

Archaeological Field Unit

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Landwade Road Fordham, Cambridgeshire

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with contributions by

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February 1996

DRAFT

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A085

Commissioned By Bidwells on behalf of David S Smith Packaging Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & DESK TOP
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

LANDWADE ROAD

FORDHAM

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

TL 631 683

FEBRUARY 1996
Aileen Connor

DRAFT

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT REPORT No. A085**

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the results of a desk top assessment and field evaluation carried out on a proposed development site between Landwade Road and Newmarket Road, Fordham (NGR TL 631 683). This evaluation was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of David Smith Packaging Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken between 31.1.96 and 14.2.96.

A desk top assessment was carried out for the development area prior to field work. This included an aerial photographic resurvey by Roger Palmer (Palmer and Cox 1996), a search of the SMR entries for the development and surrounding area, and a search of the Cambridgeshire County Records Office for relevant map evidence. The aerial photographic resurvey highlighted the presence of a pair of linear ditches orientated approximately east-west in the development area.

Twenty five trenches were machine excavated and recorded as part of the fieldwork. These confirmed the presence of linear ditches in the development area and showed that they form part of a complex of approximately six parallel ditches of probable Iron Age date.

Few archaeological features were located in the trenches to the south of this ditch complex.

The area to the north of the ditch complex showed the presence of archaeological features over an extensive area. These features included pits, postholes and ditches from at least two phases of occupation. Pottery indicates that two periods are represented on the site, Iron Age and 5th century Saxon.

The character of the fills and finds, including animal bone, pottery and worked flint indicate the presence of settlement close by.

The presence of a 5th century Saxon occupation remains on the development area is very important both in a local and regional context.

Human bone is present on the site in one pit. It was not articulated, although probably represents no more than one individual.

A buried soil is present in isolated pockets where it has been preserved below a layer of colluvium.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the results of an archaeological assessment carried out on a proposed development site between Landwade Road and Newmarket Road, Fordham.
- 1.2 The work was carried out in response to a Brief set by Louise Austin of the County Archaeology Office, Development Control (CAO, DC) for Planning Application No. E/95/0871.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out by Aileen Connor, Simon Bray and Lorrain Higbee for the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of David Smith Packaging Ltd. The work was undertaken between 31.1.96 and 14.2.96. The aim of the evaluation, as identified in the Brief, was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site in advance of development.
- 1.4 The proposed development area is 8.71 hectares in size. It is basically triangular in shape with its northern edge bounded by Landwade Road, the western edge bounded by a railway line generally in a cutting, and its eastern edge by the A142. A strip along the edge of the A142 is not part of the development area, nor is the area at the very southern tip of the field.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Geological Survey Sheet 188 indicates that Middle Chalk outcrops along the northern edge of the development area whilst Lower Chalk is the underlying geology in the remaining part of the development area. A narrow band of first terrace river gravels intrudes onto the eastern edge of the development area.
- 2.2 The highest part of the development area is in the north, from there the site slopes down towards the southern tip of the triangle with a slight crossfall towards the railway line. The development area is between 11 and 17m above Ordnance Datum. All datum levels were calculated based on the Bench Mark situated on the bridge on Landwade road crossing the railway line.

3 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the cartographic and documentary evidence for the development area prior to carrying out a field evaluation. The aim of the desk assessment was to assess past impacts on potential archaeological remains, identify constraints on archaeological field work and appraise the archaeological potential and research priorities of the development area.
- 3.2 **Sources**
 - 3.2.1 The Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record, copy of SMR map and records attached.
 - 3.2.2 The County Records Office
 - 3.2.3 An aerial photographic resurvey by Roger Palmer (appendix 1)
 - 3.2.4 Archaeological Field Unit Archives
 - 3.2.5 Test Pit Survey Report

3.2.6 Fenland Survey by David Hall.

4 RESULTS OF DESK TOP ASSESSMENT

4.1 County Sites and Monuments Record

- 4.1.1 The SMR shows that the development area is in an area of archaeological interest but that no sites have been found on the development area itself.
- 4.1.2 A number of entries dated as prehistoric are located to the north of the site. These are SMR09026 cropmark enclosures, SMR09025 cropmark ring-ditch, SMR07442 a prehistoric flint scatter and SMR07433 a Bronze age ring-ditch and flints, to the south of the site is SMR09064, a possible mound also thought to be prehistoric.
- 4.1.3 To the west of the site is the deserted medieval village of Landwade, and a medieval moated site which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM249).
- 4.1.4 To the east of the site is a Roman Villa, SAM80.
- 4.1.5 An Anglo-Saxon settlement SMR07742 is listed in the vicinity, at Snailwell.

4.2 County Records Office

- 4.2.1 A search through cartographic evidence at the County Records office showed that the development area had been part of a large field, whose boundaries remained unchanged since at least 1809.
- 4.2.2 The earliest map is the 1809 Inclosure map, surveyed by A. Watford (E.Cambs DC Records). This showed the development area as being part of a large field whose boundaries appear not to have changed other than the addition of the Railway Line. The development area is shown as '3rd Allotment to the Rev. Richard Dewsnop as Vicar for Tithes'.
- 4.2.3 On the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map the development area remains unchanged except for the addition of the Great Eastern Railway, Ely to Newmarket Line.
- 4.2.4 Similarly the 2nd Edition (1903) Ordnance Survey shows no change. A coloured Version of this edition compiled in 1910-11 showed the development area to be part of Plot 274 listed in the accompanying land register as belonging to Rev. A.W. Ival, but no other details. Plot 274 also included the land to the north of Landwade Road, now Turners Transport Depot., the development of which was monitored in 1992 by S. Kemp.
- 4.2.5 Several small chalk and clunch pits were noted on both Ordnance Survey Editions in the vicinity, but none were marked on the development area.

4.3 Aerial Photographic Survey

- 4.3.1 A survey of the aerial photographs of the development and surrounding area has been carried out by Roger Palmer. A pair of parallel ditches are located on an approximately east-west orientation within and beyond the development area. A number of areas of deeper soil have been identified. A headland

crosses the site on a north-south orientation and an area interpreted as a possible quarry has been identified.

4.4 Archaeological Field Unit Archives

- 4.4.1 A desk top study was undertaken by Dr. Tim Reynolds of the area of the A142 Fordham bypass, this did not identify any remains in the development area (Cambs AFU Report No. A040).
- 4.4.2 Site monitoring of the Turners Transport Depot to the north of Landwade Road on an area which had shown the presence of a possible ring ditch as a crop mark proved negative. The site notes suggest the possibility of severe truncation on the site which may explain this result (Kemp pers. comm.).

4.5 Test Pit Survey

- 4.5.1 A ground investigation and topographical survey of the development area was undertaken in March 1995 by Peter Dann and Partners Ltd.
- 4.5.2 Topsoil was found to vary between 0.25 and 0.70m in depth. This overlies a subsoil of varying description and depth between 0.10 and 1.90m. Some pits demonstrated that sand and gravel overlies chalk. The chalk surface varied from weathered to solid over the field.
- 4.5.3 Test pits 8 and 28 may show deposits with an archaeological origin, or possibly indicate the presence of a palaeochannel. These pits were adjacent to one another approximately midway along the western edge of the development area (bounded by the Railway Line). The pits approximately coincide with the 1st River terrace gravels indicated on the geology map. Pit 8 contained a 'mid brown soil with areas of black peaty soil' beneath topsoil and to about 1.30m below the ground level. Pit 28 contained a 'light brown sandy loam' beneath topsoil and to about 0.85m below ground level, below this was a 'black friable organic soil' to about 1.30m below the ground level.

4.6 Fenland Survey

- 4.6.1 David Hall's Fenland Survey maps (Vol.10, forthcoming) show the development area to have had a good quality of field survey (walked in 30m transects in good conditions). No sites were located on the field, although a number of sites were located in the surrounding area.

5 FIELD EVALUATION

5.1 Methods

- 5.1.1 A rapid fieldwalk survey of the northern two thirds of the development area was undertaken. Transects were walked from east to west and were 20 metres apart. Field walking was undertaken in less than ideal conditions since the ground was frozen and bright low sun made visibility difficult. This may have inhibited collection; however, it should be noted that a survey carried out by David Hall produced similar, largely negative, results.
- 5.1.2 Twenty-five trenches were machine excavated to the top of secure archaeological deposits where these were present, otherwise to the natural chalk subsoil. All the trenches were 2.10m wide but varied in length between 10m and 60m. The trenches were sited on approximately north-south and east-west axes.
- 5.1.3 Finds were collected from the surface of archaeological features and from spoil heaps.
- 5.1.4 A select sample of features was excavated in order to characterise the features and retrieve dating evidence.
- 5.1.5 Selected features and deposits were sampled for macro and micro botanical and faunal remains.
- 5.1.6 A metal detecting survey was carried out by members of the Soham metal detecting club, under the supervision of the archaeological field team.
- 5.1.7 Trenches were sited to test aerial photographic evidence and evidence provided by a test pit survey carried out in March 1995. Other trenches were located on a regular grid to achieve reasonable overall cover. Further trenching was located on evidence provided by initial trenching.
- 5.1.8 The frozen ground, followed by extremely wet conditions, inhibited early identification of certain types of deposit, particularly pale yellowish brown sandy deposits. The presence of geological features within the development area, particularly periglacial stripes, has caused some ambiguity in the interpretation of certain linear features.

5.2 Results of field evaluation.

- 5.2.1 Ploughsoil (1) was removed by machine in all the trenches. Ploughsoil varied only between 0.20m and 0.30m between all trenches across the site.
- 5.2.2 Colluvium was identified below the ploughsoil in fifteen trenches. This deposit was found across the whole of seven of the trenches, but only partially in the remaining eight. The colluvium varied in depth between 0.08m and 0.70m. In some cases the colluvium sealed archaeological features.
- 5.2.3 A probable pond deposit was identified in trench XIII, no archaeological features were found associated with this.
- 5.2.4 Archaeological features and deposits were found in twenty of the trenches. Three trenches contained only one feature each. These were trenches I, XI and XV. The remaining seventeen trenches were all located in the northern part of the development area and each trench contained a number of archaeological

features (individual trench and feature descriptions will be available in the full report).

- 5.2.5 A very dark grey clay silt 'buried soil' lay beneath colluvium in trenches IV, X, XVI and XXV, this was 0.20m to 0.25m in depth. A diffuse interface was exhibited between the colluvium and 'A' horizon below. Struck flint flakes were recovered from its surface. Test pits were excavated through this deposit in trenches IV and X, no further finds were recovered from these. Test pits in trench IV showed that linear features were sealed beneath the buried soil. The survival of this soil is restricted to small pockets within natural undulations.
- 5.2.6 Trenches III, IX, X, XVI and XXV were the most southerly trenches to contain significant archaeological features. A complex of multiple (at least six) parallel ditches was revealed in these trenches on an approximately east-west alignment. This complex was revealed as a double ditch by the aerial photographic survey. Pottery provisionally dated as early Iron Age, was collected from the surface of the ditches in trenches IX and XVI. A complete profile through one of the ditches in trench III shows it to have steeply sloping sides, a narrow V shaped base and to be approximately 1.20m deep and 3m wide. The ditches in trenches IX, XVI and XXV contained a rather more 'humic' fill and more finds than those in the more westerly trenches III and X. This suggests that the ditches at the east edge of the development area may be closer to the settlement core than those at the west.
- 5.2.7 Trenches XVII, XVIII and XXIII contained deposits of moderately loose dark grey 'humic' clay sand. This may be interpreted either as intercutting pits, tree boles or the remnants of a colluvial deposit within natural hollows. Several of these features were regular in plan, excavation of one of these features in trench XVII showed it to be a steep sided, flat bottomed pit. Only a few fragments of pottery were recovered from its fills, however. Small quantities of pottery were also recovered from the surface of adjacent features in trench XVII. Excavation of two such features in trench XXIII, on the other hand showed them to be irregular shallow hollows which were probably natural, but whose fills contained a small quantity of animal bone.
- 5.2.8 Trenches XVIII, XIX and XX contained deposits of dark grey 'humic' soil forming regular sub circular and subrectangular shapes, which are all likely to be large pits. Excavation of one of these showed it to be 3m wide and 1.10m deep, and to contain a moderate quantity of pottery and animal bone, particularly from the lower fills.
- 5.2.9 Trenches VII, VIII, XXII, XXIII and XXIV all contained discrete, circular, dark grey 'humic' filled features which may be interpreted as small pits or postholes. Pottery, provisionally dated as early Iron Age, and animal bone was collected from the surface of many of these features.
- 5.2.10 Trench XXIV contained a pit in which human bone had been deposited. The pit was not fully excavated, the bone was not articulated although there appeared to be only one individual in the pit. Pottery associated with the burial is provisionally dated as early Iron Age.
- 5.2.11 Trenches VII, VIII, XX and XXIII all showed evidence for at least two phases of archaeological activity. These were a phase of dark grey 'humic' filled features, often pits and postholes, and an earlier phase of pale yellow brown clay sand filled features, characterised as linear in trenches VII, VIII and XXIII. The features in trench XX contained similar fills but were discrete circular and subrectangular rather than linear, and one feature in this trench contained a redeposited chalk. Pottery provisionally dated as early Iron Age

was recovered from the surface of several of these features in trench XX, but no finds were recovered from the earlier phase of features in trenches VII, VIII and XXIII.

- 5.2.12 Trenches V and VI contained evidence of linear features filled with a pale yellow brown clay sand. A section excavated through the linear in trench VI showed it to be flat bottomed, steep sided and quite shallow in profile. No finds were recovered from its fills.

6 PRESERVATION AND TRUNCATION

- 6.1 The buried soil deposit was well worm sorted and mixed with the overlying colluvium in the upper 100mm. Preservation of molluscs appeared to be good within this deposit. Small fragments of animal bone were also recovered from this deposit. These had been turned red by an unknown process and were quite fragile. One suggested reason for this effect is that the bone had undergone post depositional fungal attack (D. Lucy, pers.comm.).
- 6.2 Animal and human bone was well preserved elsewhere.
- 6.3 Pottery varied in hardness, the softer material was extremely fragile and in some cases was observed only as soft black streaks within the archaeological deposits. Good quantities of pottery have been recovered, particularly from the darker grey, more humic fills in features on the brow of the hill, suggesting that this area is close to the settlement core.
- 6.4 Environmental samples were taken from the buried soil and from a 'humic' filled pit in trench VII. Preservation of animal bone, charcoal and molluscs within the samples is good.
- 6.5 Cultivation practices had caused some truncation and mixing of upper deposits in most of the trenches. This was particularly noticeable where ploughsoil was shallow and plough marks could be observed cutting into the natural chalk. In those trenches where colluvium was present the underlying features had been protected from recent cultivation, they have been subjected to natural truncation and reworking processes such as those caused by worms, vegetation, and in the case of trench XXV, animals, possibly rabbits.

7 FINDS

A full catalogue of the finds is attached as appendix 2.

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE POTTERY

Paul Blinkhorn

7.1.2 Summary

The evaluation at Landwade Road, Fordham yielded 158 sherds of pottery, with a total weight of 2.047kg. One hundred sherds (1646g) were of Iron Age date, 3 (12g) Romano-British and 55 (388g) Early Saxon. The Early Saxon pottery is particularly worthy of note, as the decorated sherds suggest that the assemblage is 5th century in date.

7.1.3 Fabrics

F1: Early Saxon. Sandy Ironstone temper. Moderate to dense subangular quartzite up to 0.5mm, most finer. Rare rounded red ironstone up to 0.5mm, rare rounded red quartzite up to 0.5mm.

F2: Early Saxon. Sparse sand temper. Sparse to moderate very fine subangular quartzite < 0.2mm. Rare angular flint up to 0.5mm.

