No.389

Gog Brook Farm, Hampton Road, Warwick.

An Archaeological Evaluation.

BUFAU

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Project No. 389

January 1996

An Archaeological Evaluation at Gog Brook Farm, Hampton Road, Warwick, Warwickshire.

by

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INTRODUCTION

The following report describes the results of an archaeological desk-top assessment and fieldwork, recording and reporting of a series of trial trenches excavated at Gog Brook Farm, Hampton Road, Warwick, Warwickshire (Fig. 1: NGR SP 2680 6370). The fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in January 1996. The work was commissioned by Bryant Homes West Midlands Limited and conforms to a brief supplied by Warwickshire Museum (Warwick Museum 1995b) and a revised evaluation proposal prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 1995).

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the archaeological work was to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the study area. These objectives were achieved through a combination of desk-top assessment and trial excavation.

METHOD

Stage 1 - Desk-top Assessment and Site Visit

An examination of primary and secondary documentary sources, cartographic sources and aerial photographic evidence was undertaken prior to the fieldwork. The majority of the documentation consulted was held by the County Sites and Monuments Record and the County Records Office. An on-site inspection of the area of the proposed development was carried out to identify and record any archaeologically significant surface features, prior to the commencement of trial trenching. Any available exposures such as recently cut field ditches and geological test pits were to be examined. This information was to be used to assist in the selection of the locations of the trial trenches (Stage 2).

Stage 2 - Trial Trenching

The trial excavation covered 1.5% of the study area. This was achieved by 28 trenches, each 50m x 2m (Fig. 2, Trenches 1-28).

The topsoil/ploughsoil horizon within each trench was removed by machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Any possible underlying archaeological deposits or features that were identified were cleaned and a sufficient sample manually excavated in order to establish their extent, condition, nature, character, quality and (if possible) date.

The stratigraphy of all trial trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified. Archaeological recording was undertaken using a continuous numbered context system and BUFAU pro-forma record cards. All archaeological features and deposits were photographed and a full drawn record at an appropriate scale was maintained. The locations of the trial trenches were surveyed using a Total Station Theodolite.

RESULTS

Stage 1 - Desk-top Assessment and Site Visit

The Site

The site lies approximately 2km south-west of Warwick town centre and 1km west of the River Avon. The drift geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone overlying second terrace river gravels (OS 1:10,000, Drift Geology Map, Rust Enviromental Geotechnical Reports 1995a and 1995b). The site occupies 3,300 square metres with the A46(T) Warwick-by-pass forming the western boundary. The Gog Brook, which flows into the Avon, is situated at the north-east corner of the site. The western part of the site is on a rise, at 56m AOD, which slopes down to the east.

Archaeological background

Excavation and aerial photography over recent years have demonstrated the high potential of river gravels in the western midlands as a location for settlement during the prehistoric and early historic periods (Cunliffe 1991, Fulford and Nichols 1992)). Within 2km of the site are 12 cropmark sites recognised by aerial photography.

To the south-west (Fig. 1) are two enclosures (WA 967) and a possible trackway (WA 5159). Also to the south is a cropmark complex (WA 966) including an enclosure, a possible trackway and other linear features. Further to the east another cropmark complex (WA 4685) includes a possible trackway, other linear features and a ring ditch. To the north-east of this complex is a "D" shaped enclosure (WA 5515), possibly Iron Age on morphological grounds, an elongated enclosure (WA 1921), possibly a Neolithic cursus, on morphological grounds, and another possible enclosure (WA 6426) and linear cropmarks (WA 6425). Further east is a possible trackway (WA 5516). To the west of these cropmarks is a linear cropmark (WA 5517) and to the north is a possible enclosure cropmark (WA 6424).

Also to the south of the site, 0.3km from the Avon, a large scatter of worked flint tools (WA 6377) was identified in 1991. Flints recovered from this scatter are still awaiting detailed study, but may date to the Neolithic or Bronze Ages.

