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Report № 1754

An Archaeological Evaluation at Crimplesham Replacement Quarry

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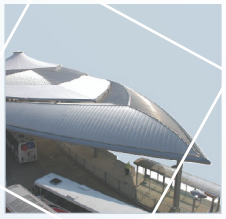

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Contents

Figures

Plates

Location:	Crimplesham Quarry, West Dereham, Norfolk
District:	West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 6605 0335
HER No.:	50596 DEW
Dates of Fieldwork:	7–24 January 2006

Summary

Evaluation trenching in advance of proposed quarrying led to the excavation and recording of three ring-ditches, probably the surviving parts of Bronze Age funerary barrows previously identified from cropmarks and by geophysical survey. Some other possible ring-ditches suggested by the geophysics were not definitely proven by excavation, although the possibility remains that they do exist. Some struck flint and pottery recovered from the site probably resulted from activity associated with the ring-ditches. Two or three features containing pottery or flint characteristic of the earlier Neolithic period were excavated within the area enclosed by one of the ring-ditches. This suggests that activity on the site pre-dated that associated with the funerary monuments.

A small but significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the site and clearly represents activity in its vicinity during the period. None of the excavated features, however, were datable to the Roman period.

Two Early Saxon sunken-featured buildings were excavated. This is of particular interest since no evidence of this date was previously known from the site. One of the buildings was unusually large in size. A number of finds from the fills of these SFBs and from other deposits dated to the Early Saxon period. They include pottery, a copper-alloy pin, a copper-alloy toilet implement, a lead spindle whorl, an iron knife and a very unusual example of an iron snaffle. Both of the SFBs were represented by geophysical anomalies and it is notable that several similar-looking anomalies occurred in the vicinity of the excavated examples and might represent further buildings.

A Late Saxon strap-end was recovered from the fill of a ring-ditch.

Other excavated features included ditches, pits and post-holes, many of them undated but probably relating to one or other of the phases of activity mentioned above.

1.0 Introduction

The site was located immediately to the south of Main Road, Crimplesham, Norfolk, and comprised just over 14 hectares (Fig. 1). The site is proposed as an extension to the quarry already in existence to the north the road. The site lies within the parish of West Dereham.

A programme of archaeological work was requested by David Gurney (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Norfolk County Council. The work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU1754/DW) and agreed with NLA.

The evaluation trenching was commissioned by Stephen Daw on behalf of Frimstone Limited which proposes quarrying at the site. The evaluation followed fieldwalking, metal-detecting and a geophysical surveys of the site and comprised the excavation of twenty-four trenches sited to sample the surveyed area (Fig. 2).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The solid geology of the area in which the proposed quarry site lies comprises Lower Cretaceous sands and clays. Some of these sands, such as the Sandringham Sands, are loose and have been extensively worked for glass manufacture. Others have been consolidated with iron oxides to form hard sandstones, such as the characteristic orange-coloured Carstone of north-west Norfolk (Funnell 2005). Despite the underlying loose sands, much of the area of the site is characterised by poorly draining Gault Clay soils. The proposed quarry extension is currently used for agricultural purposes and is close to the edge of Crimplesham village, although it actually lies within the parish of West Dereham. Topographically, the site inclines towards the east and at its highest point, where it abuts the road, is between 30m and 35m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken and this outlined the potential for the presence of archaeological evidence (Hutcheson 2007). In summary, cropmarks showed the presence of three ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age date and of other ditches, including a sub-rectangular enclosure within the area of the proposed quarry. Other, more uncertain ring-ditches also occurred near the eastern end of the proposal area. There was little evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site during the later, historic, period. Apart from the cropmark sites described above, there are no entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for the proposal area itself and it lies outside the main areas of both West Dereham and Crimplesham. Cartographic evidence shows little change in the boundaries and local landscape during the last 200 years. The area has been common land and farmland and there is no evidence for buildings having existed on the site. Ashcraft Farm house, immediately to the west of the proposal area, was built in the 1950s but some of the barns and out-buildings pre-dated this.

Archaeological fieldwalking and a geophysical survey were carried out in October 2007 (Crawford 2007; Smalley 2007). The geophysical survey confirmed the cropmark evidence for the three ring-ditches, as well as identifying a further two possible ring-ditches (in the north-western and south-eastern corners of the site) and other possible enclosures, including an interrupted circular enclosure and some rectangular enclosures in the central south-eastern area of the site. A number of linear features or probable field boundaries and a large number of smaller possible features were also suggested by the results of the geophysical survey. Fieldwalking produced only three sherds of pottery of medieval to post-medieval date, three pieces of ceramic building material and 34 struck flints. No concentrations of material were identified.

4.0 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

It was requested by NLA that twenty-four trenches be dug across the site each measuring 15m x 4m. Most of these were located in order to investigate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Also included were four trenches measuring 8m x 4m which were positioned to investigate 'blank' areas of the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were marked out using a total station theodolite. Trenches were numbered 1–24 and each trench was allocated its own unstratified, subsoil and topsoil context numbers.

Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked hydraulic 360˚ excavator using a toothless ditching bucket operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 30.63m, located on the north-eastern corner of Ashcraft Farmhouse.

Soil samples were taken from the fills of selected features for the purpose of environmental assessment.

Site conditions were generally poor with heavy rain and high winds occurring almost every day during the period of the evaluation.

5.0 Results

All contexts are listed in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site (Fig. 2). It was 15m x 4m and was orientated NE–SW. It was sited to investigate a geophysical anomaly which was interpreted as a possible ring-ditch. The trench varied in depth between 0.3m and 0.65m and the natural deposits revealed in its base comprised yellow-orange sand in the southernmost 5m and an orange gravelly sand elsewhere. This was overlaid by a pale orange-brown silty sand subsoil [426] (<0.12m deep) and a mid-brown silty sand topsoil [425] (<0.35m deep).

Two areas of grey silty clay, one at either side of the trench about halfway along its length, were investigated but the deposits were seen to run underneath the natural sand and they were interpreted as variations in the natural soils. It is possible, but seems unlikely, that the clayey patches were the cause of the geophysical anomaly.

There were no features or deposits of an archaeological nature within Trench 1.

At the end of the excavation a 3m x 4m test hole was dug by Frimstone Ltd into the undisturbed natural deposits at the north-eastern end of the trench. This hole was 2.8m deep and revealed sand and fine gravel with a band of grey clay at a depth of 1.2m.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the south-west of Trench 1, towards the eastern corner of the site in an area where no geophysical anomalies had been identified (Fig. 2). It was 8m x 4m and was orientated from NW–SE. Trench 2 was about 0.8m deep and the natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orange-brown sand with gravel. This was overlaid by an orange-brown silty sand subsoil [429] 0.3m deep and a mid-brown silty sand topsoil [428] (<0.4m deep).

There were no archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

At the end of the excavation a 2.5m x 1m test hole was dug by Frimstone Ltd into the undisturbed natural deposits at the north-eastern end of the trench. This hole was 1m deep and revealed greyish-white chalk at a depth of about 0.5m.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located towards the north-western corner of the site and was positioned to investigate one of the ring-ditches identified from cropmarks and by geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented north–south. The trench varied in depth between 0.57m and 0.34m, being deeper at its northern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orange-brown sand with patches of gravel. This was overlaid in places by a pale orange-brown silty-sand subsoil [431] (<0.05m deep).

About halfway along the trench the ring-ditch [432] crossed the trench, its southern side apparently cutting through a thin deposit of subsoil. The ditch was 3m wide and a section excavated across it showed it to be about 0.7m in depth (Figs 3 and

4). The ditch cut the subsoil, had quite gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The primary fill of the ditch was pale orangey-yellow gritty sand with occasional flints [446]. It was overlaid by mid-brownish-orange coarse sand [445] and brownish-orange silty sand [433], both with moderate amounts of flint gravel. A sherd of Romano-British pottery came from the latter deposit and an Late Saxon copper-alloy strap-end was also recovered from the top of the ditch (SF 5, [433], Plate 1). A soil sample <4> from deposit [445] contained only very sparse flecks of charcoal. The uppermost fill of the ditch was overlaid by the topsoil.

The infilled ditch was overlain by the mid-brown silty sand topsoil [430] (<0.35m deep). In places there was no subsoil and the topsoil lay directly above the natural sand.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

Excavation successfully identified the ring-ditch represented by the positive geophysical anomaly.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located towards the north-western end of the site and was positioned at the bottom of the slope down from the north-east to investigate an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented east–west. It varied in depth between 1.04m and 0.82m, being deeper at its eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised yellowish-orange sand with few stones. This was overlain by a layer of pale yellowish-brown sand [438], some of which was removed by machine, and a small area of which was excavated by hand. A flint blade and three flakes were found in the deposit, which was interpreted as a layer of colluvial soil. It was overlain by the orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [435] (0.4m deep) and the brown silty sand topsoil [434] (0.4m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

At the end of the excavation a 3m x 2.5m test hole was dug by Frimstone Ltd into the undisturbed natural deposits at the eastern end of the trench. This hole revealed soft sand with greyish-white chalk at a depth of about 1.5m.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located, to the south-east of Trench 3, towards the north-western end of the site (Fig. 2). It was positioned to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified by geophysics. The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented north–south. It varied in depth between 0.91m and 0.58m, being deeper at its northern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orange-brown sand with frequent gravel inclusions. This was overlain by a pale brown silty-sand subsoil [453] (0.55m deep) and the mid-brown silty sand topsoil [452] (0.25m deep).

About halfway along the trench a deposit of greyish-orangey-brown silty sand ran across the trench. It was investigated by hand and shown to be only 0.05m deep and of a mixed patchy nature. It was interpreted as being of natural origin, but it was thought likely that its presence was probably the cause of the geophysical anomaly.

There were no features or deposits of an archaeological nature within Trench 5.

5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in the north-western part of the site to the south of Trench 5 (Fig. 2). It was sited to investigate two linear anomalies, one east–west and one north–south, identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented north–south. It varied in depth between 0.92m and 0.48m, being deeper at its northern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised yellowish-orange sand. This was overlain by a pale orange-brown silty sand subsoil [457] (0.15m deep) and mid-brown silty sand topsoil [456] (0.25m deep).

A linear feature crossed the trench just to the south of its centre and corresponded with that identified by the geophysical survey. Excavation showed this to be a modern pipe trench. The trench had been backfilled with pale yellowish grey silty sand – largely redeposited natural material – and the pipe itself was revealed at a depth of *c*.0.3m from the stripped surface.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench. The north–south feature identified by the geophysical survey was not observed.

5.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located about halfway along the north-eastern edge of the site (Fig. 2). It was positioned to investigate two anomalies identified by geophysics. The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NE–SW. It varied in depth between 0.4m and 0.65m. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orange-brown silty sand with patches of gravel. This was overlaid in places by pale orange-brown silty sand subsoil [461] (0.15m deep).

In the south-western part of the trench a large feature ran at an oblique angle across the trench, cutting the natural sand (there was no subsoil in this area) and extended beyond both sides of the excavated area [491] (Fig. 5). It appeared to be rectangular in plan and its size was estimated at 5m wide by more than 7.5m long. A slot excavated across the ‘pit’ at the north-western side of the trench showed that it was fairly shallow (0.57m) with straight, quite steeply sloping sides and a flat-bottom (Fig. 6).

Seven post-holes were revealed in the bottom of pit [491]. Two, [508] and [510], were excavated on the southern side of the pit, three, [495], [497] and [499], on its northern side and two in the middle of the pit, [503] and [505] (Figs 5 and 6). The pit and post-holes represent a sunken-featured building (SFB), the post-holes at either side probably indicating the walls (and possibly including some replacement posts) and those in the middle probably having held support posts on what appears to be the central axis of the building. The post-holes were filled with dark grey-brown sandy silts [496], [498], [500], [504], [507] [509], [510] and [506]. Posthole [505] was the largest post-hole. It was 0.65m in diameter and 0.8m deep, its main fill was like those of the other post-holes, but it also contained a thin layer of orange-brown sand [506] – possibly eroded natural sand or perhaps deliberate packing material – around its sides.

A thin deposit of very dark brownish-black firm sandy silt, which may have included degraded organic material, formed the primary fill of the feature [490]. A sherd of Early Saxon pottery was found in this deposit. Although this deposit was recorded as sealing most of the post-holes described above, this relationship was not observed in section. Where the large post-hole [505] was recorded in section,

it appeared to ‘cut’ through the deposit, but it seems most likely that the post-holes are contemporary with the pit and that the primary fill built up around the posts.

Deposit [490] was overlaid by a thick deposit of orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small- and medium-sized flints [492]. A relatively large amount of animal bone from [492] included some butchered fragment and pieces of horn and hoof. A 4th-century Roman coin (SF 7) came from this fill as well as a rare example of a 7th-century iron horse snaffle (SF 9, Plate 2), and an Early Saxon copper-alloy pin, lead spindle whorl and copper-alloy toilet implement. The Roman coin has been pierced through its centre and was probably used as jewellery during the Early Saxon period. Above deposit [492] lay a very dark grey sandy silt with sparse small flints [493] and a mid-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium-sized flints [494]. The latter was very similar to both the overlying subsoil and the lower fill [492]. A soil sample <1> from deposit [493] contained a low density of probable domestic hearth waste including cereal grains.

After discussion with David Gurney (NLA) it was decided that no more of the building should be excavated during the evaluation.

A pit was excavated near the north-eastern end of the trench [481] (Fig. 5). This was seen to cut the subsoil and was an irregular ovate shape with quite steeply sloping sides. The pit was 0.59m deep. Although part of its base was quite flat, there was no sign of any post-holes in its vicinity and it is unlikely that this pit represented another SFB. Its primary fill was an orangey-brown gravelly sand [485]. This was overlaid by greyish-brown silty sands [484], [483] and [482] – an irregular flint flake came from deposit [484]. Deposit [564], very similar to the upper fill of the pit, extended in a shallow spread to the north of the pit. Fifteen pieces of possible slag came from a fill of pit [481] and these might have been associated with iron smelting. Animal bone from the pit included some with cuts from meat removal.

Two small ovate pits with greyish-brown silty sand fills were also excavated within the trench [486] and [447] (Fig. 5). A sherd of Early Saxon pottery came from the fill of the former. Another sherd of the same date was came from an unstratified context in Trench 7.

It seems highly likely that SFB [491] and pit [481] were the causes of the geophysical anomalies recorded in the area of Trench 7.

The infilled features were overlaid by the mid-brown silty sand topsoil [460] (0.2m deep). In places there was no subsoil and the topsoil lay directly above the natural sand.

5.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in the north-western central part of the site and was sited to investigate some discrete anomalies, thought to be possible pits, identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NW–SE. It varied in depth between 0.46m and 0.29m, being deeper at its south-eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orange-brown silty sand with patchy gravel.

Two ditches cut the natural sandy gravel (Fig. 7). Ditch [442]/[444] ran NW–SE along the north-eastern side of the trench. The excavated segments were 0.2m

and 0.1m deep respectively and both contained greyish-brown silty sand. A sherd of Early Saxon pottery was found in the fill of ditch segment [444] and a few fragments of animal bone came from the ditch. Close to the north-western end of the trench the ditch was cut by another ditch [440] (0.15m deep). This contained a more mixed fill of dark greyish-brown and orangey-brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. All of the ditches had concave profiles. A sherd of Bronze Age pottery came from the fill of ditch [440].

The infilled ditches were overlaid directly by the topsoil, a mid-brown silty sand topsoil [454] (0.35m deep).

The excavated evidence did not concur with the geophysical survey report. The very shallow nature of the ditches probably meant that they were not identified by the survey.

5.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located to the south of Trench 8, about halfway along the south-eastern side of the site in an area where linear anomalies had been identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NNE–SSW. It varied in depth between 0.45m and 0.25m.

The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mottled yellowish-brown sandy clay with frequent patches of chalk. This was overlain directly by brownish-grey very clayey topsoil [458] which was difficult to dig, even by machine.

There were no features or deposits of an archaeological nature within Trench 5.

Excavation did not identify any features which might have caused the geophysical anomalies in the area of the trench.

5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located about halfway along the site, towards its north-eastern edge. It was positioned to investigate one of the possible ring-ditches identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NE–SW. It varied in depth between 1m and 0.77m, being deeper at its north-eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orangey-yellow sand with occasional gravel.

A linear feature crossed the trench close to its north-eastern end (Fig. 8). The feature was wider to the south-east and a slot excavated across it revealed steep-sided, probably linear, feature [520] which contained pale brownish-yellow slightly silty sand with abundant small gravel [529] (Fig. 9). This feature ran from the south-east side of the trench for a distance of 1.20m. Its north-eastern side was cut by a ditch [530] which ran across the width of the trench. This ditch had quite steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained light brown silty sand with abundant gravel [521] and, above that, on the south-eastern side, a small patch of light yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, which was probably slumped natural material [528]. It is possible that feature [520] represented an initial cut of a ditch, with [530] being its recut. The infilled ditch was overlain by the mid- to dark orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil [463] (<0.4m deep) and the brown silty-sand topsoil [462].

Just to the south-west of ditch [520]/[530] a small feature extended into the edge of the excavated area [545] (Fig. 8). It was only 0.05m deep and contained a pale greyish-brown silty sand with decayed organic material. The feature was interpreted as a probable tree hole. No finds were recovered from it.

To the east, and extending beyond the other side of the trench, was the terminus of a linear feature [522] (Fig. 8). Although the feature was fairly well defined, its profile was irregular and its hand-excavated part was shallow (although a further <0.3m appeared in the trench section above this). The ditch was filled with brown sandy silt with occasional medium-sized flints. No finds were recovered from it.

The infilled features were overlaid by a mid- to dark orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [463] (0.7m deep) and a mid-brown silty-sand topsoil [462] (0.30m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

The ditch at the north-eastern end of the trench was almost certainly that which had resulted in the geophysical anomaly. It also seems likely that, although it did not cross the trench, the smaller terminus to the south represented the southern ditch identified by the geophysical survey (Possibly, it may continue further to the south-east of the excavated area).

5.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located about halfway along the north-eastern side of the site and was positioned to investigate one of the ring-ditches identified from cropmarks and by geophysics (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NE–SW. It varied in depth between 0.51m and 0.75m, being deeper at its downslope, south-western, end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orangey-yellow sand with gravel.

About halfway along the trench ring-ditch [478] crossed the trench (Figs 10 and 11). The ditch was 4m wide and a section excavated across it showed it to be about 0.8m deep. The sides of the ditch were quite gently sloping and its base was almost flat. The primary fill of the ditch was a brownish-grey silty sand with occasional gravel [477]. A soil sample <6> from deposit [477] contained only sparse flecks of charcoal, fragments of black tarry material, bone fragments (some of which were burnt) and small pieces of burnt or fired clay. Above that was a mid- to dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones [476]/[436] which filled the upper part of the ditch. An area of charcoal-rich material with some burnt clay was observed within this ditch-fill and probably represented a dump of material (not in section). Deposit [476] extended beyond the south-western side of the ditch as far as the end of the trench. It probably represents the downslope spread of the ditch-fill during truncation of the ditch by ploughing. Two sherds of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age pottery came from the upper fill [436] of the ditch and two more of either Iron Age or Early Saxon date as well as a 3rd-century Roman coin (SF 8) came from soil spread [476]. Two flint flakes were also found in fills of the ditch.

A small circular pit [480] was cut into the natural sand near the south-western end of the trench (Fig. 10). The pit was well-defined, 0.2m deep, with a flat bottom and almost vertical sides. It contained mid-grey silty sand. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery came from its fill. The infilled pit was sealed by the spread/ditch-fill [476].

The infilled ditch was overlaid by a brownish-orange silty sand subsoil [544] (0.2m deep) and the brown silty-sand topsoil [464] (<0.4m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

Excavation successfully identified the ring-ditch suggested by the geophysical survey.

5.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located in the central area of the site and was positioned to investigate two of a group of anomalies identified by geophysics (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NW–SE. It varied in depth between 0.5m and 0.7m. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orangey-yellow sand with gravel.

A sub-rectangular feature [471] extended into the south-western side of the trench (Figs 12 and 13). A small 'quadrant' excavated in the northern corner of the feature showed it to have quite steeply sloping sides and a flattish bottom. At the north-eastern end of the feature, but not distinguishable in section from the cut of [471], a possible post-hole [538] was centrally situated. Along the excavated north-western side there was an apparent slot and post-hole, [518] and [565] respectively. The feature was interpreted as a sunken-featured building (SFB). An irregular hollow, [515], in the base of the SFB may have represented another post-hole although its position did not lend itself to this interpretation and its fill (a reddish orangey-brown gritty sand [517] suggested that it might have been of natural origin.

The fills of the slot and post-hole on the north-western side of the building differed with that of the slot comprising mid- to dark orangey-brown silty sand [519] and that of the post-hole being a dark greyish-brown sandy silt [566]. It seems likely that the two were contemporary with the more sandy fill of the slot representing packing material or perhaps infill of material around some kind of sill beam. Another post-hole [513] was seen in the trench section on the south-eastern side of the building. Its fill [514] included a mid- to dark greyish-brown silty sand with more sandy material in its north-western side which probably represented packing material. Four fragments of lava quernstone, possibly re-used Romano-British material, and a sherd of Iron Age pottery were found in this post-hole.

The main part of the SFB was filled in its lower part by a deposit of mid- to dark greyish-brown silty sand with some patches of greyish-yellow clayey soil [516]. It included occasional flints and flecks of charcoal. It was overlaid by the main deposit [472]=[475], a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flints and sparse flecks of charcoal. The fills might have incorporated some use-related material and a soil sample <5> from deposit [472] contained a low density of probable domestic hearth waste, including cereal grains. Part of an Early Saxon fired clay loomweight was found in the feature as well as seven sherds of possible Iron Age or Early Saxon pottery and some animal bone. A flint awl and a flake were found residually in the fills of the SFB. Several small finds came from the fill of the SFB, including part of a glass bead, an Early Saxon iron knife blade, two iron strip fragments and a hooked iron rod.

After discussion with David Gurney (NLA) it was decided that no more of the building should be excavated during the evaluation.

To the east of SFB [471], and cutting a very gravely orangey-brown sand layer [559] (which overlaid the 'true natural' sandy gravel), was pit [546] (Fig. 12). This extended beyond the edge of the trench, but was probably ovate in shape. It had quite steeply sloping sides, a concave base and was <0.75m deep. The primary fill of the pit was a slightly reddish-brown silty sand with occasional flints [548]. It was very similar to the natural material into which the pit was cut. Above it was a greyish-brown sandy silt [547] which included occasional small flints and sparse flecks of charcoal and a small fragment of lava quernstone. Above [547] was a layer of greyish-brown sandy silt [557] which continued as a layer to either side of the pit but which appeared to sink to a greater depth where the lower fills of the pit had settled. An irregular flake was found in this deposit. A layer of reddish orange-brown silty sand [558], which was seen in section above the infilled pit [546], was thought to be part of the subsoil. Three sherds of possible Iron Age or Early Saxon pottery were found in pit [546].

Some irregular hollows in the vicinity of pit [546] were thought to be of natural origin. There were no other archaeological features or deposits in the trench.

The infilled features in Trench 12 were overlain by brown silty sand subsoil [467] (0.22m deep) and topsoil [466] (<0.35m deep).

Trench 12 produced ten sherds weighing 0.065kg. Six sherds came from SFB [471], of which four are of possible Iron Age date and two are not closely datable. All of the Iron Age sherds are of flint-tempered fabric. The undatable sherds comprise one abraded scrap and one sandy sherd with fingernail-impressed decoration. Fingernail-impressed decoration was commonly employed in the Iron Age, but is also found on Early Saxon pottery (Hamerow 1993, fig. 21) and therefore the date for this sherd remains uncertain. Iron Age pottery was also found in post-hole [513], which contained one sherd, and pit [546], which contained three sherds.

5.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located due south of Trench 12, in the lower-lying part of the site and close to the edge of the proposed extraction area (Fig. 2). It was sited to investigate the southern side of a possible ditched enclosure which was indentified by the geophysical survey and also a linear anomaly which was one of a pair of parallel negative anomalies shown on the geophysics plot. The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NE–SW. It varied in depth between 0.36m and 0.61m, being deeper at its north-eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mixed yellowish-brown chalky sand and orangey-brown sand with yellowish gravel.

This was overlaid directly by orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [552] (0.15m deep) and brownish-grey silty sand topsoil [468] (0.2m deep).

The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were not observed as archaeological features and there were no other features or deposits of an archaeological nature within Trench 5.

5.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located in the south-eastern central part of the site and was positioned to investigate an intermittent circular enclosure or possible ring-ditch

identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented WNW–ESE. It varied in depth between 0.55m and 0.33m. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mid- to pale orangey-brown sand with gravel and were overlaid by orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [556] (0.1m deep).

