



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT FORMER BRITISH SUGAR FACTORY,
PETERBOROUGH

MAY 2005



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June 2005

Report 05/99

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	An archaeological evaluation at Former British Sugar Factory, Peterborough	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial excavation on land within the former British Sugar Factory, Oundle Road, Peterborough, on behalf of CGMS Ltd acting for Twigden Homes. Nine trenches were excavated. Two ditches and four gullies were located. A single animal mandible was found within the trenches. No dateable artefacts were recovered.	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Trial evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CCCAU Kenny, 1998	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Peterborough	
Site address	Former British Sugar Factory, Oundle Road, Peterborough	
Easting	180300	
Northing	970600	
Height OD	7 – 9 m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	CGMS Ltd	
Project brief originator	CGMS Ltd	
Project Design originator	CGMS Ltd	
Director/Supervisor	Ailsa Westgarth	
Project Manager	Antony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	Twigden Homes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	19/05/05	
End date	02/06/05	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

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Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial excavation on land within the former British Sugar Factory, Oundle Road, Peterborough, on behalf of CGMS Ltd acting for Twigden Homes. Nine trenches were excavated. Two ditches and four gullies were located. A single animal mandible was found within the trenches. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Archaeological investigation comprising trial excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology for CGMS Ltd on behalf of Twigden Homes, on a plot of land within the former British Sugar Factory site, Oundle Road, Peterborough. The works were put into context by an archaeological desk based assessment. The trial evaluation met the requirements of the written scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CGMS Ltd (2005) and agreed with Ben Robinson (Planning Archaeologist, PCCAS).

The purpose of the trial excavation was to establish the survival, date, nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development in order to inform the planning process.

1.2 Location and Topography

The site lies within the former British Sugar Factory site on Oundle Road, Peterborough. Centred at NGR TL183 976 (Fig 1). The development site is currently unused, but is bounded by new development to the north and west, allotments to the east and existing properties to the south. The River Nene is located 0.66km to the north of the development area.

The drift geology is River terrace deposits (sands and gravels) based upon Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>).

2.1 Map Evidence

The First, 1889 (Fig. 2), Second, 1901, Third, 1926 and Fourth, 1928, and 1960 Edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted. The Third Edition 1926 map shows an area of gravel quarrying in to north east of the site. The map evidence indicates that in the 19th to 20th century the land use changed from agricultural field systems to allotments, with a sports and leisure field to the west of the development area. No buildings are recorded within the development area.

2.2 Sites and Monuments Record

Table 1: Sites and Monuments Record (Fig 4)

SMR RECORD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1403	Prehistoric flint arrowheads,
01404b	Post Medieval lithic implement,
1405	Roman/ Anglo-Saxon, inhumations, three burials
1407	Roman rubbish pit, domestic use
1415	Roman coin, stray find
1416	Anglo-Saxon pottery, vessels from Woodstone Cemetery
10086	Roman human remains and pottery, one burial associated pottery
1618	Anglo-Saxon gravestones, three carved fragments of stone, stray find
1711	Iron Age settlement, inhumation, pit and pottery
50388	Roman agriculture and subsistence, possible farmstead
50500	Unknown animal remains, lithic implement and linear features (British sugar factory pre-housing excavation)
50600	Post Medieval coin
50623	Anglo-Saxon spear, on British sugar factory site
51165	Prehistoric, Iron Age / Roman / Anglo-Saxon settlement, inhumation, villa?
51166	Prehistoric / Iron Age settlement, agriculture on British sugar factory site
51207	Bronze Age domestic use
51239	Prehistoric / Neolithic / Anglo-Saxon domestic use

A search of the Peterborough Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) produced 17 records within the surrounding area. Directly to the north of the development area the SMR contains information on a Prehistoric / Neolithic / Anglo-Saxon settlement site and Bronze Age domestic activity. Evidence is also recorded to suggest earlier Bronze Age and Roman use, to the north west of the development area, and an Iron Age settlement to the south east. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery is also recorded to the south west and three fragments of gravestones have been found to the north west.

2.3 Archaeological Background

As a result of the recent redevelopment of the British Sugar Factory site, several excavations have been undertaken, revealing Neolithic pottery, Late Bronze Age ditches, Iron Age circular buildings and ditches, and Anglo-Saxon settlement. The Anglo-Saxon settlement was located to the west of the development site, and consisted of a posthole structure and several pits. The excavations also revealed areas of disturbance as a result of the extensive development across the majority of the British Sugar Factory site (Casa Hatton, 2001; Cooper, 2002; Kenny, 1998; Patten, 2004).

In 1998 a series of trenches were excavated within the British Sugar factory by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Unit (CCCAU) several of which lay directly to the west of the development area. The trenches located several small undated ditches and gullies, along with evidence of quarrying and modern levelling (Kenny, 1998).

During 2000 a further series of trenches were excavated within the Sugar Factory grounds by CCCAU. Several undated ditches, pits gullies and postholes were located, along with several post medieval features and modern overburden (Hatton, 2000).

3 METHODOLOGY

The WSI required the excavation of ten trial trenches within the development area, nine were excavated. Trench 10 in the south west of the development area could not be excavated due to a Twigden Homes compound. The excavation of the trial trenches was constantly supervised by an archaeologist. All trenches were excavated using a JCB type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated to 1.6 metres wide.

All trial trenches were excavated as shown on the attached plan (Fig 6). The trenches were located in order to examine a representative sample of the site, and to assess areas unexcavated by CCCAFU (Hatton, 2000).

Topsoil, subsoil and overburden were removed until archaeologically sensitive deposits or natural horizons were revealed. All deposits were cleaned sufficiently to identify their nature. Recording was by Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma context sheets, supplemented by drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1:50. A photographic record in black and white and colour slides of all trenches and features was completed.

