

**Home Farm, Longstanton,
Cambridgeshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation
2000**

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1.0: SUMMARY

A further archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Home Farm, High Street, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 391672), in advance of a proposed residential development. Assessment of the site, including air photograph analysis, fieldwalking and geophysical survey had identified concentrations of activity of possible prehistoric or medieval to post-medieval date. The trial-trenches were located to test ploughsoil artifact scatters, possible crop-marked features, geophysical anomalies, and areas for which no archaeological information was available. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Beazer Homes Limited.

Early prehistoric activity was represented by ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts. A focus of Mid-Late Iron Age activity near to Green End was represented by one or more ditched enclosures. No evidence of Roman settlement was recorded. Concentrations of pre-conquest activity were located in parts of the site, with continuous occupation represented in some zones up to the first half of the 15th century, when the area may have been largely depopulated. The Saxon and medieval features encountered mainly comprised ditches, defining fields or other boundaries, together with concentrations of pits, some possibly used for a small-scale industrial process.

This evaluation follows an earlier evaluation and subsequent excavation undertaken during 1997 of other land within the same residential development.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at Home Farm, High Street, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (hereafter 'the site', centred on NGR TL 391672, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Beazer Homes Limited in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with a Specification (BUFAU 2000), approved by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council, and with the Institute of Field Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations' (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994). The site is located to the west of High Street, Longstanton, and both to the east and west of the modern Over Road.

An earlier evaluation of land also within Home Farm was located to the south of the site (Fig. 1, the 'Phase 1 area'; Mould 1997). The 1997 evaluation was followed in the same year by two area excavations (Ellis *et al.* 2001).

The site ('the Phase 2 area' of the development) comprises three areas. Firstly, the northern part of Field 7 (the southern part of the field was investigated in 1997).

Secondly, Field 11 to the north, both to the east of the Over Road. Thirdly, those parts of Fields 14 and 17-18, to the west of Over Road which lay within the area of the proposed bypass associated with the residential development.

The geology comprises slowly permeable calcareous soils, derived from the underlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clay with some river terrace gravel deposits, located primarily towards the northeast of Field 11.

The documentary (Jones 1995) study noted that the site was located within an area of known archaeological significance. To the north and east, there was evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement, concentrated on river gravels. In the Saxon and medieval periods, the village developed along High Street, and had three surrounding open fields. To the west, a small medieval hamlet was centred at Green End. The Enclosure Map of 1816 showed that Field 7 (Fig. 1) was formerly divided into fields called Spiggins, King's Close and Butcher's Close, with buildings located on the High Street frontage.

The air photograph assessment (Air Photo Services 1995) identified a number of crop-marked features of possible archaeological interest. Evidence for extensive ridge and furrow field systems and their associated headlands was mapped, along with some eroded earthworks. Much of this medieval landscape has now been eroded. Several degraded ditches, which may be indicative of medieval settlement or post-medieval land use, were also recorded. A number of badly eroded ditches, not related to the ridge and furrow may date to the post-medieval period.

The aims of the evaluation were:

- 1) To define the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological remains, to permit the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 2) In particular, it was intended to provide data concerning the following:
 - a) the extent, survival and significance of Saxon/medieval settlement features.
 - b) The research potential of the settlement data, including the artifacts.
 - c) The extent, quality and significance of the possible prehistoric flint scatters.

3.0: METHODOLOGY

A total of twenty-two trial-trenches were excavated. The overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision, to expose either the top of any significant archaeological features and deposits or the uppermost subsoil horizon, whichever was first encountered.

It was intended that the methodology of the 2000 evaluation should be the same as that of the preceding 1997 trial-trenching, to permit valid inter-comparison of the results. The machined surface was cleaned as necessary to define features, and a representative sample of the features or feature types present was hand-excavated to provide information concerning the survival and complexity of feature fills, and to recover artifactual samples. Those areas within the overall development site which were excluded from development proposals (e.g. Field 8) were not, of course, included in the evaluation programme.

A total of nine test pits (lettered A-J, excluding I, Fig. 1) were machine excavated in the northeastern angle of Field 11 to test the artifactual content of the ploughsoil. The test-pits were located to further test a ploughsoil flint scatter identified by fieldwalking. Each test-pit was dug to the uppermost subsoil surface. A 50% sample of the spoil was then hand-sieved to recover all artifacts present. Additional trenches (Trenches 19A-B, 20) were also dug, in an attempt to locate any features associated with the ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts found within the test-pits.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by scale plans and sections (1:20 and 1:50), colour slide and monochrome print photography. Subject to approval from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the paper and finds archive with the Cambridge County Council approved archive store.

Features (comprising 'negative features' such as ditches, pits and post-holes, as well as 'positive features' such as earth banks) were recorded in a sequence of three digit numbers, prefixed with an 'F'. Layer numbers were recorded in a sequence of four digit numbers, and were used for both excavated and unexcavated feature fills, and for overall deposits. Artifacts from unexcavated feature fills derive from hand-cleaning.

4.0: RESULTS

The trenches are described in groups, by field.

4.1: Field 11 (Trenches 1-3, 19A/B-20 and test-pits, Fig. 2)

Trenches 1-2 were located to test a concentration of pottery and a group of geophysical anomalies located in the southwest of the field. Trench 3 was located to intercept a possible cropmarked ditched driveway. Trenches 19A/B and 20 were cut to test an area containing a ploughsoil scatter of flint artifacts. A ploughsoil scatter was tested by means of machine-cut test-pits cut at a spacing of 50m. Table 1 summarises the dating evidence.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 measured 30m in length. This trench was aligned east-west, forming a T-shape with Trench 2. Trench 1 was partly located across a pond recorded on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, and the trench was shortened to avoid crossing the pond. Because of the depth of the stratigraphy, two sondages (1 and 2, Fig. 3) were excavated. Sondage 1 lay towards the western end of the trench, and was excavated through alluvial clays (5001, 5027) reaching a maximum depth of 1.05m below the modern surface. The clay deposits were recorded for a length of 13m, and probably infilled the pond. The subsoil horizon was not reached in this sondage. Sondage 2, dug towards the eastern end of the trench revealed the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.6m below the modern surface. Here the subsoil was overlain by a layer of black silt-clay (5008). Machining over the remainder of Trench 1 revealed bands of clay aligned north-south (5022-5026), overlying the subsoil. The subsoil, the backfilled features and layer 5026 were sealed by a layer of light brown clay with gravel scatters (5025) which was recorded below the topsoil, which measured 0.25m in depth.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2, aligned north-south was 60m in length. The southern part of Trench 2 was excavated to expose the uppermost surface of the natural subsoil. This consisted of a mixed sand and gravel with clay (5031), and was recorded at a depth of 0.45m below the modern surface. A sondage (3) excavated at the intersection of Trenches 1 and 2 revealed the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.64m below the modern surface. At the northern end of Trench 2, a further sondage (4) identified the uppermost subsoil horizon at a depth of 0.75m below ground level. Four possible ditches (5014, 5019, F500, and 5021) all aligned northeast-southwest were identified cutting the subsoil in the southern part of the trench. Ditch F500, located towards the centre of the trench measured a maximum of 1.8m in width, and 0.45m in depth. This feature was backfilled with compact clay (5004). A further possible ditch (5020), located approximately in the centre of the trench was aligned southwest-northeast. Two pits were also located within the southern part of the trench (F501, 5017), both backfilled with compact clay. Feature F501 was a maximum of 2.3m in diameter and 1.2m in depth. The remaining features within the southern part of Trench 2 comprised two small gullies (5015, 5018) and a possible posthole (5016).

Deposits within the northern half of the trench (5003, 5020: not illustrated, 5021, 5022, 5023 and 5024) consisted of bands of clay varying in colour from white to grey, similar to the layers recorded in the east of the adjoining Trench 1, and it is likely that they formed part of the same earthwork bank (F503, 5008). Features within Trench 2 were sealed by a layer of mixed gravel and silt (5010, not illustrated), approximately 0.17m in depth. This in turn was overlain by 0.32m of topsoil.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

This trench was aligned southwest-northeast. The natural subsoil was recorded in a sondage towards the southwestern end of the trench. The subsoil (5031) consisted of light orange sand and gravel mixed with blue clay, recorded at a depth of 0.9m below the modern surface. The subsoil was sealed by two layers of grey-orange silt (5028, 5029), which were cut by a ditch (F505) measuring 0.25m in depth, and 1.9m in width. Further to the northeast were two further ditches (F506, F507) both cut on a north-south alignment. These were both U-shaped in profile, cut to a depth of 1.2m. The backfilled features and layer 5029 were sealed by topsoil.

Trenches 19A-B (Fig. 2)

Trenches 19A and 19B were aligned east-west and southwest-northeast, respectively. The subsoil in both trenches was an orange gravel mixed with a blue grey clay (5243). Towards the middle of Trench 19A was a single circular pit (F594) measuring approximately 1.7m in diameter. A single pit (F595) was recorded in an L-shaped extension to Trench 19B. The backfilled pits and the subsoil were sealed by topsoil measuring 0.3m in depth.

