



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Archaeological Excavations  
at Whitemoor Haye Quarry,  
Alrewas, Staffordshire  
Areas D, E, G and H  
An Interim Report**

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

1996

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 704**  
November 2000

**Archaeological Excavations at  
Whitemoor Haye Quarry, Alrewas, Staffordshire  
Areas D, E, G and H  
An Interim Report**

by  
Charlotte Neilson,  
with contributions by Marina Ciaraldi, Annette Hancocks  
and Gwilym Hughes  
Illustrations by Nigel Dodds and Mark Breedon

*For further information please contact:*  
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (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.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

## Contents

	Page
List of Tables	1
List of Figures	1
List of Plates	1
1.0 Summary	1
2.0 Introduction	1
3.0 Archaeological Background	1
3.1 Location and Geology	2
3.2 Archaeology of the Region by Gwilym Hughes	5
3.3 Geophysical Survey	5
3.4 1992 BUFAU Evaluation	6
3.5 1995 Tempus Reparatum Evaluation	6
3.6 1997 & 1998 BUFAU Area Excavations	8
4.0 Methodology	8
5.0 Area Narratives	8
5.1 Area D	10
5.2 Area E	11
5.3 Area G	13
5.4 Area H	14
6.0 The Finds by Annette Hancocks	14
6.1 Introduction	15
6.2 Methodology	15
6.3 The Finds	15
6.31 The Prehistoric Pottery	15
6.32 The Roman Pottery	15
6.33 Other Finds	15
6.4 Range and Variety	16
6.5 Statement of Potential	18
7.0 An Assessment of Plant Remains by Marina Ciaraldi	18
7.1 Introduction	18
7.2 Methods	19
7.3 Results	19
7.4 Recommendations	19
8.0 Discussion of Archaeological Results	22
9.0 Acknowledgements	23
10.0 Bibliography	

Figures

Plates

### List of Tables

Table 1	Whitemoor Haye 2000 Spot-dating
Table 2	Whitemoor Haye 2000 Summary of Finds
Table 3	Plant Remains Recorded from Whitemoor Haye

### List of Figures

Figure 1	Location
Figure 2	Geophysical Surveys
Figure 3	Evaluation Trenches
Figure 4	Excavation Areas
Figure 5	Post-excavation Plan of Area D
Figure 6	Post-excavation Plan of Area E
Figure 7	Section Drawings
Figure 8	Post-excavation Plan of Area G
Figure 9	Post-excavation Plan of Area H

### List of Plates

Plate 1	Terminal of F110/F112/F113 (renumbered from F115/F114), Area G
Plate 2	Area H, viewed from the north-east
Plate 3	Pottery <i>in situ</i> from F320.02/F300.05 (renumbered from F308.02), Area H
Plate 4	F301/F303 (renumbered from F309/F310), Area H

# WHITEMOOR HAYE QUARRY, ALREWAS, STAFFORDSHIRE THE EXCAVATION OF AREAS D, E, G & H: AN INTERIM STATEMENT

## 1.0 Summary

This report presents the details and initial discussion of the excavation of four areas within the quarry concession at Whitemoor Haye, Staffordshire. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit undertook the archaeological investigations into the four areas, all of which lay within the confines of a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 200). Excavations revealed sections of an east-west droveway, originally identified by cropmark evidence and dated to the prehistoric period. Two Romano-British enclosures and a length of the north-south droveway were also found. These excavations continued to expand our knowledge of the changing settlement and landscape use along the River Tame, following initial excavations started in 1997.

## 2.0 Introduction

This report details the results of the excavation of four areas at Whitemoor Haye Quarry, Alrewas, Staffordshire (NGR SK180130, centre), undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) between May and July 2000. The work was commissioned by Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd. in advance of gravel extraction, and was carried out in accordance with specifications prepared by Phoenix Consulting (Phoenix Consulting 1997). The excavation and watching brief followed on from a programme of extensive geophysical survey and trial trenching on the site. In 1997 and 1998 BUFAU excavated seven archaeological areas, the results of which are summarised below, with a more detailed report in Coates *et al.* 1999.

This report briefly outlines the previous archaeological work on this site and then presents the results from the current excavations. There is a brief discussion of these results and the inclusion of some preliminary reports on the pottery, other artefacts and environmental evidence.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Location and Geology (Fig.1)

The site is located in south-east Staffordshire, c.3.0km north-east of Lichfield and c.1.5 km south-east of the village of Alrewas; its borders are defined by the River Tame in the east and south, the A513 in the north, and in the west by the road running south from the A513, past Whitemoor Haye farm and up to Sittles farm. The topography of the landscape within the site is undulating, varying in height from 51.0m to 53.5m A.O.D. and, prior to extraction, was an area of arable farming.

Recent alluvial deposits, up to 7.5 m in thickness, overlie Pleistocene gravels. There are two river terraces, and fossil evidence suggests a pre-Devensian date for the upper terrace. These gravels generally overlie Triassic Mercian Mudstone, sandstones and

Bunter Beds. Beyond the extent of the alluvium, soils tend to be slightly stony sandy loams and are classified as gleyic brown earths (Jones 1979). Most soils in the study area are well suited to modern arable farming, although areas adjacent to the river are susceptible to seasonal flooding.

### 3.2 Archaeology of the Region by Gwilym Hughes

The ancient landscape at Whitemoor Haye forms part of a broader pattern of ancient settlement in the major river valleys of south-east Staffordshire. A useful regional 'study area', with Whitemoor Haye at its heart, may be defined to comprise the valley of the Tame, from Tamworth north to its confluence with the Trent, the Upper Trent valley from Great Heywood to Burton, and the Blithe valley from the Blithfield reservoir to the confluence with the Trent. The gravel and alluvial deposits within this area cover approximately 105 square kilometres; at about 180 hectares the area designated for quarrying at Whitemoor Haye represents a significant sample of this landscape, approaching 2%.

Information on past settlement and land use in the study area has been mainly obtained from aerial photographic surveys. This work, largely carried out by independent researchers, most notably Jim Pickering, has produced a considerable amount of information regarding the distribution of complex cropmark sites. However, following a survey of similar sites in the middle Trent valley, Whimster (1989, 6) concluded that 'to this day the date and significance of the vast majority of newly discovered cropmark sites remains unknown' and acknowledged that further elucidation of the cropmark data could only be achieved through complementary structured survey and excavation. It has been suggested by English Heritage that in the West Midlands overall 'there is little knowledge of settlement patterns, social structure and economic relations before the medieval period outside the towns' (1991, 16), a comment which is very apposite for south-east Staffordshire. However, it is possible to provide an outline settlement sequence for the study area on the basis of the limited work that has been carried out to date.

The earliest archaeological finds recorded in the vicinity are a Lower Palaeolithic cleaver from the lower terrace of the Tame and an Acheulian quartzite handaxe from Shenstone (Shotton 1973; Cane and Cane 1986). Evidence of Mesolithic settlement in the area is largely restricted to chance finds, of which the most significant is a pebble 'macehead' which has been tentatively dated to this period (Hodder 1982). However, excavation of a cave/rock shelter at Bower Farm produced evidence of a lithic scatter, which has been interpreted as indicative of a seasonal hunting camp (Hilton 1979, Cane & Cane 1986).

Material dated to the Neolithic period is also rare and is largely represented by occasional finds of polished flint and stone axes (Gunstone 1964; Vine 1982). Several cropmarks in the Trent valley have been interpreted as possible causewayed enclosures, including sites at Alrewas and Mavesyn Ridware, and two cursus monuments have been identified at Catholme, just to the north of Whitemoor Haye (Hodder 1982; Palmer 1976; Jones 1992). The latter features are particularly interesting as they are in close association with a series of cropmarks which together constitute a 'monument complex', significantly located at the confluence of the Trent

and Tame (Jones 1992). These cropmarks include a large post-built henge, and a circular enclosure with radiating lines of pits. Excavated evidence of activity in this period is very rare. At present it is impossible to determine whether the gully in the northern part of the Whitemoor Haye quarry area (Tempus Reparatum, Trench B) which contained Late Neolithic Peterborough ware, or the enclosure (SMR 1374) on a gravel 'island' in the alluvial floodplain in the south of the area, which likewise produced a small amount of Peterborough ware, represent 'domestic' or 'ritual' activity. However, excavation in advance of quarrying at a Roman site at Fisherwick, just to the south of Whitemoor Haye, uncovered a series of features which may have formed part of a house, and which was in association with Late Neolithic pottery and a small number of flints (Miles 1969).

Bronze Age domestic occupation is equally problematic. Until recently, this had largely been represented by groups of postholes revealed during the excavation of ring ditches, and assumed to represent the remains of structures pre-dating the barrows, e.g. Willowbrook Farm and Fatholme (S.C.C. 1991, Losco-Bradley 1984). A more substantial discovery resulted from the excavation of a series of cropmarks in advance of quarrying at Fisherwick (Smith 1975). Here, most of the features identified from aerial photographic survey were proven to be of geological origin. However, a number of smaller features were interpreted as part of a house and were associated with radiocarbon determinations ranging between  $1170 \pm 140$  and  $850 \pm 140$  uncal BC.

Cropmarks of ring ditches are frequently presumed to be of Bronze Age date, representing the ploughed-out remains of round barrows (Gunstone 1965, Vine 1982). They are distributed across the study area and are particularly frequent in the Tame valley where they attain a density of 1:0.87 sq. km (Hodder 1982). However, there is a clear tendency for these features to cluster around the confluence of the Tame and Trent where densities may exceed 4:1 sq. km (Vine 1982). Although there is excavated evidence to support the Bronze Age date generally assigned to these features, caution is necessary. An important new dimension has been added by the excavation of two circular burial mounds surrounded by ring ditches at Tucklesholme Farm, Barton-under-Needwood, in the Trent valley to the north-east of Whitemoor Haye (Gifford and Partners Ltd. 1995). One barrow produced no evidence of burial while the other contained an unurned central cremation and was associated with an adjacent flat cremation cemetery comprising 14 burials, five in urns of the Middle to Late Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury tradition. The demonstrated variation within the ring-ditch class of site suggests that they may have had a variety of forms and functions, and that we should be wary of interpreting them simply as funerary monuments by analogy with other areas (Bradley 1992; Ferris 1992; Hughes 1991).

There are no hillforts within the study area. Consequently Iron Age settlement in the area is generally assumed to be represented by the extensive cropmark complexes revealed through aerial photography. However, as already stressed, the majority of these complexes are in fact undated (Whimster 1989, 6). Where modern excavation has taken place these sites frequently turn out to be palimpsests. The most extensive excavation to date was carried out by Christopher Smith (1979) in advance of quarrying at Fisherwick, to the south of Whitemoor Haye. This site is particularly important. Smith excavated a series of settlement features, including enclosures containing round houses, in association with a field system covering 10 hectares. The

site was inhabited between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AD. Although bone was poorly preserved, pollen, seeds, insects and wood were preserved, allowing a reasonably detailed reconstruction of the local environment. This suggests that the area had been cleared by the time of the occupation, and that both pastoral and arable activities were being carried out. The preserved wooden artefacts from Fisherwick, which included oak planks, hazelwood pegs and an ash 'toggle,' are particularly evocative. As Fulford (1992, 26) has pointed out, it is on such waterlogged sites that 'we are as near as we are ever likely to be to the peasantry of late Iron Age and early Roman Britain'.

The area probably came under Roman rule at an early stage of the occupation. The nearest Roman urban centre, *Letocetum* (Wall), was occupied during the Claudian period, possibly by the XIVth Legion prior to their move to Wroxeter (Webster 1975). The later settlement's defences, which cover 2.4 hectares, are not well dated, although Webster (1975, 78) has suggested that the settlement was a late 'burgus' under Constantius Chlorus. Although there has been a suggestion that Wall may have been a late Roman civitas capital, there is no evidence that the civilian settlement served as a major market or service centre following its early military occupation (Crickmore 1984, 47). On present evidence the study area would appear to fall between the Cornovii and the Corieltauvi, with the border possibly following the line of Rykniel Street (Webster 1975; Todd 1991). There is little evidence that Roman occupation created a major impact on the lifestyles of the native population. Villas are not numerous within the region of the Corieltauvi or Cornovii, and only one possible unpublished villa site is recorded within the study area near Blaken Hall (SMR04094). However, some caution should be urged, as Fulford (1992, 36) has noted that the apparent lack of villas is a general gravel phenomenon and that this may result from 'vernacular building styles' and the use of different types of building material.

Excavated data, including the Romano-British settlement excavated by Miles (1969) at Fisherwick and the enclosure excavated in 1996 by Gifford and Partners at Tucklesholme Farm, suggest that habitation sites of the period were not very different to those of the late Iron Age. Smith (1980) has suggested a settlement density of 1:2.3 sq. km. for the Tame valley, but we should be cautious about such figures given the paucity of detailed data. Likewise, Smith's (1980, 11) suggestion that there was a decline in settlement density during the late Roman period remains unproven.

