LAND AT RYEHILL FARM, LONG BUCKBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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© Cotswold Archaeological Trust
Headquarters Building, Kemble Business Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
Tel. 01285 771022 Fax. 01285 771033 E-mail: cots.arch@virgin.net

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SUMMARY

In July 1999 Cotswold Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Sandspinners to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Ryehill Farm, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire.

The evaluation identified a a number of undated features as well as ditches dating to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted between the 3rd and 10th September 1999 on land at Ryehill Farm, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire (centred on NGR SP 605 665) (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required to provide sufficient information to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the site for gravel extraction, prior to determination of a planning application.

1.1.2 The evaluation was conducted in compliance with the *Standard and Guidance of Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA 1997); the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2) issued by English Heritage (1991); and the *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire* (NCC 1995). It also followed a site-specific evaluation brief issued by Northamptonshire Heritage (October 1998), which addressed the requirements for both geophysical survey and trial-trenching. The project design was submitted to, and approved by Northamptonshire County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork. A monitoring visit was made by Mr M. Flitcroft, Planning Officer (Archaeology), Northamptonshire County Council, on the 7th September 1999.

1.2 Geology, Topography, and Landuse

1.2.1 The application area is situated in a region of mixed geology comprising Lias Clay deposits of the Jurassic period (BGS 1979) overlain by extensive glacial sand and gravel drift deposits (BGS 1977). Areas of recent alluvium are located in the vicinity of pre-existing and extant streams.

1.2.2 Topographically the study area consists of undulating ground lying between 100m and 120m OD. The land is currently in agricultural use, arable to the south and pasture to the north. The study area was bounded to the south-west by a small canalised stream, to the north-west by further pasture, to the north east by the London to Birmingham mainline railway and the M1 motorway,

and to the south-east by further arable land. The study area comprised approximately 42ha.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Prior to this evaluation, an archaeological assessment was carried out by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (Morton 1998). It is not intended to repeat this background information in detail as that report is available in its entirety, however, its principal conclusions can be outlined as follows.

1.3.2 Some of the recorded cropmarks in the vicinity of the study area may relate to the prehistoric period, although none of these lie in the study area itself. Romano-British activity is well attested in the vicinity of the study area. The Roman town of Bannaventa lies 1km to the south and Watling Street lies immediately to the west. A minor Roman Road has also been postulated to run north to south through the southern part of the site. Medieval remains are characterised by ridge and furrow earthworks.

1.3.3 In December 1998 a geophysical survey of the study area was conducted on behalf of Cotswold Archaeological Trust by GSB Prospection. The geophysical survey took the form of an initial scanning gradiometer survey of the land affected by the proposed development and subsequently a detailed gradiometer survey within areas of positive response, approximately 17.5% of the original area (GSB Prospection 1999).

1.3.4 The scan revealed numerous anomalies across the site, both grouped and discrete. Further detailed survey resolved these into clear areas of archaeological potential (Figs. 2 and 3). Anomalies in these areas included linear, curvilinear, and sub-circular features, which may represent trackways, enclosures, and settlement foci. Elsewhere there were several broad anomalies of uncertain origin, including a possible palaeochannel which was investigated by trench 14. All fourteen of the trenches were located within the areas of high archaeological potential, as defined by the geophysical survey.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish whether archaeological deposits lay within the study area and, if so, to establish their extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality.

1.4.2 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 1: *Site Recording Manual*. All archaeological features identified during the evaluation are described fully in Appendix 1. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds immediately after Excavation* and are listed in Appendix 2. A single environmental sample was taken from a charcoal rich deposit in trench 11, in accordance with CAT Technical Manual 2: *The Taking of Palaeoenvironmental / Palaeoeconomic Samples from Archaeological Sites*, the results of which are described in Appendix 3

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 General

2.1.1 One 40m trench (trench 1), and thirteen 30m trenches were excavated in the positions shown (Figs. 2 and 3). All trenches were machine cut to a width of 1.5m with a total length of 430m and a total area of 0.645ha.

2.1.2 In all of the trenches the natural substrate of glacial drift deposits was encountered at depths of between and 0.20m and 1.00m. In trenches 1-4 and 12-13 the natural substrate was overlain by ploughsoil only, in trenches 5-10 it was overlain by subsoil and topsoil, and in trenches 11 and 14 it was overlain by alluvial clay which was in turn overlain by a plough soil. All the archaeological features identified cut the natural substrate and were covered by the subsoil and/or alluvial deposits.

2.2 Undated

2.2.1 A number of undated features were identified across the site. In trench 2 ditch [202] was located 6.3m from the north-eastern end of the trench and was

orientated north-west to south-east. It was 1.46m in width, 0.32m in depth, and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by (201) a dark red-brown silty sand with inclusions of flint pebbles.

2.2.2 Ditch [302] was orientated south-west to north-east and was identified 20m from the south-eastern end of trench 3. It was 0.73m in width, 0.13m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (303) comprised flint pebbles in a matrix of dark grey-brown silty sand. The nature of the fill suggested that this feature may be a field drain of relatively recent date.

2.2.3 Ditch [803] was identified entering the south-eastern end of trench 8 (Fig. 4). It was 0.70m in width, 0.16m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It ran for a distance of 6m before terminating in the centre of the trench. It was filled by a grey-brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint pebbles (802).

2.2.4 A large possible pit [913] was identified in the centre of trench 9 (Fig. 5). It was 5.20m in width, 0.36m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (914) which was of the same character as (906). Underling this feature was a shallow gully [915], that was orientated south-west to north-east and was 0.20m in width, 0.06m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was also filled by (914) and the stratigraphic relationship between [913] and [915] was unclear. Located immediately to the south ditch [905] was orientated north-west to south-east and was 1.43m in width and 0.60m in depth. It had steeply sloping sides, a concave base, and was filled by (906) comprising a dark grey-brown clay silt. Located 1.8m to the south, ditch [911] was parallel to [905] and was 1.3m in width, 0.20m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (912) which was of the same character as (906). In the central area of the trench the above features were masked by a layer of re-deposited natural (903) comprising a medium brown-orange clay silt. This was in turn overlain by subsoil (902) and topsoil (901).

