



Archaeological Field Unit

**Iron Age and Roman Activity at  
6 Rectory Road, Bluntisham**

Andrew Hatton

July 2004

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. 740

Commissioned by Stuart Long on behalf of The Diocese of Ely

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## SUMMARY

*Between the 17th and 22nd of June 2004, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 6 Rectory Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire (TL 3690 7452). The work was carried out at the request of Stuart Long on behalf of The Diocese of Ely in advance of a proposed housing development. The site lies close to the historic core of the village, north of Rectory Road. The proposed development covers an area of 0.7ha.*

*Trenches across the area revealed extensive remains associated with the later prehistoric/early Roman period in the northern half of the site. However, the presence of a Roman coin dated approximately to AD 260 suggests that the site was fairly long lived. The southern and eastern part of the site had been heavily disturbed in the post-medieval period.*

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# Drawing Conventions

## Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	—————
Cut - Conjectured	-----
Soil Horizon	-----
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	.....
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Top of Natural	—————
Top Surface	—————
Break in Section	-----
Cut Number	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">118</span>
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	$\frac{18.45m}{\wedge}$ ODN

## Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	.....
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Sondages/Machine Strip	-----
Illustrated Section	<span style="color: red;">S.14</span> ———
Archaeological Deposit	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span>
Excavated Slot	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span>
Machine Slot	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black;"></span>
Small Find	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 0; height: 0; border-left: 5px solid transparent; border-right: 5px solid transparent; border-bottom: 8px solid black;"></span>
Modern Deposit	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span>
Natural Deposit	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span>
Cut Number	<b>118</b>
Deposit Number	117

**Iron Age and Roman Activity at  
6 Rectory Road, Bluntisham  
(TL 3690 7452)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Between the 17th and 22nd of June, 2004, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 6 Rectory Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire (TL 3690 7452). The work was carried out at the request of Stuart Long on behalf of The Diocese of Ely, in response to a Brief written by Andy Thomas of the County Archaeology Office (CAO), and dated May 4th 2004. The evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed housing development.

The site lies close to the historic core of the village north of Rectory Road. The proposed development covers an area of 0.7ha.

The presence of archaeological remains was considered possible by the CAO on the basis of information contained in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It records the presence of Iron Age and Roman finds in the vicinity of the site.

**2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

According to the British Geological Survey, the site lies on 2nd Terrace Gravels and Ampthill Clay (BGS 1978).

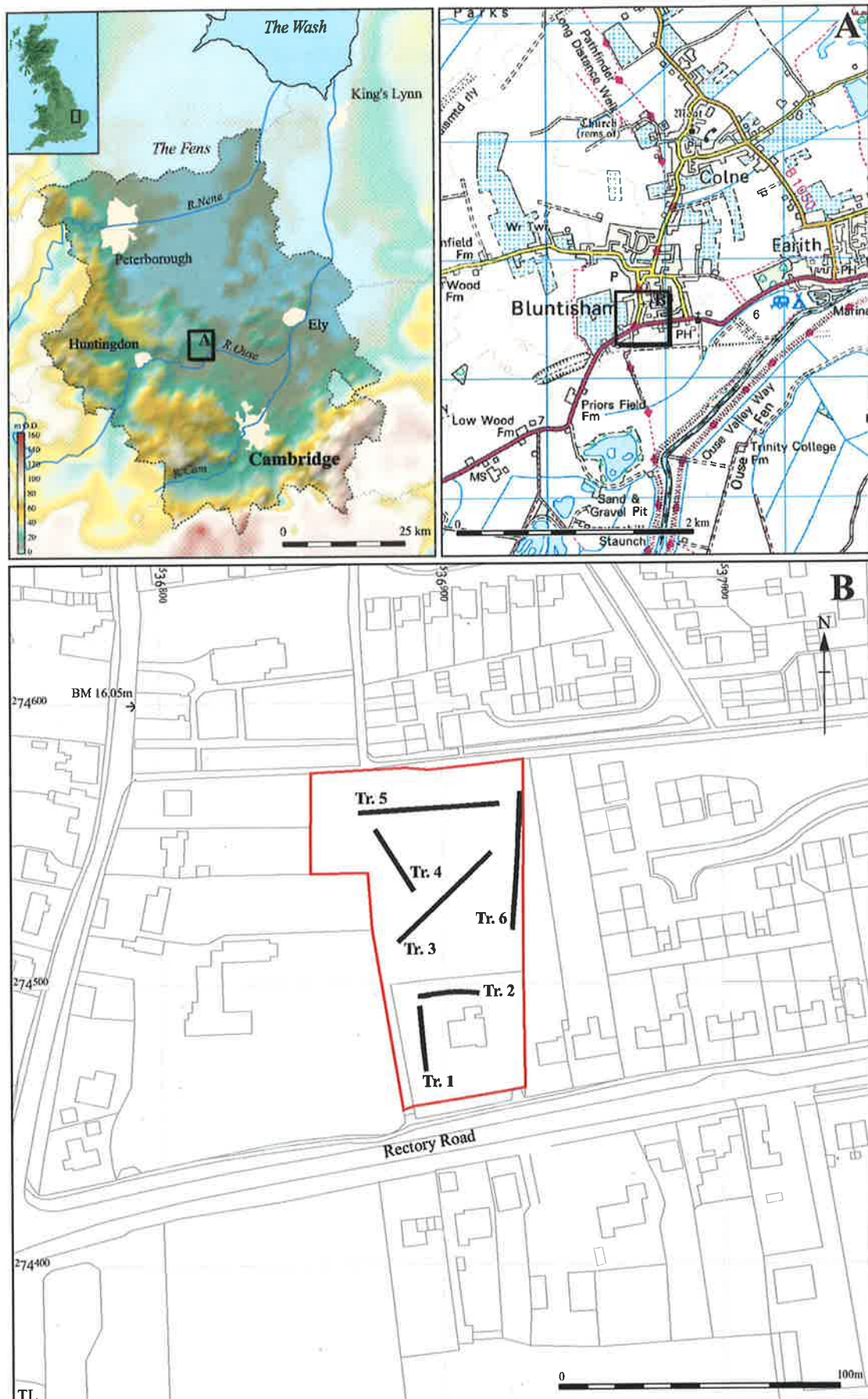
The topography of the site is a gentle downward slope from north to south. The northern end of the site is at a maximum height of 12.84mOD, whereas the lowest point of the site, along the southern boundary, is at 9.57mOD.

**3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Prehistoric and Roman remains have been identified within the vicinity of the site, as well as medieval and post medieval remains.

**Prehistoric**

Prehistoric finds include early Neolithic to late Bronze Age stone implements (SMRs 1759, 1761 and 3625) to the northwest of the site. Iron Age finds from



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**Figure 1** Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

the area include Iron Age pottery sherds (SMRs 1722 and 3930) to the east of the village. None of these finds appears to have come from excavated contexts.

### **Roman**

Roman finds recorded in Bluntisham include a single Roman coin (SMR 929) to the north of the site. Another Roman coin (SMR 1939) was found at the eastern end of Rectory Road. Roman pottery (SMR 3566) was found near the fen edge.

### **Medieval**

No Saxon remains have yet been recorded in the village. Medieval remains are similarly sparsely represented apart from St. Mary's church (SMR 10563) at the eastern end of Rectory Road.

### **Post-Medieval**

Post-medieval remains recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record include The Rectory immediately to the west of the present site (SMR 12026) and the Baptist church (SMR CB14968) to the north of the site.