The archaeology of the area in the post-Roman period is far from clear, despite the fact that Tamworth develops into the recorded capital of Mercia during the 7th century. Lichfield, the successor of *Letocetum* (Wall), may have been the centre for the early Bishopric of Diocesis, and written records suggest that the Trent valley was densely settled by the 8th century (Gelling 1992, 148; Losco-Bradley and Wheeler 1984, 101). A number of 6th-century cemeteries and individual burials have been located, including those at Wychnor, Stapenhill (Burton-on-Trent) and Tucklesholme (Gelling 1992, 28; Losco-Bradley and Wheeler 1984, 105; Hughes 1991). At Tucklesholme a possible cremation burial has recently been dated to AD 409-440.

The discovery and excavation of an extensive early 6th-century Anglo-Saxon settlement at Catholme, containing 15 structures in its earliest phase, provides an invaluable insight into settlement in the area and its relationship to the earlier Roman



period (Losco-Bradley and Wheeler 1984, 104). However, Gelling (1992, 28) has commented that 'it is only by virtue of lying adjacent Derbyshire that Staffordshire scrapes into the category of counties which have pagan Anglo-Saxon remains.' Yet it should be noted that the large settlement at Catholme was located on the basis of three hut-shaped cropmarks, only one of which actually proved to be an archaeological feature. This suggests that further discoveries of this nature may be possible.

During the later Medieval period it is likely that Tamworth declined because of its lack of a strategic position, although Lichfield, a centre for pilgrimages to the tomb of St Chad, was established as a new town during the mid-12th century (Gelling 1992). Within the study area, Smith's (1980) analysis of the landscape around Fisherwick indicates the progress of enclosure in the creation of the modern landscape. Excavation of rural medieval sites within the area has been very rare. The only record within the survey area is the limited evaluation of a possible deserted medieval village at Hamstall Ridware (Meeson 1991).

### 3.3 Geophysical Survey (Fig. 2)

There were two periods of geophysical survey at Whitemoor Haye: one in 1992, prior to the BUFAU evaluations, and one in 1995, in advance of the 1995 Tempus Reparatum trenching.

The 1992 gradiometer survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford and 13 areas were investigated (A to M), in which very 'few anomalies of definite archaeological interest were identified' (BUFAU 1992, 3) and the cropmarks were not located, which at that point suggested that they did not exist or had a low magnetic susceptibility. Those anomalies that did show up were tested with trial trenches.

The 1995 gradiometer survey, carried out by the Bartlett-Clarke Consultancy, investigated five areas (G1 to G5), and produced results suggesting a degree of correspondence with the cropmark plot. The lack of response from some cropmark features was possibly due to different fills, and there was little suggestion of areas of concentrated settlement (Tempus Reparatum 1995, Appendix 6, 1-6). There was also an electromagnetic and resistivity survey conducted by British Geological Survey, primarily designed to identify the topography of the underlying gravel, but it did provide information relating to at least two north-south aligned palaeochannels (*ibid.*4.42).

The results, in general, guided the evaluative trial trenching subsequently carried out, but excavation indicated that the low level of results from the surveys was not a true reflection of the level of archaeology present.

### 3.4 1992 BUFAU Evaluation (Fig. 3)

The 1992 evaluation took the form of the excavation of 29 trial trenches (Fig. 3, numbered 1-8 & 10-30) aimed to target potential archaeological features identified by the aerial photographic assessment and geophysical survey (BUFAU 1992, 2). The trenches within the scheduled area highlighted a circular feature, with associated Bronze Age pottery (Tr. 31), a V-shaped profile enclosure ditch (Tr. 32), and the

north-south driveway ditch (Tr. 33). There were also trenches (Trs. 4, 18 & 20) that identified an east-west, triple-ditch system at the southern terminus of the north-south driveway. Further south, a double-ditched east-west feature (Tr. 23) was identified together with a rectangular enclosure (Tr. 22), although nothing to correspond with the circular cropmark (Tr. 26). To the east of these features was a straight-sided enclosure of Romano-British date (Tr. 27). At the southernmost point of the concession area were three rectilinear enclosures, of which Trench 28 identified a ditch containing sherds from a possible Early Bronze Age urn, while Trench 30 failed to identify the enclosure there.

Those trenches located to the west of the scheduled area failed to identify the features plotted from the aerial photographic assessment, while Trenches 2 & 17, in the north of the evaluation area, identified the double-ditched driveway and the presence of a rectilinear enclosure to the east of the driveway (Tr.1), but there was no sign of the ring ditch in Trench 3.

This evaluation provided an initial interpretation of the settlement enclosures spread out along the north-south driveway, and some limited dating evidence for three of the enclosures. In Trench 27, the recovery of hobnails and some bone fragments from a feature of Romano-British date pointed to the possibility of the presence of burials within this enclosure.

### **3.5 1995 Tempus Reparatum Evaluation (Fig. 3)**

Tempus Reparatum excavated 17 trial trenches in 1995, of which 11 were random trenches designed to examine the character of archaeological deposits within the floodplain, and the remainder were designed to examine the northern area of the gravel terrace not included in the 1992 evaluations. Only 10 of these trenches yielded features of an archaeological nature.

On the northern gravel terrace, Trench A found evidence for the double-ditched driveway, which also appeared in Trench 17 of the BUFAU evaluation, and Trench B identified one of two ring ditches. This trench produced Middle-Late Neolithic pottery sherds, which may have been associated with the ring ditch. Those trenches in the floodplain identified a few archaeological features that may have been connected with the prehistoric field system, but generally established a lower level of past activity in this area than identified on the gravel terrace.

### **3.6 1997 & 1998 BUFAU Area Excavations (Fig. 4)**

Seven areas (A, B, C, F, R, S and T) were excavated and subsequently monitored during topsoil stripping prior to gravel extraction. Four of these areas (A, B, C and F) lie within the bounds of a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 200), and the remaining three lie outside.

Area A contained a large rectangular enclosure enclosing four ring gullies, all dated to the Middle Iron Age, although the direct relationship between the structures and the enclosure ditch is unclear. There were also a number of large pits cut into the corners

of the enclosure ditch, which contained some waterlogged deposits. Further ditches ran across and into the enclosure, which contained Romano-British pottery sherds.

Area B also contained four ring gullies surrounded by a large rectangular enclosure ditch (although in this case half of the enclosure lay beyond the limits of excavation), all dated to the Iron Age. Two ditches of Romano-British date cut across the western side of the enclosure and continued to the north and south of the excavation area. These ditches defined a droveway, also observed and sampled in other areas.

Area C contained two ring gullies, surrounded by a curvilinear enclosure ditch, dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age. A series of straight ditches cutting this area are probably of Medieval or Post-Medieval date.

There were few datable artefacts recovered from Area F, which made it difficult to characterise the three major ditches observed, although the cropmark plot would suggest that they were stretches of a triple-ditched feature at the southern end of the Romano-British droveway.

Area R produced few features of archaeological interest, although significantly two oval pits produced Early Bronze Age pottery, in one case numerous sherds from a single Beaker vessel suggesting the pit to be a Beaker inhumation, although there was no evidence of any human remains.

Excavations in Area S revealed a two-row pit alignment of Iron Age date, along with a cluster of post holes of similar date. A series of ditches of Romano-British date were also sampled. These appear to have formed a rectangular enclosure, according to the cropmark plot, although the returns of these ditches were not located within the excavation areas. There was no structural evidence associated with this enclosure.

Within Area T there was a similar double pit alignment to that in Area S, although no datable artefacts were recovered from these pits. The Romano-British droveway continued through this area.

The watching brief identified further lengths of the droveway ditches and the continuation of the pit alignment from Area T. A trapezoidal enclosure was also recorded, along with a semi-circular ditched feature.

Overall, the investigations provide evidence of the evolution of the landscape from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period. A Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ritual landscape, represented by ring ditches and probable Beaker burials, is succeeded by the establishment of major territorial divisions in the Early to Middle Iron Age, represented by two-row pit alignments. A series of farmstead enclosures containing round houses, of varying morphology, follows in the Early to Middle Iron Age, with further enclosures, field systems and a droveway established in the Romano-British period.

## 4.0 Methodology

All excavated areas were surveyed in with a total station E.D.M. and the initial overburden was excavated by machine, fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The 0.30m depth of topsoil was machined off separately from any underlying sub-soil, which was also removed to identify archaeological features, and stored separately from the topsoil. After the removal of overburden, initial plans of the excavated areas were established with the use of a Fastmap system, with hand cleaning of specific areas to clarify the presence and nature of identified features, particularly within the confines of any apparent structures to emphasise any internal features that may have been present. Sample excavation of these features adhered to the sampling strategy laid down in Appendix 1 of the *Specifications* (Phoenix Consulting 1997), although it was often difficult to establish dates for the features both prior to, and after, excavation.

The hand excavation of features was carried out by suitably qualified staff from Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, and recorded on *pro-forma* record cards supplemented with scale section and plan drawings, photographs and levels where appropriate. Soil, radiocarbon and luminescence samples were also taken where appropriate. All artefacts were kept and processed at the Field Archaeology Unit prior to investigation by the appropriate specialist.

A final post-excavation plan of all features was drawn for all areas and overall post-excavation photographs were taken, with the use of a hydraulic tower, where access and safety allowed.

This record comprises the site archive and is currently stored at the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

Area H was backfilled with the remaining areas left as excavated awaiting aggregate extraction.

## 5.0 Area Narratives

### 5.1 Area D (Fig. 5)

Dimensions: 30m x 40m (1,200m<sup>2</sup>)

The excavation of this area produced few datable artefacts, which made the assessment of the relationships between features more difficult.

The earliest feature, F206, corresponded with a cropmark sampled in previous excavations and appeared to be of prehistoric date. This was the western terminal of an east-west linear ditch, which had a post-hole, F208, immediately to the south of it. Ditch F206 had shallow sloping sides with an irregular base and a maximum depth of 0.45m and was 2.40m wide at the section. The upper fill was a mid-brown silt containing small stones throughout the context and larger stones towards the edges. The lower fill was a mid-dark brown silt-clay-sand, also with small stones throughout the context. This feature did not produce any artefacts.

The next phase of activity in this area is likely to be of the Medieval period and consisted of three ditches, F200, F201 and F202, which may have been former field boundaries. The earliest ditch from this period was F202, which was a linear feature running from east to west. The profile of F202 had been obscured by the cuts of two later ditches F201 and F200, but its maximum depth at this section was 0.22m. Ditches F200 and F201 were linear features aligned north-west to south-east, crossing the whole of Area D. Both ditches were U-shaped in profile. F201 was 0.32m deep and was earlier than F200, which was 0.30m deep. Ditches F200, F201 and F202 were filled with dark brown silt-sand and small stones.

Approximately half of the way along features F200 and F201, in the centre of Area D, was a pit, F213. It was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, with steep sides and a maximum depth of 0.42m. The pit was cut by a later pit, F210, which was probably Post-Medieval in date.

A later series of features was discovered cutting ditches F200 and F201 and running across the centre of Area D. The three features, F216, F217 and F218 were shallow U-shaped ditches, aligned east-west. Ditch F218 was cut by the later features F216 and F217. The relationship between the latter two ditches was unclear, which suggests that they may have been contemporary. F216 was filled with an orange-grey clay-silt, whereas F217 contained a light brown-grey sandy silt.

The latest group of features in Area D dated to the late Post-Medieval period. Ditches F205 and F214 closely followed the alignment of a late Post-Medieval trackway. These two ditches ran parallel north to south, across Area D. They both had gaps in the ditch at corresponding points, which could be interpreted as entrances. Outside the excavation area a tree exists on the same alignment as F214, suggesting that this feature was a former boundary of a field or trackway.

F205 was a shallow U-shaped ditch with a depth of 0.32m and a width of 1.0m. F214 was parallel to F205 and had a very similar profile and plan. The light grey silty-clay fill of F214 contained two pieces of tile and one piece of bottle glass, and six fragments of modern brick came from F205, dating these ditches to the Post-Medieval period.

In the south-west corner of Area D was another ditch, F207. Its position in Area D meant that it was only possible to partially excavate this feature, making the exact alignment and purpose difficult to define. It seems likely that F207 also ran north to south, possibly parallel to F214. This ditch was also U-shaped, but had steeper sides than those of F205 and F214. F207 was datable to the Post-Medieval period by one sherd of pottery of this date, which was found in the black silty-clay upper fill of the ditch.

The two remaining of the features identified in this area, F209 and F210, also appear to be associated with Post-Medieval activity, but the absence of any artefacts makes them difficult to date. This is especially true of F209, as this feature had no stratigraphic relationship with any other feature. Pit F210 cut F201.03, F211 and F213

and can at least be said to be later than these features. The pit itself was sub-circular in plan with irregular edges, bowl-shaped and very shallow at 0.24m deep.

F209 was a small circular pit located in the western part of Area D and within the confines of the possible trackway formed by F205 and F214. It may have been used as a post-hole or a repair in the trackway.

## 5.2 Area E (Fig. 6)

Dimensions: 40m x 40m (1600m<sup>2</sup>)

The archaeology in this area was characterised by a series of ditches of probable prehistoric date.

F405 was a large ditch on an east-west alignment. It was 2.5m wide and U-shaped in profile and varied between 0.7m and 0.9m in depth. It contained an upper fill of orange-brown sandy silt (4023) and a lower fill of grey-brown sandy silt (4024). Ditch F405 was cut by a modern land drain, which was also apparent in the section of F404.01 and F405.01 (Fig. 7, S1). Ditch F405 was cut by a later ditch, F404, which also dated to the prehistoric period.