2.2.5 Posthole [1002] was identified 4.0m from the western end of trench 10 (Fig. 6). It was 0.39m in diameter, 0.18m in depth, and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1003) comprising a medium grey-brown silty clay. Located 1.0m to the east a series of three parallel ditches orientated north-west to south-east was identified. Ditches [1004], [1006], and [1008] were between 1.17m and 2.35m in width and 0.38m and 0.86 in depth. Ditches [1004] and [1006] had gently sloping sides and concave bases whilst ditch [1008] had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. They were filled by dark brown-grey clay silts (1005), (1007), and (1009) respectively. Immediately to the east, pit [1010] was 2.10m in diameter, 0.20m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a medium grey brown silty clay (1011) but no stratigraphic relationship could be established between the pit and ditch [1008] to the west.

2.2.6 Ditch [1302] was located 7.35m from the northern end of trench 13 and was orientated east to west, it was 0.24m in width, 0.18m in depth, and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1303) which comprised dark grey-brown stone pebbles in a matrix of silty sand. The nature of the fill suggested that this feature was a field drain of relatively recent date.

2.3 Alluviation

2.3.1 Undated alluvial deposits were identified in trenches 11 and 14. In both cases the natural substrate of medium grey-orange silty sand was identified at depths of between 0.80m and 1.00m. In trench 11 the natural substrate (1103) and (1112) was cut by the Iron Age ditches described below (paragraph 2.4.1), whilst at the southern end of trench 14 the natural substrate (1403) had been disturbed by tree roots. These deposits were in turn overlain by alluvial layers (1102) and (1402) comprising medium red-brown silty clays between 0.60m and 0.85m thick. In trench 14 these deposits were undisturbed, however, at the north-western end of trench 11 two superimposed palaeochannels [1105] and [1113] were identified (Fig. 7), these were filled by deposits of sand and clay (1106), (1107), and (1104) respectively.

2.4 Iron Age

2.4.1 A ditch [1108] orientated south-west to north-east was identified 2.15m from the north-western end of trench 11 (Fig. 8). It was 1.50m in width, 0.22m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1109), a dark-brown silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay. Groundwater was located during the excavation of this context at a height of 97.8m OD. A number of pottery sherds (Appendix 4) were recovered from this context and these were found to represent a decorated globular bowl, a plain globular bowl, and a further handmade vessel.

2.4.2 The decorated bowl is a classic example of a Hunsbury style globular bowl, the decoration of which can be most closely paralleled with Hunsbury style D1 (Fell 1936, fig. 6, D1). Similar pottery from Weekley, Northamptonshire has been radiocarbon dated and a calibrated date range of 175 BC to AD 20 was produced (Jackson and Dix 1988); thus it is likely that most of the pottery of this type was in use during this period.

2.4.3 An environmental sample <1101> was also recovered from ditch fill (1109) (Appendix 3) the flot contained a small amount of charcoal and three possible charred seed fragments. Five small animal bone fragments, one of which was burnt, were recovered from the residue. This context was subsequently cut by ditch [1110] which ran parallel to, and appeared to be a re-cut of, ditch [1108]. The later ditch was 1.00m in width, 0.08m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1111) which comprised a light grey-blue silty clay. This fill was overlain by the sequence of undated alluvial deposits described above (paragraph 2.3.1).

2.5 Romano-British

2.5.1 A group of ditches was identified 6.1m from the south-western end of trench 12 (Fig. 8). Ditch [1204] was orientated north-west to south-east and was 1.65m in width, 0.36m in depth, and was filled by (1205) a yellow-brown clay silt. This fill was subsequently cut by ditch [1202], a re-cut of ditch [1204], on the same alignment. Ditch [1202] was 0.45m in width, 0.23m in depth, and was filled by (1203) a dark yellow brown clay silt, from which

was recovered a single sherd of pottery dating to the third century AD and a bronze pin.

2.5.2 Ditch [1206] was orientated at right-angles to ditches [1202] and [1204] and was 0.53m in width and 0.10m in depth. It was filled by a dark yellow-brown clay silt (1207), no stratigraphic relationships could be identified with either [1202] and [1204] to the north-east or [1208] to the south-west. Ditch [1208] was located 1.65m to the south west of [1202] and [1204] and was parallel to them. It was 0.64m in width, 0.19m in depth, and was filled by (1209) a dark yellow brown clay silt. Although Romano-British pottery was recovered from only one of the contexts described above, the similarity of the fills and the orientation and position of the features suggests that they may all be of a broadly contemporary date.

2.5.3 Three joining residual sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the topsoil (400) in trench 4, plus one further sherd of probable late Iron Age or early Romano-British date.

3. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Date and Interpretation of Archaeological Deposits

3.1.1 The evaluation results indicate that archaeological deposits survive within the study area. The majority of the features identified and excavated during the course of the evaluation were undated. However, a significant quantity of late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch [1108] and evidently formed a primary deposit. One sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from ditch [1202], and it is also possible that the other ditches in trench 12 are broadly contemporary to this ditch. As no evidence indicative of occupation was recovered during the evaluation it is possible that these ditches represent field boundaries, although further interpretation is difficult at this stage.

3.1.2 Some of the features identified by geophysical survey were identified in the subsequent programme of trial trenching and the results correlated reasonably

well in trenches 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12. However, it appeared that a substantial number of the anomalies (?archaeological features) identified during the geophysical survey were of geological origin. This may have been due to the natural substrate being of a highly variable character, having been deposited under glacial conditions and subsequently exposed to peri-glacial processes.

3.2 Survival and Extent of Archaeological Deposits

3.2.1 The archaeological deposits identified during the evaluation are reasonably well preserved across the study area. Alluviation was identified in trenches 11 and 14 which were located on or near to the course of an earlier stream (now canalised along the south-west boundary of the study area). In trench 11 the alluvial deposits sealed the late Iron Age ditch [1108]. Other Iron Age features may therefore underlie the alluvium protected from modern ploughing, and these features may not have been identified during the geophysical survey. In addition excavation of ditch [1108] located groundwater and there is therefore the potential for waterlogged Iron Age deposits.

3.2.2 The extent of the archaeological deposits is hard to gauge given the discrepancies between the results obtained from geophysical survey and trial trenching. It appears that most of the geophysical anomalies represent natural features. However, the results from both trial trenching and geophysical survey suggest that the area of highest archaeological potential is a zone defined by trenches 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

3.3 Recommendations

3.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims set out in the project design. The extent and character of archaeological deposits has been assessed and this information will allow the impact of the proposed development to be gauged and appropriate measures to be taken.

3.3.2 Taken as a whole the findings of the archaeological evaluation are important, but are not of major significance. Consequently it is anticipated that

archaeological mitigation will encompass both preservation *in situ* and further site work, as set out below.

