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Excavation of a medieval earthwork complex at Hillesley, Hawkesbury, Avon

by B. Williams
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Excavation of a medieval earthwork complex at Hillesley, Hawkesbury, Avon

By BRUCE WILLIAMS

Summary

A watching-brief and limited excavation by the Department of Field Archaeology of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery at Very Croft – a field in the centre of Hillesley – demonstrated that earthworks previously surveyed there were a fortification of Saxo-Norman date. Three chief periods of construction and strengthening were visible in a machine trench (periods 2–4).

The Site (FIG. 1)

The village of Hillesley (ST 768897) lies about twelve miles north of Bristol in the parish of Hawkesbury in the upper division of Grumbald's Ash Hundred. It occupies a position on level ground on the western escarpment of the Cotswold Hills at a height of about 106 m OD (350 ft). The underlying geological stratum of the village is the Cotteswold Sands.

In June 1977 a watching-brief was undertaken at Hillesley by the Committee for Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS), as part of a programme covering developments and major pipelines in the region. A sewage pipeline under construction between Hillesley and Charfield was cut around three sides of Very Croft, a field in the centre of Hillesley, and an area in the west part of the field was stripped of topsoil, revealing areas of occupation and numerous sherds. A complex of earthworks in Very Croft (earlier known as Berry Croft) was subsequently surveyed by Peter Ellis of CRAAGS (Ellis 1984, 206–207).

In June 1979 the earthworks (FIG. 2) were levelled to create a playing field for the village. This report contains the results of a watching-brief carried out on behalf of Bristol City Museum and Avon County Council over a period of two weeks during which the earthworks were destroyed (Webster and Cherry 1980, 247–248; Williams 1979, 204–206).

For ease of reference, the earthworks are divided into six parts (FIG. 3). Most noticeable was earthwork 1, a horseshoe-shaped mound. This was encircled by a substantial ditch (ditch 1) and counterscarp bank (earthwork 3). To the north-east and south-east of earthwork 1 were two small platforms (earthworks 4 and 5 respectively) with associated ditches on their western sides (ditches 2 and 3). In the south part of the field was a low bank (earthwork 2), possibly enclosing a bailey.

Machining before the arrival of archaeological staff involved the removal of 0.4 m of turf, topsoil and occupation deposits from the surface of the field, resulting in the total destruction of earthworks 2 and 3.

Earthwork 1 was enclosed by a ditch, 15 m across (ditch 1). This was crossed on its east side by a causeway running east to west, which was in turn crossed by a public footpath. The ditch showed as an obvious depression to the south of earthwork 1, largely due to a counterscarp-bank along its outer edge (earthwork 3). The counterscarp-bank had not survived to the west or north of the mound, however, and the ditch was consequently not so well defined. Earthwork 3

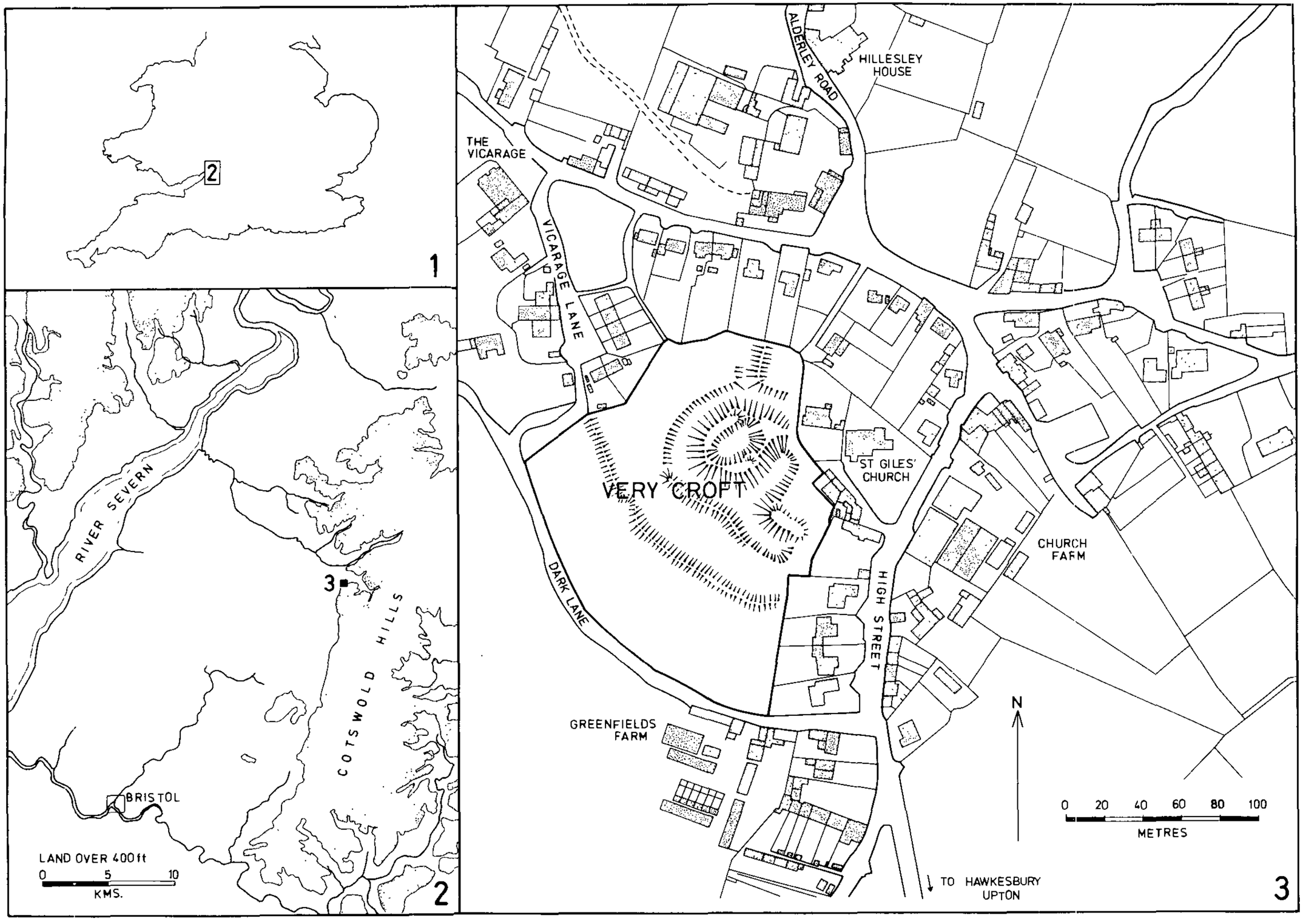

FIG. 1 Site Location maps.

FIG. 2 Aerial view of Hillesley taken November 1965 from the north-west. The earthworks on Very Croft are visible in the centre of the picture. (Photo: Cambridge University Collection, copyright reserved.)

measured 10 m across and survived to a maximum height of 0.75 m above the surrounding level of the field.

Earthworks 4 and 5 to the north-east and south-east of earthwork 1 were enclosed by ditches 2 and 3 on their west sides, which connected with ditch 1. Ditch 3 measured 10 m across and disappeared beneath gardens on the north side of Very Croft. Ditch 2 was partly defined by the continuation of earthwork 3, measured 17 m across and stopped close to the edge of Very Croft, *c.* 3 m to the east of earthwork 5. Earthwork 5 measured 17 m north-west to south-east by 6 m wide, and survived to a height of about 1 m above the surrounding level of the field.

