

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**An Archaeological Evaluation
of land at Firs Farm,
Caxton, Cambridgeshire**

1996

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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Contents

1.0	Summary
2.0	Introduction
3.0	The Site and its Location
4.0	Geology and Topography
5.0	Geophysical Survey
6.0	Aims and Methodology
7.0	Archaeological Results
8.0	The Prehistoric Flint
9.0	The Pottery
10.0	The Animal Bone
11.0	Other Finds
12.0	The Environmental Evidence
13.0	A Discussion of the Archaeological Results
14.0	An Assessment of the Archaeological Significance and Potential of the Site
15.0	Implications and Proposals
16.0	References
17.0	Acknowledgements

Figures

Fig. 1	Location of the Site
Fig. 2	Location of the Trial Trenches and Geophysical Survey Areas
Fig. 3	Geophysical Survey. Plot of Processed Magnetometer data, Areas 1 and 2
Fig. 4	Geophysical Survey. Plot of Processed Magnetometer data, Areas 3 and 4
Fig. 5	Geophysical Survey. Abstraction of Magnetometer Anomalies, Areas 1 and 2
Fig. 6	Geophysical Survey. Abstraction of Magnetometer Anomalies, Areas 3 and 4
Fig. 7	Trench 1: Plan and Section
Fig. 8	Trench 2: Plan and Section
Fig. 9	Trench 3: Plan and Section
Fig. 10	Trench 4: Section
Fig. 11	Zones of Archaeological Potential

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1.0 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of land at Firs Farm, Caxton, Cambridgeshire was conducted by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, on behalf of D.H. Barford and Co. The evaluation was carried out following completion of an archaeological desk-top study, and in advance of an application for a proposed residential development. The present fieldwork comprised geophysical survey and trial-trenching.

A total of 12 trial-trenches was excavated. Features and deposits of medieval date were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2, and a backfilled pond of possible medieval date was found in Trench 3. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was recorded in Trenches 1, 4 and 6-12.

2.0 Introduction

This report outlines the results of an archaeological evaluation of land at Firs Farm, Caxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 30225795). The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of D. H. Barford and Co. and their clients J. K. Millard and Sons, and follows the completion of an archaeological desk-top study (Dickens 1994). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an Evaluation Design Brief prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council (Butler 1994), a Research Design/Specification prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Jones 1995) and in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, November 1990), in advance of a proposed residential development.

The purpose of this evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed development and, if appropriate, to provide a basis for a series of recommendations to mitigate the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeology. In particular, it was intended to investigate the potential of the southern part of the site to contain evidence of medieval occupation.

This report summarises the results of the preliminary geophysical survey. The methodology and detailed results of the survey are described in a separate report (Stratascan 1996). The archaeological potential of the site and the surrounding area is described in the desk-top study (Dickens 1996), and this information will not be repeated here.

3.0 The Site and its Location (Figs. 1 and 2)

The site, which forms one part of Firs Farm in Caxton, Cambridgeshire, comprises c. 2.1 hectares, of which approximately 1 hectare is open pasture. The site boundary is defined to the south by Gransden Road, to the west by St. Peters Street, to the north by standing farm buildings and a field boundary, and to the east by a boundary shared with Caxton's vicarage and hall.

The site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area containing the remains of Romano-British, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval activity. The medieval church of St. Andrew (SMR 00350; Fig. 1) lies immediately southwest of the site and earthworks or house platforms are recorded to the northwest, northeast and east. Recent excavations to the north revealed Saxo-Norman activity preserved beneath the medieval ridge and furrow (SMR 10099). The site itself appears to be relatively undisturbed, and contains surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, a possible plough headland in the northern corner, and a possible house platform to the south, identified by Dickens (1994). In addition, it was suggested that features and deposits of medieval date could have survived below the ridge and furrow earthworks. Surviving earthworks in the pasture, representing ridge and furrow, occur at approximately 5m intervals.

4.0 Geology and Topography

The site lies on boulder clay. St. Andrews Church, to the southwest of the site, represents the highest point of the immediate landscape, and from here, the land slopes gradually down towards the hall and vicarage to the northeast. Within the site itself, there is an additional gradient from the northern field boundary to the boundary with Gransden Road.

5.0 Geophysical Survey by Peter Barker, *Stratascan* (Figs. 2-6)

5.1: Introduction

A magnetometer and resistivity survey of four test areas (1-4; Fig. 2), each measuring 40m by 20m, was conducted to provide a test on the effectiveness of the two techniques relative to the local geology, and to provide a direct cross-comparison of the respective results. The survey areas were located to test the site as widely as possible, and in particular to examine the zone adjoining a possible house platform (Area 1) and areas of ridge and furrow to the north (Areas 2-4).

5.2: Results

Area 1 (Figs. 3 and 5)

This area contains so much modern metal debris and other rubbish that the magnetometer was ineffectual. The resistivity survey also showed nothing of interest.

Area 2 (Figs. 3 and 5)

A buried metal object was detected in the eastern corner of this area (M2/1), together with other areas of general magnetic disturbance. The resistivity survey found nothing of interest.

Area 3 (Figs. 4 and 6)

In the northern corner a pipeline crosses (M3/1). Beneath this are two converging rectilinear positive magnetic anomalies M3/2 and M3/3 which may have some archaeological significance.

Area 4 (Figs. 4 and 6)

Nothing of interest was found in this area, other than a modern pipeline (M4/1), which was picked up by both magnetometer and resistivity.

Apart from the two magnetic anomalies M3/2 and M3/3 in Area 3, little of archaeological interest was found. No further, more intensive geophysical survey was undertaken.

6.0 Aims and Methodology

Twelve trial-trenches were excavated to examine the archaeological potential of the site as widely as possible. The trial-trenches amounted in total to approximately 275 square metres, the equivalent of *c.* 2% of the site.

6.1 Aims

The aims of the trial-trenching were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits or features, which were liable to be affected by the proposed development. The results of the geophysical survey were used to determine the location of these trenches. The objectives of the individual trenches are described in Section 7.0 below.

6.2 Methodology

A JCB excavator was used to remove the topsoil (and modern landfill) from all 12 trenches. Mechanical excavation ceased once the uppermost levels of the natural subsoil had been exposed, or at a level where archaeological deposits were encountered. All trenches were fully cleaned by hand, even where no archaeological deposits were seen during the machining.

The stratigraphic sequence of each trench was recorded and this contextual information was supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections and photographs which, together with recovered artefacts, form the site archive.

7.0 The Archaeological Results (Figs. 7-10)

Trench 1 (Fig. 7)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 50.51m AOD)

Trench 1, aligned north-south, was located in the southwest corner of the site in order to determine whether a suspected house platform had survived in this area. Dredged material from the nearby pond had been deposited in this area, as had an uneven layer of modern landfill material.

The trench was mechanically excavated down to 51.01m AOD. No features were visible at this level, however, a gravel-clay layer (1015), which contained pottery and tile, was identified in the southern 10m of the trench. The trench was cleaned by hand, and a concentration of gravel with tile/brick fragments and bone (1005) was identified, extending 5-8m from the southern extent of the trench. A sondage (Sondage 1) was cut against the east-facing section in order to examine the sequence of deposits below the machined horizon (1015).

Sondage 1 (3.30m x 0.50m)

The clay subsoil (1003) was overlain by a stone surface (F105) and was cut by two possible post-holes (F102 and F103), which were filled with a dark silty-clay deposit, flecked with charcoal (1006 and 1007 respectively). All three features were sealed by a layer of brown silt-clay (1005/1012), which contained a small percentage of small stones and charcoal flecks, together with pottery, bone and slag. This was overlain by a very clean, stone-free layer (1015) which could be seen in the section to continue to the south. The northern limit of this layer was visible within the sondage. Layer 1015 was overlain by a mixed deposit of landfill, dredged pond material and topsoil (1000).

Sondage 2 (2.40m x 0.45m)

A second sondage was cut against the east-facing section to determine the possible southward continuation of the deposits recorded in Sondage 1.