3.3.3 The southern and western parts of the zone of archaeological potential (as defined by trenches 11 and 12) fall **outside** the proposed extraction area (Morton 1998, Fig 2). This part of the site will be landscaped, and therefore consideration can be given to preservation *in situ* as an adequate mitigation strategy.

3.3.4 In the area where extraction threatens buried remains (as defined by trenches 8–10) archaeological investigation and recording should take place prior to development. It is proposed that this work be undertaken as a condition of planning consent, subject to approval of the overall scheme.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cotswold Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr Myk Flitcroft, Planning Officer (Archaeology), Northamptonshire County Council and Mr John Chatten and Mr Simon Steele-Perkins of Sandspinners for their assistance during the course of this project.

The project was managed for Cotswold Archaeological Trust by Mark Leah and Geoff Potter. The fieldwork was carried out by Laurent Coleman, Henry Ellis, Rodney Cottrill, and Matthew Gibbs. This report has been compiled by Laurent Coleman and the illustrations prepared by Peter Moore.

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Figure 1 Location plan

Figure 2 Trench location plan based on geophysical survey

Figure 3 Trenches 6-14 showing archaeological features identified

Figure 4 Trench 8, plan and section

Figure 5 Trench 9, plan and section

Figure 6 Trench 10, plan and section

Figure 7 Trench 11, plan and section

Figure 8 Trench 12, plan and section

APPENDIX 1

Context descriptions

Note: Where possible stratigraphic descriptions are given from the earliest to the latest deposits. Cut features are designated by square brackets thus; [000]. All other deposits/layers are in round brackets; (000). *All stated depths are given from the present ground level.*

Trench 1

(101) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.22m and 0.30m. Overlain by (100).

(100) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, between 0.22m and 0.30m thick.

Trench 2

(203) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.17m and 0.36m. Overlain by (200).

[202] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.46m in width, 0.32m in depth, and was filled by (201).

(201) Fill of [202], dark red-brown sily sand with inclusions of flint pebbles, overlain by (200).

(200) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, between 0.17m and 0.36m thick.

Trench 3

(300) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.20m and 0.25m. Overlain by (301).

[302] Ditch, orientated south-west to south-east gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.73m in width, 0.13m in depth, and was filled by (303).

(303) Fill of [302], medium grey-yellow flint pebbles in a matrix of dark grey-brown silty sand, overlain by (301).

(301) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, between 0.20m and 0.25m thick.

Trench 4

(401) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.49m. Overlain by (400).

(400) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.49m thick.

Trench 5

(502) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of numerous flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.46m. Overlain by (501).

(501) Subsoil, dark-medium grey-brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, 0.26m thick. Overlain by (500).

(500) Topsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.20m thick.

Trench 6

(603) Natural substrate, medium yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of numerous flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.60m. Overlain by (602).

(602) Subsoil, dark-medium orange-brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, 0.30m to 0.45m thick. Overlain by (601).

(601) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.15m to 0.20m thick.

Trench 7

(702) Natural substrate, light red-brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.60m. Overlain by (701).

(701) Subsoil, medium red-brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, 0.30m thick. Overlain by (700).

(700) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.30m to 0.35m thick.

Trench 8

(808) Natural substrate, light red-brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.35m. Overlain by (801).

(807) Disturbed natural, medium red-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.35m. Same as (809) and (810) and overlain by (801).

(809) Disturbed natural, medium red-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.35m. Same as (807) and (810) and overlain by (801).

(810) Disturbed natural, medium red-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.35m. Same as (807) and (809) and overlain by (801).

[803] Ditch cut, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.58m in width and 0.24m in depth. Same as [806] and filled by (802).

(802) Fill of [803], light grey-brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Same as (805) and overlain by (801).

[806] Ditch terminus, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.70m in width and 0.16m in depth. Same as [803] and filled by (805).

(805) Fill of [803], light grey-brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Same as (802) and overlain by (801).

(801) Subsoil, medium brown-red clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.20m thick. Overlain by (800).

(800) Topsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.15m thick.

Trench 9

(904) Natural substrate, light yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.60m. Overlain by (903).

[905] Ditch, orientated north-west to south east with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.43m in width and 0.60m in depth. Filled by (906).

(906) Fill of [905], grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (903)

907-10 Unused contexts

[911] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.30m in width and 0.20m in depth. Filled by (912).

(912) Fill of [911], grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (903)

[913] ?possible pit, it was 5.20m in width, 0.36m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by (914).

[915] Gully, orientated south-west to north-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.20m in width, 0.06m in depth. Filled by (914).

(914) Fill of [913] and [915], grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain (903).

(903) Layer of re-deposited natural located in the central area of the trench masking the above features. Medium brown-orange clay silt 0.20m thick. Overlain by (902).

(902) Subsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.22m thick. Overlain by (901).

(901) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.24m thick.

Trench 10

(1012) Natural substrate, light yellow-brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at a depth of 0.60m. Overlain by (1001).

[1002] Posthole, steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.39m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (1003).

(1003) Fill of [1002], medium grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1001).

[1004] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 2.35m in width and 0.38m in depth. Filled by (1005).

(1005) Fill of [1004], dark brown-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1001).

[1006] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.17m in width and 0.47m in depth. Filled by (1007).

(1007) Fill of [1006], dark brown-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1001).

[1008] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.72m in width and 0.84m in depth. Filled by (1009).

(1009) Fill of [1008], dark brown-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1001).

[1010] Pit, gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 2.10m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. Filled by (1011).

(1011) Fill of [1010], medium grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1001).

(1001) Subsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.22m thick. Overlain by (1000).

(1000) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional flint pebbles, 0.38m thick.

Trench 11

(1103) Natural substrate, medium grey-orange silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.85m and 1.00m. Same as (1112) and overlain by (1102).

(1112) Natural substrate, located in sondage at north-west end of trench, medium grey-orange silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at a depth of 1.15m. Same as (1103) and overlain by (1102).

[1108] Ditch, orientated north-east to south-west with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.50m in width and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (1009).

(1109) Fill of [1108], dark brown-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal and burnt clay. Cut by [1110].

[1110] Ditch, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.00m in width and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (1111).

(1111) Fill of [1110], light grey-blue silty clay. Overlain by (1102).

(1102) Alluvial deposit, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.60m and 0.75m thick. Cut by [1113].