The east-west leg of F404 had irregular sloping sides with a rounded base and a depth of 0.62m and a width of 2.30m. The southern edge of the ditch was truncated by a modern land drain. Section F404.04 of this ditch was located where the ditch curved to the south. At this point the ditch formed a more regular V-shaped profile, which narrowed to 1.30m wide and was shallower at a depth of 0.44m. The profile of the ditch towards the south of Area E was very similar to the east-west length, although the depth was shallower at 0.40m and the width was narrower at 1.0m. The grey-brown sandy-silt fill (4027) of F404.07 produced three sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery and four pieces of slag, which was the only prehistoric dating evidence found in this area. The east-west alignment of ditches F404 and F405 closely corresponded with cropmarks shown on aerial photographs of the area.

There were four features in Area E which had no direct relationship with any other features and as such remain difficult to date, especially because their fills contained no artefacts. These were pits and post-holes numbered F400, F401, F402 and F403. F400 was a large sub-circular pit, which was bowl shaped, with a maximum width of 2.20m and a maximum depth was 0.46m. Pit F401 was oval in plan and had concave sides and a flattened base, with a depth of 0.60m. Immediately to the north of F401 was a smaller pit, F402. This was bowl-shaped and was 0.50m deep. The only post-hole found in Area E was F403, which had irregular sides and a slightly rounded base. The maximum width of this feature was 0.70m, with a depth of 0.20m.

The latest feature in Area E was F410, a linear feature aligned east-west. This feature had been truncated and it was difficult to establish its exact form and function. F410 had a U-shaped profile and a flat base and was both very shallow, 0.16m deep, and narrow, 0.98m wide. This feature was likely to have been the remains of a field boundary or a plough furrow of Post-Medieval date. Excavation of F410.02 produced one residual sherd of Romano-British pottery and one fragment of modern brick.

### 5.3 Area G (Fig. 8)

Dimensions: 50m x 50m (2500m<sup>2</sup>)

Area G contained a number of linear features of different periods, but the lack of artefactual evidence makes exact dating very difficult. The earliest feature in this area (F100; Fig 7, S2) was length of possible enclosure ditch, probably of prehistoric date which curved from north-east to south-west. It was re-cut by a later ditch, F101. Both ditches were U-shaped and could be seen in two excavated sections along the course of the curvi-linear feature. F100 changed its profile to V-shaped at its most north-eastern point, where a later feature, F109, had truncated it; F100 had a maximum depth of 0.50m. The re-cut, F101, was much wider than the original ditch, with a width of 1.2m. However it was also shallower with a depth of only 0.3m. The upper fill (1003) of grey and mottled orange silt-clay, from F101.01, contained some pieces of burnt clay and slag.

Feature F125 was situated towards the western end of a ditch, F109, aligned east-west and probably of prehistoric date. F125 may have been a pit or an earlier ditch terminal; this was difficult to determine from the excavated section. It was bowl-shaped with an uneven base, a depth of 0.30m and a width of 1.0m. The upper fill (1064) was a black silt-sand, with evidence of root action, and the lower fill (1065) a brown sand-silt. It was cut by F109, which was a V-shaped ditch, 1.60m wide and 0.78m deep. At the eastern end of F109 the profile changed to a steep-sided ditch with a flattened base and a depth of 0.92 metres. F109 was cut on its northern side by a modern land drain.

Ditch F132 and its re-cuts F110, F112 and F113 (Plate 1) were located north of F109 parallel to it, with an east-west alignment. These ditches of prehistoric date, ran from the eastern side of the excavated area and were found to terminate towards the centre of Area G. On excavation this terminal produced evidence of the earliest ditch, F132. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.57m in depth and 1.35m in width. This ditch was only visible in this section and was probably obscured by later re-cuts further along its length (Fig. 7, S3). F110 had steep sides with a flattened base and a maximum depth of 0.50m and width of 1.35m. This ditch contained a fill (1039) of a very dark grey-black silt with a high organic content, which had many pieces of well-preserved wood within it. The first re-cut of ditch F110 was F112, which had gently sloping sides with a rounded base; it was 0.36m deep and 1.35m wide. This ditch also terminated at section F112.02. The latest re-cut of the original ditch, F113 was very similar in profile to F112 and produced an animal's tooth from its brown silt-sand fill (1026).

Ditch F130 ran from the western side of the site, parallel to F109, and terminated towards the centre of Area G; it was also probably prehistoric in date. It was aligned east-west and had a U-shaped profile, with a flattened base. F130 had been cut by a later ditch, F116, which was similar in profile, with a more rounded base and was 0.16m deep and 0.98m wide. F130 could no longer be seen at the terminus of F116.

F117 was a linear feature aligned east-west, which ran across the northern part of Area G and was likely to date to the prehistoric period. The profile and dimensions of F117 varied; at the eastern end the depth was 0.55m and the width was 1.90m with a U-

shaped profile. However, at the western end the ditch became much larger, with a depth of 0.78m and a width of 3.20m, and it now had a flat base and steep sides. The secondary deposit (1079) of F117.03 (Fig. 7, S4) was particularly rich in organic matter within a black silty clay containing fragments of wood and charcoal. The environmental assessment of this context revealed that it was waterlogged and contained sweet grass seeds, indicating a marshy environment and the likelihood that the ditch was filled with water for part of the year (see 7.3). This suggests that the function of the ditch may have been drainage, as this area was and still is prone to seasonal flooding.

The linears F109, F110 and F116 ran east-west and virtually parallel to each other. F110 and F116 were on the same alignment and may have formed the same feature with a large gap in the middle, which perhaps was an entrance to a droveway or a field boundary.

The next phase of activity in Area G related to the Romano-British period, with three contiguous ditches running north-south across the excavation area. The length of ditch running from the northern edge of the excavation towards the centre of Area G was F105. This ditch was a shallow U-shaped feature with a maximum depth of 0.20m and a width of 0.60m. It contained a light brown-grey, silty sand with small stones throughout the context (1092), but no artefacts. F105 appeared to end just north of the terminus of another length of ditch, F102. F102 was a U-shaped ditch, 0.30m deep and 0.60m wide and had a recut, F103. F103 was also a U-shaped ditch, 0.45m deep and 1.40m wide. There was a gap between F103 and the next length of ditch, F111. F111 was situated in the southern part of Area G, extending from the southern edge of the excavation area, but terminating close to a later feature, F104. Based on previous excavations, these sections of ditch were likely to be the remains of a Romano-British hedgeline with entrance gaps along its course.

A linear U-shaped ditch, F106, probably dating to the Romano-British period, was located running south-west to north-east across Area G and terminating at F110. It had a maximum depth of 0.50m and a width of 1.60m and contained a light grey sandy silt with very occasional small stones. Towards the southern edge of the excavation area, F106 cut a natural and irregular feature, F108. This may have been a treebowl. Both F108 and F106 were cut by a bowl-shaped pit, F107, which was 1.0m in diameter and 0.50m deep. F106 was also cut by another ditch, F129, which was located on the southern edge of the excavation area. It was not completely visible as it continued into the baulk, but was a wide, shallow (0.40m deep), flat-bottomed ditch, aligned east-west.

The latest Romano-British feature in Area G was F123, a ditch which ran parallel to F106 and may have been a droveway or boundary. F123 was found to cut F110, F112, F113, F109 and F129. It had a U-shaped profile, 0.22m deep and 0.52m wide, and was filled with a grey-brown silt-clay.

The latest feature in Area G was F104, which was a field boundary dating to the Medieval or Post-Medieval period. This feature was aligned north-south and it had a U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a rounded base, 0.30m deep and 1.30m wide. It contained a grey sand-silt with orange patches.



#### 5.4 Area H (Fig. 9, Plate 2)

Dimensions: 70m x 40m (2800m<sup>2</sup>)

This area investigated a triple-ditched enclosure previously identified by aerial photographs and trial trenching. Two enclosures were discovered, both of Romano-British date; one was the triple-ditched enclosure (Enclosure 1) and the other was a single ditch (Enclosure 2) to the north of Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 may have had inner ditches, but the extent of the excavation area exposed only one ditch, which was close to the edge of Area H.

The inner ditch of Enclosure 1, F300, was U-shaped on the north-south alignment, but changed to V-shaped on the east-west alignment. F300 was 0.40m deep and was consistent throughout most of its course. The ditch only became shallower its eastern end, where it was only 0.22m deep and had probably been ploughed out. F300 was also fairly consistent in its width, with the minimum width being 1.25m and the maximum 1.45m. Again the exception was at the eastern end, where it narrowed to 0.70m wide before it appeared to fade out. Two excavated sections of the ditch produced sherds of Romano-British pottery, which were all dated to the second century A.D. The pottery came from a mid-brown silty-sand fill (3003). The east-west alignment of F300 had been re-cut with a shallow U-shaped ditch F320. It was 0.20m deep and a 1.45m wide. Two excavated sections of F320 (Fig. 7, S5, Plate 3) produced numerous sherds of pottery, which were dated to the mid-second century A.D and contained within a dark brown sandy silt.

The middle ditch of Enclosure 1 was F302, which had a slightly irregular U-shaped profile that did not vary greatly throughout its course. However the depth did vary from a minimum of 0.26m to maximum of 0.69m. The width of F302 also varied, with a minimum width of 1.16m and a maximum of 2.28m. The shallowest part of F302 was at its eastern end, at the edge of the excavation area, where alluvial deposits obscured the features. F302 was filled with a mid-orange-brown silt-sand (3027), which had stones throughout the context. After the alluvial deposits had been removed by machine, traces of the ditches could be seen in section, which had not previously been visible in plan. The sherds of pottery from F302.01 were Romano-British and the sherds from F302.04 (Fig. 7, S6) were dated more closely to the mid-to-late second century A.D.

The outer ditch of Enclosure 1 was F301 (Fig. 7, S7, Plate 4), which contained a re-cut, F303, which was evident along the entire course of the ditch in this area. F301 was a V-shaped ditch, with a minimum depth of 0.55m and a maximum depth of 1.10m. F301 was of a similar width to the other two ditches of Enclosure 1; at its narrowest the ditch was 1.70m and at its widest 2.18m. The re-cut, F303, had a U-shaped profile and a maximum depth of 0.68m. F301 did not produce any sherds of pottery, but in F303.06 five sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from a stony brown silt-sand (3030).

The outer ditch of Enclosure 1 had two other features associated with it, F313 and F318. F313 was a possible stakehole located on the northern edge of F301.05 and F303.05, it was oval in plan and bowl-shaped in profile, with a diameter of 0.40m.

F318 was a bowl-shaped pit situated on the southern edge of F301.06 and F303.06; it was 1.20m wide and 0.25m deep and was devoid of any artefacts.

Area H contained a second Romano-British enclosure (Enclosure 2). This was located to the north of Enclosure 1 and was single-ditched. The arm of the ditch which ran south to north was F325 (Fig. 7, S8), a U-shaped ditch, 1.10m wide and 0.35m deep. F325 appeared to have been slightly earlier than the other arm of the ditch, F324, which ran in an east-west direction. However, it is likely that they were dug within a short time of each other. F324 had an irregular U-shaped profile and was wider at the western end, but began to narrow as it progressed eastwards. At the western end F324 was 2.70m wide and 0.50m deep, whereas at section F324.02 it was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. Ditch F324 produced six sherds of mid-second century A.D. Romano-British pottery. Both F324 and F325 contained similar fills of brown silty sand.

The other features discovered and excavated in Area H were of probable Post-Medieval origin. F319 appeared to be the remains of a Post-Medieval plough furrow, which was very shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.30m and a width of 1.40m. Another linear feature, F323, was a U-shaped feature with a flattened base, aligned east to west and was also very shallow at 0.22m deep, 2.90m wide, with no finds. There was another probable Post-Medieval ditch aligned east-west in this area, F305; this was a shallow U-shaped ditch, 0.38m deep and 1.20m wide.

In Area H there were a number of irregular or circular shaped features, which were undatable. F322 was an irregular shaped feature 0.96m wide and 0.28m deep. The evidence of root action and the shape of the feature suggested that this may have been a treebowl. F314 was a shallow pit located in the south-eastern area of the excavation. It was sub-circular in plan with steep concave sides and a flat base, with a depth of 0.42m and a width of 1.10m. Immediately to the east of F314 was F315, which was another small irregular bowl-shaped feature with steep sides. This has been interpreted as a possible posthole, but the poor definition of the feature made it difficult to determine. F315 was 0.40m deep and 0.60m wide.

A bowl-shaped pit, F321, was discovered near to the inner ditch of Enclosure 1, but is likely to date to the Post-Medieval period. The pit was very shallow at 0.10m deep, but fairly wide at 1.0m; the sides of the pit were poorly defined. As with all of the possible Post-Medieval and undatable features in Area H, F321 did not contain any artefacts.