The subsoil (1003) was cut by two linear cut features (F106 and F108), both aligned east-west, which appeared to continue their alignment beyond the limits of Trench 1. The features were both filled with a sandy silt-clay deposit, which contained small stones and was flecked with charcoal (fills 1010 and 1011 respectively). Each linear feature was cut by one small, roughly circular, possible post-hole (F104 and F108), whose fills comprised a charcoal-flecked silt-clay (1008 and 1013 respectively). All four negative features were sealed by the southward continuation of layer 1012. This layer was overlain by a thin surface of flint gravel (F100), which was, in turn, overlain by a layer of clean, stone-free, dark silty-clay (1001). This layer had been truncated to the north by the dumping of modern landfill and dredged pond fill (1000).

In the remainder of Trench 1, the subsoil (1003) was overlain by topsoil landfill (1000). In the northernmost 2m of the trench the subsoil was heavily disturbed by tree root activity.

Dating

Layer 1012 contained pottery of 14th-15th century date.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

(1.60m x 21m, excavated to a depth of 51.00m AOD)

Trench 2 was aligned northeast-southwest, and was located to test the possible location of medieval settlement features in this area.

Machine excavation stopped at the upper horizon of a layer of silt-clay (2002), which contained pottery. Hand-cleaning of the machined horizon revealed two features: one a land-drain (F200), aligned north-south, which cut across the western 2m of the trench, the second an area of modern disturbance in the easternmost 1.40m of the trench. A total of three sondages was excavated to test the sequence of layers in this trench.

Sondage 1 (1.60m x 0.90m)

The subsoil (2005) was overlain by a clean layer of silt-clay (2007), which had a high flint-gravel content. The silt-clay was sealed by a stone-free layer of clay-silt, overlain by a compacted layer of topsoil (2000).

Sondage 2 (1.60m x 1.50m)

The subsoil (2005) was cut by a possible pit or post-hole (F201). The charcoal-flecked silt-clay fill of this feature (2004) was sealed by a silt-clay layer (2003) containing pottery and bone fragments. This was sealed by a layer of silt-clay containing charcoal flecks, tile and pottery fragments (2002). Layer 2002 was overlain by topsoil (2000), which had been compacted by farm machinery turning in this area.

Sondage 3 (1.60m x 0.60m)

The subsoil (2005) was cut by a possible post-hole (F202), sealed by a black, silty-clay deposit (2009). This was sealed by topsoil (2000), which, as in Sondage 2, had been compacted.

Dating

Layer 2002 contained pottery of 13th-14th century date, layer 2003 contained 12th-14th century material, and layer 2007, 14th-15th century material. Layer 2009 contained pottery which could be datable to the 14th century.

Trench 3 (Fig. 9)

(1.60m x 23m, excavated to a depth of 50.39m AOD)

This trench, aligned roughly north-south, was located within an area of the site which had been subject to landfill. The trench transected a dip in the modern ground level, caused by the infilling of a pond. Mechanical removal of the landfill deposit resulted in flooding and contamination of the northern 15m of Trench 3 with overflow from the farmyard, preventing full archaeological investigation, for health and safety reasons. A sondage was hand-excavated at the southern end of the trench, against the east-facing section, in order to examine the sequence of deposits in this area. The water-level within Sondage 1 remained high throughout excavation.

A bank of modern landfill material (F301) separated Sondage 1 from the main area of contamination. A ditch (F302), filled with wood, clay and brick was hand-dug prior to the contamination of this area.

Sondage 1 (3m x 0.50m)

The subsoil (3007) was contacted at 50.39m AOD. It was overlain by a waterlogged, gleyed clay (3004), sealed by a rooty, slightly gleyed silt-clay (3003), and a thin layer of black, stone-free, silty-clay (3002). Layer 3002 was overlain by a mixed deposit of landfill (3000). These deposits may represent the fills of a feature (F300), whose edges were not seen during trenching. The waterlogged contexts (3002, 3003 and 3004) were sampled for environmental analysis (See Section 12.0 below).

Dating

Layer 3002 contained pottery of 13th-14th century date, and layer 3006 contained pottery dating to the 14th-15th century.

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

(1.60m x 12.50m, excavated to a depth of 49.66m AOD)

Trench 4, aligned northwest-southeast, was located to determine the possible continuation into this area of ridge and furrow earthworks, and also to locate and sample any features or deposits associated with settlement.

The subsoil (4004) was contacted between 49.81m and 49.66m AOD. It was overlain by an undulating stone-free, silty-clay layer (4001), which continued along the length of the trench. Features F400, F401 and F402, which were cut into the subsoil, were probably plough furrows. The silty-clay layer was overlain by modern landfill (4000).

Dating

Layer 4001 contained pottery of 13th-14th century date, and the fill of feature F400 contained pottery of 18th-19th century date.

Trench 5 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 49.92m AOD)

Trench 5 was aligned east-west, following the natural slope of the ground. In the west of the trench the subsoil (5001) was contacted at 51.03m AOD, and to the east at 49.92m AOD. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (5000). No features or deposits were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 5.

Dating

No datable pottery was recovered from Trench 5.

Trench 6 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 49.68m AOD)

Trench 6, aligned approximately east-west, was located to intersect two linear anomalies recorded by geophysical survey (Figs 4 and 6). The slope of the ground surface was more gentle in this area, with the subsoil (6002) being contacted at 50.60m AOD at the western end of the trench, and at 49.68m AOD at the eastern end of the trench. The subsoil was overlain by an undulating, stone-free, silty-clay layer (6001), which continued along the length of the trench. Layer 6001 was overlain by topsoil (6000). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 6.

Dating

Layer 6001 contained one sherd of pottery, possibly dating to the 14th century.

Trench 7 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 48.50m AOD)

Aligned northeast-southwest, Trench 7 was located close to the site's boundary with Gransden Road in order to examine the sequence of deposits in this area. The trench also crossed ridge and furrow earthworks. The subsoil (7002) was contacted between 48.50m and 49.10m AOD. It was overlain by a dark silty-clay layer (7001), which contained some tile fragments. This was sealed by topsoil (7000). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 7.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 8 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 49.54m AOD)

Aligned northeast-southwest, Trench 8 was located close to the site's boundary with Gransden Road in order to examine the sequence of deposits in this area. The subsoil (8003) was contacted between 48.54m and 49.79m AOD, and was cut by an east-west aligned, linear ditch (F800), filled with a stony silt-clay deposit (8001). The fill of this feature was sealed by a dark silty-clay layer (8001), which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil (8000). In the remainder of Trench 8, the subsoil (8003) was overlain by the dark silty-layer (8001), which included some tile fragments at the northeastern end of the trench, and was sealed by topsoil (8000). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 8.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 9 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 50.62m AOD)

Trench 9 was aligned slightly off north-south, and was located to determine whether two geophysical anomalies (Figs. 4 and 6: Area 3), intersected by Trench 6, continued their course to the north. The subsoil (9002) was contacted between 50.68m and 50.62m AOD, and was overlain by a dark silt-clay layer (9001). This was sealed by topsoil (9000). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 9.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 10 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 49.46m AOD)

Trench 10, aligned northwest-southeast, intercepted surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. The subsoil (1052) was contacted between 50.06m and 49.46m AOD, and was overlain by a dark silt-clay layer (1051). This was sealed by topsoil (1050). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 10.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 11 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 47.90m AOD)

Trench 11 was aligned southeast-northwest, and transected the line of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. The subsoil (1152) was contacted between 48.14m and 47.90m AOD, and was overlain by a gently undulating dark silt-clay layer (1151). This layer was sealed by topsoil (1150). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 11.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 12 (not illustrated)

(1.60m x 25m, excavated to a depth of 48.18m AOD)

Trench 12, aligned approximately east-west, was located in the northern part of the site, close to a plough headland in the adjacent field. The subsoil (1252) was contacted between 48.88m and 48.18m AOD, and was overlain by a dark silt-clay layer (1251). This layer was sealed by topsoil (1250). No other deposits or features were visible in plan or in section during mechanical excavation or after hand-cleaning of Trench 12.

Dating

No datable artefacts were recovered from this trench.

8.0 The Prehistoric Flint *by Lynne Bevan*

Four flakes of struck flint were recovered during the evaluation. With one exception, a retouched flake of brown-grey flint from layer 2003 (Trench 2), the material used was a coarse grey or yellow flint of probable pebble flint origin from secondary deposits. The remaining three flakes came from layers 1000 (Trench 1), 2003 (Trench 2) and 6000 (Trench 6) respectively.

