Land east of Redhill Farm, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottinghamshire:

an archaeological evaluation 2001

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Land east of Redhill Farm, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottinghamshire: an archaeological evaluation 2001

by
Richard Cuttler

with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Marina Ciaraldi, Susan Ebbins, Annette Hancocks, Emma Hancox and Roger White

illustrations by
Mark Breedon and Nigel Dodds.

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For further information please contact:
Alex Jones (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

Figures

Plates

LAND TO THE EAST OF RED HILL FARM, RATCLIFFE ON SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2001

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit at land east of Red Hill Farm, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottinghamshire (centred on NGR SK 44954295), between September and November 2001. The work was required by Nottinghamshire County Council in advance of a planning application for the proposed construction of a railway station, buildings, carpark and access road. The evaluation was commissioned by CPM environmental planning and design, on behalf of Midland Mainline Ltd.

A previous archaeological desk-based assessment (Stephenson 1999) identified areas of potential archaeological significance, which were targeted during the evaluation. Located immediately to the north of the site are the remains of an important Romano-British settlement, situated on a ridge of high ground, overlooking the confluence of two rivers; the Soar and the Trent. The site of the Romano-British settlement is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Notts 141, SMR 500) which has yielded evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British occupation. Finds recovered since the early 18th century include: worked flints dating from the Mesolithic period, an Iron Age shield boss and spine, and pottery indicating the presence of an extensive, high status Romano-British settlement. Located at the junction of two Roman roads, the settlement may have also been the site of an Iron Age shrine, which could have remained in use throughout the Romano-British period. Surface scatters of pottery and other finds recovered from the site during previous fieldwalking and metal detecting indicated areas of archaeological potential, at the west part of the site in particular.

Nineteen trial-trenches were excavated during the evaluation. The results of the evaluation confirmed the existence of areas of high archaeological potential, suggested by the desk-based assessment and demonstrated that the Romano-British settlement extended beyond the scheduled area. Archaeological remains were identified in all the trial-trenches except Trenches 11 and 13. Evidence of occupation from the Bronze Age through to the 4th century AD was recorded. Worked flint of a general prehistoric date, probably dating to the Early to Middle Bronze Age was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil and was residual in some later contexts. However, this flint did not appear to represent any longevity or intensity of occupation in the area. The earliest evidence for occupation was a shallow ditch containing Bronze Age pottery, in Trench 2 at the eastern part of the site.

At the north part of the site, close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument evidence of Romano-British enclosure ditches and pits was recorded. In the trial-trenches excavated in the west part of the site, there was evidence of ditches, gullies, post-holes, wall foundations and mortared floors, all of Romano-British date. At the south part of the site evidence of Romano-British and possible prehistoric pits and enclosures was recorded in the trial- trenches.

This fieldwork is the first stage of evaluation and a second stage is to be undertaken at the south part of the site, after clearance of woodland and the position of the access route has been confirmed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at land to the east of Red Hill Farm, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottinghamshire (Fig.1, hereafter refered to as the site). The work was commissioned by CPM environmental planning and design on behalf of Midland Mainline Ltd and undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) between September and November 2001. The evaluation was required by Nottinghamshire County Council (archaeological advisor to Rushcliffe Borough Council) in advance of a planning application for the proposed construction of a railway station, buildings, carpark and access road. This work is the first stage of evaluation and a second stage is to be undertaken at the south part of the site, after clearance of woodland and the position of the access route has been formulated.

A previous desk-based assessment (Stephenson 1999) identified areas of archaeological potential, which were investigated during the evaluation fieldwork. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001), and adhered to a specification prepared by CPM (Stephenson 2001). The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: planning and archaeology* (Department of the Environment 1990).

2.0 SITE LOCATION (Figs. 1 and 2)

The site is located 250m to the north of Ratcliffe on Soar (centred on NGR SK 44954295) and 200m to the east of the River Soar. It comprises four fields within Red Hill Farm owned by Richard Morley Esq. The site is bordered to the south by the A453 road, to the east of an access road between the A453 and Red Hill Farm, the Nottingham to London railway line to the west and a Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north (SAM Notts 141, SMR 500).

The geology of the site comprises mainly river terrace gravel deposits within the alluvial flood plain. On the higher ground the geology changes to Keuper marl particularly on a raised knoll on the eastern side of the site, and to the north on Red Hill itself.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment (Stephenson 1999) of the archaeological potential has already been carried out, prior to this evaluation. This section forms only a summary of the archaeological background.

A Mesolithic microlith recovered from the surface at Red Hill, and worked Neolithic and Bronze Age flints recovered nearby indicate early prehistoric activity. Neolithic

stone axes have also been recorded locally, one close to the Soar and two from the Trent.

In the early 18th century human remains were unearthed during gypsum mining, and during the construction of the rail route along the eastern edge of the site, in the 1840s, further skeletal remains were revealed. The construction of a rail bridge over the Trent in 1895 produced what were believed to be three pieces of horse armour, but these were not identified, until later (Watkin *et al* 1996) as the boss and spine from a rare Iron Age shield. From the 1950s onwards excavation work and systematic investigation by amateur archaeologists has generated further information about prehistoric and Romano-British activity at the site. A large amount of investigation has also been carried out by metal detectorists which has identified a spread of Romano-British material at the west side of the site.

Approximately 20m to the north of the site is the well documented Iron Age and Romano-British site of Red Hill, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Notts 141, SMR 500) Red Hill is situated on high ground to the southeast of the confluence of the River Soar and the River Trent. The River Soar may also have been the natural tribal boundary between the Corieltauvi (Coritani) to the east and the Cornovii to the west. While historically rivers were important for communication and commerce, the confluence of rivers appears to have borne particular significance in both prehistory and the Roman Period. It seems likely that this confluence was considered sacred during the Iron Age and was chosen for the site of a shrine, which was later adopted by the Romans for a temple. Springs, marshes, rivers, bogs and wet places were frequently venerated during the Iron Age, a practice often continued after the conquest. Work in the past few years has begun to suggest that the shrine may have encouraged the growth of a small Roman town to the south and west of the scheduled area.

The importance of the site is further illustrated by the proximity of two Roman roads. The first of these runs directly from the Trent near Sawley in a northwest direction to the fort and later settlement at Strutt's Park and Little Chester (Derby). Although it has been suggested that this road provided a link between Little Chester and the River Trent (Margary 1973, pp 311), it seems likely that it crossed the Trent and continued to Red Hill, although the exact location has not been identified. The Road probably continued on from Red Hill to Vernemetum on the Fosse Way (Elsdon 1986). A second road (SMR 10) runs southwards along the west bank of the Soar to crossing at Kegworth and continues to Shepshed. The exact line of this road at Red Hill is not clear, but it seems likely that the road crossed to the east bank of the Soar somewhere north of the present A453, close to the site.

While artefacts thought to relate to the Roman military have previously been found at Red Hill, no clear defensive features relating to a camp or fortress have yet been discovered. The steep topography of the northern and western sides of Red Hill would have afforded a natural defence, the occupation of which would have controlled traffic on both the Soar and the Trent.

Excavations by Houldsworth on the site at Red Hill in the 1950s uncovered a Roman building which had been identified from aerial photographs (Houldsworth 1963). Fluted stone columns of red Mansfield sandstone were thought to be associated with

the building he had excavated since he believed this was the only building on the site. Pottery from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, a lead tablet and a 1st century AD burial were associated with the building. Further field walking found traces of tessera, hypocaust tiles, stone flooring, limestone rubble and diamond shaped Roman floor tiles (Elsdon 1982). Red Hill was further excavated by E. Greenfield in the summer of 1963 in advance of building works connected with the powerstation (Greenfield 1964).

The Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire SMRs have also recorded Romano-British pottery scatters on the western side of the Soar, some of which (Nottinghamshire SMR 6 and Leicestershire SMR 42NE W) are only separated from the site by the River Soar.

Recent work at Red Hill has concentrated on the cliff side area over looking the River Soar (Reeves 1992), which confirmed the concentration of Roman activity. Within the site observations were made during excavations for electrical cable laying, along the line of the Red Hill Farm access track. Here deposits of possible Romano-British date were observed (JSAC 1998).

The probable remains of ridge and furrow relating to medieval or early post-medieval open field cultivation are visible on 1940s aerial photographs, aligned east-west (Stephenson 1999). An investigation into the proposed dualling of the A453 between Barton and the M1also suggested the potential for a ring ditch to the south of Field 4 and to the north of the A453(Walker 1992).

4.0 AIMS

The aims of the evaluation, as stated in the specification (Stephenson 2001) were to:

(a) determine the thickness, depth and depositional history of any archaeological deposits;

(b) characterise the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, organic materials etc);

(c) assess the overall presence and the survival of structural remains relating to the main periods of occupation revealed and the potential for the recovery of additional structural information given the nature of the deposits encountered (e.g. extent of later disturbance etc);

(d) assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of artefactual evidence (including pottery, brick,tile, stone, glass, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues etc), its condition and potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

(e) assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual and environmental evidence (including animal bone, mollusca, soils etc), its condition and potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

(f) appraise the relative value of the main stratigraphic units revealed in terms of their importance for preservation and conservation.

5.0 METHOD

Nineteen trial-trenches were excavated providing a total of 819 metres of trenching (1,638 m^2). The majority of trenches were located on a speculative basis and the others were located to sample the area of the Romano-British finds scatter on the west side of the site. The overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision to the upper surface of any significant archaeological features and deposits or to the top of the natural subsoil. Subsequent excavation of archaeological features and deposits was by hand.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections and colour slide and monochrome print photographs. These records, together with recovered artefacts, form the site archive. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present.

A representative sample of datable archaeological features was selected for the collection of 20 litre soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy followed the broad guidelines contained in the BUFAU *Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling*. All trenches and spoil heaps were scanned for finds using a metal detector. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was to be undertaken, as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within *A strategy for the care and investigation of finds* published by English Heritage and the document *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* published by UKIC. Any finds which are 'treasure' with reference to the Treasure Act 1997 were be reported to the Coroner and the appropriate procedures were to be followed. Any human remains uncovered were to be left in situ and only excavated if essential and following receipt of the appropriate Home Office licence.

The evaluation archive comprises two boxes of finds and is presently housed at BUFAU. The archive will be deposited with Nottinghamshire Museum within a reasonable period after the completion of the fieldwork, subject to the approval of the landowner.

6.0 RESULTS

Anomalies recorded in plan but not sampled were allocated three and four figure context numbers. If a deposit was excavated and proven to be a feature the stratigraphic unit was allocated a number prefixed by an F. Fields 1 and 4 were both arable, while Fields 2 and 3 were pasture (Fig. 2). The deposits in all fields were overlain by approximately 0.30m of topsoil unless otherwise stated.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

2.5m x 48m, orientated east-west.
Objective: investigation of land close to scheduled area at the northern part of Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 28.99m, east end of trench 29.34m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 29.45m, east end of trench 29.67m

Topsoil (101), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (102), depth 0.16m

The natural red-brown clay (103) was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below the present ground surface. This was cut by a northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch (F1), 2.5m wide with a 'V' -shaped profile and filled with an orange-brown silty clay (100). Another possible ditch fill, of a similar alignment and width (111), ran parallel to Ditch F1. Pottery and bone was evident on the surface of this deposit, however the feature was not excavated.

The fills of two possible north-south aligned linear ditches, each approximately 2.4m wide and filled with an orange-brown clay-silt (110 and 112), appeared to cut ditch F1 and possible fill 111 respectively. Fragments of Romano-British tile were visible on the surface of possible fill 112.

Further to the east was a north-south aligned unexcavated possible ditch fill of light brown silt (113), 3.4-5.0m wide.

In the middle of the trench were five sub-circular unexcavated possible pit fills of light brown clay-silt (114 to 118), approximately 0.5m in diameter.

Several unexcavated possible ditch fills aligned north-south, 0.65m wide; composed of orange-brown clay silts (104 to 109) were recorded. Unexcavated ditch fill 104 appeared to overlie ditch F1 and unexcavated fills 104-108 also appeared overlie earlier contexts. All the features, possible features and the natural (103) were sealed by brown-grey clay subsoil (102), approximately 0.16m deep.

Feature	**Context**	**Description/comment**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Finds** (context no. in brackets)
F1	100	NW-SE 'V'- shaped ditch	1.5m	0.52m	RB pottery, animal bone (100)

Table 1: excavated feature, Trench 1

INTERPRETATION

The northwest-southeast aligned ditch (F1) contained bone and Romano-British pottery. The similarly orientated fill (111) is probably also a ditch. These are on a similar alignment and could possibly be contemporary. They are likely to be associated with land division or drainage.

The three north-south aligned unexcavated fills (110, 112 and 113), which are probably the fills of linear ditches, appear to overlie contexts which may be the fills of earlier possible ditches. These possible ditches may represent a second phase of Romano British enclosures or land drainage.

The unexcavated fill (113) could be the fill of a linear ditch, possibly with a pit at the southern extent, although the relationship between these was difficult to determine.

The sub-circular possible fills (114 to 118) may be fills of pits or postholes and appeared to be cut into the fill of an earlier possible ditch fill (111). Their function is difficult to interpret within the extent of the trench.

A series of narrow north-south orientated unexcavated possible fills (104 to 109) are on the same alignment as modern land drains and are probably of a similar function and date.

The subsoil (102) may be the remains of a former medieval plough soil. Evidence from aerial photographs indicates the presence of east-west aligned ridge and furrow within this part of the field.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

2.5m x 50m, orientated north-south.
Objective: speculative sample within Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 31.19m, north end of trench 29.80m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 31.66m, north end of trench 30.48m
Topsoil (200), depth 0.20 to 0.40m
Subsoil (201), depth 0.30

The natural red-brown clay (202) was encountered at a depth of 0.50 to 0.70m, below the present ground surface. This was cut by a sub-circular feature (F20) filled by orange-brown silty clay (209) and measuring 0.2m deep, and approximately 2.4m in width.

Three east-west aligned linear features (F21, F22 and F23) were approximately 2.4m wide, with gently sloping sides and rounded bases Feature F22 had a primary fill of yellow-grey clay (205), sealed by dark grey silty clay with charcoal flecking (203). One further linear feature (207) was orientated east-west.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F20	209	Natural feature	2.5m	0.20m	
F21	210	Possible plough furrow	2.4m	0.20m	
F22	203, 205	E-W linear ditch	2.44m	0.36m	Bronze Age pottery and flint (203)
F23	211	Possible plough furrow	2.10m	0.15m	

Table 2: excavated features, Trench 2.

INTERPRETATION

Two circular deposits (F20 and 208) are probably natural in origin. The east-west linear features F21 and F23 and context 207 are probably plough furrows relating to ridge and furrow cultivation dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods, remains of which are visible on aerial photographs (Stephenson 1999). The other linear feature (F22) was slightly deeper and contained worked flint and Bronze Age pottery. Feature F22 was on a similar alignment to the plough furrows, but contained different fills and is probably a shallow ditch of Bronze Age date.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

2.0m x 50m, orientated north-south.
Objective: to determine extent of possible archaeological features associated with pottery scatter.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.84m, north end of trench 29.00m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.20m, north end of trench 29.39m

Topsoil (301), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (302), depth 0.10m to 0.14m

The natural red-brown clay (303) was cut by several archaeological features. The earliest feature was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F33). This was almost entirely truncated by a similarly orientated ditch recut (F31), 3.45m wide, with steep sides. Ditch F31 was excavated to a depth of 0.62m, which was the level of the water table, but was not bottomed. It was filled with a grey-orange silty clay (304).

Six possible east-west aligned linear features, all approximately 1.20m wide, were spaced at regular intervals of approximately 7m. One of these possible features (F30, not illustrated) was excavated and was 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. The northernmost of these linear features truncated earlier ditches (F31 and F33).

36m from the south end of the trench was an irregularly shaped feature (F32) with an irregular profile which was filled with grey silty clay.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F30	300	Plough furrow	1.30m	0.14m	
F31	304	NE-SW ditch recut	3.45	>0.62m	RB pottery, tile, animal bone (304)
F32	307	Natural feature	1.20m	0.42	
F33	306	NE-SW ditch	>1m	>0.62m	RB pottery (306)

Table 3: excavated features, Trench 3

INTERPRETATION

The linear ditch F31/F33 contained a significant quantity of Romano-British pottery and animal bone and may represent a former enclosure or boundary ditch. The linear features, aligned east-west, are probably the remnants of former plough furrows, relating to ridge and furrow cultivation dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods. Evidence of these is recorded on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s. The irregular shaped feature (F32) is probably natural in origin.

