



Archaeological Services  
University of Durham

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# **The Traprain Law Environs Project, East Lothian, Scotland: Phase 2**

## **Evaluation at Foster Law (TFL03) Data Structure Report**

*on behalf of*

**Historic Scotland  
Dickinson College  
University of Durham**

**ASUD Report 1046**  
February 2004

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## **1. Summary**

### ***The project***

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an evaluation of two overlapping cropmark enclosures at Foster Law, East Lothian, in 2003. The evaluation formed part of Phase 2 of the wider Traprain Law Environs Project
- 1.2 The aims of the excavation were to investigate and sequence the main ditch features and terminals, determine the state of preservation of archaeological deposits and to obtain environmental samples and dating evidence, in order to assess the potential for larger scale excavation at a later date and to provide information of assistance in the cultural resource management of the site.
- 1.3 The works were generously funded by Historic Scotland

### ***Results***

- 1.4 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two areas, within which sample excavation of sections across ditches and terminals were undertaken.
- 1.5 Trench 1 was located over the enclosure ditches on the north side of the settlement. Three sections were excavated through the ditches to establish the construction sequence. The larger, inner ditch was found to be later than the smaller, outer ditch. There was evidence for recuts of both ditches. Iron Age pottery was found in the upper deposits of the later ditch. Environmental samples were collected from all fill deposits.
- 1.6 Trench 2 was located over the northern ditch terminals at the west side of the enclosures. A small recut was identified in the eastern part of the inner ditch terminal. Pottery and animal bone were discovered within the later fills. Environmental samples were collected from all fill deposits.

### ***Recommendations***

- 1.7 The site at Foster Law contains well-preserved archaeological deposits and has high research potential. It would be suitable for larger scale excavation as part of the Traprain Law Environs Project.

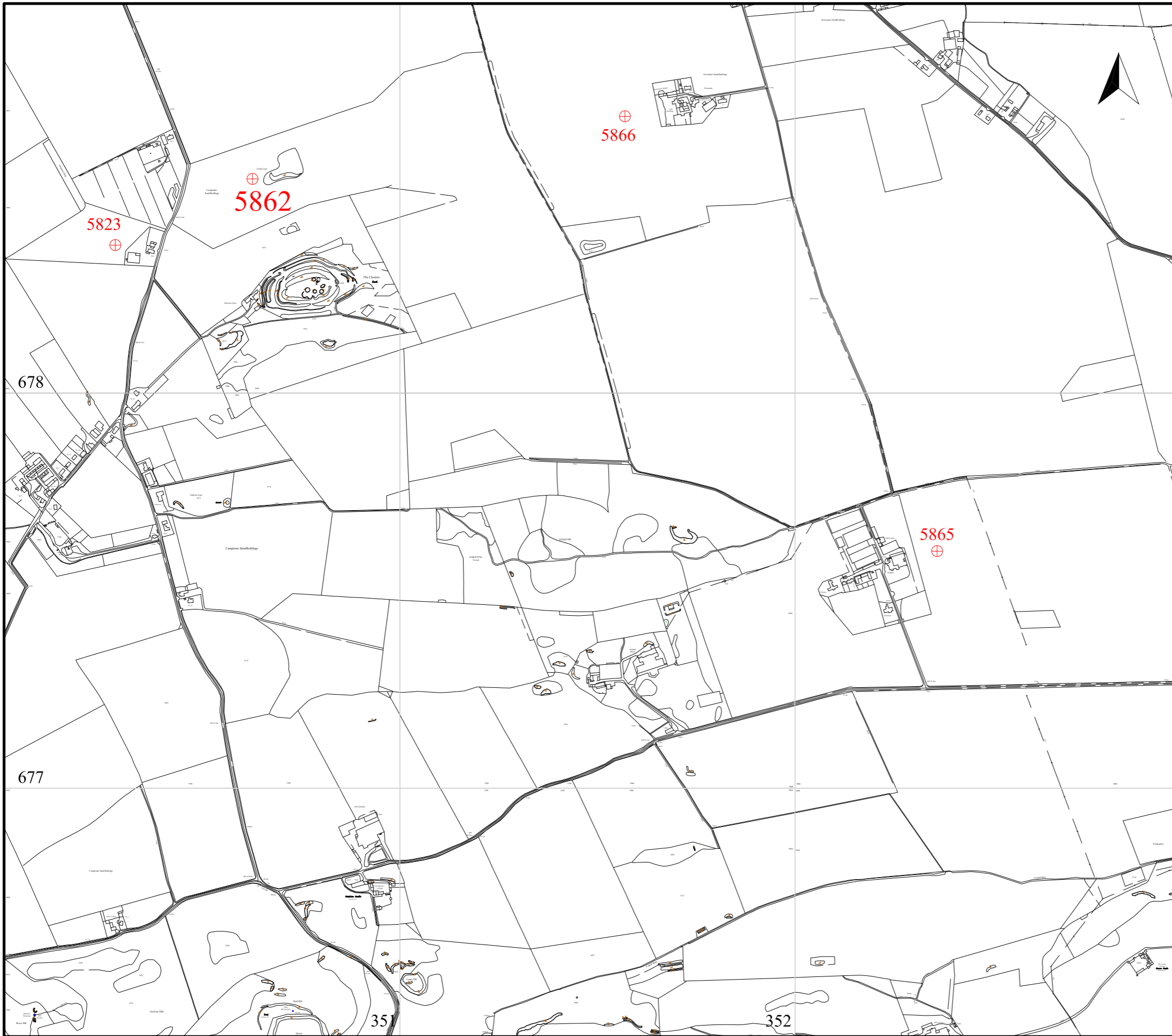
## **2. Project background**

### ***The Traprain Law Environs Project***

- 2.1 The overarching aim of the Traprain Law Environs Project (TLEP) is to investigate aspects of the archaeological landscape around the fortified hilltop site of Traprain Law in order to permit the analysis of economy and society during the 1<sup>st</sup> millennia BC and AD. The first phase of the project involved the geophysical investigation of 30 cropmark sites within the vicinity of Traprain Law, comprising 2 multi-vallate, 12 rectilinear and 13 curvilinear enclosures, as well as 2 ring ditches and 1 possible building cropmark (Hale *et al.* 2001; 2003). Phase 2 of the project, comprising a programme of excavation of a sample of these sites, began in 2002. The evaluation at Foster Law formed a part of this phase. The TLEP is directed by Professor Colin Haselgrove (University of Durham) and Professor Leon Fitts (Dickinson College).
- 2.2 Intrusive investigations undertaken to date as part of the Phase 2 works comprise evaluations at the Standingstone, Whittingehame Tower, Knowes (two evaluations) and East Bearford enclosures (ASUD 2003a/b/c, 2004a & 2003d) and open-area excavations at Whittingehame Tower and Standingstone (ASUD 2003b & 2004b).

### ***Site description and status***

- 2.3 The site at Foster Law, of presumed Iron Age date, is one of a number of such enclosure cropmarks near Traprain Law, none of which had been excavated prior to this project. Two overlapping sub-circular enclosures, indicating at least two separate phases of occupation, are evident at this site, which is located at NGR: NT 5063 7854 (Figure 1).
- 2.4 The enclosures occupy the top of a small hill at *c.* 65m AOD, *c.* 4km north of Haddington. The well-preserved, multi-vallate 'The Chesters' hillfort lies 250m to the south and the Sixpence Strip enclosure (SAM 5823) lies 500m to the south-west. The underlying solid geology comprises extrusive trachyte. The eastern ends of the enclosures were removed by small-scale quarrying at the top of the law during the 1970s; this is now part-filled by building rubble and other debris. The field had been ploughed regularly until relatively recently but is now just used for silage due to the amount of stone in the topsoil.
- 2.5 During the last fifty years the site has been recorded on numerous aerial photographs by various bodies, including the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). Figure 2 shows a rectified aerial photograph and interpretation of the site, supplied courtesy of RCAHMS.
- 2.6 The first phase of investigation undertaken as part of this project was a geomagnetic survey (Figure 3), which confirmed the location of the two ditch circuits (Hale *et al.* 2003; 2004). The survey produced a clear image of the enclosures, both of which have an entrance to the west, and one has an additional entrance on its northern side. Probable internal features were



