

An archaeological excavation at Church Farm, Alresford, Essex

October-November 2001

**on behalf of
Alresford Sand and Ballast Company Ltd**

CAT project ref.: 01/10c
HAMP code: ALCF 01
Colchester Museum accession code: 2001.213
NMR: TM 0625 2072 (c)



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CAT Report 166
December 2001

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1 Summary

Excavation of a 2100m² area at Church Farm, Alresford, Essex uncovered ditches and a large pit. Associated pottery dates from the 13th-16th centuries. No structures were identified, but the finds suggest that a medieval settlement was once located west of St Peter's Church.

2 Introduction (Figs 1 & 2)

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological evaluation with some excavation carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 31st October and the 20th November 2001 on two areas west of St Peter's Church, Alresford, Essex. Post-excavation work was carried out from the 15th to the 3rd December 2001.
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by Alresford Sand and Ballast Company Ltd, through the good offices of Mr Peter Orrock.
- 2.3 Proposed work was the regrading of a 3 hectare area on the north edge of the existing quarry in order to remove a steep drop between the quarry and the adjacent farmland. A brief for an archaeological fieldwalking survey of this 3 hectare area was issued by Mr Pat Connell (of the Essex County Council HAMP group). The fieldwalking survey was carried out by CAT in October 2001, but no significant concentrations of finds were identified (Brooks 2001). However, a watching brief by Pat Connell during the topsoil stripping identified medieval surface finds, spreads of oyster shell, and dark areas of earth which represent potential archaeological features. As a result of these observations, two areas were pinpointed for archaeological investigation. Area 1 was approximately 2100m² in extent (centred on NGR TM 0620 2080) and was located 400m west-north-west of St Peter's Church, and Area 2 was a much smaller area 125m west of the church (NGR TM 0635 2065).
- 2.5 Natural subsoil was sandy gravel with pockets of clay. Ground sloped from 25m¹ at the east end of Area 1 down to 18m at the west edge of the same area. Area 2 was at 18m.
- 2.6 The land use was arable, prior to the regrading.
- 2.7 This report follows the standards set out in the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site lies close to the ruined church of St Peter (Essex Heritage Conservation Record or EHCR 2382-2383). Any medieval church site in Essex has the potential to be the location of an early medieval and perhaps Saxon settlement. In some cases, the presence of Roman brick or tile in the church fabric shows that somewhere in the vicinity there had been a Roman building which was used as a source of materials when the church was built. In fact, a Roman villa site is known from 1000m to the south (EHCR 2115). There is evidence of Saxon activity, ie a probable Saxon barrow cemetery, 500m to the south-east (EHCR 1902-1908). The principal evidence of medieval activity is St Peter's Church itself.
- 3.2 A previous fieldwalking survey in 1994 (on the field now being quarried, to the south-west of the current site) revealed low densities of prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint, but with no concentrations. One piece of possible Roman tile was collected, but there was no medieval material (Brooks 1994).
- 3.3 The fieldwalking survey carried out this year (Brooks 2001) picked up only a small amount of material. The finds were predominantly made up of post-medieval pottery and peg-tile, but there were no concentrations of these.

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the excavation was to 'preserve by record' the details of any archaeological strata which would be destroyed by the regrading works.

¹ all heights are above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn)

5 Method

- 5.1 Area 1 had already been stripped by contractors. A further 100-300mm was taken off the surface under archaeological supervision (the deeper strip was at the west end of Area 1). More material was removed by machine from the western end on three separate occasions, in order to clarify the position of features obscured by modern disturbance. A total of approximately 500mm was therefore removed at the west end of Area 1. The length of the area stripped was 111m E-W and between 11m and 27m N-S. The stripping was carried out by a machine with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 5.2 Features exposed in Area 1 were subsequently excavated by hand. A machine cut was taken across the substantial Feature or F23.
- 5.3 In Area 2, three previously identified dark patches were cleaned up and two features were manually excavated.

6 Results

6.1 Area 1 (Figs 3-9)

The topsoil (Layer or L1) was stripped off to expose natural ground, orangey yellow sands and gravels at the eastern end and natural orange and light brown clay in the western end (L2). Most of the features described below were cut into the natural.

A large ditch (F1) ran for 44m across the eastern end of the site, and could be traced for a short distance beyond the edge of the stripped area. The three sections cut across it (sections or Sx 1-3) showed it to be 2-3m wide and 270-650mm deep. The fill was stony grey brown silty sand with peg-tile and post-medieval brick.

There were a number of small features in the central and eastern half of the site. F4 and F7 were shallow, sandy filled cuts containing charcoal and medieval pottery. There were no finds from F5. Whereas F4-F5 and F7 were probably genuine features, F8 was almost certainly a recent tyre-track. Other potential features were found to be remnant topsoil patches.

Apart from F1, the main features were at the western end of Area 1, where a spread of tile, medieval pot and abundant oyster shell had been seen in the watching brief. Hoe cleaning of this area revealed a group of short linear features, ie F6, F9-F10, F12-F16, F20 and F22, which are interpreted as being tyre-tracks made by dumper trucks and JCBs while stripping the site. The features all contained a grey brown sandy silt fill with abundant small to medium stones. In confirmation of their recent origin, fresh grass protruded out of the fill of F6, F12 and F20. These features were all between 800 and 900mm wide and between 1.5m and 3.5m long. F6, F9 and F20 contained medieval pot which must be derived from the underlying ditches.

Running underneath these modern features there were earlier ditches. The modern features were removed to reveal a probable continuous ditch F17/F19 running in a northerly direction. This was sectioned in two places (Sx 14-15). It was 350-450mm deep and 0.8-1.1m wide, and filled by a stony silty sand fill with one piece of Roman or medieval pot from its surface. It was heavily cut into by modern tyre-tracks (F9, F10, F6 and F12). It is possible that this ditch ran further north, to join with F21/F26 which was sectioned at Sx 17 and 22.

A linear spread of oyster shell running E-W towards the modern features was thought to indicate the line of a ditch. A section (Sx 10) was taken out of it close to the southern edge of Area 1. This confirmed that the oyster shells were in a ditch, mixed with brown silty sand fill. The ditch F11/F24/F25 was 250mm deep and 1m wide at this point. This oyster shell-filled ditch was traced to the west and another section was taken through it (Sx 18). Here the ditch was 1.1m wide and 350mm deep. Its fill was light brown sandy silt with stones and oyster shell and post-medieval pot. At this point the oyster shell petered out, but the line of the ditch could be followed running further west. Another section was taken out of it (Sx 16 and 19) which contained a similar fill to F24 but contained medieval pot and a flint flake. The ditch was 400mm deep at this point and 1.3m wide. It was cut into by F22 (a modern tyre-track).

The oyster shell-filled ditch F11/F24/F25 ran at right-angles towards the N-S ditch F17/F19 and its possible northern continuation F21/F26. Once modern features had been cleared off the top, the two ditch lines appeared to join in a T-junction.

Another feature (F13/F14) was sectioned twice. It was very shallow and contained a little oyster shell probably derived from the underlying F11/F24/F25. This feature was also cut by two other small cuts F15 and F16. None of these features contained dating evidence, and all are interpreted as being tyre-tracks.

