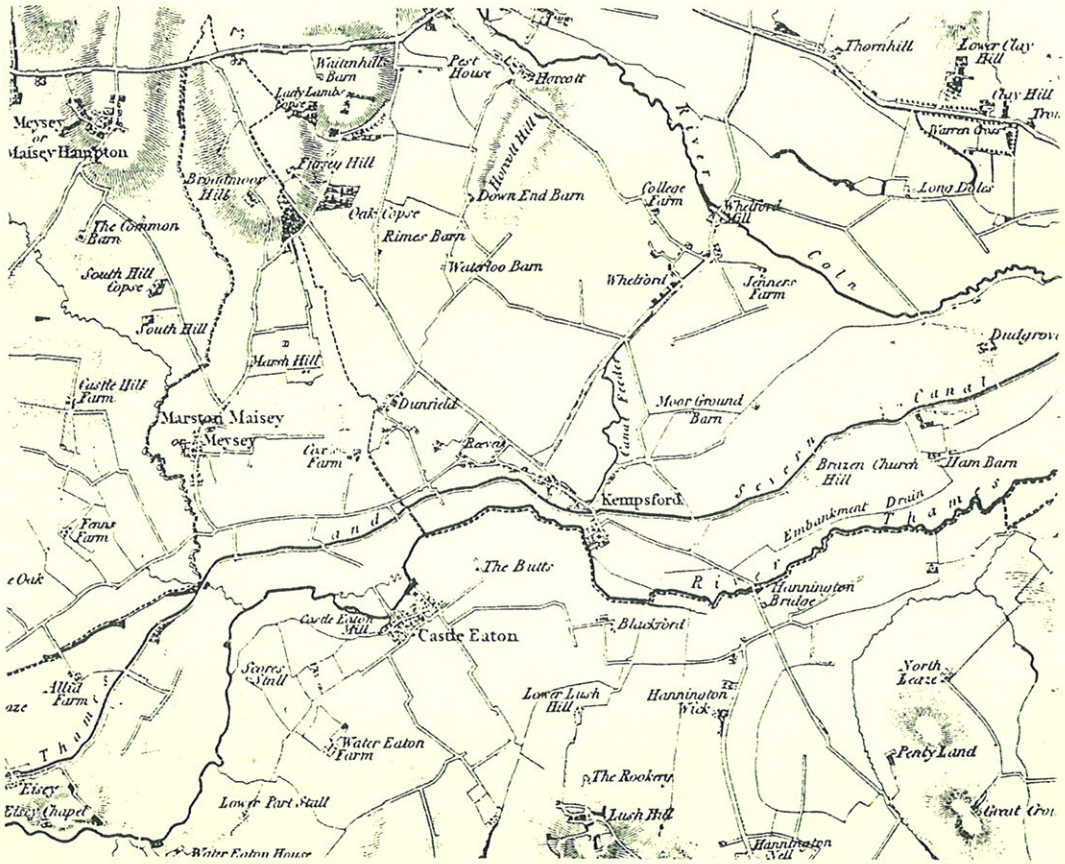
Multi-Agg Limited

Multi-Agg Quarry Extension, Kempsford, Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SU 1670 9690



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

February 1998

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out on land immediately south-west of Kempsford gravel quarry in an area rich in cropmarks and Iron Age and Romano-British archaeological remains. The main aim was to identify areas that might require preservation in situ. This area is currently under consideration by Multi-Agg Limited, as a potential site for an extension to their existing gravel quarry (Fig. 2 and 3). Thirty-three trial trenches were excavated, identifying Romano-British building remains at the north-west end of the site. The building remains included post pads, unmortared limestone rubble wall foundations, rubble and a few fragments of Roman roof, flue and floor tiles. A trackway, dated by pottery finds to the 2nd century AD, was also identified at the northern end of the site. Linear field boundary ditches, most of which were undated, were identified across the whole site. The small quantity of pottery collected during the evaluation was mainly of early Roman date, although some sherds may be of Late Iron Age origin. A very small number of middle Iron Age sherds, and a single late Roman sherd were also recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out an archaeological field evaluation on land adjacent to Kempsford Gravel Quarry, between 1st and 15th December 1997. The work was carried out on behalf of Multi-Agg Limited who are considering the evaluation area as a possible extension to their existing quarry. The purpose of the evaluation was to allow Multi-Agg to assess the potential cost of archaeological mitigation work across the site. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. Since the site is not at present the subject of a planning application, no brief was issued by Gloucestershire County Council, although the WSI and trench plan were submitted to, and approved by the Gloucestershire County Archaeologist.

1.1 Geology and topography

The site lies on the first terrace of the River Thames, on alluvial gravels at *c.*75m O.D. The land is currently under arable cultivation. The site lies 100m south of the existing Kempsford quarry and 500m due east of Kempsford village. The field is mainly flat, with a slight rise to the north.

1.2 Archaeological and historical background

The site has been the subject of a desk-top study, the results of which are summarised below.

The vicinity of the proposed quarry extension is rich in cropmarks, including settlement enclosures and field boundaries, which have been shown by excavation to be of mainly Romano-British date.

A number of archaeological sites are known from cropmarks and fieldwalking in the vicinity of the evaluation area, and from evaluations and excavations carried out in advance of gravel extraction to the north (OAU 1991).

The cropmarks indicate the presence of linear field boundaries within the proposed extension area, aligned from north-west to south-east. Surface scatters of stone rubble and Roman roof tiles, suggesting the presence of a Roman building, have been reported from the evaluation area by the metal-detectorist M.Maillard, who also found a spread of early Roman metal-work in the vicinity (SU 1660 9690, OAU 1991).

The OAU carried out a field evaluation and excavations at Manor Farm, in 1991, on behalf of ECC Quarries Ltd, 100m north of the proposed extension. An extensive system of field boundary ditches was found across the entire site, with a smaller rectangular enclosure attached to one of these on the south-west side. Few finds were recovered, but part of the field system was dated to the Roman period (Fig. 2).

Subsequent excavations in 1995, in fields to the north-east of the site, uncovered the remains of a rectangular enclosure measuring 53 x 42 m externally, with an entrance on the eastern side (Fig. 3). The small assemblage of associated Roman pottery and tile suggested a date in the 2nd century AD. A multiple-ditched circular enclosure, 52 m in diameter, was also identified. It had a post-hole structure at its centre and probably dates from the Iron Age.

Roman finds have been associated with many of the cropmark sites in the Kempsford area, although fieldwalking of cropmarks to the north of Kempsford village has also identified surface concentrations of medieval pottery, and some of the cropmark boundaries can be identified with post-medieval boundaries which appear on the 1801 Enclosure map.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- The aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI, were as follows:

- To assess the archaeological impact of the proposed quarry extension.

- To identify areas of archaeological significance which would justify preservation *in situ,* and recommend an appropriate level of mitigation for other areas of the site.

- To determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any subsoil features or deposits which may be associated with, or in close proximity to, the recorded cropmark features and reported surface concentrations of Roman tile and stone rubble.

- To provide a record of all archaeological deposits discovered.

- To determine the presence and potential of any environmental indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits.

- To determine the local, regional, national and international significance of such archaeological deposits as are revealed, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.

- To make the results of the investigation available.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation

The evaluation was based on a 3% sample of a 6.5 hectare area, and consisted of 33 trenches measuring 30 m long and 2 m wide (Fig. 3). Additional areas were opened to allow further investigation of the area of the Romano-British buildings (Trench 34, extensions to Trench 28, Fig. 4). The evaluation trenches were dug by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.

Since areas of complex archaeology discovered by the evaluation are intended to be preserved *in situ*, machining was conducted to ensure minimum disturbance of archaeological deposits, and only a small sample of features were excavated, to recover dating evidence.

Trenches were hand cleaned as appropriate. A selection of archaeological features were sampled to determine their extent and nature.

All trenches were planned and, where features were excavated, their sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D.Wilkinson, 1992). A table listing the contexts and finds data is presented in Appendix 1.

3.2 Finds

Finds were recovered by context and submitted for specialist examination.

3.3 Environmental data

Environmental samples were recovered from selected deposits and sieved for charred plant remains, animal bones and small artefacts.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The subsoil consisted of yellow silty gravel with patches of silt and sand. The topsoil in the southern part of the site was thinner than to the north, resulting in more severe plough disturbance of the archaeological features and natural subsoil.

The topsoil was a friable mid-greyish brown silty loam with inclusions of gravel, varying between 0.16 m and 0.40 m in depth. In the northern part of the site, there was an earlier ploughsoil underlying the modern topsoil, consisting of a friable, mid-greyish brown silty clay, with gravel and sand inclusions, between 0.05m and 0.32m thick. The features were commonly filled with brown silty clay with variable proportions of gravel.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

Features and deposits were excavated by hand in Trenches 1, 2, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32 and 33. Linear boundary ditches were recorded without excavation in Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 35. No archaeological deposits or features were present in Trenches 4, 14 or 19 (Fig. 3).

Archaeological features and deposits were concentrated at the northern end of the site in Trenches 24, 28/34 and 32 (Figs. 4, 5). These included post settings and foundation gullies, associated with pottery, indicating the presence of one or more Romano-British buildings, probably of the 2nd century AD. A group of features in Trenches 33 and 28/34 contained a series of ditches and gravel layers which are interpreted as the remains of a trackway.

The remainder of the trenches revealed a network of linear ditches, several of which could be identified with known cropmark boundaries. On the basis of evidence recovered during previous excavation work in the neighbouring fields, and the dating of features excavated during the present evaluation, it seems likely that the majority of the boundaries are of Late Iron Age and early Romano-British date.

4.3 Presentation of results

Trench 28 was expanded and linked to Trench 34. Trench 34 is therefore omitted from the trench numbering sequence and all features located within the trench are ascribed to Trench 28. The trenches are divided into the following groups for descriptive purposes:

- Trenches 28, 27, 32: The building remains
- Trench 33: The trackway
- Trenches 1-26, 29-31: The field boundary system

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trench 28, 32, 27: The building remains (Fig. 5)

5.1.1 Trench 28

Trench 28 was located on a gentle slope in the north-western part of the evaluation area to coincide with a surface scatter of stone debris and Roman tile fragments. The scatter was concentrated within a 30 - 40 m radius of the trench. The trench was expanded and linked with Trench 34 in order to further investigate this group of features.

Three parallel wall footings, possibly associated with a single building, were recorded at the northern end of the trench. Wall foundations 28/56 consisted of a continuous strip of deliberately laid, unmortared limestone rubble, 0.70 m wide. A spread of rubble lying along the north-western side of the foundation to the north-west, probably represents material spread by ploughing.