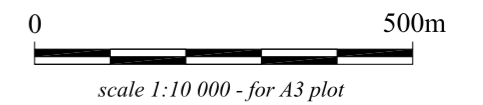
**The Traprain Law Environs Project  
Phase 2**

**Foster Law evaluation 2003**

Figure 1

*Location of the Foster Law site*

on behalf of  
**Historic Scotland  
Dickinson College  
University of Durham**



 5862 Foster Law site



Archaeological Services  
University of Durham

on behalf of  
**Historic Scotland**  
**Dickinson College**  
**University of Durham**

**Traprain Law Environs Project Phase 2**  
**Foster Law evaluation 2003**

**Figure 2**  
*Rectified aerial photograph*



*Computer plot from aerial photographs.*  
*Use only with caution.*  
Copyright R.C.A.H.M.S.  
John Sinclair House  
16 Bernard Terrace  
Edinburgh EH8 9NX

Plot origin 350500 678200  
AP Neg. No. EL3990  
Mapsheet NT57NW  
Site Foster Law  
Region Lothian  
District Edinburgh  
Scale 1:2500  
Date 10.5.02  
SGS PTO K.H.J. Macleod



KEY	
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	Settlement
<span style="color: yellow;">—</span>	Ritual & Funerary
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	Roman
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Miscellaneous
<span style="color: black;">—</span>	Rig & Furrow
<span style="color: magenta;">—</span>	Geological
<span style="color: black;">—</span>	OS/Modern/Drainage
<span style="color: grey;">—</span>	Land Use
<span style="color: grey;">—</span>	5m Contour



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University of Durham

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**Historic Scotland  
Dickinson College  
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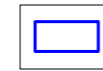
**The Traprain Law Environs Project  
Phase 2**

**Foster Law evaluation 2003**

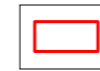
Figure 3  
*Location of trenches and geophysical survey results*



scale 1:1000 - for A3 plot



trench 1



trench 2



786

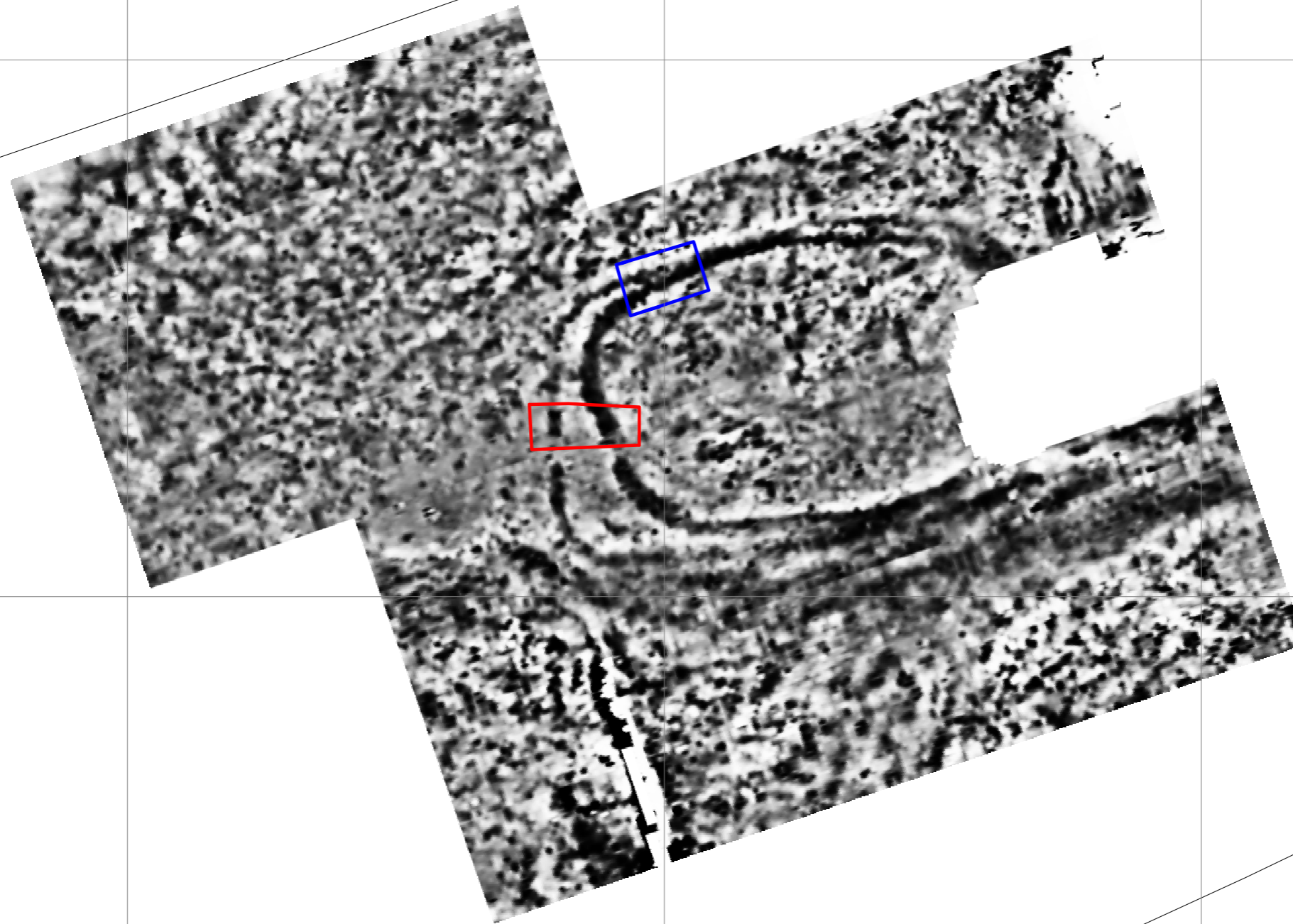
785

505

506

507

508



detected, however, it is difficult to distinguish these given the background noise from igneous rocks in the topsoil.

- 2.7 The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 5862) and is recorded on the NMRS as number NT 57 NW 041.

### ***Objectives***

- 2.8 The site at Foster Law was selected for sample excavation on the following grounds:
- the juxtaposition of two enclosures (one curvilinear in form, the other somewhat more sub-rectangular in shape) provides a rare opportunity to establish their relative sequence and date
  - although now scheduled, the east end of the site has previously been removed through quarrying and the disturbed area infilled, without archaeological record
  - the site is unusual among cropmarks in the region, having first been photographed in the late 1920s. It therefore provides an excellent opportunity to monitor the long-term effects of cultivation on such monuments
  - the site is currently in permanent silage. Obtaining a baseline record of the current state of preservation of archaeological deposits would allow the extent of further damage caused by ploughing to be monitored if/when the field reverts to cultivation
  - the unexcavated guardianship site of The Chesters, 250m to the south, sits in a particularly busy archaeological landscape. In addition to Fosters Law, known sites include another enclosure at Sixpence Strip and several pit alignments; there are several further forts on the Garleton Hills just to the south, which is also a source of good quality iron ore. Further information about this landscape will enhance the future presentation of The Chesters to the general public
- 2.9 The specific objectives for the 2003 evaluation at Foster Law were:
- to establish the sequence and character of the enclosure elements detected by air and ground survey
  - to confirm the existence of western entrances through both circuits and to investigate the deposits in both enclosure ditches at a point where these are entirely discrete
  - to explore the range and nature of any associated structures
  - to retrieve material culture and environmental remains which could provide information about the date and nature of the activities represented
  - to obtain information about current subsoil conditions and preservation
  - to aid the future management of the monument

### ***Dates***

- 2.10 The evaluation was conducted between 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003. This report was prepared between October 2003 and February 2004.



### ***Personnel***

- 2.11 Fieldwork was conducted by Janet Beveridge (Supervisor), Peter Carne, Aaron Goode, Duncan Hale, Sarah Phillips and James Roberts. This report was prepared by Janet Beveridge, Matt Claydon and Duncan Hale, with illustrations by David Graham, Linda Bosveld and Martin Railton. Specialist assessments were conducted by Pam Lowther (ceramics); Jacqui Huntley and Charlotte O'Brien (plant macrofossils); and Louisa Gidney (faunal remains). The Project Manager was Duncan Hale.