A possible pit [562] had been truncated by a later ditch (Fig. 14). The pit was ovate with a slightly concave base and an irregular profile with a more steeply sloping northern side. It was filled by a pale to mid-orangey-brown silty sand with sparse flints. The nature of the fill, as well as the asymmetric profile of the feature, suggest that the feature might have been of natural origin.

Feature [562] was cut by ditch [523], which crossed the trench NE–SW and cut the subsoil (Figs 14 and 15). It was <0.48m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and an almost flat bottom. It contained a greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flints and sparse flecks of charcoal. There were no finds from its fill. About 3–4m to the north-west another ditch [525] crossed the trench on roughly the same alignment and also cut the subsoil. This ditch was slightly deeper (<0.66m deep) than ditch [523] and had more gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its primary fill was a grey silty sand with occasional flints. This was overlaid by greyish-brown sandy silt with sparse flints. The only find recovered from the ditch was some animal bone from its upper fill.

The infilled ditches were overlaid by the greyish-brown silty sand topsoil [555] (0.3m deep). It seems likely that one of the excavated ditches had caused the geophysical anomaly seen in the area of the trench.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

5.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was located in the eastern central part of the site, just to the north-east of Trench 14. It was positioned to investigate an area of magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey and thought to represent disturbed ground (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m, although an area at its south-eastern corner was not dug due to the presence of an electricity pole. The trench was oriented WNW–ESE. It was between 0.4m and 0.55m deep.

The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mid- to dark orangey-brown sand with frequent gravel.

A linear feature crossed the north-western end of the trench [589] (Fig. 16). A segment excavated across it in the centre of the trench showed it to be 0.13m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and flat bottom. It was filled with a pale greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flints [590] and two small sherds of Iron Age or Early Saxon pottery came from the ditch. To either side of the excavated segment, however, the ditch was elusive (although it had been observed after machining) and it was not convincingly recorded in the north-facing trench section.

The ditch was cut to its east by pit [587] (Fig. 16). This was an irregular ovate shape with quite gently sloping sides and base. It was 0.4m deep and contained a relatively dark reddish-brown sandy silt with abundant flints. No finds came from the feature.

The infilled features were overlain by the subsoil and topsoil.

The excavated evidence did not appear to relate to the geophysical anomaly and there were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

5.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was located at the north-western side of the site towards the eastern end in an area where no geophysical anomalies had been identified (Fig. 2). The trench was 8m x 4m and was oriented ENE–WSW. It varied in depth between 0.38m and 0.55m, being deeper at its eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mixed orangey-brown silty sand and gravel. This was overlaid directly a layer of subsoil [427] (0.1m deep).

An apparently subcircular feature [572] was excavated at the southern edge of the trench about halfway along its length (Fig. 17). A long 'tail' extended from it to the west. The feature had quite gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill was recorded as one context [573], but actually consisted of three different types of deposit. At the eastern side was a pale brown silty sand with occasional flints and at the western side an orangey-brown sand with occasional flints. Between these, in the centre of the feature was a darker orangey-brown sandy gravel. The nature of the fills suggested that the feature was probably of natural origin, possibly a tree throw. The 'tail' of soil extending from it might represent a root hole or, possibly, an animal burrow. No finds came from the feature.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench and the infilled feature was overlaid by the topsoil [470] (0.43m deep).

5.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was located in the north-eastern part of the site in an area where no geophysical anomalies had been identified (Fig. 2). The trench was 8m x 4m and was oriented ENE–WSW. It varied in depth between 0.45m and 0.6m, being deeper at its eastern end. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orangey-brown silty sand and gravel.

A small pit was excavated in the north-western corner of the trench [534] (Fig. 18). It was 0.25m deep with a concave profile. It was filled by a greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. There were no finds from its fill.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench. A mid- to dark orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [540] (0.2m) and brownish-grey silty sand topsoil [539] (0.35m deep) overlaid the infilled pit.

5.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was located in the north-western part of the site towards the eastern end and was sited to investigate some discrete anomalies, thought to be possible pits, identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NW–SE. It was about 0.4m deep. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised orangey-brown silty sand and gravel.

An extremely shallow (0.05m deep) linear feature with a probable post-hole at one end was excavated near the north-western corner of the trench [532] (Fig. 19). It contained greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and no finds.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench. Greyish-brown silty sand topsoil [541] (<0.4m deep) overlaid the natural sand and the infilled feature.

It seems unlikely that this small shallow feature would have been the cause of a geophysical anomaly such as those shown in the vicinity of Trench 18.

5.19 Trench 19

Trench 19 was located towards the eastern end of the site and was sited to investigate two linear anomalies which were identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NNW–SSE. It varied between 0.34 m and 0.67m in depth, being deeper to the north.

In the southern part of the trench were three areas of orangey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel [567], [568] and [569] (Fig. 20). They were ill-defined and irregular in shape and were shallow (0.005–0.1m deep). They were interpreted as areas of disturbed soil, perhaps relating to a former hedgerow. No finds came from them.

These features were overlain by orangey-grey silty sand subsoil [571] (0.2m deep) and dark greyish-brown topsoil [570] (0.2m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

It seems unlikely that the irregular disturbances were the cause of the geophysical anomalies seen in the area.

5.20 Trench 20

Trench 20 was located, centrally, towards the eastern end of the site and due south of Trench 19. It was sited to investigate a large irregular anomaly which was identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and was oriented NW–SE. It was about 0.6m deep.

About halfway along the trench a large area of brownish-grey sand extended across the excavated area (Fig. 21). A slot was hand-excavated into its southern side and showed that the material filled a large feature of some kind [591]. Its profile, however, was unusual with a very gently sloping upper part which then dropped almost vertically. The natural deposits in the side and base of the excavated segment were patchy, with different soils apparently running above and below each other. It was also difficult to define the bottom of the ‘fill’ of the feature, the deposit appeared to run into or under the natural deposits.

The large feature was interpreted as of probable natural origin, a large hollow which had been filled by various washed in deposits.

Just to the north of the large feature was a small subcircular pit [574]. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and contained greyish-black silty sand with charcoal [575]. This suggested that *in situ* burning had occurred.

The infilled features were overlaid by orangey-brown silty sand subsoil [577] (0.3m deep) and greyish-brown topsoil [576] (0.35m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

It seems likely that the large disturbance [591] was the cause of the geophysical anomaly seen in the area.

5.21 Trench 21

Trench 21 was located in the eastern corner of the site. It was sited to investigate a linear anomaly and some small discrete anomalies, thought to be possible pits, identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and oriented NW–SE. It was between 0.4m and 0.46m deep.

A ditch ran roughly north–south across the south-eastern part of the trench [536] (Fig. 22). It was 0.3m deep with gently sloping sides and concave base. It contained brown silty sand and no finds.

The infilled ditch was overlaid by greyish orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil [543] (0.2m deep) and dark greyish-brown topsoil [542] (0.2m deep).

There were no other archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

It seems likely that the ditch was the cause of the linear geophysical anomaly seen running into the area of Trench 21.

5.22 Trench 22

Trench 22 was located close to the southern corner of the site and was positioned to investigate one of the ring-ditches identified from cropmarks and from both positive and negative geophysics anomalies (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and oriented NW–SE. It varied in depth between 0.23m and 0.68m, being deeper at its south-eastern end (although it was slightly overcut into the natural sand there). The ring-ditch was seen towards the south-eastern end of the trench (see below). The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised yellowish and orangey-brown sand with some patches of gravel to the north-west of the ditch. At the south-eastern end of the trench, an orangey-brown sandy-silt subsoil [579] was observed.

Several small features were identified cut into the natural sand and gravel in the area to the north-west of, and enclosed by, the ring-ditch (Fig. 23). Pit [610]. extended beyond the edge of the trench, but appeared to be subcircular. It was 0.75m deep and had very steeply sloping sides. Its lower fill was a gritty dark greyish-brown silty sand with sparse small flints and some quite firm patches [612]. Above this was a slightly reddish-brown silty sand with occasional flints [611]. Two neat blades, a blade-like flake, a flake and a spall came from fills of the pit and three sherds of earlier Neolithic pottery came from each of its fills. Two small pits or post-holes were excavated near the north-eastern corner of Trench 22 [628] and [630]. They were, respectively, 0.15m and 0.25m deep and both contained orangey-brown silty sand and no finds. Two other shallow, irregular linear/ovate features were excavated in the area enclosed by the ring-ditch [613] and [615] (<0.1m deep). Both of them had very sandy fills, with some firmer patches and some areas where the sandy fills appeared to run into or underneath the natural sand. The five struck flints from these two features included two small blades and a blade-like flake. The features might be archaeological or might have resulted from animal activity.

The ring-ditch was seen crossing the trench close to its south-eastern end [580] (Figs 23 and 24). It was about 5m wide and 1.45m deep. Its sides were quite

gently sloping in the upper part of the ditch, becoming more steeply sloping in the lower part. The base was rounded. The ditch was though to cut the subsoil to its south-east. The primary fill in the bottom of the ditch was a brownish-orange sand with sparse gravel [581]. On the upper north-western side of the ditch was brownish-orange fine sand [617]. These redeposited natural soils were overlain by a pale brownish-grey silty sand with sparse small flints [618] which formed the main lower fill of the ditch. A soil sample <7> from this deposit contained only very sparse flecks of charcoal and black tarry material.

Above this, and extending across from the north-western side of the ditch, was a deposit of orangey-brown sand with sparse flints [619] which was very similar in appearance to parts of the undisturbed natural sand. Above this was a slightly bluish grey-brown silty sand with very sparse fine gravels and occasional flecks of charcoal [620] and a pale brownish-grey silty sand with sparse small to medium-sized flints [621]. Together these two deposits formed the main upper fill of the ditch; fill [620] probably represented a dump of burnt material. Samples <8> and <9>, from deposits [620] and [621] respectively, contained some charcoal, burnt plant and other remains which probably represented domestic waste.

Running across the upper part of the ditch from the south-eastern side was orangey-brown fine sand with slight silt and occasional small flints [622]. Overlaying this was orangey-brown silty sand [624] and mid- to dark brownish-grey silty sand [625], both with occasional flint. A base sherd from a quite large Bronze Age vessel was found in fill [625]. Seven struck flints were found in the fills of the ring-ditch, including a small neat blade, some flakes and struck or tested fragments.

Small pit [626] cut the inner edge of the infilled ring-ditch. It was ovate with a concave profile, 0.15m deep, and contained greyish-brown silty sand with sparse small flints. A sherd of Iron Age pottery came from its fill.

The infilled features in the trench were overlaid by the grey-brown sandy loam topsoil [578] (<0.4m deep).

Excavation successfully identified the ring-ditch represented by the geophysical survey.

5.23 Trench 23

Trench 23 was located close to the southern corner of the site and was positioned to investigate one of the possible ring-ditches identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The trench was 15m x 4m and oriented NW–SE. It was about 0.45m deep. The natural deposits revealed in its base comprised yellowish and orangey-brown sand with gravel.

A ditch ran north–south across the western end of the trench [605] (Fig. 25). It was 0.29m deep with quite gently sloping sides and concave base. It contained pale yellowish and greyish-brown silty sands with occasional small flints [609] and [606]. A sherd of indeterminate prehistoric pottery was found in ditch [605]. The ditch was, possibly, cut to its south-east by pit [607] (not illustrated) which was ovate with a flat base and filled by yellowish and greyish-brown silty sands [608] and [623].

Halfway along the north-eastern side of the trench a large feature [599] extended into the excavated area (Figs 25 and 26). It was partially excavated and seen to contain a lower fill of very stony orangey-brown sand [602] overlain by a pale brown silty sand with charcoal [601] and a pale brown silty sand [600]. The extent and function of the feature could not be ascertained from the small excavated area. The feature did, however, correspond to the position of the apparent southern terminus of the possible interrupted ring-ditch identified by the geophysical survey.

At the south-eastern end of the trench three small possible pits or post-holes were excavated, [593], [595] and [597] (Fig. 25). They ranged in depth from 0.18m–0.45m and all contained silty sands. Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery came form pit/post-hole [593].

The infilled features were overlaid by silty-sand subsoil [604] (0.15m deep) and the topsoil [603] (0.3m deep).

5.24 Trench 24

Trench 24 was located in the southern corner of the site to the west of Trenches 22 and 23. It was positioned in an area where no geophysical anomalies had been identified (Fig. 2). It was 8m x 4m and oriented NW–SE. The trench was about 0.7m deep and the natural deposits revealed in its base comprised mottled orangey-brown silty sand with gravel and chalky patches. In the south-western corner of the trench a quite small, steep-sided subcircular feature [582] and part of an irregular linear feature [584] were excavated (Figs 27 and 28). Although it is possible that the former was a post-hole, it is thought likely that both ‘features’ were of natural origin and reflected the very patchy nature of the natural deposits in this part of the site. A tested piece of flint and a retouched flake were found in the fill of [584].

This was overlaid by a orange-brown silty-sand subsoil [553] (<0.35m deep) and a mid-brown silty-sand topsoil [554] (<0.4m deep).

There were no archaeological features or deposits within the trench.

6.0 The Finds

6.1 Introduction

The finds and environmental material from the site are presented in tabular form with basic quantitative information in Appendix 2: Finds by Context. In addition to this summary, more detailed information on specific finds and environmental categories is included in separate reports below. Supporting tables for these contributions are included in the Appendices. Particular objects or small finds are listed in Appendix 2 and are catalogued in more detail in Appendix 7: Small Finds. They may also form the subject of individual reports included below.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Prehistoric pottery

by Sarah Percival

6.2.1.1 Introduction

Thirty-six sherds of pottery weighing 0.268kg were recovered from 14 excavated contexts and from unstratified surface collection (Appendix 3a). A range of prehistoric pottery was present dating from the earlier Neolithic to the Iron Age (Table 1). The sherds are mostly small, formless and abraded.

Spot-date	Quantity	Weight (kg)
Earlier Neolithic	6	0.035
Later Neolithic to Earlier Bronze Age	3	0.019
Bronze Age	5	0.060
Iron Age	18	0.136
Prehistoric (not closely datable)	4	0.018
Total	*36*	*0.268*

Table 1 Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery by spot-date

6.2.1.2 Pottery by trench

Nine trenches produced pottery (Table 2) and the pottery is discussed below by trench. In addition, a single small abraded sherd in flint-tempered fabric was recovered during general cleaning of the site. The sherd is prehistoric, but is otherwise not closely datable.

One small undecorated body sherd of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age date in flint-tempered fabric was found during surface cleaning in Trench 2.

A large undecorated grog-tempered body sherd of Bronze Age date was recovered from the fill of ditch [440]. The sherd is from a thick-walled vessel, perhaps an urn, and has black encrusted material adhering to the inner surface. The sherd has fractured along a coil join leaving a distinct U-shaped break.

Trench 11 produced two sherds of flint-tempered later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age pottery weighing 0.013kg from the fill of ring-ditch [478]. Six Iron Age sherds were recovered from Trench 11. The sherds are all in flint-tempered fabric and

include three sherds, one of them a large base sherd, from ring-ditch [478] and an undecorated body sherd from pit [480]. The remaining sherds are unstratified.

Trench	Spot-date	Cut	Qty	Weight (kg)
2	Later Neolithic to Earlier Bronze Age	Unstratified	1	0.006
8	Bronze Age	440	1	0.016
10	Iron Age	Unstratified	1	0.002
11	Later Neolithic to Earlier Bronze Age	478	2	0.013
11	Iron Age	478	3	0.047
		480	1	0.002
		Unstratified	2	0.009
12	Iron Age	471	4	0.013
		513	1	0.006
		546	3	0.034
	Prehistoric (not closely datable)	471	2	0.012
15	Iron Age	590	2	0.019
22	Bronze Age	580	1	0.019
	Earlier Neolithic	610	6	0.035
	Iron Age	626	1	0.004
23	Bronze Age	593	3	0.025
	Prehistoric (not closely datable)	605	1	0.005
Unstratified	Prehistoric (not closely datable)	Unstratified	1	0.001
Total			*36*	*0.268*

Table 2 Quantity and weight of pottery by trench and spot-date

Trench 12 produced ten sherds weighing 0.065kg. Six sherds came from SFB [471], of these four are of possible Iron Age date and two are not closely datable. All the Iron Age sherds are in flint-tempered fabric. The undatable sherds comprise one abraded scrap and one sandy sherd with fingernail-impressed decoration. Fingernail-impressed decoration was commonly employed in the Iron Age, but is also found on Early Saxon pottery (Hamerow 1993, fig. 21) and therefore the date for this sherd remains uncertain. Iron Age pottery was also found in post-hole [513], which contained one sherd and pit [546], which contained three sherds.

Two small sherds in sandy fabric were recovered from the fill of a single ditch [590]. Both sherds have fingernail-impressed decoration and it is therefore possible that they may be of either Iron Age or Early Saxon date.

Trench 22 exposed part of a ring-ditch previously visible as a cropmark. A single Bronze Age base sherd in grog-tempered fabric from a moderately large vessel was recovered from the fill of ring-ditch [580]. Six flint-tempered sherds of earlier Neolithic date were found in pit [610], which also contained earlier Neolithic flint.

A fragmentary base and a body sherd with an applied cordon in grog-tempered fabric were found within pit [593]. The sherds are in grog-tempered fabric and are Bronze Age. One small undecorated body sherd in sandy fabric was recovered from ditch [605]. The sherd is not closely datable.

6.2.1.3 Discussion

The assemblage suggests an earlier Neolithic presence at the site concentrated in Trench 22 and characterised by pit-digging and the deposition of small quantities

of pottery. Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age activity is indicated by small quantities of redeposited pottery from Trenches 1 and 2, in the latter from the fill of a ring-ditch. Bronze Age pottery has been found in small quantities in Trench 8 in ditch [440] and in Trench 22 in ring-ditch [580], again almost certainly redeposited. However, deposits of Bronze Age pottery from pit [593], Trench 23, show that pit-digging was also taking place at this time. Iron Age pottery came from ditches and later features and was also found in the fills of three pits and a post-hole signifying continued use of the site during the this period.

6.2.2 Romano-British pottery

by Alice Lyons

6.2.2.1 Introduction

Forty-seven sherds of Romano-British pottery, weighing 0.780kg, were recovered during archaeological evaluation excavation at Crimplesham (Appendix 3b). This small assemblage of pottery was abraded and no evidence of use (such as limescale or sooty residues) has survived, the material has an average sherd weight of 17g.

The majority of the pottery was recovered from ring-ditch [432] in Trench 3 and ring-ditch [478], a spread [437] and an unstratified deposit [411] all in Trench 11. Small quantities of Roman-British pottery were also recovered in Trench 7.

Trench	Context	Feature	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
3	433	Ring ditch [432]	1	2	0.26
7	511	Post hole [510]	3	13	1.67
11	411	Unstratified	2	138	17.68
11	436	Ring ditch [478]	12	96	12.31
11	437	Spread	5	95	12.18
11	476	Ring ditch [478]	23	407	52.18
11	544	Subsoil	1	29	3.72
Total			*47*	*780*	*100.00*

Table 3 Romano-British pottery by trench and context

6.2.2.2 Methodology

The assemblage was assessed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x20 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW). Vessel form was recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

6.2.2.3 The Fabrics

Seven individual fabrics were identified. Sandy grey ware and West Norfolk reduced ware are the two utilitarian coarse wares that form the majority of this assemblage. Sandy grey wares were the most common fabric found (*c*.43% by

weight), identified in the form of medium-mouthed jars. These vessels were used for small-scale food storage, and the preparation and serving of food. This fabric type is unsourced, but likely to have been produced locally, as pottery production is known to have taken place at several settlement sites in the vicinity, including Denver, Watlington, Runcton Holme (NHER 2397; Gurney 1986, 144) and West Dereham.

Fabric	Code	Sherds	Sherd Weight (g)	Sherd Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware	SGW	15	334	42.82
West Norfolk reduced ware	WNRW	22	281	36.03
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	2	96	12.31
Nene Valley colour coat	NVCC	1	29	3.72
West Norfolk oxidised ware	WNOW	4	29	3.72
South Midland shell-tempered ware	SMSTW	2	8	1.03
Shell-tempered ware	STW	1	3	0.37
Total		*47*	*780*	*100.00*

Table 4 Romano-British pottery in descending order of percentage of weight

The other coarse ware type also well represented within this assemblage (*c*.36%) is West Norfolk reduced ware. This is a rough utilitarian fabric produced and used on the Roman fen-edge between the mid-2nd–4th centuries AD (Lyons 2004, 34). It was made at several centres, including Shouldham a short distance (*c*.4km) to the north of Crimplesham. Examples of decoration were noted including rustication (clay dribbled onto the surface of the pot before firing) and coarse rouletting. Oxidised sherds manufactured in the same location were also identified.

Pottery fabrics present but less well represented within this group are Sandy oxidised wares, shell-tempered wares and a single sherd of Nene Valley colour coat. The Sandy oxidised wares are unsourced, but of probable local manufacture, while the shell-tempered wares are typical of South Midland shell-tempered wares produced in the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire and imported into the region during the later Roman period. A single sherd of shell-tempered pottery that may have originated form the Lower Nene Valley was also found.

The only pottery fine ware fragment recovered during this project is the Nene Valley colour coat beaker-base found in the subsoil of Trench 11; it dates from between the mid-2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

6.2.2.4 Discussion

This small pottery assemblage was recovered from the rich archaeological landscape of the Roman Fen-edge (Gregory 1982; Gurney 1986, 147–8) in West Norfolk. This area was well connected in Roman times as it lay close to the Fen Causeway (Wallis 2002, 1, fig. 1) which was the main east–west route across northern East Anglia. The survey area also lay close to the projected route of the north–south Roman road, Akeman Street, which is thought to have been located just to the west of Denver (Lyons 2004, fig. 1).

The Romano-British pottery recovered at Crimplesham is typical of the area and its fabrics and forms are seen in other Fen-edge assemblages (Gurney 1986; 1990; Lyons 2001; 2004).

No fine wares, such as Samian were recovered, neither were specialist wares such as amphora or mortaria. A single Nene Valley colour coat (Tyers 1996, 173–5) beaker-base was the only non-coarse ware pottery fragment retrieved. The absence (or rarity) of these vessel types may be due to the limited nature of the evaluation or it may be a genuine absence and reflect the low status of the settlement from which this material derived. Therefore, the presence of this quantity and type of Romano-British pottery suggests a low order Roman settlement was located here during the mid–late Roman period.

Overall this assemblage does not require further analysis or individual publication. More extensive excavation, however, may reveal additional Romano-British pottery. A larger assemblage would be particularly interesting as it would have the potential to establish if the absence of fine and specialist wares within the evaluation group is genuine. Also it may be possible to prove definitively when the Roman settlement ceased.

6.2.3 Saxon pottery

by Sue Anderson

6.2.3.1 Introduction

Eleven sherds of pottery weighing 127g were collected from six contexts. The pottery is catalogued in Appendix 3c.

6.2.3.2 Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series, which includes Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Midlands fabrics.

6.2.3.3 The assemblage

All fragments were body sherds and were generally undecorated, although surface treatment in the form of smoothing was common. Forms were not identifiable. The exception, a carinated body sherd from spoilheap [408], was decorated with incised lines and angular ‘S’ stamps and was probably part of a biconical jar with chevron decoration.

Two sherds from Trench 7 were organic-tempered and likely to belong to the second half of the Early Saxon period. Also from this trench was an abraded medium sandy sherd which appeared to be handmade, but it showed some similarities with Thetford-type ware and may be later.

Sherds from Trench 8 were all Early Saxon and comprised material which could be dated to both the early and the later halves of the period.

Two sherds from Trench 11 were both handmade, but both contained flint inclusions. Although the flint was unburnt, there is still a possibility that both sherds could be Iron Age.

6.2.3.4 Discussion

This small group shows characteristics which indicate occupation throughout the Early Saxon period, with both early decorative techniques and later fabrics being present. Some flint-tempered sherds could not be confidently ascribed to this

phase of site use and may be prehistoric. Similar problems have been encountered in dating handmade pottery from other sites in Norfolk. At Tittleshall, for example, an Early Saxon cemetery produced organic-tempered vessels, but nearby pits contained sherds tempered with unburnt flint which could not be allocated with any confidence to either the Iron Age or the Early Saxon period (Anderson forthcoming). Though on balance the few forms encountered in the pits at Tittleshall appeared closer to Belgic than Saxon types, until a wider range of forms is available for study, the dating of this fabric remains unresolved.

6.3 Fired Clay

by Sarah Percival

Fired clay was recovered from four contexts (Appendix 4). Eight pieces weighing 0.084g were found, mostly small abraded fragments in soft poorly fired fabric. One large fragment from SFB [471] in Trench 12 is from a loomweight of Hurst's Early Saxon annular type (Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24). Annular loomweights are the most common type found in the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon settlement and are found in quantity at sites such as Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 66). The fragment has a thumbed or pulled-out central perforation characteristic of the annular form and is made of well-fired sandy fabric with sparse angular flint inclusions.