The position of the site within the core of the village and on a south facing slope suggested the possibility of discovering prehistoric and Roman remains which would tie in with the artefacts noted on the SMR Record (see above). The prospect of discovering medieval remains with the subject site was also high due to the site's position along the road from the medieval church.

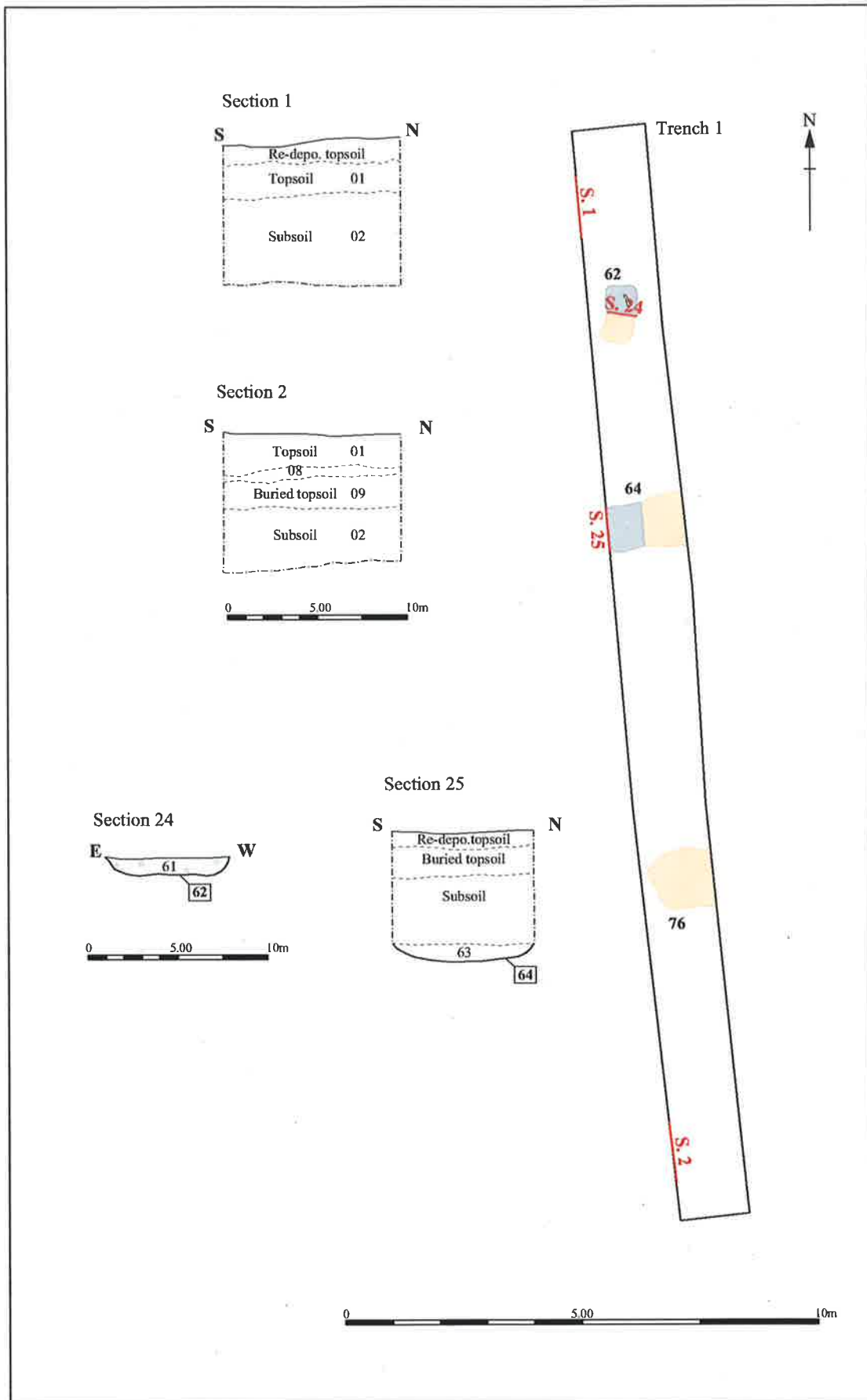
## **4 METHODOLOGY**

Six trenches (215m long in total) were excavated using a mechanical excavator with a 1.8m ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist (Fig. 1).

The trenches were cleaned by hand where appropriate, planned, photographed, and recorded using the AFU's single context recording system. The trenches were tied in three-dimensionally to Ordnance Survey Mapping.

All features described in the results have been grouped by feature type within each trench.





*Figure 2 Plan of Trench 1 and sections*

## 5 RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was 23.25m long and oriented north-south. It contained two pits and a single ditch. Up to 0.25m of greyish brown redeposited sandy silty topsoil overlay 0.20m of dark greyish brown silty clay buried topsoil (1). This sequence continued along the trench for a distance of 20m from its northern end, at which point a further deposit (8) of sand and grit 0.08m thick was identified in the section overlying the buried topsoil. Removal of the buried topsoil revealed up to 0.54m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil (2).

Pit 62 was 0.70m wide, 1.20m long and 0.10m deep. Its overall shape in plan was rectangular with steep sides and a flat base. The fill 61 was dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 76 was 1.50m wide and 1.60m long. The fill 75 was mid-grey silty clay. This feature was not excavated as it was clearly post-medieval.

Ditch 64 was 0.80m wide, over 1.80m long and 0.10m deep. It was straight and oriented east-west, with moderate sides and a flat base. The fill 63 was greyish brown silty clay with occasional large and small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

