

Land at Horcott, Gloucestershire

NGR SU 4152 1990

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeological Unit

September 1996

**Land at Horcott, Gloucestershire
Sitecode: HRC 96.**

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

A report on the field evaluation undertaken between 19.8.96 and 30.8.96 on land at
Totterdown Lane, Horcott, near Fairford, Gloucestershire.

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LIST OF CONTENTS

Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Site Topography and Geological
- 3 Archaeological Background
- 4 Methodology and Strategy
- 5 Results
- 6 Pottery Analysis *by Paul Booth*
- 7 Conclusions

Bibliography

APPENDIX

- 1 Summary of Stratigraphy

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1 General site location plan
- 2 Area of site
 - 3 Plot of trench locations, cropmarks and identified features
 - 4 Plan of trench 1
 - 5 Trench 2, plan and section.
 - 6 Trench 8, plan and section.
 - 7 Trench 4, plan.
 - 8 Trench 12, plan and section.

Summary

A series of field boundary ditches, trackway ditch-works and two possible enclosures were identified within the evaluation area, and support cropmark evidence observed on an aerial photograph taken during the summer of 1995.

Sample sections were excavated for Ninety percent of all features identified. A total of 60 Roman pottery sherds were recovered principally from the upper fills of sampled features, and is considered a relatively low density. A precise date for features cannot be attributed with certainty, although it is likely that the trackway and field systems identified would have gone out of use by the end of the 2nd century A.D.

Several ditches exhibited different orientations to the overall pattern of field boundaries and trackways, and were located to the north-west of the site. These may be part of a more fragmentary field pattern not contemporary with the general field boundary and trackway system.

Two ditch sections excavated in Trenches 4 and 20, may be associated with a circular cropmark tentatively interpreted as a ring-ditch. One sherd of pottery dated between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD was recovered from excavated sections through this feature.

1 Introduction

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an evaluation on land to the south of Totterdown Lane adjacent to RAF Fairford airbase, on behalf of ARC (Southern). Twenty trenches were excavated, and represent a 4% sample of an area that has been proposed to be developed for gravel extraction. The initial evaluation comprised nineteen 30 m long x 1.50 m wide trenches which targeted cropmarks plotted from an aerial photograph (RCHE SU 1499/7 SU1499991). An additional trench measuring 33 m x 1.5 m was excavated to confirm the presents of a possible ring ditch identified on the aerial photograph, but not conclusively revealed within trenches in the initial evaluation.

2 Site Topography and Geology

2.1 The site lies at OS reference SU 41521990, and comprises approximately 5 ha of arable land. The field is bounded by Totterdown Lane to the West; Fairford airfield to the South; Totterdown Farm annex to the North and a disused camp site to the East (figure 1).

2.2 The site is situated to the south of the present gravel quarry extraction areas with a similar field set to pasture to the south-west and gently rising pasture to the north-east. The site is flat at a level of approximately 80m OD, with a slight decline at the South.

2.3 The underlying geology of the site comprise sandy gravels which overlay clay beds.

2.4 A layer of 'dirty gravel' was found beneath the existing topsoil in all trench excavations. This layer was typically between 0.05m and 0.20m thick and represented an interface between the ploughed topsoil and the natural sandy gravels below. Archaeological features were sealed by the 'dirty gravel'.

3 Archaeological Background

Seven aerial photographs that showed the development area were consulted prior to field evaluation (see Bibliography). Only the most recent photograph taken during the summer of 1995 revealed cropmarks within the development area (RCHE SU 1499/7 SU1499991). No Sites and Monument Record (SMR) has been referenced within the bounds of the development area.

Cropmarks identified have been interpreted as a possible NW/SE-aligned trackway and linear ditches with associated field boundary ditches radiating from it at 90 degrees (figure 2). The cropmarks continue beyond the development area to the south-west, and have been identified by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) as SMR no.3058. A similar series of cropmarks (GCC SMR nos.2416 and 2417) comprising enclosures, tracks and linear ditches have also been identified 500 metres to the west of the development area, north-west of Rhymes barn. No date has been attributed to any of the above described cropmarks in the area.

Map sources dating back to the enclosure awards of 1815 were referenced prior to the field evaluation (see Bibliography). The enclosure awards show a NE-SW-aligned division through the centre of the development area (not necessarily a physical division). All other maps sources referenced showed no variation from the present site topography and no points of archaeological interest were noted.

4 Methodology and Strategy

4.1 Trenches were excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket down to the first significant archaeological horizons, or in their absence to natural subsoil. The resultant surfaces were cleaned, planned, levelled and recorded in accordance with the OAU field manual (edited David Wilkinson 1992); where applicable sample sections were excavated through the fills of features. Initial excavation identified a low density of finds, and it was decided that a higher percentage sample over the site was necessary to attempt reliable dating of features. Trench locations were surveyed by the OAU using a Total Station Theodolite (TST).

5 Results

Rather than providing a trench-by-trench description, this section has been organized to address the results of specific cropmarks targeted during evaluation. Figure 3 shows all features identified in trench locations. A table of contexts is provided in appendix 1.

5.1 The Trackway; trenches 6; 7; 8; 15 and 10

Trenches 8 and 15 were located across the NW-SE-aligned linear feature identified from cropmarks and thought to represent a trackway with parallel double ditches; Trenches 6 and 7 were placed to investigate a similar SW-NE-aligned linear feature; and Trench 10 targeted a NW-SE-aligned linear feature to the east and parallel to the principal trackway (figure 3).

5.1.1 Three NW-SE-aligned ditches ([8], [14], and [15]) were identified in Trench 15, and correlate with targeted cropmarks. All three ditches were broad compared to their depths; the

largest ditch ([8]) located in the SW-end of the trench had a width of 4.8 m and was 0.6 m in depth. Ditches [14] and [15] to the NE of the trench had similar dimensions, and ditch [14] cut the fills of ditch [15]. Ditch [8] has gently sloping sides and a flat base, whereas ditches [14] and [15] have steeper stepped sides. An upper Fill (10) of ditch [14] contained a single sherd of pottery dated between the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

5.1.2 Trench 8 contained a complex series of intercutting ditches ([10], [11], [12],[18],[24], and [27]) on the same NW-SE alignment as those identified within trench 15 (figure 6). It was not possible to discern direct relationships between the features identified within trenches 8 and 15, although their alignment suggests that they are associated with the same feature. No finds were found from fills of features within Trench 8.

5.1.3 Trench 6 contained a large NE-SW-aligned cut [16] which corresponded with the southern-most trackway ditch visible as a cropmark (Figure 3). Intercutting ditches [5] and [9] within trench 7 also lay on the southern line of the trackway cropmark. Ditch cut [18] was parallel to ditch [16], 7m to its SE, and may represent the northern ditchwork associated with the trackway.

5.1.4 Trench 7 contained two large NE-SW-aligned intercutting ditches [5] and [9]. Ditch 5 cut Ditch 9 and had a width of 3.00 m and was 0.5 m deep. Both ditches follow the alignment of ditch [16] within Trench 6, and possibly represent a continuation of the southern trackway ditch. A narrow (0.2m wide x 0.12m deep) irregular cut [11] had a fill similar to the 'dirty gravel' subsoil and was thought to be a more recent feature.

5.1.5 Trench 10 targeted NW-SE-aligned cropmarks thought to be ditchworks parallel to the trackway running through the centre of the site. A series of NW-SE-aligned ditches ([9], [10], [12], [15], [18], [22], [26], [29]) were identified. The widths of the identified ditches varied between 0.5 m and 1.5 m and their depths were between 0.35 m and 0.62 m. 28 sherds of pottery were recovered from within the fills of the ditches and were dated to between the 1st the late 3rd centuries AD: A later date than those identified in ditch sections from the principal NW-SE and SW-NE-aligned trackway ditches.