[1113] Palaeochannel, orientated north to south with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.80m in width and 0.30m in depth. Filled by (1104).

(1104) Fill of [1113], medium brown-orange silty sand. Cut by [1105].

[1105] Palaeochannel, orientated north to south with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was ?2.00m in width and ?0.68m in depth. Filled by (1106).

(1106) Primary fill of [1105], medium grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (1107).

(1107) Secondary fill of [1105], medium brown-orange silty sand. Overlain by (1101).

(1101) Ploughsoil, dark brown-grey clay silt, 0.25m thick.

Trench 12

(1201) Natural substrate, light red-brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.25m and 0.30m. Overlain by (1200).

[1204] Ditch cut, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.45m in width and 0.36m in depth. Same as [1210] and filled by (1205).

(1205) Fill of [1204], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Same as (1211) and cut by [1202].

[1202] Ditch cut, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.45m in width and 0.36m in depth. Filled by (1205).

(1203) Fill of [1202], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1200).

[1206] Ditch cut, orientated north-east to south-west with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.53m in width and 0.10m in depth. Same as [1212] and [1214] and filled by (1207).

(1207) Fill of [1206], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Same as (1213) and (1215) and overlain by (1200).

[1208] Ditch cut, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.64m in width and 0.19m in depth. Filled by (1209).

(1209) Fill of [1208], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Overlain by (1200).

[1210] Ditch cut, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.22m in width and 0.12m in depth. Same as [1204] and filled by (1211).

(1211) Fill of [1210], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Cut by [1202].

[1212] Ditch cut, orientated north-east to south-west with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.20m in width and 0.09m in depth. Same as [1206] and [1214] and filled by (1213).

(1213) Fill of [1212], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Same as (1207) and (1215) and overlain by (1200).

[1214] Ditch cut, orientated north-east to south-west with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.26m in width and 0.13m in depth. Same as [1206] and [1212] and filled by (1215).

(1215) Fill of [1214], dark yellow-brown clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles. Same as (1207) and (1213) and overlain by (1200).

(1200) Ploughsoil, medium brown-grey clay silt with inclusions of occassional flint pebbles, between 0.25m and 0.30m thick.

Trench 13

(1301) Natural substrate, light brown-yellow sandy gravel with inclusions of numerous flint pebbles, located at depths of between 0.25m and 0.33m. Overlain by (1301).

[1302] Ditch cut, orientated east to west with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.24m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (1303).

(1303) Fill of [1302], dark grey-brown stone pebbles in matrix of silty sand. Overlain by (1300).

(1300) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, between 0.25m and 0.33m thick.

Trench 14

(1403) Natural substrate, medium grey-orange silty sand with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles, disturbed at south end of trench by tree roots, located at depths of between 0.80m and 1.00m. Overlain by (1402).

(1402) Alluvial deposit, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.65m and 0.85m thick. Overlain by (1401)

(1401) Ploughsoil, dark brown-grey clay silt, 0.25m thick.

APPENDIX 2

Finds catalogue

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Animal Bone		Other
		No	**Wgt**	**No**	**Wgt**	
400	Roman	4	75g			1 clay pipe stem
810				2	1g	
902				3	70g	
903				1	7g	
906				2	104g	
1005				7	191g	
1007				7	163g	
1009				2	26g	
1109	LIA	25	441g			1 fired clay (44g)
1203	?3rd c	1	10g	19	391g	
1205				4	99g	
1209				1	1g	
1300						1 Fe nail

APPENDIX 3

Environmental report

By Emma Harrison

One 10 litre environmental sample was taken from (1109). The sample was treated with dilute hydrogen peroxide, the flot passed through a 0.5mm sieve, and the residue through a 1.0mm sieve. A rapid scan of the flot revealed a very small amount of charcoal and three possible charred seed fragments. Five small animal bone fragments, one of which was burnt, were recovered from the residue.

APPENDIX 4

Pottery assessment

By Jane Timby

Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 30 sherds of pottery representing six vessels from just three contexts. Context (1109) contained 25 sherds of later Iron Age date representing just three vessels, context (400) produced four sherds from two vessels, one of Roman, the other of probable later Iron Age/early Roman date, and context (1203) produced one sherd of Roman date.

Context (1109)

The pottery from (1109) is heavily stained with ferruginous-like concretions adhering to the surfaces of the sherds perhaps suggestive of a water-logged iron-rich environment. Apart from the surface discoloration the sherds are relatively well-preserved with several joining pieces. The group comprises 20 sherds from a decorated globular bowl, four sherds from a plain globular bowl and a single handmade bodysherd of indeterminate form. Total weight of group, 448 g.

The decorated bowl is a classic example of a Hunsbury style globular bowl with curvi-linear decoration so-called after a group of similar wares excavated from the hill-fort at Hunsbury (Fell 1936). The vessel has a short upright rim with internal thickening. In colour it is red-brown with black patches and a black core. The fabric has a slightly soapy feel and at x20 magnification can be seen to contain a sparse scatter of decaying shell inclusions and voids.

The decoration can be closely paralleled with Hunsbury style D1 (Fell 1936, fig 6, D1). The finely executed design comprises a running scroll with berried rosettes arranged in two zones divided by tram-lines with spaced impressions between the lines. The design is basically a metal-working motif used in the late La Tène period in Eastern England (Elsdon 1996, 43). Other vessels of closely similar design have been found at Hardingstone, Blackthorn and Moulton Park (Jackson and Dix 1988, fig 32) all clustered around Northampton.

Radiocarbon dating of similar pottery at Weekley, Northants produced a calibrated date range of 175 BC to AD 20 (Jackson and Dix 1988, 77) and most pottery of this type is likely to have been used within this timespan.

Context (400)

Context (400) produced three joining bodysherds (73 g) of Roman grey ware from a closed form. The paste contains polycrystalline quartz, grey argillaceous pellets and calcareous inclusions up to 2mm in size. The paste is quite fine and very well-fired to a light grey colour. Accompanying these sherds is a small, handmade, black sherd with a medium quartz sand temper of indeterminate form.

Context (1203)

Context (1203) produced a rim from a hard, grey sandy ware jar, the grooved rim acting as a probable lid seating. The sherd was of a probable 3rd century date.