F51: Iron Age. Fine sandy shell temper. Sparse to moderate platelets of crushed fossiliferous limestone up to 1mm, rare fragments up to 10mm. Sparse to dense sub-angular red quartzite up to 0.5mm. Moderate angular flint up to 2mm, sparse rounded red ironstone up to 2mm. Rare rounded pink and white quartzite up to 1mm.

F52: Iron Age. Coarse shell temper. Moderate to dense temper of angular shell platelets c. 3-5mm. Moderate red sub-rounded quartzite up to 1mm, most less than 0.5mm.

F53: Iron Age. Flint and organic temper. Moderate to dense angular white flint up to 5mm. Organic voids up to 10mm.

F54: Iron Age. Flint temper. As F53 without organic material.

Table 1: Fabric occurrence by number and weight of sherds.

Fabric	No of sherds	Weight of sherds (g)
1	49	343
2	6	45
51	85	1326
52	9	170
53	3	80
54	3	70

The similarity of the suites of inclusions of Iron Age and Early Saxon ceramics resulted in some initial uncertainty in the dating of undecorated sherds, but each fabric type had sherds which were form diagnostic of the ascribed period. The limited stratigraphy also suggested that the identifications were correct, as the Anglo-Saxon sherds in trenches 7 and 20 all occurred in contexts which were later than those containing only Iron Age pottery.

7.1.3 Iron Age

Twenty-three sherds of the Iron Age pottery are decorated, comprising fourteen sherds of scored ware, seven burnished and two fingertipped examples. Application of an absolute chronology to such a small assemblage is difficult, but fingertipped sherds usually date to the earlier part of the period, whilst scored ware dates to the later. The only other chronologically diagnostic sherds are a jar rim with a sharply carinated shoulder, which is possibly of early-middle Iron Age date, and a burnished footring base which can be placed in the later part of the period.

The carinated jar occurred in the same context as a fragment of a similar vessel with a fingertipped shoulder (Trench VII, context 14), suggesting that there were two phases of Iron Age activity on the site, although two small

sherds of probable Anglo-Saxon date were also present in the feature. The situation would be clarified by further investigation of the site. The other fingertipped Iron Age sherd occurred in a context (Trench XXIII, 79) which also contained Anglo-Saxon pottery, indicating that it was redeposited.

7.1.4 Early Saxon

There is little doubt from the decorated pottery that the Anglo-Saxon activity at the site dates from the very earliest part of the post-Roman period. Fragments from at least eight *Schalenurnen* (carinated bowls which were part of the habitus of settlers of Jutish/Frisian origin) are present, along with two sherds from vessels decorated in the Bossed Panel style, part of the material culture set of peoples of Anglian origin. Such vessels date from the early to middle 5th century. There are no sherds with stamped decoration, a technique which was generally in use in the sixth century, indicating that there was no Anglo-Saxon activity beyond the fifth century.

7.1.5 The Assemblage in its Regional Context

There is little doubt that the Anglo-Saxon pottery assemblage from Landwade Road is of importance in regional and, arguably, national terms. Anglo-Saxon occupation settlements of this period, the early to mid fifth century, are very rare by comparison to those of later date. The decorative style of the Fordham pottery places it within J N L Myres' Jutish, Anglian and Frisian *Nordseekustengruppe* (ibid 1986 55), which first appeared in western Jutland and Schleswig during the mid-fourth century. Myres lists only 55 findspots of such material from the whole of England and continental Europe (ibid 68), of which 36 are English. Of these, three findspots are in Suffolk (Lackford, Ingham, and Snape) and two in Cambridgeshire (St. John's and Barrington), with the rest of the English groups in the south-east and Lincolnshire. A vessel of the tradition was recently discovered at Godmanchester, Cambs (Blinkhorn forthcoming). The rarity of the number of settlements of this date in the region (and, for that matter, western Europe) indicates that the site should be investigated further.

Table 2

Trench	Context	Iron Age	Early Saxon	Other
III	93	1 (2g)	0	
VII	U/S	0	0	1 RB (5)
VII	5	8 (75)	2 (2)	
VII	10	12 (85)	12 (70)	4 Schalenurnen
VII	12	4 (20)	0	
VII	14	6 (235)	2 (30)	
VII	23	2 (10)	5 (20)	
VII	25	7 (350)	0	
VII	27	2 (80)	0	
VII	29	1 (45)	0	
VII	99	1(1)	0	
VIII	U/S	1 (5)	0	
IX	U/S	0	1 (15)	
IX	118	0	2 (20)	1 Schalenurne
IX	119	1 (10)	0	
XIII	U/S	0	1 (5)	
XVI	67	1 (5)	0	
XVI	130	0	1 (5)	
XVII	U/S	1 (1)	0	
XVII	67	0	0	1 RB (5)
XVII	69	0	6 (15)	
XVII	81	0	3 (3)	
XVIII	59	1 (5)	0	
XIX	U/S	5 (45)	2 (20)	
XIX	51	4 (30)	2 (20)	
XIX	57	1 (30)	0	
XIX	113	5 (105)	0	
XX	45	4 (35)	1 (5)	1 Schalenurne
XX	47	3 (20)	3 (35)	1 Schalenurne
XX	49	1 (15)	0	
XX	95	2 (2)	0	
XX	97	2 (50)	0	
XXII	1	1 (10)	0	
XXII	39	1 (10)	2 (20)	Bossed Panel
XXII	41	4 (90)	3 (15)	1 Schalenurne
XXIII	79	1 (10)	3 (65)	Bossed Panel
XXIII	86	0	2 (5)	
XXIV	73	8 (170)	0	
XXIV	75	3 (35)	0	
XXIV	77	1 (45)	0	

7.2 Metal detecting survey

A small quantity of metal finds were recovered from a metal detecting survey, these included a medieval lead pilgrim's seal, two Roman coins and part of a copper alloy brooch dated to the Roman period. No features have been definitely attributed to the Romano-British period.

7.3 ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Duncan Schlee

A total of five samples were taken in order to assess the potential of the site for producing useful environmental data. Two 1 litre samples were taken for the recovery of molluscs (terrestrial and freshwater snails), in order to assess their potential as indicators of the character of the local environment and the conditions under which deposits on the site were laid down. Three 10 litre soil samples were taken from the fills of features for the recovery of charred plant remains, animal bones etc. by flotation. One sample from the buried soil, and two from different fills within a pit.

sample no.	context trench	feature no.	context no.	type.	contents
1	X	120	n/a	Buried soil	flecks of wood charcoal, molluscs, Chenopodium album seeds (Fat Hen).
2 (Molluscs)	IV	127	n/a	Colluvial layer	Molluscs, Chenopodium album seeds (Fat Hen).
3 (Molluscs)	IV	128	n/a	Buried soil	Molluscs
4	VII	11	13	Pit fill	Wood charcoal fragments, animal bone fragments, molluscs.
5	VII	12	13	Pit fill	Wood charcoal fragments, animal bone fragments, pot fragments, molluscs, Chenopodium album seeds (Fat Hen).

Small quantities of molluscs were recovered from samples 2 and 3 that may be useful as local environmental indicators. Apart from ubiquitous snail shells, sample 1 (from the buried soil) yielded very little useful data. Chenopodium album seeds, present in samples 1, 2, and 5 were not charred and are therefore probably not ancient. The plant grows commonly on waste and cultivated ground. The seeds are presumably intrusive, having been worked down into the soil by processes of bioturbation (the turning over of the soil by root and animal action etc.).

Samples 4 and 5, both from fills of a pit, contained relatively large fragments of wood charcoal (< 0.5cm), and moderate quantities of animal bone, pot sherds etc. These probably represent domestic debris.

No charred plant seeds were recovered from any of the samples. This should not however, be taken to suggest that further sampling should not be carried out as part of future excavations. The presence of wood charcoal suggests that there is some potential for preservation of charred seeds. Bearing in mind the potential significance of the archaeology, a sampling programme for environmental analysis from suitable features and deposits (such as hearths or other features with obvious potential), should be considered as an integral part of a full excavation, in order to place the site in its environmental and economic context.

Bone preservation, appears to be reasonably good, and bulk wet sieving for the recovery of meaningful bone assemblages from certain contexts should be considered for the next stage of excavation. This could also supply useful data on the character and economy of the site.

A buried soil (120/128) containing occasional worked flints, was located in places, above the natural chalk and sealed beneath the layer of colluvium (127). No samples for soil micromorphological analysis were taken during the evaluation, since it appeared to be leached and heavily bioturbated, but some sampling may be necessary in future excavations, if better conditions are encountered.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The extent, date and potential of the archaeological deposits.

- 8.1.1 The trenches in the development area to the south of the parallel ditch complex in trenches III, IX, X, XVI and XXV contained only three archaeological features in total, finds were not recovered from any of these. It is, therefore, likely that the site identified to the north of the ditch complex did not extend to its south.
- 8.1.2 The complex of parallel ditches observed in trenches III, IX, X, XVI and XXV were observed as a double ditch on the aerial photographic resurvey (appendix 1). These may represent a trackway or boundary crossing the landscape. In either case the ditches act as a southern boundary to the archaeological features found in the northern part of the development area. Pottery was found on the surface of the ditches in the more westerly trenches (IX, XVI and XXV) where the ditch fills appeared darker and more 'humic' than those in the eastern trenches (III and X). The 'humic' nature of the deposits filling the ditches and the presence of pottery and animal bone may indicate close proximity to settlement at the eastern end of the ditch complex. Alternatively the effect may be a product of preservation, since the ditches in the more easterly trenches were sealed beneath colluvium.
- 8.1.3 Other archaeological features are most densely concentrated in trenches VII, XXII, XVIII, XIX and XX. This density of activity falls off slightly to the east in trenches VIII, XVII, XXIII and XXIV. The lowest concentration of archaeological features is within trenches IV, V and VI to the west.
- 8.1.4 Many of the trenches showed that at least two stratigraphic phases of archaeological activity survive. Assessment of the pottery supports this evidence and shows that two major periods are represented: Iron Age and 5th century Saxon. In addition, the pottery suggests that the Iron Age period may be broken down into early-mid and mid-late phases.

- 8.1.5 The character of the features, humic fills and abundant pottery and animal bone, in the most densely concentrated areas suggests domestic occupation. Structures are likely to exist nearby. Definite traces of houses were absent although postholes and a slot and post feature in trench VII may resolve into structures on further investigation.
- 8.1.6 Pottery dating linked to the character of the features suggests that settlement activity is likely to be represented in both the Iron Age and early Saxon periods within the development area.
- 8.1.7 The relationship between colluvium, buried soil, and archaeological features will help to characterise the history of clearance and cultivation within the subject area.
- 8.1.8 The distribution of worked flint within the buried soil will contribute to-wards identifying areas of prehistoric activity within the development area.

8.2 THE SITE IN ITS LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Ben Robinson

8.2.1 Iron Age

Knowledge of the extent of Iron age exploitation of the fen basin and fen edge/fen edge environs has greatly benefited from the Fenland Project field survey. Fen edge settlement densities in some areas can be seen to rival that of the Roman period, and direct continuity is a regular feature of many occupation sites. The Iron Age site at Landwade Road lies at the southern end of a string of contemporary settlements which line the fen edge of Suffolk and Norfolk. The 'Fordham - Isleham cluster' to which the Landwade Road settlement may be assigned, is set back from the fen edge mostly on Middle Chalk. Here the Snail valley seems to have formed the focus for exploitation.

Despite the abundance of sites in this area investigative work has been limited: large scale modern excavations have generally concentrated on fenland sites. The Landwade Road site, with occupation features apparently representing a wide chronological span offers the opportunity to compare the economic drive behind the settlement of a fen edge river valley with that of some of the equally intensively developed fenland areas.

Well sampled sites such as Upper Delphs, Haddenham, Wardy Hill and Langwood Farm, have demonstrated the dependence of their communities on fenland resources, combined with animal husbandry. Later ceramic assemblages have many affinities with earlier pottery types, lack of 'exotic' imports, and status goods generally, suggest a certain lag behind wider lowland Iron Age development. The Landwade Road site offers the potential to explore how far this is a feature of isolated, introspective fenland communities, or whether the trend has a wider sub-regional basis.

8.2.2 Anglo-Saxon

The Landwade Road site, in common with very many early Anglo-Saxon sites, has been difficult to characterise through the necessarily limited sampling that development-led evaluation demands. The presence of settlement-type features which may be definitely ascribed an early Anglo-Saxon date, rather than earlier 'earthwork' features which have accumulated later occupation debris, has however, been confirmed. This and the (relative) abundance of pottery, is enough to convince us that there is a significant

settlement presence in close proximity; even if traces of buildings have not yet been revealed.

Recent work at Willingham and at Waterbeach (Robinson & Guttman 1996, Mortimer 1996) has begun to complement the evidence already provided by the discovery of burials, to fill out the sparse distribution of physical traces of fenward-looking early Saxon settlements. Excavations on the river terraces of south Cambridgeshire, generally led by considerations for prehistoric and Romano-British sites, has been similarly productive in locating hitherto invisible early Saxon settlements.

Only one other settlement site, however, has been recorded in the vicinity of Landwade Road (although rumours about metal-detected finds abound). This, at Snailwell, is known only through a surface artefact scatter, and is interestingly also associated with Iron Age remains (Hall forthcoming). Contemporary burials have also been revealed at Snailwell (Meaney 1964, 63).

The Landwade Road site is therefore one of only a small number known throughout the region, and one whose well-considered excavation could make an important contribution to the small but growing database of regional explorations into this enigmatic period.

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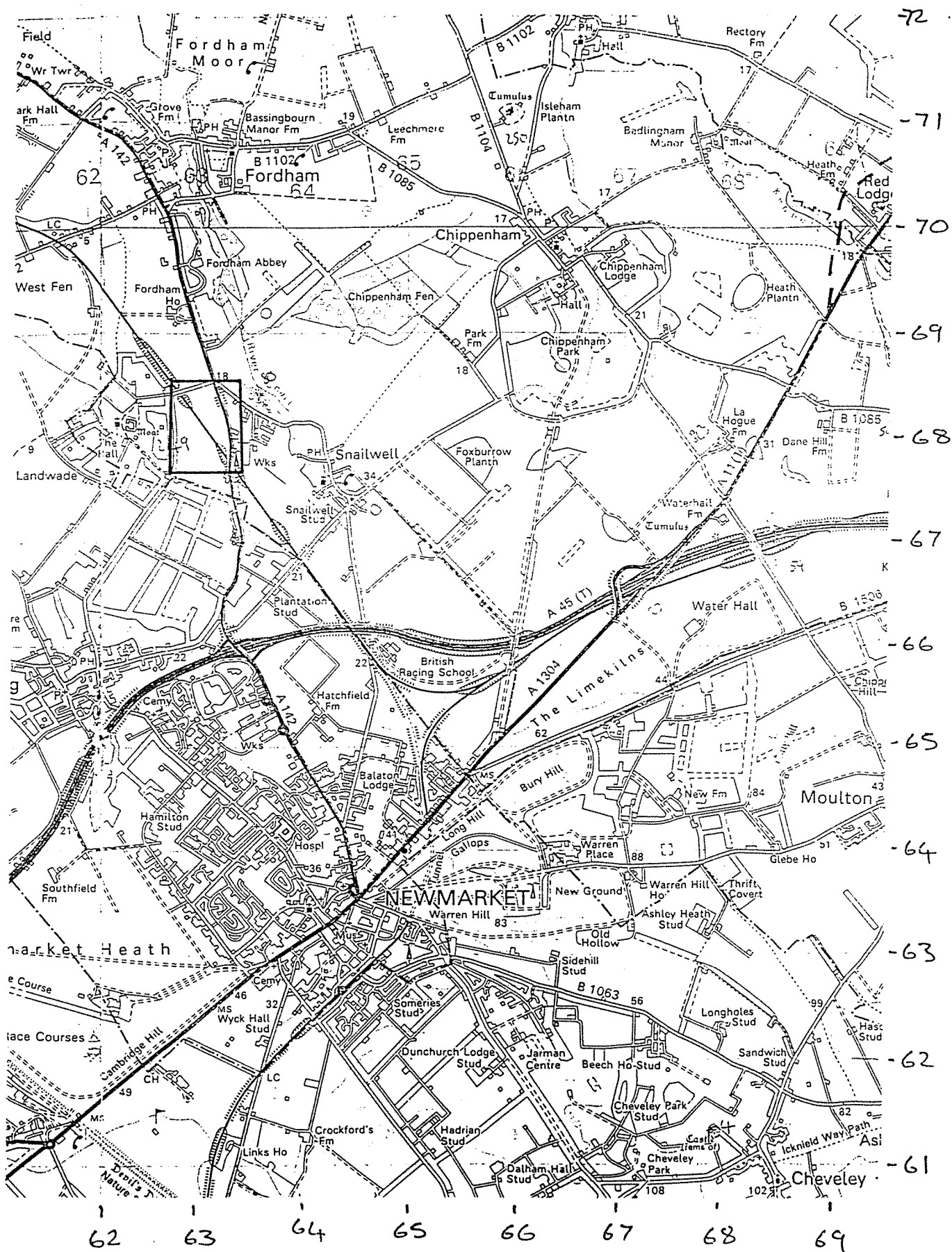


