

No. 492

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**ST CHAD'S CHURCH, PATTINGHAM,
STAFFORDSHIRE
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION 1997**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 492
September 1997

**St Chad's Church, Pattingham, Staffordshire
An Archaeological Evaluation 1997**

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For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux, Iain Ferris or Peter Leach (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: <http://www.bham.ac.uk/BUFAU/>

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1.0: SUMMARY

This report summarises the aims, methodology and results of archaeological trial-trenching adjoining the Church of St. Chad, at Pattingham, Staffordshire. A single trench was dug in the footprint of a proposed church extension by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation of land immediately adjoining St. Chad's Church, Pattingham, Staffordshire (centred on NGR. SO 8209913; Figs. 1-2). Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) were commissioned to undertake the archaeological evaluation by the Parochial Church Council of Pattingham. The methodology of this fieldwork conforms to an evaluation Brief and Schedule prepared by Staffordshire County Council, and a Specification prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 1997). The evaluation followed the grant of a Citation from the Diocese of Lichfield for the work, and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of an extension in the northeastern corner of the present church.

The purpose of the evaluation was:

- 1) To determine the survival of significant archaeological deposits or features in the area of the proposed church extension.
- 2) To assess the extent to which the development might disturb the identified buried archaeology (if any).
- 3) To assist in the definition of a mitigation strategy for further archaeological fieldwork, if appropriate.

3.0: METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

A single trench, aligned north-south, measuring 6.5m by 1m was excavated. The extreme northern end of the trench extended just into the present churchyard boundary. The trench was located along the line of the eastern wall of the proposed extension. The modern overburden was hand-excavated. The underlying deposits were systematically hand-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m below the modern ground surface, a limit specified in the Evaluation Brief and Schedule. Baulks were retained adjoining services during excavation, to prevent collapse or damage to service pipes, all of which were assumed to be still in use. Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, scaled drawn sections and plans, supported by monochrome print and colour slide photography, all held in the archive. It is intended that the archive will be deposited in Stoke-on-Trent Museum.

4.0: THE SITE

The historic centre of Pattingham village is centred on the High Street, on either side of the church (VCH 1984, 173). The presence of a priest in the village in the Domesday Survey of 1086 indicates the existence of a church in the village by that date. The unusually small size of the existing nave of St. Chad's Church (Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record No. 09285), may reflect the outline of the original, 11th-century church. The earliest surviving datable fabric of the church, in the north arcade of the nave, is of late 13th-century date. The chancel was re-built in the 13th-century, and the tower and south aisle were added in the 14th-century. A gallery was added at the eastern end of the nave in 1726, but this was removed in 1746. Sir Gilbert Scott rebuilt the north aisle, the south porch, and added a second northern aisle, and a northeastern vestry between 1863 and 1866.

5.0: RESULTS (Fig. 3)

Due to the limit placed upon the depth of excavation (a maximum depth of 0.75m below the modern surface), the uppermost horizon of the natural subsoil was not located. The earliest deposit encountered in the south of the trench was a layer of dark brown sand-silt (1004), recorded for a depth of 0.4m. The base of this deposit was not reached because of the limits placed upon depth of excavation. Further to the north the earliest deposit recorded was a layer of clean red clay (1005) containing fragments of coal. This layer is interpreted as a make-up horizon. Further to the north was a drain junction (F8). It was sealed by a layer of brown-clay silt (1006).

In the south of the trench layer 1004 was cut by a service trench (F5). This feature was backfilled with a deposit of red sand (1003), containing brick fragments, which also extended to the north, sealing layers 1004, 1005, 1006 and feature F8. Layer 1003 was cut by two drains (F4 to the south, and F7 to the north). Layer 1003, and the backfill of the drains (F4 and F7) were sealed by a layer of mid-brown sand-silt (1002), identified along the whole length of the trench. This layer was cut by a brick wall (F1), aligned approximately west-east, and by two adjacent service trenches (F2 and F3). Layer 1002 was sealed in the south of the trench by a gravel surface (1001), and by shallow topsoil (1000), in the extreme south of the trench.

No finds were recovered from the trench.

