

**A supplementary
archaeological evaluation
of land at Block Fen 'B',
Mepal, Cambridgeshire
2001**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 851
January 2002

**A supplementary archaeological evaluation of land
at Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land),
Mepal, Cambridgeshire 2001**

NGR TL 433 834

Site Code: BFM 01

By

Laurence Jones

With contributions by Lynne Bevan,
Marina Ciaraldi, Annette Hancocks and Emily Murray

Client:

Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Limited
Broadway House
St Neots Road
Hardwick
Cambridge CB 3 7QJ

On behalf of

Lafarge Aggregates Limited

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

**A supplementary archaeological evaluation of land at
Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land),
Mepal, Cambridgeshire 2001**

Contents

1.0	Non-technical summary	1
2.0	Introduction.....	2
3.0	Site location and description.....	3
4.0	Archaeological background	3
4.1	Desk-top studies.....	3
4.2	Previous archaeological evaluation.....	4
5.0	Aims and methods	5
5.1	Aims	5
5.2	Methods.....	5
6.0	Summary of results	6
6.1	Field 1	6
6.2	Field 2	7
6.3	Field 3	8
7.0	The finds	10
7.1	The flint.....	10
7.2	The pottery	11
7.3	The plant remains.....	12
7.4	The animal bone.....	13
8.0	Discussion.....	14
9.0	Acknowledgements.....	15
10.0	References.....	16

Tables

Table 1:	finds quantification	10
Table 2:	soil samples assessed for plant macro-remains.....	13

Appendix

Detailed results of trial trenching	17
---	----

List of Figures (at end of report)

Fig. 1 Location plan

Fig. 2 Trench location and archaeological features identified in previous evaluations

Fig. 3 Trench 117: plan and sections

Fig. 4 Trenches 126 and 134: plans and sections

Fig. 5 Trench 127: plan and sections

Fig. 6 Trench 144: plan and sections

Fig. 7 Trench 145: plan and sections

Fig. 8 Trench 146: plan and sections

Fig. 9 Trench 147: plan and sections

Fig. 10 Trenches 155, 163 and 172: plan and sections

Plates

Plate 1 Ditch F12702; Trench 127, looking northeast

Plate 2 Ditch F13404; Trench 134, looking west

Plate 3 Pit F14500; Postholes F14502-F14504, F14506 and F14507, Trench 145, looking northwest

Plate 4 Ditch F14505; Trench 145, looking northeast

Supplementary archaeological evaluation at Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire 2001

1.0 Non-technical summary

Sixty archaeological trial-trenches were excavated, during October and December 2001, within an area of 51 hectares of agricultural land granted conditional permission for gravel extraction at Block Fen (Block Fen 'B', Pearson Land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 433 834, Figs. 1 & 2). The work was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Limited on behalf of Lafarge Aggregates Limited. Permission was granted for extraction at two adjacent areas at Block Fen referred to as Block Fen 'A' (Markwell Deamer Land) and Block Fen 'B' (Pearson Land). The purpose of the trial-trenches was to test for the survival of significant archaeological remains within the Block Fen 'B' site, and to provide an indication of the importance, date and extent of such remains.

The site appears to have been situated on the southern fringes of what was an island, in the Bronze Age, close to the edge of the fen (Hall 1992). Previous archaeological work at the adjacent Block Fen 'A' consisted of desk-top study of existing archaeological knowledge, surface artefact collection, air photo assessment and trial-trenching. This work demonstrated the existence of field and settlement boundaries, possible droveways and a ring ditch, possibly the remains of a barrow, post-dating a droveway. All these features were of probable early prehistoric date. Previous archaeological work at Block Fen 'B' comprised a desk-top study, air photo assessment, geophysical survey, detailed surface collection of artefacts and trial-trenching. This revealed that two groups of ring ditches, probably the remains of barrows dating to the Bronze Age period, survived within the site. Two ring ditches were identified in the northern group and four ring ditches formed the southern group, one of which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 42). A field system was also identified and appeared to be a continuation of field boundary ditches recorded at Block Fen 'A'.

In the previous evaluation trial-trenching was targeted on known or suspected archaeological features. This supplementary evaluation was required by the archaeological advisor to the Minerals Planning Authority to test apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas throughout the site for the survival of hitherto unsuspected remains.

The results of the trial-trenching revealed that additional possible field boundary ditches not detected by geophysical survey or visible as crop-marks existed in areas not trenched in the previous evaluation. These possible field boundary ditches appear to be more concentrated in the northern part of the site. There was little dating evidence, but one ditch contained a relatively large quantity of Late Bronze Age pottery. It is possible that some or all of these ditches could be a continuation of the network of field boundary ditches present at Block Fen 'A' and recorded in one trench during the earlier evaluation at Block Fen 'B'.

A much less dense pattern of linear ditches was revealed in the eastern part of the site. These could be interpreted as further prehistoric field boundary ditches or they could enclose structures suggested by the presence of groups of postholes. Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from one of these postholes and an associated pit. A

flint core of Mesolithic date was also recovered from one of the postholes, but could be a residual find. These features are located to the east of the southern group of ring ditches recorded during the previous evaluation, fairly close to a slightly low-lying area, which was found to coincide with an area deep peat deposits (Fig. 2). This low-lying area coincides approximately with the suggested Bronze Age fen edge (Hall 1992).

A programme of sampling for charred plant remains indicated the potential for future excavations to provide evidence of the economy by this means was limited. However, where present animal bones were fairly well-preserved and could provide evidence of economy and diet.

The existence of a more extensive pattern of field boundary ditches than was previously known and the presence of groups of postholes suggesting former structures that may have been contained within ditched enclosures was revealed. Information was gained on their character, date, quality of survival, significance and archaeological potential. In the other areas of the site all the trenches proved to be either archaeologically sterile or contained drainage and/ or boundary features of probable Post-Medieval date.

It is concluded that the site is of local and regional archaeological importance and, as such, an archaeological mitigation strategy of the kind suggested in paragraph 30 of PPG16 (DoE 1990) may be applicable in this situation. This could involve excavation and a watching brief during topsoil stripping, though the final decision on any mitigation strategy must rest with the archaeological advisor to the Minerals Planning Authority in discussion with Phoenix Consulting on behalf of the client. The evaluation and earlier investigations provide sufficient information for a well-informed and focused programme of archaeological investigations to be designed.

2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of a supplementary archaeological evaluation by means of trial-trenching at Block Fen (Block Fen 'B', Pearson Land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire. The work followed a desk-based assessment (Tempvs Reparatvm 1991) and a first stage of evaluation (Tempvs Reparatvm 1993) by means of air photo assessment, surface finds collection and sample geophysical survey of the site. A second phase of evaluation (Tempvs Reparatvm 1994) involved further geophysical survey, further detailed surface collection of artefacts and trial-trenching.

The evaluation was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Limited on behalf of Lafarge Aggregates Limited and was undertaken in October and December 2001 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU). The work conformed to a specification prepared by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Limited (Phoenix Consulting 2001). The specification was approved by the Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council and Archaeological Advisor to the Minerals Planning Officer, Andy Thomas. On 29th October and 6th December 2001 site visits were made by the Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork. The project was carried out in accordance with PPG 16 (DoE 1990) and adhered to the guidelines contained in 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations' published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The finds and paper archive will be deposited with the relevant repository within a reasonable period after the completion of the fieldwork, subject to the agreement of the landowner.

3.0 Site location and description

The site (centred on NGR TL 433 834, Figs 1 & 2) is located at the southeastern fringe of the parish of Chatteris, 3.5 km southeast of Chatteris and 2.5 km northwest of Mepal, and to the north of the A142 Chatteris to Ely road. The site covers an area of approximately 51 hectares, and comprises three fields (Fields 1-3, Fig. 2). The land is flat and low-lying with very slight natural undulations, varying from 0.4m below Ordnance Datum to 1.2m above Ordnance Datum.

The present land use is agricultural, and at the time of the evaluation the northern Field 3 was seeded with winter wheat and a mature crop of potatoes. To the south, Field 2 contained a crop of sugar beet and stubble, and Field 1 was all stubble.

The underlying geology consists of first and second terrace sand and gravels (British Geological Survey Sheet 173) with peat deposits to the south and east. Polygonal ice wedge cracks are common and are often visible as crop-marks. The site appears to have been situated on the southern fringes of what was an island in the Bronze Age, close to the edge of the fen (Hall 1992). During the post-Bronze Age period the site flooded, allowing the formation of a peat deposit, which was present until artificial drainage in the late Medieval and Post-Medieval periods when agricultural practices gradually degraded the deposit. The overlying soils are peat-rich loamy sandy silts, probably incorporating the degraded remains of the peat deposit.

4.0 Archaeological background

Prior to the supplementary evaluation which is the subject of this report, a desk-based study of the site was carried out separately for Block Fen 'A' and Block Fen 'B' (Tempvs Reparatvm 1991 and 1992a). The desk-top studies were followed by archaeological evaluation at Block Fen 'A' (Tempvs Reparatvm 1992b) and by two phases of archaeological evaluation at Block Fen 'B', all carried out by Tempvs Reparatvm (Tempvs Reparatvm 1993 and 1994).

4.1 Desk-top studies

The desk-top studies, carried out by Tempvs Reparatvm, highlighted a number of crop-marked features revealed by aerial photography, and findspots within and close to the site. These consisted principally of a complex of linear features, recti-linear possible field enclosures, a prehistoric artefact scatter at Block Fen 'A' and a ring ditch complex at Block Fen 'B'.

4.2 Previous archaeological evaluation

Block Fen 'A'

Air photo assessment and trial-trenching were carried out at Block Fen 'A'. The air photo assessment (by Air Photo Services) demonstrated the existence of a complex of crop-marked features interpreted as field and settlement boundaries and possible droveways (Fig. 2). Trial-trenching appeared to show that the density of features was much less than suggested by the air photo assessment. The largest feature was a ditched sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 300m x 200m with a number of linear, possible field boundary, features adjacent to it, many of which were on similar alignments. A linear crop-marked feature, 750m in length, was interpreted as part of a major boundary ditch. It was aligned north-south and had traces of a parallel ditch on its west side suggesting a droveway. Another possible droveway was overlain by a ring ditch, probably the remains of a barrow, which was not visible as a crop-mark. This suggested that part or all of the field system may have predated barrow construction. Finds were sparse, but worked flint tools recovered from the ring ditch suggested an Early Bronze Age date and it seems probable that many or all of these features date to the prehistoric period.

Block Fen 'B' (Fig. 2)

At Block Fen 'B' the first phase of evaluation consisted of air photo assessment, sample geophysical survey and surface collection of artefacts. The second phase of evaluation involved more extensive geophysical survey, further surface artefact collection using smaller collection units, and trial-trenching. Air photo assessment revealed that the remains of two groups of crop-marked ring ditches, probably the remains of barrows, and a continuation of part of the possible field system revealed at Block Fen 'A', existed within the site. The geophysical survey was of limited success when compared with the results of the air photo assessment, although it did identify some of the ring ditches and several anomalies of a probable modern date. Surface artefact collection revealed a low density of worked flint and did not locate any concentrations of worked flint, which might have indicated areas of specific activity.

The results of the trial-trenching indicated that the northern ring ditch group consisted of the remains of two ring ditches (1108 and 1109). Trial-trenching of the southern group confirmed the existence three ring ditches (1100, 1102 and 1105). The presence a fourth ring ditch (1104) in the southern group was confirmed by geophysical survey and air photo assessment, but it was not investigated by trial-trenching as it is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 42). A fifth possible partial ring ditch (1103) was suggested by air photo evidence, but no evidence for it was found during trial-trenching designed to locate a possible southern portion of the ditch. This was consistent with air photo evidence that suggested it did not have a complete annular ditch. These ring ditches were just to the north of a barrow visible as an earthwork, which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 41), just outside the site boundary. All of the ring ditches investigated within the site showed little indication of remaining barrow mound material, although it was suggested that the ring ditches could be located on slight natural rises.

A northeast-southwest aligned linear ditch was also identified, which coincided with one of several crop-marked linear features. These crop-marked linear features appeared to be a continuation of similarly orientated linear ditches recorded at Block Fen 'A' and interpreted as part of a prehistoric field system. As with Block Fen 'A', finds were sparse, the only significant stratified artefact being a worked flint tool, associated with ring ditch 1102 in the southern group. However, it seemed probable that all of these features date to the early prehistoric period.

A supplementary air photo assessment was carried out by Air Photo Services, prior to this supplementary evaluation, to verify whether any aerial photographs not examined during the previous stages of work might reveal further crop-marks. The assessment did not find any new evidence of possible crop-marked archaeological features.

5.0 Aims and methods

5.1 Aims

The aims of the evaluation, as stated in the specification (Phoenix Consulting 2001) were:

- to determine the presence, extent, character, period, function and preservation of any archaeological remains encountered
- to examine areas where few trial-trenches have been excavated before and to obtain further dating evidence, including samples for radiocarbon dating
- to supplement the information obtained during earlier stages of work to provide sufficient information to enable an archaeological mitigation strategy to be designed

During the evaluation special consideration was given to tree boles and these were investigated to recover any evidence of human activity.