Trench 20 (Fig. 20)

This trench was aligned northwest-southeast. The subsoil consisted of an orange-red sand and gravel (5247). Two east-west aligned ditches (F598 and 5249) were recorded, at the southern and northern ends of the trench respectively. Ditch F598 was backfilled with brown clay-silt (5248) similar in matrix to the topsoil, and may be a modern field boundary. The central part of the trench was broadened to test two possible pits (F596 and F597). The pits measured 1.8m and 2.6m respectively in diameter and an average of 0.3m in depth. The subsoil and the backfilled features were sealed by a layer of brown clay with gravel scatters (5257) which measured between 0.1 and 0.25m in depth. This in turn was sealed by topsoil, measuring 0.3m in depth.

TABLE 1: Field 11, spot-dating

<i>Layer</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>Date</i>
TRENCH 1			
5001	L	L Saxon-14 th c	13 th c
TRENCH 2			
5008	F503	850-1100	Late Saxon
5005	F501	?650-1100	Late Saxon ?
5004	F500	850-1150	Pre-conquest?
5002	L	12-13 th c	12-13 th c
5017	L	12-14 th c	Late 12-13 th c
5021	L	12-14 th c	Late 12-13 th c
5003	Topsoil	12-14 th c	13 th c
5010	L	L Saxon-14 th c	13 th c?
5024	L	850-1100	Late Saxon
TRENCH 3			
5012	F505	12-14 th c	12?-13 th c
5028	L	850-1100	Late Saxon
5029	L	1100-1400	11-12 th c
5012	F505	-	12?-13 th c
TRENCH 19A/B			
5239	F594	12-14 th c	12-13 th c
TRENCH 20			
5244	F596	E-M Saxon	E-M Saxon
5245	F597	E-M Saxon	E-M Saxon
TEST-PITS			
B	Topsoil	-	16-18 th
D	Topsoil	-	E-M Saxon
E	Topsoil	-	E-M Saxon
J	Topsoil	-	L med-epm

Key to abbreviations:

DATING = E= early, M= middle, L= late, epm= Early post-medieval

FEATURE column: L indicates layer or unexcavated feature fill in which case finds are from surface cleaning only

4.2: Field 7 (northern part only, Trenches 9-18A-B, Fig. 1)

All the trenches in this field measured 50m by 2m. The trenches were located to sample the area as widely as possible. Trench 17 was located to the north of Area 1 excavated in 1997 to test a concentration of features identified by aerial photography, cropmark analysis, geophysics and by excavation to the south. Trenches 10 and 12 were intended to test an area adjoining the hamlet of Green End to the west. Trench

14 was re-located slightly to avoid a modern footpath, and Trench 18A was re-located to avoid a slurry pit. For simplicity, modern features, such as field drains, are not described.

The pottery spot-dating is summarised in Table 2.

Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

This trench was cut east-west. The natural subsoil, a grey gravel mixed with clay (5103) was revealed at a depth of 1.07m below the modern surface. The identification of the subsoil was confirmed by the excavation of a sondage cut 0.5m into the subsoil in the east of the trench. Three possible pits, each backfilled with grey gravel (5107, 5108, 5109) were located towards the western end of the trench. Unexcavated feature 5109 appeared to truncate a small northeast-southwest aligned gully (5110). Two northeast-southwest aligned ditches (5111, F537) were recorded towards the middle of the trench. Feature F537 was cut to a U-shaped profile, and measured 0.18m in depth. One further possible ditch (5114) appeared to have been heavily truncated by a curvilinear feature mostly aligned east-west (F536), which also appeared to cut unexcavated ditch 5111. All the backfilled features in this trench were sealed by a layer of grey silt-clay (5104) measuring 0.30m in depth, which may be interpreted as an alluvial deposit, laid down by the adjoining stream. Above was a further deposit of grey gravel mixed with silt (5115, not illustrated), measuring 0.47m in depth. This layer was sealed by topsoil, which measured 0.3m in depth.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4)

This trench was cut north-south. The natural subsoil in Trench 10 was identified at a depth of 0.55m below the modern surface, and consisted of mixed blue clay with patches of orange gravel (5090). Two linear features (F526, 5095) cut on a northwest-southeast alignment were recorded within the southern half of the trench. Feature F526 measured 2.4m in width and was cut to a depth of 0.55m. Located between the two ditches were two gullies aligned northeast-southwest (F532, F547), and a small pit (F548). Feature F532 was cut to a depth of 0.44m. Pit F548 measured 2m in diameter and was dug to a depth of 0.38m. This feature had been cut by a small gully (F547) measuring 0.22m in depth and 0.30m in width. Unexcavated ditch 5095 had truncated a northeast-southwest aligned gully (F551).

Towards the centre of Trench 10 were two circular features (F527, F528) which may be interpreted as pits or ditch butt-ends. Both were approximately 2.5m in diameter, and 0.3m in depth. Towards the northern end of the trench were five east-west aligned ditches (5096, 5097, 5099, 5100, 5101). Two of these may possibly be natural in origin (5097, 5099).

All features in Trench 10 were sealed by brown/grey silt-clay 0.25m in depth. This in turn was sealed by dark grey topsoil measuring between 0.30 and 0.50m in depth, which contained fragments of modern brick.

Trench 11 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned north-south. The natural subsoil in Trench 11 was an orange sandy gravel mixed with grey clay (5054). At the southern end of Trench 11 were two clay filled pits (5077, 5078) measuring 0.9m in diameter, and two east-west aligned ditches (F514, 5080). Ditch F514 measured a maximum of 2.3m in width, and 0.3m in depth. It was backfilled with compact clay (5058). Towards the centre of the trench was a shallow pit (F512) measuring a maximum of 0.24m in depth. Six east-west aligned ditches (F515, 5083, F513, F522, F520, 5084) were also recorded within the trench. These ditches measured an average of 1.9m in width, and 0.25m in depth. Ditch 5084 cut feature F515. To the north of feature 5086 were two unexcavated pits (5081, 5082), backfilled with clay and gravel.

The subsoil and backfilled features in this trench were sealed by a layer of light brown silt-clay (5056, not illustrated), measuring 0.28m in depth, which may be interpreted as an alluvial deposit derived from the nearby stream (Fig. 1). Above was the topsoil, measuring 0.2m in depth.

Trench 12 (Figs. 4-5)

This trench was aligned east-west. The subsoil in this trench comprised a mixed orange gravel and grey clay (5062), recorded at a depth of 0.72m below the modern surface. The earliest horizon recorded at the western end of the trench was a layer of dark brown silt-clay (5088), possibly forming a plough headland adjoining the western field boundary of Field 7. To the east of layer 5088 were two northeast-southwest aligned ditches (F523, F517), both cutting the subsoil. Ditch F523 measured 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. Ditch F517 measured approximately 1.6m in width and 0.2m in depth. This feature was backfilled with compact grey clay (5064). Located between these two ditches was a possible pit (5057), measuring approximately 1.1m in diameter, and cut by ditch F517.

Further to the east were three ditches (5089, F516, F521). Ditches F516 and F521 measured 0.22m in depth. Immediately to the east of ditch 5089 was a pit (F519) measuring 0.26m in depth. To the east of ditch F521 was an irregularly-shaped pit (F518). It measured 0.88m in diameter, and 0.22m in depth. Layer 5088, the subsoil and the backfilled features were sealed by brown silt-clay (5063, not illustrated) measuring 0.48m in depth, interpreted as an alluvial horizon. Above was a layer of topsoil measuring 0.24m in depth.

Trench 13 (Figs. 4-5)

This trench was aligned east-west. The natural subsoil in the trench was a dirty orange gravel (5130) mixed with a blue-grey clay, recorded at a depth of between 0.6 and 0.7m below the modern surface. At the western end of the trench was a north-south aligned ditch (5149). Two possible small gullies (5150, 5151) were recorded to the east. An ovoid pit (F549) measuring 0.14m in depth was cut through both gullies. Towards the centre of the trench were three pits (F553, F557, F558) each measuring approximately 2.5m in diameter. Features F553 and F557 measured 0.24m in depth. Pit F557 cut adjoining features F553 and F558. Also recorded in the centre of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F550) cut to an irregular profile, and

measuring a maximum of 0.28m in depth. The subsoil and the backfilled features were sealed by a layer of light brown silt-clay (5131, not illustrated), measuring 0.35m in depth and containing gravel and charcoal. This layer was in turn sealed by topsoil (5132).

Trench 14 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned north-south. The natural subsoil in this trench comprised a mixed blue-grey clay (5121) with sand and gravel. The subsoil was recorded at a depth of between 0.66m (northern end of the trench), and 0.4m (southern end of the trench). Towards the southern end of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (5144) backfilled with grey silt. Two pits (5145, 5146) were recorded towards the centre of the trench. A further pit (F522), measuring 2m in diameter and 0.28m in depth was recorded to the north, together with a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (F544), measuring 1.8m in width, and 0.4m in depth. In the north of the trench was a pit (F543), measuring 0.3m in depth, backfilled with black silt (5147), and two small ditches (5147, 5148). The subsoil and the backfilled features was sealed by a layer of brown silt-clay (5123) which measured 0.32m in depth. This layer was overlain by topsoil, here measuring 0.22m in depth.

