

Annex 2
Eton Rowing Course

Detailed Description of Assessment

Oxford Archaeological Unit
February 1990

ANNEX 2

ETON ROWING COURSE

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENT
FEBRUARY 1990

STRATEGY

A total of 31 trenches were laid out to cross cropmarks shown on the aerial photographs, in addition to investigate blank areas off the gravel islands.

The assessment trenches were dug using a 360° excavator with a 6 foot grading toothless bucket.

SOILS

The ploughsoil varied in depth from 0.23 m to 0.30 m. It consisted of a dark gray-brown silty loam, more sandy and gravelly on the higher areas and more clayey with less flint gravel in the lower areas.

On the higher gravel island areas the modern ploughsoil directly overlay the natural gravel. Off the gravel islands however, an earlier ploughsoil survives. This is a mid-brown to reddish brown silty loam, which generally produced very few finds, but where it coexisted with features it always overlay them. Its maximum depth was 0.30 m, but averaged 0.10 m - 0.15 m deep.

Trench	Depth of modern ploughsoil	Areas where <u>no</u> earlier ploughsoil survives
1	0.23 m	All of trench
3	0.30 m	All of trench
19	0.27 m	North western 30 m
20	0.28 m	South western 90 m
22	0.23 m	Western 8 m
23	0.23 m	Eastern 15 m
24	0.30 m	North eastern 12 m
32	0.30 m	South eastern 35 m

SITE I

Trench 1 Length 34 m
 W 49550/94565 E 93524/77540

The trench was dug to locate the west side of the barrow ditch and to cut into, but not completely across, the interior. The barrow ditch appears as a faint cropmark approximately 20 m in diameter.

The modern ploughsoil overlay the undisturbed subsoil, which consisted of a coarse flint gravel with large areas of fine sandy silt within it.

The barrow ditch had a broad U-shaped profile and a fill of uniform mid-brown slightly reddish silt (Fig.2). There was no surviving mound.

Trench 2 Length 30 m
 W 92900/77680 E 92930/77680

This trench, dug to locate the edge of the gravel island, contained no features. Over the eastern 5.0 m the undisturbed subsoil comprised a yellow fine silty sand; for the western 25m the subsoil slopes away and is formed of coarse flinty gravel. The silt corresponds to the higher area of gravel island. Above the gravel on the slope was a very clayey loam with mollusca fragment, which was 0.3 m deep at the western end. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Trench 3 Length 30 m
 N 92935/77750 S 92935/77720

This trench contained no features. Modern ploughsoil 0.30 m in depth directly overlay an undisturbed silty sand with patches of coarse gravel.

Trench 4 Length 30.5 m
 WNW 92830/77750 ESE 92860/77745

The character of trench 4 was similar to trench 2. The eastern end of trench 4 was on the very edge of the gravel island and the remainder of the trench sloped down away off the island. Consequently layers of ploughwash are preserved in the lower areas. The junction of the ploughwash with the island was marked by a ditch 4/9 orientated approximately NW/SE. It had a broad U-shaped profile. The ditch fill was a mid-brown sandy silty loam with occasional flint gravel spilled in from the east side. The primary fill contained occasional charcoal flecks. The relationship between the ditch and the latest layer of ploughwash was uncertain as the fills were so similar.

Below two recent ploughsoils the uppermost ploughwash silt was

a deep layer (average 0.38 m) of friable mid-brown silty sandy loam, numbered 4/4 and 4/5. It contains 5-10% flint gravel, occasional charcoal flecks and worked flints of Bronze Age date. This layer changed to become sandier and clayey at the west end with frequent terrestrial mollusca, suggesting a slightly wetter meadow environment.

Below 4/4 and 4/5 was a series of clays, a stiff mid to dark grey clay with orange mottling and fine gravel overlying a stiffer mid-grey clay with more frequent orange mottling. Both layers contained occasional charcoal 0.23 m deep at the west end.

At the bottom of the sequence 1.36 m down was a mid-grey clay 0.22 m in depth with some desiccated organic remains. This overlay gravel.

Trench 5 Length 60 m
 N 92789/77815 S 92780/77755

Trench 5 showed a similar sequence to the west end of trench 4. The depth from the modern ground surface to the gravel was 2.0m and varied little throughout the trench. This trench lay in the middle of a palaeochannel.

The two ploughsoils overlay a light grey to buff grey sandy clay 0.42 m thick and below this was a stiff buttery orange clay with light grey mottle 0.30 m deep. Bone was recovered from the upper layer. Below this was a desiccated peat layer 0.40 m deep containing small fragments of wood, and below this, a gleyed light blue clay 0.20 m in depth over the pleistocene gravel.

Trench 6 Length 30 m
 N 92825/77905 S 92825/77875

This trench lay completely upon a gravel island. Below the recent ploughsoils it contained an additional layer of reddish brown sandy silt 0.14 m in depth which overlay the gravel and which all the features cut. This contained occasional burnt flint, and is a surviving prehistoric soil. This layer was also encountered in Trench 10 (see below); it was noticeable that this trench occupies a slight hollow which might account for the preserved subsoil. This layer was not encountered in any other trench on the gravel island.

The features include two postholes, 6/4 and 6/6, with a distinct U-shaped profile and a fill of dark brown sandy silty loam and burnt flint.

At the north end of the trench was a small gully 6/6 orientated NW/SE. This narrowed towards the SE; it was filled with a dark brown sandy silty loam with patches of dark grey burning and flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. This gully produced a number of Roman tile fragments and pottery sherds.

Just south of 6/6 was another gully with a broad U-shaped profile orientated ENE/WSW. The fill was a dark brown sandy silty loam

with occasional fine flint gravel and charcoal flecks. Finds include bone but no pottery. Gully 6/8 cut another U-shaped NW/SE gully 6/9 with steep sides, and a mid brown sandy silty loam fill with occasional charcoal flecks.

Trench 7 **Length 32 m**
 W 92788/77845 **E 92820/77845**

This trench lay completely upon the gravel island. It was dug to locate a large L-shaped cropmark etc showing just east of the main Roman enclosure. In this trench the ploughsoils directly overlay subsoil, a mid to light brown silty sand with patches of coarse flint gravel. The ditch was located at the far western end, and is numbered 7/4. It was orientated SW/NE, with sloping sides and a slightly rounded bottom.

The uppermost fill was a dark grey and slightly clayey silt with 5% small fine gravel and frequent charcoal. Pot sherds were large and dated to the early 2nd century AD, and there were also fragments of roof tile. Below this was a mid-brown loam with 5% fine flint gravel, and this overlay more gravelly loam in the ditch bottom.

Trench 8 **Length 28.30 m**
 NW 92755/77995 **SE 92775/77975**

This trench revealed a Roman horizon 8/4 preserved below the ploughsoils in the top of a silted up palaeochannel. The palaeochannel shows as a dark area on the aerial photograph running into the gravel "island" on the W side of the enclosure. 8/4 was a dark grey brown sandy silty loam with 5% flint gravel. It was darker at the SE end adjacent to the gravel island, becoming lighter towards the NW end where it overlay ploughwash silts. The density of finds was greatest at the darker SE end. Here its depth was 0.21 m, but it tapered to 0.08 m at the NW end.

The finds included two iron objects, one a thick U-shaped strap, the other a spike. The spike is square in section and 20.5 m in length, socketed at one end. This is possibly a single-pronged pitchfork. The pottery again indicated an early 2nd century date.

A machine dug trench half way along the trench established the existence of silt layers filling the palaeochannel below the Roman horizon. To establish the nature, density and condition of these layers a 1 metre square hand dug trench was excavated at each end of the trench (Fig. 2).

Below the Roman horizon was a layer of light grey brown fine sandy silt 8/6. This contained burnt and unburnt flint and worked flints were recovered, as well as some large sherds of prehistoric pottery which appear to be from the same vessel. The fabric is sandy and probably Iron Age in date. 8/6 overlay a similar light grey brown layer, 8/7. This was slightly clayey and had slightly more fine gravel than the layer above. This

layer was 0.25 m in depth and slopes down gradually towards the NW. These fine sandy silt layers are consistent with the erosion of silt off the higher gravel terrace adjacent.