In order to achieve these aims sixty trenches were excavated, each 1.9m wide and 50m in length (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to examine areas not investigated by earlier trial trenches, the majority of which were positioned to investigate known or suspected archaeological features. The trenches were evenly distributed throughout the rest of the area proposed for development and were speculative in nature. The locations of the trenches were agreed in advance in consultation with the Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

5.2 Methods

The positions of the trenches were surveyed in using a Total Station EDM. The proposed positions of five of the trenches (Trenches 150 and 151, 154-156) were altered slightly due to obstructions on the ground. The position of one trench (Trench 159B) was not correct, due to poor visibility in dense fog, and another trench (Trench 159A) was subsequently excavated in the correct location. The trenches were mechanically opened using a 360-degree excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision. The ploughsoil was removed to the depth at which archaeological features first appeared (generally the interface with the underlying subsoil) or, in the absence of visible archaeological features, to the top of the natural subsoil. In

trenches where deep peat deposits underlay the topsoil, machine excavation was halted at the top of the peat deposit and a sample of the peat was carefully removed to test for archaeological features within or beneath these deposits. In practice the possibility of excavating the peat deposits was very limited, and small sondages were all that were generally achievable. This was due to the presence of the watertable, just below the surface of these deposits, and the consequent risk of flooding and collapse of the trenches.

Immediately following the machine cleaning of the surfaces within each trench (when feature visibility is frequently best), a record was made of all potential archaeological features and deposits within the trench using a 'Trench Record' *pro forma*. These cards enable a systematic pre-excavation record of all relevant details to be made, together with a measured sketch of all features and deposits at 1:100. Visible archaeological features are numbered and tagged on the ground and a decision is made on the strategy for sampling features and potential features within the trench. Features were assigned individual five figure numbers with the first three numbers referring to the trench number. Contexts were assigned individual six figure numbers, again with the first three numbers referring to the trench number.

Subsequent sample excavation was carried out by hand. Discrete archaeological features, such as pits, were half or quarter sectioned. A sufficient length of linear features, such as ditches, was excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, date and function. All deposits encountered were described fully on individual *pro-forma* context and feature recording cards. A drawn record was made of all features, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 in plan and 1:20 or 1:10 in profile, as appropriate. The vertical stratigraphy of all trenches was recorded. A full monochrome print and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout. Soil samples of 10, 15 and 20 litres were taken from appropriate contexts for subsequent flotation to recover charred plant remains. All finds, including animal bone, were retained by individual context.

6.0 Summary of results (Fig. 2)

The peat-rich sandy silt ploughsoil varied in depth between 0.30m and 0.50m. The underlying natural subsoil was mainly sand and gravels, with the sand being very clayey in places. The natural subsoil in the lower-lying south and east parts of Field 2 was overlain by peat deposits, present in Trenches 138, 141, 142, 143 and 144, up to 0.65m thick. The presence of these peat deposits corresponded with a slight natural slope visible on the ground.

6.1 Field 1

In Trench 172 (Fig. 10) was a linear ditch (F17202), 1.90m wide and 0.80m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, which had been recut by a narrower ditch (F17201). On either side of F17202 were two similarly orientated narrow gullies (F17203 and F17204). No finds were recovered from any of these features. Ditch F17202 corresponded with a geophysical anomaly, which was investigated in Trench 103 during the 1994 evaluation. The geophysical anomaly was found to coincide with a large ditch (Ditch 1078) with two smaller ditches on either side, identical to F17202, F17203 and F17204, and was

interpreted as a former boundary ditch associated with recent farming. No other significant archaeological features were identified.

The air photo evidence shows a series of square and sub-rectangular crop-mark enclosures at the Block Fen 'A' site, extending into the western part of Field 1, Block Fen 'B'. Some of these crop-marked features were excavated in the Block Fen 'A' evaluation and were interpreted as part of a ditched field boundary complex of probable Bronze Age date or earlier. This probable field boundary complex was visible in Field 1 as an approximately northeast-southwest aligned linear crop-mark with two further linear crop-marks at right-angles to it, orientated northwest-southeast. These crop-marks appear to form three sides of an enclosure. In the 1994 evaluation a linear ditch was excavated in Trench 97, which corresponded with the northeast-southwest aligned crop-mark, but no evidence was found corresponding to the other two northwest-southeast orientated linear crop-marks. During this supplementary evaluation no evidence corresponding with these two linear crop-marks was found in Trenches 167, 169 and 170 (although the locations of these crop-marks are depicted on Fig. 2), which coincided with the crop-marks. All the other trenches in this field contained no evidence of significant archaeological features.

6.2 Field 2

In five of the trenches (Trenches 138 and 141-144) excavated in Field 2 a layer of peat, up to 0.65m thick, was encountered sealing the natural subsoil. This peat layer corresponded with a slightly lower area visible in the eastern part of the field (Fig. 2). In the majority of the trenches (Trenches 141, 142, 143) where this peat layer was encountered, it was sealed by an uneven thin layer of grey silty clay, up to 0.30m thick. In Trench 144 (as in Trenches 138 and 143) the peat layer was only present in part of the trench. Where the peat layer was absent in Trench 144, and also in eastern part of Trench 155, a layer of brown silty sand, 0.10-0.20m thick, sealed the natural subsoil.

In Trench 144 (Fig. 6) two linear ditches (F14400 and F14401) were revealed. Ditch F14400 was a linear ditch terminal, 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep, aligned north-south, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. The primary fill of F14400 was a brown sandy silt (144013) which was sealed by a dark grey sandy silt (144012) containing worked flint and a final fill of light grey sandy silt (144011). Several sherds of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from a shallow tree bole adjacent to F14400. Further to the east was a linear ditch F14401, 0.98m wide and 0.30m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with a steeply sloping northeast side, a stepped southwest side and a slightly rounded base. Ditch F14401 was filled with a grey sandy silt (144008) similar to the final fill of F14400, but containing no finds.

To the north, in Trench 145 (Fig. 7), was a linear ditch (F14505, Plate 4), 0.65-1.10m wide and 0.35 deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a grey sandy silt with orange brown mottling (145013) containing a relatively large quantity of worked flint. North of F14505 was a pair of sub-circular postholes (F14501 and F14508), 4m apart, were both filled with grey sandy silts. Posthole F14501, 0.47m x 0.58m and 0.25m deep, contained worked flint including a small blade core of probable Mesolithic date. Further north was a group of five small sub-circular postholes (F14502-F14504, F14506 and F14507) and an oval pit (F14500, Plate 3). The postholes varied in width from 0.20m to 0.30m and were 0.09-0.12m deep. All

these features were filled with grey or greyish brown sandy silts, with the exception of F14503, which was filled with grey clayey silty sand (145008) containing sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery, animal bone and fragments of charcoal. Pit F14500, 0.58m x 1.40m and 0.16m deep, contained a sherd of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery, worked flint and a fragment of fired clay.

In Trench 155 (Fig. 10) was a sub-circular pit (F15500), 0.60m x 1.0m and 0.15m deep, with a gentle 'V'- shaped profile. It had a similar shape, profile and fill to features excavated in Trench 145 and is thought to be of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date.

Further north, in Trench 146 (Fig. 8), was a linear ditch (F14600) and two postholes (F14601 and F14602). Ditch F14600, 2.09m wide and 0.38m deep, had steep sides and a slightly rounded base and was orientated north-south. It was filled with greyish brown sandy silt (146003) containing worked flints. Two sherds of pottery of indeterminate date were recovered from the ploughsoil (146008) within a recent plough furrow cutting F14600. Shallow sub-circular postholes F14601 and F14602 had similar fills to F14600, but contained no finds.

In Trench 163 (Fig. 10), a sub-circular pit (F16300) contained no finds, but had a similar shape, profile and fill to features excavated in Trench 145 and is thought to be of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date.

In Trench 138 (not illustrated), a narrow shallow linear ditch terminal (F13800), aligned northeast-southwest, contained no finds.

In Trench 147 (Fig. 9) were two linear ditches (F14700 and F14703). Ditch F14700, 0.95m wide and 0.42m deep, was aligned northeast-southwest and terminated within the trench. Ditch F14703, 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep, was orientated northwest-southeast and showed evidence for two episodes of recutting and contained a single worked flint. Both F14700 and F14703, although more substantial than other drainage features, may relate to a network of Post-Medieval drainage ditches recorded in this trench and in other trenches and described below. These ditches seem to be on both northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest alignments, and contain similar fills.

In Trenches 139, 140, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 154 and 155 regularly spaced linear ditches on similar northwest-southeast or northeast-southwest alignments, with similar widths and identical peaty loam fills, were recorded. Identical ditches were present in Field 3 and several were sample excavated and were found to have vertical sides, flat bases and did not contain any finds. Similar features were revealed in the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

No other significant archaeological features were recorded in Field 2.

6.3 Field 3

Several linear and curvi-linear ditches, some of which may be prehistoric field boundary or enclosure ditches, which were not visible as crop-marks or geophysical anomalies were revealed in Field 3.

In Trench 133 (not illustrated) were a wide shallow ditch (F13300) and a narrow shallow gully (F13301); both features were aligned east-west and contained no finds. In Trench 134 (Fig. 4) was the terminal of a curvi-linear ditch (F13404, Plate 2), 1.46m wide and 0.65m deep, orientated northeast-southwest. It was filled with a brownish grey sandy silt (134010) containing worked flint and animal bone. A sherd Early Bronze Age pottery was also recovered from a recent plough furrow cutting F13404. A single worked flint was recovered from an adjacent tree bole (F13405). Further north in Trench 134, the terminals of two northwest-southeast aligned probable shallow linear ditches (F13400 and F13402) produced no finds.

In Trench 127 (Fig. 5) was linear ditch (F12702, Plate 1), 1.20-1.45m wide and 0.30m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with a shallow 'V'-shaped profile. Its primary fill (127005) was a charcoal-rich dark grey silt with a high peat content which contained worked flint, a relatively large quantity of sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, and animal bone. This was overlain by a secondary fill (127004) of grey sandy silt.

In adjacent Trench 126 (Fig. 4) was a shallow linear gully or narrow ditch (F12600), 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep, aligned east-west. The fill of F12600 was a grey silty sand (126003) containing a relatively large quantity of worked flint including a flake of probable Neolithic date. In Trench 123 (not illustrated) a linear ditch (F12300), which showed evidence for a recut (F123001), was orientated east-west and contained no finds. However, the nature of the fill and the profile of the feature, similar to that of Post-Medieval drainage ditches, suggests it may be of Post-Medieval date. In Trench 124 (not illustrated) a linear ditch (F12400), aligned north-south, produced no finds. In Trench 120 (not illustrated) a shallow linear ditch (F12000) contained a Post-Medieval clay pipe stem fragment.

Further to the north, in Trench 117 (Fig. 3), was a linear ditch (F11701), 1.75m wide and 0.32m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base, aligned northeast-southwest. It was filled with a greyish brown silty sand (117002) containing no finds. East of F11701 was a curving ditch (F11700), 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (117005) containing no finds. Two other possible features (F11702 and F117003) in this trench were ill-defined and are of probable geological origin.

In Trenches 123, 127, 128-132 and 134-136 regularly spaced linear ditches on similar alignments with similar widths and identical peaty loam fills were recorded. Several of these ditches were sample excavated and were found to have vertical sides, flat bases and to contain no finds. Identical features were revealed in the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

No other significant archaeological features were recorded in Field 3.

7.0 The finds

Table 1: finds quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Description	Date range
Trench 126	F12600	126003	18x flint (30g)	
Trench 127	F12702	127005	animal bone (208g); 17x fired clay/daub; 2x flint (17g); 16x pottery (206g)	LBA
Trench 132	F13200	132003	2x flint (5g); includes 1x blade	
Trench 134	plough furrow	134008	1x pottery (10g)	EBA
Trench 134	F13404	134010	2x flint (9g); Animal bone (2g)	
Trench 134	F13405	134011	1x flint (16g)	
Trench 144	tree bole	144009	6x pottery (16g)	Late Neolithic/ EBA
Trench 144	F14400	144012	3 x flint (10g)	
Trench 145	F14500	145010	4 x pottery (12g, including 3x indeterminate sherds (9g), 2x flint (16g) and 1x fired clay/daub (2g)	Late Neolithic/ EBA
Trench 145	F14501	145012	2x flint (20g)	
Trench 145	F14503	145008	animal bone (8g); charcoal (<1g); 11x pottery (34g)	EBA
Trench 145	F14505	145013	20x flint (73g)	
Trench 145	tree bole	145014	1x indeterminate pottery (1g)	
Trench 146	F14600	146003	4x flint (26g)	
Trench 146	plough furrow	146008	2x indeterminate pottery (1g); 1x fired clay/daub (35g)	
Trench 147	F14703	147007	1x flint (1g)	
Trench 149	F14900	149003	1x flint (11g)	
Trench 172	F17200	172002	animal bone (40g)	
SF south of Trench 120		U/S	4x flint (6g)	
SF south of Trench 124		U/S	1x flint (13g)	
SF west of Trench 126		U/S	1x flint (6g)	
SF east of Trench 126		U/S	7x flint (77g)	
SF near Trench 127		U/S	7x flint (32g)	
SF near Trench 128		U/S	8x flint (50g)	
SF near Trench 129		U/S	9x flint (187g); 1x modern debris	
SF east of Trench 132		U/S	1x flint (7g); 1x burnt stone (12g)	
SF west of Trench 132		U/S	1x flint (4g)	
SF near Trench 135		U/S	2x flint (7g)	

Key: SF- surface find, U/S- unstratified, EBA- Early Bronze Age, LBA- Late Bronze Age

7.1 The flint (by Lynne Bevan)

The small assemblage of 98 items of humanly-worked flint comprised a microlith, three cores, three scrapers, 10 retouched flakes, two blades, a hammerstone fragment, a notched flake, 73 flakes and four struck chunks. The flint was in a good condition with a glossy 'fresh' appearance although nearly half of it, including several of the tools, was unstratified.

The raw material used was a fine quality dark grey and brown coloured flint. When present the cortex tended to be thin and compacted and suggestive of flint from a secondary source, probably local river gravels or boulder clay deposits. Some pieces had

a whiter cortex that might indicate a primary, mined origin but the small size of these examples precluded accurate identification.