### ***Acknowledgements***

- 2.12 Funding for the project was generously provided by Historic Scotland, with help in kind from the University of Durham. We are very grateful to the landowner and farmer Mr James Miller for permission to excavate, and to Olwyn Owen and Patrick Ashmore (Historic Scotland), Bridget Simpson (East Lothian Council) and staff at RCAHMS for advice and assistance with the project.

### ***Archive***

- 2.13 The site code is TFL03, for Traprain Foster Law 2003. On completion of the overall project, the archive will be deposited with Historic Scotland for transfer to the Finds Disposal Panel and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS).

## **3. The evaluation**

- 3.1 The evaluation and reporting has been conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) and in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent granted by Historic Scotland (dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2003)

### ***Excavation methods and results***

- 3.2 Two trenches (Figure 3) were excavated to the base of the topsoil using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless, ditching blade, under strict archaeological supervision; the trenches were then hand-cleaned.
- 3.3 Trench 1 measured 15m x 10m and sampled the enclosure ditches on the northern side of the site where the ditch circuits overlap; three 1m wide sections were excavated through the ditches. Trench 2 measured 20m x 10m and sampled the northern ditch terminals at the entrances on the western side of the enclosures.
- 3.4 The excavation was recorded using the ASUD Iconic Formation Process Recording System. All trench sections were cleaned and drawn at 1:10; trench plans were drawn at 1:20. Photography was by colour transparency and monochrome 35mm stills. Environmental samples were collected from suitable contexts.
- 3.5 On completion of the excavations, all trenches were backfilled and reinstated as agricultural land.

#### **4. Excavated features**

- 4.1 The subsoil was a compacted light yellowish brown silty sand [02] overlying the bedrock [03]. The subsoil was only visible in Trench 1; in Trench 2 the bedrock was directly below the topsoil [01]. The ditches in Trench 1 were overlain by a broad band of loose stones [04], which also filled the top of the ditch cuts. The outer terminal in Trench 2 was visible beneath the topsoil, cutting the bedrock. The inner terminal was located beneath a layer of topsoil and loose stones.

##### ***Trench 1***

##### **Slot 1 (Figures 4-6)**

- 4.2 A 1m wide slot was excavated near the western limit of Trench 1, where the geophysical survey had indicated the presence of two distinct ditches. The loose stony spread [04] was removed within this area to reveal the northern edge of the cut of the outer ditch [F14] through the subsoil [02], and the southern edge of the cut for the inner ditch [F21] through the bedrock [03]. A complete thumb pot and a fragment of a shale bracelet were recovered during the excavation of layer [04].
- 4.3 The outer ditch [F14] was U-shaped with sloping sides, measuring 0.84m in depth and 2.9m in width. At the base of this ditch was a red/brown, sticky sandy silt clay with frequent small - large stones [13]. On the southern slope was a thin layer of orange/brown sandy silt [12]. Both of these deposits were truncated by the recutting of the ditch [F11]. The recut was evident on the southern slope and base, and measured 0.65m in depth. At the base of the recut was a mid-orange/brown sandy clay silt with frequent small - medium angular stones [06]. Over this was a dark grey/brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones [05]. This was below the loose stony spread [04].
- 4.4 The cut of the inner ditch [F21] had sloping sides and a flat base at a depth of 1.22m. The maximum width of the ditch here was 3.7m. At the base of the ditch was a stone deposit with 10% clay with occasional gravel [20]. Over this was a light red/brown compact clay silt with occasional angular stones [19]. This was cut by [F18], a U-shaped recut of the ditch 1.1m in depth. The base of the recut was filled by a cemented light orange/brown clay silt with frequent gravel and occasional small stones [17]. Over this lay a sandy clay silt with 85% angular stones [16]. This was covered by a moderately loose grey/brown sandy clay silt with frequent small - medium stones [15]. A few finds were recovered from this deposit, including one ceramic sherd, an iron object and slag. This deposit lay directly beneath the loose stony spread [04].

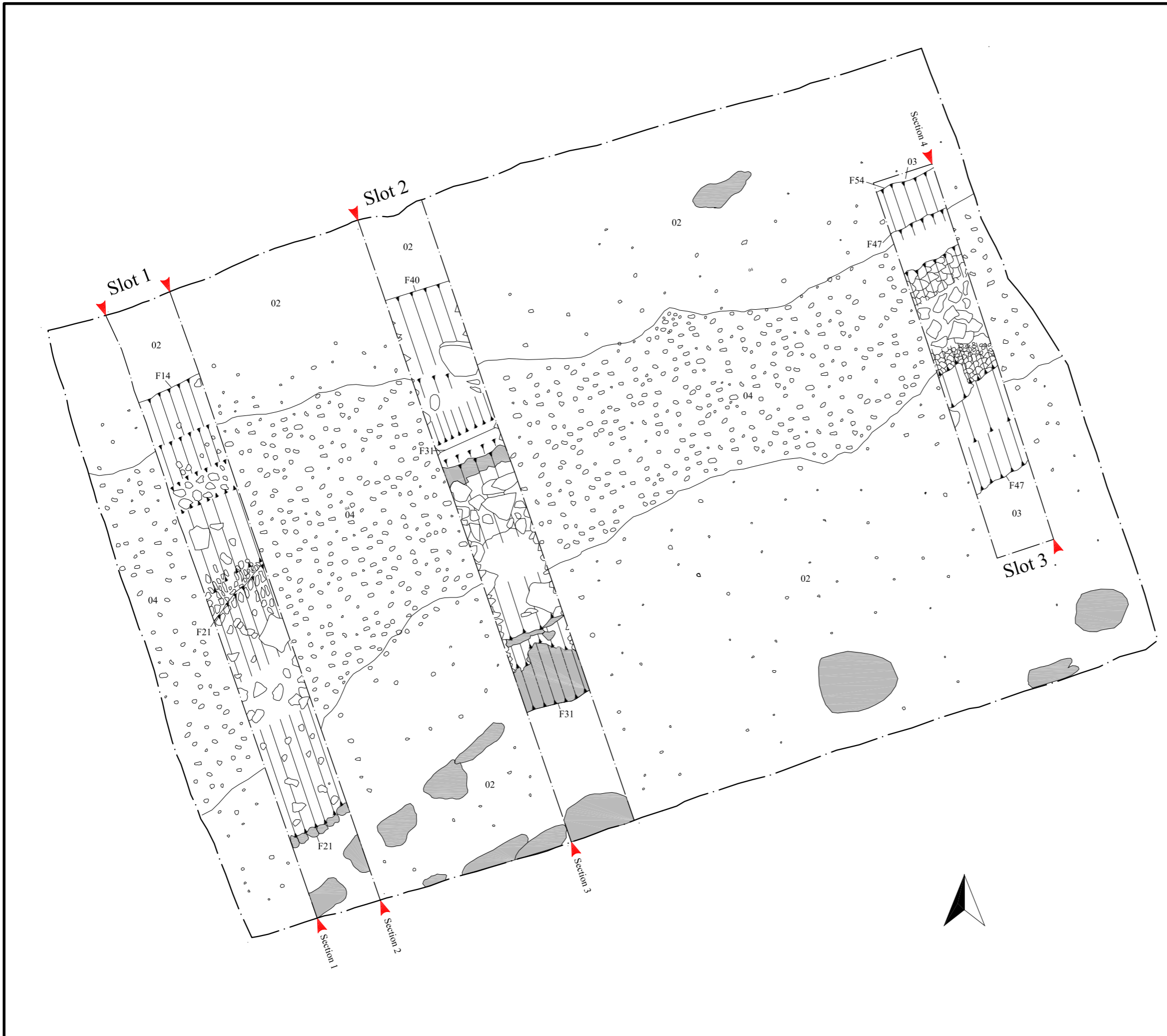
##### **Slot 2 (Figures 4 & 7)**

- 4.5 A second 1m wide slot was excavated across the central part of the trench where the two ditch circuits start to overlap one another. The loose stony spread [04] was removed within this area to reveal the northern edge of the outer ditch [F40] cutting the subsoil [02], and the southern edge of the inner ditch [F31], cut through the bedrock [03].

