

MEDIEVAL HOSPITAL SITE,  
LLAWHADEN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

*by*

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

4th January 1993

## **CONTENTS**

---

1. INTRODUCTION
2. SUMMARY
3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
5. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
6. THE EXCAVATIONS
  - 6.1 The northern area
  - 6.2 The western area
  - 6.3 The southern area
7. VULNERABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
8. APPENDIX: DETAILS OF THE EXCAVATION TRENCHES

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

---

Fig. 1 Location map.

Fig. 2 Contour survey plus limits of geophysical surveys

(Note: All heights in survey & excavation drawings are on an arbitrary datum of 100m. 1:500.)

Fig. 3 Isometric projection of survey data from SW. Area is the same as contour survey in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 Isometric projection of survey data from SE. Area is the same as contour survey in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 Aerial photographs showing earthworks around the Hospital.

Fig. 6 Magnetometer Survey. Interpretation of the results. 1:500

Fig. 7 Resistivity Survey. Data and interpretation. 1:500.

Fig. 8 Location of archaeological trenches. 1:500.

Fig. 9 Composite plan

Fig. 10 Copy of development plan. 1:500.

Fig. 11 Schematic sections of Trenches 2 and 3.

Fig. 12 Suggested reconstruction of phases in Trench 2.

Fig. 13 Suggested reconstruction of phases in Trench 3.

Fig. 14 Schematic sections of Trenches 7, 9 and 10.

Fig. 15 Key to sections - Figs. 16-20.

Fig. 16 Section of Trench 1.

Fig. 17 Section of Trench 2.

Fig. 18 Section of Trench 3.

Fig. 19 Section of Trench 7.

Fig. 20 Section of Trenches 9 and 10.

# **ASSESSMENT SURVEY AND EXCAVATION AT LLAWHADEN HOSPITAL, DYFED, NOVEMBER 1992.**

---

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This assessment was in response to a planning application (D3/360/92) by South Pembrokeshire District Council for a car park and amenity area adjacent to the Llawhaden Young Farmers' Club Hall. The assessment comprised a geophysical survey carried out on 5th November followed by ten days excavation using three project staff under the supervision of K. Murphy from 16th to 27th November. The costs of the work were shared between Cadw and SPDC/SPARC.

## **2. SUMMARY**

The assessment indicated that the area of the planning application is of considerable archaeological importance and potential. In broad terms there is evidence of rectilinear enclosures on a roughly N-S axis - presumed medieval burgage plots fronting onto the present street. To the south of the hospital there may be burgage plots on an E-W axis. On the northern frontage, early lines of banks and ditches had elements suggesting a possible defensive function, but their associations and context is not clear. Also in the northern area were indications of a stone structure or building apparently predating any burgage layout and evidence of post-holes suggests that this area may contain the remains of one or more timber buildings.

The relationship of the hospital to the burgage plots is not entirely clear. There is some evidence to suggest that the hospital predates the burgage layout. At any rate, it is clear that there are substantial remains associated with the hospital in the area of the proposed development. These include a possible curtilage wall to the south of the standing medieval building. More importantly is the fact that the area contains the remains of a larger building, between the foundations of which, the present building was erected. The structural history of the hospital is therefore complex and both the application area and the area to the east are likely to contain buried masonry remains representing a more extensive establishment than that indicated by the one upstanding medieval building.

## **3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In the late 13th century Bishop Beck set about transforming the simple castle at Llawhaden into a great fortified mansion. At the same time he created the borough of Llawhaden by laying out properties (burgages) and encouraging immigration. The Hospital, founded in 1287, was one element in Bishop Beck's plan for Llawhaden Borough. It was under the rule of a Prior and charged with the care of 'pilgrims, paupers, orphans, the old, weak and infirm'. There is little recorded history but the hospital was probably in existence until the late Middle Ages. In 1501 it was transferred to the Chancellory of St. David's and only the chapel remained active. This is recorded as the free Chapel of the Blessed Mary at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1535. The decline of the Hospital probably mirrored that of the borough. By the later Middle Ages it was little more than a village yet no less than 174 burgages were recorded in 1326.

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

Llawhaden Hospital (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Record No. 3577) stands at the western end of Llawhaden village (Fig. 1; NGR SN 06691728). The only above ground remains of the medieval Hospital at Llawhaden are a single-celled, vaulted structure which stands directly behind the Young Farmer's Club at the western end of the village. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This single-celled structure is assumed by most authorities to be the Hospital's chapel. Richard Fenton writing at the beginning of the 19th century considered it to be the refectory or dormitory as its main entrance is at the eastern end. Fenton also states that Bishop Beck first built an oratory which was later enlarged to an hospital. For the purposes of this report, the building is referred to as the 'hospital'.

Prominent earthworks are situated in the field to the south and west of the 'hospital'. These comprise: a low bank parallel to and some ten metres distant from the present roadside hedgebank; a distinct terrace to the south of the 'hospital' with a wide hollow on its south side; a series of very low, widely-spaced ridges running north - south down the field. Most of these earthworks are visible on the contour survey (Fig. 2) and the isometric drawings (Figs. 3 and 4). The linear bank parallel to the road is most prominent (approx. 0.6m high) at the point where it runs beneath the Young Farmer's Club. Rubble on the southern side of the bank against the Young Farmer's Club may be *in situ* wall foundations. The terrace and hollow to the south of the 'hospital' feature very prominently on oblique aerial photographs (Fig. 5) and have been interpreted as the silted-up remains of a wide ditch or moat.

#### 5. THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were commissioned from Geophysical Surveys, Bradford (Report No. 92/97). Interference from a water pipe, scaffolding and wire fences has masked areas of archaeological interest recorded by the magnetometer. Several areas of interest are however recorded on the magnetic data (Fig. 6). Two north - south aligned ditches are clearly shown joined by shorter east - west ditches so forming a series of rectilinear enclosures. Discrete magnetic anomalies within the enclosures and to the west may be caused by pits. The presumed large ditch to the south of the Medieval building was not detected.

The water pipe has also caused interference on the resistance data (Fig. 7). Two possible walls were detected. One running west out from the north-west corner of the 'hospital' and the other along the terrace to the south of the building. Other areas of high resistance may be caused by geological factors, though there may be another wall, north - south aligned, towards the northern end of the survey area.

#### 6. THE EXCAVATIONS

The major excavation trenches were dug by mechanical excavator (Fig 8). Trenches 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10 were dug down to subsoil level using a 0.75m wide bucket. The resulting sections were then cleaned using spades and trowels, examined and drawn. Trenches 3, 5, 6, and 8 were stripped of topsoil and superficial deposits using a 2m wide bucket. The resulting surface was trowelled over and planned. Trench 1 and smaller holes were hand-dug. Below is a summary of the excavations divided into three areas for ease of description; the northern area, the western area and the southern area. In the appendix

are detailed descriptions and section drawings of individual excavation trenches. Fig. 9 shows the information from the excavation superimposed onto the geophysical data.

### 6.1 The northern area

The earthwork bank parallel to the road was examined in Trenches 2 and 3 (Figs. 11, 12 and 13). In Trench 2, across almost the highest point of the bank, the earthwork was found to comprise the remains of an earthen bank over a buried or remnant soil. In Trench 3, to the west, the bank has been degraded and eroded by ploughing and no trace of it survives, though the buried soil was still *in situ*. A similar situation obtained elsewhere in the excavations; it is therefore possible to extrapolate former banks from buried soils.

The earliest recognisable feature in Trench 2 seemed to be a wall roughly at right angles to the trench (Figs. 11 and 12). This wall was not present in a small trench 5m to the west. It is assumed that the wall turns to the south to at a point where the resistance data indicates an anomaly. A further possible wall, its direction unknown, may lie against the west wall of the Young Farmer's Club. Taken as a whole, these wall indicate the presence of a building which survives only at foundation level.

The large ditch in Trench 2 probably post dates the wall. Part of the bank which seals the wall to the south may be derived from this ditch. This ditch can be projected into Trench 3 where it seems to appear as ditch 14. Here, however, the picture is more complicated as there are three superimposed ditches (Figs. 11 and 13). The earliest is 14 or 15. Ditch 15 was unusual, and there are hints that it may have served as the foundation trench for a timber palisade rather than functioned as an open ditch. After ditches 14 and 15 had silted-up they were replaced by the shallow ditch 13. The magnetic data indicates that at least one of these ditches turns to the south about 10m to the west of Trench 3. It is assumed that on their southern side all these ditches would have had a bank; this has now been almost totally destroyed in Trench 3 and survives only as a buried soil.

At a later date it would appear that this postulated bank, or series of banks, was extended on its northern side, faced with stone and probably used as a hedgebank. This bank is shown on the section drawings (Fig. 11). In Trench 2 the bank probably contains earlier elements. A shallow ditch accompanies this hedgebank in Trench 3 and to the south of the ditch a cobbled surface, a road or trackway, lies over levelled shale bedrock. The bedrock has been levelled either by the passage of traffic over it or deliberately to create a flat surface on which to bed the cobbles.

At the southern end of both trenches a gully was found. In Trench 3 four post-holes may be the remains of a timber building. An alternative interpretation of these is that the two northern, deeper post-holes were related to the earth bank described above, perhaps as some form of rear revetment.

### 6.2 The western area

The foundations of a stone building predating the 'hospital' at least 20m in length and 7.5m wide were discovered in Trenches 1, 5 and 6 (Figs 8 and 9). The closer to the 'hospital' the better the preservation of the foundations. On average the foundations were 1.1m wide and were composed of at least two courses of masonry in Trenches 1

and 6. Further west the foundations comprised little more than a scatter of rubble and were not traceable at the presumed south-west corner of the building. Close to the 'hospital' rubble, crushed mortar and broken shale roofing tiles overlay the earlier foundations. This was most apparent in Trench 1 where the foundations were covered by deposits up to 0.6m thick, though some of these were of recent date (Fig. 16). In Trench 6 these overlying rubbly horizons were reduced to a thickness of about 0.2 - 0.3m. There was an indication that an *in situ* cobbled surface survived in the extreme south-east corner of Trench 6. This suggests that pockets or larger areas of early stratified deposits may be present beneath the rubble surrounding the 'hospital'. Elsewhere the foundations were covered by a 0.2 - 0.3m of topsoil with no hint of contemporaneous floor levels or other deposits.

It is clear from the geophysical survey that the water pipe trench cuts through the earlier building remains. The wide band of interference from the water pipe trench detected by the geophysical survey masks an earlier ditch. This ditch was first detected in Trench 4 where it was seen to be considerably wider than the water pipe trench. It was again seen in Trench 5 where it cut through the foundations of the earlier building. The exact line of this ditch is uncertain, but if it ran parallel to the linear anomaly detected by the magnetometer survey to the west it may be that the ditch discovered in Trench 9 is a continuation of it. Two sherds of pottery discovered in this ditch in Trench 4 date to the 13th - 15th centuries.

### 6.3 *The southern area*

In Trenches 7 and 8, it was apparent that the distinct earthwork terrace to the south of the 'hospital' had been partially created by a wall that ran along the upper break of slope on its southern side (Fig. 14). This wall, apparently quite insubstantial in the section of Trench 7, was found to be solidly built and about 0.75m wide in Trench 8. To the south, a layer of rubble represented tumbled off this wall. On its northern side, the wall seemed to form the boundary of an extensive deposit of rubble, crushed mortar and broken roofing tiles - material derived from the 'hospital'. Predating the wall to the north was an earth bank with a substantial ditch. The bank overlay a distinct buried soil. It would seem, therefore, that an early boundary consisting of a bank and ditch was later replaced by a stone wall. The magnetic data hints that this wall runs some distance to the west, perhaps almost as far as Trench 10. It is possible that the boundary ditch continues into Trench 10.

Certainly the ditch discovered at the northern end of Trench 10 was of a similar size and character to that in Trench 7. It contained sherds of 13th - 15th century pottery. The southern end of Trench 10 seems to have cut obliquely through a shallow, north - south aligned ditch recorded on the magnetic data. A buried soil present throughout the length of the trench perhaps suggests that a bank lay on the eastern side of this ditch. Alternatively, this putative bank may belong with the north - south aligned magnetic anomaly to the east of Trench 10.

As described above, the ditch in Trench 9 (Fig. 20) may be associated with that which cuts through the old wall foundations. Other possible boundary ditches were discovered in the southern end of Trench 7.

In Trench 7, there was no trace of the feature interpreted as a wide ditch or moat on aerial photographs. It is probable that the terrace in this area is either a geomorpho-

logical feature caused by differential erosion over a hard band of subsoil or was created by cultivation taking place in a burgage plot on an east - west axis.

## 7. VULNERABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The whole application area contains significant archaeological remains. In the eastern and southern areas of the site, these are covered by some 20 - 30 cms of modern ploughsoil. **These remains should be protected from any earthmoving activity or ground disturbance.**

In terms of the development proposals the northern area of the site is the most vulnerable and it is plain that the proposed car park, if constructed at the level of the existing road surface, will destroy the archaeological evidence down to subsoil level. **Attempts should therefore be made to accommodate the car park within the area to the north of the series of ditches located along the northern frontage.** If this cannot be achieved, then the car park area should be totally excavated archaeologically in order to record the archaeological evidence prior to commencement of the development. In these circumstances, appropriate conditions should be attached to any planning consent.



