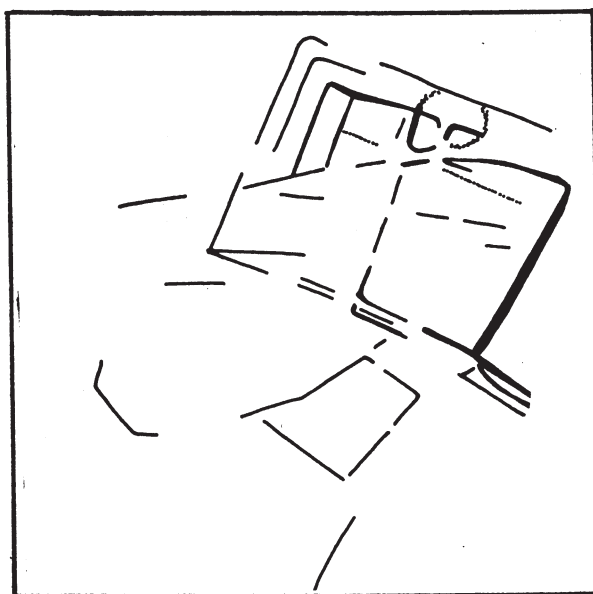


A trial trenching evaluation of a cropmark site
at Abbotstone, Stanway, Colchester.

January 1999.



Colchester Museum accession: 1999.7

On behalf of Tarmac Quarry Products Limited



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A trial trenching evaluation of a cropmark site at Abbotstone, Stanway, Colchester: January 1999.

1 Summary

A trial trenching evaluation across a cropmark site revealed a number of ditches and smaller features. The ditches generally coincided with the expected positions of cropmark features, (although two cropmark ditches were not picked up by the trial trenches or seen in the limited area cleared so far). Limited sample excavation produced pottery ranging from late Iron Age to late Roman.

It is estimated that the cropmark complex covers 4 hectares. The initial construction of 30-metre wide corridor (see below) will affect some 6,000m² of archaeological remains.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on a trial trenching evaluation on a cropmark site at Abbotstone (centred TL 943 227) on land adjacent to Bellhouse Farm, Stanway, Colchester.
- 2.2 The site is on land intended for future mineral extraction.
- 2.3 The logistics of proposed mineral extraction in the field to the north of the cropmark site require the construction of a conveyor belt across the cropmark site. The belt is to be laid within a 30-metre wide corridor, running north-south across the field containing the cropmarks, and also across the field to the north. The work was commissioned by Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd, and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust during January 1999.
- 2.4 There has been much previous work on the Bellhouse Farm/Abbotstone quarry site. The "phase 1" extraction area (where extraction will start soon) was fieldwalked in 1997¹ (figure 1). The phase 2 and 3 area (the latter covering the cropmark site) was fieldwalked in 1998. This survey produced a wide but thin spread of prehistoric flints, Roman brick and tile, with a thin concentration of Roman brick and tile in the north-west sector of the survey area (i.e. directly north of the cropmarks)². Later, in autumn 1998, an unproductive geophysical survey was carried out over the cropmarks³. It is felt that either the wetness of the ground, or the unsuitability of the subsoil (or both) was responsible for the poor geophysical survey results.
- 2.5 Although the cropmark site itself has not been excavated, it is assumed from its general layout that it is of Iron Age and Roman date - possible a farmstead. It is essentially a rectilinear enclosure with a substantial enclosure ditch, and trackways on its south edge. Adjacent cropmarks may define the edges of contemporary fields. In this respect it is quite similar to the farmstead enclosure on the nearby Gosbecks site⁴.

¹ CAT Report 9
² CAT Report 20
³ by magnetometer, and assisted by Peter Cott (CAT Report 27)
⁴ Crummy 1997, 16-17.

3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were: first to confirm the existence of the cropmark features; second, to establish their distribution and extent; third, to sample a limited number of typical features to establish the likely date range of the cropmarks; fourth, to test the relationship between the cropmarks and the dating and distribution of the finds from the 1998 fieldwalking survey.

4 Method

- 4.1 The 30-metre wide corridor along which the conveyor belt was to be laid had already been marked out by Tarmac. This ran for 400 metres, south to north (TL 9436 2282 to TL 9440 2306). A line of trial trenches was laid out directly up the centre of this corridor, with each ten-metre trench separated typically by a ten-metre gap. This gave a total of twenty two trenches (T1-3, T6, T8-10, T12-26), and a combined trench length of 230 metres (a 3.6% sample of the corridor).
- 4.2 During the trenching, it became clear that it would be desirable to cut additional trenches to intercept the lines of cropmark ditches visible in some of the trenches. Therefore a further four trenches (T4, T5, T7, T11) were cut outside the original straight line of trenches.
- 4.3 It also became clear that although the main concentration of cropmarks had been successfully defined, the northern extent was not so clear. Therefore a further five trenches (T27-T31) were cut on the north edge of the cropmark area. This brought the total length of trenches to 345m, a 5.4% sample of the corridor.
- 4.4 All trenches were cut with 360° slew “Hymac” type digger, under archaeological supervision. The trenches were a bucket width (1.9 metres) and mostly 10 metres long. The only horizon removed by machine was the ploughsoil (Layer 1). This came down onto natural clay (layer 2). All archaeological features were cut into L2.
- 4.5 All feature excavation was by hand, and recording was on standard CAT record sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. There were colour photographs of features, trenches and general shots of the site. Trenches were located by means of a grid previously fixed on the site for the fieldwalking and geophysics. This was secured by wooden pegs at 100- and 20-metre intervals. The relationship between the site grid and OS grid is shown on figure 2.

5 Description of the evaluation (see figure 3).

5.1 Trench 1 No features

5.2 Trench 2

There was a patch of what appeared to be feature fill (a silvery brown patch contrasting with the orangey brown natural clay) at the extreme north end of the trench. A slot was cut through its eastern edge, but the fill looked and felt like "natural", and so did the feature. We will have to reserve judgement on this, because a similar soil patch at the south end of T3 turned into a respectable layer overlying a good gravelly surface, and a continuation of the soil patch in the areas later cleared by machine (east of T2) *looks* like a potential feature. This may be the missing cropmark ditch (shown stippled on figure 3). This should resolve itself when the area is stripped of ploughsoil.

5.3 Trench 3 (figure 4)

This trench had the most complex stratigraphy in the evaluation, and was the only one in which the features did not follow the usual pattern (i.e. ploughsoil seals features: features cut natural). Ploughsoil L1 sealed a clay layer L3. Layer 3 worked off and came down onto a decent gravelly surface F6. Fragments of Roman brick were found *in* and on the surface of F6. A slot cut through F6 showed that it was composed of small and medium gravels (up to 5cm diameter) in a clay matrix, and that it overlay natural Layer 2. A very abraded Samian ware sherd was also recovered from the body of F6.

F6 was cut by slot-like F11. Before excavation, this appeared to be a slot associated with the gravel surface F6. On excavation, it did not have good edges, and it looked convincingly like a plough furrow. This was especially so because it had a grey stripe 2-3cm wide running along its bottom, where the plough had cut through into natural.

In the centre of T3 was another large patch of silvery brown possible feature fill (F13). This was tested by a small slot on its north-western edge. Although it felt like a nondescript natural feature, it actually produced a sherd of Late Iron Age pottery. Cleaning of T3 showed that there might be another feature in here - cutting the north edge of F6, and in an uncertain relationship with F13.

Towards the north end of the trench was an unmistakable ditch fill (F5). This was not excavated here (because the trench cut it obliquely), but was excavated in T5 as F4.