To the north-east of the above ditches, a spread of peg-tile and oyster shell appeared to define a large, irregular pit measuring approximately 21m x 21m (F23). A small section was hand-dug through one side (Sx 21), and a large trench was dug through it with the machine, near the baulk (Sx 24). The upper fill of this 1.2m-deep feature consisted of dark brown sandy silt and contained peg-tile, oyster shell, animal bones, and medieval and post-medieval pottery. The post-medieval fabrics date the upper fill to perhaps the 16th century, with the medieval fabrics 21a, 55 and 45 being slightly residual or at least at the end of their date range. The bottom fill of the pit consisted of a light brown/grey sandy silt with fewer inclusions, which was quite different from the upper fill. The pit was cut into natural.

Running north-west to south-east into the south edge of F23 was another ditch (F27/F28) which was filled with dark grey-brown clayey silt. Two sections were taken out of it (Sx 20 and 23) and it was found to be 300mm deep and 1m wide. This ditch contained pottery fabrics 40, 20 and 21a. A group date for this pottery would be 16th century.

Three potential features at the western end and three at the eastern end of Area 1 were not given feature numbers when they were found to be remnant topsoil patches.

The spoil-heaps were metal-detected at the end of the excavation, but only 4 nails were retrieved.

6.2 Area 2 (Figs 5 and 7)

There were three potential areas to investigate here. Two of them proved to be spurious. The third was actually two features (F2, F3). F2 was a pit, 300mm deep, with a grey-brown silt fill overlying a blackish grey sandy silt with charcoal. This had been truncated by the track of a vehicle and it had also been cut into by a metal detectorist. F2 was cut by F3, a small pit containing a blackish sandy silt with charcoal which had also been truncated by a tyre-track. There was a large group of fabric 20 pottery from F2 which dates from AD 1250-1400.

7 Finds (all finds are from Area 1 unless otherwise stated)

7.1 The medieval and later pottery by Howard Brooks

This is a small group of 87 sherds weighing 1319 g, described and quantified in the table below. The group is dominated by fabric 20 medieval sandy grey wares which form 45% of the group by weight². Other dominant fabrics are fabric 21a Colchester-type ware (28% by weight) and fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE (19% by weight). Together these fabrics suggest occupation from the 13th century until a terminal date of either the 16th or 17th century. The only unusual material is of two sherds of pottery with an oxidised surface over a core which is a sandwich of lighter and darker grey tones. They are unglazed, and they show some surface white paint, possibly a decoration. This fabric, not seen before by this writer, is strikingly close to fabric 55 Guys-type ware, as described by Cotter (Cotter 2000), and is identified as such here. Fabric 55 dates to the 16th century, which is consistent with the date of the fill from which it was recovered.

² all fabrics after Cotter 2000

| Bag no | Context | Qt (g) | Wt (g) | Description | Date |
|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|--|---------------------------|
| 01 | u/s | 1 | 72 | Handle fragment, fabric 21 | 13th-16th cent |
| 07 | F2, Area 2 | 5 | 63 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 08 | F2, Area 2 | 7 | 97 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 09 | u/s Area 2 | 1 | 7 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 10 | F4 | 2 | 12 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 11 | F6 | 1 | 4 | Fabric 21a Colchester-type ware | 15th-16th cent |
| 11 | F6 | 2 | 23 | Grey ware sherds | Roman or medieval |
| 15 | F9 | 1 | 11 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware jug rim | 13th-14th cent |
| 16 | u/s finds near F11 | 1 | 4 | Fabric 40 PMRE | post-medieval |
| 16 | u/s finds near F11 | 2 | 10 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 16 | u/s finds near F11 | 1 | 6 | Fabric 22 Hedingham ware | 13th cent |
| 16 | u/s finds near F11 | 1 | 20 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware rim of cooking pot | 13th-14th cent |
| 18 | u/s west Area 1 | 12 | 191 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware, including a rim which is probably a Mile End product | 13th-14th cent |
| 18 | u/s west Area 1 | 2 | 56 | sherds of fabric 21a, Colchester-type ware | 15th-16th cent |
| 18 | u/s west Area 1 | 6 | 108 | Fabric 40 PMRE | post-medieval |
| 26 | surface of F19 | 1 | 3 | Grey ware | Roman or medieval |
| 27 | F20 | 1 | 6 | Colchester-type ware green-glazed jug fragment | 13th-15th century |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 2 | 110 | Fabric 40 PMRE, including bowl rim | rim is 16th century |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 1 | 7 | Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, glazed | 16th-18th cent |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 2 | 10 | Grey ware sherds | Roman or medieval |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 1 | 19 | Fabric 45 stoneware, probably fabric 45a Langerwehe | late 14th-early 15th cent |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 4 | 12 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware | 13th-14th cent |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 1 | 7 | Grey ware bowl rim | ?Roman |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 1 | 46 | Fabric 21 or 21a, fragment of a handle | 13th-16th cent |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 8 | 185 | Fabric 21a Colchester-type ware, including jug body sherd | some 15th-16th cent |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 2 | 15 | Guys-type ware | 16th cent |
| 30 | F23, upper fill | 2 | 17 | Fabric 20 grey ware sherds, burnt | 13th-14th cent |
| 30 | F24 | 1 | 3 | Fabric 40 PMRE sherd | post-medieval |
| 31 | F25 | 2 | 57 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware, including a rim | rim is 13th-14th cent |
| 32 | F27 | 3 | 30 | Fabric 40 PMRE | 16th-18th cent |
| 32 | F27 | 8 | 101 | Fabric 20 medieval grey ware, including 1 rim | 13th-14th cent |
| 33 | F28 | 2 | 7 | Fabric 21 sandy orange ware | 13th-16th century |

7.2 Other finds list (not pottery) by Howard Brooks

| Bag no | Context | Wt (g) | Description | Date | Dis-card? |
|--------|---|--------|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| 02 | F1, Sx 1 | 212 | tile fragment | undated | Y |
| 03 | Surface find 1.5m west of F1, Sx1 | 60 | peg-tile | medieval to post medieval | Y |
| 04 | F1, Sx 2 | 139 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 04 | F1, Sx 2 | 36 | 5 brick or tile fragments | post-medieval | Y |
| 05 | F3, Area 2 | 59 | 4 oyster shells | undated | Y |
| 06 | F2, Area 2 | 5 | burnt peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 06 | F2, Area 2 | 17 | 6 daub fragments | undated | Y |
| 07 | F2, Area 2 | 14 | 2 indeterminate brick or tile scraps | undated | Y |
| 08 | F2, Area 2 | 1 | 1 fragment of animal bone | undated | Y |
| 12 | F7 | 9 | burnt flint fragments | undated | |
| 13 | F8 | 6 | fragment of brick or tile | post-medieval | Y |
| 16 | u/s finds from near F11 | 86 | <i>imbrex</i> fragment | Roman | |
| 16 | u/s finds from near F11 | 6 | animal tooth | undated | |
| 16 | u/s finds from near F11 | 34 | oyster shell | undated | Y |
| 16 | u/s finds from near F11 | 394 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 17 | L1 - slot through oyster shell concentration between F11 and F23 Sx 1 | 225 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 17 | L1 - slot through oyster shell concentration between F11 and F23 Sx 1 | 2 | flint flake | prehistoric | |
| 17 | L1 - slot through oyster shell concentration between F11 and F23 Sx 1 | 9 | animal bone, rib fragment | undated | Y |
| 17 | L1 - slot through oyster shell concentration between F11 and F23 Sx 1 | 12 | brick or tile fragment with glaze | post-medieval | Y |
| 18 | u/s west end Area 1 | 3 | Fe nail | undated | |
| 18 | u/s west end Area 1 | 7 | burnt flint | undated | |
| 18 | u/s west end Area 1 | 14 | animal bone | undated | Y |
| 18 | u/s west end Area 1 | 617 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 19 | F1, Sx 3, upper fill | 7 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 20 | F1, Sx 3, lower fill | 303 | brick, thickness 50mm | post-medieval | Y |
| 23 | F18 | 7 | animal bone fragment | undated | Y |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 774 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 346 | <i>Bos?</i> jaw and other animal bones | undated | |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 84 | 1 winkle and 3 oyster shells | undated | Y |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 2 | clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment, diameter 7mm and diameter of hole 1.5mm | post-medieval | |
| 29 | F23, upper fill | 20 | 2 tile slivers | Roman or medieval | |
| 30 | F23, upper fill | 17 | 2 fabric 20 grey ware sherds, burnt | medieval | |
| 30 | F23, upper fill | 8 | 1 cockle shell and 1 oyster shell | undated | Y |
| 31 | F25 | 6 | struck flint | prehistoric | |
| 32 | F27 | 21 | 1 oyster shell, 1 winkle and 1 cockle shell | undated | Y |
| 32 | F27 | 14 | brick fragment | post-medieval | Y |
| 32 | F27 | 8 | piece of peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 4 | indeterminate Fe lump, possible nail | undated | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 3 | animal bone, jaw fragment | undated | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 24 | 3 oyster shells, 1 cockle shell fragment | undated | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 10 | undated tile fragment | undated | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 18 | Roman tile fragment | Roman | Y |
| 33 | F28 | 107 | peg-tile | medieval to post-medieval | Y |
| 34 | u/s west end Area 1 | 12 | 4 Fe nails | undated | Y |