Wall foundations 28/64 and 28/41 were spaced 1.20 m apart, suggesting that the north-western wall, which consisted of a foundation gully set with post settings lined with limestone rubble (28/47, 28/50), may have formed an aisle, or part of a different building phase. The south-eastern wall foundation (28/41), which was 0.70 m wide and lay within a 0.20 m deep gully, consisted of unmortared limestone rubble.

The maximum possible width of the building, as measured from the two outer footings (28/41, 28/56), is 14.1 m. The length of the structure is more difficult to determine, since the footings are of varying lengths. It is not clear whether this is the result of stone-robbing or if the features belong to different building phases. Wall foundation 28/56 was recorded for a total length of 17 m, indicating the minimum possible length of the building. The wall footings were all c.0.70 m wide and were laid in shallow gullies varying from 0.18 m to 0.30 m in depth.

In the southern part of the trench was a group of 7 post settings, lined with limestone rubble (28/8, 28/12, 28/14, 28/40, 28/58, 28/18, 28/22) including at least one line of four settings on a slightly different orientation to the stone wall foundations described above (Fig. 5). The available evidence is insufficient to determine whether these features all form part of the same building, but apart from the alignment mentioned above, it seems unlikely. No pottery was associated with the wall foundations, but three of the post settings produced Romano-British pottery, probably of the 2nd century AD. This is consistent with evidence from previous excavations at Kempsford Quarry, which suggests that the field system and settlement enclosures to the east of the evaluation area were principally occupied during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

The stone wall footings, and Ditch 28/44, were cut by a 1.55 m wide, rectilinear, flat-bottomed ditch, on a north-east to south-west alignment. This feature could represent an enclosure boundary (28/53, 28/67, Fig. 6, Section 2). The upper fill of the ditch in the southern part of the trench produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery of the 3rd-4th century AD.

The trackway ditches examined in detail in Trench 33 below (33/12, 33/22), were also recorded in Trench 28 (28/70, 28/73, Fig. 5) and Trench 32 (32/4), running to the west of the wall foundations described above, but on a different alignment. Two ditches (28/44 and 28/30) were

recorded in the eastern part of Trench 28, on the same alignment as the wall foundations. Both ditches contained charcoal rich fills and Ditch 28/44 contained a high proportion of limestone rubble.

Various other features located in this trench, including ditches (28/32, 28/4, 28/6, 28/47, 28/48, 28/49, 28/10, 28/38, 28/60), pits (28/61) and a post hole (28/28), were not excavated (Fig. 5). Surface finds were collected from unexcavated features. Very few finds were recovered from the excavated sections.

5.1.2 Trench 32

Trench 32 contained two pairs of parallel linear ditches (32/2, 32/19 and 32/3, 32/20, Fig. 4),. These ditches could be enclosure boundaries or stone robbing trenches, and need not be contemporary with the building to the south, although they do follow a similar alignment to the wall foundations in Trench 28. The fills of two of the ditches (32/10, 32/13, filling Ditches 32/1 and 32/2 respectively) produced one sherd each of Romano-British pottery, consistent with a 2nd century AD date.

Ditch 32/1, which was on a different (north-south) alignment, produced a slightly larger group (7 sherds from Fill 32/15), suggesting a 3rd century AD or later date.

Ditch 32/4, which was recut by 32/5 and 32/6, is presumed to be a section of the eastern trackway ditch, seen in Trenches 28 and 33.

5.1.3 Trench 27

Two shallow, plough-truncated pits (27/4, 27/6) were identified in the middle part of the trench. Pit 27/4 was 1.0 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep; Pit 27/6 was 0.84 m in diameter and 0.21 m deep. Both contained similar tenacious, mid-greyish brown silty clay fills with gravel inclusions. The fills of both pits (27/5, 27/7) contained fragments of fired clay, perhaps suggesting a similar date and function, although no other finds were present.

A curving gully (27/8) and two linear ditches (27/12, 27/14) were identified at the southern end of the trench. Ditch 27/14 contained two fills (27/15, 27/24). Both consisted of a tenacious mid-grey brown silt clay, the lower fill being distinguished by a higher proportion of gravel. The upper fill 27/15 contained bone fragments. It is probably a section of the enclosure or field boundary ditch also seen in Trenches 24 and 34 (24/6, 28/47, Fig. 4).

Two other subsoil features were identified as tree-throw holes.

5.2 Trench 33: The trackway (Fig. 7)

5.2.1 Trench 33

Trench 33 contained two pits (28/27, 28/10), a possible post-hole (28/31), and a sequence of features and deposits which are interpreted as the remains of a trackway. The pits must pre-date the trackway ditches (28/13, 28/22) on stratigraphic grounds. The lower fill of Pit 28/10 (28/11)

contained a single sherd of LIA pottery. This is not sufficient to demonstrate a LIA date, but a date in this period is plausible on stratigraphic grounds.

The earliest feature in the trackway sequence is a small ditch or gully (33/17). This was largely obliterated on the eastern side by a broad hollow way (33/30), filled by two layers of gravel (33/6, 33/8), which may have formed successive trackway surfaces. The gravel was sealed by a series of brown silty clay layers (33/19, 33/7, 33/20, 33/21). Two parallel, north-south aligned linear ditches (33/13, 33/22), 3.3m and 3.2m wide respectively, cut through these layers to the east and west. These probably represent a later phase of the trackway. Ditch 33/13 was filled by a sequence of three brown silty clay fills (33/14, 33/15, 33/16). The fills of Ditch 33/22 were very similar in composition and appearance, which generally supports the stratigraphic indications that the two ditches are contemporary.

Ditch 33/13 was cut through a possible demolition or occupation layer (33/12). this layer was a friable, very dark greyish brown silt clay, with gravel, flecks of charcoal and small fragments of fired clay.

Trackway layers 33/6, 33/7 and 33/8, and ditch fill 33/25 all contained small quantities of pottery of the 1st-2nd century AD.

Layer 33/26 overlay ditch 33/22 and pit 33/27. The layer was a tenacious mid-greyish brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal, small fragments of fired clay and fine gravel, and was probably a build-up of cultivation soil. The trench was sealed by a thin layer of topsoil.

5.3 Trenches 1-26, 29-31: The field boundary system

A considerable amount of evidence has been collected about the Romano-British field systems in the vicinity, during previous archaeological work to the north-east of the evaluation area (OAU 1991). The field and boundary ditches seen during the present evaluation have generally similar characteristics to those previously excavated. The ditches are typically severely plough-truncated, flat-based features of variable dimensions, usually containing dark brown silty clay upper fills, and lower fills with a high proportion of sand and gravel. Finds from the ditches are very scarce, but where present indicate an early Roman date.

5.3.1 Trenches 1, 3, 8, 12, 15, 20 (Fig. 8)

A series of linear ditch sections seen in Trenches 1, 3, 8, 12, 15 and 20 (1/8, 3/3, 8/3, 12/3, 15/3, 20/3) may be tentatively identified as part of a single, major continuous boundary (Fig. 8). If this is the case, the boundary extends for a minimum of *c.*270 m. The recorded differences in the widths of the recorded sections may be due to differential plough-truncation.

A number of other linear ditches were identified in this group of trenches (1/3, 3/4, 12/4, 20/4). Ditch 1/3 was the only one of these excavated. It was a flat-based, shallow-profiled feature, filled with a sticky, dark brown silty clay with charcoal flecks (1/2).

5.3.2 Trench 5, 10, 11 (Fig. 8)

A single ditch was identified in each of these trenches. The three ditches (5/3), 10/3, 11/3) appear are all on a similar north-east to south-west alignment, with slight variations. No dating evidence was recovered.

5.3.3 Trenches 2, 6, 9 (Fig. 8)

Two ditch segments in these trenches (2/5, 6/3) may be identified as sections of a single boundary, running parallel to, and *c.*32 m south-west of, the major boundary described above. Ditch 2/5 was flat-bottomed with moderately sloping sides, and measured 1.14 m wide and 0.30 m deep. The upper fill (2/3) was a sticky, mid-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. The lower fill (2/4) was a brownish grey silty clay with gravel inclusions and snail shells.

Other undated linear features in these trenches include Ditches 2/6 and 6/4, the former aligned from north-south, the latter from north-east to south-west.

Trench 9 contained two undated linear ditches on differing alignments. Ditch 9/3 may be a continuation of the boundary seen in Trenches 2 and 6 (2/5, 6/3), assuming that the course of the boundary deviates slightly from a straight line.

5.3.4 Trench 13 (Fig. 9)

Trench 13 contained two linear features (13/3 and 13/4). The former, an east-west aligned ditch, is probably a continuation of a cropmark feature recorded in the field to the east (Fig. 3), and investigated during a watching brief in 1995. No dating evidence was recovered.

5.3.5 Trench 16, 21, 22, 23 (Fig. 9)

Two sections of another north-west to south-east aligned boundary were identified in Trenches 16 and 21 (16/3, 21/3). Several ditches on a similar alignment, perhaps representing different phases of the same boundary, were identified in Trenches 21, 22, 23 and 24 (21/4, 21/5, 22/3, 23/4, 23/6, 24/8).

5.3.6 Trench 17 (Fig.8)

Trench 17 exposed a cluster of undated features including three severely plough-truncated gullies (17/3, 17/4, 17/5) and a possible pit or tree throw hole (17/6).

5.3.7 Trench 24, 25 (Fig. 4)

Trench 24 contained a series of perpendicular and parallel linear features (24/4, 24/5, 24/6, 24/7, 24/8). Ditch 24/4 and 24/5 are probably phases of a single north-east to south-west aligned boundary, and may be linked with Ditches 25/7 and 25/9 in Trench 25.

Ditches 24/6 and 24/7, and Ditch 27/14 in Trench 27, may similarly be elements of a single NNW to SSE aligned boundary.

Ditch 24/8 is probably a continuation of a single boundary, probably consisting at various times of Ditches 21/4, 21/5, 22/3, 23/4, 23/6 and 24/8.

5.3.8 Trench 18, 26, 29, 30, 31 (Fig. 4)

These five trenches contained elements of a single north-west to south-east boundary ditch (26/4, 29/4, 30/7, 31/8), which ran parallel to the modern trackway forming the eastern boundary of the site. Although none of the ditch sections are dated, the alignment suggests that this ditch may be post-medieval in date. However, it is possible that the modern trackway follows the line of a Late Iron Age or Romano-British field boundary.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Iron Age and Romano-British pottery by P.Booth

6.1.1 Introduction

Some 80 sherds (879 g) of Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation. The material was briefly scanned by context, being recorded for the most part in terms of the major ware groups defined in the OAU Roman pottery recording system. Some specific fine and specialist wares were recorded individually. The major vessel classes present were also noted. Quantification of ware groups was by sherd count and weight, although in the following summary, discussion is in terms of sherd count unless otherwise specified. An estimated date for each context group was also given.