**The Traprain Law Environs Project  
Phase 2**

**Foster Law evaluation 2003**

Figure 4  
Trench 1 Plan 5



on behalf of  
**Historic Scotland**  
**Dickinson College**  
**University of Durham**



scale 1:60 - for A3 plot


 bedrock

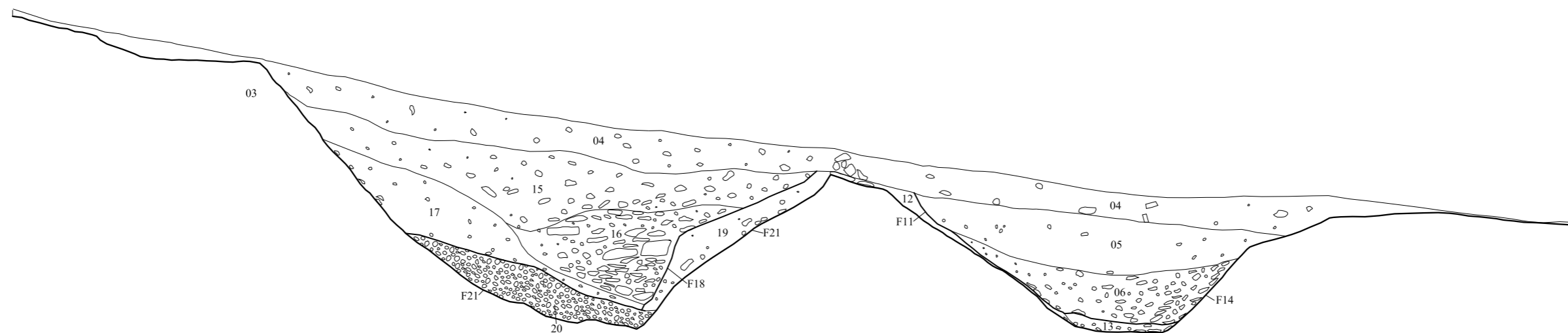
Section 1

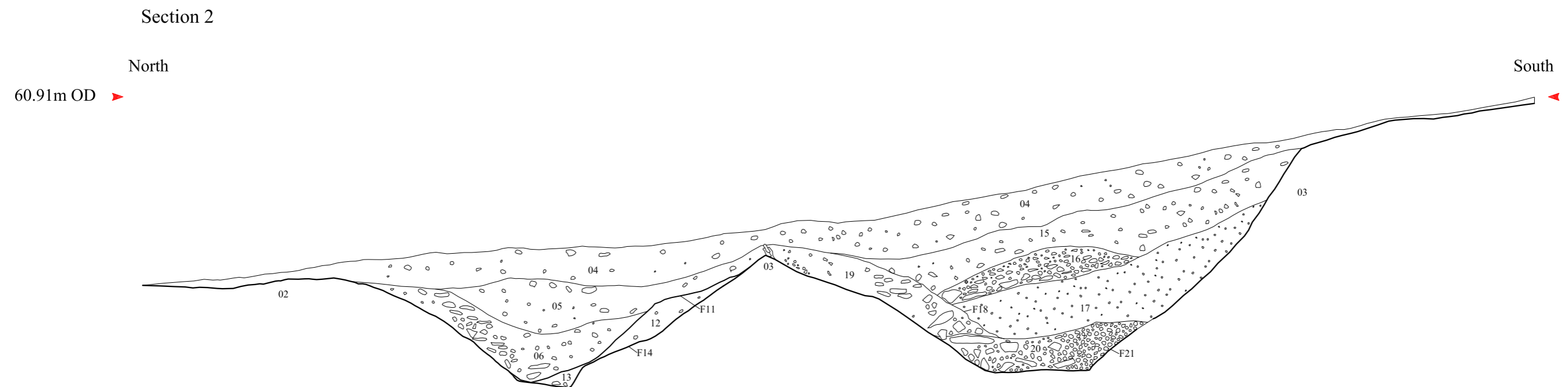
South

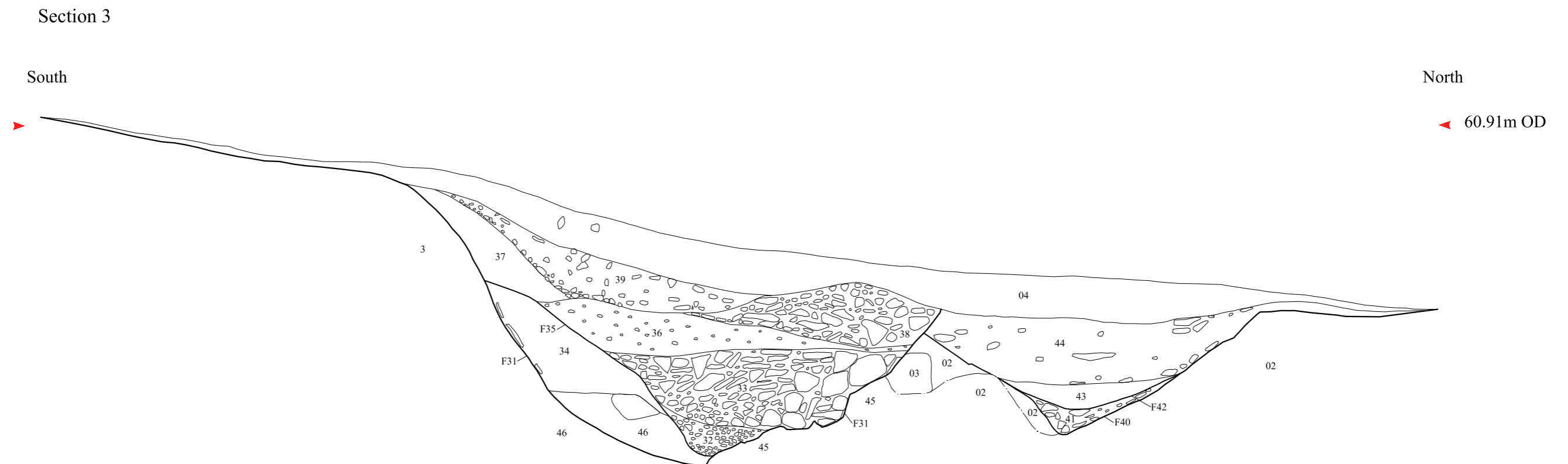


North

◀ 60.94m OD



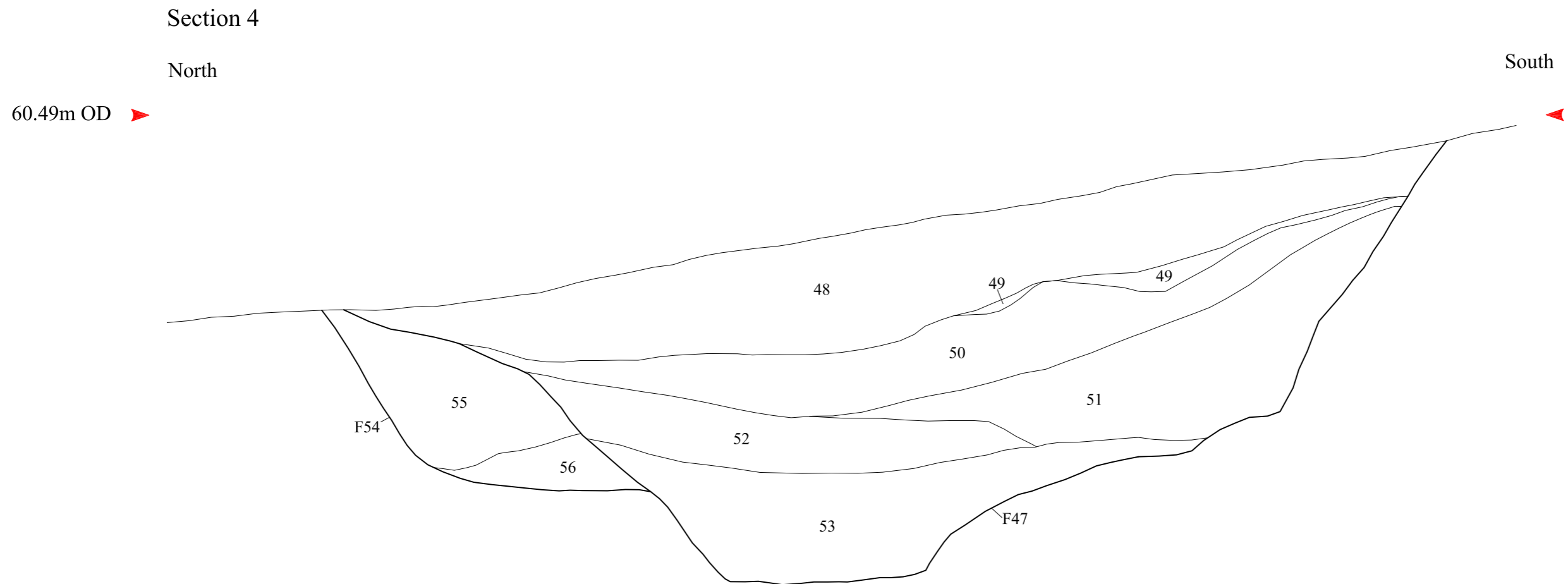




- 4.6 The outer ditch [F40] was broadly V-shaped here with sloping sides, surviving to a depth of 0.8m below [04]. The maximum surviving width of the ditch was 2.3m. At the base of this ditch was an orange/brown clay silt with 90% angular stones [41]. This was cut by [F42], a U-shaped recut of the ditch 0.62m in depth. At the base of the recut was a loose mid-orange/brown clay silt [43]. Over this was a loose mid-orange/brown clay silt with frequent stones [44]. The southern part of this deposit was cut by the larger inner ditch [F31].
- 4.7 The maximum width of ditch [F31] here was 3.6m. The base of ditch was not excavated due to its depth on safety grounds. At the lowest part of the excavated ditch was a compact dark orange/brown silty clay with 90% large flat bedrock fragments [45]. Slightly overlying this was a compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional small fragments of shattered bedrock [46]; this deposit was not fully excavated due to its depth. This was overlain by a very compact silty clay with occasional small fragments of shattered bedrock [34]; cattle and horse tooth fragments were recovered from this layer. This was cut by [F35], the recutting of the ditch. The base of the recut contained [32], a mid-orange-brown silty clay matrix containing 90% small fragments of shattered bedrock. This was overlain by a very loose mid-orange/brown sandy clay silt, also with 90% shattered bedrock [33], which was overlain by a loose orange/brown clay silt with frequent pebbles and moderate small stones [36]. Above this on the southern slope of the ditch was a compact mid-orange/brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles [37] and on the northern slope was a loose mid-brown clay silt with 90% small - medium angular stones [38]. Both of these deposits were overlain by a loose mid-brown clay silt with moderate small fragments of shattered bedrock [39]. This lay directly below the loose stony spread [04].

### **Slot 3 (Figures 4 & 8)**

- 4.8 A third 1m wide slot was excavated across the eastern part of the trench, where the two ditch circuits overlap. The loose stony spread [04] was removed within this area to reveal the northern edge of the outer ditch [F54] and the southern edge of the inner ditch [F47], cutting into the bedrock [03].
- 4.9 The cut of the outer ditch [F54] had a steeply sloping edge to the northern side with a flat base at 0.75m depth. The southern edge side of the ditch had been removed by the cutting of the later ditch [F47]. At the base of ditch [F54] was a friable mid-brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular stones [56]. This was overlain by a friable mid-brown silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal [55]. These fills were truncated by the cut of the larger inner ditch [F47].