Trench 15 (Figs. 4-5)

This trench was aligned east-west. The natural subsoil in this trench, a grey-brown clay (5121), was recorded at a depth of approximately 0.4m below the modern surface. At the western end of the trench was a road or yard surface (F593) made of flint and gravel (5218), overlying the subsoil. A total of 13 small pits or post-holes were recorded in this trench (F590, 5234, 5236, 5216, 5213, 5212, F589, F564, 5211, 5209, 5206, 5205 and 5204 from west to east). The pit backfills mostly consisted of compact blue clay mottled with green silt. Feature F589 was cut to a depth of 0.38 and to the east was a deeper pit (F564) excavated to a depth of 1.08m. Both pits had been truncated by later ditches (F561 and F563).

Two possible post-holes (5217, 5215) were recorded towards the centre of the trench, the former feature truncated by a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F565). Other ditches (F563, 5235, 5208, 5203) following the same alignment were also recorded towards the centre of the trench. Ditch F563 was cut through pits F564 and F589 and into the subsoil. A relatively modern brick wall (5210) was also recorded, cutting pit 5209. Three north-south aligned gulleys (5214, 5202, 5207) were also recorded. A layer of grey-brown silt-clay (5196/5070) measuring between 0.15 and 0.30m in depth sealed the subsoil and the backfilled features. This layer was probably alluvium deposited by the adjoining stream. Layer 5196/5070 was in turn sealed by topsoil, here measuring 0.25m in depth.

Trench 16 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned northwest-southeast. The natural subsoil (5192) in this trench was revealed at a depth of between 0.40 and 0.50m below the modern ground surface. A total of six small pits (5233, 5229, 5228, 5222, F588 and 5219) and two post-holes (F592, 5223) were recorded in this trench. Most of these features were backfilled with dark grey clay with charcoal. The most numerous features were ditches and gulleys,

which followed three main alignments. Ditches F587, 5224 and 5231 were aligned roughly east-west. Ditch 5225 and gulleys 5220 and 5230 were aligned northwest-southeast. Ditches 5226, F591 and possibly ditch 5232 were aligned southwest-northeast. Curvilinear gully 5227 was cut by ditches 5225 and 5226. A layer of light brown silt-clay (5193) which measured between 0.20 and 0.30m in depth sealed the subsoil and the backfilled features. This was in turn overlain by 0.20m of topsoil.

Trench 17 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned northeast-southwest, and was located to test geophysical survey Area B. The natural subsoil in this trench comprised a light grey clay (5165) with patches of orange gravel and blue clay, recorded at a depth of 0.50m below the modern surface. Towards the southwestern end of the trench were two natural features (5168-9), and a pit (5170). Further pits were recorded towards the centre of the trench (F566, 5172, 5173 and 5175). Five north-south aligned ditches (F562, 5171, F567, F568, and 5176) were also recorded within the trench. Some of these features were probably previously identified as crop-marked features, or geophysical anomalies. Feature F562 was cut to a depth of 0.26m. A layer of light brown silt-clay (5166) which varied in depth between 0.2 and 0.3m sealed the subsoil, and the backfilled features. A further north-south aligned ditch 5174 was cut into layer 5166. This backfilled feature and layer 5166 were sealed by the topsoil which measured 0.25m in depth.

Trench 18A (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned roughly northwest-southeast, and measured 10m in length. The natural subsoil comprised a light brown clay (5188) mixed with patches of orange sand and gravel. Two pits (5184 and F586) were recorded within this trench. The southernmost pit (F586) measured 2.6m in diameter, and 0.6m in depth. It was cut to a bell-shaped profile. The second pit (5184) appeared to have been truncated by a roughly east-west aligned ditch (5183). The backfilled features were sealed by topsoil (5071) measuring 0.3m in depth.

Trench 18B (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned southwest-northeast and measured 35m in length. This trench was broadened to further examine a ditch (F578). Two pits were also recorded within the trench (5178 and 5180). The latter was heavily truncated by an area of modern disturbance (5197). Two other ditches were also recorded (5181 and 5182). Feature F578 was aligned east-west, and measured 0.2m in depth. Other ditches (5181 and 5182) were aligned approximately north-south, although the latter was slightly curvilinear in plan. The subsoil and the backfilled features were sealed by a layer of light brown clay (5187) measuring 0.2m in depth. This layer was in turn sealed by topsoil (5186), here measuring 0.3m in depth.

TABLE 2: Field 7, spot-dating

<i>Layer</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>Date</i>
TRENCH 9			
5102	F536	Late 11-14 th c	12-14 th c
TRENCH 10			
5089	F526	?	13-14 th c
5118	F532	1100-1400	Late 13 th c
5093	F527	12-14 th c	12-13 th c
TRENCH 11			
5053	F512	6-14 th c	12 th c
5058	F514	1100-?1450	Late 13-14 th c
TRENCH 12			
5060	F516	850-?1400	12 th c
5064	F517	L Saxon-14 th c	Late 13-14 th
5065	F518	L Saxon-14 th c	13 th c?
5066	F519	L Saxon-13 th c	12-?13 th c
5073	F521	?	12-13 th c
TRENCH 13			
None			
TRENCH 14			
5144	L	L Saxon-14 th c	1200-1400
5145	L	L Saxon-18 th c	16-18 th c
5146	L	850-1100	Late Saxon
5113	F544	850-1100	Late Saxon
5128	F552	850-1100	Late 13 th c
5112	F543	850-1100	Late Saxon
TRENCH 15			
5156	F561	1100-1400	14 th c
5158	F563	L Saxon-14 th c	13-14 th c
5159	F564	1100-1400	13-14 th c
5190	F564	?M Saxon-1400	12-13 th c
5160	F565	12-14 th c	Late 13-14 th
5199	F590	L Saxon-1400	12-13 th c
5218	F593	1100-1400	Late 13-14 th c
5070	L	16-18 th c	16-18 th c
5196	L	12-18 th c	16-18 th c
5204	L	1100-1400	11-13 th c
5212	L	850-1100	Late Saxon
5214	L	12-14 th c	Late 13-14 th c
5216	L	Late Saxon-1400	?12 th c
5238	F593	L Saxon-1400	Late 13-14 th c
TRENCH 16			
5189	F587	850-1100	Late Saxon
5191	F588	1100-1400	1100-1400
5200	F591	?	? Late Saxon
5201	F592	850-1100	Late Saxon
TRENCH 17			
5157	F562	1200-1400	13 th c
5161	F566	850-1100	Late Saxon
TRENCH 18			
5185	F586	1100-1400	12-13 th c
5071	topsoil	1100-1400	12 th c

See Table 1 for key to abbreviations

4.3: Fields 14 and 17/18 (Trenches 4-8, Fig. 1)

Trenches 4-8 were located to test the archaeological potential of the bypass area as widely as possible. A particular objective of Trenches 4-8 was to establish the extent of activity associated with the hamlet of Green End. Trench 5 was moved to the north of its original position to avoid disturbance to a back garden under cultivation. Each trench measured approximately 50m by 2m.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned northwest-southeast. The natural subsoil, an orange sand-silt (5252) was revealed at a depth of 0.42m below the modern surface. The natural subsoil was cut by three roughly east-west aligned ditches (5255, F600, 5256). Each was approximately 4m in width. Feature F600 was cut to a depth of 0.8m. The other feature found was a recent disturbance. The backfilled ditches and the subsoil were sealed by a layer of light brown gravel (5254), measuring 0.18m in depth, interpreted as a ploughsoil, which in turn was sealed by topsoil measuring 0.24m in depth.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned northeast-southwest. The natural subsoil consisted of mixed orange gravel (5037) with grey clay, recorded at a depth of 0.96m below the modern surface. Three possible ditches (F508, F509, and F510) were recorded cutting the subsoil. East-west aligned ditches F508 and F509 were cut to a depth of 0.4m and were well defined. Feature F510 was aligned north-south, joining feature F509. Another feature (5036) appeared to be of natural origin. The subsoil and the backfilled features were sealed by topsoil.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

Trench 6 was aligned northeast-southwest. The natural subsoil, revealed at a depth of 0.87m below the modern surface, consisted of compact dark brown/grey clay (5044). This was sealed by a layer of yellow/brown silt-clay (5045), which measured 0.57m in depth, interpreted as an alluvial deposit. Above was topsoil, measuring 0.30m in depth. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded within Trench 6.

Trench 7 (Fig. 1)

This trench was aligned northwest-southeast. The natural subsoil consisted of blue/grey clay (5047) recorded at a depth of 0.32m below the modern surface. No features of archaeological interest were recorded within this trench. The only possible feature identified was proved by hand-investigation to be a land drain. The subsoil was sealed by a layer of yellow/brown sandy silt (5048), a ploughsoil horizon, measuring 0.20m in depth. This was overlain by topsoil, here measuring 0.20m in depth.