The pottery was in moderate condition. The average sherd weight of 11g was not particularly high and some sherds were discoloured, probably as a result of soil conditions. Preservation of surfaces was variable, but surface treatment such as burnishing tended not to survive.

6.1.2 Fabrics

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery by fabric:

Fabric code	Fabric	Sherd count
	Iron Age fabrics.	13
S20	South Gaulish samian ware.	1
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware.	3
A11	South Spanish amphora (Dressel 20 etc).	1
A13	Gaulish amphora (Pelichet 47 etc).	1
O	Oxidised wares (unspecified).	2
O10	Fine oxidised wares.	4
O30	Moderately sandy oxidised wares.	4
O80 R	Coarse tempered oxidised wares.	5
R10	Reduced wares (unspecified).	12
R30	Fine reduced wares.	1
B10/B11	Moderately sandy reduced wares.	27
C11	Black-burnished ware (BB1).	5
	Late Roman shell-tempered ware.	1

All but one of the Iron Age sherds were in handmade shell-tempered fabrics, the exception being tempered with limestone. No feature sherds were present, and there was no evidence for decoration. These sherds are assumed to derive from relatively local sources and are attributed, somewhat tentatively, to the Middle Iron Age.

The Roman material is generally unremarkable and again the majority was probably from local sources, including the North Wiltshire industry. The sandy fabrics of the O30 and R30 groups are consistent with North Wiltshire products, although not all sherds in these

groups necessarily originated there. Non-local coarse wares are indicated by black-burnished ware and a single sherd of late Roman shell-tempered ware, which is likely to be from the potteries at Harrold (Beds). Imported material was confined to Samian ware and amphorae, the two amphora fabrics represented being the most common types found in the region.

6.1.3 Vessel types

Only ten vessels were represented by rim sherds, most of which were small so that attribution to type was usually only at a very general level. Coarse ware forms were jars (in fabrics O80, R30 (a large bead-rimmed form), B10/B11 (2) and C11), an uncertain jar or bowl (in R30), a rounded bowl in fabric O10 and a straight-sided dish in fabric R30. Samian forms present were Drag. 18 and 33, with a further example of form 33 and a form 37 indicated by body sherds. The single large sherd of fabric A13 was a handle from a typical amphora of Pelichet form 47.

6.1.4 Chronology and discussion

The presence of a probable Middle Iron Age phase on the site is indicated by a small amount of pottery, all but one sherd of which came from contexts in Trench 33, some redeposited in features also containing Roman material. Dating of the Roman pottery was hampered by the small size of individual context groups, of the assemblage as a whole and the paucity of diagnostic vessel forms. The great majority of the Roman pottery appears to belong to the 2nd-3rd centuries, however, and there were few pieces which *need* have been later than the 2nd century. Grog-tempered and other fabrics in a late Iron Age-early Roman tradition characteristic of the region were completely absent here, the only coarse-tempered fabric group (O80) being one which was used for large storage jars throughout much of the Roman period. The dominance of the assemblage by `Romanised' fabrics therefore suggests a start date not before the late 1st century AD, and perhaps later, although the South Gaulish samian form 18 would suggest activity in the Flavian period. Thereafter there were few pieces which were diagnostic of a date after the 2nd century, although it is quite possible that some of the coarse wares which were not closely dateable extended the range of activity on the site into the 3rd century. A small rim sherd from a `cooking pot type' jar in black-burnished ware is more likely to have dated to the 3rd century than earlier, but diagnostic late black-burnished ware forms were completely absent, as were other common late Roman indicators such as Oxford colour-coated ware. It is possible, however, that the bowl rim sherd in fabric O10 (see above), from context 32/13, was an Oxford colour-coated vessel, the surface of which was completely eroded away.

The only definite late Roman sherd was a jar rim in shell-tempered ware (fabric C11), the sole sherd in context 28/60. This must date to the late 3rd century at least, and a 4th century date is almost certain. On present evidence this sherd is anomalous in the assemblage as a whole, but must indicate some late Roman activity in the vicinity. In general, however, a date range from about the end of the 1st century to perhaps the middle of the 3rd century seems likely, a range which is almost identical to that suggested for the rather larger assemblage from the adjacent enclosure at Stubbs Farm, excavated in 1995. The present assemblage is too small to demonstrate points of contrast between the two

groups, but it may be very tentatively suggested that the representation of samian ware and amphora was higher in the present group, which would be consistent with a perceived contrast in the status of the two sites on the basis of their structural evidence.

6.2 Roman Tile

by Kate Atherton

The evaluation produced a total of 19 fragments of ceramic building material, all of which is Roman in date. The small assemblage does not include examples of the building material which was widespread in the topsoil, particularly in the north-west part of the evaluation area, and mainly consisted of roof tile. The quantification of the tile is presented in the table below.

There are examples of different types of tile within the assemblage, including roof tile, box tile or tubuli, and floor tiles. Except for the faint remains of combing on one small box flue fragment, there are no distinctive features and the majority of the fragments are small and abraded. The fabric of many of the fragments appears to be similar, with a soft and soapy texture and a mixed clay. This possibly points to one production site. The fragments are all from the north-western part of the evaluation area which, with the evidence of Roman roof tile fragments in the topsoil, supports the theory that this was the site of one or more buildings. The assemblage is too small to permit further interpretation.

Table 2: Quantification of building material by context

Context	No of Fragments	Tile Type	Context Description
Tr 28/2	4	Imbrex + 3 Flat (Inc 1 poss Tegula)	Subsoil
Tr 28/54	1	Misc	Ditch fill
Tr 28/59	2	Imbrex + Misc	Post Pad
Tr 28/60	1	Box Flue	Ditch fill
Tr 28/61	3	Imbrex + 2 Flat	?Pit fill
Tr 28/70	1 (New break)	Box Flue	Fill of Trackway
Tr 30/5	1	Misc	Ditch fill
Tr 31/7	1	Flat tile	Ditch fill
Tr 32/13	2 (Old break)	Flat tile	Ditch fill
Tr 32/15	1	?Imbrex	Ditch fill
Tr 32/17	1	Flat tile	Ditch fill
Tr 33/8	1	Imbrex	?Fill of Trackway

6.3 Metalwork

There were four iron finds from the evaluation. The finds included 3 nails, 2 from trench 33 and a third from Trench 28/25. The remaining iron object was a rectangular strip of iron recovered from Trench 33. The strip is broken at one end and has 3 circular perforations evenly spaced along its length. There was also a total of 72g of slag recovered from trench 28/40 and 32/133.

6.4 Environmental data

6.4.1 Assessment of charred plant remains

Five soil samples were taken during the evaluation, from a wall foundation gully, a post pipe and a ditch fill. Samples were processed by bulk water separation and the flots collected onto a 500μm mesh. flots were air dried slowly before being submitted for evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the quantity and quality of the remains present and the potential for further sampling.

Each flot was first put through a stack of 2mm to 500μm mesh size in order to separate them into manageable fractions. each fraction was then scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification. Any charred plant remains noted were provisionally identified sand an approximation of their abundance was made. Other inclusions, such as charcoal and molluscs, were also noted. The quality of preservation of the charred remains was noted. The results are shown in Table 1 below. The estimated quantities of remains are shown on a four point scale: (+ = 1-10, ++ = 11-50, +++=51-100, ++++ = > 100 items).

Two samples (1 and 2) contained useful quantities of charred plant remains. Hulled wheat dominated the cereal; assemblages with both grain and glume bases. Where preservation was sufficient the hulled wheat was identified as *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat). Occasional grains in both samples showed clear evidence of having germinated. Glume bases were at least twice as common as grain. Occasional grain of hulled *Hordeum* sp. (barley) was also present in sample 2. Sample 3 contained occasional grain of *Triticum spelta* and several Triticum sp. glume bases, while samples 3 and 4 contained very poorly preserved glume bases which were not identified to species. occasional weed seeds were present in each sample. Species present include small seeded *Gramineae* (grasses), *Anthemis cotula* (Stinking Mayweed), *Raphanus raphanistrum* (wild radish), *Fallopia convulvulus* (black bindweed) and *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass).

Preservation of remains was generally very poor in all samples and modern rootlets were common. A single fragment of *Corylus/Alnus* sp. (hazel/alder) charcoal was present in sample 1.

Triticum spelta (spelt wheat) is the principal cereal crop recovered from Romano-British sites, while Hordeum sp. (barley) is commonly represented as a secondary crop. The presence of large quantities of glume bases and of detached coleoptiles is indicative of cereal processing. The number of germinated grains and of detached coleoptiles are such as could be expected to occur as a result of occasional natural spoilage and not as a result of deliberate germination, for example for malting purposes. It appears that the assemblages therefore represent the debris of the processing of spelt wheat prior to storage or preparation for consumption, such as would be expected on a settlement site which was producing its own cereal crops. No exotic species or obvious imported foods are represented.

While no further work is recommended for these samples at this stage, they do indicate that there is a presence of charred remains including cereal processing debris on the site., although preservation is poor. It is therefore recommended that at least some sampling is conducted in the event of future excavation and that the richer of the present samples (sample 20 is included in any analysis.

Table 3: Charred plant remains noted in the evaluation

	Sample	1	2	3	4	5
	Context	28/40	28/33	28/63	28/66	28/63
	Vol. of soil processed (litres)	40	40	10	20	40
Triticum spelta	Spelt Wheat, germinated grain	++	++	+	-	-
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat/ grain	+	+	-	-	-
triticum spelta/ dicoccum	Spelt wheat/ emmer wheat, grain	++	++	-	-	-
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain	++	++	-	-	-
Hordeum sp.	Barley, hulled grain	+	++	+	-	-
Cerealia indet.	Cereal indet.	+	+++	+	+	-
Approx. total number of cereal grains		50	200	12	5	0
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat., glume base	+++	++++	++	-	-
Triticum spelta/ dicoccum	Spelt/ emmer wheat, glume base	+++	++++	-	-	-
Cerealia indet.	detached coleoptiles	++	+++	-	-	-
Weeds		++	++	-	-	+
Corylus/ Alnus sp.	Hazel/ Alder charcoal	+	-	-	-	-
+ = 1-10, ++ = 11-50, +++=51-100, ++++ = > 100 items						

6.4.2 Assessment of Molluscs by Mark Robinson

Five flots which were assessed for charred plant remains were also scanned for land and freshwater molluscs. The flots were from possible wall construction trenches, a post hole, a possible occupation layer and the bottom of a ditch.

The flots, which had been recovered over a 0.5mm mesh, were scanned at x10 and x20 magnification under a binocular microscope. The species identified were listed in Table 1.