To the north of the study area, a series of cropmarked enclosure features (WA 2190) may, on morphological grounds, be part of Romano-British villa complex. To the east of the site a 1st-century Roman coin (WA 4069) and a 1st-century Romano-British Birdlip brooch and four 2nd-3rd-century coins (WA 7124) have been recovered.

The site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (WA 1982) lies 0.5 km to the east of the study area, east of the Stratford Road. It was discovered in 1875 by workmen digging for gravel (Burgess 1876). Graves containing human skeletons were excavated in an area 18m x 15m. Finds recovered included Anglo-Saxon pottery, weapons, a silver armlet, brooches, amber beads and bronze "buckets". The site was said to lie in a field 1 mile from Warwick near Longbridge in an angle of Warwick Castle Park, where the Fisher Brook forms the boundary on its way to the Avon. However, the possible site of the cemetery was investigated before development in the 1960's and no evidence of a burials were found (Taylor 1968).

The site of medieval Longbridge Manor lies 0.75m to the south-east of the study area (WA 1941) and the site of the Medieval Church of St. Lawrence (WA 1956) lies to the east of the study area. Within 0.5 km of the study area three Medieval coins (WA 4556/7137), a wool bale seal of 1571 (WA 4518) and a coin of Elizabeth I (WA 5582) have been found. At Warwick racecourse, to the north,

earthworks near ridge and furrow (WA 1980) could be associated with possible medieval settlement. Medieval pottery has been recovered in the racecourse area (WA 5524).

A recent archaeological evaluation (Warwick Museum 1995a) immediately to the north of the study area was not able to identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance apart from remains of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow. Three residual prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the ploughsoil.

Cartographic Evidence

The earliest relevant map evidence examined was a tithe map dated 1841. The land was owned by Lord Dormer and divided into fields of meadow in the north of the study area and arable to the south with Gog Brook Farm appearing to correspond with the building depicted on this and later maps. The Gog Brook follows a different course from that of the present day, flowing across the eastern part of the site and forming the parish boundary between the parish of Budbrooke to the west and St.Mary's to the east. Many of the field names in the south of the study area such as Hovel Foul Moor, Foul Moor Field, Hill Foul Moor and Little Foul Moor suggest these fields were also being used for sewage disposal, a fact suggested by later map evidence. The O.S 1886 1st edition 25" to 1 mile and the O.S 1887 6" to 1 mile maps show the farm as Sewage Farm and much of the study area appears to be divided into rectangular plots suggestive of sewage beds. The same pattern of rectangular sewage beds can be seen on the O.S 1905 6" to 1 mile map (Fig. 3).

Aerial Photographic Evidence

Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 (1:10560 26/SE) show no evidence for any archaeological features.

Site Visit

Inspection of the site showed that the area available for trial trenching was slightly smaller (c.28,000 square metres) than stated in the revised evaluation proposal (BUFAU 1995). This was due to sand and gravel extraction and associated disturbance in the north-east corner of the site.

All of the site was under pasture, apart from the area occupied by the derelict buildings of Gog Brook Farm. There was no visible evidence of upstanding archaeological features apart from former field boundaries which can be seen depicted on recent 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps.

Summary and Conclusion

Substantial concentrations of cropmarks probably dating to the prehistoric and early historic periods on the river gravels to the south indicate the presence of settlement features. It was thought that there was a strong possibility that similar features may have lain within the study area. Cropmarks to the north of the study area, possibly associated with a Roman villa complex, may imply the possible presence of associated estate features within the study area.

The close proximity of the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery also raised the possibility of associated settlement within the development area. The presence of nearby medieval earthworks and finds suggested that there may have been some potential for evidence of medieval features in the study area. However examination of cartographic and aerial photographic evidence failed to produce any further evidence for archaeological features or deposits and it seems possible that some disturbance might have been caused by the later sewage farm.