Trench 8 (Fig. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately east-west. The natural subsoil, revealed at a depth of 0.40m below the modern surface consisted of a brown/orange silt-sand (5050). A number of features tested by hand-excavation within this trench were proved to be natural in origin. The subsoil was sealed by a layer of light yellow/brown sandy silt (5051), interpreted as a ploughsoil horizon, measuring 0.18m in depth. This layer was sealed by a layer of topsoil which measured 0.26m in depth. No features of archaeological interest were recorded within this trench.

A total of 134 sherds of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch F600/5250 in Trench 4. No other datable pottery was recovered from this trench, or from the hand-excavated features and deposits in Trenches 5-8.

5.0: THE FINDS

5.1: Flint by Lynne Bevan

The flint assemblage consisted of one scraper and 14 unretouched flakes. Two different types of raw material were utilised, both of which were probably obtained from local pebble sources. A good quality translucent flint of a predominantly dark grey-brown colour was used for 13 of the flakes and a coarse grey-white opaque flint was used for the small side-end scraper (Test-Pit B) and the largest of the flakes (F597/5245). The other flakes came from the following layers: 5010x3; F514/5058x1; F597/5245x1 and Test-Pits B (x3); D (x2); E (x1); and H (x1).

No chronologically diagnostic material was present although the broad shape of the waste flakes suggests a late prehistoric date for this small collection. The size and composition of this assemblage does not denote activity of any intensity or duration but rather a low-density, perhaps episodic landscape usage at some time during later prehistory.

5.2: Iron Age and Roman pottery by Annette Hancocks

A total of 134 sherds of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from feature F600/5250 in Trench 4. At least one vessel was represented. This comprised a handmade globular jar with a round-shouldered profile and an everted, rounded rim. The base fragments recognised are flat and pinched-out at the circumference. The vessel is of typical Mid-Late Iron Age date although no diagnostic decoration was recognised. Internal sooting was observed on some body sherds.

Two Roman sherds, one of samian (Trench 2), and one colour coated (Trench 12) were found. The lack of any quantity of Roman pottery suggests that there was little Roman activity in the area. Little Roman material was collected from the adjoining 1997 excavation. It is possible that the two Roman sherds were picked up and brought to the site in the Saxon period.

5.3: Saxon and medieval pottery by Stephanic Ratkai

A total of 1,455 sherds were recovered from 22 trenches and nine test pits. The pottery was matched where possible to the Longstanton type series (Ratkai 2001) and recorded by absence/presence only. The sherds were generally in good condition and generally large and unabraded and clearly derived from occupation rather than manuring scatters.

The pottery dated from the Early-Middle Saxon period to the early post-medieval period. The range of Late Saxon and medieval pottery was very similar to that recovered from the 1997 excavation, although there seemed to be a greater proportion of 11th-13th century pottery, although the proportion of Late Saxon pottery seemed to be broadly similar. Likewise, the vessel forms from this evaluation consisted for the most part of cooking pots and wide-mouthed bowls with few jug sherds or glazed sherds. There was a higher proportion of bowls in the evaluation groups, but it is outside the scope of this report to investigate the possible reasons for this.

The earliest evidence for post-Roman occupation dates to the Early-Middle Saxon period. Pottery of this date is concentrated in Field 11, in Trench 19 and Test-Pits D and E. In addition to this there were a small number of possible Middle Saxon sherds from Trenches 2 (Field 11), 10, 11 and 15 (Field 7). Late Saxon pottery consisting of St Neots ware, Thetford ware and Stamford ware was found in Trenches 1-3 (Field 11), 9-12 and 14-17 (Field 7). There was some overlap between the distribution of the possible Middle Saxon sherds and the later Saxon pottery, but the Early-Middle Saxon pottery formed a discrete group. This suggests that the settlement focus moved south in the Middle or Late Saxon period. This is borne out by the evidence from the 1997 excavation which produced no pottery earlier than the Late Saxon period.

It was suggested (Ratkai 2001) that there had been a hiatus in occupation to the south of the site in the later 11th century. The information gathered from the present evaluation seems to indicate a continuous occupation, with abundant quantities of shelly wares, albeit in rather greater proportions than those found in the 1997 excavation.

The latest medieval pottery was represented by Bourne B-type sherds. Bourne B is dated to the 14th century, although there is some possibility that it may have been made from the late 13th century (Ratkai 2001) to the ?mid 15th century. However, just as in the 1997 excavation, there was no pottery which could be dated later than the mid 15th century and it therefore seems likely that this whole area went out of use in (or indeed had gone out of use by) the first half of the 15th century.

Sixteenth-eighteenth century glazed red earthenware was found in Trench 15 and Test-Pits B and D, in quantities so small as to suggest manuring scatters rather than occupation.

There was no ceramic evidence for any activity in Fields 14 and 17/18, apart from a single 13th-14th century glazed Sible-Heddingham type sherd.

TABLE 3: Details of the Saxon-post-medieval pottery

Layer	Fea	Tr	Roman	ems	ms	thet	stneo	stam	shw	lyst	micsw	mel	bona	bonb	ssw	sibhed	grim	Brill	misc	miscg	gre	Date range	Layer date	
5001		1					x		x	x	x	x	x									L Saxon-14th c	13th c	
5004	500	2					x													x		850-1150?	?pre-Conquest	
5005	501	2	x		?	x	x	x	x											x		?650-1100?	Late Saxon?	
5008	503	2				x	x															850-1100	late Saxon	
5002		2										x								x		12th-13th c	12th-13th c	
5003		2										x				x	x					12th-14th c	13th c	
5010		2					x				x	?					x					L Saxon-14th c	13th c?	
5017		2														x						12th-14th c	late 12th-13th c	
5021		2														x						12th-14th c	late 12th-13th c	
5024		2					?															850-1100	late Saxon	
5012	505	3										?										12th-14th c	12th?-13th c	
5028		3						x														850-1100	late Saxon	
5029		3							x													1100-1400	11th-13th c	
w/s		8														x							late 12th-13th c	
5102	536	9									x											late 11th-14th c	12th-14th c	
5089	528	10			?	x			x					x								?	?13th-14th c?	
5118	532	10							x		x			?	?				x			1100-1400	late 13th c?	
5128	552	14					x															850-1100	late Saxon	
5053	512	11			?	?	x		?													6th-14th c	12th c?	
5058	514	11							x					x								1100-?1450	late 13th-14th c	
5060	516	12	x				x	x	x		?											850-?1400	12th c?	
5064	517	12				?	?		x		x	x		x		x	?	x				L Saxon-14th c	late 13th-14th c	
5065	518	12				?	x		x				x									L Saxon-14th c	13th c?	
5066	519	12				?	x	x											x			L Saxon-?13th	12th c-?13th c	
5073	521	12																	x			?	12th-13th c?	
5144		14					x							x								L Saxon-14th c	1200-1400	
5145		14					x	x													x	L Saxon-18th c	16th-18th c	
5146		14					x															850-1100	late Saxon	
5156	561	15							x		x	x										1100-1400	14th c	
5158	563	15				x	x			x	x	x?				?					?	L Saxon-14th c	13th-14th c	
5159	564	15							x								?		x			1100-1400	13th-14th c	
5190	564	15				(?)			x							?						?m Saxon-1400	12th-13th c?	
5160	565	15					x		x		x	x	?	x	x							12th-14th	late 13th-14th c?	
5199	590	15					x				x	x								x		L Saxon-1400	12th-13th c	
5218	593	15							x		x	x		x						x		1100-1400	late 13th-14th c	
5070		15																			x	16th-18th c	16th-18th c	
5196		15							x	?	x	x		x	?						x	12th-18th c	16th-18th c	
5204		15							x													1100-1400	11th-13th c	
5212		15					x	x														850-1100	late Saxon	
5214		15										x		x		?						12th-14th c	late 13th-14th c	
5216		15					x	x				x										L Saxon-1400	?12th c	
5238	593	15					x	?		x		x		x							x	L Saxon-14th c	late 13th-14th c	
5189	587	16					x	x														850-1100	late Saxon	
5191	588	16							x													1100-1400	1100-1400	
5200	591	16																		x		?	?late Saxon	
5201	592	16					x	x														850-1100	late Saxon	
5157	562	17					x		x			x										1200-1400	13th c?	
5161	566	17					x	x														850-1100	late Saxon	
5093	527	10										?										12th-14th c	12th-13th c	
5185	586	18							x		x	x		x						x		1100-1400	12th-13th c	
5071		18							x													1100-1400	12th c?	
5239	594	19										x										12th-14th c	12th-13th c	
5244	596	20					x															e-mid Saxon	e-mid Saxon	
5245	597	20					x															e-mid Saxon	e-mid Saxon	
5112	543	14										x										850-1100	late Saxon	
5113	543	14										x										850-1100	late Saxon	
TP B	Topsoil																				x	16th-18th c	16th-18th c	
TP D	Topsoil						x															x	e-m Saxon-18th	16th-18th c
TP E	Topsoil						x																e-m Saxon	e-m Saxon
TP J	Topsoil																				x		late med ?epm	late med ?epm

Key to codes used in Table 3

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
BONA	Bourne A type ware	13 th c
BONB	Bourne B type ware	?late 13 th /14 th -?mid 15 th c
BRILL	Boarstall-Brill ware	13 th -15 th c
EMS	Early-Middle Saxon	6-7 th c
GRE	Glazed red earthenware	16 th -18 th c
GRIM	Grimston ware	13 th -15 th c
LYST	Lyveden-Stannion type ware	13 th -14 th c
MEL	Medieval Ely ware	12 th -14 th c
MICSW	Micaceous sandy ware	12 th -14 th c
MS	Middle Saxon/?Ipswich ware	c 650-850
SHW	Shelly ware	11 th -13 th c
SIBLEHED	Sible-Hedingham ware	Late 12 th -13 th c
SSW	Smooth sandy ware	c 1200-1400
STAM	Stamford ware	c 850-1100
STNEO	St Neots ware	c 850-1100
THET	Thetford ware	c 850-1100

Fabric codes MISC and MISC G have been used for miscellaneous unglazed or glazed wares of unknown source.