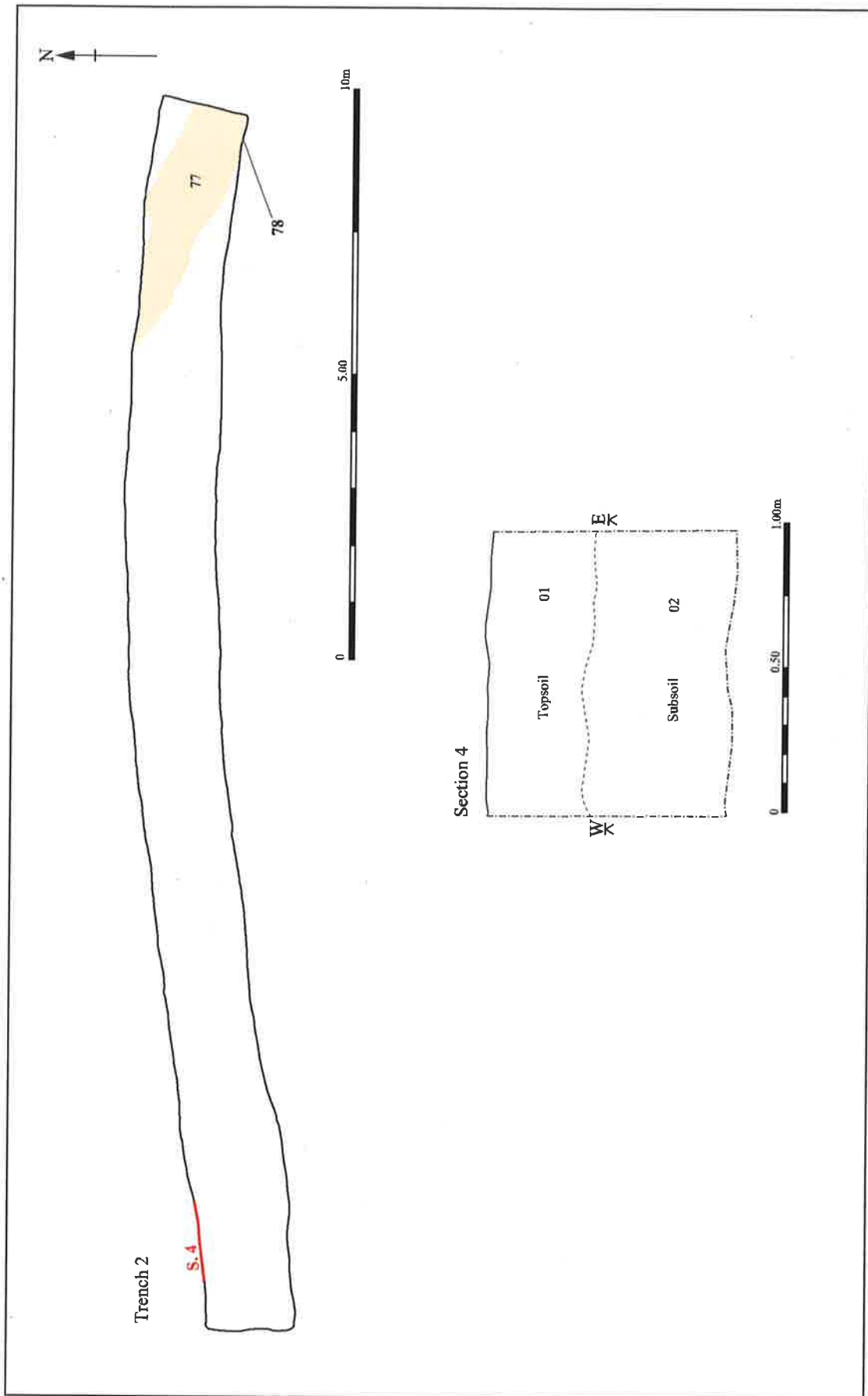
Trench 2 was 20m long and oriented east-west. It contained a single post-medieval ditch. Up to 0.35m of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay 0.54m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil

Ditch 78 was 1.25m wide and at least 4.75m long. This feature was not excavated as it was clearly post-medieval.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

Trench 3 was 45m long and oriented north-east-south-west. It contained a single ditch as well as evidence for extensive post-medieval gravel quarrying. A series of 'slots' were excavated by machine into the quarry pits to confirm their nature. At the south-western end of the trench up to 0.28m of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay 0.50m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil. The sequence remained the same at the north-eastern end of the trench, however, the topsoil was only 0.23m thick and the subsoil only 0.20m thick.

Ditch 59 was 0.87m wide 2.15m long and 0.24m deep. It was straight and oriented east-west, with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 60 was



*Figure 3 Plan of Trench 2 and section*

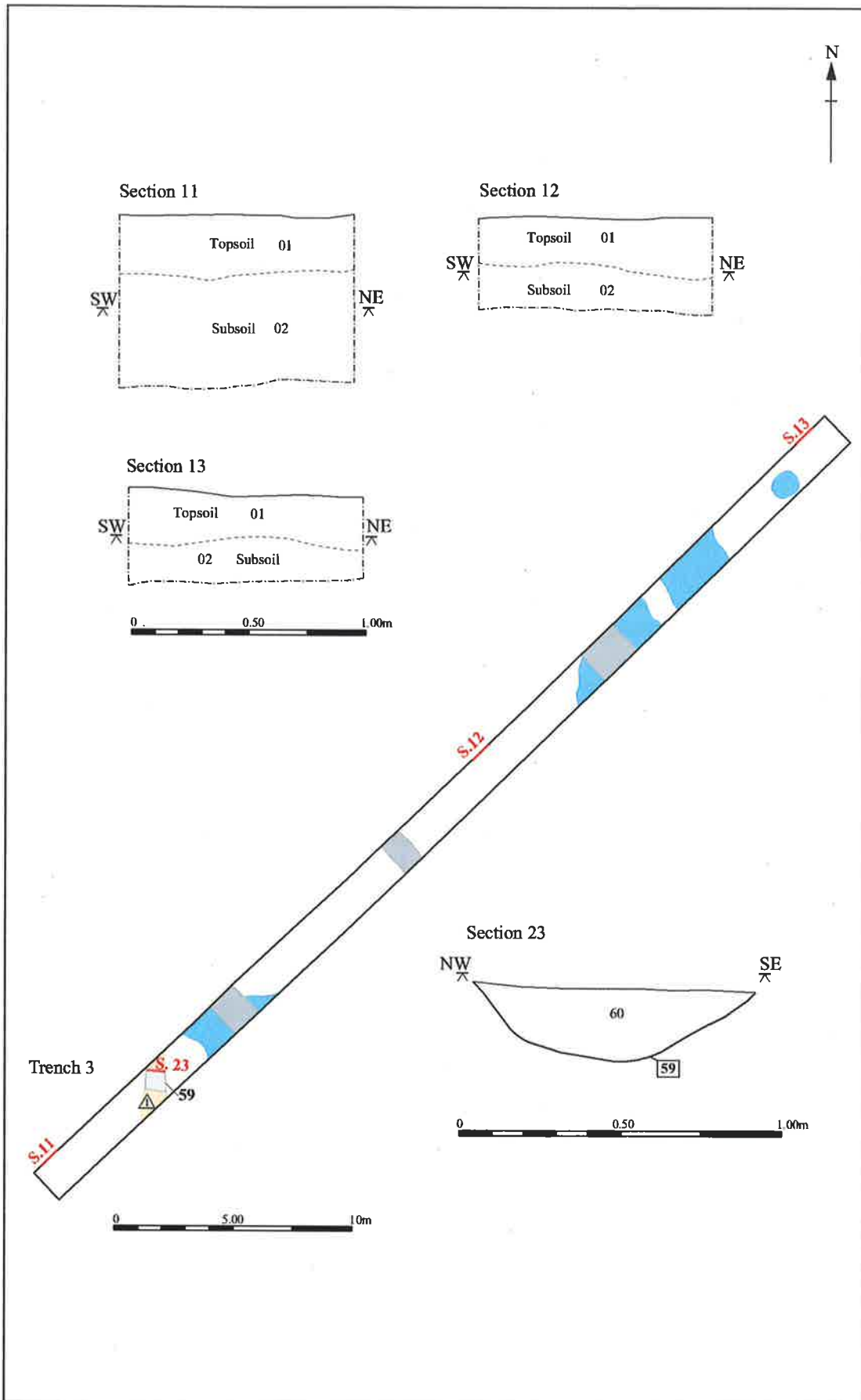


Figure 4 Plan of Trench 3 and sections

mid-brown silty clay with occasional large and small flint inclusions. A single sherds of Gallo-Belgic type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) as well as animal bone fragments and a 3rd century Roman radiate coin (small find no. 1) were recovered from the fill.

#### **Trench 4 (Fig. 5)**

Trench 4 was 26.25m long and oriented north-west-south-east. It contained three pits, two ditches and a single posthole. Up to 0.25m dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay 0.58m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil.

Posthole 47 was 0.31m wide, 0.46m long and 0.10m deep. It was sub-rectangular with moderately steep sides and a flat base. The fill 46 was dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 45 was 0.60m wide, 0.64m long and 0.10m deep. It was oval with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 44 was mid-grey brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. A single sherds of Gallo-Belgic type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) was recovered from the fill.

