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CHURCH FARM, LAND AT INGHAM ROAD/YARMOUTH ROAD, STALHAM, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

Author: Kamil Orzechowski and Andrew A. S. Newton	
NGR: TG 3771 2520	Report No. 4438
District: North Norfolk	Site Code: ENF 129694
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. P4678
Signed:	Date: December 2013

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Church Farm, Ingham Road/Yarmouth Road, Stalham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Excavation*		
Project description (250 words) *This excavation recorded multi-period archaeological remains. The earliest dateable features comprised pits of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date but residual Neolithic worked flint was present in some later features. A corridor of land delineated by ditches stretching across the majority of the site has tentatively been dated as prehistoric; late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from these ditches but aspects of its form might indicate that it was earlier in date than this. Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity was represented by single ditches dated to each of these periods. At the southern end of the site a medieval enclosure was identified; this appears to represent a plot flanking Yarmouth Road. Stratigraphic evidence suggests that at least three different, consecutive arrangements of medieval enclosure may be represented here. However, the majority of evidence for medieval activity would appear to represent a possible croft/toft-type holding. Following this, several ditches appear to represent a field system of post-medieval date, possibly representing parliamentary enclosure. It is notable, however, that these post-medieval ditches do not follow the same axes of alignment as the 19th century pattern of enclosure; this is represented by a boundary ditch consistent with a boundary depicted on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area. A second ditch of this date would appear to represent a rearrangement of boundaries after 1885. The most recent features recorded during the excavation comprised Second World War anti-glider or anti-tank ditches.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*July-August 2013*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Futurework (Y/N/?)	*N*
P. number	*P4678*	Site code	*ENF 129694*
Type of project	*Archaeological Excavation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Agricultural land*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)			
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Norfolk*	*North Norfolk*	*Stalham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)*		
Post code (if known)	*-*		
Area of site	*c.9ha*		
NGR	*TG 3771 2520*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c.4.5.- 8m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Kamil Orzechowski*		
Funded by	*Hopkins Homes*		
Full title	*Church Farm, Ingham Road/Yarmouth Road, Stalham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Excavation. Research Archive Report*		
Authors	*Orzechowski, K. and Newton, A. A. S.*		
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Date (of report)	*December 2013*		

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CHURCH FARM, LAND AT INGHAM ROAD/YARMOUTH ROAD, STALHAM, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

SUMMARY

This excavation, conducted in July and August 2013, within Stalham, a small town in the Norfolk Broads area, recorded multi-period archaeological remains. The earliest dateable features comprised pits of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date but residual Neolithic worked flint was present in some later features. A corridor of land delineated by ditches stretching across the majority of the site has tentatively been dated as prehistoric; late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from these ditches but aspects of its form might indicate that it was earlier in date than this. Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity was represented by single ditches dated to each of these periods. At the southern end of the site a medieval enclosure was identified; this appears to represent a plot flanking Yarmouth Road. Stratigraphic evidence suggests that at least three different, consecutive arrangements of medieval enclosure may be represented here. However, the majority of evidence for medieval activity would appear to represent a possible croft/toft-type holding. Following this, several ditches appear to represent a field system of post-medieval date, possibly representing parliamentary enclosure. It is notable, however, that these post-medieval ditches do not follow the same axes of alignment as the 19th century pattern of enclosure; this is represented by a boundary ditch consistent with a boundary depicted on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area. A second ditch of this date would appear to represent a rearrangement of boundaries after 1885. The most recent features recorded during the excavation comprised Second World War anti-glider or anti-tank ditches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July and August 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted a programme of archaeological investigation by `strip, map and sample' on land at Church Farm, Ingham Road/Yarmouth Road, Stalham, Norfolk (NGR TG 3771 2520; Figs 1 & 2). The investigation was undertaken to comply with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the residential development of the site.

1.2 The requirement followed a geophysical survey (Biggs 2011) and a trial trench evaluation of the site (Orzechowski 2013).

1.3 The project was undertaken in compliance with advice received from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service and a specification prepared by AS (dated 20 May 2013). It adhered to appropriate sections of

Gurney, D, 2003, 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper* 14. The excavation was also conducted according to the Institute of for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.4 The primary objective was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The research aims were principally:

- Place the prehistoric and medieval activity in context with the known activity of these dates in the surrounding area;
- Characterise the activity present within the site;
- Identify topographical/geological/geographical influences on the layout and development of the activity present within the current site and in the surrounding area; and
- Environmental reconstruction.

Planning policy context

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Description of the site

2.1.1 The site lies in the eastern part of the centre of the village of Stalham, between Yarmouth Road to the south and Ingham Road to the north-west (Figs. 1 & 2). Church Farm lies adjacent to the south-east. The site extends to some 9ha, with *c*.2ha of this being proposed for open space. It is currently arable fields.

2.2 Topography, geology and Soils

2.2.1 Stalham is located 5km south-west of the coast in the low lying Norfolk Broads. The site lies at 4m AOD, with Sutton Broad containing Sutton Fen & Nature Reserve located approximately 450m to the south of the town. The local soils are typical brown earths of the Wick 2 Association which are characterised as deep well drained coarse loamy soils with occasional seasonal waterlogging. The site lies on a solid geology of Neogene undifferentiated to Quaternary rocks, overlain by Hunstanton Till, a reddish brown sandy clay with erratics of chalk, flint, sandstone, igneous and metamorphic rocks. In the valley of the river Ant, to the south and west, the drift geology comprises estuarine and freshwater sands, silts, clays and peats.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 Field walking undertaken in Stalham has identified a substantial quantity of prehistoric artefacts which may suggest a reasonable level of occupation. The finds have included numerous flint implements from the Mesolithic/Neolithic period (NHER 25744, 25745, 8223), a scraper of Bronze Age date (NHER 33136) and a considerable quantity of Iron Age pottery (NHER 13074). Prehistoric features (NHER 33981, 33982) have also been identified, including possible Bronze Age ring ditches and barrows indicating prehistoric occupation in the area. Most relevant to the site, a Bronze Age palstave was found approximately 200m to the west (NHER 8231), and an axe head came from some 300m to the south (NHER 8230). In 1997 field walking and metal detecting identified Neolithic and Bronze Age burnt flints 750-800m north-east of the site and an excavation in 1999 in the same area identified a cluster of possible Bronze Age pits (NHER 33983). A spread of prehistoric black flint flakes were found 350-400m to the south of the site (NHER 25519), and more flakes were found 150m to the north (NHER 24820). The only NHER point actually recorded within the site proposed for development is a cropmark of an undated curvilinear ditch identified on the north-east side of the site from a 1946 aerial photograph (NHER 38518; Fig. 1). The cropmark, which has a centre point of TG 3785 2519, has a curving and a straight side and runs between end points TG 3784 2518 and TG 3786 and 2521. It is suggested as representing an unfinished prehistoric enclosure.

2.3.2 It is likely that a Roman settlement lay outside Stalham (NHER 52563) as there is quite a large amount of Roman archaeology in the environs of the village. In particular Roman enclosures, field systems and a possible farmstead have been identified to the west and south of Stalham (NHER 49307, 49302, 49310). A Roman cremation burial was found adjacent to St Mary's Church approximately 250m west of the site (NHER 8240), and Roman coins have been recovered from near the site although their locations have not been precisely recorded (NHER 23727, 35149).

2.3.3 Little evidence of Anglo-Saxon finds has so far been identified around Stalham with the exception of a scatter of finds from field walking to the north-west (NHER 35333) and south-east. Stalham probably derives its name from 'settlement by the fishing pool' and at Domesday, four manorial estates are recorded there (NHER 52563). Grade II* listed St Mary's Church dates mainly to the 14th and 15th centuries (NHER 8256). Excavations at 113 High Street, in 2009, identified two large medieval field boundaries and ditches, gullies and pits containing medieval pottery. Further excavation found a series of postholes and pits containing medieval and post-medieval pottery, and a medieval cart track was also identified (NHER 52563). A medieval coin of Edward IV was found 200m south of the site (NHER 31400).

2.3.4 A number of listed buildings are situated on or adjacent to Yarmouth road to the south of the site including Stalham High School (NHER 50043), Rosedale (NHER 47242) and Hall Cottage (NHER 50040). The route of the former Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway which closed in 1959 follows the course of the A149 some 500m west of the site (NHER 13581). The skeleton of a post-medieval elephant was found beneath a tree approximately 150 years old at Stalham Surgery, 350m to the south (NHER 28991). The owners of Pond House are known to have kept a circus in the mid 19th century. An evaluation on Bank Street some 550m north-west of the site revealed no archaeological finds (NHER 52612). A geophysical survey carried out 350m to the west proved negative (NHER 38191). The 1885 Ordnance Survey Map shows that there were originally more field boundaries on the site and these may show up as cropmarks.

3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 The site has previously been subject to a geophysical survey (Biggs 2011) and an archaeological evaluation (Orzechowski 2012). The geophysical survey revealed anomalies of probable archaeological origin. In summary;

> *these include a set of anomalies along the southern boundary of the site set on a neat, rectangular alignment suggestive of Romano-British settlement. A series of positive linear cut features cross the site on their own alignment suggestive of a former field system. A further set of anomalies on a different orientation may suggest a second phase of field system. Anomalies in the eastern corner of the field may share similar*

characteristics to the cropmark enclosure (HER 38518) and may be of similar origin.

(Biggs 2011)

3.2 Following the geophysical survey, NCC HES required a 2-3% sample of the development site to be subject to trial trenching, targeting the anomalies that the survey identified. Twenty trenches, each measuring 40m x 1.8m, were excavated (Fig. 2). This excluded the c.2ha proposed for public open space as part of the development. In summary, the trial trench evaluation revealed:

A range of features predominantly ditches (37) and pits (31), but also gullies (8), post holes (7) and a possible hearth (1).

Every trench contained features. The majority of the features were undated. One early Iron Age feature (Tr.2 Pit F1039) and a likely residual early Iron Age sherd (Tr.6 Ditch F1020) were excavated. Medieval (11th - 13th and mid 12th - 14th century) features were recorded in Trenches 19 and 20. The latter were largely discrete features (pits and post holes) as opposed to ditches. Finds were sparse. In addition to early Iron Age and medieval pottery, small (1-3 pieces) quantities of residual struck flint and small fragments of Roman CBM were found.

The trial trenching shows a good correlation with the geophysical survey (Biggs 2011). The cropmark overlying Trench 12 was thought to represent an enclosure possibly of prehistoric date (HER 38518). In the event few prehistoric finds were present comprising sparse flint and an early Iron Age pit in Trench 2 (F1039). Iron Age and Roman field systems are known in the Stalham area, and the evaluation recorded a least one significant field system. There were insufficient finds to date this system. Along the southern boundary of the site the geophysical survey recorded a set of anomalies on a neat, rectangular alignment possibly indicative of Romano-British settlement. Trenches 19 and 20 revealed a marked increase in the presence of archaeological features and the majority were discrete features (pits). The features proved to be of medieval (11th – 13th and mid 12th – 14th century) date. The site lies outside the core medieval settlement area of Stalham but finds of medieval pottery in the surrounding fields may mean this previously extended further. The current evaluation indicates that the settlement did indeed extend further.

(Orzechowski 2012)

4 RESEARCH DESIGN

4.1 The trial trenching served to define and date the cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. The cropmark overlying Trench 12 was thought to represent an enclosure possibly of prehistoric date (HER 38518). In the event

few prehistoric finds were present comprising sparse flint and an early Iron Age pit in Trench 2 (F1039). Prehistoric flintwork has been found in the adjacent fields.

4.2 Iron Age and Roman field systems are known in the Stalham area, and the evaluation recorded a least one significant field system. There were insufficient finds to date this system.

4.3 Along the southern boundary of the site the geophysical survey recorded a set of anomalies on a neat, rectangular alignment possibly indicative of Romano-British settlement. Trenches 19 and 20 revealed a marked increase in the presence of archaeological features and the majority were discrete features (pits). The features proved to be of medieval (11th – 13th and mid 12th – 14th century) date. The site lies outside the core medieval settlement area of Stalham but finds of medieval pottery in the surrounding fields may mean this previously extended further. The current evaluation indicates that the settlement did indeed extend further. The identification of medieval archaeological remains close to, but at the peripheries of, the core of the settlement of Stalham suggests evidence regarding the form and layout of the medieval settlement may be derived from this site. Medlycott (2011, 70) identifies the origins and development of rural settlements as an important research for the eastern region. Information of this type may contribute to the development and testing of settlement diversity models (Medlycott 2011, 69).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 NCC required an archaeological investigation of the site by `strip, map and sample'. Four areas were proposed:

Area 1 (1989m2) encompassed the Iron Age pit in Trial Trench 2;
Area 2 (16763m2) examined the eastern side of the site;
Area 3 (3915m2) overlay the medieval features recorded adjacent to Yarmouth Road; and
Area 4 (3915m2) encompassed the features recorded in Trial Trenches 11 and 16.

5.2 The areas of stripping were to be enlarged if necessary (as defined by the significance of the heritage assets on site), and the areas of stripping were agreed with Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council. In the event the areas were not enlarged.

5.3 The excavation comprised the following stages:

- Mechanical stripping of topsoil and overburden
- Cleaning/base planning of archaeological features
- Review with NCC.
- Full excavation and recording of the archaeological deposits as specified by NCC

5.4 The mechanical stripping was undertaken under close archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical 360º excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Phasing (Figs. 3-14)

Based on artefactual and stratigraphic evidence, the archaeological features that were recorded during the excavation of the site can be divided into seven distinct phases of activity. These range in date from late Bronze Age/early Iron Age to modern.

Phase	Date	Description
1	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pits occurring in two loose concentrations and a small number of similar isolated features. A single gully of this date was recorded at the northern end of the site
2	Prehistoric	Parallel ditches of late Bronze/early Iron Age date or later possibly delineating a wide trackway or route across the landscape. A co-axially aligned ditch may represent part of an associated field system
3	Roman	A single ditch containing Romano-British pottery
4	Anglo-Saxon	A single ditch containing late Anglo-Saxon pottery and residual middle to late Saxon pottery recovered from later features
5	Medieval	Enclosure with internal features and related features to the immediate east. Ditches slightly to the north represent possibly related enclosures/boundaries
6	Post-medieval	Ditches comprising a field system of probable post-medieval date
7	Early modern and modern	Boundary ditches of *c*. 19th century date, one of which is identifiable on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area. Slightly later ditches probably associated with wartime defensive features.

Table 1: Phasing

6.2 Deposit Model

The stratigraphy was uniform across the site with Topsoil L2000 overlying Subsoil L2001 which in turn overlay the natural deposits (L2002). Topsoil L2000 was a dark grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional stones (0.30 – 0.42m thick). Subsoil L2001 was a light brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional stones. It varied in thickness between 0.04m and 0.40m. The

natural deposits (L2002), comprising mid orange brown, loose to friable, sandy gravels, were encountered at depths of between 0.39m and 0.74m.

6.3 Phase 1: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (Figs. 3, 4, 9 and 14-16)

Features assigned a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date mostly occurred in two distinct groups. The first of these groups was recorded within Excavation Area 1 at the north of the site. This group comprised the irregular, but fairly substantial, F2026 and the much smaller but equally irregular F2028. In addition to these two pits Gully F2034 was also dated to Phase 1. This was aligned broadly north-east to south-west and extended beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. None of these features lay in particularly close proximity to each other, being separated by gaps of at least 15m. However, a number of undated pits were also recorded in this Excavation Area and these displayed similar morphological characteristics to F2026 and F2028 suggesting that they could represent the occurrence of contemporary activity in the gaps between these dateable features.

The second identifiable group of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age features was identified towards the south-east of Excavation Area 2. These small pits (from north to south; F2146, F2148, F2144, F2142) were arranged in a short, irregular, dog-legged line. All were circular or oval in plan but varied in profile. Their clustering in this way indicates a focus of activity of this date but there is no convincing structural configuration to their layout. The most southerly, F2142, was, however, cut by a stakehole, F2151, which has also been assigned to this phase. A rectangular medieval feature (F2161) was recorded between Pits F2148 and F2144 and three small features were located to the immediate west of F2146, to which they were very similar. The presence of struck flint in one of these, F2153, suggests that it was probable contemporary with the Phase 1 features in this part of the site. This cut F2155, which contained no dateable evidence but must be of Phase 1 date or earlier. The similarity in form of F2157 with F2146 and F2153 suggests that it may also have originated in Phase 1.

An isolated late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pit, F2038, was recorded in Grid Square I10, close to 100m from any identifiable contemporary features. While several other features of this date were observed to contain charcoal within their fills, especially amongst the group recorded towards the south-east of Excavation Area 2, this feature was notable for the large quantity of charcoal present near its base. It is unlikely that this indicates that this was a fire pit or pit-oven but does suggest that the remnants of a fire were dumped into it.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2026	L2027	Irregular. Steep sides, irregular base (3.17 x 1.40 x 0.48m)	Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with clay with occasional yellow sandy patches, occasional small sub-angular flints and rooting	M7	
F2028	L2029	Irregular. Shallow sloping sides, flat base (0.70 x 0.52 x 0.11m)	Light orange brown compact sandy silt	M8	-
F2034	L2035A	Linear. Steep sides, rounded concave base (10.7 x 0.5 x 0.1m)	Dark blueish grey compact silty clay with very occasional well-rounded stones	N7	Gully
	L2035B		Light brownish yellow friable silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones		
F2038	L2039	Oval. Steep, near vertical, slightly undercut sides, flat base (0.80 x 0.50 x 0.27m)	Light yellow brown friable silty sand with very occasional large sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and a large quantity of charcoal near base of feature	I10	-
F2142	L2143	Irregular. Very steep sides, flat base (0.6 x 0.6 x 0.19m)	Mid yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional medium and large rounded stones	E8	Cut by F2151
F2144	L2145	Sub-oval. Shallow, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.72 x 0.50 x 0.15m)	Mid orange brown loose sandy clay with occasional small stones	E8	-
F2146	L2147	Circular, moderately steep sides, flat base (Diam. 0.4m; Depth 0.1m)	Dark brownish grey friable sandy silt with occasional small and v. small angular and rounded flints and charcoal flecks	E8	-
F2148	L2149	Oval. Steep sides, concave base (0.78 x 0.78 x 0.53)	Basal fill: Mid grey brown loose sandy with occasional ash and charcoal	E8	-
	L2150		Upper fill: Mid yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded small to medium flint		
F2151	L2152	Circular. Very steep sides, pointed base (0.17 x 0.17 x 0.15m)	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt	E8	Stakehole. Cut into F2142
F2153	L2154	Circular. Moderate sides,	Dark brown grey friable sandy silt with	E8	Cut F2155

		concave base (Diam.: 0.35m; Depth: 0.09m)	occasional small angular flint		
F2155	L2156	Circular. Moderate sides, flattish base (Diam.: 0.4m; Depth: 0.1m)	Mid brown grey friable sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded flint	E8	Cut by F2153

Table 2: Phase 1 features

6.4 Phase 2: Prehistoric (Figs. 3, 5-10, 14, 17 and 18)

The predominant aspect of this phase was a parallel alignment of ditches running north-east to south-west across the site at an oblique angle to all of the other linear features. For the majority of the course of this alignment, which comprised F2048 to the north and F2064 to the south, the gap between the ditches varied from between *c*. 16 and *c.* 19m. To the south-west, where it was continued by Ditches recorded as F2254 and F2272, the gap narrowed to slightly below 15m.

These ditches may delineate a corridor of land, possibly some form of route or trackway across the landscape. No evidence for any kind of metalling was present, though the presumed early date of these features may account for this. If this was some kind of track or 'road' the ditches suggest that it was a formalised one, rather than just a commonly used and well-trodden route through the surrounding landscape. The possible reasons for the formalisation of such a route are numerous but could relate to ownership of the land or conspicuous display. A definition as a droveway, however, is probably semantically and practically inappropriate, although this is not to say that herd animals were not driven along it. The delineation and formalisation of a track does not necessarily indicate its use as a droveway. Humans have been capable of moving herd animals, on foot, over long distances, without resorting to forcing them down artificially bounded and restricted trackways, since the beginning of pastoral agriculture; there are many examples of such practice in the modern world. Indeed, in most cases animals being driven from one location to another would have been driven down the same routes as those used by any other traffic and that is likely to have included unbounded, informal but well-trodden paths through the landscape. Furthermore, ditches are unlikely to have been as an effective method of controlling the direction of driven herd or flock animals, especially when the athleticism of Soay sheep, the modern breed most similar to those of the Iron Age, is considered, as other methods of control, such as the use of dogs and/or several herdsmen. Even the construction of banks, made from the upcast from the excavation of the ditches, is unlikely to have provided a sufficient obstacle and only fences, hedges or 'dead-hedges' (made from posts and severed branches (Muir 2004, 114)) would have been suitable.

The width of the gap between the ditches may suggest that this set of features represents something other than a trackway. At close to 20m, at its widest point, the possible trackway is substantially wider than, for example a

trackway recorded running between Iron Age enclosures at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2013a), which was 6m in width, or the more similar but much later trackway recorded at Fosters End Drove, East Winch, Norfolk (Lally *et al*, in prep), which was between 5 and 10m in width. The scale of this trackway makes it similar, in width at least, to the Neolithic cursus monument recorded at Fornham All Saints, Suffolk and the Stanwell Cursus in Surrey, both of which displayed ditches positioned approximately 20m apart (Martin 1982; Barber 2011, 2). An association with monumental elements within the landscape seems possible for this set of features; Cropmarks which have been tentatively interpreted as Bronze Age ring ditches (NHER 36104, 49301) and possible Bronze Age barrows (NHER 8313) have been recorded in the surrounding area.

This complex of features could not be securely dated, the only pottery it contained was late Bronze Age to early Iron Age in date but CBM was also present, although this is potentially intrusive. The possible trackway does, however, appear to be one of the earliest elements on the site and a date closer to that assigned to Phase 1 seems most likely. Ditch F2108 (=2088)) was aligned at a right angle to the trackway and was undated but may be considered to be part of a contemporary system of boundaries, based on its relative spatial positioning.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2048	L2049A	Linear. Steep sides, narrow base (50+ x 1.8 (max) x 0.56m (max))	Very light brown friable silty sand	F6-H11	Cut by F2040A
	L2049B		Orange grey loose silty sand with occasional flints and frequent iron oxide staining.		
	L2049C		Orange grey loose silty clay with occasional flints and frequent iron oxide staining		
	L2049D		Orange grey loose silty clay with occasional flints and frequent iron oxide staining		
	L2049E		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional medium and large angular stones		
	L2049F		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional medium and large angular stones		
F2064	L2065A	Linear. Steep sides, concave base (30.00+ x 1.10 (max) x 0.4m (max))	Light yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional large and medium angular and sub-angular stones	E7-G11	Cut by F2060B and F2126D. Fills appear to be the result of natural accumulation rather than deliberate infill.
	L2065B		Very light brown friable silty sand with occasional flint nodules		

	L2065C		Light grey brown loose silty sand with frequent flint and occasional iron oxide		
	L2065D		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand		
	L2065E		Mid grey brown loose silty sand with occasional sub-angular small and medium flints		
	L2065F		Mid yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional medium and large rounded and sub-rounded stones		
F2108	L2109A	Linear. Steep sides concave to flat base (23.00 x 0.84 (max) x 0.24m (max))	Light orange grey friable silty sand	K12-J12	Cut by F2110
	L2109B		Light greyish yellow friable silty sand with occasional flint and iron oxide		
F2088 (=F2108)	L2089	Linear. Steep sides, concave base (7.00 x 0.48 x 0.065m)	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with occasional small stones	I12	Probable continuation of F2108
F2254	L2255A	Linear. Steep to moderate sides, flat base (40.00+ x 1.45 0.4m)	Dark orange brown loose silty sand with occasional flint	D1-E2	Probable continuation of F2048
	L2255B		Dark orange brown loose silty sand with occasional flint		
F2272	L2273	Linear. Moderate sides, concave base (45.00+ x 0.57 x 0.23m)	Dark orange brown loose silty sand with occasional flint	D1-D2	Probable continuation of F2064

Table 3: Phase 2 features

6.5 Phase 3: Roman (Figs. 3, 8, 12-14, 19 and 20)

There is a considerable amount of evidence to suggest Romano-British settlement may have occurred within the area of Stalham. Fieldwalking (NHER 13074, 25605, 33139) has produced pottery on a substantial scale, with a small concentration to the south-west of the town. Cropmarks indicate that a Roman farmstead may have existed close to Chapelfield Farm (NHER 49302) and other cropmarks further afield suggest occupational activity.

The only evidence of this period recorded at the current site comprised F2169, a quite narrow, shallow ditch which was identified, running on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. It contained 13 sherds of Roman sandy greyware, which probably all came from the same vessel.

Ditch F2130 would appear to be the easterly continuation of Ditch F2169. It contained no finds but was very similar in form and dimensions to F2169 and ran on the same alignment in Grid Squares G6 to G8.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2169	L2170A	Linear. Moderately sloping sides, flat to concave base (33.00+ x 0.46 (max) x 0.19m (max))	Mid orange brown slightly compact sandy silt with frequent small and large stones	H3-G5	Cut by F2165 and F2163
	L2170B		Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional angular flint		
	L2170C		Light orange brown loose sandy silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones		
F2130	L2131A	Linear. Steep sides, concave to flat base (53.00+ x 0.45 (max) x 0.2m (max))	Light orange brown slightly compact silty sand with occasional small stones	G6-G8	Cut by F2118 and F2128
	L2131B		Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2131C		Light grey brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint		

Table 4: Phase 3 features

6.6 Phase 4: Anglo-Saxon (Figs. 3, 8, 14, 21 and 22)

Like the Roman period activity, activity in the Saxon period was represented by a single ditch. F2118 was a fairly substantial feature, running for 26m on a south-east to north-west alignment before extending beyond the limit of excavation in Grid Square H7. Initially, it was suggested that this feature might relate to the system of ditches assigned to Phase 2 as it was positioned at a right-angle to Ditch F2048. However, it contained a single sherd of pottery that was identified as a grey sandy Thetford-type ware, dated to the late Anglo-Saxon period.

Further evidence of Saxon activity was represented by a further 13 sherds of pottery, present as residual material in later features or within the subsoil. This material is likely to have originated in the middle to late Saxon period.

Despite its recorded existence at Domesday, little evidence of Anglo-Saxon period occupation has previously been identified within Stalham.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2118	L2119A	Linear. Steep sides, concave to	Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with	H7-G8	Cut by F2128A. Cut F2130C and F2136C

		flat base (26.00+ x 0.9 (max) x 0.35m (max))	occasional small angular and sub-angular stones		
	L2119B		Light yellow orange loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2119C		Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flints		
	L2119D		Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flints		

Table 5: Phase 4 features

6.7 Phase 5: Medieval (Figs. 3, 10-14, 23, 24 and 25)

The Enclosure

Medieval features were concentrated at the southern end of the site, within Excavation Area 3. Two sides of a rectangular enclosure were revealed. These were formed by the south-south-west to north-north-east aligned F2179 and the east-south-east to west-north-west aligned F2234, which was possibly a recut of the substantially narrower and shorter F2236, which ran on the same alignment. Running parallel to F2234, approximately 4m to the north-east, and possibly forming a double-ditched boundary, was Ditch F2228. A similar spaced pair of ditches, F2260 and F2269, was recorded running on a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment in the north-western part of Excavation Area 3. Only a short length of each of these ditches fell within the area of excavation but it appears likely that they may relate to a similar enclosure to the north-west.

Within the enclosure was a line of elongated pits or short linears (F2222, F2191, F2211 and F2218) running parallel, and adjacent, to the eastern boundary ditch (F2179). The function of these features is unclear but they were all very similar in profile with steep, near vertical sides and flat bases. Internal division of the enclosure is suggested by the presence of F2250, F2256 and F2258, which may comprise a fragmentary south-south-west to north-north-east aligned internal boundary, and F2181, which may represent part of a similar internal division on a coaxial alignment. However, both F2250 and F2181 were cut by the main enclosures ditches, suggesting that they may have formed part of a smaller enclosure slightly preceding that formed by F2179 and F2234.

In addition to several undated features, the enclosure also contained F2193 which was similar in plan, although slightly wider, and profile to the alignment of elongated pits or short linears (F2222, F2191, F2211 and F2218) running parallel, and adjacent, to F2179. Although it ran broadly parallel to F2218, its positioning was such that it cannot be conclusively stated to have formed part

of the same system or complex of features as those closer to the boundary ditch.

To the south of F2193 was the broadly east to west aligned F2187, which in plan was a very regular linear feature with close similarities to F2195, another linear feature dated as medieval which lay outside of the enclosure and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. These two features were positioned in alignment with one another, suggesting a possible direct relationship between them.

The largest feature recorded within the enclosure was F2274. This measured in excess of 17m in length and more than 7.2m in width. Its full extent remains unknown as it extended beyond the limits of excavation to both the north-west and south-west. At only 0.82m its depth did not match its other dimensions in far exceeding the scale of other features present at the site. Indeed, this depth was comparable or less than several of the smaller Phase 5 pits (e.g. F2191 and F2211). The irregularity that it displayed in plan was matched by its profile. This perhaps indicates that it was formed by the amalgamation of a large number of broadly contemporary smaller intercutting pits having been cut in this one localised area. The gradually sloping edges that F2274 displayed might, however, suggest that this was not the case. Whether it was cut as a single pit or represents the amalgamation of a number of pits with a common sequence of fills, initially observations during excavation suggested that access to the underlying natural geology might have been the motivating factor in the creation of this feature. It contained no finds and is assigned to Phase 5 due its stratigraphic relationships with Gully F2181, which it cut, and linear F2187, which it was cut by.

The final medieval feature recorded within the enclosure was F2215. This was a particularly deep feature with very steep sides and a flat base. It was initially interpreted as a possible well or dew pond. However, the conditions surrounding it suggest that the latter interpretation, at least, is unlikely as, in the sandy gravel natural substrate present at this site, a clay lining would have been required to trap and retain water and the silty sand back fill of Pit F2213 into which F2215 was cut would not have been suitable (Muir 2004, 209).

This enclosure may indicate the presence of a medieval precursor to Church Farm to the west.

Features outside of the enclosure

Outside and to the immediate east of the enclosure were the termini of three linear features, including F2195 (discussed above), all of which extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. The most southerly of these, F2183, cut medieval pit F2185. These features, along with Ditches F2260 and F2269, to the north-west of the observed enclosure, suggest that a system of medieval boundaries and enclosures may have existed in this part of Stalham.