Below 8/7 was a layer of burnt flint and charcoal 0.18 m in depth which sat directly upon the gravel channel bottom. It contained 3 Bronze Age sherds. The natural sand and gravel sloped gently away towards the NE.

The hand-dug trench at the NW end showed a similar sequence of silts but no layer of burnt flint. Below the light grey silt 8/7 there was a layer of mid-grey clayey silt with charcoal flecks 8/10. It was 0.18 m in depth uniform throughout and produced no finds.

The clayey silt overlay a compact light to mid-grey coarse sand. This contained small lumps of wood and charred wood and frequent aquatic mollusca (including Freshwater Nerite, Theodoxus fluviatilis) with occasional burnt flint and bone. There was a clear distinction between 8/8 and 8/10 whereas the silt layers above tended to be indistinct and merge together. The grey sand layer was not bottomed because of the depth. The molluscs within the sand shows that the channel was still an active stream when 8/10 was deposited; the overlaying silts represent infilling of the defunct stream-bed.

The hand-dug trenches showed sandy gravel to be 1.30 m below the modern ground surface at the SE end and in excess of 1.90 m at the NW end.

Trench 9 Length 31.5 m
 NW 92695/77945 SE 92705/77915

This trench was situated off the gravel island. Below the two ploughsoils a mid-brown shelly silt was encountered. This layer was machined out to a depth of 0.30 m. No features were revealed and as it was showing a similar sequence to trench 5 it was not investigated further. There were no finds.

Trench 10 Length 27 m
 SW 92765/77910 NE 92790/77920

Here a Roman occupation layer 10/7 was preserved below two recent ploughsoils in a silty sandy depression (Fig. 1). The layer, a dark brown sandy silty loam with 10% flint gravel, extended for 9.0 m along the trench. The pottery included a samian bowl rim with barbotine decoration dating to the 2nd century. Adjacent to 10/7 was a small pit 10/6. The fill, a dark brown silty loam with 45% mixed gravel, produced no finds.

Another pit 10/5, oval with steep sides and a flat bottom contained a dark reddish brown silty fill. This produced Roman pottery and clay fragments. Pit 10/5 cut an adjacent pit 10/4.

Pit 10/4 had a dark brown sandy silt loam fill with flecks of

charcoal and Roman pottery. The area around the two pits was disturbed by animal burrows and included rabbit bones. A possible post hole was recorded cutting into the fill of 10/5, but this may alternatively have been an animal burrow.

At the NE end of the trench was a large ditch 10/8 with very steep sides orientated approximately WNW/ESE. Its width and full profile were not ascertained, as only one half of the ditch lay within the trench. In contrast to the known Roman features this had a light fill, mid-brown sandy silt loam, overlying the primary dark brown silty loam. It produced no finds but post medieval ploughsoil had collected in a depression at the top of the ditch suggesting a possible medieval date. However, this could just indicate the plough sinking into the ditch.

At the SW end of the trench were features 10/10 and 10/11, with a fill of reddish brown sandy silt. 10/10 was an oval pit or possible ditch terminal with 45° slopes and a slightly rounded bottom, and produced burnt flint and 2 prehistoric pottery sherds. 10/11 was a ditch.

Both features were cut into a layer of mid-brown sandy silt with patches of yellow silty sand 10/9. This layer appeared to be disturbed prehistoric subsoil (corresponding to layer 6/7) in a hollow later overlaid by layer 10/7. The sequence suggests an earlier subsoil partly surviving in a hollow which is cut by features 10/10 and 10/11 (both probably Bronze Age) and subsequently overlaid by a Roman occupation layer.

Trench 11 Length 10 m
 NE 92701/77857 SW 92685/77830

This trench was dug for 10 m and contained an identical sequence of layers to trench 5 (see above).

A 15 litre sample was taken from the desiccated peat which contained slightly more woody material than in trench 5. It suggests some variation in the degree of preservation which may improve towards the river.

Trench 24 Length 31.5 m
 NE 92740/77910 SW 92715/77895

This trench was similar in character to trench 34. The NE end lay within the Roman cropmark enclosure and the trench cut across the SW side of the enclosure and ran off the gravel island.

Below ploughsoil was the Roman enclosure ditch 24/9, running NW/SE. It was filled with dark grey to black sandy silty loam. The ditch was not excavated but finds were recovered from the surface. Inside the enclosure ditch to the NE the modern ploughsoil overlay the coarse gravel subsoil. At the SW end outside the enclosure and cut by the enclosure ditch was a sequence of ploughwash layers similar to those in trenches 4 and 32. Beyond the gravel island the post-medieval ploughsoil is

preserved below the modern ploughsoil. This overlay a friable dark reddish-brown humic sandy silty loam 24/4. This contained a horizon of flint pebbles which formed an interface between the ploughsoil and a similar soil below, 24/5. At the SW end a machine dug slot 4m wide was cut through this layer and the clay layers below down to a depth of 1.10m, but at this depth gravel had still not been reached.

Layer 24/4 produced a Roman coin of Hadrian (dated 119-138 AD) from the surface and Late Bronze Age pottery and flint flakes from within the layer. Layer 24/5 was more clayey and contained terrestrial snails, pottery, flint flakes and burnt flint. Below this was 24/6, light brown silty clay with a high density of terrestrial or marshy snails, and below this a stiff yellowish brown clay which also contained terrestrial and marshy snails species and charcoal flecks.

Inside the enclosure were 2 shallow linear gullies orientated NW/SE. Their fills were a mid-brown fine silty loam with 5-10% gravel. 24/10 had a broad U-shape, with gently sloping sides. 24/11 had steep sides and a flat bottom. It is possible that both these features are plough furrows.

Trench 32 Length 47 m
 NW 92728/77966 SE 92761/77933

This trench was positioned within the Roman enclosure and extended NW through the enclosure ditch and off the gravel island. Inside the enclosure the modern ploughsoil overlay clean gravel and there were no features except for a small bowl-shaped pit or posthole 32/6, whose fill was a dark brown sandy silty loam with 15-20% gravel and produced no finds.

The main enclosure ditch 32/5 is orientated NE/SW along the edge of the gravel island. On the SE side it cuts into gravel and on the NW side into layers of earlier ploughwash derived from the island (Fig. 1).

The upper fill was a dark grey brown sandy clay silt with 20% mixed gravel and charcoal. The pottery was again consistent with an early 2nd century AD date. The fill below consisted of mid-grey brown silty loam with 10% mixed gravel. This appears to be continuous with an occupation layer, similar to that in Trench 8, extending west of the enclosure over the ploughwash silts. The primary fill was a dark brown silty loam with 25% mixed gravel and iron and manganese flecking (Fig. 2).

On the NW side the ditch cut a layer of mottled grey and light brown sandy silt. This was cut by a number of features, all of which had a dark brown grey clayey silt and contained burnt flint and charcoal along with calcareous shell flecks. Gully 32/8 was 0.45 m in width and was orientated NE/SW. A similar gully 32/9 running in from the south was not excavated but produced worked flint. The gully terminated within the trench and it may be matched by another gully terminal 32/10 whose edge was just exposed in the N side of the trench.

At the far NW end of the trench was an area of occupation debris in a greyish brown clayey silt with 5% gravel, 32/11. Burnt flint, charcoal flecks, snail shells fragments and Bronze Age pottery came from its surface.

SITE X

Trench 12 Length 30 m
 N 92450/77670 592540/77640

For the southern 10 m of the trench the undisturbed gravel and sandy silt lay 0.75 m below the modern ground surface, north of this it sloped away deeper. Below the recent ploughsoils was a layer of orangey brown shelly sandy clay, which became gleyed towards the bottom. This layer was 0.25 m in depth and contained occasional charcoal, prehistoric pottery and a flint flake. Along with trench 13 this trench suggests the existence of a palaeochannel to the east.