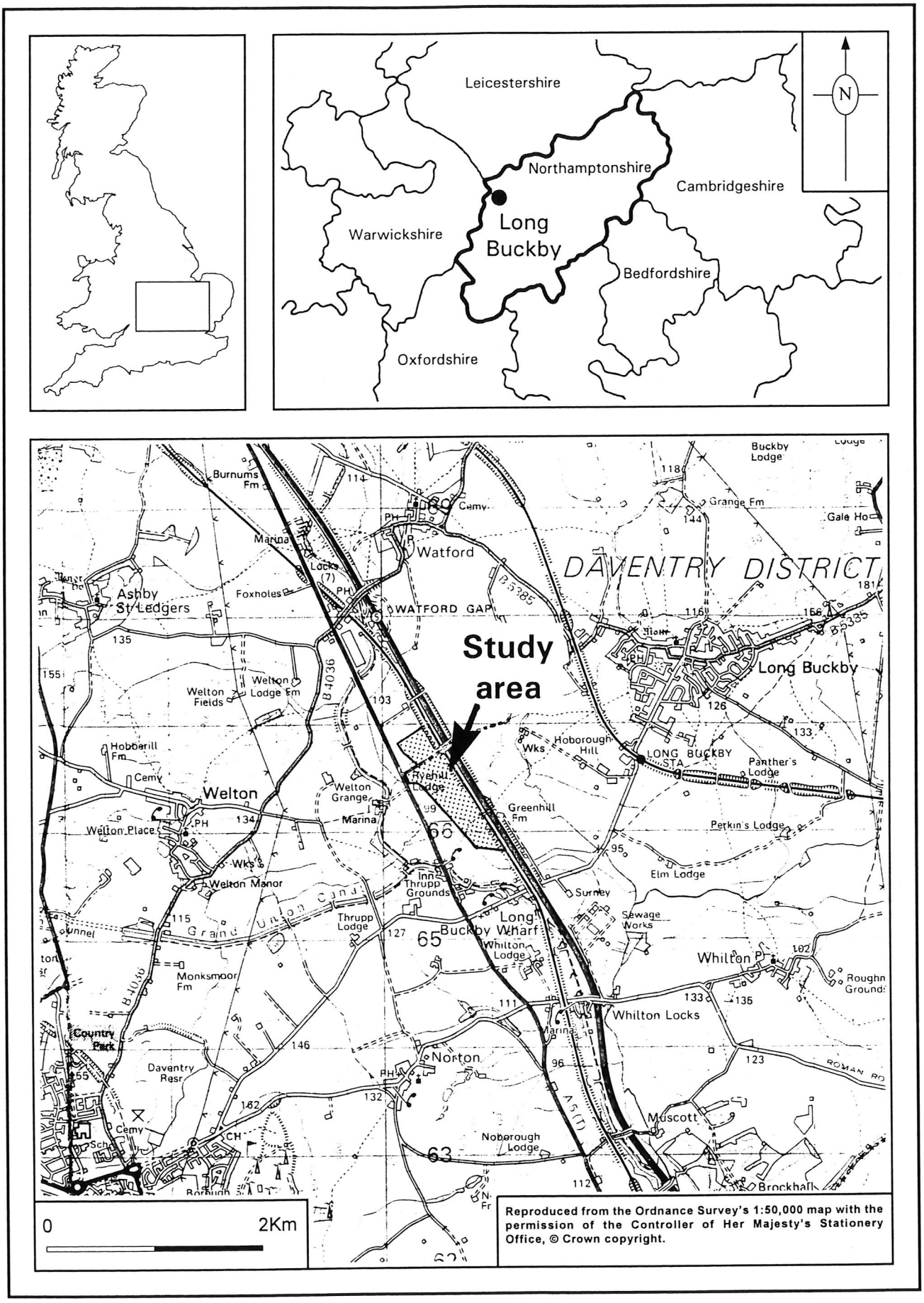


Fig. 1 Location plan

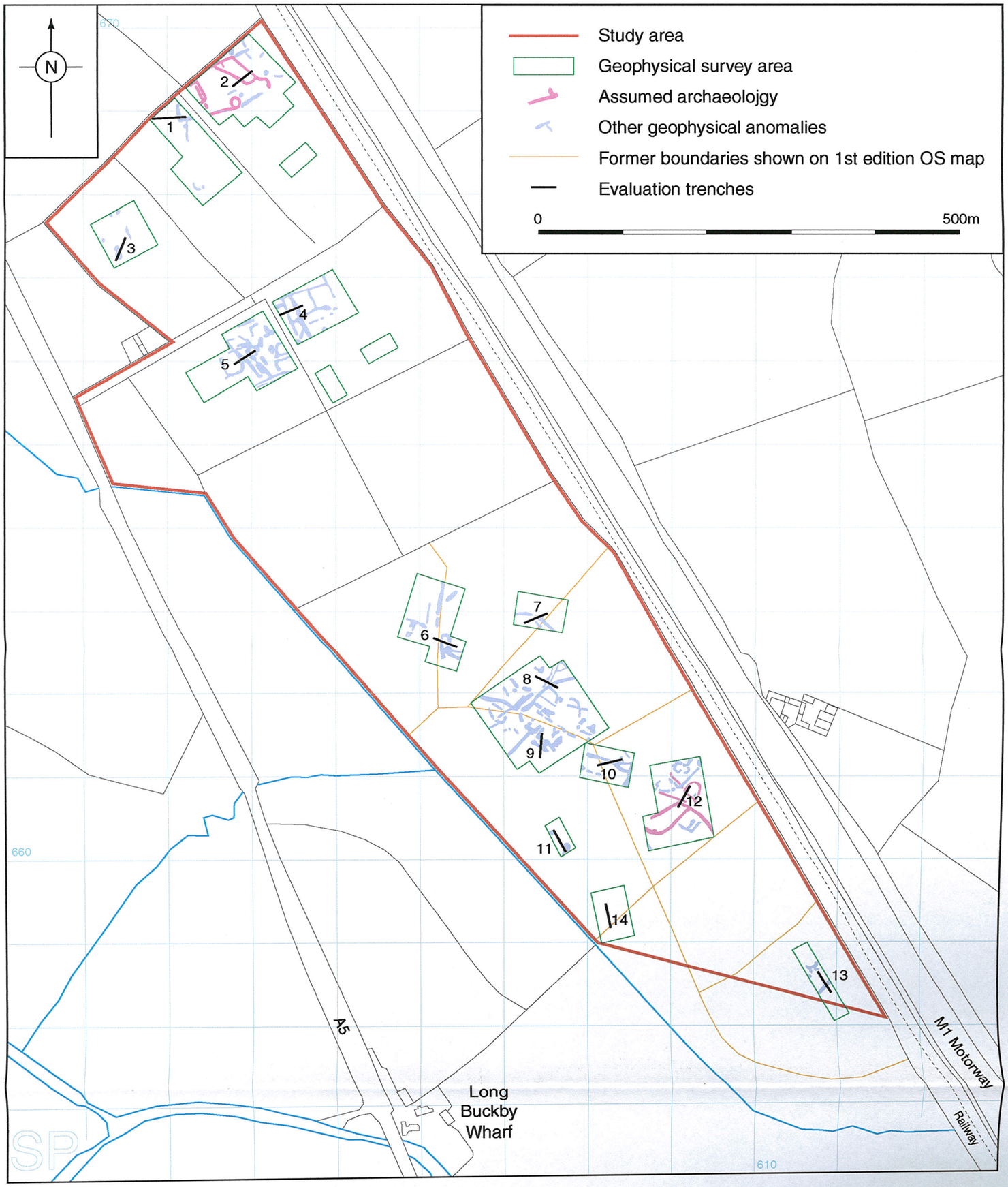


Fig. 2 Trench location plan based on geophysical survey