- 4.10 The northern side of ditch [F47] was generally steep with a more gradual slope at the top; the southern side had a steep slope at the top becoming gradual towards the flat base at 1.45m depth. The ditch measured 4.6m in width at the top and 0.8m in width at the base. The lowest fill deposit comprised a plastic red/brown clay silt with frequent, 80%, medium - large sub-angular stones [53]. This was overlain by a red/brown coarse sandy silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal [52]. The southern part of [52] was overlain by a light orange/brown silt with frequent





small angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal [51]. The northern part of [52] and all of [51] are overlain by a friable mid-orange/brown sandy silt with frequent medium sub-angular stones [50]. A large base sherd from a coarse pottery vessel was recovered from this deposit. This was in part overlain by a thin layer of friable light brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and small sub-angular stones [49], which was in turn overlain by a dark brown sandy silt containing 5% small – medium sub-angular stones [48].

### ***Trench 2*** (Figures 9 & 10)

- 4.11 In the western part of Trench 2 the terminal for the outer ditch [F10] was evident cutting through the bedrock [03]. In this area the topsoil was 0.1m in depth. The ditch terminal had linear sides and a curved end with a gradual slope and slightly curved base. At the base of the terminal was a firm, friable mid-orange/brown silt with frequent (70%) small - medium sub-angular stones [09]. This was overlain by a loose light orange/brown silt with frequent (80%) medium - large sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal [08]. Above this was a friable mid-brown sandy silt with occasional small - medium sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal [07]. This was directly below the topsoil [01]. There was no evidence of a recut in the terminal. No artefacts were recovered
- 4.12 The terminal for the inner ditch [F29], which was cut into bedrock, was excavated in the eastern part of Trench 2. The end of the cut faced north with a gradual slope consisting of roughly cut rock to a depth of 1.2m. In the base of the terminal was a friable mid-orange/brown sandy silt with frequent shattered bedrock [28]. This was truncated in part by a small recut [F30] within the eastern part of the ditch. The west-facing side of this ditch had a steep slope and a slightly uneven base. In the base of the recut ditch was a crumbly mid-yellow/brown compacted silty sand with occasional gravel [27]. This was overlain by a friable mid-orange/brown sandy silt with 50% small angular gravel [26]. Above this was a deposit of shattered bedrock with patches of mid-yellow/brown silty sand [25]; this contained animal bone. Above the eastern part of [25] was a compacted mid-yellow/pink angular gravel deposit with occasional pea grit [24]. Above the western part of [25] was a yellow/brown silty sand with frequent small fragments of shattered bedrock [23]; faunal remains and one pot sherd were recovered from this deposit. The uppermost part of the ditch was subsequently filled with a crumbly mid-orange/brown sandy silt with 50% shattered bedrock [22].

## **5. The finds**

- 5.1 The Finds Register and descriptions are provided in Appendix 2.

### ***Pottery***

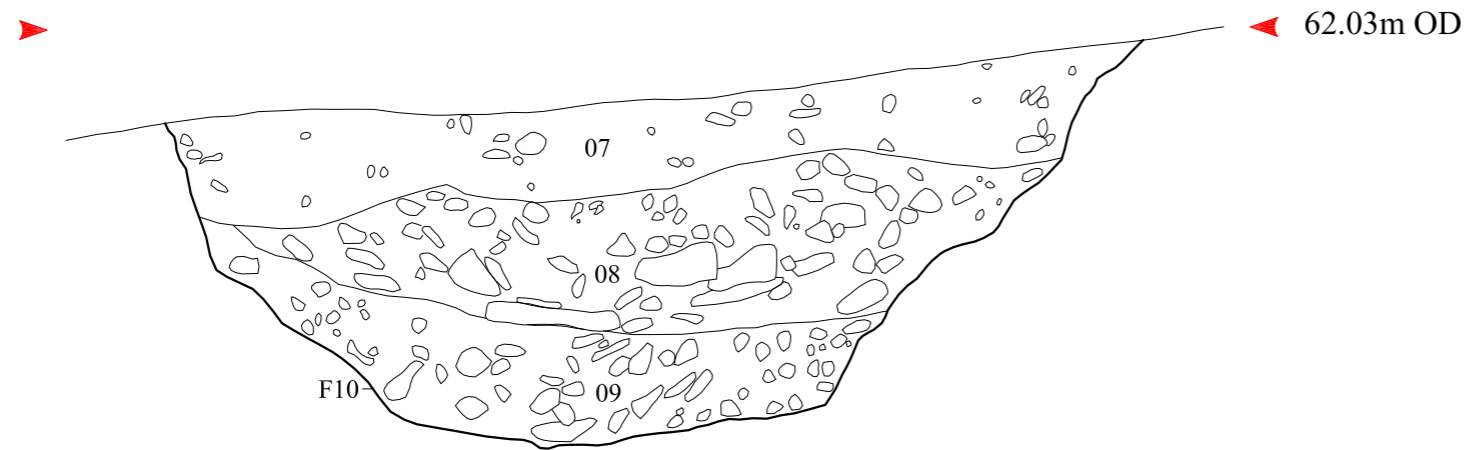
- 5.2 The majority of pot sherds were recovered during cleaning of the exposed surface in Trench 1 after machine excavation of the topsoil. Some of these, including a particularly large rim sherd, have been identified as coming from Cool type II vessels, Iron Age tradition wares. A complete thumb-pot was recovered during excavation of the stone spread [04] across the area of the