## 8. APPENDIX: DETAILS OF THE EXCAVATED TRENCHES

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 16)*

Hand-dug against the north wall of the Medieval building where the exterior ground surface is some 0.65m higher than the internal floor surface. The deposits external to the building comprised a layer of black soil with rubble 1 over successive layers 4, 6 of crushed mortar with rubble and shale (roofing tile) fragments. These deposits overlay rubble 20 which in turn overlay a silty-loam soil with stone fragments 17. This soil partly overlay earlier foundations 18, although in much of Trench 1 these foundations protruded through the soil. The foundations of the 'hospital' butted or partly cut through these earlier foundations. A mass of mortar had been deposited against the lower wall face of the 'hospital' and rested on the surface of the soil 17 or the old foundations 18 where the soil was not present. This mortar is similar to that which has been used to repoint the 'hospital' at some date in the past. The surface of the old foundations was up to 0.10m higher than the present internal floor surface of the building.

All the recent, ie post-medieval, pottery finds in this trench came from the soil deposits 1 just below the present ground surface. No finds other than those of medieval date came from the lower 0.4m of this trench. Of some note amongst the finds are two pieces of painted wall plaster - red on a white background - which suggest that the interior of the upstanding building may once have been painted.

The earlier wall, part of a building, was replaced by the 'hospital'. It is clear from the position of the mortar 3 that the soil 17 and earlier foundations formed the external ground surface when the 'hospital' was repaired/repointed.

### *Trench 1: Contexts*

1. Topsoil and building debris.

(Finds: 1 sherd Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th - 15th century); 1 sherd Buckley Ware (19th century); 1 sherd red earthenware (19th century); 1 sherd porcelain (19th - 20th century).)

3. Mass of mortar against 'hospital' wall.

4. Layer of crushed mortar, rubble and fragments of roofing tile (shale).

6. Layer similar to 4 above except with a high soil content.

(Finds: 3 sherds of Llanstephan Ware (13th - 15th century); 1 fragment glazed ridge tile; 1 roofing tile; 2 fragments of painted wall plaster - red band on white background.)

17. Silty-loam soil with stones partly overlying wall 18.

18. Wall foundation.

20. Layer of rubble and stone.

### *Trench 2 (Fig. 17)*

Machine dug down to subsoil through and at right angles to the earthwork bank parallel to the road. The earliest feature in this trench seems to be the 1m wide wall 8 parallel to the street. This was cut into the buried soil 4. The wide ditch 10 parallel to the street, may be contemporaneous with, later than or earlier than the wall. A large, unabraded sherd of Medieval Gravel Tempered Ware was found in the lower deposits of this ditch. The wall was sealed by the remains of an earthen bank 6, 7 in which a sherd of Medieval Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware was found. The stone-face of hedgebank 9 was built over the silted-up ditch 10. The bank 6, 7 may be the remains of the make-up of the bank which accompanied the stone-facing 9. Alternatively, layer 6 may be part of an earlier bank (possibly associated with ditch 10) and layer 7 the remains of the bank that accompanied the stone facing 9. In front (north) of the hedgebank a cobble surface 14 had been laid directly onto shale subsoil and partly over the silted-up ditch 10. It would appear that the shale bedrock had been levelled to form a flat surface. The only feature of archaeological significance in the southern part of the trench is a shallow ditch 3 parallel to the road. It was also detected in Trench 3 on the same alignment.

An attempt was made to trace wall 8 5m to the west of Trench 2 by hand digging a 2m x 1m trench. The wall was not present in this hand-dug trench. However, on the resistivity survey (Fig. 9) a north - south aligned anomaly can be seen to the west of Trench 2. It is likely, therefore that the wall 8 turns a right angle to the south between Trench 2 and the hand-dug trench.

Three distinct phases seem to be apparent in Trench 2:

- i) the wall 8.
- ii) the ditch 10 possibly with bank 6 on its southern side. When this bank was built the wall 8 must have been dismantled.
- iii) the hedgebank-face 9 and cobbled surface 14. The cobble surface over the bedrock seems to be the remains of a road or track. The bedrock beneath it may have been deliberately levelled to form a flat surface. Alternatively, traffic passing over the bedrock could have created a flat surface.

*Trench 2: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.

(Finds: 1 sherd North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware (post-med)).

2. Subsoil - pale yellowish-brown silty-clay shale fragments.

3. Shallow ditch at right angles to trench, filled with dark brown silty-clay loam. Same as 2 in Trench 3.

4. Reddish-brown silty-clay loam - a buried soil

5. Amorphous pit - probably root disturbance.

6. Mid- to dark-brown silty-clay loam. Possibly remains of a bank over 4.

(Finds: 1 sherd Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-15th cent)).

7. Mid- to dark-brown, loose silty-clay loam and small stones. Remains of a bank.

8. Wall c.1m wide at right angles to trench, set into the buried soil 4.

9. Stone face of hedge bank built over silted-up ditch 10. Layers 6 and 7 may be the bank make-up associated with this face.

10. Ditch, 2m wide, 0.8m deep at right angles to trench.

11. Primary fill of ditch 10. A dark grey-brown clay-loam, slightly gleyed, with small stones.

(Finds: 1 sherd Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-15th cent)).

12. Upper ditch fill of 10. A dark brown clay-loam.

13. Layer of dark brown silty-clay loam that fades into the topsoil.

14. Remains of cobbled surface. Laid partly across the silted-up ditch 10 and partly on levelled area of shale bedrock. Same as 8 Trench 3.

*Trench 3 (Fig. 18)*

The topsoil was stripped by machine, the archaeological features hand-excavated. The northern end of the trench was dominated by a series of ditches. The earliest of these was 14, a flat bottomed feature and possibly a continuation of ditch 10 from Trench 2. Ditch 14 was cut by 15, a narrow, deep feature. There was slight evidence to suggest that ditch 15 originally held upright timbers - possibly a palisade - though this could not be conclusively demonstrated. Once silted-up, the line of ditches 14 and 15 was maintained by a shallow ditch 13. The magnetometer survey indicates that at least one of these ditches turns to the south west of Trench 3. At a later date still, a hedgebank 11 with stone facing 10 was constructed; this is a continuation of the hedgebank facing-stones 9 in Trench 2. A sherd of Medieval Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware was found in deposit 11. To the north a shallow ditch 12 accompanied the hedgebank, and to the north of this a cobbled surface 8 lay over levelled shale bedrock. To the south of the ditches described above lay a band of buried soil 7, but here, unlike Trench 2, bank make-up was not present. Two post-holes 5 and 6 on the same alignment as the street, cut through the buried soil, and 6m to the south and on the same alignment lay two more possible post-holes 3 and 4. Ditch 2 is a continuation of ditch 3 from Trench 2.

There can be no doubt that the earthwork bank that runs parallel to the street for several hundred metres is formed by a series of banks and ditches which in its latest form seems to have been a simple hedgebank and ditch, but which in its earlier manifestations was a large boundary bank and ditch, possibly of defensive proportions. Clearly there is an hiatus between Trenches 2 and 3; this is not understood, but may have something to do with the turn to the south of wall 8 in Trench 2. The two post-holes 5 and 6 in Trench 3 may have been associated with the boundary bank in one of its phases, alternatively they may have been paired with the post-holes 3 and 4 and formed part of a timber building.

#### *Trench 3: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.

(Finds; 1 sherd unclassified (late med - early post-med).

2. Shallow ditch, same as 3 Trench 2.

3. Shallow pit, possibly a post-hole (not on section).

4. Shallow pit, possibly a post-hole (not on section).

5. Post-hole.

6. Post-hole (not on section).

7. Buried soil, same as 4 Trench 2.

8. Cobbled surface resting directly on prepared bedrock terrace.

9. Mid-brown silty-clay loam - base of topsoil.

10. Stone face of hedgebank set into bank layer 11 and resting on a prepared terrace. Same as 9 Trench 2.

11. Mid-grey-brown silty clay loam. Probably the bank make-up associated with facing stones 10.

(Finds: 1 sherd Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-15th cent).

12. Ditch at right angles to trench, filled with a grey-brown, slightly gleyed, clay loam. Probably the ditch with hedgebank 10, 11.

13. Shallow ditch filled with a gleyed, smooth, grey-brown clay. The fill has slumped into an earlier ditch 15.

14. Flat bottomed ditch filled with layers of silty-clay loam interleaved with bands of shattered shale. The lower horizons are gleyed. Cut by 15.

15. Deep steep-sided ditch. The fill of the overlying ditch 13 has slumped into this ditch in a manner that suggests it once contained timber uprights - possibly a palisade.

#### *Trench 4*

Ditch 4 was the only feature of archaeological interest in this trench. It lay at the extreme eastern end and at right angles to the trench. It was about 0.6m deep and had been partly destroyed by the water pipe trench. Indeed, it is suspected that the water pipe trench follows this earlier ditch for a considerable distance. Two sherds of medieval pottery, one of Saintonge Ware the other of Llanstephan Ware, were found in the ditch.

#### *Trench 4: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.

2. Upper fill of ditch 4.

3. Base of topsoil.

4. Ditch, 0.6m deep, width uncertain. At the extreme eastern end of the Trench and at right angles to it. It is cut by the water pipe trench 5.

Finds: 1 sherd Saintonge Ware (late-med - early post-med); 1 sherd Llanstephan Ware (13th-15th cent).

5. Water pipe trench. It is probable that this trench follows the line of the earlier ditch 4.

#### *Trench 5*

Topsoil stripped by machine. Levels below the buried soil/subsoil were not investigated. Towards the northern end of the trench were the foundations of a 1.1m wide, east-west aligned wall. At least two courses of masonry survived. The wall was traced to the west by a series of narrow hand-dug trenches. The wall turned a right angle to the south approximately 16m to the west of the 'hospital'. It was not possible to trace this wall to the south for more than 4m after this turn. There was very little building debris associated with this wall. The foundations seemed to be bedded into a buried soil in Trench 5 similar to that discovered in Trenches 2 and 3, but in the hand-dug trenches to the west the masonry rested on subsoil.

The water pipe trench cut through the wall immediately to the west of Trench 5. Also the ditch which the water pipe trench followed in Trench 4 cut through this wall.

#### *Trench 5: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.

(Finds: 8 sherds North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware (17th cent +); 1 sherd of stoneware (late post-medieval); 1 shale/slate roofing tile; 2 clay pipe stems.)

#### *Trench 6*

Topsoil stripped by machine. The topsoil in this trench was different than in other trenches. Here it consisted of a very loose black loam which contained a high proportion of small stones, mortar fragments and pieces of roofing tile. Closer to the 'hospital' there was an increase in the proportion of these coarse components. Two walls were present in Trench 6. At the northern end was a continuation of the wall seen in Trench 5. At the southern end a 1.1m wide wall was present. This latter wall was traced 5m to the west by a small hand-dug trench. Here it was very insubstantial and consisted of a scatter of rubble. It was not present in a further hand-dug trench to the west. The distance between the inner faces of the two walls in Trench 5 was about 7.5m. If projected to the east both walls have a similar relationship with the 'hospital', ie the south face of the northern excavated wall corresponds to the outer face of north wall of the 'hospital' and the north face of the southern excavated wall corresponds to the outer face of the south wall of the 'hospital'. Only topsoil and superficial deposits were removed in Trench 6; no examination was made of the possible stratigraphy except for a small investigation in the extreme south-east corner of the trench. Here a possible *in situ* cobble surface was discovered overlying a buried soil. Generally it appeared that between the two walls the very thin stratification comprised rubble derived from the 'hospital' overlying a buried soil/subsoil.

It seems certain that the walls discovered in Trenches 1, 5 and 6 are the remains of a building that predate the 'hospital'. This earlier structure was 7.5m wide internally and over 20m in length. The lack of rubble associated with the excavated walls indicates that this earlier building was systematically dismantled prior to the construction of the 'hospital'.

#### *Trench 6: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.

(Finds: 3 sherds Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-16th cent); 1 sherd Saintonge (late med-early post-med); 5 sherds North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware (18th-19th cent); 1 sherd Buckley Ware (19th cent); 1 sherd Llanelli Ware (19th cent); 1 sherd unclassified (post-med); 2 sherds ceramic ridge tile (Medieval); 1 copper alloy shoe buckle (17th cent).)

#### *Trench 7 (Fig. 19)*

A long trench machine-dug down to sub-soil level. Below the topsoil at the northern end of the Trench lay a layer of broken stone, mortar and roofing tile fragments 2. This building debris was thickest and densest towards the 'hospital', from which it was derived. It butted up against a wall 11 at its southern limit. (This wall was of a more definite nature in Trench 8 to the east). Layer 2 overlay a substantial ditch 6 with a possible bank 9 on its southern side. The later wall 11 may possibly partlyrevet the bank. The bank sealed a buried soil 4. To the south of the wall 11 topsoil lay directly over subsoil with the ditches 13 and 14 providing the only archaeological interest. There was no trace of the large ditch/moat which seemed

apparent on aerial photographs. The subsoil was of the same character encountered elsewhere in the excavations except at the southern end of the trench where it contained many densely packed large stones and boulders.

