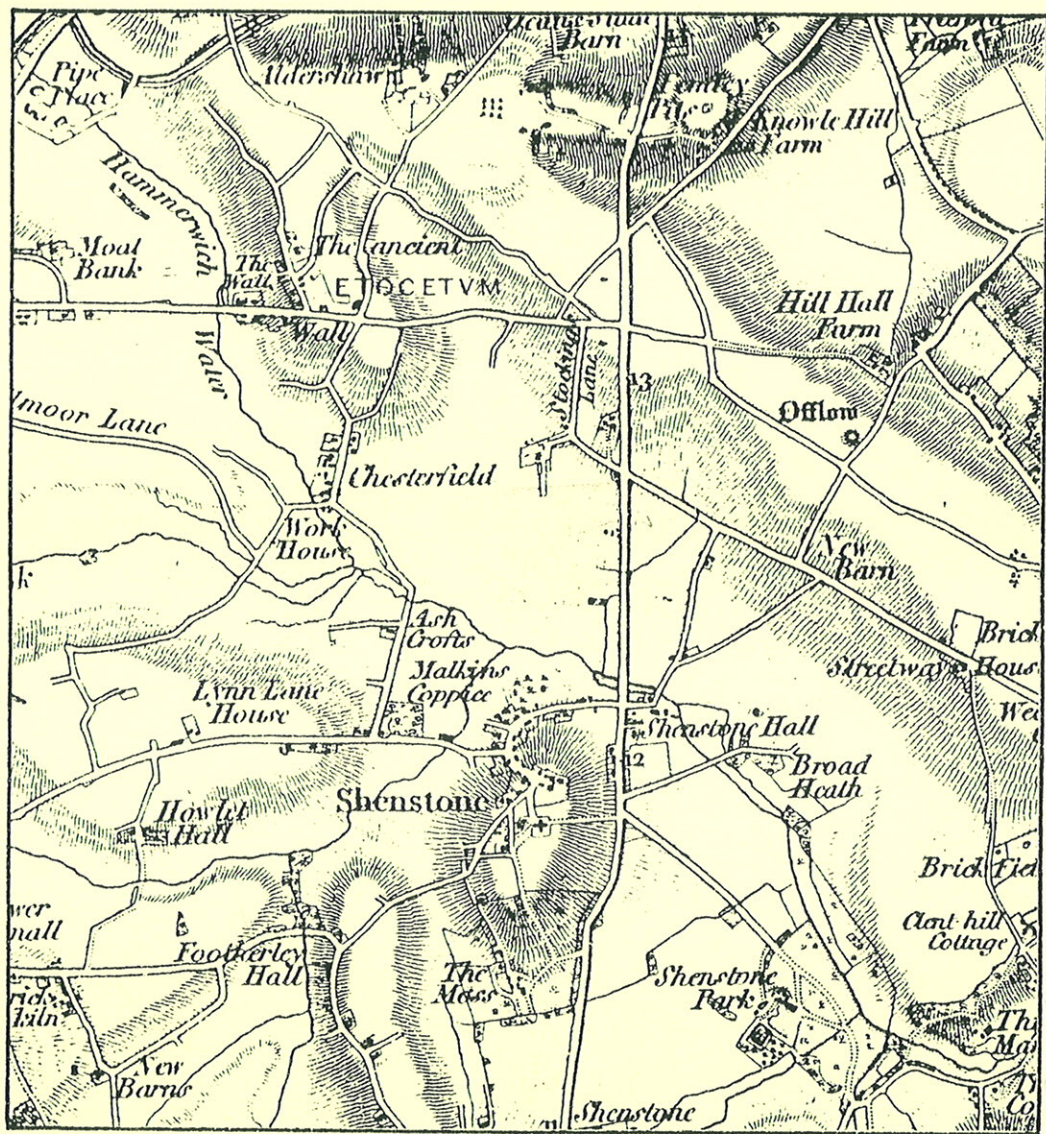


BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD

SHENSTONE HALL FARM LICHFIELD DISTRICT STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

January 1994

**BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD
SHENSTONE HALL FARM, SHENSTONE, STAFFORDSHIRE**

SITE CODE: SSHHF93

NGR: SK 1105

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Geographical Background	1
3.0	Archaeological Background	1
4.0	Strategy	2
Results: Area 1		
5.0	General	2
6.0	Summary of Results	3
7.0	Trench 2: Ring-Ditch	3
8.0	Trench 2: Other Features	4
9.0	Trenches 5, 7, 10, 14: Ditched Trackway	4
10.0	Trench 5	5
11.0	Trench 7	5
12.0	Trench 10	5
13.0	Trench 14	6
14.0	Trenches 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 & 19: Field Boundaries	6
15.0	Area 2: Summary of Results	8
16.0	Discussion and Conclusions	8
Bibliography & Sources		9
Table 1: Context Summary		10
Appendix 1: Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains by Mark Robinson		17
Figure 1: Site Location		
Figure 2: Trench Location		
Figure 3: Trench 2, Plan & Sections		
Figure 4: Trenches 7 & 9, Plans & Sections		
Figure 5: Trenches 10 & 14, Plans & Sections		

BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD

SHENSTONE HALL FARM: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit on behalf of Midland Expressway Ltd on land at Shenstone Hall Farm, Shenstone, Staffordshire (NGR SK 1105). This land comprised the land take of the proposed main highway of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road and its junction with the A5127 (Birmingham Road).
- 1.2 The evaluation formed part of the second stage of archaeological investigation in this area, following desk-top and surface collection surveys. Its purpose was to assess the nature, extent and quality of the archaeological remains. It was conducted to a specification agreed by the client and the County Archaeological Officer, Mr Bob Meeson. The work took place over two weeks in October 1993.

2. Geographical Background

- 2.1 The evaluation area lay north of the village of Shenstone on land adjoining the A5. The geology comprised Bunter Sandstone which forms the low undulating relief of the Shenstone Basin. The western evaluation area (Area 1) lay on the north-facing slope (99 - 94 m OD) dropping to a water-filled drain (originally a stream course) and lower land. The eastern field (Area 2) occupied a gentle east-facing slope (91 - 93 m OD).

3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The site lies within an area of some archaeological interest. The Roman town of Wall (Letocetum) lies 2 km to the west and the line of Watling Street forms the northern boundary of both fields. Rykniel Street runs N-S about 1 km to the west. Archaeological cropmarks, of various dates, are relatively widespread and scatters of Roman and prehistoric artefacts have been reported (see BNRR Environmental Statement Vol. 4 Appendix F 'Archaeological Gazetteer').
- 3.2 The field evaluation was conducted specifically to investigate two areas of archaeological potential identified in the desktop survey. In Area 1 (Fig. 2) cropmarks had indicated the presence of a ring-ditch in the northern field, a possible subrectangular enclosure in the southern field and several linear, and possibly other, features. While surface collection had yielded few finds from this area, the presence of a known Roman settlement enclosure in the field immediately to the west suggested that some of the cropmark features could be related to Roman settlement/agricultural activity. In Area 2 a probable field boundary cropmark had been located and some Romano-British metalwork reported.

4. Strategy

- 4.1 The evaluation took the form of 25 machine-dug trenches, 1.5 m wide and of varying length, which were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator with a ditching bucket. 21 trenches were excavated in Area 1. They were located both to examine cropmark features and to check blank areas. They represent a sample of about 2% of the evaluation site. The four trenches in Area 2 were located more systematically. They examined about 0.81 % of the available area. Fewer trenches than originally planned were excavated in this area due to the presence of a gas main crossing the central part of the field, and because of crops in the field to the west.
- 4.2 Following stripping of overburden by machine the trenches were cleaned by hand and features were sampled by excavation to examine their nature and date. Finds were not rigorously collected from machined deposits.
- 4.3 Soil samples for environmental evidence were collected non-systematically from suitable deposits.