Trench 4a (Fig. 6)

2.0m x 30m, orientated northwest-southeast.
Objective: sample within northern half of Field 1 close to scheduled area within area of pottery scatter.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.01m, north end of trench 29.26m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 29.64m, north end of trench 29.85m
Topsoil (409), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (410), depth 0.30m

Due to the density of archaeological features and deposits encountered only 30m of the proposed 50m long trench was excavated. A second trench (Trench 4b) was located approximately 60m to the south. This was in order to identify the extent of archaeological features in the northern part of Field 1.

The natural orange-brown sandy clay (411) was encountered at a depth of 0.63m below ground level. Several archaeological features cut the natural 411. Five

unexcavated possible fills of dark grey silty clay (400, 405, 406, 407 and 408) were recorded. These contexts were probably the fills of sub-circular pits, although they extended beyond the edge of excavation, approximately 1m to 1.2m in diameter. One of the sub-circular possible fills (400) was excavated and found to be the fill of a pit (F40), at least 1.20m wide and 0.25m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of this feature (400) contained worked flint, Romano-British pottery and slag. Romano-British pottery was also recovered from the surface of context 406.

Approximately 6m from the southern end of the trench was an unexcavated small circular possible pit fill composed of dark grey silty clay (404), 0.6m in diameter.

20m from the southern end of the trench was a northeast-southwest orientated linear ditch (F41), at least 0.80m in width and 0.80m in depth with a 'V' -shaped profile. It was filled with a grey-brown sandy clay (401) containing Romano-British pottery and a large amount of animal bone. Ditch F41 was cut by a second ditch (F42), 2.4m wide and 0.80m deep, with steep sides and a narrow rounded base. It was filled with a charcoal-rich sandy clay (403) containing Romano-British pottery and an iron nail.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F40	400	Pit	>1.20m	0.25m	Flint, RB pottery ,slag, animal bone (400)
F41	401	N-S 'V'- shaped ditch		0.80m	RB pottery, animal bone (401)
F42	403	N-S ditch	2.4m	0.80m	Flint, RB pottery, iron, animal bone (403)

Table 4: excavated features, Trench 4a

INTERPRETATION

Feature F40 is probably a pit of Romano-British date and the four possible fills of dark grey silty clay (405, 406, 407 and 408) are probably the fills of pits of a similar date. The unexcavated fill (404) may be the fill of a posthole.

Ditches (F41 and F42) contained a large quantity of animal bone and Romano-British pottery and were probably enclosure or drainage ditches. The subsoil within Trench 4a was particularly charcoal-rich, and this together with the density of features encountered here suggests a focus of activity in this area.

Trench 4b (Fig. 7)

2.0m x 27m, orientated north-south.
Objective: to determine the southeast extent of Roman activity associated with the scheduled area and the pottery scatter, northern half of Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.01m, north end of trench 29.03m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 29.45m, north end of trench 29.48m
Topsoil (415), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (416), depth 0.15m

The natural orange-brown sandy clay (417) was encountered at a depth of 0.45m. Three features cut the natural 417. At a distance of 8m from the south end of the trench was a sub-circular feature (F44). Towards the middle of the trench was a shallow scoop (F45). Both features were filled with a silty grey clay (412 and 413).

At the northern end of the trench was a northwest-southeast aligned curvilinear feature (F46), 1.29m in wide and at least 0.50m deep. This feature was not bottomed but had steep sides and was filled by a grey silty clay (414).

Four unexcavated fills of possible furrows, aligned approximately east-west, were spaced at regular intervals of approximately 7m. The possible fills were all about 1m wide, and the most northerly of these clearly truncated the curvilinear ditch F46.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds
F44	412	posthole	0.40m	0.46m	
F45	413	Natural feature	1.35m	0.16m	
F46	414	Curvilinear ditch	1.29m	>0.50m	

Table 5: excavated features, Trench 4b

INTERPRETATION

Feature F44 appears to be a well-defined posthole and Feature F45 may be a natural scoop, the result of tree or root disturbance. The curvilinear ditch (F46) may represent part of an enclosure ditch or ring ditch.

The possible east-west aligned linear furrows are almost certainly plough furrows, relating to ridge and furrow cultivation dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods, remains of which are visible on aerial photographs.

Trench 5a (Fig. 8)

2.5m x 36m, orientated northeast-southwest.
Objective: investigation of extent of Romano-British pottery scatter, Field 1
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench, 29.20m east end of trench 28.87m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench, 29.78m east end of trench 29.51m
Topsoil (508), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (502), depth 0.30 to 0.35m

The trench was excavated in two parts (Trench 5a and Trench 5b) due to the presence of a field boundary between Fields 1 and 2. The natural orange-brown sandy clay (507) was encountered at a depth of 0.60m. The natural was cut by several archaeological features. Running along the whole length of the trench was a north-south orientated linear ditch (F50), at least 2.0m wide and at least 0.90m deep with a steep east side. F50 was not bottomed and the full extent of the feature was not recorded, as it lay beyond the edges of the trench. The lowest fill identified was a dark brown clay (506), at least 0.30m deep. This was sealed by an orange-brown clay (505) with gravel, 0.25m deep, containing Romano-British pottery and animal bone. This was overlain by a compact (500), 0.30m deep, containing worked flint, Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Running parallel with F50 was a dark brown silty clay (501, unexcavated), probably the fill of a linear ditch.

An unexcavated deposit (509), 2m wide, which is probably the fill of a east-west aligned linear ditch, overlay F50. The relationship between possible fills 509 and 501, which is located to the south, could not be established.

At the south end of the trench were four sub-circular patches of charcoal (503, 504, 510 and 511), 0.6m in diameter, apparently overlying fill 500, F50. A small quantity of human bone was recovered from the surface of 510. animal bone was recovered from the surface of the remaining features.

12m from the south end of the trench was an unexcavated deposit (512), 0.65m wide, which is probably the fill of a narrow aligned east-west linear feature. Possible fill 512 appeared to overlie context 500, F50. All features were sealed by a layer of brownish grey clay (502).

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F50	506, 505, 500	NE-SW ditch	>2m	>0.90m	RB pottery, animal bone, flint (500) RB pottery, animal bone (506)

Table 6: excavated features, Trench 5a

INTERPRETATION

The linear feature F50 and fill 501 appear to be two very large ditches on the same alignment, both probably dating from the Romano-British period. Charcoal-rich contexts 503, 504, 510 and 511, which contained fragments of animal and human bone, appeared to overlie the upper surface of ditch F50 and could be remains of articulated human burials. These burials may have been partially truncated by medieval ploughing. Alternatively these contexts may be the upper fills of ditch F50.

Possible fill 512 may be the fill of a linear feature associated with land drainage. The unexcavated possible ditch fill 509, at the northern end of the trench, may be a drainage or boundary ditch. These features were sealed by a brown-grey clay subsoil, possibly a former medieval ploughsoil.

Trench 5b (Fig. 9)

2.5m x 32m, orientated northeast-southwest.
Objective: investigation of Romano-British pottery scatter, Field 2
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 29.77m, east end of trench 28.98m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 30.22m, east end of trench 30.24m
Topsoil (550), depth 0.24m
Subsoil (551), depth 0.20m to 0.38m
Subsoil (552) depth 0.60m

At the northeastern end of the trench the natural light orange silty clay (553) was encountered at a depth of 1.26m. Overlying the natural subsoil 553 were the unexcavated fills of two possible gullies (554 and 555) aligned at right angles, approximately 0.7m wide. These were sealed by a layer of dark brown sandy silt (552), approximately 0.60m in depth at the northeastern extent of the trench.

Near the southern end of the trench layer 556 appears to have been used as a make-up layer for a surface comprised of mortar, gravel and tile (557). This surface (557) was not uniform, and in some places had not survived. In the middle of the trench were two concentrations of stone, probably the remains of two possible wall foundations (F56 and F57) which overlay 556. The southernmost (F57) was aligned roughly northwest-southeast and consisted of roughly shaped sandstone blocks, one course in

depth. The northernmost (F56) was of similar stone, but no clear alignment could be discerned.

At the southern end of the trench was a dark brown sandy silt context (558), which appeared to overlie the surface 557. The trench was sealed by a dark brown silty clay layer (551), 0.38m in depth.

INTERPRETATION

There are several phases of activity evident within this trench. The earliest would appear to be represented by two possible gullies (554 and 555), possibly beam slots or 'robbed out' foundation trenches. A layer of sandy silt (552) sealing 554 and 555 may be the same as the 'make-up' layer (556), which could have provided a platform for surface 557. Surface 557 is almost certainly a mortared interior floor surface within a structure. Features F56 and F57 are the remains of wall foundations, which could be part of the same structure as surface 557. Surface 557 may be overlain, at the south end of the trench, by possible fill (558), perhaps the fill of a large pit.

The layers of subsoil (551 and 552) may relate to medieval agriculture. Alternatively, the deep layers may also be partly associated with a linear earthwork bank, aligned north-south, running along the eastern sides of Fields 2 and 3. The earthworks are briefly discussed later in this report (Section 8).

Trench 6 (Fig. 10)

2.5m x 24m, orientated northwest-southeast.
Objective: investigation of possible archaeological features associated with Romano-British pottery scatter, Field 2.
Level, upper archaeological horizon southern end of trench 29.71m, northern end of trench 29.71m
Level, current ground surface southern end of trench 30.35m, northern end of trench 30.36m
Topsoil (619), depth 0.40m
Subsoil (620), depth 0.16m

The upper surface of the archaeological horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.56m. An orange sand and gravel (608) near the middle of the trench may be natural. Three unexcavated deposits (610, 614 and 616) may be the fills of ditches aligned east-west, or archaeological layers. These varied between 2.4m to 4.8m in width with Romano-British pottery and animal bone evident on the surface.

At the south end of the trench was unexcavated possible ditch fill, comprising an orange-brown sandy silt (605), 0.08m deep, which contained Romano-British pottery. The soil matrix of this deposit was similar to another unexcavated possible ditch fill (606) at the north end of the trench.

Three sub-circular or ovoid features (F61 to F63) were excavated. At the south end of the trench, sub-circular pit F62 which extended beyond the edge of the trench and cut layer 605. Pit F62 had a primary fill of charcoal-rich orange-brown silty clay (604). This was overlain by brown silty clay (603), 0.15m in depth, which contained Romano-British pottery, post-medieval pottery, tile, iron objects, a copper alloy pin,

slag, slate and animal bone. This was sealed by a final fill of black silty clay (602), 0.33m deep. At the north end of the trench was a small ovoid feature (F63), which was filled by a dark brown silt containing flecks of charcoal and orange clay (607). This was cut by a shallow scoop (F61), which contained Romano-British pottery.

F61 was cut by a curvilinear ditch or possibly a pit (F60), which extended beyond the north end of the trench. It was filled with (600), which contained Romano-British pottery, iron objects and slag.

Several other unexcavated possible fills of sub-circular or ovoid features were recorded (609, 611, 612, 613 and 618). Some of which (609, 613 and 618) appeared to overlie possible features.

Feature	**Context**	**Description/comment**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Finds** (contexts in brackets)
F60	600	E-W curvilinear ditch/ pit?	>0.34m	>0.14m	RB pottery, animal bone, slag, iron (600)
F61	601	Pit	0.90m	0.14m	RB pottery (601)
F62	602, 603, 604	Pit with possible post pipe, U shaped profile	1.00m	0.48m	RB pottery, PM pottery, iron, Cu alloy pin, slag, brick, tile, slate, and animal bone (603)
F63	607	Posthole, U shaped profile	0.45m	0.22m	RB pottery, animal bone (607)

Table 7: excavated features, Trench 6

INTERPRETATION

Gravel deposit (608) was sterile and was probably natural in origin, although it is possible that it could be a deliberately laid gravel surface. Contexts 605 and 606 were clearly not natural and may be the fills of east-west aligned ditches, although their interpretation at this stage is difficult. Three further deposits (610, 614 and 616) were thought to be archaeological in origin and would appear to predate the phase of pit digging activity represented by three pit-type features and five more possible fills of pits (F60, F61, F62, 609, 611, 612, 613 and 618). One of these pits (F62) may have served as a post-pit, as it appeared to contain a post-pipe for a possible structure. These features and possible features represent several phases of Romano-British activity.

Trench 7 (not illustrated)

2.5m x 50m, orientated north-south.
Objective: sample within Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 35.46m, north end of trench 31.79m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 35.83m, north end of trench 32.12m
Topsoil (700), depth 0.26m
Subsoil (703), depth 0.05m to 0.10m

The natural red clay (704) was encountered at a depth of 0.36m below the present ground surface. Approximately 15m from the south end of the trench was a curvilinear feature (F71) aligned roughly north-south, approximately 0.50m wide. Two sections showed the feature (F71) to have an irregular profile , 0.30m to 0.50m in depth.

Towards the middle of the trench were two unexcavated possible ditch fills aligned east-west and approximately 1m wide. These possible fills were composed of light brown clay silts (705 and 707), which were similar to the subsoil (703).

At the northern end of the trench was a small circular feature (F72), approximately 0.35m in diameter and 0.09m deep, with a 'U' -shaped profile filled by a yellow-brown clay silt (702).

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds
F71		Curvilinear feature	0.50m	0.30-0.50m	-
F72	702	Possible posthole?	0.35m	0.09m	-

Table 8: excavated features, Trench 7

INTERPRETATION

Feature F71 contained no finds and may be a redundant field boundary, however, within the extent of the trench the exact nature of this ditch is difficult to interpret.

The unexcavated possible fills (705, 707) are probably the remains of east-west aligned medieval or post-medieval plough furrows, associated with ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs and identified within other trenches in Field 1, with a similar alignment and spacing. Undated feature F72 may be the base of a ploughed out posthole.

Trench 8 (Fig. 11)

2.5m x 40m, orientated east-west.
Objective: investigation of Romano-British pottery scatter, western half of Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 31.11m, east end of trench 35.36m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 31.88m, east end of trench 35.64m
Topsoil (800), depth 0.28m
Subsoil (801), depth 0m to 0.47m

The natural red clay (802) was encountered at depths of between 0.28m and 0.77m below the present ground surface. At the west end of the trench was a brown silty clay (804), 1.8m x 0.9m, possibly the fill of a pit. Romano-British pottery was visible on the surface of 804.

Located at a distance of 14m from the west end of the trench was a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature (F83), 2.0m wide and 0.43m deep, with steep sides and an undulating base. It was filled with orange-brown silty clay (803).

At the eastern end of the trench was a brown silty sand and gravel (805), aligned northeast-southwest, probably the fill of a ditch. At the northwest side of fill 805 was a narrow strip of dark brown silt (806), approximately 0.08m in width.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F83	803	N-S ditch	2.00	0.43	Flint, RB pottery animal bone, window glass and tile (803)

Table 9: excavated features, Trench 8

INTERPRETATION

Unexcavated deposit 804 is possibly the fill of a small pit. Feature F83 is possibly a ditch dating to the Romano-British period. Unexcavated deposit 805 may also relate to a ditch, similar to F83. The depth of subsoil at the west end of the trench (0.47m) may be due to a large earthwork (Fig 2).

Trench 9 (Not illustrated)

2.5m x 30m, orientated northeast-southwest.
Objective: speculative sample within Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 30.37m, east end of trench 33.05m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 31.72m, east end of trench 33.39m
Topsoil (900), depth 0.36m
Subsoil (901), depth 0.10m to 0.40m

The natural red clay (903) was encountered at depths of between 0.28m and 0.77m below the current ground surface. This was sealed by an orange brown clay (901).

Towards the middle of the trench Layer 901 was cut by a northwest-southeast orientated linear ditch (F90), which had been recut on several occasions by later ditches (F91, F92, F93 and F94), 0.6m to 1m deep. These recut ditches were difficult to identify and were only clearly visible where they cut Layer 901. The fill of F91, F92, F93 and F94 was a homogenous, almost black silty clay (902).

INTERPRETATION

Undated ditch F90 appears to have undergone several episodes of recutting represent a series of recuts within a large ditch aligned north-south. This ditch is located at the base of a clay knoll (Fig. 2). The ditch was on the same alignment as a linear earthwork bank recorded close to the west edge of Field 1. It was not clear if the ban and the sequence of ditches were contemporary

Trench 10 (Fig. 12)

2.0m x 50m, orientated northwest-southeast.
Objective: to sample within area of Romano-British pottery scatter, Field 3.
Level: upper archaeological horizon south end of trench 29.94m, north end of trench 30.36m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.59m, north end of trench 30.79m
Topsoil (1000), depth 0.18 to 0.25m
Subsoil (1011), depth 0.20m to 0.25m

The natural was not reached in this trench, apart from in a section excavated through a later feature, which cut the stratigraphy overlying the natural. Here the natural sand and gravel (1014) was revealed at a depth of approximately 1m below the ground surface. The uppermost archaeological horizon was a layer of re-deposited gravel (1015), 0.14m deep. Layer 1015 was the upper archaeological horizon, which was encountered at a depth of 0.43m to 0.65m below the current ground surface. Layer 1015 was cut by several archaeological features.