At the extreme north end of T3 was a thin gully-like feature (F12). This was not excavated.

T3 finds dating (see section 6.1)

F6: Roman

F13: LIA

5.4 Trench 4 (figure 5)

This was cut after the main run of trenching, in order to pick up the line of the large ditch (F3, in T6). The same ditch was seen here, and is here recorded as F7. The ditch itself was between 2.1 and 2.6 metres wide. It looked less like a straight ditch, more like a T-junction between two features. It was not excavated here (it was sectioned in T7).

5.5 Trench 5 (figure 9)

This trench was cut east of T3 to confirm the line of the ditch seen in T3 (i.e. F5). The same ditch was seen here, and recorded as F4. A section was cut across it. This revealed a rather rounded and shallow ditch, (3.1 metres wide but only 0.45m deep below excavated level), in contrast to the much deeper ditch F1/F2/F3/F7. There is a hint in the section of F4 that it might have been recut, but this was not at all evident during excavation.

T5 finds dating

F4: residual prehistoric, Roman

5.6 Trench 6 (figure 6)

A broad feature with a grey, gravelly fill crossed this trench obliquely (F3). The trench was extended to twenty metres in length to pick up the other (eastern) edge of the feature. Feature 3 is easily the largest (i.e. broadest) feature found during the initial trial trenching evaluation - some 4 metres across (east-west). Feature 3 was not excavated here - it was sectioned in T7 (as F1/F2). A piece of mortarium rim (find 1) came off the surface of the feature during machining, thus dating the top fill as later Roman.

T6 finds dating

F3: 1st-2nd dating, possibly later

5.7 Trench 7 (figure 7)

This trench was cut obliquely to the east of T3 to give a right-angle section across the ditch F3. The same ditch was present in T7, but is labelled F1/F2 here.

The ditch consisted of a convincing later cut (F1) 1.7 metres wide, in the top of an earlier ditch (F2), 3.2 metres wide. Feature 1 contained a pottery assemblage which must be 3rd or 4th century in date. The earlier ditch F2 had a number of fills, and some useful dated pottery groups including second century mortaria, and in the lowest fill a Late Iron Age or pre-Flavian group. The date range of ditch F1/F2 would therefore appear to be at least pre-Flavian to third century, if not LIA to the fourth century.

T7 finds dating

F1: residual prehistoric, 3rd-4th century Roman

F2: lower fills LIA -pre-Flavian. Upper fills, 2nd century +.

5.8 Trenches 8-9

No features

5.9 Trench 10 (figure 8)

There was a grey, gravelly filled feature at the south end of the trench (F10). It was of uncertain plan - perhaps a junction between two features. It was not excavated here, because it was intended to cut another trench to hit it at a better angle (see T11).

At the north end of the trench was a feature (F8). Before excavation, it was not clear what this was (ditch, pit?). Excavation showed that it was only the southern lip of a ditch, most of which lay north of T10. The ditch was not bottomed along its whole course.

T10 finds dating

F8: residual prehistoric, LIA/pre-Flavian Roman

5.10 Trench 11 (figure 9)

This trench was originally cut to pick up the line of the ditch-like feature 10 in T10. However, it did not pick up that ditch at all, but a quite separate feature - narrow gully F9. This had the

typical grey fill of most features on the site. It was not excavated. This feature demonstrates that small features have survived the ploughing of the site.

5.11 Trenches 12-29
No features

5.12 Trench 30
A dark soily feature was picked up here. There was no question that this is the post-medieval field boundary (shown on all recent OS coverage) which should run along this course. The feature was not excavated. It appeared later in the machine-cleared area immediately to the east (see 5.2 below).

5.13 Trench 31
No features

5.14 Features revealed in the machine cleared area. (Figure 3)

- 5.14.1 The availability of plant, and reasonable weather conditions made it desirable to clear ploughsoil off part of the 30-metre corridor in advance of the next stage of work. This would clearly give a much better idea of the distribution of archaeological features. The area cleared was a 10-metre wide strip on the eastern edge of the 30-metre corridor, plus 30 metres of the middle 10-metre strip. Features revealed were as follows (from north to south):
- 5.14.2 The post-medieval field ditch originally seen in T30 was seen crossing the whole 20-metre wide strip at site grid north (**sgn**) 220. It was narrower than one might have expected, had a reasonably dark fill when contrasted with the silvery brown or pale brown fills of the earlier features. It had brick in its fill, and it was meandering off towards the solitary tree which is all that remains of the field boundary today. The ditch was not excavated.
- 5.14.3 A large patch of silvery brown soil was picked up 40 metres south of the post-medieval ditch, on **sgn** 180. It was not seen in the trial trenches, because it passed exactly between T12 and T13. It appeared to be wider on its eastern edge than on its western, as if it were branching off. The close match between this feature and one of the cropmark ditches makes it fairly certain that it is a genuine ditch, but excavation will be needed to confirm this.
- 5.14.4 On **sgn** 140, a well defined narrow ditch was picked up. This was recorded as F10 in T10, where it was not so well defined. The ditch is much narrower than the other ditches on the site, and one wonders whether it is a wall trench (robbed?) rather than a ditch. It is certainly possible to interpret the air photo plot in this way - much of the small detail looks like the outline of a rectangular building.
- 5.14.5 Moving south, the large ditch (F1/F2/F3/F7) was seen crossing the cleared strip, entering at **sgn** 90 and leaving at **sgn** 125.
- 5.14.6 South of the large ditch, a cluster of potential features was plotted around **sgn** 75. Some were potential pits, others were less well defined. It is difficult to know without detailed cleaning quite what these are. It is possible that some structural elements will emerge here.
- 5.14.7 Crossing the cleared strip at approximately **sgn** 55 were a parallel pair of ditches. The northerly was the same as F4 in T5, and F5 in T3. The southerly one was more complex, as it headed towards the part of T3 where the gravel surface F6 was overlain by L3. There was no apparent sign of a ditch in T3, and where F6 was removed it appeared to seal natural L2. Does the gravel surface F6 actually lie within a ditch which we could not see in the trial trench? This is a problem of detail which will need to be addressed in any future stage of work.
- 5.15.8 There were three more features at the south end of the cleared area. One was a reasonable pit, the other two were dark soily features probably connected with a former field ditch.