5.2 Field Boundaries

5.2.1 Trench 13 was located to examine a cropmark thought to be a field boundary ditch aligned at 90 degrees from the central NW-SE-aligned trackway cropmark. One large ditch [8] and three or possibly four parallel NE-SW-aligned ditches [10];[13];[14] and [15] were located, and possibly represent reestablished field boundary ditches. Ditch [8] measured 3.2 m across and was over 0.7 m deep, and was filled by a blackish-brown silty clay (7) which contained gravel and charcoal. Pottery identified from Fill 7 has been dated to between the late 1st and 3rd centuries AD. Two smaller ditches [10] and [13], 1.5 m to the SE of ditch [8], had width and depths of 1.75 m x 0.15 m and 1.7m x 0.4 m respectively. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, although ditch [13] cut the fill of ditch [10].

Two very shallow NW-SE-aligned linear cuts ([14] and [15]) with maximum depths of 0.1 m were found in the SE-end of Trench 13, and possible represent later shallow field ditches that have been truncated.

5.2.2 Trench 19 contained a NE-SW-aligned ditch [4] with a width of 1.15 m and a depth of 0.35 m. No finds were identified.

5.2.3 Although no cropmarks were identified near the location of Trench 16, in the eastern corner of the site, three NE-SW-aligned ditches ([6];[12] and [13]) were located. Ditches [12] and [13] were shallow and had widths of 1.3 m and 1.1 m with depths of 0.15 and 0.25 m respectively. Ditch [6], near the centre of the trench, had well defined edges with a flat base and contained large quantities of angular limestone.

A shallow cut at the extreme SE of trench [16] appeared to be turning from the east towards the south-west. A single round posthole [8] which had vertical sides and a flat base, and measuring 0.32 m in diameter and had a depth of 0.2 m, was located towards the middle of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these features.

5.2.4 Trenches 9 and 11 were placed to investigate the possible line of a NE-SW-aligned cropmark which appeared on the aerial photograph to cut all cropmarks in its path (Figure 3). A ditch [10] followed the alignment of the cropmark in Trench 9, and measured 2.0 m across x 0.62 m deep. No finds were recovered. Two narrow linear features ([5] and [12]) were identified in the trench, and were W-E and NW-SE-aligned respectively. Ditch [12] was excavated and exhibited a shallow (0.1m) profile.

5.2.5 Trench 11 contained two parallel NE-SW-aligned ditches [2] and [6]. These features measured 1.5m wide x 0.45 deep and 2.0m wide x 0.6m deep respectively, and had similar U-shaped profiles.

5.2.6 It seems likely that ditch [10] located in Trench 9 is related to at least one of the ditches found within Trench 11, and that the cropmark shown is a later field boundary ditch that post-dates the central trackway and associated features.

5.2.7 Trenches 3 and 5 were placed to investigate a NE-SW-aligned cropmark thought to be a field boundary ditch. Trench 5 contained three NE-SW-aligned ditches ([5];[8] and [10]), with gently sloping sides and rounded bases. The largest ditch [10] measured 2.0m in width and was 0.5m deep. No finds were recovered from excavated sections.

5.2.8 Trench 3 contained two ditches ([10] and [12]) with dimensions of 2.05 m across x 0.45m deep and 0.93m across x 0.2m deep respectively. Both had similar profiles with gently sloping sides and rounded bases. An upper fill (9) of Ditch 10 contained a single pottery sherd dated between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Three features ([6];[8];[14]) not related to the SW-NE-aligned cropmark were identified in Trench 3.

5.2.9 Trench 17 was placed to investigate an irregular cropmark in the SE-corner of the site. Three NW-SE-aligned ditches ([4];[8] and [12]) were identified. Ditch [12] had a rounded base and was 1m wide with a depth of 0.23m; ditch [4] had a 'V' shaped profile, and measured 0.65m across x 0.35m deep; and ditch [8] measured 1.47m across x 0.40m deep, with straight sides and a stepped base. Both upper fills (9) and (13) of ditches [8] and [12] respectively contained pottery dated to the 2nd century AD.

5.2.10 Several ill-defined features were investigated in Trench 11, but were thought to be natural due to their irregular shape. Shallow irregular NW-SE-aligned cuts of [12], [14], and

[22] were thought to be possible remnants of former field boundary systems.

5.3 Circular and Rectilinear Enclosures

Trenches 2, 4, and 18 and an additional trench (Trench 20) targeted cropmark enclosures; trenches 4 and 20 investigated a possible ring-ditch; Trench 2 a rectangular enclosure in the N-E corner of the site; and Trench 18 a rectangular enclosure in the SW corner of the site.

5.3.1 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 18.

5.3.2 Six ditches ([6], [10], [13], [17], [19] and [20]) were located in Trench 2 (figure 5). The largest ditch [10] had a width of 3 m and was 0.7 m deep. The SE-side of the ditch was noticeably curving from the SEE to the NW within the excavated section. Ditch 17 was similar to ditch [10], curving from the SEE towards the NW, and was the southern-most recut of a similarly curving but smaller ditch cut [13]. It was approximately 2.6 m wide and 0.5m deep, and was deeper on its SE-side. A 'V' shaped ditch [20] that measured 1 m across and was 0.44 m deep, cut the smallest curving ditchworks [13].

Ditch 13 may be part of a separate phase of enclosure which turns further to the NW, or possibly part of a NW-SE-aligned field boundary system. An irregular curving cut [6] at the NE-end of trench 2, turned from SSE towards the NNW. It measured 0.95m across and was 0.25m deep, and may be natural in origin.

Ditches [10], [13] and [17] possibly relate to the rectilinear cropmark. Pottery identified in the upper fill (14) of ditch [17] has been dated to the 2nd century AD.

5.3.3 Trench 4 was located to investigate a possible circular cropmark. Initial excavation identified four ditches on different alignments ([4], [7], [10], and [18]; see figure 7). All of the ditches within this trench had similar U-shaped profiles with flat or slightly rounded bases. Ditch [18] had a NW-SE-alignment; ditch [7] a NEW-SEE-alignment; and ditch [10] a E-W-alignment. A small pit [13] was half-sectioned and found to have vertical sides and a flat base which appeared disturbed by root activity. No finds were recovered.

5.3.4 An additional Trench (20) was excavated on a parallel alignment to Trench 4, with an aim of identifying the circular cropmark not conclusively identified in Trench 4 (section 5.3.3). Trench 20 revealed an E-W-aligned ditch [6] which contained one sherd of pottery dating between the 1st and 3rd centuries. Ditch [6] is possibly a continuation of ditch [7] in Trench 4. Alternatively ditch [6] is a concentric ditch parallel to ditch [10] and possibly part of the targeted circular cropmark.

A smaller NW-SE-aligned ditch [8] identified in Trench 20 is possibly a continuation of a linear ditch [18] within trench 4.

5.4 Miscellaneous Features; trenches 1;3;4;12 and 20.

Trenches 1, 3, 4, and 6 in the northern corner of the site contain several features not identified from cropmark evidence.

5.4.1 Trench 1 contained four ditches and a possible posthole (figure 4) . Three of the ditches ([4], [7], and [15]) had similar profiles with steep sides and rounded bases and followed a NW-SE-alignment. It is possible that these ditches relate to former field boundaries. A N-S-aligned ditch cut [10] with shallow sides which quickly deepen to become partially undercut (see figure 4, section 22), had a width of 2.05 m and was 1.12m deep. A lower fill (11) of ditch [10] contained fragments of bone and burnt stone, although no dating evidence was recovered. A steep-sided and flat bottomed irregular posthole [6], which had dimensions of 0.48 m x 0.4 m and was 0.26 m deep, was identified in Trench 1 but had no direct relationship with other observed features.

5.4.2 Two features within the NW-end of Trench 6 do not seem to correlate with the overall pattern of field boundaries and trackways across the site. A broad E-W-aligned ditch [6] (approximately 3.7m across x 0.58m deep) that turned to the north-west, contained one sherd of pottery dated between the 1st and 2nd Centuries AD. A NW-SE-aligned ditch [10] was partially visible beneath the cut of ditch [6].