5.4: Other finds

The majority of the finds comprised pottery. Iron nails derived from layer 5001 (Trench 1), layer 5144 (Trench 14), layer 5147 (Trench 14), feature F565/5160 (Trench 15), feature F564/5190 (Trench 15), feature F593/5218 (Trench 15), and from Test-Pits F and J (topsoil). A small quantity of slag was recovered from feature F543/5112 (Trench 14). The only stone finds were possible quernstone fragments from feature F501/5005 (Trench 2).

5.5: Animal bone by Emily Murray

A small assemblage of hand-collected animal bones was recovered. The bone derived from twelve of the trenches investigated (Tables 4-5).

TABLE 4: Animal bone. Frequency of 'countable' elements by trench

<i>Trench</i>	<i>NISP</i>
Trench 1	1
Trench 2	6
Trench 3	2
Trench 4	1
Trench 11	1
Trench 12	5
Trench 14	2
Trench 15	9
Trench 16	1
Trench 18	1
Trenches 19 and 20	9

After Davis 1992 and Albarella and Davis 1994

TABLE 5: Animal bone. Number (NISP) of hand-collected mammal and bird bones by date

	<i>E-M Saxon</i>	<i>L Saxon</i>	<i>12th-13th c</i>	<i>Late 13th-14th c</i>	<i>16th-18th c</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cattle (<i>Bos</i> sp.)	7	2	3	3	2	17
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	1	2	2	3	-	8
Pig (<i>Sus</i>)	-	2	1	1	-	4
Horse (<i>Equus</i>)	-	1	1	2	-	4
Domestic fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	-	-	-	1	-	1
Goose (<i>Anser</i> sp.)	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Total</i>	9	7	7	10	2	

Trenches 4 and 14 not included

The range of species represented are cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic fowl and goosc. The material is very well preserved although the one ‘countable’ specimen from Trench 4 (horse metatarsal) is covered in a hard, gravely concretion. Evidence of carnivore gnawing was noted on horse, cattle and caprine bones, except those from the Early-Middle Saxon period. The bone from this period derived from a pit (F597) which was probably sealed before any dogs or other scavengers could get access to the deposits. The material is fragmented, as is typical of butchery waste. Shallow knife marks, probably from skinning, are present on a couple of the cattle phalanges.

The range of species represented by this assemblage is less than that identified from the 1997 excavations to the south of the site (Hammon 2001). Major domesticates did however, dominate that assemblage, in particular sheep. There is considerable variation between contemporary rural sites (e.g. West Cotton, Northamptonshire and North Elmham, East Anglia) in the relative frequency of cattle and sheep (*ibid.*). This variation may be explained by different agricultural practices, such as a greater reliance on wool production, although archaeological factors, principally recovery biases may also affect the relative frequency of species.

The potential to recover informative animal bone assemblages from further archaeological investigations in this area is good. The preservation conditions for animal bones in this immediate locality are clearly very good. The extended period of occupation in parts of the site from the Early-Middle Saxon period to the 14th century provides the opportunity to identify chronological variations in diet and animal husbandry over this time.

6.0: DISCUSSION

6.1: Prehistoric

Test-pits A-J were dug to investigate a ploughsoil scatter of flint artifacts. As first indicated by the results of fieldwalking, early prehistoric activity was concentrated within the northeast of Field 11 (area of test-pitting), which was located in one of the better-drained zones of the area evaluated, located over sands and gravels. Much smaller quantities of flint artifacts were recovered during this evaluation from other

parts of the site, including artifacts from elsewhere in Field 11 (Trench 2), and Trench 1. However, no flint artifacts were recovered from Trenches 19A/B and 20 which were located adjoining the test-pits to identify any features of early prehistoric date. In the event, no features datable to the early prehistoric period were found in these trenches.

As noted by Bevan (above) the composition of the flint assemblage does not denote activity of any intensity or duration but rather a low-density, perhaps episodic landscape usage at some time during early prehistory.

Ditch F600 (Trench 4) contained a significant quantity of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery, sufficient to suggest a nearby focus of occupation. The excavated ditch was aligned parallel to two unexcavated ditches (5255, 5256) which together probably defined one or more ditched enclosures, not recognised by aerial photography. Other concentrations of Iron Age settlement in Longstanton were located by excavation to the east of High Street, located on sands and gravels, as well as to the south of the site, on clay, during the 1997 excavations (Ellis and Ratkai, 2001). It may be significant that no other Iron Age pottery was found during the trial-trenching within the site.

6.2: Roman

No features of Roman date were identified by trial-trenching. Only two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from trial-trenching. A similarly very low-level of Roman activity was indicated by fieldwalking. Roman activity may have been concentrated within areas of sand and gravel subsoil away from the site.

6.3: Saxon

No evidence of Early Saxon activity was found. The earliest post-Roman pottery was Early-Middle Saxon in date. The only features containing Early-Middle Saxon pottery were pits F596-7 in Trench 20 (Field 11), located on the extreme edge of an area of sand and gravel. The two ditches (F598, 5249) recorded in this trench may have been contemporary, although no pottery was recovered from either feature. The Early-Middle Saxon focus probably extended beyond this trench, as is suggested by the recovery of pottery of this date from ploughsoil in nearby test-pits D and E, and also possibly from pit F501 (Trench 2).

More extensive evidence of Late Saxon activity was recorded in this evaluation, in both Fields 11 and 7. Bank F503 (5008, 5024), northeast-southwest aligned ditch F500 and pit F501 (Trench 2), and layer 5028 (Trench 3) contained pottery of this date. Pits F552, 5146 and F543, northwest-southeast aligned ditch F543 in Trench 14 contained pottery of Late Saxon date. One pit (5212) in adjoining Trench 15 (5212) contained pottery of this date. Northeast-southwest aligned ditches F591 and F587, and small pit or post-hole F592 in Trench 16 may also be dated to the Late Saxon period, as may pit F566 in Trench 17 to the east.

It is possible that some of this Late Saxon pottery could be residual, particularly in Trench 15 where later, medieval activity was intense. The main concentrations of Late Saxon activity appeared to be in Trenches 2/3 and 14/16. The features of this date comprised pits/post-holes as well as ditches, aligned northeast-southwest, and

northwest-southeast. No buildings of this date could be identified within the trial-trenches.

As noted by Ratkai (above) it appears that the earliest Saxon settlement was located in the north of the site (Field 11), with a possible later settlement shift towards the south of the site (Field 7). There was no evidence of pre-conquest activity within the area of the proposed bypass.

The Late Saxon features identified to the south of the site in 1997 were interpreted to be the remains of house sites and/or ditched enclosures associated with animal husbandry (Ellis and Ratkai 2001, 101), and the evidence from the site is capable of similar interpretation.

6.4: Medieval

Within the site activity may have been continuous in places from the Late Saxon through to the post-Conquest period. In contrast, area excavation to the south of the site in 1997 suggested a hiatus in occupation around the conquest period (Ellis and Ratkai 2001).

The earliest datable medieval features and deposits in Field 11 comprised layer 5029, and the lower fill of ditch F505 (Trench 3, 5012), and layer 5002 (Trench 2), which all contained pottery of 11-12th century date (Trench 3). In Field 7 pit 5204 (Trench 15), pit or post-hole F588 (Trench 16), and the topsoil (Trench 18) contained pottery of 11-12th century date, although, once again, it is possible that this material was residual.