Trench 13 Length 30 m
 W 92515/77695 E 92545/77695

This trench ran from the edge of a gravel island down into a buried palaeochannel. At the west end gravel appeared immediately below the recent ploughsoils, but 8.0 m from the west end the gravel sloped away. Preserved along the slope below post-medieval ploughsoil was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam with 10% flint gravel. This layer was a humic ploughsoil or ploughwash, and contained numerous terrestrial mollusca, charcoal and burnt flint (compare Trench 24). At the east end the layer was 0.25 m deep.

Below the dark humic layer was a succession of ploughwash soils. The uppermost was an orangey brown shelly clay 0.18 m deep, overlying a very shelly sandy orangey grey mottled clay 0.23 m deep. At the east end the trench was dug out to a depth of 1.15 m, but gravel was not located. The sequence is very similar to that in trenches 24 and 32 around Site G.

Trench 14 Length 30 m
 W 92495/77685 E 92525/77685

This trench contained no features, but a dark brown clay layer 14/4 below ploughing produced the occasional burnt flint. This layer, which was 0.19 m deep, overlay the undisturbed gravel, which lay at a corresponding depth to the edge of the gravel island in trench 13 adjacent.

Trench 34 Length 28.5
 NW 92480/77840 SE 92500/77820

This additional trench was dug to establish the extent and density of features on the gravel island adjacent to the river (Site X). Throughout the length of the trench ploughing came

directly down onto truncated features cut into gravel.

At the SE end of the trench were two broad shallow pits 34/4 and 34/5. Both had sloping sides and a flat bottom, and both contained much burnt flint in the upper fill, a dark grey brown silty clay loam with frequent charcoal flecks. This layer also contained some fragments of Late Bronze Age pottery. The layer below was a mid-grey brown silty clay loam with 5-10% small flint gravel and at the bottom was a layer of dirty gravel.

The character of the remaining features was not so clear. 34/6 consisted of a shallow scoop of mid-brown silty clay loam 0.05 m in depth and contained a single burnt flint. 34/9, a slightly irregular U-profiled gully, had a fill of brown silty clay loam with 10% coarse gravel and some burnt flint in the bottom. 34/10, a possible posthole, was bowl shaped and had two fills: dark brown clayey silty loam with occasional fine gravel overlying light brown sandy silty loam with 60% coarse gravel.

34/7 however was an irregular depression filled with brown silty clay and 5% gravel, and was probably a periglacial feature. A similar irregular depression 34/8, 0.14 m and 1.20 m in width, was also probably periglacial.

SITE F East

Trench 16	Length 90 m	
	W 92550/78230	E 92640/78230

Trench 16 ran NW/SE diagonally down the slope of a higher island of gravel. It was laid out to cross a NE/SW orientated "trackway" identified as a cropmark on the aerial photograph, but this was not located. The character of the features was very similar to those in trench 34.

Pit 16/4 was small and ovoid with a rounded base unevenly sloping sides. The upper fill was a very dark brown sandy silt with 60% mixed gravel and occasional burnt flint and charcoal flecks. This overlay dark brown silty loam with 50% gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.

Gully 16/5 was filled with compact mid-brown silty loam with 5% gravel and 2 burnt flints. At the east end of the trench was 16/6, an irregular shallow scoop of dark brown silty loam with 40% coarse gravel contained burnt flint.

Towards the SW end of the trench was a substantial pit 16/7, with a rounded bottom and gently sloping sides. Its upper fill, a mid-brown silty loam with 60% gravel, contained charcoal flecks and burnt flints.

Another pit 16/8, had a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Its upper layer was a brown silty loam with 90% gravel with frequent burnt flints, overlying a grey-brown silty loam with 80% gravel and occasional burnt flint.

Trench 19 Length 111.50 m
 NE 92338/78390 SW 92245/78330

This trench was designed to cut across an L-shaped linear cropmark and to locate the edge of the gravel island. The western 80 m came down on to coarse gravel; for the south eastern 42 m the subsoil was a yellow silty sand with some irregular clayey silt patches. The patches were excavated but proved to be of periglacial origin. The only feature was a very shallow irregular pit 19/4, filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks which contained a crude flint flake.

Trench 20 Length 111.50 m
 NE 92338/78390 SW 92245/78330

Trench 20 was designed to cut across another linear cropmark and at the N end to test for an east-west palaeochannel.

A flint flake and large sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from just above the subsoil.

There were two features. At the SE end of the trench was a large irregular spread of beige silty clay and 40% gravel, with intense red and black burning on the surface, 20/6. The feature had an irregular base, and was interpreted as a shallow tree hole. The other feature was ditch 20/7, orientated NW/SE, with an U-shaped profile. All three fills were light brown silty loams; the uppermost had only occasional gravel, the middle was sandy with 10% coarse gravel, the primary fill clayey with 15% coarse gravel.

Trench 21 Length 80 m
 NE 92175/78465 SW 92100/78435

In trench 21 ploughsoils overlay 21/4, an orange brown sandy clay loam with light grey mottles, occasional charcoal flecks and 5% gravel. This produced flint flakes and Bronze Age pottery.

Below 21/4 was 21/5 a mid-brown silty clay with grey and orange mottles, 10-30% gravel, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese staining. It was 0.20 m deep and overlay the gravel. This clay had penetrated the interstices of the coarse gravel, blurring the distinctions between gravel, periglacial clay hollows and possible features.

Three possible ditches were identified. 21/6 was orientated NE/SW, and had a V-shaped profile of varying depth with a very steep south side. Its upper fill was a dark brown clay with grey mottle and 35% mixed gravel, overlying a blue-grey clay with 20% gravel. There were no finds and the ditch was overlaid by layer 21/5. Ditch 21/7 was of similar profile and was orientated N/S. Its upper fill was a dark brown clay with 10-20% gravel, overlying a yellowish brown sandy clay with 50% gravel. In the absence of finds the steep and shallow sides of these two features suggest they may be of periglacial origin.

Adjacent to 21/7 was another linear spread of dark brown clay with 80% gravel, orientated E/W. This may have been a ditch, but was not excavated and produced no finds.

Trench 22 Length 85 m
NW 91992/78476 SE 92075/78464

In trench 22 ploughsoil overlay undisturbed yellowish brown silty sand with patches of coarse flinty gravel. At the E end the gravel was mixed with silty clay. For the eastern 60 m an earlier ploughsoil averaging 0.22 m in depth survived, overlying the features.

At the western end of the trench were two linear ditches orientated NE/SW. A shallow sided ditch 22/7 extends for 3.0 m and terminates in the trench. It was filled with a mid brown silty loam with 10% mixed flint gravel which contained Bronze Age pottery.

Another larger ditch, 22/13, lay 2.50 m from 22/7 and was orientated parallel to it. This was filled with dark brown silty clay loam with 20% gravel, was not excavated and produced no surface finds.

These two ditches would appear to correspond to the two faint parallel linear cropmarks within the field system on the aerial photograph.

Towards the eastern end was a linear NE/SW gully 22/4 with steep sides and a bowl shape profile. The fill was a dark brown sandy clay with 10-15% coarse gravel.

Adjacent to the gully to the east was ditch 22/5, filled with mid-brown sandy clay with 50% coarse gravel containing the occasional burnt flint. This ditch would also seem to correspond to a linear cropmark within the field system running SE/NW at right angles to the two parallel ditches.

Immediately to the east of the ditch 22/5 were two irregular features, a possible posthole 22/12 and an irregular gully 22/10. At the very east end of the trench was a NE/SW ditch 22/8, filled with very mixed mid to dark brown sandy clay mottled orange and gray and containing 50% flint gravel. This ditch also appears as a cropmark. To the west of the ditch was a line of brown silty clay, 22/9, probably a modern mole-drain.

Trench 23 Length 130 m
WNW 91823/78493 ESE 91952/78481

This trench, like Trench 22, was placed to cut diagonally across the linear cropmarks forming the field system.

At the western end of the trench was a NE/SW ditch 23/14, with a steep U-shaped profile. The upper fill was a dark grey brown

sandy silt with 65% gravel, tipping in from the NW and becoming lighter towards the SE side. The primary fill consisted of a light orangey brown silty sand with 80% small gravel. 23/14 contained a Bronze Age sherd with finger-nail decoration.