Fig. 1



Fig.2

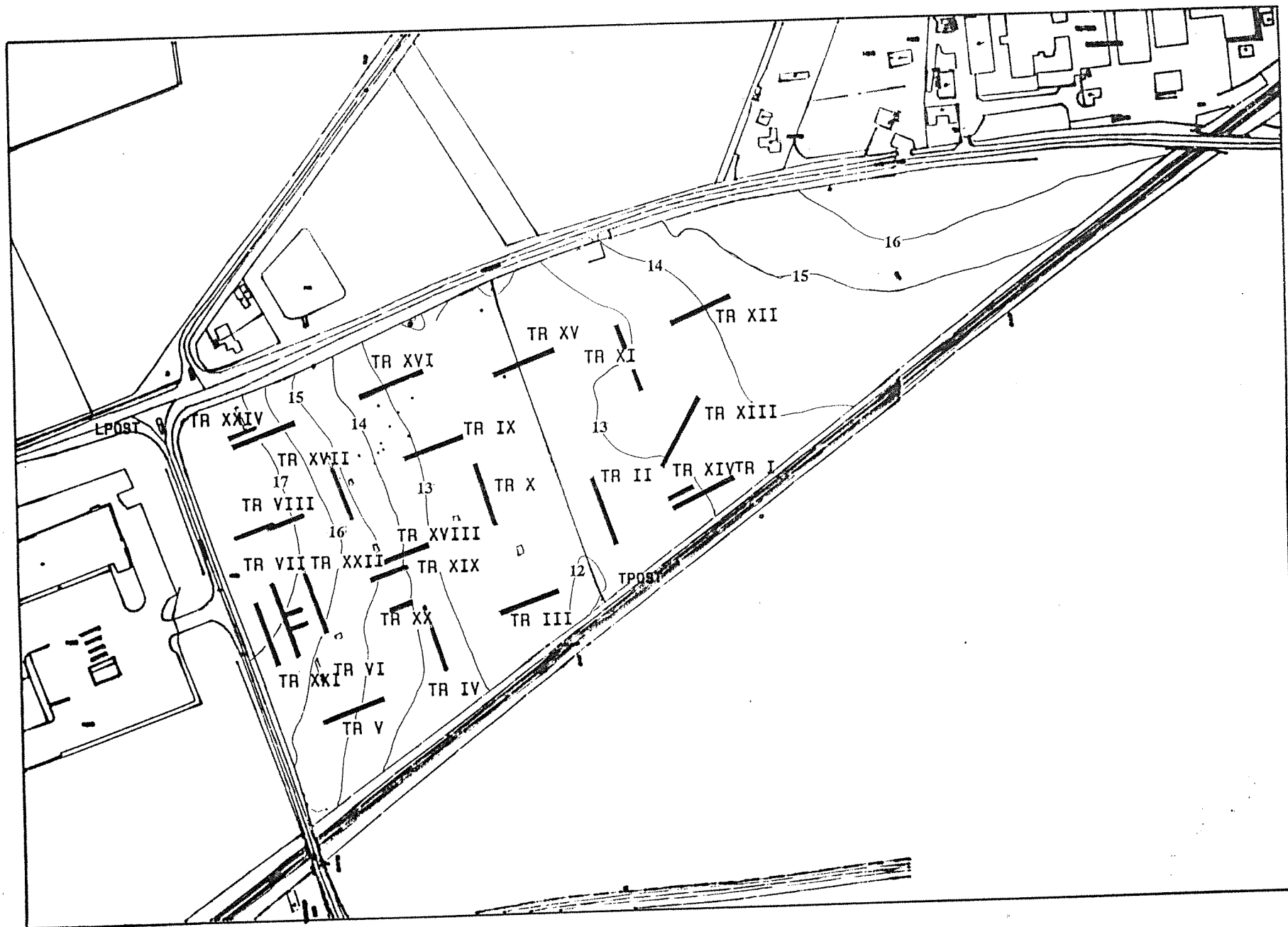
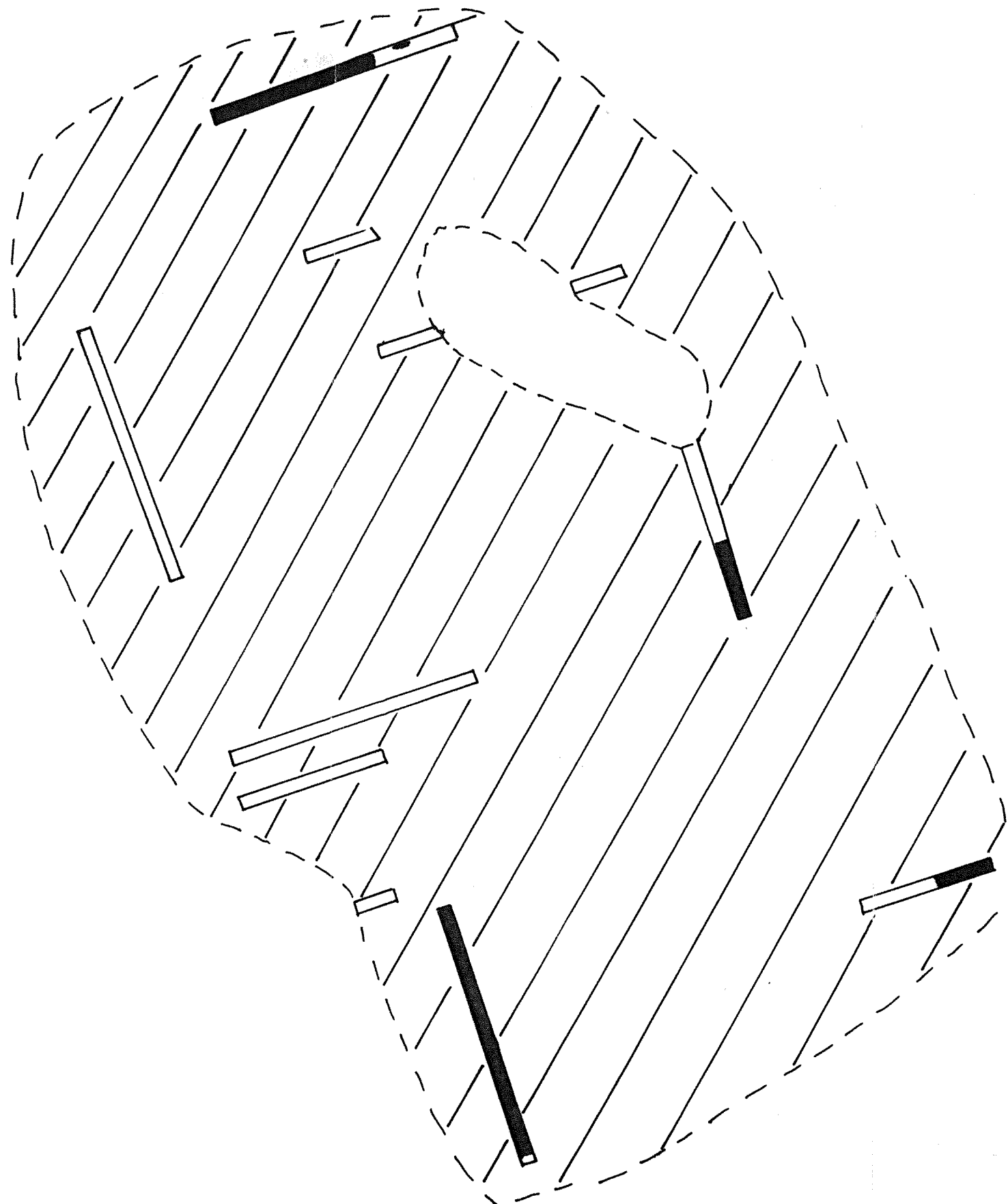


Fig. 3

A

B



KEY

COLLUVIUM

BURIED SOIL BELOW COLLUVIUM

? EXTENT OF COLLUVIUM

C

D

Fig. 4. OVERLAY FOR FIG. 5.
Deposit model of colluvium & Buried Soil

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in Trenches IV

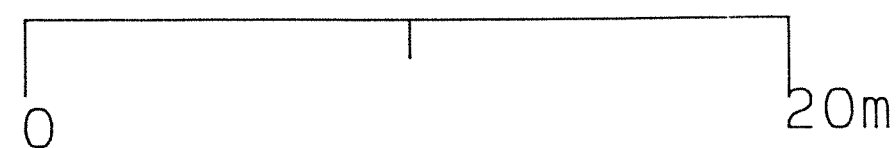
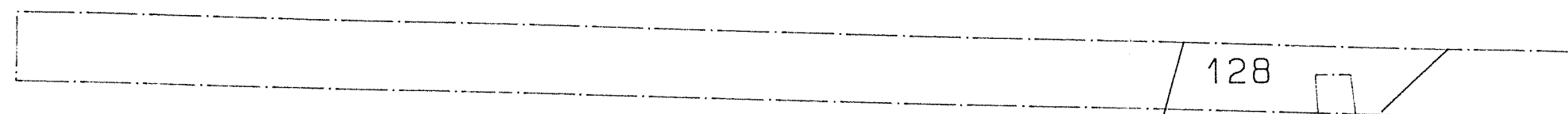