Following discussion on site during monitoring meetings a number of areas of differential colouration were investigated to determine if they were of archaeological origin.

4 RESULTS

Undated archaeological features were found in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 (Fig 6).

A number of areas of differential colouration were investigated throughout the trenches. These were found upon excavation to be root disturbances and geological anomalies. The distinction between natural and man-made features was largely based upon their morphology (i.e. plan, profile, and content). There were no finds from any features. A complete Context Inventory is included as Appendix 1.

Across the site the natural geology comprised grey blue clays and sands and gravels. At the east side of the site a buried subsoil of compact dark grey brown silty clay overlay the natural geology, with a varying thickness of between 0.06m to 0.28m, however in the west the buried subsoil is not evident. All archaeological features cut the natural gravels and were sealed by the subsoil, or the topsoil in the trenches with no subsoil.

A buried Topsoil layer was visible across the site, consisting of dark brown clay loam, with a thickness of between 0.11m in the east of the site to 0.60 towards the centre trenches, and 0.10m in the west.

Across the eastern half of the site was a layer of made-ground, comprising firm yellow silty clay and over 50% brick rubble overlay the buried topsoil. This deposit varied greatly in thickness, between 0.91 – 0.16m in the East of the site, to between 0.02 and 0.21m in the middle. It was not present in trenches 7, 8 and 9.

The topsoil was a dark brown grey silt loam with mixed modern brick and plastics which remained fairly consistent in character throughout the development area; measuring between 0.19 and 0.61m (Appendix 1).

4.1 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north west – South East in the southern part of the development area (Fig. 6). It contained two small parallel gullies.

Gully [307] and Gully [309]

Two small shallow gullies were aligned north - south across trench 3 (Fig. 7, Section 1). Gully [307] had an irregular wide bowl shaped profile and measured 0.69m wide by 0.19m deep. It was filled by (306) mid grey brown silty clay. Gully [309] was aligned alongside Gully [307]. It had a wide bowl shaped profile and measured 0.65m wide by 0.17m deep. The single fill (308) comprised mid grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.2 Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned north west – south east in the southern part of the development area (Fig. 6). It contained two small gullies.

Gully [407]

Gully [407] was aligned east – west across trench 4 (Fig. 7, Section 2). It had a wide U shaped profile and measured 1.02m wide by 0.23m deep. The sole fill was mid grey brown silty clay (406) No finds were recovered.

Gully [409]

Gully [409] was aligned east – west across trench 4 (Fig. 8, Section 3). It had an uneven wide U shaped profile with rounded base and measured 1.04m wide by 0.28m deep. The single fill (408) was firm pale grey brown silty clay with no inclusions. No finds were recovered.

4.3 Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned in the middle of the development area, aligned north east – south west (Fig. 6). It contained a wide ditch and a small intercutting gully.

Ditch [508]

Ditch [508] was aligned north west – south east across the centre of the trench (Fig. 8, Section 5). The west profile was truncated by a later gully [510], the eastern side comprised an uneven 45 degree slope. It measured 1.3m wide by 0.49m deep. The primary fill (507) comprised mid red brown silty clay with frequent small pebbles, measuring 0.31m deep. The final fill (506) measured 0.49m deep and comprised mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small pebbles. No finds were recovered from Ditch [508].

Gully [510]

Gully [510] was aligned north west– south east across trench 4, truncating ditch [508] (Fig. 8, Section 5). It measured 0.61m wide by 0.16m deep with an even rounded bowl shaped profile. The single fill (509) comprised dark grey brown silty clay with no inclusions. No finds were recovered.

4.4 Trench 6

Trench 6 was positioned in the north center of the development area, aligned north – south (Fig. 6). It contained a single ditch.

Ditch [605]

Ditch [605] was aligned north east – south west across trench six (Fig. 8, Section 6). It had an even steep V shaped profile and measured 0.92m wide by 0.38m deep. The single fill (604)

comprised firm dark red brown silty clay with frequent small pebbles. Two pieces of cattle bone, including a lower mandible, were recovered. These were from a sub-adult individual.

4.5 Trench 9

Trench 9 was positioned in the north western corner of the development area aligned northwest – south east (Fig. 7). It contained a single ditch.

Ditch [906]

Ditch [906] was aligned north– south (Fig. 8, S.6). It had an even wide U shaped profile and measured 0.93m wide by 0.41m deep. The primary fill (905) comprised dark red brown silty clay with frequent small pebbles and measured 0.22m deep. The final fill (904) comprised mid red brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles and measured 0.19m deep. No finds were recovered.

5 FINDS

5.1 Animal Bone *By Karen Deighton*

A left cattle mandible was recovered from context (604). The permanent fourth premolar was present, first and second molars were in wear. The third molar was as yet unerupted. The dentition is suggestive an animal of between 18 and 30 months (wear stage D) (Halstead 1985). Knife marks suggestive of dismemberment were visible on the posterior section of the bone.

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching identified a low density of undated archaeological features across the area. These appear to relate principally to field systems and drainage of unknown date.

No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from any of the features identified. No evidence was found for occupation or industry within the development area prior to the construction of the British Sugar Factory. The amount of root and tree disturbance found suggests that the area has not always been as open and exposed as it now is.

The slope of the natural geology in trench 1 may indicate an area of quarrying, however given the limited view afforded by the trench this was not clear.

The general stratigraphic sequence visible in the trenches was consistent with remodelling and re-levelling of the topography of the development area during the last 20 years. The deposits of rubble and made ground indicate that originally the general slope was to the east. The lack

of any build up or presence of subsoil in the west of the site may be evidence of an overall ground reduction, in order to level the site. This may have been done to provide extra recreational area for the employees of the British Sugar Factory.