Method of recording

The recording was concentrated largely on earthworks 1 and 5 as a matter of neeessity since time and personnel were insufficient to cover the entire field or to excavate any part of the earthworks satisfaetorily. While a limited amount of manual exeavation was possible, it became clear that the earthworks were far more complex than was at first suspected. Aecordingly it was decided to machine a trench through the south side of earthwork 1 down to 'natural', the north section of which was recorded (section B, FIGS. 4 and 6). The interpretation of the structural phases within earthwork 1 is largely based on this section.

An alpha-numeric system of recording was adopted (e.g. AA to AZ etc.). Features such as walls were assigned a number or numbers prefixed by a letter (e.g. wall W1, layer AC). The initial field survey was drawn at a scale of 1:500. Excavation plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, and sections at 1:10. Photographs were taken in monochrome and colour.

The finds, archive, and a more detailed report are deposited in Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, accession number BRSMG: 43/1979. An archive list is also available on request. In

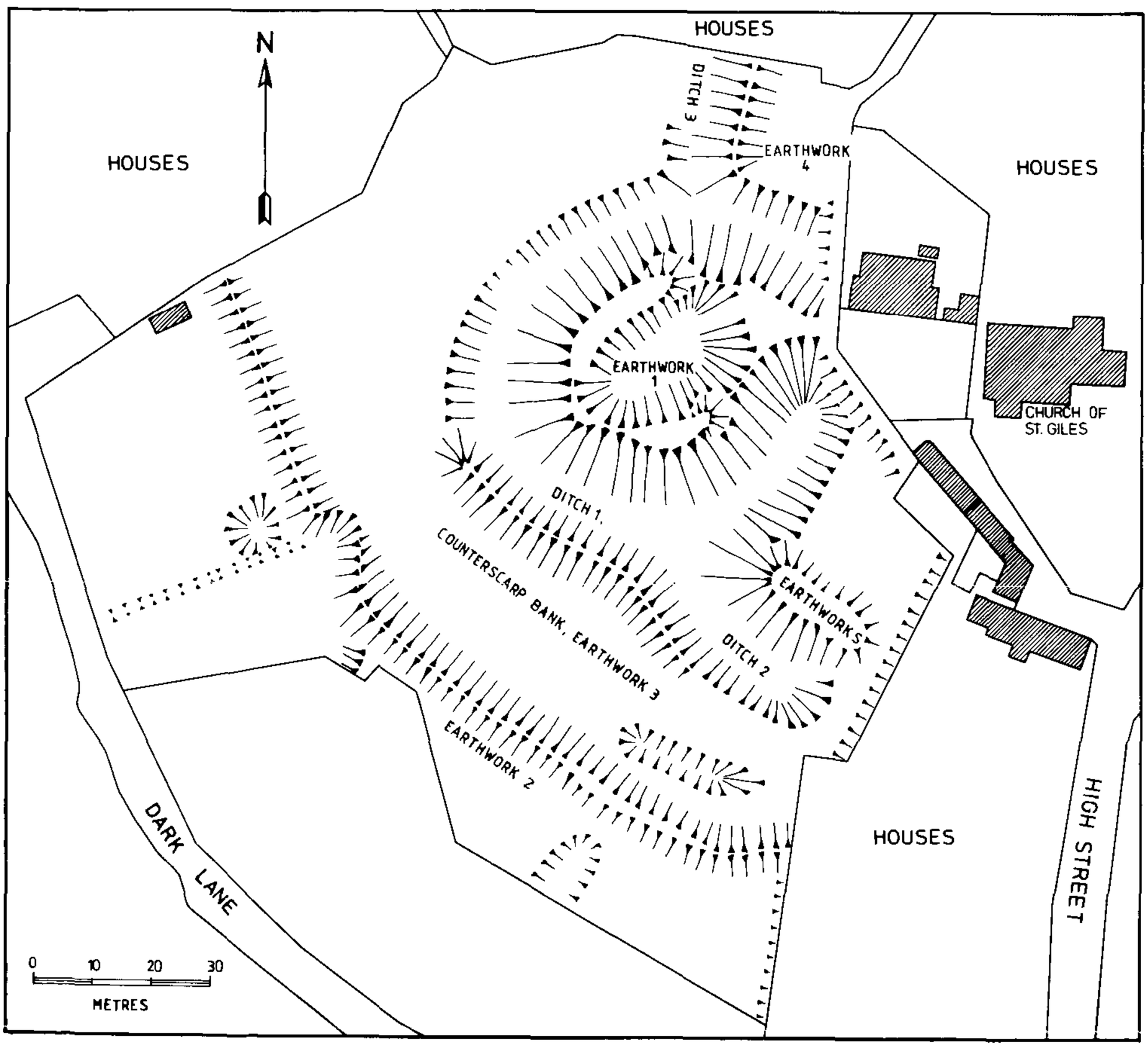

FIG. 3 Details of earthworks in Very Croft.

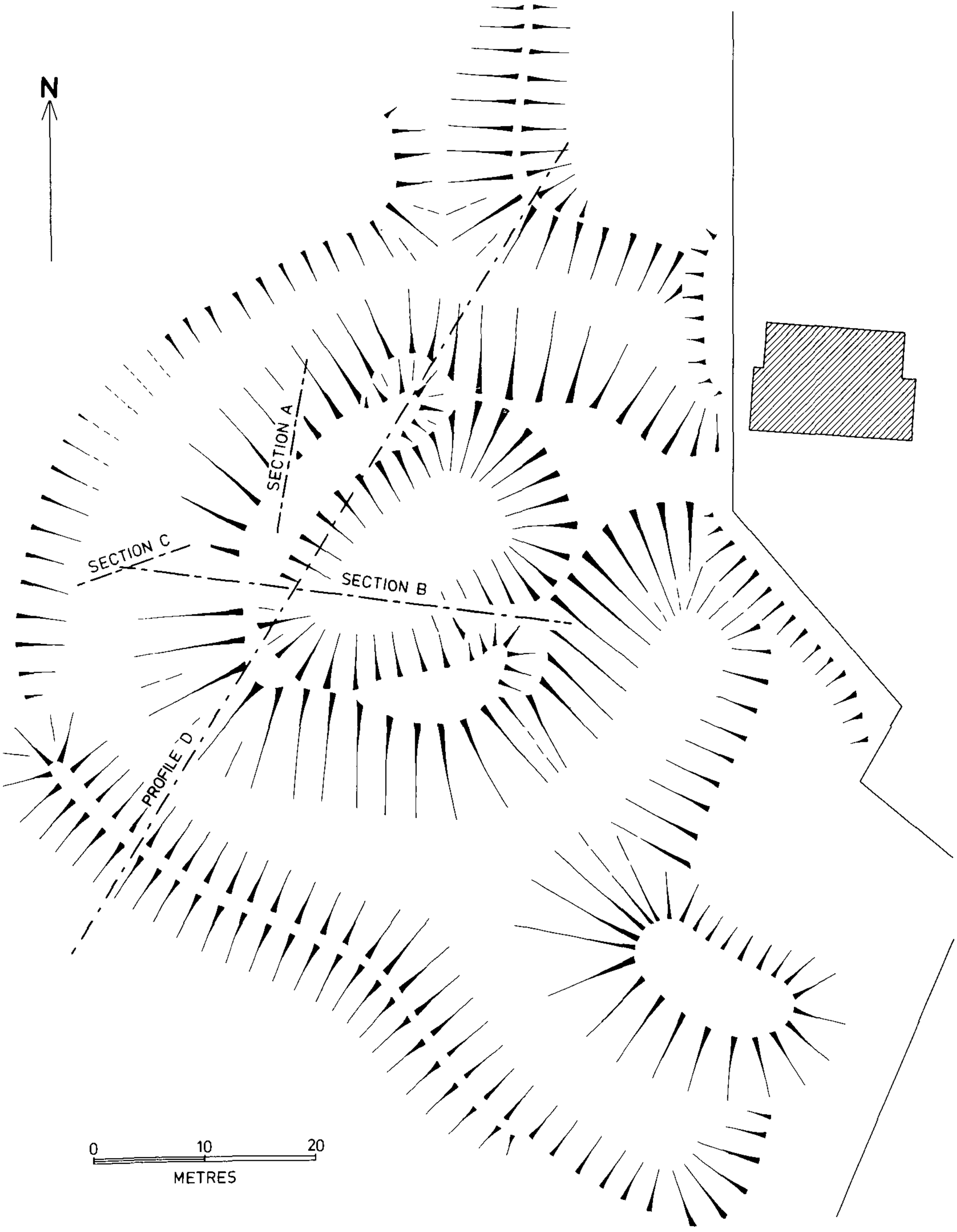

FIG. 4 Location of sections A–C and profile D.

