terrace Quaternary river gravels with outcrops of Jurassic Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series England and Wales Sheet 184 Warwick Solid and Drift Geology).

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies immediately adjacent to a type of cropmark site known as a "banjo" enclosure (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 4561) and normally dates from the middle Iron Age. The enclosure has been preserved within open space and a 20m buffer zone is to be maintained between the development and the enclosure. The archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in November and December 1995 encountered a group of possible Roman features in Trench 19 to the north of the "banjo" enclosure. Given the large distances between the evaluation trenches there is a potential that further archaeological deposits associated with the Roman period may survive in the area of plots 53-55, 63-67, 82 & 83 as indicated on drawing no. 110/01 dated July 1996.

Further details of these sites can be obtained from the County Sites and Monuments Record, Field Archaeology Office, The Butts, Warwick, CV34 4SS.

3. Requirement for archaeological work

3.1 The proposed development would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site. It is a condition of the planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

3.2 The objective of the work should be to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

3.3 The area to be stripped of topsoil and examined for archaeological features is limited to plots 53-55, 63-67, 82 & 83 as indicated on drawing no. 110/01 dated July 1996.

4. Techniques

Land use at the time fieldwork is carried out will influence the methods used. The techniques chosen should be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction and should comply with all relevant health and safety regulations. It is envisaged that the following work would be required:

4.1 Observation of all topsoil stripping within the area of plots 53-55, 63-67, 82 & 83, as indicated on drawing no. 110/01 dated July 1996, by archaeological staff in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance; the archaeologists must have the authority to halt any earth moving activity if necessary to define and record areas of archaeological interest;

4.2 Preparation of a programme of works to excavate and record all features identified during 4.1, to be approved by the County Field Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist;

4.3 Implementation of a programme of archaeological works as agreed in 4.2;

4.4 A programme of sampling of appropriate materials for environmental and/or other scientific analysis. Special attention should be paid to any waterlogged deposits encountered.

5. Excavation Guidelines

Where excavation is to be by machine the following guidelines should be observed:

5.1 The health and safety implications of any use of earth-moving machinery on the site should be taken into account;

5.2 An appropriate machine should be used. The choice should be influenced by the prevailing site conditions, and the machine must be able to carry out a clean and safe job;

5.3 An appropriate bucket should be used. In most cases this will be a wide, toothless ditching bucket;

5.4 All machining should be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist and should be halted if archaeological deposits are encountered;

5.5 All topsoil or recent overburden should be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive, level spits.

5.6 When determining the level to which machine excavation can be carried out, it should not be assumed that the most recent archaeological remains on the site are the least important;

5.7 The first significant archaeological horizon may be cleaned using the machine, but must be subsequently cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological features;

5.8 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.

6. Proposal

A detailed proposal, including the following, should be prepared by potential contractors and submitted to the County Field Archaeologist for approval on behalf of the planning authority:

6.1 A description of the proposed methods of excavation and recording system;

6.2 An explanation of the sampling strategies to be used;

6.3 A projected timetable for work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers;

6.4 A projected timetable for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors;

6.5 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Field Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist in advance.

7. Site Monitoring

7.1 The Warwickshire Museum will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the Museum so that arrangements for monitoring can be made.

8. Reporting requirements

8.1 The archaeological work should result in a report including a description of the methodology employed; plans showing survey areas; sections and plans at an appropriate scale showing location and position of trenches dug and features located; sections drawing should include heights OD; plans should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features; a list of and spot date for any significant finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified.

8.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence recovered should be clearly distinguished from the interpretation of those features. The methodology used should be critically reviewed.

8.3 A summary report should be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork.

8.4 If archaeological remains of significance are identified, one or more full reports should be published in a suitable journal or other publication and should include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate.

8.5 Four copies of the report should be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document; a further copy to be sent to the relevant Local Authority Planning Officer.

9. Deposition of archive and finds

9.1 The archaeological archive arising from the recording should be deposited in an appropriate local institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. The County Sites and Monuments Record must be notified of the arrangements made. Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

Warwickshire Museum
October 1996

Heathcote Home Farm, Warwick: Archaeological Recording

Project design

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, October 1996

Introduction

The following proposal outlines a programme of archaeological fieldwork, recording and reporting at Heathcote Home Farm, Warwick in advance of work on a residential development. It has been prepared in accordance with a brief prepared by the Warwickshire Museum and follows an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in November and December 1995. The proposed development lies adjacent to the cropmarked site of a 'banjo' enclosure of possible Iron Age date. The site of the enclosure will be preserved within open space.

Objectives

The objective of the archaeological work is to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological or finds associated with the proposed residential development.

