

**Land at Home Farm  
Barns, Main Street, Teigh,  
Rutland:**

**an archaeological watching brief**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 783**  
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**Land at Home Farm Barns, Main Street,  
Teigh, Rutland:  
an archaeological watching brief**

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**An archaeological watching brief of land at Home Farm Barns, Main Street,  
Teigh, Rutland  
Museum accession no. RA9. 2001**

## **1.0 Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit of land at Home Farm Barns, Main Street, Teigh, Rutland (NGR SK 865161) between May 2001 and March 2002. The work was commissioned by the Wilmot Partnership, Chartered Architects and Surveyors, on behalf of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. P. Compton. The watching brief was required by Rutland County Council as a condition of planning permission during groundworks associated with the conversion of an existing barn to a dwelling house and the construction two new wing buildings, a stable and a garage.*

*The truncated remains of stone walls forming a structure of probable medieval date were recorded in the northwest part of the site. Sherds of medieval of pottery were recovered from the topsoil overlying the structure and subsoil abutting it. A less substantial stone wall, recorded to the south of the structure, was undated but could be of medieval or post-medieval date. A possible wall foundation trench of suspected post-medieval date coincided with a slight linear earthwork feature, and could possibly represent the remains of a field boundary or livestock enclosure.*

*Other features adjacent to the existing barn revealed evidence of a nineteenth century farmyard, including a cobbled yard surface and a well. These farmyard activities, along with the foundations of recently demolished structures built against the barn, may have truncated earlier features and deposits.*

## **2.0 Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) at Home Farm Barns, Teigh, Rutland between 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2001 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2002. The watching brief was commissioned by the Wilmot Partnership, Chartered Architects and Surveyors, on behalf of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. P. Compton. The watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the conversion of an existing barn to a dwelling house and the construction of two new wing buildings, a stable and a garage. It was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service (LMARS 2000), archaeological advisors to Rutland County Council, and with a specification by BUFAU (BUFAU 2001).

The watching brief was required as a condition of planning permission by Rutland County Council (planning application ref. no. 00/0653/9) in order to comply with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999) and with the Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS 1997).

The site archive consists of one box of finds, one box of A4 files and one A3 wallet of drawings, prepared according to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage 1991). It is currently stored at BUFAU and the completed archive will be placed with the appropriate repository, within a reasonable time of the completion of the watching brief, following advice from LMARS and subject to the approval of the landowner.

### **3.0 Site location and description (Figs 1 and 2)**

The site is located off Main Street, Teigh, Rutland (NGR SK 864161) and comprises the southern part of a 'D'-shaped pasture field which is occupied by a disused stone-built barn (Plate 1). The barn is depicted on the 1887 first edition OS 6" map with two wings and is of probable eighteenth century date, consisting of a cow-house and stable arrangement. The site is bounded to the north by a fence separating the site from the northern part of the field, by Main Street to the south and west, and by the main road between Oakham and Wymondham to the east. Two later agricultural buildings built up against the barn had recently been demolished to make way for new east and west wings to be constructed as part of the conversion and extension of the barn. The site lies within an area registered on the Leicestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR reference number 81 NE. BK) as a site of archaeological interest. Therefore, there was good potential for the survival of archaeological remains. The underlying geology is Middle Lias clay overlying limestone bedrock.

### **4.0 Archaeological background**

The village of Teigh was held by Godwin before the Norman conquest and was subsequently held by Robert Malet (VCH 1935). Holy Trinity church is situated to the south of the site; the fourteenth century tower is all that survives of an earlier medieval church, rebuilt in the eighteenth century. A complex of earthworks to the west of the church may represent a compact medieval manor house complex (LMARS 2000) and along with further earthworks, of probable medieval date, within the village are registered as an area of archaeological interest (SMR reference number 81 NE. BK). Several of these earthworks are visible within the site in the form of slight north-south aligned linear banks, possibly the remains of medieval closes (Hartley 1983).

### **5.0 Aims**

The objective of the archaeological watching brief, as stated in the specification (BUFAU 2001), were to:

- obtain a record of any surviving archaeological deposits and features uncovered during groundworks associated with the conversion of the existing barn to a dwelling house.
- obtain a record of any surviving archaeological deposits and features uncovered during the construction of associated buildings and the excavation of service trenches.
- recover artefactual evidence and environmental material.

## 6.0 Method

The project objectives were achieved by a qualified archaeologist providing continuous archaeological supervision and observation during the groundworks programme. All groundworks, including topsoil stripping, excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches were monitored and recorded by a qualified archaeologist. This was complemented by salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and features revealed by contractors' groundworks. All the artefacts recovered were recorded, washed and marked.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Contextual information was supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections and photographs which, together with any recovered artefacts, form the site archive. Features were assigned unique numbers from F1 onwards. Contexts were assigned unique numbers from 1000 onwards, except where layers were recognised as being the same in different foundation trenches or topsoil strip areas.