To the east of 23/14 was a smaller ditch 23/15 with a steep V-shaped profile. This was possibly curving as it entered the baulk on the N side of the trench. The fill was a dark brown to greyish brown silt with 45% gravel, becoming very gravelly towards the base.

Towards the eastern end of the trench were 3 well-defined ditches. Ditch 23/24 and 23/25 were at right angles to each other, probably two sides of a field boundary, and ditch 23/26 was parallel to 22/5, orientated NE/SW. All three ditches were filled with mid-brown sandy silt with 50-80% gravel, and although none were excavated, they all produced burnt flints.

At the eastern end of the trench the undisturbed subsoil was a yellowish brown fine sandy silt. This was overlain by the modern ploughsoil which was 0.23 m in depth. Cut into the silt were 5 cremations within inverted urns. These were grouped within an area of only 6 square metres, but had been badly truncated by the shallow ploughsoil. The greatest depth of cremation urn surviving was 0.05 m. A table of the cremations is given below:

Cremation	Position	Diameter	Depth of surviving urn
23/7	upturned	28 cm	2.5 cm
23/8	-	28 cm x 13 cm	5 cm
23/9	upturned	22 cm	5 cm
23/11	upturned	30 cm	4.5 cm
23/12	upturned?	14 cm	2.5 cm?

The cremation vessels all have upright rounded rims. None of the surviving portions were decorated. The fill of the urns consisted of a dark brown silty clay loam with burnt bone fragments up to 0.03 m long.

Cremation 23/12 contained small fragments of bone, but no clearly defined urn. It is possible that this cremation was simply placed into a cylindrical hole, and that the heat of the ash and bones partly fired the surrounding clay. A small irregular deposit of cremated bone and charcoal was also recorded just to the NE of cremation 23/11.

Apart from the ditches and cremations 13 other features were recorded. These were mainly pits and possible postholes. These were not excavated, but all but three had burnt flints on the

surface, or a charcoally fill.

Trench 25 Length 37 m
 NW 92150/78595 SE 92176/78575

Modern ploughsoil overlay an orangey brown clay with light blue mottles and occasional gravel below the modern ground surface. Over most of the trench the silty sand subsoil occurred below this at 0.41 m down, but at the NW end this sloped away to 0.51 m down. There were no features and no finds.

Trench 26 Length 30 m
 ENE 92110/75670 WSW 92080/78560

At the ENE end the two recent ploughsoils overlay a stiff orangey brown sandy clay. The clay was mottled grey with manganese staining towards the bottom. The underlying gravel and sandy silt sloped down to the east suggesting an edge to the higher gravel revealed in trenches to the west.

The only feature was a shallow bowl-shaped posthole 26/5 at the W end with a fill of blue-grey clay. There were no finds from it.

Trench 27 Length 41 m
 NE 91990/78550 SW 91980/78590

Below the two ploughsoils in this trench was an additional layer 27/4, a light brown slightly sandy silt with manganese flecking. Throughout the trench were irregular hollows/depressions, filled with mid-brown clayey silt; there was little or no distinction between layer 27/4 and the fill of these depressions. A section was dug through two of the largest depressions, 27/8 and 27/7. Both contained flint flakes, burnt flints and burnt bones.

Between the depressions was a wide ditch 27/5. The northern side was very steep, the south side sloped more gradually and the ditch had a flat bottom. The upper central fill was a reddish brown clay loam with 30% coarse gravel, which overlay a similar soil with 15% fine gravel and sand at the sides, and a compact grey clay with 5% coarse gravel in the middle. On the north side was a large lens of reddish-brown clayey silt.

Trench 28 Length 31
 NE 91860/78610 SW 91830/78600

Below the two ploughsoils the undisturbed subsoil was a yellow sandy silt. Along the trench were large patches of grey-brown clayey silt flecked with manganese. These were very shallow, and are probably not man-made.

SITE D

Trench 29 Length 30 m
 N 91850/78710 S 91850/78680

This trench, positioned in the pasture field south of the probable early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, produced no finds and no features. The topsoil overlay undisturbed silty sand which contained patches of gravel. There was a thin layer of silty sandy loam with 15% flint gravel on the interface between gravel and topsoil.

Trench 30 Length 30 m
 W 91790/78750 E 91820/7875

This trench also lay within the pasture field. The topsoil overlay a gravel subsoil with some sand and silt mixed in.

At the east end were two linear gullies 30/4 and 30/7. 30/4 was orientated NW/SE and was V-profiled, with a yellowish-brown sandy silt fill. Gully 30/7 was not excavated, but ran at right angles to 30/4 and had identical fill.

Also at the E end was a slightly irregular shallow N-S ditch, 30/6, which terminated in the trench. The fill was of mid-brown silty loam with a little fine gravel and contained two flints of probable Neolithic date.

A very similar feature 30/5, an oval pit or ditch terminal, had well defined edges and identical fill to 30/6.

Trench 31 Length 30 m
 N 91850/78800 S 91850/78770

This trench was positioned in the northern part of the pasture field. The two recent topsoils overlay a gravel subsoil.

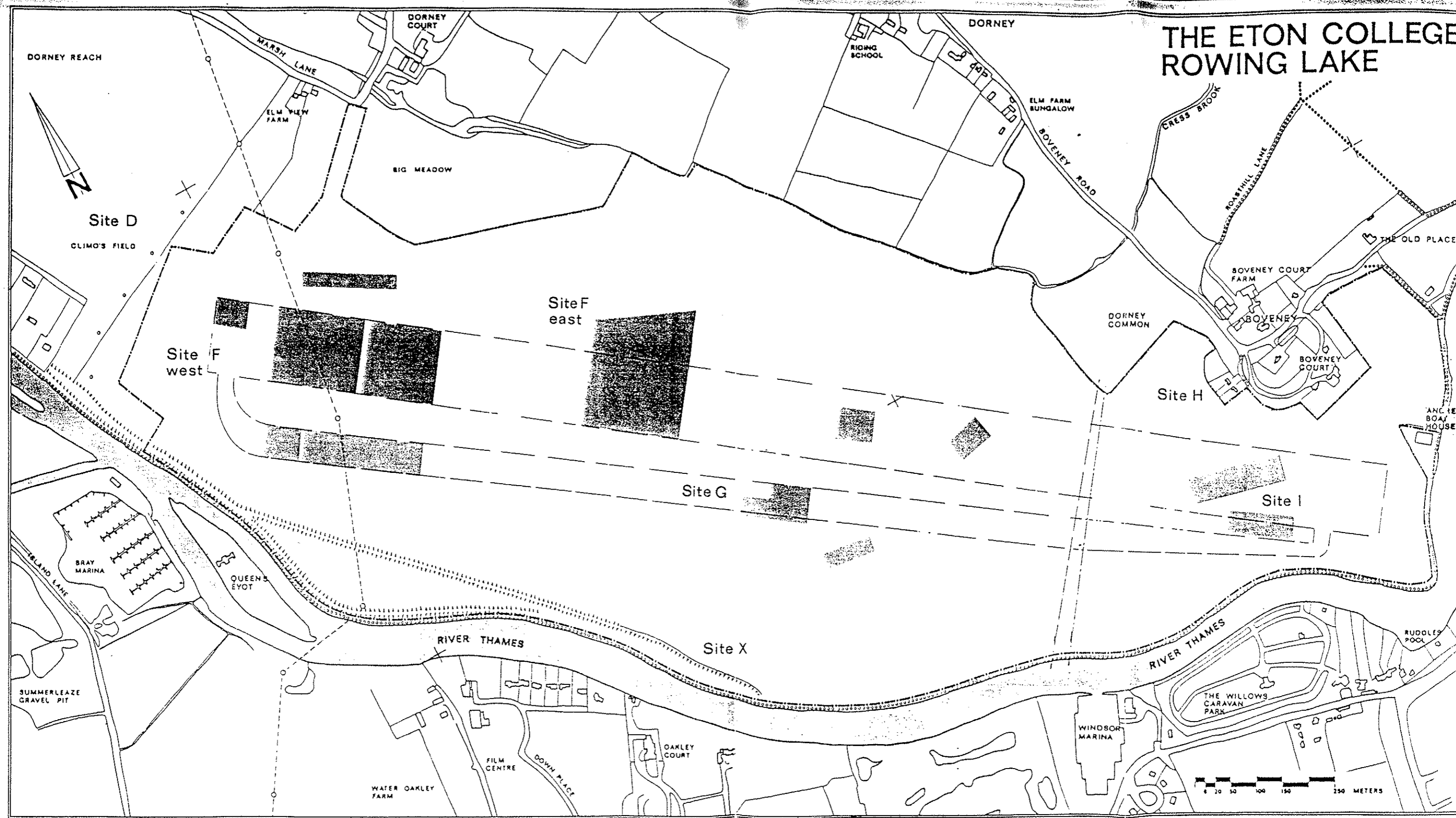
At the very south end of the trench was a patch of mid-brown silty clay loam with 5% coarse mixed gravel. Its edges were not well defined and on the N side the fill underlay redeposited subsoil. This feature was interpreted as a tree hole.