Methods Statement

Strip and recording

The archaeological fieldwork will focus on an area immediately to the north of the 'banjo' enclosure in the area of plots 53-55, 63-67, 82 and 83 as indicated on drawing no.110/01 dated July 1996. This involves an area of approximately 120m x 30m.

The topsoil will be removed from this area in two stages by earthmoving machinery under archaeological supervision. The first stage will involve the removal of topsoil from two 10m wide strips. The central 10m wide strip will be used for stockpiling the topsoil. Any archaeological deposits will be defined and recorded within these two strips. These areas will then be backfilled and the topsoil will be removed from the central 10m wide strip (Phase 2). Any archaeological deposits from this central strip will then be defined and recorded. If significant archaeological deposits are encountered, a programme of further archaeological works will be prepared to be approved by the County Field Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist.

Archaeological recording will be undertaken using a continuous numbered context system and BUFAU pro-forma record cards. All archaeological features and deposits will be photographed and a full drawn record at an appropriate scale will be maintained. The recording of archaeological contexts and artefacts will be undertaken according to the guidelines specified in Section 5 of the archaeological brief.

On-site conservation and recording of finds will be undertaken on the advice of Jane Evans (BUFAU finds officer). Specialist reporting on any medieval pottery will be undertaken by Stephanie Ratkai. If necessary, additional specialist advice will be provided by Lisa Moffett (charred plant remains), James Greig (pollen and plant macro-fossils) and Dr David Smith (micro-fauna), all of the University of Birmingham. Should human remains be encountered and their removal prove necessary, an appropriate license will be obtained.

Post-excavation

This will include the processing and primary research, analysis and investigative conservation of the site archive. The appropriate museum and SMR will be notified at an early stage to discuss arrangements for the preparation and the long term storage of both finds and archive.

A full archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeology Projects' (English Heritage) and a report will be produced according to the specifications outlined in Section 8 of the brief. The report will be produced within three weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Four copies of the evaluation report will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record. If appropriate, publication of the results in an appropriate journal, within a reasonable length of time, will be pursued.

Projected timetable

Weeks 1-2

Strip and recording using earthmoving machinery under archaeological supervision.

