MILL MOUNT

THE MOUNT

YORK

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

REPORT

JUNE 2005

EXCAVATION AND EVALUATION SECTION

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

MILL MOUNT

YORK

SITE CODE: YMM 04

NGR: SE 5945 5102

REPORT

June 2005

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Summary

This documents represents a post-excavation assessment of a scheme of archaeological excavation and watching brief at Mill Mount, York (NGR SE 5945 5102). The work was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates Ltd for Shepherd Homes Ltd. Fieldwork was undertaken in a main phase of excavation between the 4th August and 6th December 2004 (Interventions 2 to 7), preceded by a single trench to test for the presence of contamination on the 2nd May 2004 (Intervention 1); the watching brief was undertaken intermittently between the 18th January and 14th April 2005 (Intervention 8). Fieldwork encountered remains dating from the 2nd century AD to the modern day.

The earliest activity appears to be represented by a Roman buried soil encountered intermittently across the site, into which a number of postholes were excavated; the postholes and ditches appear to have been aligned and may have demarcated boundaries or divisions of land running perpendicular to the projected line of the Roman road along The Mount. This period, which also saw some limited excavation of pits, was followed by use of the site as part of the Roman cemetery, represented by both cremations and inhumations. A total of two cremations, thirteen coffined inhumations and a stone sarcophagus with gypsum-type burial were encountered. Subsequently, the site appears to have been put to more domestic use, encountered as a series of large pits possibly for the deposition of rubbish, a component of which might represent funerary offerings. Some pits were more sterile in nature; while their function remains unclear, it is possible that gravel or sand was being extracted. The Roman period culminated in large features being excavated in the southeastern part of the site, which may represent landscaping or terracing activity.

The early medieval period was represented primarily by residual or intrusive sherds of pottery, which seem to indicate some form of occupation in the vicinity; only a single feature of potential early medieval date was encountered. Likewise, despite documented activity at or near the site during the medieval period, only one feature, a large ditch, can be assigned to this period; no activity of post-medieval date was encountered, although some residual post-medieval and early modern ceramic was recovered.

From the mid-19th century, the site of Mill Mount was developed for two large villas, and the remainder of the features on the site are associated with the construction of brick-built housing and services.

Acknowledgements

Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd would like to thank John Oxley, Principal Archaeologist, City of York Council for his support and guidance during fieldwork. Thanks also go to Shepherd Homes Ltd for their generous support of the programme of public archaeology during fieldwork.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents a post-excavation assessment of a scheme of archaeological excavation and watching brief at Mill Mount, York undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates (MGA) Ltd for Shepherd Homes Ltd. Fieldwork was undertaken between the 2nd May 2004 and 14th April 2005 and consisted of a single trench to evaluate potential contamination on the 2nd May, followed by a main phase of excavation between the 4th August and 6th December 2004; the watching brief took place intermittently between the 18th of January and 14th April 2005.

The post-excavation assessment has been prepared with reference to Managing Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2)(English Heritage 1992) and represents a Phase 4 (analysis and report preparation) proposal.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The site (NGR SE 5945 5102) is located on Mill Mount and is bound to the northwest by The Mount, to the southwest by Albermarle Road, to the southeast by the outbuildings of All Saints RC School and to the northeast by Mill Mount Road (Figure 1).

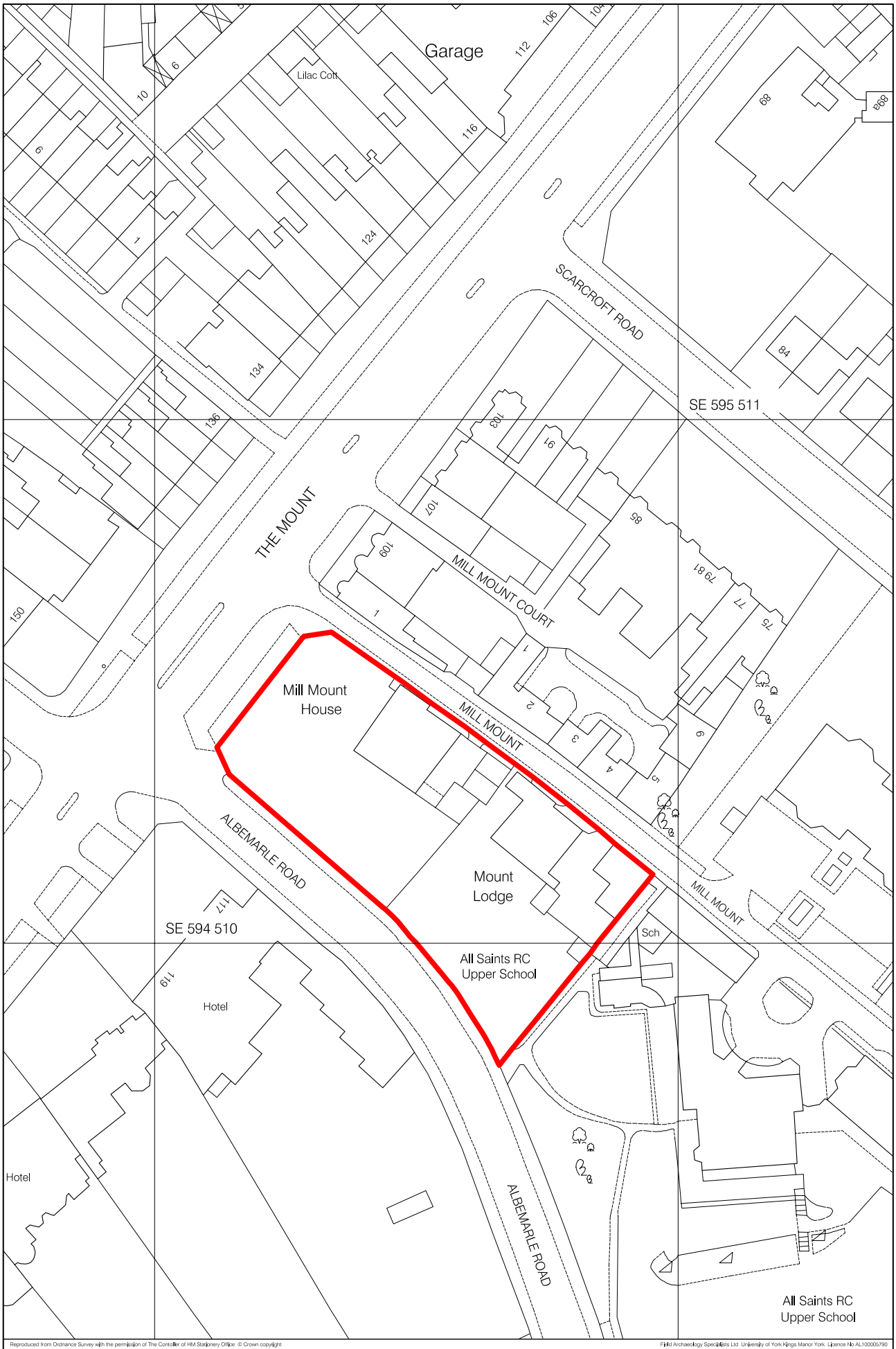
The site is dominated by two large late 19th century villas known as Mill Mount House and Mill Mount Lodge to the west and east respectively. When fieldwork commenced, the site consisted of landscaped grounds surrounding the villas. Along the frontage, the site comprised a small car park surfaced with tarmac and delimited by a cast iron railing to the immediate west of Mill Mount House. To the east of the car park, the ground rose steeply, served by concrete steps to the south of Mill Mount House which gave access to a terrace of lawn and flowerbeds. The southern site boundary consisted of a brick-built boundary wall, respected by a line of mature trees which flanked the wall for the length of the site. The northern site boundary was delimited by a cast-iron railing interrupted only by the northern entrance to Mill Mount House. In the northeastern area of the site, a small late 19th century cottage had been demolished prior to the onset of fieldwork; similarly, an annexe building to Mill Mount had also been demolished recently.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The site had been the subject of a scheme of archaeological evaluation undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd (OSA) in 2002 (OSA 2002a and 2002b). Based on the results of this evaluation, the aim of the archaeological mitigation strategy was to excavate and preserve by record, where preservation *in situ* was not possible, any archaeological deposits and features within the footprint of the proposed development. In addition, a watching brief condition was placed on groundworks necessary for the construction of a new service infrastructure.

More specifically, evaluation had encountered two inhumations of probable Roman date which were left *in situ*. As these burials were threatened directly by the development, it was intended that these burials be recorded and excavated, and it was thought likely that more burials lay within the footprint of proposed buildings.

The scheme of mitigation made provision for a programme of community archaeology and accordingly, an on-site exhibition, open days and site tours were provided for the public and local schools.



Location map | Scale 1:1000 | Figure 1

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within an area of York which has received considerable archaeological attention in recent years, revealing evidence dating from the Roman period to the modern day. In particular, a number of finds relating to the Roman cemetery have been forthcoming. However, relatively little is known of immediate subsequent periods, although historical and cartographic evidence suggests that much of the land was given over to agriculture. During the Great Siege of York in 1644, the Mount was the site of a large sconce, the remains of which are thought to have been almost entirely destroyed in recent years. During the 19th century, the Mount became a popular residential area for some of the more affluent members of York society, and a number of large houses were constructed along the frontage. Later, an increasing population in the city led to the construction of many of the terraced houses that characterise the back streets of The Mount today.

1.3.1 Prehistoric

Little is known of prehistoric York, and there have been few finds relating to this period in the immediate vicinity of The Mount. Recent works at Holgate Docks, some distance to the northwest, have revealed a prehistoric peat bog, producing Bronze Age pottery and a Neolithic hand axe, which does indicate some potential for prehistoric remains (in YAT 2001).

1.3.2 Roman

The Roman period is well-attested in the archaeology of the surrounding area, and the site lies to the southwest of the *colonia*, in the vicinity of a major Roman road and an extensive extra-mural cemetery. Roman road number 10, from York (*Eboracum*) to Tadcaster (*Calcaria*), is thought to be reflected in the line of Blossom Street/The Mount, and is believed to be situated immediately to the northwest of the modern road (RCHM 1962, figure 70). While this is still generally accepted, recent excavations failed to find evidence for the road in its postulated location, and it may be slightly more offset than previously thought (FAS 2003a). Road number 11 is thought to adjoin Road 10 in the vicinity of Dalton Terrace, immediately to the west of the Mill Mount site, and possibly joined this route to the Road 9, which runs westwards towards Holgate Bridge. As with the major approach routes to many Roman settlements, these routeways became the focus for extramural cemeteries, and burials contacted in this area over the years have taken many forms, including cremations, inhumations, coffined burials and stone tombs.

Numerous finds in the vicinity of Mill Mount suggest that the site fell within the confines of the Mount cemetery (RCHM 1962, figure 70). The concentration of burials around the junctions of Roads 10 and 11, and their extension along Road 11, has led to the suggestion that the more minor road might have been constructed specifically to serve the cemetery (RCHM 1962, 97). Funerary remains in the area, recovered piecemeal over several centuries, demonstrate an enormous variety of forms, and frequently suggest considerable wealth or status. In the vicinity of Mill Mount, but on the other side of The Mount, finds of 'stone images, urns, vases and human bones' are recorded on the Ordnance Survey edition of 1852. Even closer to the site, on the opposite side of Albemarle Road, the 1931 map records a finds of Roman memorial stone in 1922 (Ordnance Survey 1931).

Many of the finds were recorded as early as the 18th century. When the 17th century sconce on the Mount was demolished in the 18th century, contemporaries recorded finding the bones of some 1200 or 1300 individuals, which, although possibly an exaggeration, reflects the density of burials in the area. A 'burial vault' was found in 1769, on the northwest side of the Mount (NGR SE 5935 5105), containing a lead coffin, which would have been situated to the west of the site. During gardening at The Mount House, again to the west of the site, eight urns were recovered, with a lamp and fibula (RCHM 1962, 97). As Victorian housing was constructed along The Mount, further evidence for Roman burial was encountered, including finds at 121 and 123 The Mount (RCHM 1962). On the southeastern side of the road, a number of cremation burials were recorded, including those discovered at 104 The Mount, at the Mount Hotel and beneath 90 The Mount (RCHM 1962, 97-8).

More recently, archaeological investigations at several locations have revealed further burials dating from the 1st to the 4th century, elucidating the nature of the cemetery in various locations. In addition, recent investigations have also allowed for buried soils and occupation evidence of Roman date to the be identified, which have previously remained unrecorded. The largest quantity of burials in the area was recovered from excavations at Trentholme Drive in the 1950s, located a short distance to the southwest of the site (Wenham 1968). Some 342 inhumations were excavated, and a further 53 cremations (Jones 1984, 35). Recent watching briefs and archaeological evaluations undertaken throughout the Mount area have contacted further remains which may relate to this extensive cemetery (OSA 1998; YAT 2000; OSA 2002a). A single inhumation was encountered on the opposite side of Mill Mount (OSA 2002a), while four further inhumations were identified at All Saint's School, Mill Mount (MAP 1993).

At Mill Mount Court, OSA identified a Roman soil 1.80m below ground surface, found to directly overlie subsoil (OSA 2002a, 7) and Roman ditches and soils have been revealed at a number of other locations (FAS 2002; 2005).

Of most relevance to this project, previous work undertaken on the site itself revealed evidence of Roman activity in the form of small pits (containing pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date), and a single inhumation grave, the backfill of which also contained ceramic of 2nd to 3rd century date. These were sealed by a Roman buried soil, believed to have accumulated during and after the burial activity (OSA 2002b, 9). Monitoring of eight geotechnical pits revealed a further inhumation burial orientated NW-SE (OSA 2004).

1.3.3 Early medieval

During 1859 and 1860, a number of early medieval cremation urns were recovered from the area of The Mount, marked on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map just beyond the houses on Dalton Terrace, a location confirmed by investigations in 1957 (Stead 1958). Contemporary 19th century accounts describe 'a large number of cremation urns', only ten of which could be accounted for in 1958, and five of which are housed in the Yorkshire Museum. Tentatively associated with this cemetery is an imported glass vessel, found in the 19th century at some location on The Mount (Stead 1958, 430). This burial site has parallels, in terms of landscape location and reuse of a Roman cemetery site, with a second Anglian cemetery located at Heworth Green, and potentially with redeposited remains recently recovered at Heslington Hill (FAS 2003b; FAS 2003c).

1.3.4 Medieval

Historical and archaeological evidence suggest that, during much of the medieval period, land outside the city walls in the area of The Mount would have been open and employed as common land; this land-use continued into the post-medieval period. However, documents do record some religious foundations in the area, and the presence of a number of windmills.

Prior to the 17th century, The Mount was known as St James's Hill (SMR records: SE 55 SE 11), a name given initially to the rise in the road from the Knavesmire gates towards the summit of the hill (Raine 1955, 307). Wooden gates existed on the top of the hill in the 14th century (Raine 1955, 307). A chapel dedicated to St James is known to have existed in the area, and is placed by the Ordnance Survey maps at the northwestern edge of the Mill Mount site (Ordnance Survey 1852; 1892). The chapel is believed to have been founded in the 12th century, by Roger the Priest, and was granted by King Stephen to the prior and convent of Holy Trinity, Micklegate between 1135 and 1154. In 1150-4, King Stephen granted land on which the gallows stood to the chapel, on condition that the felons hanged at the site would be buried in the chapel garth (Raine 1955, 307-8). References to this practice occur throughout the following centuries, including a document of 1556, which provided a lease for twenty-one years of 'a pece of waist grounde nigh Saynt James chapell to be inclosed, and serve for burying of persones putt to execucon on Knavesmyr' (YCR V, 148 in Raine 1955, 308). The chapel became disused at the Dissolution, and subsequently became one of the locations within the city used for the deposition of dung. It is possible that layers of medieval dumping identified during archaeological evaluation at sites such as Mill Mount Court represent this type of activity (OSA 2002a, 7); soils identified as ploughsoil were also noted (OSA 2002a, 10). The ruins of the chapel are known to have been standing in 1651, but are not shown on any of the 17th century maps of the city. Drake (1736) records that the last remnants of this building were destroyed during the road widening in 1736 (Raine 1955, 309). The location of the chapel in the immediate vicinity of Mill Mount may have been supported by finds at 109 The Mount, just to the north of this junction; a passage driven between two cellars encountered rubble foundations that are thought to represent the remains of this chapel (in YAT 2001). The chapel would, therefore, have been positioned immediately adjacent to the site, rather than directly within it, although the associated burial ground may also have been located in the vicinity.

Other religious houses in the area included St Katherine's Hospital, a leper house known to have been established by the 14th century, which is thought to have been situated some distance to the north, by the junction of The Mount and Holgate Road.

The high ground offered by The Mount would have been an ideal location for windmills, and medieval documents record a number which are believed to have been located in the vicinity. In 1425, William Newland of York bequeathed two plots of arable land lying near a windmill and an

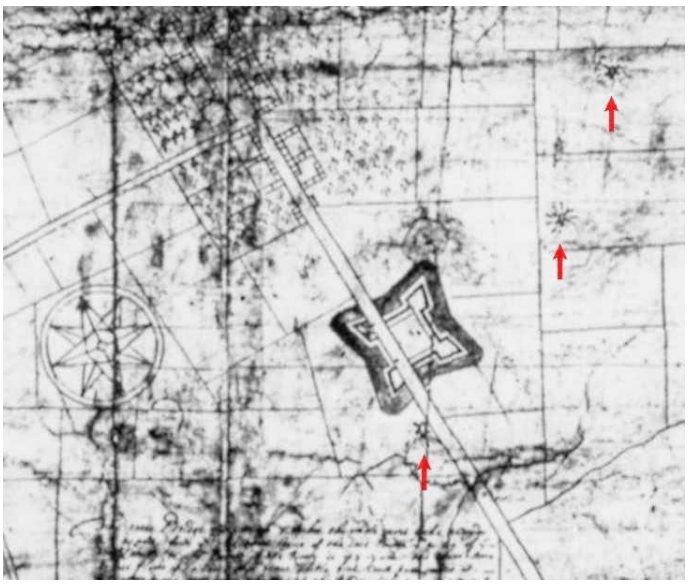


Plate 1 Extract of Archer's map of 1680

ancient mound that had formerly held a windmill (Raine 1955, 309). This land was identified as being opposite St James's Chapel, and is therefore thought to have been located to the northwest of The Mount. Archer's map of *c*.1680 (Plate 1) and William Lodge's illustration of the area in 1678 depict a number of windmills in the area. Lund's map of 1772 also depicts these features; the only one considered to have survived is that situated in the grounds of Mill Mount School, to the southwest of the site, which presumably gave Mill Mount its name (Tillott 1961, 507).

1.3.5 Post-medieval

The most significant construction in the area during the post-medieval period was the large civil war sconce, which is known to have been constructed on The Mount by Royalists to defend the City of York during the 'Great and Close' siege of York in 1644 (Wenham 1994).

Archer's map of *c*.1680 records the sconce as a four-bastioned fort straddling The Mount. Wenham (1994, plate XXIX) uses this map, and more specifically the location of known windmills, to suggest that the Sconce would have been located at the junction of the Mount and Dalton Terrace, which would have meant that it encroached on the site on Mill Mount (Figure 2). Evaluation at Driffield Terrace did not encounter any remains of the fort in spite of the fact that the area of investigation was situated within Wenham's postulated area.

Wenham's reconstruction of the fort suggests an impressive structure, and from various accounts, he suggests that the ramparts would have stood eight to ten feet high (2.4 to 3.0m), with ditches seven or eight feet in depth (Wenham 1994, 210).

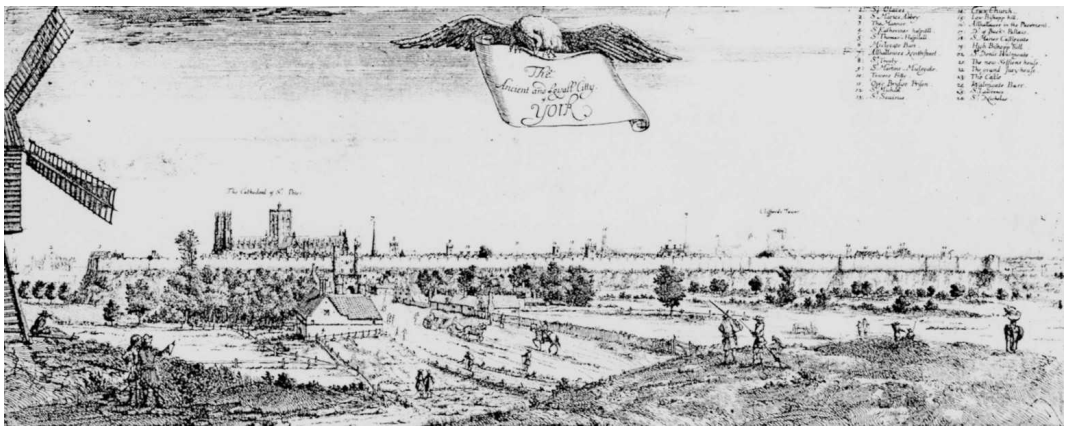
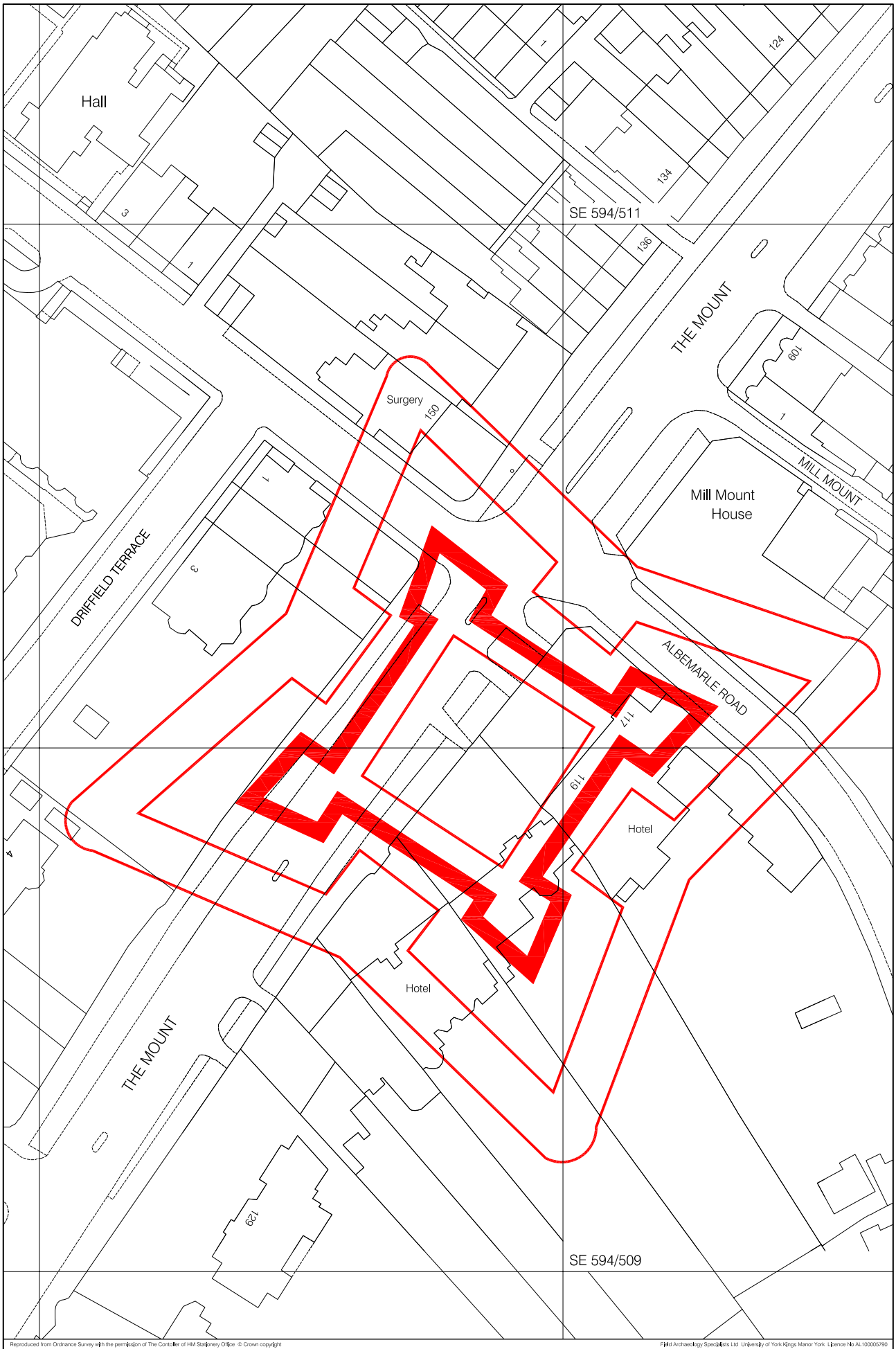


Plate 2 William Lodge's *Aspect of York*, 1678

The remains of the sconce are recorded to have been largely levelled after the Civil War. A note in the York City House Books suggests that there had been timber revetting supporting the ramparts of the sconce, and that this was removed as soon as the fort became redundant. The structure fell into disrepair, and was notably depicted on William Lodge's *Aspect of York*, dated 1678, as wasteland (Plate 2). The *York Courant*, for the 29th of June 1742, records that:

> 'Last month our magistrates made an order to level part of a Piece of Ground called the Mount, out of Micklegate Bar, designing to wide the High Road, which was before too strait for Carriages, Coaches &c. to pass and repass in that place...' (in Wenham 1994, 200-1)



Location of sconce (after Wenham) | Scale 1:1000 | Figure 2

Despite falling into disuse and being deliberately levelled, it is possible that some vestiges of the fort do survive in the surrounding area. Wenham notes that, until the levelling of the 1950s, a sharp slope in the garden of Hennebique House would correspond with the southwest 'horn' of the sconce as he located it, and it has been suggested that similar topographical features surviving in the gardens of nearby houses may be part of the 17th century defences (1994, 207). Though the defences themselves have not been encountered archaeologically, a watching brief at the Mount Royale Hotel, 117 The Mount, recorded a post-medieval barrel-lined pit, imaginatively interpreted as 'a well used for water storage, for the purpose of fire prevention associated with the civil war sconce' (YAT Gaz. 1977.1027).

Three inhumations uncovered in 1917, close to the railway, were interpreted in 1957 as the remains of soldiers who may have been associated with the siege (Dickenson and Wenham 1957, 299); this was based on the presence of a metal object, identified as 17th century in date, but now lost. It must remain a possibility that these remains in fact belonged to the Roman period.

1.3.6 Modern

In the 19th century, there was increasing segregation of the social classes of York, and large numbers of Rowntree's 'servant-keeping' class chose to live apart from the poorer and working classes. As the city centre became more densely populated, these people moved out of the city, along Blossom Street, The Mount and Dringhouses (Tillott 1961, 324); it was at this time that many of the large houses along The Mount were constructed. These changes are most clearly illustrated through a map regression of Ordnance Survey editions from 1852 to the modern day.