RESULTS

AREA 1

5. General

- 5.1 The machine-excavated overburden generally consisted of 300-400 mm of dark grey modern ploughsoil directly overlying the natural geology. The two exceptions to this were contexts 7/2 and 16/2. These were reddish brown sandy loams underlying the modern soil and sealing archaeological features. They might be the remains of earlier ploughsoils.
- 5.2 On the higher land to the south, and also in Tr. 1, the soil was very sandy and overlay an undisturbed though highly weathered soft sand containing pebbles. In the lower area, principally Trs. 2, 3, 6 and 8, the ploughsoil was a darker peaty sand loam and the natural geology was less weathered and more mixed, with silty and gravelly patches.
- 5.3 Archaeological features generally had mid-brown or greyish upper fills and were clearly visible cutting the natural geology. Modern features had darker grey fills with the exception of the probable service trenches which had upper fills of redeposited sand.

6. Summary of Results

- 6.1 The archaeological features discovered comprised a probable ring-ditch (Tr. 2), a double-ditched trackway (Trs. 5, 7, 10 & 14) and several probable relict field boundaries (Trs. 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 & 19). Most of these features were visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.
- 6.2 Two cropmark features - the subrectangular? enclosure and the possible trapezoidal enclosure in the southern part of the field, were not encountered.
- 6.3 There were very few finds from any of the features suggesting that the site was peripheral to actual settlement. The absence of bone may largely be due to the soil conditions.
- 6.4 The following is a summary description of the trenches containing archaeological features. Modern features are excluded, although it can be noted that a modern ditch following the course of the recent field boundary was encountered in Trs. 9, 10 and 5. All the major features are shown on Fig. 2. A list of all contexts and finds by trench is presented in Table 1.

7. Trench 2: Ring-Ditch

- 7.1 Trench 2 was located to examine the possible ring-ditch or small 'hengiform' enclosure appearing as a cropmark. Four main sections of ditch were discovered in each of the four arms of the trench and these are considered likely to be sections of the ring-ditch (Features 3, 8, 20 & 31 - figure 3). Extrapolating these ditches suggests that the feature would not have formed a precise circle but would have measured about 20 m N-S by 18 m E-W internally. Ditches 3 and 8 were sampled with excavated sections (figure 3, sections 1 & 2). There were no finds.

Ditch 3

- 7.2 Ditch 3 was 1.7 m wide and reached a maximum depth of 840 mm. It had steep sides and a rounded base, although the loose nature of the sand, which had resulted in a certain amount of edge slippage, made difficult the precise definition of the profile. The upper fill (2) was a clean dark brown sandy loam which overlay a primary deposit of mid grey silty sand (32). Interleaving deposits of cleaner sand (36 & 37) indicated edge slippage in the unstable geology. It is likely that this sequence indicates a relatively rapid initial silting followed by a period of stability, with the upper fill representing a later, gradual accumulation. A thin deposit (c. 100 mm) of waterlogged organic sediment was encountered at the base of the ditch (Soil Sample 1). The organic content was poorly preserved (see Appendix 1).

Ditch 8

- 7.3 Ditch 8 was 2.0 m wide and 710 mm deep with a composite profile. The excavation revealed an apparent northern terminal and it is probable that the upper, mid brown soil (6) represents the fill of a shallow recut. The lower fill (7) was a lighter grey-brown sandy silt, with organic remains present in the lowest 100 mm (Soil Sample 2). The organic content was poorly preserved, but the seeds and insect remains indicated an environment of wet acidic pasture (see Appendix 1).
- 7.4 In addition there was evidence of a possible earlier cut (18) on the W side of the ditch, but the soil difference might rather represent edge-silting within the later ditch.

8. Trench 2: Other Features

- 8.1 A small number of other features and possible features were discovered. None yielded finds. In addition there were several modern and natural features (tree-holes, land drains) which are omitted from Fig. 3.

Ditch 5 (Fig. 3, Section 1)

- 8.2 A shallow ditch to the south of Ditch 3 and cut by it. It ran ESE-WNW at a different angle to Ditch 3 and for this reason does not appear to be an earlier version of the ring-ditch. It was filled with a mid-grey sandy loam.

Gully 16

- 8.3 A very shallow N-S gully, just 130 mm deep. to the east of Ditch 8. It was filled with a dark brown sandy loam.

Ditch? 35

- 8.4 A trace of a possible ditch 0.42 m wide running ENE-WSW and containing a mid-to-light grey silty sand.

Postholes

- 8.5 A scatter of seven postholes were discovered. Three of these - 10, 12 and 14 - were examined by excavation. They were found to be quite regular although shallow. Postholes 10 and 12 contained notable concentrations of quartzite pebbles.

9. Trenches 5, 7, 10 & 14: Ditched Trackway

- 9.1 Trenches 5, 7, 10, and 14 examined a pair of parallel ditches running on a slightly curving alignment across the centre of the site. The southern portion of this feature appeared as a cropmark. Upon machine-stripping the features were revealed as a broad linear depression defined by slightly deeper lateral ditches (see sections in

figures 4 & 5). This was interpreted as a ditched trackway which had been much eroded through use and thus presented itself as a hollow-way. Patches of pebbles were evident in some trenches at the interface with the undisturbed geology (eg. 7/12, 14/11, 14/20). This might have been the remains of deliberate surfacing but it should be noted that the apparent cobbling was not confined to the area between the trackside ditches.

10. Trench 5

- 10.1 The trackway appeared as a linear feature (8), about 6 m wide, running NE-SW. It was not examined by excavation in this trench.
- 10.2 The trackway was cut on its E side by a 2.2 m wide ditch (5) following more or less the same alignment. A ?19th century clay drain had been inserted into it. The ditch fill contained fragments of brick. A post-medieval, possibly 19th century, date is indicated.

11. Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

- 11.1 The trackway appeared as parallel ditches (7 & 14), about 4 m apart internally, and separated by a hollow filled with friable, reddish brown sandy loam (11 & 15). Ditch 14 appeared to cut a thin pebbly layer which is possibly the remains of a deliberate surface. No finds were recovered.
- 11.2 The trackway was cut by Ditch 3 running WNW-ESE containing a brick built drain and superstructure (context 8). The drain was 0.4 m wide and 0.3 m high and consisted of four courses of neatly laid mortared bricks with a single capping course. the superstructure was a wall-like feature, 0.25 m high, running at right-angles to the drain and filling the width of the ditch. It comprised four courses of roughly mortared bricks supported partly by the drain and partly by backfilled earth in the ditch. The combined structure is not closely datable, but its singularity and the use of early (unfrogged) bricks, suggests that it is earlier than the 19th century.
- 11.3 The purpose of the superstructure is not clear. Its position and alignment with the trackway would suggest that it might have helped support a simple bridge to help negotiate the boggy ground where the ditch and trackway intersected. However, it should be noted that this interpretation implies the contemporaneity of trackway and ditch, whereas the evidence from the section would indicate that the trackway had at least partially silted up before the drainage ditch was cut.

12. Trench 10 (Fig. 5)

- 12.1 Trench 10 was cut through a low linear earthwork which was coincident with the recent field boundary (shown in Fig. 2). This was interpreted as a relict headland. Under the modern ploughsoil were thick (700 mm) deposits of this headland soil

(contexts 9 & 10) which filled the hollow of the trackway. These deposits were machine-excavated.