Week 3

Preparation of archive

Analysis

Preparation of report

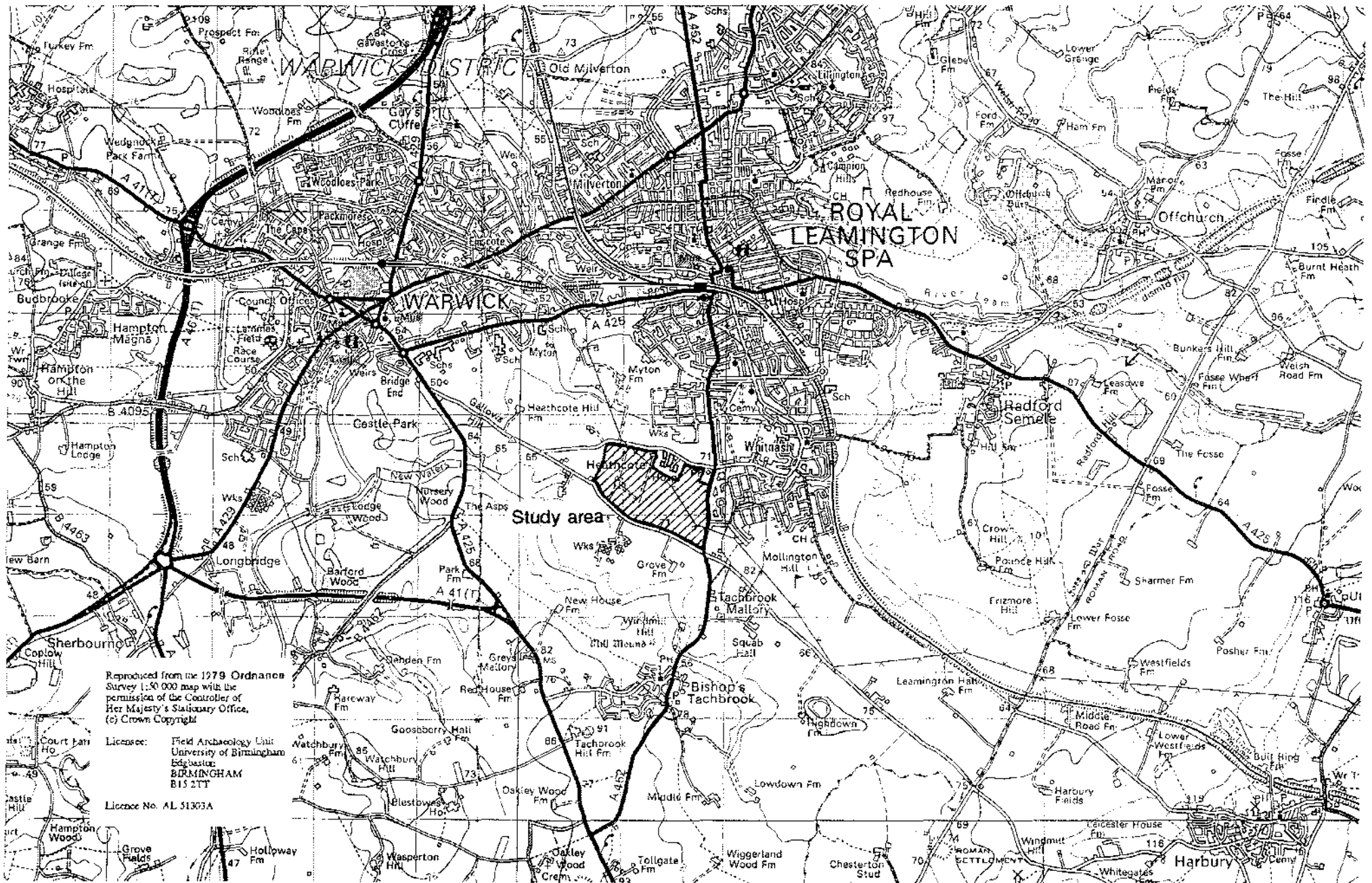