There seem to be two distinct phases in this trench. The first comprises the east-west aligned ditch 6 with a bank 9 on its southern side; these features combine to form a boundary. The second consists of the wall 11. The narrowness of this wall in Trench 8 (0.75m) and its length as indicated by the resistivity survey (Fig. 7) suggests it was a boundary rather than part of a building.

The earthwork bank visible on aerial photographs and clearly shown on the survey drawings is clearly due to the features described above. The boulders in the subsoil in the southern end of the trench may have been more resistant to weathering and so contributed to the formation of a slight natural terrace. The combination of the earthwork bank and natural terrace probably accounts for the false interpretation of a ditch/moat on aerial photographs. Cultivation in a burgage plot with on an east - west axis could also account for this terrace.

#### *Trench 7: Contexts*

##### **1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.**

(Finds: 1 sherd Llanstephan Ware (13th-15th cent).)

**2. Mid- to dark-brown silty-loam containing many angular stones, roofing tile fragments and pieces of mortar. These coarse components are concentrated at the northern end of the trench.**

**3. Similar to above except few coarse components. Probably a natural soil development.**

**4. Reddish-brown silty clay loam - a buried soil.**

**5. Subsoil. Pale yellowish brown with many stones. At the southern end of the trench this subsoil contains many boulders and large stones.**

**6. Ditch at right angles to trench.**

**7. Upper fill of 6. A mid-brown silty-loam.**

(Finds: small cross-shaped iron object.)

**8. Lower fill of 6. Pale yellowish-brown silty-clay loam.**

**9. Dark brown silty-loam with stones - possibly the remains of a bank over the buried soil 4.**

**10. Foundation trench for wall 11.**

**11. Wall at right angles to trench. This feature was clearer in Trench 8 where it was about 0.8m wide.**

**12. Mid-brown silty-clay loam. Similar to the buried soil 4 only disturbed.**

**13. Wide shallow ditch at right angles to trench.**

**14. Ditch at right angles to trench.**

#### *Trench 8*

Machine stripped of topsoil. An east-west aligned wall was detected; this was also seen in Trench 7 (above). The wall was 0.75m wide and ran along the top, southern break of slope of the an earthwork bank. There was some stone tumble on the downslope (southern) side of the wall, and rubble and roofing tile accumulation to the north.

#### *Trench 8: Contexts*

##### **1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.**

Finds: 5 sherds Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (med - post- med); 1 sherd Buckley Ware (19th cent).

#### *Trench 9 (Fig. 20)*

Machine-dug down into subsoil. Topsoil directly overlay subsoil. The subsoil in this trench comprised large stones and boulders set in a matrix of pale yellowish-brown silty-loam. A ditch 4 ran at right angles to the trench. It was filled with large stones set in a silty-loam soil. The magnetometer survey (Fig. 6) does not seem to have detected this ditch.

#### *Trench 9: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.
2. Base of topsoil.
3. Base of topsoil.
4. Ditch at right angles to trench, filled with a dark silty-loam and many large stones.
5. Base of topsoil.
6. Subsoil. Pale yellowish-brown silty-loam with many large stones and boulders.

#### *Trench 10 (Fig. 20)*

Machine-dug down into the subsoil. A substantial east-west aligned ditch 4 lay at the northern end of the trench. Four sherds of Medieval Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware were found in the upper fill 5 of this ditch and one sherd in a lower fill 6. At the southern end another, shallower ditch had been obliquely cut by the excavation trench. Both these ditches were detected in the magnetometer survey. Contexts 8 and 9 are shallow pits. A buried soil 2 runs down the length of the trench; this may indicate the former presence of a bank, perhaps one that accompanied the roughly north-south aligned ditch 10.

#### *Trench 10: Contexts*

1. Topsoil/ploughsoil.
2. Reddish-brown silty-loam - buried soil.
3. Subsoil with many large stones and boulders.
4. Ditch at right angles to trench.
5. Upper fill of ditch 4, a mid- to dark-brown silty-loam.  
( Finds: 4 sherds Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-15th cent).
6. Fill of ditch 4, a layer similar to above but containing a high proportion of charcoal.  
( Finds: 1 sherd Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (13th-15th cent).
7. Primary fill of ditch 4, a dark grey-brown silty-clay loam.
8. A shallow pit.
9. Possible shallow pit.
10. A ditch cut longitudinally by the trench. It is considered that this ditch runs almost parallel to the trench on its western side. The buried soil 2 possible indicates that a bank once accompanied this ditch.

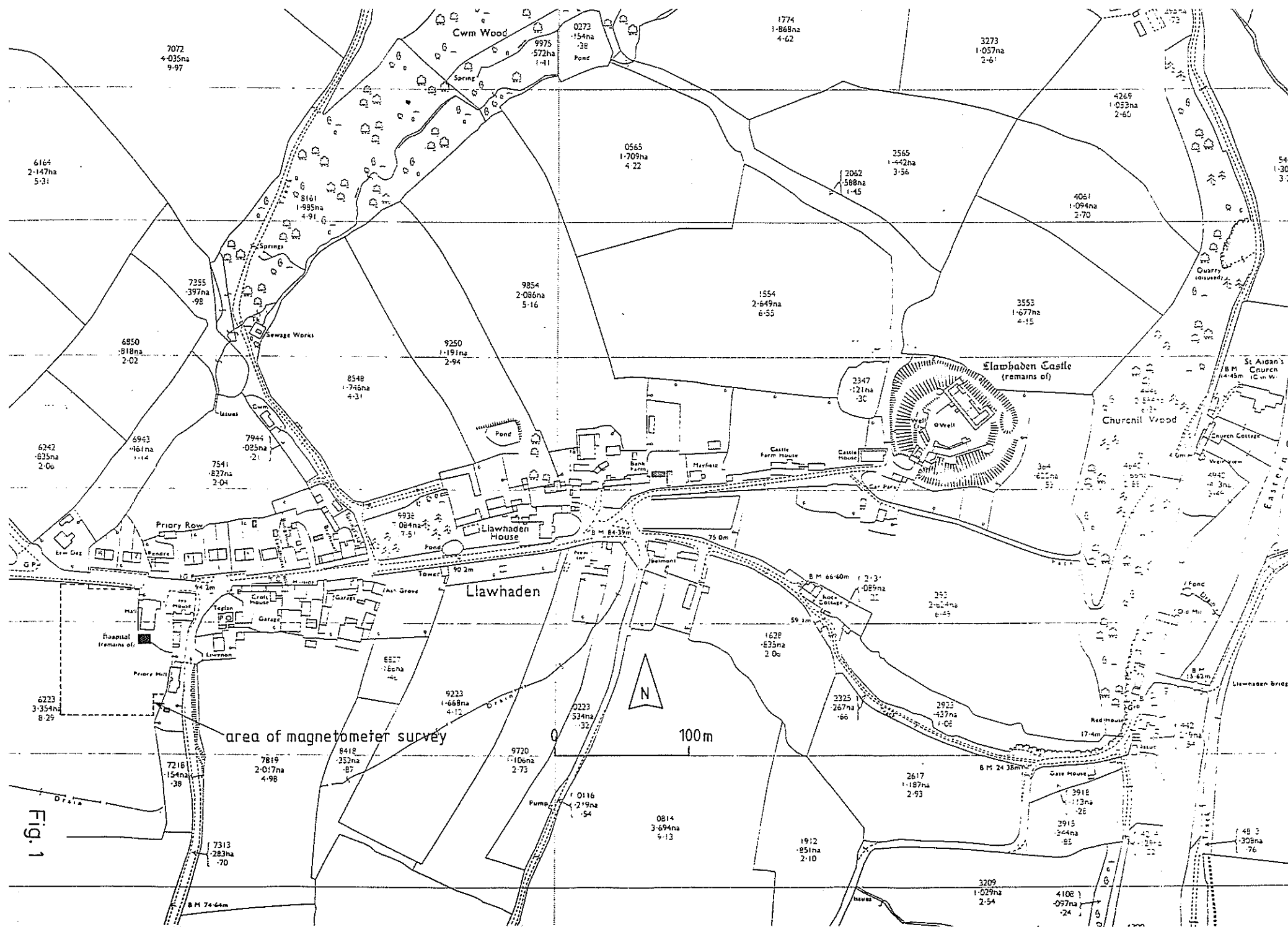
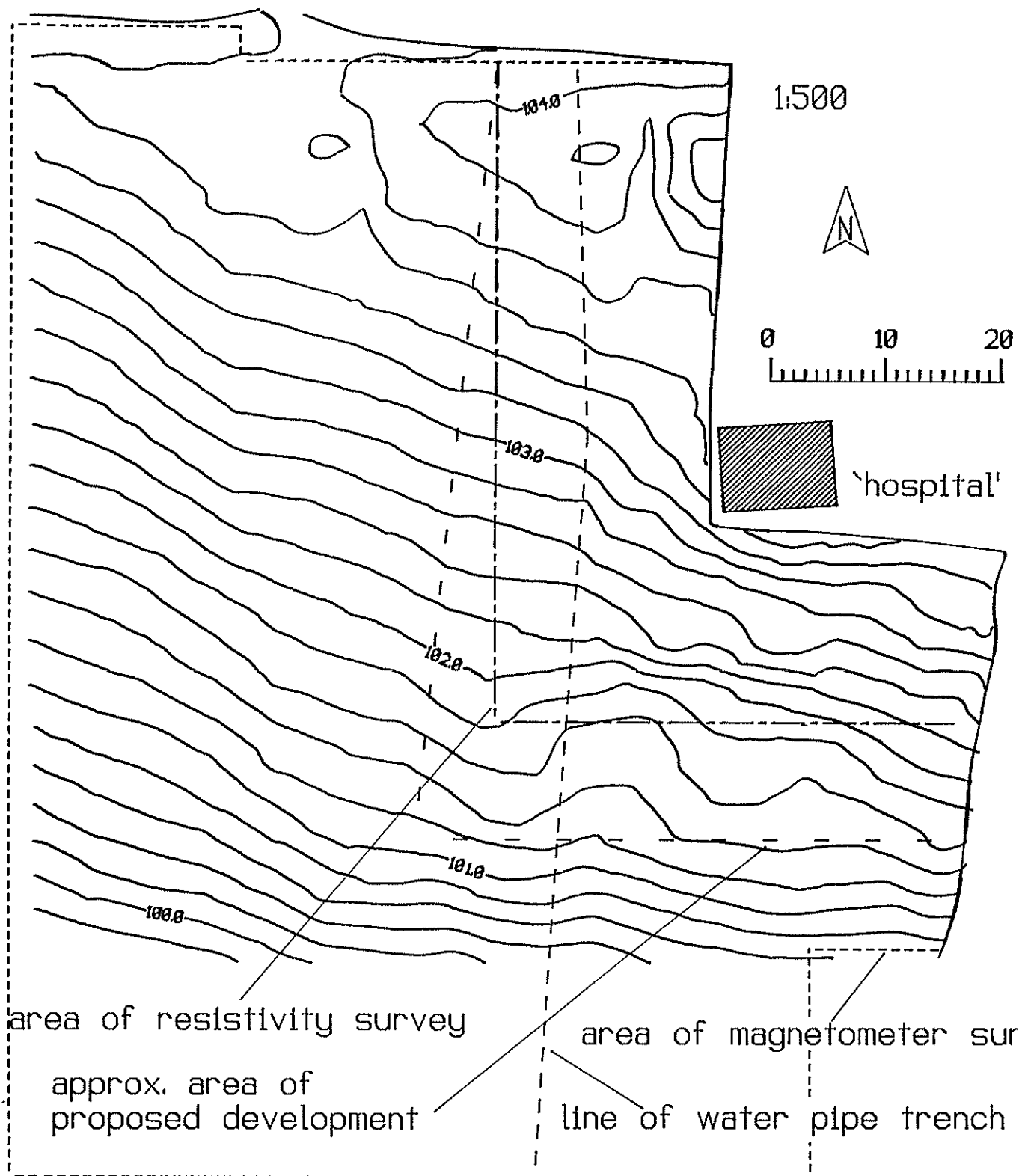