5.4.3 Trench 6 targeted what was believed to be a large pit on the line of the NW-SE trackway. This feature was located and sectioned down to a depth of 1.2m but not fully excavated. No finds were recovered from its fills and no relationship, and it is possible that this feature was a quarry pit that post-dates the trackway feature.

6 Pottery Analysis by Paul Booth

Sixty sherds of Roman pottery, weighing some 674 g, were recovered from 17 contexts (in Trenches 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 17 and 20) during the evaluation. They ranged from late 1st to late 3rd century in date. The material was scanned briefly by context group, with salient characteristics noted on recording sheets using standard codes for ware and type (etc) employed in the OAU pottery recording system.

6.1 Condition

The sherds were in no more than moderate condition, many having the poor surfaces characteristic of pottery from a number of assemblages in the region and probably a consequence of soil conditions rather than taphonomic processes. The average sherd size was not particularly large - discounting 13 sherds from a single vessel in context 2/14 the average weight was c 9 g.

6.2 Fabrics and Forms

The range of fabrics was typical for the region. The dominant ware group was reduced (grey) wares, which totalled 32 sherds (53% of the assemblage). These included probable Savernake and other North Wiltshire products. The second most important ware group was black-burnished ware (BB1) with 14 sherds. Oxidised coarse wares (6 sherds), fine (Oxford colour-

coated ware - 6 sherds) and single sherds of samian ware (probably Central Gaulish) and a probable white-slipped fabric were also present. The oxidised wares included both North Wiltshire and probable Severn Valley wares. The range of forms was equally unexceptional. Jars (including BB1 cooking pots), bowls (in samian and Oxford ware), a dish and a probable tankard were all present, but few were closely dateable.

6.3 Chronology

The small size of the assemblage precludes any detailed consideration of chronology. All the material came from small groups with few diagnostic sherds in each and most of the fabric groups identified had a relatively wide date range. The earliest material present was probably amongst the reduced coarse wares: sandy fabrics (R20 group) and some of the probable Savernake type sherds (3 were identified) could have been of 1st century date, though this was not necessarily the case. The presence of black-burnished ware in five of the 17 context groups indicates a 2nd century or later date for these. All the Oxford ware sherds were from a single context (10/9), with rims of Young (1977) types C45 and probably C47 present). The former type was particularly common in a number of recently-examined production assemblages assigned to the late 3rd century (the dating for both types, given by Young (ibid,

On balance the outside ends of the date range for the assemblage as a whole are probably late 1st/early 2nd century to late 3rd century, or possibly a little later. The bulk of the material is quite consistent with a 2nd-3rd century range, though it is not capable of being closely placed within that range.

6.4 Discussion

The size and condition of the assemblage are sufficient to indicate the proximity of settlement, rather than deriving from agricultural processes such as manuring (for example, such an activity would generally produce an even lower average sherd weight than that recorded here).

The assemblage is typical of a number of groups from the region, including those from Stubbs Farm, Kempsford and Whelford Bowmore, in that its date range lacks both early and late Roman components, and in the relatively high representation of black-burnished ware. As with these other two sites, the Horcott assemblage probably derives from a relatively low status settlement. The total absence of mortaria, amphorae and white wares would support this view, but the group is of insufficient size for this subjective assessment to be tested analytically.

Reference

Young, C J, 1977, Oxfordshire Roman pottery, Brit Archaeol Rep (British Series) 43

7 Conclusions

7.1 Reliability

7.1.1 The evaluation took place during a dry sunny period, and fills of features became sun baked and bleached in the sun. Although these conditions made the identification of features difficult, it was not thought that they impair the overall results of the evaluation.

7.1.2 Features identified during the evaluation have been superimposed on the plot of cropmarks identified on aerial photograph RCHE SU 1499/7 SU1499991 (figure 3). Cropmarks were plotted using the Möbius Network method. Since the above mentioned aerial photograph of the site was taken from an acute oblique angle a distortion in the plot is expected, biased towards the NW of the site.

7.1.3 Control points extrapolated from the OS 1:2500 map were used to survey targeted trench locations. These points were not ideal, but an accuracy of $\pm 1\text{m}$ is expected. It should be noted that resultant errors of ground survey and aerial photography plotting could be greater than a trench width.

7.1.4 A higher density of archaeological features was uncovered during evaluation, than would have been expected from aerial photograph evidence alone. This created problems when assessing the spatial relationships of features from trench-to-trench.

7.2 Preservation

All of the archaeological features uncovered have been truncated by long periods of ploughing, which has created a layer of 'dirty gravels' beneath the present topsoil. The full extent of damage to the archaeology is unknown, although some features recovered during evaluation only retained depths of 0.1 m.

7.3 Discussion

7.3.1 The principal network of cropmarks identified from aerial photograph RCHE SU 1499/7 SU1499991 probably represent trackway ditches with associated radiating field boundary ditches, and can be tentatively dated between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. A greater concentration of features has been identified during evaluation than would be expected from the aerial photograph evidence, and possibly demonstrate that principal ditches associated with the trackway and field boundary network have been reestablished during their use. Plough action has truncated all features identified across the site and the trackway surfaces have subsequently not survived.

7.3.2 Pottery located within trackway ditches in Trench 10 are of a later date (typically 2nd to late 3rd century rather than 1st-2nd century) than pottery from trackway ditches in Trenches 6 and 15. This may suggest that the trackway evaluated within Trench 10 is later than the more extensive NE-SW and NW-SE aligned trackway system investigated within trenches 6, 7, 8 and 15.

7.3.3 Trench 7 identifies two intercutting ditches on the south-western side of what is interpreted as a NE-SW-aligned spur of the principal trackway that runs through the centre of the site. However no corresponding parallel north-western aligned ditches were identified. This sheds doubt on the interpretation of the NE-SW-aligned cropmark as a trackway. Cropmark evidence covering areas to the south-west of the site (GCC SMR no.3058) show the possible trackway cropmark continuing to the south-west with associated field boundaries. It is therefore possible that the trackway continues to the south-west or that radiating field boundaries respect a single ditched boundary.

7.3.4 Trenches 4 and 20 were located to investigate a circular cropmark in the central north-west area of the site. Ditches [10] and [6] within trenches 4 and 20 respectively, may confirm the presence of a ring-ditch, however this evidence is not thought to be conclusive. One sherd of pottery dating between the 1st & 3rd century was identified in ditch cut [6].

7.3.5 Several ditches have been identified within trenches, 1, 3, 4 and 6, within the north-west end of the site, that do not seem to correspond with the overall orientation of field boundaries across the site. These features could be associated with a separate field boundary systems not related to the trackways.

7.3.6 The average sherd weight identified from excavated features is high enough to indicate the proximity of settlement rather than the presence purely due to agricultural processes. Two possible postholes and one small pit were the only evidence that could be interpreted as relating to structural and domestic activity. The large pit located within trench 12 contained no finds and is likely to be evidence of quarrying post-dating the principal concentration of features. Little can be extrapolated from two isolated postholes found in Trenches 1 and 16, since neither produced finds evidence.

7.3.7 All of the pottery found during evaluation has been dated between the 1st and late 3rd centuries, but since most finds recovery was from upper ditch fills, this only implies that the field systems and other ditch-works have gone out of use by the late 3rd century. The pottery recovered suggests a relatively low status site, since mortaria, amphorae and white wares were absence from the assemblage.

B Matthews
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Bibliography

Map Evidence

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1st edition OS 1:2500. Gloucestershire sheets LII.15, LII.16, LX.3, LX.4. 1873-84.

OS Map book to go with the parish of Kempsford 1877.

1st edition OS 6". 1885

OS Landranger 1:50 000. 163. Cheltenham and Gloucester area.

OS Pathfinder 1:25 000. 1134. SU 09/19. Cricklade.

OS 1:2500. SU 15,99. SU 15,98.

SMR Search (SU 14,98 14,99 15,98 15,99.) Gloucester County Council.

RCHME AP plot : 2416 Crop marks showing enclosures and trackways, probably Romano-British; 2417 Ring-ditch; 3057 Trackway; 3058 Trackway; 3155 Enclosure; 3199 Enclosure.