6.4 Lava

by Sarah Percival

Seven pieces of lava quern weighing 0.768kg were recovered from four contexts (Appendix 5). All of the pieces are of grey vesicular lava; one piece, from unstratified context [407], has two surviving opposing flat surfaces. The piece is thin, a maximum of 31mm, and heavily abraded, although traces of furrows survive on one surface. The remaining fragments are also heavily abraded giving the pieces a rounded appearance. Lava was imported into Britain from sources in the Rhineland throughout the Roman period and again from the Middle Saxon until the medieval periods (Watts 2002, 33). The lava found at Crimplesham was probably imported during the Roman period and perhaps reused during earlier Saxon activity at the site.

6.5 Stone

by Sarah Percival

Three pieces of natural unutilised stone from unstratified contexts were discarded.

6.6 Metal Working Debris

by Sarah Percival

Fifteen pieces of possible slag weighing 0.089kg were recovered from the fill of pit [481]. The iron-rich nodule fragments are perhaps associated with iron smelting.

6.7 Small finds

by Julia Huddle

6.7.1 Summary

Ten small finds, excluding four coins (which are reported on below 6.8), were recovered on site from seven contexts and from Trenches 3, 7, 11 and 12, see Appendix 6. They date from the Roman period to the late 9th or 10th centuries. The majority of finds are from the fills of two Early Saxon SFBs, one in Trench 7 and the other in Trench 12. A strap-end is from the upper fill of a ring-ditch [433] in Trench 3 and a lump of lead is unstratified. The assemblage is discussed by feature type.

6.7.2 Unstratified material

A lump of molten lead (SF3) weighing 517g is unstratified.

6.7.3 Ring ditch 432 Trench 3

A Borre-style strap-end (SF5, Plate 1), is from the upper fill of ring ditch [432]. This object is typical of Thomas' Class E Type 4 and probably dates to the late 9th/10th century (Thomas 2004, fig. 4, no. 29). The top panel has an incised border with ring-and-dot ornament beside a single rivet hole. The design on the main panel is of an animal mask *en face*, above a segmented upper body with two frond-like limbs. The oval lower body contains two frond-like lower limbs.

This design is replicated on a small group of strap-ends from East Anglia (*ibid.*) and although there is a slight fissure across the main body of the strap-end, it is otherwise in good condition – those previously recorded are all in a fragmentary condition – making this an important addition to the known examples.

6.7.4 Sunken Featured Building [491], Trench 7

The writer is am extremely grateful to Tim Pestell (Norwich Castle Museum) for all his help in identifying the horse harness (SF 9) and for providing references.

SFB [491] in Trench 7 produced four items, most notable of which is an incomplete two-link snaffle-with-cheek-bar bit and distribution links for securing horse harness tack (SF 9, Plate 2). Early Anglo-Saxon horse harness is rare in England, with only thirty-eight extant bridle bits known for this period (Fern 2005, 47) and found mostly from the rite of horse inhumation or the provision of horse equipment as a grave good. Fern (*ibid.*, 43) argues that although the archaeological corpus in this country is small, it does provide evidence for 'an equestrian culture at the top level of society'. The presence therefore of a harness from an SFB is extremely interesting and provides us with a rare setting for a horse bridle during this period. It must also signal the presence of some high-status occupation at Crimplesham.

The three other finds from SFB [491] comprise a copper-alloy ear-scoop (SF 15) and a pin (SF 13), the latter with possible gilding seen on the recessed parts of the decorative head. Copper-alloy dress-pins are occasionally recovered from Early Saxon buildings, such as at the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Mucking, Essex (Hamerow 1993, 63). Finally, a perforated lead disc (SF 14) is similar to the six perforated discs at Mucking thought to be spindle-whorls (*ibid*., 70).

6.7.5 Sunken Featured Building [471] Trench 12

SFB [471] produced three iron objects; one a whittle-tang knife (SF 10), is a Type 5 knife, following Evison's classification of the knives from the large 5th to the late 7th or early 8th-century cemetery at Dover (1987, fig. 65). Type 5 is largely of 7th-century date (Penn 2000, 56). The second is a small hooked wire rod pointed at both ends (SF 11) from context [474]. The third comprises two strip fragments of similar dimensions (SF 12) from context [474]. Finally, part of a cylindrical opaque green glass bead (SF 6) is from context [472]. Following Brugmann's classification of beads from Harford Farm (2000, 91–5) this bead is a 'Wound Spiral' bead. Wound Spiral beads are short cylinders or barrel-shaped beads wound from pea- or apple-green or red opaque glass onto a relatively thick rod producing a bead with a large perforation and a trace of a spiral on one or both perforated sides. The type is diagnostic of 'Final Phase' graves across 7th- and early 8th-century England.

6.7.6 Conclusion

The small finds indicate occupation during the Early Saxon period, as does the Early Saxon pottery and a loom weight. Although this assemblage is relatively small it forms an interesting and, in the case of a rare horse snaffle bit, an important group of Early Saxon stratified material. Only a handful of early Saxon settlements have been discovered in Norfolk and the discovery at Crimplesham of two SFBs is therefore of great interest.

If further archaeological work is undertaken here it is recommended that the relevant specialists are contacted at the outset of work and provision made for their input into the final report on the small finds.

6.8 Coins

by Andy Barnett

Four coins were recovered during the evaluation. Two are Roman, one is medieval and one is post-medieval (Appendix 7).

SF1

Context [400]: Royal Farthing, Richmond Type (1626–33), of Charles I (1625–49)

Obverse: […]O DG M[…]

A pair of sceptres crossed saltire through a crown.

Reverse: Illegible

A harp is just visible

This is a large fragment of a Richmond type royal farthing. The flan is very thin and the edge is cracked at 2 o'clock. Both faces are worn.

SF2

Context [400]: A cut Halfpenny, Class V (1251–72), of Henry III (1216–72).

Obverse: hEN[…] III'

Crowned head facing, sceptre in right hand.

Reverse: ION-ON-[…]

Voided long cross with three pellets in each angle.

This cut halfpenny of Henry III is in good condition with some wear. It was probably minted in Canterbury. Ion was the moneyer and his name crops up in several mints across England. The format of the reverse legend lends itself to the mint probably being Canterbury.

SF7

Context [492], an AE4 provisionally of the House of Constantine (AD 307–64)

Obverse: DN[…]

?Pearl diademed bust right

Reverse: Illegible

This AE4 is worn on both faces and has corrosion on about 50% of its edge. The reverse is almost entirely illegible although some detail can be made out, though not identified, around its edge. The obverse has the remnant of a legend and the worn bust still apparent.

While this type coin can be dated to the latter part of the western empire this particular coin was recovered from a later feature dated to the Early-to-Middle Saxon period. It has been pierced through the centre to enable it to be strung and used as part of a pendant decoration of some kind.

Further research into the use of late Roman coinage as jewellery might be helpful and a closer look at the coin itself may narrow down the date and emperor.

SF8

Context [476], an Antoninianus of Victorinus (268–70)

Obverse: […]CTORINVS PF AVG

Radiate, cuirassed bust right.

Reverse: SALVS […]

Salus standing, feeding serpent in arms.

The reverse of this coin is worn with two small areas of corrosion. The obverse is in quite good condition and the majority of the legend is readable.

6.9 Other metal finds

by Julia Huddle

Four copper-alloy and nine iron object fragments were recovered from unstratified deposits from the Evaluation at Crimplesham Quarry, most were found by metal-detector (Appendix 8). They are either post-medieval, such as a badly worn coin, a buckle and a cartridge case, or are too fragmentary to identify positively.

6.10 Flint

6.10.1 Introduction

Fifty-three struck flints were recovered from twenty-one contexts. A fragment of burnt cherty flint, weighing 0.30kg, was also found; it has been discarded. The flint is summarised in Table 5 and listed by context in Appendix 9.

Type	Number
Multi-platform flake core	2
Single-platform flake core	1
Tested piece	2
Struck fragment	3
Flake	24
Blade-like flake	2
Blade	7
Bladelet	1
Spall	3
Chip	1
Awl	1
Retouched flake	4
Utilised blade	2
Total	*53*
Burnt fragment	1

Table 5 Summary of the flint

6.10.2 The assemblage

There are two irregular multi-platform flake cores, from contexts [400] and [406], and a small chunky single-platform flake core from [412]. There are also two irregular tested pieces from [585] and [625], and three small miscellaneous struck fragments; one piece from context [400] and two from [625].

Twenty-four flakes are present. These are predominantly irregular and squat pieces, many of them quite small. The debitage ranges from cortical flakes resulting from the initial trimming of cores ([627]) to part of a fairly large regular flake which was probably struck from a prepared core ([400]). There are two blade-like flakes from [611] and [616].

Eight blades and a small bladelet are present. Several of the blades are quite small and neat and have been struck from prepared cores ([400]), two from [611] and [618]. One slightly larger blade was found in [438], it was struck by hard-hammer and is patinated.

Very few retouched or utilised pieces are present. An irregular fragment of a flake with retouch and utilisation of opposing sides of its point has been classified as an awl ([472]). Four retouched flakes, three from [400] and [585], and two utilised blades, both from [400], were also found. One blade is small with utilised edges, the other, slightly larger piece, has utilised edges and wear or possible retouch across its distal edge.

6.10.3 Distribution of flint by trench

Trench 2: A single small flake came from an unstratified context in Trench 2.

Trench 3: Two flakes and a bladelet came from unstratified contexts in Trench 3.

Trench 4: Three irregular flakes and a blade came from a layer of sandy probable colluvium in Trench 4.

Trench 6: An irregular core and two flakes came from unstratified contexts in Trench 6.

Trench 7: In Trench 7, an abraded fragment of possibly struck flint was unstratified and an irregular flake came from pit [481].

Trench 11: Two flakes, one small and squat and the other with patinated cortex, came from fills of ditch [478] in Trench 11.

Trench 12: An irregular awl and a small flake came from fills of SFB [471] and a thick irregular flake was found in pit [546]. A small chunky single platform flake core was from an unstratified context.

Trench 22: Twenty-one struck flints were found in Trench 22. Two blades (both with abraded platforms), a blade-like flake, an irregular flake and a spall were found in pit [610]. All the pieces are small. Three flakes came from hollow [613] and two small blades, a blade-like flake and a small chip were found in hollow [615]. From the fills of the ring-ditch [580] came a tested piece and a struck fragment, a small neat blade with abraded platform, and four flakes one of which was from the initial trimming of a core and two of which were similar quite small subcircular flakes. One flake came from an unstratified context in the trench.

Trench 24: A tested piece and a small neat retouched flake were found in possibly natural feature [584] in Trench 24. Eleven flints were recovered from general unstratified context [400]. They include a core, a struck fragment, a blade, a flake, two spalls, three retouched flakes, two utilised blades.

6.10.4 Discussion

This relatively small assemblage of worked flint is indicative of activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period. Flint was found, mostly in small amounts, from unstratified contexts and from excavated deposits in several of the excavated trenches. It is notable that only very small numbers of flints came from the areas of the two ring-ditches at the north-western end of the site. The largest amount of flint from a single trench was from Trench 22, which was sited to investigate another ring-ditch. The flint from Trench 22 was notable for the inclusion of several small neat blades, including pieces with abraded platforms. It seems likely that these are of relatively early, Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date. If this is the case it seems possible either that some of the excavated features might pre-date the ring-ditch and/or that at least some of the flint could be residual in the excavated deposits.

7.0 The Environmental Evidence

7.1 Faunal remains

by Julie Curl

7.1.1 Methodology

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A note was made of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context examined. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets. A table giving a summary of the information is included in Appendix 10.

7.1.2 The assemblage

A total of 2.582kg of bone, consisting of 380 pieces, was recovered from excavations at this site. All of the material was hand-collected, no environmental samples were included in the assemblage. Faunal remains were recovered from contexts of possible later prehistoric to Early Saxon date, including ring-ditches, SFBs, a pit fill, and unstratified deposits.

The remains were in good to poor condition, with some bones having porous and cracked surfaces. Apart from the remains from context [526], bone was generally quite fragmented from butchering and wear, with particularly high fragmentation noted from contexts [484] and [492]. The sheep/goat humerus from [441] had been burnt at a fairly low temperature or for a short period, resulting in blackened areas on most of the bone and is suggestive of waste thrown into the fire.

Canid gnawing seen on a distal cattle humerus from [407] and on a cattle metatarsal from [443]. Further gnawing was seen on cattle bones from [484], suggestive of scavenger activity. Some insect damage was noted on the surface of bones from [407]. More extensive insect damage was seen on cattle and equid bones from [484].

7.1.3 Results and discussion

Sheep/goat were the most common species in his assemblage in terms of the number of fragments identified to a species, although this total was distorted by the remains of a reasonably complete juvenile animal from [526]. Other sheep/goat bone was recorded in four other contexts, although in small numbers; these remains included juvenile teeth from [484] and several butchered bones from a sub-adult sheep from [492].

Context [526], a ditch fill, produced much of the main body, upper jaw fragment and the left mandible of a juvenile sheep. The remains from [526] consisted of femurs, humeri, tibias, scapulas, vertebrae, ribs, upper jaw and mandible; the mandible shows the Dp4 molar quite worn, suggesting the animal died at around six months old. No butchering was seen on any of the juvenile sheep/goat bones, so this animal had not been used for meat or even skinned. Whole or partial burials of sheep are known from other sites of a similar date, but this is still quite

unusual. Remains consisting of at least three individual skinned lambs were found in a Roman pit fill at Wimbotsham in Norfolk (Curl 2007). A whole immature sheep and a one-year-old pig were recovered from an Iron Age ditch fill in Essex (Luff 1985). Various animal burials were found at Scole, including partially articulated remains, part butchered (possibly to fit in the deposit), but not eaten (Baker 1996). Several partial skeletons of sheep and lambs were found in a pit and two other fills at Springhead Roman town in Kent (Wilson 1994), which included a 3rd–4th-century context with two or three partial sheep exhibiting limited butchering. There are some indications (most famously at Danebury: Cunliffe 1984) that whole animal skeletons or animal parts sometimes received burial or careful deposition in a variety of contexts. It is possible that these indigenous Iron Age beliefs and practices continued into Roman Britain and possibly later periods. It is possible that the lamb/kid had died a natural death and/or been attacked by dogs, this would render the animal 'impure' and unfit for human consumption (Hagen 2006).

Cattle were identified from five contexts. Most bones were from butchered adult animals, although one 4th deciduous pre-molar (Dp4) was noted from [492]. Numerous cattle bones were found in [484], which included at least two individuals, small and large, suggesting male and female and possibly indicating a mixed herd. The cattle teeth from [407] showed a high build-up of dental calculus, suggesting an animal fed on poorer quality food. Several cattle remains were examined from [492], including a horncore with an oval depression on the rear of the horn, which could be the result of nutritional problems, over-milking or over-breeding. This depression on the horn may also be as a result of the regular pressure of a yoke, which may indicate this cow had been used a draught animal (Albarella 1995).

One context produced equid remains; an adult pony-sized animal was recovered from context [484]. No butchering was seen on any of the equid bones, which would be expected if the animal was utilized in any way. Nine pig bones were found, one from context [484] and eight from a butchered juvenile animal from [492].

Bird bones consisted of fragments of a large goose femur and humerus from [492] and a probable pheasant tibiotarsus, also from [492]. No obvious butchering was seen on any of the bird bone, although little butchering is needed for many birds, so the lack of butchering does not rule out their use as food.

Butchering was noted on many bones, but some remains had poor surfaces to the bone, resulting in surfaces of a porous, cracked and powdery nature which made identification of butchering marks difficult. The butchering of the main meat animals included chopping to dismember the carcass and finer cuts on larger bones from removal of the meat.

7.2 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

7.2.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the evaluation of the preservation and content of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and eight were submitted for assessment. Ten-litre sub-samples of each sample were processed by manual water flotation/washover and

the flots were collected in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16. The plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 11. Nomenclature within the appendix follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

7.2.2 Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common weed plants were recorded within four of the assemblages studied. Preservation was poor to moderate, with most of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) grains were recorded, although rarely as more than one specimen within an assemblage. Individual seeds of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), bedstraw type (*Galium* sp.) and an indeterminate small legume (Fabaceae) were also recorded, along with a single possible hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment. Charcoal/ charred wood fragments were present throughout, and a single piece of heather (Ericaceae) stem was noted in sample 5, from the fill of SFB [471]. The fragments of black porous and tarry material were probably residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures and other remains included bone fragments (some of which were burnt) and small pieces of burnt or fired clay.

7.2.3 Conclusions

The assemblage from sample 1 (context [493]) is typical of material from other contemporary SFBs within East Anglia, containing a low density of probable domestic hearth waste, including cereal grains, which were possibly accidentally spilled during culinary preparation. Similar material may also be present within sample 5 from SFB [471] and sample 8 (ring-ditch [580]), although the latter would appear to be of prehistoric date and may, therefore, be derived from the floor sweepings from a round-house or similar structure. The material within the remaining assemblages is almost certainly derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

Although the current assemblages are very small, they do illustrate that charred plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Crimplesham Quarry. It is, therefore, recommended that if further archaeological investigations are undertaken, a strategy for comprehensive plant macrofossil sampling should be included within the excavation brief and provision for specialist site visits should be made, with all relevant specialists contacted at the outset of the work.

8.0 Conclusions

The work at the site has revealed evidence dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods.

A possible colluvial deposit in Trench 4 contained a few struck flints and may be of prehistoric date. A few features, excavated in the area enclosed by the ring-ditch in Trench 22 might pre-date that monument and would have been sealed by the building of a barrow mound. Pottery of earlier Neolithic date was found in one pit, and flints, including several neat blades and blade-like pieces which are likely to be of the same date as the pottery, came from the pit and from two irregular features. Another neat blade with an abraded platform came from the fill of the ring-ditch and might have been residual.

The evaluation work has enabled the recording by excavation of the three main ring-ditches known from cropmarks and identified by geophysical survey. Some sherds of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age pottery from one ring-ditch and a sherd of Bronze Age pottery from another suggest dates for the monuments, although later material was also found in the upper fills of two of the ring-ditches. The two ring-ditches situated along the north-western, and higher, part of the site appeared to be quite heavily truncated while that in the lower-lying south-eastern area was deeper. The latter was the only one of the three ring-ditches where features survived in the area enclosed by the ditch.

Of the two possible ring-ditches which were suggested by the results of the geophysical survey, that in Trench 1 might have been outside the excavated area. In Trench 23, a possible ditch terminus was excavated and might have represented a ring-ditch. It was not dated by finds.

Iron Age (or possible Iron Age) pottery was found in several of the excavated trenches. This included sherds which were recovered from the fills of the ring-ditch in Trench 11 and from deposits which filled, or were associated with, the SFB in Trench 12. The similarity of some Iron Age and Early Saxon pottery means that the dating of some of this pottery may be uncertain. The presence of at least some Iron Age pottery does, however, indicate the likelihood of activity in the vicinity of the site during this period.

Romano-British pottery was recovered in small amounts from three trenches in the higher, north-western part of the site. The pottery was found in the fills of two ring-ditches and in a post-hole associated with an SFB. It represents activity in the vicinity of the site during the Roman period, but none of the excavated features can be securely dated to this period. Two coins, found by metal-detector, date to the Roman period, but one of them has been re-used, probably as jewellery, and may relate to the Saxon activity at the site (see below).

Two SFBs, characteristic of the Early Saxon period, were excavated at the site, one in each of Trenches 7 and 12. These are significant, since no evidence of this date was previously known from the area. The building excavated in Trench 7 was large and included a fairly deep pit and substantial post-holes. Both of the excavated SFBs correspond to anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey and it is noted that, in both cases, there are several other similar-looking anomalies outside the excavated trenches and close to the excavated buildings. It is possible that other SFBs exist and would be revealed by further excavation.

Pottery of Saxon date was found only in small amounts at the site and came mostly from unstratified deposits, but single sherds were recovered from the fills of a pit in Trench 7 and a ditch in Trench 8. It is possible that these, and other undated features, might be contemporary with the SFBs. Other finds of Early Saxon date include a rare example of a snaffle bit which might suggest a relatively high-status settlement. A coin of Roman date, which has been pierced, was found in the fill of the larger SFB and was probably re-used as jewellery during the Saxon period.

A Late Saxon Borre-style strap-end was recovered from the upper fill of ring-ditch [432].

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Type	Trench	Category	Cut	Description	Period
400	Deposit	All	Unstratified		General unstratified	
401	Deposit	1	Unstratified			
402	Deposit	2	Unstratified			
403	Deposit	3	Unstratified			
404	Deposit	4	Unstratified			
405	Deposit	5	Unstratified			
406	Deposit	6	Unstratified			
407	Deposit	7	Unstratified			
408	Deposit	8	Unstratified			
409	Deposit	9	Unstratified			
410	Deposit	10	Unstratified			
411	Deposit	11	Unstratified			
412	Deposit	12	Unstratified			
413	Deposit	13	Unstratified			
414	Deposit	14	Unstratified			
415	Deposit	15	Unstratified			
416	Deposit	16	Unstratified			
417	Deposit	17	Unstratified			
418	Deposit	18	Unstratified			
419	Deposit	19	Unstratified			
420	Deposit	20	Unstratified			
421	Deposit	21	Unstratified			
422	Deposit	22	Unstratified			
423	Deposit	23	Unstratified			
424	Deposit	24	Unstratified			
425	Deposit	1	Topsoil			Modern
426	Deposit	1	Subsoil			
427	Deposit	All	Natural deposits			
428	Deposit	2	Topsoil			Modern
429	Deposit	2	Subsoil			
430	Deposit	3	Topsoil			Modern
431	Deposit	3	Subsoil			
432	Cut	3	Ditch	432	Ring-ditch	?Bronze Age
433	Deposit	3	Ditch fill	432		?Bronze Age
434	Deposit	4	Topsoil			Modern
435	Deposit	4	Subsoil			
436	Deposit	11	Ditch fill	478		?Bronze Age
437	Deposit	11	Spread			?Bronze Age
438	Deposit	4	Layer		Possible colluvium	?prehistoric
439	Deposit	8	Ditch fill	440		Undated
440	Cut	8	Ditch	440		Undated
441	Deposit	8	Ditch fill	442		Undated
442	Cut	8	Ditch	442	Same as ditch 444	Undated
443	Deposit	8	Ditch fill	444		Undated
444	Cut	8	Ditch	444	Same as ditch 442	Undated
445	Deposit	3	Ditch fill	432		?Bronze Age
446	Deposit	3	Ditch fill	432		?Bronze Age
447	Cut	7	Pit	447		?Early Saxon
448	Deposit	7	Pit fill	447		?Early Saxon
449	Deposit	7	Pit fill	447		?Early Saxon
452	Deposit	5	Topsoil			Modern
453	Deposit	5	Subsoil			
454	Deposit	8	Topsoil			Modern

Context	Type	Trench	Category	Cut	Description	Period
455	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
456	Deposit	6	Topsoil			Modern
457	Deposit	6	Subsoil			
458	Deposit	9	Topsoil			Modern
459	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
460	Deposit	7	Topsoil			Modern
461	Deposit	7	Subsoil			
462	Deposit	10	Topsoil			Modern
463	Deposit	10	Subsoil			
464	Deposit	11	Topsoil			Modern
465	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
466	Deposit	12	Topsoil			Modern
467	Deposit	12	Subsoil			
468	Deposit	13	Topsoil			Modern
469	Deposit	13	Subsoil			
470	Deposit	16	Topsoil			Modern
471	Cut	12	Building	471	SFB	Early Saxon
472	Deposit	12	Building fill	471		Early Saxon
473	Deposit	12	Building fill	471		Early Saxon
474	Deposit	12	Building fill	471		Early Saxon
475	Deposit	12	Building fill	471		Early Saxon
476	Deposit	11	Ditch fill	478		?Bronze Age
477	Deposit	11	Ditch fill	478		?Bronze Age
478	Cut	11	Ditch	478	Ring-ditch	?Bronze Age
479	Deposit	11	Pit fill	480		?Iron Age
480	Cut	11	Pit	480		?Iron Age
481	Cut	7	Pit	481		?Early Saxon
482	Deposit	7	Pit fill	481		?Early Saxon
483	Deposit	7	Pit fill	481		?Early Saxon
484	Deposit	7	Pit fill	481		?Early Saxon
485	Deposit	7	Pit fill	481		?Early Saxon
486	Cut	7	Pit	486		?Early Saxon
487	Deposit	7	Pit fill	486		?Early Saxon
490	Deposit	7	Building fill	491		Early Saxon
491	Cut	7	Building	491		Early Saxon
492	Deposit	7	Building fill	491		Early Saxon
493	Deposit	7	Building fill	491		Early Saxon
494	Deposit	7	Building fill	491		Early Saxon
495	Cut	7	Post-hole	495	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
496	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	495		Early Saxon
497	Cut	7	Post-hole	497	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
498	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	497		Early Saxon
499	Cut	7	Post-hole	499	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
500	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	499		Early Saxon
501	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
502	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
503	Cut	7	Post-hole	503	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
504	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	503		Early Saxon
505	Cut	7	Post-hole	505	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
506	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	505	Post-packing	Early Saxon
507	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	505	Post-pipe	Early Saxon
508	Cut	7	Post-hole	508	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
509	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	508		Early Saxon
510	Cut	7	Post-hole	510	Part of SFB 491	Early Saxon
511	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	510		Early Saxon
512	Unused	-	-	-	-	-