Figure 1 - Location of Study Area

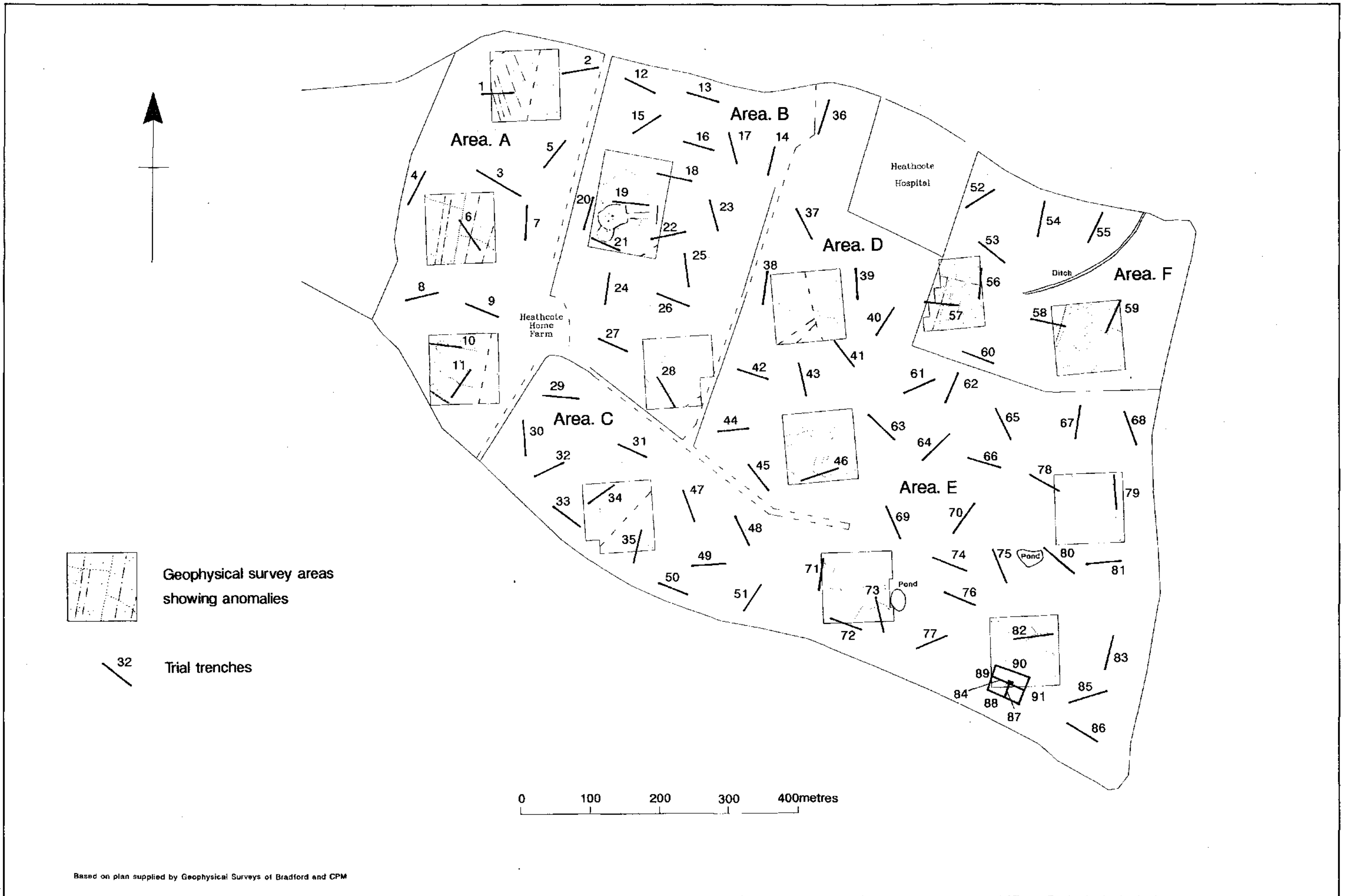
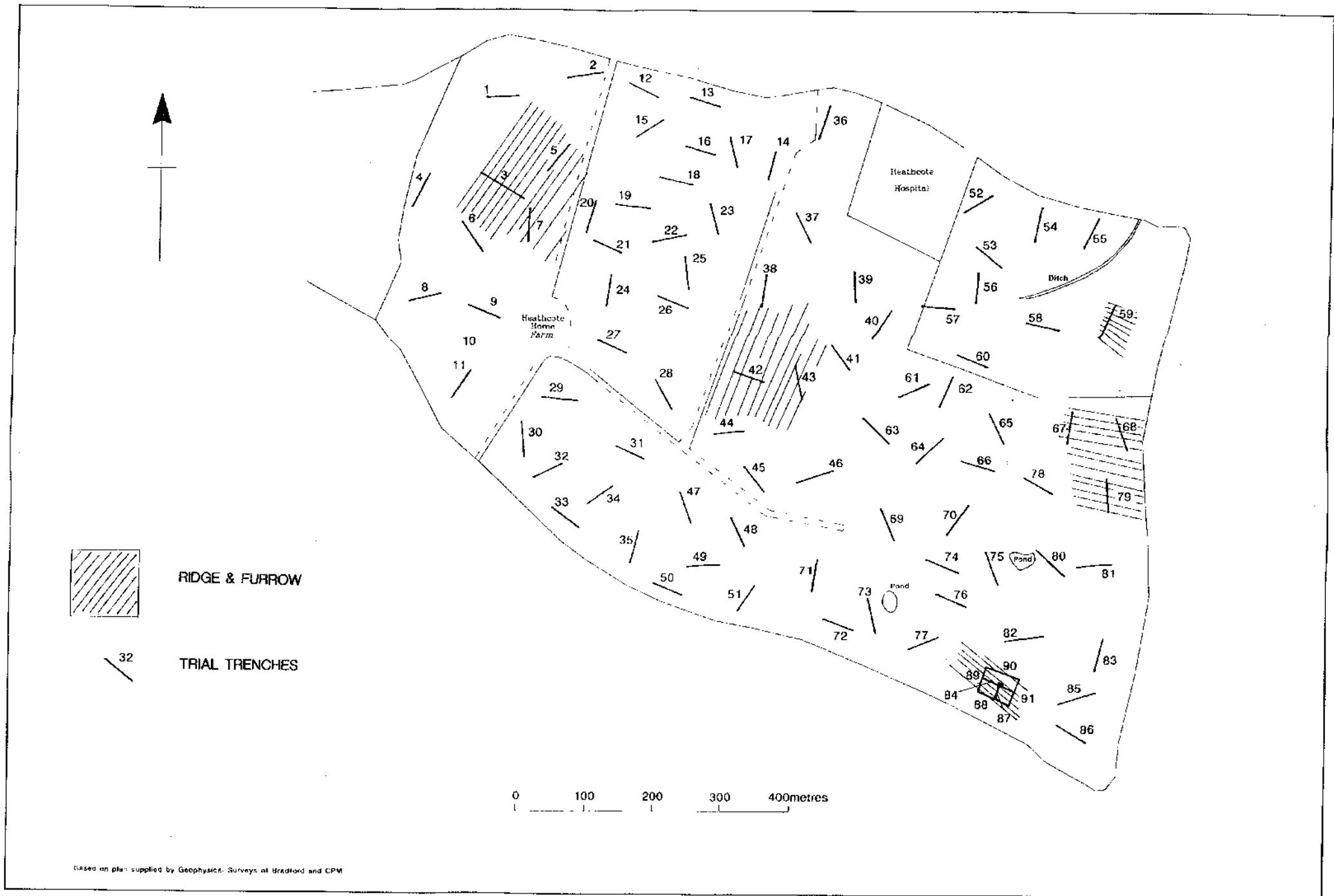