Stage 2 - Trial Trenching

For descriptive purposes the study area was divided into 3 areas (Fig. 2, Areas A - C).

Area A (Trenches 1-8 and 15-16)

The natural subsoil in this area was a yellowish-brown to brown slightly silty sandy clay with some bands of more compact reddish-brown slightly sandy clay to the south. The overlying brown sandy clay topsoil was 0.20-0.30m deep. A sondage dug at the east end of Trench 4 exposed brown sand and gravel at 1.20m below the present ground surface. Overlying the sand and gravel was a silty and sandy clay with bands of sand, 0.30m deep. This was overlain by the brown slightly silty sandy clay, 0.60m deep, encountered below the topsoil in most trenches.

Most features excavated in these trenches proved to be either modern land drains or other features whose fills contained sherds of modern pottery. In Trench 4, a linear cut (Fig.4, F9) was aligned north east-south west, 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep, with a steep south-east side, a more gently sloping north-west side and a flat base. It was filled with greyish-brown silty clay (4002) and a few small pebbles.

Area B (Trenches 9-14 and 17-20)

The natural subsoil in this area consisted of a brown slightly silty sandy clay with bands of compact reddish-brown clay to the north-west. The overlying brown silty clay topsoil was up to 0.30m deep. Below the topsoil in Trenches 9, 13, 18 and the eastern part of Trench 10 was a compact grey clay, 0.45m deep.

Modern land drains were observed in some of the trenches. Other features that were sample excavated were filled with contexts containing sherds of modern pottery. In Trench 10 was a 12m wide, north-south aligned, linear band of black clinker, gravel and clay. In Trench 11 were four east-west aligned linear negative features spaced 8m apart. They varied in width from 1-4m wide and were 0.05-0.20m deep. The features were filled with brown sandy clays flecked with charcoal and contained sherds of 18th-20th century pottery, clay pipe stem fragments and ceramic tile. In Trench 14 was a linear ditch (Fig. 4, F12) orientated north east-south west, 1.30m wide and 0.45m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled with a clayey sandy silt (14002), small pebbles, flecks of charcoal and sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Area C (Trenches 21-28)

The natural subsoil here was a brown sandy clay in the south and a compact reddish brown clay to the north. The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay, 0.27-0.33m deep. Modern land drains and features with modern pottery in their fills were observed in some of the trenches. In Trench 21 there was a great deal of modern disturbance including two modern features aligned north-south, one of which was 4m wide. In

Trenches 25-7 linear negative features (Fig. 4, F31-42), aligned north-south, were regularly spaced 3-4m apart. They had gently sloping sides and a flat base, were 6-7m wide and 0.15-20m deep, and were filled with brown silty clays (25005-9, 26002-5 and 27002-3) containing fragments of clay pipe stem and sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery. The fill of F34 (Fig. 4, 25005) also contained a sherd of quartz tempered medieval cooking pot. Three small linear features (Fig. 4, F28-30) proved to be animal burrows.

DISCUSSION

None of the features in any of the trial trenches were considered archaeologically significant. The shallow regularly spaced features in Trenches 11, 25, 26 and 27 were undoubtedly remains of furrows, belonging to medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow strip field cultivation. Two possible ditches (Trench 4, F9 and Trench 14, F12) were either undated or contained post-medieval pottery. The wide linear feature in Trench 10 may correspond to the former course of the Gog Brook as depicted on the 1905 25" to 1 mile O.S map (Fig. 3). All the other features sampled proved to be either modern drainage features, modern features related to the former sewage farm or were of natural origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried out by a team consisting of M. Campbell, R. Cutler, D. Moscrop and E. Newton under the supervision of L. Jones. The report was compiled by L. Jones and edited by G.Hughes who also monitored the project. The figures were prepared by E. Newton and finds identifications were made by L. Bevan.