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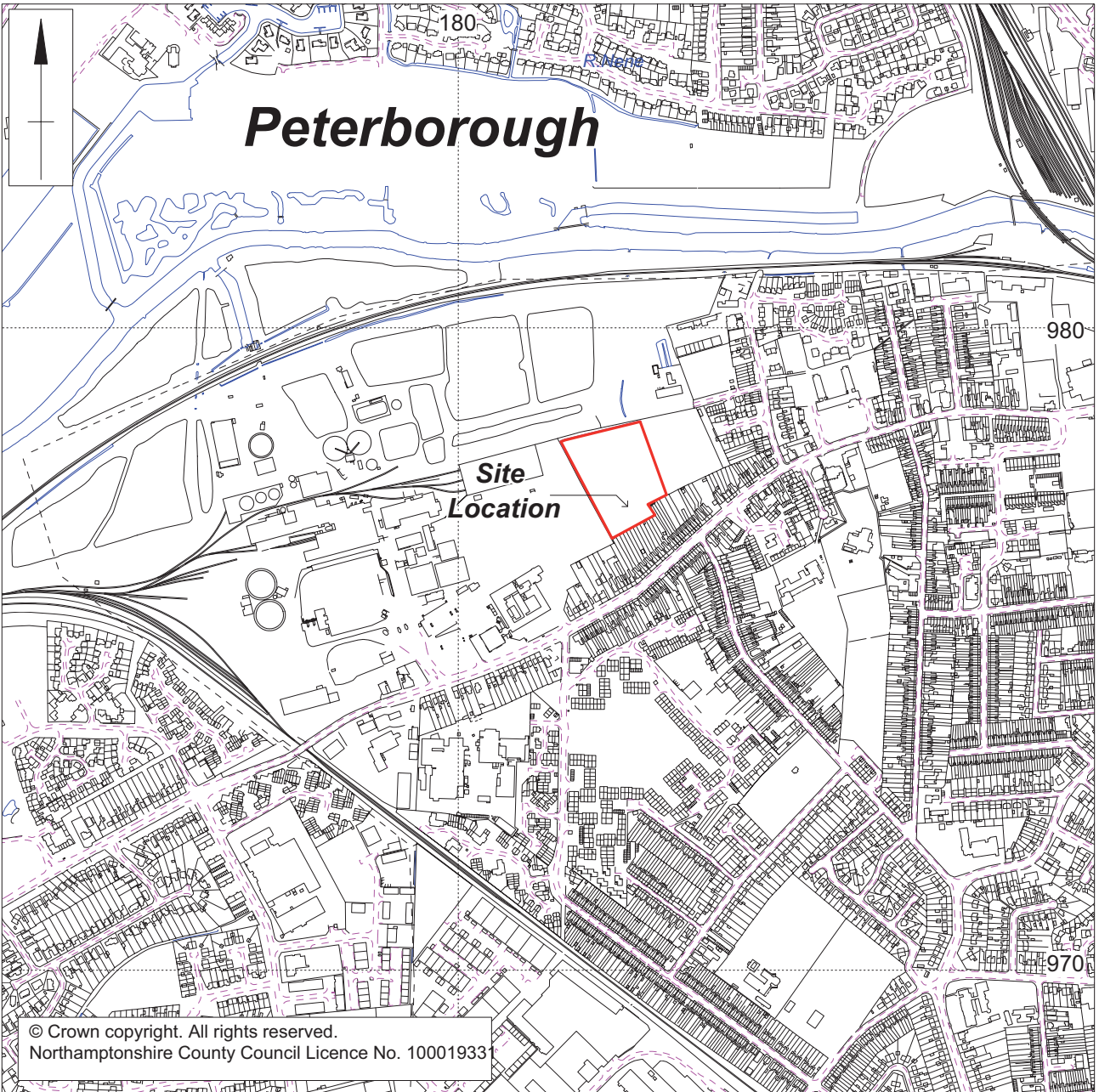
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Appendix 1

Trench	Number	Type	Description	length	width	Depth
1	101	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles	-	-	0.27-0.40
	102	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam	-	-	0.73-0.91
	103	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam	-	-	0.18-0.29
	104	Buried Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay small pebbles	-	-	0.11-0.65
	105	Natural	Mixed grey clay with pale orange sand and gravels	-	-	0
2	201	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles	-	-	0.27-0.39
	202	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam			0.16-0.26
	203	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.11-0.13
	204	Buried Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay small pebbles			
	205	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	>1.6	0.88	>0.50
	206	Tree throw	Uneven irregular cut	>1.6	0.88	>0.50
	207	Fill	Firm dark orange grey silty clay	>1.6	0.45	0.09
	208	Tree throw	uneven irregular cut	>1.60	0.45	0.09
	209	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay	>1.60	>0.50	0.14
	210	Tree throw	Irregular shallow cut	>1.60	>0.50	0.14
	211	Natural	Mixed grey clay with pale orange sand and gravels	-	-	
	212	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay	>1.60	>0.50	0.14
	213	Tree throw	Irregular shallow cut	>1.60	>0.50	0.14
3	301	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles	-	-	0.47-0.61
	302	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam			0.06-0.10
	303	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.19-.031
	304	Buried Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay small pebbles			0.20-0.30
	305	Natural	Mixed grey clay with pale orange sand and gravels			
	306	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt	>1.6	0.69	0.19
	307	Gully	N-S aligned linear, uneven rounded wide bowl shaped profile	>1.60	0.69	0.19
	308	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt	>1.60	0.65	0.17
	309	Gully	N-S aligned linear, uneven rounded wide bowl shaped profile	>1.60	0.65	0.17
	310	Tree throw	Mid grey brown silt clay irregular profile with root evidence	>1.60	0.58	0.39-0.57
4	401	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles			0.19-0.30
	402	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam			0.17-0.37
	403	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.22-0.6
	404	Buried Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay small pebbles			0.12-0.16
	405	Natural	Mixed grey clay with pale orange sand and gravels			