- 12.2 The lateral ditches of the trackway (Ditches 8 and 12) did not appear to have a consistent relationship with these deposits. While Ditch 12 was clearly sealed by 10, Ditch 8 appeared to be cutting this layer. This might have been the result of later recutting, and it can be noted that the upper fill of the ditch (context 6) was unusual in that it contained fragments of brick and slag. However, the relationship was, in any case, uncertain due to disturbance by later field drains (4 & 5) and it would be safer to assume that the trackway and associated ditches had fallen into disuse by the time this headland had become established.

13. Trench 14 (Fig. 5)

- 13.1 The trackway ditches (6 & 15) were separated by slightly shallower hollows (10 & 13). Traces of possible cobbling (11 & 20) were also present. No finds were recovered.

14. Trenches 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 & 19: Field Boundaries

- 14.1 Several ditches, many of them visible on aerial photographs, were examined. They can all be interpreted as relict field boundaries of varying dates.

Ditch 6/10

- 14.2 This was a well-formed ditch running NW-SE with steep sides and a flat base. Its upper fill (8) of dark brown sandy loam with yellow silty mottles overlay a cleaner dark brown silt (9). There were no finds. The feature is clearly visible on an aerial photograph of the Cambridge University collection (BUT 097) and appears to be part of a system which includes 3 large cropmark fields on the W side of the A5127. These are on the same alignment as the Roman enclosure in this field and it is possible, although far from certain, that they are of Roman date.

Gully 8/5

- 14.3 A shallow, irregular V-shaped gully at the W end of this trench. It ran N-S. It does not appear as a cropmark and remains undated.

Ditch 9/14 (Fig. 4, Section 3)

- 14.4 A deep ditch running NW-SE with steep sides and a rounded base. While it yielded no dating evidence, it is undoubtedly the same ditch as 7/3 which contained the section of brick drain. A post-medieval date seems certain. The feature is visible as a cropmark running from the top of the hill and is marked as a field boundary on the first edition of the 6 Inch OS map.

- 14.5 A linear hollow (9/21) ran parallel to this ditch on its N side. Its complete width was 2.8 m and maximum depth 500 mm, but the feature incorporated three parallel gullies of varying form (Fig. 4, Section 4). The N gully was the most regular. The central gully had a very pitted S edge which deepened to a flattish base, and the S gully was steep sided and groove-like. Its interpretation was uncertain but it might have been a deeply-rutted trackway along the edge of a field. Its course to the SE remains unknown.

Ditches 15/3, 16/4 & 17/3

- 14.6 This feature, running NE-SW, was 1.3 - 1.8 m wide and 300 - 520 mm deep with a bowl-shaped cross profile. It seems to be the relict field boundary appearing as a cropmark (mis-plotted on Fig. 2?) which crosses the field albeit discontinuously. It could not be traced into Tr. 12. The upper fill of 17/3 (context 17/2) contained 2 sherds of 2nd century Roman pottery.

Ditch 19/4

- 14.7 This ditch was 2.2 m wide and 520 mm deep with a bowl-shaped cross-profile. A sherd of 1st century Roman pottery came from its single fill. This is clearly the long field boundary visible as a cropmark. It runs parallel to the ditch in Trenches 15 - 17 and is almost certainly part of the same system.
- 14.8 The remaining trenches in Area 1 contained no archaeological features. The absence of evidence for the subrectangular? enclosure in Tr. 21 is puzzling since this was a clear cropmark. It was identified as a probable Romano-British enclosure by Jim Gould (Site B of that report) who also identified and plotted a smaller rectangular cropmark within it. It is possible that the enclosure, which lay towards the top of the slope, had been ploughed out. Alternatively, it might have lain further to the NE and have been missed. In any case, internal features were absent. A sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil during machining, and there seems no reason to suppose that the enclosure was not Romano-British, as Gould suggested.
- 14.9 The oval or trapezoidal feature plotted to the east was a more dubious feature and the lack of evidence for it is less surprising.

AREA 2

15. Summary of Results

- 15.1 The machined overburden comprised 300-400 mm of modern ploughsoil which directly overlay undisturbed sand.
- 15.2 Only two features were discovered and neither yielded any finds. Ditch 31/4 ran NW-SE, was 0.6 m wide and 220 mm deep, and had a bowl-shaped profile. Ditch 32/3, of similar shape and dimensions, ran NNE-SSW. Both features are probably relict field boundaries although perhaps of different dates. 32/3 seems likely to be the feature showing as a cropmark.

16. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 16.1 The evaluation revealed few features other than those recorded as cropmarks and very few finds were retrieved from any of them, or from the topsoil during machining. This suggests both that the area was peripheral to actual settlement, and that the cropmark evidence gives a good indication of the extent and density of features. All features had been heavily truncated by ploughing and their preservation was generally poor.
- 16.2 The limited dating evidence obtained must be treated with caution. The difficulties of dating are particularly acute with the type of peripheral long-lived features encountered (ie. trackways and field boundaries), not only because of the obvious danger of single finds being used to date features, but also because the late use of features could mask much earlier origins.
- 16.3 The 'ring-ditch' in Tr. 2 could not be dated, and nor could its complete form - whether continuous or interrupted - be ascertained. However, the features encountered suggest a degree of complexity, with recuts, possible multi-phase use, and some internal post-built structures. Waterlogged sediments at the base of the ditch enhance its significance. Although they were poorly preserved, it is possible that deeper sections of ditch or other features here could yield better quality environmental information and dating evidence (see Mark Robinson, this report). The ring-ditch is best interpreted as a ploughed-out round barrow, probably of Bronze Age date. It can reasonably be surmised that it surrounded a central burial and perhaps others, but it is doubtful whether any skeletons would have survived under the acidic soil conditions.
- 16.4 The double-ditched linear feature running through Trs. 14, 7, 10, and 5 is interpreted as a hollow-way. The original road would have been much eroded in the soft sandstone geology. Possible remains of pebble surfacing have been noted, but since pebbles occur naturally in the sand it is thought possible that an apparent surface could have accumulated naturally in the hollow. The use of the hollow-way could presumably have spanned several centuries and it is possible that it still served as a

route in the 18th? century when the brick drain (7/8) was inserted into Ditch 7/3 at the intersection of ditch and trackway. There is, however, no cartographic evidence for a trackway here. The origins of this trackway are obscure and dating evidence was absent from the lower fills. However, given the presence of a known Roman settlement in the field to the west, a Roman origin must be considered possible.

- 16.5 The NE-SW relict field boundaries crossing the southern part of the site are closely parallel and were almost certainly contemporaneous. Sherds from 19/4 and 17/3 suggest an origin in the Roman period. It is likely that they were contemporary with the subrectangular? cropmark enclosure in the SW corner of the site which appears to have been lost to the plough, but which also seems likely to have been of Roman date.

Bibliography & Sources

J. Gould (1971-2)

'Romano-British Farming near Letocetum (Wall. Staffs)', Trans. S Staffs Arch. Soc., xiii, 3-4.

Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography: Refs. BUT 095, BUT 097, BJS 58.

RCHM: Air Photographic Library; Ref. JAP 239//SK1105/11.

ANDY MUDD/OAU/JAN 1994

SSH93

Table 1

Context summary

Tr/Cxt: Trench & Context No.

FO: fill of

W: width

D: depth (max.)