To the north, only two small isolated pits and a ditch of medieval date were identified. These comprised the only medieval features recorded outside of Excavation Area 3. F2161, a small rectangular feature, was recorded amongst the group of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pits in Grid Square E8 and F2171, an amorphous feature, was located to the immediate north of modern Ditch F2163 in Grid Square H4. Ditch F2165 was present in Grid Squares H4 to G5. It cut Roman ditch F2169 and ran broadly parallel to the Phase 7 Ditch F2163, suggesting that it might have been a precursor of the later boundary. It extended beyond limits of Excavation Area 4 in both directions but a continuation of it was not observed in Excavation Area 2 to the east. Its alignment was slightly different to that of the medieval boundaries recorded towards the south of the site, possibly suggesting that it was directly related.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2179	L2180A	Linear. Steep sides, narrow concave base (54.00 x 1.00 (max) x 0.42m (max))	Orange brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flint nodules	A2-C3	Cut F2181B, F2189B. Cut by F2252, F2234A, F2234C, F2236C
	L2180B		Dark brown loose silty sand with occasional sub-angular and angular stones		
	L2180C		Orange brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flint nodules		
	L2180D		Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional large and medium rounded, sub-rounded and sub angular stones		
	L2180E		Dark grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional large and medium angular and rounded stones		
	L2180F		Dark brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-angular and angular stones		
F2228	L2229A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, concave base (42.00 x 0.7 (max) x 0.35m (max))	Mid brown friable sandy silt with occasional large sub-angular stones and occasional medium angular and sub-angular stones	D1-C3	Ran parallel to F2234
	L2229B		Dark brown loose sandy silt		
F2234	L2235A	Linear. Steep sides, concave base (50+ x 1.00 (max) x 0.18m	Dark brown loose silty sandy with occasional medium sub-angular stones	C1-C3	Cut F2179F, F2250B

	L2235B	(max))	Mid brown loose silty sand with occasional medium size sub-angular and rounded stones		
	L2235C		Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded medium stones		
F2236	L2237A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, concave base (21.00 x 0.30 (max) x 0.12m (max))	Mid brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones	C2-C3	Cut F2179E. Cut by F2234C
	L2237B		Mid brown friable sandy silt with occasional small angular stones		

Table 6: Phase 5 enclosure ditches

Feature	**Context**	**Plan/ profile (dimensions)**	**Fill**	**Location (Grid Sq)**	**Relationships/ Comments**
F2185	L2186A	Oval. Gently sloping sides, concave base (1.70 x 1.20 x 0.20m)	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones	A2	Cut by F2183
	L2186B		Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional large angular stones		
F2189	L2190A	Circular. Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.9 x 0.88 x 0.42m)	Orange brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint	A2	Cut by F2179
	L2190B		Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional sub-angular and angular stones		
F2191	L2192	Sub oval. Moderately steep convex sides, flattish base (3.7 x 0.82 x 0.26m)	Orange brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flints	B2	-
F2193	L2194A	Rectangular. Steep, near vertical, sides, flat base (8.2 x 1.77 x 0.79m)	Mid brown grey friable sandy silt with occasional small stones	B1	Cut F2230
	L2194B		Mid brown grey friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints		
F2211	L2212	Rectangular. Steep, near vertical, sides, flat base (4.74 x 1.26 x 1.6m)	Orange brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flints and very occasional charcoal	B2	-

			flecks		
F2215	L2216	Oval. Steep, near vertical, sides, flat base (2.84 x 1.80 x 1.37m)	Light grey brown friable sandy silt occasional small and medium rounded and sub-rounded stones	A1	Cut F2213. Possible well.
F2218	L2219	Sub-rectangular. Steep, near vertical sides, flat base (4.45 x 0.98 x 0.42m)	Orange brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flints	B2	-
F2222	L2223	Sub-rectangular. Steep, near vertical sides, flat base (10.20 x 1.50 x 0.87m)	Dark grey brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded flints	B2-C2	-
F2256	L2257	Sub-oval/linear. Moderate sides, concave base (2.00 x 0.50 x 0.20m)	Dark brown loose silty clay	C2	-
F2274	L2292	Irregular in plan. Gradually sloping sides, irregular base (17+ x 7.2+ x 0.82m)	Primary fill: Mid orange firm sandy clay with moderate medium angular flints	A1, A2, B1	Cut by F2187. Cut F2181
	L2293		Secondary fill: Mottled dark red to grey firm sandy silt clay		
	L2275		Mid brown firm silt with clay with occasional gravel and small sub-rounded flints		

Table 7: Phase 5 pits within the enclosure

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2171	L2172	Irregular. Moderate to steep sides, uneven base (1.00 x 0.48 x 0.17m)	Mid yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional medium and large rounded to angular stones	H4	-
F2161	L2162	Sub-rectangular. Gently sloping sides, flattish base (0.64 x 0.40 x 0.09m)	Dark grey brown loose sandy silt	E8	-

Table 8: Phase 5 pits outside the Enclosure

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships
F2165	L2166A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flat to concave base (35.00+ x 0.70 (max) x 0.35m (max))	Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional medium to large angular and sub-angular stones	H4-G5	Cut F2169B
	L2166B		Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional angular		

			and sub-angular stones		
	L2166C		Light orange brown loose silty sand with occasional small stones		
F2181	L2182A	Linear. Steep sides, flat base (11.5 x 0.4 x 0.2m)	Light grey brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-angular and angular stones	A1-A2	Cut by F2179B and F2274
	L2182B		Light grey brown loose silty sand		
	L2182C		Dark brown loose silty sand		
F2183	L2184A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flat base (5.3 x 1.3 x 0.29m)	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones	A2	Cut F2185A
	L2184B		Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones		
F2187	L2188A	Linear. Steep to moderately sloping sides, flattish base (9.00 x 1.75 (max) x 0.62m (max))	Dark brown loose silty sand with occasional small angular and medium sub-angular stones	A1-A2	Cut F2274
	L2188B		Dark brown firm silt with clay		
F2195	L2196	Linear. Very steep, near vertical sides, flat base (3.40 x 1.30 x 0.50m)	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-rounded stones	A2	Ditch terminus with squared ends, uniform sides and a very sharp break of slope to its flat base.
F2209	L2210	Rectangular. Very steep, near vertical sides, flat base (2.5 x 1.45 x 0.38m)	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional large rounded and angular stones	A2	Cut F2207A
F2250	L2251A	Linear. Steep sides, flat base (6.00 x 0.2 x 0.15m (max))	Light grey brown loose silty sand with occasional small angular flints	C2	Cut by F2234B
	L2251B		Light grey brown loose silty sand		
F2258	L2259	Linear. Steep sides, flat base (8.00 x 0.50 x 0.18m)	Dark brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones	B1	-
F2260	L2261A	Linear. Steeps sides, flat base (22.00 x 0.7 (max) x 0.4m (max)	Mid orange grey loose silty sand with occasional rounded flints	D1-E1	Cut by F2265. Cut F2254B
	L2261B		Mid grey brown		

			friable sandy silt with occasional large to medium rounded and angular stones		
F2269	L2270	Linear. Moderately sloping sides, concave base (12 x 1.00 x 0.40m)	Basal fill: Mid orange brown friable sandy silt with occasional small to medium angular and rounded stones	D1-E1	Cut by F2265. Cut F2254
	L2271		Upper fill:Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with moderate small, medium and large rounded and sub-rounded stones		

Table 9: Phase 5 Ditches/Gullies outside the Enclosure

6.8 Phase 6: Post-Medieval (Figs. 3, 5-9, 12-14, 26 and 27)

No features could be assigned to this phase on the basis of their finds alone, indeed, most features assigned to this phase contained no finds of any description. However, the form, and alignment of a number of linear features, together with their relationships with other features suggests a field system of possible post-medieval date.

Despite the lack of dateable finds from these features, post-medieval activity at the site is attested by artefactual evidence. Very early post-medieval pottery occurred alongside medieval pottery in some of the Phase 5 features. This might suggest that the Phase 6 field systems represent the northward expansion and incorporation of land into the same ownership as the pre-existing enclosures to the south.

Not all of these ditches were directly contemporary, as stratigraphic evidence demonstrates. F2086, at the very north of the site, was cut by F2082, suggesting some rearrangement of the enclosures in this area. F2082, in turn, appeared to be cut by F2080. However, the spatial relationships between F2080, F2082 and other Phase 6 features slightly to the south-east suggests that this relationship represents a complementary addition to the Phase 6 enclosure system, rather than the rearrangement suggested by the relationship between F2086 and F2082.

Although all arranged on the same axes of alignment, the Phase 6 ditches may be seen to comprise two distinct groups. Those to the south-west, comprising F2136, F2167, F2173, F2175 and F2286, appeared to be more regular in form than those towards the north of the site (F2080, F2082, F2086, F2050, F2042, F2046, F2060 and F2070), perhaps suggesting that they were later in date. They could, however, be seen to form part of the same system of enclosure and so perhaps represent a later addition to the pre-existing field system.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2042 = F2046	L2043A	Linear. Variable shape in section (49.5 x 0.7 (max) x 0.29m (max)	Dark orange grey compact clay silt	G10-I10	Cut by F2040H. Cut F2052
	L2043B		Mid orange brown very compact sand with frequent medium sub-rounded stones		
	L2043C		Very light grey loose silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2043D		Mid orange brown friable silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2047A		Light yellow brown compact sandy silt		
	L2047B		Light yellow brown compact sandy silt		
F2050	L2051A	Linear. Steep sides, concave to flat base (46.00 x 0.54 x 0.25m)	Grey brown loose silty sand with moderate flint	H11-I11	Cut by F2096. Cut F2048C. F2050 ran on and E-W alignment for 22m before turning N-S and running for a further 24m
	L2051B		Light grey to mixed orange and grey compact sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones		
	L2051C		Light grey brown loose silty sand with occasional sub-angular flints		
F2060	L2061A	Linear. Steep sides, flat to concave base (33.00+ x 0.54 (max) x 0.18m (max))	Light to mid orange grey compact sandy, silty clay with occasional gravel	G10-G11	Cut by F2072
	L2061B		Mid brownish yellow friable silty sand with occasional angular stones		
	L2061C		Light grey orange compact sandy clay with occasional gravel		
	L2061D		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional large and medium angular and very angular stones		
F2070	L2071A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flattish base (*c*. 25.00 x 0.26 (max) x 0.18m (max))	Light yellow grey friable sandy silt with very occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint	G10-G11	Cut F2064
	L2071B		Light yellow brown friable sandy silt		
	L2071C		Light yellow grey friable sandy silt with occasional angular flints		
F2080	L2081A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, concave	Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with	H11-K11	Cut by F2104. Cut F2082

		base (50.00+ x 0.9 (max) x 0.35m (max)	occasional medium and large angular stones		
	L2081B		Light brownish grey loose sandy silt with occasional flint and frequent sub-angular stones		
	L2081C		Light grey brown friable silty sand with occasional medium and large angular stones		
F2082	L2083A	Curvilinear. Moderate to very steep sides, flat base (50.00+ x 0.54 (max) x 0.16m (max))	Light brownish yellow loose silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular stones	K10-I11	Cut by F2080 and F2040.
	L2083B		Light brownish yellow loose silty sand with occasional large angular stones		
	L2083C		Mid brownish yellow friable silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2083D		Mid brownish yellow friable silty sand with occasional medium angular stones		
	L2083E		Light yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint		
F2086	L2087A	Curvilinear. Very steep sides, flat base (50.00+ x 0.65 (max) x 0.13m (max))	Mid yellowish brown friable silty sand with occasional large angular stones	K10-L11	Cut by F2082B, F2094B and F2106
	L2087B		Mid brownish yellow loose silty sand with occasional large angular stones		
	L2087C		Dark orange brown loose silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2137B		Yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2137C		Light yellow brown loose sandy silt occasional sub-angular small flints		
F2136	L2137A	Linear. Steep to moderate sides, concave to flat base (53.00+ x 0.48 x 0.17m)	Orange grey compact silty sand with occasional small stones	G6-G8	Cut by F2118 and F2128
	L2137B		Yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2137C		Light yellow brown		

			loose sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint		
F2167	L2168	Linear. Moderately steep, irregular sides, concave base (46.5 x 0.59 x 0.15)	Mid brown grey, compact sandy silt with occasional small stones	F3-G3	-
F2173	L2174	Linear. Moderately steep, irregular sides, concave base (35.00 x 0.45 x 0.10m)	Mid orange brown compact sandy silt with occasional small stones	F3-G3	-
F2175	L2176	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flat base (34.00 x 0.42 x 0.07m)	Mid yellow brown loose sandy silt	G3-G5	-
F2177	L2178A	Curvilinear. Moderately sloping sides, concave base (15.00 x 0.69 (max) x 0.27m (max))	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with frequent small stones	E8	-
	L2178B		Dark brown loose sandy silt.		
F2286	L2287	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flat base (50.00 x 0.50 x 0.25m)	Mid grey brown loose silty sand with occasional ash and occasional small angular and sub-angular stones	G3-H3	For most of its length F2286 followed a broadly N-S alignment before turning through 90° close to the southern end of its visible extent.
F2290	L2291	Linear. Shallow sloping sides, concave base (15.00 x 0.73 x 0.25m)	Dark orange brown slightly compact silty clay with moderate small stones	D8-E8	-

Table 10: Phase 6 features

6.9 Phase 7: Modern (Figs. 3, 5-9, 12-14, 28, 29 and 30)

Phase 7 was represented by two field boundary ditches (F2094=F2128, and F2040=F2126=F2163), two zigzag ditches of possible military origin (F2106 and F2110), a small pit (F2096) and a quarry pit F2265.

Ditch F2094 was recorded at the northern end of the site and fell just within the area of excavation. A second ditch, F2128, was recorded running on the same alignment further to the south and was identified as the continuation of F2094. The position of these ditches is consistent with a boundary depicted on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area. It may, therefore, be predicted that a similar feature may exist to slightly to the south of the limit of excavation at this point where a south-east to north-west aligned boundary is shown branching off from that represented by F2094=F2128 on the 1885 map. This, however, was not observed in Excavation Area 4. Interestingly, the south-east to north-west aligned part of F2040=F2126=F2163 followed almost exactly, but perhaps a short distance to the north, the similarly aligned boundary depicted on the 1885. The north-north-east to south-south-west aligned

portion of this feature (F2040) ran parallel with, but 37m to the east of, F2094=F2128. The stratigraphic relationship between F2128 and F2126 would appear to indicate that F2040=F2126=F2163 was later in date than F2094=F2128.

Stratigraphic relationships indicate that these ditches are earlier in date than ditches F2106 and F2110. Ditch F2106 comprised a 40m+ length of ditch, which, in plan, was formed a series of interlinked half squares. Just over 25m to the south-east, and running broadly parallel, F2110 formed a shallow zigzagging line of similar length. These features displayed characteristics that suggested that they may have formed Second World War anti-tank or anti-glider ditches; very similar features were recorded adjacent to Duxford Airfield in Cambridgeshire (Last 2001). No directly associated Second World War defensive features are recorded in the vicinity but the location of a spigot mortar emplacement is recorded to the south, close to Staithe Road and the A149 (HER 34306). Gully F2044, to the south, may have been broadly contemporary with these features; it was certainly later than the boundaries depicted on the 1885 OS Map.

F2265 was a large, amorphous feature measuring up to 1.24m in depth. Its north facing edge was stepped, while its south-east facing edge was vertical, possibly suggesting that access to the pit was possible from the north facing side and perhaps indicating that the pit represents quarrying activity associated with the extraction of the natural underlying chalk

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2040	L2041A	Linear. Steep to moderately steep sides, gentle break of slope to concave base (50.00+ x 1.50 (max) x 0.35m (max))	Dark yellowish brown friable silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded medium stones	K12-E8	Cut F2048E. Cut by F2064E
	L2041B		Yellow brown compact silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2041C		Light brown grey compact silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones and flint		
	L2041D		Mid orange brown very compact silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, including flint		
	L2041E		Dark yellowish brown friable silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded medium stones		
	L2041F		Light grey brown friable silty sand with		

			occasional to moderate flint		
	L2041G		Light grey brown friable silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2041H		Light brown loose silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2041I		Mid brown grey loose silty sand with occasional sub-rounded medium flints		
	L2041J		Mid brown grey loose silty sand with occasional sub-angular medium flints		
	L2041K		Dark grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2041L		Mid grey brown loose silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded flint		
	L2041M		Dark orange brown loose silty sand with occasional sub-rounded flints		
F2044	L2045A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, concave base (18.00 x 0.85 (max) x 0.37m (max))	Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones	G9-G10	Cut F2040 and F2042
	L2045B		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones		
	L2045C		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones		
	L2045D		Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones		
F2094 = F2128	L2095A	Linear. Moderate to very steep sides, flat base (45.00+ x 1.00 (max) x 0.33m (max)).	Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional large pieces of chalk	J10-L10 and G8-F7	Cut by F2126. Cut F2136B, F2048F, F2130B, F2118B
	L2095B		Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional small, medium and large angular to sub-rounded stones		
	L2095C		Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional small,		

			medium and large angular to sub-rounded stones		
	L2129A		Dark orange brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2129B		Dark grey brown loose silty sand with occasional small angular flints		
	L2129C		Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional large and medium rounded to angular stones		
	L2129D		Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with occasional large and medium rounded to angular stones		
	L2129E		Light orange brown compact silty sand with moderate small stones inclusions		
	L2129F		Dark orange brown loose sandy silt with occasional small angular flints		
F2096	L2097	Oval. Steep sides rounding to concave base (0.60 x 0.40 x 0.32m)	Light grey brown loose silty sand with frequent charcoal	I11	Cut Ditch F2050
F2106	L2107	Zigzagged/crenellated line. Steep sides, flat base (40.00+ x 0.67 x 0.06m)	Dark brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint.	J10-L11	Cut F2082 and F2086
F2110	L2111	Shallow zizag. Moderately sloping sides, flat base (44.00 x 0.54 x 0.10m)	Mid yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint	I11-K12	Cut F2040 and F2082
F2126 = F2163	L2127A	Linear. Moderately steep sides, flat to concave base (50.00+ x 1.15 (max) x 0.42m (max))	Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small, medium and large angular and sub-angular stones	E8-H3	Cut F2094 = F2128.
	L2127B		Grey brown compact silty sand with occasional small stones		
	L2127C		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small, medium and large angular and sub-angular stones		
	L2127D		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional large angular stones		

	L2164A		Dark brown friable sandy silt occasional large angular and medium sub-angular stone		
	L2164B		Grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional flint		
	L2164C		Mid yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional large and medium sub-rounded flint.		
F2265	L2266	Sub-circular. Stepped side at N facing edge; vertical at SE facing edge, concave base (4.9+ x 5.00 x 1.24m)	Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional medium and large rounded to angular stones	E1	Cut F2260B
F2288	L2289	Linear. Moderately sloping sides and irregular base (5.00 x 0.60 x 0.27m)	Dark yellow orange loose silty sand with occasional flint	E8	Cut by F2040M

Table 11: Phase 7 features

6.10 Undated (Figs. 3-14, 30-33)

Undated features in Area 1

In addition to the three late Bronze Age to early Iron Age features recorded within Excavation Area 1 were a further 14 features (Table 12). Mostly these were discrete features with only F2008 and F2024 and F2010 and F2012 showing any kind of direct stratigraphic relationships. Some morphological similarities, the proximity of these features to those which have been dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features, and the lack of features dateable to any other period in this part of the site suggests that many of these undated features may be contemporary with the nearby Phase 1 features. However, several of these features were identified as potentially being of natural origin; F2014, F2016 and F2018 were identified as possible tree-boles and F2020 as the remnant of an animal burrow.

F2012, a circular feature with near vertical sides, cut the slightly larger, and also circular, pit F2010 close to its centre. The arrangement of these features is suggestive of a large posthole with a post-pipe at its centre. If this is the case, then F2012 would appear to have held a fairly substantial timber, possibly approaching 0.4m in diameter. No similar features were recorded with which this pair of features might have had a structural relationship. To the east of this an arrangement of postholes, which might include the Phase 1 F2028 although this was notably larger than the three undated features in this group, might be representative of some kind of structure due to the regularity of its configuration. The distances between these features, however, suggest that if these features were part of any kind of structure then other, similar, features, now obscured, must also have been present.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq)	Relationships/ Comments
F2003	L2004	Sub-rectangular. Steep sides rounding gently to concave base (2.60 x 0.80 x 0.30m)	Lower fill: Orange brown loosely compacted sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint	M7	-
	L2005		Upper fill: Light brown loosely compacted sandy silt		
F2006	L2007	Sub-circular. Steep E side, gently sloping W side, narrow concave base (0.46 x 0.25 x 0.18m)	Mid orange brown loose sandy silt	M7	Possible posthole
F2008	L2009	Linear. Irregular sides, NW side near vertical, concave sloping base. (1.6 x 0.75 x 0.16m)	Dark yellow brown friable silty sand	M7	Cut by F2024
F2010	L2011	Circular. Irregular sides, irregular base (1.30 x 1.10 x 0.40m)	Mid brown loose silty sand with very occasional very small sub-rounded flint	M7	Cut by F2012
F2012	L2013	Circular. Steep, near vertical sides rounding to concave base (0.47 x 0.40 x 0.38m)	Mid grey loose silty sand with occasional very small sub-rounded flint	M7	Cut F2010
F2014	L2015	Sub-circular. Irregular sides, flat base (1.9 x 1.5 x 0.13m)	Dark orange grey compact silty clay with occasional small flints	M7	Possibly natural
F2016	L2017	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, flat base (0.38 x 0.19 x 0.05m)	Mid orange brown compact sandy silt with occasional very small rounded stones	M8	Possibly natural
F2018	L2019	Irregular. Shallow, gently sloping sides, concave base (1.15 x 0.90 x 0.10m)	Dark blue grey compact silty clay with occasional flint	M7	Possibly natural
F2020	L2021	Oval. Steep E side, gently sloping W side, flat base (1.00 x 0.50 x 0.32m)	Light grey brown with orange loose sandy silt with clay and occasional small stones	M7	Possible animal burrow
F2022	L2023	Oval. Steep, near vertical E side, gently sloping then stepped W side, concave base (2.70 x 0.90 x 0.55m)	Dark grey brown, loosely compacted clayey silt with very occasional flecks of charcoal and angular flint	M7	-
F2024	L2025	Oval. Gentle to moderate sides, flattish base (1.40 x 1.36 x 0.22m)	Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded flint	M7	Cut F2008
F2030	L2031	Oval. Steep to moderately steep sides, flat base (1.2 x 0.8 x 0.3m)	Light greyish orange loose sandy silt with occasional small flints and small rounded stones	M8	-

F2032	L2033	Sub-circular, steep sides shallow concave base (0.26 x 0.24 x 0.04m)	Light orange brown very compact silty sand with moderate small rounded stones	M8	-
F2036	L2037	Sub-circular moderate sides, sharp break of slope to irregular base (0.37 x 0.26 x 0.07m)	Mid orange brown very compact sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions	M8	-

Table 12: Undated features in Area 1

Undated features within the medieval enclosure

Within the area enclosed by medieval ditches F2179 and F2234 were 11 undated features. The lack of features of any other date within this enclosure raises the possibility that many, if not all, of these features were broadly contemporary with the enclosure. In several cases, these undated features were cut by Phase 5 features providing a medieval *terminus ante quem* for these.

None of these undated features contained finds. In most cases their spatial positioning and form was not particularly illustrative of their function. As such, their presence adds little to an understanding of the character or function of the medieval enclosure, although it is possible that some may have been refuse pits, into which perishable organic material was dumped.

Feature	**Context**	**Plan/profile (dimensions)**	**Fill**	**Location (Grid Sq)**	**Relationships/ Comments**
F2197	L2198	Sub-oval. Moderately sloping sides, flat base (2.2 x 0.9 x 0.21m)	Brown compact silty sand	B1-B2	-
F2213	L2214	Oval. Gentle slope at upper part becoming moderately steep towards base, flat base (3.8 x 2.2 x 0.55m)	Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium rounded and sub-rounded stones	A1-A2	Cut by F2215
F2226	L2227	Sub-rectangular. Moderate sides, irregular base (1.4 x 1.05 x 0.23m)	Dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stone	A2-B2	-
F2230	L2231	Oval. Stepped sides, concave base (2.2 x 1.1 x 0.5m)	Lower fill: Mid yellow brown compact to friable silty sand with occasional to moderate small and medium sub-angular flint	B2	Cut by F2193B
	L2264		Upper fill: Mid brown grey friable sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flint		
F2238	L2239	Sub-oval. Steep to moderate sides, flat	Dark brown loose sand with occasional	B1	Possibly natural

		base (0.82 x 0.67 x 0.2m)	small stones		
F2240	L2241	Sub-oval. Irregular sides, flat base (2.72 x 1.2 x 0.47m)	Dark brown loose sand with occasional small stones	A2	Possibly natural
F2262	L2263	Sub-oval. Moderate sides, sharp break of slope to flat base (1.84 x 1.00 x 0.2m)	Dark brown loose sandy silt with occasional small stones	B2	Possibly natural. Cut F2267
F2267	L2268	Circular. Stepped side, concave base (0.64 x 0.58 x 0.25m)	Yellow brown loose sandy silt with occasional small stones	B2	Cut by F2262
F2252	L2253	Sub-rectangular. Steep NE side, moderate SW side, concave base (1.58 x 0.80 x 0.15m)	Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional small angular stones	C2	Possibly natural. Cut F2179E on inner side at the point at which it turned

Table 13: Undated features within the medieval enclosure

Undated features adjacent to, but outside, the medieval enclosure

As was the case with undated features within the medieval enclosure, some of the undated features in the area immediately to the east displayed stratigraphic relationships which indicated a medieval *terminus ante quem.*

In the case of linear F2207, this observable *terminus ante quem* suggests that the adjacent and very similar F2200 was also of medieval or earlier date. Indeed, given their size and form, it is possible that either, or both, of these features formed part of the same group of features as the Phase 5 gullies F2181, F2236, F2250 and F2258, in forming a smaller, slighter, more ephemeral enclosure slightly preceding the main enclosure formed by F2179 and F2234.

No finds were recovered from any of the remaining undated features in this part site and their morphology, distribution and spatial positioning offered little evidence from which their function might have been elucidated. Given the density of medieval features in this part of the site and the lack of features of other dates it seems most likely that they are broadly contemporary with the surrounding activity; however, as their spatial and functional relationships with other features in this area are not clear any such statements about their date of origin cannot be made conclusively.

Feature	**Context**	**Plan/profile (dimensions)**	**Fill**	**Location (Grid Sq)**	**Relationships/ Comments**
F2199	L2200	Oval. Moderately steep sides rounding gently to flat base (o.59 x 0.58 x 0.16m)	Mid yellow brown friable silty sand	A2	Posthole
F2201	L2202	Oval. Gentle to moderate sides, SE side stepped, concave base (0.50 x 0.41 x 0.21m)	Mid brown grey loose silty sand	A2	Posthole
F2203	L2204	Oval. Steep sides	Brown compact silty	A2	Pit/posthole

		rounding gently to concave base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.08m)	sand		
F2205	L2206	Sub-circular. Irregular sides, flattish/uneven base (0.65 x 0.59 x 0.12m)	Light orange brown firm clayey silt with moderate small stones	A2	-
F2207	L2208A	Linear. Moderate to very steep sides, flat base (17.00 x 0.60 (max) x 0.08m)	Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional large angular stones	A2-B2	Cut by F2209
	L2208B		Mid grey brown friable sandy silt with occasional large angular stones		
F2220	L2221	Linear. Shallow/gentle sides, concave base (15.00 x 0.87 x 0.14m)	Mid orange brown slightly compact silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones	A2-B2	-
F2224	L2225	Rectangular. Shallow sides, irregular base (4.00 x 0.72 x 0.08m)	Dark orange loose silty sand with occasional rounded stones	A2	-

Table 14: Undated features adjacent to but outside of the medieval enclosure

Other undated features

Undated features occurred sporadically across the site, occasionally in small concentrations or groups and sometimes as single isolated features.

A group of three small pits (F2054, F2056 and F2058) in Grid Square I10 would appear to have been related or of similar function. All contained notable quantities of charcoal within their fills. Approximately 6m to the south-west of this group lay the slightly larger, but equally undated, F2068. A further 9m south of this was the isolated Phase 1 pit F2038. This was similar in size to F2068 and it is possible that it shared similar origins, perhaps suggesting that all of these pits were created during the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. Several dispersed pits to the west may represent similar activity.

Further early undated features were present to the south-east of F2054, F2056 and F2058. Gully F2062 ran on the same alignment and was cut by Phase 2 ditch F2048, possibly suggesting that it was an earlier version of this feature. The adjacent F2066 may have been related. To the south-west of this was F2078. This was a horseshoe shaped gully measuring *c*.6m in diameter. Its date is uncertain but it cut the northern terminus of a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned gully (F2074) which was cut further to the south by ditch F2048, indicating that it was of Phase 2 date or earlier.

Further to the south, Ditch F2134 and its clear continuation, F2159, comprised a substantial feature, running for more than 70m. The alignment of this ditch was similar to that of F2094 suggesting that it formed part of the same

enclosure system, but unlike that feature it was not possible to reconcile it to any of the boundaries depicted on the 1885 OS Map.

A small group of undated features was located at the northern end of Excavation Area 4. This comprised an evenly spaced alignment of three features (F2276, F2278 and F2280) with a fourth feature (F2282) a little over 5m away. Slightly to the south of these was a larger feature, F2284. It is not possible to assign a date to these features with any certainty but they do represent a small focus of activity of some kind. The even spacing of F2276, F2278 and F2280 might suggest a possible structural configuration but it is perhaps more likely that they represent similar activity to that represented by Phase 1 features F2142, F2144, F2146, F2148 and F2151 in Grid Square E8.