## **6.0 The Finds by Annette Hancocks**

### **6.1 Introduction**

In relation to previous Whitemoor Haye excavations, an average-sized finds assemblage was recovered from the recent phase of work. The group was dominated by pottery of the Roman period and dated to the mid-late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. A small quantity of possible Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery was recognised. The majority of the other finds recovered comprised material of Post-Medieval date (Table 1).

## 6.2 Methodology

The finds were retrieved in accordance with the sampling strategy detailed in the project brief. All were recovered by hand excavation. The finds were processed, washed, marked and quantified by count only, with the exception of the animal bone which was weighed in grams. The quantified data was then entered onto a Microsoft Access database and interrogated. The finds were scanned and the pottery spot-dated to allow a *terminus post quem* to be assigned (Table 2). Of the 29 contexts which contained dateable finds, only sixteen (55%) contained pottery that could be assigned a spot date.

## 6.3 The finds

### 6.31 The prehistoric pottery

Three sherds of Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery were recognised and derived from F409, a gully in Area E. A possible residual Iron Age sherd was recognised from ditch F310 in Area H. This was the only prehistoric material recovered from this current phase of work.

### 6.32 The Roman pottery

Some 1272 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the recent phase of excavations. With the exception of a single sherd from Area E, F410.02, the Roman pottery was recovered from ditches in Area H. Within this area, two distinct areas of ceramic activity were recognised. From ditches F320/F320.02 and F302.02 derived some 96% of the total Roman pottery assemblage. This has undoubtedly caused an element of bias within the make-up of the recovered assemblage, but has provided a good, diagnostic ceramic sequence to form the basis for further detailed work. This is the largest group of stratified Roman pottery recovered from Whitemoor Haye to date. It is well stratified and in good condition. No long term storage problems are envisaged.

### 6.33 Other finds

A small quantity of other finds material was recovered from the site (Table 1). Of these several samples of wood were recovered from ditches F110.01, F109.02 and F115. This material is very well preserved and has some soil samples associated with them (See section 7.0). A single flint, two fragments of fired clay/daub and several fragments of worked stone, including quernstones were recorded. The remainder of the finds comprised modern brick, tile, bottle glass and pottery.

## 6.4 Range and variety

A good range and variety of locally and regionally produced Roman material was recognised during the initial scan of the pottery. The overwhelming majority was locally and regionally produced greywares in narrow and wide-mouthed jar forms. These appear to derive from the Lower Nene Valley and Severn Valley. Other greyware forms include globular jars with neckless, everted rims. Other regionally traded wares include Black-Burnished ware 1 from Dorset. Characteristic forms recognised include the Type 22/23 flat rimmed (flanged bowl) and the Type 3 cooking pot. A small quantity of Derbyshire coarseware was recognised, which included a globular jar with shallow, cupped everted rim and a small amount of Mancetter-

Hartshill mortaria. The only imported wares were samian, which dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and included Drag. 33 and Drag. 31 forms, and Dressel 20 amphorae.

### **6.5 Statement of potential**

With the exception of the Romano-British pottery, the overall finds assemblage is of little archaeological value. However, the pottery groups should allow several of the research aims and objectives to be enhanced. These include establishing the date of abandonment of the settlement, establishing a ceramic sequence and chronology, looking at the spatial and functional distribution of pottery fabrics and forms across the site, as well as the economic patterns of trade and exchange of pottery and overall status of the site. Very little published material exists from small Roman rural settlement in Staffordshire and the wider region (Booth and Willis 1997, 54).

Table 1: Whitemoor Haye 2000 Spot-dating

Context	Description	Date/Date range	Prehistoric	Roman	Animal bone (g)	Other
1003	Infill of recut F101.01					1x fired/clay
1005	Fill of ditch F100.01					3 x slag
1019	Fill of pit F107					2 x worked stone
1023	Fill of ditch F110.01					12 x wood
1026	Fill of ditch F113				4	-
1031	Fill of ditch F109.02					1 x flint
1032	Fill of ditch F109.02					3 x wood
1036	Fill of ditch F115				5	20 x wood
1053	Fill of ditch F121					1 x fired clay
2007	Fill of ditch F201.01					1 x worked stone
2010	Fill of ditch F205					6 x modern brick
2014	Fill of ditch F207	Post-Medieval				1 x PM sherd
2024	Fill of ditch F214	Post-Medieval				2 x tile and 1 x bottle glass
3003	Fill of ditch F300	2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD		16		
3004	Fill of ditch F301					2 x worked stone
3005	Fill of ditch F302	Roman		1		
3007	Fill of ditch F300.02	2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD		11		
3014	Fill of ditch F320	Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD		32		1 x samian
3016	Fill of ditch F310	Post-Medieval with residual IA?	1			1 x PM ad 1 x worked stone
3017	Fill of ditch F302.02			1		1 x amphorae
3027	Fill of ditch F302.04	Mid-late 2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD		165		14 x samian, 10 x mortaria and 1x amphorae
3030	Fill of ditch F317	Roman		5		
3034	Fill of recut ditch F320.02	Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD		1030		1 x samian
3050	Fill of ditch F324.01	Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD		4		
3051	Fill of ditch F308.03	Roman		2		
4026	Fill of gully F409	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	3			4 x slag
4033	Fill of Ditch F410.02	Roman		1		1 x modern brick
4034	Fill of ditch F404.03	Roman				1 x modern tile
4036	Fill of land drain F412	Modern with residual Roman		3		1 x bottle glass

**Table 2: Whitemoor Haye 2000 Summary of finds**

<b>Find type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<i>Pottery</i>	
Prehistoric	3
Roman	1272
Post-medieval	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1277</b>
Fired clay/daub	2
Animal bone	9g
Modern Tile	3
Modern Brick	7
Slag	7
Flint	1
Other stone	7
Modern bottle glass	2
Quernstone	1
Wood	35

## **7.0 An Assessment of Plant Remains by Marina Ciaraldi**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Excavations at Whitemoor Haye in 2000 uncovered a number of prehistoric features from which soil samples were systematically collected. The soils samples were later processed and analysed in laboratory in order to establish:

1. the preservation and abundance of plant remains
2. the potential of the study of plant remains for the reconstruction of the local environment and human activities occurred on the site
3. The importance of their study at a more regional level

### **7.2 Methods**

The soil samples were processed in the Environmental Processing Room, BUFAU. All of the samples, with the exception of samples 6 (F117.03/1079) and 10 (F110/1039), were floated by using a 0.5mm mesh to recover the flot and a 1mm mesh for the residue. Sample 6 and 10 were both waterlogged and therefore only a small sub-sample (500ml) was washed over a set of sieves, the smallest having a mesh size of 0.3mm (Kenward *et al.* 1980). The flots and the waterlogged remains were examined under a low power microscope. Seeds were identified only tentatively without the use of reference material. Their identification needs to be confirmed. Botanical names follow Stace (1991).

### 7.3 Results

All the samples examined contained waterlogged plant remains although, in the case of samples 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 these were dried up at the moment of the processing. Samples 6 and 10, respectively F117.03/1079 and F110/1039, contained abundant waterlogged plant remains. The soil matrix of sample 10 was a grey, sandy clay whereas in the case of sample 6, the soil matrix was dark brown, fine silt. The two samples contained an interesting plant assemblage with a predominance of sweet grass seeds (*Glyceria* sp.). This plant is typical of aquatic and marshy environments and its presence indicates that the ditches were likely to have been filled with water, at least during part of the year. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa* Gaertner) is also a tree of damp woods, often found along lakes and rivers. The presence of seeds and fruit cores might indicate that alder trees grew near the ditches (F117 and F115).

### 7.4 Recommendations

The plant assemblage identified in samples 6 (F117.03/ 1079) and 10 (F110/1039) are likely to provide information on the environment immediately surrounding the ditches. However, their study is not of particular importance when considered at a regional level. The full study of the two samples might be important if considered together with that of the pollen and insect remains. The full analysis of the plant remains is therefore recommended only if it will be integrated with that of the pollen and insect remains and only if it is possible to date the samples more precisely.

**Table 3: Plant remains recorded from Whitemoor Haye.**

N.	Area	Feature	Context	Type of context	Vol. proc. (L.)	Phase	Notes
1	G	F110.01	1023	ditch	20	prehist	Waterlogged plant remains dried up, <i>Glyceria</i> (x)
2	G	F109.01	1021	ditch	15	prehist	Waterlogged plant remains dried up
3	G	F117.02	1045	ditch	17	prehist	Waterlogged plant remains dried up
4	G	F117.01	1044	ditch	17	prehist	Waterlogged plant remains dried up, <i>Glyceria</i> (x)
5	G	F115	1036	ditch	20	prehist	Waterlogged plant remains dried up, <i>Atriplex</i> sp.(x), <i>Polygonum</i> sp. (x), <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> seeds (x), <i>Alnus</i> fruit core (x)
6	G	F117.03	1079	ditch	0.5	prehist	<i>Glyceria</i> sp. (xx), <i>Juncus</i> (x), <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> seeds (xx), <i>Alnus</i> fruit core (x), Insects (xx)
10	G	F110.01	1039	ditch	0.5	prehist	<i>Glyceria</i> sp. (xx), <i>Potentilla</i> cf. <i>erecta</i> (x), <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> / <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (x), <i>Daphnia's</i> eggs

Key: x = (0-10); xx = (11-20)

### 8.0 Discussion of Archaeological Results

This discussion is a preliminary examination of the excavation results presented above. Further research and analysis will be required before any comprehensive conclusions can be made; one also has to be aware that future excavations in the vicinity of these areas may well clarify the evidence discovered so far.

The four areas excavated at Whitemoor Haye from May to July 2000 revealed three phases of activity. Each of the excavated areas provided information that will broaden the historical knowledge of Whitemoor Haye which has already been gained through previous excavations.

The earliest phase of activity dates to the prehistoric period, for which there was evidence in Areas D, E and G. Area G contained the majority of the prehistoric features in this season of excavations, of which the earliest was the curvi-linear ditch F100 and its re-cut F101, which probably formed an enclosure ditch. A later series of features in Area G were the three ditches aligned east-west, which respected the position of a prehistoric droveway identified from cropmark evidence. The cropmarks showed two ditches running parallel, but three virtually parallel ditches were discovered in Area G. Based on cropmark evidence, it seems likely that of the three ditches, the middle ditches (F116 and F110) and the one furthest south (F109) formed the banks of the droveway. The gap in the centre of the middle ditch may have been an entrance leading into some other form of droveway or enclosure, which did not show up as cropmarks, but was found during excavation as a third ditch. F110 and F117 were found to have waterlogged remains, which suggested an aquatic or marshy environment; however the lack of dating evidence makes it difficult to assess the importance of this information. There was also no direct evidence that these three ditches were contemporary and they may simply represent a shifting field boundary.

Another section of the possible droveway was discovered in Area E. Here part of the ditch which ran on the east-west alignment also corresponded closely with cropmarks. Droveways may have been established to link settlements, or in this case to provide a route to the river. A length of ditch (F405) found in Area E appeared to continue along the line of the former droveway aligned east-west. The ditch (F404) which formed the southern bank of the droveway in Area E, changed course and progressed southwards. This extension of the ditch was not evident on the aerial photographs and there was little evidence to suggest its possible function. However, this ditch produced the only sherds of prehistoric pottery found at Whitemoor Haye during this season of excavations, with the exception of one sherd of possible residual Iron Age pottery found in Area H. The three sherds of pottery from Area E were dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

The final prehistoric feature that was found during these excavations was in Area D. A length and terminal of a ditch (F206) extended into the excavation area from the eastern edge; this was also closely related to cropmark evidence. Slightly to the north of Area D there were cropmarks showing a triple-ditched linear feature, which was probably another droveway. In areas where a droveway was likely to become impassable due to bad weather conditions an adjacent trackway was sometimes constructed to provide an alternative; this was especially true in sandy areas. This would explain the presence of the three ditches on the same alignment, forming two trackways. The ditch in Area D is likely to be the southern part of this droveway; the terminal of this ditch may indicate an entrance.

The next period of activity represented in the four areas is Romano-British, which most evidence was found in Area H. The location of Area H was centred on cropmarks which showed a triple-ditched enclosure (Enclosure 1), also found during



excavation. It is likely that the enclosure was pastoral in function and not defensive, due to the character of the ditches. There was no evidence to determine whether the ditches were deliberately and concurrently dug to form a triple-ditched enclosure or whether one ditch was dug first and the other ditches were later additions or extensions. The latter seems to be more plausible, especially when the cropmarks are taken into account. The cropmarks showed that the outer ditch extended much further southwards than the other two ditches, before it turned to the east. This suggests that the outer ditch was an extension designed to enclose a greater area of land than a previous enclosure. The two inner ditches were fairly close together, which does not support the theory of the inner ditch being the original and the middle ditch being the first extension of the enclosure, as only a very small area of extra land would be enclosed. It is more likely that the two inner ditches formed part of a double-ditched enclosure. This enclosure produced numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery, the majority of which were fragments of cooking vessels made of regional and local greywares. This does not necessarily mean that the enclosure contained a settlement, as no traces of dwellings were discovered to support this. The presence of fragments of cooking vessels may be due to food being taken to the areas where cattle and sheep were kept as part of the days subsistence whilst working. It still remains possible that this was a double-ditched settlement enclosure with a later extension for holding stock. The evidence is inconclusive and will remain so until further excavation takes place.