Pit 21 was 0.70m wide, 1.54m long and 0.15m deep. It was elongated oval, with shallow sides and flat base. The fill 20 was mid-greyish brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was truncated by ditch 17. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Pit 19 was 0.60m wide, 1.15m long and 0.56m deep. It was sub-circular with steep sides and flat base. The fill 18 was mid-grey brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was also truncated by ditch 17. A single sherd of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) was recovered from the fill.

Ditch 17 was 0.60m wide, 2.30m long and 0.28m deep and truncates fills 20 and 18. It was straight and oriented north-west-south-east, with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 16 was dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. Two sherds of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) as well as animal bone fragments, an iron nail (small find no. 2), a fragment of quern stone (small find no. 4) and struck flint were recovered from the fill.

Ditch 53 was 0.70m wide, 2m long and 0.26m deep. It was straight and oriented north-east-south-west, with steep sides and a concave base. The fill 52 was greyish brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

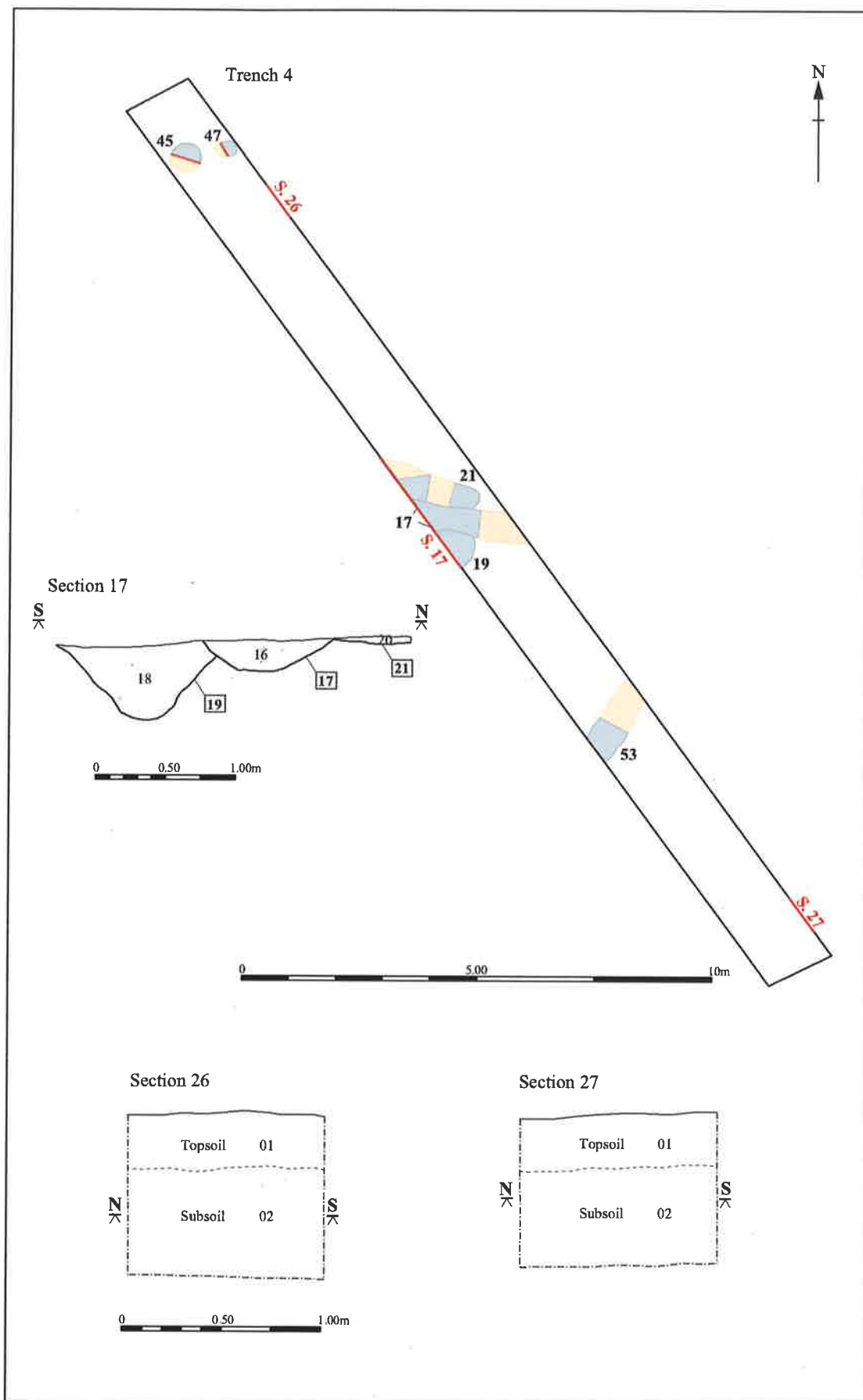


Figure 5 Plan of Trench 4 and sections

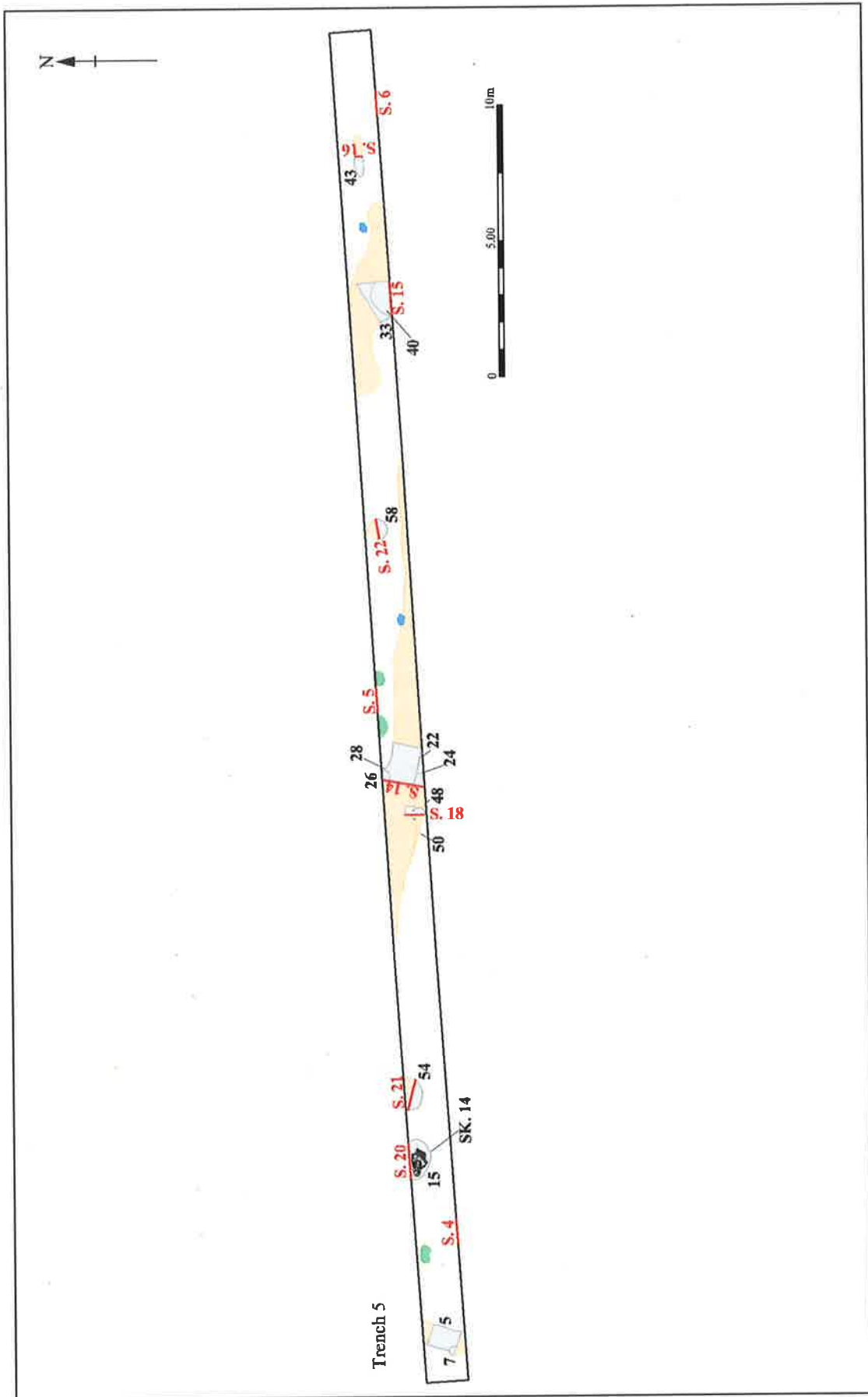


Figure 6 Plan of Trench 5

### **Trench 5 (Fig. 6 and 7)**

Trench 5 was 50m long and oriented east-west. It contained three pits, three ditches, four postholes and a single grave. At the western end of the trench up to 0.24m of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay 0.54m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil. The sequence remained the same at the eastern end of the trench, however, the topsoil thickness decreased to 0.18m and the subsoil thickness also decreased to 0.13m.

Posthole 7 was 0.32m wide and 0.24m deep. It was circular with steep sides and a concave base. The fill 6 was dark brown clayey silt with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was truncated by ditch 5. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole 26 was 0.20m wide and 0.18m deep. It was circular with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 27 was brownish grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was truncated by ditch 28. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole 24 was 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep. It was circular with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 25 was brownish grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was truncated by ditch 22. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole 48 was 0.35m wide and 0.26m. It was oval with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill 49 was mid brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. This fill was truncated by ditch 22 (same as 50). No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 54 was 1m wide and 0.30m deep. Its overall shape in plan was difficult to determine due to the features location in relation to the baulk, however excavation of the feature identified the sides to be moderately sloping with a flat base. Pit 54 contained two fills. The upper fill 55 was mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill. Lower fill 56 was greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from this fill.

Pit 58 was 0.70m wide, 0.82m long and 0.31m deep. It was oval with steep sides and a concave base. The fill 57 was dark brown clayey silt with a moderate amount of small flint inclusions. A fragment of a rotary quern stone (small find no. 5) was recovered from this fill.

Pit 40 was 0.75m wide and 0.49m deep. Its overall shape was difficult to determine as it extended beyond the baulk, however excavation showed the sides to be steeply sloping with a concave base. Pit 40 contained six fills. The upper fill 34 was yellowish brown clayey silt, with occasional small flint inclusions, and was truncated by ditch 33. No finds were recovered from this fill. Below this was fill 35, consisting of brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill. Below this was fill 36,



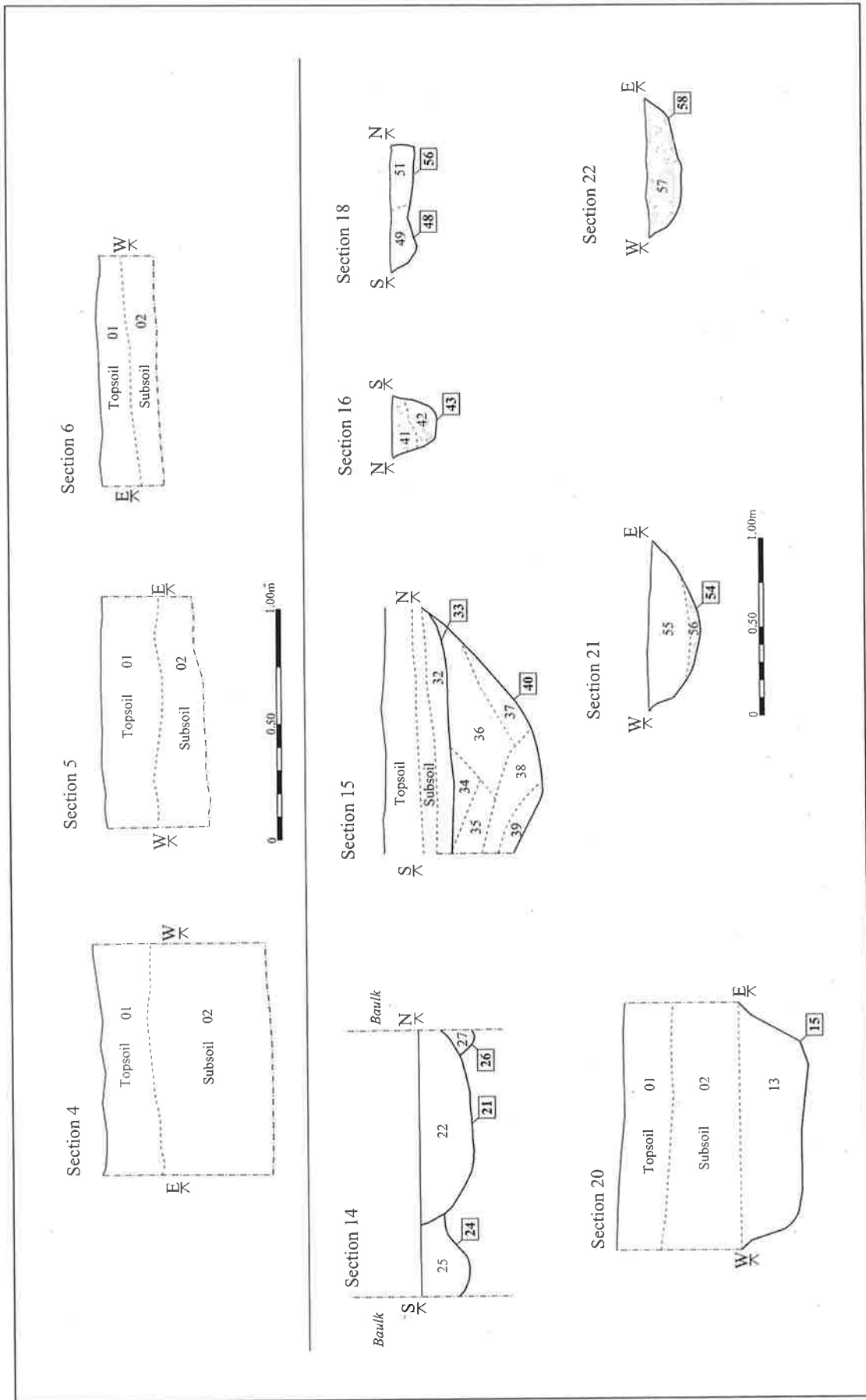


Figure 7 Trench 5 sections

consisting of dark grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. Four sherds of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) as well as animal bone fragments and struck flint were recovered from the fill. Fill 36 sealed fill 37, a light orange silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. It is possible that fill 37 was the result of erosion or weathering. No finds were recovered from this fill. Below this lay fill 38, consisting of dark grey silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. Three sherds of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) and animal bone fragments were recovered from this fill. The primary fill 39 consisted of dark brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit/grave **15** was 1.35m wide and 0.38m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and flat base (Fig. 10). Pit/grave **15** contained two fills: the 14 skeleton and fill 13 which consisted of dark grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. A single sherd of Gallo-Belgic pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) was recovered from the fill.