Fig. 6

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TRVI

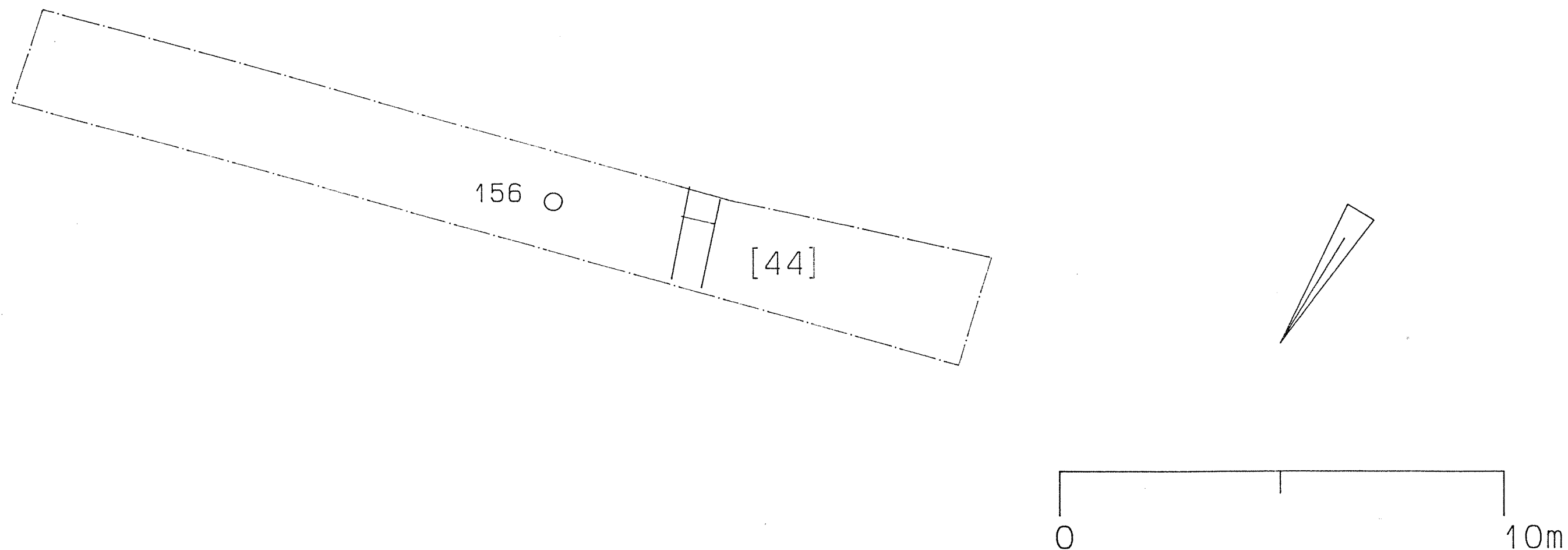


Fig. 7

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TR VII & XXII

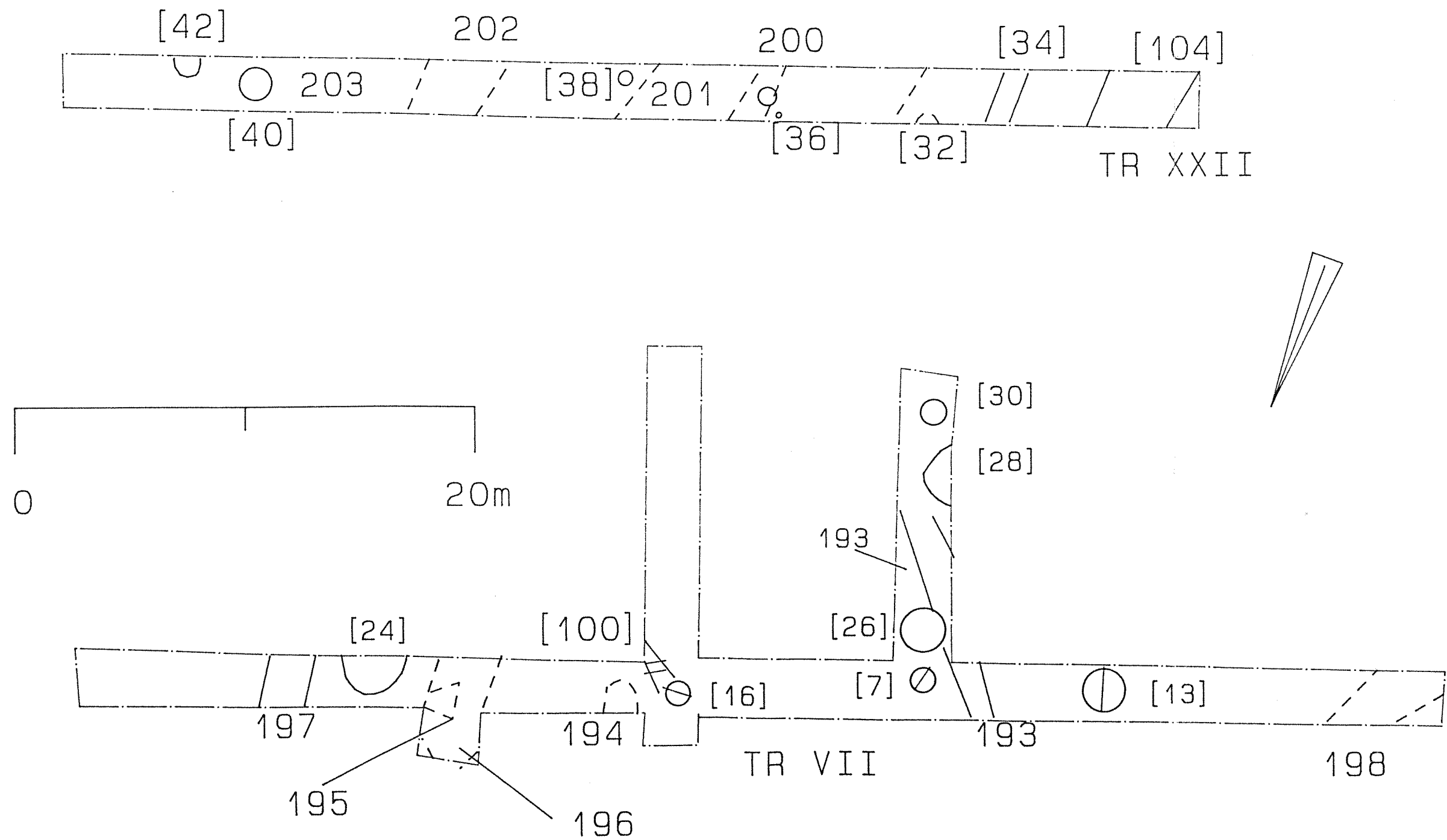


Fig. 8

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TRVIII

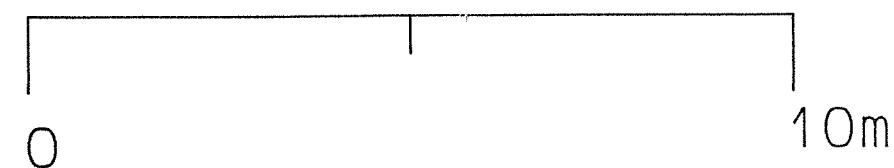
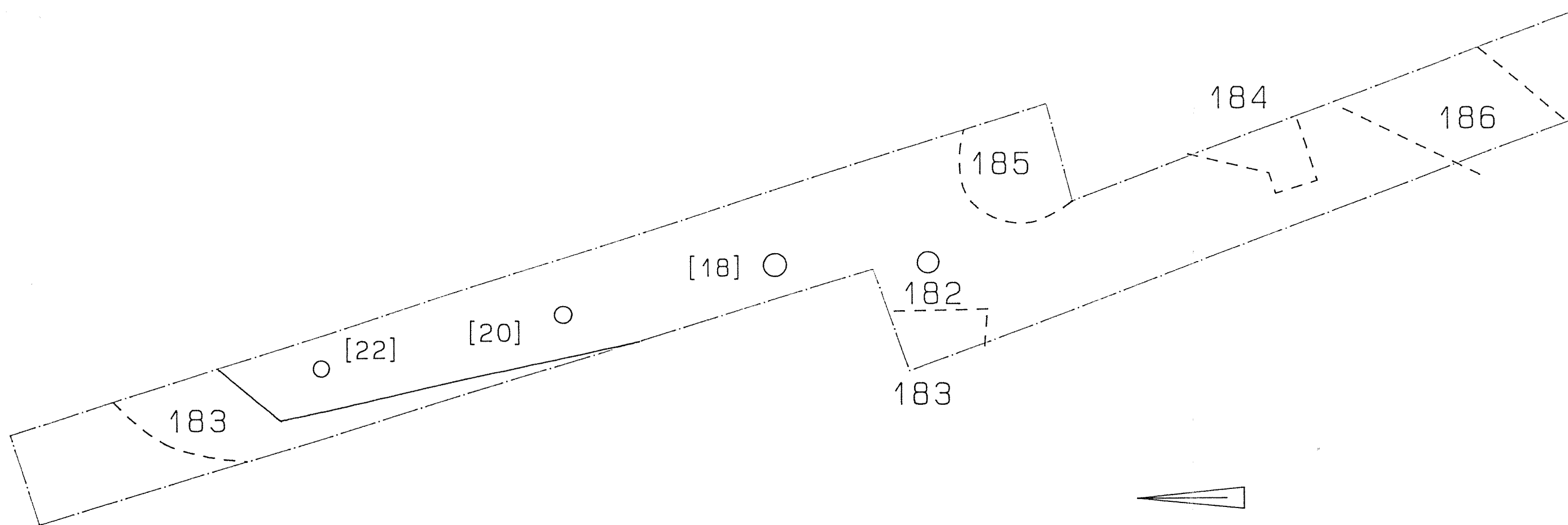