6.0: DISCUSSION

No features or deposits associated with burials, or earlier builds of the church were identified. The features mainly comprise services, which may remain in use. Feature F1 was the western terminus of an east-west aligned wall. Layers 1003 and 1002 may be levelling-up horizons associated with the excavation of the service trenches.

7.0: IMPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within 0.75m of the modern ground surface. Sampling of any potential archaeological features and deposits at a greater depth was outside the scope of the present work.

If ground ground disturbances associated with the proposed extensions are limited to a depth of no more than 0.75m below the modern ground surface, further archaeological fieldwork, such as the maintenance of a watching brief during construction groundworks would probably not be worthwhile. It should be noted, however, that significant archaeological deposits or features could possibly be found at a depth greater than 0.75m below the modern ground surface, and, the depth of disturbance during construction should be strictly limited accordingly.

8.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council of Pattingham. We thank Mr A.H. Stubbs, the Churchwarden for his assistance. The fieldwork was supervised by Richard Cuttler, with the assistance of Mary Duncan. The figures were prepared by Nigel Dodds.

9.0: REFERENCES

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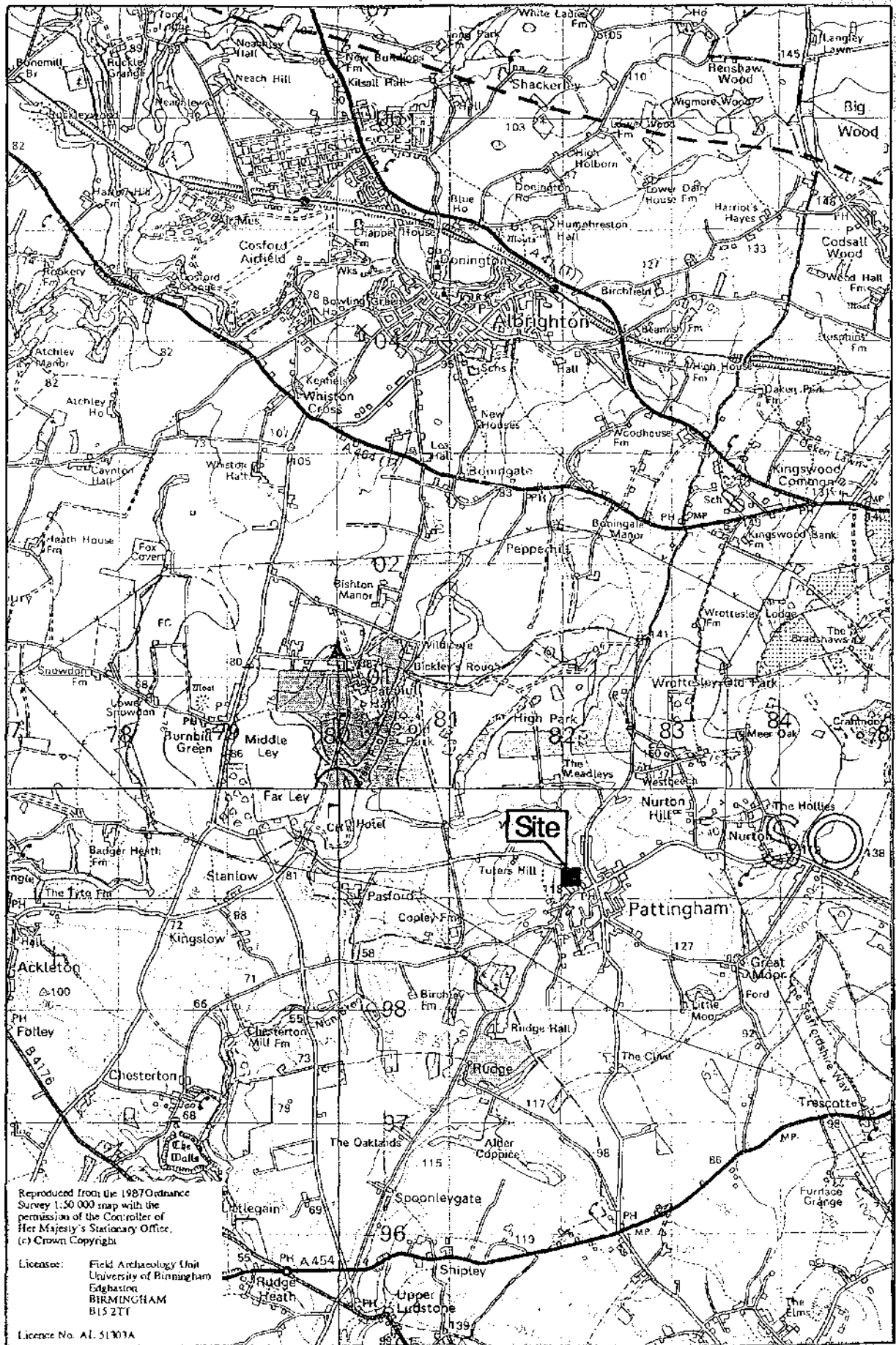