6 The finds

6.1 Finds List, by Howard Brooks and Stephen Benfield ⁵.

Bag No.	Context	Quant.	Weight	Description	Date
1	F3	1	140	Mortarium rim.	1st-2nd, possibly later
2	F1	1	35	Fire crackled flint	Prehist?
2	F1	1	5	Flint flake	Prehist?
2	F1	1	25	Probable Dressel 20 amphora	
2	F1	2	8	Samian, very worn.	
2	F1	2	4	Animal Bones	
2	F1	1	115	BB 1 flanged bowl, Camulodunum type 305 ⁶	3rd-4th
2	F1	81	495	Roman greyware jars, one strainer jar base.	
2	F1	3	30	Tile	
2	F1	3	115	Storage jar, orange/brown fabric	
2	F1	3	25	micaceous grey fabric	
2	F1	1	8	Slipped sherd, cream colour coat on red fabric	
3	F4	1	115	Roman tegula flange fragment	Roman
3	F4	1	75	Roman buff tegula flange fragment	Roman
3	F4	1	280	Lava quern fragment. 95x55x35 mm thick. Too small to estimate diameter. No good surfaces.	Roman
3	F4	1	30	FE object. Blade fragment	
3	F4	3	30	Fire crackled flints	Prehist?
3	F4	1	10	Flint flake. Cortex on one edge, possible retouch on another.	Prehist
3	F4	1	5	Indeterminate tile scrap	?
3	F4	1	3	Prehistoric flint-gritted sherd	Prehist
3	F4	1	2	Rom greyware sherd	Roman
3	F4	1	5	Unclassified sherd (Samian-like, or Post-med?)	
4	F8	2	16	Prehistoric sherds	
4	F8	1	20	Roman brick/tile	
4	F8	11	60	Roman greyware sherds	
4	F8	1	35	large badly fired abraded sherd	
4	F8	1	20	daub	Roman
4	F8	1	3	Rim sherd of cup ?Camulodunum type 56, burnt TN or TR ⁷	LIA/pre-Flavian
4	F8	1	8	storage jar sherd	E Roman
5	F2	1	25	Grey ware sherd	2nd or later
5	F2	6	1255	Mortarium, import??? Hartley Group 1 or 2	1st cent
6	F2	52	500	Roman greywares from jars. One storage jar rim, one narrow-necked flask/jar,	2nd or later
6	F2	1	20	Flagon base	
6	F2	1	1	Animal tooth	
6	F2	1	2	Butt beaker sherd (from context below?)	
6	F2	4	15	Micaceous greywares	
6	F2	1	15	Flint flake	Prehist
7	F2	1	700	Flint lump. Flake detached?	Prehist?
8	F2	56	175	Most of a butt beaker Cam 113	LIA/pre-Flavian
8	F2	1	2	One LIA/Early Roman greyware sherd	LIA/E Rom
8	F2	3	24	Animal bone	
9	F2	1	195	Roman brick	Roman
9	F2	1	30	Indeterminate brick/tile	Roman

⁵ Colchester Archaeological Trust
⁶ pottery description after Hawkes and Hull 1947
⁷ pottery description after Hawkes and Hull 1947

Bag No.	Context	Quant.	Weight	Description	Date
9	F2	2	40	Storage jar sherds	LIA/E Rom
9	F2	3	15	Roman sherds	LIA/E Rom
10	L3	1	275	Roman brick	
11	F6	1	200	Roman brick	Roman
12	F6	1	10	Samian sherd, very abraded, large bowl	Roman
13	F13	1	35	LIA pot rim	LIA

6.2 The prehistoric pottery

Nigel Brown⁸ has kindly commented on the sherds from F4 and F8:

F4: one small abraded prehistoric sherd (3 grammes). Not closely dateable.

F8: two small abraded prehistoric sherds (16 grammes). Not closely dateable.

These sherds are prehistoric, and probably Bronze or Iron Age, but not more closely dateable.

6.3 The Faunal Remains, by Alec Wade⁹

The evaluation produced six pieces of bone weighing a total of 29g. All of the material was in poor condition. The skeletal elements recovered were typical of a site with poor bone survival, and consisted of fragments with a high durability factor such as teeth and limb bone joint fragments.

Trench 7, Feature 1, Finds 2

Two tooth fragments in poor condition weighing a total of 4g. One is a fragment of a cattle molar (2g), and the other probably a fragment of a pig's upper canine (2g).

Trench 7, Feature 2, Finds 6

A single fragment of a cattle molar (1g) in poor condition.

Trench 7, Feature 2, Finds 8

Three pieces of bone in very poor condition weighing a total of 24g. Two pieces are probably part of the unfused distal left femur epiphysis (22g) of a cow. The third piece (2g) remains unidentified, although it is likely that it is part of the same bone.

⁸

Essex County Council Archaeology Section, County Hall, Chelmsford.

⁹

45, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex.

7 Discussion and interpretation

7.1 The site

The trial trenching and initial clearance of part of a 30-metre corridor across this cropmark site has revealed a number of ditches, pits and gullies. These are part of a LIA and Roman settlement defined by the ditches previously seen as cropmarks. The archaeological features were present along 200 metres out of a total corridor length of 400m. Their location corresponds well with the air photo plot. There is therefore every reason to expect that the site will be as extensive as the air photos suggest (figs 2a, 3).

The two excavated ditches were different. One (F4) was shallow (0.4m deep), and broadly Roman in date, the other (F1/F2) was larger (3.2m wide, 1.1m deep) and dated from the Late Iron Age to the third or fourth century AD. This may imply several phases of ditches (or ditch recuts) on a site which was probably active between the LIA and the third century AD. Another feature, at first thought to be a ditch (F10) was narrow and well defined, and *might* be a wall trench (presumably robbed, although there was no sign of typical robbing debris in its fill).

Deep ditches will normally survive long-term plough erosion, but the real question is how well small and shallow features have survived. On this site, there were a number of narrow gully-type features (F9, F12), so one must expect that small features have survived reasonably well. In contrast, no post holes were seen. Only one pit was sampled (F13), and it was LIA in date.

Finds were reasonably abundant: total quantity of finds from only seven contexts was 269 objects weighing 5.25 kg. Apart from a large flint nodule (700g), heaviest finds groups were LIA/Roman pottery (3.1 kg), and Roman brick/tile (0.9kg). There was a reasonable quantity of residual prehistoric material (99g), which demonstrates activity on the site at a date *earlier* than the cropmark ditches (perhaps in the Bronze or Iron Ages, rather than earlier). Bone did not survive well, and no organic material was seen. Other finds included part of a lava quern, and a possible iron knife blade, yet to be examined.

There was no correlation between the fieldwalking finds gathered in 1998 and the cropmark ditches. The 1998 material was concentrated (though not heavily so) to the north of the main cropmark site as revealed in 1999. Of course, the trial trenches cut across this field as well, and there was no sign of subsurface features. This would imply that the fieldwalking finds are not domestic rubbish lying directly over a Roman site - rather, they are more likely to be material carted onto fields during out-manuring.

7.2 The site and its research background

The Abbotstone site does not exist in isolation. Rather, it is part of a wider archaeological landscape which includes sites of national importance¹⁰. Only 1400 metres directly east lay the site of the Late Iron Age burial site at Stanway. Grymes Dyke (the outer line of defences of *Camulodunum*) lies a further 200 metres east. Beyond the dykes, the centre of the Gosbecks site lies a further 900 metres east. As presently understood, *Camulodunum* had two centres of activity - Gosbecks, the rural farm site, and Sheepen, the semi-industrial and trading area. The burial site at Stanway is actually *outside* the boundaries of *Camulodunum*, though it is unquestionably linked to it. Like Stanway, Abbotstone is also outside *Camulodunum*. The question then is, to what extent was Abbotstone actually part of *Camulodunum*?

Another part of the scenario is the dynamic between native and Roman settlement. Stanway was a native burial site, Gosbecks a native site which became Romanised. How does Abbotstone fit into this picture. Was it a native site which coexisted with Gosbecks, and then outlived it, or was it taken over by Roman settlers?

These are all legitimate research questions which might be addressed by any excavation work on the Abbotstone site.

8 Acknowledgements

¹⁰ see Hawkes and Hull 1947, Hawkes and Crummy 1995, Crummy 1997

Thanks to:

- Tarmac Quarry products limited for commissioning the work, and especially to Reg Hilton.
- Peter Cott for help with the geophysical survey
- David Strachan of Essex County Archaeology Section for providing cropmark plots for the site.
- Stephen Benfield of CAT for spot dating the Roman pottery
- Nigel Brown (Essex County Archaeology) for his comments on the prehistoric pottery
- Alec Wade for the bone report
- Margaret and Brenda for washing the finds
- Gillian Adams for the scanned graphics.

All other figures and text by HB.