Fig. 9

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TR IX

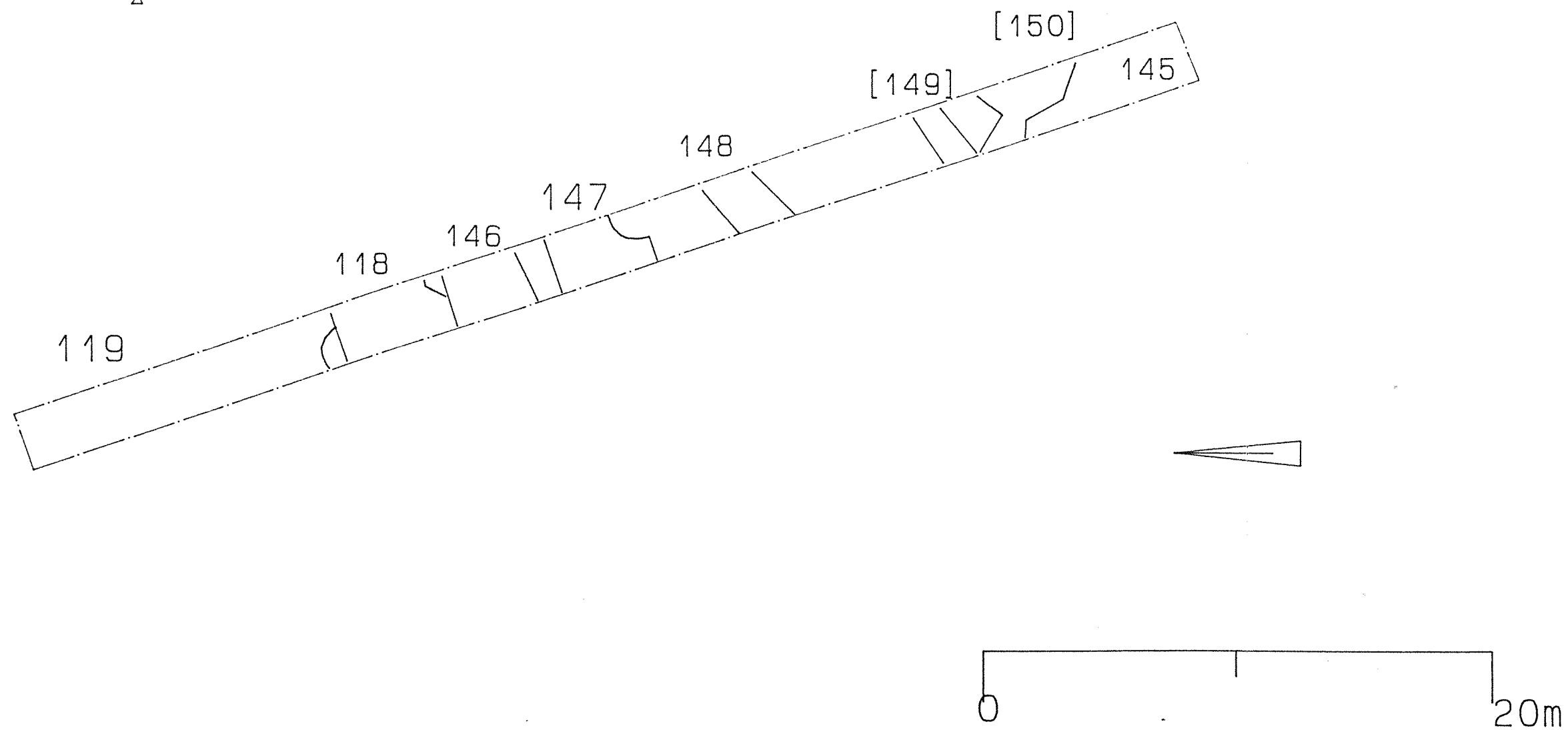


Fig. 10

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TR X

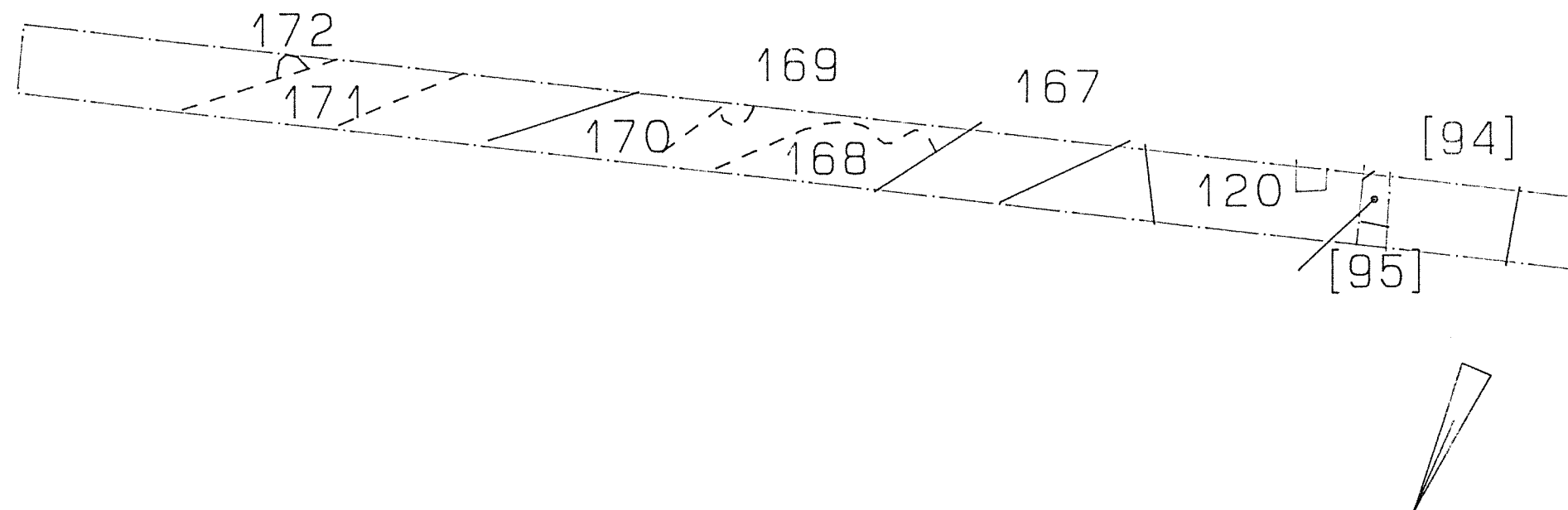


Fig. 11

Plan of Archaeological Features in TRXVI

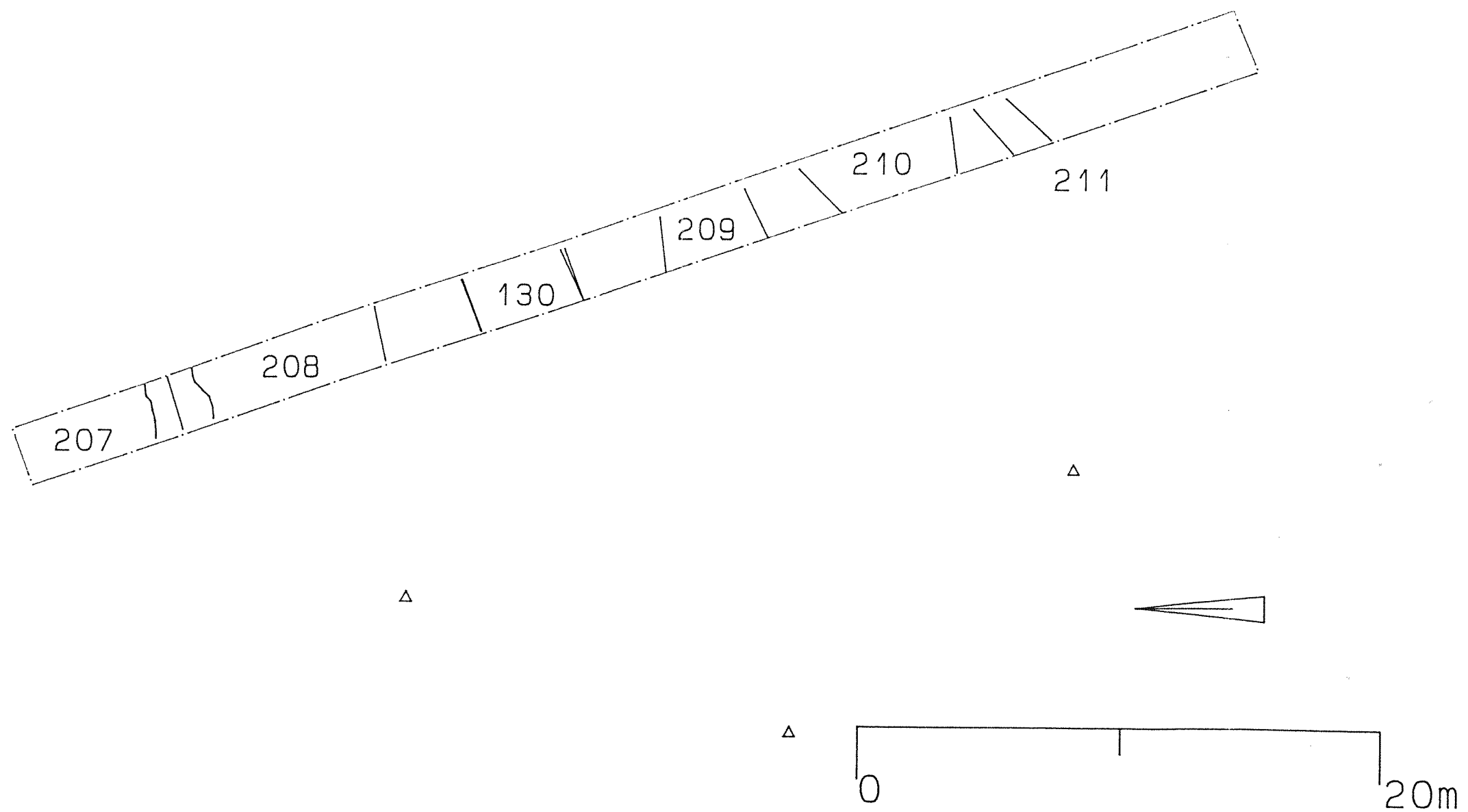


Fig. 12

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TRXVIII, XIX

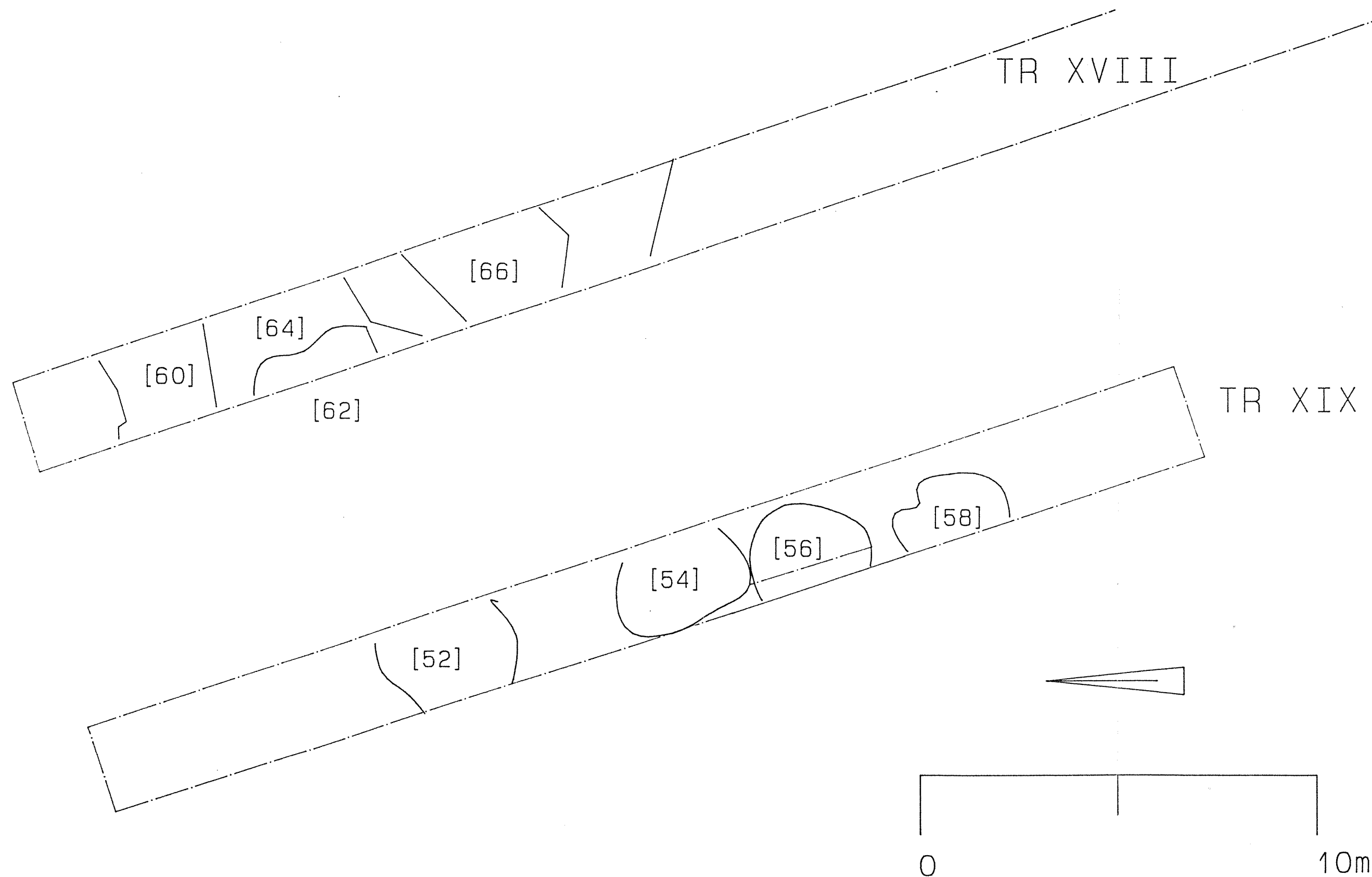


Fig. 13

FORLR96 - Plan of Archaeological Features in TR XXIII & XXIV

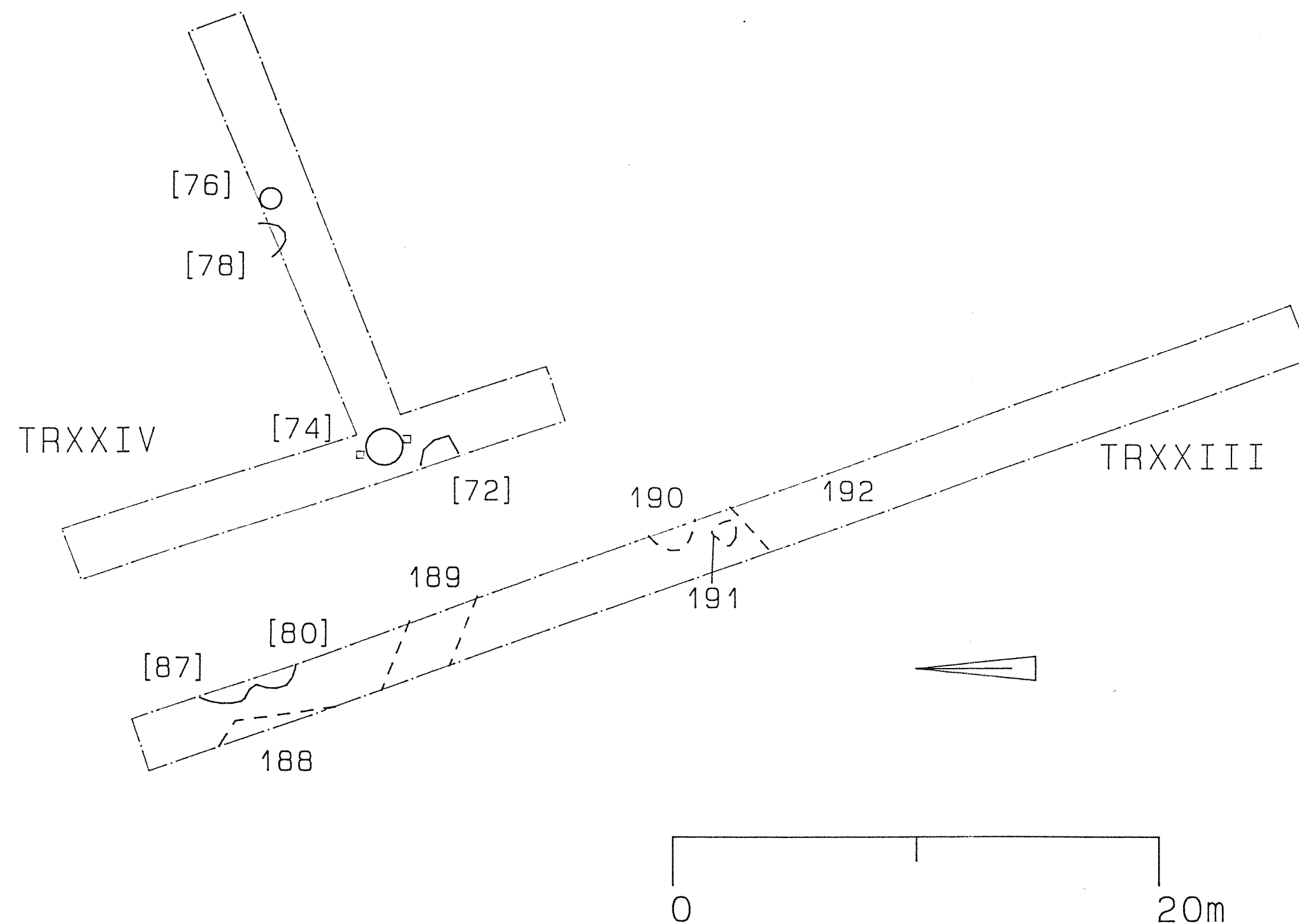
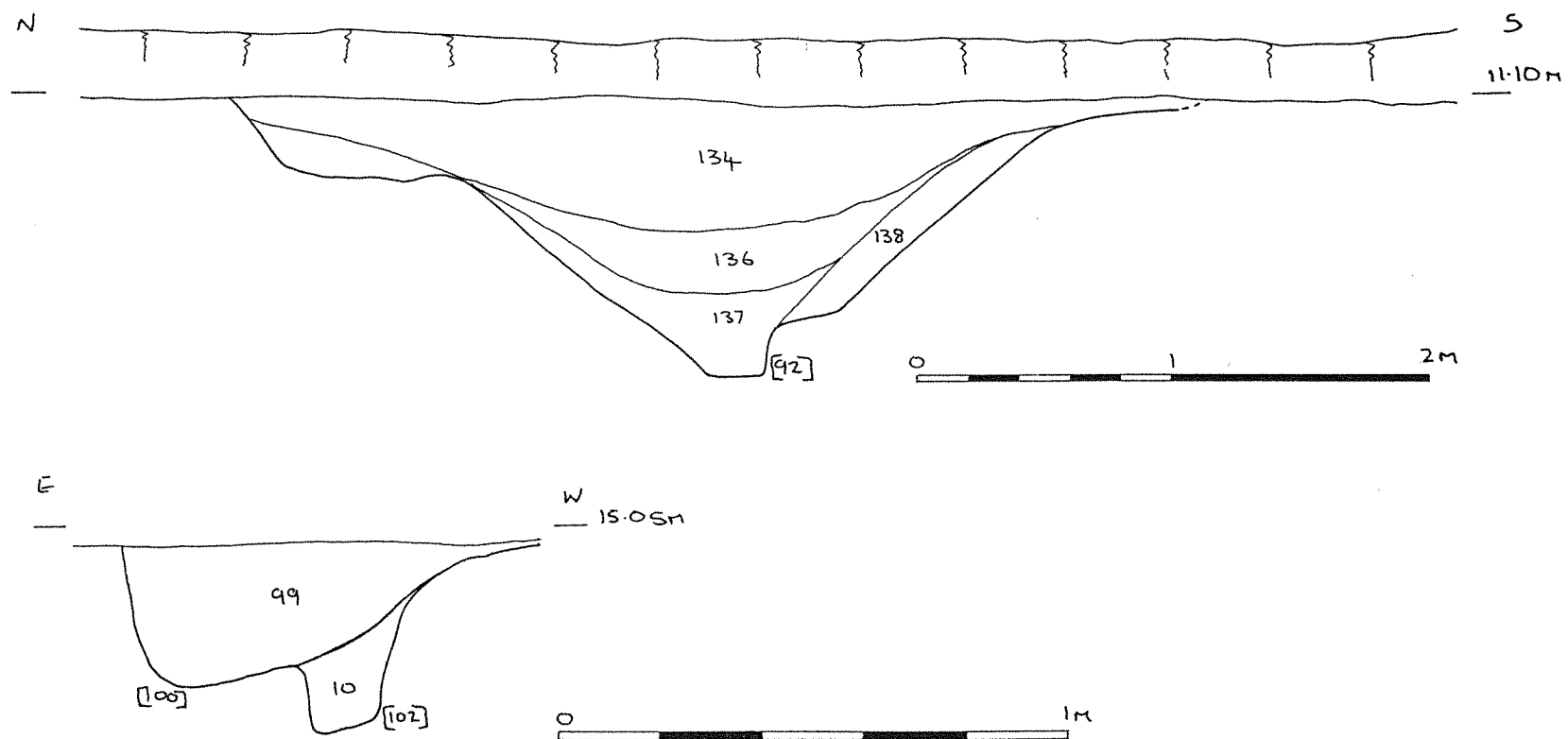


Fig. 14

Fig. 15



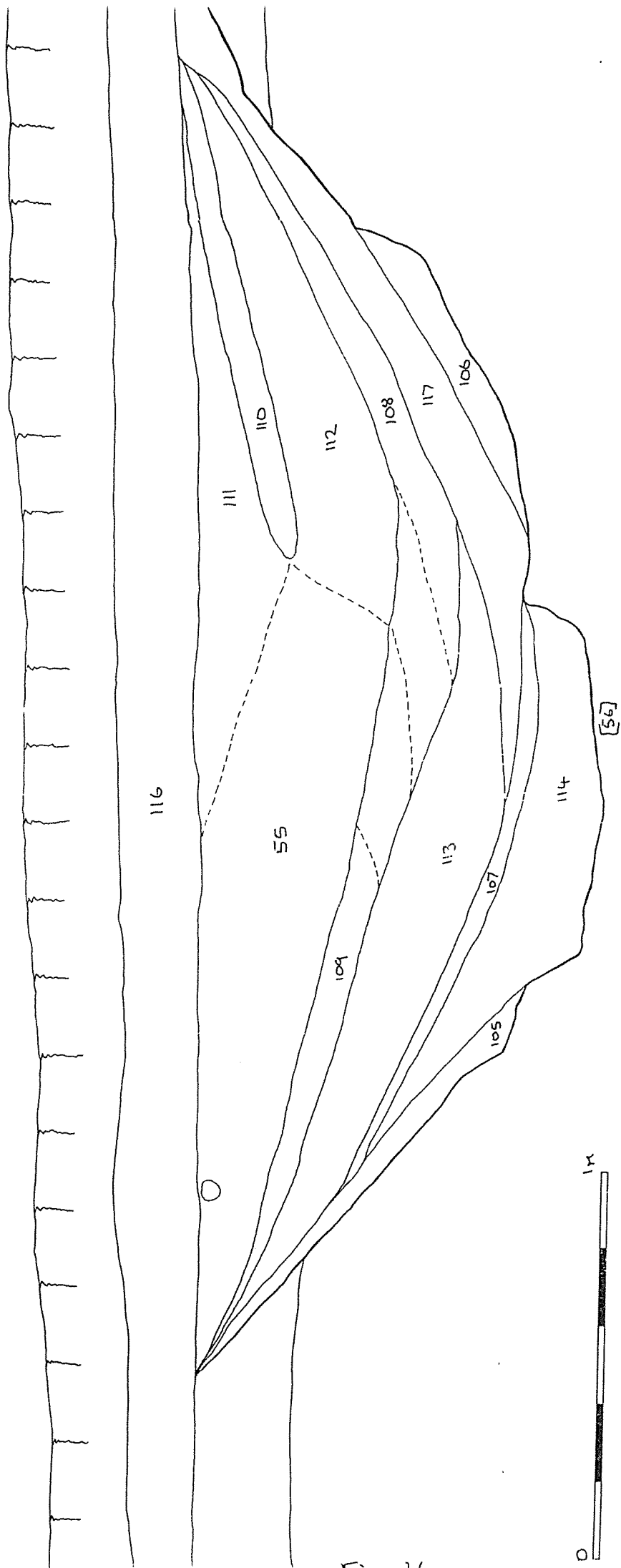
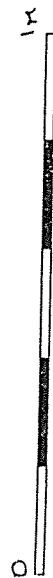


