

**Land at South Luffenham Hall,
Hall Lane, South Luffenham,
Rutland:**

**an archaeological watching brief
2002**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 980
January 2003

**Land at South Luffenham Hall, Hall Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland:
an archaeological watching brief 2002**

by
Emma Hancox and Laurence Jones

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

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Archaeological and historical background	2
4.0 Aims	3
5.0 Method	3
6.0 Results	3
7.0 Finds	4
8.0 Discussion	4
9.0 Acknowledgements	4
10.0 References	5

List of figures (at end of report)

Fig. 1: location map

Fig. 2: site location

Fig. 3: location of trenches and archaeological features

Fig. 4: sections of F101, F102 and F103

Fig. 5: section and plan of F104

Land at South Luffenham Hall, Hall Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland: an archaeological watching brief 2002

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit at land at South Luffenham Hall, South Luffenham, Rutland (NGR SK 941018) during October, November and December 2002. The work was commissioned by the Wilmot Partnership Chartered Architects and Surveyors, on behalf of the owners Mr. and Mrs. A Jukes. The watching brief was required by Rutland County Council as a condition of planning permission as the site is situated within the historic settlement core of the village, an area of archaeological interest. The work was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a swimming pool building and the excavation of associated service trenches.

An undated recti-linear ditch was recorded together with an undated possible pit or the terminal of another ditch. No finds were recovered from these features. The recti-linear ditch was partly sealed by a later clay layer, which may be associated with later landscaping of the site. The original ground surface appears to have sloped down to the southeast and the north. It seems likely that the sloping ground was terraced at the northeastern end of the site and built up to the southeast and the north to produce a level ground surface. This may have taken place during the 20th century, in order to provide a level surface for a tennis court, but could have happened earlier. The landscaping activity would have removed evidence of any potential archaeological features associated with earlier activity at this part of the site. The recti-linear ditch and possible pit or ditch terminal may have survived because of their depth and their location at a part of the site not so greatly affected by the landscaping. An undated stone surface was recorded in one of the service trenches, to the northeast of the area affected by the landscaping, possibly a floor surface or path. The only finds that were recovered were sherds of pottery from recent layers and these were of 19th-20th century date.

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at South Luffenham Hall, South Luffenham, Rutland (hereafter the site) during October, November and December 2002 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU).

The work was commissioned by the Wilmot Partnership Chartered Architects and Surveyors, on behalf of the owners Mr. and Mrs. A. Jukes. The watching brief was carried out during groundworks prior to the construction of a swimming pool building and the excavation of associated service trenches.

The work was in accordance with a brief by Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service (LMARS), archaeological advisors to Rutland County Council, and with a

pottery. The owner states that there are several stone walls located c 0.30cm below the surface of the lawn just to the east of the swimming pool site (Pers. comm. Mrs. A. Jukes). It is possible that these remains may relate to a structure earlier than the Hall.

4.0 Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief are to record any surviving archaeological deposits and features uncovered by groundworks, prior to the construction of the swimming pool building and to recover any finds.

5.0 Method

The excavation of foundation trenches, the trench for the swimming pool and service trenches were monitored by a qualified archaeologist. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Contextual information was supplemented by scale drawings, plans at 1:50, 1:100 and sections at 1:20 and 1:50, and monochrome print, colour slide and colour print photographs. These form the site archive. Features were assigned unique numbers from F100 upwards and contexts from 1000.

6.0 Results (Fig. 3)

6.1 Trench for swimming pool building (Fig. 4)

The natural was a beige limestone (1004) or a reddish brown clay (1007), in places. The underlying natural was located at 0.40-0.50m below the modern ground surface, at the southeast part of the site becoming deeper towards the northwest and the southwest parts of the site. At northwest side of the site the natural 1004 and 1007 was not encountered and was at least, 2.5m below the modern ground surface.

A recti-linear ditch (F101/ F103) cut the natural limestone (1004) at the southeast part of the site. It had steep sides and a flat base, approximately 1.70-2.40m wide and 0.50-1.10m deep, and was filled with a dark brown silty clay (1006/ 1010) containing charcoal flecks. Adjacent to F101/ 103, to the southwest, was a possible sub-circular pit or the terminal of a ditch (F102), extending beyond the edge of excavation. It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (1010) containing a few flecks of charcoal. Several other possible features were recorded, but these proved not to be of archeological origin.