9 References

CAT Report 9	1997	<i>Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at Abbotstone, Stanway: Phase 1.</i> CAT unpublished client report (by Carl Crossan).
CAT Report 20	1998	<i>A Fieldwalking Survey at Abbotstone, Stanway, Colchester: Phases 2 and 3.</i> CAT unpublished client report (by Carl Crossan).
CAT Report 27	1998	<i>A gradiometer survey at Abbotstone, Stanway.</i> CAT unpublished client report (by Howard Brooks).
CAT Report 28	1999	<i>A trial trenching evaluation of a cropmark site at Abbotstone, Stanway, Colchester.</i> CAT unpublished client report (by Howard Brooks).
Crummy, Philip	1997	<i>City of Victory. The story of Colchester - Britain's first Roman town.</i>
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Crummy, Philip	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2.</i>
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.,	1947	<i>Camulodunum.</i> Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, number 14.

10 Glossary

context	a specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
faunal	animal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor. Can contain "contexts"
LIA	Late Iron Age, the last two centuries BC and up to AD 43 (Roman Conquest)
MIA	Middle Iron Age, fifth to third centuries BC
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by Man
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Victorian
prehistoric	the years BC, before Roman
quern	stone for grinding grain into flour
residual	an earlier object out of place in a later context (e.g. a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	period from AD 43 to around AD 430
Saxon	after Roman and up to AD 1066
SMR	(Essex) Sites and Monuments Record, held at County Hall
TN	Terra Nigra (LIA pottery)
TR	Terra Rubra (LIA pottery)

11 Archive deposition

The finds and paper archive are presently at Colchester Archaeological Trust, "Camulodunum", 12 Lexden Rd, Colchester, Essex C03 3NF, but will be deposited, in the fullness of time, at Colchester Museum, under Accession Code 1999.7

12 Site data

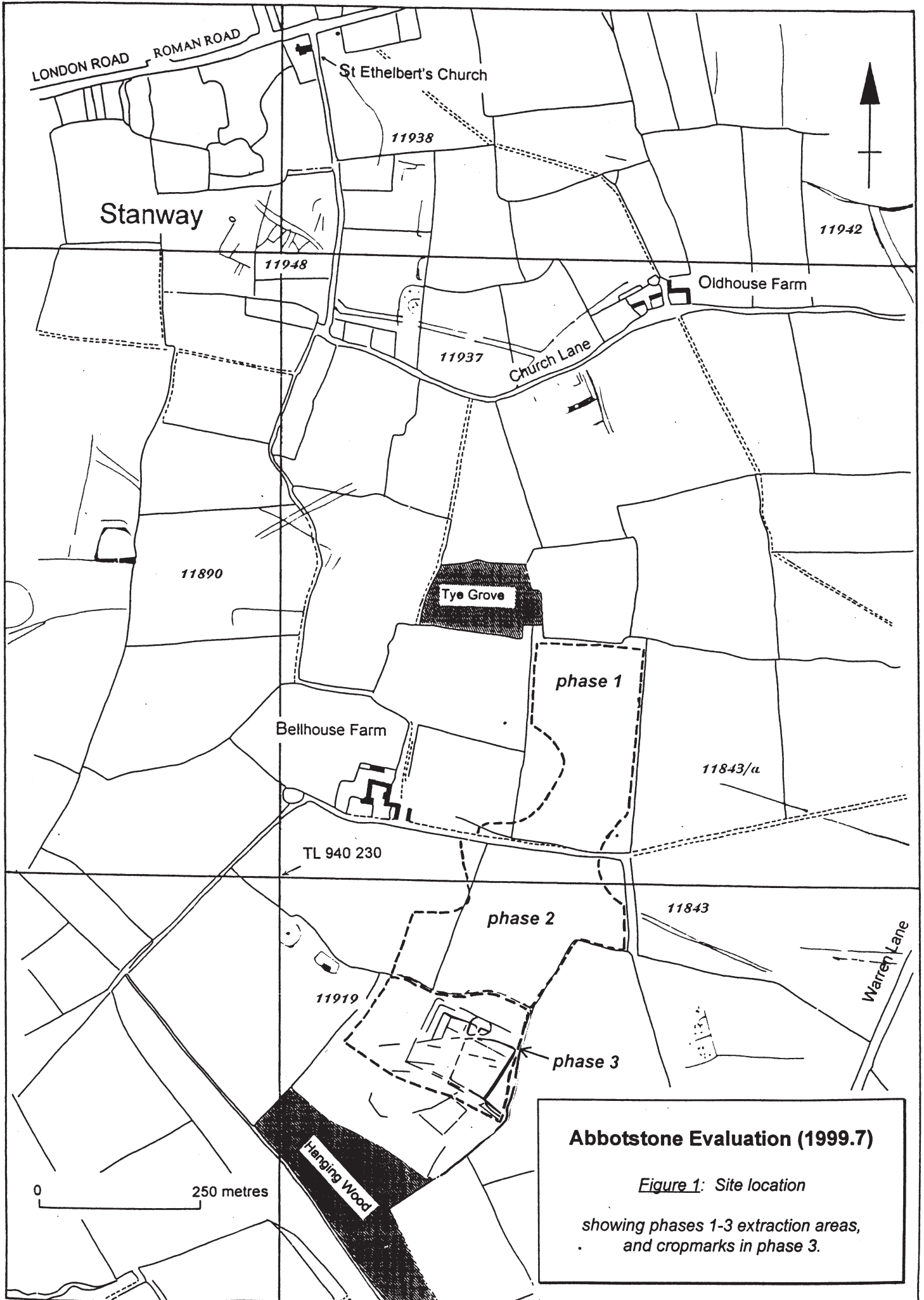
12.1 Site context list

Context	Trench	Description	Cuts	Finds nos	Finds date
F1	7	Ditch	F2	2	3rd - 4th century
F2	7	Ditch	L2	5-9	LIA / pre-Flavian
F3	6	Ditch	L2	1	1st-2nd century +
F4	5	Ditch	L2	4	LIA / pre-Flavian to early Roman
F5	3	Ditch	L2	none	
F6	3	Gravel surface	L2	11, 12	Roman
F7	4	Ditch	L2	none	
F8	10	Ditch edge	L2	none	
F9	11	Gully	L2	none	
F10	10	Ditch junction?	L2	none	
F11	3	Plough furrow	F6	none	
F12	3	Cut - slot?	L2	none	
F13	3	Pit	L2	13	LIA
L1	All	Ploughsoil	All	none	
L2	All	Natural	-	-	
L3	3	Layer	F6	10	Roman

12.2 Soil descriptions

Context	Description
F1	Mottled 10yr 5/3 and 7.5yr 4/4 dark brown silty clay with abundant small stones.
F2 fill a	Mottled 7.5yr 5/3 strong brown and 10yr 5/3 silty clay, with occasional small stones.
F2 fill b	7.5yr 5/8 strong brown clay, occasional small stones
F2 fill c	10yr 5/4 silty clay with rare stones
F2 fill d	7.5yr 5/8 strong brown clay, occasional small stones
F2 fill e	10yr 5/4 silty clay with abundant small and medium stones
F2 fill f	Mottled 7.5yr 5/3 strong brown and 10yr 5/3 silty clay, with occasional small stones.
F2 fill g	Mottled 10yr 5/4 silty clay and 10yr 4/6 sandy clay, with occasional small stones.
F3	as F10
F4 fill a	Top fill: 10yr 6/4 (light greyish brown) very slightly sandy clay loam
F4 fill b	Lower fill: 10yr 7/3 (light grey) very slightly sandy clay loam
F5	unexcavated, but = F4
F6	Gravel, predominantly 1-2cm diameter, some up to 6cm diameter
F7	10yr 5/4 sandy clay; abundant small and medium stones, heavy iron panning
F8	10yr 5/4 with mottles of 7.5yr 5/6 strong brown clay. 2 - 5% pebbles, occasional charcoal fleck
F9	Matches 10yr 7.5 5/4 brown, but it has a distinct grey tinge. Perhaps 2% stones.
F10	80% pebbles, 20% matrix of 10yr 5/3, but with a distinct grey tinge
F11	10yr 4/5 clay - quite stony, 20% pebbles up to 5cm diameter.
F12	10yr 5/5 brown clay, 2 - 5% stones
F13	10yr 6/4 clay; however, at least 30% of fill is mottled with iron panning.
L1	10yr 3/3 very dark brown sandy loam; common small and medium stones
L2	7.5 yr 6/8 clay; occasional medium to large pebble
L3	10yr 6/4 silty clay, very few stones - maybe 2%. Occasional patch of iron panning.