Figure 2 - Location of Trial Trenches



Based on plan supplied by Geophysical Surveys at Bradford and CPM

Figure 3 - Orientation of Ridge and Furrow

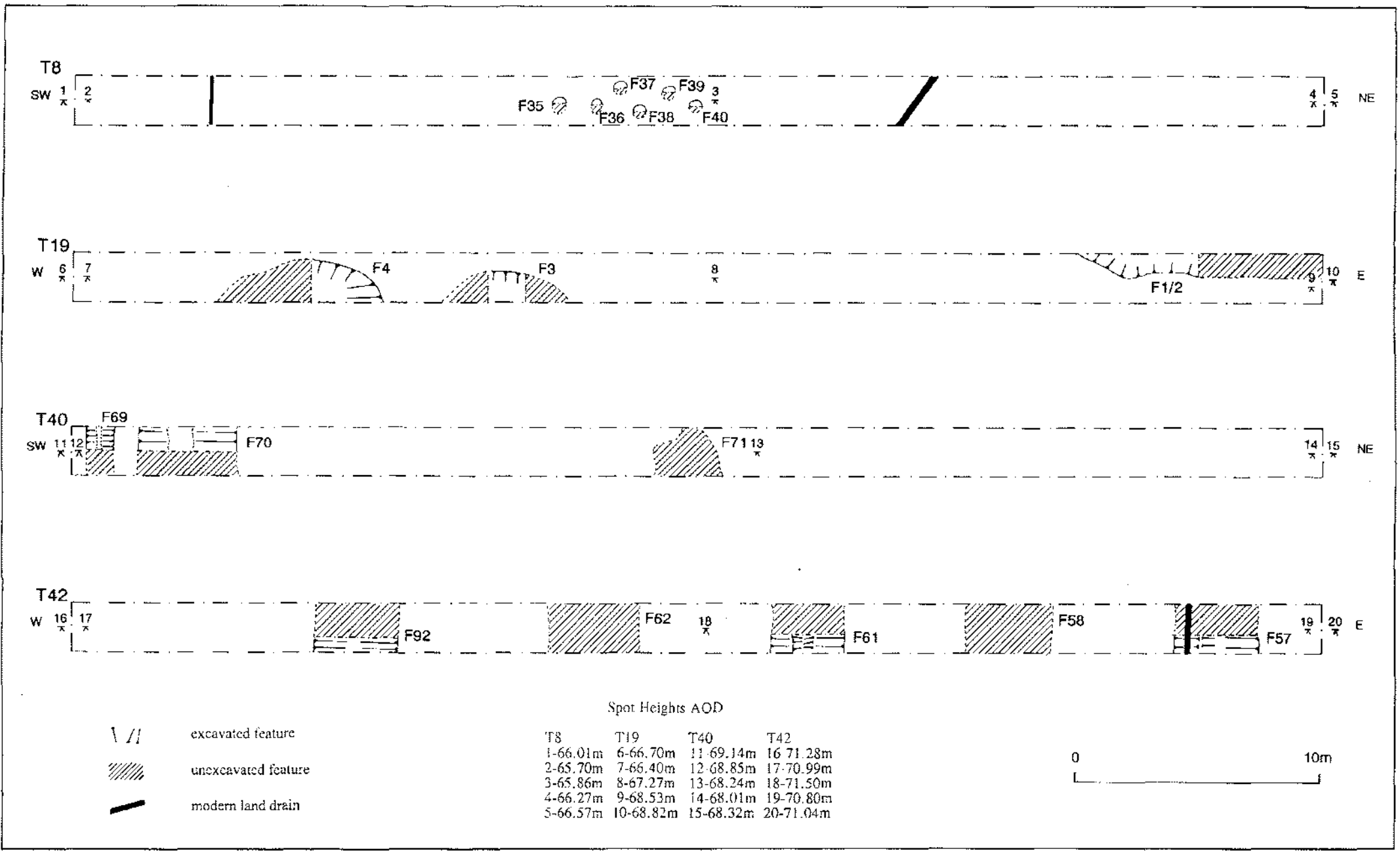


Figure 4 - Plan of Trenches 8, 19, 40 and 42