Vertical Aerial Photographs held by ARC Southern.

2151, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164. 21.8.1989. 1:10 000.

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Oblique Aerial Photographs held by RCHME, Swindon.

SU1499/7, SU1499/2/409, SU1499/5, SU1499/3, SU1499/1/127, SU1599/6, SU1599/1,

SU1499/7, SU1599/6.

APPENDIX

1 Summary of Stratigraphy

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
1/1	Layer	Topsoil	0.2m		
1/2	Layer	'Dirty gravel' interface	0.08m		
1/3	Layer	Natural gravels	unknown		
1/4	cut	NE-SW 'U' shaped ditch	0.35m (0.65m)		
1/5	fill	fill of above	3.5m		
1/6	cut	Oval Posthole	0.26m (x 0.48 x 0.4m)		
1/7	fill	fill of above			Yes
1/8	cut	Plough-mark			
1/9	fill	fill of above			
1/10	cut	Vertically sided, lipped ditch	1.12 (x 2.05m)		
1/11	fill	fill of [10]		Animal bone	
1/12	fill	"			
1/13	fill	"			
1/14	fill	"			
1/15	cut	Rounded ditch cut	0.42 (x 1.45m)		
1/16	fill	fill of above			
1/17	cut	Flat based ditch	0.43 (x 0.83m)		
1/18	fill	fill of above			
2/1	layer	topsoil	0.2m		
2/2	layer	subsoil	0.2m		
2/3	layer	natural	unknown		
2/4	fill	fill of [6]	0.22m		
2/5	"	"	0.1m		
2/6	cut	irregular ditch/ gully	0.3m (x 1.1m)		
2/7	fill	fill of ditch [10]	0.5		
2/8	"	"	0.12m		
2/9	"	"	0.1m		
2/10	cut	broad, rounded ditch	0.7 (x 3.1m)		
2/11	fill	fill of cut [20]	0.4m		
2/12	"	fill of ditch [13]	0.38m		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
2/13	cut	curving ditch	0.36m		
2/14	fill	fill of ditch [17]	0.2m	13 sherds 2 C	
2/15	fill	"	0.2m		
2/16	"	"	0.15m		
2/17	cut	SE-NW broad ditch	0.5 (x 2.1m)		
2/18	fill	fill of shallow gully [19]	0.23m		
2/19	cut	shallow gully	0.23 (x 0.45m)		
2/20	cut	linear, NW-SE 'U' shaped recut	0.9 (0.4m)		
3/1	layer	topsoil	0.2m		
3/2	layer	subsoil	0.15m		
3/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
3/4	fill	fill of shallow ditch [6]	0.1m		
3/5	"	primary fill of [6]			
3/6	cut	shallow ditch/gully	0.2 (x 0.9m)		
3/7	fill	fill of [8]			
3/8	cut	partially exposed semi-circular feature	0.25 (x 1.65+m)		
3/9	fill	fill of [10]	0.45m	1 sherd 1-2 C	
3/10	cut	partially exposed linear NE-SW	0.44 (x 2.14m)		
3/11	fill	fill of [12]			
3/12	cut	NE-SW shallow ditch	0.2 (x 0.9m)		
3/13	fill	fill of [14]	0.36m		
3/14	cut	partially exposed semi-circular feature	0.36m		
3/15	fill	fill of gully/ land-drainage	0.07m		
3/16	cut	shallow linear NW-SE	0.07		
4/1	layer	topsoil	2.2m		
4/2	layer	subsoil	0.07m		
4/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
4/4	cut	N-S linear ditch, flattish base/ rounded sides	0.44 (x 1.6m)		
4/5	fill	fill of ditch [4]	0.08m		
4/6	"	"	0.36m		
4/7	cut	NW-SE linear ditch	0.38 (x 1.45m)		
4/8	fill	fill of [7]	0.m		
4/9	"	"	0.2m		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
4/10	cut	E-W linear ditch	0.48 (x 1.5m)		
4/11	fill	fill of ditch [10]	0.29m		
4/12	"	"	0.22m		
4/13	cut	possible pit	0.33 (x 0.97 x 1.1m)		
4/14	fill	fill of possible pit [13]	0.12m		
4/15	fill	upper fill of [13]	0.21m		
4/16	fill	fill of small pit [17]	0.2m		
4/17	cut	possible small circular pit	0.2 (x 0.35m dia)		
4/18	cut	linear NW-SE shallow ditch	0.3m (x 1m)		
4/19	fill	fill of [18]	0.3m		
5/1	layer	topsoil	0.25m		
5/2	"	subsoil	0.1m		
5/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
5/4	fill	of shallow ditch [5]	0.1m		
5/5	cut	linear E-W shallow ditch	0.1m (x 0.56m)		
5/6	fill	upper fill of [8]	0.18m		
5/7	fill	primary fill of [8]	0.12m		
5/8	cut	E-W linear shallow cut	0.25 (x 2.1m)		
5/9	fill	of [10]	0.5m		
5/10	cut	E-W linear ditch	0.5 (x 1.9m)		
5/11	fill	possible fill of natural feature ?	0.47m		
5/12	cut	irregular, possibly natural feature	0.47m (x 3m)		
6/1	layer	topsoil	0.22m		
6/2	"	subsoil	0.1m		
6/3	fill	upper fill of broad ditch [6]	0.35m	1 sherd 1-2 C	
6/4	"	fill of [6]	0.15m	Animal bone	
6/5	"	primary fill of [6]	0.07m		
6/6	cut	broad turning flat based ditch	0.57 (x 3.7m)		
6/7	fill	of possibly natural feature [8]	0.2m		
6/8	cut	indefinite possibly natural feature	0.2 (x 0.95m)		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
6/9	fill	of ditch [10]	0.15m		
6/10	cut	NW-SE truncated ditch	0.15		
6/11	fill	upper fill of ditch [15]	0.16m		
6/12	"	fill of ditch [15]	0.35m		
6/13	"	"	0.24m		
6/14	"	"	0.13m		
6/15	"	primary fill of ditch [15]	0.5m		
6/16	cut	NE-SW running ditch	0.5 (x 3.15m)		
6/17	fill	fill of [18]	un-exc		
6/18	cut	NE-SW linear appears in section	"		
6/19	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
7/1	"	topsoil	0.23m		
7/2	"	subsoil	0.1m		
7/3	fill	upper fill of [5]	0.32m		
7/4	fill	primary fill of [5]	0.19m	Animal bone	
7/5	cut	broad intercutting ENE-WSW ditch	0.53 (x 3.05)		
7/6	fill	upper fill of ditch [9]	0.25m		
7/7	"	fill of ditch [9]	0.43m		
7/8	"	primary fill of ditch [9]	0.18m		
7/9	cut	ENE-WSW ditch	0.88 (x 3.0m)		
7/10	fill	of gully [11]	0.1m		
7/11	cut	small ENE-WSW gully	0.1 (x 0.38)		
7/12	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
8/1	layer	topsoil	0.2m		
8/2	"	subsoil	0.1m		
8/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
8/4	fill	upper fill of ditch [6]	0.13m		
8/5	"	primary fill of ditch [6]	0.1m		
8/6	cut	shallow SE-NW rounded ditch	0.2m (x 2.0m)		
8/7	fill	primary fill of ditch [10]	0.28m		
8/8	"	possible primary fill of ditch [10]	0.22m		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
8/9	fill	of [11]	0.56m		
8/10	"	primary fill of [11]	0.55m		
8/11	cut	re-cut of ditch [10]	0.55m		
8/12	cut	re-cut of ditch [10]	0.55m		
8/13	fill	fill of cut [12]	0.55m		
8/14	fill	of [15]	0.18m		
8/15	cut	small NW-SE gully	0.18m		
8/16	fill	of [17]	0.17m		
8/17	cut	small NW-SE gully	0.17m		
8/18	cut	NW-SE ditch	0.55m		
8/19	fill	primary fill of ditch [18]	0.45m		
8/20	"	fill of [21]	0.35m		
8/21	cut	recut of ditch [18]	0.35m		
8/22	fill	fill of [23]	0.25		
8/23	cut	recut of ditch [18]	0.25m		
8/24	cut	NW-SE ditch	0.37m		
8/25	fill	fill of [24]	0.37m		
8/26	"	fill of [27]	0.52m		
8/27	cut	NW-SE ditch cut	0.52 (x 2.26)		
8/28	fill	fill of ditch [29]	0.4m		
8/29	cut	of NW-SE rounded ditch	0.4 (x 1.25)		
8/30	fill	fill of NW-SE small ditch	0.23m		
8/31	cut	small NW-SE ditch	0.23 (x 0.25)		
8/32	fill	fill of possible pit or gully [33]	not fully exc.		
8/33	cut	partially revealed pit or gully	not fully exc.		
9/1	layer	topsoil	0.3m		
9/2	"	subsoil	0.05m		
9/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
9/4	fill	fill of gully	not exc.		
9/5	cut	cut of narrow E-W probable gully	"		
9/6	layer	alluvial spread	0.14m		
9/7	fill	upper fill of ditch [10]	0.2m		
9/8	"	fill of ditch [10]	0.18m		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Findings	Environmental samples
9/9	"	primary fill of ditch [10]	0.15m		
9/10		NE-SW linear ditch	0.52m (x 1.85)		
9/11	fill	fill of shallow gully [12]			
9/12	cut	shallow concaved SW-NE gully			
10/1	layer	topsoil	0.15m		
10/2	"	subsoil	0.1m		
10/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
10/4	cut	possible gully	0.21 (x 0.34)		
10/5	fill	fill of "	0.21m		
10/6	cut	semi-circular feature adjacent section	0.22 (x 0.66)		
10/7	fill	fill of [6]	0.22m	5 sherds 2-3 C	
10/8	cut	small SE-NW ditch	0.16 (x 0.7)		
10/9	fill	fill of [8]	0.16m	10 sherds late 3rd C.	
10/10	cut	NW-SE linear shallow ditch	0.16 (x 1.2)		
10/11	fill	fill of [10]	"	8 sherds late 2-3rdC.	
10/12	cut	NW-SE linear shallow ditch	0.18 (x 0.36)		
10/13	fill	fill of [12]	0.18m	2 sherds 2nd C.+	
10/14	layer	mixed gravelly spread			
10/15	cut	NW-SE broad shallow cut	0.5 (x 2.2m)		
10/16	fill	fill of [15]	0.25m		
10/17	fill	fill of [15]	0.25m	1 sherd 1- 2/3rd C.	
10/18	cut	NW-SE linear concave ditch	0.62 (x 2.0m)		
10/19	fill	primary fill of [18]	0.15m		
10/20	fill	fill of [18]	0.18m		
10/21	fill	fill of [18]	0.24m		
10/22	cut	shallow NW-SE ditch	0.3m		
10/23	fill	fill of ditch [22]	0.1m	2 sherds 2nd C.	