The earliest material in the collection was a small pyramidal blade core (145012, Trench 145) and a microlith (surface find near Trench 126), both of which are of Later Mesolithic date. A flake with pressure-flaking on one surface is of Neolithic date (126003, Trench 126). Two blades are also of Neolithic date (145013, Trench 145 and surface find near Trench 127). An ovoid-shaped end scraper and a flake came from a context containing Late Bronze Age pottery with which they are probably contemporary (127005, Trench 127).

Two cores of probable Later Neolithic to Bronze Age date, a burnt core with little surface detail and a multi-platform blade/flake, came from topsoil near Trenches 126 and 129 respectively. Two scrapers, which might be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, were also surface finds (near Trenches 126 and 128). An abraded fragment from a hammerstone was also unstratified (surface find near Trench 127). The largest concentrations of flakes, 17 and 18 respectively, came from Trench 126 (126003) and Trench 145 (145013). Despite the evidence for human activity during successive periods of prehistory, much of the assemblage has a homogenous appearance. This would suggest that the majority of activity took place during one phase and, from the general broad shape of the flakes and morphology of many of the tools, this appears to have been during the Later Neolithic to Bronze Age, in line with other the evidence from the site.

The nature and duration of this activity is difficult to evaluate although there is evidence for both flint working (the hammerstone fragment, two later cores and waste flakes and chunks) and settlement (two of the scrapers).

7.2 The pottery (by Annette Hancocks)

Forty-one (280g) fragments of pottery were recovered during the evaluation (Table 1). Pottery was recovered from Trenches 127, 134, 144, 145 and 146. The majority of the pottery was provisionally spot-dated by Dr Ann Woodward to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period, with the exception of that from Trench 127.

The largest volume of material derived from ditch F12702, (Trench 127) and comprised two base angles, many decorated pieces, one large rim and fragments of at least four to five vessels. The pottery from this trench dated to the Late Bronze Age.

A single grog-tempered Beaker sherd, with ribbed decoration was recovered from a context (134008) within a plough furrow in Trench 134. A further grog-tempered Beaker sherd was recovered from a tree bole (context 144009) in Trench 144

Several more grog-tempered Beaker or Urn sherds were recovered from two contexts (145010, F14500 and 145008, F14503) in Trench 145. This material included a very thin-walled decorated Beaker or Urn fragment. Pottery of indeterminate date was recovered from a plough furrow in Trench 146.

7.3 The plant remains (by Marina Ciaraldi)

Ten soil samples were collected during the evaluation. Seven of these samples (Table. 2) were processed and the charred plant remains were assessed in order to establish:

- the degree of preservation of organic remains
- the potential of the plant assemblage for understanding the site economy
- the potential for reconstructing the palaeoenvironment of the site

Ten litres of soil from each sample, with the exception of Sample 10, were processed by manual flotation. Sample 10 (F14503/145008) was collected from a small posthole, from which it was only possible to collect 6 litres of sediment. The flots were recovered on a 0.5 mesh. They were dried in the oven at 40 degrees and later scanned under a microscope. The residue was recovered on a 1mm mesh and sorted by eye.

The samples examined were taken from features, that were dated to the prehistoric period by associated worked flint or pottery. Sample 1 (F12702/127005) was particularly rich in charcoal.

The charred component of the samples, with the exception of Samples 1 and 10, was very small. A single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) was observed in Sample 1 (F12702/127005) and a charred fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) was recorded in Sample 8 (F14500/145010). Most of the samples contained some uncharred seeds of *Polygonum* sp. or *Chenopodium* sp. and it is probable that these represent waterlogged seeds rather than modern seeds. The presence of peat deposits in some of the evaluation trenches suggests organic material may survive under anoxic conditions. On the basis of the samples examined it would seem that preservation by charring is very poor in the archaeological deposits.

The presence of waterlogged seeds suggests that waterlogged deposits might survive in deep features such as ditches or wells. It is therefore recommended that such features, as well as charcoal-rich features, are sampled if found, in the event of any larger-scale excavations. Finally, it would be important to sample the deep peat deposit observed at the eastern margin of the site, as this might contain well-preserved organic remains deposited during the period of occupation of the site. If organic remains are present, they can provide important information on the nature of the landscape surrounding the site and on the changes occurring after its abandonment, including possible inundation of the area.

Table 2: soil samples assessed for plant macro-remains

Sample N.	Trench	Feature	Context	Date range	Vol. processed (lt.)	Flot. vol. (ml.)	Description
1	127	F12702	127005	LBA	10	1000	Very large flot (1 lt.), only 50% scanned. It consists entirely of charcoal fragments, some over 2 cm. A single seed of barley was observed
2	134	F13404	134010		10	20	Some, very small fragments of charcoal
4	126	F12600	126003		10	50	Some modern or waterlogged seeds of <i>Polygonum</i> sp. and <i>Chenopodium album</i> . Some small fragments of waterlogged wood
5	146	F14600	146003		10	50	Few modern or waterlogged seeds of <i>Polygonum</i> sp. and <i>Chenopodium album</i> .
8	145	F14500	145010	Late Neolithic /EBA	10	10	A single charred fragment of hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.)
9	145	F14505	145013		10	10	No plant remains
10	145	F14503	145008	EBA	6	20	Charcoal-rich deposit but charcoal is fragmented. Few modern or waterlogged seeds of <i>Polygonum</i> sp. and <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.

7.4 The animal bone (by Emily Murray)

A small quantity of hand-collected animal bone (258g) was recovered from the excavations at Block Fen 'B'. The presence of animal bone was not noted in any of the bulk samples that were processed and assessed.

The bones were well preserved, although fragmented, and they derive from Trenches 127 (127005), 134 (134010), 145 (145008) and 172 (172002). Cattle and sheep/goat were represented in Late Bronze Age context 127005 (F12702) and the material included the humerus shaft of a bovine with medio-lateral knife marks, probably caused through defleshing. Three unworn deciduous incisors and an unfused ilium (part of the pelvis) of an immature equid were represented in the assemblage from probable Post-Medieval context 172002 (F17200). The material from the remaining two contexts comprised unidentifiable mammal bone fragments.

The assemblage is too small to allow a meaningful evaluation of the site economy or the diet of its former inhabitants. However, given the good state of preservation of the bones, the potential to recover such information is good should further excavations be undertaken, although this would be very much dependent upon the volume of bone recovered and the ability to securely date the contexts from which they derive.

8.0 Discussion

The earliest evidence for the occupation of the site comes from the flint assemblage. Two worked flint artefacts, one found on the surface of the ploughsoil in Field 3 and the other recovered from a posthole (F14501, Trench 145), possibly a residual find from a later prehistoric context, are of Later Mesolithic date.

In Field 2, prehistoric features are located to the east of the southern group of ring ditches recorded during the previous evaluation, fairly close to a slightly low-lying area coinciding with deep peat deposits (Fig. 2). This low-lying area coincides approximately with the suggested Bronze Age fen edge (Hall 1992).

The probable early prehistoric features are concentrated in Trench 144 (F14400 and F14401), Trench 145 (F14500-145008), Trench 146 (F14600-14602) and Trench 155 (F15500) with another possible prehistoric feature in Trench 163, further to the northwest. Groups of shallow postholes and a pit in Trench 145, two of which contained Early Bronze Age beaker or urn sherds, provide evidence for the presence of probable Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age structures and associated activity. However, as mentioned above one of the postholes (F14501) contained a Mesolithic blade core and could possibly be of Mesolithic date. Most of the four linear ditches recorded in Trenches 144-146 contained worked flint consistent with a Late Neolithic to Bronze Age date. These features could be interpreted either as possible enclosure ditches, perhaps enclosing structures, or possibly part of the network of early prehistoric field boundary ditches seen at Block Fen 'A' and recorded in the 1994 evaluation (Trench 97).

In Field 3, several linear features may possibly be part of a continuation of the same ditched field boundary complex, of probable Bronze Age date, mentioned above. Ditch F12702 (Trench 127), which is of probable Late Bronze Age date, contained sherds of at least four to five Late Bronze Age vessels. The profile, fills and alignment of F12702 indicate that it could be similar to a possible ditch recut (1017, Trench 97) recorded during the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as a prehistoric field boundary ditch. The relatively large quantity of finds recovered might suggest that this feature was close to an area of settlement or other activity. Ditches F12600 (Trench 126) and F13404 (Trench 134) may be of similar date and function, although the finds of worked flint from these ditches can only suggest a broad Later Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Other undated ditches in Trench 117 (F11700 and F11701), Trench 124 (F12400), Trench 133 (F13300 and F13301) and Trench 134 (F13400 and F13402) could possibly be of prehistoric date, based on their fill type, although they could also be of later date.

No clear evidence for further ring ditches was recorded within the site. The only possible candidate being curving ditch F11700, Trench 117. However this was undated and appears to have too small a diameter to be interpreted as a prehistoric ring ditch.

Many tree boles were excavated on the site and two contained a worked flint and Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery respectively. These artefacts are more likely to have been washed into the tree boles by flooding rather than indicating any human utilisation of the features.

The information from the analysis of the plant remains suggests the potential for the presence of charred plant remains is rather poor. However, two of the samples contained

quantities of charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. Evidence from the plant remains suggests that Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age archaeological features were subject to waterlogging. This is consistent with the findings of the 1994 evaluation (Tempvs Reparatum, 1994, Appendix 3), which suggested that the presence of water-inwashed sediments, in some ring ditches, was the result of episodes of flooding.

Although the quantity of animal bone recovered during the evaluation was small, it was well preserved. This suggests that the potential for any possible further excavation to reveal evidence for the economy and the diet of its former inhabitants is good, provided enough animal bone is recovered.

It is thought that the site would have been covered by a peat deposit from the Iron Age (Hall and Coles, 1994) as water levels rose, probably until the late Medieval or Post-Medieval period when it was drained. This model explains why no Iron Age, Roman or Medieval archaeology was encountered, during both the earlier evaluation or this evaluation. This peat deposit would have formed a protective layer over the pre-Iron Age archaeology. Subsequent drainage and intensive modern agriculture has degraded the peat resulting in the truncation of archaeological features. Evidence of a network of drainage ditches, presumably of Post-Medieval date, was encountered in Fields 2 and 3. Deep plough furrows were visible in all the evaluation trenches, cutting into the subsoil and the top of archaeological features. This plough truncation was also noted in the 1994 evaluation and may explain the shallow nature of some of the archaeological features.

No archaeological features encountered during this evaluation were visible as geophysical anomalies or crop-marks, apart from a Post-Medieval ditch in Trench 172. This could be due to the fact that the fills of most of the archaeological features contained a relatively high proportion of sand. The contrast with the surrounding sand and gravel subsoil may not have been marked enough to cause geophysical anomalies, and the lack of organic material within the features may explain the lack of differential crop growth.

The supplementary evaluation at Block Fen 'B', together with the preceding stages of evaluation, provide a good picture of the nature, significance and quality of the archaeological remains within the proposed development site. It is concluded that the site is of local and regional archaeological importance and, as such, an archaeological mitigation strategy of the kind suggested in paragraph 30 of PPG16 (DoE 1990) may be applicable in this situation. This could involve excavation and a watching brief during topsoil stripping, though the final decision on any mitigation strategy must rest with the archaeological advisor to the Minerals Planning Authority in discussion with Phoenix Consulting on behalf of the client.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The project was managed and directed by Laurence Jones and was carried out with the assistance of Kate Bain, Sarah Blewer, Robert Burrows, Melissa Conway, Nathan Flavell, Steve Graham, Maurice Hopper, Roy Krakowicz, Helen Martin, Lisette Piper, Andrew Rudge, James Taylor, Sarah Weatherall and Stephen Williams. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. The project was monitored by Dr. Christopher Howlett for Phoenix Consulting and Andy Thomas, Archaeological Officer for Cambridgeshire

County Council and archaeological advisor to the Minerals Planning Authority. The report was edited by Simon Buteux.

10.0 References

DoE 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*. Department of the Environment.

Hall, D. 1992 *The Fenland Project Number 6: Southwestern Cambridgeshire Fenland*. East Anglian Archaeological Report 56.

Hall, D. and Coles, J. 1994 *Fenland survey: an essay in landscape and persistence*, English Heritage Archaeological Report 1.

Phoenix Consulting 2001 *Specification for supplementary archaeological evaluation, Markwell-Deamer land (Block Fen 'A') and Pearson land (Block Fen 'B'), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Doc Ref. P/154/B

Tempvs Reparatvm 1991 *Archaeological desk-top study, Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Report no. TR 31010DB

Tempvs Reparatvm 1992a *Archaeological desk-top study, Block Fen 'A' (Markwell-Deamer land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Report no. TR 31010ODA

Tempvs Reparatvm 1992b *Archaeological evaluation at Block Fen 'A' (Markwell-Deamer land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Report no. TR 31010ODF

Tempvs Reparatvm 1993 *Archaeological field evaluation phase 1, Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Report no. TR 31010FDA

Tempvs Reparatvm 1994 *Archaeological field evaluation phase 2, Block Fen 'B' (Pearson land), Mepal, Cambridgeshire*. Report no. TR 31010DFA

Appendix: Detailed results of trial trenching

Trench 116

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (116001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. This was overlain by 0.35m of ploughsoil (116000).

Features: No archaeological features were recorded.

Trench 117

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (117001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. This was overlain by 0.35m of ploughsoil (117000).

Features:

F11700 - curving ditch, 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (117005).

F11701 - linear ditch, 1.75m wide and 0.32m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (117002).

F11702 - terminal of linear negative feature, 0.72m wide and 0.24m deep, orientated north-south, with a steep east side, a gently sloping west side and rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (117004).