8 Discussion

Area 1 coincided with the west side of the 2001 fieldwalking area, yet no medieval finds were collected in that survey. The reason is that the area ploughed up for the survey did not go quite as far west as it might have done, and the fieldwalking grid was therefore not over the relevant spot. By contrast, the Area 2 finds coincide precisely with surface finds of medieval pottery from the survey (box A37M).

A large ditch F1 crossed the east end of the site. This was probably a field boundary, and is dated by peg-tile and brick fragments to the post-medieval period. The absence of any pottery or other debris from its fill would suggest that it was not close to a centre of occupation, which may have been closer to the other three ditch lines on the west end of Area 1. These did contain pottery and other debris such as oyster shells which indicate a human presence nearby. The ditches in question perhaps define the junction of two paddocks.

There was no clear evidence of structures. There were a number of very small cuts which are either genuine medieval features or modern tyre-tracks. If there were structural features here, they may have been truncated by ploughing and/or by the original site stripping.

The largest excavated feature was F23, probably a large sand-quarry pit. The date range of the finds might suggest this was first dug in the 13th-14th centuries, but not completely filled in until the 16th century. The abundant peg-tile in its fill may indicate the presence of a building nearby. A ditch running into this pit is similarly dated.

Pit F2 in Area 2 contained charcoal and a sizeable amount of medieval pottery plus one piece of burnt peg-tile and fragments. This pit was more charcoally and relatively more finds-rich than any other site features. It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that it was close to the centre of medieval occupation.

The excavated evidence indicates a medieval settlement to the west and north-west of St Peter's Church, dating to the 13th or 14th century. There are no particularly late fabrics here, so the end of occupation was probably the 16th or (less likely) the 17th century. The post-medieval pottery was mainly found on the surface or in the upper fill of pit F23, and it therefore may relate to the destruction of the site and the infilling of the ditches.

There is evidence of limited activity here before the medieval period. The earliest finds are two presumed prehistoric flints, one piece of Roman roof-tile, and several pieces of grey ware pottery which could be Roman or medieval. The nearby Roman villa is probably the source of the Roman material.

9 Archive deposition

The finds and paper record from this work are currently held at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex but will be deposited with a copy of this report at Colchester Museum under accession code 2001.213 within 2 months of completion of the publication summary on the project. It is proposed to offer a summary for publication in *Essex Archaeology and History*.

10 References

- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
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| Brooks, H | 2001 | An archaeological fieldwalking evaluation at Church Farm, Alresford, Essex, unpublished CAT Report 162 |
| Cotter, John | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7, Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> |

11 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation:

- Peter Orrock, Alresford Sand and Ballast Company Ltd
- Pat Connell, Archaeological Officer for the Essex County Council HAMP group
- Prior Contractors

12 Site data
12.1 Context list

| Context | Description | Finds bags | Finds date | Context date |
|---------|---|------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| F1 | Ditch | 2-4, 19-20 | post-medieval | post-medieval |
| F2 | Pit | 6-8 | 13th-14th cent | 13th-14th cent |
| F3 | Pit | 5 | - | medieval |
| F4 | Small cut | 10 | 13th-14th cent | 13th-14th century |
| F5 | Small cut | | | 13th-14th century |
| F6 | Tyre-track | | | 2001 |
| F7 | Small cut | 12 | - | 13th-14th cent or 2001 |
| F8 | Tyre-track | 13 | - | 2001 |
| F9 | Tyre-track | 15 | - | 2001 |
| F10 | Tyre-track | 14 | - | 2001 |
| F11 | Ditch | | | post-medieval |
| F12 | Tyre-track | 21 | - | 2001 |
| F13 | Tyre-track | | | 2001 |
| F14 | Tyre-track | | | 2001 |
| F15 | Tyre-track | 25 | - | 2001 |
| F16 | Tyre-track | | | 2001 |
| F17 | Ditch | 24 | - | 13th-14th century |
| F18 | Tyre-track | 23 | - | 2001 |
| F19 | Ditch = F17 | 26 | - | 13th-14th century |
| F20 | Tyre-track | 27 | - | 2001 |
| F21 | Ditch = F17 | 28 | - | 13th-14th century |
| F22 | Tyre-track | | | 2001 |
| F23 | Large pit | 29 | 13th-16th cent | post-medieval |
| F24 | Ditch = F11 | 30 | 16th-18th cent | post-medieval |
| F25 | Ditch = F21 | 31 | 13th-14th cent | 13th-14th century |
| F26 | Ditch = F21 | | | 13th-14th century |
| F27 | Ditch | 32 | 16th-18th cent | post-medieval |
| F28 | Ditch | 33 | 13th-16th cent | post-medieval |
| L1 | Machine-cleared material, mainly topsoil (Area 1) | | | modern |
| L2 | Natural sand or clay | | | glacial |
| L3 | Redeposited sand and gravel | | | 2001 |
| L4 | Topsoil over Area 2 | | | post-medieval to modern |