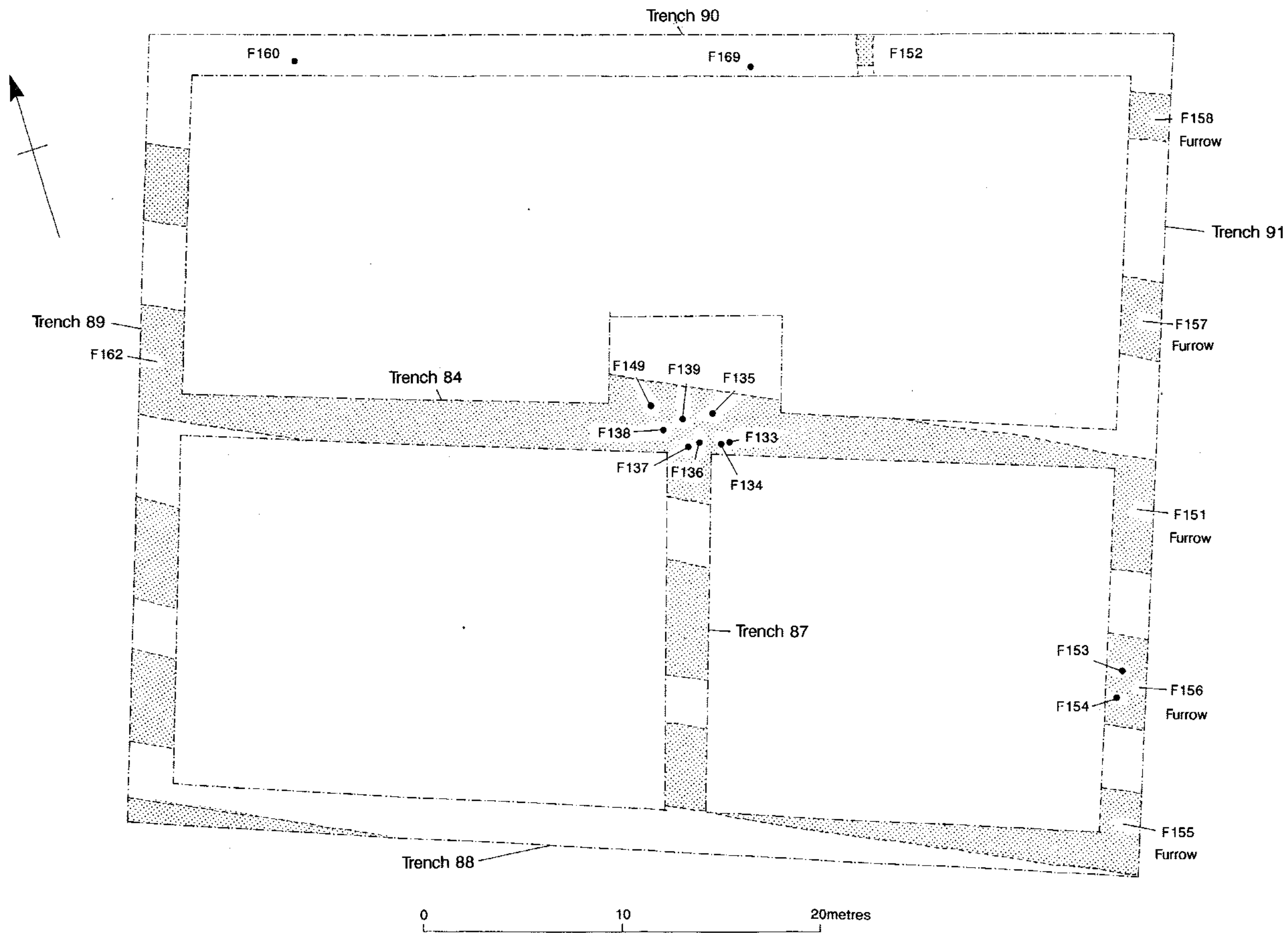


Figure 5 - Plan of Trenches 84 and 87-91

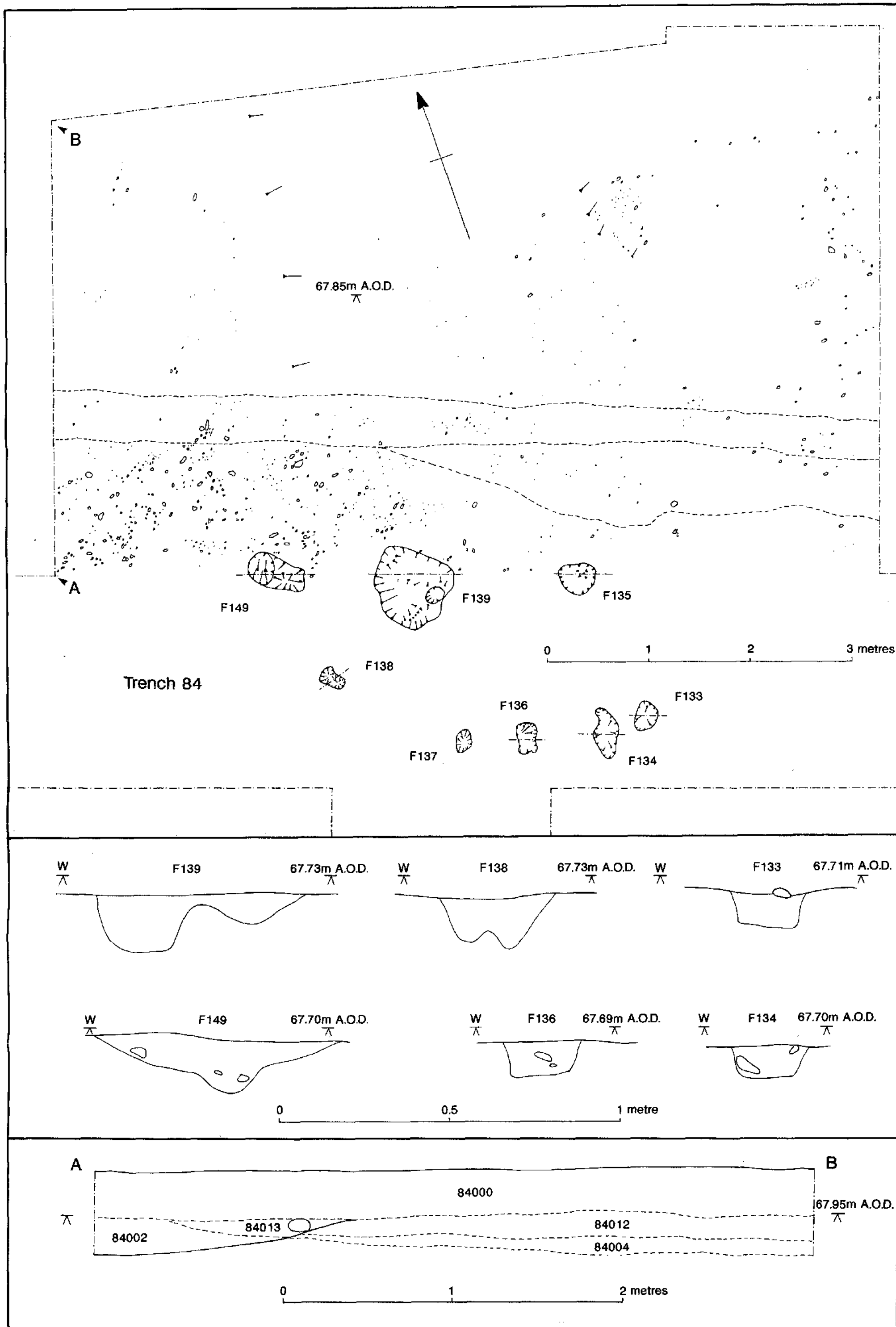
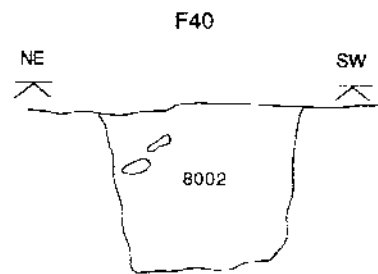
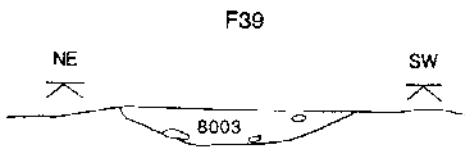
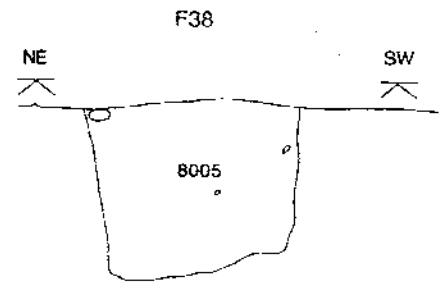