Section 6

West

East

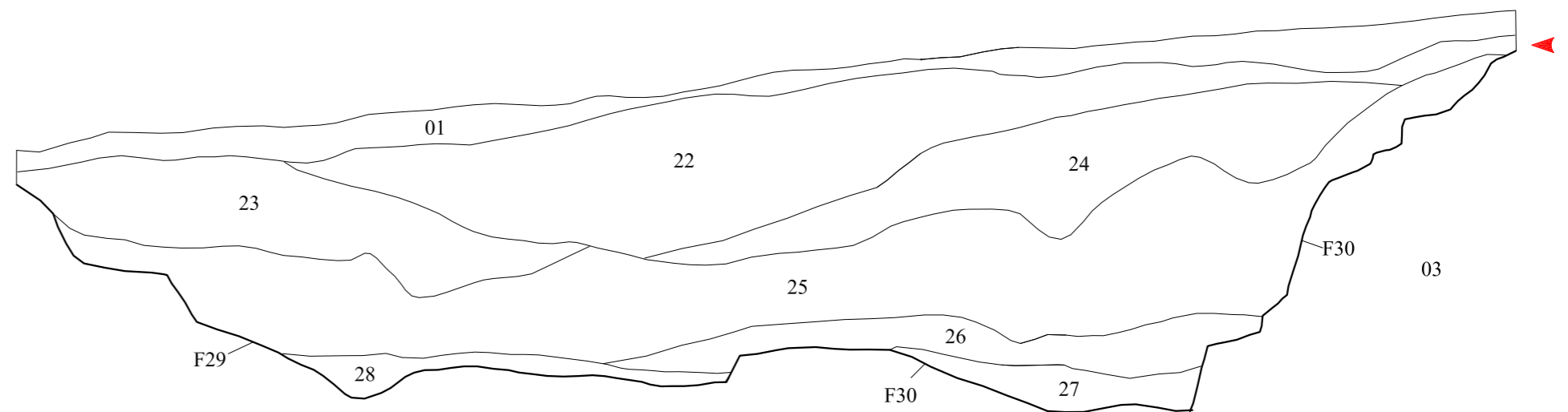


Section 8

West

East

62.48m OD



ditches in Trench 1. A body sherd of coarse fabric was recovered from one of the upper fills [15] of the recut in the inner enclosure ditch [F18]. A large base sherd from a coarse pottery vessel was recovered from [50], a fill deposit in the inner enclosure ditch.

- 5.3 In Trench 2 a coarse pottery body sherd was recovered from fill deposit [23] in the eastern, inner, ditch terminal.

#### ***Faunal remains***

- 5.4 All the faunal remains, with one exception, are teeth or tooth enamel. Only the remains of large and robust species and elements are present in the small assemblage. Horse was certainly present, with cattle more common.

#### ***Iron objects***

- 5.5 One staple-shaped iron object of uncertain function or date was recovered from [15], a fill of the recut in the inner enclosure ditch [F18].

#### ***Industrial residues***

- 5.6 Two fragments of fuel ash (one possibly being smithing slag) were also recovered from [15], a fill of the recut in the inner enclosure ditch [F18].

#### ***Shale***

- 5.7 One fragment of a triangular-sectioned bracelet was recovered from [04], the stone spread covering the area of the ditches in Trench 1.

## **6. The environmental evidence**

- 6.1 Eighteen bulk sediment samples have been assessed for their potential to provide dating, economic and environmental information. These are from the stone spread [04] and various fill contexts from the ditches.

#### ***Methods statement***

- 6.2 5 litre sub-samples of sediment were manually processed in the laboratory with both flots and residue retained upon 500 $\mu$  mesh. The flots were scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x50, notes made of the matrix components and any seeds or identifiable plant remains sorted and identified by comparison with modern reference material held in the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham. Sorted seeds were stored in a separate bag within the flots bag. All of the flots were completed. The sediment was essentially free-draining and thus any seeds contemporary with the occupation of the site are expected to have been preserved through charring. Non-charred seeds are therefore assumed to be modern.

#### ***Results***

- 6.3 Assessment results are shown in the table below.  
nfa = no further action on any remaining unprocessed material

context	notes	action
04	Spread over ditches TR1. Dark brown sediment. Small flot. Very silty charcoal – mostly cindery stuff. A few modern roots. Very occasional honeycomb metallic looking industrial waste and the odd airfall spatter. Fine fraction material really too silty to examine. Hulled <i>Hordeum</i> – 3 (from angular shape and 1 grain with obvious glumes), indet <i>Hordeum</i> – 1. Flot completed. Try ultrasonic bath carefully to clean silty material from charcoal – might be small plant remains in fine fraction as there were in TKN03 samples. 3 bags sediment taken so there is more available to process.	possibly do rest
05	Fill of ditch F11. 50ml flot of charcoal with some each of bone, clinker/cinder and coal. No charred seeds.	nfa
13	Fill ditch F14. Dark brown, wet sediment with stones. Small flot of very clean and mostly flaky charcoal and some coal. Very occasional grass stem, <i>Calluna</i> stem but basically wood charcoal. Should be possible to get something suitable for radiocarbon dating if necessary. Flot completed.	nfa
15	Fill ditch F18. 25ml flot of charcoal, clinker/cinder and coal. Occasional metal fragments in residue. 3 <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> .	process the rest
17	Fill ditch F18, gravelly silt layer. 10ml flot of charcoal with a little each coal and clinker/cinder. 1 fragment hazelnut shell.	probably nfa
19	Fill ditch F21. Dark brown stony material. Tiny flot. Scraps of clean charcoal – wood, very occasional monocot. base and 1 ? <i>Calluna</i> stem. Flot completed.	nfa
25	Ditch fill in F30, silty sand layer. 10ml flot of bone, coal and charcoal. Occasional metal fragments in residue. 1 indeterminate cereal grain.	probably nfa
26	In ditch F30. Light brown sediment and stones. Tiny flot. Mineral, coal and a little charcoal. All very small fragments. Completed.	nfa
27	Primary fill ditch F29. Dark brown sediment and stones. Very small flot of coal and clean but fragile charcoal – mostly small fragments. Moderate numbers of fresh breaks. <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> – 1. Flot completed.	nfa
28	In ditch F29, primary fill of terminal, silty sand. 10ml flot charcoal, coal and modern roots. No charred seeds.	nfa
34	In ditch F31. 10ml flot bone, charcoal and coal. Occasional metal fragments in residue. No charred seeds.	nfa
36	In ditch F35. 10ml flot charcoal, coal and modern roots. Occasional metal fragments in residue. No charred seeds.	nfa
37	Fill ditch F35. Light brown sediment and stony. Small flot. Very silty and abraded charcoal with a little mineral material and a few modern roots. Some coal. No seeds. Completed.	nfa
39	Fill of ditch F35. Light brown sediment and stony. Small flot of flaky charcoal and some modern roots. 1 fragment calcined bone and small fragments highly comminuted bone present in finer fractions. 2 <i>Calluna</i> twigs. 1 tree twig suitable for dating. No seeds. This flot completed.	nfa
43	In ditch F42. 15ml flot charcoal, coal, modern roots and insects ( <i>are these modern intrusions?</i> – JPH). Occasional metal fragments in residue. 1 indeterminate cereal.	nfa
44	In ditch F42. 20ml flot charcoal, coal, cinder/clinker. Occasional metal fragments in residue. No charred seeds.	nfa