Ditch **5** was 0.76m wide, 2m long and 0.22m deep and truncated posthole **7**. It was straight and oriented north-east-south-west, with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill **4** was dark greyish brown with occasional small flint inclusions. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Ditch **22** (same as **50**) was 1.10m wide, 17m long and 0.32m deep, truncated features **24**, and **48**. It was straight and oriented north-west-south-east, with moderate sides and flat base. The fill **23** (same as **51**) was greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. Eight sherds of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered from this fill. The relationship between **22** and **28** could not be ascertained due to the position of posthole **26**.

Ditch **33** was 1m wide, over 7m long and 0.13m deep, and truncated the upper fills of pit **40**. It was straight and oriented north-west-south-east, with moderate sides and flat base. The fill **32** was mid-grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions. Three sherds of Gallo-Belgic-type pottery (1st century BC/AD 1st century) and animal bone fragments were recovered from this fill.

Ditch **28** although visible in the trench its position close to the baulk prevented any relationship and general measurements to be taken. The relationship between **22** and **28** could not be ascertained due to the position of posthole **26**.

Ditch **43** was 0.35m wide, 1.5m long and 0.28m deep. It was straight, oriented east-west, with steep sides and flat base. Ditch **43** contained two fills. The upper fill **41** was dark grey clayey silt with occasional small flint inclusions. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from this fill. The lower fill **42** was brownish orange sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