The project was monitored by Douglas Moir on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. Arrangements have been made for the deposition of the archive with the Warwickshire Museum.

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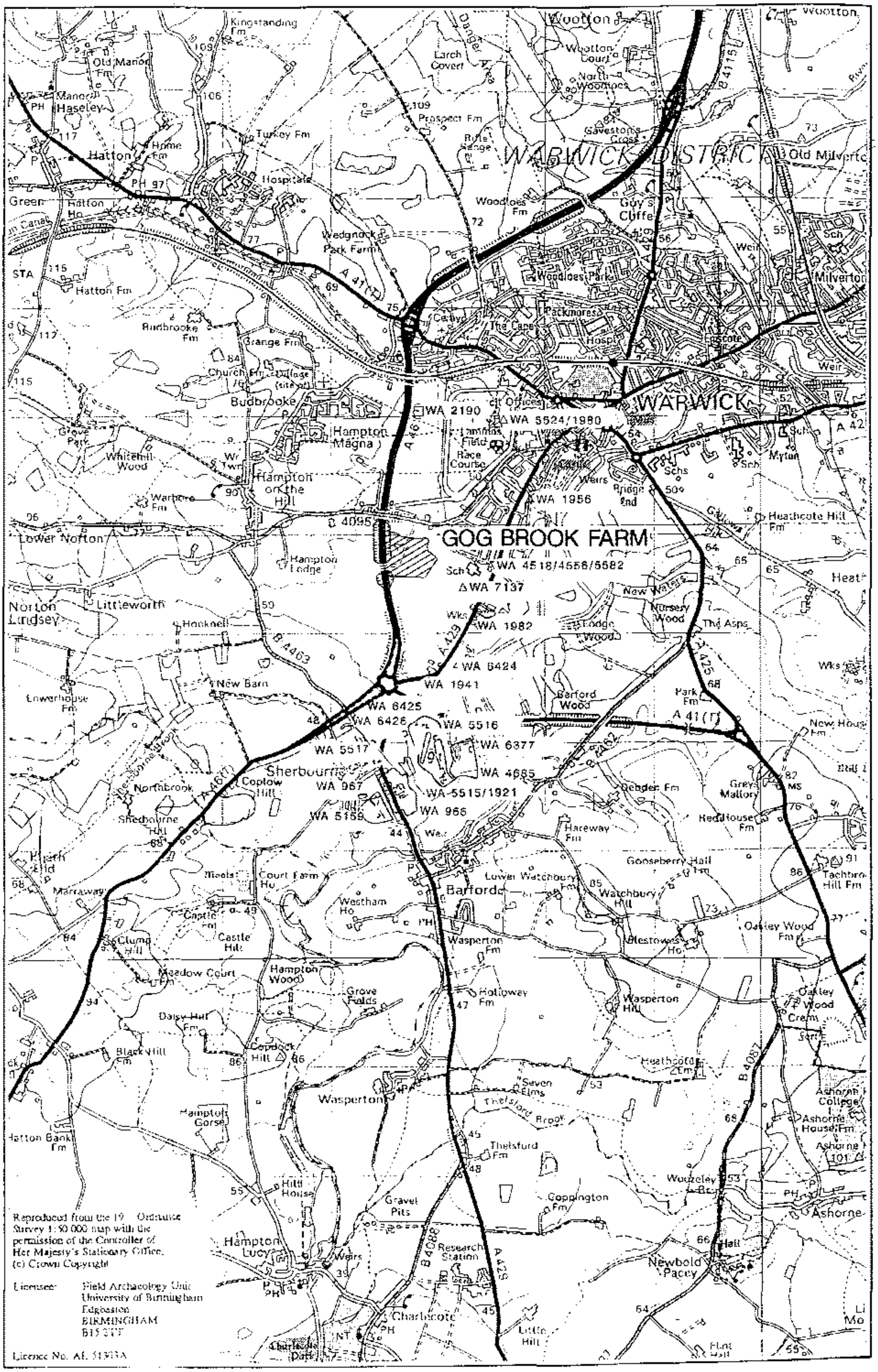
LIST OF FIGURES