Fig. 3 Trenches 6 - 14 showing archaeological features identified

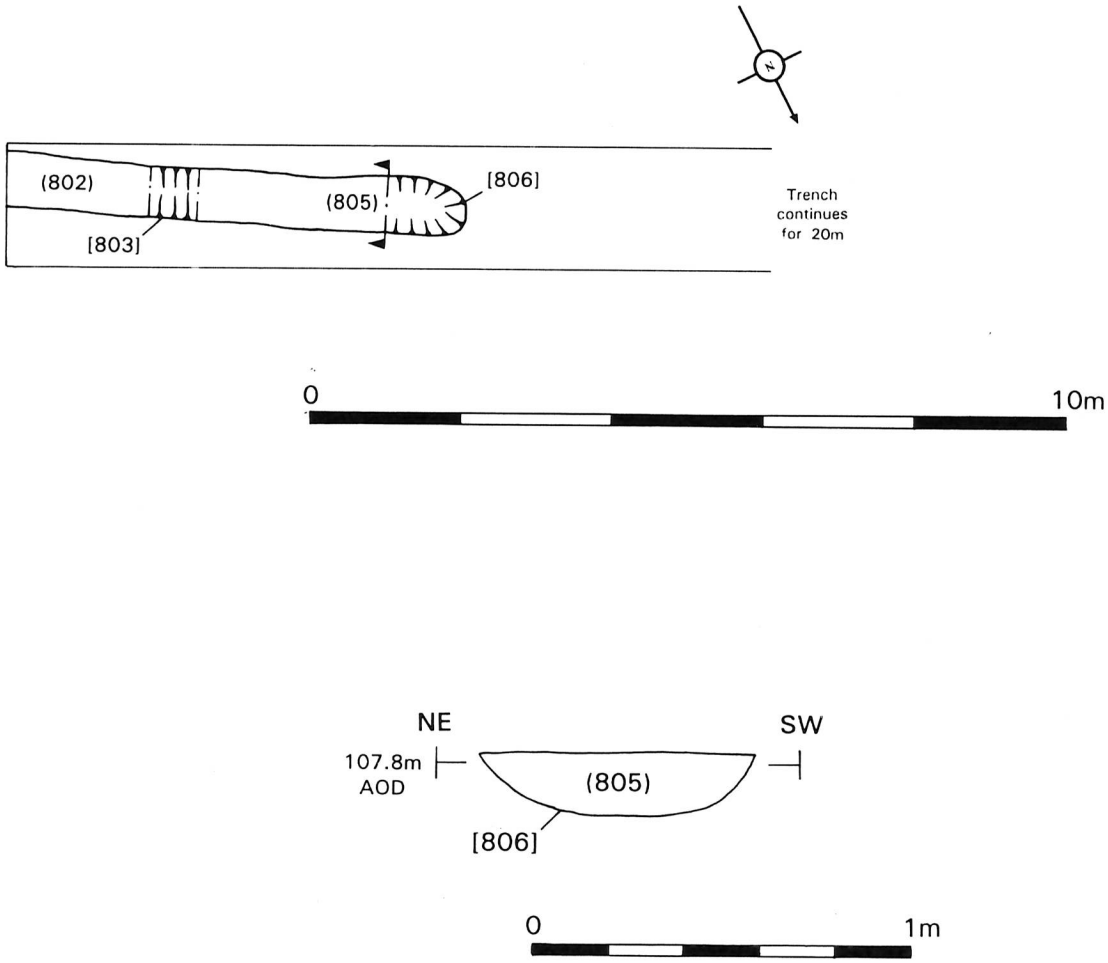


Fig. 4 Trench 8; plan and section

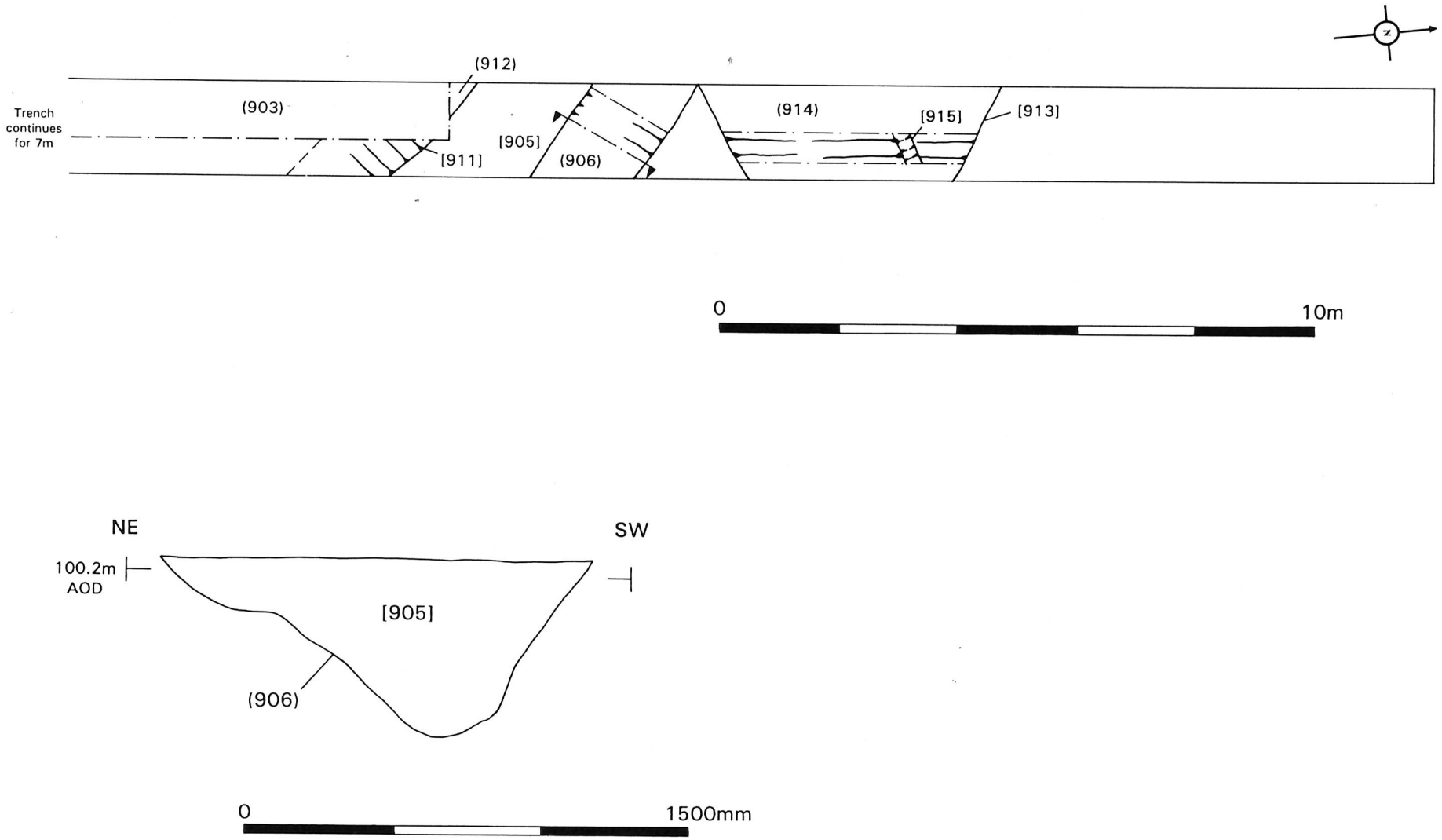