To the north of the triple-ditched enclosure was a single-ditched enclosure (Enclosure 2), also in Area H. However, this was close to the edge of the excavation area and it is possible that further ditches existed, but there was no cropmark evidence to support this. This enclosure was very similar in character to the triple-ditched enclosure, and probably served a similar purpose. The cropmark evidence for Enclosure 2 showed that it extended as far as the east-west driveway to the north, which would act as a convenient access point to the enclosures. This suggests that the driveway established in prehistoric times, which was excavated in Areas G and E, continued to be used during the Romano-British period.

Area H was situated on the edge of the flood plain of the River Tame and there was no cropmark evidence beyond Area H to indicate the extent of the two enclosures; these have probably been masked by alluvial deposits. The location of the two enclosures in an area liable to seasonal flooding is problematic. Easy access to water may have been a priority during periods when the area was not flooded, but during floods the land would be rendered useless. It is possible that some form of water and land management system was in place, but there is little evidence to support this.

The only other Romano-British features recognised during this phase of excavations were in Area G. A series of three lengths of ditch (F105, F102/F103 and F111), aligned north-south, were likely to be the remains of a Romano-British hedgeline, which had intermittent entrance gaps. This may have formed part of an enclosure.

Area G also contained what appeared to be a continuation of the Romano-British driveway, which consisted of two parallel ditches (F106 and F123) on a north-east to south-west alignment. The cropmarks for Area G indicated a single ditch and not a double ditch, but in previous area excavations of Areas A, B and T there was evidence

of a double-ditched droveway on this alignment. The excavation of this area provided evidence of the droveway which, based on the cropmarks, existed to the north and south of Area G. This suggests that the parallel ditches excavated in Area G were a part of this droveway. Previous excavations at Whitemoor Haye investigated a section of the droveway, which was dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD by the sherds of Romano-British pottery discovered during excavation. It was also suggested that the droveway followed the line of an existing Iron Age route (Coates *et al*, 1999); however there was no evidence recovered from Area G to support this. The function of this droveway has been questioned, as *Ryknield Street* is situated nearby to the west, but the route of the droveway appears to have been a connection between two fordable points of the River Tame.

The remaining features discovered during the latest phase of excavations dated to the Medieval or Post-Medieval period and were found in all four areas. The earliest of these features was likely to be the ditch aligned north-west to south-east in Area D (F200 and F201). However, the lack of artefactual evidence made precise dating difficult. Area D also had two virtually parallel east-west field boundaries, which were cut by two later north-south parallel ditches with opposing gaps or entrances, which followed the same alignment as a Post-Medieval trackway. Areas E and H contained the remains of some Post-Medieval plough furrows, and a former Post-Medieval field boundary was discovered in Area G.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Charlotte Neilson with contributions by Marina Ciaraldi Annette Hancocks and Gwilym Hughes. The illustrations were prepared and drawn by Nigel Dodds and Mark Breedon and the report was edited by Gary Coates and Simon Buteux.

The project was managed by Simon Buteux and directed by Gary Coates. The excavations were supervised by Howell Roberts and carried out by Mary Duncan, Roy Krakowicz, John La Niece, Philip Mann, Helen Martin, Charlotte Neilson, Ed Newton, Andy Rudge, Dan Slater and Jonathon Williams.

The project was monitored by Dr. Andrew Richmond from Phoenix Consulting on behalf of the sponsors, Lafarge Redland Aggregates; from whom Ross Halley liaised with the project. Thanks are due to the quarry manager, Len Mudd, and his staff who were always happy to resolve any day-to-day problems. Jimmy Docherty, the owner of the plant contractors on the quarry, was always helpful and obliging, as were his staff.

The excavations was monitored by Dr. Paul Stamper on behalf of English Heritage and Chris Welch for Staffordshire County Council.

## 10.0 Bibliography

- Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit 1992. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Whitemoor Haye, Alrewas, Staffordshire 1992*. B.U.F.A.U. Report 231.
- Booth, P. & Willis, S. 1997. 'Research Framework for the Study of Roman Pottery in Western Britain' in *Research Frameworks for the Study Group of Roman Pottery* (Eds. S. Willis). 54.
- Bradley, R. 1992. 'The gravels and British prehistory from the Neolithic to the Early Iron Age' in *Developing Landscapes of Lowland Britain. The Archaeology of the British Gravels: A Review* (Eds. M. Fulford and E. Nichols). Soc. of Ant. Occ. Papers. 14, 15-22, London.
- Cane, J. and Cane, C.K.B. 1986. 'The excavation of a mesolithic cave site near Rugeley, Staffordshire'. Staffordshire Arch. Studies No.3.
- Coates *et al.* 1999. *Excavations at Whitemoor Haye Quarry, Alrewas, Staffordshire, 1997-1998. Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*. BUFAU Report No. 495.
- Crickmore, J. 1984. *Romano-British Urban Settlements in the West Midlands*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser., 127.
- English Heritage 1991. *Exploring Our Past: Strategies for the Archaeology of England*, London.
- English Heritage 1992. *Environmental Archaeology in Middle England - Research Directions for Projects Funded by English Heritage*. Unpublished Discussion Document.
- Ferris, I. 1992. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Echills Farm, Kings Bromley, Staffordshire*, BUFAU Report No. 214.
- Fulford, M. 1992. 'Iron Age to Roman: a period of radical change on the gravels' in *Developing Landscapes of Lowland Britain. The Archaeology of the British Gravels: A Review* (Eds. M. Fulford and E. Nichols), Soc. of Ant. Occ. Papers., 14, 23-38. London.
- Gelling, M. 1992. *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*. Leicester.
- Gifford and Partners Ltd. 1995. *Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Tucklesholme Farm, Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire*. Unpublished Report.
- Gunstone, A.J.H. 1964. 'An archaeological gazetteer of Staffordshire I.'. Staff. Journ. of Field Stud. 4, 11-45.

- Gunstone, A.J.H. 1965. 'An archaeological gazetteer of Staffordshire II. the barrows'. *Staff. Journ. of Field. Stud.* 5, 20-63.
- Hilton, C. 1979. 'Bower Farm near Rugeley'. *West Mid. Arch. Newsletter* 22, 7.
- Hodder, M.A. 1982. 'The prehistory of the Lichfield Area', *Trans. S. Staff. Archaeol. Hist. Soc.* 12., 13-23.
- Hovey, J. et al. 1998 *Salvage Recording of a test pit on the site of a cropmarked ring ditch at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. An Interim Statement.* B.U.F.A.U. Report 504.
- Hughes, E.G. 1991. *The Excavation of a Ring Ditch at Tucklesholme Farm, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire, 1990-1991.* B.U.F.A.U. Report No.163.
- Jones, R.J.A. 1979. 'Soils and Cropmarks' in Smith, C. 1979. *Fisherwick: The Reconstruction of an Iron Age Landscape*, *Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser.*, 61, 103-9. Oxford.
- Jones, A. 1992. *Catholme, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*, BUFAU Report No. 209.
- Kenward, H.K., Hall A.R. and Jones, A.K.G. 1980 *A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal microfossils from waterlogged deposits.* *Science and Archaeology*, 22 :3-15
- Knight, D. and Howard, A.J. 1995. *Archaeology and Alluvium in the Trent Valley*
- Losco-Bradley, S. 1984. *Fatholme, Excavations 1983-84*, Unpublished Interim Report.
- Losco-Bradley, S. and Wheeler, H.M. 1984. 'Anglo-Saxon settlement in the Trent Valley: some aspects' in *Studies in Late Anglo-Saxon Settlement* (Ed. M.L. Faul), 101-114, Oxford.
- Meeson, R. 1991. *Archaeological Evaluation, Moat Field, Hamstall Ridware, March 1991*, Staffordshire County Council.
- Miles, H. 1969. 'Excavations at Fisherwick, Staffs., 1968 - a Romano-British farmstead and a Neolithic occupation site', *Trans. S. Staff. Archaeol. Hist. Soc.* 10., 1-22.
- Palmer, R. 1976. 'Interrupted ditched enclosures in Britain: the use of aerial photography for comparative studies', *Proc. Prehis. Soc.* 42, 161-86.
- Phoenix Consulting 1997. *Specifications for Post-Evaluative Archaeological Investigation. Whitemoor Hays, Alrewas, Staffordshire.* Doc. P/104/B.
- SCC, 1991. *Willowbrook Farm, Alrewas.* Staffordshire County Council.

- Seager Smith, R. and S. M. Davis 1993 *Black Burnished Ware Type Series: The Roman Pottery from Excavations at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester, Dorset*.
- Shotton, F.W. 1973. 'Two Lower Palaeolithic Implements from South East Staffordshire', *Trans. S. Staff Archaeol. Hist. Soc.* 14, 1-14.
- Smith, C. 1975. *Second Report of Excavations at Fisherwick, Staffs, 1973* *Trans. S. Staffs Arch. Soc.* XVI, 1-17.
- Smith, C. 1976. *Second report of excavations at Fisherwick, Staffs. 1973. Ice wedge casts and a Middle Bronze Age settlement* *Trans. S. Staff Archaeol. Hist. Soc.*, 16, 1-14.
- Smith, C. 1979. *Fisherwick: The Reconstruction of an Iron Age Landscape*, *Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser.* 61, 103-9, Oxford.
- Smith, C. 1980. 'The historic development of the landscape in the Parishes of Alrewas, Fisherwick and Whittington; a retrogressive analysis', *Trans. S. Staff. Archaeol. Hist. Soc.* 20, 1-14.
- Stace, C 1991 *New Flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press
- Tempus Reparatum Archaeological and Historical Associates 1995. *Whitemoor Haye, Alrewas, Staffordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation. Doc.TR 31102DFA.*
- Todd, M. 1991. *The Coritani*. London.
- Vine, P.M. 1982. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age Cultures of the Middle and Upper Trent Basin*, *Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser.* 105.
- Webster, G. 1975. *The Cornovii*. London.
- Webster, P. 1996 *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. CBA Practical Handbooks in Archaeology No 13.
- Whimster, R. 1989. *The Emerging Past. Air Photography and the Buried Landscape*, London.
- Willis, S 1997 *Research Frameworks for the Study of Roman Pottery* Study Group for Roman Pottery