The gravel layer (1015) was cut by ten east-west aligned linear features, or fills of possible linear features (F100, F104, F105 and 1016 to1022) and an oval feature (F101). The linear features, or fills of possible linear features were between 1m and 4m wide, and most contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone within the upper fills. One of linear features, towards the south end of the trench, was probably the west terminal of a shallow gully (F104) with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with brown silt (1009) which contained Romano-British pottery.

Near the middle of the trench, was curvilinear ditch F105, 3.20m wide and 0.60m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a brown silty clay (1010). Ditch F105 was cut by later linear feature F100, with steep sides and a flat base, 0.40m deep. It was filled with red-brown silty clay (1002), 0.18m in depth. This was sealed by a dark brown stony grey silty clay (1001) containing abundant charcoal fragments. The northern edge of F105 was cut by a possible pit (F106), which was only partially visible in section.

Approximately 10m from the south end of the trench was a linear gully (F104), three postholes or small pits and the fill of a possible fourth posthole or pit (F102, F103, F107 and 1023), 0.50 to 0.60m across. Linear gully F104 was 1.20m wide and 0.25n in depth. Two of the features (F102 and F103) cut gully F104. Feature F107 contained an almost complete Romano-British pot (Plate 6).

Patches of burnt clay were recorded along the length of the trench, apparently overlying layer 1015. The largest of these burnt clay patches (1024), at the south end of the trench, was particularly well-defined and was at least 1.4m long and 0.80m wide and extended beyond the edge of the trench.

Within the northern part of the trench was an oval feature 2.60m x 0.55m and 0.60m in depth, which cut layer 1015. It was filled with light grey silty sands (1004 to 1007) containing Romano-British pottery and tile. Three unexcavated light grey silty sand fills (1025, 1026 and 1027), 1.8m to 3.2m in width, were also recorded, extending beyond the edge of the trench.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context nos. in brackets)
F100	1001 1002	E-W curvilinear ditch	1.40m	0.40m	RB pottery, animal bone, slag (1001) RB pottery (1002)
F101	1004 1005 1006 1007	Pit	0.55m	0.60m	RB pottery, tile and animal bone (1004) RB pottery (1005) RB pottery and animal bone (1006) RB pottery (1007)
F102	1003	Pit	0.53m	0.21m	RB pottery, iron nail and animal bone (1003)
F103	1008	Pit	0.55m	0.16m	RB pottery and animal bone (1008)
F104	1009	E-W gully	1.20m	0.25m	RB pottery (1009)
F105	1010	E-W curvilinear ditch	3.20m	0.60m	-
F106	1012	Pit	1.3m	0.51m	-
F107	1013	Pit	0.45m	0.20m	Collapsed RB vessel (1013)

Table 10: excavated features, Trench 10

Layer 1015 was overlain by a layer of mid grey brown sandy clay subsoil (1011), 0.15 to 0.20m in depth. This was sealed by a layer of topsoil (1000), 0.18 to 0.25m deep, containing Romano-British pottery, tile, stone, a Roman coin , lead and animal bone including a worked fragment.

INTERPRETATION

Between the natural subsoil 1014 and the upper surface of layer 1015 there may be at least 0.60m of archaeological deposits. All or most of the archaeological features or possible archaeological features recorded in this trench probably date to the Romano-British period. The nature of the stratigraphy suggest that further phases of occupation may be encountered at a deeper level.

The linear features, and the unexcavated fills of possible linear features (F100, F104, F105 and 1016 to1022) aligned east-west, often with Romano-British pottery in their upper fills, are possibly the remains of drainage or enclosure ditches. These features may belong to more than one phase of activity, with one feature (F105) cut by a later ditch (F100) and the fill (1018) of another possible linear feature, perhaps being cut by another possible ditch, suggested by the presence of context (1017).

A group of small circular features and the fill of possible circular feature (F102, F103, and 1023) at the southern end of the trench may represent the remains of truncated postholes. The fill (1013) of feature F107 contained an *in situ* pot, which may have been deliberately placed within the feature, but did not contain any evidence of cremation.

The patches of burnt clay (1024) probably indicate the positions or nearby use of hearths, with one relatively large area of burnt clay located at the southern end of the trench. Iron slag recovered from the fills of some of the features and this may suggest localised iron production.

Feature F101 and three other deposits (1025, 1026 and 1027) are probably the fills of pits, are probably the result of pitting, while finds recovered from Feature F101 suggest a Romano-British date. Another undated possible pit (F106) was cut through ditch F105.

Several phases of Romano-British activity are represented within Trench 10. Romano-British layers 1005 to 1007, which mask the natural sand and gravel (1014) and could potentially seal earlier features.

Trench 11 (not illustrated)

2.0m x 50m, orientated east-west.
Objective: speculative sample across the top of rise, Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 35.76m, east end of trench 34.93m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 36.02m, east end of trench 35.21m
Topsoil (1100), depth 0.27m

The natural red brown clay (1101) was encountered at a depth of 0.27m below the present ground surface. This was sealed by a brown silty clay topsoil (1100) which contained four flint flakes and a fragment of slag.

INTERPRETATION

No features of archaeological significance were recorded in this trench.

Trench 12 (not illustrated)

2.0m x 50m, orientated northwest-southeast.
Objective: sample at southern part of Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 30.65m, north end of trench 33.72m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.99m, north end of trench 34.17m
Topsoil (1200), depth 0.23m
Subsoil (1201), depth 0.17m

The natural red brown silty clay (1203) was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface. At the southwestern end of the trench, was an unexcavated northwest-southeast aligned light brown silty clay (1202), approximately 1.8m wide.

INTERPRETATION

The undated context (1202) may be the fill of a ditch, possibly a boundary ditch. Alternatively context 1202 may be the fill of a medieval or post-medieval plough furrow, associated with ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs and identified within other trenches in Field 1. No other features of archaeological significance were observed in this trench.

Trench 13 (not illustrated)

2.0m x 50m, orientated approximately northwest-southeast.
Objective: speculative sample at southern part of Field 1.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.76m, north end of trench 30.41m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.19m, north end of trench 31.27m
Topsoil (1300), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (1301), depth 0.56m

The natural red clay (1302) was encountered at depths of between 0.33m (north end of trench) and 0.86m (south end of trench) below the present ground surface. This was sealed by a layer of brown silty clay subsoil (1301), 0.56m in depth.

INTERPRETATION

The clay subsoil layer 1301 appears to be the result of the movement of soil down-slope (colluvium). No features of archaeological significance were recorded in this trench.

Trench 14 (not illustrated)

2.5m x 32m, orientated approximately east-west.
Objective: speculative sample within eastern part of Field 4.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 29.42m, east end of trench 29.89m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 30.23m, east end of trench 30.44m

Topsoil (1400), depth 0.30m
Upper subsoil (1401), depth 0.28m
Lower subsoil (1402), depth 0.26m

The natural red clay (1403) was encountered at a depth of 0.74m below the present ground surface. At the west end of the trench was a brown sandy silt (1404), aligned approximately northeast-southwest and approximately 2.4m wide, possibly the fill of a ditch. Natural 1403 and possible fill 1404 were sealed by a layer of brown sandy clay (1402), which was sealed by a layer of brown sandy silt (1401).

INTERPRETATION

The undated and unexcavated possible ditch fill 1404 may be the fill of a linear ditch. The lower and upper subsoil layers may be colluvium/alluvium and the remains of a former plough soil, perhaps of medieval or post-medieval date.

Trench 15 (Fig. 13)

2.0m x 52m, orientated north-south.
Objective: sample to the east of Romano-British pot scatter at west part of Field 4.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.25m, north end of trench 29.59m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.40m, north end of trench 29.94m
Topsoil (1500), depth 0.30m
Subsoil (1501), depth 0.88m

The natural red clay and gravel (1509) was revealed at a depth of 1.18m below the ground surface at the south end of the trench, 0.62 near the centre and 0.35m at the north end. At the southern end of the trench was an east-west aligned unexcavated possible ditch fill of brown silt sand (1520), 4m wide. A series of possible fills of mid grey brown sandy clay (1514 to 1517) were mostly orientated northeast-southwest. The these obscured a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F153). Ditch F153 was excavated to a depth of 0.68m but not bottomed. The fill (1515) contained Romano-British pottery, fired clay, animal bone and large sandstone fragments.

Approximately 26m from the southern end of the trench was an unexcavated curvilinear possible ditch fill of brown sand (1513), approximately 2.8m wide. The relationship between this possible ditch fill and an unexcavated possible east-west aligned ditch fill (1522) was not clear. At the northern end of the trench were three eastwest aligned ditches (F150 to F152, Plate 7) all cut with a 'V' -shaped profile.

Five sub-circular deposits of brown silty sand (1511, 1512, 1518, 1521 and 1523) were also recorded. These varied between 1.5m and 3.2m in diameter.

At the northern end of the trench was an unexcavated fill of a possible northeast-southwest aligned gully (1510), 0.40m wide.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (contexts in brackets)
F150	1505	Ditch E-W	1.20m	0.60m	-
F151	1504 1503 1502	Ditch E-W	1.90m	0.82m	Animal bone (1503)
F152	1508 1507 1506	Ditch E-W	1.30m	1.00m	
F153	1515	Ditch SE-NW	4m+		RB pottery, fired clay and animal bone (1515)

Table 11: excavated features, Trench 15

INTERPRETATION

Most of the deposits within this trench are probably the fills of eastwest aligned ditches. The upper fill (1515) of Ditch F153 produced Romano-British pottery and was the only feature that contained dating evidence. The ditches at the northern end of the trench (F150 to F152) produced very little dating evidence. Since fragments of Romano-British pottery is ubiquitous in features post dating the Romano-British period, it seems reasonable to suggest that the ceramic evidence may point to a prehistoric origin.

These archaeological features may belong to several phases of activity. Three phases of ditches (F150 to F153) were recorded in this trench. The sub-circular deposits 1511, 1512, 1518, 1521 and 1523 may possibly represent pits. These generally appeared to be later than the northeast-southwest linear deposits (1514 to 1517), which may be ditches.

Trench 16 (Fig. 14)

2.5m x 50m, orientated approximately north-south.
Objective: sample within area of Romano-British pottery scatter, Field 4.
Level: natural ground surface south end of trench 29.99m, north end of trench 29.53m
Level: current ground surface south end of trench 30.52m, north end of trench 30.02m
Topsoil (1603), depth 0.28m
Upper subsoil (1604), depth 0.10m
Lower subsoil (1605), depth 0.24m

The orange sand and gravel natural (1606) was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.60m below the present ground surface. A sub-circular feature (F163, Plate 8) extended beyond the edge of the trench and measured 2.5m in width. Excavated to a depth of 0.50m the feature was cut with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (1602) with abundant charcoal and contained worked flint, Romano-British pottery, brick, stone, an iron nail, slag and animal bone. A similar unexcavated possible fill (1611) was recorded further south.

Possible fill 1611 appeared to be cut by a north-south orientated shallow linear gully (F162), 0.45m in width and 0.08m in depth. A north-south orientated alignment of three circular contexts (1607 to 1609), 0.70m in diameter, probably the fills of postholes, appeared to overlie gully F162. A further circular posthole (F161) on the same alignment was located just to the north of gully F162. Posthole F161 was 0.76m

in diameter and 0.40m deep with a 'U' -shaped profile and contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone.

All features and the natural 1606 were sealed by a layer of mottled orange and brown sand (1605) containing fragments of sandstone, 0.25m deep. This was overlain by a layer of silt (1604) containing large quantities of pebbles.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (contexts in brackets)
F161	1600	Posthole	0.76	0.40	RB pottery and animal bone (1600)
F162	1610	Gully	0.45	0.08	-
F163	1602	Pit	2.50	0.50	RB pottery, iron nail, slag, worked flint and animal bone (1602)

Table 12: excavated features, Trench 16

INTERPRETATION

The circular feature (F163) is a pit dating to the Romano-British period and the possible fill (1611) could be the fill another possible pit of the same date. The gully (F162) and the posthole and unexcavated possible posthole fills (F161 and 1607 to 1609) are almost certainly part of a structure, probably dating from the Romano-British period. Other remains relating to this structure may lie beyond the edge of the trench.

Trench 17 (not illustrated)

2.5m x 50m, orientated approximately northeast-southwest.
Objective: sample at southern end of Field 4.
Level: natural ground surface west end of trench 30.69m, east end of trench 31.25m
Level: current ground surface west end of trench 31.66m, east end of trench 32.57m
Topsoil (1700), depth 0.22 to 0.30m
Subsoil (1701), depth 0.66m

The natural red clay (1703) was recorded at a depth of 1.22m. At the west end of the trench the natural was cut by a north-south aligned linear ditch (F171), approximately 1.38m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled with a dark grey silty clayey sand (1704) containing Romano-British pottery. At a distance of approximately 12m from the west end of the trench was an unexcavated possible ditch fill orientated north-south. This fill (1705), was similar to that of ditch F171 and it was approximately 5m wide.

A sub-circular possible pit fill (1706), 0.50m x 1.4m, was recorded at the eastern end of the trench.

The features and possible features mentioned above were overlain by a reddish brown silty sand (1701), 0.66m in depth, forming an eastwest aligned earthwork (Fig. 2). Layer 1701 was cut by a circular posthole (F170), 0.68m in diameter and 0.34m in depth. The dark grey silty sandy clay (1702) fill contained worked flint, Romano-British pottery, medieval pottery, tile and animal bone.

Feature	Context	Description/comment	Width	Depth	Finds (context no. in brackets)
F170	1702	Posthole	0.68m	0.34m	RB pottery, medieval pottery, tile, flint and animal bone (1702)
F171	1704	Ditch	1.38m	0.30m	RB pottery (1704)

Table 13: excavated features, Trench 17

INTERPRETATION

The ditch (F171) is probably Romano-British in origin. Since the fills are similar (fill of F171 to context 1705) it is possible that 1705 is the fill of a ditch dating to the same period. An unexcavated sub-circular deposit 1706 at the eastern end of the trench is probably the fill of a pit, again possibly of Romano-British date. The finds recovered from Posthole F107 suggest it is medieval or later. However, the deep layer of subsoil sealing Romano-British features, into which F107 is cut, is the make-up of an earthwork bank, indicating F107 is more likely to be of medieval date, possibly holding a post for a fence or other structure.

7.0 THE FINDS

Romano-British pottery *by Annette Hancocks*

The pottery was rapidly scanned, assigned to a period and spot dated to provide a *terminus post quem.* The percentage of pottery recovered for each period is as follows: Late Iron Age (<1%), Romano-British (96%), medieval (<1%) and post-medieval (2%).

A total of 998 sherds of pottery were recovered during the evaluation. The majority of this material (51%) was derived from topsoil and from spoil heaps. Of the Romano-British assemblage 49% derived from well-stratified and secure deposits. While there is very little residual pottery within the assemblage, most of the assemblage is unstratified, which has created a bias in recovery rates.

At least 35 diagnostic and dateable rim and base angles were recognised. The range and variety of material recovered reflects the provisional spot-dates assigned. Much of the Romano-British ceramics are of 2nd/3rd century AD date, comprising of regionally traded coarsewares, such as Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria, Derbyshire coarseware, Black-Burnished ware and Lower Nene Valley Colour-coats. There is a strong element of local and regionally traded greywares, some with barbotine and slip decoration. Forms recognised include bead and flange rim bowls, dog dishes, beakers and jars. There are small quantities of imported samian of Antonine date and Dressel 20 amphorae are present.

The assemblage as a whole is well preserved with very little abrasion or weathering observed during the rapid scan.

Other finds *by Lynne Bevan*

WORKED FLINT

A total of 11 worked flints was recovered, comprising three retouched flakes from Trenches 1, 5a and 16 and eight unretouched flakes from Trenches 2, 5a, 9, 11 (x 3) and 17 (x 2). None of this material is chronologically diagnostic beyond being suggestive of a general prehistoric date, probably during the Early to Middle Bronze Age. Neither does this small assemblage attest to any longevity or intensity of occupation in the area.

COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS

Copper alloy finds included a pin (Trench 6, 602), a probable earring (Trench 8), a grooved strip, possibly a bracelet (Trench 5a), two catchplates from brooches (Trench 9), an ornamental ?pinhead with a ring-dot motif (Trench 5a), a stud (Trench 10) and two small fittings (Trench 5a and Trench 17). In addition, five unidentifiable fragments were found (Trench 1, Trench 4, Trench 5a, and Trench 16). The majority of this material is diagnostically Roman in date. However, none of the objects were recovered from stratified contexts.