9.0 The Pottery *by Stephanie Ratkai*

The pottery from this site consisted mainly of small, undiagnostic sherds. Of the 80 sherds recovered there were 14 rim sherds, but these were generally very fragmentary. There were few glazed sherds, and the majority of the pottery consisted of cooking pots/jars. A small number of jugs and bowls was represented. There was not a wide range of fabrics and the pottery fell mainly into three groups: shelly wares, sandy shelly wares and grey wares. The grey wares were unusually sandy, although sparse calcareous inclusions were present in some sherds and sparse flint was visible in others. Most of the pottery was hand made, although three or four of the grey ware sherds appear to have been wheel-thrown. The pottery seems to be of 13th-15th century date. The hard-fired, red wares, commonly found in this region in the 15th and 16th centuries, do not occur in this assemblage, suggesting that this area of the village may have been abandoned in the 15th century.

Spot dating

Trench 1

1012 16 sherds, 14th-15th century (some residual material)

Trench 2

2002 3 sherds, 13th-14th century.
2003 37 sherds, 12/13th-14th century.
2007 10 sherds, 14th-15th century.
2009 6 sherds, ?14th century.

Trench 3

3002 1 sherd, 13th-14th century.
3006 3 sherds, 14th-15th century.

Trench 4

- 4001 1 sherd, 13th-14th century.
4002 1 sherd, late 18th-19th century.

Trench 6

- 6001 1 sherd, ?14th century

10.0 The Animal Bone *by Lynne Bevan (from identification by Umberto Albarella)*

A total of 50 fragments of animal bone was recovered from Trenches 1, 2 and 4 (amounting to 21, 27 and 2 fragments respectively).

Trench 1

With the exception of two unidentified fragments from the topsoil (1000), the bones in Trench 1 came from layer 1012, which included three sheep/goat bones (an incisor, a fragment of radius with gnawing marks, and a fragment of tibia), as well as a fragment of pig metapodial with chopping marks.

Trench 2

Trench 2 yielded the largest number of bone fragments (17) was from layer 2003. This group included sheep/goat bones (four molars and two fragments of tibia shaft, the latter with gnawing marks), a horse molar and the milk incisor of a pig. Other identified bones included cattle teeth (one from layer 2002 and three from layer 2008), a fragment of cattle metatarsal with gnawing marks, and a dog tooth (layer 2007).

Trench 4

In Trench 4, two fragments of bone (a pig radius and a sheep distal tibia), were recovered from layer 4001.

Comment

The occurrence of bones with marks characteristic of being gnawed by dogs (layers 1012, 2003 and 2007) suggests that this material had been removed from its original context of discard.

11.0 Other Finds

In addition to the artefacts reported upon in Sections 8.0-10.0, the following were also recovered:

Trench 1

- 1000 2 iron nails
- 1005 7 fragments of brick
- 1012 1 fragment of hearth lining, 2 iron nails, 1 unidentified piece of iron, 1 mussel shell fragment

Trench 2

- 2000 1 iron latch hook, 1 unidentified fragment of iron
- 2002 1 tile fragment
- 2003 1 fragment of fired clay/daub, 4 pieces of slag or hearth lining, 5 fragments of oyster shell
- 2007 1 iron nail

Trench 3

- 3002 2 fragments of modern bottle glass
- 3006 1 iron nail shank, 1 tile fragment

Trench 4

- 4001 1 iron nail
- 4002 4 fragments of modern glass

Trench 9

- 9001 1 iron nail, 1 modern, domed, copper alloy stud, 2 tile fragments, 2 brick fragments

12.0 The Environmental Evidence by Lisa Moffett

A total of three samples were collected for plant macrofossil analysis. The samples were processed by water flotation. The resulting flots were assessed by being briefly scanned under a binocular microscope (12x magnification).

Trench 3

- 3001 No charred plant remains.
- 3002 This sample contained a few grains of free threshing wheat, and a grain of hulled barley.
- 3003 This sample contained a few grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* Sp), unidentifiable cereal grains, a few hazel nut shell fragments (*Corylus Avellana*), and some snail shells.

The results indicate the presence of cereals on the site, although further conclusions cannot be drawn from this limited sample.

13.0 A Discussion of the Archaeological Results

The natural subsoil was contacted between 50.03m and 47.90m AOD in all 12 trenches.

A number of prehistoric flint artefacts were recovered from the site, but none were associated with stratigraphically sealed features or deposits, and no possible prehistoric remains were recorded by this evaluation. In addition, no Roman features, deposits or datable artefacts were recorded.

A ditch (F800), recorded in Trench 8, was sealed by the soil which made up the ridge and furrow in this area. In stratigraphic terms it is possible that this ditch is medieval or even earlier, but no datable artefacts were recovered from its fill.

The majority of the archaeological deposits and features recorded during this evaluation probably formed part of the medieval village landscape. Ridge and furrow earthworks, which represent the remains of a medieval open field cultivation, were recorded in Trenches 4 and 6-12. A pond (F300), which may also have formed a part of the medieval landscape, was recorded in Trench 3.

More intensive activity was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 1 appears to have been a focus for structural activity, although no complete ground-plans of buildings could be recovered within the areas investigated. The two linear features (F106 and F107) could have formed foundation trenches, which, together with the four recorded post-holes (F102, F103, F104 and F108) could have formed part of one or more timber-framed structures. A possible cobbled stone surface (F105) could have been associated with this structure. Above was a layer of brown silt-clay (1012) which contained one fragment of hearth lining. This may represent a floor surface or series of homogenous floor surfaces, or occupation deposits. Layer 1012 was sealed by a shallow layer of crushed flint (F100), which could represent a second floor or a yard surface (1.60m by 23m, excavated to a depth of 50.39m AOD).

Traces of possible structures were also recorded in Trench 2, in the form of post-holes (F201 and F202), possibly associated with one or more timber-framed buildings. The overlying layers contained quantities of bone and pottery fragments, and could be interpreted as *in-situ* occupation deposits. One layer (2003) contained fragments of slag or hearth lining.

The deposits and features identified during this evaluation conform with the model of the historic medieval village landscape proposed by the earlier archaeological desk-top study. The focus of structural activity lies within the southwestern corner of the site, close to St. Andrew's church and to an area where the remains of the original 11th century village have been recorded (see Section 13.0 below). Although the sequence of features and deposits of medieval date recorded in Trench 1 was perhaps less complex than that found in Trench 2 to the south, both trenches lay within the bounds of the medieval village settlement. The present day pond appears to mark the eastern limit of occupation, given that the remaining

archaeological deposits, with the exception of a ditch (F800) in Trench 8, comprise the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

14.0 An Assessment of the Archaeological Significance and Potential of the Site

The historical and archaeological significance of Caxton lies with its medieval earthworks, the survival of its medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and of its moated sites. Two moats are noted within the immediate area of the site, and one other is located within one mile of the village (Dickens 1994). The village of Caxton has shifted away from its original focus around the 11th century church of St. Andrew, and has moved gradually to the north and east before settling on its present day position along the Roman road of Ermine Street. This road had regained its importance as a main route from London to the north by the 13th century. St. Peter's Street, which forms the western boundary of the site, was part of a complex of lanes north and east of the church in use until the 18th century (Dickens 1994).

The structural remains recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 may represent one part of the original village which was focused around St. Andrews church. The remains of this village were also recorded on the southern side of Gransden Road. Here, earthworks comprising two hollow-ways (streets), ridge and furrow earthworks, curving field boundaries and several closes, were visible until the 1960s. Mr. Millard also remembers uncovering a 3m square cobbled area when stripping the topsoil prior to importing landfill into this field (Millard *pers comm.*). The eastern limit of this settlement may be marked by the present day pond, recorded in Trench 3, as all activity to the east, with the exception of the ditch in Trench 8, relates to cultivation.

The results of this evaluation suggest that the medieval village of Caxton conforms to a known settlement pattern, in that the original village is clustered around the church of St. Andrew, and is surrounded by a number of cultivated fields.