Shells were present in all the samples and abundant in most. However, it is difficult to establish whether they are Roman. On the one hand, some of the flots contain high concentrations of charred plant remains which are almost certainly Roman. On the other hand the flots contain uncharred cereal stubble and dried fragments of green leaf. It is clear that there had been substantial contamination of the samples. Most of the samples were from deposits just beneath the topsoil although Sample 5 was from 0.3 to 0.5m below the topsoil.

The molluscan assemblages from all the samples are similar. The most abundant shells are of species of *Vallonia* and the *Trichia hispida* gp. There is an element of dry ground open-county species, including *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* and *V. excentrica*. However, the aquatic to amphibious species *Lymnaea truncatula*, *L. peregra* and *Anisus leucostoma* are also present. Such molluscan faunas occurred on the upper reaches of the Thames floodplain. However, if the shells were contemporaneous with the Roman building, this would imply that the villa was situated on very wet ground. Alluvium of early medieval date containing the same range of shells is widespread on the floodplain and covers some sites of Roman date which did not experience any flooding in their lifetime, for example the Claydon Pike Villa. It

is suggested that many of the shells from the flots could be post-Roman. Some evidence of intrusive shells came from the presence of *Candidula* sp., a medieval introduction to Britain, in Samples 1 and 4.

The evaluation showed shells to be well-preserved on the site but cast doubt on their stratigraphic integrity. If further excavation occurs, it is recommended that sampling for molluscs is done under the guidance of a specialist. No further analysis is necessary of the molluscs from the present flots.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

The density of archaeological features in the north-western part of the site resulted in a concentration of manpower resources on the building remains. Investigation of the surrounding field system under evaluation conditions was thought unlikely to produce useful quantities of datable material. Extensive investigation of the field system to the north-east in 1995, recovered very little dating evidence, but where pottery was present it was of early Romano-British date.

7.2 Overall interpretation

7.2.1 Summary of results

Figure 9 indicates the density of archaeological remains across the site. Area A contains the most complex archaeology, including the building remains. Area B is a secondary zone surrounding the building, in which a comparatively high density of features is present. Area C has a comparatively low density of features, apparently representing the field system surrounding the farmstead.

A group of stone wall foundations and post settings in Trench 28, suggest the presence of a comparatively large rectilinear building. The narrow breadth and shallow depth of the wall foundations, and the scarcity of finds, in particular fine wares, from the site, suggest that the building may not have been of particularly high status. The absence of *tesserae*, plaster or *opus signinum,* suggests that the building is unlikely to be part of a villa complex. The small quantity of Roman roof, flue and floor tile associated with the building is too small to demonstrate that such materials formed a significant part of the building fabric.

The evidence is insufficient to identify the function of the building, but the density of features in the immediate area indicates that it may have been a dwelling, although few finds were recovered. The building is most likely to date from the 2nd century AD, although the quantity of pottery associated with the structure is too small to be conclusive.

Probably in the 3rd century AD, an enclosure ditch (28/54) was cut across the wall foundations, indicating that the building did not survive into the later Roman period.

The Iron Age and early Roman pottery assemblage from the evaluation has a similar composition to the larger assemblage recovered during previous excavations at the Stubbs Farm rectilinear enclosure in 1995, suggesting that both sites were occupied concurrently during the 2nd century AD. It is possible that the slightly higher percentage of fine wares in the present assemblage indicates a building of higher status than the rectilinear settlement enclosure to the east (Fig. 1), but the small size of the assemblage prevents any reliable conclusions being drawn. The majority of the pottery is indicative of a date in the 2nd or 3rd century AD, although small quantities of Iron Age and later Roman pottery are also present. The presence of Middle Iron Age pottery, most of which was residual in later features, supports the suggested Middle Iron Age date for the nearby circular enclosure excavated in 1995 at Stubbs Farm (Fig. 2).

7.2.2 Significance

On current evidence from the present evaluation and previous excavations, the archaeological features are perhaps best interpreted as the remains of an Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead and associated field system. The fact that three possible settlement locations, all very different in form, have been identified within a 200 m radius, perhaps suggests that the sites represent different phases of a shifting settlement. A small quantity of pottery, from Trench 33, and the largely undated circular enclosure at Stubbs Farm, suggest a possible Middle Iron Age phase to the settlement. The majority of the finds date from the late Iron Age and early Roman period, however, with most being dated to the 2nd century AD.

The circular triple-ditched enclosure and a rectangular double-ditched enclosure, excavated c.150 m to the north-west in 1995, are in an essentially Iron Age tradition, although occupation of the rectilinear enclosure appears to date mainly to the early Roman period. The stone building foundations identified by the present evaluation, which seem to be more or less contemporary with the Stubbs farm rectilinear enclosure, introduce a clearly Romanised element to the site. It is entirely likely that Roman and traditional building and settlement forms existed side by side in this area in the 2nd century AD, perhaps reflecting differences in the social status of the occupiers. However, the dating evidence is currently poor, and it remains a possibility that the three sites represent successive phases of a single farmstead.

The site falls within an area of dense late Iron Age and Roman settlement, typical of the gravel soils of the Thames terraces. The excavated Iron Age and Roman sites at Whelford, Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike, all lie within c.5 km of the site to the south and south-west. Numerous cropmarks indicating field boundaries, enclosures, ring-ditches and trackways are known in the area, many of them dated by excavation to the Roman period. These settlements and their associated field systems indicate an intensively used agrarian landscape in the late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

The Kempsford quarry site represents a useful addition to this range of sites, for studies of Iron Age and Roman settlement morphology and distribution in the Upper Thames Valley.

7.2.3 Impact of extraction

The present evaluation is intended to identify areas of complex archaeological deposits. The proposed gravel extraction programme will be planned so as to avoid disturbance to such areas. Gravel extraction is likely to take place in areas of less dense archaeological remains.

7.3 Recommendations

- Area A should be preserved in situ unless sufficient resources are available to ensure full investigation.

- Area B should be subject to an appropriate level of controlled excavation. Further excavation is required to establish the chronological sequence of the site as a whole, and it is particularly important that larger groups of stratified pottery should be recovered for this purpose. Excavation in this zone of comparatively dense activity should contribute towards this end.

- Area C should be subject to a recording action. Provision should be made for the features to be planned and sampled sufficiently to allow the boundary system to be phased and dated.

Bibliography and references

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Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
1								
	1/1	layer		0.31	Top soil			
	1/2	fill		0.30	ditch fill			
	1/3	cut	1.14	0.30	ditch			
	1/4	fill		0.40	tree hole fill			
	1/5	fill		0.12	tree hole fill			
	1/6	cut		0.52	tree throw hole			
	1/7	fill		0.17	primary ditch fill to 1/8			
	1/8	cut	1.26	0.30	ditch			
	1/9	fill		0.05	tree hole fill			
	1/10	cut		0.05	tree throw hole			
	1/11	layer			natural			
	1/12	fill		0.13	upper ditch fill to 1/8			
2								
	2/1	layer		0.32	Top soil			
	2/2	layer			natural			
	2/3	fill		0.15	upper ditch fill to 2/5			
	2/4	fill		0.41	primary ditch fill to 2/5			
	2/5	cut	3m	0.56	ditch			
	2/6	fill	1.30		fill to ditch			
3								
	3/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	3/2	layer						
	3/3	fill	1.20		fill to ditch			
	3/4	fill	1.20		fill to ditch			
4	3/5	fill	1.10		fill to ditch			
	4/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	4/2	layer			natural			
5								
	5/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	5/2	layer			natural			
	5/3	fill	0.55		fill to ditch			
6								
	6/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	6/2	layer			natural			
	6/3	fill	2.50		fill to ditch			

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	6/4	fill	1.80		fill to ditch			
7								
	7/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	7/2	layer			natural			
	7/3	fill	2m		fill to ditch			
	7/4	fill	1.30		fill to ditch			
8								
	8/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	8/2	layer			natural			
	8/3	fill	2 m		fill to ditch			
9								
	9/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	9/2	layer			natural			
	9/3	fill	2.50		fill to ditch			
	9/4	fill	1.80		fill to ditch			
10								
	10/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	10/2	layer			natural			
	10/3	fill	0.80		fill to ditch			
11								
	11/1	layer		0.35	Top soil			
	11/2	layer			natural			
	11/3	fill	1.50		fill to ditch			
12								
	12/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	12/2	layer			natural			
	12/3	fill	1.90		fill to ditch			
	12/4	fill	1m		fill to ditch			
13								
	13/1	layer		0.36	Top soil			
	13/2	layer			natural			
	13/3	fill	0.80		fill to ditch			
	13/4	fill	1.35		fill to ditch			
14								
	14/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	14/2	layer			natural			
15								

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	15/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	15/2	layer			natural			
	15/3	fill	0.45		fill to ditch			
16								
	16/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	16/2	layer			natural			
	16/3	fill	1.15		fill to ditch			
17								
	17/1	layer		0.40	Top soil			
	17/2	layer			natural			
	17/3	fill	0.90		fill to ditch			
	17/4	fill	0.90		fill to ditch			
	17/5	fill	0.35		fill to gully			
	17/6	fill	1m dia		fill to possible pit			
18								
	18/1	layer		0.35	Top soil			
	18/2	layer			natural			
	18/3	fill	1.80		fill to ditch			
19								
	19/1	layer		0.26	Top soil			
	19/2	layer			natural			
20								
	20/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	20/2	layer			natural			
	20/3	fill	2.10		fill to ditch			
	20/4	fill	1.25		fill to ditch			
21								
	21/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	21/2	layer			natural			
	21/3	fill	3.50		fill to ditch			
	21/4	fill	1.35		fill to ditch			
	21/5	fill	1m		fill to ditch			
22								
	22/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	22/2	layer			natural			
	22/3	fill	3.70		fill to ditch			
23								

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	23/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	23/2	layer		0.05	sub-soil			
	23/3	layer			natural			
	23/4	fill	0.75		fill to ditch			
	23/5	fill	0.90		fill to ditch			
	23/6	fill	3. 10		fill to ditch			
24								
	24/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	24/2	layer		0.15	sub-soil			
	24/3	layer			natural			
	24/4	fill	2.60		fill to ditch			
	24/5	fill	0.75		fill to ditch			
	24/6	fill	1.75		fill to ditch			
	24/7	fill	0.90		fill to ditch			
	24/8	fill	3.70		fill to ditch			
25								
	25/1	layer		0.26	Top soil			
	25/2	layer		0.12	sub-soil			
	25/3	layer			natural			
	25/4	cut	2m	0.55	ditch			
	25/5	fill		0.10	upper ditch fill to 25/4			
	25/6	fill		0.35	middle ditch fill to 25/4			
	25/7	fill		0.10	primary ditch fill to 25/4			
	25/8	fill	1m		fill to ditch			
	25/9	fill	0.80		fill to ditch			
26								
	26/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	26/2	layer		0.05	sub-soil			
	26/3	layer			natural			
	26/4	fill	1.50		fill to ditch			
27								
	27/1	layer		0.37	Top soil			
	27/2	layer		0.18	sub-soil			
	27/3	layer			natural			
	27/4	cut	1 m	0.20	pit			
	27/5	fill		0.16	upper fill to pit 27/4			
	27/6	cut	0.84	0.21	pit			