Fig.1

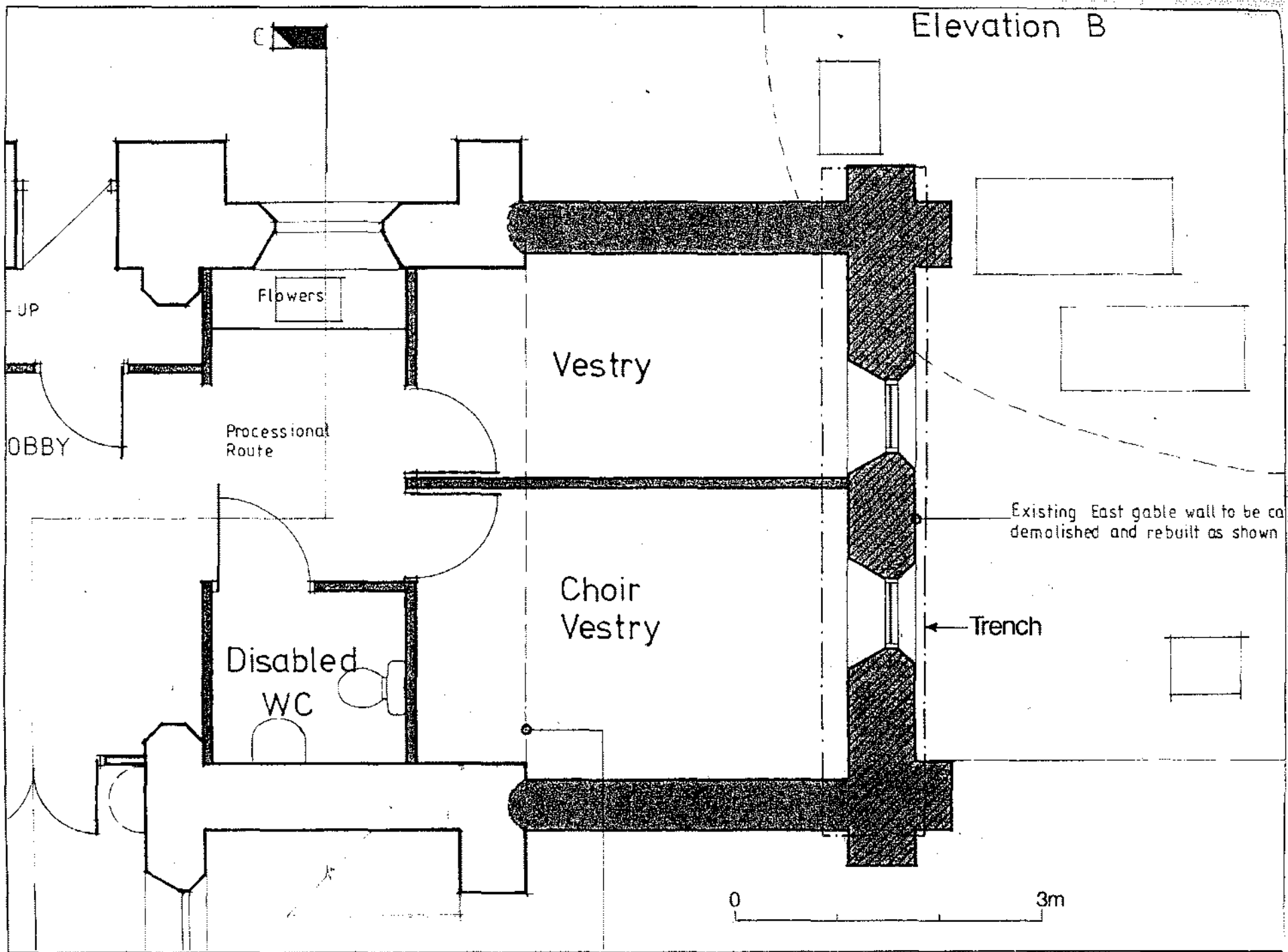
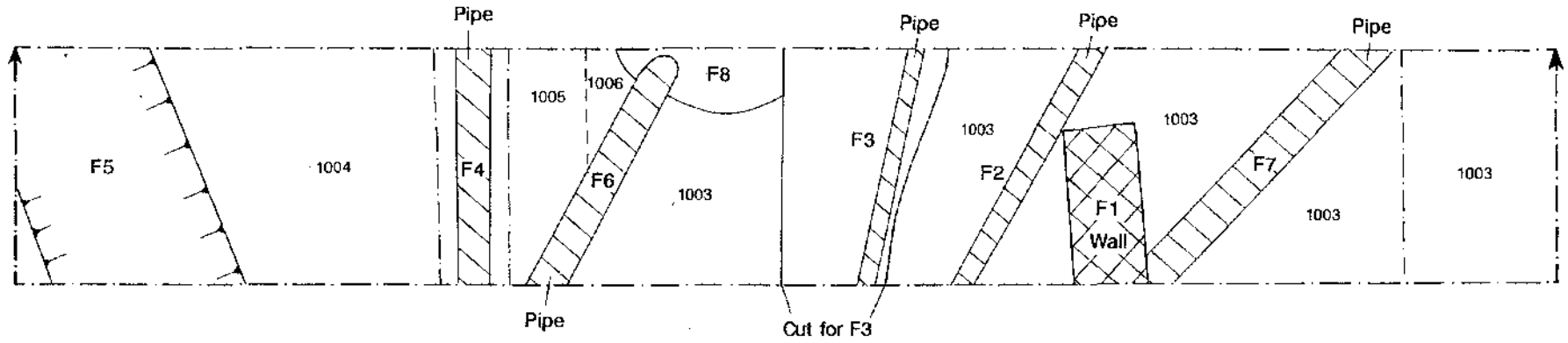