(No.): no. of fragments

CBM: ceramic building material

C: century

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
1/1	layer		380		mod. ploughsoil
2/1	layer		350		mod. ploughsoil
2/2	FO 3		350	none	upper fill
2/3	ditch	1.7	840	-	ring-ditch same as 2/8, 2/31, 2/20
2/4	FO 5		210	none	
2/5	ditch	0.78	210	-	cut by 2/3
2/6	FO 8		300	none	upper fill
2/7	FO 8		200	none	waterlogging
2/8	ditch	2.0	710	-	ring-ditch same as 2/3, 2/31, 2/20
2/9	FO 10		140	none	
2/10	PH	0.3	140	-	
2/11	FO 12		200	none	
2/12	PH	0.4	200	-	
2/13	FO 14		180	none	
2/14	PH	0.32	180	-	
2/15	FO 16		130	none	
2/16	gully	0.41	130	-	

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Findings (No.)	Comments
2/17	FO 18		?	none	not exc.
2/18	ditch?	0.5	?	-	not exc. cut by 2/8
2/19	FO 20		?	none	not exc.
2/20	ditch	1.4	?	-	not exc. ring-ditch?
2/21	FO 22		?	none	not exc.
2/22	PH?	0.26	?	-	not exc.
2/23	FO 24		?	none	not exc.
2/24	PH?	0.23	?	-	not exc.
2/25	FO 33		?	none	not exc.
2/26	FO 27		?	none	not exc.
2/27	PH?	0.36	?	-	not exc.
2/28	FO 29		?	none	not exc.
2/29	PH?	0.26	?	-	not exc.
2/30	FO 31		?	none	not exc.
2/31	ditch	1.9	?	-	ring-ditch not exc.
2/32	FO 3		330	none	lower fill waterlogging
2/33	pit?	?	?	-	not exc.
2/34	FO 35		?	none	not exc.
2/35	gully	0.42	?	-	not exc.
2/36	FO 3		100	none	
2/37	FO 3		140	none	
2/38	FO 8		120	none	
3/1	layer		300	none	mod. ploughsoil
5/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
5/2	FO 3		600+	pot (2)	C18-19
5/3	gully	0.4	600+	-	pipe trench

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
5/4	FO 5		600	CBM (1)	
5/5	ditch	2.2	600	-	PM field boundary
5/6	FO 8		?	none	not exc.
5/7	deposit				natural geology
5/8	ditches	c.6.0	?	-	hollow way as in Trs. 7, 10 & 14
6/1	layer		350	none	mod. ploughsoil
6/2	deposit				natural geology
6/3	FO 5		370	none	upper fill
6/4	FO 5		160	none	lower fill
6/5	tree hole?	0.8	480	-	
6/6	FO 7		280	none	
6/7	tree hole	2.3	280	-	
6/8	FO 10		350	CBM (1)	upper fill
6/9	FO 10		260	none	lower fill
6/10	ditch	1.46	580	-	
7/1	layer		360	none	mod. ploughsoil
7/2	layer		160	none	early ploughsoil?
7/3	ditch	0.98	740	-	PM field boundary? same as 9/14
7/4	FO 5		?	none	not exc.
7/5	ditch	1.0	?	-	mod. service? trench same as 14/3
7/6	FO 7		400	none	
7/7	ditch	0.5	630	-	hollow way boundary same as 14/15?
7/8	structure	0.4	300	brick	brick drain and superstructure (C18?)
7/9	FO 3		240	none	lower fill
7/10	FO 3		400	none	upper fill
7/11	layer		260	none	colluvium

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
7/12	layer		100	none	pebble layer
7/13	FO 14		380	none	
7/14	gully	1.4	380	-	hollow way boundary same as 14/6?
7/15	layer		260	none	colluvium
8/1	layer		340	none	mod. ploughsoil
8/2	FO 5		100	none	upper fill
8/3	FO 5		200	none	
8/4	FO 5		160	none	
8/5	ditch	1.1	400	-	
9/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
9/2	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
9/3	FO 4		300	none	
9/4	tree-hole?	?	300	-	
9/5	FO 5		200	none	tightly packed stones
9/6	PH	0.34	200	-	
9/7	FO 8		330	none	
9/8	ditch	2.4	330	-	runs ESE-WNW
9/9	FO 14		220	none	
9/10	FO 14		200	none	
9/11	FO 14		170	none	
9/12	FO 14		330	none	
9/13	FO 14		220	none	
9/14	ditch	2.3	800	-	same as 7/3
9/15	FO 21		280	none	
9/16	FO 21		300	none	
9/17	FO 21		260	none	
9/18	FO 21		180	none	
9/19	FO 21		200	none	

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
9/20	FO 21		90	none	
9/21	gullies	2.8	500	-	trackway?
9/22	FO 23		?	CBM (1)	
9/23	ditch	1.4	?	-	mod. field boundary
10/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
10/2	FO 4		400	none	
10/3	FO 5		400	none	
10/4	ditch	0.6	700	-	land drain
10/5	ditch	0.6	700	-	land drain
10/6	FO 8		500	CBM (5) iron slag (1) lava? stone (1)	
10/7	FO 8		300	none	
10/8	ditch	1.5	700	-	trackway ditch as 14/6
10/9	layer		400	none	headland?
10/10	layer		300	none	fill of hollow-way
10/11	FO 12		200	none	
10/12	ditch	1.0	300	-	trackway ditch as 14/15
10/13	FO 14		200	none	
10/14	hollow	?2.0	300	-	hollow way?
10/15	FO 8		150	none	lower fill
11/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
12/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
13/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
14/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
14/2	FO 3		400+	none	
14/3	ditch	0.6	400+	-	mod. service? trench as 7/5
14/4	FO 6		300	none	upper fill

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
14/5	FO 6		400	none	
14/6	ditch	2.0	900	-	trackway ditch
14/7	FO 8		140	none	
14/8	PH?	0.3	140	-	mod. feature
14/9	FO 10		330	none	
14/10	linear hollow	0.73	330	-	hollow way?
14/11	layer	?	100	none	cobbled surface?
14/12	FO 13		300	none	
14/13	linear hollow	1.2	250	-	hollow way?
14/14	FO 15		370	none	
14/15	ditch	2.4	370	-	trackway ditch
14/16	FO 17		400+	none	
14/17	gully	0.4	400+	-	land drain
14/18	FO 19		100+	none	
14/19	gully	0.2	100+		land drain
14/20	layer	?	150	none	cobbled surface? as 14/11
14/21	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
15/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
15/2	FO 3		300	none	
15/3	ditch	1.2	300	-	
16/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
16/2	layer		100	none	early ploughsoil?
16/3	FO 4		520	Fe nail (1)	
16/4	ditch	1.44	520	-	same as 15/3 & 17/3
16/5	FO 6		320	none	
16/6	tree-hole	0.94	320	-	
16/7	FO 8		60	none	

Tr/Cxt	Type	W m.	D mm.	Finds (No.)	Comments
16/8	tree-hole	0.59	60	-	
17/1	layer		450	none	mod. ploughsoil
17/2	FO 3		400	pot (2)	Roman C2
17/3	ditch	1.8	500	-	same as 15/3 & 16/4
17/4	FO 3		240	none	lower fill
17/5	FO 3		100	none	edge fill
18/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
18/2	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
19/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
19/2	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
19/3	FO 4		520	pot (1)	Roman C1
19/4	ditch	2.2	520	-	
20/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
21/1	layer		500	pot (1)	Roman C3-4 mod. ploughsoil
22/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
29/1	layer		430	none	mod. ploughsoil
29/2	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
31/1	layer		420	none	mod. ploughsoil
31/2	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
31/3	FO 4		220	none	
31/4	ditch	0.6	220	-	
32/1	layer		400	none	mod. ploughsoil
32/2	FO 3		300	none	
32/3	ditch	0.68	320	-	
32/4	deposit	-	-	-	natural geology
33/1	layer		300	none	mod. ploughsoil

APPENDIX 1

Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains from Shenstone Hall Farm

Mark Robinson

Two waterlogged samples from the bottom of a ?Bronze Age ring ditch at Shenstone Hall Farm were investigated for macroscopic plant and invertebrate remains.