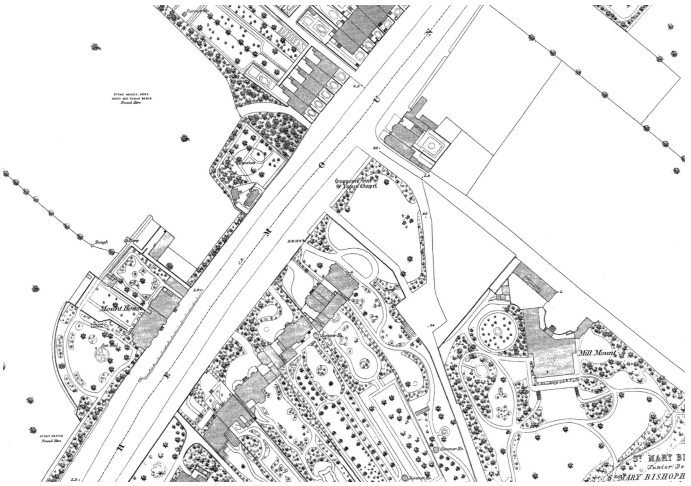


Plate 3 Extract from the 1852 OS map

The Ordnance Survey edition of 1852 depicts a very different character to that which is evident today (Plate 3). The Mount is shown, but the terraced streets and major routes leading from this thoroughfare had yet to be developed. The route of Mill Mount can be seen providing access to Mill Mount House, constructed to plans of J.B. and W. Atkinson before 1850, and the windmill, while the route of Albemarle Road had yet to be fully developed, represented a much more minor route southwards. The site itself appears to have been devoid of structures; some garden features may have been evident, associated with adjacent housing along The Mount.

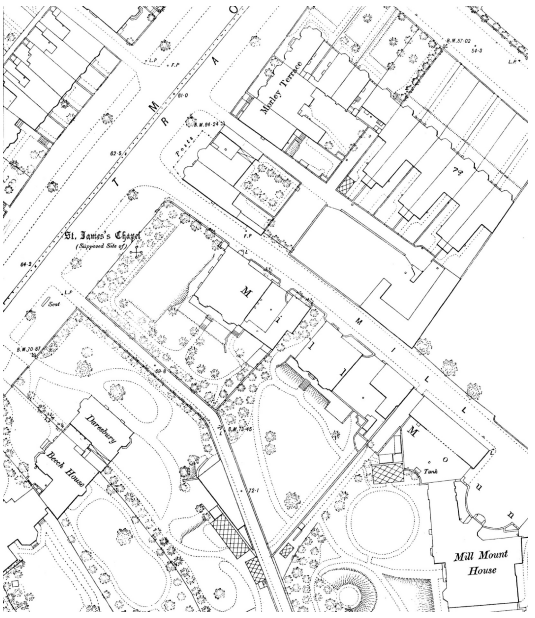


Plate 4 Extract from the 1892 OS map

By 1892 (Plate 4), however, the site had been developed, and

appears to have been divided into two properties. Large buildings within these properties front onto Mill Mount, surrounded by what appears to be extensive terracing; the most westerly of these is also known as Mill Mount House, with associated annexe, while the eastern site is occupied by Mill Mount Lodge and cottage. These buildings remain largely unchanged; the 1931 map illustrates a similar layout, and many of the buildings which survived on site at the outset of the project may have been constructed at that time (Plate 5).

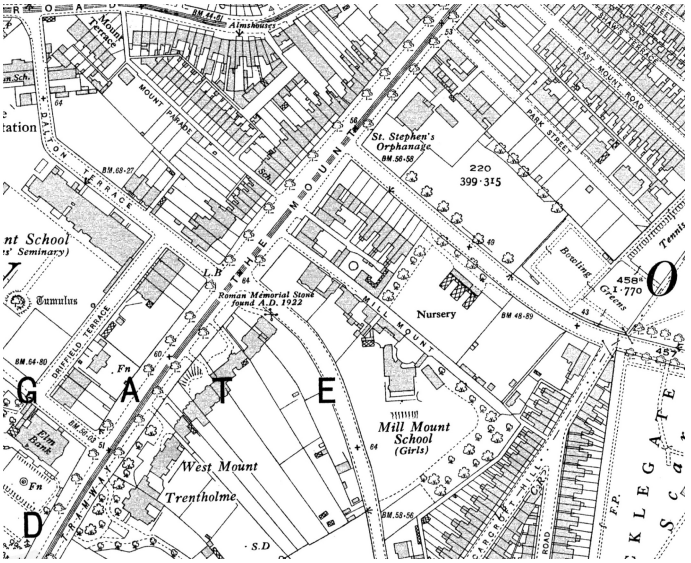


Plate 5 Extract from the 1931 OS map

2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

The scheme of mitigation (Appendix A) required that fieldwork be undertaken in two main phases; the first was designed to encompass further evaluation and excavation, and the second to include a more comprehensive record of archaeological remains on the site. A total of eight interventions were undertaken across the site (Table 1 and Figure 3).

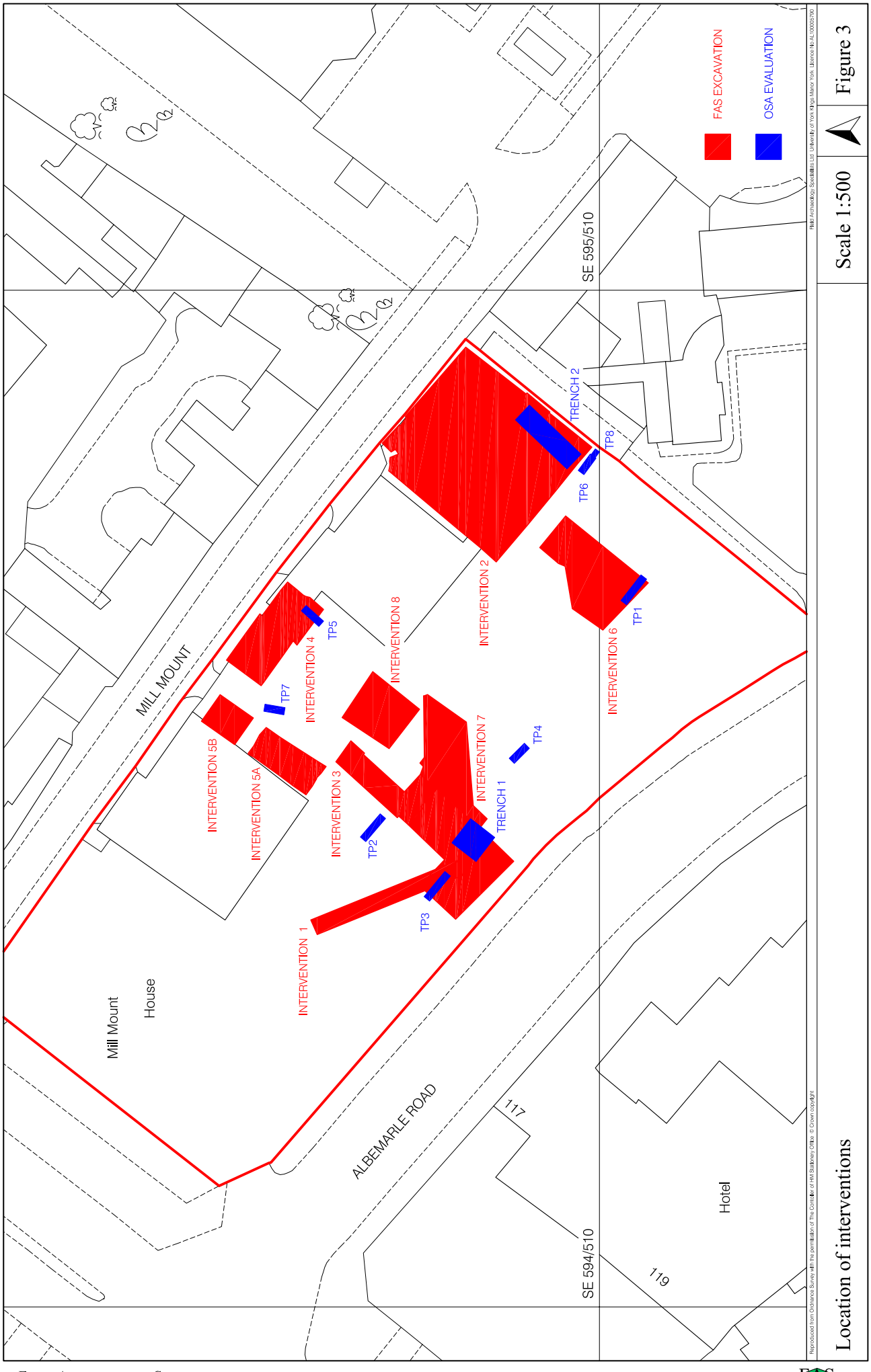
Table 1 Summary of interventions

Intervention	Activity	Dates
1	Evaluation	May 2004
2	Excavation	August 2004
3	Excavation	August 2004
4	Excavation	September 2004
5	Excavation (Trenches A and B adjacent to Mill Mount House)	September 2004
6	Excavation (ramp to Intervention 2)	November 2004
7	Excavation (ramp to Intervention 3)	November 2004
8	Watching brief	January to April 2005

2.1 EXCAVATION PROCEDURE

Prior to the start of fieldwork, service maps were obtained from the utility companies; before excavation, the areas of excavation were scanned using a cable avoidance tool. Excavation areas were located using a Total Station Theodolite and marked out on the ground. Topsoil and overburden was spit excavated using a wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.20m wide toothless ditching bucket, under strict archaeological supervision to the latest archaeological horizon. Excavation below this point was undertaken by hand. Where the depth of the archaeological strata exceeded safe limits, the excavation was stepped in.

The Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Survey Datum were used for recording purposes. All



Location of interventions

Scale 1:500

Figure 3

coordinates and alignments expressed in this report refer to the Ordnance Survey grid. All plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10. A full photographic record was compiled, consisting of 35mm colour and monochrome photography.

The excavation and recording system employed during fieldwork is based on a set of principles known as *Field Research Procedure* (Carver 1999), the standard operating system employed by FAS. The procedure structures excavation data in a hierarchical system. Each stratigraphic unit defined during excavation, which is considered to have been formed by a single deposition, is referred to as a 'context', and where appropriate, contexts are grouped during excavation as 'features'; a single index was created for contexts, starting at C1000, and for features, starting at F1. Each unit has a structured *pro forma* recording sheet to be completed using a series of keywords. Indices of photographic recording, samples and drawings are compiled and cross-referenced with the context and feature indices; a summary of contexts and features allocated is provided in Appendices B and C a checklist for the site archive can be found in Appendix D.

3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

A total of five main phases of activity have been identified dating from the Roman period to the modern day (Table 2). This phasing is based primarily on ceramic dating (Appendix E) and stratigraphic sequence; further refinement of the chronology, where possible, has been provided by glass (Appendix F), diagnostic artefacts (Appendix G), coins (Appendix H) and the type of activity represented.

Table 2 Summary of periods

Period		Date	Activity
1A	ROMAN	2nd century	Buried soil and possible demarcation of boundaries
1B	ROMAN	late 2nd to 3rd century	Inhumation and cremation burial
1C	ROMAN	3rd to mid-4th century	Occupation, pit digging, possible terracing activity
2	EARLY MEDIEVAL	late 9th to mid-10th century	Occupation in the vicinity, but not necessarily evident on the site
3	MEDIEVAL	15th century +	Ditches, possible trackway
4	POST-MEDIEVAL	late 16th century+	Levelling operations
5	MODERN	18th -20th century	Construction of houses, gardens

3.1 NATURAL TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The natural topography of the site is dictated largely by the presence of the glacial moraine that forms the distinctive high ground exploited from the prehistoric and Roman periods and is now occupied by The Mount and Tadcaster Road. The natural contours of the site slope downwards notably towards the southwest.

Situated on this glacial system, the natural subsoil of the site was found to be highly variable, and comprised undulating and interleaving layers and pockets of clean sand, clay and seams of gravel. Frequently, this variability made visibility difficult, and in some circumstances, differentiation between archaeology and geology

was problematic.

The variability within the subsoil is demonstrated within Intervention 2, where at least four distinct layers of sterile sand were identified in section (C1308, C1309, C1310 and C1318). Similarly, in Intervention 3, what appeared to be up to six distinct deposits of sand and sandy clay were tested (C1101, C1102, C1103, C1104, C1271, C1270), and found to represent variations in the natural subsoil.

In contrast to recent investigations elsewhere on the morainic ridge, there were no finds of residual prehistoric lithic material.

3.2 PERIOD 1 - ROMAN (2nd to 4th century)

The earliest activity identified at Mill Mount is dateable to the Roman period, and represents use of the site for burial (both inhumation and cremation) and for more domestic activity, represented by linear features, rubbish pits and postholes. The dating parameters assigned to Period 1 as a whole span the 2nd to 4th century; although 1st century ceramic formed the latest dateable material in a number of features, this is considered to have been residual.

Although a relatively short period of time is covered by Period 1, the range of activities represented on the site, both funerary and domestic, would suggest that the Roman period saw a number of distinct phases of use. Using ceramic dating, stratigraphy, and the types of activity represented, Period 1 has subsequently been subdivided into three phases (1A, 1B and 1C).

The clearest phase of activity is represented by the cremation and inhumation burials, which have been assigned to a single period. This activity is dateable to the early to mid-3rd century; the cremation vessels suggest such a date, while the backfills of the inhumation burials provided ceramic dating from the late 2nd to early 3rd century, demonstrating that they post-date activity of this date. A *denarius* of late 2nd to early 3rd century date was recovered from an inhumation burial. The burials do not represent the earliest activity on the site, and were flanked by episodes of non-burial activity; features predating the burials have been assigned to Period 1A, the burials themselves to 1B, and features of Roman date which post-date inhumations have been assigned to Period 1C. Where non-burial features lacked stratigraphic relationships with cremations or inhumations, and/or dateable material, assignment to phases has been based on the nature of the feature, ceramic dates where present, the presence of redeposited disarticulated human bone or spatial association. Those features containing no 3rd century ceramic, or identified as the earliest stratigraphic features cutting subsoil, have been assigned to Period 1A, while those features which contain relatively secure pottery of 3rd century date have been assigned to Period 1C.

3.2.1 Period 1A - Buried soil and possible boundary features

Period 1A appeared to be represented by different levels of activity within specific areas, but was generally characterised by postholes and linear features which seem to represent demarcation of boundaries (Figure 4).

Within the eastern corner of Intervention 2, however, the suggested boundaries of the site also form the focus

Period 1A features - all interventions

Scale 1:250

Figure 4

for denser activity of a possible domestic or structural nature. Intercutting pits and possible gullies were excavated, suggesting activity which may have extended beyond the area of excavation to the east.

Roman buried soil

The earliest evidence to be contacted in several parts of the site were vestiges of a Roman buried soil, most notably identified within Intervention 4 (C1324). This deposit measured up to 0.40m in depth, and was found to deepen towards the northern end of the site in accordance with the natural topography of the area. This deposit consisted of a mottled clayey sand, and produced just two sherds of pottery, of later 1st to 3rd century date. No direct evidence for the land regime was encountered.

Aligned postholes and linear features

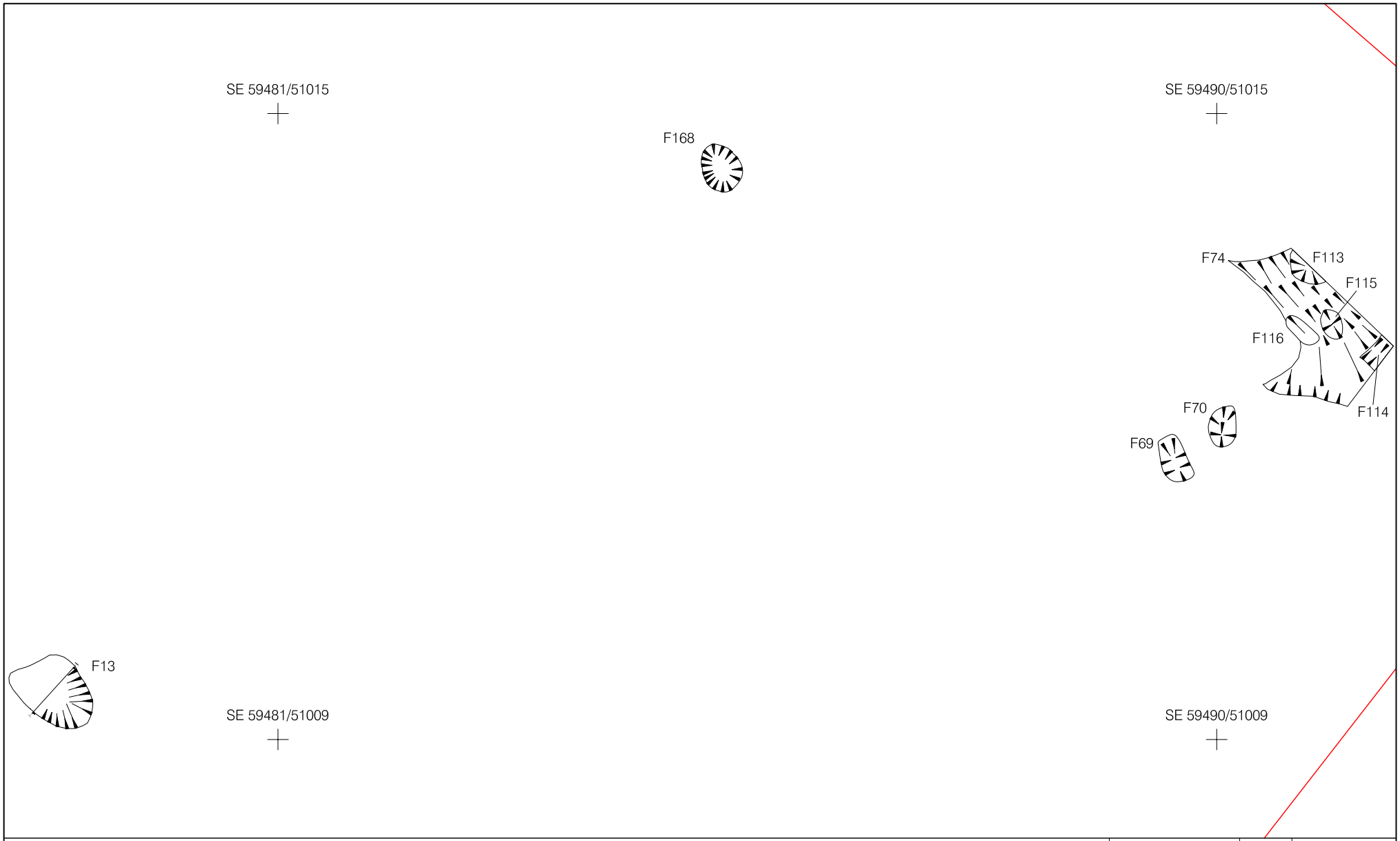
The majority of features assigned to Period 1A have been identified as postholes found within Intervention 2 (F69, F70, F78, F113, F114, F115, F116), Intervention 3 (F50, F51, F52, F54, F55, F59, F61, F62 and F67), Intervention 4 (F145, F195, F199, F200, F201, F202, F203, F207, F208, F214, F218, F219) and Intervention 5 (F110). When these features are mapped, a marked, if fragmentary, distribution emerges amongst the earliest features (see Figure 4), which appears to betray a number of linear alignments, possibly representing the demarcation of boundaries across the site. Some of these postholes appeared to have been set with linear gullies, which would further support such an interpretation.

Within Intervention 2, two perpendicular arrangements are suggested, although the density of features within this area makes observations necessarily tentative (Figure 5). F69, F70, F115 and possibly F116 appear to form a general NE-SW alignment, while F116, F113 and F114 appear to run NW-SE. Generally, these postholes were found to be of similar dimensions in plan, between 0.3 and 0.5m in diameter; their depths varied between 0.04m and 0.52m, in part due to variable levels of truncation. The deeper postholes were noted to contain a number of backfills; F69 was backfilled with C1132, C1134, C1135 and C1136, while F70 contained C1137, C1138 and C1139 (Plate 6). All of the fills were relatively sterile, comprising brown or strong brown silty sands with rounded pebble inclusions, and may in fact represent variable backfilling on one occasion; F113 to F114 were both backfilled once with similar material (Figure 6).

Plate 6 F64, F69, F70 - southwest facing section (scale 1.0m)

F113, F114, F115 and F116 were believed to have been cut into the base of a linear gully identified as F74, defined during excavation as a slightly curvilinear feature, running roughly NW-SE. The feature had been cut away to the northwest by later pit F190, and by F73; consequently, its full extent and orientation could not be determined. If, however, F74 did represent a linear feature into which postholes had been cut, this may further indicate delineation of boundaries or structural activity of some kind.

A potential continuation of F74, or an aligned feature of slightly different date, may be represented by F184. This feature was identified as a possible ditch, running NW-SE along the edge of Intervention 2, and backfilled

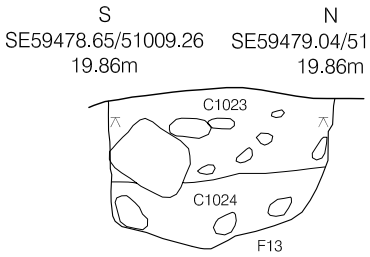


Intervention 2 - Period 1A postholes post-excavation

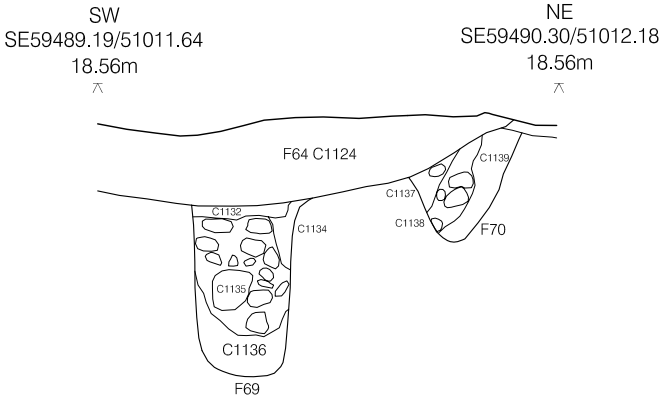
Scale 1:50

Figure 5

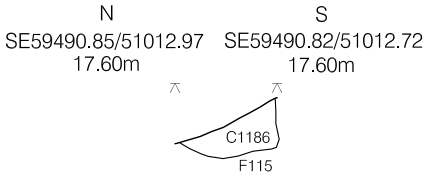
F13 east facing section



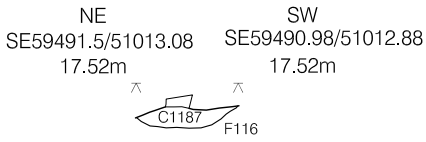
F69 and F70 southeast facing section



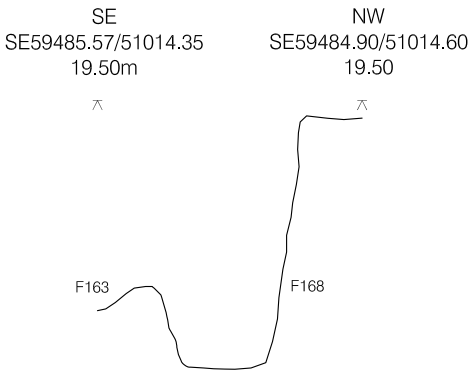
F115 west facing section



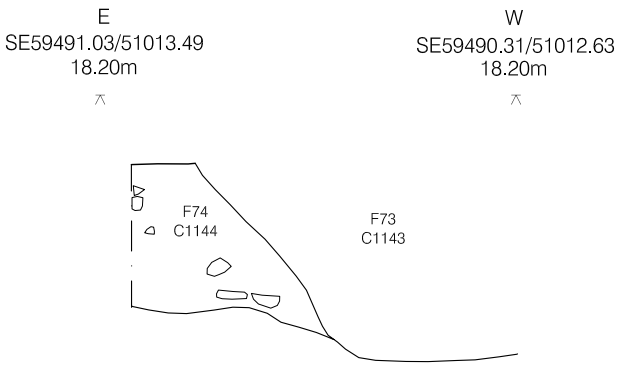
F115 southeast facing section



F168 profile



F74 north facing section



Intervention 2 - Period 1A postholes section portfolio	Scale 1:20	Figure 6

with two deposits; C1374 was identified as a clean deposit of sand within the base of F184, while C1375 was seen to be a more varied clayey sand, with inclusions of bone and shell (Appendix I). Only the southwestern limit of F184 was identified within Intervention 2; the feature had been cut away by larger pits, including F190, to the northwest and to the southeast. The visible plan was allocated F184; in section, however, the same feature was recorded as F191 (Figure 7). The visible extent of the feature suggests a variable, relatively steep-sided ditch. F184 was seen in section to have cut F189, a steep-sided feature, which in turn cut into a buried soil (C1353). The extent and nature of F189 was not fully seen; it could, however, be tentatively suggested that F184 represents a recut of an earlier ditch. Together with the postholes within Intervention 2, these features seem to indicate that the northeastern edge of excavation (and therefore Mill Mount) coincides with a pre-existing boundary, whose origins lie in the Roman period.

This situation is also reflected in Intervention 4, where a ditch set with an arrangement of postholes F195, F199, F200, F201, F202, F203, F207, F214 and F219, was encountered (Figure 8); F145 represents an outlier to this group. The postholes follow the northeastern edge of a large linear feature, which was excavated across most of the area covered by Intervention 4. Initially difficult to define and thought to represent a series of intercutting pits, this feature was allocated F142=F174=F91 (hereafter F174). The ditch followed a NW-SE alignment, and after excavation in quadrants was found to measure up to 5.6m in length and 1.1m wide (Plate 7).

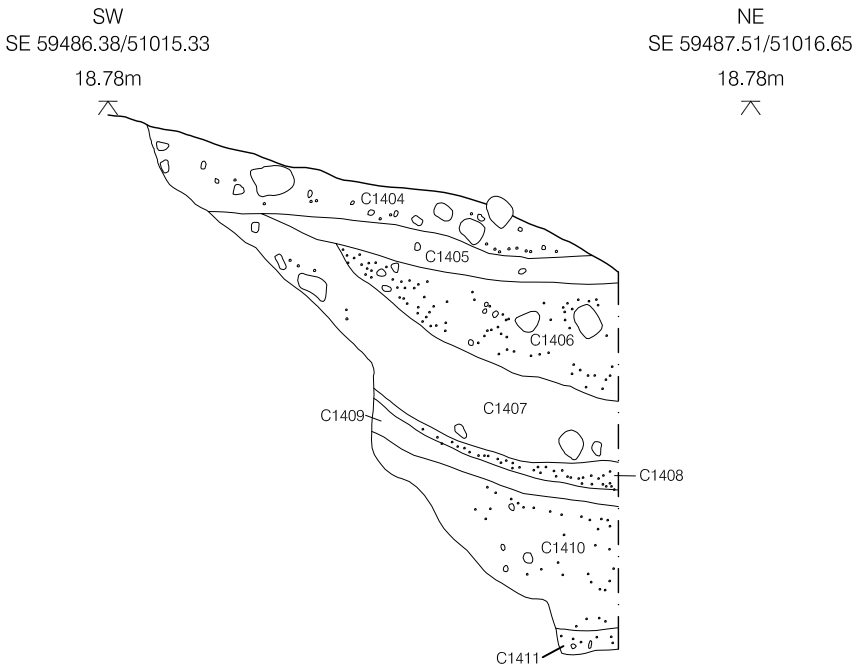
Plate 7 Intervention 4 - F174

The sequence of deposits that formed the backfill of F174 was found to represent multiple dumping episodes, thought during excavation to represent cess deposits, but proving during soils assessment to be sterile, containing a mixture of material including pottery, animal bone, glass and Roman CBM forms (Appendix J), interleaved with sterile deposits of sand and clay, potentially used to cap underlying dumps (Figure 9). Since the basal fills were noted during excavation to have a greenish tinge, they were subsequently sampled for soil assessment. The deposits were found to be sterile and contained no preserved organics or faecal concretions; it seems likely that the colour is a result of mineralisation (Appendix K).