Fig 2

Trench 1 Plan



East Facing Section

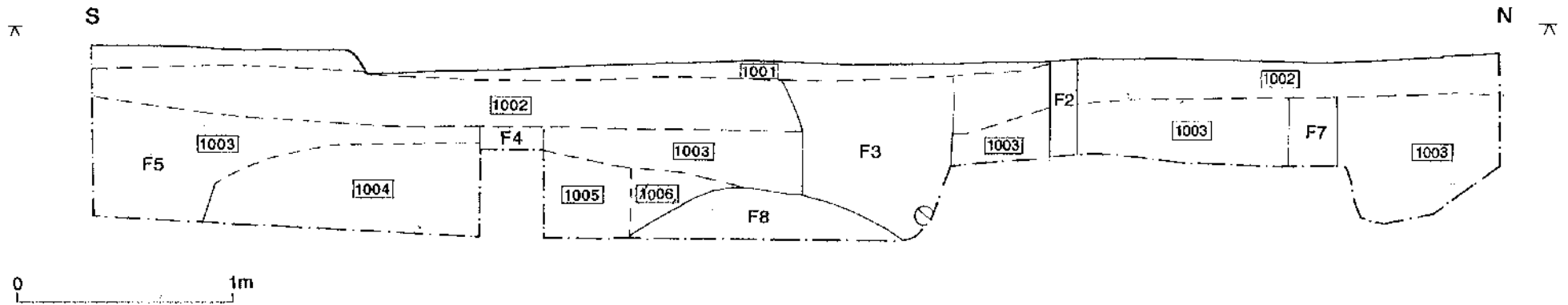


Fig3