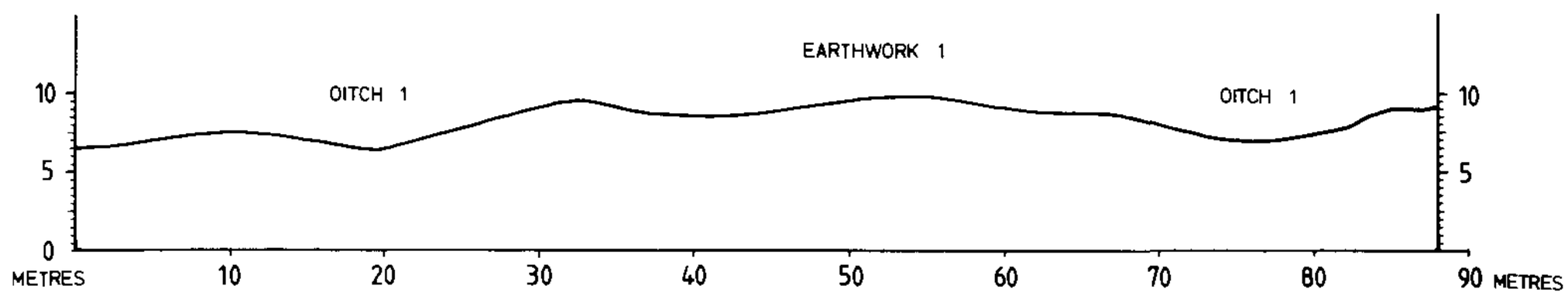

FIG. 5 Profile D north-west to south-east at grass level across Very Croft.

addition the record may be consulted on microfiche at the National Monuments Record, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE.

Summary of periods

While it was possible to divide the earthworks and associated structures into broad periods of occupation, their dating was more difficult to establish since the majority of the pottery recovered was only loosely stratified. However, the pottery is the only means for dating the individual periods outlined below. (See Appendix 1 for a concordance of contexts and groups with structural phases.)

Period 1: Pre-earthwork (context group 1)
Period 2: 11th/mid-12th century; rampart 1, Building B1 (context group 2)
Period 3: ?Mid-12th century; rampart 2, buildings B2–5 (context group 3)
Period 4: Late 12th century/early 13th century; rampart 3; ditch 1 dug, also possibly earthworks 2, 4 and 5, building B6, and ditches 2 and 3 (context group 4A)

Period 1

Evidence for occupation of the site during this period came from three earth-filled features beneath rampart 1 on the west side of the earthwork (not planned).

Period 2 (FIG. 7)

There was no indication in sections A or B (FIGS. 6 and 7) of a buried soil surface beneath earthwork 1, indicating that rampart 1 had been constructed directly over the natural Cotteswold Sands after the site had first been stripped. Possibly some, if not all the material from this operation was used in the construction of the first earth rampart (rampart 1, contexts 26–40, section B). Several sherds of 11th- and 12th-century date (fabric types 1 and 5) were recovered from layers 27 and 38 of section B (BY and BP: see pottery report, FIG. 11, 1, context group 2).

Rampart 1 survived in section B to a height of 0.9 m and measured about 10.3 m across (layers 26 to 40, FIG. 7). It was constructed mainly of alternate layers of grey and brown silty soil containing patches of yellow silt, varying in depth between 0.1 m and 0.4 m. The upper surface of layers 31 and 32 was overlain by charcoal and silt to a depth of 0.06 m (layer 26, section B). This sloped down in an easterly direction immediately to the east of wall W14 (see below, period 4 and FIG. 9) to within 2 m of the inner lip of the rampart which stopped at wall W18 (40, section B), an inner revetment. This wall, which was 0.4 m wide, was constructed of small, unmortared, angular fragments of limestone, bonded in clay and yellow sand, and stood to a height of 0.65 m. The original height of the wall can only be conjectured but it may not have stood higher than a metre or so, in view of its slight construction, and the fact that there was no masonry tumble at its base.

There was no evidence of an outer revetment of stone or of timber during this period. Had there been one it may have been destroyed with the cutting, or re-cutting, of ditch 1 in period 4 (see below).

Natural was reached beneath most of earthwork 1, but it was not found beneath all of rampart 1. Rampart 1, as identified in section B, was built-up over a hollow in the natural, *c.* 8 m across and extending 3 m to the east of wall W18

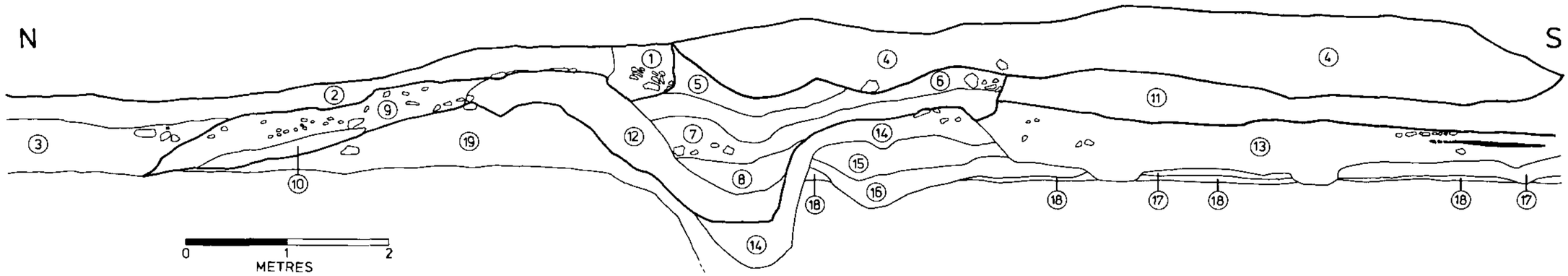

FIG. 6 Section A north and south (see Appendix 2 for context descriptions).