12.2 Soil descriptions

| Context | Description |
|---------|--|
| F1 | loose grey/brown silty sand with common small-medium pebbles |
| F2 | soft grey/brown silt with common medium pebbles |
| F3 | soft, very dark grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and occasional small pebbles |
| F4 | loose grey silty sand with common small angular pebbles and charcoal flecks |
| F5 | charcoal and sand with rare angular stones |
| F6 | wet grey brown sandy silt with stones; grass in upper fill |
| F7 | grey/brown sand with common small-medium pebbles, charcoal flecks |
| F8 | greyish brown silty sand with small pebbles |
| F9 | darkish grey/brown sandy silt with small pebbles |
| F10 | darkish grey/brown sandy silt with small pebbles |
| F11 | lower fill, brown sand with scallop shells; upper fill, oyster shells mixed in with brown silty sand |
| F12 | darkish grey/brown sandy silt with common small pebbles |
| F13 | sandy silt with occasional stones and oyster shells |
| F14 | sandy silt with occasional stones and oyster shells |
| F15 | brown sandy silt |
| F16 | brown sandy silt |
| F17 | light brown sandy silt with occasional small stones |
| F19 | grey/brown silty sand with common small pebbles |
| F20 | stony grey brown silty sand |
| F21 | grey brown stony silty sand |
| F22 | grey brown stony silty sand |
| F23 | upper, dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones; lower, light brown/grey sandy silt |
| F24 | abundant oyster shells in a light brown sandy silt |
| F25 | light brown sandy silt |
| F26 | mid brown sandy silt |
| F27 | dark grey/brown sandy silt |
| F28 | very wet dark grey brown clay silt |
| L1 | mid brown sandy silt with abundant large and small stones |
| L2 | natural orange sand with some gravel, yellow or darker in places, clay in the west |
| L3 | redeposited sand and gravel |
| L4 | grey sandy silt |

Kate Orr and Howard Brooks, December 2001

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Date: 12.12.01



Plate 1 Area 1: general site shot, looking north-west.



Plate 2 Area 2: general location, looking east.

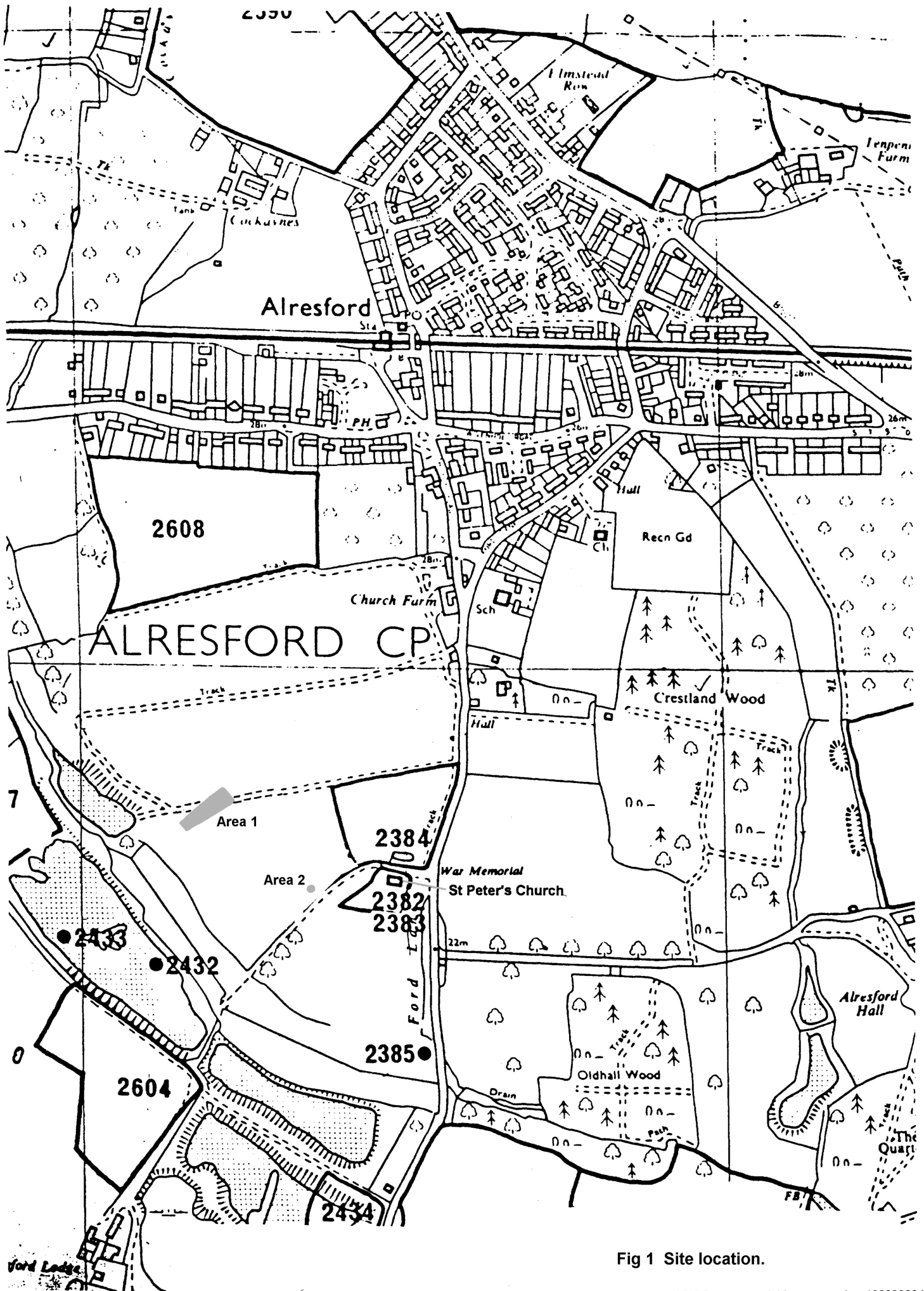


Fig 1 Site location.