The southern part of F101/ F103 and the natural (1004 and 1007), at the northwest and the southwest parts of the site, were sealed by a layer of brown clay (1003). Layer 1003 was at least 2.5m deep at the northwest end of the site. It became shallower to the southwest and was not present at the southeast part of the site.

Overlying the natural 1004/1007 and layer 1003 was a layer of dark brown silty clay (1002) 0.20-0.40m deep, containing sherds of pottery of 19-20th century date, fragments

written scheme of investigation prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 2002) and approved by LMARS.

The watching brief was required as a condition of planning permission by Rutland County Council (planning application ref. nos. 01/1125 and 6/9), as the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest, in order to comply with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001) and with the Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS 1997).

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

2.0 Site location and description

South Luffenham Hall is located on the corner of Hall Lane and Stamford Road, South Luffenham within the historic core of the village, an area of archaeological interest registered on the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. The site (NGR SK 941018, Figs. 1 and 2) lies within the gardens of the Hall, 100m to the south of St. Mary's Church, elements of which date from the 12th century, and its adjacent churchyard. The majority of the site is occupied by a tarmac former tennis court and gardens. On the other side of the adjacent churchyard wall the ground surface is c 3m lower than the level of the Hall gardens.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

It is thought that South Luffenham was first occupied in the late Saxon period, with the settlement probably being in the vicinity of the church. South Luffenham was held by the King at the time of the Domesday book. The medieval church was in existence from at least the late 12th century (Page 1935). Earthworks probably relating to the medieval settlement were visible, to the northeast of the site, on aerial photographs taken in 1925 but this area appears to have been built on since then (Hartley 1983, 40).

South Luffenham Hall appears to date from late 17th century (Pevsner 1960). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 shows the area of the site to be open ground, probably gardens. During recent years the gardens has been extensively landscaped, including the excavation of a pond. The owners have collected a number of finds recovered during this work which are mainly of post-18th century date, but also include two possible mesolithic flint tools and several sherds of possible 11th -12th century

of concrete and brick. Sealing layer 1002 was a crushed brick hardcore layer (1001), 0.12m deep, overlain by the tarmac surface (1000) of the former tennis court.

6.2 Service trenches

In the service trenches excavated to the west of the trench for the swimming pool, the natural limestone (1004) or the natural reddish brown clay (1007), were revealed at 0.40-0.50m below the modern ground surface. This was sealed by a layer of brown silty clay (1022), 0.40-0.50m deep.

In the service trench excavated to the northeast of the trench for the swimming pool building the natural was not reached. The earliest context (1018) recorded was encountered at 0.60m below the modern ground surface. Several limestone slabs or blocks (1018, Fig. 5), 0.20-0.70m wide, appeared to form a floor surface or path (F104), 2.30m wide. Surface F104 was left *in situ*. This was overlain by a yellowish brown silty clay (1020), at least 0.45m deep. This was sealed by a dark greyish brown silty clay sand (1019), 0.15-0.20m deep.

7.0 Finds

The only finds recovered during the watching brief were two sherds of pottery of 19-20th century date recovered from context 1002. These finds were not retained.

8.0 Discussion

No finds were recovered from the recti-linear ditch (F101/ 103) and the possible pit or ditch terminal (F102) consequently it is not possible to date them. The function of these features is uncertain, but it is possible they could relate to property boundaries. The recti-linear ditch and the natural limestone or clay were partly sealed by a later clay layer (1003), which may be associated with later landscaping of the site. The original ground surface appears to have sloped down to the southeast and the north. It seems likely that the sloping ground was terraced at the northeastern end of the site and built up at the to the southeast and the north to produce a flat level surface. This may have taken place during the 20th century, at the time the tennis court on the site was constructed, but could have happened earlier. This landscaping activity would have removed evidence of any potential features associated with earlier activity at this part of the site. Features F101/ 3 and F102 may have survived because of their depth and their location at a part of the site not so greatly affected by the landscaping. The undated stone surface recorded in one of the service trenches, was located in an area unaffected by landscaping and could be a floor surface or path.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The watching brief was carried out by Emma Hancox and Andy Rudge. Emma Hancox and Laurence Jones wrote this report. Laurence Jones managed the project and edited the report. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds.