## 7.0 Results (Figs. 2-4)

### Area 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

An area approximately 25m x 30m at the northwest corner of the site was stripped for the construction of a new access drive and a garage, to be built on a concrete raft. The natural yellowish brown sandy clay (1007) was only revealed, at the southwest corner of Area 1, close to modern road, at a depth of 0.32m below the ground surface. This was sealed by a layer of brown silty sandy clay (1006), 0.12m deep, containing sherds of medieval pottery and an iron nail, which abutted three truncated limestone walls (F1- F3, Fig.3, Plates 2 and 3), forming a structure. All the walls were composed of dressed limestone blocks (1003, 1004 and 1005) with no evidence of bonding. Wall F1 was aligned northeast-southwest, was 0.60m wide, and had been completely removed to the southwest, presumably by the construction of the adjacent modern road. The northeast end of F1 was badly truncated, but appeared to form a right-angle with northwest-southeast orientated wall F2, which extended beyond the edge of excavation. Wall F2 was of a similar width to wall F1 and both walls were made of sub-rectangular blocks, average size 0.40m long x 0.35m wide.

To the south of F1 was another wall (F3) on a similar alignment, which appeared to turn to the southeast to form a right-angle and extended beyond the edge of excavation. Wall F3 was 0.30m wide and was made of much smaller sub-rectangular blocks (1005), average size 0.20m x 0.15m, than walls F1 and F2. As with wall F1 it had been completely removed to the southwest, presumably by the construction of the adjacent modern road. Only the upper 0.20m of walls F1-3 were exposed, as this was the maximum depth of stripping here. Within the structure formed by walls F1-3 was a deposit of limestone rubble (1002) within a silty loam matrix, at least 0.14m deep. Walls F1-3 and contexts 1002 and 1006 were sealed by 0.06-0.20m of topsoil (1001) containing sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and iron nails.

Elsewhere in Area 1 the topsoil (1000) contained sherds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, brick fragments and limestone fragments, and was more than 0.20m deep in places. The machine stripping only removed the upper 0.20m of topsoil. South of the existing barn remains of a cobbled yard surface (1016) were exposed, with nineteenth and twentieth century finds on its surface. To the west of the cobbled surface 1016 was a stone-built oval well of probable nineteenth century date, which supplied water, via a pipe, to a pump, still in existence and located to the south of the existing barn. The well was constructed close to the south end of a former agricultural building, the stone and brick foundations of which were still visible, which had been demolished during the redevelopment.

#### Area 2 (Figs. 2 and 4)

An area south of Area 1, 13m x 12m, was stripped of topsoil to enable a new stable building to be constructed on a concrete raft. A layer of brown sandy clay silt (1009), at least 0.12m deep, containing sherds of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was revealed, 0.06-0.45m below the ground surface. This was cut by a north-south orientated linear trench (F4, Fig. 4; Plate 4), 1.0m wide and at least 0.20m deep, containing limestone rubble (1011), at least 0.15m deep, and was sealed by a compact brown sandy silt (1010), 0.05m deep, containing fragments of animal bone. Trench F4 terminated to the north and extended south beyond the edge of excavations, where it coincided with a slight linear earthwork bank (Fig. 2). Contexts 1009 and 1010 and were sealed by topsoil (1008), 0.20-0.45m deep, containing sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

#### Trench A - Septic tank pit and waste pipe trench (Figs. 2 and 3)

A pit was excavated to a depth of 2m to hold a septic tank, with an associated trench leading to a manhole in Area 1. The natural yellowish brown sandy clay (1007) was revealed at a depth of 0.30m below the ground surface. Sitting on the surface of the natural, were the truncated remains of a northwest-southeast aligned limestone wall (F6, Fig. 3). Wall F6 was made of a single course of un-faced limestone blocks (1014), 0.40m wide and 0.20m high. Abutting F6 and sealing 1007 was a layer of brown silty sandy clay (1013), 0.15m deep. Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from layer 1013, close to wall F6. Layer 1013 and wall F6 were overlain by topsoil (1017), 0.10-0.15m deep.

#### Trenches B and C (Fig.2)

Trench B was excavated close to Area 2, to hold drainage pipes and a soak-away drain. The natural yellow sandy clay subsoil (1007) was revealed at depth of 0.30-0.50m below the ground surface. It was overlain by a layer of brown silty sandy clay (1013), 0.10m deep. This was sealed by topsoil (1017), 0.20-0.40m deep, which appeared to form a slight bank, in one place, visible as a slightly deeper topsoil with a higher concentration of limestone fragments, which formed the linear earthwork bank recorded in Area 2.