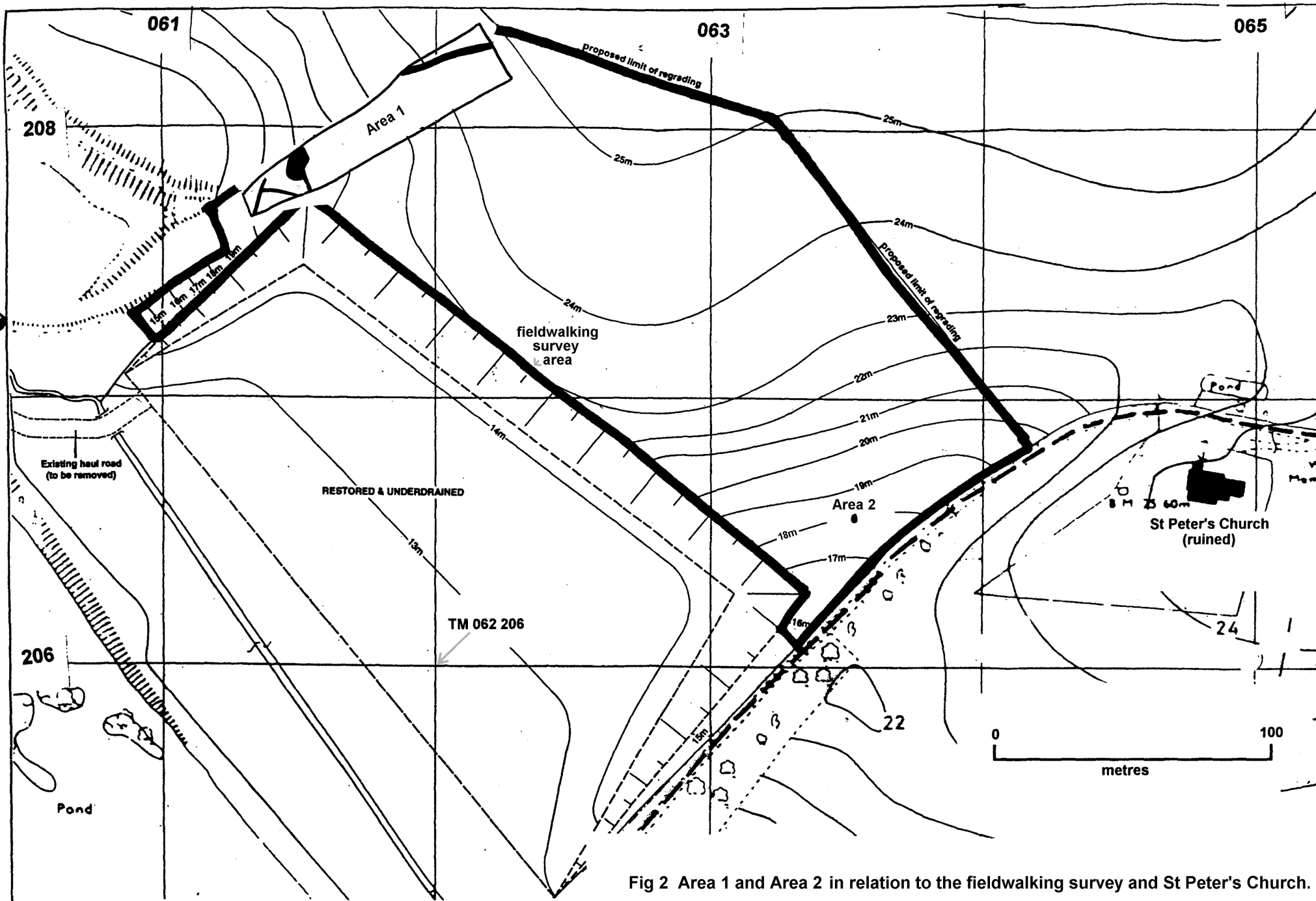


Fig 2 Area 1 and Area 2 in relation to the fieldwalking survey and St Peter's Church.

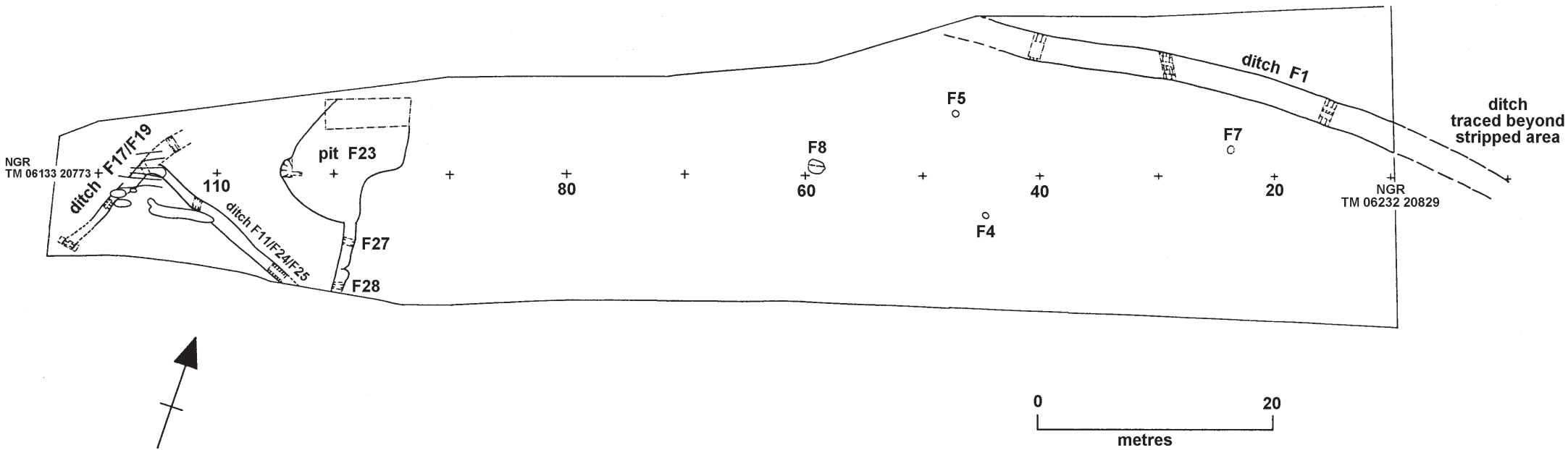


Fig 3 Area 1: overall plan.

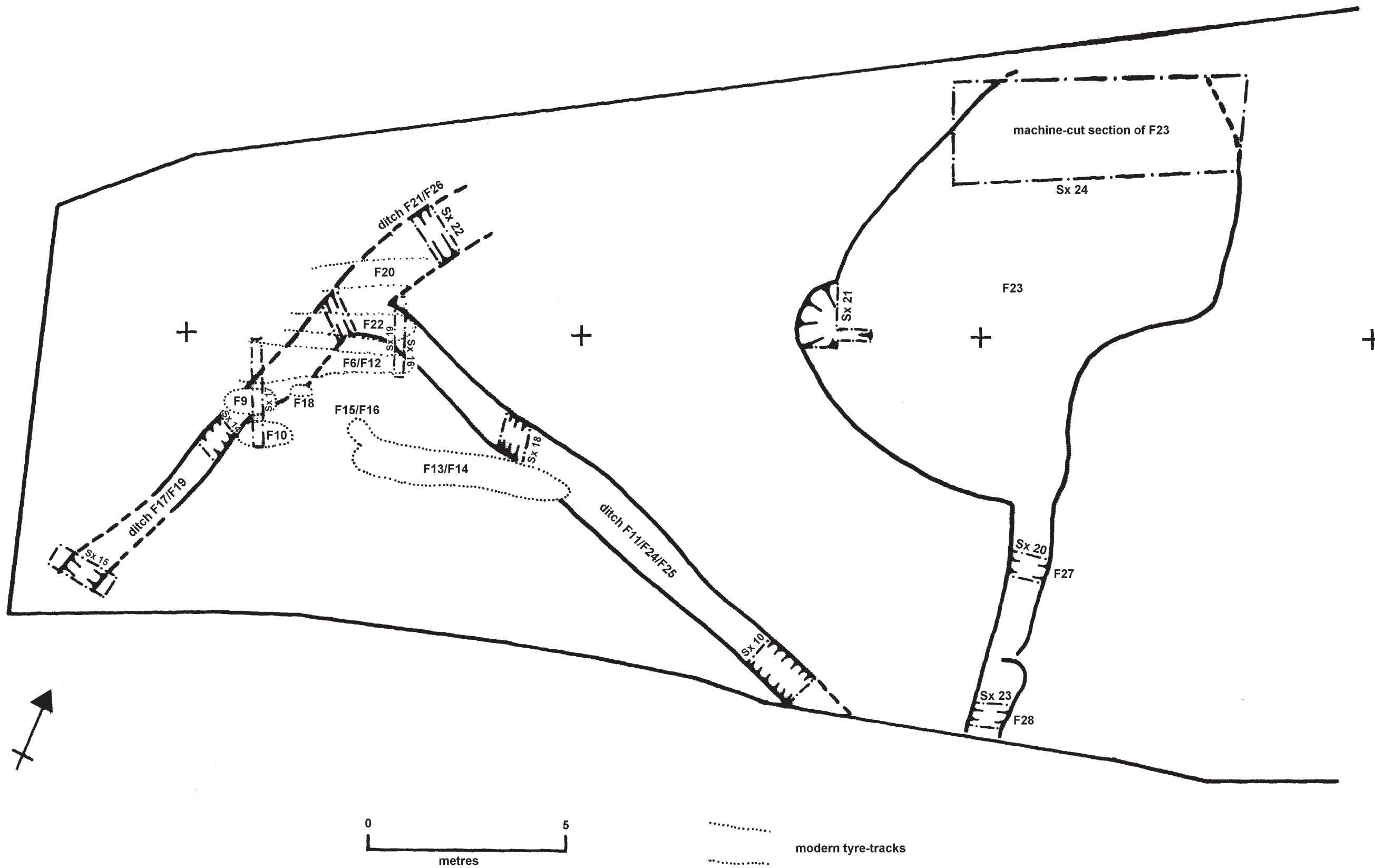


Fig 4 Area 1: west end.