Trench 33 Length 38 m
 N 91905/78848 S 91905/78810


This trench lay nearest to the line of the probable Neolithic cropmarks. Two recent ploughsoils were identified, but there were no features.

A ridge orientated NW/SE was visible on the surface, but below ground was only represented by deeper earlier post-medieval ploughsoil.

THE ETON COLLEGE ROWING LAKE

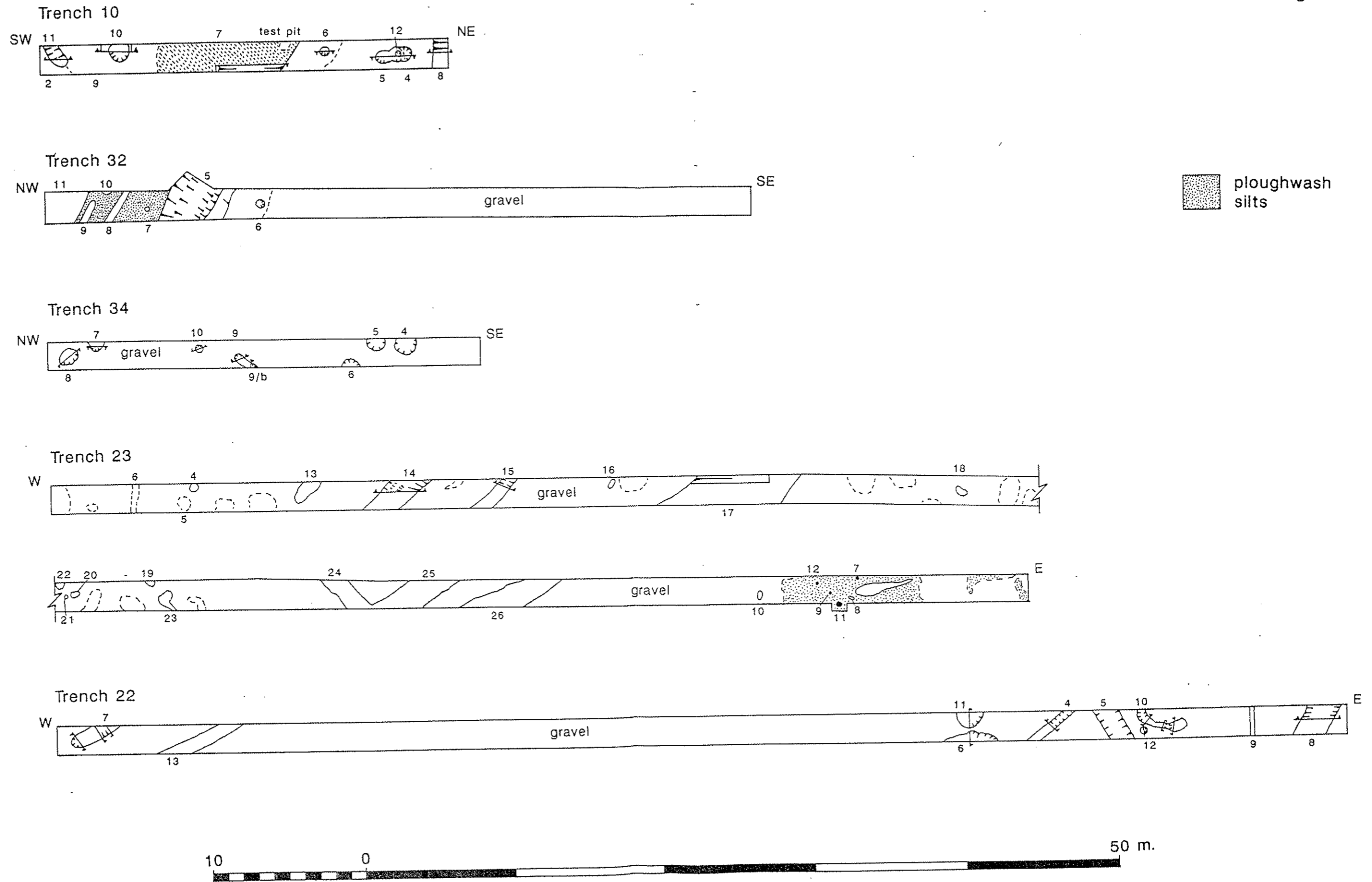


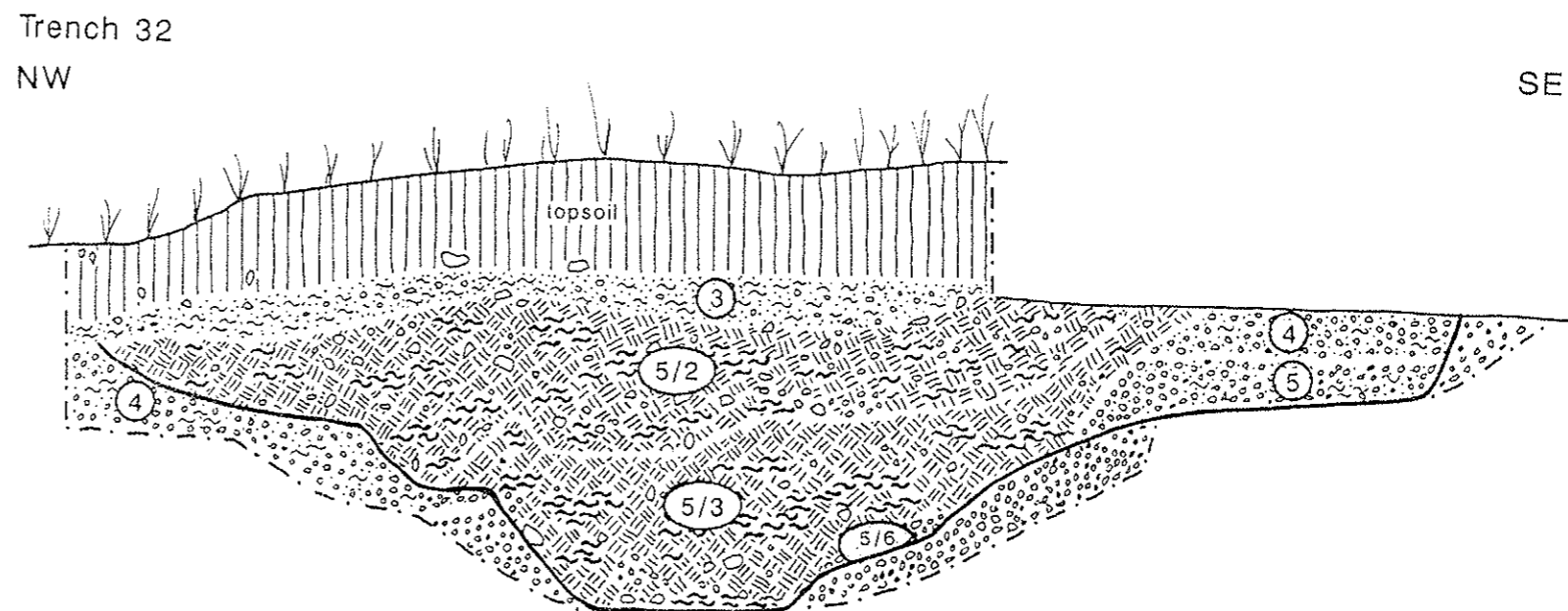
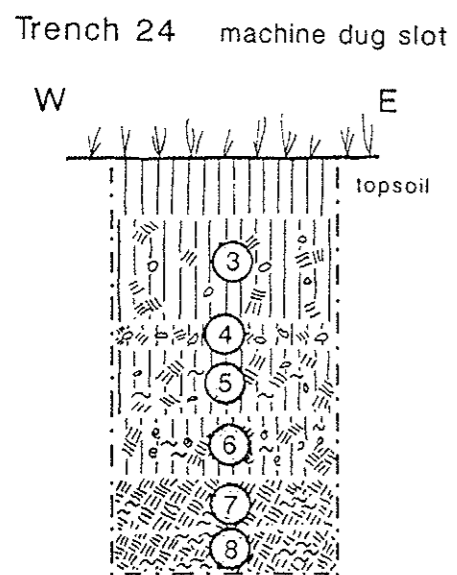