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	27/7	fill		0.11	upper fill to pit 27/6			
	27/8	cut	0.42	0.12	gully			
	27/9	fill		0.0.7	upper fill to gully 27/8			
	27/10	cut	1.15	0.18	pit, possible tree hole			
	27/11	fill		0.13	upper fill to 27/10			
	27/12	cut	1.28	0.26	ditch			
	27/13	fill		0.18	upper fill to ditch 27/12			
	27/14	cut	1m	0.36	ditch			
	27/15	fill		0.21	upper fill to ditch 27/14			
	27/16	cut	0.80	0.10	pit, tree hole			
	27/17	fill		0.09	fill to 27/16			
	27/18	fill		0.04	primary fill to pit 27/4			
	27/19	fill		0.10	primary fill to pit 27/6			
	27/20	fill		0.05	primary fill to gully 27/8			
	27/21	fill		0.05	fill to 27/10			
	27/22	fill		0.01	fill to 27/16			
	27/23	fill		0.08	primary fill to ditch 27/12			
	27/24	fill		0.15	primary fill to ditch 27/14			
28								
	28/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	28/2	layer		0.10	sub-soil			
	28/3	layer			natural			
	28/4	cut			ditch			
	28/5	fill			fill to ditch 28/4			
	28/6	cut	0.55		ditch			
	28/7	fill			fill to ditch 28/6			
	28/8	cut	0.50 dia		stone post pad			
	28/9	fill			fill to 28/8			
	28/10	cut	4m		ditch, possible spread			
	28/11	fill			fill to 28/10			
	28/12	cut	0.85x0.50		stone post pad			
	28/13	fill			fill to 28/12	pottery	1	C1-2 AD Roman
	28/14	cut	1.60 x0.70		stone post pad			
	28/15	fill			fill to 28/14, same as 28/59			
	28/16	cut	0.90		ditch			
	28/17	fill			fill to 28/16	pottery	2	C2nd AD Roman

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	28/18	cut	0.60x0.45		stone post pad			
	28/19	fill			fill to 28/18	pottery	5	C2nd AD Roman
	28/20	cut	1.20		ditch			
	28/21	fill			fill to 28/20	pottery	2	C2nd AD Roman
	28/22	cut	0.65 dia		stone post pad			
	28/23	fill			fill to ditch			
	28/24	cut	0.70		ditch			
	28/25	fill			fill to 28/24	pottery	1	C2nd AD Roman
	28/ 26	cut	0.50		pit, possible gully			
	28/27	fill			fill to 28/26			
	28/28	cut	0.30 dia		post hole	pottery	3	
	28/29	fill			fill to 28/28			
	28/30	cut	1m		ditch			
	28/31	fill			fill to 28/30			
	28/32	cut	1m		ditch			
	28/33	fill			fill to 28/32	pottery	3	C2nd AD Roman
	28/34	cut	1.60		ditch			
	28/35	fill			fill to 28/34			
	28/36	cut	1.50		ditch			
	28/37	fill			fill to 28/36			
	28/38	fill	1.50		ditch fill			
	28/39	cut	1m		ditch same as 28/44			
	28/40	cut	1.20x0.70		stone post pad	pottery	3	C2ndAD Roman
	28/41	cut	0.70	0.20	wall trench			
	28/42	wall	0.68	0.18	wall with-in 28/41			
	28/43	fill		0.20	fill to 28/41			
	28/44	cut	1m	0.16	ditch same as 28/39			
	28/45	fill		0.16	fill and stone debris to 28/44			
	28/46	fill		0.16	fill to 28/44			
	28/47	fill	1.30		fill to ditch			
	28/48	fill	1m		fill to ditch			
	28/49	fill			fill to ditch			
	28/ 50	cut	1.20x0.80	0.40	post hole			
	28/51	fill			fill to 28/50			

Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	28/52	fill			fill to 28/50			
	28/ 53	cut	1.60	0.48	ditch			
	28/54	fill		0.33	upper fill to 28/53			
	28/55	fill		0.15	primary fill to 28/53			
	28/56	wall	0.70	0.30	wall			
	28/57	fill		0.26	fill to construction trench 28/71			
	28/58	cut	0.50dia		stone post pad			
	28/59	fill			fill to 28/14 and same as 28/15	pottery	14	C2ndAD Roman
	28/60	fill	3.70		fill to ditch	pottery	1	C3-4 AD Roman
	28/61	fill	4m dia		fill to pit	pottery	5	C2ndAD Roman
	28/62	fill			fill to ditch same as 28/11	pottery	5	C2ndAD Roman
	28/63	fill		0.40	fill to post hole 28/50			
	28/64	cut	0.60	0.35	ditch			
	28/65	fill		0.35	fill to ditch 28/64			
	28/66	layer	5m x 1.20	0.12	layer cut by 28/41 and 28/44			
	28/67	cut	1.55	0.41	ditch			
	28/68	fill		0.18	primary fill to ditch 28/67	pottery	1	C2ndAD
	28/69	fill		0.23	upper fill to ditch 28/67			
	28/70	fill			fill to ditch	pottery	1	C2ndAD
	28/71	cut		0.30	construction trench to wall 28/56			
	28/72	fill	0.90		ditch fill			
	28/73	fill	7.50		ditch fill			
	28/74	fill	2m		ditch fill			
	28/75	fill	0.90		pit fill			
	28/76	fill	0.90		pit fill			
29								
	29/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	29/2	layer		0.15	sub-soil			
	29/3	layer			natural			
	29/4	fill	1.75		fill to ditch			
30								
	30/1	layer		0.20	Top soil			
	30/2	layer		0.13	sub-soil			
	30/3	fill		0.16	tree hole fill			

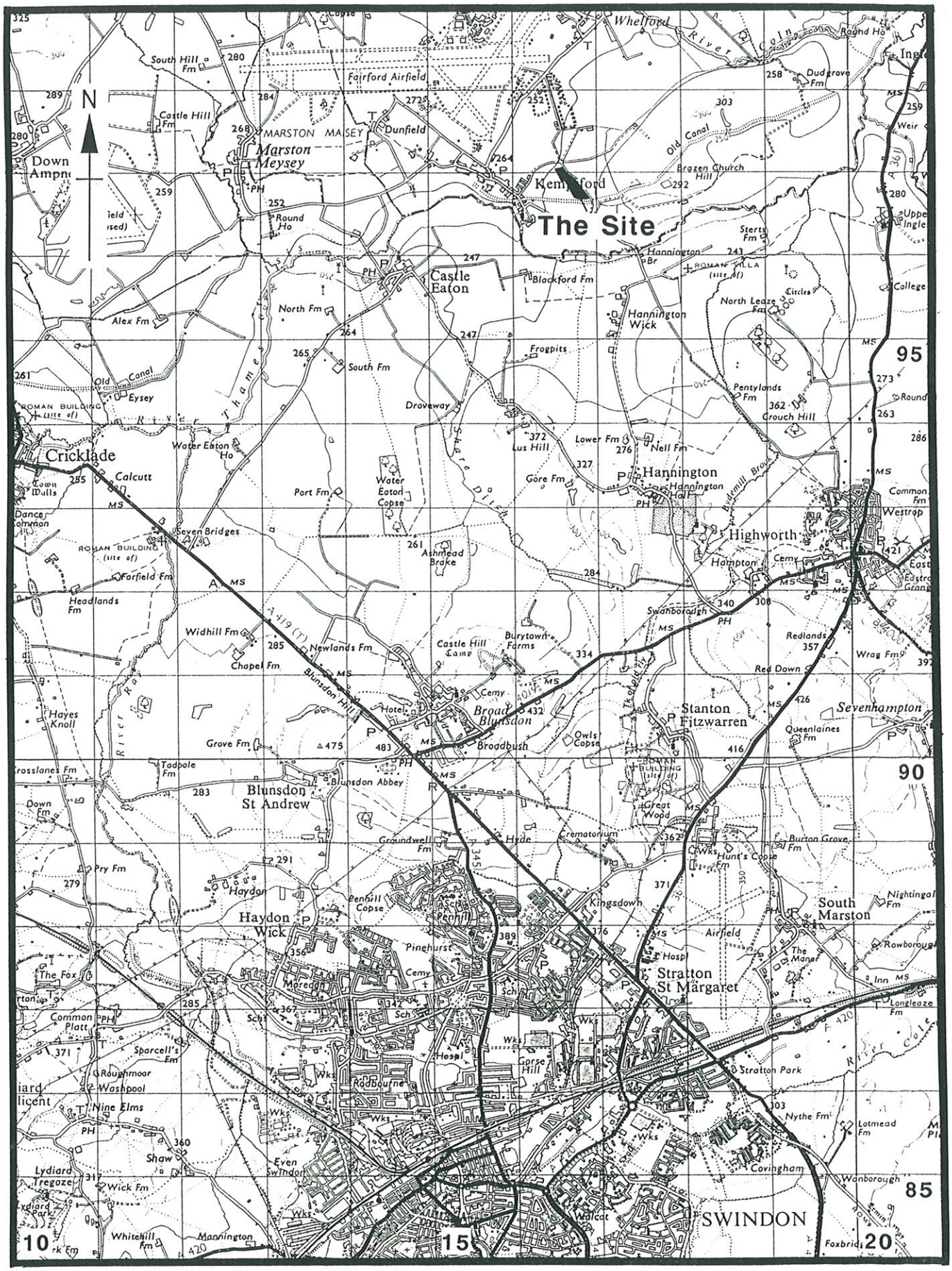
Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	30/4	cut		0.16	tree throw hole			
	30/ 5	fill		0.11	upper fill to ditch 30/7			
	30/6	fill		0.20	primary fill to ditch 30/7			
	30/7	cut	1.62	0.31	ditch			
31								
	31/1	layer		0.30	Top soil			
	31/2	layer		0.25	sub-soil			
	31/3	layer			natural			
	31/4	cut	2.40	0.34	ditch			
	31/5	fill		0.34	primary fill to 31/4	pottery	2	C1-2 AD
	31/6	cut	1.46	0.36	ditch			
	31/7	fill		0.36	primary fill to 31/6	pottery	6	C3 AD
	31/8	cut	2.60	0.18	ditch			
	31/9	fill		0.18	fill to ditch 31/8			
	31/10	cut	1.85	0.20	tree throw pit			
32								
	32/1	cut	1.20	0.18	ditch			
	32/2	cut	1m	0.45	ditch			
	32/3	cut	1.44	0.40	ditch			
	32/4	cut	1.80	0.62	ditch			
	32/5	cut	2.90	0.80	ditch			
	32/6	cut	2.60	0.78	ditch			
	32/7	layer		0.24	Top soil			
	32/8	layer		0.19	sub-soil			
	32/9	layer			natural			
	32/10	fill		0.18	fill to 32/1	pottery	1	C2ndAD
	32/11	fill		0.30	fill to 32/2			
	32/12	cut	1.22	0.16	ditch			
	32/13	fill		0.16	fill to 32/12	pottery	1	C2ndAD
	32/14	fill		0.26	primary fill to 32/2			
	32/15	fill		0.14	upper fill to 32/2	pottery	7	C3 AD
	32/16	fill		0.62	primary fill to 32/4			
	32/17	fill		0.80	primary fill to 32/5			
	32/18	fill		0.78	primary fill to 32/6			
	32/19	fill	0.90		fill to ditch			
	32/20	fill	0.80		fill to ditch			
33								