**Figures**

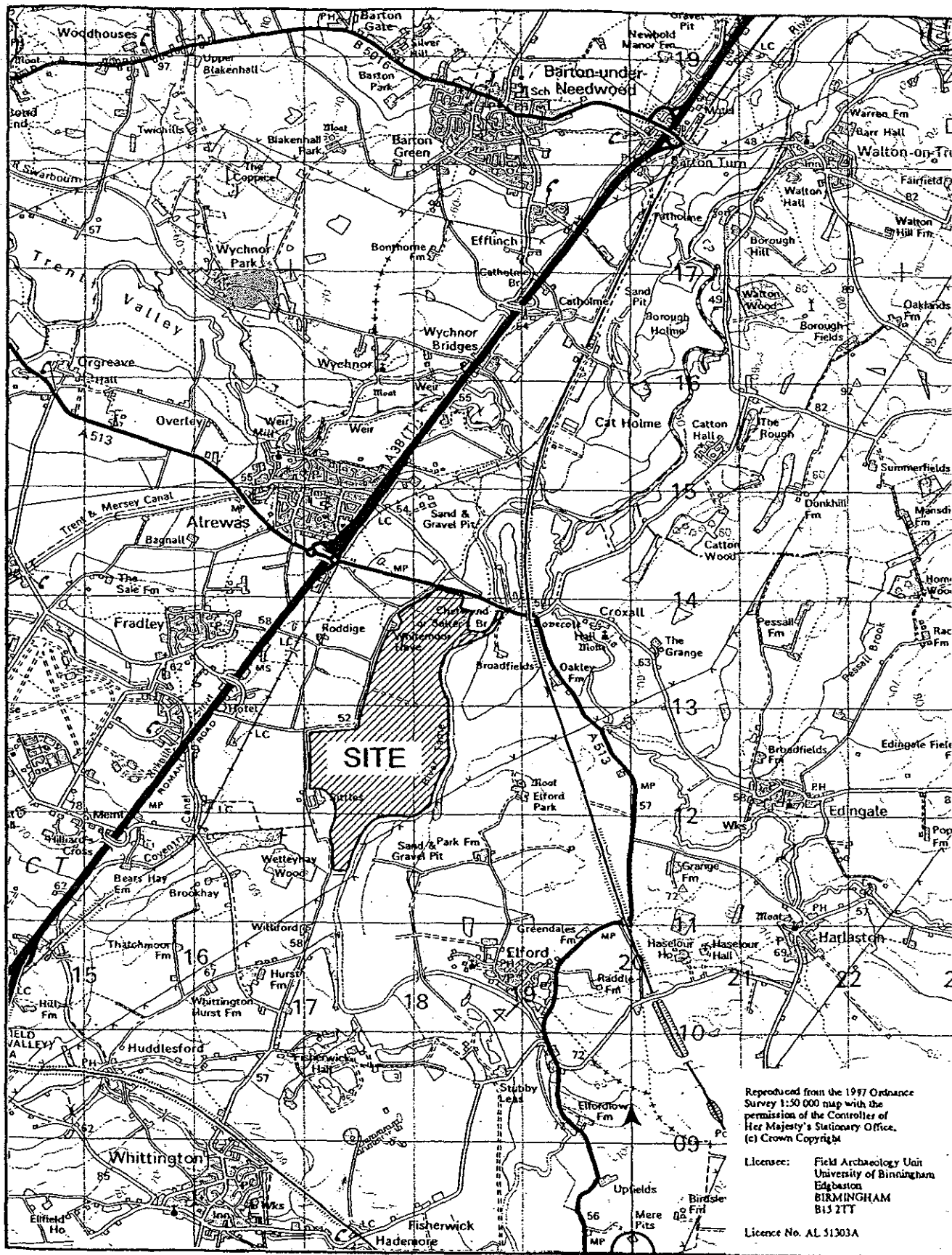
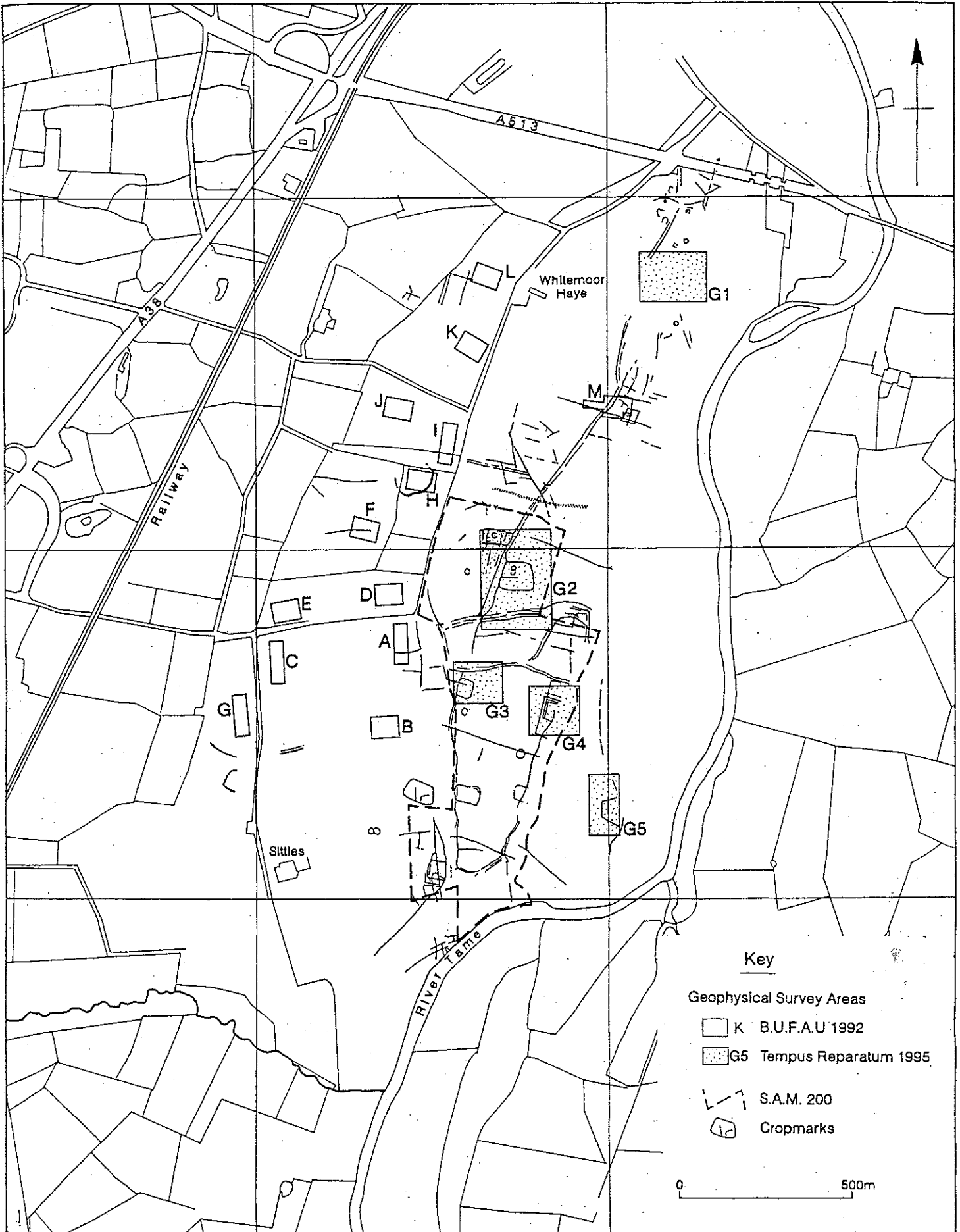


Fig. 1. Location



**Key**

- Geophysical Survey Areas
- K B.U.F.A.U 1992
  - G5 Tempus Reparatum 1995
  - S.A.M. 200
  - Cropmarks