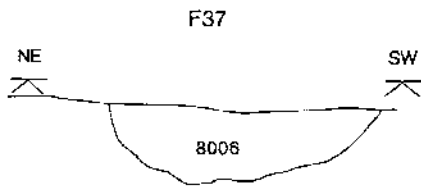
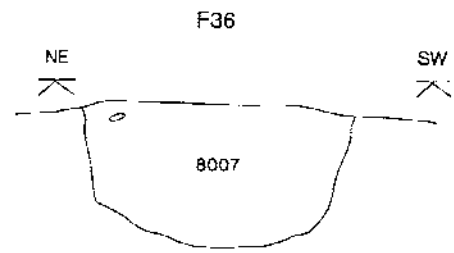
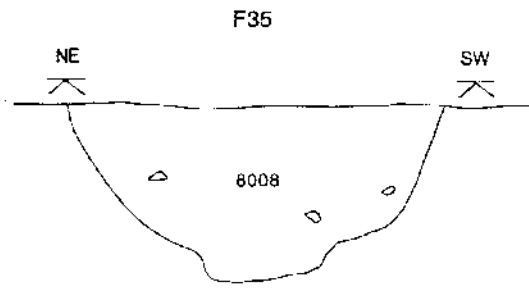
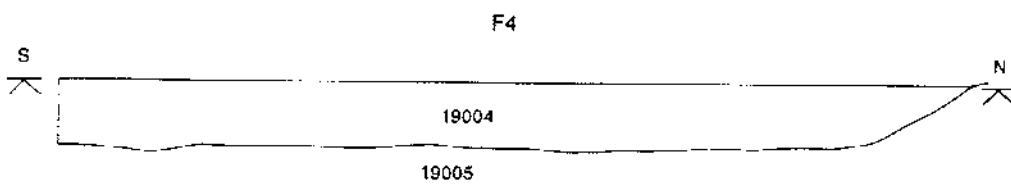
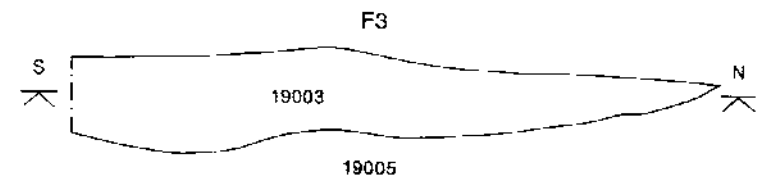
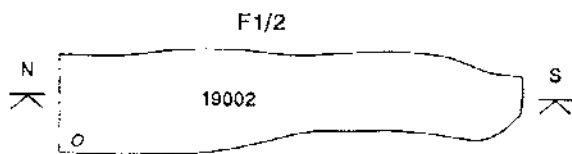