10.0 References

BUFAU, 2002 *South Luffenham Hall, Hall Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland: written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief.*

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

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Hartley, R. F. 1983 *Mediaeval Earthworks of Rutland*, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service, Archaeological reports Series no. 7, 40.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001 *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*

LMARS, 1997 *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland.* Leicestershire County Council, Museums Arts and Records Service

Page, W. 1935 (ed.) *Victoria County History of Rutland*, vol. 2, 203-206

Pevsner, N. 1960 *The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland*, London, Penguin, 323.

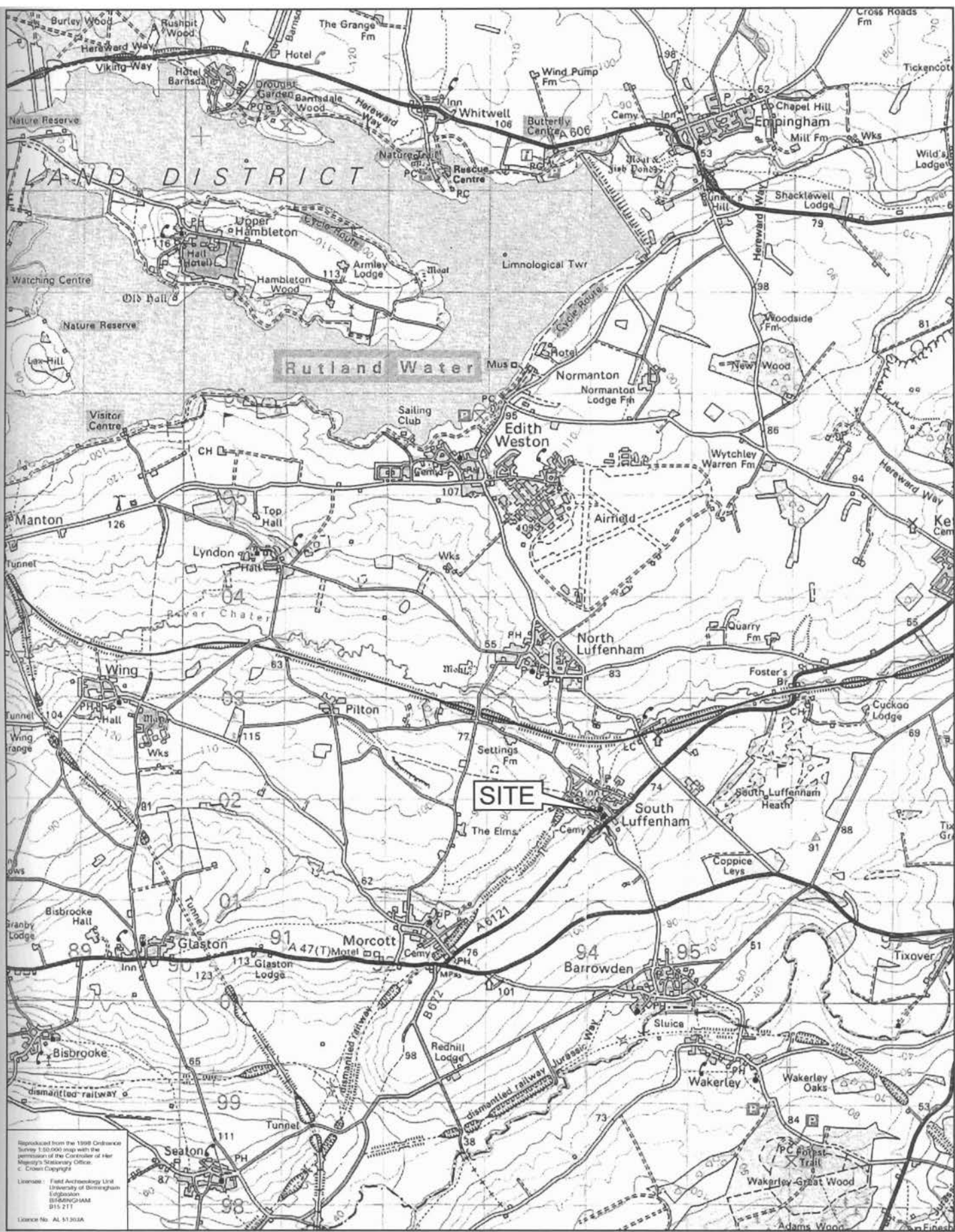


Fig.1

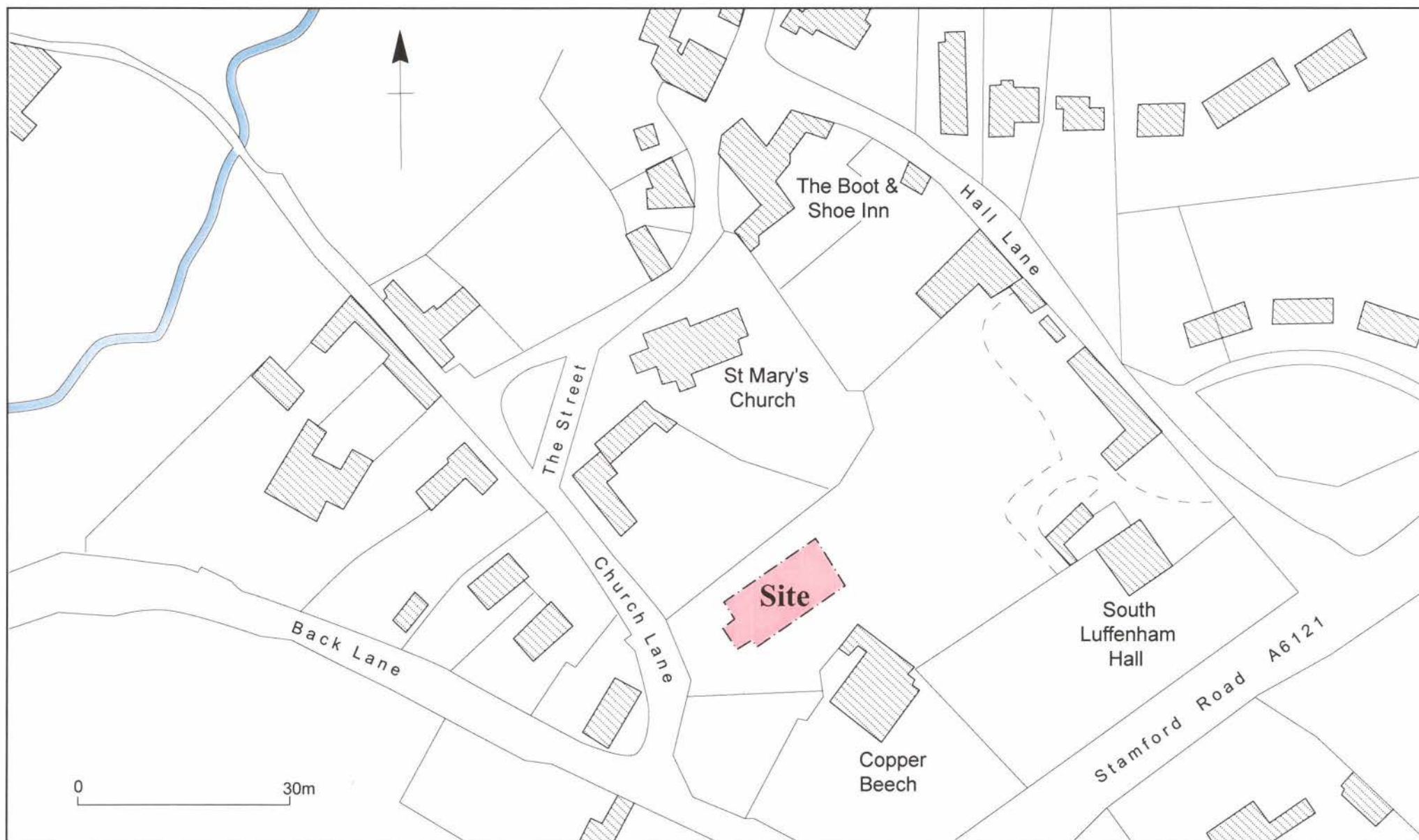


Fig.2

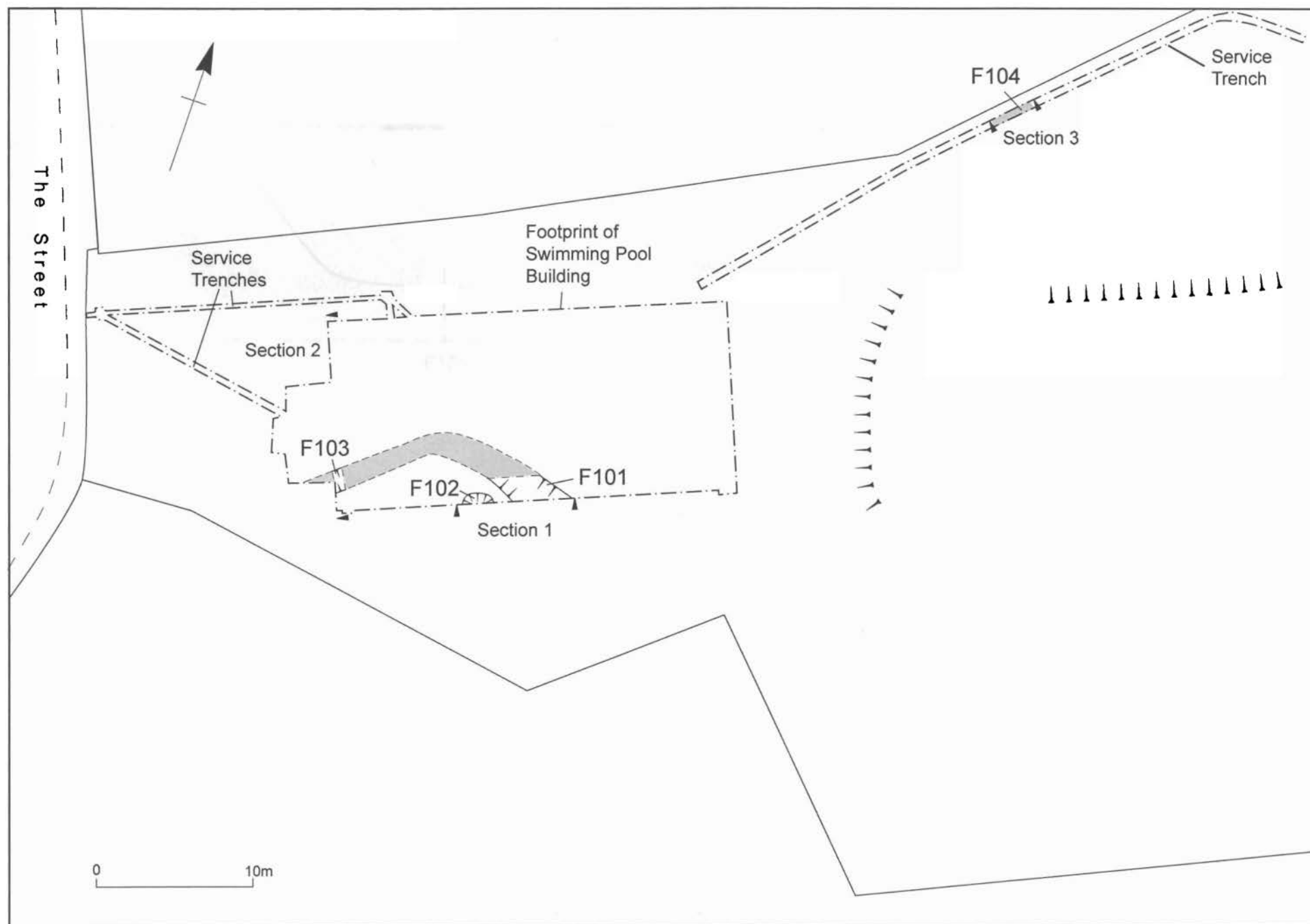
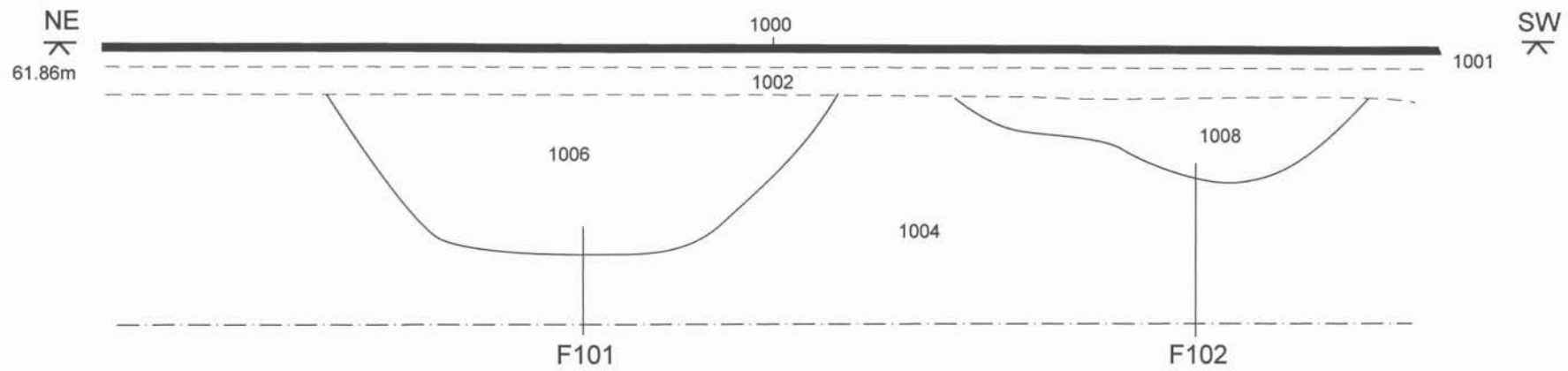