15.0 Implications and Proposals (Fig. 11)

15.1 Implications

Datable archaeological deposits and features associated with probable buildings were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. A possible pond of medieval origin was recorded at the southern end of Trench 3. The remaining nine trenches, with the exception of Trench 8 which contained an undated ditch, either contained ridge and furrow, beneath which no earlier deposits or features were preserved, or contained only topsoil and subsoil.

15.2 Proposals

For the purpose of framing proposals for further work, the site is divided into three zones (Zones A-C, Fig. 11), and is referenced to a preliminary development plan supplied by D. H. Barford and Co.

Zone A

Although no complete structures were identified, it is likely that timber-framed buildings, of 13th-15th century date, are represented in this zone. The results of this evaluation suggest that construction groundworks/landscaping limited in depth to 0.5m (Trench 1) or 0.2m (Trench 2) may not disturb significant archaeological deposits.

If ground disturbance is unavoidable in this zone, the areas to be affected should be examined by archaeological excavation in advance of construction. This would involve the hand excavation and recording of archaeological features within individual building footprints, with possible additional excavation in other areas of disturbance, such as along the lines of service trenches, as appropriate.

Zone B

Consideration should be given to the maintenance of a watching brief in the area of Trench 3 to further record the pond (F300) and to recover datable artefacts and possibly samples for further environmental analysis. Although the pond cannot be dated at present, it is likely to form one part of the medieval landscape.

Zone C

No further archaeological fieldwork is recommended in this zone. The only feature of archaeological interest within this zone was found in Trench 8, which is located in a back-garden area, which may not be affected by construction groundworks.

Zones A and B

On completion of such further archaeological works, it may be appropriate to prepare an assessment of the significance of the findings, in accordance with the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage 1991) with a view to further analysis and publication of the results in a local archaeological journal.

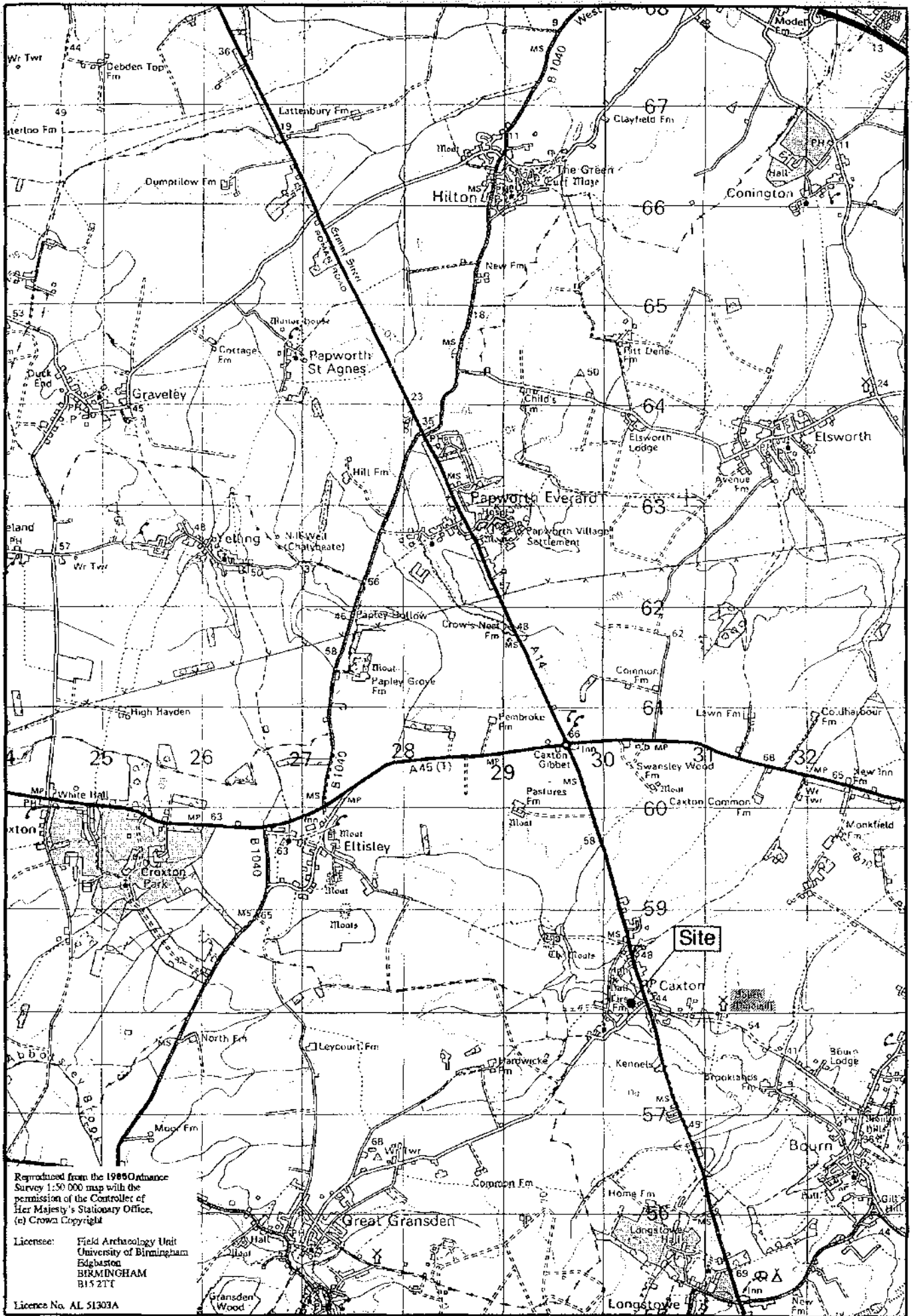
16.0 References

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- Dickens, A. 1994. *Firs Farm, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Desk-Top Study.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report No. 112.
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17.0 Acknowledgements