	33/1	layer		0.20	Top soil			
	33/2	layer		0.32	sub-soil			
	33/3	layer			natural			
	33/4	fill		0.25	fill to ditch 33/22	pottery	3	IA
	33/5	surface		0.20	trackway			
	33/6	fill		0.20	part of trackway	pottery	2	C2ndAD
	33/7	fill		0.20	debris layer overlying trackway	pottery	1	C2ndAD
	33/8	fill		0.12	fill same as33/19 and probably part of trackway	pottery	1	C1-2 AD
	33/9	fill		0.20	fill to ditch 33/22 same as 33/23			
	33/10	cut	2m	0.38	pit			
	33/11	fill		0.38	fill to pit 33/10	pottery	3	IA
	33/12	layer	5m	0.15	layer to the westof trench, demolistion debris			
	33/13	cut	3.30	0.80	ditch			
	33/14	fill		0.30	fill to 33/13			
	33/15	fill		0.38	fill to ditch 33/13			
	33/16	fill		0.40	upper fill to ditch 33/13			
	33/17	cut	2.60	0.40	ditch			
	33/18	fill		0.40	fill to ditch 33/17			
	33/19	fill		0.57	fill to ditch 33/30			
	33/20	layer		0.20	build-up layer			
	33/21	layer		0.18	build-up layer			
	33/22	cut	8m	0.65	ditch			
	33/23	fill		0.60	fill to ditch 33/22 also fill is the same as 33/9			
	33/24	fill			fill to ditch 33/22			
	33/25	fill			fill to ditch 33/22	pottery	5	C1-2AD
	33/26	layer		0.35	duild-up over ditch 33/22 and pit 33/27			
	33/27	cut	3m		pit			
	33/28	fill			fill to pit 33/27	pottery	2	IA
	33/29	void						
	33/30	cut	3m	0.57	ditch			
	33/31	cut	0.80x0.65	0.17	post hole			
	33/32	fill		0.17	fill to post hole 33/31			
34								
	34/1	layer		0.20	Top soil			
	34/2	layer		0.15	sub-soil			
	34/3	layer			natural			

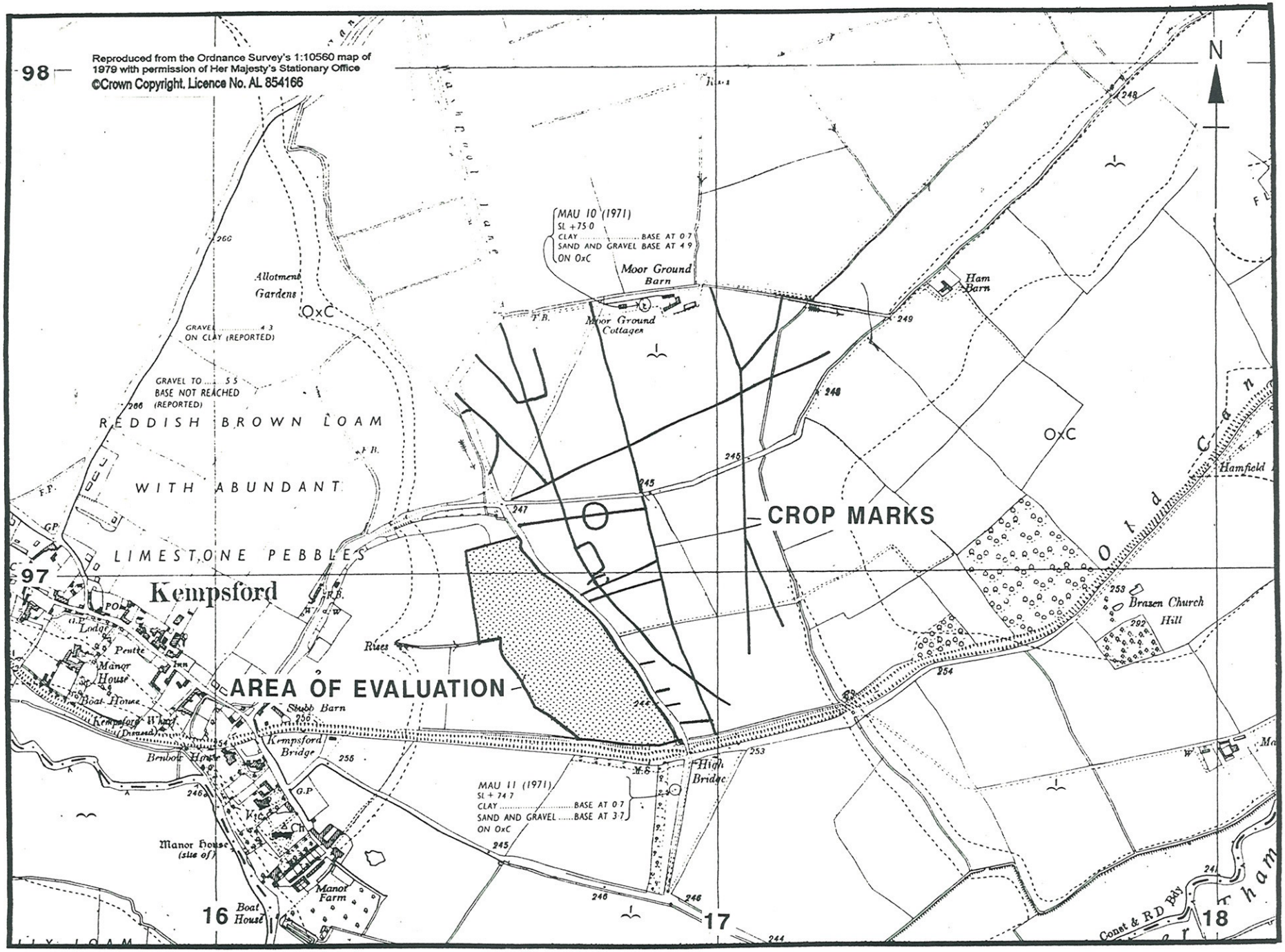
Trench	Context	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
35								
	35/1	layer		0.25	Top soil			
	35/2	layer		0.15	sub-soil			
	35/3	layer			natural			
	35/4	fill	0.70		fill to ditch			

Figure 1

KMRV97



0 100 500m


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:10560 map of 1979 with permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office
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98
97
16
17
18
N
MAU 10 (1971)
SL +75 0
CLAY ..... BASE AT 0 7
SAND AND GRAVEL BASE AT 4 9
ON OxC
Moor Ground Barn
Moor Ground Cottages
Ham Barn
Allotments
Gardens
OxC
GRAVEL 4 3
ON CLAY (REPORTED)
GRAVEL TO 5 5
BASE NOT REACHED
(REPORTED)
REDDISH BROWN LOAM
WITH ABUNDANT
LIMESTONE PEBBLES
CROP MARKS
AREA OF EVALUATION
Kempsford
Manor House
Boat House
Kempsford Wharf
Kempsford Bridge
Stubb Barn
Rises
Brasen Church Hill
Hamfield
High Bridge
MAU 11 (1971)
SL + 74 7
CLAY ..... BASE AT 0 7
SAND AND GRAVEL ..... BASE AT 3 7
ON OxC
Manor House (site of)
Manor Farm
Boat House
Comet & RD Bdy
0
1km