Fig. 1



LLAWHADEN HOSPITAL

Contours at 0.2m intervals



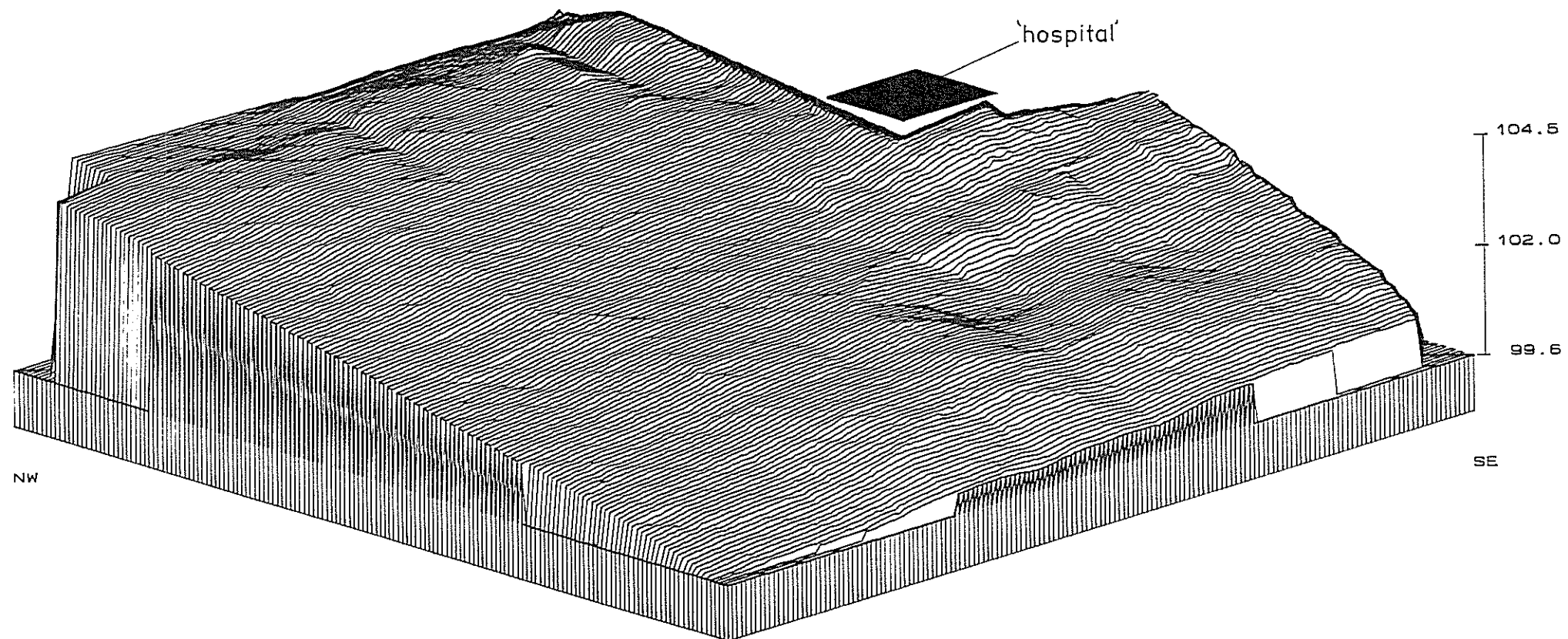


Fig. 3

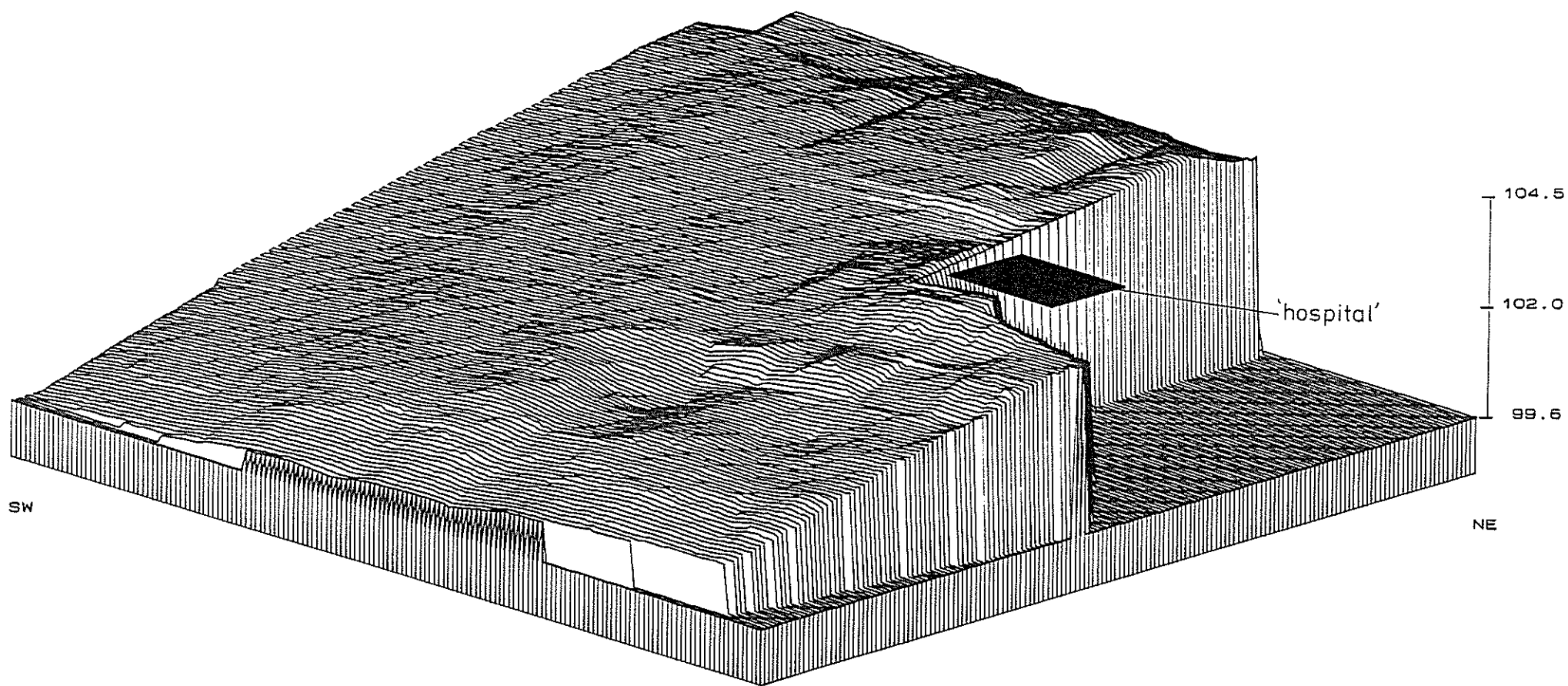


FIG. 4



Fig. 5

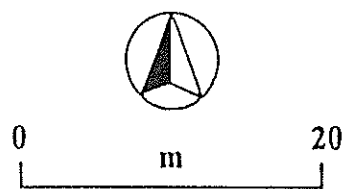
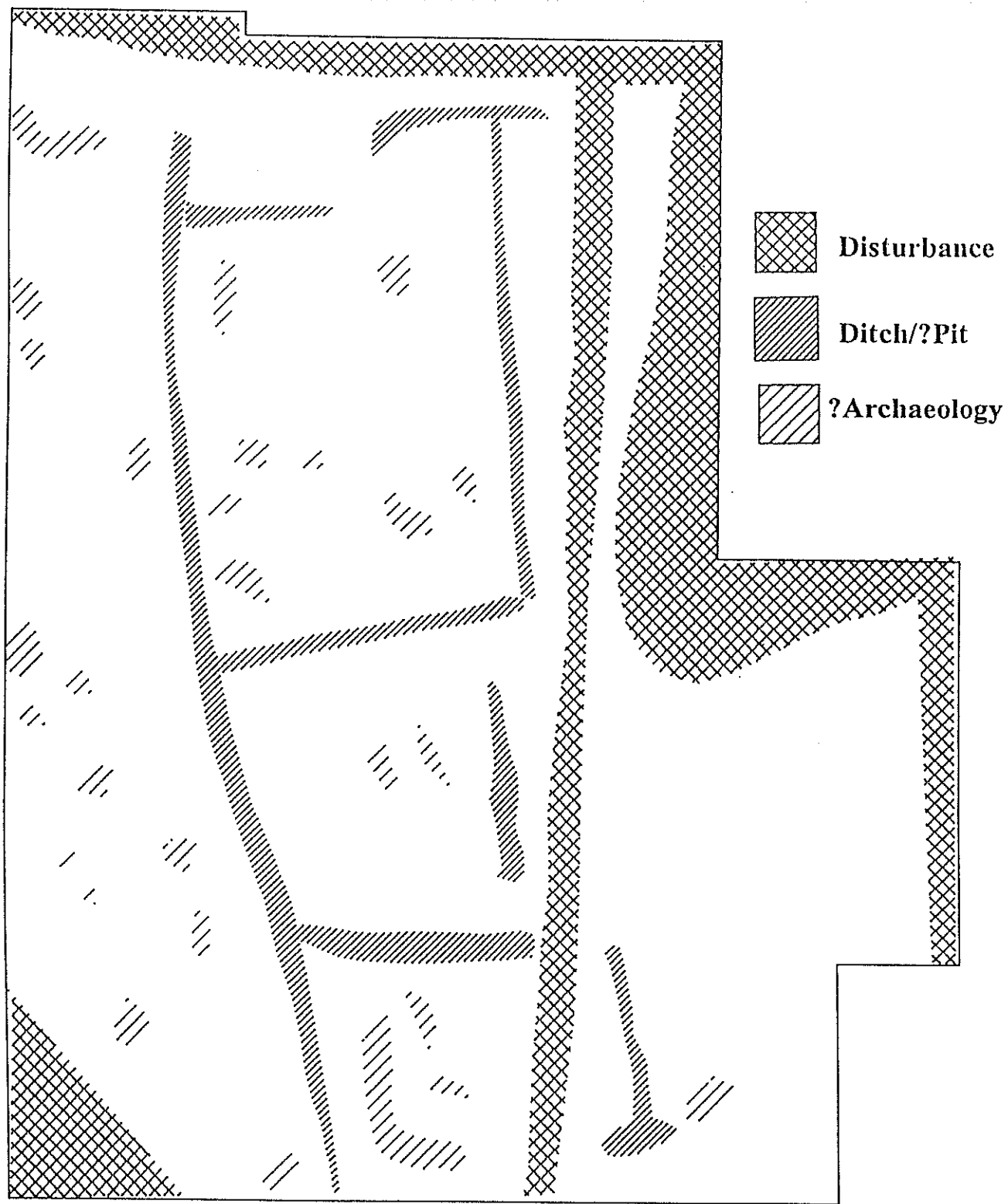