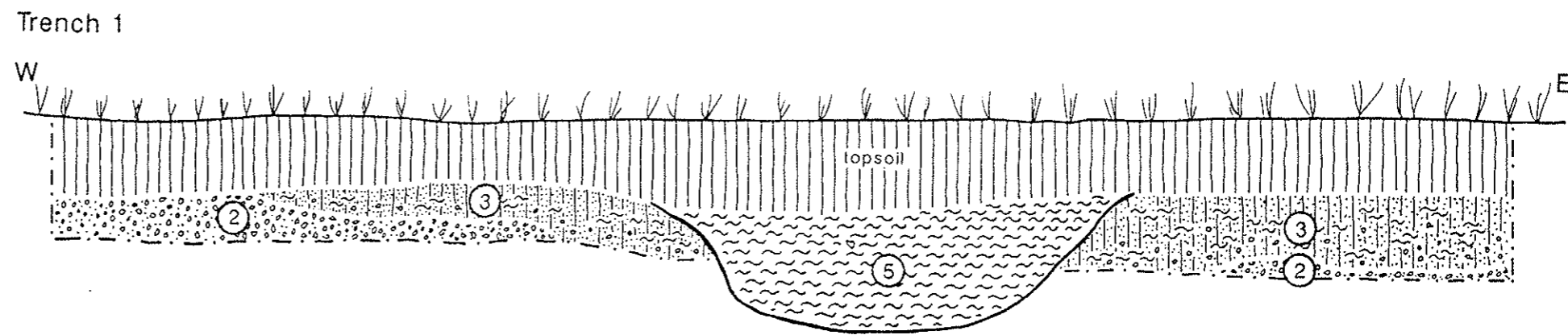
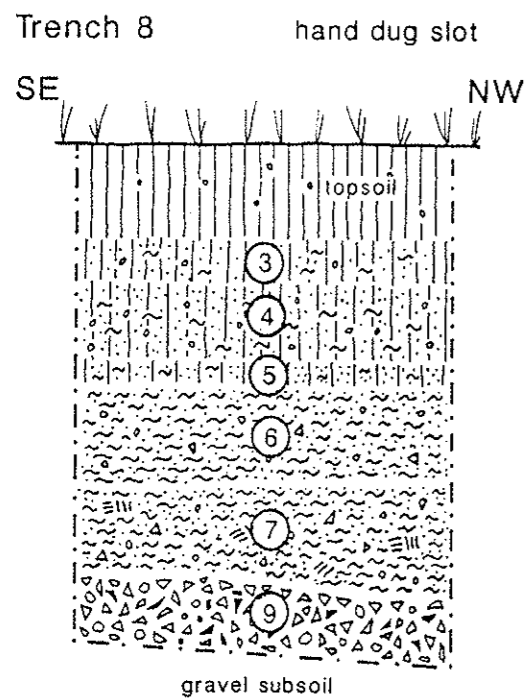
LEGEND

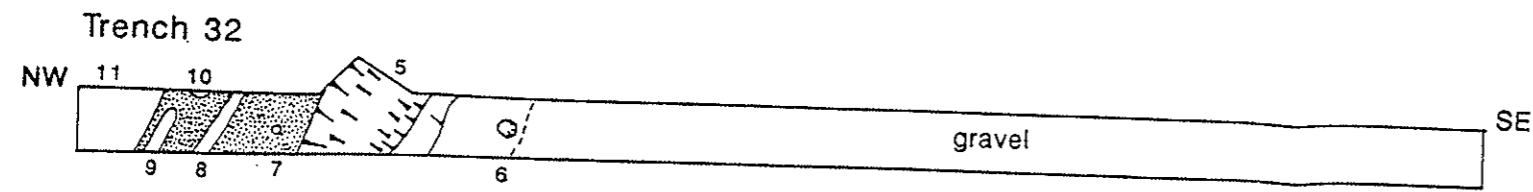
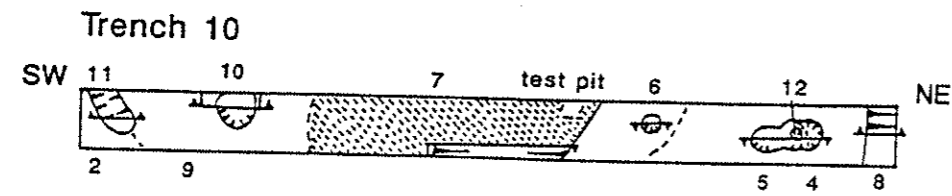
 Proposed excavation areas



Title Proposed Archaeological Excavation Areas	
Date	Dwg. No.
Scale	Fig 2







ploughwash silts

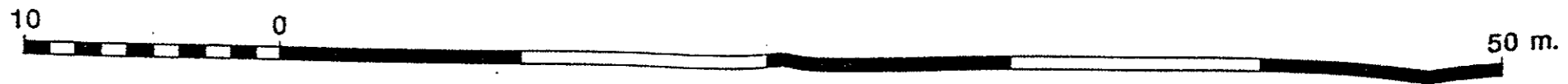
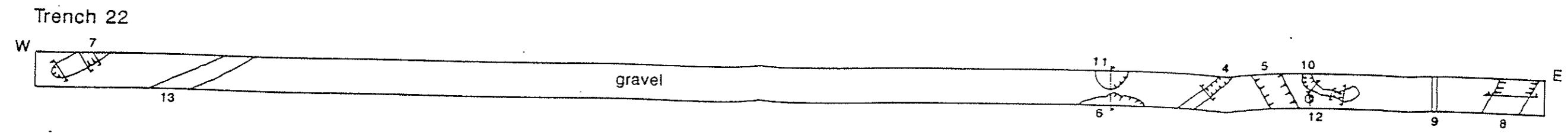
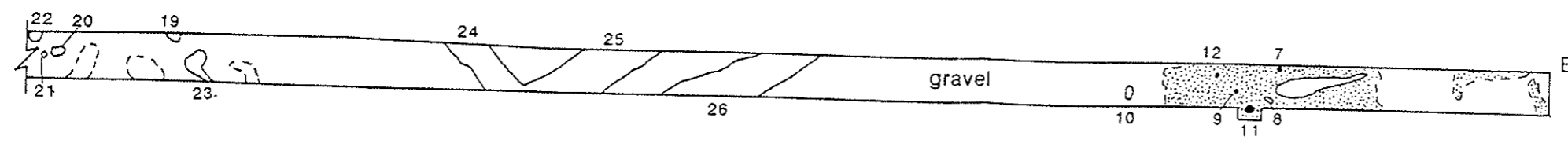
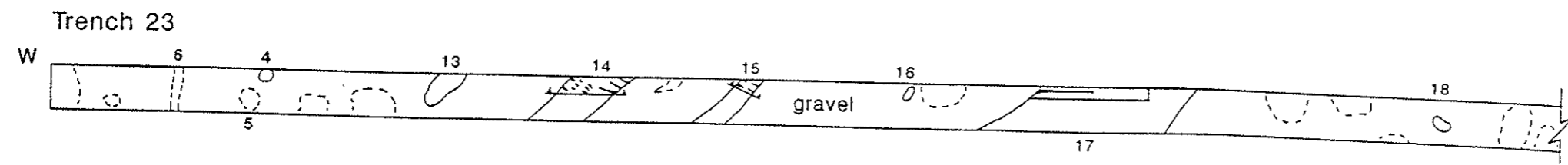
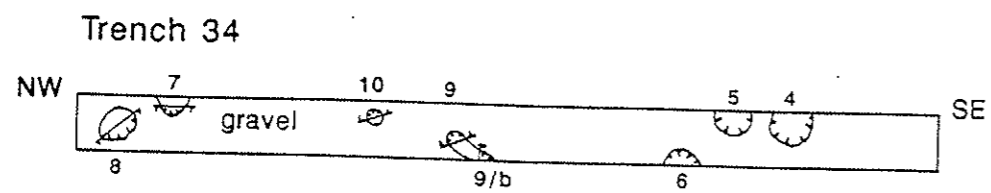