Trench C was excavated between the east wing of the new building and the southeast corner of the site. The natural yellow sandy clay subsoil (1007) was revealed at depth

of 0.30-0.40m below the ground surface. It was overlain by a layer of brown silty sandy clay (1015), 0.10-0.20m deep, containing sherds of post-medieval pottery. This was sealed by topsoil (1018), 0.20m deep. No archaeological deposits were visible.

#### Building foundation trenches (Fig. 2)

The foundation trenches for new east (Plate 5) and west wings, adjacent to the barn, were dug to a maximum depth of 1m below the ground surface. The natural undulating limestone bedrock was sealed by natural yellowish brown sandy clay (1007). This was sealed by a disturbed layer of brown silty sandy clay (1020), 0.10-0.15m deep, containing sherds of post-medieval pottery and brick fragments, encountered previously during the Area 1 stripping. Layer 1020 was sealed by 0.20-0.30m of topsoil (1000) containing sherds of post-medieval pottery and brick fragments. The topsoil abutted the limestone and brick foundations for the two demolished agricultural buildings adjacent to the barn, which were visible in places, cutting contexts 1007 and 1020 to a depth of up to 0.40m. No significant archaeological features were present.

#### Excavation of the barn floor

The modern concrete floor of the barn was removed to reveal a brown sandy silty clay (1019). This was excavated to a depth of up to 0.40m below the original floor level. No archaeological features or deposits were visible.

### **8.0 Finds**

<b>Find type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Tile:ceramic	3	
Roman pot	4	18
Medieval pot	32	408
Post-medieval pot	136	626
Clay pipe	2	
Iron Nails	3	21g
Bottle glass	19	
Animal bone		552g

Table 1: Summary of finds

#### *8.1 The pottery by D. Sawday*

The watching brief produced 172 sherds of pottery which were examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS and LMARS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999). Four sherds in the topsoil, context 1000, were in a Roman Calcite Gritted ware, dating from the 1st or 2nd century AD, and a further



thirty five sherds, weighing 420 grams, dated to the late Saxon, medieval or early post medieval periods.

Eight sherds of pottery, dating to the 13th or 14th centuries, were found in context 1006, abutting the walls of the stone structure in southwest corner of Area 1. The topsoil 1013, overlying wall F6, Trench A and the subsoil 1015, Trench C, contained coarse earthenware, or pancheon ware sherds of probable 18th century or later date, as well as medieval pottery in 1013, which was, presumably, residual in this context. Contexts 1000, 1001 and 1009 all produced modern pottery dating to the 19th or 20th centuries, as well as medieval material, whilst only modern pottery occurred in context 1008 .

Although most of the late Saxon and medieval pottery was redeposited in later contexts, its presence provides evidence of activity in the vicinity from the 11th or 12th to the 14th or 15th centuries, whilst relatively little pottery could be dated to the 16th, 17th, or 18th centuries. The area only seems to have become the focus of activity again in the modern period. The average sherd weight of 12.0 grams for the medieval and early post medieval pottery suggests that relatively undisturbed archaeological levels may survive elsewhere on the site.

The range of medieval fabrics present is typical of the region and characteristically local in origin. The three late Saxon sherds are all in Stamford ware, and Stamford was a major supplier of pottery in the region from the later 9th and 10th centuries until *circa* 1250. Eighteen of the twenty nine sherds dating from the 12th or 13th to the 14th or 15th centuries are in Stanion Lyveden type ware, and are thought to come from kilns based in the Rockingham Forest in north Northamptonshire (Foard 1991). A further four sherds are in 13th or 14th century Nottingham wares, whilst six sherds, including three fragments in an unclassified sandy ware, probably all come from the Bourne kilns in Lincolnshire. Ticknall in Derbyshire is the most likely source of the single fragment of late medieval Midland Purple ware.

Two fragments of a later 17th century stoneware jug with cobalt blue decoration are from Westerwald in Germany, and another stoneware fragment has also tentatively been identified as a continental import from the Rhineland, perhaps dating from the 16th century, possibly from Langerwehe (Hurst 1986). The presence of this pottery may suggest a building of some quality in the area.

Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Weight (g)	Comments
1000	CG – Calcite gritted ware	4	18	?Roman – 1st – 2nd C. AD
1000	LY2 – Stanion Lyveden type ware 2	2	21	12th – 13th C.
1000	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	32	Post med/modern
1000	EA10 – White Earthenware	1		Modern
1000	EA – Unclassified Earthenware	1		?Flower pot/tile, modern
1001	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	2	15	Knife trimmed, one with glaze spots, c.1050-c.1200+
1001	LY – Unclassified Stanion Lyveden type ware	1	9	c.1100-c.1400
1001	LY4 – Stanion Lyveden type ware 4	5	60	c.1100-c.1400
1001	NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	3	13	Reduced internally, later 13th C.
1001	MS – Unclassified Medieval Sandy ware	2	17	One glazed, possibly Bourne A/B ware, 13th – 14 <sup>th</sup> C.
1001	BO1 – Bourne D ware	2	25	Cistern rim, c.1450+
1001	XY – Unclassified ?continental import	1	7	Fine white stoneware, unglazed, thin walled, possibly 16th C. Langerwehe
1001	EA2	1	23	Post med/modern
1001	EA/EA10	2	-	Modern
1001	SW5 – Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	-	Modern
1006	LY4	5	95	Includes two cooking pot/jar rims, ?14th C.
1006	LY1 – Stanion Lyveden type ware 1	2	35	c.1200-1400
1006	NO3	1	3	13th – 14th C.
1008	EA2	2	20	Post med/modern
1008	EA/EA10	26	-	Modern
1008	SW – Unclassified Stoneware	4	-	Modern
1008	SW7 – Black Basalt ware	1	-	Modern teapot spout
1009	ST2	1	3	Thin patchy glaze, c.1050-1200+
1009	LY1	1	33	Glazed, c.1200-1400
1009	MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	1	17	c.1400-1550
1009	WE – Westerwald	2	5	?jug – cobalt blue dec., later 17th C.+
1009	EA2	16	383	Post Med/Mod
1009	EA8 – Creamware	1	-	Modern
1009	EA/EA10	38		Modern
1009	SW4	4	-	Modern
1009	SW	4		Modern
1013	?LY	1	25	Coil built, c.1100-1400
1013	LY1	1	5	c.1200-1400
1013	MS	1	5	13th - 14th C.
1013	EA2	2	56	Post med/modern, 18th C. +
1015	EA2	2	100	Post med/modern, 18th C. +
1020	BO1	1	27	
1020	EA	26	-	Mod. fine & coarse wares

Table 2: Quantification of pottery

### *8.2 Animal bone*

552g of animal bone was recovered during the watching brief. This was all derived from a single context (1010), associated with linear trench F4, containing limestone rubble (1011), which is of probable post-medieval or modern date.

### *8.3 Iron objects*

3 iron nails were recovered during the watching brief; two were from topsoil (1001) overlying the probable medieval structure and the other was from the subsoil (1006) abutting it.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The earliest evidence for activity within the site comes in the form of four sherds Roman Calcite Gritted ware, dating from the 1st or 2nd century AD, recovered from the topsoil (1000) in Area 1. This suggests activity dating to the Romano-British period on, or close to, the site.

The evidence from the study of the medieval pottery suggests that the site may have been occupied from the 11th or 12th to the 14th or 15th centuries. The structure revealed at the northwest corner of the site is of probable medieval date. Although the majority of the sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil, they were closely associated with the structure. The precise date of the structure is not clear due to the lack of finds from undisturbed stratified contexts. The structure appears to represent the northeast corner of a building of uncertain function, which probably extended to the southeast and the southwest. The relatively less substantial wall F3 may be an internal wall. The structure has been truncated to the southwest, probably as a result of the construction of the post-medieval/ modern road.

Wall F6 is undated, but could date to either the medieval or post-medieval periods, on the basis of the pottery recovered from the topsoil overlying it. This wall appears to be on a slightly different alignment to the walls forming the probable medieval structure to the north. Both wall F6 and the stone structure to the north appear to coincide with the approximate location of a small 'L'-shaped building, depicted on the 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1887.

The lack of significant quantities of pottery dating to the early post-medieval period could be interpreted as a corresponding lack of activity on the site at this time, although the presence of a small quantity of imported 16th-17th century pottery may suggest a building of some quality in the area.

Rubble-filled trench linear trench F4 may possibly be the foundations of a wall of late post-medieval date, on the basis of the relatively large amount of post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil overlying it. This feature coincides with a slight linear earthwork feature, probably representing the truncated remains of F4, which could be the remains of a field boundary or perhaps a livestock enclosure. The ground works associated with the redevelopment did not affect any other earthworks visible within the site.

The area adjacent to the existing barn revealed evidence of a nineteenth century farmyard, including a cobbled surface and a well. These farmyard activities along with the structures built against the barn and recently demolished, may have truncated earlier features and deposits.

The results of the watching brief indicate some form of Romano-British activity may have been taking place on or close to the site. The work demonstrated that medieval structures survive within the site and that some of the linear earthworks, which were recorded in 1983 (Hartley 1983), could be of post-medieval date.