Fig. 6

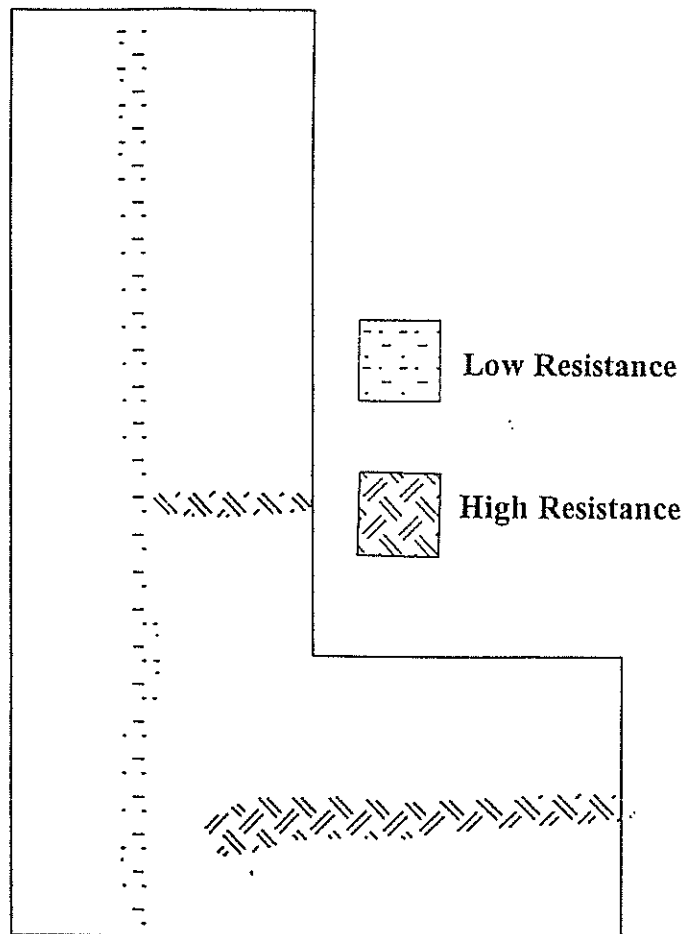
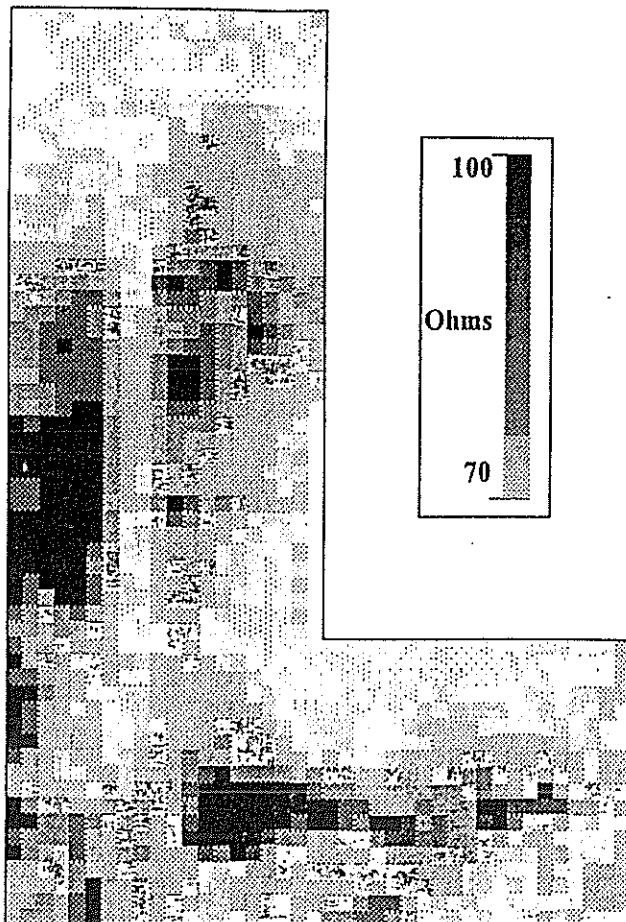
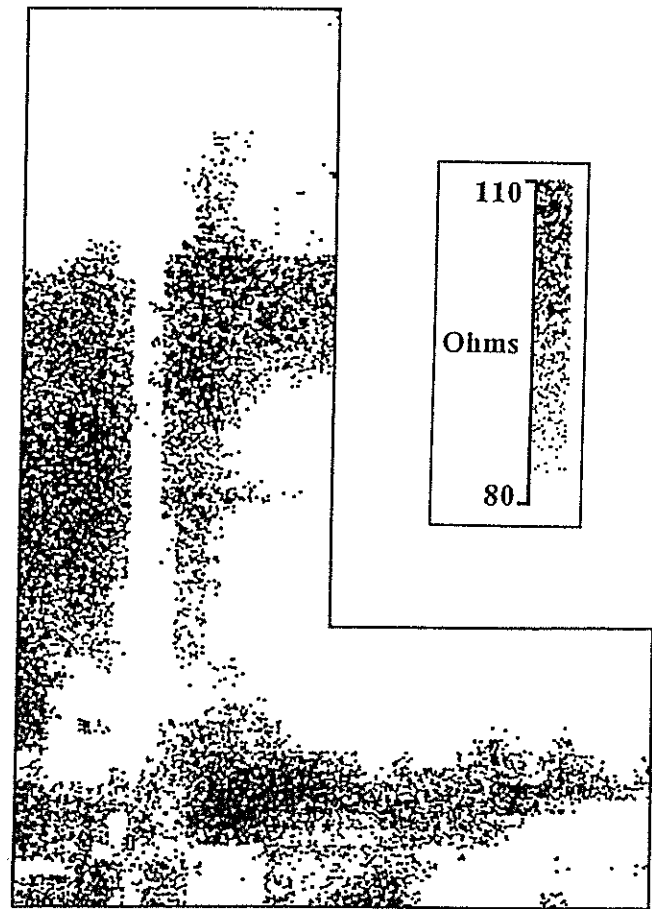
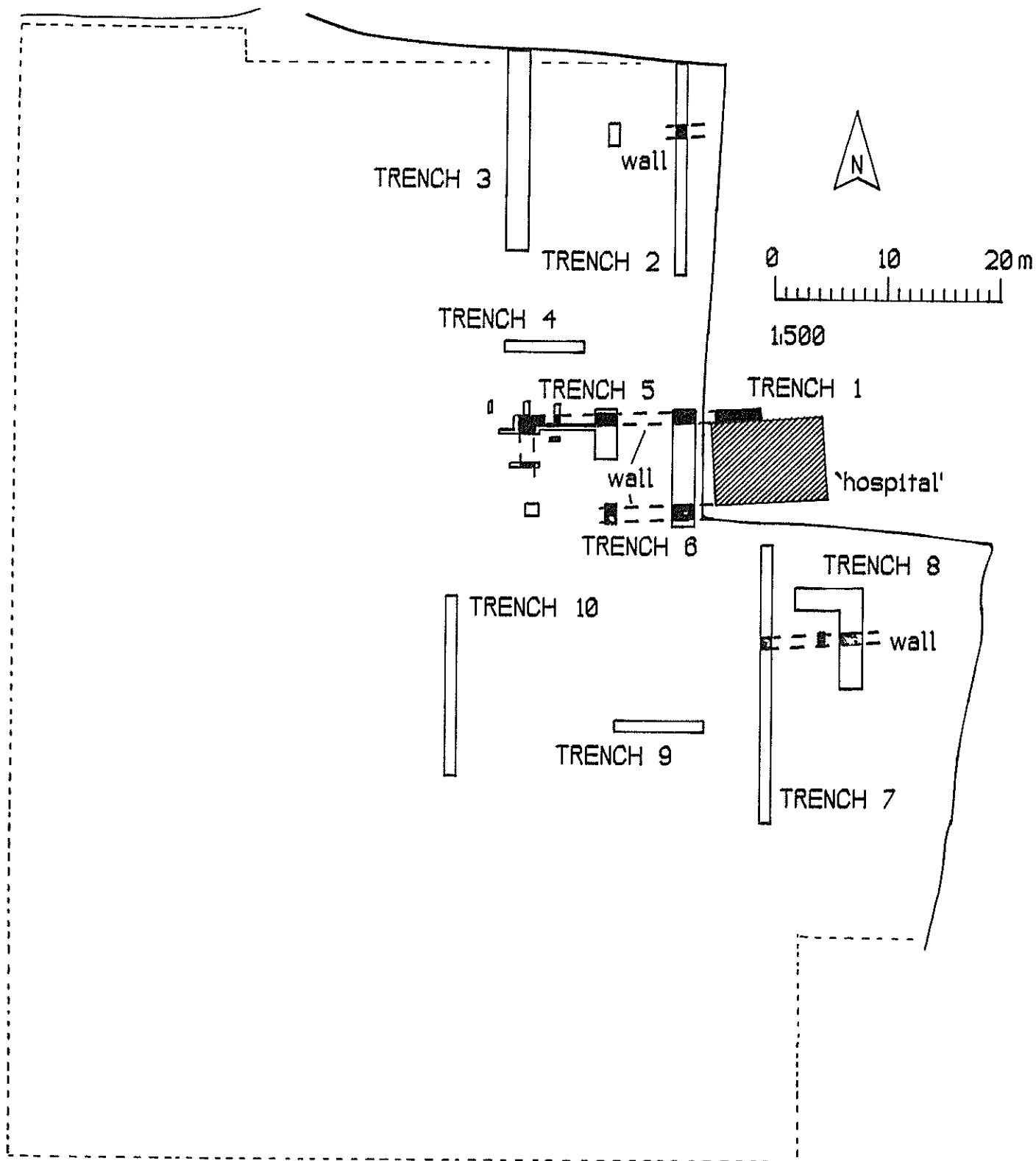