Sample 1 2/32 : grey brown humic clay and pale grey sand.

Sample 2 2/7 : brown organic silt and pale grey sand.

0.5 kg of each sample was washed over onto a stack of sieves down to 0.2mm and the sieve contents sorted under a binocular microscope. Preservation of remains in Sample 1 was extremely poor and in Sample 2 was very poor. Live earthworm cocoons were present in both samples. The sparse remains identified are listed below:

Seeds		Sample 1	Sample 2
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat hen	-	1
<i>Potentilla cf. erecta</i>	tormentil	1	9
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> agg.	sheep's sorrel	-	1
<i>Juncus cf. squarrosus</i>	heath rush	-	1
<i>J. articulatus</i> gp.	rush	-	10
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	rush	40	-
<i>Carex</i> sp.	sedge	-	10
Gramineae indet.	grass	-	2
Coleoptera		Sample 1	Sample 2
<i>Geotrupes</i> sp.		-	1
<i>Aphodius</i> sp.		-	1
<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>		-	1

Despite the poor survival of remains it is possible to make some interpretation of the results from Sample 2. The seeds comprise a flora of wet acidic grassland. The Coleoptera suggest grazed pasture, *Geotrupes* sp. and *Aphodius* sp. being dung beetles and *Phyllopertha horticola* larvae feeding on roots in grassland.

Further analysis of these samples is unlikely to yield additional useful information. Although pollen is probably present, earthworm activity is likely to have resulted in some contamination. However, it is possible that better preserved material survives if any part of the ditch is slightly deeper.