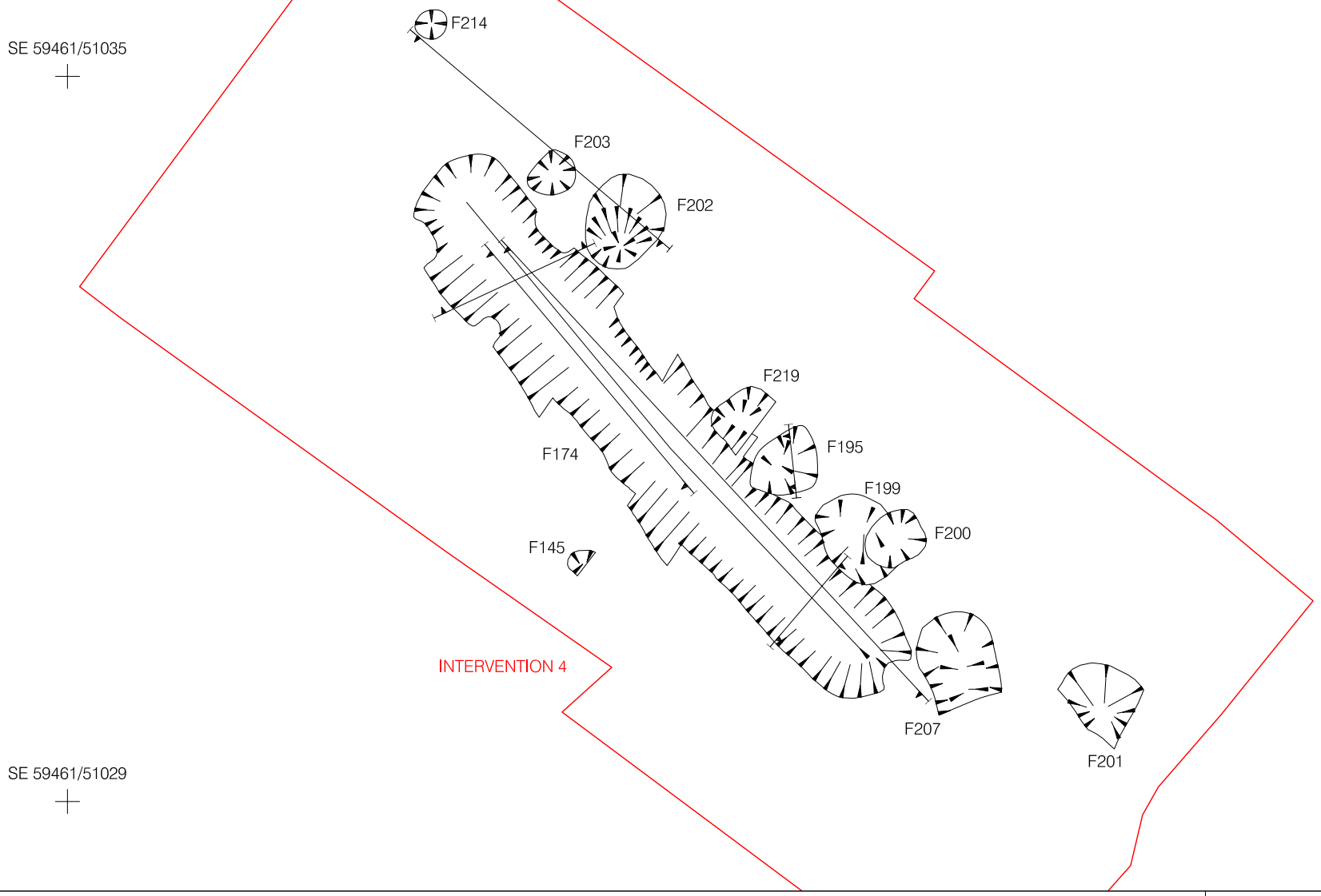
While the excavation of ditch F174 has been allocated to Period 1A with the laying out of other boundary features, it is clear that the disuse of the feature was relatively complex and long-lived. Within one of these deposits (C1334), a pair of heavily hobnailed boots and a third single hobnail boot had been discarded close together, in association with a cow humerus which may represent a shin of beef (Plate 8). A total of nine boots were recovered from the feature and it seems possible that they represent a deliberate and careful offering in a cemetery context rather than straightforward refuse disposal. The presence of disarticulated human bone

Plate 8 Hobnail boots within F174 (scale 0.25m)

F191 southeast facing section

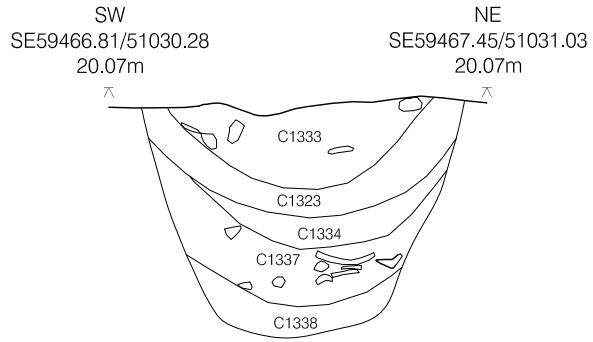


F191 southeast facing section	Scale 1:20	Figure 7

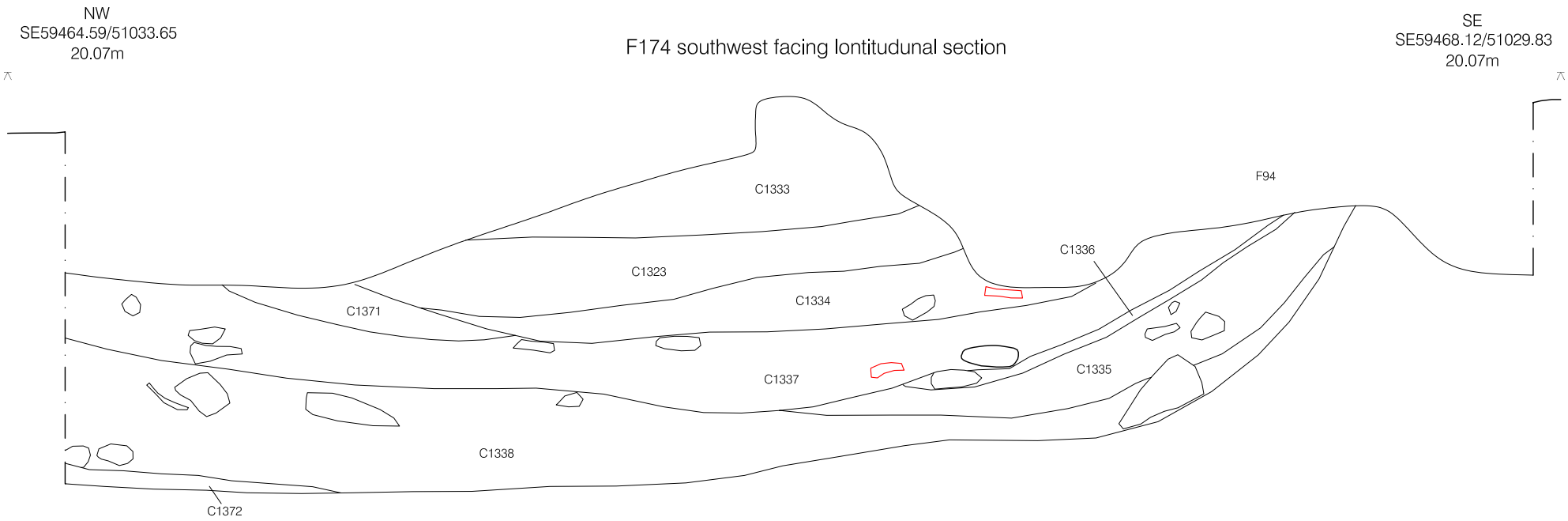


Intervention 4 - Period 1A ditch and postholes post-excavation | Scale 1:50 | Figure 8

F174 southeast facing section



F174 southwest facing lontitudunal section



F174 southeast and southwest facing sections	Scale 1:20	Figure 9

indicates the backfilling of F174 after the disturbance of inhumations burials and it seems that ditch F174 persisted from Period 1A through to Period 1C.

All of these features either cut subsoil or the Roman buried soil C1324, with the exception of F202, which appears to postdate a large, shallow feature F210, and F214, recorded to have cut an earlier posthole (F218). F210 was found to be highly irregular, and although fragments of ceramic and an iron object were recovered, it is suggested that this feature may have been natural in origin, possibly a tree bole. F218 was recorded only in section, and so its precise relationship with F214 was not recorded. Although quite variable in terms of shape, the dimensions of these features are comparable, with diameters ranging between 0.30m and 0.60m, and depths between 0.25m and 0.40m (Figure 10). The majority contained only a single fill; of these features, six produced ceramic indicative of a late 1st or early 2nd century date or later.

Within Intervention 3, a much closer, and more clearly defined alignment of small postholes was identified (F59, F67, F50, F51, F54). These features were generally irregular in shape (Figure 11), and were found to have been severely truncated, surviving to a maximum depth of 0.25m (Figure 12). Alongside this alignment, a number of much smaller features were identified (F52, F58, F61, F62), representing small, steep-sided features up to 0.30m across. All of these features produced ceramic of 1st or 2nd century date; fragments of clay tobacco pipe from F67 are considered to have been intrusive, as this posthole was cut by a Period 5 feature (F46).

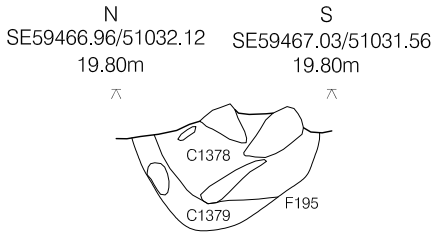
Further linear features assigned to Period 1A include ditch F34 and gullies F110 (Intervention 5) and F161 (Intervention 2). These features are not well-defined, and as such, conclusions on their overall layout are tentative. F34, for example, was visible only in section; F110, however, was visible in plan, and upon excavation was found to be a shallow gully, orientated NE-SW, and producing scraps of pottery of 1st to 2nd century date. F161 was recorded as being aligned NW-SE, situated in the eastern corner of Intervention 4, but found to be very shallow, only 0.04m deep, and backfilled with C1285, which produced animal bone and charcoal. No dating material was recovered; this feature is tentatively assigned to Period 1A because it is stratigraphically early, and apparently runs on the same alignment as the nearby postholes.

More isolated pits or postholes, which can only be ascribed more generally to Period 1 include F13 (Intervention 2), F55, F49, F61 (Intervention 3) and F168 (Intervention 2). These features vary in size and shape; all cut natural subsoil, and were truncated by modern features only, and no dateable material was recovered other than scraps of 2nd century pottery from F13. As such, the function of these postholes remain uncertain.

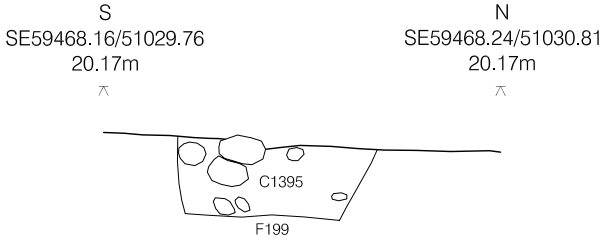
Pit/posthole group in Intervention 2

In addition to those features for which a structural or boundary function can be proposed, a small cluster of features was identified in the southeastern corner of Intervention 2, comprising a series of intercutting pits and postholes (F64, F73, F77, F78)(Figure 13). This small cluster of features preceded the more intense Period 1C activity. The earliest of these features, pit F73, was found to cut linear feature F74, and upon excavation, was found to be a large circular feature, up to 1.37m in diameter and up to 0.91m in depth (Figure 14). Pit F77 was found to have a similar profile, truncating the southern edge of F73, measuring 0.75m across and up to 0.45m in depth. F77 was cut and truncated in turn by F64 and F78. F64 represents a shallow pit or linear feature, although heavy truncation had removed its full extent. What survived of the feature measured up to 0.22m in diameter, with a depth of 0.21m, and cut postholes F69 and F70. Two distinct fills were excavated (C1124 and

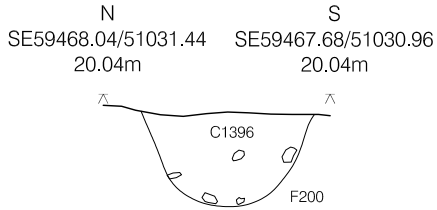
F195 west facing section



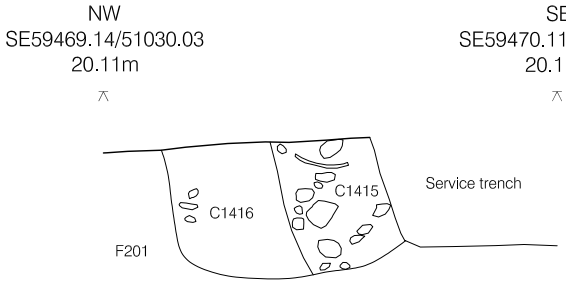
F199 east facing section



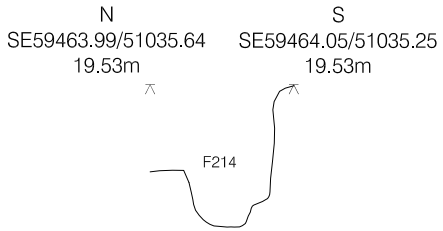
F200 west facing section



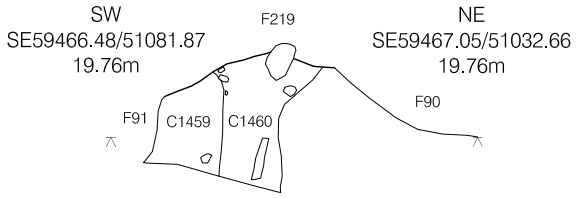
F201 southwest facing section



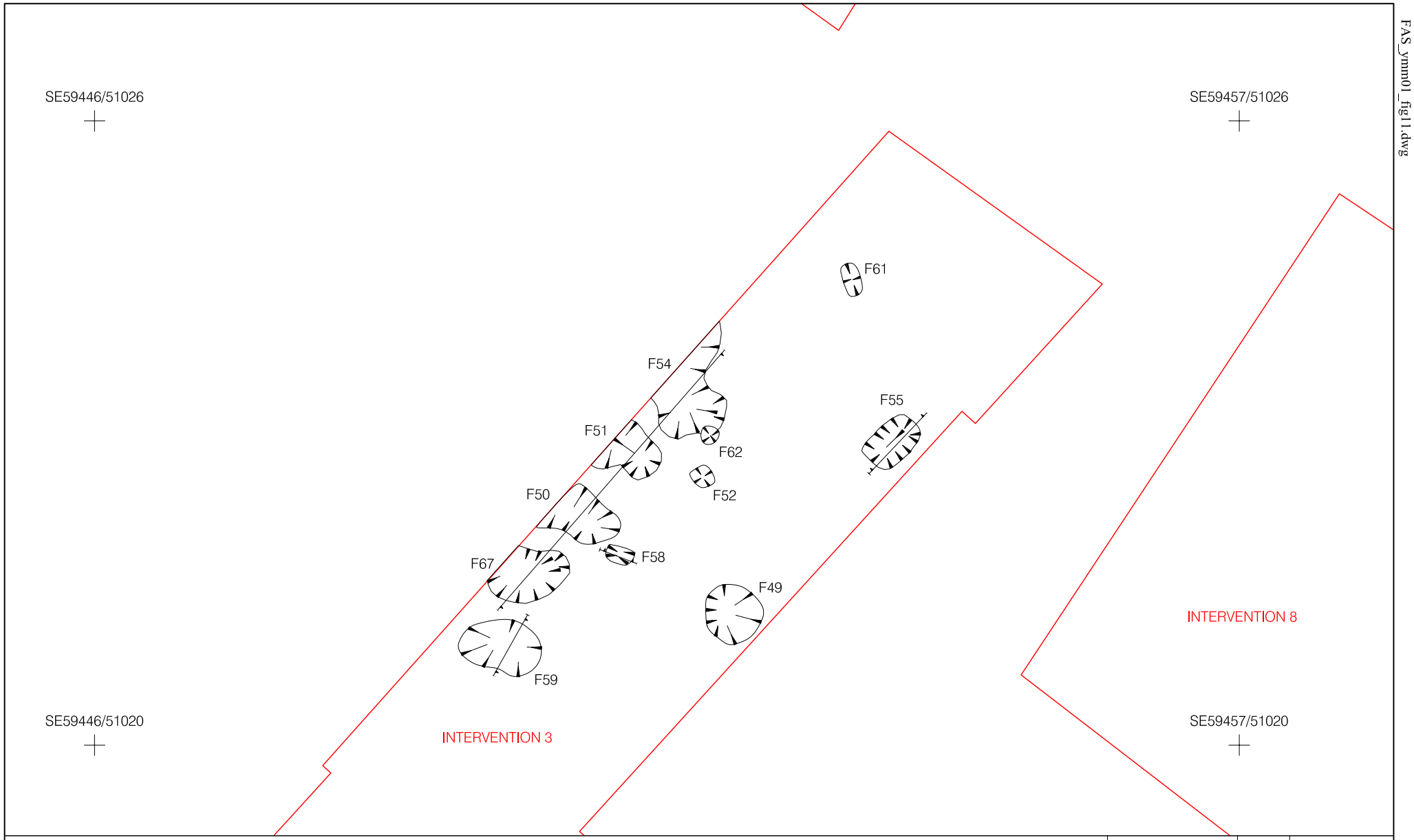
F214 profile



F219 southeast facing section

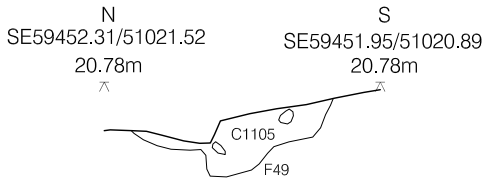


Intervention 4 - Period 1A postholes section portfolio | Scale 1:20 | Figure 10

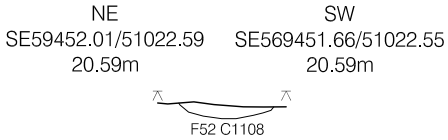


Intervention 3 - Period 1A postholes post-excavation | Scale 1:50 | Figure 11

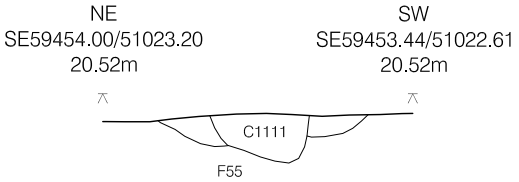
F49 west facing section



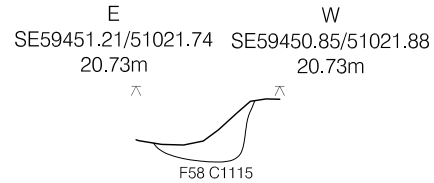
F52 southeast facing section



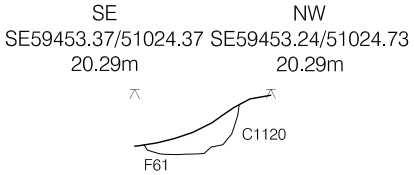
F55 southwest facing section



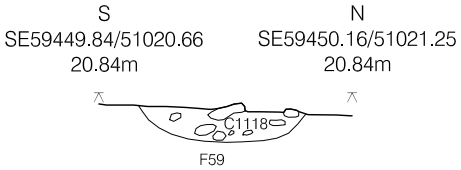
F58 north facing section



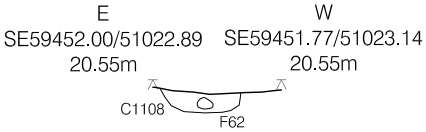
F61 southwest facing section



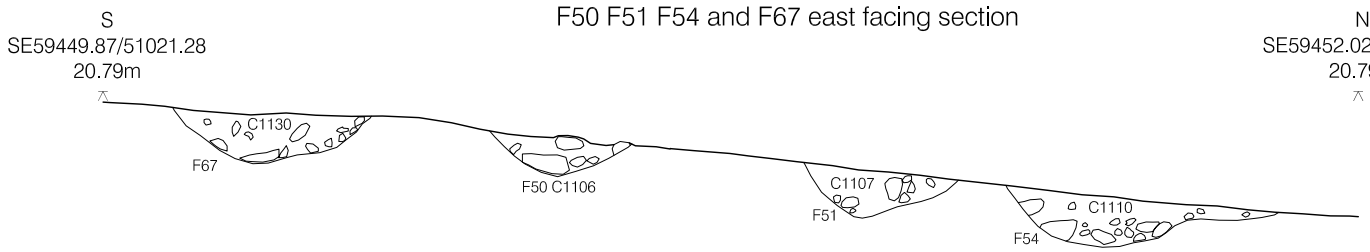
F59 east facing section



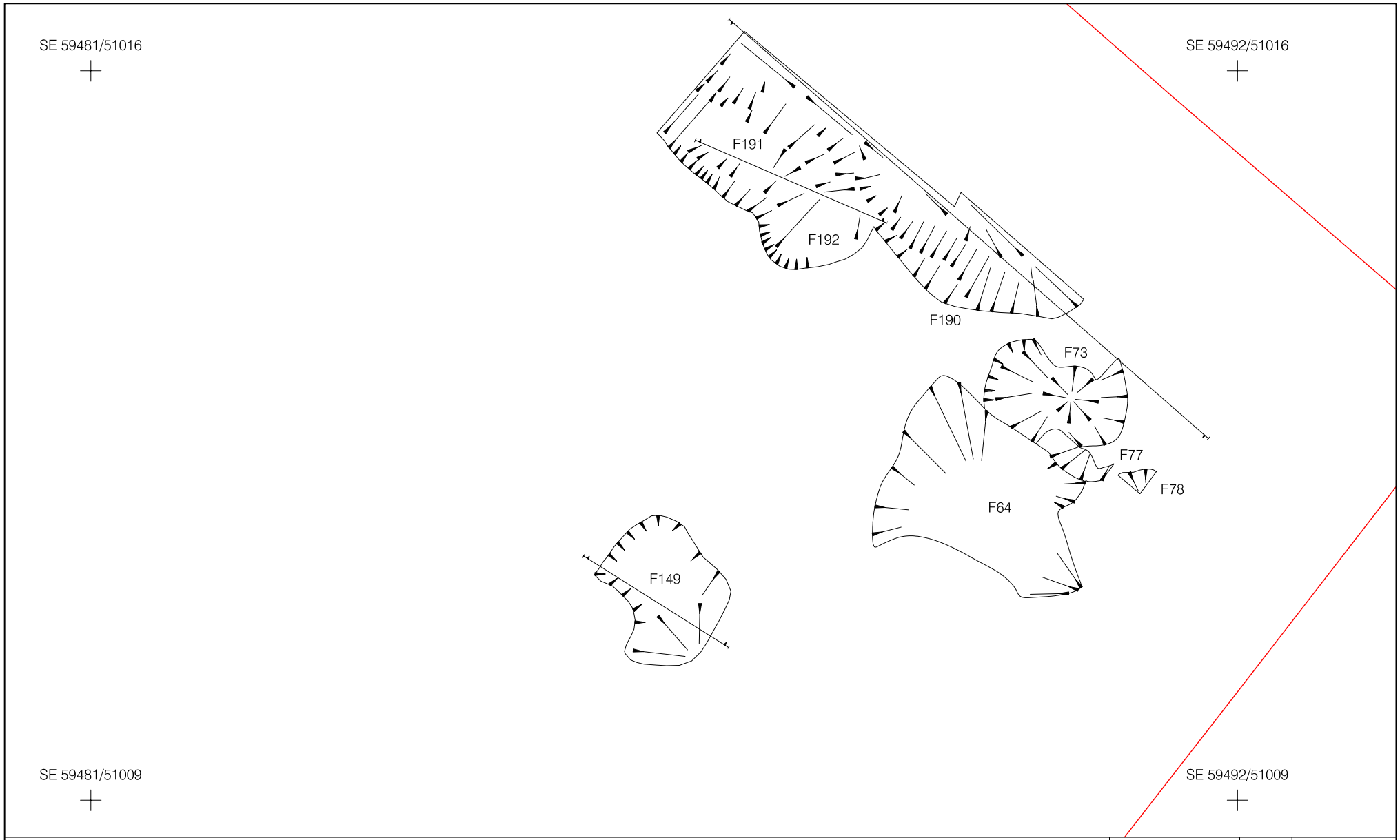
F62 north facing section



F50 F51 F54 and F67 east facing section



Intervention 3 - Period 1A postholes section portfolio	Scale 1:20	Figure 12



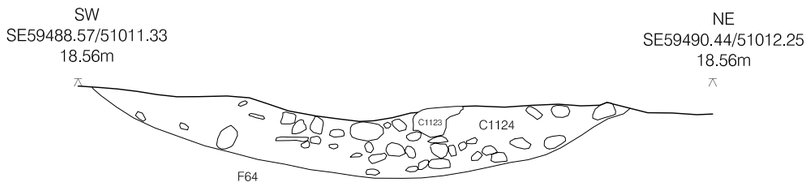
Intervention 2 - Period 1A pits post-excavation

Scale 1:50

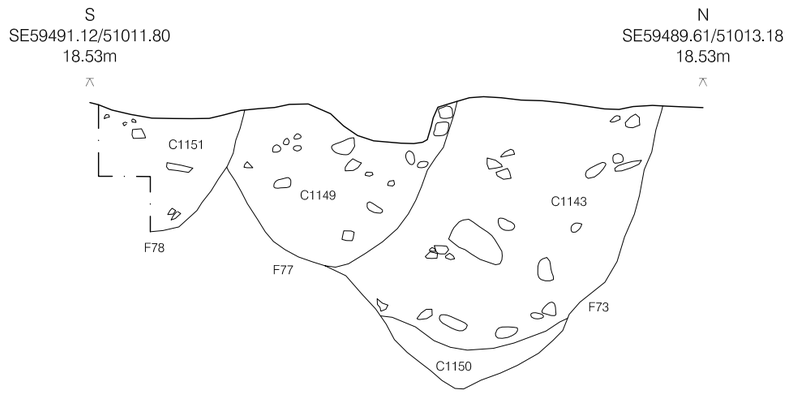
Figure 13

FAS_ymm01_fig13.dwg

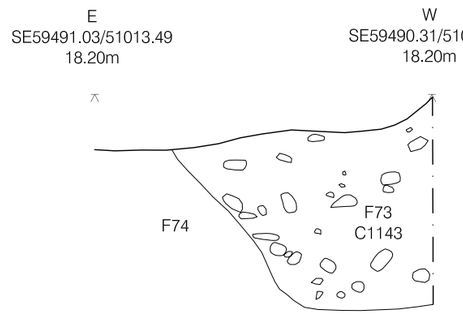
F64 southeast facing section



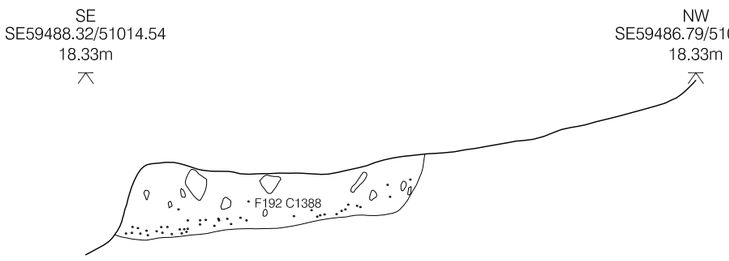
F73 F77 and F78 east facing section



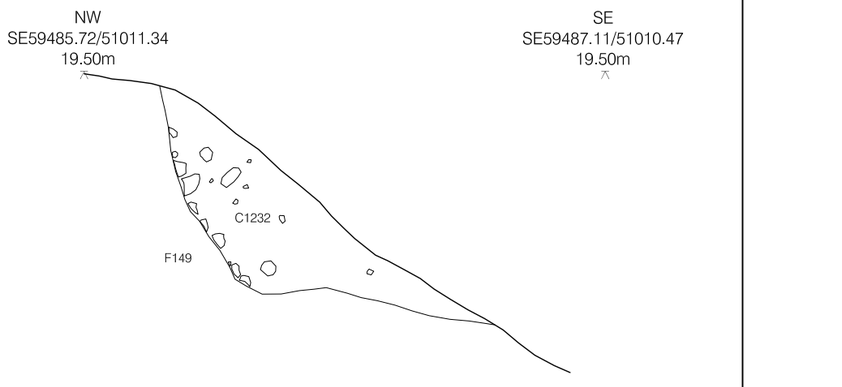
F74 north facing section



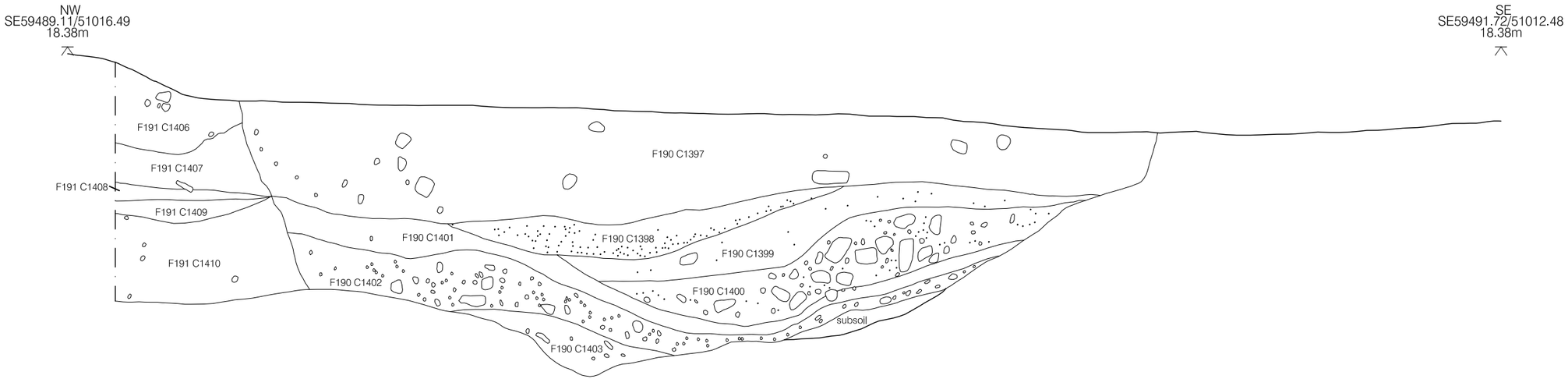
F192 northeast facing section



F149 southwest facing section



F190 and F191 southwest facing section



Intervention 2 - Period 1A pits section portfolio

Scale 1:20

Figure 14

C1127); no dateable finds were recovered. F78 was found to represent a truncated posthole, adjacent to the edge of Intervention 2; a single backfill (C1151) was identified, and again, no dateable finds were recovered.