Fig. 7



LLAWHADEN HOSPITAL

Location of Trenches

Fig. 8



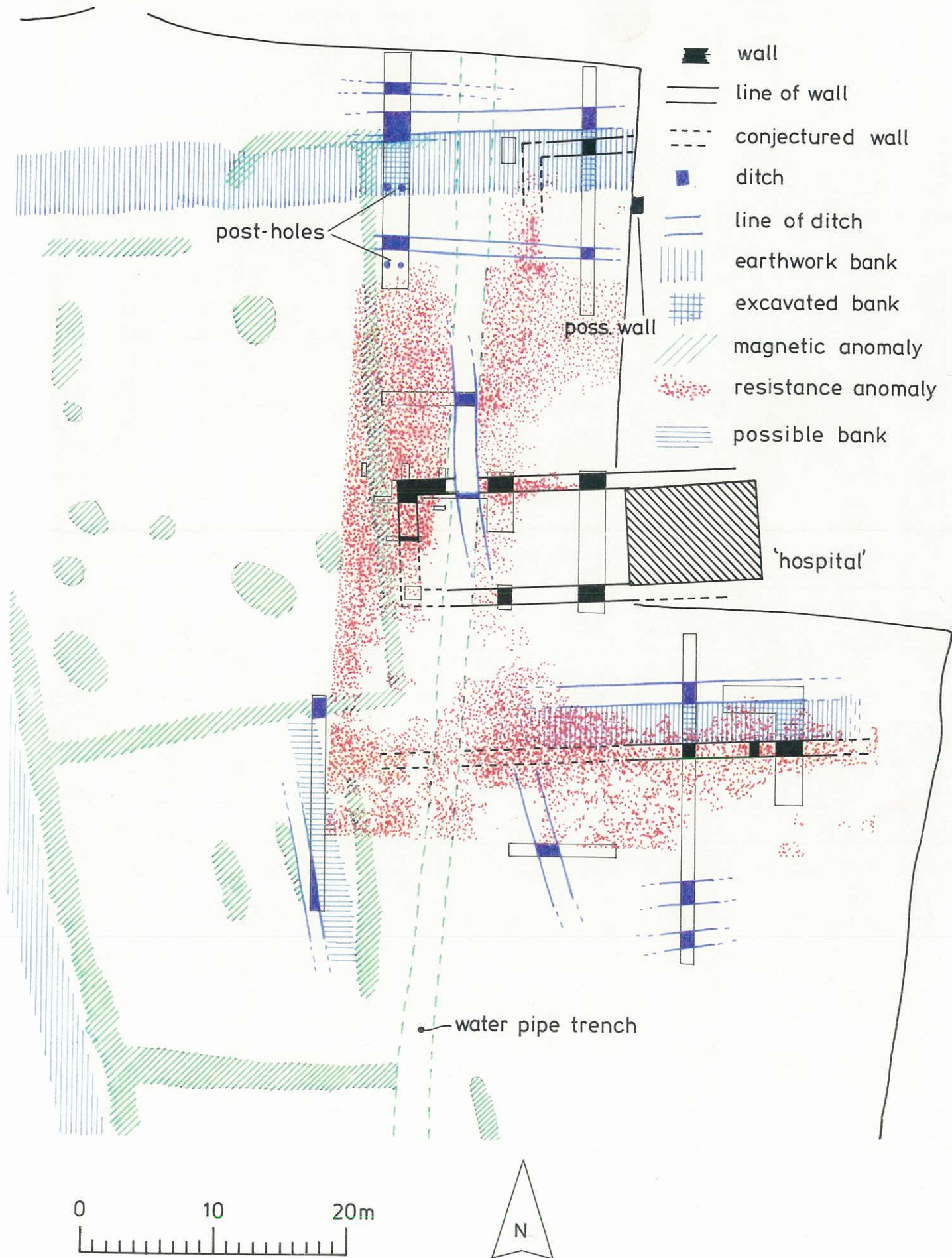


Fig. 9





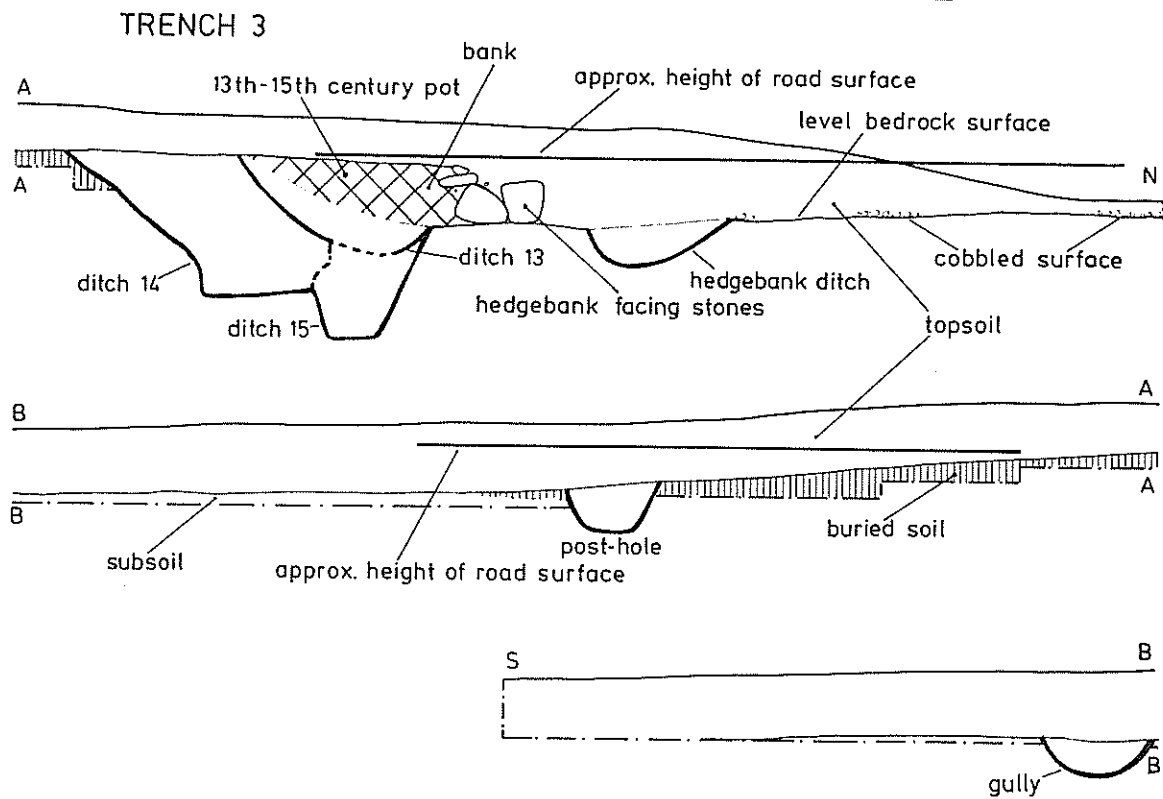
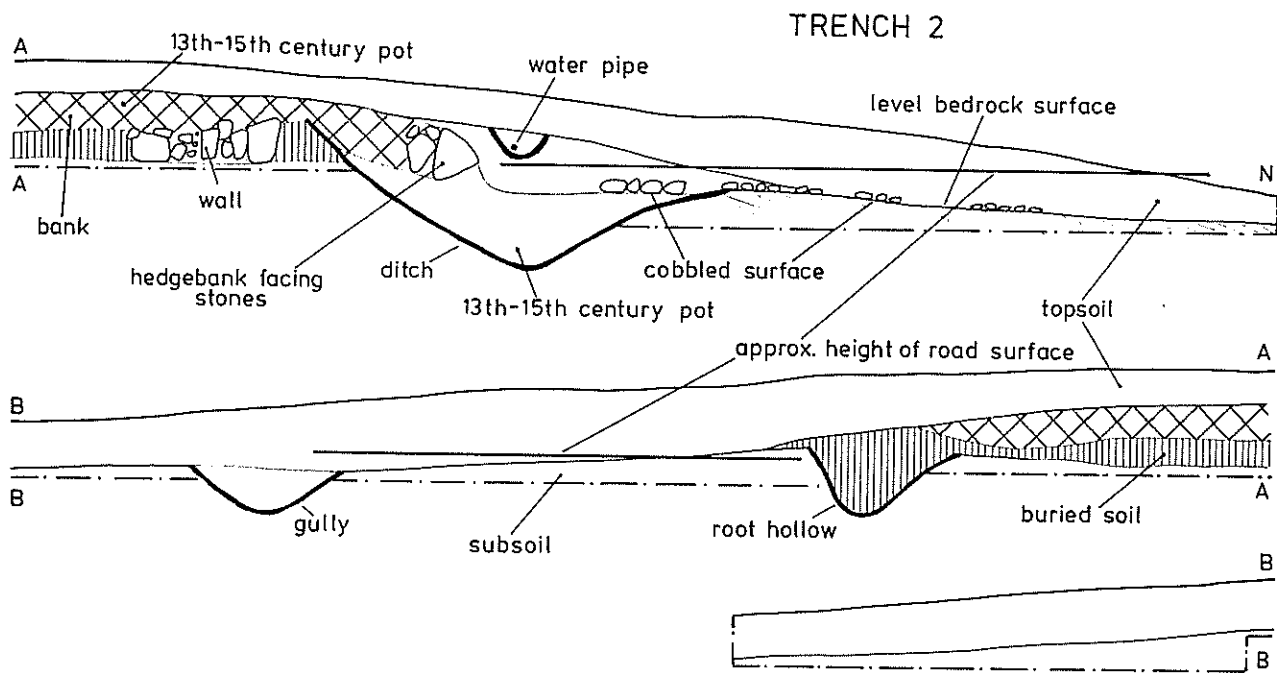


Fig. 11

## TRENCH 2 SUGGESTED RECONSTRUCTION OF PHASES

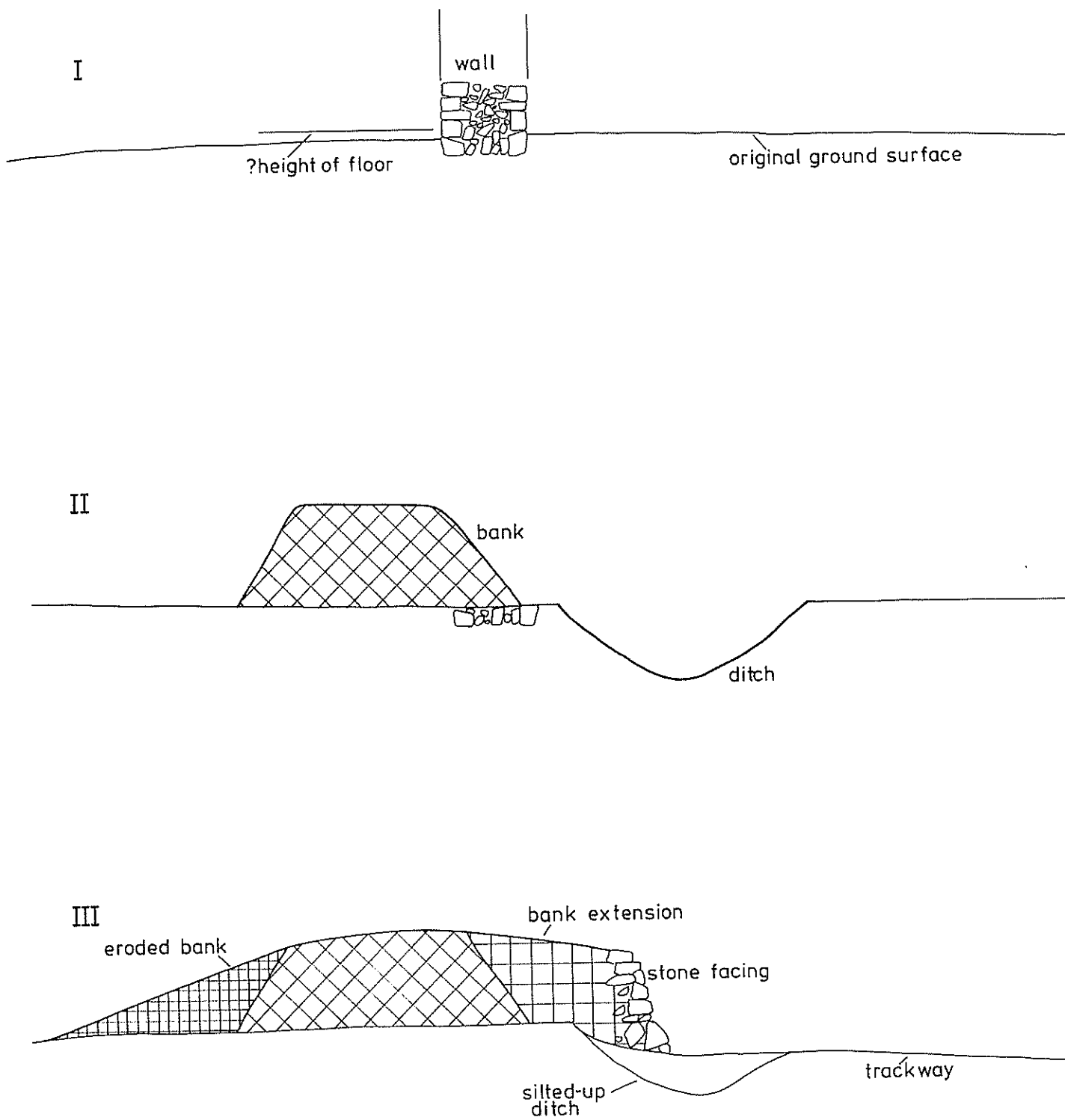
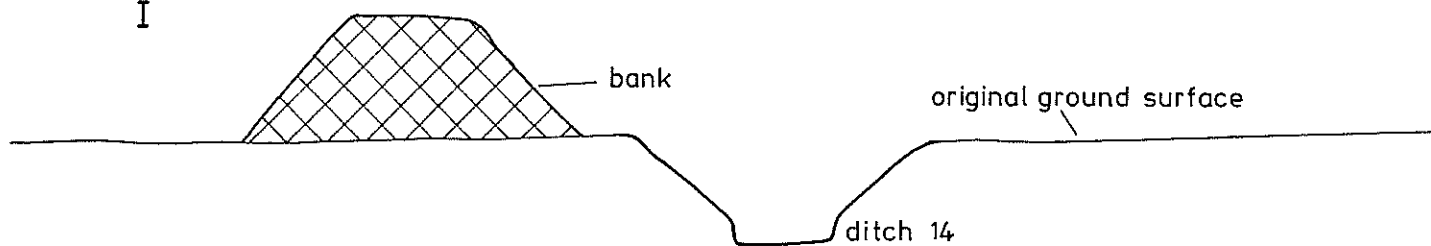