51	In ditch F47. 50ml flot abundant charcoal with some bone, coal and modern roots. Occasional metal fragments in residue. No charred seeds.	nfa
53	Fill of ditch F47. Dark brown sediment. Small flot of mineral and clean charcoal. <i>Triticum</i> glume 1, spelt glume 1, Cerealia indeterminate 2.	process the rest

### **Discussion**

- 6.4 All the samples were from ditch fills, except layer [04]. Flots were small and, on the whole, produced very little charcoal. All flots have been completed. Most were barren and may reflect either preservational conditions or the fact that crop processing activities especially were not being undertaken close to these ditches. It may be that this site was not processing crops but rather concentrating upon animal husbandry although the lack of bones, due to acidic soils, precludes further discussion. This also seems unlikely in that almost any rural site is likely to process and use some cereals at this period of time, namely late prehistory. In addition, context [53] in ditch [F47] does have evidence for some processing from the survival of a couple of glume bases, one from spelt.

### **Recommendations**

- 6.5 The remainder of the context [53] sample should be processed although the site record sheet indicates that only one bag, representing 80% of the context, was taken. The rest of the samples from [04] and [15] should be processed and fully analysed; both of these had c.20 litres of sediment collected. Given the experience from other TLEP sites it seems unlikely that full processing of those samples with one or two fragments of indeterminable cereal grains or hazelnut shell would be worthwhile. Therefore none of the other samples requires further work and may be discarded as far as botanical work is concerned.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The evaluation established that the larger, inner ditch is the later of the two enclosure ditches, and that Iron Age tradition pottery is contained within its upper fills. The presence of ditch terminals on the western side of the enclosures has been confirmed. No other features were identified within the limited extent of the two trenches.
- 7.2 The principal ditch features at the site are well-preserved, except at the eastern end of the hilltop which was quarried in the 1970s. Although this field was ploughed in the past there are no plans to reintroduce ploughing here due to the stony nature of the soil.
- 7.3 Further analysis of environmental samples from specific contexts should provide further information regarding agricultural activities. Some of the plant remains have the potential to provide radiocarbon dates if required.
- 7.4 The site at Foster Law contains well-preserved archaeological deposits and has high research potential. It would be suitable for larger scale excavation as part

of the Traprain Law Environs Project. Final publication of the site will be within a monograph detailing all the excavation and research outcomes of the project as a whole.

## **8. References**

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## Appendix 1: Context register

Summary list of contexts. The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of finds of the following types: P pottery, B bone, M metals, F flint, S slag, O other materials.

Context	Description	P	B	M	F	S	O
[01]	Topsoil	•					
[02]	Subsoil						
[03]	Bedrock						
[04]	Stone spread over ditches, Tr1	•	•				•
[05]	Ditch fill of [F11]						
[06]	Ditch fill of [F11]						
[07]	Ditch fill of [F10]						
[08]	Ditch fill of [F10]						
[09]	Ditch fill of [F10]						
[F10]	Ditch cut						
[F11]	Recut of ditch						
[12]	Ditch fill of [F14]						
[13]	Ditch fill of [F14]						
[F14]	Ditch cut						
[15]	Ditch fill of [F18]	•		•		•	
[16]	Ditch fill of [F18]						
[17]	Ditch fill Of [F18]						
[F18]	Recut of ditch						
[19]	Ditch fill of [F21]						
[20]	Ditch fill of [F21]						
[F21]	Ditch cut						
[22]	Ditch fill of [F30]						
[23]	Ditch fill of [F30]	•	•				
[24]	Ditch fill of [F30]						
[25]	Ditch fill of [F30]		•				
[26]	Ditch fill of [F30]						
[27]	Ditch fill of [F30]						
[28]	Ditch fill of [F29]						
[F29]	Cut of ditch terminal						
[F30]	Cut of ditch						
[F31]	Ditch cut						
[32]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[33]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[34]	Ditch fill of [F31]		•				
[F35]	Recut of ditch						
[36]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[37]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[38]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[39]	Ditch fill of [F35]						
[F40]	Ditch cut						
[41]	Ditch fill of [F40]						
[F42]	Recut of ditch						
[43]	Ditch fill of [F42]						
[44]	Ditch fill of [F42]						
[45]	Ditch fill of [F31]						
[46]	Ditch fill of [F31]						



[F47]	Ditch cut						
[48]	Ditch fill						
[49]	Ditch fill of [F47]						
[50]	Ditch fill of [F47]	•					
[51]	Ditch fill of [F47]						
[52]	Ditch fill of [F47]						
[53]	Ditch fill of [F47]						
[F54]	Ditch cut						
[55]	Ditch fill of [F54]						
[56]	Ditch fill of [F54]						

## Appendix 2: Finds register

Context	Small find number.	Material	Assessment
[01]	5	Ceramic	12 sherds + chips various coarse pottery vessels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large rim sherd Cool type II. Quartz and large rock temper; int largely orange/oxidised, ext part-oxidised/brown, blackened around rim edge. 248g</li> <li>• 2 conjoining rim sherds (modern break) thin walled vessel, cf Cool type II; orange oxidised surfaces, black reduced core, 22g</li> <li>• 3 body sherds with rock temper, 152g</li> <li>• 7 body sherds, finer/sandier type fabric, some with striations or organic impressions, another with large piece of ?coal temper, 219g</li> </ul>
[04]	4	Shale?	Fragment of triangular sectioned bracelet
[04]	6	Ceramic	Complete 'thumb pot': hemispherical piece of hollowed-out fired clay. Variably oxidised/reduced. Quartz and (relatively fine) rock temper. 39g.
[15]	3	Iron	Staple-shaped object; very dense; likely to be modern/agricultural
[15]	1	Residue	Fragment fuel ash slag, 14g
[15]	2	Residue	Heavy piece of fuel ash or poss smithing slag? 78g
[15]	7	Ceramic	Body sherd (near base?) of coarse pottery. Quartz and some rock temper. Buff/oxidised ext; reduced core; int mainly reduced. 72g.
[23]		Bone	Fragments of tooth
[23]	8	Ceramic	Body sherd coarse pottery. Oxidised/orange ext; reduced core and int. Quartz tempered. 24g
[25]		Bone	3 bags: 1 complete tooth; 2 tooth fragments; 3 tooth & bone frags
[34]		Bone	Tooth fragments
[50]	9	Ceramic	Large base sherd of large coarse pottery vessel. Quartz and large igneous rock temper. Buff/oxidised interior; reduced core; brownish ext surface with wipe marks. 95g.