Context	Type	Trench	Category	Cut	Description	Period
513	Cut	12	Post-hole	513	Part of SFB 471	Early Saxon
514	Deposit	12	Post-hole fill	513		Early Saxon
515	Cut	12	Hollow	515	Hollow in SFB 471	Early Saxon
515	Deposit	12	Building fill	471		Early Saxon
517	Deposit	12	Hollow fill	515		Early Saxon
518	Cut	12	Post-hole	518	Part of SFB 471	Early Saxon
519	Deposit	12	Post-hole fill	518		Early Saxon
520	Cut	10	Ditch	520		Undated
521	Deposit	10	Ditch fill	520		Undated
522	Cut	10	Ditch	522		Undated
523	Cut	14	Ditch	523		Undated
524	Deposit	14	Ditch fill	523		Undated
525	Cut	14	Ditch	525		Undated
526	Deposit	14	Ditch fill	525		Undated
527	Deposit	10	Ditch fill	522		Undated
528	Deposit	10	Ditch fill	530		Undated
529	Deposit	10	Ditch fill	520		Undated
530	Cut	10	Ditch	530	Recut of ditch 520	Undated
531	Deposit	18	Post-hole fill	532		Undated
532	Cut	18	Post-hole	532		Undated
533	Deposit	17	Pit fill	534		Undated
534	Cut	17	Pit	534		Undated
535	Deposit	21	Ditch fill	536		Undated
536	Cut	21	Ditch	536		Undated
537	Cut	12	Post-hole	538	Part of SFB 471	Early Saxon
538	Deposit	12	Post-hole fill	537		Early Saxon
539	Deposit	17	Topsoil			Modern
540	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
541	Deposit	18	Topsoil			Modern
542	Deposit	21	Topsoil			Modern
543	Deposit	21	Subsoil			
544	Deposit	11	Subsoil			
545	Cut	10	Pit	545	Or natural feature	Undated
546	Cut	12	Pit	546		?Early Saxon
547	Deposit	12	Pit fill	546		?Early Saxon
548	Deposit	12	Pit fill	546		?Early Saxon
549	Unused	-	-	-	-	-
550	Deposit	14	Ditch fill	525		Undated
551	Deposit	10	Pit fill	545	Or natural feature	Undated
552	Deposit	13	Subsoil			
553	Deposit	24	Topsoil			Modern
554	Deposit	24	Subsoil			
555	Deposit	14	Topsoil			Modern
556	Deposit	14	Subsoil			
557	Deposit	12	Layer			Undated
558	Deposit	12	Layer			Undated
559	Deposit	12	Layer		Probably subsoil	Undated
560	Cut	12	Post-hole	560	Or part of 546	Undated
561	Deposit	12	Post-hole fill	560		Undated
562	Cut	14	Pit	562		Undated
563	Deposit	14	Pit fill	562		Undated
564	Deposit	7	Layer			Undated
565	Cut	12	Post-hole	565	?Part of SFB 471	Early Saxon
566	Deposit	12	Post-hole fill	565		Early Saxon
567	Deposit	19	Layer		Disturbance or spread	Undated
568	Deposit	19	Layer		Disturbance or spread	Undated

Context	Type	Trench	Category	Cut	Description	Period
569	Deposit	19	Layer		Disturbance or spread	Undated
570	Deposit	19	Topsoil			Modern
571	Deposit	19	Subsoil			
572	Cut	16	Pit	572	Irregular/disturbance	Undated
573	Deposit	16	Pit fill	572		Undated
574	Cut	20	Pit	574		Undated
575	Deposit	20	Pit fill	574		Undated
576	Deposit	20	Topsoil			Modern
577	Deposit	20	Subsoil			
578	Deposit	22	Topsoil			Modern
579	Deposit	22	Subsoil			
580	Cut	22	Ditch	580	Ring-ditch	Bronze Age
581	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
582	Cut	24	Post-hole	582	Or natural feature	Undated
583	Deposit	24	Post-hole fill	582		Undated
584	Cut	24	Natural feature	584		Undated
585	Deposit	24	Natural fill	584		Undated
586	Deposit	24	Natural fill	584		Undated
587	Cut	15	Pit	587		Undated
588	Deposit	15	Pit fill	587		Undated
589	Cut	15	Ditch	589		Undated
590	Deposit	15	Ditch fill	589		Undated
591	Cut	20	Hollow	591	Possibly natural	Undated
592	Deposit	20	Hollow fill	591		Undated
593	Cut	23	Pit	593		Bronze Age
594	Deposit	23	Pit fill	593		Bronze Age
595	Cut	23	Pit	595		?Bronze Age
596	Deposit	23	Pit fill	595		?Bronze Age
597	Cut	23	Pit	597		?Bronze Age
598	Deposit	23	Pit fill	597		?Bronze Age
599	Cut	23	Pit	599		Undated
600	Deposit	23	Pit fill	599		Undated
601	Deposit	23	Pit fill	599		Undated
602	Deposit	23	Pit fill	599		Undated
603	Deposit	23	Topsoil			Modern
604	Deposit	23	Subsoil			
605	Cut	23	Ditch	605		?Prehistoric
606	Deposit	23	Ditch	605		?Prehistoric
607	Cut	23	Pit	607		Undated
608	Deposit	23	Pit fill	607		Undated
609	Deposit	23	Layer			Undated
610	Cut	22	Pit	610		?Neolithic
611	Deposit	22	Pit fill	610		?Neolithic
612	Deposit	22	Pit fill	610		?Neolithic
613	Cut	22	Hollow	613	?Animal disturbance	?Neolithic
614	Deposit	22	Hollow fill	613		?Neolithic
615	Cut	22	Hollow	615	?Animal disturbance	?Neolithic
616	Deposit	22	Hollow fill	615		?Neolithic
617	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
618	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
619	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
619	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
620	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
621	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
622	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
623	Deposit	23	Pit fill	607		Undated

Context	Type	Trench	Category	Cut	Description	Period
624	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
625	Deposit	22	Ditch fill	580		Bronze Age
626	Cut	22	Pit	626		?Iron Age
627	Deposit	22	Pit fill	626		?Iron Age
628	Cut	22	Pit	628	Or post-hole	?Prehistoric
629	Deposit	22	Pit fill	628		?Prehistoric
630	Cut	22	Pit	630	Or post-hole	?Prehistoric
631	Deposit	22	Pit fill	630		?Prehistoric

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Unknown	Ditch	9
	Pit	7
	Post-hole	1
Prehistoric (500,000 BC to AD 42)	Ditch	1
	Pit	2
	Layer	1
Neolithic (4000 to 2201 BC)	Pit	3
Bronze Age (2500 to 701 BC)	Ring-ditch	3
	Pit	3
Iron Age (800 BC to AD 42)	Pit	1
Early Saxon (410 to 650 AD)	SFB	2
	Pit	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
400	Flint – worked	11	-	Prehistoric
400	Pottery	1	0.001	Prehistoric
402	Flint – worked	2	-	Prehistoric
402	Pottery	1	0.006	Prehistoric
403	Flint – worked	3	-	Prehistoric
406	Flint – worked	3	-	Prehistoric
407	Pottery	1	0.004	Saxon
407	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
407	Animal Bone	-	0.238	Undiagnostic
407	Fired Clay	1	0.001	Undiagnostic
407	Stone	2	0.986	Undiagnostic
408	Pottery	5	0.018	Saxon
408	Animal Bone	-	0.055	Undiagnostic
410	Pottery	1	0.002	Prehistoric
411	Pottery	4	0.147	Prehistoric and Roman
411	Stone	1	0.155	Undiagnostic
412	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
422	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
433	Pottery	1	0.002	Roman
436	Pottery	17	0.139	Prehist., Sax. & Rom.
437	Pottery	5	0.096	Roman
438	Flint – worked	5	-	Prehistoric
439	Pottery	1	0.016	Prehistoric
441	Animal Bone	-	0.014	Undiagnostic
443	Flint – burnt	1	0.030	Prehistoric
443	Pottery	1	0.059	Saxon
443	Animal Bone	-	0.034	Undiagnostic
472	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
472	Pottery	4	0.013	Prehistoric
472	Animal Bone	-	0.014	Undiagnostic
474	Pottery	1	0.001	Prehistoric
474	Animal Bone	-	0.005	Undiagnostic
475	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
475	Pottery	1	0.011	Prehistoric
475	Animal Bone	-	0.064	Undiagnostic
475	Fired Clay	1	0.063	Undiagnostic
476	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
476	Pottery	26	0.463	Prehistoric and Roman
476	Fired Clay	3	0.014	Undiagnostic
477	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
479	Pottery	1	0.002	Prehistoric
483	Metal Working Debris	15	0.089	Undiagnostic
484	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
484	Animal Bone	-	0.987	Undiagnostic
484	Fired Clay	3	0.006	Undiagnostic
487	Pottery	1	0.006	Saxon
490	Pottery	1	0.013	Saxon
492	Animal Bone	-	0.939	Undiagnostic
492	Shell – Oyster	-	0.016	Undiagnostic
511	Pottery	3	0.013	Roman
514	Pottery	1	0.006	Prehistoric
514	Lava	4	0.009	Undiagnostic
526	Animal Bone	-	0.232	Undiagnostic

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
526	Iron Nail	1	-	Undiagnostic
544	Pottery	1	0.029	Roman
547	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
547	Pottery	3	0.034	Prehistoric
547	Stone	1	0.020	Undiagnostic
564	Lava	1	0.091	Undiagnostic
585	Flint – worked	2	-	Prehistoric
590	Pottery	2	0.019	Prehistoric
592	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
594	Pottery	6	0.027	Prehistoric
606	Pottery	1	0.005	Prehistoric
611	Flint – worked	5	-	Prehistoric
611	Pottery	3	0.017	Prehistoric
612	Pottery	3	0.018	Prehistoric
614	Flint – worked	3	-	Prehistoric
616	Flint – worked	4	-	Prehistoric
618	Flint – worked	1	-	Prehistoric
625	Flint – worked	6	-	Prehistoric
625	Pottery	1	0.019	Prehistoric
627	Flint - worked	1	-	Prehistoric
627	Pottery	1	0.004	Prehistoric

Appendix 2b: NHER Finds Summary Table

Period)	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Metalworking debris	15
	Iron artefact	1
	Iron strip	1
Prehistoric (500,000 BC to AD 42)	Pottery	4
	Worked flint	53
Early Neolithic (4000 to 3001 BC)	Pottery	6
Late Neolithic (2700 to 2201 BC)	Pottery	3
Bronze Age (2500 to 701 BC)	Pottery	5
Iron Age (800 BC to AD 42)	Pottery	18
Roman (AD 42 to 409)	Pottery	47
	Lava	?7
	Coin	2
Early Saxon (AD 410 to 650)	Pottery	11
	Fired clay	8
	Lava	?7
	Glass bead	1
	Iron snaffle	1
	Iron knife	1
	Copper-alloy pin	1
	Copper-alloy toilet implement	1
	Lead spindle whorl	1
Late Saxon (AD 851 to 1065)	Strap end	1
Post-medieval (AD 1540 to 1900)	Coin	1

Appendix 3a: Prehistoric Pottery

Key
R = Rim; U = Undecorated vessel fragment; D = Decorated vessel fragment; B = Base

Ctxt	Fab	Dsc	Qty	Wt (g)	Ctxt type	Cut	Trench	Comment	Spot-date
400	Q1	U	1	1	Unstrat.			Sandy sparse angular flint	Not closely datable prehistoric
402	F1	U	1	6	Unstrat.		2	Common small angular flint	Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age
410	F2	U	1	2	Unstrat.		10	Common small to medium sub-angular flint	Iron Age
411	F2	U	2	9	Unstrat.		11		Iron Age
436	F1	U	2	13	Ring-ditch	478	11		Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age
439	G1	U	1	16	Ditch	440	8	Grog small angular flint sand. Interior encrusted, thick walled, coil break	Bronze Age
472	F2	U	4	13	Sfb	471	12		Iron Age
474	F2	U	1	1	Sfb	471	12		Not closely datable prehistoric
475	Q1	D	1	11	Sfb	471	12	Fingernail impressed. Could be Saxon	Not closely datable prehistoric
476	F2	B	3	47	Ring-ditch	478	11		Iron Age
479	Q1	U	1	2	Pit	480	11		Iron Age
514	F1	U	1	6	Post-hole	513	12		Iron Age
547	Q1	U	3	34	Pit	546	12		Iron Age
590	Q1	D	2	19	Ditch	590	15	Fingernail impressed.	Iron Age
594	G1	B	1	11	Pit	593	23		Bronze Age
594	G1	U	2	14	Pit	593	23	Small Bronze Age vessel perhaps a plain Collared Urn	Bronze Age
606	Q1	U	1	5	Ditch	605	23		Not closely datable prehistoric
611	F3	U	3	17	Pit	610	22		Earlier Neolithic
612	F3	U	3	18	Pit	610	22		Earlier Neolithic
625	G1	B	1	19	Ring-ditch	580	22	Chunky base	Bronze Age
627	F2	U	1	4	Pit	626	22		Iron Age
Total			*36*	*577*					

Appendix 3b: The Romano-British pottery and fabric descriptions

Key
R = Rim; U = undecorated vessel fragment; D = decorated vessel fragment; B = Base
M = Mid; L = Late; C = Century

Ctxt	Fabric	Dsc	Qty	Wt (g)	Ctxt type	Cut	Trench	Form	Decoration	Spot-date
411	WNRW	B	1	121	Unstratified		11	Beaker	Folded	LC2–C3
411	WNRW	R	1	17	Unstratified		11	Jar		C2–C4
433	WNRW	U	1	2	Ditch fill	432	3	Jar/bowl		C2–C4
436	WNRW	U	4	11	Ditch fill	432	11	Jar		C2–C4
436	SGW	RUB	6	66	Ditch fill	432	11	Jar		C2–C4
436	STW	U	1	3	Ditch fill	432	11	Jar/bowl		C1–C4
436	WNRW	R	1	16	Ditch fill	432	11	Storage jar		C2–C4
437	WNRW	RUD	4	79	Spread		11	Jar	Rustication	C2–C3
437	WNOW	U	1	16	Spread		11	Jar		C2–C4
476	SOW	U	2	96	Ditch fill	478	11	Flagon		C2–C4
476	SMSTW	RU	2	8	Ditch fill	478	11	Jar		LC3–C4
476	SGW	RUB	9	268	Ditch fill	478	11	Jar		C3–C4
476	WNRW	UD	9	29	Ditch fill	478	11	Jar	Coarse rouletting	C2–C4
476	WNRW	R	1	6	Ditch fill	478	11	Lid	Finger-tip frilled	C3–C4
511	WNOW	U	3	13	Post-hole fill	510	7	Flagon		C2–C4
544	NVCC	B	1	29	Subsoil		11	Beaker		MC2–C3
Total			*47*	*780*						

The Romano-British Fabric Descriptions (listed in alphabetical order)

Nene Valley colour coat

Pale fabrics with a range of dark colour coats (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). Vessel types: beaker.

Sandy grey ware

A hard, fairly rough fabric, the colour of which varies from grey to dark grey and sometime greyish-brown (Lyons 2004, 34). Vessel types: jar.

Sandy oxidised ware

This is a cream to yellow/orange fabric (Andrews 1985, 90 (OW1)). Vessel types: jar and flagon.

Shell-tempered ware

A coarse shell0tempered fabric (Perrin 1999, 117–18) probably produced in the Lower Nene Valley.

South Midland shell-tempered ware

This is a red-brown shell-gritted fabric, often fumed to produce a dark external surface (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115). Vessel type: jar.

West Norfolk oxidised ware

Cream grey fabric with a grey or red core (Tomber and Dore 1998, 171).

West Norfolk reduced ware

A hard rough fabric, very dark grey throughout with a moderate amount of quartz and the odd fragment of flint (Andrews 1985, 89–90 (RW1); Gurney 1990, 89; Lyons 2004, 34). Distinctive decorative techniques include rustication or slashing on the shoulder of jars. Vessel types: jar, lid.

Appendix 3c: Saxon pottery

Key
UNFT = unidentified handmade flint-tempered; ESMS = Early Saxon medium sandy;
ESCQ = Early Saxon coarse quartz; ESO1/O2 = Early Saxon grass-tempered

Trench	Ctxt	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spot-date
7	407	ESMS	1	4	Abraded body sherd, ?handmade.	?E.Sax
	487	ESO1	1	6	Body sherd, burnt food residue int, smoothed ext.	6th–7th c.
	490	ESO1	1	14	Body sherd, smoothed both surfaces.	6th–7th c.
8	408	ESMS	4	9	Body sherds from one vessel, smoothed ext.	E. Sax
		ESCQ	1	10	Carinated body with incised horizontal and diagonal lines and 'S' stamps (Briscoe type H1).	5th–6th c.
	443	ESO2	1	59	Large body sherd, wear internally, smoothed ext.	6th–7th c.
11	436	UNFT	1	14	Abraded body sherd, thick, medium sandy, tempered with unburnt flint.	?IA/E.Sax?
		UNFT	1	11	Fine sandy body sherd with occasional flint, burnished ext with incised line/cordon, burnt food residue int.	?IA/E.Sax?
Total			*11*	*127*		

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Ctxt	Material	Qty	Wt (g)	Pottery from context	Context type	Cut	Trench
407	Fired Clay	1	1	E. Sax	Unstratified	407	7
475	Fired Clay	1	63	Prehistoric	SFB	471	12
476	Fired Clay	3	14	Preh. / Romano-British	Ditch	478	11
484	Fired Clay	3	6	No pottery	SFB	481	7
Total		*8*	*84*				

Appendix 5: Lava

Ctxt	Material	Qty	Wt (g)	Pottery from ctxt	Context type	Cut	Trench
407	Lava	1	648	No pottery	Unstratified		
514	Lava	4	9	Prehistoric	Post-hole	513	12
547	Lava	1	20	Prehistoric	Pit	546	12
564	Lava	1	91	None	Layer	564	7
Total		*7*	*768*				

Appendix 6: Small Finds

SF	Ctxt	Trench	Ctxt type	Cut	Ctxt Date	Object	Description	Date
1	400	General	Unstratified	-	-	Copper-alloy coin	farthing	Post-medieval
2	400	General	Unstratified	-	-	Silver coin	cut halfpenny.	Medieval
3	400	General	Unstratified	-	-	Lead spillage	large molten lump. 517g	Undiagnostic
5	433	3	Upper fill of ring-ditch	432	?Bronze Age	Copper-alloy strap-end	Borre-style strap-end (Plate 1) This strap-end is in good condition with a slight fissure across the centre. This object is typical of Thomas' Class E Type 4 and probably dates to the late 9th/10th century (Thomas 2004, fig. 4 no. 29). The top panel has an incised border with ring-and-dot ornament, besides a single rivet hole. The design on the main panel is of an animal mask *en face*, above a segmented upper body with two frond-like limbs. The oval lower body contains two frond-like lower limbs.	Late Saxon
6	472	12	Fill of SFB	471	Early Saxon	Glass bead	Half of a cylindrical bead, opaque green, with round perforation. Wound; spiral traces on perforated sides. Length: 5.2mm; perforation: 3.8mm; diameter: 7mm	Second half of the 7th and early 8th centuries.
7	492	7	Fill of SFB	491	Early Saxon	Copper-alloy coin	AE4 with slightly off-centre circular perforation.	Roman, reused as Anglo-Saxon jewellery.
8	476	11	Fill of ring-ditch	478	?Bronze Age	Copper-alloy coin	Antoninianus	Roman
9	492	7	Fill of SFB	491	Early Saxon	Iron snaffle	Part of the snaffle comprising one of the mouthpiece links, bent over at each end to form a ring – one joined to the iron cheek-bar which is flattened and widened towards its tip and attached to the cheek ring (Plate 2, NX6464). Attached to the cheek ring are two horse tack fragments, consisting of two distribution loops each terminating in a pair of flat plates (one is broken) with three copper-alloy rivets for securing the straps. Length of mouthpiece link: 78mm; external diameter of ring on mouthpiece link: 22mm; external diameter of cheek ring: 30mm; length of distribution loop: 43mm. This item would need to be cleaned for positive description as much of it is covered in corrosion.	7th century
10	473	12	Fill of SFB	471	Early Saxon	Iron knife	Whittle-tang knife with angled back and straight cutting edge; handle missing, large corroded lump on side with flint adhering. Blade length: 80mm; entire length: 128mm.	7th century

SF	Ctxt	Trench	Ctxt type	Cut	Ctxt Date	Object	Description	Date
11	474	12	Fill of SFB	471	Early Saxon	Iron artefact	Small hooked rod tapering to point at both ends. Length: 17mm.	Undated
12	475	12	Fill of SFB	471	Early Saxon	Iron strip	Two strip fragments of similar dimensions, but no apparent join. These strips are badly corroded and it was thought that they might have been riveted, however this is not clear on the x-ray. Length: 58mm and 40mm; width: 13mm; thickness: *c.*4mm	Undated
13	492	7	Fill of SFB	491	Early Saxon	Copper-alloy pin	Pin with sub-oval flattened head, with embossed decoration and possible remains of gilding; faint circumferential grooves around collar, corroded surfaces. Length: 36mm; width at head: 3mm.	Early Saxon
14	492	7	Fill of SFB	491	Early Saxon	Lead spindle whorl	Hemispherical whorl. Diameter: 28mm; hole diameter (same at both ends): 7mm; weight: 29g.	Early Saxon
15	492	7	Fill of SFB	491	Early Saxon	Copper-alloy toilet implement	Ear-scoop with oval bowl; the top of the shaft is missing. Length: 42mm; width of bowl: 7mm.	Early Saxon

Appendix 7: Coins

Small Find Number	SF1	Context Number	400
State	Post-medieval		
Ruler	Charles I (1626–49)		
Denomination	Royal Farthing, Richmond type		
Date	1626–33		
Mint/Moneyer			
Metal	Copper-alloy		
Obverse Legend	[…]O DG M[…]		
Obverse Description	A pair of sceptres crossed saltire through a crown.		
Reverse Legend	Illegible		
Reverse Description	Harp		
Diameter	15.5mm		
Weight	0.20g		
Reference	Everson T. 2007. *The Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I*.		

Small Find Number	SF2	Context Number	400
State	Medieval		
Ruler	Henry III (1216–72)		
Denomination	Cut Halfpenny		
Date	1251–72		
Mint/Moneyer	Ion of ?Canterbury		
Metal	Silver		
Obverse Legend	hEN[..] III		
Obverse Description	Crowned head facing		
Reverse Legend	ION-ON-[…]		
Reverse Description	Voided long cross with three pellets in angles		
Diameter	17mm		
Weight	0.70g		
Reference	North, J.J. 1994. *English Hammered Coinage Vol. I*.		