IRON OBJECTS

All of the iron objects were in a very poor state of preservation and the few objects recovered consisted mainly of corroded unidentifiable lumps and fragments. The only potentially Roman object was a possible fragment from a hipposandal recovered from Trench 10. Other finds included a piece of chainlink (unstratified), a bent fragment of possible door furniture and a bolt (unstratified, Trench 6) and several unidentifiable objects from Trenches 1, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6, and 16. In addition, 22 nails were recovered from Trenches 4a, 5a, 5b, 8, 10 and 16.

SLAG

Some 37 fragments of slag were recovered from Trenches 1, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 16. Some of the slag was smithing slag. None of this material is datable.

LEAD

Approximately 54 lead items were recovered from Trenches: 1, 2, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 16. With the exception of a possible crude plumbob from Trench 8, this material consisted of fragments of strip, sheet and amorphous lumps. The three largest fragment of folded sheet came from Trenches 1, 2 and 5.

WORKED STONE

A whetstone made of a slate-like material, was recovered from Trench 6. While this object could be of Roman date, it is equally possible that it is later.

The coins *by Roger White*

23 coins were inspected and identified These coins were identified without basic cleaning and are only preliminary identifications.

Emperor	Type	Date AD	Reverse
Trench 1			
Illegible			
Trench 5: (F55)			
Maximinus Thrax	Denarius	235-238	
Trench 5: (spoilheap)			
Gallic Empire	Barb. Rad.	273+	
Trench 5a: (unstrat)			
Gallic Empire	Barb. Rad.	273+	
Gallic Empire	Barb. Rad.	273+	
Constantius II	Cent.	348-54	Fel Temp Rep
House of Constantine	AE3	340 - 343	Gloria Exercitus. Two soldiers with one standard.
House of Constantine	AE3	343 - 348	Victoriae DD Augg QNN. Two victories facing each other with wreaths. Central branch motif.
Trench 5 topsoil			
? Republican	denarius	Late 1st c. BC	Helmeted head on obv. ; stg. Figure on rev.
This id. very uncertain but helmeted head is clear – crest looks wrong. Might be coin of Domitian (81-96 AD) i.e. head of Minerva.			
Trench 6: topsoil / spoilheap			
House of Constantine	AE3	340 - 343	Gloria Exercitus. Two soldiers with one standard.
House of Valentinian	AE3	364-75	Gloria Novi Saeculi
Illegible			
Illegible			
Trench 8: topsoil			
Tetrarchy	Follis	c300-313	Genio Populi Romani issue?
Trench 10 topsoil			
Gallic Empire?	Barb. Rad.	273+	
Trench 15: topsoil			
Gallic Empire?	Barb. Rad.	273+	
Trench 16: topsoil			
?Vespasian	denarius	69-79	Identification uncertain
Gallic Empire?	Barb. Rad.	273+	
House of Constantine	AE3		
Unstrat.			
2nd century	Dupondius		

Table 14: coin catalogue

In general terms, the coins from this site show a typical profile of a British rural site: large numbers of irregular and regular coins of the period from the 270s – 350s AD. There is only one of the House of Valentinian, a common issue period, the lack of these suggests that the site may have been in decline by then. There are a small number of earlier issues but these are quite worn and may relate to 3rd century AD use of the site. The possible Republican coin, if identified positively, might be evidence for early occupation of the site but again these issues circulated until relatively late due to their low silver content.

Coins recovered from spoil, Trench 5A *by Susan Ebbins*

A total of 15 coins were recovered from the spoil after backfilling, four radiates from between 260 and 275 AD, and a further 11 from 330 to 353 AD. Mint marks are not legible on all of the coins due to corrosion or damage to their edges. The coins are listed in chronological order.

Emperor	Type	Date AD	Reverse
Gallienus	Antoninianus	260 - 268	Libero P. Cons Aug. Panther walking.
Tetricus	Antoninianus	270 - 273	Laetitia Aug. Laetitia holding wreath and anchor.

Also two other unidentified very worn bronze radiates of c. 265-275AD.

Constantinopolis (Constantine I)	AE3	330 - 335	No legend. Victory on prow of ship, with sceptre and shield, symbol of the new Constantinople.

Also two AE3 coins fused together, one obverse showing is Constantinopolis, one reverse showing victory on prow, so these appear to be two more of the same type and date.

Constantine I	AE3	330 - 335	Gloria Exercitus. Two soldiers with two standards. Trier mint-mark.
Urbs Roma (Constantine I)	AE3	330 - 335	No legend. Wolf feeding twins, Romulus and Remus. Trier mint-mark.
Helena (1st wife of Constantius)	AE3	337 - 341	Virtus Augg NN. Soldier with spear and shield. Rome mint mark.
Theodora (2nd wife of Constantius)	AE4	337 - 341	Pietas Romana. Pietas holding baby. Trier mint mark.
Constantius II	AE3	343 - 348	Victoriae DD Augg QNN. Two victories facing each other with wreaths. Central branch motif.
Constans	AE3	343 - 348	Victoriae DD Augg QNN. Two victories facing each other with wreaths. Central 'D' motif.
Magnentius	Half Centenionalis	350 - 353	Victoriae DDNN Aug et Cae. Two victories supporting central shield
Constantius II	Centenionalis	348 - 354	Fel Temp Reparatio. Emperor in galley with Chi-Rho standard and phoenix or victory? (off edge of coin) Mint mark difficult, could be Aquileia or Rome

Table 15: catalogue of coins from spoil, Trench 5a

Animal and human bone *by Emma Hancox*

A small assemblage consisting of two boxes (one box of unstratified material and one box recovered from stratified contexts totalling 1132g) of hand-collected animal bone was recovered.

The bone recovered from most of the 19 trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17). Animal bone was found in 26 contexts, only nineteen of which contained countable elements and/ or 'non-countables' such as horncores. Two of these were from topsoil or subsoil, leaving 17 contexts which came from the fills of ditches or pits.

The faunal assemblage was recorded on the standard BUFAU zoo-archaeological recording form which follows a modified version of a system used by Davis (Davis 1992 and Albarella and Davis 1994). This involves considering certain elements as countable e.g. distal femur, whilst also noting the presence of non-countables such as horncores, antlers, evidence of butchery or pathology and any unusual species. Measurable bones and teeth were noted. Only lower teeth of known position are considered measurable, bone measurements mostly follow Von den Driesch (1976). Mandibles are considered ageable when at least two teeth are present with recordable wear stages. No attempt was made to distinguish between sheep and goat at this stage, or between the galliforms (chicken/guinea fowl/pheasant). As this is such a small assemblage, bone from all contexts was examined in detail.

Overall the preservation was poor to fair. Most of the bones were slightly degraded with exfoliation of the outer layers. A few contexts contained bones in a fairly good condition.

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, and chicken/guinea fowl/pheasant were identified along with an unidentified premolar from a very small mammal. Cattle were the most frequently observed species followed by sheep/goat. Butchery in the form of both cut and chop marks was noted in eight out of the nineteen contexts and in the unstratified material. Only three ageable mandibles were present, one of which was unstratified, and only five bones/teeth were stratified and measurable.

Other excavations in the vicinity have also produced small bone assemblages from the Roman period. Two excavations on top of Red Hill produced animal bone finds. Greenfield (1964) records only that some bovid and caprid bones were found. Houldsworth (1963) records 7 cattle bones, 10 sheep, 5 pig, 1 dog, and 2 red deer antler tines.

Human bone was also identified in context 510. It consists of the proximal end of a left femur, the shafts of two humeri, two fragments of pelvis, a piece of the cranium and 9 small fragments. It is possible that it all belongs to one individual. Human bone has been identified at the top of Red Hill. Greenfield's excavations in 1963 identified at least three individuals and Houldsworth found at least two adults in 1956/7 (Elsdon 1982.) It is thought that there may be a Roman cemetery in the area.

The faunal material suggests the presence of domestic activity on the site in the Roman period, as there is evidence of butchery in almost half the contexts. However

the assemblage is not large enough to draw any conclusions as to the numbers/percentages and full range of animals consumed on site. The lack of obtainable measurements also precludes any studies into animal husbandry in the period. The presence of human bone concurs with the theory that a cemetery may exist in the area.

8.0 THE PLANT REMAINS *by Marina Ciaraldi*

Six soil samples were collected from various features during the evaluation. The features were all dated to the Romano-British period. The aims of this assessment were to:

1. determine if biological remains were present and assess their state of preservation
2. assess the potential of biological remains for understanding human activities on site
3. assess the potential of biological remains for reconstructing the palaeoenvironment of the site

Samples of twenty and ten litres were collected according to the guidelines outlined in BUFAU's *On Site Guide to Environmental Sampling and Processing*,. Ten litre sub-samples were processed for the purposes of this assessment using bucket flotation. The light fraction (flot) of the soil was recovered using a 500 µm sieve, the heavy fraction (residue) was recovered on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye, while the flots were scanned under a low-power stereomicroscope. The results are listed below (Table 16) but, the identifications are only tentative, as no reference collection was used at this stage.

The plant remains observed in the samples tend to be scarce and overall poorly preserved. The species identified include spelt (*Triticum spelta* L.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), possibly a free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) and vetch/vetchling/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum*). The organic material recovered from pit F62 included, apart from charred plant macroremains, mineralised larvae and lumps. This suggests that the deposit contained faeces or kitchen waste, generally associated with high concentration of organic matter and therefore ideal for preservation by mineralisation.

Preliminary analysis of the samples suggests that there is some limited potential for the preservation of charred remains. It is suggested that a targeted sampling strategy be applied in any possible future excavations. Soil samples would have to be collected from deposits which are clearly charcoal-rich or from features that might be functionally important for the understanding of site activities (e.g. kilns, drains etc.). There is also some potential for preservation of organic remains as mineralised deposits, therefore any possible future excavations sample features such as cesspits or midden deposits. No further analysis is required of the samples already processed.

Feature	Context	Feaure type	Vol. (litres)	Taxa	Notes
F40	400	pit	5	-	No charred remains
F31	304	ditch	5	-	No charred remains
F62	602	pit	10	Cereals, spelt grains and glume bases, barley grains and rachis internodes, *Bromus* sp.,	Charred macro-remains not well preserved and scarce. Some mineralised larvae and concretions observed
F163	1602	pit	10	Free-threshing wheat grains, *Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum*	Charred macro-remains scarce, large fragments of charcoal present
F100	1002	ditch	10	A few grains of spelt and cereals	Charred macro-remains badly preserved and scarce
F152	1507	ditch	5	-	No charred remains

Table 16: samples assessed for charred plant remains

9.0 THE EARTHWORKS (Fig. 2)

The ridge and furrow identified on aerial photographs as soil marks, was not evident on the ground prior to the trial trenching, although some of the features identified in the trenches in the northern part of Field 1 clearly relate to ridge and furrow aligned east-west.

In the southern part of Field 4 is a linear east-west aligned earthwork 20m wide. This earthwork may be a former headland, the result of medieval and/ or post-medieval ploughing and ridge and furrow was once present to the north or the south of the earthwork. The earthwork was recorded in Trench 17 and found to be 1m high and finds and stratigraphy suggested it could be of medieval date.

A second linear earthwork was aligned roughly parallel with the western boundary of Field 1. This is a significant earthwork surviving to a height of approximately 1m. The earthwork was approximately 8m wide, 300m in length and was investigated in Trenches 5b and 9. In Trench 5b the make up of the earthwork consisted of two layers with a combined height of 1m and finds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. The eastern side of the earthwork was examined by Trench 9. Here several re-cut ditches (F91 to F94) were revealed. These appeared to be aligned parallel with the earthwork although a date for the ditches is not clear.

In the south east corner of Field 4 was an area of redeposited ground (Fig 2). This is clearly the result of modern soil storage/dumping, however there may be the potential for the presence of archaeological remains below these deposits.

10.0 DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation have significantly contributed to a gradually accumulating body of work on the area, giving a clearer picture of the prehistoric and Romano-British landscape. Romano-British activity is not restricted to the scheduled area and was recorded in almost all of the trenches. Areas of intense Romano-British activity were recorded close to the scheduled area in Field 1 and also within Fields 2, 3 and 4. At the northern part of Field 1 and within Field 4 the archaeology was

characterised by inter-cutting negative features cut into the natural subsoil. These features contained significant quantities of datable finds. In Fields 2 and 3 it was clear that several phases of occupation were represented often with deep stratigraphy that is more typical of semi-urban deposits than rural settlement.

The earliest evidence for occupation was a shallow ditch of Bronze Age date (F22, Trench 2) in Field 1. This ditch was not located in any of the other trenches and its extent is uncertain. Worked flint of a general prehistoric date, probably dating to the Early to Middle Bronze Age was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil and from some Romano-British features in some of the trenches. However, this did not appear to represent any longevity or intensity of occupation in the area.

Evidence of Romano-British activity was recorded in nearly all the trenches apart from Trenches 2, 11, 12 and 13 where there was little activiy. While it may be possible that any evidence has been truncated by the plough it seems more likely that there was little activity in this area. This seems unusual because it is clear that the low-lying ground (more susceptible to flooding) was occupied, and also the elevated area of Red Hill. Trenches 11 to 13, however appear to have produced very little evidence of archaeological activity, except for an undated ditch within Trench 12.

Iron Age activity has already been recorded at Red Hill, and while the majority of features seem Romano-British in origin, it is possible that Romano-British deposits conceal Iron Age or earlier features cut into the natural gravels, particularly within Fields 2 and 3. The high density of archaeological deposits within this area may reflect the nature of the settlement as an important centre for trade and commerce. A former Roman road which ran from Red Hill southwards towards Shepshed probably passed near to Fields 2 and 3 before crossing the River Soar at some point to the southwest. Traffic along this route may have provided the impetus for roadside settlement and trade within this area on the approach to Red Hill.

No defensive features or features which might indicate the presence of the military have been recorded. Some of the finds from former work have suggested a military presence. A ditch (F50) located in Trench 5a may suggest something other than simply a drainage ditch although this is difficult to interpret as part of the evaluation. A wide double ditched system would be unusual for simply a boundary ditch and it is possible these ditches are part of a larger enclosure associated with the large north-south earthwork (Fig. 2).

The siting of military camps over an Iron Age ritual monument is well documented, and the military would have had no hesitation in siting a camp close to any Celtic shrine. At Newstead the military camp is located over a former shrine on an elevated plateau which overlooks the confluence of two rivers. Thistleton is an example of how temple sites were often placed on the edges of a territory, and at the confluence of major rivers. Also at Condate, literally meaning 'confluence' the military encampment was located on a sandstone ridge above the salt springs. It is not clear if this was a conscious decision to demonstrate the cultural domination of a defeated people, or if the preferences for the location of religious centres were coincidentally the same as military considerations. The siting of a camp at Red Hill would have commanded the river at the confluence of the Rivers Soar and Trent. The high ground would have also afforded a good view of the flood plain to the north. This site would have been ideally

positioned for commerce or for the location of ritual monuments. This high ground is located immediately to the north of the proposed development area.

The animal bone assemblage indicated a good potential for faunal remains. The presence of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, and chicken/guinea fowl/pheasant indicates some pastoral farming was taking place, and cereal production is suggested by the presence of quern stone fragments. The pottery assemblage demonstrates that use was being made not only of local and regional trade but also more high status imported wares and exchange networks, and this combined with the stratigraphic data generally suggests settlement of a more urban nature, like those at Rocester or Little Chester in the 1st century AD.

Within some of the lower lying trenches the water table was reached (Trench 9 and particularly Trench 15, F150 to F152) which indicates the potential for waterlogged remains at the base of the deeper ditches.

Much of the development area would appear to have been under cultivation during the medieval period. The identification of east-west aligned ridge and furrow at the northern extent of Field 1, and what is thought to be north-south aligned ridge and furrow within Field 4, may relate to earthworks at the southern extent of Field 4. The east-west aligned earth-work within Field 4 may be a former headland, possibly dating to the medieval period.

In consultation with the Nottinghamshire County Council Archaeological Officer a mitigation scheme will need to be designed for the site. This should take into account the importance and significance of the archaeological deposits demonstrated by the evaluation, to be present here. It is likely that this will involve 'preservation *in situ*' through design solutions, 'preservation by record' in the form of area excavation and watching brief work, or a mixture of these strategies.

The evaluation has provided a useful addition to the growing corpus of information on late prehistoric and Romano-British activity at Red Hill. This is an area of research that requires a considerable amount of further work, in order to be able to interpret both the development of the settlement and the importance of the settlement in the wider landscape.