Fig. 3

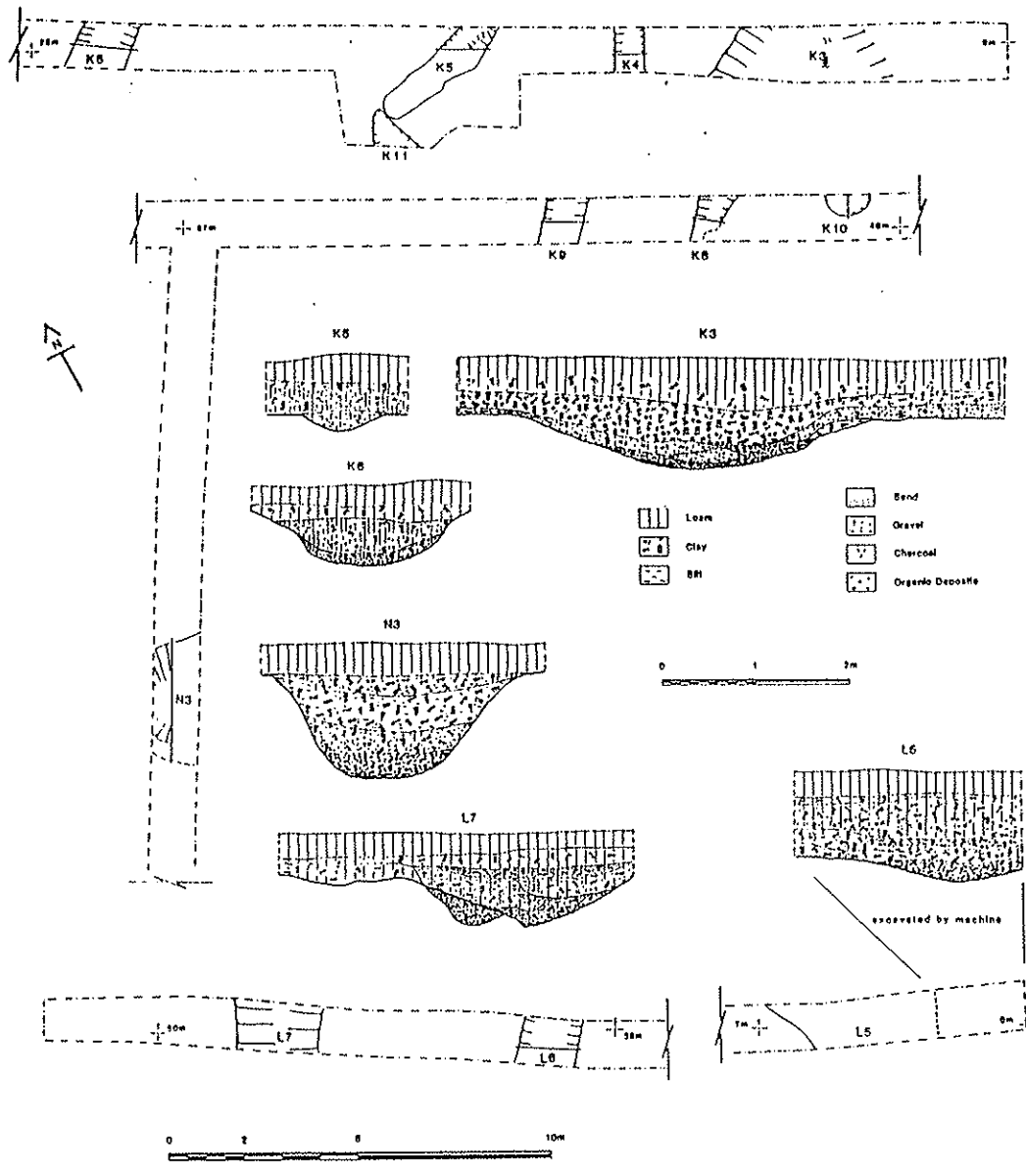
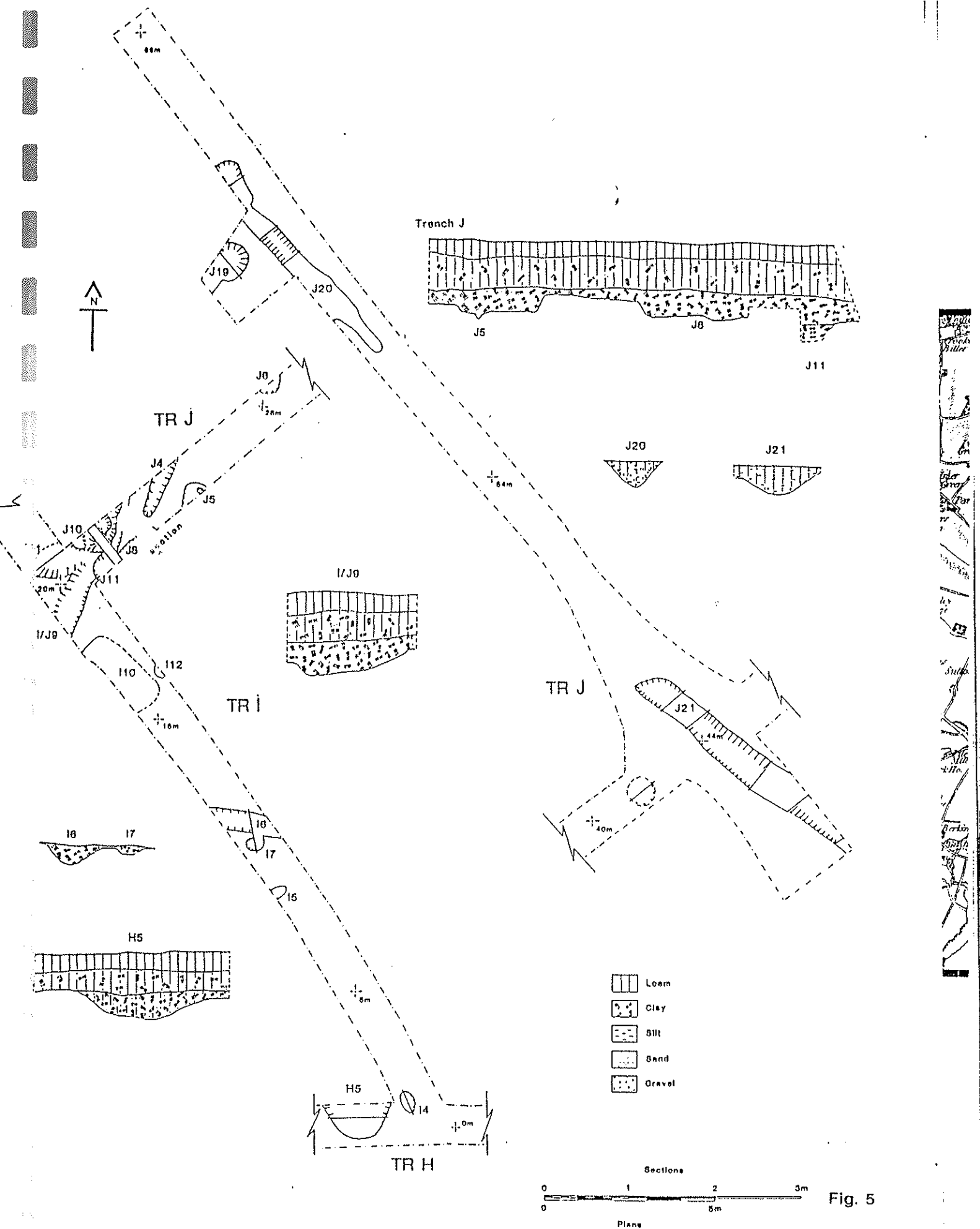