This suite of features was allocated to Period 1A as they appear to predate the Period 1B inhumations. F64 was clearly cut by inhumation burial F30. This activity suggests the onset of pit-digging in Period 1A; this activity continued and intensified in Period 1C, after what appears to have been a relatively short-lived period of burial.

3.2.2 Period 1B - Cremation and inhumation cemetery

A total of twelve inhumations and two cremations were identified and excavated (Table 3; Figure 15). A stone sarcophagus (F221) was also identified during Intervention 8 and will be reported separately.

Of the inhumations, nine produced Roman ceramic, the majority of which suggested a date after the late 2nd to 3rd century; the cremation urns also provided a 3rd century date. One sherd of early medieval ceramic was recovered from the backfill of one inhumation burial (F19); this grave had, however, been partly exposed during evaluation, and the dating material recovered cannot therefore be regarded as secure.

Table 3 Summary of burials

Burial	Int	Feature	Context	Burial type	Notes
1	4	198	1394	Cremation	Disturbed cremation, within Grey Burnished Ware Urn
2	4	160	1278	Cremation	Redeposited cremation burial, within Ebor Ware vessel
3	2	4	1012	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, iron nails recovered
4	2	19	1032	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, large number of coffin nails recovered
5	2	29	1060	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, single coffin nail recovered
6	2	30	1062	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin identified by nails and staining
7	3	37	1087 1093	Double inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin nails present
8	2	38	1091	Inhumation	Orientated SE-NW, coffin defined by staining and nails
9	2	48	1117	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin nails present
10	4	139	1210	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin suggested by nails and body position
11	2	141	1215	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin defined by staining and nails
12	2	167	1267	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin defined by nails
13	6	212	1441	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin nails present, and coin found near hand
14	8	224	1472	Inhumation	Orientated NW-SE, coffin nails present
15	8	221	1466-8	Sarcophagus	Stone sarcophagus and gypsum-type burial

Cremation burials

The most securely dated of the burials were two cremations, both identified within Intervention 4, one of which appeared to be *in situ* but disturbed (F198), while the second was found to have been redeposited in a Period 1C pit (F160).

SE 5943/5104

SE 5950/5104

INTERVENTION 5 B

INTERVENTION 4

INTERVENTION 5A

Burial 10

Burial 1

Burial 2

INTERVENTION 1

INTERVENTION 8

Burial 15

Burial 7

C1087

C1093

Burial 14

INTERVENTION 3

INTERVENTION 7

INTERVENTION 2

Burial 11

Burial 8

Burial 5

Burial 6

Burial 3

Burial 9

Burial 4

Burial 12

INTERVENTION 6

Burial 13

SE 5950/5100

Probable male

Probable female

Undetermined adult

Subadult

Neonate

Wood coffin burial

Hobnail

Hobnail boots

Ceramic grave goods

Coin

Distribution of inhumation and cremation burials

Scale 1:200

Figure 15

Burial 1 (F198 C1394)

Burial 1 (F198) was initially defined following the excavation of Period 1C pit F140, cut into Roman buried soil C1324. The feature comprised a sub-circular pit, measuring approximately 0.40m x 0.35m, up to 0.20m in depth, and was found to contain a Grey Burnished Ware vessel, and a charcoal-rich clayey silt with a high proportion of cremation human bone (Plate 9). The vessel was badly broken, and the cremated remains were no longer wholly contained within it. The vessel was found to have been decorated with obtuse lattice burnished decoration and is therefore diagnostic of an early to mid-3rd century date.

Plate 9 Burial 1 (F198 C1394) (scale 0.25m)

Osteological analysis found that the cremated remains belonged to an adult; no more precise ageing was possible and sex could not be determined (Appendix L).

Burial 2 (C1471)

The second cremation was identified during excavation of Period 1C pit F160, situated at the southeastern edge of Intervention 4. Although broken and subsequently redeposited, the cremation was recognisable as the remains of a single vessel of Ebor Ware, within a concentration of cremated human bone (Plate 10). Consequently, the cremation was allocated a context number during post-excavation, but formed part of the backfill of the pit (C1278); the vessel again indicates an early to mid-3rd century date for the original burial.

Plate 10 Burial 2 (F160 C1278) (scale 0.25m)

Osteological analysis found that the cremated remains belonged to a juvenile aged between 7 and 8 years.

Inhumation burials

Of the thirteen inhumation burials identified, twelve were fully excavated, recorded and subject to osteological analysis. The thirteenth was identified by the presence of a large stone sarcophagus (F221).

Burial 3 (F4 C1012)

Burial 3 was identified as a sub-rectangular grave, situated towards the southwestern edge of Intervention 2. Upon excavation, the grave was found to contain the *in situ* remains of an adult, orientated NW-SE. The remains had been truncated to the northwest by a large

Plate 11 Burial 3 (F4 C1012) (scale 1.0m)

pit (F14), and to the southeast by the insertion of a modern concrete raft (F9), removing the skull and lower legs (Plate 11). The left arm was found to be positioned beneath the pelvis, with the hand protruding between the legs, while the right arm cross the body and rested over the pelvis.

A total of four iron nails were observed around the edge of the grave cut; one nail was hand-collected. Roman ceramic was recovered from within the backfill of the grave, and suggested a date after the late 3rd century.

Osteological analysis found that the remains were those of a mature adult male aged 46 years or more.

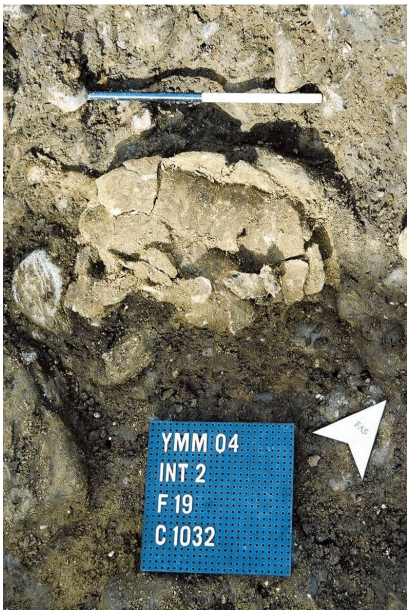


Plate 12 Burial 4 (F19 C1032) skull (scale 0.25m)

Burial 4 (F19 C1032)

Burial 4 (F19) had initially been encountered during evaluation by OSA, and was redefined adjacent to the southeastern edge of Intervention 2. The extended supine remains of an adult inhumation, orientated NW-SE, were identified within the cut; the torso was noted as absent by OSA, the skull, and upper and lower limbs were recorded *in situ* (Plates 12 and 13, Figure 16). The burial was noted to have been positioned with arms crossed across the torso.

The fully excavated grave measured 2.4m x 0.9m x 0.45m in depth, with near-vertical sides and a flat base. A large number of iron nails (32) was observed, located and recovered during excavation, and were noted to follow the edge of the grave, indicating the presence of a wooden coffin. The backfill of the grave produced ceramic of 2nd and 3rd century date; a single sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered, but due to the prior exposure of the grave, this cannot be regarded as secure dating evidence.

Plate 13 Burial 4 (F19 C1032) lower limbs (scale 0.5m)

Osteological analysis identified the remains as those of a male aged 36 years or more.

Burial 5 (F29 C1060)

Burial 5 (F29) was allocated to a grave situated in the northern half of Intervention 2. The skeletal remains were identified as those of a child, which had been positioned prone in the grave cut, orientated NW-SE (Plate 14). The burial had been truncated to the north by F1, removing much of the right-hand side of the skeleton (Figure 17).

A single iron nail, set vertically against the southern edge of the cut was observed during excavation,

Plate 14 Burial 5 (F29 C1090) (scale 0.5m)

SE 59485/51009

SE 59492/51009

Burial 9
F48 C1117

Burial 4
F19 C1032

Burial 12
F167 C1297

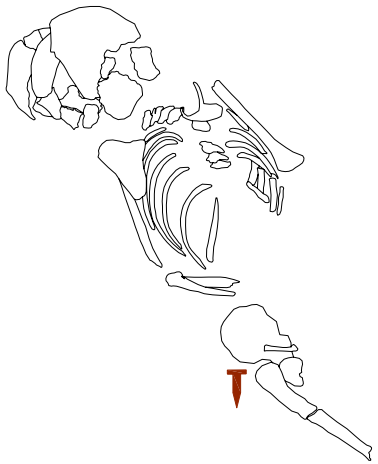
SE 59485/51005

SE 59492/51005

Burials 4, 9 and 12 (F19 C1032, F48 C1117, F167 C1287)

Scale 1:20

Figure 16



SE 59486/51013

SE 59488/51013

Burial 5 (F29 C1060)

Scale 1:10

Figure 17

represented the only evidence for a coffin.

Osteological analysis identified the remains as those of a juvenile aged between 5 and 6 years.

Burial 6 (F30 C1062)

Burial 6 (F30) was allocated to the extended supine remains of an adult inhumation, identified in the southeastern half of Intervention 2 (Figure 18, Plate 15). The burial, orientated NW-SE, appears to have been contained within a wooden coffin. A total of twenty-four iron nails were observed and nineteen recovered; these were situated around the edges of the grave, and suggest the form of a coffin, which was also represented by a thin stain. A large number of hobnails were identified around the feet, which had been partly truncated (Plate 16).

Plate 15 Burial 6 (F30 C1062) (scale 1.0m)

Plate 16 Burial 6 (F30 C1062) hobnails

The individual was positioned with both arms crossing the body, with hands resting over the pelvis. The feet had fallen outwards, and the jaw was resting on the upper torso, suggesting that the body had partly decomposed prior to the collapse of the coffin.

Osteological analysis determined that the remains belonged to a young middle adult, probably a male.

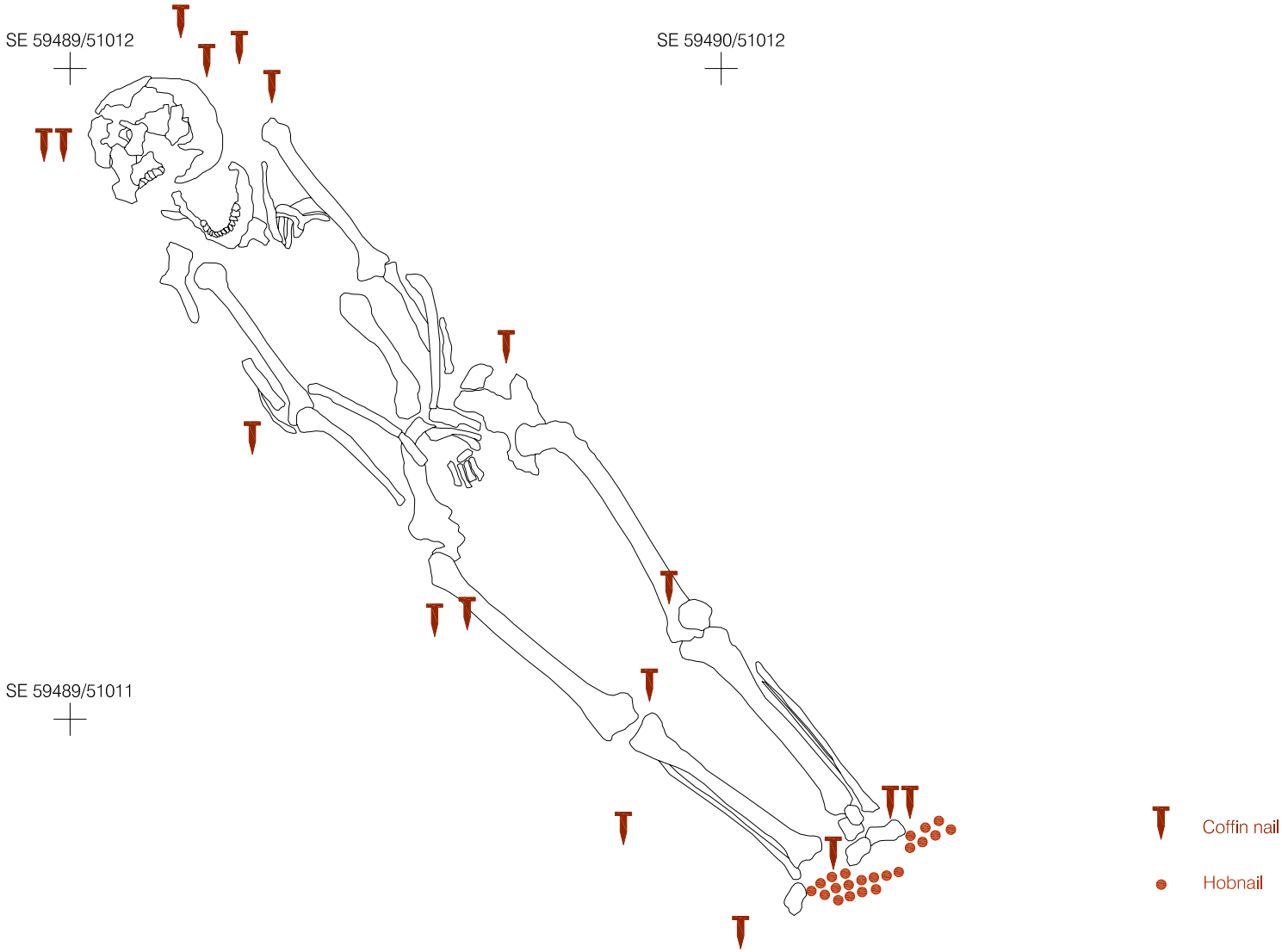
Burial 7 (F37 C1087 C1093)

Burial 7 was identified within Intervention 3 as a sub-rectangular cut measuring 2.0m x 0.55-0.40m, tapering towards the southeast. The steep-sided cut was excavated to a depth of 0.20m, and was found to contain the *in situ* remains of an adult inhumation, orientated NW-SE (Plate 17; Figure 19). The central part of the grave had been truncated by a later pit F45, removing the pelvis, upper legs and hands, which appeared from the attitude of the arms to have been located over the pelvis. The fragmentary remains of an infant, possibly in a crouched position, were located over the feet of the adult skeleton (Plate 18); both individuals were clearly contained within a coffin, delineated by nineteen iron nails.

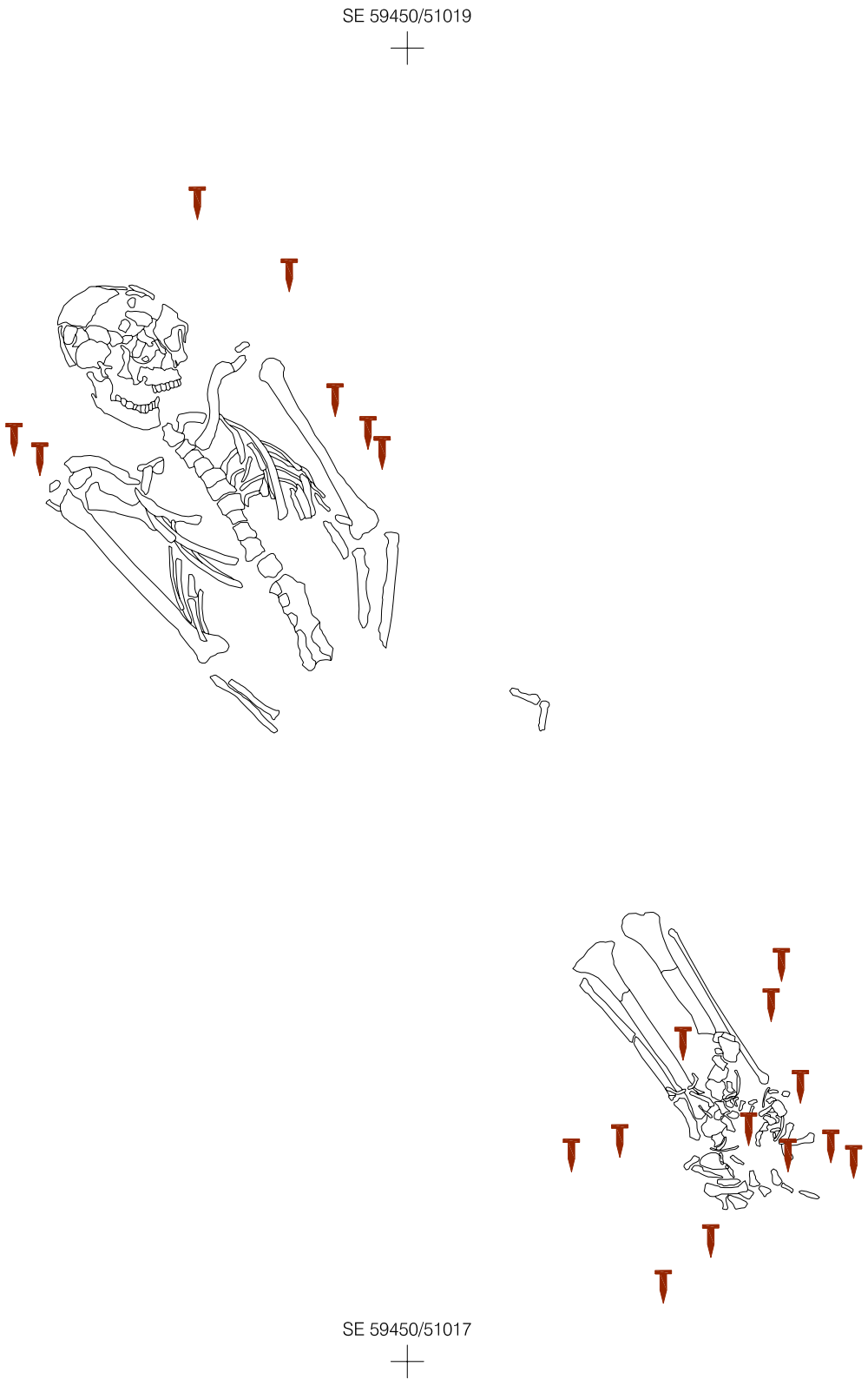
Plate 17 Burial 7 (F37 C1087) (scale 1.0m)

Osteological analysis identified the double burial to represent the remains of a young middle adult, probably male, aged 26 to 35 years and a neonate aged between birth and 2 months.

Plate 18 Burial 7 neonate (F37 C1093) (scale 0.5m)



Burial 6 (F30 C1062) | Scale 1:10 | Figure 18



Burial 7 (F37 C1087 and C1093) | Scale 1:10 | Figure 19

Burial 8 (F38 C1091)

Burial 8 (F38) was defined following the excavation of F1 as a rectangular cut. Upon excavation, this was found to contain the well-preserved remains of a child orientated SE-NW (Plate 19). The individual had been placed into the grave in a supine position, with the arms bent so that the hands would have rested together on the chest. Unlike all of the other inhumations identified during the excavation, F38 was positioned with head to the southeast.

Plate 19 Burial 8 (F38 C1091) (scale 1.0m)

The presence of a coffin was suggested by the presence of iron nails (thirteen were recovered), which were situated around the edge of the cut, pointing inwards (Figure 20). A number of hobnails were recovered from the area of the feet of the burial. A date after the mid-3rd century was provided by ceramic within the backfill of the grave cut.

Osteological analysis determined that the remains were those of an adolescent aged between 12 and 14 years.

Burial 9 (F48 C1117)

F48 was identified following the excavation of pit F44, on the same alignment as F167 (Plate 20, see Figure 16). The inhumation burial, which was orientated NW-SE, was found to have been truncated to the northwest by F44, removing the head and torso; the lower legs had also been subject to later disturbance. The individual was positioned in a supine position, with the arms crossed over the torso.

Plate 20 Burial 9 (F48 C1117) (scale 0.5m)

A total of sixteen iron coffin nails were observed and twelve recovered. Ceramic within the grave cut provided date of the mid-3rd century or later.

Osteological analysis found that the remains were those of a juvenile aged between 10 and 14 years.

Burial 10 (F139 C1210)

Burial 10, F139, was identified close to the northeastern edge of Intervention 4, following the excavation of Period 3 ditch F90 (Plate 21, Figure 21). The feature comprised the truncated remains of a baby, interred on a NW-SE alignment. The feature had been truncated by a modern manhole (F80), and by ditch F90, which removed the lower legs and arms respectively. The skeletal remains suggest that the individual had been

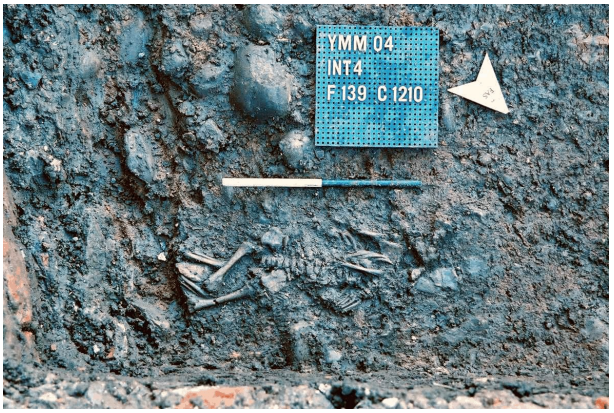


Plate 21 Burial 10 (F139 C1210) (scale 0.25m)