F117003 - linear negative feature, 1.14m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (117003).

Interpretation: the date of ditches F11700 and F11701 was not determined due to absence of datable finds. These features may be associated with ring ditch 1108, evidence of which was revealed in Trench 114 during the 1994 evaluation, 100m to the east. Features F11702 and F11703 were not as clearly defined and it is possible that they could be of geological origin.

Trench 118

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (118001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (118000).

Features: no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 119

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (119001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which was disturbed in places by root action. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (119000).

Features: no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 120

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (120001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (120000).

Features:

F12000 - linear ditch, 1.40m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned northeast-southwest with gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with a grey sandy silt (120004) which contained a clay pipe stem fragment.

F12001 - circular posthole, 0.55m in diameter and 0.35m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile and cutting linear ditch F12000. Filled with a dark grey sandy silt (120006).

Interpretation: features F12000 and F120001 appear to be of Post-Medieval date, probably of Post-Medieval agricultural origin.

Trench 121

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (121001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (121000).

Features: no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 122

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (122001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree boles. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (122000).

Features: no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 123

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (123001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (123000).

Features:

F12300 - linear ditch, at least 1.00m wide and 0.38m deep, aligned east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peat (123005).

F12301 - linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.42m deep, orientated east-west and cuts F12300, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with dark brown peaty loam (123007).

F12302 - linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.44m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (123004).

Interpretation: ditch F12302 appears to have a similar profile and be on a similar alignment to features revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system. The date and function of ditches F12300 and F12301 is unclear, although the nature of their fills may suggest they could be of a similar date to ditch F12302.

Trench 124

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (124001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree boles. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (124000).

Features:

F12400 - linear ditch, 1.00m wide and 0.32m deep, aligned north-south with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (124002).

Interpretation: the date and function of ditch F12400 are uncertain.

Trench 125

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (125001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree boles. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (125000).

Features: no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 126

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (126001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree boles. This was overlain by 0.35m of ploughsoil (126000).

Features:

F12600 - linear gully, 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep, aligned east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a grey silty sand (126003) containing worked flint. The eastern part of this feature was disturbed by animal burrows and a tree bole.

Interpretation: linear gully F12600 may be of prehistoric date, function uncertain.

Trench 127

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (127001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (127000).

Features:

F12700 - linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.44m deep, orientated northeast-southwest with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (127002).

F12701 - linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep, orientated northeast-southwest with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (127007) and a secondary fill (127006) of grey sandy silt.

F12702 - linear ditch, 1.20-1.45m wide and 0.30m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with a shallow 'V'- shaped profile. Filled with a charcoal-rich dark grey silt with a high peat content (127005), 0.20m deep, containing worked flint, sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and animal bone, and a secondary fill (127004) of grey sandy silt.

Interpretation: Ditch F12702 is of Late Bronze Age date and may be interpreted as a field boundary ditch, although the relatively large quantity of finds recovered may suggest it is close to an area of settlement. Profile, fills and alignment may indicate F12702 could be similar to the possible ditch recut recorded during the 1994 evaluation as 1017 in Trench 97. Ditches F12700 and F127001 appear to have similar profiles and be on similar alignments to features revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 128

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (128001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (128000).

Features:

F12800 - linear ditch, at least 0.66m wide and 0.34m deep, aligned northeast-southwest with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (128005).

F12801 - linear ditch, at least 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep, aligned northeast-southwest with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (128006).

Unexcavated contexts:

128003 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

128004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: ditches F12800 and F12801 appear to have a similar profile and be on similar alignments to features revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system. The nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicates they are also part of the same Post-Medieval land drainage system with drains spaced at 11m intervals.

Trench 129

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (129001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (129000).

Features:

F12900 - possible pit, at least 0.68m wide and 0.34m deep, extends beyond north end of trench, with steeply sloping sides. Filled with peaty loam (129002).

F12901 - linear ditch, at least 0.66m wide and 0.34m deep, aligned northeast-southwest with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (129004).

F12902 - linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.38m deep, aligned northeast-southwest with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam (129003).

Interpretation: ditches F12901 and F12902 appear to have a similar profiles and be on similar alignments to features revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system. The date and function of Pit F12900 is uncertain and it was not clearly identified as being of archaeological origin.

Trench 130

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (130001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (130000).

Unexcavated contexts:

130002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

130003 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicate they are part of the same Post-Medieval land drainage system revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation and in other adjacent evaluation trenches.

Trench 131

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (131001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by a tree bole. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (131000).

Unexcavated contexts:

131002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

131004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

131006 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

131007 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicate they are part of the same Post-Medieval land drainage system revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. Similar drainage ditches have been recorded in other adjacent evaluation trenches, spaced at 11-12m intervals.

Trench 132

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (132001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (132000).

Features:

F13200 - irregular negative feature, 1.58m wide and 0.28m deep, with an irregular 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (132003) containing worked flint.

Unexcavated context:

132002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: irregular negative feature F13200 is probably not of archaeological origin and could be interpreted as a hollow or undulation in the natural subsoil. Unexcavated context 132002 is identical to fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches excavated in other trenches.

Trench 133

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (133001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (133000).

Features:

F13300 - linear ditch, 1.50m wide and 0.21m deep, aligned east-west, with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (133002).

F13301 - linear gully, 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep, orientated east-west with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (133003).

Interpretation: the function and date of shallow linear features F13300 and F13301 are uncertain.

Trench 134

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (134001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by two tree boles or root holes. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (134000).

Features:

F13400 - terminal of linear ditch, 1.10m wide and 0.12m deep, aligned northwest-southeast, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Cut by Post-Medieval drain. Filled with a grey sandy silt (134003).

F13402 - terminal of linear ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.22m deep, aligned northwest-southeast, with a 'V'-shaped profile. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (134002).

F13404 - curvilinear ditch terminal, 1.46m wide and 0.65m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with a vertical northwest side, a steeply sloping southeast side and a slightly rounded base which was disturbed by a partially decomposed tree root. Filled with a brownish grey sandy silt (134010) containing worked flint and animal bone. A sherd of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil (134008) within a recent plough furrow cutting F13404.

F13405 - negative feature, 1.57m wide and 0.28m deep, aligned east-west, with an ill-defined profile with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown silty sand (134011) containing a worked flint.

Unexcavated contexts:

134004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

134007 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

134009 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: Ditch F13404 is probably of prehistoric date, possibly Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age. Its function is unclear, although it is possible it may have formed part of the field system encountered during the 1994 evaluation. Ill-defined negative feature F13405 is probably not of archaeological origin and could be interpreted as a hollow or undulation in the natural subsoil. Similarly aligned shallow linear ditches F13400 and F13402 are undated and their function is uncertain, although it is possible that they could be of a similar date to F13404. Unexcavated contexts 134004, 134007 and 134009 were all spaced 12-13m apart, and had similar fills and orientations. They were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches recorded in other trenches.

Trench 135

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (135001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (135000).

Unexcavated contexts:

135002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

135004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

135007 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

135008 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicate they are part of the same Post-Medieval land drainage system revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. Similar drainage ditches were recorded in other adjacent evaluation trenches, spaced at 11-12m intervals.

Trench 136

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (136001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which undulated slightly. These natural undulations or hollows were filled with silty grey sands. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (136000).

Unexcavated context:

136005 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated context 136005 indicates it is the fill of a drainage ditch similar to Post-Medieval drainage ditches revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. Similar drainage ditches were recorded in adjacent evaluation trenches and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 137

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (137001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which undulated slightly. These natural undulations or hollows were filled with silty grey sands. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (137000).

Unexcavated contexts:

137004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

137007 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

137008 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicates they are fills of drainage ditches similar to those revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. Similar ditches were recorded in adjacent evaluation trenches and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 138

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil consisted of a yellow sand and gravel (138001) disturbed in places by tree roots. Overlying 138001 at the south end of the trench was a layer of sandy peat (138004) at least 0.18m deep. Above these contexts was 0.35m of ploughsoil (138000).

Features:

F13800 - linear ditch terminal, 0.64m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with steep sides and a rounded base. Filled with a dark brown silty sand (138003).

Interpretation: peat layer 138001 appears to correspond with a natural southeast-facing slope visible on the ground. Layer 138001 may represent fen edge peat deposits, similar to those recorded in Trenches 141-144, which are undisturbed by modern ploughing. Ditch F13800 is undated and its function is uncertain, although its fill is dissimilar to fills of features dated to the early prehistoric period.

Trench 139

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (139001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (139000).

Unexcavated context:

139002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated context 139002 indicates it is the fill of a drain similar to those revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. These drains were recorded and sample excavated in other adjacent evaluation trenches and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 140

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (140001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (140000).

Unexcavated contexts:

140002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

140003 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the nature and orientation of the unexcavated contexts indicates they are fills of drains similar to those revealed in Trenches 101, 110 and 111 during the 1994 evaluation. Similar ditches were recorded adjacent evaluation trenches and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 141

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (141003) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. This was sealed by up to 0.65m of peat (141002), which was only sample excavated due to inundation by groundwater. Overlying 141002 was an uneven layer of grey silty clay (141001), up to 0.20m thick. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (141000).

Interpretation: layer 141002 appears to represent possible fen edge peat deposits situated in a low-lying part of the site, similar to those recorded in Trenches 138 and 142-144, which are undisturbed by modern ploughing. Layer 141001 may be associated with a later episode of flooding.

Trench 142

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (142003) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. This was sealed by up to 0.55m of peat (142002), which was only sample excavated due to inundation by groundwater. Overlying 141002 was an uneven layer of grey silty clay (142001), up to 0.30m thick. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (142000).

Interpretation: layer 142002 appears to represent possible fen edge peat deposits situated in a low-lying part of the site, similar to those recorded in Trenches 138, 141 and 143-144, which are undisturbed by modern ploughing. Layer 142001 is similar to 141001, Trench 141, and may be associated with a later episode of flooding.

Trench 143

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (143003) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which was only visible at the north end of the trench. This was overlain in the rest of the trench by a peat layer (143002), which was not excavated due to potential inundation by groundwater as seen in Trenches 141 and 142. Scaling 143002 was an uneven layer of grey silty clay (143001), 0.10m-0.20m thick. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (143000).

Interpretation: layer 143002 appears to represent possible fen edge peat deposits situated in a low-lying part of the site, similar to those recorded in Trenches 138, 141, 142 and 144, which are undisturbed by modern ploughing. Layer 143001 is similar to layers 141001, Trench 141 and 142001, Trench 142 and may be associated with a later episode of flooding.

Trench 144

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (144002) consisted of a yellow sandy and gravel. The natural subsoil 144002 was disturbed in places by tree roots and shallow irregular tree boles, which contained brown silty sand (144005, 144006 and 144009). Sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from 144009. At the west end of the trench natural subsoil (144002) and archaeological features were overlain by a layer of brown silty sand (144007), 0.10m deep. Overlying 144002, at the east end of the trench, was a layer of peat (144001), not excavated due to potential inundation by groundwater as seen in Trenches 141 and 142. Above layers 144001 and 144007 was 0.35m of ploughsoil (144000).

Features:

F14400 - linear ditch terminal, 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep, aligned north-south, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with a primary fill of brown sandy silt (144013), a dark grey sandy silt (144012) containing worked flint and a final fill of light grey sandy silt (144011).

F14401 - linear ditch, 0.98m wide and 0.30m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with a steeply sloping northeast side, a stepped southwest side and a slightly rounded base. Filled with a grey sandy silt (144008).

Unexcavated context:

144004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: peat layer 144001 appears to correspond with a natural southeast-facing slope visible on ground. Layer 144001 may represent fen edge peat deposits, similar to those recorded in Trenches 138 and 141-143, which are undisturbed by modern ploughing. Finds of worked flint from ditch F14400 and a find of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery from an adjacent tree bole, may suggest that F14400 is of prehistoric date. Ditch F14401 is undated and its function is uncertain, although its proximity to F14400 and the similar nature of its fill to prehistoric features in Trenches 145 and 146 may suggest a similar prehistoric date. Unexcavated context 144004 is similar to the fills of ditches recorded in adjacent evaluation trenches and interpreted as part of a Post-Medieval land drainage system.

Trench 145

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (145001) consisted of a yellow sandy clay, disturbed by a tree bole at the south end of the trench which contained grey silty sand (145014) from which a sherd of pottery of indeterminate date was recovered. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (145000).

Features:

F14500 - sub-oval pit, 0.58m x 1.40m and 0.16m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (145010) and containing a sherd of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery, very small sherds of pottery of indeterminate date, worked flint and a fragment of fired clay.

F14501 - sub-circular posthole, 0.47m x 0.58m and 0.25m deep, with vertical sides and flat base. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145012) containing worked flint.

F14502 - sub-circular posthole, 0.20m x 0.27m and 0.09m deep, with a 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145006).

F14503 - sub-circular posthole, 0.27m x 0.20m and 0.09m deep, with a 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey clayey silty sand (145008) containing sherds of prehistoric pottery, worked flint and animal bone.

F14504 - sub-circular posthole, 0.24m x 0.28m and 0.12m deep, with a 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145005).

F14505 - linear ditch, 0.65-1.10m wide and 0.35 deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow rounded base. Filled with a grey sandy silt with orange brown mottling (145013) containing worked flint.

F14506 - sub-circular posthole, 0.28m x 0.30m and 0.12m deep, with a 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145009).

Unexcavated features/ contexts:

F14507 - circular posthole, 0.25m in diameter. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145007).

F14508 - sub-circular posthole, 0.60 x 0.40m. Filled with a grey sandy silt (145015).