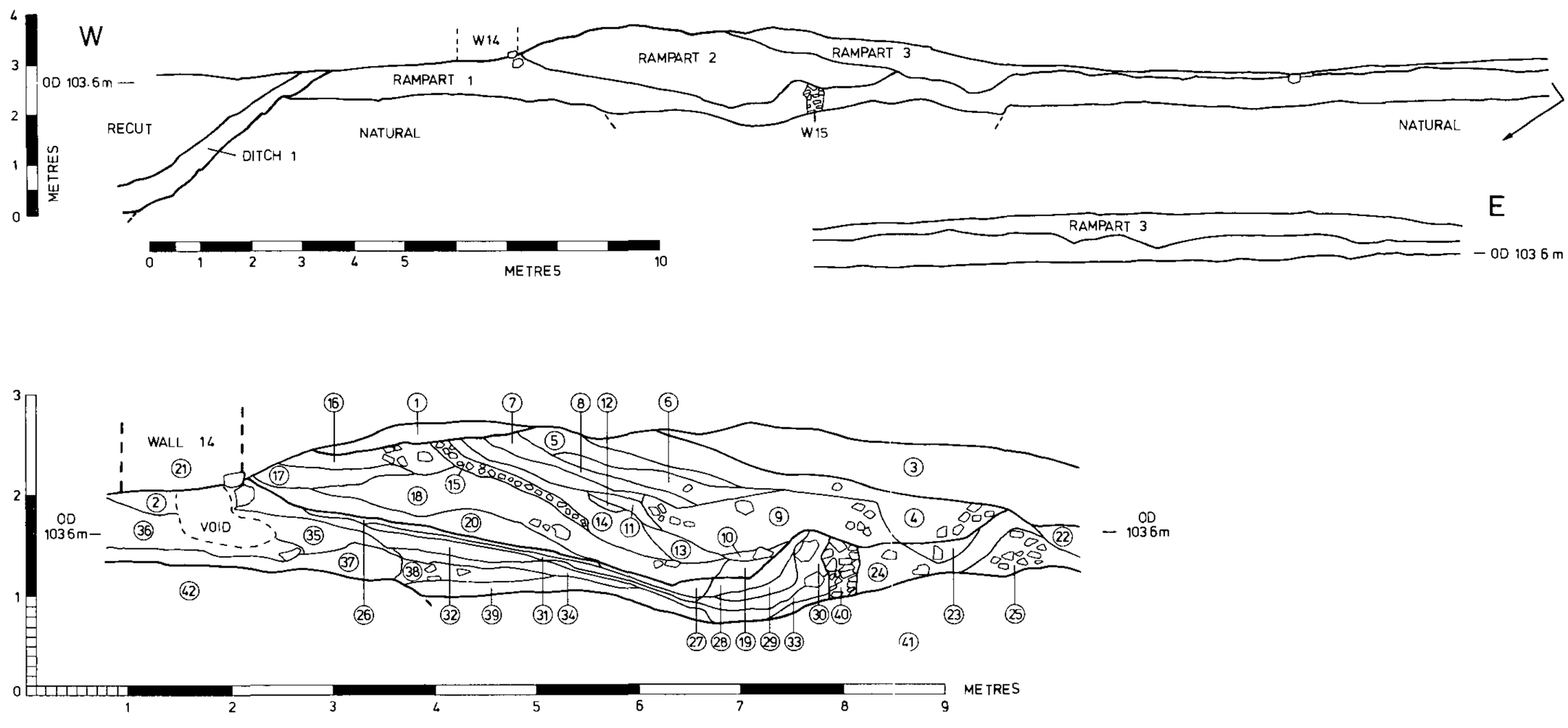

FIG. 7 Section B east to west (see Appendix 2 for context descriptions).

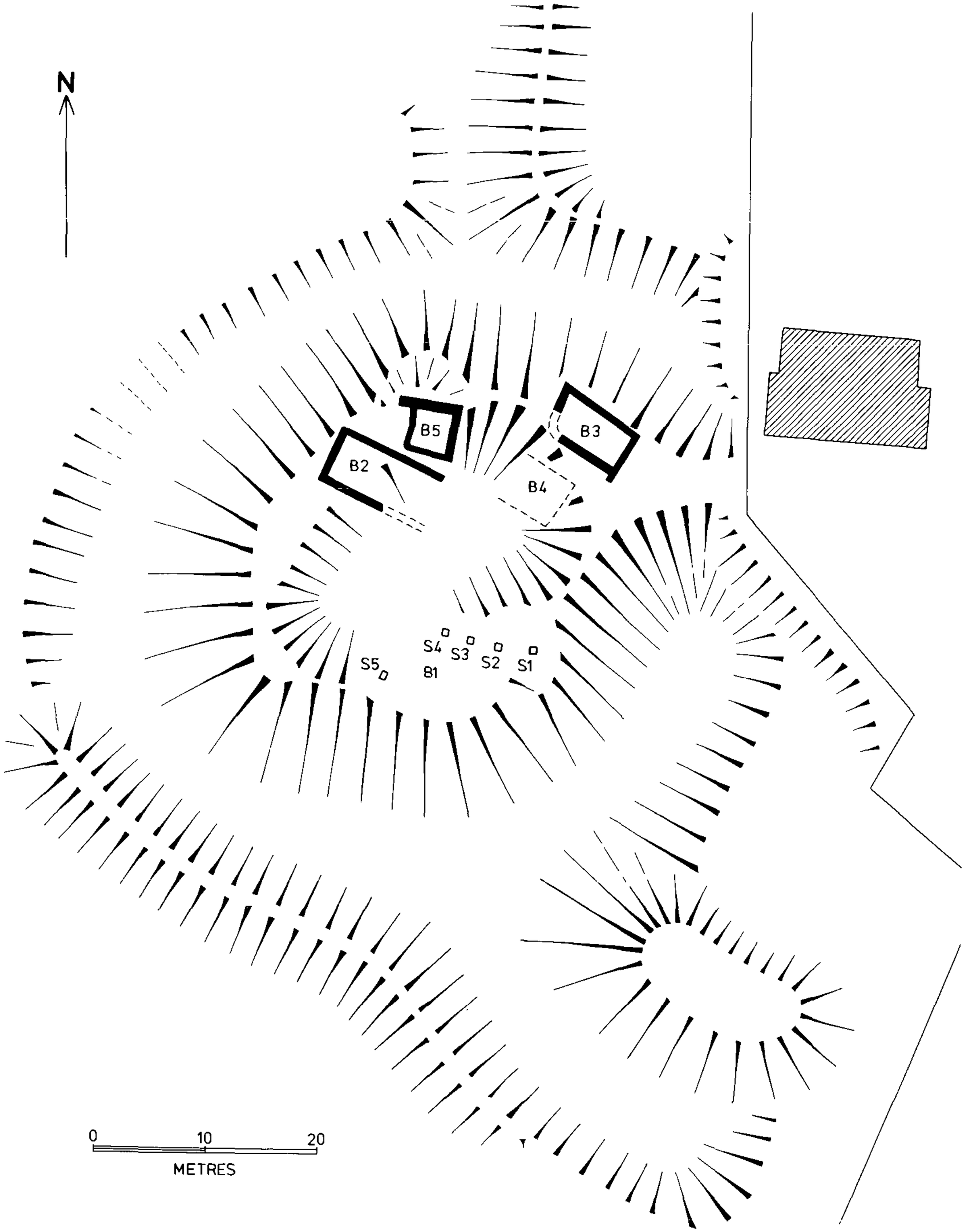

FIG. 8 Periods 2 & 3 structures, earthwork 1, B1–B5.

(41, section B). This feature did not appear to continue south of section B, nor was it in evidence further to the north beneath section A.

Built up to a depth of 0.4 m against the tail of the rampart was an accumulation of grey, brown, and yellow silty soil, patches of orange gravel, and stones (layers 23–35, section B). Sherds from layer 23 (BO), section B, belong to fabric types 1 and 4 and are 11th and 12th century in date. On the south side of earthwork 1, immediately over undisturbed subsoil, but beneath the period 4 occupation, was a structure supported on square stone blocks, possibly representing the arcades of an aisled hall or barn (building B1; FIG. 8). It was orientated with its long axis east to west and was identified by five substantial stylobates of oolitic limestone (S1–S5), each measuring about 0.7 m square by 0.35 m thick. Stylobates S1–S4 were spaced about 2.2 m apart in a straight east to west line. Stylobate S5, of similar dimensions to the others, lay about 5.5 m to the south-west of S4 and was set into a shallow depression, unlike the others which appeared to sit on the ground surface. A further two stylobates, presumably from the same structure, together with any floors, were removed by machine before they could be plotted. No stone walls were noticed, suggesting that the walls of the building were of timber.