The majority of the medieval features in both Fields 11 and 7 contained pottery of 12-13th century date. Layer 5001 (Trench 1) contained pottery of probable 13th century date, although the medieval deposits were not fully identified within this trench, because of later disturbance by a pond. Pit 5017, and northeast-southwest ditch 5021 contained pottery of 12-13th century date. Other ditches following the same alignment (5014, 5019) may have been contemporary, although an earlier date is also possible, since the earliest ditch cut on this alignment within the same trench was Late Saxon in date (F500). Trial-trenching suggests that the earliest, extensive, layout of ditched boundaries or drainage ditches was in the post-Conquest period. The ditches may have defined allotments or paddocks, similar to those found in the nearby excavation (Ellis and Ratkai 2001). Medieval ploughsoil horizon 5010 and the topsoil (5003) in Trench 2 contained pottery of 13th century date. The upper fill of ditch F505 (Trench 3) and pit F594 (Trench 19) may be dated to the 12-13th century.

Curvilinear, mainly east-west aligned feature F536 (Trench 9) may be dated to the 12-14th century. Ditch terminal (F527, Trench 10) contained pottery of 12-13th century, and pit F512 (Trench 11) may be dated to the 12th century. North-south aligned ditch F516 may be dated to the 12th century, while north-south aligned ditch F521 contained pottery of 12-13th century date. Pit F519, also in Trench 12 contained pottery of 12-13th century date. Pits F564, F590 and 5216 may be 12th-13th century in date (Trench 15). North-south aligned ditch F562 (Trench 17) may be dated to the 13th century, and pit F586 (Trench 18) contained pottery of 12-13th century date.

Activity in the Field 11 area may have ended in the 13th century, with a possible, but not proven, settlement shift to the south (Field 7 area) which was occupied into the 15th century.

Ditches F526 and F532 aligned respectively northwest-southeast and southwest-northeast in Trench 10 may be dated to the 13-14th century. The east-west aligned ditches in the same trench (5096-7, 5099, 5100-1) contained no datable artifacts, although similarly aligned ditch F514 in adjoining Trench 11 contained pottery of 13th-14th century date. No intersections could be observed in Trench 10 between the ditches cut on different alignments. Northeast-southwest aligned ditches F517 and F524 and pit F518 (Trench 12) may be dated to the 13-14th century. Another northeast-southwest aligned ditch (5144, Trench 14) was dated between 1200-1400.

Northeast-southwest ditches and gullies F563, F565, 5214, pits F564, yard surface F593 and layer 5238 (Trench 15) may be dated to the 13-14th century, while a further gully cut on the same alignment (F561) may be dated to the 14th century. The large concentration of pits in this trench, perhaps backfilled with cess may have originated in the 12-13th century (5216, F590). It is possible that these pits could have been dug in connection with an industrial process, such as leather working or for retting, and may have been later used as rubbish pits. Ditch F563 cutting pits F564 and F589, and other ditches cut on a similar alignment could represent a re-use of the area, although the pottery from the pits and ditches/gullies is not chronologically distinct. Perhaps the most intense pitting was concentrated within the areas of Trenches 15, 16 and 17. Geophysical survey within the area of the latter trench identified spreads of burnt material, which may have been associated with hearths and ovens, and some slag was found in the topsoil during fieldwalking, although none was recovered during trial-trenching.

The pottery dating suggests that settlement within Field 7 was abandoned in the mid 15th century, roughly contemporary with the disuse of the area excavated in 1997 to the south of the site, where abandonment was interpreted as the result of changes in water regime (Ellis and Ratkai 2001). In contrast, activity in Field 11 may have ceased up to 200 years earlier.

The settlements investigated by trial-trenching may have been marginal to the main village foci, as is suggested by their position relative to the High Street, and by the range of mainly utilitarian pottery recovered.

6.5: Post-medieval

Relatively little datable evidence of post-medieval activity was recorded. Much of the post-medieval pottery probably derived from manuring scatters rather than settlement *in situ*, as was also suggested for the pottery of this date recovered from fieldwalking.

The only intervention in Field 11 to contain 16-18th century pottery was Test-Pit B which contained sherds of this date from the ploughsoil.

Pit 5145 contained pottery of 16-18th century, although this could be intrusive, since an adjoining pit (5146, Trench 14) contained Late Saxon pottery. Layers 5070 and 5196 sealing the pits and ditches of 12-14th century date contained pottery of 16-18th

century date, and may be interpreted as a ploughsoil horizons. The lack of intrusive 16-18th century pottery within the uppermost fills of the medieval or earlier features is notable.

The alluvial deposits recorded adjoining the stream running alongside the modern Over Road may have been deposited in the post-medieval period, as may the lower ploughsoil horizons recorded extensively within Field 7.

7.0: IMPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

7.1: Implications

Evidence of early prehistoric activity was represented by ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts, primarily concentrated within the northeastern part of Field 11, within an area of sands and gravels. No contemporary features could be identified with any certainty. Ditch F600 (Trench 4) contained a significant quantity of Mid-Late Iron Age date, and the two parallel ditches (5255, 5256) also located within the trench may be contemporary. The quantity of pottery (134 sherds) suggests an occupation focus, the identified ditches forming part of one or more enclosures, not recorded by aerial photography. Within the area evaluated, Mid-Late Iron Age activity was concentrated within Trench 4, no datable features or residual pottery of this date being found elsewhere by the trial-trenching. Together with the Iron Age activity excavated in 1997 to the south of the site (Ellis and Ratkai 2001) this evidence from Trench 4 is important in confirming activity away from comparatively well-drained sands and gravels.

The Saxon and medieval settlement data is important in contributing towards an understanding of the early origins and later development of the western fringe of the village. In particular, the evidence for Early-Middle Saxon activity, and for apparent settlement shift southwards, possibly in both the Saxon and medieval periods is of considerable interest. The extensive system of drainage or property boundaries indicates a relatively extensive system of land allotment, belonging to at least two phases, as is indicated by the different alignments. The pit complexes, notably those found in Trenches 15-17 represent small-scale industrial activity. The comparatively long sequence of activity highlights the potential for the study in changes in pottery supply and animal husbandry.

The medieval ploughsoils, and alluvial deposits are likely to have provided protection from plough truncation.

7.2: Proposals

The extent and requirement for further archaeological mitigation (excavation and/or salvage recording, followed by post-excavation assessment, full analysis and publication of the results) would, of course, depend on the extent and layout of the proposed development, details of which are not presently available.

At this preliminary stage, the following outline proposals for archaeological mitigation may be suggested:

7.2.1: Excavation

Excavation should target:

- Early prehistoric activity in Field 11.
- The Iron Age settlement focus (in the area of Trench 4).
- The locations of pre-conquest settlement and activity (particularly in the area of Trenches 2-3, 14, and 16-17).
- Medieval settlement zones, most notably the possible 'industrial' focus around Trench 15 (pit complex), as well as areas where the evaluation has suggested there may have been Saxon-medieval continuity of use.

7.2.2: Salvage recording

If topsoil was stripped as a preliminary to construction over the whole area, a programme of targeted salvage recording should be undertaken outside the areas selected for excavation. This salvage recording should aim to provide details of features such as field and plot boundary ditches, and roadways between the settlement foci, to contribute towards as wide as possible an understanding of the changes in landscape setting and economy from the pre-conquest period to the 15th century.

Changes in the natural landform, represented by stream channels and alluviation should be recorded where possible, and related if possible to the changes in settlement focus.

This salvage recording would involve initial archaeological monitoring during topsoil removal, followed by base-planning using an EDM linked to a computer-based drawing package such as Penmap or Autocad. This plan would then provide the basis for a strategy of salvage recording targeted at the feature intersections, to provide details of the stratigraphic relationships and datable finds.

In places features of Saxon and medieval date are sealed by alluvium, which would need to be fully removed for the features to be identified.

The reporting of the salvage recording should be fully integrated into the programme of reporting of the excavation results.

Given the clayey nature of the subsoils, it would be preferable for the archaeological fieldwork to be undertaken in dryer weather.