145002 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

145003 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

145004 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

145011 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

Interpretation: Posthole F14501 contained a flint core of Late Mesolithic date and this could be the earliest feature recorded during the evaluation. However it is possible that the flint core is residual and the feature is of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date. Pit F14500 and posthole F14503 contained sherds of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery. Pit F14500 and ditch F14505 contained worked flint consistent with a Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date. The remaining features (F14502, F14504 and F14506-8) all had similar fills to these features, although they produced no finds. It is probable that these features also date to the prehistoric period.

The group of postholes F14502, F14503, F14504, F14506 and F14507, and pit F14500, may form part of a possible Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age structure. This activity may be associated with the ring ditch group trial-trenched in the 1994 evaluation, approximately 200m to the west. Postholes F14501 and F14508 may form part of a second, possibly earlier, structure. The function of shallow ditch F14505 is uncertain, although it could be a truncated boundary or field system ditch.

Unexcavated contexts 145002, 145003, 145004 and 145011 were all spaced 11-12m apart, had similar fills, and orientations, and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches similar to those recorded in other trenches.

Trench 146

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (146001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which was disturbed by a tree bole near the middle of the trench. Above 146001 was 0.35m of ploughsoil (146000).

Features:

F14600 - linear ditch, 2.09m wide and 0.38m deep, orientated north-south with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Filled with greyish brown sandy silt (146003) containing worked flint. Two sherds of pottery of indeterminate date were recovered from the ploughsoil (146008) within a recent plough furrow cutting F14600.

F14601 - oval pit or posthole, 0.48m wide and 0.10m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (146004).

Unexcavated features/ contexts:

F14602 - sub-circular posthole, 0.45m in diameter. Filled with a grey sandy silt (146009).

146002 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

146005 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

146007 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

Interpretation: Ditch F14600 had a fill similar to the fills of features of probable Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date in adjacent Trench 145 and contained worked flint consistent with this date. Pits or postholes F14601 and F14602 produced no artefacts, but had similar fills to ditch F14600. Unexcavated contexts 146002, 146005 and 146007 were all spaced 11-12m apart, had similar fills and orientations, and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches excavated in other trenches.

Trench 147

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (147001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (147000).

Features:

F14700 - terminal of linear ditch, 0.95m wide and 0.42m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a black sandy peaty loam with grey clayey sandy silt lenses (147003).

F14703 - linear ditch, 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep, orientated northwest-southeast, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a greyish brown clayey sandy silt (147007) containing a worked flint. Ditch F14703 appeared to have been recut by two ditches (F14701 and F14702) on similar northwest-southeast alignments, with 'V'- shaped profiles. The earliest recut, F14702, appeared to have a small spur, orientated northeast-southwest, which terminated close to the terminal of ditch F14700. Ditch recut F14702 was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (147005) and the latest recut F14701 was filled with a black sandy peaty loam (147004).

Unexcavated contexts:

147002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

147006 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

Interpretation: linear ditches F14700 and F14703 are undated (the worked flint recovered from F14703 could be intrusive). However, they may relate to the network of Post-Medieval drainage ditches recorded in other trenches, which seem to be on both northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest alignments. Unexcavated contexts 147002 and 147006 had similar fills and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches recorded in other trenches. If excavated ditches F14700 and F14703 are Post-Medieval drainage ditches, the ditches are all spaced 12-13m apart, a regular spacing to which drainage ditches in other trenches conform.

Trench 148

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (148001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (148000).

Unexcavated contexts:

148002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

148003 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: unexcavated contexts 148002 and 148003 had similar fills and alignments and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches, which were recorded in other trenches.

Trench 149

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (149001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (149000).

Feature:

F14900 - irregular negative feature, 1.40m wide and 0.28m deep, with an irregular 'bowl'- shaped profile. Filled with a grey sandy silt (149003) containing a worked flint.

Unexcavated contexts:

149002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

149004 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: irregular negative feature F14900 is not of archaeological origin and is probably a tree bole. Unexcavated contexts 149002 and 149004 were of similar composition and alignment and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches, which were recorded in other trenches.

Trench 150

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (150001) consisted of a grey clayey sand. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (150000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 151

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (151001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel with patches of grey clayey sand, disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (151000).

Unexcavated context:

151002 - black peaty loam fill of northeast-southwest aligned drain.

Interpretation: the composition and orientation of unexcavated context 151002 was similar to the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches recorded in other trenches.

Trench 152

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (152001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (152000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 153

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (153001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel disturbed, in one place, by partially decomposed tree roots (153002) which were similar in appearance to peat. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (153000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 154

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (154001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (154000).

Unexcavated contexts:

154003 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

154004 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

Interpretation: similarly aligned unexcavated contexts 154003 and 154004 were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches, which were recorded in other trenches.

Trench 155

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (155002) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree roots. Natural subsoil (155002) and an archaeological feature were sealed by a layer of brown silty sand (155001), 0.15-0.20m deep, present at the east end of the trench. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (155000).

Feature:

F15500 - sub-circular pit, 0.60m x 1.0m and 0.15m deep, with a gentle 'V'- shaped profile. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (155008).

Unexcavated contexts:

155003 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

155004 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

155011 - black peaty loam fill of northwest-southeast aligned drain.

Interpretation: undated pit F15500 has a similar fill to features excavated in adjacent Trench 145 and thought to be of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date. It is possible that F15500 could be of similar date. Unexcavated contexts 155003, 155004 and 155011 were of similar composition and alignment and were identified as the fills of Post-Medieval drainage ditches, which were recorded in other trenches.

Trench 156

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (156001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (156000).

Unexcavated context:

156002 - brown sandy loam, 3m wide, fill of northwest-southeast aligned former field boundary ditch.

Trench 157

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (157001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel with patches of clayey sand, disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.35-0.45m of ploughsoil (157000), deepest at the middle of the trench.

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 158

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (158001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. A natural undulation or hollow in the natural subsoil contained silty grey sand. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (158000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 159A

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (159001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel with patches of grey clayey sand. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (159000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 159B

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (159003) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (159002).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 160

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (160001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (160000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 161

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (161001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by tree roots. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (161000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 162

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (162001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. A natural undulation or hollow in the natural subsoil contained silty grey sand. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (162000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 163

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (163001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, which was disturbed by a tree bole. Natural undulations or hollows in the natural subsoil contained silty grey sands (163004 and 163006). Above this was 0.35-0.50m of ploughsoil (163000), deepest at the middle of the trench.

Feature:

F16300 - sub-circular pit. 0.70m x 0.80m and 0.20m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. Filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (163007).

Interpretation: undated pit F16300 has a similar shape, profile and fill to features excavated in Trench 145 and thought to be of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date.

Trench 164

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (164001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (164000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 165

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (165001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (165000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 166

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (166001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (166000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 167

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (167001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (167000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 168

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (168001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed by a tree bole. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (168000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 169

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (169001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (169000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 170

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (170001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (170000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 171

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (171001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in places by tree roots. Natural undulations or hollows in the natural subsoil were filled with silty grey sands. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (171000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 172

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (172001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel disturbed by tree roots in places. Above this was 0.30m of ploughsoil (172000).

Features:

F17200 - irregular sub-circular pit, 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep, filled with a peat-rich loam (172002), similar to the ploughsoil, containing animal bone.

F17202 - linear ditch, 1.90m wide and 0.80m deep, orientated northeast-southwest, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Filled with a sandy peaty loam matrix mixed with redeposited natural sand and gravel (172013) and a final fill of dark brown peat-rich silt (172012). Ditch F17202 was recut by a similarly aligned ditch (F17201), with a 'bow!'- shaped profile. Ditch recut F17201 was filled with black sandy peaty loam (172011) and a brown silt with sand and gravel lenses (172010).

F17203 - terminal of narrow linear gully or furrow, 0.20m wide and 0.08m deep, aligned northeast-southwest, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Filled with a sandy peaty loam (172002).

Unexcavated features/ contexts:

F17204 - narrow linear gully or furrow, 0.20m wide, orientated northeast-southwest and filled with a black sandy peaty loam (172009).

Interpretation: Pit F17200 is an animal burial of probable Post-Medieval date. Ditch F172002 corresponds with a geophysical anomaly, which was investigated in Trench 103 during the 1994 evaluation. The geophysical anomaly was found to be a large ditch interpreted as a former boundary ditch enclosing the existing farm buildings. Gullies/ furrows F17203 and F17204 are probably deep plough furrows respecting the alignment of ditch F17202.

Trench 173

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (173001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. A natural undulation or hollow in the natural subsoil was filled with silty grey sand. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (173000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 174

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (174001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel, disturbed in place by tree roots. Natural undulations or hollows in the natural subsoil were filled with silty grey sands. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (174000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

Trench 175

Stratigraphy: the natural subsoil (175001) consisted of a yellow sand and gravel. Natural undulations or hollows in the natural subsoil were filled with silty grey sands. Above this was 0.35m of ploughsoil (175000).

Features: no archaeological features were visible.