No other buildings were found for this period. This is not to say that building B1 was a singleton, since other structures of timber construction would leave little or no trace and be impossible to detect under watching-brief conditions.

Period 3 (FIG. 7)

Period 3 represents the heightening of rampart 1 which was clearly visible in section B over layers 26–28, 30 and 40. The height of the rampart here, called rampart 2, was increased to about 1.6 m above the underlying natural by dumping soil and stones on its surface (layers 4–20, section B).

The line of the heightened rampart extended over the inner revetment wall associated with rampart 1 (W18), which had subsequently gone out of use, and extended 1.5 m to its east. No inner or outer revetments were identified for this period. The outer revetment, if such existed, may have been destroyed when ditch 1 was cut or recut in period 4. Within the area enclosed by rampart 2 was a layer of homogeneous brown loam and small stones (layer 22, section B). This extended eastwards for a distance of 17 m from the tail of the rampart. There was no dating evidence for this period except that it came between the period 2 and period 4 structures.

Included with this period are four buildings of stone construction which were grouped closely together around the northern side of the rampart (B2–B5). How these related to layer 22, section B or ramparts 2 or 3 is a matter of conjecture, however, as there was no positive evidence to link them. What is reasonably certain is that the period 4 remodelling of earthwork 1 pre-dates the construction of the buildings as there was no indication that the buildings were cut through the period 4 makeup. Their walls, built mainly of small pieces of oolitic limestone with some red sandstone, bonded in light-brown sandy soil, were all about 0.5 m thick. Internally, the corners of all the buildings were square. Externally, however, one corner each of building B3 and B5 was rounded.

Building B2 was 1 m to the south-west of building B5. It measured 10 m by 5 m, with its long axis orientated south-east and north-west. Building B3 was situated on the northern limit of the mound to the east of building B5. It measured 8.25 m by 3.2 m and there was a square external buttress on its south-east corner. Its external north-west corner was rounded.

Building B4, to the south of building B3, was identified only as a mass of demolition rubble, measuring *c.* 5 m by *c.* 5.5 m. Building B5, 3.2 m square, had an external buttress on its north-west corner and its south-west corner was rounded.

Period 4 (FIG. 9)

Included in this period are ditches 1–3 and earthworks 2, 4, and 5. Rampart 2 was again heightened to about 3.5 m above the surrounding level of the field by dumping natural on its surface (layer 3, section B). The upper level of this dump was removed by machine before any sections could be drawn, but the material was probably derived from the excavation of ditch 1. Ditch 1 almost encircled the rampart but was crossed on its east side by a causeway. It was filled with redeposited natural (FIGS. 7 and 10) which had accrued both from the erosion of the counterscarp bank (earthwork 3) and earthwork 1, and as deliberate backfill.

Encircling the west and south side of rampart 3 was a stone revetment wall, W14 (FIG. 9). There was no trace of this on the north or east sides of the rampart. The wall cut into rampart 2, measured 1.2 m across, and was built of oolitic limestone. Only the bottom few courses survived and these curved around the western side of the rampart for a distance of 20 m. A 10 m long stretch, which survived to a depth of 0.4 m, was also in evidence on the inner slope of the rampart on the south side of the earthwork, overlying building B1.

On the east side of earthwork 1, just off-centre from the causeway over ditch 1, were two postholes (PH1 and PH2). These could not be assigned with any certainty to period 4 and their depth was unknown as they could not be excavated. Each measured about 0.5 m across and they lay 2.1 m apart. Their position, either side of the causeway on the inner edge of ditch 1, suggests that they may have been associated with a gate.

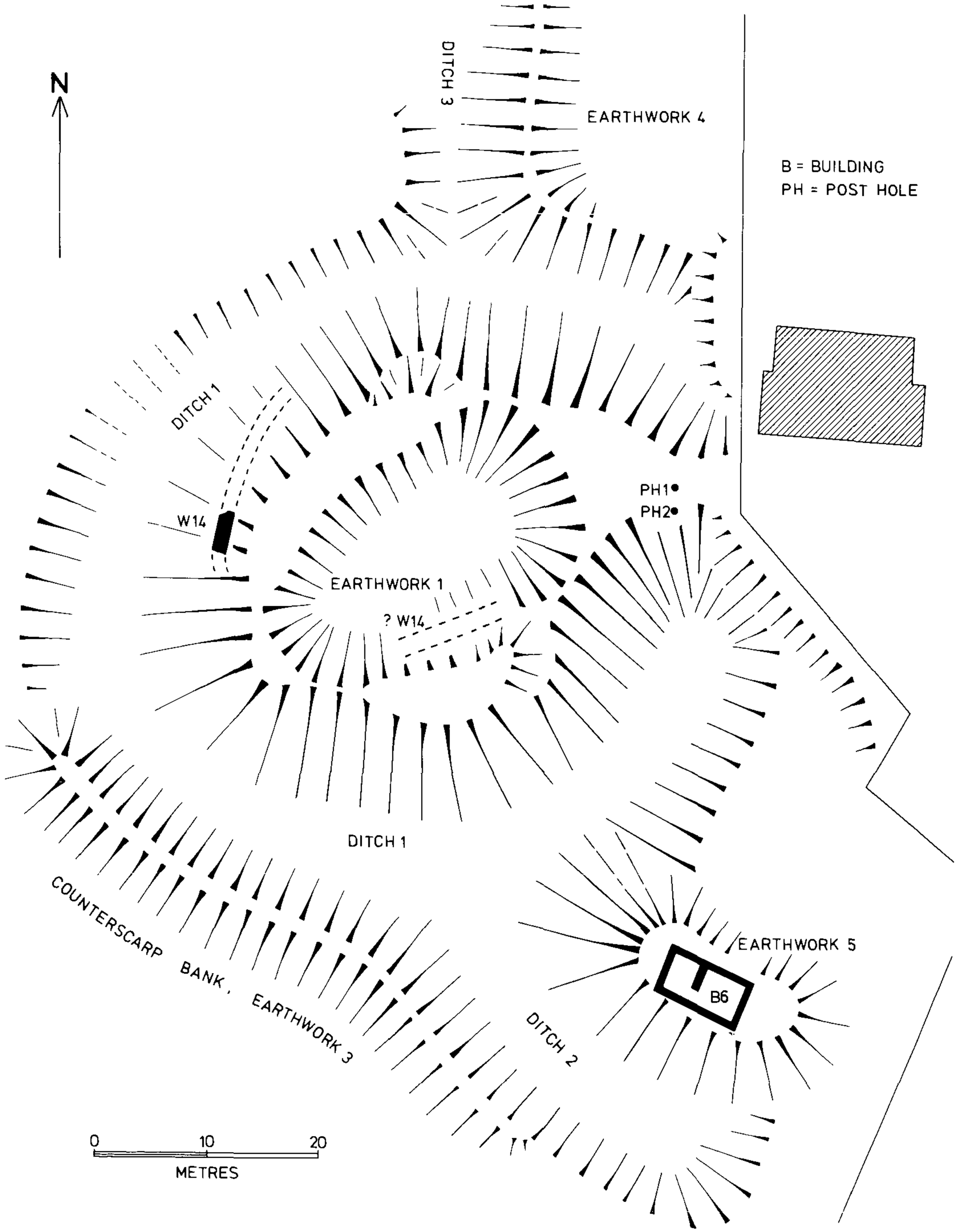

FIG. 9 Period 4.