Fig. 16



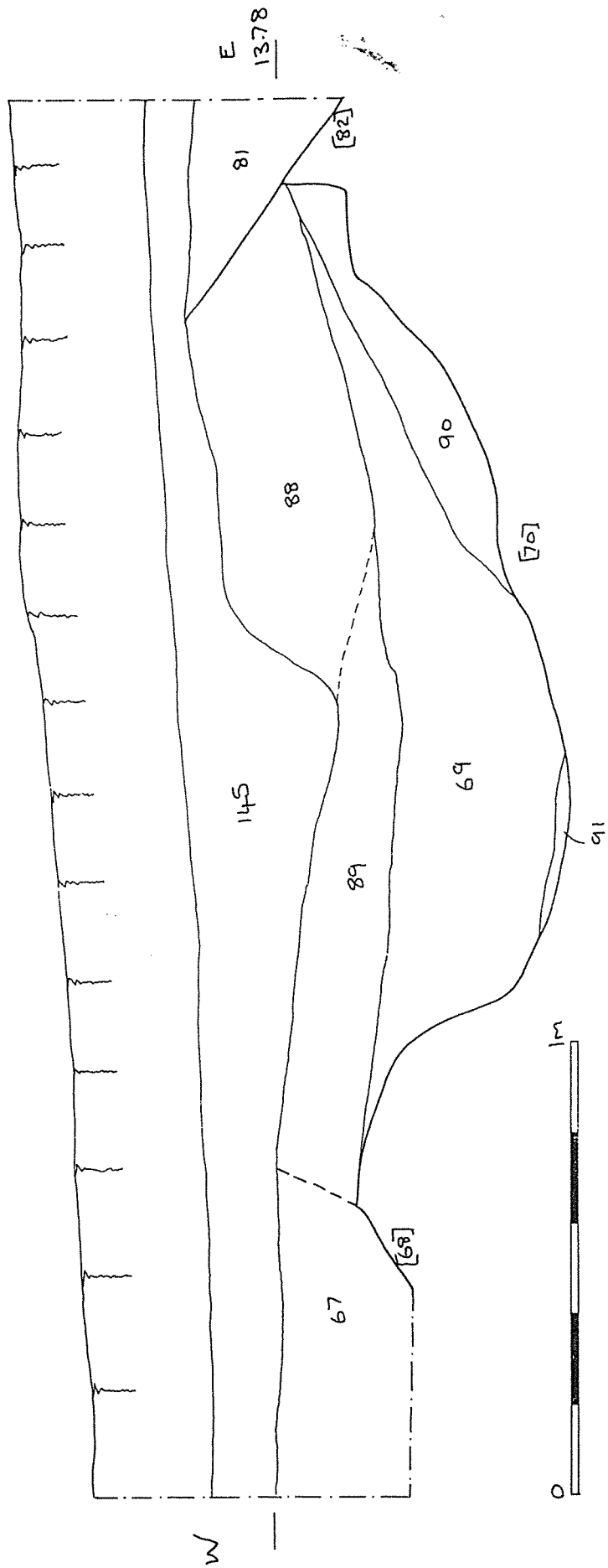


Fig. 17

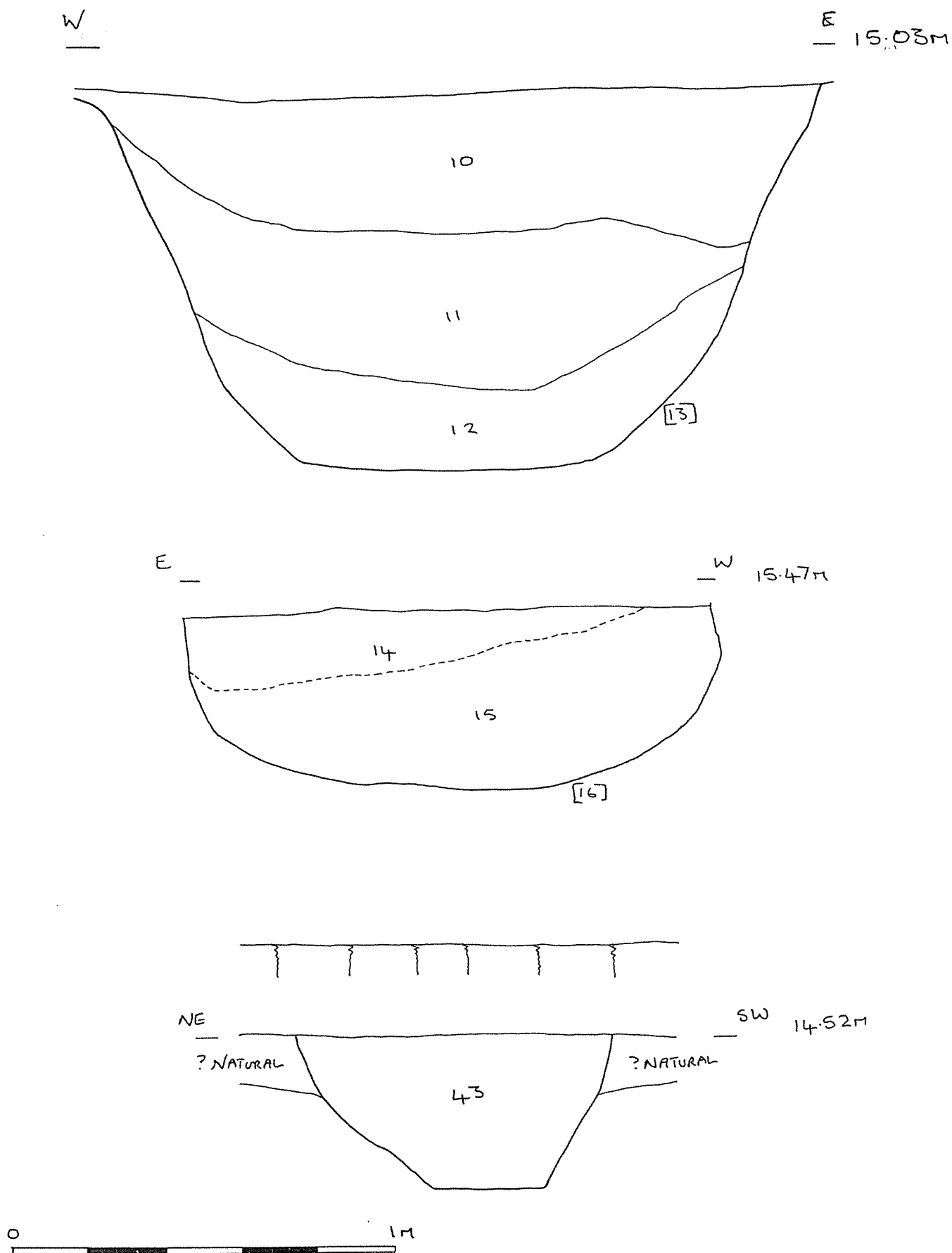


Fig. 18

N (A)

TRENCH III

S (B)

W (C)

TRENCH X

E (D)

W (E)

TRENCH IV

E (F)

E (G)

TRENCH XVII

W (H)

S (J)

TRENCH XVIII

N (K)

N (L)

TRENCH XVI

S (M)

Ditch

N (N)

TRENCH IX

S (P)

0 10m

Fig. 12

APPENDIX 1

**LANDWADE ROAD, TL631683, FORDHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE:**

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

Rog Palmer MA MIFA with Chris Cox MA MIFA

INTRODUCTION

This assessment of aerial photographs was commissioned to examine an area of some 8.7 hectares (centred TL631683) in order to identify and accurately map archaeological and natural features and thus provide a guide for field evaluation. Any positive results identified before field investigation were to be mapped at 1:2500 otherwise context was to be provided at 1:10000.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL FEATURES FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Sub-surface archaeological features – including ditches, pits, walls or foundations, and banks – may be recorded from the air in different ways in different seasons. In spring and summer features of natural and anthropogenic origin may show through their effect on crops growing above them. Such indications tend to be at their most visible in ripe cereal crops, generally in June or July in this part of Britain, although their appearance cannot accurately be predicted and their absence cannot be taken to imply evidence of archaeological absence. In winter months, when the soil is bare or crop cover is thin (when viewed from above) features may show by virtue of their different soils. Upstanding remains are also best recorded in winter months when vegetation is sparse and the low angle of the sun helps pick out slight differences of height and slope.

Archaeological features mapped for this assessment include the sub-surface remains of former ditches which have been identified as differences in crop growth, and headlands and ?mounds that show best in bare soil conditions. Interpretation and mapping has translated this evidence back into its archaeological reality.

Natural deposits can cause similar differences in crops and appear as startling colour changes in bare winter soils. Photographs examined for this assessment included summer and winter sorties of which the winter, bare soil, prints proved most informative for interpretation of natural features. Unfortunately the drift geology of the area is such that photographs taken on different dates can provide very different views of the environmental background.

PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND MAPPING

Cover searches were obtained from the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs, Cambridgeshire County Council Record Office, and the National Library of Air Photographs

(NLAP), Swindon and included photographs resulting from specialist archaeological reconnaissance and routine vertical surveys.

The short time scale available for this assessment made it necessary to first examine photographs in Cambridge and provide a rapid appraisal of the area while NLAP was responding to the request for a priority cover search. This work was undertaken by the principal author of this report and provided information before field work commenced. Photographs at NLAP were later examined by Chris Cox (Air Photo Services, Swindon) who added to the Cambridge-based map and confirmed some of the uncertainties that arose during that work.

This area has been overflown for specialist archaeological reconnaissance by photographers from Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk and RCHME although, to judge by the targets photographed, it tended to offer poor – and confusing – subject matter. The lengths of double parallel ditches that cross the assessment area were recorded on obliques and mapped from that source. The ring ditch at TL62986892 and the possible ditches to its south were recorded on oblique photographs although these lacked suitable control points to facilitate mapping. These, and all else for this assessment – both natural and anthropogenic – have been interpreted and mapped from vertical prints.

Photographs were examined by eye and under slight (1.5x) magnification. Vertical photographs were also examined using a 1.5x magnification stereoscope. Features identified were marked on the prints and checked with photographs of other dates and finally mapped at 1:10000 using computer rectification for the double ditched feature and, elsewhere, controlled sketching.

All photographs consulted are listed in the Appendix to this report.

COMMENTARY

The drift geology of the area shows as a series of distinct tonal changes on winter photographs. This part of Cambridgeshire, especially the valleys of the rivers Snail and Lark, has an undulating topography which was much favoured by early occupants (Hall and Coles 1994, 55-56). Much of this early settlement dates from the mesolithic to the bronze age and was of a nature that leaves very little evidence, if any, that is obvious on aerial photographs. However, the proximity of later prehistoric sites (Snailwell 3 and 4) and of Romano-British settlement (Snailwell 3 and 4, Fordham 18) suggested that crop-marked features of those dates may occur in, or adjacent to, the assessment area. (All information on Fenland Survey sites is from Hall forthcoming.)

The double parallel ditches crossing the assessment area comprise, but for a later headlands, one of the few credible archaeological features showing on aerial photographs in the area examined. They were recorded on only two occasions: firstly on vertical photographs taken in September 1963 on which they remained in a small area of unharvested crop; and secondly on a series of panoramic obliques taken in July 1981. None of the other photographs examined show this feature. Another archaeological feature is the ring ditch at TL62986892 which is situated close to the bronze age flint scatter (Fordham site 2) located during the Fenland Survey

The three-sided rectilinear feature at TL62816838 may be archaeological but showed only on 1985 verticals. Before that date landuse appeared such as to mask any sub-surface evidence.

North of the assessment area are two possible ditched features (area TL629686). These have been recorded on oblique and some vertical photographs in an area which verticals indicate as having an undulating geology-related surface. It is possible that these 'ditches' are seasonal manifestation of parts of that natural background. However, that at TL62906867 shows a double ditched form that is of acceptable iron age shape and size and it could indicate the location of a genuine archaeological site.

No definite evidence of ditched features can be seen at, or near to, the locations of Snailwell sites 3 and 4 although suggestions of slightly darker patches of soil can perhaps – with the hindsight of knowing where to look – be identified. However, a number of other similarly dark patches can be seen in this area which do not have the corresponding ground evidence. The natural soils in this area make it unwise to suggest that any of these features are archaeological.

Fordham site 18 is a relocation of the Fenland Survey siting of a Roman villa. Excavation of the villa was noted in *Britannia* (1973) but the field was not visited during the Fenland work and consequently the villa was given only a six-figure location (Hall forthcoming: gazetteer 1). A single vertical photograph, RC8-U 139, taken on 12 April 1971 shows what looks very much like a small archaeological excavation at TL63666826. If the excavation did occur at that date then this is the likely location of that villa.

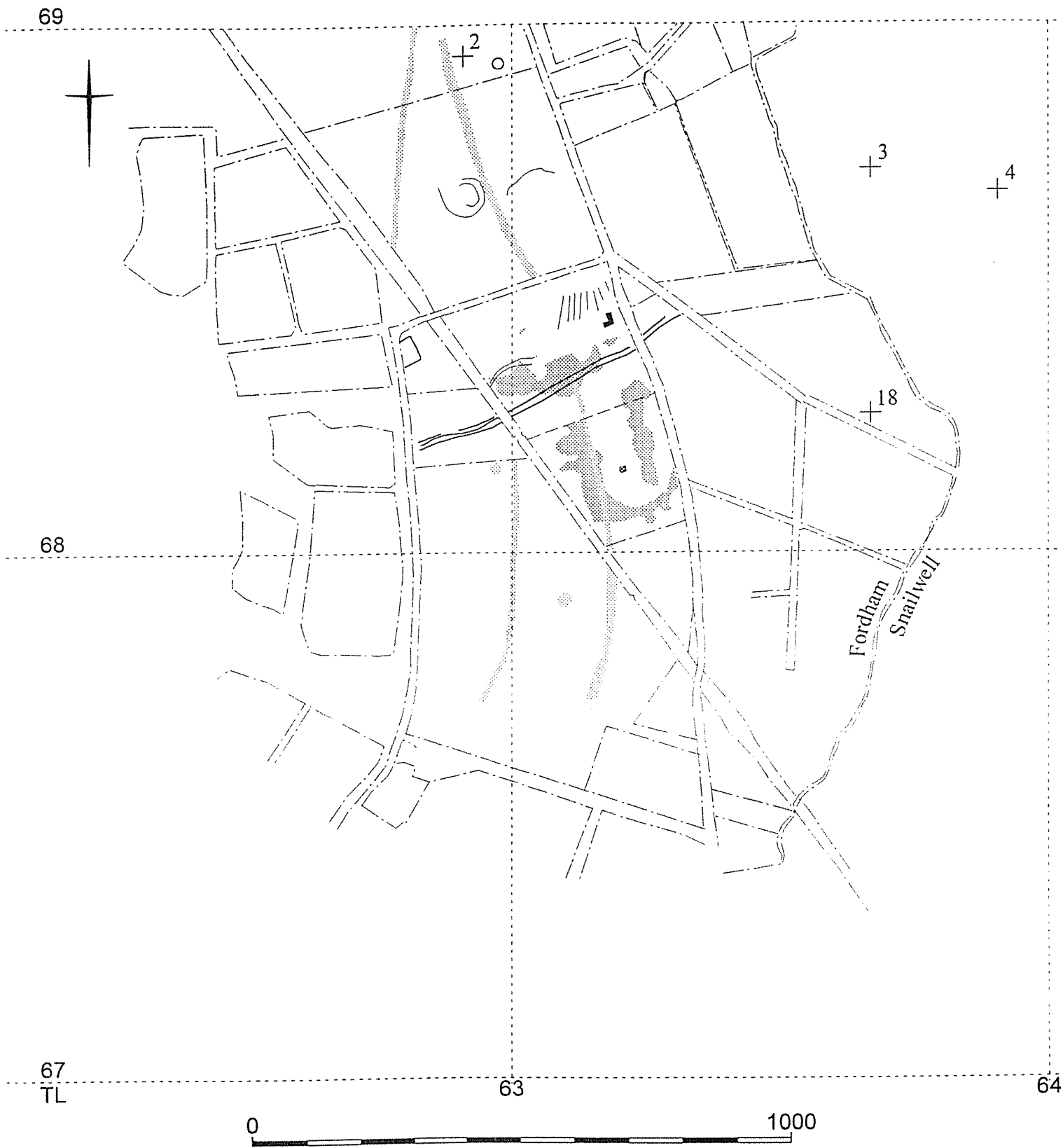
The headland which crosses the assessment area is part of a system of medieval fields which lay extensively over this part of Cambridgeshire. The course of the headland is unclear in the northern part of the assessment area. Post-war agriculture in that field has resulted in poorly defined, or non-existent, evidence for the aerial camera. Some photographs suggest that, north of the assessment area, it veers towards the west. This, however, is out of character with the rest of the local headland system and the feature mapped may have resulted from more recent field division. The 'possible archaeological ditches' mapped within the assessment area at TL63006835 were recorded on the same obliques that showed the double ditched feature. Their character is more suggestive of a natural than archaeological origin.

Between two headlands to the south-west of the assessment area is what may be the ploughed remains of a mound (TL63106791). Another is adjacent to a headland at TL62876816. Local geology makes it equally plausible that these are natural features.

The geology of the area can be expected to produce confusing evidence after clearance of the topsoil – especially if the areas cleared are small. The photographed evidence varies, as expected, from year to year and season to season but mapping has indicated what appear to be the major areas of deeper soils within the assessment area. Some photographs show the north-east part of the field to be covered in periglacial 'stripes' (Wilson 1982, figure 94). The approximate area of these has been indicated. After topsoil removal these can be expected to show as a series of pockets of deeper soil (Harris 1990, 123 and figure 60) and may be mistaken for archaeological features.

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- Harris, C., 1990. Periglacial landforms, in Stevens, N (ed), *Natural Landscapes of Britain from the Air.* Cambridge.
- Wilson, D.R., 1982. *Air Photo Interpretation for Archaeologists.* London.



- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | Archaeological ditch | | Old quarry? |
| | Possible archaeological ditch | | Deep soil |
| | Headland | | Area of periglacial stripes |
| | Possible mound - probably natural | | Recent boundary |
| | Fenland Survey 'site' and number | | |

APPENDIX

*Aerial photographs examined**Source: Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs*

Oblique photographs

UI 59-61	13 April 1957
YW 25	23 June 1959
AAQ 86, 88	21 April 1960
BGS 1-3	22 July 1971
BPX 83-84	19 June 1974

Vertical photographs

RC8-U 116, 123	11 January 1971	1:4170
RC8-U 133, 139	12 April 1971	1:5000
RC8-AJ 88, 94	2 May 1973	1:5100
RC8-AU 123	18 April 1975	1:5350
RC8-BW 16-18	23 May 1977	1:5100
RC8-EA 50-52, 82-85	23 May 1982	1:10000
RC8-EG 243-244	25 March 1982	1:10000
RC8-HW 81-82, 140-141	10 July 1985	1:10000
RC8-HW 151-154	10 July 1985	1:10000
RC8-KnBH 38	13 June 1988	1:10000
RC8-KnBO 40	26 August 1988	1:10000
RC8-KnBP 98	30 August 1988	1:10000

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Record Office

Vertical photographs

106G/UK/1557: 3315-3318	7 June 1946	1:10000	
Fairey 20285-20290	Undated 1949	1:6000	[late summer]
BKS 32547-32550	Undated 1962	1:10000	[summer ?June]
BKS 32570-32573	Undated 1962	1:10000	[summer ?June]
Meridian 55/69: 139-141	9 June 1969	1:10000	
Meridian 55/69: 162-164	9 June 1969	1:10000	

Source: National Library of Air Photographs

Specialist collection

TL6169/1	25 July 1991
TL6267/1-2	1 July 1976
TL6267/3-5	25 July 1991
TL6268/1	1 July 1976
TL6268/8/337-339	7 July 1981
TL6268/9	25 July 1991
TL6366/4, 7	7 July 1981
TL6368/1/342-345	7 July 1981
TL6369/1/340-341	7 July 1981

Vertical collection

106G/LA/124: 2014-2016	9 February 1945	1:9000
106G/UK/1490: 4446-4447	9 May 1946	1:10000
106G/UK/1557: 3317-3318	7 June 1946	1:9800
106G/UK/1718: 3002-3004	6 September 1946	1:9800
F22/58/1968: 245-248	23 March 1956	1:10000
F21/58/1971: 221-223	27 March 1956	1:10000
F22/58/1971: 255-257	27 March 1956	1:10000
F21/82/1428: 257-259	23 May 1956	1:10000
F22/82/1428: 257-259	23 May 1956	1:10000
F21/543/T/899: 62-63	5 May 1960	1:10002
F22/543/T/899: 62-64	5 May 1960	1:10002
F22/58/4686: 70-71	18 September 1961	1:10000
2F22/543/2409: 109-110	16 September 1963	1:10000
2F22/543/2409: 192-194	16 September 1963	1:10000
OS/67050: 189	24 April 1967	1:7500
OS/67050: 197-199	24 April 1967	1:7500
MAL/69055: 141-142	9 June 1969	1:10500
MAL/69071: 55-57	22 July 1969	1:10500
MAL/76042: 38-40	10 June 1976	1:10000

APPENDIX 2

FORDHAM, LANDWADE ROAD 1996 - Finds Types By Context

Trench	Context	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Tile & Brick	Flint Weight	Flint Count	Animal Bone	HSR	Total Weights by Context
Tr 17	1	11	1						11
Tr 21	1				9	1			9
Tr 22	1	10	1						10
NE TP	1	8	3	28					36
?	1				4	1			4
Tr 1	2				9	1			9
Tr 7	5						104		104
Tr 7	5	83	10						83
Tr 7	10	146	28		41	5	98		285
Tr 7	11						19		19
Tr 7	12	14	4				14		28
Tr 7	14	261	26				26		287
Tr 7	15						113		113
Tr 7	23	24	7				20		44
Tr 7	25	359	29						359
Tr 7	27	66	2				78		144
Tr 7	29	43	2						43
Tr 22	37						128		128
Tr 22	39	24	4		3	1	240		267
Tr 22	41	99	10		17	1	81		197
Tr 6	43						2		2
Tr 20	45	34	8				21		55
Tr 20	47	45	8				10		55
Tr 20	49	17	1						17
Tr 19	51	40	9				21		61
Tr 19	55						27		27
Tr 19	57	26	1						26
Tr 18	59	3	3						3
Tr 7	67	5	2						5
Tr 17	67	4	1				1		5
Tr 17	69	20	9				1		21
Tr 24	71						8		8
Tr 24	73	191	15		14	1		188	393
Tr 24	75	33	5				141		174
Tr 24	77	40	1						40
Tr 23	79	77	5				40		117
Tr 17	81	4	3				1		5
Tr 23	86	6	2				69		75
Tr 3	93	2	4						2
Tr 20	95	2	2						2
Tr 20	97	41	7						41
Tr 7	99	1	1						1
Tr 19	113	75	5		44	1	13		132
Tr 9	118	14	1						14
Tr 9	119	16	1						16
Tr 9	121						30		30
Tr 4	126						45		45

FORDHAM, LANDWADE ROAD 1996 - Finds Types By Context

Trench	Context	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Tile & Brick	Flint Weight	Flint Count	Animal Bone	HSR	Total Weights by Context
Tr 4	128				15	2			15
Tr 16	130	6	1						6
Tr 7	u/s	5	1						5
Tr 8	u/s	3	1						3
Tr 10	u/s				32	4			32
Tr 17	u/s	1	1						1
Tr 19	u/s	49	10						49
?	u/s				30	3			30
T6	117/290				4	1			4
T6	140/290				25	2			25
T9	145/282	12	1						12
T7	174/424			8					8
T7	187/424	3	1						3
T8	191/412				2	1			2
T1	191/433				26	1			26
T9	200/282				28	1			28
T8	205/412	6	1						6
T4	253/446				15	1			15
T7.5	29/282				24	1			24
T4	345/446	4	1						4
T8	51/412				15	1			15
T2	55/470				25	2			25
T8	59/412				27	1			27
T10	60/414	5	1						5
T13	65/391	5	1						5
T1	65/433				2	1			2
T3	midway				11	1			11
Total Weight by Finds Type		1943	241	36	422	35	1351	188	3940

APPENDIX 3

Trench and Feature Descriptions

TRENCH I

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1), 0.30m deep overlies natural weathered chalk and posthole [3] .

[3] subcircular 0.67m x 0.51m x 0.41m deep filled with (2) black silty clay, possibly representing a decayed insitu post and (4) decayed natural suggesting the original cut was smaller than excavated.

Cuts natural weathered chalk.

Hand excavated half section. No finds.

Posthole with no other associated features.

TRENCH II

Machine excavated to 50m east-west x 2.10m north-south.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies natural weathered chalk.

No archaeological features were located in this trench.

TRENCH III

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies (85), (134).

(85) light olive brown sandy clay with occasional 20-50mm rounded and angular flints and soft, moderately plastic consistency. 0.40m deep in southern half of trench only.

Overlies (84), (93).

Machine excavated.

Colluvium or hillwash.

[83] Linear, 1.20m wide x 2.10m long (min) x 0.35m deep, on an approximately east-west orientation. Filled by (84) light olive brown sandy clay.

Hand excavated 0.70m section. No finds.

[92] Linear, 3.60m wide x 2.10m long (min) on an approximately east-west orientation. Cut has steeply sloping sides to narrow flat base. Filled by (134) reddish brown clay sand,, (135) light yellowish brown sandy clay, (136) light reddish brown sandy clay, (137) light yellowish brown sandy clay, (138) light yellowish brown clay sand mixed with weathered chalk. (138) may be degraded natural suggesting the southern side of the cut was originally more steeply sloping.

Overlies (139).

Excavated by machine across width of trench, basal fill and sides excavated by hand. No finds.

Ditch, parallel with [94], (164), (165), (166).

[94] Linear 3.80m wide x 2.10m long (min) x ? deep. Orientated approximately east-west. Filled by (93) yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional angular flints.

Overlies natural weathered chalk.

Hand excavated 0.70m section to 0.30m deep, not bottomed.

Small sherds of Iron Age or Early Saxon pottery from (93).

(166) ?linear 2.40m wide x 0.70m long (min) yellowish brown sandy clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probably an east-west orientated ditch terminus or pit fill.

(165) linear yellowish brown sandy clay orientated approximately east-west.

Not excavated. No finds

Probable ditch fill.

(164) linear yellowish brown sandy clay orientated approximately east-west.

Not excavated. no finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(139) irregular reddish brown clay sand with no inclusions.

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Probably a natural feature.

TRENCH IV

Machine excavated to 50m east-west x 2.10m north-south.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies (127)

(127) 0.50m deep mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent grits, chalk flecks and shell fragments.

Overlies (128).

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Colluvium or hillwash.

(128) 0.20m deep streaked dark grey and mid brown clay with frequent shell and much worm and root action.

?Overlies (126).

Partly excavated by machine + a sample hand excavated. Worked flint from surface. Buried soil .

(126) irregular area of reddish grey clay at east end of trench.

Not excavated. Frequent fragments of reddened animal bone recovered from surface. May be a remnant of buried soil (128) which has changed due to localised environmental conditions or a feature sealed by the buried soil.

No archaeological features were present beneath the buried soil in the test pit areas, however, features may be present where the buried soil was not removed.

Natural geology is pale buff clay.

TRENCH V

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep overlies (145)

(145) 0.20m deep mid yellowish brown clay sand.
Machine excavated. No finds.
Overlies (151), (152), (153), (154).
Colluvium or hillwash.

(151) circular 1.80m diameter light yellowish brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable pit fill.

(152) linear 5m wide x 2.10m long (min) mid brown clay sand on an approximately east-west orientation.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable ditch fill.

(153) ?circular 1m diameter very light yellow brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit fill.

(154) ?circular 2.40m diameter very light yellowish brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit fill.

(155) loose mid brown slightly clay sand with frequent flints.
Overlies (145).
Part excavated by machine. No finds.
Probably caused by tree roots.

Natural geology was weathered chalk with patches of dirty gravel mixed with light yellow brown sandy clay.

TRENCH VI

Machine excavated to 23m east-west x 2.10m north-south.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep overlies (145)

(145) 19m east-west x 2.10m north-south (min) x 0.20m deep light yellowish brown sandy clay.
Partially excavated by machine. No finds.

[44] linear 0.70m wide x 2.10m long (min) x 0.45m deep on an approximately north-south orientation. Filled by (43) firm yellowish brown slightly sandy silt.
Hand excavated 0.60m section. Small fragments of pottery recovered from fill.
Shallow ditch, possibly a field boundary or for drainage.

(156) circular 0.80m diameter yellowish brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole or small pit.

Natural geology was weathered chalk mixed with sandy gravel and light brown patches of sandy clay.

TRENCH VII

Machine excavated to 60m long east-west x 2.10m north-south, additionally two extensions machine excavated to the south, both 13m long north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep overlies ?colluvium (0.20m deep min) at west end of trench.

[7] circular, 1.10m diameter, x 0.38m deep cut has vertical sides and flat base. Filled by (5) brown, loose, slightly sandy silt, and (6) light yellowish brown loose gritty, chalky silt.
Hand excavated half-section. Small fragments of pottery and animal bone recovered.
Pit or posthole.

[13] circular, 1.96m x 1.88m x 1.03m deep. Cut has regular, steep sides and flat base. Filled by (10) dark yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded and angular flints, (11) light olive brown sandy clay with small flints and lumps of redeposited natural., (12) dark yellowish brown sandy clay with lumps of redeposited natural.
Hand excavated half section. Pottery, animal bone and worked flint recovered.
Pit.

[16] circular, 1.26m x 1.13m x 0.50m deep cut with regular, vertical sides to rounded concave base. Filled by (14) dark greyish brown sandy clay containing very occasional small rounded stones, (15) olive brown sandy clay with frequent large angular flints and large lumps of redeposited natural.
Hand excavated half section. Pottery and animal bone recovered.
Pit.

[24] ?circular, 3m diameter cut filled by (23) dark grey brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. Pottery and animal bone recovered from surface.
Probable pit.

[26] circular, 2m diameter cut filled by (25) dark grey brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.
Cuts (193).
Probable pit.

[28] circular, 1m diameter cut filled by (27) dark grey brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.
Probable pit or posthole.

[30] circular, 1m diameter cut filled by (29) dark grey brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.
Probable pit or posthole.

[100] curvilinear 0.60m wide x 2.20m long (min) x 0.30m deep on an approximately north-south orientation. Filled by (99) light yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional 50-80mm angular flints.
Hand excavated 0.40m section. One fragment of pottery.
?Cuts (101).
Gully or slot.

[102] circular 0.22m diameter x 0.30m deep (min) vertical sided, flat based cut. Filled by (101) yellowish brown clay sand containing occasional small angular flints,

Hand excavated half section.
Posthole in base of gully/slot [100].

(193) linear 1.20m wide x 10m long (min) on a north/east-south/west orientation. Light brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible ditch fill.

(194) ?linear 1.60m wide x 1.40m long (min) north-south orientated loose reddish brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probably the southern termination of a periglacial stripe.

(195) irregular ?subcircular 2m east-west x 3m north-south red clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probably natural feature.

(196) irregular ?linear 2m wide x 1m long north/east-south/west orientated red clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probably a periglacial stripe.

(197) linear 2m wide x 1m long (min) north/east-south/west orientated red clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable periglacial stripe.

(198) linear 2m wide x 2.10m long on an approximately north-south orientation mid reddish brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
May be a colluvium remnant, a periglacial stripe or a ditch.

Natural geology is weathered chalk and weathered chalk mixed with reddish brown clay sand.

TRENCH VIII

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west, this trench is staggered.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep

[18] circular 0.50m diameter cut filled by (17) dark grey clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole on an approximately north-south alignment with five others.

[20] circular 0.50m diameter cut filled by (19) light brown sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole on an approximately north-south alignment with five others.

[22] circular 0.50m diameter cut filled by (21) light brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole on an approximately north-south alignment with five others.

(181) circular 0.80m diameter dark brown clay sand.

Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole on an approximately north-south alignment with five others.

(182) circular 0.50m diameter dark brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable posthole on an approximately north-south alignment with five others.

(183) linear 1m wide x 16m long (min) north/north/east- south/south/west orientated yellow brown clay sand with frequent flints.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable ditch fill, adjacent to and on similar alignment to six postholes.
Terminates in south adjacent to most southerly of the six postholes.

(184) ?subrectangular 2.20m north-south x 1m east-west (min) light yellow brown mottled sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit fill.

(185) ?subcircular 2m north-south (min) x 2m east-west (min) light yellow brown mottled sandy clay.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit fill, possible natural.

(186) linear 2m wide x 6m long (min) north/east-south/west orientated red brown sandy clay with frequent angular flints.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable periglacial stripe.

(187) linear 2m wide x 4m long (min) north/east-south/west orientated red brown sandy clay with frequent angular flints.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable periglacial stripe.

Natural geology is weathered chalk and weathered chalk with light brown sandy clay patches.

TRENCH IX

Machine excavated to 54m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.20m-0.30m deep overlies (119)

(119) irregular ?linear 11m north-south(min) x 2.10m east-west (min) x 0.15m deep (min) yellow brown clay sand with yellow sand mottles.
Partly excavated by machine. No finds.
Possibly colluvium or ditch fill.

(118) linear 3.20m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated mid yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.
Probable ditch fill.