Small Find Number	SF7	Context Number	492
State	Rome		
Ruler	?House of Constantine		
Denomination	AE4		
Date	307–64		
Mint/Moneyer			
Metal	Copper-alloy		
Obverse Legend	DN[…]		
Obverse Description	?Pearl diademed bust right		
Reverse Legend	Illegible		
Reverse Description	Illegible		
Diameter	16.5mm		
Weight	1.74g		
Reference	*Roman Imperial Coinage Vols VII and VIII*		

Small Find Number	SF8	Context Number	476
State	Roman Gallic Empire		
Ruler	Victorinus (268–70)		
Denomination	Antoninianus		
Date	268–70		
Mint/Moneyer			
Metal	Copper-alloy		
Obverse Legend	[…]CTORINVS PF AVG		
Obverse Description	Radiate, cuirassed bust right		
Reverse Legend	SALVS […]		
Reverse Description	Salus standing, feeding serpent in arms		
Diameter	18mm		
Weight	2.00g		
Reference	*Roman Imperial Coinage Vol V Part II*		

Appendix 8: Other Metal Finds

Ctxt	Trench	M-det	Ctxt type	Material	Object	Description	Qty	Date
400		No	Unstratified	Copper-alloy	Buckle	Plain rectangular frame of circular section; copper-alloy pin.	1	Post-medieval
401	1	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Plate	Fragment	1	Undiagnostic
403	3		Unstratified	Copper-alloy	Cartridge case		1	20th century
403	3	Yes	Unstratified	Copper-alloy	Coin	Worn smooth	1	Post-medieval
406	6	Yes	Unstratified	Copper-alloy	Sheet	Fragment	1	Undiagnostic
407	7	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Rod	Small tapering rod bent at top	1	Undiagnostic
411	11	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Rod	Fragment, tapering at both ends	1	Undiagnostic
411	11	No	Unstratified	Iron	Rod	Fragment with elongated S-shaped profile	1	Undiagnostic
411	11	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Bar	Wedge-shaped ?fragment	1	Undiagnostic
415	15	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Strip	Fragments	2	Undiagnostic
420	20		Unstratified	Iron	Strip	Fragment in two pieces	1	Undiagnostic
420	20	Yes	Unstratified	Iron	Plate	Fragment	1	Undiagnostic

Appendix 9: Flint by context

Context	Cat.	Type	Quantity
400	blad	Blade	1
400	core	Multi-platform flake core	1
400	flak	Flake	1
400	flak	Spall	2
400	retf	Retouched flake	3
400	stfr	Struck fragment	1
400	utbl	Utilised blade	2
402	flak	Flake	1
402	unsk	Non-struck fragment	0
403	blad	Bladelet	1
403	flak	Flake	2
406	core	Multi-platform flake core	1
406	flak	Flake	2
407	flak	Flake	1
412	core	Single platform flake core	1
422	flak	Fflake	1
438	blad	Blade	2
438	flak	Flake	3
443	burn	Burnt fragment	1
472	pecr	Awl	0
475	flak	Flake	1
476	flak	Flake	1
477	flak	Flake	1
484	flak	Flake	1
547	flak	Flake	1
585	core	Tested piece	1
585	retf	Retouched flake	1
592	unsk	Non-struck fragment	0
611	blad	Blade	2
611	flak	Blade-like flake	1
611	flak	Flake	1
611	flak	Spall	1
614	flak	Flake	3
616	blad	Blade	2
616	flak	Blade-like flake	1
616	flak	Chip	1
618	blad	Blade	1
625	core	Tested piece	1
625	flak	Flake	3
625	stfr	Struck fragment	2
627	flak	Flake	1

Appendix 10: Faunal remains

Ctxt	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Spp.	Spp. Qty	Age	Comments
407	19	238	Cattle	6	Adult	Humerus, metapodial, jaw, horn fragments, gnawed
			Mammal	13		Fragments of large mammal, insect damage
408	7	55	Mammal	7		Fragments of large mammal
441	2	14	Sheep/goat	2		Pieces of humerus, burnt black
443	3	34	Cattle	3	Adult	Metatarsal fragments, gnawed
472	17	14	Sheep/goat	2	Adult	Humeri
			Mammal	15		Small fragments
474	3	5	Mammal	3		
475	12	64	Cattle	4	Adult	Humerus fragments
			Mammal	8		
484	62	987	Cattle	18	Adult	Metapodials, 3 talli, 2 humeri, tibia, radius, teeth
			Equid	5	Adult	Tibia, humerus, scapula, calcaneus, phalange
			Pig	1	Adult	Pelvis, cuts from meat removal
			Sheep/goat	2	Juvenile	Dp4 molar and 1st molar
			Mammal	36		Fragmentary, quite poor condition, porous and worn
492	129	939	Cattle	14	Range	Horn, femur, humerus, radius, hoof, Dp4 molar
			Sheep/goat	8	Sub-adult	Femur, humerus, tibia, pelvis, teeth (little wear on M3)
			Pig	8	Juvenile	Pelvis, tibia, vertebrae, tooth, proximal phalange
			Bird - goose	2	Adult	Femur, humerus fragments, large species
			Bird - fowl	1	Adult	Tibiotarsus, probable Pheasant
			Bird - no ID	1		Fragment
			Mammal	95		Butchered rib and vertebrae fragments, many tiny frags
526	126	232	Sheep/goat	126	Juvenile	Scapulas, jaw, femurs, humeri, vertebrae, ribs

Appendix 11: Environmental evidence

Key
x = 1–5 specimens; xx = 5–20 specimens
cf = compare; b = burnt; ss = sub-sample
SFB = sunken featured building; PP = post-pipe; RD = ring ditch

Sample No.	**1**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Context No.	493	507	445	472	477	618	620	621
Feature No.		505	432	471	478	580	580	580
Feature type	SFB	PP	RD	SFB	RD	RD	RD	RD
Trench	7	7	3	12	11	22	22	22
Cereals								
Avena sp. (grains)	x			xcf				
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x							
Secale cereale L. (grain)	x							
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	x		x			x	
Herbs								
Fabaceae indet.	x						xcf	
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love							x	
Galium sp.							xcf	
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
Corylus avellana L.				xcf				
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	x	x	xx	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x					x	x
Charred root/stem							x	
Ericaceae indet. (stem)				x				
Indet.culm nodes)	x							
Other materials								
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		x				
Black tarry material					x	x		x
Bone	x xb	x		xb	x			xb
Burnt/fired clay	x				x			
Burnt stone					x			
Sample volume (litres)	10ss	10ss	10ss	10ss	10ss	10ss	10ss	10ss
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

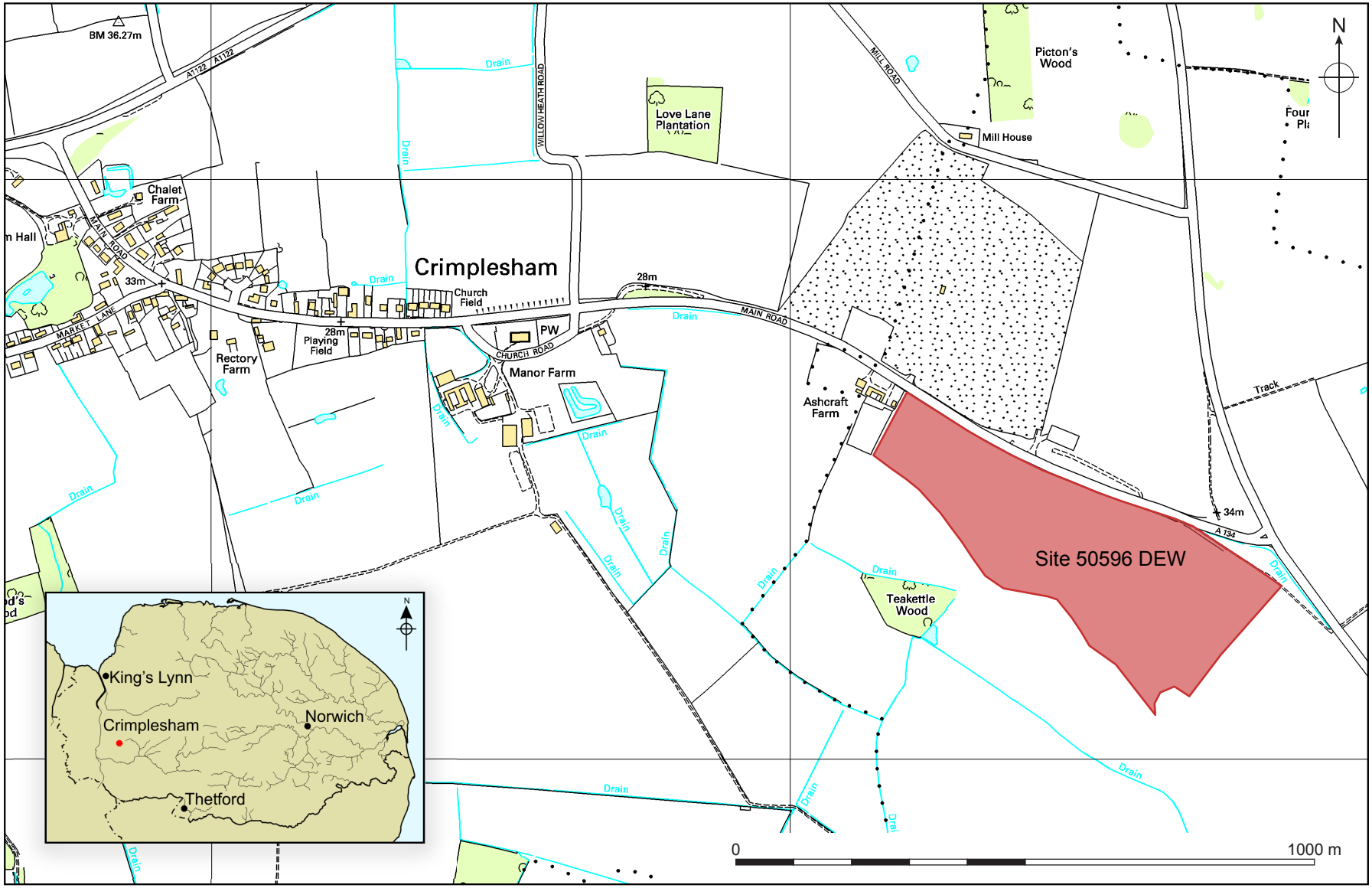

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Figure 1 Location of Proposed Extraction Area