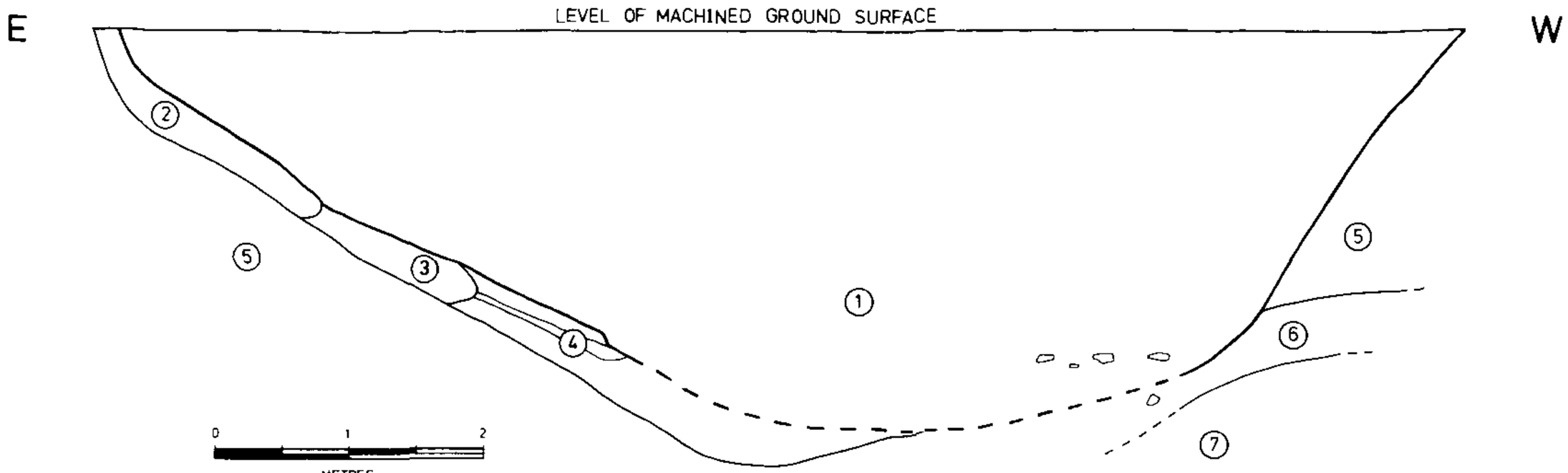

FIG. 10 Section C east to west across ditch 1 (see Appendix 2 for context descriptions).

Rampart 3 was accompanied by ditch 1 and a counterscarp-bank (earthwork 3). The ditch stopped on the east side of earthwork 1 where it was crossed by a causeway. It was examined in two trenches on the west side of earthwork 1 (sections B and C, FIGS. 7 and 10) but was not bottomed. Both sections demonstrate that the ditch had been recut, but it is not known when this occurred. Section C provided an almost complete profile of the ditch, but only after Very Croft had been reduced in depth to 'natural', some *c.* 0.5 m below grass level. Ditch 1 measured *c.* 10 m across and at least 3 m in depth and was cut through the lower part of ramparts 1 and 2 (layers 36 and 37, section B). The recut was filled predominantly with dirty, redeposited natural (layer 1, section C), which produced two small sherds of late 11th- or early 12th-century pottery (fabric types 1 and 8). Beneath the recut and extending down the inner face of the ditch were several layers of grey silt and patches of yellow sand (not indicated in section B). The truncated remains of the ditch in section C measured 3.6 m across and were cut through natural (layer 5) and a sandwiched band of natural, stiff, mauve clay (layer 6). The outer face of the ditch here sloped up to the counterscarp-bank on an angle of 45 degrees, the inner face at a shallower angle.

The counterscarp-bank, earthwork 3, which ran along the outer edge of ditch 1, was destroyed before it could be examined. It is assumed that it was constructed with material dug from ditch 1.

Earthwork 2, a curvilinear bank on the south-west side of Very Croft, may have served as a bailey bank. It appears originally to have continued beyond Very Croft, but there was no evidence for its survival in the gardens to the east or west of the field, or of its construction. Topographically the truncated northern limit of the bank could be seen to extend along Vicarage Lane to follow the High Street round to the east (FIG. 1), indicating that the roads respect the castle perimeter. A sewerpipe trench dug around the west of Very Croft in 1977, recorded by Peter Ellis, demonstrated that there was probably no accompanying ditch to the bank. Fairly dense occupation, consisting of areas of burning and a scatter of pottery sherds of 12th-century date, was observed beneath the topsoil over a small area outside the bank in the south-west corner of the field.

Earthwork 4 to the north of earthwork 1 was destroyed before it could be examined. The ditch on its west side, however, which was connected with ditch 1, was sectioned by a sewer pipe trench in 1977 and recorded by Peter Ellis, who showed that it was 5.2 m wide and a little over 1 m deep.

Limited excavations on the upper surface of earthwork 5 to the south-east of earthwork 1 revealed the plan of a stone-founded building, B6, which lay directly under the topsoil (FIG. 9). It was rectangular in shape, aligned with its long axis north-west to south-east, and measured 8.2 m by 5.5 m wide externally. The walls, all about 0.5 m thick, were built predominantly of unmortared limestone, bonded in brown soil. They were founded about 0.5 m into the platform's surface, the equivalent of three courses of stones. The building was divided internally into two rooms by a cross-wall. The wall stopped 1.3 m short of the south-west external wall of the building to form a doorway between the two rooms. No external entrance was found. The north-west wall, W9, had a construction trench along its inner side. The trench, 0.1 m wide by 0.3 m deep, was filled with brown loam and fragments of sandstone. Sealing this and overlying both rooms, including the dividing cross-wall, was a layer of ash, charcoal, and burnt clay, *c.* 0.1 m deep (AS, context group 4B), which resulted from the demolition of the building. Several sherds of pottery dating to the 15th century came from this layer (see pottery report, FIG. 11, 3–9). Their late date suggests that the structure either outlived or even post-dated the ringwork.

The platform beneath the building was made up of a homogeneous mass of grey clayey soil, yellow and brown silt flecked with charcoal, large, red patches of burnt soil, and a scatter of small stones (BR), from which one sherd of 11th/12th-century pottery was found (fabric type 5). In addition, several soil-filled features (unplanned) were observed at the base of the platform.

History of the village by **John Ainslie**

Hillesley was one of seven estates comprising a total of 40 hides granted by a charter of King Edgar to Pershore Abbey in 972, known collectively as Hawkesbury manor. Finberg (1961, 59) notes that the 'extent' given by the charter takes in the whole of the place named. The Domesday Book records that Hillesley then belonged to one Turstin fitz Rolf, the owner before the Conquest being Aluric (Taylor 1889, 300). Though it is suggested that these held the vill of the Abbot of Pershore, it is clear that later, if not then, other landowners came to have interests at Hillesley (Taylor 1900, 72). The lands of Turstin fitz Rolf at Hillesley and at Dyrham passed to Henry Newmarch by 1166 (Ellis 1879, 188) and by the end of the following century to Ralph Russel, who held lands at Hillesley of the King in chief by one-half a knight's fee.[1]