Fig.3

Section 1



Section 2

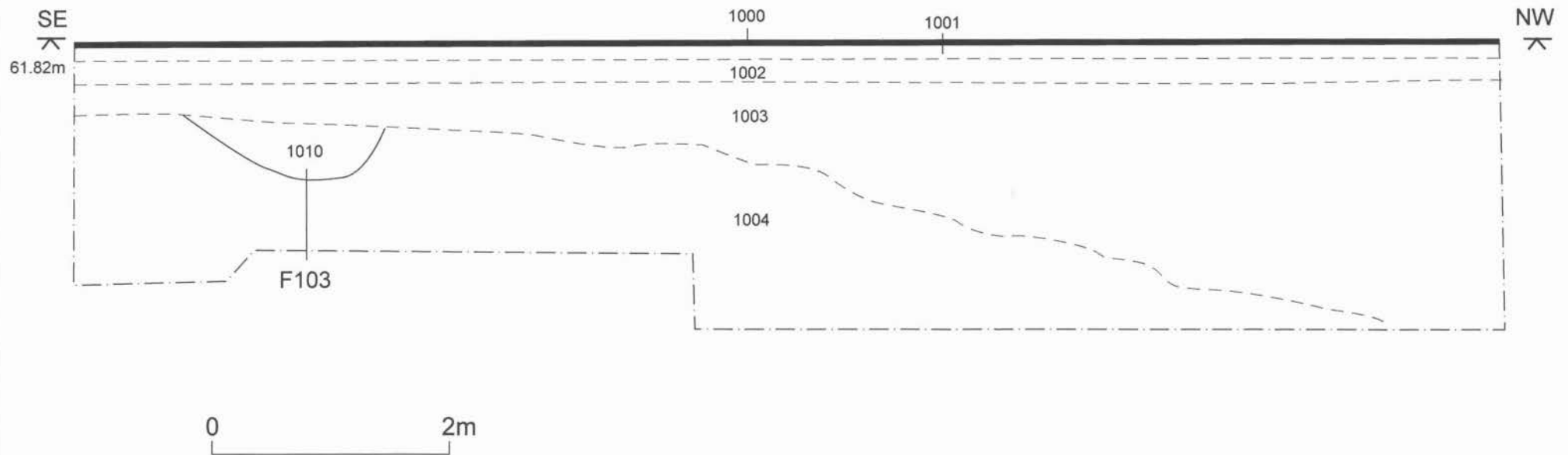