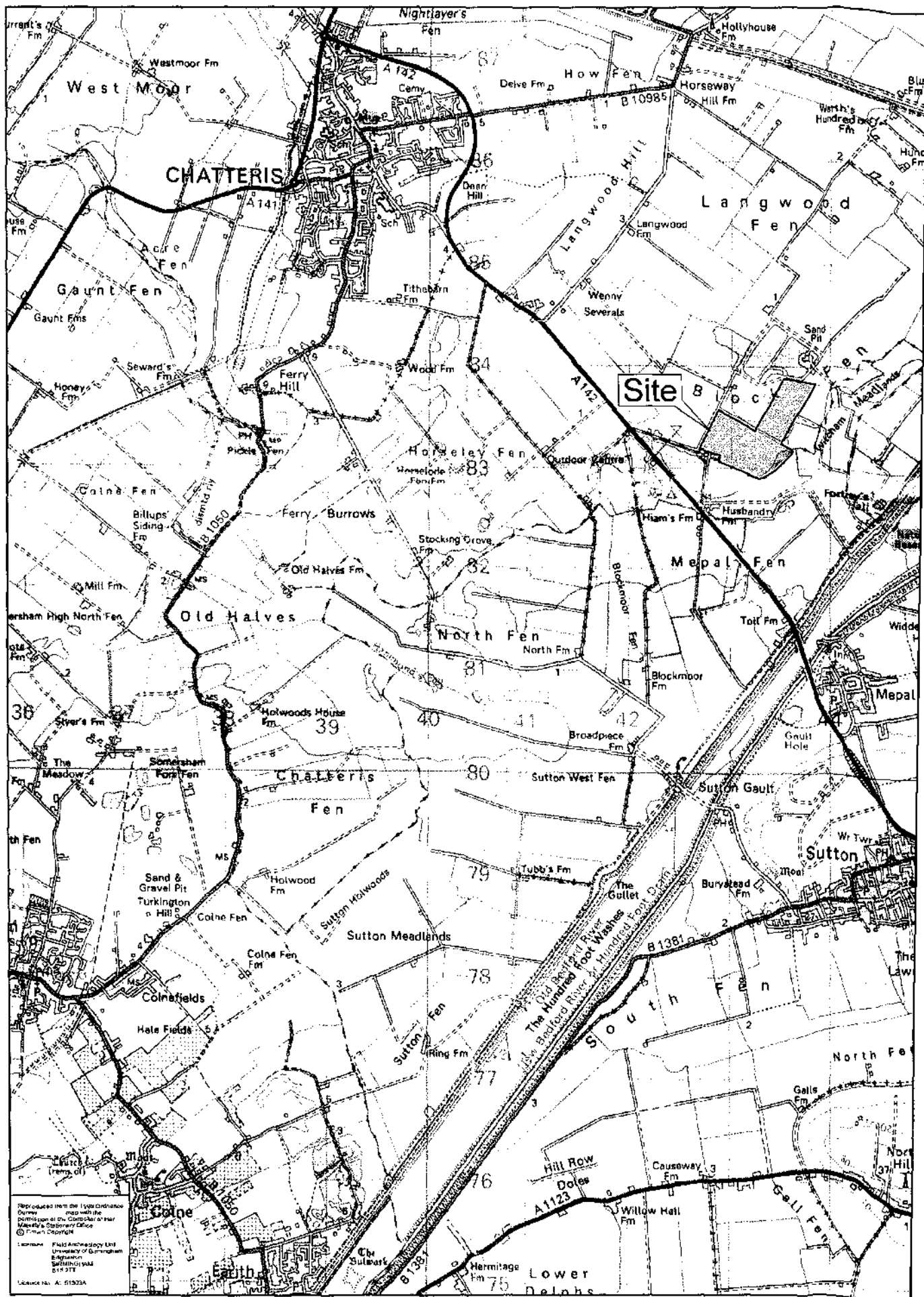


Fig.1

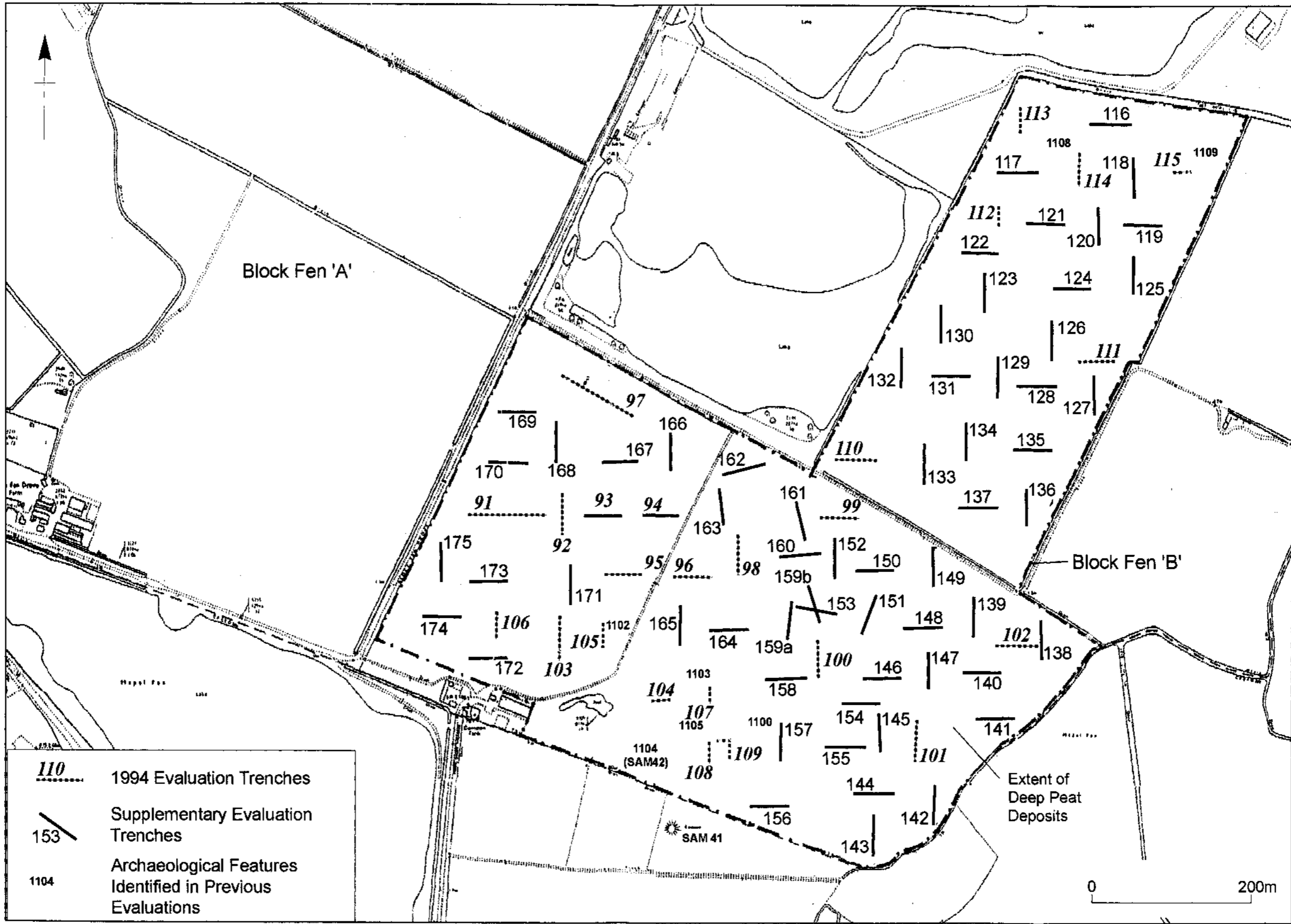


Fig.2

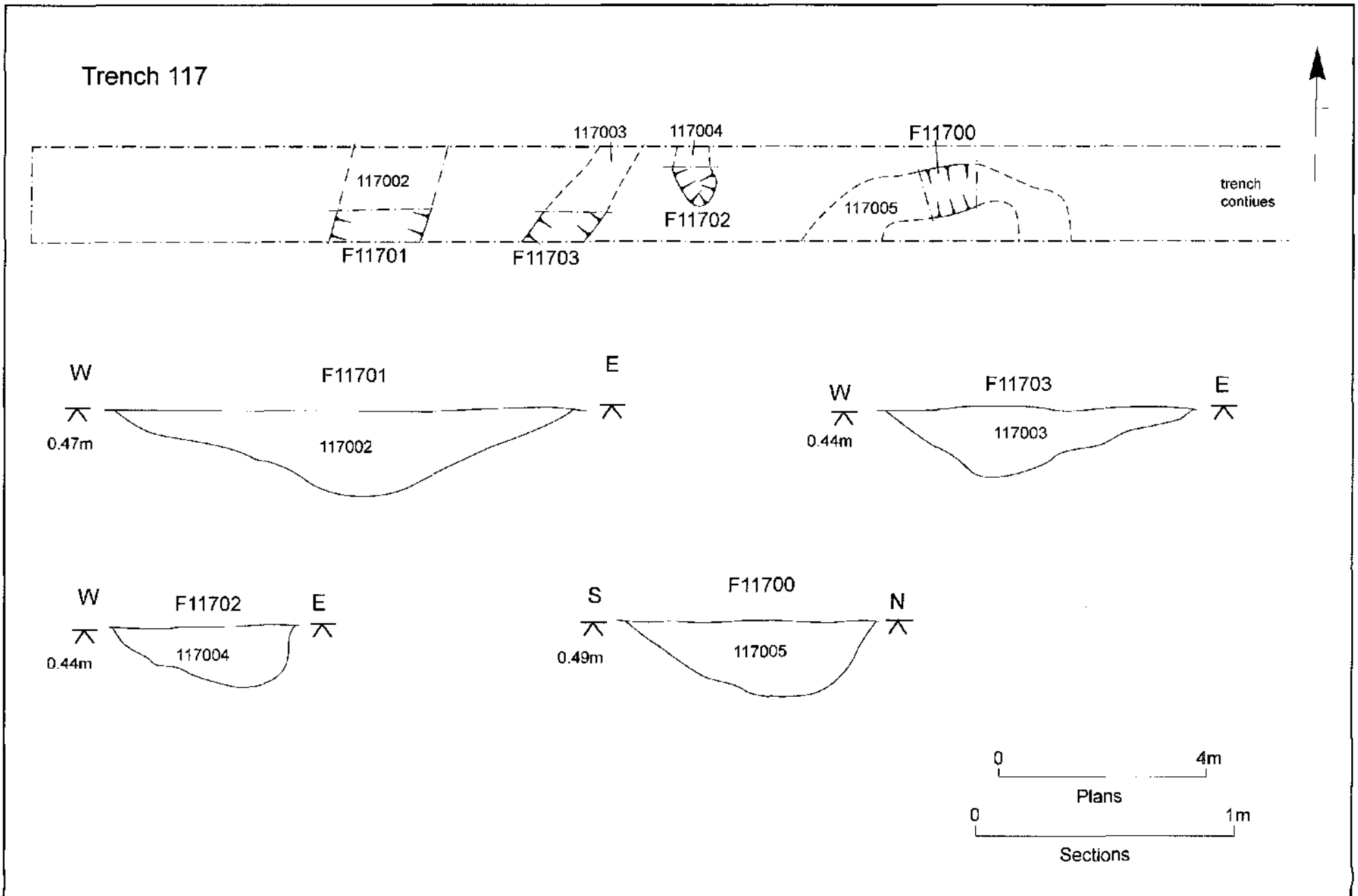


Fig.3

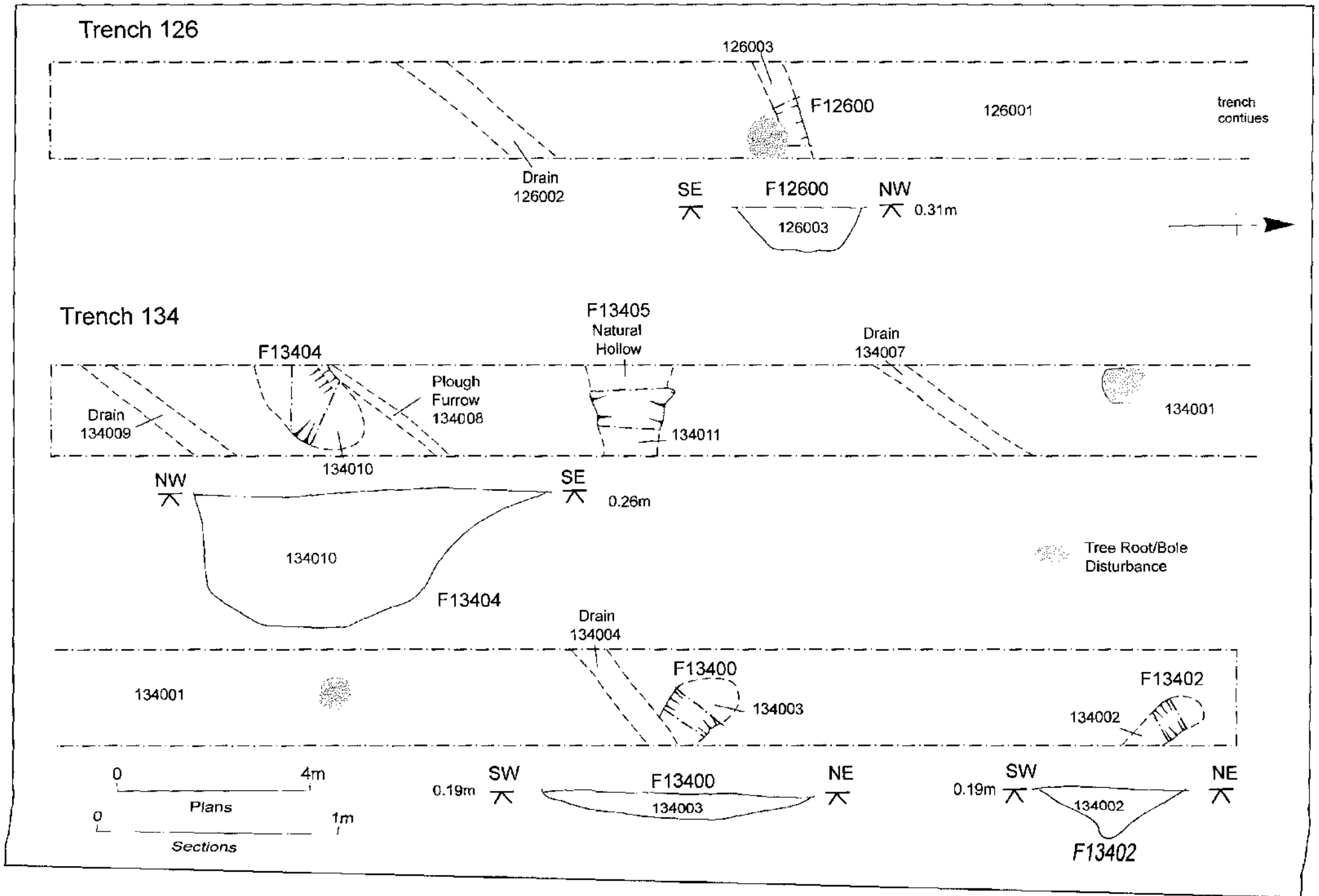


Fig.4

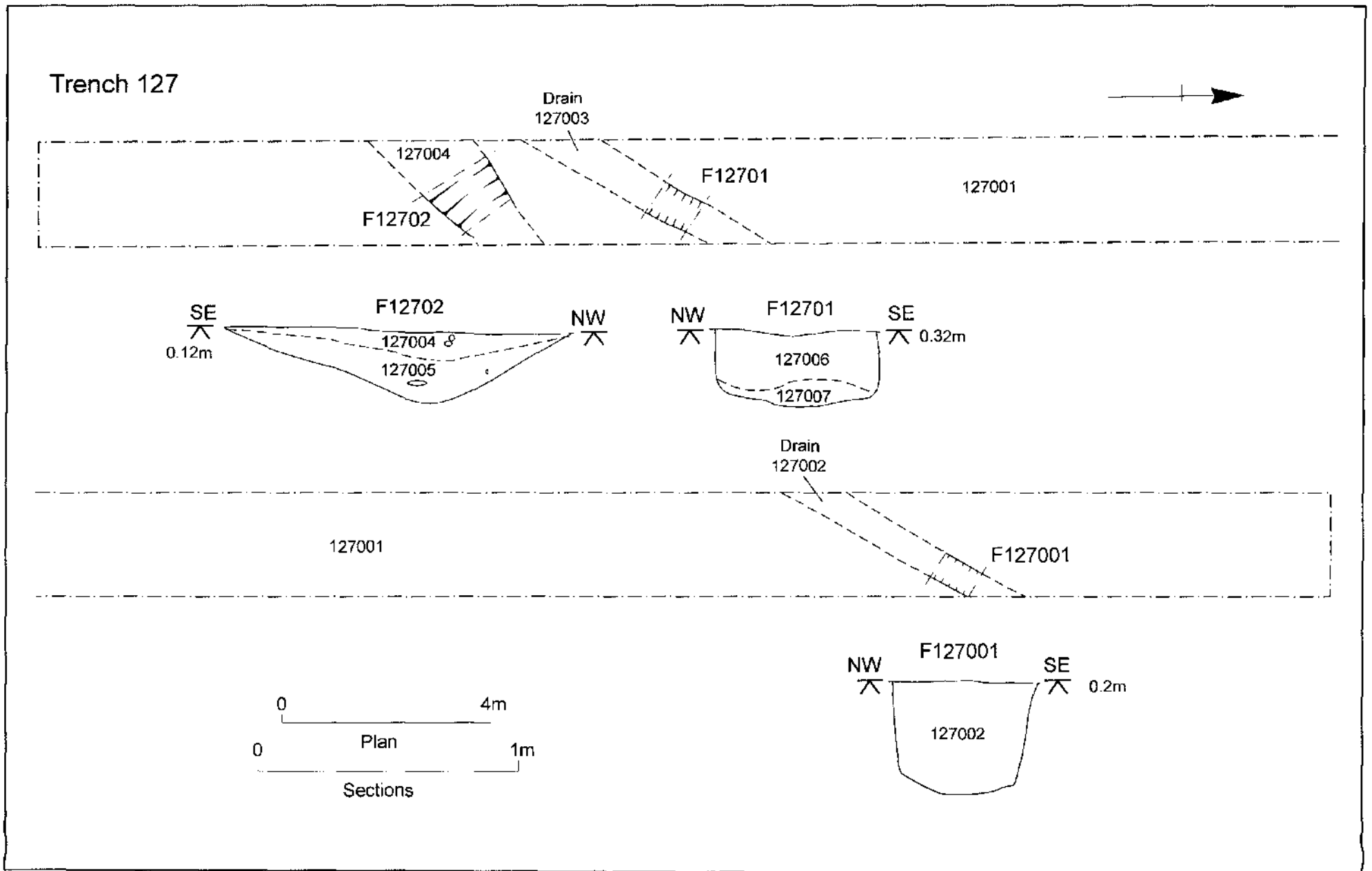
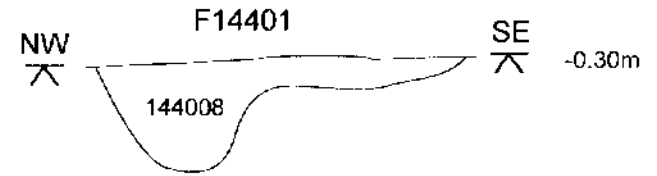
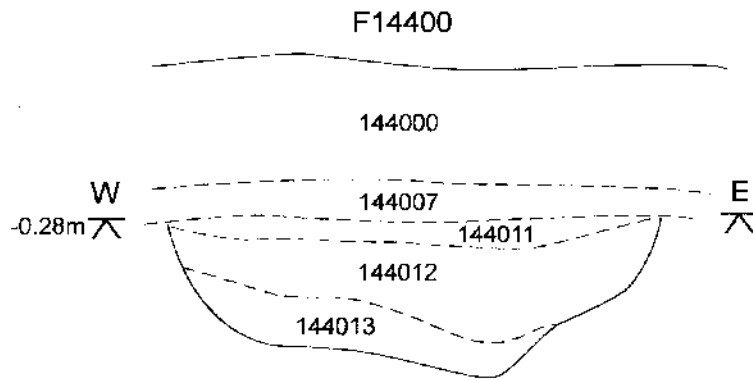
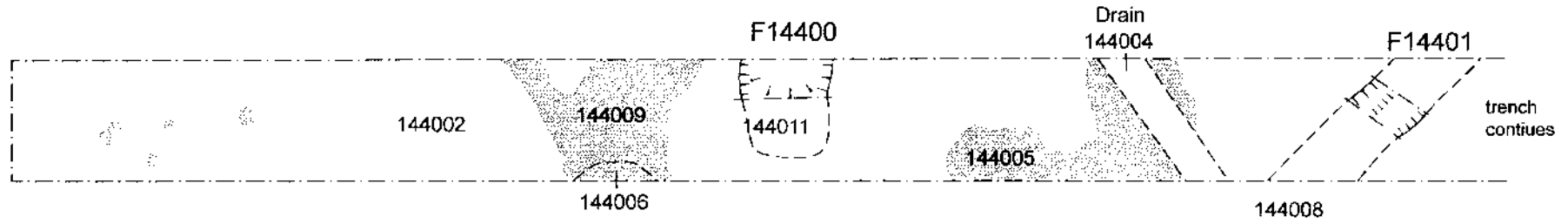