## **10.0 Acknowledgements**

The watching brief was carried out by Catherine Flitcroft and Laurence Jones with the assistance of Mary Duncan. The finds were assessed by Annette Hancocks and Deborah Sawday. The illustrations were prepared by Edward Newton and Nigel Dodds, and the report was edited by Simon Buteux. The project was managed by Laurence Jones. Thanks are due to the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Compton, for their assistance.

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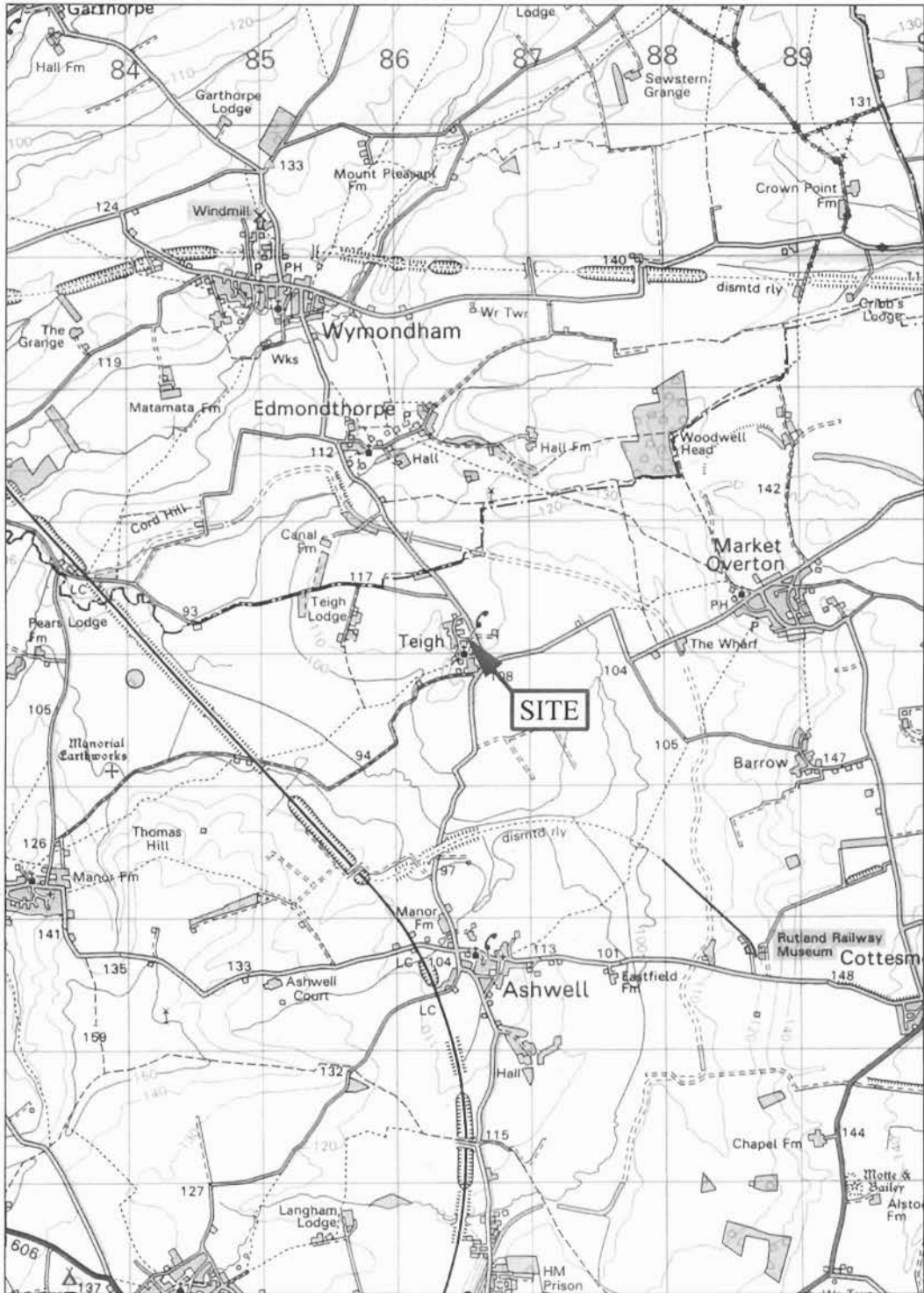


Fig.1 Site Location.