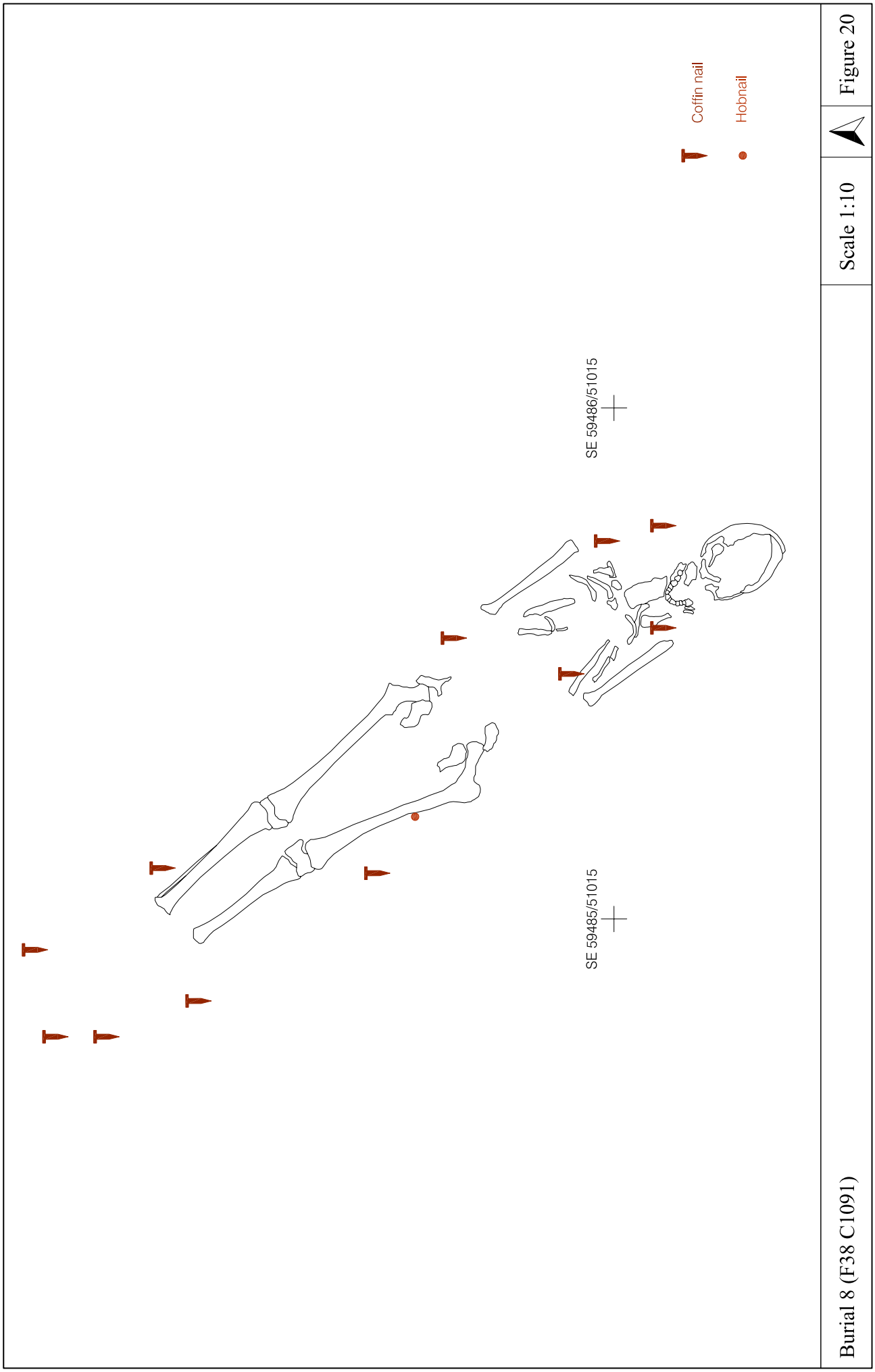
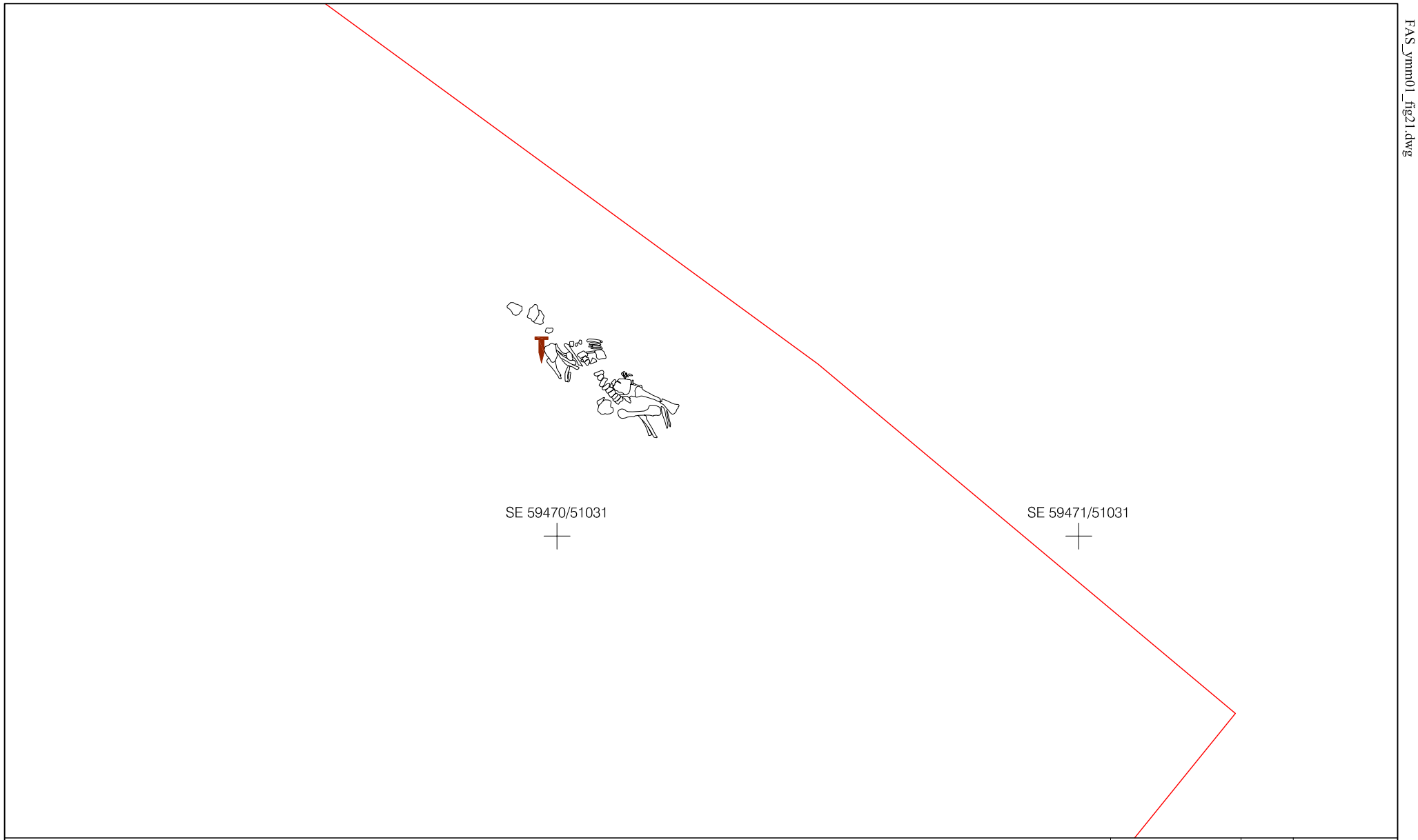


Figure 20

Scale 1:10

Burial 8 (F38 C1091)



Burial 10 (F139 C1210)

Scale 1:10

Figure 21

buried in a supine position, with the right arm over the torso, and the left arm by the side.

Just one coffin nail was identified, which may indicate that the baby was buried within a casket.

Osteological analysis identified the remains as those of a neonate aged between birth and 2 months.

Burial 11 (F141 C1215)

F141 was identified in the northern part of Intervention 4 as a well-defined grave cut, within which the rectilinear stain of a wooden coffin could be seen (C1214)(Plate 22). The grave cut was noted to have been particularly deep, with the coffin situated over 1.0m deep within the cut, and had been truncated to the northwest by the insertion of a Victorian brick well (Figure 22).

Upon excavation, the feature was found to contain the *in situ* remains of an adult inhumation, in a supine position with arms extended by the sides of the body and orientated NW-SE (Plate 23). Preservation was relatively poor, and parts of the skeleton were concealed beneath deposits which are interpreted as collapsed coffin remains. A total of twenty-seven nails were recovered from the grave cut, positioned horizontally facing inwards around the sides of the grave. A single hobnail was recovered with the burial.

Osteological analysis found that the remains were those of an individual aged 20 years or more, probably female.

Burial 12 (F167 C1297)

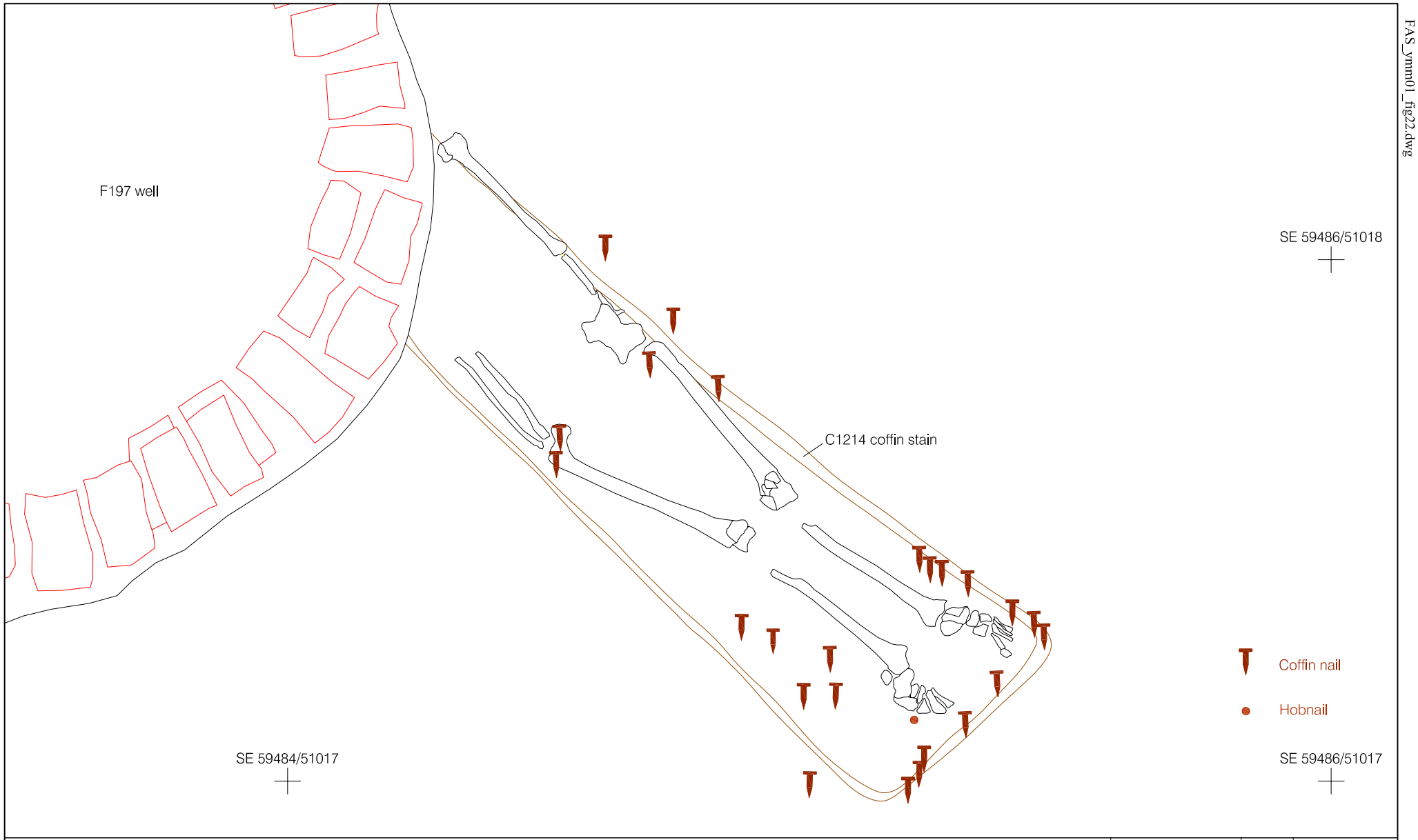
F167 was identified extending beyond the southeastern limit of excavation within Intervention 2, in the vicinity of Burials 4 and 9 (see Figure 16). Initially, the skull and upper torso were recorded, before the stepped baulk was cut back to reveal the full inhumation. The grave was found to contain the remains of an adult inhumation orientated NW-SE, in a supine position, with arms crossing at the waist (Plate 24).

The grave cut was found to measure 2.5m NW-SE x 1.1m NE-SW; the feature had, however, been truncated to the northwest. *In situ* coffin nails were recorded, and a total of fourteen nails recovered. Within F167, two smashed ceramic vessels were recovered, identified as a Black Burnished Ware 2 bowl, and a locally produced Grey Ware jar. These, and a number of isolated sherds, provided a date in the second half of the 2nd century or later.

Plate 22 Burial 11 (F141 C1214) coffin stain (scale 0.5m)

Plate 23 Burial 11 (F141 C1215) (scale 0.5m)

Plate 24 Burial 12 (F167 C1297) (scale 0.5m)



Burial 11 (F141 C1215)

Scale 1:10

Figure 22

Osteological analysis determined the remains as those of an old middle adult female aged between 36 and 45 years.

Burial 13 (F212 C1441)

Burial 13, identified within Intervention 6, had initially been identified within a geotechnical pit monitored by OSA (OSA 2004). F212 was allocated to a poorly defined sub-rectangular cut, measuring 1.95m x 0.65m; some truncation had occurred, although this was not well-defined.

Plate 25 Burial 13 (F212 C1441) (scale 1.0m)

The grave was found to contain the *in situ* remains of an adult skeleton in an extended supine position orientated NW-SE (Plate 25, Figure 23). The right arm was folded across the torso, while the left arm was extended by the side. A coin was identified close to the left hand, identified as a worn, silver *denarius* of Septimus Severus, dated to 193-211 AD (Plate 26). Seven iron nails, indicating the presence of a coffin, were located and recovered.

Plate 26 *Denarius* of Septimus Severus

Osteological analysis identified the remains as those of a mature adult male aged 46 years or more.

Burial 14 (F224 C1472)

Burial 14 was situated within Intervention 8, to the southeast of, and in line with, the stone sarcophagus. The grave had been badly truncated to the northwest by a scaffold foundation, and the surviving cut was found to measure 1.94m x 0.45m x 0.26m deep (Plate 27, Figure 24). The remains lay in an extended supine position orientated NW-SE, with the right arm lying over the pelvis.

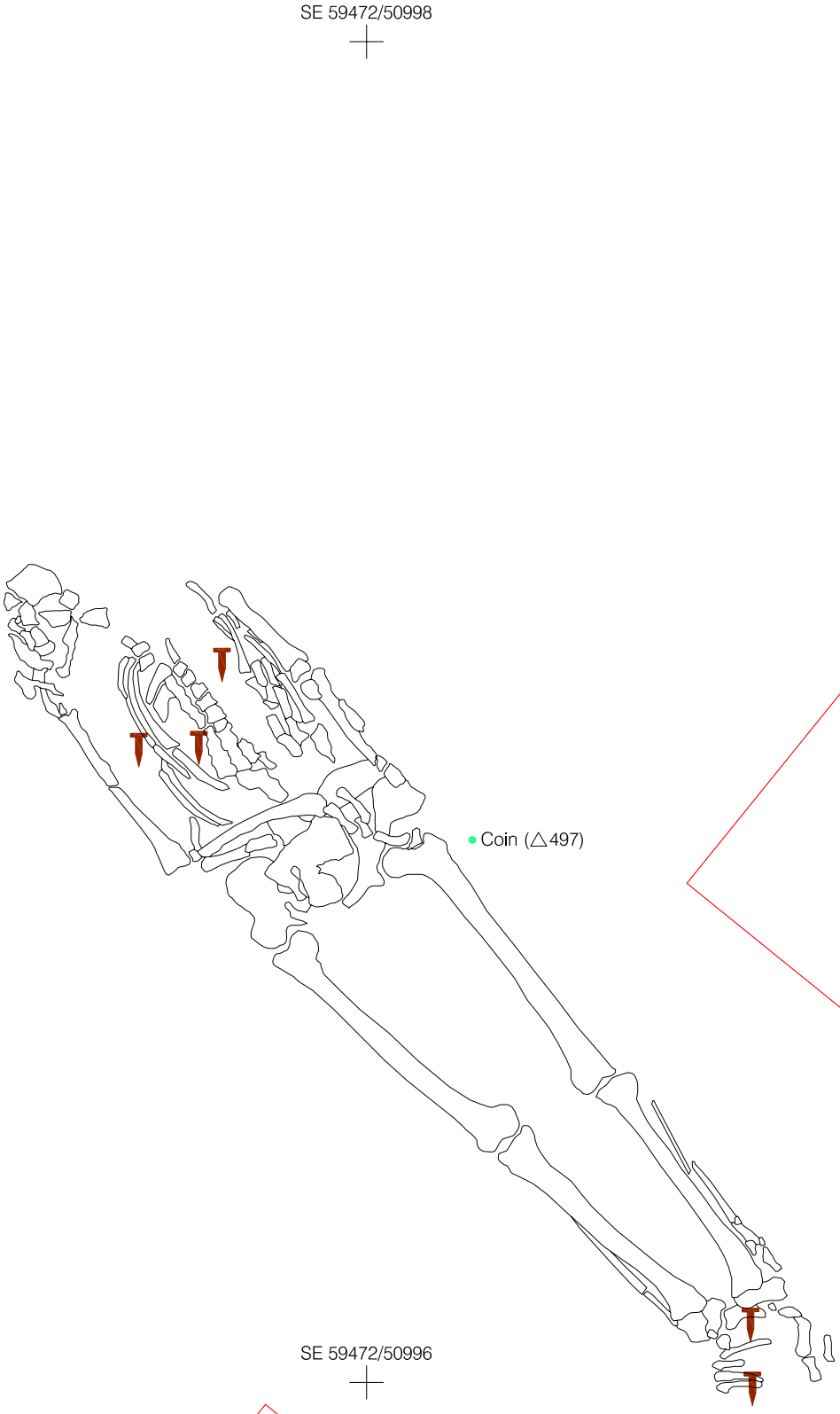
Two coffin nails suggested the presence of a coffin; ceramic recovered dated to the 1st to 2nd century and is considered to be residual.

Osteological analysis identified the remains as those of an old middle adult male aged between 36 and 45 years.

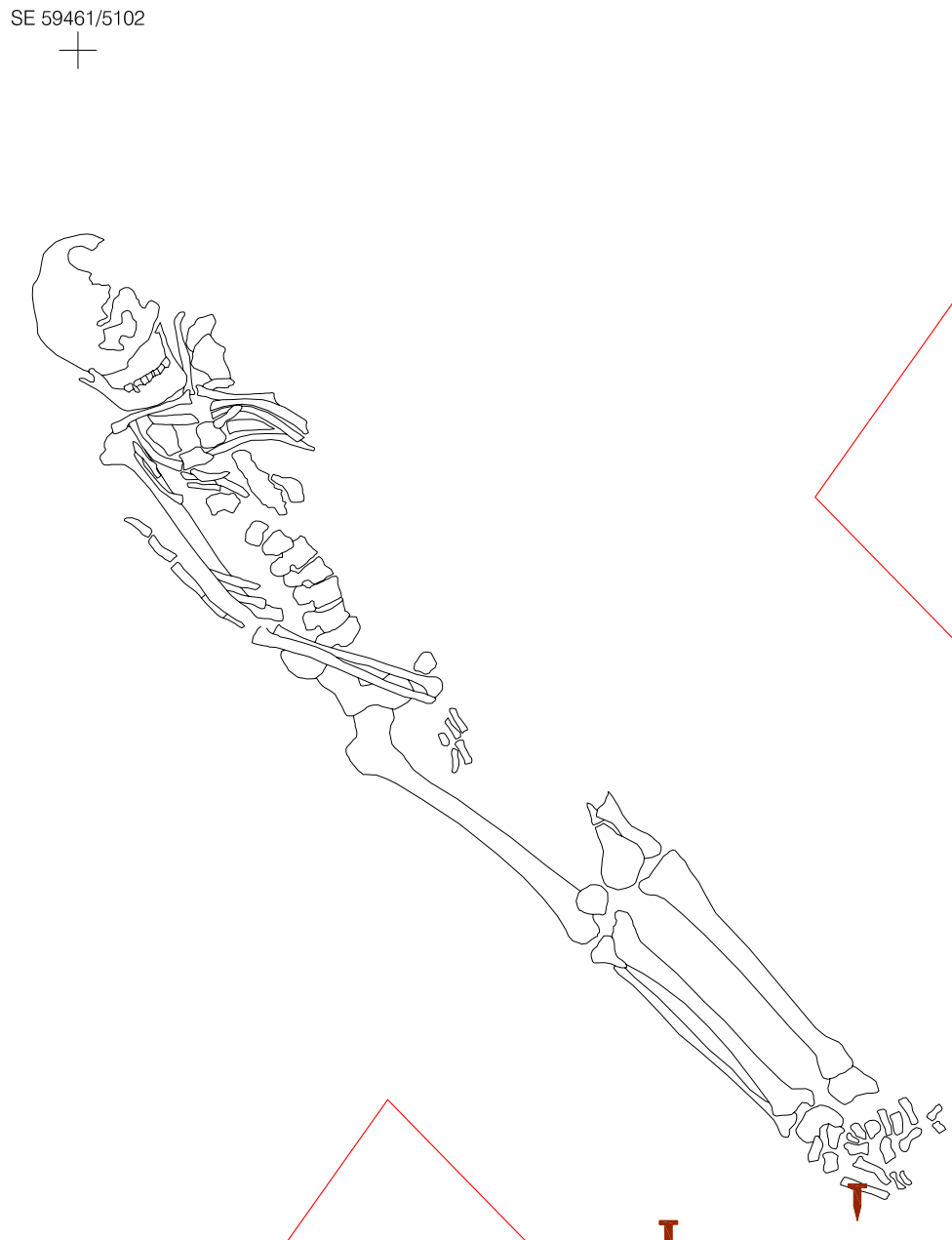
Plate 27 Burial 14 (F224 C1472) (scale 0.5m)

Burial rite

All of the inhumations represented extended burial, and with the exception of prone Burial 5, all were supine. Where evidence survived, the individuals were found to have been buried with hands crossing the body or resting in the lap, with the exception of Burial 3, which had been positioned with the left arm beneath the body. The rite of Burial 5 was



Burial 13 (F212 C1444) | Scale 1:10 | Figure 23



Burial 14 (F224, C1472) | Scale 1:10 | Figure 24

noteworthy and represented the only prone burial, that of a child.

Of the twelve inhumations, all but one produced some evidence for having been contained within a wooden coffin. In some cases, this evidence was somewhat fragmentary; Burial 4 and Burial 10 produced just one nail each, Burial 14 produced two, while Burial 3 produced only four. All of these features had, however, been subject to considerable truncation, and further evidence for a coffin may have been removed. In other cases, evidence for a coffin was much more substantial, represented by alignments of iron nails around the limits of grave cuts. Burial 4, in particular, contained nails which were still positioned horizontally and vertically, describing a plank-built, lidded coffin. In two cases, a coffin stain provided further evidence for coffin burial, Burial 11 provided the clearest such example.

All but one of the graves represented a single inhumation within a coffin. Within Burial 7, however, an adult male was found to have been interred with a neonate situated over his feet, potentially indicative of some familial relationship, possibly father and child.

Only a limited number of artefacts were identified within the graves, and the only possible grave goods were represented by the smashed ceramic vessels with F167, and the coin, which may have been placed in the hand of F212. Iron hobnails were noted within Burial 6 (F30), 8 (F38), and 11 (F141), a common and diagnostic Roman burial rite. The hobnails were present in the graves of a male, an adolescent (and therefore of undetermined sex) and a female suggesting that such goods were not confined to either sex or distributed according to age.

Two Roman small finds recovered from deposits of modern date are noteworthy and may represent redeposited grave goods. A well-preserved decorative ivory hair pin and a fragmentary jet bracelet are finds which could well represent residual grave goods, and are likely to have derived from female graves. Similar finds have been recovered in context from more high status graves from within The Mount cemetery and in other extra-mural cemeteries of the city. In addition, a pair of tweezers and a spoon may also represent funerary objects; although these items have a more obvious domestic function, this does not necessarily prelude inclusion in a grave.

Population

The burials represented graves of six males, two females and five children and as such, represents a mixed population with no obvious segregation. In addition, the disarticulated bone indicated that a minimum of a two further adults, two juveniles, a neonate and an adolescent had been buried at the site, but had been subject to disturbance and redeposition; again these remains suggest a mixed cemetery population.

Layout of the cemetery

Although the graves are dispersed throughout the site, and frequently truncated by later features, a remarkable regularity can be noted regarding the orientation of the cemetery (see Figure 15). With the exception of one burial (Burial 8), all of the burials were orientated NW-SE, and a number of aligned graves are evident within the cemetery, which may demonstrate a degree of organisation, and possibly the demarcation of burials or plots. The alignment of the burials in Intervention 2 appears to respect the general boundary running along the northeastern edge of the site. This would suggest positioning of the burials within a predefined parcel of land. Three burials are situated to the northeast of this boundary, which in itself appears to represent a focus for

activity. However, it should be noted that the complete surviving distribution of burials may not have been recovered within the areas of excavation since it was not necessary to excavate Interventions 1, 3 and 5 to 8 to natural subsoil.

Date of the cemetery

As noted, the cemetery is currently dated on the basis of stratigraphy, ceramic, a coin and diagnostic artefacts. The cremation vessels suggest interment in the early to mid-3rd century, and the *terminus post quem* provided by pottery within grave backfills, and the coin from F212, indicate a later 2nd century, or more likely, an early to mid-3rd century date. In addition, the hobnail boots are heavily nailed, indicative of a 3rd century date.

3.2.3 Period 1C - Pit digging and landscaping activity

Following use of the site as part of a cemetery, the nature of activity appears to be of a more domestic nature. These features were dated primarily by ceramic evidence; those with an ambiguous Roman date, but containing disarticulated human bone, have also been assigned to this period, on the grounds that they probably post-date the burial phase.

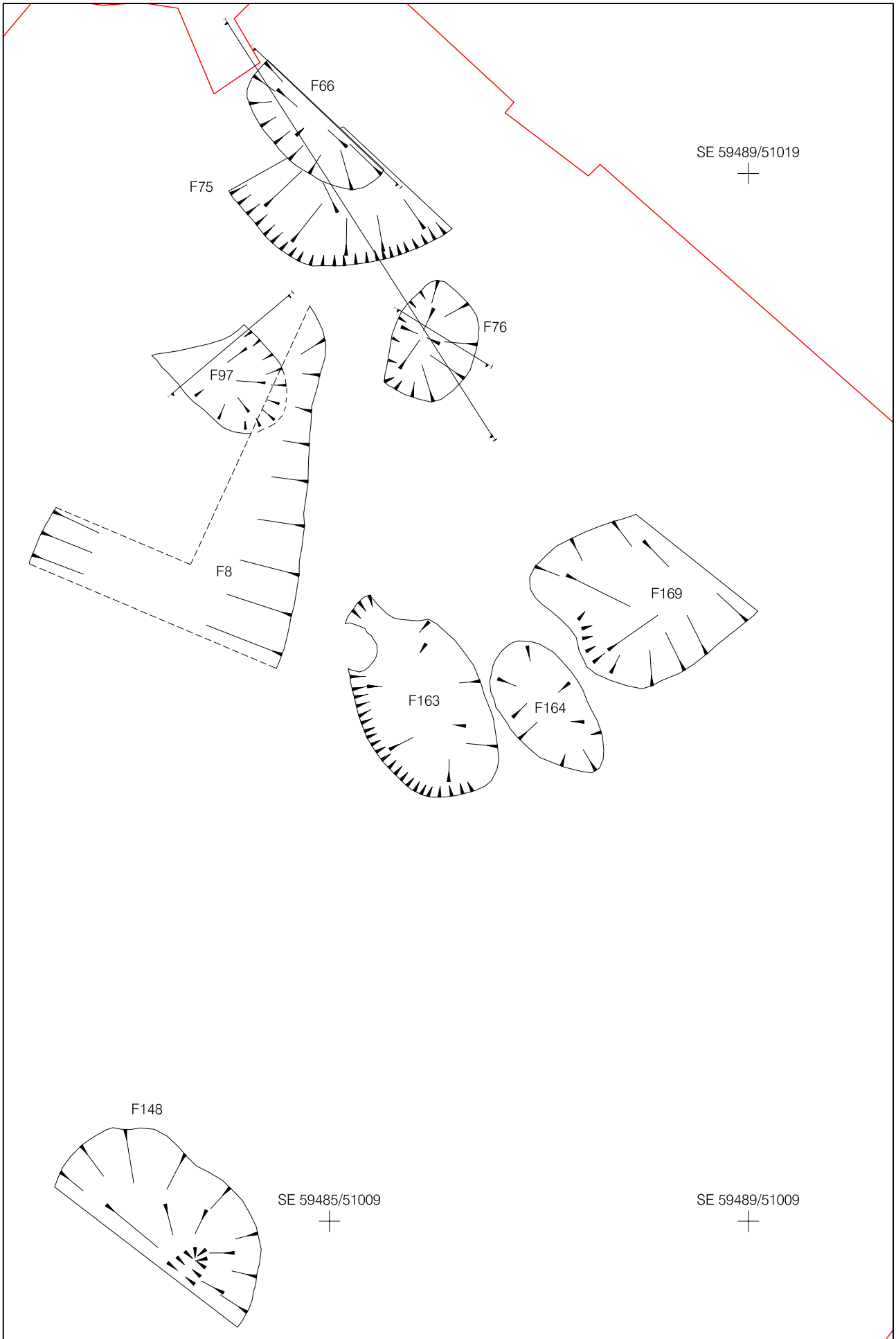
Two separate, and apparently chronologically distinct, forms of activity appear to be represented within Period 1C, although dating evidence is not secure enough to suggest separate periods. Initially, the inhumation and cremation burials of Period 1B seem to have been succeeded by a phase of pit-digging, potentially for the purpose of quarrying and the deposition of domestic refuse. This seems to have been particularly concentrated within the eastern part of Intervention 2. Much of this activity was then succeeded by major landscaping or quarrying features; sloping cut F1, and possible pit or ditch F16 were found to have truncated large areas, and are suggested by the ceramic evidence to represent the latest Roman activity on the site.