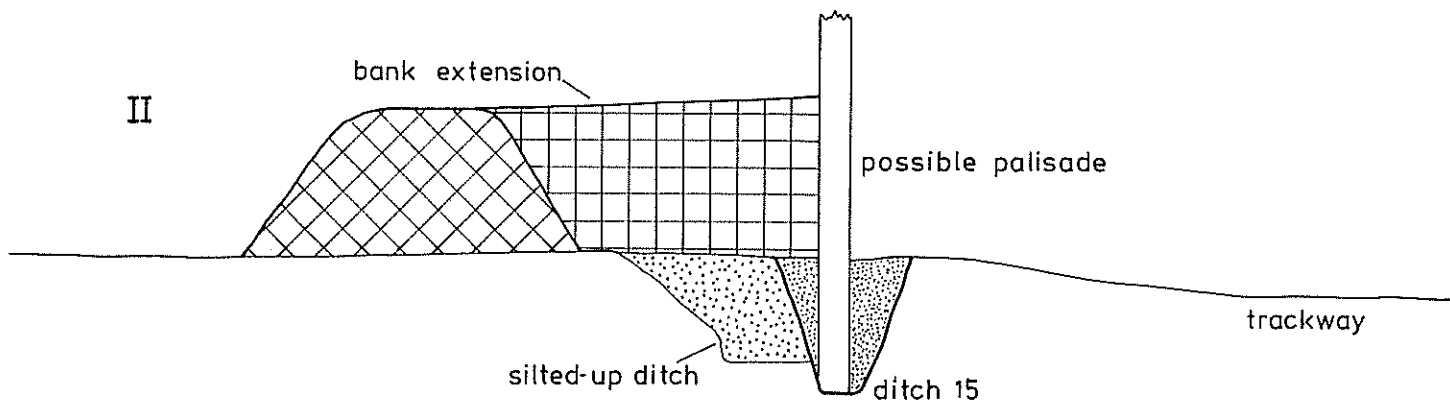
Fig. 12

# TRENCH 3 - SUGGESTED RECONSTRUCTION OF PHASES

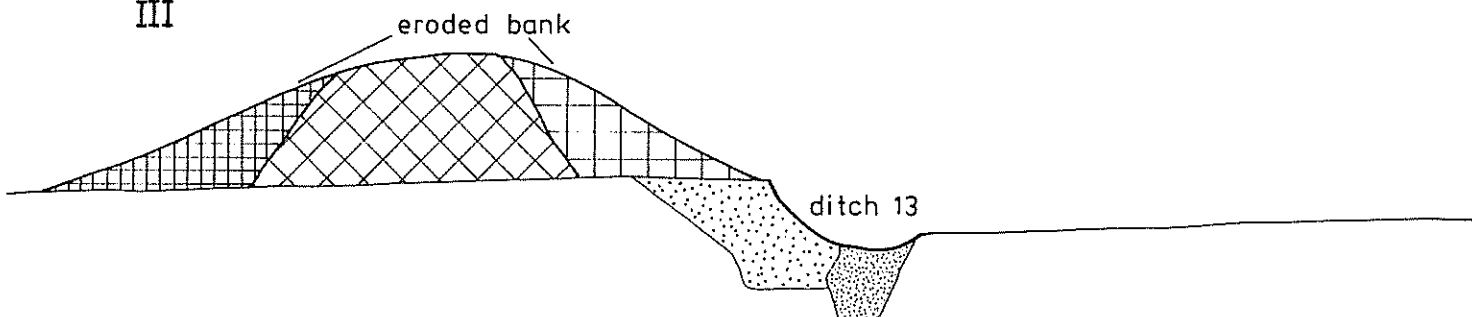
I



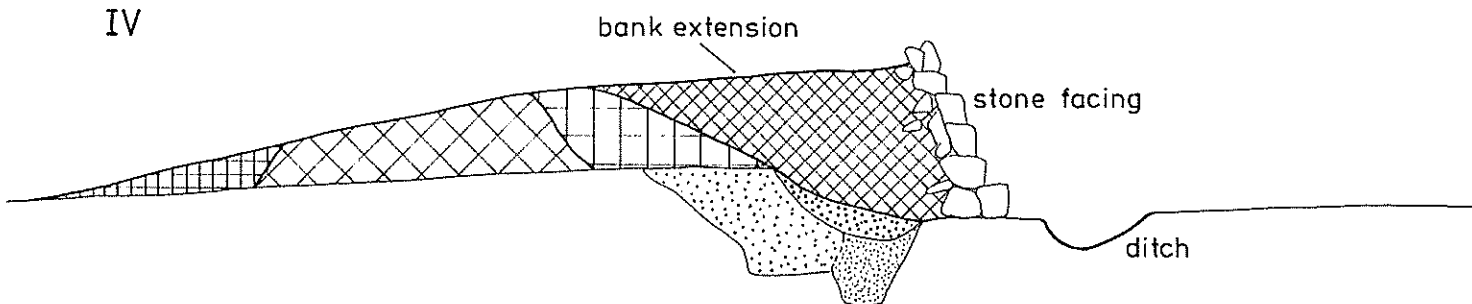
II



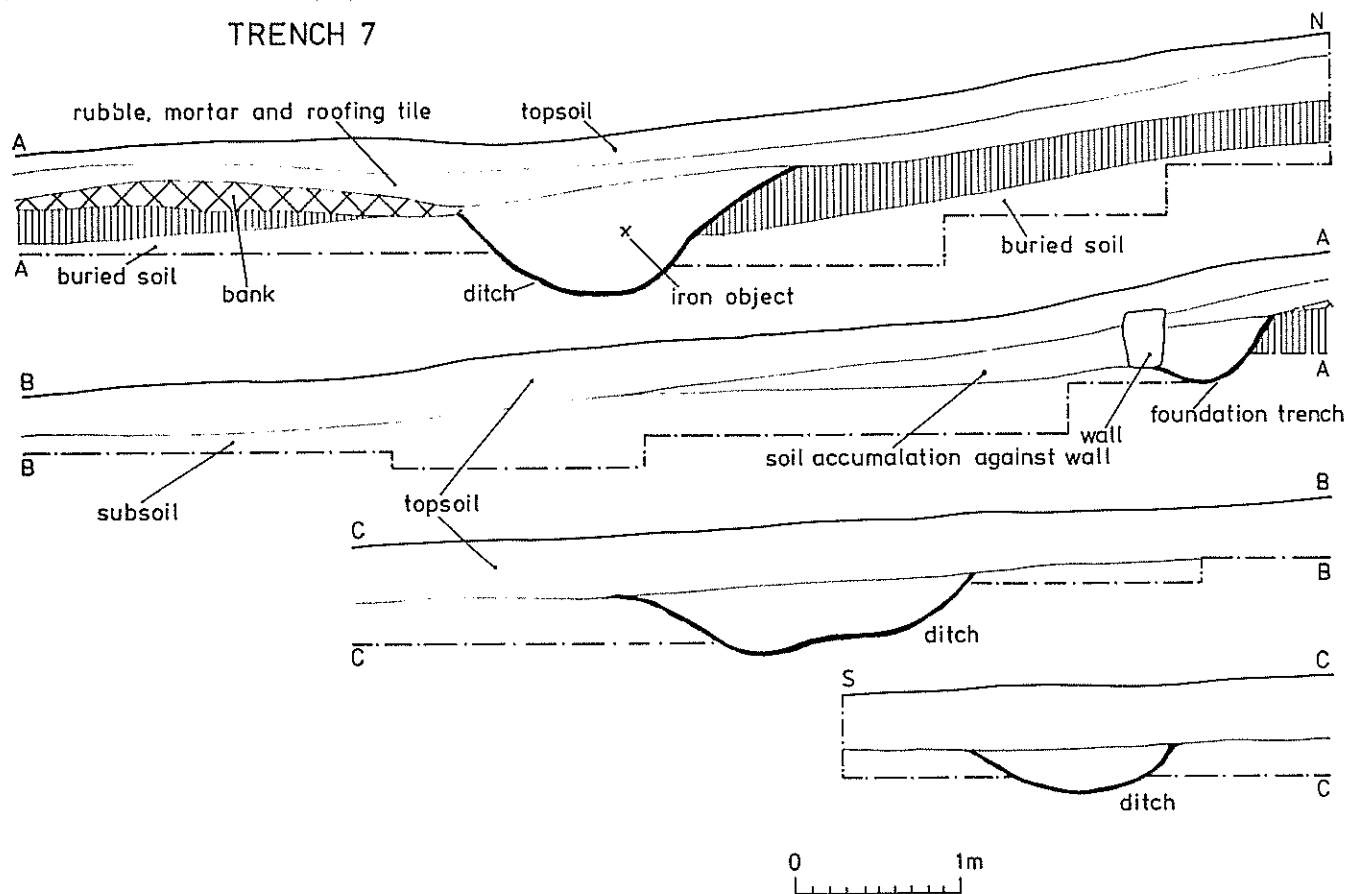
III



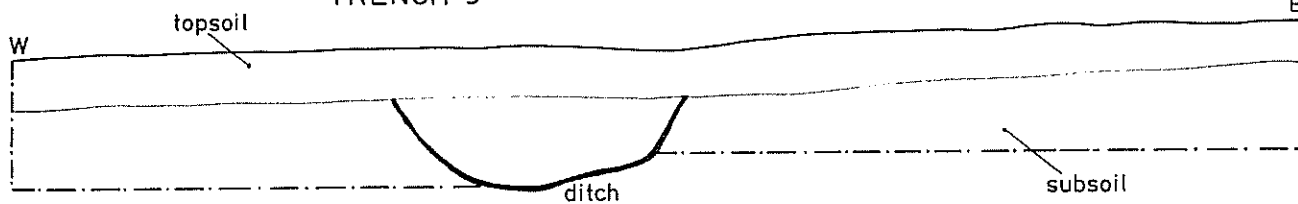
IV



# TRENCH 7



# TRENCH 9



# TRENCH 10

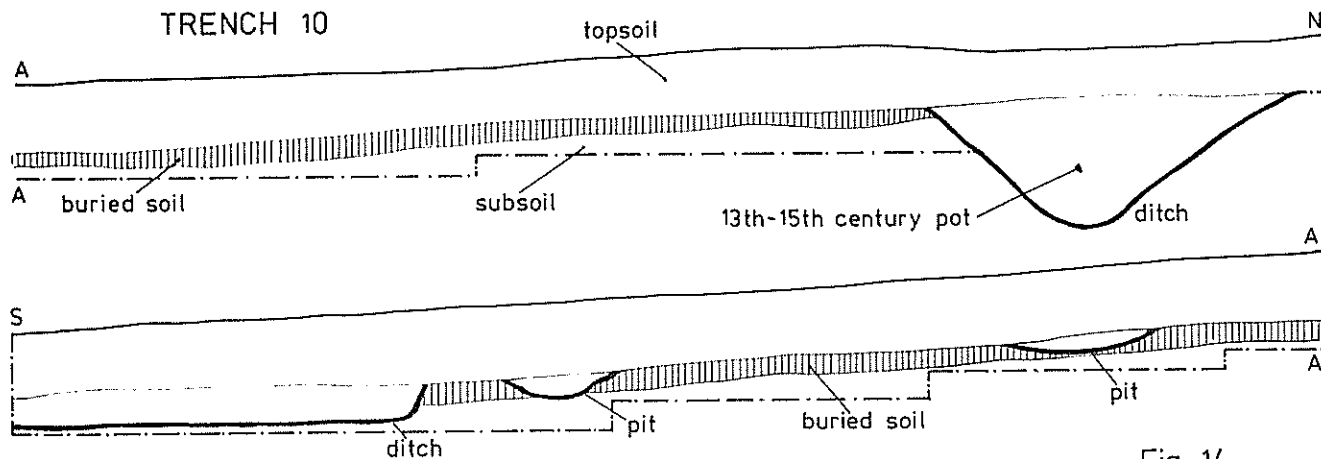
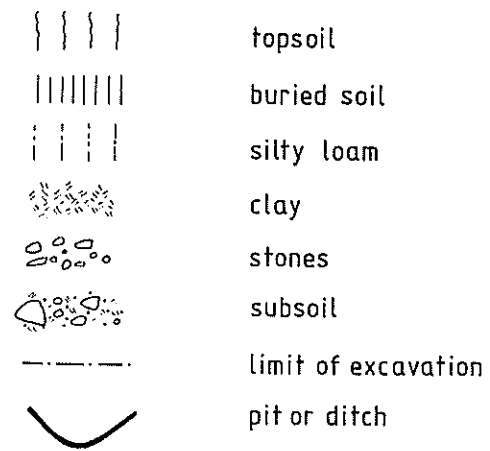