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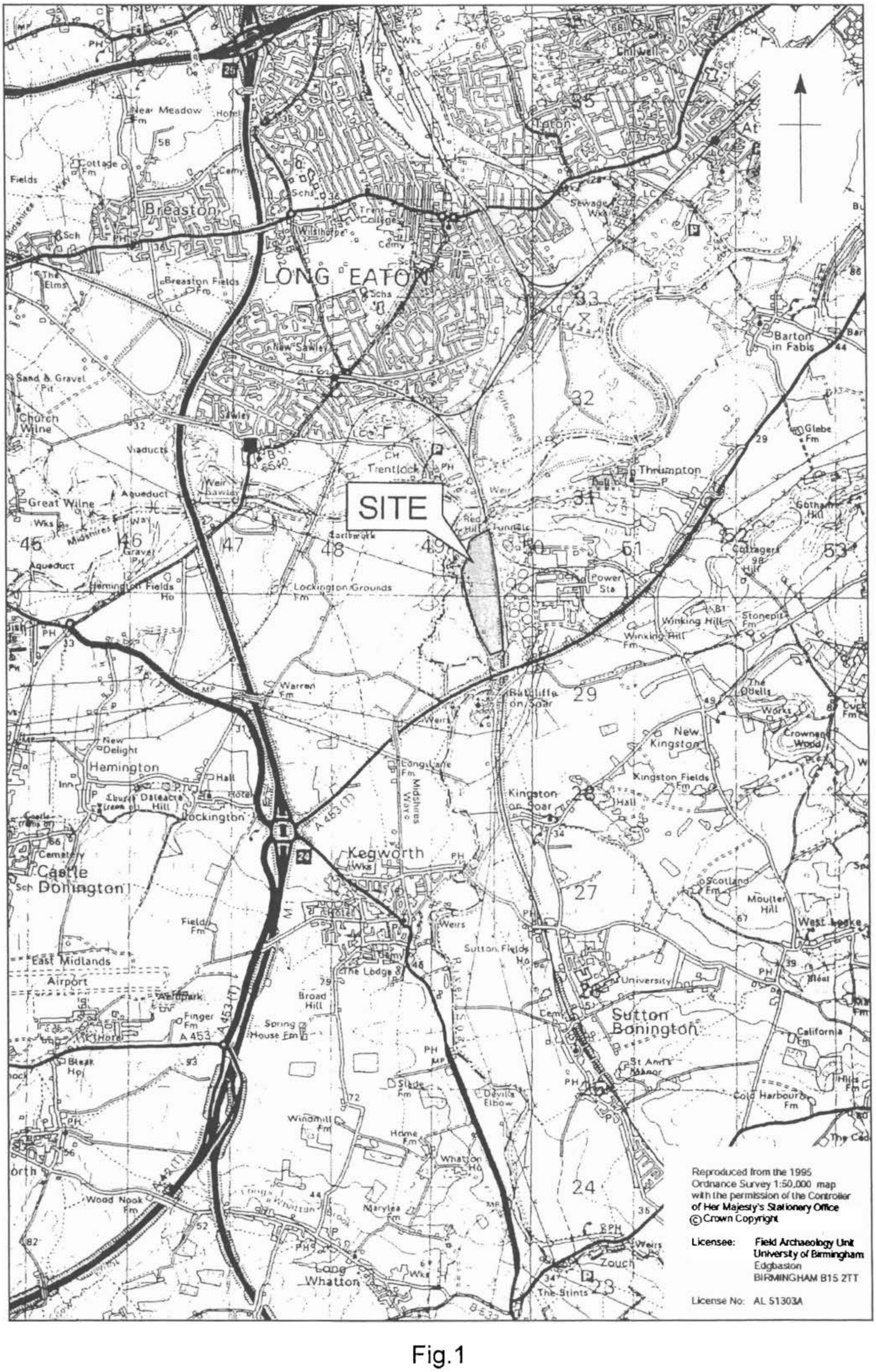
SITE
LONG EATON
Breaston
New Sawley
Sawley
Trentlock
Thrumpton
Barton in Fabis
Great Wilne
Church Wilne
Lockington Grounds Fm
Power Sta
Winking Hill
Ratcliffe on Soar
New Kingston
Kingston on Soar
Hemington
Lockington
Kegworth
Castle Donington
East Midlands Airport
Sutton Bonington
West Leake
Long Whatton
Zouch
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Fig.1

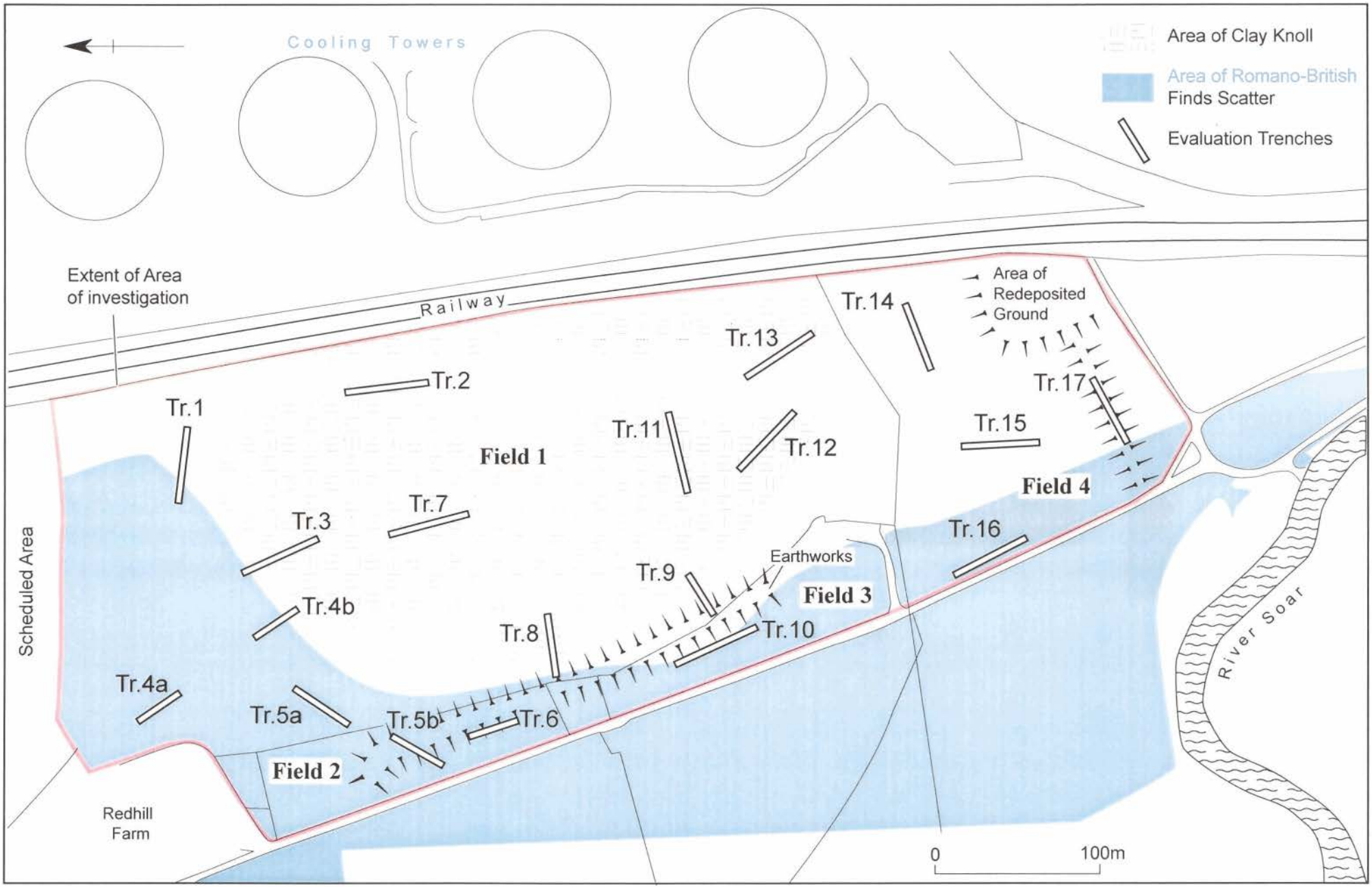

Cooling Towers
Area of Clay Knoll
Area of Romano-British Finds Scatter
Evaluation Trenches
Extent of Area of investigation
Railway
Area of Redeposited Ground
Tr.1
Tr.2
Tr.3
Tr.4a
Tr.4b
Tr.5a
Tr.5b
Tr.6
Tr.7
Tr.8
Tr.9
Tr.10
Tr.11
Tr.12
Tr.13
Tr.14
Tr.15
Tr.16
Tr.17
Field 1
Field 2
Field 3
Field 4
Earthworks
Scheduled Area
River Soar
Redhill Farm
0
100m

Fig.2

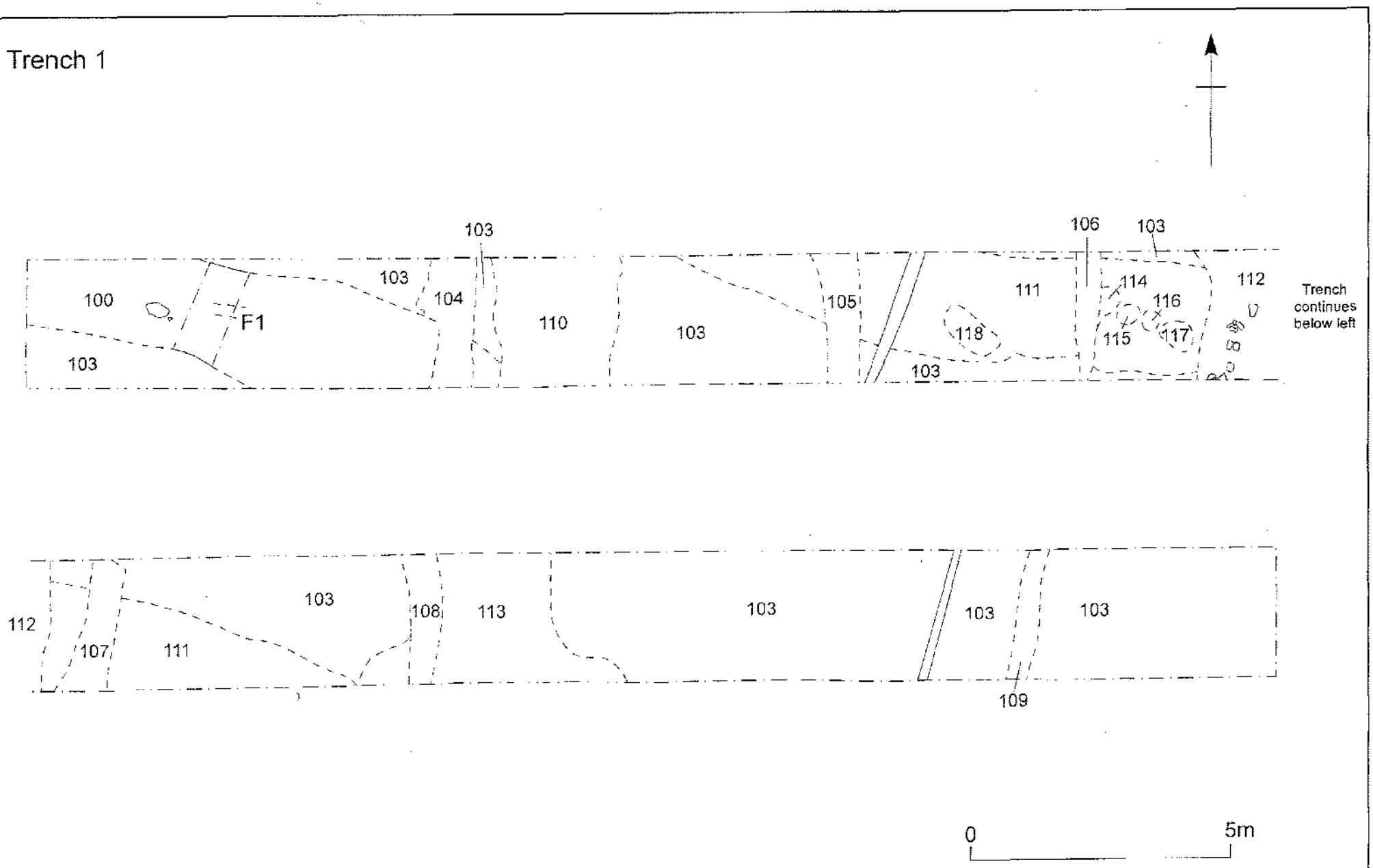

Trench 1
103
106
103
100
F1
103
103
104
110
103
105
111
114
116
112
118
115
117
103
Trench continues below left
112
107
111
103
108
113
103
103
103
103
109
0
5m

Fig.3

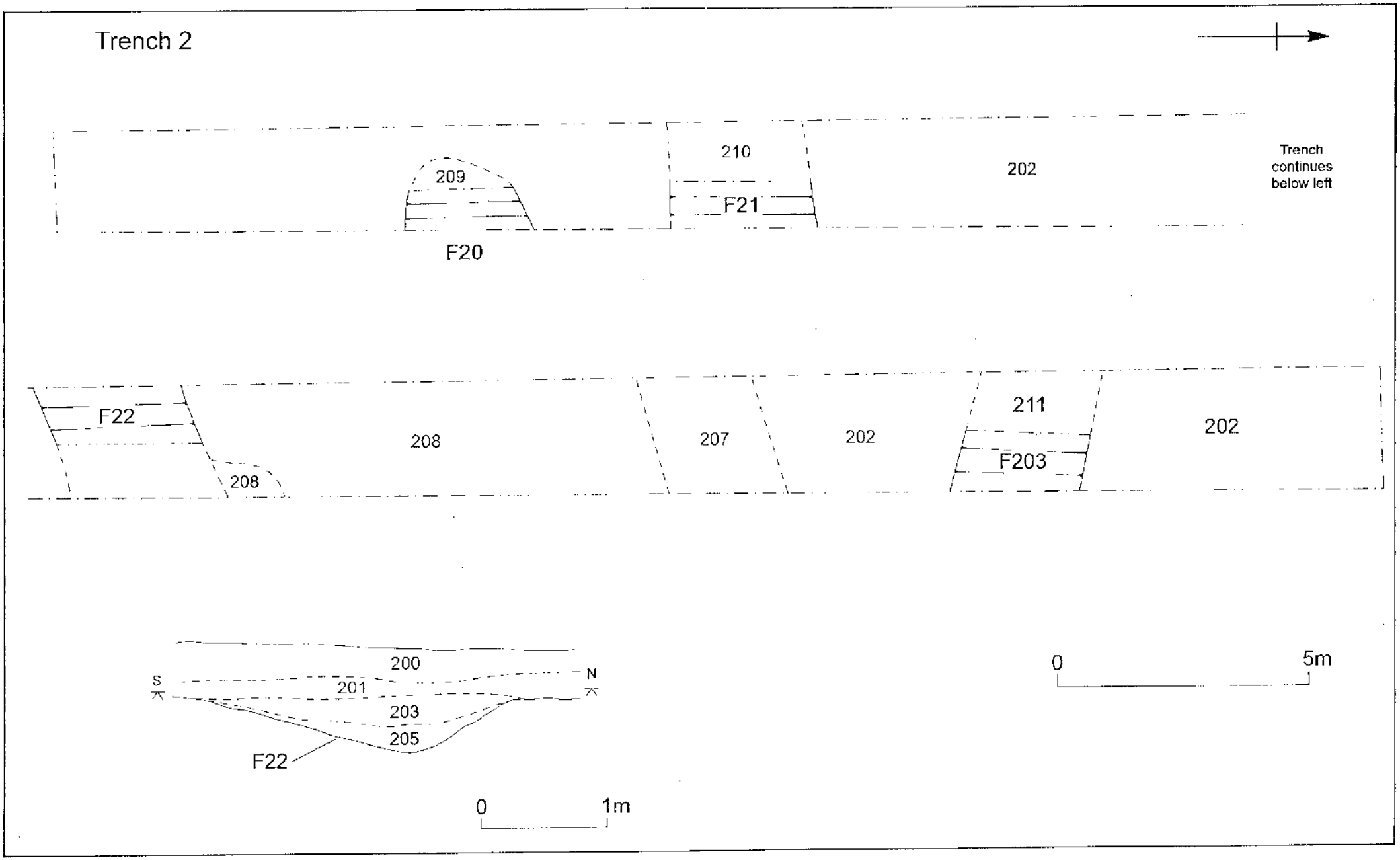
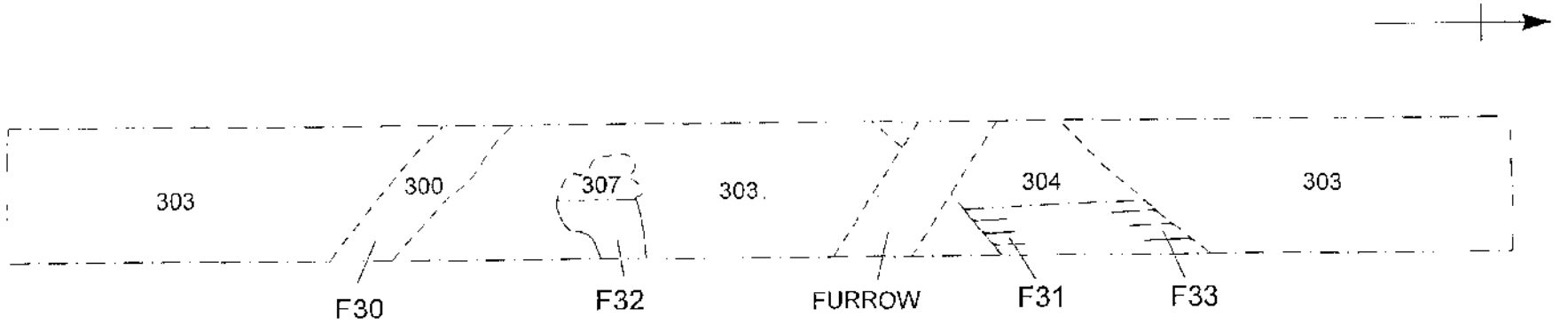