Fig.5

Trench 144



 Tree Root/Bole Disturbance

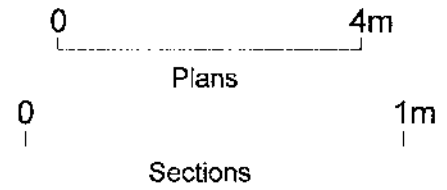


Fig.6

Trench 145

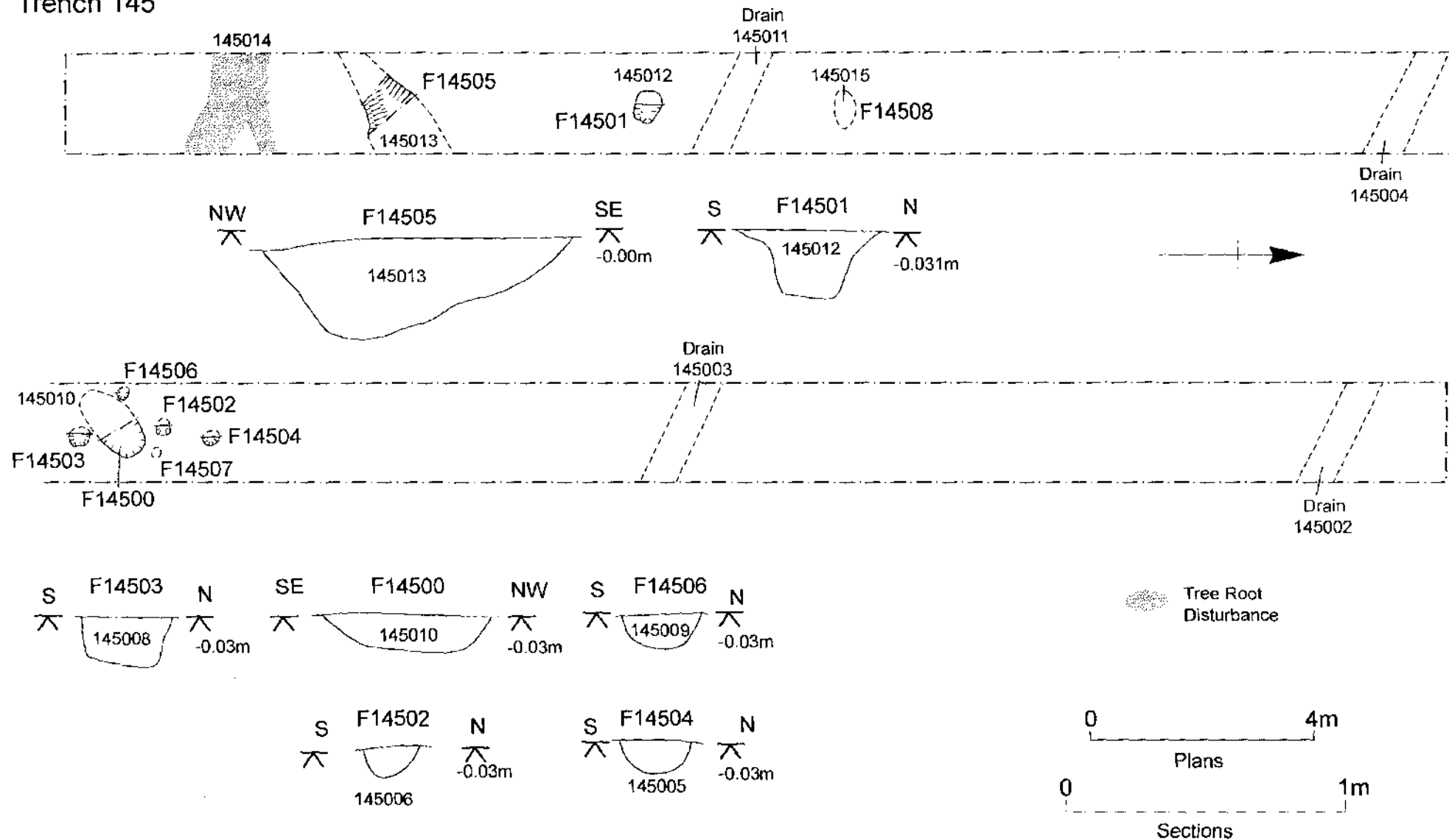


Fig.7

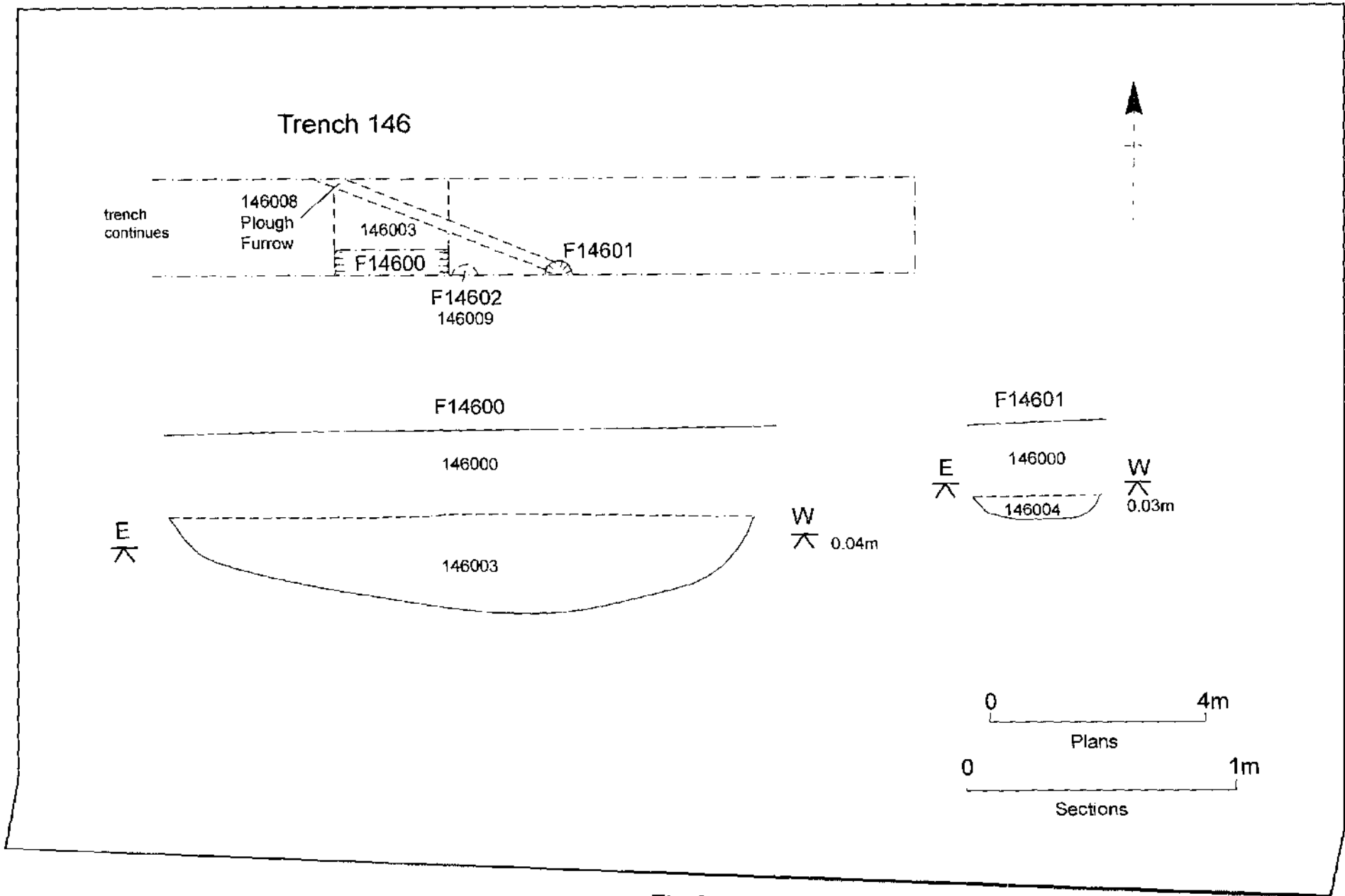


Fig.8

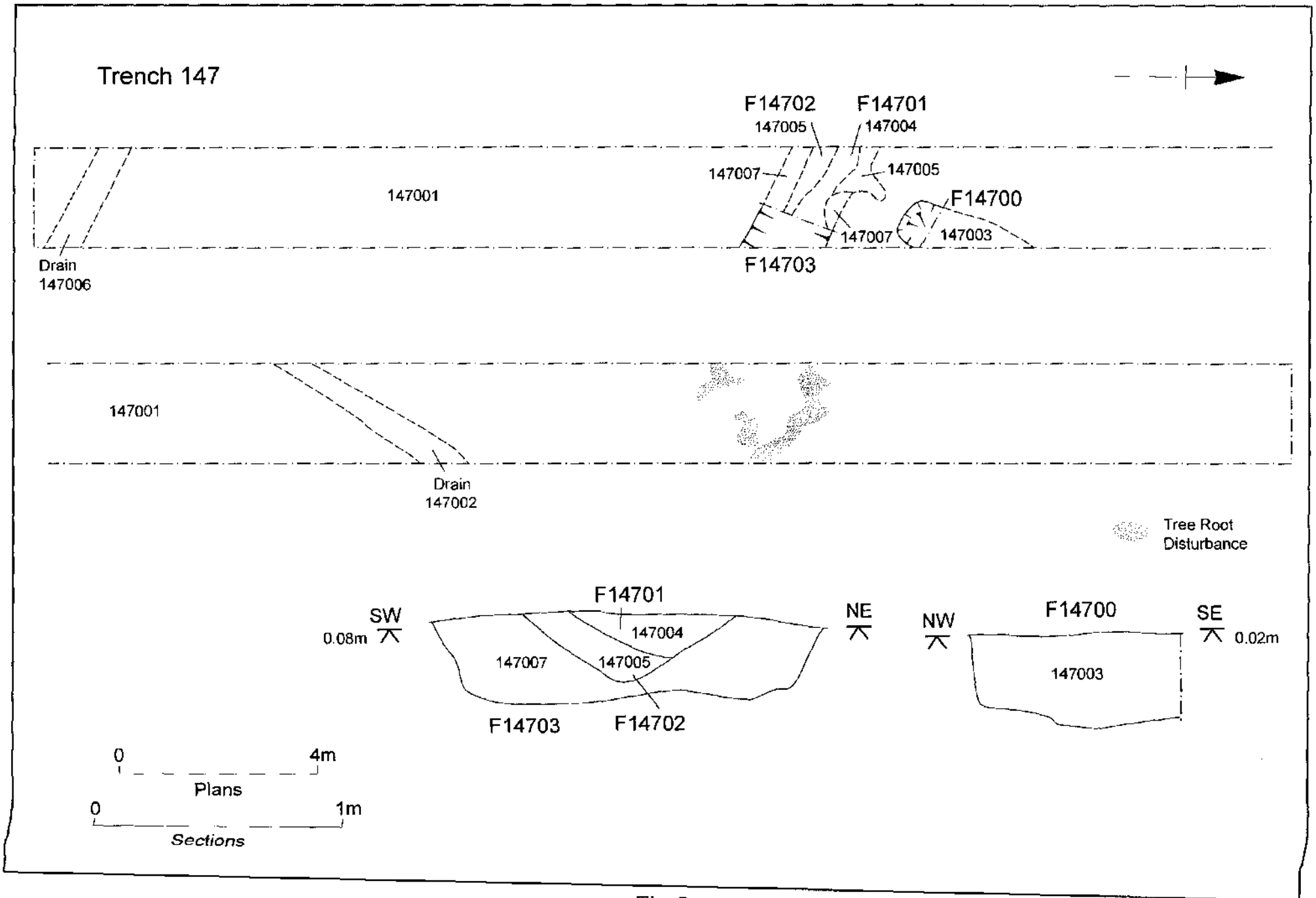


Fig.9