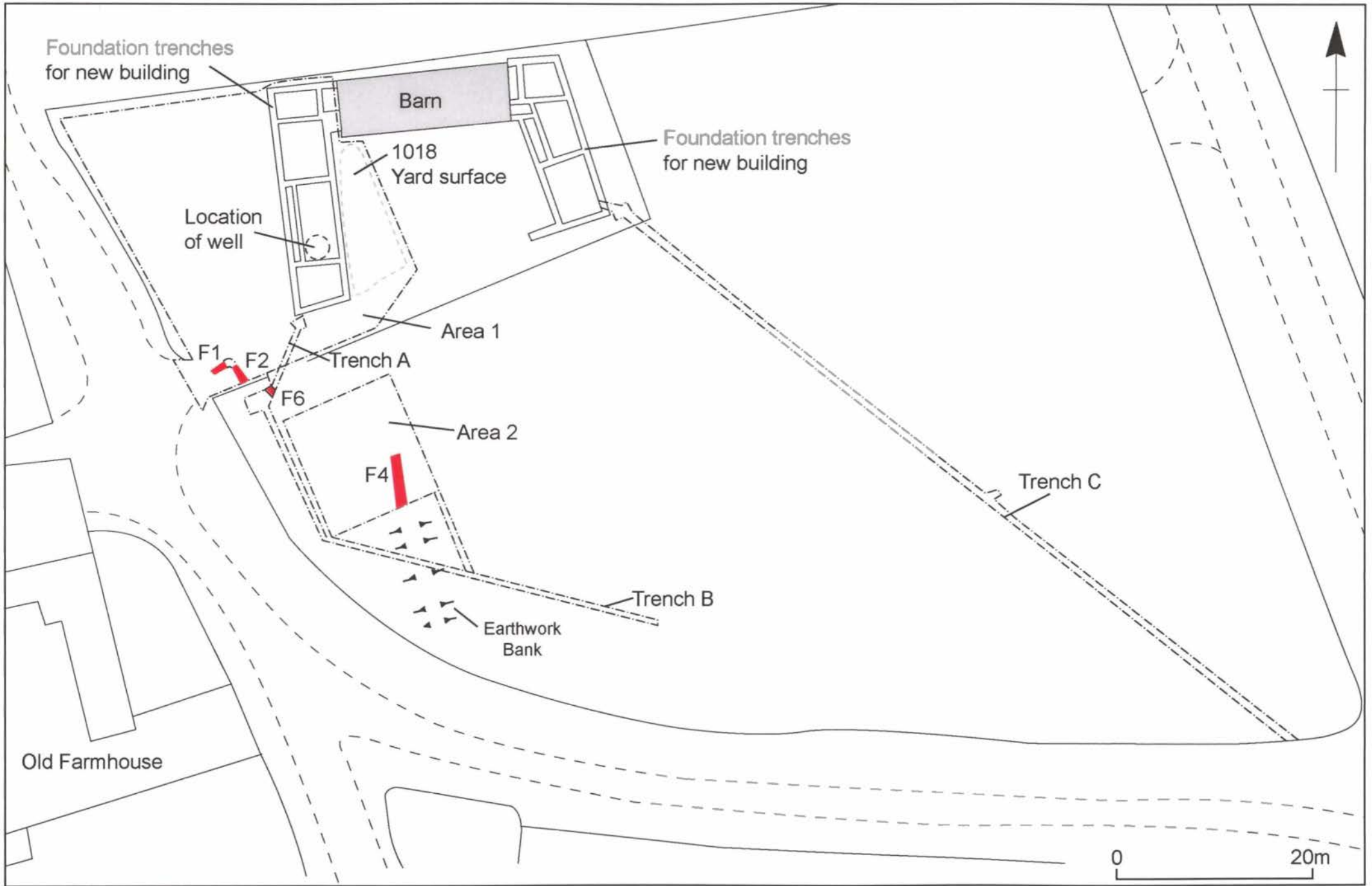


Fig.2