Trench 2
209
F20
210
F21
202
Trench continues below left
F22
208
208
207
202
211
F203
202
200
S
201
N
203
205
F22
0
1m
0
5m

Fig.4

Trench 3



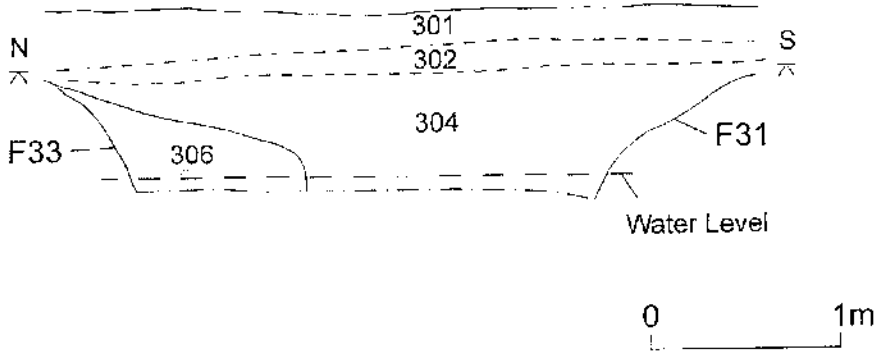
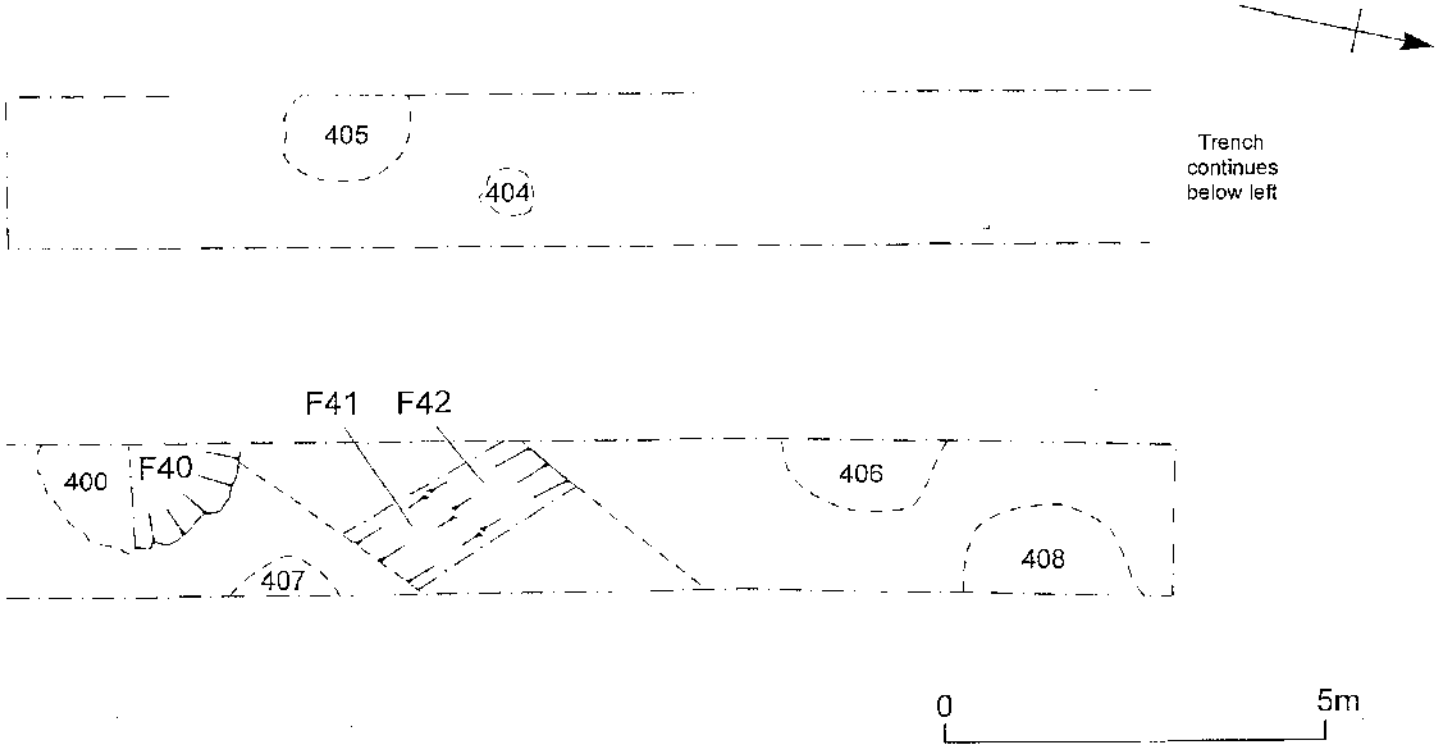


Fig.5

Trench 4a



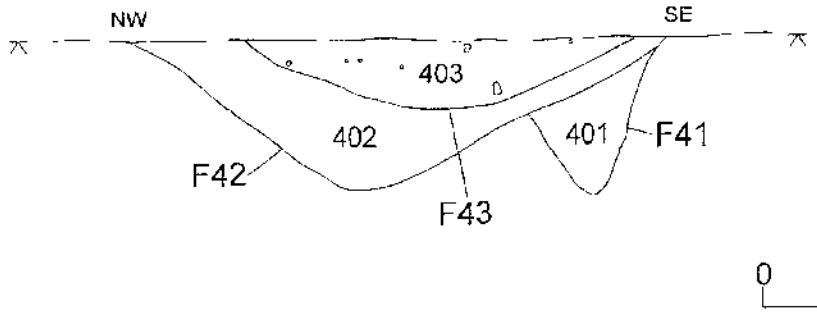


Fig.6

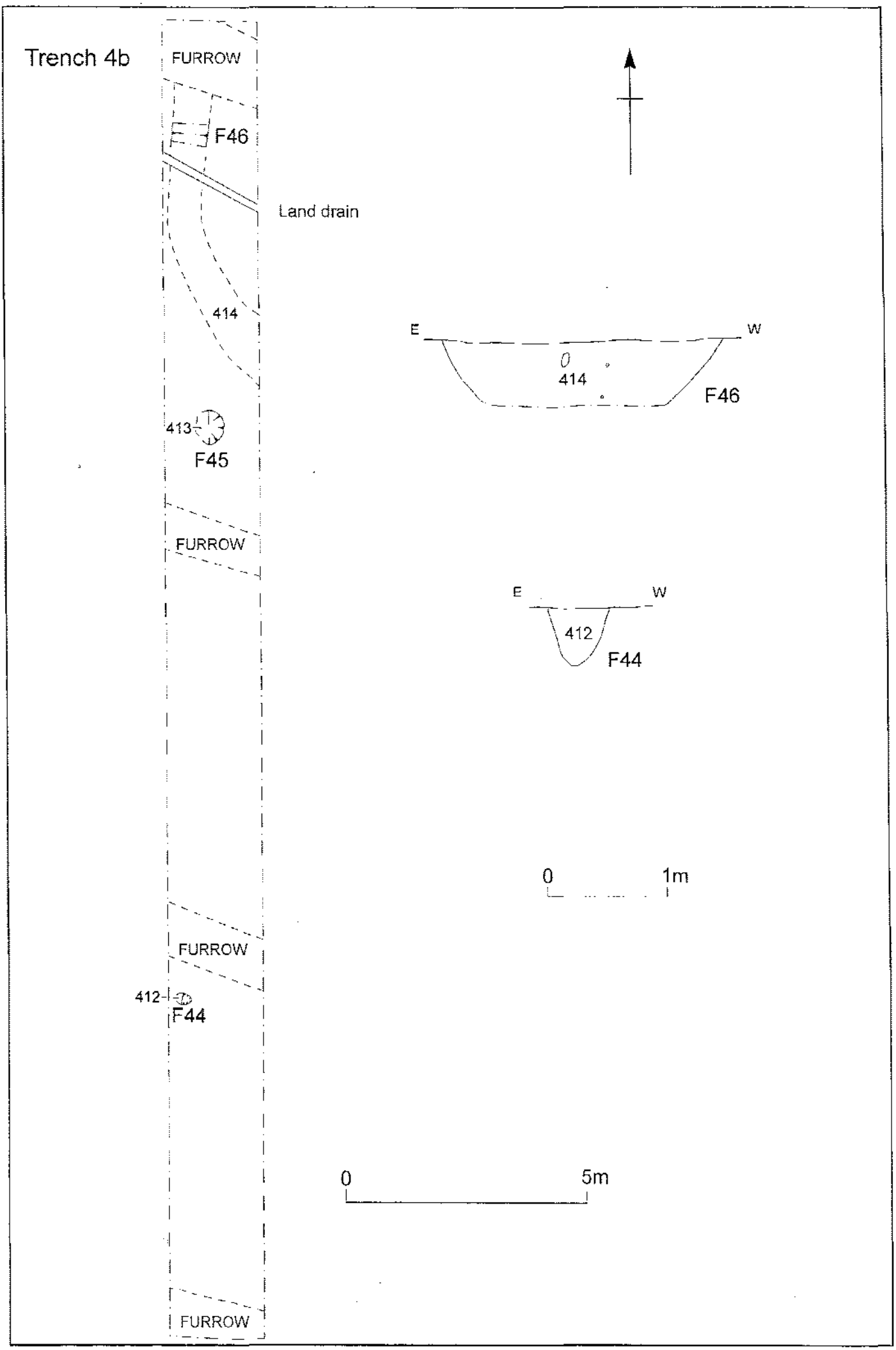

Trench 4b
FURROW
F46
Land drain
414
413
F45
FURROW
FURROW
412
F44
FURROW
E
W
414
F46
E
W
412
F44
0
1m
0
5m

Fig.7

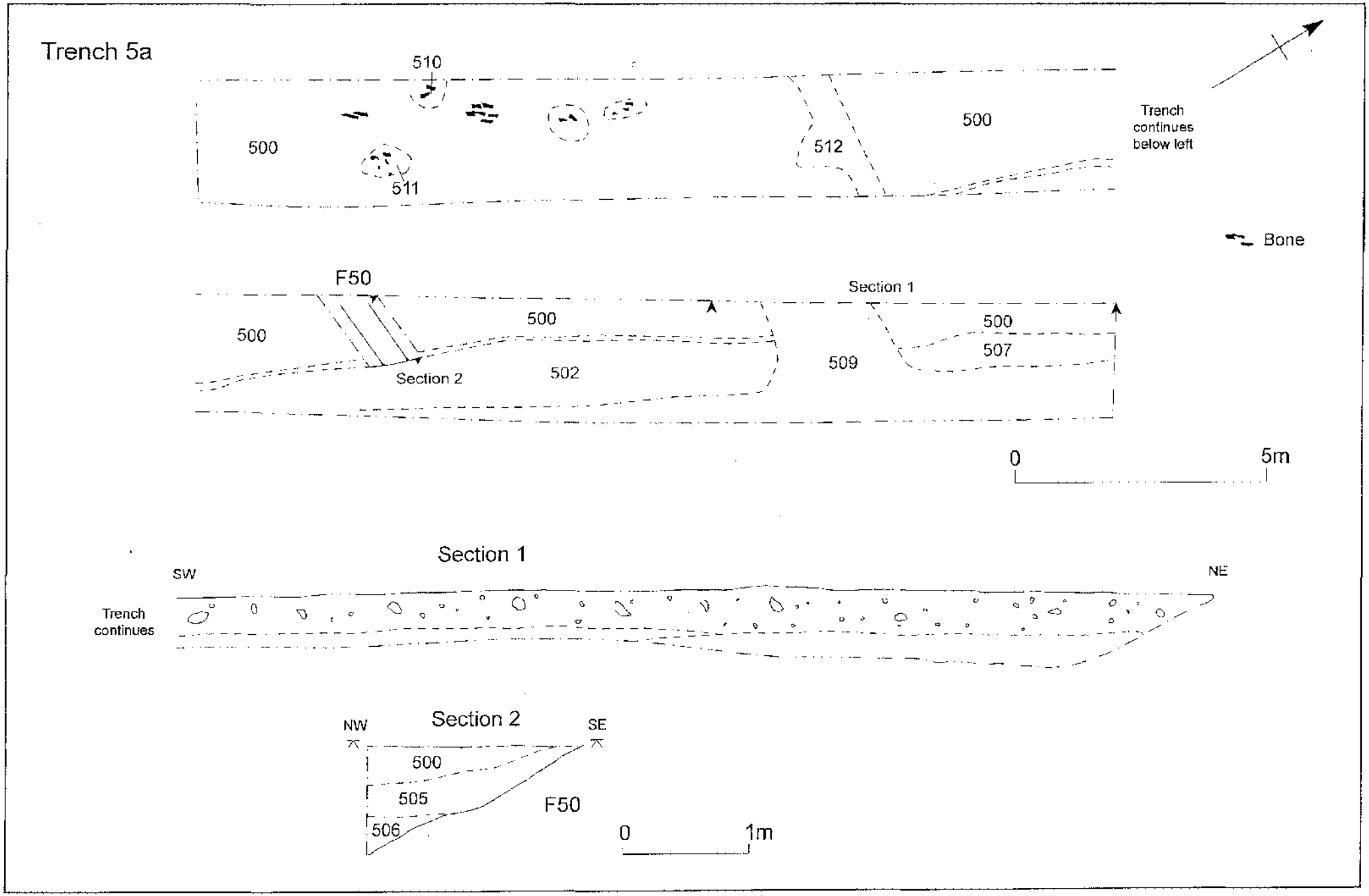

Trench 5a
510
500
511
512
500
Trench continues below left
Bone
F50
500
500
Section 2
502
Section 1
509
500
507
0
5m
Section 1
SW
NE
Trench continues
Section 2
NW
SE
500
505
506
F50
0
1m