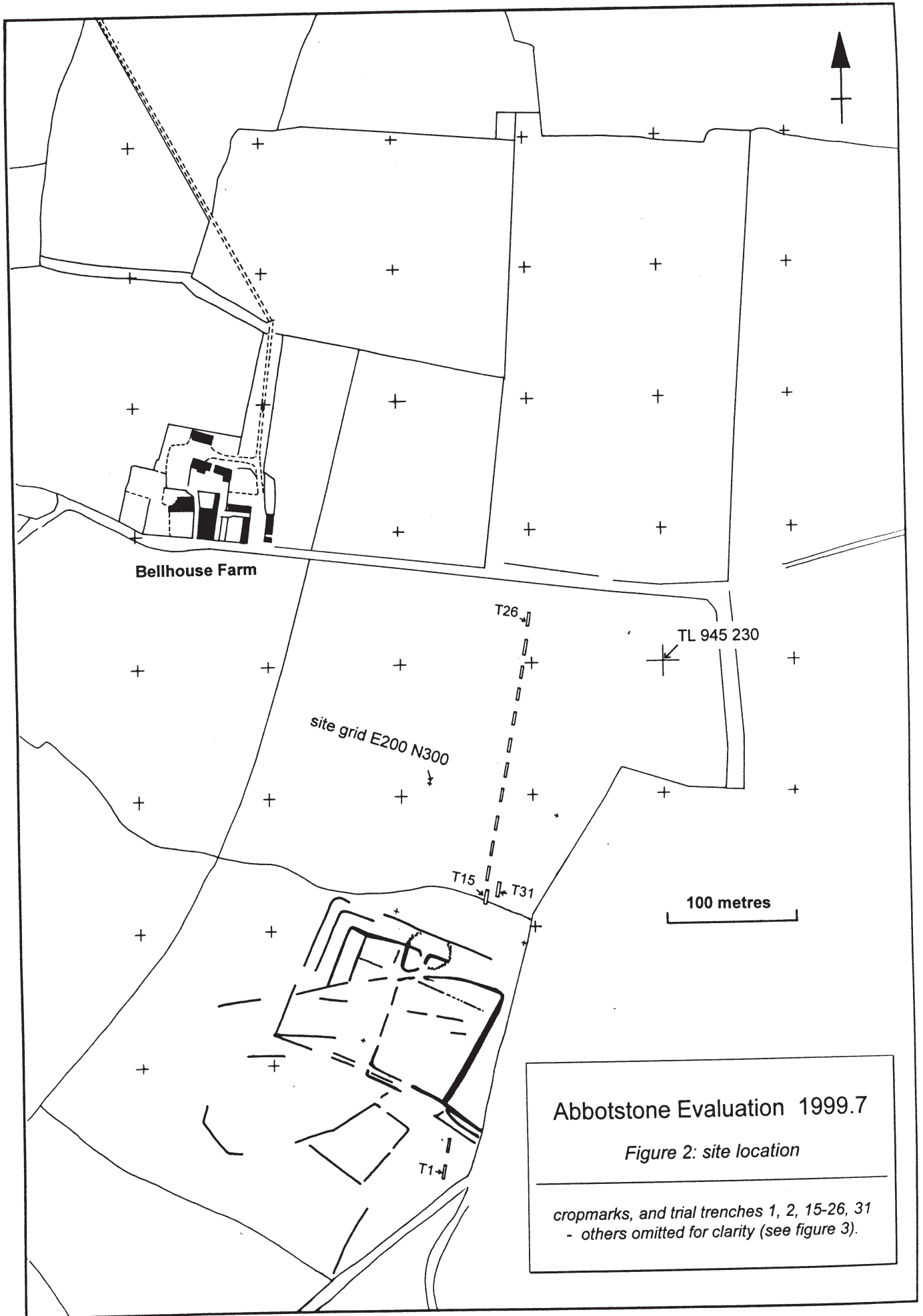
tel/fax: (01206) 541051: email: archaeologists@colarchaeol.ndirect.co.uk