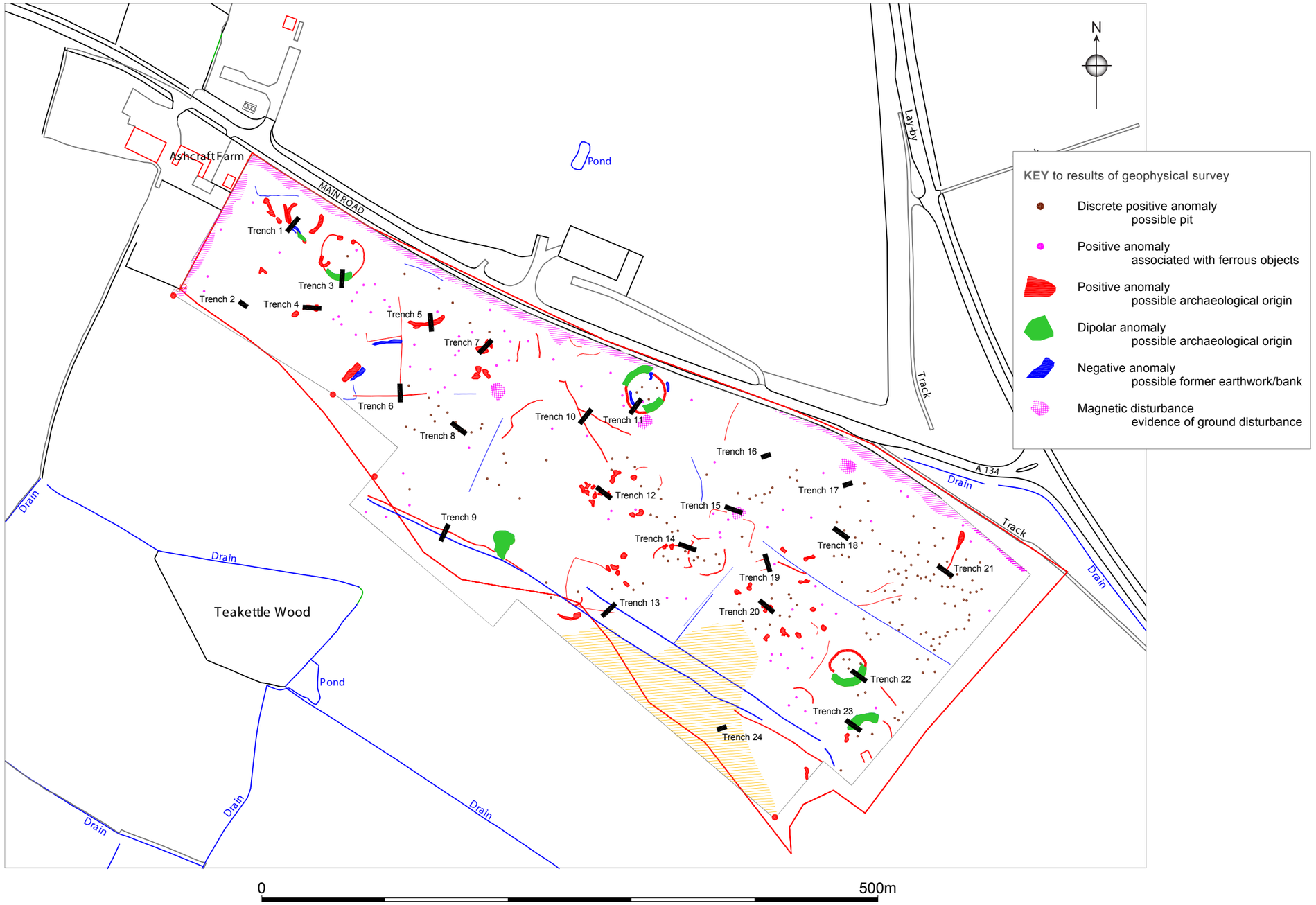

Figure 2 Results of geophysial survey and location of evaluation trenches

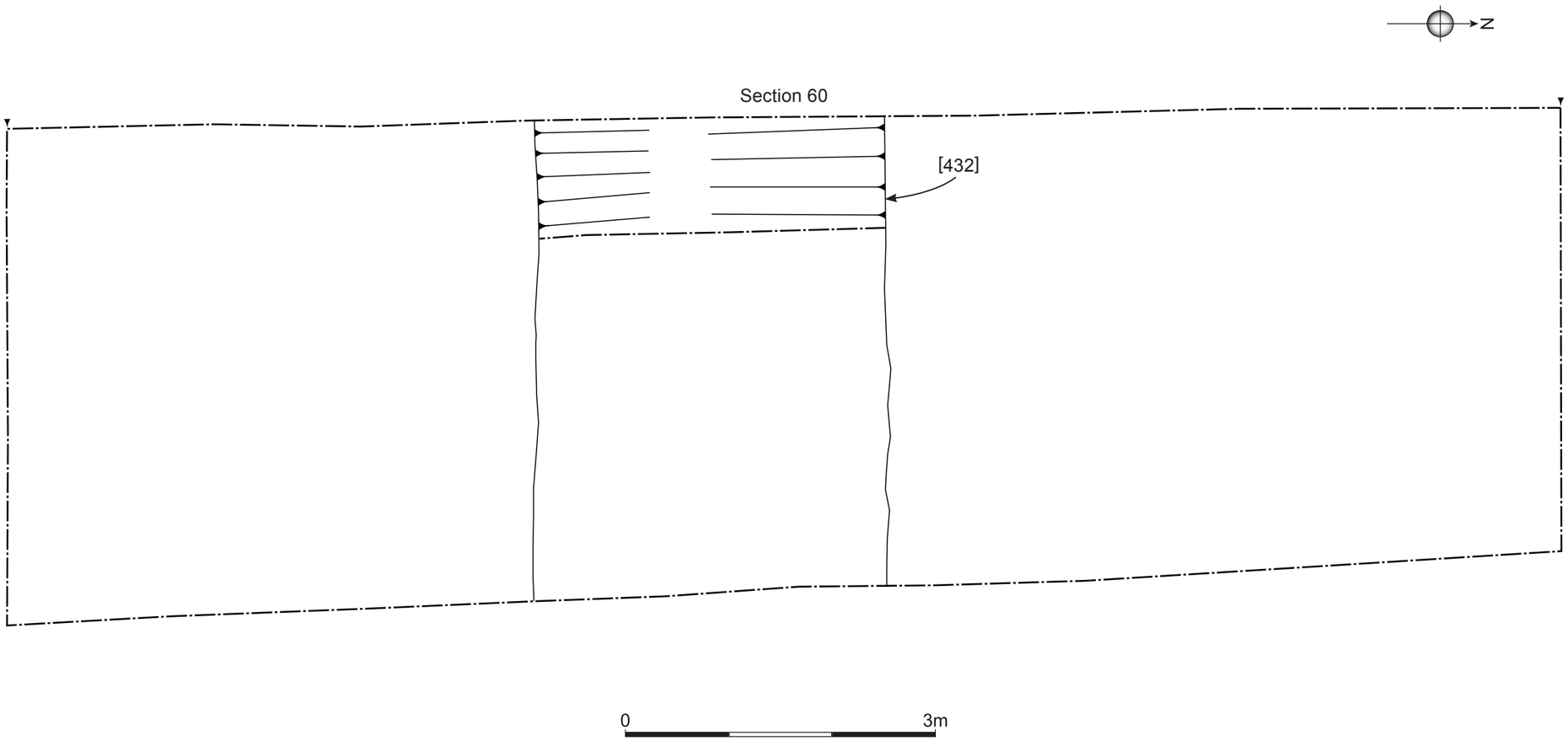

Figure 3 Plan of Trench 3

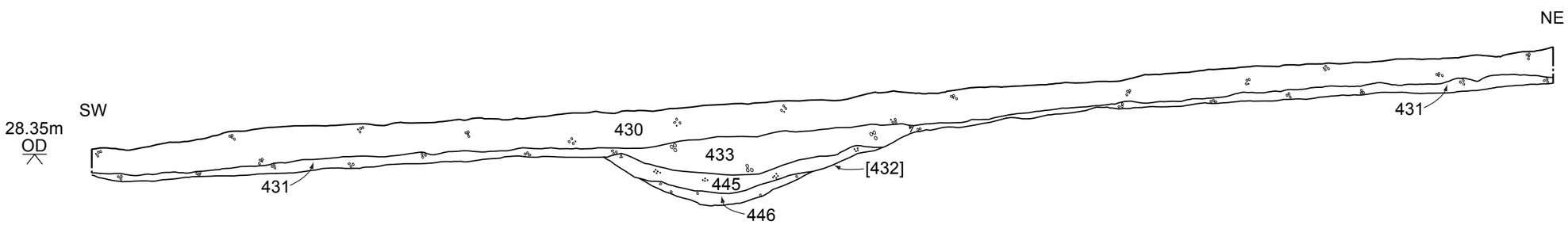

Figure 4 Trench 3: section 60 across ring-ditch [432], facing south-east

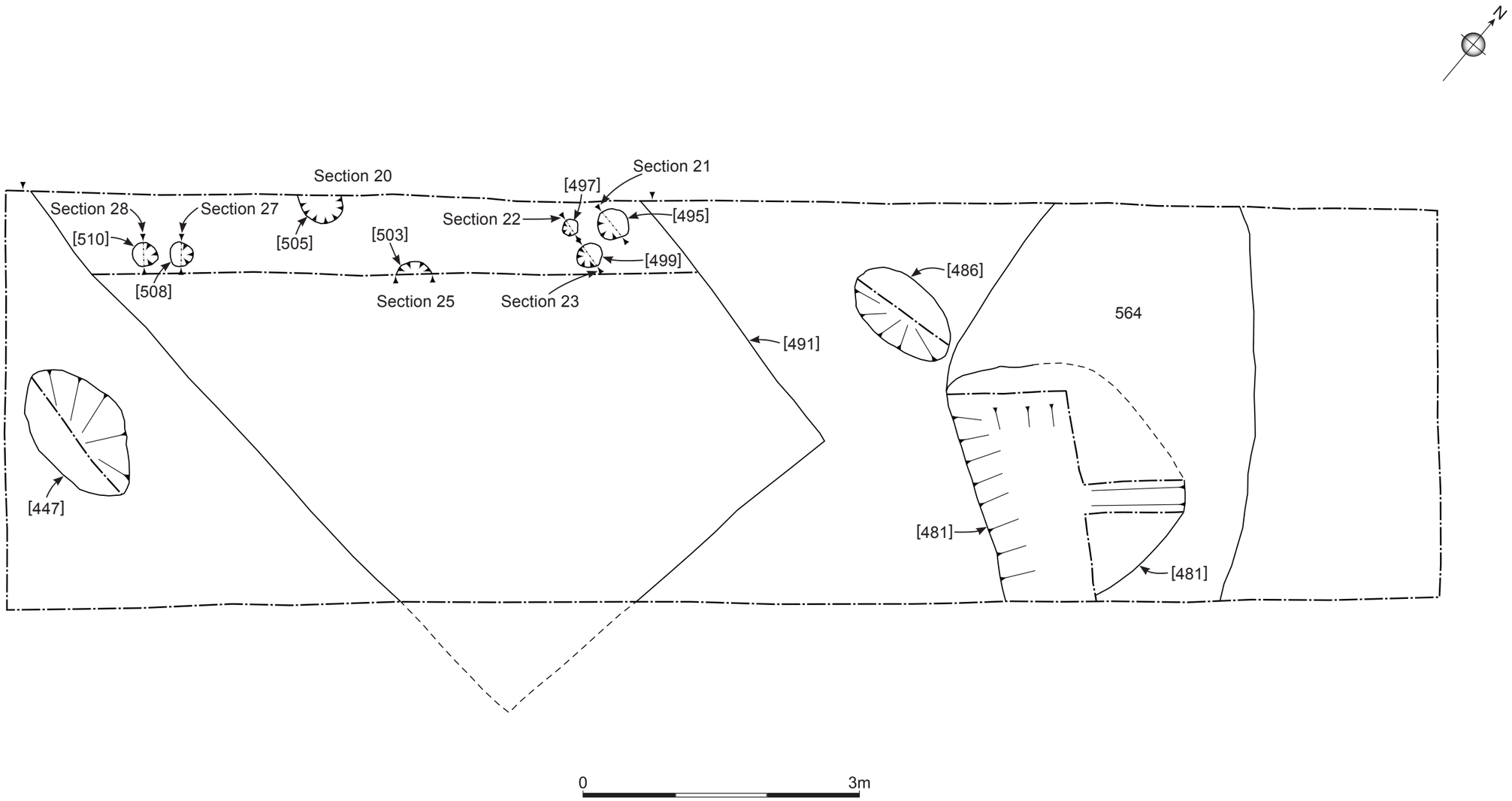

Figure 5 Plan of Trench 7

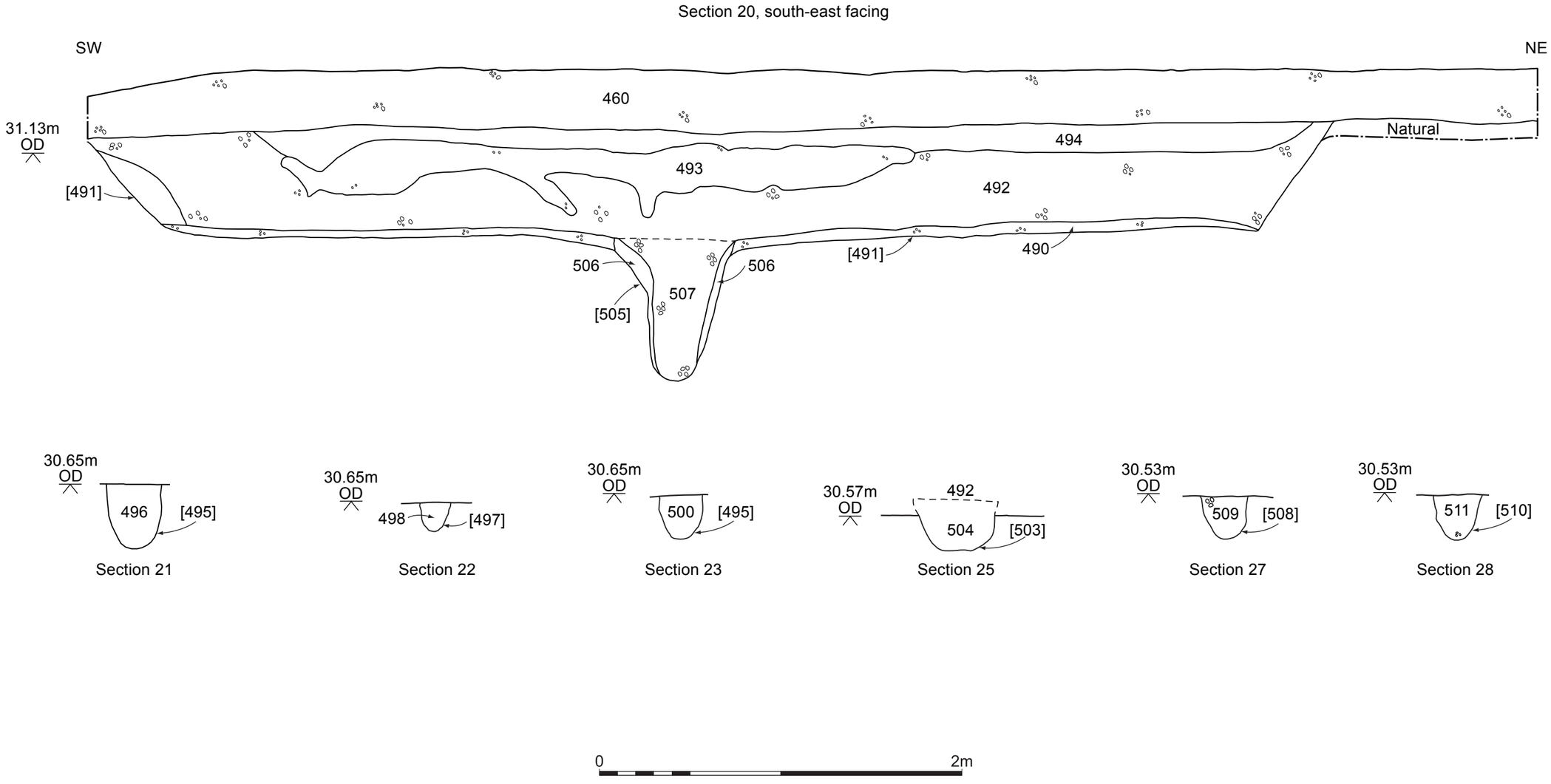

Figure 6 Trench 7: section across SFB [491] and associated post-holes

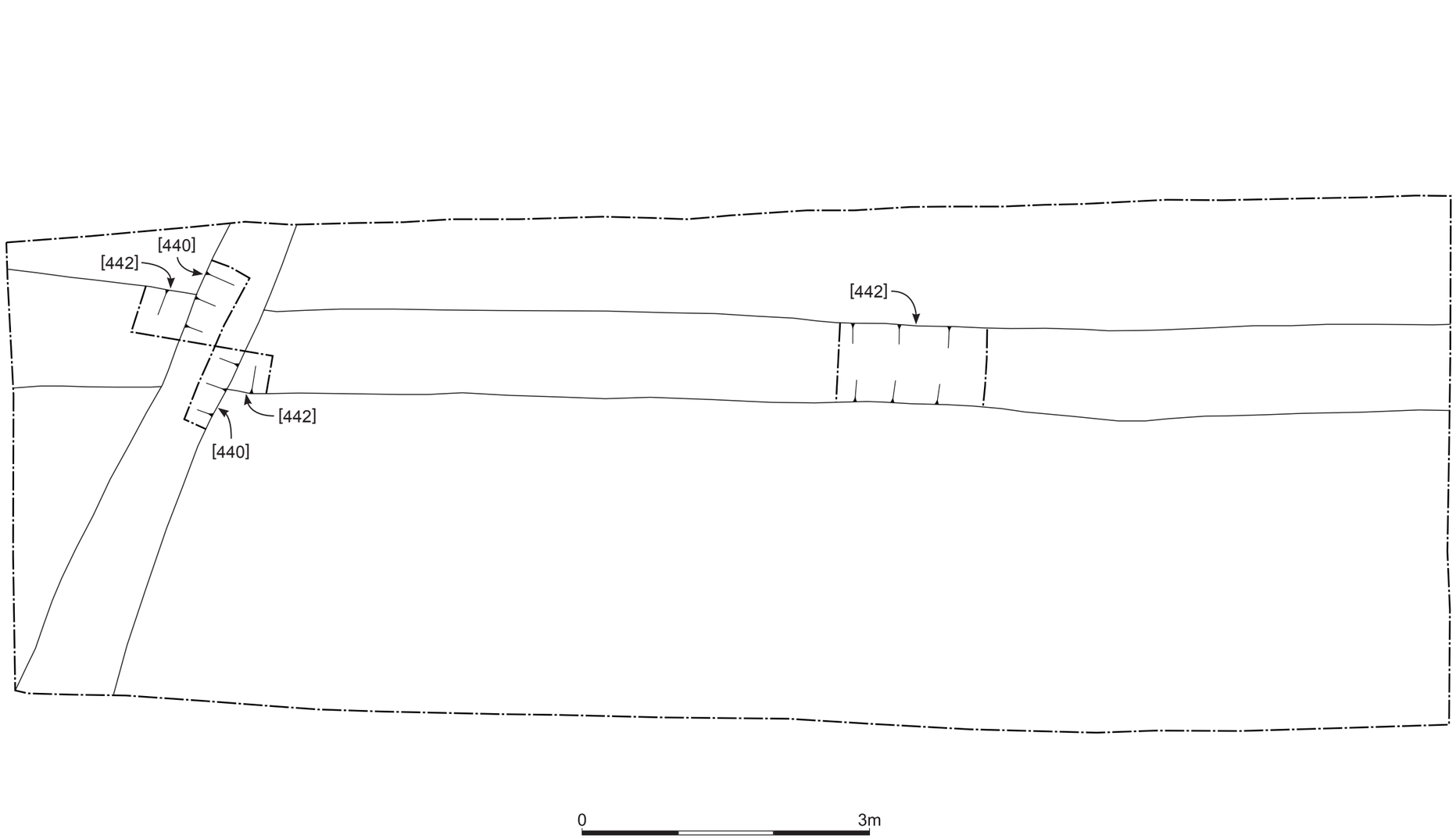

Figure 7 Plan of Trench 8

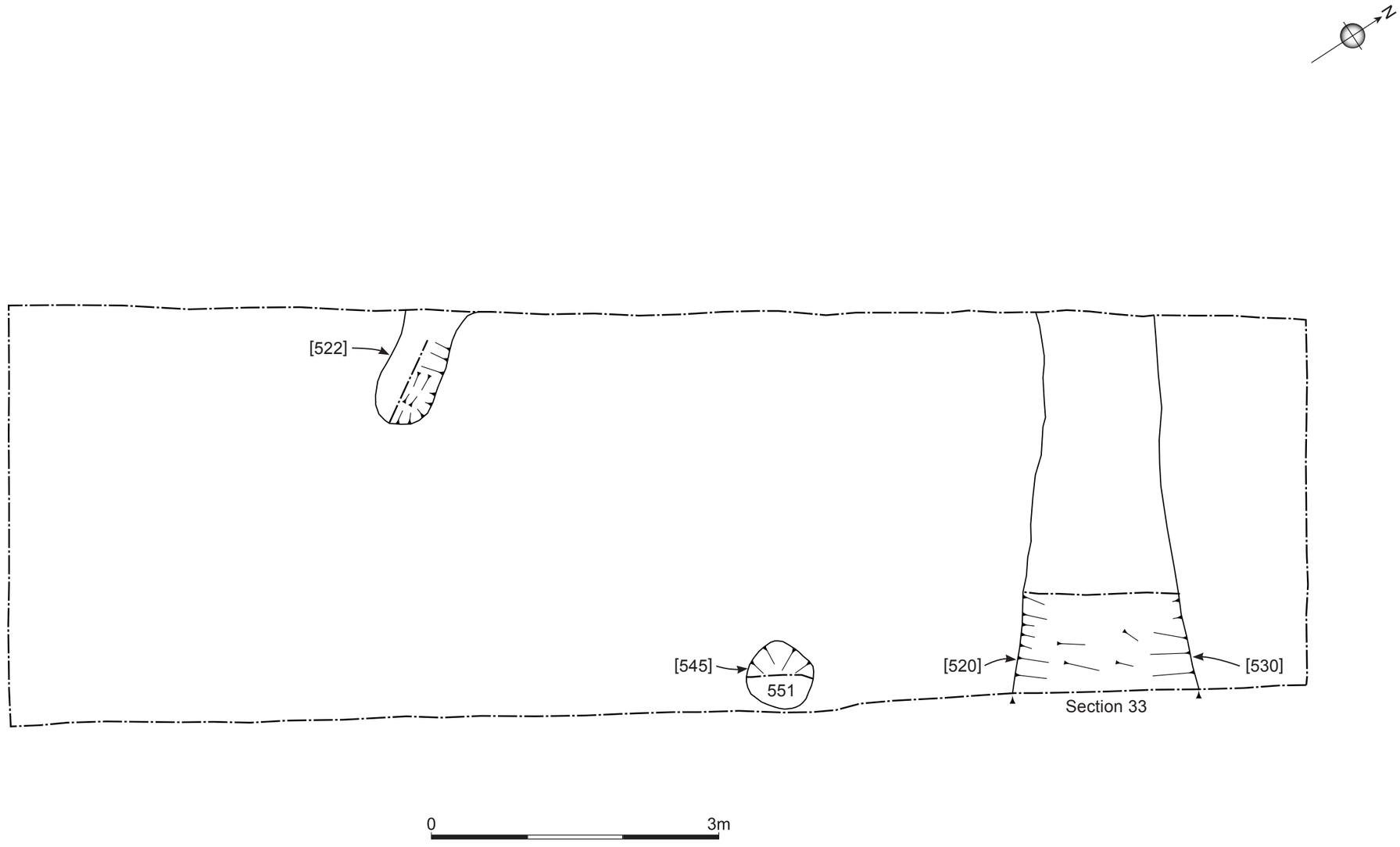

Figure 8 Plan of Trench 10

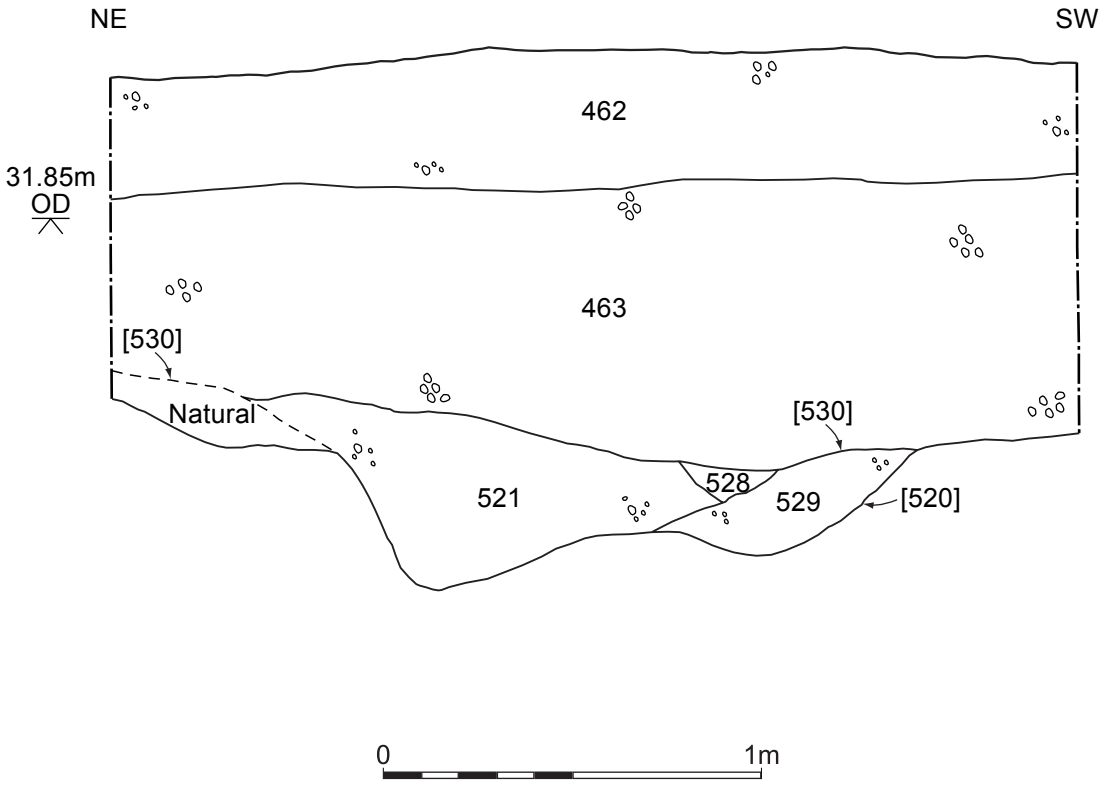

Figure 9 Trench 10: section of ditch [520], facing north-west

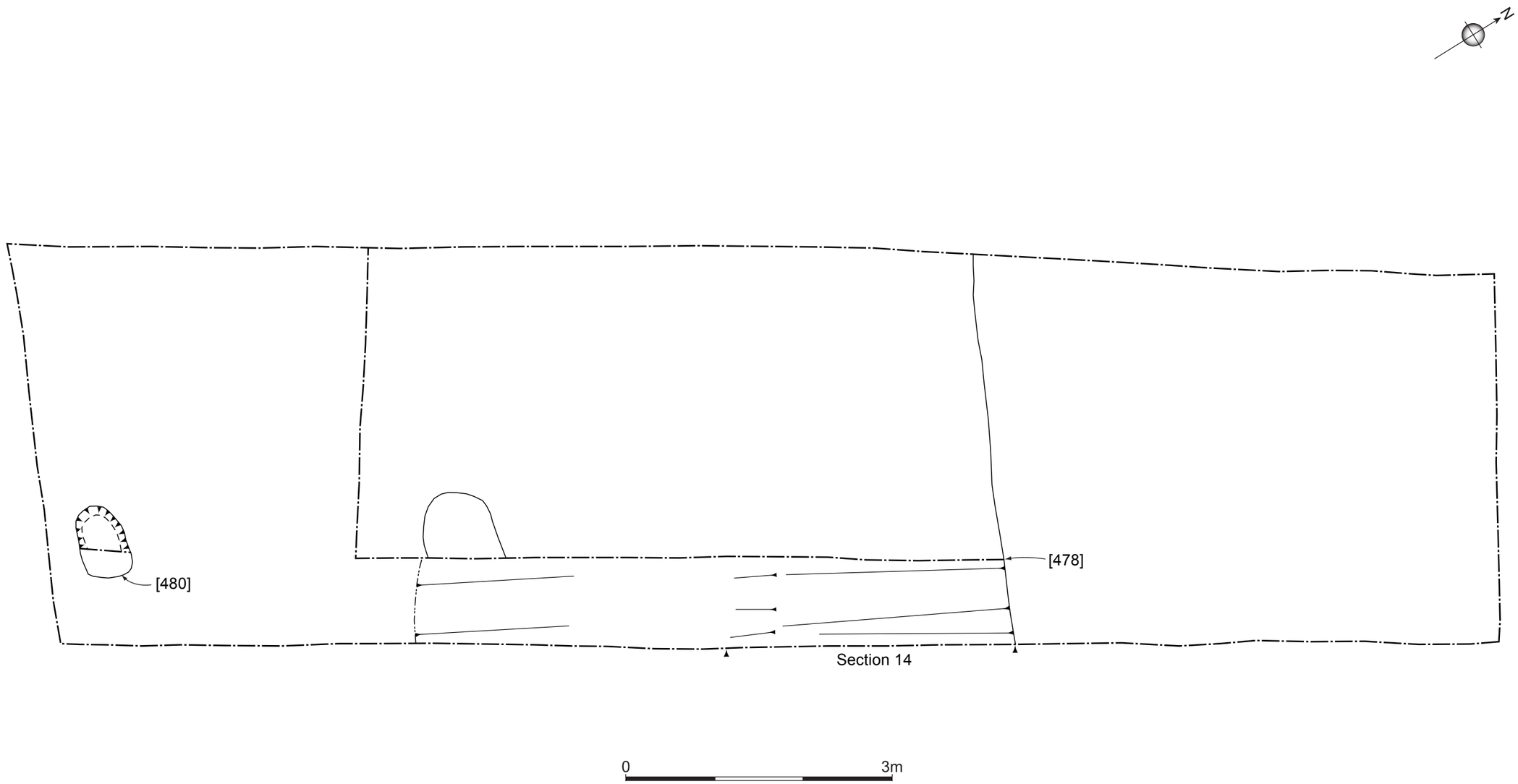

Figure 10 Plan of Trench 11

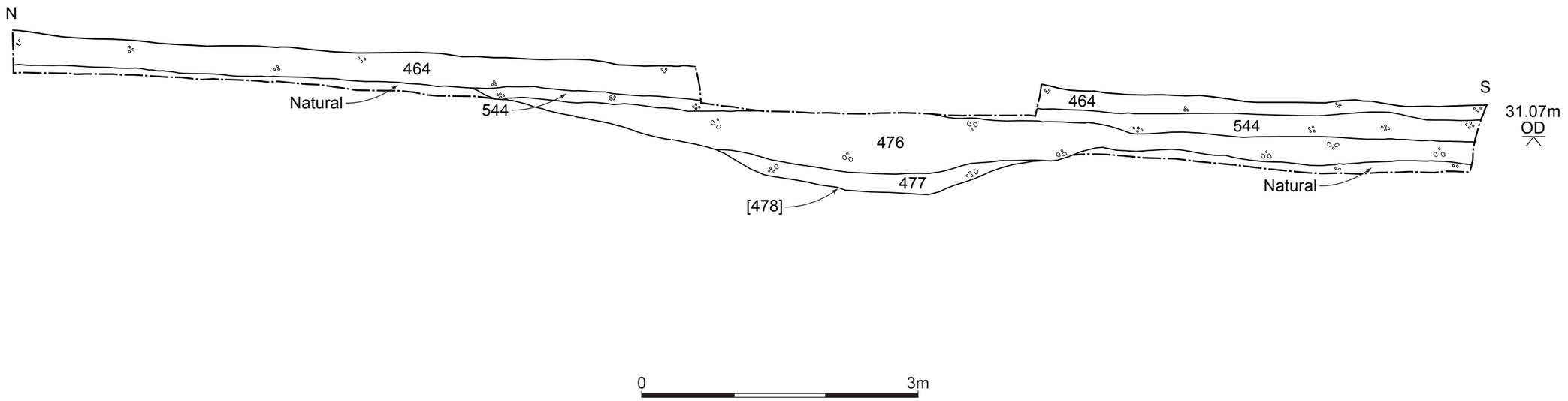

Figure 11 Trench 11: Section 14 across ring-ditch [478], facing west

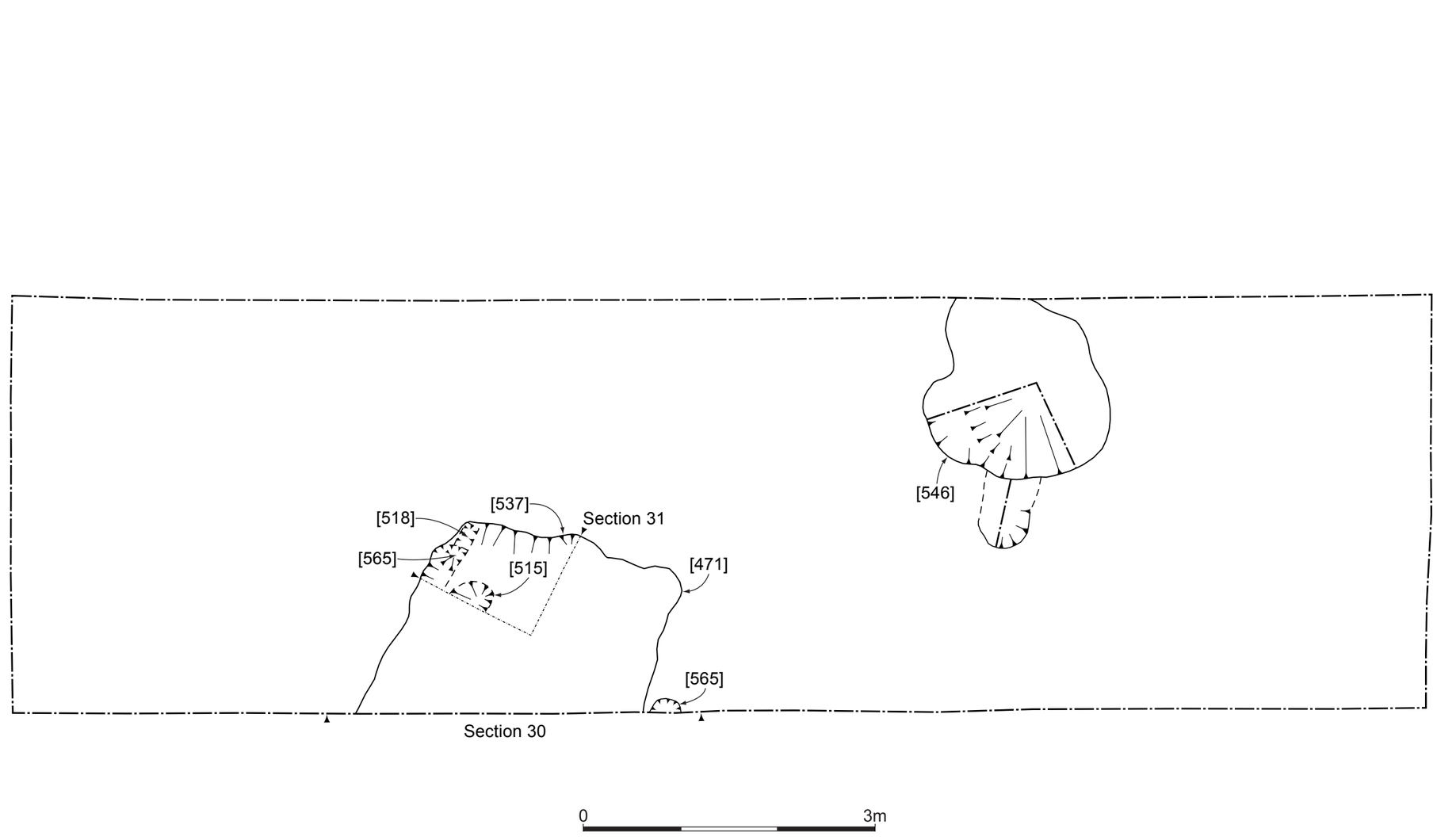

Figure 12 Plan of Trench 12

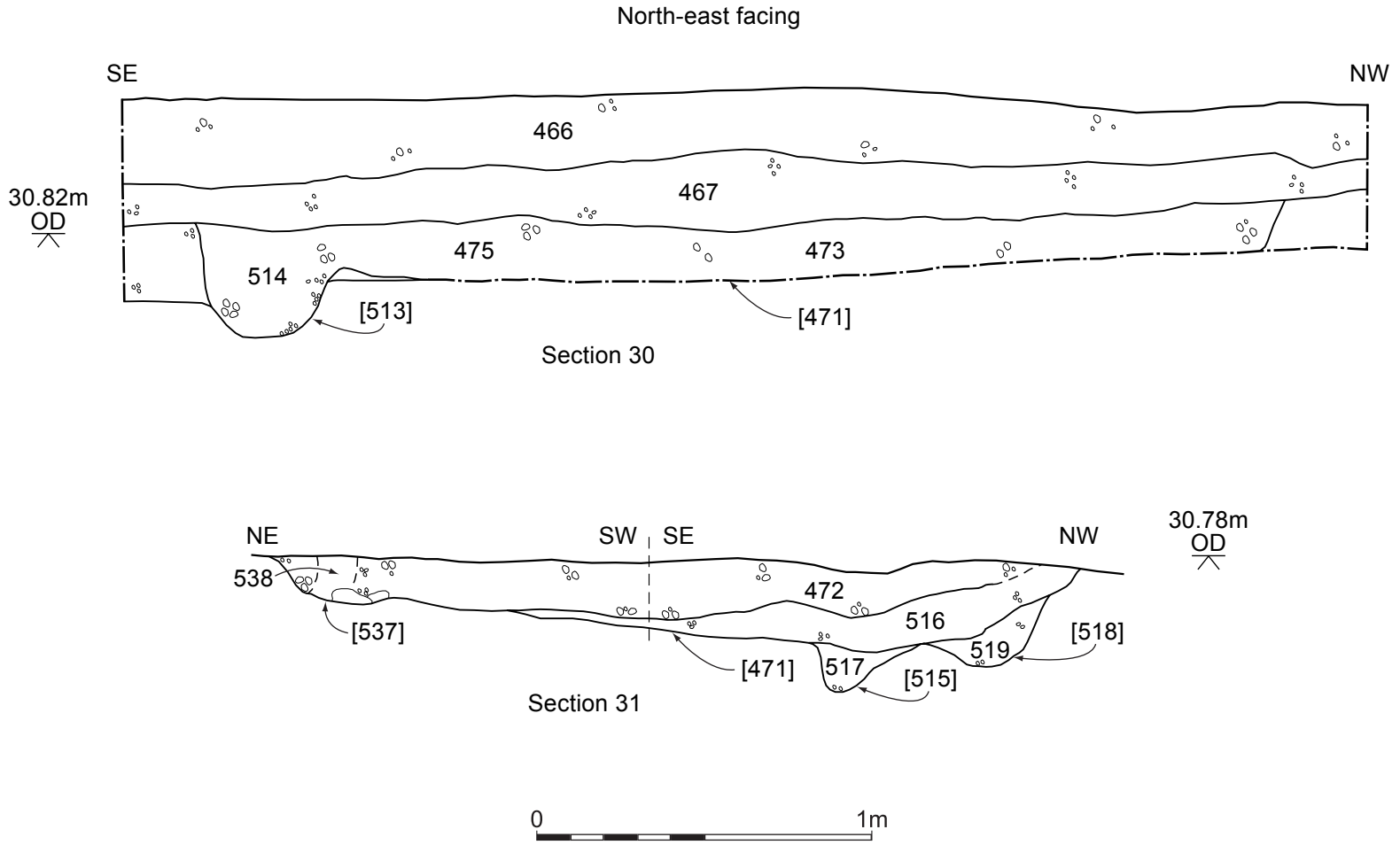

Figure 13 Trench 12: Sections across SFB [471]