GOG BROOK FARM
WARWICK
WARWICK DISTRICT
Wootton
Kingstanding Fm
Old Manor Fm
Haseley
Hatton
Home Fm
Turkey Fm
Hospital
Larch Covert
Wootton Court
North Woodloes
Prospect Fm
Rifle Range
Gaveston's Cross
Old Milverton
Guy's Cliffe
Woodloes Fm
Woodloes Park
Wedgnock Park Farm
Hatton Fm
Budbrooke Fm
Grange Fm
Packmores
The Cape
Hospl
Emscote
Milverton
Church Fm
Budbrooke
Hampton Magna
Grove Park
Whitehill Wood
Hampton on the Hill
Warbors Fm
Lower Norton
WA 2190
WA 5524/1980
Race Course
Weirs
Bridge End
Myton
WA 1956
Heathcote Hill Fm
B 4095
Hampton Lodge
WA 4518/4556/5582
WA 7137
New Waters
Norton Lindsey
Littleworth
Hocknell
Nursery Wood
The Asps
WA 1982
Lodge Wood
B 4463
WA 6424
New Barn
WA 1941
Barford Wood
Park Fm
A 41(T)
WA 6425
WA 6426
WA 5516
WA 6377
WA 5517
Sherbourne
WA 4685
Coptow Hill
WA 967
Northbrook
WA-5515/1921
Debden Fm
Grey's Mallory
WA 5159
WA 966
Red House Fm
Sherbourne Hill
Hareway Fm
Court Farm Ho
Gooseberry Hall Fm
Tachbrook Hill Fm
Marraway
Westham Ho
Barford
Lower Watchbury Fm
Watchbury Hill
Castle Fm
Castle Hill
Oakley Wood Fm
Clump Hill
Wasperton Fm
Meadow Court
Hampton Wood
Grove Fields
Holloway Fm
Wasperton Hill
Oakley Wood Crem
Daisy Hill Fm
Coppock Hill
Black Hill Fm
Heathcote Fm
Seven Elms
Wasperton
Thelsford Brook
Hampton Gorse
Ashorne College
Ashorne House Fm