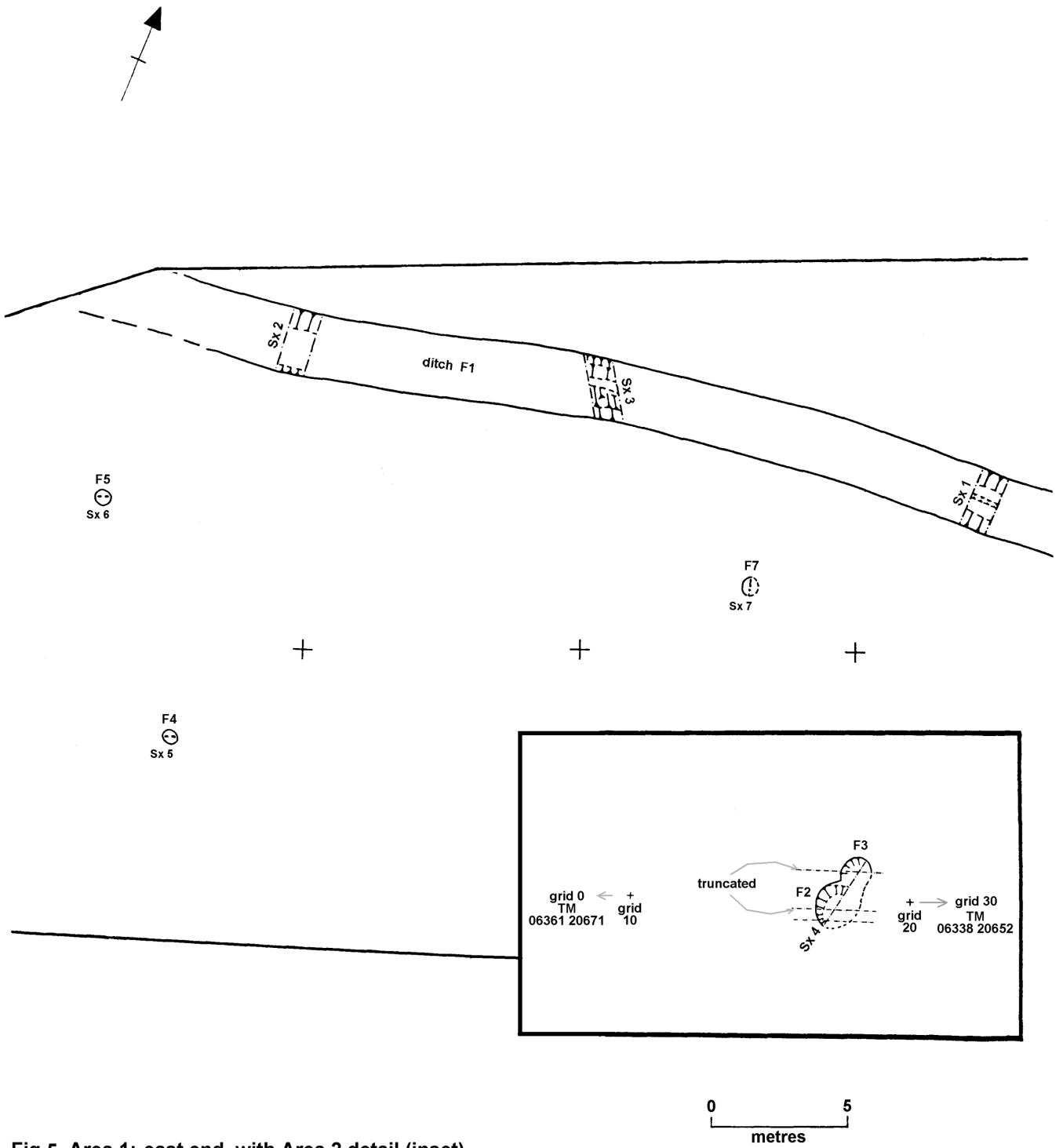


Fig 5 Area 1: east end, with Area 2 detail (inset).

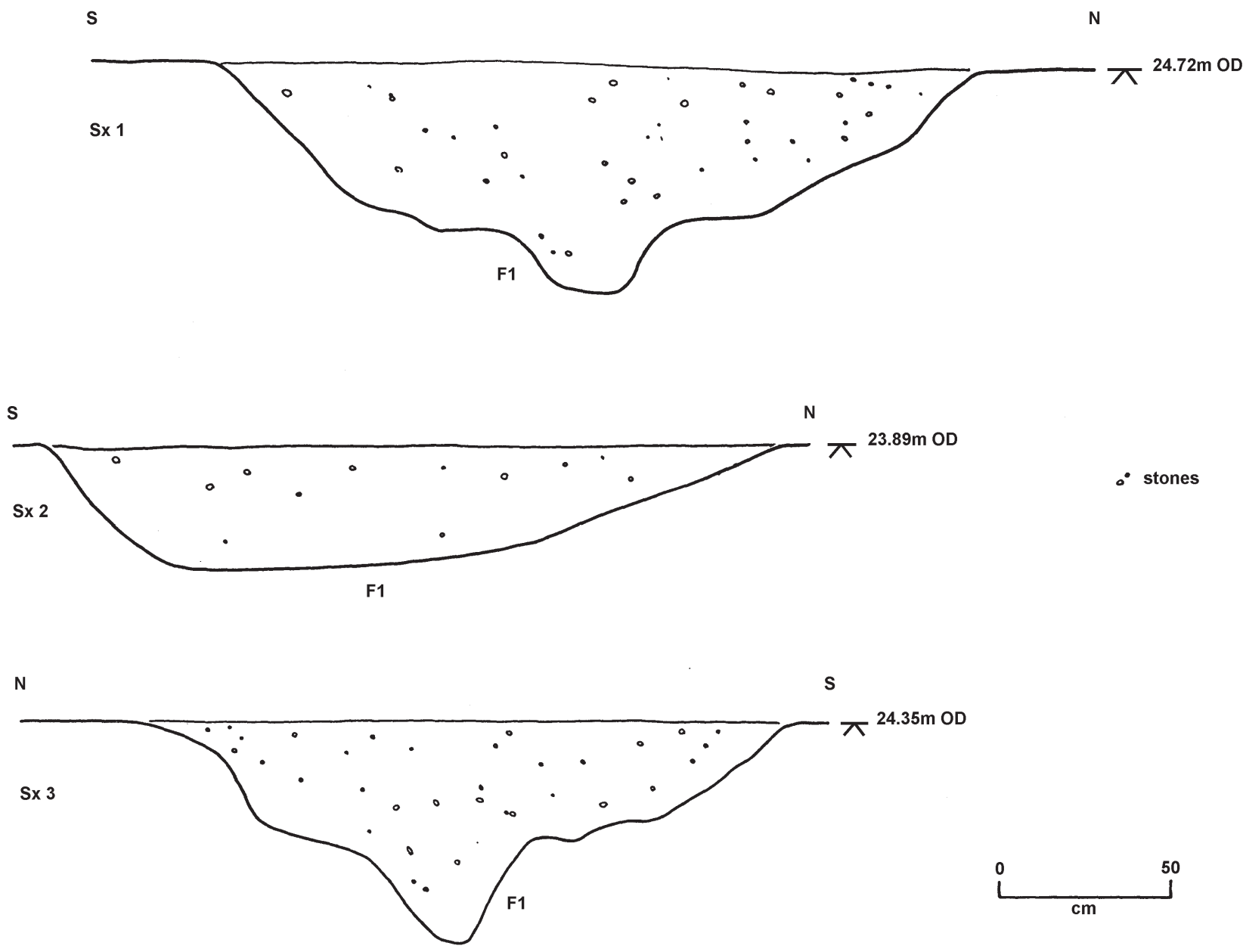


Fig 6 Sections 1-3 (F1).