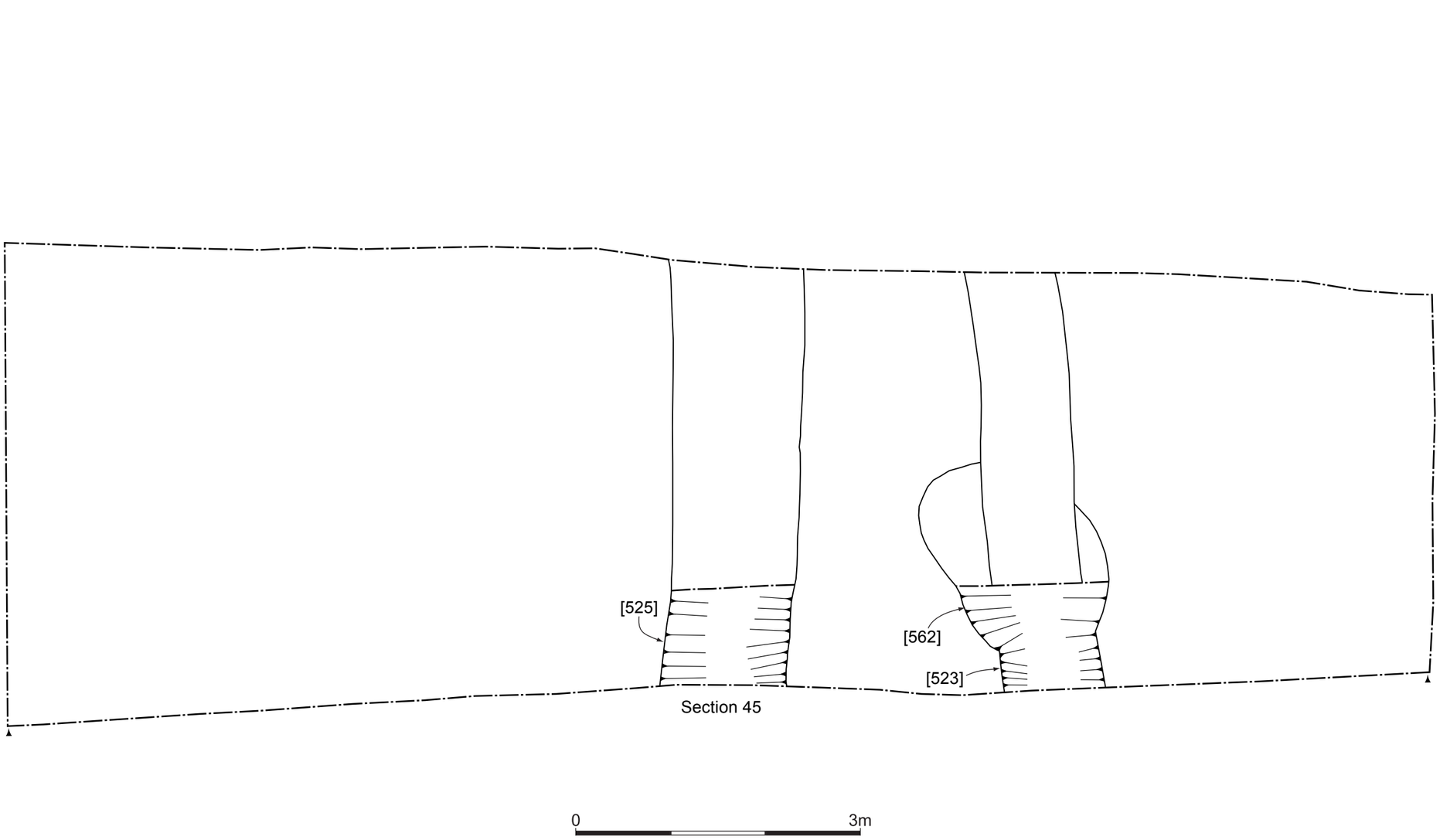

Figure 14 Plan of Trench 14

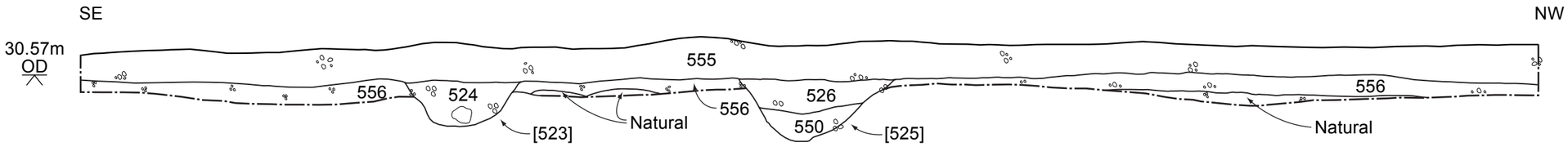

Figure 15 Trench 14: section across ditch [523] and [525], facing north-east

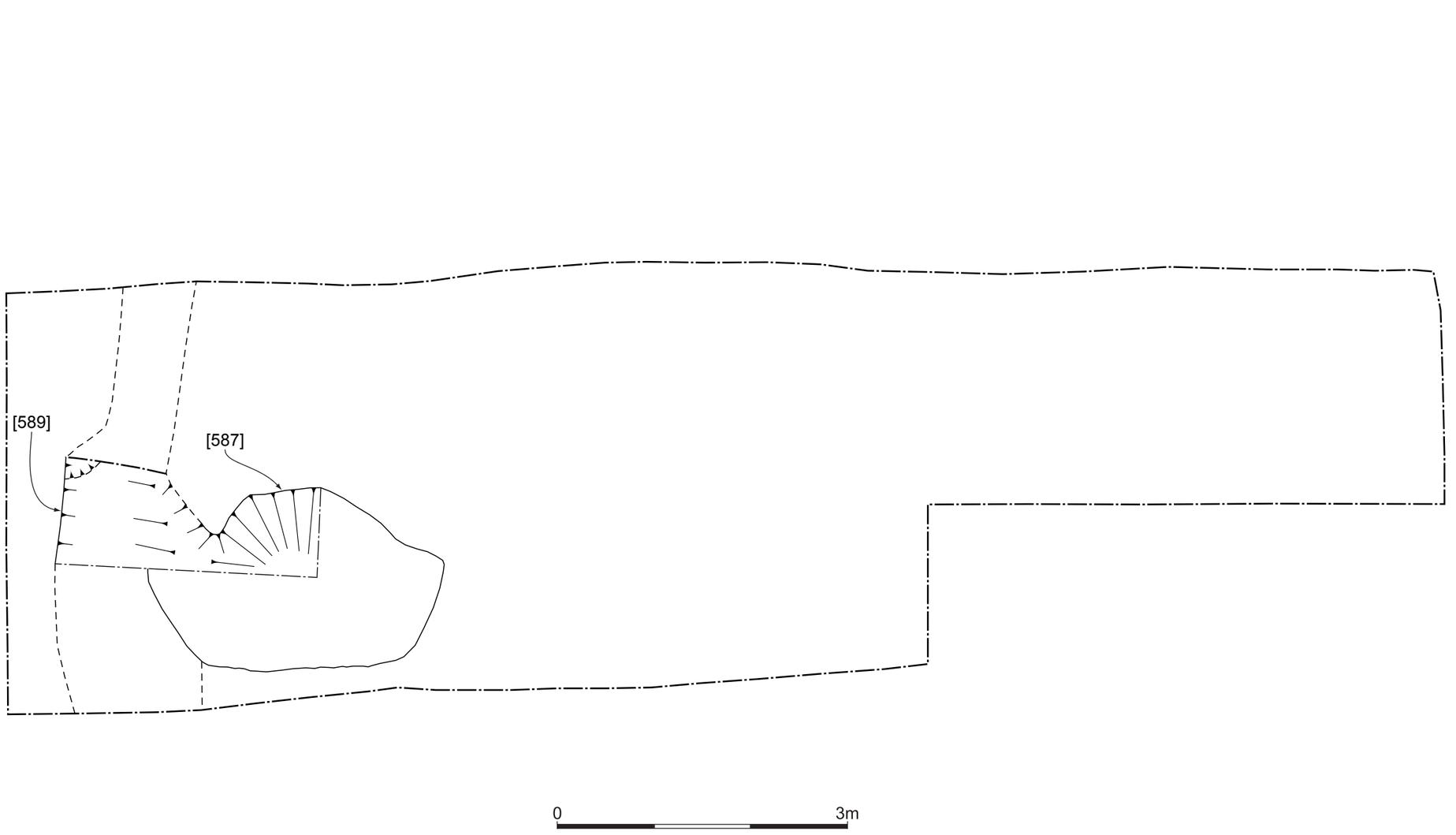

Figure 16 Plan of Trench 15

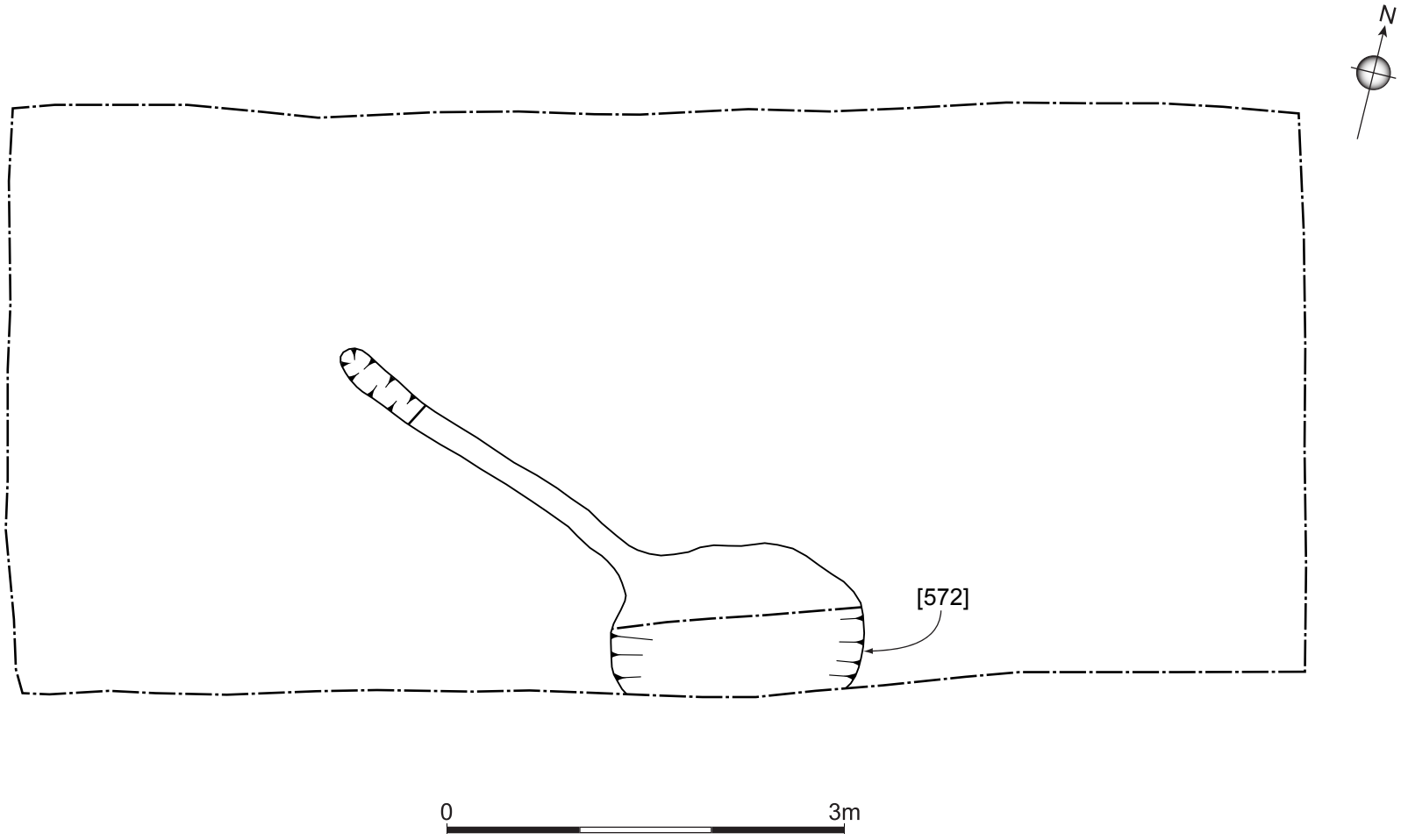

Figure 17 Plan of Trench 16

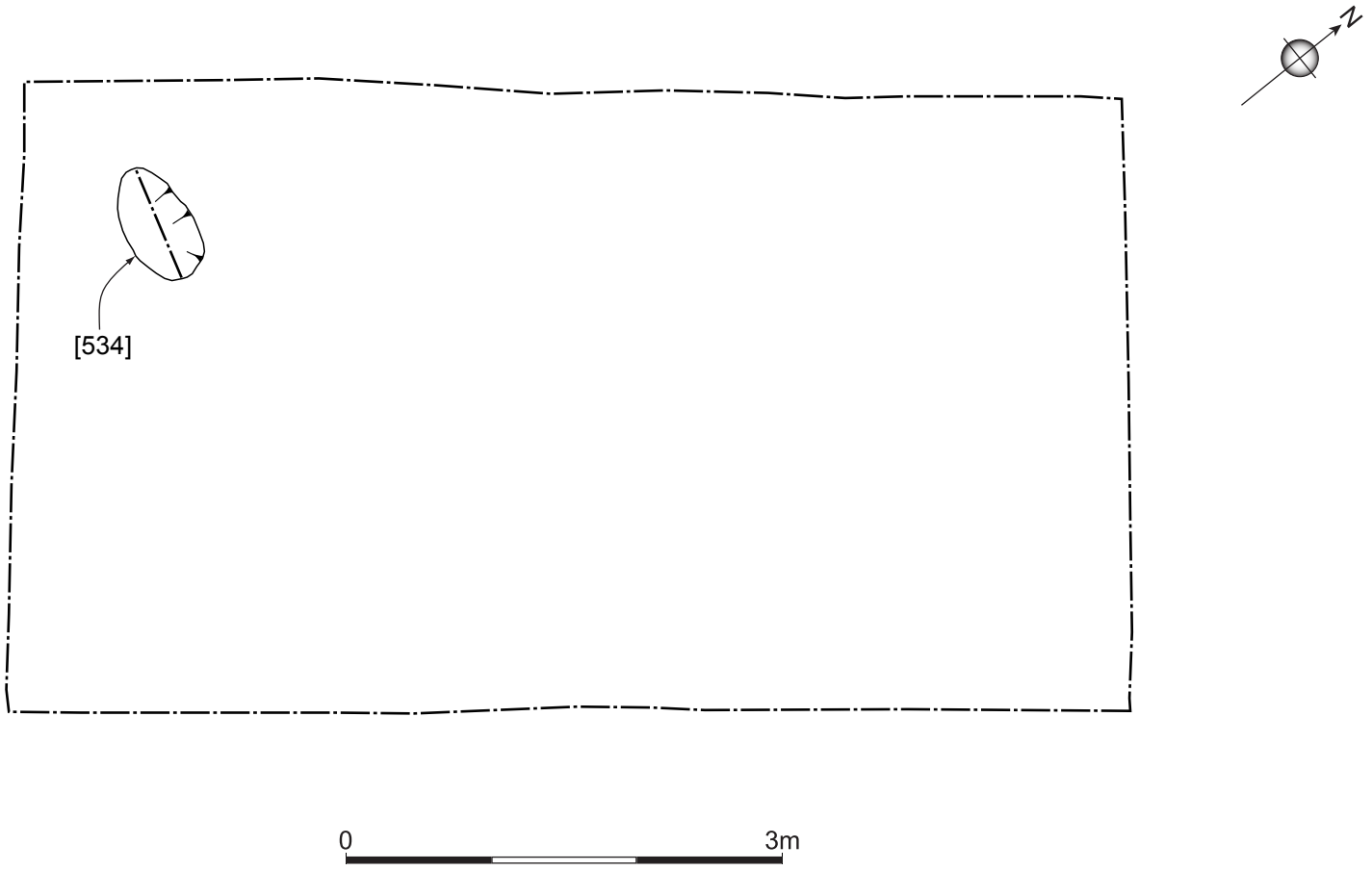

Figure 18 Plan of Trench 17

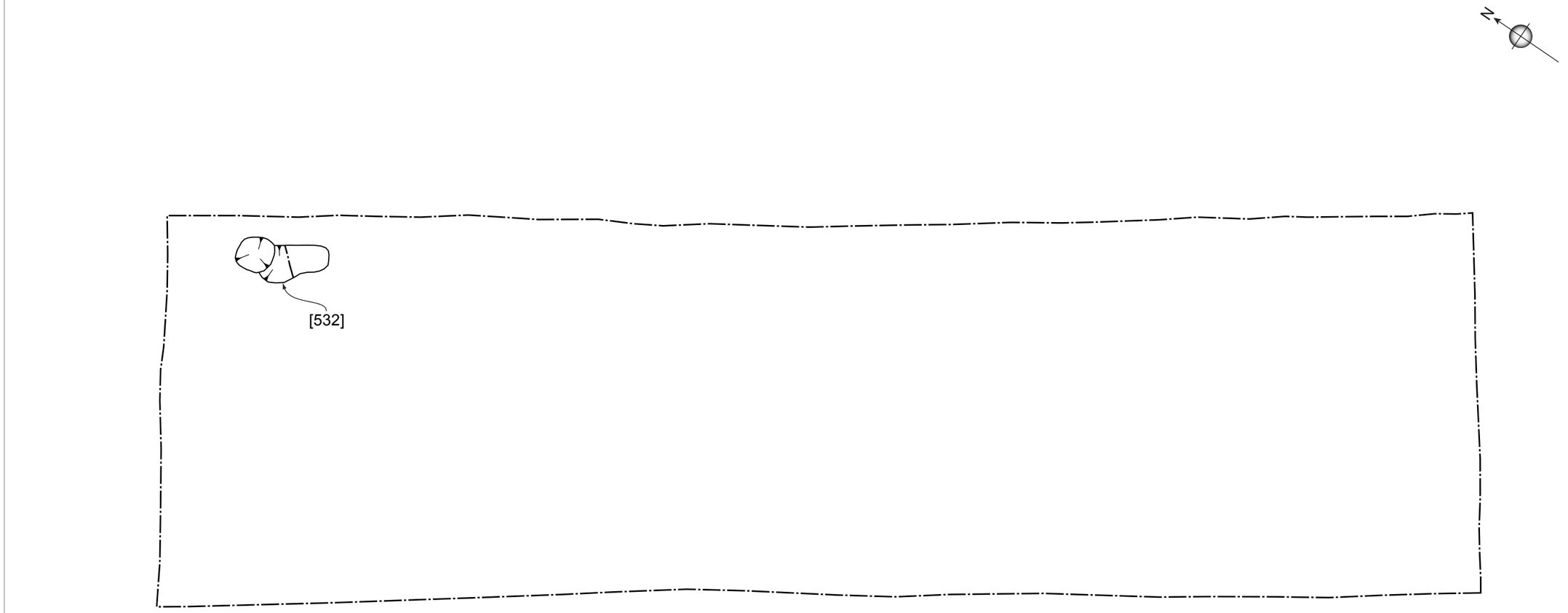

Figure 19 Plan of Trench 18

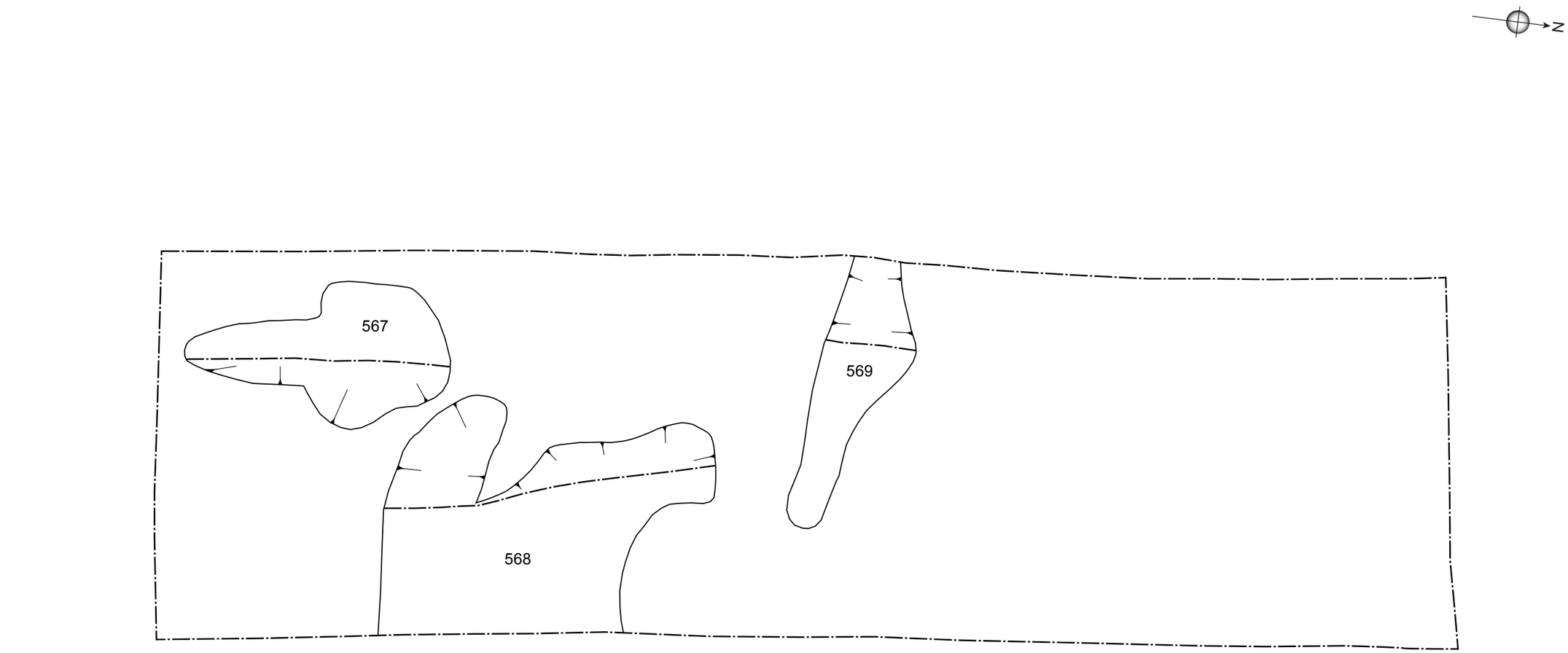

Figure 20 Plan of Trench 19

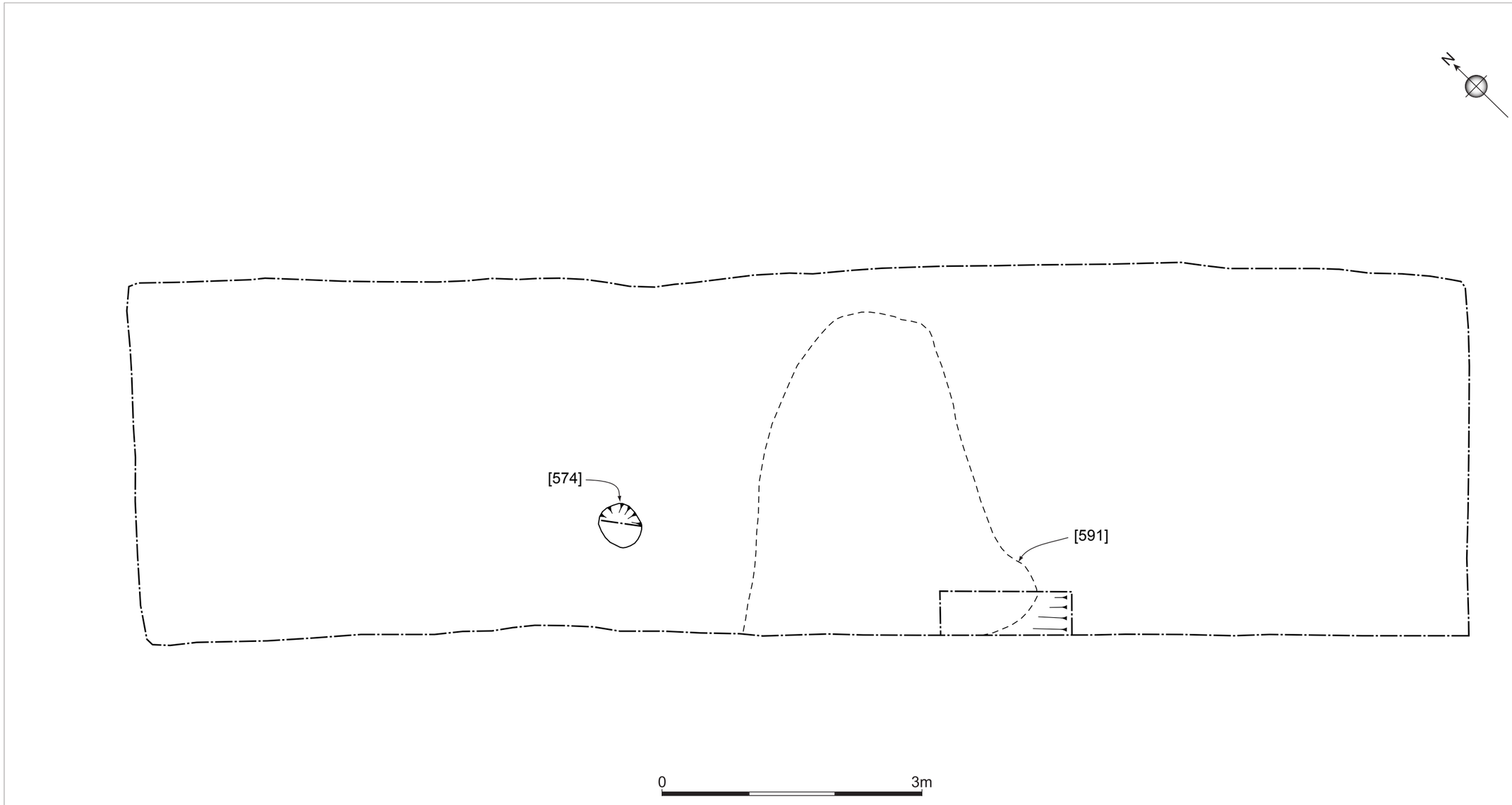

Figure 21 Plan of Trench 20

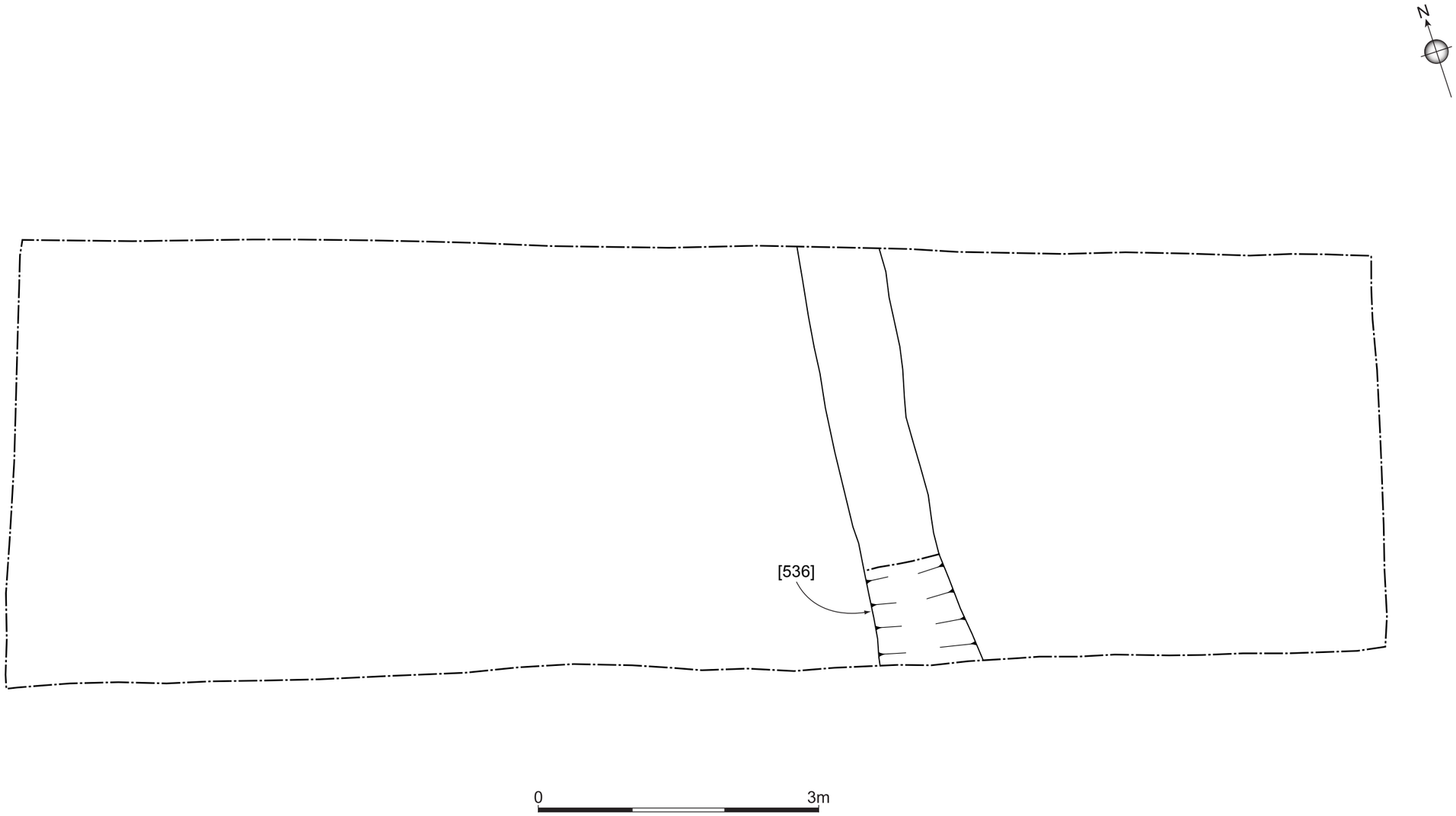

Figure 22 Plan of Trench 21