Fig.8

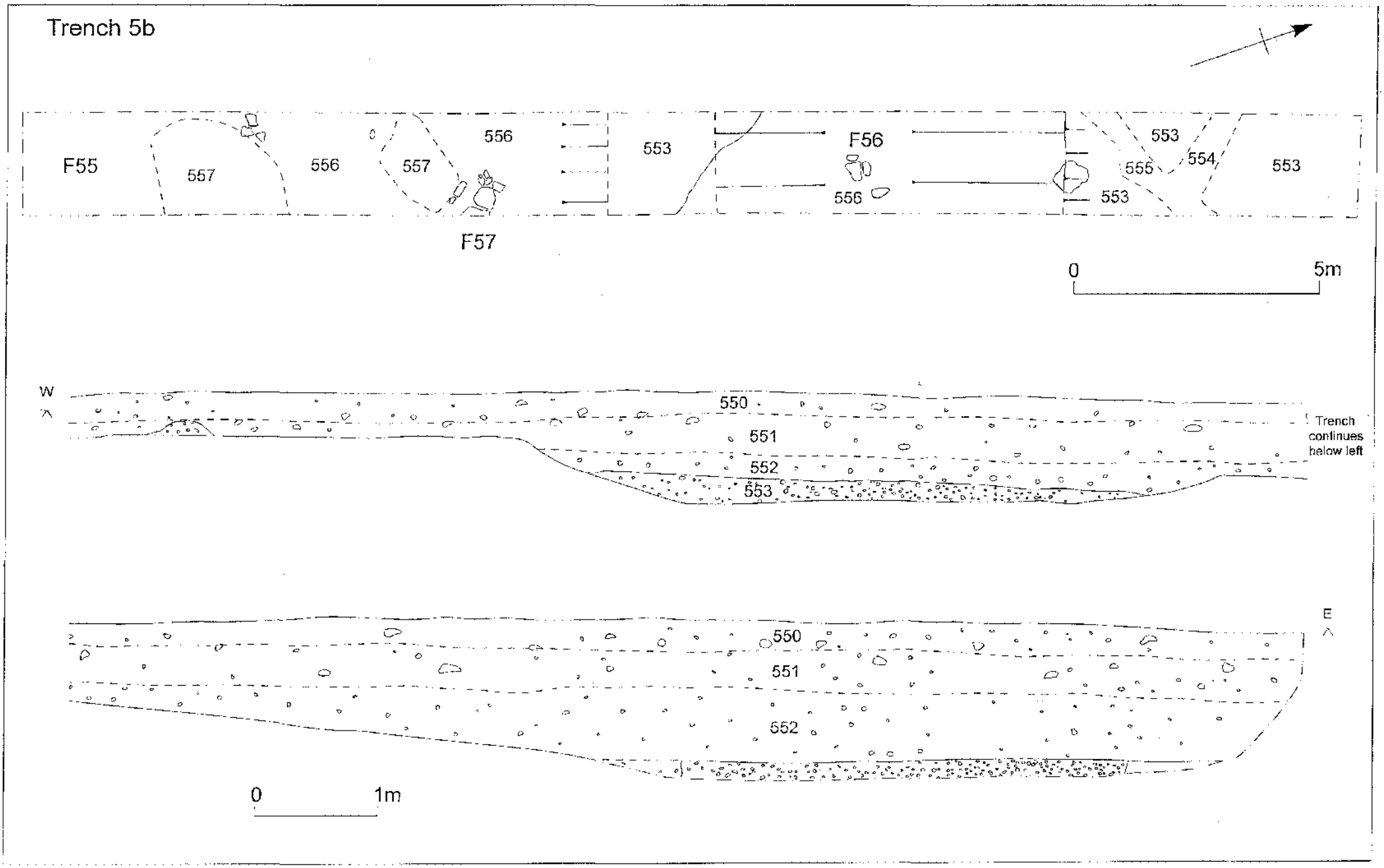

Trench 5b
F55
557
556
557
556
F57
553
F56
556
553
555
554
553
553
0
5m
W
550
551
552
553
Trench continues below left
E
550
551
552
0
1m

Fig.9

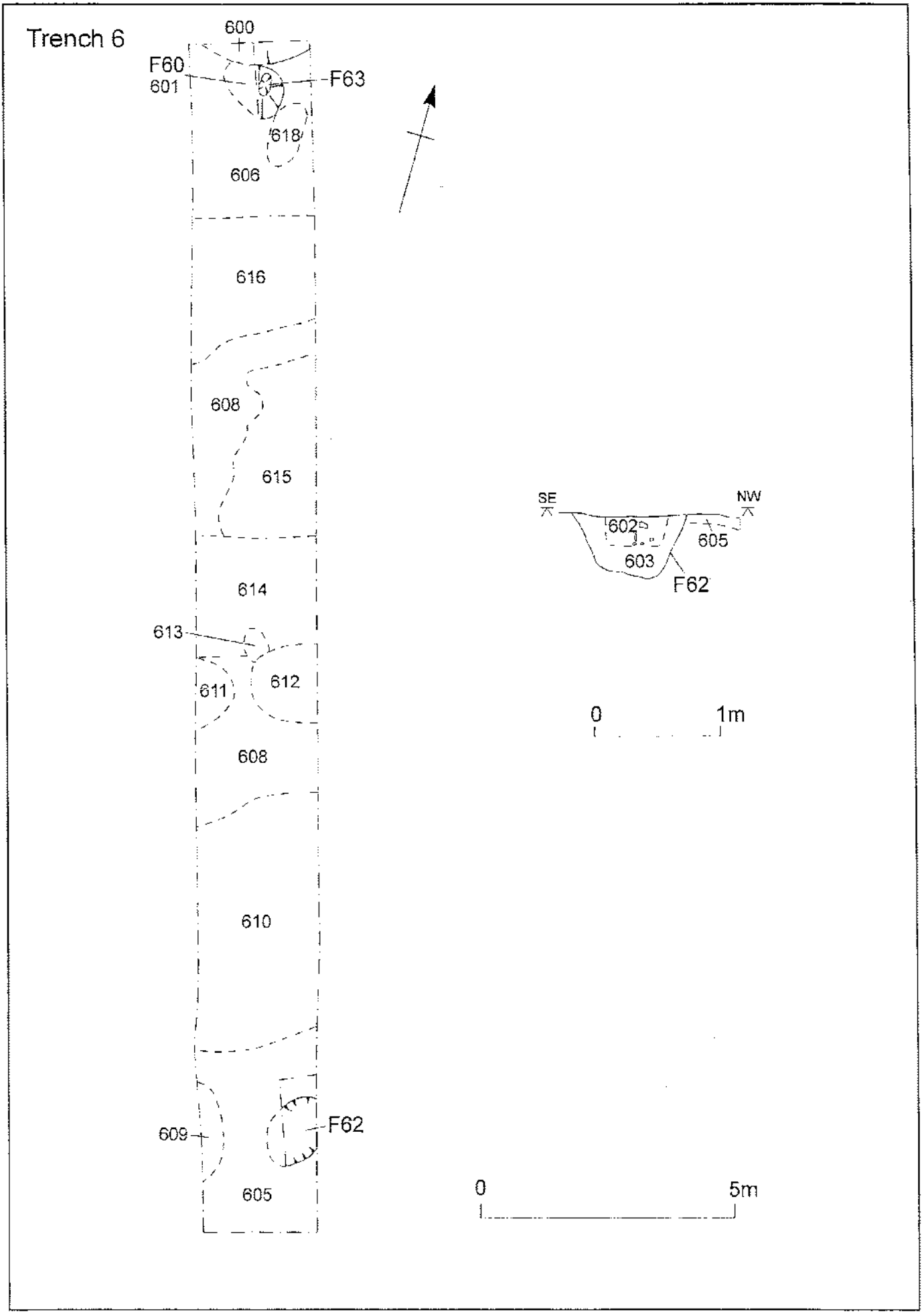

Trench 6
600
F60
601
F63
618
606
616
608
615
614
613
612
611
608
610
609
F62
605
SE
NW
602
605
603
F62
0
1m
0
5m

Fig.10

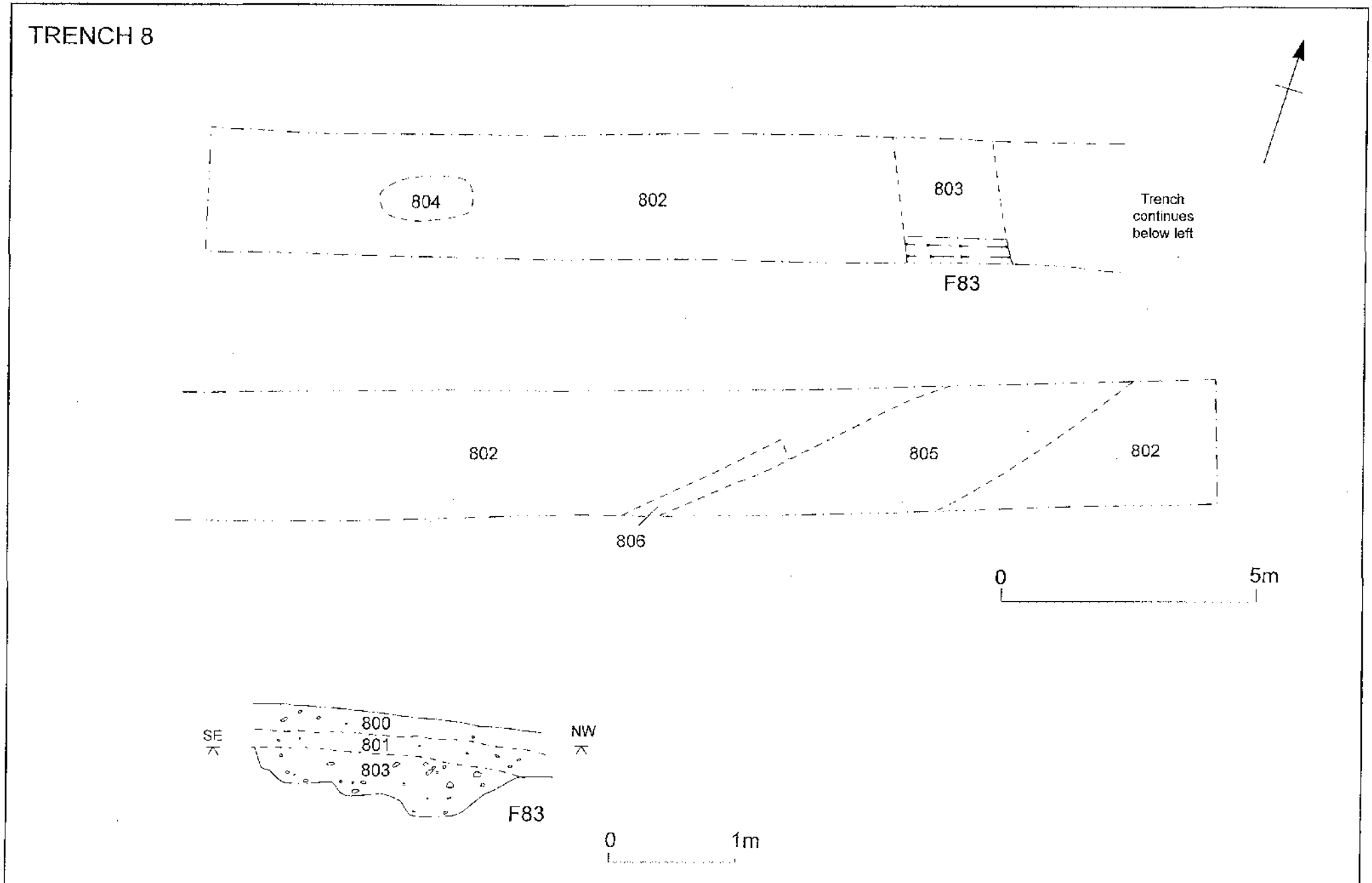

TRENCH 8
804
802
803
Trench continues below left
F83
802
805
802
806
0
5m
SE
NW
800
801
803
F83
0
1m

Fig.11

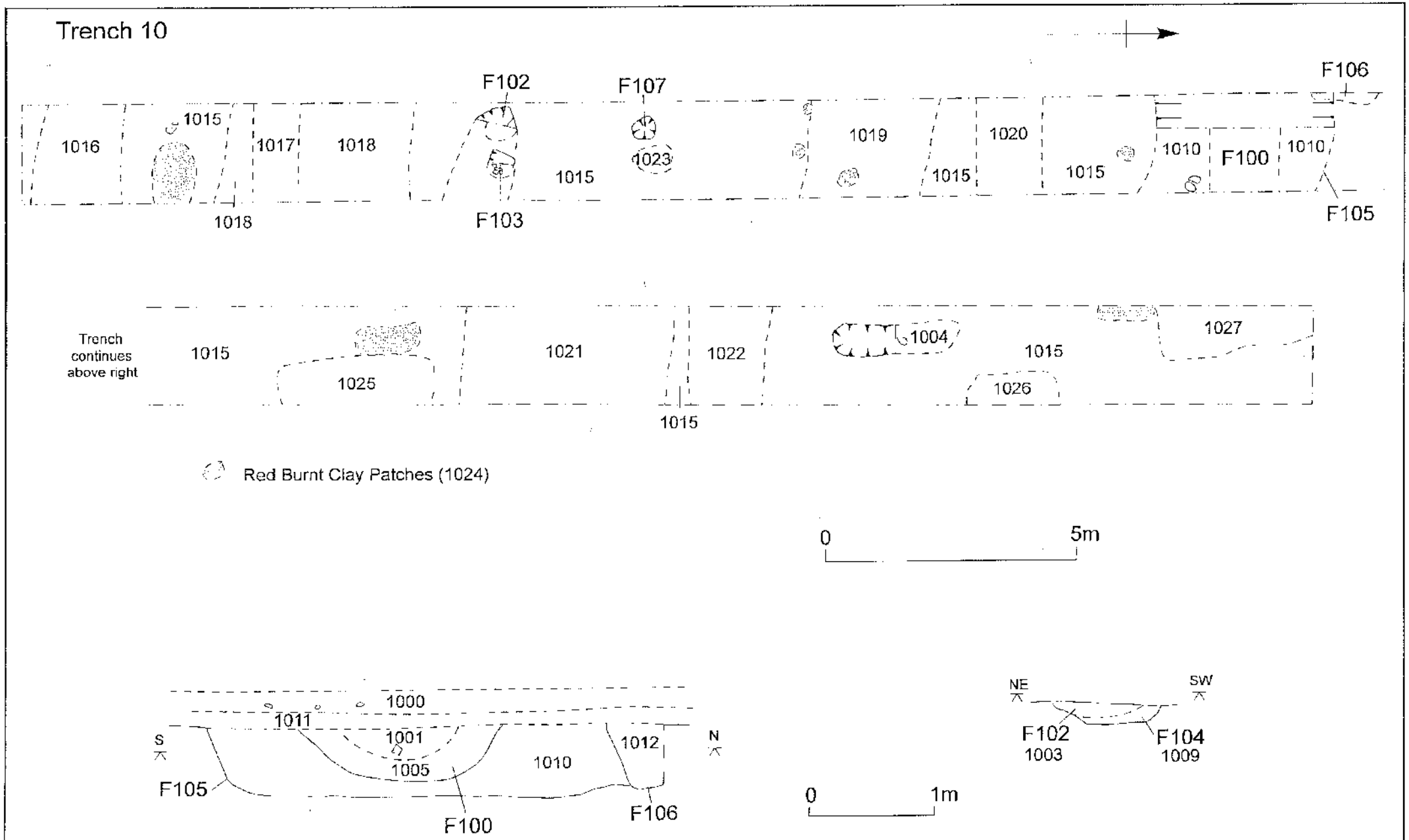

Trench 10
F102
F107
F106
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1020
1023
1010
F100
1010
F105
1018
F103
1015
1015
1015
Trench continues above right
1015
1025
1021
1022
1004
1015
1027
1026
1015
Red Burnt Clay Patches (1024)
0
5m
1000
1011
1001
1012
S
N
1005
1010
F105
F100
F106
0
1m
NE
SW
F102
1003
F104
1009