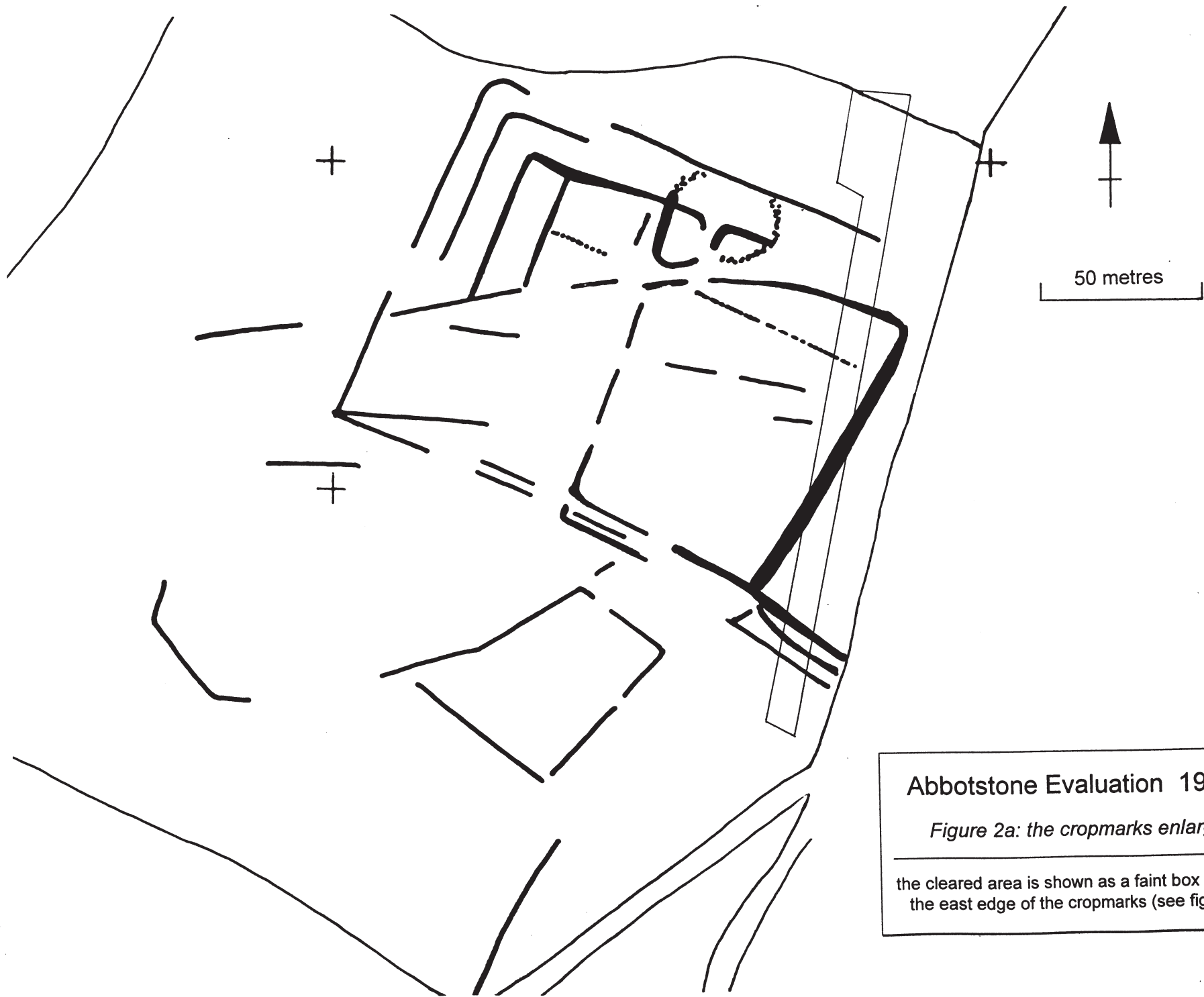


Abbotstone Evaluation (1999.7)

Figure 1: Site location

*showing phases 1-3 extraction areas,
and cropmarks in phase 3.*

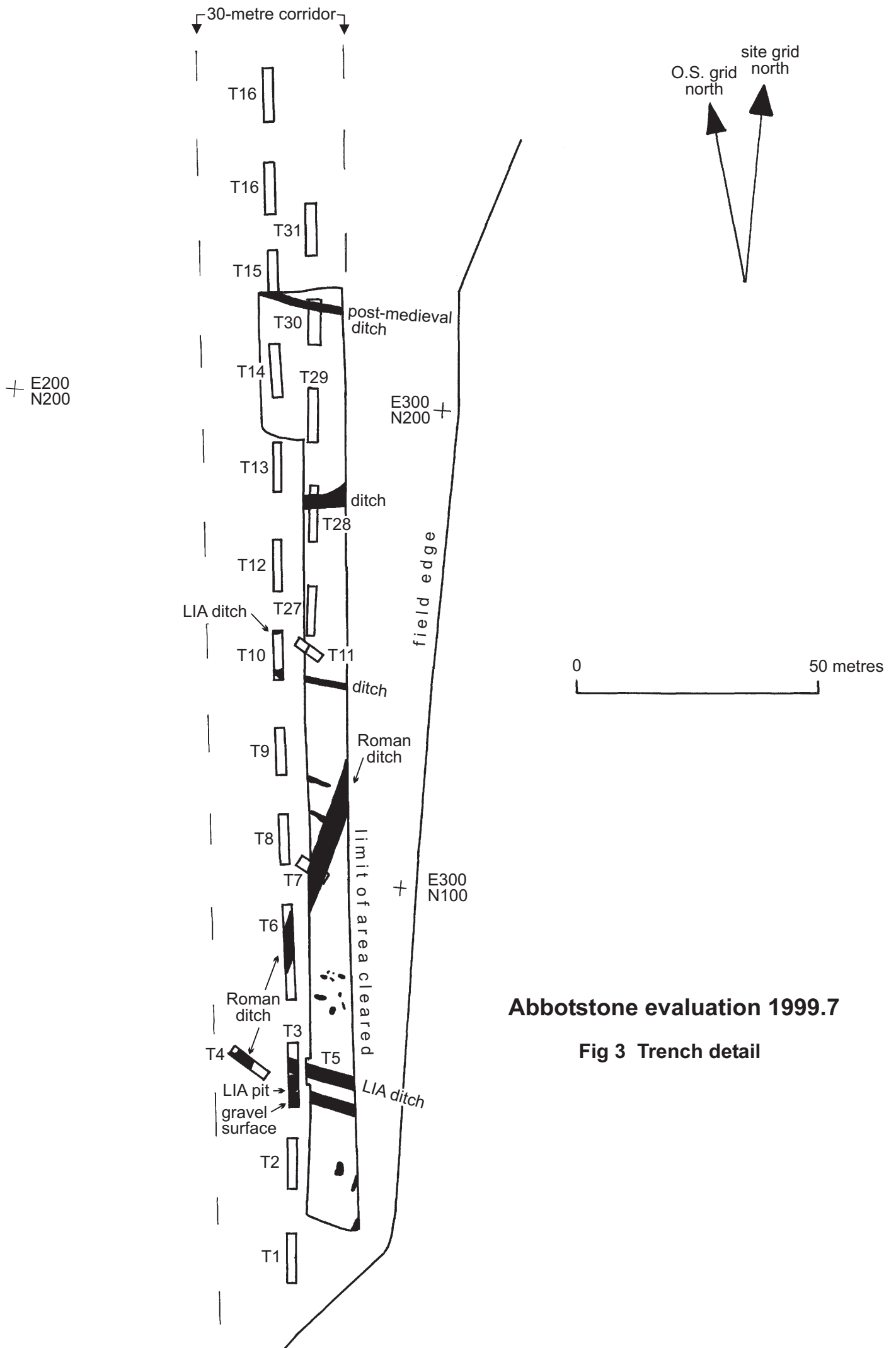




Abbotstone Evaluation 1999.7

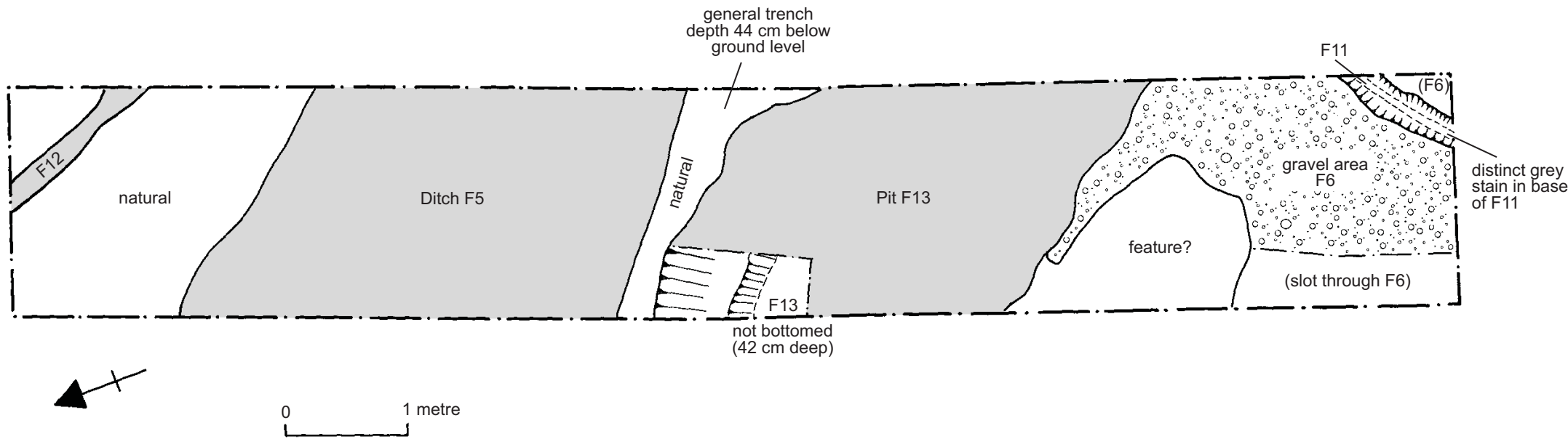
Figure 2a: the cropmarks enlarged

the cleared area is shown as a faint box on along the east edge of the cropmarks (see figure 3).