Hatton Bank Fm
Thelsford Fm
Wooteley
Hill House
Gravel Pits
Coppington Fm
Ashorne
Hampton Lucy
Research Station
B 4088
A 429
Newbold Pacey
Charlecote
Charlecote Park
Little Hill
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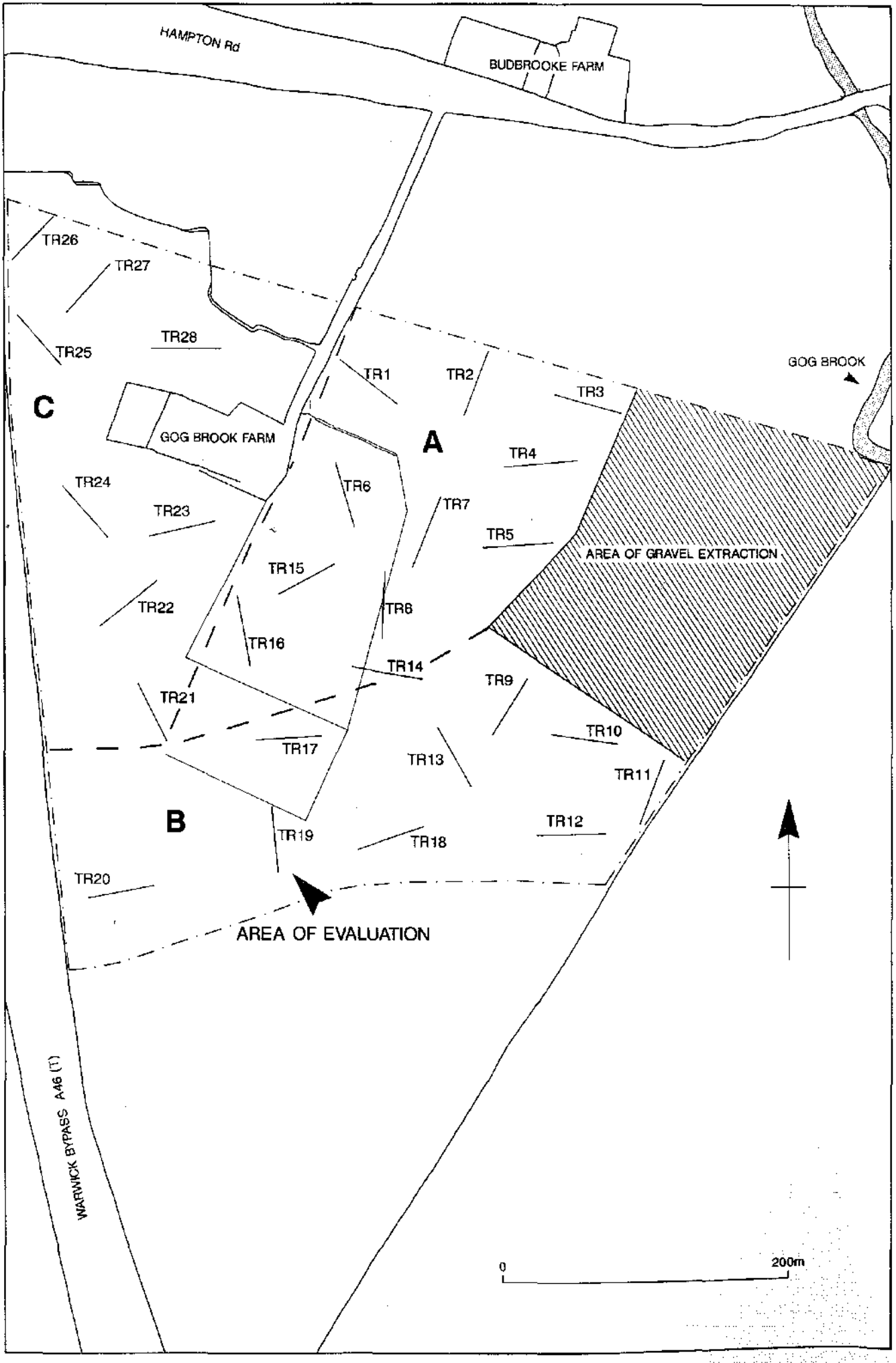
Figure 1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BUDBROOKE FARM
TR26
TR27
TR28
TR25
TR1
TR2
TR3
GOG BROOK
C
GOG BROOK FARM
A
TR4
TR24
TR6
TR7
TR23
TR5
AREA OF GRAVEL EXTRACTION
TR15
TR22
TR8
TR16
TR14
TR9
TR21
TR10
TR17
TR13
TR11
B
TR19
TR18
TR12
TR20
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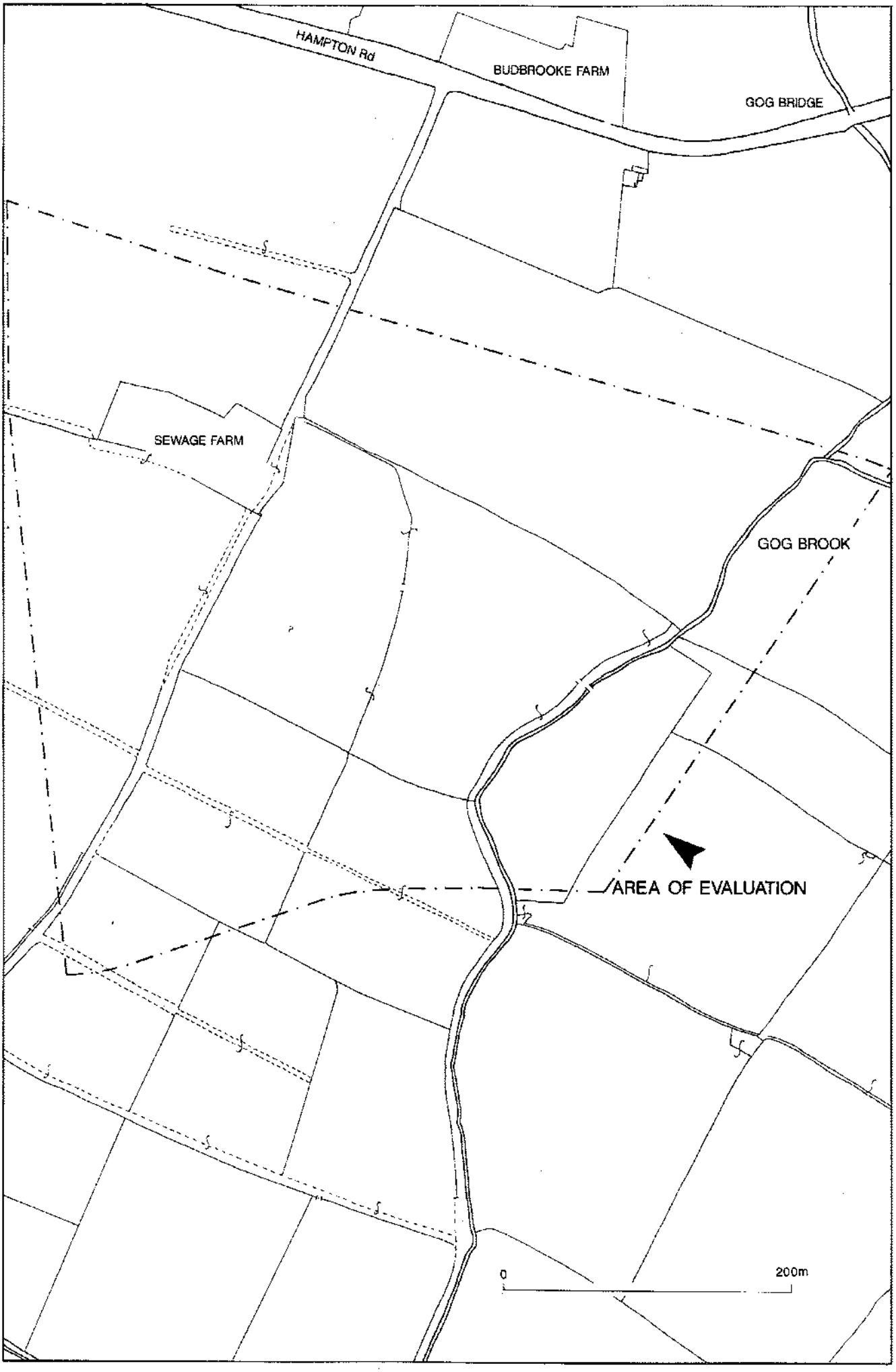
WARWICK BYPASS A46 (T)
0
200m