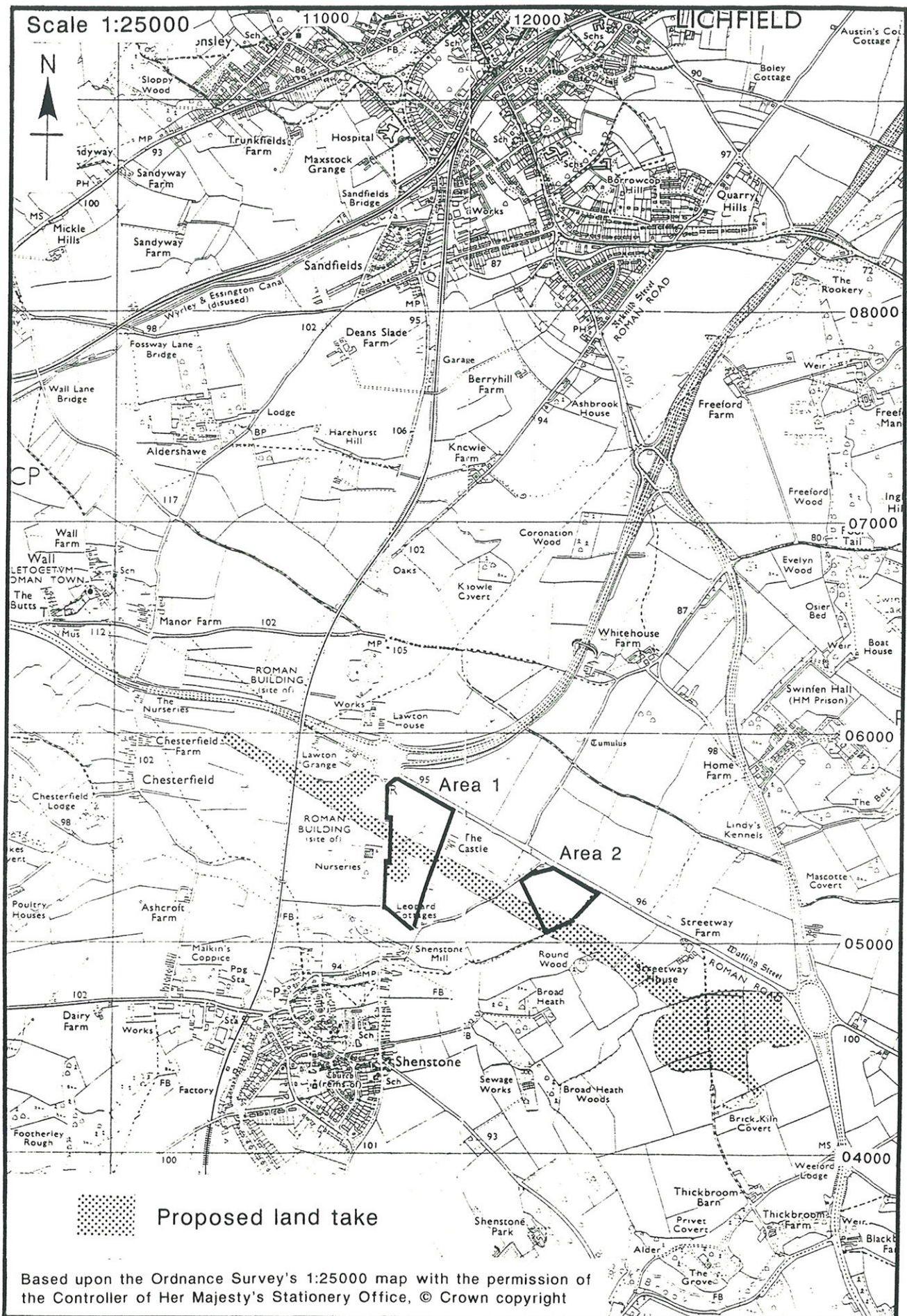


figure 1

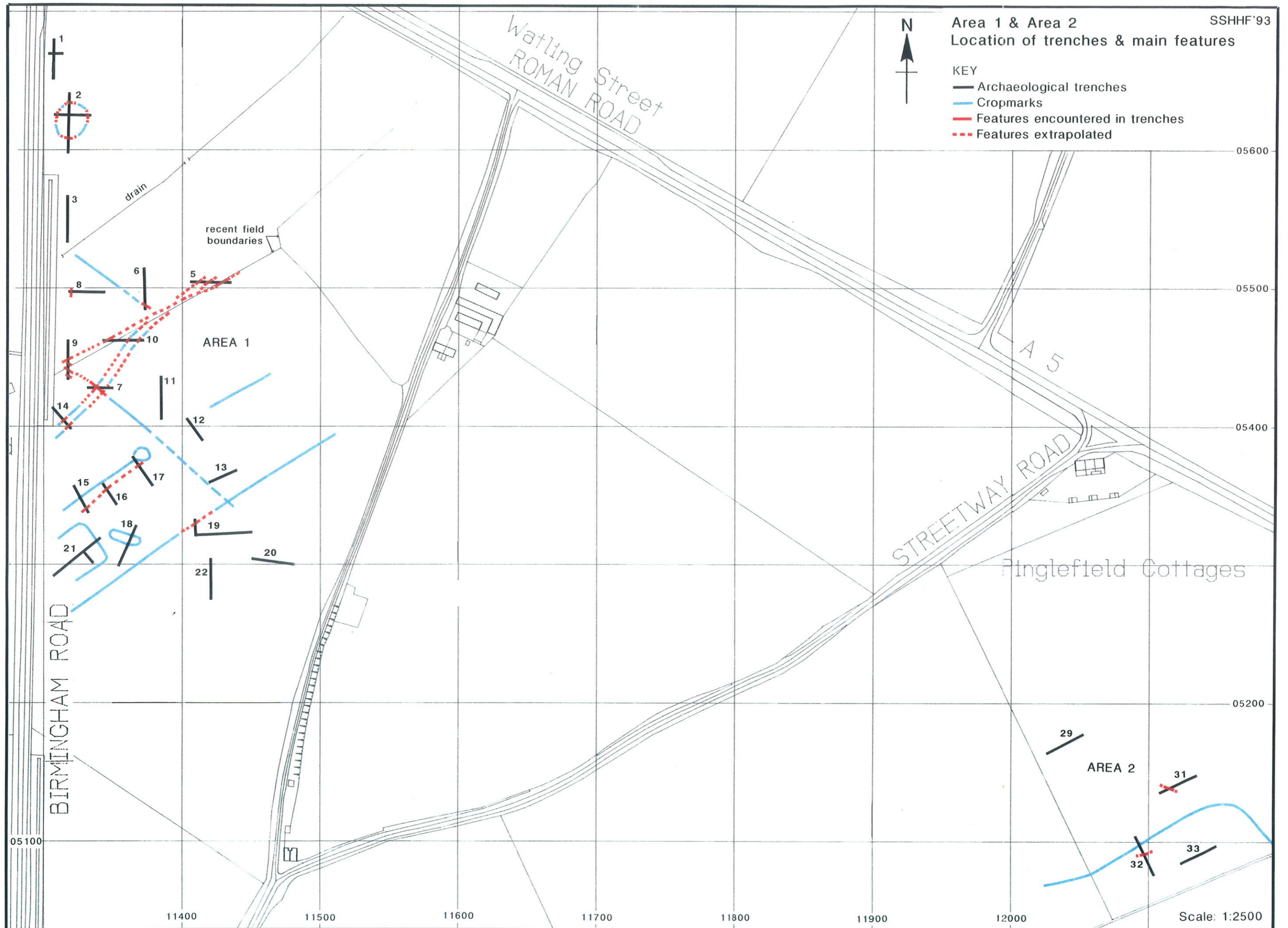
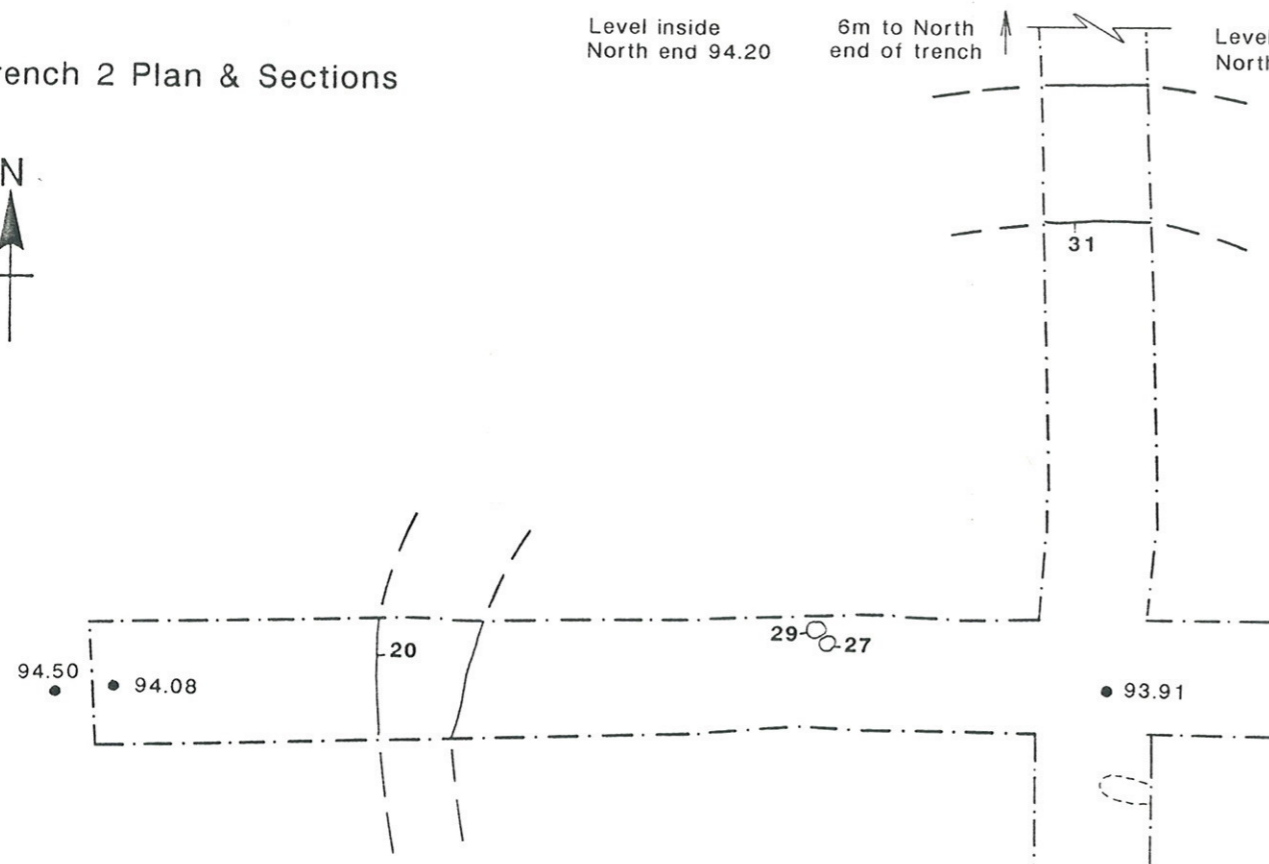


figure 2

Trench 2 Plan & Sections

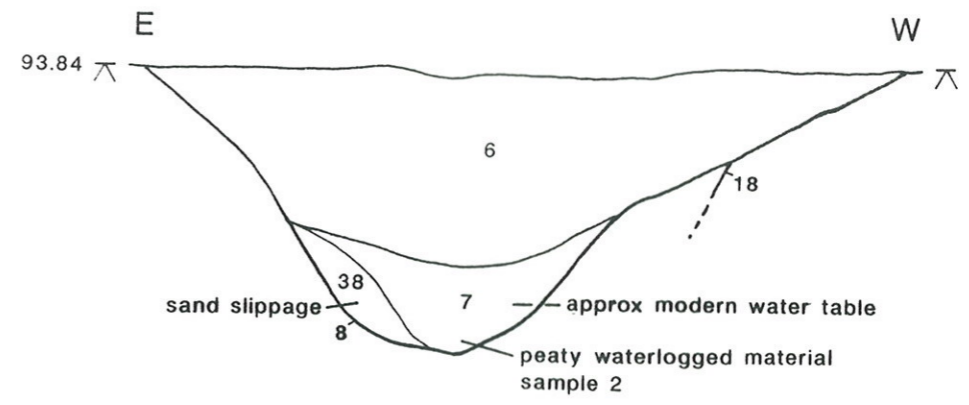


Level inside North end 94.20
6m to North end of trench
Level outside North end 94.64