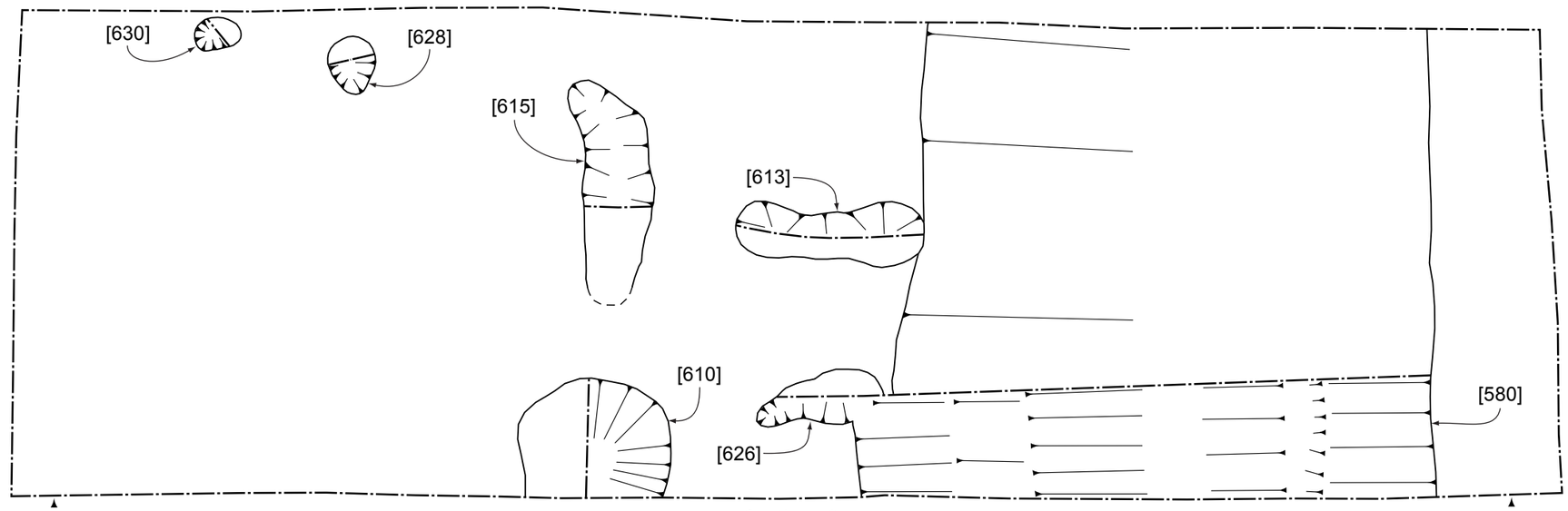

Figure 23 Plan of Trench 22

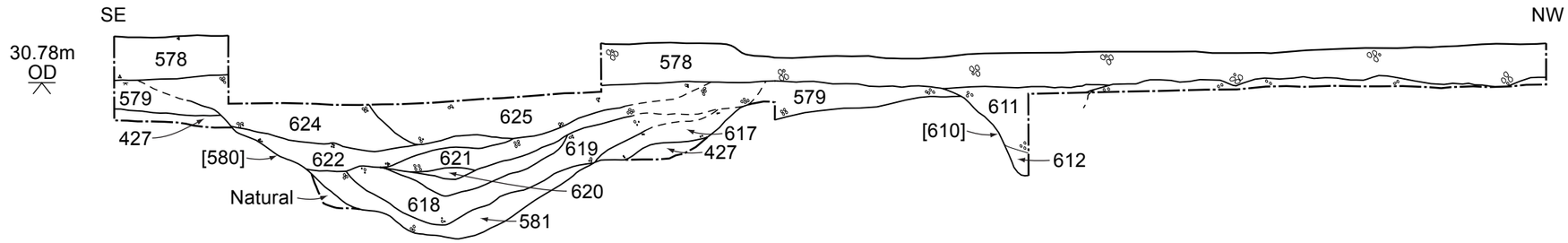

Figure 24 Trench 22: Section 79 across ring-ditch [580] and pit [610], facing north-east

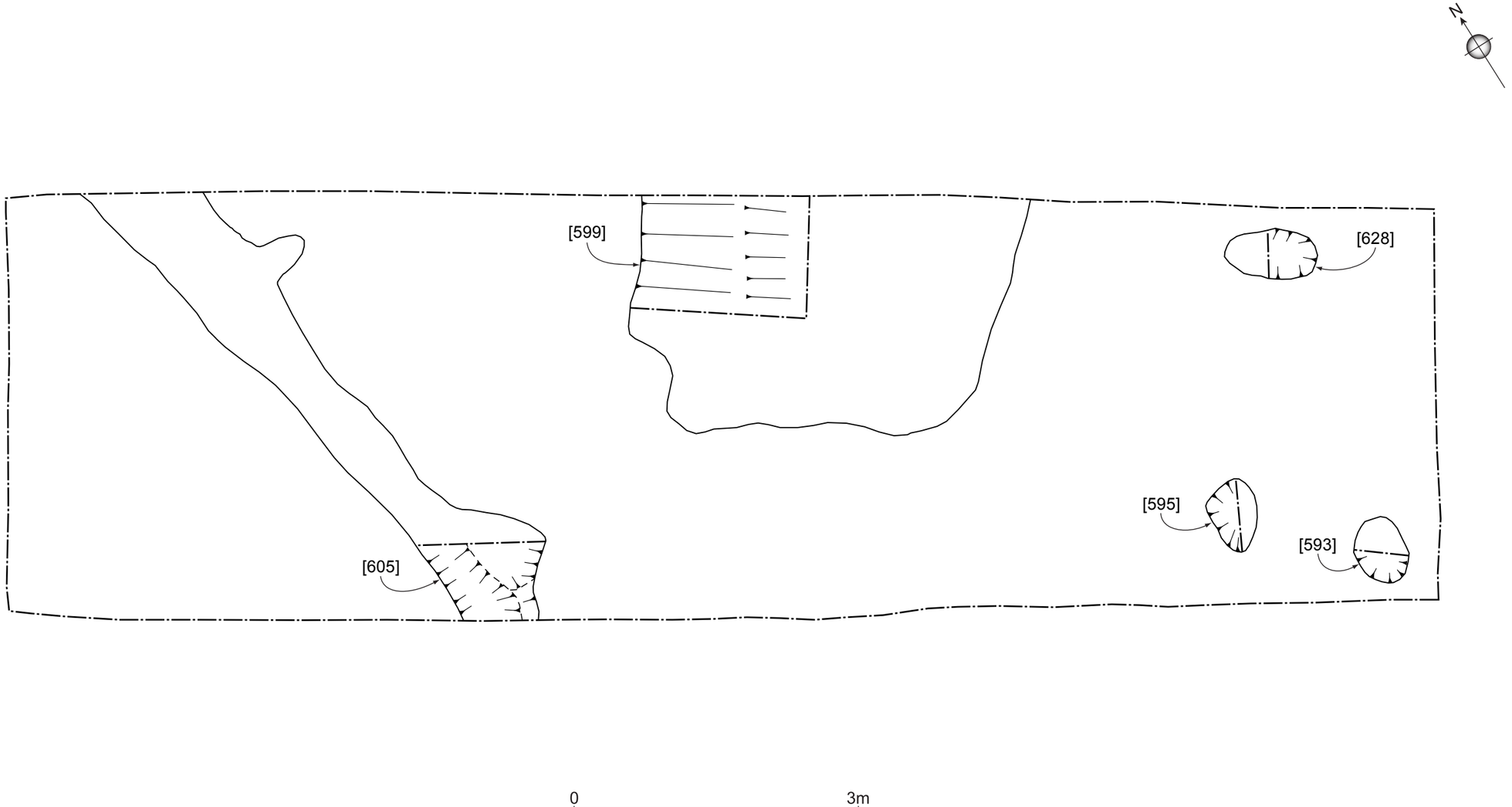

Figure 25 Plan of Trench 23

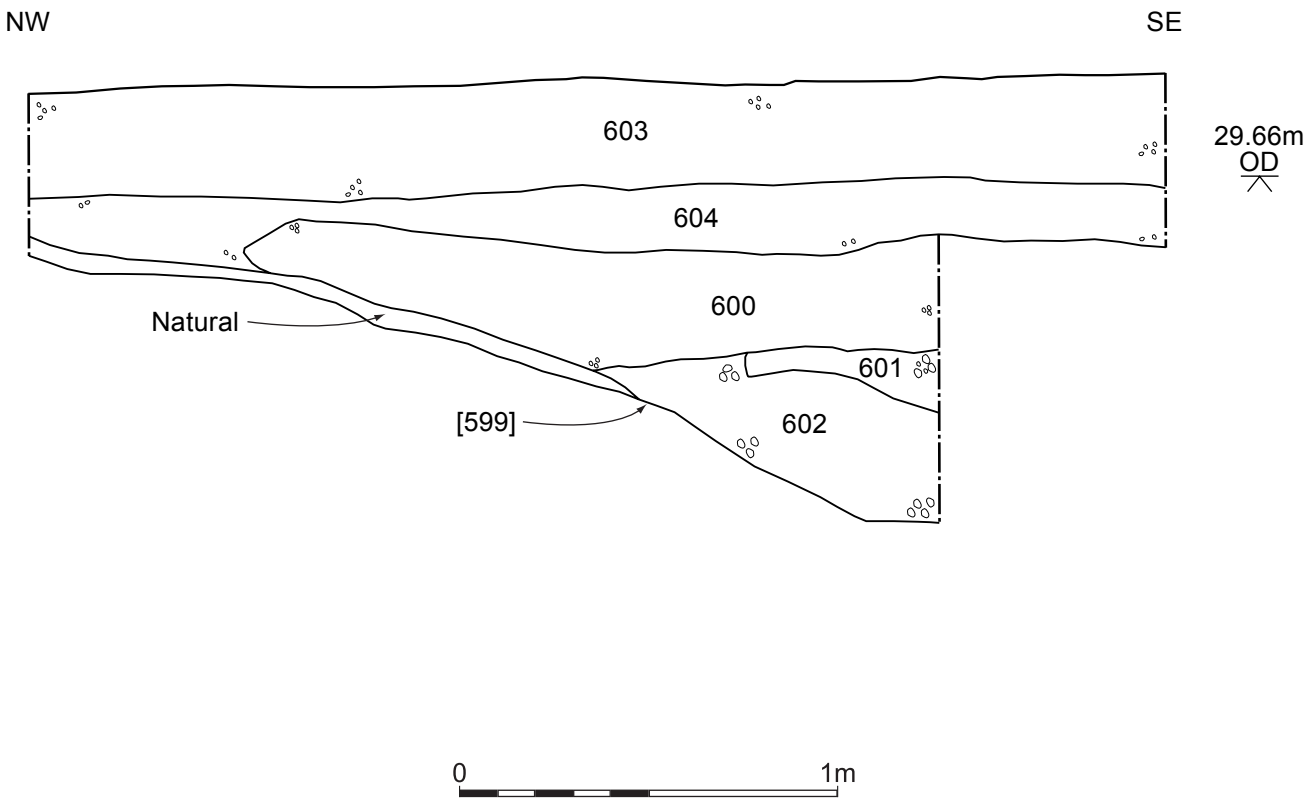

Figure 26 Trench 23: section 69, facing south-west

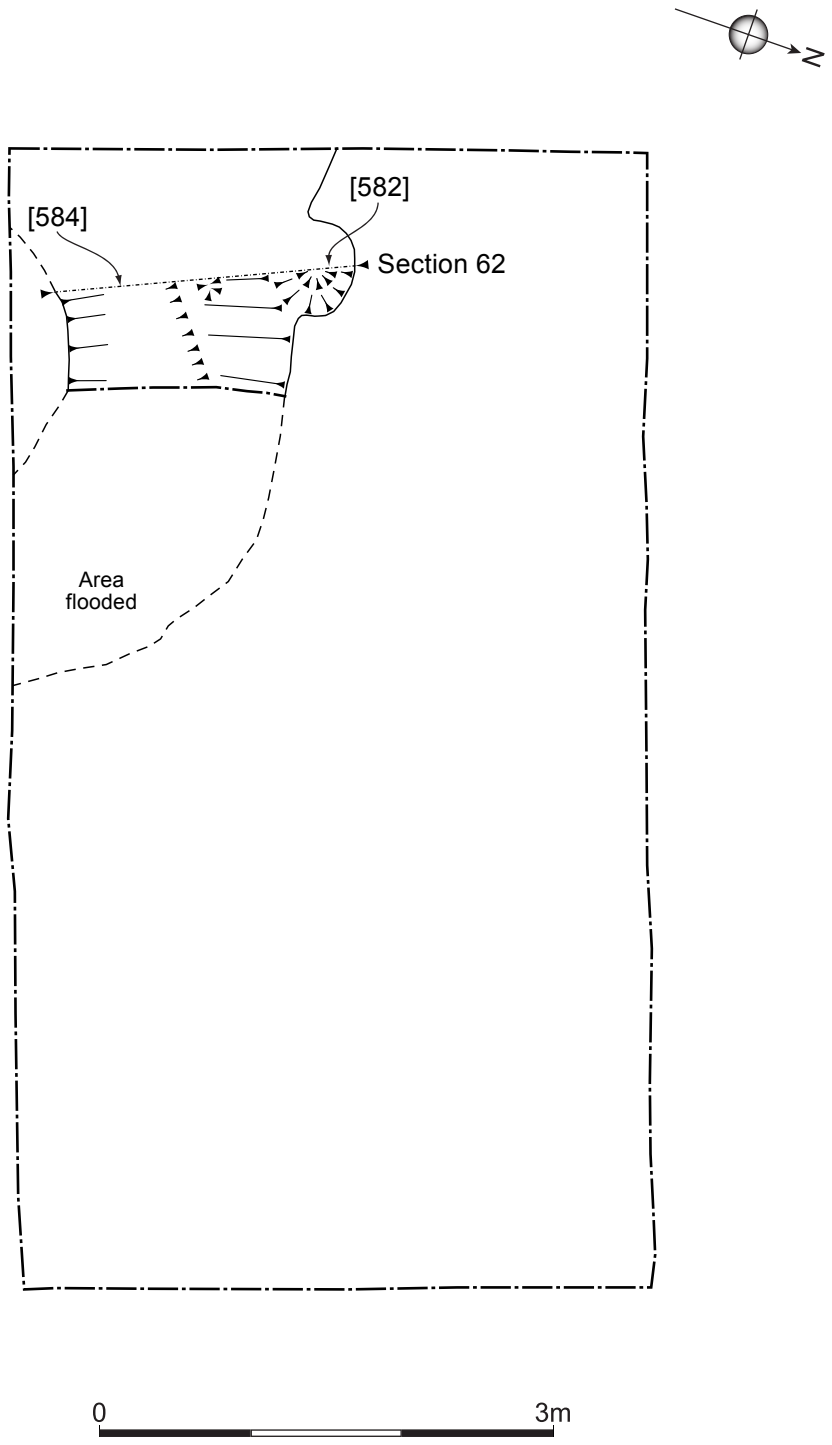

Figure 27 Plan of Trench 24

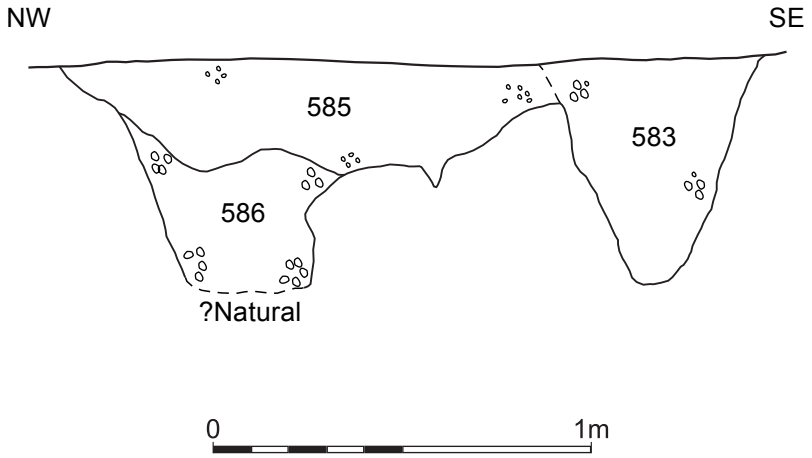

Figure 28 Trench 24: Section 62 across ?natural features, facing south-west

Plate 1 Late Saxon strap-end (SF5)
(Scale = mm)

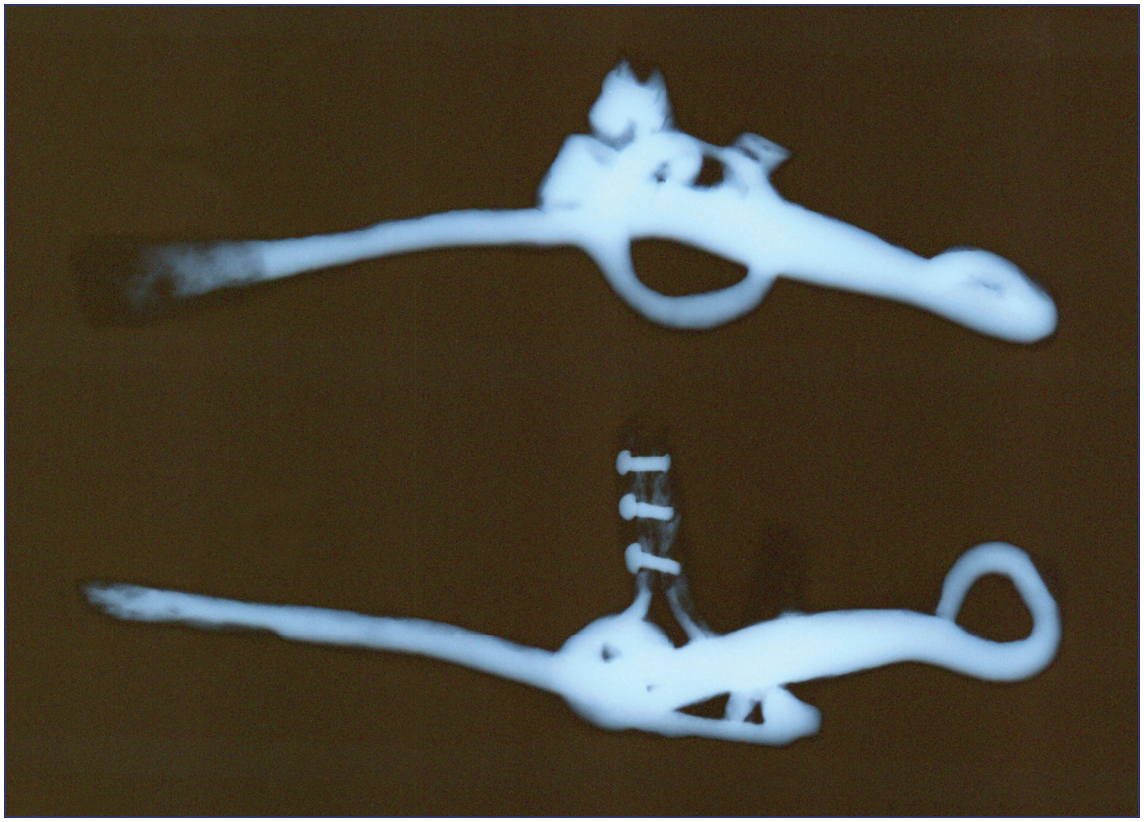

Plate 2 X-ray of Early Saxon snaffle bit (SF9)