Figure 2

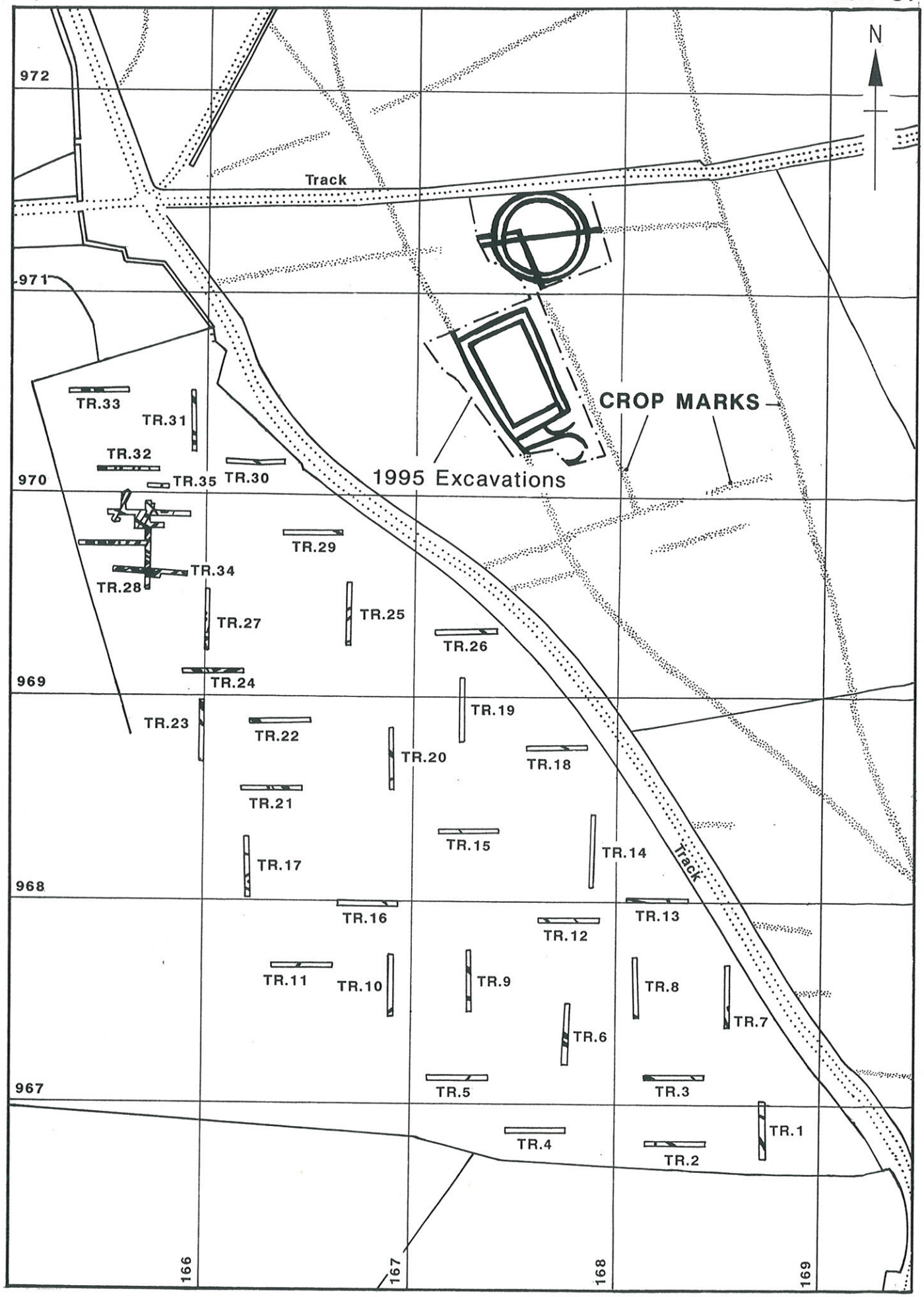

N
972
971
970
969
968
967
Track
CROP MARKS
1995 Excavations
TR.33
TR.31
TR.32
TR.35
TR.30
TR.29
TR.34
TR.28
TR.27
TR.25
TR.26
TR.24
TR.23
TR.22
TR.19
TR.20
TR.18
TR.21
TR.15
TR.14
TR.17
TR.16
TR.13
TR.12
TR.11
TR.10
TR.9
TR.8
TR.7
TR.6
TR.5
TR.3
TR.4
TR.2
TR.1
166
167
168
169
0
100
200m
Scale 1:2500

Figure 3

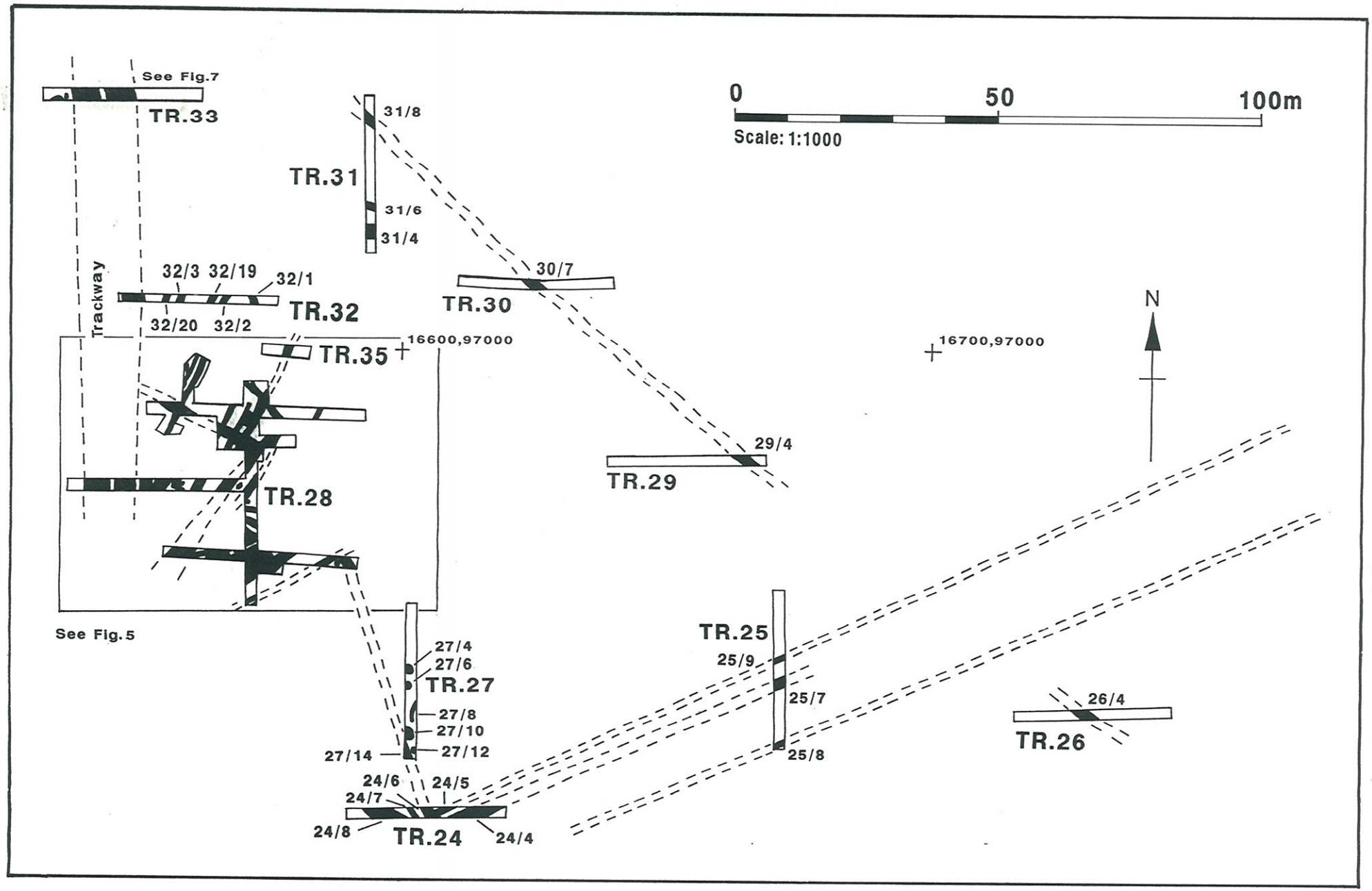

See Fig.7
TR.33
31/8
TR.31
31/6
31/4
0
50
100m
Scale: 1:1000
32/3 32/19
32/1
TR.32
32/20 32/2
Trackway
30/7
TR.30
16600,97000
TR.35
16700,97000
N
29/4
TR.29
TR.28
See Fig.5
TR.25
25/9
25/7
25/8
26/4
TR.26
27/4
27/6
TR.27
27/8
27/10
27/14
27/12
24/6
24/5
24/7
24/8
TR.24
24/4

Figure 4

KEY:

Wall foundations and stone post settings

N

Tr.35

Possible Trackway

(Links up with trackway in trench 33)