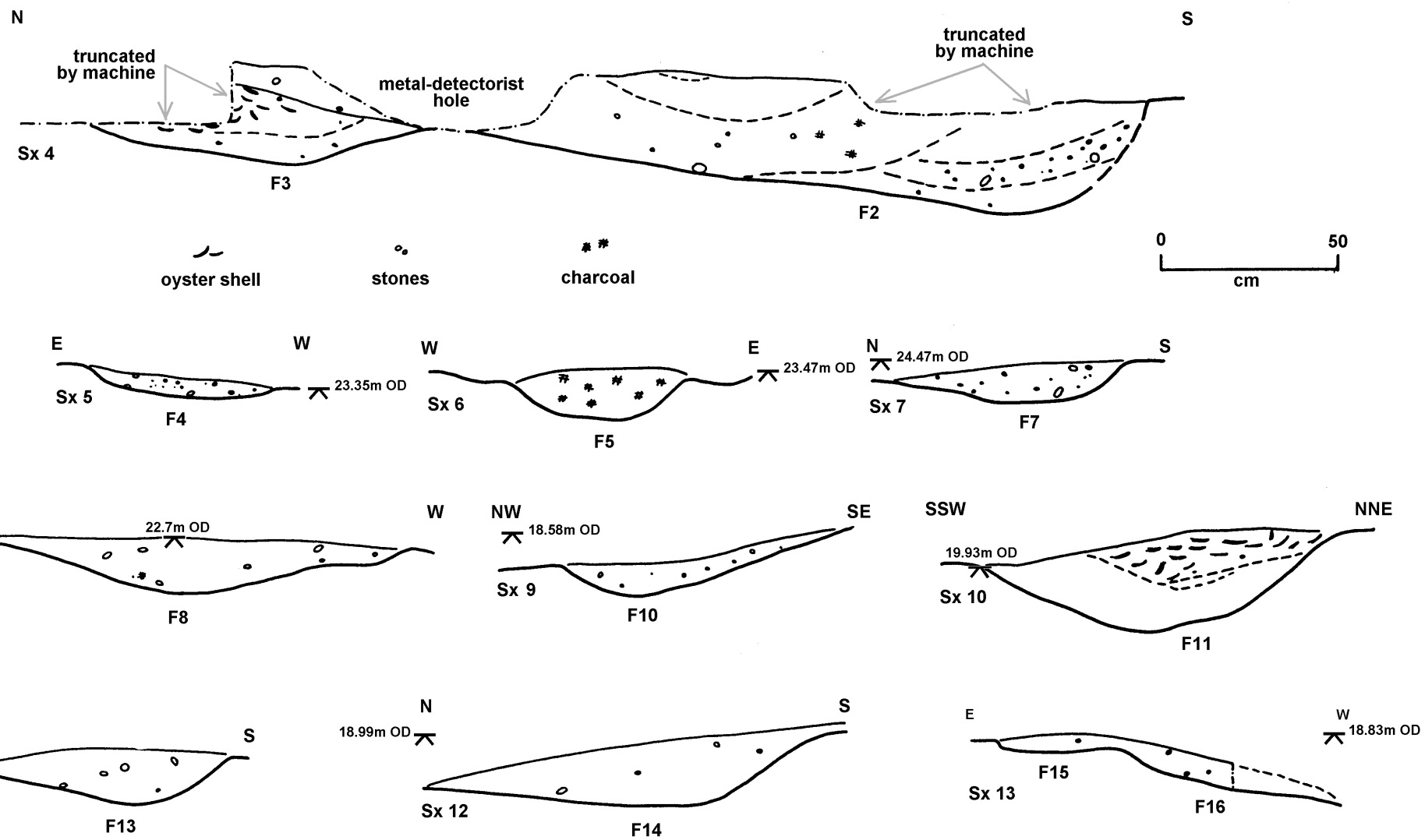


Fig 7 Sections 4-13 (F2-F5, F7-F8, F10-F11, F13-F16).