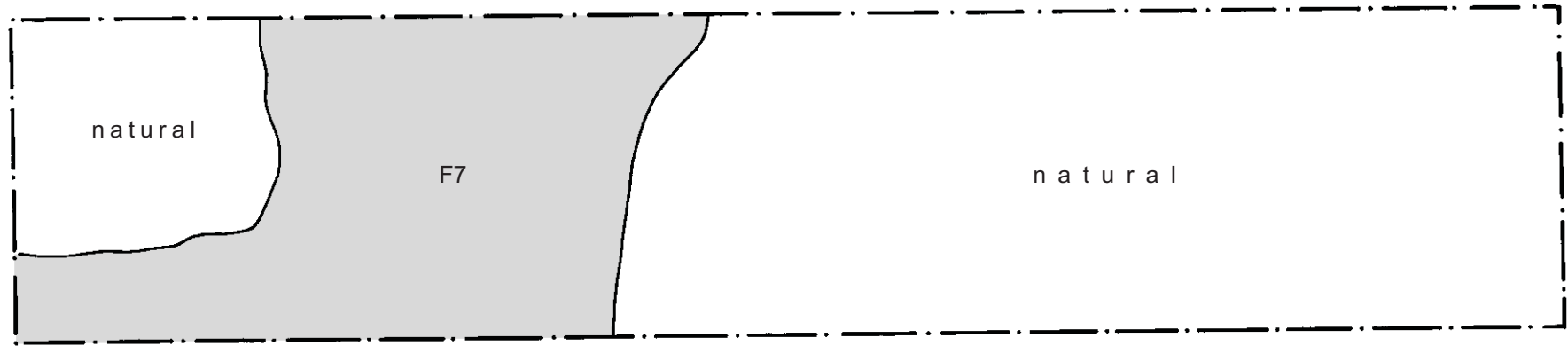
Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

Fig 3 Trench detail



Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

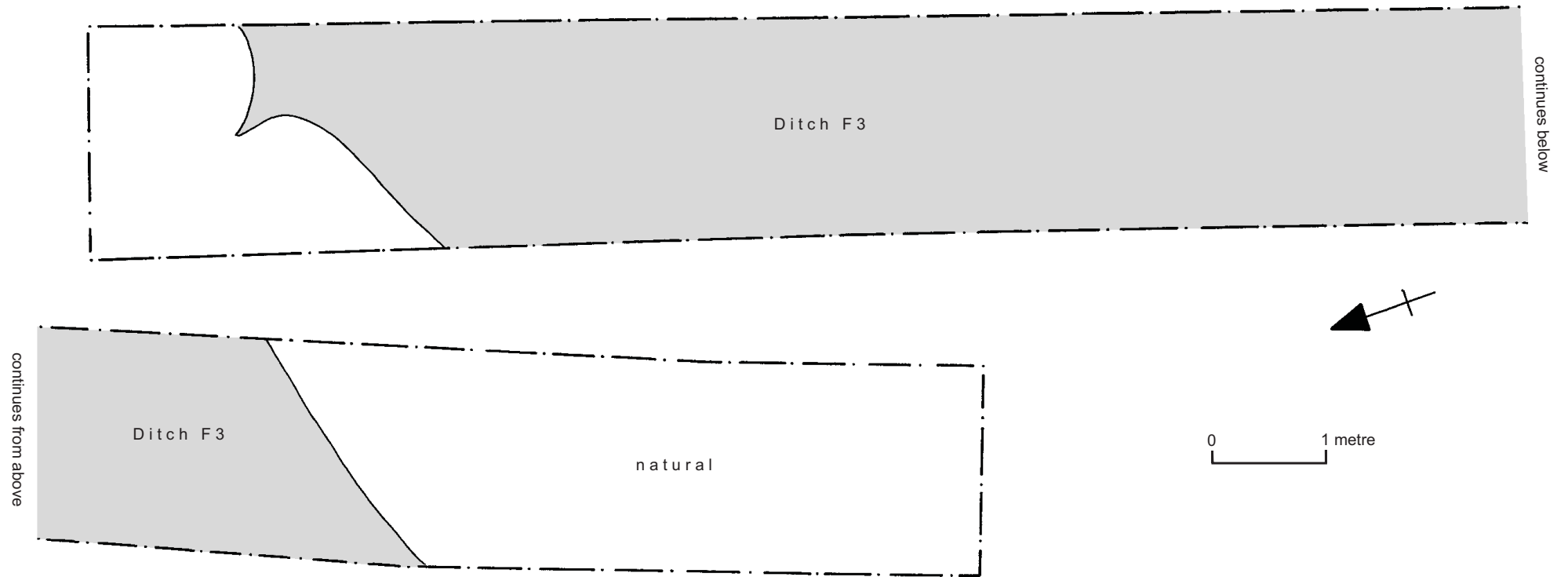
Fig 4 Trench 3: plan



0 1 metre

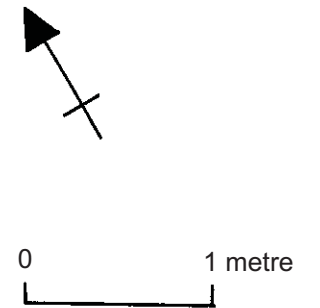
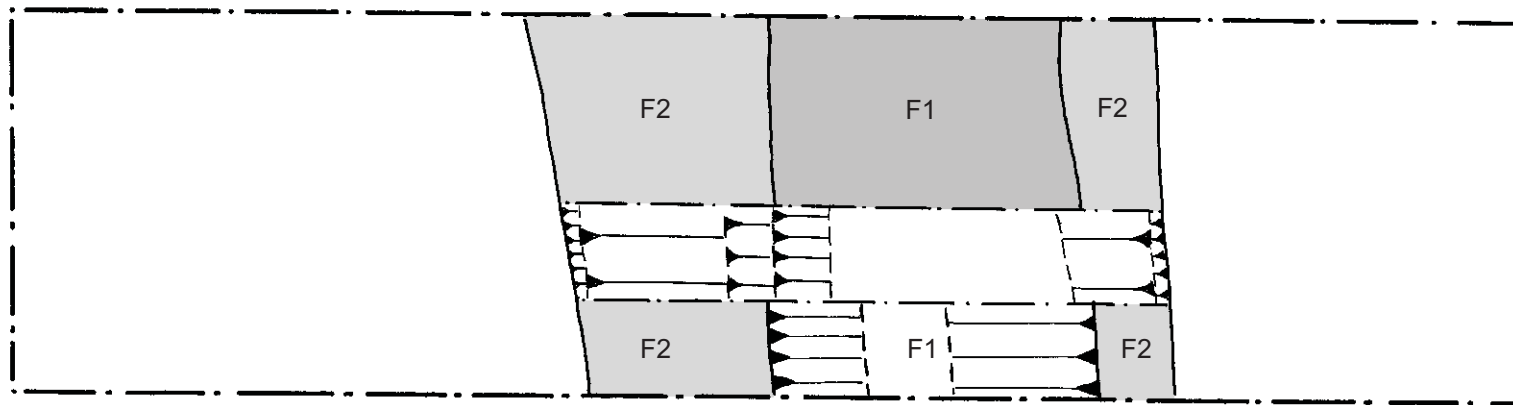
Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