(121) ?circular 1m (min) x 1m (min) redeposited chalk mixed with brown silt.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable pit fill.

(145) irregular 12m east-west x 2.10m north-south light yellowish brown clay sand.

Partly machine excavated. No finds.

Colluvium or hillwash.

(146) linear 3.40m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated light yellowish brown sandy clay mixed with weathered chalk.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(147) linear 4m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated mid yellow brown clay sand.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(148) linear 2m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated mottled yellow brown and grey brown sandy clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(149) linear 1m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated mid yellow brown clay sand.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(150) ?linear/?subcircular 4m wide x 2m long (min) light yellow brown clay sand mixed with weathered chalk.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable pit fill.

Natural geology is weathered chalk and patches of mottled yellow clay.

TRENCH X

Machine excavated to 47m long east-west x 2.10m north-south.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies (145) (0.50m deep) in western 38m.

Overlies (120)

(145) 36m east-west x 2.10m north-south x 0.30m deep light olive brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints.

Overlies (120), (170), (169), (168).

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Colluvium or hillwash.

(120) 15m east-west x 2.10m north-south (min) x 0.25m deep dark greyish brown silty sand with very occasional angular flints, occasional charcoal flecks and fine roots, well worm sorted.

Two hand excavated test pits. No finds.

Overlies (122), (167).

Buried soil.

[123] circular 0.40m diameter cut filled by (122)crushed chalk.

Not excavated. No finds.

Possibly a posthole or ?modern borehole.

(124) linear 0.90m wide x 1m long (min) x 0.20m approximately east-west orientated deep olive brown silty sand with frequent sandier patches throughout and occasional angular flints and charcoal flecks.
Hand excavated section. No finds.
Truncated base of a ?ditch.

(167) linear 2m wide x 6m long (min) approximately east-west orientated light-mid yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable ditch fill.

(168) irregular ?subcircular 2m wide x 5m long approximately east-west orientated light yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit fill.

(169) linear 0.80m wide x 1.50m long (min) approximately east-west orientated light yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable ditch terminal.

(170) linear 2m wide x 8m long (min) approximately east/south/east-west/north/west orientated mid yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable ditch fill.

(171) linear 2m wide x 9m long (min) approximately east/south/east-west/north/west orientated very light yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Overlies (172).
Possible ditch fill.

(172) ?circular 1m diameter very light yellow brown clay sand.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possible pit or posthole fill.

Natural geology is weathered chalk.

TRENCH X1

Machine excavated to 51m east-west x 2.10m north-south.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies (145), (163)

(145) Light yellowish brown clay sand 0.08m deep in eastern 5m of this trench.
Machine excavated. No finds.

(163) subrectangular 1m x 0.40m light yellow brown clay silt with very occasional small angular flints.
Not excavated. No finds.
Probable pit fill, similar to (162) in trench XV.

Natural geology is weathered chalk encountered at 0.30m below ground surface.

TRENCH XII

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep overlies (161).

(161) irregular 4.5m wide x 2m long (min) dark brown friable clay sand..
Not excavated. No finds.

Probably caused by tree roots

Natural geology is weathered chalk encountered at 0.25m below ground surface.

TRENCH XIII

Machine excavated to 60m north-west-south/east x 2.10m wide.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m deep overlies (205)

(205) 52m (min) x 2.10m (min) x 0.25m deep yellowish brown clay sand.
Excavated by machine. No finds.

Overlies (204).

Colluvium or hillwash

[206] ?linear/?circular 15m x 2.10m (min) x 0.80m (min) deep ?north-south orientated cut. Filled by (204) dark brown loose, friable slightly clayey silt. Partly excavated by machine. No finds.
Probably a silted pond or paleochannel.

Natural geology is weathered chalk encountered at 0.50m below ground surface.

TRENCH XIV

Machine excavated to 19m north-south x 2.10m wide.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.30m deep overlies natural weathered chalk.

No archaeological features were located in this trench.

TRENCH XV

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m wide.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.25m overlies (145), (162)

(145) 6m north-south x 2.10m east-west x 0.15m deep light yellowish brown clay sand.

Machine excavated. No finds.

Colluvium or hillwash in most southerly part of trench only.

(162) subrectangular 1m long x 0.40m wide mid grey clay silt.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable pit fill, similar to (163) in trench XI.

Natural geology is weathered chalk encountered between 0.25m and 0.40m below ground surface.

TRENCH XVI

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m wide.

Ploughsoil (1) 0.20m deep overlies (214), (130).

(214) 10m (min) x 2.10m (min) x 0.35m deep streaked grey clay sand with frequent grits, angular flints and shell.

Excavated by machine, No finds.

Overlies (212).

Upper layer of colluvium or hillwash.

(212) 15m (min) x 2.10m (min) x 0.40m deep bright yellow brown sandy clay.

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Overlies (215). Same as (213)?

Colluvium or hillwash.

(213) 30m (min) x 2.10m (min) x 0.50m deep bright yellow brown sandy clay.

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Same as (212).

Colluvium or hillwash.

(130) linear 2.50m wide x 2.10m long (min) east-west orientated mid brown sandy clay with frequent angular flints.

Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.

Probably ditch fill.

(215) 11m (min) x 2.10m (min) mottled pale yellow brown sandy clay.

Excavated by machine. No finds.

Overlies (207).

Probably colluvium.

(207) ?linear 7m wide (min) x 2.10m long (min) approximately east-west orientated grey clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Possible buried soil or ditch fill, similar to (209).

(209) ?linear 7m (wide) (min) x 2.10m long (min) grey clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Possible buried soil or ditch fill, similar to (207).

(208) linear 8m wide x 2.10m long (min) approximately east-west orientated pale yellow brown sandy clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(210) linear 7m wide x 2.10m long approximately east-west orientated mid yellow brown sandy clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

(211) linear 2m wide x 2.10m long (min) approximately east-west orientated light brown sandy clay.

Not excavated. No finds.

Probable ditch fill.

Natural geology is weathered chalk encountered patchily at between 0.40m and 1m below ground surface.

TRENCH XVII

Machine excavated to 50m east-west x 2.10m wide.

Ploughsoil (1) (0.30m deep) overlies colluvium (0.15m deep) which overlies (131)

(131) a deposit similar to that in trench XXIII but revealed as discrete pockets which may be filling a number of undefined features.

[68] (67) not excavated

[70] ?circular 1.80m diameter x 0.70m deep cut with concave base and moderately gentle sides. Filled by (88) brown clay sand with occasional angular flints, (89) brown clay sand with occasional angular flints and frequent fine roots, (69) very dark grey clay sand with frequent grits and angular flints, (90) reddish brown clay sand with frequent grits and flints, same as (91).

The upper fills (88) and (89) were excavated by machine, the lower fills were hand excavated in half section. Small fragments of animal bone and pottery were recovered from (69).

Circular pit.

[82] Irregular ?linear 2m wide (min) x 2m long (min) x 0.30m deep (min) on a south/west-north/east orientation. Cut has gentle, moderately gentle sides filled by (81) friable dark brown clay sand.

Partially excavated by machine. Animal bone and pottery fragments recovered from surface cleaning.

Cuts (88).

Probably a pit or ditch.

[68] linear 1.10m wide x 2m long (min) on an approximately north-south orientation. Filled by (67) loose and friable dark brown clay sand with frequent angular 10-50mm flints and frequent light brown sand mottles, moderate chalk flecks and occasional charcoal.

Cuts (89).

The upper 0.30m was removed by machine, the lower fills were unexcavated. Pottery and animal bone recovered from surface cleaning.

(131) Dark brown clay sand with frequent rounded and angular flints. 30m east-west x 0.30m deep (min) lying in features or possibly pockets and hollows cut into the natural. Similar to fills of [68], [70] and [82].

Upper 0.30m removed by machine. No finds.

Deposit may fill pits and other features, some may be tree root disturbance.

Natural geology is yellow sandy gravel encountered at 0.60m below ground surface.

TRENCH XVIII

Machine excavated to 50m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

(1) Ploughsoil (0.30m deep) overlies (132) and (133) in the southern half of the trench.

(132) light yellow brown mottled sandy clay 18m east-west x 2m north-south (min).

Not excavated. No finds.

Possibly fills a large pit or remnants of colluvium.

(133) 11m x 2m (min) red brown clay sand with frequent flints.
Not excavated. No finds.
Possibly fills a large pit or may be remnant of colluvium.

[60] irregular linear 1-2m wide x 2m long (min), east-west orientated cut filled with (59) dark grey brown clay sand.
Not excavated. Pottery recovered from surface.

[62] ?circular 3.50m wide x 1m long (min) filled by (61) dark brown clay sand with occasional angular flints.
Not excavated.

[64] linear 2m wide x 2m long (min) east-west orientated cut filled by (63) mid brown clay sand with occasional angular flints.
Not excavated.

[66] ?linear 4m wide x 2m long (min) east-west orientated cut filled by (65) dark grey clay sand with moderate angular flints.
Not excavated.

(132) a sandy deposit which may be filling several features or possibly the remnant of colluvium.

(133) sandy silt deposit

Natural geology is weathered chalk and mixed sandy gravel.

TRENCH XIX

Machine excavated 30m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

(1) Ploughsoil (0.30m deep) overlies (116)

(116) colluvium)

[52] subcircular 3.50m wide x 2.10m long (min) cut filled by (51) dark yellowish brown clay sand with occasional small angular flints.
Not excavated. Pottery and animal bone recovered from surface of (51).

[54] subcircular 3.50m wide x 2.10m long (min) cut filled by dark brown clay sand with occasional small angular flints.
Not excavated. No finds.

[56] subcircular 3m wide x 2m long (min) x 1.30m deep steep sided, stepped, flat bottomed cut. Filled by (55) dark yellowish brown slightly clayey silt, (105) yellowish brown firm silty clay, (106) yellow loose slightly silty sand, (107) brownish yellow loose sandy silt, (108) olive yellow firm sandy clay, (109) brown firm sandy silt, (110) brownish yellow firm silty sand, (111) greyish brown firm slightly clayey silt, (112) brown, firm sandy silt, (113) dark greyish brown firm slightly clayey silt, (114) yellowish brown loose sandy silt, (115) dark yellowish brown compact slightly clayey silt, (116) yellowish brown compact slightly clayey silt, (117) brown firm slightly sandy silt.

Hand excavated 0.50m section. Pottery, animal bone and worked flint was recovered from (113), animal bone was recovered from (55).

[58] subcircular 2.80m x 1.60m (min) cut filled by (57) dark yellowish brown sandy clay with moderate angular flints.

Not excavated. Pottery recovered from the surface.

Natural geology is weathered chalk.

TRENCH XX

Machine excavated to 16m north-south x 2.10m east-west.

Ploughsoil (0.25m deep) overlies (145) (0.20m deep).

(145) mid yellow brown sandy clay.
Excavated by machine. No finds.
Overlies (49), (47), (45), (140), (141).
Probably colluvium or hillwash.

[46] subcircular cut 2.40m east-west x 1.50m north-south . Filled by (45) dark grey sticky sandy clay.
Cuts or is cut by [48]. Cuts (97).
Not excavated.

[48] ?subrectangular cut 1m north-south x 0.20m east-west (min). Filled by (47) sticky dark grey sandy clay.
Cuts or is it cut by [50]. Cuts (97).
Not excavated.

[50] circular 1.40m diameter cut. Filled by (49) dark grey sticky sandy clay.
Cuts or is cut by [48]. Cuts (97).
Not excavated

[96] rectangular cut, 5m north-south (min) x 3m east-west (min) with small 1m square extension at north end. Filled by (95). Mid yellow brown clay sand moserately loose and friable.
Not excavated

[98] subcircular 3.80m east-west x 2.20m north-south (min). Filled by (97) mixed light brown sandy clay and redeposited chalk.
Not excavated.

(140) subcircular 5.20m north-south x 2.80m east-west (min) light yellowish brown sand with frequent chalk fragments probably filling a pit.

(141) subrectangular 7m north/east-south/west (min) x 2.4m south/east-north/west (min) light yellowish brown sand.

TRENCH XXI

Machine excavated to 50m east-west x 2.10m north-south.

(1) Ploughsoil (0.25m deep).
Overlies (173), (174), (175), (176), (177), (178), (179), (180).

(173) Linear 2m wide x 2m long (min) north/west-south/east orientated mixed pale brown sandy clay and chalk.
Probable periglacial strip, possible ditch fill.

(174) irregular linear 1m wide x 2m long (min) north/west-south/east orientated mixed pale brown sandy clay and chalk.
Probable periglacial stripe.

(175) Linear ??ditch fill

(176) Circular ???feature

(177) Linear ???ditch fill

(178) Linear ???ditch fill

(179) Linear ???ditch fill

(180) Linear ?periglacial

One regular light brown sand filled linear feature on a north-south orientation may be archaeological. Several irregular reddish sand filled features were also observed in this trench, these are unlikely to be archaeological, probably natural periglacial features.

TRENCH XXII

(1) Ploughsoil (0.30m deep).

[32], (31) not excavated

[34], (33) not excavated

[36] (35) not excavated

[38] (37) not excavated

[40] (39) not excavated

[42] (41) not excavated

[104] (103) (129)

(200) linear ?periglacial stripe

(201) linear ?periglacial stripe

(202) linear ?periglacial stripe

(203) linear ?periglacial stripe

Five small pits or postholes and one possibly archaeological linear feature were located in this trench.

Five other linear features were observed, none of these were observed in trench VII to the north and their reddish sandy fills suggest that these features had a periglacial origin.

TRENCH XXIII

(1) ploughsoil (0.25m deep) overlies (192) in southern half of trench.

(192) dark grey brown clay sand with frequent flints in the southern half of the trench (0.60m deep min). This may be a buried soil or colluvium whose character is different from such deposits noted elsewhere due to the lightly

different nature of the underlying geology (chalk with more flints). Alternatively this deposit may be filling a series of intercutting features, such as pits or tree boles.

(188) linear ?ditch fill

(189) linear ?periglacial stripe

(189) linear ?periglacial stripe

(190) ?pit/?natural hollow fill

(191) ?pit/?natural hollow fill

Ploughsoil (0.25m deep) overlies an area of Two of these features were excavated and proved to be shallow and irregular suggesting the deposit may be a buried soil or colluvium filling natural hollows in the chalk

Two intercutting pits were recorded in the north half of the trench, and one linear feature on a north-south orientation terminating in the north. This latter feature may be periglacial as its orientation is similar to that shown for periglacial stripes on aerial photographs, its light brown fill, however, suggests an archaeological rather than periglacial origin.

One further linear feature was observed in this trench on a north/west-south/east orientation, but its reddish sandy fill suggests a periglacial rather than archaeological origin.

TRENCH XXIV

(1) Ploughsoil (0.25m deep). Overlies (71), (73), (75), (77), (79), (86).

[72] (71)

[74] (73)

[76] (75)

[78] (77)

[80] (79)

[87] (86)

(142) Subcircular soil mark

(143) Linear soil mark

(144) Subcircular soil mark.

Six pits, two possible linear and a possible subcircular feature. One further linear feature on a north-south orientation which may be a periglacial feature.

TRENCH XXV

This trench was excavated to test a dowsing exercise which had suggested the presence of multiple circular ditches in this area.

Ploughsoil (0.30m deep) overlies colluvium (0.20m - 1.20m deep). Interconnecting narrow, curving soil marks were observed within the colluvium, possibly caused by animal (rabbit?) burrows . It is likely that these were the changes in soil conditions picked up by dowsing.

Three linear features on an east-west orientation and a possible pit were located beneath the colluvium in this trench.

Ploughsoil (1) overlies (145)

(145) colluvium overlies (157), (158) (159) (160)

(157) ?Ditch fill

(158) ?Ditch fill

(159) ?Pit fill

(160) ?Ditch fill



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