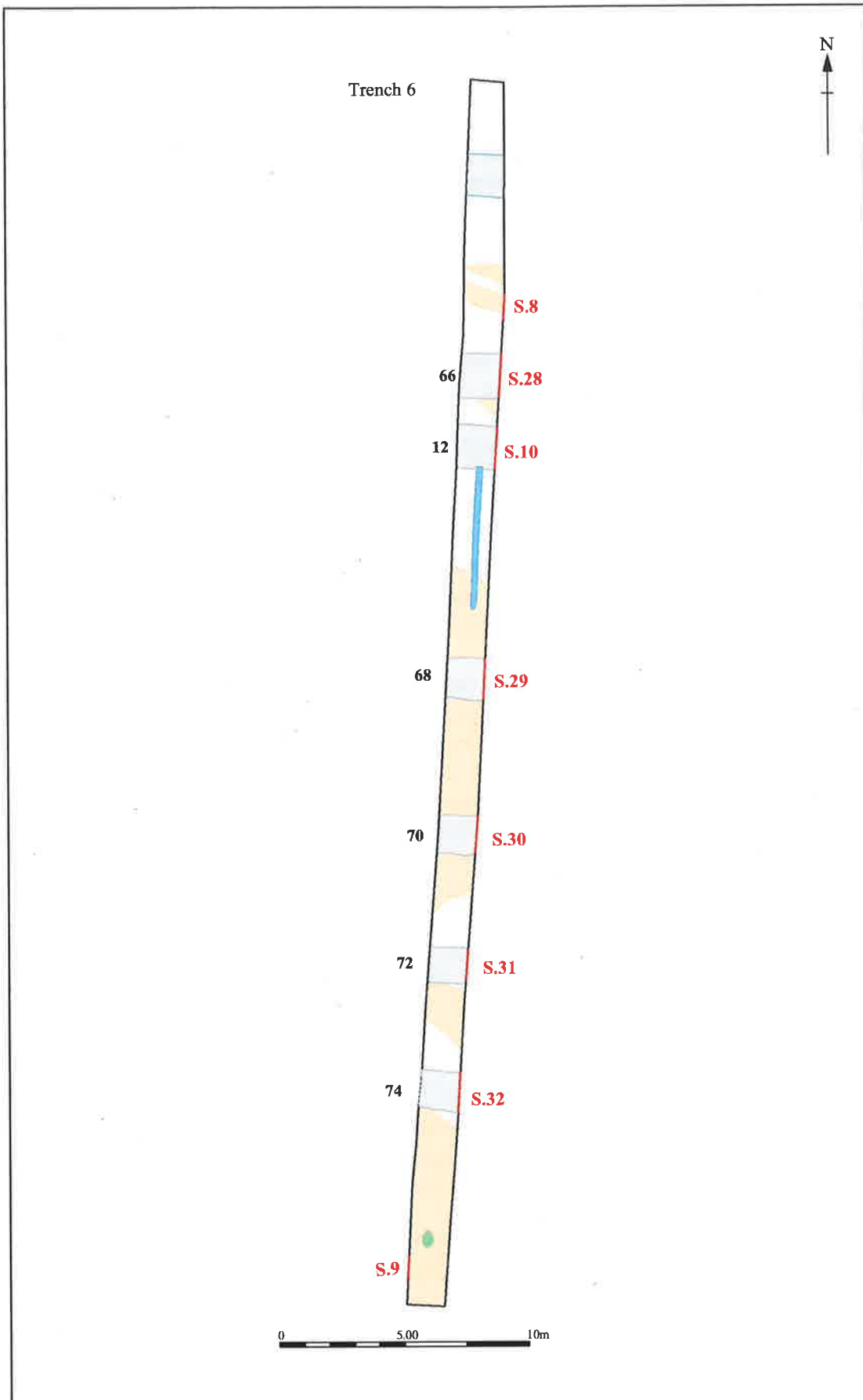


Figure 8 Plan of Trench 6

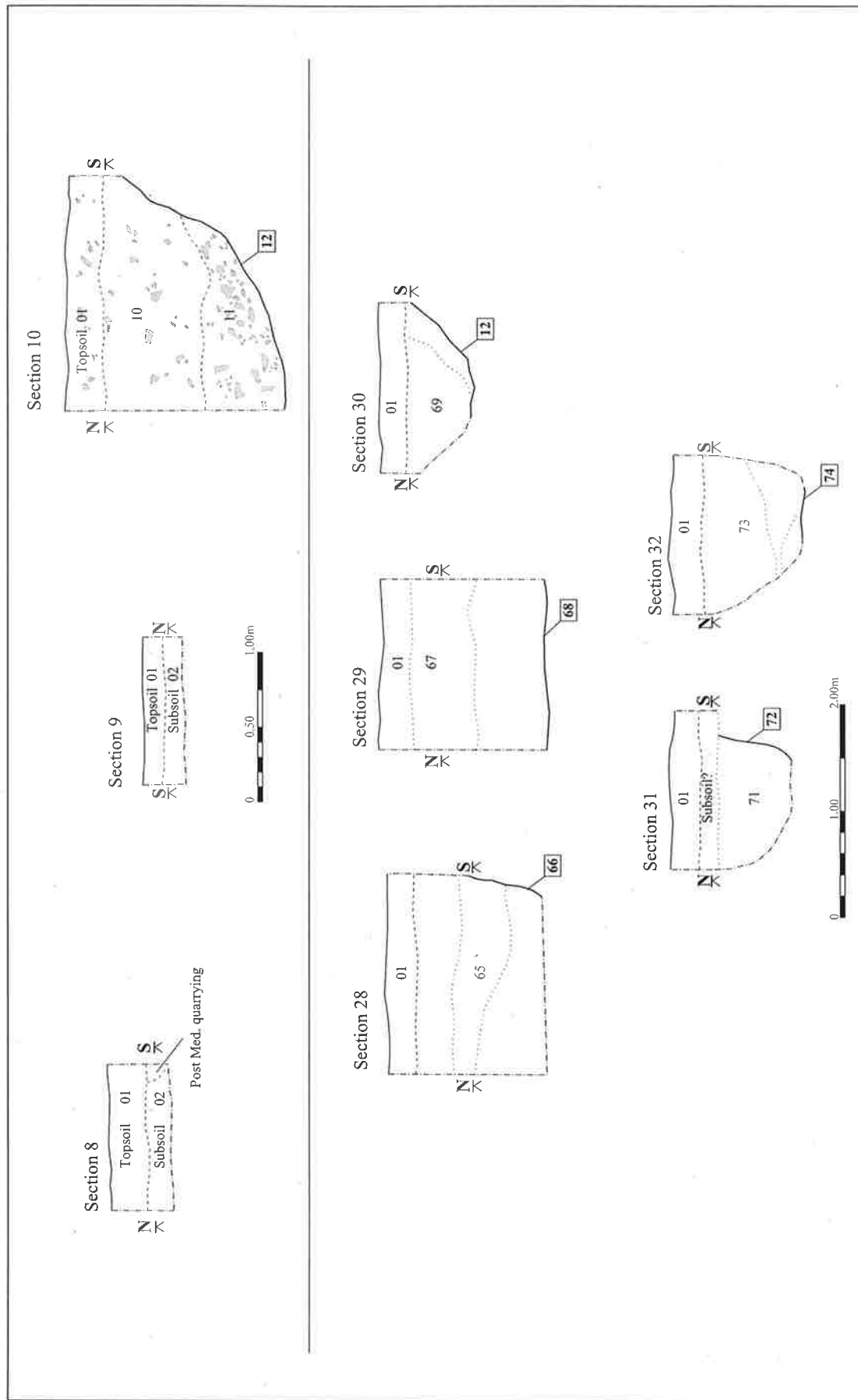


Figure 9 Trench 6 sections

## **Trench 6 (Fig. 8 and 9)**

Trench 6 was 50m long and oriented north-south. It contained six post-medieval pits, all of which were excavated by machine and were found to contain modern debris, including brick fragments, glass bottles and rusting metal. At the northern end of the trench up to 0.26m of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay 0.17m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil. The sequence remained the same at the southern end of the trench, however, the topsoil thickness decreased to 0.14m and the subsoil thickness also decreased to 0.13m.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

Evaluation trenches across the area of the proposed development have revealed extensive remains associated with the later prehistoric/early Roman period in the northern half of the site. The presence of a Roman coin (dated approximately to AD 260) suggests that the site was fairly long lived.

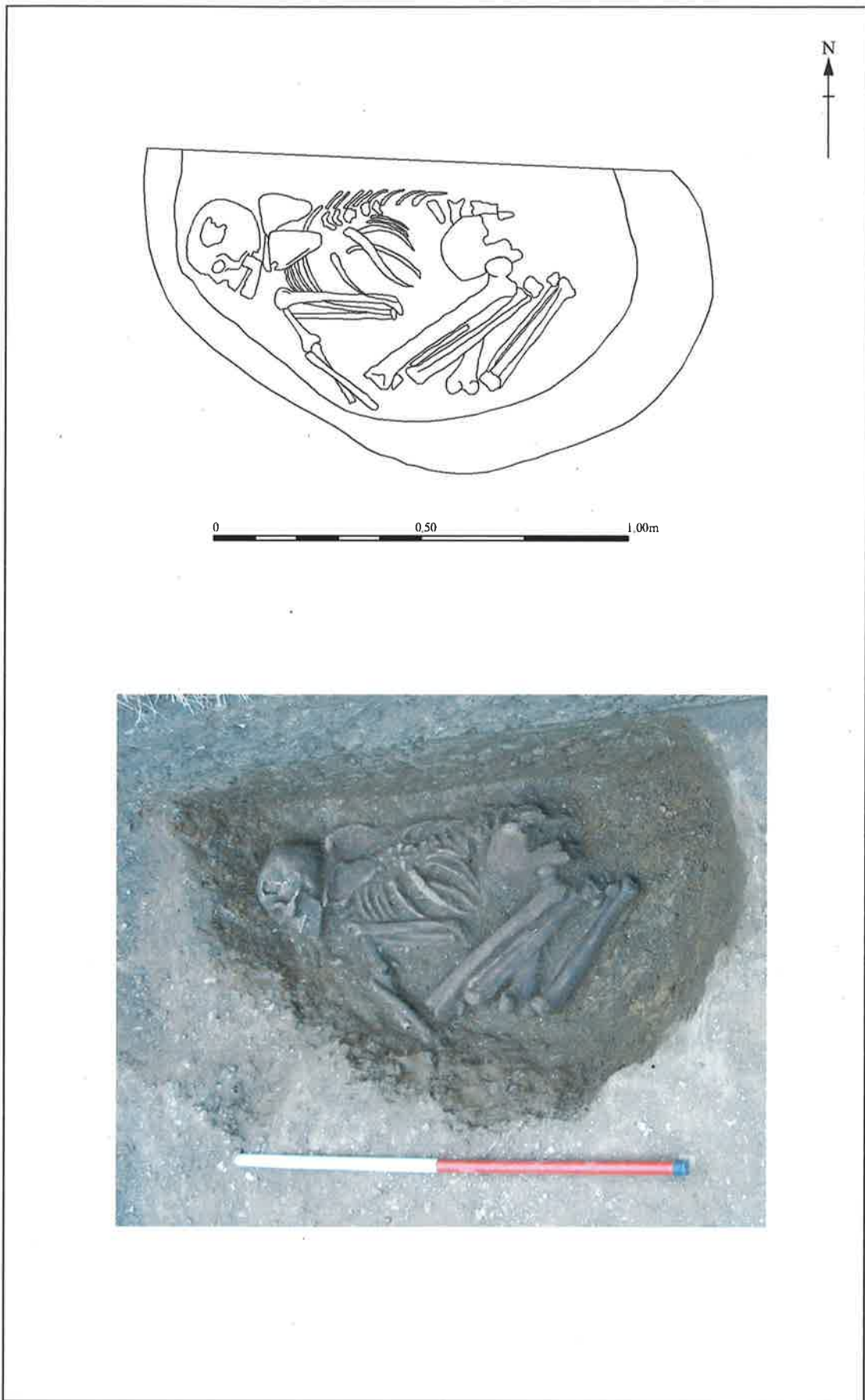
The features identified in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 suggest initial activity on the site included the excavation of a number pits, with at least three (pits **40**, **21** and **19**) being the result of gravel quarrying. The remaining pits in Trenches 4 and 5 may have had a domestic use. A number of postholes were identified in Trenches 4 and 5, which may indicate the presence of either structures or post-built fences. Examination of the inter-cutting features from Trenches 4 and 5 suggests that the final phase of activity on the site (with the exception of the post-medieval pits) was the excavation of the ditch system possibly acting as a form of land division.

A single Iron Age crouched burial was identified towards the northern boundary of the site (Trench 5). The crouched burial may indicate the presence of a small burial ground or it may have been an isolated case. As this was an evaluation the burial was fully recorded but not disturbed, the feature was then promptly backfilled.

Analysis of the environmental samples taken from selected features, produced evidence of charred cereal grains, which appears to indicate that processed grain was being consumed on-site (Appendix 3).

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

The objective of the project was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site in



*Figure 10 Plan and photo of skeleton 14*

advance of development. Information from the evaluation will allow an assessment of the proposed development's impact on the archaeological remains on site and inform an appropriate mitigation strategy.