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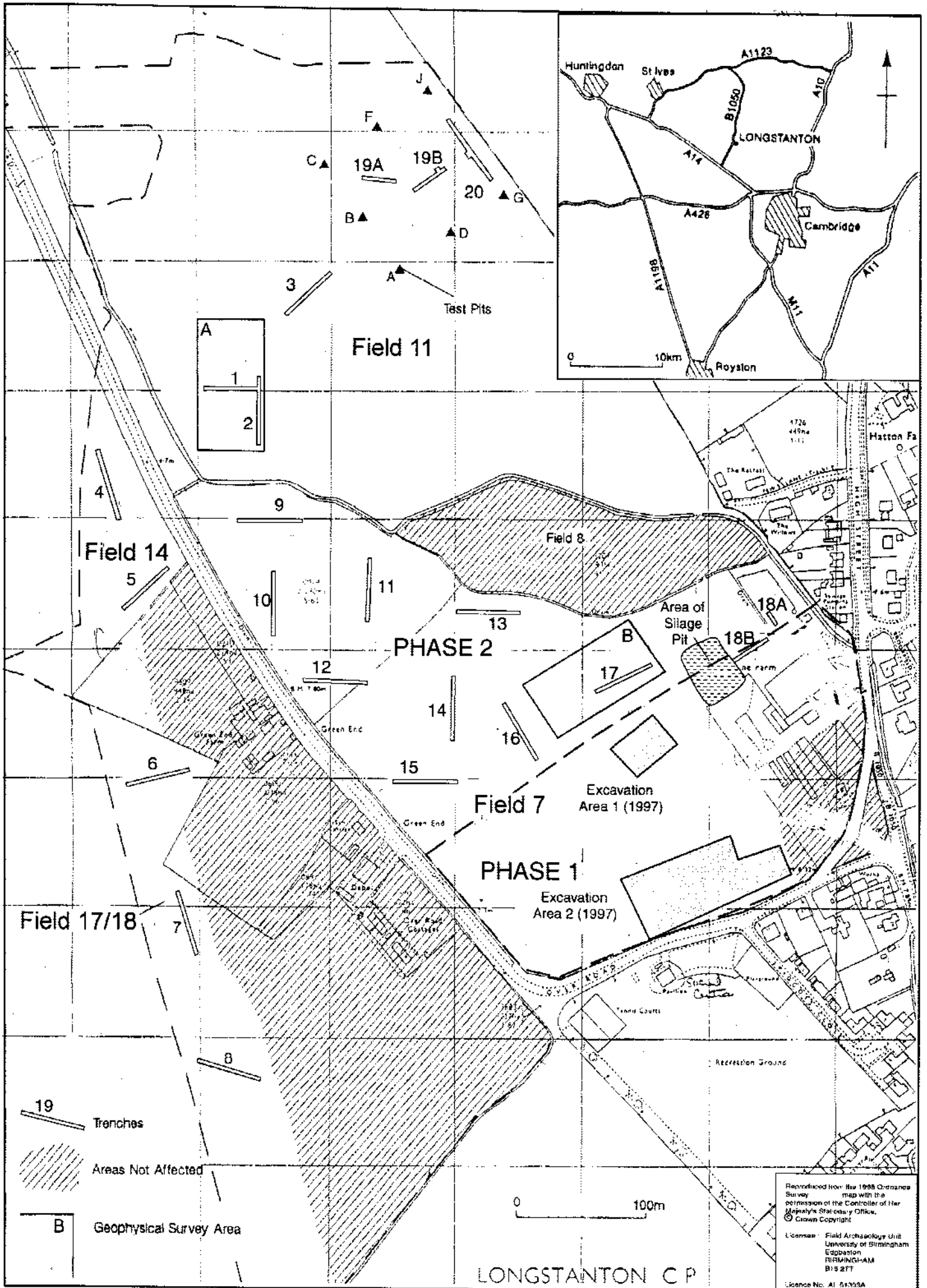