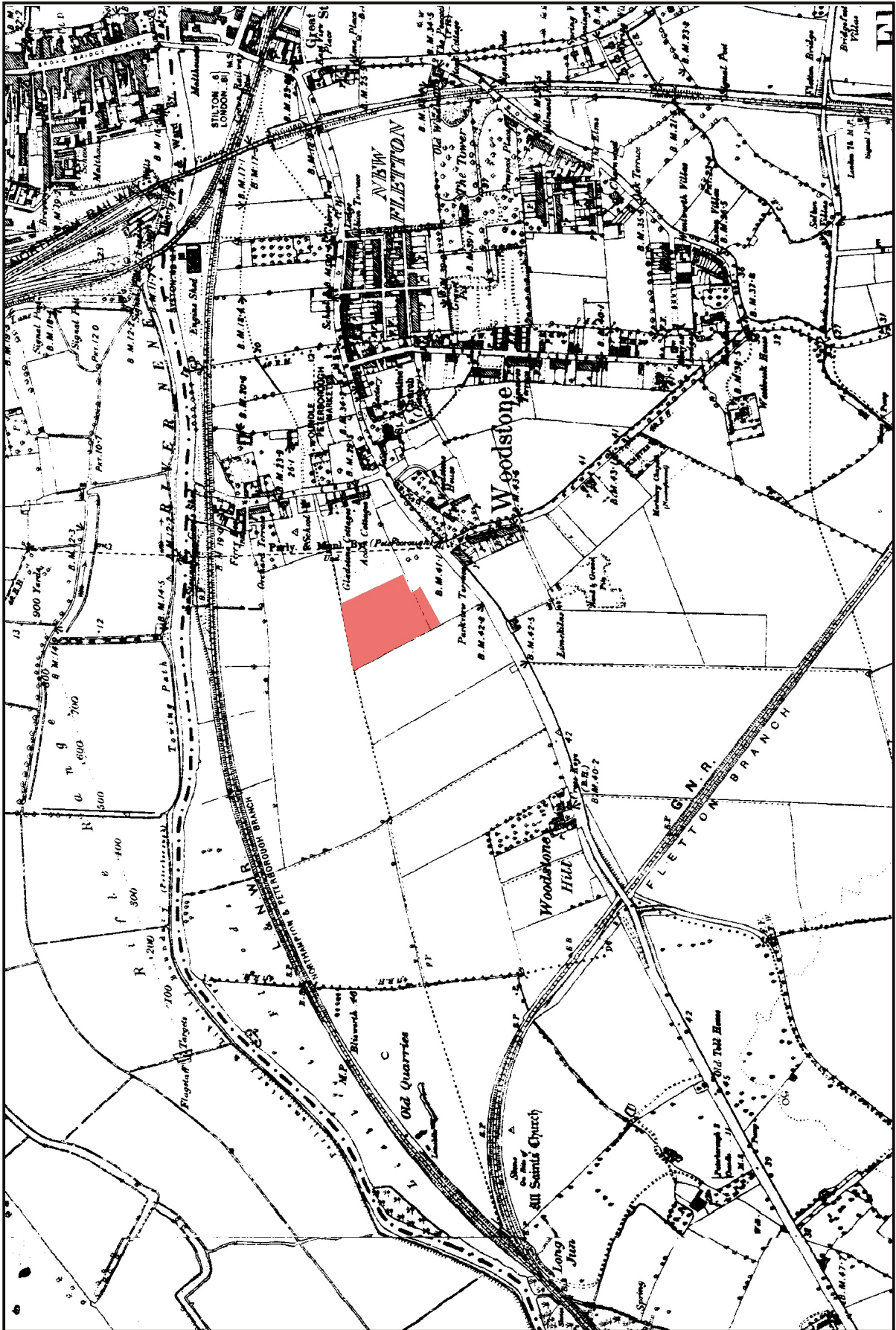
Former British Sugar Factory, Peterborough

Trench	Number	Type	Description	length	width	Depth
	406	Fill	Mid grey brown with orange mottling silty clay	>1.60	1.02	0.23
	407	Gully	E -W linear, even concave slopes to rounded base	>1.60	1.02	0.23
	408	Fill	Firm pale grey brown silty clay	>1.60	1.04	0.28
	409	Gully	E-W linear uneven wide U shaped profile	>1.60	1.04	0.28
5	501	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles			0.32-0.41
	502	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam			0.02-0.21
	503	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.14-0.18
	504	Buried Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay small pebbles			0.04-0.06
	505	Natural	Very mixed dark grey clay and orange brown sands and gravels			
	506	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay, freq small pebbles	>1.6	1.06	0.31
	507	Fill	Mid red brown silty clay freq small pebbles	>1.6	1.05	0.49
	508		NW-SE linear cut to W, uneven profile, E 45 degree slope, W 80 degree slope, base flat	>1.60	1.3	0.49
	509	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay	>1.60	0.61	0.16
	510	Gully	NW-SE linear, rounded bowl shaped profile, cuts [508]	>1.60	0.61	0.16
6	601	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles			0.32-0.38
	602	Make Up	Mixed modern rubble with some dark brown loam			0.10-0.12
	603	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.22-0.25
	606	Natural	Mixed dark orange brown sands and gravels, clay patches			
	604	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty clay, freq small pebbles, pig jaw	>1.60	0.92	0.38
	605	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V shaped profile	>1.60	0.92	0.38
7	701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, brick and modern burning evident			0.24-0.31
	702	Buried Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam			0.23-0.41
	703	Natural	Mid yellow orange fine gravels and some sand			
	704	Subsoil	Red brown silty clay only up to 27m from S of trench, fill of root holes			0.14-0.23
8	801	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles			
	802	Natural	Mid yellow orange fine gravels and some sand			
	803	Natural	Red brown silty clay uneven patchy across trench, fill of root disturbance			
9	901	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty loam small sub angular pebbles			0.37-0.41
	902	Natural	Mid yellow orange fine gravels and some sand			
	903	Natural	Mixed mid grey clay and gravels			
	904	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay, occasional small pebbles	>1.60	0.93	0.19
	905	Fill	Primary fill of ditch. Dark red brown silty clay, freq small pebbles	>1.60	0.73	0.22
	906	Ditch	N-S linear, wide U shaped profile, rounded base	>1.60	0.93	0.41