0 500m

Fig. 2 Geophysical Surveys



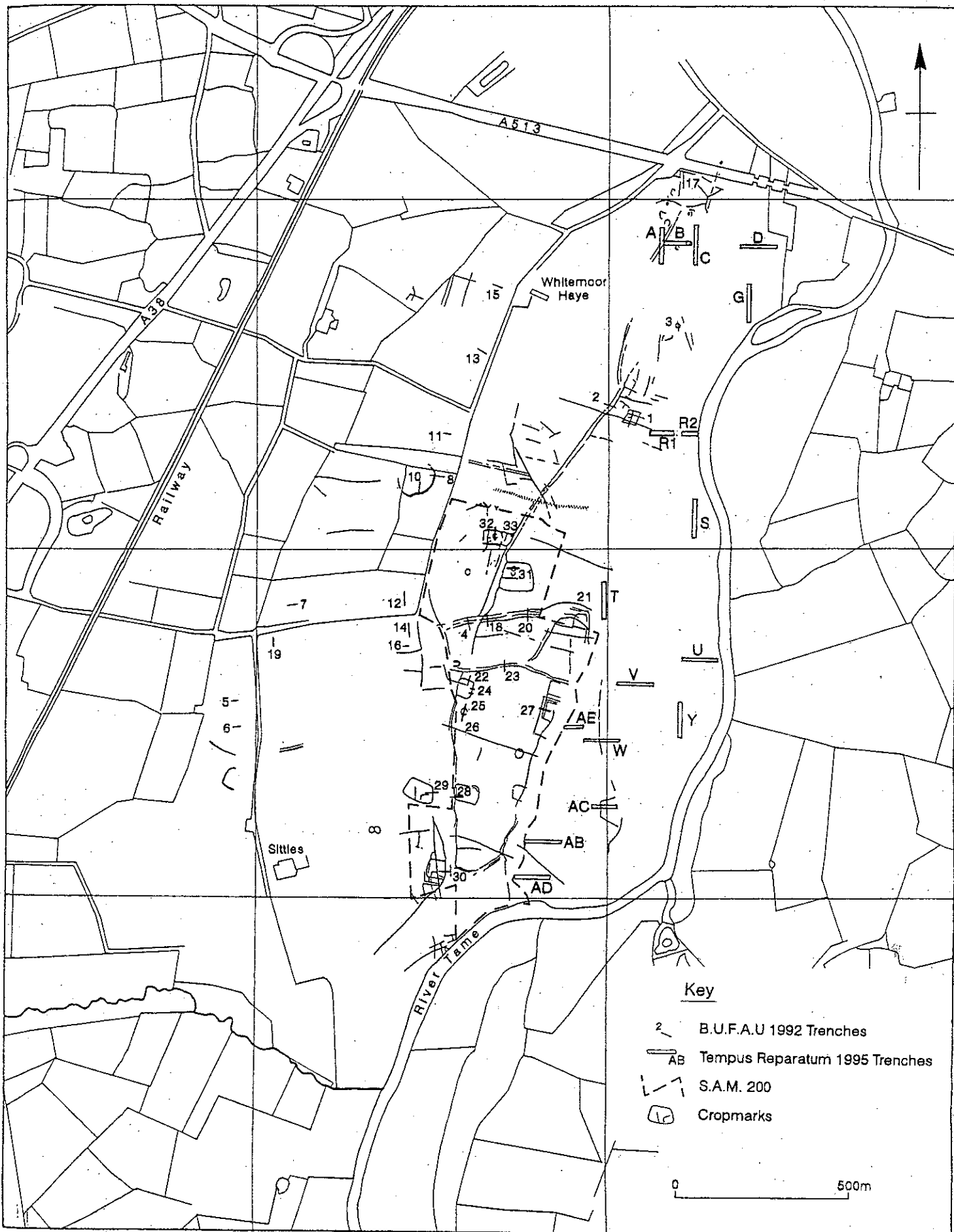


Fig. 3 Evaluation Trenches

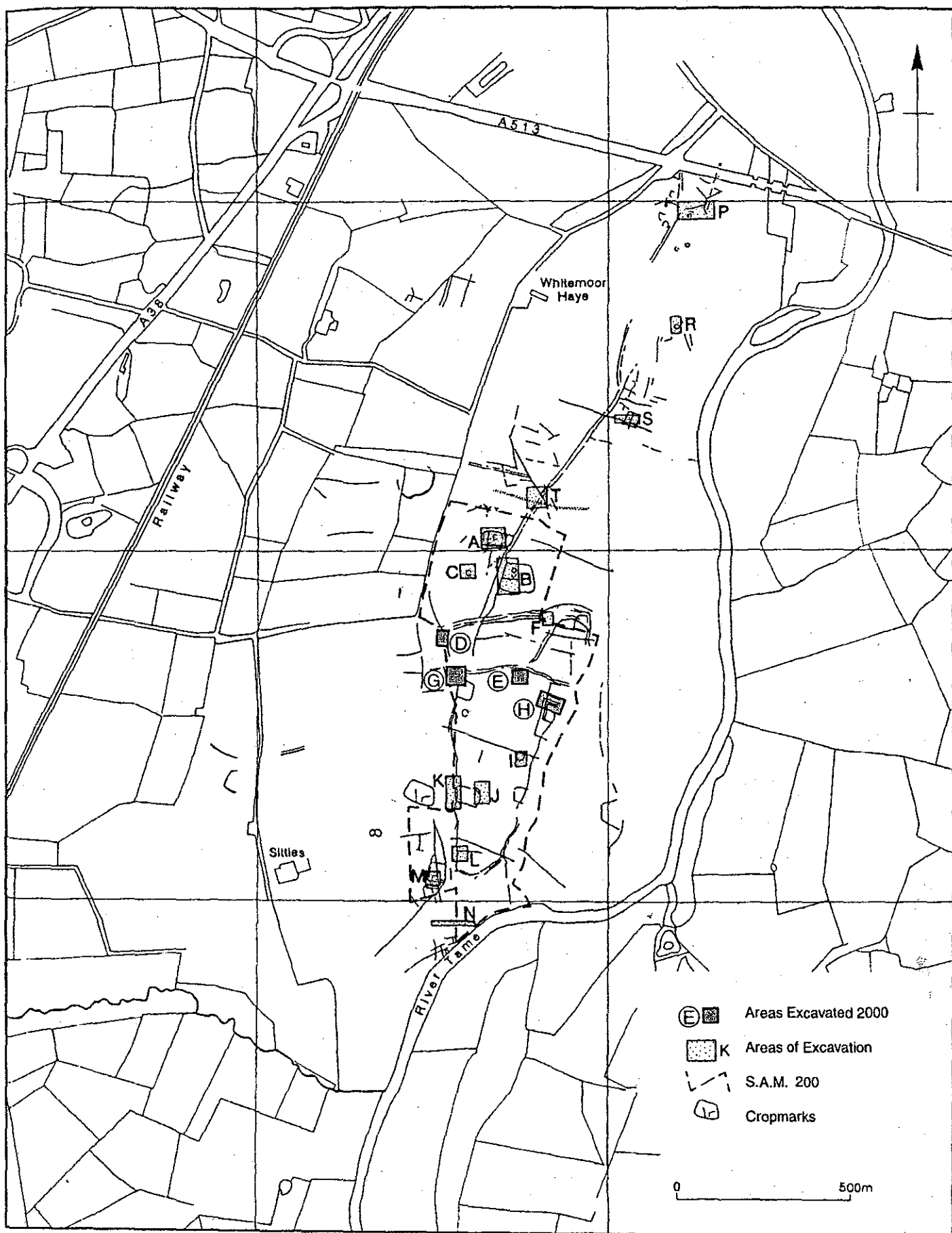


Fig.4

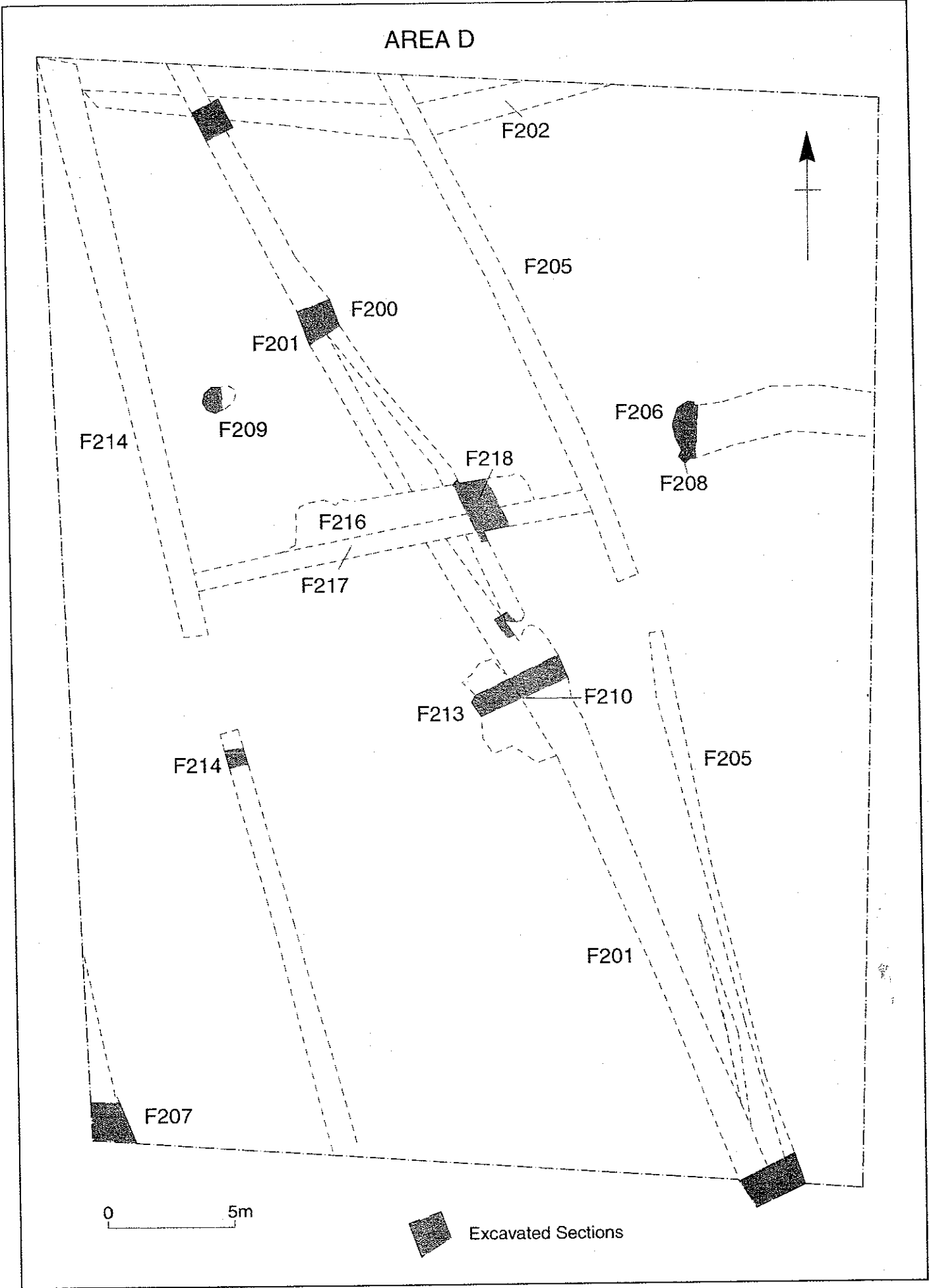


Fig.5

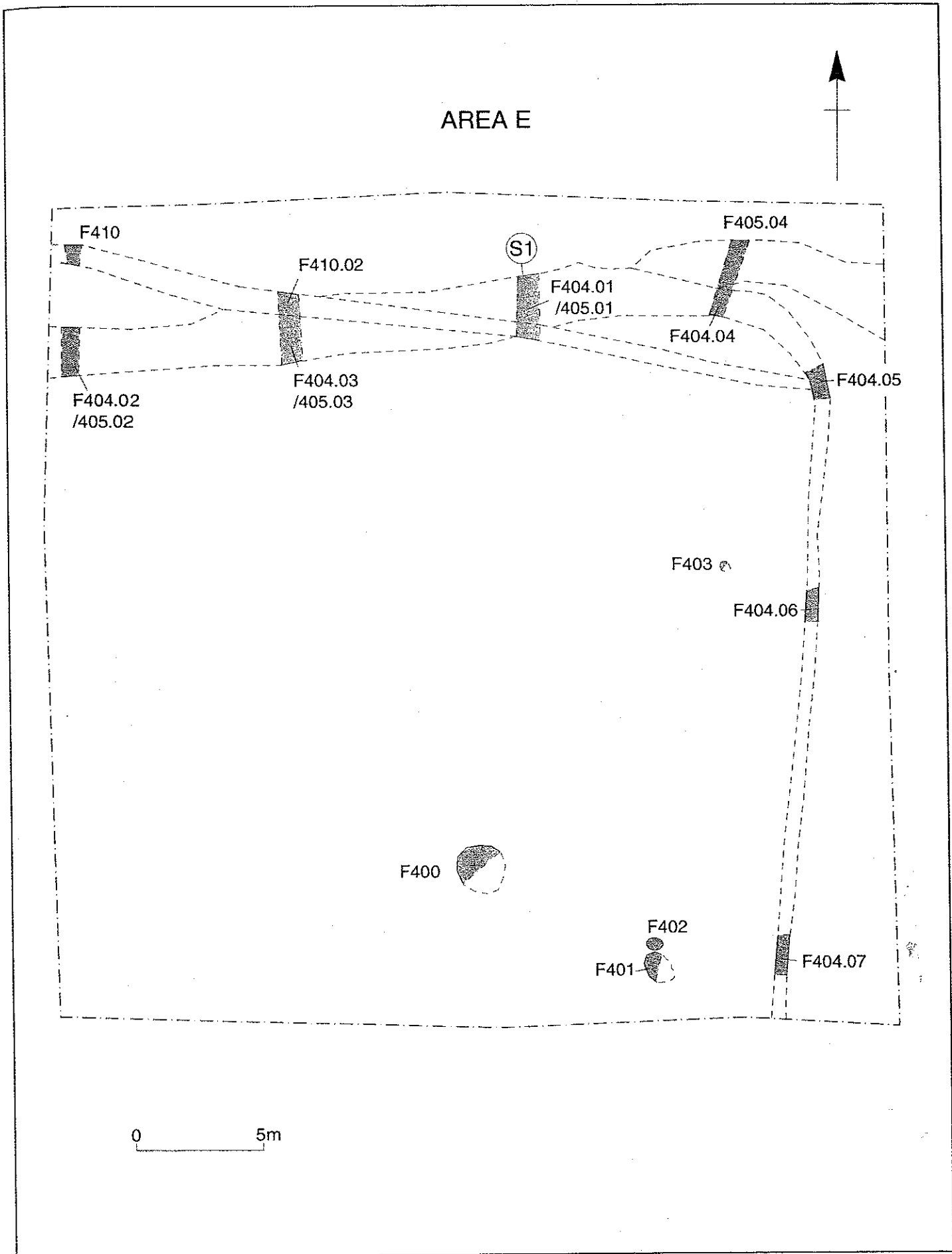


Fig.6

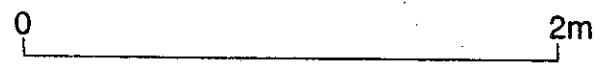
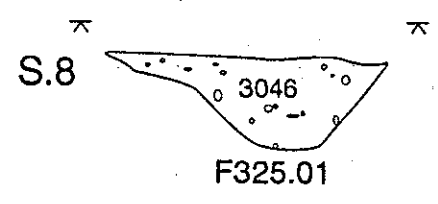
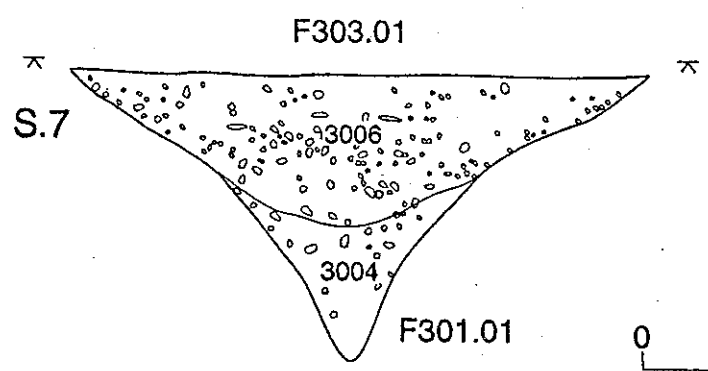
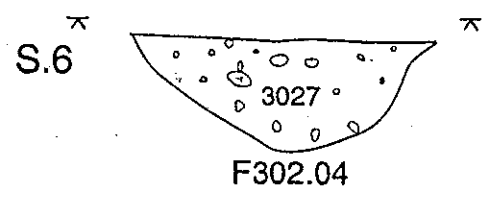
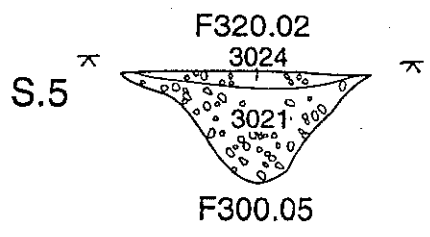
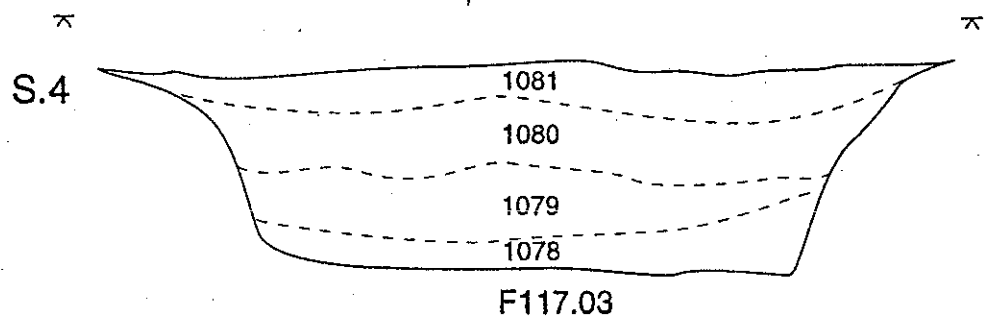
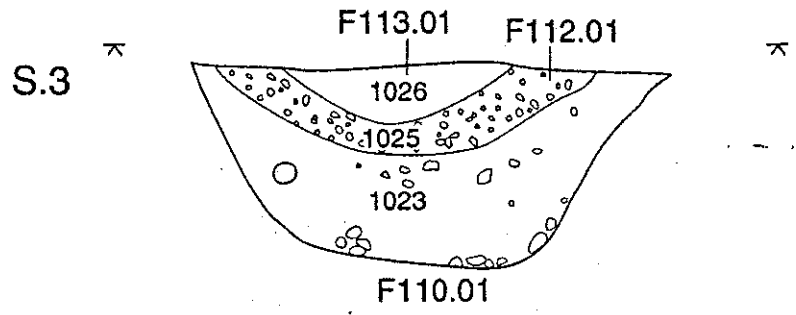
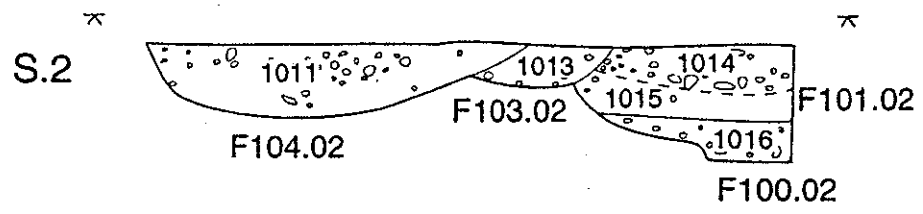
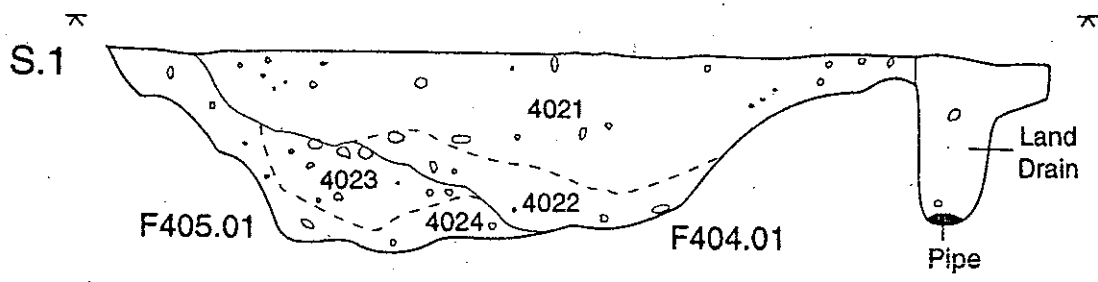
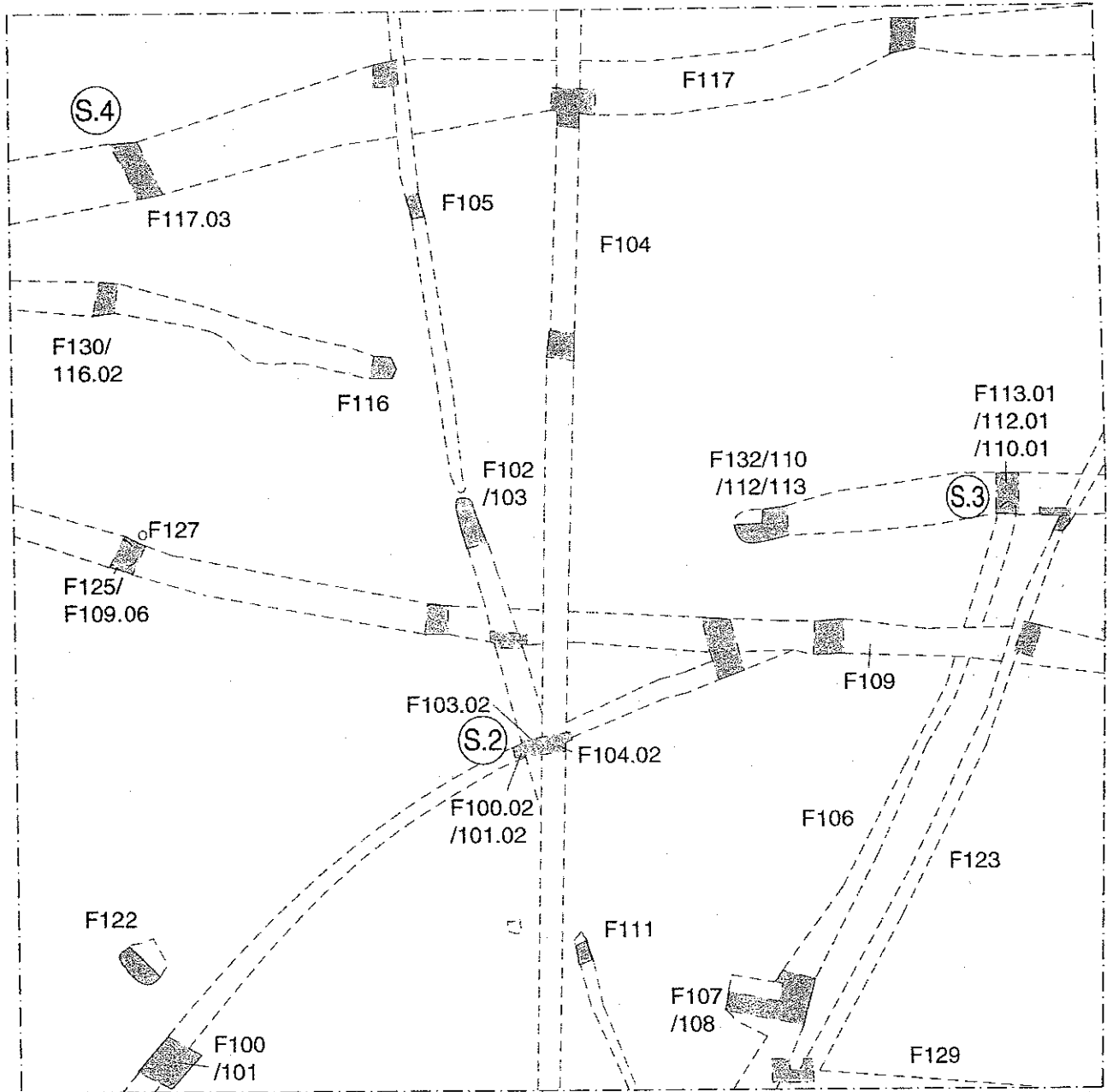