Fig 5 Trench 4: plan



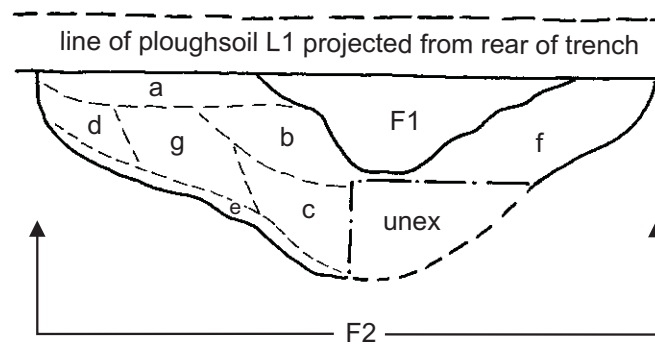
Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

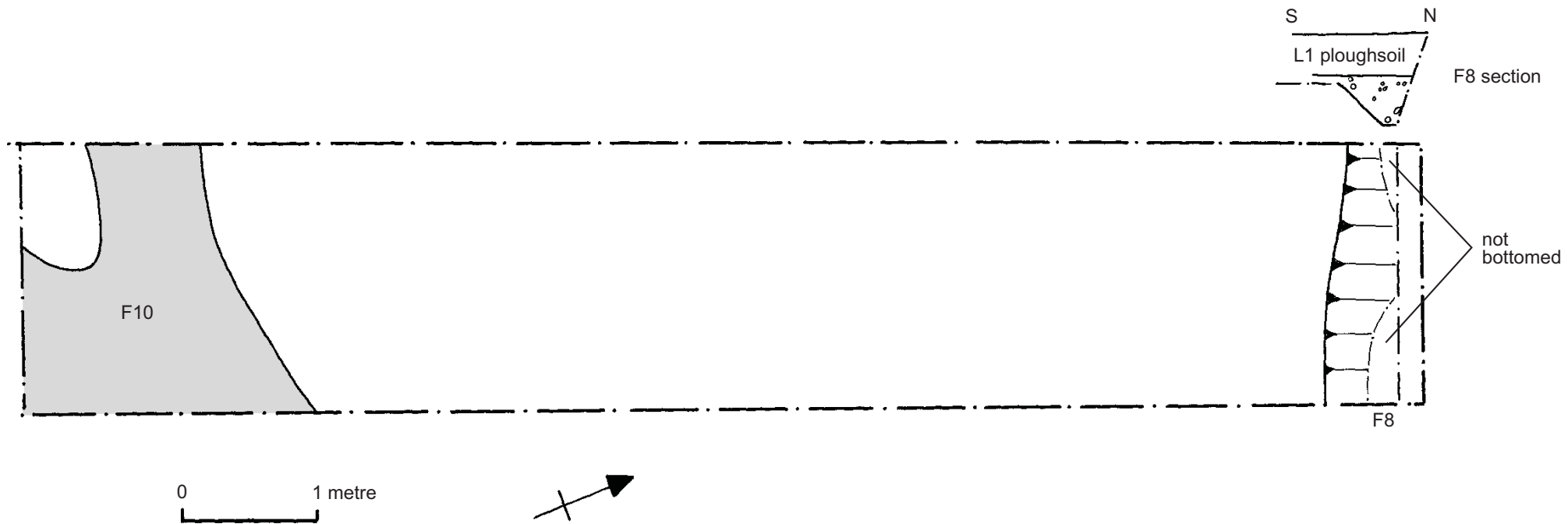
Fig 6 Trench 6: plan



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Fig 7 Trench 7: plan and section

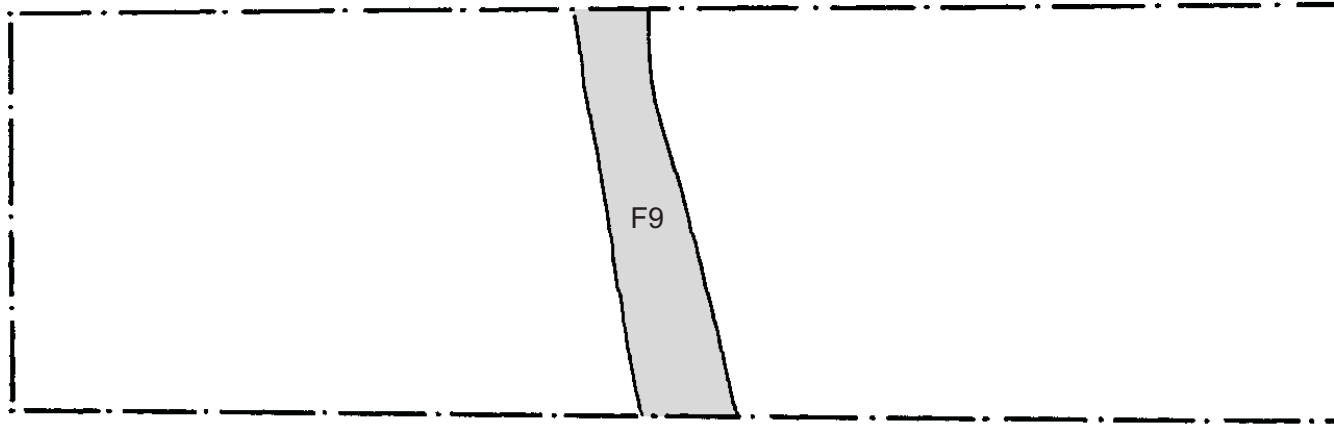




Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

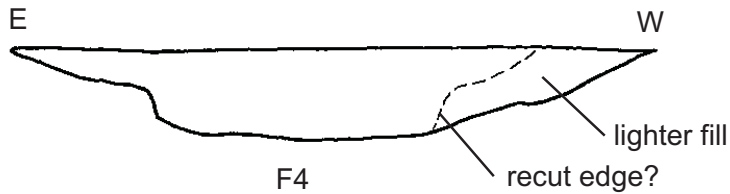
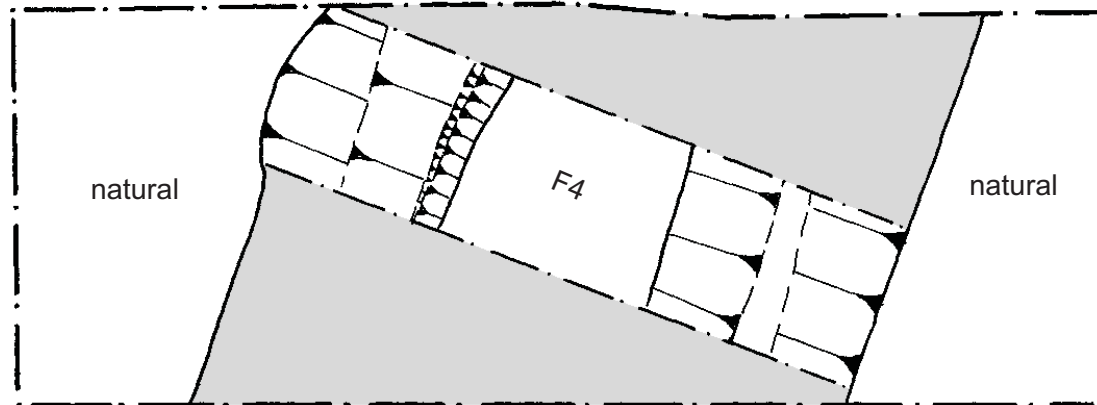
Fig 8 Trench 10: plan and section

T11



0 1 metre

T5



Abbotstone evaluation 1999.7

**Fig 9 Trench 11: plan (above)
Trench 5: plan and section (below)**