Pits, postholes and linear features

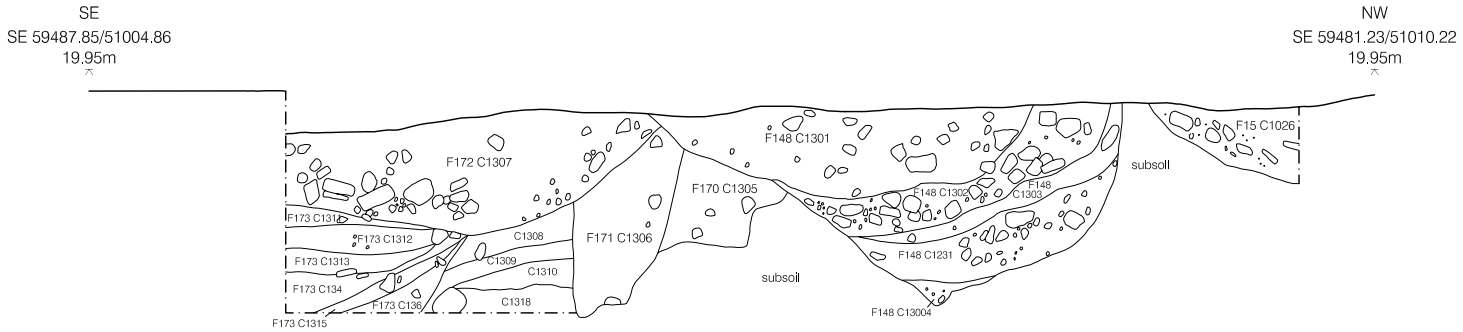
The majority of pits were found to focus within Interventions 2 and 4, and demonstrated a strong gravitation towards the northeastern boundary of the site. Considerable intercutting of features was identified within these areas, demonstrating activity of a denser nature, and different character, to that of preceding phases.

Within Intervention 2, a series of large, sub-oval features were identified, some of which may represent the butt-ends of linear features. Again, the features appeared to follow a rough NW-SE alignment, although this may in part be due to the later cut of F1, which will have uniformly truncated the northeastern edges of underlying features, thereby making them appear more elongated in plan.

Distributed throughout Intervention 2, a number of such features were identified and excavated (F148, F163, F164, F169, F190)(Figure 25). F148 was identified as a steep-sided cut, extending beyond the southwestern edge of excavation. In section, the feature was found to have cut a number of earlier pits (F170, F171, F172 and F173)(Figure 26). The visible plan of F148 measured over 3.0m x 0.99m, and the feature was seen in section to measure up to 1.3m in depth. Few finds were recovered, and the sequence of tipping backfills appears to suggest gradual silting up. The backfills were found to be relatively sterile, comprising cobble-filled sandy clays and silty sands; no dateable finds were recovered.



Intervention 2 - Period 1C pits post-excavation | Scale 1:50 | Figure 25



Intervention 2 northeast facing section | Scale 1:50 | Figure 26

F163 and F63 were situated to the northeast of F148, and represent two further pits with very similar plans and profiles. F63, truncated by ditch F8 and cut by F1, was found to be sub-oval in plan, measuring 2.00 x 1.22m. Upon excavation, F63 was found to have been backfilled with two distinct backfills; C1126 and C1127, reaching a maximum depth of 0.32m. F163 was found to be of similar dimensions, measuring 2.13m x 1.23m, but surviving to a maximum depth of 0.50m (Plate 28). Neither produced securely dated material, but the fact that F163 cut burial F38 has led to assignment to Period 1C. F63 produced ceramic of 1st century date, which is likely to be residual; it was ascribed to this period on the basis of similarity and proximity to F163. Immediately to the northwest, F164 represents a further pit of similar shape; although slightly smaller, measuring 1.48m x 0.79m x 0.34m, this may be due to more severe truncation by F1.

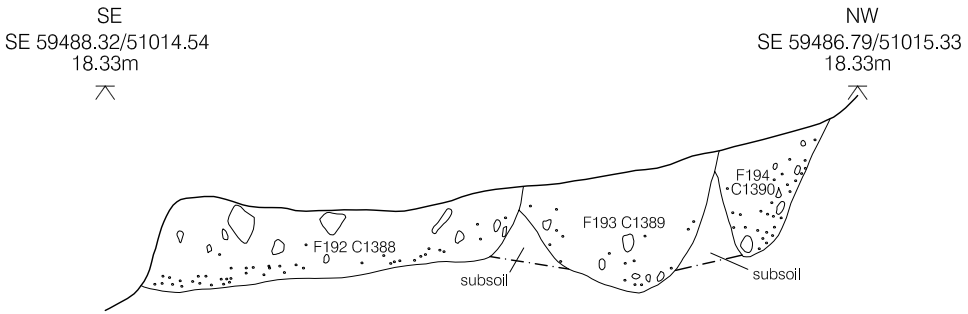
Plate 28 F163 post-excavation (scale 1.0m)

A large, sub-square pit was identified, against the southeastern limit of Intervention 2, and, although poorly defined, is thought to have cut the Period 1A scoop, F64. This feature, allocated F227, was initially thought to have been part of the later cut of F16; subsequent reassessment, however, suggested that this was not the case. F227 was not fully excavated, due both to safety constraints and to the fact that it extended beyond the limit of excavation. From the available evidence, however, it seems that this was a steep-sided feature, measuring up to 2.28m across, and up to 0.90m in depth. The backfills of this feature (C1227 to C1230) represented relatively sterile gravels. It cannot be discounted that this represents poorly defined gravel subsoil, although the fairly regular shape against sand subsoil led to the conclusion that this was likely to have been manmade.

F227 had been cut by a possible posthole, F162, which was found to have been similarly steep-sided, measuring 1.00m x 0.80m x 0.75m in depth, and lay in the immediate vicinity of F149, another posthole of almost identical proportions. Both features had been backfilled with gravel-rich sandy clay deposits; F149 had been backfilled once with C1232, while F162 contained two distinct fills, including stone packing material (C1287), and possible post-pipe (C1288). Interpretation of these two features is difficult, although superficially they would appear to represent some form of structural activity.

Plate 29 Intercutting features in Intervention 2 (scale 0.5m)

At the northeastern edge of Intervention 2, a higher degree of intercutting was evident, focussed on the putative boundary suggested to have been marked by F191=F184 (Plate 29). F192 to F194 were identified as a series of possible features, truncating the top of F191; no finds were recovered, and it is possible that these deposits represent gravel inclusions within the mixed morainic subsoil (Figure 27). These features had, in turn, been cut by F190, a large pit identified at the northeastern edge of investigation. F190 was found to measure up to 3.82m across, and extended 0.88m into the area of excavation. A sequence of at least seven



F192, F193 and F194 northeast facing section | Scale 1:20 | Figure 27

backfills was identified; only a limited number of finds was recovered, but the twelve fragments of Roman ceramic indicate a date later than the 2nd century.

Further to the northwest, this pattern of intercutting features continued. A shallow scoop (F197) was found to have cut burial F141; this, in turn, had been cut by a sequence of three pits (F97, F75 and F76)(Plate 30). F75 was the largest of these features, excavated against the northeastern edge of Intervention 2, and was found to measure at least 2.90m NW-SE, with steeply sloping sides reaching beyond a depth of 1.20m, at which point excavation ceased. The feature had been backfilled in three distinct episodes, represented by C1145, C1146 and C1147, from which ceramic and animal bone were recovered; a small copper alloy spoon was also recovered (Plate 31). F169 was identified as a sub-circular pit against the northeastern edge of excavation, and was found to contain domestic waste, including ceramic, CBM, burnt bone, shell and a pair of copper alloy tweezers (Plate 32). Ceramic material from this feature indicated a date in the 3rd century or later.

Plate 30 F75 and F76 (scale 1.0m)

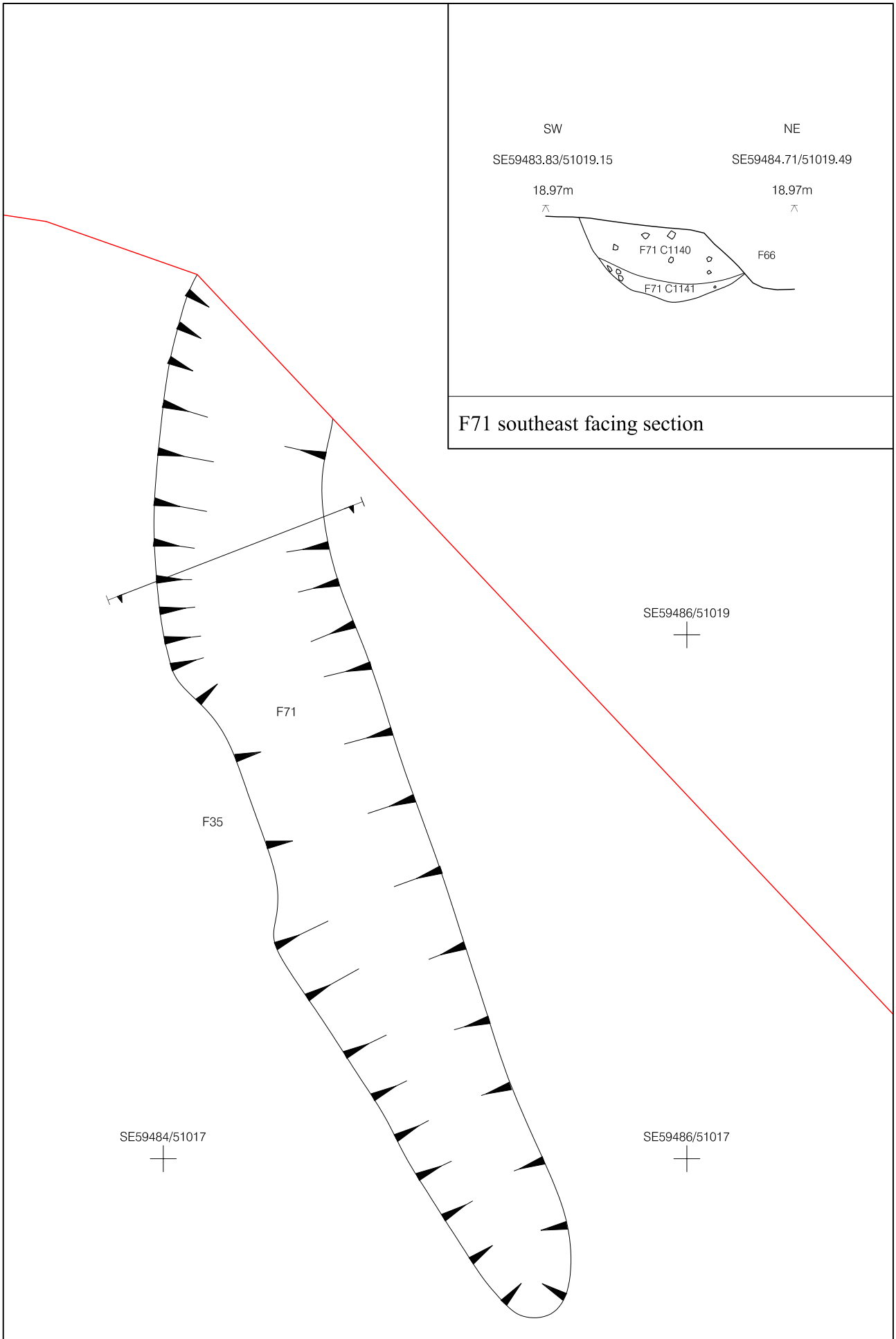
Plate 31 Copper alloy spoon

Plate 32 Copper alloy tweezers

F76 and F97 represent smaller features to the south and east of F75, measuring a maximum of 1.10m across, and up to 0.30m in depth. The backfills of F76 (C1148 and C1152) contained limited quantities of animal bone, while the single backfill of F97 was found to contain a sherd of glass dateable to the mid-1st to late 2nd century. A slightly curvilinear, butt-ending ditch (F71) was found to cut the upper fill of F75, measuring up to 3.70m in length and extending beyond the edge of excavation (Figure 28). This relatively shallow feature (between 0.10m and 0.30m in depth) was found to contain two distinct backfills (C1140 and C1141).

Together, this group of intercutting features can be assigned relatively securely to Period 1C: as noted, scoop F197 cut burial F141; Pits F97 and F76 provided a ceramic date in the late 2nd century or later; F75 was dated with more certainty to the later 3rd century, supported by fresh-looking sherds of calcite-tempered ware jars. The gully (F71) was not dated, but this was cut by a later feature F66, which also provided a late 3rd century date based on ceramic evidence.

With Intervention 4, activity appears to have been more concentrated, but exhibits a similar density to that of Intervention 2, represented by a number of pits and postholes. To the northwest of the potential Period 1A



F71 hachure plan and southeast facing section | Scale 1:20 | Figure 28

alignment, two substantial pits were excavated (F176 and F160). F176 was situated in the northern corner of Intervention 4 as a sub-circular feature, 1.7m in diameter, extending beyond the northeastern edge of investigation. Upon excavation, the feature was found to have steeply sloping sides, to a depth of 0.61m, and had been backfilled with a sequence of five deposits (Plate 33). These contexts (C1328-C1332) consisted of yellowish-brown or dark brown silty clays and sandy silts containing charcoal; the upper fill was noted to contain a quantity of ceramic, bone and an iron object. The pottery from this pit suggested a date of the 2nd to 4th century, although a single sherd of (possibly intrusive) early medieval ceramic was recovered. F160, located further towards the southern edge of the excavation, was found to measure approximately 1.8m in diameter, with steeply sloping sides to a depth of 1.20m. The sequence of backfills (C1277, C1278, C1279, C1280, C1283, C1284, C1293) was found to contain significant quantities of ceramic, animal bone and shell, with a number of deposits, noted to have organic cess-like character. Soil assessment found these deposits to have been sterile; the green cess-like appearance was possibly due to mineralisation. This pit contained fresh sherds of 3rd century ceramic, and would seem to represent the deposition of domestic waste.

Plate 33 F176 section (scale 1.0m)

As noted, the majority of features were concentrated within Interventions 2 and 4, although these were the only two areas fully excavated to natural subsoil. The only isolated feature outside these main areas was represented by pit F45, located within Intervention 3, and assigned to Period 1C on the grounds that it cut burial F37. The feature measured 0.68m x 0.48m and was found to have steeply sloping sides and a square profile; the single backfill produced ceramic of late 2nd century date.

Ditch F8

Within Intervention 2, a number of Period 1C features, including pit F63, were found to have been cut by an apparently butt-ending ditch, F8 (see Figure 25). This feature was identified in plan as a NE-SW aligned feature measuring 5.0m x 3.0m. Two distinct backfills were identified; C1064 was seen to represent the gradual silting up of the feature, while C1063 was seen to represent a deliberate backfilling episode, containing ceramic, animal bone, and a Roman coin of Theodora, which has been dated to the early 4th century (AD 337-348) and provides a *terminus post quem* for the backfilling of the feature. The relationship between F1 and F8 was uncertain; F8 potentially represents a ditch which was truncated by F1, and this relationship would seem to be supported by the shallow profile of the feature where it intersects the cut of F1 (Plate 34).


Plate 34 F8, showing the edge of F1 (scale 1.0m)

Landscaping activity or possible ditch (F1)

After the removal of modern material from Intervention 2 by machine, a large feature was identified at the northern edge of the trench, and allocated F1. The visible extent covered much of the northeastern edge of the intervention, but was interrupted to the north by a number of modern features (Figure 29). Due to the extent of F1, much of the later backfill was excavated by machine after a sondage had been hand-excavated adjacent to the southeastern stepped section of Intervention 2.

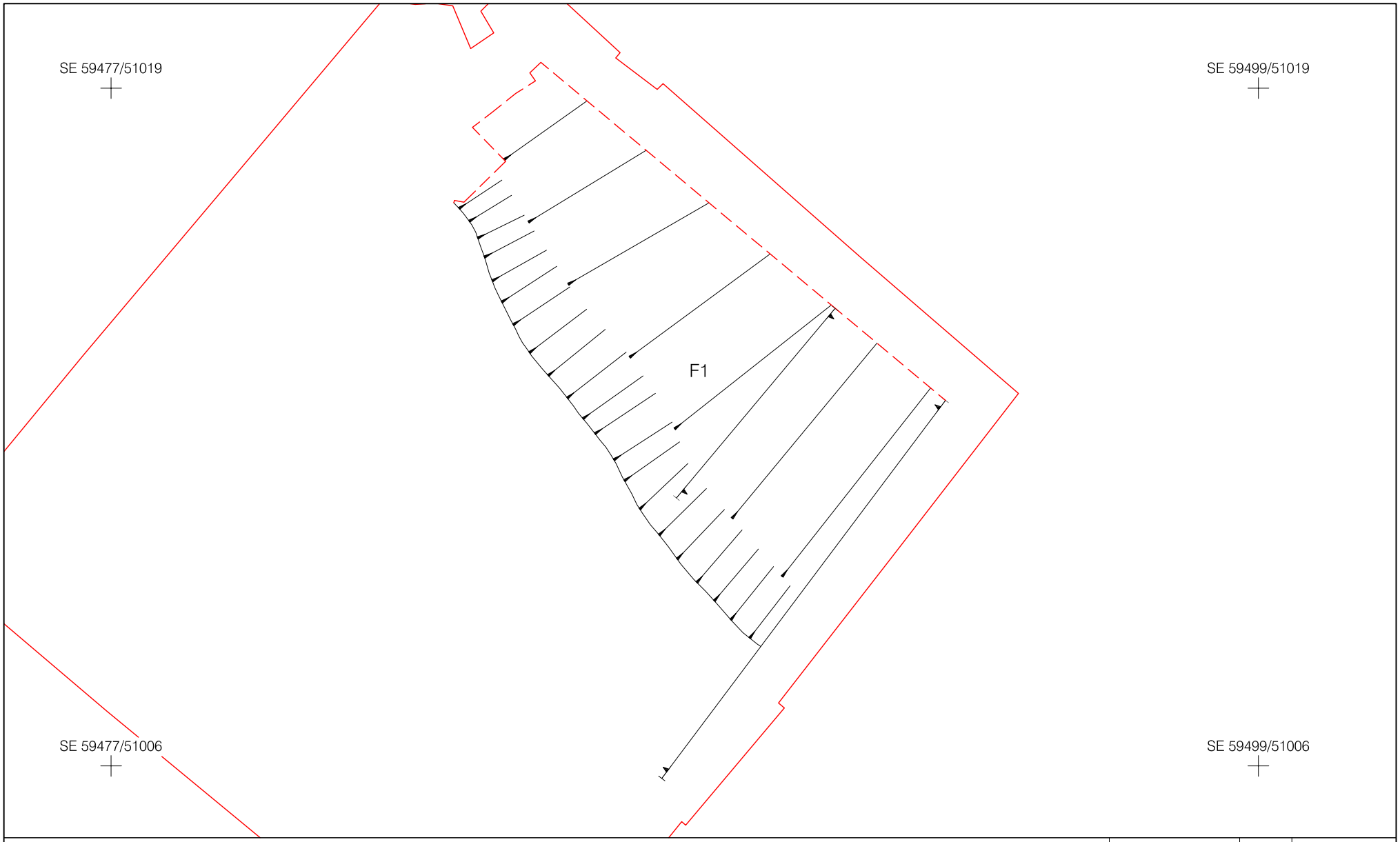
Due to the restricted area of investigation, definition of the depth and extent of F1 was problematic. Initially the feature was considered to have become considerably steeper towards the west, but later investigation revealed that this deeper area actually represented a number of earlier (Period 1A) features (F184, F189, F190, F191), which had been truncated by F1. Identification of subsoil was problematic, but the form of F1 was eventually defined as a gentle gradient, sloping from southeast to northwest, reaching a maximum depth of 1.12m (18.10m AOD) (Figure 30, Plate 35).

Plate 35 F1 post-excavation

A total of eleven backfills were allocated to F1, namely C1075, C1074, C1073, C1072, C1071, C1360, C1365, C1364, C1366, C1367 and C1005. These comprised a series of brown or dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposits, frequently distinguished from each other due to higher or lower gravel contents. Although several possible recuts were identified from section during excavation, it seems more likely that F1 simply contained a convoluted backfill system. Although relatively few finds were recovered, the latest ceramic identified within these contexts was dated to the 3rd to 4th century, suggesting that the feature can be reasonably assigned to Period 1C, further supported by the fact that the cut of F1 was found to have truncated the inhumation of a child (F29), and therefore postdates Period 1B.

Rather than simply representing the backfill of F1, a number of contexts (C1071, C1360 and C1005) were found to be more extensive, and would seem to represent wider accumulation or deposition of material across the whole of the site, finally levelling the depression created by F1, possibly in much more recent times. That some time elapsed between the disuse of F1 and levelling across the whole site is demonstrated by the fact that pit F66 was found to have been cut into the upper backfill of F1, but sealed by C1071. This feature, sub-oval in plan, was found to measure at least 1.60m x 0.55m, and upon excavation was found be 0.20m deep. The material recovered from this pit appeared to comprise domestic debris, including animal bone and Roman ceramic and CBM, and a date in the Roman period has been assigned. A Roman coin from recovery context (C1006) has been identified as a *nummus* dating to AD320, which would support a date at the end of Period 1C. The coin is noteworthy as a well-preserved example and shows Constantine in full imperial regalia (Plate 36).

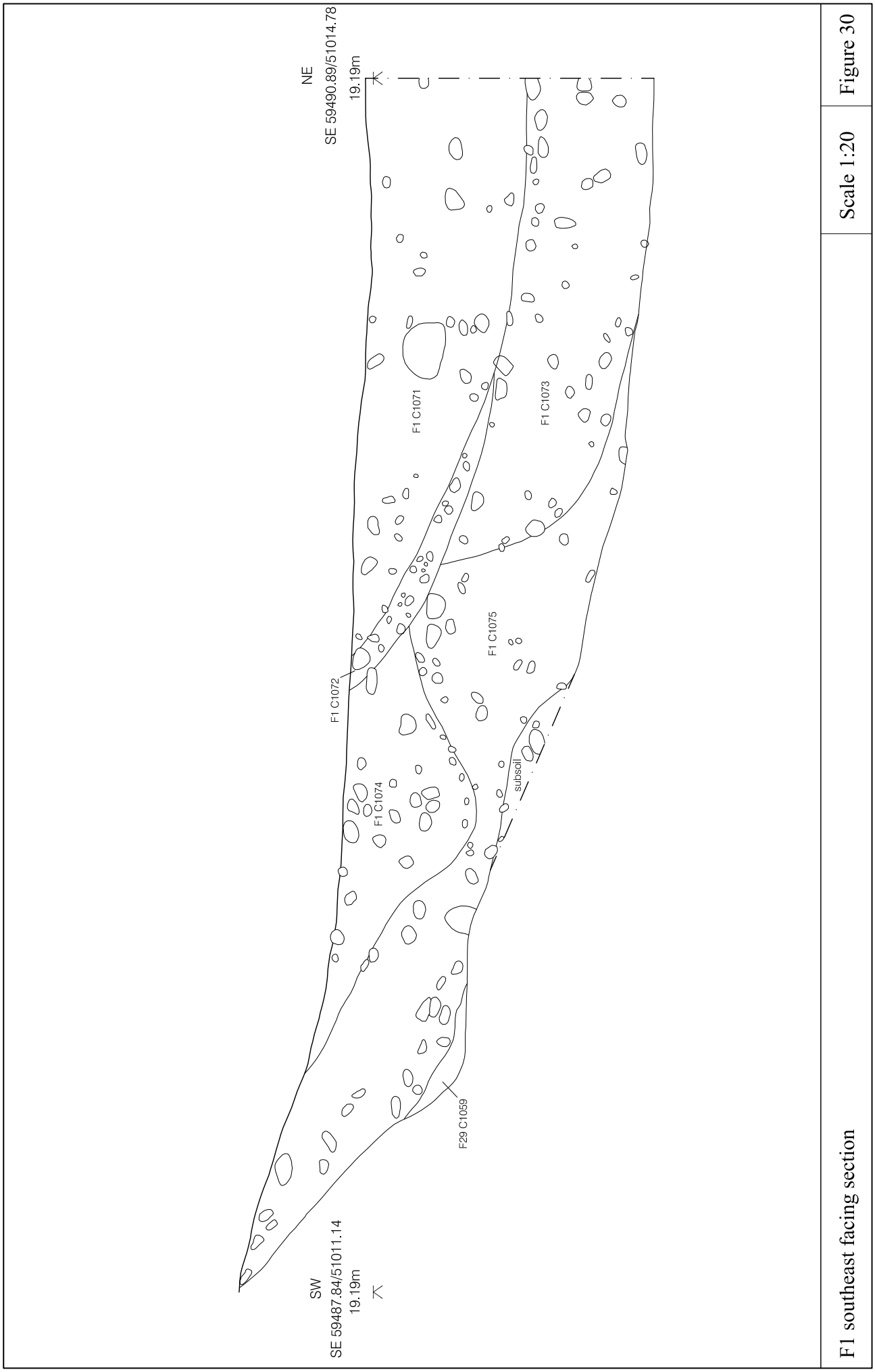
Plate 36 *Nummus* of Constantine



F1 post-excavation hachure plan

Scale 1:100

Figure 29



F1 southeast facing section

Scale 1:20

Figure 30

Interpretation of F1 is problematic, as its full extent, profile and shape could not be determined in the relatively small area of Intervention 2. Rather than representing some form of ditch or major cut feature, the gentle gradient of F1 which reflects the local topography would seem to represent landscaping of the wider area, apparently orientated on the road or boundary suggested by features in Period 1A.

Quarry pit? F16

Within the southern part of F16, a large curvilinear cut was identified and excavated, and found to represent a possible pit, measuring over 5m in diameter, and up to 1.16m in depth, with sides sloping relatively steeply onto a flat base (Figures 31 and 32). The backfills of this feature comprised a series of relatively sterile deposits of mixed clay and gravel; the lack of occupation debris may indicate that this pit was excavated for the extraction of materials, and may have been excavated to mine the clean sand present in the subsoil system, rather than for the deposition of waste. F16 would seem to represent the latest major activity within Period 1C; the feature was recorded to have been cut by later pits F173 and F183, but these were of uncertain date.

3.3 PERIOD 2 - EARLY MEDIEVAL (late 9th to mid-10th century)

Evidence for possible activity of early medieval date was suggested primarily by a small ceramic assemblage which included York A ware, a Lincolnshire wheelthrown shelly ware and a sandy whiteware. These sherds, alongside an absence of Torksey ware, indicate activity between the late 9th and mid-10th century; however, the assemblage appears to have been either intrusive or residual. Finds from Victorian pathways (F150) and medieval ditch (F90) are clearly residual, while the single sherds from grave F19 (Burial 4) and pit F176 cannot be regarded as reliable dating evidence, due to the high degree of later disturbance.