Scale 1:10,000

Fig. 1



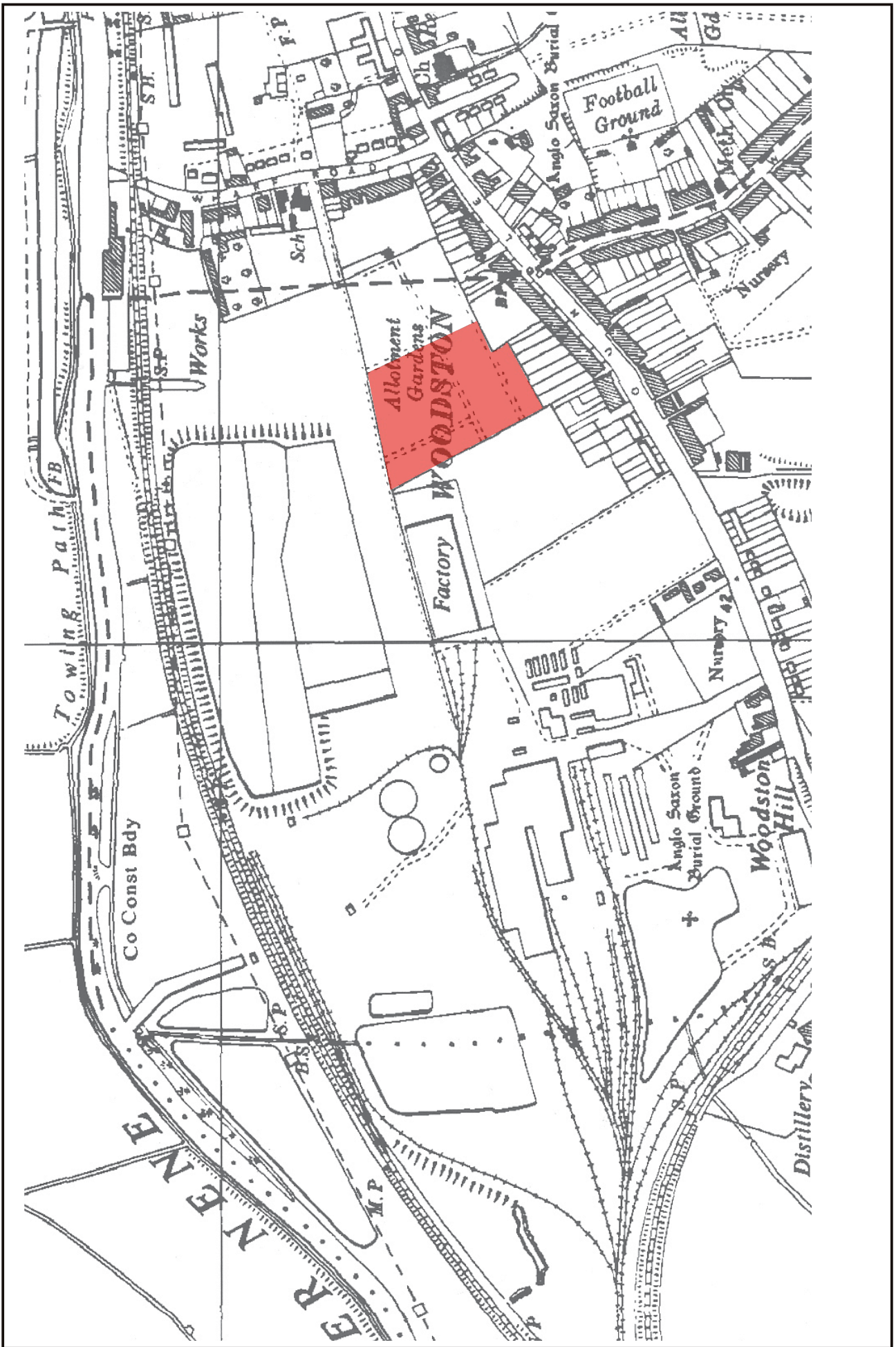
First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1889