Many of the remaining undated features comprise isolated or single features that display no clear spatial relationships with other features from which either a date or an interpretation of function may be derived. However, an intrinsically interesting feature amongst these was F2232. This feature contained a partial articulated animal burial. F2232 was aligned broadly east to west and the young pig that it contained was arranged on its side with its head towards the western end of the feature.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location (Grid Sq.)	Relationships/ Comments
F2052	L2053	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, concave base (1.49 x 1.30 x 0.20m)	Brownish orange compact silty sand with occasional small stones	G10	Cut by F2046B
F2054	L2055	Circular. Shallow sloping sides, concave base (0.4 x 0.4 x 0.1m)	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	I10	Charcoal present
F2056	L2057	Sub-oval. Steep sloping sides, irregular base (0.68 x 0.55 x 0.17m)	Light orange very compact sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded stones	I10	Charcoal present
F2058	L2059	Sub-circular. Shallow sides, concave base (0.6 x 0.59 x 0.1m)	Mid orange brown compact sandy silt with moderate small sub-rounded stones	I10	Charcoal present
F2062	L2063	Linear. Gently sloping sides, concave (5.00 x 0.30 x 020m)	Light grey brown loosely compacted sandy silt	H11-H12	Gully
F2066	L2067	Linear. Gently sloping sides, flat base (1.9+ x 0.45 x 0.18)	Grey brown loosely compacted sandy silt with occasional angular and sub-angular flints	H11	Gully
F2068	L2069	Sub-oval. Moderately steep to steep sloping sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base (0.75 x 0.59 x 0.12m)	Mid orange brown very compact sandy silt with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	I10	-
F2072	L2073	Oval. Steep sides, flat	Mid yellow brown	G10	Cut F2060.

		base (0.32 x 0.27 x 0.18m)	friable silty sand with occasional medium and very occasional large angular and sub-angular stones		Therefore post-medieval or later
F2074	L2075A	Linear. Moderately steep sides rounding to flat base (12.00 x 1.05 (max) x 0.30m (max))	Light grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint	G11	Cut by F2064D and F2078C
	L2075B		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular stones		
	L2075C		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional rounded stones		
	L2075D		Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional rounded stones		
F2076	L2077	Sub-circular. Steep, near vertical sides, concave base (0.3 x 0.28 x 0.23m)	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with moderate small stone inclusions	D7	-
F2078	L2079A	Curvillinear, horseshoe-shaped. Moderate to steep sides, concave base (15.50 x 0.7 (max) x 0.2m (max))	Light brown grey loose sandy silt with frequent sub-angular flint	G11	Cut F2074D
	L2079B		Light grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones		
	L2079C		Grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint		
	L2079D		Mid brown yellow friable silty sand with very occasional medium and large sub-angular stones		
F2084	L2085	Sub-oval. Steep sides with sharp break of slope to flat base (1.5 x 0.75 x 0.25m)	Light orange very compact silty sand with moderate small rounded and angular stones	I9	-
F2090	L2091	Sub-circular. Steep S side, gently sloping N side both break sharply to flat base (0.58 x 0.48 x 0.16m)	Mid red brown very compact silty sand with occasional small stones	H9	-
F2092	L2093	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, concave base (0.7 x 0.66 x 0.25m)	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with occasional small stones	H9	-
F2098	L2099	Oval. Moderately sloping sides, becoming steep/near-vertical before rounding to concave base (2.40 x	Light grey, becoming black towards the edges of the feature, compact sandy silt with very occasional	I12	-

		1.25 x 0.6m)	angular and sub-angular natural flint. This fill contained abundant ash-like material and large quantities of organic matter.		
F2100	L2101	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, concave base (0.38 x 0.35 x 0.11m)	Light orange brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions	H11	-
F2102	L2103	Irregular. Shallow sloping sides with irregular concave base (0.53 x 0.46 x 0.13m)	Mid orange brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	H12	-
F2104	L2105	Linear. Moderately steep sides, uneven base (24.00 x 0.5 x 0.05m)	Dark yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional small, medium and large stones	K11	Cut F2080
F2112	L2113	Oval. Very gently sloping sides, slightly concave base (1.7 x 1.2 x 0.13m)	Mid grey brown friable silty sand	G10	-
F2114	L2115	Sub-oval. Very gently sloping sides, slightly concave base (3.25 x 2.00 x 0.08m)	Mid grey brown friable silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	G10	-
F2116	L2117	Oval. Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.28 x 0.6 x 0.26m)	Light orange brown compact sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	J11	-
F2120	L2121	Oval. Very steep sides, narrow, pointed base (0.44 x 0.26 x 0.27m)	Dark grey brown friable silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones	G10	Posthole
F2122	L2123	Oval. Very steep sides, narrow, pointed base (0.44 x 0.18 x 0.27m)	Mid grey brown friable silty sand with small to medium sub-rounded stones	G10	Post-pipe void within F2120
F2124	L2125	Sub-circular. Moderately steep sides, irregular base (0.9 x 0.85 x 0.2m)	Light orange brown compact sandy silt with occasional small stones	J11	-
F2132	L2133	Oval. Moderately steep sides, stepped southern side, concave base (1.9 x 1.3 x 0.35m)	Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with occasional large and medium rounded stones	H10	-
F2138	L2139	Circular. Steep, near vertical sides rounding to flattish/slightly concave base (0.54 x 0.54 x 0.1m)	Dark brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small stones	E8	Possible posthole. Cut by F2140
F2140	L2141	Circular. Moderate to steep sides, narrow, pointed base (0.26 x 0.22 x 0.08m)	Dark brown to black loose sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks	E8	Post-pipe void within F2138
F2134	L2135	Linear, Steep sides,	Mid orange brown	E7	-

		concave base (19.00+ x 1.02 x 0.4m)	very loose silty sand with moderate small stones		
F2157	L2158	Circular. Moderate sides, N side near vertical, flat base (Diam.: 0.3m; Depth: 0.1m)	Mid brown grey friable sandy silt with occasional small angular flint	E8	-
F2159	L2160	Linear. Moderate sides, concave base (7.00 x 0.72 x 0.25m)	Yellow brown compact silty sand with occasional small stones	C6-D6	-
F2177	L2178A	Curvilinear. Moderately steep sides, concave base (15.00+ x 0.69 (max) x 0.27m)	Mid orange brown compact silty sand with frequent small stones	E8	Aligned SE-NW for *c*. 5m before 90° turn to SW-NE alignment
	L2178B		Dark brown loose sandy silt		
F2232	L2233	Sub-rectangular. Very steep, near vertical sides, flat base (0.76 x 0.4 x 0.1m)	Dark orange grey loose silty sand	D1	Contained partial articulated animal burial
F2276	L2277	Oval. Moderate sides, concave base (0.7 x 0.38 x 0.2m)	Dark yellow brown friable silt with occasional moderate sub-angular stones	I4	-
F2278	L2279	Oval. Very gently sloping sides, concave base (0.8 x 0.6 x 0.07m)	Mid yellow brown friable silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	I4	-
F2280	L2281	Oval. Very steep, near vertical sides, flat base (0.54 x 0.4 x 0.13m)	Mid yellow brown friable silt with occasional medium angular stones	I4	-
F2282	L2283	Oval. Very steep sides, flat base (0.54 x 0.3 x 0.21m)	Mid yellow brown friable silt with occasional medium angular and sub-angular stones	I5	-
F2284	L2285	Oval. SW side steep, NE side gently sloping, concave base (2.00 x 0.8 x 0.17m)	Mid yellow brown friable silt with occasional medium angular and sub-angular stones	I5	-

Table 15: Other undated features

6.11 Confidence Rating

It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the excavation.

7 SPECIALIST'S ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

7.1 The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 20 pieces (192g) of struck flint in an un-patinated, fresh condition (Table 16). This small group includes a four small blades or bladelets; produced using carefully maintained cores typical of the late Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic, while in contrast the remaining struck flint comprises hard-hammer struck debitage flakes more typical of later Neolithic/early Bronze Age technology (if not later still).

Struck flint type	F	W
Blade/Bladelet	4	19
Debitage	16	173
Total	*20*	*192*

Table 16: Quantification of struck flint implements and debitage by frequency (F) and weight (W, in grams)

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

Commentary

The four blades were all contained as residual material in medieval or later features, comprising Ditches F2040 (L2041 Seg.K), F2094 (L2095 Seg.C), Quarry Pit F2265 and Subsoil L2001. The example from Subsoil L2001 is a classic example of a crested blade, probably an initial removal from a prepared later Mesolithic blade core, although similar techniques continued to be employed in the earlier Neolithic. The remaining blades or bladelets are all between 25-30mm long, a relatively small size, with two examples also having their bulbar ends truncated. The use of small or micro-blades to form single

element or composite tools is again more typical of later Mesolithic technology, but as core were depleted in the earlier Neolithic similar blades may also have been produced.

The remaining struck flint is comprised entirely of hard-hammer struck tertiary debitage flakes, typically slightly irregular and including several wedge-shaped flakes. These flakes are never present in any concentration and are consistent with the unsystematic flake production of the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age, however the presence of flakes in late Bronze Age/early Iron Age Pits F2144 and F2148 suggests that the expedient use of flint with limited skill may have continued into the later prehistoric period.

7.2 The Pottery

Peter Thompson

Introduction

The excavation recovered 369 sherds weighing 3.211 kg from 43 features plus the Topsoil and Subsoil. The pottery is quantified below by period. The 16 post-medieval to early modern sherds (112g) comprised post-medieval red earthenware, creamware and factory made refined white earthenwares and are not dealt with any further.

Period	***Sherd Number***	***Fabric Weight***	**% of sherd total**
Early to middle Bronze Age	1	11	0.3
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	142	662	38.5
Roman	13	30	3.5
Middle to late Saxon	7	14	1.9
Medieval	133	775	36
Late Medieval and Transitional	57	1,607	15.5
Post-medieval - modern	16	112	4.3
	369	3,211	100

Table 17: Quantification of pottery by period

The Prehistoric Pottery

There were 143 sherds of prehistoric pottery (741g) of Bronze Age to early Iron Age date recovered from 15 features, although in at least two cases (F2040, F2179) the four sherds were residual

Fabrics

All of the fabric codes assigned below are site specific

F1 - Grog and Organics: black core and inner surface with oxidised outer surface. Contains sparse grey grog and sparse burnt organics, probably grass early Bronze Age to middle Bronze Age

F2a – Flint: sandy matrix containing moderate to common angular flint and often contains a small amount of burnt organics. Surfaces are usually smooth.

F2b – Finer flint and sand: a finer version of F2a generally containing either finer or sparser flint inclusions, less organics and more quartz sand

F3 – Organic: sparse to moderate burnt organics with sparse medium to coarse flint

Potentially the earliest sherd (11g) is fabric F1 from Ditch F2254 (L2255) comprising sparse grog and organic tempering indicating an early Bronze Age date. The majority of the prehistoric sherds (139/640g) are in F2 fabrics comprising various amounts of flint, sand and burnt organics. Surfaces range from dark grey, to brown to orange and cores are mainly dark grey or brown. The remaining three F3 sherds (90g) contain burnt organics with sparse flint inclusions.

Discussion

Pit F2148 (L2149, L2150) contained 58% of the prehistoric assemblage (83/445g) including the only decorated sherds. One of these was the upper profile of a West Harling type Class II jar with a row of finger tip decoration to both the rim and shoulder (Fig. 34.1; Clark and Fell 1953, 22 & 24). A second fragment of rim also had finger nail decoration, while an upper body sherd contained a tool impressed circle (Fig. 34.2). Another body sherd contained random dispersed scoring while the only other partial profile was a flat topped rim to a shouldered jar. The ‘Harling-type’ form and decoration, and the common smooth surface finish places the assemblage in Brudenell’s revised typology for Norfolk in the ‘Early’ Decorated phase of the Post-Deverel Rimbury tradition which corresponds with the earlier part of the early Iron Age c.800-600/500 BC (Brudenell 2011, 17-19). Only Pits F2028 (L2029) and F2038 (L2039) contained ten sherds or more – 15 and 18 respectively, with the latter including an undiagnostic simple, slightly outturned rim sherd.

The Roman Pottery

The only Roman pottery from the site comprises 13 sherds (30g) of F4 sandy greyware recovered from Ditch F2169 (L2170 slots A & B) which probably all came from the same vessel. The pottery is common in the area probably deriving from unknown local kilns and cannot be closely dated.

The Saxon Pottery

There are 7 sherds (14g) of pottery that can be attributed to the Saxon period.

Fabrics

F5a - Sand and organic: fine to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz sand with burnt organics. Middle to late Saxon?

F5b – Sand: Sand and organic: fine to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz sand Middle to late Saxon?

F6 – Thetford-type ware (as in Hurst 1957) 10th-12th century

The F5 sherds comprise sand tempered wares sometimes with burnt organics and have grey cores and grey or brown surfaces. They look late, perhaps precursors to early medieval sandy ware, and may be of middle to late Saxon date. The remaining sherd is a grey sandy Thetford-type ware whose nearest known production site is Norwich. This sherd came from Ditch F2118 (L2119) and was the only pottery from that feature; the remaining sherds were residual in later features or the Subsoil.

The Medieval to early Post-Medieval Pottery

There were 190 sherds (2.310 kg) of medieval to early post-medieval date recovered from 15 features and the Subsoil. Of these, 118 were coarse ware sherds (395g) which are datable between the early and high medieval periods and comprise a fairly homogenous group of medium sandy wares. One sub-group of 35 sherds are similar to Grimston coarse ware and so may have derived from there. They include an outurned bowl rim in Grimston-type ware (Fig. 34.3). The other early to high medieval sandy coarse wares include four rims, one with 'pie-crust' decoration, while the remaining rims comprise two everted jar rims (Fig. 34.4) and a T-shaped deep bowl rim (Fig. 34.5). These are in keeping with non-local cooking pots excavated at Norwich and dated to between the 11th-13th centuries (Jennings 1981, 40 and 44). There were also three base sherds including one from a jug, and the scar from a missing strap handle

Of the 15 glazed sherds (380g) of this period, probably all from jugs, nine are Grimston products and six are unprovenanced medieval glazed wares. One glazed sherd from Pit F2228 (L2229) is in a fabric similar to Hedingham 'coarse' fine ware, but a little less coarse. There were a further 57 late medieval and transitional sherds (1,539g) comprising mainly late medieval coarse wares, late Grimston ware and late medieval transitional ware which are discussed further below.

Ware	*Fabric description*	*Sherd Number*	*Fabric weight (g)*	*% of sherds*
Early medieval sandy ware	Medium sandy with occasional burnt organics but few other inclusions, thin walled. Usually dark grey or dark brown (11^{th}-13^{th})	14	38	7.4
Medieval coarse ware 1	Medium sandy with sparse coarse quartz and occasional burnt organics and other inclusions. Grey cores, usually dark grey to pale grey surfaces, can be mottled or oxidised (12^{th}-14^{th})	66	237	34.8
Medieval coarse ware 2	As for MCW1 with red clay pellets or iron mineral, occasional white quartz and clear calcitic material (12^{th} - 14^{th})	3	30	1.6
Grimston-type coarse ware	As described by Little 1994 (12^{th}-13^{th})	35	90	18.4
Glazed Grimston ware	As described by Little 1994 (late 12^{th}-early 16^{th})	21	572	11
Medieval glazed wares	Unprovenanced sandy glazed wares (late 12^{th}-14^{th})	6	22	3.2
Late medieval coarse ware	Similar to MCW1 but coarser sand with occasional very coarse quartz or mineral. Usually dark grey but can be brown to orange brown (late 14^{th}-mid 16^{th})	22	328	11.6
Late medieval glazed ware	Unprovenanced sandy glazed wares (late 14^{th}-mid 16^{th})	7	477	3.7
Late medieval oxidised ware	Medium sandy fabric oxidised throughout with patchy clear glaze (late 14^{th}-mid 15^{th})	2	4	1
Late medieval transitional ware	As described by Jennings 1981 (15^{th}-16^{th})	12	390	6.3
Raeren stoneware	As in Gaimster 1997 (late 15^{th}-early 17^{th})	2	194	1
		190	**2,310**	

Table 18: Quantification of the medieval and early post-medieval pottery

Discussion with reference to the larger assemblages

The dearth of earlier wares, bar the four Saxon and the Thetford-type sherd from F2126 (L2177B), suggests that the main period of post-Roman activity

on the site dates from the 12th century onwards. Four features contained ten sherds or more; F2195, F2181, F2179 and Ditch F2195 (L2196), which yielded 16 sherds (43g) including a small jar rim with 'pie crust' decoration and oxidised surfaces that would match a date of *c.*12th-13th centuries. Linear feature F2181 (L2182) (25/57g), included highly decorated glazed Grimston ware with clay pads or pellets and trailed iron slip indicating a 13th-14th century date.

In the late medieval period, there is evidence for greater diversity in forms and function; F2215 (L2216, 2217) contained the largest, best preserved and most diagnostic group of post-Roman pottery from the site consisting of 53 fragments (1.383kg) representing a minimum of 15 vessels. These include the lower half of a late Grimston glazed jug with horizontal rilling similar to examples from Norwich, and another small round bodied jug in a late Grimston form (Figs. 34.6 & 347; Lentowicz and Percival 1994, 84). Also present was a grey coarseware twisted rod handle and the upper profile of a deep bowl in a beige fabric (Figs. 34.8 & 34.9). The Grimston ware and the presence of a frilled base of an imported Raeren stoneware jug (Fig. 34.10) provide a probable date between the late 15th and early to mid 16th centuries. In addition to the above four pottery rich features, Gully F2179 (L2180) contained 26 late medieval sherds (406g) including fragments of a late medieval transitional dripping dish (Fig. 34.11), and two sherds of late medieval coarse ware painted with an internal black slip suggesting an unknown function for the vessel, but possibly connected to industrial use. Gully F2175 (L2176 B) contained a bung-hole with thumbing around the edges from a cistern or bung-hole jar (Fig. 34.12)

Illustrations

Early Iron Age
Fig. 34.1 Harling type Class II jar
Fig. 34.2 Upper body sherd with tool impressed circle

Medieval
Fig. 34.3 Bowl rim in Grimston-type fabric c. 12th-13th century
Fig. 34.4 Medieval coarse ware jar rim 11th-13th
Fig. 34.5 Medieval coarse ware bowl rim 11th-13th

Late medieval and transitional
Fig. 34.6 Late Grimston lower jug profile 15th-mid 16th
Fig. 34.7 Late Grimston lower jug profile15th-mid 16th
Fig. 34.8 Late medieval coarse ware rod handle 15th-mid 16th
Fig. 34.9 Late medieval coarse ware ?bowl rim 15th-mid 16th
Fig. 34.10 Raeren drinking jug base late 15th-16th
Fig. 34.11 Late medieval transitional dripping tray mid 15th-16th
Fig. 34.12 Late medieval glazed bung-hole jar fragment mid 15th-16th

7.3 The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 39 fragments (4115g) of CBM (Table 19), predominantly of late medieval to Tudor date (15th-early 17th century), but with sparse prehistoric, Roman and medieval fragments also present.

CBM type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Prehistoric daub	6	13
Roman, probable tegula roof tile	5	178
Medieval brick	2	859
Late medieval/Tudor brick and tile	26	3065
Total	*39*	*4115*

Table 19: Quantification of CBM

The prehistoric daub has a friable fabric that comprises pale orange clay with inclusions of sparse coarse quartz and occasional chalk (<5mm). It is limited to very small fragments or 'crumbs' in Gully F2034, Ditch F2048, Pits F2038 and F2148, which contain pottery indicative of a date in the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

The Roman CBM occurs in an orange fabric with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica, sparse red clay pellets and chalk (0.25-0.5mm, occasionally to 2mm). A single fragment of flat tile (154g) contained in post-medieval Gully F2175 (L2176) is probably derived from a tegula roof tile, while small fragments in a comparable fabric were also recorded as residual material in Ditches F2040 and F2094.

The assemblage contained two fragments of medieval Flemish-type, grass-marked brick, which were produced/imported in the early 14th century. This type of brick has a pale brown-yellow fabric, with inclusions of abundant fine fossil shell with sparse rounded red clay pellets (0.5-1.5mm). One fragment (819g) contained in Phase 6 Gully F2175 (L2176) exhibited partial dimensions of ?x115x50mm, with a rough grass-marked base and sparse grass marks on the other slightly creased faces. A further fragment in the same fabric was contained in Ditch F2096 (L2097).

The remaining CBM occurred in a red-orange fabric with inclusions of common, medium quartz sand and occasional flint/chalk (0.5-5mm), which was used to manufacture brick and peg tile, although the bulk of fragments are highly abraded and un-diagnostic. Ditch F2040 (L2041 Seg. F) contained a complete brick (1933g) in this fabric, while Ditch F2126 (L2127) contained a partial fragment of the same type. The brick had dimensions of 230x110x45mm with a rough base, slightly irregular sharp arrises, and a slightly creased and striated upper face, which is consistent with 'place' bricks manufactured in the region between the 15th century and Tudor periods (early 17th century). Small fragments of peg (roof) tile in the same fabric were also recorded in Ditch F2040 (L2041), but overall the quantities of the fabric are so low it appears unlikely that they are directly associated with a structure of any substance in the close vicinity.

7.4 The Slag

By Andrew A. S. Newton

Introduction

A total of 17 pieces of slag, originating from 7 contexts, were recovered during archaeological excavation of land off Ingham Road, Stalham, Norfolk. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

Results

L2001 *1 fragment, 1g*. Light grey-brown outer surface and dark grey interior. Some glassy vitrified patches on outer surfaces. Fracture reveals slightly porous interior. Moderate response to magnet.

F2163, L2164 B *2 fragments, 9g*. Dull black material. Granular yet soft and brittle. Rough, mammilated upper surface. No response to magnet.

F2179, L2180 C *1 fragment,6g*. Interior and exterior surfaces mid grey-green with extensive orange brown discolouration. Frequent vitrified/glassy patches. Hard but light material with frequent internal airpockets ranging in size from very small (>1mm) to quite large (*c*. 6mm diam.). Too small for morphology to provide clear indication as to the process or part of the furnace/hearth in which it was formed. No magnetic response.

F2183, L2184 A *1 fragment, 27g*. An accumulation of light orange brown, non-metallic material –possibly baked clay- around an Fe rich, very magnetic, core.

F2183, L2184 B *8 fragments, 386g*. All eight fragments displayed a light orange brown outer surface. Fractures revealed mid to dark grey interiors with varying moderate to frequent air pockets, varying in size from >1mm to 5mm in diameter. This homogenous material all appears to have been broken from the same larger piece of slag, although it was not possible to re-fit the pieces. Some small burnt stones are incorporated into the material. The pieces give a varying reaction to the magnet. The shape of the largest fragment may indicate that this material derived from a plano-convex smithing hearth bottom (Crew 1996).

F2189, L2190 *1 fragment, >1g*. Very small fragment of light grey to light orange brown material. Some glossy/vitrified areas. Frequent air pockets (*c*. 1mm).

F2195, L2196 *2 fragments, 47g*. Both pieces have rough but rippled or mammilated outer surfaces. They are light to mid grey in colour with extensive light orange brown staining. Limited broken surfaces reveal moderately porous interiors (air pockets >1mm). Neither gives any response to the magnet. One piece displays glassy/vitrified patches and impressions of charcoal. The general morphology suggests that these are simple slag prills formed within the hearth/furnace and as such could derive either from smelting or smithing/refining (Crew 1995; 1996).

F2215, L2216 *2 fragments, 94g*. The first fragment from this context is of very dense material with occasional internal air pockets. It gives a strong but variable response to the magnet. The incorporation of stones into the material indicates that it may represent an internal slag from near the end of the smelt (Crew 1995) or a smithing hearth bottom from a very shallow hearth (Crew 1996).
The second piece is of a slightly less dense very dark brown to black material with moderate internal porosity. A large charcoal impression may indicate that this is a piece broken from a larger slag prill.

Discussion

The size of the slag assemblage is not indicative of large scale iron working in the vicinity. This quantity of material is only indicative of refuse deposition in small quantities. Most of the pieces of slag appear to have been broken from larger pieces and are, therefore, probably some distance from the location in which they originated. This material does indicate that iron working must have been carried out in the vicinity but it does not appear to represent a major activity at this particular site.

With the exception of 1 fragment recovered from subsoil L2001 and two fragments from modern ditch F2163, all of this material was recovered from features within or associated with the medieval enclosure at the southern end of the site.

7.5 The Environmental Samples

By John R. Summers

Introduction

During excavations at Stalham, 38 samples for environmental archaeological analysis were taken and processed. Although most samples contained few archaeobotanical remains, two samples (from late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit F2038 and 11th-13th century posthole F1097) were rich in carbonised plant macrofossils and fully analysed. Sample 1.25 (L1098 of posthole F1097) was taken during trial excavations at the site and was taken to full analysis following assessment of the samples (Summers 2012). This report presents the results from the quantification of remains in these samples and discusses them in relation to the site and wider archaeobotanical literature.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank, with light fractions being collected on a 500µm mesh. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification) and all botanical remains were fully quantified. Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Charcoal from sample 2.15 of L2039 was also analysed. A sub-sample of 100 charcoal fragments >5mm were randomly selected and fractured on three planes (transverse, radial and tangential). The sections were examined using a binocular metallurgical microscope at magnifications up to x400. Identifications were made using reference literature (Schweingruber 1978;

Schoch *et al.* 2004) and material was quantified by weight and fragment count.

Results

The results from the analysis of the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 20 (assessment data) and Table 21 (full recording). Since only two samples were fully analysed, these will be discussed in turn in chronological order.

Sample 2.15 of pit fill L2039 (F2038)

Charred plant macrofossils

The sample from L2039 contained a range of cereal grains and chaff, along with numerous non-cereal taxa. Glume wheat was predominant (75% of the identified cereal grains), with some grains identifiable as spelt-type. Based on the identifiable glume bases and spikelet forks, it would appear that both emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*) and spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) were present, although their relative proportions are difficult to accurately determine. At numerous other sites (e.g. Campbell 2000; Campbell & Straker 2003), emmer is considered to have grown as a weed amongst spelt crops, which appears to be supported by the wheat grain evidence at Stalham. Numerous hulled barley grains were also recorded (20% of the identified cereal grains), with the identification of asymmetric grains demonstrating the presence of hulled, six-row barley (*H. vulgare* var. *vulgare*). A small number of oat grains were also present (5% of the identified cereal grains). No diagnostic elements were present to determine whether a wild or domestic species was present. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether it was present as a crop or a weed of the other cereals.

The non-cereal assemblage was extensive and contained a range of taxa. The dominant taxon was chess (*Bromus secalinus* type), along with numerous specimens identifiable only as *Bromus* sp. or large Poaceae. A small number of hairy brome (*Bromopsis ramosa* type) were also present. Together, the collection of large grasses accounted for 68% of the non-cereal assemblage. The presence of other wild grasses increase this to 83%. *Bromus* sp. and other wild grasses are common arable weeds and it is likely that they grew amongst the cereal crop.

Some of the other weed taxa are characteristic of fertile soil conditions, such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). This demonstrates that rich soils were cultivated and may also indicate a reasonable amount of enrichment by manuring. Weeds such as wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) are characteristic of lighter soils and probably reflect the free draining nature of the local soils. Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is

most common in autumn-sown cereals and may indicate that the glume wheat crop was cultivated in this manner.

A ratio of 1.2:1 was calculated for glume wheat grains to glume bases. This is indicative of a crop burnt as whole spikelets. The large number of non-cereal taxa (79% of identified items) is a strong indication that crop processing by-products are represented. If one considers the potential of differential preservation of cereal grains and chaff (Boardman & Jones 1990), it is possible to predict that the number of glume bases in the deposit is likely to have been higher prior to carbonisation. Together with the large number of weed seeds, this implies that wheat fine-sieving by-products formed the bulk of this deposit.

Amongst the other samples of a comparable date (Table 20 & Summers 2012a), the range of taxa was comparable, although the concentration of material was considerably lower. In addition to the cereals identified, a single pea (*Pisum* sp.) and a further large legume (Fabaceae) were identified in pit fill L2149 (F2148). This indicates that pulses also formed part of the diet of the site's late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age inhabitants.

Charcoal

The results of the charcoal analysis show that a range of wood types were present in the assemblage, with oak (*Quercus* sp.) dominating (Table 22). Birch (*Betula* sp.) was the next most abundant, followed by small amounts of *Prunus* sp., Maloideae and *Salix/Populus* sp. Many of the oak fragments showed evidence of tyloses, which is indicative of heartwood, and weak ring curvature. Many of the other fragments also displayed weak ring curvature, which indicates the presence of larger, more mature timber. Oak and birch often grow together on light acidic soils, such as those around Stalham, and it seems likely that the fuel in L2039 was gathered from this kind of community.

Sample 1.25 of posthole fill L1098 (F1097)

Charred plant macrofossils

The material from L1098 was dominated by charred cereal grains, mostly of hulled barley. The presence of a number of asymmetric grains indicates that the majority of these are of a hulled, six-row variety (*H. vulgare* var. *vulgare*). A small number of wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) were also recorded. No cereal chaff was present and only a small number of potential arable weeds, indicating that a deposit of clean grain was present. The non-cereal taxa were goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and medium legume (Fabaceae). Goosefoot are common on fertile soils, suggesting that the cereals were grown on manured soils.

Amongst the other samples (Table 20 & Summers 2012a), was a small amount of free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type), oat

(*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). These could all have been cultivated, although the concentrations are low and inconclusive.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets were common in the deposits, along with occasional modern seeds, molluscs, insect remains and earthworm egg capsules. Such biological agents may have caused some disturbance of deposits, although any impact on the two rich samples appears minimal

Discussion

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

Based on the results presented above, sample 2.15 of L2039 appears to represent the remains of glume wheat fine-sieving by-products. The wheat is predominantly spelt, grown on enriched soils and probably planted in the autumn or winter. The more limited presence of barley and oat within the sample may simply reflect a small amount of other cereals growing as contaminants among the wheat crop.

The association of the charred macrofossils in L2039 with a large volume of wood charcoal suggests that the crop processing debris may have been burned as fuel or discarded into a hearth once separated from the crop. Based on the varied source of wood in this deposit, coupled with the presence of cereal processing debris, it seems most likely that it represents rake-out from a domestic hearth.

From the site as a whole, cereal remains were infrequent from this period making it difficult to formulate a detailed interpretation of the site's arable economy. However, the remains in L2039 do indicate that wheat cultivation was undertaken by the site's inhabitants and the weed taxa demonstrate that the soil conditions were appropriate for a successful wheat crop.

A mixed economy of wheat and barley was common during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age in Britain (e.g. Campbell 2000; Campbell & Straker 2003). Evidence from north Norfolk is sparse but a broadly comparable pattern has been reported by Wiltshire and Murphy (1999). The results from Stalham, which include data from non-cereal taxa, help to add some detail to regional datasets and our understanding of the Iron Age arable economy. Although emmer wheat remained common at some sites during the Iron Age, spelt largely replaced it as the dominant wheat crop during the Iron Age and has been recorded at sites from the middle Bronze Age (Campbell & Straker 2003). As such, its apparent dominance in L2039 is not unexpected.

Medieval

Most of the medieval deposits from the assessment appear to represent the scattered remains of day-to-day cereal use and processing. The range of cultivated taxa appears to have been quite broad, with barley apparently of greatest significance, although the number of samples is low. As with other medieval sites in Norfolk, barley appears to have been dominant over wheat, probably reflecting the nature of the local soils (e.g. Summers 2012b & c), or the coastal setting of the site increasing soil salinity. Historical records from Norfolk show that barley was a significant cash crop, which was traded in Britain and across the North Sea (Campbell and Overton 1993). The broad based economy at the site is likely to have incorporated barley, wheat, oats and rye, as well as some pulses (see Table 20). This is comparable to most English medieval rural sites, where a broad-based arable economy was mostly adopted, although wheat was more generally the dominant cereal (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Straker *et al.* 2007)

The barley dominated sample from in posthole fill L1098, which was in the form of clean grain, could represent stored material, perhaps becoming burnt and incorporated in the posthole fill through some kind of accidental fire. This could suggest that posthole F1097 originally formed part of a storage structure or was set close to an area of cereal storage or use. Although not fully analysed, oak charcoal in the posthole fill could represent the remains of the original post.