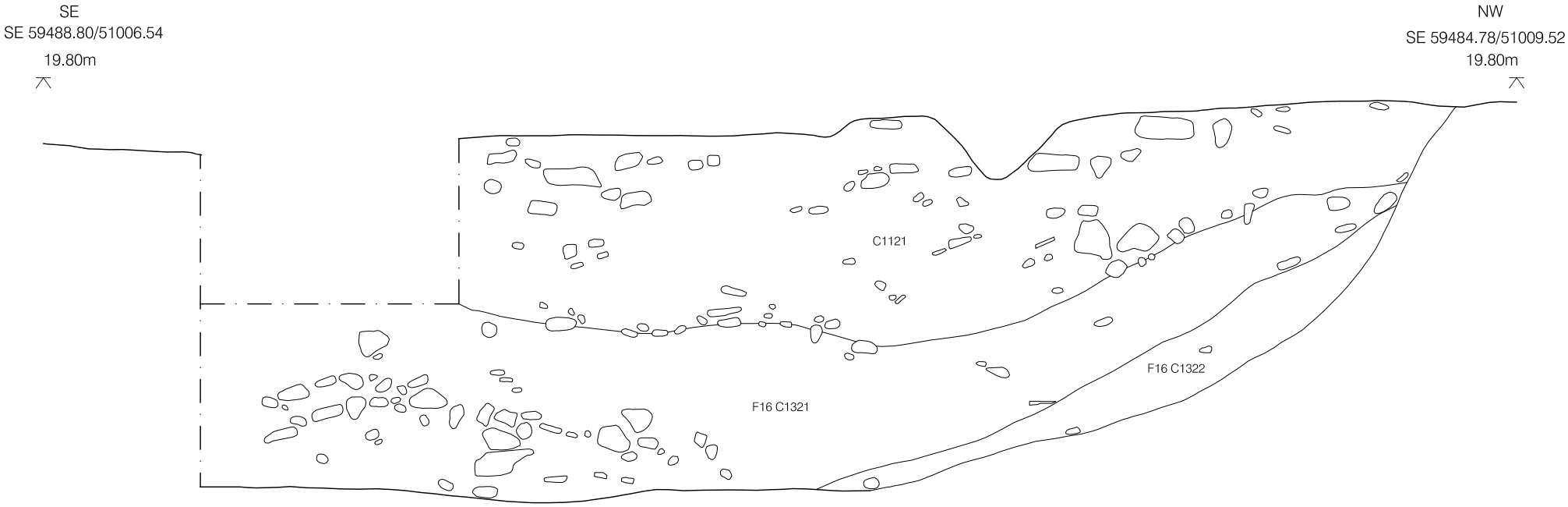
The only potential feature of early medieval date, therefore, is represented by F56=F60, which was allocated to a pit, or butt-end of a linear feature, identified in the northeastern end of Intervention 2 (Figure 33). This feature was well-defined against the surrounding subsoil, and was found to measure 2.0m x 1.5m, varying in depth from 0.1m to 0.4m. The single, dark brown silty clay backfill of the feature, C1119, was found to contain disarticulated human bone, CBM, and a single sherd of York A pottery. In the absence of dating material to suggest otherwise, the feature has been assigned to Period 2.

The interpretation of F56=F60 is problematic. The fresh appearance of the early medieval sherds from across the site would seem to indicate contemporary activity in the vicinity, rather than the importation of 'old' pottery within manure or soils, however, the distribution of this pottery does not provide a clue as to where this activity may have been focussed.

3.4 PERIOD 3 - MEDIEVAL (14th to 15th century)

The medieval period was not well-represented on the site; the assemblage of pottery was small, and only a single feature (F90) was assigned a medieval date. The ceramic assemblage dates primarily to the later 14th or 15th century, represented by Humberware, Brandsby-type Ware and Hambleton Ware.

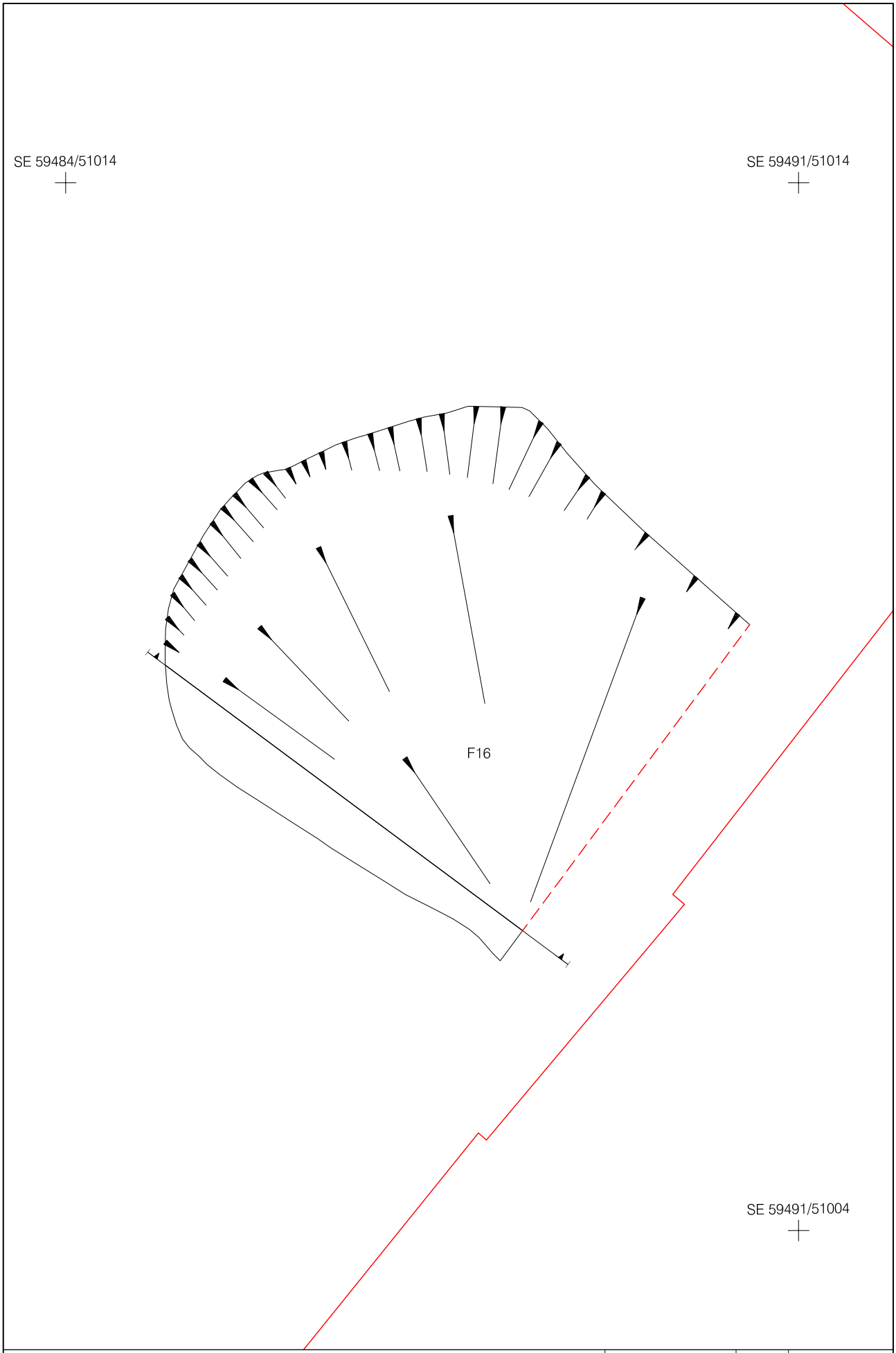
F90 was allocated to a shallow ditch running on a NW-SE alignment against the northwestern edge of Intervention 4, which had been truncated by a number of modern features. Measuring at least 1.13m wide, the



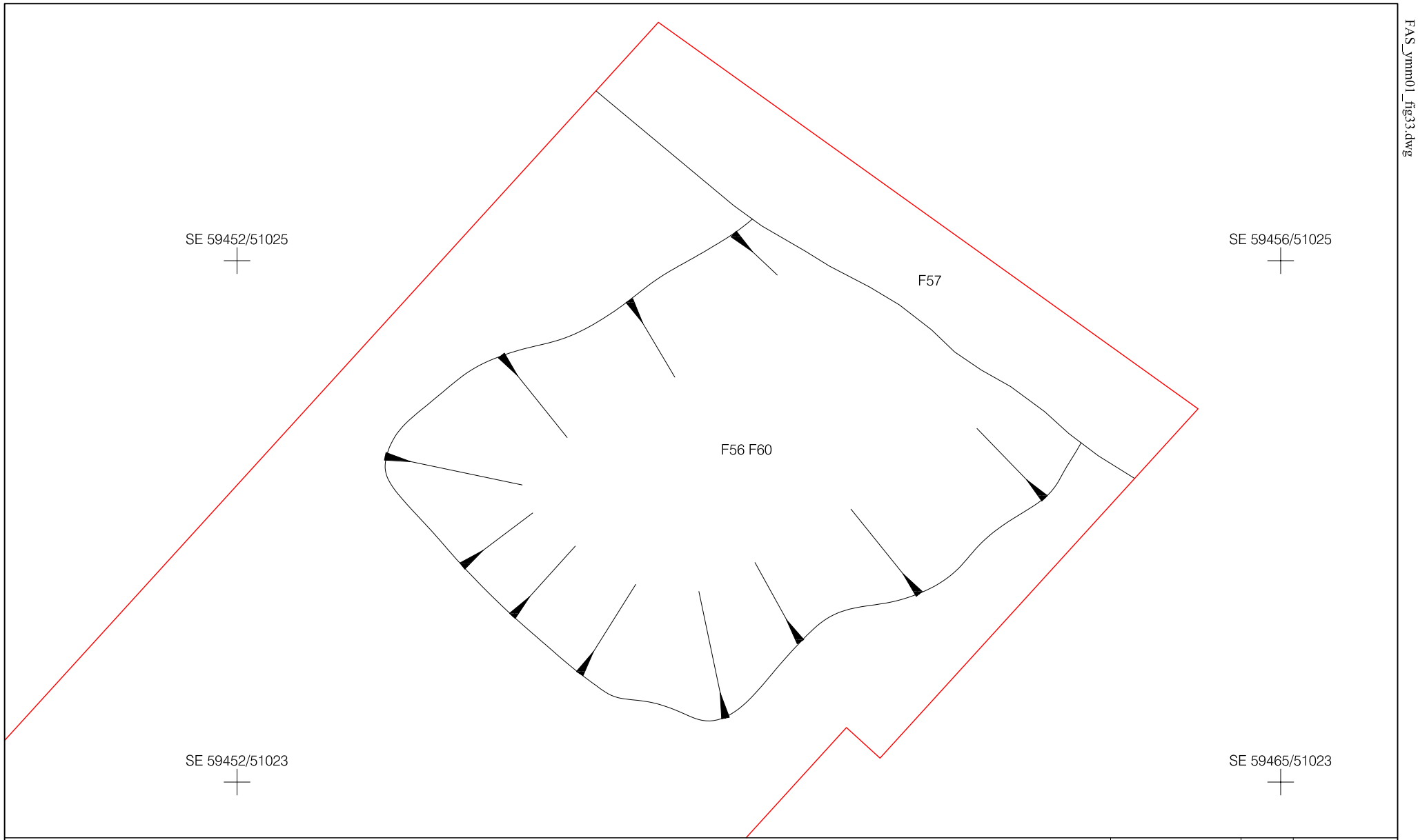
F16 northeast facing section

Scale 1:20

Figure 31



F16 post-excavation hachure plan | Scale 1:50 | Figure 32



F56=F60 post-excavation hachure plan

Scale 1:20

Figure 33

feature was found to have moderately steep sloping sides, onto a flat base, at a maximum depth of 0.25m (Figure 34). F90 was found to contain two distinct backfills (C1172 and C1208), divided by a layer of cobbles C1281 (Plate 37). The cobble layer (C1281) may have represented a surface, although the profile of the deposit might suggest otherwise, and could instead represent the consolidation of an existing ditch.

Plate 37 Cobble layer within F90 (scale 1.0m)

F90 produced a mixed ceramic assemblage; a considerable quantity of Roman pottery was recovered, but sherds of medieval pottery indicate that this is likely to have been residual. These sherds suggest a date in the later medieval period (late 14th to 15th century); although a single sherd of late to post-medieval pottery might suggest accumulation of material into the 16th century, this could be intrusive. The orientation of this feature along the northwestern edge of Intervention 4, parallel to Mill Mount, further indicates the longevity of this boundary or routeway.

3.5 PERIOD 4 - POST-MEDIEVAL (16th to 18th century)

Post-medieval pottery, though present, was represented only by a small number of sherds. These included isolated examples of Cologne Stoneware, Ryedale Ware, and two or more fragments of brown-glazed earthenware, black-glazed ware and glazed red earthenware. The majority of these fragments were recovered from early modern or modern features, and must therefore be considered residual. A small fragment of pewter shoe buckle has also been assigned to this period.

3.6 PERIOD 5 - MODERN (mid-19th to late 20th century)

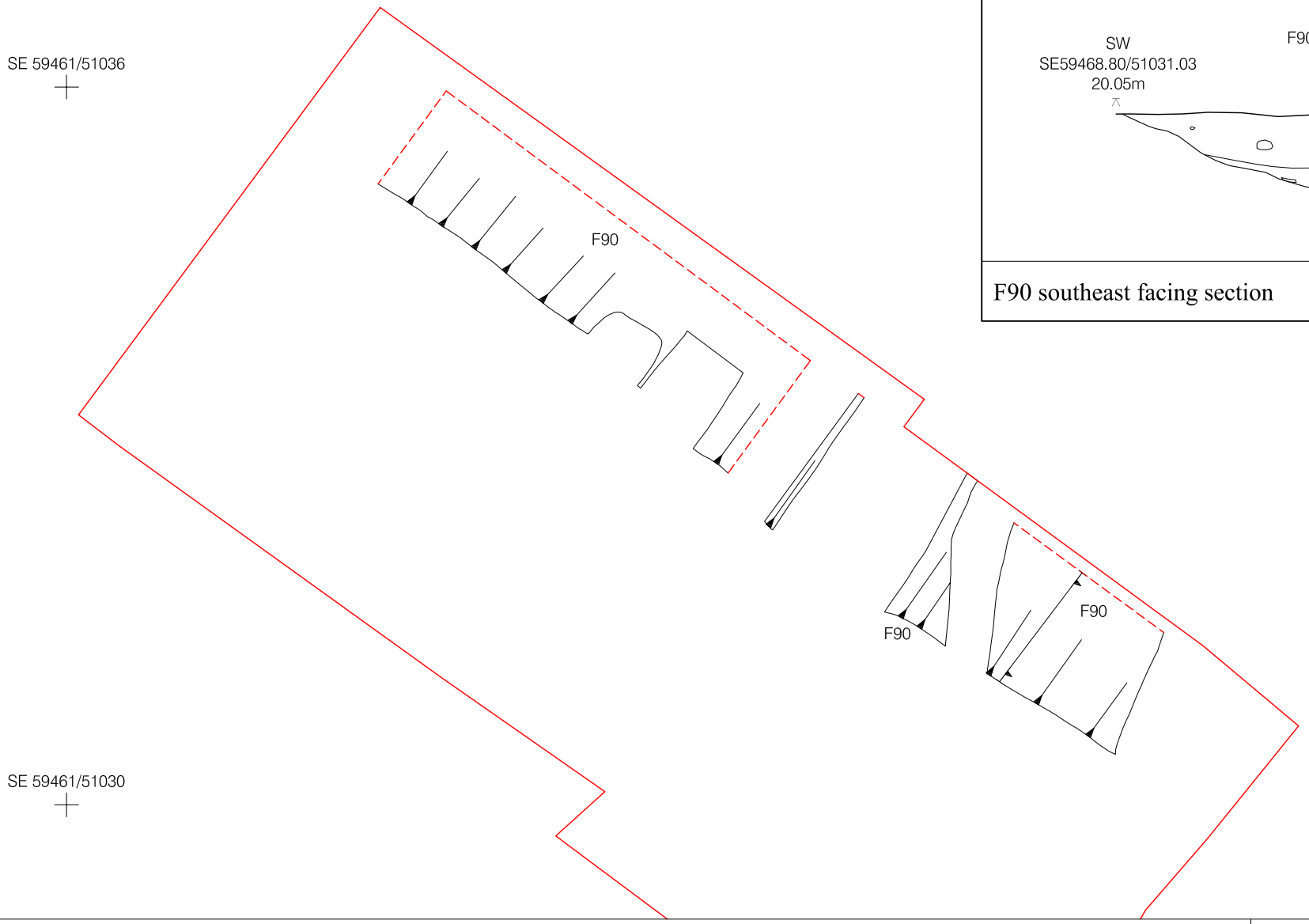
Into the early modern and Victorian period, activity on the site appears to have become more intense, initially represented by the excavation of a number of large pits, and then by the construction of housing during the late 19th century (Figure 35). Finally, several deposits and features are attributable to the most recent reuse of the site for office premises and car park.

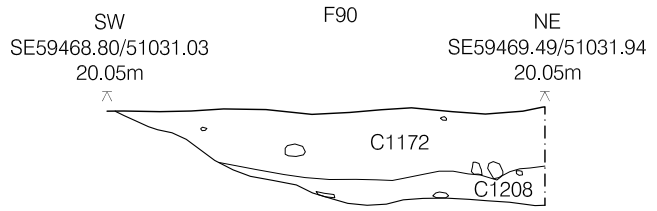
Soils and layers

From cartographic evidence, the site of Mill Mount is known to have been open land and gardens throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries. Homogenous brown soils containing few finds were identified levelling much of the site, which are stratigraphically late and thus potentially date to this period. A number of contexts were identified as levelling layers or made ground, and can be either associated with the landscaping of the grounds accompanying the two large houses, or relate to construction deposits associated with structures (C1001, C1004, C1058, C1097, C1241 to C1245, C1253 to C1256, C1258, C1259, C1261, C1265 to C1269, C1445, C1447, C1448 and C1451).

Paths

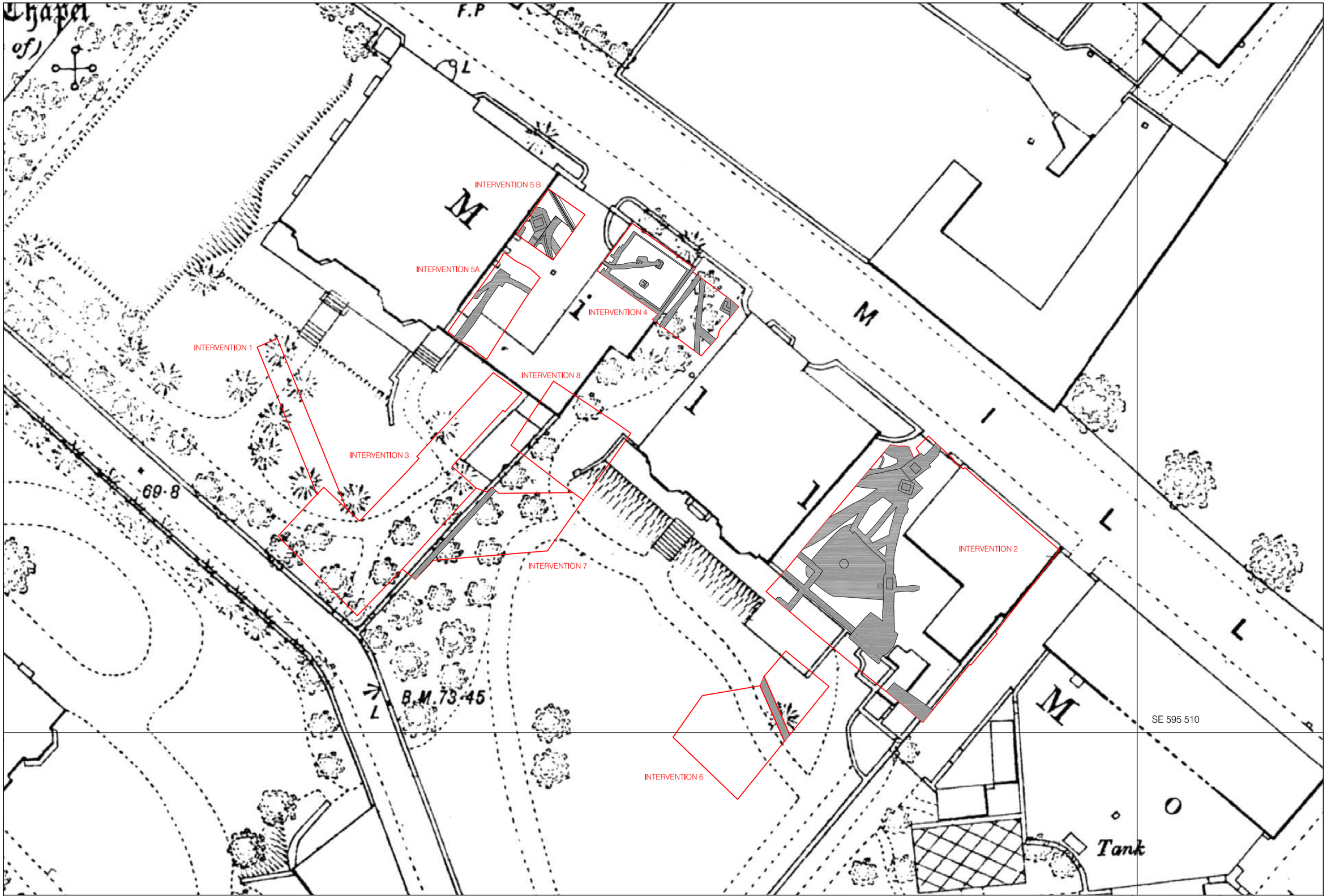
Within Intervention 3, a series of garden paths were identified (F36, F46, F150, F153, F155), comprising





F90 southeast facing section | Scale 1:20

F90 post-excavation hachure plan and southeast facing section | Scale 1:50 | Figure 34



Period 5 features superimposed onto 1892 Ordnance survey map

Scale 1:250

Figure 35

shallow, steep-sided cuts containing successive, compacted layers of sandy silt and gravel (Figure 36). These paths may correspond with those depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1892; some were seen to have been succeeded by modern concrete slabs (F154, F158).

Pits

Within Intervention 7, a number of large, intercutting pits were identified (F43, F126 to F128, F215, F217 and F220) cutting layer C1453 (Figure 37). The earliest of these, F220, was found to measure up to 1.76m in diameter x 0.22m in depth, backfilled once with C1464. F215 was identified against the western section of the Intervention, measuring up to 1.36m in depth (Plate 38), and was found to contain ceramic of early modern date, as well as a redeposited Roman *radiate*. F217 was of slightly smaller dimensions, and was seen to measure 0.28m in depth (Plate 39). Pits of modern date were also identified in the section of Intervention 3 (F156 and F157)(Figure 38), and in Intervention 2 (F7 and F14).

Plate 38 F215 post-excavation (scale 1.0m)

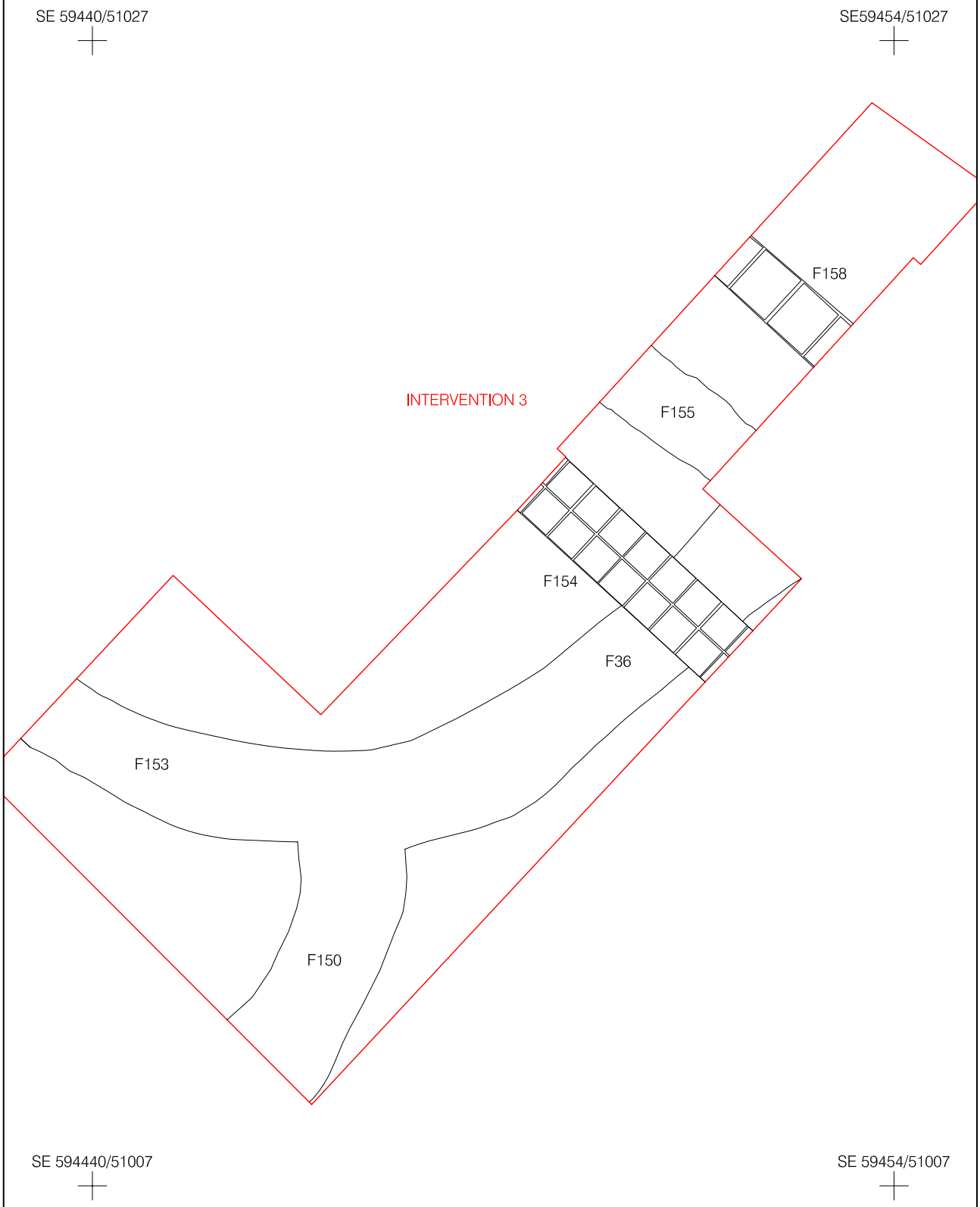
Plate 39 F217 and F219 (scale 1.0m)

Bonfire (F47)

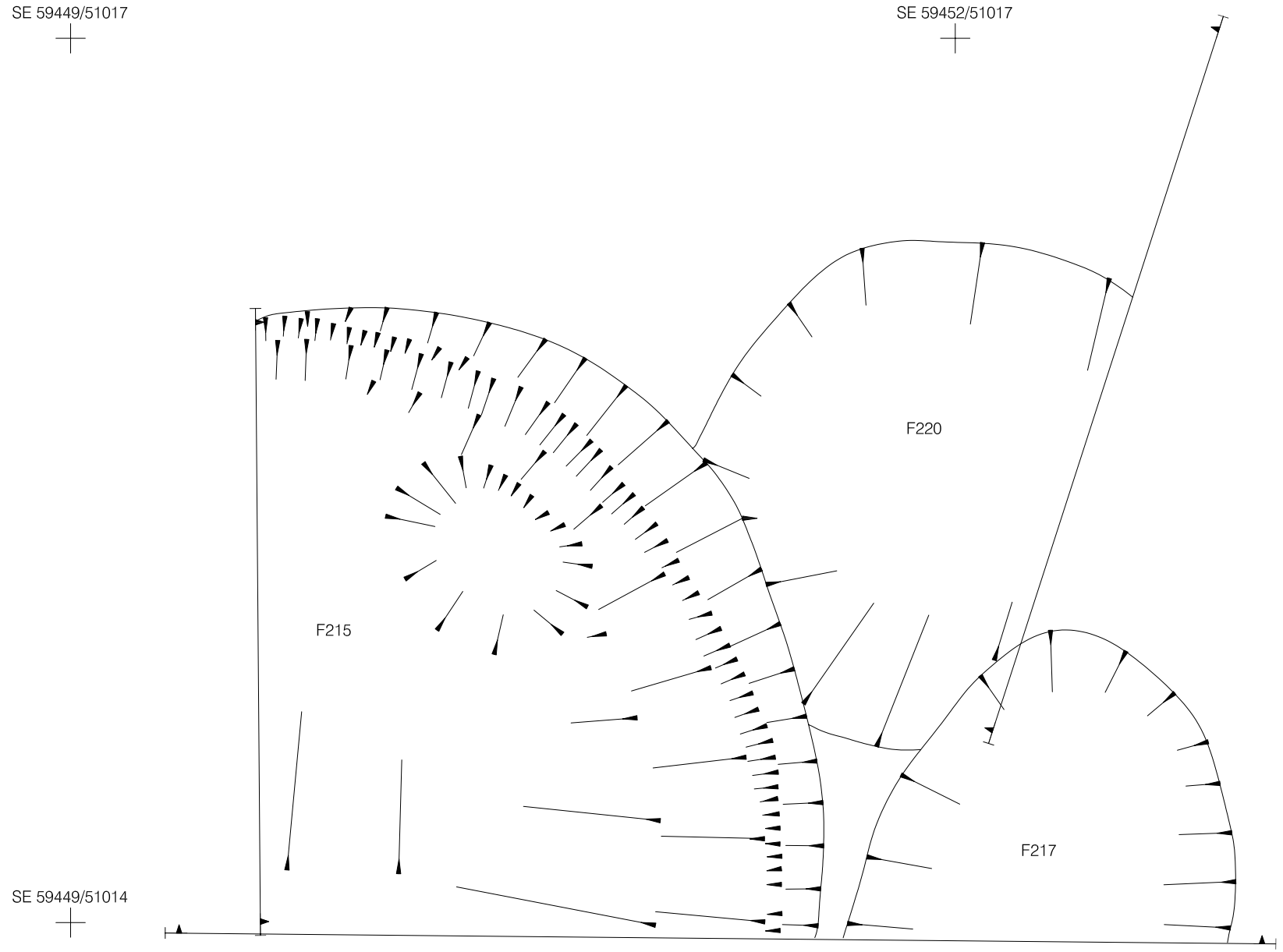
Almost centrally within Intervention 3, a sub-circular feature was identified, the charcoal-rich fill of which was clearly defined against surrounding deposits (F47 C1100). The feature was found to measure approximately 0.80m x 0.50m and upon excavation was found to be up to 0.05m in depth. A number of objects were recovered from the fill, including an iron object, sherds of modern glass bottle, a copper alloy button and lead waste. Initially thought to be of greater antiquity, the glass proved to be of modern date, and the feature was found to lie directly beneath modern layers. The fill C1100 was found to contain a number of burnt and unburnt twigs; this feature may be remnants of a small garden bonfire.