Fig. 2



Ordnance Survey 4th Edition Map 1928

Fig. 3



Ordnance Survey Map 1960

Fig. 4

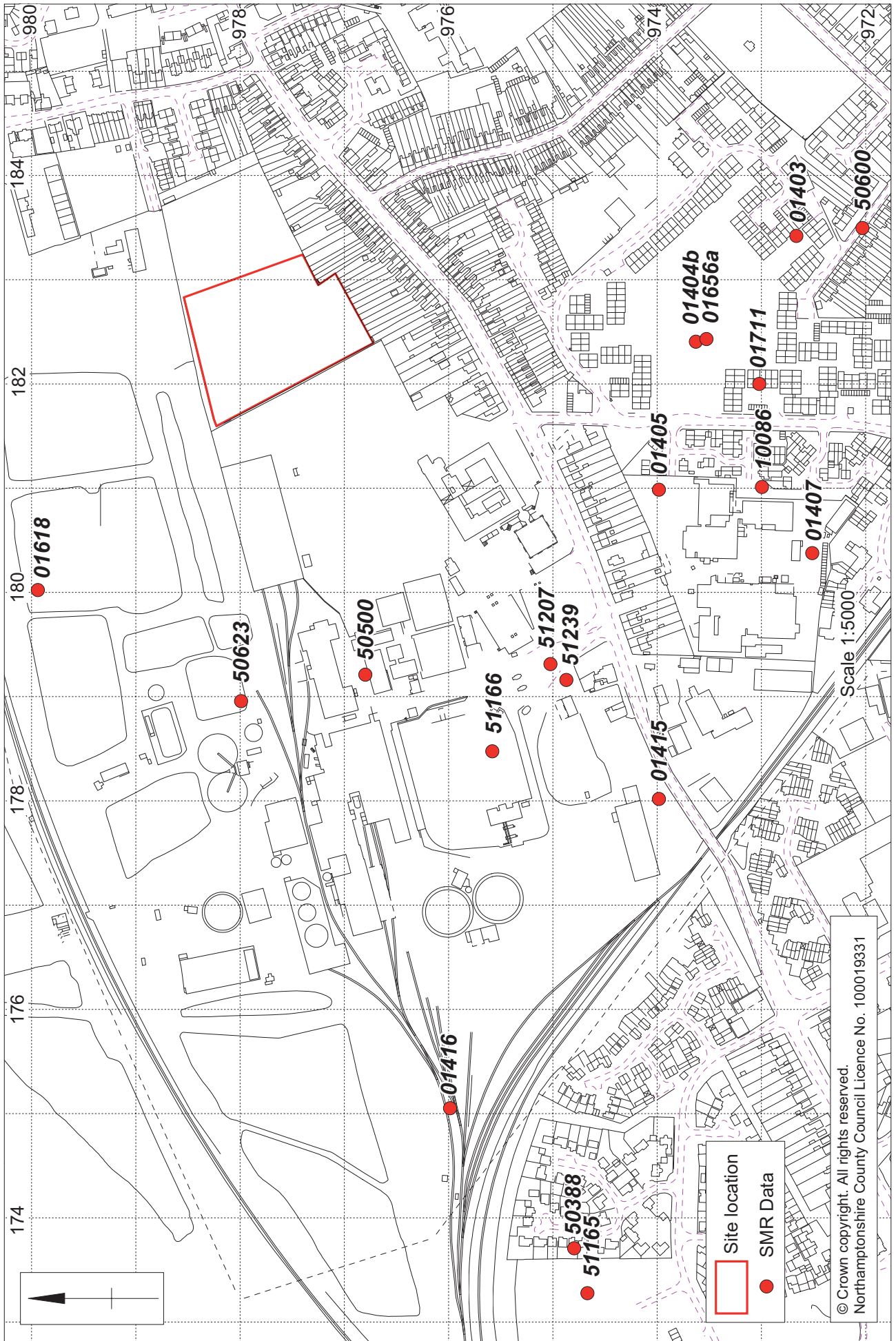


Fig. 5

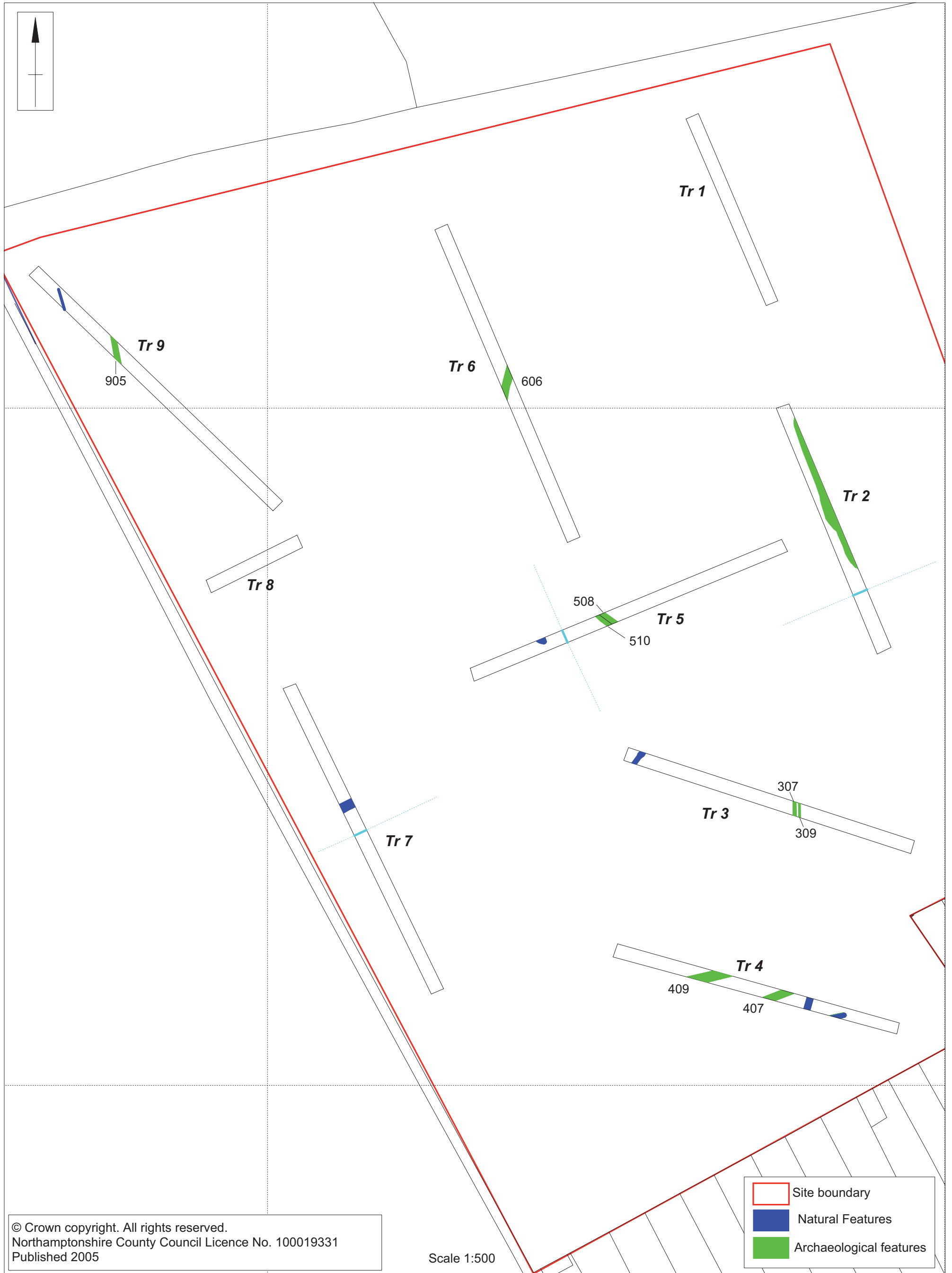
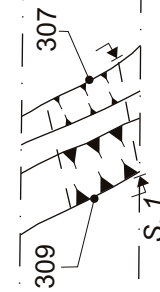
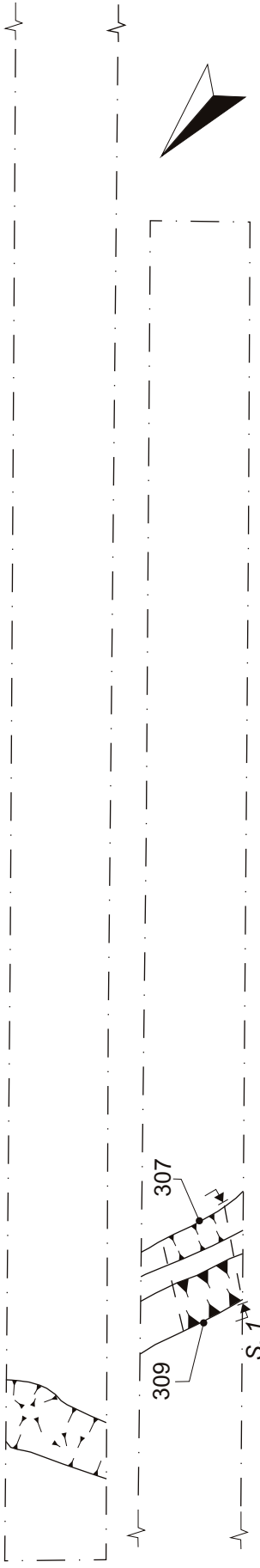