Pershore's was not the only ecclesiastical interest. The cartulary of the priory of Bath records the award in the early 13th century to one Walter of the chaplaincy of Hillesley, together with half a virgate of land, the obventions of the court of Gilbert Linez, and two-thirds of the tithes of his lands – a share which the Abbot of Pershore later admits (Hunt 1893).[2] But if the Prior of Bath held the advowson and a substantial proportion of the proceeds (and this appears to be only a temporary right), it was the Abbey of Pershore which was the landowner. Gilbert Linez (also written as Linet or Livet) was a man of some substance. The tithe dues owing to Bath are said to be of his lordship and, in the time of his son Henry, they are said to be the tithes of the demesnes.[3] Henry Livet also appears as signatory to a number of documents of the mid-13th century. Moreover, the cartulary of Pershore Abbey records how Henry de Livet acquired permission for a private chaplain for his family for the chapel in his court house at Hillesley; the chaplain to be appointed by the rector of Hawkesbury and to owe obedience to the Bishop of Worcester (the local diocese at the time) and the archdeacon of Gloucester – thus ending Bath Priory's right of advowson, which passed to the Livet family before 1285[4] (Bund 1902, 254). The matter is of some topographical importance, for the present church of Hillesley, built in 1852, was apparently built on the site of the former chapel, which was certainly pre-Reformation.[5]

Notes

1. *Rotuli Hundredorum* I, 169.
2. *Pershore Cartulary*, fol. 104 (transcriber not known), Birmingham Records Library – No 438133, p 127.
3. *Pershore Cartulary*, fol. 104 (transcriber not known), Birmingham Records Library.
4. *Pershore Cartulary*, fol. 103v, 1, 49v–50 (transcriber not known), Birmingham Records Library.
5. Information sheet 1845. *Rebuilding of the Ancient Church or Chapel at Hillesley*. Gloucester City Library, RR156.2.

Discussion

The survey, watching-briefs, and, albeit limited, excavations between 1977 and 1979 confirmed that the earthworks were Saxo-Norman in origin. Few of the finds recovered were stratified, although it was possible to relate some of the pottery to a period prior to the construction of rampart 3 in period 4 in the late 12th century. During periods 2, 3, and 4 a small ringwork was constructed and subsequently strengthened. Short of any firm historical evidence it is unlikely that the true function or origins of the earthworks can be completely understood, although period 2 may coincide with a time of unrest during the western rebellions of the 11th century against William Rufus. In 1088 Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances and his nephew Robert of Mowbray plundered Bristol and ravaged Bath to the east and the surrounding area, while William of Eu

laid waste all the district of Berkeley Harness (Whitelock 1961, 166) including the town of Berkeley, 13 km north-west of Hillesley (Freeman 1882, 44).

According to the *Gesta Stephani* a large number of castles were built in Gloucestershire as a result of the Anarchy in the 12th century (Potter 1976, 175). Stephen secured a small castle at South Cerney, to the north-east of Hillesley, and another at Malmesbury a little to the east, although South Cerney was later recovered by Miles of Gloucester, a supporter of Matilda (Davis 1967, 43). In 1138 castles at Castle Cary, Harptree, and Bristol were also taken for Matilda and it was only shortly after this that the fighting moved away from the South-West (Davison 1972, 26). The period 3 strengthening of rampart 1 at Hillesley may well owe its origins to the time of the Anarchy of Stephen's reign.

The four buildings constructed on the north side of the rampart during period 3 (B2 – B5), were filled in with redeposited natural, probably derived from the digging of ditch 1, and the area defined by rampart 2 raised even higher. No pottery was found in the makeup for rampart 2 but it is likely to have been built soon after period 2, probably in the late 12th century, as there was no evidence of a turf-line between it and the earlier rampart.

The volume of material dug to create ditch 1 was somewhere in the region of 3200 cubic metres. It is conceivable that this volume of material was used to raise the height of the ramparts to about 3.5 m above the surrounding level of the field, revetted by an outer stone wall (W14), and to construct a counterscarp bank. The stone wall (W14) would effectively have prevented the erosion of the rampart into ditch 1 (there was no evidence for a berm between ditch and rampart), so it is possible that the majority of the infill in ditch 1 was derived from the erosion of the counterscarp bank, suggesting that the bank was originally much higher.

The pottery (FIG. 11) by **Michael Ponsford**

Only well-stratified material or sherds with a complete profile are discussed. A copy of the description of the unstratified material is available on request from the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

A type-series was derived using established criteria and by comparison with previously defined wares in Avon and Gloucestershire. Over a dozen fabrics were distinguished but since the majority of the pottery was unstratified their detailed description has been reserved for the archive. Many fabrics had not been described previously, among these fabric 1, with laminated section and with limestone and fossil shell inclusions, the latter often leached out and pitting the surface. This can be compared in form and fabric with pre-Conquest wares from Bristol Castle (Ponsford 1979). The large jar (FIG. 11, 2) is unusual among such wares.

Fabrics 4, 5, 6, and 8, predominantly sandy but with some limestone inclusions, would appear to be 12th century in date and often carry the characteristic 'infolding' feature (Fowler and Bennett 1973, 36f). Fabric 5 contains a mixture of inclusions, among them quartz, angular limestone and 'Devil's toenail' fossils (*Gryphaea arcuata*). The fabric in general compares with Gloucester fabric 28/791 (297) from Quay Street in Gloucester (Gloucester City Museum) and from Hawkesbury, Avon (BRSMG: 66/1985), which includes 'bee-skeps'. Fabric 7 is Minety-type ware, once known as 'Selsley Common' ware, and unlike the rest of the pottery is wheelthrown (Dunning 1949). Several sherds of fabric 7 were found stratified in Building B6, and these date to the 15th century because of the occurrence of a bung-hole pot (FIG. 11, 4).

Of the remainder, fabrics 9 and 10 can be equated with Cheddar J, Bath A, and Bristol Pottery Type 46 (Ponsford 1979; Rahtz 1979, 317; Vince 1979, 29 f), thought to date to after 1200 in Bristol. Fabric 11, a local product in a hard sandy fabric is probably 13th century in date.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds (FIG. 11)

1 Infolded rim, base and body sherds. Fabric 5. Context BY.
2 Rim and shoulder sherds of a heavy vessel. Fabric 1. Context BZ.
3 Angular rim sherd. Fabric 7. Context AS.
4 Spout of bung-hole pitcher. Fabric 7. Context AS.
5 Thumbed base of jug. Fabric 7. Context AS.
6–8 Comb-decorated sherds. Fabric 7, Context AS.