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Fig.1

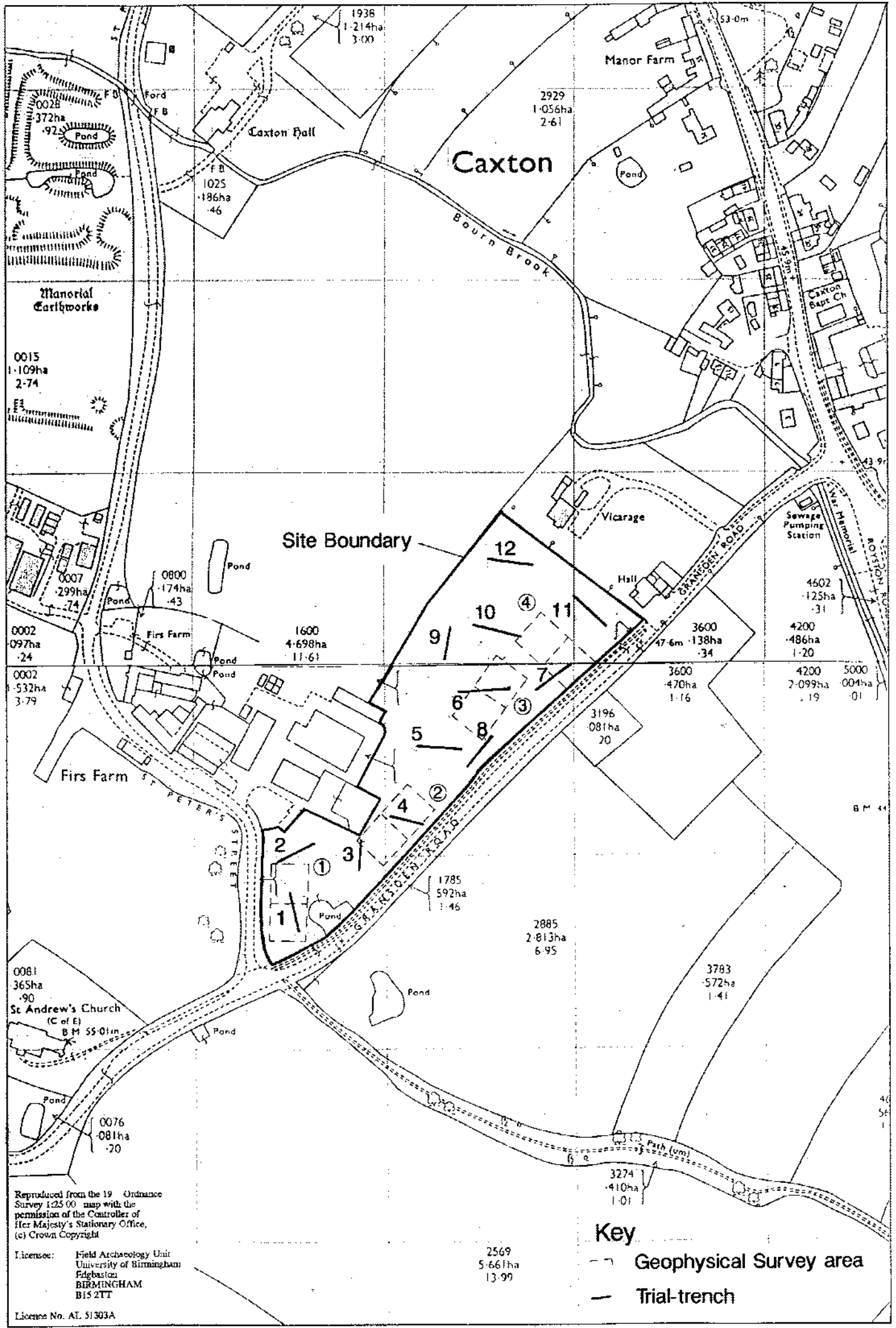


Fig.2

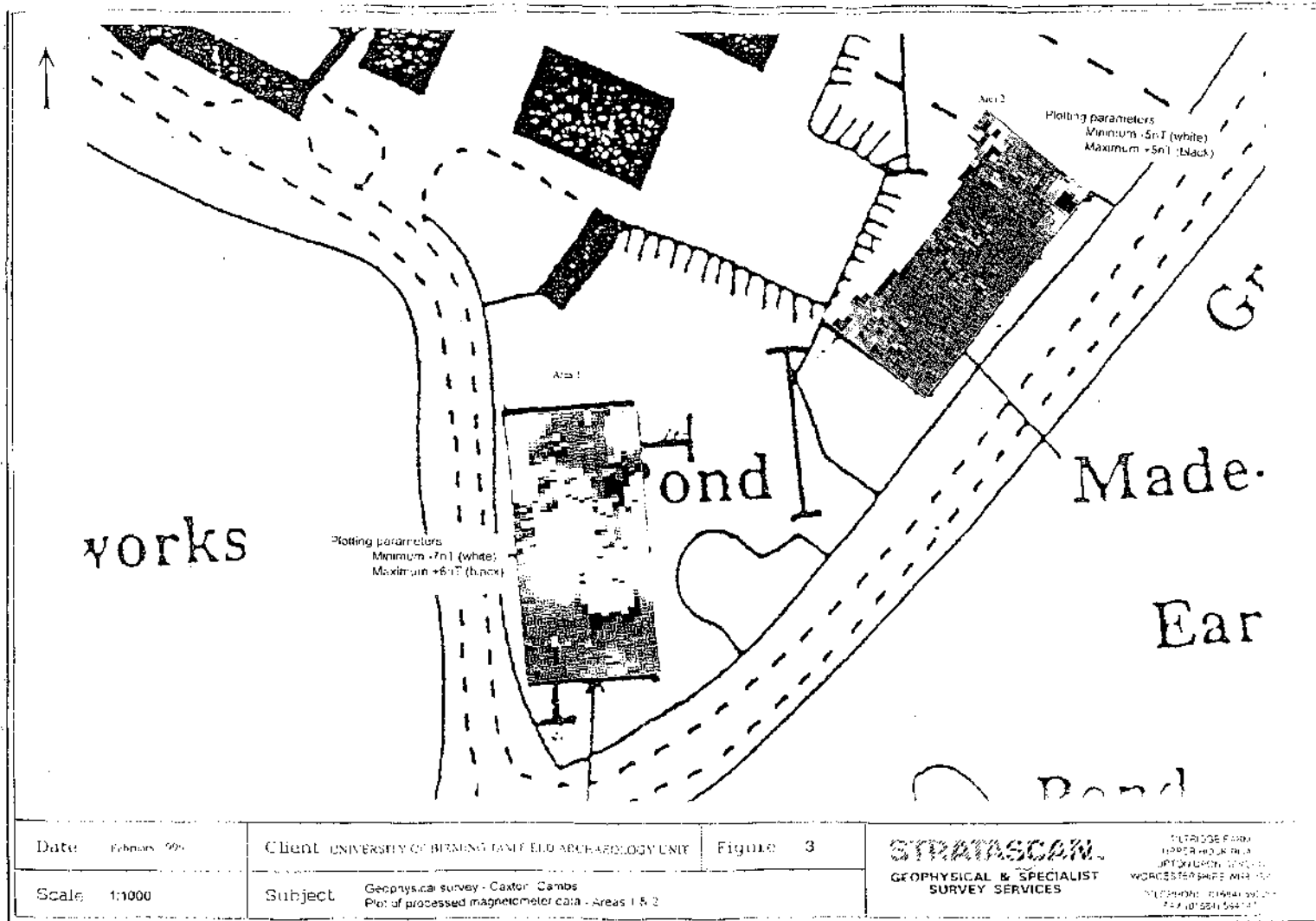


Fig.3

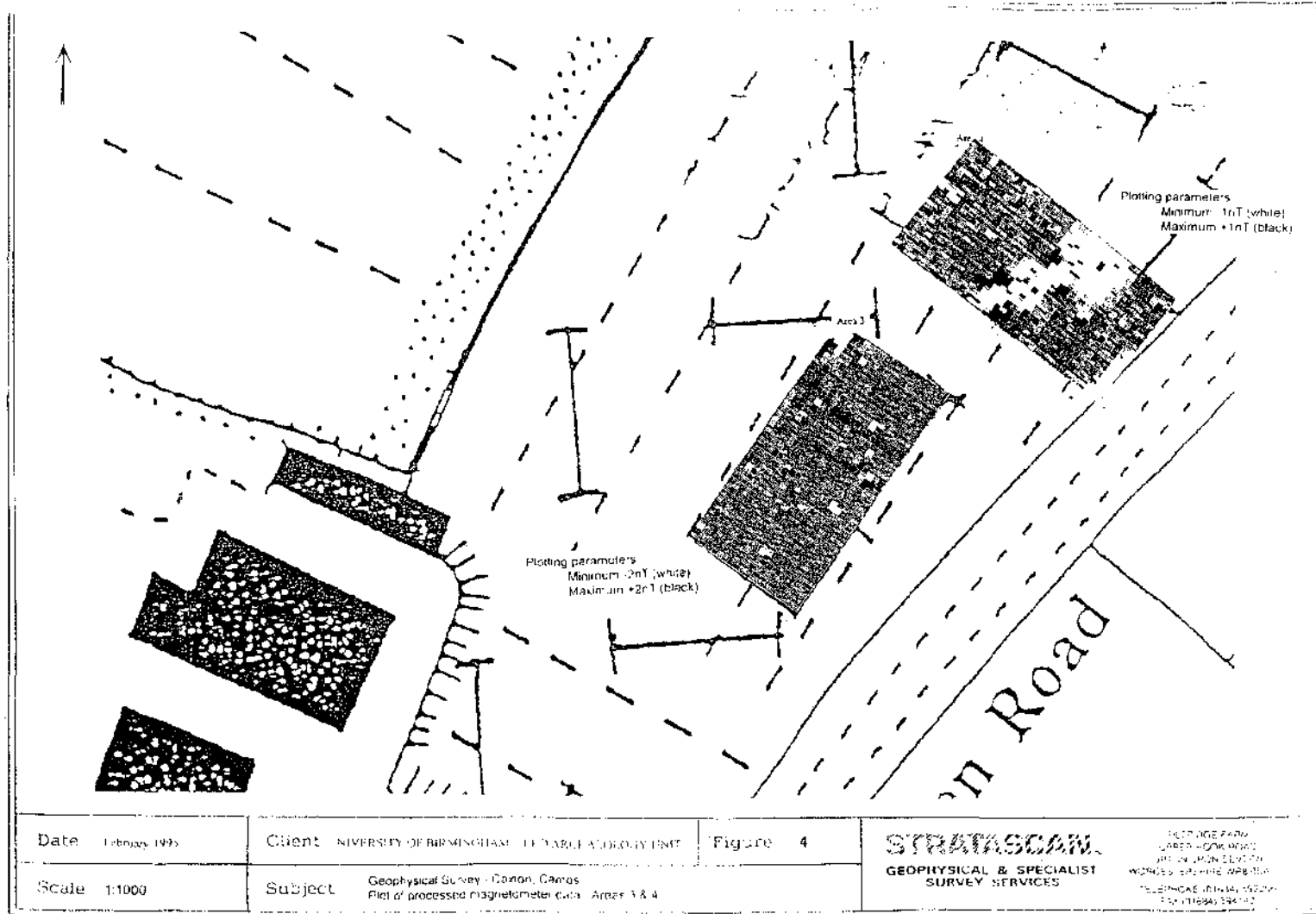
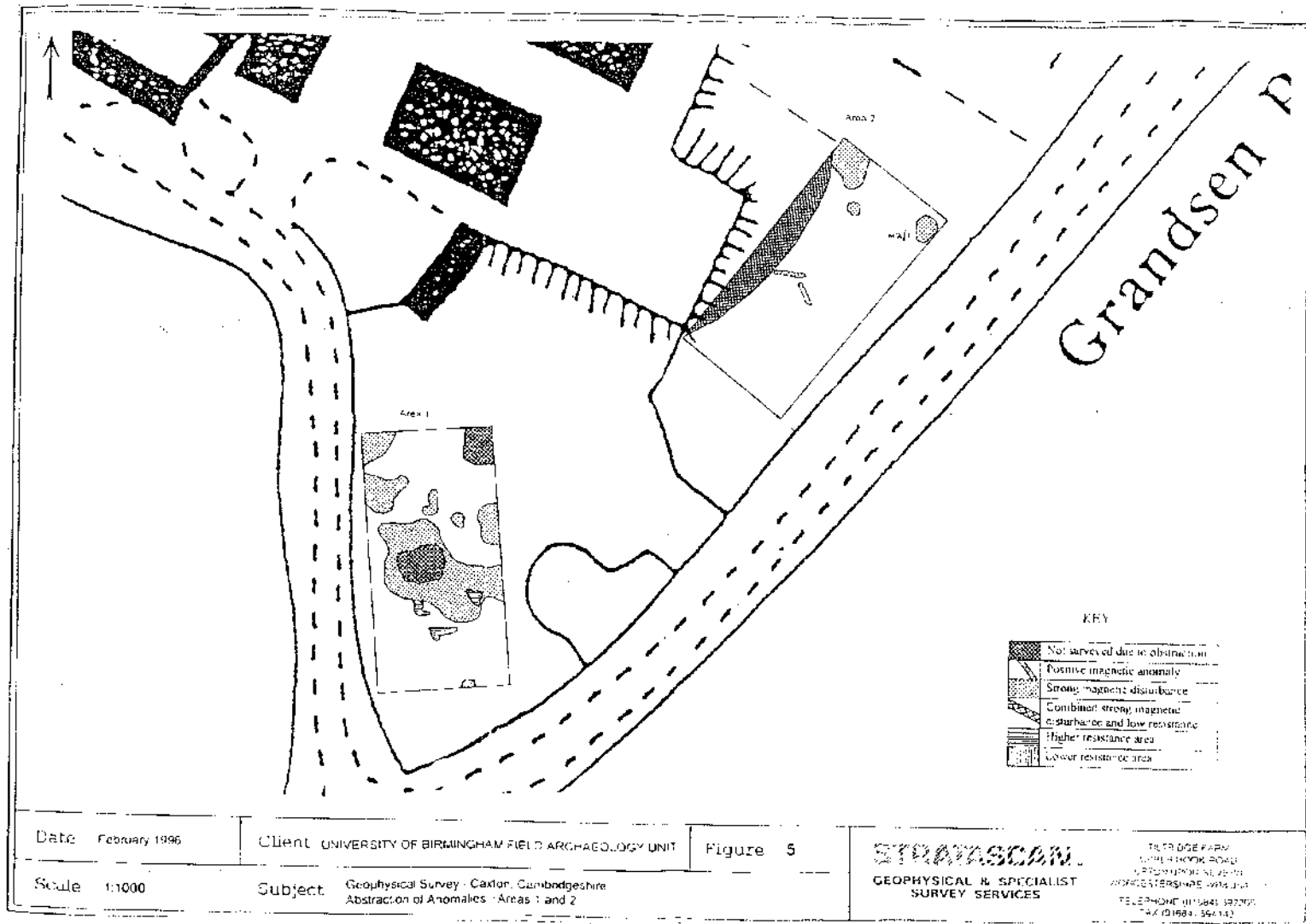


Fig.4



Date	February 1986	Client	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT	Figure	5	STONASCON GEOPHYSICAL & SPECIALIST SURVEY SERVICES TRUROSE PARK 1000 HOOK ROAD UPTON UPON AVOON WORCESTERSHIRE WVS 9 4JH TELEPHONE 01904 392700 FAX 01904 392144
Scale	1:1000	Subject	Geophysical Survey - Caxton, Cambridgeshire Abstraction of Anomalies - Areas 1 and 2			