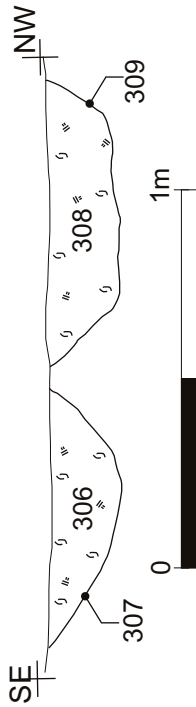
Fig. 6

Peterborough, British Sugar Factory

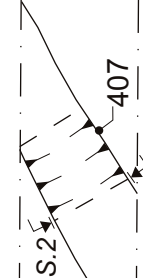
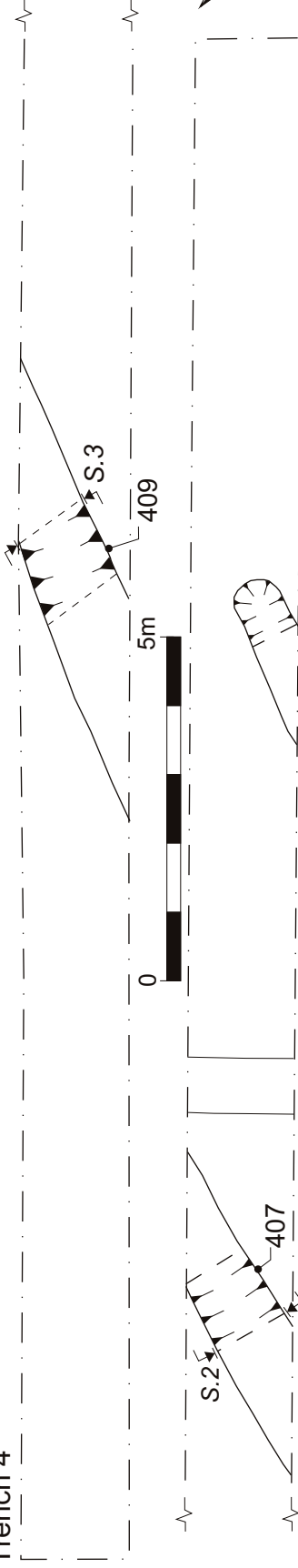
Trench 3