From the remains found during evaluation it appears that there was a small Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead on the site which produced many of the domestic items found in the pits and ditches. It is clear from the number of quarry pits that gravel was extracted from the site in the post-medieval period and that there has been considerable disturbance particularly in the southern and eastern part of the site.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author would like to thank Stuart Long who commissioned the work on behalf of The Diocese of Ely. Many thanks are also due to Rob Atkins, Jon Bolderson, David Brown, Adam Howard, and Dennis Payne for their hard work on site. The site was metal detected by Steve Critchley. The project was managed by Judith Roberts.

Andy Thomas, County Archaeology Office, visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey 1978

Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record

## APPENDIX 1 Context list

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour
4	5	fill	ditch	disuse	0.76	2.2	dark grey brown
5		cut	ditch	drainage	0.76	0.22	
6	7	fill	post hole	disuse	0.32	2.4	dark brown
7	7	cut	post hole	structural	0.32	0.24	
8		fill	layer	disuse	1.55	0.1	mid brownish orange
9		fill	layer	levelling	1.55	0.2	dark brown grey
10	12	fill	fill	disuse	1.6	0.7	mid orange brown
11	12	fill	fill	backfill	1.34	0.56	mid yellow brown
12	12	cut	pit	use	1.6	1.24	
13	15		grave	disuse	1.3	3.8	dark orange brown
14		fill	skeleton	HSR		1.02	
15	15	cut	grave	use	1.35	0.38	
16	17	fill	ditch	use	0.92	0.28	mid grey brown
17	17	cut	ditch	use	0.6	0.28	
18	19	fill	pit	use	1.04	0.56	mid grey brown
19	19	cut	pit	use	0.6	0.56	
20	21	fill	pit	disuse	0.7	0.15	mid grey brown
21	21	cut	pit	use	0.7	0.15	
22		cut	ditch	use	1.1	0.32	
23	22	fill	ditch	disuse	1.1	0.32	grey brown
24	24	cut	post hole	construction	0.5	0.3	
25		fill	post hole	use	0.5	0.3	mid grey brown
26	26	cut	post hole	construction	0.2	0.18	
27		fill	post hole	use	0.2	0.18	mid brown grey
28	28	cut	ditch	use		0.32	
29	28	fill	ditch	use		0.32	mid grey brown
30	31	fill	pit	burial	0.6	0.17	mid grey brown
31		cut	pit	burial	0.6	0.17	
32	33	fill	ditch	disuse	1	0.13	mid grey
33	33	cut	ditch	use	1	0.13	
34	40	fill	pit	disuse		0.12	light yellow grey
35	40	fill	pit	backfill		0.09	light orange brown
36	40	fill	pit	disuse		0.33	dark grey
37	40	fill	pit	disuse		0.1	light orange
38	40	fill	pit	disuse		0.38	dark grey
39	40	fill	pit	disuse		0.29	dark brown orange
40	40	cut	pit	use	0.75	0.49	
41	43	fill	ditch	disuse	0.35	0.15	dark orange grey
42	43	fill	ditch	disuse	0.27	0.19	brown orange
43	43	cut	ditch	use	0.35	0.28	
44	45	fill	pit	disuse	0.6	0.1	mid grey brown
45	44	cut	pit	use	0.6	0.1	
46	47	fill	post hole	construction	0.31	0.1	mid grey brown
47		cut	post hole	construction	0.31	0.1	
48	48	cut	post hole	construction	0.35	0.26	
49	48	fill	post hole	disuse	0.35	0.2	mid orange brown



50	50	cut	ditch	use	0.38	0.12	
51	50	fill	ditch	disuse	0.38	0.12	grey brown
52	53	fill	ditch	disuse	0.7	0.26	mid grey brown
53	53	cut	ditch	use	0.7	0.26	
54	54	cut	pit		1	0.3	
55	54	fill	pit	disuse	1	0.3	mid grey brown
56	54	fill	pit	disuse	0.7	0.05	grey green brown
57	58	fill	pit	disuse	0.82	0.31	dark orange brown
58	58	cut	pit	use	0.7	0.31	
59	59	cut	ditch	use	0.87	0.24	
60	59	fill	ditch	disuse	0.87	0.24	mid brown
61	62	fill	pit	disuse	0.7	0.1	darek grey brown
62	62	cut	pit	use	0.7	0.1	
63	64	fill	ditch	disuse	0.8	0.1	grey brown
64	64	cut	ditch	use	0.8	0.1	
65	66	fill	pit	disuse	1.55	1.18	mid brown orange
66	66	cut	pit	use	1.55	1.18	
67	68	fill	pit	disuse	1.55	1.3	brown orange
68	68	cut	pit	use	1.55	1.3	
69	70	fill	pit	disuse	1.6	0.6	mid brown orange
70	70	cut	pit	use	1.6	0.6	
71	72	fill	pit	disuse	1.26	0.75	mid brown orange
72	72	cut	pit	use	1.26	0.75	
73	74	fill	pit	disuse	1.5	0.95	mid brown orange
74	73	cut	pit	use	1.5	0.95	

## APPENDIX 2 Finds list

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
4	Organic	Bone	0.14	
10	Ceramic	Vessel	0.05	
13	Organic	Bone	0.01	
13	Stone		1.85	
13	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
16	Stone	Quern	0.23	SF 4
16	Organic	Bone	0.01	
16	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
18	Ceramic	Vessel	0.00	
20	Flint		0.06	Worked
20	Organic	Bone	0.00	
23	Ceramic	Vessel	0.16	
23	Flint		0.01	Worked
23	Organic	Bone	0.23	
29	Ceramic	Vessel	0.03	
32	Organic	Bone	0.29	
32	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.08	
32	Ceramic	Vessel	0.15	
36	Organic	Bone	0.00	
36	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
36	Stone		0.18	Burnt
36	Organic	Bone	0.06	
38	Flint		0.00	Worked
38	Organic	Bone	0.19	
38	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
41	Organic	Bone	0.00	
44	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
46	Ceramic	Mortar	0.02	
56	Organic	Bone	0.01	
57	Stone	Quern	1.56	SF 5
59	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
59	Organic	Bone	0.23	
61	Organic	Bone	0.20	
65	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.01	
99999	Organic	Bone	0.07	
99999	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.02	Cinder Block
99999	Ceramic	Vessel	0.05	

### Small finds catalogue

Small find no.	Context no.	Material	Object
1	60	copper alloy	coin
2	16	iron	nail
3	23	iron	nail
4	16	stone	quern
5	57	stone	quern

6	99999	iron	object
7	99999	iron	nail
8	99999	iron	nail

**Appendix 3: Environmental appraisal of samples  
by Rachel Fosberry**

**1. Introduction and methods**

Three samples were taken from across the excavated area were submitted for an initial appraisal. 10 litres of each sample were processed by bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts were noted.

**2. Results**

All three samples contained a few charred cereal grains. Preservation is by charring and is poor in samples 1 and 2 but a single wheat grain is well preserved in sample 3 with its bract still intact.

Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common seeds such as *Chenopodium* sp. are present in all of the samples.

Charcoal fragments are present in most samples in varying quantities. Sample 3 contained several charcoal fragments up to 1cm in size that were twisted.

**3. Conclusions and recommendations**

The results show that there is potential for the preservation and recovery of charred macrofossils on this site. Grain was being consumed on site but there is no evidence for its processing in the form of chaff. No weed seeds or snails are present to provide any other environmental information.



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