Fig. 5 Trench 9; plan and section

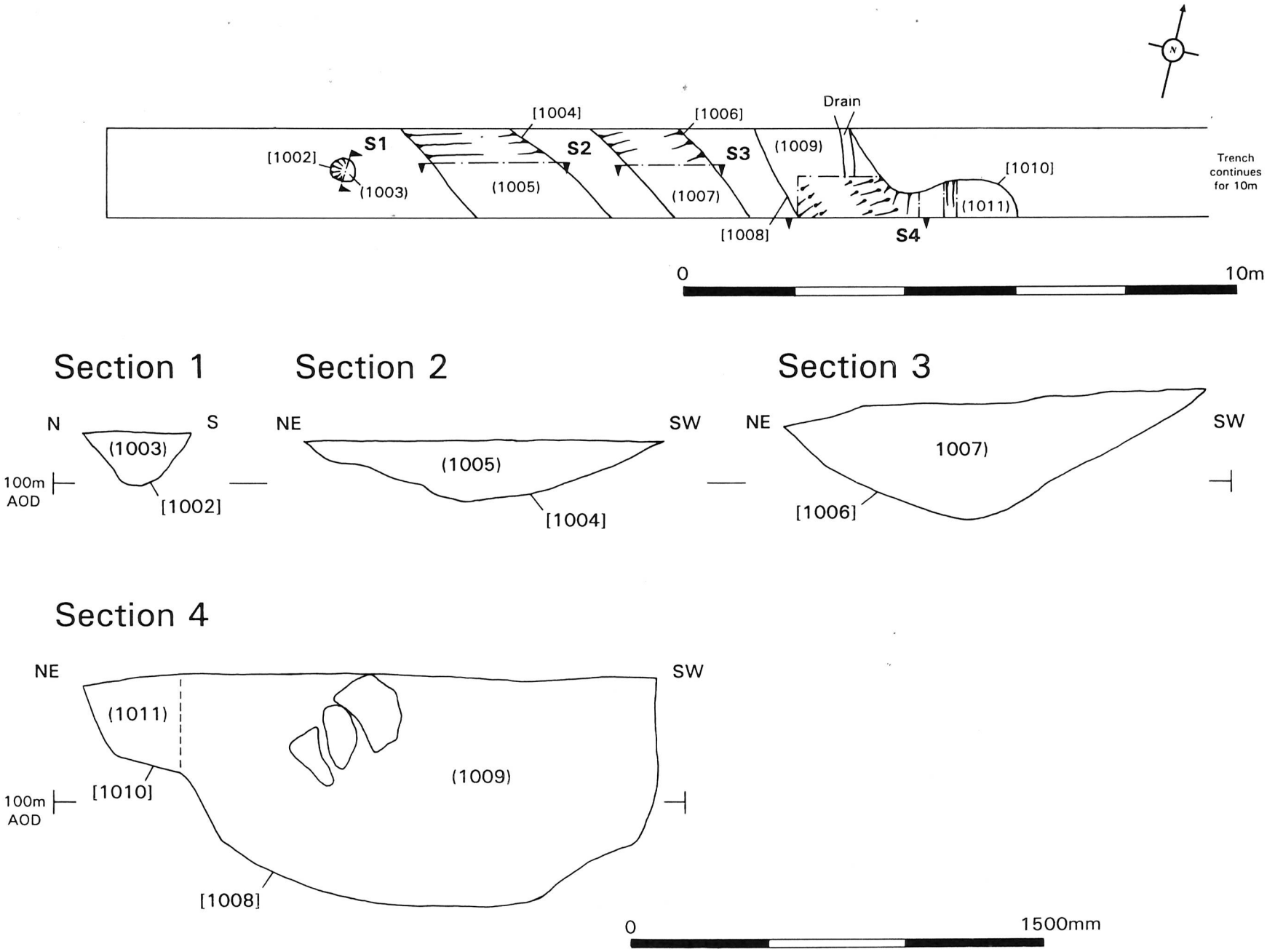


Fig. 6 Trench 10; plan and sections

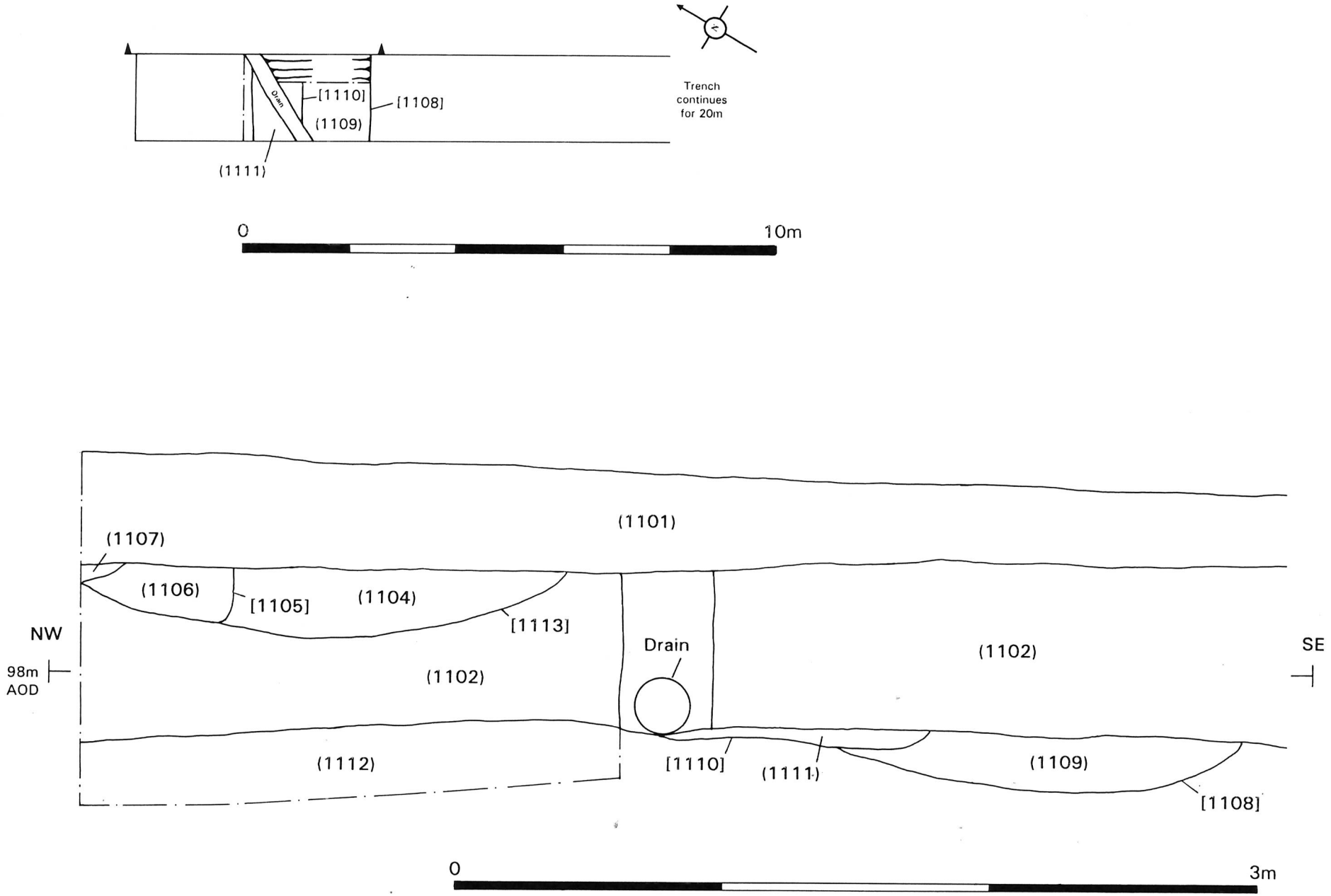