Fig.12

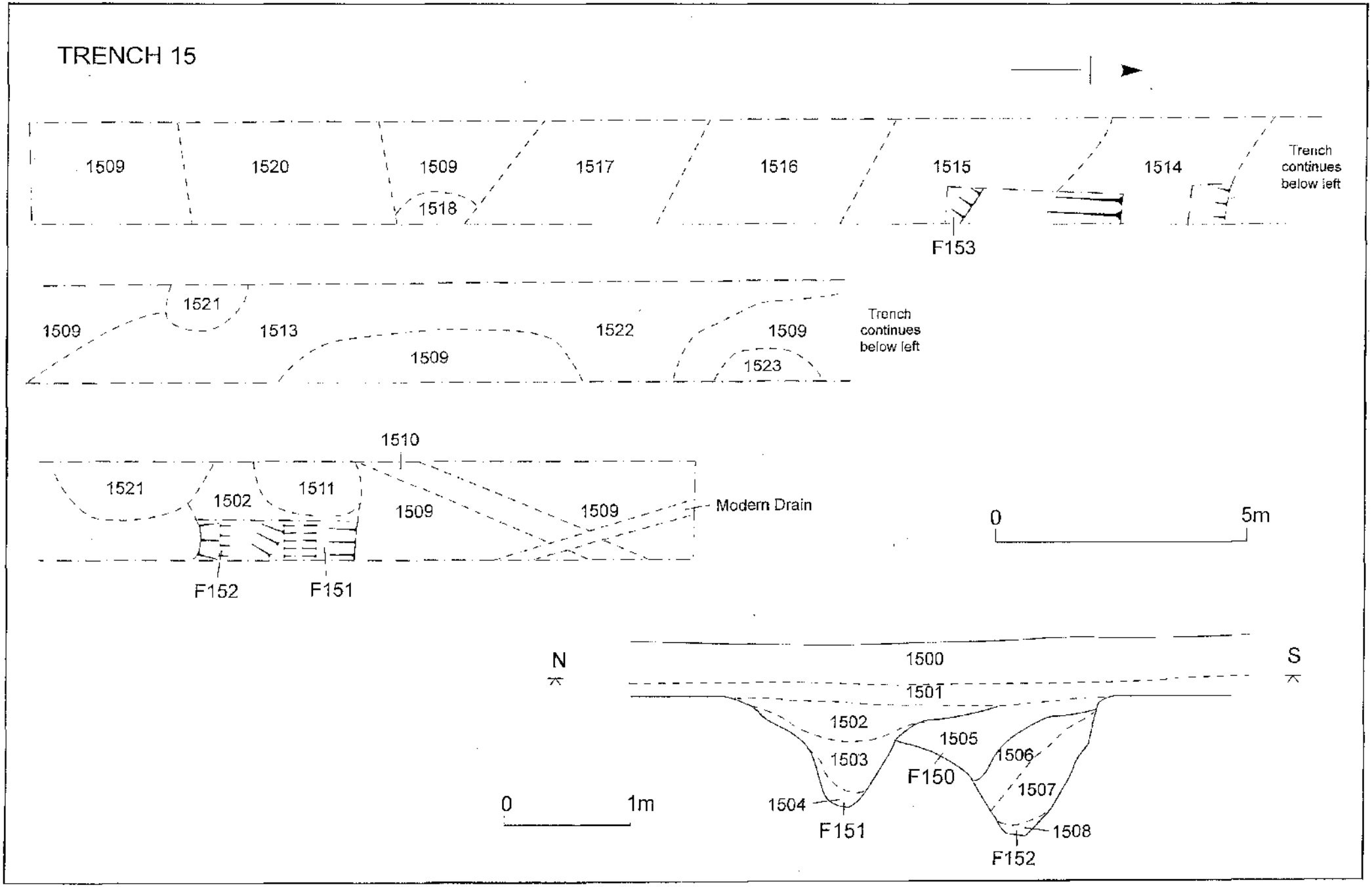

TRENCH 15
1509
1520
1509
1517
1516
1515
1514
1518
F153
Trench continues below left
1521
1509
1513
1522
1509
1509
1523
Trench continues below left
1510
1521
1502
1511
1509
1509
Modern Drain
F152
F151
0
5m
N
S
1500
1501
1502
1505
1503
1506
F150
1507
0
1m
1504
F151
1508
F152

Fig.13

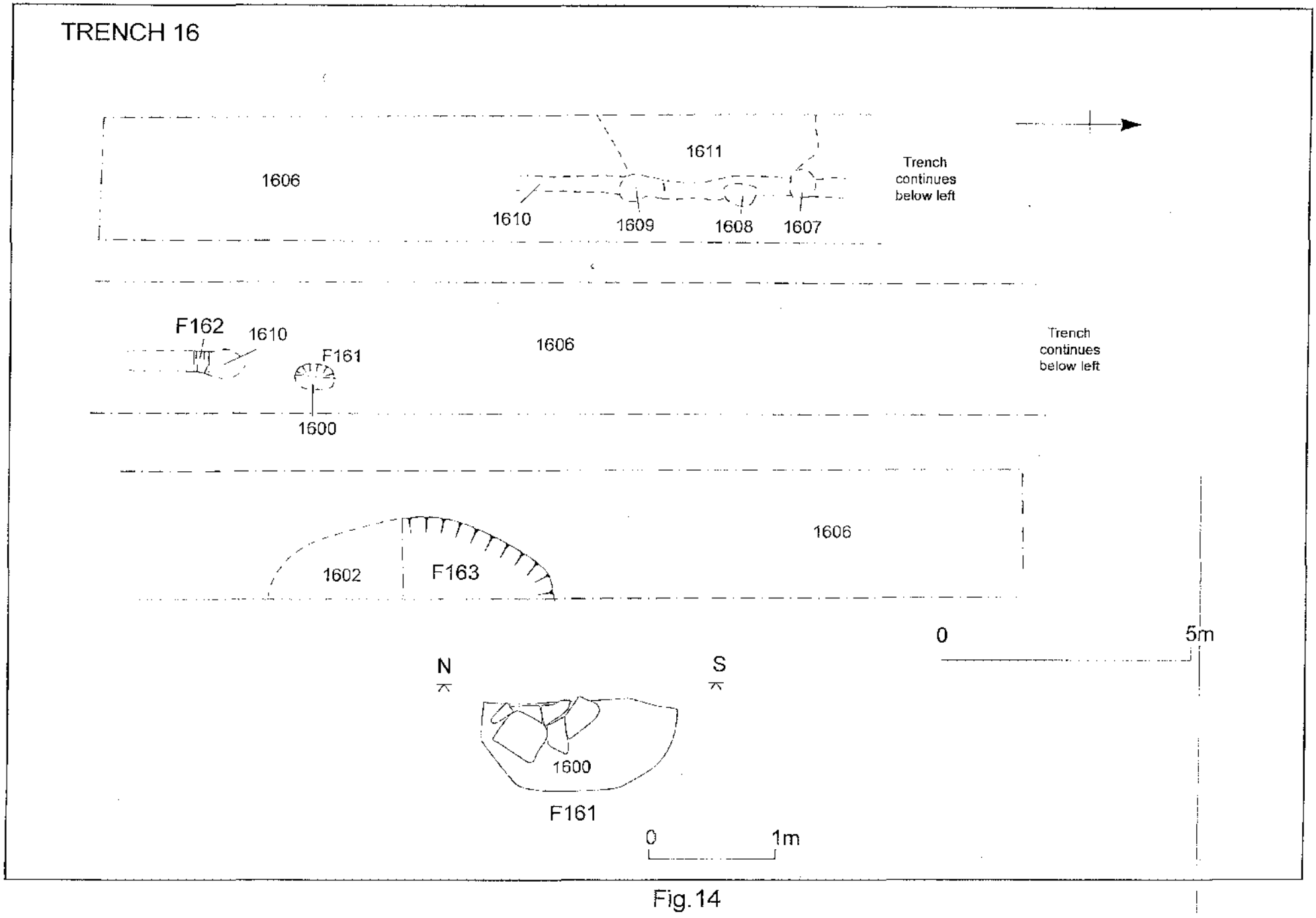

TRENCH 16
1606
1611
1610
1609
1608
1607
Trench continues below left
F162
1610
F161
1606
1600
Trench continues below left
1606
1602
F163
0
5m
N
S
1600
F161
0
1m

Fig.14

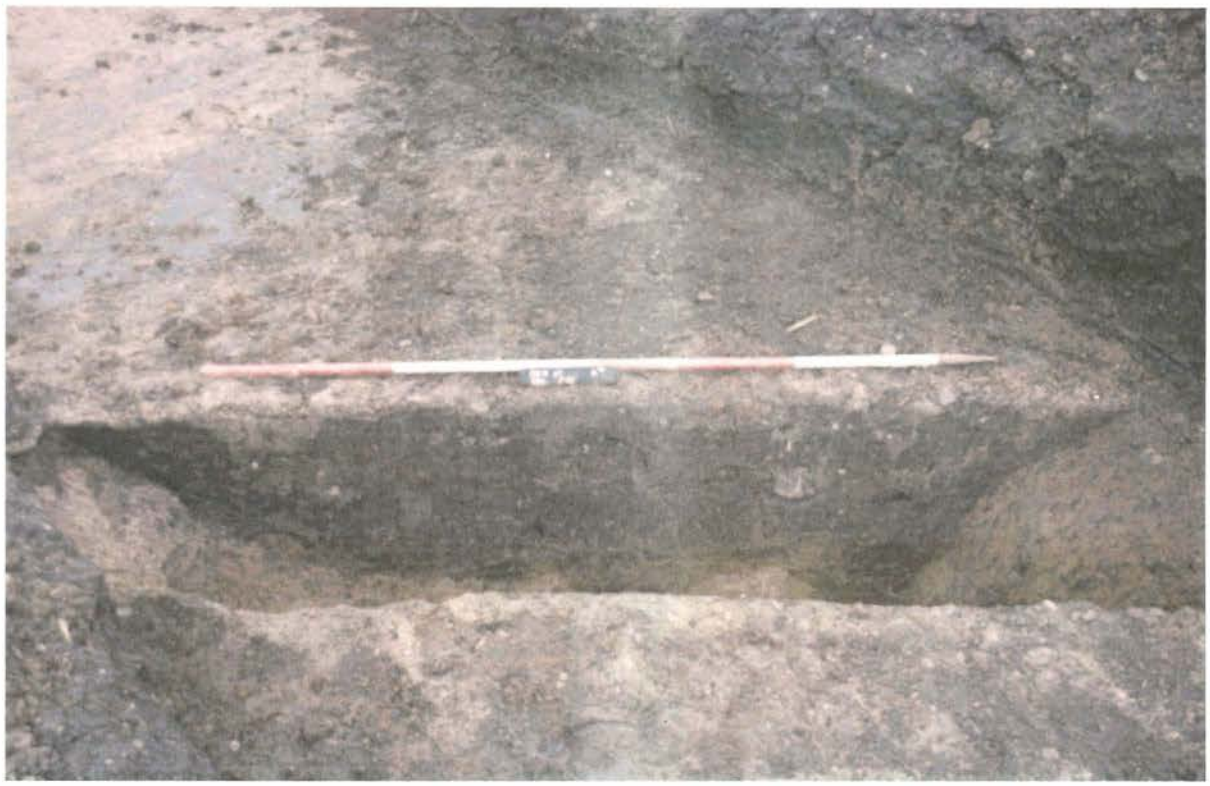


Plate 1

Plate 2

Plate 3

Plate 4

Plate 5

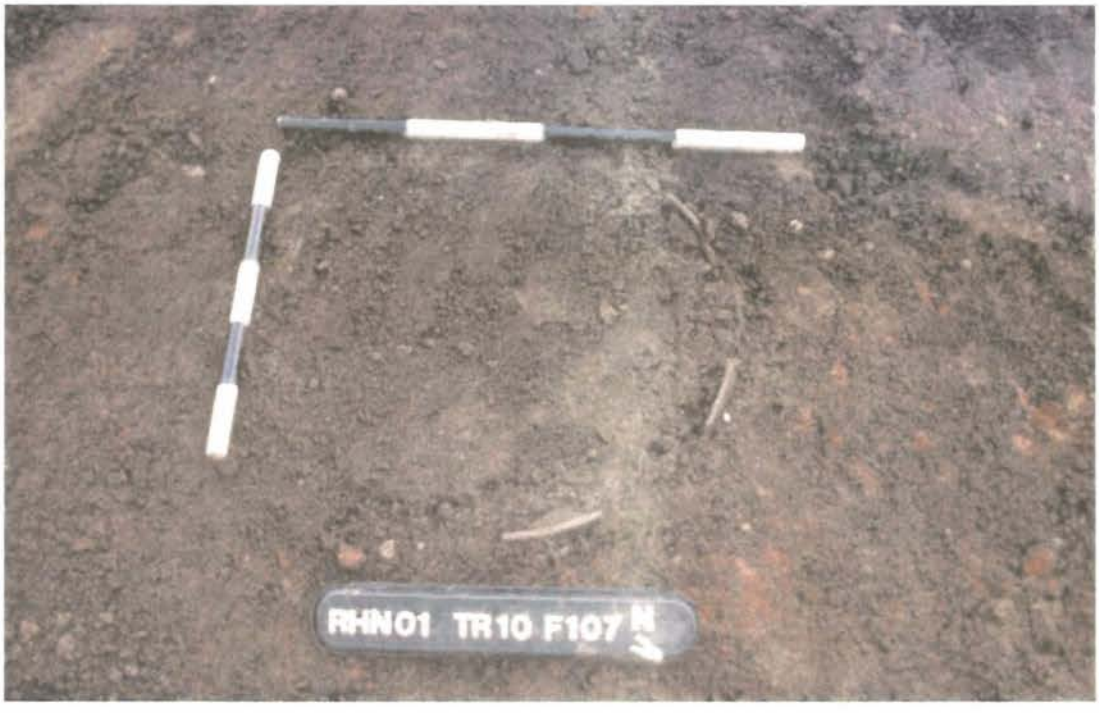


Plate 6

Plate 7

Plate 8

Appendix 1
Table 17: Finds summary for Ratcliffe-on-Soar

Strat unit	Trench	Tile: ceramic	Brick: ceramic	Fired clay/daub	Other building materials	Prehistoric pot	Roman pot	Roman pot (Wt)	Mortaria	Samian	Amphorae	Medieval pot	Post-medieval pot	Clay pipe	Coins	Iron nails	Other iron	Copper/alloy	Lead	Other metal	Slag	Other vessel glass	Window glass	Flint	Other stone	Worked bone	Human bone	Animal bone (g)	Shell	Charcoal	Comment
0100	1			1			3	33																				38			F1
0102	1						18	100																				39			
0205	2					8																		2							F22
0300	3						4	7					1															3			F30
0304	3	4					11	68																				34			F31
0306	3						2	5																							F33
0400	4a			1			21	2													1							31			F40
0401	4a						1	12																1				45			F41
0403	4a	1					23	193		2						1												29			F42
0406	4a						3	3																							
0410	4a						27	263																							
0416	4b						14	63																				2			
0500	5a						4	31	1															2				19			F50
0502	5a						1	5																				84			
0503	5a						1	12																				11			
0504	5a																											74			
0505	5a						9	10																				5			F50
0510	5a	1					12	83		1				1			1				1						18	10			
0600	6						8	275									1				1							23			F60
0601	6						2	43		2																					F61
0603	6	1					36	395		1			7			1	2	1			1				15			48			F62
0605	6						1	7		1																					
0607	6						11	69		1																		60			F62
0803	8	2					14	64		1													1	17				10			

Strat unit	Trench	Tile: ceramic	Brick: ceramic	Fired clay/daub	Other building materials	Prehistoric pot	Roman pot	Roman pot (Wt)	Mortaria	Samian	Amphorae	Medieval pot	Post-medieval pot	Clay pipe	Coins	Iron nails	Other iron	Copper/alloy	Lead	Other metal	Slag	Other vessel glass	Window glass	Flint	Other stone	Worked bone	Human bone	Animal bone (g)	Shell	Charcoal	Comment
0900	9																						1								
0902	9						1	3																							
0904	9	2					2	11														3									
0905	9						7	18		7																		1			
1000	10	1			1		20	974	4	2	3				1				1							1		36			
1001	10						21	487			5										12							84			F100
1002	10						11	46																							F100
1003	10						7	74								1												35			F102
1004	10	2					27	216	1																			49		5	F101
1005	10						3	65																							F101
1006	10						3	36		2																		35			F101
1007	10						2	36																							F101
1008	10						1	7																				29			F103/– cleaning layer above
1009	10						4	60																							F104
1013	10						93	1606																							F107/ all one vessel
1100	11																				1			4							
1503	15																											42			F151
1515	15			1			2																					8			F153
1600	16						1	1																				4			F161
1602	16		3		1		15	182								1					8			8				82		1	F163
1700	17						4												1												
1701	17						4	41																							
1702	17	1					6	24				6												1				1			F170
1704	17						1	24																							F171
5000	5a						1	8							1				5									1			F55
6023	6						3																					20	2		
u/s01	1				7		36	903	2						1		2	1	1									26			

Strat unit	Trench	Tile: ceramic	Brick: ceramic	Fired clay/daub	Other building materials	Prehistoric pot	Roman pot	Roman pot (Wt)	Mortaria	Samian	Amphorae	Medieval pot	Post-medieval pot	Clay pipe	Coins	Iron nails	Other iron	Copper/alloy	Lead	Other metal	Slag	Other vessel glass	Window glass	Flint	Other stone	Worked bone	Human bone	Animal bone (g)	Shell	Charcoal	Comment
u/s02	2						1	3				1	2						1												
u/s03	3	1												1																	
u/s04	4a						7	102			1				1																
u/s04b	4b						5	44					1				2		2		3										
u/s05a	5a	24	5		5		58	1284	2	4					8	2		2	19					2				79			George V coin
u/s05b	5b						5	81	1	1						1			2		2							2		1	
u/s06	6						156	2495	3	18	1		1		3	6	5		2		3				1			14			Hone stone
u/s08	8															2		1													
u/s09	9	1					2	16	1									1	1												
u/s10	10	2					38	1469	1	6	4						1	1							1						
u/s13	13													2																	
u/s15	15				1		6	36							1			1	2												
u/s16	16	1					8	95							3		1	1	7	1	1			1				19			Watch winder (other metal)
u/s17	17						2	9				1	1				1														