Conclusions

The archaeobotanical remains recovered from Stalham have provided an important insight into cereal cultivation, use and processing in the local area during two distinct periods. Although an extensive assemblage was not forthcoming, the results contribute to regional understanding of past arable economies and land management.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume (litres)	% Processed	Flot (ml)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Contaminants				
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
ENF129694	2.1	2004	2003	Fill of Pit		20	50%	35ml	X	-	NFI (2)	-	-	X	-	XX	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.2	2007	2006	Fill of Posthole		10	100%	10ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-
ENF129694	2.3	2009	2008	Fill of Pit		20	50%	25ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	-	X	-	X
ENF129694	2.4	2011	2010	Fill of ???		10	100%	15ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-
ENF129694	2.6	2021	2020	Fill of Pit		10	100%	10ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	X
ENF129694	2.7	2027	2026	Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	10	50%	20ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.8	2023	2022	Fill of Pit		20	50%	20ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	-	X	X	-
ENF129694	2.9	2029	2028	Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	20	100%	30ml	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp.	XX	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.10	2019	2018	Fill of Pit		20	50%	40ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-
ENF129694	2.11	2033	2032	Fill of Pit		10	100%	2ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.12A	2035A	2034A	Fill of Gully		10	100%	20ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	X	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.12B	2035B	2034B	Fill of Gully	LBA/EIA	10	100%	25ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	-
ENF129694	2.13	2037	2036	Fill of Pit		10	100%	15ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	XX	X	X
ENF129694	2.14	2031	2030	Fill of Pit		10	100%	15ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.15	2039	2038	Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	40	100%	280ml	XX	XX	HB (X), HTB (X), E/S (XX), Oat (X), Spelt GB (X), Emmer GB (X), E/S GB (XX)	XXX	*Chenopodium* sp. (X), *Rumex* sp. (X), *Fallopia convolvulus* (X), *Persicaria* sp. (XX), Asteraceae (X), *Bromus secalinus* type (XXX)	XXX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	XX	-	X	X	X
ENF129694	2.17	2049B	2048B	Fill of Large Ditch		20	50%	20ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-

ENF129694	2.19	2043C	2042C	Fill of Ditch	LBA/EIA	10	50%	10ml	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	X	X	-	X
ENF129694	2.21	2057	2056	Fill of Posthole		30	100%	60ml	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp., cf. *Corylus* sp.	X	-	X	X	-
ENF129694	2.27	2063C	2062C	Fill of Gully		20	50%	10ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.28	2075A	2074A	Fill of Terminus		20	50%	5ml	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.30	2079A	2078A	Fill of Ditch		20	50%	5ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-
ENF129694	2.37	2099	2098	Fill of Pit		20	66%	10ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	X	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.40	2107	2106	Fill of "Feature"	18th-19th C	20	50%	30ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.41	2105	2104	Fill of "Feature"		20	50%	40ml	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.45	2117	2116	Fill of Pit		40	100%	20ml	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp.	XX	-	X	-	X
ENF129694	2.46	2119A	2118A	Fill of Gully		10	100%	5ml	-	-	-	X	*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp. (1)	-	-	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.48	2125	2124	Fill of Pit		20	66%	50ml	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp.	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.49	2127B	2126B	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	20	66%	20ml	-	-	-	X	*Raphanus raphanistrum* (1), Large Poaceae (1)	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.50	2139	2138	Fill of Posthole		20	50%	40ml	-	-	-	-	-	XX	cf. *Corylus* sp.	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.51	2135A	2134A	Fill of Ditch		20	50%	25ml	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.54	2141	2140	Fill of Post Pipe Void		10	100%	30ml	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.55	2129E	2128E	Fill of Ditch	Late 16th-18th C	20	50%	15ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.56	2143	2142	Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	10	50%	2ml	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.57	2145	2144	Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	10	50%	30ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Quercus* sp.	X	-	XX	-	-
ENF129694	2.58	2149	2148	Lower Fill of Pit	EIA	40	57% (4/7)	5ml	X	-	Hord (1), Trit (3), Oat (1), NFI (1)	X	*Pisum* sp. (1), Large Fabaceae (1), *Galium* sp. (1), Indet. (1)	XX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	XX	-	X	-	X
ENF129694	2.59	2147	2146	Fill of Posthole	LBA/EIA	10	100%	15ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Quercus* sp.	XX	-	X	-	-
ENF129694	2.60	2170A	2169A	Fill of Ditch	Roman	10	100%	10ml	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-

ENF129694	2.62	2216	2215	Lower Fill of Possible Well	Late 15th-mid 16th / late 16th C	20	50%	60ml	X	-	HTB (1), Hord (1), NFI (1)	X	Large Fabaceae (1)	X	-	XX	-	X	-	-

*Table 20: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Stalham. Abbreviations: HTB = hulled, twisted barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare *var. vulgare); HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum *sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum *sp.); Spelt (*T. *spelta); Emmer (*T. *dicoccum); E/S = e,,er/ spelt wheat (*T. dicoccum*/ spelta); Trit = wheat (*Triticum *sp.); Oat (*Avena *sp.); NFI = indeterminate cereal (not formally identified); GB = glume base; SF = spikelet fork.*

Site Code	**ENF129649**	**ENF129649**
Sample number	**1.25**	**2.15**
Context number	**1098**	**2039**
Feature number	**1097**	**2038**
Feature type	**Posthole**	**Pit**
Spot date	**11th-13th C**	**LBA/EIA**
Volume (litres)	**10**	**40**
Cereal grains:		
Indet. cereal grain frags	XX	XX
Cereal NFI	44	42
(Cereal NFI - germinated grain)	-	(1)
Hordeum sp. - Barley	36	3
Hordeum sp. - Hulled barley	49	10
(*Hordeum vulgare* - twisted grain)	(8)	(3)
(*Hordeum vulgare* - germinated grain)	(1)	(1)
Triticum sp. - Wheat	-	11
(*Triticum* sp. - tail grain)	-	(1)
(*Triticum* sp. - germinated grain)	-	(1)
Triticum dicoccum/spelta - Emmer/spelt wheat	-	26
Triticum spelta type - Spelt type wheat	-	13
Avena sp. - Oat	-	3
Cereal chaff:		
Hordeum sp. - Barley rachis	-	1
Triticum spelta - Spelt wheat glume base	-	2
Triticum dicoccum - Emmer wheat glume base	-	1
Triticum dicoccum - Emmer wheat spikelet fork	-	1
Triticum dicoccum/spelta - Emmer/spelt wheat glume base	-	36
Triticum dicoccum/spelta - Emmer/spelt wheat spikelet fork	-	13
Triticum dicoccum/spelta - Emmer/spelt wheat rachis	-	3
Wild taxa:		
Chenopodium sp. L. - Goosefoot	7	5
Atriplex sp. L. - Oraches	-	2
Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot family	-	5
Cerastium sp. L. - Mouse-ear	-	1
Caryophyllaceae indet. - Pink family	-	2
Persicaria sp. Mill. - Knotweed	-	16
Polygonum aviculare L. - Knotgrass	-	4
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A.Love - Black-bindweed	-	8
Rumex sp. L. - Dock	1	9
Polygonaceae indet. - Knotweed family	-	2
Raphanus raphanistrum L. - Wild radish	-	2
Fabaceae indet. - Pea family (medium)	1	10
Pimpinella sp. L. - Burnet-saxifrage	-	1
Plantago sp. L. - Plantain	-	1
Galium aparine L. - Cleavers	-	1
Galium sp. L. - Bedstraw	-	1
Lapsana communis L. - Nipplewort	-	1
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch. Bip. - Scentless mayweed	-	5
Asteraceae indet. - Daisy family	-	2
Cyperaceae indet. - Sedge family	-	1
Bromus secalinus type L. - Rye brome/ chess	-	96
Bromus sp. L. - Brome grass	-	291
Bromopsis ramosa type (Huds.) Holub - Hairy brome	-	6
Poaceae indet. - Grass (large)	-	30
Poaceae indet. - Grass (medium)	-	2

Poaceae indet. - Grass (small)	-	96
Seeds indet.	-	15
Charcoal:		
Charcoal >2mm	XX	XXX
Contaminants:		
Modern roots	X	XX
Modern mollusc	-	-
Modern seeds	X	X
Modern insect	-	X
Earthworm egg capsules	-	X

Table 21: Results from full analysis of samples 1.25 and 2.15

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Volume (litres)	Spot date	Quercus		Betula		Salix/Populus		Prunus		Maloideae		Indet./unidentified
							COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	WEIGHT (g)
ENF129629	**2.2**	**2039**	**2038**	**Pit**	**40**	**LBA/ EIA**	71	15.333	24	2.663	1	0.076	3	0.395	1	0.122	23.091

Table 22: Charcoal data

7.6 The Animal Bone

By Julia E. M. Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bones was excavated from Stalham. These were examined and recorded on a bone scan proforma taking account of bone preservation, abrasion, colour and occurrence of fresh breaks. Species and bone elements present were recorded as well as the presence of butchered, ageable, measurable or pathological bones. Notes were made on any features of particular interest.

Bone preservation was in most cases very poor with high levels of abrasion, bone cracking and surface loss. The articulated remains (see below) found in L2164 B and L2233 were both in relatively good condition with little surface abrasion or signs of weathering.

Most of the contexts yielding bone belonged to Phase 7 (Modern) features (Table 23). A single context belonged to Phase 5 (Medieval) and one was undated. No prehistoric or Roman animal bone was present. The remains from Medieval context L2190 consisted of five fragments of tooth enamel, one of which could be identified as cattle and the others only as large (cattle or horse sized) mammal.

Phase	Feature	Context	Segment	Cattle	Pig	Rabbit	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
5 - Medieval	2189	2190		1			4		5
7 - Modern	2126	2127					1		1
7 - Modern	2163	2164	A				3		3
7 - Modern	2163	2164	B	1		40	1		42
7 - Modern	2265	2266					2	1	3
7 - Modern	2288	2289		2			5		7
Undated	2232	2233			56		1	172	229
Total				4	56	40	17	173	290

Table 23: Quantification of bones excavated from Stalham by context.

The Modern (Phase 7) assemblage consisted of three cattle bones - an unfused proximal humerus, a tibia shaft fragment and a proximal metatarsal – a partially articulated rabbit skeleton, a selection of large mammal long bone fragments and a medium mammal (sheep or pig sized) rib fragment. With the exception of the rabbit skeleton these bones were in a very poor state of preservation and it seems likely that they may have been exposed to the elements for some time before burial or that they may have been redeposited one or more times affecting their chemical equilibrium and hence state of preservation.

The final deposit examined was the partial pig burial from undated pit F2232 (L2233). This contained 56 positively identified pig bones and 172 medium mammal rib and vertebrae fragments. The pig remains consisted of an almost

entire pelvis, left and right femora, left and right tibiae, one and a half fibulae, a right astragalus and two other carpal or tarsal bones, a selection of metatarsals and phalanges, fragments of both right and left distal humerus and fragments of scapula. All of these bones were unfused with the exception of the distal phalanges and proximal metacarpals, both of which fuse before birth. This lack of bone fusion would place this animal at less than one year old at death, however if we look to the vertebrae more information can be gained. Although the vertebrae were recorded as medium mammal, they were all clearly similar in morphology and most likely belonged with the pig remains. The fusion state of the vertebrae was variable; in some cases the vertebral body had begun to fuse with the arch and in other cases the two parts were still unfused. According to Silver (1969) the body and the arch of the vertebrae in pigs fuses at between 3-6 months. As the vertebrae appeared to have started but not yet completed this process at death it would appear that the animal was between 3-6months old when it died.

In conclusion cattle and pig were the only positively identified domestic mammals at the site. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted. In the case of the cattle bones this may well be due to their poor state of preservation and loss of bone surface masking any other types of modification. However for the pig remains it is certain that no visible signs of butchery or pathology were present.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The natural and human landscapes

8.1.1 The natural landscape and the recorded archaeology

The development of the Norfolk Broads came about through a fairly complex combination of sedimentary deposition, sea level fluctuation and human interference. In the early post-glacial period the rivers of the Broads Zone discharged in to a large estuary occupying much of the Halvergate 'Triangle' and a second, smaller estuary, separated from this by the higher ground at Flegg, located in the area between Winterton and Waxham. Rising sea levels, starting in the Mesolithic, led to the development of mudflats and saltmarsh, with such conditions reaching up to 20km in land (Albone *et al* 2007, 5). The identification of Neolithic worked flint as residual material in later features at this site and from locations in the surrounding area, suggests that it may have provided conditions suitable for habitation, from which the nearby wetland environments could be exploited. Around 2500 BC freshwater conditions and reed beds started to develop and there is evidence for large freshwater lagoons close to the coast. These conditions are thought to have been brought about by the presence of a large sandspit blocking the mouth of the estuary and leading to peat formation further up the river valleys. Throughout the Bronze Age, conditions in the region's river valleys became increasingly wet with the widening of the river channels and pools forming along the Yare Valley (Albone *et al* 2007, 5).

The position of the current site, therefore, on slightly higher ground above and overlooking the valley of the river Ant and adjacent to areas which, today, comprise wetlands, and which must have formed a similar landscape during the wet conditions of the Bronze Age, must have provided an advantageous position for settlement at this time. Relatively dry land would have been available for occupation and agriculture but the various resources offered by the wetland environments would also have been readily available. The results of analyses of the environmental samples that were taken during excavation demonstrate that the late Bronze Age/early Iron population had access to free draining, slightly acidic, fertile soils and that mature oak and birch woodland existed in the vicinity (Summers Ch. 7.5).

By the Iron Age, estuarine conditions had returned to much of the Broads Zone due to the disintegration of the large sandspit that had previously blocked the mouth of the estuary. By the Roman period, the former estuary had again become a vast area of open water, with intertidal mud flats and saltmarsh, which is referred to as the 'Great Estuary' (Albone *et al* 2007, 6). Despite the limited evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation recorded during the excavation, some Iron Age archaeology has been identified in the surrounding area and a Roman settlement is postulated in the Stalham area (NHER 52563). This

indicates that the environmental changes of this period, such as the increasingly brackish conditions within the river valleys (Albone *et al* 2007, 6), did not render the Stalham area uninhabitable. Nor, despite estuarine conditions reaching up to 23km in land (Albone *et al* 2007, 6), would the area have been submerged. Nearby areas, however, may have been and the general character and appearance of the landscape would have been notably different to preceding and proceeding periods. This suggests that communication routes in the wider area would have been vastly different to those recognisable from later periods with perhaps roads, by necessity, taking routes around large bodies of inland water and more river, or water, based transport. Such differences in communication routes are likely to be reflected in the distribution of Roman archaeology in the area.

Rising sea levels and the reoccurrence of the blockage of the estuary's mouth, this time by the shingle spit upon which Great Yarmouth now lies, led to the silting up of the 'Great Estuary' during the Anglo-Saxon period. This process is understood to have happened quite rapidly and resulted in the large areas of wetlands, fen and grazing marsh which still exist in part today (Albone *et al* 2007, 6). The Broads themselves are the result of medieval peat and turf cutting and the flooding of the areas from which peat was removed. The medieval activity represented at the current site would have been broadly contemporary with such activity but there is little likelihood that a direct relationship exists between the two, not least because the nearest body of water identified as a 'broad', Sutton Broad, lies approximately 1.5km to the south. Away from the wetlands, the medieval landscape is likely to have been fairly similar to much of the rest of lowland southern England at this time. Environmental evidence recovered during excavation shows that a broad-based arable economy, similar to that considered typical for an English medieval rural site, was being practised.

8.1.1 The man-made landscape

Much of the archaeology recorded during this excavation comprised ditches representing boundaries and enclosure systems. Boundaries are 'conservative features' and can frequently be seen to have survived over long periods despite other changes to the landscape (Jones & Page 2006, 31) Often it is possible to identify the influence over modern landscapes of medieval or even earlier boundaries; at some locations in Cambridgeshire, for example, there is evidence for the continuity and fossilisation of Roman fields in to later landscapes (Upex 2002). However, at Stalham, despite boundary ditches or enclosure systems of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern date having been recorded, there is little or no evidence of continuity from one system to the next and the survival of particular boundaries over long periods of time. This can be seen most easily through the great variety in the axes of alignment of these various boundaries or systems of boundaries, with none seeming to have been arranged with regard to earlier systems. The most similar in alignment

would appear to be the medieval enclosure and the 19th century boundaries, and, indeed, the modern boundaries to the west of the site, shown on up to date cartographic sources. In Excavation Area 4 medieval ditch F2165 and 19th century ditch F2163 ran almost parallel to one another.

Influences of the man-made landscape over the character, location or layout of proceeding activity may, however, be more subtle than the persistence of a boundary over time or the alignment of a new field system with a pre-existing one. Excavation at this site has added to the picture of prehistoric activity in the Stalham area. It can be seen that, in the vicinity of the site, there were late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits (the Phase 1 activity recorded here), Bronze Age ring-ditches and barrows (NHER 8313 and NHER 36107), and a defined corridor of land of uncertain prehistoric date (the Phase 2 features) in addition to evidence for Neolithic and Mesolithic activity in the form of lithic artefacts recovered as surface finds in the surrounding area and residual material from later features recorded during the excavation. Bradley (1993, 113) has noted that it is not unusual to find more recent archaeology amidst an array of older monuments. In part this might be due to the continued use or re-use of locations that are geographically suitable for human occupation or other activities but it also suggests an awareness of the past. As Gosden and Lock (1998) have noted, it is easy to avoid acknowledging a consciousness of history in prehistoric peoples but there is clear evidence that they arranged their contemporary world not just with regard to the demands and requirements of the present but also through a complex understanding of the past. This suggests that, despite their differing dates, the prehistoric archaeology recorded at the site and known in the surrounding area, must be considered both as a variety of landscapes representing the specific periods to which they are dated but also as a single interrelated landscape that may be understood in terms of the relative positioning of monuments and areas of activity of different dates. This may be of particular significance if, of the various interpretations that may be applied to the ditch system assigned to Phase 2, that which compares it to cursus monuments is accepted as the most likely (see below).

Over large areas of East Anglia the Romano-British landscape was the product of large-scale planning and was extensively exploited (Murphy 1994, 23). Limited evidence of this was recorded during excavation at the current site, but the presence of Roman ditch F2169=F2130 indicates that land within the site was indeed enclosed or divided and therefore part of a managed landscape in this period. A similar conclusion may be drawn from the presence of the single Anglo-Saxon ditch (F2118) that was recorded; Murphy (1994, 24) suggests that much of Anglo-Saxon England consisted of farmland, interspersed with limited areas of woods.

Williamson (2005, 13) indicates that the medieval landscape of Norfolk was dominated by open-fields. In the north-east of the county, there was almost no communal control over farming and cultivators planted what they wanted when

they wanted. Across much of this area, the open fields were so extensive that only small pockets of common land were left unploughed (Williamson 2005, 14). This indicates that the medieval boundaries recorded at the southern end of the site are unlikely to have formed enclosed fields for arable cultivation, although they could represent agricultural yards or paddocks. The position of these enclosures, broadly perpendicular to the existing Yarmouth Road suggests that the road followed much the same route at the time that they were created. Therefore, similar enclosure might exist elsewhere along Yarmouth Road. This small window onto the layout of medieval Stalham might, in conjunction with any further developer-funded archaeological work in the area, contribute to a greater understanding of the character, development and extent of the settlement in the medieval period (c.f. Thomas 2006; Lewis 2007).

In light of Williamson's (2005, 13) assertion that much of the medieval landscape of north-east Norfolk was dominated by open-fields, the activity assigned to Phase 6 may be seen as a major change to the local human geography. Although some open-fields survived into the 19th century and, indeed, some are still present in parts of Nottinghamshire, large-scale enclosure of the open-fields began in the late post-medieval period (Muir 2004, 201). Early enclosure, prior to Parliamentary Enclosure, did occur in some places. In part this was carried out by the manorial lords extracting their demesne strips from the common ploughland and organising a redistribution of land to produce a compact demesne holding. Members of the peasant classes carried out similar enclosure, exchanging strips of land with each other in order to achieve more convenient consolidated blocks of land (Muir 2004, 76). Parliamentary Enclosures can be recognised from their straight, regular boundaries whereas early enclosures tended to produce less regularly shaped fields and can often be recognised by their 'reverse-s' shaped boundaries, created along the curving margin of a parcel of open-field strips (Muir 2004, 77). Although the easterly enclosure ditches assigned to Phase 6 are notably less regular than those recorded further to the west, the form of all of these features suggests that they are far more likely to be associated with Parliamentary Enclosure than earlier types of enclosure. It is interesting to note, however, that, if these features do represent Parliamentary Enclosure, this arrangement of the landscape clearly did not persist over a long period as it markedly different in alignment to the arrangement of the fields shown on 19th century cartographic sources and represented by ditches F2094=F2128 and F2040=F2126=F2163.

8.2 The character of the recorded archaeological activity

8.2.1 The prehistoric activity

The various pits and single gully assigned to Phase 1 represent the earliest dateable features recorded during the excavation. Residual Mesolithic and early Neolithic flintwork, however, attest to earlier activity in the area. Phase 1 features occurred in two distinct groups, those in Excavation Area 1 and the small cluster in Grid Square E8, with a single isolated feature of this date (F2038) recorded in Grid Square I10.

These two main groups of Phase 1 features were quite different in character. Those within Excavation Area 1 comprised three very different features (a small amorphous pit, a larger amorphous pit and a gully) while those forming the cluster in Grid Square E8 all comprised small circular pits, all less than 1m in diameter. Further differences between these groups are highlighted by their finds assemblages; those features in Excavation Area 1 contained an average of 6.66g of pottery per feature while the average pottery content from the cluster in Grid Square E8 was 77g (these features also contained an average of 34.14g or 2.14 fragments of struck flint per feature). These ratios may be even more widely differing when it is considered that many of the undated features within Excavation Area 1 are likely to be contemporary with the Phase 1 features recorded in this part of the site. While it is possible to identify differences in these two feature groups which may signify differing functions, the actual nature of those functions is more difficult to interpret. In early Bronze Age contexts, similar small pit groups are often found to contain material derived from midden deposits curated and deposited in to the pits in possibly symbolic acts (Garrow 2006). These features are, however, probably too late in date to be associated with this kind of activity but the abraded condition of the pottery would fit with such an interpretation. Similar small scale activity of approximately this date was recorded at Ingham Quarry, Suffolk (Newton and Mustchin 2012) where it was interpreted as evidence of the short-lived occupation of a transitory human population moving through the area. The quantity of identifiable features of this date at Stalham is slightly greater than that recorded at Ingham Quarry, which might suggest that any ‘visits’ by such migratory groups may have been more regular or more prolonged at Stalham. An alternative interpretation for these features might be that settlement existed elsewhere in the vicinity and that they represent activity at its very periphery. Evidence from the environmental samples would appear to support such an interpretation, suggesting a managed landscape and the cultivation of cereal crops, indicating that associated settlement would have had to have been at least semi-permanent or only migratory within a small radius of the areas under cultivation.

It is also possible that these pits are in some way related to the features assigned to Phase 2. The ditches forming and associated with the possible delineated trackway were tentatively identified as prehistoric due to limited dating evidence

and because stratigraphically they were clearly amongst the earliest features at the site. The recovery of a very limited quantity of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery from the Phase2 ditches raises the possibility that they were contemporary with the Phase 1 features. It is notable, although not necessarily surprising given their small size and number, that the Phase 1 features did not display any stratigraphic relationships, or occur within the area delimited by, the Phase 2 ditches. However, neither are there any clear spatial relationships between the Phase 1 features and the ditches of Phase 2 from which their contemporaneity or a functional relationship might be determined; certain aspects of the form of the Phase 2 features might indicate that they are in fact much earlier than the pits of Phase 1.

As suggested above, an agricultural function for the Phase 2 features seems unlikely. Beyond the fact that it is possible to drive herd/flock animals over long distances without the use of large-scale artificially bounded routeways, the scale of this arrangement of features, and their consistent adherence to a single route across the landscape, makes it unlikely that they formed part of a system similar to, for example, the Bronze Age stockyards and field systems suggested by Pryor (1996) at Fengate, Peterborough. A formalised route is a much more likely explanation. The flanking ditches may have served to keep the bounded route dry, although the free-draining soils of the area may not have necessitated drainage ditches. Given the projected route of the ditches to the south-west, the trackway would have passed in close in proximity to the Bronze Age ring ditches/barrows recorded as NHER 8313 and NHER 36107. This may not be coincidental, possibly suggesting that these features formed part of a monumental feature. The arrangement of the Phase 2 features conforms to Cunliffe's (2013, 134) definition of a cursus ("parallel earthworks defining strips of land") and, at least in width, the Stalham features are comparable to such monuments at Fornham All Saints, Suffolk (Martin 1982) and Stanwell, Surrey (Barber 2011, 2).

Ashbee (1960, 15) indicates that Bronze Age populations lived in close proximity to their ceremonial centres and funerary monuments. However, for much of the Bronze Age in Norfolk there is an apparent absence of evidence for domestic sites. Pottery and lithic material recovered from surface collection indicate that the county had a large population (Ashwin 1996, 52) but the relative invisibility of occupation sites suggests that Bronze Age society prioritised burial mounds and ceremonial centres, making them more elaborate and investing greater time and resources in them than the settlements (Bradley 1984, 70). This may indicate that the features assigned to Phase 1 are the only representation of settlement activity associated with and in proximity to the putative monumental 'trackway'. Their late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date might, however, contradict such an interpretation as, by this time, settlement activity may be expected to have become more like that which is characteristic of the Iron Age. Furthermore, cursuses are primarily associated with the Neolithic, contradicting the artefactual evidence and adding further uncertainty to the true date of the Phase 2 features

and suggesting that it is unlikely that Phases 1 and 2 represent broadly contemporary activity.

If the Phase 2 delineated 'trackway' is indeed of Neolithic date then its presence in the landscape may have been influential in the distribution and development of later prehistoric activity. Bronze Age barrow groups were often sited in proximity to earlier monuments such as cursuses and henges (Parker Pearson 1999, 91). Jones (1986, 68) suggests that that the monumental landscape was deliberately used to link the Bronze Age populous with the ancestral inhabitants of the land, indicating that, even if the 'trackway' was originally of Neolithic date, it may well have been incorporated into both the physical and symbolic landscape of the Bronze Age.

8.2.2 Roman Stalham

With the exception of a group of field boundaries recorded to the south-east (NHER 49314), the majority of known Roman archaeology in the surrounding area has been recorded to the west and south-west of the site. This suggests that the putative Roman settlement in the vicinity of Stalham is most like to have been located in this direction. This might indicate that Roman ditch F2130=F2169 was located at the margin of the settlement. No other features of this date were recorded, although some residual Roman CBM was present in later features, and the ditch can only be seen as a possible agricultural boundary, presumably part of a field system, the remaining evidence for which must lie beyond the limits of excavation. The suggestion that the thirteen sherds of Roman pottery that were recovered all came from the same vessel might indicate deliberate and/or symbolic deposition but, as the entirety of the vessel was not present in the excavated segments, this can only be speculation.

8.2.3 Anglo-Saxon Stalham

Although a Domesday settlement, physical evidence of Anglo-Saxon Stalham is mostly limited to finds of pottery from fieldwalking, although significant artefacts of this date, such as the Saxon canoe (NHER 8310) dredged from the river Ant to the south-west of Stalham and radiocarbon dated to 720 AD, have been found in the area. Excavation at this site has changed that by providing evidence of a cut feature, in this case a ditch (F2118), of Anglo-Saxon date in Stalham, albeit a cut feature dated by a single sherd of late Saxon pottery. The remaining evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity recovered from the site is in keeping with what has previously been recorded in the area, comprising residual middle to late Saxon pottery in later features and the subsoil.

In looking for logical development of the landscape it might be tempting to suggest that this feature represents activity comprising a pre-cursor to the

medieval enclosure recorded further to the south. However, not only was the distance between this feature and the medieval enclosure too great but its axis of alignment was completely different, meaning that there were no clear spatial or functional similarities between F2118 and the medieval features from which a clear chronological progression could be seen.

8.2.4 The medieval enclosure

The chronology of medieval activity

The Phase 5 archaeology can be divided into three distinct groups; the stratigraphic evidence indicates that there were a small number of features which were clearly earlier than the main phase of medieval activity and a single feature which was clearly later. The stratigraphic evidence, however, is not comprehensive enough for division of the medieval activity in to clear sub-phases of activity. It remains possible that some of the quite numerous discrete medieval features, including the outlying features F2165 and F2171, although seemingly part of the main phase of activity, might be contemporary with the stratigraphically earlier or later features.

Artefactual evidence appears to offer no assistance in elucidating sub-phases. Although a broad range of dates is evident in the pottery assemblage, the overall character of the assemblage from feature to feature offers no clear indication of chronological development. For example, the pottery from Segment A of F2181, one of the stratigraphically early medieval features, is suggestive of a late 12th to 14th century date and the assemblage from the stratigraphically latest feature, F2187, is also indicative of a 12th to 14th century date.

The regular reorganisation of the way the land was enclosed that the stratigraphic evidence appears to represent is a well-noted feature of medieval settlement (Hurst 1971; Smith 2010). Estimates regarding the interval at which such organisation took place range from once every generation or so (Hurst 1971, 533) to every 50-60 (Smith 2010, 72) or 70 years (Gilchrist 2012, 232).

The earliest medieval activity

Stratigraphic relationships between the three narrow gullies F2236, F2250 and F2181 and the more substantial enclosure ditches F2179 and F2234 indicate the presence of an earlier enclosure preceding that formed by F2179 and F2234 and at least some of the activity that occurred within it.

This early enclosure was formed by F2181, F2236, F2250 and, most probably representing the continuation of the boundary formed by F2250, F2256 and

F2258. Pit F2189, which was also cut by F2179, may have been contemporary. This enclosure was arranged on the same axes of alignment as the slightly later enclosure which truncated it. Although fragmentary north-eastern, north-western and south-western boundaries forming the enclosure were identified none was identified forming its south-eastern edge. If such a boundary existed it seems likely that it was completely truncated by F2179.

Although these features can clearly be identified as representing the earliest of the Phase 5 activity, there is insufficient evidence for the phase to be split into logical sub-phases. It is not possible, for example, to determine with any certainty whether Pits F2218, F2211, F2191, F2222 and F2193 represent activity within the earlier or the later enclosure. While it may be possible to state that the overall composition of the pottery assemblage from the earlier enclosure is representative of a very slightly earlier date than that from the ditches forming the later enclosure, the overall character of the pottery assemblage from these pits would comfortably fit with either group of ditches.