Fig.5

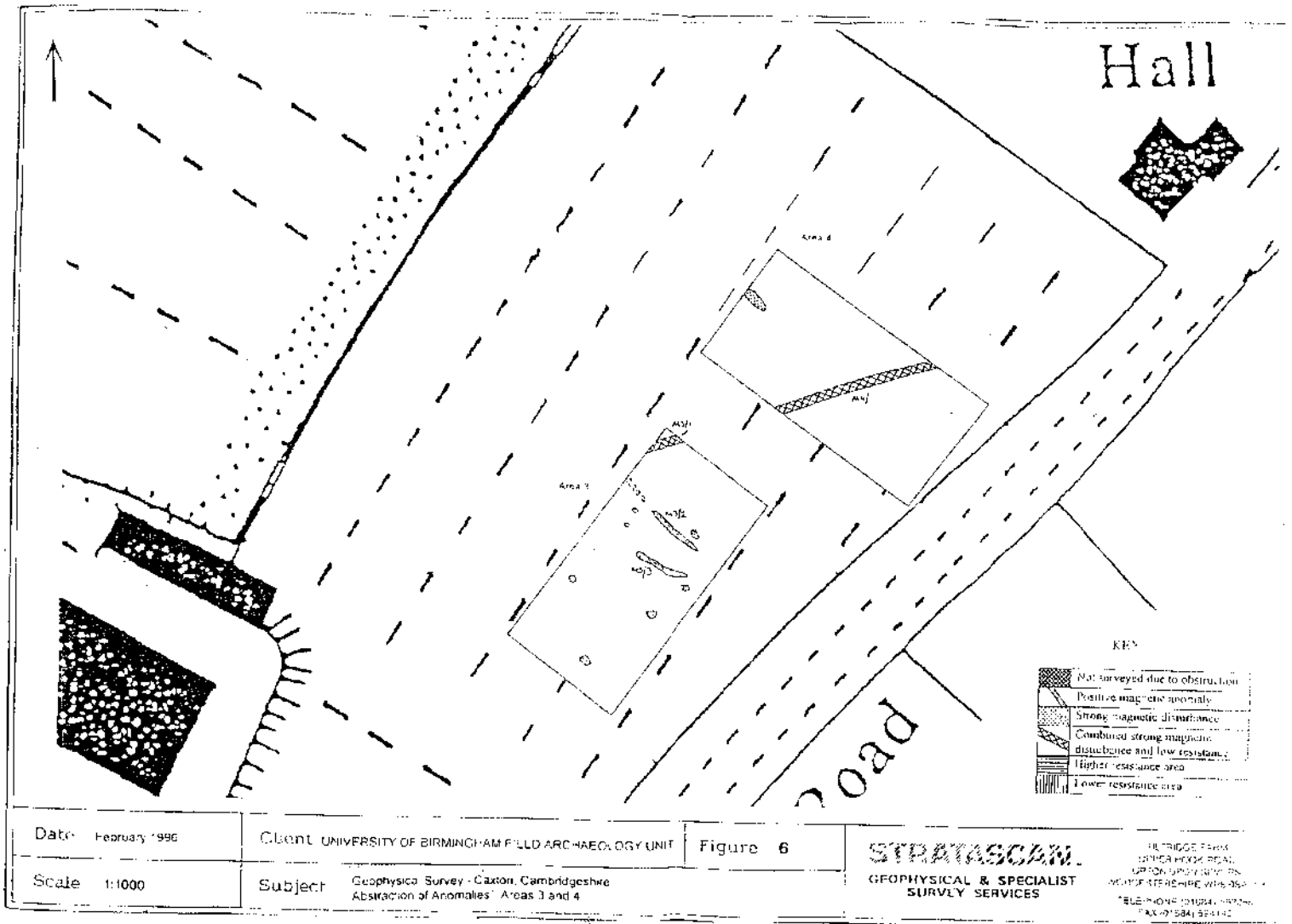


Fig.6

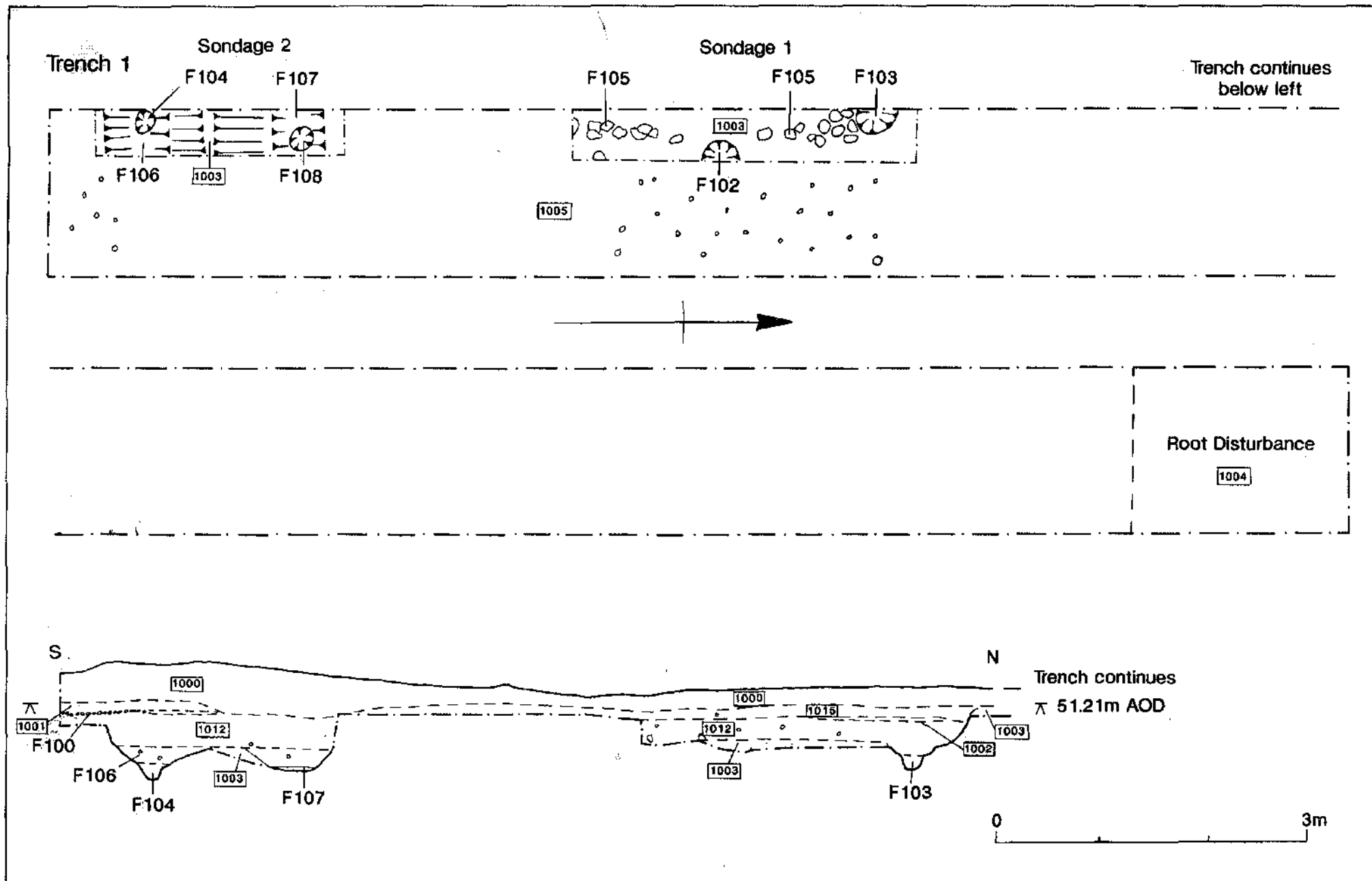


Fig.7

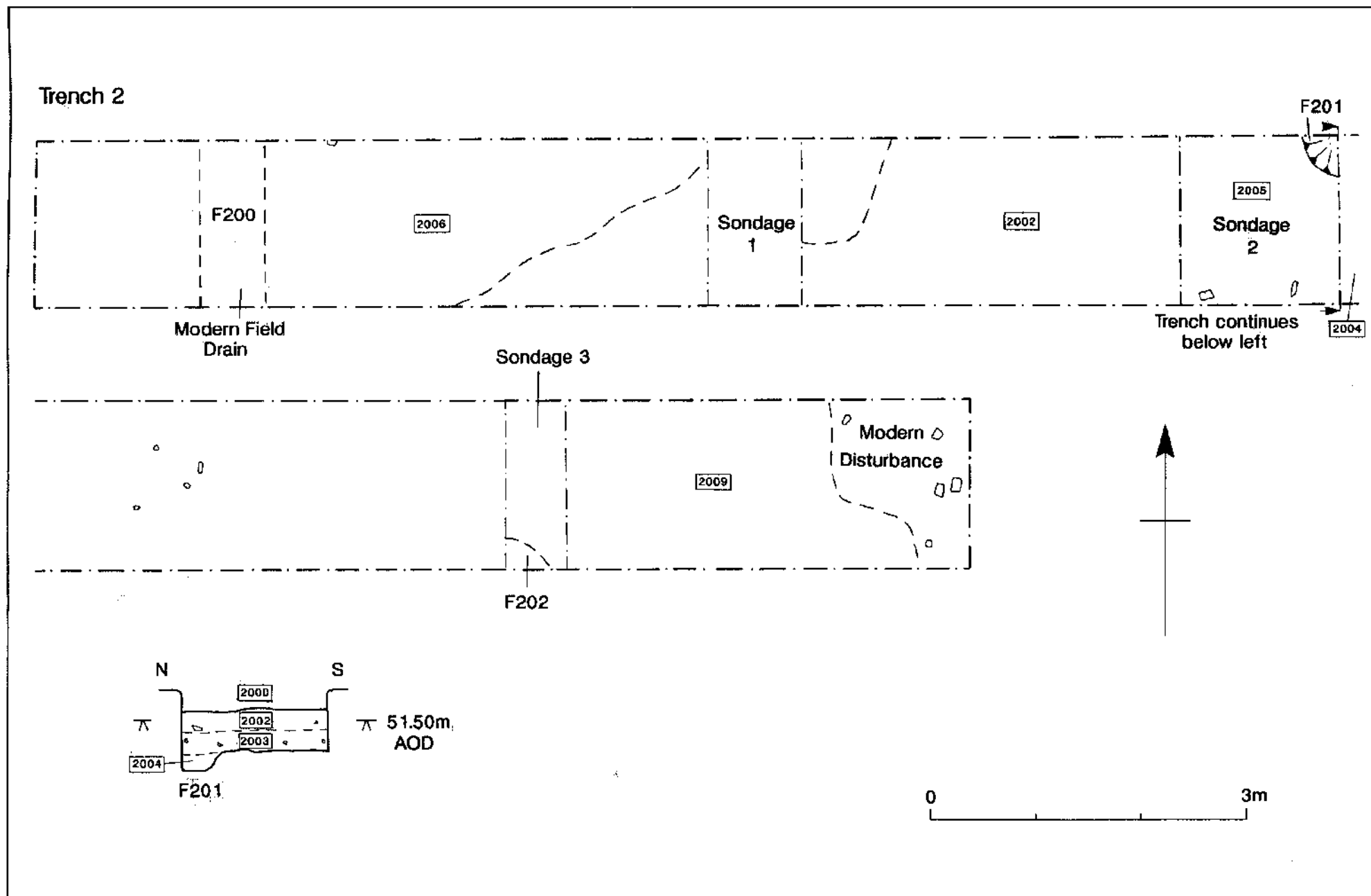