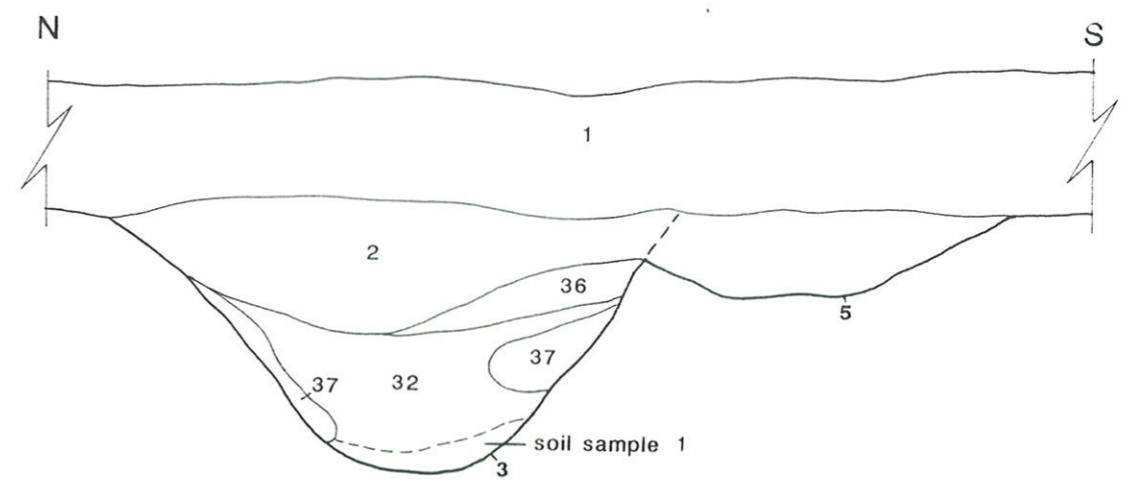


0 5 10 m
scale 1:100 for trench plan

Section 2



Section 1



Levels in m O.D.

1 0 1 m
Scale 1:20 for sections

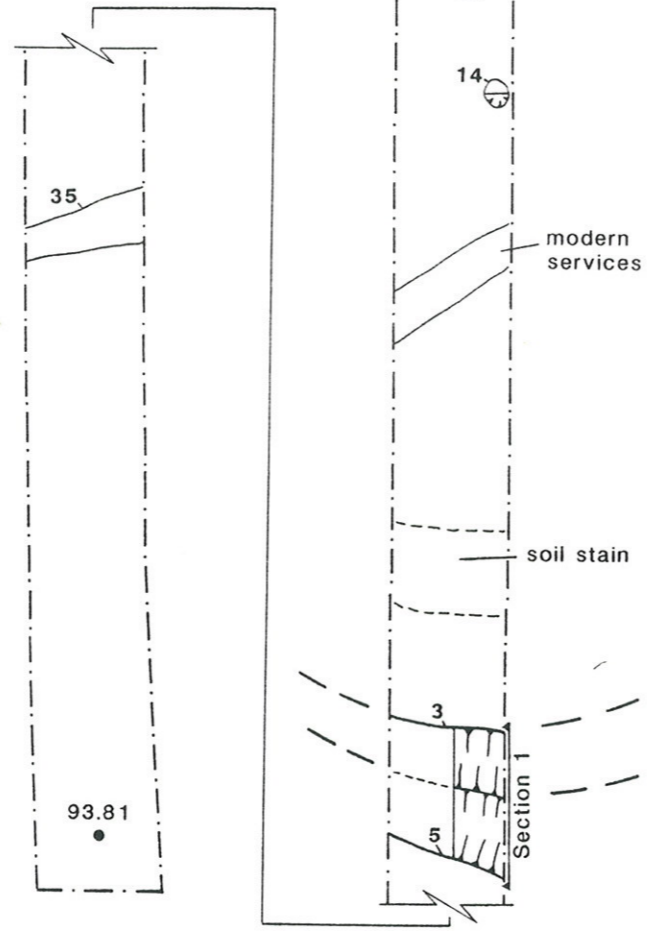
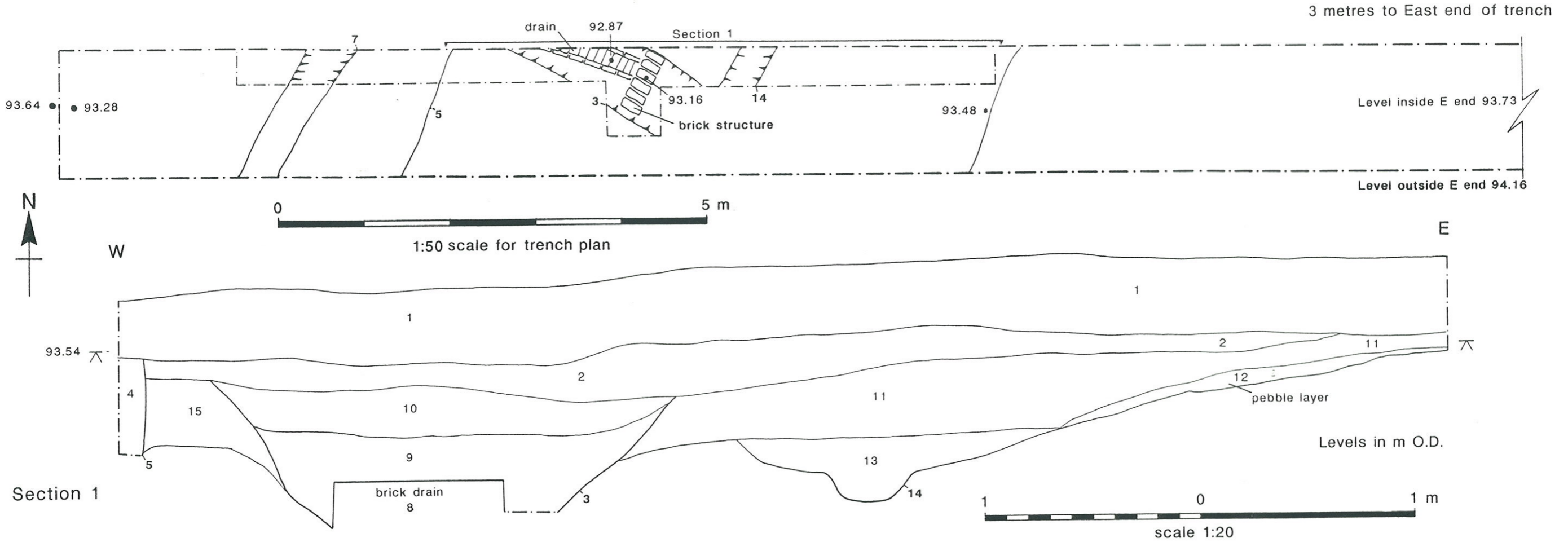