The main phase of medieval activity

The arrangement of the main medieval enclosure (that formed by F2179 and F2234) broadly perpendicular to the adjacent Yarmouth Road indicates the antiquity of this route. The organisation of rectilinear plots flanking a through road is typical of medieval settlements across the country. As an apparent roadside plot, it is possible that the enclosure represents an enclosed toft. Most peasant houses in a medieval village had attached yards and gardens; a smaller 'toft' fronting the street and a larger 'croft' at the rear (Gies and Gies 1991, 34). The size of this enclosure, in excess of 55m in length and at least 45m in width, makes it comparable with Toft 2 recorded at the deserted medieval village of Thuxton, also in Norfolk, which measured 67 x 42m (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989). As Roberts (1987, fig. 2) demonstrates, the toft may have been separated from its associated croft by a 'back lane'. This may be represented by the narrow (*c*. 3m) strip of land between the north-eastern boundary ditch F2234 and the parallel F2228, though this interpretation may be hampered somewhat by the lack of any identifiable boundary features representing the limits of the croft and by the presence of the double-ditched boundary formed by F2260 and F2269 to the north-west.

Crofts could be used either for arable cultivation or for pastoral agriculture (Dyer 2000, 69), although in the case of medieval Isleham, Cambridgeshire, several medieval crofts were locations of industrial activity in the form of clunch quarrying and lime-burning (Wareham & Wright 2002, 443).

Evidence to support the interpretation of this enclosure as a toft is variable. There is no evidence for a domestic structure, although this could have lain closer to the road, beyond the limit of excavation, or have been truncated by the large pit

F2274. However, the putative well (F2215) could represent a domestic water supply. The pottery assemblage from the enclosure, although not particularly large, is possibly representative of domestic consumption; the vessel-types present comprised cooking and tablewares, with the exception of two sherds of late medieval coarseware possibly associated within an industrial usage. The slag assemblage recovered from the site was focussed on this enclosure. This assemblage is, however, small and not particularly indicative of iron-working at this location, although it is not inconceivable that smithing activities might occur within such a setting. The presence of the large pit F2274, which is tentatively suggested to represent the extraction of the natural sand, might indicate that croft and toft-type occupation did not occur within this enclosure, though it is conceivable that this activity might have occurred following the cessation of domestic occupation.

The purpose of the elongate pits (F2218, F2211, F2191 and F2222) running in a line parallel with boundary ditch F2179 is unclear. They do not appear to have a clear domestic function or one directly associated with the possible quarrying activity. They contained no finds which were particularly illustrative of their function; the overall assemblage from these features amounting to little more than a few grams of pottery. Their arrangement in relationship to enclosure ditch F2179 might indicate that they represent some kind of embellishment to the boundary. They may represent some kind of rearrangement of the features marking the boundary, although not the actual position of the boundary itself, as has been suggested in association with a possible toft-type enclosure in Water Newton, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2013b), though it seems unlikely that such this arrangement of pits would have formed an adequate barrier.

The arrangement of these boundaries, broadly parallel to those depicted on modern cartographic sources in association with the adjacent Church Farm, might indicate a medieval precursor for a farm, or at least a larger-scale holding than a croft, at this location. If this is the case then the enclosure might represent an ancillary enclosure appended to the main farm complex, possibly accounting for the presence of apparent domestic waste (in the form of pottery etc) but the lack of further clear evidence for such activity.

The medieval manor house, which was held by Herringby Priory, is considered to have stood on the site of the current Stalham Hall (NHER 13197), *c*. 350m to the south-east. This distance, however, is probably too great to suggest that the evidence which indicates domestic activity in the vicinity of the enclosure came directly from the manorial seat.

Later medieval activity

Ditch F2187 cut the large pit F2274 and, therefore, comprises the most recent stratigraphically identifiable medieval feature. It was very similar in plan to F2195

which was located opposite it, continuing on the same alignment after a gap of *c*. 12m. These features may have been directly related, possibly forming a line or boundary. If these features did function together to form a boundary, their spatial relationship and positioning might suggest that the enclosure boundary formed by Ditch F2179 was no longer in use by this time. The alignment of this pair of features would indicate that any boundary that they formed would have been broadly parallel to the adjacent Yarmouth Road, suggesting that they may have formed a rear boundary associated with roadside plots.

8.2.5 Later boundaries and enclosures

The post-medieval field system

Features assigned to Phase 6 combined to form a rational system of field boundaries or enclosures, clearly earlier in date than the 19th century boundary ditches also present at the site. Although no direct stratigraphic relationship with Phase 5 features was observed, these ditches were clearly more recent than Anglo-Saxon ditch F2118. Their differences in alignment to the medieval features suggested that they were not contemporary with this phase of activity and this, combined with their overall form, suggested a post-medieval date. The only artefactual evidence to support this comprised 34 sherds of 15th-16th century pottery recovered from ditch F2175; the remainder of the limited pottery assemblage from this group of features comprised residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and 11th to 13th century material.

These features represented a system of enclosure that appeared to potentially extend across much of the development site, beyond the areas that were subject to excavation. However, no part of this field system occurred within either Excavation Areas 1 or 3 and none of the undated features recorded during the previous trial trench evaluation (Orzechowski 2013) could be identified as comprising constituent parts of it occurring in areas of the development site that were not subject to excavation.

19th century boundaries

Ditch F2094=F2128 can be identified as representing the eastern boundary of the field marked as ‘87’ on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area (Fig. 35). The broadly parallel F2040=F2126=F2163 can be seen to follow a similar line to this feature and to the boundary which forms the south-eastern boundary of the overall current development site. It was, however, stratigraphically later than F2094=F2128. This indicates that it represents a slightly later boundary forming part of the same overall system of enclosure as that depicted on the 1885 map.

20th century features

Ditches F2106 and F2110 would appear to represent anti-tank or anti-glider ditches of World War II date. A line of other World War II installations are present to the south of Stalham, comprising an air raid shelter built into the remains of Staithe (also known as Burton's) Mill (NHER 15895), a spigot mortar base (NHER 8240), and a group of ring ditches which might represent bases for a searchlight installation, but which could equally be of Bronze Age date (NHER 30407). Norfolk contained a number of airfields and other military sites during the Second World War but there appear to have been no particular strategic targets in Stalham itself. Despite the lack of important military sites in Stalham itself, it is quite conceivable that the local Home Guard, ARP or even the Parish Council would have installed such traps both to protect Stalham itself in the event of invasion and to help impede the inland progress of any invading force.

8.3 Economic evidence

Based on the analysis of a sample taken from Phase 1 pit F2038, a fairly high level of detail regarding the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age agricultural regime of the area has been identified. Summers (Ch. 7.4) notes that the local population, at this time, grew spelt, which they probably planted in the autumn or winter, possibly along with barley, oats and certain pulses; they also enriched the soil, presumably through manuring. This level of agricultural sophistication indicates that the Phase 1 features do not represent the remains of camps left behind by transitory, occasional visitors to the area but must be associated with a permanent settlement. Therefore, it may be anticipated that contemporary settlement remains exist in the surrounding area. A similarly detailed picture of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pastoral economy is not available as no animal remains were recovered from Phase 1 contexts. This may simply be a reflection of the nature of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity represented at the site but could also be due to soil conditions in this area not being conducive to the survival of bone; no animal bone was recovered from Phase 2, 3 or 4 contexts and only a small amount of tooth enamel was recovered from medieval contexts.

No information regarding the agricultural economy was recovered from the Roman or Anglo-Saxon contexts. Pottery recovered from ditch F2169, however, was identifiable as Roman greyware, produced locally and common in the area. This is suggestive of a community of only moderate wealth, though it may be unlikely that expensive imported vessels would be recovered from what would appear to represent part of a field system, possibly some distance removed from foci of settlement.

The medieval arable economy appears to have been dominated by barley but it appears that wheat, oats, rye and some pulses were also grown; this is a fairly typical medieval assemblage. Certain weed species present in environmental samples suggest that, like in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, the soil for cultivation was enriched through manuring. Fragments of tooth enamel from cattle and large-sized mammal (horse or cattle) were recovered from medieval contexts and indicate that animals of this type were kept, indeed these may have been the source of the manure for enriching the arable land, but no other evidence for pastoral agriculture was recovered. The medieval pottery assemblage was dominated by coarse wares and probably represents a range of utilitarian vessels that might be found in everyday usage in an average rural household. Some glazed sherds were also present, perhaps representing a small quantity of better quality material but not particularly indicative of great wealth. Overall, this economic might be seen to be consistent with the identification of the medieval enclosures as a possible roadside toft and croft-type holding.

9 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological investigation of this site in Stalham by `strip, map and sample' has helped to characterise the archaeological remains that were demonstrated as being present during previous phases of archaeological investigation here (Biggs 2011; Orzechowski 2013). This work has demonstrated that the site was subject to multi-period activity, starting in the late Bronze Age, or possibly earlier, and extending up to the mid 20th century.

Prehistoric archaeology was not unexpected; an undated cropmark (NHER 38518) recorded within the north-eastern part of the site (Fig. 35) has been tentatively interpreted as an incomplete prehistoric enclosure. No evidence of features coinciding with this cropmark were recorded during the excavation but significant prehistoric activity was identified. The pits assigned to Phase 1 would appear to represent activity that must be associated with a settlement in the surrounding area; clear evidence of cereal cultivation and manuring of the local soils indicates that there must have been a permanent local populous managing and farming the landscape. It is possible that these features were directly associated with the delineated corridor of land formed by features assigned to Phase 2. Dating associated with Phase 2 is tentative; despite the recovery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery from these ditches the form of the 'trackway' might suggest that it is of Neolithic date and therefore earlier than the Phase 1 activity. Neolithic worked flint was recovered as residual material during the excavation and as loose finds in the surrounding area, indicating that there was a Neolithic population in the area. If the Phase 2 features are indeed of this date they would appear to represent part of a monumental landscape and this may account for the apparent focus of Bronze Age funerary monuments towards the south-western part of this ditch complex.

Roman activity is known in Stalham and so the identification of a ditch of this date would appear to fit with the known pattern of Roman activity, which appears to be focussed to the south-west of the site. Located close to this feature was an Anglo-Saxon ditch. Despite the known history of the settlement at Stalham and artefacts found in the surrounding area, this ditch is amongst the first pieces of physical evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity found in the town.

The identification of a medieval enclosure, which may represent toft/croft-type occupation, potentially extends the known core of medieval settlement in the Stalham. If one croft/toft holding existed here it is likely that others were located alongside it or in close proximity. Artefactual and environmental evidence have provided some details about the type of settlement that was happening here and have shown that a fairly typical medieval mixed agricultural economy must have been practised.

Overall, the results of this excavation have provided further detail to the known archaeology of Stalham and may have produced some evidence to alter or develop what is currently understood about the history of human occupation in this part of Norfolk.

DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Area	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
2000				Topsoil	12th-14th C	(1) 3g			
2001			4	Subsoil	18th-19th C 12th-14th C	(3) 6g (1) 1g	179		Slag (1) - 2g Str. Flint (2) - 34g
2022	2023			Fill of Pit			6		
2026	2027			Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	(6) 3g			
2028	2029			Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	(16) 15g			
2034	2035	A B		Fill of Gully	 LBA/EIA	 (1) 2g	3		
2038	2039	"Upper" "Lower"		Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA LBA/EIA	(3) 9g (14) 89g	3 3		
2040	2041	 F I J K		Fill of Ditch	12th-13th /14th C 15th-17th C	(3) 14g (2) 6g	125 1933 2 4		 Str. Flint (2) - 5g Str. Flint (2) - 3g
2042	2043	C		Fill of Ditch	LBA/EIA	(1) 2g			
2048	2049	F		Fill of Ditch	LBA/EIA	(2) 1g	2		
2064	2065			Fill of Ditch	LBA/EIA	(7) 50g			
2080	2081	A B		Fill of Ditch	LBA/EIA	(3) 13g			 Str. Flint (3) - 7g
2094	2095	A B C		Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C 12th-14th C	(2) 4g (1) 2g	 20		 Str. Flint (1) - 1g Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 4g Fe. Frag (1) - 9g Str. Flint (1) - 2g
2096	2097			Fill of Ditch					F. Clay - 40g Clay Pipe Stem (1)

									- 3g Str. Flint (1) - 1g
2106	2107			Fill of 'Feature'	18th-19th C	(2) 26g	3		Glass (1) - 1g
2118	2119	C		Fill of Gully	11th-13th C	(1) 5g			
2120	2121			Fill of Posthole					W. Stone? - 324g
2126	2127	 B		Fill of Ditch	 11th-13th C	 (1) 4g	600 201	79	 Coal - 6g
2128	2129	 B C E		Fill of Ditch	 Late 18th+ C Late 16th-18th C	 (6) 35g (2) 20g	 8 2		**SF1** Cu. Alloy Object - 7g Shell - <1g Clay Pipe Stem (2) - 2g Glass (2) - 1g
2142	2143			Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	(1) 7g			
2144	2145			Fill of Pit	LBA/EIA	(8) 40g			Str. Flint (4) - 92g
2146	2147			Fill of Posthole	LBA/EIA	(1) 8g			Str. Flint (1) - 7g
2148	2149 2150			Lower Fill of Pit Upper Fill of Pit	EIA LBA/EIA	(61) 376g (24) 99g	2		Str. Flint (4) - 92g Str. Flint (3) - 14g
2151	2152			Fill of Posthole	LBA/EIA	(1) 9g			
2153	2154			Fill of Posthole					Str. Flint (3) 34g
	2162				12th-14th C	(1) 1g			
2163	2164	A B	4	Fill of Ditch	12th-14th C Late 18th+ C	(1) 7g (3) 5g	2	50 251	Fe. Fragments (2) - 3g Slag (2) - 6g
2165	2166	A D	4	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th/15th C	(5)13g	6		Slag (1) - 5g Fe. Frag (1) - 67g
2167	2168		4	Fill of Gully					Fe. Frag (1) - 53g
2169	2170	A B	4	Fill of Ditch	Roman Roman	(2) 10g (12) 20g			
2171	2172			Fill of Pit	13th-15th C	(1) 1g			Fe. Frag (1) - 1g Glass (1) - 2g
2175	2176		4	Fill of Gully				997	Fe. Frag (1) - 37g

		B C			15th-16th C 11th-13th C	(2) 68g (3) 2g			
2179	2180	 A C E		Fill of Gully	11th-13th C 15th-16th/17th C 13th-14th C Late 12th-14th/15th C	(2) 2g (12) 403g (8) 15g (12) 51g			B. Flint - 6g Slag (1) - 4g
2181	2182	A B		Fill of Gully	11th-14th C 12th-14th C	(9) 25 (1) 1g			
2183	2184	A B		Fill of Linear	Late 12th-14th C 13th-14th C	(7) 12g (20) 48g			Slag (1) - 24g Slag (8) - 396g
2185	2186	A B		Fill of Oval Pit	12th-14th C 11th-14th C	(1) 2g (2) 1g			
2187	2188			Fill of Ditch	12th-14th C	(3) 19g			
2189	2190			Fill of Pit	12th-14th C	(3) 17g		1	Slag (1) - 1g
2193	2194			Fill of Pit	11th-14th C	(12) 61g			
2195	2196			Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	(17) 47g			Slag (2) - 48g Str. Flint (1) - 7g
2209	2210			Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	(2) 5g			
2211	2212		4	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	(7) 82g			
2215	2216 2217			Fill of Well	Late 15th-mid 16th / late 16th C 13th-15th C	(51) 1440g (3) 75			Glass (1) - 1g Grinding Stone - 323g Slag (2) - 98g
2218	2219			Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	(1) 17g			
2222	2223			Fill of Gully	11th-13th C	(4) 24g			Fe. Frag (1) - 21g
2228	2229	A		Fill of Pit	Late 12th-14th C	(1) 37g			
2232	2233			Fill of Burial Pit				263	
2234	2235	C		Fill of Ditch	13th-14th C	(2) 10g			
2236	2237			Fill of Gully	11th-14th C	(2) 17g			
2254	2255			Fill of Ditch	EBA?	(1) 6g			

2256	2257			Fill of Gully	13th-15th C	(3) 8g			
2265	2266			Fill of Modern Quarry Pit	19th-20th C	(9) 63g		1	Slate - 6g Str. Flint (2) - 2g
2288	2289			Fill of Ditch				168	

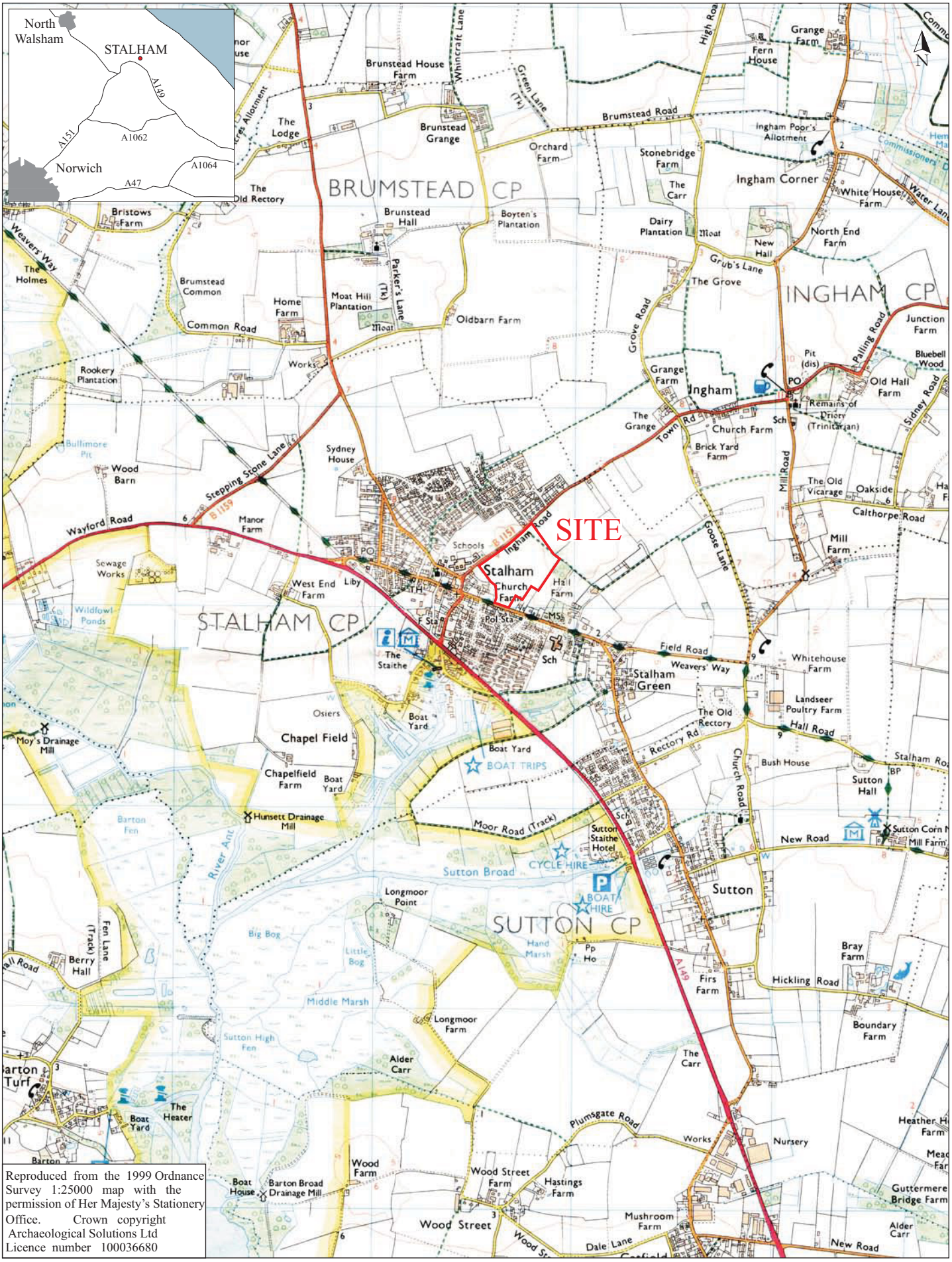

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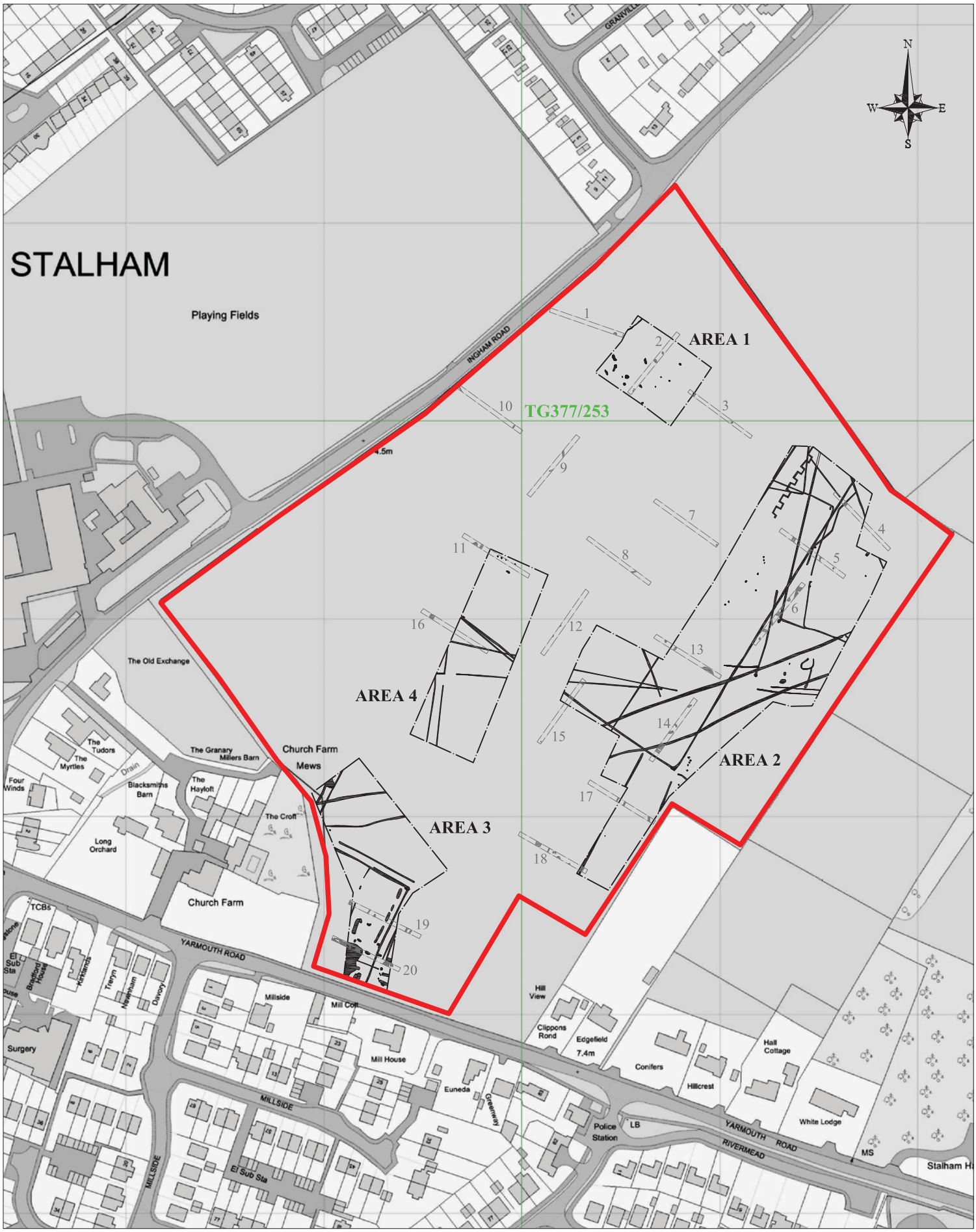
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



Evaluation trench

Excavation area

0 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:2500 at A4

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Fig. 3 All features plan

Scale 1:1250 at A3

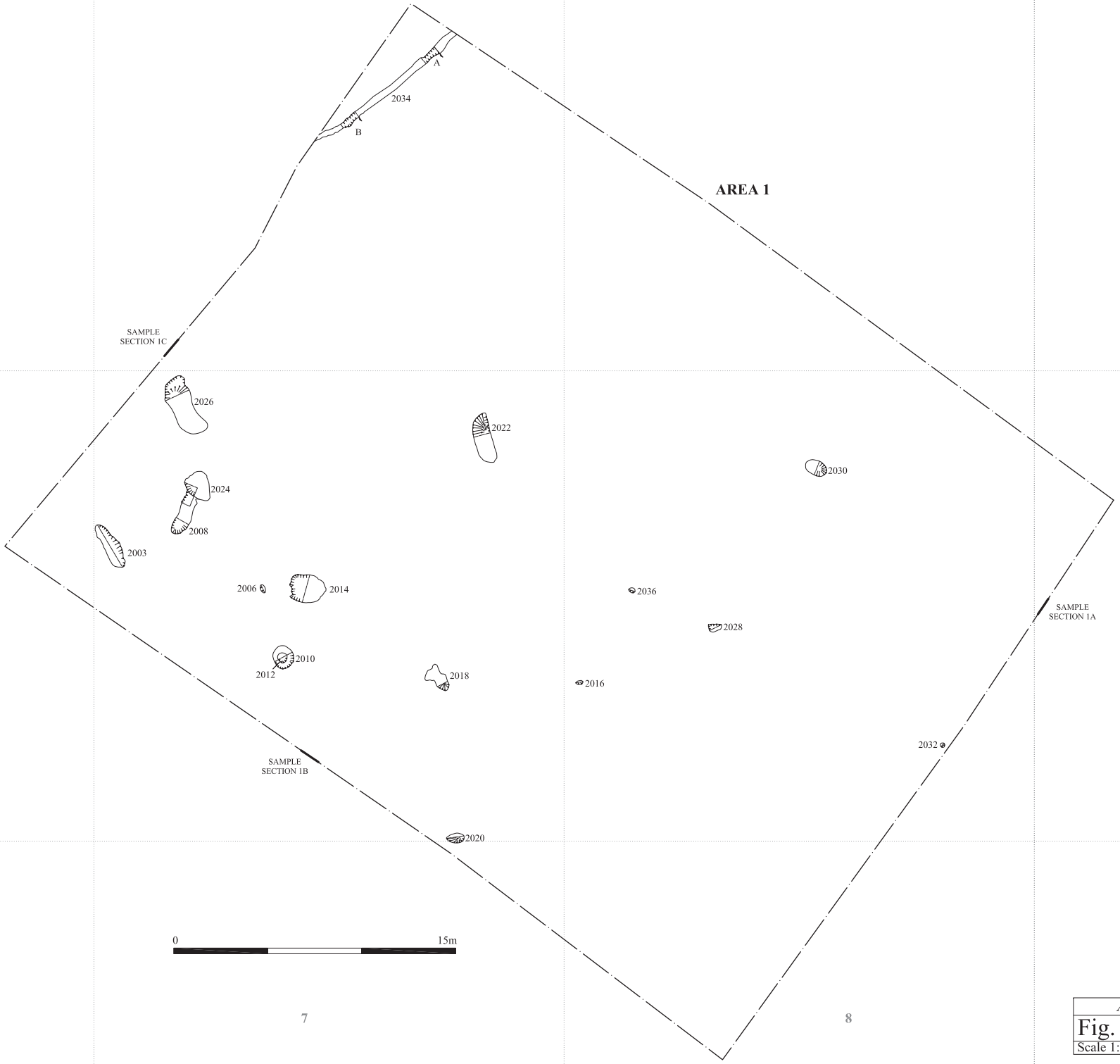

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Fig. 4 Plan of Area 1
Scale 1:200 at A3