Fig.8

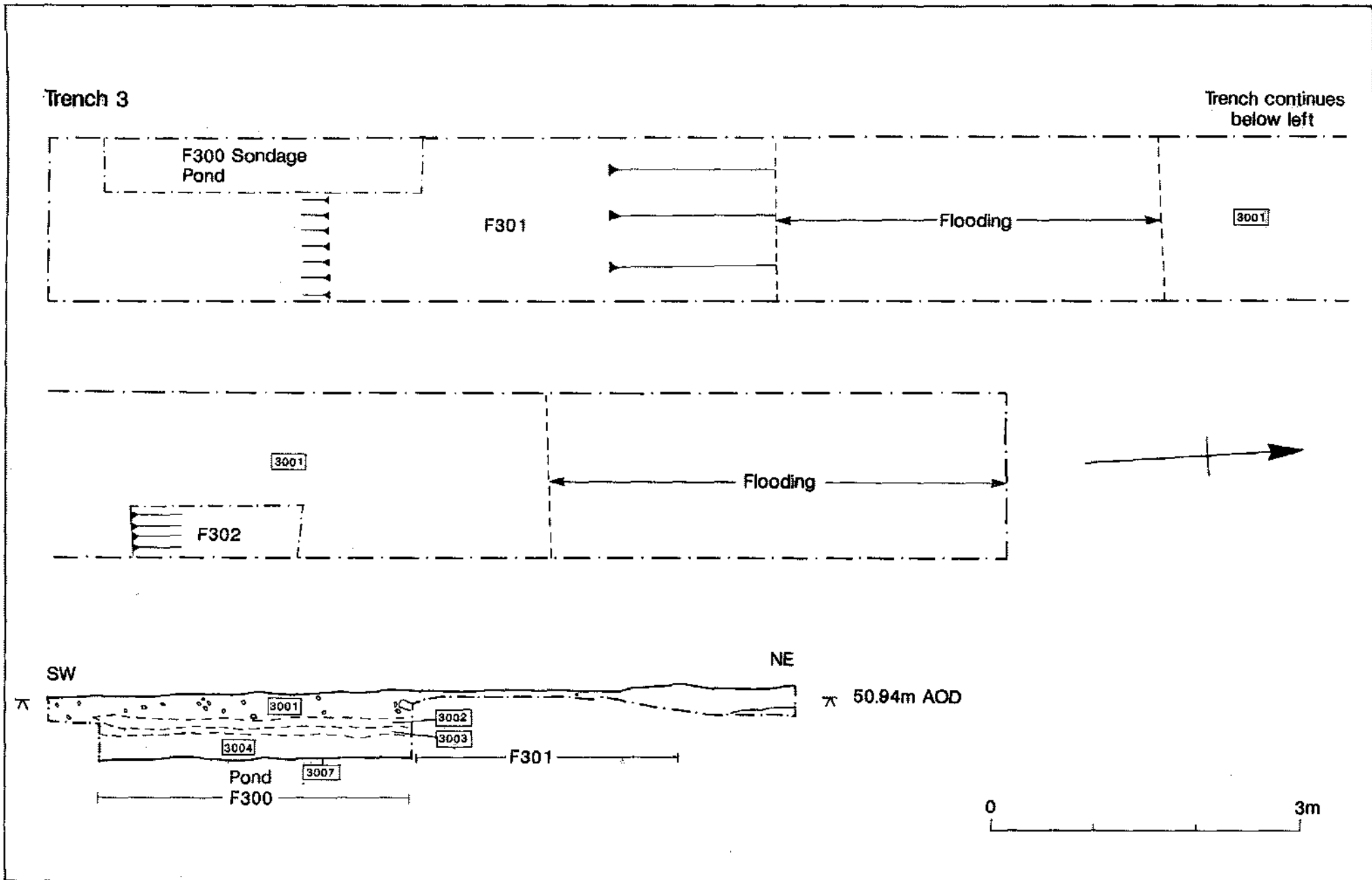


Fig.9

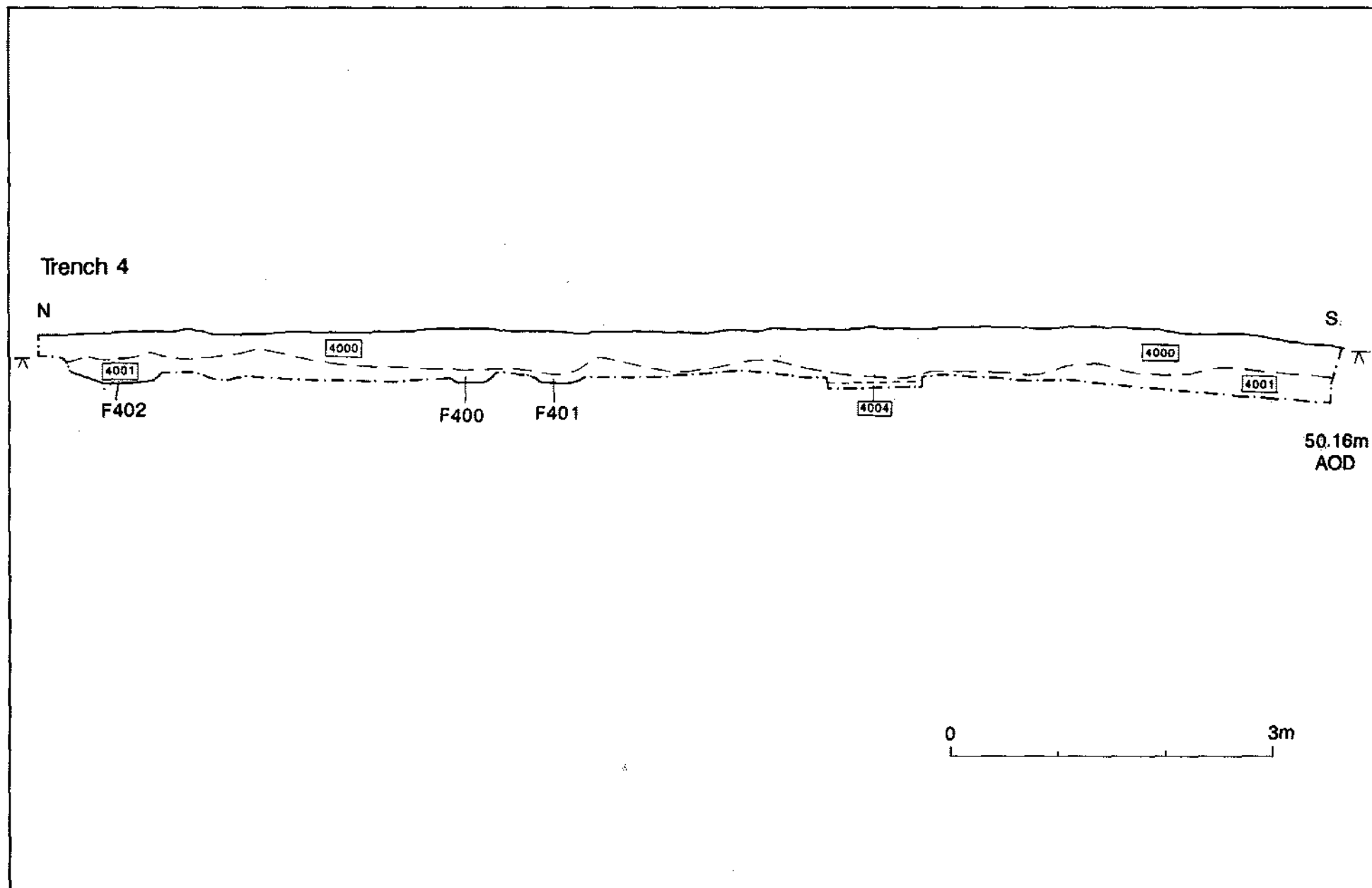


Fig.10