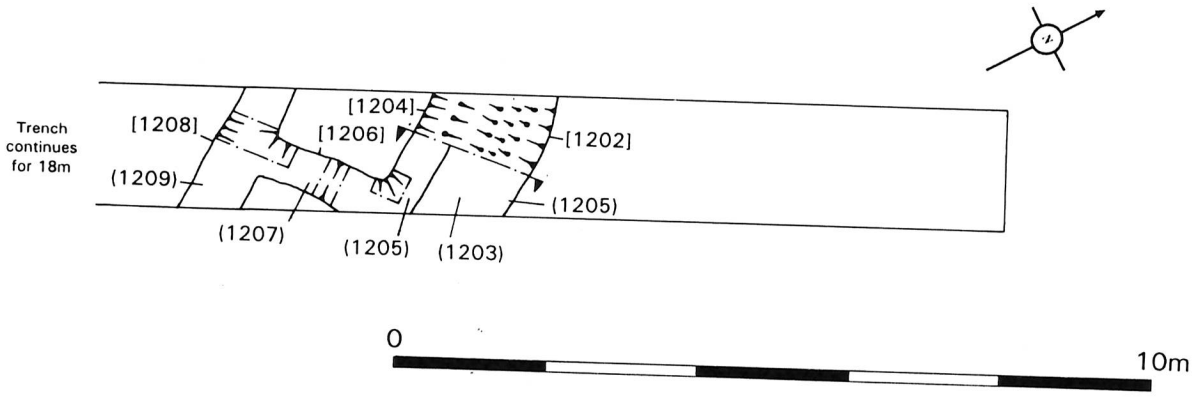


Fig. 7 Trench 11; plan and section



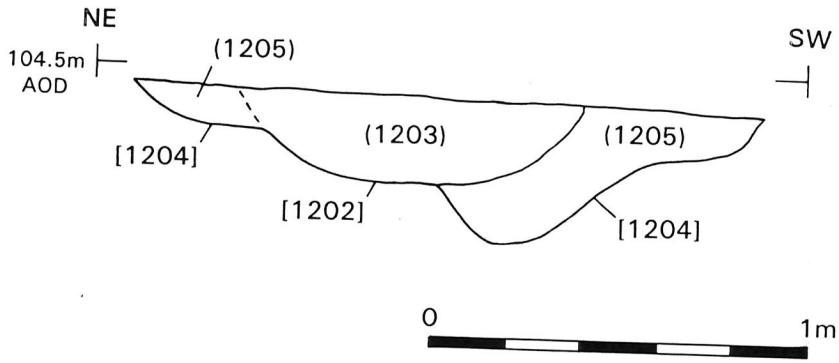


Fig. 8 Trench 12; plan and section