figure 3

Trench 7 Plan



Trench 9 Plan

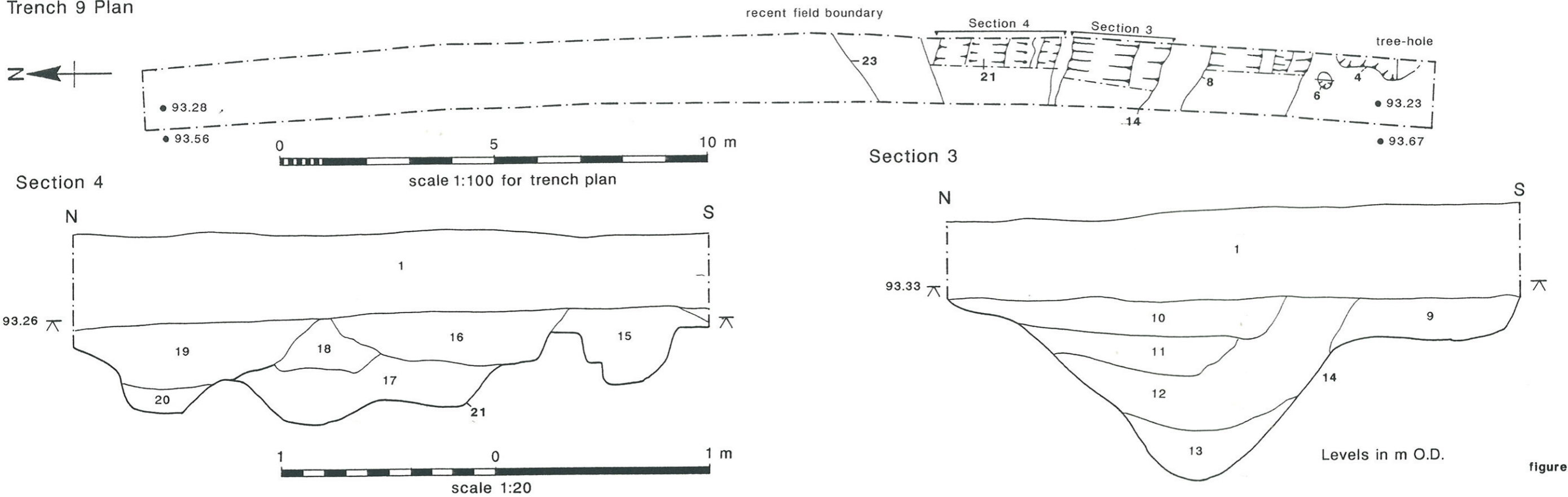
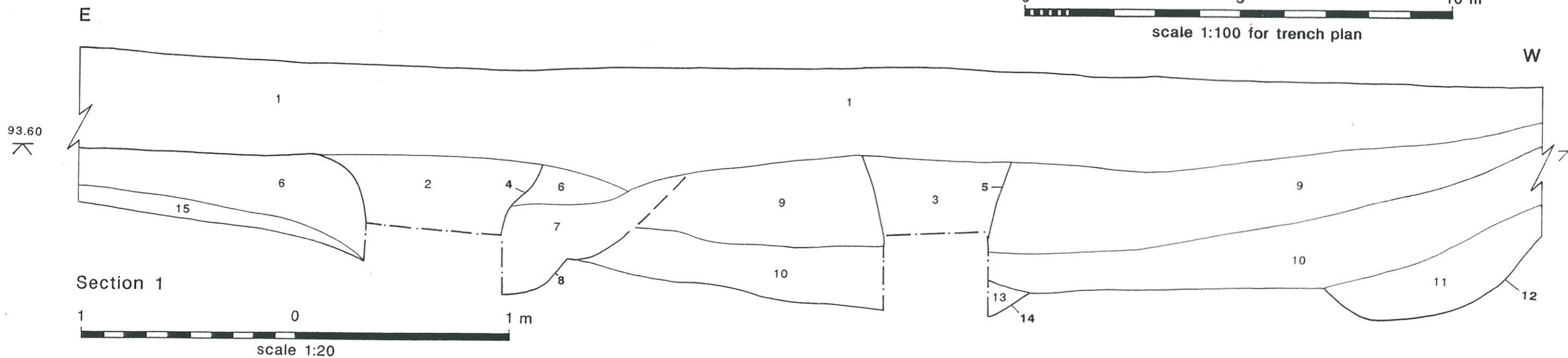
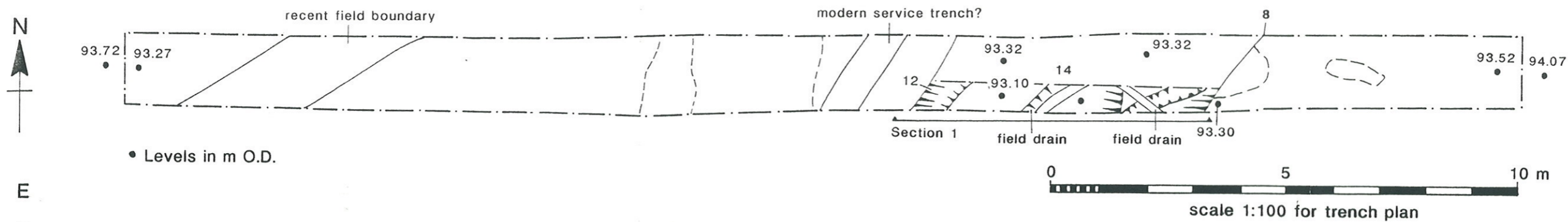


figure 4

Trench 10 Plan

SSHFF'93



Trench 14 Plan

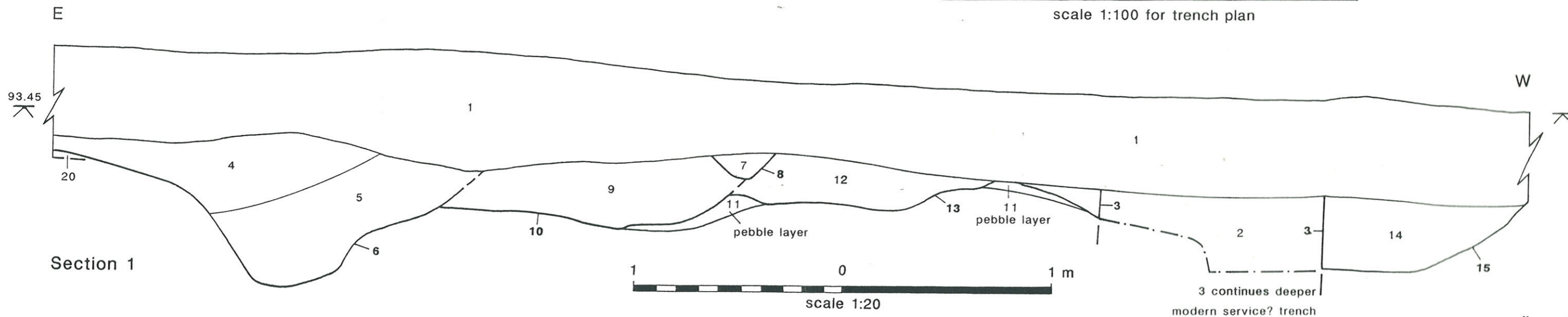
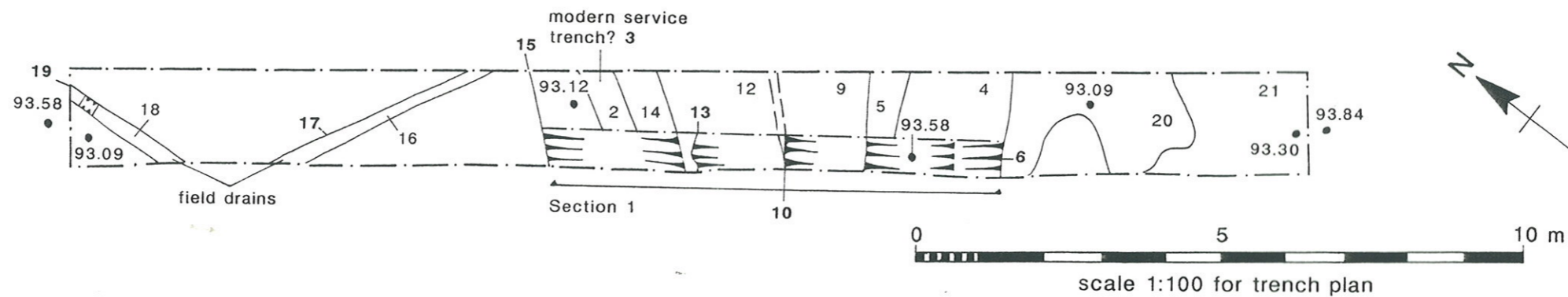


figure 5

Oxford Archaeological Unit
46 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford OX1 2EP



Tel: 0865 243888 Fax: 0865 793496

Registered Charity No. 285627
Private Limited Company No. 1618597