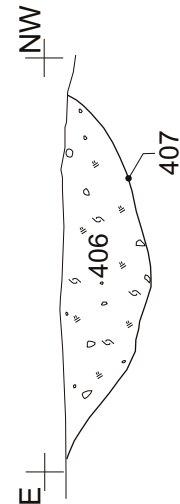
Section 1
8.04m OD



Trench 4



Section 2
8.71m OD



Section 3
8.73m OD

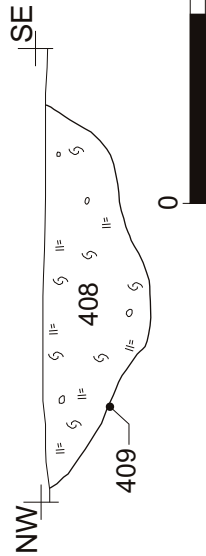
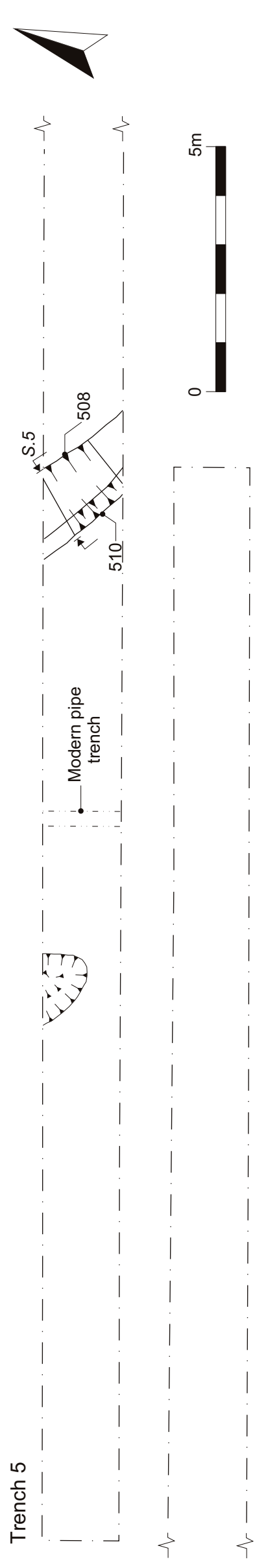
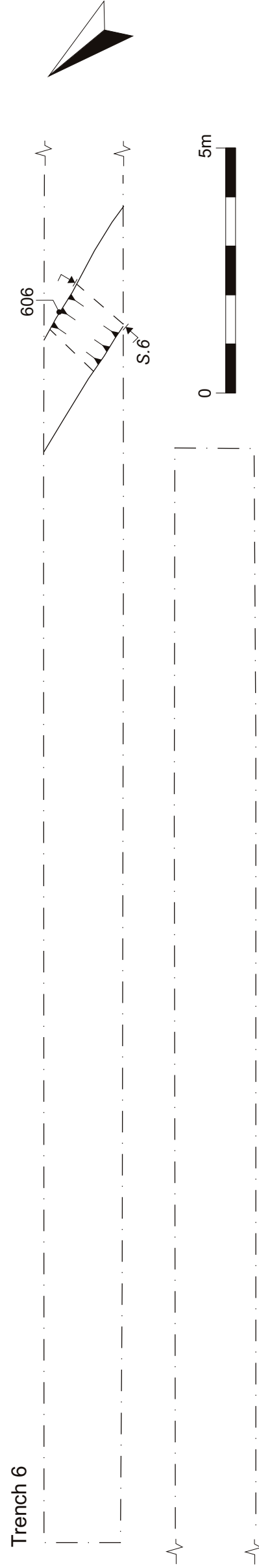
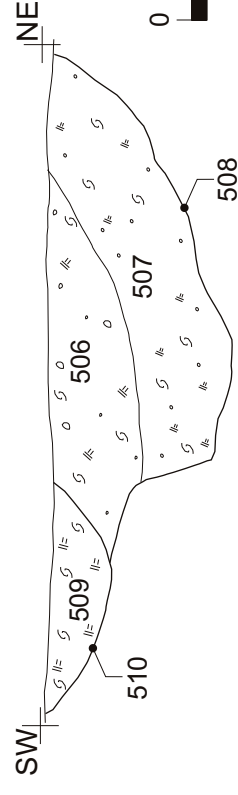


Fig. 7

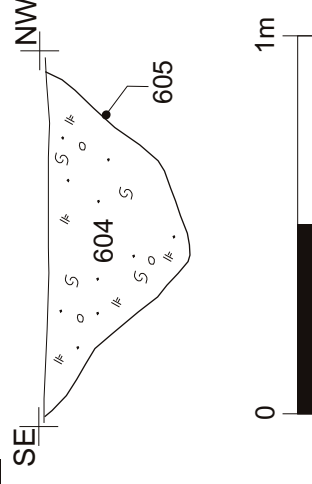
Peterborough, British Sugar Factory



Section 5
7.60m OD

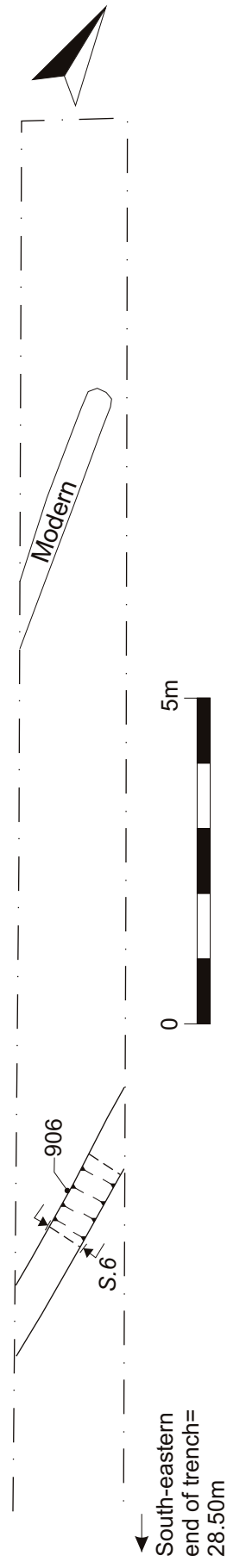


Section 6
7.58m OD



Peterborough, British Sugar Factory

Trench 9



South-eastern
end of trench=
28.50m

Section 6
7.58m OD

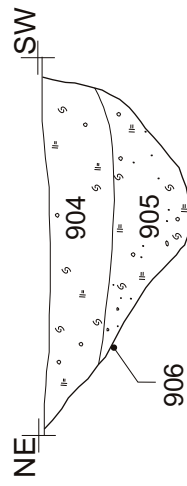


Fig. 9