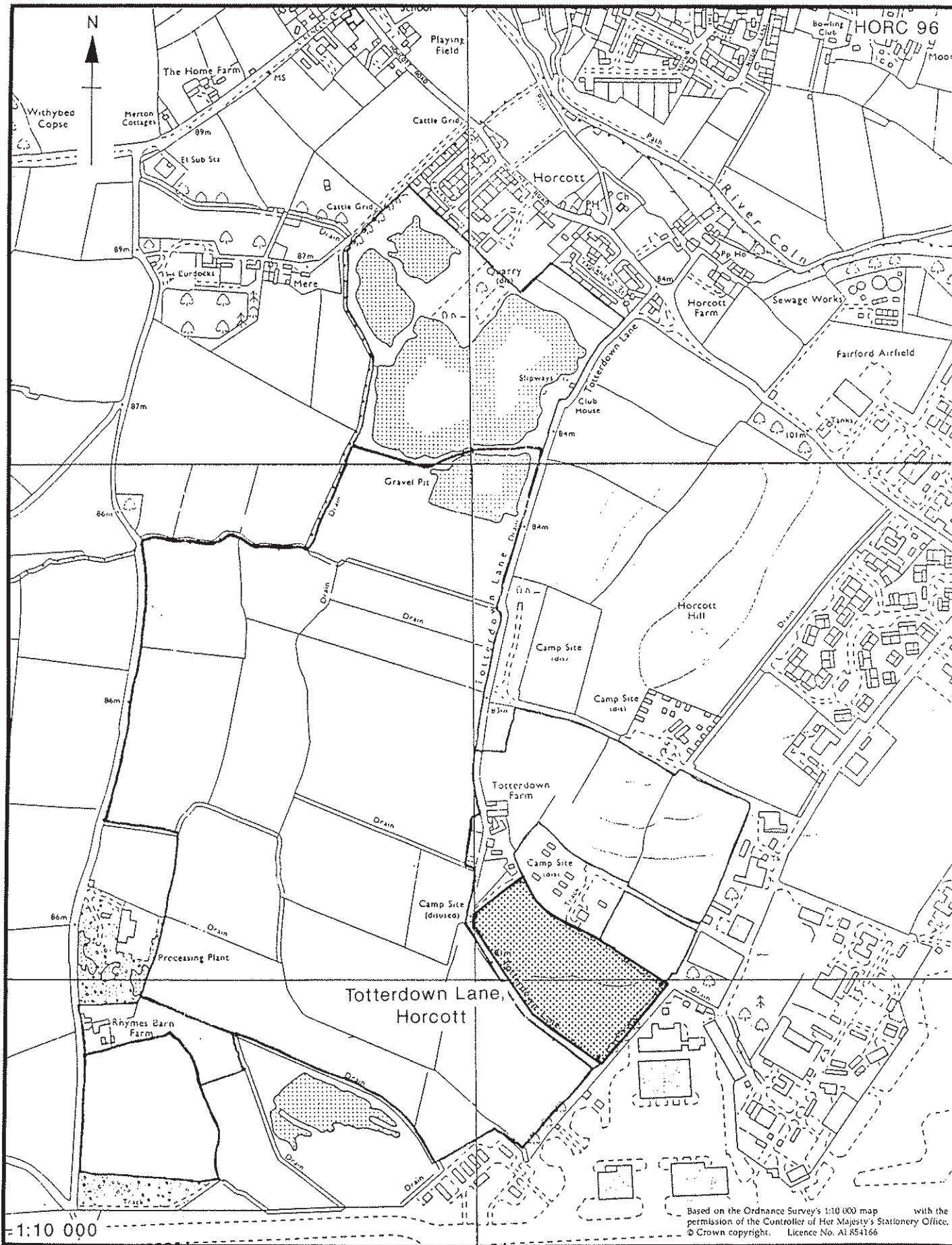
Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
10/24	fill	fill of [22]	0.2m		
10/25	fill	fill of [26]	0.2m		
10/26	cut	linear NW-SE shallow ditch	0.2m (x 0.6m)		
10/27	fill	fill of [29]	0.25m		
10/28	fill	primary fill of ditch [29]	0.07m		
10/29	cut	linear NW-SE truncated ditch	0.35 (0.5m)		
11/1	layer	topsoil			
11/2	cut	NE-SW linear rounded ditch	0.45m (x1.5)		
11/3	fill	fill of "	0.18m		
11/4	"	" " "	0.14m		
11/5	"	" " "	0.15m		
11/6	cut	NE-SW linear rounded ditch	0.83m (1.9m)		
11/7	fill	fill of "	0.15m		
11/8	"	" " "	0.2m		
11/9	"	" " "	0.2m		
11/10	cut	NNE-SSW shallow cut	0.15 (x 0.15)		
11/11	fill	fill of "	0.12m		
12/1	layer	topsoil	0.25m		
12/2	fill	fill of pit [13]	0.28m		
12/3	"	"	0.18m		
12/4	"	"	0.14m		
12/5	"	"	0.14m		
12/6	"	"	0.18m		
12/7	"	"	0.24m		
12/8	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
12/9	cut	shallow NEW-SEE ditch/ gully	0.08, (x 0.84)		
12/10	fill	fill of [9]	0.08m		
12/11	cut	shallow feature at section	0.08 (x 0.86m)		
12/12	fill	fill of [11]	0.08m		
12/13	cut	large pit	1.3m (x 3.8m+)		
13/1	layer	topsoil	0.3m	2 sherds late 1-2 C.	