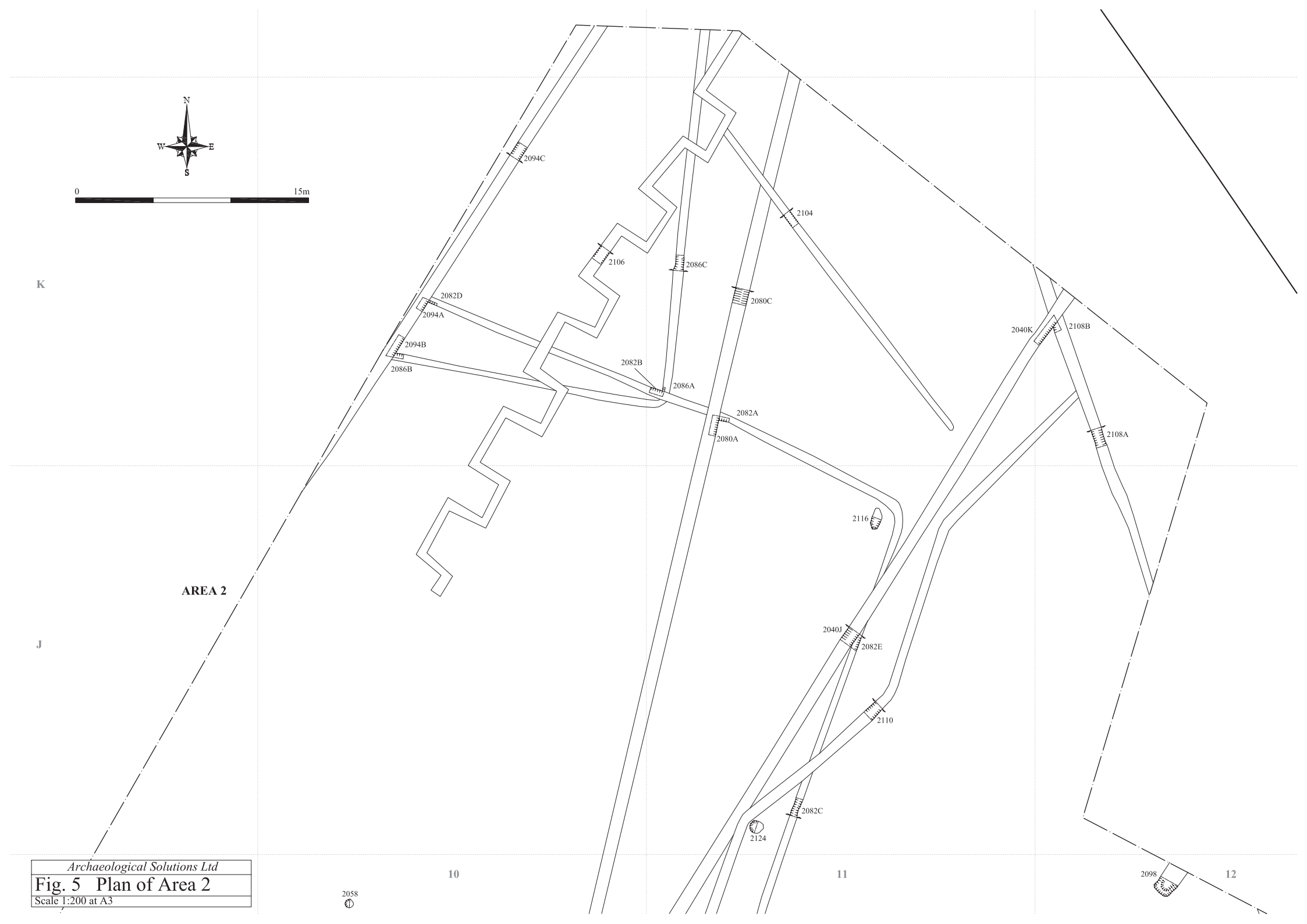

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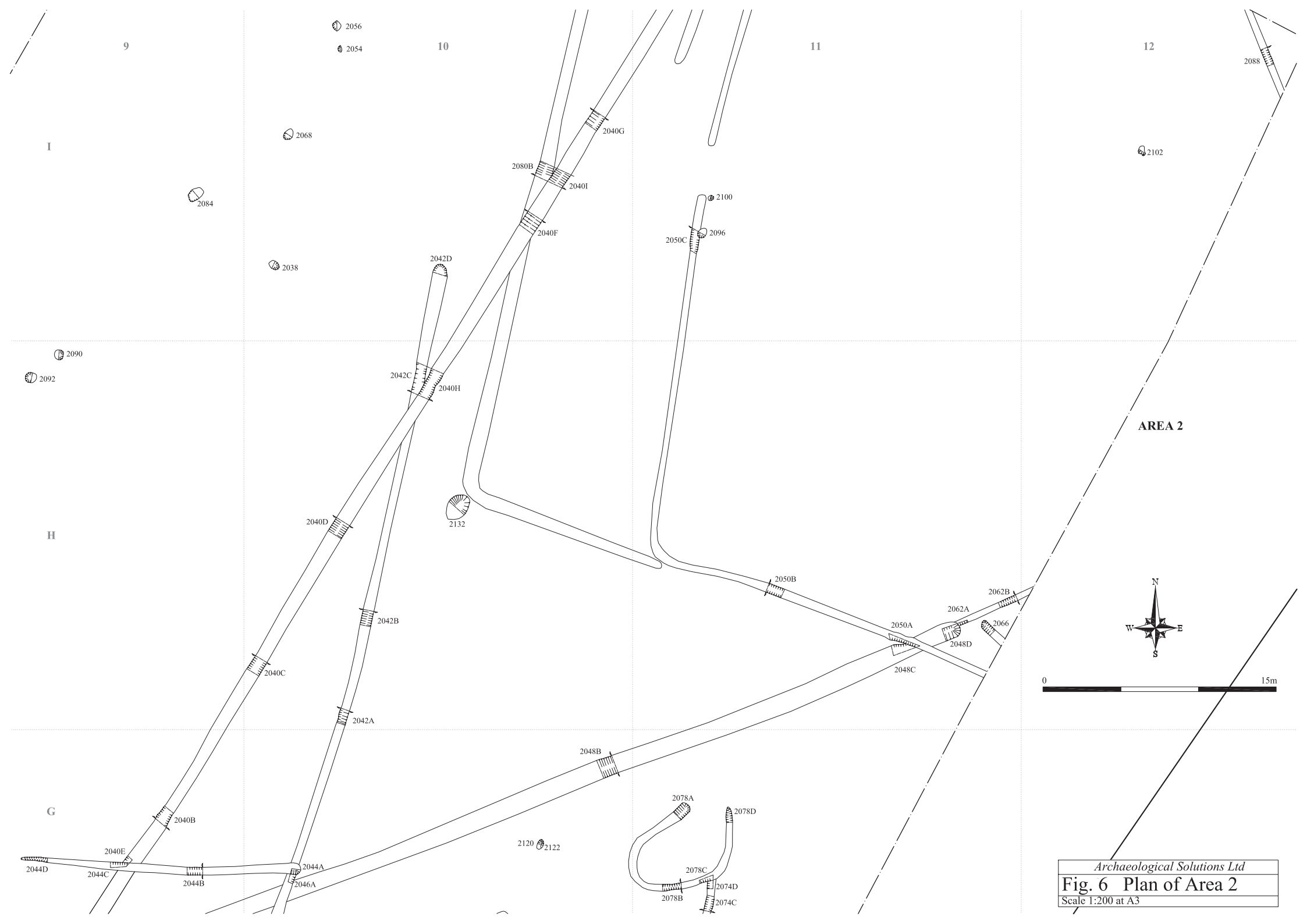
Fig. 5 Plan of Area 2

Scale 1:200 at A3


9
10
11
12
I
H
G
2056
2054
2068
2084
2038
2090
2092
2088
2102
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2096
2050C
2080B
2040I
2040G
2040F
2042D
2042C
2040H
2132
2040D
2042B
2040C
2042A
2040B
2040E
2044D
2044C
2044B
2044A
2046A
2048B
2078A
2078D
2078C
2078B
2074D
2074C
2120
2122
2050B
2062B
2062A
2066
2050A
2048D
2048C
AREA 2
N
W
E
S
0
15m
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Fig. 6 Plan of Area 2
Scale 1:200 at A3

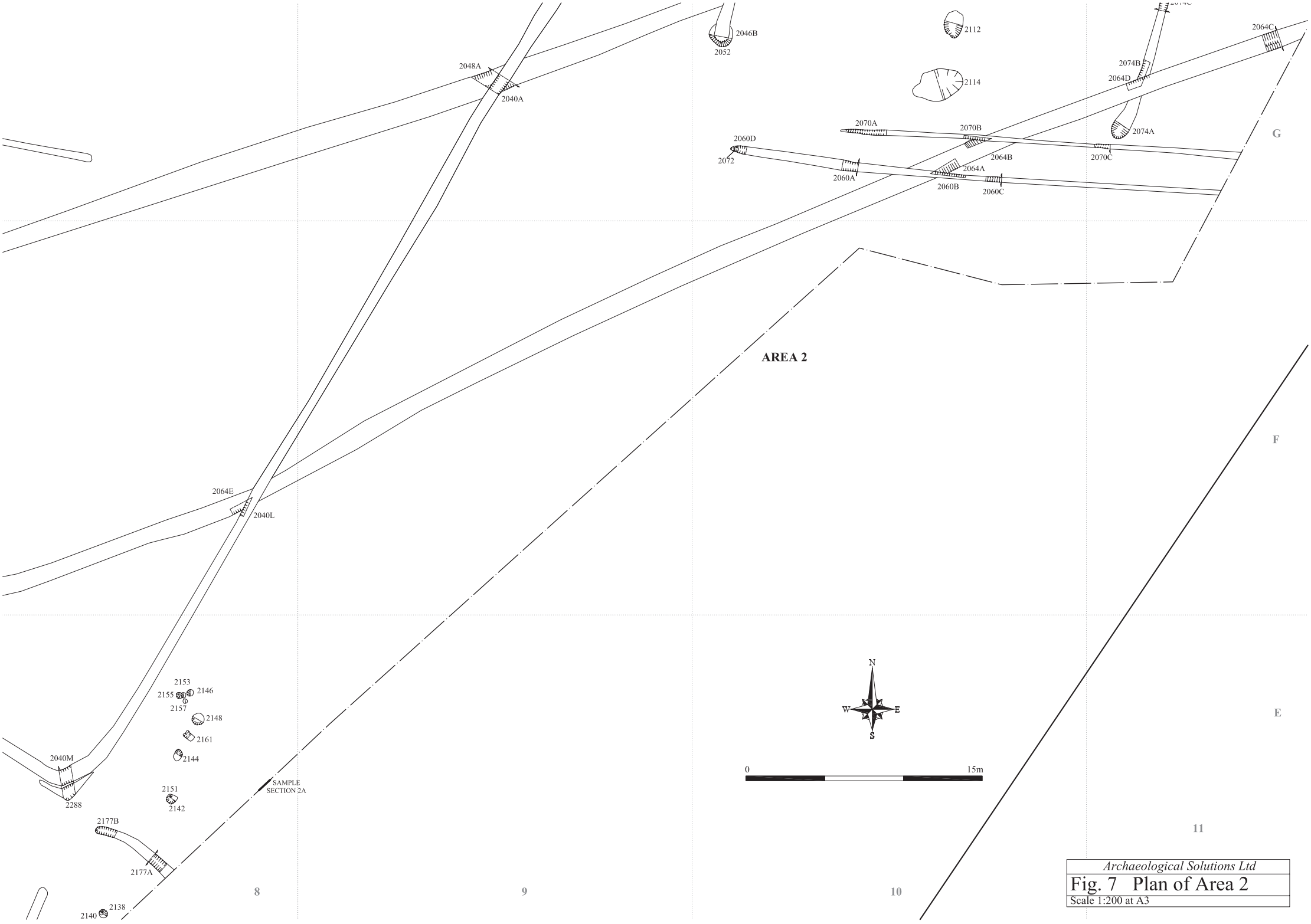

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Fig. 7 Plan of Area 2

Scale 1:200 at A3

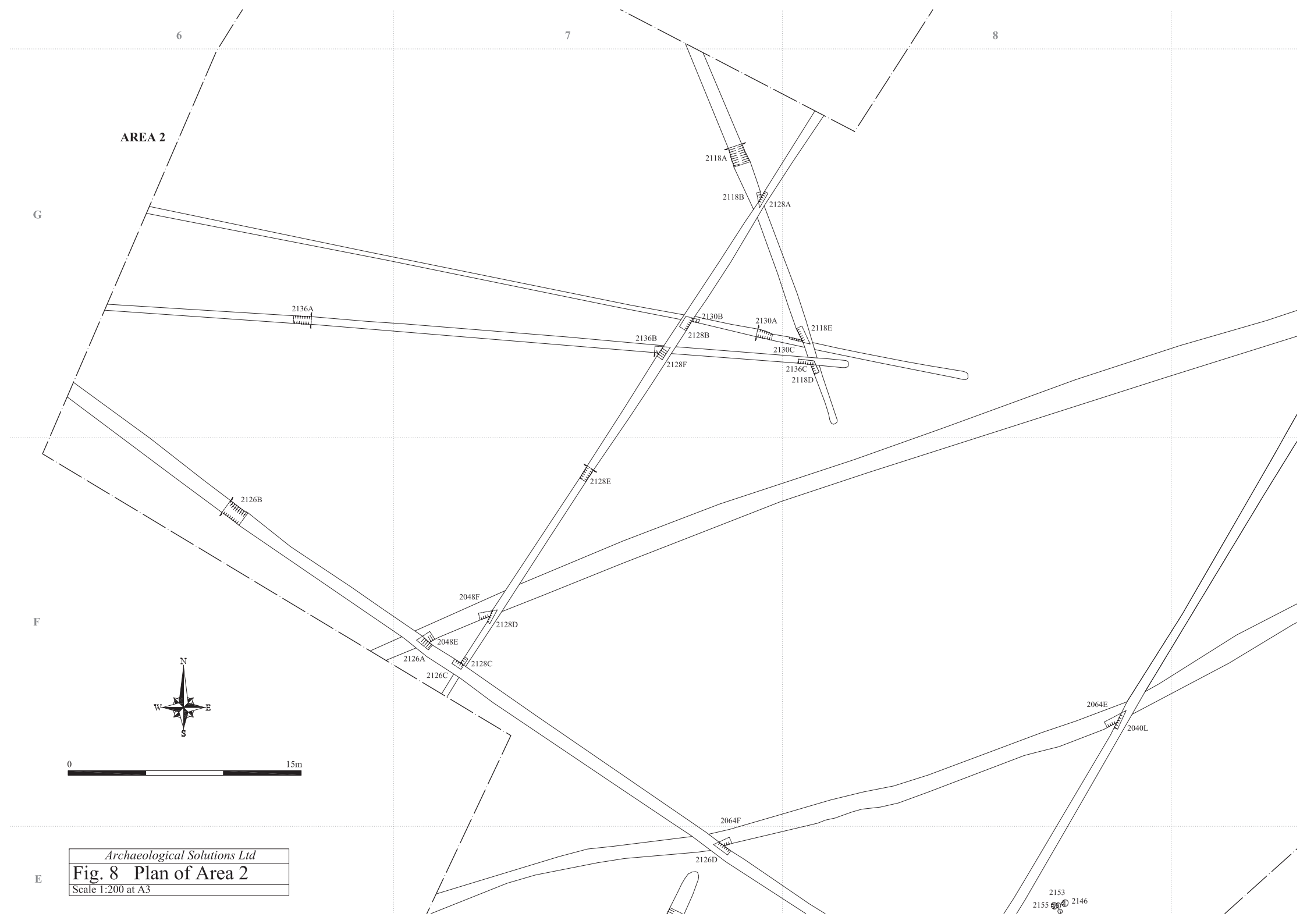

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Fig. 8 Plan of Area 2

Scale 1:200 at A3

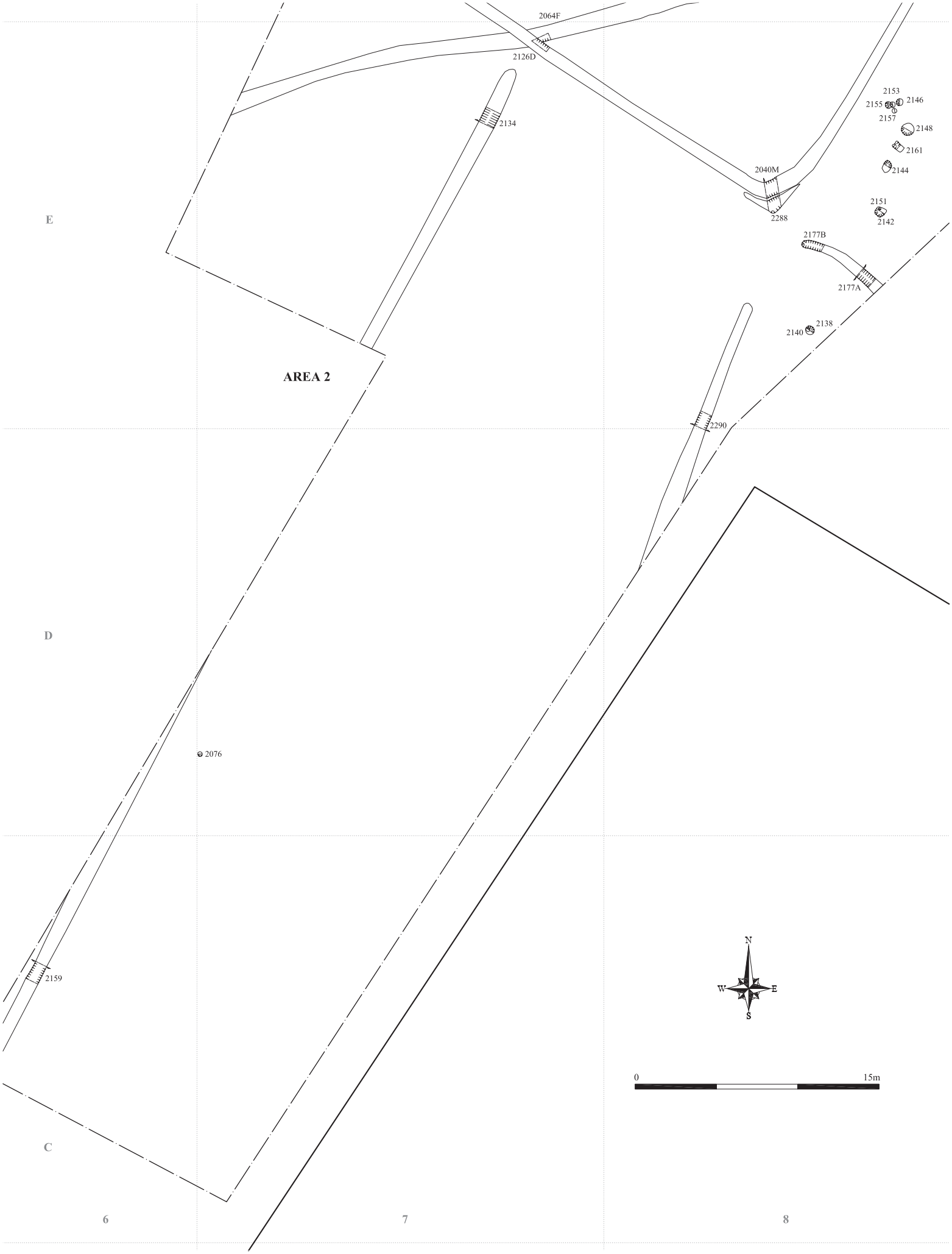

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Fig. 9 Plan of Area 2

Scale 1:200 at A3

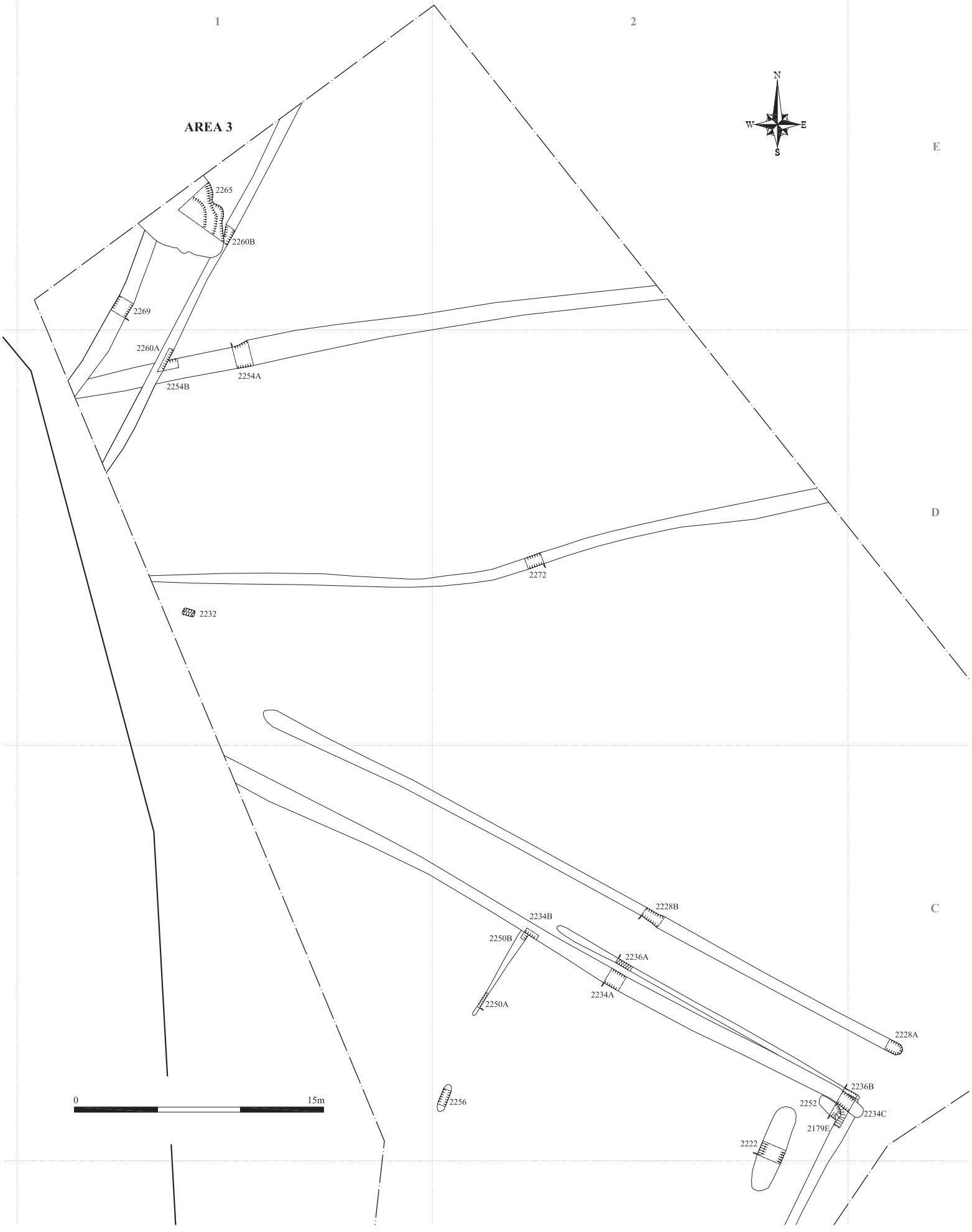

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Fig. 10 Plan of Area 3

Scale 1:200 at A3

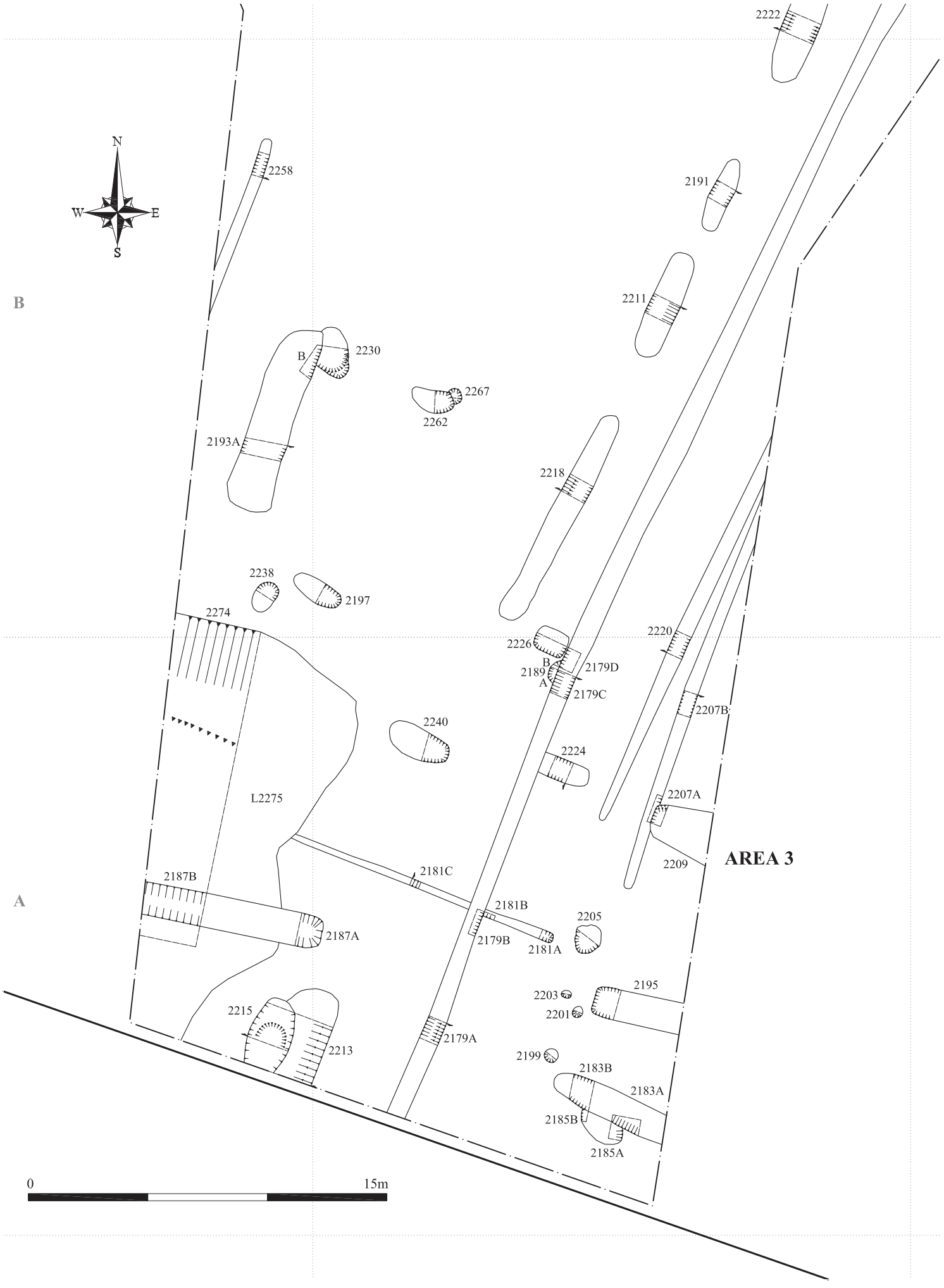

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Fig. 11 Plan of Area 3

Scale 1:200 at A4

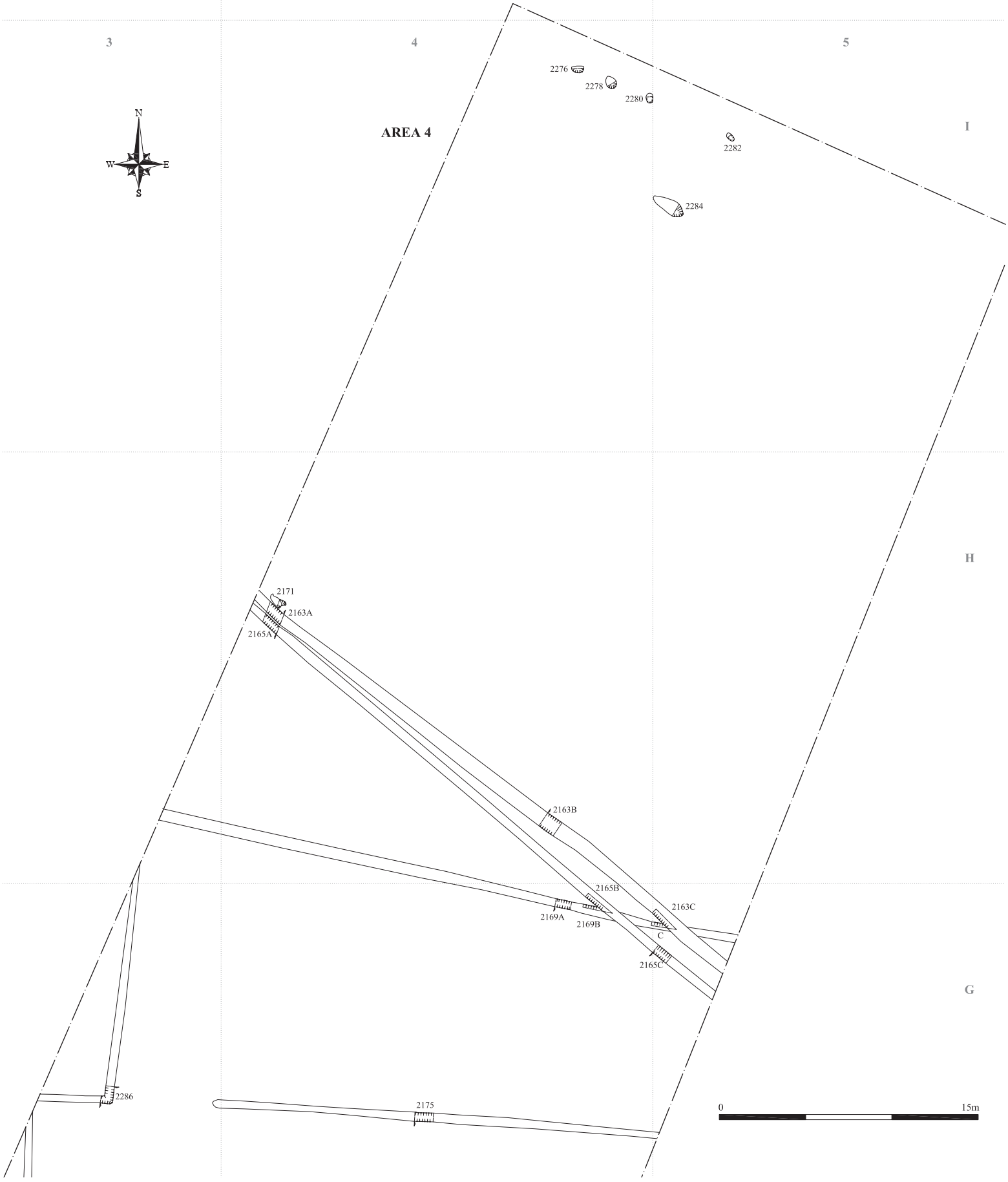

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Fig. 12 Plan of Area 4
Scale 1:200 at A3

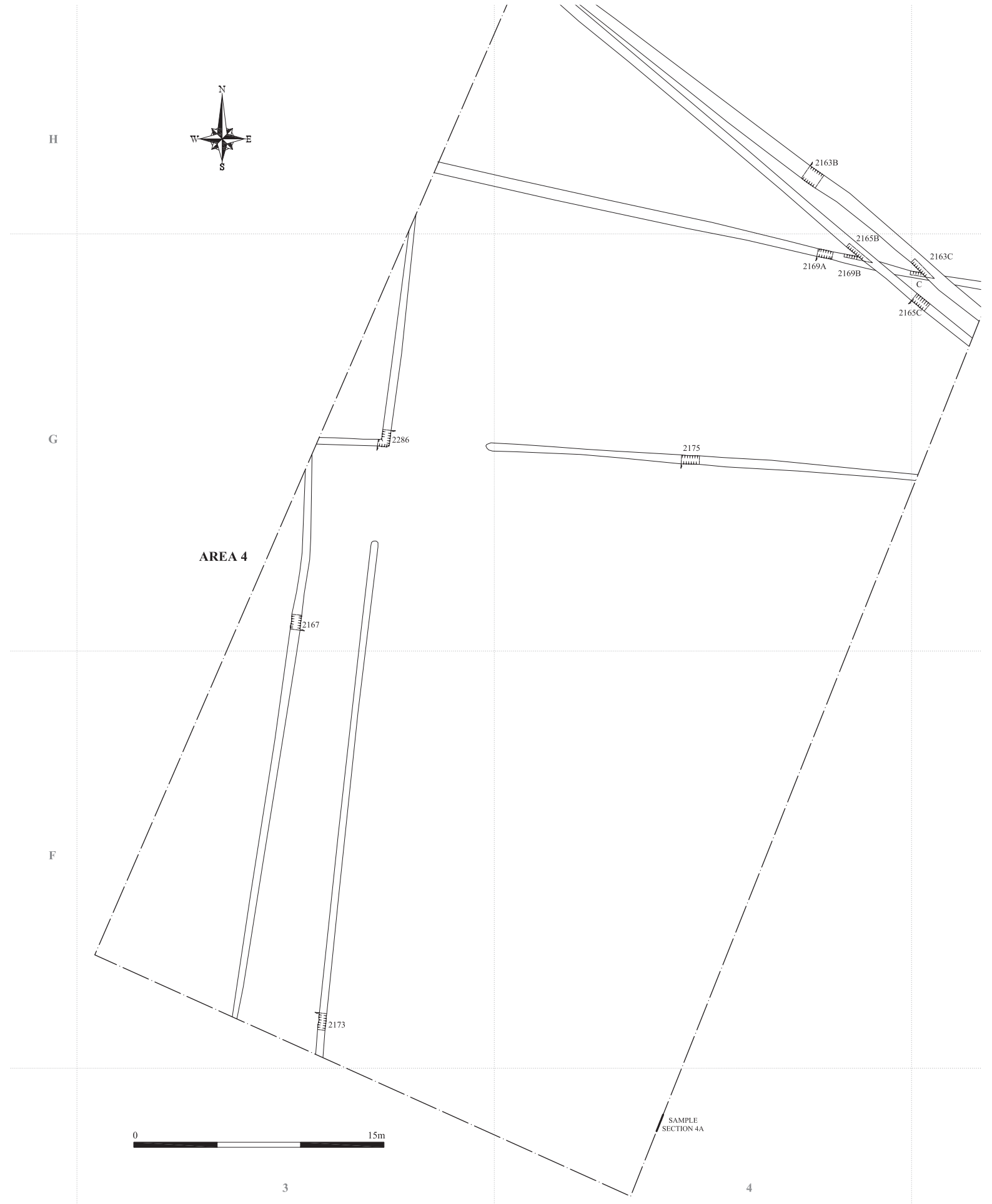

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Fig. 13 Plan of Area 4

Scale 1:200 at A3

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Fig. 14 Phase plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