Figure 6 - Detailed plan and sections of central area of Trench 84

TRENCH 8, SECTIONS



TRENCH 19, SECTIONS



0 1m

Figure 7 - Sections of features in Trenches 8 and 19

Table summarising finds and feature information

Trench	Feature/ context	flint	RB pot	Med pot	P M pot	brick /tile	other	spot date/ comments
7	F19						1	undated clay pipe stem
7	F19					9		undated tile frags
9	F18						1	iron object modern
9	F18				2			white glazed china - modern
9	F18	1						frag retouched blade, ?Neolithic
11	F99				1			brown glazed frag - 18th/19th century
11	F99					3		undated tile frags
15	F43						13	fragments of animal bone (long bone)
15	F43					3		undated tile frags
19	19000					2		undated tile frags
19	19000				1			black glazed - 18th/19th century
19	F1		?1					possible Roman frag
19	F1				1			black-glazed ware - 18th/19th century
19	F1					7		undated tile frags
19	F3				1			yellow glazed frag - 18th/19th century
19	F3					10		undated tile frags
19	F4	1						flake
19	F4		2					abraded frags - red fabric
19	F4					2		undiagnostic
23	23000	1						flake
23	23000						12	undated tile frags
23	F48						1	undated clay pipe stem
23	F50					2		undated frags
25	F51					1		undated frag
25	F52				2			earthenware - 19th/20th century
25	F52					3		modern tile frags
40	F69	1						flake
40	F69		1					abraded oxidized frag
40	F69				1			white glazed china - 20th century
40	F69					7		5 undated frags; 2 drainpipe frags
40	F70		1					abraded ?greyware frag
40	F70				1			white glazed china - 20th century
40	F70					21		undated, abraded frags
40	F70						1	undated iron slag
40	F70						2	modern glass frags
42	F57	1						core, ?late Mesolithic
42	F57		1					abraded, oxidized frag
42	F57				2			earthenware - 19th/20th century
42	F57					15		undated frags
42	F57						1	animal bone frag
42	F61	2						notched flake and scraper frag. Neolithic
42	F61					7		undated abraded frags
43	F65						1	iron object, modern
43	F65					2		undated frags
43	F66					1		undated frag
48	F56					9		post medieval pan tile frags
48	F56						1	animal bone frag
58	F90				4			white glazed china - 20th century
58	F89					2		undated frags
61	F63		1					abraded
61	F63				1			flower pot frag - 20th century
61	F73					6		undated, abraded frags
61	F73						2	bottle glass frags - 20th century
84	84001	1						retouched scraper, ?Neolithic
84	84001		1					abraded greyware fragment