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Findings	Environmental samples
13/2	layer	subsoil	0.1m		
13/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
13/4	fill	upper fill of ditch [8]	0.28m		
13/5	"	fill of [8]	0.1m	1 sherd late 1-3rd C.	
13/6	"	" " "	0.07m		
13/7	"	" " "	0.2m+	2 sherds late 1-3rd C.	Yes
13/8	cut	NE-SW linear ditch	0.65m+ (x 3.0m)		
13/9	fill	fill of [10]	0.15m		
13/10	cut	shallow NE-SW linear	0.15 (x 1.5m)		
13/11	fill	fill of [13]	0.25m		
13/12	fill	fill of [13]	0.15m		
13/13	cut	NE-SW linear ditch	0.7 (x 1.5m)		
13/14	cut	NE-SW shallow linear	0.3m (x 1.5m)		
13/15	cut	NE-SW shallow linear	0.1m		
14/1	layer	topsoil	0.26m		
14/2	layer	subsoil	0.14m		
14/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
14/4	cut	natural feature	0.23 (x 0.43)		
14/5	fill	fill of [4]	0.23m		
14/6	cut	natural feature	0.3 (0.62m)		
14/7	fill	fill of [6]	"		
14/8	cut	irregular feature	0.23m		
14/9	fill	fill of [8]	"		
14/10	cut	possible posthole	0.12m (x 0.33m dia.)		
14/11	fill	fill of [10]	"		
14/12	cut	NW-SE linear shallow ditch / gully	0.12 (x 0.53m)		
14/13	fill	fill of [12]	"		
14/14	cut	NW-SE linear ditch / gully	0.32 (x 0.64m)		
14/15	fill	fill of [14]	"		
14/16	cut	irregular cut			

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
14/17	fill	fill of [16]			
14/18	cut	natural feature			
14/19	fill	fill of [18]			
14/20	cut	natural feature			
14/21	fill	fill of [20]			
14/22	cut	irregularly sided NW-SE linear	0.27 (x 1.13m)		
14/23	fill	fill of [22]	"		
14/24	cut	natural feature			
14/25	fill	fill of [24]			
14/26	fill	fill of tree-bole			
14/27	cut	irregular feature			
14/28	fill	fill of [27]			
15/1	layer	topsoil	0.25m		
15/2	"	subsoil	0.06m		
15/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
15/4	fill	of [8]	0.23m		
15/5	fill	of [8]	0.4m		
15/6	fill	of [8]	0.14m		
15/7	fill	of [8]	0.1m		
15/8	cut	linear NEW-SEE rounded ditch	0.66 (x 3.7m)		
15/9	fill	of [14]	0.22m		
15/10	fill	of [14]	0.2m	1 sherd late 1-2nd C. Animal bone.	
15/11	fill	of [15]	0.25m		
15/12	fill	of [14]	0.35m		
15/13	fill	primary fill of ditch [15]	0.22m		
15/14	cut	broad NW-SE ditch	0.5m (x 2.2m)		
15/15	cut	broad NW-SE ditch	0.2 (x 3m)		
15/16	fill	of [17]	0.12m		
15/17	cut	possible shallow ditch	0.2m (x 1.06m)		
15/18	fill	of probable posthole [19]	0.14m		
15/19	cut	probable posthole	0.14 (x 0.24m dia.)		
16/1	layer	topsoil	0.26m		

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
16/2	"	subsoil	0.16m		
16/3	"	natural gravels	unknown		
16/4	cut	E-W linear ditch	0.17m (0.65m)		
16/5	fill	of [4]	"		
16/6	cut	NE-SW linear ditch	0.25 (x 0.6m)		
16/7	fill	of [6]	"		
16/8	cut	circular posthole	0.2 (x 0.32 dia.)		
16/9	fill	of [8]	"		Yes
16/10	cut	small N-S linear	0.09 (x 0.19)		
16/11	fill	of [10]	"		
16/12	cut	shallow NE-SW linear ditch	0.2 (x 0.4m)		
16/13	cut	indefinite, possibly natural cut	0.56 (x 3.1m)		
16/14	cut	indefinite, possibly natural feature	0.18 (x 1m)		
16/15	fill	of [14]	0.18m		
16/16	fill	of [13]	0.18m		
16/17	fill	of [13]	0.15m		
17/1	layer	topsoil	0.24m	1 sherd 2nd C.	
17/2	layer	subsoil	0.12m		
17/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
17/4	cut	NW-SE linear 'V' shaped ditch	0.33 (x 0.78m)		
17/5	fill	of [4]	0.2m		
17/6	fill	of [4]	0.08m		
17/7	fill	of [4]	0.09m		
17/8	cut	SW-NE linear ditch	0.4 (x 1.47m)		
17/9	fill	of [8]	0.29m	5 sherds late 2nd C.+ Animal bone	
17/10	fill	of [8]	0.07m		
17/11	fill	of [8]	0.17m		
17/12	cut	W-E linear rounded ditch	0.25 (x 0.9m)		
17/13	fill	of [12]	0.12m	4 sherds 2nd C.?	

Context number	Type of context	Interpretation / Comments	Depth (and width) of deposit	Finds	Environmental samples
17/14	fill	of [12]	0.13m		
18/1	layer	topsoil	0.22m		
18/2	layer	subsoil	0.08m		
18/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
19/1	layer	topsoil	0.22m		
19/2	layer	subsoil	0.1m		
19/3	layer	natural gravels	unknown		
19/4	cut	NE-SE linear ditch	0.43 (x 1.2m)		
19/5	fill	of [4]	"		