Fig.1

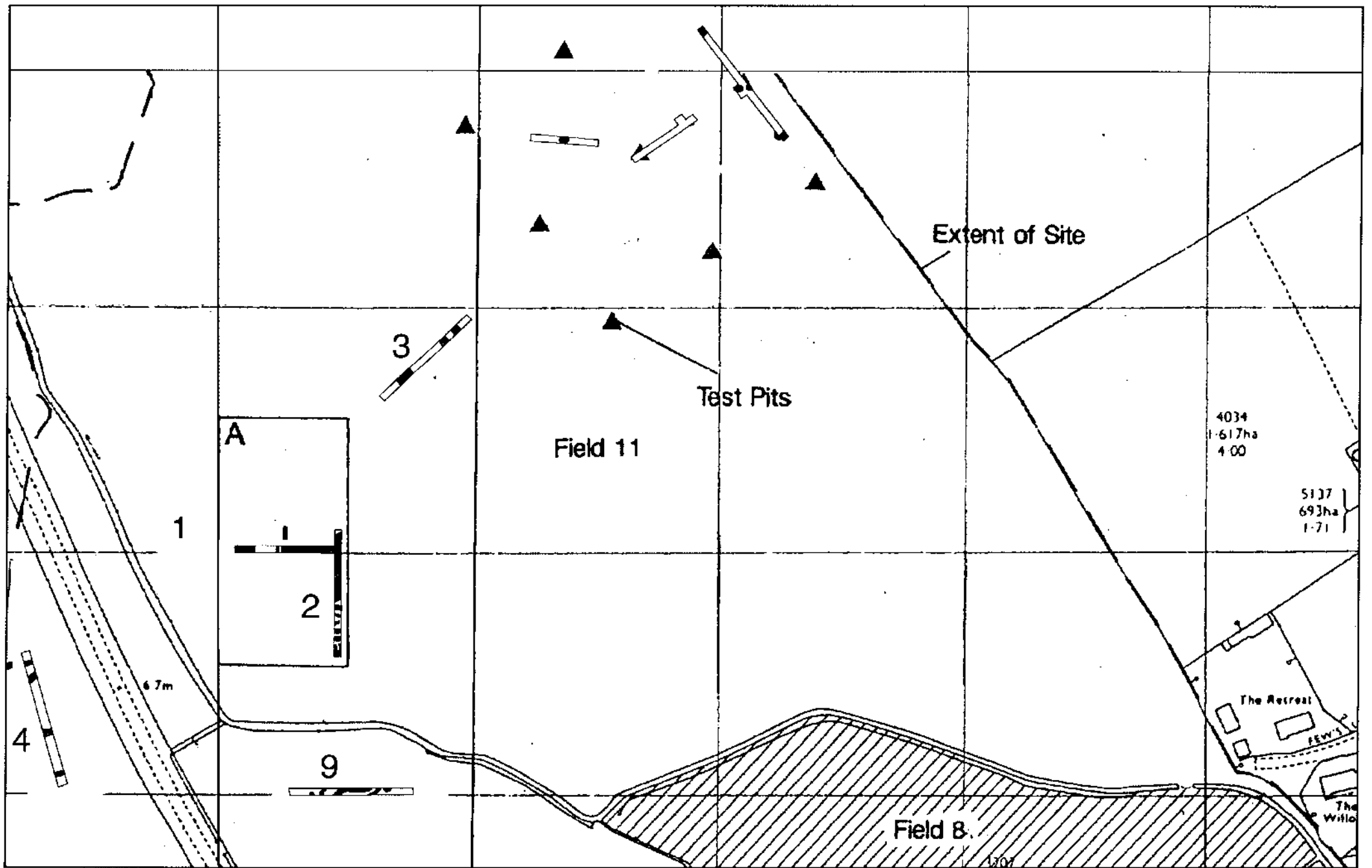


Fig.2

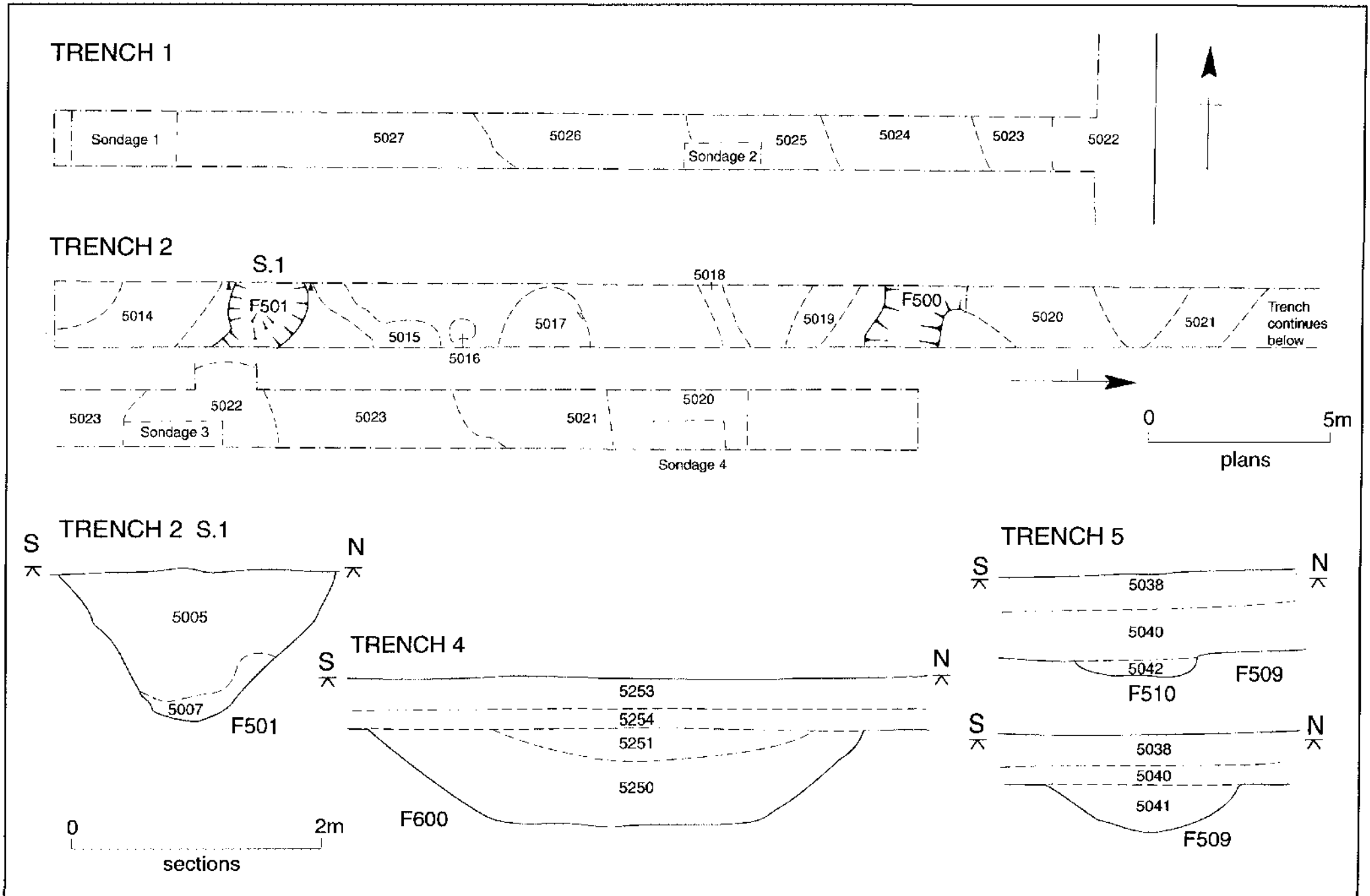


Fig.3

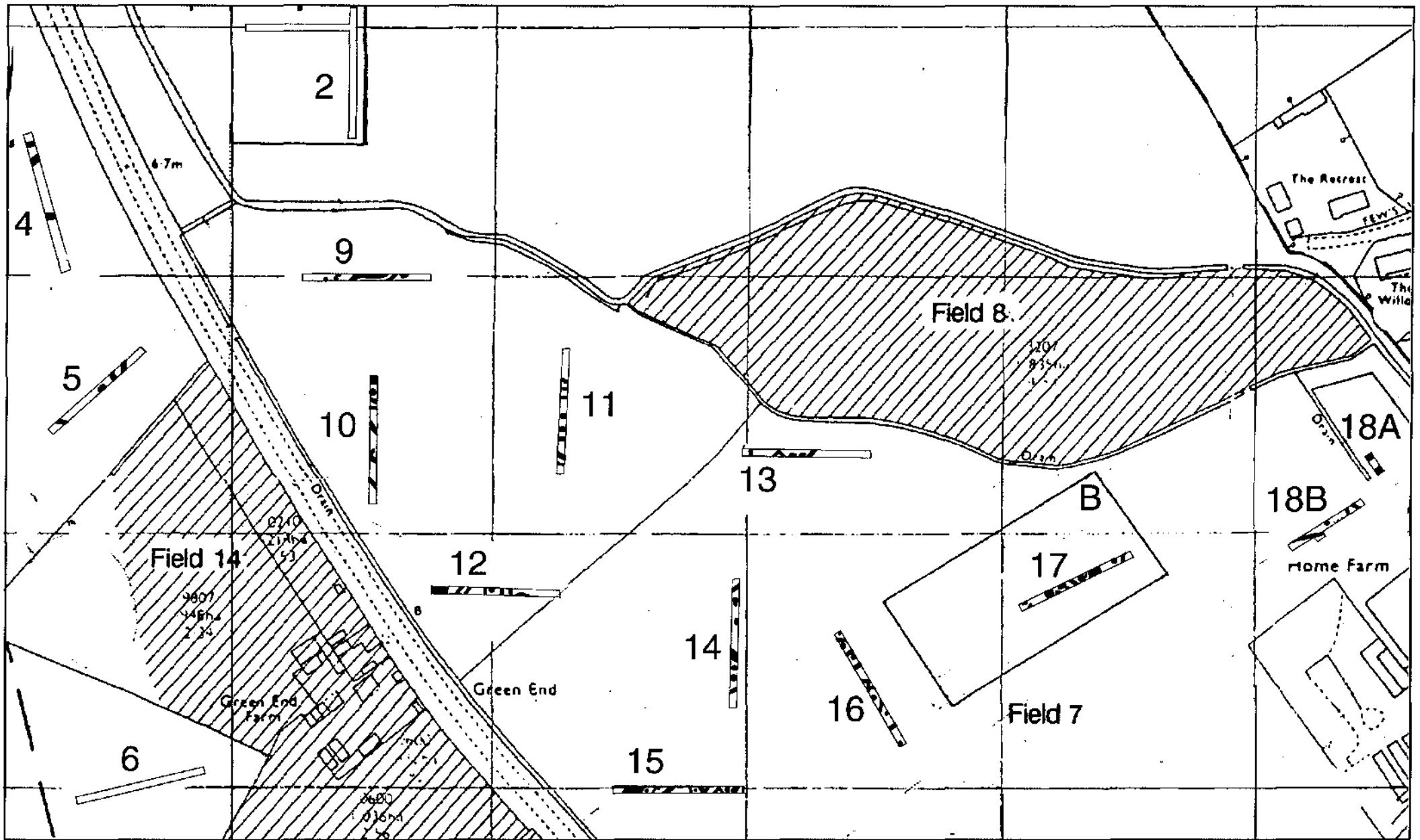


Fig.4

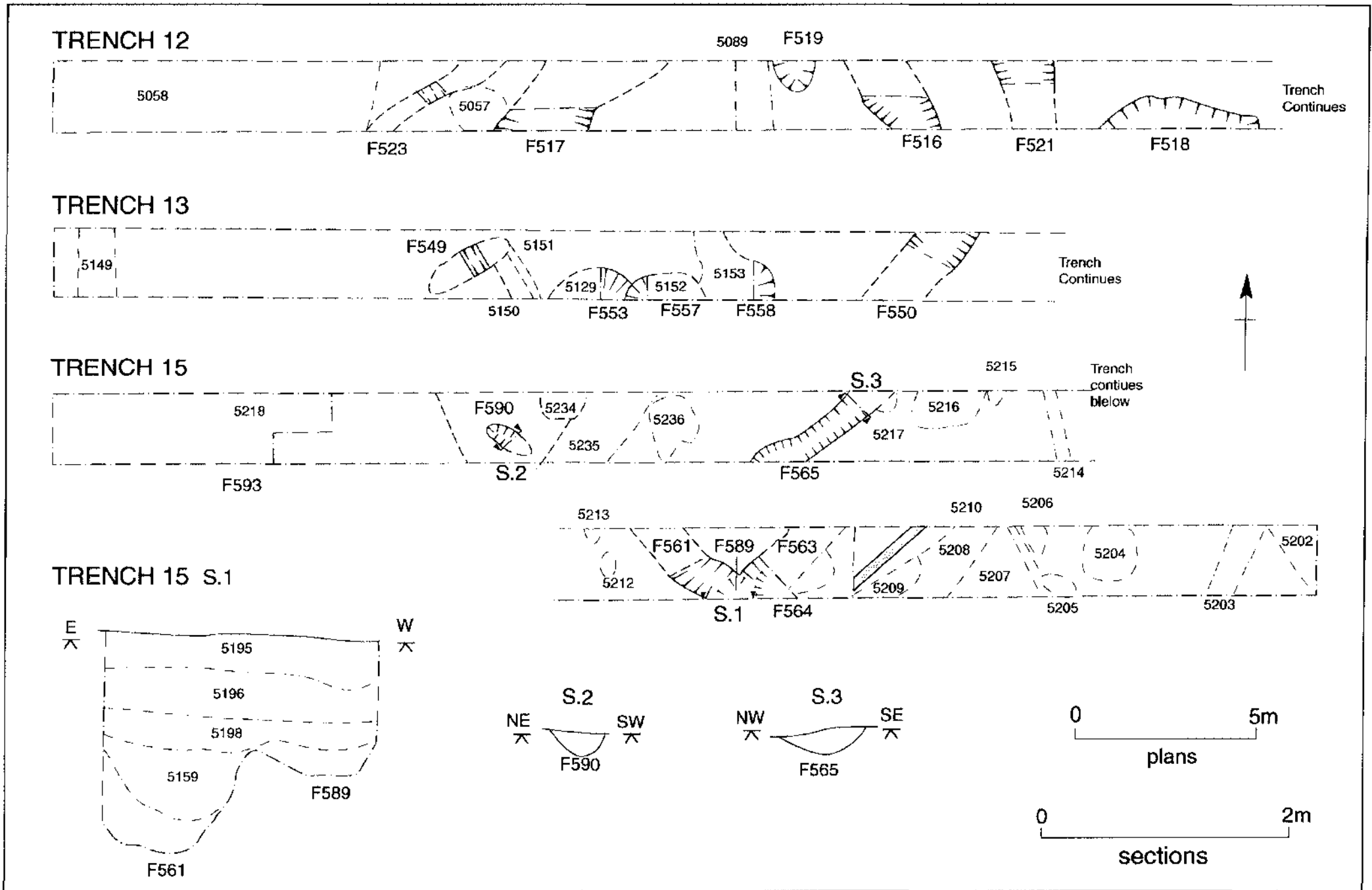


Fig.5