Fig.4

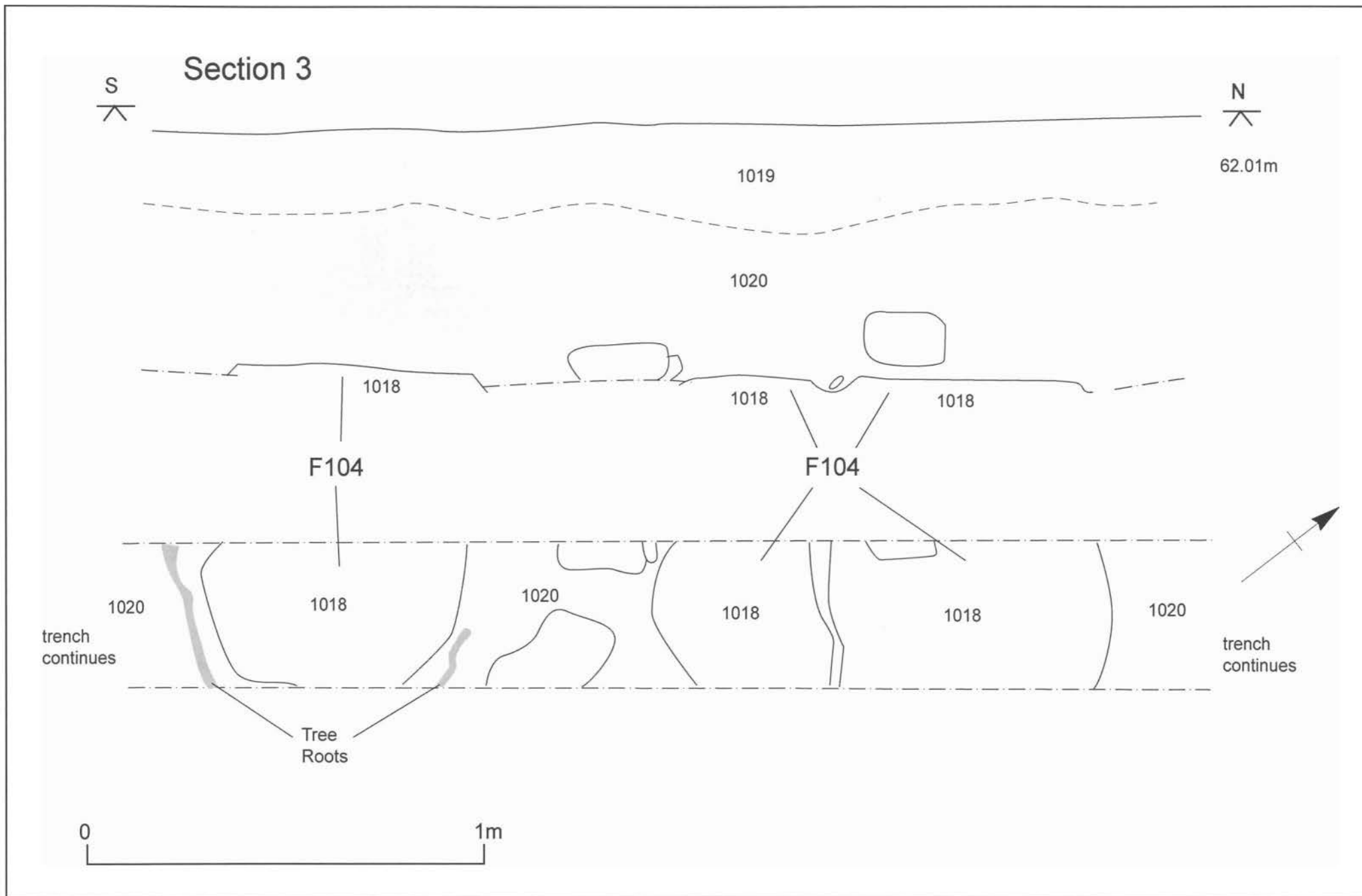


Fig.5