Site location plan

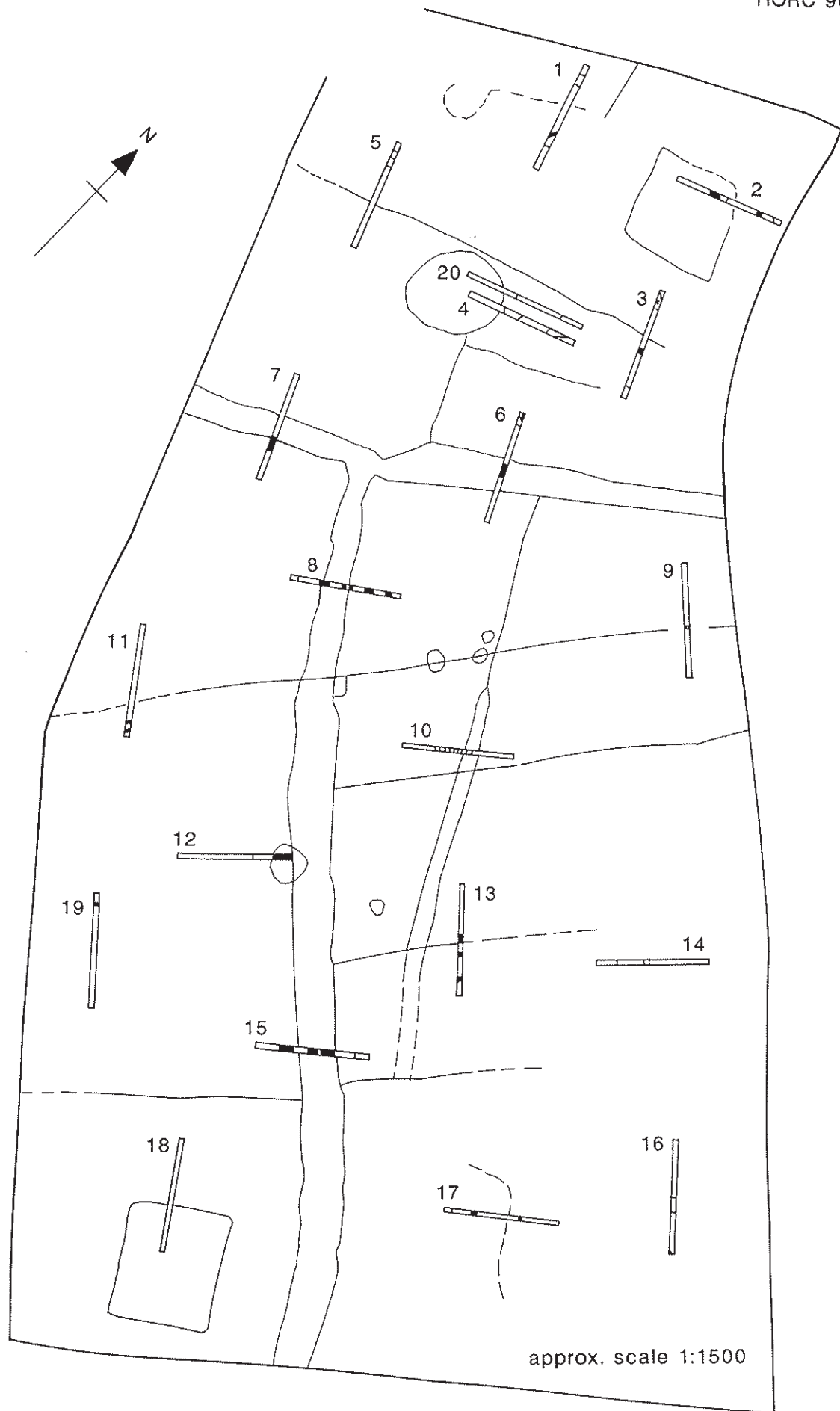
figure 1



Cropmark plot and trench locations

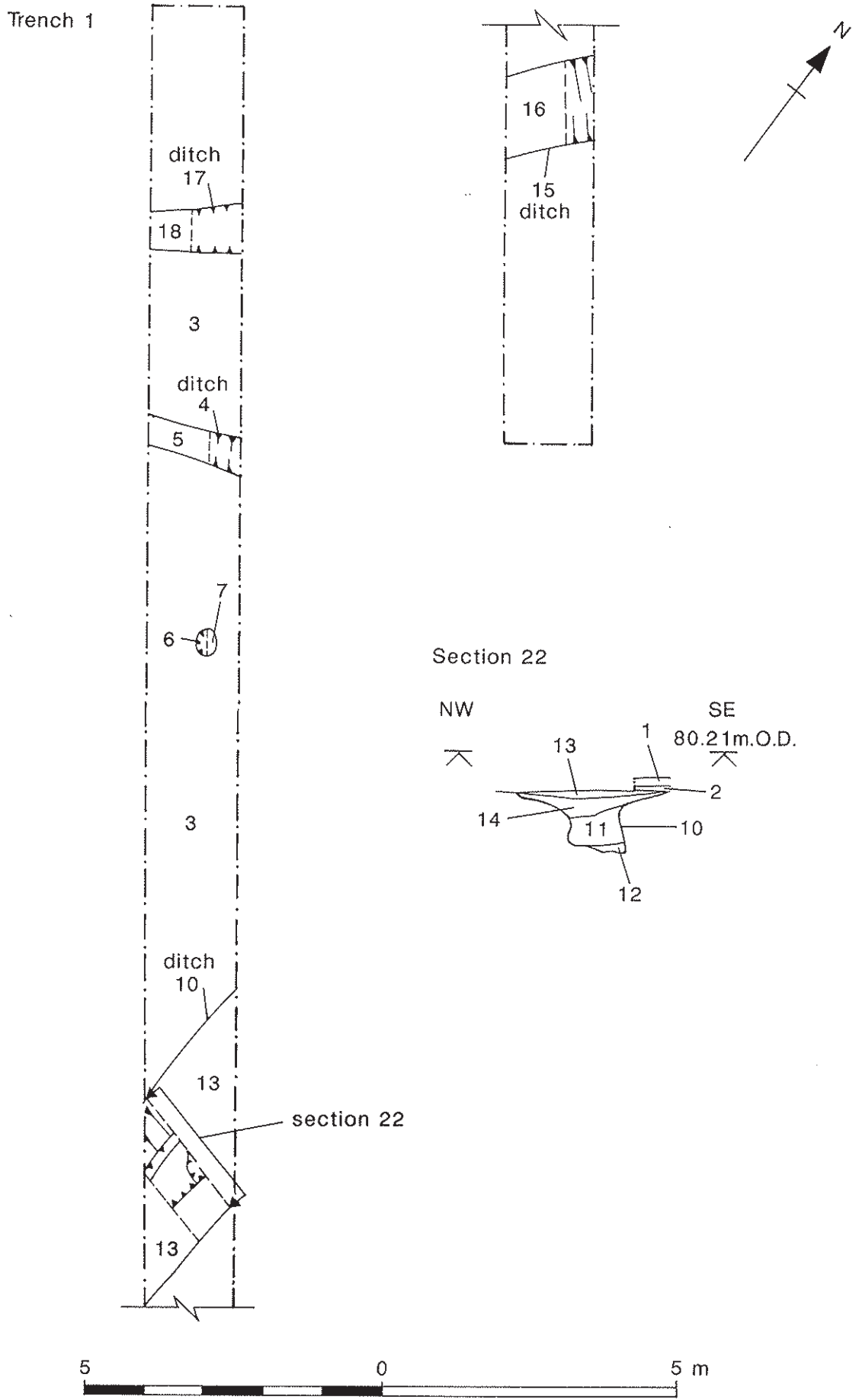
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figure 2



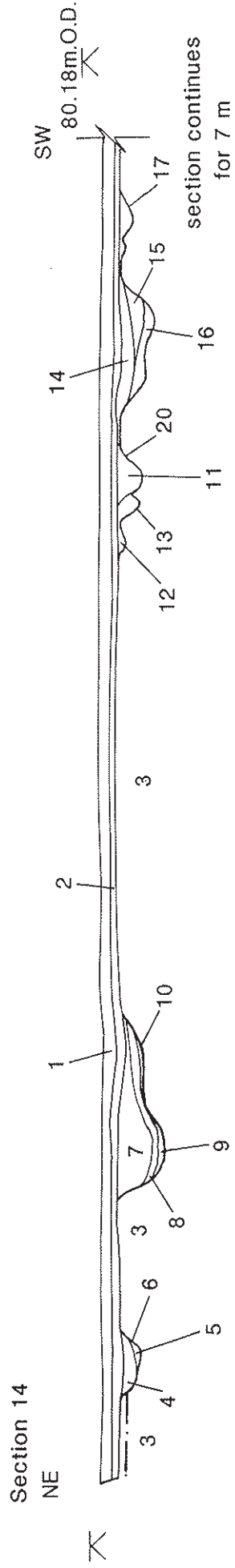
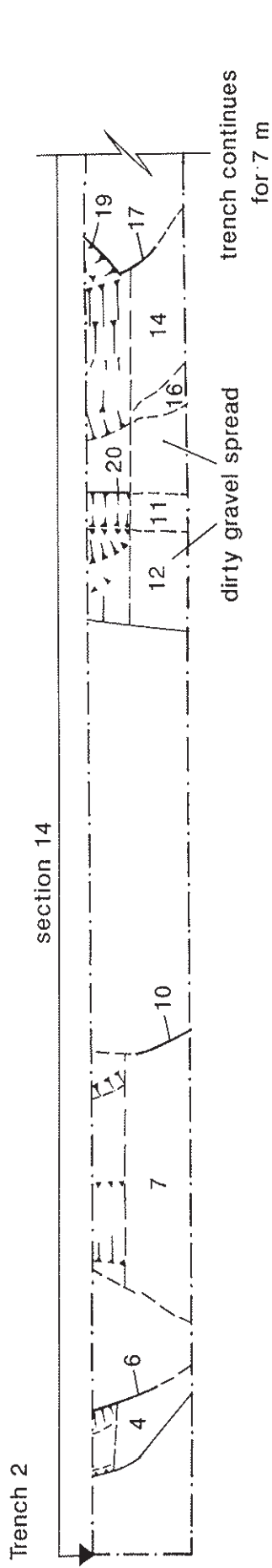
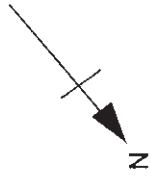
Plot of cropmarks and location of trenches and main features