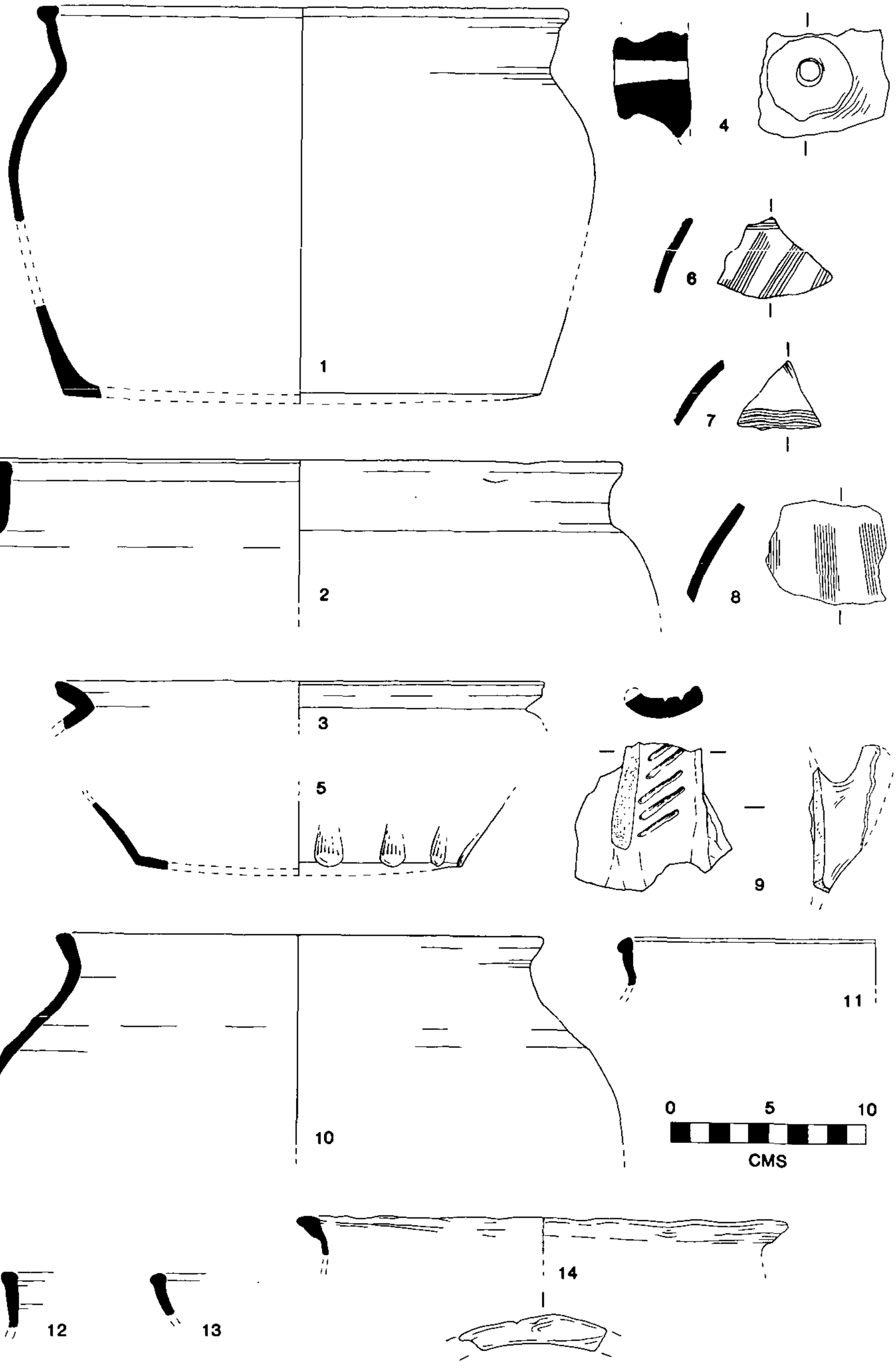

FIG. 11 The pottery, nos. 1–14. Scale 1:4.

9 Strap handle sherd of jug, oblique slashed decoration, traces of glaze. Fabric 7. Context AS.
10 Rim and slack shoulder sherds. Fabric 11. Context BG.
11–13 Rounded rim sherds, slight internal bead. Fabric 5. Context BN.
14 Thumbed rim. Fabric 10. Context BW.

Other finds

Reports on the small finds and the 65 animal bones recovered may be consulted in the archive obtainable from Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

Acknowledgements

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APPENDIX 1: CONCORDANCE OF CONTEXT GROUPS

Context Group 1 Pre-earthwork 1
Context BF?
Context Group 2 Rampart 1
Contexts BY, BO, BP, CF and BV
Context Group 3 Rampart 2
Context BL? AC (W1), AD (W2), AE (W3), AG (W4), AH (W5), AJ (W6), AK (W7), AL (W8), BC and BH (W15), BJ (W16), BK (W17).
Context Group 4A Rampart 3
Contexts AF (F1), AM (W9), AN (W10), AP (W11), AQ (W12), AR (W13), AV (W14), AT, AV, AZ, BD (PH1), BE (PH2), BR, BT, BX, BZ, CD
Context Group 4B Demolition over B6
Context AS
Context Group 5 Unstratified within Earthwork 1
Contexts AY (P3), BA, BB, BG, BN, BQ, BS, BW, CA, CE
Context Group 6 Fill of ditch 1
Contexts BM, CB, CC
Context Group 7 Unstratified
Contexts AW, AX (P2)

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Section A: (FIG. 6)

1 Recent pit.
2 Topsoil, dark brown loam.
3 Yellow silt, fill of ditch 1.
4 Mottled yellow and brown silt lightly flecked with charcoal.
5 Yellow silt with patches of brown silt.
6 Mottled yellow/brown silt, flecks of yellow silt and charcoal.
7 Brown silt with some yellow silt and flecks of charcoal.
8 Red silt with some brown silt and flecks of charcoal.
9 Light orange sandy loam and some small stones.
10 Dark brown clayey soil heavily flecked with charcoal.
11 Mainly yellow silt, but with patches of brown silt.
12 – as 11 above –
13 Grey clayey silt, heavily flecked with charcoal.
14 Mid-brown silty loam, some flecks of yellow silt and charcoal.
15 Yellow silt with lumps of grey/brown clay and flecks of charcoal.
16 Grey and yellow silt.
17 Light brown silt, some yellow silt.
18 Mottled yellow and brown silt.
19 Dark brown clayey loam with flecks of charcoal and orange sand.

Section B: (FIG. 7)

1 Topsoil. Brown crumbly loam.
2 Robber trench of wall W14. Light brown silty soil, yellow flecks of silt and small stones.
3 Light brown silt flecked with yellow silt.
4 Brown silt flecked with yellow silt and charcoal, with occasional lumps of sandstone.
5 Yellow/grey silt flecked with yellow silt.
6 Mottled yellow silt and grey silt.
7 Yellow sand with patches of grey silt and lumps of sandstone.
8 Greenish/brown silt with flecks of yellow ?silt and charcoal.
9 Yellow sand and lumps of red clay, a few small stones.
10 Grey/brown silt.
11 Mottled yellow and grey silt.
12 Greyish/brown silt with flecks of yellow and charcoal.

13 Grey silt heavily flecked with charcoal, some flecks of yellow silt.
14 Fine yellowish/green sandy loam.
15 Small stones with some light brown silt.
16 Grey silt with some small stones.
17 Mixed yellow and brown silt.
18 Yellow sand flecked with charcoal, small lumps of sandstone.
19 Greyish/yellow sand.
20 Mottled yellow and brown sandy silt lightly flecked with charcoal.
21 Wall W14.
22 Mottled yellow and brown silt.
23 Dark grey clayey silt heavily flecked with charcoal. Context BO.
24 Yellow/brown sandy silt.
25 Grey silt with many flecks of yellow ?sand, charcoal and small stones.
26 Charcoal.
27 Grey silty soil. Context BY.
28 Grey silt with flecks of yellow and charcoal.
29 Yellow sand with patches of grey silt.
30 Grey silt with flecks of yellow sand and charcoal.
31 Yellow sand, grey/brown soil and flecks of charcoal.
32 Mottled grey/brown silt and yellow sand.
33 Grey silt.
34 Mottled grey brown silt containing more sand than 32.
35 Greyish silt.
36 Grey silt.
37 Yellow sand, slightly grey.
38 Yellow sand, some small stones. Context BO.
39 Yellow, slightly greyish sand.
40 Wall W15.
41 Yellow, slightly brown silt.
42 'Natural'. Yellow silt.

Section C: (FIG. 10)

1 Mid-brown very silty soil, some charcoal flecks.
2 Grey and yellow silt, flecks of charcoal and small lumps of limestone and mauve clay.
3 Mid-brown silty soil, scattered flecks of yellow silt and some flecks of charcoal.
4 Section collapsed before this area could be recorded.
5 Weathered oolite.
6 Mauve clay.
7 Oolitic limestone.

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