Fig.7

AREA G



0 5m

Fig.8

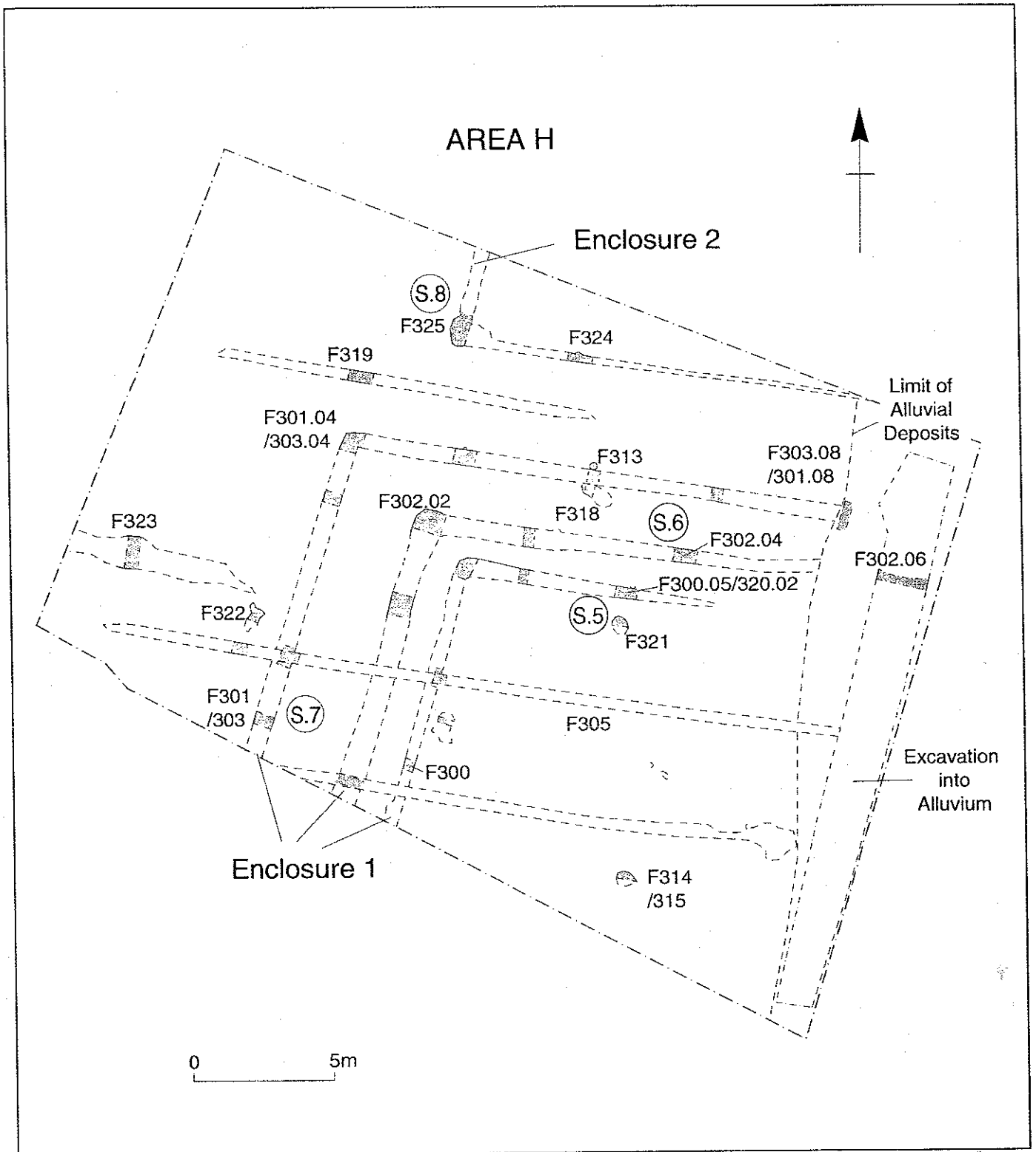


Fig. 9

**Plates**



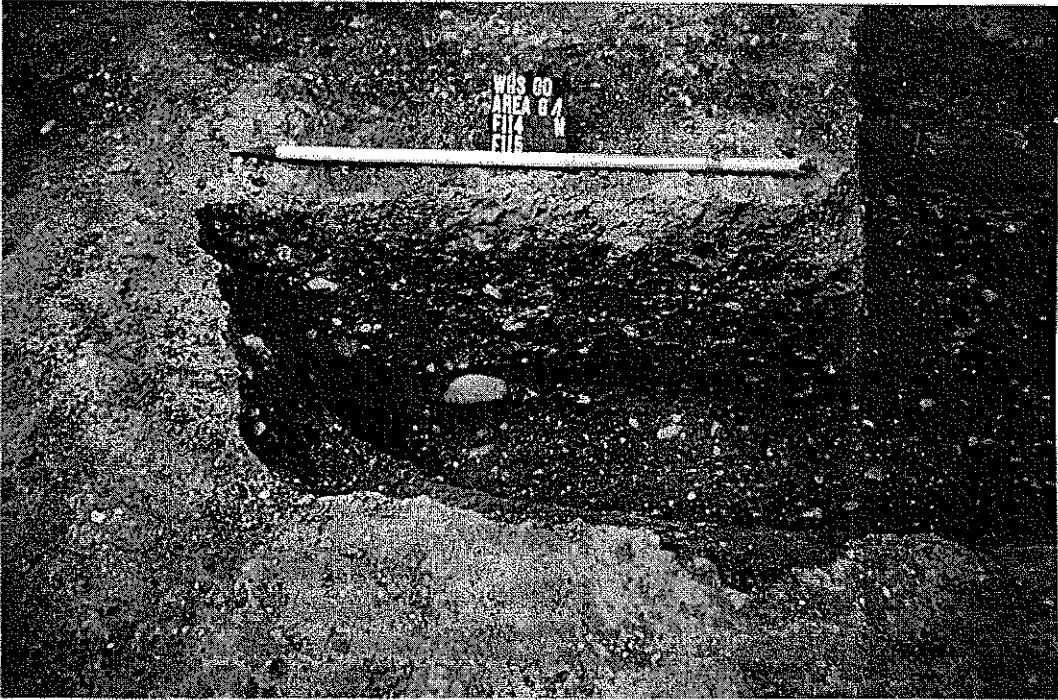


Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

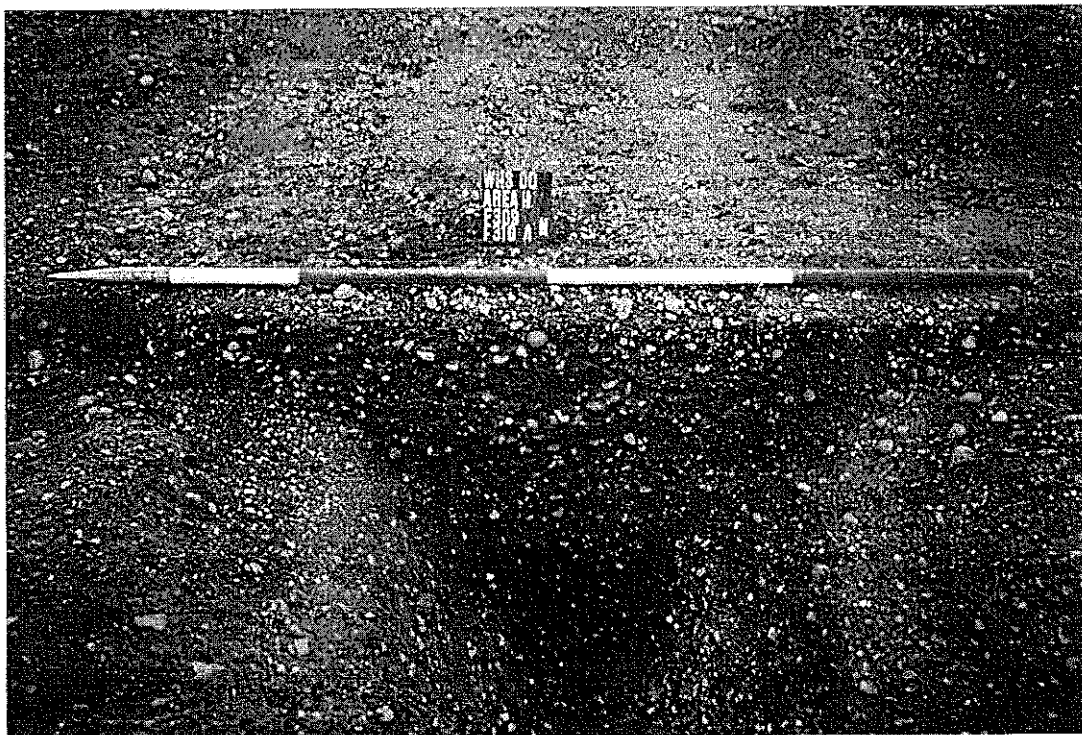


Plate 4

Founded in 1976 and drawing on the academic expertise and technical facilities of one of Britain's foremost universities, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit undertakes archaeological work throughout Britain and abroad.

The Unit offers a wide-ranging archaeological service including:

- ◆ Consultancy
- ◆ Desktop Assessment
- ◆ Field Evaluation
- ◆ Excavation
- ◆ Urban and Landscape Survey
- ◆ GIS-based Analysis
- ◆ Documentary Research
- ◆ Display and Presentation
- ◆ Specialist Finds Analysis
- ◆ Vocational Training
- ◆ Multimedia Software Development

*For further information please contact:*

Simon Buteux BA MPhil MIFA, Iain Ferris BA MIFA or Gwilym Hughes BA MIFA  
Field Archaeology Unit, The University of Birmingham,

Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516

Email: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk Web: <http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

*B. U. F. A. U.*