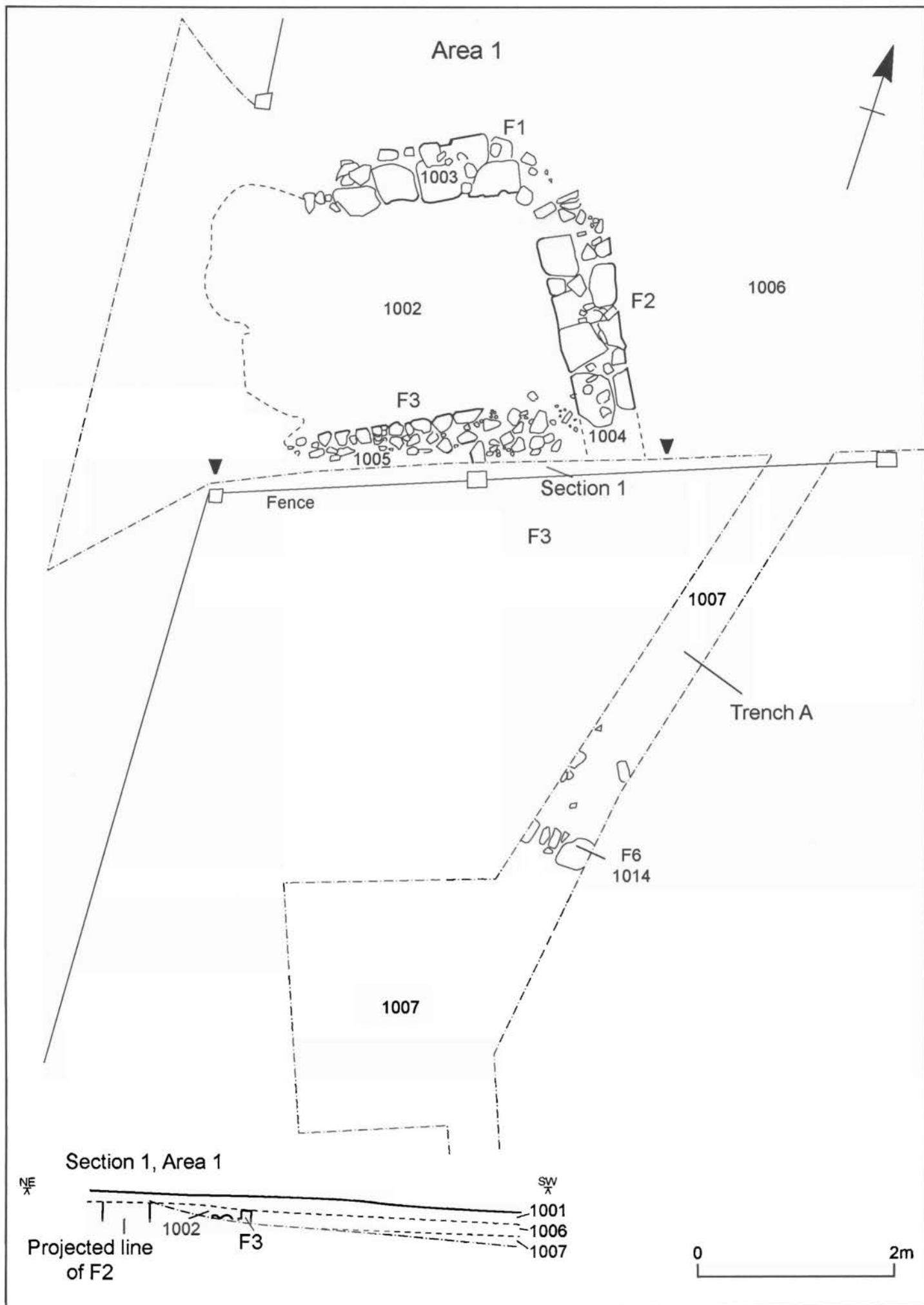
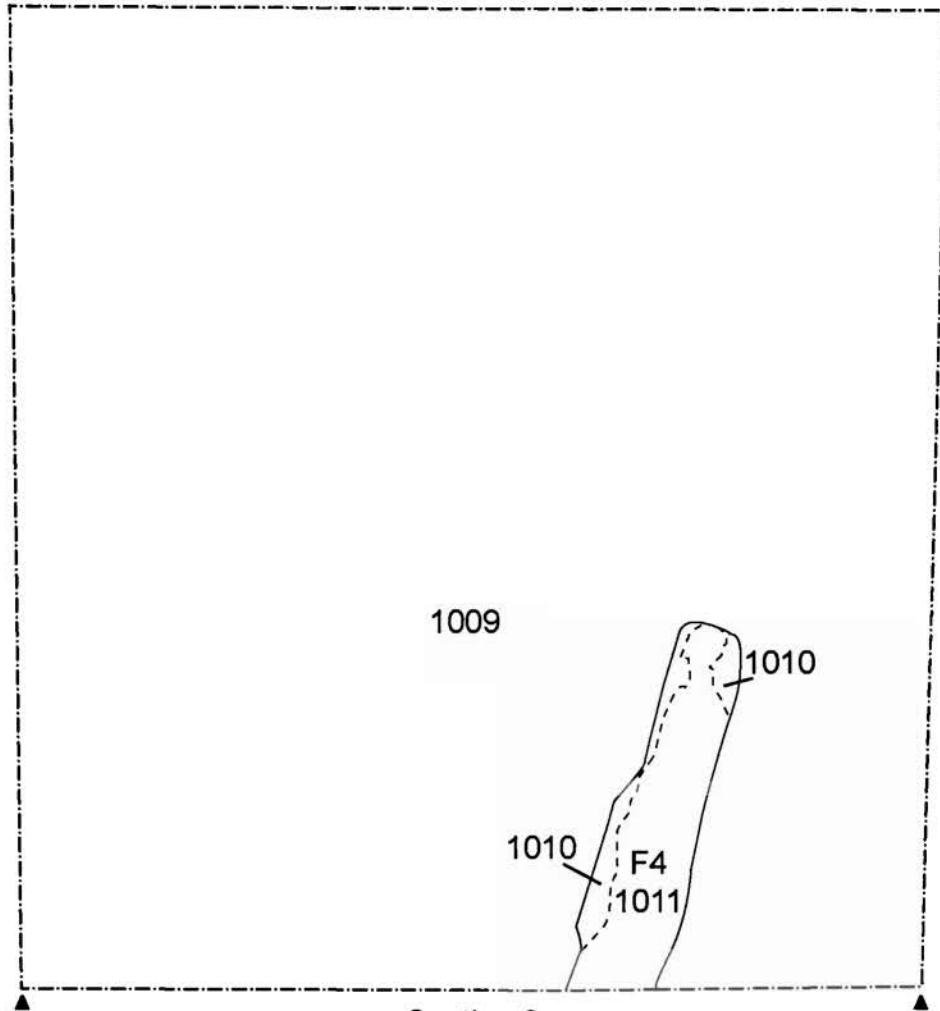