Fig. 4



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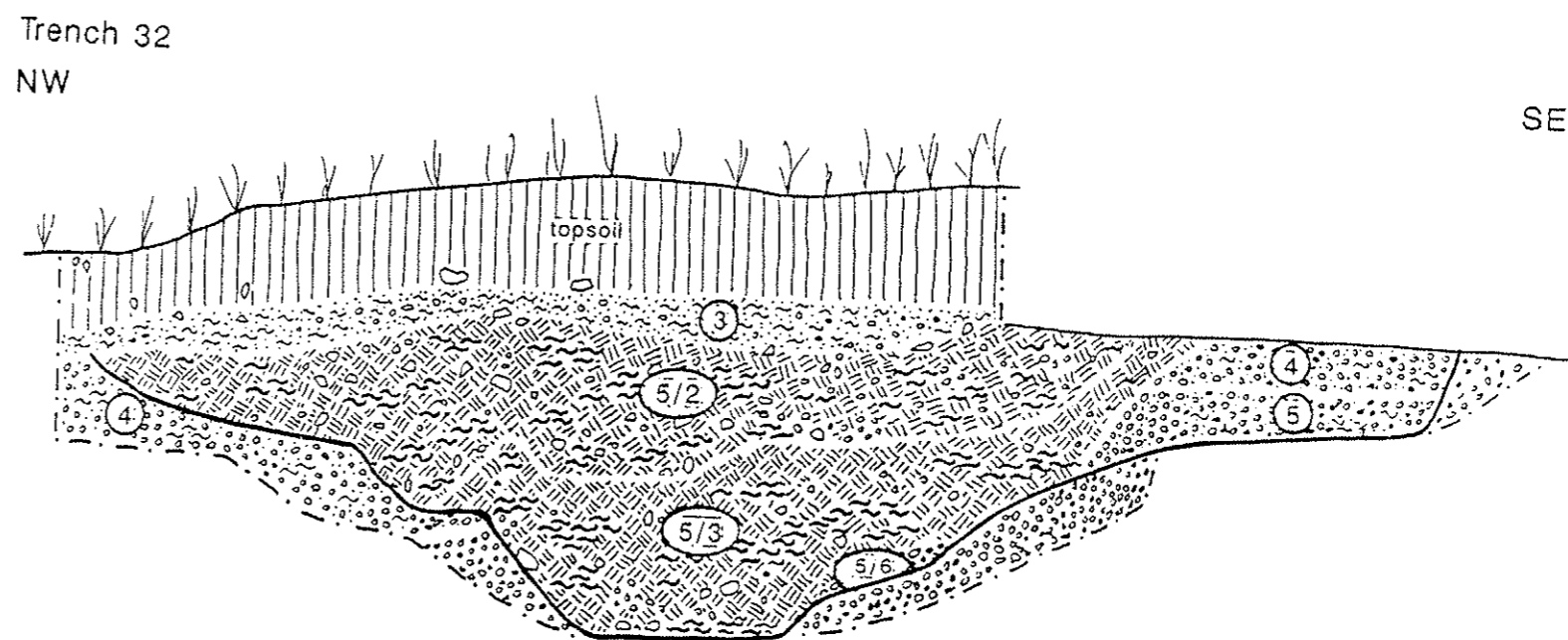
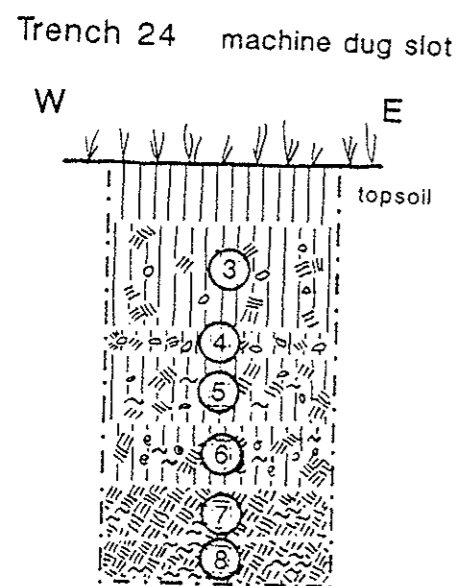
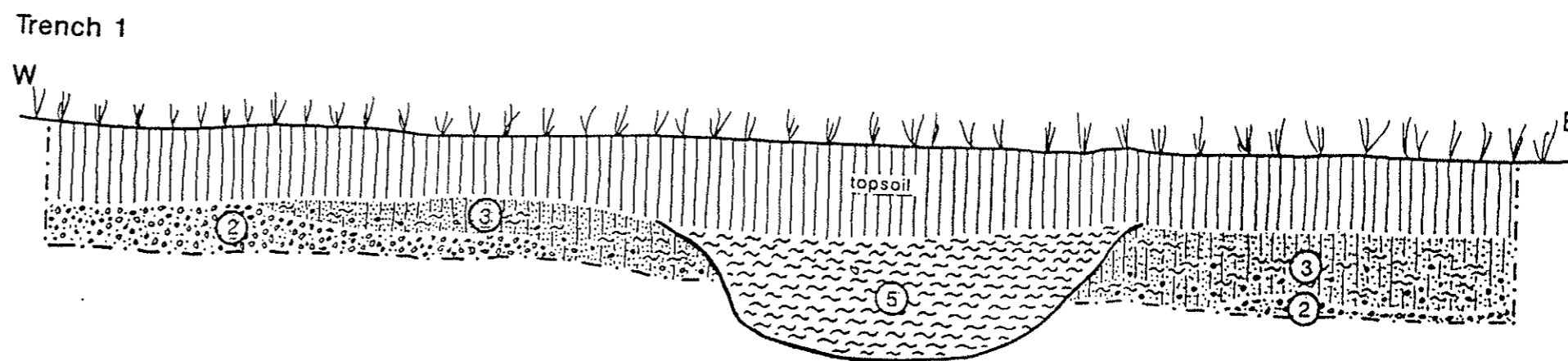
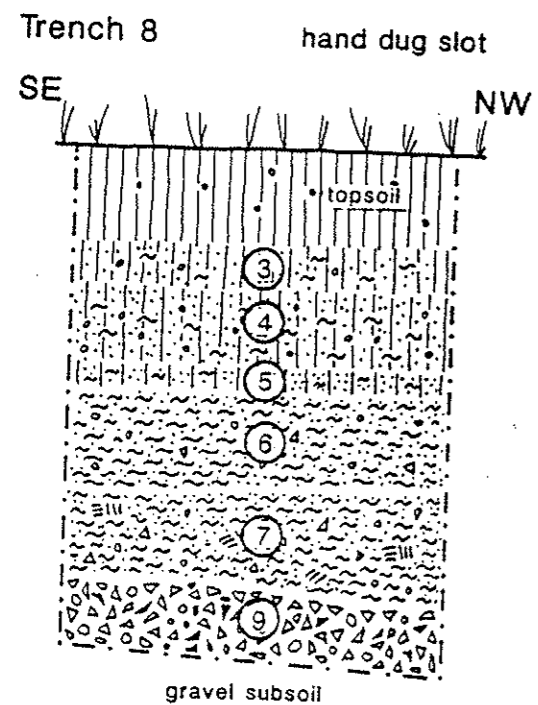


Fig. 6