74.80mOD

74.61mOD

74.50mOD

Section 3

Section 4

Section 2

Section 1

Soil Sample

16545,96980

16580,96980

74.71mOD

74.57mOD

74.25mOD

74.60mOD

74.69mOD

74.50mOD

Tr.28

74.47mOD

0 5 20m

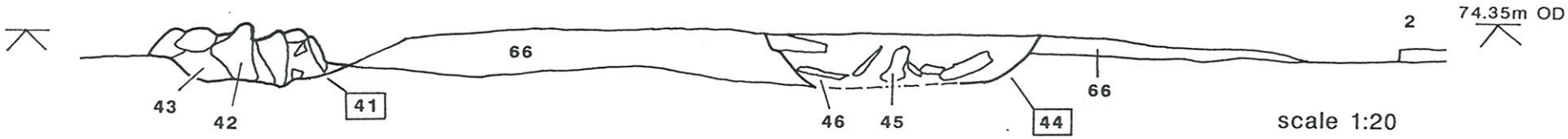
Scale 1:200

Figure 5

NW

Trench 28 section 1

SE



scale 1:20

Trench 28 section 3

S

Trench 28 section 2

N

NE

SW SE

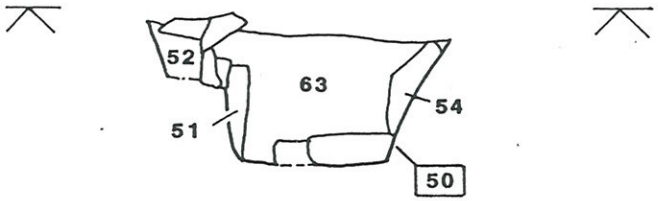
NW

scale 1:20

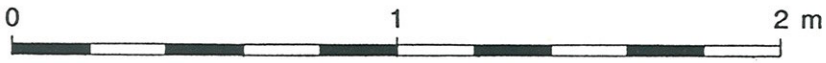
W

Trench 28 section 4

E



scale 1:20

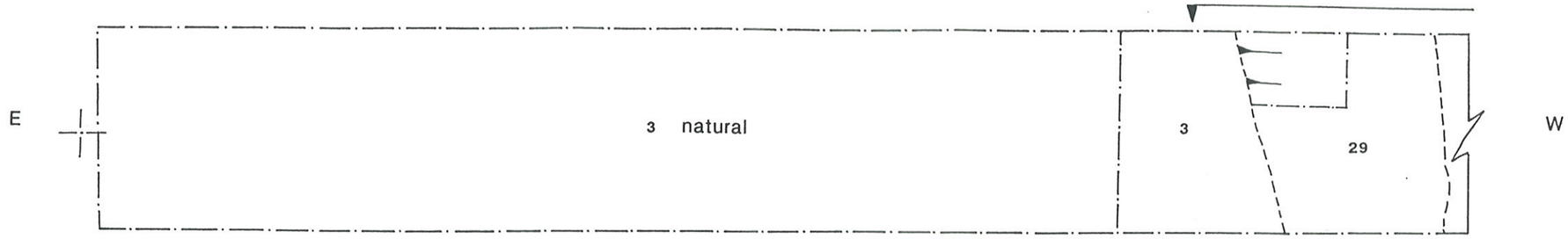


scale 1:20

Trench 28 sections

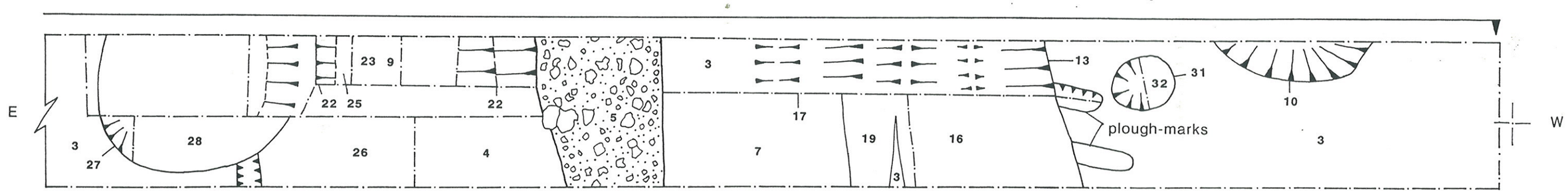
Figure 6

Trench 33 plan



scale 1:50

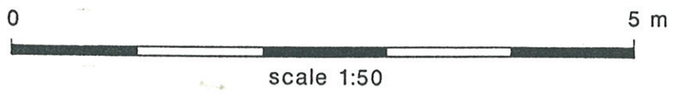
Trench 33 plan



plough-mark/animal disturbance

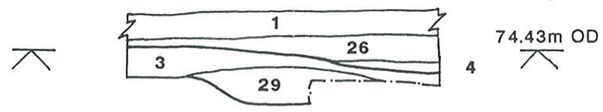
trackway

scale 1:50



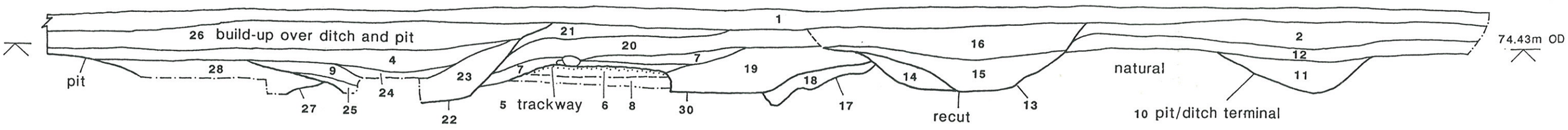
scale 1:50

E Trench 33 section W



scale 1:50

E Trench 33 section W



scale 1:50

Trench 33 plan of trackway

Figure 7

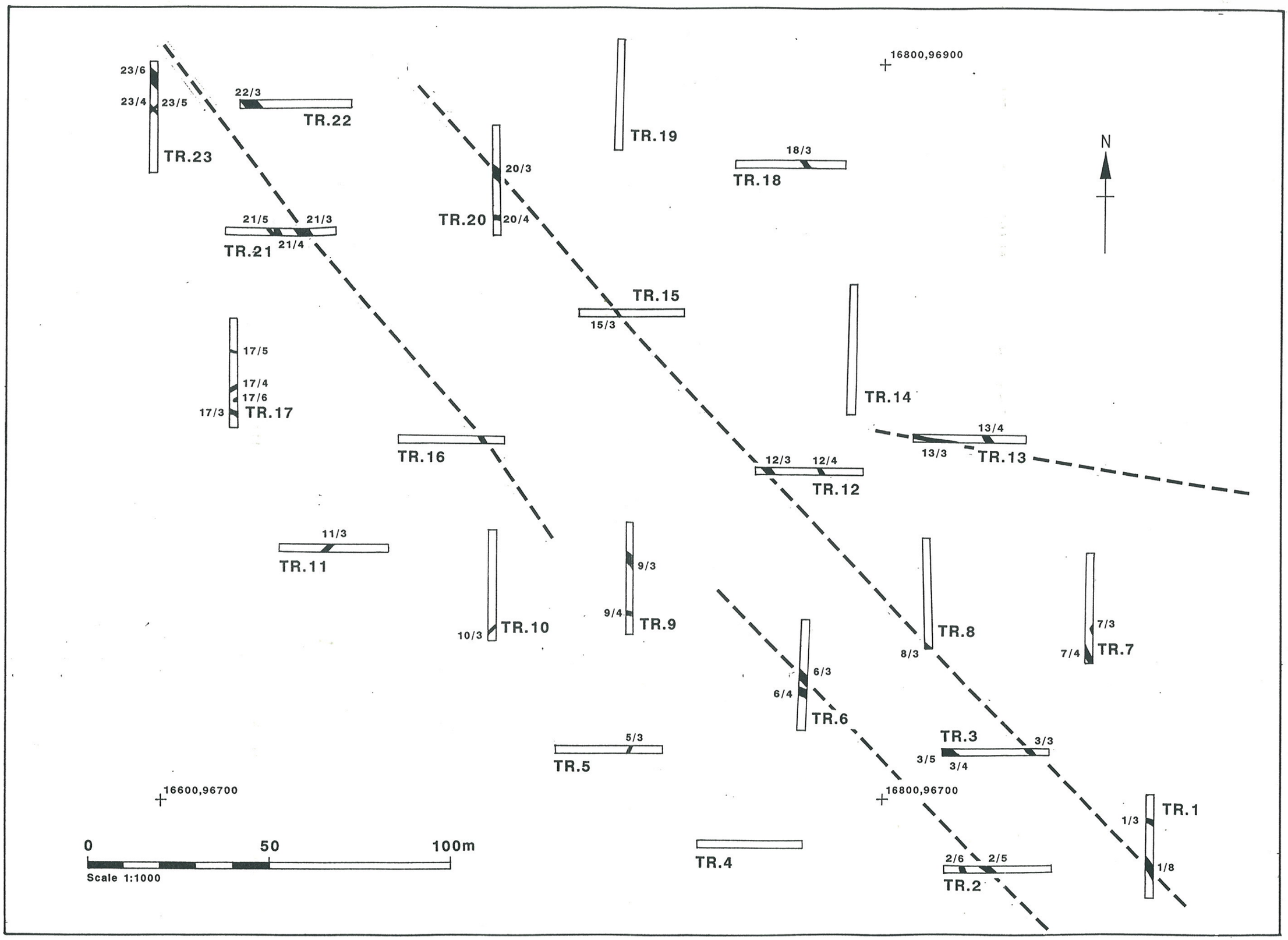

23/6
23/4
23/5
TR.23
22/3
TR.22
TR.19
16800,96900
18/3
TR.18
N
20/3
TR.20
20/4
21/5
21/3
TR.21
21/4
TR.15
15/3
17/5
17/4
17/6
17/3
TR.17
TR.14
TR.16
13/4
13/3
TR.13
12/3
12/4
TR.12
11/3
TR.11
9/3
9/4
TR.9
10/3
TR.10
TR.8
8/3
7/3
7/4
TR.7
6/3
6/4
TR.6
5/3
TR.5
TR.3
3/3
3/5
3/4
16600,96700
16800,96700
TR.1
1/3
1/8
TR.4
2/6
2/5
TR.2
0
50
100m
Scale 1:1000

Figure 8

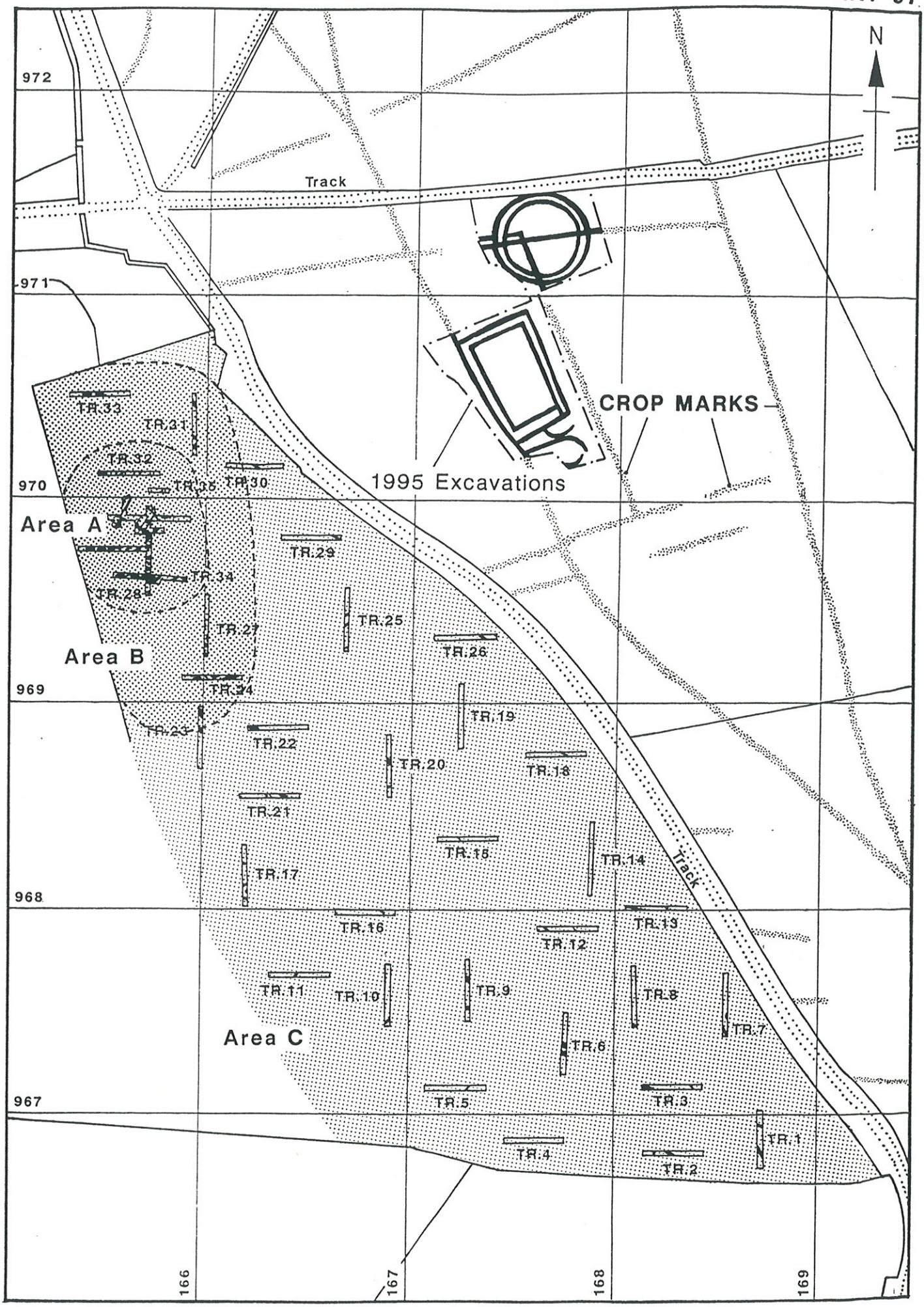

N
Track
972
971
970
969
968
967
166
167
168
169
CROP MARKS
1995 Excavations
Area A
Area B
Area C
TR.33
TR.31
TR.32
TR.38
TR.30
TR.29
TR.34
TR.28
TR.27
TR.25
TR.26
TR.24
TR.23
TR.22
TR.19
TR.20
TR.18
TR.21
TR.15
TR.14
TR.17
TR.16
TR.13
TR.12
TR.11
TR.10
TR.9
TR.8
TR.7
TR.6
TR.5
TR.3
TR.4
TR.2
TR.1
Track
0
100
200m
Scale 1:2500

Figure 9

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