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Fig. 15 Phase 1 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

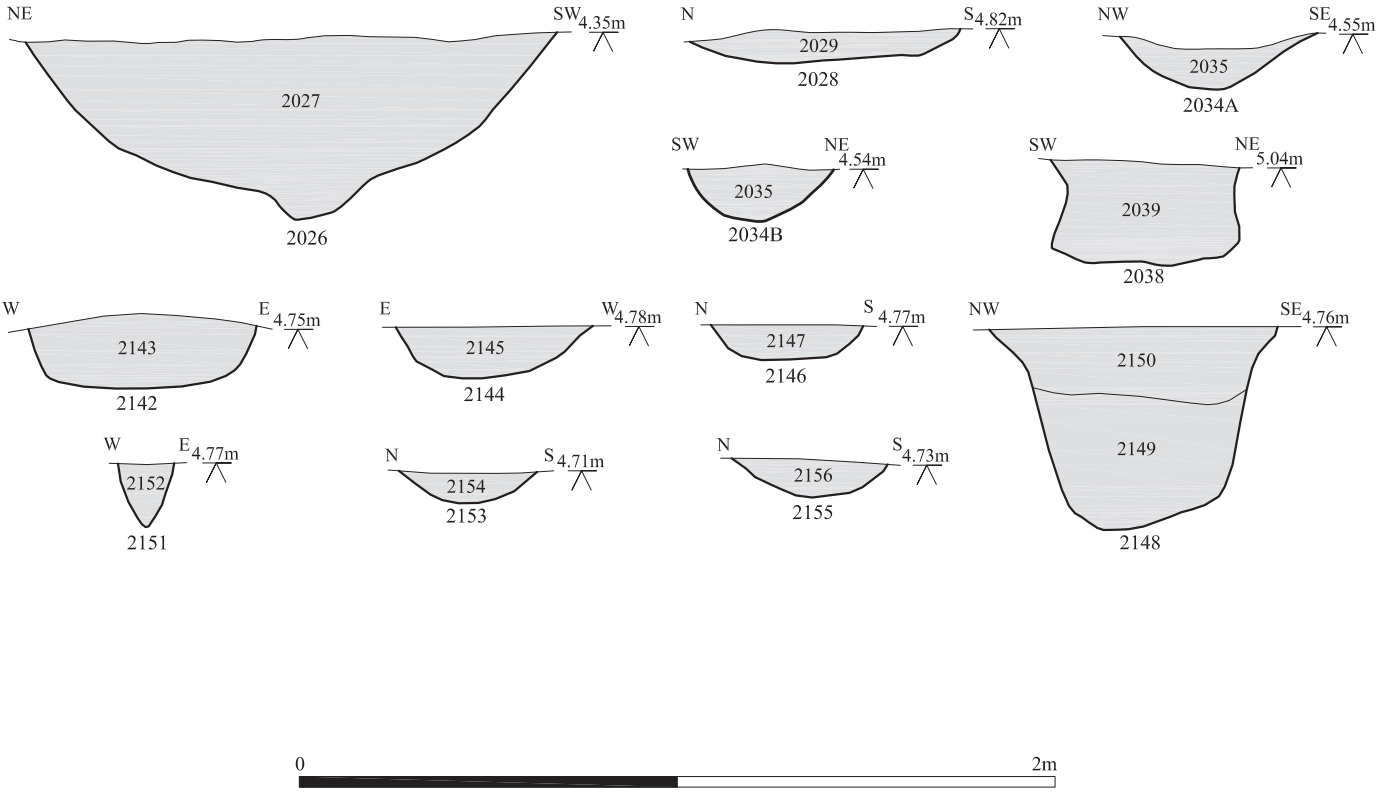

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Fig. 16 Phase 1 feature sections
Scale 1:20 at A4

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 17 Phase 2 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

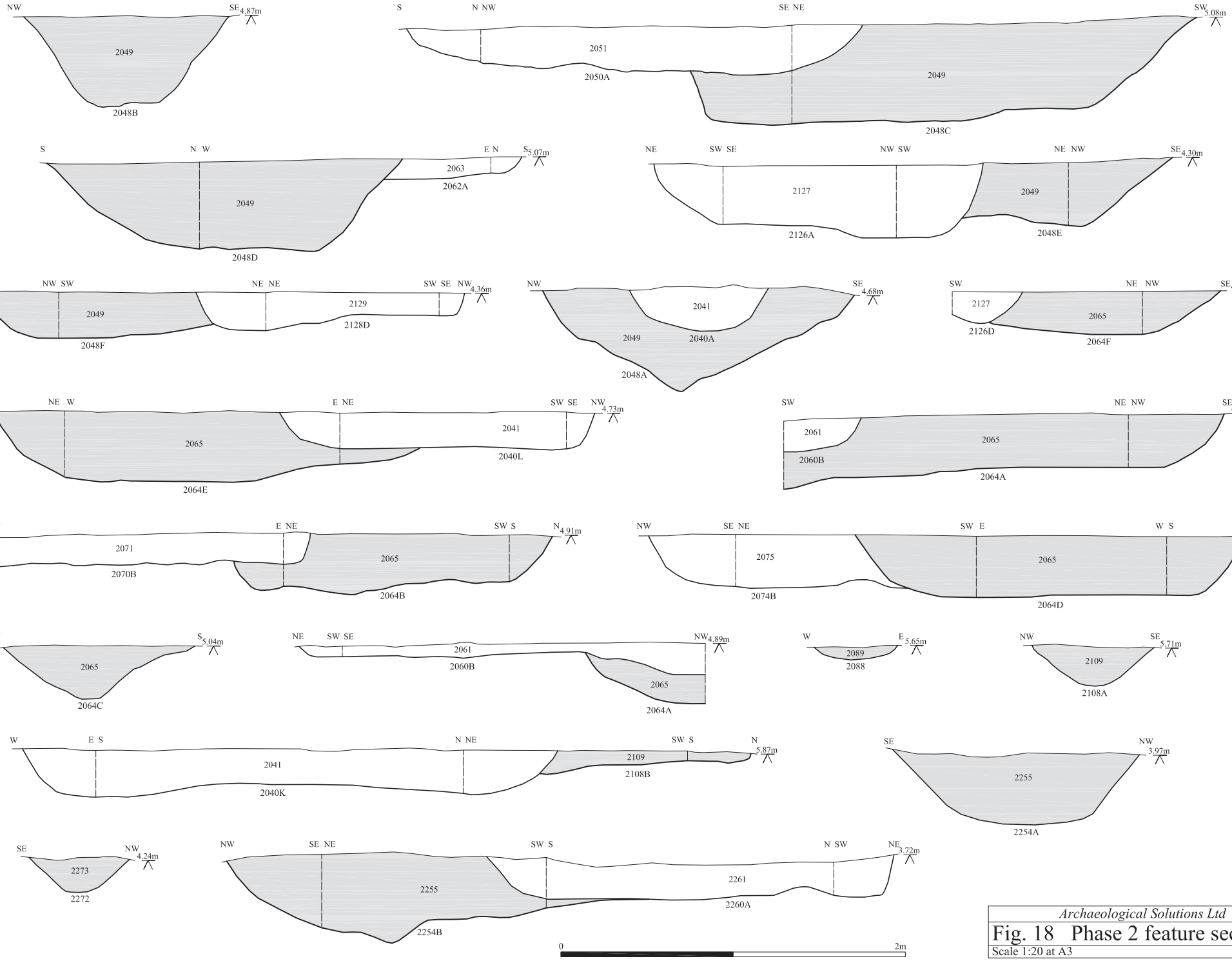

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Fig. 18 Phase 2 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

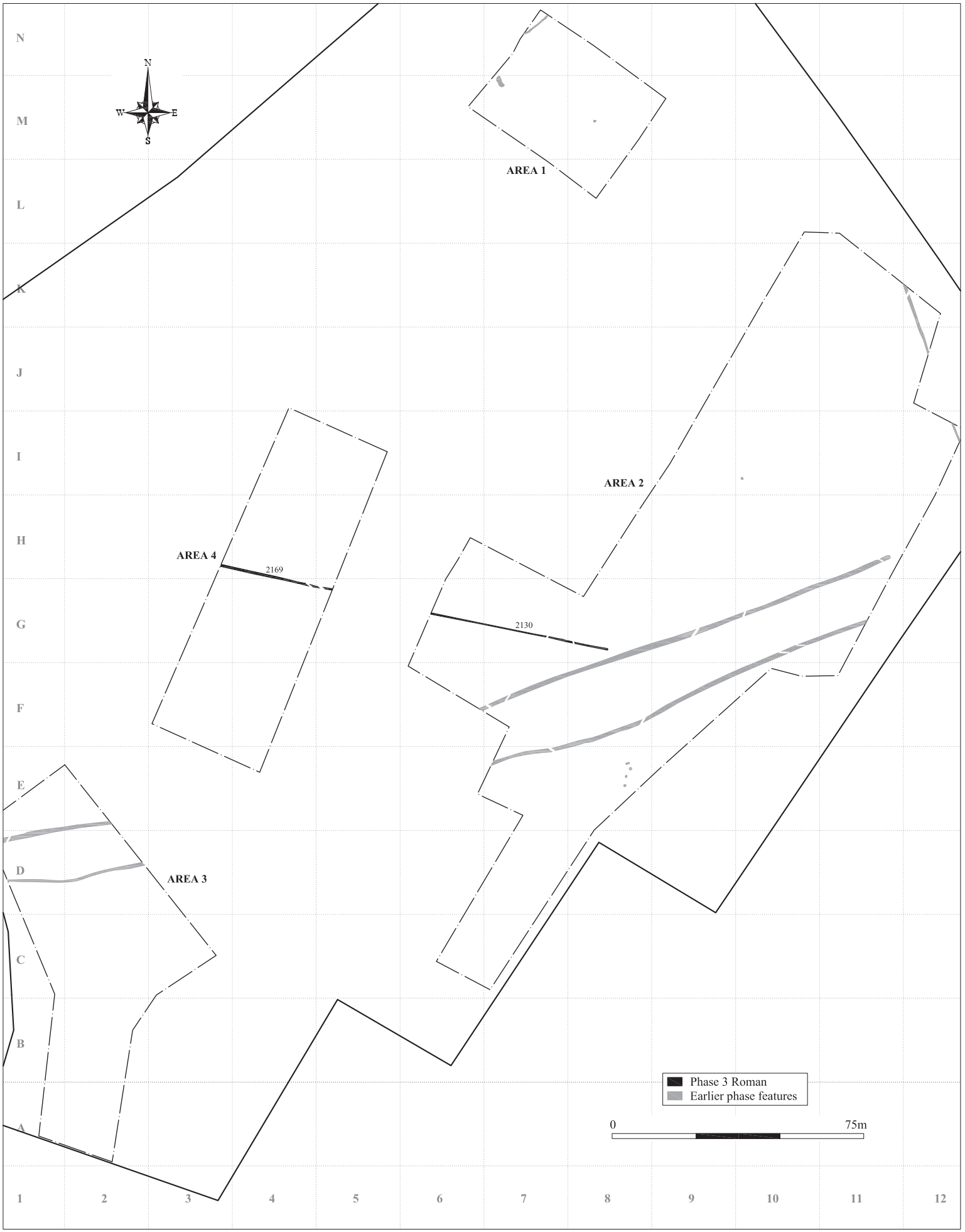

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Fig. 19 Phase 3 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

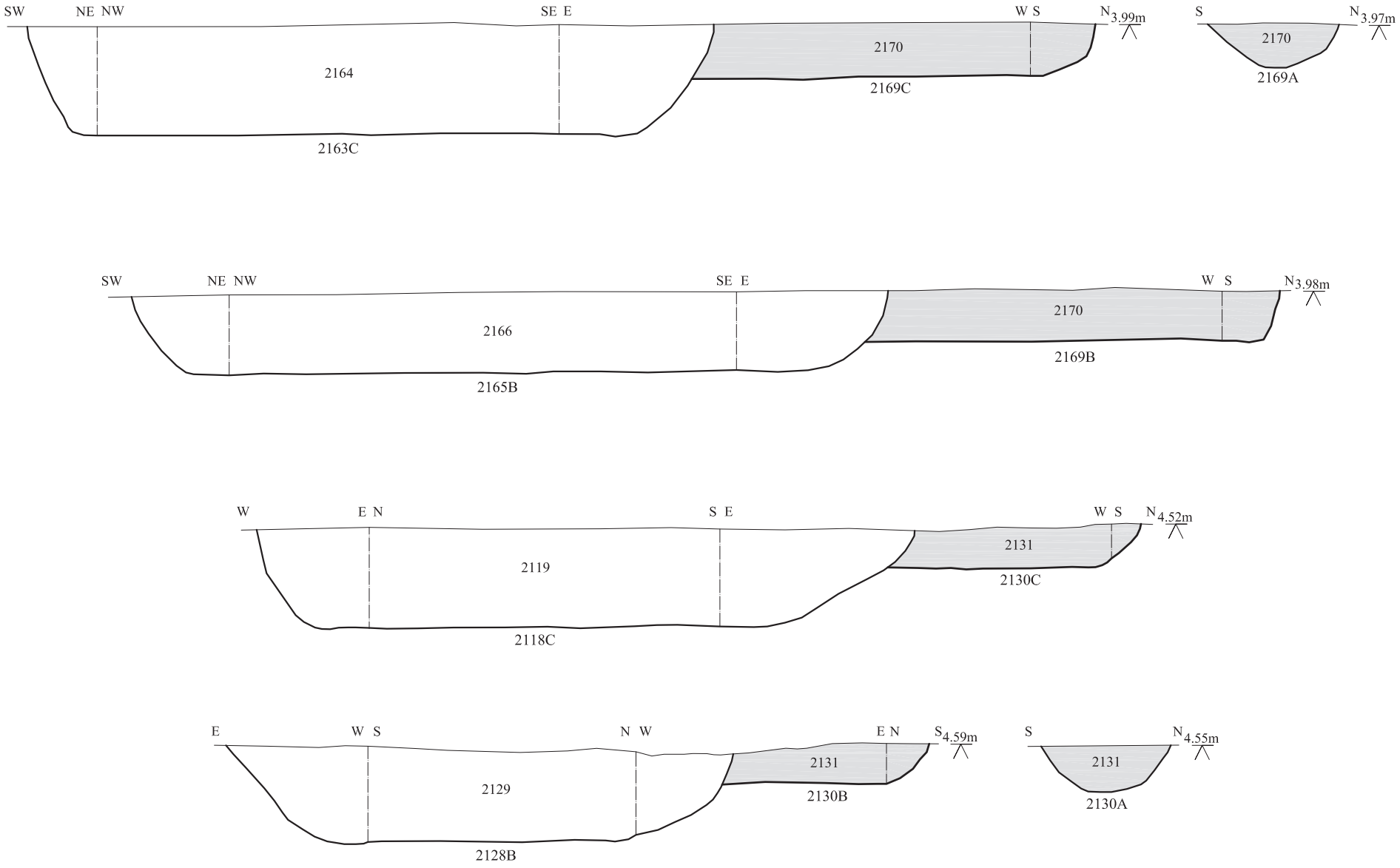

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Fig. 20 Phase 3 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

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Fig. 21 Phase 4 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

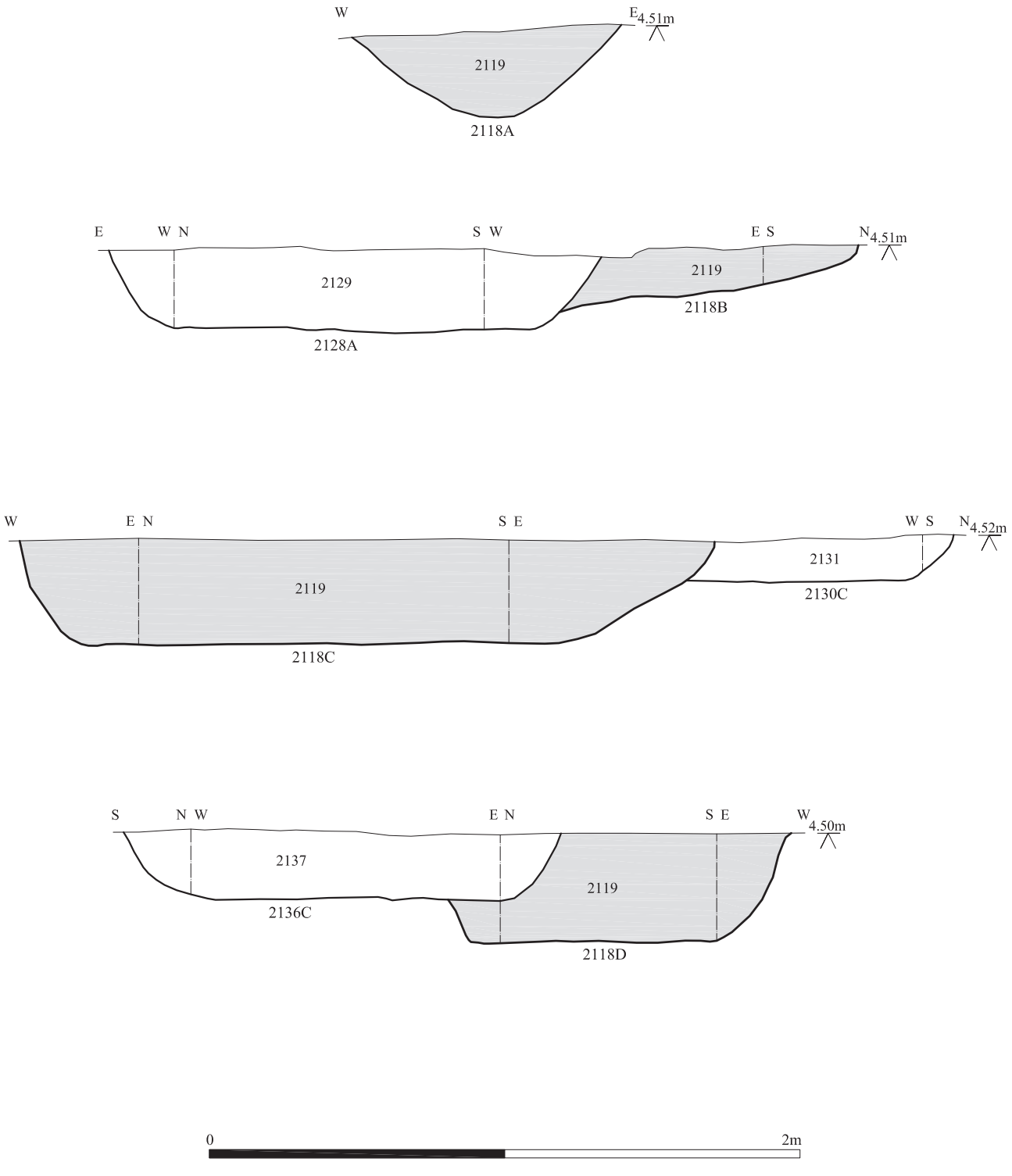

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Fig. 22 Phase 4 feature sections
Scale 1:20 at A4

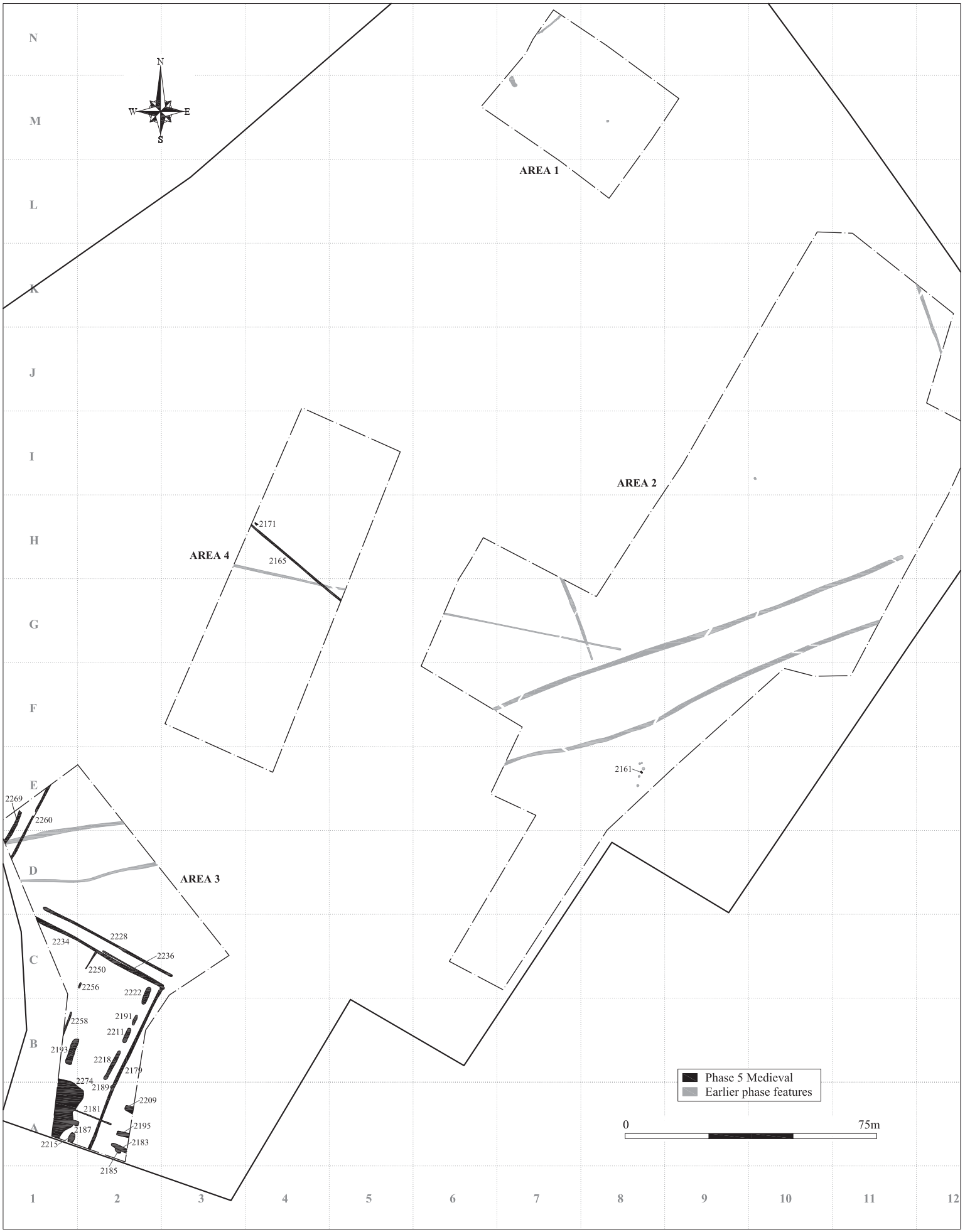

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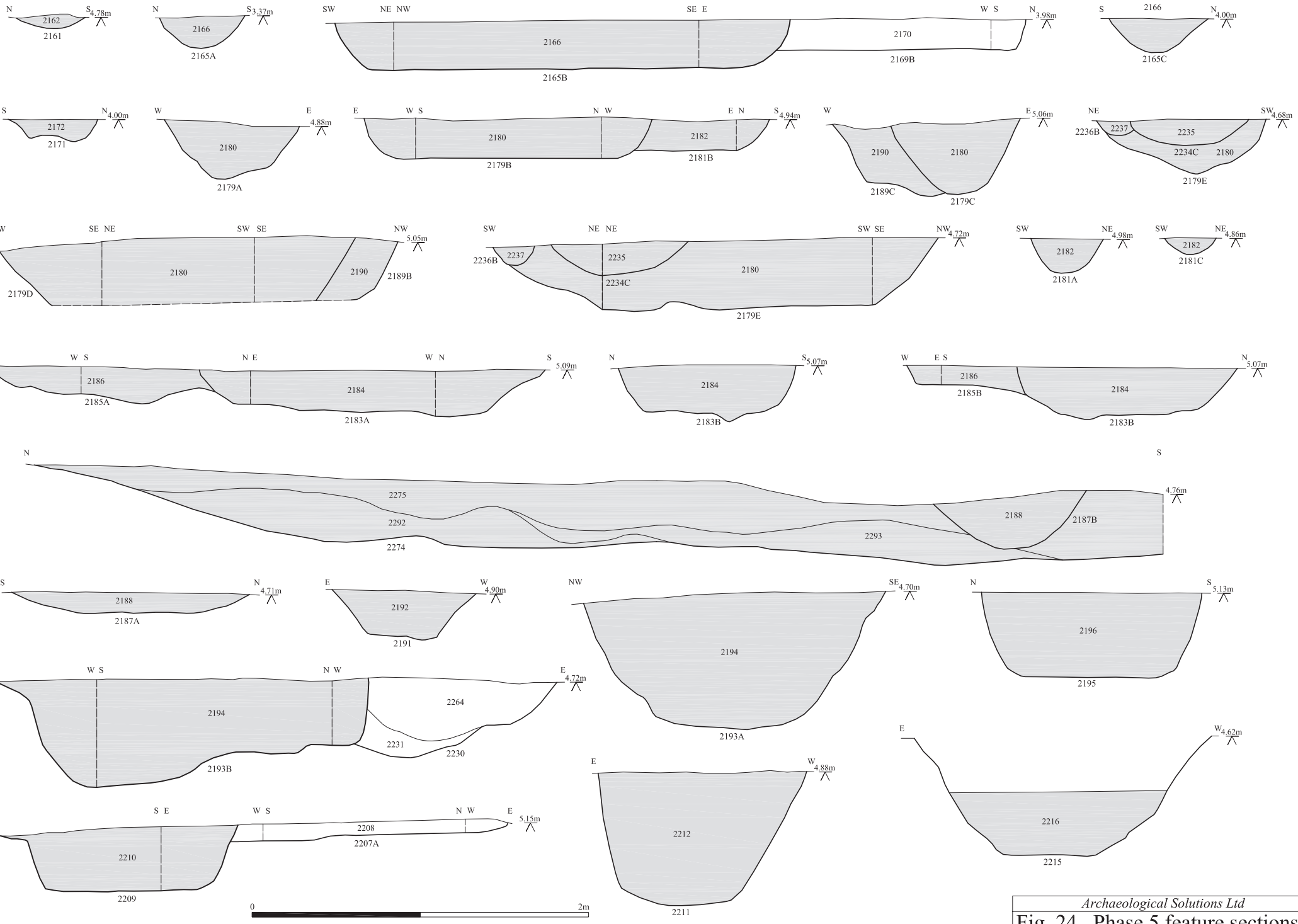
Fig. 23 Phase 5 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 24 Phase 5 feature sections
Scale 1:20 at A3

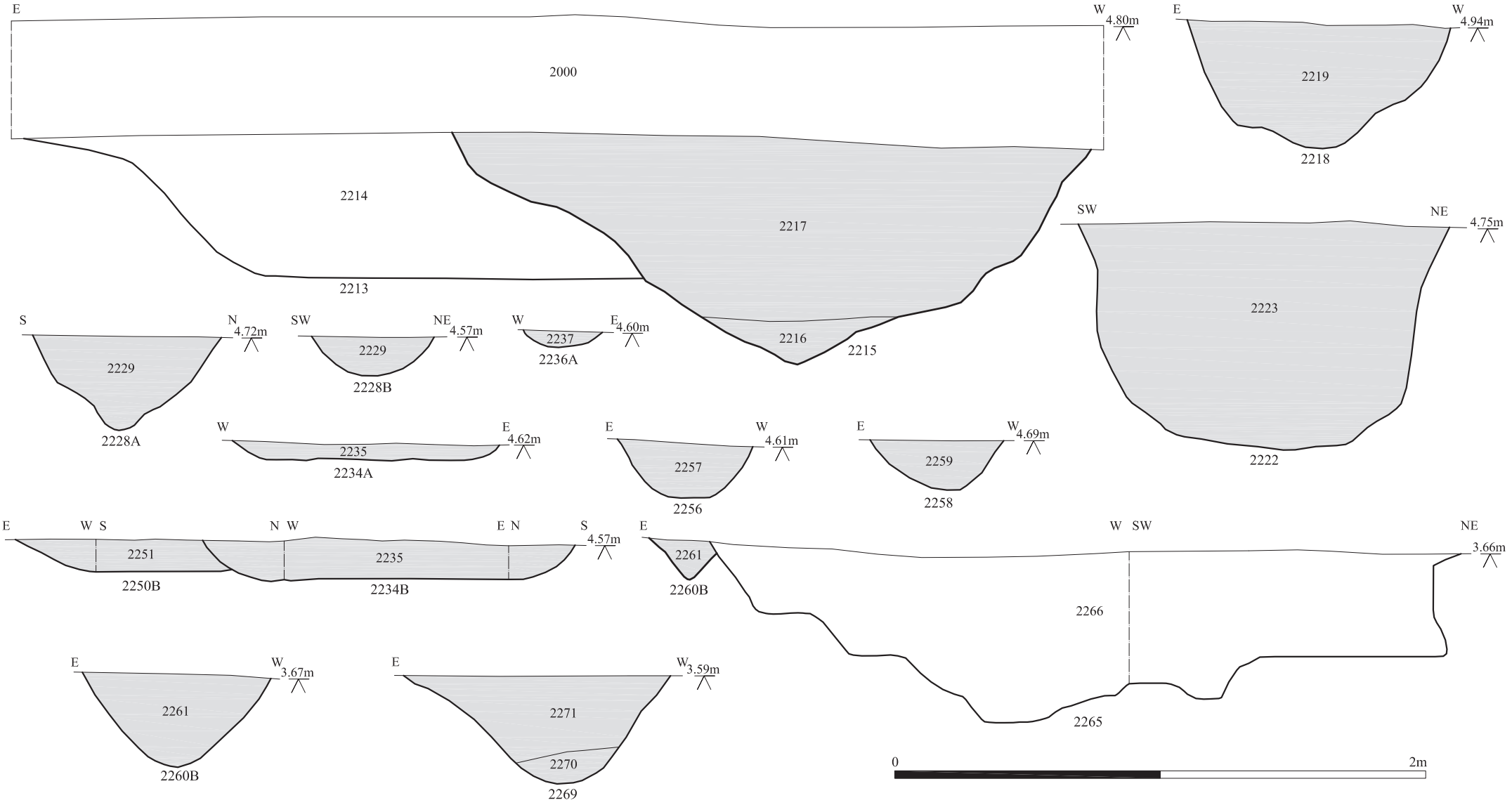


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Fig. 25 Phase 5 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