### Appendix 3: Sample register

Context	Sample No.	No. of bags
[04]	211	2
[05]	212	2
[06]	209	2
[13]	210	2
[15]	213	1
[17]	208	2
[19]	207	2
[25]	202	2
[26]	200	1
[27]	201	2
[28]	203	2
[34]	214	1
[36]	215	1
[37]	206	2
[39]	216	1
[43]	217	1
[44]	218	1
[51]	204	2
[53]	205	1

### Appendix 4: Plans and sections register

No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	East facing section through [F11], [F14], [F18] and [F21]
2	1:10	West facing section through [F11], [F14], [F18] and [F21]
3	1:10	East facing section through [F31], [F35], [F40] and [F42]
4	1:10	West facing section through [F47] and [F54]
5	1:20	Plan of Trench 1
6	1:10	South facing section through terminus [F10]
7	1:20	Plan of Trench 2
8	1:10	South facing section through [F29] and [F30]

### Appendix 5: Photographic register

#### *Colour slide: film 1*

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
7-9	General area shot - Trench 1	N
10-12	General area shot - west area of Trench 1	N
13-15	General area shot - east area of Trench 1	N

#### *Colour slide: film 2*

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
11-12	Pre-ex shot of inner terminal - Trench 2	N
13-14	Pre-ex shot of outer terminal - Trench 2	N
15-16	South facing section through outer terminal - Trench 2	N
17-18	Partial shot of slot 1 - Trench 1	N
19-20	Large ditch, slot1 - Trench 1	W

21-22	Small ditch, slot 1 – Trench1	W
23-24	Large ditch, slot 1 – Trench1	E
25-26	Small ditch, slot 1 – Trench1	E
27-28	General shot - slot 1	S
29-30	Section slot 2	NNE
31-32	South end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	E
33-34	Mid section through slot 2 – Trench 1	E
35-36	North end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	E
37	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	SSE

**Colour slide: film 3**

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
1-2	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	SSE
3-4	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	SSW
5-6	North end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
7-8	Mid section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
9-10	South end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
11-12	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	NNW
13-14	Section through slot 3 - Trench1	SE
15-16	Section through slot 3 - Trench1	NW
17-18	North end of section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
19-20	Mid section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
21-22	South end of section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
23-24	Section through inner terminal and ditch	N
25-26	Cut of inner terminal through bedrock	S
27-28	Trench through inner terminal	W
29-30	Trench through inner terminal	E
31-32	Cut of ditch/inner terminal	E

**B/W: film 1**

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
26-28	General area shot - Trench 1	N
29-31	General area shot - west area of Trench 1	N
32-34	General area shot - east area of Trench 1	N

**B/W: film 2**

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
29-30	Pre- ex shot of inner terminal - Trench 2	N
31-32	Pre-ex shot of outer terminal - Trench 2	N
33-34	South facing section through outer terminal - Trench 2	N
35-36	Partial shot of slot 1 -Trench 1	N

**B/W: film 3**

Frame no.	Context/plan/section	Looking N S E W
1-2	Large ditch, slot1 - Trench 1	W
3-4	Small ditch, slot 1 - Trench1	W
5-6	Large ditch, slot 1 - Trench1	E
7-8	Small ditch, slot 1 - Trench1	E
9-10	General shot - slot 1	S
11-12	Section slot 2	NNE
13-14	South end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	E

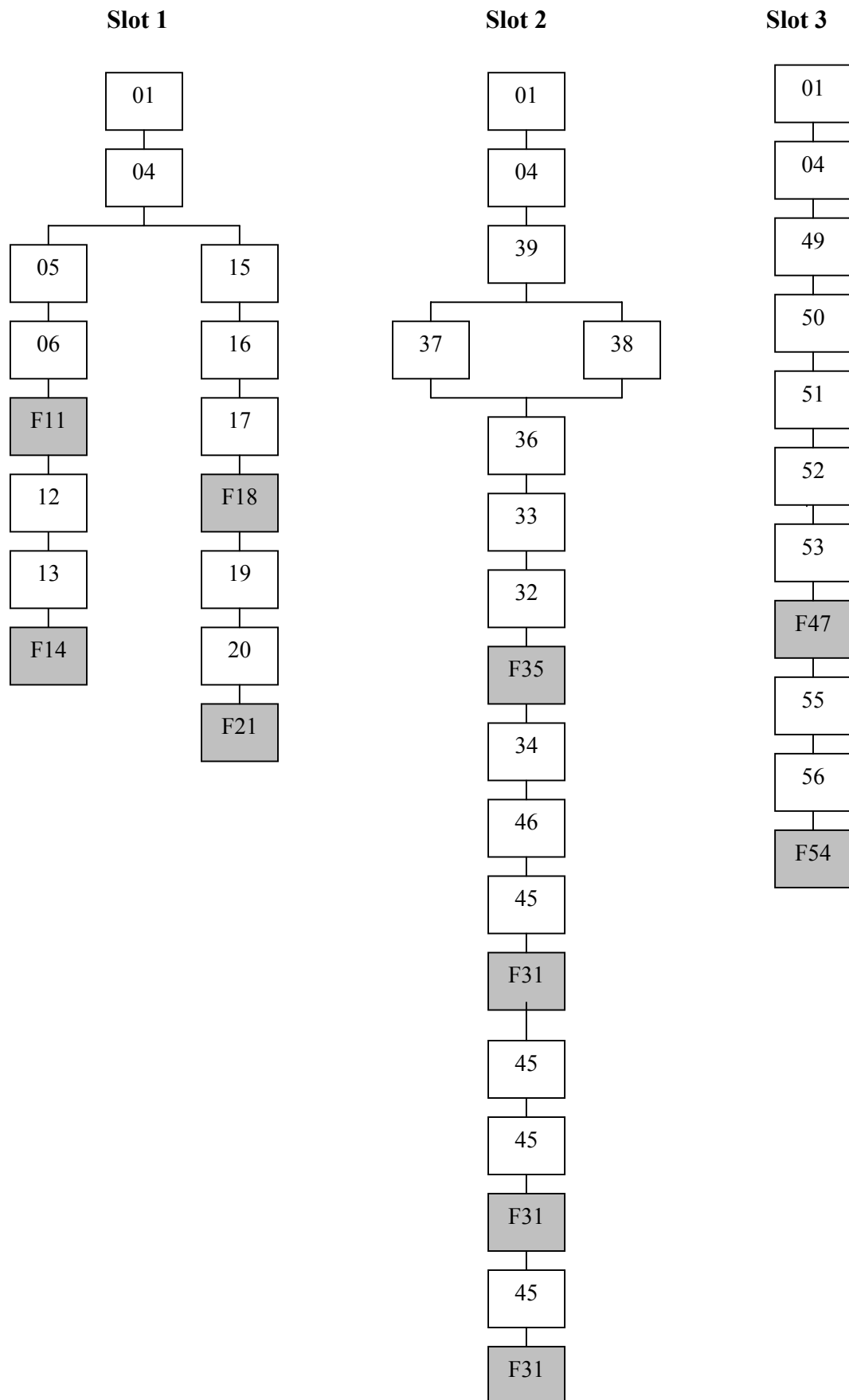
15-16	Mid section through slot 2 - Trench 1	E
17-18	North end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	E
19-20	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	SSE
21-22	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	SSW
23-24	North end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
25-26	Mid section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
27-28	South end of section through slot 2 - Trench 1	W
29-30	General shot slot 2 - Trench 1	NNW
31-32	Section through slot 3 - Trench1	SE
33-34	Section through slot 3 - Trench1	NW
35-36	North end of section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E

***B/W: film43***

<b>Frame no.</b>	<b>Context/plan/section</b>	<b>Looking N S E W</b>
1-2	North end of section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
3-4	Mid section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
5-6	South end of section through slot 3 - Trench 1	E
7-8	Section through inner terminal and ditch	N
9-10	Cut of inner terminal through bedrock	S
11-12	Trench through inner terminal	W
13-14	Trench through inner terminal	E
15-16	Cut of ditch/inner terminal	E

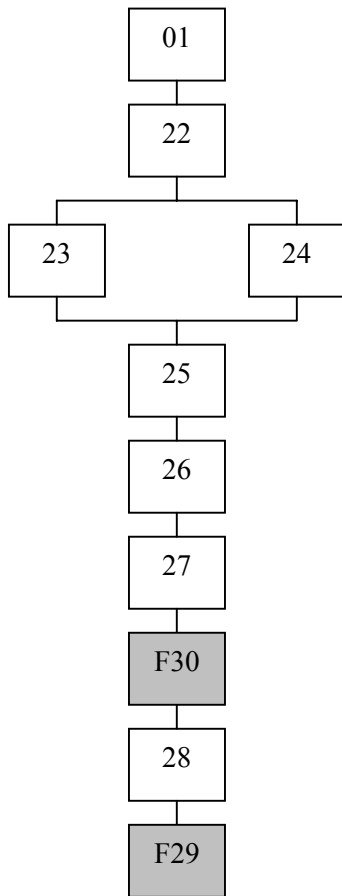
## Appendix 6: Stratigraphic matrices

### Trench 1



**Trench 2**

**Inner terminal**



**Outer terminal**