Walls

Across the site, brick walls form the latest features identified, a number of which may relate to structures built in the late 19th century, demolished immediately prior to excavation. Brick walls forms the outer limits of Intervention 4, representing the footprint of one of the recently demolished late 19th century buildings on the site (F81, F85). The foundations of walls of similar date were identified in Intervention 2 (F2, F3, F25, F28, F33, F180, F185, F186), which can be related to the annexe building of Mill Mount. In Intervention 3, similar features were represented by F151, F152 and F159, and in Intervention 8 by F222. A brick wall (F106 C1479) formed the southwestern limit of Intervention 5; the construction cut for this feature was clearly visible (F104 C1478). Associated brick and tile floors and construction cuts were also recorded in the sections of Intervention 2 (F24, F27, F124 and F216).



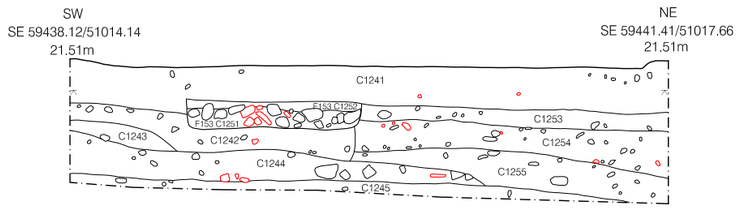
Pathways in Intervention 3 | Scale 1:100 | Figure 36

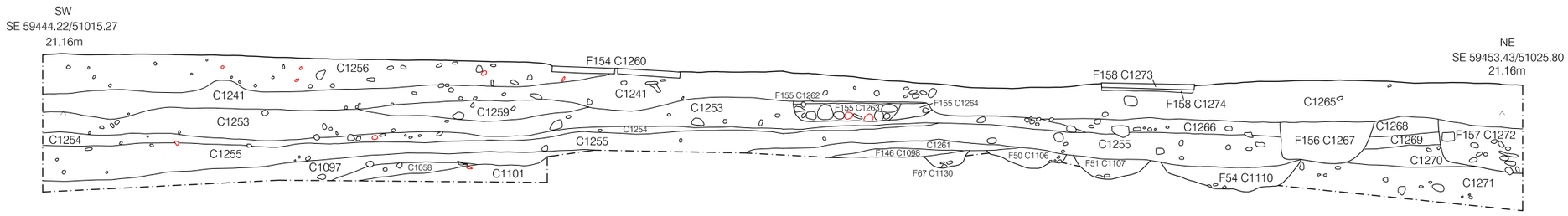


F215, F217 and F220 post-excavation hachure plan

Scale 1:20

Figure 37





Intervention 3 southeast facing sections | Scale 1:50 | Figure 38

Within Intervention 7, the excavation of pits was seen to predate the accumulation of dense garden soils. Into these, the foundation cut of a wall (F209) was identified, which eventually formed a terrace. A terrace wall was also identified within Intervention 3 (F57).

*Cistern and well*s

A cistern (F15) and two wells (F25 and F35) were identified within Intervention 2. F15 (C1040) was situated in the western corner of Intervention 2, within a large construction cut. The feature consisted of a bell-shaped, brick-built structure, topped with a sandstone capstone (C1039), into which two pipes were seen to lead. For safety reasons, the feature could not be fully investigated, but was seen to have been constructed from brick, and lined with bitumen tar. The feature would have been situated within the courtyard of the 19th century house on this site, and is interpreted as a cistern, which would have been used to collect rainwater, which would then have been pumped up for laundering.

F25 was located in the northern corner of Intervention 2, and was found to be a circular, brick-built structure, 1.80m in diameter, and excavated to a depth of 1.50m. The feature appeared to have been constructed against a circular cut. The bricks were stock bricks of 19th century date; the well would also have been located within the courtyard of this property and may have been used for drawing drinking water.

Services

Some of the drains and trenches which may have been associated with the 19th and early 20th century constructions on the site were identified, including salt-glazed ceramic pipes (F5, F6, F103, F105, F125 and F181). More modern services, including drains, manholes, electricity cables, gas and water pipes were identified across much of the site. Manholes were identified within Intervention 5 (F99, F117), Intervention 4 (F80) and Intervention 2 (F10, F11, F12). Smaller, brick-built manholes were noted within Intervention 4 (F86, F96, F129). Associated drains crossed the site on a number of alignments (F21, F22, F23, F26, F68, F82, F83, F89, F92, F93, F100, F118-123, F130, F191, F225); a gas pipe was observed in Intervention 2 (F182).

Concrete and tarmac make-up deposits

Several layers and make-up deposits could be related to the most recent use of the site as offices with associated pathways, structures and car park areas. Concrete rafts were identified within Intervention 4 (F84), and Intervention 2 (F2 and F9). Finally, much of the area had been surfaced with concrete or tarmac and a modern electricity cable was also encountered (F31, F32, F101, F179, F154, F211, C1037 and C1444).

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The topography of the area surrounding Mill Mount owes itself to the glacial moraine, which forms the basis of the route of Blossom Street, The Mount and Tadcaster Road; in many ways, an account of this natural topography is inextricably linked to a discussion of the Roman archaeology. The summit now known as 'The Mount', and as dictated by the moraine, attracted an area of high-status Roman burial (and in later periods too was an important position strategically exploited by the position of the sconce and then for windmills).

More locally, Mill Mount is situated on the southeastern side of this promontory, which originates in the contours of the glacial system. Indeed, the buried soil at the site, into which the earliest features were excavated, indicated that the area had not been landscaped prior to laying out for burial, and that the natural topography had been deliberately exploited. This prominent, if erratic, feature of the moraine is the site of an area selected for burial by those of elevated status (RCHME 1962 fig.70), the most desirable position for burial being a prominent aspect close to a main road, in this case the route from *Eboracum* to *Calcaria*.

At the site itself, the natural slope of the subsoil suggests that the plot of land represented by the area of investigation is likely to have sloped from southwest to northeast, thereby providing a more localised platform or knoll. Many burials appeared to have been positioned in the slope of, or atop, the natural gradient, possibly for enhanced visibility.

4.2 ROMAN

The earliest activity at the site was characterised by boundary features, and although necessarily tentative due to the dearth of secure dating evidence, it would appear that from the 2nd century onwards, land on The Mount was parcelled and demarcated by a system of posthole features and ditches. These features ran consistently parallel or perpendicular to the alignment of The Mount, and appear likely to represent the demarcation of the area within the wider necropolis. While the alignments seem to be associated with contemporary scattered pit features, these do not appear to represent significant occupation at the site, and it seems most likely that the postholes and ditches were intended to demarcate an area explicitly for burial. The possibly ritual deposits within boundary ditch F174 are very suggestive of the fact that the boundary features were in use contemporaneously with the use of the site for burial.

The orientation of burials at the site clearly followed the same alignment, running horizontal to the natural slope of the site, exploiting its slope and summit. It seems possible that the route of Mill Mount Road may have originated as an intra-cemetery road as reflected on the opposite side of The Mount in the guise of Road 11. Clearly, no evidence for such a feature was encountered during excavation, although the burials were set well back from the route of the main road at a distance of more than 100m to its east. While the presence of a thoroughfare in this position is conjectural, it might be possible to infer that if a cemetery service road did pass near the route of Mill Mount, then the burials would have been more easily visible than from Road 10 and its presence may have been a strong influence on burial orientation; in other areas of the cemetery, the deepest set burials are those which flank secondary Road 11 towards Road 9, and include sarcophagi and tombstones (RCHME 1962 fig.70). Inspection of the distribution map of burials at the site does suggest some attraction to the route of Mill Mount Road, although alternatively, this could be because burials were set on the rising ground at the site. Ditch F174 and its associated fenceline appear to indicate that the route of Mill Mount Road reflects the alignment of a boundary, although not necessarily that of a throroughfare.

For the inhumations, the burial rite and orientation, if not burial position, suggested common traits throughout the cemetery sample and stands in stark contrast to the sample of cemetery excavated at Trentholme Drive where orientation and burial position sometimes varied wildly by comparison, density of burial notwithstanding (Wenham 1968). In addition, the distribution of orientation of graves at 2 to 4 and 6 Driffield Terrace varied; a NE-SW orientation did predominate, although a number of graves deviated from this including some orientated

west-east (YAT website: http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/driffield.htm; FAS 2005); the results of these excavations emphasise the regimentation encountered at Mill Mount. Nor were aberrant burials encountered and so the Mill Mount graves can also be contrasted with the many deviant burial types excavated at Driffield Terrace. Coffin burials featured consistently at Mill Mount and this was not prejudiced by age nor sex, since a neonate appeared to have been buried in a casket; likewise the oldest individuals in the cemetery. Unaccompanied inhumation burials have been encountered within The Mount cemetery and by comparison, the burials at Mill Mount suggest some greater investment in burial. The ubiquitous coffin was also encountered at Trentholme Drive (Wenham 1968, 39), and at Mill Mount was joined by hobnail boots in three graves as well as a coin and pottery vessels. In addition, residual objects from the site are likely to have originated as grave goods. The presence of the sarcophagus burial is the clearest indicator of elevated status and adds to the concentration of this type of burial on the summit of The Mount and around Road 11.

Osteological analysis identified a mixed cemetery population and the cemetery was clearly used by civilians from the *colonia*, since no evidence for military accoutrements accompanied burial. Osteological analysis suggested that shared genetic traits, such as teeth crowding, might also indicate familial association.

While no stratigraphic relationships between inhumations and cremations were present, given the secure dates provided by the two cremation urns (early to mid-3rd century), the smashed pots within Burial 12 (late 2nd century or later), the *denarius* (193-211AD) within Burial 13, and the heavily hobnailed boots in Burials 6, 8 and 11 (3rd century), it has been established that both rites were, in fact, practised side-by-side. Given what is already known of Roman mortuary behaviour, it is perhaps unsurprising that only two cremations were present among thirteen inhumations, showing typically that cremation was declining in favour of inhumation during the 3rd century. Nonetheless, there are inhumations within the sample which did not include objects diagnostic of date or exist within a diagnostic stratigraphic sequence, and which could be considered for radiocarbon dating to ascertain whether inhumation burial continued much into the 4th century (Burials 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 14).

The broad date parameters of burial at the site have been set and burial appears to have commenced in the late 2nd century, superceded by domestic activity from probably the late 3rd to early 4th century, suggested by coin dating. In contrast, the date brackets for Trentholme Drive, based on artefactual dating, suggest a longer-lived cemetery from the Hadrianic/Antonine periods to at least the first quarter of the 4th century; moreover, Wenham proposes that unfurnished burial continued until the last quarter of the 4th century (Wenham 1968, 47), and hence the recommendation for radiocarbon dating for the Mill Mount individuals. The dates for the Mill Mount sample and Trentholme Drive suggest that The Mount cemetery may have consisted of a patchwork of areas and plots exploited for differential burial by distinct groups of people and which also fell out of use at different times.

At Mill Mount, the end of burial was followed by non-burial activity, possibly quarrying and refuse disposal. A number of pits produced ceramic indicative of 3rd century occupation, and coins suggest this activity continued until the mid-4th century. The contents of the rubbish pits present examples of Roman items of everyday life such as tweezers and a spoon, and animal bone indicative of a consumer rather than producer site. The source of this rubbish and the proximity of occupation is not at all clear, although it is unlikely that habitation would have been placed within the cemetery particularly when neighbouring plots were still in use for burial. It seems likely that the majority of the rubbish was imported from a location, possibly within the

colonia.

Closer examination of some rubbish deposits suggests that some objects deposited within these features may represent offerings within a cemetery context. There are a number of potential indicators: complete but smashed pots were recovered on several occasions, which is less indicative of importation of rubbish from the *colonia* and has been posited elsewhere at The Mount cemetery (Precious in FAS 2003d and Vince in FAS 2005); likewise the deposition of the hobnail boots, a pair of which appeared to have been deposited carefully as opposed to thrown in, and may have been placed on top of a possible joint of beef at the base of ditch F174, might suggest post-funerary offerings rather than straightforward refuse disposal. The animal bone assemblage suggested cuts of meat for a consumer rather than a producer site and it is a moot point as to whether this represents food remains consumed or offered in a cemetery context. The presence of a largely complete cat skeleton identified from a single context within the animal assemblage could also be considered as having been deposited ritually, particularly since it does not represent food remains. Although allocated to Period 1C, the juxtaposition of pit F160 with ditch F174 is perhaps noteworthy, and its fills also contained smashed vessels and saw the redeposition of Burial 2. Again, this may be significant and ditch F174 almost certainly provides a focus for activity at the site. Recent studies of non-burial material recovered at Roman cemetery sites are becoming commonplace and it appears possible to detect ritual or ceremonial activity within assemblages (Barber and Bowsher 2000, 76-80, Philpott 1991).

The impetus for more mundane rubbish disposal, which does also appear to be present, may well have been the presence of the large pits at the site, possibly excavated originally as quarries. The possible quarry pits are not immediately obvious, since many were backfilled with sterile gravel, the presumed target for quarrying. Nonetheless, if the clean sand present in large swathes within the natural subsoil at the site is considered, this material may well have been the object of quarrying and represents a material far less readily available than gravel within the city, but one which must have been highly sought after as a component of mortar, concrete and plaster. In many instances, the largest pits had indeed been excavated into pockets of clean glacial sand.

4.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL

The small assemblage of Period 2 material, although difficult to interpret, may provide trace evidence for early medieval activity in an area where this has not been encountered previously (the only other known presence of early medieval activity at The Mount being the Early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery). The activity is represented only by residual ceramic and a single possible feature and so the nature of this occupation remains diffuse. Nonetheless, the sherds are relatively tightly dateable and suggest a hitherto unrecorded presence of activity at The Mount during the late 9th to early 10th century and, although recovered residually from a numbers of contexts, represent fresh sherds not subject to erosion or significant recycling. The earliest redeposition of Period 2 pottery occurred during the 14th to 15th century (recovered from ditch F90). In addition, there were no apparent episodes of importation of material to the site. The ancient redeposition in F90 demonstrates that the material was present at the site prior to the late medieval period and the dearth of activity between the 4th and 14th centuries suggests that importation during this time is unlikely.

4.4 MEDIEVAL

Although there is some documented activity of medieval date on The Mount, in particular the chapel of St James, very little evidence of medieval activity was encountered. The chapel is, however, recorded to have owned parcels of land in the vicinity, which would indicate the division of land in the area and Raine records that The Mount was known as St James' Hill during the period (Raine 1955, 307); F90 may attest to the demarcation of a boundary associated with the chapel or other property boundary.

Since ditch F90 flanked the route of Mill Mount Road, and contained possible evidence for a metalled route, it seems clear that the route of Mill Mount Road fossilised a feature established by at least the 14th century, if not significantly earlier. While the area is not thought to have been inhabited intensely during this period, the presence of several ecclesiastical institutions in the area suggest that landholding patterns would have been established and probably accounted for land right up to the Knavesmire gates. Nonetheless, the exploitation of this land appears to have been limited and the area around St James' Chapel is described in a lease dated 1556 as 'a pece of waist ground nigh St Saynt James chapell' (YCR, V, 148 in Raine 1955, 308). It seems likely that much of the land approaching the margins of the Knavesmire and the surrounding low-lying land downslope of the moraine would have been increasingly less intensively exploited during this period.

4.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

As with the medieval period, the area of The Mount is considered to have been largely open land during the post-medieval period, used for pastoral and horticultural purposes, although the Royal Commission recorded that the building immediately to the north of the site, 109 The Mount, may retain elements of a late 17th century building (RCHME 1972, 66). The sequence encountered at many sites along the route of The Mount consists of a layer or layers of garden soil, which overlie the Roman burial horizon and testify to the land-use regime in the intervening periods (FAS 2003; FAS 2005). Archer's map of *c.*1680 and William Lodge's Aspect of York (1678) allow a number of observations as to the area surrounding the site to be made (see Plates 1 and 2). They both depict the area beyond the northern bastion of the Civil War sconce as open, but divided fields, with occasional buildings along the route of the thoroughfare. Archer shows a number of windmills and, in the vicinity of Mill Mount, an anomalous feature which is difficult to interpret. It might be interpreted as a mound and therefore would have been an ideal position to exploit for a windmill.

The site takes its name from the presence of a mill of post-medieval date, although a mill is recorded near St James chapel in the 13th century. This area of the city, by virtue of its elevated position, enjoys something of a pedigree for mills and is shown by Speed, Archer and Horsley peppered with windmills. 'Tumuli' marked on the OS map on the opposite side of The Mount are likely to be mill mounds. Drake shows a mill close to the area of investigation in 1736 and at this date, the Mill Mount windmill would have been a post-mill (Whitworth 2002, 6). As such, the mill would have left very diagnostic archaeological remains, consisting of a cruciform foundation trench possibly enclosed within a circular ditch. These remains would have been set atop a mound and not at ground level, and the anomaly on Archer's map presents a possible location. However, the results of the excavation demonstrate that the natural topography has been cloaked by landscaping during the Roman period and later, and indeed, the topography of the site does suggest a natural rise in levels, but a link between this and the position of the Mill Mount windmill is far too tenuous. The location of the Mill Mount windmill

and mount is recorded somewhat vaguely as at the eastern end of Mill Mount Road beneath the Friend's School (Whitworth 1991, 26), but a mound is depicted in the grounds of Mill Mount House on the 1892 OS map and may be the original mill mount (see Plate 4). During the 19th century, the windmill was joined by a steam mill; the position of both is marked on the 1852 OS map.

Although Wenham's postulated location of the Civil War sconce encroaches onto the southern side of Mill Mount site, no evidence was encountered relating to its structure, or to activity of mid-17th century date. Two sherds of brown-glazed earthenware have a currency from the late 16th to mid-17th century and black and red-glazed earthenwares were also produced during the 17th century. These two types of ceramic could be either much earlier or much later than the mid-17th century. The clay tobacco pipe recovered during excavation, where it was diagnostic of date, was 19th century. The lack of contemporary material and features indicates that direct contact with the sconce was not made, although the natural topography of the site and its broader context is likely to have been strategically significant. The contemporary account of the levelling of the sconce bank make-up and the exaggerated numbers of individuals does suggest that a denser area of Roman cemetery had been disturbed by the construction of the fortification than the area of cemetery encountered at Mill Mount. Intriguingly, no clear footprint of a sconce exists where Roman burials have might have been destroyed, particularly within Wenham's proposed footprint, apart from an area to the south on the very brink of The Mount, and the location of the fort remains controversial.

4.6 MODERN

The redevelopment of the Mill Mount site during the 19th century left significant remains which were encountered in the form of salt-glazed service pipes, a bitumen-lined laundry cistern, fresh water well and several garden features. In addition, the demolition of subsidiary buildings including a cottage at the site prior to mitigation excavation involved the partial demolition of 19th century structures. Unfortunately, the construction of the Mill Mount houses are not well-dated. Atkinson and Atkinson's architect's plans survive for what was known as Mill Mount House, now part of Mill Mount School, and are dated to 1850 (Arnold 1975, 31); accordingly, the great house appears on the OS map of 1852, but Mill Mount and Mill Mount Lodge do not. A lease for the two houses had been drawn up by 1857 and suggests that they had been completed by this time, and they do appear on the OS map of 1892.

The construction of these two large houses at the site did disturb Roman burials, since disarticulated remains were recovered from garden and landscaping deposits. Residual Roman finds were also recovered from similar deposits. In several instances, features associated with the houses directly truncated burials, the clearest examples being Burial 11, which was truncated by well F197, and a corner of the sarcophagus burial, which had been truncated by an annexe to Mill Mount House.

5.0 ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

Clearly, the significance of the mitigation excavation lies with the sample of Roman cremation and inhumation cemetery encountered. In many ways, recent opportunities to investigate new areas of The Mount owe themselves to the developments of the 19th century. Many of the large villas and houses, which characterise

the recent development of one of the principal entry routes to the city, require adaptation to new use and expansion, thus necessitating archaeological investigation. Accumulatively, since the provisions of PPG16, many more opportunities to investigate areas of The Mount cemetery have been afforded. Much of this contact has been characterised by small-scale intervention and evaluation, although increasingly, open area excavations have been undertaken and a much clearer picture of the layout and use of the cemetery is emerging, albeit slowly. Recent excavations by YAT at 2 to 4 Driffield Terrace, at 89 The Mount by OSA and a further forthcoming excavation at Driffield Terrace, promise to provide more detailed information, which can be added to data from Wenham's excavations at Trentholme Drive, the most significant intervention into the cemetery until the early 21st century. Investigations further away from The Mount have been undertaken recently at Moss Street Depot (FAS forthcoming) and include additional information as to the environment and landscape on the periphery of The Mount cemetery.

In accordance with the scheme of archaeological mitigation, the following recommendations for further analysis of the Roman archaeology are designed to allow electronic publication of the excavation data, sufficient to contribute to a broader synthesis of recent discoveries on The Mount cemetery, should any be undertaken. Furthermore, the evidence for Roman non-burial activity at the site should also be included in the publication programme, since much of it may actually represent cemetery activity; the later features also contribute to the picture of activity along The Mount in the Roman period and provide a *terminus post quem* for burial within this particular burial plot. For the early medieval and medieval activity, the preparation of short notes is proposed for submission to Medieval Archaeology in Britain and Ireland, and for these periods, some basic further analysis is recommended.

Accordingly, the following further analyses are proposed and prioritised as those which are necessary for publication of the Roman archaeology and those which are recommended to provide a basic archive of the archaeology of non-Roman date.

Analyses for Roman archaeology publication:

- preparation of account of excavation to include burial and non-burial archaeology, and identification of possible ritual material within features hitherto recorded as domestic;
- preparation of a complete grave-by-grave catalogue with illustration of associated grave goods and further analysis of the burial rite, including the construction of coffins and identification of mineral-preserved wood remains on iron coffin nails;
- comparison of the osteological data with available comparable Roman York data sets;
- full catalogue of Roman pottery and accompanying illustration where necessary;
- archive of Period 1 animal bone;
- illustration, excavation from soil blocks, and publication of the remains of hobnailed boots;
- illustration and publication of selected small finds including copper-alloy spoon, tweezers, jet bracelet and ivory hair pin;
- full cataloguing of Roman CBM and implementation of disposal strategy;
- targeted radiocarbon dating of inhumations without secure dating evidence.

Analyses for archive completion and short note on early medieval and medieval archaeology:

- thin-section and chemical analysis of early medieval ceramic;

- archive of Period 3 animal bone;
- catalogue and disposal strategy of non-Roman CBM;
- preparation of short notes synthesising the above analyses and account of archaeological remains for submission to Medieval Archaeology in Britain and Ireland.

6.0 ARCHIVE

An assemblage of 1297 sherds of Roman to modern pottery was recovered during fieldwork and has been the subject of a specialist assessment. The following further work has been recommended: a full catalogue and illustration where necessary; thin-section and chemical analysis of the early medieval material; disposal of two assemblages of unstratified pottery.

The articulated and disarticulated human bone has been the subject of osteological analysis; comparative research and targeted radiocarbon dating is recommended. The human remains will be reinterred on-site.

An assemblage of *c*.96 litres of animal bone has been the subject of a zooarchaeological assessment; a basic archive of Period 1 and 3 animal bone is recommended.

A total of 270 litres of sediment were recovered during excavation. These have been subject to flotation and sorted for material; the material recovered has been integrated within the main archive. Overall, preservation and potential was low, but identification of the charcoal and charred organics within F174 is recommended.

A medium assemblage of Roman to modern CBM has been the subject of a specialist assessment and a full catalogue, which will enable a disposal policy to be implemented, is recommended.

A medium assemblage of ferrous and non-ferrous objects has been the subject of a conservation assessment, x-radiography and identification. The assemblage of Roman coins, tweezers, spoon and pewter shoe buckle have been cleaned and consolidated to enhance identification and allow handling for illustration and photography; the assemblage of four Roman coins has been identified by a numismatist. A total of six partially preserved and complete hobnail boots were lifted in soil blocks during excavation. It is recommended that the remains are excavated from the soil blocks and packaged in appropriate archival conditions. Some coffin nails were identified as having mineral-preserved wood remains attached and specialist identification of the wood species is recommended.

A small assemblage of stone and bone objects has been identified and illustration, photography and publication is recommended. Two sherds of Roman glass were recovered during excavation and have been identified; no further work is recommended.

A paper and electronic copy of this report will be lodged with the City of York Council.

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