Fig. 14



## KEY TO SECTIONS

Fig. 15

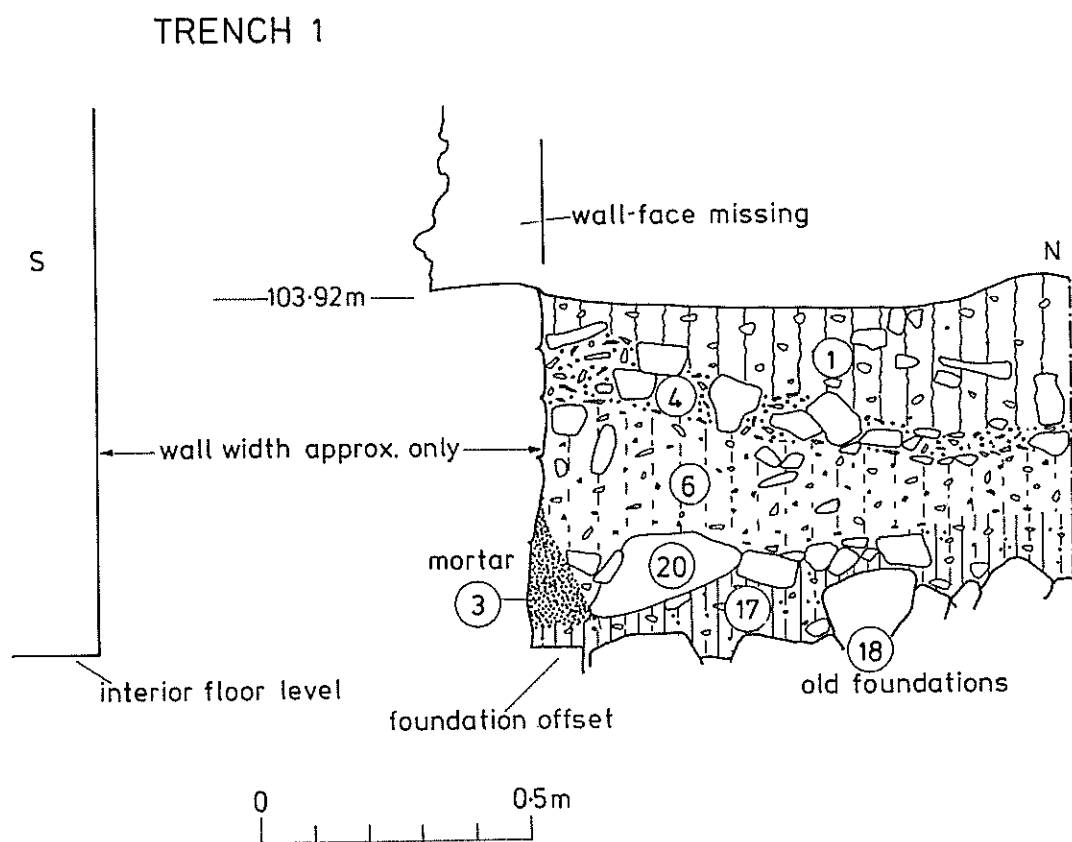


Fig. 16

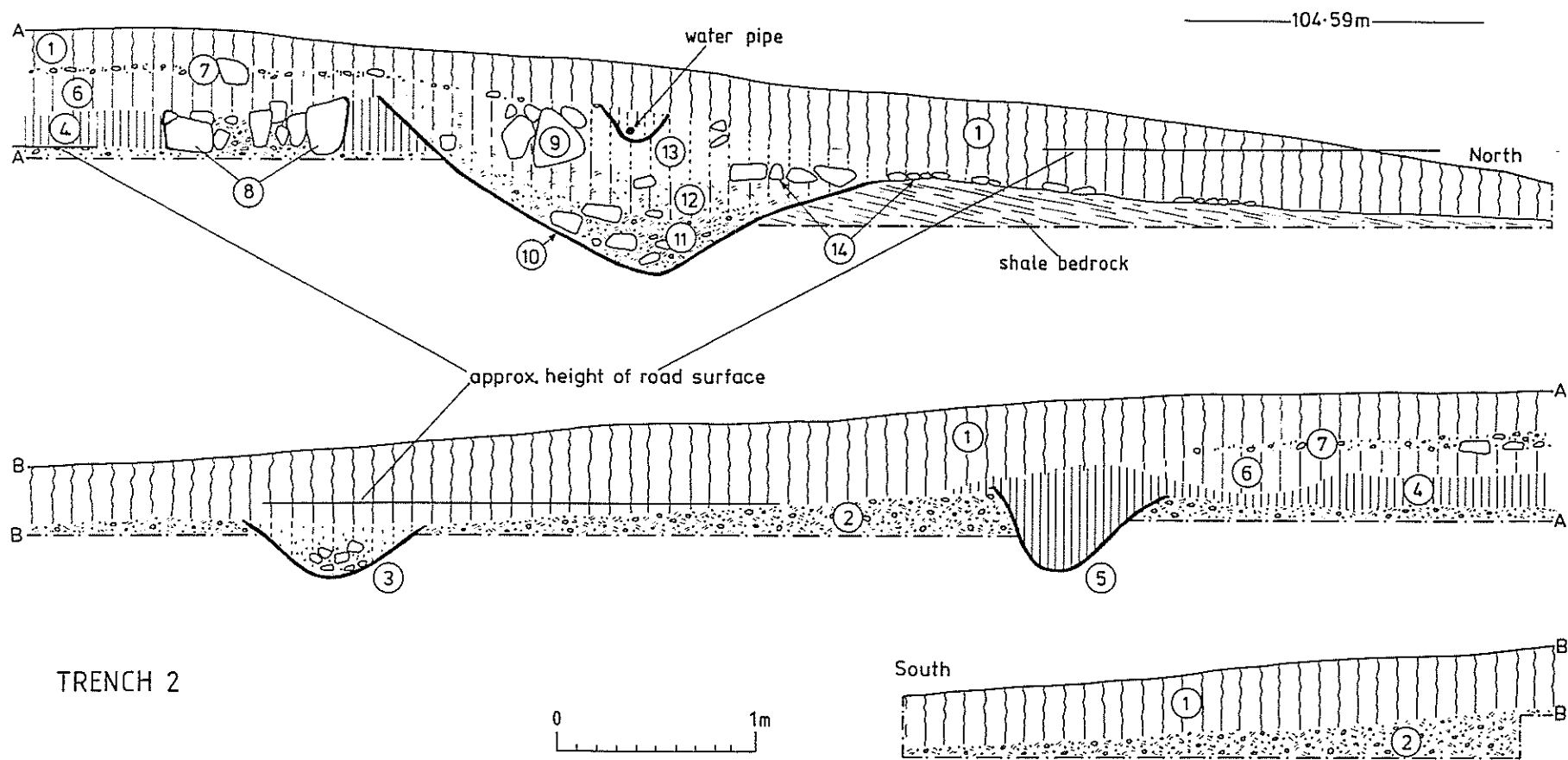
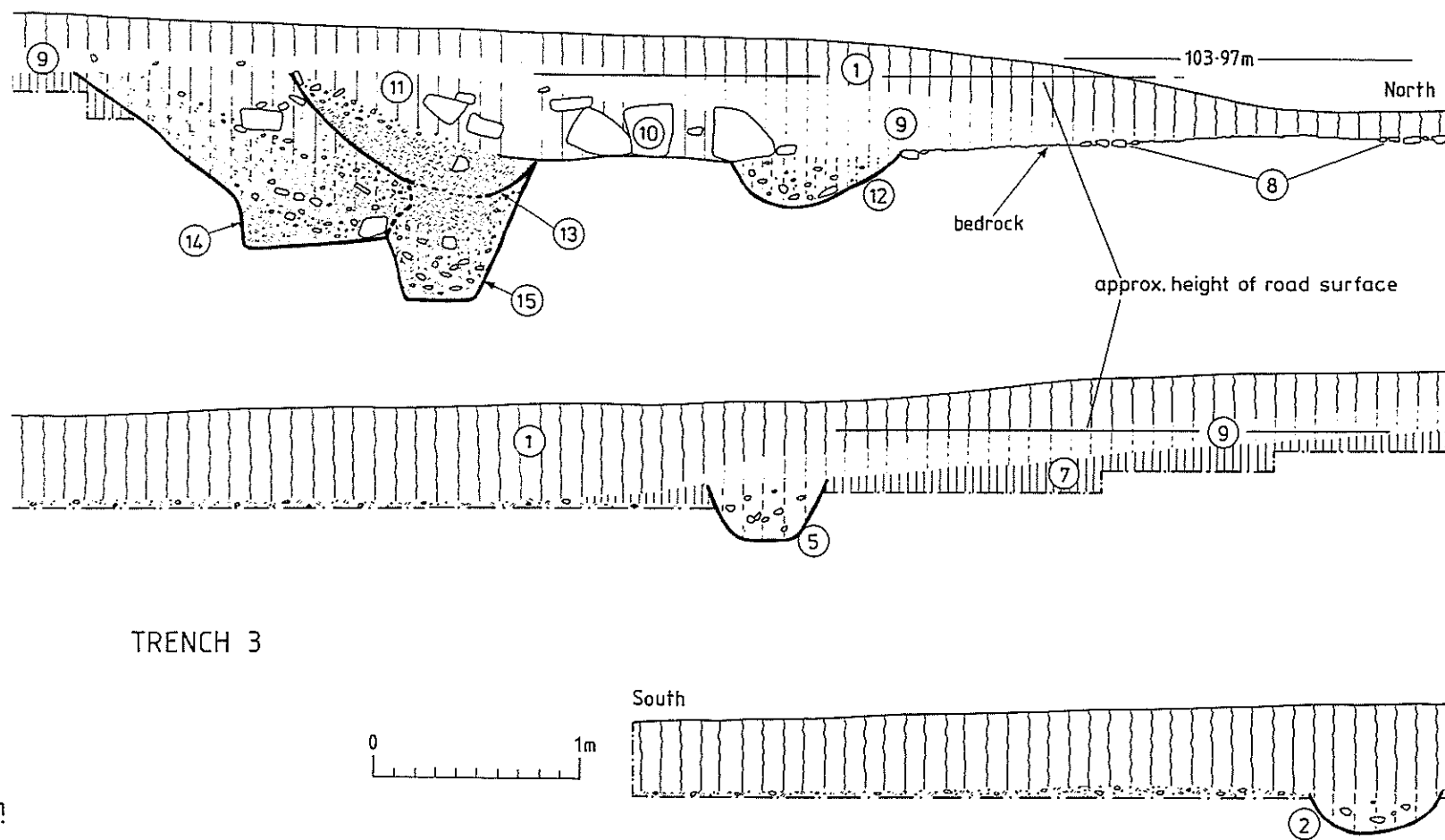


Fig. 17



TRENCH 3

Fig. 18



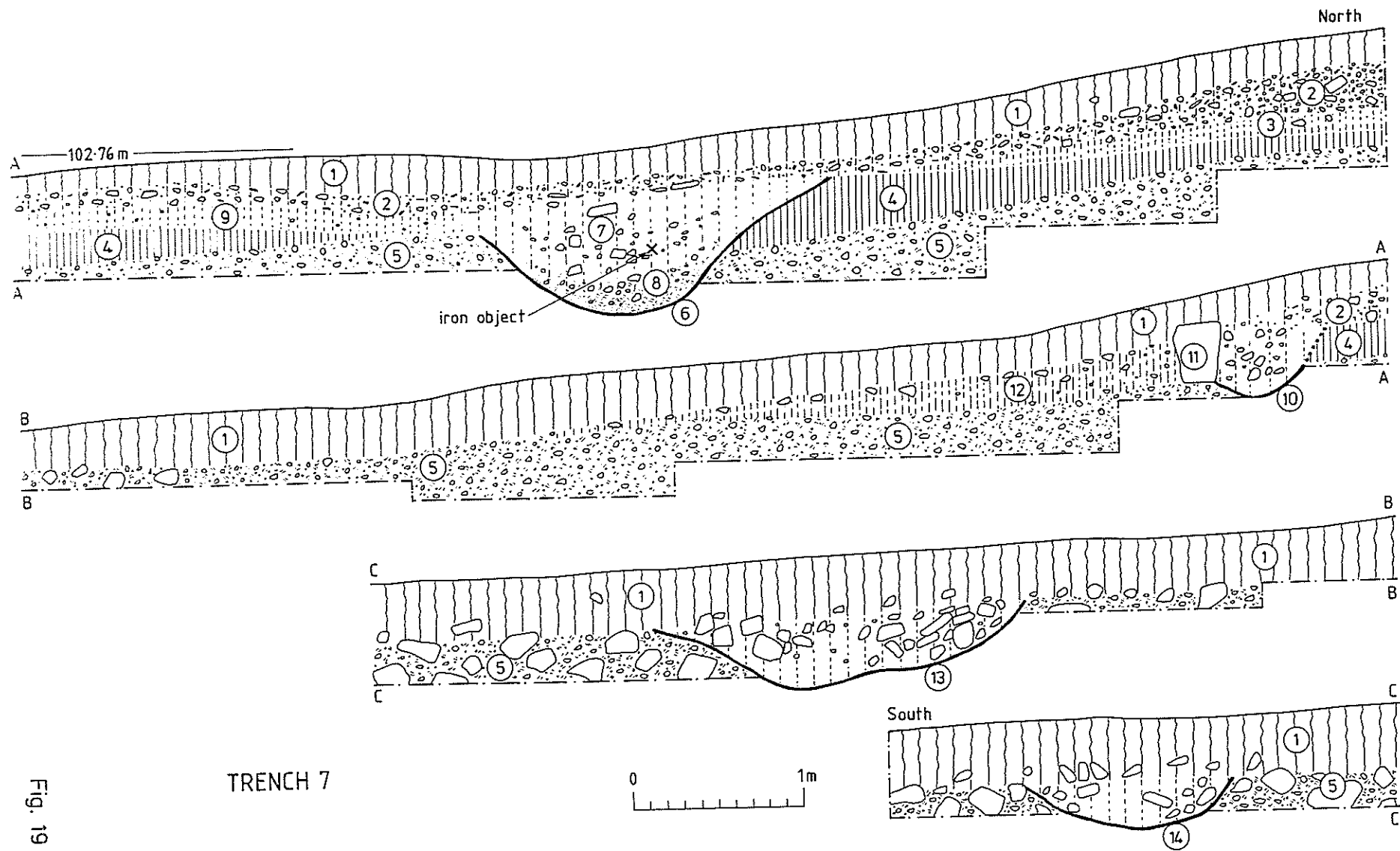


Fig. 19

TRENCH 7

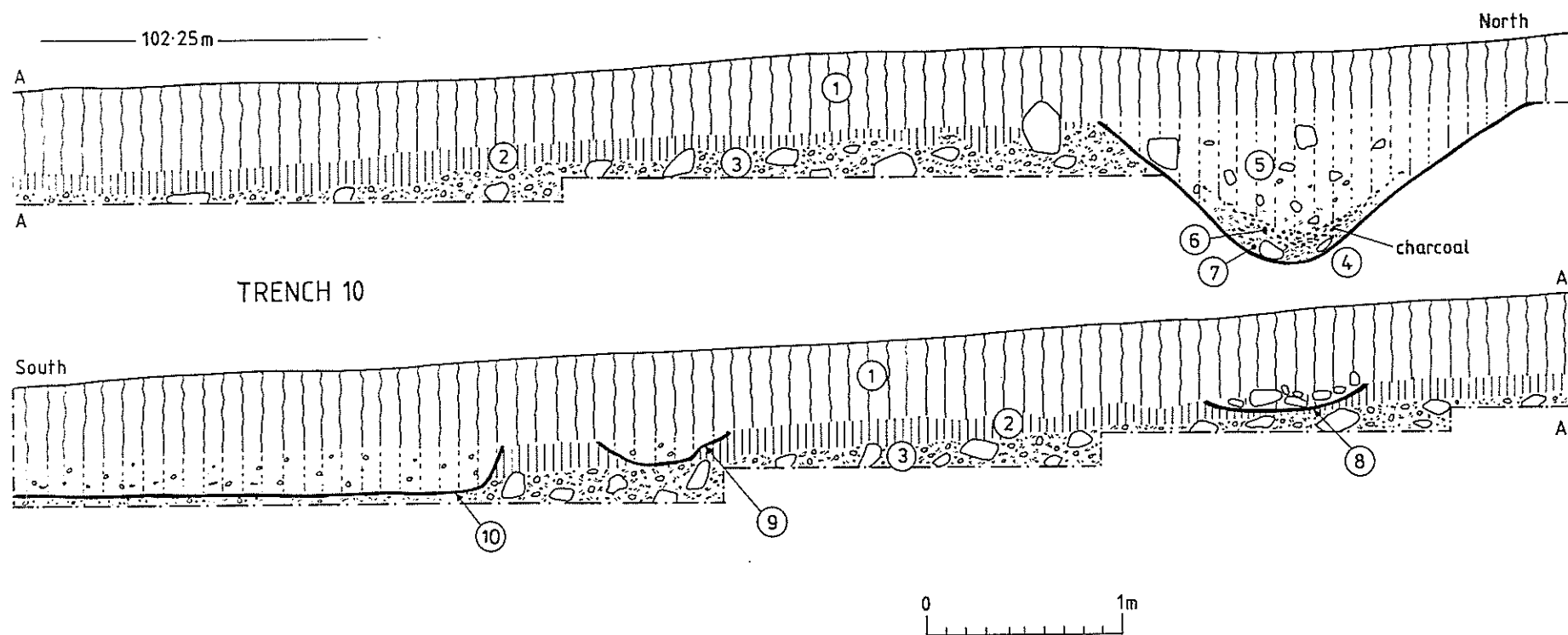


Fig. 20