figure 3



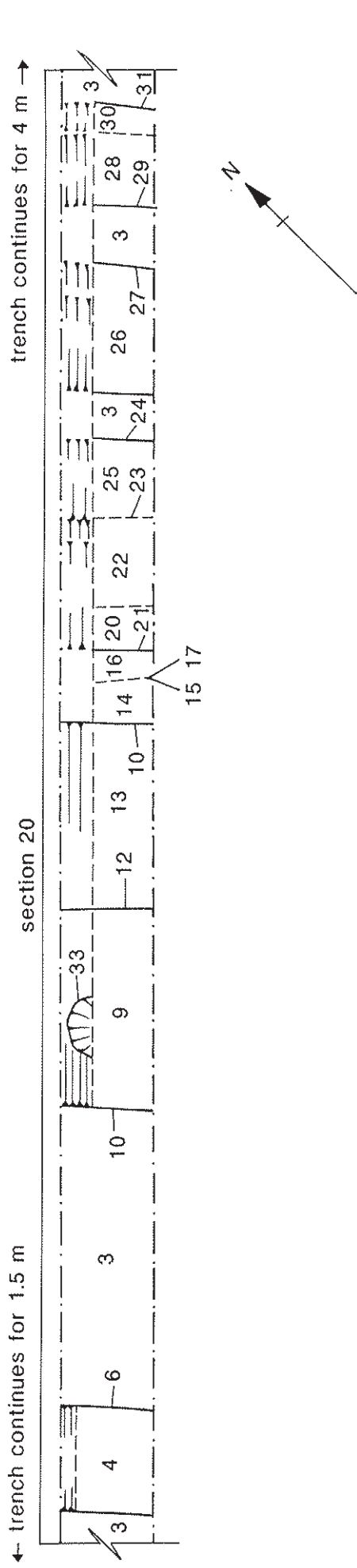
Trench 1: plan and section

figure 4

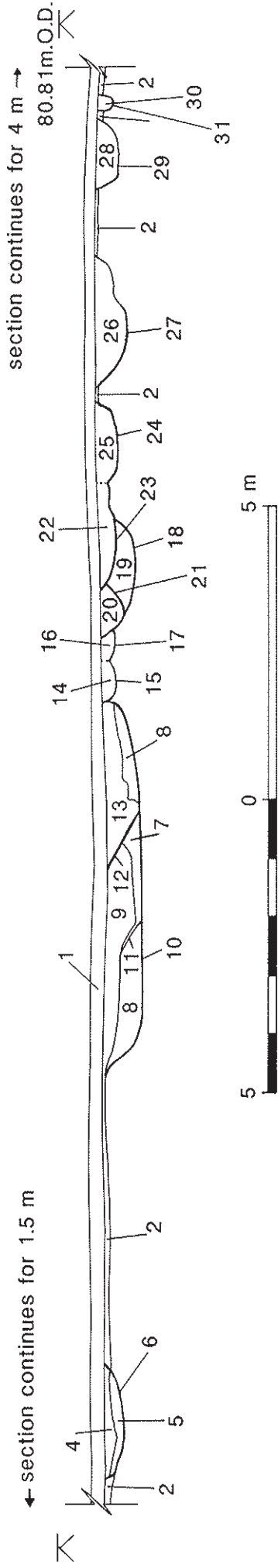


Trench 2: plan and section

Trench 8



Section 20
SW



Trench 8: plan and section

figure 6

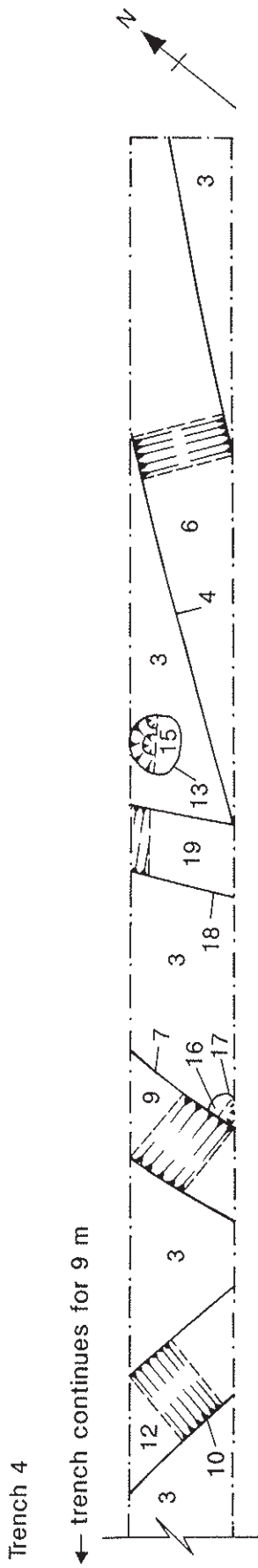
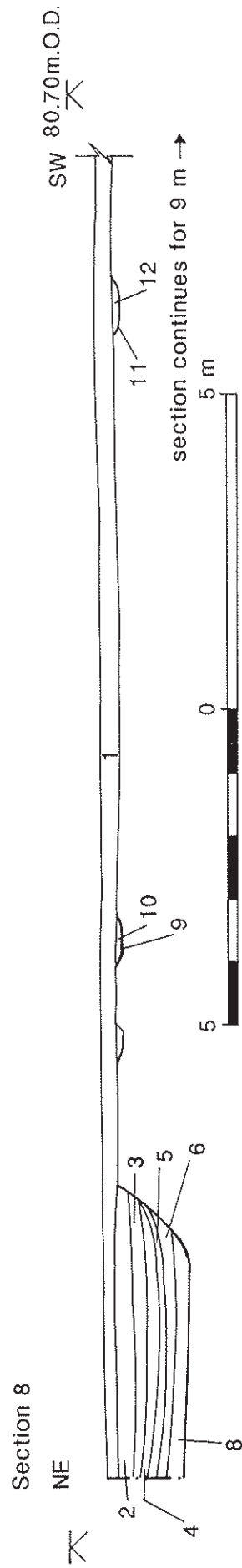
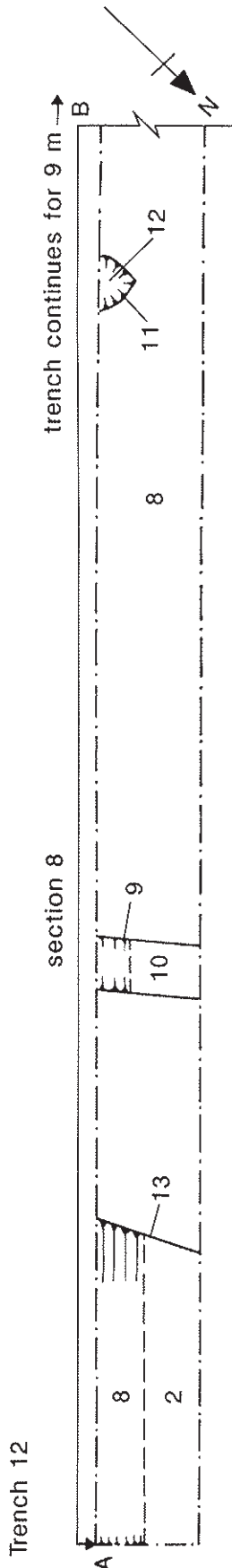


figure 7

Trench 4: plan



Trench 12: plan and section

figure 8



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