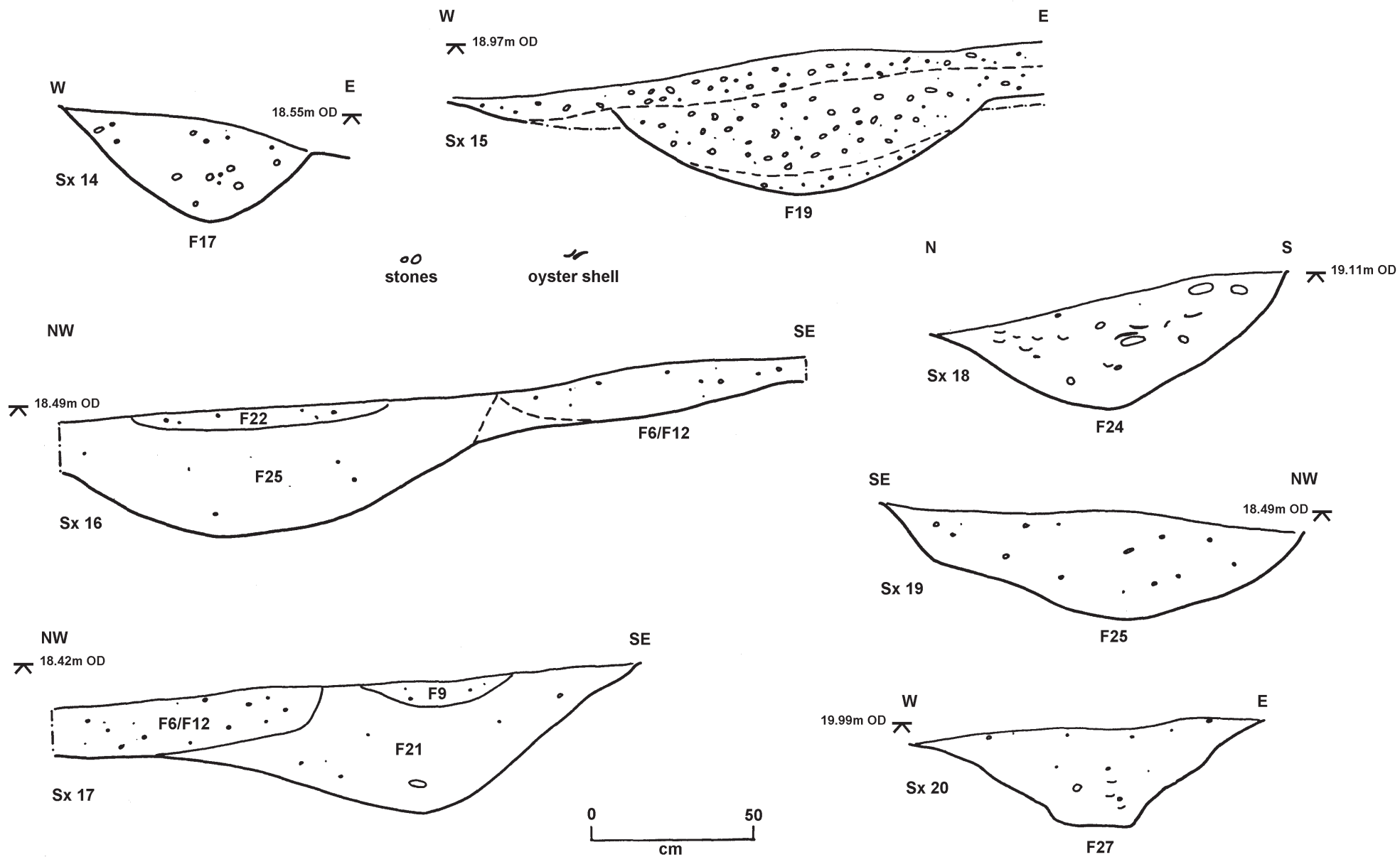


Fig 8 Sections 14-20 (F6/F12, F9, F17, F19, F21-F22, F24, F25, F27).

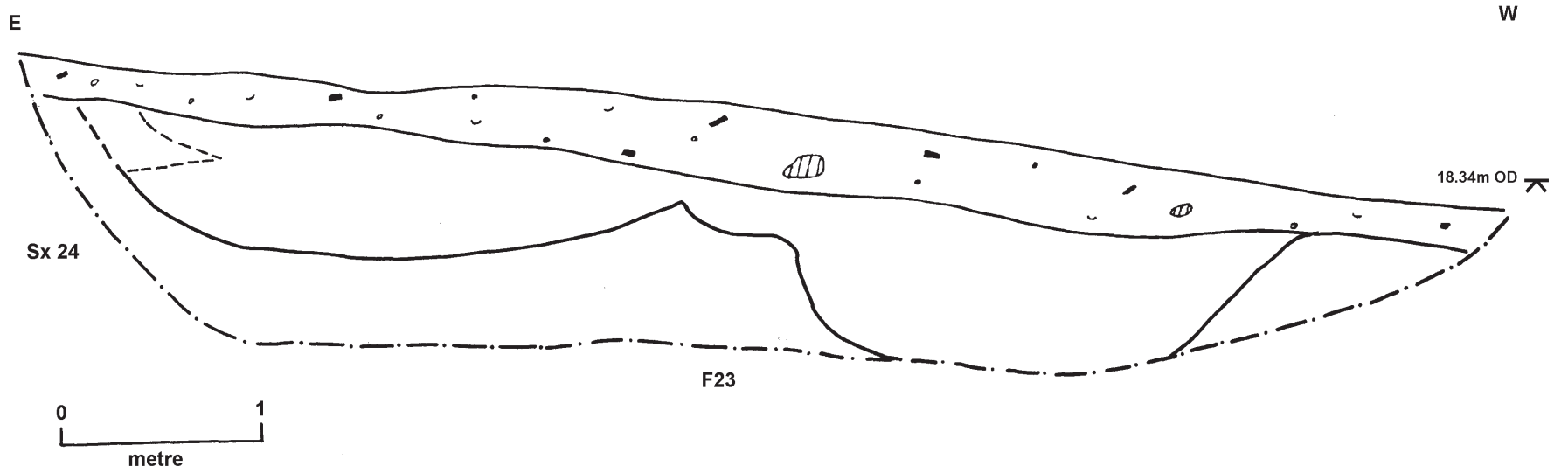
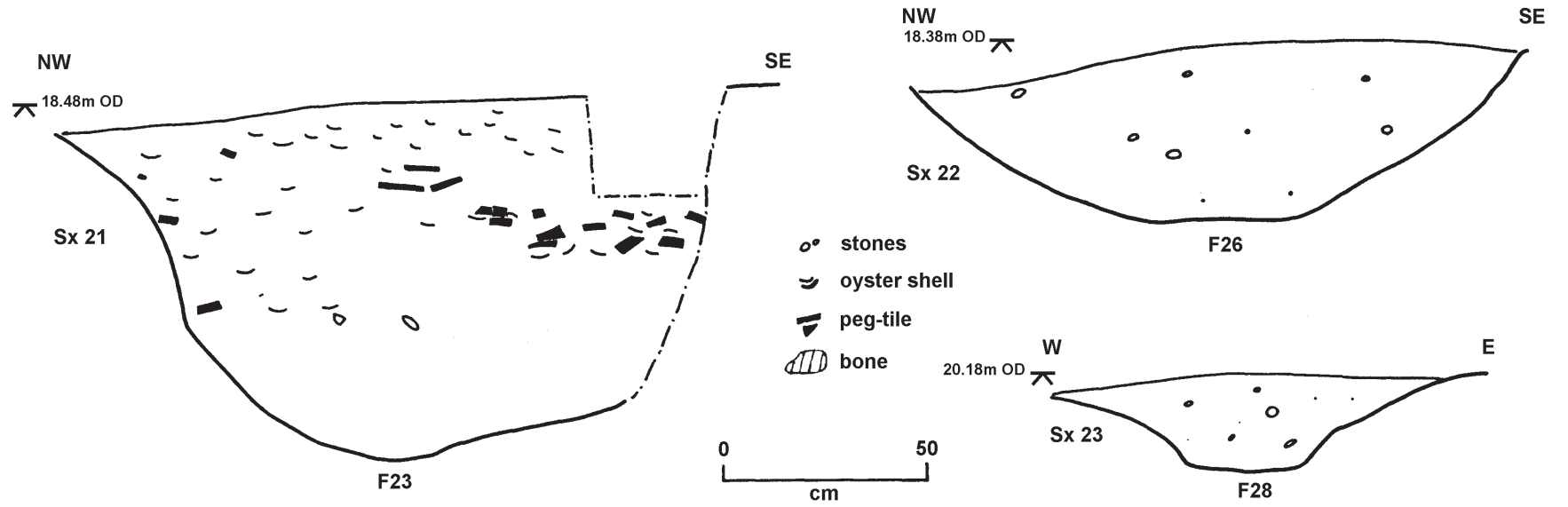


Fig 9 Sections 21-24 (F23, F26, F28).

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|--|
| Site name/address: Church Farm, Alresford, Essex | |
| Parish: Alresford | District: Tendring |
| NGR: TM 0625 2072 (c) | Site code: ALCF 01 |
| Type of work: Excavation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: October-November 2001 | Size of area investigated: 2100m ² |
| Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum | Funding source: Developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? No | Related EHCR nos: 2382-2383, 2115, 1902-1908 |
| Final report: CAT Report 166 and summary in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> | |
| Periods represented: Medieval and post-medieval | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Excavation of a 2100m² area at Church Farm, Alresford, Essex uncovered ditches and a large pit. Associated pottery dates from the 13th-16th centuries. No structures were identified, but the finds suggest that a medieval settlement was once located west of St Peter's Church.</i> | |
| Previous summaries/reports: None | |
| Author of summary: Kate Orr and Howard Brooks | Date of summary: December 2001 |