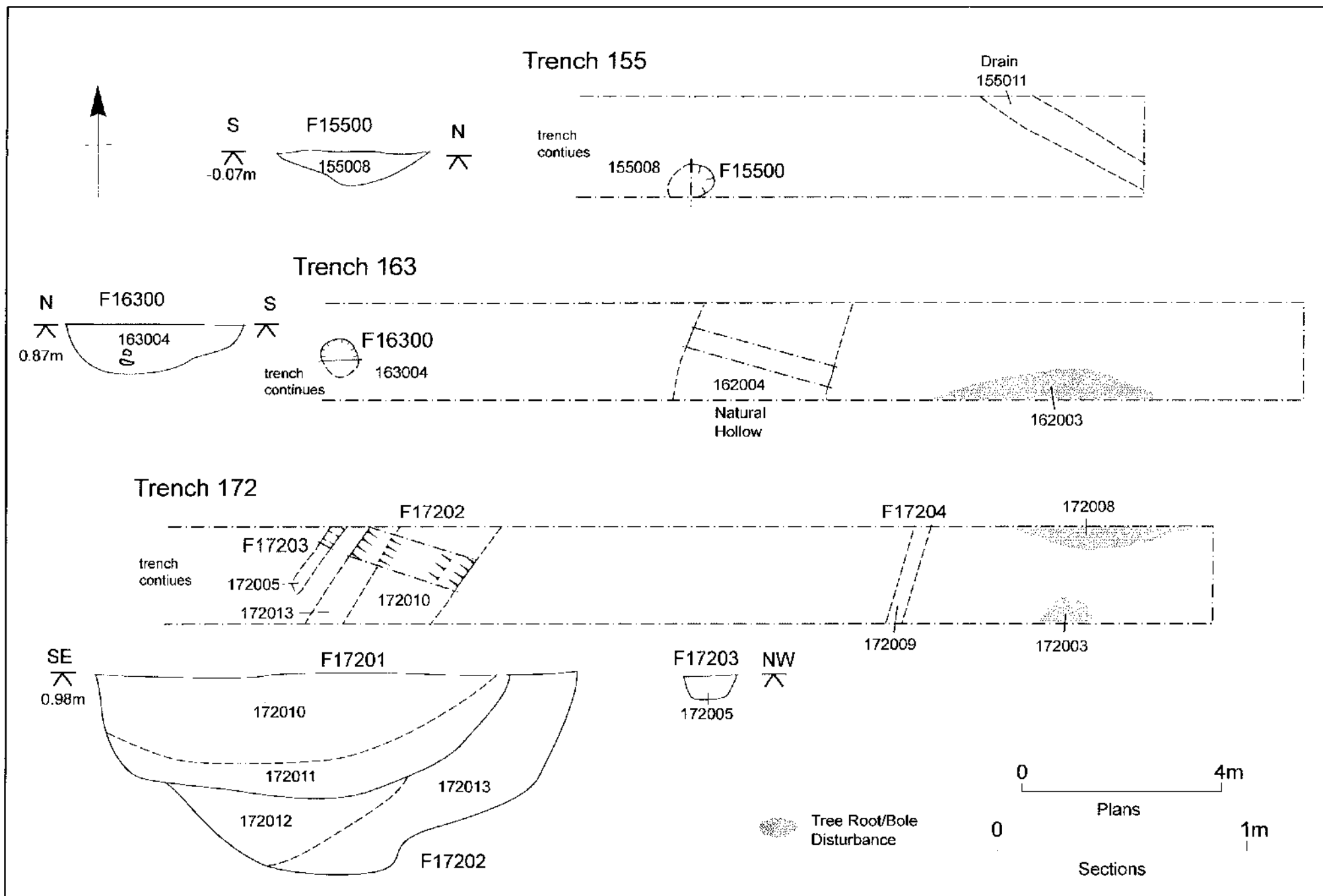


Fig.10

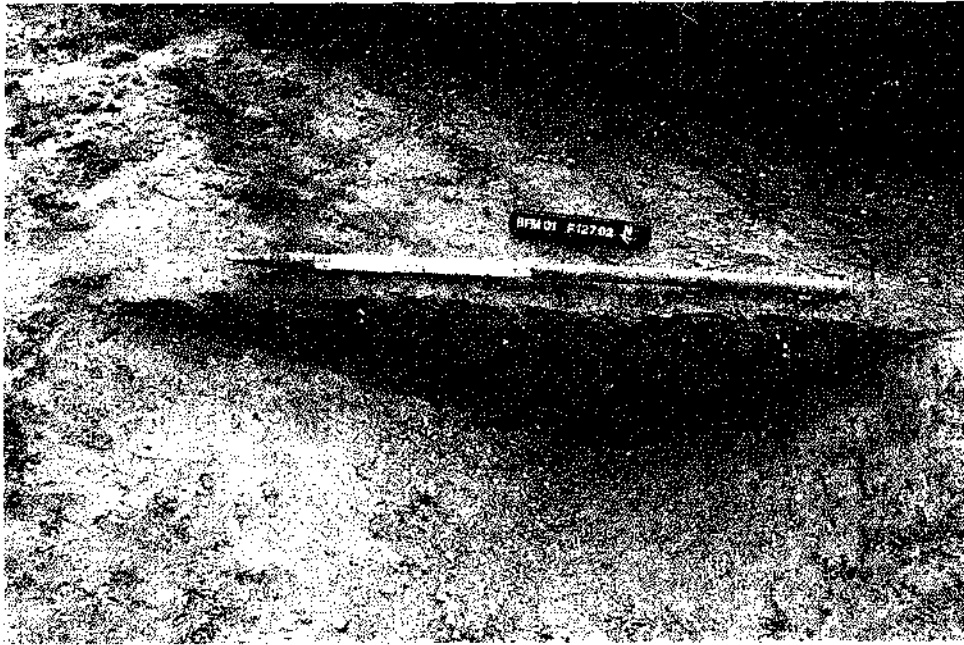


Plate 1

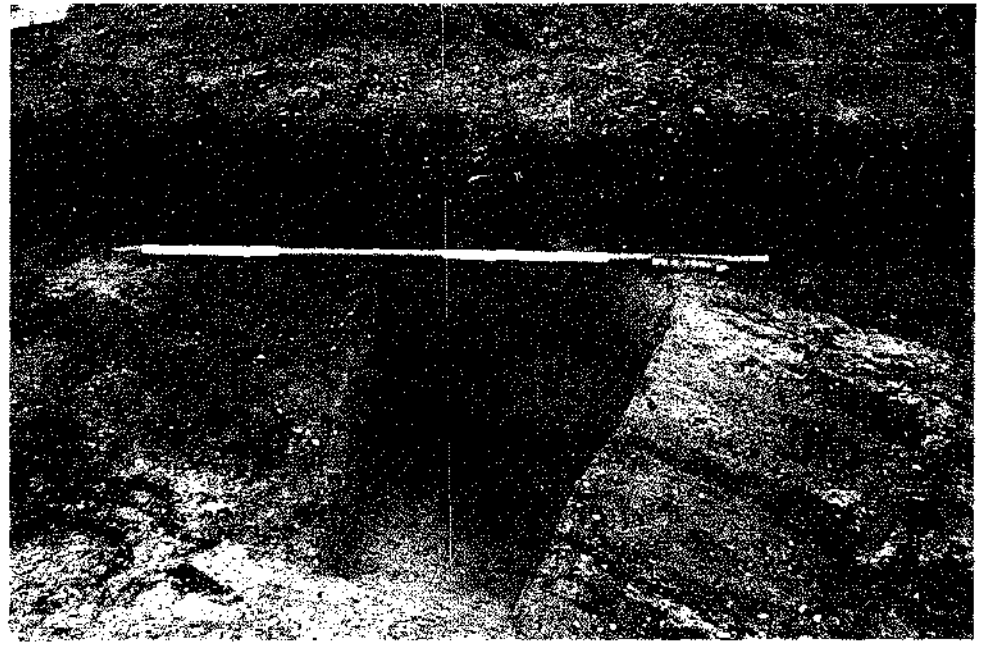


Plate 2

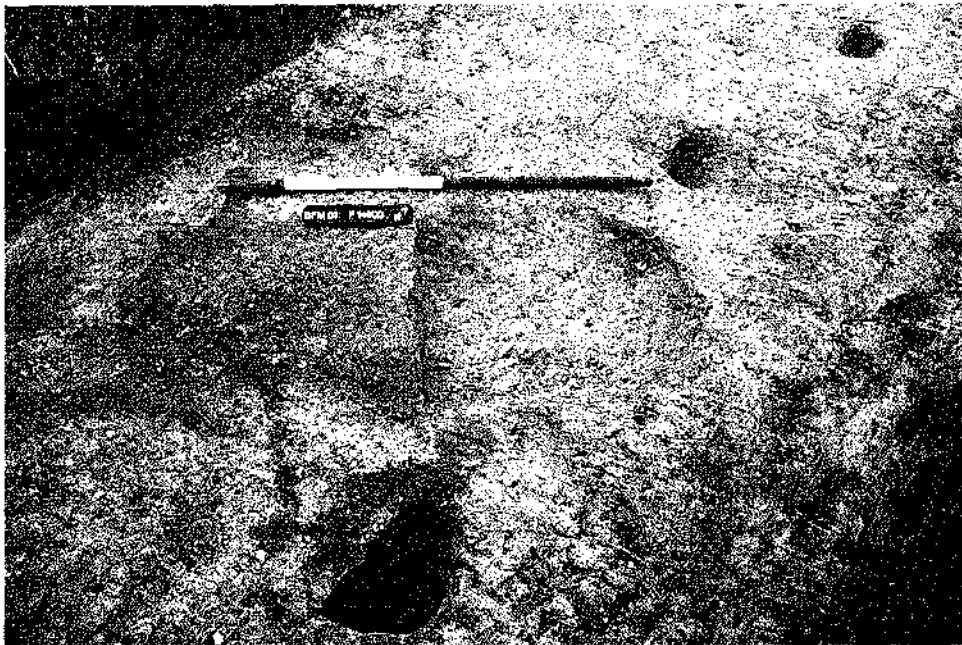


Plate 3

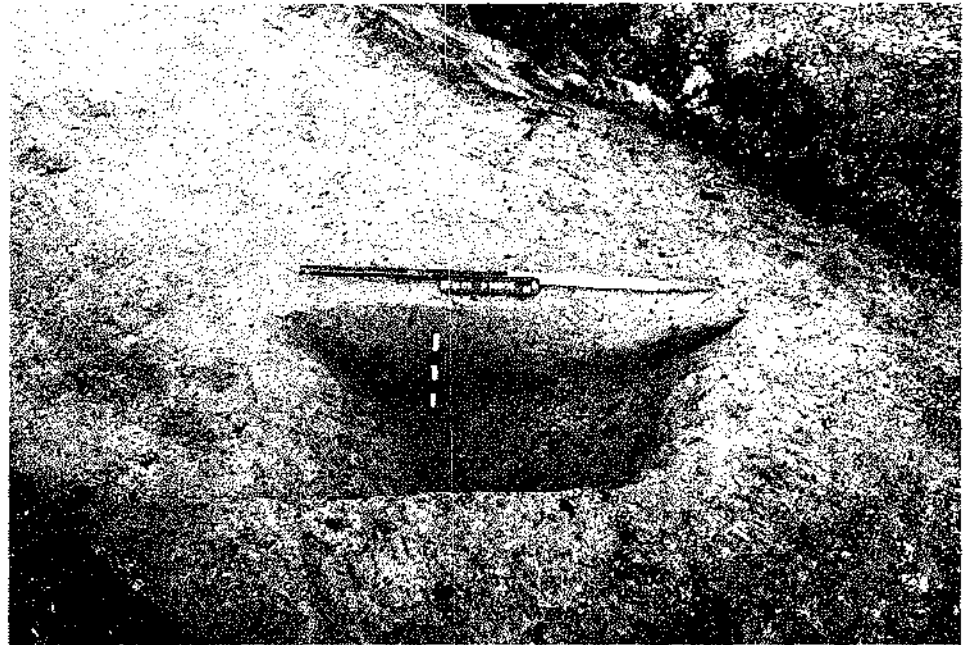


Plate 4