Figure 2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SEWAGE FARM
GOG BROOK
AREA OF EVALUATION
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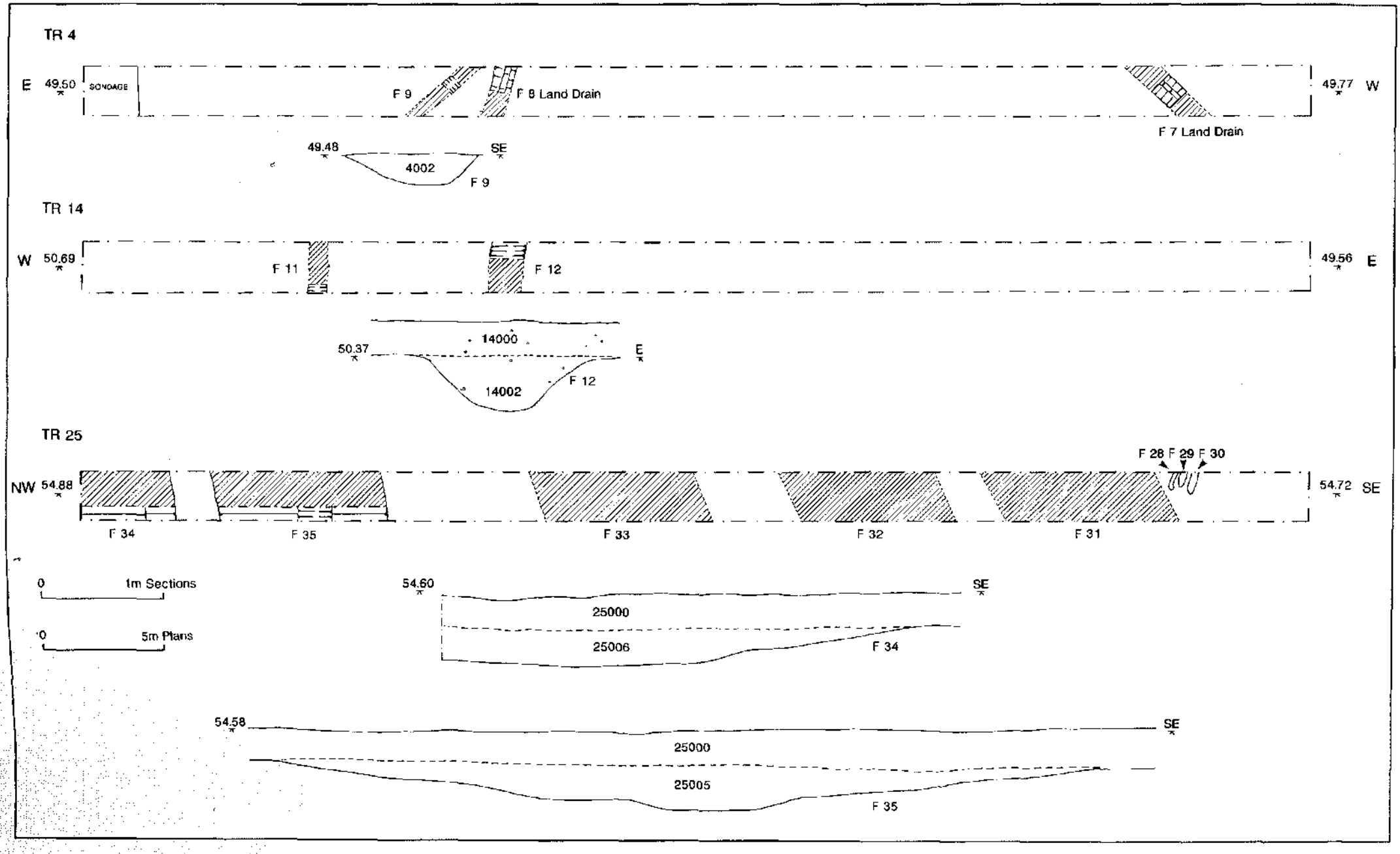
200m

Figure 3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E
49.50
SONDAGE
F 9
F 8 Land Drain
49.77
W
F 7 Land Drain
49.48
SE
4002
F 9
TR 14
W
50.69
F 11
F 12
49.56
E
14000
50.37
E
14002
F 12
TR 25
NW
54.88
F 28 F 29 F 30
54.72
SE
F 34
F 35
F 33
F 32
F 31
0
1m Sections
0
5m Plans
54.60
SE
25000
25006
F 34
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SE
25000
25005
F 35

Figure 4