Fig.3



Area 2



Section 2

Section 2, Area 2

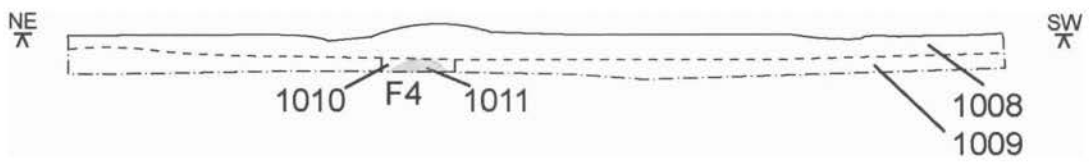


Fig.4



Plate 1.



Plate 2.



Plate 3.



Plate 4.

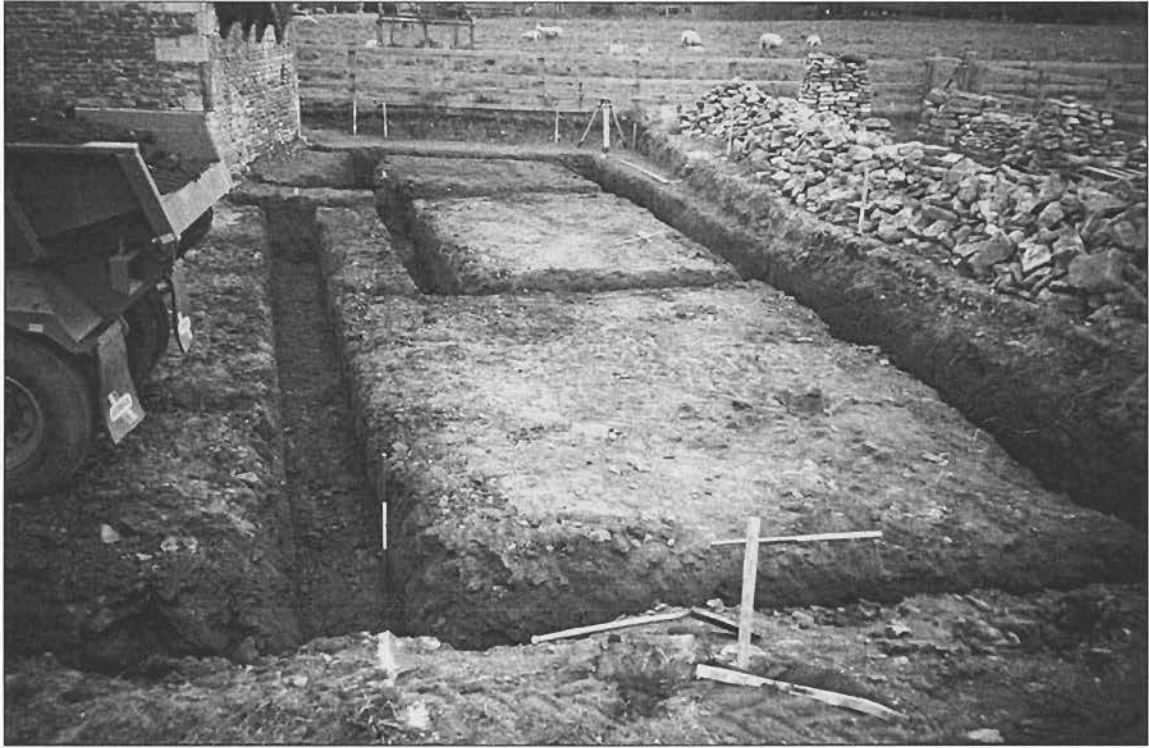


Plate 5.