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Fig. 26 Phase 6 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

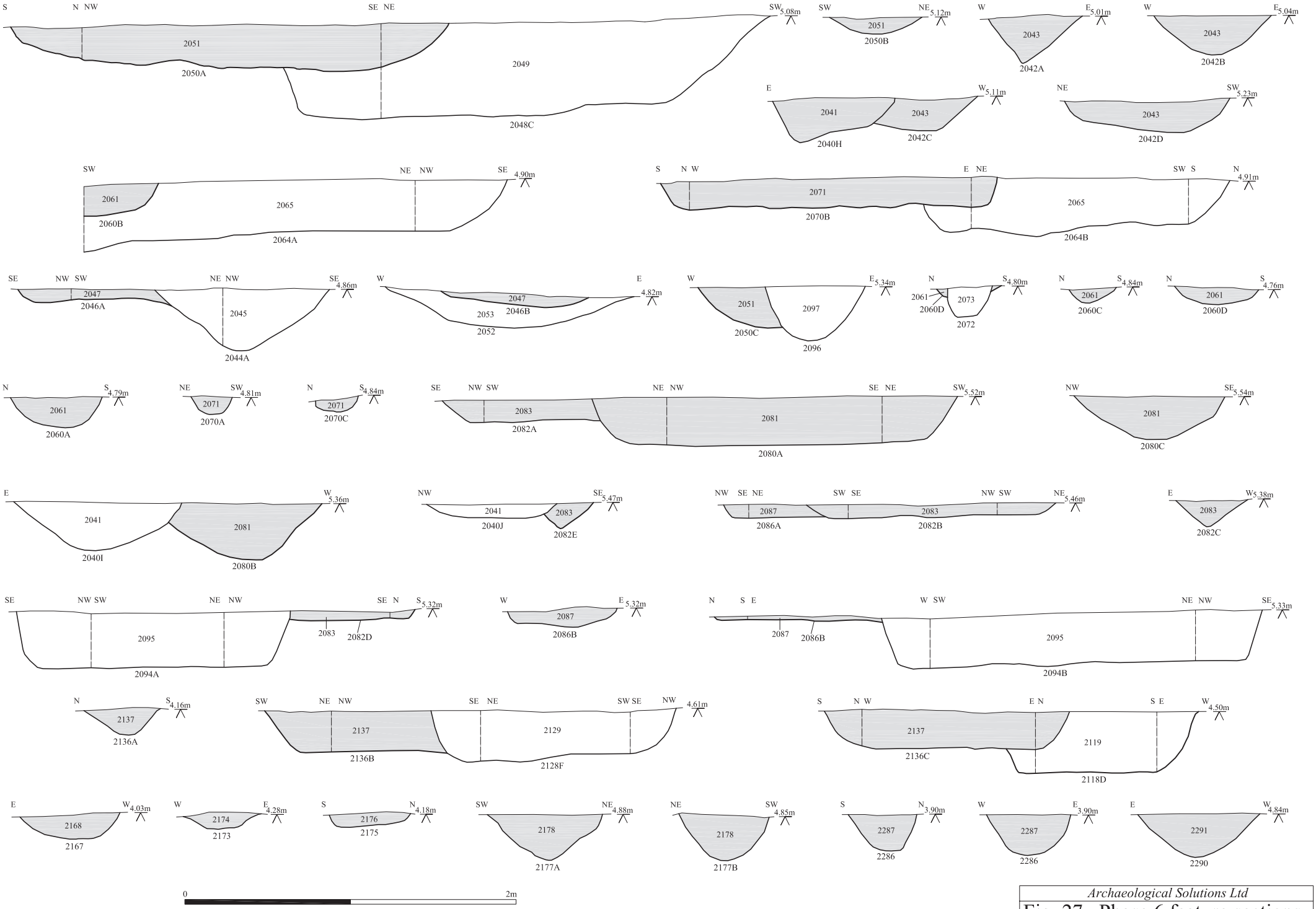

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Fig. 27 Phase 6 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

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Fig. 28 Phase 7 features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

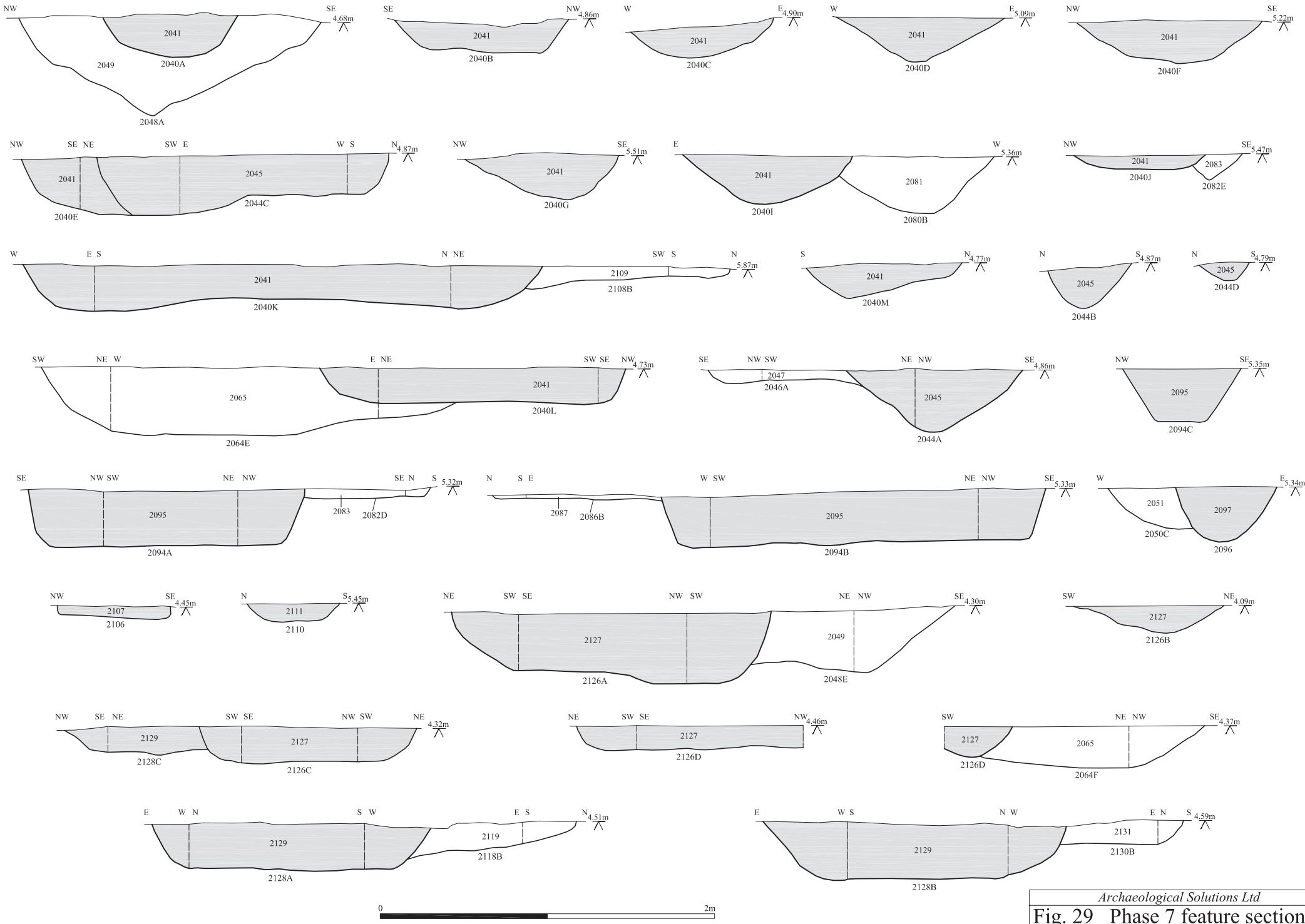

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Fig. 29 Phase 7 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

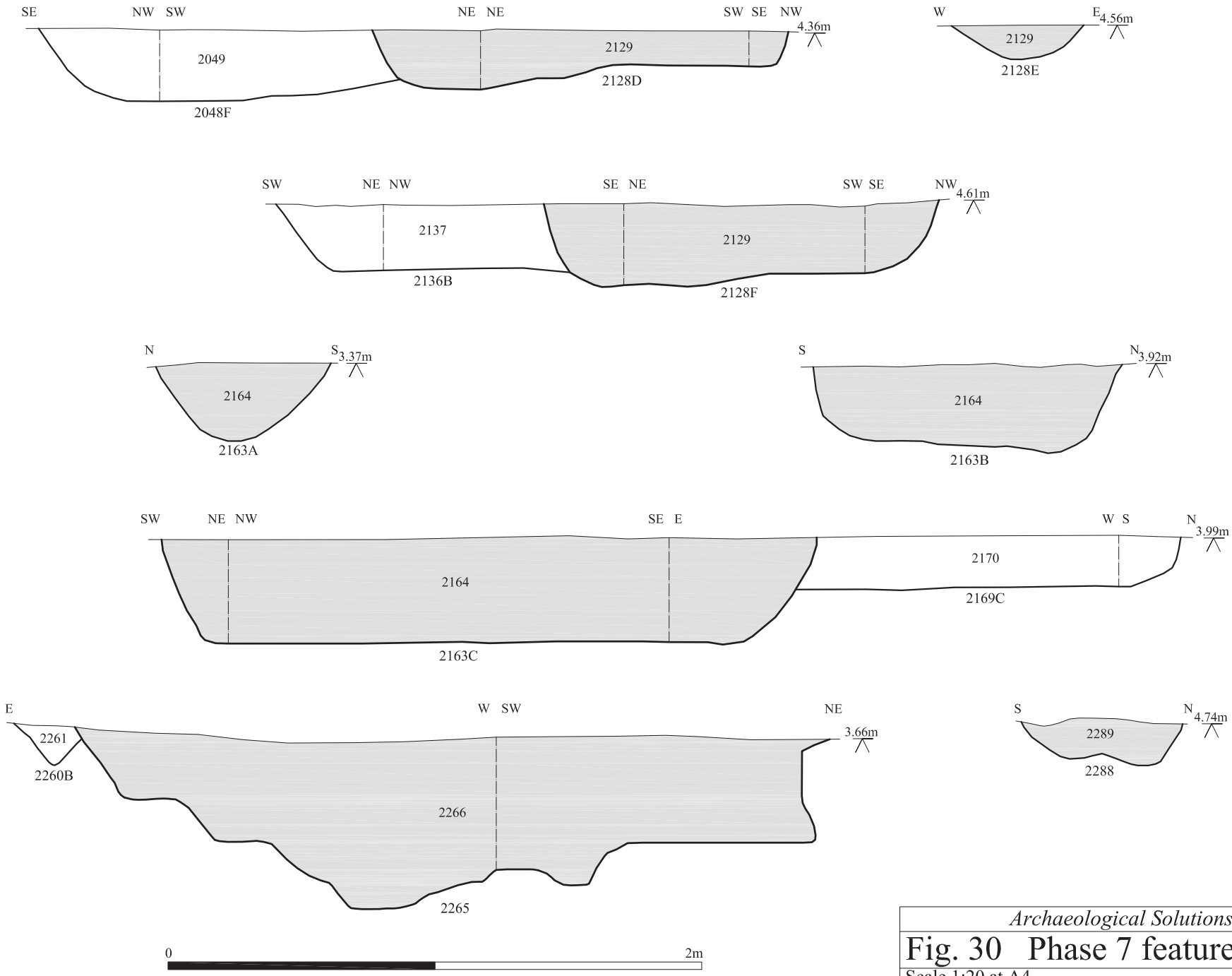

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Fig. 30 Phase 7 feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

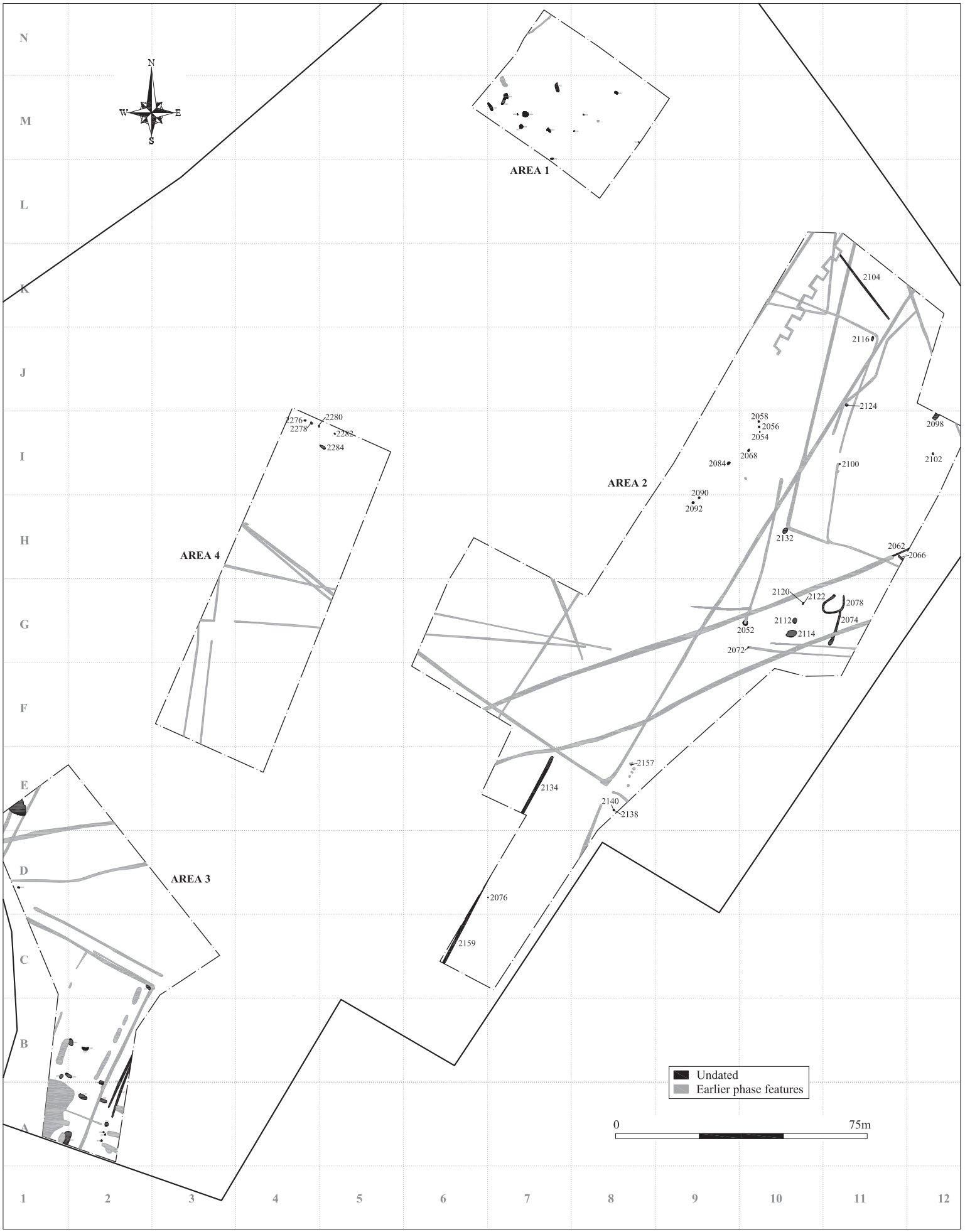

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Fig. 31 Undated features plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

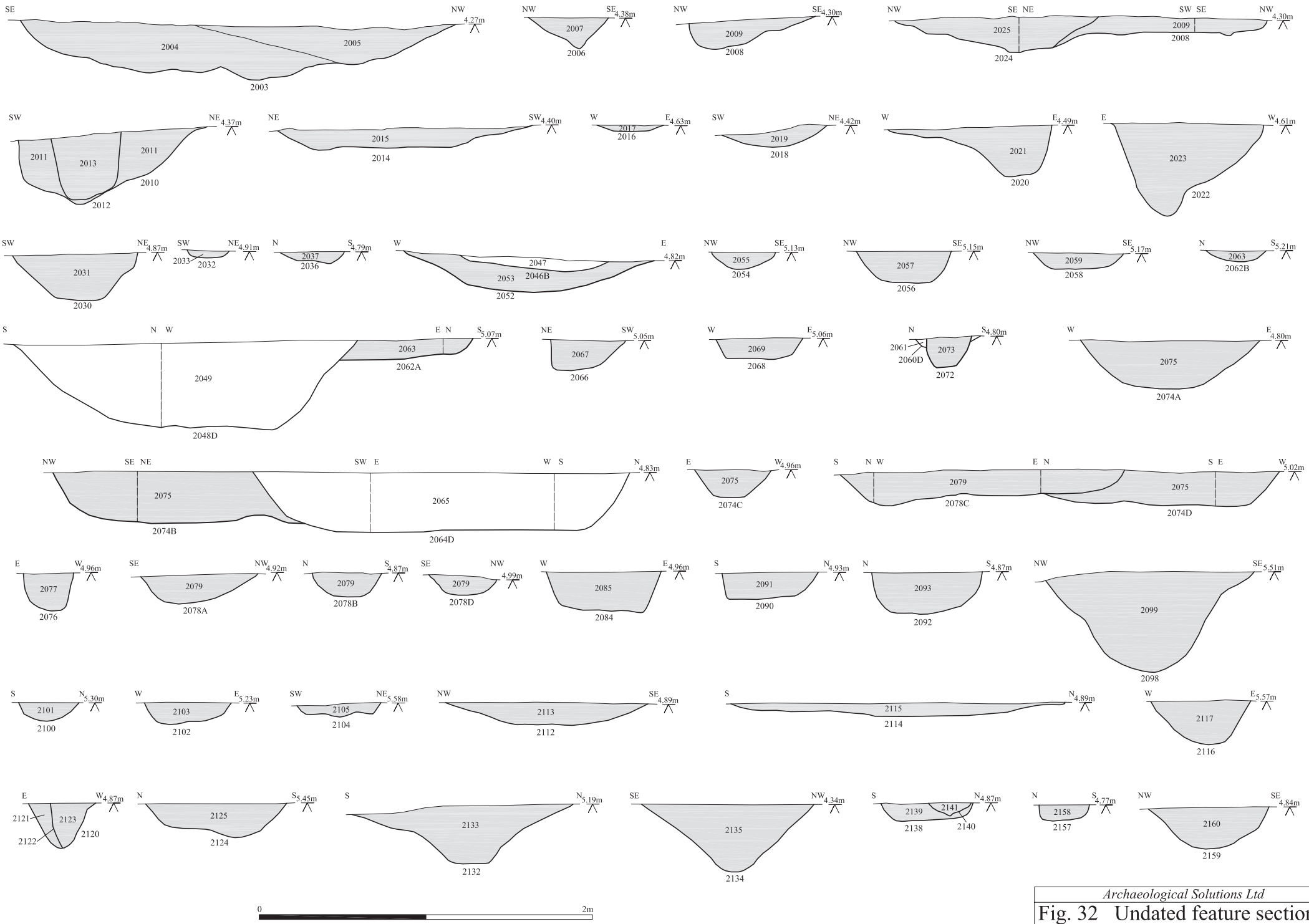

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Fig. 32 Undated feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

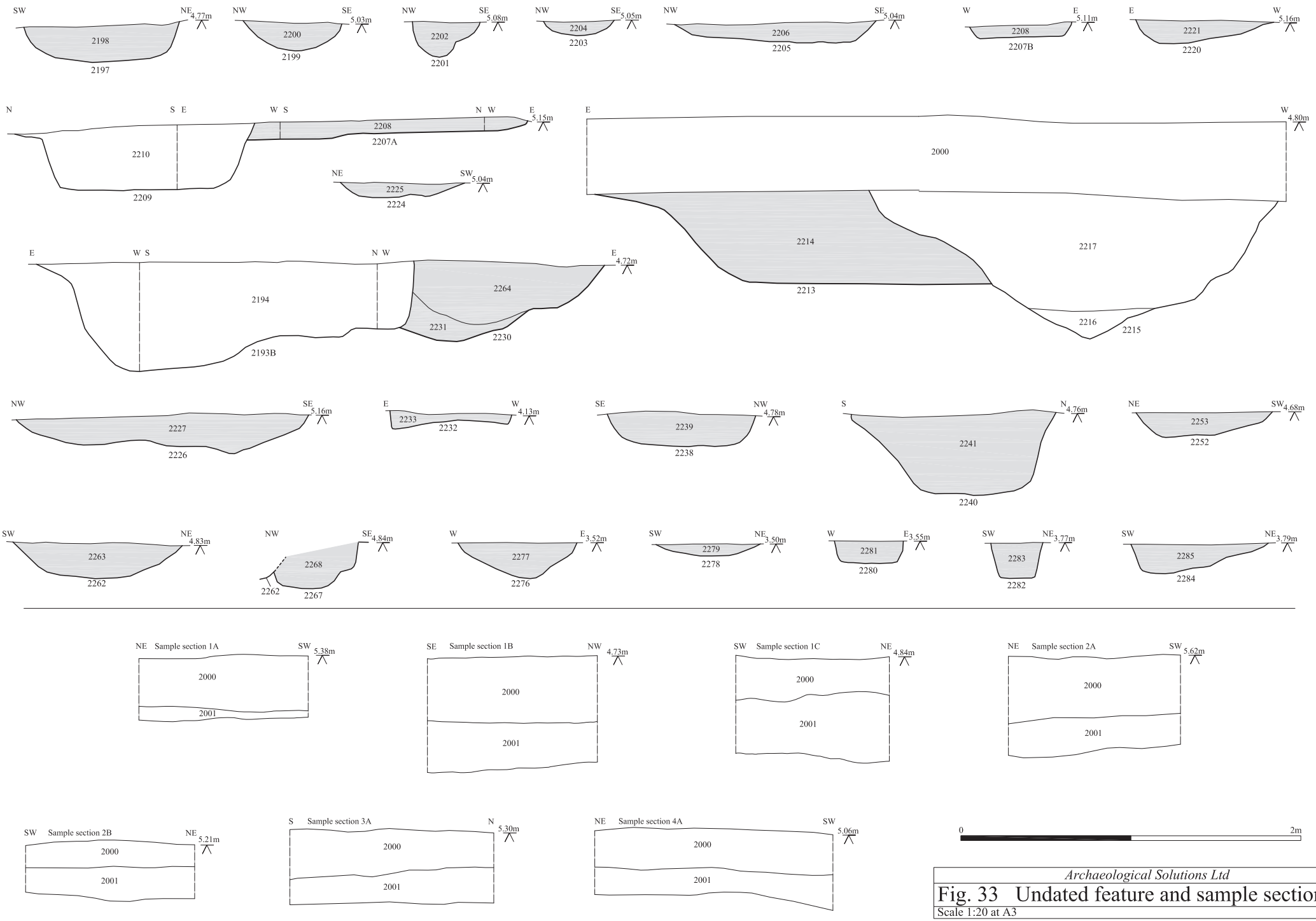

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Fig. 33 Undated feature and sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

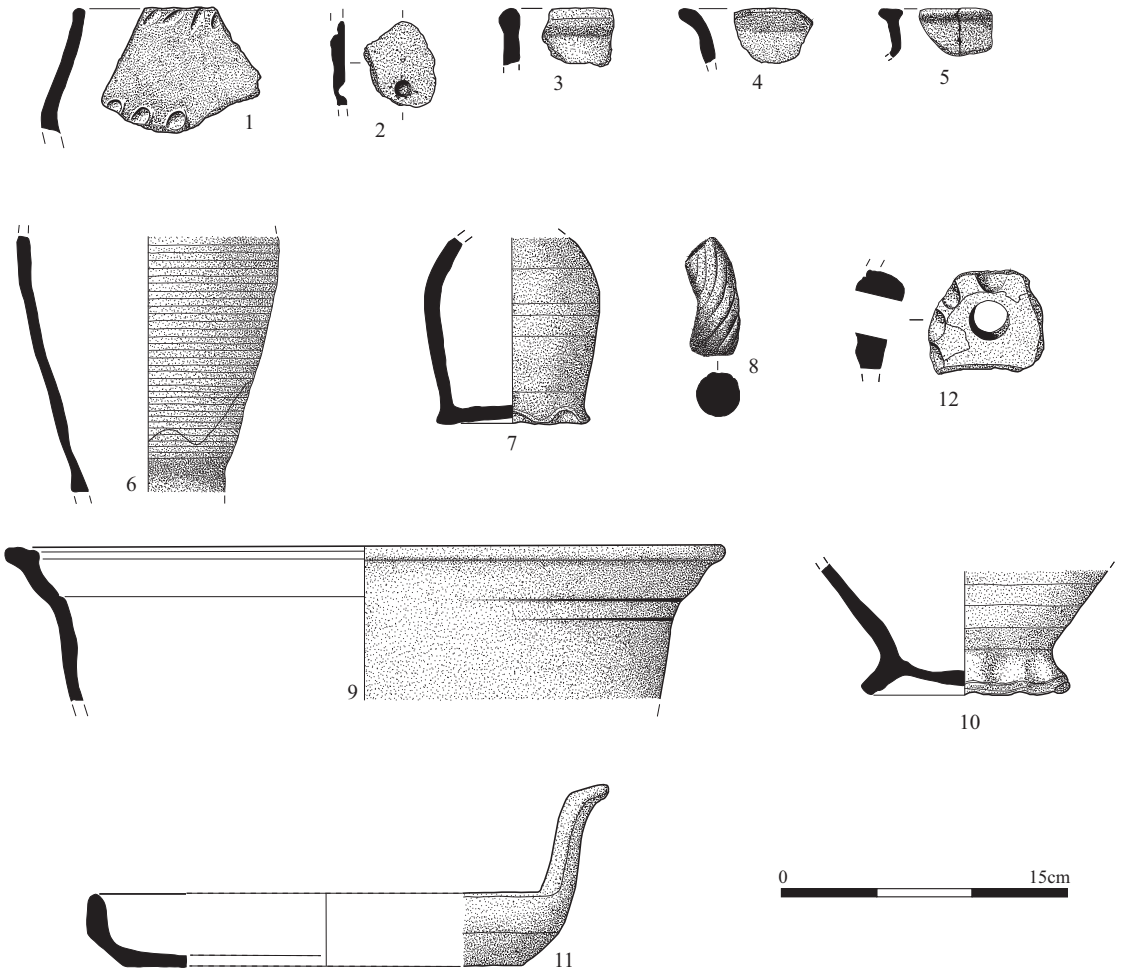

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Fig. 34 Pottery illustrations

Scale 1:4 at A4

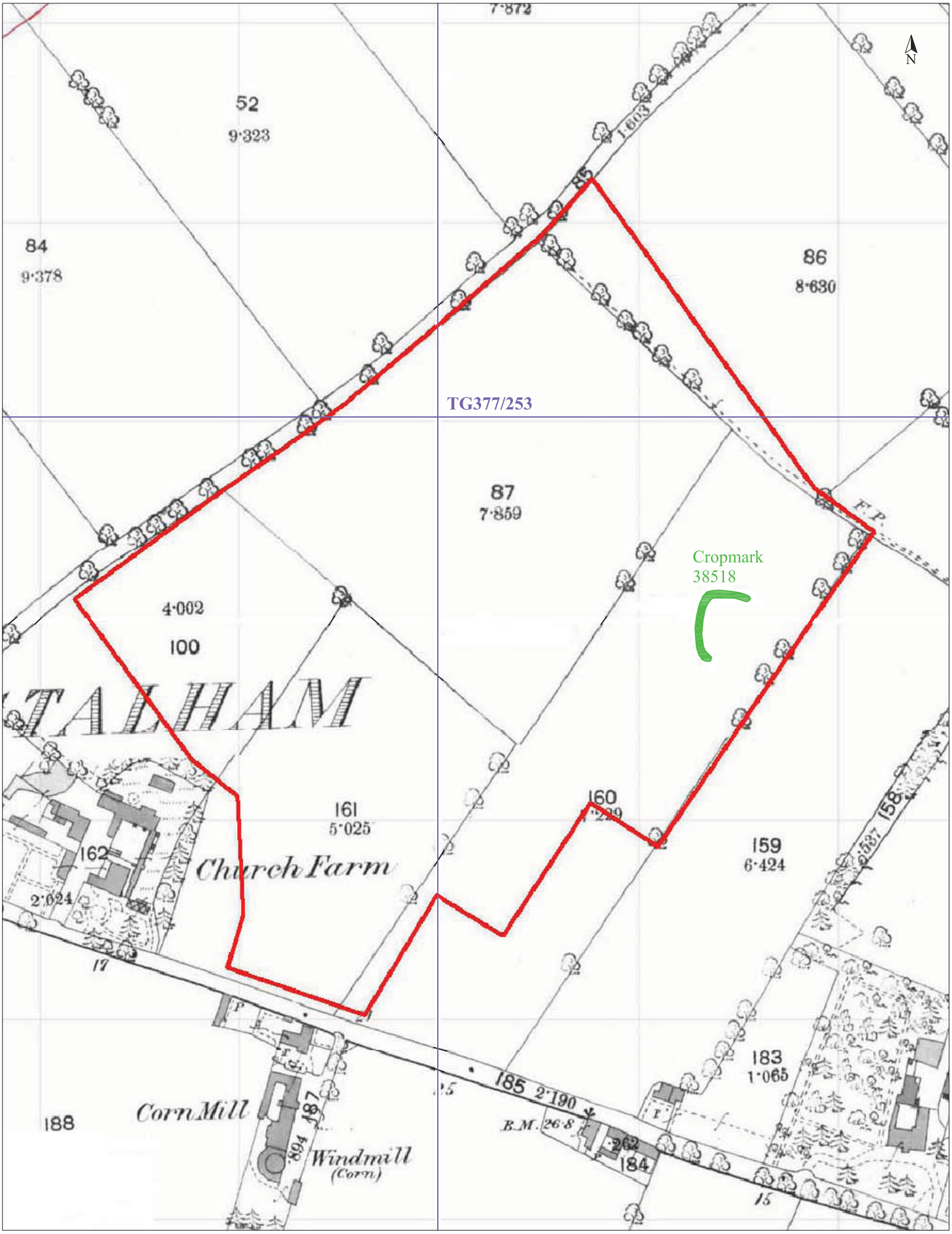

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Fig. 35 OS map, 1885
Scale 1:2500 at A4